



Dr. Brian Otott
Superintendent

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Paulding Graduation Rate Continues to Climb, Tops State Average and Widens Gap Further

Four-Year Rate at 88.8%, While Five-year Rate Tops 90%

The Paulding County School District's four-year graduation rate climbed to 88.8 percent in 2019, an increase of 2.5 percentage points over last year and nearly seven percentage points higher than the state average, according to data released by the Georgia Department of Education. Also, for the first time ever the district's five-year graduation rate topped 90 percent (90.2 percent). The state measures both a four-year and a five-year graduation rate as part of each school district's CCRPI (College and Career Ready Performance Index) calculation.

The data released by the state also shows four of the district's five high schools increased the percentage of students graduating within four years, and for the first time under the state's CCRPI calculation all Paulding County high schools have graduation rates above 85 percent.

According to the data, the statewide average graduation rate is 82.0 percent in 2019, and Paulding students exceeded that average by 6.8 percentage points, after topping the state average by 4.1 percentage points last year. Even as the state graduation rate has risen each of the last five years, Paulding students have managed to widen the gap by increasing PCSD's graduation rate at a faster pace.

"Once again, the graduation report is terrific news for the Paulding County School District," said Superintendent Dr. Brian Otott. "The improvement this year even tops what our students accomplished last year, and that means our district is now rapidly approaching 90 percent for the four-year graduation rate and actually topped 90 percent for the five-year rate. Hard work by our teachers, our counselors and, of course, our students, produced these outstanding results. It's an impressive achievement that all five Paulding County high schools are now graduating 85 percent of students in four years."

Georgia calculates the graduation rate using a formula known as the adjusted cohort rate which is required by the U.S. Department of Education. The four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate defines the cohort based on when a student first becomes a freshman; it is calculated using the number of students who graduate within four years and includes adjustments for student transfers.

The Paulding County School District graduation rate has topped the state average for the past nine years. Since 2012, the district's graduation rate has increased more than 13 percentage points. Also of note, of the 17 school districts in Georgia with a 2019 graduating class of more than 2,000 students, the Paulding County

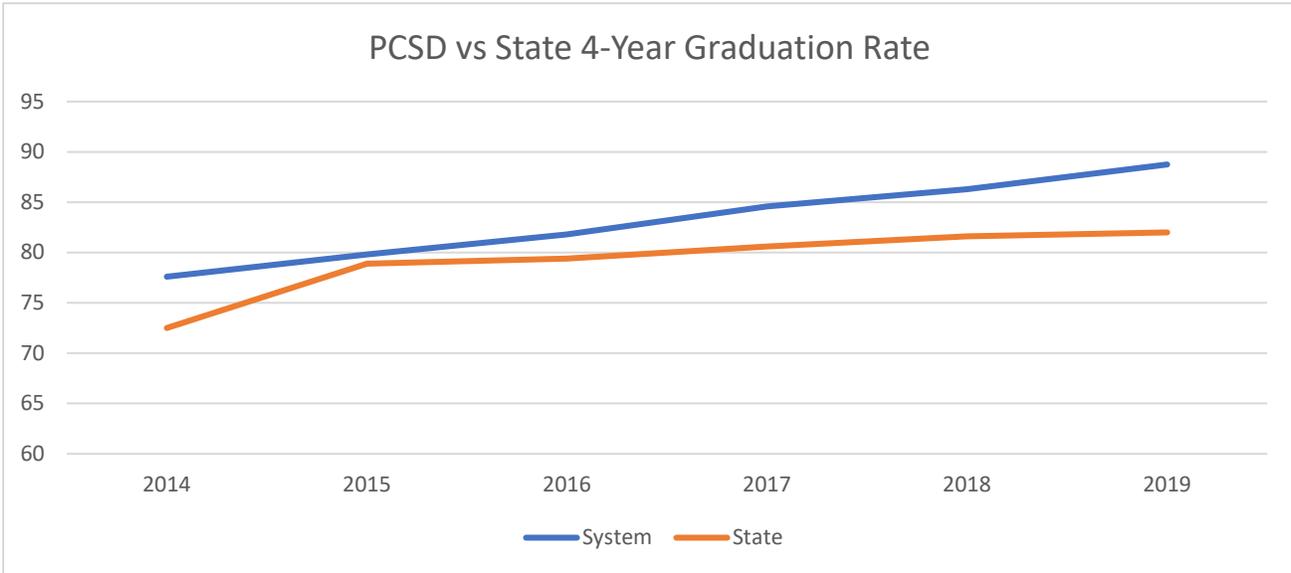
PCSD 2019 Graduation Rate Press Release

School District's graduation rate ranked third (rising from 10th in 2018), and of the 23 school districts in Georgia with a 2019 graduating class of 1,000 students or more, the Paulding County School District's graduation rate ranked fifth (rising from 14th in 2018).

The statewide press release with links to data tables can be found here: <https://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/communications/Pages/PressReleaseDetails.aspx?PressView=default&pid=709>

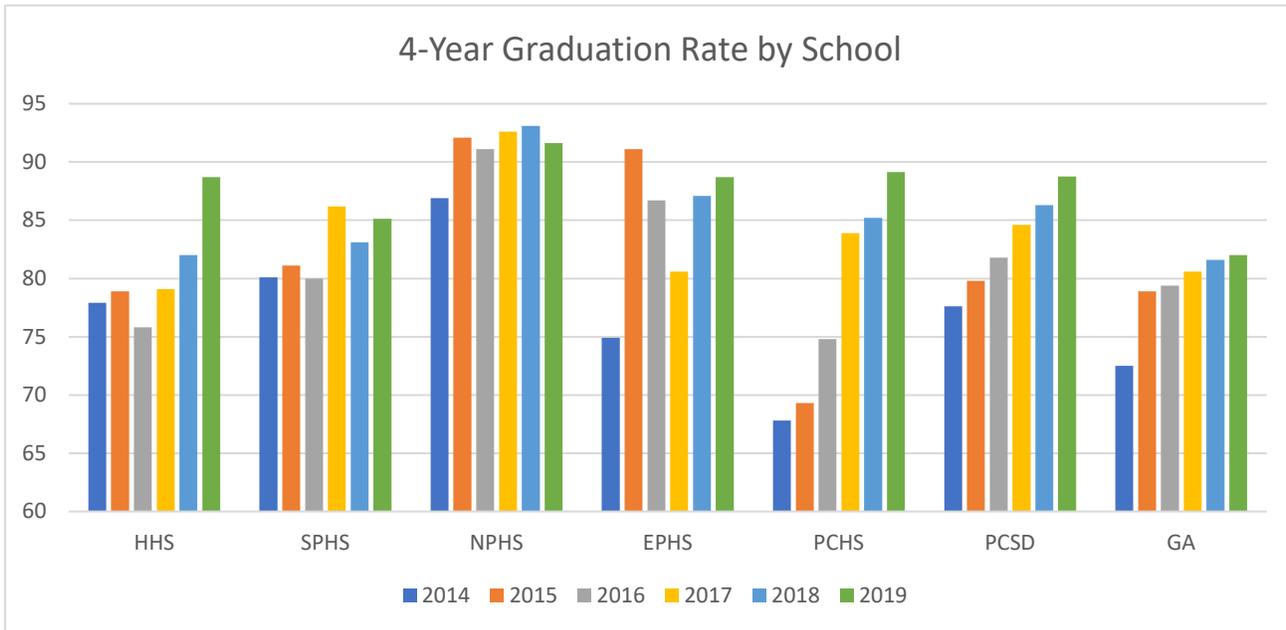
(The charts on next page summarize PCSD data)

Press Inquiries Please Contact: Paulding County School District Office of Public Information
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Source: Georgia Department of Education

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SCHOOL DISTRICT	77.6	79.8	81.8	84.6	86.3	88.8
STATE	72.5	78.9	79.4	80.6	81.6	82.0



Source: Georgia Department of Education

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Hiram HS	77.9	78.9	75.8	79.1	82.0	88.7
South Paulding HS	80.1	81.1	80.0	86.2	83.1	85.1
North Paulding HS	86.9	92.1	91.1	92.6	93.1	91.6
East Paulding HS	74.9	91.1	86.7	80.6	87.1	88.7
Paulding County HS	67.8	69.3	74.8	83.9	85.2	89.1
PCSD	77.6	79.8	81.8	84.6	86.3	88.8
GA	72.5	78.9	79.4	80.6	81.6	82.0