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New IDRA Book Frames School Change for Student Success

IDRA has released a new book, *Courage to Connect – A Quality Schools Action Framework*, that shows how communities and schools can work together to strengthen their capacity to be successful with all of their students.

“The Quality Schools Action Framework helps people hone in on what’s important and needed in their local school context,” said Dr. María “Cuca” Robledo Montecel, IDRA president and editor of the new book. “A number of our partner schools and coalition organizations have used the framework to assess baselines, plan and implement strategy, and monitor progress in educating all students.”

The Quality Schools Action Framework™ is based on experience and empirical evidence that emerges from existing theories of change. It gives a model for assessing a school’s conditions and outcomes, for identifying leverage points for improvement, and for informing action.



Courage to Connect – A Quality Schools Action Framework, gives you a useful tool to:

- Conceive, design and manage sustainable change at the school or district level;
- Encourage thoughtful and coherent selection of transformative practices that are grounded in the reality of the school and its community;
- Focus on particular strategies and/or instructional approaches (e.g., bilingual education) without losing track of the contexts that matter (e.g., teaching quality, school/district leadership, funding);
- Inform evidence-based community collaboration and oversight in productive ways; and
- Inform meaningful comparisons across schools and districts.

To learn more about IDRA’s *Courage to Connect – A Quality Schools Action Framework*, visit www.idra.org/couragetconnect to view the framework, see the detailed table of contents, read an excerpt and listen to related podcasts.

In conjunction with the book release, IDRA has upgraded its School Holding Power online portal that helps community and school partners in Texas examine their school data and plan joint action to improve school holding power (www.idra.org/portal). This free portal places accurate, high quality information in the hands of people at the leading edge of systems change. Educators and community members can find out how well their high school campus is preparing and graduating students, what factors may be weakening school holding power, and what they can do to address them.

“Our future depends on us having an excellent public educational system, where all students graduate from high school prepared for college or the world of work, no matter what the color of

their skin, the language they speak, or where they happen to be born. And this is a goal I believe we can achieve.”– Dr. María “Cuca” Robledo Montecel, IDRA President & CEO

Courage to Connect – A Quality Schools Action Framework is available for purchase from IDRA (\$15 plus s&h). Order your copy today! Don't forget to order copies for your teachers or staff!

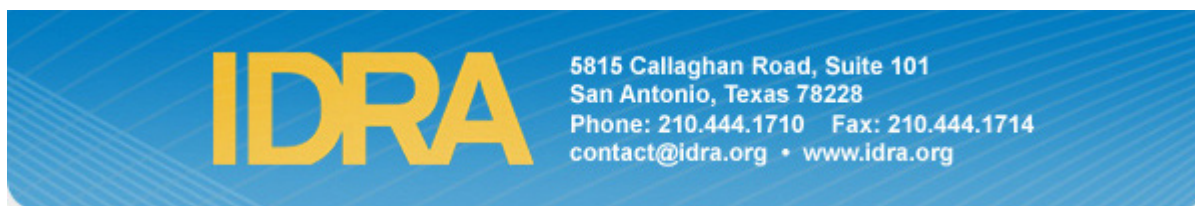
Contents Include: Foreword; The Framework; 1 The Framework Explored; 2 Levers of Change – What do we need?; 3 Change Strategies – How do we make change happen?; 4 School System Fundamentals – Which fundamentals must be secured?; 5 School System Indicators – Where do we focus systems change?; 6 Outcome Indicators – What outcomes will result?; 7 Closing – Taking action.

[ISBN 978-1-935737-35-3; 272 Pages; Paperback; 2010; \$15]

The **Intercultural Development Research Association** is an independent private non-profit organization dedicated to realizing the right of every child to a quality education. IDRA strengthens and transforms public education by providing dynamic training; useful research, evaluation, and frameworks for action; timely policy analyses; and innovative materials and programs.

IDRA works hand-in-hand with hundreds of thousands of educators and families each year in communities and classrooms around the country. All our work rests on an unwavering commitment to creating self-renewing schools that value and promote the success of students of all backgrounds.

We are a small organization with a powerful mission: to create schools that work for *all* children.



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