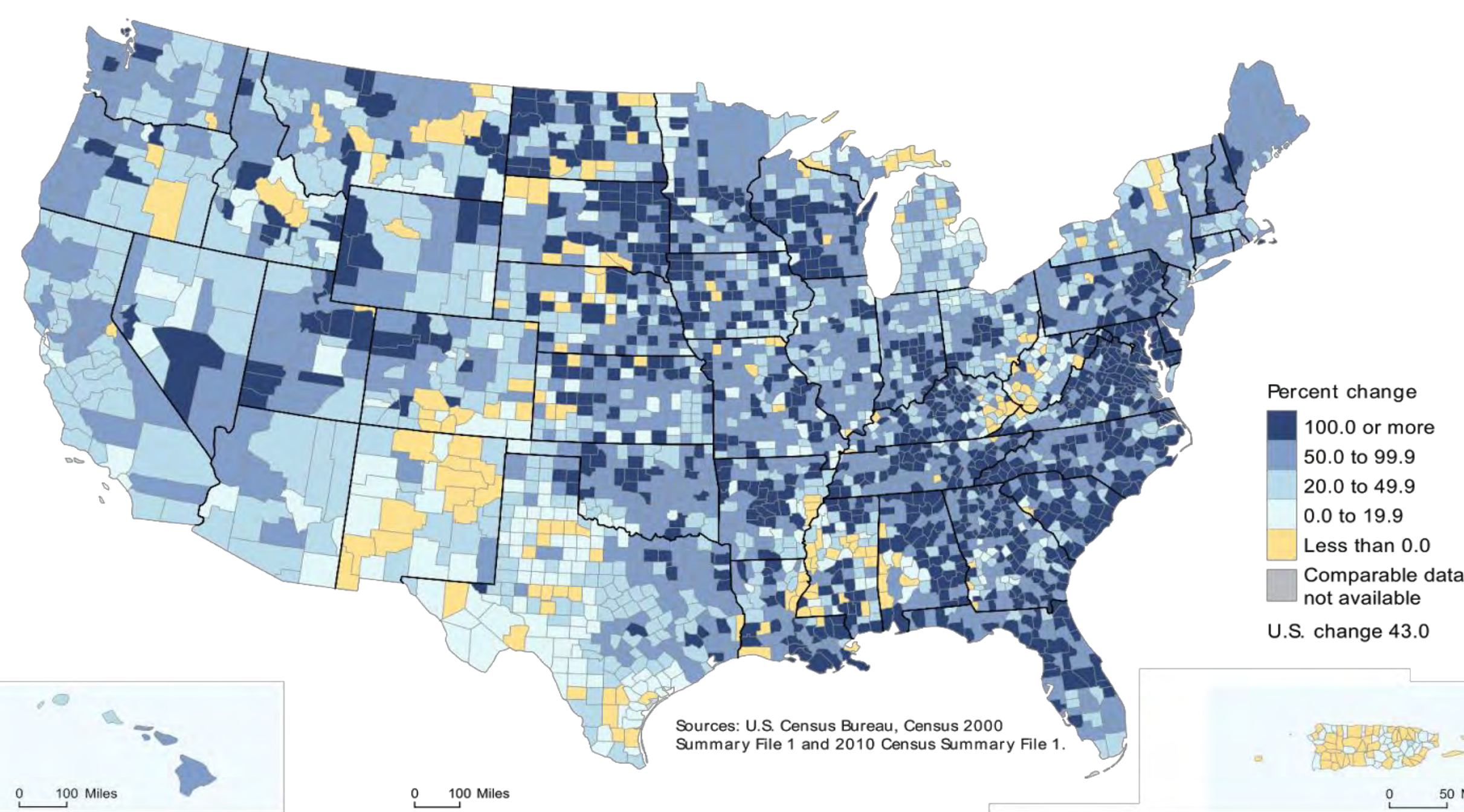


Background

Between 2000 and 2010, the Latino population in North Carolina increased by 78.7%¹. In addition, the number of Latino students in American public schools has almost doubled in the last 30 years. In fact, 25% of students in American public schools will be Latino by 2021².



Parent engagement, defined as direct involvement in the learning process, is thought to have a substantial impact on student success³.

Data has shown that only 37% of Hispanic parents, compared to 61% of White parents and 41% of Black parents, are involved or volunteer at their child's school⁴.

The Study

Methods

- Two hour-long focus groups conducted at El Centro Hispano
- Facilitated by a fluent Spanish-speaking team member
- Participants were given a \$15 stipend

Participants

- 20 Spanish-speaking mothers at El Centro Hispano
- All parents had at least one child in a local public school

Data Analysis

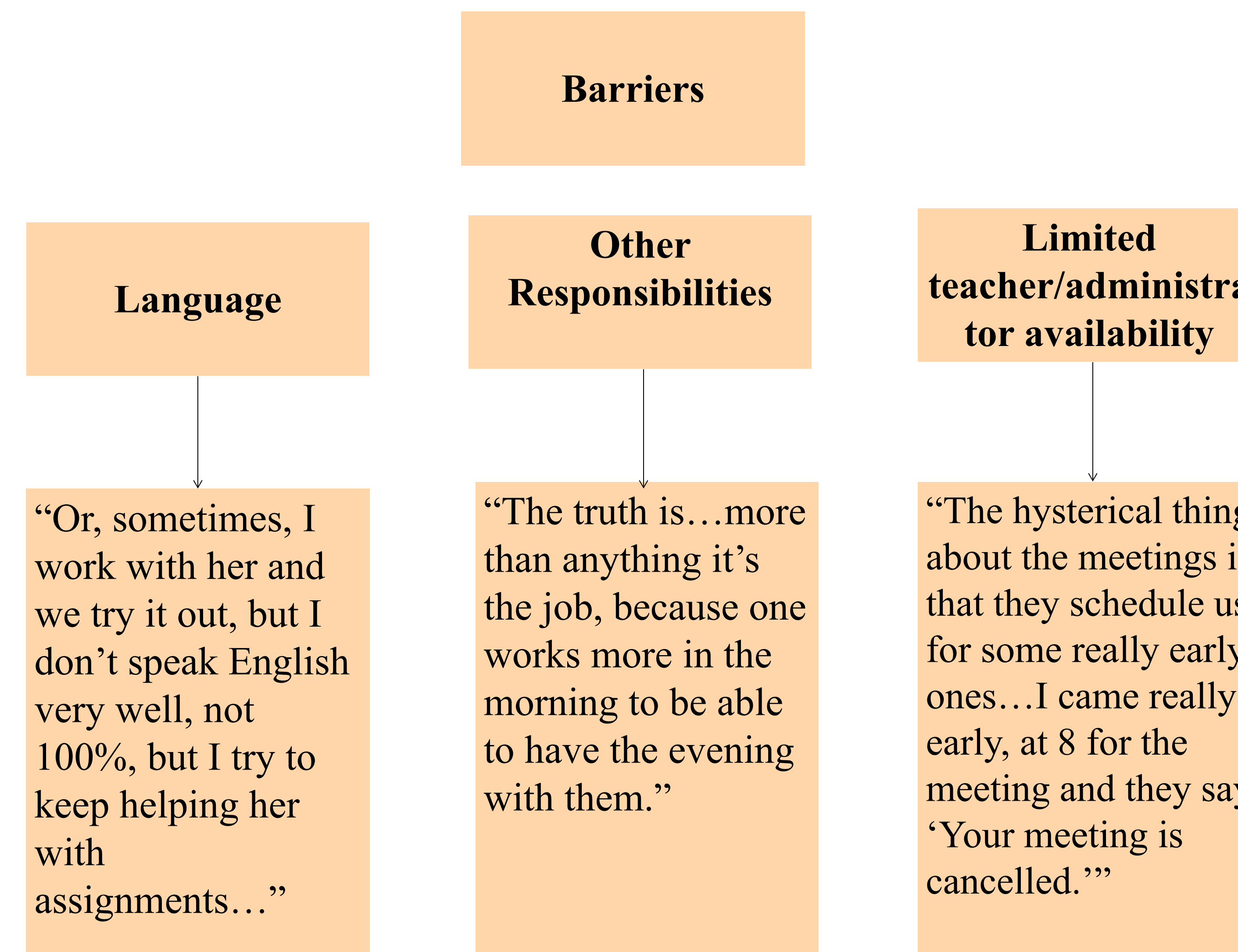
- Focus groups' audio recordings were transcribed and translated into English
- Transcriptions were coded for recurring them

Research Questions

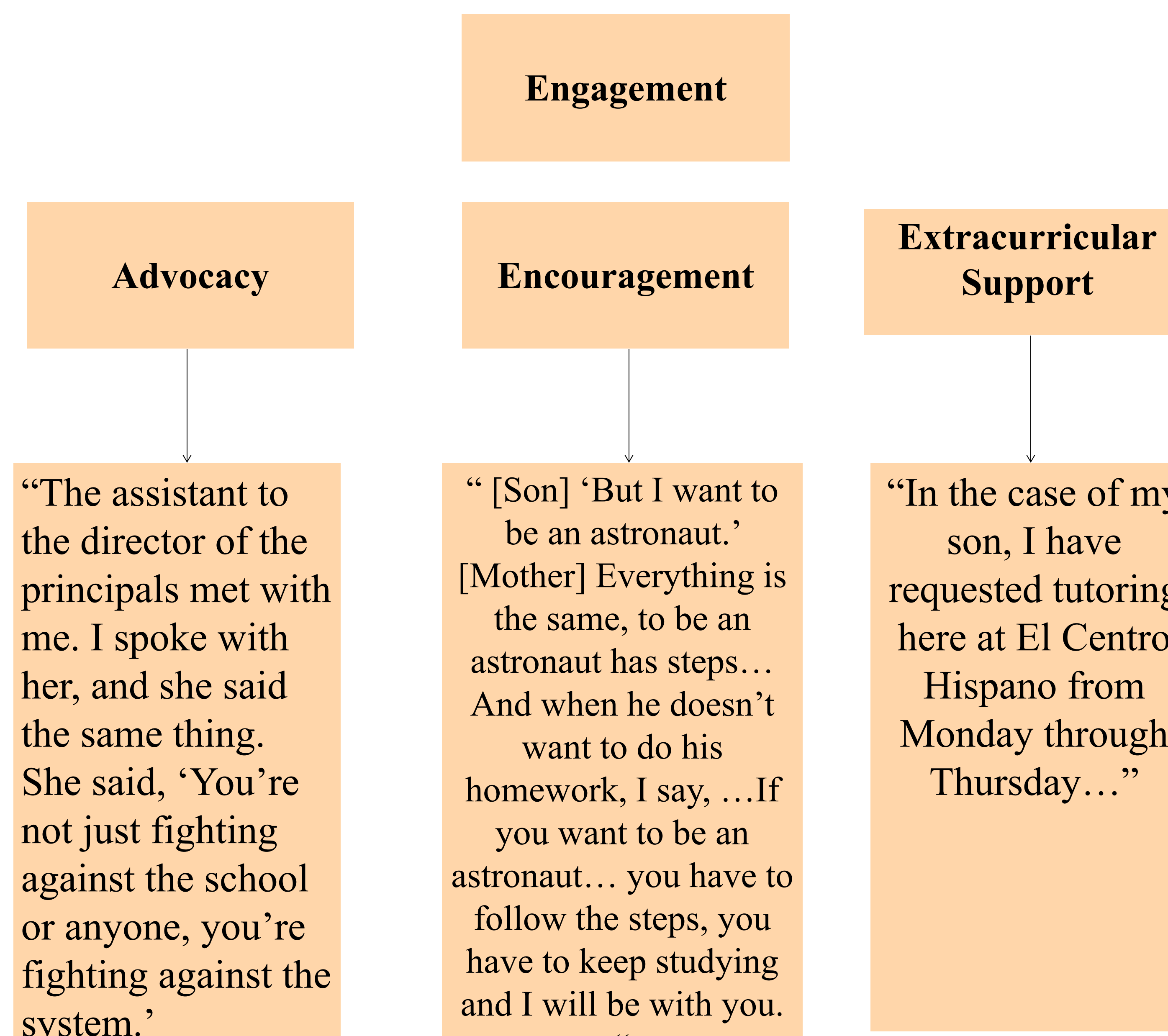
1. In what ways are Latino/a parents engaged in their children's education?
2. What facilitates or inhibits parent engagement?

Results

Focus group data show that Latino parents face significant barriers to engagement.



Moreover, Latino parent engagement is often reflected in less traditional forms.



Conclusions

- Parental engagement encompasses a wide range of activities that current scholarship on the topic sometimes fails to address.
- Types of parental engagement included:
 - networking with other Latino/a parents
 - advocating for specific needs
 - enlisting homework help from older siblings.
- Most parents seemed eager and willing to become more involved if certain barriers such as language and administrative inaccessibility could be addressed.



References

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- ³Harris, A., & Goodall, J. (2008). Do parents know they matter? Engaging all parents in learning. *Educational Research*, 50(3), 277-289. doi: 10.1080/00131880802309424
- ⁴Kena, G., Aud, S., & Johnson, F. (2014). *Condition of Education 2014* (Vol. 83). US Education Department.

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