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January 15, 2024

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
c/o Elena Roig
Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
13 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

The Maine Community College System is pleased to provide this data in accordance with [Title 20-A §10015](#). The data was collected from each college and encompasses information from 7/1/23 to 1/1/24. The report contents are outlined in the statute (below) and our data tables follow this letter.

Beginning January 15, 2023 and annually thereafter, each 2-year postsecondary educational institution and 4-year postsecondary educational institution in this State shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters on requests for the release of transcripts and diplomas. The report must include:

A. The number of transcripts and diplomas released, disaggregated by those released to a student who owes a debt of:

- (1) Five hundred dollars or more at a 2-year postsecondary educational institution; and*
- (2) Twenty-five hundred dollars or more at a 4-year postsecondary educational institution;*

B. The number of accounts in a repayment plan and the amounts still outstanding and status of the repayment plan; and

C. The total number of requests for transcripts and diplomas disaggregated by the reason for the request, demographic information of students who request a transcript or diploma, if known, and the nature and age of the debt owed.

The report may include a recommendation on the amount of debt pursuant to subsection 2 over which a 2-year postsecondary educational institution or 4-year postsecondary educational institution may require a student to agree to a repayment plan.

It is important to note that with our current resources and data collection tools, this report required a substantial investment of time from our college's business offices and financial aid staff as well as our very limited institutional research staff. It is our recommendation that the usefulness of this report be re-evaluated by your committee. Our understanding of the bill sponsor's original intent was to affect the policies and procedures of Maine's institutions of higher education regarding withholding transcripts and diplomas from those who have incurred debts and not repaid. Partially in response to LD 1838, most MCCS colleges have suspended the practice of withholding diplomas and transcripts for financial debt. In fact, all of our colleges have suspended the practice of withholding diplomas for financial reasons and less than 2.5% of those who requested transcripts had their documentation withheld at the time of request.

In addition, new federal regulations on withholding of transcripts further complicates withholding transcripts due to non-payment and the MCCS Board of Trustees will be evaluating our policies to assure we are in compliance with all state and federal requirements.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Maine Community College System

Sincerely,

Becky Smith
Director of Government and Community Relations



Summary:

The number of diplomas requested:	2,085
The number of diplomas released related to a student who owes \$500 or more	N/A
The number of transcripts requested	16,504
The number of transcripts released related to a student who owes \$500 or more	278
The number of accounts in a repayment plan	21
The amounts still outstanding	\$29,527.85
Repayment plan status: 19 of 21 accounts are delinquent representing 90% of balance	(\$26,624.65)
Total student debt owed to MCCS as of 12/31/2023	\$5,003,470

The total number of requests for diplomas disaggregated by the reason for the request:

Program Completion (Graduation)	2,085 (2,026 individuals)
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The total number of requests for transcripts disaggregated by the reason for the request:

Admission	8,857
Certification/Licensure	754
Employment	984
Grad./Law/Medical admissions	325
Scholarship	195
Self	575
Transfer	2,715
Undergraduate Admissions	667
Registrar	292
Other	1,009
Unknown	131
Total	16,504 (12,095 individuals)

Demographic information of students who request a diploma and the nature and age of the debt owed:

Reason for Diploma	Total	# With Financial Holds \$500+
Program Completion (Graduation)	2,085	0 (0%)

Diploma Recipient Metrics	
Distinct Individuals	2,026
Total Holds	0
* Hold: Residential Life	0
* Hold: Tuition and Fees	0
** Hold: Repayment Plan	0

Age of Holds	
< 1 Year	0
< 5 Years	0
5+ Years	0



Demographics of Diploma Recipients

Male	902	44.5%
Female	1,115	55.0%
Other	9	0.4%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	14	0.7%
Asian	41	2.0%
Black or African American	87	4.3%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	4	0.2%
Race and ethnicity unknown	71	3.5%
White	1,809	89.3%

Purpose information of students who request a transcript, if known, and the nature and age of the debt owed

Reason for Transcript	With Holds	No Hold	Grand Total
Admissions	178	8,679	8,857
Certification/Licensure	8	746	754
Employment	25	959	984
Graduate School/Law/Medical	2	323	325
Scholarship	4	191	195
Self	17	558	575
Undergraduate Admissions	24	643	667
Transfer	102	2,613	2715
Registrar	10	282	292
Other	33	976	1,009
Unknown	6	125	131
Grand Total:	409	16,095	16,504

Distinct Students	12,095
Total Holds	296
Residential Life	18
Tuition/Fees	278
Payment Plan	44
No Payment Plan	234
Age of Holds	
< 1 Year	6
< 5 years	2.7
<1 Year	244
<5 Year	33
5+ Years	5



Demographic information of students who request a transcript, if known

Gender	Count	Percentage
Female	7,821	64.7%
Male	4,193	34.7%
Other	82	0.7%
Total	12,095	100%

Race/Ethnicity	Count	Percentage
American Indian or Alaska Native	93	0.8%
Asian	180	1.5%
Black or African American	583	4.8%
Hispanics of any race	351	2.9%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	16	0.1%
Nonresident Alien	86	0.7%
Race and Ethnicity unknown	1,152	9.5%
Two or more races	279	2.3%
White	9,355	77.3%