

Latinos in Minnesota

From the school house to the Capitol



Latinos are our state’s youngest and **fastest-growing population** —from the Twin Cities to Greater MN. And even though they face some of the **worst academic achievement gaps** and **lowest graduation rates** in the country, MN’s Latinos **already contribute greatly** to the state’s vibrant economy and democracy.

GRADUATION RATE

58 vs. 85

At 58%, MN’s Latino high school graduation rate is the worst in the country, and trails the graduation rate for MN’s white students: 85%.

ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS

Latino students significantly underperform their peers on both the math and reading Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments.

ALL STUDENTS **57%**

LATINO **32%**

Percentage of MN 3rd-graders achieving reading standards

ALL STUDENTS **59%**

LATINO **34%**

Percentage of MN 8th-graders achieving math standards

CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMY AND DEMOCRACY

In 2013, MN Latino-owned businesses had sales and receipts of **\$1.6 billion** & employed nearly **6,000** people.

82%

In the November 2012 elections, an outstanding 82% of Latino registered voters in MN cast their ballots.



The 2012 purchasing power of MN’s Latinos totaled **\$5.4 billion**—an increase of **965%** since 1990.

DEMOGRAPHICS

1 in 20

Minnesotans are Latino

1 in 100

Minnesotan teachers are Latino

Celebrating Latinos

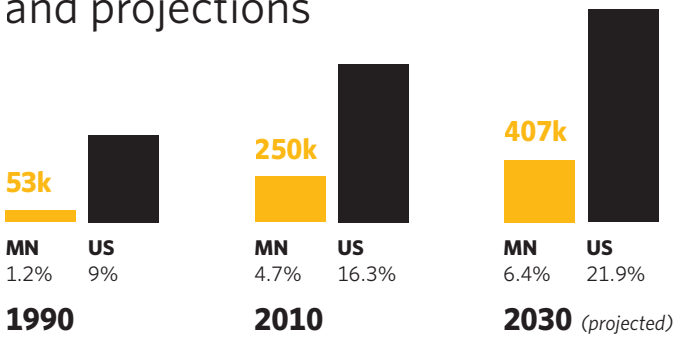
Advancing their—and Minnesota’s—potential

Too many Latino kids in MN schools are left behind. Yet **despite the odds**, Latinos are filling and creating important jobs, adding to the state’s economy and showing up at the polls.

By celebrating the state’s growing Latino population, and **committing to strong student success** for Latino students, MN can propel Latino civic engagement and workforce contributions to new, nation-leading levels.

MINNESOTA LATINO POPULATION YOUNG, GROWING

Hispanic population: Past, present day and projections



24 vs. 41

In 2012, the median age of Latinos in MN was 24 vs. 41 for european americans.

IMAGINE A MINNESOTA WITH...

- 1 Nation-leading student achievement for Latino students
- 2 A Latino teaching force that mirrors local demographics
- 3 MN educators who are trained and confident in culturally responsive instruction
- 4 The country’s strongest workforce
- 5 Top Latino civic engagement—including more Latino elected officials

HELP LATINO KIDS SUCCEED

1

Increase access to academically rigorous coursework. Let’s encourage Latino students to participate in Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO), Advance Placement courses (AP) and International Baccalaureate programs (IB). Let’s hold all education stakeholders accountable for academic achievement of Latino students.

2

Recruit & retain effective Latino educators, and train all educators in cultural competency. Let’s make teacher preparation programs more competitive; increase pay for beginning teachers and improve policies so districts can retain top educators; provide all teachers with training and support in culturally responsive curriculum and instruction.

3

Use student testing to improve teaching & parental engagement. We should use assessments, along with innovative tools of encouragement, to empower teachers to differentiate instruction and improve student achievement. The results of state tests, such as the MCAs, should be easier to understand for Spanish-speaking students and their families.

4

Reinforce the value-added recognition for foreign language and culture that Latinos bring to Minnesota, which was recognized in the Education omnibus bill that was approved during the 2014 legislative session.