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## Georgia Education Policy Alert

### Weekly Update

Greetings! The Georgia General Assembly is in the home stretch, and there are still bills that your advocacy and support. Thus far we have had many ups and downs, some victories and some losses. As we continue to Sine Die, we will continue our advocacy to make sure that students in Georgia have the most equitable education system possible.

**[Make sure you keep receiving these notices by subscribing to IDRA's Georgia Education Policy Alert!](#)**

**And please tell your friends!**



## Legislative Updates

### Ask Your House Representative to Reject Vouchers and Vote No on SB 233!

Much of our efforts this week focus on combatting Georgia's most recent voucher bill, SB 233 offered by Senator Greg Dolezal. It was passed by the Senate on March 6 and will be heard in the House Education Policy subcommittee on Monday, March 20, 2023, 8:00-10:00 AM.

#### What to know about SB 233

- According to [GBPI Analysis](#), the \$6,000 per year voucher proposed in SB 233 is conservatively projected to cost an additional \$190 million upon full implementation.
- This voucher bill would divert public funds from schools serving majority Black students and students living in poverty.
- The bill would allow students to attend schools that may discriminate against them because of their identity.

- It would send students to private schools that are largely racially segregated in Georgia.
- It would send students to schools that are not regulated or accountable to the public and have not shown robust academic benefits in comparison to public schools.

### What can you do?

#### Give testimony in committee on Monday!

House Education Policy Subcommittee  
Monday, March 20 at 8:00-10:00 am  
Coverdell Legislative Office Building - Room 506  
18 Capitol Sq SW, Atlanta, Ga. 30334

When you get to the meeting, there will be a sign-in sheet to speak to the bill. Sign your name and wait to be called. Prepare 1-2 minutes of testimony, starting with your name and who you're with (if you represent an organization). Please say you're with Fund Georgia's Future if you're a member or part of a member organization.

#### Contact Your Representative!

Just because you can't take off last minute this Monday doesn't mean you can't make a difference. Call [your representative](#) (even if they're not on this committee) and then a member of the [House Education committee](#) and ask them to vote NO on Senate Bill 233. If you can't call, please write your representative and tell them to vote NO on SB 233 by clicking the link [here](#).

#### Sign onto the Fund Georgia's Future Letter Opposing SB 233

Fund Georgia's Future is accepting signatures by organizations and individuals opposing SB 233, which "stands to redirect millions, and potentially billions, of tax-generated dollars for students to attend private schools, which at a minimum, breaks the spirit, if not the letter, of Georgia's Constitution." [Read the letter](#). You can sign on by filling out your information in [this form](#).



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

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## Post-Crossover Report

As a reminder, post-crossover several bills are tentatively dead for this session while several others have received final passage. In the list below bills in green have crossed over, received final passage and are headed to the Governor to be signed. Bills in blue have crossed over but have not received final passage. Bills in red did not crossover and are tentatively tabled until next legislative session. We say "tentatively tabled" because the language from these bills may still show up as amendments on other bills.

#### School Funding

- [HB 668](#): Georgia Educational Opportunity Act (QBE, 1.5 opportunity weight) (Support)
- [SB 284](#): QBE, 1.75 weight (Support)

- [HB 51](#): Local boards of education use vehicles other than school buses for transport (Support)
- [HB 81](#): Capital Outlay Grants for low-wealth districts (Support)
- [SB 233](#): \$6,000 ESA voucher bill (Oppose)

### Culturally Sustaining Schools and Emergent Bilingual Student Support

- [SB 88](#): Don't Say Gay bill (Oppose)
- [SB 154](#): Library censorship bill (Oppose)
- [HB 338](#): Student Technology Filter Bill

### Safe and Supportive Schools

- [SB 169](#): Extension of hearing dates for student discipline tribunals (Support)
- [HB 462](#): Raise the Age Act (Support)
- [SB 32](#): Alyssa's Law – Requirement to implement mobile panic alert system b
- [HB 147](#): Gang Identification & Deterrence for Teachers & Mandatory Intruder Drills (Oppose)

## Southern Education Equity Network

### Check out IDRA's Southern Education Equity Network online!

Join us at [www.idraseen.org](http://www.idraseen.org) to start or join a group and begin the conversation! And as you enter, you can post your group's events, discuss future meetings, and keep up with our live discussion board that updates you as others are posting. We want you to be SEEN! Be sure to join the **Georgia Coalition Against Classroom Censorship** group. We will post these notes there and you can share news and resources.

As you're joining the site, be sure to post about it on social media using the hashtags #StrongCommunities, #StrongSchools or #SEEN.



# Tools & Resources

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

[5 Reasons Private School Vouchers Would Hurt Students](#) – Infographic

[Learn more about IDRA's policy recommendations for Georgia](#) (also available [in Spanish](#))

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**IDRA Policy Priorities**  
for the 2023 Georgia Assembly Session

- Secure full and fair school funding for Georgia's public schools
- Ensure excellent educational opportunities for emergent bilingual and immigrant students
- Create safer schools without harmful discipline practices
- Promote culturally-sustaining school climates that support all students

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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.

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