“Traditional” Approaches to Educating Latino Students
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Cultural Norms
- Family values
  - Family members are very close
  - Father is head of household
  - Mother maintains the household
- Work ethic
  - You can overcome poverty through hard work
- Strong religious beliefs
- Spanish language is important
- Elderly members insist that young members-
  - Be respectful, understand honor, and have good manners
- A greeting may include hugging, a kiss on the cheek, or a pat on the back with not only family members, but with other members of society.
- Hesitant to discuss problems until trust is established
- English is a means to engrain the values and norms of the American culture into Latino people
  - Latinos maintain their heritage, language, and family values
- All Latinos are taught to never betray or embarrass the family

Relationships
- Be the teacher that cares
- Talk to your students
- Be a support/find out how the family supports the student
- Go to where your students live
- Go to Latino restaurants, bakeries, and other shops
- Read Latino newspapers
- Visit a Spanish Church service
- Invite parents to celebrate a Latino holiday with students
- Without authentic caring relationships with educators, students may feel disillusioned with their schooling experience

Respect
- You respect me and I will respect you
- Teach staff and faculty how to pronounce the most common names and provide at least a minimal amount of Spanish language training.
- Lopez, Allende, Jimenez, Villarreal, Villanueva, Quintanilla
- School systems may need upgrades to accommodate Latino last names i.e., Villanueva-Quintanilla
- Differences in male-female roles
  - Women are taught to respect their male mates no matter how much education they have

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Educator responsibilities

- Gain knowledge about households and social networks of students
- Share knowledge of the Mexican culture, all children in the class may benefit from opportunities to learn about language and cultural differences and similarities
- Regular routine for communication in Spanish and English
  - Select a day that communication goes home
  - Use email and websites
  - May need to be written if parents do not have access to a computer or phone
- Parental collaboration
  - Dialog rather than one-way communication

Programs

- AP classes
- AVID
  - Advancement Via Individual Determination
- Gear-Up
  - Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs
- Project Grad
- Work/School Programs
- Bilingual Tutoring
- Career classes
- GED
- Vocational programs

Movie

Stand and Deliver (1988)