

EDUCATION

With Latinos comprising more than 25 percent of the public school student population, future U.S. economic competitiveness depends in great part on Latinos' educational attainment. While progress has been made, much work remains to be done.

PRINCIPAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF LATINOS AND LATINAS IN ALL LEVELS OF EDUCATION

- Ensure that the Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights advances policies, guidance, and enforcement to ensure equal access to education for all students regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and immigration status.
- Require the Secretary of Education to publicly support the rights of all students to access education regardless of their immigration status, and affirmatively state that it would be against the law for a school to call immigration enforcement on a student or a parent.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- Institute universal pre-school and expand existing Head Start programs, including Migrant and Seasonal Head Start.



ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

- Assess all students annually with valid culturally and linguistically competent assessments disaggregated by race and ethnicity.
- Establish goals to reduce student achievement gaps across multiple measures and require remedies focused on reducing student achievement gaps.
- Hold schools accountable for the progress of all students, and all groups of students.
- Provide greater resource equity to address academic disparities.
- Expand Latino-serving programs to meet the increased Latino student population, including the migrant education program and language instruction for students with limited English proficiency.
- Ensure that every child has the resources they need to succeed, including every tool that students need for distance learning during the COVID-19 crisis.

HIGHER EDUCATION

- Strengthen financial aid programs.
- Increase funding for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and college preparatory programs.
- Ensure for-profit institutions meet gainful employment standards.
- Incentivize community colleges to transfer more students of all backgrounds to four-year institutions.
- Enact the Dream Act and guarantee that Dreamers, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders have equal access to federal, state, and institution-level financial aid opportunities.
- Ensure non-U.S. citizen students have equal access to admissions and in-state tuition if they are otherwise eligible but for their immigration status.
- Expand Latino-serving programs to meet the increased Latino student population including federal TRIO programs, Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR-UP), Title IV, Part A, Special Programs for Migrant Students (High School Equivalency Program (HEP), and the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), and grants to HSIs.

SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE

- Reform overly harsh school discipline policies that lead to suspension, expulsion, or criminalization.

TEACHERS, COUNSELORS, AND ADMINISTRATORS

- Strengthen the requirements for the cultural and linguistic competency of teachers and administrators (including appropriate assessments and certifications), support teacher preparation programs at Minority-Serving Institutions (which prepare most teachers of color), and encourage the hiring and retention of Latinos in higher education.

VETERANS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

- Launch a proactive awareness campaign about G.I. Bill benefits for Latinos who enlist in the armed forces, their families, and those veterans already in college.

TITLE IX PROTECTIONS

- Advance policies and guidance that ensure equal access to education for all students who experience sexual harassment; that protect the health, safety, and well-being of survivors; and ensure that protections from discrimination based on sex also include individuals who experience discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

