

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

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Seventeen Comal ISD schools receive one of two top TEA ratings

Seventeen of Comal ISD's campuses were named TEA (Texas Education Agency) "Exemplary" or "Recognized" schools. The rating is based on student performance on the 2009 TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills), the completion rate, and dropout rate.

"Congratulations to our students, teachers and staff on their success," said Dr. Marc Walker, superintendent. "It took a lot of hard work and commitment from everyone to make this happen."

The nine **Exemplary** schools are:

Arlon Seay Elementary

Bill Brown Elementary

Comal Elementary

Freiheit Elementary

Hoffmann Lane Elementary

Rahe Bulverde Elementary

Rebecca Creek Elementary

Specht Elementary

Timberwood Park Elementary

The eight **Recognized** schools are:

Canyon Lake High

Church Hill Middle

Canyon Middle
Mountain Valley Middle
Spring Branch Middle
Smithson Valley Middle
Goodwin Frazier Elementary
Morningside Elementary

Canyon High, Smithson Valley High, Startzville Elementary are “Acceptable” campuses. Comal ISD’s Memorial High received the highest rating possible for an alternative campus, which was “Academically Acceptable.”

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 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 Acceptable rating is earned with at least a 70 percent passing rate achieved by all students and each student subgroup in reading/ELA. At least 70 percent must pass writing and social studies. At least 55 percent must pass math and at least 50 percent must pass science.

“The percentage of Comal ISD students passing was higher than the state passing percentage on all tests and that says a great deal,” said Walker. “We go above and beyond the state curriculum to make sure our students can be successful.”

The following list shows the percentage of all Comal ISD students, summed across grade levels that passed each test in 2009.

Comal ISD Percentage Passing Rate – All Students

Reading 95

Writing 96

Math 89

Science 87

Social Studies 97

In addition to meeting passing standards on the TAKS, high schools also are rated on completion rates for the class of 2008. 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 Acceptable status. The overall completion rate for Comal ISD's class of 2008 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 from 2007-08 (all students and each student subgroup) for any of the three ratings. Comal ISD's middle school dropout rate for 2007-08 was 0.1 percent.

Although Comal ISD met all the TAKS student performance and dropout rate requirements to be named a TEA "Recognized" district for a second consecutive year, its completion rate (the percentage of students that graduated in four years of high school) was 84.4 percent, just short of the 85 percent required. Comal ISD is currently appealing its rating as an "Acceptable" district and should receive notice of its official rating in October.

"We believe that with the additional documentation we will provide to TEA in the near future that Comal ISD will receive a rating of Recognized," said Walker.

Ratings and data tables for individual districts and campuses are available at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us> and will be posted on the district's website at www.comalisd.org in the next few days.

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