



PICKENS HIGH SCHOOL INCREASES GRADUATION RATE TO 94.2 PERCENT

Pickens County Ranks 14th Highest in the State, 1st in North Georgia RESA District

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Jasper, GA – Pickens High School (PHS) increased its four-year graduation rate to 94.2 percent for 2016 (up from 91.2% in 2015), earning a ranking of 14th in the state, 1st in the North Georgia RESA District, and easily topping the state average of 79.2%.

High school graduation is recognized as one of the education system’s markers of success. Obtaining a high school diploma is a strong indicator of a student’s future educational opportunities, economic independence, and the level of future civic engagement.

Students’ success in high school is influenced by their experiences in early educational years. Success begins when a child arrives for the first day of school and continues as they move through their educational journey – every step matters.

“The Board of Education recognizes that everyone in our community plays a role in the success of our students. We thank them for their many contributions. Our district pledges to continue to work together to build upon this great foundation for current and future Dragons,” states Dr. Lula Mae Perry, Superintendent.

The Pickens County School District implemented numerous programs to support student achievement and graduation rates including involving parents in students’ learning, engaging the community to support dropout prevention, and implementing career and workforce readiness programs in schools.

“On behalf of the PHS staff, I wish to congratulate the entire community for this success,” states Shane Purdy, Principal of Pickens High School. “I believe in the adage ‘it takes a village to raise a child’ and our graduation rate illustrates our community is united toward one common goal – to help students succeed in life.”

Pickens County is part of the North Georgia RESA District (RESA stands for a Regional Educational Service Agency). The North Georgia RESA District includes the following counties: Cherokee, Fannin, Gilmer, Murray, Pickens, and Whitfield.

Four-Year Graduation Rate – All Schools

North GA RESA	2016	2015
Cherokee	84.7%	85.9%
Fannin	91.2%	92.1%
Gilmer	92.2%	91.5%
Murray	85.5%	89.3%
Pickens	94.2%	91.2%
Whitfield	74.2%	75.1%
State	79.2%	78.8%

**Four-Year Graduation Rate
Pickens County vs. State Average**

Year	Pickens	State
2016	94.2%	79.2%
2015	91.2%	78.8%
2014	85.1%	72.5%
2013	87.2%	71.8%
2012	89.5%	69.7%
2011	85.1%	67.4%

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