



# Muscogee County School District

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**For Immediate Release**

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### 3 Years of Continuous Improvement More Graduates Prepared for College and Careers

(Columbus, GA)-The Muscogee County School District’s (MCSD) graduation rate surpasses the State’s graduation rate for the third consecutive year at a higher rate. In 2016, the MCSD graduation rate improved by 1.5 percentage points from 84.6 to 86.1 compared to the State’s graduation rate, which improved by .4 percentage points from 78.8 to 79.2. In addition, over the last three years, the MCSD graduation rate has increased by 9.5 percentage points, from 76.6 to 86.1 compared to the State’s graduation rate, which increased by 6.7 percentage points over the last three years from 72.5 to 79.2.

“Graduation rates are one of the most significant and widely recognized performance indicators for any high school or district, said Dr. David Lewis, Superintendent. “Today’s news that our district’s graduation rate has increased to 86.1 percent and is outpacing the state and the national average is a credit to our students’ commitment to a brighter future as well as a testament to our dedicated teachers, administrators, support staff and families who encourage and help them meet this important educational milestone.”

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 also one of the indicators used in the calculation of the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI).

Graduation Rate	2014	2015	2016
Muscogee County	76.6	84.6	86.1
State	72.5	78.8	79.2
Difference	4.1	5.8	6.9

- Four of the district’s high schools saw an increase in their cohort graduation rate (Carver, Hardaway, Kendrick, and Northside).
- Carver High School improved by a significant 13.1 percentage points in their graduation rate.
- Four of the district’s high schools have graduation rates above 90% (Columbus, Early College, Hardaway, and Northside).
- Six of the district’s high schools were above the State average (Carver, Columbus, Early College, Hardaway, Northside, and Shaw).
- Six of the district’s high schools surpassed the National cohort graduation rate of 83% (Carver, Columbus, Early College, Hardaway, Northside, and Shaw).

The G.W. Carver High School has the highest rate of improvement.

“It takes a team effort to bring out the best in our students and we treat each of our students like our own children,” said Chris Lindsey, Principal of G.W. Carver High School. “We track our students in school and out of school and we refuse to let our students use excuses to give up on improving their lives through education and thinking beyond high school and the immediate community. In addition, G.W. Carver Alumni, of all ages, come to the school to engage, to encourage, to support and to show each of our students that you can go anywhere from here,” added Lindsey.

School	2014	2015	2016
Carver	58.6	76.4	89.5
Columbus	97.7	99.6	99.6
Early College	97.3	100	*97.1
Hardaway	84.8	88.5	90.4
Jordan	63.1	78.0	71.6
Kendrick	69.4	78.2	78.6
Northside	89.1	89.8	91.2
Shaw	76.0	85.4	85.2
Spencer	66.0	78.6	75.8

\*After a review of the pre-released data, the Graduation Rate for Early College is under appeal with the State due to a review of a withdrawal code. The rate is expected to be 100%.

“While the trend is certainly positive for our district, plenty of work remains to reach our next goal of 90 percent full-option graduation,” added Lewis. “Together, we must continue to engage in the important teaching and learning process to ensure our ultimate goal, which is 100 percent of our students who graduate on-time and are prepared for post-secondary education, training, or the workforce.”

For more information, contact [communications@muscogee.k12.ga.us](mailto:communications@muscogee.k12.ga.us) .

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