



## Latinos in High School

*Secondary education is a critical means of achieving upward mobility and helps individuals negotiate the path to achievement and economic success. Secondary education, or high school, generally includes grades nine through twelve.*

### Population

€ Hispanic students in high school represent 14% of the current school population in grades 9-12. By the year 2010, Latinos will be about 20% of the high school population. [U.S. Census Bureau, School Enrollment--Social and Economic Characteristics of Students: October 2000 (PPL-148), Table 5, and Projections of the Total Resident Population: Middle Series, 1999 to 2100 (NP-T4)]

### Enrollment

€ Almost 50% of Latino high school students are enrolled in urban schools. [U.S. Census Bureau, School Enrollment--Social and Economic Characteristics of Students: October 2000 (PPL-148), Table 5]

### Educational Achievement

€#The dropout rate for Latinos is much higher than for other ethnic groups. In 2000, 28% of all Latino 16- through 24-year-olds were dropouts (1.5 million), more than double the dropout rate for blacks (13%) and more than three times the rate for whites (7%). [NCES, *Dropout Rates in the United States: 2000*]

€#High Latino dropout rates are partly attributable to the relatively greater dropout rates among Hispanic immigrants. The dropout rate for Hispanic 16- to 24-year-olds born outside the United States (44%) was more than double the rate for those born in the United States (15%). [NCES, *Dropout Rates in the United States: 2000*]

€#The average National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores of Latino students aged 17 in math, reading and science improved between 1996 and 1999 but were still well below those of their white peers. [NCES, *The Condition of Education 2001*, Indicator 12, Table 12-1, Indicator 10, Table 10-1, Indicator 13, Table 13-1]

€ Latinos have increased the number of academic credits completed in high school. In 1982, Latino graduates earned fewer credits than whites (13.5 compared to 15.0), but by 1998, this gap had almost disappeared (17.7 compared to 18.1). [NCES, *Condition of Education 2000*, Table 27-1]

### Educational Attainment

€ The low high school completion rate for Latinos has not changed substantially in several years. High school completion rates for white and black students in 2000 were 92% and 84%, respectively. However, the high school completion rate for Latinos was only 64%. [NCES, *Dropout Rates in the United States: 2000*]

€#While Latino parents are increasing their educational attainment rates, these rates are still below those of other ethnic groups. The percentage of Hispanic parents earning a high school diploma has increased from about 40% in 1974 to 51% in 1999. By comparison, in 1999 over 92% of white parents, and 82% of black parents, had earned a high school diploma. Higher levels of parental educational attainment are generally associated with positive educational outcomes and experiences, such as high school completion, for their children. [NCES, *The Condition of Education 2001*, Supplemental Table 4-1]

### College-going

€#In 1999, Hispanic students enrolled in college immediately upon high school graduation at a lower rate than other groups—42%, compared to about 63% for whites and 59% for blacks. This immediate transition from high school to college provides an estimate of the proportion of each year's graduating class that will ever attend college. [NCES, *Digest of Education Statistics, 2000*, Table 184]

€ Overall, Hispanic 18- to 24-year-old college-going rates (36%) are lower than whites (46%) and blacks (39%). The college-going rates reflect the numbers who enroll immediately after high school, the number who delay entry, and the number of years these students stay in higher education. [NCES, *The Condition of Education, 2000*, Indicator 54]