

Multiple Responsibilities, Single Mission

Understanding the Experiences of
Community College Parenting Students



How Colleges Are Helping

Stories of Supporting Parenting Students

Building Futures: Lee College's Support for Student Parents and Their Children

At **Lee College** in Texas, supporting student parents means investing in the future of the community. Each semester, the institution distributes a survey via Blackboard to identify parenting students, helping guide outreach and support services.

Student parents can receive weekly child-care assistance going toward a licensed provider of their choice. Based on financial need, course load, and number of children, Lee College covers between 25% and 100% of child-care costs. Additionally, through the college's Single Parent Success Program, participants earn scholarships by meeting with a case manager and engaging in educational and social activities with fellow student parents.

To foster a welcoming environment, Lee College offers family-friendly study areas and book baskets across campus, as well as events like Cookies with Santa, holiday crafts, and Easter egg hunts. Special graduation ceremonies allow student parents to walk the stage with their children.

By offering these resources and fostering a supportive campus culture, Lee College not only helps student parents thrive but also plants the seeds for future generations to value and pursue higher education.

Linn-Benton Community College Expands Support for Student Parents and Future Educators with Child Development Center

Linn-Benton Community College (LBCC) in Oregon serves approximately 4,000 students across rural and small-town communities in two counties. In 2022,

local voters approved a bond measure to modernize a dated campus facility. As a result, the Periwinkle Child Development Center opened its doors in February 2024.

The Center is a dual-purpose facility designed to support both student parents and students enrolled in a two-year early childhood education (ECE) Associate of Applied Science (AAS) program. Featuring state-of-the-art observation rooms, it currently houses one toddler and two preschool classrooms, with plans to expand in 2026. About 70% of enrolled families include at least one student parent attending LBCC. One of the Center's early success stories highlights its impact: A single father was able to complete his AAS degree in welding, thanks in part to the child care and support provided by the Center.

ECE students gain firsthand experience by completing their practicum at the Periwinkle Center. Under the guidance of experienced lead teachers and academic faculty, students receive mentorship aligned with current best practices. This close collaboration between the Center's director and ECE faculty ensures the degree program is both rigorous and responsive to the field's evolving standards. Upon graduation, ECE students are eligible to apply for positions as Associate Teachers at the Center, helping maintain a pipeline of highly trained, qualified staff.

Located in an area identified as a child-care desert, the Periwinkle Child Development Center is not only a lifeline for student parents, it is a vital resource for the broader community.

Supporting Student Parents at Madison College With Data, Innovation, and Community Partnership

Madison College in Wisconsin began its focused efforts to support student parents in 2021, identifying

that 42% of its students were raising children. Since then, the college has integrated student parent data into its Student Information System and continues to disaggregate this population to better understand their specific needs and outcomes. This ongoing, data-informed work earned Madison College the 2024 Strategic Data Excellence Award from the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University.

Through its participation in Generation Hope's FamilyU Cohort, the college is building a systemic support network that spans academic resources, peer connections, wraparound services, and cross-departmental coordination. A major milestone in this effort is the upcoming Early Learning Campus at the Goodman South Campus, a center created through strong partnerships with the community. Madison College purchased the former fire station site from the City of Madison for just \$1 and, with funding from local donors, faculty, staff, and students, is building a \$10 million facility. Opening in January 2026, the center will serve over 80 children (ages six weeks to five years) and will function as a practicum site for Early Childhood Education students.

By aligning data, people, policy, and culture with deep community partnership, Madison College is dismantling barriers for student parents—creating a more equitable and inclusive educational environment that fosters intergenerational opportunity across the region.

Empowering Student Parents: MCTC's Ready to Work Program Builds Pathways to Success

Maysville Community and Technical College (MCTC) is committed to supporting parenting students through its Ready to Work (RTW) program, a powerful partnership between the Kentucky Community & Technical College System and the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. This program helps low-income parents succeed in college by providing both academic and personal support. Through RTW, eligible students can access on- and off-campus work-study

opportunities with flexible hours that do not jeopardize public benefits. The program also offers mentoring, employability training, advocacy, and direct support in navigating critical barriers such as child care and transportation.

MCTC has three full-time RTW staff who work closely with students to develop individualized plans that reflect their academic goals, work schedules, and family responsibilities. The program emphasizes the development of long-term self-sufficiency by helping students gain valuable work experience while staying on track toward graduation. RTW also promotes a strong sense of community, connecting parenting students with peers, staff, and campus resources that can further support their success. In combination with other wraparound services available at MCTC, RTW plays a vital role in removing barriers and in guiding student parents to thrive both in and outside the classroom.

Designing for Success: Monroe Community College's Commitment to Parenting Students

Over the past five years, **Monroe Community College (MCC)** in New York made significant strides in supporting student parents—who make up approximately 20% of the college's population—through participation in the Education Design Lab's Single Moms Success Design Challenge (SMSDC). This national initiative empowered MCC to use a human-centered design process to improve completion outcomes for single mother learners.

Through SMSDC, MCC identified and shared campuswide key student parent data, created a Single Mom Learner Success Coach position, and established outreach to over 1,000 students each semester. The Success Coach provided personalized support, triaged academic and non-academic issues, and hosted events and focus groups to elevate student parent voices.

In addition, MCC introduced resources to faculty and staff working with student parents, including a Microsoft Teams toolkit, professional development specifically for instructors, and course information sheets embedded

with student parent resources. A cohort-based College Orientation Success course was also piloted for student parents.

Since the conclusion of the SMSDC program, continuing efforts to support parenting students include family-friendly campaigns, book drives, expanded access to SNAP, and collaboration across departments to reduce barriers—especially in transportation, housing, and faculty understanding of student parent issues. MCC also offers child-care subsidy grants for eligible student parents. These subsidies support enrollment at the Richard M. Guon Child Care Center or with licensed offsite providers near the Downtown Campus. Additionally, in the spring 2025 semester, the college's Counseling & Disability Services office provided a support group for single moms and plans to continue doing so.

These efforts have created a more inclusive campus culture and strengthened MCC's commitment to equity-driven practices that uplift parenting students on their academic journeys.

Mott Community College Advances Family-Friendly Campus with Strategic Investments in Student Parent Success

In 2024, **Mott Community College (MCC)** in Flint, Michigan, made significant strides toward creating a more inclusive, family-friendly campus environment. With the support of a \$30,000 grant from New America, MCC launched a multipronged effort to enhance services for student parents by strengthening data infrastructure, expanding targeted supports, and establishing a dedicated Student Parent Task Force.

At the center of this initiative is MCC's Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC), located within the Lenore Croudy Family Life Center on the college's main campus. The ECLC, accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, offers high-quality early childhood education not only to students and single parents, but also to MCC staff, faculty, and community members.

The grant has enabled MCC to track student parent status in its systems and analyze factors that influence retention and completion rates. Future plans include incorporating screening for basic needs and childcare directly into student advising sessions and expanding a campus-wide referral network to ensure parenting students can access the resources they need to succeed. Lastly, the newly formed Student Parent Task Force will guide the implementation of best practices, ensuring MCC remains responsive to the unique needs of student parents.

Meeting the Moment: MWCC's Expanding Support for Parenting Students

At **Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC)** in Massachusetts, the Student Parent Supports (SPS) office plays a central role in helping student parents navigate college while raising children. Recognizing the increasing need for targeted services, the college has steadily expanded its offerings to foster academic success and family well-being.

Since 2009, MWCC has been a recipient of the federal CCAMPIS (Child Care Access Means Parents in School) grant. With an average annual award of \$69,000, CCAMPIS has supported 296 student parents to date. Recognizing that CCAMPIS reaches only a fraction of those in need, MWCC has broadened its commitment through additional programs.

One such program launched in 2022: Child Watch is a supervised space where eligible students can leave their children for 1 to 4 hours while attending class, studying, or accessing campus support services. SPS also coordinates the Holiday Wish List and the Birthday Hut, which offers free new and gently used toys, games, books, cards, gift bags, and "cake-in-a-bag" kits.

MWCC's Basic Needs office also ensures that student parents have access throughout the year to essentials such as diapers, wipes, formula, and baby food—along with donated children's clothing in various sizes available.

Through these coordinated efforts, MWCC remains deeply committed to ensuring student parents feel supported, seen, and empowered so that they can succeed academically while balancing their parenting responsibilities.

Northwest Vista College Supports Parenting Students with Integrated Child Care, Flexible Courses, and Holistic Resources

Northwest Vista College (NVC) in Texas provides a combination of holistic approaches to support parenting students, including intentional class scheduling, referral services, family-friendly study spaces, emergency aid, basic needs assistance, scholarships, student clubs, and student programming to promote engagement.

A key innovation is the college's partnership with the YMCA of Greater San Antonio, which enables free on-campus child care during evening and weekend courses. To make participation seamless, NVC offers cohort-based course scheduling, allowing student parents to progress together in a structured sequence that shortens time to completion. These courses are held adjacent to the child-care site, making drop-off and pick-up easy and efficient. While students are in class, their children receive a free meal, join in activities, and obtain free tutoring and assistance with homework, alleviating some obligations for parenting students.

Future plans include an intentional multi-prong approach: assessment of needs; parent-friendly course offerings; and a comprehensive support system that includes parent-specific labs and study spaces, grants and scholarships, as well as expanded advocacy resources.

Santa Fe Community College Champions Parenting Students with a Holistic, Two-Generation Model

Santa Fe Community College (SFCC) in New Mexico is supporting student parents through its Student Parent Success Program (SPSP)—an initiative housed within

the college's Early Childhood Center of Excellence (ECCOE). Grounded in a holistic, two-generation approach, SPSP promotes both postsecondary student success and family well-being. By collecting student parent data at admissions and registration, the college connects parenting students to tailored wraparound services from initial recruitment through graduation.

As part of the SPSP, the College Ready workshop series helps prospective student parents navigate college systems through personalized support from and connections with staff and faculty. Once enrolled, parenting students receive individualized support through a voluntary student parent coaching model focused on academic progress; parenting and family goals; and resource navigation related to child care, financial aid, scholarships, and benefits.

Family-friendly campus accommodations like pregnancy parking, child play areas, a family study room at the library, family events and activities, and a food pantry with baby supplies create a sense of community and belonging on campus for student parents and their children.

Student parents also help shape the college's policies and practices through the Student Parent Alliance, which provides institutional feedback and guidance on staff training and program development. ECCOE also runs the New Mexico Student Parent Alliance to lend effective support and strategies for parenting student success across New Mexico's higher education institutions.

Participating CCCSE Colleges and CCCSE Staff

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