

# Comal Independent School District

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **School Board Approves Budget Based on Current Tax Rate**

After the required budget and tax rate public hearing on Aug. 27, the school board approved a \$119 million operating budget for 2008-09 that is based on the current tax rate of \$1.31 per \$100 valuation. (The \$119 million is “net” the \$15 million that goes to the state because the district is a Chapter 41 property rich district.)

The new budget includes salary increases for all employees (6 to 7 percent for teachers; 5 percent for auxiliary staff; and 4.5 to 5 percent for administration) and an increased employer contribution to employees’ monthly medical insurance (\$40/month per employee).

Fifty-three new teacher and educational assistant positions have been added as three new schools opened this year — Morningside Elementary, Timberwood Park Elementary, and Mt. Valley Middle.

Personnel costs make up almost 82 percent of the total operating budget. A little more than 16 percent is left for operating costs and capital outlay is just over 2 percent. Non-payroll costs increasing this coming year include utilities, fuel for the transportation fleet, and supplies and operating costs for three new schools.

Under HB1, which defines the current school funding system, Comal ISD receives \$5,460 per student from the state — the same amount it received in 2006. The only way the district receives additional revenue is through increasing enrollment and/or increasing the tax rate with voter approval.

Board members are not proposing that the tax rate increase in 2008-09. The budget is based on the same tax rate of \$1.31 (\$1.04 for maintenance and operations and 27 cents for debt service). Even though the tax rate will not be increasing, property owners may still see their school taxes increase because of higher property valuations from the appraisal district. The board is expected to take action on the tax rate during its Sept. 17 meeting.

For more details about the 2008-09 budget visit  
[http://www.comalisd.org/About\\_Us/Budget\\_Information.asp](http://www.comalisd.org/About_Us/Budget_Information.asp)

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