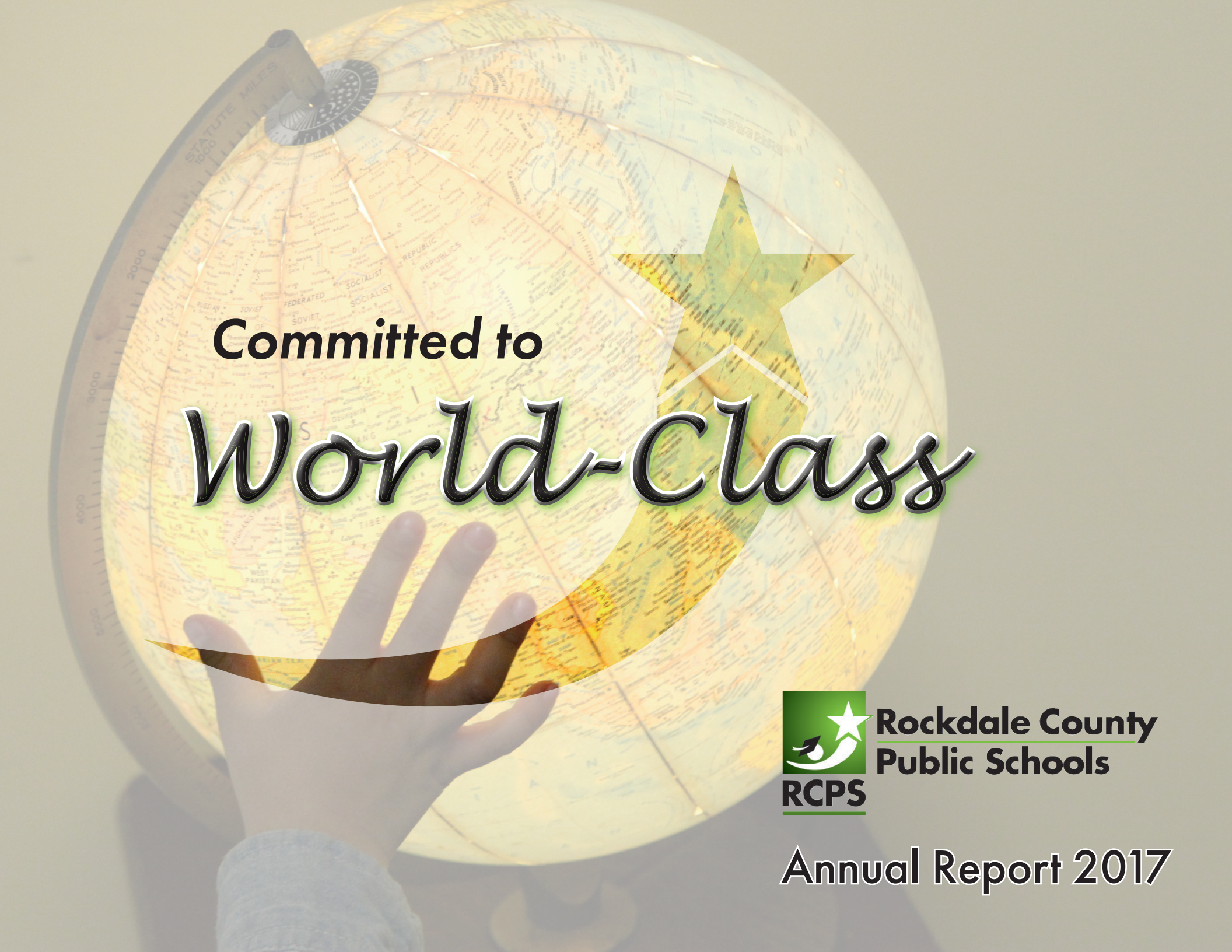

Committed to World-Class

Rockdale County Public Schools

RCPS

Annual Report 2017

Rockdale County Public Schools is Internationally Accredited by

AdvancED®

"One of the very highest rated districts"

- Dr. Mike Lodico, AdvancEd Lead Evaluator

RCPS

Rockdale County Public Schools

Annual 2017 Report

EXTRAORDINARY SUCCESS

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Exemplary Board

Georgia School Boards Association 2016-2017 Exemplary Board

Our Board of Education holds the highest possible designation of Exemplary Board from the Georgia School Boards Association for second consecutive year.

Only 39 school systems in the state hold this designation.

Front row from left: Board members Pamela J. Brown, Heather Duncan, Mandy M. North, Katrina P. Young
Back row from left: Chairman Jim McBrayer, Board member Tony Dowdy, Vice Chairman Wales F. Barksdale, and Superintendent Richard Autry

Mission

The mission of Rockdale County Public Schools
is to ensure student success
through a world-class education
with advanced opportunities
and personalized support for all.

World-Class

Standards for Quality:

World-Class

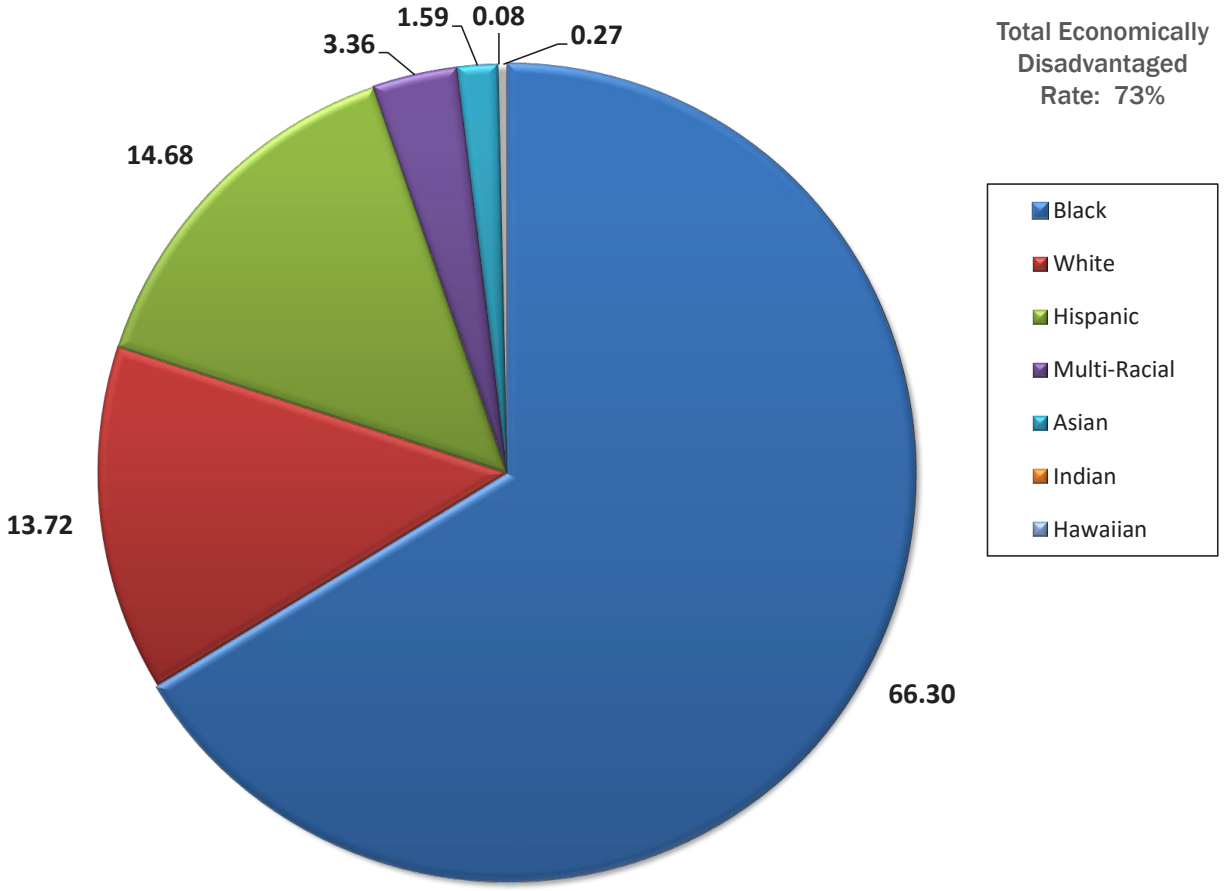
People • Teaching and Learning • Operational Resources

Learning Environments • Culture and Climate • Community Support and Engagement

RCPS is developing its next five-year strategic plan which will serve as the system's blueprint for operations and continuous improvement. Our collaborative approach to strategic planning includes the input and feedback of students, staff, parents, and community members to establish priorities and the overall direction of the system for the next five years. The initial planning phase resulted in a revised mission and the theme—*Committed to World-Class* as we strive to prepare all students for successful futures.

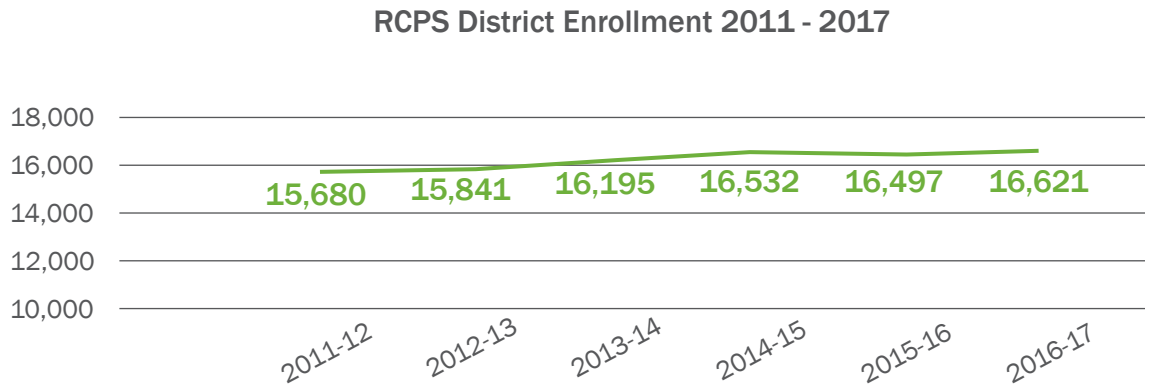
Demographics

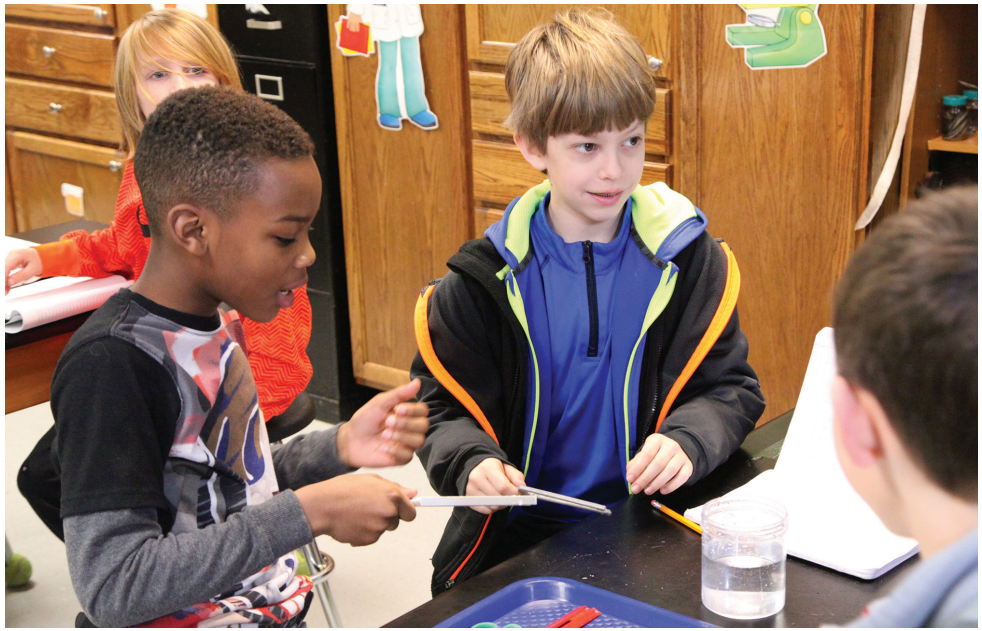
Student Population Percentages by Ethnic Subgroups



Enrollment

RCPS enrollment has been increasing over the last six years.

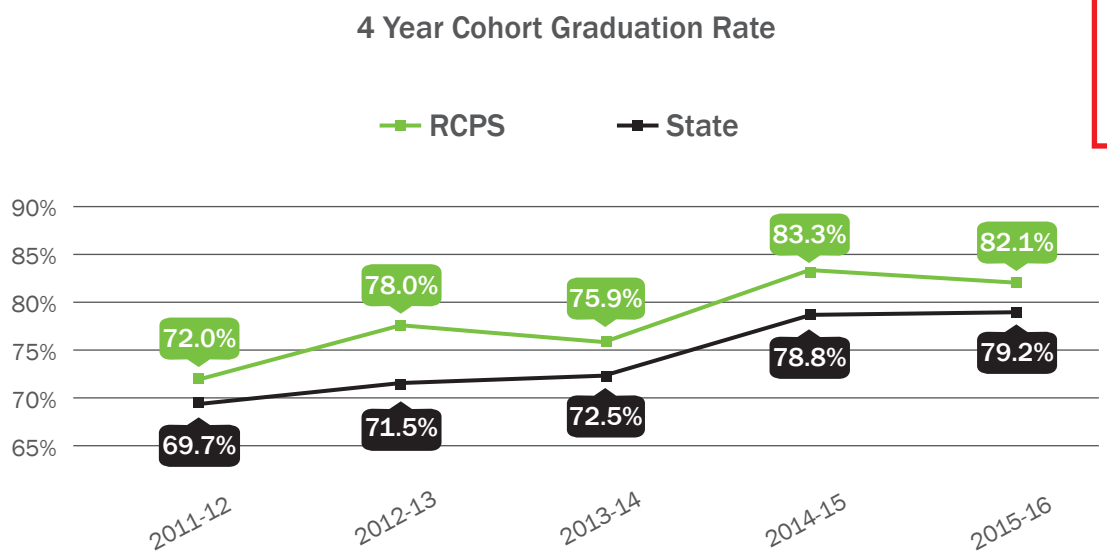




Academics

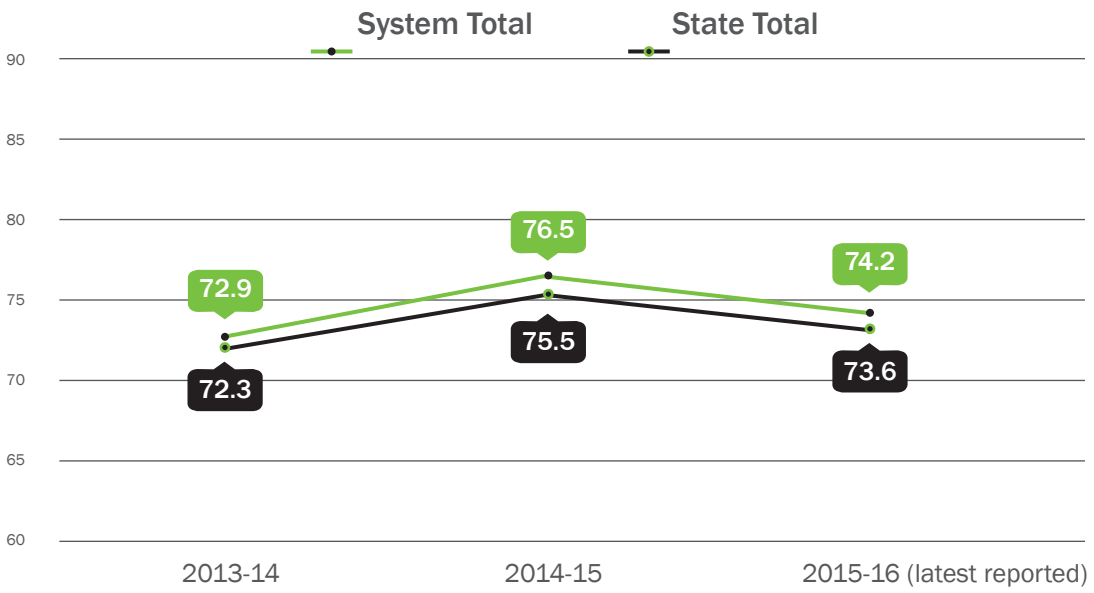
RCPS graduation rate is *consistently* above the state average.

RCPS = 82.1%
State = 79.2%

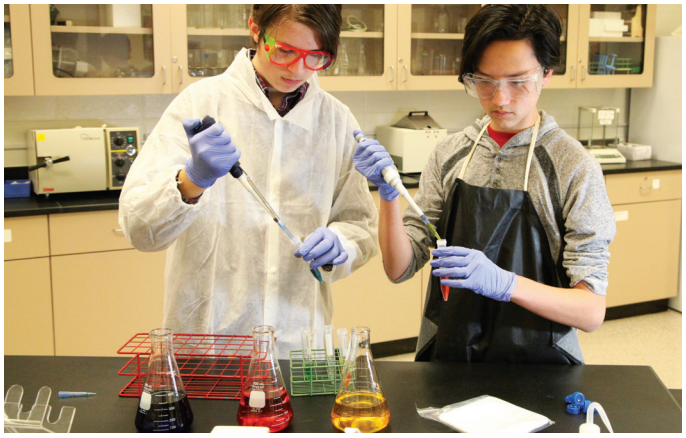


Academics

College and Career Ready Performance Index: RCPS Score Tops State for Third Consecutive Year



RCPS = 74.2%
State = 73.6%



Climate Star Rating

(2016 latest reported)

88.3

District Average

★★★★☆

Grade Level Averages:	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
	91.9	80.2	86.2
	★★★★☆	★★★☆☆	★★★★☆

Academics

All three RCPS High Schools named 2017 Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Schools

AP STEM Schools:

Heritage HS, Rockdale County HS, and Salem HS

Schools with students testing in at least two AP math courses and two AP science courses.

AP STEM Achievement School:

Rockdale County HS

Schools with students testing in at least two AP math courses and two AP science courses and at least 40% of scores on AP math and science exams earning scores of 3 or higher.

AP Humanities Schools:

Rockdale County HS and Salem HS

Schools with students testing in the following AP courses: at least one ELA course, two social science courses, one fine arts course and one world language course.

AP Access and Support Schools:

Heritage HS and Rockdale County HS

Schools with at least 30% of AP exams taken by students who identified themselves as African-American and/or Hispanic and 30% of all AP exams earning scores of 3 or higher.

Honor Schools

AP Honor Schools

Academics

Certified STEM Programs

Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology, the first Georgia high school to be STEM certified, was awarded recertification by the Georgia DOE in an April 20, 2017 ceremony.

The Academy for Environmental Sciences at Memorial Middle School is also a state certified STEM program.

Academics

Five RCPS Schools Named Title I Reward Schools

Highest Performing Reward Schools (top 5% of Title I schools):
Barksdale Elementary, Lorraine Elementary
High Progress Reward Schools (top 10% of Title I schools):
C. J. Hicks Elementary, Flat Shoals Elementary, Davis Middle

Sims Elementary School Recognized

Superintendent Richard Autry presented a Superintendent's Letter of Commendation to the Sims Elementary School Ivy League Team on SES's success over the past two years and its exit from the Focus Schools list.

LEARNING REIMAGINED

Transforming teaching and learning using technology and individual student devices

3-Year implementation of the One-to-One Technology Initiative completed.

Over 18,300 devices

have been purchased with E-SPLOST IV funds and distributed to students and teachers.

Individual devices allow students to find, evaluate, and thoughtfully use information, to work with others to create collaborative products of learning, and to engage in authentic, real-world tasks. Most importantly, the students will develop the skills they need to become engaged, digitally responsible citizens ready to compete in today's technology infused society.

RCPS is committed to keeping your students safe online. Our students, teachers, coaches, and administrators are responsible for meeting technology standards specific to digital citizenship.

common sense education™ | Certified District Digital Citizenship

Digital Learning Resources

Students and teachers have access to a wide variety of digital resources to support teaching and learning. Our learning management system ItsLearning provides a digital platform for teachers and students to interact through assignments, assessments and a social space specifically for their class. RCPS digital firewalls and other protective measures are in place to provide these valuable resources in a safe digital environment. Parents have access to many digital resources as well, including a parent portal which can push notifications on attendance, assignments, grades, schedules, and school announcements.

Enhanced Options

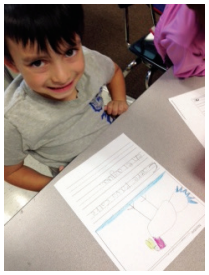
Specialty & Choice Programs offered throughout the district.

We have expanded personalized learning through Specialty & Choice Programs designed to give students the opportunity to attend an academic program based on interests and talents, and are not restricted by attendance zones.

- AVID Elementary (a college prep program) at Sims Elementary
- Dual Language Immersion Program at C. J. Hicks Elementary
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) focus at Honey Creek Elementary
- S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) at Shoal Creek Elementary
- The Center for Technology (featuring Aerospace Engineering) at Conyers Middle School
- The Academy for Pre-Medical Sciences at Edwards Middle School
- STEM Academy for Environmental Studies at Memorial Middle School
- Performing and Visual Arts Academy at Davis Middle School
- Performing and Visual Arts Academy at Heritage High School
- The Institute of Advanced Technology at Rockdale County High School
- International Entertainment and Business Leadership Academy at Salem High School
- Microsoft Information Technology Academies at all three high schools

Please note:
Rockdale Virtual Campus, Rockdale Career Academy, Rockdale Open Campus, and Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology are also academic options available to all students; however, they do not follow the same application/selection process as the Specialty & Choice Programs.

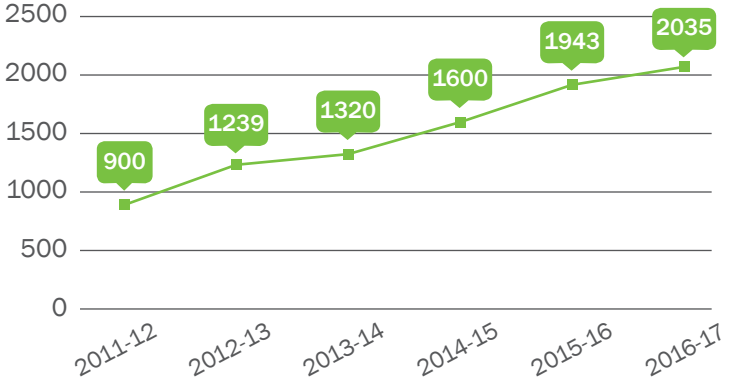
Renovations to the Salem High audiovisual technology & film lab completed.



Students enrolled in the C. J. Hicks DLI program spend 50% of their school day speaking, hearing, and reading only Spanish.

Advanced Learning Opportunities

Rockdale Virtual Campus: Growth



Over 35 courses available for middle and high school students!

Rockdale Career Academy

Career pathways afford students a multi-year program to hone their skills and knowledge. Many pathways offer industry certifications giving students an advantage in the workforce. RCA offers 22 pathways in the following areas:

Architecture
Audio Visual Technology and Film
Automotive
Certified Nursing Assistant
Construction
Cosmetology
Culinary
EKG Certification
EMT
Early Childhood Education
Engineering, Drawing and Design
Firefighting
Graphic Design
Healthcare
- Allied Health
- Patient Care
- Sports Medicine

Information Technology
Interior Design
Law and Justice
Manufacturing
Marketing: Fashion and Sports
Teaching as a Profession
Veterinary Science
Welding

Dual Enrollment

High school students have the ability to earn college credits free of charge through Dual Enrollment.

HHS Class of 2017 graduate Smith Meach earned two Associate's Degrees (Modern Language and Natural Science) with Academic Excellence Honors from Middle Georgia State University while in high school. He enters University of Alabama as a junior.

Work Based Learning

Work based learning provides opportunities for hands-on learning and real work experiences.

Top Pathway Interns, 2017 RCPS Work Based Learning Awards Program

Budget

Maintaining a Debt Free School System

FY 17 — Board of Education Adopted Budget of $155,366,005

FY 18 — Budget Priority: RCPS Strategic Compensation Model

Implement a market competitive incentive model to support recruitment, retention and recognition of quality personnel. These 10 elements comprise the model:

- ✓ 3% Cost of living adjustment to pay scale for all employees
- Salary step increase (3%) for all employees
- Restore Remaining 3% of Employer 4% Contribution to Alternative Retirement
- ✓ Continue the Team Incentive Model for Schoolwide Achievement
- ✓ Offer $1,500 signing supplement for hard-to-fill positions (Special Education, Secondary Math, Science, Foreign Language)
- ✓ Provide $100 School Supply Gift Card for all classroom teachers
- ✓ Provide $500 Quality Bonus to all school selected Teachers of the Year or RCPS Honor Teachers (one time)
- ✓ Provide $1,000 Quality Bonus for all District Teachers of the Year, STAR Teachers, or Certified Master Teachers (perpetuity)
- Provide Loyalty Awards at milestone years of continuous service in RCPS
  (5 years = $500; 10 years = $1,000; 15 years = $1,500; 20 years = $2,000; 25 years = $2,500; 30 years = $3,000)
- ✓ Expand Perfect Attendance Incentive to $250 bi-annually

Board of Education adopted FY 18 Budget which addresses

✓ 7 out of 10

Elements of the Strategic Compensation Model

Maximizing Resources

E-SPLOST IV Expenditures to Date: $27,919,873.60

Safety and Security: $779,557.03

Technology: $17,336,505.48

Facilities: $9,803,811.14

New band uniforms for all three high schools

Safety and Security: School Access Control Entrance Vestibules and Airphone Systems

Technology: Laptops, Tablets, Mac Labs and Digital Learning Resources

Installations & Renovations

Facilities

New football fields with artificial turf and surrounding tracks now complete at all three high schools

Enhancements for specialty programs; theatre improvements at all middle and high schools

Groundbreaking News!

May 2, 2017 Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Pine Street Elementary

The new Pine Street Elementary building site is located adjacent to Conyers Middle on Sigman Road. Construction officially began with a ceremony in May and the facility will open for the 2018-19 school year.

Conceptual design renderings for building exterior views, interior main entrance and classroom

2017 Academics, Athletics, the Arts

EXTRAORDINARY SUCCESS

Rockdale Magnet School Math Team placed 2nd out of 35 schools at the state-wide Mercer University High School Mathematics Contest on Nov. 12th. Matthew York paced 1st and Andrew Bonar placed 3rd in ciphering.

Congressional App Challenge Winners for Congressman Hank Johnson's district - Rockdale Magnet students Austin Goodloe (10th gr), Jeebe Diop, Daniel Garner, Brandon Golston (11th gr) won with "Dungeon Delver II" game app. Congressman Johnson recognized these students on Jan. 17th at Rockdale Magnet School.

Coca-Cola Scholar Semifinalist - Rockdale Magnet School senior Jazz Duncan selected as a semi-finalist for the Coca-Cola Scholars Program. About 1,900 seniors named semi-finalists from more than 86,000 applicants. 150 college scholarships worth $20,000 each are awarded. Students are selected to advance to this next phase based on academic excellence, leadership and service demonstrated in school and community activities.

Junior Science and Humanities Symposium on February 26-28, 2017 at UGA - 26 students from RCPS chosen to present with only 70 spots available statewide. 23 Rockdale Magnet students and three Davis Middle Students participated. The DMS students are the only middle school students selected.

State Science Fair - 16 middle school students (12 projects) and 29 high school students (28 projects) were selected from Rockdale Regional Science and Engineering Fair to present at the 2017 Georgia Science and Engineering Fair.

National and International Science Fair Award Winners - Five Rockdale Magnet students were National Consortium of Secondary STEM Schools Student Research Conference Representatives, June 2017, in Boston, MA. One Rockdale Magnet student selected as International Sustainable World Project Olympiad Representative, held May 2017, Houston, TX. International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) presenters and awards: Madeline Burkey "The Effect of EDTA Chelation as a Desorption Mechanism" 11th grade at Rockdale Magnet; Nkima Stephenson "Data Integration & Analysis of Epigenetics" Kardinal Award Winner - Best in Fair,12th grade at Rockdale Magnet; and Michelle Nguyen "Topical Antibiotics Consisting of Iron Oxide Nanoparticles" 11th grade at Rockdale Magnet.

Rockdale Magnet School Math Team placed 2nd at the 43rd annual Georgia Southwestern State University High School Mathematics Tournament. 330 students participated from 38 schools. Magnet students Raeed Ahmed, Sarah Beharry, Andrew Bonar, Elijah Cheban, Erin Hardnett, Felix Luu, Zarek Syed, and Matthew York were coached by Dr. Charles Garner. Andrew Bonar won 1st place in individual honors and Matthew York won 5th place in individual honors.

Environmental Protection Agency Youth Symposium Essay Contest Winners - Rockdale Magnet School students Brittany Knowles - 2nd Place; Chris Bodiford - 1st place; Daniel Luu - 1st place; Renee George-1st place; Elaina Mosley -1st Place.

Governor's Honors Program (GHP) is a residential summer program for gifted and talented high school juniors and seniors. Approximately 3,000 students from across the state applied to attend the program, and those students underwent a rigorous selection process to be named semi-finalists. 18 RCPS high school students advanced as semi-finalists. HHS – 9; RCHS – 8; SHS - 1. These students interviewed and auditioned in February. Four RCPS students are among the 600 selected for the program held at Berry College summer 2017— Zoe Chichester from Heritage High - Dance; Ryan Valley from Heritage High - Vocal Music; Cameron Bennett from RCHS/Magnet - Engineering; Zarek Syed – RCHS/Magnet - Mathematics.

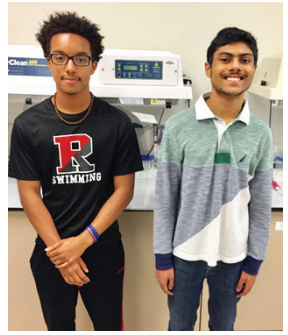
Ten Rockdale Magnet School students participated in the **Chinese STEAM Research Exchange Program**, Summer 2017

Eric Montgomery (RMSST student) participated in the **Planet Green 2017: Sustainbility Alaska Excursion**, Summer 2017

RMSST student Aja Weary won**1st Place at the National Invention Convention**.

Rockdale Magnet School had seven student participants in the **United States Study Camp for the International Earth Science Olympiad**. Carly Kimpling was selected for the **US International Earth Science Olympiad Team**.

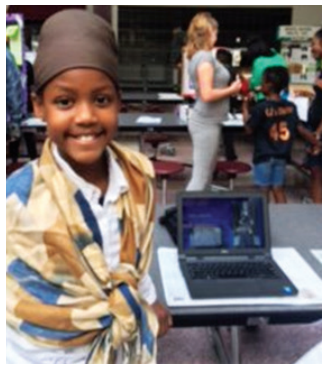
Three Rockdale Magnet students presented at the **Japan Science Fair**, August 2017.



Showcases & Competitions

RCPS and Clerk of Courts Middle School Oratorical Competition
November, 2017 at Conyers Middle School. Themes: 6th grade – "Right to trial by jury" 7th grade – "Should the US be involved in international affairs" 8th grade – "Importance of being an informed voter"

1st Place ($500): JR Insular (6th grade, DMS), Morgan Gill (7th grade, DMS), Hayley Sanders (8th grade, DMS).
2nd Place ($350): Asiayunna Wingfield (6th grade, CMS), Gabrielle Daley (7th grade, CMS), Connor Mack (8th grade, MMS). 3rd Place ($150): Jaivon Simmons (6th grade; MMS), Kai Merritt (7th grade, EMS), Noel Lowe (8th grade, CMS).



Thousand Voices Oratorical Showcase
April, 2017 at Memorial Middle School - 28 students participated from elementary, middle and high schools sharing various experiences to a broad audience. Students displayed their language arts skills—listening, speaking, reading and writing

Science & Social Studies Academic Showcase
April, 2017 at Memorial Middle School - A showcase for students to share their exemplary science and social studies projects. 90 Students in Grades 3-5 participated with 50 projects.

Math 24® Challenge
The annual district-wide competition was held on March 25, 2017 at RCA. Over 60 students in grades 3rd, 4th & 5th competed. The students were the school-level winners from all 11 RCPS elementary schools. This year's competition was funded by the Rockdale County Public Schools Foundation.

CTAE

Over 125 CTAE students participated at Region and State Leadership Conferences. 12 students advanced to National Competitions:
FBLA (Salem)
FCCLA (Heritage and RCA)
DECA (RCA)
SkillsUSA (RCA)

Salem High School students Gradea Harris and Demetrious Sampson and their teacher advisor, Ms. Karleta Sigman traveled to California to compete at **FBLA Nationals** in June. On the state level, Gradea won 1st place in Healthcare and Demetrious won 2nd place in Impromptu Speaking.

Culinary Arts

Rockdale Career Academy's Culinary Arts program is the only high school program in the state ever to be awarded and certified as an **Exemplary Program by the American Culinary Federation Education Foundation**.

Computer Science

Rockdale County High School's Computer Science Program hosted the **Ten80 Education Georgia Invitational Race Day**. RCHS students won 1st Place in 4 out of 7 categories and 1st Place Overall.

Atlanta Urban Debate League

Memorial Middle debate team won first place at the Creekside Atlanta Urban Debate League Tournament, February 2016

Performing Arts

One Act Region 4-AAAA Champion: Salem HS (November 2016)
Performance of "25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"
Best Supporting Actor- Jordan Moreno, Best Actor-Naz Harvey, Star Performers-Demetrious Sampson and Kristen Bolton

One Act Region 3-AAAAAA Champion and 2nd Place State: Heritage HS (November 2016)
Performance of "Fences" by August Wilson
Additional Region Awards - Best Ensemble Cast and Crew, Best Actor-Ramone Nelson, Best Actress-Cortlyn Mays, Best Supporting Actor-Christian Anderson
Additional State Award - Best Actor-Christian Anderson

Davis Middle Strings Program - DMS Orchestra directed by Angie Bobbitt received a Superior rating in its first year to participate in the Georgia Music Educators Association Large Group Performance Evaluation.

Shuler Awards - state level musical theatre competition, Spring 2017
Heritage High Patriot Players Theatre Troup's *Les Miserables* directed by Michelle Thorne won **Shuler Award for Best Overall Production**, Ramone Nelson won Best Leading Actor. Ramone went on to the national competition in June. Also nominated for Shuler Awards from Heritage High:
Best Featured Actor - Mehki Hamm
Music Direction - Terrance Green
Honorable Mention for Lighting Design - Fenna Henderson
Shuler Awards Show Student Ensemble included four RCPS students: Lathan Roberts and Malaikia Sims-Winfrey (HHS), Ally Denhart-Fung and Naz Harvey (SHS)
Shuler's S.T.A.R. Council production assistant - Brionne Butler (SHS)
Shuler's Performers Warehouse Summer Intensive Scholarship was awarded to Arianna Hardaway (HHS)

Literary and Visual Arts

Salem High Region 4AAAA title winner in GHSA Literary Competition

Heritage High Region 3 AAAAAA Champions and 3rd Place in State GHSA Literary Competition
with the following additional awards at State:
Amanda Lee - 1st Place Girls Solo
Malaikia Sims-Winfrey - 1st Place Humorous Oral Interpretation
Lathan Roberts - 3rd Place Boys Solo and 3rd Place Quartet
Makhi Hamm, Josh Maxey, and Ryan Valley - 3rd Place Quartet
Maya Laws and Ahmad Barron - 4th Place Duo Oral Interpretation

Winners of the "River of Words" art and poetry contest sponsored by Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division and Georgia Center for the Book: Davis Middle students Sidney Brown, Shelby Prichett, Maddie Lombar, Rylee Breese, and Jasmine Patrick.

Memorial Middle School's Kennedy Williams named county winner of the **2016 Middle School Essay Contest by Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District**. Kennedy is One of 16 chosen out of 1,700 applicants to be honored at the state Capitol.

Lorraine Elementary hosted **Night at the Museum**, December 2016.

DMS student Emma Arnold won the **Georgia School Nutrition Association annual Art Contest.**

Athletics

Positive Athlete Georgia Most Positive Multi-Sport Athlete Award - RCHS senior Jhaquan Anderson

Heritage High School Region 3-AAAAAA Softball Champions (October 2016)
Elite 8 in state playoffs and All-Region (November 2016)
Additional Awards:
Faith Hager, Region 3-AAAAAA Pitcher of the Year
All-Region 1st Team: Faith Hager, Destiny Herrera, Kassidy Slayton, Gabby Lester, Paige Owens, Claire Williams
All-Region 2nd Team: Addy Allegretti, Morgan Whiten, Glory Seay

RCHS student Dax Willette finished 4th in **State Cross Country Championships for AAAAAAA after winning first place in the region** (November 2016)

Heritage High Girls Cross Country Team Region 3 AAAAAA Champions

Heritagre High Football Team Region Champions (November 2016)
Region 3-AAAAAA title for first time in school history (as the sole title holder)

Georgia High School Association 2016-17 Class AAAAAA Region Champions (April 2017) Heritage High Girls Soccer

Georgia High School Association 2016-17 Class AAAAAA Region Champions (May 2017) Heritage High Boys and Girls Track and Field

Georgia High School Association 2016-17 Class AAAAAA Region Runner Up (May 2017) Heritage High School Boys Soccer

Georgia High School Association 2016-17 Class AAAAAAA Region Runner Up (May 2017) Rockdale County High Boys Soccer

Class AAAAAAA 2016-17 Coach of the Year - Coach Alf Holst - Rockdale County High Boys Soccer coach

Heritage High Patriots Wrestling Region 3-AAAAAA Title

Rockdale County High Bulldogs Wrestling region runner-up

Dozens of athletic scholarships awarded across the district.

Rockdale Youth Leadership Class of 2017

RCSP Student Affairs and Work Based Learning departments facilitate the annual extracurricular program for 30-40 selected high school sophomores.

Open Campus Graduates 87 in 2016-17

731 Graduates since Open Campus began in SY 2008-09

Graduate with an Advantage

RCPS CLASS OF 2017

Enlistment in all branches of the U.S. Military; Schools attending include Stanford University, Brown University, Columbia University, Howard University, Emory University, Morehouse College, Spelman College, University of Georgia, Georgia Institute of Technology, Vanderbilt University, Savannah College of Art and Design, University of Alabama, Georgia State University and many more.

Multiple ways to

Stay connected.

@rockdaleschools

Visit the crowdfunding website for
RCPS classrooms projects!

RCPSpartner.com
Quality education is everybody's business!

INFINITE CAMPUS PARENT PORTAL
Monitor Grades & Attendance
www.rockdaleschools.org/infinitecampus

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M.G. Barksdale Elementary School @MGBarksdale
C.J. Hicks Elementary School @CJHicksElem
Flat Shoals Elementary School @Flat_ShoalsElem
Honey Creek Elementary School @hce_stemacademy
Hightower Trail Elementary School @HTEschool
J.H. House Elementary School @HouseElementary
Lorraine Elementary School @LorraineLions
Pine Street Elementary School @PSERoadrunners
Peek's Chapel Elementary School @PCEPandas
Shoal Creek Elementary School @SCESTEAMAcademy
D.L. Sims Elementary School @sims_ivyleague
Conyers Middle School @ConyersMiddle
Gen. Ray Davis Middle School @genraydavis
G.L. Edwards Middle School @PatriotsEMS
Memorial Middle School @MemorialMS
Heritage High School @HHS_Conyers
Rockdale County High School @RockdaleHigh
Salem High School @SalemHS_conyers
Alpha Academy @_AlphaAcademy
Open Campus @RCPSOpenCampus
Rockdale Career Academy @RCA_Career
Rockdale Magnet School @RockdaleMagnet
Rockdale Virtual Campus @virtual_campus

One App for All That...and more!

With the new RCPS App, you can track:

Notifications

Events

Grades (Infinite Campus)

Bus Routes (My Stop™)

Menus

Meal Payments (My School Bucks)

Directories

Follow multiple schools at once

And more!

Available for download

Available on the App Store

Get it on Google play

Email: rcpsinfo@rockdale.k12.ga.us
770-483-4713
www.rockdaleschools.org
954 N. Main Street, Conyers. GA 30012

RCPS

1,086 students

graduated from Rockdale County Public Schools in 2017
and were offered over

$21.4 million

in scholarships.

It is our people, not programs, that make our organization successful.

— Richard Autry, Superintendent

It is the policy of Rockdale County Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, or disability in its educational programs and activities or employment practices and activities.