

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

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Comal ISD 3rd, 5th and 8th graders excel on first administration of TAKS reading exam

The preliminary TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) scores are in and 96 percent of Comal Independent School District's third-graders, 91 percent of its fifth-graders and 98 percent of its eighth-graders passed their reading test the first time. In addition, Comal ISD students exceeded the state passing rate at all levels.

All three grade levels must pass the reading exam in order to advance to the next grade in 2009-10. Fifth- and eighth-graders also must pass the math exam later this semester in order to advance.

"We are so proud of our students and teachers," said Dr. Marc Walker, superintendent. "Their passing rates and the percentage of students reaching the commended level at each grade are terrific!"

At the third-grade level, 96 percent of Comal ISD's students passed the reading test the first time in February, up 3 percent over last year. The state percentage passing was 89.

Even better, 59 percent of Comal ISD's third-graders, and only 46 percent of students statewide, reached the high mastery level known as commended performance. Students who perform at this level miss no more than two

questions on the reading test. Last year, 52 percent of the third graders reached the commended level in Comal ISD.

At the fifth-grade level, 91 percent of the district's students passed the exam. The state percentage passing was 83. The percentage making commended also increased from 40 percent to 44 percent this year. Only 30 percent achieved commended status in the state.

At the eighth-grade level in Comal ISD, 98 percent passed the reading test in February and 59 percent received commended honors. At the state level, 93 percent passed and 48 percent achieved commended status.

Students not passing the first administration of reading at these three grade levels in February have two more opportunities — April 29 and July 1.

For more information contact Sandra Shelton, director for Accountability and Instructional Services with Comal ISD, at 830-221-2059.

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