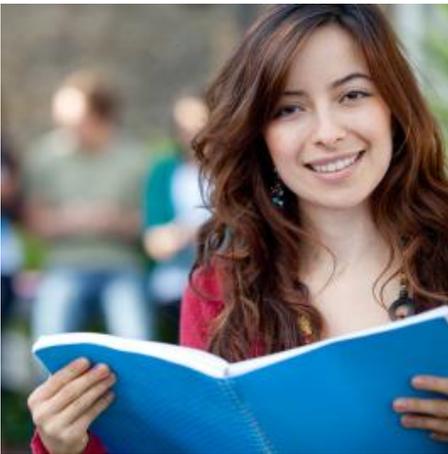


# SUNY Campus Child Care

State Operated

## EMPOWER

parents to create better futures for themselves and their children.



Student parents are more likely to be low-income compared to their non-parent peers. Therefore, they are more likely to have to work to support their families while paying for college and those who don't have access to child care often end up dropping out.

## BUILD

a foundation of learning and healthy social emotional growth for young children.



Young children's brains develop 700 synapses—neural connections that support learning and skills—every second. 85% of brain growth happens by age 3. Children of college graduates are more likely to attend college themselves. If we want to our future college students to arrive ready, we should set that path now.

## LEAD

communities in improving the quality of care offered to all of New York's children.



52% of SUNY's state operated campus child care centers are NAEYC accredited, the nation's highest standard of quality in early care and education programs. Less than 10% of OCFS regulated centers across the state can claim this accomplishment.

Currently, there are 21 child care centers serving SUNY state operated campuses. All of these centers serve children of SUNY students. Most state-operated campus centers also serve children of college employees and members of the community. Approximately 17% of these centers' total capacity is being utilized by SUNY college students, yet there are waiting lists for student parents at over half of the campus centers, due to limited funding. Funding for SUNY child care comes from an operating grant from SUNY and a tuition and quality reimbursement grant through the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant. Some colleges offer their child care centers additional support through funding and in-kind services and many SUNY campus child care centers, that serve NYS employees, also receive funding through NYS Work-Life Services.

## Funding:

### SUNY Child Care Operating Grant – state operated

2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014 Still pending
1,579,400	1,534,500	1,484,300	1,484,500	1,487,400	1,487,000	1,487,000

After steady decreases in funding leading up to 2010-2011, the SUNY Child Care Operating Grant funds saw an increase. This was a legislative add. While the partial restoration of those funds was helpful, centers still struggle to meet their financial needs. The SUNY Child Care Operating Grant funds are used for center operating costs, including salaries, fringe benefits, supplies, equipment, and meals for children. These funds are also used for costs associated with maintaining NEAYC accreditation as well as health and safety costs. As with any small business, operating costs continue to rise.

Examples of rising costs:

- The Statewide Central Register (SCR) Database Check used to be done at no cost to child care providers, but as of 2011, it costs \$25 per person. This must be done for all potential hires. A person cannot be alone with children until they have been cleared by the SCR.
- Increase in cost of food and other daily needs - For example, the cost of a gallon of milk in Albany in 2009 was \$2.52. In 2012, it was \$3.02. Children drink a lot of milk and consume and use a number of other items, the costs of which continue to rise.
- Personnel costs - Child care center employees are historically underpaid. Directors and boards must continually seek the balance between affordability, programmatic quality, and staff compensation. With a rise in minimum wage on the horizon, this will be even more of a financial consideration.

### SUNY Child Care & Development Block Grant – state operated

2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
1,811,22	1,800,190	1,890,190	1,342,214	1,001,119	1,016,700	1,016,700

The Child Care Block Grant provides tuition reimbursement for children of students attending SUNY schools. Reimbursements are set at market rate (market rate is determined by OCFS). NAEYC accredited centers can be reimbursed at 15% above market rate, although a few centers do not take advantage of this as it could mean serving fewer children. As shown above the amount of money made available to centers for tuition reimbursement has seen a decrease, as the need for child care services continues to increase.

**47%** of state operated campus child care centers do not receive enough Block Grant Funding to meet the needs of all income eligible parents on their campus.

## Campus Child Care helps college students succeed:

Through the Opening Doors project, researchers from Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation conducted focus groups of community college students who confirmed that personal problems were a major impediment to their academic pursuits. Participants in the Opening Doors focus group discussions noted that child care was one of the “primary factors that influenced their decisions to attend or complete college;” however funding for child care centers is limited and insufficient to meet demand.<sup>1</sup>

The Richard M. Guon Child Care Center at Monroe Community College (MCC) worked with Institutional Research to analyze the student-parent retention and success rates at MCC. Student-parents using the child care center in the 2012/2013 year had a 73% persistence rate. MCC student-parents in general had a 52.6% persistence rate. MCC student-parents not using the child care center had a 15% success rate and those using the center had a 41.2% success rate.

Research about campus child care shows:

- Graduation rates of student parents receiving campus child care are higher than campus counterparts.
- Student parents are more likely to remain in school and graduate in fewer years.
- They demonstrate higher rates of persistence.
- Student parents indicate availability of child care as critical to their decision to enroll in college.
- Their grade point average is higher.<sup>2</sup>

## Campus Child Care helps communities succeed:

Research has shown that high quality early childhood programs have both immediate and long-term benefits to the larger society, not just the individual child. Children who experience high quality early care and education are more likely to stay in school, avoid teen pregnancy, stay out of jail, attend college, and have higher earnings.

Investment in early care and education helps the current economy too.

- Early care and education, especially child care, is an essential part of the infrastructure for working families. The availability of high quality child care options is necessary to attract to new families to work in New York.
- Investments in early care and education have an immediate economic effect through spending on facilities, supplies and personnel which have a multiplying effect.
- Early care and education professionals generally spend most of their earnings locally. States realize roughly \$2 in local spending for each federal child care dollar spent.

“To keep America competitive and strong, the business community must be actively engaged on issues related to our nation's educational system as a means to ensure an educated citizenry of self-sufficient, lifelong learners who have the skills needed to thrive in the global workplace, today and in the future. The coordination of community resources, school support systems, family engagement programs, and classroom teachers' efforts can diminish the barriers to learning. Employer engagement must be significant and have the ability to address some of the greatest challenges facing education. These challenges include the lack of preparation of **early learners** who enter school for the first time, the significant learning and education gaps among groups of students, as well as the high number of students who never complete a secondary education or have the skills necessary to enter the world of work” – U.S. Chamber of Commerce

<sup>1</sup> <http://www2.ed.gov/PDFDocs/college-completion/04-student-support-services-at-community-colleges.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://campuschildren.org/policy/fact.html>

## Campus Child Care helps K-12 students succeed:

- The majority of New York's fourth or eighth graders are not proficient in both math and reading.
- New York State has a 26% high school dropout rate.
- In 2009, U.S. 15-year-olds ranked 25th among 34 developed countries in math and 17th in science.

47.8% of New York public school students are low income. There is an achievement gap between lower and higher income children that starts BEFORE kindergarten. But high quality child care can help close the gap.

- High-quality early care and education, especially for disadvantaged children, has been shown to:
  - Decrease special education placement by 49% and reduce grade retention by 50%;
  - Decrease child abuse and neglect by 51% and juvenile arrests by 33%;
  - Increase high school graduation by 31% and college attendance by more than 80%; and
  - Increase employment by 23%.<sup>53</sup>



Young children's brains develop 700 synapses—neural connections that support learning and skills—every second.

By age 3, a child's brain has reached more than 85% of its adult weight.

The human brain is primed from birth to react to, and learn from, the environment and interactions with caregivers. Those interactions shape the personality, intelligence and behavior that a person will carry with them into adulthood.

### What directors are saying:

"We would not be able to be here to serve student families without both the Child Care & Development Block Grant and Operating Grant for Child Care Center."

"I know if this program didn't exist, it would be very difficult for parents...The Block Grant offers an incredible opportunity to eligible student parents. Over the years I have seen many single parents be able to attend and graduate college who otherwise would not have been able to without assistance. Seeing these mothers and fathers be able to enter the workforce is rewarding."

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.readynation.org/uploads//20120409\\_ReadyNationBusinessCaseLowRes.pdf](http://www.readynation.org/uploads//20120409_ReadyNationBusinessCaseLowRes.pdf)