



Executive Director
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JUVENILE BOARD

HON. JEFF McMEANS
Juvenile Board Chair
HON. CHRISTOPHER MORALES
HON. JULI MATHEW
HON. TONI WALLACE
HON. TEANA WATSON
HON. SHERMAN HATTON
HON. FRANK FRALEY
HON. O'NEIL WILLIAMS
HON. WALTER ARMATYS
HON. BRENDA MULLINIX
HON. MAGGIE JARAMILLO
HON. JAMES H. SHOEMAKE
HON. ROBERT ROLNICK
HON. DAVID PERWIN
HON. K.P. GEORGE

To: Honorable Commissioners Court

Re: Saved by the Bell Truancy Reduction Program

The Fort Bend County Juvenile Board (Juvenile Board) has been collaborating with Fort Bend County (County) and Fort Bend Independent School District (FBISD) since 2008 to address truancy through the Saved by the Bell Truancy Reduction Program. The goal of the program is to apply proactive casework management strategies, together with meaningful interventions, in order to prevent and address truancy issues and increase attendance.

As provided in the agreement, the County will fund six Juvenile Caseworkers through the Juvenile Probation Department Budget and the Juvenile Board will assign six Juvenile Caseworkers to address relevant issues. In return, FBISD agrees to fund the Juvenile Caseworkers in an amount not to exceed \$267,668.

These Juvenile Caseworkers work with Student Attendance Specialists, School Administrator's, Counselors, Social Workers, and Community Resources to address and resolve the social factors behind truancy, provide support, services, and intervention. The Juvenile Caseworkers also act as liaisons to coordinate and provide follow up with Justice of the Peace Courts for students referred civilly for remedial measures.

During the 2019-2020 school year, our Juvenile Caseworkers instituted 5,173 Truancy Intervention Measures and conducted 2,203 home visits. Our Juvenile Caseworkers also worked with students whom were placed on remedial orders through the Justice Courts resulting in improved attendance, increased GPA, and decreased discipline issues. During this pandemic, our officers have been especially essential by completing several hundred verifications of enrollments; ensuring youth are active, compliant and have the necessary tools for virtual learning. In addition, our officers have also been involved in the distribution of much needed meals for FBISD students and families during this trying time.

As you can see, the work of our Juvenile Caseworkers is making a meaningful impact on lives of these students. The collaboration between the Juvenile Board, County, and FBISD is instrumental in preventing and resolving truancy, thereby reducing juvenile delinquency.

Sincerely,

Kyle Dobbs
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Fort Bend County Juvenile Probation
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