

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 626

WHEREAS, A report published in the December 2014 issue of the *American Educational Research Journal* found that students who took Mexican American studies courses were more likely to pass standardized tests and graduate from high school; and

WHEREAS, Conducted by the Center for the Study of Higher Education at the University of Arizona, the academic assessment of 26,000 students showed a consistent positive relationship between taking Mexican American studies classes and student achievement; students who were among the district's lowest achievers before taking such culturally relevant courses improved even more than others; moreover, a similar 2012 study in the Tucson Unified School District also discovered significant advancement among participants; and

WHEREAS, The student population of Texas public schools is more than 50 percent Latino, yet the curriculum frequently fails to address the myriad contributions of Tejanos to the state and the nation in the arts, business, the military, politics, and other fields; although the histories of Texas and Mexico are closely intertwined, there are gaps in the knowledge of key subject matter; for instance, while Cinco de Mayo is widely celebrated, the context of the Battle of Puebla in 1862 is not universally known; and

WHEREAS, A well-established field recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Mexican American studies provide a more complete understanding of the history and culture of Texas and the United States and help students develop the critical thinking skills that are necessary to thrive in education and business; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 84th Legislature, hereby recognize May 1, 2015, as Mexican American Studies Day in Texas and encourage all parents and educators to learn more about the value of Mexican American studies.

Garcia, Rodríguez

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 27, 2015.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate