

“La Raza Report”

SUMMARY



INTRODUCTION

“La Raza Report” emerged from a research project conducted by The Multicultural Leadership Center, LLC and examines the experiences of the Latino community in Denver Public Schools (DPS) over several decades. The report offers recommendations for improving experiences for Latino students, families and employees in DPS.

RESEARCH APPROACH

The research combined historical analysis and literature review, as well as quantitative and qualitative methodologies. This mixed-methods approach provided comprehensive, interconnected findings from personal, institutional and community perspectives. Researchers analyzed:

- Historical events, such as redlining and segregation, and their educational impact.
- Various data sets about DPS students’ achievements.
- Themes pulled from surveys and focus groups with key stakeholders.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

The Multicultural Leadership Center hosted 51 focus groups at 15 DPS schools, which included almost 600 participants. The selection criteria considered factors such as school type and geographic location across the city; the proportion of Latino students (30% to 95%); the percentage of students classified as English Language Learners (ELL)/Multilingual Learners (ML) (5% to 80%); and the percentage of students receiving Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) (20% to 92%). Survey respondents included 558 students, 2,238 parents (English- and Spanish-speaking), 63 teachers and central office employees and 17 administrative leaders.

THEMES, RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS

The research identified several important themes, such as the importance of culturally responsive curricula, enhancing school resources, tackling safety issues and bullying, managing cultural dissonance and language challenges, promoting Latino leadership, incorporating Latino culture in education and boosting parental engagement. To address these themes, recommendations were made to establish a Latino Student Initiative, increase resources to schools, partner with community groups for tutoring and support, and address the needs of immigrant families. Specific actions taken must focus on enhancing cultural competence, implementing anti-bullying measures, optimizing resource distribution and improving communication for Latino students, families and employees.

COMMITMENT TO CHANGE

DPS is committed to taking significant steps to enhance the academic, personal and professional experiences of its Latino community. Last year, we initiated the Latine Education Advisory Council. This year, we will establish a Latinx Student Success team to address the recommendations of the report. We value partnerships involving DPS, the Latino community and external partners to create effective and equitable educational opportunities for students, families, employees and the community.

LEARN MORE

Read the full report and the executive summary at dpsk12.org/laraza. Have questions about the report? Contact Dr. Darlene LeDoux at Darlene_LeDoux@dpsk12.org.