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Georgia Education CAFE™ Advocacy Network

Georgia Policy Weekly Update

March 23, 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!



Legislative Updates

We are tracking bills related to classroom censorship, parents bill of rights, and education funding bills. Here is an update on them thus far.

Classroom Censorship

These bills target historically marginalized groups, students of color and LGBTQ+ students, by removing literature and curricula that reflects and affirms their lived experiences.

House Bill 1084 establishes a list of "divisive concepts," creates complaint procedures for parents to review materials teaching divisive concepts and withdraws strategic waivers that allow for district flexibility.

Senate Bill 377 creates the same provisions as House Bill 1084.

Parent Bill of Rights

The House Bill 1178 hearing was held earlier today. We encourage action that will create new access and transparency, but these bills do not create new systems. Additionally, public comment provided on these bills has indicated

that these bills would enable individuals to control local curriculum and infringe on the first amendment rights of all students, including their own.

Funding

SB 601 is dead! Thanks to all of your advocacy, we were able to have our voices heard on a bill that would have created a costly voucher program for Georgia schools and diverted public funds from public schools.

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



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



GEORGIA HOUSE

Hearings

None scheduled for this week.

[Watch hearings live](#)

[Watch past hearings](#)



GEORGIA SENATE

Hearings

Wednesday

The Education & Youth Committee hearing was held earlier today.

[Watch hearings live](#)

[Watch past hearings](#)

Stop Banning Books!

Recently the Georgia Assembly has attempted to censor student's learning by banning books and making it hard for students to read books that affirm and value them. Senate Bill 226 would attempt to ban books that have "obscene items" from schools across Georgia.



[Watch our own Terrence Wilson, J.D., in an interview](#) on the potential harms of the bill. Video interview provided by WSB-TV.

[Watch IDRA Testimony Against Senate Bill 226](#)

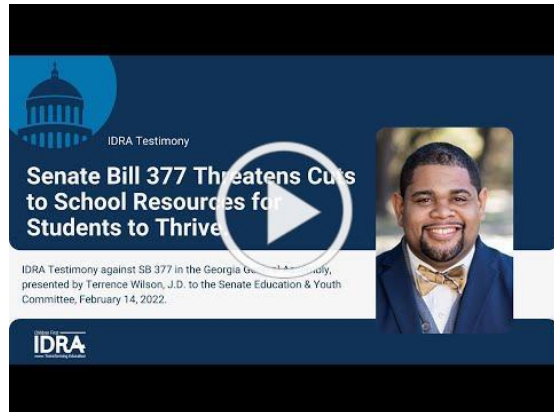
Highlights from Recent Testimony

IDRA submitted the following testimony recently.

Schools Should Value Student's Lived Experiences, Not Censor Them - IDRA Testimony HB 1084 in the Georgia General Assembly to the House Education Academic Innovation Subcommittee, February 9, 2022.

Transgender Students Need Affirmation and Support, Not Exclusion - against SB 435 in the Georgia General Assembly, to the Senate Education & Youth Committee, February 9, 2022.

Senate Bill 377 Threatens Cuts to School Resources for Students to Thrive - IDRA Testimony - against SB 377 in the Georgia General Assembly, to the Senate Education & Youth Committee, February 14, 2022.



Video of testimony by Terrence Wilson, J.D., IDRA against SB 377

Southern Education Equity Network

Check out the new Southern Education Equity Network online!



Join us at 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

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

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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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