



(Re)Opening a **Quality** Child Development Center on Campus.

El Camino College IMPACT Fall 2022
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A hand holding a crystal ball that reflects a modern building facade with a prominent central tower and glass panels. The background is a blurred view of a modern building's interior or exterior with large windows and structural elements. A pink triangle points downwards from the top center of the image.

What Happened to the Previous One?



1993 ————— ◆ 2014

“El Camino [was] one of the last campuses in the South Bay to get a child development center, although the college has served the area since 1947. ‘When I was a student here 30 years ago,’ said Ann Hussmann, a professor of early childhood education at El Camino and one of those who helped design the center and its curriculum. “they were talking about (building a center). So today is a big day for me [at the official ribbon cutting ceremony in January 1993]... El Camino plans eventually to add on to the center, doubling its size and enrollment.” (Los Angeles Times Article, 1993)

Why?

Unfortunately, part of the issue has been a lack of data on our parenting community at ECC. Sadly, this is not uncommon in higher education. There is no available institutional data on parenting students/faculty or staff. This means that ECC does not know how many parenting students are enrolled at ECC or how many faculty and staff are parents.

Then, What is in Place?

Over the last year, a grassroots Parenting Student Advocacy group has been formed, which has incorporated voices from various campus stakeholders such as the Associated Students Organization and Student Leadership Institute leaders, faculty and student leaders from the Childhood Education department, representatives from the EOPS/CARE & CalWORKs programs, managers/supervisors, and current ECC student parents. **As stakeholders, we have met to highlight the needs, increase visibility of, and develop initiatives to better support parenting students at El Camino College.**

Where inequities arise...

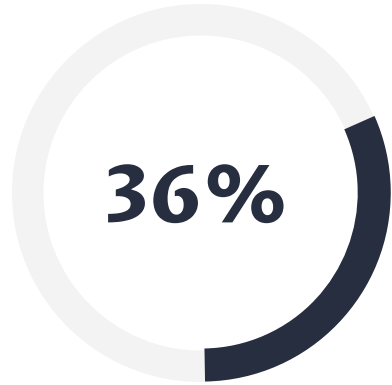
Starting at ECC, Childhood Education students are exposed to inequity because of the lack of a quality Child Development Center (Lab School).

Where inequities arise...

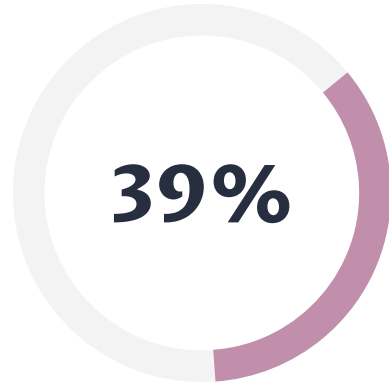
“We’ve undervalued and underpaid caregiving” said Kristin Schumacher, a senior analyst at the California Budget and Policy Center, “for as long as it’s been a career choice, this has sexist and racist roots that can be traced back to slavery.”

The lower pay for child care workers also creates a racial pay disparity among early childhood educators, since Black and Latino women are more likely to work with infants and toddlers than their white peers, says Montoya. Researchers at the Berkeley Center calculated that nationally, **Black early educators are paid on average \$0.78 less per hour than their white counterparts.**”

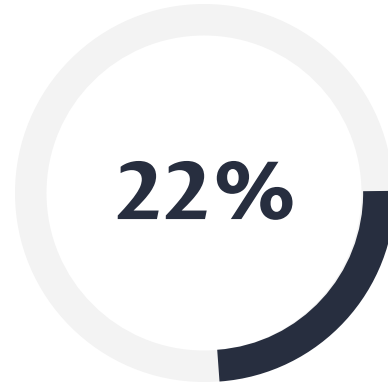
3.8 million student parents enrolled in higher education institutions nationally these proportions are higher among low-income & first-generation students...



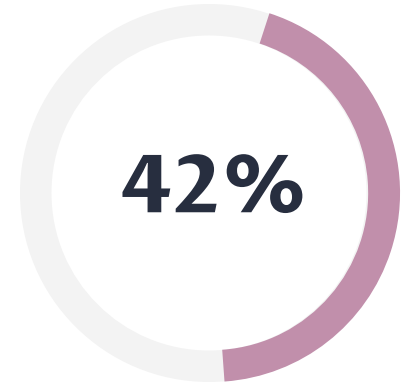
of whom have dependents, and racially minoritized students...



of Black undergraduates have dependents.



of all undergraduates had dependent children



of all student parents in higher education are concentrated in community colleges

Student parents, who are most often low-income, may also struggle to secure basic needs such as food, internet access, personal computers, and reliable transportation.

As such, student parents often “stop and drop” their college courses and (re)enroll in college to pursue credentials and degrees for careers that provide them financial stability.



Listen, your campus is speaking

“The child development department provides an excellent program, however lacks a lab school which is an absolute necessity which can benefit the campus, students, potential teachers, and amazing child dev. department in many ways.”

“The child development center will bring relief to students who struggle to find a babysitter to leave their children just to come to class. The center will bring great changes.”

“I teach CDEV 114, could I please have a quality program to support our students’ education at our own College? Mechanics have a garage, cosmetology has a Salon, Anthropology has a museum. The fine arts have a gallery, Dance has an auditorium.... just sayin’”

Average Cost of Childcare in Los Angeles County

Year(s): (edit) 2018 Type of Facility: (edit) All Age Group: (edit) All

Los Angeles County	Amount	
	Infant	Preschooler
Child Care Center	\$16,866	\$11,999
Family Child Care Home	\$10,465	\$9,887

(Source: <https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/1849/child-care-cost/table#fmt=2358&loc=364&tf=108&ch=984,985,222,223&sortColumnId=0&sortType=asc>)

No funding has been allocated in the budget towards potential solutions. The purpose of reopening a quality Child Development Center (Lab School) is not to create profit, but rather to invest in a holistic model that supports our parenting community/families/children, as well as our Childhood Education students/faculty and therefore provide a more equitable and inclusive environment for traditionally excluded groups. There is no equity without a quality Child Development Center (Lab School).

What can that look like?

- ❖ Free childcare will be offered to student parents, courtesy of Long Beach City College's new partnership with the Boys and Girls Club starting Oct. 17. LBCC already operates 2 Child Development Centers for children ages 2-5. This new program at LBCC is for school age children.
- ❖ The only eligibility requirement for this new program is that a parent be enrolled as a part-time or full-time student at the college.
- ❖ This program aims to alleviate the stress of students who struggle to find the time for their academic work because of their parental responsibilities.
- ❖ This service is another yet another step in the direction of ensuring all students have the resources they need to succeed.

Recommendations:

- ❖ We can model LBCC and the partnership they have created with the Boys & Girls Club. It seems this partnership does not cost the district anything and childcare is free for students. However, we must remember that LBCC already operates 2 other Child Development Centers.
- ❖ The ECC Schauerman Library has a community agreement in which they support parenting students and welcome children with supervision. The department plans to create a family study room comparable to CSULB: <https://www.csulb.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students/family-friendly-study-area>
- ❖ Faculty Professional Development Committee (FDC) could develop a sample syllabus statement for faculty who want to express their support for parenting students.
- ❖ The FDC can use language found in CARE/CalWORKs website to adopt supportive language for syllabi statements.



Recommendations

- ❖ ECC could establish a formal Task Force focusing on our Parenting Students AND on the reopening of a Quality Child Development Center (Lab School).
- ❖ Reopen the Child Development Center (Lab School) in consultation, collaboration and advisement of the Childhood Education faculty and Behavioral and Social Science Dean. Our entire parenting community, children, families, Childhood Education students and Childhood Education faculty deserve a Quality Child Development Center (Lab School). The quality piece only happens when the Childhood Education department are a part of the entire re-opening process.

Benefits Align with Campus Goals



**Increase
Enrollment**



**Increase
Engagement**



**Student
Retention &
Course
Completion**



**Degree &
Certificate
Completion/
Transfers**

The lack of a childcare facility on campus sends, at the minimum, **send a subtle message that student-parents are not a priority for our campus.**

Further, students and faculty in our Child Development program also receive the message that their program is not important enough to merit a Lab School.

The beauty of anti-racism is that you don't have to pretend to be free of racism to be an anti-racist. Anti-racism is the commitment to fight racism wherever you find it, including in yourself. And it's the only way forward.

–Ijeoma Oluo



Thank you!

Questions?