

# Comal Independent School District

## NEWS RELEASE

**Contact:** Kari Hutchison  
830-221-2045

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### **All elementary schools and two middle schools rated either Exemplary or Recognized**

All of the elementary schools in Comal ISD learned today that they are either Exemplary or Recognized in the Texas Education Agency's 2007 accountability system. Two schools, Bill Brown Elementary and Arlon Seay Intermediate, are Exemplary schools, the top rating possible, and the remaining seven elementary schools, along with Church Hill and Smithson Valley middle schools, have earned the Recognized rating, the second highest rating.

The nine Recognized schools are Goodwin Frazier Elementary, Hoffmann Lane Elementary, Comal Elementary, Rahe Bulverde Elementary, Rebecca Creek Elementary, Specht Elementary, Mt. Valley School (now Startzville Elementary), Church Hill Middle School, and Smithson Valley Middle School.

To be Exemplary a campus must have at least 90 percent or more of its students, and each student subgroup (White, Hispanic, African-American, and Economically Disadvantaged) pass each Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test given. Those tests include math, writing, reading/English language arts, science, and social studies.

To be Recognized a campus must have at least 75 percent or more of its students, and each student subgroup pass each TAKS test given. The percentage required last year for the Recognized rating was 70 percent.

"The applause goes to our students, teachers, staff, and parents," says Dr. Marc Walker, superintendent. "This is the first year that all of the Comal ISD elementary schools have earned one of the top two ratings. That is significant and we'll continue to work hard at the secondary level to get those ratings up as well."

Academically Acceptable campuses this year are Spring Branch Middle,

Canyon Middle, Canyon High, and Smithson Valley High. The school district also received an Academically Acceptable rating.

“The tradition continues that at every grade level, on every test, the percentage passing each test in Comal ISD was higher when compared to the region and state results,” says Walker.

The following chart shows the percentage of all Comal ISD students, summed across grade levels, who passed each test in 2007.

**Comal ISD Passing Rate — All Students**

READING	WRITING	MATH	SCIENCE	SOCIAL STUDIES
93	95	84	84	95

The Academically Acceptable rating is earned with at least a 65 percent passing rate achieved by all students and each student subgroup in reading/ELA, writing, and social studies. At least 45 percent must pass math and at least 40 percent must pass science. Each of these three percentage passing rates represent a 5 percent increase over last year’s rates.

In addition to meeting passing standards on the TAKS, high schools are also rated on completion rates for the class of 2006. To be Exemplary, 95 percent of all students and each student subgroup had to complete high school; 85 percent had to complete for Recognized status; and, 75 percent had to complete high school for Academically Acceptable status. The overall completion rate for Comal ISD’s class of 2006 was 93 percent.

The annual dropout rate is another rating indicator used by the state. Middle schools can have no more than a .2 percent dropout rate for 2005-06 (all students and each student subgroup) for an Exemplary rating; no more than .7 percent dropout rate for the Recognized rating; and, no more than a 1 percent dropout rate for an Academically Acceptable rating. Comal ISD’s dropout rate for 2005-06 was 0.1 percent.

Ratings and data tables for individual districts and campuses are available at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us>.