

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

March 27, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Maryland State Department of Education Release of Graduation Rate Data and Graduation Rate Annual Targets

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with graduation rate data, released by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) on Friday, March 15, 2019, and graduation rate annual target data released yesterday, Tuesday, March 26, 2019.

The four-year cohort graduation rate for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) students for the 2017–2018 school year (Class of 2018) is 88.4 percent, a decrease of 1.2 percentage points from the previous year. During the past three years, the four-year cohort graduation rate has decreased by 1.0 percentage point with an increase of 846 graduates.

It is important to note that students who receive a Maryland High School Certificate of Program Completion do not meet federal guidelines for a high school diploma, and are not included in the numerator of the graduation rate calculation. However, these students are included as part of the overall cohort and therefore are included in the denominator of the graduation rate calculation, having an adverse impact on school's graduation rates.

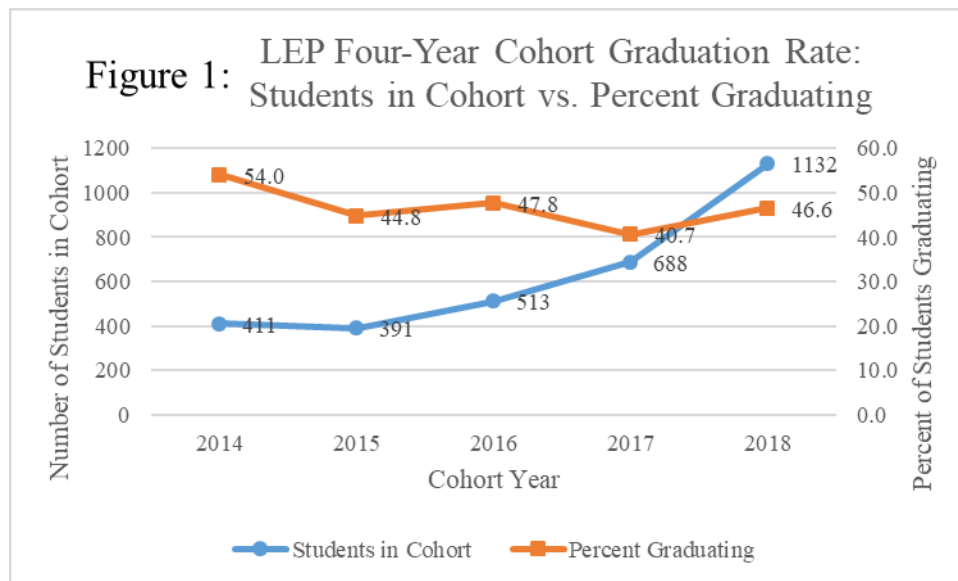
Table 1 of the Attachment provides trend data on the four-year cohort graduation rates for all MCPS students, by student subgroup, between two consecutive years displayed by a green up-arrow for an increase in graduation rate, a red down-arrow for decrease in graduation rate, and a yellow horizontal arrow meaning no change in the graduation rate between the two years. Also noted on the data table is a one-year and two-year rate change. The Class of 2018 experienced increases in graduation rates for Black or African American students, students of Two or More Races, Limited English Proficient (LEP) students and students receiving Free and Reduced-price Meals System (FARMS) services. All other student groups experienced decreases in graduation rates; All Students, Asian students, Hispanic/Latino students, White students and students receiving special education services.

Table 2 of the Attachment provides the same graduation rate data displayed by the MCPS Equity Accountability Model Student Focus Groups. Reviewing the data through the lenses of the focus groups reveals decreases in the graduation rates in the Non-FARMS - All Other group and

the Non-FARMS - Hispanic/Latino group. However, increases were noted for the Non-FARMS Black or African American group, FARMS – All Other group, FARMS – Black or African American group and FARMS – Hispanic/Latino group.

Table 3 of the Attachment provides trend data for each MCPS high school for the past four cohorts, also displaying a one-year and two-year rate change. Of particular note are the increases of more than 2.0 percentage points in the graduation rate from the Class of 2016 cohort to the Class of 2018 cohort at several MCPS high schools. These include James Hubert Blake High School (increase of 2.8 percentage points), Clarksburg High School (increase of 2.4 percentage points), John F. Kennedy High School (increase of 5.3 percentage points) and Seneca Valley High School (increase of 2.9 percentage points).

We continue to monitor graduation for our LEP students. The graduation rate for this group of students for the past four years has remained in the 40 to 50 percent range. However, there was a marked improvement between the Class of 2017 and the Class of 2018 with a 5.8 percentage point increase in graduation rate, particularly noteworthy since there also was an increase of 444 students in enrollment between the two cohorts. Figure 1 is a comparison graph of the last five graduation cohorts of LEP students comparing the number of students enrolled in the cohort versus their graduation rate.



The five-year cohort graduation rate for MCPS students for the Class of 2017 school year is 91.4 percent, a slight decrease from the previous year, which was 92.0 percent. Table 1 provides data on the five-year cohort graduation rate for all MCPS students for the Class of 2017. Table 2 provides data on the five-year graduation rates for the focus groups for the Class of 2017. Table 3 provides data on the five-year graduation rates for the All Students group for each MCPS high school for the Class of 2017.

Table 1
Four-Year and Five-Year Cohort Graduation Rates for
Student Subgroups for the Class of 2017

Subgroups	4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate FTNG 2014 Reported in 2017		5-Year Cohort Graduation Rate FTNG 2014 Reported in 2018		Difference Between Cohort Rates	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
All Students	11431	89.5	11432	91.4	1	1.9
Asian	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	--
Black or African American	2545	88.2	2543	90.4	-2	2.2
Hispanic/Latino	3154	78.5	3158	82.4	4	3.8
White	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	--
Two or More Races	447	93.3	447	94.2	0	0.9
Special Education	1195	69.5	1196	74.9	1	5.5
LEP	688	40.7	688	53.2	0	12.5
FARMS	3000	81.9	2958	86.8	-42	4.9

To comply with federal requirements, any percentage rates greater than or equal to 95.0% or less than or equal to 5.0% will be noted as ≥95.0 or ≤5.0, respectively and the N's will be suppressed using "--".

Table 2
Four-Year and Five-Year Cohort Graduation Rates for
Student Focus Groups for the Class of 2017

Subgroups	4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate FTNG 2014 Reported in 2017		5-Year Cohort Graduation Rate FTNG 2014 Reported in 2018		Difference Between Cohort Rates	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
All Students	11431	89.5	11432	91.4	1	1.9
Non-FARMS - All Other	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	--
Non-FARMS - Black or African American	1459	90.1	1468	91.3	9	1.2
Non-FARMS - Hispanic/Latino	1692	79.4	1719	81.0	27	1.7
FARMS - All Other	452	86.7	444	90.3	-8	3.6
FARMS - Black or African American	1086	85.7	1075	89.1	-11	3.4
FARMS - Hispanic/Latino	1462	77.6	1439	84.0	-23	6.5

To comply with federal requirements, any percentage rates greater than or equal to 95.0% or less than or equal to 5.0% will be noted as ≥95.0 or ≤5.0, respectively and the N's will be suppressed using "--".

Table 3
 Four-Year and Five-Year Cohort Graduation Rates for
 All Student Subgroup for High Schools for the Class of 2017

Subgroups	4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate FTNG 2014 Reported in 2017		5-Year Cohort Graduation Rate FTNG 2014 Reported in 2018		Difference Between Cohort Rates	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
	All Schools	11431	89.5	11432	91.4	1
Bethesda-Chevy Chase	502	94.4	--	≥95.0	--	--
Montgomery Blair	725	86.2	722	88.9	-3	2.7
James Hubert Blake	388	90.2	387	91.7	-1	1.5
Winston Churchill	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	--
Clarksburg	507	91.5	506	93.3	-1	1.8
Damascus	266	94.0	266	94.4	0	0.4
Albert Einstein	415	81.9	414	84.1	-1	2.1
Gaithersburg	544	77.4	543	80.9	-1	3.5
Walter Johnson	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	--
John F. Kennedy	378	81.2	377	85.7	-1	4.5
Col. Zadok Magruder	365	89.6	365	91.8	0	2.2
Richard Montgomery	580	92.2	584	94.2	4	1.9
Northwest	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	--
Northwood	407	79.4	408	84.3	1	5.0
Paint Branch	487	90.6	482	91.9	-5	1.4
Poolesville	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	--
Quince Orchard	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	--
Rockville	322	86.0	318	89.6	-4	3.6
Seneca Valley	290	86.2	287	89.2	-3	3.0
Sherwood	491	93.9	--	≥95.0	--	--
Springbrook	452	87.8	455	89.5	3	1.6
Watkins Mill	387	84.5	386	88.9	-1	4.4
Wheaton	371	77.4	370	80.8	-1	3.5
Walt Whitman	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	--
Thomas S. Wootton	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	--

To comply with federal requirements, any percentage rates greater than or equal to 95.0% or less than or equal to 5.0% will be noted as ≥95.0 or ≤5.0, respectively and the N's will be suppressed using "--".

Even though the four-year cohort graduation rate is low for LEP students, we do see a significant increase in the five-year cohort graduation rate for these students (Table 4). This increase confirms that our LEP students need additional time to master the English language and to complete the state graduation requirements. Many LEP students remain in school for an additional or what is called a ‘fifth year’ of education based on the cohort of students that they were initially assigned to when they first entered MCPS. The graduation rate is recalculated to include all four-year and five-year members of the cohort who now have graduated with a high school diploma.

Table 4
Limited English Proficient (LEP) Four-Year and Five-Year Cohort Graduation Rates for Students in the Classes of 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018

Class Year	4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate		5-Year Cohort Graduation Rate		Difference Between Cohort Rates	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
2018	1132	46.6	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
2017	688	40.7	688	53.2	0	12.5
2016	513	47.8	498	58.0	-15	10.3
2015	391	44.8	375	60.5	-16	15.8
2014	411	54.0	398	68.3	-13	14.3

Note. Change across cohorts is calculated from unrounded numbers and the difference is reported to the nearest tenth.

Note: The decrease in student population size indicates transfers out within the cohort, not student dropouts.

Table 5 and Table 6 indicate the number of students that were reported on the September 30, 2018, enrollment file and that still are attending MCPS high schools as of Friday, March 15, 2019. Between September and March an additional 200 students have left the remaining students enrolled from the Class of 2018 cohort. It is significant to report that 62.5 percent of the 200 students that have left were Hispanic/Latino, 22.5 percent were Black or African American, and 10.5 percent were White. Forty-eight percent of the students who have left were receiving FARMS services, 40 percent were LEP students, and 34 percent were receiving special education services.

Table 5
Number and Percent of Students Still Attending MCPS
from the Class of 2018 by Subgroup

Subgroups	Students Attending on September 30, 2018		Students Attending on March 15, 2019	
	N	%	N	%
All Students	587	100.0	387	100.0
American Indian/Alaskan Native	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0
Asian	38	6.5	35	9.0
Black or African American	139	23.7	94	24.3
Hispanic/Latino	298	50.8	173	44.7
Two or More Races	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0
White	94	16.0	73	18.9
LEP	199	33.9	119	30.7
FARMS	279	47.5	182	47.0
Special Education	253	43.1	185	47.8

To comply with federal requirements, any percentage rates greater than or equal to 95.0% or less than or equal to 5.0% will be noted as ≥95.0 or ≤5.0, respectively and the N's will be suppressed using "--".

Reviewing the data through the MCPS Equity Accountability Model lens, the two significant groups of students that left were the FARMS – Hispanic/Latino group and the Non-FARMS – Hispanic/Latino group at 32.5 percent and 30 percent, respectively.

Table 6
Number and Percent of Students Still Attending MCPS
from the Class of 2018 by Focus Group

Focus Groups	Students Attending on September 30, 2018		Students Attending on March 15, 2019	
	N	%	N	%
Non-FARMS - All Other	121	20.6	96	24.8
Non-FARMS - Black or African American	56	9.5	38	9.8
Non-FARMS - Hispanic/Latino	131	22.3	71	18.3
FARMS - All Other	--	≤5.0	24	6.2
FARMS - Black or African American	83	14.1	56	14.5
FARMS - Hispanic/Latino	167	28.4	102	26.4

To comply with federal requirements, any percentage rates greater than or equal to 95.0% or less than or equal to 5.0% will be noted as ≥95.0 or ≤5.0, respectively and the N's will be suppressed using "--".

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) – Maryland Annual Targets

MSDE released Annual Targets for graduation rates on March 26, 2019. These are annual targets for the district and schools to strive for that will serve as the basis for reporting on the annual Report Card. They are not a part of the Report Card calculation that determines the school's star-rating and school ranking across the state. These targets will be reported as 'met' or 'not met' the target. The graduation rate is a lagging indicator on the report card; therefore, for this measure, the Class of 2017 graduation data are used during the 2018 reporting year. MCPS did not meet the annual target for All Students, missing the target by .07 percentage points as indicated in Table 7. The following subgroups met the annual four-year cohort graduation rate target for the 2018 reporting year: Asian students, Black or African American students, and White students. MCPS did meet the annual targets for the five-year cohort graduation rate for All Students, Asian students, Black or African American students, and White students (Table 8).

Table 7
Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate and Annual Targets
Through the 2020 Reporting Year

Student Group Name	2018 Annual Target Met	2017 Four-Year Grad Rate	2018 Reporting Annual Target	2019 Reporting Annual Target	2020 Reporting Annual Target
All Students	N	89.52	89.59	90.09	90.58
Asian	Y	≥95.0	94.84	94.85	94.87
Black or African American	Y	88.21	84.66	85.60	86.54
Hispanic/Latino	N	78.54	82.32	83.47	84.62
White	Y	≥95.0	94.20	94.28	94.35
Two or more Races	N	93.29	93.35	93.50	93.65
Special Education	N	69.46	73.28	75.25	77.23
LEP	N	40.70	68.90	71.27	73.65

Note. The graduation rate lags by one year on the Maryland Report Card. Therefore, the graduation rate from the previous year will be used for the current reporting year. To comply with federal requirements, any percentage rates greater than or equal to 95.0% or less than or equal to 5.0% will be noted as ≥95.0 or ≤5.0, respectively and the N's will be suppressed using "--".

Table 8
Five-Year Cohort Graduation Rate and Annual Targets
Through the 2020 Reporting Year

Student Group Name	2018 Annual Target Met	2017 Five-Year Grad Rate	2018 Reporting Annual Target	2019 Reporting Annual Target	2020 Reporting Annual Target
All Students	Y	91.41	91.27	91.61	91.95
Asian	Y	≥95.0	95.00	95.00	95.00
Black or African American	Y	90.37	87.19	87.90	88.61
Hispanic/Latino	N	82.39	85.55	86.41	87.27
White	Y	≥95.0	94.85	94.87	94.88
Two or more races	N	94.18	95.00	95.00	95.00
Special Education	N	74.92	78.01	79.56	81.10
LEP	N	53.20	75.32	77.11	78.90

Note. The graduation rate lags by one year on the Maryland Report Card. Therefore, the graduation rate from the previous year will be used for the current reporting year. To comply with federal requirements, any percentage rates greater than or equal to 95.0% or less than or equal to 5.0% will be noted as ≥ 95.0 or ≤ 5.0 , respectively and the N's will be suppressed using "--".

The baseline data used for the Annual Targets for graduation rate were based on the Class of 2011. Maryland will reset the goals and will use the Class of 2020 as the baseline to determine future goals out to 2030.

In addition to the high schools receiving annual targets for the four-year and five-year graduation rate, all schools will receive in the coming weeks their annual targets for proficiency in English language arts, mathematics and progress toward meeting English proficiency for LEP students.

If you have any questions about these data, please contact Dr. Janet S. Wilson, associate superintendent, Office of Shared Accountability, at 240-740-2930.

JRS:JSW:amg

Attachment

Copy to:

Executive Staff

Ms. Webb

Table 1
Final Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate Trends for District by Subgroup for
Students in the Classes of 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018

	Class of 2015 FTNG 2012 Cohort		Class of 2016 FTNG 2013 Cohort		Class of 2017 FTNG 2014 Cohort		Class of 2018 FTNG 2015 Cohort		1-year Rate Change		2-year Rate Change	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
All Students	11124	89.4	11259	↑89.8	11431	↓89.5	11970	↓88.4	539	-1.2	711	-1.5
Asian	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	--	--	--
Black or African American	2587	86.8	2566	↑87.7	2545	↑88.2	2602	↑89.6	57	1.3	36	1.9
Hispanic/Latino	2790	79.6	2853	↑80.4	3154	↓78.5	3507	↓75.9	353	-2.7	654	-4.5
White	3653	94.9	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	3567	↓94.9	--	--	--	--
Two or More Races	422	92.9	478	↔92.9	447	↑93.3	522	↑94.1	75	0.8	44	1.2
Special Education	1170	66.5	1187	↑72.0	1195	↓69.5	1183	↓68.8	-12	-0.6	-4	-3.2
LEP	391	44.8	513	↑47.8	688	↓40.7	1132	↑46.6	444	5.8	619	-1.2
FARMS	2978	82.0	2867	↑82.9	3000	↓81.9	3117	↑83.1	117	1.2	250	0.2

Note. American Indian or Alaskan Native students and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander students are included in the All Students group but not reported separately. LEP = Limited English Proficient. FTNG = First Time Ninth Grade. Change across cohorts is calculated from unrounded numbers and then the difference is reported to the nearest tenth. To comply with federal requirements, any percentage rates greater than or equal to 95.0% or less than or equal to 5.0% will be noted as ≥95.0 or ≤5.0, respectively and the N's will be suppressed using "--".

Table 2
Final Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate Trends for District by Focus Group for
Students in the Classes of 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018

	Class of 2015 FTNG 2012 Cohort		Class of 2016 FTNG 2013 Cohort		Class of 2017 FTNG 2014 Cohort		Class of 2018 FTNG 2015 Cohort		1-year Rate Change		2-year Rate Change	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
All Students	11124	89.4	11259	↑89.8	11431	↓89.5	11970	↓88.4	539	-1.2	711	-1.5
Non-FARMS - All Other	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	--	--	--
Non-FARMS - Black or African American	1425	88.9	1434	↑90.7	1459	↓90.1	1545	↑91.8	86	1.7	111	1.1
Non-FARMS - Hispanic/Latino	1472	81.1	1591	↓80.7	1692	↓79.4	1942	↓73.3	250	-6.1	351	-7.4
FARMS - All Other	498	87.6	473	↑88.4	452	↓86.7	495	↑88.9	43	2.2	22	0.5
FARMS - Black or African American	1162	84.2	1132	↓83.8	1086	↑85.7	1057	↑86.3	-29	0.6	-75	2.4
FARMS - Hispanic/Latino	1318	78.0	1262	↑80.0	1462	↓77.6	1565	↑79.0	103	1.5	303	-0.9

Note. FTNG = First Time Ninth Grade. Change across cohorts is calculated from unrounded numbers and then the difference is reported to the nearest tenth. To comply with federal requirements, any percentage rates greater than or equal to 95.0% or less than or equal to 5.0% will be noted as ≥95.0 or ≤5.0, respectively and the N's will be suppressed using "--".

Table 3
Final Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate Trends by High School for
Students in the Classes of 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018

	Class of 2015 FTNG 2012 Cohort		Class of 2016 FTNG 2013 Cohort		Class of 2017 FTNG 2014 Cohort		Class of 2018 FTNG 2015 Cohort		1-year Rate Change		2-year Rate Change	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
All Schools	11124	89.4	11259	↑89.8	11431	↓89.5	11970	↓88.4	539	-1.2	711	-1.5
Bethesda-Chevy Chase	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	502	↓94.4	529	↑94.9	27	0.5	--	--
Montgomery Blair	699	87.4	703	↑88.3	725	↓86.2	768	↑86.7	43	0.5	65	-1.6
James Hubert Blake	411	90.3	413	↓88.9	388	↑90.2	383	↑91.6	-5	1.4	-30	2.8
Winston Churchill	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	--	--	--
Clarksburg	484	93.4	471	↓90.9	507	↑91.5	502	↑93.2	-5	1.7	31	2.4
Damascus	325	94.8	311	↓92.3	266	↑94.0	326	↓90.2	60	-3.8	15	-2.1
Albert Einstein	414	82.6	392	↑83.2	415	↓81.9	466	↑83.7	51	1.8	74	0.5
Gaithersburg	554	77.6	542	↑80.1	544	↓77.4	589	↓74.0	45	-3.4	47	-6.1
Walter Johnson	--	≥95.0	594	↓94.4	--	≥95.0	586	↓93.9	--	--	-8	-0.6
John F. Kennedy	416	79.3	355	↓76.3	378	↑81.2	426	↑81.7	48	0.5	71	5.3
Col. Zadok Magruder	409	90.2	396	↓89.4	365	↑89.6	397	↓86.7	32	-2.9	1	-2.7
Richard Montgomery	554	90.4	525	↑93.1	580	↓92.2	610	↓91.3	30	-0.9	85	-1.8
Northwest	494	94.5	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	623	↓94.9	--	--	--	--
Northwood	390	81.0	368	↑82.9	407	↓79.4	413	↑80.6	6	1.3	45	-2.3
Paint Branch	480	90.4	519	↓89.6	487	↑90.6	504	↓87.9	17	-2.6	-15	-1.7
Poolesville	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	--	--	--
Quince Orchard	429	92.5	487	↑93.8	--	≥95.0	484	↓92.4	--	--	-3	-1.5
Rockville	319	85.3	309	↑89.3	322	↓86.0	368	↓85.3	46	-0.7	59	-4.0
Seneca Valley	322	84.2	297	↓82.2	290	↑86.2	314	↓85.0	24	-1.2	17	2.9
Sherwood	489	91.8	492	↑94.7	491	↓93.9	457	↓90.4	-34	-3.5	-35	-4.3
Springbrook	416	84.9	413	↑87.4	452	↑87.8	472	↓85.4	20	-2.5	59	-2.0
Watkins Mill	325	90.8	358	↓88.6	387	↓84.5	411	↓79.3	24	-5.2	53	-9.2
Wheaton	308	82.8	349	↓82.2	371	↓77.4	429	↓77.2	58	-0.2	80	-5.1
Walt Whitman	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	--	--	--
Thomas S. Wootton	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	≥95.0	--	--	--	--

Note. FTNG = First Time Ninth Grade. Change across cohorts is calculated from unrounded numbers and then the difference is reported to the nearest tenth. To comply with federal requirements, any percentage rates greater than or equal to 95.0% or less than or equal to 5.0% will be noted as ≥95.0 or ≤5.0, respectively and the N's will be suppressed using "--".