



Muscofee County School District

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For Immediate Release

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MEDIA RELEASE

MCSDD Reaches Highest Four Year Cohort Graduation Rate

(Columbus, GA)-The Muscofee County School District (MCSDD) and all nine high schools improve graduation rates. The district's performance surpassed the state for the third consecutive year at a higher rate. Over the past three years, the MCSDD graduation rate has increased by 11.8 percentage points, from 72.8 to 84.6. The state's graduation rate has increased by 7.0 percentage points, from 71.8 to 78.8.

The Cohort Rate is calculated using the data of students who graduate from high school within four years as required by the U.S. Department of Education. It is one of the indicators used in the calculation of the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI). The class of 2015 was not required to take the Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT) in order to receive a regular diploma.

Graduation Rate	2013	2014	2015
Muscogee County	72.8	76.6	84.6
State	71.8	72.5	78.8
Difference	1.0	4.1	5.8

“The graduation rate is one of the most significant performance indicators for any school or district as it reflects successful completion and is the culmination of a child's Pre-K – 12 educational experience,” said Dr. David Lewis, Superintendent. “As a large urban school system, the improvements by all schools, leading to the highest four-year graduation cohort rate in the history of the district, represents a significant step forward for our students, their future and our community.”

Carver, Kendrick, Jordan, Shaw and Spencer show the most significant gains in graduation rate. These five schools have increased by eight percentage points or more. Columbus, Early College, Hardaway, Northside and Shaw surpassed the state average of 78.8 with Early College achieving a 100 percent cohort graduation rate. Carver, Kendrick, Jordan and Spencer also closed the gap with the state.

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School	2013	2014	2015
Carver	61.3	58.6	76.4
Columbus	96.4	97.7	99.6
Early College	91.7	97.3	100
Hardaway	76.3	84.8	88.5
Jordan	56.1	63.1	78.0
Kendrick	60.7	69.4	78.2
Northside	88.0	89.1	89.8
Shaw	71.3	76.0	85.4
Spencer	54.6	66.0	78.6

Graduation rate increases are attributed to the hard work of our teachers, students, support staff and parents. Last year, Catapult Academy of MCSD was established to recapture drop outs. An online Early Warning System, which is accessible by parents and school personnel, provides real-time alerts for concerns related to grades, attendance, discipline and assessments. Through the district reorganization, additional region and school support personnel have been added to assist with increasing the graduation rate. School administrators and staff are using refined procedures for reviewing and monitoring student enrollment to accurately report graduation data.

Superintendent Lewis added, “The new, more challenging Georgia standards and related assessments require continued focus to ensure all students are college and career ready and globally competitive upon graduation. We embrace the more rigorous standards and assessments. We recognize the need for continuous improvement as we strive to maintain and continue to improve our graduation rate.”

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