

Jessica Albert



For more than 18 years, **Jessica Albert** has dedicated herself to supporting at-risk students in Texas public schools. She began her career teaching middle school math and AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) for eight years before transitioning into administrative roles. Jessica served as a principal at a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) for four years and as an administrator at an Alternative Education Campus (AEC) for six years. Throughout her career, she has focused on developing systems that foster safe and connected school environments. Her efforts have led to significant improvements in attendance, culture, and climate at each campus she has worked with. She dedicates time to training teachers on creating supportive classroom environments and mentors students on future-oriented thinking.

Her passion is serving students, especially those who face significant challenges. She thrives working with students who “hide in the back row, avoid their work, or act out to the point of being sent out of class.” “I find immense fulfillment in removing barriers to their education and advocating for their success,” she says.

Jessica’s “aha” moment came during her first year of teaching. “I had a student in my math class who frequently slept and neglected his homework,” she says. “Coming from a stable, highly educated, middle class background, I struggled to understand his behavior. When I asked him to speak with me outside, I discovered he was working all night cleaning his family’s restaurant and was exhausted during the day. This revelation marked the beginning of my ‘aha’ moment.” Later, Jessica read *A Framework for Understanding Poverty* by Ruby Payne, a book that profoundly influenced her career.

She has been a teacher, assistant principal, and principal. In addition to having a bachelor’s degree in business administration, she also has a master’s degree in accounting.

Selected workshops presented by Mary Cacioppi

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