



Dr. Brian Otott  
*Superintendent*

*Engage. Inspire. Prepare.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Paulding Graduation Rate Increases, Widens Gap Above State Average**

The Paulding County School District graduation rate climbed to 86.3 percent in 2018, an increase of 1.5 percentage points, according to data recently released by the state Department of Education. Additionally, four of the district's five high schools showed increases in the percentage of students graduating within four years, and for the first time in at least eight years all high schools have graduation rates higher than 80 percent.

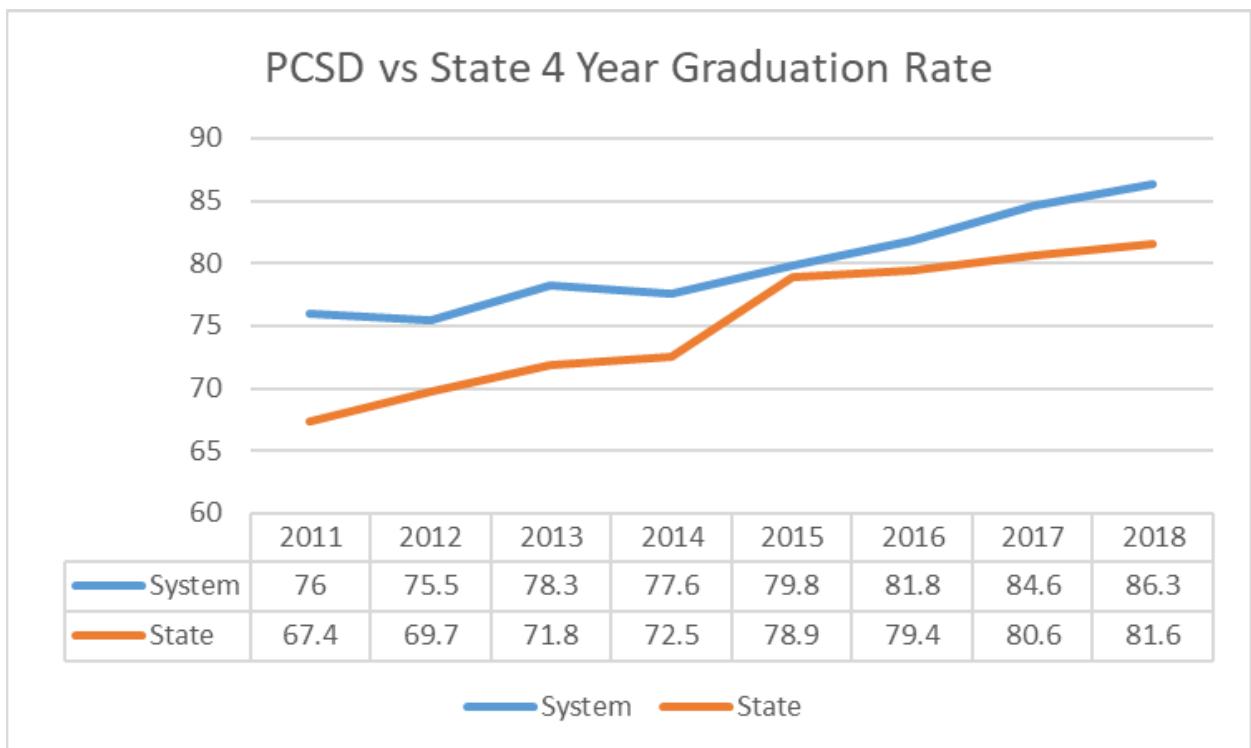
According to the data, the statewide average graduation rate is 81.6 percent in 2018, and Paulding students exceeded that average by 4.7 percentage points. For the last four years, the gap between the Paulding County School District graduation rate and the state average has continued to widen.

"This is terrific news for the Paulding County School District," said Superintendent Dr. Brian Otott. "I am extremely pleased that we now have 86 percent of our students graduating within four years, and these results are a testament to the excellent work our teachers and counselors are doing in our high schools. We look forward to sustaining this upward trend as we continue to tighten our focus on academic performance."

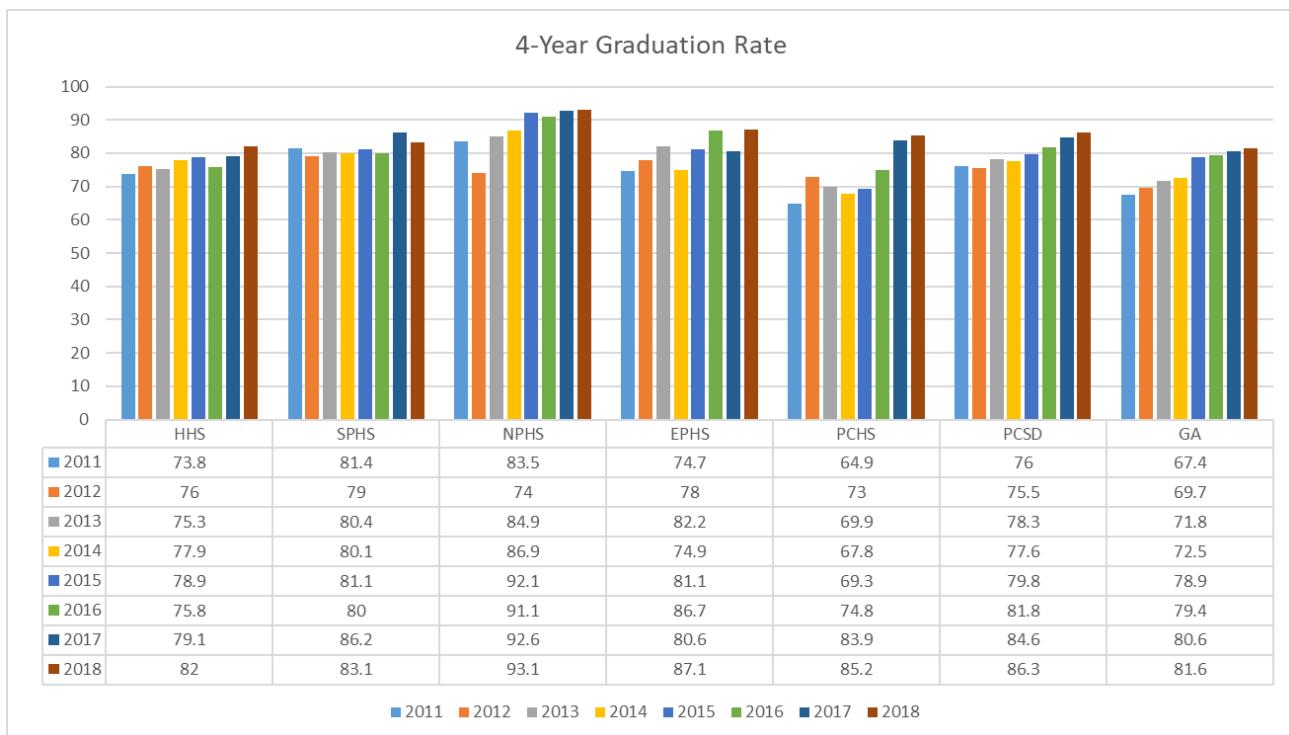
Georgia calculates the graduation rate using a formula known as the adjusted cohort rate which is required by the U.S. Department of Education. The four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate defines the cohort based on when a student first becomes a freshman; it is calculated using the number of students 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 eight years, and since 2011, the district's graduation rate has increased more than 10 percentage points.

*(See charts on next page for data)*



Source: Georgia Department of Education



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