



League of United Latin American Citizens

June 09, 2014

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Minneapolis Public Schools
Board of Education
1250 West Broadway Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55411:

Dear Board of Education Director:

On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the nation's largest and oldest civil rights organization composed of passionate community leaders dedicated to empowering Latinos, I write to urge you to support unanimous passage of the resolution declaring the 2nd Tuesday of every October to be Latino Heritage Day for Minneapolis Public Schools during National Hispanic Heritage Month.

From its founding, LULAC has provided Americans of Latino heritage with networks, resources, and support as they strive for equality in the United States. LULAC has been involved in the fight for equal education since its founding, from filing the first class-action lawsuit against segregated "Mexican Schools" in Texas, to the Mendez vs. Westminster lawsuit which ended 100 years of segregation in California's public schools and became a key precedent for the decision in Brown vs. Board of Education. Striving for education equality has been a constant focus for LULAC and although progress has been made, the work has not been finished.

In the last decade, the Latino population in Minnesota has seen an increase of over 75% and the Latino student population has grown from 5.3% to 7.1%. That aside, the Minnesota education system continues to show some of the largest disparities among Latinos and their white counterparts, a 33% gap in graduation. This is why it is extremely important to engage students, families and the Latino community at-large through innovative, culturally and linguistically appropriate ways to help close this gap. Declaring an official Latino Heritage Day would affirm Minneapolis Public School's mission to ensure "an inspirational education experience in a safe, welcoming environment for all diverse learners."

For these reasons, on behalf of the over 135,000 members of the League of United Latin American Citizens, I urge you to lead and unanimously approve the resolution declaring the 2nd Tuesday of October to be Latino Heritage Day for Minneapolis Public Schools during National Hispanic Heritage Month. For more information, please contact Luis Torres at Latorres@LULAC.org.

Sincerely,

Margaret Moran
LULAC National President