

**Linda Coble**  
**Director of Curriculum and Assessment**

Interview: 5/18/04

Interviewers: Kathy Chin & Alyssa Larrabee

1. What has been your involvement with our Hispanic population?
  - "I was once an elementary school teacher and spoke Spanish during parent teacher conferences, not fluently."
  - Coble collects data, assess' it and ensures that each school takes action against the achievement gap.
2. What are the goals of the Hillsboro School District regarding Hispanic students?
  - "Now is the reunion of Brown verses the Board of Education; as shown in the obvious achievement gap between the white population and the Hispanic population. The Hispanic population has grown rapidly over the last few years and is estimated to hit 40% by the year 2010. *IV Challenges Faced!* The district Strategic Plan and some school's improvement plans list the achievement gap as a **top priority.**" *Challenges List*
3. Would you explain the main programs and their provisions that the Hillsboro School District has created to respond to the needs of the Hispanic community in the last thirty years?
  - It began with the migrant schools and the instituted ESL programs; it has grown to SIOP, Read 180 (with visual conception aiding in vocabulary understanding) and others.
4. How successful are we in working with our Hispanic students' parents?
  - "It really helps to have home visitations. Sometimes things are seldom translated. Something might come in English and then we have to ask, can we get this in Spanish?"
5. What are the long-term goals of the Hillsboro School District in relation to Hispanic students?
  - As the statistics show, we need to close the enormous achievement gap; the differences are huge. There is a sense of white privilege. Coble's fellow employee stated, "When she goes to the grocery store people stare at her or give her funny looks; a sense of white privilege really does exist."
6. What are some problems the district has faced in providing for the needs of Hispanic students? *Achievement Gap*
  - IV* ➤ "Some people look at the achievement gap as -they're coming here, it's not our fault they don't know our language - and disagreement to the support exists, but as the Hispanic population grows so does the responsibility to stop the achievement gap."
7. What is your history with these issues?

- "I just work in the district; I do not get to be in the classrooms and interact with the students and I know this."
8. (The interviewee is not of Hispanic origin and did not inform us of her secondary educational problems.)
9. In your opinion, how successful has the Hillsboro School District's ESL and migrant education programs?
- Coble believes the migrant summer school and ESL programs to be for the most part effective; but we must refer back to the statistics, the achievement gap is horrendous. "Sure we have these various programs but look at these charts depicting the inequality of achievement data. Some schools may say – well 70% of our students are passing state standards, but we cannot exclude the 20% of the Hispanic students who are not passing. Spanish literacy significantly aids in the Hispanic outreach, for when a student is educated in their first language they learn much better." IV
10. What do you think could be done to improve them?
- "Solutions used to not even be on the radar. In Oregon we have actually begun taking the first step with groups assessing the problems, such as the office of Hispanic Outreach; such as you guys interviewing me. A couple of years ago people were afraid to ask the questions. Now people are asking the questions and assessing them."
11. How do these solutions fit in with the current plan?
- The programs are building awareness of the existing problems. "I have attended the powerful 'Understanding Racisms' classes, but people are not required to go."
12. Which schools have been the most successful?
- "McKinney elementary has achieved the most success; on paper the inequalities of the achievement gap are disappearing. They have significantly closed the gap. Parents of Hispanic or White children do not look at it as how to support 'my' children but 'our' children must be helped."
13. To what extent do you feel that you understand the aspects of the Hispanic students' lives?
- Refer to question 7.
14. What is the average Hispanic students' score on CIM and state tests? –Refer to the various provided charts.