

**DAVID DOUGLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PROCLAIMING THE CELEBRATION OF  
NATIONAL HISPANIC/LATINX HERITAGE MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the Latinx heritage of the United States extends historically over five centuries and has been a consistent and vital influence in our country's growth and prosperity; and

**WHEREAS**, Latinx culture is tied to Iberian ancestry and our culture recognizes that Latinxs are multiracial and multicultural who can trace their historical roots to Indigenous and African ancestry; and

**WHEREAS**, Latinxs in Oregon are a diverse mix of first-generation immigrants and longtime residents. The definition of Latinx is tied to the cultures across 24 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean including: The United States, Mexico, Puerto Rico, The Dominican Republic, Cuba, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil, Venezuela, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Spain. They reflect an array of distinct and vibrant cultures that have enriched our community in valuable ways; and

**WHEREAS**, Hispanic Heritage Month was started as a heritage week in 1968<sup>1</sup> and begins on September 15, which is the anniversary of the independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua<sup>2</sup> and;

**WHEREAS**, the theme for this year's heritage month is "A History of Serving Our Nation<sup>3</sup>" and invites us to reflect on the service and contributions of Hispanic and Latinx people to the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Latinxs have supported Portland's economy with many contributions and leadership in the fields of commerce, science, technology, public service, health, arts, and more. Today, their purchasing power in Portland is nearly \$4 billion<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, despite these contributions and leadership, Hispanic and Latinx communities are still less likely to work in managerial or professional occupations, have a median household income that is significantly lower than non-Hispanic whites, and more than 20% reported living at the poverty level<sup>5</sup> in 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, Hispanic people have the highest medical uninsured rates<sup>6</sup> of any racial or ethnic group within the U.S., which is attributed to linguistic and cultural barriers, and a lack of access to preventative care; and

**WHEREAS**, racially motivated discrimination and harassment is at a local and national high, with a spike in hate crimes reported against the Latinx community; and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://prologue.blogs.archives.gov/2017/09/25/origins-of-national-hispanic-heritage-month/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/about/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.hispanicheritagemonth.org/index.php/hispanic-heritage-month/88-hispanic-heritage-month-theme-2019>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/oehr/article/713234>

<sup>5</sup> <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?lvl=3&lvlid=64>

<sup>6</sup> <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?lvl=3&lvlid=64>

**WHEREAS**, 68% of Hispanic/ Latinx students in David Douglas School District high schools who were bullied last year said it was due to their “race or skin color” and 62% said it was because of “where their family is from,” higher than any other racial or ethnic groups<sup>7</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that given the hardships and disparities faced by the Latinx community, this proclamation is only a small step of many that we need to take to be truly inclusive and supportive of our Latinx students and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, 26.58 percent of (or 2,690) enrolled students are Hispanic and/or Latinx, and the Hispanic/Latinx student count has increased by 918% over the past 23 years from 1995 to 2018 and students who self-identified as Hispanic also identified as American Indian Alaska Native, Asian, Black, Pacific Islander, and multiracial; and

**WHEREAS**, 78.1% of Latinx students in the 2017-2018 four-year cohort graduated, of which when disaggregated by sex, 85.7% of self-identified Latinx female students graduated and 69.2% of self-identified Latinx male students graduated; and

**WHEREAS**, 14 percent of the ASB student leadership has identified as Latinx; and

**WHEREAS**, the Latinx Student Union organizes and promotes student success for Latinx students; and

**WHEREAS**, 6.66 percent of district leadership (supervisors, managers, principals) has self-identified as Latinx; and

**WHEREAS**, as of April 2019, DDS D had 86 employees who identified as Hispanic/ Latinx, which includes a 16% increase in Classified Staff from the previous year; and

**WHEREAS**, Spanish is the second most commonly spoken home language in the District with 1,645 Spanish speaking homes; and

**WHEREAS**, last year David Douglas High School hosted its first Spanish-language graduation, and during the event students shared multilingual poetry and songs that celebrated diverse Hispanic and Latinx cultures; and

**WHEREAS**, our Hispanic and Latinx families lead and actively participate in groups across school campuses including Intercambio Groups at several elementary schools, Latino Parent Groups across the district, culturally specific family nights and more; and

**WHEREAS**, the David Douglas School District is committed to and advocates for equal educational, professional, and social opportunities for Latinx students, and;

**WHEREAS**, the David Douglas School District Strategic Hiring Plan outlines a goal to increase staff of color by 10% by 2020 so that district staff more accurately reflect the student population and district leadership has prioritized representation of the David Douglas district community in leadership positions, both employee and board; and

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<sup>7</sup> YouthTruth Survey

**WHEREAS**, the David Douglas School District has adopted Educational Equity policy and an Equal Educational Opportunity policy that states our commitment to closing the achievement gap for Latinx students and creating an educational environment where all students can benefit equally from the educational programs offered; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oregon State Legislature passed a 2-billion-dollar investment, the Student Success Act, into Oregon's K-12 schools, 1 million specifically for the Latinx Student Success Statewide Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the District is working towards eliminating the racial predictability and disproportionality on all aspects of education and has recently established a Racial Equity Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, the District collaborates and partners with community-based organizations like Latino Network, El Programa Hispano, to form strong relationships in a culturally appropriate way and to provide the space for feedback and guidance to district leaders on improving outcomes and opportunities for Latinx students and families in the District.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the David Douglas School Board of Directors do hereby proclaim September 15- October 15, to be


### **LATINX HERITAGE MONTH**

in recognition and celebration of the many contributions of Latinxs to the county and our community; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the David Douglas School Board of Directors strongly encourages staff and community to observe, recognize, and celebrate the culture, heritage, and contributions of Latinxs to our country, our state, our cities, and our schools.

Adopted this 12th day of September 2019.

Signed:

  
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Chair David Douglas School District Board of Directors

Attest:

  
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Superintendent/Clerk

