

**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 1968¹ and begins on September 15, which is the anniversary of the independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua² 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 billion³; 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 level⁴ in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic people have the highest medical uninsured rates⁵ 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

WHEREAS, 41% 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 30% said it was because of "where their family is from," higher than any other racial or ethnic groups⁶; and

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

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

³ <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/oehr/article/713234>

⁴ <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?lvl=3&lvlid=64>

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

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, 26.8 percent (or 2,528) enrolled students are Hispanic and/or Latinx, and the Hispanic/Latinx student count has increased by 884% over the past 25 years from 1995 to 2019 and students who self-identified as Hispanic also identified as American Indian Alaska Native, Asian, Black, Pacific Islander, and multiracial; and

WHEREAS, 72.0% of Latinx students in the 2018-2019 four-year cohort graduated, of which when disaggregated by sex, 77% of self-identified Latinx female students graduated and 67.3% of self-identified Latinx male students graduated; and

WHEREAS, 12 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, 7.3 percent of district leadership (supervisors, managers, principals) has self-identified as Latinx; and

WHEREAS, as of April 2019, DDSD had 98 employees who identified as Hispanic/ Latinx, which includes a 10% increase in Classified Staff from the previous year; and

WHEREAS, Spanish is the second most commonly spoken home language in the District with 839 Spanish speaking homes; and

WHEREAS, in June 2019, 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

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

⁶ YouthTruth Survey

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 10th day of September 2020.

Signed:

Chair David Douglas School District Board of Directors

Attest:

Superintendent/Clerk