

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

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Almost \$6 million over four years awarded to Comal ISD

Comal ISD administrators and school board members learned in late August that the school district is one of 27 in the country to receive a four-year U.S. Department of Education grant to help prevent violence and alcohol and drug abuse among students.

The district will receive at least \$1.4 million each year of the four-year grant, known as the Safe Schools Healthy Students Grant, that will provide students, schools, and their communities with federal funding to implement programs and activities promoting security and preventing alcohol and drug abuse in Comal ISD schools.

“This is the best news the district could have received at the beginning of the school year,” says Dr. Marc Walker, superintendent. “It will promote a collaborative effort with our education partners in our communities and expand our services to students and parents.”

It will empower the Comal Safe Schools Healthy Students Consortium, consisting of several mental health, juvenile justice, and law enforcement agencies, to maintain safe school environments, expand mental health treatment services, and expand early childhood emotional development programs over the next four years.

The grant will fund security cameras at designated campuses and facility monitors at the high schools. Bullying prevention materials and drug and alcohol abuse prevention materials will be purchased.

Five prevention education specialists for the middle schools will be hired and two case managers to integrate services districtwide are funded through the grant.

Hill Country Mental Health and Mental Retardation will be able to hire three clinicians to serve on Comal ISD campuses. Additional DARE supplies for the Comal County and Bexar County Sheriffs' Offices will be provided to the trained DARE officers who visit elementary schools.

A reintegration therapist will be hired through the Comal County Juvenile Probation Office and Communities in Schools will provide two staff members to oversee the training and support for the bullying prevention program. Connections Individual and Family Services will provide two clinicians to Comal ISD campuses.

Adult Education Cooperatives in Comal, Guadalupe and Kendall counties will be able to hire four part-time instructors to provide GED and/or ESL classes in the evenings and McKenna HealthLink will be able to hire an in-home early childhood educator to deliver the Parents as Teachers program.

For more information contact Kathy Williams, Comal ISD's coordinator of Special Programs, at 830.221.2114.