



Celebrating Over 20 Years of Progress

# TRPI

The Tomás Rivera Policy Institute

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## **Majority/Near-Majority of First Graders in Top Ten U.S. Cities are Latino**

### **The Coming Latino Demographic Revolution in Our Nation's Largest Urban School Districts**

#### **Implications for the Future**

**Los Angeles, CA.** Latino children now constitute a majority or near majority of first graders in nine of the nation's largest cities, according to analysis conducted by the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute (TRPI) at the University of Southern California. In cities such as Los Angeles and Dallas, the percentage of Hispanic first graders is even higher – three out of four first graders in these school districts are Latino (see Table). In 2020, this demographic wave of Latino first graders will graduate from high school and enter collegiate education or the labor market.

“The future is now in terms of challenges presented to school districts across the nation by this influx of Latino youth,” stated Harry Pachon, President of TRPI and professor of public policy at the University of Southern California. “A large percentage of these students are U.S. citizens by birth,” Pachon continued. “Paradoxically, our public schools are in the unusual position of teaching English to native born American children.”

Columbia Professor Rodolfo de la Garza and Vice President of Research at the TRPI observed, “This is a profound demographic change, which provides a challenge for American education, just as European immigrants created a new foundation for New York through their ambition to excel and succeed. Latinos, if provided support and respect, will be in a position to strengthen our cities and our nation.”

The Tomás Rivera Policy Institute is a nonprofit, independent institution founded in 1985 specialized in the key issues that affect the Latino community, including education, political participation, access to healthcare, economic well-being, mass media, and immigration. The Institute is affiliated with the School of Policy, Planning and Development at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles – with an office at Columbia University in New York.

**Hispanic Public School Enrollment  
In Top 10 U.S. Cities by Population**  
(Compiled March 2009)

**1) New York, NY**

**Hispanic Enrollment in  
New York City Public Schools  
(2008-09)**

Grade	Percentage	Enrollment
1st grade	40.6 %	27,591
6th grade	39.3 %	24,184
12th grade	34.9 %	18,818

SOURCE: New York City Department of Education Research and Policy Support Group

**2) Los Angeles, CA**

**Hispanic Enrollment in  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
(2007-08)**

Grade	Percentage	Enrollment
1st grade	74.5 %	40,910
6th grade	74.1 %	39,126
12th grade	65.1 %	23,392

SOURCE: California Department of Education

**3) Chicago, IL**

**Hispanic Enrollment  
in Chicago Public Schools  
(2009)**

Grade	Percentage	Enrollment
1st grade	45.1 %	13,715
6th grade	41.1 %	12,523
12th grade	35.2 %	7,563

SOURCE: Chicago Public Schools Office of Research, Evaluation, and Accountability

#### 4) Houston, TX

### Hispanic Enrollment in Houston ISD (2007-08)

Grade	Percentage	Enrollment
1st grade	63.1 %	11,242
6th grade	59.8 %	7,749
12th grade	52.1 %	4,873

SOURCE: Texas Education Agency

#### 5) Philadelphia, PA

### Hispanic Enrollment in Philadelphia School District Including Charter Schools (2008)

Grade	Percentage	Enrollment
1st grade	17.8 %	2,739
6th grade	18.2 %	2,643
12th grade	14.3 %	1,825

SOURCE: Philadelphia School District Office of Accountability

#### 6) Phoenix, AZ

### Hispanic Enrollment in Phoenix Public Schools (2009)

Grade	Percentage	Enrollment
1st grade	43.9 %	37,291
6th grade	42.1 %	34,310
12th grade	37.0 %	28,059

SOURCE: Arizona Department of Education Research and Evaluation Section

**7) San Antonio, TX**

**Hispanic Enrollment in San Antonio ISD  
(2007-08)**

Grade	Percentage	Enrollment
1st grade	89.4 %	4,300
6th grade	89.8 %	3,219
12th grade	86.5 %	2,188

SOURCE: Texas Education Agency

**8) San Diego, CA**

**Hispanic Enrollment in  
San Diego Unified School District  
(2007-08)**

Grade	Percentage	Enrollment
1st grade	45.8 %	4,841
6th grade	45.4 %	4,569
12th grade	35.1 %	8,805

SOURCE: California Department of Education

**9) Dallas, TX**

**Hispanic Enrollment in Dallas ISD  
(2007-08)**

Grade	Percentage	Enrollment
1 <sup>st</sup> grade	68.6 %	10,039
6 <sup>th</sup> grade	65.3 %	6,864
12 <sup>th</sup> grade	55.0 %	3,952

SOURCE: Texas Education Agency

**10) San Jose, CA**

**Hispanic Enrollment in  
San Jose Unified School District  
(2007-08)**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>
1st grade	53.6 %	1,360
6th grade	49.3 %	1,117
12th grade	47.5 %	1,135

**SOURCE: California Department of Education**