

# Texas Juvenile Justice Department

## Education Information for Youth in Aftercare

### Do I have to enroll in school?

Yes. Under §25.085[2], compulsory attendance applies to students who are at least six years old as of September 1 of the applicable school year. The law requires a student to attend public school until the student's 19<sup>th</sup> birthday, unless the student is exempt under §25.086. [Sec. 25.085. Compulsory School Attendance](#)

### Can I enroll without a parent or legal guardian present?

Yes, if your parent/guardian authorizes another family member to accompany you. Chapter 34 of the Texas Family Code allows your parent or legal guardian to give permission to you grandparent, adult sibling, aunt, or uncle to enroll you in school. They can also authorize a Parental child safety Placement Voluntary caregiver in accordance with Child Protective Services. You and your parent will be given an Authorization Agreement for Nonparent Relative or Voluntary Caregiver to take with you to the school. [Authorization for Nonparent Relative](#)

### What documents do I need to take with me when I go to enroll in school?

The required records are: 1) a birth certificate or other proof of identity, 2) records from the school most recently attended, 3) immunization records. However, missing one or more of these items will not prevent you from enrolling. According to the Texas Education Code Sec. 25.002 (a-1) [TEA Public Education Chapter 25](#), parents have 30 days after enrollment to provide the required items. Additionally, school districts are required to participate in the electronic transfer of student records through Texas Records Exchange (TREx). School districts have 10 days to send the records to the requesting school district. [Texas Records Exchange \(TREx\)](#)

### TJJD School District Information

The Texas Juvenile Justice Department is legislatively mandated to provide education services to youth committed to the agency. The Lone Star School District provides education, special education and vocational programming to youth within TJJD. Lone Star School District's County District number is 227-622. The school your child is enrolling in may request school records via TREx. [AskTED School District Search](#)

School Name	City	TEA Campus #
Lone Star High School South	Edinburg	004
Lone Star High School North	Gainesville	005
Lone Star High School Southeast	Giddings	006
Lone Star High School Central	Mart	008
Lone Star High School West	Brownwood	009

### Will documents other than my academic records be sent to the school district?

Yes. Article 15.27, Code of Criminal Procedure requires TJJD to provide notification to the superintendent of the school district that includes information on a student's adjudicated offenses and whether the student is required to register as a sex offender. [Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Title 1, Chapter 15.27](#)

### Do I have to attend the DAEP\* or JJAEP\*\*?

The school district is required to determine the best educational placement for the student. That decision includes whether the youth will go to a DAEP or some other alternative education program. [Education Code: Alternative Settings for Behavior Management](#)

### What other options do I have besides the DAEP or JJAEP?

Some school districts offer classes during non-traditional hours, such as late evenings or early mornings and allow students to complete the courses needed to earn your high school diploma. Ask the registrar or counselor about non-traditional and online courses available to you. [Education Code: Alternative Settings for Behavior Management](#)

## I get Special Education services. Should I focus on getting a high school equivalency exam or a high school diploma?

As a special education student, it is more beneficial to you to get your high school diploma. Accommodations and modifications are available to you in class and on STAAR tests that may not be available to you on the high school equivalency exam. Your ARD committee and the Individual Graduation Committee will work together to customize your graduation requirements. Customization is not available on high school equivalency exams. [Certificate of High School Equivalency Information](#)

## Can I take a high school equivalency exam (GED, HiSet, or TASC) instead of returning to school?

Students under 16 years of age may not take a high school equivalency exam. A public agency that has supervision or custody of the youth under a court order may recommend the high school equivalency exam for students 16 or older in certain instances. *Ask your Education Reentry Liaison about this option.* [Certificate of High School Equivalency Information](#)

## Information regarding Special Education services

The Texas Education Agency Office of Legal Services oversees the Special Education Mediation and Due Process Hearing programs. The links and information below may be helpful to parents and school districts about special education laws, rules and other special education information. [TEA Office of Legal Services, Special Education General Information](#)

## Remember

A school district or open-enrollment charter school may not prohibit a student from attending school pending receipt of transcripts or records from the former school district.

## Proof of Residency

Under §25.001(d), "[t]he board of trustees shall determine whether an applicant for admission is a resident . . . for purposes of attending the public schools" under that subsection and "may adopt reasonable guidelines for making a determination as necessary to protect the best interests of students (*emphasis added*)." [50] [TEA Public Education Chapter 25](#)

This ability to adopt guidelines should not be misinterpreted as the ability to redefine the legal concept of residency established by our state law. The traditional, basic residence criteria are living in the district and having the present intention to remain there. See [Martinez v. Bynum](#), 461 U.S. 321, 330-333 (1983), [Arredondo v. Brockette](#), 648 F.2d 425 (5th Cir. 1981). The board of trustees' authority is to provide guidelines that will enable a student to substantiate his or her residency and enable the board to determine if the student is a resident of the district.

Residency is not defined by an address on a driver's license, a signature on a lease, or the address on a utility bill. These are indicators that may expedite verifying residency, but the absence of such indicators is not conclusive that the student is not a resident. Furthermore, the fact that a student is living in a household that is leased or owned by someone outside the student's immediate family may be an indicator that the student is homeless and entitled to admission under §25.001(b)(5). [TEA Public Education Chapter 25](#)

## Grandparent in District

Section 25.001(b)(9) entitles a student who resides in Texas but does not reside in the district to admission if a grandparent of the student resides in the district and the grandparent provides a substantial amount of after-school care for the student as determined by the local school board. [TEA Public Education Chapter 25](#)

\*DAEP = Disciplinary Alternative Education Program

\*\*JJAEP = Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program