

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Kari Hutchison
830-221-2045

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Nine Comal ISD schools earn Recognized rating; eight are Academically Acceptable; Comal ISD is Academically Acceptable

Comal ISD was officially notified today by the Texas Education Agency that nine schools have earned the Recognized rating, the second highest rating in the state's accountability system.

The nine Recognized schools are Bill Brown Elementary, Frazier Elementary, Goodwin Primary, Hoffmann Lane Elementary, Rahe Bulverde Elementary, Rebecca Creek Elementary, Specht Elementary, Canyon Intermediate, and Spring Branch Middle.

To be Recognized a campus must have at least 70 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.

"Congratulations to our students, teachers, staff, and parents," says Dr. Marc Walker, superintendent. "We had several campuses miss the top rating, Exemplary, by only a point or two. Our students and staff are working hard and achieving so much. We expect to see gains each year."

Academically Acceptable campuses this year are Comal Elementary, Arlon Seay Intermediate, Mt. Valley School, Smithson Valley Middle, Canyon Middle, Canyon High, Smithson Valley High, and Comal Leadership Institute. The school district also received an Academically Acceptable rating.

"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 passing each test as compared to the percentage at the state and regional levels.

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| TEST | Comal ISD %age Passing | Region 13 %age Passing | State %age Passing |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| READING | 92 | 89 | 87 |
| WRITING | 94 | 92 | 91 |
| SOCIAL STUDIES | 91 | 88 | 87 |
| MATH | 84 | 78 | 75 |
| SCIENCE | 83 | 75 | 70 |

The Academically Acceptable rating is earned with at least a 60 percent passing rate achieved by all students and each student subgroup in reading/ELA, writing, and social studies. At least 40 percent must pass math and at least 35 percent must pass science.

In addition to meeting passing standards on the TAKS, high schools are also rated on completion rates for the class of 2005. 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 2005 was 90.8 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 2004-05 (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 2004-05 was 0 percent.

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