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# Ethnic Studies in Tucson, Arizona

Tucson Unified School District



**TUSD**

Mexican American Studies Department



# EDUCATION

DESPITE THE STATE'S RAPIDLY GROWING LATINO POPULATION, MORE THAN 30 PERCENT OF THE STATE'S LATINO CHILDREN ARE NOT GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND ONLY ABOUT HALF OF HISPANIC COLLEGE FRESHMAN IN FOUR-YEAR SCHOOLS IN ARIZONA AND NATIONWIDE COMPLETE THEIR DEGREES.

GIVEN THE CRUCIAL ROLE EDUCATION PLAYS IN A COMMUNITY'S ECONOMIC PROSPERITY, THE SINGLE GREATEST LONG-TERM CHALLENGE FACING ARIZONA LATINOS MAY NOT BE JOB CREATION, HEALTH CARE OR IMMIGRATION, BUT THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN.



## HISPANIC MARKET TRENDS

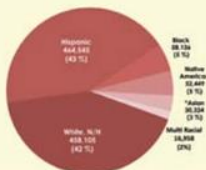
In 2011, Arizona Hispanics became the largest number of high school graduates in the state. The Arizona Department of Education predicts that as many as 55,000 Hispanic high school seniors will graduate from high school in the 2014–2015 academic school year, a 27 percent increase over 2009–2010.

Despite that explosive growth, the rate of graduation for Hispanics (69 percent) lags behind African Americans (73 percent), White, non-Hispanics (83 percent) and Asians (88 percent). Only Native Americans, among the state's major minority groups, graduate from high school at a lower rate.

At the other end of the spectrum, nearly 90 percent of new students who enrolled in public schools from 2000 to 2011 were Hispanic.

In 2015 – perhaps sooner – Latinos will become the majority of the state's public school population.

### AZ Hispanic P5-12 Students Now Single Largest Ethnic Group



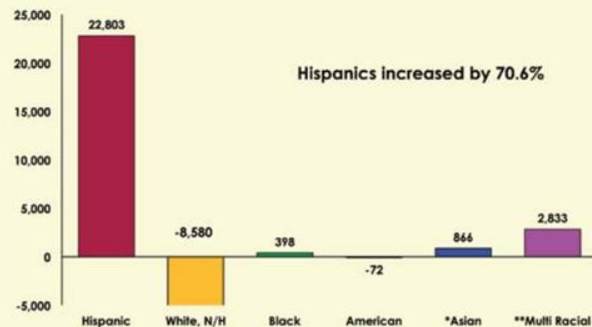
Arizona Enrollment: Grade P5-12 by Race/Ethnicity (Fall 2011) = 1,683,342

### 85% of new AZ students 2000 to 2011 P5-12 were Hispanic

	Total	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian	Native American	**Multi Racial
Fall 2000	891,406	303,101	471,220	41,392	18,230	9,478	—
Fall 2011	1,683,342	664,646	488,100	88,134	33,147	52,487	14,718
Net Gain	791,936	361,545	-113,220	46,742	14,917	-7,049	14,718
% of Total Growth	88%	46%	-15%	15%	8%	-1%	1%

\*Includes Asian/Not-Hispanic and Pacific Islander/Not-Hispanic  
 \*\*Multi Racial/Non-Hispanic is a new category added after Fall 2000.  
 Source: Arizona Department of Education, October 1, 2000 & October 1, 2011 Enrollment Figures, Published April 2004 & April 2012 respectively.

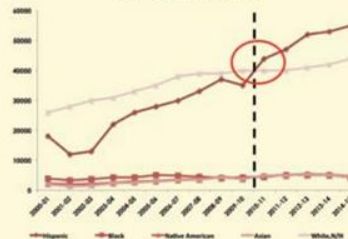
## PS-12 Student Growth in Pima County Driven Overwhelmingly by Hispanics



Pima County Enrollment Trends, Fall 2000 and Fall 2011: Grade Level PS-12 by Race/Ethnicity and Net Gain (Minority Net Growth = 26,900)

\*Includes Asian/Not-Hispanic and Pacific Islander/Not-Hispanic  
 \*\*Multi Racial/Non-Hispanic is a new category added after Fall 2000.  
 Source: Arizona Department of Education, October 1, 2000 & October 1, 2011 Enrollment Figures, Published April 2004 & April 2012 respectively.

### Hispanics Now the Majority of Arizona's High School Graduates



Source: Arizona Hispanic Educational Policy Analysis Center (AZHPAC), Minority Student Report 2008, and Arizona Department of Education, April 2011

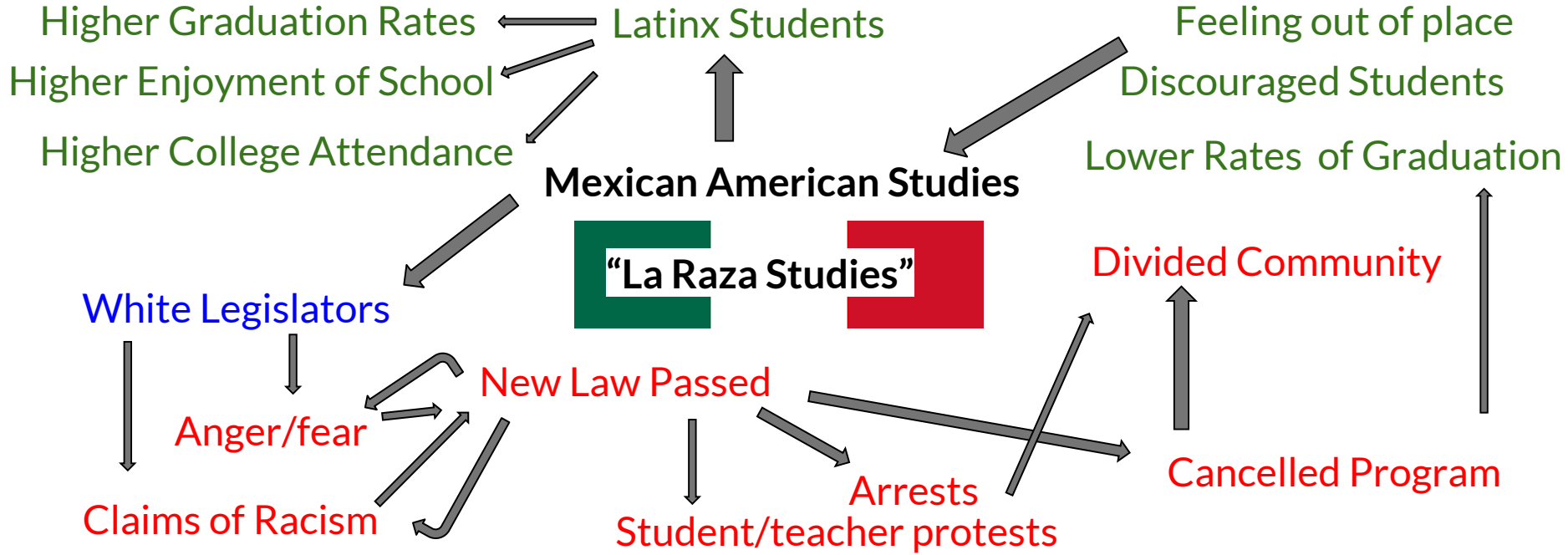
### About 50 percent of Hispanics enrolled as freshmen at Arizona's three major state universities graduated

#### Hispanic enrollment is 16 – 20 percent of total campus population

- At Northern Arizona University, 4,137 Hispanics were enrolled in Fall 2011, making 16.3 percent of the school's total student population. (Source: Northern Arizona University)
- There were 4,712 Hispanics enrolled at the University of Arizona in 2011, accounting for 16 percent of the school's population. (Source: University of Arizona)
- About 12,000 Hispanic students attended Arizona State University in Fall 2011 or up to 20 percent of ASU's total student population. (Source: Arizona State University)
- Nationwide, an average of 15 percent of college and university enrollment is Hispanic. (Source: Excelsior in Education)
- Arizona's three largest public universities have graduated about half of the Hispanic students within six years, that mirrors the average college graduation rates nationally for Hispanics. About 59 percent of white, non-Hispanics graduate from four-year universities nationwide. (Source: Rising to the Challenge, American Enterprise Institute report, March 2010)

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# Dynamic relationships





## What it can do

- Raise awareness
- Prevent future situations
- Show the benefits of ethnic studies
  - Feeling comfortable/like you belong
  - Value of your own heritage/history

Constitutional



Important  
Education  
**Statistics**  
You Should Know



NA  
S  
TO  
UDIES

STOP THAT  
DON'T STOP  
EDUCATION  
NATION

SAVE OUR  
TOP  
EDUCATION  
STUDENT LEADERS

WE ARE PART  
OF OUR COUNTRY

STOP  
THE HATE  
EDUCATE

DEFEND  
ETHNIC  
STUDIES

WE ARE NOT  
THUGS WE ARE  
AMERICANS

HONK IF  
YOU  
AGRE  
PROTESTERS  
WILL



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# Relationship to Other Systems

- Race
- Socioeconomic factors
  - Contribute to the racial disparities in education in the first place
  - Determine who has the power

## Family

- Attitudes towards schooling and education
- values

## Politics

- School board is supposed to be non-partisan
- “Avoiding the conversation” IS taking a side



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Everything is  
Connected





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# Bibliography

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