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# News Release

**For Immediate Release**  
September 19, 2018

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## **Fulton's graduation rate continues to be highest among metro Atlanta's large school systems**

Class of 2018 data released today by the Georgia Department of Education shows that Fulton County Schools continues to have the highest graduation rate of all large metro Atlanta school systems. The district's rate of 86.8% also remains the highest that it has ever been, and eight out of 19 Fulton high schools also increased their graduation rate from the previous year. It also outpaces the state average (81.6%) by 5.2%.

“Graduation ceremonies are some of the proudest highlights of our year as we celebrate these events with students and their families. We are pleased that more students than ever are reaching this goal on time,” said Superintendent Jeff Rose, Ed.D. “We know there is still work to do. Our goal is for students to graduate ready to pursue and succeed on their chosen paths. Therefore, we won't be satisfied until every student holds a diploma in their hand. Graduation is a milestone, and we want our students prepared to be successful after they graduate.”

### **School Achievements**

Eleven high schools posted graduation rates of more than 90% – Alpharetta High School (92.8%), Cambridge High School (97.3%), Centennial High School (91.7%), Chattahoochee High School (95.4%), Hapeville Career Academy (94.8%), Johns Creek High School (97.1%), Milton High School (96.7%), North Springs High School (90.1%), Northview High School (96.4%), Riverwood International High School (92.2%), and Westlake High School (91.5%).

Riverwood High School (+5.2%), Banneker High School (+4.8%) and Tri-Cities High School (+4.2%) led the pack with the highest increases, and several South Fulton schools also saw improvement: Hapeville Career Academy (+2.3%), Westlake High School (+0.6%) and Skyview High School (+0.5%). In North Fulton, Independence High School (+2.8%), Milton High School (+2.2%), and Johns Creek High School (+0.6%) saw increases.

Scores for all schools are attached.

### **Improvement Seen Among Student Subgroups**

Fulton County Schools disaggregates data to look for trends and to examine how different groups of students fare compared to others. The English Language Learners and Hispanic subgroups of students increased from the previous year by 6.4% and 3.6%, respectively. This is the fifth consecutive year that the English Language Learners subgroup has increased.

### **About the Graduation Rate Report**

This is the eighth year the Georgia Department of Education has calculated the graduation rate using 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. In contrast, Georgia's former graduation rate calculation defined the cohort upon graduation, which may have included students who took more than four years to graduate.

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**About the Fulton County School System.** The Fulton County School System is the fourth largest school system in Georgia. More than 95,000 students attend 106 schools in the cities of Alpharetta, Chattahoochee Hills, College Park, East Point, Fairburn, Hapeville, Johns Creek, Milton, Mountain Park, Palmetto, Roswell, Sandy Springs, South Fulton and Union City.