

# Latinos left behind...in school



## education

**LATINOS MAKE UP THE LARGEST AND FASTEST GROWING ETHNIC MINORITY GROUP IN CONNECTICUT AND THE SAME IS TRUE IN THE SCHOOLS. IN 2006-2007, THERE WERE 92,000 LATINO CHILDREN ENROLLED IN CONNECTICUT PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**

**RESEARCH SHOWS THAT LATINO CHILDREN HAVE IMPROVED THEIR OVERALL PERFORMANCE IN SCHOOL, BUT STILL LAG BEHIND THEIR PEERS ON MANY MEASURES. LATINO CHILDREN BY AND LARGE FALL FAR BEHIND STATE GOALS ON THE STANDARDIZED CONNECTICUT MASTERY TEST. THEY HAVE THE STATE'S HIGHEST DROPOUT RATES AND WORST SCHOOL ATTENDANCE RECORDS. THESE LAGS ARE EVIDENT LATER IN LIFE AS LATINOS REMAIN AMONG THE MOST POORLY EDUCATED AND THUS LOWEST PAID RESIDENTS OF CONNECTICUT.**

Latino students account for roughly 16 percent of the overall enrollment through Grade 12 in Connecticut public schools. In 2006-2007, the enrollment by ethnicity was:

White	66 %
<b>Latino</b>	<b>16 %</b>
Black	13.9 %
Asian	3.7 %
American Indian	0.4 %

The number of students whose first language is English dipped from 2003 to 2008, while the number of students who reported their first language as Spanish rose slightly during the same period. More than half of Connecticut's Latino students reported Spanish as their dominant language in 2007-2008. The language spoken by students at home is:

English	483,886 students
<b>Spanish</b>	<b>47,904 students</b>

Latino children tend to miss more school than their peers. The average daily attendance in 2006-2007 was:

Asian	95.4 %
White	94.2 %
Black	92.9 %
<b>Latino</b>	<b>91.4 %</b>

**See Reverse>>**

**An initiative of the Hispanic Health Council**

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Despite a slight edge over their black peers in math, Latino fourth graders perform dismally on the Connecticut Mastery Test, a trend that continues throughout the school years. The percentage of fourth graders meeting state goals on the mastery tests in 2008 was:

<b>Math:</b>	
White	72 %
<b>Latino</b>	<b>35.5 %</b>
Black	31.8 %
<b>Reading:</b>	
White	67.9 %
Black	29.4 %
<b>Latino</b>	<b>27.9 %</b>
<b>Writing:</b>	
White	73.3 %
Black	39.7 %
<b>Latino</b>	<b>37.8 %</b>

The dropout rate among Latino students was the highest of any ethnic group in Connecticut in 2006-2007. Latino students were nearly four times more likely to dropout than their white peers that year. The percent of students by ethnicity dropping out was:

<b>Latino</b>	<b>3.8 %</b>
Black	2.9 %
American Indian	2.8 %
White	1.0 %

Latino adults in Connecticut tend to be less educated than their neighbors. Percentages by ethnic groups of persons not having a high school diploma:

<b>Latino</b>	<b>32 %</b>
Black	19 %
Asian	11 %
White	9 %

They are also far less likely to go on to college. Data from the 2000 U.S. Census show Latinos 25 years of age or older lag well behind their white counterparts in the percentage of those earning a bachelor's degree or higher. The rate for whites is three times higher than for Latinos.

White	33.5 %
Black	13.7 %
<b>Latino</b>	<b>11.3 %</b>

*Sources: Connecticut Department of Education, Condition of Education in Connecticut; Connecticut Department of Education, Data Bulletin, July 2008; Connecticut Consortium on School Attendance; Connecticut State Department of Education; U.S. Census 2005, 2006, 2007; Connecticut Department of Public Health, The 2009 Health Disparities Report.*

*This fact sheet was produced in cooperation with Connecticut Voices for Children.*

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