

**To:** Accountability in Higher Education and Access through Demand-driven Workforce Pell (AHEAD) Committee

**From:** Eric Atchison and Magnus Noble, on behalf of students who are currently enrolled and receiving assistance from the Title IV, HEA programs

**Re:** Corrections to Variable Codebook

**Date:** January 4, 2026

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**Recommendation:**

We request the Department (1) correct the ‘*earn\_bnchmrk\_npsas\_wageb*’ variable title referenced in the Program Performance Data Variable Codebook in the notes for ‘*mstr\_obbb\_fail\_cip2\_wageb*’ - Binary indicator for the program fails the earnings test described in OBBB.

We also request (2) the data sources referencing College Scorecard be reviewed and revised to reference IPEDS where appropriate since it is the origin of such information.

**Amended Language:**

**(1) *mstr\_obbb\_fail\_cip2\_wageb*:** Equal to 1 if the program fails the earnings test in OBBB, using *md\_earn\_wne\_p4* as program earnings and *earn\_bnchmrk\_npsascip2\_wageb* as the earnings benchmark. Applies to all programs, regardless of credential level.

**(2) College Scorecard versus IPEDS as data sources:** We recommend each of the below field sources be changed to IPEDS.

<i>unitid</i>	Unitid	College Scorecard	The Unitid of main campus is maintained using College Scorecard crosswalks. If more than one Unitid is identified as the main campus for the same OPEID over time, the Unitid of main campus that is closest to 2025 is maintained.
<i>instnm</i>	Institution name	College Scorecard	
<i>city</i>	City	College Scorecard	
<i>stabbr</i>	State	College Scorecard	Abbreviation of the college's state or US territory
<i>fips</i>	State FIPS code	College Scorecard	
<i>zip5</i>	ZIP code (5-digit)	College Scorecard	Colleges that list 9-digit ZIP codes (ZIP+4) are truncated to 5-digit ZIP codes
<i>preddeg</i>	Predominant degree awarded	College Scorecard	Categories include: Predominantly less-than 2yr; Predominantly 2yr; Predominantly 4yr
<i>control</i>	Control	College Scorecard	Categories include: Public; Private Non-Profit; Private For-Profit
<i>hbcu</i>	Binary indicator for Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU)	College Scorecard	
<i>tribal</i>	Binary indicator for Tribal College	College Scorecard	
<i>foreign_flag</i>	Binary indicator for institution is located in a U.S. territory or freely associated state.	College Scorecard	Variable is derived using <i>stabbr</i> . U.S. territories and freely associated states include: AS, FM, GU, MH, MP, PR, PW, and VI

cip2	2-digit CIP code	College Scorecard	2010 CIP classifications are used, unless the program only appears in the 2020 CIP classifications. 2010 CIP classifications are used, unless the program only appears in the 2020 CIP classifications. 2010 CIP classifications are used, unless the program only appears in the 2020 CIP classifications. 2010 CIP classifications are used, unless the program only appears in the 2020 CIP classifications. Categories include: Undergraduate Certificate; Associate Degree; Bachelor Degree; Post-baccalaureate Certificate; Master's Degree; Doctoral Degree; First Professional Degree; Graduate Certificate.]
cip2_title	2-digit CIP title	College Scorecard	
cip4	4-digit CIP code	College Scorecard	
cip4_title	4-digit CIP title	College Scorecard	
credlev	Credential level	College Scorecard	

**Rationale:**

The variable referenced 'earn\_bnmrk\_npsas\_wageb' does not appear to exist in the data file 'ahead-session-2-program-performance-data-debt-earnings-and-earnings-test-metrics-112908'.

The College Scorecard is a data product of the Office of Postsecondary Education not a federal statistical agency. IPEDS collects data through the National Center for Education Statistics and maintains definitions for these data. Referencing College Scorecard and not the origin of the data source, IPEDS, reduces transparency for students and the public as to how this information is collected and defined.