

STATE RANKING

Pennsylvania had the 13th largest Latino population in the U.S.¹

K-12 POPULATION

In Pennsylvania, 8% of the K-12 population was Latino.²

STATE POPULATION

In Pennsylvania, 6% of the state population was Latino.³

Projections show a continued increase.

MEDIAN AGE

The median age of Latinos in Pennsylvania was 25, compared to 42 for White non-Hispanics.⁴

DEGREE ATTAINMENT

In Pennsylvania, 20% of Latino adults (25 to 64 years old) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to 39% of all adults.⁵

For the U.S. to regain the top ranking in the world for college degree attainment, Latinos will need to earn 5.5 million degrees by 2020.

To reach the degree attainment goal by 2020, Pennsylvania can: 1) close the equity gap in college completion; 2) increase the number of degrees conferred; and, 3) scale up programs and initiatives that work for Latino and other students. The following is a framework for tracking Latino degree attainment in Pennsylvania.

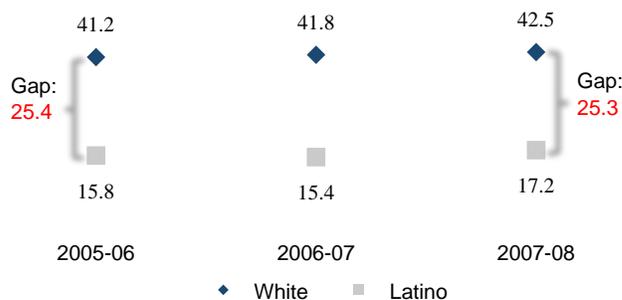
Equity Gap in Degree Completion

Closing the equity gap in college completion can be tracked by the 3 measures provided below. Alone, none of these measures capture the entire “story” of equity in degree completion. However, in combination, they provide a useful picture of the equity gap in degree attainment between Latino and white cohorts in Pennsylvania in a single year (2007-08) and the persistence of the gap over time (2006-08).

| Pennsylvania | 2007-08 | | |
|--|---------|--------|------------|
| | Latinos | Whites | Equity Gap |
| Graduation rates | 49.5 | 60.1 | 10.6 |
| Completions per 100 FTE students | 16.8 | 20.1 | 3.3 |
| Completions relative to the population in need | 17.2 | 42.5 | 25.3 |

Graduation rates - Total graduation within 150% percent of program time for first-time, full-time freshman
Completions per 100 FTE students – Total undergraduate degrees and certificates awarded per 100 full-time equivalent students (incorporates part-time students)
Completions Relative to the Population in Need – Total undergraduate degrees and certificates awarded per 1,000 adults aged 18 to 44 relative to the adult population with no college degree

Completions Relative to the Population in Need: 2006 to 2008



¹ U.S. Census 2010, American Fact Finder, Demographic Profile Summary. <http://factfinder2.census.gov>

² U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Public Elementary/Secondary Education Survey", 2009-10, v.1b. www.nces.ed.gov/ccd

³ U.S. Census 2010: Pennsylvania. <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/data/>

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey. www.census.gov/acs

⁵ Lumina Foundation for Education. *A Stronger Nation Through Higher Education. Educational Attainment Levels for the States.* www.luminafoundation.org

Degrees Conferred

Another metric to benchmark college completion is to track the progress of total degrees awarded over time. This measure may be the result of an increase in overall enrollment numbers rather than an increase in rates of completion. From 2005-06 to 2007-08,

- the number of Hispanics who earned an undergraduate degree in Pennsylvania increased about 21%, while all other race/ethnic groups increased 3%.
- Pennsylvania had one of the largest increases in degrees conferred to Latinos over 3 years among the top 10 states enrolling Latinos.

For more information on these metrics, download *Benchmarking Latino College Completion to Meet National Goals: 2010 to 2020* and *Degrees Conferred to Latinos: 2006-2008* at www.EdExcelencia.org/research/EAF/Benchmarking

Examples of What Works for Latino Students

There are institutions in Pennsylvania showing success in preparing, enrolling, retaining, and graduating Latino students. The following are examples of institutional programs with evidence of effectiveness in serving Latino students nominated for Examples of *Excelencia*.

Walk for Success in Pennsylvania High Schools

The Project GRAD program in Pennsylvania engages many Latino parents in the life of a school through the Walk for SuccessSM. These are walks in communities where volunteers visit the homes of students to inform parents about the school's program and, at the 9th grade level, ask them to sign a contract committing to support their children in graduating from high school and going to postsecondary education. In addition, Parent Universities offer parents courses to support their children's academic path, or their own personal development, such as GED preparation. Independent evaluations show, over time, the Walk for SuccessSM resulted in a significant increase in parent involvement in GRAD schools in Houston, Texas (Opuni, 2003). Further, in Knoxville, Tennessee, it was shown that GRAD students had a significant reduction in student mobility attributable to increased parent satisfaction with their schools (Bettinger, 2007a). (<http://www.projectgradphiladelphia.org>)

BUSCA (Bilingual Undergraduate Studies for Collegiate Advancement) – La Salle University

The mission of BUSCA (Bilingual Undergraduate Studies for Collegiate Advancement) is to engage students in educational programs designed to empower Latinos to be bilingual/bicultural leaders in contemporary U.S. society. BUSCA graduates earn an associate's degree in Liberal Arts with a concentration in English for academic purposes; a degree which fulfills core requirements for students wanting to continue their studies to earn their bachelor's degree at La Salle University. In the last five years, enrollment in BUSCA has increased by 54% with 85% of graduates continuing on to bachelor level studies at La Salle; thus, illustrating BUSCA's success in serving as a doorway to higher education for Spanish dominant students.

(<http://www.lasalle.edu/schools/sas/busca/>)

For information on institutional programs improving Latino student success in higher education, access *Excelencia* in Education's Growing What Works database at <http://www.edexcelencia.org/examples>

Ensuring America's Future partners in Pennsylvania:

Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education: www.passhe.edu

Project GRAD: <http://www.projectgrad.org/>