Since California’s beginnings, federal, state, and local policies and legislation have limited educational opportunities for California’s Latino students. The legacy remains to this day.

1850 - California becomes a state. The state constitution views California residents with Mexican heritage as foreigners.

1862 - In Plyler v. Doe, the U.S. Supreme Court guarantees undocumented students access to free, public K-12 education.

1901 - AB 540 allows qualifying nonresident students, including undocumented students, to pay in-state tuition at California public colleges and universities.

2001 - Gov. Jerry Brown signs the California DREAM Act. This legislation gives undocumented residents access to financial aid for California public colleges and universities.

1909s - California voters pass a series of propositions with anti-Latino overtones.

1978 - Regents of the University of California v. Bakke upholds the consideration of race as one of many factors in public university admissions.

1974 - In Lau v. Nichols, Chinese-speaking students successfully argue that they are entitled to special supports in school to gain English-language proficiency. This US Supreme Court ruling applies to all non-English speaking students across the country, including those who are Latino.

1990s - California voters pass a series of propositions with anti-Latino overtones.

1997 - The state of California passes a package of bills to protect undocumented immigrants, including protections for undocumented students and students from mixed-status families in the public K-12 and higher education systems.

2016 - Almost immediately after the presidential election, school districts, higher education institutions, and state leaders publicly commit through resolutions, public statements, and introduced legislation to protect Latino, Muslim, LGBT, undocumented, and other vulnerable students and families.

2016 - Gov. Jerry Brown signs Proposition 58, which overturns most provisions of Proposition 227 and reinstates bilingual education. The following year, in 2017, the state adopts an English Learner Roadmap clarifying the state’s new plan to encourage bilingual instruction.

1982 - University of California v. Bakke strikes down racial quotas but upholds the consideration of race as one of many factors in public university admissions.