



**CANAL  
ALLIANCE**

# **2018 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA**

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## **2018 Public Policy Agenda**

Whether cultural, institutional, or political, many external factors contribute to economic instability among the Latino immigrant community in Marin County. For 36 years, Canal Alliance has provided direct services in response to the changing needs of Marin's immigrant community. While these services address some of the factors that cause economic instability among immigrants, we aren't able to adequately engage in all of these issues on our own. This is the point at which our advocacy work begins.

Canal Alliance is committed to engaging in tough conversations and highlighting the injustices that we identify as a result of our work in order to ensure that institutions and policies do not serve to further oppress or marginalize the Latino immigrant community. With the weight of our experience, expertise and insight, we will use our trusted voice in the community to advocate for, empower and speak for those who do not have the opportunity to make the changes on their own.

Our public policy agenda reflects our organization's commitment to improving opportunities for the immigrant families we serve. Our agenda is part of a comprehensive effort to end the generational cycle of poverty in Marin County through direct services, advocacy, volunteerism and community impact. We will focus on advocacy and policies in the areas of immigration and education that support our client outcome goals of legal status and education leading to economic stability.

# Education

Canal Alliance's organizational values of empowerment through education and setting high expectations drives our advocacy efforts in educational equity for youth and adults.

Our adult education and college readiness programs enable our families to empower themselves with the skills needed to move from a position of vulnerability to one that allows them to more fully provide for themselves and their families. Canal Alliance is grounded in the belief that every immigrant arrives with experiences, skills, and strengths that have the potential to enrich our culture and strengthen our society.

For 2018, Canal Alliance is working on the following Educational Policy:

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## Problem Statement

- In 2017, only 34% of Latino students in San Rafael City Schools completed the requirements for California public universities as compared to 65% of white students.
- In 2017, only 26% of Latino students who graduated from San Rafael City Schools completed college in six years or less, as compared to 58% of white students.
- Graduation requirements from San Rafael City Schools currently do not meet the California State University and University of California A-G requirements, meaning that a student can graduate high school and not be eligible to attend a California public university.

## Policy Recommendation

Canal Alliance advocates for the San Rafael City Schools to align the high school graduation requirements with University of California and California State University A-G requirements, and to provide the necessary resources and supports to enable students to be successful on this path. This establishes a mandate for schools to prepare all students for college and career. If more Latino students graduate A-G eligible, they are more likely to enroll in a four-year university and graduate with a degree. Obtaining a degree will set students on the path out of poverty.

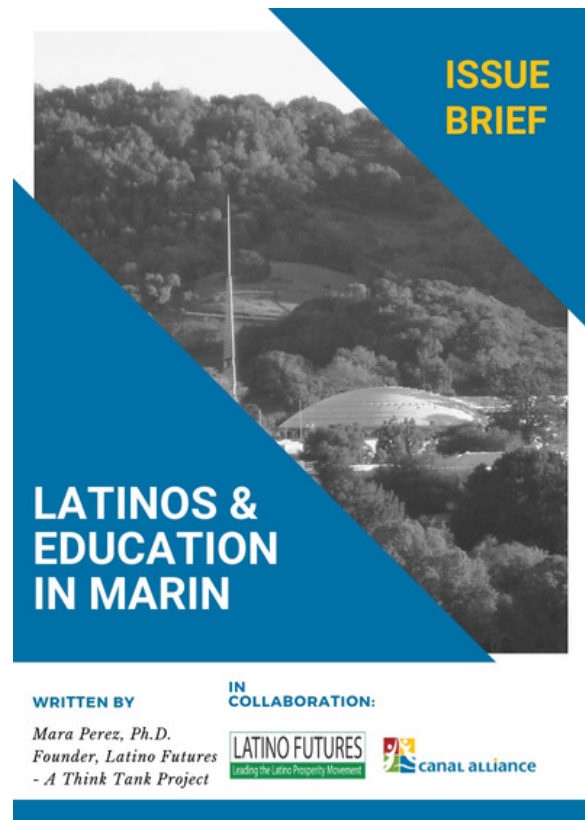
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Canal Alliance recently released an Issue Brief highlighting the disparities in Marin County's academic achievement for low income Latinos as compared to their peers. The paper, *Latinos & Education in Marin*[1], was prepared in partnership with Latino Futures, and sheds light on several staggering benchmarks of educational inequity among the most vulnerable and at-risk youth in our community.

“The American Diploma Project (ADP)—an initiative sponsored by Achieve and The Education Trust, two Washington DC-based educational policy and advocacy organizations—has clearly demonstrated the need for higher standards in secondary education. ADP found that in terms of English language arts and math proficiency, employers and colleges want the same thing.” [2]

“While education serves many purposes, an academically-prepared workforce is more important than ever before to a state's ... economy. The level of education demanded by today's jobs, especially in the growing fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), exceeds the supply of available workers. Attaining postsecondary credentials requires a rigorous K-12 academic foundation.” [3]



[1] Mara Perez, PhD, “Latinos & Education in Marin” (Issue brief, Canal Alliance, October 2018), [bit.ly/edadadvocacy](https://bit.ly/edadadvocacy)

[2] Linda Murray, *Diploma Matters: A Field Guide for College and Career Readiness* (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2011), 3-4.

[3] “New State Profiles Show Far Too Many States Need Better Data on College and Career Readiness”, Achieve, retrieved February, 2017, [https://www.achieve.org/files/California\\_2017.pdf](https://www.achieve.org/files/California_2017.pdf)

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