

Introduced by Senator Reyes

February 4, 2025

An act to amend Sections 66023.4 and 66023.5 of, and to add Sections 66027.83 and 66062 to, the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 271, as introduced, Reyes. Public postsecondary education: students with dependent children: childcare services, resources, and programs.

Existing law establishes the University of California, the California State University, and the California Community Colleges, as the 3 segments of public postsecondary education in this state.

Existing law requires each community college campus and each California State University campus, and requests each University of California campus, to establish the position of the Basic Needs Coordinator to assist students, among other responsibilities, with basic needs services and resources, including childcare, and to establish a Basic Needs Center where basic needs services, resources, and staff are made available to students, as provided. Existing law requires each Basic Needs Center to, among other things, connect students to the financial aid department or financial aid office, as appropriate, to ensure that students are receiving all available financial aid.

This bill would expand the definition of basic needs services and resources to include childcare services and resources, as defined. The bill would also explicitly state that all available financial aid includes supplemental awards such as the Cal Grant award for students with dependent children.

Existing law requires each campus of the California State University and the California Community Colleges, and requests each campus of the University of California, to host on its internet website a student parent internet web page that contains information that clearly lists all on- and off-campus student parent services and resources, as specified.

This bill would require the financial aid office of each campus of the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California to provide students with dependent children information on the campus' childcare development center and childcare offerings, if applicable, a referral to the campus Basic Needs Center, and information on supplemental awards such as the Cal Grant award for students with dependent children, as provided.

Existing law authorizes public postsecondary institutions to establish and maintain child development programs on or near their campuses.

This bill would require child development programs or preschools established by the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California to provide students with dependent children seeking childcare with a referral to the campus Basic Needs Center and information on the campus' financial aid office, as specified.

By imposing additional duties on community college districts, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 66023.4 of the Education Code, as added
- 2 by Section 1 of Chapter 913 of the Statutes of 2024, is amended
- 3 to read:
- 4 66023.4. (a) As used in this section:
- 5 (1) "Basic needs services and resources" includes, but is not
- 6 limited to, housing, food, clothing, feminine hygiene, diapers,

1 technology, ~~childcare~~, *childcare services and resources*, and mental
2 health services and resources.

3 (2) *“Childcare services and resources” includes, but is not*
4 *limited to, providing information on affordable childcare options*
5 *on and near campus, information and connections to local resource*
6 *and referral agencies and the local planning council, and support*
7 *in applying to state and federal childcare subsidies and programs,*
8 *including, but not limited to, the California state preschool*
9 *program, Head Start, the California Work Opportunity and*
10 *Responsibility for Kids (CalWORKS) childcare program, and*
11 *general child care and development programs.*

12 ~~(2)~~
13 (3) “Coordinator” means a basic needs coordinator established
14 pursuant to this section.

15 (b) Each campus of the California State University shall, and
16 each campus of the University of California is requested to, do all
17 of the following:

18 (1) On or before July 1, 2025, establish the position of the Basic
19 Needs Coordinator, and designate a staff person as the Basic Needs
20 Coordinator to serve as the single point of contact for students
21 experiencing basic needs insecurity related to basic needs services
22 and resources. The coordinator shall act as a broker in identifying,
23 supporting, and linking students to on- and off-campus housing,
24 food, mental health, and other basic needs services and resources.
25 To ensure the effectiveness and impact of this position, the
26 coordinator shall be a dedicated position solely focused on
27 addressing the basic needs of students and meet qualifications such
28 as experience providing services to high-need and diverse
29 populations. The coordinator shall oversee and coordinate with
30 other staff tasked with addressing students’ basic needs, shall
31 inform students of on- and off-campus basic needs services and
32 resources and how to access them, and shall develop on- and
33 off-campus partnerships to provide basic needs services and
34 resources to their students.

35 (2) (A) On or before July 1, 2025, establish a Basic Needs
36 Center, which means a central location on campus where basic
37 needs services, resources, and staff are made available to students.
38 The Basic Needs Center is intended to be a one-stop, single location
39 and point of contact for students to more easily access and gain
40 awareness of basic needs services and resources. The campus shall

1 make a reasonable effort to locate all on-campus basic needs
2 services and resources at the Basic Needs Center. If the campus
3 cannot reasonably locate all basic needs services or resources at
4 the Basic Needs Center, the campus shall provide students with
5 the location and contact information, including name, telephone
6 number, and email address, for all basic needs services and
7 resources not located in the Basic Needs Center. The coordinator
8 shall be housed in the Basic Needs Center.

9 (B) Each Basic Needs Center shall do all of the following:

10 (i) Help ensure that students have the information they need to
11 enroll in CalFresh, the California Earned Income Tax Credit
12 (CalEITC), the Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC), the California
13 Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and
14 Children (WIC), and other relevant government benefits programs.
15 This clause does not require campus Basic Needs Centers to
16 provide tax advising or preparation services.

17 (ii) Coordinate with their campus financial aid department or
18 financial aid office. This clause does not require nor encourage
19 the Basic Needs Center to be combined or colocated with the
20 financial aid department or financial aid office.

21 (iii) Connect students to the financial aid department or financial
22 aid office, ~~as appropriate~~ *appropriate*, to ensure that students
23 are receiving all available financial aid, *aid, including supplemental*
24 *awards such as the awards for students with dependent children*
25 *established pursuant to Article 9 (commencing with Section 69465)*
26 *of Chapter 1.7 of Part 42.*

27 (iv) Coordinate with their local homelessness response system
28 to refer students to community resources available to address
29 homelessness in addition to services and resources provided by
30 the campus.

31 (C) Basic Needs Centers may provide support to students who
32 can be reasonably expected to enroll in the upcoming term and to
33 provide support to students during summer and winter breaks who
34 were previously enrolled or are enrolled for the upcoming fall or
35 spring term.

36 (D) Campuses shall endeavor, to the extent feasible, to use a
37 portion of any funds made available for basic needs support for
38 providing funds directly to students to address urgent needs. To
39 the extent that a Basic Needs Center is already in place, that center
40 may be used to satisfy the requirements of this section. If the

1 existing Basic Needs Center fulfills only part of the requirements
2 of this section, basic needs services and resources shall be expanded
3 as needed to satisfy all the requirements of this section.

4 (3) (A) On or before February 1, 2025, develop a document
5 that shall be provided to students at the Basic Needs Center, once
6 established pursuant to paragraph (2), in either electronic format
7 or paper form, and that shall be made available to students online,
8 that clearly lists on- and off-campus basic needs services and
9 resources that includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

10 (i) The description of the service or resource.
11 (ii) The location of where the service or resource is provided.
12 (iii) The point of contact for the service or resource, including
13 a name, telephone number, and email address.

14 (iv) Any eligibility restrictions on accessing the service or
15 resource.

16 (v) The United States Department of Agriculture’s Food and
17 Nutrition Service’s “SNAP Retail Locator” internet website link,
18 which contains a map with locations that are authorized retail food
19 stores under the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
20 and accept the use of electronic benefits transfer cards issued
21 pursuant to Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 10065) of Part
22 1 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

23 (B) Provide the document to students as a part of campus
24 orientations in either electronic format or paper form.

25 (C) Provide to faculty the online link to the electronic format
26 of the document, the location of the Basic Needs Center, once
27 established pursuant to paragraph (2), and the contact information
28 for the coordinator, once designated pursuant to paragraph (1),
29 and encourage faculty to include the online link to the electronic
30 format of the document, the location of the Basic Needs Center,
31 and the contact information for the coordinator in their syllabi.

32 (D) To ensure that the document remains useful to students, the
33 document shall be reviewed, updated, and made available online
34 on both the internet website of the campus via the student basic
35 needs tab and the internet website-based student account associated
36 with a student’s attendance at the institution, as specified in
37 paragraph (6), no later than the first day of every fall semester or
38 fall quarter.

39 (4) On or before February 1, 2025, streamline the application
40 and intake process for on-campus basic needs services and

resources to minimize duplication and eliminate barriers to access. If an application is required, develop and use a single application for students to receive on-campus basic needs services and resources.

(5) On or before February 1, 2025, develop and implement a plan to identify and provide outreach to students, including nontraditional students, who have basic needs insecurity related to housing, food, and mental health. Once the coordinator is designated pursuant to paragraph (1) and the Basic Needs Center is established pursuant to paragraph (2), the outreach shall include information about the coordinator and the Basic Needs Center.

(6) On or before February 1, 2025, provide a student basic needs tab that is clearly visible and easily accessible from a drop-down menu on the home page of the campus' internet website and include the information described in paragraph (3) conspicuously on both the internet website of the campus via the student basic needs tab and the internet website-based student account associated with a student's attendance at the institution. Once the coordinator is designated pursuant to paragraph (1) and the Basic Needs Center is established pursuant to paragraph (2), information about the coordinator and Basic Needs Center shall also be included on both the internet website of the campus via the student basic needs tab and the internet website-based student account associated with a student's attendance at the institution.

(c) (1) Each campus of the California State University shall report to the office of the Chancellor of the California State University, and each campus of the University of California is requested to report to the office of the President of the University of California, information that shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(A) The description and number of basic needs services and resources, broken down by category.

(B) The number of students served by the basic needs services and resources.

(C) Any existing and available data regarding the socioeconomic and demographic backgrounds of these students.

(D) Challenges and best practices in the implementation of the basic needs services and resources.

(E) Whether students who used the basic needs services and resources remained enrolled or graduated from that campus.

1 (F) The number of students who first started receiving CalFresh
2 benefits in the previous year and the total number of students in
3 the previous year who received CalFresh benefits, as provided by
4 the State Department of Social Services.

5 (G) Whether the campus has a data sharing agreement with the
6 relevant county operating the CalFresh program for the purpose
7 of identifying new, continuing, and returning students who are
8 potentially eligible for CalFresh benefits, or efforts underway to
9 enact such an agreement.

10 (2) The data and information reported under this subdivision
11 shall be disaggregated by each basic needs service and resource,
12 where applicable.

13 (3) Campuses are encouraged to collaborate with the State
14 Department of Social Services to obtain the data identified in
15 paragraph (1), as applicable.

16 (d) (1) The office of the Chancellor of the California State
17 University shall, and the office of the President of the University
18 of California is requested to, develop and submit to the Governor
19 and the Legislature, on or before March 1 of each year from 2026
20 to 2030, inclusive, a report based on the data and information
21 reported by campuses pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of
22 subdivision (c) and information on the use of funds made available
23 from the Budget Act of 2022 to implement this section.

24 (2) A legislative report that includes the information required
25 to be reported in this subdivision and submitted in any of the years
26 2026 to 2030, inclusive, shall fulfill the reporting requirement
27 pursuant to this subdivision to reduce duplicative efforts.

28 (e) This section does not preclude the California State University
29 and the University of California from having additional basic needs
30 staff who assist the Basic Needs Coordinator in completing the
31 requirements of subdivision (b).

32 SEC. 2. Section 66023.5 of the Education Code, as amended
33 by Section 2 of Chapter 913 of the Statutes of 2024, is amended
34 to read:

35 66023.5. (a) As used in this section:

36 (1) “Basic needs services and resources” includes, but is not
37 limited to, housing, food, clothing, feminine hygiene, diapers,
38 technology, ~~childcare~~, *childcare services and resources*, and mental
39 health services and resources.

(2) “Childcare services and resources” includes, but is not limited to, providing information on affordable childcare options on and near campus, information and connections to local resource and referral agencies and the local planning council, and support in applying to state and federal childcare subsidies and programs, including, but not limited to, the California state preschool program, Head Start, the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility for Kids (CalWORKS) childcare program, and general child care and development programs.

~~(2)~~

(3) “Coordinator” means a basic needs coordinator established pursuant to this section.

(b) Each campus of the California Community Colleges shall do all of the following:

(1) No later than July 1, 2022, establish the position of the Basic Needs Coordinator, and designate a staff person as the Basic Needs Coordinator to serve as the single point of contact for students experiencing basic needs insecurity related to basic needs services and resources. The coordinator shall act as a broker in identifying, supporting, and linking students to on- and off-campus housing, food, mental health, and other basic needs services and resources. To ensure the effectiveness and impact of this position, the coordinator shall be a dedicated position solely focused on addressing the basic needs of students and meet qualifications such as experience providing services to high-need and diverse populations. The coordinator shall oversee and coordinate with other staff tasked with addressing students’ basic needs, shall inform students of on- and off-campus basic needs services and resources and how to access them, and shall develop on- and off-campus partnerships to provide basic needs services and resources to their students.

(2) (A) No later than July 1, 2022, establish a Basic Needs Center, which means a central location on campus where basic needs services, resources, and staff are made available to students. The Basic Needs Center is intended to be a one-stop, single location and point of contact for students to more easily access and gain awareness of basic needs services and resources. The campus shall make a reasonable effort to locate all on-campus basic needs services and resources at the Basic Needs Center. If the campus cannot reasonably locate all basic needs services or resources at

1 the Basic Needs Center, the campus shall provide students with
2 the location and contact information, including name, telephone
3 number, and email address, for all basic needs services and
4 resources not located in the Basic Needs Center. The coordinator
5 shall be housed in the Basic Needs Center.

6 (B) Each Basic Needs Center shall help ensure that students
7 have the information they need to enroll in CalFresh, the California
8 Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC), the Young Child Tax Credit
9 (YCTC), the California Special Supplemental Food Program for
10 Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and other relevant
11 government benefits programs. Each Basic Needs Center shall
12 coordinate with their campus financial aid department or financial
13 aid office. This section does not require nor encourage the Basic
14 Needs Center to be combined or colocated with the financial aid
15 department or financial aid office. The funding made available by
16 the Budget Act of 2021 to implement this section, or any
17 subsequent Budget Act or statute to implement this section, shall
18 not be used to combine or colocate the Basic Needs Center with
19 the financial aid department or financial aid office and shall not
20 be used for the administration of student financial aid programs,
21 including staffing. Each Basic Needs Center shall connect students
22 to the financial aid department or financial aid ~~office~~ *office*, as
23 ~~appropriate~~ *appropriate*, to ensure that students are receiving all
24 available financial-~~aid~~ *aid, including supplemental awards such*
25 *as the awards for students with dependent children established*
26 *pursuant to Article 9 (commencing with Section 69465) of Chapter*
27 *1.7 of Part 42*. Each Basic Needs Center shall coordinate with their
28 local homelessness response system to refer students to community
29 resources available to address homelessness in addition to services
30 and resources provided by the campus. Basic Needs Centers may
31 provide support to students who can be reasonably expected to
32 enroll in the upcoming term and to provide support to students
33 during summer and winter breaks who were previously enrolled
34 or are enrolled for the upcoming fall or spring term.

35 (C) Campuses shall endeavor, to the extent feasible, to use a
36 portion of any funds made available for basic needs support for
37 providing funds directly to students to address urgent needs. To
38 the extent that a Basic Needs Center is already in place, that center
39 may be used to satisfy the requirements of this section. If the
40 existing Basic Needs Center fulfills only part of the requirements

1 of this section, basic needs services and resources shall be expanded
2 as needed to satisfy all the requirements of this section.

3 (3) (A) No later than February 1, 2022, develop a document
4 that shall be provided to students at the Basic Needs Center, once
5 established pursuant to paragraph (2), in either electronic format
6 or paper form, and that shall be made available to students online,
7 that clearly lists on- and off-campus basic needs services and
8 resources that includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

- 9 (i) The description of the service or resource.
10 (ii) The location of where the service or resource is provided.
11 (iii) The point of contact for the service or resource, including
12 a name, telephone number, and email address.
13 (iv) Any eligibility restrictions on accessing the service or
14 resource.

15 (B) On or before September 1, 2025, update the document
16 developed pursuant to subparagraph (A) to include in the list of
17 on- and off-campus basic needs services and resources the United
18 States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service's
19 "SNAP Retail Locator" internet website link, which contains a
20 map with locations that are authorized retail food stores under the
21 federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and accept
22 the use of electronic benefits transfer cards issued pursuant to
23 Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 10065) of Part 1 of Division
24 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

25 (C) Provide the document to students as a part of campus
26 orientations in either electronic format or paper form.

27 (D) Provide to faculty the online link to the electronic format
28 of the document, the location of the Basic Needs Center, once
29 established pursuant to paragraph (2), and the contact information
30 for the coordinator, once designated pursuant to paragraph (1),
31 and encourage faculty to include the online link to the electronic
32 format of the document, the location of the Basic Needs Center,
33 and the contact information for the coordinator in their syllabi.

34 (E) To ensure that the document remains useful to students, the
35 document shall be reviewed, updated, and made available online
36 on both the internet website of the campus via the student basic
37 needs tab and the internet website-based student account associated
38 with a student's attendance at the institution, as specified in
39 paragraph (6), no later than the first day of every fall and spring

1 semester or no later than the first day of every fall and spring
2 quarter.

3 (4) No later than February 1, 2022, streamline the application
4 and intake process for on-campus basic needs services and
5 resources to minimize duplication and eliminate barriers to access.
6 If an application is required, develop and use a single application
7 for students to receive on-campus basic needs services and
8 resources.

9 (5) No later than February 1, 2022, develop and implement a
10 plan to identify and provide outreach to students, including
11 nontraditional students, who have basic needs insecurity related
12 to housing, food, and mental health. Once the coordinator is
13 designated pursuant to paragraph (1) and the Basic Needs Center
14 is established pursuant to paragraph (2), the outreach shall include
15 information about the coordinator and the Basic Needs Center.

16 (6) No later than February 1, 2022, provide a student basic needs
17 tab that is clearly visible and easily accessible from a drop-down
18 menu on the home page of the campus' internet website and include
19 the information described in paragraph (3) conspicuously on both
20 the internet website of the campus via the student basic needs tab
21 and the internet website-based student account associated with a
22 student's attendance at the institution. Once the coordinator is
23 designated pursuant to paragraph (1) and the Basic Needs Center
24 is established pursuant to paragraph (2), information about the
25 coordinator and Basic Needs Center shall also be included on both
26 the internet website of the campus via the student basic needs tab
27 and the internet website-based student account associated with a
28 student's attendance at the institution.

29 (c) (1) Each campus of the California Community Colleges
30 shall report to the office of the Chancellor of the California
31 Community Colleges information that shall include, but not be
32 limited to, all of the following:

33 (A) The description and number of basic needs services and
34 resources, broken down by category.

35 (B) The number of students served by the basic needs services
36 and resources.

37 (C) Any existing and available data regarding the socioeconomic
38 and demographic backgrounds of these students.

39 (D) Challenges and best practices in the implementation of the
40 basic needs services and resources.

1 (E) Whether students who used the basic needs services and
2 resources remained enrolled or graduated from that campus.

3 (F) The number of students who first started receiving CalFresh
4 benefits in the previous year and the total number of students in
5 the previous year who received CalFresh benefits, as provided by
6 the State Department of Social Services.

7 (G) Whether the campus has a data sharing agreement with the
8 relevant county operating the CalFresh program for the purpose
9 of identifying new, continuing, and returning students who are
10 potentially eligible for CalFresh benefits, or efforts underway to
11 enact such an agreement.

12 (2) The data and information reported under this subdivision
13 shall be disaggregated by each basic needs service and resource,
14 where applicable.

15 (3) Campuses are encouraged to collaborate with the State
16 Department of Social Services to obtain the data identified in
17 paragraph (1), as applicable.

18 (d) (1) The office of the Chancellor of the California
19 Community Colleges shall develop and submit to the Governor
20 and the Legislature every year beginning on or before May 1, 2023,
21 a report based on the data and information reported by campuses
22 pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (c) and
23 information on the use of funds made available from the Budget
24 Act of 2022 to implement this section.

25 (2) A legislative report that includes the information required
26 to be reported in this subdivision and submitted in any of the years
27 required by paragraph (1) shall fulfill the reporting requirement
28 pursuant to this subdivision to reduce duplicative efforts.

29 SEC. 3. Section 66027.83 is added to the Education Code, to
30 read:

31 66027.83. The financial aid office on each campus of the
32 California Community Colleges, the California State University,
33 and the University of California shall provide all of the following
34 to students with dependent children:

35 (a) Information on the campus' childcare development center
36 and childcare offerings, if applicable.

37 (b) Referral to the campus Basic Needs Center established
38 pursuant to Section 66023.4 or 66023.5 for support accessing
39 information, including, but not limited to, information and
40 connections to local resource and referral agencies and the local

1 planning council, and support in applying for state and federal
2 childcare subsidies and programs.

3 (c) Information on any supplemental awards such as the awards
4 for students with dependent children established pursuant to Article
5 9 (commencing with Section 69465) of Chapter 1.7 of Part 42.

6 SEC. 4. Section 66062 is added to the Education Code, to read:

7 66062. Students with dependent children seeking childcare at
8 a child development center or preschool established by the
9 California Community Colleges, the California State University,
10 or the University of California pursuant to Section 66060 shall be
11 provided with both of the following:

12 (a) Referral to the campus Basic Needs Center established
13 pursuant to Section 66023.4 or 66023.5 for support accessing
14 information, including, but not limited to, information and
15 connections to local resource and referral agencies and the local
16 planning council, and support in applying for state and federal
17 childcare subsidies and programs.

18 (b) Information on the campus' financial aid office, including
19 the awards for students with dependent children established
20 pursuant to Article 9 (commencing with Section 69465) of Chapter
21 1.7 of Part 42.

22 SEC. 5. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
23 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
24 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
25 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
26 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.