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 UNDERGRADUATES ARE STUDENT PARENTS

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<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
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<tr>
<td>15% of female students have children</td>
<td>72% are Black, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, or Native American</td>
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<td>8% of male students have children</td>
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Age

34 median age of student parents

vs a median age of 21 for nonparenting students

Where They Live

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

Number of Children

- 1 child: 40%
- 2 children: 30%
- 3 children: 17%
- 4+: 7%

First Generation to Go to College

61% are first-generation college students

vs 50% of nonparenting students

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

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