

# Students for Life's 2026 Campus Pregnancy Support Study:

## Evaluating Resources for Pregnant and Parenting Students at State Colleges & Universities



### Overview

Students for Life of America exists for one reason: to abolish abortion in America — to make it illegal and unthinkable in every state. We conducted this study because college campuses are one of the places where abortion is most often sold to young women as the price of a future.

For decades, the abortion industry has told college students, especially young women, that a baby means the end of their education and can limit their career prospects. Too many campuses reinforce that message by default. When a pregnant student can find a pregnancy test at the health center but no family housing, no child care, no maternity parking, and no scholarships...the institution has answered her question for her. She is not choosing abortion freely; she is being funneled toward it by the absence of support.

Students for Life rejects the premise that a woman must choose between her child and her education. A degree is worth having — graduates earn up to 70% more than those with only a high school diploma, face lower unemployment, and are more likely to lead healthy lives, be active citizens, and be engaged with their children. That is exactly why we refuse to let abortion be positioned as the ticket to those benefits. The Pro-Life Generation believes a woman should be able to walk across the graduation stage with her child watching, and we believe that when real support exists, she will.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination based on sex, which is broadly interpreted to include pregnancy, childbirth, related medical conditions, and parental status. Institutions receiving federal funding are required to provide reasonable accommodations and ensure that pregnant and parenting students have equal access to educational opportunities. But legal compliance is a floor, not a standard. A campus can satisfy Title IX on paper and still leave a frightened 19-year-old with nowhere to turn but the abortion vendor, like Planned Parenthood, down the street. Colleges and universities should not aim<sup>4</sup>to meet the legal minimum; they should aim to be places where choosing Life is the obvious, supported, and celebrated choice.

With nearly 1 in 5 undergraduates raising a child while pursuing a degree, this is not a niche population. Since 2019, Students for Life has worked to ensure that no student is forced to choose between her education and the life of her preborn child. Through research, advocacy, our Standing With You initiative, and the mobilization of our 1,675+ student groups nationwide, we identify the barriers pregnant and parenting students face and press institutions to remove them.

Students for Life's "2026 Campus Pregnancy Support Study" evaluated the accommodations available to pregnant and parenting students at 553 public state colleges and universities across the United States. By assessing existing support, identifying gaps, and highlighting best practices, the study gives our student leaders a scorecard for their own campuses and gives administrators a roadmap for change.

### The study was designed to answer the following research questions:

- What accommodations are available at state colleges and universities for pregnant and parenting students?
- How can state colleges and universities provide additional accommodations for pregnant and parenting students?

Key findings Include:

- The vast majority of schools (98.6%) are missing at least 2 recommended accommodations for pregnant and parenting students.
- Schools provide an average of 6.6 of the 12 accommodations evaluated.
- Across all colleges and universities evaluated, the average rating on our scale was just 3.1 stars.
- Over three-quarters of schools provide pregnancy testing (81.2%), and nearly 75% offer referrals for pregnancy support resources — yet the practical support a woman needs after a positive test is far rarer.
- Maternity parking is available at fewer than 1 in 10 schools (8.9%), making it the least common accommodation.
- On-campus family housing is unavailable at 72.7% of schools.
- The vast majority (84.8%) of schools do not offer scholarships specifically for pregnant or parenting students.
- Nearly half (46.1%) of schools lack on-campus child care services.
- Almost 40% of schools do not list pregnancy or parenting accommodations on their websites, meaning a student in crisis may never learn what help exists.
- Nearly 90% of schools (89.9%) include a pregnancy and parenting student policy on their website or student handbook, making it the most common accommodation.
- 4 out of 5 schools (80.1%) have lactation rooms.

Methodology

Study Design and Scope

Research occurred between November 2024 and April 2026. The study evaluated how state-funded colleges and universities support pregnant and parenting students through institutional policies, resources, and accommodations.

The final dataset includes 553 state colleges and universities across the United States.

Institutional Selection

Institutions were identified through a comprehensive review of state college and university listings obtained from state, local, and federal government sources. All data sources used to compile the institutional list are documented and cited within the study dataset to ensure transparency and replicability.

Data Collection Process

Researchers conducted a systematic review of publicly available institutional materials including official university websites, student handbooks, policy documents, Title IX websites, Housing and Residence Life information, campus resource directories, and student health services pages.

When information could not be located or verified online, follow-up outreach via phone and email was conducted. Primary points of contact included Title IX offices, along with housing, student services, and health center personnel. Information obtained through outreach was used to confirm or supplement publicly available data.

Ratings Framework

Institutions were rated on a five-star scale, earning one star for meeting criteria in each of five core categories and 12 subcategories. The rating system was designed to measure the breadth of institutional support rather than the relative importance of individual accommodations.

| Category                             | Total Stars | Components                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Housing Policies                     | 1           | On-campus housing for pregnant students (0.5); Family housing (0.5)                                              |
| On-Campus Resources                  | 1           | Diaper changing stations (0.25); Lactation rooms (0.25); On-campus child care (0.25); Maternity parking (0.25)   |
| Financial Assistance                 | 1           | Grants for pregnant/parenting students (0.5); Scholarships for pregnant/parenting students (0.5)                 |
| Medical Attention                    | 1           | Pregnancy testing at health center (0.5); Referrals at health center (0.5)                                       |
| Accommodations & Policy Transparency | 1           | Accommodations listed on website (0.5); Pregnant & Parenting Student Policy or Statement listed on website (0.5) |
| Total Possible Score                 | 5           | 12 accommodations across 5 categories                                                                            |

**Each institution earned up to five stars based on the sum of all categories.**

To ensure a fair evaluation of institutions with different infrastructures, the following standards were applied:

- Institutions without on-campus housing were awarded a full star for the Housing category.
- Institutions without campus health centers were awarded a full star for the Medical Attention category.

## Limitations

This study reflects institutional policies and resources identified between November 2024 and April 2026. As policies and services may change over time, findings may not fully capture updates made after the conclusion of the data collection.

Additionally, while every effort was made to ensure accuracy through verification and outreach, the study relied in part on publicly available and institution-reported information.

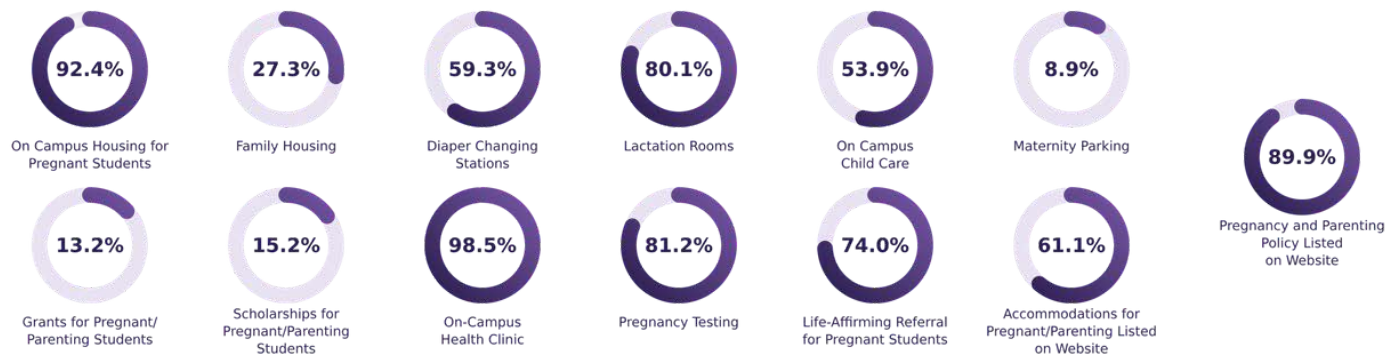
Institutions that identify discrepancies or wish to provide updated or clarifying information are encouraged to contact [mdixon@studentsforlife.org](mailto:mdixon@studentsforlife.org). Verified updates may be incorporated into future revisions of the study.

## Key Findings

Students for Life's "2026 Campus Pregnancy Support Study" revealed that while most state colleges and universities provide some support for pregnant and parenting students, significant gaps remain in the availability, accessibility, and visibility of the researched accommodations. See Appendix A for a full list of schools and accommodations.

### Most Schools Lack Multiple Recommended Accommodations

The study found that 98.6% of schools lack at least two of the 12 accommodations evaluated. These accommodations help address the unique challenges faced by pregnant and parenting students. When institutions offer a comprehensive range of accommodations, they promote equitable access to higher education, reduce barriers to degree completion, and create an environment where pregnant students feel empowered to choose Life. The widespread absence of multiple accommodations suggests that most campuses have opportunities to strengthen support for pregnant and parenting students.



### Institutions Typically Offer Some Support

Schools provide an average of 6.6 of the 12 accommodations evaluated. This demonstrates widespread recognition of the need for support on college campuses. While the near-universal (99.8%) availability of at least one accommodation is encouraging, the presence of a single resource does not indicate comprehensive support. Many institutions offer only a limited number of accommodations, leaving significant gaps in services that may affect student persistence and success. Because pregnant and parenting students often face a variety of academic, financial, housing, and caregiving challenges, a broader range of accommodations is typically needed to address their diverse needs effectively.

## **Pregnant and Parenting Student Policies Are Widely Available**

Nearly 90% of schools include a pregnant and parenting policy or statement on their Title IX webpage or in their student handbook, making it the most common accommodation.

The inclusion of a pregnancy and parenting student policy ensures that students are aware of their rights, available accommodations, and the process for requesting support during pregnancy and childbirth. Providing clear information is a critical first step in supporting pregnant and parenting students. Even when accommodations exist, students may be unable to access them if they are not clearly communicated. A publicly available policy can increase awareness of available resources, promote compliance with Title IX requirements, and help institutions establish consistent procedures for responding to accommodation requests.

In addition, visible pregnancy-related policies can foster a more supportive campus environment by signaling that pregnant and parenting students are valued members of the campus community. While a policy alone does not guarantee the availability of comprehensive support services, it serves as an important foundation for ensuring students can identify and access the accommodations they need to continue their education successfully while raising their children.

## **Maternity Parking Remains Rare**

Maternity parking is available at fewer than 1 in 10 schools (8.9%), making it the least common accommodation evaluated.

Designed to provide designated parking spaces for pregnant students near classrooms and campus services, maternity parking reduces physical strain and improve campus accessibility during pregnancy. These spaces can protect the health of not only student mothers but also their preborn babies. But despite being a low-cost, easy-to-implement accommodation that often requires only the designation of existing parking spaces, it remains rare on college campuses. Its limited availability represents a significant opportunity for institutions to expand support for pregnant students through a practical measure that can enhance student well-being, class attendance, and academic persistence.

## **Family Housing Is Often Unavailable**

On-campus family housing is unavailable at 72.7% of schools.

Family housing helps student parents overcome housing, transportation, and financial barriers, making it easier for them to choose Life. But institutions may face challenges related to cost, space limitations, maintenance requirements, and competing budget priorities. These challenges likely contribute to the low availability of family housing on college campuses.

## **Lactation Rooms Are Widely Available**

Four out of five schools (80.1%) have lactation rooms.

Because lactation is a pregnancy-related condition protected under Title IX, institutions play an important role in ensuring nursing mothers have access to appropriate accommodations. These dedicated spaces provide breastfeeding students with a private, sanitary, and accessible environment to express and store breast milk while attending classes and participating in campus activities. Compared to resources such as family housing or child care centers, lactation rooms are often less costly and easier to implement, which may contribute to their relatively high availability. By supporting health for breastfeeding students and their young children, lactation rooms promote a pro-life culture on campus.

## **Scholarships Represent a Significant Gap**

Most schools (84.8%) do not offer scholarships specifically for pregnant or parenting students.

Financial challenges are among the most significant barriers facing pregnant and parenting students, yet more than four out of five schools do not offer scholarships specifically designed to support this population. Costs associated with pregnancy, childbirth, child care, housing, health care, and everyday family expenses can place substantial financial strain on student parents, increasing the likelihood that they will leave school or choose to abort their children.

Targeted scholarships can help alleviate these pressures by providing financial assistance that recognizes the unique circumstances of pregnant and parenting students. Unlike general financial aid, these scholarships are specifically intended to offset the additional expenses that often accompany raising a child while pursuing a degree.

The low prevalence of these scholarships suggests that there is a significant gap in financial support for pregnant and parenting students. Expanding access to targeted financial assistance could help remove barriers to degree completion and improve educational outcomes for a population that often faces competing academic, financial, and caregiving responsibilities.

### **Accommodation Information Is Often Difficult to Find**

Almost 40% of schools do not list pregnancy or parenting accommodations on their websites.

While some of these institutions may offer support services, the absence of publicly available information can make it difficult for students to identify, access, and utilize available accommodations when they need them most.

A school's website is often the first place students turn to learn about campus policies, available resources, and their rights under Title IX. When information about pregnancy and parenting accommodations is not clearly posted online, students may be unaware that they are eligible for academic adjustments, child care services, housing support, or other forms of assistance. This lack of visibility can create additional barriers for students who are already navigating the challenges of pregnancy, parenthood, and higher education.

Publicly listing accommodations also promotes transparency and consistency. Clear online information helps students understand how to request support, who to contact, and what resources are available before a need becomes urgent. In addition, it can help institutions demonstrate their commitment to supporting pregnant and parenting students and complying with Title IX requirements.

Given the relatively low cost of maintaining this information online, the absence of accommodation details on nearly 40% of school websites represents an unnecessary gap in access to support. Improving the visibility of these resources could help more students connect with available services, remain enrolled, and successfully complete their degrees.

### **Child Care Access Remains Limited**

On-campus child care services are unavailable at 46.1% of schools.

Child care is often one of the most critical needs for parenting students, as access to reliable care directly affects class attendance, academic performance, and degree completion. On-campus child care can reduce transportation challenges, lower child care-related stress, and provide a convenient solution that aligns with students' academic schedules.

However, child care centers are also among the most resource-intensive accommodations to provide, requiring substantial investments in facilities, staffing, licensing, and ongoing operations. While these challenges may limit availability, expanding access to child care services could significantly improve educational outcomes and help more pregnant students choose Life.

### **Pregnancy Testing and Referrals Are Common but Not Universal**

More than three-quarters of schools provide pregnancy testing (81.2%), while nearly 75% offer referrals for pregnancy support resources.

Pregnancy testing is often a first point of contact for students who may be facing an unexpected pregnancy, while referrals for pregnancy support resources can connect them with practical assistance such as prenatal care, material support, housing, parenting resources, counseling, and local Pregnancy Centers. However, nearly one in five schools do not provide pregnancy testing, and more than one in four do not offer referrals for pregnancy support resources, indicating that access to these basic forms of support remains inconsistent across higher education institutions. These services can play an important role in helping pregnant students quickly access Life-affirming support.

## The Average Star Rating for All Colleges and Universities Studied Was 3.1 out of 5 Stars

Schools earned an average rating of 3.1 out of 5 stars, indicating that institutions provide a moderate level of support for pregnant and parenting students but still have room for improvement. The distribution of ratings was concentrated in the middle of the scale, with 47.2% of schools earning 3 or 3.5 stars, making these the most common ratings. An additional 20.6% of institutions received 4 or 4.5 stars, reflecting relatively strong support, while only 1.3% achieved a perfect 5-star rating, demonstrating that comprehensive support remains rare. There were only 3.3% of schools that earned 1 or 1.5 stars, suggesting that very few institutions offer only minimal accommodations. Overall, these findings show that while most colleges provide several resources and accommodations for pregnant and parenting students, few offer the full range of support needed.

### What Star Rating Did Colleges and Universities Receive?

|       |                                  |               |
|-------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| ★☆☆☆☆ | <b>3 Colleges/Universities</b>   | <b>0.54%</b>  |
| ★☆☆☆☆ | <b>15 Colleges/Universities</b>  | <b>2.71%</b>  |
| ★★☆☆☆ | <b>57 Colleges/Universities</b>  | <b>10.31%</b> |
| ★★★☆☆ | <b>96 Colleges/Universities</b>  | <b>17.36%</b> |
| ★★★★☆ | <b>131 Colleges/Universities</b> | <b>23.69%</b> |
| ★★★★☆ | <b>130 Colleges/Universities</b> | <b>23.51%</b> |
| ★★★★★ | <b>93 Colleges/Universities</b>  | <b>16.82%</b> |
| ★★★★★ | <b>21 Colleges/Universities</b>  | <b>3.80%</b>  |
| ★★★★★ | <b>7 Colleges/Universities</b>   | <b>1.27%</b>  |

State-level results showed considerable variation in the availability of accommodations for pregnant and parenting students. Iowa had the highest average star rating, indicating the strongest overall support, while South Dakota and Vermont had the lowest average ratings, suggesting fewer accommodations on average. Georgia, South Dakota, and West Virginia had the highest number of one-star schools, while Florida had the most two-star institutions. New York and Florida tied for the most three-star schools, and New York and Texas tied for the most four-star schools. California had the greatest number of five-star schools, demonstrating a particularly strong concentration of campuses offering comprehensive support for pregnant and parenting students. See Appendix B for the full list of average number of stars per state.

## Recommendations

Each institution operates within unique financial, geographic, and student-support circumstances. Students for Life understands that institutions often have financial, spatial, and time constraints and may be unable to provide all recommended accommodations.

Possible accommodations include family housing, diaper-changing stations, lactation rooms, on-campus child care, maternity parking, grants and scholarships for pregnant and parenting students, pregnancy testing, referrals for pregnancy support resources, publicly available accommodation information, and dedicated pregnancy and parenting student policies.

Institutions should implement accommodations that are appropriate for their size, resources, and student population. If a college or university cannot provide students with the necessary accommodations, the institution should, at the very least, develop a relationship with and refer students to supportive agencies in the community.

General suggestions are outlined below. School administrations are invited to review their rating and consider adding missing accommodations. Students for Life can provide customized guidance and recommendations for institutions interested in expanding support for pregnant and parenting students.

- **Family Housing:** Adding family housing is recommended for schools with larger populations. Partnering with nearby housing facilities for referrals and providing scholarships and/or housing stipends are often more attainable solutions.
- **Diaper Changing Stations:** Installing diaper decks in all or most men's and women's restrooms is recommended. This is a simple way to ensure that parenting students and faculty have access to safe, clean areas to change their children when on campus.
- **Lactation Rooms:** Adding one or more lactation rooms ensures lactating students and faculty have a safe, clean environment to pump and/or nurse their children. Rooms should be private spaces and include a locking door separate from a bathroom. Additional features may include a chair, sink, electrical outlet, and refrigerator.
- **On-Campus Child Care:** Adding child care on campus is recommended for schools with larger populations. Finding a reliable local child care agency and providing scholarships and/or child care stipends are often more attainable solutions.
- **Designated Maternity Parking:** Offering special parking accommodations for pregnant students during the duration of their pregnancies is recommended. An alternate solution is to offer pregnant students temporary handicapped parking to ensure they have access to close parking.
- **Grants and Scholarships:** Increasing grant opportunities for pregnant and parenting students and providing resources to help them find and apply for funding is recommended. A simple first step is maintaining a list of available grants on your website or through campus resources.
- **Pregnancy Testing Availability:** Providing medical-grade pregnancy testing or partnering with a local Pregnancy Center to offer testing and support is recommended.
- **Life-Affirming Referrals:** Connecting students with pregnancy support resources by partnering with local OB-GYNs, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and Pregnancy Centers for referrals and support is recommended. Find local pregnancy support resources through our [Standing With You directory](#).
- **Pregnancy and Parenting Accommodations Availability:** Posting all pregnancy and parenting accommodations on your website so students can easily access available support is recommended.
- **Pregnancy and Parenting Student Policy:** Creating a dedicated Pregnant and Parenting Student Policy and making it easily accessible online alongside other available accommodations is recommended.
- **Review the Pregnant on Campus Bill of Rights:** Students for Life recommends adopting this as a school policy to form a more welcoming environment for all students.

## How Students for Life of America Supports Student Parents

Students for Life is committed to helping schools better support pregnant and parenting students. In addition to these recommendations and customized guidance, each institution's accommodations have been added to our StandingWithYou.org national database, an online directory featuring thousands of local resources and a 24/7 chat, text, and phone helpline searchable by ZIP code. Institutions may also identify local support resources through the directory such as Pregnancy Centers, food banks, clothing resources, and more.

## How Students Make Change on Campus

In addition, Students for Life groups across America are making their campuses more welcoming, supportive, and accessible for pregnant and parenting students.

Here are just a few of our inspiring Students for Life leaders who made a difference during the 2025-26 school year:

- At the University of Missouri-Columbia, the Students for Life group raised money for a pregnant and/or parenting student scholarship.
- At the University of South Alabama, the Students for Life group created and distributed campus resource guides. These brochures include school accommodations and supportive policies for pregnant and parenting students.
- At North Dakota State University, the Students for Life group added pregnant and parenting student resources to the student government webpage.

Inspired by the success stories she encountered through our Students for Life fellowship, Kayli Sutherland, a Students for Life leader at Florida State University (FSU), felt empowered to pursue policy change on her own campus. She successfully added pregnant & parenting student resources to FSU's health center. However, the process was not without challenges. At a large public institution like Florida State University, identifying the right contacts proved difficult and required an entire semester of persistence. Kayli eventually connected with a staff member who directed her to a campus team already working to expand resources for pregnant and parenting students.

Through Kayli's advocacy efforts, she discovered that FSU provides meaningful support for pregnant and parenting students. Still, she believes there is more room for growth. In particular, she recommends increasing awareness of existing services, incorporating information about support resources into course syllabi, and expanding access to material assistance. Her experience highlights both the importance of student-led advocacy and the impact that persistence can have in strengthening campus support for pregnant and parenting students.

## Conclusion

Nearly every school in this study (99.8%) offers at least 1 accommodation. That is not cause for celebration. It means most campuses are very good at confirming a student is pregnant and very poor at helping her stay that way. A pregnancy test and a policy buried in a handbook do not keep a mother enrolled. Housing, child care, scholarships, and a visible culture of support do.

Every gap identified in this report is a place where the abortion industry's message — that a child ends your future — goes unanswered. Students for Life intends to answer it. Our 1,675+ Students for Life groups will bring these findings to their own administrations and demand better. Through the Standing With You national network, customized action plans, and direct partnership with institutions willing to lead, we will keep working until no student on any campus believes abortion is her only way to graduate.

Abortion becomes unthinkable when it becomes unnecessary. A campus where a young mother can carry her child, raise that child, and earn her degree is a campus where abortion has lost its sales pitch. That is the goal of this study, and it is the goal of the Pro-Life Generation: an America where every student and every child is welcomed, supported, and valued — and where no woman is ever told her baby costs her a future.

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