



# The Family Friendly Campus Toolkit:

Using Data to Improve Outcomes

The *Family Friendly Campus Toolkit* is an award-winning self-assessment system and guide for improving supports and outcomes for students who are raising children. Two- and four-year colleges and universities have used the Toolkit's free resources to:

- Raise awareness about the strengths, needs, and challenges of student parents;
- Increase visibility of existing supports and improve services; and
- Develop new resources devoted to student parent success.



*“I cannot emphasize strongly enough how the self-assessment results from the Toolkit process catapulted our efforts into new territory for serving our student parents. We were able to use the data to finally get a CCAMPIS grant, after 10 years of trying, and also to see other areas of need for the first time.”*

—Amy O’Keefe, Executive Director, Campus Alliance for Resource Education, Texas Woman’s University

**22%**

of college students  
are parents  
of dependent  
children<sup>1</sup>



**29%**

of student parents  
have taken 1-5  
breaks from  
college<sup>2</sup>



**13%**

of student parents  
attain any degree  
within 6 years of  
enrollment<sup>3</sup>

# How Can You Use the Toolkit?

## Increase campus dialogue about student parents

The “Task Force Guidance” provides an approach for gathering relevant campus staff, faculty, and students to discuss the needs of and services for parenting students.

## Identify current campus resources for student parents

The “Profile of Existing Resources and Policies” and “Recommended Practices Rubric” identify existing services, supports, policies, and culture on campus, and reveal any gaps, needs, and opportunities.

## Learn about recommended practices

The “Recommended Practices Rubric” includes a list of practices that have been implemented at two- and four-year colleges and universities across the country.

## Gather data from and about student parents

The “Student Survey” and “Student Focus Group Guidance” questions help collect information directly from student parents about their lives, experiences, and needs. Gathering “Institutional Data on Student Parents” can reveal the size and demographics of this population, as well as any academic or retention challenges.

## Advocate for and prepare a comprehensive student parent success initiative

Implementing the Toolkit self-assessment process results in a concrete, evidence-based “Action Plan and Recommendations” and a set of findings that can be shared with stakeholders using the “Dissemination Guide” and “Dissemination PowerPoint.”



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*A college education means finding my own place in the world rather than just accepting the place that I was born into. It means giving my children a better starting point and the knowledge that they can go from there to wherever they want.”*

—Student Parent

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To download the Toolkit, please visit: [familyfriendlycampustoolkit.endicott.edu](https://familyfriendlycampustoolkit.endicott.edu)



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The Toolkit was developed by the Program Evaluation and Research Group (PERG) at Endicott College, with support from the U.S. Department of Education and Lumina Foundation.

<sup>1</sup> Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR). 2018. Parents in College, By the Numbers. Retrieved from [https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/C481\\_Parents-in-College-By-the-Numbers-Aspen-Ascend-and-IWPR.pdf](https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/C481_Parents-in-College-By-the-Numbers-Aspen-Ascend-and-IWPR.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Program Evaluation and Research Group (PERG). 2016. Baccalaureate Student Programs and the Students They Serve. Endicott College. Retrieved from <https://www.endicott.edu/-/media/endicott/home/family-friendly-campus-toolkit/perg-report-full-rev-6-13-17-web.ashx?la=en&hash=31811FEB5BB48B61D9C7B41849049827426FE6C3>

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2003-04 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study, Second Follow-up (BPS:04/09).

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