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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.

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Coming Up: Week of February 21, 2023

Hearings this week will be among the budget committees:

- House Appropriations sub/committee on Article III will hear higher education budget requests this week.
- The Article III subcommittee will discuss K-12 public education budget requests next Monday, Feb. 27.

Highlights from Last Week

The Texas Governor delivered his State of the State Address Thursday, February 16. He named seven emergency items to prioritize, including four that impact K-12 education in some way:

- Private school vouchers through education savings accounts that would divert funds away from public education;
- School safety;
- Property tax cuts that could reduce funding to public schools; and
- Ending all COVID-19 safety restrictions in perpetuity, which could affect how public schools keep students and staff safe in future pandemics or public health crises.

Typically, the Legislature cannot discuss legislation beyond the budget in the first 60 days it meets. However, the Governor’s emergency items present an exception. Bills on these priority items could come up more quickly than others.



IDRA deputy director of policy, Chloe Latham Sikes, Ph.D., joined Every Texan and other panelists to discuss these items on the Every Texan Talks podcast. [Listen here.](#)



The Texas Legislative Education Equity Coalition **released a statement** opposing private school voucher proposals, with 30 member organizations signing on. This will be featured at the TLEEC Day of Action on March 1, 2023, at the Texas State Capitol.

Tools & Resources

[IDRA’s Policy Priorities for Texas](#)

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

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

New Infographic: [5 Reasons Vouchers Hurt Texas Students](#)

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

IDRA Policy Priorities
for the 2023 Texas Legislative Session

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

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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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