Children First
IDRA
Transforming Education

Transforming education by putting children first

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. To have the most impact, IDRA uniquely concentrates on all four domains that affect systemic equity and – critically – where these domains intersect.

- **Educator & Student Support**
- **Policy & Legal Analysis & Advocacy**
- **Research & Data Analysis**
- **Family & Community Engagement**

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Examples of Our Work in 2025

VisionCoders

In this high-quality and asset-based eighth-grade computer science and leadership course, students in at-risk situations are becoming software designers for their elementary buddies. The program is in schools across San Antonio.

Youth-led Tech

IDRA Digital Ambassador students research to identify the most pressing technology needs within their low-income community in the Texas Rio Grande Valley. They then lead community technology training. IDRA Youth TechXperts are eighth-grade students who become IT support specialists for their schools. Students also gain mentoring relationships with local STEM professionals.

San Antonio STEM Hub

The Defense STEM Education Consortium named IDRA and the Alamo STEM Ecosystem, which IDRA co-leads, as one of four STEM hubs in the country to work with students, teachers and industry to build STEM pipelines for underserved students.

Education CAFE™

IDRA's authentic family leadership model builds strong family-educator partnerships to improve schools and raise students' academic achievement. Education CAFEs have improved access to and success in college prep courses and much more.

State & Federal Policy Change

IDRA is a leader in drafting legislation and policy agendas. Our work has led to critically important laws for bilingual education, school funding equity, school discipline practices, immigrant students' rights to attend school, and much more.

Education Policy Fellowship

IDRA is preparing the next generation of policy advocates. Our fellows gain real-world advocacy experience and training during the Texas and Georgia legislative sessions.

Valued Youth Partnership

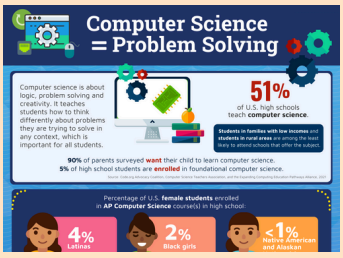
IDRA's research-based dropout prevention program keeps 98% of its tutors in school. This leadership development and career pathway program has been successful across the country since it began in 1984. The White House named it a "Bright Spot" program."

Youth Leadership Now

YLN is an in-school program for eighth-grade students in West Texas that combines three winning strategies: IDRA's VYP tutoring by middle schoolers deemed high-need; teacher mentoring to prepare for high school; and family engagement through our Education CAFE model.

Culturally and Linguistically Sustaining Schooling

IDRA coaches principals and trains thousands of teachers each year across the U.S. South to address fundamental equity concerns. For example, we recenlty trained thousands of teachers of bilingual students in South Carolina.



Research, Evaluation & Data

IDRA's data analyses inform policymaking, litigation and school planning. We put actionable data and dashboards in the hands of community groups as they explore ways to support their schools. The USDA selected IDRA to conduct a meta-evaluation of its 33 grantees in multiple states and territories.

Legal Advocacy

IDRA has provided legal strategy and expert testimony in every major education civil rights case in Texas in the last 53 years. Our current legal work includes writing amicus briefs to protect the *Texas Dream Act* and race-conscious admission and filing federal complaints on behalf of parents whose children are targets of race-based bullying. Our SEEN Model Policy Shop provides templates for state and district policy change driven by communities.

IDRA SEEN Forum & School Resource Hub

IDRA's Southern Education Equity Network (SEEN) forum helps community and coalition advocates collaborate across the U.S. South. Its award-winning IDRA SEEN School Resource Hub provides lesson plans for inclusive instruction.

There's more...

like our early childhood bilingual curriculum, family and teacher convenings, and expertise in bilingual education, school discipline and safety guidance, fair school funding, rights of immigrant students, and college preparation and access.