Strong Growth in Student Writing from 3rd to 5th Grade

Over the past four years, we've used a program called **Step Up to Writing** to help students in grades K–5 learn how to organize their thoughts and clearly explain their ideas in writing. We recently looked at how the *same group of students* performed over time on the state writing test—and the results are encouraging.

The charts show the percent of students in each category on the Writing portion of the Georgia ELA Milestones.

Informational Writing (Same Cohort from 3rd to 5th grade)

Year	Beginning (0-1)	Developing (2)	Proficient (3)	Distinguished (4)
2023	71.4	25.8	2.7	0
2024	48.7	40.1	9.8	1.4
2025	36.9	42.1	18.4	2.6

Impact:

- Students scoring in the lowest band (Beginning) decreased by nearly **34.5 points** from 2023 to 2025.
- Proficiency and advanced performance combined rose from **2.7% to 21%.**

Opinion Writing (Same Cohort from 3rd to 5th grade)

Year	Beginning (0–1)	Developing (2)	Proficient (3)	Distinguished (4)
2023	62.9	34	3.1	0
2024	55.4	38.2	6.1	0.4
2025	48	38.4	12.2	1.4

Impact:

- Students scoring in the lowest band (Beginning) decreased by nearly **14.9 points** from 2023 to 2025.
- Proficiency and advanced performance combined rose from **3.1% to 13.6%.**

Narrative Writing (Same Cohort from 3rd to 5th grade)

Year	Beginning (0–1)	Developing (2)	Proficient (3)	Distinguished (4)
2023	67	25.6	6.3	1.1
2024	54.5	27.6	13.8	4.0
2025	43.4	26.8	26.6	3.3

Impact:

- Students scoring in the lowest band (Beginning) decreased by nearly **23.6 points** from 2023 to 2025.
- Proficiency and advanced performance combined rose from **7.4% to 29.9%.**