

HIGHER EDUCATION

The Facts

[Eight-in-ten \(83%\) Latinos cited education](#) as very important to their vote in the 2016 election, ranking it alongside the economy, health care and climate change as a top issue.

86% of Latinos parents with children under 18 said it is extremely important or very important that their children earn a college degree.

California's Latino high-school dropout rates are at a record low (12%). And twice as many Latinos enroll in a college or university in California today than did a decade ago—from 370,000 in 2004 to 815,000 in 2013.

Latinos make up 40% of California's Community College System, 35% of the Cal State System, 35% of for-profit colleges, 22% of the UC System, and 22% of private schools.

Yet, [only 11%](#) of Latinos (25 years and older) in California possess a bachelor's degree or higher.

Latino students are more likely to be required to take remedial courses at colleges and universities than their White peers.

Financial barriers are among the top issues facing Latino students.

California's students overall have a \$1.3 billion debt load. Latino borrowers are more likely to drop out of college due to out-of-pocket costs related to food, housing, and transportation.

Economic factors also remain a major obstacle to college enrollment. In a 2014 National Journal poll, 66% of Latinos who got a job or entered the military directly after high school cited the need to help support their family as a reason for not enrolling in college, compared with 39% of whites.

For community colleges, [less than half](#) of Latino students are graduating or transferring to a four-year university within six years.

Current Higher Education News in California

- ▶ Last year, California's [graduation rate had increased for the seventh straight year](#) and is at a record high. More importantly, the [proportion of high school graduates who have completed the courses required for admission to University of California and California State University](#) campuses has increased by nearly 50 percent.
- ▶ [Nearly 3 out of 5 Latino students](#) in the UC system are food insecure. In the CSU System, 1 in every 10 students is homeless and food insecure. In Los Angeles, 1 out of 5 community college students are homeless.

Further Reading

- Public Policy Institute of California, "[Meeting California's Need for College Graduates: A Regional Perspective.](#)"
- Education-Trust West, "[The Majority Report: Supporting the Educational Success of Latino Students in California.](#)"
- California Competes, "[Mind the Gap: Delivering on California's Promise for Higher Education.](#)"
- College Futures Foundation, "[Improving Equity: Increasing Baccalaureate Attainment of Underrepresented Students in California](#)"