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# IDRA eNews

Transforming education by putting children first

**Rodríguez vs. San Antonio**  
50th Anniversary Commemoration

**The Fight for Fair School Funding**

**Equity: Past, Present and Future**

TRINITY UNIVERSITY  
CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP  
IDRA  
EDGEWOOD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
The National Coalition for School Diversity

*The case that led to IDRA's founding*

<https://idra.news/Rodriguez50thEvent>

**In-person & Virtual**  
**Rodríguez v. San Antonio**  
**50th Anniversary Commemoration**

**The Fight for School Finance Equity:  
 Past, Present, and Future**

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

4:30-7:40 pm CT • Livestream: 5:00-7:40 pm CT

On the 50th anniversary of the momentous *Rodriguez v San Antonio ISD* ruling, IDRA, Trinity University and its Center for Education Leadership, Edgewood ISD and the National Coalition on School Diversity are hosting a commemorative event to reflect on the case, its impact, and its legacy of struggle and activism.

San Antonio is the place where the battle for fair funding of schools in Texas was born with the *Rodriguez vs. San Antonio ISD* case and the series of Edgewood cases that followed. This community was at the front of what turned out to be a hard and often bitter fight that has continued for decades – the fight to assure that children in this and other communities like it would not continue to suffer under a bad and unjust system of financing schools.

This case led to IDRA's founding, also 50 years ago. [Learn more.](#)

[Register to Participate Online](#)



# Rodríguez v San Antonio

## 50th Anniversary Commemoration

March 22, 2023

### Agenda

#### Welcome & Introductions

Phil Chavez, Edgewood ISD, Deputy Superintendent

Enrique Alemán, Jr., Ph.D., Trinity University

#### The History of Rodríguez and Its Impact On Our Present and Future

Celina Moreno, J.D., IDRA, President & CEO (moderator)

Chandra Kring Villanueva, Every Texan, Director of Policy & Advocacy

Al Kauffman, J.D., Professor of Law, St. Mary's University

Albert Cortez, Ph.D., Former Director of Policy IDRA - Retired

#### Rodríguez's Legacy of Activism and Struggle

Enrique Alemán, Jr., Ph.D., Trinity University, Professor (moderator)

Roy Soto, Former Trustee Edgewood ISD

Patricia Rodríguez, Edgewood ISD teacher & Daughter of Demetrio Rodriguez

Alejandra López, President, San Antonio Alliance

#### A Call to Community Action for Equitable and Adequate Funding

Chloe Latham Sikes, Ph.D., IDRA, Deputy Policy Director

Diana Long, IDRA Policy Fellow & UT Austin Educational Policy graduate student

Joanna D. Sánchez, Ph.D., IDRA, Senior Policy Researcher

#### Closing Remarks



[Register to Participate Online](#)

Registration is not needed to attend in person.



## Twitter Chat ~ March 20

### San Antonio ISD v. Rodriguez (1973)

### 50th Anniversary: Exploring the Link Between School Funding and Segregation

Monday, March 20, 2023  
Noon-1:00 pm CT

In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court school funding case, *San Antonio ISD v. Rodriguez* (1973), this NCSD and IDRA Twitter chat aims to spark a conversation around the link between school funding and segregation. The *Rodriguez* case primarily held that Texas' school finance system, based on property taxes, did not violate the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment, despite producing stark inequities in funding between districts. The *Rodriguez* Court made two other important findings: that education is not a "fundamental right" under the U.S. Constitution, nor is a person's income status a protected class.

Today, policies that tie funding levels to local property taxes remain standard practice. According to NCES, 2020, nearly half (44.9%) of all U.S. public school revenue came from local funding, comprised mainly of property taxes. Since *Rodriguez*, however, state-level school finance litigation and policy reforms have caused shifts in the landscape over the last 50 years. Have these efforts successfully addressed the concerns at issue in *Rodriguez*?

To what extent does continued reliance on local property taxes systematically deny students living in areas of concentrated poverty equitable and/or adequate school funding? What would it take for all children to have access to diverse, well-resourced schools? What are the barriers to making this a reality? These are just a few of the questions we'll explore during the chat.

# #RodriguezAt50 Twitter Chat

Join us at @IDRAedu and @diverse\_schools

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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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