Core Data Metrics

Institutional Data Collection

Frequently Asked Questions

July 1, 2020

2020 Core Data Collection for Powered by Publics
**Why can’t APLU just use IPEDs data to monitor progress?** IPEDS data do not disaggregate the data for cohorts associated with subgroups that are typically under-represented.

**My institution already participates in SAM. Will submitting data through this process fulfill my SAM obligation?** Yes, the system is setup to automatically submit bachelor’s degree data to SAM. Institutions have the option to modify the models that are published to SAM.

**When will we see the results of the data collection? How will data be displayed?** The data will be analyzed by APLU. Preliminary results of that analysis will be made available to participating institutions within 2 months of closing the data collection. Institutions that subscribe to VSA Analytics, will also have access to institution level data for participating schools. Institutions who do not subscribe will receive a PDF file of the results.

**With whom will APLU share my institution’s data?** The institution level data are only available to PxP institutions and APLU staff and contractors. Institutional data will be available in VSA Analytics only to PxP participating institutions who subscribe.

**Is my institution’s data secure?** Yes. The submission process is secured with a username and a password. The data files are stored behind a firewall. The only data that will be shared publicly at the institution level are the standard Student Achievement Metrics which are published on the SAM website.

**How long will you keep my institution’s data for?** The data will be kept for the entirety of the project and then for 5 years after the project ends. After that time, APLU and the institutional representatives will determine if any PxP data held in storage will be destroyed or if it needs to be held. Data submitted to SAM will follow the guidelines for storage for SAM.

**My institution uses different definitions for one or more of the metrics listed here. How do I handle this?** Institutions will typically do their best to adjust to the given definitions, however, in cases where the institution needs to keep their institutional definitions, the primary contact will notify the CDM staff at CDM@aplu.org of the definitional change.

**My institution doesn’t collect data for one or more of the metrics listed here. What should I do?** If unable to submit data for any of the metrics, please contact the CDM staff to determine an alternative option.
Some of the disaggregated race/ethnicity categories have a small N and students could potentially be identified. How will APLU handle this? Is there a threshold below which “no data /insufficient data” will be displayed? No institutional data will be shared outside of PxP institutions that will contain any cells with less than 5. In general data will be aggregated to the cluster or to the entire initiative when shared with external constituents.

*Can my institution receive more than one set of login credentials to the online portal?* Yes.

*Can I use the data to benchmark with peer institutions and if so, how?* Through [VSA Analytics](#), you will be able to create peer groups based on data submitted by PxP institutions only. No data will be available for institutions outside of PxP.

*What are the benefits of sharing my institutions data? What are the risks?* The benefits allow institutions to examine national trends and explore areas where institutions have common challenges. PxP is part of a community of learning where institutions can learn from one another and co-create solutions to challenges facing student success. A possible risk is the university’s sensitivity around being transparent about these data and progress compared to peers.

*Can my institution opt-out of sharing data?* Yes. If an institution would like to opt out of sharing data, the institution’s president would need to notify the APLU president.

*For how many years will Powered by Publics be collecting data?* Through 2025

*I don’t have enough staff in my IR office to complete this data request. What support will APLU provide to institutions like mine?* APLU will work with each institution that is understaffed to provide whatever support we can to try and find a solution to the problem.