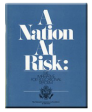
Six Generations of Civil Rights in Education

Since 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court ruling, great strides have been made in schools. But the fact remains that equity in schools has still not been reached. But for students – who by virtue of their race, ethnic background, sex or national origin are deprived of their civil rights and an equal opportunity to a quality education – equity is a promise they are depending on for their future. Ever since the landmark ruling, our nation has progressed through a series of phases – or generations – of civil rights in education…

Litigation – starting with Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas – shaped civil rights

Legislation – starting with passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 – redefined the civil rights landscape

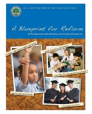


State-driven reform efforts – starting with the report, A Nation at Risk – refocused the civil rights conversation on issues beyond just access alone

State and national government reform efforts – starting with the national governors meeting on education challenging the country to look forward to the new century – was a marker for how public education should support excellence for all

No Child LEFT BEHIND

No Child Left Behind Act passage – starting with the educational and civil rights conversation – challenged public schools to be accountable for disaggregated student achievement outcomes



NCLB as updated by the current administration's Blueprint for Reform

First Generation 1954-1964

Second Generation 1964-1983

Third Generation 1983-1990

Fourth Generation 1990-2000

Fifth Generation 2001-2011

Sixth Generation 2012-

1954 1964 1974 1984 1994 2004 2014

Focus
Physical desegregation

Focus
Equal treatment and equal access under the law

Focus
Physical resegregation

Equal opportunities to learn

Equal outcomes in achievement, attitudes and behaviors

Focus
Schools that work for diverse students

Teach world-class skills

New paradigms for civil rights and equity-based excellence

Focus
Systemic equity

Structural issues of educational equity

Focus
Systemic equity

College-going access for all students

www.idra.org

The IDRA South Central Collaborative for Equity (SCCE) serves Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas (Federal Region VI). Funded by U.S. Department of Education, the center builds bridges among administrators, teachers, parents, students and community members so that all stakeholders can find that common higher ground where all students will benefit regardless of race, sex or national origin.

INTERCULTURAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION IDRA