Federal Program Evaluation: Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities
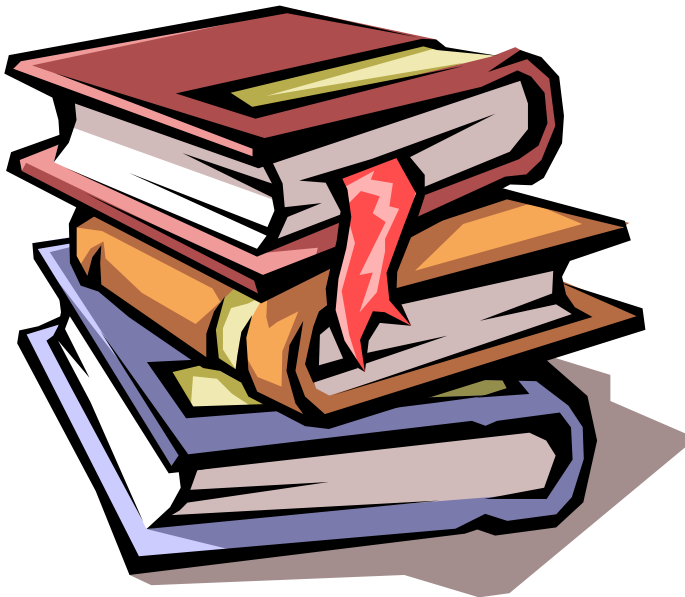
Federal Performance Measurement

How do we know if a federal program is:

- Making progress and
- Achieving results

?

GPRA Drives the Federal Process

- *Government Performance and Results Act of 1993*

  – Holds federal agencies accountable for achieving program results

  – Requires setting goals and public reporting

  – Seeks to reduce waste and inefficiency

Why Was GPRA Enacted?

- Waste and inefficiency had undermined taxpayer confidence and reduced the government's ability to meet public needs

- Inadequate goals and performance data impeded managers' efforts to make programs work

- Congress needed performance information

GPRA Requirements

All federal agencies must

- Prepare:
  - *Strategic Plans*: Major long-term goals and objectives
  - *Performance Plans*: Annual program strategies and targets
  - *Performance Reports*: Annual performance and accountability reports

- Make program information available to the public

The Department of Education's Mission

To ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence throughout the nation

The Department of Education's Strategic Plan

- Has six major goals

- Postsecondary Education Goal:

  Enhance the quality of, and access to, postsecondary and adult education

Postsecondary Education Objectives

- Reduce gaps in college access and completion among different student populations while increasing educational attainment

- Strengthen accountability of postsecondary education institutions

- Strengthen minority-serving institutions

- Establish effective funding mechanisms

- Enhance literacy and employment skills of U.S. adults

- Increase the capacity of institutions to teach world languages, area studies, and international issues

GPRA's Impact Over Time

- Over the past 10 years, GPRA results show steady, but uneven, progress

- 4 years ago, OMB developed the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) to systematically assess programs across federal agencies

What Is the PART?

The Program Assessment Rating Tool evaluates program performance in four main areas:

1. Program Purpose and Design

2. Strategic Planning

3. Program Management

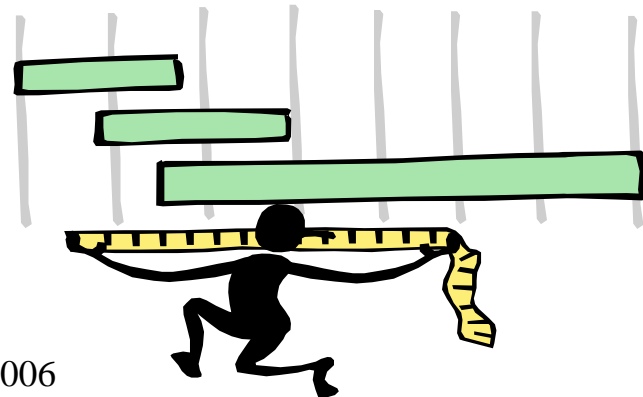4. Program Results and Accountability

PART Goals

- Increase focus on effectiveness (outcomes) and efficiency

- Make program assessment evidence-based

- Provide consistent measurement and evaluation across programs

- Rate program performance

- Improve public information

How Does the PART Evaluate Performance?

The PART is heavily weighted to focus on quantitative results (50% of score)

– Outcome measures

– Efficiency measures

– Evidence-based program evaluation

In Other Words …

- How well is the program doing what it is intended to do?

- What is it costing to achieve the program's purpose?

- Do independent evaluations show that the program is effective and efficient?

Why Does PART Include a Cost Measure?

- Assess a program's ability to achieve *results relative to resources*

- Demonstrate the ability of a program to use resources (e.g., time, effort, money) effectively

How Are PART Scores Used?

- Identify program strengths and weaknesses

- Promote program improvement and administrative changes

- Inform Congress, the public, and other stakeholders

- Make performance-based budgeting decisions

What is Performance-Based Budgeting?

- Performance results inform resource allocation

- The integration of a performance *plan* with a proposed budget

- Basically, how dollars are expected to turn into results--For example, program dollars that fund day-to-day activities (counseling and tutoring) produce results (student graduation)

Overview of PART Scores

	Federal	Education	Postsecondary Education
Programs assessed	793	64	23
Effective	15%	3%	0%
Moderately effective	29%	8%	9%
Adequate	28%	31%	30%
Ineffective	4%	9%	9%
RND	24%	64%	52%

Why a *Results Not Demonstrated* Rating?

- New program measures were set last year

- Targets were set for the new measures

- Waiting for additional data to be collected, analyzed, and compared to targets

- Waiting for results of independent evaluation

What are the Measures?

Performance outcome measures:

- Undergraduate and graduate school enrollment

- Postsecondary persistence

- Completion rate

- Cost per (undergraduate and graduate) degree

What Will Improve the PART Score?

- Performance data must be

  - made publicly available

  - used to assess institutions' effectiveness and set targets

  - used to make program improvements

- Independent evaluation results

Study of the Strengthening Institutions Programs

- Systematic study: Financial Health of Title III and Title V Postsecondary Institutions:
  - Is financial health improving?
  - Do enrollment, persistence, graduation rates affect financial health?
  - Is there a discernible impact of OPE programs on financial health?
- Findings due in late 2007

How Can HBCUs Help?

- Provide accurate, reliable, and on-time data reporting to *IPEDS*

- Submit complete, accurate, reliable, and on-time *annual and final performance reports*

- Assess the results of your use of program funds

- Provide feedback to federal managers
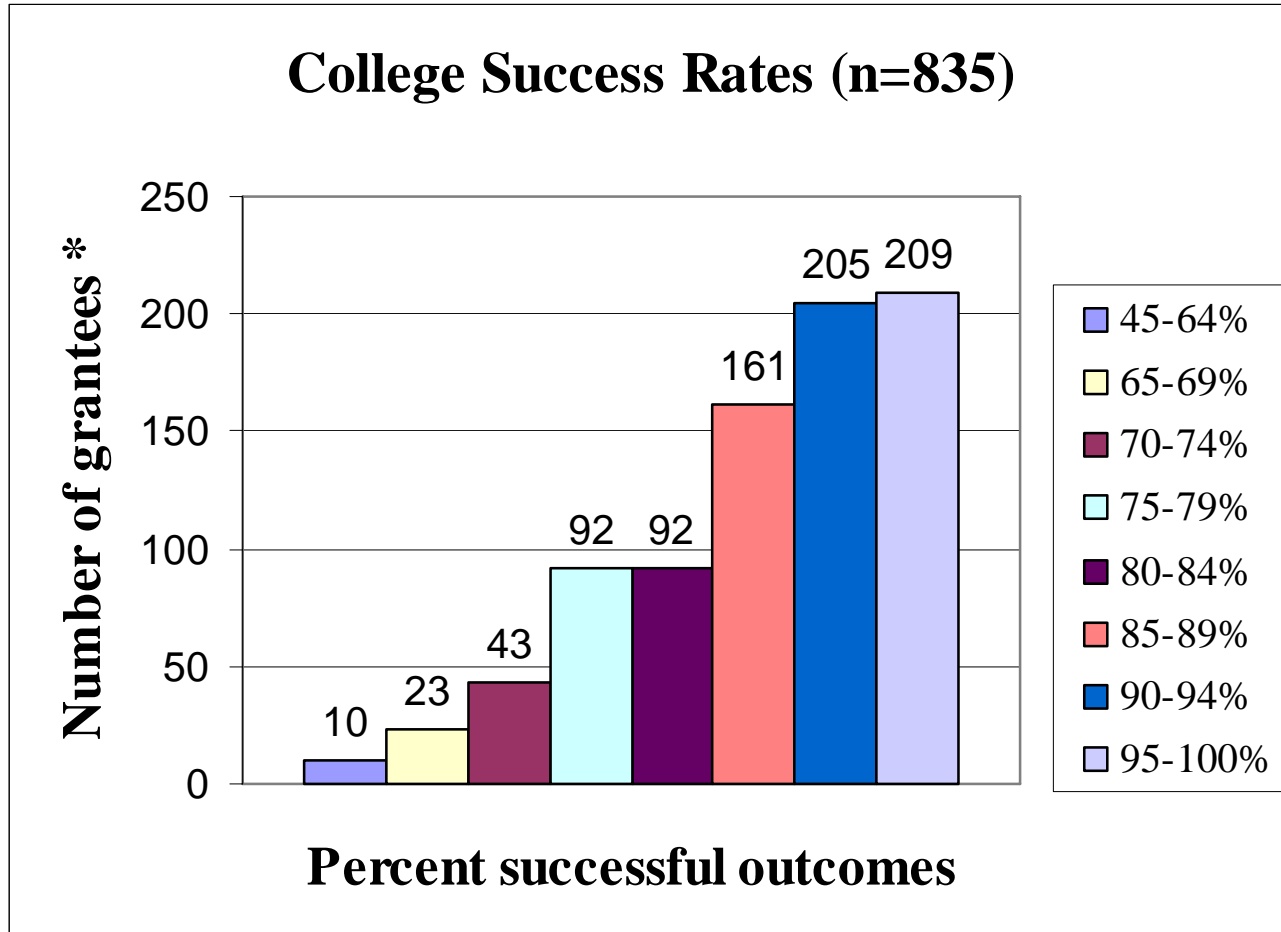
ED's Next Steps

- Use program-wide assessments of individual grantees to help identify:
  - exemplary practices
  - cost efficient projects
  - opportunities for training and technical assistance
- Improve the quality and completeness of data reported by grantees

Expanding HBCU Performance Analyses to Improve Feedback

- Analyze data from multiple sources

- Analyze multiple measures of grantee performance together
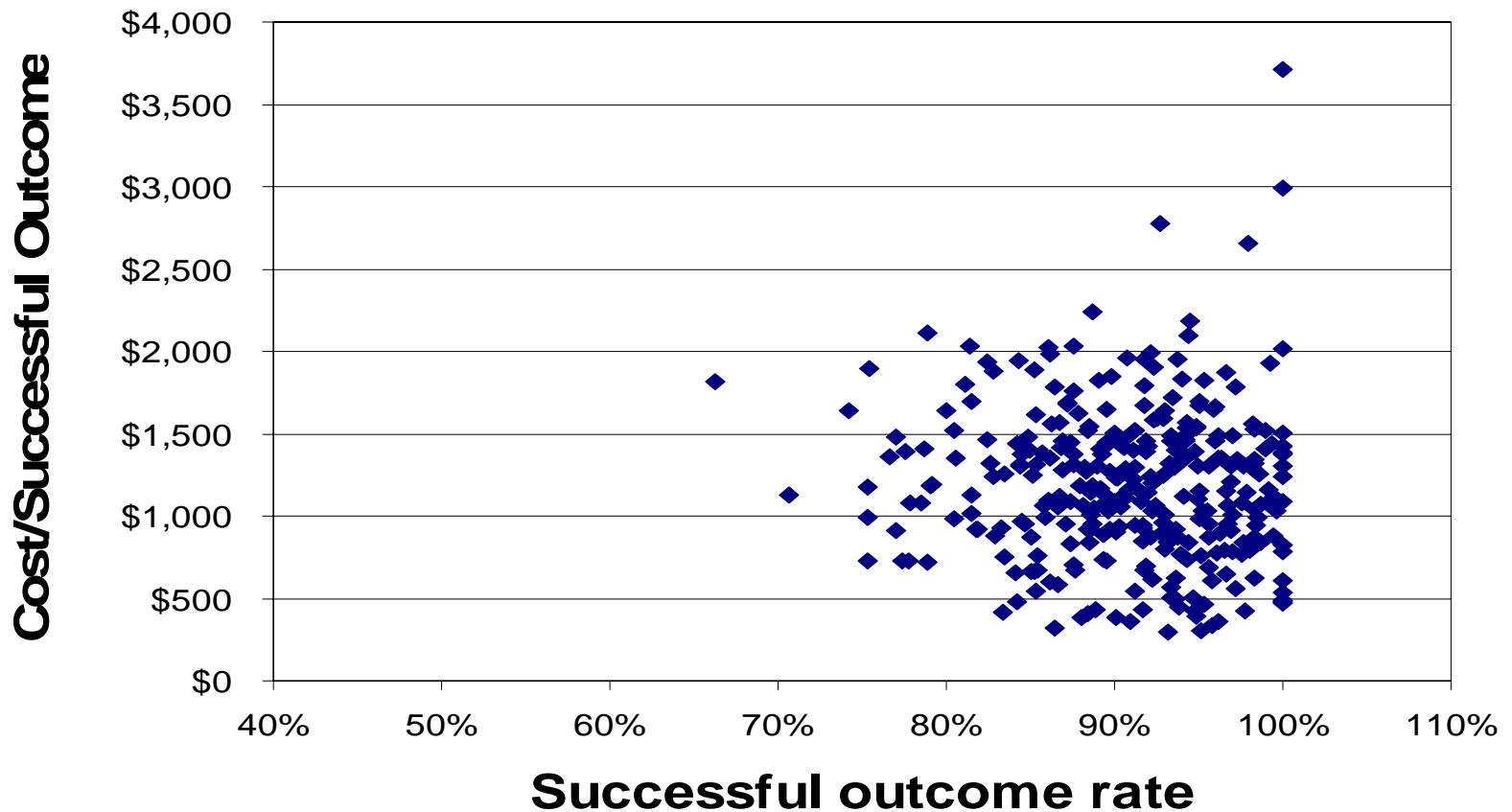
- Provide grantees with results

Analyzing A Single Measure at the Institutional Level

College Success Rates (n=835)

Number of grantees *

Percent successful outcomes

Legend:
- 45-64%
- 65-69%
- 70-74%
- 75-79%
- 80-84%
- 85-89%
- 90-94%
- 95-100%

Values: 10, 23, 43, 92, 92, 161, 205, 209

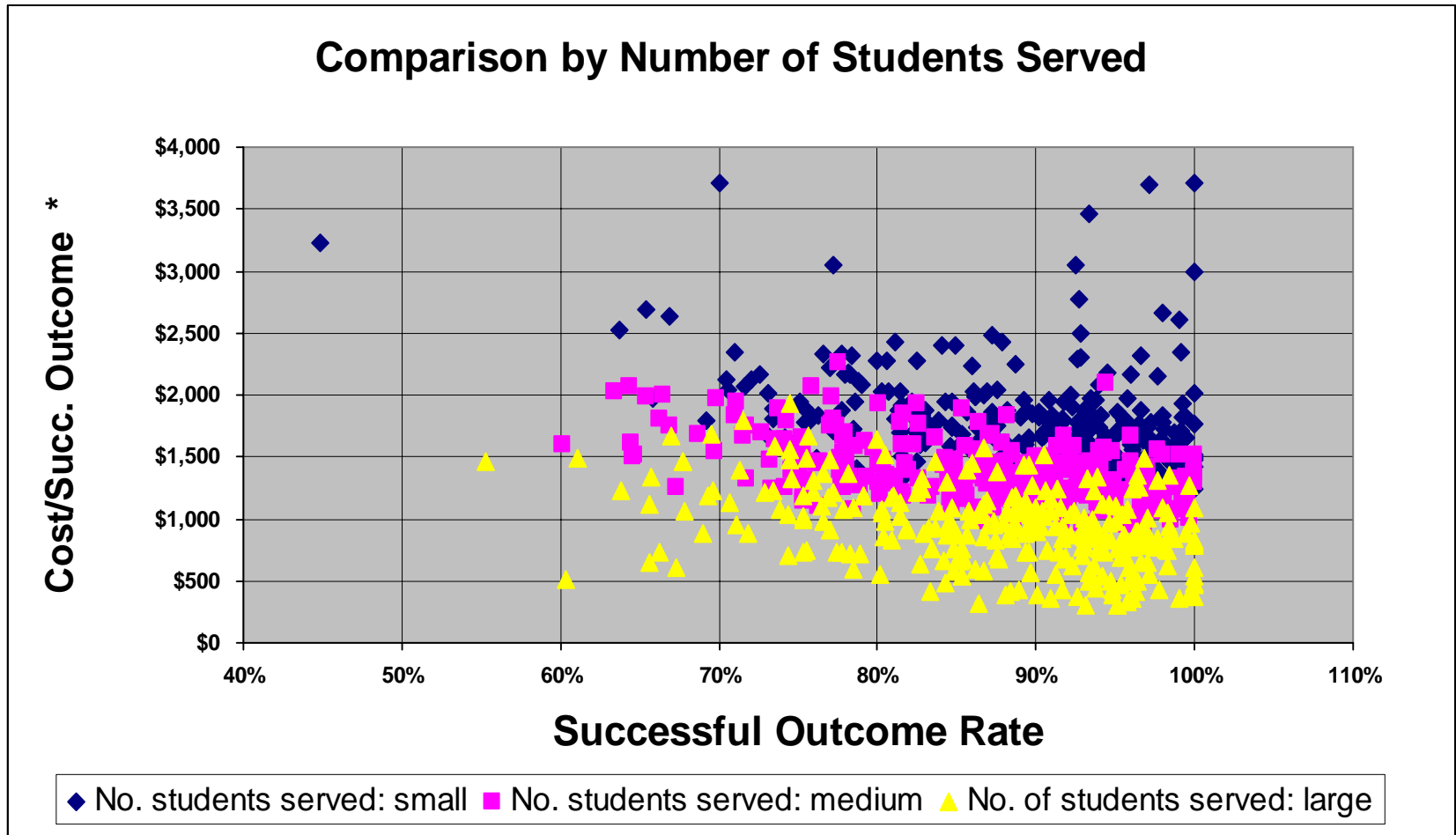# Analyzing Data from Multiple Sources

Public 4-Year Institutions

Analyzing Data from Multiple Sources by Multiple Categories

Comparison by Number of Students Served

No. students served: small ◆ No. students served: medium ■ No. of students served: large ▲

Providing Grantees with Performance Analyses

- Individual performance and demographic data can be grouped with similar institutions for comparisons

- For example, success rates can be grouped by:
    - Institutional type and control
    - Geographic location
    - Numbers of students served
    - Numbers of students receiving Pell Grants

How Can Institutions Use These Data?

- Evaluate your performance relative to others based on multiple characteristics
- Compare your performance to the national program averages for each category
- Identify areas of strengths and weakness
- Make data-driven decisions

Program Data Reviews

	Community College A	All Community Colleges	Difference
Success Rate	97%	84%	+13
Cost Per Success	$789	$1,519	-730
Other Factors	?	?	?

When Will the Expanded Data Be Available?

- Starting with programs being evaluated by OMB in 2006

- The TRIO Programs are being used in pilot tests of the efficiency measure

- Focusing on programs with *Results Not Demonstrated* ratings

Performance Measurement is Essential to Make Improvements

- At national program level

- At project/institutional level

- Through systematic studies

HBCUs Are Performing in Measurable Ways

- 19 percent increase in enrollment from 2002-03 to 2005-06

- One-year persistence rate (2005-06) is 65 percent

- Percentage of entering students in four-year schools graduating within six years (2004-05): 39 percent

Source: IPEDS, NCES

Achieving Results

Performance data show HBCUs are a significant force in minority education...

- – Although HBCUs represent only 3 percent of the nation's postsecondary institutions...
- – ...they graduate nearly one-quarter of Blacks who earn undergraduate degrees
- – 12% of Black students that attend accredited 2- and 4-year postsecondary institutions attend HBCUs

Resources

- PART Web site:

  http://www.expectmore.gov

- IPEDS Web site:

  http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds

- ED Performance Web site:

  http://www.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/index.html?src=pn

- ED HBCU Program Web site:

  http://www.ed.gov/programs/iduestitle3b/index.html