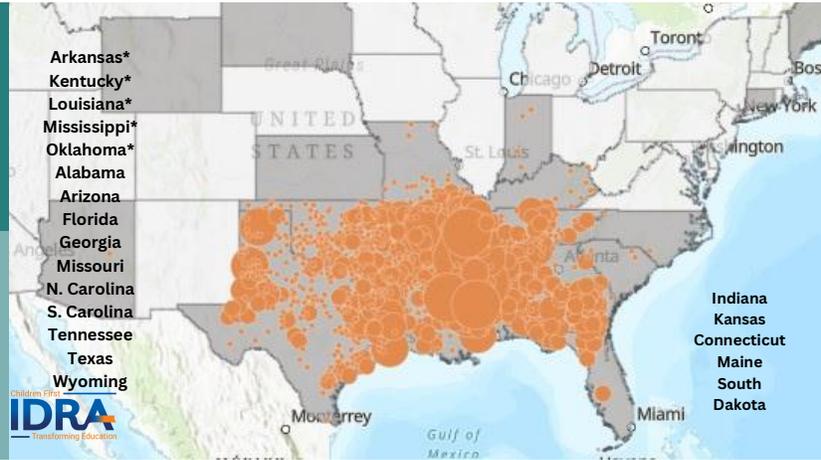


# ENDING CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN TEXAS & ACROSS THE SOUTH

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## The Texas Story: Background

- School districts that approve CP may spank, paddle, slap, hit, or inflict other physical punishment for discipline purposes.
- Parents must opt out in writing each year.
- In 2017-18 in Texas:
  - 468 TX districts reported having policies
  - CP was used 21,685 times
  - 13, 054 students were hit
  - Second highest number of students hit, seventh highest rate of hitting
- Black students and students with disabilities disproportionately hit.
- History of hitting Spanish-speaking children



## The Texas Story: 2023 Advocacy



- New committee focused on youth safety issues
  - First hearing in years (took us by surprise)
  - HB 772 ban was voted out of committee 5-2
- Advocacy
  - Visits/Vote counting
  - Recruiting partners to write letters of support
  - Data/story sharing
- House Vote
  - Point of Order
  - Floor speeches
  - Consolidation and vote switching
  - Vote fails 86-58



<https://www.legis.state.tx.us/hocr/094/0941026>  
0941026 8-07-05



## WHAT DID WE LEARN?

### POLITICAL PRESSURE

**Problem:** People found CP distasteful personally, but did not feel strongly enough (or have enough cover) to overcome party pressure.

**Opportunity:** Messaging/narrative, fact-sharing, and storytelling.

### ISSUE EDUCATION

**Problem:** People were unsure of or in denial about how children experience CP in schools (frequency, manner, and trauma).

"Yes. Corporal Punishment still happens."

**Opportunity:** Strategic message use, narrative shaping, fact-sharing, and storytelling.

### PERSONAL WORLD VIEWS

**Problem:** Many people had "I turned out fine" or other personal, deeply-held beliefs.

**Opportunity:** Build partnerships with diverse messengers to make it ok to shift what is often personal/familial/cultural/religious, share facts and stories.

## WHAT DID WE LEARN?

### PARENTAL RIGHTS FRAMING

**Problem:** Narrative emphasizing parents' right to choose was STRONG.

**Opportunity:** Build strong parent and grandparent coalition and think about parental rights messaging. Emphasize STUDENTS' rights!

### LACK OF URGENCY

**Problem:** There was not a sense of urgency to end CP in the context of other fires. This made it an issue that was easy for people to ignore, give up, or go along with.

**Opportunity:** Shore up friends, look for connections to other issues, story-sharing to emphasize urgency.

### WE NEED TO BUILD

**Problem:** People did not show up the way we needed them to.

**Opportunity:** See this period as one to build (new and old allies, stories, messaging, data, etc.)



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