



Muscogee County School District

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For Immediate Release

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MEDIA RELEASE

MCSO Graduation Rate Surpasses State Graduation Rate Three High Schools Show Significant Improvement

(Columbus, GA)-The latest graduation report released by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) shows Muscogee County School District (MCSO) overall graduation rate has increased by 5.3% points. With the exception of the 2011-2012 results, the district's 2012-2013 average percentages of graduates surpasses the state average, a trend that was previously held from 2008-2011.

4 Year Cohort Graduation Rate

Graduation Rate	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	1 Year Change
Muscogee County	68.2	67.5	72.8	5.3
Georgia	67.4	69.7	71.5	1.8

The *Cohort Rate* (based on when a student becomes a freshman) is calculated using the data of students who have been in high school for four years, which allows school districts to uniformly compare graduation rates across the nation. The cohort rate calculation, in use for the third year, is required by U.S. Department of Education. In addition, it is one of the indicators used in the calculation of the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI).

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While the 4 year cohort rate does not capture the total number of students who complete high school with a diploma in the MCSD, it does reflect *only* those students who meet the requirements for a high school diploma within 4 years.

Graduation results vary among high schools across the district. While the majority of high schools have increased the 4 year cohort graduation rate from the previous year, there were significant gains at Kendrick High School (12.9%), Hardaway High School (11.5%) and Jordan High School (10.4%).

4 Year Cohort Graduation Rate	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	1 Year Change
Carver High School	63.8	59.5	61.3	1.8
Columbus High School	97.5	96.2	96.4	0.2
Early College Academy of Columbus	95.7	92.0	91.7	-0.3
Hardaway High School	75.8	64.8	76.3	11.5
Jordon High School	43.6	45.7	56.1	10.4
Kendrick High School	48.9	47.8	60.7	12.9
Northside High School	86.6	86.2	88.0	1.8
Shaw High School	65.1	72.1	71.3	-0.8
Spencer High School	61.7	60.3	54.6	-5.7
Muscogee County School District	68.2	67.5	72.8	5.3
State	67.4	69.7	71.5	1.8

“We commend the teachers, principals, students, and staff who work endlessly to gain significant improvement in this important metric of school and system success,” said Superintendent David Lewis. “We will analyze the strategies they employed that led to their marked improvement and determine if these best practices could be implemented to help other high schools in our district.”

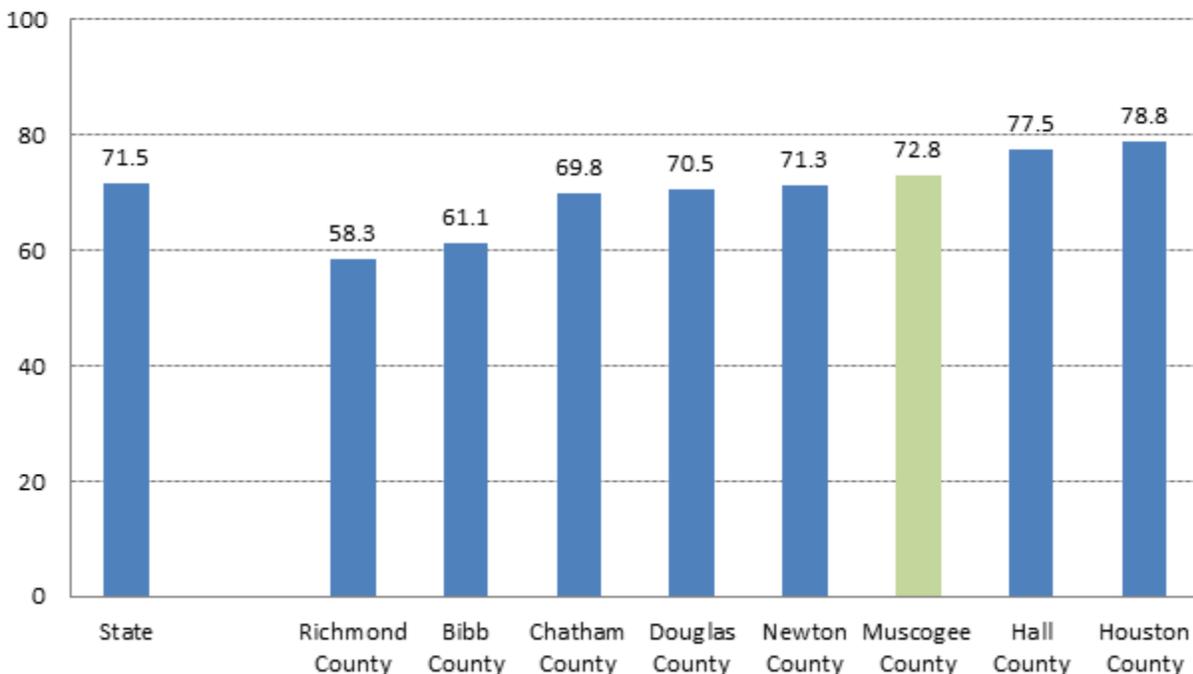
Various resources have been provided using a three year School Improvement Grant (SIG) at some schools (Kendrick, Jordan, and Spencer). The funds are used for

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additional resources to improve teaching and learning, offer extended instructional time for students, and professional development for teachers. Kendrick High School has improved the most percentage points overall and recently earned the Southern Regional Education Board **Outstanding High Schools That Works** award, the only school in Georgia to receive the recognition.

“The most successful strategies for improving academics for our students are group lessons, increased learning time, SAT and ACT test preparation courses, credit recovery and college and career planning,” said Dr. Alonzo James, principal of Kendrick High School. “We provide continuous progress monitoring for all students and use different strategies to engage those students who need additional remediation support to master subject material and provide additional learning opportunities for those students who excel and have mastered subject material.”

Systems Comparison 2012-2013 4 Year Cohort Graduation Rate



MCS D is in the top three of its comparison group in counties that are alike in close size and poverty level across the state.

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“While we are pleased with the marked improvement in several schools and the overall upward trend that exceeds the state average, there is still much work to be done and we must continue to push for this rate to continue to increase over time,” added Lewis.

For more information, contact communications@muscogee.k12.ga.us, or access the Georgia Department of Education web site, www.gadoe.org .

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