Testimony of the Intercultural Development Research Association before the Texas School Finance Commission

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IDRA State School Finance Roadmap to Equity (2018)

- Foundational Standards & Goals; Principles of Equity and Meaningful Opportunities
- Identifying Fair, Stable Revenue Sources
- Estimating Costs based on Research
- Identifying Essential Building Blocks
- Equitable Distribution, Opportunities and Expenditures
- Monitor Distribution, Opportunities and Expenditures
- Periodic Review and Revision by Inclusive Stakeholders
- Meaningful Access & Opportunity for All Students
Essential Building Blocks for State School Finance Systems

- Career & Technology Allotment
- High Quality Pre-K
- Transportation
- Technology
- Allotment for Gifted & Talented Students
- Allotment for Students Deemed At-Risk
- Allotment English Learner Students
- Allotment for Students with Disabilities
- Regular Program Allotment: Personnel, Non-personnel Costs, Regional Cost Index, Small District/Sparcity, Inflationary Factor
- Facilities
- Educational Standards, Goals & Equity
- Stable, Meaningful Revenue

David Hinojosa, IDRA National Director of Policy, for the Learning Policy Institute
Texas’s Property Wealth/WADA by Decile of Districts with Equalized Wealth Levels (2016)

- **Gap**
  - Poorest: $75,131
  - Wealthiest: $1,122,457
  - Gap: $1,047,326

- **Basic Allotment, $514,000**

- **Copper Penny, $319,500**
  - Poorest: $75,131
  - Wealthiest: $404,786

- **Golden Penny, No Recapture**
  - Poorest: $75,131
  - Wealthiest: $544,521

Basic Allotment, $514,000

Golden Penny, No Recapture

Copper Penny, $319,500
Texas Legislature’s Inequity Drivers

- 1993 Hold-harmless provisions
- Available School Fund
- Unrecaptured golden pennies
- Hold-harmless “Hardship” Grants (formerly ASATR)
- Inadequate weights for English learner and economically disadvantaged students
- High school allotment
- Recapture credits
- Reliance on prior year’s values
- Facilities funding (no recapture)
Revenue Advantages for Children in Wealthiest Districts

(Top 5% v. Bottom 5% of Districts by Property Wealth/WADA 2016-17, est.)
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