

## SUMMARY

Student parents are a growing demographic in California, who face significant challenges and barriers while pursuing higher education. SB 271 will ensure student parents are informed of the full spectrum of support and services available to them on and near their college campus. Additionally, SB 271 will provide support for student parents in accessing childcare subsidies and locating local childcare providers, which is critical to achieving their educational goals.

## BACKGROUND

There are more than 400,000 student parents in California, an estimated 32 percent of which have a child under the age of three.<sup>1</sup> Currently, the California Community Colleges, the California State University (CSU), and the University of California (UC) systems, are required to have Basic Need Centers and coordinators to provide “basic needs services and resources” to students on campus. This includes, but is not limited to, housing, food, clothing, feminine hygiene, diapers, technology, childcare, and mental health services and resources.

In California, every county has a Local Child Care and Development Planning Council<sup>2</sup> (LPCs) and a local Resource and Referral agency.<sup>3</sup> Each LPC plans and coordinates the childcare services in their county, assessing needs and supporting the development and expansion of childcare services. Resource and referral agencies support parents across the state to apply for subsidized childcare and to find childcare providers.

## PROBLEM

In recent years, California has made strides to support the growing number of student parents, recognizing the additional barriers they face to accessing and completing postsecondary education. However, significant challenges remain. Access to and knowledge of resources is persistently a challenge. Many student parents seeking support at various offices on campus are not informed of the full scope of services they are eligible for. Additionally, for many student parents, access to affordable childcare is one of their most crucial needs that frequently is not met. Many student parents struggle to find childcare that is affordable, flexible enough to meet the needs of their schedule, and near their college campus.<sup>4</sup>

## SOLUTION

SB 271 will ensure that student parents are informed of the supports that exist both on their campus and in their community and have assistance to access them.

Specifically, SB 271 will:

- Require basic needs centers at each campus of the CSU and Community Colleges and request UC campuses, to coordinate with the Local Child Care and Development Planning Council and the local Resource and Referral agency in their county.
- Require basic needs centers at each campus of the CSU and Community Colleges and request UC campuses, to inform student parents they may qualify for subsidized childcare and refer them to the local resource and referral agency for support applying and finding local childcare service providers.
- Require the basic needs center, financial aid office, and if applicable the child development center of each campus of the CSU and Community Colleges and request the UC to, to work in tandem and inform student parents seeking support at any of their offices, of the full scope of services and financial aid offerings available on campus.

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## CO-SPONSORS

- Early Edge California
- California State University Student Association (CSSA)
- Student Senate of the California Community Colleges (SSCCC)
- University of California Student Association (UCSA)

1. <https://castudentparentalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Alliance-Student-Parent-Report-Final.pdf>

2. <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re/lpccontactcountymap.asp>

3. <https://cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/child-care-and-development/quality-improvement-initiatives/resource-and-referral>

4. <https://earlyedgecalifornia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Student-Parents-Policy-Brief-12.5.24-Final.pdf>