



## **HISPANIC EDUCATION COALITION**

The Hispanic Education Coalition (HEC) unites 26 organizations dedicated to improving educational opportunities for the nearly 50 million Latinos living in the United States and Puerto Rico. Co-chaired by the National Council of La Raza and the Migrant Legal Action Program, the HEC focuses on federal legislative issues related to education, including the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, the Improving the Head Start Act, the Higher Education Act, adequate federal funding for education, and the educational concerns of English language learners. In each of these areas, the HEC strives to ensure that dialogue at the federal level regarding education issues reflects the education priorities of the Latino community.

### HEC member organizations include:

American Federation of Labor – Congress of Industrial Organizations  
American Federation of Teachers  
ASPIRA Association, Inc.  
Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans  
Center for Advancement of Hispanics in Science and Engineering Education  
Cuban American National Council  
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities  
Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools  
Intercultural Development Research Association  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund  
Migrant Legal Action Program  
Multicultural Education Training and Advocacy, Inc.  
National Association for Bilingual Education  
National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials  
National Association of State Directors of Migrant Education  
National Council of La Raza  
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships  
National Education Association  
National HEP/CAMP Association  
National Latino Children’s Institute  
National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Association  
National Puerto Rican Coalition  
New York Immigration Coalition  
Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund  
Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc.

### 2008 Co-Chairs:

Roger Rosenthal  
Migrant Legal Action Program (MLAP)  
[rosenthal@mlap.org](mailto:rosenthal@mlap.org)  
(202) 775-7780

Erika Beltran  
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)  
[ebeltran@nclr.org](mailto:ebeltran@nclr.org)  
(202) 776-1815

# **The Latino Educational Crisis**

Hispanic Education Coalition

*“The most urgent problem for the American education system has a Latino face.”*

- Patricia Gándara, Civil Rights Project/Proyecto Derechos Civiles

Over recent decades, the face of American public schools has changed significantly. Latino children and youth are now the largest minority enrolled in our public schools. In 2005, Latinos accounted for more than 10.9 million students enrolled in prekindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, representing approximately 20% of public school enrollment. Almost half (45%) of Latino students are English language learners, most of whom are enrolled in the early grades, prekindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Unfortunately, Latino students share demographic characteristics that are strongly correlated with low levels of school readiness and poor academic achievement. Latino children tend to have higher levels of poverty, lower levels of parental education, and higher levels of linguistic isolation than their White peers. It is apparent that the success of our public schools largely depends on our ability to address the educational crisis facing the Latino community.

## **Latino Educational Snapshot**

### **School Enrollment and Growth**

- In 2005, 10.9 million Latinos were enrolled in public schools.
- Latino school enrollment grew from 12.7% to 19% from 1993 to 2003, and is the fastest-growing student population.

### **Achievement Gap**

- Forty-two percent of Latino children entering kindergarten are found in the lowest quartile of performance on reading readiness compared to 18% of White children.
- According to the 2005 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), only 6% of Latino students are proficient in reading by 4<sup>th</sup> grade compared to 41% of White students.
- Only 15% of Latinos are proficient in reading by 8<sup>th</sup> grade, compared to 39% of Whites.

### **English Language Learners (ELLs)**

- Nearly 80% of the five million ELLs enrolled in schools are Spanish-speaking Latinos.
- Over the past 15 years, ELL student enrollment has nearly doubled, and experts predict that one-quarter of the total U.S. public school population will be ELL by 2025.
- In 2005, only 29% of ELLs scored at or above the basic level in reading, compared with 75% of non-ELLs as reported on the NAEP.

### **Dropout Rate**

- Only about half (53.7%) of Latino students graduate from high school.
- Approximately 600,000-700,000 Latino students drop out of school each year.
- Latino students drop out of school at four times the rate of White students.
- Each year's class of school dropouts (of all ethnicities) costs the U.S. economy \$200 billion over the course of their lifetimes.

### **Higher Education**

- In 2000, only 22% of Latinos ages 18 to 24 were enrolled in colleges or universities.
- Latinos composed only 11% of the total enrollment in colleges and universities.
- Only 9% of Latinos have received a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 24% of Whites.

## HISPANIC EDUCATION COALITION PRIORITY PROGRAMS FY 2009 REQUESTS

PROGRAMS	FY2009	FY2010 Request
Head Start	\$7.026* billion	\$7.1* billion
William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Program	\$66.45	\$100
Title III of the ESEA: Language Acquisition Grants	\$730	\$850
Title I, Part C, ESEA: Migrant Education Program	\$394.77	\$475
Federal TRIO Programs	\$848.089	\$937
High School Equivalency Program (HEP)	\$18.682	\$30
College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)	\$15.486	\$20
Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)	Title V, Part A of the HEA: \$93.3  Title V, Part B of the HEA: \$10	Title V, Part A of the HEA: undergraduate support \$175  Title V, Part B of the HEA: graduate support \$ 100
Adult Basic Literacy Education Grants (Title II of the Workforce Investment Act)	\$554.12	\$750**
Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Under-graduate Programs (GEAR UP)	\$313.212	\$400

\*In 2007, the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act (P.L. 110-134) reauthorizing and amending Head Start was signed into law. The Act puts a new Head Start funding formula in place that would provide up to \$50 million in additional funding for Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) over the next five years (\$10 million/year) – IF AND ONLY IF – the annual Head Start appropriation is sufficient to provide a cost of living increase for all Head Start grantees. The language included in the Act demonstrates the clear Congressional intent to direct additional resources to MSHS programs.

\*\*This includes funding for English Literacy and Civics Education (EL/Civics). The program grants money to states. EL/Civics state funds are awarded as follows: 65% shall be allocated based on a state's absolute need as determined by calculating each state's share of a ten-year average of the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) data for immigrants admitted for legal permanent residence for the ten most recent years, and 35% allocated to states that experienced growth as measured by the average of the three most recent years for which USCIS data are available. No state shall be allocated an amount less than \$60,000.

**For further information contact HEC Co-Chairs Roger Rosenthal (202) 775-7780, [rrosenthal@mlap.org](mailto:rrosenthal@mlap.org),  
or Erika Beltran (202) 776-1815, [ebeltran@nclr.org](mailto:ebeltran@nclr.org).**