



## Annual IDRA La Semana del Niño Parent Institute™

We are All Advocates  
Influencing Policy for Education in Texas

Todos somos Defensores Influenciando  
la política de la educación en Texas

April 5, 2019

# Today, we will talk about: Hoy vamos a hablar de:



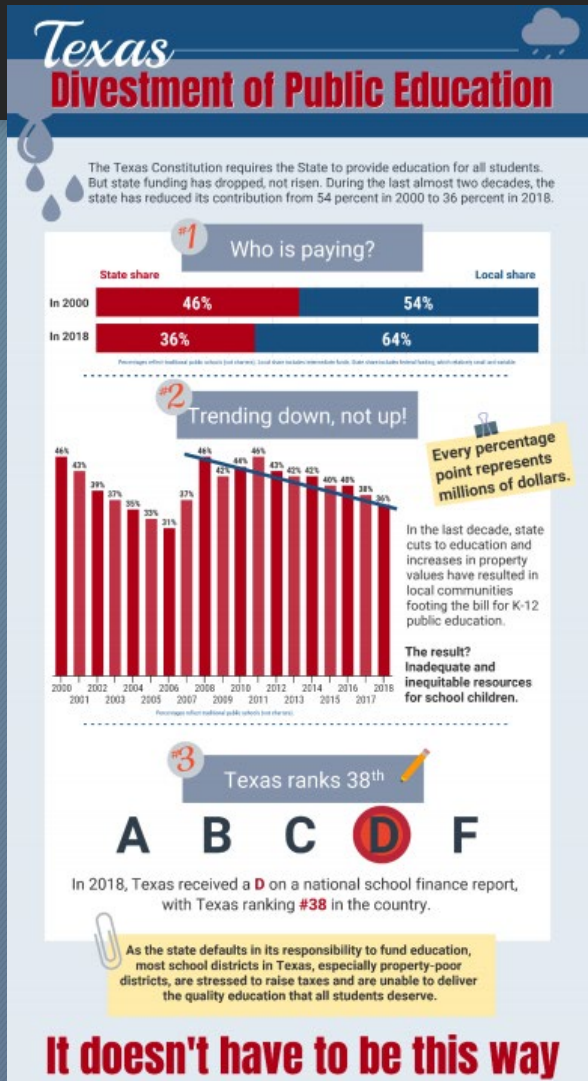
How IDRA uses research, practice, and policy to support excellent educational opportunities for students

How you can be an advocate at your child's school and district

Cómo IDRA utiliza la investigación, la práctica y la política para apoyar excelentes oportunidades educativas para los estudiantes

Cómo puede usted abogar en la escuela y el distrito escolar de su hijo

# School Finance



- Schools are funded by state and local dollars.
- Some students, like English learners and students who need special education services, get additional money for their education.
- For a long time, school funding has not been equitable:
  - Students are not getting enough funding in their schools
  - Schools in wealthier communities are able to get more money for their students than schools in poorer communities.
- The system may change this year.



# Finanzas Escolares



- Las escuelas son financiadas por dólares estatales y locales.
- Algunos estudiantes, como los que aprenden inglés y los que necesitan servicios de educación especial, obtienen dinero adicional para su educación.
  - Durante mucho tiempo, la financiación escolar no ha sido equitativa:  
Los estudiantes no están recibiendo suficiente financiación en sus escuelas
  - Las escuelas en comunidades más ricas pueden obtener más dinero para sus estudiantes que las escuelas en comunidades más pobres.
- El sistema puede cambiar este año.

# School Discipline and Safety

- Many people want to create safer schools.
- We must do that without creating schools that use suspensions, alternative schools, or police to address the needs of students.
- We know that harsh school discipline impacts students of color and students with disabilities more.



# Disciplina y Seguridad Escolar

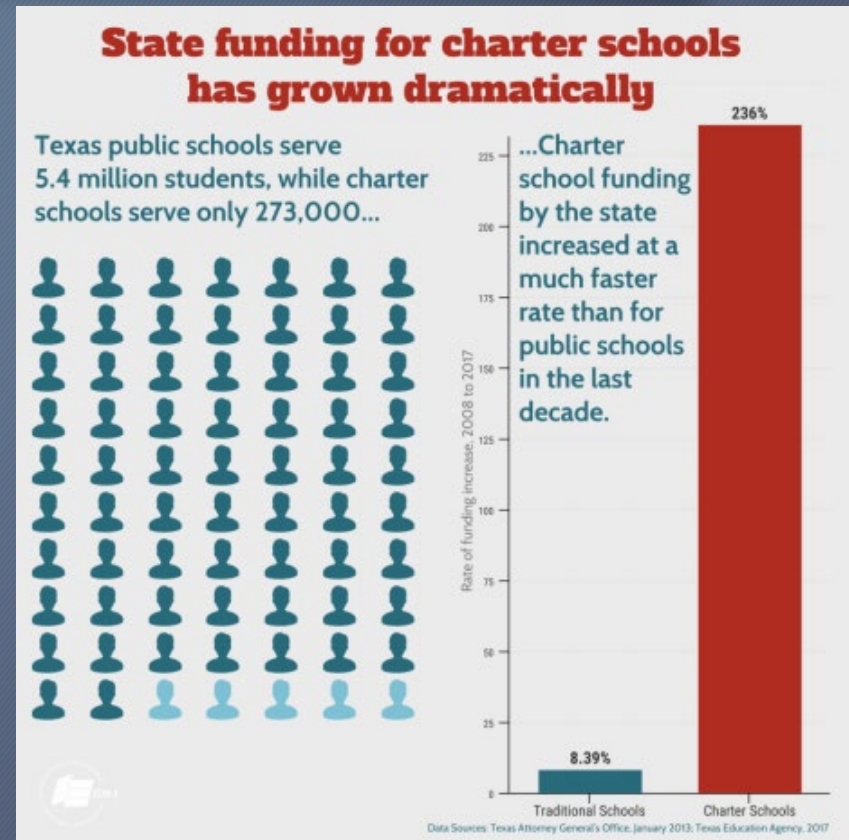


- Muchas personas quieren crear escuelas más seguras.
- Debemos hacerlo sin crear escuelas que usen suspensiones, escuelas alternativas o la policía para abordar las necesidades de los estudiantes.
- Sabemos que la disciplina escolar severa afecta más a los estudiantes de color y a los estudiantes con discapacidades.



# Charter Schools

- We must work to keep funds, excellent teachers, and dedicated parents and students in traditional public schools.
- We must ensure that school districts have the resources they need to operate their own schools.
- IDRA's research shows that students perform better in traditional public schools.



# Escuelas Chárter

- Debemos trabajar para mantener los fondos, excelentes maestros así como padres y estudiantes dedicados en las escuelas públicas tradicionales.
- Debemos asegurarnos de que los distritos escolares tengan los recursos que necesitan para operar sus propias escuelas.
- La investigación de IDRA muestra que los estudiantes se desempeñan mejor en las escuelas públicas tradicionales.



# Higher Education Access

## Ready Texas

IDRA study points to the troubling effects of the state's new graduation requirements



### HB5

In 2013, Texas made the most substantial changes to graduation requirements & school curricula in recent history.

House Bill 5 weakened graduation requirements for math, science and social studies and created a system of endorsement specialties for high school students. The policy ended the more rigorous college prep 4x4\* plan.

With funding from the Greater Texas Foundation, IDRA conducted a study of HB5 implementation to see how it is affecting student courses and implications for college readiness.

**Taking higher math is an indicator of high school and college success.**

But Algebra II is no longer a required course for all students in Texas!

96%



Students who took Algebra II or greater

Percent who graduated from high school

54%



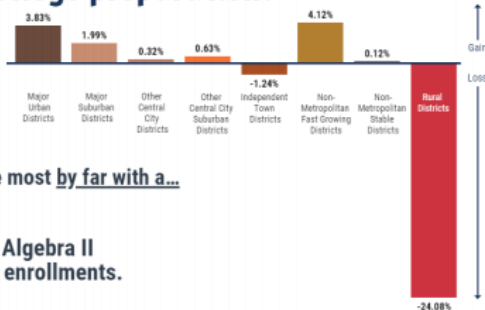
Low-income students who took less than geometry

One study of Texas students found that students who take Algebra II and higher math are much more likely to graduate from high school in four years.

Pathways of Promise: Statewide Mathematics Analysis, by E3 Alliance, 2019

**Are some kids in Texas missing out on a chance at college preparation? Yes!**

IDRA found that, after HB5, fewer school districts are enrolling students in Algebra II.



**Rural districts** lost the most by far with a...

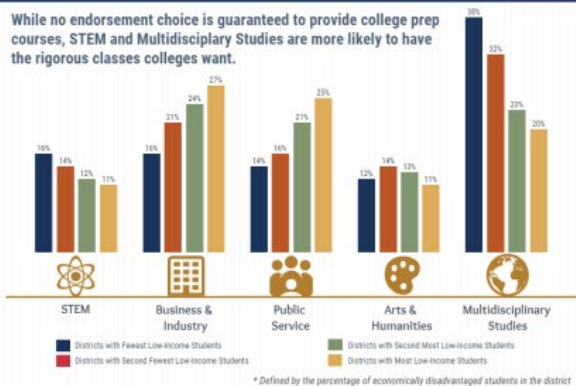
**24%** loss in Algebra II course enrollments.

- All students should have access to higher education.
- There must be paths to high school graduation that are not cut off by a single test.
- It is important to protect programs, like the Top Ten Percent Plan, that open up access to Texas' public universities to hard-working students across the state.

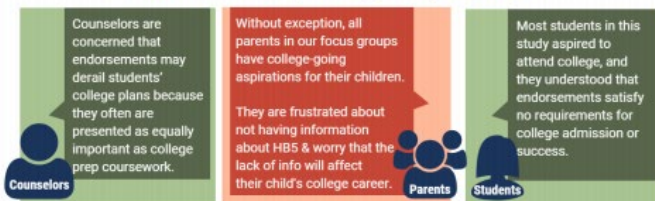
# Educación Superior

Students in low-wealth school districts\* were much more likely to be earning an endorsement in Public Service or Arts & Humanities, which are less likely to prepare students for college.

While no endorsement choice is guaranteed to provide college prep courses, STEM and Multidisciplinary Studies are more likely to have the rigorous classes colleges want.



## What did our focus groups tell us?



None of the endorsements or the Distinguish Level of Achievement matches the rigor of the old 4x4. Back then, over 80 percent of students were meeting high standards upon graduation.

**It doesn't have to be this way.**

**Texas can go back to the rigorous 4x4... It was working!**

In the meantime, 45 districts we studied now require the Distinguish Level of Achievement as the default to help ensure their students get the higher level courses they need and are eligible for the Texas Top Ten Percent Plan for automatic admission to public colleges in the state.

\*The 4x4 required all students to take four courses each in math, science, English and social studies.

- Todos los estudiantes deben tener acceso a la educación superior.
- Debe haber caminos hacia la graduación de la escuela secundaria que no dependan de una sola prueba.
- Es importante proteger programas, como el Plan del Diez por Ciento Superior, que abren el acceso a las universidades públicas de Texas a estudiantes que trabajan arduamente en todo el estado.





# Your Policy Work! Su Trabajo en la Política!

Just as you are an advocate for your own child, you can work with other parents, teachers, students, and people in your community to change the policies and rules in your school and at your district.

Así como usted es un defensor de su propio hijo, puede trabajar con otros padres, maestros, estudiantes y personas en su comunidad para cambiar las políticas y reglas en su escuela y en su distrito escolar.



# Your Policy Work! Su Trabajo en la Política!



Organize your school community and find out what people would like to change. Develop ideas for ways that your campus or district could do things differently and better.

Organice su comunidad escolar y averigüe lo qué la gente quiere cambiar. Desarrolle ideas para que su escuela o distrito escolar puedan hacer las cosas de manera diferente y mejor.

# Your Policy Work! Su Trabajo en la Política!

Figure out other people who could help make the change happen, including other parents, community leaders, school board members, teachers, and community organizations.

Encuentre otras personas que podrían ayudar a que el cambio se realice, incluidos otros padres, líderes comunitarios, miembros de la mesa escolar, maestros y organizaciones comunitarias.



# Your Policy Work! Su Trabajo en la Política!

Find out what research and data are available to support what you want (IDRA can help!)

Averigüe qué investigación y datos están disponibles para respaldar lo que quiere (¡IDRA puede ayudar!)



# Your Policy Work! Su Trabajo en la Política!

Organize supporters to make calls, write letters, use social media, have individual meetings, and go to school board meetings.

Organice partidarios para hacer llamadas, escribir cartas, usar los medios sociales, tener reuniones individuales y asistir a las reuniones de la mesa directiva escolar.



# Your Policy Work! Su Trabajo en la Política!

Take the first step right now: Write down three things that you would like to see changed in your district or at your campus.

Tome el primer paso ahora mismo: escriba tres cosas que le gustaría que cambiaran en su distrito escolar o en su escuela.







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that prepare all students to access and succeed in college