

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Kari Hutchison
830-221-2045

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Proposed tax rate is the same as last year's rate

Comal ISD taxpayers will see an unchanged school property tax rate when school board members consider and take action on the proposed \$1.31 per \$100 valuation tax rate at their Wednesday, Sept. 17 school board meeting. In August, the board approved the \$134 million operating budget that is supported by that tax rate.

The tax rate was \$1.31 last year too but taxpayers could be paying higher taxes this year because of higher property valuations from the appraisal district. They will continue to receive the \$15,000 exemption from the state and the optional homestead exemption of 20 percent from Comal ISD (very few districts in the state offer this additional exemption).

The tax rate comprises two rates — \$1.04 is for maintenance and operations and 27 cents is for debt service. By law, the portion for M&O cannot go above \$1.04 without voter approval. The portion for debt service, or major construction projects, has dropped by 3 cents since the 2005 and 2008 bond issues were passed.

For more details about the tax rate and new budget, like the ones below, visit <http://www.comalisd.org/About Us/Budget Information.asp>

Budget and Tax Rate Highlights

- The operating budget is more than \$119 million, or 6% higher than last year's budget (that is the net amount after \$15 million is sent to the state because of Comal ISD's Chapter 41 status as a property rich district).
- The district only receives \$5,460 per student from the state. It's the same amount it received in 2006 and will not change under the current funding

formula (House Bill 1). The state is not adjusting its education funding for inflation, higher gas prices, higher utility costs, pay raises for teachers, etc.

- The average value of a home in Comal ISD is \$233,352.
- The average homeowner's (\$233,352 value) school property taxes will be about \$2,179 this coming year or just \$201 more than the average homestead last year because of higher property appraisals from the appraisal district.
- Comal ISD payroll accounts for about 82% of the budget. There are more than 1,900 employees.
- Teachers received a 6 to 7% pay raise; paraprofessionals and auxiliary staff received a 5% increase; and, administrators received a 4.5 to 5% increase.
- The district increased its contribution to health insurance by \$40 per month per employee after increasing its contribution by \$55 per month last year.
- Due to a projected 910 student enrollment increase (6%) and the opening of two new elementary schools and one new middle school, CISD created about 95 new teaching, paraprofessional and professional-level campus positions.

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