

Memorandum of Understanding between Denton ISD and DCJJAEP

July 30, 2024

SUMMARY:

- This item requests approval of the Memorandum of Understanding agreement pursuant to Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code ("TEC") by and between the Independent School Districts ("ISDs"), which includes Denton ISD and the Denton County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program ("DCJJAEP") as the agent for the Juvenile Board of Denton County, Texas ("DCJB"), of the Denton County, Texas.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

- The Board of Trustees for Denton ISD reviews and takes action on this agreement annually.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Denton County, Texas, has a population greater than 125,000 and the DCJB has been mandated by TEC Section 37.011 to develop a Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program subject to the approval of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department ("TJJD").
- The State of Texas has determined that public school students who engage in conduct that endangers the school population should be removed from the regular school setting and educated in a separate setting in order for school districts to fulfill their primary mission of educating Texas youth.
- The parties hereto agree that the DCJJAEP is a cooperative effort between the educational community and the juvenile justice system with the primary goals of the program being the education of students with behavioral problems and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders, but not the treatment of emotional problems.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

- The daily administration of the DCJJAEP will be conducted by the Denton County Juvenile Probation Department ("DCJPD") under the direction of Chief Juvenile Probation Office. The DCJPD shall conform the DCJJAEP to the standards and guidelines of TJJD. Furthermore, the DCJPD shall be responsible for and maintain all reports, data, assessments, and the like necessary to permit and allow compliance with TEC, including, but not limited to, Chapters 39 and 42 of the TEC.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

- The daily rate of \$125 per student per day in attendance will be charged for each discretionary expulsion or student enrolled in the DCJJAEP. The DCJJAEP shall charge and invoice the ISDs no later than the tenth (10th) day of each and every month that the MOU is in effect. Upon the first day of the month following receipt of an invoice for educational and rehabilitative services provided to ISD students, the ISD will pay the invoiced amount to Denton County.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

- The parties hereto agree that the DCJJAEP is a cooperative effort between the educational community and the juvenile justice system with the primary goals of the program being the education of students with behavioral problems and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders, but not the treatment of emotional problems. - In conformance with TEC 37.001 (k) (5), the DCJJAEP will provide services while the student attends the DCJJAEP for transitioning DCJJAEP students back to the school district. The transition plan shall include consultation between appropriate ISD personnel and DCJJAEP personnel. To assist in the transition, process the DCJJAEP may offer in-service training to ISD staff.

PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:

Students who are expelled from participating ISDs will be afforded the appropriate due process within the respective ISD as provided by school district policy and federal and state law.

PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

- None

ALTERNATIVES:

- No alternative actions are proposed

OTHER COMMENTS:

N/A

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:

- The superintendent recommends approval of the Denton County JJAEP agreement between the Denton Independent School District and The Denton County Juvenile Board, WHEREAS, the Denton County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program acting as the agent for the DCJB continues to educate our students at a separate setting in order for Denton ISD to fulfill their primary mission of education Texas youth.

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

- Dr. Susannah Holbert O'Bara, Superintendent of Schools
- Dr. Jeff Russell, Area Superintendent
- Memo

ATTACHMENT:

- The Memorandum of Understanding Agreement between the Denton Independent School District and The Denton County Juvenile Board.
- Cover letter explaining the process of exchanging signed copies

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: _____

Comments: _____

Signature of Divisional Area Superintendent: _____

Comments: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____

Comments: _____