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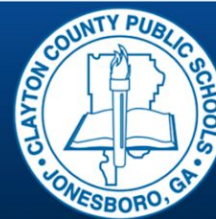
NEWS RELEASE

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September 19, 2018

CCPS High Schools Improve the 2018 Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate

JONESBORO - The Georgia Department of Education today released four-year cohort graduation rates for the Class of 2018. Overall, Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) continued a seven-year improvement trend in the number of seniors graduating on time. Since 2011, when monitoring of the four-year cohort graduation rates began, the district's graduation rate has improved every year. This year's report shows an increase of 2.1 points, 71.7 percent for the Class of 2018 as compared to 69.6 percent for the Class of 2017.

The graduating class of 2018 has provided the school district with an amazing group of first time statistics. It is the first time since 2011 that the district-wide graduation rate has topped 70 percent. It is also the first time that all 11 regular or non-alternative high schools are reporting graduation rates in excess of 70 percent with 7 out of 11 of them reflecting a graduation rate over 80%. And, it is the first time since 2011 that the difference between the CCPS graduation rate and that of the state can be reported in a single digit, 9.9 percent (71.7 percent to Georgia's 81.6 percent).

“This improvement in the four-year cohort graduation rate shows that our focus on continuous improvement and monitoring of high school student enrollment and withdrawal, the increased rigor of instruction in our high school classrooms and our efforts in assisting students to monitor and meet graduation requirements is paying dividends,” said Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, CCPS Superintendent of Schools. “We are so proud of the members of the Class of 2018, their teachers, school administrators, and all the support personnel who have demonstrated their commitment to high performance as evidenced with these improved graduation rates.”

All Clayton County High Schools that could improve showed an improvement in 2017-2018 graduation rates: Lovejoy led all district high schools with a rate of 83.24 percent as opposed to 68.6 in 2017, a gain of 14.64 percentage points. Other schools reporting gains were Mundy's Mill High (71.98 in 2017 to 81.50 in 2018, +9.60 percentage points); Mount Zion High (71.6 to 83.20, +11.60); Charles Drew High (62.18 to 70.34, +8.14); Forest Park High (63.2 to 70.24, +7.04); Morrow High (73.6 to 80.56, +6.96); North Clayton High (64.3 to 71.36, +7.06); Riverdale High (79.9 to 80.66, +.76); Jonesboro High (76.8 to 76.9, +.10) and M.E. Stilwell SOA (99.02 to 100, +.08). Elite Scholars Academy reported a 100% four-year cohort graduation rate for the fifth consecutive year. (See Table 1.)

Table 1. CCPS High school Graduation Rate & Gains

Schools	Grade Rate	Gains
Stilwell Performing Arts	100.00	0.80
Elite Scholars Academy	100.00	0.00
Lovejoy High	83.24	14.64
Mount Zion High	83.20	11.60
Mundy's Mill High	81.50	9.60
Riverdale High	80.66	0.76
Morrow High	80.56	6.96
Jonesboro High	76.90	0.10
North Clayton High	71.36	7.06
Charles R. Drew High	70.34	8.14
Forest Park High	70.24	7.04
Perry Career Academy	34.69	NA

“As expected, the Perry Career Academy reported a low graduation rate (34.63 percent) for its first year operating as an alternative, non-traditional high school and not a program,” Dr. Beasley said. “The Perry Center is 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 these students encouraged to remain in school through their adverse situations with additional support provided toward eventually graduating and earning their high school diploma and pursuing post-secondary options,” he added.

“I am imploring the Clayton County community to wrap its arms of love and support around our students at the Perry Career Academy, remembering that these students are dealing with extraordinarily difficult life situations,” the Superintendent said. “I am asking our partners and stakeholders to lift them and encourage them to remain in school.”

“The students, who are in their own way remarkable and resilient, and their families will be better off with them earning a high school diploma on time or later than expected or desired,” he said. “They have our full support.”

For the first time, the Georgia Department of Education (GADOE), made available information regarding student subgroup performance as it relates to the four-year graduation rate. The information shows that the district reporting a 71.7 percent four-year graduation rate, met its improvement target. The improvement target is set through the state’s College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) in compliance with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Of the nine student subgroups that make up this report, eight had a sufficient number of students for an improvement target to be established. Of those eight, four subgroups met their improvement targets. They were: Pacific Asians, Black, Economically Disadvantaged, and Students with Disabilities. The Hispanic subgroups demonstrated progress but did not meet its improvement target.

“This additional information shows that while we are making strides in improving student academic achievement, especially in most of our student subgroups, we must do a better job of reaching all of our students to prepare them for the world they will face beyond high school,” Dr. Beasley said.

“Please know that we are encouraged by these outcomes and realize that we must continue to provide support and wrap-around services to all high school students with our goal of graduating them on time, college and career ready,” he added. “The strategies listed below have been and will continue to be

crucial to the success of our high school students as we create a college-going culture wherein students are prepared for post-secondary options:

- Monitoring/Management of 9th Graders to ensure successful completion of all credits
- Ensuring timely Credit Recovery with plans to develop 2nd-semester mini-sessions for credit recovery
- 9th Grade Transition Activities
- Cohort Data Accuracy and Clean-up
- Enrolling all students in a Career Pathway; Career Pathway has a 92% grad rate
- Wrap-Around support for students identified as in need of such support (e.g., Communities In Schools, etc.)
- Embedded Academics with students possibly obtaining dual credit for both a Career Tech and Academic Course if the course standards are articulated, aligned and taught
- Early Warning Indicators using a Data Dashboard for district and school leadership to be more proactive versus reactive when addressing students at-risk or in need of support
- HS Principals leading faculty conversations and efforts to reverse high failure rates of select courses while increasing content mastery
- Connecting every student to a caring adult through positive relationships
- Identifying and addressing attendance issues in a timely manner
- Mitigating for the impact of the district’s high mobility rate (30%) on academic and graduation outcomes
- Using the Alternative School to assist with students who are 16 or older and enrolled in the 9th grade or continue to experience a lack of success in traditional or regular environments

“Finally, I express my profound gratitude to all of our high school teachers, our support personnel and our school and district leaders for their continued efforts to embed a culture of high performance on the campus of all high schools,” Dr. Beasley concluded. “Through these dedicated employees, working in concert with our committed students and their families, we are realizing our mission to empower students to achieve academic and personal goals.”

Table 2. 2011-2018 State Graduation Rates

Entity/School	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Change from 17 to 18
State	67.5	69.7	71.8	72.5	78.8	79.2	80.6	81.6	1.00
System	51.5	53.6	55.8	60.3	66.4	69.1	69.6	71.71	2.11
Charles R. Drew High School	N/A	54.3	50.6	63.0	56.8	59.8	62.2	70.34	8.14
Elite Scholars Academy	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.00	0.00
Forest Park High School	42.5	48.7	51.8	47.9	59.4	66.5	63.2	70.24	7.04
Jonesboro High School	58.5	54.0	64.6	65.2	75.8	74.8	76.8	76.90	0.10
Lovejoy High School	61.1	72.7	67.1	66.9	73.5	70.8	68.6	83.24	14.64
Morrow High School	51.3	61.7	59.0	60.6	67.3	72.5	73.6	80.56	6.96
Mount Zion High School	56.6	51.3	59.0	66.6	66.1	57.8	71.6	83.20	11.60
Mundy's Mill High School	57.9	56.4	58.1	72.3	72.9	78.1	71.9	81.50	9.60
North Clayton High School	48.8	50.3	49.6	48.5	52.8	68.2	64.3	71.36	7.06
Riverdale High School	53.6	43.1	48.0	66.7	77.5	74.2	79.9	80.66	0.76
Stilwell Performing Arts	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	99.2	100.00	0.80
Perry Center Academy	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	34.69	N/A