

# ***PONDER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT***

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## **PONDER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORTED ACTIVITY STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 1, 2022**

At Ponder ISD, our top priority continues to be a focus on developing tomorrow's leaders in a safe environment which promotes the health and well-being of our students and community. To that end, in late March of last school year, Ponder ISD identified and reported the serious misconduct and suspicious activity of Ruben Bergara, a former Ponder Junior High Assistant Principal. Mr. Bergara was immediately placed on administrative leave at that time pending a full investigation by local law enforcement and the Texas Education Agency; he officially resigned as an employee of Ponder ISD in early May 2022. While this investigation is currently ongoing, it has ultimately resulted in his arrest on August 31, 2022, for allegations of an improper relationship with a student.

Again, we understand that we have a great responsibility to the students and parents of Ponder, and we hope the actions we have taken in this unfortunate circumstance affirm our continued commitment to the safety and well-being of all our district stakeholders.

If any student or parent has information about this situation, please contact the Ponder Police Department at (940)479-7017.