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## Student Research Team Calls for Expansion of Mexican American Studies

### IDRA Releases MAS for Our Schools Report

Mexican American Studies enriches students' learning of U.S. history, promotes students' exploration of self-identity and fosters community. These are among the findings of a youth-led research study supported by IDRA.

IDRA released today the students' report, [MAS for Our Schools – A Youth Participatory Action Research Project on the Status of Mexican American Studies in San Antonio](#).



High school seniors Marcela Hernández, Jonas Lokensgard and Hannah Rosales investigated the status of Mexican American Studies (MAS) in their community and how to help it grow. They conducted a mixed-methods study, involving a student experience survey and focus group interviews with teachers and community members.

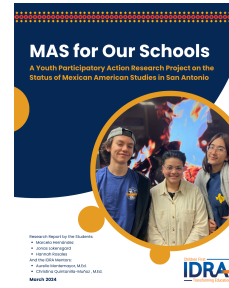
"Students are typically subjects of studies like ours, but not the ones who are initiators and conductors of the research," the student researchers wrote. "Yet, students are some of the most knowledgeable about curriculum and instruction (besides teachers) and thus have critical experience and points of view that can improve, enhance and accelerate the growth of the ethnic studies discipline, and very specifically, MAS."

IDRA provided the students with training on the basics of survey research, developing research questions and analyzing results, and IDRA staff served as mentors throughout the project, which began one year ago.

Mexican American Studies (MAS) is an ethnic studies course that delves deeply into the history of the United States and the contributions of Mexican Americans and other diverse ethnic groups, whose voices are historically silenced. The students' report points to challenges teachers and schools face in offering MAS courses. And it lists a set of six recommendations:

- Recognize MAS as a core history or social studies credit for graduation.
- Develop a standardized, comprehensive MAS curriculum.
- Promote MAS through peer recruitment at the campus level.
- Support MAS teachers to do their job.
- Establish partnerships with local organizations.
- Tell stories and best practices demonstrated by successful MAS programs in public forums.

Marcela is a senior at John Marshall Law and Medical Services High School. Jonas and Hannah are seniors at John Marshall High School. Both schools are in Northside ISD in San Antonio. The project was generously supported by the National Center for Youth Law (NCYL).



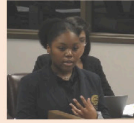
[See the Report](#)

[See the Report Flier](#)

### IDRA Resources for Ethnic Studies

Ethnic studies courses benefit all students. Culturally-sustaining curriculum has a positive impact on students' academic and community engagement. IDRA has a number of resources and provides training and customized technical assistance that supports educators in offering ethnic studies courses in public schools.

- 📄 Articles and research
- 🎥 Videos of students testifying for ethnic studies
- 🎧 Webinars
- 🎓 IDRA training and assistance to schools
- 📊 Infographics, like
  - Ethnic Studies Can be Life Changing
  - Teaching Cultural & Ethnic Studies in Georgia



Plus, IDRA's Ethnic Studies Online Technical Assistance Toolkit that provides educators tools and resources for implementing ethnic studies in K-12 schools. It includes a literature review, webinar sessions, articles, podcasts and other resources.

<https://idra.news/EthnicStudies>

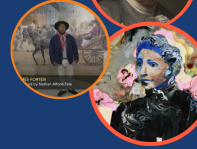
[Learn More](#)

### IDRA SEEN School Resource Hub



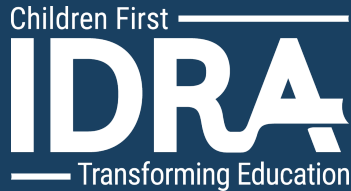
#### Free Lesson Plans for Teachers!

- ★ Lessons for elementary, middle and high school
- ★ Over 120 lesson plans, best practices and historical resources to support teachers in delivering culturally-sustaining classroom lessons.
- ★ Informed by students, families & educators
- ★ Lessons for bilingual classrooms



<https://idraseen/hub>

[See Hub](#)



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