

Strategy Update

August 2026

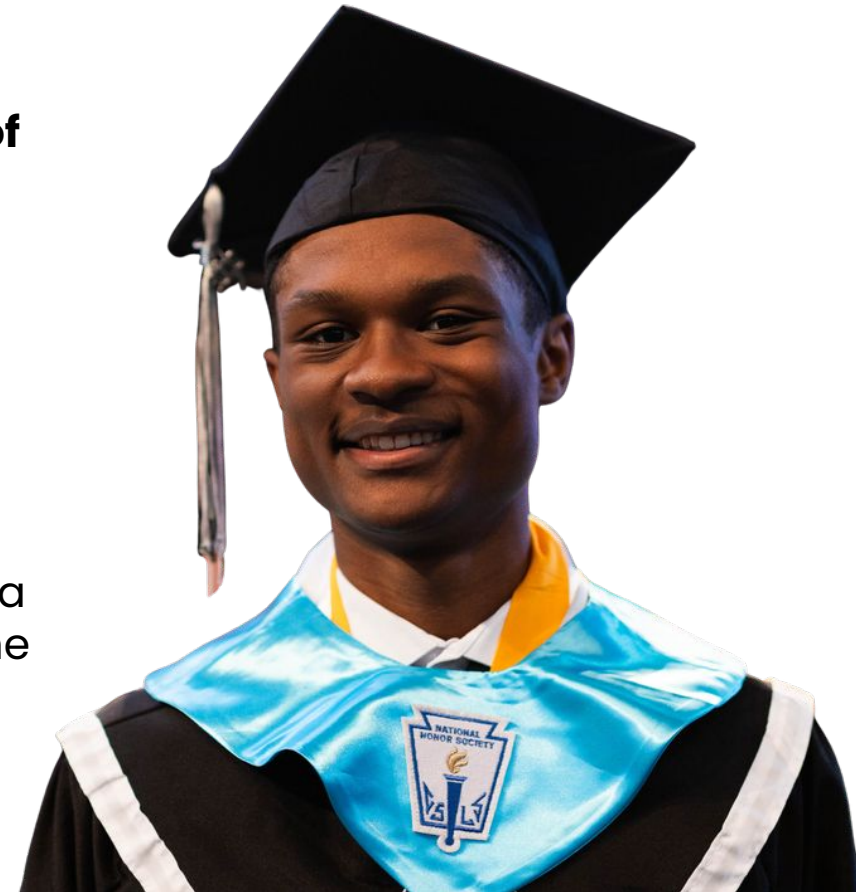
Data Sneak-Peek

DISTRICT ACHIEVEMENTS



District on the Rise

- **2026 “District on the Rise” Education Scorecard**
(Harvard and Stanford)
- **2026:** 11 Atlanta Public Schools have earned Single Statewide Accountability System (SSAS) Awards from **Governor’s Office of Student Achievement (GOSA)**
- **2026:** Increased from 28 to 34 Beating the Odds Schools from **Governor’s Office of Student Achievement (GOSA)**
- **2025: Gallup Exceptional Workplace Award and 90% teacher retention rate**
- **2024:** Only large city urban school district in the nation to post a significant increase in fourth grade reading achievement on the **National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)**



DISTRICT ACHIEVEMENTS



District *Still* on the Rise

APS achieves **ALL-TIME High** on 3–8 EOG proficiency since GA Milestone began in 2015

- **#1 in Metro Atlanta** for year-over-year growth across every tested subject. Math, Science, and Social Studies End-of-Grade assessments
- **More than doubled** the State of Georgia average year over year gains on End-of-Grade assessments
- **900 more students** reached proficiency or above in Math on End-of-Grade assessments



#1 in Metro Atlanta for year-over-year growth

Across every tested subject (Math, Science, and Social Studies End-of-Grade assessments)

Grades 3–8 Math

	2025 Math P+	2026 Math P+	YOY Change
APS	35.04	39.63	4.6
Georgia	43.4	45.3	1.9
Marietta City	49.32	53.63	4.3
Clayton	22.29	26.27	4.0
Henry	28.72	31.28	2.6
Douglas	33.44	35.99	2.6
Fulton	54.51	56.82	2.3
Cobb	50.98	52.81	1.8
Gwinnett	51.39	53.06	1.7
Buford City	74.01	75.10	1.1
Dekalb	30.69	31.75	1.1
City Schools Decatur	78.41	78.15	-0.3

Grades 5 & 8 Science* *excludes Physical Science

	2025 Sci P+	2026 Sci P+	YOY Change
APS	31.36	35.45	4.1
Georgia	37.6	38.2	0.6
Marietta City	39.33	43.32	4.0
Gwinnett	50.78	53.82	3.0
Buford City	65.91	68.87	3.0
Cobb	40.34	42.45	2.1
Clayton	20.07	22.13	2.1
Henry	25.99	25.94	-0.1
Fulton	48.17	48.09	-0.1
Dekalb	29.22	27.60	-1.6
City Schools Decatur	70.25	68.16	-2.1
Douglas	37.86	34.88	-3.0

Grades 8 Social Studies

	2025 Soc P+	2026 Soc P+	YOY Change
APS	25.49	32.64	7.1
Georgia	36.8	40.2	3.4
Cobb	48.65	52.33	3.7
Marietta City	43.16	46.05	2.9
Fulton	49.25	52.03	2.8
Gwinnett	49.70	51.49	1.8
Clayton	21.22	22.99	1.8
Henry	21.73	23.33	1.6
Buford City	67.15	66.45	-0.7
Douglas	33.80	32.88	-0.9
Dekalb	23.00	21.58	-1.4
City Schools Decatur	65.52	64.00	-1.5



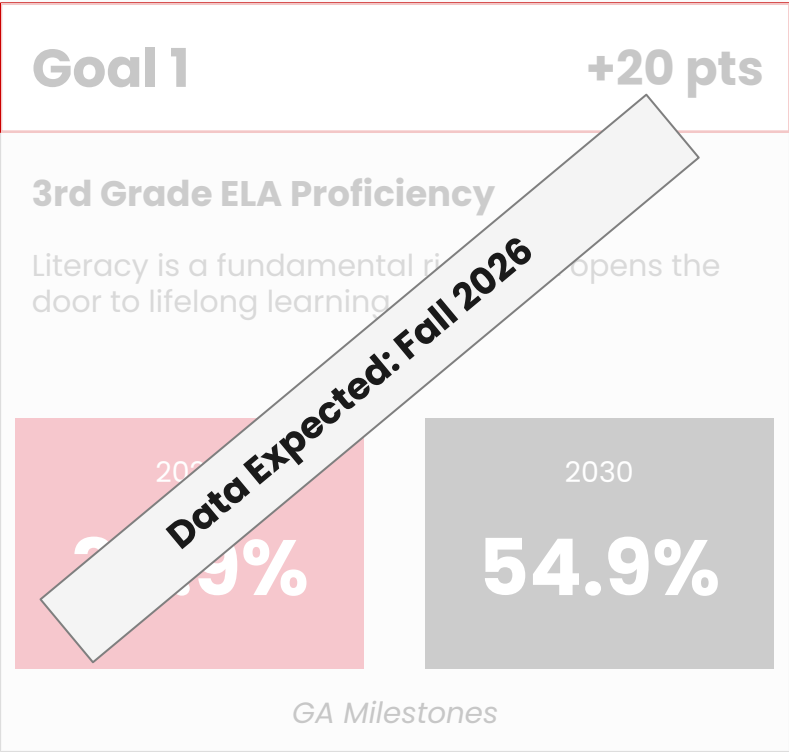
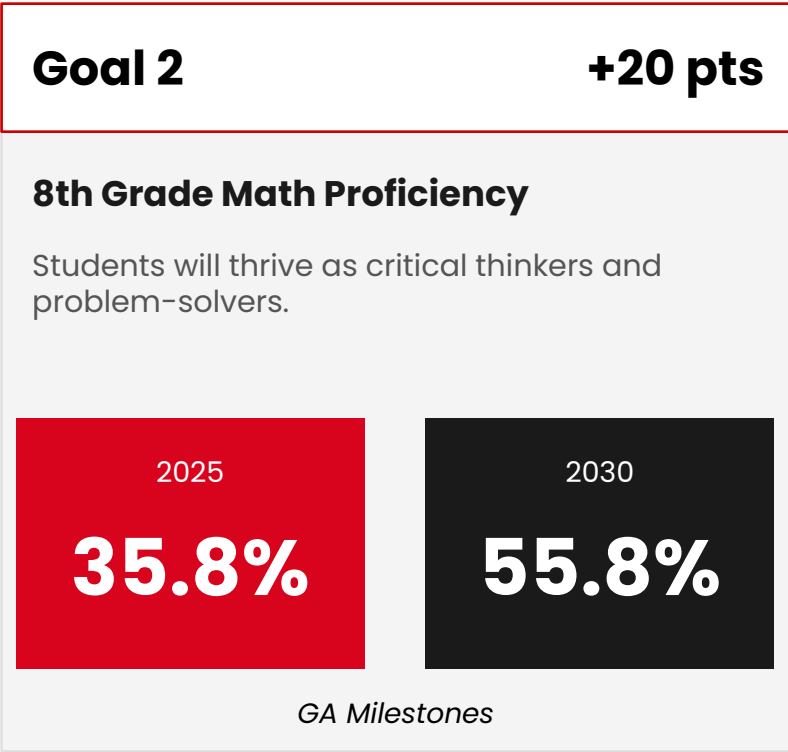
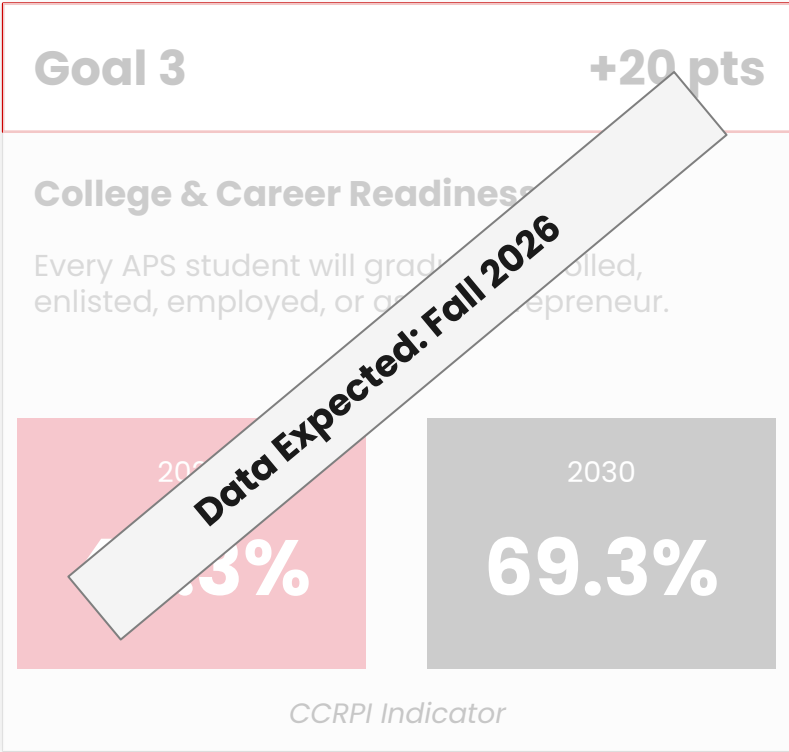
Bold Ambitions, Impactful Outcomes



By 2030, Atlanta Public Schools will:



2025 → 2030 Progress Targets



Georgia 8th Grade Math Proficiency **Down**



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Atlanta's #1 News.

'Math proficiency down in Georgia eighth grade classes, latest Milestones scores show'



(Sean Gallup/Getty Images)

KEY DATA:
1% decrease in
proficiency,
first drop since
2019.

Source: WSBTV.com | Date: August 09, 2026

Proficiency increased across grade levels in Math End of Grade and End of Course Milestones

Math Milestones Assessments

Goal 2

+20 pts

8th Grade Math Proficiency

Students will thrive as critical thinkers and problem-solvers.

The percentage of Grade 8 students scoring Proficient or Distinguished on End of Grade (EOG) Georgia Milestones increased 3.6 percentage points from 2025.

2025

35.8%

2026

39.5%
+3.6

2030

55.8%

All grades and Student Groups increased over the previous year

Math EOG

Grades 3-8 Combined

2025

35.0%

2026

39.8% +4.8

+4.5

26.8%

Black Students

+5.2

24.2%

Economically
Disadvantaged Students

+3.5

14.7%

Students with
Disabilities

Algebra I EOC

2025

34.6%

2026

42.1% +8.4

+8.0

32.6%

Black Students

+8.4

29.6%

Economically
Disadvantaged Students

+2.6

17.5%

Students with
Disabilities

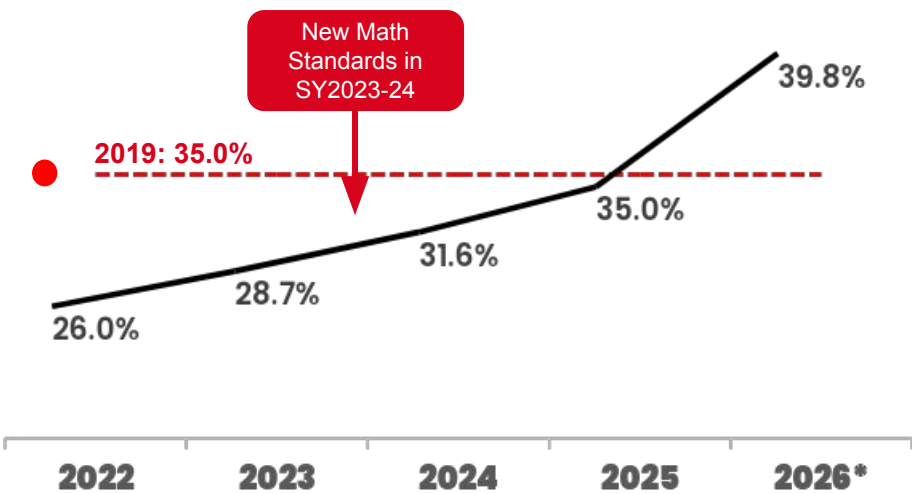
Math Proficiency exceeded pre-pandemic levels in 2026 for all grade bands

Math Milestones Assessments

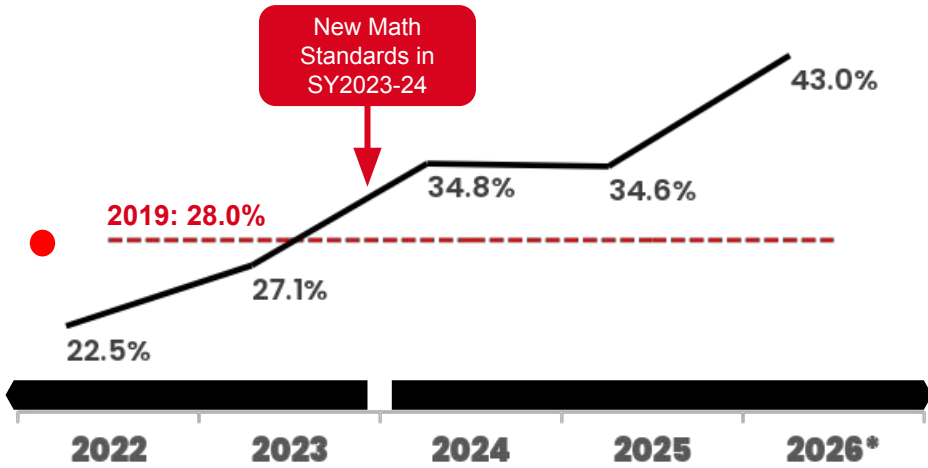
Math EOG proficiency has increased 8.2 percentage points since new Math standards were released in SY2023-24

After remaining roughly flat in SY2023-24 and SY2024-25, Algebra EOC proficiency increased 8.4 percentage points

Percentage of Students scoring Proficient or Above on End of Grade (EOG) Milestones, Math Grades 3-8



Percentage of Students scoring Proficient or Above on End of Course (EOC) Milestones, Algebra I / Algebra Concepts and Connections



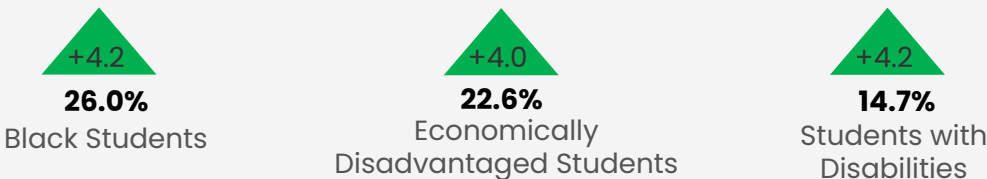
* If students re-tested, the highest score is included

Proficiency increased across grade levels in Science & Social Studies EOG and EOC Milestones

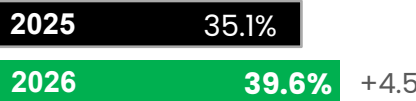
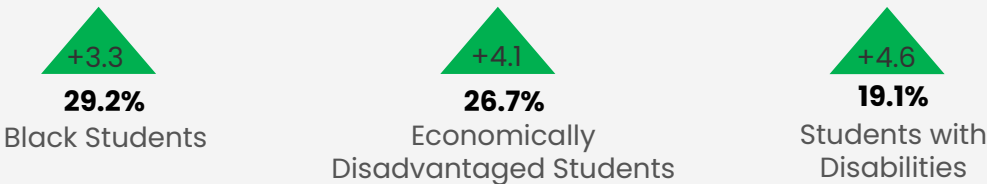
Science and Social Studies Milestones Assessments

Science EOG and EOC scores increased overall and among key student groups

Science EOG
Grades 5 & 8 Combined

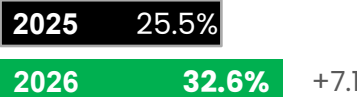
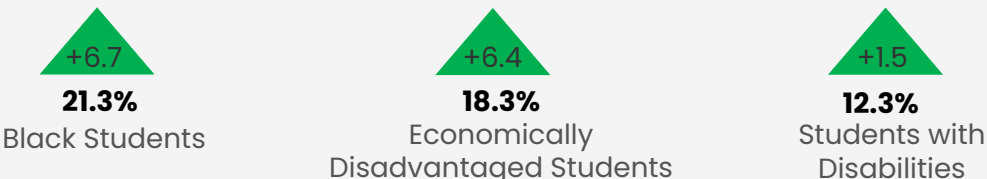


Biology EOC

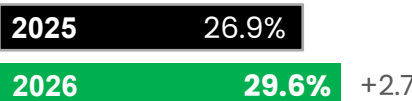
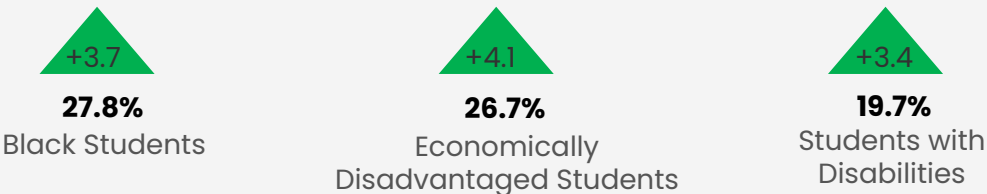


Social Studies EOG and EOC scores increased overall, but not all groups improved on the US History EOC

Social Studies EOG
Grade 8



US History EOC



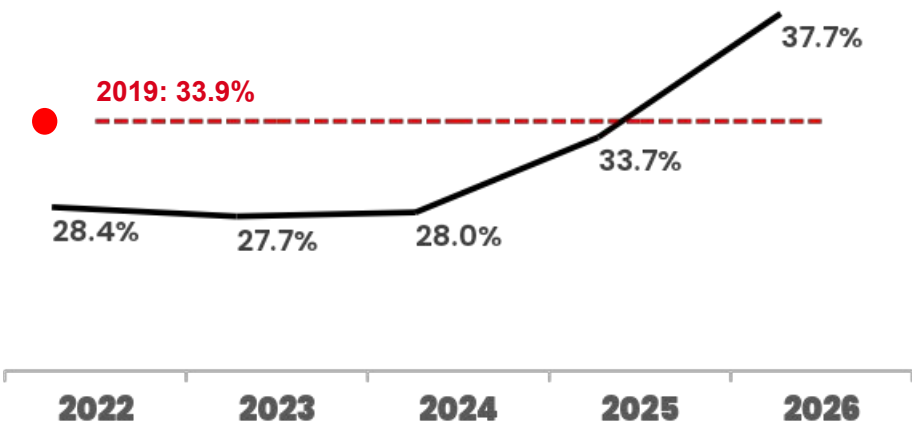
Science Milestones Proficiency exceeded pre-pandemic levels in 2026 for all grade bands

Science Milestones Assessments

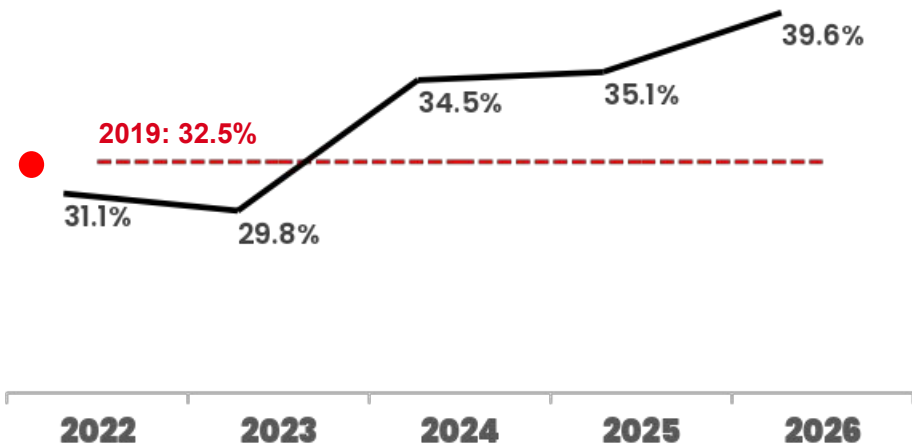
Science EOG proficiency increased 4.0 percentage points in SY2025–26, exceeding the 2019 high for the first time

Biology EOC proficiency exceeded pre-pandemic levels in SY2023–24 and increased 4.5 percentage points in SY2025–26

Percentage of Students scoring Proficient or Above on End of Grade (EOG) Milestones, Science Grades 5 & 8



Percentage of Students scoring Proficient or Above on End of Course (EOC) Milestones, Biology



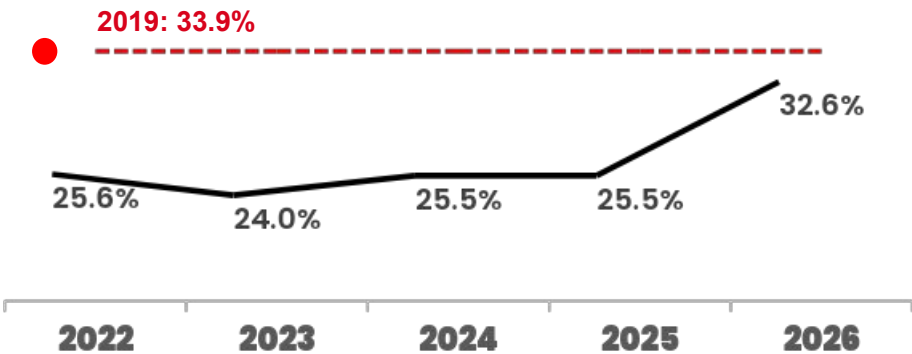
Social Studies Milestones Proficiency increased across grade bands, but remains lower than 2019

Social Studies Milestones Assessments

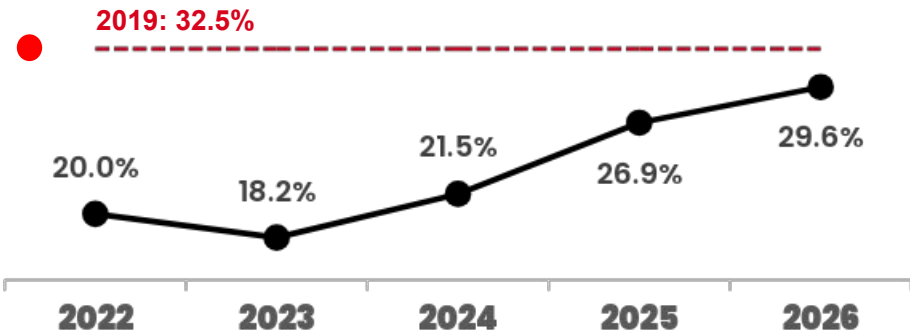
Social Studies EOG proficiency increased 7.1 percentage points in SY2025-26, but is still below pre-pandemic levels

US History EOC exam proficiency has improved year over year since SY2022-23, but is still below pre-pandemic levels

Percentage of Students scoring Proficient or Above on End of Grade (EOG) Milestones, Social Studies, Grade 8*



Percentage of Students scoring Proficient or Above on End of Course (EOC) Milestones, US History



* Grade 5 also tested in SY2018-2019, but only Grade 8 is included

Record-Breaking Milestones Performance

Highest Proficient & Above Rates and Largest YOY gains for APS Students since Milestones began (2015) in most categories

Highest Achievement (Since 2015)

RECORD HIGH

Record proficiency rates achieved in:

- **EOG Math** (Grade 3–8)
- **EOG Science** (Grades 5 & 8)
- **EOG Social Studies**
- **EOC Algebra**
- **EOC Biology**

Largest YOY Increases (Since 2015)



Record Gain

Record year-over-year gains in:

- **EOG Math** (+4.6 %-age points)
- **EOG Social Studies** (+7.1 %-age points)
- **EOC Algebra** (+8.4 %-age points)*

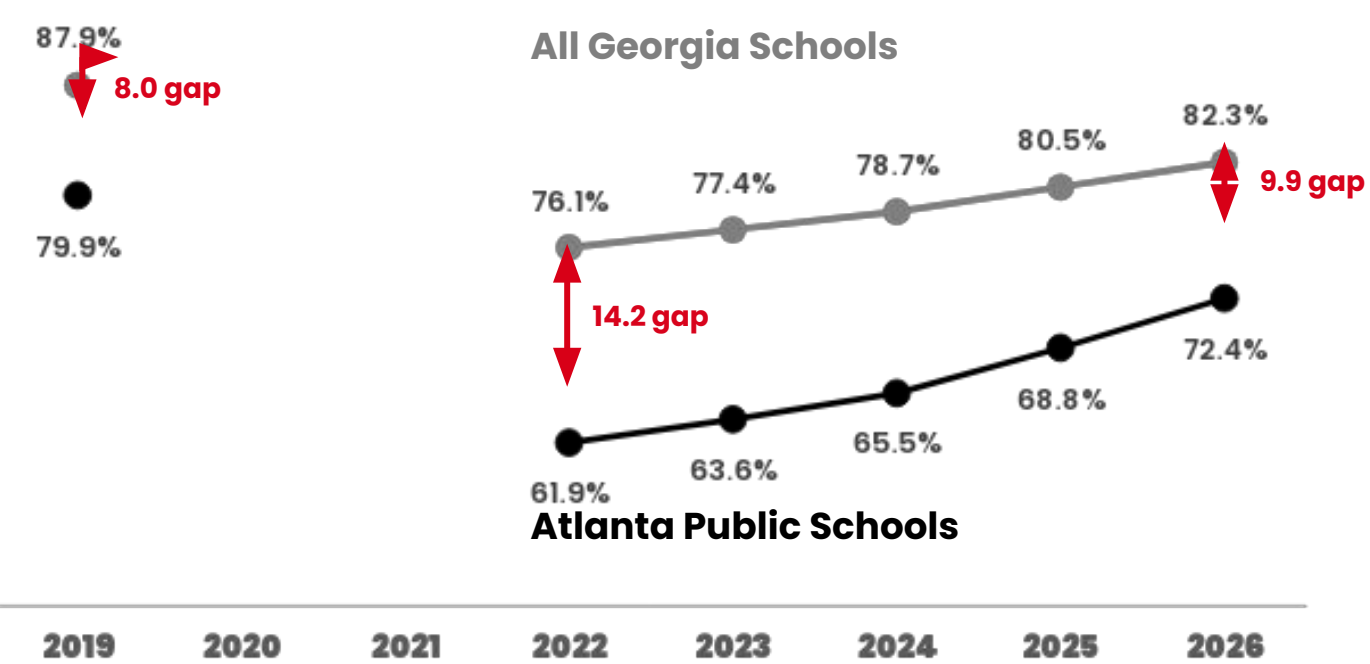
*Algebra includes summer and mid-month testing and counts the highest score

Attendance remains below 2019 levels, but we are rapidly closing our gap with the state

Attendance improvement continued to accelerate in 2026, increasing by 3.6 percentage points over 2025

The percentage of students who are not chronically absent is the proportion of students who were present more than 90% of the enrolled days

Percentage of Students not Chronically Absent, 2019–2026



Student Category	Student Group	% Not Chronically Absent	Change from 2025
All	All	72.4%	+3.6
Race/Ethnicity	American Indian/Alaskan Native	61.2%	+4.3
	Asian/Pacific Islander	88.9%	+2.7
	Black	66.0%	+4.3
	Hispanic	78.1%	+2.6
	Multi-Racial	83.6%	+2.8
	White	94%	+0.6
Students with Disabilities	Student with Disabilities	65.9%	+2.8
	Student without Disabilities	73.5%	+3.8
English Learners	English Learner	79.5%	+3.4
Socioeconomic Status	Economically Disadvantaged	66.9%	+4.1

Day One Update

One District. One Goal. Every Child.



**ATLANTA
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**

Let's Get Excited for Day One



- ✓ **Fully staffed on Day One — 100% of positions filled**
- ✓ **A driver and route ready for every bus**
- ✓ **New textbooks and materials for literacy, math, and science**
- ✓ **New APS App streamlines family communication**
- ✓ **Summer Advisement piloted — 180+ appointments completed**
- ✓ **With the help of our partners, free school supplies from the Back to School BASH and open houses**



2025-2030 STRATEGIC PLAN

One District. One Goal. Every Child.



Our Pathway to Excellence

The Six Focus Areas of the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan

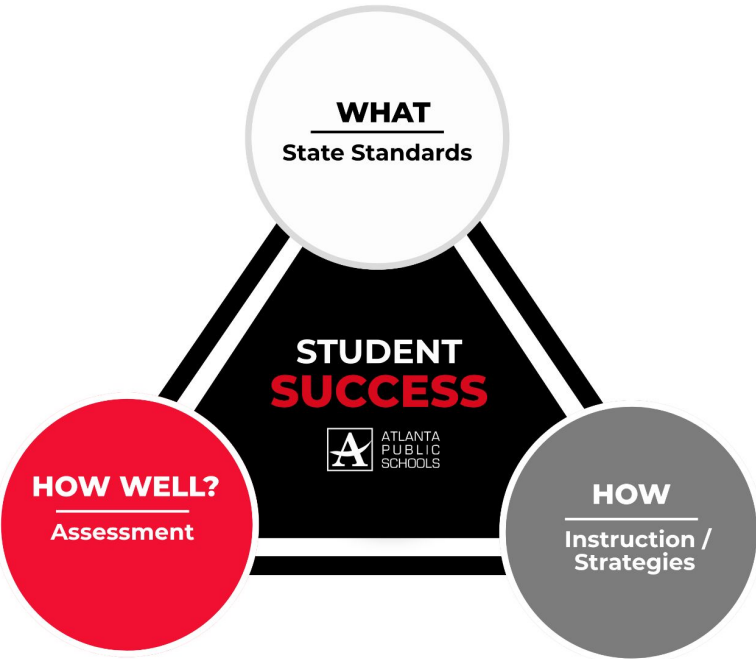
- 1 Our Strength is Our Team**
Atlanta's students will have effective and engaged teachers, leaders, and staff.
- 2 Our Responsibility is shared**
Atlanta's students will have supportive families, communities, and partners.
- 3 Our System is Efficient & Effective**
Atlanta students will have the schools and resources they need to succeed.
- 4 We Are Strengthening Our Instructional Core**
Atlanta's students will have high-quality instruction, materials, and targeted support.
- 5 We Are Caring For Every Child**
Atlanta's students will have trusted, supportive adults meeting their unique needs.
- 6 We Are Sparking Student Curiosity**
Atlanta's students will have access to explore and expand their passions and interests.

We Are Strengthening Our Instructional Core

Year 2 Focus: *Build on Our Progress*

1 Fidelity & Consistency
Quality instruction in every classroom.

2 No New Frameworks
Deepen what’s already working.



APS K-12 INSTRUCTIONAL FRAMEWORK

A unified and coherent districtwide framework that aligns instructional practice with organizational design to build foundational skills and prepare students for future success.

	ENGAGE <small>Spark Curiosity, Build Fluency</small> 15%	EXPLICIT INSTRUCTION <small>Use the 16 Elements</small> 35%	APPLY & ASSESS <small>Practice Fluently, Build Understanding</small> 40%	SELF-REFLECT <small>Process, Reflect, Progress</small> 10%
WHY	Engagement builds relevance, curiosity, and focus. Students who connect emotionally and cognitively are more likely to participate, think deeply, and persist through challenges.	Explicit instruction provides clarity, structure, and purposeful guidance. Modeling thinking and scaffolding practice minimizes confusion, promotes equity, and builds confidence for all learners.	Application and assessment turn knowledge into action. When students practice in meaningful contexts, they deepen understanding. Thoughtful feedback guides instruction and keeps learning student-centered.	Self-reflection helps learners assess how they think, work, and improve. Recognizing strengths and challenges builds metacognitive awareness, motivation, and ownership of learning.
WHAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Spark engagement with a compelling emotional and cognitive experienceConnect new learning to prior knowledge and familiar contextsFoster a safe, inclusive space for students to share their thinkingHighlight the lesson's relevance and build excitement for what's next	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Share the learning target and teaching point in clear, child-facing languageIdentify key concepts, essential vocabulary, and common misconceptionsSequence learning from foundational to advanced with smooth transitionsModel skills and thinking explicitly through gradual-release strategiesReinforce accuracy using varied examples and multiple representationsMonitor understanding frequently and adjust pacing as neededScaffold supports to meet the needs of all learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reinforce skills through guided practice and timely, specific feedbackDeepen understanding through discussion-based collaborative tasksBuild fluency and confidence with structured independent practiceApply learning to real-world contexts through performance tasksCheck understanding using quick, targeted formative assessmentsSupport thinking with graphic organizers and structured routinesUse Universal Design for Learning to offer flexible access and expression	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Prompt students to analyze their learning and identify next stepsEmpower students to monitor their progress through structured reflection on success criteriaUse student reflections to adjust instruction based on emerging needsModel reflection as an essential part of learningEmbed reflection into daily classroom routines and habits
HOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Begin lessons with a clear statement of the goal and expectationsSequence skills logicallyHelp students organize their knowledgeProvide immediate affirmative and corrective feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review prior skills and knowledge before beginning instructionBreak down complex skills into smaller instructional unitsProvide guided and supported practiceDeliver the lesson at a brisk pace	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide step-by-step demonstrationsDesign organized and focused lessonsRequire frequent responsesFocus instruction on critical elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Use clear and concise languageProvide a range of examples and non-examplesMonitor student performance closelyMake connections between related concepts explicit

16 ELEMENTS OF EXPLICIT INSTRUCTION

In Atlanta Public Schools, we are a community of believers committed to delivering clear, purposeful instruction that sparks curiosity, deepens thinking, and supports every student's journey from understanding to independence. We build meaningful relationships that empower students to take ownership of their learning and growth. We are Atlanta's public school system. This framework is adapted from the Georgia Department of Education's Instructional Framework with modifications to align with APS district priorities and context.

We Are Strengthening Our Instructional Core **Building the Foundation**

\$25M

TOTAL FOUNDATIONAL FUNDING

A comprehensive investment establishing a strong, district-wide K-5 educational framework and core standards.



Intensive Professional Learning is embedded across all K-5 platforms to ensure educator capacity and fidelity of implementation.



LITERACY FOUNDATION (K-5)

HMH Into Reading
Core curriculum base.

Benchmark
Targeted phonics & intervention.

Accelerated Literacy Model (ALM)

- Staff Incentives
- Redesigned Instructional Day
- Experiential Learning



BUILDING NUMERACY (K-5)

HMH Into Math
Core framework.

Curriculum System

- Year 5 Material Commitment
- Year 5 PL Commitment
- Year 1 Phasing & Materials

Great Minds

Math Launch & Sustainment Program — sustains high-level instructional practices and structural teacher supports.

We Are Strengthening Our Instructional Core



Physical textbooks

A return to printed, tangible textbooks across all content areas so students have materials they can hold, mark up, and take home.



Day One Readiness: Textbook Deliveries

- Math K-12 (HMH, Great Minds, Carnegie, Cengage)
- ELA K-12 Replenishments (HMH)
- Science 6-12 (Savvas)



Structured literacy

A renewed commitment to explicit, research-based reading instruction that builds strong readers.



Day One Readiness: Accelerated Literacy Model Launch



Toomer Elementary School



Tuskegee Airmen Global Academy



Heritage Academy



Hutchinson Elementary School

We Are Strengthening Our Instructional Core Literacy & Intervention

\$12M

DISTRICT ALLOCATION

Supporting secondary pathways and enhancements across all district learning environments.

 01 / ELA & WRITING

HMH Into Literature

Core 6-12 ELA curriculum

Write Score

Targeted literacy maturation platforms for progress monitoring.

MIDDLE SCHOOL LITERACY · PILOT SCHOOLS

Course Mojo

Tier I Targeted Support

HMH: Read 180 Dedicated

Tier II Intervention

Reading Futures

Intensive reading intervention



Middle School Literacy Pilot School

Hollis Innovation Academy
John Lewis Invictus Academy
C.W. Long Middle School
J. C. Young Middle School

We Are Strengthening Our Instructional Core

Math, Science & Social Studies



02 / MATH & SCIENCE

Carnegie Math

Middle School (6-8)

Cengage Math

High school (9-12) AP & 4th Yr

Savvas Science

Middle & High Schools(6-12)

Cengage Science

High School (9-12) AP & 4th Yr



03 / SOCIAL STUDIES

Gallopade

Middle School (6-8)

McGraw Hill

US History 10th/11th
World History 9th

Gibbs & Smith

Middle School 8th Grade

A Nation Conceived

US History 10th/11th

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Allocations are hardwired into all secondary core contracts, advanced pathways, and system-wide platforms

We Are Caring for Every Child

We Are Sparking Student Curiosity



EDUCATION

Pilot program prepares APS students for life after high school

Summer Advisement

More than 180 appointments have been successfully completed. Of those students:

- 70% are on track to graduate
- 19% are identified as first-generation college goers
- 16% of students have already completed their community service hours
- 88% of students rated their experience Good or Excellent and 92% would recommend the program(n=30)

"My adviser actually listened to me. She didn't just look at my transcript – she asked me what I wanted."

We Are Caring for Every Child

We Are Sparking Student Curiosity

Summer Programming



4,600

students participated in Power Up

1,327

students participated in other APS in-person summer programs

ACCA Career Exposure, Fine Arts Summer, Extended School Year, Level Up Math, SMSEA, Wings, Xanadu

PowerUp Overview

- ✓ **Free*** academic & enrichment programs
- ✓ **Free** transportation provided
- ✓ **Free** breakfast & lunch daily
- ✓ Open to APS students across **all grade levels**

**Xanadu is a tuition-based program, no transportation — scholarships available.*

Partnership Highlight

Power Up Summer 2026 partnered with **Simple Trader Pro (STP)** to offer students at **Bunche MS** and **Young MS** an engaging financial literacy and investment education program.

Our Strength is Our Team

Key Performance Indicators (KPI): *Staff Engagement, Teacher Retention, Teacher & Principal Experience*

Fully Staffed on Day One

100% of positions filled
before the first bell

✓ Principals & Asst. Principals

✓ Teachers & Paraprofessionals

✓ Every Bus Route Covered

✓ Every Custodian

✓ Every Cafeteria Manager

✓ ...and every role in between

Every role filled means every student supported from the first bell.

Welcoming Three New Principals



Shannon Hollman
Barack & Michelle Obama Academy



Melanie Johnson
Springdale Park Elementary



Patricia Ford
Sylvan Hills Middle (Interim)

Summer Professional Learning

Building readiness across every role ahead of Day One

DISTRICT-WIDE

- New Employee Orientation** Onboarding and role-specific professional learning for all new employees and instructional staff.
- Inaugural AI Conference** 130+ educators, school leaders, and central office staff explored how AI is transforming teaching and preparing students for the future.

FOR LEADERS

- Principal Learning Series** High expectations for curriculum, instruction, and assessment – leading change and building purposeful, student-centered school communities.

FOR EDUCATORS & SPECIALISTS

- Summer Learning Series** Deep dives into standards and high-quality instructional materials, aligning instruction across content areas.
- Exceptional Education Intensive** Two-day Summer Intensive for Novice and New Exceptional Education Teachers: focused on Co-Teaching, Explicit Instruction, Classroom Relationships, and Effective Communication (over 80 teachers)
- Accelerated Literacy Model** Dedicated, intensive professional learning for ALM schools: 84 Teachers (80 hours of learning); 4 principals (additional 40 hours of learning)

Summer Professional Learning

Instructional Readiness: Content Ambassadors

Targeted professional learning across four secondary core disciplines

81

TOTAL AMBASSADORS TRAINED

Instructional leaders equipped to lead curriculum work in every secondary school.



English Language Arts

21

CORE FOCUS Curriculum Guide & Standard Alignment



Mathematics

24

CORE FOCUS Carnegie Learning Rollout



Science

23

CORE FOCUS Curriculum Resources & Standard Alignment



Social Studies

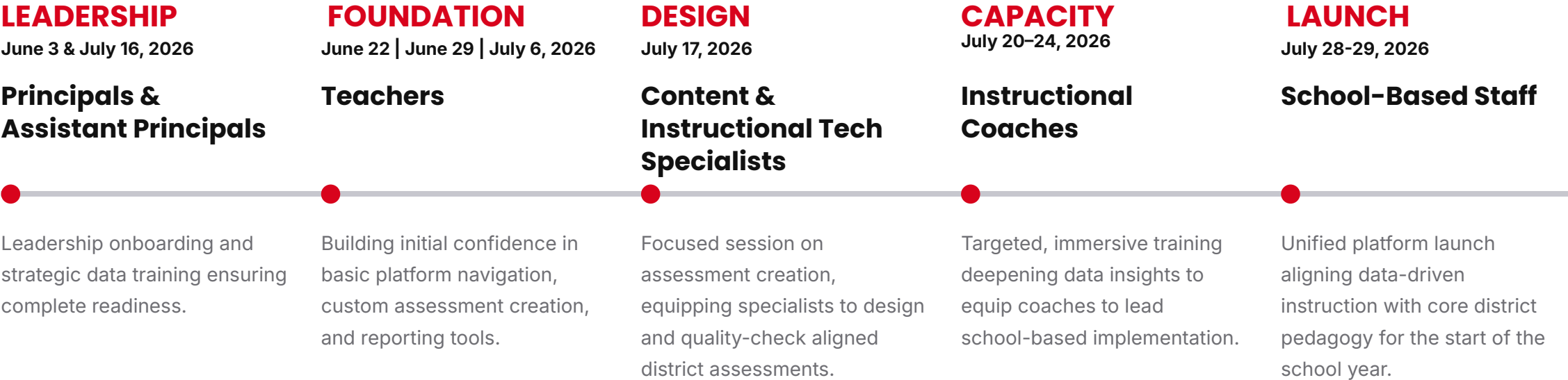
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CORE FOCUS DBQ Summer Summit

Summer Professional Learning

Renaissance Assessment Platform

Building leadership and stakeholder capacity ahead of district launch.



Our Responsibility is Shared

By the Numbers: A summer of serving students, families, and communities



2,222

Students served at the Back to School BASH



3

Newly renovated Hank Aaron Diamond softball fields in partnership with the Atlanta Braves Foundation



558

Children served during summer food distribution



Every

School held open houses



12,000

Student supply kits distributed (at least)

Our Responsibility is Shared

Launched the new APS App



Everything families need, in one place

- School and district announcements
- Direct messages from teachers
- Real-time alerts
- Calendars and key resources

A single, consistent connection to their schools.

Our System is Efficient & Effective

Facilities

Grounds are complete; building readiness is complete; second-phase cleaning and painting are complete.

Safety and Security

Schools have safety plans and Centegix badges distributed.

Technology

Student and staff devices have been provided to schools.

Master Scheduling

Student schedules visible in the Parent Portal on July 31st.

Transportation

Bus routes are 100% staffed and scheduled.

Nutrition

100% ready for schools.



School Relocations

Douglass 9th
from Fain

Garden Hills ES
internal

Miles ES
from Connally

**Toomer &
Burgess-Peterson
Pre-K**
from Whitefoord

Wesley International
from Coan

Adult Education
to ISC

Our System is Efficient & Effective



APS Forward 2040

01

Develop the Plan

Winter 2025

Board-approved plan identified 16 sites — closures, mergers, and repurposed facilities

02

Finalize the Details

Fall 2026

Transition Teams

Building Reuse

Boundary Realignment

E-SPLOST Prioritization

03A

Implement: Part 1 School Transitions

Fall 2027

Cleveland Ave ES

Continental Colony ES

Dunbar ES

FL Stanton ES

Peyton Forest ES

Sylvan Hills MS

Carver STEAM

KIPP Soul Primary/Middle
(Fall 2026)

03B

Implement: Part 2 School Transitions

Fall 2028

Perkerson ES & Finch ES

Usher-Collier ES & Scott ES

04

Strengthen

Following Each
Implementation

E-SPLOST
Implementation
Pending vote

Ongoing Monitoring
Via Admin Regulation

Building Reuse
Monitoring & Expanding



Next Steps

01

Quality Instruction

Continue to make strong academic gains through high-quality instruction and instructional materials

02

Student Recruitment

Strengthen our efforts to recruit and retain students into our neighborhood schools

03

APS Forward 2040 (Facilities)

Launch Student Transition Success Teams and internal working groups to ensure seamless transition for school changes. Prioritize and communicate proposed projects ahead of E-SPLOST November Referendum.

04

Staffing Model Refinement

Update our budget process to lean into a structured state-aligned staffing model that also provides for flexibility based on school needs



Thank You!

