

Key Takeaways from Research on Latinx College Readiness

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Structural and Systemic Factors Influencing College Readiness



Resources

Latinx students are concentrated in schools with fewer resources. In the U.S., 72% of Latinx students are in schools with mid-high or high poverty. In Illinois, schools with high concentrations of Latinx students are generally in the funding tier indicating the lowest local resources.



Teachers

Having Latinx teachers supports Latinx student success, but Illinois has a much smaller percentage of Latinx teachers than students. However, in Illinois districts, the percentage of Hispanic teachers rises with the percentage of Hispanic students, and teachers in Hispanic-serving districts are less likely to be novice teachers or on provisional licenses than in other districts.



Counselors

Latinx students desire more postsecondary counseling, particularly more one-one counseling. In Illinois, Hispanic-serving districts (with high schools) have better student-counselor ratios than average. Postsecondary counseling is also supported by external partnerships.



Quality

Hispanic-serving high schools in Illinois perform equally to or better than other schools on 5Essentials quality measures. Given that these schools also have fewer resources than others, these schools are doing more with less.

Academic Readiness for College

- Latinx 4-year high school graduation rates are at 82% nationally and 84% in Illinois. Graduation rates are rising for all students, but Latinx graduation rates are below those of White and AAPI students.
- Access to rigorous high school coursework (AP/Dual Credit/IB) is related to college enrollment and persistence. Latinx students are enrolled less than their White and Asian peers in such coursework.
- Assessment scores are often used in college admissions decisions. Latinx students perform below White and Asian students on SAT and NAEP, with SAT scores declining in Illinois in the pandemic years.
- High school GPA predicts academic success. GPAs have been rising nationally for all groups, but Hispanic students' GPAs are below those of White and Asian students. In Illinois, schools serving 75%+ Hispanic students have lower "OnTrack" rates for high school freshmen.



The Central Issue: Addressing Systemic Issues to Improve Latinx Postsecondary Success



Less than high school High school diploma or equivalent Associate's degree Bachelor's degree Graduate degree

- Latinx postsecondary attainment is lower than the general population nationally and in Illinois (see figure at left).
- These disparities are found within age groups, although younger Latinx age groups exhibit higher attainment.
- Non-citizens have the lowest attainment rates, while naturalized citizens have the highest attainment rates.

Policies and structural inequalities shape outcomes. Changes to those policies and structures, rooted in data and research, can produce different outcomes.