Maximizing Financial Aid for Student Parent Success

SHAWN BRICK AND QUEENA HOANG

AUGUST 13, 2025

Today's Agenda

1. **Welcome and Speaker Introductions**

2. **Financial Aid for Student Parents**

3. **State and Federal Policy Overview**

4. **UC Campus Practice Highlights**

5. **Q&A**

Today's Speakers

Shawn Brick

Associate Vice Provost,
Student Financial Support,
UCOP

Dr. Queena Hoang

Senior Program Manager,
Student Basic Needs
Michelson 20MM Foundation

The CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE *for* STUDENT PARENT SUCCESS

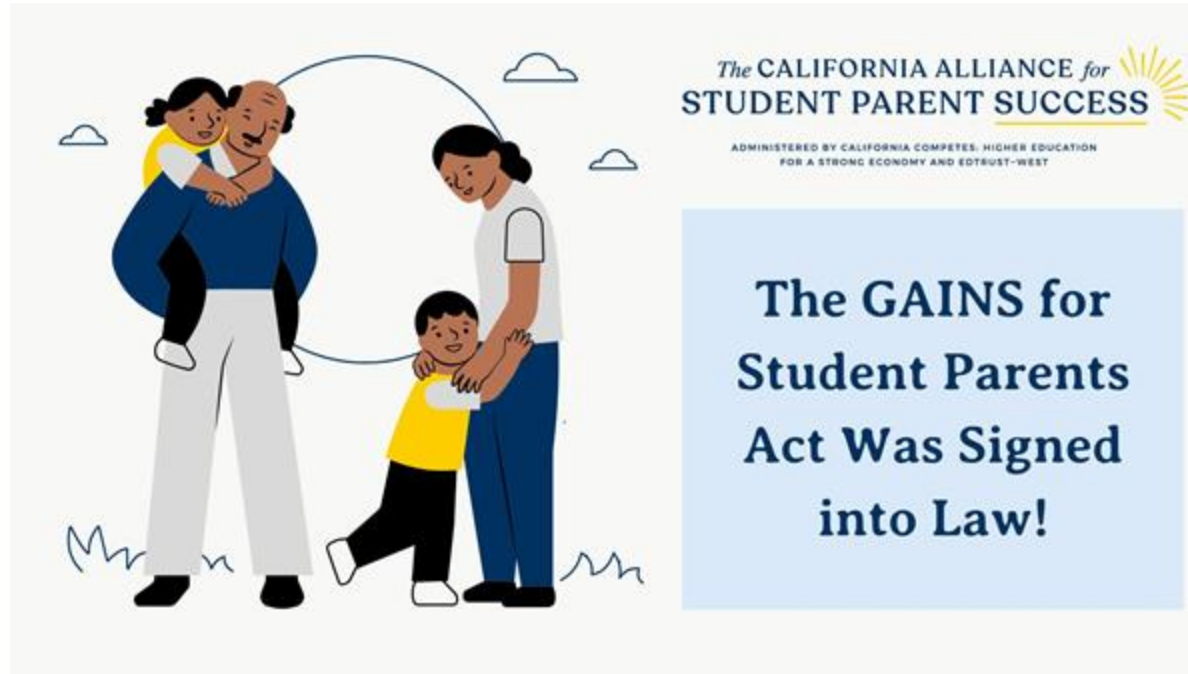ADMINISTERED BY:

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New Law Paves the Way for Multigenerational Success! Now onto Effective Implementation.

The CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE for STUDENT PARENT SUCCESS

ADMINISTERED BY CALIFORNIA COMPETES, HIGHER EDUCATION FOR A STRONG ECONOMY AND EDTRUST–WEST

The GAINS for Student Parents Act Was Signed into Law!

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One-stop shop for AB 2458 info: **bit.ly/AB-2458**

What does the GAINS Act do?

- **Every fall and spring quarter/semester:** Update student parent websites for on- and off-campus resources

- **By July 31, 2025:** Develop and disseminate a cost of attendance (COA) adjustment policy for student parents

- **By the start of the 2026-27 academic year:**
  - Implement COA adjustment policy
  - Update the campus net price calculator to include a baseline student parent cost estimate
  - Establish a data field in campuses' data management system to identify parenting students
  - Collect student parent data using that field
  - Report student parent data to segment Chancellor's or President's Office for inclusion in the Cradle to Career Data System

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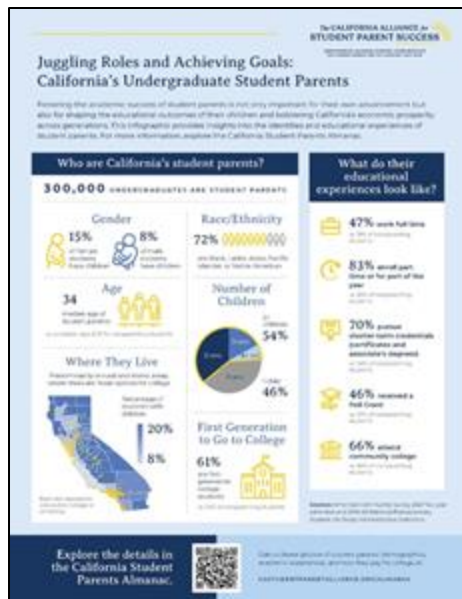One-stop shop for AB 2458 info: **bit.ly/AB-2458**

GAINS Act Implementation Resources for Students and Staff

- [Fact sheet](#), [web page toolkit](#), and [sample campus student parent web page](#) to support advocates and higher education institutions' implementation of GAINS Act provisions.

- [Roster](#) of campus information and web pages

- [Public Benefits Finder](#) for California students

- [Dependent Care Allowance Request Letter](#)

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Research to Understand Student Parent Needs

Leverage the replication links in the Almanac to create campus-specific analyses.

Infographic

Almanac

castudentparentalliance.org/resources

Information Inventory

Student Parent Information Inventory

Background: AB 2458 (2024), the GAINS for Student Parents Act, supports student parent success through several provisions including campus updates of their student parent web pages with on- and off- campus resources and services.

State law requires California Community College (CCC) and California State University (CSU) campuses to do this, and it requests the same of University of California (UC) campuses, beginning spring 2025 semester/quarter—and every fall and spring term thereafter.

To read more about the GAINS Act and all of its provisions, please see The Alliance's implementation fact sheet.

Purpose: This document compiles key campus web pages and several of the resources campuses need to cover—and update—to adhere to the GAINS Act and other related legislation, including:
- Student parent web pages;
- Financial aid web pages;
- Cost of attendance and cost of attendance adjustment web pages;
- Dependent care allowance web pages; and
- Basic Needs Center web pages.

We intend for this resource to serve as a helpful reference for student parents and the faculty and staff who serve them, both to find crucial information and to easily comply with the GAINS Act.

Layout: This spreadsheet includes a tab for each of the three public higher education segments (CCC, CSU, and UC).
- If we found a web page for a given campus, it is linked. With the exception of our suggestion for the Dependent Care Allowance Web Page, when we were unable to locate information - or are still compiling links - the box is blank.
- We listed contact information for each campus's financial aid office where you can ask for more information.

Notes: This is a living document that will evolve and be updated as The Alliance continues to gather information. Missing information on a resource does not necessarily mean that it doesn't exist.
- Alliance staff and our partners gathered this information and last updated it on February 8, 2025.
- Any errors are our own.

Contact: Please contact us at StudentParentSuccess@californiacompetes.org to update or add missing information.

Find your campus cost of attendance, student parent page, and key contacts all in one place!

One-stop shop for AB 2458 info: **bit.ly/AB-2458**

Toolkit for Updating Student Parent Web Pages
Includes sample web page, graphics, and outreach materials

Sample Campus Student Parent Web Page

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDES / JANUARY 16, 2025

At **(insert college name)**, we understand that being a parent and a student means navigating multiple responsibilities-and we're here to make that journey a little easier. **This web page pulls together all the available resources for making college more affordable and manageable, so you can focus on what truly matters: your family and your education.**

If you have questions or need support, you can contact **(insert name/name of office)** at **(insert contact info)**. We're also on campus at **(insert location)** and are available to support you **(insert hours and days)**. Please don't hesitate to reach out—we're here to help!

Is your student parent web page up to date?

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Help students maximize their financial aid with a cost of attendance adjustment

- ✅ Review your campus COA page and process

- ✅ Build a relationship with financial aid officers

- ✅ Use our **sample policy** to develop your own

- ✅ Help student parents fill out a COA adjustment

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COA Adjustment Policy Guidance by Segment

UC

CSU

CCC

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Parenting Students and Basic Needs

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UC Parenting Students

Figure 2: Undergraduate Food and Housing Insecurity by Population, 2022⁸

Source: _Student basic needs | University of California_ and internal UCOP analysis.
Figures rounded to the nearest percent.

FOOD INSECURE

Population	%
Overall	43%
International	40%
LGBTQ	50%
Pell	55%
Hispanic/Latinx	56%
American Indian	56%
African American	58%
Parenting	56%

HOUSING INSECURE

Population	%
Overall	8%
International	13%
LGBTQ	11%
Pell	10%
Hispanic/Latinx	9%
American Indian	11%
African American	12%
Parenting	20%
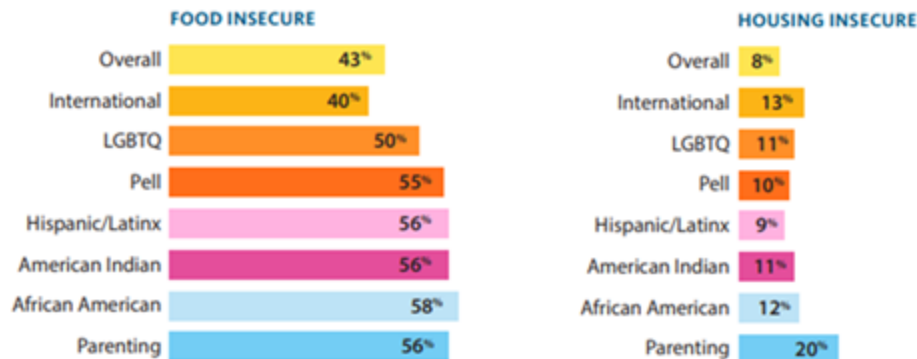
California Parenting Students

Percent of Students Who Were...

■ Food Insecure   ■ Housing Insecure

	Food Insecure	Housing Insecure
INDEPENDENT	76%	71%
DEPENDENT	60%	41%
WITH CHILDREN	79%	73%
WITHOUT CHILDREN	66%	48%
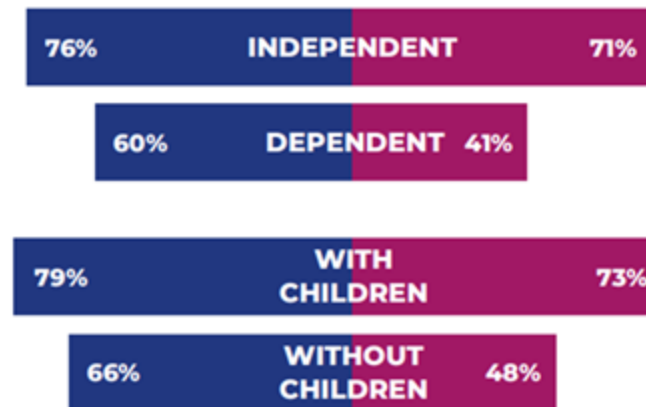
UCOP AB 2881 Guidance/Toolkit and Community of Practice

- **Priority Registration:**
  - Law requires, at minimum, to use financial aid to identify parenting students
  - **Recommendation**: Use a more inclusive definition not dependent on 50% or more financial support. Use financial aid + other means to identify parenting students. Provide multiple opportunities for students to self-identify
    - Example: CADAA, admissions application (beg. Fall 2021), campus programs (childcare, parenting support, etc.), caregiver affidavits, priority registration data, etc.

- **Resource Information for Website, Orientations and Student Accounts**
  - **Recommendation:** Work with campus basic needs and parenting programs to identify resources and assist students. Direct links for outreach materials and toolkits provided in guidance.
  - Refer students to free tax assistance, such as Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

UC's guidance: **basicneeds.ucop.edu/resources/final-ucop-campus-ab-2881-guidance.pdf** 58
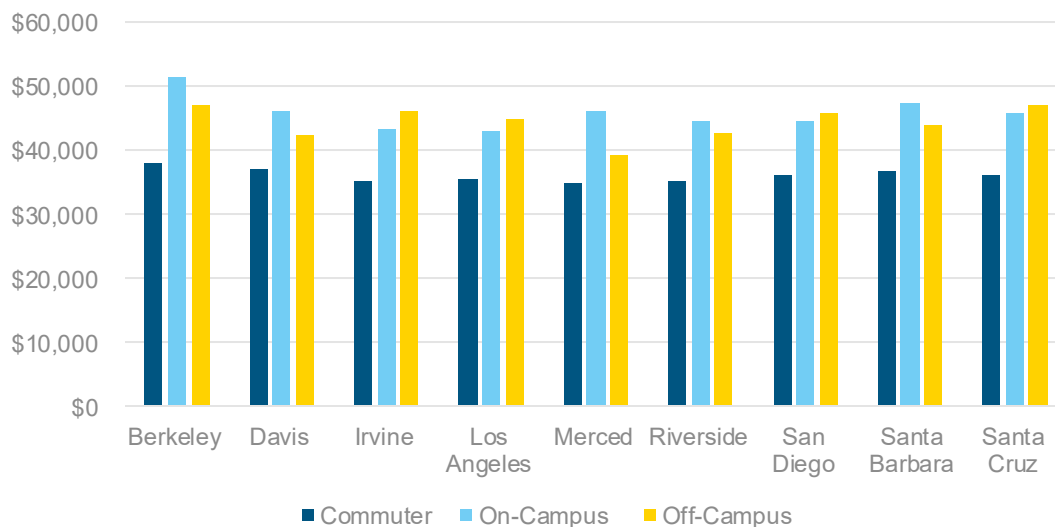
Cost of Attendance at UC

- Survey every 2 years
- 3 budgets for each campus (commuter, on-campus, and off-campus)
- Combination of survey and administrative data

27 Standard Methodology Student Cost of Attendance

Categories: Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Merced, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz

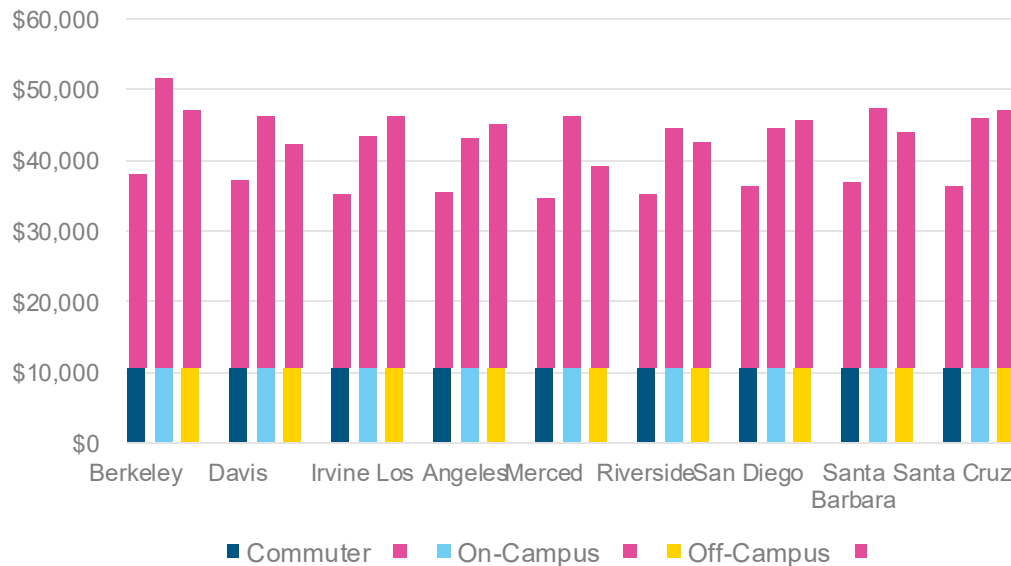Legend: Commuter, On-Campus, Off-Campus

Education Financing Model: Financial Aid Goal

- For students in similar circumstances, equal net cost
- Funding partnership:
  - Federal, state, UC aid
  - Families through part-time work, loan

Aid Covers Costs to Equalize Net Costs

Legend: ■ Commuter ■ On-Campus ■ Off-Campus ■

Steps in Policy Changes for Parenting Student Financial Aid

Trend in Cost of Attendance and Aid

- Increasingly, financial aid has recognized that more dimensions than housing choice and income affect affordability

- Other examples: Foster youth

State Signal on Parenting Students

- State enhanced its Cal Grant program with an additional $6,000 for parenting students in 2020

- UC duplicated this for low-income students without a Cal Grant
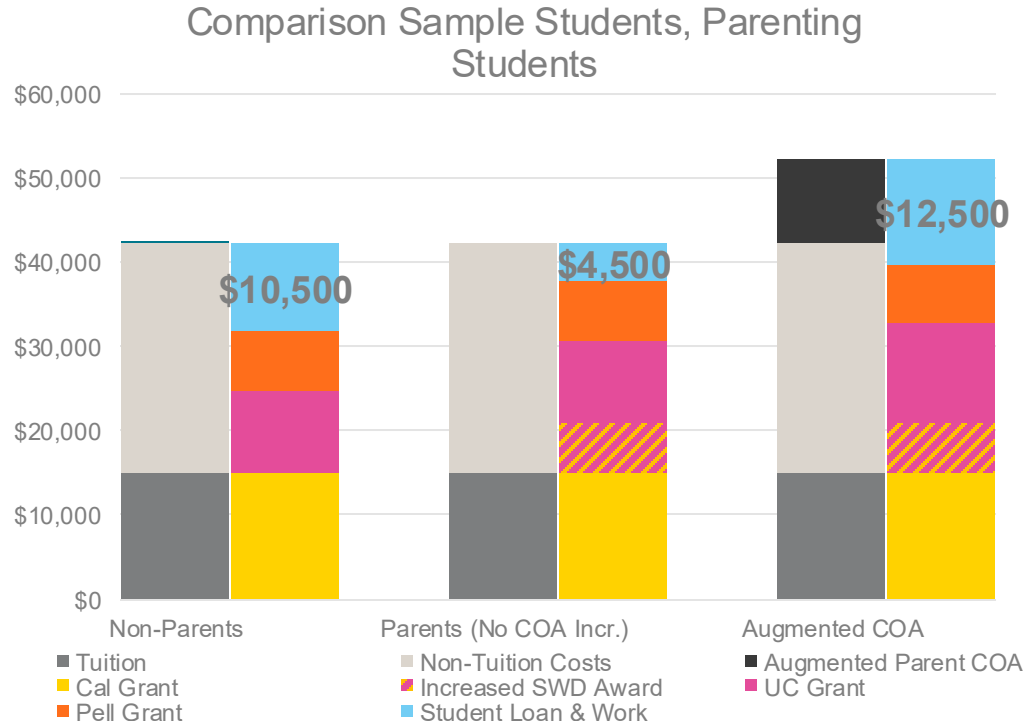
- GAINS Act

Trade-Offs in Raising Cost of Attendance

- Augmenting cost of attendance without additional grants means more loan eligibility

- Campus flexibility on how much of additional costs are covered by grant versus loan

UC Sample Student Packages: Changes in Cost of Attendance, Aid Offers

- Additional parent grant (Cal Grant or UC Grant) offsets original self-help

- Augmented costs for parenting students:
  - Some met with grant
  - Some met with loan

Comparison Sample Students, Parenting Students

Legend:
- Tuition
- Cal Grant
- Pell Grant
- Non-Tuition Costs
- Increased SWD Award
- Student Loan & Work
- Augmented Parent COA
- UC Grant

UC's Pregnant & Parenting Students Community of Practice

- Every third Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.

- Virtual

- All UC staff, students, and faculty are welcome!

- Share resources, wisdom and community!

- Contact **Heather.King@ucop.edu**

The Alliance's Empowering Parenting Students Community of Practice

Convene and Innovate at the 2025 Student Parent Summit

JOIN US

Innovate, Implement, Inspire: Student Parent Summit 2025

September 9-10, 2025
Cal Poly
San Luis Obispo, California

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Michelson 20MM FOUNDATION

CAL POLY Students with Dependents

ascend aspen institute

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bit.ly/ca-student-parent-summit-25

23

Join the Movement with The Alliance to Advance Student Parent Success

Join as a member

Invest in our work

Advocate with us

Stay connected by signing up for our mailing list

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castudentparentalliance.org/get-involved/

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Questions?

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