



## Help Kentucky Parents Improve Their Education and Future Success

By Ensuring They Have Access to Child Care

There is a strong connection between a parent's postsecondary education, their future employment success, and positive outcomes for their children. In addition to being full-time students, Kentucky parents must work 20 hours per week to continue their eligibility for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). Kentucky is one of only seven states that has a work requirement in addition to the school obligations for full-time students to be eligible for CCAP. Reducing that employment burden would help keep parents on track for postsecondary success by ensuring they have reliable child care when they work and attend classes.

### **Kentucky parents who attain a higher education will be able to enter the workforce with more skills and higher income and be able to support their families:**

#### **Help parents become self-sufficient and set Kentucky kids up for future success**

There is a strong connection between education and income. Parents with higher education and training beyond high school are more likely to be employed and receive higher wages and less likely to rely on government assistance. Future generations of Kentucky kids will also benefit, as higher parental education levels are linked to many positive outcomes for their children including healthy birthweight, school readiness, and academic success.

#### **Low-income working parents already face barriers to completing their postsecondary education**

A heavy work requirement, often in a job with fluctuating work schedules, for parents who are balancing attending school with raising their children may unintentionally undermine their chances of successfully completing their degree or certificate. More than a third of low-income and first-generation college students are parents, and among low-income college students, parents are less likely to complete their degrees.

### **Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Solution:**

Allow full-time enrollment in an accredited post-secondary institution to fulfill the work requirement for child care assistance.