



Soluciones: Empowering Hispanic and Latino Students

Agenda

Keynote

Luis F. Cruz

Why the Urgency to Eliminate the Achievement Gap for Latino and Hispanic Students—and Can We Do It in the Middle of a Pandemic

Breakout Session 1

Hector Montenegro

Engaging and Empowering Parents Remotely Through Collective Action

Breakout Sessions 2 (Choose One)

Rosa Isiah

Four Strategies for Creating a Culture of Success

Linda Mira & Laura Reyes

Visualizing to Comprehend Text

Seminar

Luis F. Cruz

Time for Change: Using Transformational Leadership to Bolster Achievement for EL Students

Session Descriptions

KEYNOTE

Luis F. Cruz

Why the Urgency to Eliminate the Achievement Gap for Latino and Hispanic Students—and Can We Do It in the Middle of a Pandemic?

Latino and Hispanic student populations continue to grow, yet these students continue to have the highest high school dropout rates of all ethnicities in the U.S. What consequences does this pose for the nation's future? Is there a solution? How must schools and districts reculture and restructure to meet the needs of all students? Luis F. Cruz makes a strong case that the achievement gap for Latino and Hispanic students must be eliminated—and without delay.

Participants in this session:

- Get a glimpse into the latest research showing why closing the achievement gap for Latino and Hispanic students must be a priority in U.S. schools.
- Become acquainted with best practices (in the school and virtually) to achieve this aim.
- Gain exposure to a multidimensional approach to eliminating the achievement gap for Latino and Hispanic students.

SESSION 1 BREAKOUT

Hector Montenegro

Engaging and Empowering Parents Remotely Through Collective Action

Increasing levels of parent connectivity among underserved EL and Latino populations has gone largely unaddressed by key educational reforms. This problem has been amplified during the COVID-19 pandemic. Too few capacity-building models are in place to facilitate the equitable partnerships among Latino and Hispanic parents, their children, and the schools they attend. This session focuses on creating a systemic approach to empowering parents to become more engaged in their children's success by conducting a resource and needs assessment, considering virtual parent-teacher home visits, providing parent social and emotional learning (SEL) academies and engagement strategies, and coordinating SEL parent and family nights remotely.

Participants in this session:

- Gain strategies to effectively assess, plan, and engage faculty and staff in increasing Latino parents in activities that will ultimately improve their children's academic achievement.
- Engage in interactive, practical, virtual, and focused activities that build on how we think and learn using a myriad of engaging activities.
- Identify virtual learning activities with key strategies to help parents build purpose and develop social and emotional responsibility.

SESSION 2 BREAKOUTS

Rosa Isiah

Four Strategies for Creating a Culture of Success

Even during a pandemic, we can work to close achievement gaps. School communities are charged with creating a culture of success for all students, but moving beyond “gap gazing” to actively closing achievement gaps for Hispanic and Latinx requires more than wishful thinking. Where might we begin the journey toward a culture of success? As demonstrated at Smith Elementary School in California, the journey can begin with four proven strategies.

Participants in this session explore:

- The four strategies Smith Elementary School implemented to create a culture of academic success for all of its students
- Effective ways to apply these strategies
- How school culture impacts academic achievement

Linda Mira & Laura Reyes

Visualizing to Comprehend Text (K–5)

This session provides participants with visualizing tasks to help increase reading comprehension for Latino and Hispanic students. Visualizing is among the most effective strategies to facilitate reading comprehension. Students gain a better understanding of text by using words to create mental images. Students who visualize as they read have a richer reading experience and can recall what they have read for longer periods of time. This makes for a more meaningful reading experience and encourages Latino and Hispanic students to continue reading.

Participants in this session:

- Learn ways to incorporate visualizing strategies to enhance reading comprehension through the use of screen recorders.
- Discover how to get students actively engaged with text by visualizing what they read.
- Receive hands-on visualizing activities to implement in their virtual reading programs.

SEMINAR

Luis F. Cruz

Time for Change: Using Transformational Leadership to Bolster Achievement for EL Students

Transformational leadership converts the outcomes from this institute into actions to benefit students learning English as a second language. Luis F. Cruz, coauthor of *Time for Change: Four Essential Skills for Transformational School and District Leaders* (Solution Tree Press, 2019), combines the book’s big ideas with the major themes of this institute. Dr. Cruz illustrates what implementing the practical ideas in the book look like so participants can return to their schools and districts with a clear and detailed approach to leadership that ensures actions to positively and immediately impact student learning.