



# Hart County

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## Charter System

### Administration

Mr. Jaybez F. Floyd  
*Superintendent*  
Mrs. Jennifer Carter  
*Associate Superintendent*  
Mr. David Buddenbaum  
*Assistant Superintendent*  
Mr. David Seagraves  
*Director of Operations*

### Board of Education

Mr. Matthew Honiotes  
*Chairperson*  
Mrs. Stephanie Burton  
*Vice Chairperson*  
Mr. Dennis Dowell  
Mrs. Kim Pierce  
Mr. Richard Sutherland

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## 2017 Graduation Rate Highest Yet

Hart County's 2017 graduation rate of 96.5 percent ranks seventh highest in the state.

The Georgia Department of Education announced today that Georgia's high school graduation rate has increased from 79.4 percent in 2016 to 80.6 percent in 2017. While the state's graduation rate has risen for the sixth straight year, this year marks the first time it has been over 80 percent. Hart County's 96.5 percent is nearly 16 percentage points higher than the state's rate of 80.6.

"We are certainly proud of our graduation rate," said Hart County High School Principal, Kevin Gaines. "Obviously, we are able to finish the drill concerning graduation but the graduation rate is really a collective effort among students, faculty/staff from Pre-K through 12th grade, parents, and our community."

The Department of Education also announced that only fifty school districts in Georgia recorded a 2017 graduation rate of 90 percent or above. Hart's rate of 96.5 is the highest percentage recorded in the last twelve years. In 2005, the graduation rate was only 56 percent. Based on a suggestion from a community task force, the Grad Dog Initiative, with the "Finish What You Start" motto, was created in an effort to change the culture and graduation expectations of the schools and the community.

In October of 2016, the Hart County Charter System and the Grad Dog Initiative received the National Dropout Prevention Network's Crystal Star Award of Excellence. Through the Grad Dog Initiative, Hart County's graduation rate has steadily increased.

"Our graduation rate continues to exceed the state average as well as our RESA district because of the support our students receive from the board of education, as well as teachers, administration, and families," said Assistant Superintendent, David Buddenbaum. "We will continue to monitor the effectiveness of programs, foster meaningful relationships with students, and promote an emphasis on *Finishing What You Start*."

Georgia calculates an adjusted cohort graduation rate as required by federal law. The four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate is calculated by the *number of students who graduate in four years with a regular high school diploma* divided by the *number of students who form the adjusted cohort for the graduating class*. The state of Georgia has some of the highest requirements in the nation for students to graduate with a regular diploma.

### Hart County Graduation Rate (Percentage)

Year	Average
2017	96.5
2016	92.4
2015	93.9
2014	88.1
2013	85.2
2012	76.8
2011	84.5
2010	75.1
2009	77
2008	80.3
2007	69.4
2006	64.2
2005	56.5