

Dibujate para el Cambio

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Research Question

 How do social institutions, (government, media and school) influence Latino student happiness in Canada?

Visual methodology

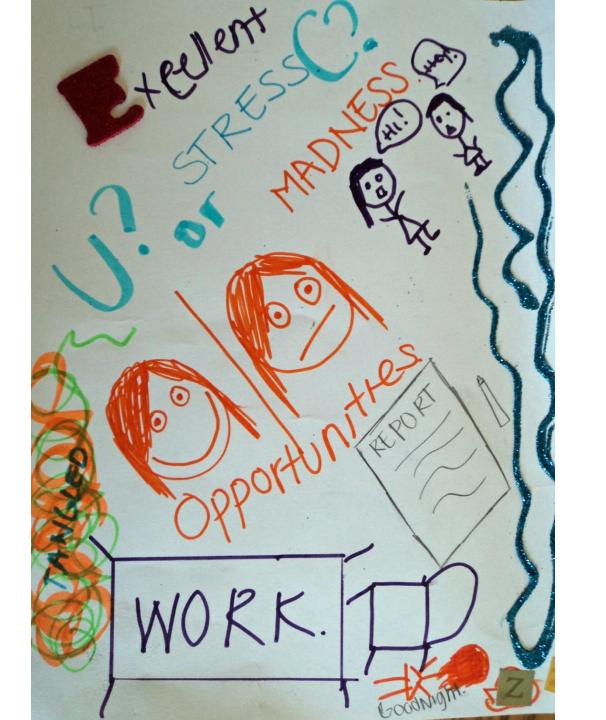
 Drawing self-portraits was the way we chose to answer this question. High school students were asked how they saw themselves in school and in their personal live. Each interviewee was also guided to draw the institution of education, here in Canada, influences them in school and in their personal lives.

conclusions

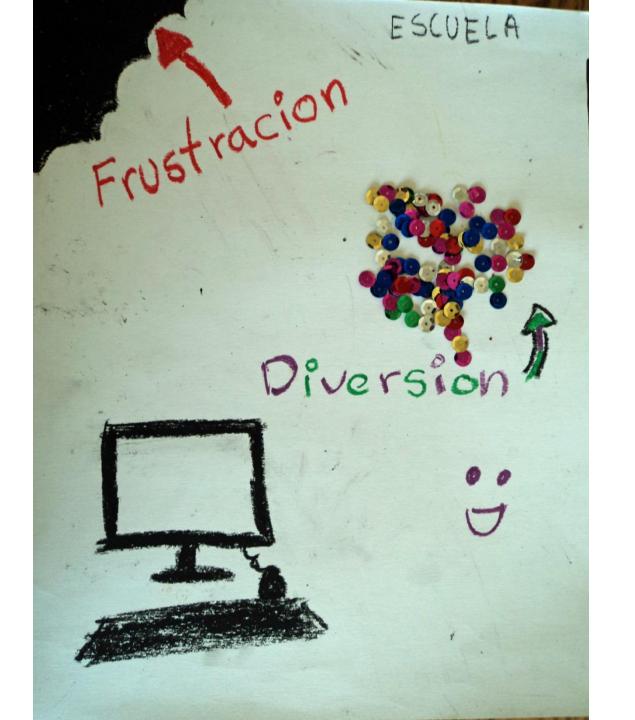
 Obstacles that influence students feelings of happiness and positive achievement in school

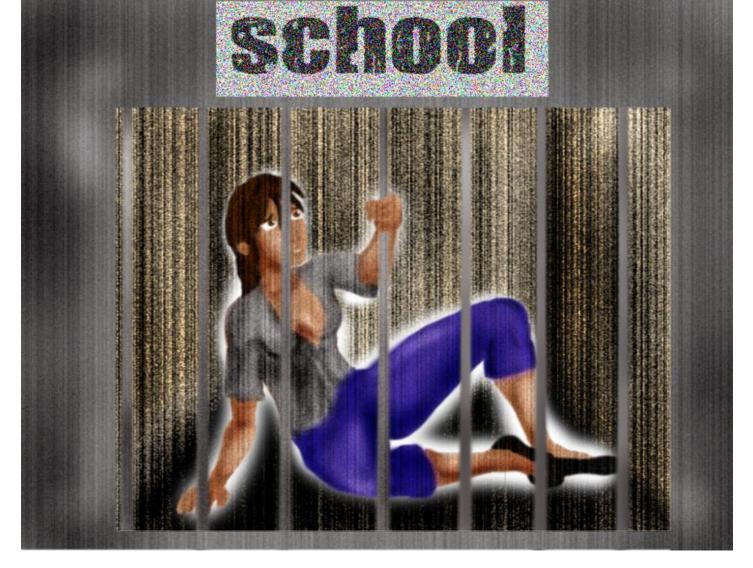


 1. many of the immigrant students said they felt frustrated due to the fact that they did not feel fluent in English and this affected how they did in school

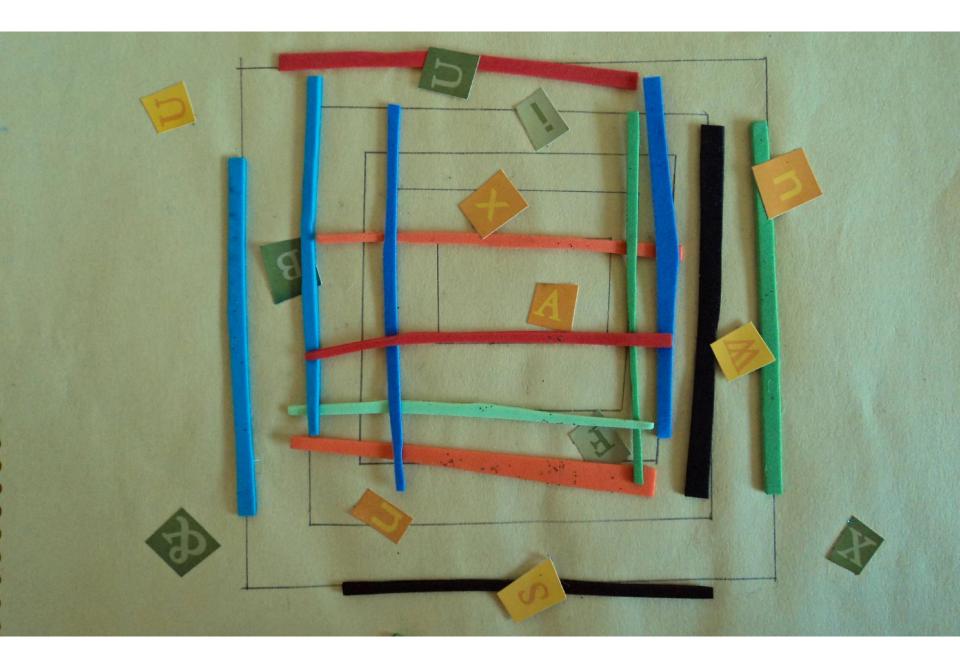


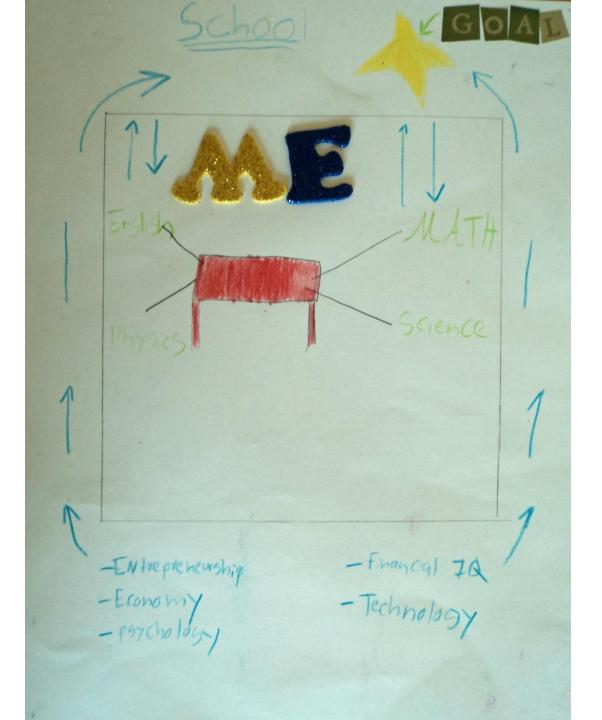
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• 2. 25% of the student s said they felt has little freedom when it came to study what they wanted. One student said that he felt like school was like a box, with limited choice of course that were dictated by the education system to graduate. This lack of interest in student interests contributes to the levels of success in Latino students have in the Toronto school system, which is presently at the 40% drop out rate







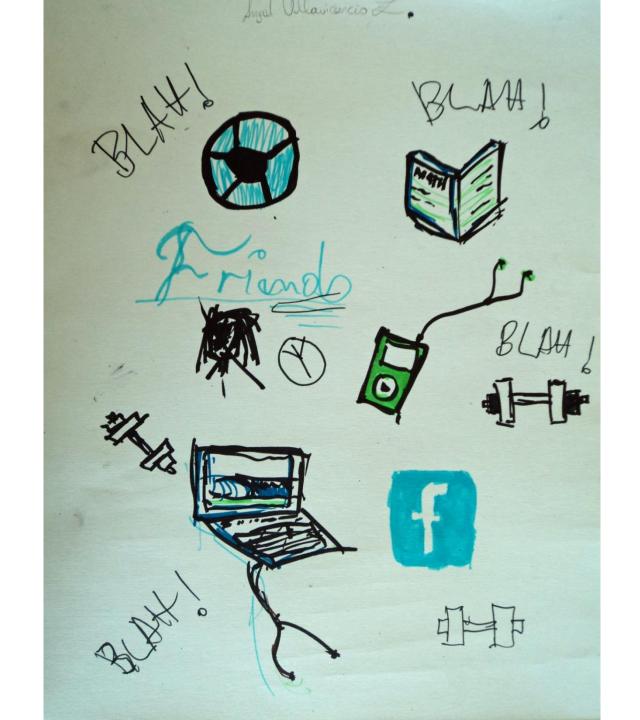
• 3. employees, (specially teachers) who work and form part of this educational system have an influence on students happiness. If students are motivated positively, and feel like their teachers respect them, there is a better chance that they are interested in school and their courses. Again, 25% of students interviewed felt they were not supported or in one case, even liked by their teachers.



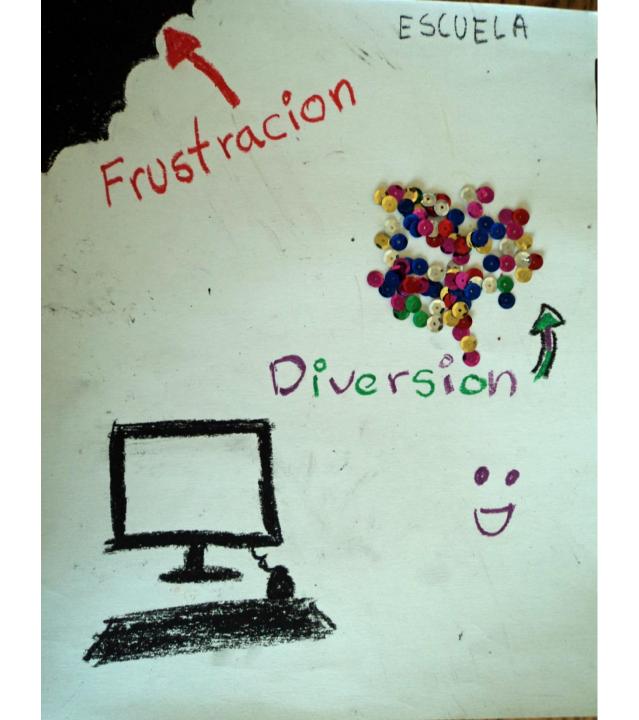
The best place at school for me, would be my Physics class y



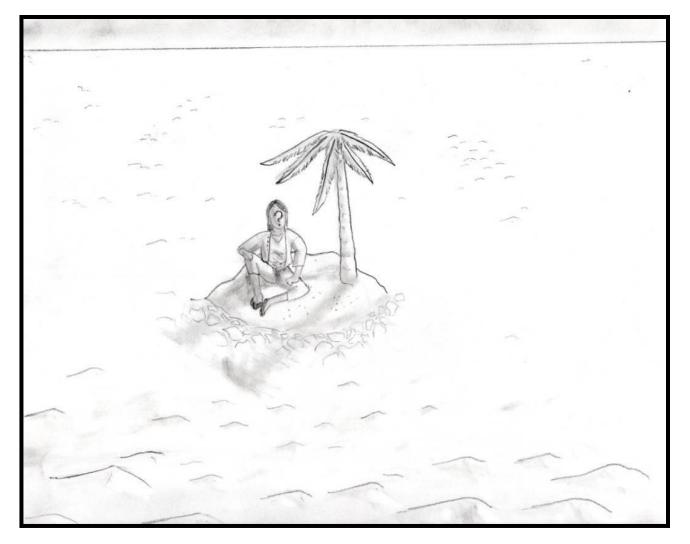
 4. recently immigrated students find difficulty adapting to a new education system that is different from their countries in many ways, in terms of content, pressure and culture



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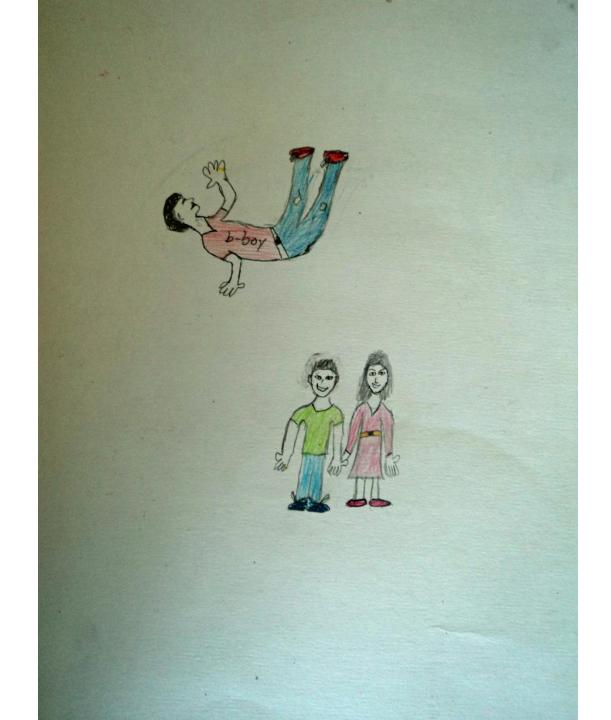




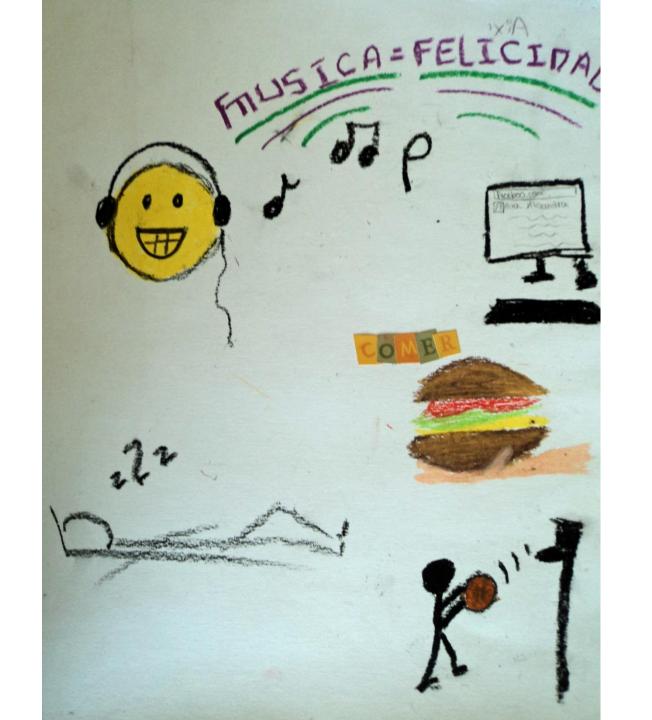
• 5. these obstacles can result in loss of identity and sense of community for these Latino students. For this reason many students(75%) search for other options to provide community and sense of well-being

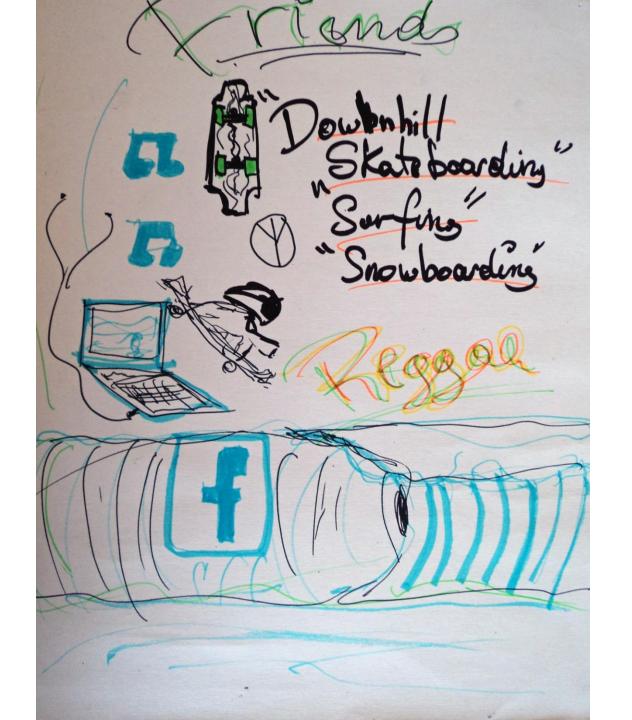






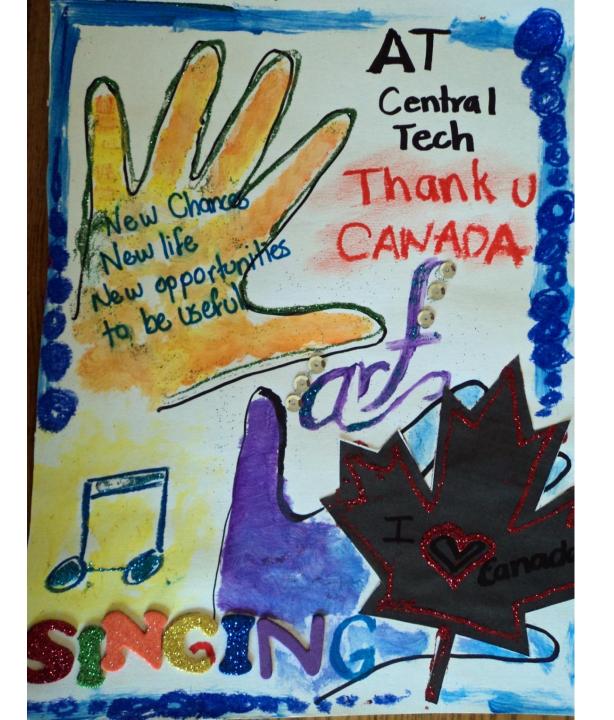






Positive factors which influence students feelings of happiness and personal positive achievement, in and out of school.

- 1. 9 out of 12 students interviewed practice some kind of sport in or outside the school, (most popular being soccer).
- 2. 33% of the interviewees were interested in learning through the arts. Music and Art programs seem to offer positive incentives so that students attend school, since those who did felt happy and were doing well in school.



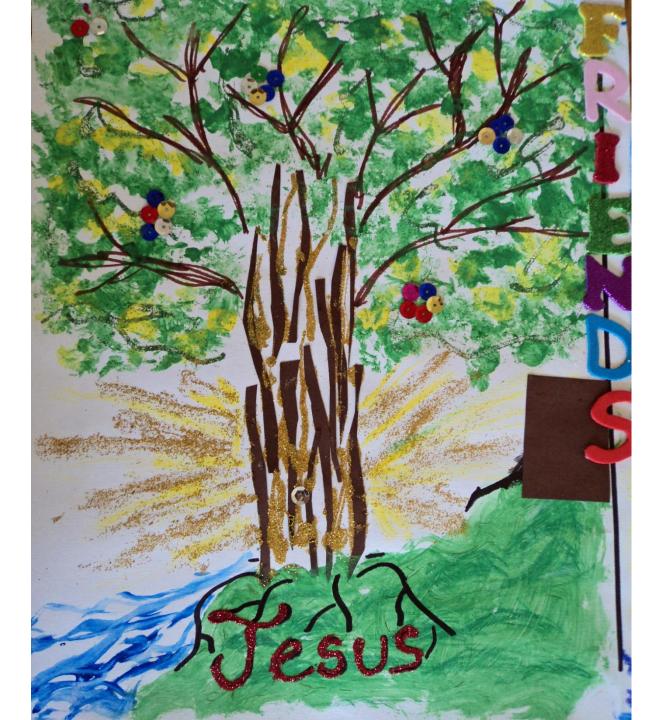


3. 17% of students practice a religion.
 These students also said they felt good at school. This makes us think that religion serves an important role in helping students feel they are part of a community that shares the same language and culture.



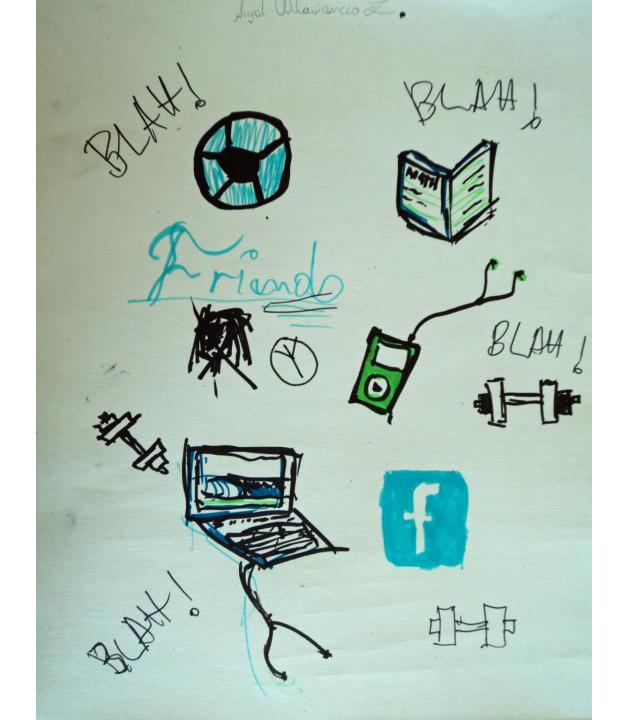




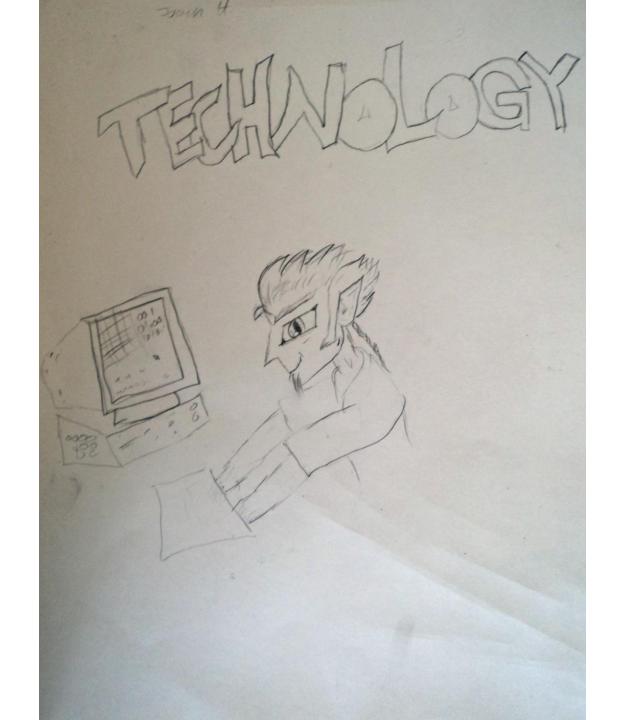




 100% of students interviewed admitted to use technology, (Facebook, twitter, email and their iPod – for music) as a way to relax from the pressure of school and as a critical form of communication with family and the Latino community inside and outside Toronto.

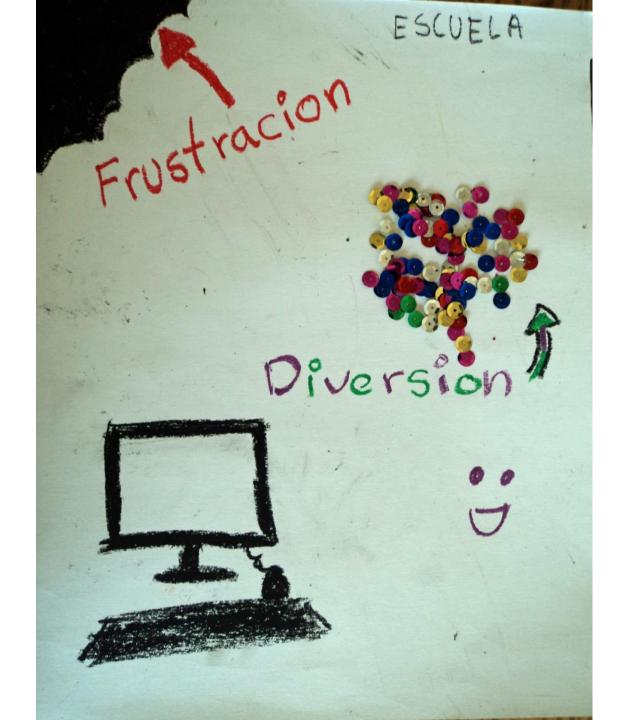












 We conclude that it is important that every Latino student have a sense of community in order to school. Through our evidence and investigation of the interviews and self-portraits, the students who feel they are part of a community, whether it is through the community, sports, music and the arts, have a better chance of doing well/passing in school.

