



# PEAS Virtual Conferencia—

From Equity to Liberation:  
Transforming Education for Latinx Success

November 5, 2021 | 9am - 2pm

[peaslatinx.org/conference2021](https://peaslatinx.org/conference2021)

In Pursuit of Equity,  
Accountability and Success:

**Latinx**

Students in  
Massachusetts Schools

## Leaders, Educators, Activists, Scholars, and More: PEAS Announces Speakers and Highlights for its 2021 Virtual Conferencia

on November 5, 2021

WORCESTER, MA —Congressman James McGovern; Senior Advisor, U.S. Department of Education, Chris Soto; renowned scholar Antonia Darder, are among the many featured speakers of the 2021 PEAS Annual Conference: **From Equity To Liberation: Transforming Education for Latino Success** held virtually on November 5, 2021.

PEAS (Pursuit of Equity, Accountability, and Success) for Latinx students in Massachusetts, a statewide collaborative of Latinx educational leaders across birth through higher education, will host its signature event on its digital platform, convening thought-provoking leaders, practitioners, advocates and experts to center Latinx experiences in the context of Massachusetts—a state leading the nation in student achievement while consistently leaving Latinx students behind. The sessions will lift compelling models that focus on asset-based approaches to advance racial justice and reimagine schooling.

Featured speakers and sessions include:

Journalist **Bianca Torres** who will moderate a conversation with **Congressman Jim McGovern** on the potential for federal policies and funding to help transform education.

**Cynthia Orellana**, Director, Office of Community Partnership, University of Massachusetts Boston who will moderate a discussion with **Chris Soto**, Senior Advisor to U.S. Secretary Miguel Cardona on the Biden Administration vision for Latinx students.

**Melissa Colon**, faculty member at Bunker Hill Community College who will moderate a conversation with renowned scholar **Dr. Antonia Darder**, on constructing new paradigms centering Latinx students and communities.

Community-led workshops include:

**This Bridge Called Liberación** will explore pedagogical and practical ways for educators and community members to build authentic, liberatory, and culturally responsive bridges between our schools and homes. Facilitator: Katherine Lebron, The Radical Maestra

**What Does Liberation Look Like for Early Childhood Education?** This session will provide a template for taking action that is timely, relevant & immediately actionable. Facilitators: Amanda Storth, The CAYL Institute /Valora Washington, The CAYL Institute /Rosemary Hernandez, Clarendon Early Education Services

**Creating Culturally Sustaining Learning Environments for Latinx Students,** learn about a study of exceptionally effective faculty at 5 Hispanic-Serving community colleges in New England, and the ways in which they design learning environments that support student success and belonging. Facilitator: Liya N. Escalera, PhD, University of Massachusetts Boston

**Achieving Latine Student Success through Relationships with Families,** Family culture, language and experience are used as assets to ground participating youth in programs. Facilitators: Hilda Ramirez and Carmen Rosado/ Latino Education Institute, Worcester State University

**Innovations to Close the Achievement Gaps in College and Career Success,** This panel discussion will explore several different promising programs, including Innovation Pathways, 13th Year/Early College, and Campus Without Walls, that are changing the paradigm in how education is delivered, with focused outcomes on college and career success and closing the achievement gap for all students. Kevin Fudge, American Student Assistance /Kristen Almquist-Cevallos, Dearborn STEM Academy/Chad d'Entremont, Rennie Center for Education and Research Policy / Marjorie Ringrose, Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation

**Let's Get Movin' Towards Liberation,** Health, fitness, and nutrition discussions impact overall well-being, yet they are often absent in schools. The goal of this scholarship is to discuss the crucial role that community-based programs play in the community. Facilitator: Juan Gutierrez, Graduate Student, Boston University

American Student Assistance is the title sponsor of this year's Annual Conference.

[A full list of Conference sessions](#) is available online. Registration is open and free of charge.

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**WHAT:** PEAS Annual Conference

**WHEN:** Friday, November 5 (9-2)

**WHERE:** Details and the latest conference schedule is available on the PEAS conference website. Contact Mary Jo Marion, PEAS Steering Committee for more information – 617 291 2631, [mmarion@worcester.edu](mailto:mmarion@worcester.edu)