Yanela Montoya
*Director of Advocacy*

Yanela joined Dallas Afterschool in November 2021 after serving as Special Assistant to the CEO at Texas 2036. She is a graduate from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. There, she received a master’s degree in Education Policy and Management. Prior to attending graduate school, Yanela spent five years in the classroom as an early childhood educator with Teach For America. Born and raised in the Oak Cliff neighborhood of Dallas, she was a bilingual teacher only a few minutes from her childhood home at an elementary school in the Dallas Independent School District, of which she is also a former student. As the first member of her family to attend college, Yanela is passionate about education and public service because she understands first-hand the singular impact educational opportunities have on an individual’s life trajectory.