



AUSTIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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DATE: March 4, 2026
TITLE: Student Organization of Latinos
TYPE: Action
PRESENTER: Activities Director Katie Carter

BACKGROUND: A group of students were interested in starting a new club, Student Organization of Latinos (SOL). The purpose of our culture groups is to provide a space for those with and without Latino/Hispanic background to belong. Belonging increases engagement, attendance, and overall well-being. Our Culture Clubs exist to foster belonging, celebrate identity, build relationships, and strengthen a safe and welcoming school environment for all. After recruiting students and finding an advisor, the SOL was able to maintain membership throughout a full school year calendar; they have met the requirements to make SOL an official AHS Club Offering. For a pilot year group, they have gone above and beyond expectations.

RATIONALE: As our student landscape changes from year to year, it is important that we provide diverse opportunities for our students to ensure that all students feel safe and welcome at Austin High School

RECOMMENDATION: I recommend approval of the Student Organization of Latinos to be added to Austin High School's official list of activity offerings.

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

To whom it may concern:

In January 2025, a new club proposal was submitted to the AHS Activities Department; Student Organization of Latinos (SOL). The club was being formed with the purpose of creating a vibrant and supportive community for students interested in Latino/Hispanic Cultures. Through cultural events, education initiatives, and community engagement, this club seeks to foster understanding, celebrate diversity, and provide a platform for students to connect and share their experiences. This club serves as a bridge, connecting diverse cultures and forges a sense of unity among students who share a common Latino/Hispanic heritage.

This past school year, SOL maintained at least 20 participants at each monthly meeting. The group is supervised by AHS teachers, Yenny Ahumada-Quimbay and Rhonda Alberts. During this time, the students have volunteered at Austin Public Library to read to children, are involved in our Cultural Week planning, and organize opportunities within their meetings to explore Latino cultures and foods. We are excited to host our 2nd annual Culture Week in April. More details to come!

The leadership of SOL is young and determined. They are very well organized: 1) efficient calendar planning, 2) ongoing recruitment of new members 3) innovative ideas on how to plan for future initiatives. The SOL club is also receiving tremendous support from their school community and African Community.

It is my recommendation that the Student Organization of Latinos (SOL) move from pilot status to a school-recognized club, starting in the 2026-27 school year. However, I also recommend that, if approved, we can create a fundraising account for this group as soon as possible, as they are ready to start raising funds to help support Culture Week this year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your support.
Best,

Katie Carter