



The Education Trust–West

Fierce advocates for educational  
justice, pre-k through college.

March 20, 2024

The Honorable Mike Fong  
Chair, Assembly Higher Education  
1020 N Street, Room 173  
Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: SUPPORT & COSPONSOR –  
AB 2458 (Berman)**

Dear Chair Fong,

As an organization committed to advancing policies and practices that dismantle the racial and economic barriers embedded in California's education system, the EdTrust-West is pleased to **SUPPORT** and **CO-SPONSOR** Assembly Bill 2458 by Assemblymember Berman. AB 2458 would improve college affordability, access, and success for student parents in California.

California is home to approximately [400,000 student parents](#), a majority of whom are first-generation and [students of color](#). Despite having greater food, housing, child care, and transportation costs than their non-parenting peers, the costs are not accounted for in their student expense budget, which creates barriers to accessing financial aid and completing higher education. Currently, student parents must individually request adjustments to their [cost of attendance](#) to account for their parenting expenses. In some cases, student parents are asked to provide further proof of their child-rearing costs or are incorrectly denied adjustments. This process is not standardized across institutions, resulting in unnecessary burdens on students and financial aid administrators. In fact, the [U.S. Government Accountability Office](#) found that student parents are not maximizing their federal financial aid. Additionally, because campuses do not systematically identify student parents, limited actionable data on their needs and outcomes makes it harder to design and provide tailored support.

AB 2458 would ensure student parents can access the financial aid they are entitled to and improve data collection for student parents. Specifically, the bill would:

- Require automatic financial aid cost of attendance adjustments for student parents to better account for their expenses, thereby maximizing access to available financial aid;
- Require institutions to uniformly collect and report data on student parents to system offices; and
- Share student parent data from the higher education system offices with the Office of Cradle-to-Career Data for inclusion in the longitudinal data system, allowing California to evaluate and identify policies that support student parent success.

Comprehensively identifying student parents and increasing their access to financial aid will allow student parents to better plan for, afford, and navigate their educational pathways. It is for these reasons we are proud to support and co-sponsor AB 2458 (Berman) and respectfully ask for an **AYE** vote.

Sincerely,

Brian Rivas

Senior Director of Policy and Government Relations