

BY ALEXANDRIA CITY HIGH SCHOOL

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TOPIC

Adding a Latin American History Unit to the School Curriculum

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

Our issue is that Hispanic students do not get enough representation in school , as many do not know their own culture due to the school curriculum only teaching small parts of places in Latin America. Our plan is to help implement a new unit and lessons into the curriculum that teaches students about how Latin America and Latin Americans came to be and how they have influenced the United States.

RESULT

The result we hope to accomplish is that more Hispanic students learn about their culture and are not afraid to express their backgrounds. As well as educate not only the students but teachers as well on the impact that Latin Americans have had on the United States and its history.



SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of this added unit would be so that all students and teachers are able to see and understand the impacts of Latin American history and how it has impacted American culture. Its also is important for students to understand how immigration has been able to give so many people, not only Latin Americans, opportunities that they wouldn't have in their home countries if they hadn't came to the United States.

This is very important to teach because of the fact that almost half of the school district is made up of students with Latin and Hispanic backgrounds. it is important for them to understand their own culture.

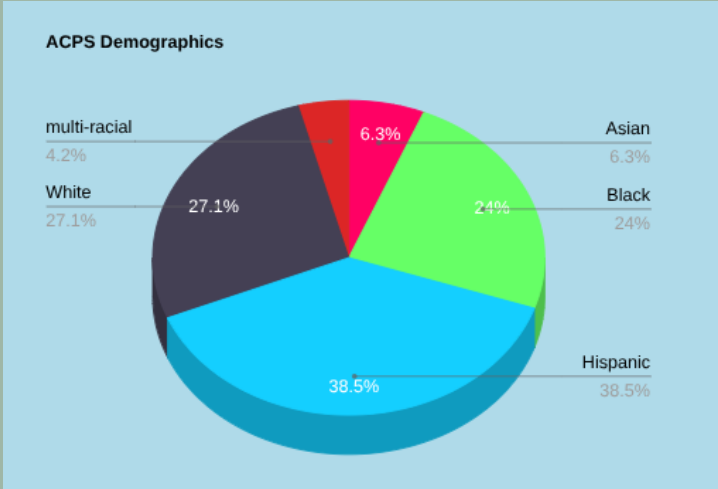
CYCP GOAL AND STRATEGIC AREA

All Children will be Academically Successful & Career Ready
Educational Equity &Racial Equity

HOW ARE WE DOING?

When it comes to the history curriculum in ACPS. The school district only follows what the Virginia standers of learning requires.

Our schools currently doesn't have a unit on Latin american history and the impacts it has had on the United States. It has been brought up and there is currently a plan to add a unit on the history of Latin America.



IMPLEMENTATION

Some action that we think that our school should take to implement this would be to fully push the class that we have available for us as an elective in high school. Knowing that we have a Latin American Studies class was important to us because we weren't aware that we had that option. We like the idea of us having the opportunity to join clubs like Latino Unidos or Latinos for Latinos. We also think that they should maybe ask in a survey for new incoming families into the district if they would like the idea of a Latin American studies unit being added into the students curriculum and giving a quick and brief explanation on why it's important for kids to learn that part of history.

PARTNERSHIPS



PERFORMANCE EFFORT

We hope to see results in this matter because we have been made aware of a plan to add a unit that details the History of Latin America. The only concerns or barriers that might come up with this curriculum would be that families might not like the idea of their children learning about other backgrounds. Another concern being that an adult might not know the best way to present or properly explain the history in the matter. A positive thing that we hope to see is that kids learn, understand, appreciate, and show off their backgrounds and feel comfortable with who and where they are from.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Some policy recommendations that we think would fit this proposal is that teachers should be knowledgeable about what it is that they are teaching and that they should be passionate about it. One of the things that stuck with us growing up was that sometimes teachers didn't really care about what it was that they were teaching, weren't knowledgeable about what they were teaching, or how it was that they were teaching it. Teachers should also encourage students to want to learn about this and not talk down on the subject as if it were just another unit.



IN PERSON

We talked to Sara Whelan and she helped us find the curriculum and helped us understand more of what we could do and what ACPS is already doing.

CITATIONS

Fast Facts - Alexandria City Public Schools. (n.d.).
Www.acps.k12.Va.us. <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/about-us/fast-facts>

History and Social Science Standards of
Learning for Virginia Public Schools

