Latino Students in Chelsea: An Educational Profile

Lorna Rivera

University of Massachusetts Boston, Lorna.Rivera@umb.edu

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Enrollment
Latino student enrollment in the Chelsea public schools is more than five times higher than it is statewide, with Latino students making up 67% of total student enrollment in Chelsea compared with 10% statewide (see Figures 1 and 2).

Other facts about student enrollment in Chelsea:
• 20% of Chelsea public school students are enrolled in Limited English Proficiency (LEP) classes, compared with the statewide average of 5%.
• 83% of Chelsea public school students are eligible for free or reduced-fee lunch.

Achievement
In 1998, Massachusetts adopted the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) to assess student learning in English language arts, math, science and technology, and history and social science. The Massachusetts Department of Education reports MCAS results according to four categories: Advanced, Proficient, Needs Improvement, and Failing. As of 2001, 10th-grade public school students are required to score above failing in English language arts and math to graduate from high school. In all subject areas and across all grades, the percentage of black and Latino students who passed the MCAS is much lower than that of whites and Asians.

Source of MCAS results, pages 6 and 7:

Notes to figures 3, 4, 5:
*Percent passing indicates combined percentages of advanced, proficient, and needs improvement.
+This history and social science test is administered to 8th graders only.
Represents needs improvement only; no students scored in advanced or proficient categories.
The percentage of Latino students in Chelsea who passed ELA has fallen sharply from 61% in 1998 to 45% in 2000.

In math, there has been a slight improvement of three percentage points, and in science and technology the percentage of Latino students passing has fallen three percentage points, with just about a third passing in both subjects.

Student Dropout Rates

In 2000, 9% of dropouts in Chelsea were Latino, which was slightly higher than the statewide rate of 8.2%. This was much higher, however, than the statewide rate for all students of 3.5%.

Student Aspirations

According to the Massachusetts Department of Education, the majority of public school students, regardless of racial and ethnic background, aspire to go to college. In 1999, 59% of Latino students graduating from high school in Massachusetts indicated that they wanted to attend college. Although the specific figures for Latino students in Chelsea are not yet available, 63% of all students in Chelsea reported wanting to go to college.

Resources

City of Chelsea
Official website: http://www.ci.chelsea.ma.us
City of Chelsea School Department
Inne Cornish, District Superintendent
500 Broadway Street
City Hall Room 216
Chelsea, MA 02150
Phone: (617) 889-8415
Fax: (617) 889-8361

MCAS Parent Information Center:
Marlene Goodman, Director
Iris Figueroa (Asst. Direct)
100 Everett Street
Chelsea, MA 02150
Phone: (617) 889-8489
Fax: (617) 889-7531
E-mail: goodmann@bu.edu

Massachusetts Advocacy Center
100 Boylston Street, Suite 200
Boston, MA 02116
(617) 357-8431

Chelsea Adult Education, Inc.
148 Shawmut Street
Barbara Evans, Director
Chelsea, MA 02150
Phone: (617) 889-8432
Fax: (617) 889-8433
E-mail: chelabe@massed.net

Centro Latino
Education, Employment and Training Dept.
276 Broadway
Chelsea, MA 02150
Phone: (617) 884-3238

Bunker Hill Community College
(Chelsea Campus)
175 Hawthorne Street
Chelsea, MA 02150-3410
Phone: (617) 889-8432
Fax: (617) 889-8433
Website: http://www.bunkerhill.com

For information about a particular school, visit the following website:
Massachusetts Department of Education
http://www.doe.mass.edu

Note
The annual dropout rate indicates how many students left school for reasons other than transferring to another school in the course of a year. Cohort dropout rates measure the four-year rate of school dropout in the group of children that begin the 9th grade in a given year.