

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Ashley Holt
830-221-2621

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Comal ISD receives 66 gold performance awards

Comal ISD received a record 66 Gold Performance Acknowledgement (GPA) awards from the Texas Education Agency for outstanding academic performance in 2009. Comal ISD received two of the 66 GPAs, and a total of 21 campuses received the acknowledgements.

The GPAs recognize schools for high performance and/or improvement in areas critical to the academic success of students. In 2008, Comal ISD received 47 GPAs.

GPAs can be earned in different categories at the district or campus level. The categories range from attendance rate to commended performance in reading/ELA, writing, science, math and social studies, to comparable improvement in reading and math.

The majority of Comal ISD's GPAs were earned for "commended performance" on TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) in 2009, which is the highest performance level set by the State Board of Education on the TAKS. Commended performance is earned on a TAKS test if 30 percent or more of all students and student subgroups at the school scored at the TAKS commended performance level on a scale score of 2400. Commended Performance on writing was given for examinees scoring a 3 or higher on the writing essay and was given for reading for examinees scoring a 2 or higher on the reading/ELA essay.

The following are the Comal ISD schools that earned GPAs for **Commended Performance:**

Comal ISD—Social Studies

Bill Brown Elementary—Math, Writing, Science

Comal Elementary—Reading/ELA, Math, Writing, Science

Freiheit Elementary—Math, Science

Goodwin Frazier Elementary—Math

Hoffmann Lane Elementary—Reading/ELA, Math, Writing, Science

Morningside Elementary—Math, Science

Rahe Bulverde Elementary—Math, Writing, Science
Rebecca Creek Elementary—Reading/ELA, Math, Science
Specht Elementary—Reading/ELA, Math, Writing, Science
Startzville Elementary—Reading/ELA, Math
Arlon Seay Elementary—Reading/ELA, Math, Writing, Science
Timberwood Park Elementary—Reading/ELA, Math, Writing, Science
Canyon Middle—Writing, Social Studies
Church Hill Middle—Reading/ELA, Social Studies
Mountain Valley Middle—Reading/ELA, Social Studies
Smithson Valley Middle—Reading/ELA, Social Studies
Spring Branch Middle—Reading/ELA, Writing, Science, Social Studies
Canyon High—Social Studies
Canyon Lake High—Social Studies
Memorial High—Reading/ELA, Social Studies

Other GPAs were earned by schools for Comparable Improvement (CI). These acknowledgements calculate how student performance on the TAKS test has changed/grown from one year to the next, and compares the change to that of 40 schools that are demographically most similar to the target school.

Schools receiving **Comparable Improvement** awards are:

Comal Elementary—Math
Hoffmann Lane Elementary—Reading/ELA, Math
Morningside Elementary—Reading/ELA, Math
Rebecca Creek Elementary—Reading/ELA
Church Hill Middle—Reading/ELA
Smithson Valley Middle—Math
Smithson Valley High—Reading/ELA

A third GPA category, called the **Texas Success Initiative** (TSI), is based on 55 percent or more of high school juniors in 2008 earning a scale score of 2200 or more and a score of 3 or higher on the English Language Arts essay or a scale score of 2200 or more on the math test. Smithson Valley High received the TSI award in math.

A category new to GPA awards is the **College-Ready Graduates** category. To be considered college-ready as defined by this indicator, a graduate must have met or exceeded the college-ready criteria on the TAKS exit-level test, the SAT test or the ACT test. This indicator has been reported on the AEIS reports since 2006-07. As a GPA indicator, it will be evaluated only for performance on both ELA and mathematics combined. Comal ISD as well as Memorial and Smithson Valley high schools received the College-Ready award.

To view the full GPA reports, please visit

<http://www.comalisd.org/About Us/Student Performance.asp>.