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Georgia Education CAFE™ Advocacy Network

Georgia Policy Weekly Update

February 2, 2022

We are sharing the latest news about what's happening in Georgia education policy and how you can make your voice heard.

See IDRA's [Policy Priority Recommendations](#) for this session.

Make sure you keep receiving these notices by subscribing to the Georgia Education CAFE Advocacy Network! And invite your friends!



This Week

Hearings in the house this week will address privatization and vouchers (HB 999, HB 60). The Senate Education & Youth Committee will meet Wednesday and will consider bills that would further defund public education (SB327 and SR360).

You can watch the hearings live online. Each hearing covers multiple bills.



Things happen fast! Watch our [Twitter feed](#) for news.



Hearings



Hearings

Tuesday

House Education Academic Innovation
Subcommittee
Noon (EST)

Education Committee
12:30 p.m. (EST)

[Watch hearings live](#)

[Watch past hearings](#)

Wednesday

Education & Youth Committee
2:00 p.m. (EST)

[Watch hearings live](#)

[Watch past hearings](#)

Fighting Classroom Censorship

Over the last two years, we have seen an increase in censorship legislation across the nation. Georgia is not an exception. These bills target historically marginalized groups, students of color and LGBTQ+ students, by removing literature and curricula that reflects and affirms their lived experiences.

Georgia Coalition Against Classroom Censorship

HB 888, HB 1084, SB 375 & SB 377 Seek to Censor Classroom Conversations and Strip Funding from Georgia Students

Summary: HB 888, HB 1084, SB 375, and SB 377 seek to prohibit any person, individual, entity, or organization from discussing, presenting, or displaying any material, including any curriculum, textbook, or educational resource, in a classroom or other educational setting that is deemed to be "harmful" to the health or well-being of students. The bills also seek to strip funding from the Georgia Department of Education for the purchase of materials that are deemed to be "harmful" to the health or well-being of students. The bills also seek to strip funding from the Georgia Department of Education for the purchase of materials that are deemed to be "harmful" to the health or well-being of students.

What These Bills Could Do?	HB 888	HB 1084	SB 375	SB 377
What These Bills Could Do:	Prohibit any person, individual, entity, or organization from discussing, presenting, or displaying any material, including any curriculum, textbook, or educational resource, in a classroom or other educational setting that is deemed to be "harmful" to the health or well-being of students.	Prohibit any person, individual, entity, or organization from discussing, presenting, or displaying any material, including any curriculum, textbook, or educational resource, in a classroom or other educational setting that is deemed to be "harmful" to the health or well-being of students.	Prohibit any person, individual, entity, or organization from discussing, presenting, or displaying any material, including any curriculum, textbook, or educational resource, in a classroom or other educational setting that is deemed to be "harmful" to the health or well-being of students.	Prohibit any person, individual, entity, or organization from discussing, presenting, or displaying any material, including any curriculum, textbook, or educational resource, in a classroom or other educational setting that is deemed to be "harmful" to the health or well-being of students.
Prohibited Impact:	Prohibit any person, individual, entity, or organization from discussing, presenting, or displaying any material, including any curriculum, textbook, or educational resource, in a classroom or other educational setting that is deemed to be "harmful" to the health or well-being of students.	Prohibit any person, individual, entity, or organization from discussing, presenting, or displaying any material, including any curriculum, textbook, or educational resource, in a classroom or other educational setting that is deemed to be "harmful" to the health or well-being of students.	Prohibit any person, individual, entity, or organization from discussing, presenting, or displaying any material, including any curriculum, textbook, or educational resource, in a classroom or other educational setting that is deemed to be "harmful" to the health or well-being of students.	Prohibit any person, individual, entity, or organization from discussing, presenting, or displaying any material, including any curriculum, textbook, or educational resource, in a classroom or other educational setting that is deemed to be "harmful" to the health or well-being of students.

Repealed: SB 375, November 3, 2024

Currently, there are five bills filed with the Georgia State Legislature that seek to censor classrooms and limit the educational freedom all children are entitled to. Four of those bills specifically apply to classroom materials: HB88, HB1084, SB375, and SB377. See our comparative analysis of these bills and their implications for our students.

[See bill comparison of classroom censorship bills](#)

Georgia’s students deserve the right to a diverse education that not only equips them for an increasingly diverse world, but also uplifts and affirms the lived experiences of those students who have been historically marginalized. The Georgia legislature will hear bills that would violate that right by censoring educators and classrooms across the state from discussing the realities of systemic racism and oppression in the United States. IDRA joined several organizations across Georgia to issues a statement in opposition to these policies. Join us in defending students’ rights.

Members of the Georgia Coalition Against Classroom Censorship include:

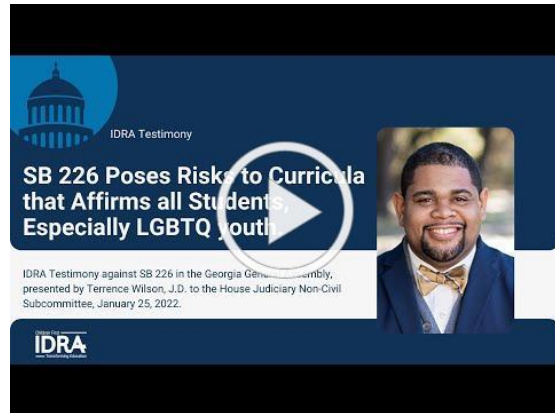
- American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia
- Deep Center
- Georgia Youth Justice Coalition
- Intercultural Development Research Association
- Public Education Matters Georgia
- Southern Education Foundation
- SPLC Action Fund

[See the coalition statement](#)

Highlights from Last Week

IDRA submitted the following testimony recently.

- [Students Deserve to Attend Fully-Funded Public Schools That Affirm and Sustain All Aspects of their Identity](#) – IDRA Testimony Against House Bill 999, Submitted to the Georgia House Education Committee on February 1, 2022
- [Students Deserve Access to Diverse Curricula that Supports and Sustains All Aspects of their Identity](#) – IDRA Testimony Against Senate Bill 226, Submitted to the Georgia House Judiciary Non-Civil Sub-Committee on January 25, 2022



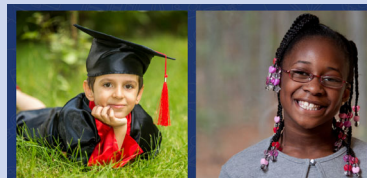
Video of testimony by Terrence Wilson, J.D., IDRA against SB 226

Tools & Resources

[How to Testify before the Georgia General Assembly](#) – Infographic

[Learn more about IDRA’s policy recommendations for Georgia](#)

[Join the Georgia Education CAFE Advocacy Network!](#)



IDRA Education Policy Priorities for Georgia

- ★ Fair and Full Funding for Public Schools
- ★ Safe School Climates and Culturally-Sustaining Classrooms
- ★ Excellent Opportunities for Emergent Bilingual Students

<https://idra.news/GaPolicyRecs>

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5815 Callaghan Road, Suite 101
San Antonio, TX 78228
Phone: 210-444-1710

Children First
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