

My name is Aylin Osuna and I am in 8th grade at Mountain View Middle School. I would like to share my experience and opinion about the school I attend as a Mexican student.

I came from Mexico to the United States about 2 years ago knowing very limited English. The first school I attended in the United States is the one I attend right now, Mountain View Middle School. At first it was very difficult to understand and complete my assignments and tests without knowing just the basics of the English language, but I got a lot of support from my teachers. They do their best to help me understand and try to speak to me in Spanish. An example is my math teacher Ms. Picton. She tried to explain certain math topics to me until I could understand the class material, she was patient and always tried to give me or translate some assignments into Spanish. Another example is my PE teacher, who is also very supportive and tried to speak Spanish to me so I could understand the class.

Although I have good experiences with teachers understanding my cultural background and supporting me to continue practicing my English, I feel that Mountain View Middle School should have more diverse staff who can also relate to other students that don't have the same experiences as me. In school we learn about the history of the United States but not about other countries and cultures. Ever since I moved to Oregon I have not learned about the history of Mexico.

Being a part of the REAP leadership program has helped me go out of my comfort zone by achieving my goals and learning how to be a leader. But I also learned more about myself and about mental health, as well as knowing how to control my emotions, which I consider to be very useful. The youth essential coordinator makes sure I am doing well in class, guides me to advocate for myself, and explains instructions in Spanish when I don't understand it. With the house bill 4099, I believe more students will have the opportunity to continue being apart in a

cultural environment where they all can feel welcome and be heard and include multicultural programs like REAP. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.