

Report and Suggestions from IPEDS Technical Review Panel #16

IPEDS Data Feedback Reports and Executive Peer Tool (ExPT): 2007 and Beyond

PROPOSAL SUMMARY: Based on review of the 2005 Data IPEDS Data Feedback Report, the technical review panel suggests a number of changes be made to future reports. Minor changes were implemented in the recently distributed 2006 reports. Additional changes should be implemented beginning in 2007.

On March 27-28, 2006, an IPEDS Technical Review Panel (TRP) was held in Alexandria, VA, to review the 2005 IPEDS Data Feedback Report and suggest changes for future years' versions. The panel members included 27 individuals representing federal government, state government, institutions, national data users, association representatives, and others.

Based on the suggestions of the TRP, a handful of minor changes to the reports were implemented in the recently released 2006 reports, which were emailed to IPEDS keyholders in September 2006 and sent via U.S. Mail to all institution chief executives in early October. Additionally, the TRP suggested that other changes to the reports and the ExPT be implemented in future years beginning with the 2007 reports.

Background:

The IPEDS Data Feedback Report is intended to provide institutions a context for examining the data they submitted to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). The goal is to produce a report that is useful to institutional executives and that may help improve the quality and comparability of IPEDS data. In addition to the Data Feedback Reports, a web-based tool, the Executive Peer Tool (ExPT) is available as a complementary resource to the reports, allowing users to recreate the comparison data figures using different comparison groups.

Proposal:

The TRP reviewed the 2005 IPEDS Data Feedback Report format and scrutinized each of the figures contained within it. Considering feedback received from the user community (in response to an NCES posting in December of 2005, see <http://www.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/dfr06.asp>), additional data available for use in the reports, and the value of the comparison groups used in creating the reports, the panel members suggested the following changes:

Changes Implemented in 2006 Reports:

- Provided additional data in the graduation rates figure, including transfer-out data for those schools that report it.
- Replaced the "revenues" figure to show revenue sources as a percentage of core revenues rather than per FTE enrollment.

- Refined the categories used in the staff figure by collapsing the "faculty" categories (i.e. instruction, research, public service, and/or any combination thereof) and adding a category for all support staff (e.g. clerical, technical, service & maintenance, etc).
- Provided additional footnotes, methodological notes, and/or more specific titles to some figures as needed (e.g. clarify the exclusive use of GASB vs. FASB institutions in the finance figures).
- Created reports for all institutions, including graduate-only institutions.

Suggestions for Additional Changes to 2007 and Future Reports:

- Refine the Executive Peer Tool (ExPT) to allow users to replicate a full version of a Data Feedback Report (including all figures and notes) in .pdf or similar format, if possible. Also, allow for importing of UnitID (.uid) files saved from the ExPT or Peer Analysis System.
- Develop new figures for inclusion in the ExPT. Potentially, these new figures could be added to the hard copy report (space permitting), and/or could be rotated into the annual report in future years. Suggested figures would include:
 - A simple figure showing endowment per FTE
 - Additional enrollment figures, providing new detail by level of enrollment (undergraduate, graduate, and first professional). Also include transfer-in data, when available in 2008
 - An admissions figure showing admit and yield rates, SAT/ACT data, and a selectivity index
 - An additional finance figure showing personnel services by function (salaries, benefits) as a percentage of total operating expenses
 - Core revenues and expenses figures by both per FTE enrollment and by percentage distribution by source (Currently in the ExPT, core revenues are shown by percentage distribution and expenses are shown per FTE; under this proposal, figures of both core revenues and core expenses would be available per FTE enrollment and by percentage distribution.)
- Refine default comparison groups using the new Carnegie Classification codes.
- Promote wider distribution of the reports by working with the Association for Institutional Research (AIR) to inform their membership of the utility of the reports and to suggest distribution plans within the institution.

The resulting feedback report, as proposed by the panel, would include a minimum of 12 figures, greater detail in the figures relative to those contained in previous reports, a listing of comparison institutions, and detailed methodological notes.

What are the reporting implications of this proposal?

There will be no changes to the data reported from the institutions as a result of this proposal.

Comments

NCES is concerned about improving the utility and value of the Data Feedback Reports. We encourage interested parties to send any comments or concerns about this proposal

to [Elise Miller](#), IPEDS Program Director, by November 29, 2006. **Please include the following in the email subject line: IPEDS Data Feedback Reports: 2007 and Beyond TRP - Proposal Comments.**