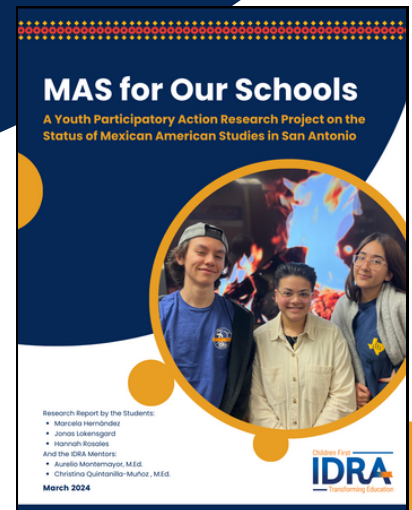


MAS for Our Schools

A Youth Participatory Action Research Project on the Status of Mexican American Studies in San Antonio

High school seniors Marcela Hernández, Jonas Lokensgard and Hannah Rosales investigated the status of Mexican American Studies (MAS) in their community and how to help it grow. They conducted a mixed-methods study, involving a student experience survey and focus group interviews with teachers and community members.

Student research team calls for expansion of Mexican American Studies.



Recommendations

- Recognize MAS as a core history or social studies credit for graduation.
- Develop a standardized, comprehensive MAS curriculum.
- Promote MAS through peer recruitment at the campus level.
- Support MAS teachers to do their job.
- Establish partnerships with local organizations.
- Tell stories and best practices demonstrated by successful MAS programs in public forums.

IDRA provided training on leading survey research, developing research questions and analyzing results, and IDRA staff served as mentors throughout the year-long project. This project was generously supported by the National Center for Youth Law (NCYL).

Scan or link to see the report



<https://idra.news/MASforOurSchoolsReport>

Research Key Findings



Mexican American Studies promotes students' exploration of self-identity.



Mexican American Studies fosters community.



Mexican American Studies enriches students' learning of U.S. history.



Mexican American Studies creates cultural resonance among diverse student populations.



Mexican American Studies cultivates students' and teachers' social responsibility and political agency.



Despite interest in Mexican American Studies, students may not be able to take the course.



Peer recruitment is a critical strategy for increasing student interest in Mexican American Studies.



Despite its significance in students' educational experience, Mexican American Studies is not a qualified history or social studies course.



Teachers face critical challenges with implementing Mexican American Studies at their schools.

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