

## Chapter 89. Adaptations for Special Populations

### Subchapter CC. Commissioner's Rules Concerning Adult and Community Education

*Statutory Authority: The provisions of this Subchapter CC issued under the Texas Government Code, §508.318, as added by the 75th Texas Legislature, 1997, Chapter 165, §12.01, unless otherwise noted.*

#### §89.1311. Memorandum of Understanding to Provide Educational Services to Released Offenders.

- (a) Purpose. This memorandum of understanding is a non-financial, mutual agreement between the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) and the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Pursuant to the Texas Government Code, §508.318, the TDCJ and the TEA shall set forth the respective responsibilities of the department and the agency in implementing a continuing education program to increase the literacy of releasees.
- (b) Objective. This memorandum of understanding is to realize a human service system that offers releasees choices and opportunities, within the realm of educational services, to remain outside prison and achieve maximum integration in the community. The following guiding principles should be considered to accomplish the objectives of this memorandum:
  - (1) the releasee will achieve more success outside of prison if a support system is in place to promote educational growth;
  - (2) the releasee may be less likely to become a repeat offender if he/she pursues education further; and
  - (3) the releasee must be encouraged to recognize the need for increasing his/her educational level to remain in the free world and learn to function as a productive citizen.
- (c) Participation.
  - (1) The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) will:
    - (A) establish a continuing education system to increase literacy for releasee(s) in the Day Resource Centers;
    - (B) establish a system whereby the TDCJ will inform adult education cooperatives of the process and requirements for continued education of the releasee(s);
    - (C) provide adult education cooperatives with assessment and educational profile information that will facilitate student placement in appropriate programs;
    - (D) coordinate with adult education cooperatives in implementing a system for identification of student needs and barriers, student referral, outreach activities, and releasee's compliance with educational requirements;
    - (E) identify resources that assist local adult education cooperatives in expanding services for releasees; and
    - (F) participate in training necessary to develop the capacity at the local level to access and interact effectively with adult education service providers.
  - (2) The Texas Education Agency will:
    - (A) coordinate with the TDCJ to inform local parole offices of services available through the adult education cooperative system in which local school districts, junior colleges, and educational service centers provide instructional programs throughout the state;
    - (B) assist the TDCJ in identifying barriers to provide adult education services to released offenders;
    - (C) assist local adult education programs in developing the capacity to serve the released offender population;

- (D) coordinate with the TDCJ in establishing a referral process between local parole offices and local adult education cooperatives whereby releasees will be referred to adult education programs;
  - (E) assist local adult education cooperatives in providing services to releasees in adult education programs on a first-come, first-served basis and to the extent the funds and classroom space are available;
  - (F) assist local adult education cooperatives in communicating and coordinating with local parole offices on prospective students awaiting referral to education programs, availability of services, identification of financial resources, and other educational programs available for released offenders;
  - (G) coordinate with the TDCJ in developing program objectives and collecting data to establish educational performance standards for released offenders;
  - (H) coordinate with the TDCJ in providing training to assist local parole officers with the coordination of adult education services to released offenders; and
  - (I) monitor program quality and compliance of local adult education programs serving released offenders.
- (d) Terms of the memorandum of understanding. This memorandum of understanding shall be adopted by rule by each participating agency and shall be effective October 1, 1998. The memorandum may be considered for expansion, modification, or amendment at any time upon the mutual agreement of the executive officers of the named agencies.

*Source: The provisions of this §89.1311 adopted to be effective October 1, 1998, 23 TexReg 9341.*