

Breaking Barriers, Building Futures:
Introducing The California Alliance
for Student Parent Success

April 10, 2024



The CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE *for*
STUDENT PARENT SUCCESS



Assemblymember Marc Berman

California Assembly District 23

Today's Agenda

1 The California Alliance for Student Parent Success

2 Who are California Student Parents?

3 Alliance Policy Priorities

4 The GAINS for Student Parents Act (AB 2458)

5 Q/A Discussion



The CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE *for*
STUDENT PARENT SUCCESS 

ADMINISTERED BY:



HIGHER EDUCATION FOR A STRONG ECONOMY

&



The Education Trust–West

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The CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE *for*
STUDENT PARENT SUCCESS

Who We Are

The California Alliance for Student Parent Success (The Alliance) brings together diverse stakeholders from research, philanthropy, advocacy, education, policy, business, and more, with the **shared goal of championing postsecondary success and well-being of over 400,000+ student parents enrolled in California's institutions.**

Mission

To support the postsecondary success and comprehensive well-being of California student parents and their families

Vision

A California where higher education systems equitably support and empower student parents on their paths to earning meaningful credentials and securing gainful employment. We commit to driving systems change and advocate for investing in resources and services that propel student parents and their families forward. We work to ensure that student parents and their families are recognized and supported, effectively bridging equity gaps and strengthening systems that will enable current and future generations to truly thrive.

Our Advisory Committee



- **Tina Cheuk, PhD**
*California Polytechnic State University,
San Luis Obispo*
- **Larry Gonzales**
Student Parent, CSU Bakersfield
- **Guadalupe Larios**
*Student Parent, East Los Angeles
College*
- **Jessica Lee, JD**
Pregnant Scholar Initiative
- **Elizabeth Lopez**
Student Parent, UC San Diego
- **Michaela Martin, JD**
Consultant & Student Parent Advocate
- **Allie Olson**
Lift-Los Angeles

What We Do

DISCOVER THE ALLIANCE WORK



Policy
Advocacy



Capacity
Building



Research
& Analysis



Community
Engagement

Who Are California Student Parents

300,000 Undergraduates are student parents

12% of the student population

The CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE for STUDENT PARENT SUCCESS
ADVANCED BY CALIFORNIA QUALITY EDUCATION FOR A BETTER FUTURE AND THE ECONOMIC TRANSITION

Juggling Roles and Achieving Goals: California's Undergraduate Student Parents

Fostering the academic success of student parents is not only important for their own advancement but also for shaping the educational outcomes of their children and bolstering California's economic prosperity across generations. This infographic provides insights into who student parents are and their educational experiences and points to the policies that can help them thrive in college and beyond.

Who are California's student parents?

300,000 UNDERGRUATES ARE STUDENT PARENTS

Gender

15% of female students have children
8% of male students have children

Race/Ethnicity

72% are Black, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, or Native American

Age

34 median age of student parents
vs a median age of 21 for nonparenting students

Number of Children

60% 2+ children
40% 1 child

Where They Live

Predominantly in rural and inland areas where there are fewer options for college

20% Percent students with children in rural/inland areas
8% Percent students with children in coastal areas

First Generation to Go to College

61% are first-generation college students
vs 50% of nonparenting students

What do their educational experiences look like?

- 47% work full time vs 39% of nonparenting students
- 83% enrolled part time or for part of the year vs 63% of nonparenting students
- 70% pursue shorter-term credentials (certificates and associate's degrees) vs 58% of nonparenting students
- 46% received a Pell Grant in 2019-20 vs 37% of nonparenting students
- 66% attend community college vs 62% of nonparenting students

Sources: American Community Survey 2021 Five-year estimates and 2019-20 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study Administrative Collection.

What policy changes can advance student parent success?

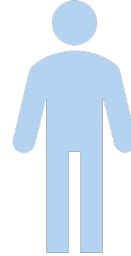
To explore recommendations, view the policy agenda by the California Alliance for Student Parent Success at:
CALIFORNIACOMPETES.ORG/ALLIANCE-STUDENT-PARENT-AGENDA

Who Are California Student Parents



15%

of female students
have children



8%

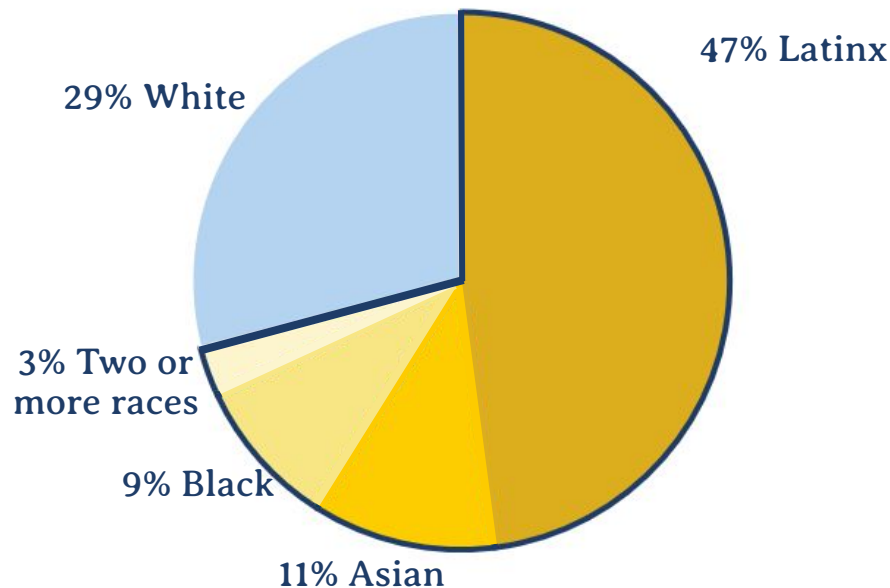
of male students
have children

Who Are California Student Parents

More likely to be students of color

72%

of student parents are Black, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, or Native American



Who Are California Student Parents

More likely to be older



34

Median age of
student parents

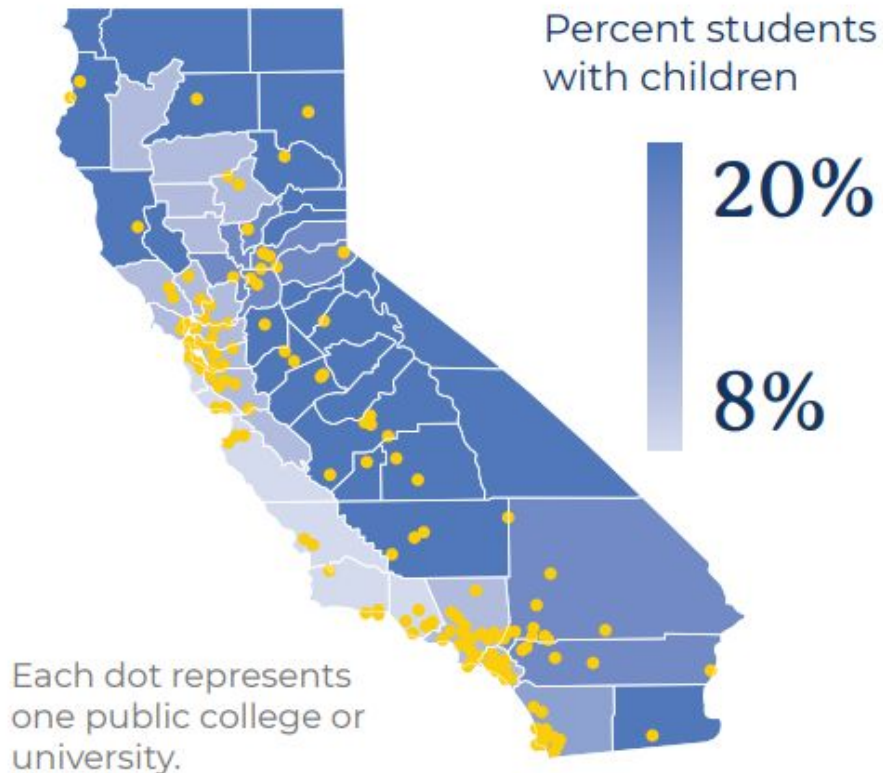


21

Median age of
nonparenting
students

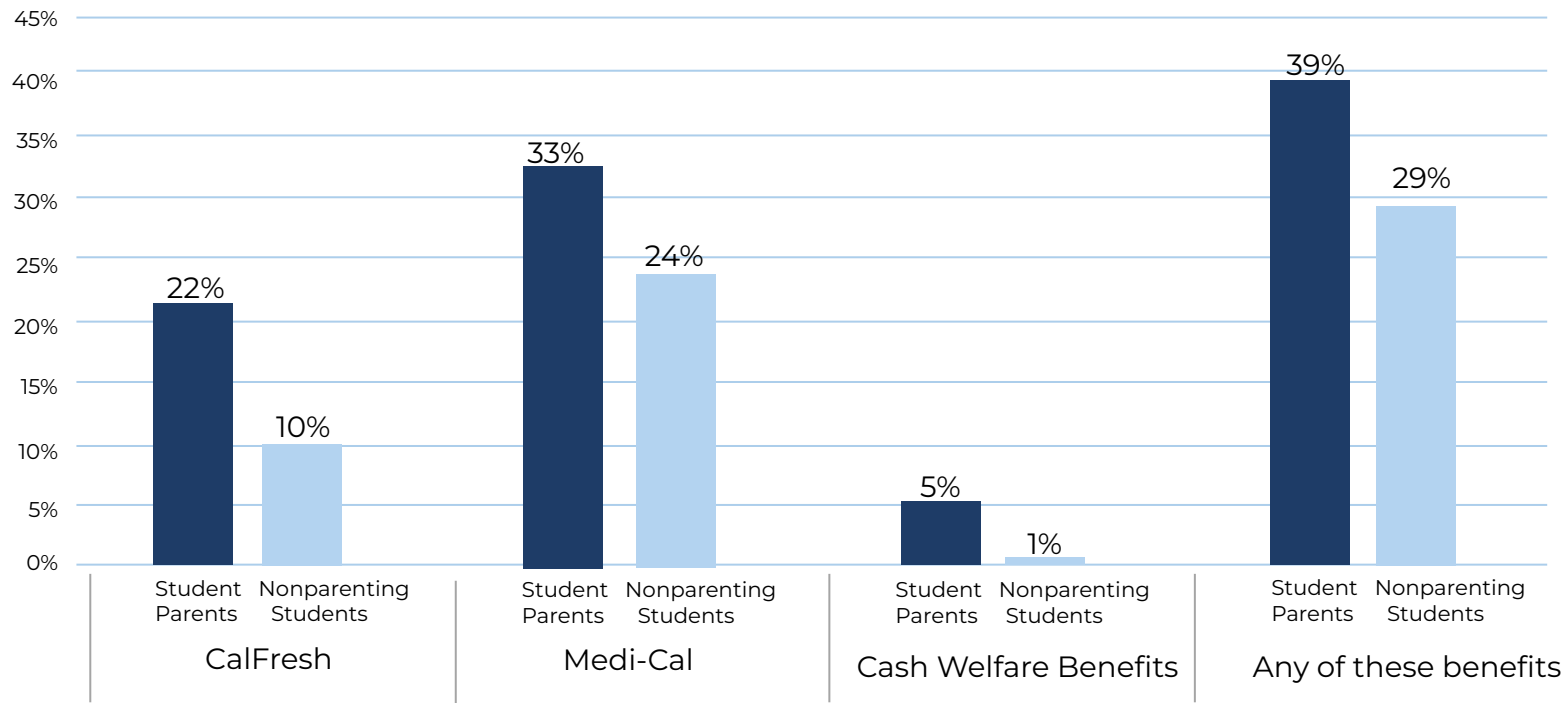
Who Are California Student Parents

More likely to live in rural and inland regions



Who Are California Student Parents

More likely to receive public benefits



Who Are California Student Parents

More likely to be first generation students



61%

of student parents
are the first in their
family to go to
college



50%

of nonparenting
students are the
first in their family
to go to college

Who Are California Student Parents

More likely to...

Balance Full-time
Work with School

47%

Work
full time

vs. 19% of
nonparenting students

Borrow More on
Average

\$8.3k

Median
amount borrowed

vs. \$5,500 for
nonparenting students

Receive Pell
Grants

46%

Received
a Pell Grant

vs. 37% of
nonparenting students

The Alliance's Policy Agenda



The CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE for
STUDENT PARENT SUCCESS

ADMINISTERED BY CALIFORNIA COMPETES: HIGHER EDUCATION
FOR A STRONG ECONOMY AND THE EDUCATION TRUST-WEST

Empowering Bright Futures:
*The Alliance's Policy Agenda for California's Leaders to Support
Student Parents and Their Families*

To empower bright futures for all Californians and bolster a robust state economy that increasingly depends on a skilled workforce, state leaders must support the higher education attainment of the 6.8 million Californian adults without a college degree, the majority of whom (57%) have children.¹² Facilitating their academic success, which is one of the strongest predictors of their children's educational attainment, will create a multiplier effect that will improve the livelihoods of numerous generations and build a more prosperous California.²

State policymakers have invested billions of dollars in higher education in the last year alone to increase the number of Californians completing college.³ However, in both the design and implementation of these investments, student parents have been largely left out or deprioritized. For example, institutional and statewide data systems often do not identify student parents as such, financial aid offers do not reflect their true costs, and fewer than 2 percent of the new affordable student housing units being constructed are designated for students with families.¹⁴ Without thoughtful planning, California will continue to miss out on the promise of current and prospective student parents.

The continued lack of family-serving policies and practices at institutions of higher education hinders student parent success and forces them to choose among their education, career, and family obligations. Despite having higher grade point averages than their nonparenting peers, student parents are less likely to complete college, likely because they face many challenges, including housing and food insecurity, at greater rates than students without dependents.^{7&9} Consequently, California leaders must seize the opportunity to support Californians with children—including the state's 300,000 undergraduate student parents, 61 percent of whom are first-generation college students—so that they can successfully access and complete a credential, improving both their families' lives and the state as a whole.^{20,11} Crucially, supporting student parents—the majority of whom are Black, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native American—will also help close persistent racial equity gaps in college readiness, access, completion, and degree attainment, and in the workplace.^{12,13}

Calls on state policymakers and higher education leaders to champion core key strategies for a more inclusive and equitable California.

The Alliance's Policy Priorities

Strengthen financial aid to cover true college costs

Expand quality, affordable child care options

Meet student parents' housing needs

Advance family-serving institutional policies and practices

Improve data collection and utilization on student parents' pathways

Strengthen financial aid to cover true college costs



Enhance
financial aid
transparency



Remove
eligibility
barriers



Maximize
receipt of aid

Expand quality, affordable child care options



Boost number
of quality,
affordable child
care providers



Expand child care
options and align
with student
parents' needs

Meet student parents' housing needs



Increase the supply and expand access to **family-serving units**



Consult with student parents for **housing design** and development

Advance family-serving institutional policies and practices



Institute
flexible
pathways



Enhance **course**
availability and
accessibility



Maximize access
to **public**
benefits and
resources



Foster
family-friendly
climates that
build **trust and**
belonging

Improve data collection and utilization on student parents' pathways



Uniformly
**collect and
report**
data



Require gov
agencies to
**analyze and
share** data



Include data
in
**Cradle-to-Career
Data System**

AB 2458 (Berman): Greater Accessibility, Information, Notice, and Support (GAINS) for Student Parents Act



Support AB 2458

Ensures higher education is affordable for student parents



SENATOR MONIQUE LIMÓN
REPRESENTING SENATE DISTRICT 19



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GAINS for Student Parents Act (*AB 2458*)

What will AB 2458 do?



Enhance
financial aid
access



Require
automatic
*cost of
attendance*
adjustments



Uniformly
*collect and
report*
data



Include data
in the
Cradle-to-Career
Longitudinal
Data System

GAINS for Student Parents Act (*AB 2458*)

Enhance Financial Aid Access



Cost of attendance information



Contact information



Federal and state tax credits



Adjustment process information



Free tax filing services



Updated net price calculator

GAINS for Student Parents Act (*AB 2458*)

Cost of Attendance Adjustments: *The Status Quo*

U.S. Government Accountability Office Report

- **Not maximizing** federal financial aid
- Unaware of **complicated** financial aid award processes
- **Not routinely notified** about how to request an adjustment
- Required to **individually request** adjustments
- Process is **not standardized** across institutions

GAINS for Student Parents Act (*AB 2458*)

Cost of Attendance Adjustments: *Student Parent Spotlight*

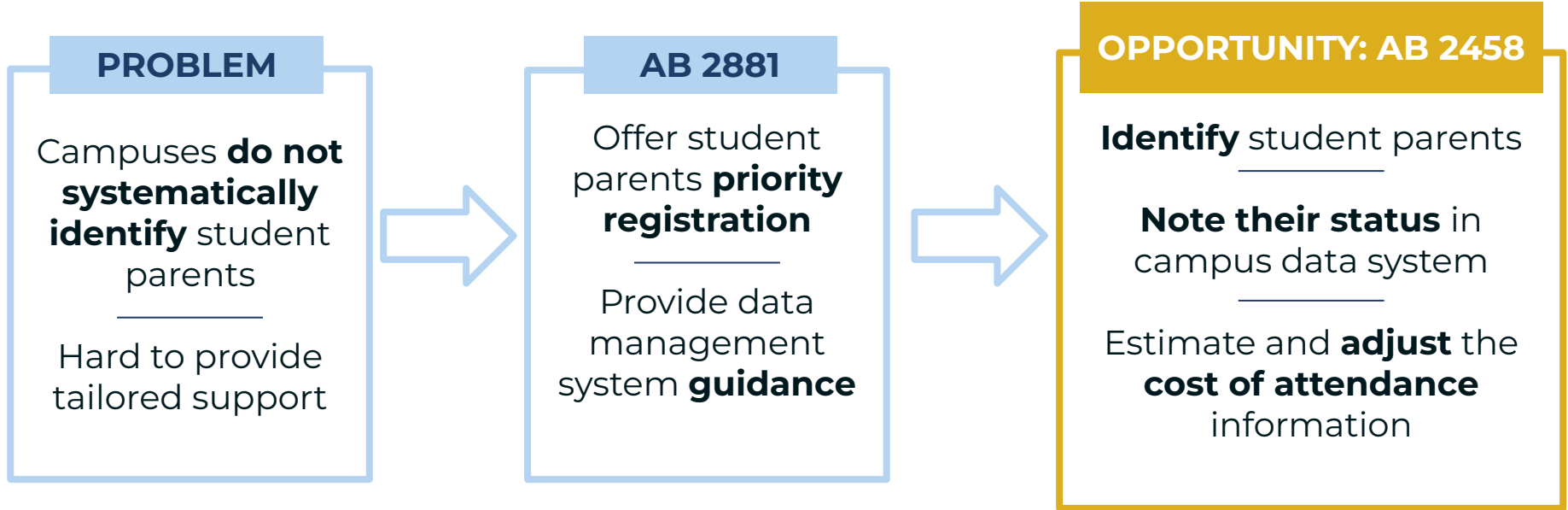


How can this bill empower student parents?

- Student parent at LA Trade Tech College **raised her cost of attendance** to reflect her true food, housing, and child care costs for the academic year.
- Her cost was adjusted from \$23,540 to \$37,425 (a **\$13k increase**)!
- This helped her gain **additional grant, scholarship, and loan aid** to better afford college and pursue her transfer to CSU Northridge.

GAINS for Student Parents Act (*AB 2458*)

Uniformly collect and report data



GAINS for Student Parents Act (AB 2458)

Include data in the Cradle-to-Career Longitudinal Data System

Defines Parent:

(A) A biological parent, adoptive parent, foster parent, or legal guardian of a child or adult dependent.

(B) An individual acting in the place of a biological or adoptive parent.

Defines Student Parent: Means any parent who is an enrolled or admitted student.

California Cradle-to-Career Data System will be able to include student parent data obtained from AB 2458 implementation



How can you support GAINS for Student Parents Act?



One-Stop-Shop on The Alliance Website



VIEW BILL LANGUAGE



READ THE FACT SHEET



READ THE FAQ



DOWNLOAD SUPPORT LETTER TEMPLATE



VIEW SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT

Empowering bright futures for student parents and their families

EXPLORE OUR WORK

Explore our new website at
www.castudentparentalliance.org

What's Next?

- Research agenda & research reports
- Continued policy advocacy (AB 2458)
- Building Alliance membership
- Quarterly Alliance meetings and annual convening
- Technical Assistance for California Community Colleges
- Data collection for resource hub

Interested in Getting Involved with the Alliance?



Join as a
member



Invest in our
work



Advocate
with us



**Stay
connected** by
signing up for
our mailing list

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Questions?



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Thank You

Contact:

studentparentsucces@californiacompetes.org

