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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Colquitt County School System Graduation Rate Increases

Moultrie, Georgia – November 10, 2020 – Georgia’s high school graduation rate has increased again in 2020, rising to 83.8% from 82% in 2019, and the Colquitt County School System positively impacted the state average with growth of its own. The district increased its overall graduation rate by 1.8% increasing to 87.2% from 85.36% in 2019.

Superintendent Doug Howell shared, “The district’s efforts to support all students from pre-k to graduation is evident by the growth in our graduation rate. This does not happen by accident; it is a purposeful decision to put the individual needs of students at the forefront of all actions. While there are still hurdles to overcome, we are educating students through positive relationships and building successful futures for all.”

The Georgia Department of Education provides districts with school and system graduation rates. Although there is only one high school in Colquitt County, the system’s grade configuration produces a system graduation rate different from the school rate. This is due to withdrawals and transfers from Colquitt County Achievement Center and C.A. Gray Junior High.

Colquitt County High School’s graduation rate decreased slightly from 88.6% to 88.3%. Colquitt County High School Principal Jamie Dixon shared, “Our score was 88.3% last school year. This score reflected a very slight decrease of .3% from the previous year. While I never make excuses for score declines, I am somewhat pleased that we held in the 88th percentile bracket given the unprecedented cessation of school on March 13, 2020. Our graduation rate is a direct reflection of the hard work that our students and teachers accomplished during the shortened 2020 school year. The future is bright at CCHS. Our pursuit of excellence continues as we have developed a completely new instructional delivery model. Our goal is to serve all of our students in a way that will allow everyone to chase their dreams.”

How Georgia calculates its graduation rate: Georgia calculates a four-year and a five-year adjusted cohort graduation rate as required by federal law. This rate is:

- The number of students who graduate in four years (five years for the 5-year graduation rate) with a regular high school diploma, divided by
- The number of students who form the adjusted cohort for the graduating class

Adjusted Cohort Rate Definition: From the beginning of ninth grade, students who are entering that grade for the first time form a cohort that is subsequently *adjusted* by adding any students who transfer into the cohort and subtracting any students who transfer out. While graduating from high school in four years is the priority, the five-year graduation rate is also included to acknowledge the work schools do to keep students in school who need additional time to meet requirements to graduate.

	(2019)	(2020)
School four-year graduation rate	88.6%	88.3%
District four-year graduation rate	85.4%	87.2%
School five-year graduation rate	87.3%	90.4%
District five-year graduation rate	81.3%	87.0%