



Clayton County Public Schools

Building A Better Tomorrow, Today!

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Division of Communications, Public Relations, Marketing & Strategic Improvement

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CCPS Reports Class of 2023 Graduation Rate at 81.1 Percent

Eleven of 12 district high schools report four-year cohort grad rates in excess of 80 percent

JONESBORO - The Class of 2023 for Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) holds the distinction of achieving a graduation rate of 81.1 percent based on information released today reporting four-year cohort graduation rates by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE). This is a 1.5 percentage point improvement over the Class of 2022.

This is the district's highest graduation percentage since the state of Georgia instituted the four-year cohort formula for determining graduation rates in 2011. Comparisons to years prior to the class of 2011 would be inappropriate since the protocols/formulas used to determine graduation percentages were substantially different. Prior to this year, the highest rate was reported for 2022 at 79.6 percent.

The information released by GaDOE also shows:

- The four-year cohort grad rate has increased nearly 30 percentage points (+29.8 points) since GaDOE began tracking graduation rates using the cohort formula.
- For the first time in its history, Charles R. Drew High School reported a graduation rate for its Class of 2023 that topped the 80 percent mark at 81.7 percent!
- Elite Scholars Academy has continued to report a perfect 100 percent grad rate since 2014, the first graduating class for the school.
- With a third consecutive 100 percent grad rate for 2023, M.E. Stilwell School of the Arts has graduated an average of 99.81 percent of its seniors since its first graduation ceremony in 2015.
- Two high schools maintained their 90 percent plus status in 2023. Lovejoy High School at 92.3 percent and Mt. Zion High School at 90.7 percent. Morrow High School (89.9 percent), Mundy's Mill High School (89.3 percent) and Jonesboro High School (89.8 percent) finished less than a percentage point from 90 percent.
- The Class of 2023 at Perry Career Academy had a graduation rate of 52.6 percent. This represents the largest gain in graduation rate among all CCPS High Schools at 5.8 percentage points.
- Eight of 12 high schools in Clayton County **increased** their respective graduation rates for 2023. Eleven of the district's high schools have rates higher than 80 percent.

"This is a noteworthy achievement," said Dr. Anthony W. Smith, Superintendent/CEO of Schools. "Reaching a grad rate of 81.1 percent is the district's highest graduation percentage since the state of Georgia redesigned how it calculates graduation rates in 2011. The Class of 2023 has certainly made us proud, and we wish these students continued success as they pursue their post-secondary endeavors."

Clayton County Public Schools Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rates														
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022-2023
State	67.5	69.7	71.8	72.5	78.8	79.2	80.6	82.0	82.0	83.8	83.7	84.1	84.4	0.3
Clayton County Public Schools	51.5	53.6	55.8	60.3	66.4	69.1	69.6	71.7	72.7	76.6	76.0	79.6	81.1	1.5
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	75.7	77.1	81.7	4.6
Elite Scholars Academy	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	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	72.0	74.7	75.6	80.1	81.2	1.1
Jonesboro High School	58.5	54.0	64.6	65.2	75.8	74.8	76.8	76.9	78.7	80.1	85.7	88.7	89.8	1.1
Lovejoy High School	61.1	72.7	67.1	66.9	73.5	70.8	68.6	83.2	86.0	87.2	82.1	94.1	92.3	-1.8
Morrow High School	51.3	61.7	59.0	60.6	67.3	72.5	73.6	80.6	80.8	82.4	83.6	88.5	89.9	1.4
Mount Zion High School	56.6	51.3	59.0	66.6	66.1	57.8	71.6	83.2	85.9	87.9	87.4	92.1	90.7	-1.4
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	85.9	87.4	89.3	1.9
North Clayton High School	48.8	50.3	49.6	48.5	52.8	68.2	64.3	71.4	77.2	77.1	81.3	85.3	80.6	-4.7
Perry Career Academy	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	34.2	35.1	50.5	34.5	46.8	52.6	5.8
Riverdale High School	53.6	43.1	48.0	66.7	77.5	74.2	79.9	80.7	83.3	86.5	86.8	89.0	88.5	-0.5
Stilwell Performing Arts	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	99.0	100.0	100.0	99.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0

N/A = Perry Center Academy was not a CCPS School at that time.

“The fact that most of our high schools have demonstrated improvement in their respective graduation rates and that the rest have reported modest reductions shows continued growth in successfully preparing our students for educational and career opportunities beyond our classrooms,” Dr. Smith added.

“We wholeheartedly commend our high school teachers, support personnel, parents/caregivers, and administrators as they instill in our students a dedication to high expectations and a sense of responsibility for their decisions and actions,” Superintendent Smith said. “The members of the Class of 2023 deserve our praise and our thanks for their commitment to Building and Better Tomorrow, Today.”

Making a Difference

Over the past few years, CCPS has focused on improving the academic performance of our high school students by:

- increasing rigor in the classroom
- using student engagement specialists to *check and connect* with students
- implementing 24/7 tutoring services at all schools
- making it more feasible for students to participate in Advanced Placement courses, engage in dual enrollment, pursue pathway completion and industry certifications in high school, and participate in other robust virtual learning and alternative setting options
- implementing an early warning system at high schools where attendance, grades, credits, course completion, and behavior data are monitored and inform interventions
- establishing supports for students starting in their ninth grade year to keep them on track to graduate on time

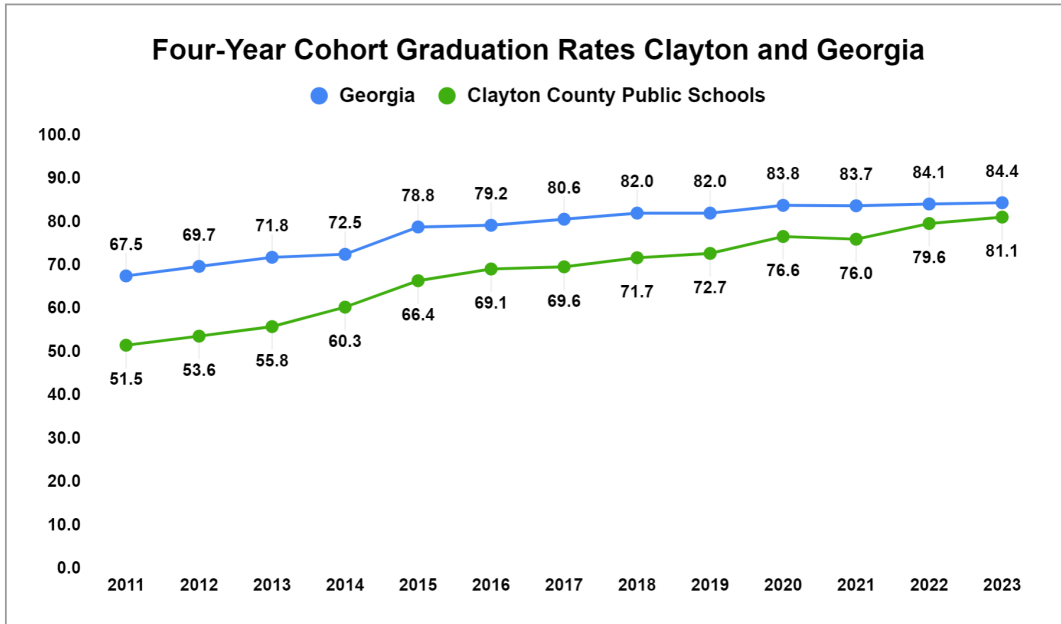
“As we continue to pursue increased academic achievement, we must remain dedicated in our effort to go Back to the B.A.S.I.C.S. - Building Academic Success Through Intentional Classroom Strategies - to ensure our teachers and leaders have the time and most essential resources to prepare students for college and/or

careers prior to their high school graduation, ” said Superintendent Smith. “Looking ahead, through a dedicated commitment by our outstanding teachers, administrators, support personnel, and the community, we will continue to strive for our county-wide graduation rate goal of a minimum of 90 percent by 2026 or sooner.”

“We are headed in that direction,” Dr. Smith concluded.

Closing the Gap

CCPS continues its trend of gaining ground on the statewide graduation rate. The 2023 four-year cohort grad rate for the state has been reported by GaDOE at 84.4 percent, an increase over its 2022 rate of 84.1 percent (+0.3 percentage points). CCPS’ rate of 81.1 percent is only 3.3 percentage points below the state’s average. Since 2011, the district has closed the gap with the state average by 14.7 percentage points due to demonstrating greater growth annually in its graduation rate



-An official document from the Clayton County Public School System-

About Clayton County Public Schools: Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited by Cognia. The district offers a focused world-class program based on a challenging curriculum which is taught from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Serving over 50,000 students, Clayton County Public Schools is ranked among the 100 largest school districts in the U.S. and is the sixth-largest school system in Georgia.

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