



# News

from the MNPS Public Information Office

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools

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## **COPLA and Community Stakeholders Host Hispanic Student Graduation Celebration Event**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (May 21, 2008) –The **Comité de Padres Latinos (COPLA)**, [*Committee of Latino Parents*], a parents group focusing on communication with MNPS Latino parents, is hosting a Hispanic Student Graduation Celebration Event for the Class of 2008.

More than 200 MNPS Hispanic students graduating from high school this year will be honored, along with their parents, starting 5 p.m. Saturday, May 31, at the Allen Arena of Lipscomb University.

The COPLA board voted to host this type of event every year under the theme *¡Lo Logramos! (We Made It!)*.

“It’s nice to see so many great leaders working together to ensure this event produces a memorable experience for our graduating students and their families,” said Ernestina González, COPLA chair. “We believe that by publicly acknowledging these students’ success every year, this would produce an inspiring ripple effect in our younger children, our community and beyond.”

The community stakeholders working with COPLA for this year’s event include the Nashville Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Lipscomb University, Harding Place Family YMCA-Hispanic Achievers, Conexión Américas, Prevent Child Abuse of Middle Tennessee, Spanish-TV, Tennessee Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and other community organizations.

Guest speakers include Mayor Karl Dean, attorney Gregg Ramos, Pastor Tommy Vallejos and others.

A reception will follow the ceremony. The food will be provided by members of the Nashville Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and live entertainment by Son Latino and Maria Benham.

COPLA was organized two years ago to help build relationships with the parents of Hispanic students, who comprise more than 14% of the district’s student population. The organization meets monthly to share information and resources available to Spanish-speaking families, as well as develop ways to educate families on the important role of parental involvement in student success.

Metro Nashville Public Schools provide a range of educational opportunities to more than 75,000 students in Nashville and Davidson County. The governing body for MNPS is the Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County Board of Public Education, a nine-member group elected by residents of Metropolitan Nashville. For more information, please visit [www.mnps.org](http://www.mnps.org).

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