

Policy and Legislative Tracker:

*Making change for
pregnant and parenting
students*



Agenda

- I. Intros
- II. SPARK's Legislative Tracker
- III. Celebrations!
- IV. New advocacy toolkit
- v. Ways to tap in
- vi. Questions?



Who are we?

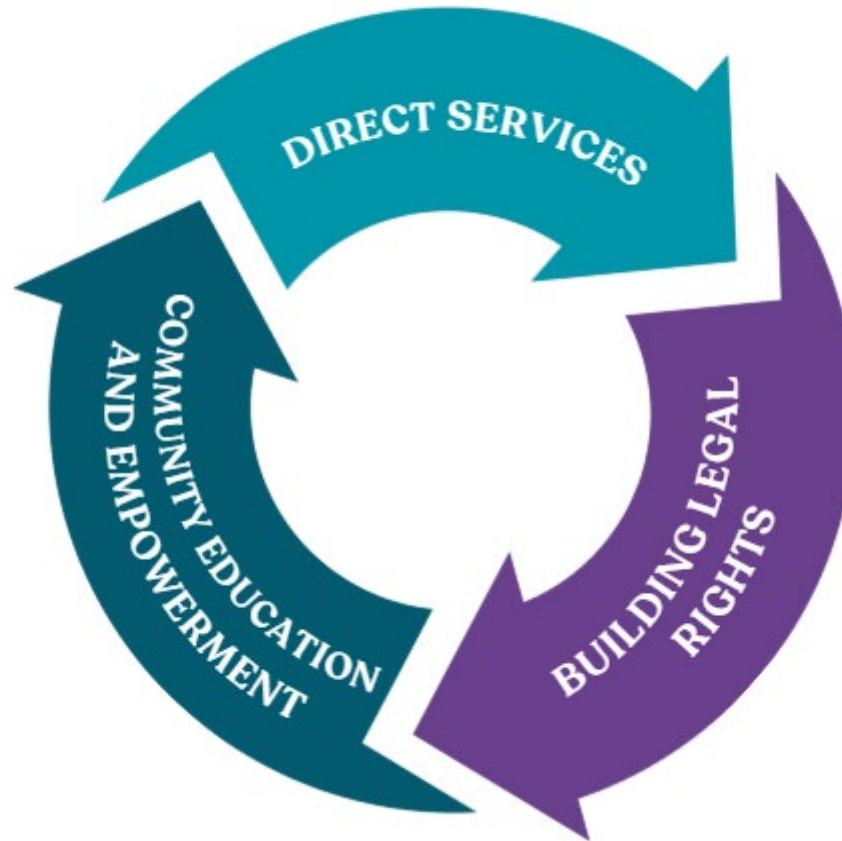


About SPARK

Mission

The Student-Parent Action through Research Knowledge (SPARK) Collaborative aims to collaboratively build evidence and make the case for policy change to support pregnant and parenting students so that they can meet their education and life goals.

About The Pregnant Scholar

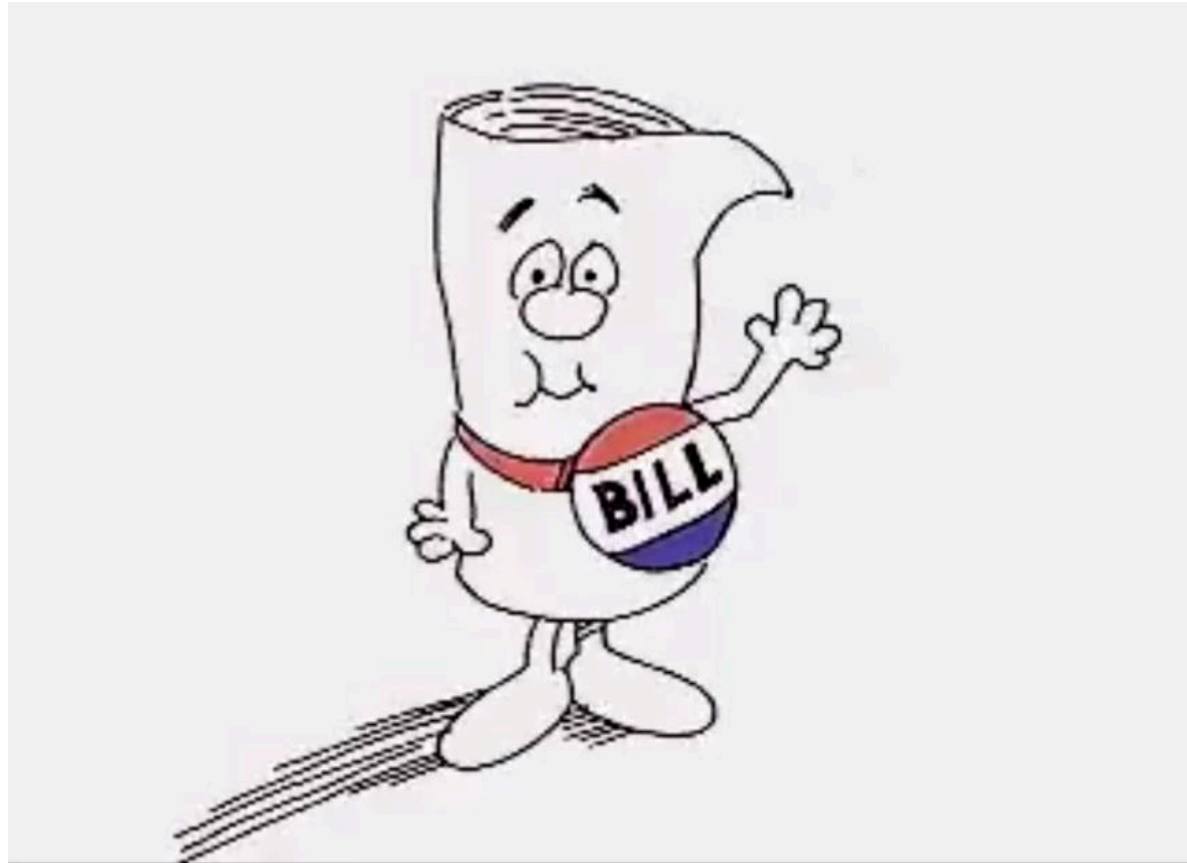




Legislative Tracker

●● You have to know to go

- Raise awareness
- Influence legislators
- Offer testimony or share your expertise
- Build community
- Prepare for new changes
- Learn!



Scope of tracker

- Includes legislation designed to support pregnant and parenting students (at this point, only state-level)
- Higher ed. focused
- Does not include budgetary bills
- Does not educate on the process—contact me!





Let's
Celebrate!!!

Introduced Bills

- **Delaware:** anti-discrimination, accommodations, and absence protections
- **New York:** anti-discrimination protections, accommodations, excused absences, and a student parent liaison requirement
- **Washington:** priority registration for parents and caregivers

HF4252/SF3943—new law!

- Accommodations/modifications for **parenting** students
- Excused absences or leave to attend to child's health care needs
- Priority registration
- Bringing pregnancy accommodation rights into state law



AB1784:

- Makes it illegal to discriminate against parents
- Provides leave for both parents
- Sets up accountability and notification channels
- Brings pregnancy accommodation into state law

For more, email

policy@thepregnantscholar.org



Past wins:

- Student parent resource webpages
- Data collection
- Cost of attendance adjustments and transparency
- Priority registration

For more, visit:

<https://castudentparentalliance.org>



Set up a task force to study,
develop recommendations, and
draft legislation for collecting data
on parenting students.

Report and draft legislation will be
ready by November 1!



Requires the State Council of Higher Education to include student parents in regular data collection.



Requires public higher ed to report student parent data to the Maryland Higher Education Commission annually, beginning in September 2027.

It also requires *all* public educational institutions to adopt a plan to support pregnant and parenting students, beginning next month!



Support is available!

Join a pop-up session with Wishful
Doing and the MD Higher Education
Commission

**From Guidance to Action:
Implementing Your SB420 Parenting
Student Support Plan**

September 15 at 1:00 EDT

yoslin@wishfuldoings.com



- Leave of absence for either parent for one semester—even if not medically necessary
- Requires informing students about potential financial aid impacts of time off
- Pregnancy accommodation rights in state law (excludes abortion protections)
- Student parent liaisons
- Early registration





*Engaging
in your
state*



What can I do?

- Building the case—
education/research
- Organizing
- Lobbying

Learn more about what is—and
isn't lobbying:

<https://afj.org/bolder-advocacy/>



New Toolkit Available!

A project of the Coalition for Pregnant and Parenting Students Advocacy—drafting led by Pregnant Scholar, New America, and the National Women’s Law Center. The toolkit contains:

1. Key Legislative Priorities
2. Talking Points
3. State Laws Supporting Pregnant, Postpartum, and Parenting Students
4. Examples of Student-Parent Advocacy
5. Model Bill Language

Key Priorities

1. Collect data
2. Ban discrimination
3. Provide accommodations for pregnancy and lactation
4. Help student access resources
5. Housing supports
6. Childcare supports
7. Cost of attendance





Will you answer the call?

Are you in?

What do you need to
support your action?



Next Steps



NATIONAL

**Student
Parent
Month**

Webinars

September 3rd at 9 am PT/12 pm ET

[Policy & Legislative Tracker Resources](#), with Jessica Lee

September 10th at 12:30 pm PT/3:30 pm ET

[SPARK and YOU: Creating and Collaborating with SPARK](#), with Nina Owolabi,
Sarah Galison, Dr. Anne E. Hofmann, and Renee Ryberg

September 15th at 11 am PT/ 2 pm ET

[Explore the New Family-Friendly College Toolkit](#), with Elizabeth Osche &
Theresa Anderson



ARE YOU A PREGNANT OR POSTPARTUM STUDENT?

HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS AT COLLEGE?

Contact our free legal helpline!

 **(415) 703-8276**

www.pregnantscholar.org/contactus



www.PregnantScholar.org



@PregnantScholar 



Let's chat!

Questions?