Best Practices on Working with Hispanic-Latinos in Your Community

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Education Initiative - Latin American Association
THE LATIN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

- Family Services
- Immigration Services
- Women Empowerment
- Adult Education
- Translation Services
- Youth Services
  - School partnerships
  - USHLI
  - LYLC
  - Several nonprofit organizations

Latin American Association
U.S. Hispanic population

57 MILLION LATINOS WERE LIVING IN THE U.S. IN 2015.

9.6 14.5 22.6 35.7 50.8 56.6

Fast Facts – Latinos in Georgia

• HISPANIC POPULATION 880,000
• HISPANICS AS PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION 9%
• MEDIAN AGE OF HISPANICS 25
• MEDIAN ANNUAL PERSONAL EARNINGS, HISPANICS 16+ $18,300
• POVERTY RATE, HISPANICS 17 AND YOUNGER 41%
• HISPANICS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE 45%
• HISPANIC HOMEOWNERSHIP 41%
• HISPANICS AS PERCENT OF ALL K-12 STUDENTS 12%
Video – Documented vs. Undocumented
Latino Culture

• CULTURE- Learned traditions, principles and guides of behavior that are shared among members of a particular group.

• Codes of behavior, values, and norms, beliefs, customs, communications or “the way we do things here”. Art, music, food, literature, and clothing are all visible aspects of culture.

• Ethnic groups have cultures
• Businesses have cultures
• Neighborhoods have cultures.
• It is dynamic and changes over time.
• There is diversity within cultures.

• Each person is a member of many cultures!
Family Engagement

- Language Barrier
- Differences in Educational System in the US versus Native Country
- Discrepancy in Expectations
- Economic and Transportation challenges
- Foreign-born - Native-born - Acculturation - Assimilation

In every conceivable manner, the family is the link to our past, bridge to our future.

Alex Haley
Student Engagement

• Create and develop a relationship with students
  - Learn about student likes/dislikes. If a student is struggling academically or socially seek to find the cause... do not make assumptions

• Diversity within the Latino culture
  - Know where their families came from (i.e., Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, etc.)

Infuse culturally inclusive examples and role models in your classroom and curriculum

• Have school-wide events that promote diversity and culture, such as Hispanic Awareness Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15)
• Invite Latino college students to speak about college admissions and scholarship information in Spanish or English
• Be careful when you have a student translate for you
  - Why?
Latino Student/Family Engagement: Strategies

- Communicate and support language differences!
- Implement Cultural Pedagogy
- Strengthen relationships between families, schools and the community
Latino Student/Family Engagement: MYTHS, Realities and **Strategies**

- Flexibility
- Develop a Latino parents’ group
- College representatives speak to parents about college admissions and scholarship information in Spanish
- Respect diversity of needs - Caution on legal status
- Service-Learning – Reciprocal Model

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The New American Reality
¿Preguntas?