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TAKING ACTION WITH FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS: CRITICAL PEDAGOGY AS A FRAMEWORK FOR EDUCATIONAL CHANGE

Ana Inés Heras

INTRODUCTION

In January of 1998, the school board members in Santa Barbara, California, unanimously voted to end a 25-year bilingual education program. The Latino Spanish-speaking families united to take action against this measure, and participated in several community-organized meetings, rallies, and press conferences. The families boycotted the school system (450 children were out of school for three days), attended school board meetings, sent letters to the board and the school administration, and actively sought information on their rights, obligations, and avenues to make their voices heard. They were supported in their efforts by local organizations, community members and leaders who belong to a broad range of ethnic and language backgrounds.

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