Daniel I. Dawer
University of Texas at Austin, College of Education
Department of Educational Leadership and Policy
1912 Speedway, Stop D5400 Austin, TX 78712-1604
www.danieldawer.com | Daniel.dawer@utexas.edu
ORCID iD: 0009-0002-1951-8427

Education

The University of Texas at Austin 2022–2027
Ph.D., Educational Policy & Planning *(expected)*

Dissertation: Testing ground: The logics of state takeover and resistance in Houston
Committee: Sarah L. Woulfin, Jennifer J. Holme, Joshua Childs, Noah de Lissovoy, Kristen L. Buras

Harvard Graduate School of Education 2009–2010
Ed.M., Teaching and Curriculum, Teacher Education Program

The University of Texas at Austin 2005–2009
B.A., English Honors and Plan II Honors
Dean's Distinguished Graduate, highest honors

Scholarly Interests

Substantive: accountability policy implementation, state takeover, school turnaround, teachers' work and working conditions, organizational theory, grassroots organizing for education.

Methodological: qualitative methods, case study, ethnography, critical policy analysis, research-practice partnerships, community-based methods, participatory action research.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

[8] **Dawer, D. I.**, & Wronowski, M. L. (2026). Control+Alt+Delete: Authoritarian educational leadership and the state takeover of Houston ISD. *Educational Administration Quarterly*. https://doi.org/10.1177/0013161X261493972

[7] Ekpe, L., **Dawer, D. I.**, & Su-Keene, E. J. (2026). "I hope that you will make room for our voices": Enacting critical hope to sustain a community's resistance to a state takeover of an urban school district. *Urban Education*. https://doi.org/10.1177/00420859261504381

[6] **Dawer, D. I.**, & Madrigal III, A. (In press). Turnaround, crisis, and recovery: District-charter turnaround partnerships in Texas and the (re)production of neoliberal subjects. In *Leading the Change: State, District, and School Perspectives on School Improvement*. Emerald Publishing.

[5] **Dawer, D. I.,** & Benzon, M. (2026). Introduction to the special issue, Democracy dismantled: Takeover and the lived experience of state-directed urban school reform. *Texas Education Review, 14*(1), 92-97. https://doi.org/10.26153/tsw/64546

[4] **Dawer, D. I.** (2026). "We're teaching them to follow orders": English language arts teachers' responses to state takeover. In B. Hsieh, J. Tourneville, M. P. Chopin, & A. Priede (Eds.), *Teachers in a world in transition: International perspectives on education reform and teachers' lived experiences* (pp. 52-68). Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003678885-5

[3] **Dawer, D. I.,** & Timm, T. (2026). Contaminated spaces: A critical policy analysis of historical school siting policy and environmental racism in Detroit and Houston. *Journal of Spatial Equity and Education, 1*(1), 62-85. https://doi.org/10.66981/001c.167462

[2] **Dawer, D. I.** (2025). "We are not your colony": Policy discourses and resistance in Texas's takeover of Houston Independent School District. *Education Policy Analysis Archives, 33*(11). https://doi.org/10.14507/epaa.33.8508

[1] **Dawer, D. I.,** & Woulfin, S. L. (2024). From oyster reefs to turnaround schools: An educational restoration model for the COVID-19 era. *Leadership and Policy in Schools, 24*(2), 312-329. https://doi.org/10.1080/15700763.2024.2303678

Policy Reports and Book Reviews

[7] **Dawer, D. I.,** Jones, G., Lee, J., Morel, D., Nelson, S. L., San Miguel, G., Wasden, K., Williams, R., Yanez, E., & Yarborough, M. (2026). *"Diminished, Degraded, and Destroyed": A Report by the Commission on the Takeover of Houston Independent School District*. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vynRciC4ccGuETWcZT3Glvd3CX1ka84n/view

[6] Singer, J., Woulfin, S. L., **Dawer, D. I.**, Lizarraga, L., Strunk, K. O., Harbatkin, E., & Chen, W. (2026). *Round 4 of the Partnership Model: 2024-25 Implementation Report.* Education Policy Innovation Collaborative. https://epicedpolicy.org/round-4-of-the-partnership-model-2024-25-implementation-report/

[5] **Dawer, D. I.** (2026). Review: *What We Stand to Lose: Black Teachers, the Culture They Created, and the Closure of a New Orleans High School* by Kristen L. Buras. *E3W Review of Books, 26*, 60-61. https://e3w.dwrl.utexas.edu/issues/volume-26-spring-2026/politics-and-academies/what-we-stand-to-lose-black-teachers-the-culture-they-created-and-the-closure-of-a-new-orleans-high-school-kristen-l-buras/

[4] Jabbar, H., Holme, J. J., Owens, A., **Dawer, D. I.**, Timm, T., Espinoza, D., Blagg, T., & Madrigal, T. (2025). *Harmonizing Systems to Reduce Eviction and Homelessness: An Environmental Scan of Innovative School-Housing Partnerships*. University of Southern California Rossier School of Education. https://rossier.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Harmonizing_Systems_to_Reduce_Eviction_and_Homelessness_-_REPORT.pdf

[3] **Dawer, D. I.** (2025). Review: *Designed to Fail: Why Racial Equity in School Funding Is So Hard to Achieve* by Roseann Liu. *E3W Review of Books, 25*, 62-63. https://e3w.dwrl.utexas.edu/issues/volume-25-spring-2025/education-pedagogy/designed-to-fail-why-racial-equity-in-school-funding-is-so-hard-to-achieve-by-roseann-liu/

[2] Woulfin, S. L., **Dawer, D. I.**, McKenzie, L., & Pernetti, M. (2024). *The Ecosystem of Actors Influencing the Implementation of STEM Innovations*. Paper commissioned by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine Committee on PreK-12 STEM Education innovations. https://nap.nationalacademies.org/resource/27950/Ecosystems%20of%20Actors%20Influencing%20the%20Implementation%20of%20STEM%20Innovations_Woulfin%20Dawer%20McKenzie%20Pernetti.pdf

[1] **Dawer, D. I.** (2023). Review: *Moving Across Differences: How Students Engage LGBTQ+ Themes in a High School Literature Class* by Mollie V. Blackburn. *E3W Review of Books, 23*, 16-17. https://e3w.dwrl.utexas.edu/issues/volume-23-spring-2023/pedagogies-of-care-and-belonging-contemporary-classrooms-and-healthcare-access-2/moving-across-differences-how-students-engage-lgbtq-themes-in-a-high-school-literature-class-by-mollie-v-blackburn/

Manuscripts Under Review or In Preparation

Jabbar, J., Holme, J. J., **Dawer, D. I.,** Timm, T., Espinoza, D., Blagg, T., & Madrigal, T. (Under review). Harmonizing systems to reduce eviction and homelessness: An environmental scan of innovative school-housing partnerships.

Woulfin, S. L., **Dawer, D. I.,** Lizarraga-Dueñas, L., & Singer, J. (Under review). "The teachers just aren't there": A comparative case study of educator recruitment and retention strategies in turnaround schools.

Dawer, D. I., Lee, J., & Kravetz, R. (Under review). Organizing for transformational change: Community Voices for Public Education and grassroots resistance to the state takeover of Houston ISD.

Fried, S. A., **Dawer, D. I.**, & Woulfin, S. L. (In production). Toolkits for centralization: Logics of school district takeover.

Fellowships and Awards

Fellowships

2022–2027	Donald D. Harrington Graduate Fellowship *The University of Texas at Austin*
2026	Semifinalist, NAEd/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship *National Academy of Education* and *Spencer Foundation*
2023	Ellis Alexander Continuing Fellowship *College of Education, The University of Texas at Austin*

Awards

2026	Jean Anyon Graduate Student Paper Award *AERA Grassroots Community and Youth Organizing for Educational Justice SIG*
2026	Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award *AERA Teachers' Work/Teachers' Unions SIG*
2026	Graduate Student Travel Award *AERA Grassroots Community and Youth Organizing for Educational Justice SIG*
2025	David L. Clark Scholar *University Council for Educational Administration, AERA Divisions A and L*
2024	Graduate Student Research Award *College of Education, The University of Texas at Austin*
2024	Graduate Student Travel Award *AERA Districts in Research and Reform SIG*
2014	District Secondary Teacher of the Year *Pflugerville Independent School District*
2014	Campus Teacher of the Year *Pflugerville Middle School, Independent School District*
2013, 2010	Innovative Teaching Grant *Pflugerville Education Foundation*
2009	Dean's Distinguished Graduate *College of Liberal Arts, The University of Texas at Austin*
2009	Phi Beta Kappa *The University of Texas at Austin*
2009	Adele Steiner Burleson Prize for Outstanding Thesis in English *Department of English, The University of Texas at Austin*
2009	Model Thesis Award *Plan II Honors Program, The University of Texas at Austin*

Research Experience

The University of Texas at Austin 2024–2026
Graduate Research Assistant

Research Projects:
Michigan Partnership Model Implementation
Michigan State University Education Policy Innovation Collaborative
PIs: Drs. Sarah L. Woulfin, Jeremy Singer, & Katherine O. Strunk

Connecting Eviction-Prevention Policies and School Practices to Improve Educational Equity for Vulnerable Families and Children
Spencer Foundation Vision Grant Program
PIs: Drs. Jennifer J. Holme, Huriya Jabbar, & Ann Owens

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record

ELP 330K: Topics in K-12 Issues — Fall 2026

Graduate Teaching Assistant

ELP 391E: Epistemologies of Educational Research, Cooperative Superintendency Program (with Dr. Pedro Reyes) — Summer 2026

ELP 384H: Policy Implementation (with Dr. Chloe Latham Sikes) — Spring 2026

ELP 384F: Foundations of Educational Policy (with Dr. Chloe Latham Sikes) — Fall 2024

K-12 Classroom Teaching

Webb Middle School, Austin Independent School District

AVID Teacher & Site Coordinator, grades 6-8 — 2021–2022

Pflugerville High School, Pflugerville Independent School District

AVID Teacher & Site Coordinator, grades 9-12 — 2018–2020

Recognized as an AVID National Demonstration School

Pflugerville Middle School, Pflugerville Independent School District

AVID Teacher & Site Coordinator, grades 6-8 — 2014–2018

English Language Arts teacher, grade 6 — 2010–2014

Other Teaching Experience

Math Instructional Coach, Breakthrough Central Texas — 2023

Distance Education Embedded Tutoring Specialist, Austin Community College — 2020–2021

AVID Summer Bridge Coordinator, Pflugerville Independent School District — 2019

Soccer Coach, Pflugerville Middle School — 2011–2015

Head Counselor and Program Instructor, C5 Youth Foundation of Texas — 2010–2011

Invited Talks and Presentations

"Testing ground: The logics of state takeover and resistance in Houston." — 2026

ED 7319: Foundations of Educational and Community Leadership. Educational and Community Leadership program, Texas State University.

"Testing ground: The logics of state takeover and resistance in Houston." — 2026

ELP 384T: School Improvement: Instructional Leadership and Development. Department of Educational Leadership and Policy, The University of Texas at Austin.

Panelist, "Texas public schools on the brink." Texas Public Education Strong. — 2026

"Overtaken: What elected trustees should know about the HISD Takeover." — 2026

Local Progress School Board Cohort.

"Testing ground: The logics of state takeover and resistance in Houston." 2026
Since the Takeover: Research Symposium at Rice University.

Panelist, "Navigating the decisions that move manuscripts forward." AERA 2026
Division G.

"Takeover: Improvement reform or authoritarian experiment?" ELP 311S: 2026
Introduction to Educational Policy. Department of Educational Leadership and Policy, The University of Texas at Austin.

Panelist, "The state takeover of Houston Independent School District." *Education* 2025
Law & Society Webinar Series. AERA Law & Education SIG.

"Policy discourses and resistance to the Houston ISD takeover." ELP 384H: 2025
Policy Implementation. Department of Educational Leadership and Policy, The University of Texas at Austin.

Public Scholarship and Media Interviews

Interviewed for Remadna, N. (2026, November 5). Democrats talk future of school vouchers. *KXAN News*. https://www.kxan.com/news/education/democrats-talk-future-of-school-vouchers/amp/

Research featured in Sinha, T. (2026, October 11). HISD takeover "diminished, degraded, destroyed" schools: Citizen commission report. *Houston Defender*. https://defendernetwork.com/news/education/hisd-takeover-diminished-degraded-destroyed-schools-citizen-commission-report/

Interviewed for Mizan, N. (2026, October 8). Houston ISD takeover panel calls for changes to how state takes control of districts. *Houston Chronicle*. https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/education/hisd/article/commission-takeover-report-curriculum-educators-22464617.php

Interviewed for Manning-Scott, M., Bee, M, & Hughes, C. (2026, September 29). *ATX Dispatch*. https://koop.org/program/atx-dispatch/#playlist

Interviewed for *The Long Game* (2026). Subject matter expert on Houston ISD takeover. www.thelonggamedocumentary.com

Interviewed for Heath, K. (2026, September 3). Austin ISD candidates are running for school board seats that may lose power. *Austin American-Statesman*. https://www.statesman.com/news/education/article/austin-isd-november-election-state-takeover-22391952.php

Interviewed for Díaz González Vázquez, G. (2026, August 12). Austin ISD faces a potential state takeover. Here's how that's played out in Houston. *KUT News*. https://www.kut.org/education/2026-08-12/austin-isd-tx-houston-state-takeover-tea-mike-morath-failing-schools

Interviewed for Vasquez, L. (Host). (2026, August 10). *Texas Standard* for Aug. 10, 2026: Critics question Houston ISD gains under state takeover. https://texasstandard.org/stories/today-on-texas-standard-august-10-2026/

Dawer, D. I., & Kravetz, R. (2026, August 5). The 'Houston miracle' shell game. *Texas Observer*. https://www.texasobserver.org/the-houston-miracle-shell-game/

Interviewed for Heath, K., & Plohetski, T. (2026, June 26). Austin ISD is closer than ever to a state intervention. Here's what happens next. *Austin American-Statesman*. https://www.statesman.com/news/education/article/austin-isd-texas-tea-takeover-whats-next-22301556.php

Interviewed for Istook, M. (Host). (2026, June 18). *Dream Job with Marc Istook*. https://bleav.com/shows/dream-job-with-marc-istook/episodes/dan-dawer-doctoral-candidate-educational-policy-planning/

Interviewed for Guerra-Mojarro, C. T., Vane, S., & Hunter, C. (Hosts). "Military Occupation of Austin ISD." (2026, May 29). *Education X Podcast*. https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/military-occupation-of-austin-isd-dan-dawer-may-29-2026/id1524499446?i=1000770292515

Research featured in Mizan, N. (2026, April 17). 3 takeaways from new research on Houston ISD's takeover. *Houston Chronicle*. https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/education/hisd/article/research-houston-takeover-22096231.php

Interviewed for Soebroto, A. (2026, April 13). Texas school district takeovers, explained: What triggers them and how districts get out. *Houston Chronicle*. https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/education/article/state-takeovers-explained-22194082.php

Lee, J., **Dawer, D.,** & Brautigam, C. (2026, February 11). Texas is weaponizing school takeovers. That's got to stop. *Houston Chronicle*. https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/outlook/article/texas-weaponizing-school-takeovers-got-stop-21347276.php

Lee, J., **Dawer, D.,** & Brautigam, C. (2026, February 10). TEA's threats over student activism lay bare the takeover agenda. *Austin American-Statesman*. https://www.statesman.com/opinion/columns/your-voice/article/tea-s-threats-student-activism-lay-bare-21338808.php

Interviewed for Partain, C., & Goodwin, A. (2025, June 28). Fewer test-takers, better results: What HISD's biology STAAR data shows. *Houston Chronicle*.

https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/education/hisd/article/biology-staar-drops-freshmen-20024985.php

Interviewed for Hardy, M. (2025, July 1). One key to Houston ISD's rising STAAR scores? Holding students back. *Texas Monthly*. https://www.texasmonthly.com/news-politics/houston-isd-staar-rise-holding-students-back/

Interviewed for Rouser, M. (2023, October 26). Proposed school voucher program causes concern for future of public education in Texas. *The Daily Texan*. https://thedailytexan.com/2023/10/26/proposed-school-voucher-program-causes-concern-for-future-of-public-education-in-texas/

Selected Conference Presentations

"'Houston's children deserve better': Lessons from the Commission on the Houston Independent School District Takeover.' Network for Public Education National Conference in Conroe, TX.	2026
"Texas district takeovers and the impact to Latino students." Mexican American School Board Association Conference in San Antonio, TX.	2026
"Authoritarian (re)configurations of education reform under state takeover." Community Voices for Public Education Summer Forum in Houston, TX.	2026
"Control+Alt+Delete: Authoritarian educational leadership and the state takeover of Houston ISD." American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, CA.	2026
"Toolkits for centralization: Logics of school district takeover." American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, CA.	2026
"The Science of Reading spectacle: A qualitative media analysis of media reporting on Science of Reading policy." American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, CA.	2026
"Turnaround, crisis, and recovery: Neoliberal subjectivities and contracting processes for district-charter turnaround partnerships in Texas." American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, CA.	2026
"Blessing or curse?: School and system leaders' emotional responses to implementing Michigan's Partnership Model." American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, CA.	2026
"Authoritarian (re)configurations of education reform under state takeover." Sociology of Education Association Conference in Pacific Grove, CA.	2026

"Organizing for transformational change: Community Voices for Public Education and grassroots resistance to the state takeover of Houston ISD." American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. 2025

"Protections, assistance, and services: An environmental scan of the school-housing partnership landscape." American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. 2025

"In the eye of the storm: Navigating empirical and methodological uncertainties in ethnographies of state takeover." Ethnography in Education Forum in Philadelphia, PA. 2025

"Teachers as advocates: Engaging with Texas state elected officials." Educators in Solidarity Spring 2024 UnConference. 2024

"Clocking in to teacher jail: Educators' working conditions under state takeover." University Council for Educational Administration Annual Convention in Los Angeles, CA. 2024

"From oyster reefs to turnaround schools: an educational restoration model for the COVID-19 era." American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA. 2024

""They're not letting the children breathe': policy discourses of Texas's takeover of Houston ISD." University Council for Educational Administration Annual Convention in Minneapolis, MN. 2023

"Webb Middle School student leaders speak up: What makes a good school?" Educators in Solidarity Fall 2022 UnConference. Virtual. 2022

"Education accelerated: 'Learning loss' and the precarity of freedom in schools." Educators in Solidarity Spring 2022 UnConference. Virtual. 2022

"What do we mean by 'student empowerment?' A student panel." Educators in Solidarity Spring 2020 UnConference, Austin, TX. 2020

"Building trusting relationships: A culturally responsive approach." Pflugerville ISD Professional Development Conference, Pflugerville, TX. 2018

"What students say: Ensuring equity in AP and Pre-AP classes." Pflugerville ISD Professional Development Conference, Pflugerville, TX. 2017

"Psychogeography and urban instability in James Joyce's *Ulysses*." North American James Joyce Conference, Buffalo, NY. 2009

Conference Leadership

Symposium Organizer and Chair, "(Re)building democracy in the wake of state takeover: Community-led research and resistance as repair." American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting in Denver, CO.	2025
Organizer, Educators in Solidarity UnConferences. Austin, TX.	2018–2024

University and Professional Service

2026	Guest Editor of *Texas Education Review* special issue, "Democracy dismantled: Takeover and the lived experience of state-directed urban school reform"
2026	Student stakeholder committee member, College of Education Dean search, The University of Texas at Austin
2025–2026	Appointed Commission member, Commission on the State Takeover of Houston ISD
2025–Present	Research mentor, Houston Students with Voices
2024–Present	Graduate student representative, AERA Districts in Research and Reform SIG
2024–Present	Editor, *Texas Education Review*
2024	Ad hoc reviewer, *Leadership & Policy in Schools*
2022–Present	Community representative, St. Johns Community-School Alliance
2016–Present	Member, Educators in Solidarity

Professional Memberships and Certifications

2023–Present American Educational Research Association
Division G: Social Context of Education
Division L: Educational Policy and Politics

2026–Present Sociology of Education Association

Texas Classroom Teacher Certification
Generalist EC-6
English Language Arts and Reading Grades 4-8, 7-12
English as a Second Language Supplemental EC-12