

FINDINGS OF EDUCATION SURVEY HISPANIC POPULATION 2007



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The SC Commission for Minority Affairs acknowledges and thanks the members of the Hispanic Advisory Committee for their input and comments in the findings of this survey.

**SC Commission for Minority Affairs
Preliminary Findings from the Hispanic Latino
Education Survey 2007**

Executive Summary

The growing Hispanic population in South Carolina continues to have measurable impacts which are somewhat difficult to quantify. One area of challenge is the area of the provision of education and support services to children and families of the state's Hispanic-Latino population. These educational support services include:

- the provision of bilingual teachers and staff support in the public schools throughout the state
- the funding of Spanish speaking interpreters and translators to assist Hispanic-Latino school age children to understand and to become proficient in speaking English
- increased state funding for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programs for all public schools in the state of South Carolina
- increased state funding for the development and operation of special programs in the public schools to assist students with their school work
- the availability and dissemination of information in Spanish and other languages to parents
- the identification, utilization and linkage of community resources to assist teachers and school officials with addressing the language barriers between the public schools and Hispanic-Latino parents.

During the 2006-2007 school year, the staff of the SC Commission for Minority Affairs conducted a survey of the public schools to identify the following: 1) increase/decrease of school enrollment among the Hispanic population, 2) availability of bilingual teachers/staff, 3) interpreters and translators, 4) information available to parents in their language, 5) ESOL program available in their school or access to the ESOL program, 6) community resources, and 7) technical assistance for schools on Hispanic issues. This Executive Summary and preliminary findings of the survey provide information which can be utilized to augment the SC Department of Education's data and statistics to address the challenges listed above.

The staff of the SC Commission for Minority Affairs recognizes the current efforts of the state Department of Education and other research entities to address bilingual education. The purpose of administering the 2007 Hispanic Latino Education survey was to obtain specific information from teachers and public school officials about what programs and services are currently available for Hispanic-Latino parents of school-age public school children, as well as what gaps exist in resources and services for the Hispanic-Latino population.

A total of 1,258 surveys were sent to K-12 public schools. An examination of returned surveys revealed that not all survey questions were correctly answered by the school officials completing the survey. As a result, incomplete survey information is not reported in this preliminary report. Report findings summarized reflect the number of schools which correctly answered each individual question. The research staff, upon request, can produce detailed analyses by school district or region of the state. The survey instrument is also available for review upon request.

Preliminary Findings from the Hispanic Latino Education Survey 2007

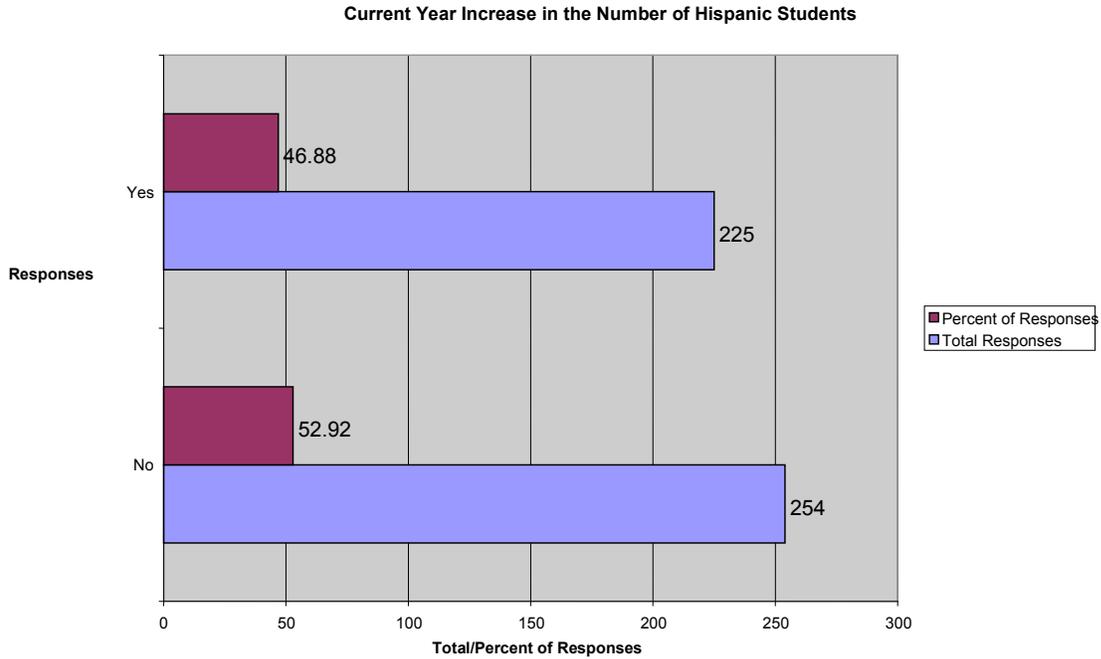
Key Findings from the 2007 Latino Education Survey

- A total of 225 schools across the state of South Carolina, or 47.7% of all schools who correctly completed the Education Survey stated that they had an increase in Hispanic enrollment between the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 School Year.
- A total of 308 schools across the state of South Carolina, or 64.4% of all schools who correctly completed the Survey had at least one teacher or staff member who is bilingual (able to speak English and Spanish).
- A total of 344 schools across the state of South Carolina, or 71.7% of all school correctly completing the Survey had at least one English-Spanish or Spanish-English translator in the public schools.
- Of the total schools completing the Survey, 75.2% or 358 schools stated that information for the parents of Hispanic Children was available in Spanish or some other language.
- Of the schools completing the Survey, 79.7% of all public schools completing the survey had students enrolled in English as Secondary or Other Language (ESOL) classes.
- At least 40.6% of Survey respondents were in public schools which had community resources that could assist both schools and parents with the language barrier facing the Hispanic population.
- Approximately three-out-of-every-four schools or 73.3% of public school officials and teachers stated that they would be interested in receiving technical assistance to bridge the educational gaps within the Hispanic-Latino community.
- Approximately half of all public schools (49.4%) participating in the 2007 Latino Education Survey had special programs that help Hispanic students with their school work.

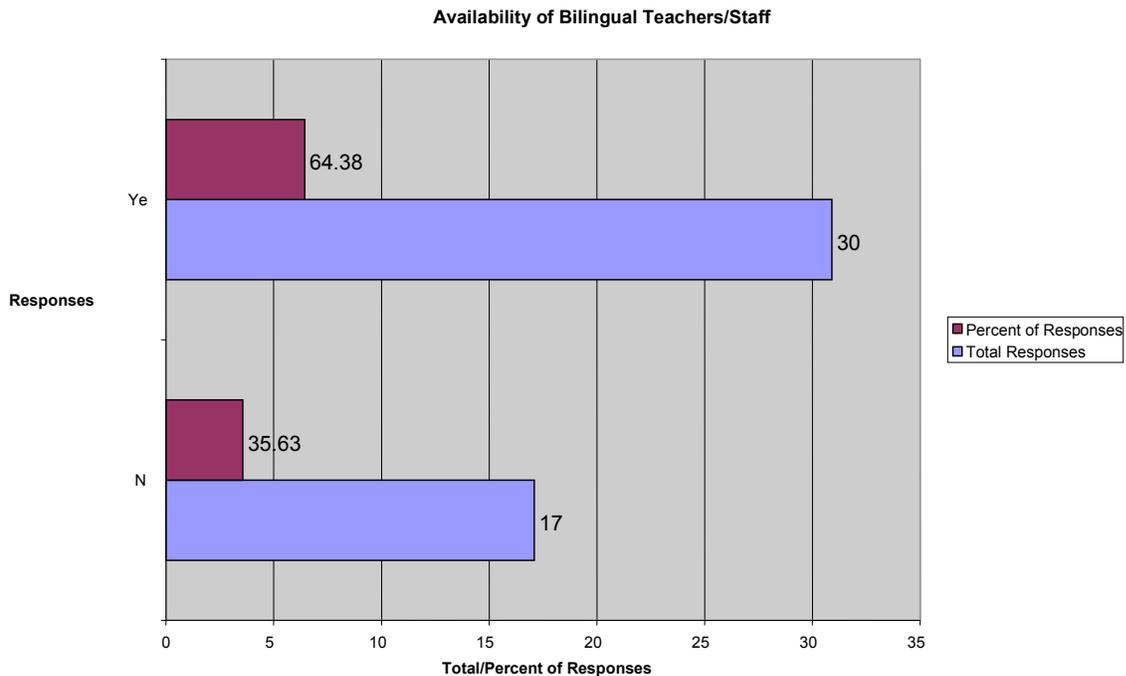
The following pages provide charts which summarize both total and percentage statistics. This information is based on the response information received from various South Carolina public schools officials and staff that completed the Hispanic-Latino Education Survey.

Preliminary Findings from the Hispanic Latino Education Survey 2007

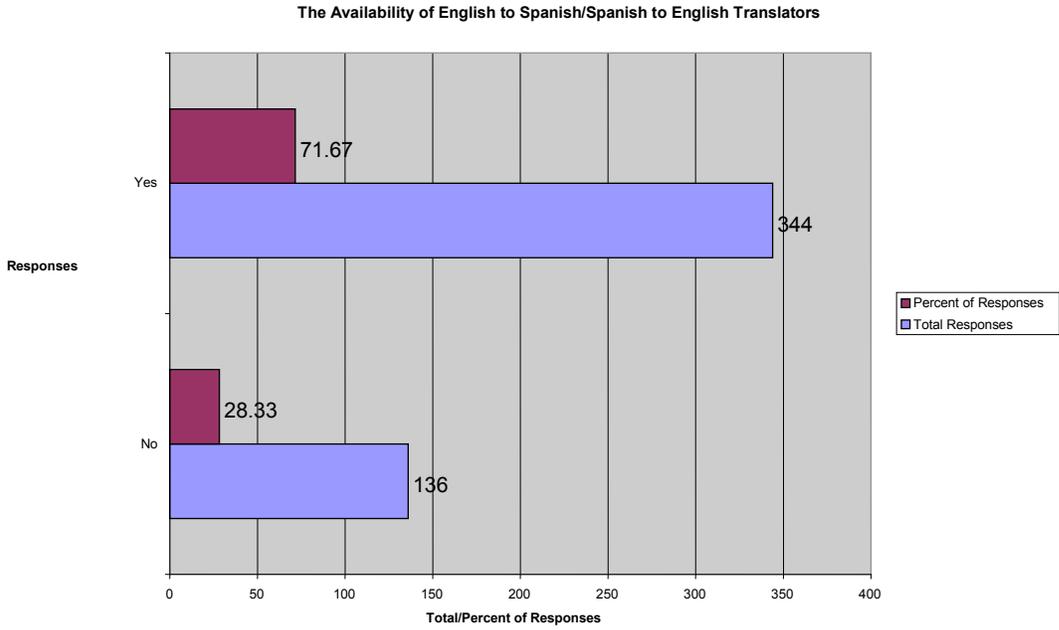
- A total of 225 schools across the state of South Carolina, or 46.9% of all schools who correctly completed the Education Survey stated that they had an increase in Hispanic enrollment between the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 School Year.



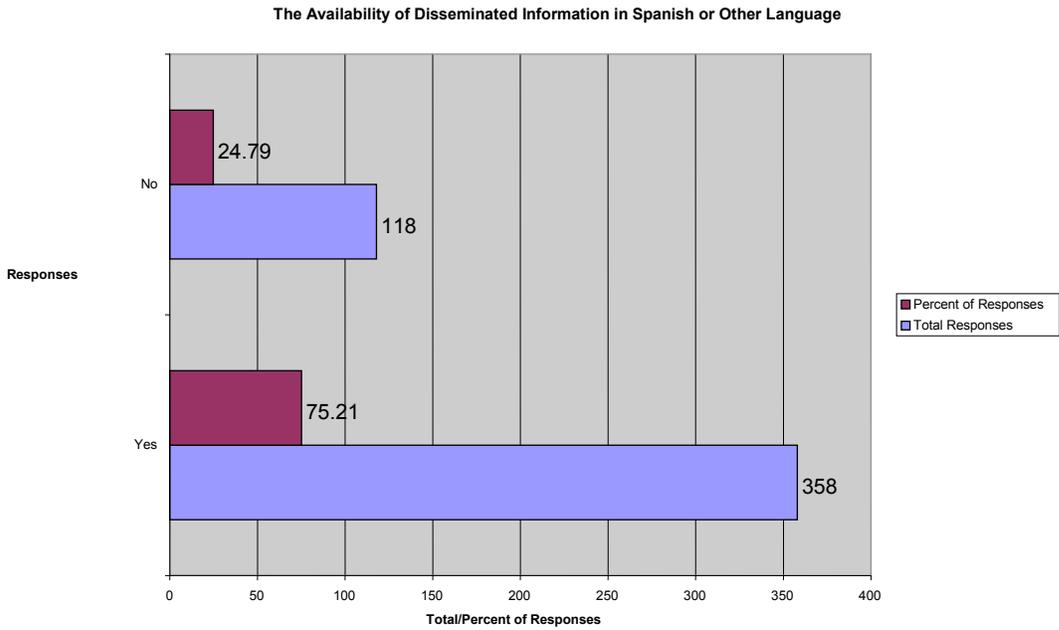
- A total of 309 schools across the state of South Carolina, or 64.4% of all schools who correctly completed the Survey had at least one teacher or staff member who is bilingual (able to speak English and Spanish).



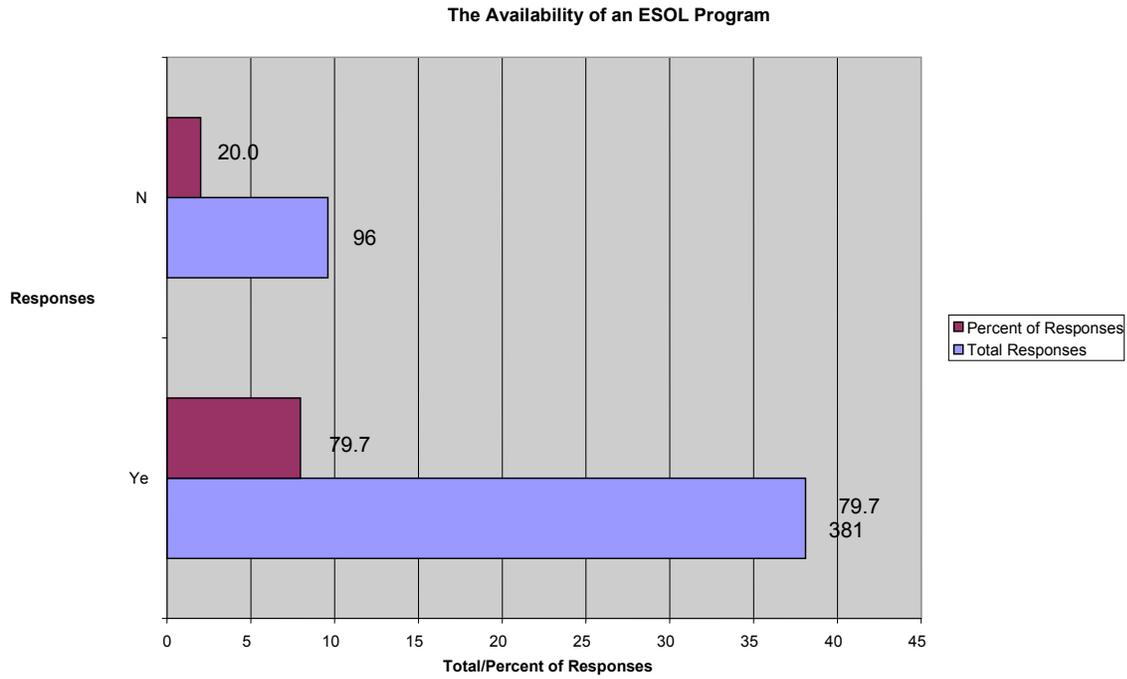
- A total of 344 schools across the state of South Carolina, or 71.7% of all school correctly completing the Survey had at least one English-Spanish or Spanish-English translator/interpreter in the public schools.



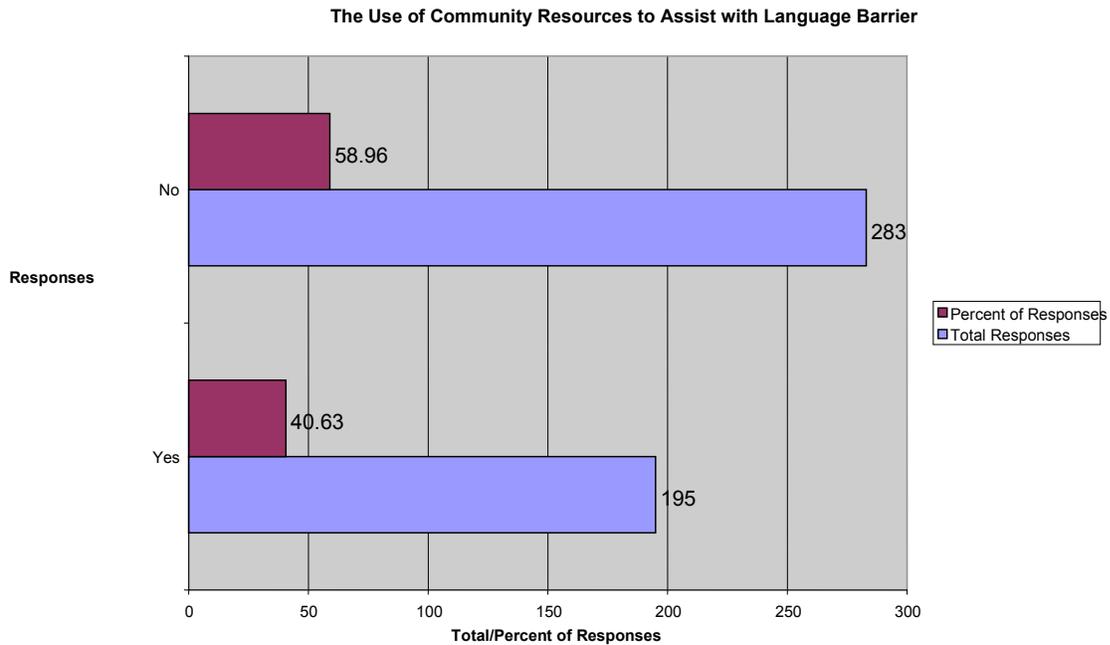
- Of the total schools correctly completing the Survey, 75.2% or 358 schools stated that information for the parents of Hispanic Children was available in Spanish or some other language.



- Of the schools correctly completing the Survey, 79.7% or 381 schools had students enrolled in English as Secondary or Other Language (ESOL) classes.

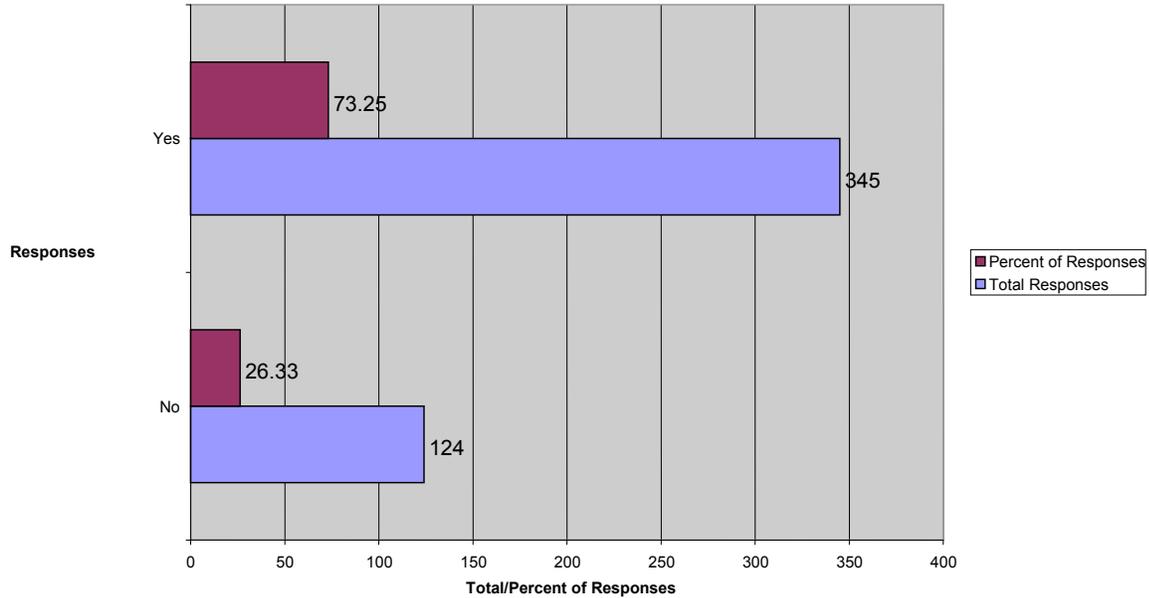


- A total of 195 schools or 40.6% of Survey respondents correctly completing the Survey were located in public schools which had community resources that could assist both schools and parents with the language barrier facing the Hispanic population.



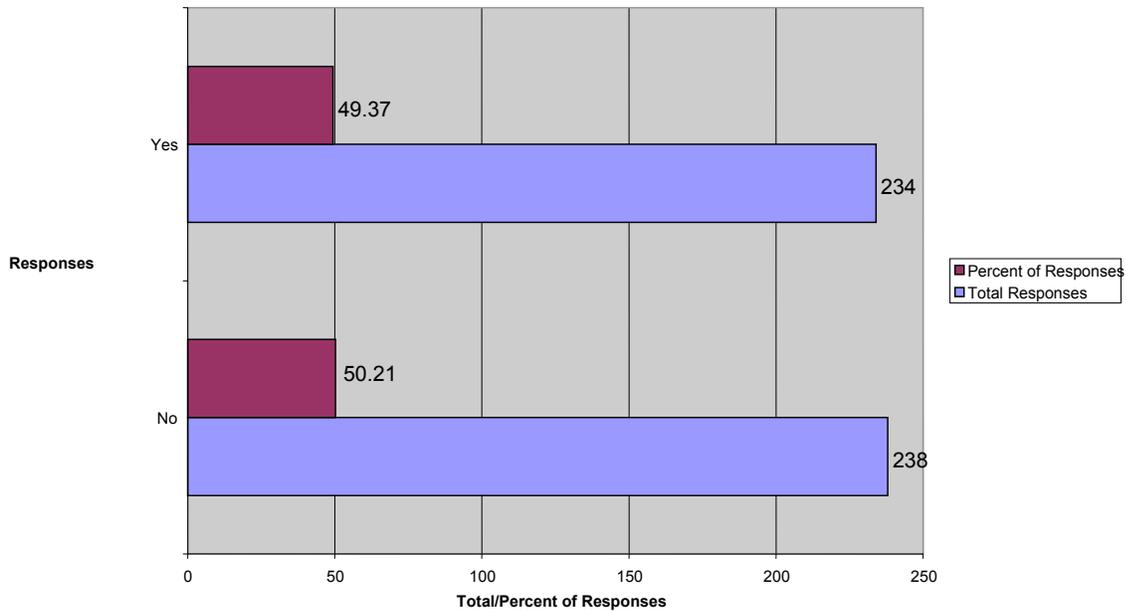
- Approximately three-out-of-every-four schools or 73.3% of public school officials and teachers stated that they would be interested in receiving technical assistance to bridge the educational gaps within the Hispanic-Latino community.

Interest in Receiving Technical Assistance to Bridge Educational Gaps Within the Hispanic/Latino Community and Students



- Approximately half (49.4%) of all public schools or 231 schools correctly completing the 2007 Latino Education Survey had special programs that help Hispanic students with their school work.

The Availability of Special Programs that Help Hispanic Students



Attachment
Education Survey

SC Commission for Minority Affairs Hispanic/Latino Education Survey 2007

Please complete the following survey and return by **May 15, 2007. Thank you!**

Please Print

Name of School: _____

District: _____

Principal: _____

Total Number of students enrolled _____

1. Have you had an increase of **Hispanic (not just ESOL students)** students in your current yearly enrollment (06-07) from last years (05-06) school enrollments?

Yes No

<u>05-06</u> _____ % _____ number	<u>06-07</u> _____ % _____ number
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2. Do you have bilingual teachers/staff? If so, how many? Yes No

_____ Teachers _____ Staff

3. During school enrollment or other school activities do you have someone who is available to interpret or translate from English to Spanish and/or Spanish to English (*circle one or both*)?

Yes No

4. Is information disseminated to parents available in Spanish or any other language?

Yes No

5. Does your school have an ESOL program and if so, how many ESOL Hispanic students do you currently have enrolled in your school?

Yes No _____ #ESOL students who are Hispanic

6. Do you tap into any of your community resources to help assist you with the language barrier between school and parents?

Yes No

Name of resource(s): _____

7. Would you be interested in receiving technical assistance on ways to help bridge the educational gaps within the Hispanic/Latino community and your students?

Yes No

8. Do you have any special programs that help Hispanic students who may need additional help with their school work?

Yes No Name of program: _____

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