



Faculty Council of Community Colleges
Resolution in Support of Child Care Funding
CSL2.2019-2020
Passed unanimously
October 5, 2019

WHEREAS SUNY child care centers provide quality care for over 5,000 children; and,

WHEREAS of the children served, approximately one-third are children of student parents, one-third children of faculty and staff, and one-third children from the community; and,

WHEREAS SUNY currently has 48 child care centers, 26 of which are situated at community colleges, that must be adequately staffed with people who must, at least, make minimum wage; and,

WHEREAS New York State's increase in minimum wage represents an increase in the cost of employing child care workers; and,

WHEREAS the child care centers cannot raise tuition in proportion to the rising minimum wage because the majority of the student parents would not be able to afford the higher tuition; and,

WHEREAS the shift in the demographics of community college students has resulted in more non-traditional students with the potential need for increased child care service; and,

WHEREAS without access to community college child care centers, many student parents would not be able to pursue, persist in, and complete a college education; and,

WHEREAS the denial of access to community college child care centers (while providing funding for other resources) could be viewed as a violation of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (specifically, the scope of Title IX) states:

“Educational programs and activities that receive ED funds must operate in a nondiscriminatory manner. Some key issue areas in which recipients have Title IX obligations are: recruitment, admissions, and counseling; financial assistance...treatment of pregnant and parenting students”;

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/rights/reg/ocr/edlite-34cfr106.html#S40>); and,

WHEREAS there are many child care centers with waiting lists because they cannot afford to hire the additional staff necessary to meet the demand; and,

WHEREAS community college child care centers provide invaluable applied learning opportunities for students in programs including, but not limited to, business, culinary arts, early childhood education, nursing, and physical education programs; and,

WHEREAS the Child Care and Development Block grant has been reduced by 55 percent, nearly \$2 million, over the last ten years, despite the rising need for student parents to receive access to child care services; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Council of Community Colleges urges Governor Andrew Cuomo and all necessary parties to support an increase of \$2 million to both the Operating Grant and the Child Care and Development Block Grant; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Faculty Council of Community Colleges urges Chancellor Kristina Johnson to advocate for increased funding of SUNY's child care centers.