MHEC Research Update

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Presentation Outline

I. Background

II. Performance Update for the Midwest

III. Identifying Future Research Priorities

IV. Dashboard Update
Background
MHEC Research Mission and Function

To inform institutional and state efforts in improving postsecondary policies, practices, and outcomes.

1. Maintaining a national repository of knowledge for guiding policy and practice
2. Conducting applied research and analysis on critical topics in higher education
3. Developing innovative solutions to improve educational opportunity and effectiveness
4. Providing public outreach and service to institutions and governments
Issue Areas

• **Affordability and Finance**: policies and programs for reducing the financial burden of postsecondary enrollment and degree completion

• **College Readiness**: college readiness programs, dual enrollment, and various forms of teacher preparation

• **Student Success**: domains of institutional practice and policy associated with student persistence, degree completion, learning, employment, and civic outcomes

• **Performance, Value, and Accountability**: performance indicators for evaluating institutions and PK-16 systems; the ROI for postsecondary education; use of accountability systems; higher education governance
Performance Update for the Midwest
Annual State Performance Update

• Performance indicators are categorized within five areas: Preparation, Participation, Affordability, Completion, and Finance.

• Most indicators provide the national and Midwest regional values as well as the median of the top five states in the nation as possible benchmarks.

• Most performance indicators are disaggregated by family income and race/ethnicity to assess critical opportunity and achievement gaps.

• Next Performance Update will be available in Winter/Spring of 2023
Student achievement during 8th grade decreased significantly in the wake of COVID-19.

Percentage of Students in Grade 8 Scoring at or Above Proficiency on the National Assessment of Educational Progress in Math and Reading, 2017-2022

Academic preparation is strongly correlated with family income

Percentage of ACT-Tested High School Graduates in the Class of 2022 in ACT-Predominant Midwest States Who Met or Exceeded College Readiness Benchmark Scores by Family Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>$0-$24K</th>
<th>$24K to $50K</th>
<th>$50K to $80K</th>
<th>$80K to $120K</th>
<th>$120K and above</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>79</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Four Subjects</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Public institutions in the Midwest experienced growth in total fall enrollment over some earlier recessionary periods. Enrollment declined at public two-year and four-year institutions during the COVID recession.

Fall Undergraduate Enrollment at Midwest Institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Two-Year Institutions</td>
<td>1,255,447</td>
<td>1,220,304</td>
<td>1,272,241</td>
<td>1,327,155</td>
<td>1,390,441</td>
<td>1,450,691</td>
<td>1,603,710</td>
<td>1,657,902</td>
<td>1,318,490</td>
<td>1,292,716</td>
<td>1,290,654</td>
<td>1,185,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Four-Year Institutions</td>
<td>1,226,839</td>
<td>1,238,197</td>
<td>1,262,808</td>
<td>1,284,205</td>
<td>1,321,163</td>
<td>1,337,282</td>
<td>1,378,776</td>
<td>1,407,494</td>
<td>1,389,717</td>
<td>1,390,103</td>
<td>1,337,741</td>
<td>1,332,082</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source. NCES IPEDS. *Fall enrollment.*
College enrollment rates of some income groups in the Midwest are higher than the national level, but gaps remain among groups.

Completion rates at public two-year colleges have improved for lower- and higher-income students; and gap improved from 10 to 9 percentage points.

Completion rates at public four-year colleges have also improved but income gaps are significant.

**Percentage of First-Time, Full-Time Degree/Certificate-Seeking Students Who Graduated Within Six Years at First Four-Year Institution by Pell Grant Recipient Status**

State and local funding per FTE for public higher education in the Midwest has been stable or increasing since 2012.

State need-based grant aid increased slightly

Identifying Future Research Priorities
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#3026448

① Start presenting to display the joining instructions on this slide.
Dashboard Survey Results
Respondents Represented Midwest and Beyond

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Number of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Takeaways

• About 91% of respondents say the dashboard is at least moderately relevant to their work.

• Respondents use the dashboard for various reasons. Most often, this is to compare their state’s performance with benchmarks, informing their perspective on educational issues, and comparing indicator performance across institutional sectors.

• The overwhelming majority (87%) of respondents believe the dashboard should be maintained and improved.
Potential New Indicators

• Context: migration of non-first-year undergraduate students

• Preparation: FAFSA completion rate, rate of institutions with ACT/SAT admissions requirements

• Participation: 12-month enrollment, distance enrollment, retired persons returning to school, career changers
Potential New Indicators

• Affordability: cost of attendance, average grant aid, and fall undergraduate enrollment

• Completion: total number of completions

• Benefits: wage differential for associate degree holders
Potential Next Steps

• Promotion. Continue raising stakeholder awareness of the dashboard, such the indicator spotlight in the MHEC newsletter and mentioning the dashboard at MHEC events.

• Providing additional years of data.

• Showing more equity gaps, including urban/rural gaps.

• Showing percent changes over 5- to 10-year periods.
Potential Next Steps

• Providing instructions for accessing each indicator on the Tableau Public website to make it easier to zoom in or out.

• Address issue with labels being partially obstructed, such as providing instructions on how to open a tooltip that fully displays a label or abbreviating labels.

• Moving the legend to the bottom of the dashboard to allow for a larger chart/graph/map/table viewing area.

• Ensuring the side menu does not obstruct any part of the dashboard area.
Thank you!