

# Comal Independent School District

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Students to see dress code and other changes in 2007-08**

Comal ISD students, primarily those at the secondary level, will enter their middle schools and high schools this August under some modified rules. The school board approved changes to the dress code, graduation requirements, and exam exemptions that students, and parents, should be aware of before Aug. 27 rolls around.

In addition, entering freshmen will be under a new graduation plan, called the "4x4," as adopted by the state. All of the following changes can be found in the 2007-08 Student and Parent Handbook, the new dress code, and the Instructional, Grading, and Reporting Guidelines on [www.comalisd.org](http://www.comalisd.org). Students will be receiving copies of these documents during registration. The following are **dress code changes** at the secondary level:

- Secondary students will be allowed to wear shirts with graphics on them as long as the graphics are not profane, provocative, sexually explicit, or offensive. For the past few years, shirts with school-related graphics and university-related graphics were the only ones allowed on high school campuses.

- No clothing that has been ripped, torn, or cut above the knee will be allowed.

- No mohawks will be allowed.

- All secondary students will have to wear ID badges.

- Shirts, etc., must be size appropriate and not below the hips. If the shirt, etc., falls below the wrist (hips are defined where the wrists are when arms are naturally beside the body) it must be completely tucked. The following is the **graduation requirement** change for 2007-08:

- All 2008 graduates must meet all state and local graduation

requirements in order to participate in graduation. This includes passing all TAKS tests and completing all credit requirements. Students in the past have been allowed to “cross the stage” if they had earned all credits but had not passed all portions of the TAKS test. This will no longer be the case. The following are the **final exam exemption** modifications for 2007-08:

- Final exam exemptions will only be offered in the spring semester and students must meet the grade/attendance and/or TAKS exam criteria to be eligible.
- If the criteria are met, freshmen can be exempt from final exams in English and math.
- If the criteria are met, sophomores can be exempt from three of the four final exams in English, math, science, and social studies.
- If the criteria are met, juniors can be exempt from final exams in the four core subjects; and, seniors can be exempt if they meet the grade/attendance requirements.

The following **grading guideline** was modified for next year, 2008-09:

- Students will not be eligible for exemptions from pre-AP and AP courses in order to be eligible for UIL programs (as it pertains to the no pass/no play rule).

Lastly, beginning with the entering freshmen in 2007-08, students will need 26 credits to graduate from high school. As a part of the state mandate, students will have to take four years of each of the four core classes — English, math, social studies, and science. The program is known as the “4x4” and does not impact students already enrolled in high school who only need 24 credits to graduate (those credits include four years of English and social studies, and three years of science and math).