



## Bibb County School District

Department of Communications & School Affairs

484 Mulberry Street, Suite 365, Macon, Georgia 31201, (478) 765-8548

<http://www.bcsdk12.net>

Dr. Curtis L. Jones Jr.  
Superintendent of Schools

Lester M. Miller  
Board President

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

MEDIA CONTACT

Stephanie Hartley (478) 765-8620

### **BIBB COUNTY GRADUATION RATE INCREASES TO 78.5 PERCENT; HALF OF BIBB HIGH SCHOOLS EXCEED 80 PERCENT GRADUATION RATE**

September 19, 2018

(MACON, GA) – Data released today by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) show the Bibb County School District’s high school graduation rate increased from 77.1 percent in 2017 to 78.5 percent in 2018. This marks the fourth consecutive increase in the District’s graduation rate since 2013 when the graduation rate was 58.9 percent. Central earned the District’s highest graduation rate in 2018 at 83.6 percent, making it one of three high schools in the District to achieve a graduation rate of 80 percent or higher in 2018. Northeast and Rutland High Schools earned graduation rates of 81.6 percent and 80.6 percent, respectively.

School	2018 Grad Rate	2017 Grad Rate	2016 Grad Rate
Central	83.6	79.9	74.6
Howard	79.7	83.1	83.8
Northeast	81.6	80.3	73.7
Rutland	80.6	74.8	72.6
Southwest	77.3	75.97	68.1
Westside	71.7	74.8	67.3
<b>District</b>	<b>78.5</b>	<b>77.1</b>	<b>71.6</b>
State	81.6	80.6	79.2

“Congratulations to our high schools for improving the District’s graduation rate,” Superintendent Dr. Curtis Jones said. “The District’s graduation rate this year increased at a greater percentage than the state, which means we are continuing to close the gap with the state. I’m very excited that three of our six high schools now have a graduation rate above 80 percent, which is a good indication that we are moving toward a District graduation rate of more than 80 percent by 2020. I continue to be impressed by our high schools as they individualize instruction to identify students that have a need for extra assistance; by our summer school programs that are being successful; and by the continued effort at Hutchings College and Career Academy to help students find success in pathways that are allowing them to become career ready and motivating them to graduate on time. Our District also is finding that successful partnerships with local colleges and universities has helped increase the number of students who are dual-enrolled, and that initiative is also increasing our graduation rate.”

**-MORE-**

*Vision: Each student demonstrates strength of character and is college or career ready.  
Mission: The Bibb County School District will develop a highly trained staff and an engaged community dedicated to educating each student for a 21st century global society.*

“Additionally, I am excited about the work that the elementary and middle schools are doing to send students who are better prepared to the high schools. The rate of students reading on grade level is continuing to increase, the attendance rate is continuing to increase, and improvements in student discipline are also on the rise. All of this shows our students are demonstrating strength of character and are becoming more college and/or career ready.”

At Central High School, the graduation rate increased to 83.6 percent in 2018 from 79.9 percent in 2017. Principal Emanuel Frazier says the school’s success is a testament to the work the students, staff and community have been engaged in over the past four years.

“When the Class of 2018 entered as freshmen, Central’s graduation rate was 54.7 percent. We knew that number did not represent who we are in the Central zone, and if we were going to make headway, we had to engage our students and parents on a different level,” Mr. Frazier said. “Under Dr. Jones’ leadership we were able to increase our focus on student achievement through a continuous improvement planning process, with specific work around several strategic priorities and non-negotiables, such as Response to Intervention, Formative Instructional Practices, and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. This focused work, coupled with efforts to partner with students, parents and the community in increasing the daily attendance of our students, has led to an increase in the graduation rate each year. We are ecstatic that our graduation rate is now 83.6 percent! While we are pleased, we are not satisfied. We will continue to refine our practices, and we have challenged this year’s freshman class to get to 90 percent by May 2022. Our goal is to continue to develop Leaders, Scholars and Citizens, because at Central, We Lead; It Can be Done!”

The District’s Class of 2018 was the second to graduate as part of a 2-year cohort with the assistance of the GEAR UP Program, a federally funded grant program designed to increase the number of students who graduate from high school prepared to succeed in post-secondary education. The GEAR UP Grant was first awarded to the District in 2011 to follow a cohort of students from what was then their sixth and seventh grade years through their graduations. Locally, the grant has been a partnership of the Bibb County School District, Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Georgia, Communities In Schools of Central Georgia, Fort Valley State University, Legacy Builders Foundation Inc., Mercer University, the Mentors Project of Bibb County, the Museum of Aviation Foundation, Robins Financial Credit Union, and Wesleyan College.

**XXXXX**