Latino Attitudes Toward Pre-K

March 2006 Survey

A research study commissioned by Pre-K Now
Methodology

- 1,000 interviews among Latinos in targeted states, conducted March 1 – 12 2006

- Sample drawn from Spanish surname lists and nationality-targeted lists in targeted states

- Margin of error = +-3.0 percentage points
Key Findings

• Latinos strongly believe that attending pre-k is important for four-year-old children.

• Latinos want pre-k to be a priority for state governments.

• Latinos experience obstacles in accessing pre-k, such as affordability and lack of information about program options.
Importance of Pre-k to Latinos

96% of Latinos believe pre-k is important for 4-year old children.

- Very important: 75%
- Fairly important: 15%
- Somewhat important: 6%
- Not very important: 3%
- Not sure: 1%
**Majority Favors State Funded Pre-k**

- Voluntary pre-k should be funded by state/local government, available regardless of family income: 53%
- State/local government should fund pre-k for low-income; parents who can afford should pay: 31%
- Pre-k is parent’s and family’s responsibility: parents should pay all: 14%
**Academic Skills**  
**Top Importance List**

Why Latino parents enroll children in pre-k:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To learn academic skills and letters, numbers, and colors</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To better prepare for kindergarten</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To learn social skills like following instructions and sharing</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To learn English</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Because the parents or family work outside the home and need someone to care for the child</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Because the child qualified for free pre-k</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Barriers to Pre-k

Why Latino parents do not enroll children in pre-k:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know about programs in their community</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents cannot afford it</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-k schedule is not convenient</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Want the children to stay with another family member</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pre-K is Priority but K-12 is a Concern

- 69%: Pre-K for all is an important priority for gov. to address now
- 27%: Government should fix K-12 education first

Latinos’ Attitudes Toward Pre-K March 2006 Survey
Tomás Rivera Policy Institute and Valencia, Pérez & Echeveste
Latinos Willing to Pay More Taxes for Pre-k

Should pre-k be available to all families, even if it raises your taxes by $100 a year?

- Strongly agree: 58%
- Somewhat agree: 17%
- Somewhat disagree: 9.3%
- Strongly disagree: 9.3%
- Not sure: 6.4%
Pre-K Advantage

Do children who attend pre-k have an advantage over children who have not attended?

- Yes 94%
- No 4%
- Not Sure 2%
Latinos Would Vote for Candidate Who Favors Pre-K

Candidate for state, county or city legislator who favors availability of pre-k for all

- More Likely to Support: 77%
- Less Likely to Support: 1%
- Makes no Difference: 17%
- Not Sure / Depends: 5%
Latinos Want Parent Involvement to Be Part of Pre-K

Importance of resources for parents in pre-k programs

- Very important: 88%
- Somewhat important: 9%
- Unimportant: 1%

Latinos’ Attitudes Toward Pre-K, March 2006 Survey, Tomás Rivera Policy Institute and Valencia, Pérez & Echeveste
Conclusions

- 97% of Latino parents with young children would enroll them in free, voluntary pre-k if it were available in their community.

- Communities need to improve outreach efforts for Latino families on pre-k program availability and access.

- Latinos show strong support for state responsibility in funding pre-k.
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