

Indiana
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History

1. When was the student unit-record (SUR) system established?
In 1978.
2. By whom?
The Indiana General Assembly established the Commission for Higher Education in 1971, but the Student Information System (SIS), as a unit record database, begins with Fiscal Year 1978-79.
3. For what purpose (e.g., resource allocation/funding formula, IPEDS, tracking student retention/ graduation, tracking students across institutions)?
The Student Information System was established in order to carry out the directive of the Indiana General Assembly as put forth in IC 20-12-0.5-8(6): "To make, or cause to be made, studies of the needs for various types of postsecondary education and to make recommendations to the general assembly and the governor concerning the organization of these programs. The commission shall make or cause to be made studies of the needs for various types of postsecondary vocational education and shall submit to the commission on vocational and technical education within the department of workforce development its findings in this regard."

Coverage

1. What institutions are included in your SUR system?
All public 2 year and 4 year institutions.
2. Are any independent institutions included (number or percentage)? What about proprietary institutions? Are different kinds of data or different schedules for data collection used for any of these institutions?
No.
3. Are there plans to expand the system's coverage in terms of institutions? Please explain.
No.
4. When are data of which type collected (e.g. term/quarter/semester census date, annual, end of term, etc.)? Other reporting cycles?
We collect transcript level data – once per year on September 15th.
5. Are there plans to collect data more frequently or on a different cycle?
Yes, we are working on collecting data more frequently – once per term.

6. Is non-credit enrollment or instructional activity covered (e.g. ABE, ESL, GED, other job-related continuing education activity, etc.)? If so, is this in a separate database and what data elements are captured?

Yes, we do collect this information (remedial and GED) and we do store this information in the same database.

Data Management and Manipulation

1. Who has authority over changing data elements and definitions?
Indiana Commission for Higher Education.
2. Are SSNs used as a key link? If they are not, what is used instead? Are there immediate or long-range plans to discontinue use of the SSN as a key link?
Yes, we are talking about using something other than SSN, but we are only in the discussion stages.
3. Can campuses access datasets (unit records) themselves -- access in what terms (results, unit record data after it has been cleaned, unit-record data value added). If yes, who has access and how is this managed?
Only in aggregate form. We hope to have data online soon for institutions to utilize.
4. How do you handle privacy and FERPA issues? Do you have an explicit privacy policy and/or policies governing the use of SUR data by third parties such as institutions and researchers?
Yes, we do have a security policy (online) that is distributed to all institutions.
5. Have any FERPA or privacy issues come up recently in your state? If so, how have they affected your ability to use student record information?
Yes, but not in our office but at a private institution.
6. Do you link SUR data within your state to other databases?
No, we are having conversations with the high schools. We are working to some extent with the private institutions and we do share information with UI wage record.
7. Have you cooperated with other state higher education agencies to share data? If so, please explain.
No. We would be interested and have had some preliminary discussions with the folks from Ohio, Kentucky, and Illinois.

Reporting and Use of Data

1. What kinds of statistics and reports are generated regularly using SUR data?
We do an annual report (very basic) and we are just now starting to think about what we can do in terms of reports and statistics that would be helpful. We are also working on putting everything online.

2. If graduation and retention statistics are generated for institutions (or for the state or system as a whole), how are they calculated (e.g. IPEDS Graduation Rate Survey method, other methods)?
Yes we generate graduation and retention statistics for institutions and for the system as a whole and we do use the IPEDS Graduation Rate Survey method. We are also thinking about generating graduation rates based on a 10 year method.
3. What kinds of research projects have recently been undertaken by the state or system using SUR data resources?
We are moving toward this – we would like to do more with the needs of industry and economic development for our state through the support of higher education.
4. What are the biggest challenges you face with respect to using SUR data resources for analysis and reporting?
Lack of time and staff. We would like to do more with the data we do collect (reports, statistics, etc.) but it is hard with our small office.

Overview

1. Have there been any significant developments in regards to your SUR system since 2002?
No.
2. Is there anything that you would like to add that we have not addressed?
No.