



# Barrow County School System

Boldly Committed to Student Success

Dr. Chris McMichael  
Superintendent

## Class of 2016 Boasted Highest Graduation Rate in Barrow County Schools History

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**Contacts:** **Dr. Ken Greene** – Assistant Superintendent for Support Services  
**Dr. Matt Thompson** – Director of Student and Data Services

**November 1, 2016** – Earlier today the Georgia Department of Education released data on the graduation rates for the class of 2016 by system and school. The Barrow County class of 2016 boasted the highest graduation rate of any class in BCSS history since graduation rates were consistently measured statewide (around 2000). In Georgia, graduation rates are measured by the “cohort” method. Cohort methods measure what percentage of students at a school graduate within four years of entering high school. Students that transfer to other schools in or out of state, or who move to home schooling, do not count in the cohort rate.

In 2016, 83.9% of Barrow County students in their fourth year of high school, or who would have been had they not dropped out, graduated with a high school diploma. This was notably higher than the state of Georgia overall graduation rate of 79.2%. This also marks the high point for the Barrow County School System’s graduation rate since the advent of graduation rate measurements. Prior to 2011, Georgia schools measured their graduation rates on a less stringent “leaver” model wherein students counted as graduates in the rate even if it took them longer than four years to finish. Even under those less demanding measures the high point for BCSS students was 76.7%, in 2011.

### Quotes

“These most recent results underscore the continuous focus of all our teachers and staff members on providing every single student in our system with opportunities to succeed and reach the goal of a high school diploma. I am very proud of the dedication and high expectations that the high schools (supported by our middle and elementary schools) have embraced over the past few years as evidenced by the overall trend of the rising district graduation rate each year!”

**Chris McMichael, Ed.D.**  
**Superintendent**

Level	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Barrow County	68.0%	72.1%	75.6%	79.1%	83.9%
Georgia	69.7%	71.8%	72.5%	78.8%	79.2%
Apalachee High	71.4%	78.9%	83.7%	86.6%	84.6%
Winder-Barrow High	68.8%	72.7%	76.8%	84.6%	87.9%

**Technical Notes:** System level graduation rates are lower than school graduation rates as students that transfer between schools within a district in their fourth year count for the system graduation rate but not the school rate. The BCSS rate from 2012 to 2015 also included Snodon Preparatory School’s graduation rate, which is not reported here as the school is no longer operational.

