The Cherokee County School District (CCSD) continues to perform at the top of Georgia’s public school systems, with its teachers, students and support staff garnering recognition at the state and national levels for exemplary accomplishments. CCSD continued to increase student achievement in 2019 while adding Social and Emotional Learning components to its classrooms in order to better serve students, families and employees, helping them develop skills for overcoming challenges. CCSD also was able to improve financial efficiency and take additional steps toward debt reduction, without any increase in the tax rate. Much of 2019 was spent working with parents and community leaders to craft a new five-year strategic plan, entitled Blueprint, which will guide CCSD’s efforts through 2024.

**CCSD CLASS OF 2019: 2,781 GRADUATES**

- 4-year graduation rate: 87% (GA 82%)
- 5-year graduation rate: 90% (GA 84%)
- Career Pathway graduation rate: 98% 
- Average SAT score: 1115 (GA 1048/U.S. 1039) 
- Average ACT score: 22.7 (GA 21.4/U.S. 20.7) 
- AP exam pass rate (score of 3+): 79% (GA 61%/U.S. 60%) 
- HOPE Scholarship eligibility rate: 56% (GA 45%) 
- 608 students earned industry certification or college credit with a CTAE exam

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

CCRP (College and Career Ready Performance Index) is Georgia’s school improvement and accountability platform designed to promote college and career readiness for all Georgia public school students. Scores are based on Milestones test results and other metrics.

- 2019 marked the fifth year that Georgia students took the Milestones End of Grade (EOG) tests for grades 3-8 and End of Course (EOC) tests for eight required high school courses. On EOG tests, CCSD students have shown achievement increases in all grade levels in English Language Arts (ELA) and five of six grade levels in math. On EOC tests, students have shown marked improvement in seven of eight subjects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019 CCRPI</th>
<th>CCSD</th>
<th>GA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL SCORE</td>
<td>83.4</td>
<td>75.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</td>
<td>86.0</td>
<td>77.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDDLE SCHOOL</td>
<td>80.4</td>
<td>72.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIGH SCHOOL</td>
<td>82.4</td>
<td>77.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CCRPI (College and Career Ready Performance Index) is Georgia’s school improvement and accountability platform designed to promote college and career readiness for all Georgia public school students. Scores are based on Milestones test results and other metrics.

**CCSD STUDENTS READING AT OR ABOVE GRADE LEVEL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Cherokee County School District’s overall performance is better than 90% of school districts in Georgia, according to the Governor’s Office on Student Achievement.*
The Cherokee County Board of Education has maintained a balanced operating budget with no increase in the local tax rate in 10 years. The last seven CCSD external audits are clean with no findings. CCSD’s general administration expenditures rank in the lowest 10% of school districts in Georgia.

School Climate ratings are determined by student discipline and attendance data combined with surveys of students, staff and parents. CCSD schools earned an average of 4 stars in 2019 out of a highest possible 5. With the new focus on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), efforts to better serve “the whole child” are now a major component of the CCSD Blueprint strategic plan and will continue to be a key part of training and instruction throughout the district.

CCSD is the 9th largest school district in Georgia, with more than 42,000 students and just over 5,000 employees. Our students represent more than 100 countries and all 50 states, with 49 native languages spoken among them. Our teachers are routinely recognized by professional organizations and their peers for their innovation and commitment to students.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

CCSD earned 4.5 out of 5 stars on the State’s Fiscal Efficiency Star Rating system each of the last three years (2017, 2018 and 2019). Only three school districts in the state have achieved a higher rating. Additionally, CCSD ranks in the lowest 20% of Georgia school districts for expenditures per student (with a 3-year average of $8,653 per pupil), while student achievement is ranked among the highest in the state.

FY2020 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES: $429,634,135

- Transportation: 5%
- Maintenance & Construction Services: 7%
- School Admin: 6%
- Instructional Improvement: 3%
- Pupil Services: 4%
- Other: 7%

CCSD paid $51,203,337 in QBE-required Local Fair Share Funding to the State in 2019-20, equivalent to 6.04 mills of property tax.

Education SPLOST Projects

CCSD uses a voter-approved Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (Ed SPLOST) to fund capital expenditures such as school renovation and construction, classroom technology and the purchase of new school buses, as well as debt reduction. The current Ed SPLOST was approved by voters in 2016 and is providing for the following projects:

Underway: Classroom addition at Mill Creek Middle School (completion August 2020); Agriculture Science Building at Creekview High School (completion December 2020); and Healthcare Science Lab at Sequoyah High School (completion July 2020)

Planning Phase: Athletic Facility Improvements at Etowah HS; Classroom addition at Woodstock Middle School; Auxiliary gymnasium at Woodstock High School; Parent entrance at Boston Elementary School