

If you can commit to:

30 minutes | *Understand that 30 minutes may pull you into 30 days....*

- Follow your school district on social media
- Identify a school that is not economically advantaged and look for ways to support it. In AISD approximately 52% of the students are classified as low socioeconomic but schools have sharp economic divides. For example, Becker Elementary is about 18% economically disadvantaged while Oak Springs Elementary is 99.5%.
 - o Donate directly to support a school through [Home - Austin Ed Fund](#) or a teacher's project through [DonorsChoose: Support a classroom. Build a future.](#)
- Buy hot chocolate for the crossing guards on a chilly day and get to know them
- Read, watch & listen to continue your own self-education. Examples:
 - Read
 - [Schools in Travis County are not just segregated. They're the most segregated in the state. - Austin Monitor](#)
 - [Equity Action Plan | Austin ISD](#)
 - [City of Austin, Travis County and the Austin ISD Joint Subcommittees | Austin ISD](#)
 - <https://www.newyorker.com/news/annals-of-inquiry/how-a-conservative-activist-invented-the-conflict-over-critical-race-theory>
 - Watch
 - [Austin Revealed: Chicano Civil Rights "Desegregation & Education" - YouTube](#)
 - www.youtube.com/c/austinisd
 - [School segregation in Austin, TX explained by a former Statesman reporter - YouTube](#)
 - [Nicole West-Burns: Building Critical Consciousness for Educational Equity | TED Talk](#)
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 - Listen
 - [Nice White Parents \(google.com\)](#)
 - [Austin ISD X Podcast on Apple Podcasts](#)
 - [Claire McInerney | KUT Radio, Austin's NPR Station](#)

3 days | *Understand that 3 days may open your mind and gateways to 30 days.....*

- Reach out to a school that you've identified's Parent Support Specialist or Principal Ask if they need volunteer support with things like serving as outdoor lunch monitors during the pandemic, helping with special events, sponsoring a teacher appreciation day, or fundraising for a need they have identified. Recognize that while the school you most closely associate with may have a well-stocked "staff lounge pantry" that most low socioeconomic schools do not & those teachers could really use a pick me up too.
- [Watch Online | Austin ISD](#) board meetings and info sessions.
- [Call in public comment](#) to share your lived experience and/or amplify the voices of people who have been historically excluded and/or marginalized, like the incredible youth equity leaders who we got to meet during class.
- Learn more about an organization that you would like to get involved with. Examples:
- [CASA](#) - *CASA of Travis County exists to promote and protect the best interest of children who have been abused or neglected, by training volunteers to advocate for them in courts, in schools, and in our community to help them find safe, permanent, and loving homes.*

- [Communities in Schools](#) - Our mission is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. As Principal Saenz shared during our class the direct impact that an adult can have on a child through mentorship and/or tutoring can be life changing.
- [Home - \(velafamilies.org\)](#) - VELA is an Austin-born nonprofit. Since 2011, our vision has been to create a community where all families of children with disabilities thrive. Whether you are a parent, provider or community member we all play a role in building a community that celebrates and empowers differences.
- [Refugee Youth Mentoring Program](#) - The Refugee Services of Texas Austin group is affiliated with the [Episcopal Migration Ministries](#) to provide services to refugees and asylees, and it works in partnership with the [U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants](#) to serve survivors of trafficking through a Survivors of Trafficking Empowerment Program.

3 years | Understand that 3 years may open your mind and gateways to 30+ years.....

- Join a school district advisory committee. Here's the link to AISD's - [Advisory Bodies | Austin ISD](#) or a subcommittee of the [AISD Equity Advisory Committee](#)
- Dedicate your time and energy to supporting one of the organizations that you researched and connected with.

30+ years

- Work on embodying what we ask our students to achieve: life long learning, perseverance, humility, kindness, determination, critical thinking, open mindedness, etc.
- Realize that while we may have joined the educational equity movement based on a one-day class and having 3 minutes available to make a difference, but the journey towards educational equity is lifelong and multigenerational
- Build, maintain and deepen relationships. Listen.
- Constantly ask ourselves whose voices are not being heard, who needs a seat at the table and how we build an entirely different table
- Recognize our place of privilege. It can be hard being the mom of a special education child and a 3 year old. However, I manage it with a supportive partner, flexible job, financial stability, health insurance, an understanding of the system, lack of major trauma in my childhood, and a White Supremacy Culture. I am in awe of people who champion for kids while not having the privileges that I have and who are impacted daily by systemic racism.
- Recognize our humanity and give ourselves grace. When I began to see real time trauma impacting a community that I loved it felt like surely if I could do just one more thing then other people would see it too. I would work full time, take care of a newborn, manage a kindergartener whose special needs were becoming more apparent, stay up until 3am each night pouring over data/contacting leaders that I knew, writing an alternative plan for the school/etc. and get up and do it again. I worried about how to navigate advocating for my child's needs while avoiding unintended consequences for people without my privilege, I ignored my autoimmune diseases, and I felt ineffective. Close friends who have been forced to develop resilience stayed by my side, lifted me up and when they see that my exhaustion is seeping in they remind me to rest and they speak up for my child and the needs of all special needs children when I feel voiceless. We are surrounded by an incredible community and deep collective wisdom.