

State Regulatory Update for Maryland Schools Under the Higher Education Commission



Emily A. A. Dow, PhD

Assistant Secretary for Academic Affairs

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Maryland Higher Education Commission



OVERVIEW: MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION AND MHEC



Higher Education Landscape in Maryland

Maryland Charter for Higher Education Education Article, Title 10



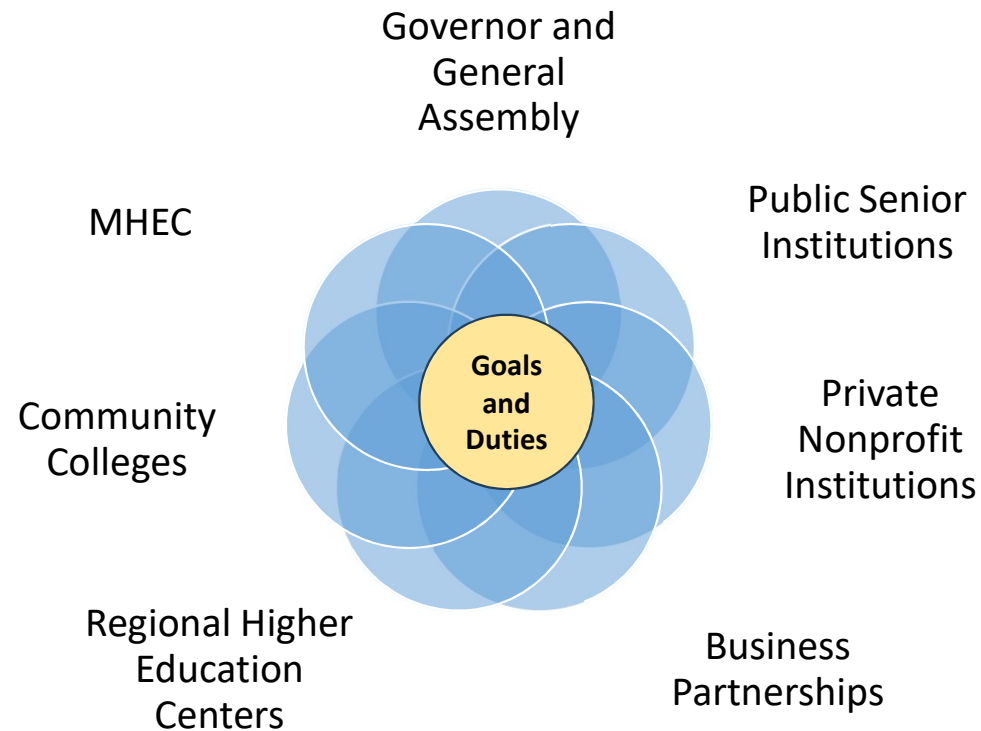
Public higher education in Maryland should be based on the following principles:

1. The people of Maryland expect quality in all aspects of public higher education: teaching, research, and public service.
2. Public higher education should be accessible to all those who seek and qualify for admission.
3. Public higher education should provide a diversity of quality educational opportunities.
4. Adequate funding by the State is critical if public higher education is to achieve its goal.
5. The people of Maryland are entitled to efficient and effective management of public higher education.
6. The people of Maryland are entitled to capable and creative leadership in public higher education.

Maryland Charter for Higher Education Education Article, Title 10



Entities
Named in
Maryland
Charter for
Higher
Education



Partners of Higher Education



University
System of Maryland

Community Colleges

St. Mary's
College of Maryland

Morgan
State University

Non-public Colleges
and Universities

Out-of-State Colleges
and Universities

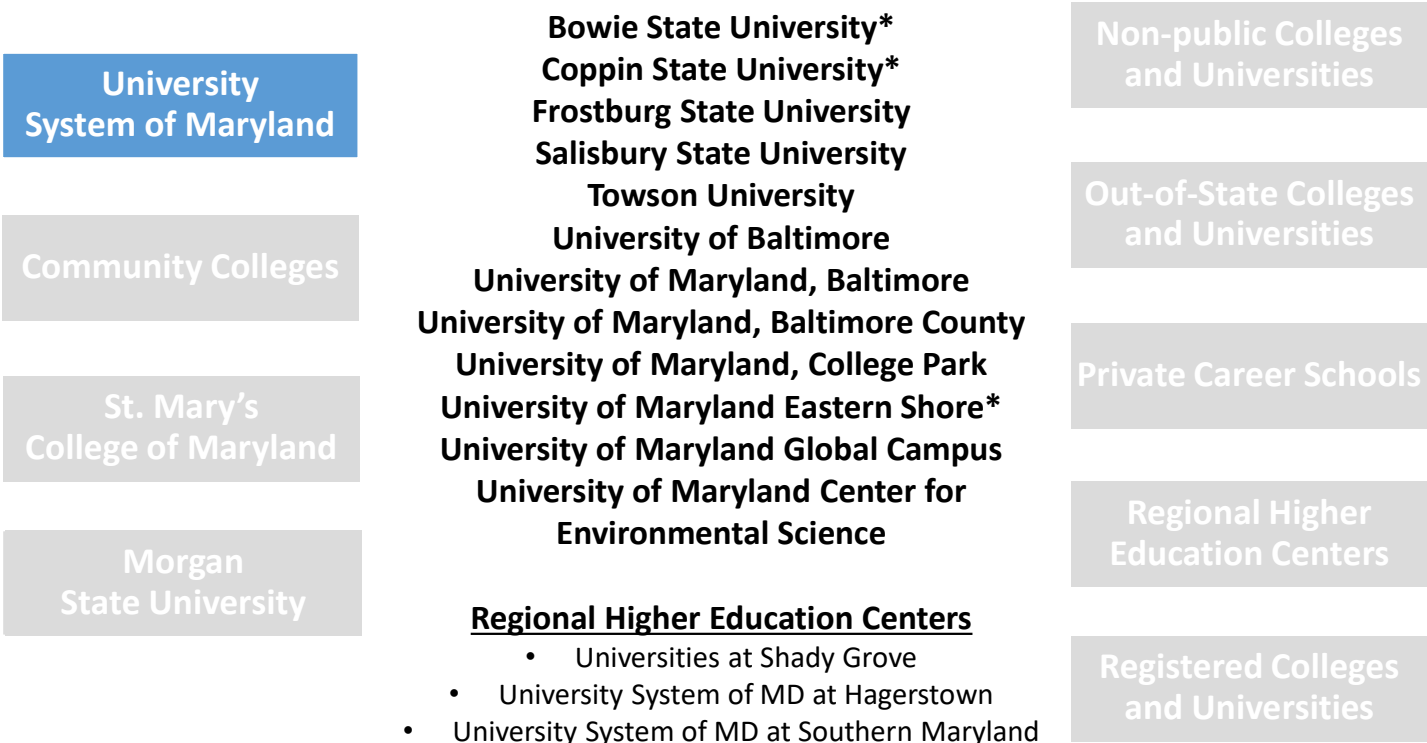
Private Career Schools

Regional Higher
Education Centers

Registered Colleges
and Universities



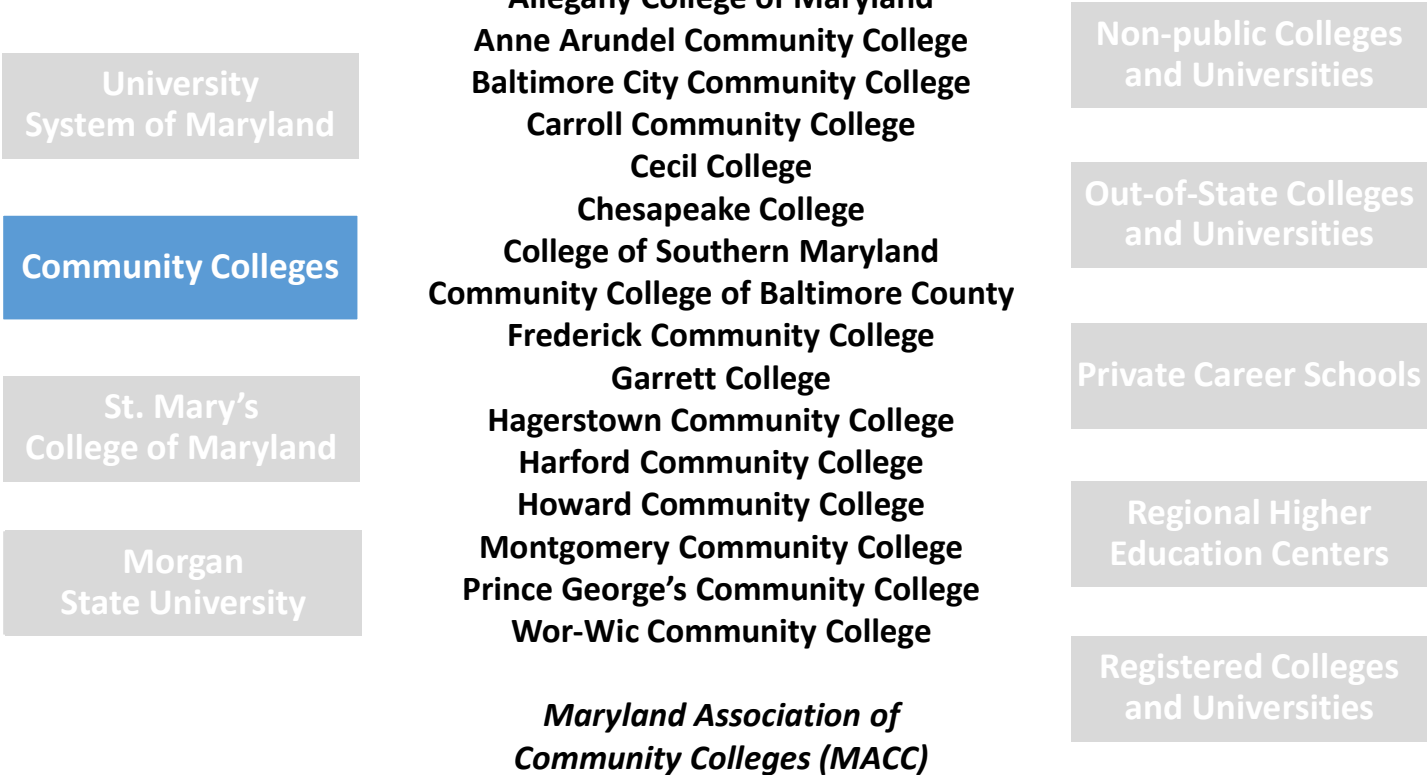
Partners of Higher Education



*Historically Black Institutions



Partners of Higher Education



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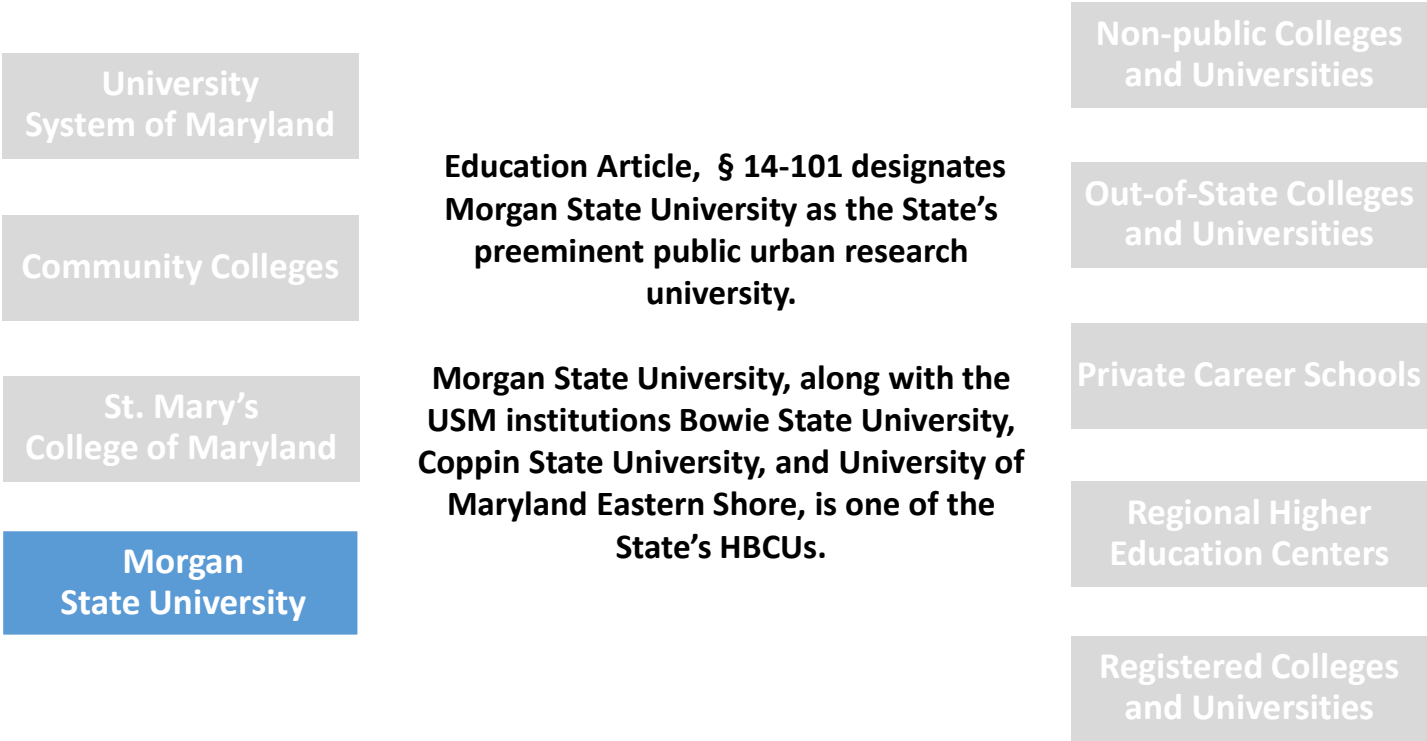
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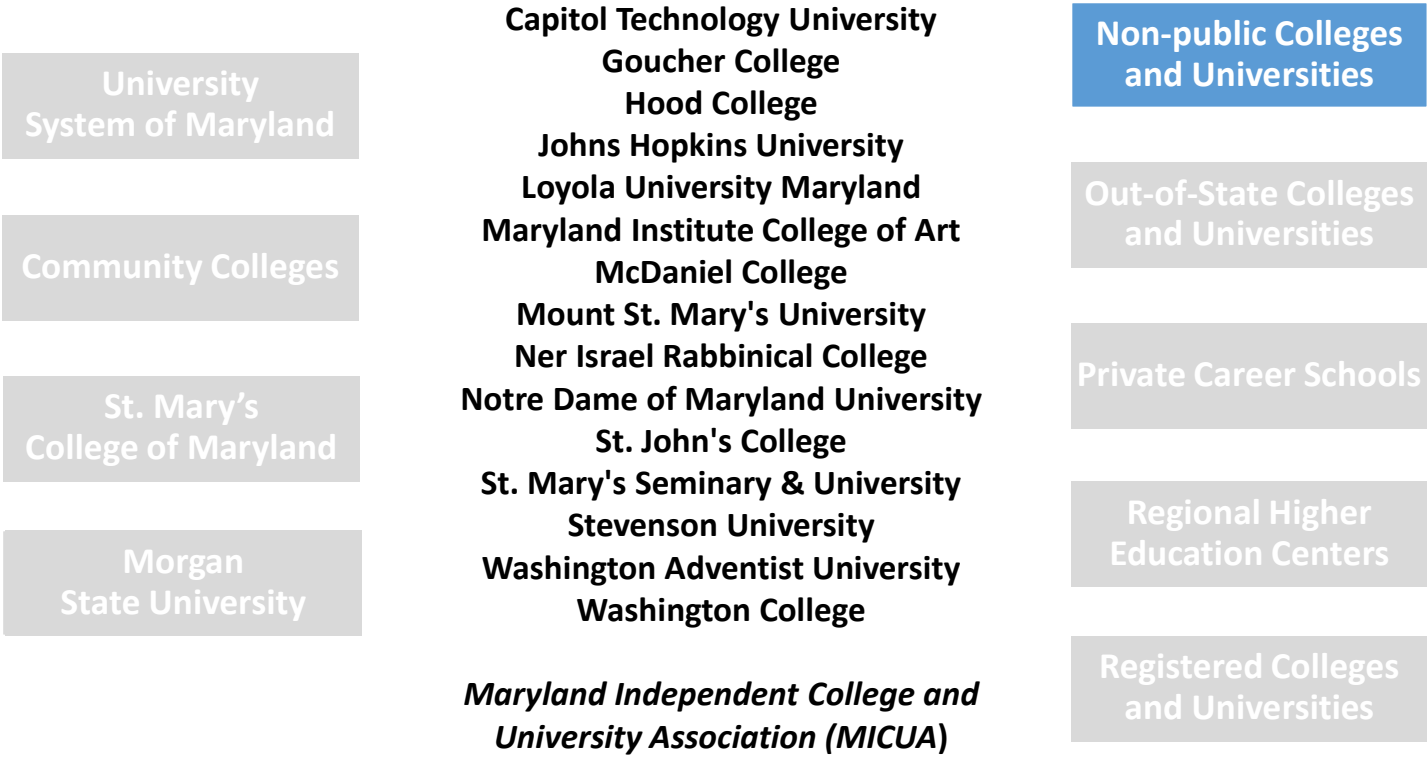


Partners of Higher Education



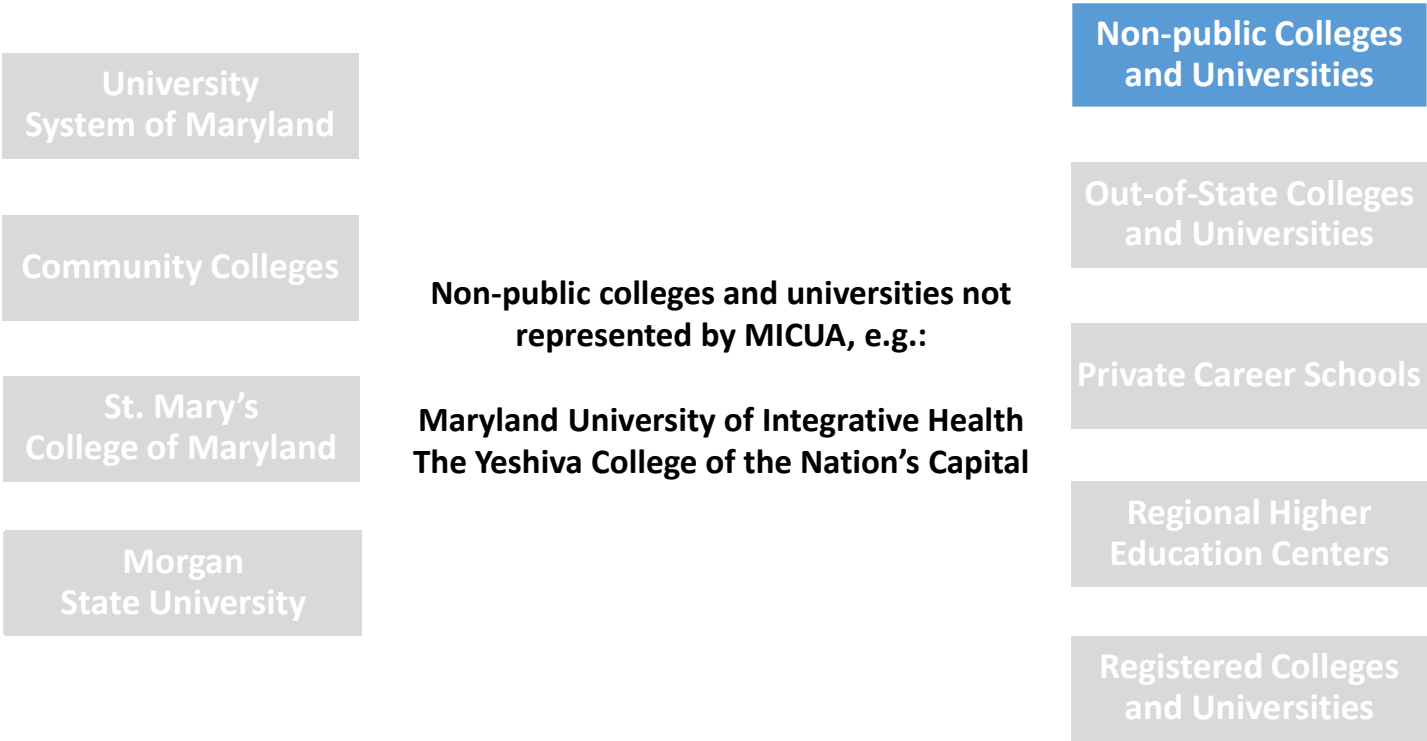


Partners of Higher Education



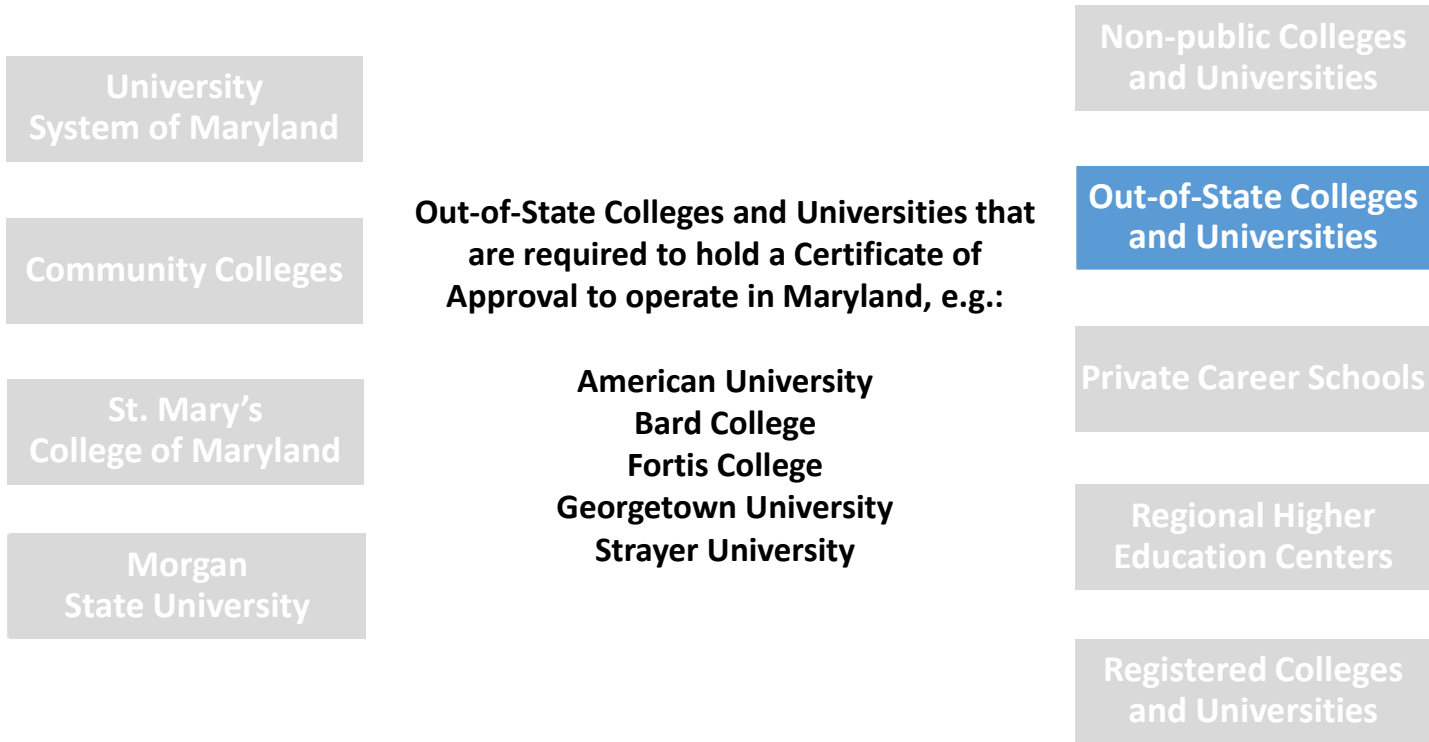


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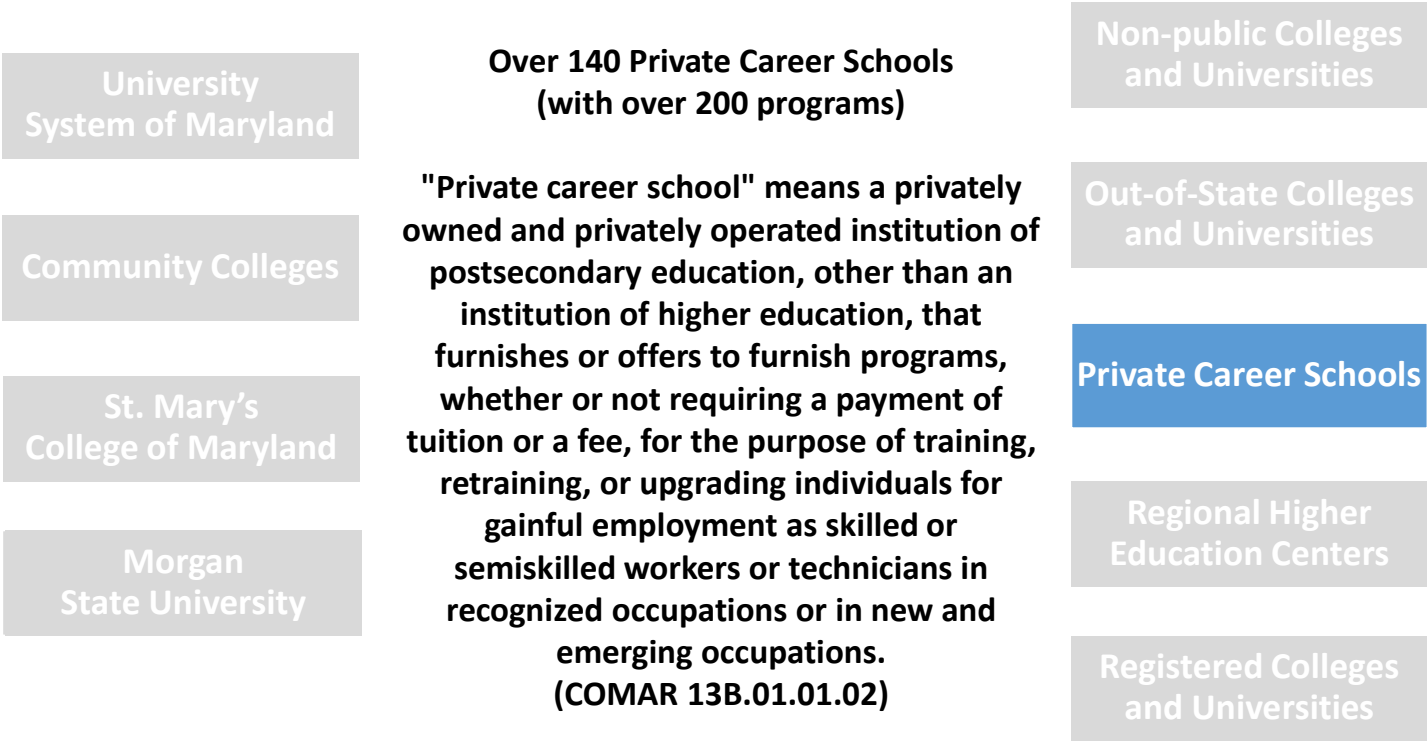


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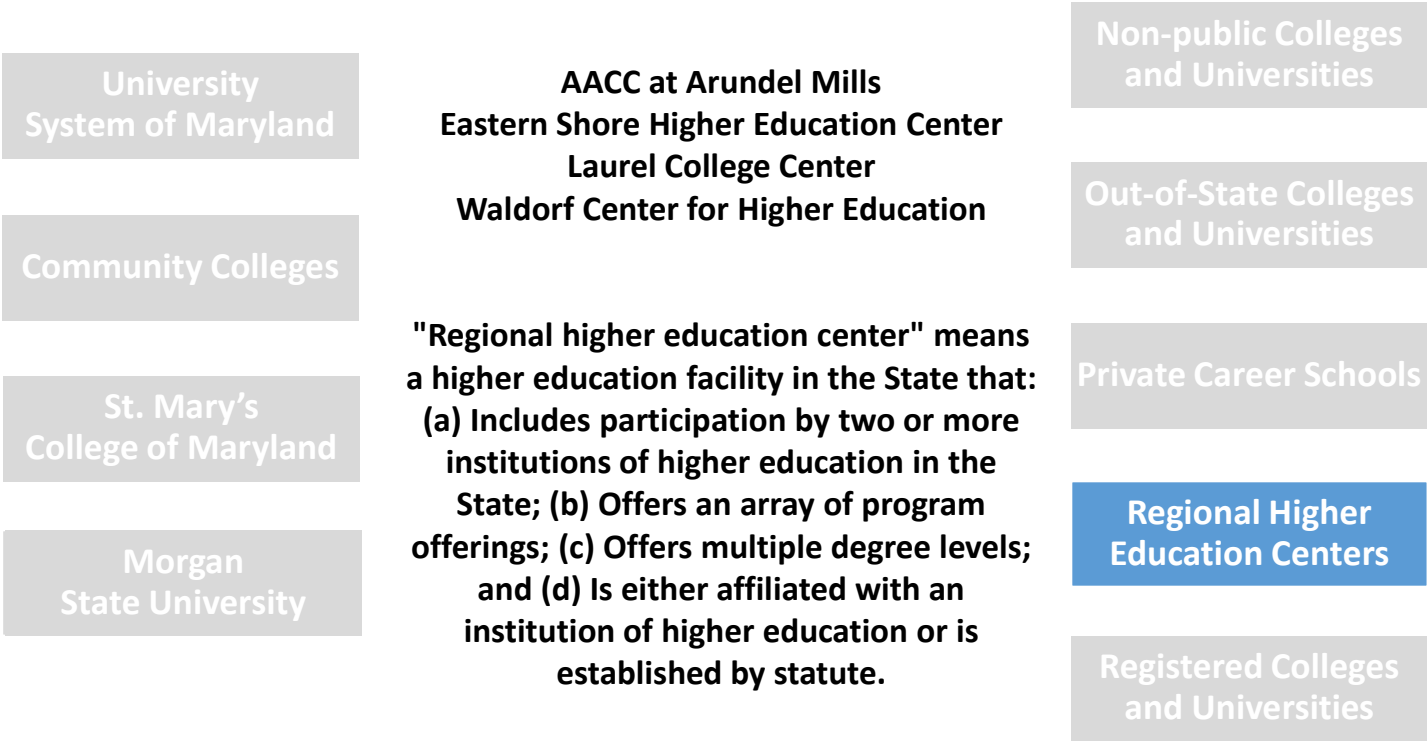


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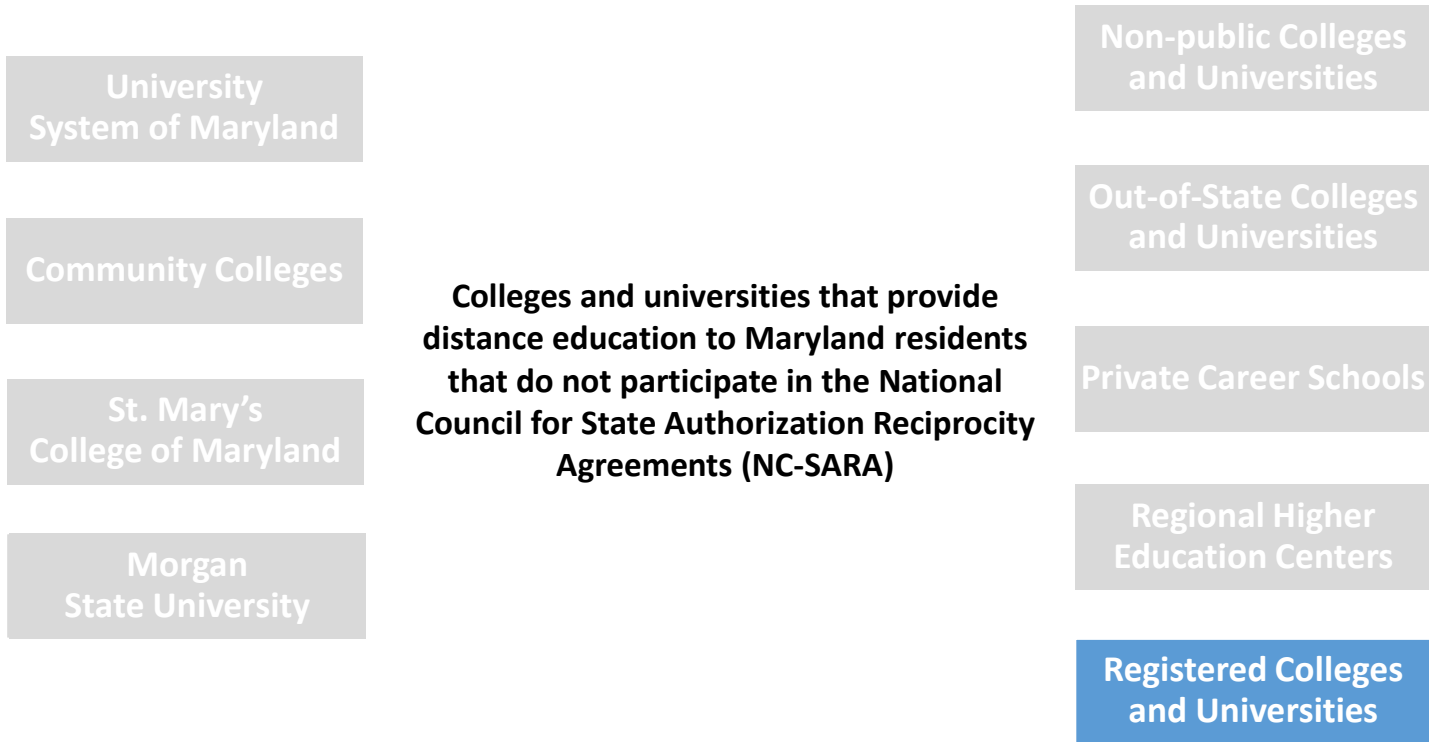


Partners of Higher Education





Partners of Higher Education

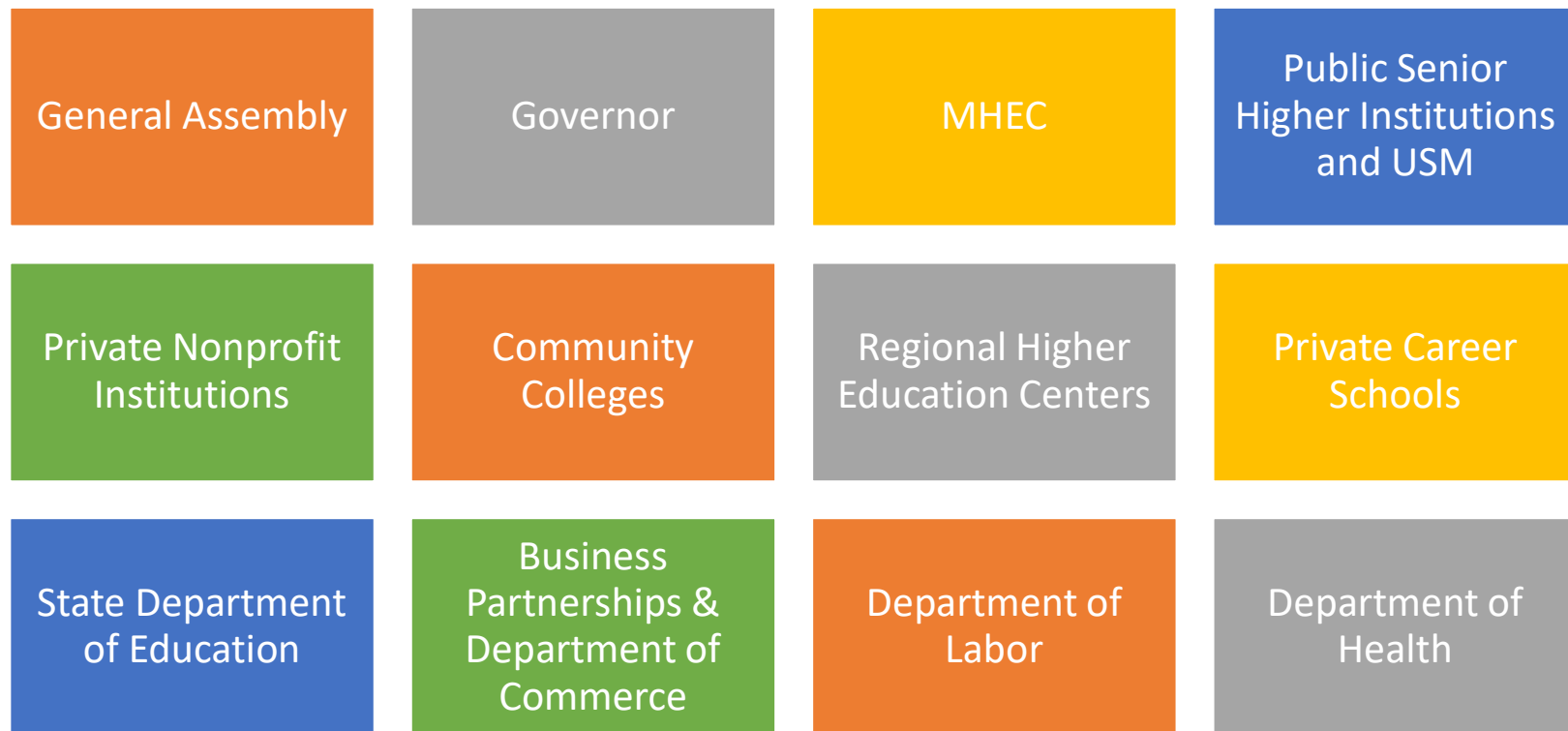




State Agency Partners

- Maryland State Department of Education
 - Teacher Preparation
 - College Readiness
- Maryland Department of Labor
 - Apprenticeships
 - Licensing Boards
- Maryland Department of Health
 - Licensing Boards
- Maryland Department of Commerce
 - Industry/Business Needs

Postsecondary Education Landscape in Maryland: All Collaborators





Organization of MHEC



Roles and Responsibilities

Commissioners

- 11 Commissioners – 5-year terms
- 1 Student Commissioner – 1-year term

Secretary

Staff

- approximately 70 positions budgeted

Advisory Councils and Committees

Secretary of Higher Education

Education Article, § 10-202, Annotated Code of Maryland



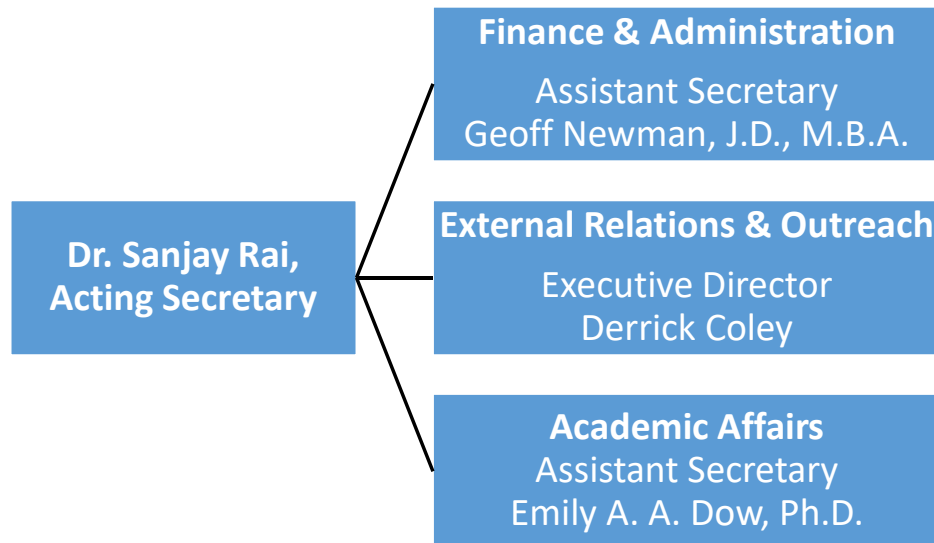
- *Appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Governor*
- *Member of Governor's cabinet*

Performs the duties the Commission delegates
and sees that the policies and decisions of the
Commission are carried out

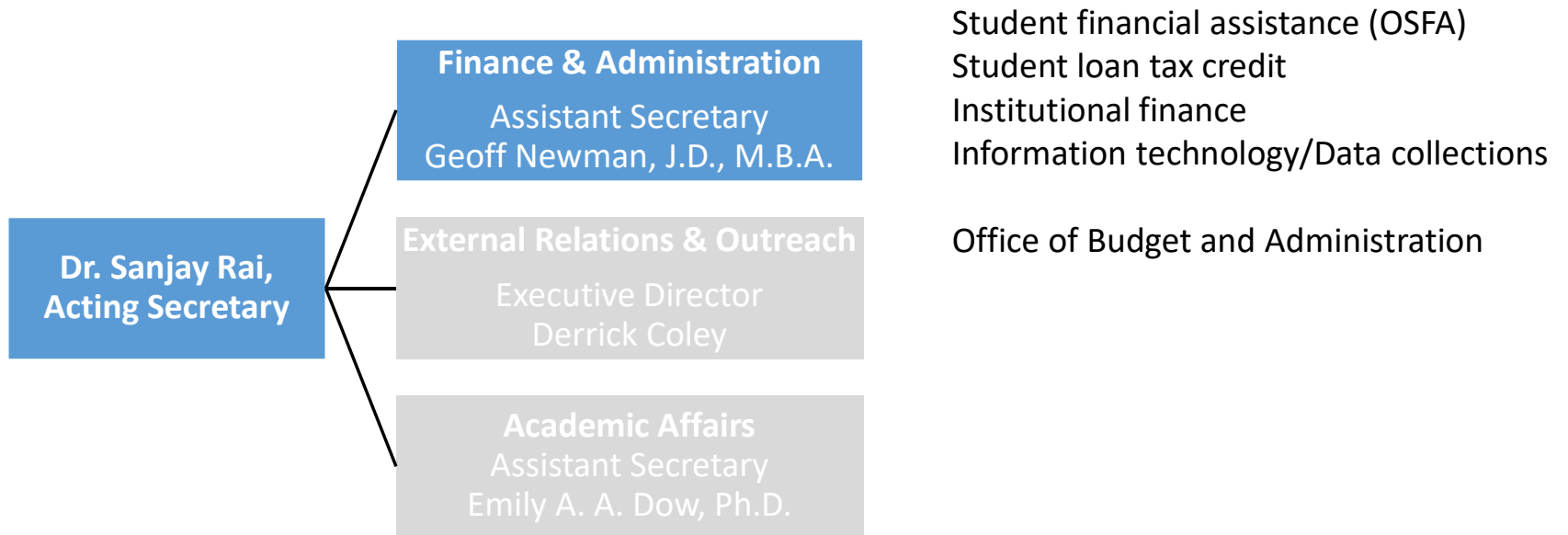


Selects, organizes, and directs the staff of the
Commission

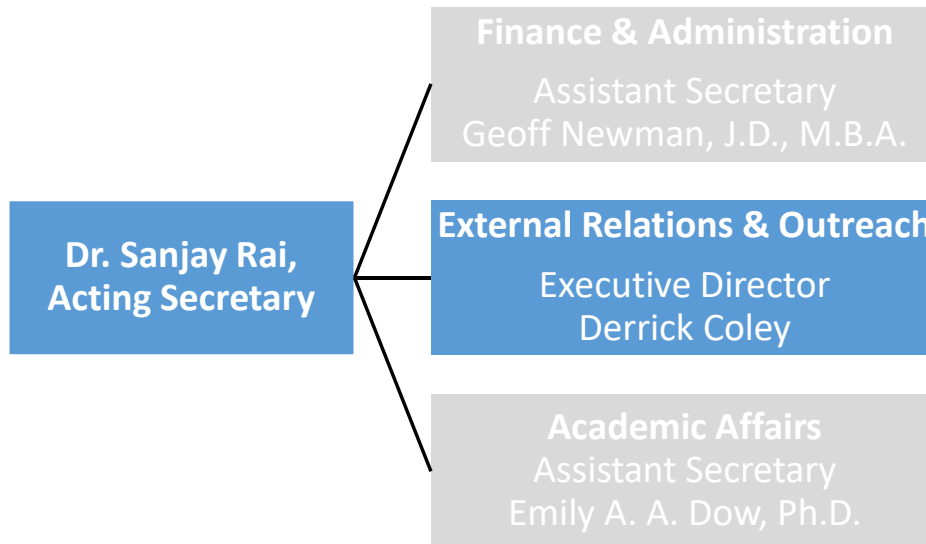
Organization of MHEC



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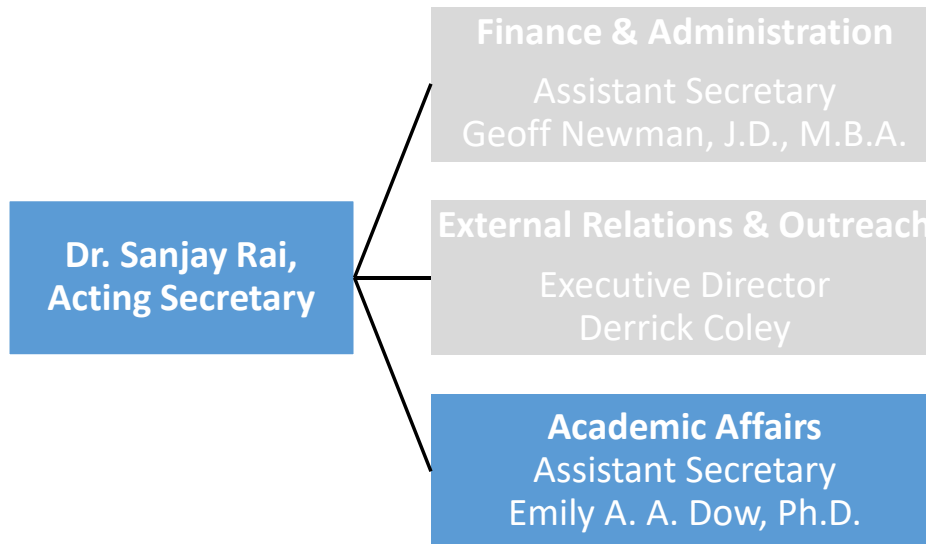
Organization of MHEC



Coordination with Governor's Office
Coordination with General Assembly
Coordination with media

Office of Grants Management
Outreach efforts with high school students

Organization of MHEC Staff



Institutional approval and compliance
Academic program approval
Veteran Affairs benefit oversight

Research and policy analysis



Advisory Councils and Committees

Statutory

- Segmental Advisory Council
- Financial Assistance Advisory Council
- Faculty Advisory Council
- Student Advisory Council
- Private Career School Advisory Council

- Maryland Digital Library Advisory Council♦

- Access to Mental Health Advisory Committee*

- ✓ Review matters as are referred by the Commission or the Secretary
- ✓ May make reports and recommendations to the Commission

Secretary or Commission may appoint additional advisory committees as needed:

- Student Transfer Advisory Committee*

♦ Has not convened in recent months

* Newly created committees

Advisory Councils and Committees: Segmental Advisory Council



Members

- University System of Maryland
- Morgan State University
- St. Mary's College of Maryland
- Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC)
- Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA)



2022 State Plan for Higher Education



2022 State Plan

Goals

Ensure equitable access to affordable and quality postsecondary education for all Maryland residents.

Promote and implement practices and policies that will ensure student success.

Foster innovation in all aspects of Maryland higher education to improve access and student success.

Priorities

1. Study affordability
2. Financial literacy
3. Academic readiness
4. Student populations
5. High-quality postsecondary education
6. Improve systems for timely completion
7. Ongoing lifelong learning
8. Promote a culture of risk taking



Maryland Higher Education Commission



REGULATION UPDATE

Veterans' Education Protection Act: Regulation Update



- process for MHEC to monitor and enforce the compliance of for-profit institutions of higher education and private career schools that are approved by MHEC to accept federal veterans' education benefits with Maryland's revenue requirements for these schools
- schools are prohibited from enrolling new Maryland residents if revenue from federal funds, including veterans' education benefits, exceeds 90% of all annual instructional revenue during two of the three preceding fiscal years

Veterans' Education Protection Act: Regulation Update



- Year – July 1-June 30
- Which schools this applies to:
 - ✓ For-profit
 - ✓ Receive Title IV funds
 - ✓ Approved to enroll Veteran students
- Annually, a school must report the percentages of revenue from federal and non-federal funds most recently reported to the U.S. Department of Education
- A school may not enroll new Maryland residents unless the percentage of annual revenue from non-federal funds that has been or will be reported to the U.S. Department of Education in 2 of the 3 immediately preceding years is at least 10 percent

Maryland Higher Education Commission



LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



Bills that Passed the General Assembly

HB923/SB662



- Appointment of Secretary
- Student Financial Assistance
 - EEA: changes eligibility requirements; requires institutions of higher education, rather than OSFA, to notify award recipients beginning July 1, 2025.
 - Promise: changes eligibility requirements; decentralized - requires community colleges, not OSFA, to select scholarship recipients and verify recipient eligibility.
- Accommodations at Public Institutions for Religious Beliefs
 - requires each institution of higher education to adopt a written policy that provides reasonable academic accommodations for students to practice sincerely held faith-based or religious beliefs



Bills that Passed the General Assembly: Scholarship, Financial Aid, Funding Changes

HB372/SB289



Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship

- Name changed to: *Douglas J. J. Peters Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship*

HB629/SB886



Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program

- Expansion to include surviving spouses of service members

HB982



- establishes the “Pilot Program for Human Services Careers” for five years (DHS and local school systems for HS students)
- establishes a companion, but open-ended, Pilot Program Human Services Careers Scholarship
- expands both the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program (LARP) for Police Officers and the Maryland Police Officers Scholarship Program to include parole and probation agents and related personnel
- requires the State to provide a matching contribution to employees participating in the State supplemental retirement plans under certain circumstances (student loan payments)

HB680



Student Loan Debt Relief Tax Credit – Alterations

- Increases annual funding from \$9 million to \$18 million
- \$9 million must go to State employees
- requires MHEC to prioritize tax credit recipients and amounts based on whether the qualified taxpayers graduated from institutions of higher education in the State at which at least 40% of attendees are eligible to receive federal Pell Grants
- extends – from two to three years from the close of the tax year for which a credit is claimed – the timeframe within which the individual who claims the credit must use the credit for the repayment of the individual's eligible student loan debt
- requires MHEC to engage in specified outreach regarding the tax credit program

HB1189/[SB801](#)



- establishes a “Cyber Maryland Program” in the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO)
- creates the “Cyber Maryland Fund” as a special, nonlapsing fund to be administered by the program
- establishes the “Cyber Maryland Board” (with specific membership)
- Funding begins FY2025
- Cyber Warrior Diversity Program (currently exists): changes the reversion requirements to allow MHEC to allocate unused funds to the following year

HB1290/[SB959](#)



Maryland 529 Reform (emergency bill – takes effect June 1, 2023)

- transfers administration of the Maryland 529 Program from the Maryland 529 Board to the State Treasurer
- abolishes the Maryland 529 Board
- State Treasurer must perform all duties previously performed by the board
- phases out the Maryland Senator Edward J. Kasemeyer Prepaid College Trust (MPCT)
- requires the State Treasurer to establish claims resolution processes



Bills that Passed the General Assembly: Reporting Changes

HB124/SB131



Revisions to Mandated Reports

- Slight change in MHEC's collection of the foster care and homeless youth tuition recipients
- Removed an annual report on “the actual and potential impact of the Promise Program on enrollment rates at community colleges and 4–year public institutions in the State”
- Removed an annual report to be submitted to Complete College America

SB127



MLDS – Student FAFSA Data – Reporting Requirement

- alters a reporting requirement to require the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) Center to report specified student Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- MHEC must provide the MLDS Center with access to student FAFSA data
- Repeals the requirements related to a local board of education reporting FAFSA data

HB320



MLDSC – revised definition of student data

- adds student disability data by specific disability category to the data collected, analyzed, and reported on by MLDS



Bills that Passed the General Assembly: Student and Academic Topics

HB384/SB248



Transcripts – Prohibition on Punitive Measures Related to Student Debt

- prohibits an *institution of higher education* from refusing to provide a current or former student with a transcript or taking other punitive measures regarding a student's transcript request because the student owes a debt to the institution

HB573/SB263



- establishes the Access to Mental Health Advisory Committee within MHEC (including specific membership)

Bill Summary: The committee must:

- study the policies and procedures adopted by institutions of higher education in the State regarding access to mental health care and the prevention and treatment of mental illness in students;
- examine the challenges for institutions of higher education in meeting the demand for mental health services;
- review best practices for accessing off-campus mental health services;
- review best practices for, and barriers to, the implementation of counseling services, including crisis, personal, mental health, sexual violence, and substance abuse counseling;
- review and identify the best models for providing mental health services, including stand-alone centers, centers with integrated student health services, comprehensive services, case management, and crisis resources;
- identify concerns in rural areas and workforce shortage areas; and
- study and make recommendations regarding any other matters the committee considers appropriate.

Further, the committee must make recommendations regarding:

- ways to reduce costs and barriers to providing access to mental health services on campus;
- the use of telemedicine and video conferencing in the provision of mental health services;
- the use of hotlines and other means to disseminate information to students related to mental health services on and off campus, including information concerning availability and fees; and
- the implementation of general mental health counseling services and specialized counseling services.

HB1219/SB893



Maryland Educator Shortage Act of 2023 (Governor's bill)

- requires MSDE/MHEC to set recruitment and retention goals for institutions of higher education
- requires MSDE to establish and maintain a Maryland Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Diversity Dashboard (January 1, 2025)
- establishes an alternative pathway for highly qualified prekindergarten teachers
- expands the eligibility for the Nancy Grasmick Teacher Award within the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program (LARP) to include specified mental health professionals
- makes changes to the Maryland Teaching Fellows scholarship (service obligation, eligibility)
- establishes the Teacher Development and Retention Program (pilot program) and related special fund - initial stipend, annual stipend, and internship stipend for teacher-interns (OSFA; \$10M)



Bills that Did Not Pass the General Assembly

SB585



Career and Technical Education Committee – Alterations

- expands representation on the committee to include skilled trade organizations and career colleges
- expands the CTE Committee's duties to include developing a list of skilled trade organization and career college programs and share the list with guidance counselors and public schools for distribution to students

HB375



Coaches – Mental Health Training

- Would have required each public school in the State that offers a mainstream athletic program and each public institution of higher education that offers an athletic program to provide specified mental health training to each participating coach
- MHEC would have had to work with MDH to develop guidelines for public institutions of higher education to train coaches in recognizing the indicators of mental illness and behavioral distress in students

HB416



Resources and Education for All Prisons (REAP) Act

- Would have required the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) to (1) set goals for the number of inmates in education programs; (2) establish a tracking system for the number of inmates in education programs; (3) establish a tracking system for the progress of inmates in education programs, as specified; and (4) adopt regulations to carry out these provisions
- Would have required MHEC and DHS to assist MDL
- Would have required DPSCS to assist inmates in accessing federal Pell Grants

SB353



Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program

- Would have increased the amount to \$225,000 (rather than \$150,000) beginning in fiscal 2025

SB482/HB488



- Mental Health Professionals in Public Schools – Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program
- Would have expanded the eligibility for the Janet L Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program (LARP) to include mental health professionals – employed by a local school system or local health department to provide mental health services in schools – who:
 - (1) had received a graduate, professional, or undergraduate degree from any accredited college or university;
 - (2) had provided mental health services in a public school for at least two years; and
 - (3) otherwise meet the eligibility criteria of the program.

HB1233/SB668



Teacher Degree Apprenticeship

- Would have established the Teacher Apprenticeship Startup Grant Program administered by the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) to:
 - (1) provide opportunities to begin a career in education in the State to high school students, college students, and career changers;
 - (2) develop a cohort of individuals qualified to work as paraeducators and teachers in the State; and
 - (3) encourage local boards of education to hire apprentices.
- MDL could have awarded up to \$500,000 to a sponsor for development and launch of a teacher apprenticeship program from State or federal funds.

SB423



State Board of Cosmetologists - Licensing - Eyelash Extensions

- Would have established a limited license to provide “eyelash extension services” issued by the State Board of Cosmetologists