

## INTERSTATE PASSPORT QUALITY ASSURANCE

### Passport Partners in Student Transfer Success Policy

An important role of the Passport Review Board (PRB) as representatives of the members of the Interstate Passport Network (Network) is to ensure that each institution's Passport Block is delivering acceptable results—students that transfer with Passports are equipped with the general education needed to be successful in their academic work at their new institution. Given this charge, identification of students who are systematically performing below expectations because of possible insufficient preparation is an important task. The *Passport Partners in Transfer Students' Success* report (PPSTS) has been designed to identify any potential cases of institutions that might be systematically issuing Passports that do not adequately prepare students for success.

From the data submitted to the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) each term, NSC calculates across all Passport receiving institutions<sup>1</sup> the average student GPA at the conclusion of their second term of students who transferred with a Passport, and the average GPA of students who transferred without a Passport, as well as the standard deviation of the mean. (Using second-term data provides time for students' GPA to acclimate to the new institution.)

The mean and standard deviation, used together, tell us the statistical range of performance for students transferring with a Passport across all institutions in that cohort.

NSC will also calculate the second term average student GPA for Passport students from each sending institution, earned by those students at each receiving institution and then averaged for the cohort. If a sending institution's average Passport student GPA is more than one standard deviation below the mean GPA value for all second-term Passport transfer students across all Passport receiving institutions, that sending institution will show up on the PPSTS report.

There is one additional trigger for inclusion on the PPSTS report. If more than 10% of all transfer students with Passports from a given sending institution have earned a GPA of less than 2.0 during their second term after transfer, that institution will appear on the PPSTS report<sup>2</sup>. The PPSTS report is organized by sending (Passport awarding) institution, and shows the count of total Passport transfer students in each term for each cohort, the count and percentage of Passport transfer students in each term with an earned GPA of less than 2.0, the average GPA across all Passport transfer students in that cohort, the average number of credits taken by Passport transfer students in that cohort, and the count of institutions that had Passport transfer students enrolled for their second term from each sending institution listed on the report.

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<sup>1</sup> The goal is to uncover systematic inadequate preparation, not institution-to-institution specific issues. An institution-specific average GPA is calculated, and then an average total GPA is calculated based on those institutional average GPAs. This means that a receiving institution with many Passport transfer students is counted the same as one with few students in the average GPA "across" all Passport receiving institutions. The GPA average across all institutions is not weighted.

<sup>2</sup> Each sending institution receives a cohort report for its students, and that report details the academic performance of its cohort students (with and without a Passport) organized by receiving institution so that the sending institution knows the performance of its former students at each receiving institution.

NSC will provide a copy of the sending institution report to the PRB for all institutions appearing on the PPSTS report. If the PPSTS report shows that an institution's average GPA for its second-term Passport students is higher than 2.0 on a 4.0 GPA scale and no more than 20 percent of students transferring from that institution with a Passport fall below the 2.0 level, no review of the sending institution's report is required. If that average GPA is below 2.0 for the second term cohort, and/or more than 20 percent of the students transferring with a Passport earn a GPA lower than 2.0 at Passport receiving institutions during their second term, the PRB will review the sending institution's report and the sending institution will, in consultation with the PRB, determine the nature of the problems and devise an acceptable process to resolve them to the satisfaction of the PRB.

**NOTE:** The PRB may determine that an institution should appear on the PPSTS report for two or more years before it consults with that institution about its former students' performance. The PRB may also adjust the measures used to develop the PPSTS report as more data is available on the performance of Passport students across the Network.