

SOLUTION SPOTLIGHT

THE CAPS STUDENT PARENT 2GEN PILOT

A Georgia pilot program is providing in-person support for student parents.

ORGANIZATION

GA DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CARE AND LEARNING (DECAL)

TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM OF GEORGIA

LOCATION

GEORGIA

FOCUS AREA



CHILDCARE & CAREGIVING

THE ISSUE

One in five college students is a parent, yet access to child care remains a major barrier to completing their education and advancing economically. In Georgia, over 18,000 CAPS applicants self-identified as student parents since January 2025. Only 17% of those applications were approved.

THE SOLUTION

The Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program, administered by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), is partnering with the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) on the CAPS Student Parent 2Gen Pilot to reduce barriers to child care subsidies. The pilot supports student parents not only in degree programs, but also in adult education, work-based training, and on-the-job training through WorkSource Georgia.

The pilot embeds CAPS consultants on select campuses to simplify the application process and provide personalized, one-on-one support. Each student parent is paired with a dedicated consultant who helps them navigate CAPS, secure high-quality child care, and connect to broader supports and coaching through Find Help GA and Family Centered Coaching.

22%

Approximately 1 in 5 undergraduate college students across the country are parents.

The pilot supports student parents through:

- › Credit-bearing programs
- › Adult education programs
- › WorkSource Georgia, offering workforce training programs

DESIGNED WITH FAMILIES

In Georgia, more than a quarter of parents with children under age 5 report long-term disruptions to work or education due to child care challenges. These disruptions are even more common among women, single parents, those earning under \$50,000, and parents under 30. The pilot is designed to meet the needs of these families.

50%

Since January 2025, only 17% of CAPS applicants who were student parents had their applications approved. In the same time period, nearly 50% of student parents applying through the CAPS 2Gen Student Parent Pilot were approved.

LOSSES FROM CHILDCARE CHALLENGES IN GEORGIA

	ECONOMIC LOSS ESTIMATE (MILLIONS)	STATE INCOME TAX REVENUE LOST (MILLIONS)
ABSENCES	\$331.1	\$19.9
TURNOVER	\$1422.1	\$85.3
TOTAL	\$1753.2	\$105.2

SOURCE: (GOLDBERG ET AL., 2018)

ACCELERATING THE SOLUTION

The long-term goal is to scale this model statewide, placing CAPS staff on campuses to provide in-person support to student parents while expanding their reach beyond TCSG sites to serve families across each region.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Support is essential.** Child care challenges can derail student parents' education.
- **Proximity matters.** The CAPS Student Parent 2Gen Pilot meets parents where they study.

- **Scale drives impact.** CAPS has proven to be effective at reducing financial barriers for student parents. More CAPS staff can reach student parents across Georgia.

To learn more, please contact:

Amy Roys
Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
Amy.Roys@dec.al.gov

WHAT IS FORWARD WITH FAMILIES?

Forward With Families is a nationwide initiative powered by Ascend at the Aspen Institute to amplify programs, policies, and initiatives that make life affordable, economic mobility possible, and security attainable for every family in America. By lifting up what's already working across the Ascend Community, Forward With Families drives leaders at every level to act on solutions proven to ensure resources go farthest for the children and families who need them most.



THE PATTERSON FAMILY