

# Comal Independent School District

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Comal ISD schools and district earn 47 GPAs**

Comal ISD has received a record 47 Gold Performance Acknowledgement (GPA) awards from the Texas Education Agency for outstanding academic performance this year. Seventeen of the district's schools and the school district received the GPAs. The district received two of the 47 GPAs.

The GPAs recognize schools for high performance and/or improvement in areas critical to the academic success of students. In 2007, the district received 44 GPAs.

There are different categories in which a GPA can be earned at the district level or campus level. Categories range from attendance rate to commended performance in reading/ELA, writing, science, math, and social studies, to comparable improvement in reading and math.

"Our schools are to be commended on receiving these GPAs," says Dr. Marc Walker, superintendent. "The increasing number of GPAs continue to show that the quality of teaching and learning is excellent in Comal ISD."

The majority of Comal ISD's GPAs were earned for "commended performance" on TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) in 2008. Commended performance is earned on a TAKS test if 25 percent or more of all students and student subgroups at the school scored at the Commended Performance level, essentially meaning each student could not have missed more than two questions on the specific test.

The following are the Comal ISD schools that earned GPAs for

**Commended Performance:**

Comal ISD — Reading/ELA (English Language Arts), Social Studies

Bill Brown Elementary — Reading, Math

Comal Elementary — Science

Freiheit Elementary — Math

Hoffmann Lane Elementary — Math, Writing, Science

Rahe Bulverde Elementary — Reading/ELA, Writing

Rebecca Creek Elementary — Reading/ELA, Math, Writing, Science

Arlon Seay Elementary — Reading, Math, Science

Specht Elementary — Reading/ELA, Math, Writing

Startzville Elementary — Reading, Math, Writing, Science  
Canyon Middle — Reading/ELA, Writing, Social Studies  
Church Hill Middle — Reading/ELA  
Smithson Valley Middle — Reading/ELA, Social Studies  
Spring Branch Middle — Reading/ELA, Writing, Social Studies  
Canyon High — Social Studies  
Canyon Lake High — Social Studies

Other GPAs were earned by schools for Comparable Improvement (CI). These acknowledgements calculate how student performance on the TAKS test has changed/grown from one year to the next, and compares the change to that of 40 schools that are demographically most similar to the target school.

Schools receiving **Comparable Improvement** awards are:  
Rahe Bulverde Elementary – Math  
Rebecca Creek Elementary — Reading/ELA, Math  
Specht Elementary — Math  
Canyon Middle — Reading  
Smithson Valley Middle — Reading, Math

A third GPA category, called the Texas Success Initiative (TSI), is based on 55 percent or more of high school juniors in 2008 earning a scale score of 2200 or more and a score of 3 or higher on the essay on the English Language Arts test or a scale score of 2200 or more on the math test.

Schools receiving **Texas Success Initiative** awards are:  
Smithson Valley High — English Language Arts  
Memorial High — English Language Arts, Math

One school, Memorial High, received a GPA for **attendance**. To qualify for the award it had to have an attendance rate of 95 percent or higher.

To access all of the information visit  
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/account/2008/index.html>