FIND YOUR WAY

A Guide to New England Colleges and Universities for Students with Children

Housing, Scholarships, Childcare, and More
Find Your Way: A Guide to New England Colleges and Universities for Students with Children

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INTRODUCTION

The New England Survey of Student Parent Programs was initiated from a practical problem. While New England is famous for both the number and reputation of its colleges and universities, through our work with high school student parents, we realized that they were struggling to find college options offering the support services they needed to succeed in college while raising children. Those who found programs, often wagered their future college careers on the chance of getting accepted to a single college with highly competitive admissions. If they were not accepted, many of these students did not have a backup plan. We wanted these students to know that there were college options available for them and we wanted to be able to tell them where these schools were, and what they offered. Where many of these students felt excluded and unwelcomed by the lack of student parent services at many of the postsecondary institutions in the region, we wanted to find the places that they could find support, and to find a way to share this information with them and their advocates.

It was also important for us to conduct this research to learn more about the prevalence and types of student parent support services that are available on New England’s college campuses to determine how supportive the region is overall to student parents, and to provide recommendations for improved postsecondary access, inclusion, and equity.

One critical and special aspect of this research project is that it was conducted by and for student parents. All of the researchers who collected data for this project were student parents who had personally experienced the challenge of finding their way to a college that supported them as student parents. While we were careful to develop and closely follow our research protocol to ensure that we were thorough and accurate as higher education researchers, for our team, this research was also personal. We approached the process with the memories of our own frustrations in finding a suitable college, and the vigilance that we would employ in helping review each college as a potential fit for ourselves, or for a close friend or family member. As a research project, this study was intentionally designed to impact change. Part of this change involves sharing what we have learned to help the next cohorts of student parents Find Their Way to college, as we once lived through ourselves.
This publication was developed for educational and information purposes for use by prospective students, guidance counselors, social workers, higher education administrators, researchers, policy makers, and others looking for information on college options that provide student support services and programming for prospective New England student parents.

The information in this guidebook was gathered through a comprehensive research study taking place from 2013-2015. While some updates were made based on institutional feedback and new information in 2017, the research process has not yet been fully repeated to provide a fully updated database. We are currently pursuing efforts to repeat this study in 2021-22, at which time we will release an updated guide.

Please note that institutions may change their program offerings at any point, and our research has documented that many programs close with little or no announcement. Please verify the current program offerings at any university/college listed in this guide directly with that institution.

The New England Survey of Student Parent Programs is a current project of the Higher Education Access for Student Parents Research Initiative at Wellesley Centers for Women, based at Wellesley College. wcwonline.org/studentparents
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

New England is internationally known for its highly ranked and dense concentration of colleges and universities. According to the New England Commission of Higher Education, which oversees accreditation of such institutions, there are 212 regionally-accredited degree granting institutions of postsecondary education in New England.¹ According to the Institute for Women’s Policy Research 18% of New England’s postsecondary students attend college while raising and supporting families as student parents.² According to the New England Board of Higher Education there are over 800,000 students enrolled at New England’s postsecondary institutions.³ This means that there are approximately 144,000 student parents enrolled at colleges and universities in the region.

New England’s student parents attend diverse postsecondary institutions. At New England’s community colleges 27% of students are parenting. At its four-year institutions 9% of students are parents. For profit-colleges enroll the largest proportion of student parents with enrollments of nearly 40% of their student bodies.⁴ However, because most for-profit colleges are not regionally accredited, and because we found no regionally accredited for-profits with student parent services available, these institutions are not included in our database or guidebook.

New England's student parents are also overrepresented among female, low-income, and minority students. Sixty-nine percent are women. Among female college students 29% of Latinx and 36% of Black New England college students are mothers, as compared to 19% of white students. Dads are also more likely to be students of color, whereby 24% of Black male students and 16% of Latinx male students in New England are fathers, as compared

to 11% of white male undergraduates.\textsuperscript{5} New England student parents are also disproportionately low-income with 52% meeting federal student aid poverty standards as compared to 29% of all New England undergraduate students.\textsuperscript{6} Thus, improving college access for student parents promotes higher education equity and inclusion across gender, socioeconomic status, and race, as well as parenting status.

We conducted a regionally comprehensive survey of regionally-accredited New England colleges and universities to determine how many of these institutions offer support for student parents and where these institutions are located within the region. Identified support services included: family housing, child care centers, targeted scholarships for parenting students, women’s center programs, work/life support offices, and specialized programs. Of New England’s 212 colleges and universities, we found that relatively few institutions offered these supports. Among these New England postsecondary institutions only 10\% offered family housing, 20\% offered specific scholarships for student parents, 17\% had women’s centers, which often provide lactation and other parenting support programs, 8\% had work/life balance support programs, and 11\% had specialized programs for student parents and/or other non-traditional student categories which are inclusive of student parents such as “non-traditional students” or “women in transition”, and generally include mentions of parenting in their eligibility criteria or program descriptions.

Comparatively most states had about the same percentage of institutions offering family housing 10-11\% in New Hampshire, Maine and Connecticut, while Massachusetts and Rhode Island were minor outliers at 8\% and 17\% respectively. However, this may be in part due to both the comparatively large number of institutions in Massachusetts and the comparatively small number of institutions in Rhode Island. With 8 family housing programs, Massachusetts actually has more family housing programs than any other New England state, but since there are so many postsecondary institutions, it is a smaller percent of the overall number of Massachusetts colleges and universities. Rhode Island has two family housing programs, as does Vermont and New Hampshire, however because Rhode Island has fewer postsecondary institutions overall (12), these programs represent a greater proportion of Rhode Island colleges (17\%), than New Hampshire (10\%) or Vermont (12\%).

Child care was the most commonly offered support service across all states. In four of the six states (MA, ME, NH, RI) about a third of institutions offered child care programs. In Connecticut this number nearly reaches 40\%. The one exception where child care is not the number one program

\textsuperscript{5} Noll, Reichlin and Gault, 2017.
\textsuperscript{6} Ibid.
service is Vermont where only three of the state’s 17 colleges/universities offer campus child care (18%). This is tied in the state with the number of women’s centers and surpassed by the percentage of Vermont institutions offering scholarships for student parents (24%). But again, Vermont is a small state with only 17 colleges and universities, meaning that even a handful of programs may look like a large percentage of overall institutions than it would in a state with a larger number of institutions like Massachusetts.

In terms of specifically targeted scholarships for student parents, Connecticut had the highest percentage of institutions offering scholarship programs (31%), while Massachusetts had the smallest percentage (15%); specialized scholarships were offered at four Maine institutions (14%), five New Hampshire institutions (25%), three Rhode Island institutions (25%), and four Vermont institutions (24%).

Along with family housing, work/life programs and specialized programs for parenting or nontraditional students were the least common. No postsecondary institutions in either Maine or Rhode Island offer specific programs for parenting or nontraditional students, and Vermont only offers one program (the Single Parents Program at Champlain College). New Hampshire offers three specialized programs (15%), Connecticut has four (11%), and Massachusetts has the largest number at sixteen programs (16%). In Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine only one institution in each state offers a work/life support program (6%, 5%, and 4% respectively). Rhode Island has two (17%), Connecticut four (11%), and Massachusetts seven (7%).

In our research we also learned that although they were historically some of the first sites for student parent support programs and afford promising opportunities for supporting student parent success, Women’s Center and Work/Life Programs did not always target support to student parents or include them in their program eligibility. Many women’s centers no longer offer support for pregnant, breastfeeding, or parenting students, while others continue to offer workshops, lactation support, scholarships, lounges, babysitting and other services for student parents. Work/life programs are often housed within their home institution’s Office of Human Resources, and are thus sometimes only afforded to student employees and/or graduate students. Thus, it is important to review these programs carefully to determine availability of services.

Lastly, we are learning that many colleges and universities are closing their student parent programs, at a historical moment during which they are needed more than ever. Between 2016 and 2019, 28 U.S. colleges and universities shuttered their family housing programs. Since we originally collected this data we are aware of at least three New England campus child care programs that have also closed. While finding suitable colleges and universities for student parents can be challenging, it is not impossible. This guidebook is our way of using our research findings to help student parents find their way to college, despite the obstacles and challenges they face.
BRIDGEPORT
01 Housatonic Community College 
Early Learning Lab for children ages three to five. Tuition assistance for childcare available.

DANBURY
01 Western Connecticut State University 
Main Campus: Danbury  
Secondary Campus: Waterbury
Weekly single parent club for emotional and social support with guest speakers. 
Childcare for ages three to five, with discounted student tuition rate and grants available for those who qualify.

EAST HARTFORD
01 Goodwin College
WISE Program: Women Invested in Securing Education, aims to help female students with significant challenges in higher education.

ENFIELD
01 Asnuntuck Community College
Free childcare on campus for parents with children ages three years or older, student parents must volunteer two hours per week at the center OR receive scholarship assistance.

FAIRFIELD
01 Fairfield University
Early learning center for parents provides childcare for children ages six weeks to five years old.

FARMINGTON
01 Tunxis Community College 
Early Childhood Center serves children ages three to five. Women’s Independence Scholarship Program (WISP) to help formerly battered women who are also single mothers.
HAMDEN
01 Quinnipiac University
Graduate and student family housing available.

HARTFORD
01 Capital Community College
Childcare available for children from ages two years, nine months to four years old, $2.50 an hour.
02 Hartford Seminary
Limited apartment-style family housing available.
03 Trinity College
Community child center available to families with children ages six weeks to five years old. Sliding scale childcare tuition for families earning under $65,000. Parent Power program (workshops, support groups, and community activities).

MANCHESTER
01 Manchester Community College
Child development center for children ages two years, nine months to four years old. Child Development Center awards scholarships each semester.

MIDDLETOWN
01 Middlesex Community College
Single Parents Line of Hope (SPLH) provides support to single parents for childcare, transportation, medicine, food, and emergency housing. Awards up to $400 per academic year to eligible students.
02 Wesleyan University
Two-bedroom unfurnished family housing units. Housing is primarily for graduate students but may be available on a case-by-case basis to undergraduates.
NEW BRITAIN

01 Central Connecticut State University

Early Learning Program (Preschool ages three to five; after school and evening care for ages three to 14). Scholarship available to non-traditional single parents returning after taking three years or more off.

02 Charter Oak State College

The Women in Transition (WIT) program helps single working parents earn an Associate’s or Bachelor’s degree online for free through federal student aid and tuition scholarships.

NEW HAVEN

01 Gateway Community College

Early Learning Center on campus for children ages three to five offers discounted student tuition rate. Women’s center hosts talks on topics relevant to single parents.

02 Southern Connecticut State University

Childcare scholarship program for up to $500/semester, student-discounted childcare offered through the Early Learning Center at Gateway Community College.

03 Yale University

Graduate student resources only. This includes family housing, work-life office, and kids eat for 50% off at the dining hall.

NORWALK

01 Norwalk Community College

Childcare Lab serves children ages six months to five years old. Childcare Lab offers a 40% discount for student-parent families. Scholarships and support available through The Family Economic Security Program.

STORRS

01 University of Connecticut

Main Campus
Regional campuses in Avery Point, Stamford, Torrington, Waterbury, and West Hartford

Work-life connections offer student/parent resources. A Child Development Lab provides on-site childcare (6 wks to 5 yrs), with slots for up to 100 children with scaled tuition.
WATERBURY

01 Naugatuck Valley Community College

Child Development Lab for children ages 18 months to five years old. An additional school readiness program is available for low-income families on a sliding scale.

WILLIMANTIC

01 Eastern Connecticut State University

REACH offers a scholarship to single parents.

WINSTED

01 Northwestern Connecticut Community College

Atcheson Scholarship available to single parents.
MAINE

STATEWIDE

The Maine Parents as Scholars Program provides monthly cash benefits for income-eligible parents involved in two or four year postsecondary programs. Other benefits may include: childcare, transportation, books, and tuition assistance. For more information contact the Maine Office for Family Independence.

http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/

AUGUSTA

01 University of Maine at Augusta $ ☑ ☐ ☑ ☐

Center for women, work, and community. Two scholarships are available for single parents: the Vivian B. Raymond Scholarship and the Martin and Molly Schwartz Scholarship.

BANGOR

01 Eastern Maine Community College ❋

Childcare center for children ages six weeks to five years. Childcare tuition assistance available to students.

02 Husson University $ ☑

Katheryn Ann Hainer Memorial Scholarship awarded annually with preference given to students who are single parents.

CALAIS

01 Washington County Community College ❋

Childcare available for children six weeks to three years.

FAIRFIELD

01 Kennebec Valley Community College ☑ $

Childcare for children ages six weeks to five years. Scholarships may be available for childcare needs based on financial aid.

FARMINGTON

01 University of Maine at Farmington ☑ $

Sweatt-Winter Childcare and Early Education Center on campus. Two scholarships available for single parents.
MACHIAS

01 University of Maine at Machias

Childcare available on campus for infant care through preschool.

02 Community Futures Downeast Program

*Family Futures Downeast Program*

Family Futures Downeast (FFD) is a one year program that creates access to education and employment opportunities for parents with young children. The program offers campus-based childcare, transportation, technology resources, and other supports. Participants enroll at University of Maine at Machias or Washington County Community College.

ORONO

01 University of Maine

Family housing consists of a variety of apartments with varying styles and sizes. Parenting resources available, UMaine Children’s Center provides on-campus for children ages six weeks to five years.

PRESQUE ISLE

01 University of Maine at Presque Isle

Four family units available, unfurnished two-bedroom homes with garage.

STANDISH

01 Saint Joseph’s College of Maine

Families with children will most likely share a suite with another family. Inquire at the Office of Residence Life.

WELLS

01 York County Community College

Childcare and child assistance available.
STATEWIDE

One Family Scholars Program

www.onefamilyscholars.org

This comprehensive scholarship program for low-income single parents attending colleges and universities throughout Massachusetts includes financial support, academic support, career building opportunities, and leadership. The program supports up to five years of college study.

AMHERST

01 Hampshire College

Childcare available at the early learning center for children eight weeks to five years.

02 University of Massachusetts Amherst

Childcare, tuition assistance, work/life benefits, parent resource center, office of family support services, and family housing.

ENDICOTT COLLEGE

Beverly

Keys to Degrees bachelor’s degree program for single parents of one child who will graduate before age 28. Children must be 10 or younger by parent’s anticipated graduation date. Keys to Degrees participants reside in on-campus housing, receive childcare placement and tuition assistance, academic support services, and a scholarship to Endicott College.

Boston

The Endicott College Student Parent Community Initiative provides specialized courses, coaching, childcare referrals and placement, family friendly activities, scholarship program, and other support services to low-income students who are the primary parent to at least one child age 0 – 17. Also EC Boston Scholarship and Chromebook computer assistance program available to income-eligible students.
BOSTON

01 Boston University
Two on-campus childcare centers serve children age two years, nine months to five years. 50% Tuition Scholarship available for parents with children attending Boston or Chelsea Public Schools.

02 Jeremiah Program
The Jeremiah Program Boston provides coaching, family-friendly study space, food and household items, and other services to single mothers with young children while they are enrolled in college. The program also helps participants navigate and access other community programs and public assistance programs.

03 Northeastern University
On-site childcare for children ages two years, nine months to five years old offered at a sliding scale.

03 University of Massachusetts Boston
Early Learning Center provides childcare for children 15 months to six years old. Leiko V. Lumiere Nursing Scholarship gives priority to single-parent students and English Language Learners. ARMS Center in Office of Student Life serves low-income students, including student parents.

BROOKLINE

01 Hellenic College and Holy Cross
Greek Orthodox School of Theology
Married and family housing is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

CAMBRIDGE

01 Episcopal Divinity School
One and two-bedroom unfurnished apartments for couples and students with dependents.

02 Harvard University
Childcare available but no guaranteed slot. Women’s Center has resources and mentoring opportunities.

03 Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
Two residences dedicated to family housing, which house 411 students and their families. Daycare available on campus. MIT Family net connects parents with children on campus.
CANTON

01 Massasoit Community College
Childcare for children ages two years, nine months to five years and Women’s Resource Center.

CHARLESTOWN

01 Bunker Hill Community College
Childcare available for children 15 months to five years at the Chelsea and Charlestown campuses.

CHESTNUT HILL

01 Boston College
Childcare available for graduate students with children ages two years, nine months to five years by lottery. Office of Work/Life offers childcare referral through Warmlines.

02 Pine Manor College
Childcare on campus for children ages two years, nine months to five years.

DANVERS

01 North Shore Community College
Challenges, Choice, & Change program for first year students who have faced or are currently facing challenging life experiences, including parenting.

FALL RIVER

01 Bristol Community College
Childcare available for children ages two years, nine months to five years.

FRAMINGHAM

01 Framingham State University
Childcare available for children ages two years, nine months to six years.

GARDNER

01 Mount Wachusett Community College
Childcare for children ages two years, nine months to five years. Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program provides childcare subsidies and other support services. Two scholarships available, one for single parents, and one for nursing students who are single parents.
GREENFIELD

01 Greenfield Community College
Scholarships available, parent network for single parents.

HAVERHILL

01 Northern Essex Community College
Little Sprouts Child Enrichment Center offers on-campus childcare for children ages four weeks to seven years old.

HOLYOKE

01 Holyoke Community College
Childcare available on campus for infant, toddler, preschool, and school-age children with community partnership grants, voucher, and contracted subsidies available for eligible families. Lue Ellen Dobbs Scholars for single parents interested in pursuing a career in business, banking or finance. “On to College” partnership program with The Care Center helps students successfully transition for high school completion programs to college study.

02 Bard Micro-College
Bard College offers a micro-college program offering Associate’s Degree programs for low-income mothers in partnership with The Care Center. Program offers childcare, transportation and other assistance to enrolled participants.

LONGMEADOW

01 Bay Path University
Special degree programs for adult women that allow them to take class once a week on Saturdays, as well as women support associations.

MEDFORD

01 Tufts University
R.E.A.L. (Resume Education for Adult Learners) Program provides supports and accommodations for parenting students.

NEWTON

01 Lasell College
Two laboratory schools provide childcare for students with children ages three months to five years. Scholarships for childcare are available.

02 Hebrew College
Resources available for parenting through a Jewish lens.
NORTH DARTMOUTH

01 University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Sister Madeline Vaillot Nursing Scholarship gives preference to applicants who are single parents.

NORTHAMPTON

01 Smith College

Smith College Center for Early Childhood Education provides care for children ages two months to five years. Ada Comstock Scholars program for students age 24 or older and/or parenting and/or veterans. Ada Comstock Scholars may live on-campus or attend as commuter students. Limited family housing is available.

NORTON

01 Wheaton College

Nursery School provides six 2 1/2 hour programs for children ages two years, nine months to seven years.

PITTSFIELD

01 Berkshire Community College

Childcare available for toddler through pre-kindergarten age children. Fee is based on income.

SALEM

01 Salem State University

Childcare for children ages 2 years, nine months to five years and women’s center. Agnes L. and Joseph Carnevale Scholarship awarded to a single mother in any field of study.

SOUTH HADLEY

01 Mount Holyoke College

Frances Perkins Program supports women who are 25 years old or over. Childcare available for children ages two years, nine months to six years.

SOUTH HAMILTON

01 Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

One-bedroom apartments for married couples with one child, two-bedroom apartments for single or married parents with one to three children, and three-bedroom apartments for families of four or more.
**SPRINGFIELD**

01 Springfield College

Childcare for children ages 15 months to five years.

02 Springfield Technical Community College

Dan Roulier Scholarships awarded to two single parents. On-campus early childhood center.

**WELLESLEY**

01 Babson College

Limited family housing available on campus. Resources for families include Babson Partners club and local online information about childcare. Wellesley Community Children’s Center (on the Wellesley College campus) provides childcare for children ages three months to five years and operates after school programs for children in grades K-5.

02 Massachusetts Bay Community College

Single parent scholarship offers $500 per semester. Childcare reimbursement program provides subsidized Childcare Reimbursement Program for day students, up to a maximum of 18 hours of care per week.

03 Wellesley College

Wellesley Community Children’s Center provides on-campus childcare for children ages three months to five years, and after school programs for grades K-5 in local elementary schools.

Davis Scholars Program offers women who are age 24 or older and/or mothers support and flexibility to attend the college as traditional students. Some supplemental financial support is available to program participants through the Davis Scholar Lifeline Fund. Special programming and social events also serve to build community among Davis Scholars.

**WENHAM**

01 Gordon College

Companies for the Journey mentoring program can match students with children with mentors in a similar situation.

**WEST BARNSTABLE**

01 Cape Cod Community College

Childcare available for children ages two years, nine months to seven years. Several scholarships for single parents ranging from $400 to $4000.
WILLIAMSTOWN

01 Williams College

On-site childcare for children ages six weeks to five years and after school care for ages five to 12.

WORCESTER

01 Quinsigamond Community College

Childcare for children ages two years, nine months to five years.
NEW HAMPSHIRE

CONCORD

01 New Hampshire Technical Institute (NHTI)  
Transition program provides financial assistance, support groups, workshops, and individualized support. Apply through Student Affairs. Child and Family Development Center provides care for children ages six weeks to five years.

DURHAM

01 University of New Hampshire
97 family housing units (studio, one, and two-bedroom), scholarships, worklife balance center, and child study and development center for children ages six weeks to five years.

HANOVER

01 Dartmouth College
One – three-bedroom apartments available to graduate student families. Childcare center with sliding scale fee for children ages 18 months to five years. Center for women and gender and women's health resource center, childcare scholarship, and single parents support groups.

KEENE

01 Antioch University New England  
Cap & Gown Book Scholarship for single parents. Couple and family therapy in counseling center. Childcare resources page available on university’s website provides referrals to community childcare centers.

02 Colby-Sawyer College
Windy Hill School provides childcare for infants through age eight.

03 Keene State College
Child Development Center for children ages four months to four years, 11 months.
NASHUA

01 Rivier University

Landry Early Childhood Center provides care for children ages six weeks to six years old. Burlington Business and Professional Organization Scholarship for Vermont residents who are single-parent students.

PLYMOUTH

01 Plymouth State University

The Center for Young Children and Families provides childcare for children ages 13 months to five years.
BRISTOL
01 Roger Williams University

Family housing available to law students.

KINGSTON
01 University of Rhode Island

100 family apartments for graduate students, work/life resource center, Child Development Center for children three to five years old, and advancement resource center for women.

PROVIDENCE
01 Brown University

Childcare subsidy program of up to $4000 per year for employee and graduate student families with children ages six and under. Affiliations with YMCA Mt. Hope Childcare Center and The Brown/Foxpoint Early Childcare Center.

02 Community College of Rhode Island

Two preschool centers on campus for children ages three to five years. Scholarships available.

03 Rhode Island College

Women’s center, childcare for children ages three to five years, and four scholarships available to single parents.
BURLINGTON

01 Champlain College

Single parent program that covers the cost of tuition, offers childcare, social services, and on-campus jobs.

02 University of Vermont

One – three-bedroom apartments available to families five miles from campus. Community center for children w/playground and childcare for children ages four months to six years.

JOHNSON

01 Johnson State College

50 modern one – three-bedroom apartments available to families, child development center for children ages two to seven years, Stowe Rotary scholarship available to single parents, and a women’s center.

MARLBORO

01 Marlboro College

Multiple scholarship programs. Single parents encouraged to apply.

RANDOLPH

01 Vermont Technical College

TRIO/SSS Program provides emergency fund for single parent students and displaced homemakers.
RESEARCH METHODS

The New England Survey of Student Parent Programs, the research study through which this guide was developed, involved a comprehensive review of the websites of each college and university listed through the New England Commission of Higher Education as a regionally-accredited postsecondary institution. Researchers utilized a specific protocol using a series of keyword searches within each individual institution’s website to collect information about various key support services for students with children on campus: family housing, child care, targeted scholarship programs, women’s center services, offices of work/life, and specialized programs. After subsequent research into identified programs, institutions that only offer work/life programs and/or women’s centers and did not explicitly mention services for students with children were removed from the database.

In a second phase of the study, a subset of programs was interviewed to learn more about their programs. Additionally, non-profit programs and university-community partnership programs that provide support services or programming to student parents pursuing higher education have been added to the database, as we have been made aware of them. While we have done our best to be thorough in our research by adhering closely to these research methods, if you are aware of a New England program that is not included in this publication and should be, or would like to report changes in programming for the institutions listed, please contact the project director, Dr. Autumn Green, agreen7@wellesley.edu
Wellesley Centers for Women
wcwonline.org/findyourway