



# Runge ISD

## District of Innovation Plan

April 29, 2024 - April 29, 2029

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*Coordinator of Federal and Special Programs*

Angelina Torres  
*Principal*

Allison Wells  
*Assistant Principal*

Stacey Porter  
*Counselor*

## Original Local Innovation Plan Adopted

April 29, 2019



## **Core Beliefs**

Students are heard and seen as respectful and respected learners/leaders with an unwavering determination to succeed.

Parents and Families are actively involved as collaborative and supportive partners in their child's education, expecting the very best for them and from them.

Faculty and Staff lead by example, with a commitment and intention to improve lives through service, support, and continuous learning.

The Superintendent and Administrators ensure a positive district culture through equitable and consistent decision-making and leading with the intent to serve others.

The Board of Trustees ensure a positive district culture through equitable and consistent decision-making and leading with the intent to positively serve others.

## **Vision**

One year of learning for one year of teaching - every student, every year.

## **Mission**

Runge ISD is committed to sustaining a culture of high performance and instilling in our students an unwavering determination to succeed.



# Strategic Goals

Goal 1: Student Achievement

Goal 2: Faculty & Staff Recruitment, Retention, Professional Development, Health, Wellness, and Workplace Satisfaction.

Goal 3: Increasing Community Satisfaction and Commitment.

Goal 4: Ensuring Transparent Fiscal Responsibility and Strategic Allocation of Resources.

## District of Innovation Introduction

District of Innovation is a concept passed during the 84th Legislative Session (HB 1842). Texas Education Code §12(a) gives traditional independent school districts the opportunity to gain flexibility through a variety of available exemptions to the Texas Education Code. The designation does not allow for exemptions from statutes, including curriculum and graduation requirements or academic or financial accountability.

A school district must adopt an innovation plan in order to access these exemptions and districts may amend, change, or extend an innovation plan through the same process utilized to adopt a plan. A school district's most recent academic performance rating must be at least acceptable in order to be eligible for designation as a District of Innovation.



# Innovation Exemptions

## **First Day of Instruction: Texas Education Code §25.0811(a)**

Texas Education Code §25.0811(a) does not allow school districts to begin school before the fourth Monday in August. This requirement restricts the local community from designing a calendar that best meets the needs of students and families. This requirement also limits the amount of instructional time available before state and Advanced Placement testing as well as inhibits true alignment with local community colleges providing dual credit courses. Exemption from this requirement allows Runge ISD to collaboratively design an academic calendar based on the needs of and input from the community.

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## **Certification Required: Texas Education Code §21.003(a)**

Runge ISD will maintain its current expectations for employee certification and will make every attempt to hire individuals with appropriate certifications. When that is not reasonably possible, the district will have the flexibility to hire individuals who are knowledgeable in the subject area and qualified to perform the duties of the position.

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## **Presentations and Recording of Certificates: Texas Education Code §21.053**

Runge ISD would like the ability to locally certify teachers in areas of high demand, to meet the educational needs of our students. These areas would include, but are not limited to, CTE classes. Special Educations teachers and ESL/Bilingual teachers will continue to be required to hold a standard teaching certificate. Also, Runge ISD will notify parents if a locally certified teacher is employed for their child's class.



# Innovation Exemptions

## **Teacher Mentors: Texas Education Code §21.458**

Texas Education Code §21.458 requires that teacher mentors have three or more years of experience in the field. This limits the number of teachers who are allowed to serve as mentors and restricts teachers with exceptional skill or experience in the subject matter from sharing their knowledge with novice teachers. Runge ISD would like to incorporate flexibility to allow teachers with exceptional skill to share their knowledge with novice teachers.

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## **Minutes of Instruction: Texas Education Code §25.081**

Texas Education Code §25.081 replaces the requirement of 180 days of instruction with the requirement of at least 75,600 minutes of instruction (including intermissions and recesses). The flexibility to adjust minutes of instruction within the required 75,600 minutes, allows Runge ISD the possibility to adjust the length of school day, early release days, and professional learning days.

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# Innovation Exemptions

## **Probationary Contracts for Experienced Teachers: Texas Education Code §21.102(b)**

Texas Education Code §21.102(b) states that a probationary contract may not exceed one year for a person who has been employed as a teacher in public education for at least five of the eight years preceding employment within the district. This period of time may not be sufficient to evaluate the teacher's effectiveness in the classroom since teacher contract timelines demand that employment decisions must be made prior to the availability of end-of-year classroom and student data. For experienced teachers, counselors, librarians or nurses new to Runge ISD who have been employed in public education for at least five of the eight previous years, a second probationary contract may be offered when needed to benefit the teacher and students served. This action requires principal recommendation and consideration and approval by the superintendent.

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## **Minimum Days of Attendance Statute: Texas Education Code §25.092**

Texas Education Code §25.092 requires that students be in attendance a minimum of 90% of the school days to receive credit. While Runge ISD believes strongly in student attendance, there may be a variety of ways to allow students to show mastery of a given course despite unforeseen circumstances that caused their attendance to fall below the 90% barrier. With a strategic goal that included personalized learning, instruction and learning platforms may be developed to allow NISD students a variety of options including those for non-traditional students.

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## **Campus Behavior Coordinator Statute: Texas Education Code §37.0012**

Texas Education Code §37.0012 constrains campus governance by requiring one person at each campus to be designated to serve as the campus behavior coordinator. Runge ISD utilizes a collaborative approach to discipline to foster the social and emotional learning of the student. This collaborative approach includes the parent, student, school administrator and counselor. Exemption from Texas Education Code §37.0012 allows Runge ISD campus principals to divide and/or delegate campus behavior coordinator duties to assistant principals as needed and appropriate.





# Innovation Exemptions

## Three-Day Limit on Suspensions Statute: Texas Education Code §37.005

Texas Education Code §37.005 states that suspensions “may not exceed three school days.” This law has been interpreted to apply to both in and out of school suspensions. Relief from this law would allow more options for providing appropriate disciplinary consequences for student misconduct in situations where a 3-day suspension is not sufficient, but a 45-day DAEP placement is too severe.

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## Removal of Unwanted Visitors Statute: Texas Education Code §37.105

Texas Education Code §37.105, applies to rejecting unruly guests from campuses and school events. In 2017, the Texas Legislature changed the law on how school administrators can eject unruly guests from school events. This applies to parents and community members, not students. Under the law, the guest must be given a warning before he or she is ejected. Upon ejection, the guest must also be given notice of how he can appeal the ejection. Runge ISD would allow designated staff members the authority to remove parents or visitors whose behavior is deemed inappropriate without warning or written notice.

