
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 271
Author: Reyes (D)
Amended: 9/9/25 in Assembly
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/2/25
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Laird

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 6-0, 5/23/25
AYES: Caballero, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 6/4/25
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Reyes

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 61-0, 9/12/25 – Roll call vote not available.

SUBJECT: Public postsecondary education: students with dependent children: childcare services, resources, and programs

SOURCE: California State Student Association
Early Edge California
Student Senate for California Community Colleges
University of California Student Association

DIGEST: This bill requires each California State University (CSU) and California Community College (CCC) and requests each University of California (UC) financial aid office, childcare development center, and basic needs center to refer their respective students with dependent children to local resource and referral

agencies, and each other for purposes of connecting and informing students of existing childcare services and resources.

Assembly Amendments of 9/9/25 add language to avoid chaptering conflicts with SB 148 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, 2025) and AB 148 (Committee on Budget, 2025).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the CSU, under the administration of the Trustees of the CSU, the UC, under the administration of the Regents of the UC, the CCC, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, and independent institutions of higher education as four segments of postsecondary education in the state. (Education Code (EC) § 66010, § 70900, § 66600, and California Constitution, Article IX, Section 9)
- 2) Authorizes public postsecondary institutions to establish and maintain child development programs on or near their campuses. (EC § 66060)
- 3) Specifies roles and responsibilities for child care resource and referral programs established to serve a defined geographic area. (Welfare and Institutions Code § 10219)
- 4) Establishes the supplemental Cal Grant award, administered by the California Student Aid Commission, for students with dependent children who attend a CSU, UC, CCC, or independent nonprofit college or university receiving a Cal Grant A, B, or C award. Eligible Cal Grant A or B students may receive an additional \$6,000, and \$4,000 for Cal Grant C recipients. (EC § 69465 (a)-(h), inclusive)
- 5) Requires each CCC campus and each CSU campus, and requests each UC campus, to establish the position of the Basic Needs Coordinator to assist students, among other responsibilities, with basic needs services and resources, including childcare, and to establish a Basic Needs Center where basic needs services, resources, and staff are made available to students, as provided. Existing law requires each Basic Needs Center to, among other things, connect students to the financial aid department or financial aid office, as appropriate, to ensure that students are receiving all available financial aid. (EC § 66023.4 and 66023.5)

This bill:

- 1) Requires each CCC and CSU and requests each UC financial aid office to provide all of the following to students with dependent children:
 - a) Information on the campus' childcare development center and childcare offerings, if applicable.
 - b) Referral to the campus Basic Needs Centers for support accessing information, including but not limited to information and connections to local resource and referral agencies in order to obtain support in applying for state and federal childcare subsidies and programs and finding local childcare providers.
 - c) Information on any supplemental awards, such as the awards for those students with dependent children, established in state law.
- 2) Requires each CCC and CSU and requests each UC child development center or preschool established pursuant to state law for higher education institutions to provide students with dependent children seeking childcare with both of the following:
 - a) Referral to the campus Basic Needs Center for support access information, including but not limited to information and connections to local resource and referral agencies in order to obtain support in applying for state and federal childcare subsidies and programs and finding local childcare providers.
 - b) Referral to the campus' financial aid office, including information on the awards for students with dependent children.
- 3) Expands the definition of basic needs services and resources that a basic needs coordinator and Basic Needs Center on a CCC, CSU, or UC campus is to be responsible for to include childcare services and resources. These resources may include direct financial or service support. The bill further specifies that if a campus has an existing center or office that supports parenting students and a student may be better served there the basic needs center is authorized to direct that student to that center or office.

- 4) Adds supplemental awards for students with dependent children as a reason a Basic Needs Center on a CCC, CSU, or UC campus refers a student to the financial aid department or office.
- 5) Defines childcare services and resources, as it relates to basic needs services, resources, and centers to include, but be not limited to, providing information on affordable childcare options on or near the campus, and information and connections to local resource and referral agencies in order to obtain support in applying to state and federal childcare subsidies and programs, and finding local childcare providers, including but not limited to, the California State preschool program, Head Start, the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) childcare program, and general child care and development programs. Childcare services and resources may also include direct financial or service support.
- 6) Includes language to avoid chaptering conflicts with SB 148 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, 2025) and AB 148 (Committee on Budget, 2025).

Comments

- 1) *Need for this bill.* According to the author, “SB 271 requires that when a student parent on a higher education campus is identified at one of the following campus locations: a financial aid office, a child development center, or a basic need center, the student parent shall be notified about the childcare and financial aid resources available to them. This type of direct notification process is needed because student parents are hindered by the communications silos within higher education campuses. While juggling the demands of parents and earning their degrees, student parents should not be further delayed by communication gaps on their campuses. SB 271 bridges gaps, ensuring student parents are connected to the resources they need rather than being left in the dark about relevant services. This bill is a step towards making all student parents feel welcomed, supported, and cared for by fostering an environment where their needs are intentionally met.”
- 2) *Off-campus resources.* Resource and referral programs, funded by the California Department of Social Services, Child Care and Development Division, help families find child care that best meets their needs, recruit and train child care providers, and collect data from parents and child care providers. Specifically, resource and referral programs provide information to all parents and the community about the availability of child care in their area.

The programs assist potential providers in the licensing process, provide direct services, including training, and coordinate community resources for the benefit of parents and local child care providers. Every county in California is served by at least one resource and referral agency.

- 3) *On-campus resources for student parents.* Student parents attending a California public higher education institution have access to a range of resources and services designed to support their needs, including child care programs. Within the CCC system of the 73 community college districts, 20 operate 42 child care centers; all but three CSU campuses have childcare centers, and all UCs have child care centers. However, enrollment capacity varies, and it's common for centers to have a waitlist for parents seeking to enroll their children. As it relates to financial aid, eligible student parents at any of the three public systems of higher education can receive a supplemental award, up to \$6,000, on top of their Cal Grant payment. Additionally, on-campus basic needs centers established to address basic needs insecurity among college students assist any student with basic needs services and resources, including childcare, food, and housing assistance.
- 4) *Streamlining information and connections.* Given the various services and resources available to student parents, this bill attempts to improve communication among campus locations that offer benefits or support their needs. It additionally seeks to ensure student parents are aware of a state-funded services designed to help any parent find child care in their area.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee analysis, this bill would have the following fiscal impact:

- One-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs of unknown, but potentially significant amount, possibly in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars for the CCCs, collectively statewide, to update policies and procedures for Basic Needs Centers and Financial Aid Offices. If each college spends between \$1,000 and \$2,000 to comply with the requirements of this bill, then total costs statewide would be between \$116,000 and \$232,000. However, since this bill codifies what is already common practice at many campuses, costs may be lower.

- Minor and absorbable costs to each campus of the CSU and UC to provide training, if needed, to basic needs, financial aid office, and childcare center staff and provide the appropriation information to student parents.

SUPPORT: (Verified 9/12/25)

California State Student Association (co-source)
 Early Edge California (co-source)
 Student Senate for California Community Colleges (co-source)
 University of California Student Association (co-source)
 Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis
 California Catholic Conference
 California Child Care Resource and Referral Network
 California Community Colleges, Chancellor's Office
 California Family Resource Association
 California WIC Association
 Campaign for College Opportunity
 Child Abuse Prevention Center
 Children Now
 Coast Community College District
 EdTrust-West
 Faculty Association of California Community Colleges
 Michelson Center for Public Policy
 San Jose-Evergreen Community College District
 UCLA Undergraduate Student Association Council
 Unite-LA
 University of California
 Western Center on Law & Poverty

OPPOSITION: (Verified 9/9/25)

None received

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 9/12/25 17:22:14

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