



Information for CISD
Taxpayers

October 2010

Comal ISD increases 2010-11 I&S tax rate

The Comal ISD school board approved a six-cent increase to the 2010-11 interest and sinking (I&S) or debt service tax rate (increasing it from 27 cents to 33 cents) due to the significant decline in property growth values over the last few years.

Comal ISD's debt service tax rate compared to property growth values

Year	Debt Service Tax Rate (in cents)	Change in tax rate (in cents)	Property Growth Value Increases (in percentages)	Change in Property Growth Value (in percentages)	Fund Balance Used (in millions)
05-06	30	-2	+14.2	+5	\$0
06-07	27	-3	+21.1	+6.9	\$0
07-08	27	0	+21.4	+3	\$0
08-09	27	0	+19	-2.4	\$0
09-10	27	0	+2.4	-16.6	\$7.2
10-11	33	+6	-1	-3.4	\$6

Tax rate facts

- The district's tax rate is made up of two parts: the maintenance and operations tax rate (M&O) and the interest and sinking (I&S) or debt service tax rate.
- The M&O tax rate is set at \$1.04 and can only support the district's general fund budget. The I&S (debt service) tax rate is set at 33 cents and can only support the district's debts and bonds. The district's total tax rate is \$1.37 per \$100 valuation.
- With the one percent decline in property growth values for 2010-11, the average taxable value of a home in Comal ISD is \$168,844. Homeowners whose home value did decrease by one percent, will see an annual increase of about \$74 on their annual tax bill or about a \$6 monthly increase.
- Comal ISD is obligated to pay off its bonds according to a schedule that was set when the bonds were issued. In order to abide by that schedule, the debt service tax rate would actually need to be set at 39 cents for 2010-11, but the board approved to use \$6 million from the debt service fund balance to buy the rate down to 33 cents.
- Comal ISD homeowners receive two homestead exemptions--20 percent from Comal ISD, which very few districts provide, and \$15,000 from the state.
- People 65 years of age or older are eligible to have their school property taxes frozen and will not see a change in their taxes as a result of the district's tax increase.

*Comal ISD's financial accountability rating from the state is **Superior Achievement** based on Schools FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas).*

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Area district property tax information

School District	Tax Rate	Taxes on \$200,000 Home
Comal	\$1.37	\$1,987
Seguin	\$1.25	\$2,313
San Antonio	\$1.28	\$2,367
New Braunfels	\$1.34	\$2,477
Northside	\$1.34	\$2,479
San Marcos	\$1.37	\$2,534
North East	\$1.40	\$2,595
Schertz-Cibolo UC	\$1.44	\$2,655

2010-11 general fund budget highlights

The Comal ISD school board approved a \$125 million budget net of Ch. 41 for the 2010-11 school year. As a result of the Ch. 41 property wealthy school district designation, the district will send \$9.4 million worth of the property taxes it receives back to the state.

- General fund expenditures for 2010-11 are budgeted at \$124.8 million, a \$2.9 million increase over the 2009-10 budget, which is due to additional staff for a new school, other new campus staff, computer replacement within the Technology Department and additional buses for the Transportation Department.
- Employees on the teacher employment schedule received a \$500 or \$1,000 step increase for the 2010-11 school year, which accounts for \$813,647 of the budget. All other staff did not receive an annual pay increase.
- Comal ISD payroll accounts for about 85% of the budget. There are more than 2,100 employees.
- The budget is directly affected by property values and student enrollment, which are the only means in which the district can obtain additional revenue. Comal ISD's property values have decreased by one percent for 2010-11, and student enrollment is expected to increase by at least 483 new students.
- Comal ISD receives \$5,838 per weighted student. Under House Bill 1 since 2005, the district will not receive any additional funds per student despite increases in other annual expenditures.
- Local revenues (property values) account for 75.24 percent of the budget; state revenue (weighted student enrollment) accounts for 24.37 percent; and federal revenue accounts for .38 percent.

CISD a Recognized district

Comal ISD is a Texas Education Agency Recognized school district and 22 campuses received "Exemplary" or "Recognized" ratings.

The 12 Exemplary schools are Garden Ridge ES, Goodwin Frazier ES, Hoffmann Lane ES, Johnson Ranch ES, Morningside ES, Oak Creek ES, Rahe Bulverde ES, Rebecca Creek ES, Arlon Seay ES, Specht ES, Timberwood Park ES and Spring Branch MS.

The 10 Recognized campuses are Bill Brown ES, Freiheit ES, Startzville ES, Canyon MS, Church Hill MS, Mt. Valley MS, Smithson Valley MS, Canyon HS, Canyon Lake HS and Smithson Valley HS.

Comal ISD

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