



RUNGE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Yellowjacket Nation,

The Texas Education Agency has released accountability ratings to superintendents, which will be made public on Friday. I'd like to share the results with you and discuss how we can collaborate to continue improving.

This year, our **overall district rating improved from a 56 (F) that was recently reported to you last spring, to a 64 (D)**—a step in the right direction. Our **High School** made remarkable progress, moving from a **60 (D) to a 76 (C)**—just points away from becoming a **B-rated campus**. This is a huge accomplishment, and we are proud of our students and Staffuly for this achievement.

At the elementary school, we know we still have work to do. Our teachers are working harder than any I know, doing everything they can to close gaps in student learning. It is essential to understand that some of our students, unfortunately, experienced years when ineffective teachers were in place or when teachers left in the first weeks of school or mid-year. While we now have **amazing teachers in place**, the impact of those earlier years takes time to overcome.

One thing is clear from the data: **students who attend school every day, on time, and stay for the whole day are performing very well on the STAAR test**. Students who are chronically absent, late, or leave early on a regular basis are not performing as well, and this has a direct impact on our accountability ratings and, more importantly, on their learning outcomes. At the elementary school, we have a high number of students arriving late or leaving early, which significantly impacts both learning time and test performance.

Parents—we need your help. Research is clear: consistent attendance is one of the strongest predictors of academic success. According to the Attendance Works organization, students who miss more than 10% of the school year (approximately two days per month) are significantly less likely to read at grade level by the third grade, graduate on time, and be prepared for college or careers. Every minute of instruction matters, and arriving late or leaving early adds up to hours of lost learning each month.

You can help by:

- **Setting consistent routines** at home to ensure children get to bed early and wake up on time.
- **Planning appointments after school or on Mondays** whenever possible.
- **Talking with your child about the importance of being present** for the entire school day.
- **Monitoring attendance closely** and addressing any barriers—such as transportation, illness, or anxiety—by communicating with your child's teacher or principal.

We are committed to your child's success. With our strong teaching team, a focused curriculum, and your partnership in ensuring regular attendance, I am confident we will continue to make significant gains for all students as we Navigate to an A in 2028. Thank you for supporting your child and our schools.

Educationally Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "H. O. Dominguez, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hector O. Dominguez, Jr.
Superintendent