## **Policy Team & Priorities** Georgia Legislative Session 2025





#### Affirm All Children's Right to Free Public Education

Four decades ago, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed in *Plyler v. Doe* that all school-age children in the country are entitled to a free public education regardless of their immigration status (IDRA, 2024). IDRA opposes any policies that threaten children's basic civil right to education.



# Meet the Constitutional Responsibility to Fund Public Schools

Georgia leaders have a constitutional obligation to provide fair and full funding for Georgia's public schools. The state must take steps to bear more of the per-pupil cost of education. Since 2013, the state share of per-pupil funding has dropped from 51% to 40%.

$\mathbf{\mathbf{x}}$	
X	
$\checkmark$	

#### Standardize Accountability and Transparency for Harmful School Voucher Programs

Legislators should reject any attempts to expand vouchers either through funding, new programs or reduced guardrails. Instead, they should repeal existing voucher programs and invest in fully funding public school districts to ensure that every student has access to a high-quality public education.

$\frown$	
	<

#### Adopt Evidence-based Discipline Practices and Policies to Make School Environments Safer

All students deserve safe and welcoming schools. Schools must be able to invest in the people and programs that build strong campus climates and foster relationships that keep everyone safe.



#### Support Students' Lived Experiences and Identities to Create Welcoming Classrooms

For a learning environment to be truly welcoming, it must be inclusive of all students' identities. We advocate classroom policies that make schools safer and more inclusive for all children, especially students of color, emergent bilingual students, and LGBTQ+ students.

### **About IDRA**

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.



Mikayla Arciaga, M.A.Ed. Georgia Advocacy Director Fulton County mikayla.arciaga@idra.org



Terrence Wilson, J.D. Regional Policy and Community Engagement Director Troup County terrence.wilson@idra.org



DeAndrea Byrd Education Policy Fellow Fulton County deandrea.byrd@idra.org



Isabelle Philip Education Policy Fellow Fulton County isabelle.philip@idra.org







