



IDRA Education Policy Fellows

Building on a Powerful Legacy of Education Policy



Mikayla Arciaga, M.A.Ed.

IDRA Education Policy Fellow – Georgia Education Policy

IDRA's ground-breaking program is changing policy advocacy because policymakers can make stronger education policy decisions by working with advocates who are connected to impacted communities. Our Education Policy Fellows work with coalitions, students and families to craft a community-centered education policy agenda and join a network of advocates and policy influencers focused on improving racial equity in education policymaking spaces. The program's inaugural cycle in Georgia operated from November 2021 through July 2022.

About Mikayla

Mikayla Arciaga, M.A. Ed., spent the last five years teaching high school math and coaching swimming at Title I schools in both Florida and Georgia. While still in the classroom, she worked with multiple school districts in a variety of roles focusing on community engagement, curriculum improvement, teacher development and policy analysis. During her summers, Mikayla collaborated with and led a team of policy fellows assisting school board members in metro Atlanta and across the country. She contributed to several projects including a line-item review of an \$800 million budget, an equity audit of almost 200 school board policies, and an analysis of both school and state-level per-pupil expenditure data.

Throughout her work at the school district level, she recognized the need for high-quality accountability processes in the public school system, which motivated her to pursue a master's degree in program evaluation in the educational environment from the University of Florida. Mikayla's policy interests are centered around dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline, accessibility for students with disabilities and digital accessibility. Outside of education policy, her other great love has been to make swimming accessible to learners of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. As a swim coach, she has worked to create a space focusing on sportsmanship, community, and joy, bringing home the first city championship in school history.

Her Fellowship Products

IDRA Articles

- Community Advocates Push Back as Georgia Legislature Targets Vulnerable Students, IDRA Newsletter, May 2022
- War on Obscenity is Classroom Censorship on Another Front, Knowledge is Power, December 15, 2021
- Priorities and Recommendations for the 2022 Georgia Legislative Session, with Terrence Wilson, J.D., IDRA Newsletter, November-December 2021

Community Engagement

- Coordination and weekly updates with the Georgia Coalition Against Classroom Censorship
- Legislative updates and overview sessions with multiple groups, including Atlanta Coalition for Educational Equity, Fayette County Democratic Women, and Jewish Community Relations Council of Atlanta.

Testimony

- Families and Students Deserve Authentic Engagements as Partners Rather than Adversarial School Environments – IDRA Testimony against House Bill 1178, submitted to the Georgia Senate Education and Youth Committee, March 23, 2022
- Schools Should Value Student's Lived Experiences, Not Censor Them – IDRA Testimony against HB 1084 in the Georgia General Assembly, presented to the House Education Academic Innovation Subcommittee, February 9, 2022

Media

- Bill would restrict teachers from 'divisive' race lessons in Georgia, by Doug Richards, 11 Alive TV Atlanta, February 9, 2022

Podcasts

- Education Policy: The Importance of Teacher Voice, Teaching Today, May 2022
- Uniting Community Voices in Georgia Policymaking – IDRA Classnotes Podcast #225 (coming soon!)



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