

# Comal Independent School District

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Comal ISD meets Adequate Yearly Progress for the fifth year in a row; all schools meet AYP**

For the fifth year in a row, the Comal ISD has met the “Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)” standards established by the federal government under the No Child Left Behind Act. In addition, 100 percent of the district’s schools also met AYP which is an improvement over last year when all but one met AYP.

Statewide, 79 percent of the schools met the accountability standard.

The federal AYP system is different from the Texas Education Agency’s accountability system that rates schools either Exemplary, Recognized, Acceptable, or Not-Acceptable. Comal ISD has two Exemplary schools — Arlon Seay Intermediate and Bill Brown Elementary. The nine Recognized schools are — Church Hill Middle, Comal Elementary, Goodwin Frazier Elementary, Hoffmann Lane Elementary, Mt. Valley School (now Startzville Elementary), Rahe Bulverde Elementary, Rebecca Creek Elementary, Specht Elementary, and Smithson Valley Middle School.

“We are very proud of the fact that our schools, students, and staff continue to meet the marks established by the state and federal governments,” says Dr. Marc Walker, superintendent. “The hard work of our students and teachers continues to pay off.”

The schools' AYP ratings are based on various indicators — performance on state assessments in reading/language arts and math at grades 3—8 and 10, participation rate on those two state tests, and either the high school graduation rate or the attendance rate at the middle and elementary school levels.

The AYP standards were tougher this year as well. At least 95 percent of the students had to be tested and at least 60 percent of the students had to pass the reading/language arts test, up 7 percentage points from last year. In math, the percentage having to pass increased by 8 percent to 50 percent.

Data for all students, as well as African American, Hispanic, white, economically disadvantaged, special education, and limited English proficient are analyzed.

Comal ISD students, as a group, exceeded the required passing standards with 93 percent of all of students mastering the TAKS tests in reading/language arts (92 percent last year) and 86 percent mastering the TAKS math tests (84 percent last year). The graduation rate in Comal ISD was 88 percent in 2006, up from 87.4 percent. The required federal standard is 70 percent.

The AYP system imposes sanctions on schools and districts that miss AYP for the same reason for two or more years in a row. No Comal ISD schools fall into this category.

The No Child Left Behind Act requires states to gradually increase their AYP standards until they reach 100 percent proficiency levels in 2014.

To review all of the AYP reports for Comal ISD and its schools, visit <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/ayp/>.