#### **Texas Education Agency**



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

STATE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

• STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

201 East Eleventh Street Austin, Texas

78701

Oct / Handley

October 3, 1974

The Honorable John G. Tower Member of Congress 142 Old Senate Office Building Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Tower:

Last February you wrote Dr. J. W. Edgar expressing an interest in our comments regarding Report VI of the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights, entitled "Toward Quality Education for Mexican Americans". Dr. Edgar responded to you that our staff and the State Board of Education had the report under review and consideration at that time, and that we would share with you our comments as soon as they were formulated. Various program officers on our staff, as well as interested groups outside this Agency, have given extensive study to the findings of the report and have identified a number of possible steps that could be taken to strengthen the education of Mexican Americans in Texas. The Committee on Priorities has devoted most of its attention to this topic for the past several meetings, and made five specific recommendations to the Board on September 14. The Board adopted these five recommendations, as described in the attached copy of the item taken from the minutes of the Board's September 14 meeting.

In addition, we have taken a number of important steps toward improving education for Mexican Americans in Texas through administrative actions which the Commissioner's Office has authority to carry out. I would also add that the State Board of Education has met jointly with the education committees of both houses of the Texas Legislature to discuss this important topic.

We appreciate your interest in this area of education, and will be most happy to provide you with any further information you desire.

Very truly yours,

M. L. Brockette

Commissioner of Education

\_\_Minutes
State Board of Education
September 14, 1974
(Excerpts)

#### Recommendations for Improvement of the Quality of Education for Mexican Americans

It was moved by Mr. Fetter, seconded by Mrs. Wells, and carried that the recommendations of the Priorities Committee for the improvement of education for Mexican Americans in Texas be approved. (Attachment V)

In order to clarify the language in Recommendation No. 1, an amendment to the motion was offered by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Herrera, that the first sentence in Recommendation No. 1 be changed to read: "A major portion of the core of the problem appears to be <u>acquiring</u> an adequate supply of qualified teachers."

LACAR THE KOM STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MIROTES OF SEPTEMBER 1974

# Attachment V Recommendations for Improvement of the Quality of Education for Mexican Americans

Austin, Texas September 14, 1974

State Board of Education Austin, Texas

Members of the Board:

Over the past several months the Committee on Priorities has considered in depth the quality of education for Mexican Americans in the public schools of Texas, and has studied information and recommendations from a number of sources. At its last meeting on July 12 the Committee formulated certain recommendations to be made to the Board that will accomplish specific important results promptly and contribute toward the improvement of education for Mexican Americans in Texas.

The Committee's recommendations to the Board are as follows:

- 1. A major portion of the core of the problem appears to be acquiring an adequate supply of qualified teachers. We have already embarked on a mammoth undertaking in an intensive course this summer to teach monolingual teachers sufficient Spanish to handle their first grade classes this Fall. Our Committee is anxious to have this program expanded and improved. We request of the staff through evaluation or any other means to see to it that this is accomplished.
- 2. We apparently are lacking sufficient or appropriate supplementary textbooks and instructional materials. This is a legislative recommendation and we propose to you that it be made.
- 3. We apparently need instruments for assessing language proficiency for students. This recommendation will require staff effort to find or have developed these instruments. Our Committee recommends that the staff be authorized to proceed.
- 4. This Board on previous occasions has emphasized the importance of as much advance notice as possible with respect to acquiring Federal funds. This is important to assist in the scheduling and planning, and even more important, the efficient and effective use of such funds. Money assigned for the hiring of qualified teachers of migrant children is but one good example. Because of the uncertainty of continuity each year, we lose some of these teachers into areas of more assured employment.

5. The implementation of more stringent adherence to accreditation standards. Just how best the enforcement should be done, our Committee will defer to the Accreditation Commission.

In accord with directions given by the Board at its May meeting, the Committee on Priorities has had extensive communication with representatives of three state associations concerned with the education of Mexican Americans. Those three associations submitted to the Priorities Committee nine recommendations in a letter from Mr. Chris Escamilla dated July 2, 1974. With respect to the recommendation that representatives of the three associations be given status as an official advisory committee to the Board, this matter was accomplished in the Board's July 13 action for continuation of the Advisory Committee on Bilingual Education. The Committee on Priorities judged that the Board is not able to require kindergarten and special education teachers in schools with bilingual education programs to participate in bilingual teacher training unless there is a change in the law. With regard to the three associations' recommendations to place more Mexican Americans in decision making positions in both the Agency and school districts, the Committee's opinion is that the Board has no authority over these staffing matters in school districts, and that the Affirmative Action Plan which is presently being implemented in the Agency is an effective means of accomplishing this recommendation within the Agency. The three associations recommended that a set of recommendations prepared by the staff of the Agency, dated April 15, be adopted by the Board. These staff formulations were in fact a preliminary working paper, and were not presented to the Priorities Committee as such. Other subsequent recommendations developed by the staff came from this earlier working paper, and some of those are included in the Committee's recommendations above.

The Committee discussed the suggestion that a meeting be arranged between the Board and representatives of both legislative and executive branches of government. The proposed meeting has been arranged in conjunction with the September meeting of the Board.

The Committee on Priorities will continue to consider problems and concerns in this area, and, if appropriate, will present additional recommendations to the Board at a later date.

Respectfully submitted,

M. L. Brockette

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Commissioner of Education.



### Population Characteristics

O. S. DEPARAMENT OF COMMERCE Social and Economic Statistics Administration - Edizate of the Census

Series P-20, No. 267

Issued July 1974

## PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN IN THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1974

(Advance report)

This report presents data on the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of persons of Spanish origin. The data were collected in the March 1974 Current Population Survey. Besides data for all persons of Spanish origin, all of the tables in this report present data for some or all of the subcategories of Spanish origin, that is, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, and other Spanish origin. A more detailed report on the characteristics of persons of Spanish origin in 1974 is forthcoming.

In March 1974, there were about 10.8 million persons of Spanish origin in the United States with about 6.5 million of them reporting Mexican origin and 1.5 million reporting Puerto Rican origin. Persons of Cuban origin totaled about 700,000 as did persons of Central or South American origin, and about 1.4 million persons reported themselves as of other Spanish origin.

The estimates presented in this report are based on sample data and hence subject to sampling error. The estimated number of total persons of Spanish origin could range from 10.5 million to 11.1 million persons at the one standard error level (68 chances out of 100); for persons of Mexican origin, the similar range is from 6.2 million to 6.7 million persons; for persons of Puerto Rican origin from 1.4 million to 1.7 million persons; and for persons of Cuban origin from 0.6 million to 0.8 million persons.

In general, the Spanish origin population is a young population. The proportion of persons of Spanish origin under 5 years of age was 13 percent; and about 4 percent were 65 years old and over. The corresponding proportions for the total population of the United States were 8 and 10 percent, respectively.

Most families of Spanish origin resided in metropolitan areas. Of the 2.4 million families of Spanish origin, about 2.0 million of them, or 83 percent, lived in metropolitan areas; the overall U.S. proportions was about 68 percent, and there were differences in metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence among the Spanish origin groups; about one family in four of Mexican origin lived in nonmetropolitan areas, but only about one family in twenty of Puerto Rican origin lived in nonmetropolitan areas.

An especially large proportion of families with a head of Puerto Rican origin have a woman as head of the family. In March 1974, about one family of every eight in the United States was headed by a woman, but about one-third of all families of Puerto Rican origin had a woman as the head.

Families with a head of Spanish origin were relatively large; about 34 percent contained 5 or more persons in the family. The corresponding United States figure was 22 percent.

The Spanish origin population lags significantly behind the total population in educational attainment. About 19 percent of all persons of Spanish origin 25 years old and over had completed less than 5 years of school; the corresponding proportion for the entire United States population was about 4 percent. Only about 36 percent of Spanish origin persons 25 years old and over had completed 4 years

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of high school or more, compared with about 61 percent of the total population. However, in recent years there have been gains in educational attainment for persons of Spanish origin. Although only about 13 percent of persons of Spanish origin 65 years old and over reported in March 1974 having completed 4 years of high school or more, about 53 percent of these persons 25 to 29 years old had completed 4 years of high school or more.

In March 1974, the proportion of employed men of Spanish origin in professional and technical occupations was half the proportion in these occupations for all employed men 16 years old and over--7 percent versus 14 percent. About 55 percent of employed men of Spanish origin were working in blue-collar jobs. Of all employed men of Spanish origin, those of Mexican origin had the greatest proportion, 11 percent, working as farm laborers.

The median income in 1973 of families with a head of Spanish origin was \$8,720 as compared with \$12,050 for all families. The proportion of all families in the United States with incomes over \$15,000, 36 percent, was about twice as large as the proportion of families with head of Spanish origin in this income category, 18 percent.

Individual incomes in 1973 were noticeably different between men and women of Spanish origin. About 23 percent of Spanish origin men who received money income in 1973 had incomes over \$10,000, but only about 3 percent of Spanish women with income had incomes over \$10,000. At the lower income range, about 22 percent of men of Spanish origin with income had incomes under \$2,000, but about 54 percent of Spanish origin women with income made less than \$3,000 in 1973.

About 22 percent of persons of Spanish origin had incomes below the low-income level in 1973; the percentage ranged from 34 percent for persons of Puerto Rican origin to 8 percent for those of Cuban origin.

The estimated number of persons of Spanish origin in this report is directly comparable with the estimate of persons of Spanish origin produced by the March 1973 CPS but not directly comparable with estimates for those persons from the CPS of earlier years. In the March 1973 CPS, certain changes and innovations were made in the manner of estimating the number of persons of Spanish origin. (For a detailed description of these changes, see U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, P-20, No. 264, "Persons of Spanish Origin in the

United States: March 1973, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., May 1974.) Detailed definitions will be included in the final 1974 report on persons of Spanish origin.

The information presented in this report on persons of Spanish origin was obtained from the following question:

	What is your origin or descent?						
01 German	10 Mexican-American						
02 Italian	11 Chicano						
03 Irish	12 Mexican						
04 French	13 Mexicano						
05 Polish	14 Puerto Rican						
06 Russian	15 Cuban						
07 English	16 Central or South American						
08 Scottish	17 Other Spanish						
09 Welsh	20 Negro						
	21 Black						
	OR						
	30 Another group not listed						
FORM CPS-597	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STATISTICS ADMIN BUREAU OF THE CENSUS						
	ORIGIN FLASHCARD						
Cl	PRENT POPULATION SURVEY						
	USCOMM-DC						

Persons of Spanish origin were persons who reported themselves as Mexican-American, Chicano, Mexican, Mexicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish origin. However, all persons who reported themselves as Mexican-American, Chicano, Mexican, Mexicano were combined into the one category: Mexican.

Since the estimates in this report are based on a sample, they are subject to sampling error. The sampling error of an estimate is defined as the difference between the estimate obtained and the results theoretically obtainable from a comparable complete coverage census. All statements of comparison in this report, however, are statistically significant. This means that there are at least 19 chances out of 20 that a difference specified in the text indicates a true difference in the population.

Table 1. TOTAL AND SPANISH ORIGIN POPULATION BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1974

(Number in thousands)

		Percent distribution			
Origin	Total	Total population	Spanish origin population		
All persons	207,945	100.0	(x)		
Persons of Spanish origin  Mexican  Puerto Rican  Cuban  Central or South American.  Other Spanish  Persons not of Spanish origin <sup>1</sup>	10,795 6,455 1,548 689 705 1,398 197,150	5.2 3.1 0.7 0.3 0.3 0.7 94.8	6.5		

X Not applicable.

Table 2. TOTAL AND SPANISH ORIGIN POPULATION BY AGE AND TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE **UNITED STATES: MARCH 1974** 

(Numbers in thousands)

	Spanish origin						
Age	Total	Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central or South America	Other Spanish
Total	207,945	10,795	6,455	1,548	689	705	1,398
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years	7.9 8.5 15.9 5.6 6.8 13.9 10.9 11.4 9.2	13.3 12.5 20.0 5.7 7.0 14.3 11.1 8.1 4.7 3.5	14.1 13.0 20.9 5.9 7.3 13.1 10.9 7.5 4.1	14.5 13.3 18.9 5.3 7.4 17.7 10.1 7.5 3.8 1.6	5.1 7.8 15.2 4.4 4.3 12.2 15.1 14.5 10.9	15.2 7.0 7.1 21.0 13.6 8.8 5.1	9. 7. 4.
65 years and over Median ageyears	9.9 28.5	20.1	18.9	19.8			19

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Includes persons who did not know or did not report on origin.

Table 3. RESIDENCE OF ALL FAMILIES AND OF FAMILIES WITH HEAD OF SPANISH ORIGIN BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN OF THE HEAD, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1974

(Numbers in thousands)

		Spanish origin						
Area	Total	Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Other Spanish <sup>1</sup>			
All families	55,05 <b>3</b>	2,365	1,359	382	625			
Metropolitan Central cities Balance Nonmetropolitan PERCENT DISTRIBUTION	37,317 16,019 21,297 17,736	1,952 1,204 748 413	1,021 569 452 337	360 300 60 22	571 335 236 54			
All families	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0			
Metropolitan Central cities Balance Nonmetropolitan	67.8 29.1 38.7 32.2	82.5 50.9 31.6 17.5	75.1 41.9 33.3 24.8	94.2 78.5 15.7 5.8	91.4 53.6 37.8 8.6			

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Comprises families with head of Cuban, Central or South American, and other Spanish origin.

Table 4. FAMILIES AND FAMILIES WITH HEAD OF SPANISH ORIGIN, BY TYPE AND SIZE OF FAMILY, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1974

(Numbers in thousands)

		Spanish origin					
Subject	Total	Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Other Spanish <sup>1</sup>		
TYPE OF FAMILY							
All families	55,053 100.0 85.0 2.6 12.4	2,365 100.0 79.3 3.3 17.4	1,359 100.0 82.2 3.4 14.4	382 100.0 64.1 2.6 33.2	625 100.0 82.4 3.5 14.1		
SIZE OF FAMILY	†		-	+			
All families Percent	55,053 100.0	2,365 100.0	1,359 100.0	382 100.0	625 100.0		
2 persons	37.4 21.2 19.6 11.6 5.5 4.7	23.2 21.7 21.1 15.0 7.9 11.2	18.9 20.1 20.7 15.5 9.9 14.9	25.1 25.3 20.9 14.6 6.5 7.6	31.6 22.9 22.0 13.9 4.2 5.4		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Comprises families with head of Cuban, Central or South American and other Spanish origin.

Table 5. PERCENT COMPLETED LESS THAN 5 YEARS OF SCHOOL AND PERCENT COMPLETED 4 YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL OR MORE, FOR ALL PERSONS AND PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN 25 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1974

Years of school completed			Sp	anish orig	in	
and age	Total	Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Other Spanish 1
PERCENT COMPLETED LESS THAN 5 YEARS OF SCHOOL						
Total 25 years and over	4.4	19.4	26.5	17.6	8,9	6.0
25 to 29 years	1.2	9.1	12.6	7.5	(B)	2.8
30 to 34 years	1.3	9.6	14.6	9.0	(B)	1.6
35 to 44 years	2.2	16.3	22.3	18.0	3.8	2.8
45 to 54 years	3.4	23.1	32.0	23.0	9.3	, 6 <b>.1</b>
55 to 64 years	5.3	29.8	39.9	(B)	16.1	11.0
65 years and over	11.9	47.4	63.6	(B)	(B)	(B)
PERCENT COMPLETED 4 YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL OR MORE						
Total 25 years and over	61.2	36.4	29.1	29.6	47.7	55.9
25 to 29 years	81.9	52.5	46.7	39.6	(B)	73.7
30 to 34 years	77.9	48.2	41.9	40.3	(B)	64.0
35 to 44 years	70.4	38.3	31.0	29.5	52.0	60.1
45 to 54 years	63.0	30.2	20.6	18.8	49.0	54.0
55 to 64 years	50.0	17.4.	9.6	(B)	30.2	31.2
65 years and over	33.1	13.3	5.2	(B)	(B)	(B)

B Base less than 75,000.

Table 6. EMPLOYED MEN 16 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP AND TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1974

	Total men	Spanish origin				
Occupation	16 years old and over	Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Other Spanish <sup>1</sup>	
Total employedthousands Percent	51,678 100.0	2,236 100.0	1,344 100.0	271 100.0	621 100.0	
White-collar workers:						
Professional and technical	14.1	6.7	5.2	4.5	11.0	
Managers and adminis. exc. farm	14.1	7.3	5.7	9.7	9.8	
Sales workers	6.1	3.0	2.7	4.1	3.4	
Clerical workers	6.6	7.0	5.0	13.8	8.4	
Blue-collar workers:				ľ		
Craft and kindred workers	20.9	17.6	19.2	10.8	17.4	
Operatives, including trans	17.9	27.0	26.8	31.6	25.3	
Laborers, except farm	7.3	11.5	14.2	7.8	7.1	
Farm workers:						
Farmers and farm managers	3.0	0.4	0.4	_	0.3	
Farm laborers and supervisors	1.8	7.4	11.4	1.1	1.5	
Service workers	8.2	12.0	9.3	16.7	15.8	

<sup>-</sup> Represents zero.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Comprises persons of Central or South American and other Spanish origin.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Comprises men 16 years old and over of Cuban, Central or South American, and other. Spanish origin.

Table 7. INCOME IN 1973 OF PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN 16 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY SEX AND TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1974

Income	Total Spanish origin		Mexican origin		Puerto Rican origin		Other Spanish origin <sup>1</sup>	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total persons, 16 years old and overthousands	3,019	3,325	1,801	1,877	394	483	824	965
Persons with incomethousands Percent	2,798 100.0	2,108 100.0	1,674 100.0	1,147 100.0	357 100.0	293 100.0	7 <u>6</u> 7	668 100.0
\$1 to \$999 or loss \$1,000 to \$1,999 \$2,000 to \$2,999 \$3,000 to \$3,999 \$4,000 to \$4,999 \$5,000 to \$6,999 \$7,000 to \$7,999 \$8,000 to \$9,999 \$10,000 to \$14,999 \$15,000 to \$24,999	7.5 7.2 7.4 6.8 8.5 19.2 8.1 12.6 17.2 4.6	19.4 18.2 16.2 12.3 10.6 13.2 3.4 3.9 2.2 0.5	7.6 8.0 7.6 9.3 17.9 7.0	23.5 19.4 18.0 11.8 9.3 11.0 2.8 2.3 1.6 0.2	6.7 6.1 5.6	10.2 12.9 15.6 18.4 13.6 18.4 3.1 4.8 2.7 0.3	5.2 6.5 6.5 5.5 6.4 19.6 8.9 12.3 20.3	16.3 18.6 13.3 10.5 11.4 14.8 4.5 6.3 3.0
\$25,000 and over  Median income of persons with	0.9 \$6,321	\$2,760	0.5	0.1	\$6,272	\$3,614	2.0	\$3,162

<sup>-</sup> Represents zero.

Table 8. MEDIAN INCOME IN 1973 OF PERSONS 25 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED AND TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1974

<del></del>							
Years of school completed	Total, 25	Spanish origin					
	years old and over	Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Other Spanish 1	
Total, 25 years old and over	\$6,289	\$5,369	\$4,982	\$5,432	\$5,471	\$6,204	
Elementary school:  0 to 4 years	2,378 3,313 3,878	3,378 4,440 4,916	3,388 4,303 4,958	4,085 4,778 4,975	(B) (B) (B)	(B) 5,319 (B)	
High school: 1 to 3 years 4 years	5,156 7,055	5,789 6,611	6,422 6,620	5,160 7,172	(B) 6,306	5,463 6,427	
College: 1 year or more	9,989	8,636	8,786	(в)	8,267	8,542	

B Base less than 75,000.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Comprises persons of Cuban, Central or South American, and other Spanish origin.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Comprises persons of Central or South American and other Spanish origin.

Table 9. INCOME IN 1973 OF ALL FAMILIES AND OF FAMILIES WITH HEAD OF SPANISH ORIGIN BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES; MARCH 1974

		Families with head of Spanish origin					
Income .	Total	Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Other Spanish <sup>1</sup>		
All familiesthousands Percent	55,053 100.0	2,365 100.0	1,359 100.0	382 100.0	625 100.0		
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	., 100.0		
Under \$2,000	2.9	4.4	5.0	5.5	2.4		
\$2,000 to \$2,999	3.2	4.8	5.4	5.0	3.2		
\$3,000 to \$3,999	4.1	6.5	5.9	12.9	3.7		
\$4,000 to \$4,999	4.5	7.3	6.9	10.2	<sup>'</sup> 6.2		
\$5,000 to \$6,999	9.4	14.9	15.5	18.6	11.2		
\$7,000 to \$7,999	4.9	7.8	8.2	9.2	6.2		
\$8,000 to \$9,999	10.0	12.3	13.8	10.0	10.2		
\$10,000 to \$14,999	25.5	23.7	23.4	16.0	29.2		
\$15,000 to \$24,999	26.2	15.6	13.9	10.8	22.4		
\$25,000 or more	9.3	2.8	1.9	1.8	5 <b>.3</b>		
Median income	\$12,051	\$8,715	\$8,434	\$6,779	\$11,191		

 $<sup>^{1}</sup>$ Comprises families with head of Cuban, Central or South American, and other Spanish origin.

Table 10. LOW-INCOME STATUS IN 1973 OF ALL PERSONS AND PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1974

(Numbers in thousands)

Origin	Total	Below the low-income level			
		Number	Percent		
All persons <sup>1</sup>	207,621	22,973	11.1		
Persons of Spanish origin  Mexican	10,795 6,455 1,548 689 705 1,398 196,826	2,366 1,516 528 52 95 175 20,607	21.9 23.5 34.1 7.5 13.5 12.5		

 $<sup>^{1}\</sup>text{Excludes}$  unrelated individuals under 14 years of age.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Includes persons who did not know or did not report on origin.