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September 8, 2022

IDRA's Knowledge is Power is a national resource for educators and advocates to help you do your work for equity and excellence in education in the midst of classroom censorship policies.

In this edition...

- Texas State Board of Education Votes to Keep Outdated Social Studies Standards and Delay New Ethnic Studies
- Get Free Classroom Lessons on IDRA's We All Belong ~ School Resource Hub
- Webinar: The Censored Classroom: Why Book Bans and Restrictive Policies Hurt Us All
- Webinar Recording: Tools for Teaching in a Climate of Classroom Censorship
- Survey on the Effects of Classroom Censorship
- Advocacy Tools

See previous editions of [Knowledge is Power](#) and related resources online.



Texas State Board of Education Votes to Keep Outdated Social Studies Standards and Delay New Ethnic Studies

by Chloe Latham Sikes, Ph.D.

In early September, the Texas State Board of Education met to discuss changes to the social studies learning standards, also known as the TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills). Part of the board's agenda included considering changes made to [civics education](#)

[standards through Senate Bill 3](#), the state's classroom censorship law that went into effect December 2021.

The board also was supposed to vote on broader revisions to all of K-12 social studies, including a revised framework to streamline how social studies is taught in grades K-8, updates to social studies content from the past decade, and standards for new ethnic studies courses: American Indian/Native Studies (AINS) and Asian American Studies. These revisions would have updated social studies for all K-12 students and expanded ethnic studies in Texas.

But the board departed from their agenda. Despite [testimony](#) from students, parents, and other curriculum and subject matter experts advocating inclusive learning standards, a majority of board members bent to [partisan pressure](#) to keep outdated social studies standards for another three years and delay consideration of the newly proposed ethnic studies standards.

Partisan groups advocated delaying the review to remove references to LGBTQ+ people, history and events; impose specific religious references; and interrupt the progress toward inclusive curricula from expanded ethnic studies courses. Because of the delay, the board's social studies review will be [more susceptible to partisan influence](#) to make curricula less inclusive and of lower quality.

The board's only change to social studies will be to [review the civics education changes in SB 3](#), which must be adopted by December 31, 2022.

The board's vote reflects the chilling effect of classroom censorship that accompanies SB 3, and leaves Texas students with outdated and inadequate learning standards.

We invite you to join the [Teach the Truth Coalition](#) to stay up-to-date on the next steps from the Texas board of education.



Get Free Classroom Lessons on IDRA's We All Belong ~ School Resource Hub

Free Tools for Teachers

Informed by students, families and educators, this hub provides lesson plans & tools for teaching in a climate of classroom censorship.

We All Belong
School Resource Hub

Lesson Plans Teaching Tools Policy News Advocacy News

<https://idraseducation.org/hub>

We're proud to release the following new original lessons created for you to access through our School Resource Hub.

[The Real World: Understanding the Difference Education Makes](#)

Grades 7-8: Math

[#WeGotMadison](#)

Grades 9-10: Debate, English Language Arts, Social Studies, U.S. Government, U.S. History

[Leading the Fight with Lead](#)

Grades 6, 7, 8: Science

[Say Her Name: Vice President Kamala Harris](#)

Grade 1: English Language Arts, Social Studies

[Say Her Name: Michelle Obama](#)

Grade 2: English Language Arts

[Say Her Name: Malala Yousafzai](#)

Grade 2: English Language Arts

[Say Her Name: Justice Sonia Sotomayor](#)

Grade 3: English Language Arts, Social Studies

The Real World: Understanding the Difference Education Makes

by Dr. Kelly N. Ferguson and Dr. Marlon C. James
Equality and Equity Group, LLC

Subject
Math

Grade Level
7th & 8th

Time
Varies, a minimum of 50 to 100 minutes is recommended

AIM Lesson Overview: Level 2 Activity

AIM Intercultural Skills in this Lesson

Solidarity (Unity Building)	Social Awareness (My Impact on Others)	Social-Emotional Wellness (Healthy Self Concept)	Sociocultural Exchange (Cross-Cultural Communication)	Social Change (Difference Making)
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America is Me (AIM) provides educators with curricular resources to promote students' understanding of equity issues central to the development of U.S. history and contemporary society. AIM lessons develop five critical intercultural skills of solidarity (national unity), social-emotional wellness (positive self-identity), sociocultural exchange (cross-cultural communication skills), social change (active citizenship), and social awareness (sensitivity). These skills are transferable across academic content areas and are critical for personal maturation and professional success in a diverse nation.

Social-Emotional Wellness - This simulation enables students to see how their current and future efforts in school will directly affect their quality of life in the future. Such knowledge will empower students to adjust their choices and aspirations.

Sociocultural Exchange - This simulation creates multiple and sustained opportunities for students to talk, listen, and understand one another. Students will experience conversations across multiple types of cultural diversity, including gender, race, religion, and family economic status. Students will grow in their capacity to communicate with more time and practice.

IDRA
This lesson was developed by IDRA by Dr. Kelly N. Ferguson and Dr. Marlon C. James, Equality and Equity Group, LLC. Questions may be directed to them at kelly@equalityandequitygroup.com or marlon@equalityandequitygroup.com. Content shared elsewhere without consent constitutes a violation of the IDRA Terms of Service. School Resources IDRA is licensed under a Creative Commons CC BY-NC. This license allows users to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the material in any medium or format for non-commercial purposes only, and only as long as attribution is given to the creator. 10/5/2022

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Visit School Resource Hub



The Censored Classroom: Why Book Bans and Restrictive Policies Hurt Us All – Webinar

Monday, September 19 from 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm CT

Join the Center for Educators & Schools in a conversation about how classroom censorship policies weaken the quality of education.

Book bans and classroom censorship policies are sweeping the nation. Join the Center for Educators & Schools in a conversation about how classroom censorship policies weaken the quality of education and negatively affect educators, students, and society at large.

The Censored Classroom: Why Book Bans and Restrictive Policies Hurt Us All

SEP 19, 2022 | 4 PM - 5 PM | ONLINE

FT. CHLOE LATHAM SIKES,
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
POLICY, IDRA

**CENTER FOR
EDUCATORS
& SCHOOLS**
The New York Public Library

**Children First
IDRA**
Transforming Education

Chloe Latham Sikes, IDRA Deputy Director of Policy, will discuss what the current censorship landscape looks like today, where teachers can find resources to learn more, and what this means for the future of the teaching profession.

This event is open to all educators across the country and is part of the New York Public Library's Banned Books Week.

This is a virtual event taking place Monday, September 19 from 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm CT

Interested in finding out more about the Center for Educators and Schools? Visit them at nypl.org/ces or subscribe to their monthly newsletter here! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to educators@nypl.org.

Register Now!



Webinar Recording: Tools for Teaching in a Climate of Classroom Censorship

The thumbnail features a group of diverse, smiling children on the left. On the right, a dark blue background contains the following text and elements:

- Free Webinar**
- Tools for Teaching in a Climate of Classroom Censorship**
- A red video camera icon with the text **REC** next to it.
- A list of topics:
 - See new School Resource Hub
 - See sample classroom lessons
 - Hear student perspective
- A small inset image showing a classroom scene with the text **We All Belong School Resource Hub** overlaid.
- The URL **idraseen/hub** at the bottom left.
- The **IDRA** logo (International Democracy Research Association) at the bottom right.

Educators across the country are committed to making sure students receive a strong, truthful education in our public schools. But vague classroom censorship policies, and their residual chilling effects in multiple states, aim to shut down free expression in schools. As a result, students stand to be completely unprepared to engage in thoughtful discussions of real-world issues and solutions.

IDRA recently launched the [We All Belong – School Resource Hub](#) designed for educators, families and policy advocates who want to make sure students receive a strong, truthful education in our public schools.

In this webinar, you will...

- See a demo of IDRA's new School Resource Hub for educators. The website has original and curated lesson plans and tools for teaching history and current events about race and gender in today's classroom censorship climate.
- Get an overview of America is Me (AIM) framework with five intercultural skills to promote students' understanding of equity issues. AIM serves as a foundation for original lessons in the hub by Dr. Kelly Ferguson and Dr. Marlon James.
- Hear students discuss why inclusive education is important to them.

Watch Webinar Recording



Survey on the Effects of Classroom Censorship

How has classroom censorship affected you?

By design, the new School Resource Hub is responding to the needs of educators, students and families. Please help by letting us know how classroom censorship policies are affecting your classroom, your child or your own education. **Help us spread the word!**

Educator Survey

Student Survey

Family Survey (English)

Family Survey (Español)



Advocacy Tools

IDRA Southern Education Equity Network

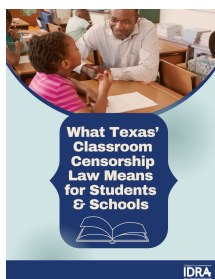
A community forum and resource hub for advocates of strong inclusive public education

- Get advocacy how-to tools
- Share policy & action updates
- Plan actions with your group

www.idraseen.org

IDRA
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Visit the
SEEN
website and
join a group!



Guide to Texas Classroom Censorship Bill

See Texas SB 3
School Guide



Lessons Learned from our Classroom Censorship Advocacy

See Advocacy



Building Supportive Schools from the Ground Up

See Report (PDF)

Guide (PDF)



IDRA is an independent, non-profit organization whose mission is to achieve equal educational opportunity through strong public schools that prepare all students to access and succeed in college.

Reach Out To Us



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