

**Oklahoma
Marion Dilbeck**

History

1. When was the student unit-record (SUR) system established?
1977.
2. By whom?
Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.
3. For what purpose (e.g., resource allocation/funding formula, IPEDS, tracking student retention/ graduation, tracking students across institutions)?
Resource allocation, academic program productivity and tracking students.

Coverage

1. What institutions are included in your SUR system?
All public and private 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?
All (100%) not-for-profit private institutions and zero for-profit private institutions.
3. Are there plans to expand the system's coverage in terms of institutions? Please explain.
We may extend an invitation to the for-profit-private institutions in the future. This is under discussion.
4. When are data of which type collected (e.g. term/quarter/semester census date, annual, end of term, etc.)? Other reporting cycles?
Student and courses data are collected at the end of term (each semester and end of summer). Faculty and staff data are collected annually.
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?
Yes, we collect this data (all transcript level data is collected, however final grades are optional for private schools). No, it is not in a separate database.

Data Management and Manipulation

1. Who has authority over changing data elements and definitions?

We are a coordinating board – we want institutions to buy into the data gathering and reporting structure, so we try to be as collegial as possible. In the end, we make the change.

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, this is extremely key. No, we will not discontinue the use of the SSN.

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?

We are working on this – we now do the reports for each campus, but we would like to put most of this online for campuses. We actually had a FERPA issue with this, we originally were going to put all data online (secured and password protected) and asked FERPA to respond to the legality of this request. The response was that individual data could not be put online – but we could put aggregate data online – so this is what we are doing. We can put cohort information up, but we wanted to be able to do more online.

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 worked through these a while ago. Yes, we have a privacy policy (please see our web site for a copy).

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?

No.

6. Do you link SUR data within your state to other databases?

UI wage records and ACT. We do not link with High Schools, although students in the state will all have an educational ID soon (they are working on this) and eventually we will be able to link to the High Schools through this ID.

7. Have you cooperated with other state higher education agencies to share data? If so, please explain.

We thought about this years ago – didn't do it.

Reporting and Use of Data

1. What kinds of statistics and reports are generated regularly using SUR data?

This is on the web site, but some examples would be the state fact book, IPEDS reporting, accountability reports, etc.

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 use the IPEDS method. We also generate stats for the state system.

3. What kinds of research projects have recently been undertaken by the state or system using SUR data resources?

Workforce economic reports (health care workers), projections, and graduation rate projections.

4. What are the biggest challenges you face with respect to using SUR data resources for analysis and reporting?

Compliance from some institutions – timely and quality of data. Each institution has different software package, this makes it difficult for them to get us what we need in the format we need it. Because each institution has a different system, we really can not be experts on each one, so we can only offer limited help in terms of how to generate the data to get it to us.

Collecting the data is sort of a challenge...

Overview

1. Have there been any significant developments in regards to your SUR system since 2002?

We have revised an old report called the facilities report – we are now in the second year of collection – this was challenging to start again (work on the campus part).

We are also in the middle of a server conversion from our legacy system to our new system (which has online capabilities) – this is a staffing challenge while we are making the transition.

2. Is there anything that you would like to add that we have not addressed?

No.