



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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Clayton County Public Schools Reaches Milestone Graduation Rate of Nearly 83% for Class of 2024

CCPS improves graduation rates for the 3rd consecutive year.

All traditional CCPS high schools report four-year cohort grad rates in excess of 83 percent.

JONESBORO - Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) holds the distinction of achieving a graduation rate of **82.98** percent based on information released recently reporting four-year cohort graduation rates by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE). **This is a 1.9 percentage point improvement over 2023.**

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 2023 at 81.1 percent.

The information released by GaDOE also shows:

- The four-year cohort grad rate has increased nearly 31.5 (+31.48) points since GaDOE began tracking graduation rates using the cohort formula.
- For the first time in its history, all 11 CCPS traditional high schools are above 83 percent, with an average at 90.6 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 fourth consecutive year, M.E. Stilwell School of the Arts has graduated 100 percent of its students, and has an average of 99.83 percent of its seniors graduated since its first graduation ceremony in 2015.
- Three high schools maintained their 90 percent plus status in 2024. Lovejoy High School at 92.0 percent, Morrow High School at 91.5, and Mt. Zion High School at 93.1 percent.
- Charles Drew High School had a notable increase of 3.6 percentage points and finished with an average graduation rate at 85 percent.
- The Class of 2024 at Perry Career Academy, our alternative high school, had a graduation rate of 60.2 percent. This represents the largest gain in graduation rate among all CCPS High Schools at 7.6 percentage points. This is also the highest graduation rate at the school since its first graduating class in 2018.
- Six of 12 high schools in Clayton County **increased** their respective graduation rates for 2024. Five of the district's high schools have rates higher than 90 percent.

“This is an amazing achievement,” said Dr. Anthony W. Smith, Superintendent/CEO of Schools. “Reaching a grad rate of 82.98 percent is the district’s highest graduation percentage since the state of Georgia redesigned how it calculates graduation rates in 2011. The Class of 2024 has certainly made us proud with this phenomenal accomplishment, and we wish these former 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	2024	Change 2023-2024
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	85.4	1.0
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	83.0	1.9
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	75.7	77.1	81.7	85.3	3.6
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	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	88.0	6.8
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	88.7	-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	92.0	-0.3
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	91.5	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	87.4	92.1	90.7	93.1	2.4
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	87.0	-2.3
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	83.1	2.5
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	60.2	7.6
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	87.8	-0.7
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	100.0	0.0
Utopian High School of the Arts	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

N/A = No students in the cohort, or the site was not a 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 2024 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:

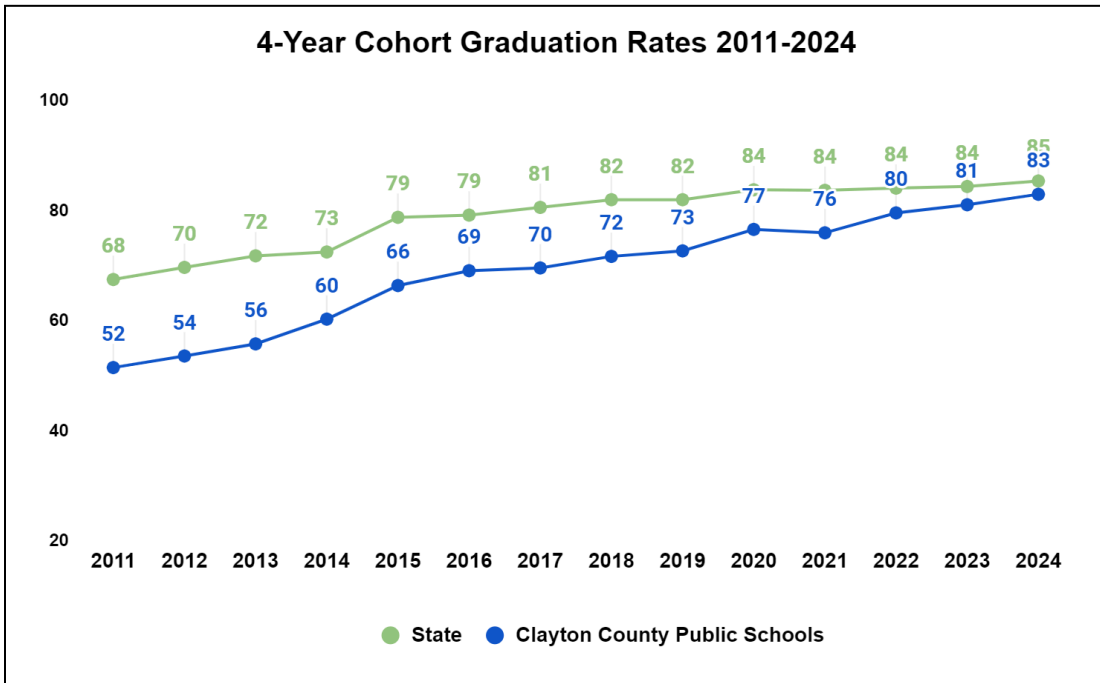
- increasing rigor in the classroom,
- using student engagement specialists to *check and connect* with students,
- making it more feasible for students to participate in Advanced Placement courses, engage in dual enrollment, pursue pathway completion and industry certifications in high school, and participate 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, and
- 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 before 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 with Georgia

CCPS continues its trend of gaining ground on the statewide graduation rate. The 2024 four-year cohort graduation rate for the state has been reported by GaDOE at 85.4 percent, an increase of 1.0 percentage point over its 2023 rate of 84.4 percent. Since 2011, CCPS has closed the gap by demonstrating greater growth annually in its graduation rate. This year, CCPS closed the gap with the state average to only 2.4 percentage points below the state’s average.



-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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