

# ALEX PADILLA

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## **Hispanic Educational Resources and Empowerment (HERE) Act of 2023**

It is estimated that by 2026, there will be more than four million Latino students in higher education. While the number of Latino students in higher education is rapidly growing, these students still face significant barriers to educational attainment. According to *Excelencia in Education*, only 28% of Hispanic adults have an associate degree or higher, compared to 48% of white non-Hispanic adults. Furthermore, the Latino student graduation rates at four-year institutions are 13% lower than their white counterparts.

The “HERE Act” would authorize a new \$150 million grant program to support partnerships between Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and Hispanic-serving school districts to improve the postsecondary educational attainment of Hispanic students.

### **Specifically, the HERE Act would:**

Direct the Department of Education to (1) award grants to HSIs to improve and expand innovative collaboration agreements between local educational agencies and HSIs to better serve Latino students, (2) provide technical assistance to such HSIs, and (3) contract with a third party to conduct an independent evaluation of grant activities. Grants must be used for specific activities, such as:

- Creating a college-going culture, including promoting early exposure to students and their families to postsecondary education opportunities and requirements.
- Providing academic support to prepare students for postsecondary education, to prevent the need for postsecondary remediation, and to provide high-quality postsecondary remediation.
- Supporting students through the college application and transition process.
- Addressing non-academic needs that are barriers to college enrollment, persistence, and completion, including child care and food insecurity.
- Developing and offering “grow your own” programs that encourage students to pursue teaching as a profession.

**The bill has been endorsed by numerous organizations and stakeholders**, including the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), Latinos for Education, the National Education Association (NEA), the University of California System, the California State University, the California Community Colleges, the School Superintendents Association, the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents, the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, the National Association for College Admission Counseling, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, UnidosUS, Campaign for College Opportunity, All4Ed, Teach Plus, and the American Association of Community Colleges.