

Multiple Responsibilities, Single Mission

Understanding the Experiences of
Community College Parenting Students



Next Steps

Everyone who encounters parenting students can play a role in supporting them.

PRESIDENTS CAN ...

- » Conduct a comprehensive audit of institutional policies and practices that may create barriers for parenting students.
- » Develop a strategic plan with measurable goals for improving persistence and completion rates of parenting students.
- » Allocate specific funding in the college budget for initiatives dedicated to parenting students.
- » Create a cross-campus committee focused on the success of parenting students.
- » Establish partnerships with local child-care providers to expand affordable options near campus.

SENIOR LEADERS CAN ...

- » Work with staff leaders to develop specialized training on understanding and addressing the unique needs of parenting students.
- » Encourage instructional leaders to ensure that course schedules accommodate parenting students (e.g., evening, weekend, hybrid, and online options).
- » Work with student services leaders to ensure that support services accommodate parenting students.

FACULTY MEMBERS CAN ...

- » Create flexible attendance and assignment policies that acknowledge the unique challenges of parenting students.
- » Include information about campus resources for parenting students in course syllabi.
- » Create opportunities for course content to connect with the lived experiences of parenting students.
- » Consider implementing recordings of key lectures or alternative assignment options for situations in which family emergencies arise.

STUDENT-FACING STAFF CAN ...

- » Create a resource guide that centralizes all available campus and community resources for parenting students.
- » Implement proactive outreach to parenting students at key points throughout the semester.
- » Establish peer mentoring programs connecting experienced parenting students with incoming parenting students.
- » Develop case management approaches to ensure the academic, financial, and personal needs of parenting students are addressed holistically.
- » Document and share success stories to inspire other parenting students.

TRUSTEES CAN ...

- » Advocate for policies that increase funding for campus child care and related initiatives.
- » Develop board policies that prioritize the success of parenting students as an institutional goal.
- » Request regular updates on the enrollment, persistence, and completion of parenting students.
- » Engage community partners to develop wraparound support systems for parenting students.

PARENTING STUDENTS CAN ...

- » Form an advocacy group or club to build community and advocate for needed resources.
- » Participate in student government to ensure their voices are represented in decision-making.
- » Create peer support networks to share resources, child-care options, and strategies for success.
- » Provide feedback to the institution about barriers and potential solutions through focus groups or surveys.

Participating CCCSE Colleges and CCCSE Staff

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