

# DJJ NEWS



## BON AIR JCC TO ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE WITH EXPANDED USE OF PBIS

To improve the social climate and resident behavior at Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center, preparations are in the works to put an existing tool to new use.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, or PBIS, is a program used in many schools to improve academic, social and behavioral outcomes for students. It has been in place at Yvonne B. Miller High School since February 2018 and resulted in a 77% decrease the following year in student removals from class due to disruptive behavior. PBIS will be piloted in three residential units at Bon Air JCC this spring and summer, with plans to have it rolled out facility-wide by the end of 2023.

Using a proactive approach, the data- and evidence-based framework has been applied across juvenile justice services, including at maximum-security facilities, in about a dozen states. In Texas, where state law mandates the use of PBIS across its juvenile justice departments, there was a 46% reduction in incident rates within the first 100 days of introducing the program in its maximum-security residential facilities.

Research of PBIS programs has shown increases across the social and emotional competence of students, decreases in problem behavior, improved academic performance, improved staff retention, improved organizational health, and a reduction in bullying behaviors.

Like at school, residents at Bon Air JCC who demonstrate acceptable behavior will be able to earn PBIS points in all areas of their day, that can be used to purchase items or access to activities. This is one example of how PBIS can reinforce expectations, incentivize desirable behavior and develop personal accountability through structure and clear and consistent criteria.

Safety and security is always the top priority. Consistent behavioral expectations and management strategies across all settings in response to all behavior will allow us to achieve this goal.

With an established foundation in the educational setting, it is hoped that taking PBIS beyond the classroom and into all areas of residential life at Bon Air JCC will complement progress already being made with the Community Treatment Model.

More information, including training, will be provided to residential staff in the coming months.