



# School District of Williamsburg County

*"Imagine Greatness"*

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## **EARLY PROJECTION FOR GRADUATION RATE MEETING HELD TO DISCUSS WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S GRADUATION RATE**

On January 24, 2023, a team of educators and community members met in the Dr. Rose H. Wilder Multipurpose Room to discuss the Graduation Rate of Williamsburg County high schools. Hemingway High School and High School graduation rate data was the focus of the presentations. It is important to note that C.E. Murray High School and Hemingway High School traditionally produced graduation rates of 80% or better, while Kingstree High School lagged behind historically. Having all students graduate from high school prepared for college and career is the goal of any school system; the good news is that after decades of decline and stagnation, high school graduation rates are rising nationally.

This recent stakeholder meeting represents a critical step in showing a comprehensive review and accounting of high school graduation rates for students in Williamsburg County School District. The meeting also highlighted how high schools have varied in their expectations for these students and the measures they use to gauge progress. Together, this makes the case that the way to move forward is to hold students, parents, and school staff to the same high standards across the board. Schools must provide the support high school students need in order to meet these graduation standards. School personnel from both high schools presented their current and past high school graduation rate data, and the contributing factors used to calculate these rates. The projected graduation rate for the 2023 SC State School and District Report Card, was also shared with the group. Dr. Tara Richardson of Williamsburg County School District, reflected on where WCS D is now: "Hemingway High School projected graduation rate is 88.4%, Kingstree High School projected graduation rate is 74.6%, and the Williamsburg County School District's projected graduation rate is 77.5%, the recent meeting was a success, Imagine Greatness!"

*Reflections from a few in attendance...*

"As educators, we provide students with a chance and a choice to succeed. The secret to their success is being intentional in the chances and choices that we provide. Secondary leaders in Williamsburg County School District came together to show what happens when we are intentional. Although we are focused on the graduation rate; we are in the process of expanding

more opportunities for success through the K-12 schools. Intentionality will be our focus in establishing the foundation needed for the whole child academically, behaviorally, and socially." *Dr. Robert Smalls of the Transformative Educational Solutions, LLC*

"I was thrilled to be in attendance to witness the camaraderie, collaboration, and leadership displayed by the Williamsburg County School District team. The Graduation Rate meeting was very informative and the presentations were executed with great professionalism. We are definitely headed for greatness!" *Marva Cannon, WCSD School Board Chair*

"The collaboration between the schools and district personnel in analyzing the data and using the information to develop strategies that will yield positive outcomes for our children, are definitely steps in the right direction." *Dr. Janice Gamble, WCSD Board Member*

"It was great to see forward progress. Williamsburg County, as a whole, has to come together to start the process of making sure the future is bright. What better place to start than education? Forward movement will take effort from everyone: the superintendent, principals, teachers, coaches, students, supervisors, mayors, council members, town managers, and the citizens. All will need to hold people accountable and show they will not settle for mediocrity. Williamsburg County has the ability to succeed, and we saw that first hand at the meeting on Thursday." *William Freeman, Hemingway Town Administrator*

"At Kingstree High School, meeting student needs is our top priority. As we continue to progress through the remainder of this school year, we will make sure students have what they need to graduate on time and to become successful. Kingstree High School has several different programs to make this happen. Those programs include Star Academy, After-School Tutoring Programs, Credit Recovery and Flex Academy. Upon successful completion of these programs, Kingstree High School projects a graduation rate between 75%-80% for the 2022 - 2023 school term." *Kingstree High School Team, consisting of Principal Bonita Glover and School Counselor Ms. Cynthia Cooper*

"Hemingway High School has detailed the purpose, planning, and processes used to facilitate active, at-success seniors toward on-time graduation in June during the past 6 months. As the team endeavors to increase its rate, all identified students are provided with one-on-one assistance for academics and/or attendance. The school's projected Graduation Rate for 2022-23 is 88.4% ." *Hemingway High School Team consisting of Mr. Myron Frieson, Asst. Principal, Ms. Donna Palmer, Instructional Coach, and Ms. Roberta Cumbee, Instructional Coach.*