

2015 Periodic Review Report Outcomes: A Snapshot

By Don Sutherland

*A huge meal awaits,
Roast turkey, stuffing, and more
A day of feasting.*

*So many people,
Family and friends alike,
Around the table.*

*Still, some go online,
To the PRR outcomes,
It's Thanksgiving Day.*

Last year's Periodic Review Report (PRR) cycle saw Standard 3 (Institutional Resources) rise to the second most-cited standard in requests for follow-up reports. During the 2015 PRR cycle, Standard 3 was tied with Standard 14 (Assessment of Student Learning) as the most-cited standard in requests for follow-up reports. Half of all such requests concerned Standard 3.

During the 2015 cycle, 58% of PRR reports resulted in follow-up requests. That figure is somewhat above the 5-year moving average of 53% and close to the 3-year moving average of 56%.

Schools receiving follow-up requests were cited for an average of 2.5 Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) standards. The 5-year moving average and 3-year moving average are 2.3 and 2.2 MSCHE standards respectively. Last year's PRR cycle saw institutions receiving follow-up requests cited for an average of 1.9 MSCHE standards per follow-up request.

During the 2015 cycle, 27% of institutions were cited for more than 3 MSCHE standards. That's 67% above the 5-year moving average.

Number of Standards per Follow-up Request:

MSCHE Standards	2015 Cycle	3-Year Average	5-Year Average
1 Standard	27%	28%	28%
2 Standards	27%	39%	34%
3 Standards	18%	19%	22%
More than 3 Standards	27%	14%	16%
Average	2.5	2.2	2.3

The 2015 PRR cycle saw MSCHE issue citations for 11 of its 14 standards. The only standards not cited were Standard 1 (Mission and Goals), Standard 9 (Student Support Services), and Standard 11 (Educational Offerings). Standard 1 has not been cited in any

requests for follow-up reports during the last 5 years. For those interested in MSCHE trivia, the last time Standard 1 was cited in a PRR follow-up request was 2010. Then, there were three such references.

MSCHE Standards Cited (% of Follow-up Requests):

MSCHE Standard	2015 Cycle	3-Year Average	5-Year Average
Standard 2: Planning, Resource Allocation, Institutional Renewal	32%	25%	24%
Standard 3: Institutional Resources	50%	33%	28%
Standard 4: Leadership and Governance	9%	6%	11%
Standard 5: Administration	9%	5%	6%
Standard 6: Integrity	5%	3%	2%
Standard 7: Institutional Assessment	45%	38%	41%
Standard 8: Student Admissions and Retention	18%	14%	15%
Standard 10: Faculty	14%	5%	5%
Standard 12: General Education	18%	16%	16%
Standard 13: Related Educational Activities	5%	9%	8%
Standard 14: Assessment of Student Learning	50%	67%	72%

The five most frequently cited standards were as follows:

Most Frequently Cited MSCHE Standards in Follow-up Requests:

Rank	2015 Cycle	3-Year Average	5-Year Average
1.	Standards 3, 14	Standard 14	Standard 14
2.	Standard 7	Standard 7	Standard 7
3.	Standard 2	Standard 3	Standard 3
4.	Standards 8, 12	Standard 2	Standard 2
5.	Standard 10	Standard 12	Standard 12

Given the continuing increase in Standard 3 citations, a closer look is in order. This closer examination will be covered in a subsequent blog entry in December.

The data reveal that institutions in New Jersey and Puerto Rico have received Standard 3 citations in follow-up requests at an elevated rate over the past three PRR cycles. To balance sample size issues with the recent rise in Standard 3 citations, a 3-year timeframe was used.

Standard 3 Citations (% of Follow-up Requests) during the Last 3 PRR Cycles:

New Jersey	New York	Pennsylvania	Puerto Rico	Other	All Institutions
43%	23%	27%	67%	30%	33%

New Jersey’s deteriorating long-term fiscal position may be driving the outcome in that state. There, 83% of institutions receiving Standard 3 citations are public colleges and universities. However, some measure of caution is required, as New Jersey’s public

institutions received Standard 3 citations in 45% of follow-up requests. Moreover, 85% of New Jersey's public institutions that submitted PRR reports during the 2013-15 period received follow-up requests vs. 60% of their private non-profit counterparts. That means other factors are likely involved, as well.

Puerto Rico's issue is likely the result of that Commonwealth's prolonged macroeconomic challenges, declining population, and severe fiscal difficulties.