

STATE RANKING

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

K-12 POPULATION

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

LATINO POPULATION

In Pennsylvania, 6% of the state population was Latino and projections show a continued increase.³

DEGREE ATTAINMENT

In Pennsylvania, 38% of adults (25 to 64 years old) had earned an associate degree or higher, which is the same as the national average (38%).⁴

LATINO DEGREE ATTAINMENT

Of Latino adults in Pennsylvania, 19% had earned an associate degree or higher.⁵

Information in support of *Excelencia's* initiative Ensuring America's Future by Increasing Latino College Completion

For the U.S. to regain the top ranking in the world for college degree attainment, Latinos will need to earn 3.3 million additional degrees by 2020 (5.5 million total).

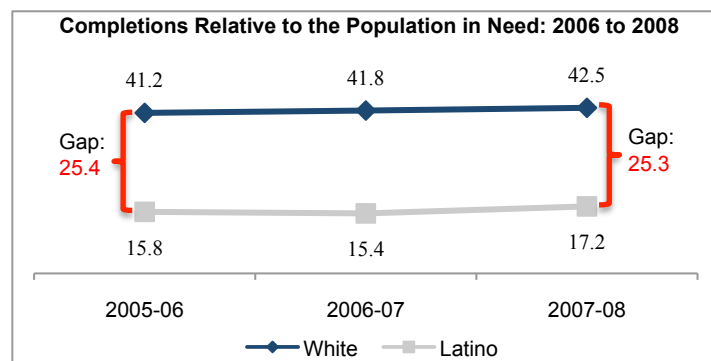
To reach the degree attainment goal by 2020, Pennsylvania can: 1) close the equity gap in college completion; 2) increase the number of degrees conferred; and, 3) scale up programs and initiatives that work for Latino and other students. The following is a framework for tracking Latino degree attainment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



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

² US Department of Education. ED Data Express: National State Snapshot. Common Core of Data. 2008-09. www.nces.ed.gov/ccd

³ United States Census 2010: Pennsylvania. <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/data/>

⁴ National Center for Higher Education Management Systems. Educational Attainment by Degree-Level and Age-Group (American Community Survey). www.higheredinfo.org

⁵ Lumina Foundation for 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 18%, while all other race/ethnic groups increased 2%.
- Pennsylvania had the 7th largest increase in degrees conferred to Latinos over 3 years (701 degrees) among the top 10 states enrolling Latinos.

For more information on benchmarking Latino college completion, download *Benchmarking Latino College Completion to Meet National Goals: 2010 to 2020* at www.EdExcelencia.org/initiatives/EAF

Examples of What Works for Latino Students

There are programs in Pennsylvania showing success in preparing Latino students for college. The following are examples.

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 Success](#)SM. 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 Success](#)SM 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). Further, "the result has been a substantial increase in the number of individual learning and behavioral plans, and the results have meant increased learning for specific students and less disruption for others" (Bettinger, 2007b).

Project Access at Millersville University

Project Access assists students who have failed 9th grade twice and are in danger of dropping out of high school. Seventeen students have attended the intensive, rigorous nine-day academic program held at Millersville University. The program includes curriculum aligned with district requirements, and interactive teaching and learning. Students earn two high school credits, enabling many to go on to summer school and earn additional credit. Many students have progressed in high school. This innovative program has helped 17 failing students regain their academic focus; and of the 17 students, 16 are attending school regularly, are passing their classes, and are on track to graduate with their class. Project GRAD will continue to expand this program to more students in Pennsylvania.

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/>