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# IDRA Newsletter – Breaking Barriers to Learning

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Recent News

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## The Importance of Artificial Intelligence in Education for All Students

*by Hector Bojorquez and Michelle Martínez Vega*

With the advent of ChatGPT, Google Bard, Midjourney and Canva's magic features, artificial intelligence (AI) is quickly becoming an integral part of our everyday lives, transforming industries and reshaping the way we work, learn and communicate.

This rapid technological advancement highlights the importance of incorporating AI education into the curriculum not only to ensure that all students are well-equipped for their academic futures but also for workforce development.

With that in mind, it is crucial to consider underrepresented populations as these students are typically left out of the newest technological advancements. In this article, we discuss the importance of AI education and the implications of leaving out underrepresented students.



**Keep reading The Importance of Artificial Intelligence article**



**Discovering the Power of AI for Educators:**  
Exploring New Horizons in Education

**3-day Virtual Academy • 9:00-1:00 pm**

**June 13, 2023**

- AI Foundations
- Prompt Engineering
- Process, Reflect & Question

**June 14, 2023**

- Time Saving Tips & Tricks
- Differentiate Learning
- Grade & Assess

**June 15, 2023**

- Classroom Implementation
- Student Activities

**12 hours of Professional Development**

**Registration**  
<https://idra.news/AIAcademy>  
michelle.vega@idra.org

**\$300**  
Discounted rates for groups of three or more (\$200 per person)

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## Discover the Power of AI for Educators – Three-day Virtual Academy

Learn how to integrate AI technology into your classroom in meaningful ways. In this three-day virtual academy, you will explore the many benefits of AI in education, including efficiency, personalized learning and student engagement.

June 13-14, 2023 • 9:00 am-1:00 pm

**[Get Details & Register by June 2](#)**



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## Classroom Censorship Laws Sweep Across the U.S. South

*by Terrence Wilson, J.D.*

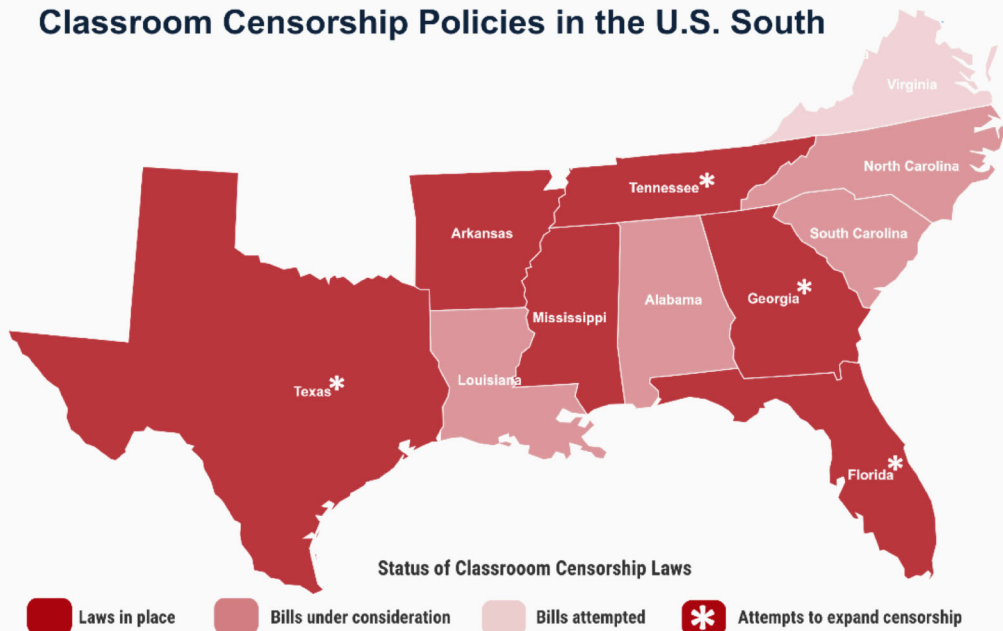
Across the country, particularly in the U.S. South, legislative efforts to limit access to accurate and diverse curricula and books have continued in 2023.

The practical impact of these laws is that millions of students across the U.S. South have less access to books and curricula that reflect their experience, particularly if they identify as Black, Latino, Indigenous, a person of color, a religious minority or LGBTQ+.

This article describes the classroom censorship developments that have taken place across the U.S. South since last year or so.



## Classroom Censorship Policies in the U.S. South



[Keep reading Classroom Censorship Laws article](#)

## Identity-Based Bullying Undermines Student Safety and Success

by Paige Duggins-Clay, J.D., and Makiah Lyons

To develop safe and healthy school environments, schools must be able to respond to bullying and harassment appropriately and take deliberate action to prevent it. This includes incidences where the bullying is based on or related to a student's identity, such as their race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender, religion or disability status.



Students across the country have increasingly reported alarming examples of identity-based bullying in schools – fueled in part by misinformation spread as a result of attacks on diversity, equity and inclusion in education.

[Keep reading Identity-Based Bullying article](#)

## IDRA 50th Anniversary Snapshot – Brown v. Board of Education

This month marks the 69th anniversary of the Brown v Board of Education Supreme Court ruling. Since then, great strides have been made in schools. But defacto segregation

remains and education equity has still not been reached. Since IDRA's founding, we have been committed to fulfilling the promise of Brown.



Dr. Henry Williams, professor of education at the University of Houston – Clear Lake, addresses participants at IDRA's Commemorative Summit Conference, "The Brown Decision in Retrospect, Introspect, Prospect." (July 1980)



Beginning with the 50th anniversary of Brown, IDRA worked in collaboration with the *Brown vs. Board of Education* 50th Anniversary Commission and the Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence and Research to design our first of a series of cross-race, cross-sector community dialogues that gathered Black and Latino community, business and education leaders in various cities throughout the U.S. South to address key education issues in each respective community. (2004)



IDRA continues to produce resources, such as **The Law in Education – Brown v. Board of Education – Classnotes Podcast 223** that gives a picture of the landscape before the ruling, describes the plaintiffs and attorneys, and discusses the ruling's impact. (2022)

**Listen to podcast episode #223**

See our newest article, [Reactions to Brown Ruling Led to Breakdown in Teacher Diversity](#), by Makiah Lyons.

## IDRA José A. Cárdenas School Finance Fellows Symposium Held

Last week we held our symposium featuring research by two IDRA José A. Cárdenas School Finance Fellows, Dr. Vanessa A. Sansone and Dr. David Martínez. We also heard from a team of high school students who presented the results of their youth participatory action research study.

## Research on CARES Act Spending Patterns Among Hispanic-Serving Institutions in Texas





**Dr. Vanessa A. Sansone**  
Assistant Professor of Higher Education,  
Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies,  
University of Texas at San Antonio



### Report and Executive Summary

- **An Exploration of CARES Act Funding Policies Affecting Hispanic-Serving Institutions in Texas**
- **An Exploration of CARES Act Funding Policies Affecting Hispanic-Serving Institutions in Texas – Executive Summary**

### Symposium Panel Responses by:

- Jaime Chahín, Ph.D., Dean and Professor of the College of Applied Arts, Texas State University
- Joanna D. Sánchez, Ph.D., Senior Policy Researcher, IDRA

## Research on School Funding Disparities in High Proportion Latino School Districts in South Carolina



**Dr. David Martínez**  
Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Leadership  
and Policies at the College of Education,  
University of South Carolina



### Report and Executive Summary

- **A Disproportionality Analysis of South Carolina School Finance Policy Priorities in High Proportion LatinX Districts During COVID-19**
- **Did Anyone Ask the Leaders? Reviewing South Carolina School Finance Disparities in High Proportion LatinX School Districts during COVID-19 – Executive Summary**

**Symposium Panel Responses by:**

- Derek W. Black, J.D., Professor of Law, Ernest F. Hollings Chair in Constitutional Law, University of South Carolina School of Law
- Edward García Fierros, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Villanova University

## Recent News

### Recent Media Coverage

On Brown v. Board Anniversary, Murphy Reintroduces Legislation to Increase Diversity in Schools, Senator Chris Murphy post, May 17, 2023

In public comment period, commissioners who could delete 'diversity' from lessons filter out public, Ross Williams, Georgia Recorder, May 12, 2023

Opinion: Diversity is not a bad word, By Mikayla Arciaga, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, May 11, 2023

Words like 'diverse' may soon be removed from training for Georgia public school teachers, Amanda Rose, Atlanta News First, May 10, 2023

Commentary: Texas bills offer illusion of school safety, Paige Duggins-Clay, San Antonio Express-News, May 2, 2023

[See these news stories and other recent media coverage with links on our website.](#)

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### Other IDRA News

May 16, 2023 – [Symposium – New SC and Tx School Finance Research](#) – Panelists announced – IDRA José A. Cárdenas School Finance Fellows Program

May 15, 2023 – [Discover the Power of AI for Educators – Three-day Virtual Academy](#)

May 12, 2023 – [Texas Education Policy Update – Alert: Say No to Vouchers Video Campaign](#)

May 12, 2023 – [Trust Teachers to Provide Accurate and Inclusive Education – IDRA School Resource Hub Provides Tools for Teaching About Race and Gender](#)

May 11, 2023 – [Alert! Georgia Education Policy Update – Action Alert: Help keep DEI standards for teachers](#)

May 9, 2023 – Texas Education Policy Update – Alert: Call Now to Stop Vouchers in Texas! ([English](#)) • ([Español](#))

May 7, 2023 – Texas Education Policy Update – Advocacy News – Week of May 8, 2023 ([English](#)) • ([Español](#))

May 3, 2023 – Knowledge is Power – Freedom to Learn Day; Texas Censorship Bills; Classroom lessons; and more ([English](#)) • ([Español](#))

May 2, 2023 – [April 2023 issue of the IDRA Newsletter – 50th Anniversary Edition](#)

## Public Testimony

In the last month, IDRA presented testimony on its [policy priorities](#) in Texas. [See video and written testimony.](#)

[Make sure you are subscribed](#) to receive policy alerts for Texas, Georgia and federal news.

## Youth Research on Culturally Responsive Education and School Discipline in Texas Schools

A team of high school students presented on the results of their youth participatory action research study, **“Culturally Responsive Education and School Discipline in Texas Schools: A Mixed-Methods Case Study.”** The four students were members of IDRA’s Youth Advisory Board in 2022.

- Josué Peralta de Jesús, 12th grade
- Kennedy Moore, 12th grade
- Manav Lund, 12th grade
- Shreya Selvaraju, 11th grade



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

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