



WHAT IS MAS?

MAS IS AN ACRONYM FOR MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES, AN ACADEMIC FIELD OF STUDY IN TEXAS AND OTHER STATES ACROSS THE NATION.

STUDENTS AT THE COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY LEVEL CAN TAKE MAS COURSES WHERE THEY ARE OFFERED. STUDENTS CAN ALSO MAJOR IN MAS AND RECEIVE ASSOCIATE OF ARTS AND BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREES, AND SOME INSTITUTIONS OFFER MASTER OF ARTS AND DOCTORATE DEGREES IN MAS.

STUDENTS TAKING MAS COURSES LEARN ABOUT MEXICAN AMERICAN HISTORY, LITERATURE, LANGUAGE, ARTS, POLITICS, TRADITIONS AND CULTURE. AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL, IN SOME TEXAS CLASSROOMS, TEACHERS ARE BEGINNING TO INTEGRATE MAS INTO THEIR CURRICULUM.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

THERE IS A MAJOR PUSH TO INTEGRATE MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES COURSES, AS WELL AS OTHER ETHNIC STUDIES COURSES, INTO TEXAS SCHOOLS AND SCHOOLS ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN GRADES PRE-K THROUGH 12TH GRADE. YOU CAN HELP BY USING YOUR POWER AS A PARENT, ADVOCATING FOR MAS COURSES IN YOUR CHILDREN'S SCHOOLS.

WE ARE ASKING YOU TO SPEAK TO YOUR CHILDREN'S TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS, YOUR SCHOOL BOARDS AND PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS. ASK THEM IF THEY HAVE MAS COURSES AT THEIR SCHOOLS. IF NOT, TELL THEM THAT YOU WANT MAS COURSES FOR YOUR CHILDREN.

IF WE WANT OUR CHILDREN TO SUCCEED AND HAVE A BRIGHTER FUTURE, THEN WE MUST EDUCATE THEM ABOUT THEIR HISTORY AND CULTURE.

WHY IS MAS IMPORTANT?

CURRENTLY, MEXICAN AMERICANS AND OTHER LATINOS ARE THE MAJORITY OF SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN IN TEXAS FROM PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH THE 12TH GRADE. THIS PERCENTAGE IS GOING TO CONTINUE TO RISE NATIONWIDE.

MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES COURSES HELP STUDENTS AND CHILDREN TO SEE THEMSELVES REFLECTED IN A HISTORICALLY ACCURATE AND POSITIVE LIGHT, WHICH IN TURN HELPS THEM TO FEEL POSITIVE ABOUT THEMSELVES, THEIR HISTORY, LANGUAGE, AND CULTURE.

STUDIES SHOW THAT MEXICAN AMERICANS, AS WELL AS STUDENTS OF OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS WHO TAKE MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES OR OTHER ETHNIC STUDIES COURSES, SCORE BETTER ON STANDARDIZED TESTS, GRADUATE AT HIGHER RATES, AND ARE MORE ENGAGED ACADEMICALLY IN ALL OF THEIR COURSEWORK.