

# Education:

A Call to Action for  
Dane County

Cuéntame Más

LATINO CONSORTIUM  
FOR ACTION

United  
Way



United Way  
of Dane County

# Education: Call to Action

The Latinx Consortium for Action recommends Dane County's Latinx population can benefit most from programs addressing the complexities of the Latinx educational experience. This includes programs targeting **youth** (documented and undocumented), **adults**, and **families**.

## 1. Multigenerational access to educational services.

Expansion of youth and family multigenerational educational services are effective at fostering immediate and lasting impact. These efforts ensure that both youth and their families are supported to thrive immediately in our community.

## 2. Increase access for K-12 Latinx and English Language Learner (ELL) students to high quality best practice programs.

A significant number of studies have consistently demonstrated that Dual Language Immersion programs and Bilingual Developmental programs are the best for ensuring English Language Learners and Latinx students succeed in school and are prepared for college and career.

Increased ELL programming can aid in increased educational attainment as well as expand awareness and participation in community engagement and career advancement.

## 3. Promotion of career and college access and preparatory programs.

### a. Increased High School-to-College Pipeline Programming.

The combination of culturally and academically sound programs in the school districts can help increase graduation and readiness rates in Dane County School Districts.

### b. Support Undocumented Students.

It is critical that we address the pressing issues of this population as they grow. Otherwise we will continue to see a substantial disparity between the Latinx demographic and other groups across educational attainment, workforce opportunity and employment, as well as socioeconomic status.

### c. Recognize undocumented students graduating from our high schools as residents for tuition purposes.

Undocumented youth often remain close to home to provide care and financial contributions to support the household. The high costs of local four-year institutions with the addition of required out-of-state tuition and the logistical challenges of attending distant schools deter undocumented students from applying, enrolling, or completing pursuit of their college degree.

Seventeen other states currently recognize undocumented students graduating from our high schools as residents for tuition purposes. In the meantime scholarships and waivers of the out of state portion of tuition at all UW institutions should be standard to encourage higher education in WI for our undocumented youth.

# Education:

## An overview of the Latinx community in Dane County

### Education data

In the 2015-16 academic year Latinx consisted of 20.5% of all K-12 students in the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD), a growth of 96.3% between 2005-06 and 2015-16.

Latinx have the lowest rates of education attainment of any ethnic or racial group in Dane County. 31% of the local population aged 25+ lacks a high school diploma, a steady increase since 2009.

Only 68.4% of Latinx and 58.7% of ELL students graduated from high school in MMSD. Other school districts in Dane County with large numbers of Latinx students have similar graduation outcomes for their student cohorts. Of great concern is that graduating from high school does not necessarily denote good preparation for college or career as only 10% of all Latinx students statewide meet all four ACT College Readiness criteria (English, Reading, Math and Science) upon graduation.

**1 in 5 MMSD students are Latinx**



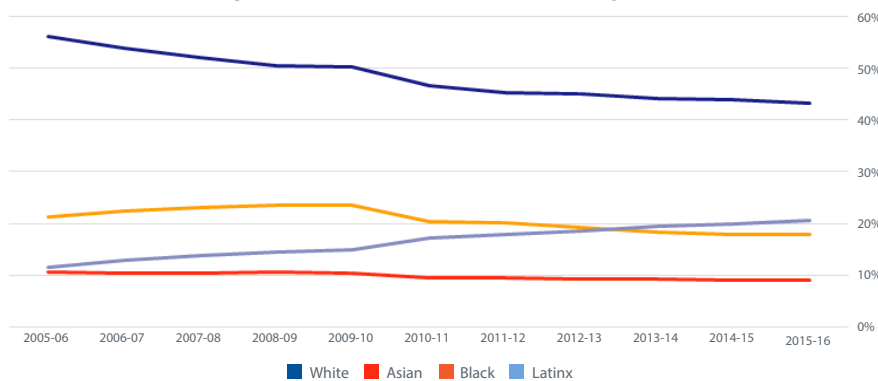
**Less than 70% graduate from high school.**



**And only 10% meet ACT college readiness criteria upon graduation**

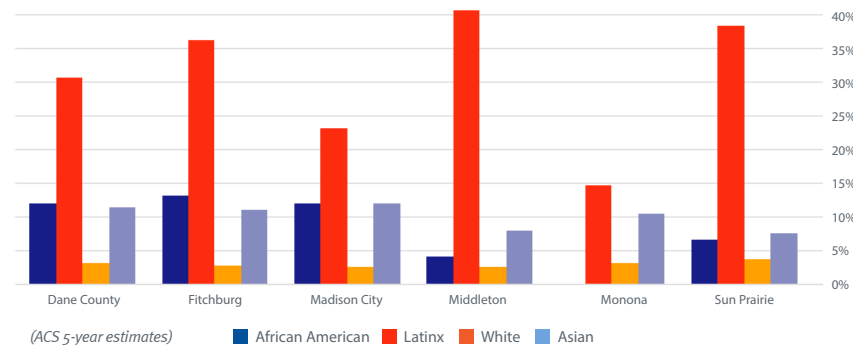


Madison Metropolitan School District Enrollment by Race, 2005-2016



(Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's WISEdash (Wisconsin Information System for Education Data Dashboard))

Percentage of population 25 years and older without a high school diploma in selected locations by race 2014



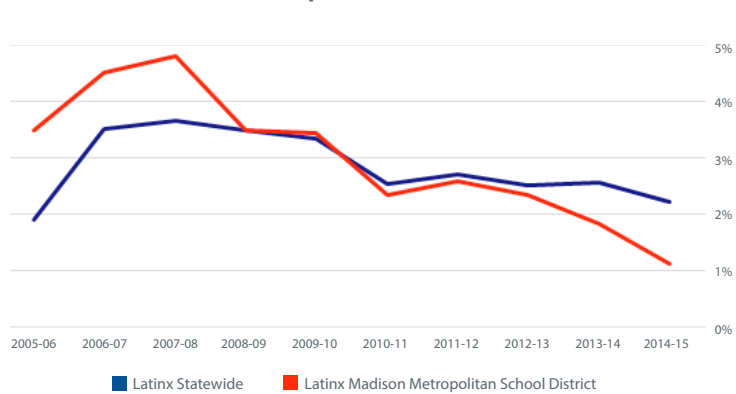
(ACS 5-year estimates)

College access, affordability, and attainment are substantial concerns of our undocumented youth. Currently, there are approximately 2.5 million undocumented youth living in the United States. Of these 2.5 million, 80,000 turn 18 years old each year. 80% of these youth graduate from high school, 5-10% enroll in college, and 1-3% graduate. In the United States, a mere 65 of 2.5 million individuals without documentation graduate each year with a college degree.

Wisconsin is estimated to have more than 1,000 undocumented students currently enrolled in college. With reference to the above statistics, two of these students will successfully obtain a four-year college degree. This means 998 of these people, living across our state, will be ill-prepared to contribute their full potential to bettering their lives, those of their families, and positively impacting their communities.

Of the more than **1,000** undocumented Wisconsin students enrolled in college, statistics say that **only 2 will graduate.**

Comparison of Latinx dropout rate statewide and in Madison Metropolitan School District 2005-2015



(Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's WISEdash (Wisconsin Information System for Education Data Dashboard))



### Success stories

Programs like **Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN) Scholars, College Access Program (CAP), and the Escalera Program at Centro Hispano** have demonstrated youth agency and investment in college attainment while building a community of cultural and academic supports, exposing students to a multitude of information and resources ordinarily out of reach for low-income communities of color. Expansion and replication of programs like these expose young people to the prospect of college and provide them with the motivation and necessary tools to get there and obtain a higher education diploma.

**UW-Madison, Edgewood College, and Madison College have partnered** to collaborate on the provision of free community navigator training to ensure community members and employees across Madison's higher education institutions have the information and resources needed to best equip undocumented students to succeed. Programs such as these are critical for ensuring youth are well-supported, while higher education professionals and members of our community working alongside these youth are effectively prepared to guide students in their pursuit of higher education.



Seventeen other states currently recognize undocumented students graduating from our high schools as residents for tuition purposes.

## Demographic Profile

- Latinx are the largest non-white racial/ethnic group in Dane County, making up 6.1% of the Dane County population (30,662). Close to 70% live in Madison and Fitchburg.
- The growth of this community is not just a result of migration; 44% of Latinx are born in Wisconsin.
- The poverty rate among Latinx increased 59% between 2009 and 2014 (*from 17.6% to just under 28%*) with even greater increases in Madison and Fitchburg.
- With increased poverty comes increased instability. Notably, home ownership among Latinx has dropped by 23% from 2009 to 2014. The percentage of Latinx renters has increased across Dane County from 63.5% in 2009 to 70.2% in 2014. This is the largest increase among all major racial groups.
- Between 2009 and 2014, there was a 24.3% increase in overcrowded households. Latinx overcrowding has been consistently twice the rate of the next most overcrowded racial group, and is growing.
- Current immigration policies force the Latinx community to live in the shadows. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Dane County hold individuals without due process, and in many cases, without pending charges or probable cause. Across Wisconsin, ICE detainees decreased more than 25% between November 2014 and October 2015. Yet in Dane County during the same period of time, the number of detainees more than doubled.

## Call for Action

We are in a critical time for investment in the Latinx community. **Please join us in making the greatest impact in our community by giving, advocating and volunteering.**

**The Latino Consortium for Action (LCA)** is made up of organizations that understand the daily lives of our community because of their work within the community—they are culturally and linguistically embedded in the Dane County Latinx community. They are: *Centro Hispano of Dane County, the Latino Chamber of Commerce, the Latino Academy of Workforce Development, the Latino Support Network, the Latino Education Council, the Latino Health Council, the Latino Children and Families' Council, the Latino Professionals Association, LUCES, Omega School and UNIDOS.*

**United Way of Dane County** uses our leadership, vision and expansive relationships to bring the community together in multiple convening roles. Ten years ago, we were proud to be steadfast partners with the Latinx community in the facilitation of the Cuéntame report. A decade later that has not changed and we are committed to creating more positive change in the Latinx Community by facilitating the production of this next generation report.

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Full report is available at [www.unitedwaydanecounty.org/resources/reports/](http://www.unitedwaydanecounty.org/resources/reports/)