



TEXAS  
JUVENILE  JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT

# Education at TJJD

July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

# TJJD'S GOAL

- The primary goal of the TJJD educational program is to provide each youth quality academic and vocational experiences in order to better equip them for a successful reentry into community life, whether that reentry includes additional formal education or immediate employment. Research also indicates that students who have completed a GED or diploma are less likely to commit new crimes.

# FUNDING SOURCES

Source	Use/Designation
<b>Title I</b>	Provides financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that youth meet challenging state academic standards.
<b>Title II</b>	Provides funds intended to increase academic achievement by improving teacher and principal quality.
<b>IDEA-B</b>	The Individuals with Disabilities Education ACT (IDEA) is a law ensuring services to students with disabilities throughout the nation. IDEA governs how states and public agencies provided SPED and related services to youth with disabilities.
<b>Perkins</b>	Principal source of federal funding for the improvement of secondary and postsecondary career and technical education (CTE) programs to develop more fully the academic, career, and technical skills of students who elect to enroll in CTE programs.
<b>TEA</b>	Funds provided by the Texas Education Agency based on average daily attendance (ADA)

# TESTING

Test	Description
<b>TABE</b>	Students are given the math and reading TABE (Test for Adult Basic Education) tests at O&A (Orientation and Assessment) and then every six months thereafter. The initial O&A TABE tests are used as diagnostic tools to assess students' skill levels and aptitudes and to identify students that require academic interventions. The TABE tests given at six-month intervals allow for monitoring of student learning gains. Student growth as shown by the TABE test is a legislative measure.
<b>TOWRE</b>	Students are given the TOWRE test at O&A and then again approximately 30 days before release. TOWRE measures the students' ability to pronounce printed words accurately and fluently.
<b>STAAR and TELPAS</b>	Just like their peers, students at TJJD are given the STAAR and TELPAS tests. STAAR assesses students on state curriculum standards, and TELPAS assesses students who are learning the English language.

# ACADEMICS/EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

- Teachers are certified in the areas in which they teach to ensure they are competent in the subject matter and can provide grade appropriate instruction of appropriate rigor.
- Students are placed in grade-appropriate classes. Class size is small to allow for more individualized attention and to help develop better relationships between the teacher and students.
- Students earn credits in TEKS-aligned courses and participate in state assessments.
- Many courses are provided through APEX, a secure digital curriculum, which provides targeted interventions and allows students to work at their own pace. APEX also allows for credit recovery.
- Every class includes 20-minutes of content-reading time to increase background knowledge and content-specific reading skills.

# ACADEMICS/EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM



Art Work from Giddings' Art Class 2021



Ron Jackson's Six-Word Memoirs Project 2019

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: Locked Up – D. C.**  
Locked up in a jail cell  
Thinking about the free.  
Insecure about my self  
Wondering what they'll think of me.  
  
Running from my problems  
But I finally had to face them.  
Regretting all my wrongs,  
But I know I can't replace them.  
  
So I told myself  
You better change the way you think  
Before you go to jail  
Or be six feet deep.

Giddings Poetry Contest 2022



Student Working in Class 2018



Giddings – Artwork from Black History Month 2022



Giddings Pen Pal Project 2022

# SPECIALIZED READING PROGRAM

- Youth at TJJD arrive an average of 4-5 years below grade level for their age.
- Students identified as in need of reading interventions are placed in specialized reading programs that are taught by teachers certified in reading and who have expertise in teaching reading to struggling adolescent readers.
- The reading program provides individualized reading instruction in the five major essential components of effective reading:
  - Phonemic Awareness
  - Phonics
  - Fluency
  - Vocabulary
  - Comprehension
- Hi/lo books are used to encourage reading.



# LIBRARIES

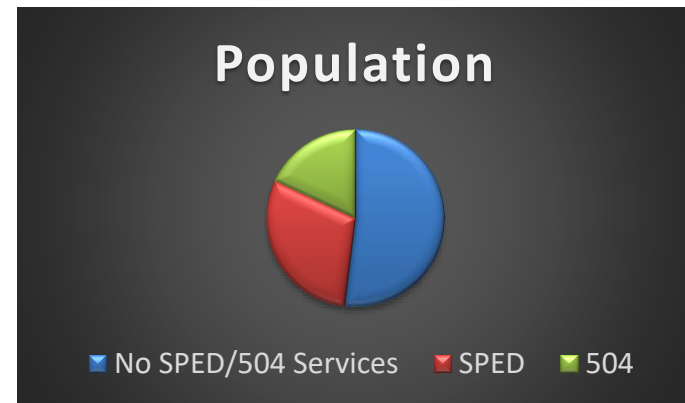
- Each secure facility has a library designed to help students grow as readers.
- The librarians strive to offer students high-interest reading material and routinely seek student input when building their collections.
- Students are allowed to select books that interest them, and librarians deliver their selections to the dorms.
- The librarians host reading competitions, create nonfiction/fiction book pairings, and offer personalized recommendations to increase student interest in reading.





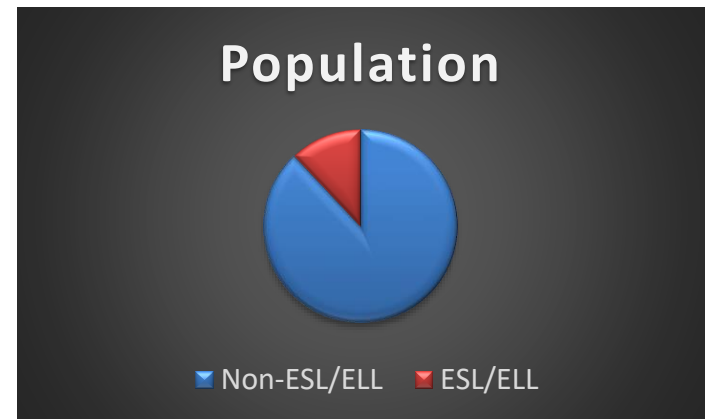
# SPECIAL EDUCATION AND 504 STUDENTS

- Approximately 30 percent of youth in TJJD receive special education services.
- Approximately 18 percent of youth in TJJD receive Section 504 services.
- TJJD ensures that the needs of students with disabilities are met and that all federal and state laws and regulations are followed for students who qualify for special education and/or Section 504 services:
  - Each campus has a diagnostician and academic counselor, and students receive accommodations and interventions.
  - The Dyslexia Intervention Plan ensures that each campus has a trained educator who can assess, diagnose, and provide instruction to students with dyslexia and related disabilities.
  - TJJD participates in Child Find, which obligates schools to identify, locate, and evaluate all children with disabilities who need special education and related services.



# ESL/ELL/LEP STUDENTS

- Approximately 12 percent of youth in TJJD are identified as limited English proficient (LEP)/emergent bilingual.
- TJJD provides ESL/ELL services to students according to the English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS), including:
  - Identifying ESL students
  - Administrating the assessment for listening, speaking, reading and writing (TELPAS) annually
  - Exiting students from the ESL/ELL program once they show language proficiency
  - Ensuring each campus has an ESL coordinator who supports ESL/ELL students and trains other teachers in ESL learning strategies



# TEXAS MODEL/TBRI<sup>®</sup>/PBIS

- TJJD has adopted the Texas Model, which is a comprehensive approach to managing and improving the juvenile justice system.
  - The Education Department is committed to the Texas Model and to creating a trauma-informed school environment. Students who develop positive relationships with their teachers and who feel welcome in the classroom are more ready to learn.
  - All campuses have implemented the TBRI<sup>®</sup> framework and Aggression Replacement Therapy (ART).
- TJJD has adopted several Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), including incentive days each six weeks.
- Dysregulated students have the opportunity to visit the Making a Plan for Success Center (MAPS) to learn strategies to manage their emotional responses.

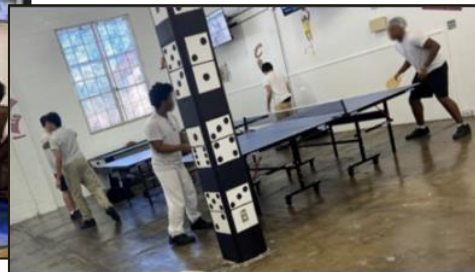
# TEXAS MODEL/TBRI®/PBIS



September 2021 Evins' Incentive Day



Playful Engagement



Giddings' Mustang Alley Center – Playful Engagement

*“It’s important to acknowledge and reward youth who are showing progress and learning the life skills to be successful,” said Giddings’ PBIS Coach John Gosselink.*



# TEXAS MODEL SUMMMER CAMPS 2021



*Soccer knocker balls: a game that gives you a bounce never gets old.*



*The inflatable obstacle course was a big hit.*



*Youth cooled down in the gym, where one of the activities was decorating -- and -- eating cupcakes.*



*The sand volleyball court is a new permanent addition to the recreation options at the Mart campus.*



*Another quieter, cooler activity happened in the art room where TJJD Activities Leader Elaine Windberg showed how to create acrylic paint pour artwork. Here Windberg demonstrates how to hold the cup on the canvas and turn it over to release the paint.*



*The tire races worked several ways. Here youth set the tires upright for a more challenging run.*

# PUBLIC SCHOOL-TYPE ACTIVITIES/EXTRACURRICULARS

TJJD strives to make the school experience at the secure facilities match as close as possible to the public school experience students receive in other ISDs to allow for easier transitions. Various activities offered include:

- Student Council
- Competitive TAPPS (Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools) Sports Teams
- Campus Mascots
- Academic Contests
- Facility Open Houses



Gainesville's Training Room



Gainesville Basketball



Giddings Track Season 2022



Giddings Student Council Field Trip February 2020



# HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS



Thanksgiving 2021



Holiday Festivities 2021



Texas Juvenile Justice Department



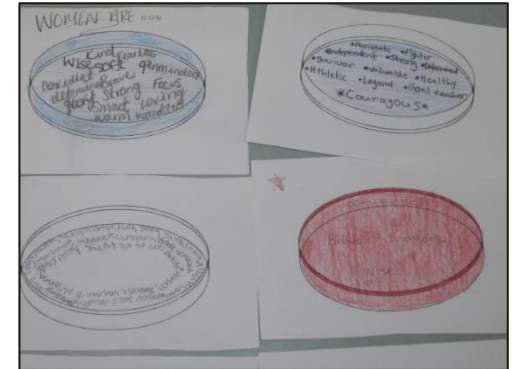
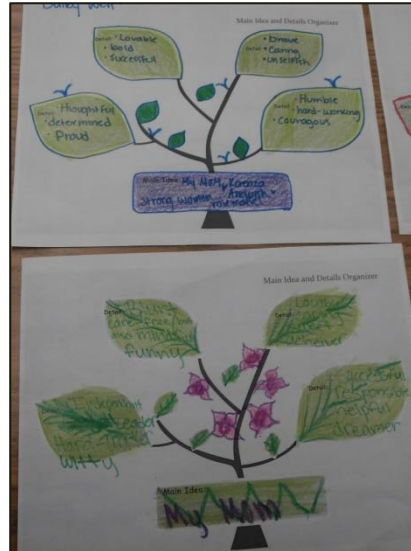
Ron Jackson's Float for the Brownwood Christmas Parade – 2021



# SPECIAL DAYS CELEBRATIONS



2019 Door Decorating at Giddings for Veterans' Day



2020 International Women's Day Celebration at Ron Jackson



# EDUCATION REENTRY LIAISONS

Each secure facility has an ERL (Education Reentry Liaison). ERLs serve as advocates for students and help students:

- Apply for financial aid, scholarships and grants
- Register with Work in Texas
- Learn how to effectively use social media to help with job searches
- Improve job readiness and college readiness skills
- Create an education and employment portfolio
- Develop a workforce/education reentry plan

*“Each one of our ERLs enjoys working with our students and are dedicated to helping them learn and acquire skills and information to help them make good decisions after TJJD.”*  
– Connie Simon, Central Office

# CAREER PREPARATION

Campuses work to prepare students for their future careers:

- Mart has put on a career fair for students.
- Ron Jackson performs mock interviews.
- At O&A, incoming boys participate in career-to-school lessons to provide them with knowledge of career options and ways to become career ready so that they will be better prepared to reach their future goals.
- Campuses have provided financial literacy courses, work/study programs, and career preparation classes.
- Special education students use the CareerExplorer platform to discover their compatibility with over 800 careers.



Ron Jackson Mock Interviews



Mart Career Fair

# CTE AND INDUSTRIAL CERTIFICATIONS

- TJJD prepares youth to enter the workforce through vocational programs and certificates in technology, construction, culinary arts, welding (dual-credit option also available), horticulture, OSHA-10 hour, forklift operator (online or in-person), and CPR & First Aid (Blinn College).
- The goal of these programs is to provide students with basic skills and beginning knowledge in these CTE fields.
- During the 2018-2019 school year, students earned 572 total industry and supplemental certifications. Additionally, students earned 26.5 welding credits during the 2018-2019 school year.



# CTE AND INDUSTRIAL CERTIFICATIONS



Gainesville's BIIM Wacom Tablets



Mart's Welding Projects Finished  
2021



Adobe Audition – Editing/Mixing

# CERTIFICATES OF HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCIES AND DIPLOMAS

- Many students at TJJD have the opportunity to earn their Certificate of High School Equivalency (CHSE) or diplomas.
- During the 2018-2019 school year, 147 students earned CHSEs.
- During the 2018-2019 school year, 41 students earned diplomas.
- Research indicates that students who have completed a CHSE or earned their diploma are less likely to commit new crimes, reducing recidivism rates.

# GRADUATION CEREMONIES

- Twice a year, each of the five TJJD secure facilities host graduation ceremonies.
- Families are invited to celebrate the students' achievements alongside TJJD staff.
- Students wear caps and gowns and participate in traditional graduation ceremony activities, including listening to commencement speeches and walking the stage.





# COLLEGE CREDIT

- TJJD is working with Blinn College to provide college courses and dual-credit opportunities to the youth.
- New class options are being developed with the goal of increasing the number of students leaving TJJD with college credit.
- During the 2018-2019 school year, students earned 45 college credits.



# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

