Clayton County Public Schools
Building A Better Tomorrow, Today!
1058 Fifth Avenue, Jonesboro, GA, 30236 | Tel: 770-473-2700 | Web: www.clayton.k12.ga.us

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Division of Communications, Public Relations, Marketing & Strategic Improvement

September 29, 2025

Clayton County Public Schools 2025 Graduation Rate Hits 86.3% Outperforming Georgia in Key Subgroups

JONESBORO - Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) holds the distinction of achieving a graduation rate of **86.3** percent, based on information recently released by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) reporting four-year cohort graduation rates. **This is a 3.3 percentage point improvement over 2024.** All traditional CCPS high schools now boast four-year graduation rates above 84%

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.

The information released by GaDOE also shows:

- **7 of 12 CCPS high schools** posted higher graduation rates in 2025.
- **Elite Scholars Academy** – Perfect **100% graduation rate every year since 2014**.
- **M.E. Stilwell School of the Arts – 5th consecutive year at 100%**
- **Utopian Academy School for the Arts** – Newest member of the **100% Graduating Club**.
- **Four high schools surpassed 92%**: Lovejoy (93.7), Morrow (92.0), Mt. Zion (94.8), and Mundy's Mill (92.5).
- **Mundy's Mill High** – Biggest jump among traditional schools, **+5.5 points to 92.5%**.
- **Perry Career Academy** – Alternative school posted its highest rate ever at **69.6% (+9.4)**, one of the highest rates statewide for an alternative high school.
- **Additional gains among high schools**: Lovejoy (+1.7), Morrow (+0.5), Mt. Zion (+1.7), North Clayton (+1.3), Riverdale (+1.3).

"Clayton County Public Schools is closing graduation gaps across student subgroups and outperforming the state in key areas. Our graduation rise from 83.0% to 86.3% is a reflection of our commitment to prepare every student for college, career, or military service. Through our 4-E Effect—Enrollment, Enlistment, Employment, and Entrepreneurship—we provide wraparound supports, credit-recovery options, and robust college and career pathways to ensure ***No Dead Ends*** for our graduates," said Dr. Anthony W. Smith, Superintendent/CEO of Schools.

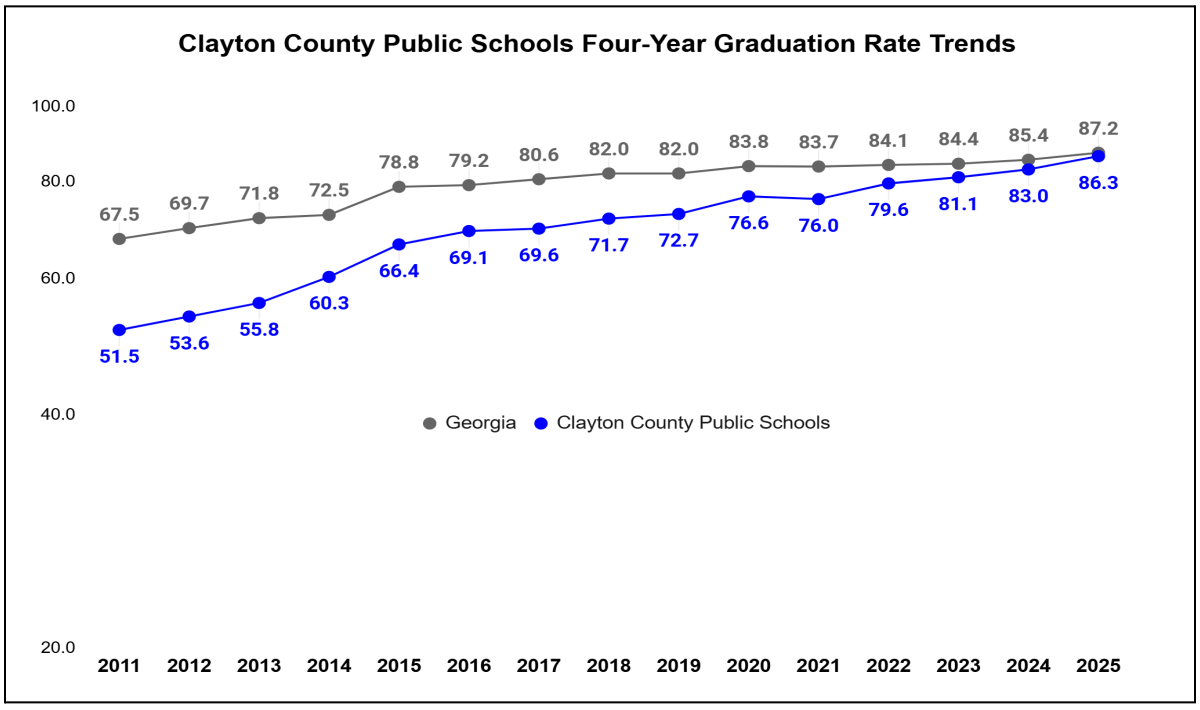
"Speaking for the Clayton County Board of Education and the entire CCPS family, I commend our high school teachers and administrators, support personnel, and parents/caregivers as they continue to instill in

our students a dedication to high expectations and a sense of responsibility for their decisions and actions," Superintendent Smith concluded.

Clayton County Public Schools Four-Year Graduation Rate Trends																
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Change 2024-2025
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	87.2	1.8
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	86.3	3.3
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	85.0	-0.4
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	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	86.2	-1.8
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	88.2	-0.5
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	93.7	1.7
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	92.0	0.5
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	94.8	1.7
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	92.5	5.5
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	84.3	1.3
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	69.6	9.4
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	89.1	1.3
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	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	100.0	N/A
N/A = No students in the cohort, or the site was not a school at that time.																

Closing the Gap with Georgia

With an 86.3% graduation rate, the CCPS Class of 2025 is less than one point (0.9) from Georgia's 87.2% average—continuing a steady trend of closing the statewide gap since 2011.



Clayton County Public Schools is closing graduation gaps, surpassing the state of Georgia in key subgroups: Black (+0.5), Hispanic (+2.7), Economically Disadvantaged (+0.3), and English Learners (+6.8). These gains reflect CCPS's commitment to success for all students.

2025 CCPS Four-Year Cohort Subgroup Graduation Rates Comparison to Georgia										
Subgroup 4 Year Rate	ALL Students	American Indian, Alaskan	Asian, Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic	Multi-Racial	White	Economically Disadvantaged	English Learners	Students with Disability
State	87.2	81.4	95.4	86.7	82.3	86.6	89.5	86.0	72.7	78.4
Clayton County Public Schools	86.3	TFS	90.7	87.1	85.0	80.2	75.7	86.3	79.5	75.7
TFS= too few students in the count of students to publish publicly										

Making a Difference

Under Superintendent Smith, CCPS is committed to ensuring every student graduates with a clear pathway to success—college, career, military, or entrepreneurship. This "No Dead Ends" vision is realized through:

- **4Es Vision:** Employment, Enrollment, Enlistment, Entrepreneurship
- **Higher Standards & Support:** Rigorous academics with wraparound services
- **Data-Driven Tracking:** Early interventions by cohort and subgroup
- **Flexible Options:** Credit recovery, tutoring, and acceleration
- **CTAE Pathways:** Industry credentials, apprenticeships, and career readiness
- **College & Career Supports:** FAFSA (financial aid), SAT/ACT School Day, and campus visits
- **First-Gen College Tours:** Family-focused guidance and spring College Send-Off

Clayton County Public Schools is proud that the Georgia Department of Education acknowledged the school system's growth in graduation rates. Click here to view the GaDOE's press release.

-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.

###