Hispanic students’ college readiness

Most Hispanic high school students aspire to go to college, but almost half don’t meet ACT benchmarks.


College readiness among Hispanic high school students is low. In 2014, 57 percent of Hispanics graduating high school took the ACT college-readiness test; most were not academically ready. About 14 percent met all four benchmarks, which include English, reading, mathematics and science, compared to 26 percent of non-Hispanic students taking the test. Only 17 percent of the Hispanic students met one benchmark, and 47 percent did not meet any of them. Still, most Hispanic students (83 percent) aspire to enroll in college, and more than 90 percent of Latino parents expect their child to attain some level of higher education. Hispanics comprise 22 percent of U.S. high school students, second only to white students. Hispanic high school students are projected to increase to 41 percent by 2019. Therefore, the success of Hispanic students in postsecondary educational attainment is vital to the overall achievement of the college completion agenda. Read more on policy and practice recommendations to increase the college readiness of Hispanic students.

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