
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Connie Leyva, Chair

2021 - 2022 Regular

Bill No:	AB 2881	Hearing Date:	June 29, 2022
Author:	Berman		
Version:	June 20, 2022		
Urgency:	No	Fiscal:	Yes
Consultant:	Lynn Lorber		

Subject: Public postsecondary education: students with dependent children

SUMMARY

This bill 1) requires each campus of the California State University (CSU) and California Community Colleges (CCC), and requests each campus of the University of California (UC), to a) provide priority enrollment to a student parent, and b) host a student parent webpage with on- and off-campus student parent services and resources; and 2) expands information that students are to receive to include information about the California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the California Earned Income Tax Credit, and the Young Child Tax Credit.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

Priority enrollment

- 1) Requires the CSU and each community college district, and requests the UC, to offer priority registration to foster youth, former foster youth, homeless youth, or former homeless youth. (Education Code § 66025.9)
- 2) Requires the CSU and each community college district, and requests the UC, to offer priority registration for any existing or former member of the State Guard or a former member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is a California resident and has been honorably discharged, as defined. (EC § 66025.8)
- 3) Requires each community college district to offer priority registration to students in the Community College Extended Opportunity Programs and Services program, students who are eligible for disabled student programs and services, students receiving California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) and students who receive Tribal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). (EC § 66025.91 and § 66025.92)

Basic Needs

- 4) Requires each campus of the CCC to establish, by July 1, 2022, a Basic Needs Center as a central location on campus where basic needs services, resources, and staff are made available to students. Existing law provides that the Basic Needs Center is intended to be a one-stop, single location and point of contact for students to more easily access and gain awareness of basic needs services

and resources. (EC § 66023.5)

- 5) Requires each campus of the CCC to make a reasonable effort to locate all on-campus basic needs services and resources at the Basic Needs Center. Existing law requires a campus to provide students with the location and contact information, including name, telephone number, and email address, for all basic needs services and resources not located in the Basic Needs Center if the campus cannot reasonably locate all basic needs services or resources at the Basic Needs Center. (EC § 66023.5)
- 6) Requires each CCC Basic Needs Center to help ensure that students have the information they need to enroll in CalFresh and other relevant government benefits programs. Each Basic Needs Center shall coordinate with their campus financial aid department or financial aid office. (EC § 66023.5)
- 7) Requires each campus of the CCC and CSU to provide, educational information about CalFresh and the student eligibility requirements for CalFresh to all incoming students as part of campus orientation. (EC § 66027.4)
- 8) Requires each campus of the CCC and CSU to include on each student's online student account notice of the following public services and programs:
 - a) The CalFresh program.
 - b) Resources, as determined by the campus to be most appropriate, for county or local housing services, which may also include, if determined to be appropriate for the geographic area where the campus is located, resources for legal assistance relating to housing.
 - c) Resources, as determined by the campus to be most appropriate, for county or local mental health services. (EC § 66027.6)

ANALYSIS

This bill 1) requires each campus of the CSU and CCC, and requests each campus of the UC, to a) provide priority enrollment to a student parent, and b) host a student parent web page with on- and off-campus student parent services and resources; and 2) expands information that students are to receive to include information about the California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the California Earned Income Tax Credit, and the Young Child Tax Credit. Specifically, this bill:

Priority enrollment

- 1) Requires the CSU and each community college district, and requests the UC, with respect to each campus in their respective jurisdictions that administers a priority enrollment system, to grant priority in that system for registration for enrollment to a student parent.

- 2) Defines “student parent” to mean a student who has a child or children under 18 years of age who will receive more than half of their support from that student.

Student parent web page

- 3) Requires each campus of the CSU and CCC, and requests each campus of the UC, to do all of the following:
 - a) Host on its website, by February 1, 2023, a student parent web page that is clearly visible and easily accessible from a drop-down menu on the home page of the campus’s website, and include the information described in # 4 below conspicuously on both the website of the campus via the student parent webpage, and on each student’s online student account.
 - b) Provide the student parent web page link to students as a part of campus orientations.
 - c) Provide to faculty the student parent web page link and encourage faculty to include the student parent web page link in their syllabi.
 - d) Review and update the student parent web page no later than the first day of every fall and spring semester or no later than the first day of every fall and spring quarter, to ensure that the web page remains useful to student parents.
- 4) Requires the student parent webpage to contain information that clearly lists all on- and off-campus student parent services and resources that include, but is not necessarily limited to, all of the following:
 - a) The description of the service or resource.
 - b) The location where the service or resource is provided.
 - c) The point of contact for the service or resource, including a name, telephone number, and email address.
 - d) Any eligibility restrictions on accessing the service or resource.
- 5) Requires the student parent web page to include but not be limited to, information on the following on- and off-campus student parent services and resources:
 - a) Priority registration for a student parent.
 - b) The CalFresh Program.
 - c) The California Earned Income Tax Credit.
 - d) The Young Child Tax Credit.

- e) The California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

Providing information to students

- 6) Expands the information that each campus of the CSU and CCC are required, and campuses of UC are requested, to provide to students as part of campus orientation to include (in addition to information about CalFresh) information about the California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the California Earned Income Tax Credit and the Young Child Tax Credit.
- 7) Expands the information that CCC Basic Needs Centers are required to provide to students to include (in addition to information about CalFresh) information about the WIC, the California Earned Income Tax Credit and the Young Child Tax Credit.
- 8) Expands the information that each campus of the CSU and CCC is required, and campuses of UC are requested, provided on each student's online student account to include information about the WIC, the California Earned Income Tax Credit, and the Young Child Tax Credit.
- 9) Encourages campuses to use information from any, or a combination of, any of the following to help determine a student parent's eligibility for priority enrollment:
 - a) The Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
 - b) The California Dream Act Application.
 - c) The application to receive a fee waiver from the CCC.
 - d) Any campus form or document that identifies student parents.
- 10) States that it is the intent of the Legislature to support students with dependent children who are enrolled at the UC, CSU, or CCC.
- 11) States legislative intent that, upon the implementation of the California Cradle-to-Career Data System, future data and outcome reporting on student parents be linked through, and conducted in accordance with the privacy requirements of, the California Cradle-to-Career Data System.
- 12) States legislative findings and declarations relative to the need to support student parents.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) *Need for the bill.* According to the author, "A March 2021 research brief from Wheelhouse at the University of California, Davis, examined the student parent population and found that among the nearly 1.5 million California college and university students who applied for financial aid in 2018, 202,327 were student

parents, representing 13.4 percent. The Institute for Women's Policy Research has also estimated the share of student parents and their demographic characteristics. The organization found that one in five college students is parenting and that student parents are almost twice as likely to leave college without a degree after six years. Among students of color, a higher proportion are parenting while in college: 33 percent of Black students, 30 percent of Native American students, and 21 percent of Latinx students have children. The Institute for Women's Policy Research also found that student parents face greater economic barriers than students without children: over two-thirds of student parents live in or near poverty, and student parents have higher levels of unmet financial need and higher median student debt. Therefore, addressing the needs of student parents can help higher education systems reach their goals of reducing equity gaps for populations that have been historically underserved in higher education."

"Parental education level has been linked to the academic and economic success of their children, and increasing the educational attainment of parents produces cost savings for states in terms of reduced spending on public benefits and increased tax revenue. Helping student parents reach their educational goals will have a multiplier effect of increasing family income and helping more children succeed in school. As a result, the student parent population deserves particular focus and support."

- 2) *Priority enrollment.* Existing law requires the CSU and CCC to offer priority enrollment to a) foster youth, former foster youth, homeless youth, or former homeless youth; and, b) any existing or former member of the State Guard or a former member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is a California resident and has been honorably discharged. Existing law requires each community college district to offer priority enrollment to students in the Community College Extended Opportunity Programs and Services program, students who are eligible for disabled student programs and services, students receiving CalWORKs, and students who receive Tribal TANF. This bill requires student parents to be offered priority enrollment.

As explained in the Assembly Higher Education Committee analysis, the CSU and CCC may also add additional subgroups of students to receive priority enrollment. For example, athletes, graduating/transferring students, students who participate in TRIO Programs, Puente Project, Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA), UMOJA, students on the dean's list, and students who participate in Student Success programs (those who attend orientation) or in the Promise program are also offered priority enrollment. Each UC campus determines its own priority registration; UC Irvine, UC San Diego, UC Davis, and UC Santa Barbara all provide priority registration to student parents. *The Committee may wish to consider at what point priority becomes overprescribed.*

- 3) *Information about public services.* As noted in the Assembly Higher Education Committee analysis, information on WIC benefits is provided to students at UC health centers on UC campuses. At the CSU, information on WIC benefits is provided alongside CalFresh information. At the CCC, student basic needs centers are tasked with providing information on local and state programs that

will assist students in accessing resources to alleviate their food, housing, and health insecurities. It is likely that information on WIC will be provided through the basic needs centers once they are operational in July 2022.

- 4) *Fiscal impact.* According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, this bill would likely impose “moderate Proposition 98 (General Fund (GF)) costs for each CCC and GF cost for each CSU and UC campus to provide this information and grant priority status (much of this is already being done). However, aggregate costs across 73 CCC campuses could be significant. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this bill imposes a state-mandated program, costs would be reimbursable (Proposition 98/GF).”

SUPPORT

Michelson Center for Public Policy (co-sponsor)
Student Senate for California Community Colleges (co-sponsor)
Young Invincibles (co-sponsor)
American Association of University Women - California
Cal State Student Association
California Competes: Higher Education for A Strong Economy
California State Student Association
Office of Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis
The Education Trust - West
Tipping Point Community
University of California Student Association

OPPOSITION

None received

-- END --