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Immigrants Support Official English Legislation

Support for Official English initiatives is consistent among people of all races, religions, ages and political beliefs. Some of the greatest backers of Official English, in fact, are immigrants. See below for statistics on immigrant support for making English the official language of the United States.

- 87 percent of Hispanics believe Hispanic immigrants need to learn English to succeed in the U.S.¹
- Nearly all foreign-born Latinos (96 percent) say it is very important to teach English to the children of immigrant families.²
- 57 percent of Hispanics say that immigrants have to speak English to say that they are part of American society.³
- 68 percent of Hispanics believe that public school bilingual education programs should ensure that all students learn English well, rather than teaching immigrants in their native language.⁴
- 85 percent of immigrants believe it is very hard or somewhat hard for new immigrants to get a good job or do well in this country without speaking English.⁵

Sources:

1 – Pew Hispanic Center report, “When Labels Don’t Fit: Hispanics and Their Views of Identity,” by Paul Taylor, Mark Hugo Lopez, Jessica Hamar Martinez and Gabriel Velasco. April 4, 2012. <http://www.pewhispanic.org/2012/04/04/iv-language-use-among-latinos/>

2—Public Policy Institute of California report, “English Proficiency of Immigrants,” by Laura Hill. March 2011. http://www.ppic.org/main/publication_show.asp?i=817

3—Pew Hispanic Center, Hispanic Attitudes Toward Learning English (2006), <http://pewhispanic.org/files/factsheets/20.pdf>.

4—The Latino Coalition survey of Hispanic Adults, 2002

5—Public Agenda survey of foreign born adults, Oct-Nov 2002.