Office of the Auditor General
Preliminary Survey Summary

# Center for Educational Performance and Information - Postsecondary Applications

Department of Technology, Management, and Budget

November 2026

State of Michigan Auditor General
Doug A. Ringler, CPA, CIA

171-0183-26

The auditor general shall conduct post audits of financial transactions and accounts of the state and of all branches, departments, offices, boards, commissions, agencies, authorities and institutions of the state established by this constitution or by law, and performance post audits thereof.

The auditor general may make investigations pertinent to the conduct of audits.

*Article IV, Section 53 of the Michigan Constitution*

OAG
Office of the Auditor General

**Doug A. Ringler, CPA, CIA**
Auditor General

201 N. Washington Square, Sixth Floor • Lansing, Michigan 48913 • Phone: (517) 334-8050 • audgen.michigan.gov

November 20, 2026

Jennifer L. Flood, State Budget Director
State Budget Office
George W. Romney Building
Lansing, Michigan

Director Flood:

This is our preliminary survey summary of the Center for Educational Performance and Information - Postsecondary Applications, Department of Technology, Management, and Budget. Because we did not identify significant concerns to warrant the additional use of our audit resources, we decided to terminate this performance audit.

We appreciate the courtesy and cooperation extended to us during our preliminary survey. If you have any questions, please call me or Laura J. Hirst, CPA, Deputy Auditor General.

Sincerely,

Doug Ringler

Doug Ringler
Auditor General

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# PRELIMINARY SURVEY SUMMARY

## CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND INFORMATION - POSTSECONDARY APPLICATIONS

**RESULTS**

Our preliminary survey did not identify significant concerns to warrant the additional use of our audit resources to complete a performance audit. Therefore, we terminated this project and did not conduct sufficient testing to conclude on the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) - Postsecondary Applications' overall effectiveness and efficiency.

**FACTORS IMPACTING AUDIT TERMINATION**

- We reviewed 126 training records for 44 employees required to complete annual security training in fiscal years 2024 through 2026 and determined 95% did so.
- We reviewed 3 of 14 data sharing agreements (DSAs) with other State agencies and determined all 3 DSAs included the Privacy and Security Policy requirements, and CEPI's monitoring appeared to be sufficient.
- For the Student Transcript and Academic Record Repository (STARR) data collection, we:
    - Tested 31 of the 126 business rules in place during school years 2023-24 and 2024-25 and determined all 31 rules performed as intended.
    - Reviewed 44 business rules, 7 certification rules, and 22 data quality rules and determined the rules appeared reasonably designed to identify errors, warnings, or anomalies in the data submitted by postsecondary institutions.
    - Confirmed all 66 and 64 postsecondary institutions submitted STARR data for school years 2023-24 and 2024-25, respectively, as required.
    - Reviewed data submitted by 5 of 66 postsecondary institutions for school year 2023-24 and 5 of 64 postsecondary institutions for school year 2024-25 and determined all required data was provided.
    - Reviewed 25 active and 14 inactive STARR user accounts and determined system access was appropriately granted or removed.
- For the Michigan Postsecondary Data Inventory (MPDI) data collection, we:
    - Confirmed all 28 community colleges submitted MPDI data in school years 2024-25 and 2025-26 as required.

- Reviewed data submitted by 5 of 28 community colleges in school year 2024-25 and determined all 5 included the required audited financial statements in their MPDI submissions.

- Reviewed CEPI's data quality trackers for school years 2024-25 and 2025-26 and determined all 28 community colleges' submitted information for each school year was subject to data quality checks.

- Reconciled school year 2024-25 MPDI data to published reports and determined community college data was not altered after submission.

- Reviewed 14 active and 10 inactive MPDI user accounts and determined system access was appropriately granted or removed.

**BACKGROUND**

**Description:** CEPI was established by the State School Aid Act (Public Act 94 of 1979, as amended, Section 388.1694a of the *Michigan Compiled Laws*). It is housed within the State Budget Office.

CEPI is responsible for collecting, securely managing, and reporting Michigan education data from preschool, kindergarten through 12$^{th}$ grade, postsecondary institutions, and the workforce. CEPI's mission is to manage education information with excellence. Our survey focused on postsecondary data collection (see Exhibit 1). CEPI utilizes two applications to obtain data from postsecondary institutions: STARR and MPDI.

The STARR application contains prior-year student-level data from every 2-year and 4-year public institution and certain private institutions in Michigan. Once postsecondary institutions upload their data into STARR, the application conducts record checks which could result in a warning and/or an error. Postsecondary institutions may certify their data after all errors have been corrected. CEPI then conducts a secondary quality review which flags anomalies at the collection level. The finalized data is moved to the Michigan Statewide Longitudinal Data System, where it's housed along with prior-year data. CEPI publishes this data publicly on MI School Data, the State's website for education information (see Exhibit 2).

The MPDI application collects certain current-year financial information, such as tuition and fees, finances, enrollment, and employment, from all Michigan community colleges. As data is entered and saved, automatic quality checks are performed. If data does not meet the requirements, an error message is shown. The community college's data coordinator reviews and certifies the data within the application. CEPI then performs additional data quality checks to identify any discrepancies before the information is compiled into a spreadsheet report and placed on the MI School Data website.

The postsecondary data collected is used for federal compliance reporting and research by other State agencies, parents, educators, and the Legislature.

**Appropriations:** CEPI was appropriated $19.2 million and $19.4 million for operations during fiscal years 2025 and 2026, respectively.

**Employees:** As of June 2026, CEPI had 64 full-time and 3 contracted employees.

## SCOPE

We design a preliminary survey to obtain an understanding of the core activities within an entity or a program and to identify potential program improvements and/or deficiencies that could impair management's ability to conduct its operations in an effective and efficient manner. If the results of a preliminary survey do not identify significant concerns, our practice is to terminate the planned performance audit.

Our preliminary survey generally covered July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026 and included a limited review of the following CEPI activities related to postsecondary applications:

- Employee training.
- DSA monitoring.
- Postsecondary data collection, verification, and quality.
- Postsecondary data reporting.
- Postsecondary applications user access.

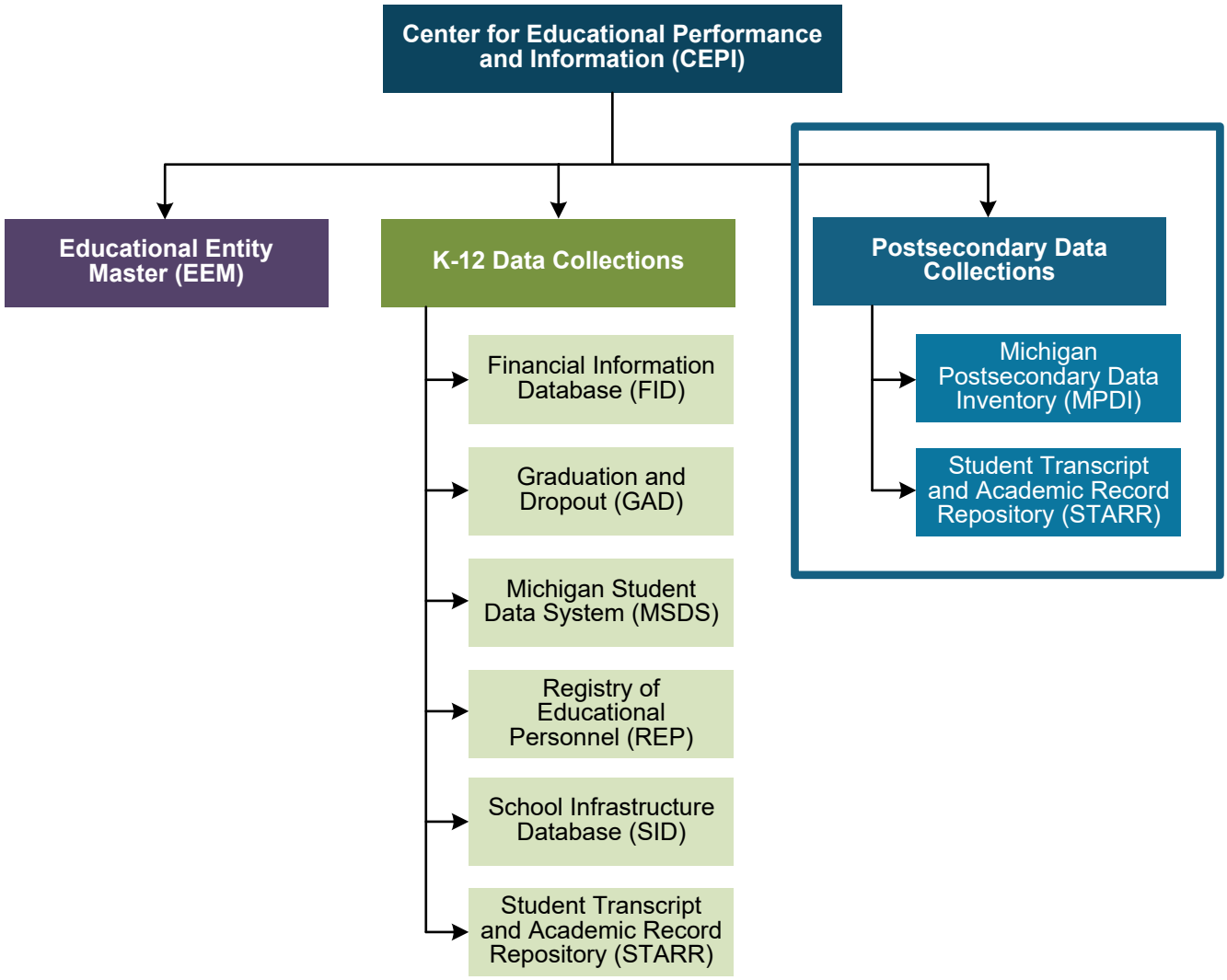
Preliminary survey procedures are limited in nature and should not be considered a completed performance audit in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. In addition, our preliminary survey procedures would not necessarily disclose the presence or absence of any material conditions and/or reportable conditions. Given that the procedures we employed did not constitute a performance audit, we do not express conclusions regarding CEPI's effectiveness or efficiency nor on the supplemental information.

# SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

UNAUDITED
Exhibit 1

CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND INFORMATION - POSTSECONDARY APPLICATIONS
Department of Technology, Management, and Budget

Overview of CEPI
As of June 30, 2026

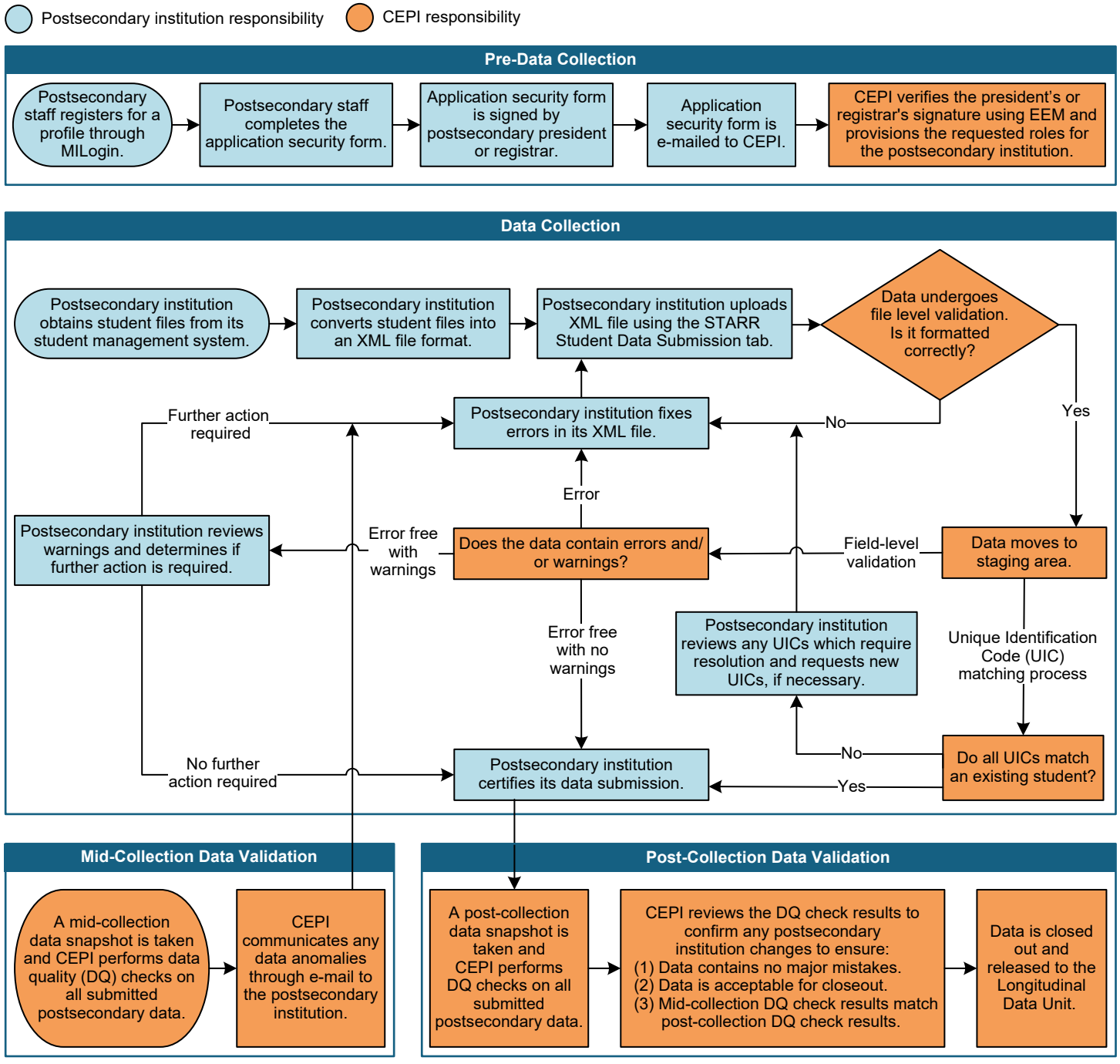



Note: Items in the blue box indicate the selected areas of CEPI included within the scope of this preliminary survey summary.

Source: The OAG prepared this exhibit based on information obtained from CEPI.

CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND INFORMATION - POSTSECONDARY APPLICATIONS
Department of Technology, Management, and Budget

Student Transcript and Academic Record Repository Data Collection Flowchart
As of June 30, 2026




Source: The OAG prepared this flow chart based on information provided by CEPI.

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