

## HISPANIC LINK WEEKLY REPORT

A national publication of  
Hispanic Link News Service Inc.  
1420 N Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Ph. (202) 234-0280; Fax (202) 234-4090

Editor: Jonathan J. Higuera  
Reporting: Antonio Mejias-Rentas, Patricia Guadalupe, Christian R. Gonzalez, Margarita Corral, Jeannine F. Hunter, David Pendery, Michael Hewlett, Paul Charbonneau  
Researcher: Sonia Urzua  
Advertising: Carlos Erickson-Mendoza  
Legal Counsel: Ochoa & Sillas  
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Annual subscriptions (50 issues): Institutions/agencies \$135; Personal \$115; Trial (13 issues) \$37.  
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### Denver Latinos Offer Plan to Raise Student Scores

By Jeannine F. Hunter  
A coalition of Denver education activists has developed a plan to improve Hispanic student achievement in the city's public schools. It is seeking the city school board's endorsement.

The plan calls for seven goals and strategies to improve student performance, including in-

greater strength to unify," Nita Gonzales, chairperson of the Latino Education Coalition's steering committee, told Weekly Report.  
During the 1992-93 school year, 27% of Hispanic students did not receive satisfactory grades, reported the Denver Public Schools.

Denver Public Schools		Unsatisfactory Grades	
Student Population	Annual Drop-out rate	1992-93	1992-93
Hispanic	42.6%	12.9%	27.8%
Asian	4.0	9.7	9.3
Black	21.4	11.1	25.9
Native American	1.4	16.5	33.2
White	30.7	6.3	12.8
Total	62,702	2,964	22.2

cluding interaction between teachers, parents and community leaders and restructuring school districts.  
"We realized no one was going to pay attention to our children and that there was

first Latina deputy superintendent. She had also been serving as interim superintendent.

### Hispanic Law School Applicants Increase 1.2%

By Jeannine F. Hunter  
Hispanic law school applicants rose 1.2% in 1993-94 from the previous year but did not

School Admission Council.  
Michael Olivas, professor at the University of Houston and chair of the Law Professor Committee.

LAW SCHOOL APPLICANTS		difference	
1993-94*	1992-93	1992-93	1993-94*
Hispanic	5,910	5,841	1.2%
Mexican American	1,452	1,359	6.8
Puerto Rican	1,672	1,731	3.4
Other Hispanic	2,786	2,751	1.3
African American	9,133	8,752	4.4
Asian American	5,101	4,713	8.2
Native American	642	562	14.2
Total	83,300	85,000	-2.0

\*As of May 27 with an estimated 99% of the applicant pool.

Admission Council June 7.  
Meanwhile, applications from whites decreased 4.4%.

The number of Puerto Ricans applying to law school decreased by 3.4% even though more Puerto Ricans than Mexican Americans took the LSAT, according to the Law

ing considering they make up 66% of the country's Latino population. Puerto Ricans are 20%. The data include students who apply to Puerto Rican law schools.  
"Part of the problem is that law schools are not making the distinctions that enable

### Puerto Rican Law School Applicants Decrease by 3.1%

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them to take immigrant students and not work harder to recruit indigenous students," said Olivas.

Juan Figueroa, president and general counsel of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, noted that the figures

were another indicator of the worsening conditions in the Puerto Rican community. He urged more efforts such as PRLDEF's annual law school day for aspiring law school students held in New York City for the last 22 years. "Our educational system is not getting our kids ready for law school."

June 20, 1994

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