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CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1058 Fifth Avenue | Jonesboro, GA 30236

770-473-2700

www.clayton.k12.ga.us



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Department of Communications, Public Relations & Marketing

Jada K. Dawkins
Chief of Communications
Telephone: (770) 472-7257

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CCPS High Schools Reports the 2021 Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate

Nine of the district's high schools report graduation rates in excess of 80 percent

JONESBORO - The Class of 2021 for Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) holds the distinction of having nine high schools with graduation rates in excess of 80 percent. This is based on information released today reporting four-year cohort graduation rates by the Georgia Department of Education.

The campus showing the highest graduation rate increase is Jonesboro High School (+5.6 percent), followed by North Clayton High School (+4.2 percent). Other schools reporting gains were Morrow High (82.4 in 2020 to 83.6 in 2021, +1.2 percentage points); Forest Park High (74.7 to 75.6, +0.9); Stilwell School of the Arts (99.3 to 100, +0.7); Charles Drew High (75.2 to 75.7, +0.5); Riverdale High (86.5 to 86.8, +0.3); Mundy's Mill High (85.8 to 85.9, +0.1); with Elite Schools Academy reporting a 100 percent four-year cohort graduation rate for the eighth consecutive year.

Overall, nine of the district's 12 high schools show an increase or held its rate over that reported for 2020. The exceptions are Perry Career Academy (34.5 percent, -16.0), Lovejoy High School (82.1 percent, -5.1) and Mount Zion High School (87.4 percent, -0.5). As a reminder, Perry Career Academy is the district's alternative school serving students with very unique needs and challenges who are committed to earning their high school diploma.

Table 1. 2011-2021 State Graduation Rates-All Schools

4-Year Cohort Graduation Rates												
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Change 2020-2021
State	67.5	69.7	71.8	72.5	78.8	79.2	80.6	82	82	83.8	83.7	-0.1
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	-0.6
Charles R. Drew High School	N/A	54.3	50.6	63	56.8	59.8	62.2	70.3	73.7	75.2	75.7	0.5
Elite Scholars Academy	N/A	N/A	N/A	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	0
Forest Park High School	42.5	48.7	51.8	47.9	59.4	66.5	63.2	70.2	72	74.7	75.6	0.9
Jonesboro High School	58.5	54	64.6	65.2	75.8	74.8	76.8	76.9	78.7	80.1	85.7	5.6
Lovejoy High School	61.1	72.7	67.1	66.9	73.5	70.8	68.6	83.2	86	87.2	82.1	-5.1
Morrow High School	51.3	61.7	59	60.6	67.3	72.5	73.6	80.6	80.8	82.4	83.6	1.2
Mount Zion High School	56.6	51.3	59	66.6	66.1	57.8	71.6	83.2	85.9	87.9	87.4	-0.5
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	0.1
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	4.2
Perry Center Academy	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	34.2	35.1	50.5	34.5	-16
Riverdale High School	53.6	43.1	48	66.7	77.5	74.2	79.9	80.7	83.3	86.5	86.8	0.3
Stilwell Performing Arts	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100	100	99	100	100	99.3	100	0.7

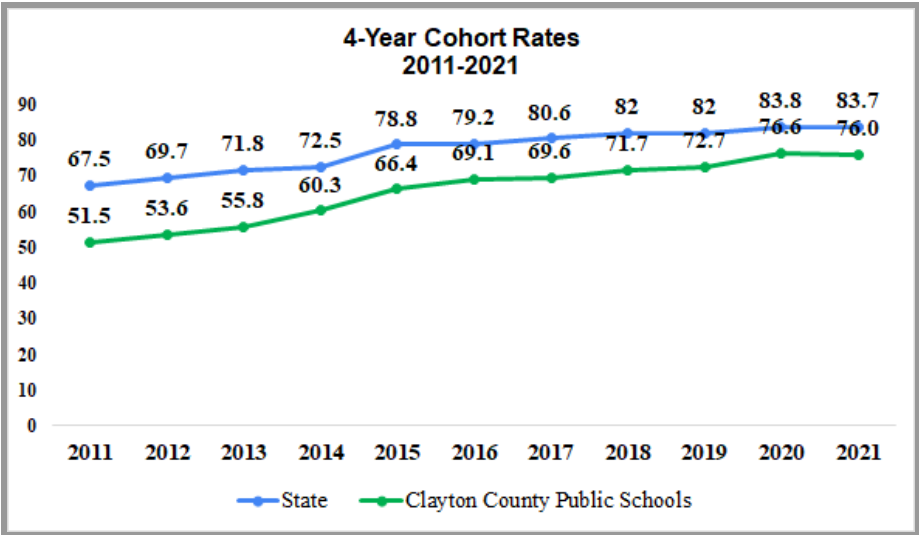
For the fourth consecutive year, the district-wide graduation rate has topped 70 percent. It is also the fourth time that all 11 regular or non-alternative high schools are reporting graduation rates in excess of 70 percent with 9 out of 11 reflecting a graduation rate over 80 percent.

“The report released by the state today shows continued growth by a majority of our high schools in successfully preparing our students for educational and career opportunities beyond our classrooms,” said Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, CCPS Superintendent/CEO of Schools. “While our overall numbers dipped slightly in 2021, our high school teachers, support personnel and administrators continue to exhibit a commitment to high expectations for our graduates.”

“It should be noted that the Class of 2021 spent its last 13 months of instruction, for their junior and senior years, in a virtual academic environment and still managed to demonstrate their ability to achieve under complex and difficult circumstances,” said Dr. Beasley. “The members of the Class of 2021 rightfully deserve our praise and our thanks for their commitment to high performance.”

The data released by the state reporting the four-year cohort graduation rates for the Class of 2021 show that CCPS has a district-wide rate of 76.0 percent, a decrease of .6 of a percentile point over the rate as reported for the Class of 2020 (76.6 percent), ending a ten-year trend of improved grad rates. Over this ten-year period when monitoring of the four-year cohort graduation rates began, the district’s four-year cohort graduation rate improved by **24.5** percentage points.

Table 2. 2011-2021 State Graduation Rates Comparison



“As we look ahead to the Class of 2022 and beyond, we must continue to believe that our work to embed a culture of high performance is based on increasing rigor in the classroom, strengthening our counseling/advisement and support procedures 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. “Through a dedicated commitment to these established and innovative strategies, we will continue to strive for academic excellence.”

About Clayton County Public Schools

Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited through 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 fifth-largest school system in Georgia.