mproving K-16 Education in Texas and the Nation

Meeting Safety and Security Needs of Students, Teachers, and Staff Panel Session 3 - March 2, 2021

PANELISTS

- Dr. Chane Rascoe, Superintendent, Lampasas ISD
- Ms. Carolyn Longoria, Assistant Principal, Lamar High School, Arlington ISD
- Mr. David Lewis, Principal, Northwood Hills Elementary, Richardson ISD

- Dr. Catherine Robert, Moderator
- Collin Yoxall, Brian Brown, & Tatiana Kurochkina, Facilitators

Welcome message from Dr. Dan Robinson, Associate Dean of Research.

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

Safety & Security Concerns in the Post-Covid Environment

- Safety and security in 2020-2021 are more about emotional and physical needs instead of about risk of physical violence.
- 6-feet distance and sanitation stations in classrooms
- Emotional safety of students
- Self-harm threats from students
- Lower student attendance
 - schools looking for students
 - students' self-arranged 'early vacation'
 - students have to work

- Economically-disadvantaged kids stay at home, thus lack nutrition, internet access, & thus education
- How to keep in contact:
 - Access to Internet -> hot spots set up
 - Provision of technology to teachers and students
- Food distribution: curbside meals, set-up food sites across the city, food deliveries
- *Time used to enhance physical building safety

Successes & Innovations



Arlington:

- Impressive work of teachers working with special populations (to whom social distance and mask-wearing don't apply)
- Support to kids with social emotional needs

Richardson:

- Grouping students into cohorts & keeping seating charts
- Clear schedules and expectations of elementary kids for recess times

Lampasas:

- Improving wi-fi on every campus
- Making tough decisions concerning safety of kids when little guidance is available

Question from the audience: "Will the remote model be offered next year?" – It depends, but students are encouraged to come back to school.