

Maintaining and Building Equitable Classroom Practices

Panel Session 2 - December 8, 2020

PANELISTS

- **Dr. Dorene Benavidez**, Executive Director of Equity & Professional Learning, Fort Worth ISD
- **Dr. Dorothea Gordon**, Executive Director of Special Education, Grand Prairie ISD
- **Talle Gomez**, Executive Director of Multilingual Services, Plano ISD
- **Dr. Catherine Robert**, Moderator
- Collin Yoxall, Brian Brown, Peggy Semingson, & Tatiana Kurochkina, **Facilitators**

Welcome message from Dr. Casey Brown, Associate Dean for Academic Programs.

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS



Dr. Benavidez, Fort Worth ISD

- The social emotional wellness of students
- Lack of computers in families
- Food insecurities
- Working students: they help support their families

Dr. Gordon, Grand Prairie ISD

- Meeting students' needs: "Maslow's before they [scholars] can Bloom."
- Establishing relational capacity with families
- Organizing small group instruction

Ms. Gomez, Plano ISD

- Building language while teaching the content to ELLs
- Teachers' struggles with adapting strategies for online teaching
- Staying connected with families
- Communication, technology, and literacy barriers



- Practicing compassion and empathy
- Understanding technology
- Professional development about racial equity
- Planning to start a homework hotline to benefit all students in Fort Worth ISD

- Providing free breakfasts and lunches to everyone; clothing banks
- Establishing a behavioral hotline for parents, parent technology academies, hotspots for families
- Plexiglass dividers and transparent masks

- Supporting teachers with planning
- Identifying new needs of families
- Providing food to students
- Having some students come 5 days a week!

What Support Can UTA Give?

"I would recommend talking through what culturally relevant pedagogy is and how we embed that in everything that we do across the district."

"I think all general educators should be required to have a special education certificate."

"It's spreading the word of how important and amazing our teachers, districts, and educators across our country have been forever."