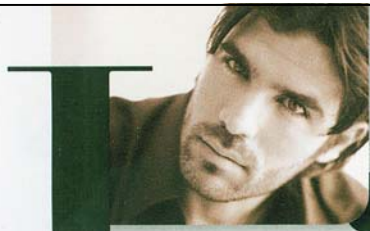


WHY YOU NEED TO KNOW THIS HOT LATIN ACTOR
(SEE PAGE 50)



Latina

Visit us at latina.com

**Gorgeous
makeup for
your exact
skin tone**

The **#1** thing you
can do to make your
butt look better

**Sexiest
fall styles
for your
curves**

We searched!
We found! Pages
and pages of perfect
outfits for real
Latina bodies

Roselyn Sanchez
The beautiful
boricua TV star
on success and
staying true

**HOT & NEW
IN OUR
CULTURE**

WHAT
TO HEAR,
WATCH
AND READ
THIS MONTH

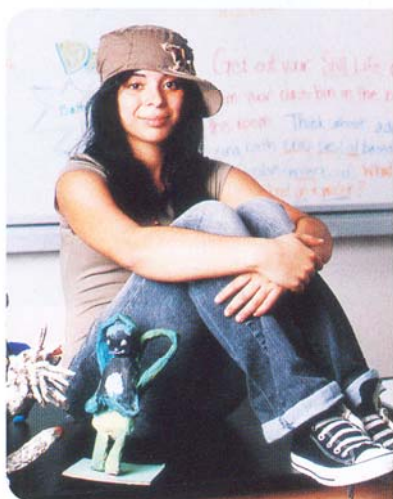
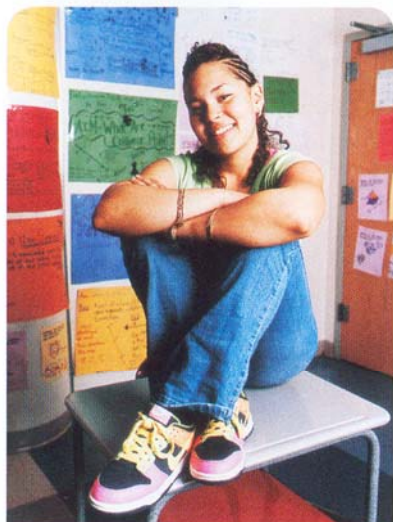
3 things
you should know
about raising a
bilingual kid

Special Report:
The crisis
facing young
Latinas and
how you can
help (p.115)



Latina

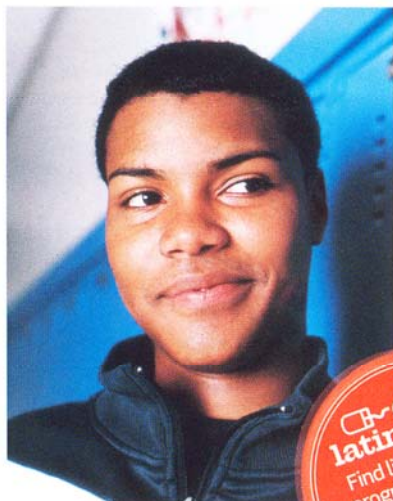
SPECIAL REPORT: THE STATE OF LATINO EDUCATION



Why these kids need you

Latino kids are dropping out at an alarming rate. But you—yes, you—can change that! Whether you're a mom, a big sister or a neighbor, as a successful Latina you have the power to help our next generation. In this special report, Latina asks teachers, experts and the students themselves: What can we all do to keep our kids in school?

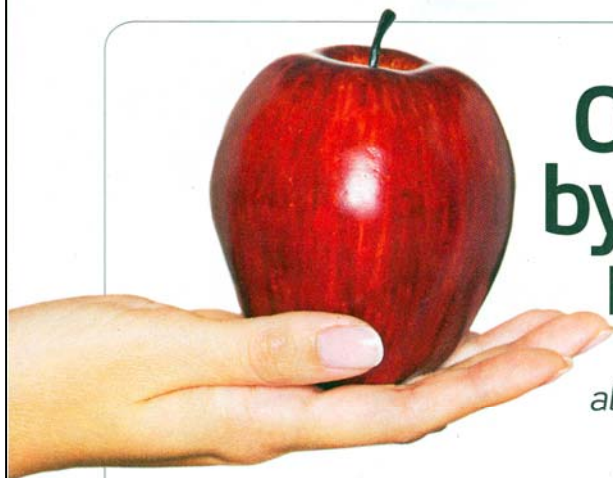
BY KENRYA M. RANKIN • PHOTOGRAPHS BY ERIN PATRICE O'BRIEN



On latina.com
Find links to more programs that can change the lives of the kids you love.

Latina

SPECIAL REPORT: THE STATE OF LATINO EDUCATION



Our crisis by the numbers

Here's the real deal about the issues our kids face every day.

22%

That's the percentage of Latino kids ages 16 to 24 who were not in school in 2005. It's double the percentage of blacks (10.4 percent) and almost four times that of whites (6 percent). That's more than 1.4 million kids who bailed on their education. It shoots up to 36.5 percent for recent immigrants, who often skip school in favor of going straight to work.

1/2

51 percent of Latinas get pregnant at least once before turning 20. That's nearly twice the national average and results in the highest teen birth rate of any group in the United States (8.26 percent, versus 2.67 for whites). In one survey, one-third of 9- to 15-year-old Latinas cited pregnancy or marriage as the reason they dropped out.

Almost 2 in 5

Thirty-eight percent of Latinos ages 16 to 19 work. About a quarter of second-generation Latino teens work and study at the same time, struggling to do well in school and help their families financially. And 34.4 percent of all Latinos who dropped out in 2006 reported that they were working.

88%

Nearly 9 in 10 minority high schools are high-poverty schools, and 49 percent of Latino kids attend the poorest schools. More than half (56 percent) of our kids attend the country's largest schools, compared to just 26 percent of whites.

Less than 1 in 2

Only 45 percent of schools serving Hispanic and other minority kids offer advanced courses, but a full 74 percent of minority girls are clamoring for an extra challenge. This gap is driven by low expectations; schools don't think our children can handle high-level coursework, so they simply don't offer it.

...and the 6 things you can do to help

• MENTOR

"Everyone should have someone to talk to," says Jeikob Guzman, a junior from Brooklyn, New York. Be that someone. Enter your zip code at mentoring.org to find a program near you. Use the site to find a mentor, too.

• VOTE

Support the next education proposition or levy. That extra \$1 out of your paycheck could mean new books and safer halls for the kids in your neighborhood.

• SUPPORT

Is your prima raising her kids alone? Help with homework so she can have some down time after work, or offer to drop them off at school twice a week.

• HOST

Need help on a project this summer? "Hire" an intern from your block. The office exposure will teach her about the world after school.

• TUTOR

Volunteer at a middle or high school and put your expertise to work. Hint: An engineer makes an amazing math tutor, and a writer is a great resource for a girl laboring over five-paragraph essays.

• TEACH

Teach for America trains top college grads across all disciplines to teach in low-income communities. Applications are available at teachforamerica.com.

