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**Gregory-Portland Independent School District**

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## **Denise Blanchard promoted to G-PISD Director of Special Education**

Gregory-Portland ISD Superintendent Dr. Michelle Cavazos announced this month that Denise Blanchard has been promoted to serve as the district's Director of Special Education. This promotion follows her previous service as the Coordinator of Special Education / 504 Program. She will report to Penny Armstrong, the district's Executive Director for Curriculum and Instruction.

"I am excited to serve in this role and continue my educational philosophy of 'growing where I am planted,'" said Blanchard. "Entering education as a teacher, and then having served as a counselor, school psychologist, principal, and district-level administrator, I will continue to focus on building professional and collegial relationships with a team approach. Building team capacity involves finding value in all programs and stakeholders who contribute to the education of our students."

Cavazos said Blanchard is the right fit for this leadership position. "(Blanchard) has been a strong member of G-PISD's Special Education team since she arrived in 2022," said Cavazos. "Her passion and love for people, especially our students, is evident in every conversation. She has a positive outlook and I know she will do a fantastic job transitioning into this leadership role."

"It's important to never forget what it is like to serve in each of those roles because each one is vital to student success," said Blanchard. In her previous role, she collaborated with the Curriculum & Instruction team to maintain compliance with Dyslexia Grant(s); assisted school campuses in ensuring every student receives the support that they needed; provided trainings to district staff on federal and state law in conjunction with district policies and procedures; and more.

Blanchard earned a Master of Arts from Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi and a Bachelor of Science from Sam Houston State University. "G-PISD is a great place to be," said Blanchard. "Our district has such talented educators and amazing children. Teachers, paraprofessionals, campus and district administrators strive every day to do right by our children. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve in a school district where parents are involved in their children's education and with such a supportive community."

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