Research & Policy Update:
Student Parents & Access to Child Care at Community Colleges

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About IWPR’s Student Parent Success Initiative (SPSI)

SPSI focuses on supporting students with dependent children who are pursuing college.

- Raises awareness of the need for student parent supports.
- Improves public policies and expands support programs.
- Shares knowledge about programs/strategies that help low-income parents succeed in college.
- Technical assistance to community colleges.
IWPR Tools for Student Parent Success

Varieties of Campus Child Care

Financing Child Care for College Student Success

Prepping Colleges for Parents Report

Student Parent Program Finder

Student Parent Survey
71% of All Student Parents are Women

Number of Student Parents at All Postsecondary Institutions by Sex and Marital Status (in Thousands), 2011-12

- **Student Mothers**: 3,400,000
- **Student Fathers**: 1,400,000
- **Single Student Mothers**: 1,400,000
- **Single Student Fathers**: 900,000
- **Married Student Mothers**: 2,000,000
- **Married Student Fathers**: 500,000

Largest Share of Student Parents Attend Community Colleges

Distribution of Student Parents by Institution Type, 2011

- Public 2-Year Institutions: 45%
- Public 4-Year Institutions: 25%
- Private For-Profit 2-Year Institutions: 16%
- Private Not-for-Profit 4-Year Institutions: 8%
- Other or More than One Institution: 7%

The Number of Parents in College is Growing

Number student parents enrolled in the fall, 1995-2011

Campus Child Care Declining, Especially in Community Colleges

Percent of Colleges with Campus Child Care, 2002-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Public 2-Year Institutions</th>
<th>Public 4-Year Institutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>55%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
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<td>2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>53%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>51%</td>
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Current IWPR Research Activities

• Technical assistance to community college on improving students’ child care access in 4 states
  – In coordination with Achieving the Dream’s Working Families Success Network
  – States: CA, WA, AR, VA

• National study of access to socioeconomic supports in workforce development programs (including community colleges)
Strategies for Increasing Students’ Child Care Access

- Connections with campus child care centers (where available)
- Links to family child care
- Child Care Resource & Referral (CCRR) Programs
- Vouchers and scholarships
- Collaborations/connections with child care agencies
- Written/online resources for students
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Women’s Law Center (NWLC)</th>
<th>Center for Residential Student Parent Programs, Endicott College</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center for Law &amp; Social Policy (CLASP)</td>
<td>Higher Education Alliance of Advocates for Students with Children (HEAASC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women Employed</td>
<td>Young Invincibles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Parent HELP Center, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities</td>
<td>National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA)</td>
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</tbody>
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Opportunities to Leverage Policy for Greater Student Parent Supports

- Higher Education Act
- Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act
- Child Care Access Means Parents in School
- State Child Care & TANF Policy