Abstract

Education has long been considered to be the primary enabler of social mobility and personal fulfillment. According to the Pew Research Center, currently one in four students enrolled in public education are Hispanic, and the Hispanic and Latino populations are the largest ethnic minority in the United States. Generally stated, the purpose of this research is to review the Latino experience within American public schools. This study will specifically address factors influencing Latino Education in America while examining the current status quo of US Latino demographics. It will also examine US Latino literature such as Almost a Woman by Esmeralda Santiago; Bodega’s Dream by Ernesto Quinonez; and Luis J. Rodriguez’s work, Always Running. By looking to Latino literature as well as other sources of information, this study hopes to understand the cultural impacts of America’s current educational systems on Latinos in the United States today.

Factors Influencing Latino Education

“Education has long been considered to be the primary enabler of social mobility and personal fulfillment.”

In a 2014 National Journal poll, 66% of Hispanics who got a job or entered the military directly after high school cited the need to help support their family as a reason for not enrolling in college, compared with 39% of whites.”

-Pew Research Center

“Students’ Investigation revealed a rigid tracking system at their high school, with Latino students significantly overrepresented in the lowest, least academically rigorous tracks.”

“What Latino Students Want from School”

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“What Latino Students Want from School”

The Family and the Individual

Teacher Apathy

The Family and the Individual

Drop Out Factories

Deficit Theorizing

Economics

Curriculum Tracking

Gender

“Students’ Investigation revealed a rigid tracking system at their high school, with Latino students significantly overrepresented in the lowest, least academically rigorous tracks.”

“What Latino Students Want from School”

Latinos are the largest minority group of students in the United States.

-U.S. Department of Education, 2014

Approximately 13 percent of all U.S. Latinos between the ages of 16 and 24 don’t have a high school diploma or the equivalent. That rate is four times higher than it is for whites and almost twice that of blacks.

-U.S. Department of Education, 2014

“Hispanics rated education above health care and immigration in importance.”

-Pew Research Center

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