



**Ellis County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program
(JJAEP)**

2272 FM 878

Rachel Kistner, Superintendent

300 S. Collage

Italy, TX 76651

February 11, 2026

Dear Ms. Kistner:

It is with great excitement, that I would like to announce that our Ellis County JJAEP continues to grow year after year! As we approach the end of our 5th year open, for the first time, we have met the capacity of the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

At this time, we will not be denying students or returning any discretionary students, as we continue to meet the staff to student ratio per Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD). The Ellis County JJEAP recommends the following amendment to Section 8(D), "Facilities, staffing, and daily operations," of the MOU to read as follows:

The daily population and maximum capacity of the JJAEP must not exceed the 1:24 ratio requirement pursuant to Subchapter B(g)(2) of Chapter 348 of TJJD. Upon reaching capacity, mandated students will be given precedence for enrollment over non-mandated students. The JJAEP reserves the right to return any discretionary student to his or her home District in order to accommodate a mandatory student from any District. The JJAEP may recommend early termination of a mandatory student's expulsion term based on the student's overall compliance with the program, attendance, and grades; however, the sending District has final acceptance and approval.

All JJAEP students will continue to get the exceptional services that we strive to meet.

By signing below, Italy ISD is in agreement with the revisions above.

Signature Page to Follow

ELLIS COUNTY JUVENILE BOARD

ELLIS COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES

Judge William Wallace
Juvenile Board Chair
378th District Court

Chelsea Smith
ECJS Director

DATE: _____

DATE: _____

ITALY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Approved and signed on _____, 2026.

Board of Trustees President or Designee:

(Signature of President/Designee)

(Printed Name of President/Designee)

(Title of President/Designee)

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