

# Graduation Rate Hits All-Time High!

September 19, 2018



The 2018 cohort graduation rate for the Cobb County School District increased by 1.6 percentage points to 85.18 percent, which exceeds the state average of 81.6 by 3.5 percentage points. This is the highest graduation rate for Cobb since the current method of measuring the graduation rate began in 2012. It is the fourth consecutive year that the rate surpassed 80 percent. Cobb's graduation rate particularly stands out when compared with its peers (Fulton 86.8, Gwinnett 81.7, Atlanta 79.9, DeKalb 75.0, Marietta 76.2, Cobb 85.2).

"Our commitment to the success of each student has helped Cobb continue to increase the number of students who graduate and are prepared to win outside of the classroom," Superintendent Chris Ragsdale said.

## 2017-2018 Graduation Rates

<b>Fulton County</b>	<b>86.8</b>
<b>Cobb County School District</b>	<b>85.2</b>
<b>Gwinnett County</b>	<b>81.7</b>
<b>Georgia Average</b>	<b>81.6</b>
<b>Atlanta Public Schools</b>	<b>79.9</b>
<b>Marietta City Schools</b>	<b>76.2</b>
<b>DeKalb County</b>	<b>75.0</b>

Lassiter High School led with a graduation rate of 95.58. Harrison High School and Walton High School also returned rates above 95. Three additional Cobb schools graduated more than 90 percent of their students including Allatoona High School, 92.96 percent; Hillgrove High School, 93.87 percent; and Pope High School, 94.09 percent.

Nine schools increased their rate with Pebblebrook High School topping the list at 6.2 percentage points.

Both Campbell High School and Kennesaw Mountain High School raised their graduation rates by more than four percentage points.

“I think the continued increase in Campbell’s graduation rate is a testament to the staff’s relentless focus on student success. The efforts of our counselors, social worker, parent liaison, and every teacher from 9th to 12th grade are focused on producing outstanding scholars who go on to attend top colleges and universities. It’s a school where parents are proud to send their children, and we are honored to help them achieve success,” said Dr. Jeanne Walker, Campbell principal. “Campbell students achieve through multiple programs including not only our outstanding IB program but also dual enrollment, work-based learning, after-school enrichment in the Spartan STEM academy, and Saturday Power Surge sessions.”

Like Campbell, the rate at which Sprayberry High School students graduate has continued to increase over the past three years. Campbell’s graduation rate has risen by 17.4 percentage points since 2014. Sprayberry’s rate increased by 5.3 percentage points over the same period to 86.21 in 2018.

The other schools in the district all have reason to be proud, as well. Kell, North Cobb, and McEachern High Schools all finished well-above the state graduation rate average, with McEachern and North Cobb also showcasing positive growth over the last four years.

Meanwhile, Wheeler, Osborne, and South Cobb High Schools all have *real* graduations rates ABOVE 94%.

What is a “real” graduation rate?

The federally mandated method for calculating graduation rate includes all students enrolled during a four-year period even those enrolled for a single day. However, when you include only those students who enrolled in a Cobb high school for at least two years, the rate rises to 90.5 percent. For those students who are enrolled in Cobb for all four years of high school, the rate rises to 97.1 percent.

## A More Complete Picture of Graduation Rate

School	Federal Method		Students Included in Calculation if Enrolled a Minimum of							
	Min. 1 Day Enrolled		1 Year		2 Years		3 Years		4 Years	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
<b>Cobb</b>	<b>9,041</b>	<b>85.2</b>	<b>8,643</b>	<b>87.8</b>	<b>8,095</b>	<b>90.5</b>	<b>7,416</b>	<b>93.7</b>	<b>6,124</b>	<b>97.1</b>
Allatoona	483	93.0	471	94.3	442	95.2	407	97.3	349	99.1
Campbell	713	83.4	653	87.4	581	90.9	512	93.8	412	96.8
Harrison	495	95.6	487	95.9	464	96.8	436	97.0	391	97.7
Hillgrove	620	93.9	602	95.5	583	96.2	539	97.4	452	98.4
Kell	382	83.8	367	85.6	342	86.5	303	89.4	240	93.3
Kennesaw Mountain	570	86.7	542	90.8	508	93.5	469	95.7	399	98.5
Lassiter	565	95.6	563	95.7	551	96.4	514	97.9	472	98.9
McEachern	598	84.3	548	88.5	500	90.6	439	92.0	339	97.0
North Cobb	710	87.9	673	90.5	623	92.6	568	95.4	500	98.0
Osborne	566	65.5	503	70.8	414	78.3	338	86.4	244	94.7
Pebblebrook	671	72.0	603	77.3	516	83.5	439	89.1	351	94.3
Pope	474	94.1	468	94.9	448	96.4	428	97.7	388	99.0
South Cobb	562	71.3	499	77.2	429	83.2	364	88.7	279	94.3
Sprayberry	435	86.2	409	89.5	369	93.0	330	95.2	247	98.0
Walton	675	95.1	665	96.1	650	96.3	624	96.8	564	98.0
Wheeler	520	77.3	473	82.7	436	86.7	378	91.3	279	96.4

The count is the number of students included in the calculation. The rate of 97.1 in the first row of the last column means that of the 6,124 students enrolled in a Cobb high school for a minimum of 4-years 97.1% of them graduated.