



# RUNGE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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August 8, 2025

Yellowjacket Nation,

We are thrilled to welcome our students back and celebrate an amazing first week of school! The energy across our campuses has been positive and focused, and we are eager to build on this momentum throughout the year. As your superintendent, I want to take a moment to share an important update regarding student attendance and course credit. When I began serving Runge ISD, the district had a credit recovery program in place for students who did not earn credit due to excessive absences. As a team of 8—our Board of Trustees and I—we decided to discontinue this program. We believed, and still believe, that students must be present and engaged in the classroom to earn academic credit, and that the district should not have to fund programs to compensate for student truancy.

In its place, we allowed principals to create individual plans for students to regain credit. However, as we have monitored our progress, we've identified a clear and direct correlation: students who attend school regularly are passing their STAAR and End-of-Course exams and demonstrating measurable academic growth. Conversely, students who are frequently absent or who leave campus after the 10:00 a.m. attendance reporting period are not experiencing success on these assessments.

This lack of success not only impacts individual students—it affects the district as a whole. It only takes a small percentage of chronically absent students to negatively impact our state accountability rating. Despite having strong teachers, leaders, and curriculum in place, our district's academic performance is judged by the Texas Education Agency based on attendance and test outcomes.

**Moving forward, Runge ISD will no longer offer individual principal plans for credit recovery.** In order to earn credit for coursework, students must meet regular attendance requirements as outlined in the Texas Education Code. This decision aligns with our commitment to academic excellence and accountability. We need your help. Please ensure that your child arrives on time and attends school every day. Your partnership is vital to their academic success and the continued progress of our district.

If there is anything we can do to support your family or remove barriers to attendance, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are here to help and are committed to working with you to ensure that every child in Runge ISD thrives. Thank you for your continued support and for being a valued part of the Runge ISD community.

Educationally Yours,

Hector O. Dominguez, Jr.  
Superintendent