

Kentucky
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History

1. When was the student unit-record (SUR) system established?
1980.
2. By whom?
Kentucky Legislature, KRS 164.020, 164.095 and KRS 61.870-61.884.
3. For what purpose (e.g., resource allocation/funding formula, IPEDS, tracking student retention/ graduation, tracking students across institutions)?
To determine participation rates, track student enrollments, track campus compliance with equal educational opportunity goals, determine space needs.

Coverage

1. What institutions are included in your SUR system?
All public colleges and universities, including community and technical colleges of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS).
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?
All of the private institutions that constitute the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities (AIKCU) report data. An additional independent institution that is not a member of AIKCU, but is licensed by the council, also provides data. Independent institutions provide similar enrollment files (fall semester only), freshmen student performance files and degrees awarded files. Independents do not provide financial or physical facilities reports.

The independents who supply data are now sending limited unit records for spring enrollments in addition to what they do for the fall terms.
3. Are there plans to expand the system's coverage in terms of institutions? Please explain.
We would like better participation from the private institutions. They have a difficult time submitting one of our files used for tracking first-time freshmen and we would like to improve that.
4. When are data of which type collected (e.g. term/quarter/semester census date, annual, end of term, etc.)? Other reporting cycles?
Same but grades are now being collected 6-weeks after the end of the term.
5. Are there plans to collect data more frequently or on a different cycle?
No.

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?

No response.

Data Management and Manipulation

1. Who has authority over changing data elements and definitions?
Information and Research Office.
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. Evaluating possibility of using another created ID as key but we still intend to collect SSNs.
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?
No, datasets are not available to campuses.
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?
We have an explicit data access policy.
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. The issue postponed the collection of grades for several years.
6. Do you link SUR data within your state to other databases?
The information and research staff is responsible for the match (we supervise it) thought it may be conducted off-site with UI wage records or the driver's license database. We occasionally (every 5 years or so) match data with these other offices to collect variables from their data system to help us understand student migration issues for alumni.
7. Have you cooperated with other state higher education agencies to share data? If so, please explain.
We participated in a pilot with Ohio in a previous NCHEMS project.

Reporting and Use of Data

1. What kinds of statistics and reports are generated regularly using SUR data?
Please see our web site at: <http://www.cpe.ky.gov/research>

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)?
IPEDS rate plus we add in those we can tell who successfully transfer or graduate from other institutions that we have SURs for.
3. What kinds of research projects have recently been undertaken by the state or system using SUR data resources?
We recently completed a high school feedback report, a mandatory placement report, and an affordability study last year. They are available at our main web page.
4. What are the biggest challenges you face with respect to using SUR data resources for analysis and reporting?
We need a data warehouse.

Overview

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