

# Bell County Juvenile Services

System Overview and  
The Juvenile Justice Alternative  
Education Program  
(JJAEP)



# JUVENILE BOARDS

## Juvenile Boards

- State law requires each department to have a juvenile board. Some boards govern multiple counties. Each board, consisting of district and county judges, is responsible for overseeing the operation of the juvenile probation system in that county. This includes designating juvenile judges, appointing the chief juvenile probation officer, and setting the policies and budget for the juvenile probation department. TJJD provides funding and technical assistance to juvenile boards.

## Structure

- Juvenile probation departments implement the policies of juvenile boards, deliver services to juveniles referred to juvenile courts, and provide services to at-risk youth in the community.

## Certification of Officers

- Certification is required for each juvenile probation officer (JPO) and juvenile supervision officer (JSO) in Texas. Certification requires that officers earn the necessary academic degree. JPOs must hold, at minimum, a bachelor's degree.

*The juvenile board is the board of directors of "Juvenile Justice, Inc.," while the chief juvenile probation officer is the chief executive officer.*

# Bell County Juvenile Justice Board

David Blackburn  
County Judge  
Chair

Steve Duskie  
426<sup>th</sup>  
District Judge

Paul LePak  
264<sup>th</sup>  
District Judge

Rebecca DePew  
County Court-at-  
Law #3

Mike Russell  
146<sup>th</sup>  
District Judge

Cari Starritt-Burnett  
169<sup>th</sup>  
District Judge

John Mischian  
County Court-at-  
Law #2

Debbie Garrett  
27<sup>th</sup>  
District Judge

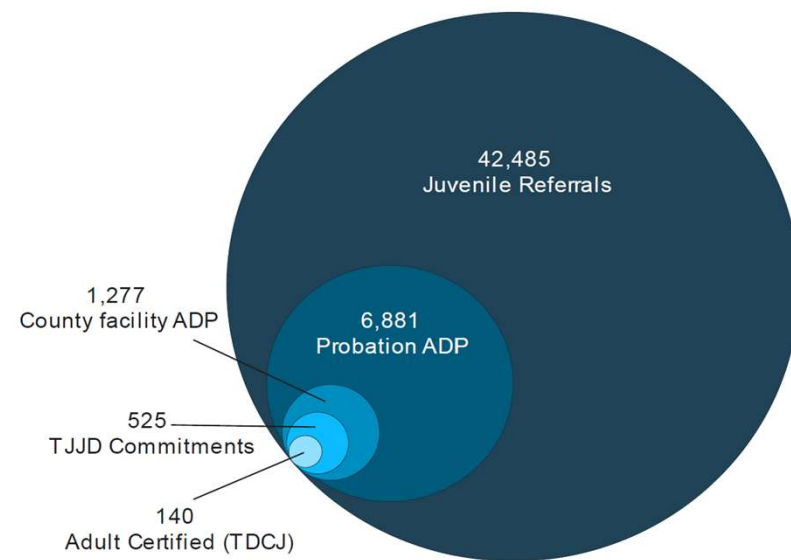
Wade Faulkner  
478<sup>th</sup>  
District Judge

Paul Motz  
County Court-at-  
Law #1

- **98% of system involved youth are managed at the county probation department level.**
  - Only 2% are in TJJD state care.
- **165 Probation Departments serving 254 counties and Judicial Districts**
  - Governed by Juvenile Boards
  - Local County Funding
- **Texas Juvenile Justice Department**
  - Compliance
  - Training
  - Certification
  - Funding
  - State Operated Facilities
- **45 Pre-Adjudication Detention Facilities**
- **28 Post-Adjudication Secure Correctional Facilities**
- **34 JJAEPs**

## Texas Juvenile Justice Population

*1% of Texas juvenile population received referrals in FY2022  
2% of those referrals were sent to TJJD or TDCJ*



# THE TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Balance and Restorative Justice (BARJ)



# Bell County Juvenile Services

3 Divisions

105 employees

FY24- 1209 total referrals/860 Unique

2 area offices

Federal, state, and local county funding

FY25 YTD- 698 total referrals/532 Unique

# DIVISIONS

## Field Services

- Providing intake, screening, service referral, and community supervision to youth on a variety of supervision statuses. Certified staff work with youth, families, school personnel, social service providers, and placement personnel to provide coordinated services with the goal of assisting youth from moving further into the juvenile and criminal justice system.

## Administrative Services

- Universal department support services, technology, regulatory compliance, special services and programming for referred juveniles and families.

## Facility Operations

- The Bell County Juvenile Services Center is a 68 bed-dually certified Pre and Post Adjudication Facility licensed by TJJD to house youth ages 10-17 under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court.

# 3 Distinct Programs

## Residential

## Non-Residential

	PRE-ADJUDICATION (DETENTION) AKA: SHORT-TERM	POST-ADJUDICATION IMPACT ACADEMY AKA: LONG-TERM	JUVENILE JUSTICE ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM JJAEP
<b>Length of stay</b>	Determined by probable cause- ADC changes daily JPO Intake Discretion Court- initial hearing w/l 48 hours and then every 10 working days thereafter until released.	6-9 months as determined by court order	30 days to full school year Length of stay determined by sending school district or by Ch. 37 TEC §37.007
<b>Supervision Ratios</b>	Established by TAC §343.434 1:8 during program hours 1:18 during non-programming hours Supervision staff: JSOs	Established by TAC §343.434 1:8 during program hours 1:18 during non-programming hours Supervision staff: JSOs	Established by TAC §348.104 Instructional Staff: 1:16 preferred 1:24 max Caseworker Staff (JPO): 1:25 preferred 1:50 max Supervision Staff (JSO): 1:8 preferred 1:12 max
<b>Program Hours</b>	TAC §343.486 <u>At least 10 hours</u> of structured and unstructured activities each day. Time in individual sleeping quarters does not count toward 10-hour minimum.	TAC§343.668 <u>At least 10 hours</u> of structured and unstructured activities each day. Time in individual sleeping quarters does not count toward 10-hour minimum.	Attendance day as defined by TEC 75,000 minutes a year minimum Program day: 4 hours Attendance day: present by 10am.
<b>Education Provider</b>	John H. Wood Inspire Academy	John H. Wood Inspire Academy	John H. Wood Inspire Academy



# JJAEP

## 34 County Programs in Texas

Authorized by  
Chapter 37 of the  
Texas Education  
Code.

Required to  
operate if County  
population  
exceeds 125,000.

Under the  
authority of the  
Juvenile Board of  
a County.

# JJAEP Oversight

Texas Administrative  
Code Chapter 348

On-site monitoring at  
least once every  
biennium by the  
Texas Department of  
Juvenile Justice.

# JJAEP Purpose & Mission

The primary goal of the program is a focus on education, discipline, and rehabilitation.

The academic mission is to enable students to perform at grade level.

# JJAEP Criteria & Assignment

School Districts expel students to a JJAEP for conduct identified as an expellable offense

TEC 37.007

Length of assignment determined by the sending school district per the MOU between the County and participating school districts.

Following federal law, a school district shall expel a student who brings a firearm to school for a period of at least one calendar year.

# JJAEP Criteria & Assignment

Mandatory Expulsions  
are offense based  
serious infractions of  
the Student Code of  
Conduct.

Discretionary  
Expulsions are  
serious infractions of  
the SCC that occur on  
or off-campus

Court-ordered due to  
Title V Felony  
offenses or probation  
conditions

# JJAEP Funding



## **MANDATORY EXPULSIONS**

PARTIAL REIMBURSEMENT TO THE COUNTY BY  
THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE.



## **DISCRETIONARY EXPULSIONS**

PAID TO THE COUNTY BY THE SENDING SCHOOL  
DISTRICTS.

# Bell County JJAEP

Academy ISD

Bartlett ISD

Belton ISD

Florence ISD

Holland ISD

Killeen ISD

Rogers ISD

Salado ISD

Temple ISD

Troy ISD

# Bell County JJAEP Criteria for Placement

- Mandatory Expulsions for conduct outlined in TEC 37.007, Paragraphs (a) and (d).
- Discretionary Expulsions for conduct outlined in TEC 37.00081 (A-G).
- Discretionary Expulsions for conduct outlined in TEC Section (b)(1), specifically terroristic threat under section 22.07 (c-1) (d), or (e) Penal Code.
- Discretionary Expulsion for conduct TEC Section 37.007 (b)(2)(c), by request to a Case Review Committee for placement at the JJAEP.



# Bell County JJAEP Snapshot

- **School Year 23-24**

- 12 Students enrolled
  - 1 Belton ISD
    - Felony Drug
  - 3 Temple ISD
    - Terroristic Threat
    - Indecency with a Child
    - Unlawful Weapon-Handgun
  - 8 Killeen ISD
    - 1 Arson
    - 3 Aggravated Assault
    - 2 Unlawful Weapon-Handgun
    - 2 Felony Drug

- **School Year 24-25**

- 6 enrolled (4 carryover from SY 23-24)
  - 1 Temple ISD (1 carryover)
  - 5 Killeen ISD (3 carryover)
    - 1 Arson
    - 1 Terroristic Threat
  - 4 expelled pending enrollment (KISD)
    - 4 Murder