



Savannah Chatham County Public School System

Cohort Graduation Rate School Year 2010-11

About the Cohort Graduation Rate

Since the 2002-03 school year, the Georgia Department of Education (GADOE) has published state, district, and school-level graduation rates. These graduation rates have historically relied on a calculation method commonly known as the “leaver” formula. This method calculates the graduation rate by dividing the number of students earning a regular diploma by the total number of exiting 12th graders plus the number of students who dropped out over the four most recent years.

On April 10th, 2012, GADOE published a new graduation rate for SY 2010-11 based on the cohort calculation method that the United States Department of Education now requires all states to use. This cohort formula tracks individual students from the date of 9th grade entry in order to determine whether they earn a regular diploma within four years. This four-year time limit to complete graduation requirements is one of the primary differences between the cohort and leaver calculation methods.

SY 2010-11 Cohort Graduation Rate: Key Points

- Under the new cohort-based formula the SCCPSS graduation rate was 54.4%, compared to 77.7% under the traditional leaver-based formula.
- Cohort-based graduation rates among SCCPSS schools ranged from 51.5% to 100%.
- The cohort graduation rate was lower than the leaver rate for SCCPSS, its comparison group of demographically similar districts, and for the state as a whole.
- Significant factors impacting the difference between the cohort and leaver rates include the number of students who take more than four years to complete graduation requirements; availability of documentation supporting out-of-state transfers; and student mobility rates.

Graduation Rate Comparison

	Leaver Rate				Calculation Change	Cohort Rate
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11		2010-11
State	75.4	78.9	80.8	80.9		67.4
Comp Group*	72.0	75.5	76.8	76.6		59.6
SCCPSS	63.9	72.2	77.5	77.7		54.4
Beach	49.5	65.7	64.3	73.3		51.9
Groves	56.9	69.6	75.5	80.3		51.5
Islands**	NA	NA	NA	93.5		82.5
Jenkins	67.0	73.3	80.9	77.0		58.1
Johnson	67.5	74.8	76.1	73.1		53.3
Savannah Arts	99.4	98.9	100.0	100.0		100.0
SHS - Law**	NA	NA		86.7		56.5
SHS - Liberal**	NA	NA	72.3	68.7		51.9
Windsor	67.0	74.6	81.3	75.6		52.7

*Comparison group of demographically similar districts includes the following: Clarke, Clayton, DeKalb, Dougherty, Liberty, Muscogee, Richmond, Spalding, Troupe, & Atlanta Public Schools.

**School with less than four years of student data; graduation rate calculated locally from individual student level data provided by GADOE.

NA – School not in existence Not reported; < 10 students