

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

**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 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 Probation Commission; 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 point for the districts regarding 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.
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. **Enrollment**: 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.

The JJAEP will also provide services to students 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 school district. Discretionary referrals will be accepted on an as space is available basis.

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 May 31st each year. (Attachment A)

The Juvenile Board will provide JJAEP services to expelled students who are less than eighteen (18) years of age. Students referred 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 two (2) 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 be required to meet with a TCJS Probation Officer for intake and will provide private school information or home school curriculum information to the 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 parent's decision to place their child in private or home school.

5. **Referral:** If a student is expelled under the mandatory expulsion provision, the referral to TCJS requires a law enforcement report. 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, withdrawal grades, recent report card, status of LEP if applicable and any accompanying documentation regarding testing exemptions, high school transcript or elementary and middle school year report card, recent TAAS/TAKS scores, graduation plan, immunization record, special education records including recent admission review and dismissal (ARD) report, manifestation determination, individual education plan (IEP), modifications necessary for success in general education program, psychological assessment, instructional level for SDAA, and application for free and reduced priced meals.
6. **Reimbursement:** (A) From August 1, 2006 to July 31, 2007, the Juvenile Board will provide funding for expelled students who meet the criteria of Chapter 37, Section 37.007 (a), (d), or (e), as outlined by the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission. This includes funding for mandatory expulsions when the adjudication petition is not sustained or if the proceeding is dismissed. The level of funding will not exceed \$59.00 a day for each day of attendance. (B) Each school district that refers a regular education student expelled under Chapter 37.007 (b), (c), or (f) will

provide funding not to exceed \$80.00 a day for every day of attendance. (C) To help address the needs of students requiring more intensive classroom supervision, each school district that refers a special education student expelled under Chapter 37.007 (b), (c), or (f) will provide funding not to exceed \$90.00 a day for every day of attendance. 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 days regular school year, and up to a 35 days summer school program.

7. **Due Process:** Students who are expelled from the school district setting will be afforded due process within the respective school district as provided by school 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, 2701 Kimbo Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76111, 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 school 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 school districts of action taken regarding expulsion referrals within seven (7) working days 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 90 successful days of attendance with appropriate behavior. The maximum placement shall be twelve (12) months. The JJAEP may offer incentives for positive behavior which may include up to a 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 and behavioral 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, 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 Juvenile Board, the school district will provide a designated, supervised pick-up and drop-off point for JJAEP students from their district. This section may be subject to modification pending the passage of legislative changes currently under consideration by the 79th Legislative Session.

12. **Instructional Program**: The JJAEP will provide instruction in English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and self-discipline.
13. **Academic Progress Review**: The Juvenile Board will ensure a review of 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 Juvenile Board 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**: 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 school district. The district will be responsible for annual ARDs, three-year re-evaluation ARDs, and assessments.

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.

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. JJAEP follow-up services will be available for up to six (6) months after discharge when requested by the school district, parent, or student.
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 District's Student Code of Conduct's list of behaviors that could be considered serious or persistent

will constitute the behaviors 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 ("AEP").

18. **Compulsory Attendance:** TCJS or its JJAEP provider will enforce the compulsory attendance laws for students enrolled in the JJAEP. TCJS will notify the district liaison when a student fails to enroll in the JJAEP, 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:** This term of this agreement will commence on the 1st day of August 2006, and will end on July 31, 2007.

Executed on the 9th day of August, 2006.

_____ Independent School District Tarrant County

By: _____
Board of Trustees, President

By: Jim Lowe
Juvenile Board, Chairman

Attest:

By: Randy Mciner
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 May 31st each year.

Projections for the 2006/07 School Year:

Projected # of new discretionary referrals to the JJAEP: _____

Projected # of discretionary student attendance days to
be utilized at the JJAEP: _____

District

Superintendent Signature

Date