

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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January 15, 2023

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
c/o Hillary Risler, Esq.  
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](#). For this inaugural year, the data was collected from each college and encompasses information from 7/1/22 to 1/1/23. 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 evaluated by your committee and perhaps provided less frequently in the future. 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. In fact, less than 16% of those who requested documentation had their documentation withheld at the time of request.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Maine Community College System. I look forward to discussing this report with the committee at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Becky Smith  
Director of Government and Community Relations



**Summary:**

The number of diplomas released.....	606
The number of diplomas released related to a student who owes \$500 or more.....	19
The number of transcripts released.....	6,639
The number of transcripts released related to a student who owes \$500 or more.....	172
The number of accounts in a repayment plan.....	25
The amounts still outstanding.....	\$37,939.58
Repayment plan status: 17 of 25 accounts are delinquent which represents 90% of balance...	(\$34,169.02)
<b>Total student debt owed to MCCS as of 12/31/2022.....</b>	<b>\$2,542,354.50</b>

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

Program Completion (Graduation)..... 606 (602 individuals)

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

Admissions..... 3,293  
 Certification/Licensure..... 241  
 Employment..... 684  
 Scholarship..... 80  
 Self..... 488  
 Transfer..... 1,545  
 Other..... 308  
**Total..... 6,639 (5,509 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)	606	19 3.1%

Diploma Recipient Metrics	
Distinct Individuals	602
Total Holds	19
* Hold: Residential Life	1
* Hold: Tuition and Fees	18
** Hold: Repayment Plan	1

Age of Holds	
< 1 Year	18
< 5 Years	1
5+ Years	0



### Demographics of Diploma Recipients

Male	224	37.2%
Female	377	62.6%
Other	1	0.2%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	2	0.3%
Asian	15	2.5%
Black or African American	31	5.1%
Hispanics of any race	14	2.3%
Nonresident Alien	11	1.8%
Race and ethnicity unknown	21	3.5%
Two or more races	19	3.2%
White	489	81.2%

### Demographic 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
Purpose: Admissions	91	3,202	3,293
Purpose: Certification/Licensure	7	234	241
Purpose: Employment	3	681	684
Purpose: Other	7	301	308
Purpose: Scholarship	2	78	80
Purpose: Self	9	479	488
Purpose: Transfer	53	1,492	1,545
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>6,467</b>	<b>6,639</b>

Distinct Students	5,509
Total Holds	134
Residential Life	10
Tuition/Fees	124
Payment Plan	25
No Payment Plan	109
Age of Holds	
< 1 Year	96
< 5 years	18
<1 Year	1
5+ Years	19



Demographic information of students who request a transcript, if known, cont.:

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Female	3,596	65.30%
Male	1,878	34.10%
Other	35	0.60%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,509</b>	

<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
American Indian or Alaska Native	39	0.70%
Asian	79	1.40%
Black or African American	254	4.60%
Hispanics of any race	150	2.70%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	8	0.10%
Nonresident Alien	54	1.00%
Race and Ethnicity unknown	636	11.50%
Two or more races	122	2.20%
White	4167	75.60%