News Release: PGCPS Graduation Rate Reaches Record High

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High school graduation rate exceeds 80 percent for the first time since 2010

UPPER MARLBORO, MD – More than 81 percent of seniors in the Class of 2016 graduated from Prince George's County Public Schools – the highest number since 2010.

According to data released from the Maryland State Department of Education, the four-year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate (ACGR) rose 2.6 percentage points, moving from 78.8 to 81.4 percent. The PGCPS rate now exceeds 80 percent for the first time since the state began tracking cohort data in 2010.

Eight high schools meet the system's goal of a minimum 90 percent graduation rate:
Academy of Health Sciences at PGCC (100 percent), Bowie (90.2 percent), Charles H. Flowers (91 percent), DuVal (92.4 percent), Gwynn Park (94.6 percent), Eleanor Roosevelt (91.5 percent), Frederick Douglass (92 percent) and Surrattsville (90.8 percent).

Since 2013, the PGCPS graduation rate is up 7.3 percentage points, from 74.1 percent to the current 81.4 percent.

"We have made remarkable progress," said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer. "I am excited about the growth in this important measure. Our progress reflects not only the dedication of students and staff, but also the strength of new partnerships with families and the community."

Overall, 18 of 22 high schools improved over last year's rate. Gwynn Park High School had the highest graduation rate. Surrattsville High School had the largest increase, up 10.6 percentage points since last year.

The school system's 2.6 percentage point increase is the second-largest statewide. In addition, the PGCPS dropout rate decreased to 13.9 percent, down from 15 percent in 2015.

To support student success, the district is focused on literacy, improving teaching and learning, expanding teacher mentoring and professional development, using data to target student needs, offering online credit recovery programs and encouraging in-school alternatives to suspensions.

Comprehensive high schools with graduation rate gains of three or more percentage points since 2015 include:

Surrattsville – 10.6
Gwynn Park – 7.4
Suitland – 6.8
Potomac – 5.3
Charles Herbert Flowers – 4.9
Bowie – 4.7
Friendly – 4.6
Forestville – 4.0
High Point – 3.3

Graduation rates for all PGCPS high schools are as follows:

School	2015 ACGR	2016 ACGR	ACGR Change
Academy of Health Sciences at PGCC	100.0	100.0	0.0
Gwynn Park High	87.2	94.6	7.4
DuVal High	91.7	92.4	0.7
Frederick Douglass High	90.4	92.0	1.6
Eleanor Roosevelt High	90.5	91.5	1.0
Charles Herbert Flowers High	86.1	91.0	4.9
Surrattsville High	80.2	90.8	10.6
Bowie High	85.5	90.2	4.7
Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High	87.4	89.2	1.8
Laurel High	82.8	85.4	2.6
Fairmont Heights High	86.5	85.4	-1.1
Oxon Hill High	83.7	84.6	0.9
Largo High	82.4	84.2	1.8
Crossland High	81.3	82.0	0.7
Friendly High	76.1	80.7	4.6
Forestville High (closed June 2016)	75.5	79.5	4.0
Suitland High	72.3	79.1	6.8
Potomac High	71.0	76.3	5.3
Parkdale High	76.8	74.5	-2.3
Central High	75.0	73.9	-1.1
Bladensburg High	73.6	73.5	-0.1
Northwestern High	66.6	69.3	2.7
High Point High	59.2	62.5	3.3
All Prince George's Schools	**78.8**	**81.4**	**2.6**

MSDE uses a four-year cohort method to calculate graduation rates. It follows a set group of students from freshman year through their senior year.

For more information, visit the **2016 Maryland Report Card website (http://reportcard.msde.maryland.gov/CohortGradRate.aspx?PV=160:12:16:AAAA:1:N:0:13:1:1:0:1:1:1:3).**