



Proclamation Designating Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month in MESD

Whereas, Multnomah Education Service District is committed to creating a community of belonging that improves the quality of life for all persons we serve; and

WHEREAS, the Hispanic and Latinx heritage of the United States extends historically over five centuries and has been a consistent and vital influence in our country's growth and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic and Latinx culture is tied to Iberian ancestry and our culture recognizes that Latinxs and Hispanics are multiracial and multicultural who in some cases can trace their historical roots to Indigenous and African ancestry; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic and Latinxs in Oregon are a diverse mix of first-generation immigrants and longtime residents.

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month was started as a heritage week in 1968¹ and begins on September 15, which is the anniversary of the independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua² and;

WHEREAS, this celebration is tied to the cultures across 21 countries Spanish-speaking countries including: Mexico, Puerto Rico, The Dominican Republic, Cuba, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Spain. They reflect an array of distinct and vibrant cultures that have enriched our community in valuable ways; and

¹ <https://prologue.blogs.archives.gov/2017/09/25/origins-of-national-hispanic-heritage-month/>

² <https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/about/>

³ U.S. Census Bureau. "Selected Population Profile in the United States" American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Selected Population Profiles, Table S0201, 2024

WHEREAS, Hispanics and Latinxs have supported Portland’s economy with many contributions and leadership in the fields of commerce, science, technology, public service, health, arts, and more; and

WHEREAS, despite these contributions and leadership, Hispanic and Latinx communities still have a median household income that is lower than non-Hispanic whites, and 17% of Hispanic families with children are living in poverty in Multnomah County; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic people are less likely to have health insurance compared to non-Hispanic whites in Multnomah County, which is attributed to linguistic and cultural differences, and a lack of access to preventative care; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that given the hardships and disparities faced by the Latinx community, this proclamation is only a small step of many that we need to take to be truly inclusive and supportive of our Latinx students and their families; and

WHEREAS, 23% enrolled students are Hispanic and/or Latinx. Students who self-identified as Hispanic also identified as American Indian Alaska Native, Asian, Black, Pacific Islander, White, or multiracial; and

WHEREAS, 13% of district leadership (supervisors, managers, principals) have self-identified as Hispanic or Latinx; and

WHEREAS, as of August 2026, 17% of MESD employees identified as Hispanic/Latinx; and

WHEREAS, Spanish is the second most commonly language spoken across our eight component districts with 8% Spanish speaking homes; and

WHEREAS, MESD is committed to and advocates for equitable educational, professional, and social opportunities for Hispanic and Latinx students; and

WHEREAS, the Blueprint’28 outlines specific strategies to increase racially, culturally and linguistically diverse staff; and

1 <https://prologue.blogs.archives.gov/2017/09/25/origins-of-national-hispanic-heritage-month/>

2 <https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/about/>

3 U.S. Census Bureau. "Selected Population Profile in the United States" American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Selected Population Profiles, Table S0201, 2024

WHEREAS, MESD has adopted policies that state our commitment to closing the achievement gap for students of color, and creating an educational environment where all students can benefit equally from the educational programs offered; and

WHEREAS, the District is working towards eliminating the racial predictability and disproportionality on all aspects of education and articulated action steps in the adopted District Strategic Plan “The Blueprint’28”; and

WHEREAS, the District collaborates and partners with community-based organizations like the Consulate General of Mexico in Portland, Latino Network, and others to form strong relationships in a culturally appropriate way and to provide the space for feedback and guidance to district leaders on improving outcomes and opportunities for Hispanic and Latinx students and families in the District.

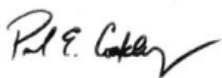
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Multnomah ESD Board of Directors do hereby proclaim September 15 to October 15, to be **HISPANIC/LATINX HERITAGE MONTH**, and strongly encourages staff and community to observe, recognize, and celebrate the culture, heritage, and contributions of Hispanics and Latinxs to our country, our state, our cities, and our schools.

Signed:



Chair, Katrina Doughty, Multnomah ESD Board of Directors

Attest:



Superintendent, Dr. Paul Coakley

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