CENTRAL FALLS - Latino students at The Learning Community have closed the achievement gap between Latino and white students in Rhode Island, a persistent divide touted as one of the ten largest achievement gaps in the nation.

Learning Community Latino students outperformed Rhode Island’s white students in both math and writing and came within 4 percentage points in reading on the most recent state standardized New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) tests. Latino students in The Learning Community’s elementary grades outperformed Rhode Island’s white elementary population in reading, writing and math.

The Latino Policy Institute at Roger Williams University, in its 2013 report “Latino Students in Rhode Island: A Review of Local and National Performances,” found that the achievement gap in Rhode Island between Latino and white students is among the ten worst in the country. http://www.rwu.edu/about/partnerships-initiatives/lpi/reports

“We are so proud that our data continues to show that investing heavily in teachers and their practice, working in partnership with families, and challenging students with complex problems and opportunities to express their thinking are showing strong results,” said Sarah Friedman, Co-Director of The Learning Community. “The Learning Community has maintained a relentless focus on excellent instruction and providing timely support to each student who needs it. That emphasis is leading to incredible student achievement.”

Learning Community Latino students outperformed their Latino peers statewide by enormous margins: 23 points in reading, 33 points in math, 30 points in writing.
THE DATA: Learning Community Students Close Latino Achievement Gap

The charts below all reflect NECAP state standardized test results for Testing Year 2013-14 in grades 3-8 and % Proficient by Subgroup

According to the Latino Policy Institute report, the majority of students enrolled in Providence and Central Falls public schools are Latino, and the Latino population in Rhode Island is growing. At The Learning Community 81% of students are Latino, 39% are English Language Learners (ELL), and 86% qualify for free or reduced priced lunch.

About The Learning Community

The Learning Community has gained a national reputation as an excellent urban public school that shares what works with other public schools. Approximately 560 students from Central Falls, Pawtucket and Providence, Rhode Island attend The Learning Community, a charter school, in grades K-8. Founded in 2004, The Learning Community is known for its phenomenal faculty and a rigorous, inquiry-based approach to learning – emphasizing dialogue, debate and real world problems. By nurturing the voices of teachers, students and families, The Learning Community has built a welcoming culture, deep family engagement, and a systematic focus on supporting achievement. The Learning Community is one of 30 Commended schools in Rhode Island and is home to a teacher-led consulting practice that partners with other public schools. Learn more at www.thelearningcommunity.com

NECAP 2013 data source: http://www.ride.ri.gov/InstructionAssessment/Assessment/AssessmentResults.aspx

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