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IDRA eNews

Transforming education by putting children first

51 years ago today, the U.S. Supreme Court made schools more separate and more unequal.

The court ruled in *Rodríguez v. San Antonio ISD* that education was not a fundamental right. And it said, although Texas' school funding system was "chaotic and unjust," it did not violate federal equal protection requirements. The court passed the buck to states to determine if their public schools were fairly funded.

Why do we pause for this anniversary?

Because *Rodríguez* fanned a fire sparked by students and families demanding better schools!

Because it led to IDRA's founding in 1973 to ensure equal opportunities for *all* students.

And because there is so much more to do.

For example, today, in Texas, Georgia and across the nation, politicians seek to demonize, then privatize, public schools through school vouchers.

In 51 years, IDRA's mission has never wavered. And we will continue to support movements, change laws, shed light on inequities, and work with educators on classroom innovations that dramatically improve students' lives. IDRA is committed to ensuring every student is in a strong public school that is safe, values their culture and language, and prepares them for college.

Learn more about the *Rodríguez* case

Read our article about the case and what followed: [Families Insist on Equitable School Funding – Rodríguez v. San Antonio ISD Ruling 50 Years Ago Has Lasting Effects](#)

"The Rodríguez decision is seen by many legal scholars as one of the worst Supreme Court decisions in the last century and a real betrayal to the promise of *Brown v. Board of Education*."

– Celina Moreno, J.D., IDRA President & CEO



The Law in Education – Rodríguez vs. San Antonio ISD

For the 50th anniversary of the *Rodríguez vs. San Antonio ISD* U.S. Supreme Court ruling, Celina Moreno, J.D., met with Dr. Albert Cortez to discuss the

history of the case, its impact, the litigation that followed, and how the case led to IDRA's founding. The conversation is available as a podcast and video.



[Listen to the podcast](https://idra.news/Pod233)



[Watch video on YouTube](https://idra.news/Pod233)

Replay: *Rodriguez vs. San Antonio* 50th Anniversary Commemoration Event

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.

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



[Watch the panel discussions on YouTube, hosted by Edgewood ISD](#)

[See the agenda, slides & data maps](#)

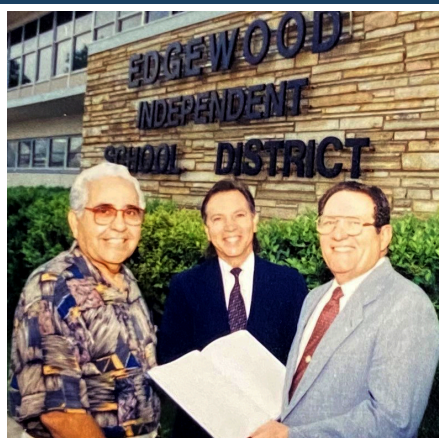
Texas School Finance Reform: An IDRA Perspective

A master storyteller, IDRA founder Dr. José A. Cárdenas offers an insider's view of the history of school finance in Texas.

More than a history, this book provides a blueprint for persons interested in bringing about future reform in schools and other social institutions.

Beginning with a description of the Texas system in 1950, the account covers court cases, legislation, and advocacy efforts and concludes with the status and future of school finance reform.

[The book is available free online from IDRA](#)



Dr. José A. Cárdenas (right) presents a copy of his new book, *Texas School Finance Reform: An IDRA Perspective*, to Demetrio Rodríguez (left), lead litigant in the *Rodriguez vs. San Antonio ISD* case, with Dr. Albert Cortez (center), IDRA director of policy and school finance expert. 1997





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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