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IDRA eNews

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For immediate release

Virginia's Anti-Equity Executive Order 1 Does Not Require Schools to Limit Curriculum or Instruction

IDRA and Partners Publish Analysis with Guidance for School Personnel and Communities

(Virginia • November 15, 2022) Analysis finds that directives in Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin's anti-equity Executive Order 1 do not apply to local school division policy or practice. IDRA released today the study and guide for school leaders, [What Virginia's Anti-Equity Executive Order 1 and Reports Mean for K-12 Schools and Students](#), to help them continue to promote culturally sustaining school practices.

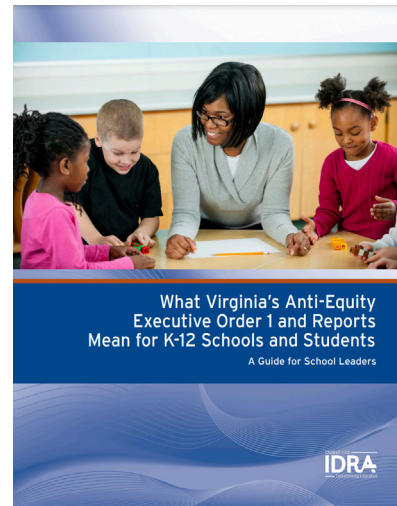
On January 15, 2022, Gov. Youngkin's first official act focused on public education by issuing Executive Order 1 aimed at limiting access to equity practices under the guise of ending the use of "divisive concepts." The executive order required the Virginia Department of Education to issue two responsive reports by days 30 and 90 in the administration.

In response, IDRA and other education leaders, researchers and advocates developed this guide for school and community leaders who serve diverse students, parents and caregivers, and teachers.

"Executive Order 1 does not constitute a change in commonwealth law," said [Terrence Wilson, J.D.](#), IDRA regional policy and community engagement director. "School leaders should resist attempts to inaccurately frame education equity as 'divisive' and should encourage accurate and truthful lessons that prepare students for the world."

Local school divisions are required to comply with and, if necessary, enforce commonwealth and federal anti-discrimination law. Those laws remain unchanged by Executive Order 1.

"Drawing on policy, civil rights law and educational leadership perspectives, this guide is designed for school leaders, school division administrators and school board members to continue to ensure that culturally diverse curricula, culturally relevant practices and equity-oriented policies are offered by their school districts," said **Tom Shields, Ph.D.** "In addition, the authors believe that K-12 leaders should strongly resist attempts to inaccurately frame educational equity as "divisive." Dr. Shields is associate dean for academic and student affairs, chair of graduate education in the School of Professional and Continuing Studies, and associate professor of education and leadership studies at the University of Richmond.



IDRA works across the country to promote culturally sustaining educational practices. These practices promote curriculum, climate, programming, pedagogies and policies that respect and honor students' cultural backgrounds, while also nurturing, expanding, uplifting, centering and sustaining the cultural experiences of all students, particularly Black, Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander and Indigenous students.

Learn more about our similar work across the U.S. South through the [Southern Education Equity Network](#). **Sign up to get involved in your state to protect strong, inclusive education for every student!**

And see new lesson plans for teaching about race and culture on IDRA's [We All Belong – School Resource Hub](#).

Media Contact: Thomas Marshall III, M.Ed., IDRA Policy Communications Strategist (thomas.marshall@idra.org).

School & Community Tools

The [Southern Education Equity Network](#) is a forum for concerned parents and caregivers, students, community members, and organizational and coalition friends who advocate for public education

See our [We All Belong - School Resource Hub](#) to get over 100 free original and curated **lesson plans** for culturally sustaining instruction and healthy classroom conversations about this nation's past and present.

and student success across the U.S. South.

The lessons cover multiple grades and subjects.

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

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