



AB 2881 Implementation Fact Sheet & Tools

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This fact sheet and tools will support campus administrators, faculty, and student parent leaders in implementing AB 2881 on their campuses. It provides basic information on AB 2881, which requires priority registration for student parents and a student parent resource webpage, as well as best practice examples and tools to bring the law to life. Please share this fact sheet and implementation tools as widely as possible, especially with colleagues who work directly with student parents.

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AB 2881 Basic Information and Frequently Asked Questions

Read through the following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to gain a basic understanding of the new AB 2881 law.

FAQ	Answer
What is AB 2881?	AB 2881 is a new California law that requires colleges and universities in California to provide priority registration for student parents, and to notify student parents of resources and supports critical to their success through a student parent webpage.
What is priority registration and why is it important for student parents?	Priority registration allows student parents to register for courses before some other students. This is an essential support that also benefits other students with important scheduling needs, such as students with disabilities and athletes. Student parents often navigate all the demands of higher education in addition to work, (often inflexible) childcare schedules and other parenting responsibilities. For example, a student parent may have to schedule courses around their child’s school drop off and pickup time or may want to build breaks into their day to make it easier to breastfeed without missing class. Others report needing priority registration to allow them to plan a course schedule that accommodates their disabled child’s medical appointments. Early registration is particularly important for students in programs with tight sequencing, clinical components, or where required courses are only available once each year. By allowing student parents to have a wider choice of course scheduling options, priority registration ensures student parents will be less likely to have to choose between finishing their degree and being there for their families.
How does AB 2881 define student parents and how does our campus	AB 2881 defines student parents as students who have children under the age of 18 who receive more than half of their support from the student. Your institution must, <i>at minimum</i> , provide priority registration to those students, though there are other

<p>find out who is a student parent?</p>	<p>student parents who don't meet the law's definition and may also benefit from early registration. Under AB 2881, institutions can create their own form or process to identify student parents who qualify for priority registration, or they can use existing resources such as information supplied through FAFSA, the California Dream Act Application (CADAA), or the application to receive a fee waiver pursuant to Section 76300.</p>
<p>When must our campus implement priority registration for student parents?</p>	<p>Priority registration for student parents must be implemented by <u>July 1, 2023</u>.</p>
<p>What is a student parent webpage under AB2881?</p>	<p>The student parent webpage shares information about resources for student parents available on campus and in the larger community. The new law requires the webpage include, at minimum, information about the priority registration system, as well as information about CalFresh, the California Earned Income Tax Credit, the Young Child Tax Credit, and the California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).</p>
<p>When must our campus have a student parent webpage?</p>	<p>The student parent webpage must be created by <u>February 1, 2023</u>.</p>
<p>Does it matter where the student parent webpage "lives?"</p>	<p>The law requires the webpage be clearly visible and easily accessible from a drop-down menu on the homepage of the campus' internet website. Institutions must provide the student parent webpage link to students as a part of campus orientations. Colleges and universities must also provide the student parent webpage link to faculty and encourage them to include the link in their syllabi. The information on that webpage must also be available on the internet website-based student account associated with a student's attendance at the institution.</p>

<p>How often does the webpage need to be updated?</p>	<p>To ensure that the student parent internet webpage remains useful to student parents, AB 2881 requires that the webpage be reviewed and updated no later than the first day of every fall and spring semester or no later than the first day of every fall and spring quarter.</p>
<p>Who is responsible for implementing AB 2881?</p>	<p>The person responsible for implementing AB 2881 is not expressed in the law, and responsibilities may rest with many folks on campus, including the registrar’s office, student affairs staff, chancellors, and folks working directly with student parents. Participation from each of these groups is essential to successful implementation, but campuses should consider establishing one primary point of contact—and providing them with the resources they need to succeed. Folks with more positional power, including tenured faculty, chancellors, and other “high-ranking” administrators are critical allies as the campus plans to implement the new law.</p>



Examples of Basic Legal Compliance vs. Best Practice Support

While AB 2881 has clear mandates for educational institutions, the implementation of the law may be a powerful opportunity to move beyond basic compliance and into best practice. Such practices would more strongly support the retention and advancement of parenting students while also bolstering compliance with the core legal requirements. Here are ideas for leveraging the new law to provide stronger supports for student parents:

Basic Compliance	Gold Standard
Priority Registration	
<p>At a minimum, colleges and universities following the law must provide priority registration for student parents who have children under the age of 18 who receive more than half of their support from the student.</p>	<p>Consider that student parents who do not meet the baseline definition provided by the law may still need additional support to be both a student and a parent; this includes students with dependent children over the age of 18 or children who are reliant on the student for less than half of their financial support.</p> <p>Your campus can use a more expansive definition of <i>'student parents'</i> than the minimum expressed in the law so that more student parents are able to access priority registration and other support. An institution's priority registration webpage can direct student parents who <i>aren't</i> covered by AB 2881 to reach out to a designated contact at the registrar's office for assistance getting the courses they need in light of their time demands.</p>
<p>Student parents access priority registration at the same time as other students receiving early registration access (e.g. veterans, unhoused students, athletes, etc.). There is nothing in the law that states</p>	<p>Consider that student parents may need more flexibility than other students, especially in accredited programs with tightly-structured courses. In addition to priority registration, ensuring student parents have their scheduling needs met may also take additional meeting time and counseling appointments.</p>

<p>that student parents would be in a different ‘tier’ of priority registration.</p>	
<p>Priority registration allows student parents to register early for courses that have already been scheduled. There is nothing in the law that states that campuses must consider student parents’ needs before or while scheduling their courses.</p>	<p>While priority registration is helpful for ensuring student parents can access courses already on the calendar, it does not resolve problems when courses are scheduled during times that are challenging for student parents to attend class. For example, student parents are often unable to take courses around the time when they must pick up their child from school. Consider evaluating course offerings to ensure a variety of timings are available, and regularly seek feedback from student parents about the timing of courses.</p>
<p>Identifying Student Parents & Data Collection</p>	
<p>Under the law, institutions can choose how they identify student parents (using the FAFSA, CADAA, or other documentation).</p>	<p>Consider using a ‘layered’ approach. FAFSA data is helpful, but not all students use FAFSA and its numbers on student parents are often an undercount. You may consider creating and sharing a survey or simple form for students to complete upon enrollment and have access to update regularly. It may capture information such as: how many dependents, ages, whether the student provides the majority of support for their child, and the student’s educational goals. You may also think about creating a way for students to update their parenting status easily without having to be chased down, such as integrating this question into campus apps or information portals.</p> <p>Note that the new Title IX regulations (expected to be formally enacted in May 2023) require faculty and staff to inform pregnant students of the availability of services from the Title IX staff. This is a prime opportunity to connect students who plan to become parents with resources. Learn more about the new rules here.</p>
<p>Under the law, institutions are not required to use the</p>	<p>Consider using the data about student parents to inform your services for the</p>

<p>data about student parents beyond providing priority registration.</p>	<p>student body. Sharing the number of student parents with student services staff, the student parent resource center, campus and local childcare services, student housing, and others will ensure staff are prepared to meet student parents' needs. Campuses can also use this data to track the advancement and retention of student parents over time. Institutions should also consider sharing resources (such as the student parent webpage) with student parents as soon as they self-identify.</p>
<p>Student Parent Webpage</p>	
<p>The student parent webpage must include information about the priority registration system, as well as information about CalFresh, the California Earned Income Tax Credit, the Young Child Tax Credit, and the California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). It should also share all on- and off-campus supports and services which may be of use to student parents. To comply with the law, be certain to include any point of contact for each program (name, phone, email), a description of the program, and eligibility restrictions, if any.</p>	<p>Consider including information on additional programs/supports, if available. For examples of helpful supports for student parents, check out our website sample language! Be sure to include a contact of the person who manages the webpage. This ensures that student parents and support providers can easily share updated information when available.</p> <p>You may also want to survey student parents to hear from them about what supports are most relevant and useful! If you're interested in survey support, contact us.</p>



AB-2881 Student Parent Webpage Sample Language

By February 1, 2023, California colleges and universities covered by the law will be expected to have a webpage specific to student parent supports. Institutions must provide the student parent internet web page link to students as a part of campus orientations. Colleges and universities must also provide the student parent webpage link to faculty and encourage faculty to include the link in their syllabi. To ensure that the student parent internet web page remains useful to student parents, the student parent web page must be reviewed and updated (if necessary) no later than the first day of every fall and spring semester or no later than the first day of every fall and spring quarter.

I. Resources required by law

Learn more about AB 2881 in [our blog post](#). Under the law, institutions must share information about the following programs. Please feel free to use any of the language below on your site:

Program/ Support	Website for more information	Overview & Critical Information
Priority Registration	Our policy follows California’s legal requirements to provide priority registration. You can review Section 66025.81 of the law here .	<p>[NAME OF INSTITUTION] supports parenting students, in accordance with the Education Code, by offering priority registration for students who are parents. This program includes all students who... [define student parent here].</p> <p>To gain access to priority registration...[explain your institution's process for approving priority registration for student parents.]</p> <p>For questions or more information, contact...[insert name, title, phone number, and email of relevant contact].</p> <p>Under the law, at minimum, institutions must provide priority registration to all students who have a “child or children under the age of 18 who will receive more than half of their support from that student.” Because this definition may exclude many student parents</p>

		<p>who need support (e.g. parents with shared custody arrangements or parents of older children with disabilities), institutions should consider allowing additional parenting students to use this priority www.thepregnantscholar.org 2 of 5 registration option. For assistance crafting your definition of student parents or related documents, contact us.</p>
CalFresh	<p>https://www.cdss.ca.gov/calfresh</p>	<p>The CalFresh Program (formerly known as Food Stamps) helps low-income households increase their food-buying power to meet their household's nutritional needs. CalFresh benefits issued through Electronic Benefit Transfer, also known as EBT card, can be used in grocery stores and participating Farmers Markets.</p> <p>CalFresh is based on income and is open to children, U.S. citizens, and certain non-citizens. To help you determine whether you are eligible, consult this webpage (scroll to bottom) and/or contact [INSERT LOCAL CONTACT NAME, PHONE, EMAIL].</p> <p>Apply here: https://www.getcalfresh.org/</p>
California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC)	<p>https://www.ftb.ca.gov/file/personal/credits/california-earned-income-tax-credit.html</p>	<p>If you work and have low income, you may qualify for the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC). This credit gives you a refund or reduces your tax owed.</p> <p>If you qualify for CalEITC and have a child under the age of 6, you may also qualify for the Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC) (see below). Together, these state credits can put hundreds or even thousands of dollars in your pocket. <u>Filing your state tax return is required to claim both of these credits.</u></p>

<p>Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC)</p>	<p>https://www.caleitc4me.org/young-child-tax-credit/</p>	<p><i>Do you have a child under the age of 6?*</i></p> <p>If you qualify for CalEITC (see above) and have a child under the age of 6, you may also qualify for a refundable tax credit of up to \$1000 through the Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC)! If you qualify, www.thepregnantscholar.org 3 of 5 you may see a reduced tax bill or a bigger refund.</p> <p>Use this calculator to see if you qualify and estimate the amount of your credit.</p>
<p>California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)</p>	<p>https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CFH/DWICSN/Pages/Program-Landing1.aspx</p>	<p>The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) promotes the health of low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding people, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating including breastfeeding promotion and support, and referrals to health care.</p> <p>You may qualify if you receive Medi-Cal, CalWORKs (TANF) or CalFresh (SNAP) benefits. WIC welcomes military families, migrant families, fathers, foster parents and legal guardians with eligible children. Participating in the WIC program does not affect the immigration status of anyone currently in the U.S.</p> <p>Use the WIC eligibility assessment tool to see if you qualify. Set up an appointment at a WIC local agency near you! Visit our website for WIC families to find a WIC local agency site near you.</p>



II. Other resources to include

This webpage should compile all supports and services which may be of use to student parents. To comply with the law and best practice, be certain to include any point of contact for each program (name, phone, email), a description of the program, and eligibility restrictions, if any.

Consider including information on the following programs/supports, if available:

- Emergency grants/loans
- Meal assistance or food pantry programs
- Family housing information
- Emergency housing support
- Application information for cost of attendance adjustments
- Grants and scholarships for student parents
- Counseling services and wellness programming
- Lactation spaces and support
- On-campus childcare program
- Back-up/emergency childcare assistance
- Off-campus childcare navigator (contact information for on-campus help, and services such as the [CA Child Care Resource and Referral Network](#), [MyChildCarePlan.org](#), etc.)
- Summer [meals for kids](#) and local camps
- Student parent resource center and/or advisory board
- Parental leave and accommodation policies (including both student-employee and student academic policies, if any)
- List/map of child changing stations, play zones, and similar areas of interest
- Medi-Cal (Individuals can [apply for Medi-Cal and get questions answered here.](#))

You may also want to survey student parents to hear from them about what supports are most relevant and useful! If you're interested in survey support, [contact us here.](#)



III. Additional Assistance

Does your campus have policies relating to pregnant and parenting students' attendance, accommodations, and nondiscrimination? If so, include them on this webpage. If not, the Pregnant Scholar team can assist you with drafting and implementing best practice policies to meet the needs of your institution and the students you serve.

Review our model policies here:

1. [Model Policy on Pregnancy and Parenting Leave and Accommodations](#)
2. [Model Policy on Lactation Time, Space, and Accommodations](#)

For support with creating or implementing institutional policy on your campus, [contact us here](#). We'd love to help!

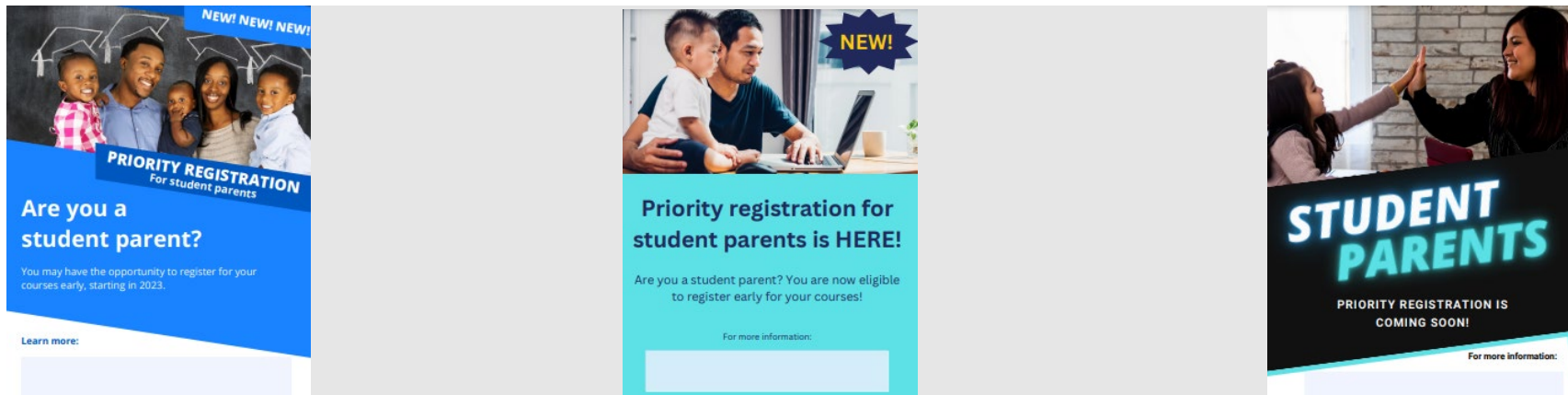


Communications Tools

Please consider our [Title IX Communications Guide](#) before building out your student parent webpage.

- Use our Communications Reflection Tool (page 4).
- You can jump to page 10 to review examples from other universities!
- [Access posters and social media images here.](#)

Share information with student parents about priority registration on your campus through flyers and social media graphics. The below are flyers/posters which are editable in pdf.



Contact Us

Do you have other questions or need additional support to implement AB 2881 on your campus? Have best practice examples to share? [Contact us here.](#)