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November 10, 2020

CCPS High Schools Improve the 2020 Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate

District's 76.6 percent highest since state began monitoring four-year cohort graduates

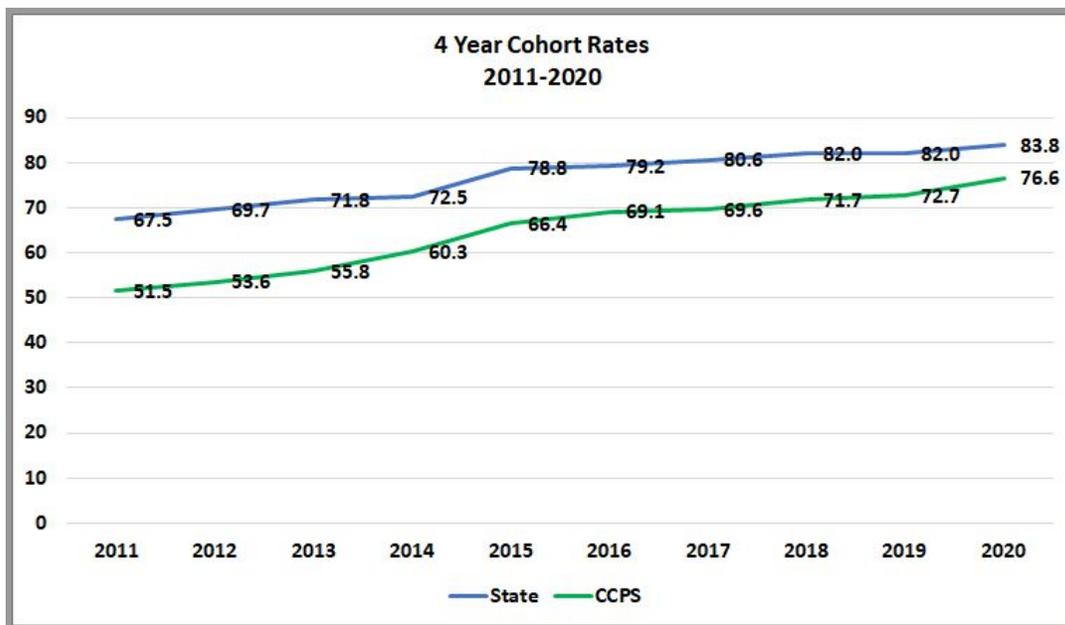
JONESBORO - The Class of 2020 for Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) has continued a nine-year improvement trend in the number of seniors graduating on time in outstanding fashion. This is based on information released today by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE).

The state's report of four-year cohort graduation rates for the Class of 2020 shows that CCPS has a district-wide rate of 76.6 percent, an increase of 3.9 percentage points over the rate reported for the class of 2019 (72.7 percent). The campus showing the highest graduation rate increase is Perry Career Academy (+15.4 percent), followed by Riverdale High School (+3.2 percent).

Overall, nine of the district's 12 high schools show an increase over the rate reported for 2019. The exceptions are Elite Scholars Academy reporting its seventh consecutive 100 percent, Stilwell School of the Arts (99.3 percent, -0.7) and North Clayton High School (77.1 percent, -0.1) rate from the year before.

Since 2011, when monitoring of the four-year cohort graduation rates began, the district's graduation rate has improved every year. Over this nine-year time frame, the district's four-year cohort graduation rate has improved by **25.1** percentage points. For the third consecutive year, the district-wide graduation rate has topped 70 percent. It is also the third time that all 11 regular or non-alternative high schools are reporting graduation rates in excess of 70 percent with 8 out of 11 reflecting a graduation rate over 80%. For the third year in a row, CCPS has gained ground on the statewide graduation rate. The 2020 four-year cohort for state has been reported by GaDOE at 83.8 percent which is 7.1 percentage points above the district-wide figure. In 2019, the difference was 9.3 percent. *(Table 1)*

Table 1. 2011-2020 District-State Comparison



“The report released today exhibits an amazing accomplishment by our high schools as we experience continued improvement in our four-year cohort graduation rate,” said Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, CCPS Superintendent/CEO of Schools. “We are so proud of the members from the Class of 2020, their teachers, school administrators, and all the support personnel who made this possible.”

“It should be remembered that the Class of 2020 completed its senior year under extreme conditions that could have had a serious, adverse effect on its ability to achieve completion of its scholastic education,” said Dr. Beasley. “However, these incredible students demonstrated their commitment to high performance and achieved.”

“We believe our continued improvement is based on increasing rigor in the classroom, strengthening our counseling/advisement and support strategies for monitoring students’ performance toward meeting graduation requirements, and encouraging students to step outside the box and participate in Advanced Placement courses, dual enrollment, and career pathway opportunities,” Dr. Beasley added.

All Clayton County High Schools that could improve showed an improvement in 2019-2020 graduation rates: as stated earlier, Perry Career Academy led all district high schools in gain with 15.4 percentage points (50.5 percent compared to 36.06 in 2019). Other schools reporting gains were Riverdale High (83.3 in 2019 to 86.5 in 2020, +3.2 percentage points); Forest Park High (72.0 to 74.7, +2.7); Mount Zion High (85.9 to 87.9, +2.0); Morrow High (80.8 to 82.4, +1.6); Charles Drew High (73.7 to 75.2, +1.5); Jonesboro High (78.7 to 80.1, +1.4); Mundy’s Mill High (84.4 to 85.8, +1.4); Lovejoy High (86.0 to 87.2, +1.2); and Elite Schools Academy reported a 100 percent four-year cohort graduation rate for the seventh consecutive year. (Table 2)

Table 2. 2011-2020 State Graduation Rates

2011-2020 4 Year Graduation Cohort Rates											
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Change 2019-2020
State	67.5	69.7	71.8	72.5	78.8	79.2	80.6	82	82	83.8	1.8
Clayton County Public Schools	51.5	53.6	55.8	60.3	66.4	69.1	69.6	71.7	72.7	76.6	3.9
Charles R. Drew High School	N/A	54.3	50.6	63.0	56.8	59.8	62.2	70.3	73.7	75.2	1.5
Elite Scholars Academy	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0
Forest Park High School	42.5	48.7	51.8	47.9	59.4	66.5	63.2	70.2	72	74.7	2.7
Jonesboro High School	58.5	54	64.6	65.2	75.8	74.8	76.8	76.9	78.7	80.1	1.4
Lovejoy High School	61.1	72.7	67.1	66.9	73.5	70.8	68.6	83.2	86	87.2	1.2
Morrow High School	51.3	61.7	59.0	60.6	67.3	72.5	73.6	80.6	80.8	82.4	1.6
Mount Zion High School	56.6	51.3	59.0	66.6	66.1	57.8	71.6	83.2	85.9	87.9	2.0
Mundy's Mill High School	57.9	56.4	58.1	72.3	72.9	78.1	71.9	81.5	84.4	85.8	1.4
North Clayton High School	48.8	50.3	49.6	48.5	52.8	68.2	64.3	71.4	77.2	77.1	-0.1
Perry Center Academy	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	34.2	35.06	50.5	15.4
Riverdale High School	53.6	43.1	48	66.7	77.5	74.2	79.9	80.7	83.3	86.5	3.2
Stilwell Performing Arts	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100	100	99	100	100	99.3	-0.7

“It is important to note that the 15.4 percentage point increase by the Perry Career Academy reflects a third consecutive year of improvement of its graduation rate,” said Dr. Beasley. “Since it began operating as an alternative, non-traditional high school and not a program, this campus has increased its graduation rate by 16.3 percentage points.”

“The Perry Center continues to be an important alternative solution to retain students in school who may be dealing with non-traditional personal situations that prevent them from graduating on time. We want to continue to encourage these students to remain in school, and we will continue to provide additional support that will keep them on track to eventually earn their high school diploma and seek post-secondary options,” he offered.

About Clayton County Public Schools

Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited by AdvancED – Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement. The district offers a focused world-class program based on a challenging curriculum which is taught from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Serving over 55,000 students, Clayton County Public Schools is ranked among the 100 largest school districts in the U.S. and is the fifth largest school system in Georgia.

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