
Docket Item: 10.2:
Temporary rule adoption Chapter 715: Collection data from public institutions on students as parents and caregivers

- New Rule Temporary
 Amend Existing Rule Permanent
 Repeal Rule

Prompted by:

- State law changes
 Federal law changes
 Other

These changes go into effect on adoption.

Summary:

The Oregon State Legislature adopted Senate Bill 564 in 2021. This legislation requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to design a question or questions allowing each student to identify whether they are a parent or person acting as parent or legal guardian. The question(s) may be placed on one or more forms used on annual basis to collect demographic information by public postsecondary institutions of education. The legislation also requires 1) each public postsecondary institution of education to make data available to the Commission and 2) the Commission to establish format and time frame for collection and reporting of demographic data. The Commission will use the data to evaluate public the compliance of postsecondary institutions of education with collecting and providing data and to report to each regular session of Legislative Assembly on status of collecting and providing data.

The temporary rule is in direct response to SB 564 (2021) and includes two parts: 1) two questions that shall be used to identify student parents, students serving as parents, and legal guardians and 2) directs Oregon's community colleges and public universities to submit the data to HECC in their regular demographic data submissions.

HECC's Office of Research and Data reviewed resources, including literature, and reached out to national and statewide subject matter experts to learn best practices to identify students who are parenting and hear how college support practitioners want to use the data. This information was used to draft the questions.

The drafted questions were distributed for public review to those who were consulted in constructing the questions, including: representatives of Oregon's public universities and community colleges, community activists, Aspen Institute, Wellesley Centers for Women, Institute for Women's Policy Research, Urban Institute, and others. The recipients were also invited to include others they thought would be interested in and knowledgeable about identifying student parents to review the questions and provide feedback.

After revising the questions in response to the first round of feedback, HECC reached out to Oregon's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion leaders, institutional research directors, and registrars of the public universities and community colleges for their feedback. The final feedback gathered from these groups affirmed the importance of the work and resulted in additional revisions. The temporary rule language reflects all feedback provided.

HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION

August 11, 2022

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Equity Statement for temporary rule based on SB 564 (2021):

The Institute for Women’s Policy Research estimates that one in five undergraduate students in Oregon attend college while parenting. The Institute points out that most of the student-parents in the western United States are women and disproportionately African American, Native American, and Pacific Islanders. Moreover, almost 2 out of 3 student parents are low-income, qualifying for \$0 of the expected family contribution based on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). (Cruse et al., 2019)

Identifying student parents will allow colleges, universities, and the state—as a whole—to measure and address disparities in postsecondary educational outcomes associated with student parents. Moreover, providing visibility to student parents to address the associated disparities is at the core of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission equity goals, especially given the intersectionality between student parents and other marginalized communities. Student parents, especially single student parents, are more likely to permanently transition out of poverty when they earn a postsecondary degree (Green and Galison, 2021).

Green, Autumn and Sarah Galison. September 2021. *Supporting Student Parents at Oregon’s Public Colleges & Universities*. Wellesley Centers for Women.

<https://wcwonline.org/images/pdf/2021-green-oregon-student-parents-report.pdf>.

Lindsey Reichlin Cruse, Jessica Milli, Susanna Contreras-Mendez, Tessa Holtzman, and Barbara Gault. 2019, December 18. Investing in Single Mothers’ Higher Education State Fact Sheet Series. Oregon Fact Sheet. Washington DC: Institute for Women’s Policy Research.

<https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Oregon.pdf>.

Material:

Rule Text

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommend approving the temporary rule as drafted.

HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION

**CHAPTER 715 – Higher Education Coordinating Commission
Division 15 – Student Data**

***TEMPORARY* Rule 715-015-0010: Collection and Reporting of Data on Student-Parents**

- (1) Community colleges governed under ORS 341, public universities listed in ORS 352.002, and Oregon Health and Science University shall annually collect, update, report, and retain student-submitted information that identifies whether a student is a parent, a person acting as a parent, or a legal guardian. Institutions shall place two questions on one or more forms that are used on an annual basis to collect demographic data from students.
- (a) Question 1 shall be published with the following wording and answer options, with the institution substituting its name where appropriate:
Are you a parent, are you serving as a parent, or are you a legal guardian of a child/children while you are enrolled at <insert college or university name>?
- No, I am not a parent, serving as a parent, nor a legal guardian.
 - Yes, I am a solo/single parent or guardian.
 - Yes, I am a parent/guardian and share parenting responsibilities with someone who lives with me.
 - Yes, I am a parent/guardian and share parenting responsibilities with someone who does not live with me.
- (b) Question 2, shall be published with the following wording and answer options:
If yes, which of the following statements apply to you? Please check all that apply.
- I have a child(ren) who is birth to 1 year or I am expecting a baby.
 - I have a child(ren) who are 2- 5 years old.
 - I have a child(ren) who are age 6-11.
 - I have a child(ren) who are age 12-17.
 - I don't have any children in the above age groups.
- (2) Institutions shall report this data to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission in their regular data submissions each year.

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