



STUDENTS
FOR LIFE
OF AMERICA®

PREGNANT AND PARENTING RATINGS PROJECT

Grading colleges for family friendly services
Students for Life of America | Pregnant on Campus Initiative



TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	3
OVERVIEW	3
WHY	3
WHAT DOES THE IDEAL CAMPUS LOOK LIKE?	3
TITLE IX	4
STUDENTS FOR LIFE'S ROLE	4
MOVING FORWARD	5
THE RATINGS	6
PROCEDURE	6
RATING CATEGORIES	6
OVERALL RESULTS	8
HOUSING	8
ON-CAMPUS RESOURCES	8
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	9
MEDICAL ATTENTION	9
RESPONSE	9
HIGHLIGHTS AND POINTS OF IMPROVEMENT	11
PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES	11
PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES	12
PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES (NOT-FOR-PROFIT)	13
A FAMILY-FRIENDLY CAMPUS	15
APPENDIX A.	16

ABSTRACT

In preparation for a Post-Roe America, schools need to provide resources for pregnant and parenting students' success. During the summer and fall of 2019, Students for Life of America, through the Pregnant on Campus Initiative, rated 19 Chicago-area schools in five key areas (Title IX compliance, housing, on-campus resources, financial assistance, and medical attention) as an innovative and unique evaluation of student needs based on SFLA's work on more than 1,200 school campuses in all 50 states. Our primary findings show that no school is perfect: Only 5% of schools have maternity parking; 14% of schools don't allow pregnant students to remain in their dorms (a Title IX violation); and only 21% of schools provide childcare to infants. Education plays an important role in helping families find pathways out of poverty and build the best future for their children. Project goals include working with the schools to hold them accountable to facilitating student resources and to call upon administrators to work towards greater accessibility to education and programs for pregnant and parenting students.

college are single parents (62%) while the majority of fathers are married (61%). Family friendly services are needed at schools to ensure that both men and women have an equal opportunity and the ability to earn a degree. Well-meaning educators and student advocates may not be aware of how to create an environment in which such students can thrive. Student parents too often don't ask for help or even know that their school *should* help.

Ignorance of the possibilities is why SFLA's rating research study is essential for creating consensus on students' needs and for developing accommodating environments for families to succeed.

Chicago was chosen as the beta city because of its high concentration and variety of school types. Each school was rated on a 4 or 5-star scale based on the accommodations they currently provide to pregnant and parenting students. There has been an increase in students **leaving Illinois for out of state colleges**, therefore, creating resources to help students will benefit Chicago universities.

OVERVIEW

WHY

Every student should have an opportunity to achieve a higher education regardless of their parenting status. This applies to both mothers and fathers. Generally, more services are required for mothers, as they will carry a child to term, give birth, nurse, and bear the brunt of childcare arrangements. **Women make up 71% of all student parents;** they are disproportionately likely to be balancing college and parenthood as the **"majority of mothers in**

WHAT DOES THE IDEAL CAMPUS LOOK LIKE?

On a perfect campus, a pregnant student will feel supported every step of the way. Initially, she would take a pregnancy test in the campus health center where she would receive two important referrals. The first is a referral to a pregnancy medical center for a free ultrasound to confirm viability. She may be feeling overwhelmed or scared, but she would be reassured by a second referral to speak with the Title IX Coordinator who will show her all the campus has to offer:

“While you are pregnant, you’ll be accommodated. We have a special parking permit for pregnant students, so you can get to class with ease. If your belly gets too big for your desk, we’ll get another. If you miss a test for an emergency appointment, you can make it up. We even have a parenting scholarship you can apply for. After the baby is born, we have family housing for you and your child. We can get you set up for childcare, too. We are here to make sure you know you can succeed.”

These are the things she needs to know. These are things her campus needs to offer. It’s all too common to think being a student parent can’t be done.

A 2013 study done at Monroe Community College (NY) found that **parents who used the campus’ childcare were three times more likely to graduate or go on to pursue a B.A. within 3 years of enrollment compared to parents who did not.** With excellence in the areas of Title IX compliance, housing, on-campus resources, financial assistance, and medical attention, women can be more empowered to seek and finish a degree.

TITLE IX

Universities that receive federal funding are bound by Title IX, a law passed in 1972, to protect women from sex discrimination. This law has been applied to ensure that schools do not discriminate against students who are pregnant or parenting. Because of Title IX, schools are expected to provide resources and accommodations to pregnant and parenting students just as they would for other students with a variety of special needs. Unfortunately, not all schools are offering the resources and accommodations they should, therefore, SFLA has

first called upon these Chicago institutions to help them maximize student potential.

Schools should do their best to enact policies that protect pregnant and parenting students as well as provide explicit Title IX information regarding pregnancy in orientations and handbooks. Athletes have told SFLA that pregnancy was not addressed during required Title IX trainings. One Colorado student said, “My volleyball teammate had an abortion because she thought she had to in order to compete. After she got pregnant again [the following year], she realized there were resources available to her that nobody had mentioned before, including a redshirt season. She would have never had the abortion had she known. They never talked about pregnancy in our Title IX trainings.”

STUDENTS FOR LIFE’S ROLE

Having a child should never be a barrier to education and Students for Life of America (SFLA), with more than 1,200 groups on college, university, high school and middle school campuses in all 50 states, is well-versed in the kinds of services that promote a positive learning experience for pregnant and parenting students.

Over the course of the last few months, through our Pregnant on Campus Initiative, SFLA created a template to successfully establish pregnant and parenting resources on campuses. From there, research was conducted on the resources and accommodations available to pregnant and parenting students at 19 Chicago colleges and universities.

MOVING FORWARD

While the research portion of this project has concluded, SFLA will continue to seek partnership with all of Chicago's campuses and assure accountability to their promises so that their pregnant and parenting students have the necessary resources to successfully finish their degrees.

We predict these trends to be common throughout the country. In order to see if that is true, schools in Dallas, Detroit, and Orange County will be evaluated next.

We are here to help and encourage all administrators to partner with us in making student success a priority. If any administrator would like to contact us regarding these findings, please email PregnancyResources@studentsforlife.org.



“ We predict these trends to be common throughout the country. ”



THE RATINGS

The 19 Chicago colleges and universities were informed of their rating through certified mail, phone, email, and personal campus visits. Each school was given an opportunity to partner with SFLA in order to work towards becoming a 5-Star Pregnant on Campus School. The Student Activities Director, Title IX Coordinator, Housing Directors, and Financial Aid offices were given a letter explaining their rating with suggestions for areas of improvement as well as praise for outstanding policies already in place.

PROCEDURE

Our outreach for the beta test of this program took place over an eight-month period and included personal visits to campuses in October 2019 to discuss the program with each school's Title IX Coordinator or Dean of Student Activities. Evaluating a campus took about an hour and included student participation in presenting the results to the proper administrator. At each campus visit, we checked each student center's women's bathroom for diaper changing stations as well as women's bathrooms in various other buildings as we walked through the campus. When male students were available to help, male restrooms were also checked for diaper changing stations. We also searched for maternity parking signs and asked each school where their lactation rooms were located. We discussed resources offered at each campus, evaluating answers as if we were the pregnant students seeking guidance.

RATING CATEGORIES

The ratings system is based on five different categories with eleven sub-categories:

1. TITLE IX COMPLIANT

2. HOUSING

- Can pregnant students stay in their dorms?
- Is there family housing?

3. ON-CAMPUS RESOURCES

- Are there diaper decks?
- Lactation rooms?
- On-campus childcare?
- Maternity parking?

4. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

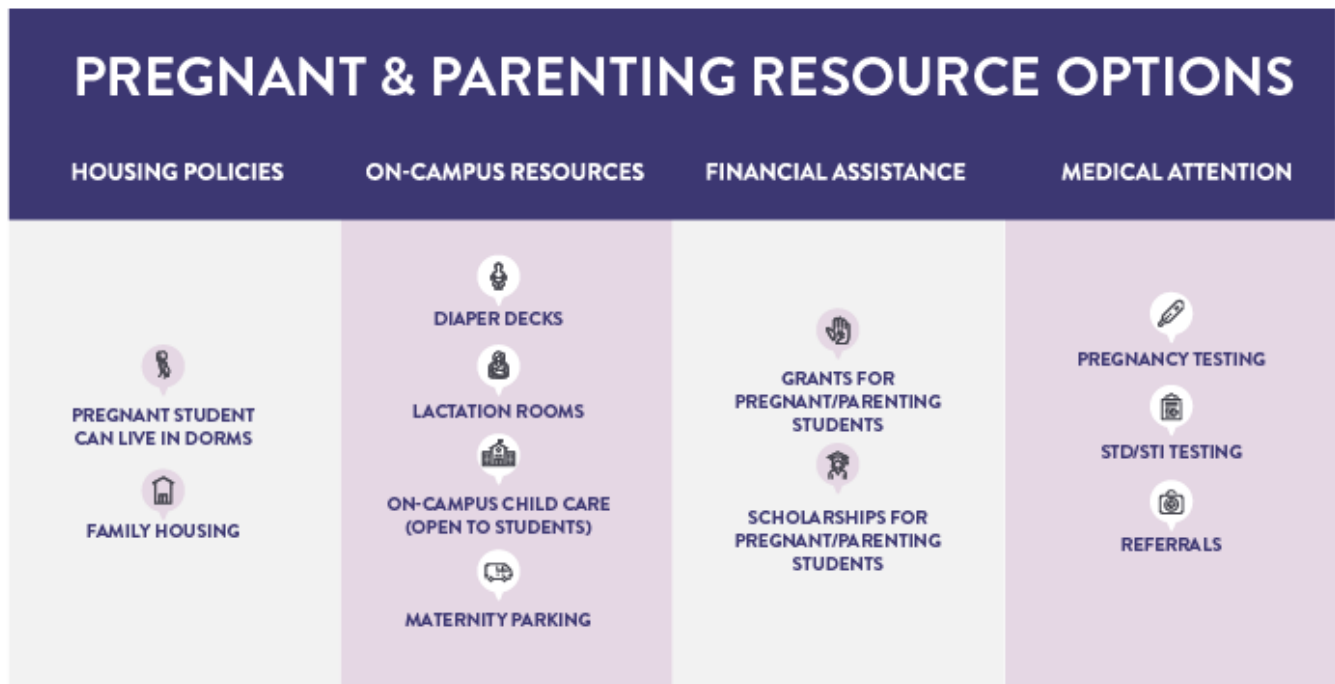
- Scholarships specifically for a pregnant or parenting student
- Grants specifically for a pregnant or parenting student

5. MEDICAL ATTENTION

- Pregnancy testing
- STD/STI testing
- Referrals

Each of the five categories is represented by one star. If a university met only one requirement in each category, they were awarded one-half of a star. If a university did not offer a certain accommodation (i.e. housing) to any student, pregnant or not, then that category was not applicable. Since all four-year institutions in the study offered campus housing, they were rated on a 5-star scale. The public community colleges did not offer campus housing, therefore, they were rated on a 4-star scale. Reasonable accommodations within each category include, but are not limited to: family housing (if applicable), diaper changing tables in a majority of men's and women's restrooms, lactation rooms in every or almost every campus building, on-campus child care, special maternity parking options, grants and scholarships specifically for parenting students, and pregnancy and STD/STI testing at the campus health center or a nearby campus affiliate.

STI testing may not be seen as a necessary resource for pregnant and parenting students. So, why is this included in the study as an essential part of the ideal campus? Our study showed that it was more common that schools offered STI testing than pregnancy testing (57% versus 43% at four-year institutions). Like STI's, pregnancy is a common and natural consequence of sex. Unfortunately, when it comes to pregnancy, schools are hands-off or only refer to facilities that commit abortions. Imagine the difference between a student running between clinics for testing only to be left with no advice, no well-rounded referrals, and no on-campus guidance versus a student who can simply go to a campus health center to find out she is pregnant, then be referred to her Title IX office for on-campus support. If a school is to offer resources to pregnant students, then students need to be informed of these resources in a welcoming environment the moment they find out they are pregnant. This is commonly not the case.



ANY SCHOOL RECEIVING FEDERAL FUNDING MUST BE TITLE IX COMPLIANT.

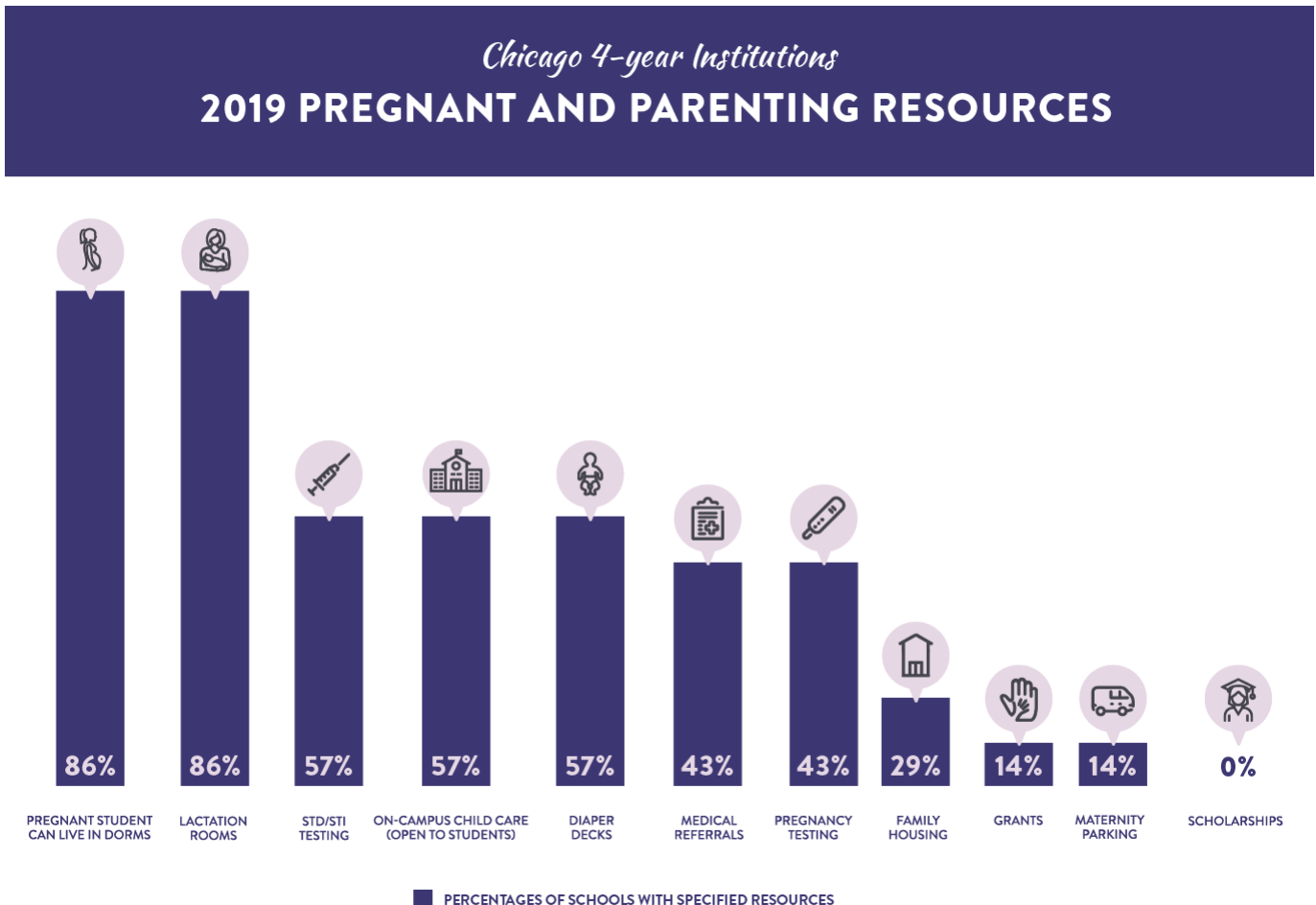
OVERALL RESULTS

HOUSING

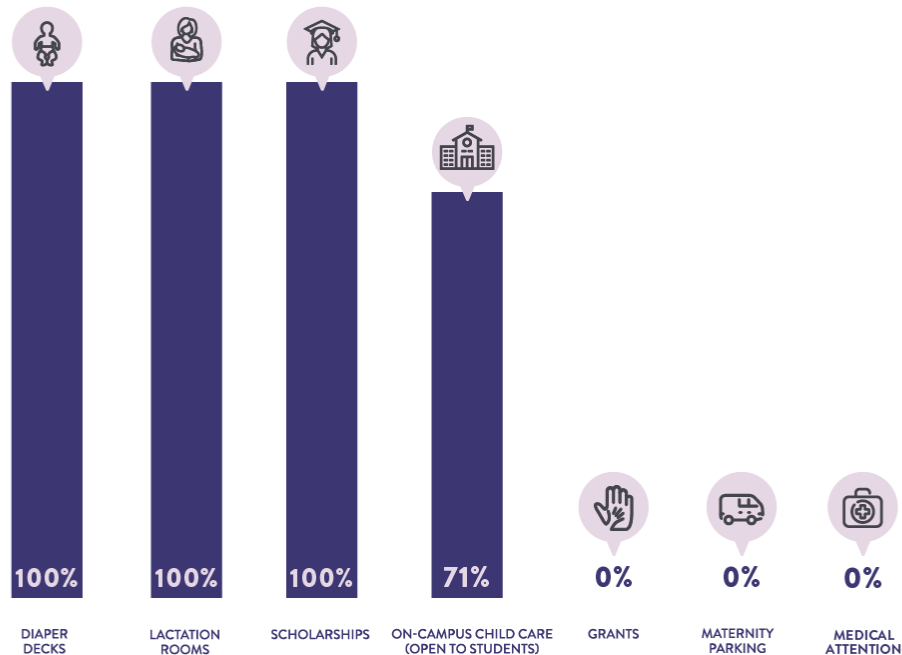
Most schools did well in allowing pregnant women to remain living in her dorm throughout her pregnancy (86% of four-year schools). This means that 14% of schools are discriminating against pregnant students and breaking Title IX law by not allowing students to remain in dorms when pregnant. Family housing was only offered at 29% of schools that offered on-campus living options.

ON-CAMPUS RESOURCES

Schools also did a great job in providing lactation rooms on campus (95% of all schools). Maternity parking was another area of needed improvement with only 5% of all schools offering this accommodation. On-campus childcare is an essential resource that alleviates barriers to academic success, yet only 58% of campuses offered on-campus childcare of some kind with only 21 percent extending that option to children under two years old.



Chicago 2-year Institutions 2019 PREGNANT AND PARENTING RESOURCES



PERCENTAGES OF SCHOOLS WITH SPECIFIED RESOURCES

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

All schools struggled in the area of financial assistance with only 5% of schools offering grants to pregnant and parenting students and only 42% offering scholarships.

MEDICAL ATTENTION

Regarding medical attention, 42% of all schools offered pregnancy testing or referrals for medical attention. Every school should be offering referrals for pregnancy testing at minimum.

RESPONSE

Of the 12 four-year Chicago schools we contacted, only four of the schools responded. Saint Xavier University responded ideally and quickly saying:

“Saint Xavier University is an institution of higher education inspired by the heritage of Sisters of Mercy who began their ministry serving women and the poor. We are in full compliance with Title IX and are always looking for more ways to serve our students. We have formed a committee to review your recommendations and determine steps we can take or have taken to support pregnant and parenting students.”

The students at Saint Xavier University are also working to create a childcare center on their campus. Roosevelt University formed a committee to review their results and we are awaiting their next steps. The University of Illinois at Chicago and Chicago State University have responded to our inquiry to partner with them in bringing more resources to their campus. Three of the twelve universities have yet to respond to us at all.

The community colleges (seven schools) have one Title IX Director representing them, and she was happy to hear what we had to offer. We were told the Title IX office only deals with violations, so we were directed elsewhere for other inquiries. None of our other inquiries garnered a response.

The following is a list of the schools that were rated by this Pregnant and Parenting Ratings Project. For a detailed breakdown of each school's rating, see Appendix A.

SCHOOL	RATING
CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY	3/5 STARS
DEPAUL	4/5 STARS
HAROLD WASHINGTON COLLEGE	2.5/4 STARS
HARRY S. TRUMAN COLLEGE	2.5/4 STARS
ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	4/5 STARS
KENNEDY-KING COLLEGE	2.5/4 STARS
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY	3.5/5 STARS
MALCOLM X COLLEGE	2.5/4 STARS
NORTH PARK UNIV	2.5/5 STARS
NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY	4/5 STARS
NORTHWESTERN	4.5/5 STARS
OLIVE-HARVEY COLLEGE	2.5/4 STARS
RICHARD J. DALEY COLLEGE	2.5/4 STARS
ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY	1.5/5 STARS
ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY	1.5/5 STARS
SAINT XAVIER	2/5 STARS
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO	3.5/5 STARS
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO	3.5/5 STARS
WILBUR WRIGHT COLLEGE	2/4 STARS

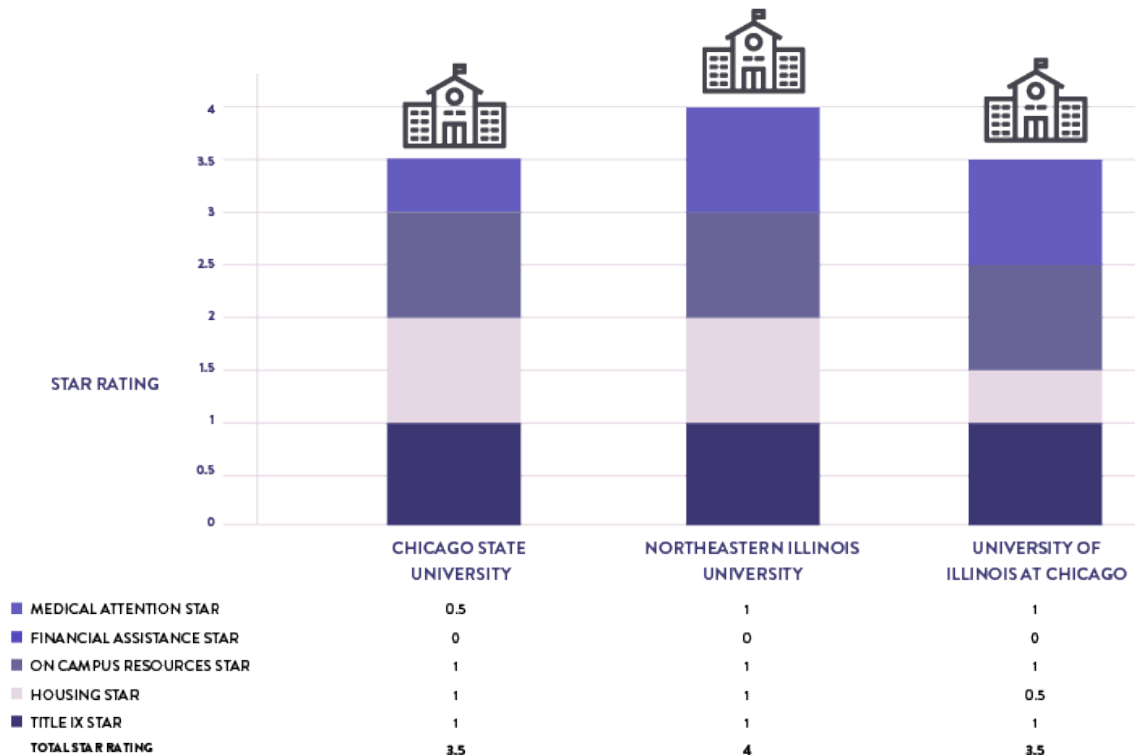
HIGHLIGHTS AND POINTS OF IMPROVEMENT

PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

While funding and fees vary among the public universities, it is clear that these schools want to make pregnant and parenting student success a priority. Though these schools did not receive a 5-Star rating, they have shown dedication to creating an environment that makes pregnant and parenting students feel welcome and feel confident in their success. Northeastern Illinois University did not respond to our attempts to contact them, including a visit to the school. They do, however, allow pregnant students to remain in the dorms after giving birth up until the child is two years

old. We will continue our efforts to connect with them to find out how this program functions so we can help other Chicago schools implement such programs. Having this additional information is essential as Chicago State, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and other private institutions do not have family housing available to students. Both public schools are working with us to achieve a 5-Star Rating. Chicago State University has great support programs for parenting students including pregnant and parenting support groups, parenting skill seminars, and a family study lab.

PUBLIC UNIVERSITY RATINGS



PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

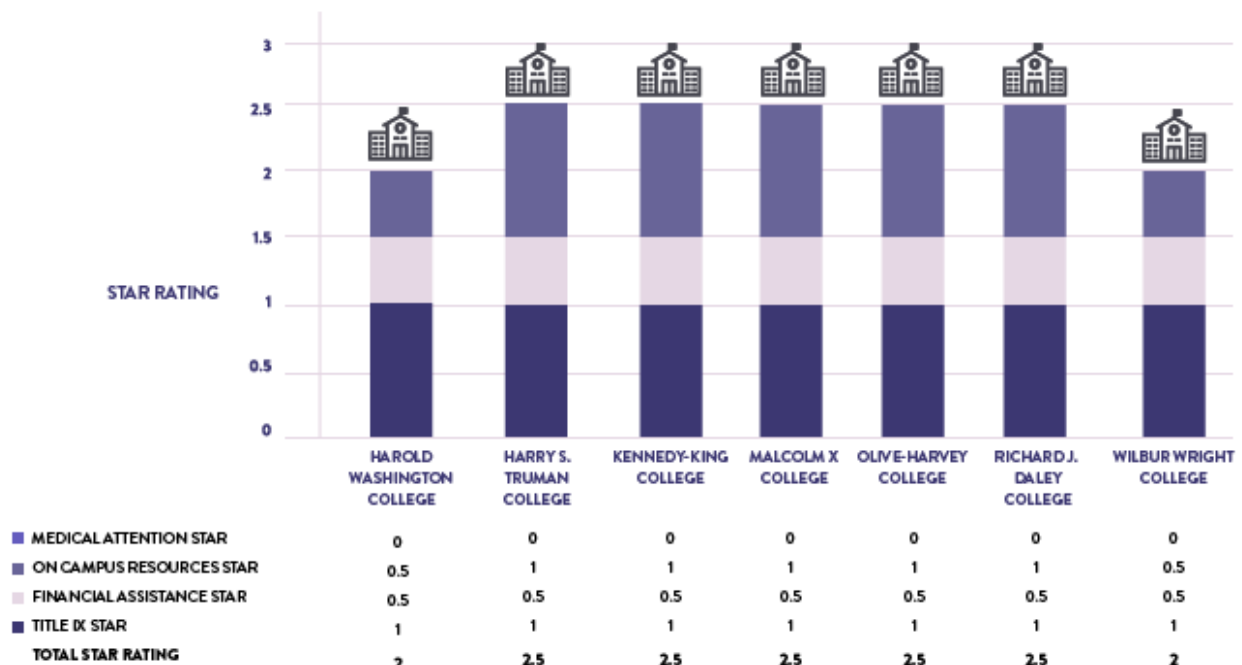
The demographic of students with dependents increases significantly in the community college realm. Student parents represent 26% of the overall student body at public 2-year institutions. Unfortunately, as the number of student parents increases on these campuses, the amount of resources decreases.

Harold Washington College and Wilbur Wright College do not provide childcare on campus, and the other colleges only provide childcare for children from the ages of 2 to 5 years old. A parent will need just as much support in the first year of a child's life as they will from age 2 to 5. The infant gap is problematic.

None of the community college campuses offer maternity parking and the number of lactation rooms, and diaper changing stations are limited.

The Title IX Director for these campuses has agreed to use our Pregnant on Campus Bill of Rights to ensure that student rights are being protected on these campuses (since she stated they only deal with violations). We would prefer to help bring more resources onto these campuses, but our attempts to contact the corresponding administrators have gone unanswered.

PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES RATINGS



PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES (NOT-FOR-PROFIT)

The results of our research study among private institutions was inconclusive as some schools were very responsive while others were quite evasive. We understand that administrators are busy but assuring the successes of pregnant and parenting students should be a continuous priority. It's in their best interest. The success of pregnant and parenting students will also increase graduation rates, arguably increasing the prestige of universities. With an increase in students leaving Illinois for post-secondary education, resources and success should be a primary concern for administrators.

The status of the Title IX office at DePaul is worrisome as the current coordinator is in an interim position, and we were told to "email again in four months" despite our efforts to contact them throughout the year. When we pressed for another contact regarding pregnant and parenting students, we were again simply asked to email them. There have been no responses to any email attempts we've made. Luckily, student resources like diaper decks, lactation rooms, scholarships, and medical attention are available on this campus. Our biggest concern: who does a student turn to when they need help? There should be a direct path from the onset of pregnancy to resources on campus.

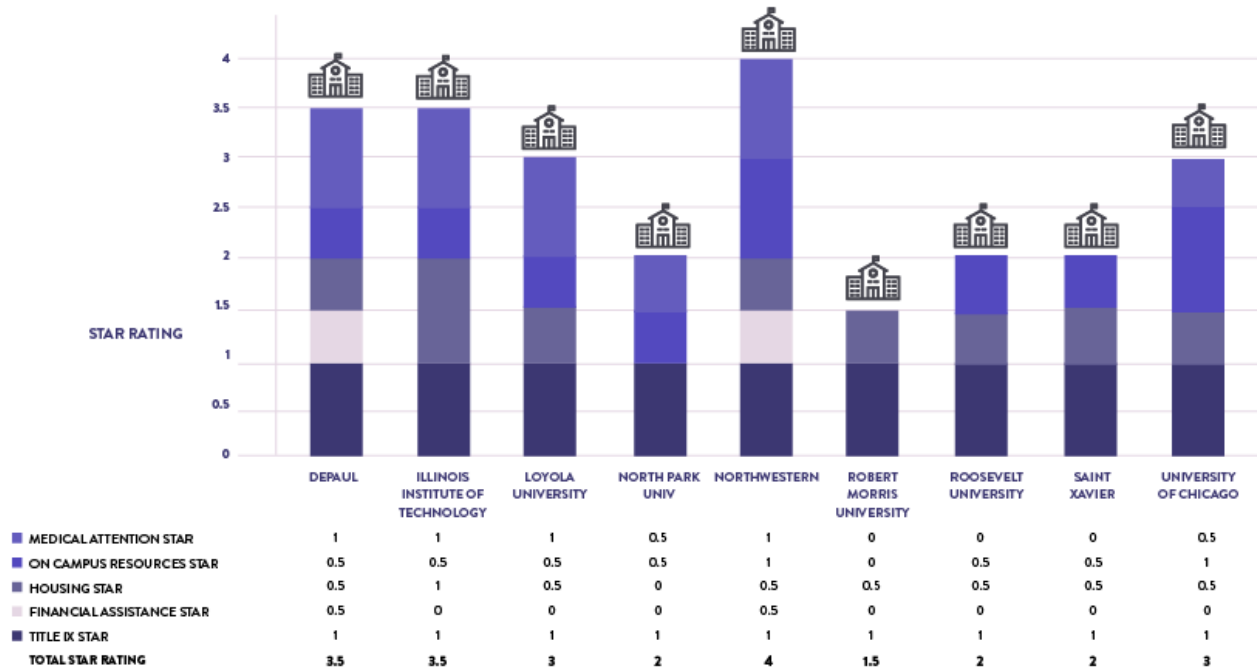
Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) has wonderful on-campus resources as well as off-campus recommendations for the areas they fall short (i.e. childcare). SFLA has offered recommendations for the area of financial assistance, as there are no scholarships or grants specifically for pregnant or parenting students at IIT. We have sent items for review and hope to continue in a partnership with IIT to bring scholarships to this student demographic.

The receptionists at Loyola, North Park, Northwestern, and the University of Chicago all proved very helpful in connecting us with the correct administrators. Unfortunately, multiple attempts to schedule meetings, phone calls, etc. with these administrators have gone unanswered. Not one of these schools provides family housing which could prove useful to a student who finds the most success living on-campus. Similarly, maternity parking is not available on these campuses. This is a low-cost endeavor, and SFLA is more than happy to partner in bringing this option to campus.

Both Saint Xavier University and Roosevelt University had timely responses to our proposals and created committees to review our findings. While we are awaiting the final decisions made by the Roosevelt committee, Saint Xavier has impressed us with their fast action. Since initial contact in September, Saint Xavier University has found someone to underwrite a scholarship for a parenting student on campus; they are working with public safety to implement maternity parking; and the University has added diaper changing stations to their student center's renovation plans. Saint Xavier and Roosevelt's ratings will rise upon finalization of changes in progress.

“The success of pregnant and parenting students will also increase graduation rates, arguably increasing the prestige of universities.”

PRIVATE UNIVERSITY RATINGS



A FAMILY-FRIENDLY CAMPUS

The ideal campus would give pregnant and parenting students the same opportunities for success that non-parenting students have. Title IX states, “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” Pregnancy is not a barrier to success when given the proper resources, and federal law states that these individuals should be treated no differently.

A family-friendly campus would have the on-campus resources that Chicago State University offers women and families in need: family learning labs, childcare, support groups, and parenting skills seminars. This conveys knowledge that transforms a culture that once questioned how families – especially mothers – could successfully contribute to society while raising children. A family-friendly campus would uphold policies like that of Northeastern Illinois University that will allow a parent to live in the dorm until the child is two years old and would offer the family housing that is available to students at the university.

On the ideal campus, childcare would be readily available to students. A study at Monroe Community College in 2013 found that, “MCC students with children under the age of six who used the campus childcare center were more likely to return to school the following year than their counterparts who did not use the childcare center (68%, compared with 51%). Parents who used childcare were also nearly three times more likely to graduate or go on to pursue a B.A. within 3 years of enrollment (41%, compared with only 15%).” This is not an uncommon finding. Families need this kind

of support for academic success.

At 38 weeks into her pregnancy, a woman should not have to walk a mile to get to class but should be granted a maternity parking pass that would let her energy be used for her education. This woman should never have to worry about fitting into her desk, because a table is also provided to her. She shouldn’t have to walk to her car to change her child’s diaper, and she should never be forced to pump or nurse in a place that would infringe upon her privacy. Schools should have the tenacity of Saint Xavier University who, when learning about their lack of resources, took it upon themselves to immediately create changes that would uphold the inspiration of their founding: serving women and the poor. Saint Xavier will soon be offering a scholarship that is held specifically for pregnant and parenting students, something every institution should have, yet few do.

Whether or not each school has a facility equipped to conduct pregnancy tests, STD/STI testing, and gynecological exams, these services should be available by forming a relationship with a health center on another college campus or a doctor’s office near the school. These services are critical for women who are pregnant, think they may be pregnant, or are postpartum. It is crucial that pregnant and postpartum students have access to proper medical care, allowing them to focus on their studies while in college.

APPENDIX A.

SCHOOL	TOTAL STARS	TITLE IX COMPLIANT		HOUSING			ON-CAMPUS RESOURCES					FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE			MEDICAL ATTENTION				
		TITLE IX COMPLIANT	TITLE IX STUDENT STAR	PREGNANT CAN LIVE IN DORMS	FAMILY HOUSING	HOUSING STAR	DIAPER DECKS	LOCATION ROOMS	ON-CAMPUS CHILD-CARE (OPEN TO STUDENTS)	MATERNITY PARKING	ON-CAMPUS RESOURCES STAR	GRANTS	SCHOLARSHIPS	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE STAR	PREGNANCY TESTING	STD/STI TESTING	REFERRALS	MEDICAL ATTENTION STAR	
CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY	3.5/5 Stars	Yes	1	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	1	No	No	0	Yes	No	Yes	0.5
DEPAUL UNIVERSITY	3.5/5 Stars	Yes	1	Yes	No	0.5	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	0.5	No	No	0.5	Yes	Yes	Yes	1
HAROLD WASHINGTON COLLEGE	2/4 Stars	Yes	1	N/A	N/A	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	0.5	No	No	0.5	No	No	No	0
HARRY S. TRUMAN COLLEGE	2.5/4 Stars	Yes	1	N/A	N/A	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	1	No	Yes	0.5	No	No	Yes	0
ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	3.5/5 Stars	Yes	1	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	0.5	No	No	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	1
KENNEDY-KING COLLEGE	2.5/4 Stars	Yes	1	N/A	N/A	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	1	No	Yes	0.5	No	No	No	0
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY	3/5 Stars	Yes	1	Yes	No	0.5	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	0.5	No	No	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	1
MALCOLM X COLLEGE	2.5/4 Stars	Yes	1	N/A	N/A	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	1	No	Yes	0.5	No	No	No	0
NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY	2/5 Stars	Yes	1	No	No	0	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	0.5	No	No	0	Yes	No	Yes	1
NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY	4/5 Stars	Yes	1	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	1	No	No	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	1
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY	4/5 Stars	Yes	1	No	Yes	0.5	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	1	Yes	No	0.5	Yes	Yes	Yes	1
OLIVE HARVEY COLLEGE	2.5/4 Stars	Yes	1	N/A	N/A	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	1	No	Yes	0.5	No	No	No	0
RICHARD J. DALEY COLLEGE	2.5/4 Stars	Yes	1	N/A	N/A	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	1	No	Yes	0.5	No	No	No	0
ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY	1.5/5 Stars	Yes	1	Yes	No	0.5	No	No	No	No	No	0	No	No	0	No	No	No	0
ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY	2/5 Stars	Yes	1	Yes	No	0.5	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	0.5	No	No	0	No	No	No	0
SAINT XAVIER UNIVERSITY	2/5 Stars	Yes	1	Yes	No	0.5	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	0.5	No	No	0	No	No	No	0
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO	3/5 Stars	Yes	1	Yes	No	0.5	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	1	No	No	0	No	Yes	No	0.5
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO	3.5/5 Stars	Yes	1	Yes	No	0.5	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1	No	No	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	1