



Background

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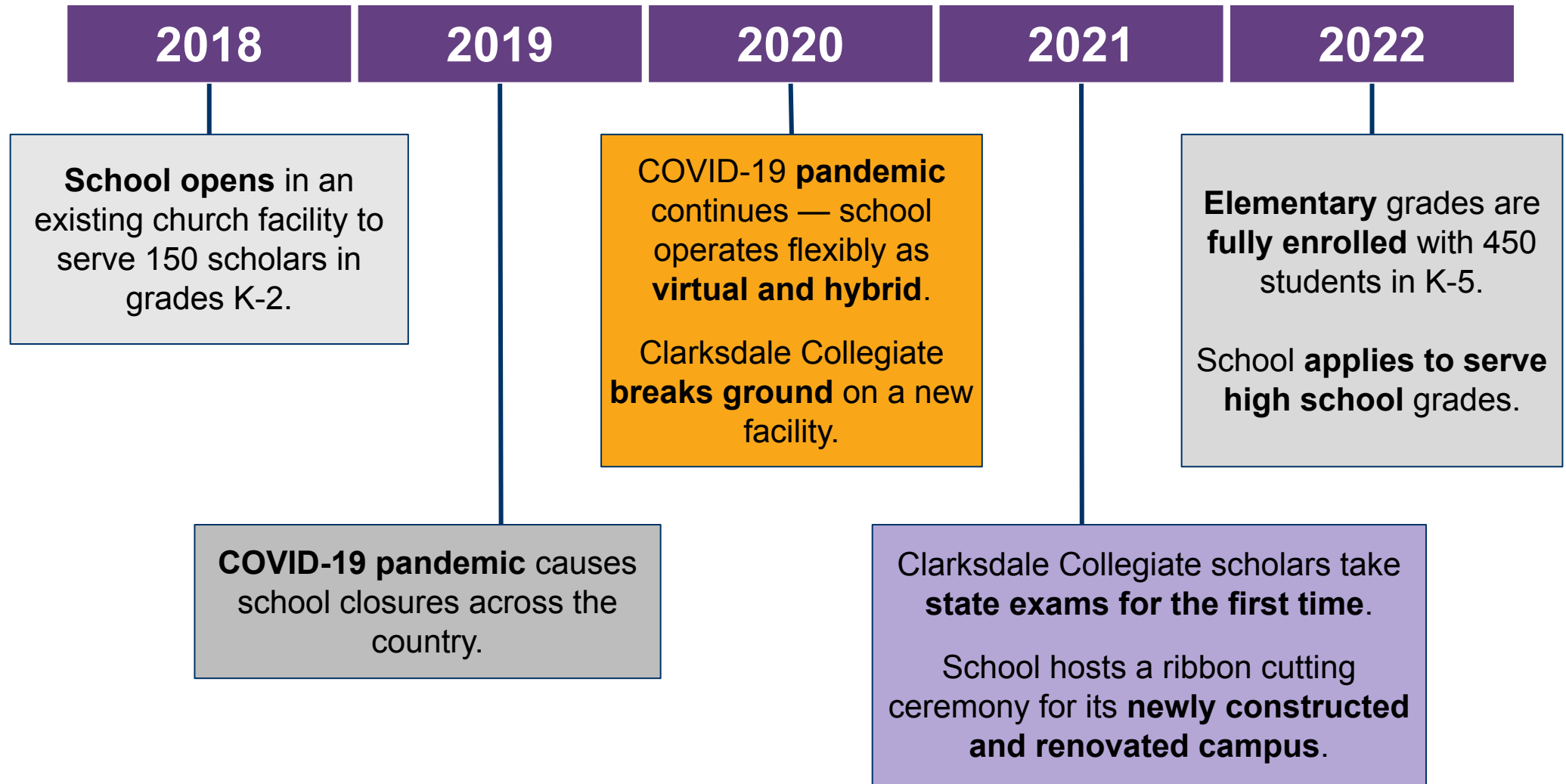


Located in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, Clarksdale Collegiate prepares scholars to excel in college and career

Clarksdale Collegiate Public Charter School equips Kindergarten through 12th grade scholars in the Mississippi Delta with the **knowledge, skills, and experiences** that will allow them to achieve **college and career success** and prepare them to lead opportunity-filled lives. This preparation is provided within a **structured, ambitious, and jubilant** school environment that offers opportunities to be **challenged**, explore **passions**, and become an **engaged citizen**.



Clarksdale Collegiate was founded in 2018 with approximately 150 students in grades K-2





Context

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The rural city of Clarksdale, seat of Coahoma County, has a rich history and culture

22.7K

Total population in Coahoma County

15.4K

Total population in the city of Clarksdale

83%

Of Clarksdale's population is Black or African American

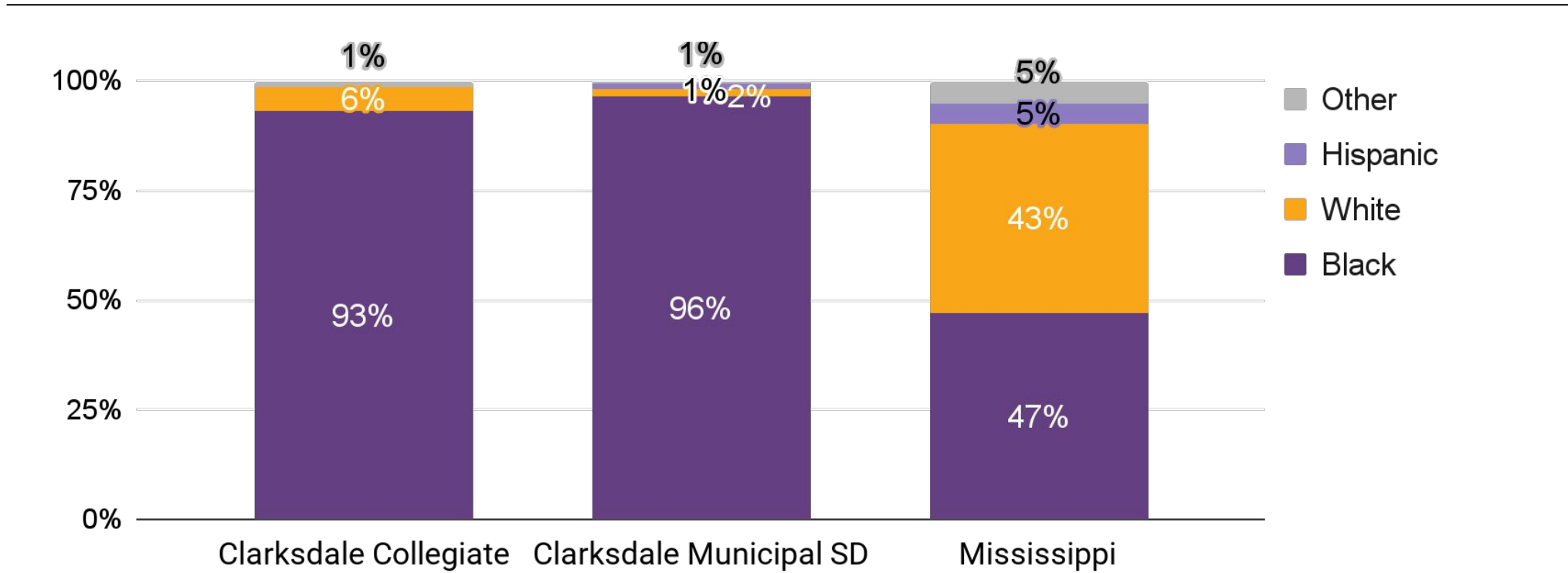
"Coahoma County has, for over 150 years, been **home to vibrant Black communities...farming cotton that drove the economy**, and **transforming music** that began as oral history in Africa and continues to make Clarksdale **"ground zero" for the blues.**"

"What was once a segregated community has **changed due to local heroes' efforts to win equality and justice** for all Mississippians. Many **leaders in the civil rights movement** were business owners who could not be fired for their activism."



Our scholars are representative of the local community

Scholar ethnic/ racial distribution (2022)



Clarksdale Collegiate serves about 450 students in grades K-5

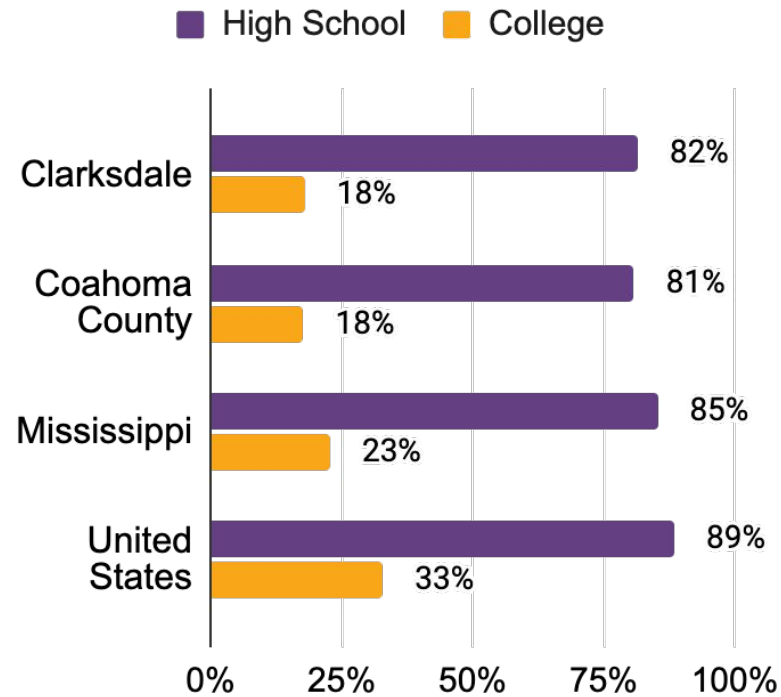
Source: Mississippi Department of Education

The city has lower graduation and higher poverty rates compared to state and national levels; about on par with county

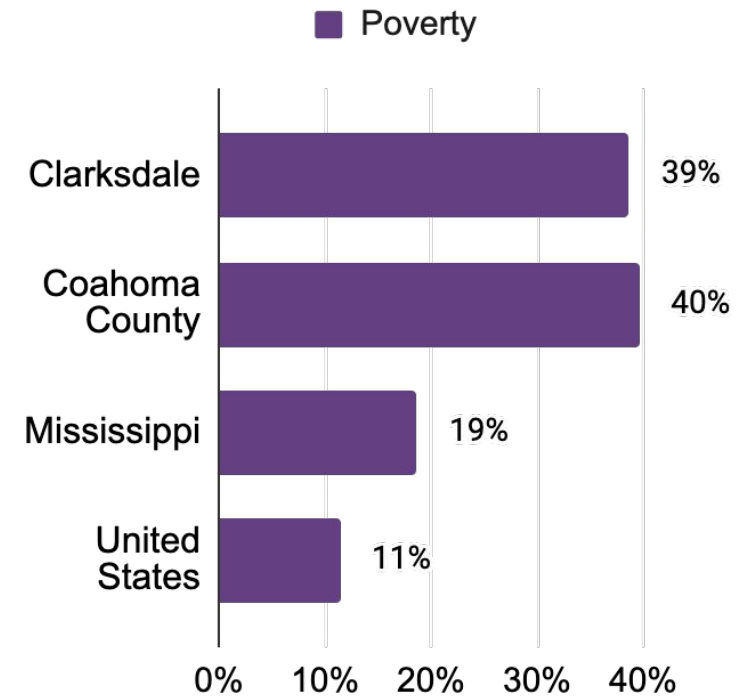
College graduation rates are ~**half of national levels**

Clarksdale's poverty rate is about **2x higher than state levels; 3.5x compared to U.S.**

Graduation rates (2020)



Poverty rate (2020)

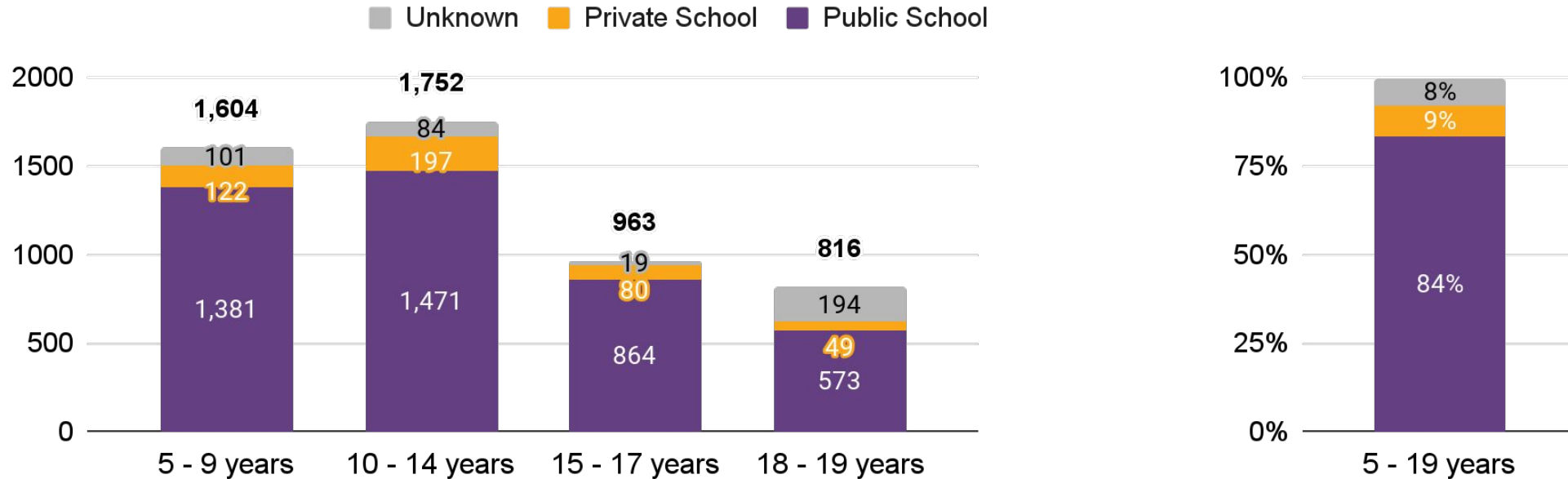


In Coahoma County, 84% students attend public schools, while 9% attend private schools

In all age groups, the majority of school-aged children attend public school

The unknown 8% likely include homeschooled students

Coahoma County school-aged population by age group and school enrollment



In 2020, ~2,800 students were enrolled in public schools in Clarksdale, of which ~2,300 (~80%) attended **Clarksdale Municipal School District (CMSD)**

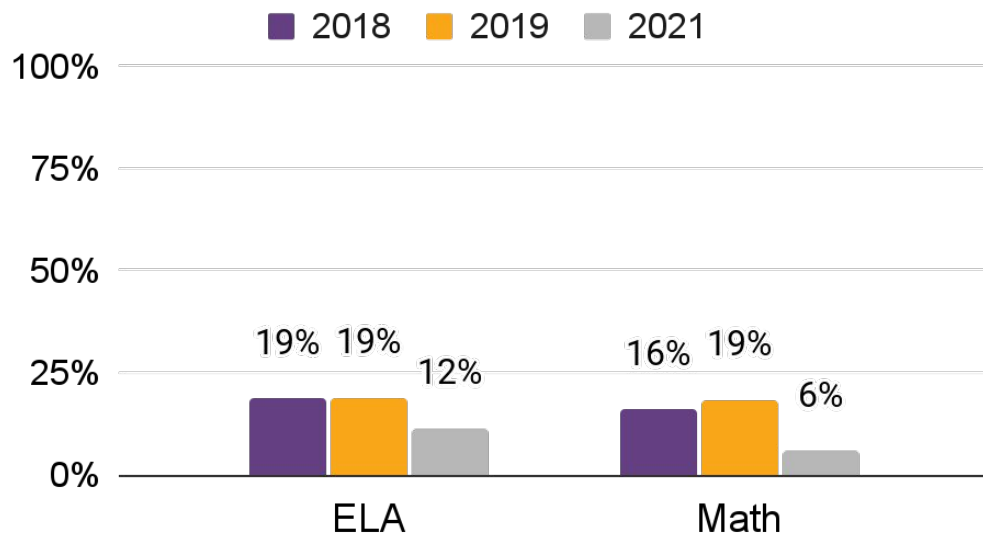
Notes: If 18-19 year-olds are excluded, about 86% of the school-aged population attends public school, 9% private, and 5% unknown. Unknown are those are not enrolled in either public or private school. Sources: [2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates](#), [Mississippi Department of Education](#)

Historically, Clarksdale Municipal School District (CMSD) has not met the needs of all young people

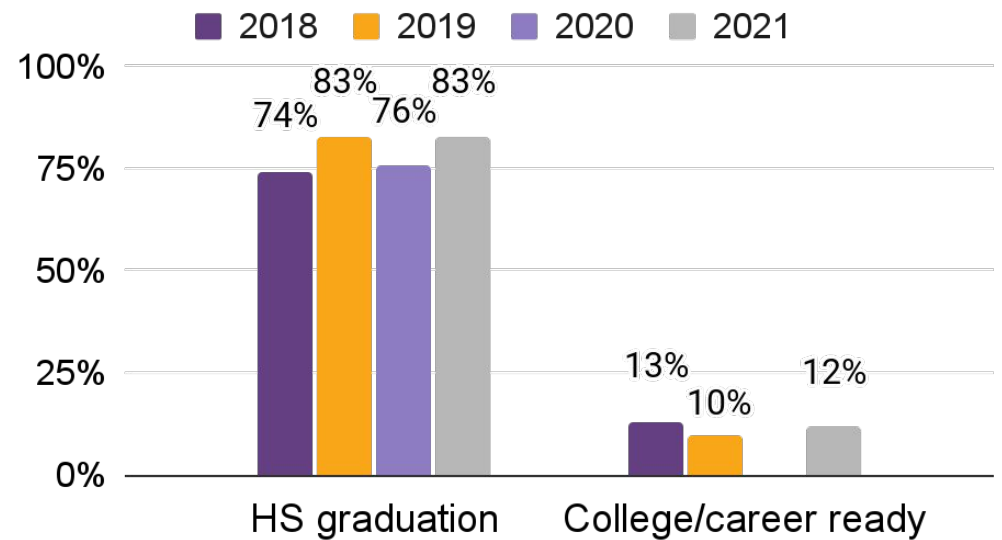
Less than one-fifth of CMSD students have demonstrated proficiency in ELA and Math over the last three MAAP administrations

CMSD has been **F-rated** the last four years, with inconsistent graduation rates & low college and career readiness

Percentage of CMSD students proficient on MAAP



CMSD Accountability Results



Research shows that high school graduation impacts generational poverty, increases chances of incarceration, and limits life choices.

Note: College and career readiness (ACT score of 22 for math and 18 for English or 22 for reading) was not reported in 2020 due to COVID-19. Sources: [Mississippi Department of Education](#), [Journal of Adolescent Health](#)

Given this, there is community demand for a high-quality option like Clarksdale Collegiate

Current families communicate strong support for Clarksdale Collegiate and for expansion into high school

"Scholars **enjoy** coming to Clarksdale Collegiate compared to local schools."

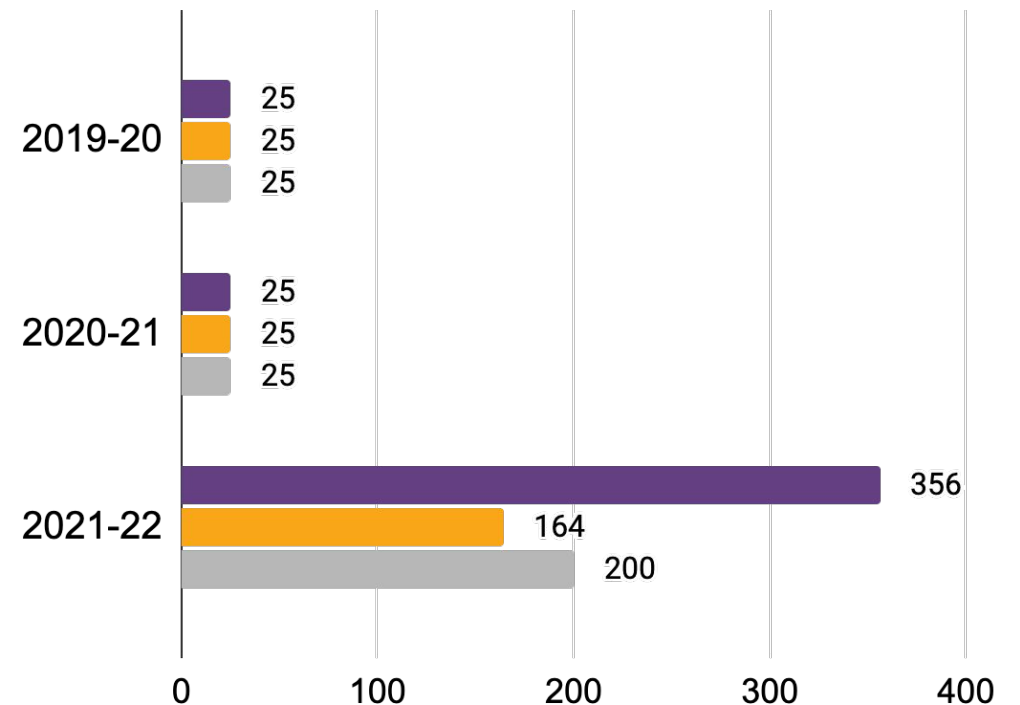
"Clarksdale Collegiate is a great school, it's **inviting, colorful, happy.**"

"Families **keep asking when we're going to open the high school.**"

Our strong application and waitlist numbers also indicate demand for our program

Clarksdale Collegiate demand for open seats

■ Applications ■ Seats available ■ Students on waitlist



The greatest external risks to Clarksdale Collegiate's expansion are talent and local competition

Risk	Description
Talent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Mississippi has long reported teacher shortages in math, science, special education, and world languages (Bellwether)● The shortage is felt acutely in Clarksdale – a small city where the population has decreased slightly in recent years● Clarksdale Municipal School District (CMSD) employs the majority of teachers in the city, and not all teachers are certified in the courses they teach – of the ~170 teacher FTEs in CMSD:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 80% hold a valid certificate and teach a course for which they are properly endorsed○ 32% hold an emergency or provisional license (2021 Accountability Data)
Local competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● While the local high school does not pose significant academic competition, there is significant pride in the local schools due to the importance of legacy and sports, particularly football<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The Clarksdale High Wildcats have won three state championships and been runner-up four times (AHSFHS.org)● Additionally, current families have shared their desire for sports at Clarksdale Collegiate

An external review of practices identified key opportunities to address over the next five years...

COACHING

Establishing clear systems and structures for coaching will enable stronger implementation of instructional and operational practices

STUDENT ACADEMIC & CULTURE SUPPORTS

Strengthening systems and implementation of evidence-based student supports will ensure that all students are supported to excel

OPERATIONS

Implementing strong systems, structures, and expectations that streamline school operations will allow the school to focus on activities that drive direct student impact

ORG ROLES

Right-sizing roles and responsibilities will allow staff to perform work sustainably and with consistently high quality

...and strengths that we can leverage as we continue to grow



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Families express high satisfaction with Clarksdale Collegiate; they feel informed about their scholar's and school progress, and they feel that school staff is receptive to feedback



ADULT CULTURE

Across all levels, staff report that there is a strong adult culture, enabled by positive relationships, effective collaboration, and a culture of feedback



COMMUNITY BUILDING PRACTICES

Despite challenges due to COVID-19 school closures, the school has established practices that intentionally create community, belonging, and jubilation



Vision for Impact

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Informed by our current state and long-term vision, we have articulated our intended impact



By 2027, Clarksdale Collegiate will serve ~1,000 scholars in grades K-12 in Clarksdale, while being a model of high-quality education in the Mississippi Delta.

We will measure our success through the impact of rigorous instruction on high school graduation, college matriculation and graduation, and career readiness.