

# Runge ISD

# Gang Prevention Policy

Fostering Student Connectedness & Well-being



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**Runge Elementary School & Runge High School**

[www.rungeisd.org](http://www.rungeisd.org)



# Gang Prevention

## I. Policy Statement

Runge ISD is committed to maintaining a safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environment for all students, free from the influence of gangs and gang-related activities. Recognizing the complex factors contributing to gang involvement, Runge ISD adopts a proactive, multi-faceted approach to gang prevention, leveraging education, community engagement, and positive youth development strategies.

## II. Objectives

- **Educate** students, staff, and parents about the dangers of gang involvement and the signs of potential gang affiliation.
- **Prevent** the initiation and proliferation of gang activities within the school and the broader community.
- **Support** students who are at risk of gang involvement through counseling, intervention programs, and positive extracurricular activities.
- **Foster** strong community partnerships to create a unified front against gang influence.
- **Empower** students with the skills and opportunities to make positive life choices, promoting a sense of belonging, self-esteem, and future aspirations outside of gang involvement.



# III. Strategies & Implementations

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## 1. Gang Education & Awareness

- Integrate gang awareness and prevention information into the school curriculum, starting from a young age with the Positive Action curriculum and continuing through high school with Josten's Harbor Lessons.
- Leverage digital platforms, including email newsletters, the school's website, and social media channels, to disseminate a wide array of educational materials on gang prevention.

## 2. Recognizing & Reporting Gang Affiliation

- Train staff to recognize signs of potential gang involvement and implement a clear, confidential reporting system for concerns related to gang activities.
- Provide anonymous reporting channels for students to share concerns about themselves or peers.

### **3. Prevention & Intervention Programs**

- Strengthen partnerships with ACE Afterschool Programs, local law enforcement, and community organizations to offer a broad spectrum of before and after-school programs, summer activities, and tutoring services.
- Implement intervention strategies for at-risk students, including counseling services, mentorship programs, and family support initiatives.

### **4. Positive Climate & Extracurricular Activities**

- Promote a positive school climate that values diversity, inclusivity, and student achievement. Celebrate these values through assemblies, newsletters, and school events.
- Expand access to a wide range of extracurricular activities, including sports, clubs, and community service projects, to provide students with positive outlets for their energy and passions.

### **5. Community and Parental Involvement**

- Engage parents and community members in school activities and decision-making processes. Offer workshops and resources to support families in fostering safe and supportive home environments.
- Collaborate with community organizations to extend learning and development opportunities beyond the school, enhancing the social fabric and resilience of the community against gang influence.

## 6. Student Connectedness & Well Being

- **Enhanced Counseling and Behavioral Health Support:** In collaboration with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and Texas Child Health Access Through Telemedicine (TCHATT), we offer every family access to essential behavioral and mental health support services at no cost. This ensures a confidential space for students to work through personal challenges and set goals, supported by weekly character and resilience-building lessons.
- **Leadership and School Culture Development:** The Renaissance Club and Superintendent Cabinet at Runge High School are a cornerstone of our leadership development efforts. They provide students with opportunities to cultivate leadership skills and contribute to a positive school culture. This initiative underscores our belief in our students' potential to be positive influencers within our school and the broader community.
- **Inclusive Clubs and Activities:** Our commitment to providing enriching and accessible extracurricular opportunities is unwavering. From year-round sports to UIL academics and Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs involving FFA and FCCLA. We offer avenues for students to explore their interests, build skills, and develop leadership qualities in a supportive setting.

- **Community and Family Engagement:** Our school is the community's heart, a belief reflected in our vibrant array of events, such as the Back 2 School Bash, Winter Fest, Academic Rallies, and seasonal concerts. These gatherings are pivotal in deepening families' connection to their children's educational experiences.
- **Parental Involvement in Learning Activities:** Through initiatives like our monthly Family Engagement Nights in partnership with the ACE afterschool program, we encourage parents to actively participate in their children's learning, providing them with the resources to extend education beyond the classroom.
- **Continuous Improvement through Feedback Surveys:** Our use of targeted surveys for teachers, students, and parents allows us to monitor and evaluate the impact of our connectedness initiatives closely. This feedback is crucial for informing ongoing improvements and ensuring our strategies effectively meet our community's needs.



# Emergency Contacts & Resources

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- Karnes County Sheriff's Department  
Non-Emergency Number: (830)780-3931
- National Gang Center  
Phone: (850) 385-0600
- TCHAT; Behavioral & Mental Health Service  
Non-Emergency Number: (830)780-3931