

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)[View as Webpage](#) • May 23, 2023

## Texas Education Policy Alert

### Weekly Update

IDRA's weekly email alert includes legislative updates, opportunities for action to make your voice heard, bills to watch and other information through the session until it closes in late May.

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

**And please tell your friends!**



## Coming Up: Week of May 23, 2023

Hearings this week will address:

- Public school funding and private school voucher bill
- No other scheduled education hearings - the end is near!

### Final Week of the Legislative Session

Expect a flurry of activities in the next seven days when there are no guarantees. A public school funding bill, House Bill 100, was revived late Sunday evening with a larger private school voucher attached to it from Senate Bill 8. Then, just shy of midnight on Sunday, the Senate Education Committee announced an emergency hearing for 8:30 am the next day,

Monday, to discuss the now combined public and private school funding bill. The bill passed out of committee and awaits a Senate debate before heading back to the House for members to approve.

We encourage you to keep calling your representatives and tell them to vote *no* on all voucher proposals. Your voice matters.

## School Takeovers and Arming Teachers Do Not Make Schools More Safe

Today, the House will debate SB 11, one of the priority school safety bills pushed by state leadership this session. The bill has changed significantly since crossing over from the Senate, and now includes two extremely problematic provisions: (1) a \$25,000 stipend to incentivize teachers to carry guns on school grounds; and (2) an authorization for TEA to take over and install its own board of managers for a school district found out of compliance with the agency's school safety rules and regulations. Safe schools are built and maintained through strong, enduring relationships between educators, students and families within the school community, not through an increased presence of armed personnel or by excluding families and community members from participating in school governance and leadership. IDRA urges legislators to oppose SB 11 in its current form.



### House Floor Proceedings

[Watch the House floor debate live](#)

[Watch past hearings](#)



### Senate Floor Proceedings

[Watch the Senate floor debate live](#)

[Watch past hearings](#)

## Highlights from Last Week

### Major Bills Approaching the Final Stretch


The House did not have the votes to pass a private school voucher bill and missed the deadline to vote out of committee any of those proposals.

The House took up both contentious higher education bills—SB 17 (ban on diversity equity and inclusion offices) and SB 18 (restrictions to faculty tenure). Opponents of SB 18 managed to delay consideration to yesterday, with final passage today. Legislators spent all day Friday debating the implications of SB 17 for students, staff and faculty at public colleges and universities. Yesterday, the House passed SB 17 along party lines. Both bills differ from their original Senate versions and will now need to be worked out in order to move toward full passage.


The Senate passed a committee substitute of HB 3, one of the two priority bills addressing school safety this session. The bill was amended in the Senate to remove an armed security officer requirement for every school campus – a significant victory for education justice advocates.

Two pieces of bipartisan legislation are closer to becoming law. The CROWN Act (HB 567) prohibits discrimination based on hairstyle or texture, and House Bill 8 increases funding for community colleges and dual credit course access for high school students from low-income households.

## Voucher Testimony Presented This Week



**Texans Want Public Funds Kept in Public Schools - IDRA Testimony against HB 100 (Voucher),** submitted by Chloe Latham Sikes, Ph.D., to the Texas House Senate Education Committee, May 22, 2023



**HB 100 Poses a Threat to Students' Civil Rights with Devastating, Discriminatory Impacts on Vulnerable Students - TLEEC Testimony against HB 100,** submitted to the Texas Senate Education Committee, May 22, 2023

## Testimony Presented Last Week

[Revisions to Texas Civics Education are Redundant, Contradictory and Confusing](#) - IDRA Testimony against HB 2273, submitted by Chloe Latham Sikes, Ph.D., to the Texas Senate Education Committee, May 18, 2023

[Texas Emergent Bilingual Students Should Have Quality Programs and Certified Teachers](#) – IDRA Testimony on SB 2497, submitted by Chloe Latham Sikes, Ph.D., to the Texas Senate Education Committee, May 16, 2023

# Tools & Resources

You can make your voice heard in House committee hearings through the [electronic comment portal!](#)

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

See our Infographic: [5 Data Snacks on IDRA's Policy Priorities](#)

Read the [Policy Agenda for the Texas Legislative Education Equity Coalition \(TLEEC\)](#)

[How to Testify before the Texas Legislature](#), Infographic

**IDRA Policy Priorities**  
for the 2023 Texas Legislative Session

- Secure fair school funding
- Ensure excellent educational opportunities for emergent bilingual students
- Promote culturally sustaining school climates that support all students
- Create safer schools without harmful discipline practices
- Prepare all students to access and succeed in college

www.idra.org @IDRAed @IDRAedu IDRA

Sign up for IDRA's Texas Education Policy Alerts! Also available in Spanish.

[Research](#)   [Events](#)   [Pressroom](#)   [About Us](#)   [Website](#)

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](#)

[f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [v](#) [p](#)

IDRA | 5815 Callaghan Road, Suite 101, San Antonio, TX 78228

[Unsubscribe](#) [christie.goodman@idra.org](mailto:christie.goodman@idra.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [contact@idra.org](mailto:contact@idra.org) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!