
Grapevine-Colleyville Independent School District

Board Information Item

Information
Packet
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Board Agenda
Information
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Board Agenda
Action
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Board Agenda
Consent
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07/27/2026

Subject:	Approve Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) Memorandum of Understanding for 2026-2027
Contact Person:	Dr. Kalee McMullen, Executive Director of Instructional Leadership Dr. Tiffany Cunningham, Director of Student Services
Policy/Code:	FODA(LEGAL) Texas Education Code Chapter 37 (Discipline)
Priority and Performance Objective:	Student Achievement and Post-Secondary Preparedness Safety and Well-being
Summary:	In accordance with Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code, students who are expelled from school must be afforded the opportunity to receive instruction. GCISD annually contracts with the Tarrant County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) through a Memorandum of Understanding that allows the program to serve as the educational provider for expelled students. Students who are expelled by state mandate are funded by the state. Students who are placed by discretion are funded by the District.

Attachments:

Tarrant County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program
Memorandum of Understanding

Recommendation:

The recommendation is for the Board of Trustees to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Tarrant County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program that allows the JJAEP to act as the educational provider for expelled GCISD students during the 2026-2027 school year.

Attachment “A”

**JUVENILE JUSTICE ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM
IN TARRANT COUNTY
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Term of Agreement: August 1, 2026 – July 31, 2027

**TARRANT COUNTY JUVENILE BOARD
TARRANT COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES
TARRANT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS
TARRANT COUNTY JUVENILE COURT**

This memorandum of understanding (MOU) is entered into pursuant to Chapter 37, Texas Education Code, by and between certain Texas public school districts in Tarrant County (“Districts”), as indicated by the signatures of their representatives to this Memorandum hereinbelow and Tarrant County, a political subdivision of the State of Texas (the “County”), acting through Tarrant County Juvenile Services (“TCJS”) and the Juvenile Board of Tarrant County.

WHEREAS, Tarrant County, Texas, has a population greater than 125,000, and therefore, the Tarrant County Juvenile Board is required to develop a Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) subject to the approval of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department; and

WHEREAS, the Districts of Tarrant County desire to participate in and positively support the Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Districts and the Juvenile Board, in consideration of the recitals set forth above and the terms, covenants, and conditions set forth herein, agree as follows:

1. **Subject of Agreement:** The Juvenile Board, in cooperation with the Districts, will provide the juvenile justice alternative educational programming as specified in Chapter 37, Texas Education Code, either through the direct provision of services or through a contractual agreement with an education provider. The programming will be managed by Tarrant County Juvenile Services (“TCJS”), subject to the oversight of the Juvenile Board. TCJS and its authorized representatives and employees shall be the contact points for the Districts regarding all JJAEP matters.
2. **School Districts:** The Juvenile Board will offer JJAEP services for the benefit of any school district located, in whole or in part, in Tarrant County, Texas, for students of the district who reside in Tarrant County or whose managing conservator, joint managing conservator, or possessory conservator reside in Tarrant County. The Districts include:

Arlington
Azle
Birdville
Burleson
Carroll
Castleberry
Crowley
Eagle Mountain-Saginaw
Everman

Fort Worth
Grapevine-Colleyville
Hurst Euless Bedford
Keller
Kennedale
Lake Worth
Mansfield
Northwest
White Settlement

3. **Location:** The JJAEP will be provided in a facility operated and maintained by Tarrant County, Texas, or through a contractual agreement with an education provider. Facilities must comply with all applicable federal, state, county, and city regulations.

4. **Eligibility and Enrollment:**

- A. Texas Education Code, Chapter 37.010(a) requires that every expelled student who is not detained or receiving treatment under an order of the juvenile court must be enrolled in an educational program. The JJAEP will provide services to students expelled under the mandatory expulsion criteria in Chapter 37.007(a), (d), or (e), or who are ordered to attend the JJAEP by the Juvenile Court.
- B. The JJAEP will also provide services to students in grade levels 6th – 12th or ages 12 – 17 expelled under the discretionary expulsion criteria in Chapter 37.007(b), (c), or (f), and who are referred to the JJAEP by a District. Discretionary referrals will be accepted on an as-space-is-available basis.
- C. Each District will provide the Director of TCJS with a viable estimate of the number of projected discretionary student attendance days to be utilized for the upcoming school year by completing the JJAEP School Year Projections report by June 30th each year. (Attachment A)
- D. The Juvenile Board will provide JJAEP services to expelled students who are less than eighteen (18) years of age. Students who are referred, who are eighteen (18) years of age or older, will be reviewed for admission on an individual basis and will be admitted or denied at the sole discretion of the Director of TCJS. The JJAEP will be required to begin enrollment proceedings within two (2) working days of receipt of referral, and the student will attend the JJAEP within five (5) working days of the initiation of enrollment proceedings. Upon expulsion to JJAEP, parents electing to place their child in a private or home school will provide private school information or home school curriculum information to the JJAEP Probation Officer. The Probation Officer will review the terms of the expulsion order and all applicable terms of probation. If the District Court does not intervene by ordering this student to attend the JJAEP, then TCJS will notify the District Liaison of the parents' decision to place their child in a private or home school.
- E. Eligibility for enrollment at the JJAEP is also determined by service capacity. The JJAEP will serve no more than a maximum of a hundred (100) students each day that school is in session. Upon reaching maximum capacity at the JJAEP, the Districts will serve any additional expelled students within their respective Districts until space becomes available at the JJAEP. Priority for eligibility for enrollment at the JJAEP once maximum capacity is reached will be on a first-come, first-served basis, determined by the date and time of the receipt by the JJAEP of the individual referral.

5. **Referral:** If a student is expelled under the mandatory or discretionary expulsions provisions, the referral to TCJS requires a law enforcement report. If a student is removed to the JJAEP under the registered sex offender provision, the referral to TCJS requires official documentation of this registration. All referrals should be completed on the "Independent School District Removal and Expulsion Notification to Tarrant County Juvenile Services" form with the following attachments: expulsion order, sending school withdrawal form with grades, recent report card, TEA withdrawal form, status of LEP if applicable and any accompanying documentation regarding testing exemptions, high school transcript, TAKS/STAAR/EOC test profile sheet, recent TAKS/STAAR/EOC scores, graduation plan, birth certificate, social security, immunization record, special education records including recent admission review and dismissal (ARD) report, manifestation determination (ARD), individual education plan (IEP), modifications necessary for success in general education program, 504 C documents, and psychological assessment.

6. **Reimbursement:**
- A. From August 1, 2026 to July 31, 2027, the Juvenile Board will provide an alternative education program for expelled students who meet the criteria of Chapter 37, Section 37.007(a), (d), or (e), as outlined by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. The state will pay \$86.00 a day for each day of attendance.
 - B. Each District that refers a student expelled under Chapter 37.007(b), (c), or (f) or removed under 37.309 will pay \$129.00 a day for every day of attendance. In the event of school closure, due to severe community health issues, disaster, flood, or extreme weather conditions, said District will pay \$125 a day during any such closure for up to five (5) school calendar days. Payments will be made within thirty (30) days of receipt of an invoice from TCJS. Districts placing discretionary students in the JJAEP agree up to a 180-day regular school year, and up to a 35-day summer school program.
7. **Due Process:** Students who are expelled from the school district setting will be afforded due process within the respective District as provided by District policy and federal and state law.
8. **Notice:**
- A. For purposes of this Agreement and pursuant to the Texas Family Code, Section 52.041(e), notice by a school district of an expulsion must be provided to Tarrant County Juvenile Services, 3131 Sanguinet, Fort Worth, Texas 76107, within two (2) working days of the expulsion order. Failure to timely notify Juvenile Services will result in the District's duty to compel the student to continue attending the District's educational program, which will be provided to that student until such time as the notification to Juvenile Services is properly made.
 - B. Juvenile Services will provide notification to Districts of action taken regarding expulsion referrals within two (2) working days of the disposition of those cases identified in accordance with Texas Family Code, Section 52.041(d).
9. **Placement Term:** For each student expelled under mandatory and discretionary expulsion criteria, who is placed in the JJAEP by a District or TCJS, the minimum term of such placement will be coterminous with the term of the student's expulsion from school. The minimum placement in JJAEP will be sixty (60) successful days of attendance and appropriate behavior. The maximum placement shall be twelve (12) months and is reserved only for firearms offenses. The JJAEP may offer incentives for positive behavior, which may include up to a twenty (20) day reduction in the expulsion term. District expulsion orders will require the student to successfully complete all program requirements of the JJAEP. A weekly attendance progress record will be provided to the Districts. For each student expelled under the mandatory expulsion criteria who is placed at the JJAEP, the Juvenile Court will consider the term of a student's expulsion in entering any order as to the student, including terms and conditions of release from custody, deferred prosecution, or probation. Upon the student meeting all expulsion and Court requirements or the JJAEP receiving official documentation that the Title 5 felony charges leading to the expulsion have been dismissed or reduced to a misdemeanor offense, the student's enrollment will be transferred to the District of residence. The student's assignment at the District of residence will be within the sole discretion of the district of residence.
10. **District Liaison:** The District will appoint a person to coordinate referral and transition services and communications related to the intake, educational programming, and the transition back to the District for students who have fulfilled all conditions of expulsion and/or court-ordered placement at the JJAEP.

11. **Transportation**: Transportation of students to the JJAEP is the responsibility of the student and/or their parents. Special Education students' transportation to the JJAEP (as a related service) will be reviewed by the District ARD committee prior to placement and may be provided as determined by District policy. In circumstances where transportation services are provided by the JJAEP, the District will provide a designated, supervised pick-up and drop-off point for JJAEP students from their District. Tarrant County shall be reimbursed for appropriate transportation expenses as provided by law. The reimbursement terms shall be negotiated by the Board, or its representative, and all applicable Districts, individually or collectively, as appropriate.
12. **Instructional Program**: The JJAEP will provide instruction in English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and self-discipline.
13. **Academic Progress Review**: The JJAEP will ensure a review of the student's academic progress with each enrolled student and with the student's parent/guardian at every JJAEP grade reporting period (not to exceed six (6) weeks), and at discharge.
14. **Graduation Plan**: The District and JJAEP will ensure the development of a specific graduation plan for each enrolled high school student. The JJAEP will review a student's progress toward meeting high school graduation requirements at the end of every semester. The District will consider work completed and/or course credit earned in the JJAEP as credit earned at a District school.
15. **Special Education/ESL/504 Services**:
 - A. The JJAEP must be notified in writing and invited to participate in all ARD committee meetings scheduled to consider placement at the JJAEP for a special education student. The District Liaison is responsible for notifying all parties involved. Prior to the ARD, the District will contact the JJAEP Coordinator of Educational Services to discuss the student transition plan. Students with disabilities who are placed in the JJAEP will be afforded education services determined by a duly constituted ARD committee to be appropriate for the student to receive a free and appropriate public education as defined by Federal and State laws. Both those educational and non-educational services to be provided in accordance with the student's IEP, which are not statutorily required to be provided by the JJAEP, will be provided by the District. The District will be responsible for annual ARDs, three-year re-evaluation ARDs, and assessments.
 - B. The JJAEP provider may request in writing to the District Liaison the evaluation of a JJAEP student to review or determine the need for special education and related services. The District will prioritize these requests.
 - C. The JJAEP, in collaboration with the sending District, must ensure that a student who is non-English speaking or who speaks English as a second language is provided ESL/LEP services and instruction appropriate to address his or her needs, as determined by a language proficiency assessment committee (LPAC). Documentation of the LPAC determinations will be provided and maintained by the sending Districts.
 - D. The JJAEP must be notified, in writing, at the time of referral, of all students who require 504 accommodations. The JJAEP will provide 504 accommodations as indicated and in conjunction with the sending District.
16. **Transition Process**: In anticipation that a student is going to meet the District expulsion order and Court requirements, the JJAEP will contact the District Liaison 7-10 days prior to the anticipated release date to determine the student's placement upon return. The JJAEP will complete the exit packet and coordinate the student's transition with the parent and receiving school.

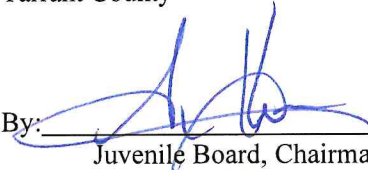
17. **Student Codes of Conduct**: The Juvenile Board will ensure the development and adoption of a Student Code of Conduct for students enrolled in the JJAEP. In order to facilitate student transition planning, the District will file with the Juvenile Board a copy of the District's approved Student Code of Conduct. The TEC 37.007(c) defines the serious misbehaviors for which a student may be placed in the JJAEP if the conduct occurs while the student is enrolled in the District's Alternative Education Program ("DAEP").
18. **Compulsory Attendance**: The JJAEP will enforce the compulsory attendance laws for students enrolled in the program. The JJAEP will notify the District Liaison when a student fails to enroll, and the District will enforce the compulsory attendance laws as to that student. The JJAEP will provide the District Liaison a preliminary JJAEP school calendar for the upcoming school year by August 1st each year.
19. **Term**: The term of this agreement will commence on the 1st day of August 2026 and will end on July 31, 2027.
20. **Disclosure of Interested Parties**: All signatures acknowledge that it is a "governmental entity" and not a "business entity" as those terms are defined in Tex. Gov't Code § 2252.908, and therefore, no disclosure of interested parties pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Section 2252.908 is required.

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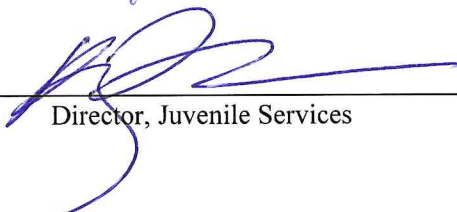
Executed on the 20 day of May, 2026.

_____ Independent School District Tarrant County

By: _____
Board of Trustees, President

By:  _____
Juvenile Board, Chairman

Attest:

By:  _____
Director, Juvenile Services

By: _____
Board of Trustees, Secretary

Recommended:

By: _____
Superintendent

Attachment A
JJAEP School Year Projections Report

The Memorandum of Understanding states:

Each District will provide the Director of TCJS a viable estimate of the number of projected **discretionary** student attendance days to be utilized for the upcoming school year by completing the JJAEP School Year Projections report by June 30th each year.

**Projected # of new discretionary referrals to the
JJAEP for the 2025/2026 School Year:**

Priority 1

of new discretionary Title 5 felonies and registered
sex offender referrals: _____

Priority 2

of other new discretionary referrals accompanied by
a felony, a class A or B misdemeanor law enforcement
report #: _____

Priority 3

of other new discretionary referrals, such as
serious misbehavior while in a DAEP: _____

**Projected # of discretionary student attendance
days to be utilized at the JJAEP for the 2026/2027
School Year:** _____

District

District Liaison Signature

Date