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Cobb Graduation Rate Holds Above 83 Percent

Marietta, GA: The cohort graduation rate for Cobb schools in 2017 hovers above the 83 percent mark for the second straight year. At 83.6 percent, the rate is up 7.1 percentage points over a five-year period and is the third consecutive year that the rate has topped 80 percent.

In responding to the results, Superintendent Chris Ragsdale notes, "Cobb has maintained a strong graduation rate over four consecutive years of growth despite increasing expectations." He also commends District teachers who "show an unwavering commitment for student success by providing students with the resources necessary to be college and career ready."

Six Cobb schools posted rates higher than 90 percent. Topping the list is Harrison High School at 96.3 percent; the highest rate of any Cobb school during the past five years. Principal Ashlynn Campbell believes the rate is "evidence of the commitment that our entire staff has for the well-being and academic success of every student." She adds that "knowledgeable teachers strive to offer exceptional, engaging instruction each day so our students see the connection between high school and college and careers." Rounding out the list of schools above 90 percent are Allatoona, Hillgrove, Lassiter, Pope and Walton High Schools.

Half of the District's schools saw increases in cohort graduation rates. Sprayberry High School had the highest gain jumping 3.8 points from 81.7 percent to 85.5 percent. Principal Joe Sharp stresses that Sprayberry is a four-year institution: "We don't allow students to make mistakes that will cost them graduation. We prepare our students for life after high school." With strong teachers who want to see all students succeed, Mr. Sharp believes "all the students know there are adults in the building to support them in their goal of graduation."

Lassiter, North Cobb and Osborne High Schools have each had steady, year-over-year increases in cohort graduation rates during the previous five years. Osborne also touts the highest five-year gain of 19.1 percentage points and Principal Joshua Morreale believes the "continued increase is due to examining data to find the root causes for student success and developing an instructional framework for teachers that will make students successful." He adds, "our school culture has developed a sense of teamwork focused on student success. Culture has also contributed to success at Lassiter High School where Principal Chris Richie sees the growth as "a testament to the work of our counselors and teachers to create a culture where every student matters."

A cohort group is defined as a group of 9th grade students who enter high school together. The cohort graduation rate is calculated using the number of students from that cohort that graduate in four years. "There is a negative effect on the cohort graduation rate when students leave the District and never report subsequent school enrollment," Dr. Ehsan Kattoula, Assistant Superintendent for Accountability and Research explains. "For example, a student that moves out of the county without notifying the District will negatively impact the graduation rate."

The state average is not available at the time of this release and will be included as a later update.

[Data table is attached]

About the Cobb County School District: The Cobb County School District is located Northwest of Atlanta, Georgia. The 2nd largest school district in Georgia and the 23rd largest district in the United States, the District serves over 112,000 students in 112 schools including 67 elementary schools, 25 middle schools, 16 high schools, one charter school, one special education center, one adult education center, and one performance learning center. The District is the largest employer in the county with over 15,000 employees. Information about the District is available at www.cobbk12.org

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Five-year Cohort Graduation Rates for the Cobb County School District and each district high school from 2013–2017.

School	Five-year Graduation Rate (%)					Trends (%)		
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	1 year	3 year	5 year
District	76.5	78.2	81.4	83.8	83.6	-0.2	2.2	7.1
Allatoona	86.6	87.1	89.1	91.3	90.1	-1.2	1.0	3.5
Campbell	66.3	66.1	72.1	78.4	79.2	0.8	7.1	12.9
Harrison	96.0	96.2	94.1	94.2	96.3	2.1	2.2	0.3
Hillgrove	86.4	86.2	90.8	93.3	91.0	-2.3	0.2	4.6
Kell	80.6	78.5	84.7	85.0	87.9	2.9	3.2	7.3
Kennesaw Mountain	86.6	81.1	84.1	85.3	82.6	-2.7	-1.5	-4.0
Lassiter	91.4	91.5	93.8	94.5	95.7	1.2	1.9	4.3
McEachern	76.6	81.4	77.5	84.7	83.3	-1.4	5.8	6.7
North Cobb	81.5	82.9	83.7	88.1	89.4	1.3	5.7	7.9
Osborne	48.4	56.8	61.4	64.8	67.5	2.7	6.0	19.1
Pebblebrook	58.3	62.8	70.8	72.3	65.8	-6.5	-5.0	7.5
Pope	91.9	88.0	91.7	93.4	91.8	-1.6	0.1	-0.1
South Cobb	61.0	64.0	74.9	73.4	72.6	-0.8	-2.2	11.6
Sprayberry	82.4	80.9	72.0	81.7	85.5	3.8	13.5	3.1
Walton	90.8	92.7	94.1	96.1	94.5	-1.6	0.5	3.7
Wheeler	71.2	70.5	79.4	80.7	81.1	0.4	1.7	9.9