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This month's focus: College Opportunity



"What is good for the children of the most powerful in our society must be the expectation we set for all students."

- Celina Moreno, J.D., IDRA President & CEO



IN THIS ISSUE

School Counselors Express Concerns about College and Career Advising

Five Best Practices that Add Women to the Equation

Characteristics of College-Focused Schools**Bilingual Literacy Development Materials...Perfect for Summer School!****Texas Top Ten Percent Plan****Classnotes Podcasts on College Opportunity**[SEE NEWSLETTER PDF](#)**College Opportunity****School Counselors Express Concerns about College and Career Advising in Texas***by Hector Bojorquez*

This article discusses preliminary findings from IDRA's qualitative study about how counselors in Texas see their roles following changes that weakened graduation requirements for Texas high school students.

Counselors repeatedly stated that requiring students to choose a college and career pathway in eighth grade can cause students to miss opportunities in high school. They also do not see themselves as having enough time to counsel their students. The majority reported that they spend at least 75% of their time performing tasks that have nothing to do with college and career counseling.



Even under the best of circumstances, parents and students are often confused about what endorsements mean, which careers align with particular endorsements and which classes students should take to suit their interests and to graduate college ready.

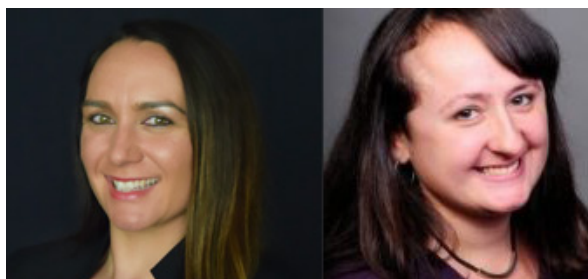
By the end of the study, funded by the Greater Texas Foundation, IDRA will present the results with a full picture of how counselors help students navigate graduation requirements and how they provide college and career counseling to underrepresented students.

[SEE ARTICLE](#)**Five Best Practices that Add Women to the Equation - Preparing K-12 Girls for Mathematics***by Stephanie Garcia, Ph.D., & Kasia Razynska*

Though there have been strides made in the past 20 years involving young women in math, there are still enduring gender gaps. This article reviews current trends in the data and best practices for increasing girls'

performance and persistence in math from K-12.

Recommendations include removing harmful stereotypes, training teachers to provide constructive, meaningful feedback to allow students to revise their work, exposing girls to female role models with careers in mathematics, fostering girls' own identities as young mathematicians, and connecting mathematics skills to real world applications.



Promoting sex and gender equity can ensure equal access to rigorous coursework leading to a healthier school climate and high quality teaching.



[SEE ARTICLE](#)

Characteristics of College-Focused Schools

by Nilka Avilés, Ed.D.

A common sentiment among educators is the notion that "college is not for everyone." This adage though typically refers to certain groups of students and serves as a veiled excuse to not prepare students for college. Schools can confront this detrimental mindset head-on by making the school's climate and culture the locus of change.

Barriers disappear when educators recognize all students as college material and take steps to realize their vision. Students can succeed when they have support from teachers who are committed to preparing them and removing barriers between their students and college.



Elements of a high school that values and prepares all students for college include having high expectations for all students, fostering a school culture that celebrates diversity, providing counselors and advisors with the time and resources they need to help students, and partnering with colleges to facilitate academic preparation and admissions.

[SEE ARTICLE](#)

IDRA Names Dr. Cristóbal Rodríguez as the 2019 José A. Cárdenas School Finance Fellow

Dr. Cristóbal Rodríguez will study inequities in access to college readiness coursework

IDRA has named Howard University professor Dr. Cristóbal Rodríguez as the 2019 IDRA José A. Cárdenas School Finance Fellow. The fellows program honors the memory of IDRA founder, Dr. José Angel Cárdenas. The goal of the program is to engage the

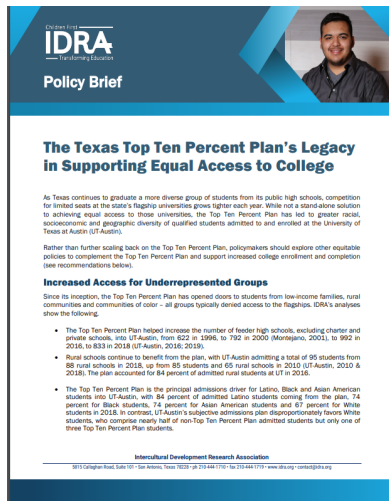
nation's most promising researchers in investigating school finance solutions that secure equity and excellence for all public school students.

SEE ANNOUNCEMENT



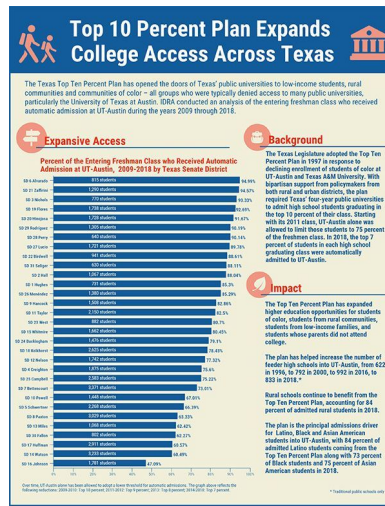
Texas Top Ten Percent Plan - Expanding Access to College in Texas

During the 2019 Texas legislative session, IDRA conducted analysis and produced a number of resources on the positive impact of the Texas Top Ten Percent Plan.



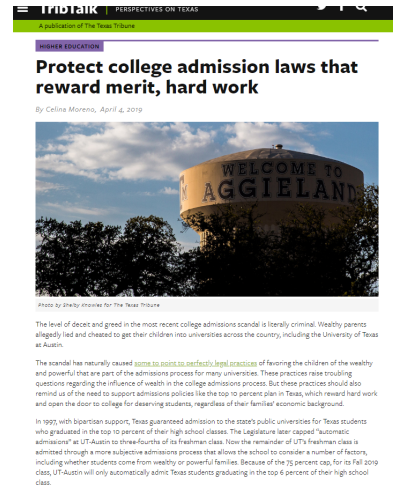
Policy Brief

The Texas Top Ten Percent Plan's Legacy in Supporting Equal Access to College



Infographic

Top Ten Percent Plan Expands College Access Across Texas



Texas Tribune Op-Ed

Admissions Scandal Raises Need to Protect Laws like Texas Top 10 Percent Plan That Reward Merit

SEE IDRA'S TOP TEN PERCENT PLAN WEBSITE

#IAmTop10Percent

Are you one of the thousands of Texas students admitted to a Texas university through the Top Ten Percent Plan? If you are, please tell us your story about how the Top Ten Percent Plan has impacted your life!

"More than anything, the Top Ten Percent Plan enabled my hard work to be recognized and not limited or set back by things, such as financial hardship or being unjustly put to compete with other students from more privileged communities. Top Ten Percent Plan was not just higher ed admission for me. It was parity that reached all areas of my life where I have been at a disadvantage despite my hard work."

SHARE YOUR STORY!

Classnotes Podcasts on College Opportunity

Ready Texas Study of New Graduation Requirements - Podcast Episode 178

5 Strategies for College Readiness in Diverse Schools - Podcast Episode 175

Texas Higher Ed Commissioner on College Access - Podcast Episode 161

How the Fisher Case Relates to Equity in Public Schooling - Podcast Episode 159

Community Expects College Prep for All - Podcast Episode 156

Why Algebra II? - Podcast Episode 133

A Principal on Supporting Teachers for Student College Readiness - Podcast Episode 128

High School Youth Tekies on College Access - Podcast Episode 74

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IDRA works hand-in-hand with hundreds of thousands of educators and families each year in communities and classrooms around the country. All our work rests on an

unwavering commitment to creating self-renewing schools that value and promote the success of students of all backgrounds.