



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **BCPS graduation rate remains steady; Hispanic/Latino student group sees biggest increase**

Towson, MD – The graduation rate for Baltimore County Public Schools remains steady at 86.2 percent, according to data released recently by the Maryland State Department of Education. BCPS' graduation rate is 1 percentage point below the state average of 87.2 and is a decrease of 1.4 percentage points from 2019.

“During the 2020-2021 school year, BCPS seniors had to maneuver the rapidly changing conditions of the pandemic, including the start of the school year in virtual learning, high transmission rates of COVID, social unrest, the cyberattack, and the challenges of hybrid learning,” said BCPS Superintendent Dr. Darryl L. Williams. “Despite these challenges, our students persevered, and we are proud of their accomplishments. The Class of 2021 was the largest cohort of seniors in the last three years; almost 200 more seniors than in 2020 and more than 400 more than in 2019. We continue to reexamine our processes, supports, and scheduling of students to achieve their goals.”

MSDE released the four-year and five-year graduation rate calculations for all school systems and schools in the state of Maryland. The most recent data is for graduates who entered high school during the 2017-2018 school year (the class of 2021). The BCPS five-year graduation rate is 89.3 percent—up 0.8 percentage points from the previous year and 1 percentage point higher than the state rate (88.3 percent).

The four-year graduation rate improved for Hispanic/Latino students in BCPS. The rate rose to 73.3 percent, a two-year increase of 1.6 percentage points. The graduation rate for English Language Learner students has also shown progress over the past two years, rising by 0.8

percentage points (59.2 percent) with 43 more English Language Learner students graduated in 2021 than in 2019.

The dropout rate for the Class of 2021 is 8.5 percent, a decrease of 0.3 percentage points from 2019 but a slight increase of 0.2 percentage points from 2020. BCPS' dropout rate is higher than the state rate (7.4 percent). Hispanic/Latino students showed the greatest decrease in the dropout rate (4.1 percentage points).

Among schools, the biggest gain was at Chesapeake High School, where the graduation rate increased by 5.6 percentage points over a two-year period to 87.6 percent. Kenwood High School's graduation rate rose to 84.5 percent, a 3.4 percentage point increase over the past two years.

"While we have made progress in our efforts to close achievement gaps, there is more work to be done to close gaps and ensure all students are learning and meeting their full potential," Dr. Williams said. "We have lengthened our student days to provide additional time for learning as well as expanded our academic resources and supports to students either during the school day, after school, Saturdays, and through our summer programs."

## **School Results**

Among other highlights of school performance:

- The highest graduation rates for the class of 2021 were at Eastern Technical High School (100 percent); Hereford High School (99.1 percent); George W. Carver Center for Arts and Technology (98.8 percent); Western School of Technology and Environmental Science (98.6 percent); and Pikesville High School (97.3 percent).
- Loch Raven High School saw an increase of 1.9 percentage points in its graduation rate (93.3 percent) and a decrease of 1.7 percentage points in its dropout rate.
- Perry Hall High School's graduation rate grew by 1.8 percentage points from 2019 and its dropout rate decreased by 1.6 percentage points.
- 11 BCPS high schools maintained a 90 percent or higher graduation rate for the last two years.
- 14 BCPS high schools and centers saw a decrease in their dropout rates.

The district continues to work with high schools to monitor student performance and graduation rates through a variety of reports, as well as through Project Graduation. The

Project Graduation initiative brings together high school leadership teams, the Department of School Support and Achievement, and the Department of Research, Accountability and Assessment to review student data for graduation requirements, discuss on-track status, and share best practices in supporting students' on-time graduation and dropout prevention.

More information on graduation rates can be found at [www.mdreportcard.org](http://www.mdreportcard.org).

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