

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6309

To improve data collection related to student parents pursuing higher education, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 8, 2023

Ms. ROSS (for herself and Mrs. MCBATH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To improve data collection related to student parents pursuing higher education, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Understanding Stu-  
5 dent Parent Outcomes Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. DATA ON STUDENT PARENTS PURSUING HIGHER**  
7 **EDUCATION.**

8 (a) IPEDS DATA ELEMENTS.—The Commissioner of  
9 Education Statistics shall—

1           (1) not later than 2 years after the date of the  
2           enactment of this Act, develop data elements related  
3           to the parental status of students attending institu-  
4           tions of higher education for the surveys conducted  
5           as a part of the Integrated Postsecondary Education  
6           Data System (IPEDS) to collect data related to stu-  
7           dents who are parents or caregivers of dependent  
8           children, including—

9                   (A) the number of students who identify as  
10                  a parent;

11                  (B) the number of students who identify as  
12                  a caregiver;

13                  (C) the enrollment, retention, and comple-  
14                  tion rates of students who are a parent or care-  
15                  giver;

16                  (D) the average individual net price (cal-  
17                  culated in the same manner as the average indi-  
18                  vidual net price of such institution is calculated  
19                  under section 132(h)(2) of the Higher Edu-  
20                  cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1015a(h)(2)))  
21                  charged to students who are a parent or care-  
22                  giver;

23                  (E) with respect to students who are a  
24                  parent or caregiver—

- 1 (i) the marital status of such students  
2 (reported in aggregate by marital status  
3 categories);
- 4 (ii) the number of such students who  
5 are employed for all or part of the aca-  
6 demic year while enrolled;
- 7 (iii) the median income of such stu-  
8 dents, and the number of such students in  
9 each income category (determined in ac-  
10 cordance with section 132(i)(6) of the  
11 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
12 1015a(i)(6));
- 13 (iv) the total number of such students  
14 who are enrolled in an associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degree program, or a  
15 certificate program;
- 16 (v) the total number of such students  
17 who are enrolled full-time, part-time, or  
18 less than part-time;
- 19 (vi) the total number of such students  
20 who are Federal Pell grant recipients; and
- 21 (vii) the total number of such stu-  
22 dents who use campus-based childcare  
23 services; and  
24

1           (2) beginning with academic year 2024–2025  
2           and annually thereafter, collect information regard-  
3           ing the data elements described in paragraph (1)  
4           with respect to at least all institutions of higher edu-  
5           cation participating in programs under title IV of  
6           the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070  
7           et seq.).

8           (b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of  
9           Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Edu-  
10          cation Statistics, shall provide technical assistance to  
11          States and institutions of higher education related to de-  
12          veloping and carrying out State and institutional data col-  
13          lection mechanisms for data on the parental status of stu-  
14          dents collected in accordance with subsection (a), includ-  
15          ing—

16                (1) how to leverage existing systems, surveys,  
17                and other data collection mechanisms to collect and  
18                report such data, and examples and best practices  
19                related to data collection and privacy;

20                (2) integration and reporting of such data with  
21                State information systems, including Statewide Lon-  
22                gitudinal Data Systems;

23                (3) how to account for data elements that  
24                change over time; and



1 children, including a comparison of students whose  
2 children are served by the campus-based childcare  
3 services with students whose children are not served  
4 by campus-based childcare services;

5 (3) enrollment trends of students who are par-  
6 ents or caregivers of dependent children to attend  
7 certain institutions or types of institutions, and  
8 whether such trends and preferences are based on  
9 the availability of institutional support services for  
10 such students, such as campus-based child care, stu-  
11 dent parent centers, and Child Care Access Means  
12 Parents in School Program grants;

13 (4) the percentage of children served by cam-  
14 pus-based childcare services who are the children of  
15 students, compared to the percentage of such chil-  
16 dren who are children of faculty, staff, and other  
17 community members, disaggregated by—

18 (A) race, ethnicity, gender, employment or  
19 student status (including faculty, staff, commu-  
20 nity member, and student status), and family  
21 income of the parent of such children; and

22 (B) only with respect to students who are  
23 parents of such children, the type of program in  
24 which the student is enrolled (such as an asso-

1           ciate, baccalaureate, or graduate degree pro-  
2           gram, or a certificate program); and

3           (5) the strategies used by institutions of higher  
4           education for integration of on-campus services for  
5           students who are parents or caregivers of dependent  
6           children with other State and institution-provided  
7           services, such as the supplemental nutrition assist-  
8           ance program established under the Food and Nutri-  
9           tion Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), the pro-  
10          gram of block grants for States for temporary as-  
11          sistance for needy families established under part A  
12          of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601  
13          et seq.), the special supplemental nutrition program  
14          for women, infants, and children under the Child  
15          Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), workforce  
16          programs including adult education and literacy ac-  
17          tivities (as defined in section 203 of the Workforce  
18          Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3272)),  
19          and Head Start and Early Head Start programs  
20          carried out under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.  
21          9831 et seq.).

22          (b) REPORT AND DISSEMINATION OF FINDINGS.—  
23          Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment  
24          of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall report the  
25          findings of the study conducted under subsection (a) to

1 Congress, and make such findings publicly available. Such  
2 findings shall include information on the best practices  
3 identified by the Secretary to be most effective at improv-  
4 ing outcomes for students attending institutions of higher  
5 education who are parents or caregivers of dependent chil-  
6 dren.

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