

# Technical Review Panel No. 50 Outcome Measures 2017-18: New Data Collection Considerations

## Final Actions

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has taken steps to enhance outcome information and transfer reporting in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). The IPEDS Outcome Measures (OM) component, first collected in the IPEDS 2015-16 collection year, was developed in response to recommendations from the 2012 Committee on Measures of Student Success report to the Secretary of the Department of Education and was informed by the outcome and public comments from previous IPEDS Technical Review Panels<sup>1</sup> (i.e., TRPs 24, 37, 40, and 45). In February 2016, NCES requested clearance from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19 IPEDS data collections. The clearance package included several proposed changes, including a proposal to begin collecting outcome information on Pell Grant recipients in the OM component for accountability and transparency reasons, starting with the 2017-18 data collection (2016-17 preview year). After reviewing feedback in response to the request for comments<sup>2</sup> on proposed changes, NCES determined the expansion of the OM component to collect data on Pell Grant recipients would benefit from broader industry input.

On August 23 and 24, 2016, RTI International, the contractor for the IPEDS web-based data collection system, convened a meeting of the IPEDS TRP in Washington, DC to discuss potential changes to the OM survey component and the impact of the changes to institutions, researchers, and the Department of Education. The proposed changes were originally suggested during the 60-day and 30-day public comment periods and were further discussed and formulated during TRP 50. The panel consisted of 53 individuals representing institutions, researchers, state governments, the federal government, higher education associations, and other experts. This TRP discussed the initial NCES proposal of adding a Pell Grant recipient cohort to the OM component as well as additional suggestions, which were proposed through the IPEDS public comment period for the 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19 data collection. Specifically, the TRP discussed whether: (1) all nondegree-granting institutions report OM, (2) academic reporting institutions should report on a full-year cohort instead of fall-census cohort, (3) the Pell Grant recipient cohort should include students receiving Pell at entry or over the course of the eight-year period, (4) the four OM cohorts should each have a sub-Pell Grant cohort instead of a single, total Pell Grant recipient cohort, and (5) the new award year at 4 years after entry should be added, and (6) institutions should report the award type (certificate, associate's degree, or bachelor's degree) at each status year after entry – 4 years, 6 years, and 8 years.

Following the meeting, RTI posted a summary of the TRP suggestions to the web ([https://edsurveys.rti.org/IPEDS\\_TRP/Default.aspx](https://edsurveys.rti.org/IPEDS_TRP/Default.aspx)) for public comment. RTI solicited comments by notifying keyholders and coordinators through a “This Week in IPEDS” email announcement and encouraged member associations involved in the TRP to notify their constituents and stakeholders. Comments were left open for approximately 30 days and the comment period closed on October 12, 2016. RTI received 6 comments from interested parties in response to the posting. Following the

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<sup>1</sup> Meetings of the IPEDS TRP are conducted by RTI to solicit expert discussion and suggestions on a broad range of issues related to postsecondary education and the conduct of IPEDS. The TRP is designed to allow the public to advise and work with RTI to improve IPEDS data collection and products, data quality, and user-friendliness. The TRP does not report to or advise the Department of Education.

<sup>2</sup> (Federal Register, Vol. 81, No. 32, pp. 8181- 8182, February 18, 2016)

comment period, RTI outlined recommendations for NCES based on the outcome of the TRP meetings and subsequent public comment period. NCES has taken the actions listed below.

### **Changes to the Outcome Measures Component, 2017-18**

NCES submitted a subsequent IPEDS clearance request to OMB in November 2016 for proposed amendments to the OM component for the 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 data collections. NCES received clearance from OMB to implement the following changes to the OM component, starting with the 2017-18 data collection for entering cohort year 2009-10:

- **Change reporting period covered.**
  - All OM-reporting institutions (i.e., degree-granting institutions) will report using a full-year cohort, defined as July 1 through June 30. This change aligns the cohort coverage for all institutions and captures all cohort-eligible students who enter an institution at any point during the year.
    - For academic year institutions, this is a departure from defining cohorts based on the official Fall reporting period (census date).
    - For program and hybrid reporters, this shifts the full-year reporting period earlier for OM from September 1 through August 31 to July 1 through June 30 to align with financial aid award year.
- **Add instructions for establishing cohorts.**
  - Institutions that offer a predominant number of programs based on standard academic terms (semesters, trimesters, quarters, or 4-1-4 plan) are considered *academic reporters* and will report using a full-year cohort of students. **Do not use a fall cohort.** These institutions must count as entering students all those students who entered the institution between July 1 and June 30.
  - Institutions that do not offer a predominant number of programs based on standard academic terms (as defined above) are considered either program or hybrid reporters and will report using a full-year cohort. These institutions must count as entering students all those students who entered the institution between July 1 and June 30, and who were enrolled for at least 15 days in a program of up to, and including, one year in length, or 30 days in a program of greater than one year in length.
  - Students remain in the cohort assigned upon entry.
- **Collect Pell Grant and non-Pell Grant recipient subcohorts for each of the four OM cohorts.**
  - The four cohorts are as follows:
    - full-time, first-time;
    - part-time, first-time;
    - full-time, non-first-time; and
    - part-time, non-first-time.
  - NCES will calculate the totals for the respective four OM cohorts.
- **Add instructions for Pell Grant recipient sub-cohorts.**
  - Institutions will identify and include Pell Grant recipients who received a Pell Grant between the cohort coverage period of July 1 and June 30.

- Students who did not receive a Pell Grant during the coverage cohort period, but receive a Pell Grant July 1 through August 31 (*outside of the established cohort coverage period*) are not included in the Pell Grant subcohorts.
- Students who received a Pell Grant (dollars disbursed) are included in the Pell Grant subcohorts. Institutions should not include students who were awarded a Pell Grant, but did not receive a disbursement.
- **Collect new award status year – status at four years after entry.**
  - Collect the award status for each of the four cohorts of entering degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students and subcohort of Pell Grant recipients as of four years after entering the institutions.
  - Award status for each status year are mutually exclusive.
- **Collect highest award conferred at the 4-, 6-, and 8-year award statuses.**
  - Collect the status update from both 2- and 4-year institutions at 8 years after the cohort enters the institution with award information collected for the 4-, 6-, and 8-year status points.
    - Clarify that institutions will report on the highest award conferred (i.e., certificate, associate’s, or bachelor’s) for each of the three status years: 4-, 6-, and 8-year.
    - This is a change from previous reporting that a student received “the first” award, which was not distinguished (i.e., certificate, associate’s, or bachelor’s).

Notes:

1) Data will not be disaggregated by race, ethnicity, or gender.

2) No outcome data will be collected from non-degree-granting institutions.

The items were previewed in 2016-17 and implemented in 2017-18. The preview screens are available from the link <https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/visresults.aspx>, and also from the data collection system, under the Survey Materials option within the Help menu.