



Cecil County Public Schools



# ANNUAL REPORT



# CECIL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## STRATEGIC PLAN

### MISSION STATEMENT

CCPS serves equitably through positive relationships as a safe, collaborative community. We will ensure all learners acquire the knowledge, skills, and qualities to be responsible, caring, and ethical citizens.

### STRATEGIC THEMES



**Safe Schools**



**Equitable Rigorous  
Learning Opportunities**



**Communication & Trust**



**Recruitment and Retention  
of a High-Quality Workforce**



**Community and Engagement**



*Serving  
**LEARNERS,  
FAMILIES,  
and the  
COMMUNITY***

### OUR

### VALUES

#### EQUITY

We promote fairness, access, opportunity, and inclusion.

#### INTEGRITY

We practice honesty, trust, and transparency.

#### HIGH STANDARDS

We meet each learner with expectations for growth and accountability.

#### COLLABORATION

We work together to strengthen our communities.

#### WHOLE LEARNER

We address the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs for each learner.

### VISION STATEMENT

To educate and empower every Cecil County learner through equitable opportunities to build and strengthen our community.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

William Malesh, President  
District 4

Diana Hawley, Vice President  
District 5

Dianne Heath  
District 1

Tierney Davis  
District 2

Christie Stephens  
District 3

Sophia Porter  
Student Member

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

Jeffrey Lawson, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

R. Joseph Buckley, Ed.D.  
Associate Superintendent for Administrative Services

Carolyn Teigland, Ed.D.  
Associate Superintendent for Education Services

Sandra Jack  
Chief Financial Officer

Jennifer Hammer, Ed.D.  
Executive Director for Elementary School Education

Anne Gellrich  
Executive Director for Secondary School Education

Sean Cannon  
Executive Director for Staff Relations

Perry Willis  
Executive Director for Support Services



# Superintendent's Message

AN UNPRECEDENTED YEAR

I am pleased to share with you the 2019-2020 CCPS Annual Report which contains important financial information and describes significant accomplishments of Cecil County Public Schools' students and staff from the most recently completed school year of 2019-2020. As the pictures to the right display, the beginning of the 19-20 school year looked VERY different than the end of the school year. In September 2019, we opened our doors to welcome back students and staff in our traditional fashion- smiles, hugs, high-fives, and celebration in anticipation of a great year. We had no idea that in March, the norm of educational operation would be upended and redefined. Virtual learning, PPE, and social distancing quickly became household terms that have defined 2020 in our homes, schools, and around the world.

This publication is a reflection of the school year that we could have never anticipated. Graduations, state assessments, Teacher of the Year celebrations, and school meals, not to mention our entire curriculum, all were affected. However, the CCPS family rose to the challenge. Every single aspect of our organization stepped up to do whatever needed to be done for our students. I look forward to the day when we can return to school buildings and our traditional ways of educating. I am so proud of this school system and this community for their response to these momentous challenges.

It continues to be my honor to lead this school system. On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to thank you for your support for Cecil County Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Lawson, Ed.D.

*Annual Report 2019-2020*





# Pre-Pandemic Highlights



## **NORTH EAST HIGH SCHOOL TURF FIELD DEDICATION MARKS THIRD TURF FIELD IN CCPS**

In September 2019, students, staff, community members, elected officials, and school alumni gathered for the opening dedication of the county's newest turf field at North East High School.



## **NEW DIESEL TECHNICIAN PROGRAM AT THE CECIL COUNTY SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY**

The beginning of the 19-20 school year opened with the ribbon cutting on CCST's newest program which focuses on diesel mechanics and technology.



## **HERTRICH AUTOMOTIVE SURPRISES 2019 TEACHER OF THE YEAR WITH NEW CAR**

2019 Teacher of the Year, Josie Perry of Rising Sun High School, was surprised with a brand new car in what Hertrich Automotive has made an annual tradition.





*Chelsea Jones  
Elkton Middle School*



# 2020 Teacher of the Year

## THE CCPS PROCESS

As with most things in 2020, the Teacher of the Year selection process looked very different this year. The usual Meet & Greet speeches by nominees, interview question responses, and selection committee meetings all went fully virtual. After submitting their written applications, the 26 nominees submitted video speeches and participated in a facilitated interview, which was then reviewed by the selection committee. The final announcement was not made at our usual annual gala but the Leadership Team and Board of Education members instead surprised Ms. Jones at her school.

## THE STATE PROCESS

Like the local process, the selection process at the state level was also fully virtual. After submitting her written application packet, Ms. Jones was selected as one of seven finalists for Maryland Teacher of the Year and then went on to interview with the state selection committee. Instead of the usual gala held in Baltimore, the state announcement was live-streamed and CCPS held a small, socially distanced viewing party to celebrate Chelsea.

## ABOUT CHELSEA

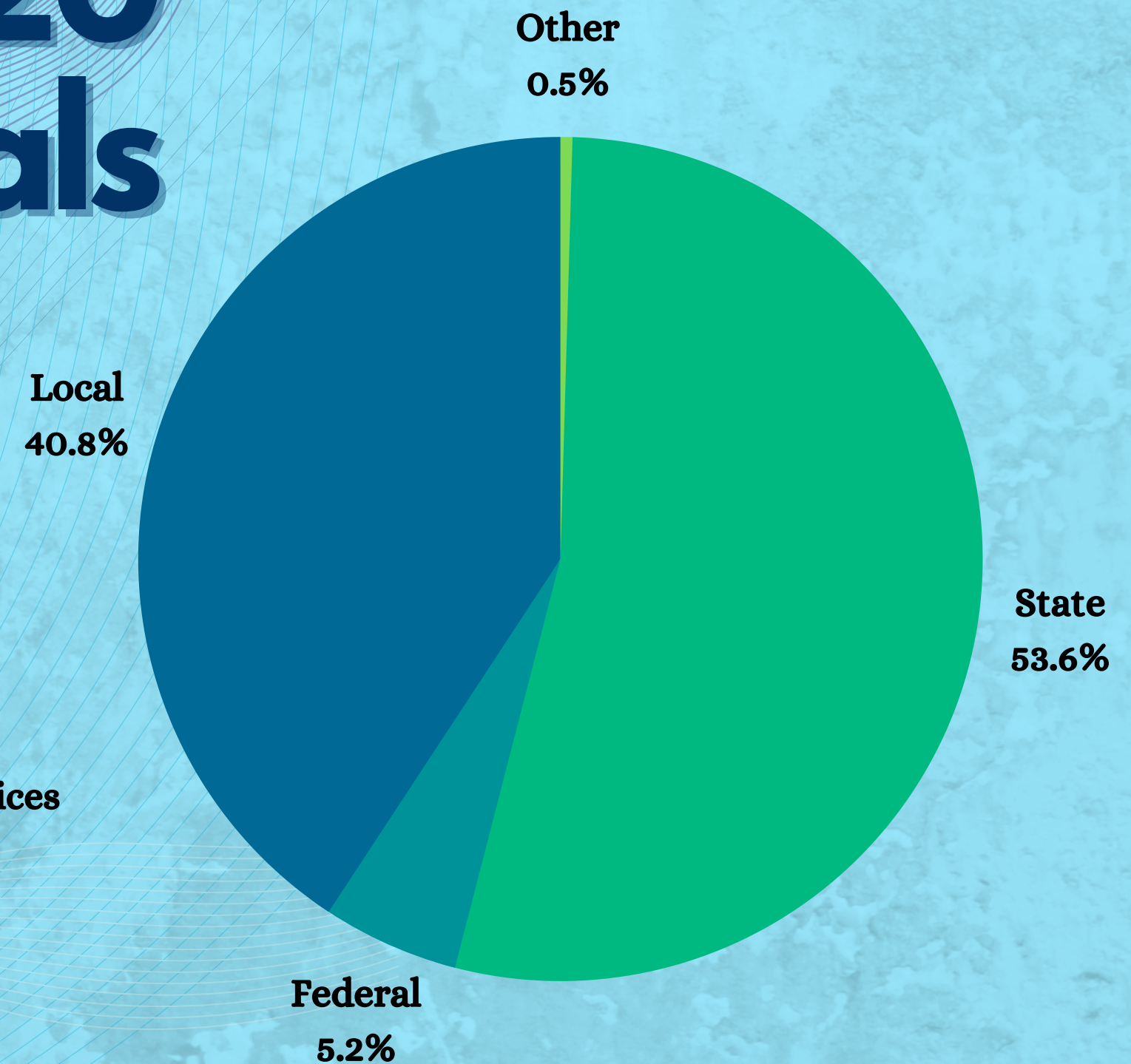
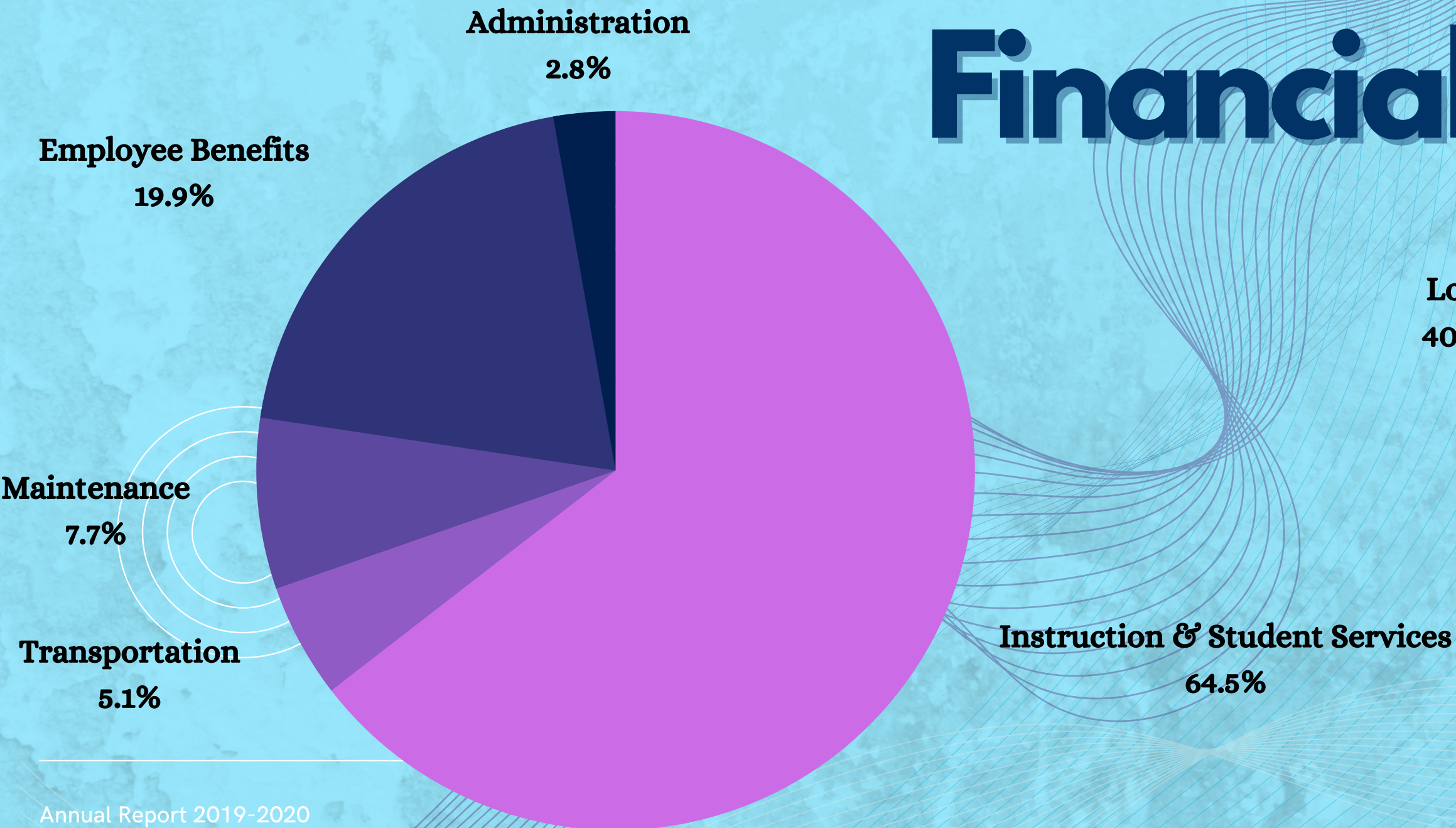
As a seventh-grade science Teacher at Elkton Middle School, Chelsea is devoted to educating and empowering students from diverse backgrounds. She earned her Bachelor's Degree from West Chester University (2011) and is pursuing her Master's Degree through Wilmington University. She teaches life science while inspiring more female students to enter STEM careers by supporting local STEM programs and is a nationally selected Northrop Grumman Teaching Fellow. Chelsea founded a cheerleading program which earned her the "Going the Extra Mile" Award. Chelsea serves as a curriculum writer, lead science teacher, School Improvement Team member, new teacher mentor, and facilitates professional development on NGSS alignment, cultural proficiency, and literacy strategies.





Fund Balance Beginning 7/1/19: \$\$12,637,280  
Fund Balance Ending 6/30/20: \$9,792,387  
Expenses Over Revenue: (\$2,844,893)

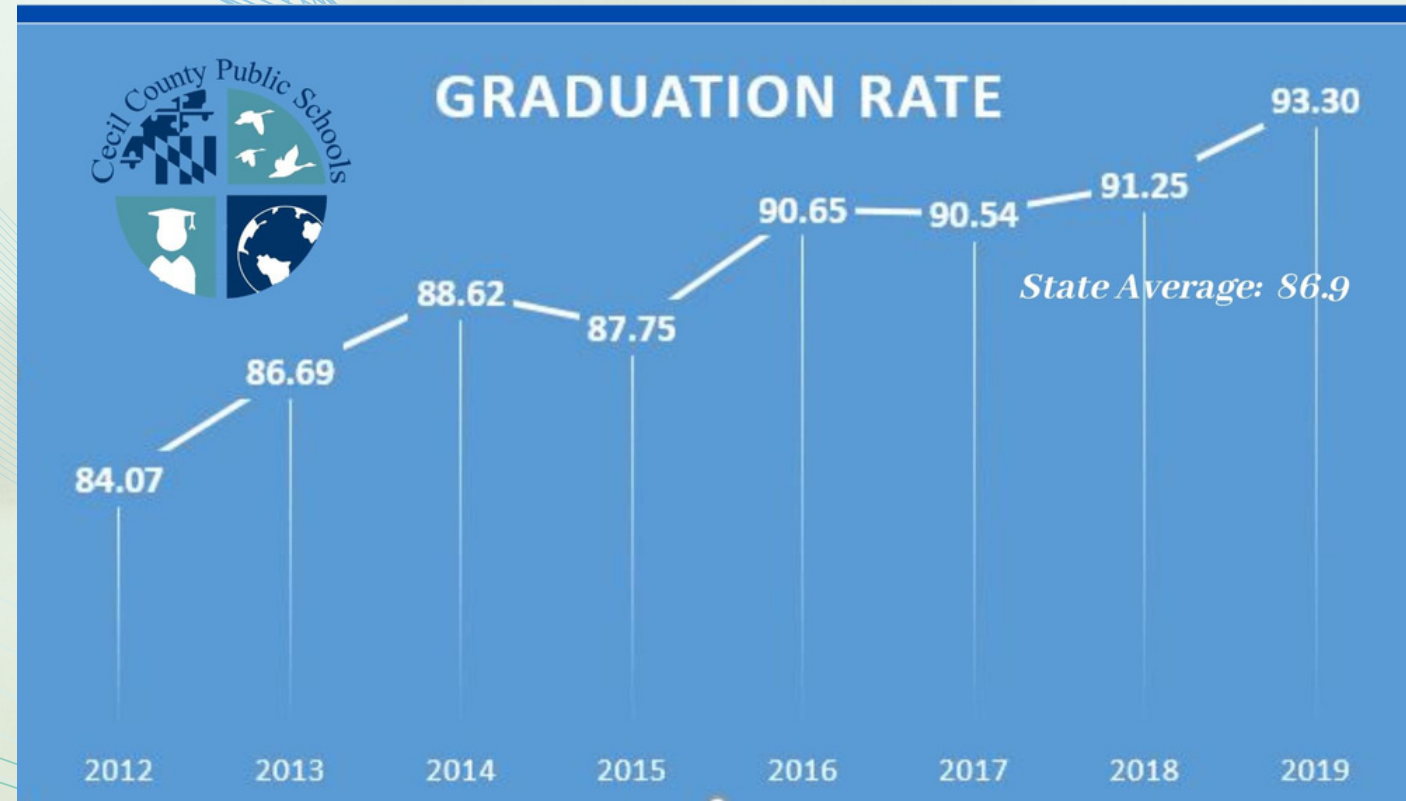
# FY20 Financials





# Graduation Rates

CCPS GRADUATION RATE REACHES ALL TIME HIGH; SURPASSES STATE AVERAGE



The data for the Class of 2019 presented to the Maryland State Board of Education at their February business meeting showed that CCPS achieved an all-time high graduation rate of 93.3%, an increase of over two percentage points from 2018 and over nine percentage points since 2012. The CCPS rate exceeds the state average of 86.9% by 6.4 points.

In addition, CCPS reached an all-time low dropout rate of 4.71%, a drop of almost nine percentage points since 2011. The CCPS rate is almost half that of the state dropout rate of 8.4%. In addition to the overall rates, CCPS saw impressive results at the school level. Four out of five high schools increased their graduation rates with Perryville High showing the greatest increase of 7.1%. Similarly, four out of five high schools saw decreased dropout rates with Perryville High also showing the greatest decrease of 5.2% from 2018 dropout rates.

## SUBGROUP DATA

Subgroup data reflected similar successes. Students receiving free and reduced meals (FARMS) saw a 3.8% increase in graduation rate to an all-time-high rate of 85.5%. Elkton High School achieved the highest graduation rate in this subgroup with 89.4% which also surpasses the county FARMS average. In the Special Education subgroup, the county graduation rate of 75.8% also reflects an all-time-high for this subgroup, with a 21.4% increase since 2012.

Perryville High School had the highest graduation rate in this subgroup with 85%, also showing the greatest year-to-year growth of 18.3% from 2018. In other successes, African American students outpaced the county graduation rate at 93.6% and also boasted an 8.7% increase from 2018 data.

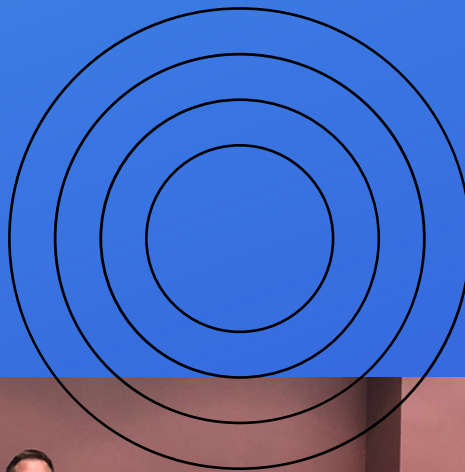


## GRADUATION IN 2020

The Class of 2020 experienced a graduation like no other class before them. While the students were not able to gather in their full groups and crowds could not fill the seats, high schools conducted graduation experiences where students would arrive, receive their diploma, and have time to take pictures with family members. Graduation videos were put together for each high school and can be found on the CCPS YouTube channel.



# More to Celebrate



## FOOD & NUTRITION STAFF STEP UP TO CHALLENGE

In facing the unprecedented challenge of needing to provide meals to students during the extended school closure, the staff of the Food & Nutrition Department along with community volunteers from across the county rose to the challenge to ensure that all students had healthy meals available to them.



## NEHS FBLA NATIONAL AWARD WINNER

North East High FBLA was the only chapter in Maryland to receive National FBLA Outstanding Chapter and Jamar Tolbert was 1 of 5 MDFBLA members to earn America level of Business Achievement Awards at the national conference!



## CCPS RECEIVES COUNTY RECYCLING AWARD

Cecil County Council presented CCPS with the Recycling and Source Reduction Award in recognition of the school system's continued dedication to recycling.





Follow us!



Document Prepared By:  
Cecil County Public Schools  
Public Information Office  
[pio@ccps.org](mailto:pio@ccps.org)  
410-996-5474  
[www.ccps.org](http://www.ccps.org)

