

A photograph of three diverse elementary school children (two boys and one girl) smiling in a classroom. The boy on the left is wearing a maroon shirt and a blue backpack. The boy in the middle is wearing a dark blue shirt and a red backpack. The girl on the right is wearing a plaid shirt and a black backpack. In the background, there is a chalkboard with the words "Solar System" written on it and several colorful posters on the wall.

# Gauging and Addressing Pandemic Learning Loss: A Longer Term Perspective

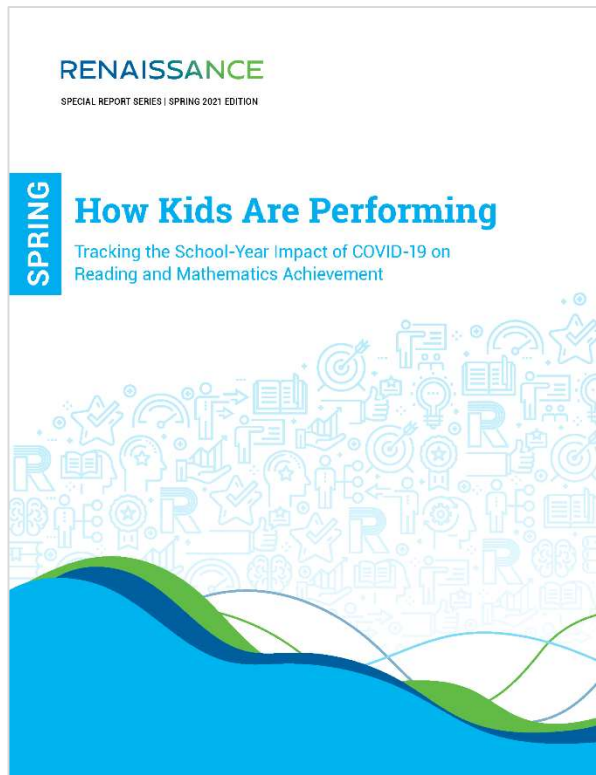
RENAISSANCE®



## Our mission:

“To accelerate learning for all children and adults of all ability levels and ethnic and social backgrounds, worldwide.”

# New! Full-year edition



- Shows the **full-year impact** of the COVID-19 disruptions (Fall 2020–Spring 2021)
- **Largest longitudinal data sample**—3.3 million students
- National in scope—all **50 states and DC**
- Covers **grades 1–8** in reading and **grades 2–8** in math
- **Download your free copy:** [renaissance.com/performing](https://renaissance.com/performing)

# Reading performance

Some historical perspective

Fall: **-1 PR**

Winter: **-2 PR**



# POLL QUESTION

# Spring 2021 reading performance

Reading/Early Literacy				
	Spring Expected Mean Unified Scaled Score	Spring Observed Mean Unified Scaled Score	Scaled Score Difference (Observed minus Expected )	Percentile Rank Difference (Observed minus Expected)
Grade 1	860	853	-7	-7
Grade 2	960	950	-10	-5
Grade 3	987	982	-5	-2
Grade 4	1022	1013	-9	-5
Grade 5	1046	1038	-8	-4
Grade 6	1067	1059	-8	-4
Grade 7	1085	1076	-9	-4
Grade 8	1100	1092	-8	-3
Overall (1-8)			-8	-4

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# Math performance

Some historical perspective

Fall: **-7 PR**

Winter: **-6 PR**

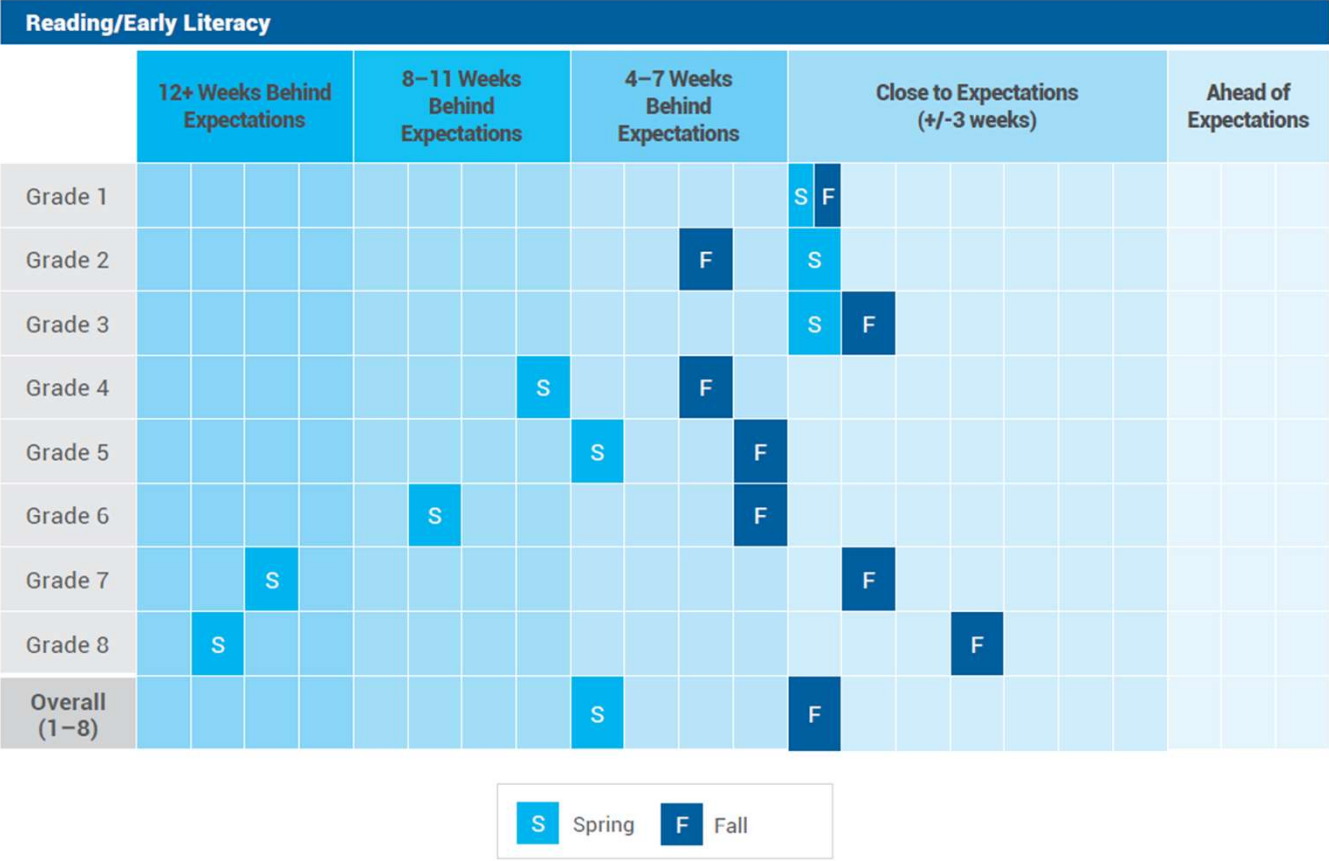




# Spring 2021 math performance

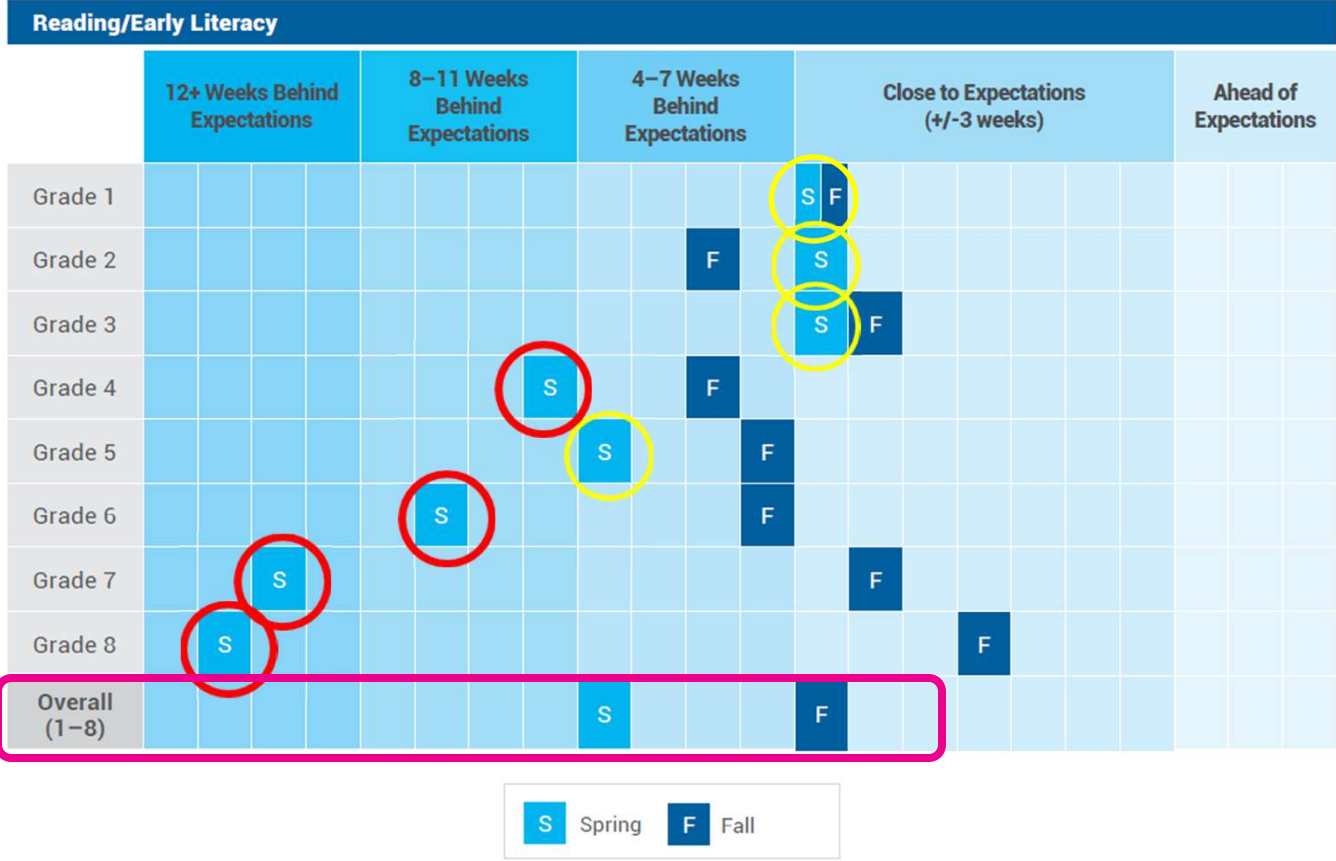
Mathematics				
	Spring Expected Mean Unified Scaled Score	Spring Observed Mean Unified Scaled Score	Scaled Score Difference (Observed minus Expected )	Percentile Rank Difference (Observed minus Expected)
Grade 2	937	925	-12	-10
Grade 3	989	971	-18	-12
Grade 4	1032	1011	-21	-14
Grade 5	1063	1045	-18	-12
Grade 6	1083	1068	-15	-9
Grade 7	1097	1086	-11	-7
Grade 8	1109	1100	-9	-4
Overall (2–8)			-16	-11

# Impacts translated to weeks of instruction





# Impacts translated to weeks of instruction



# Impacts translated to weeks of instruction

Mathematics																		
	12+ Weeks Behind Expectations				8–11 Weeks Behind Expectations				4–7 Weeks Behind Expectations			Close to Expectations (+/-3 weeks)				Ahead of Expectations		
Grade 2											S	F						
Grade 3							S		F									
Grade 4				S		F												
Grade 5		S			F													
Grade 6	S				F													
Grade 7		S					F											
Grade 8				S							F							
Overall (2–8)					S				F									

S Spring    F Fall

# Impacts translated to weeks of instruction

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Grade 2									S	F			
Grade 3						S		F					
Grade 4			S		F								
Grade 5		S			F								
Grade 6	S				F								
Grade 7		S				F							
Grade 8			S						F				
Overall (2–8)				S		F							

S Spring
  F Fall

# Impacts translated to weeks of instruction



# Minimum weeks of instruction

The cumulative impact

Grade	Reading	Math	TOTAL
2	4	-	4
3	8	-	8
4	12	8	20
5	12	4	16
6	12	8	20
7	12	12	24
8	12	12	24



# Approximate hours of instruction

To catch up to pre-pandemic levels of performance

Grade	Weeks of Instruction	Hours of Instruction
2	4	20
3	8	40
4	20	100
5	16	80
6	20	100
7	24	120
8	24	120

*Options:* **1.** Find the hours | **2.** Use the currently available hours better/more efficiently | **3.** Do both

**What do we need to  
consider when addressing  
these realities?**

**Overall averages may not reflect the complete story—particularly for some student groups.**

# An example

## Mean of 50

- 51
- 49
- 51
- 49
- 49
- 51
- 52
- 48

# An example

## Mean of 50

- 51
- 49
- 51
- 49
- 49
- 51
- 52
- 48

## Mean of 50

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 96
- 97
- 98
- 99

# An example

## Mean of 50

- 51
- 49
- 51
- 49
- 49
- 51
- 52
- 48

## Mean of 50

- 51
- 49
- 35
- 65
- 25
- 75
- 5
- 95

## Mean of 50

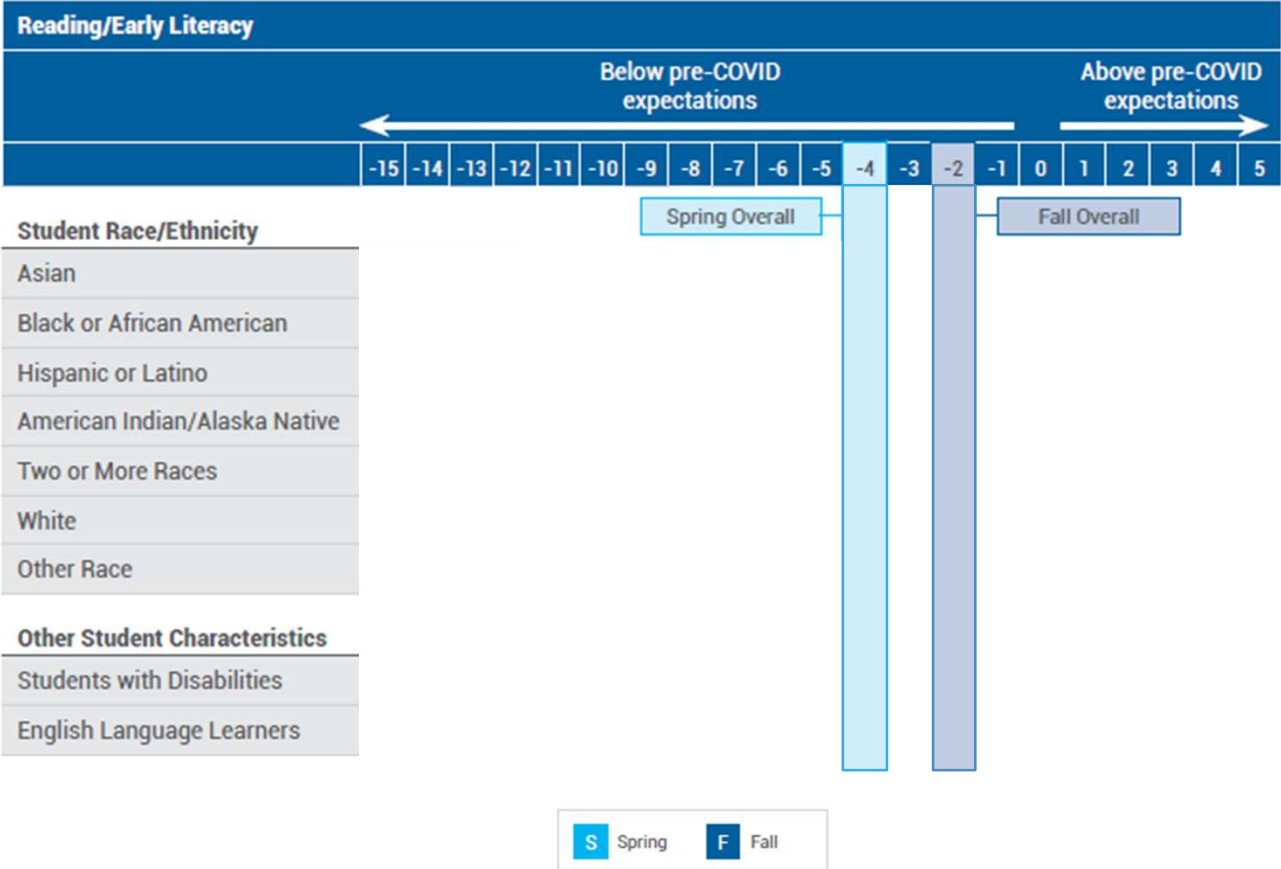
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 96
- 97
- 98
- 99

# Reading: Student groups analyses



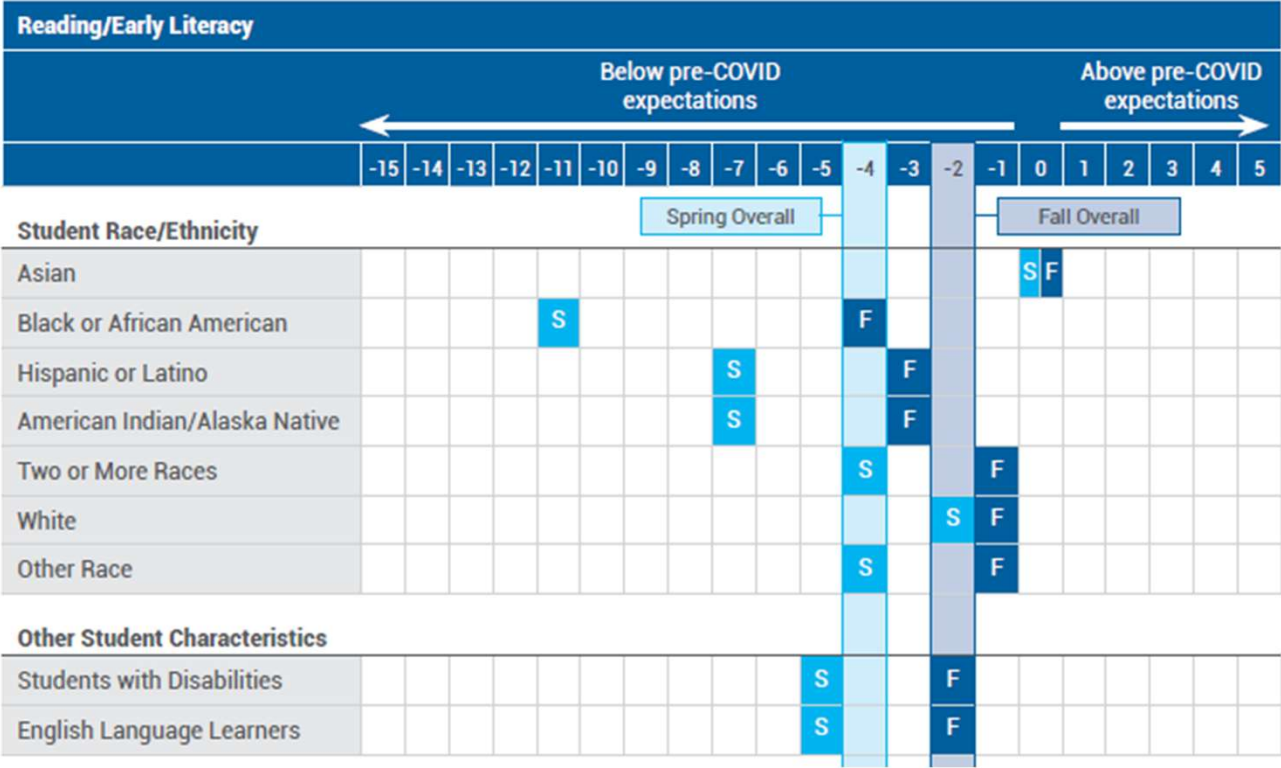
S Spring F Fall

# Reading: Student groups analyses



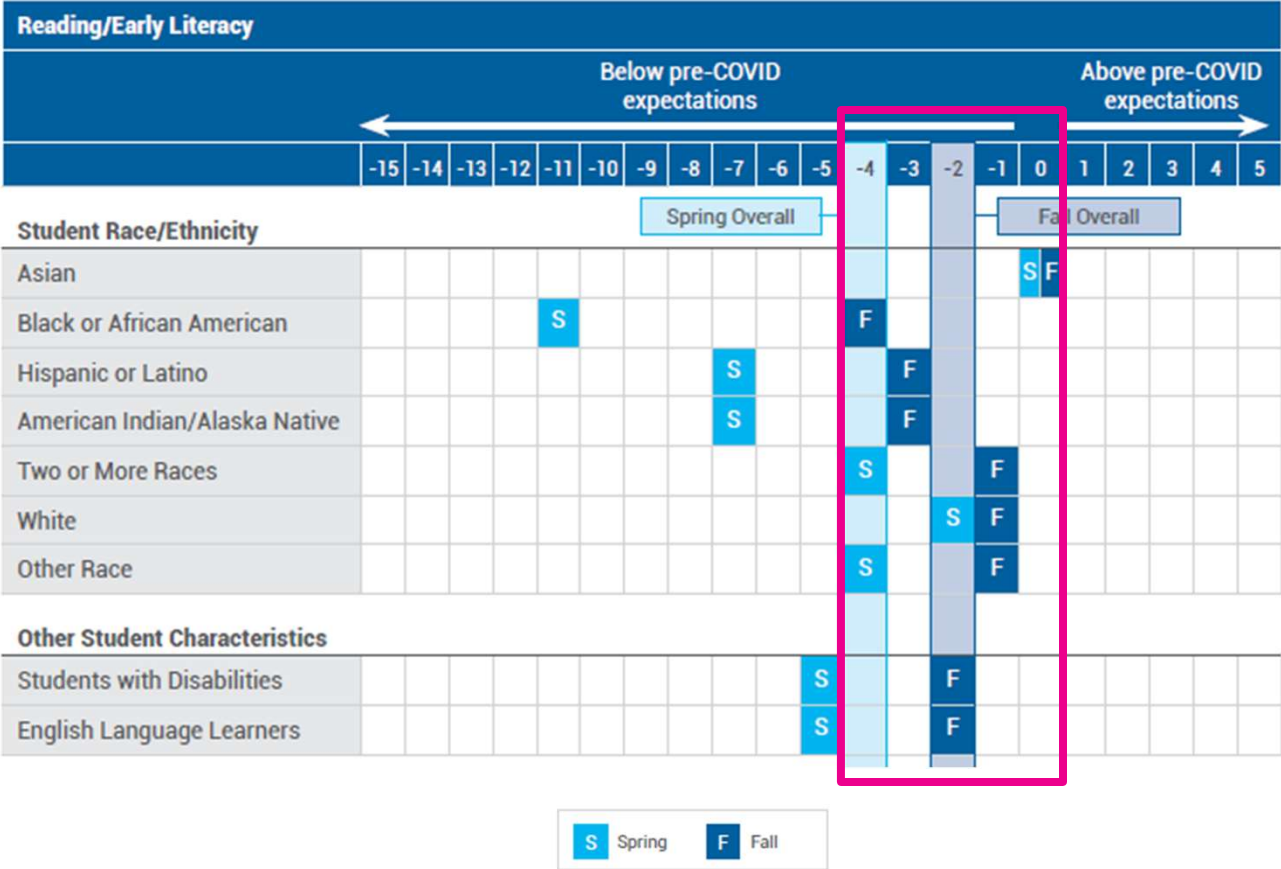


# Reading: Student groups analyses

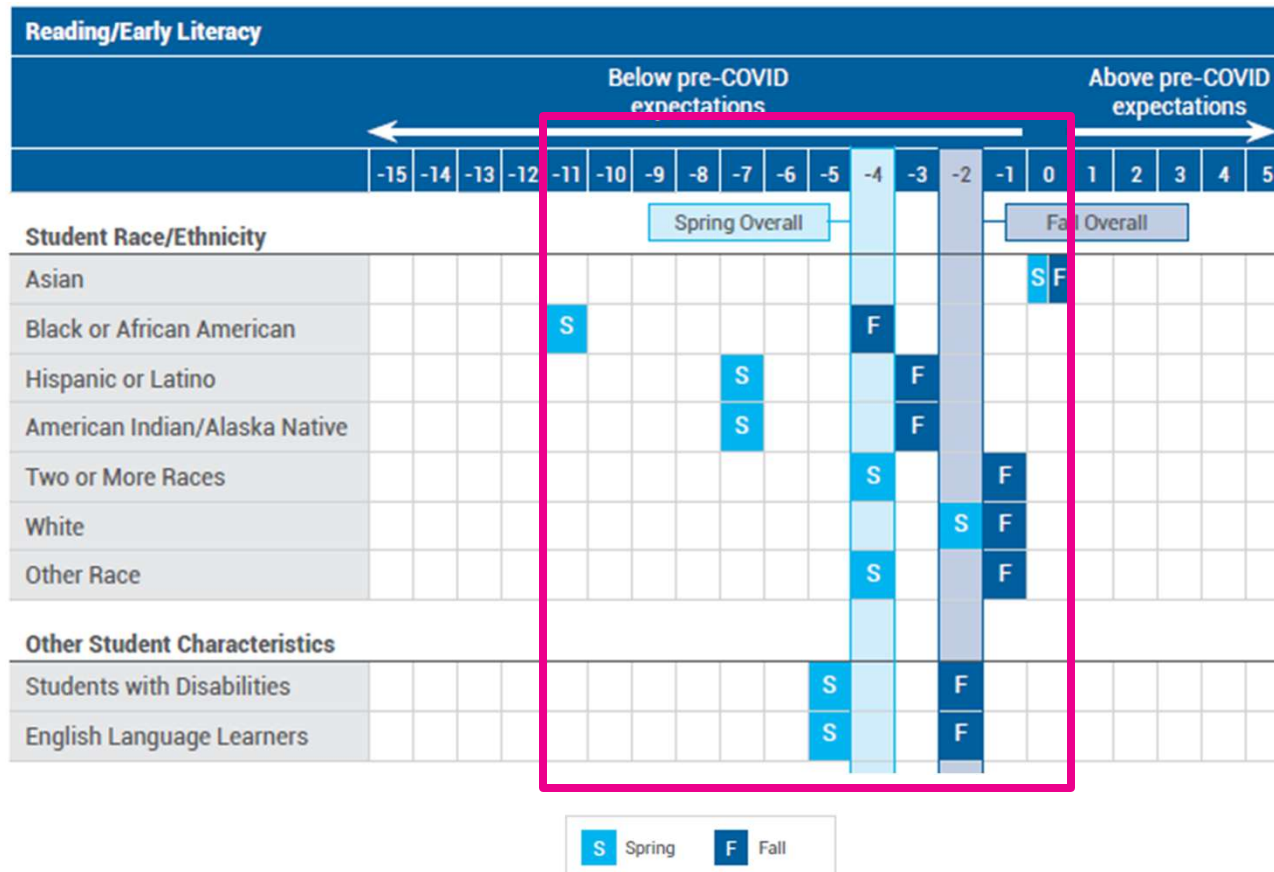


S Spring    F Fall

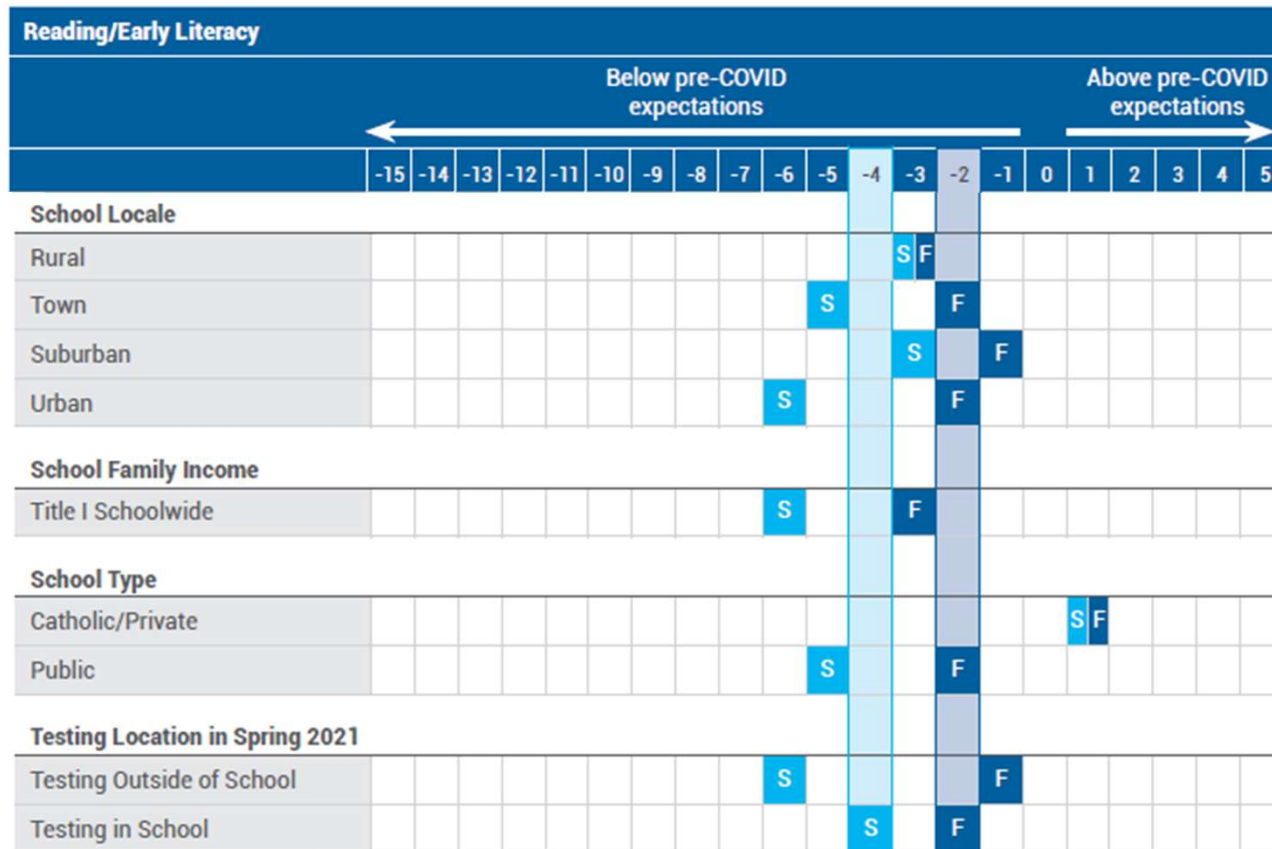
# Reading: Student groups analyses



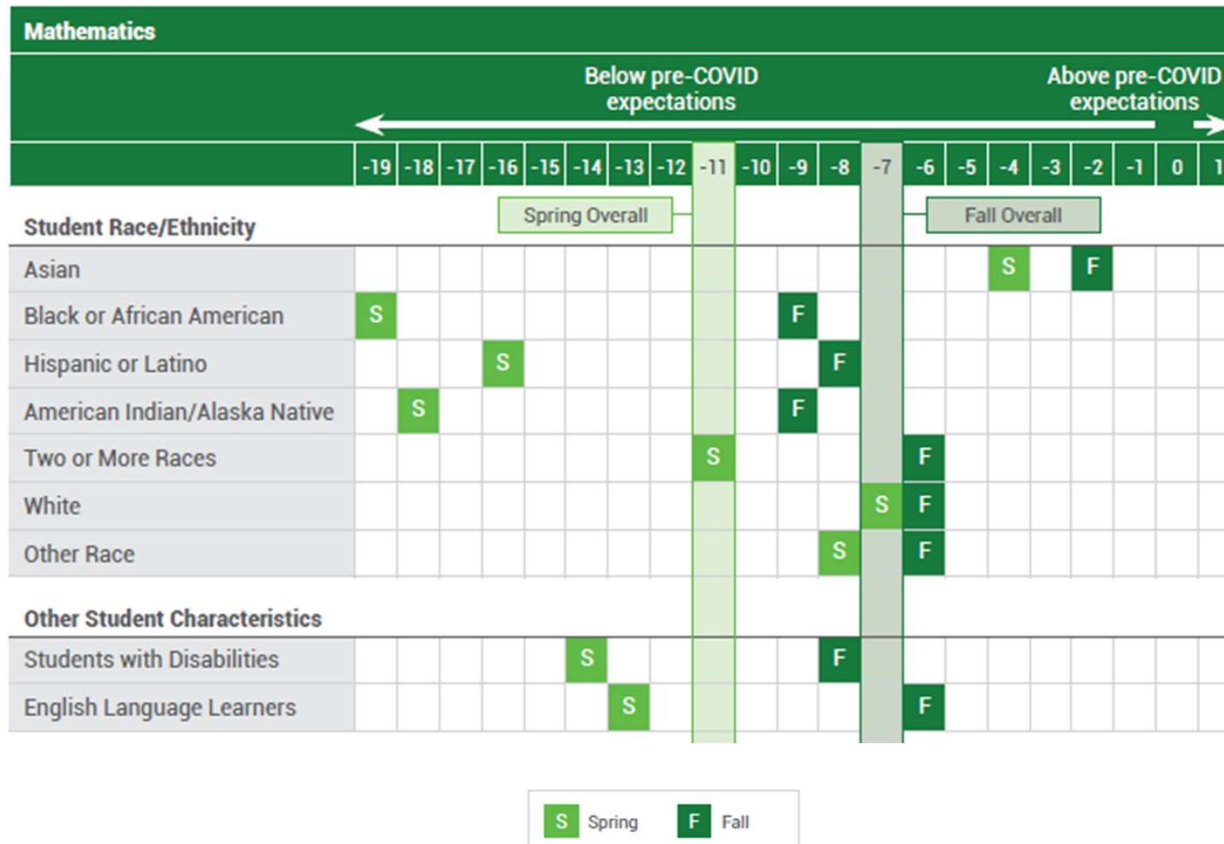
# Reading: Student groups analyses



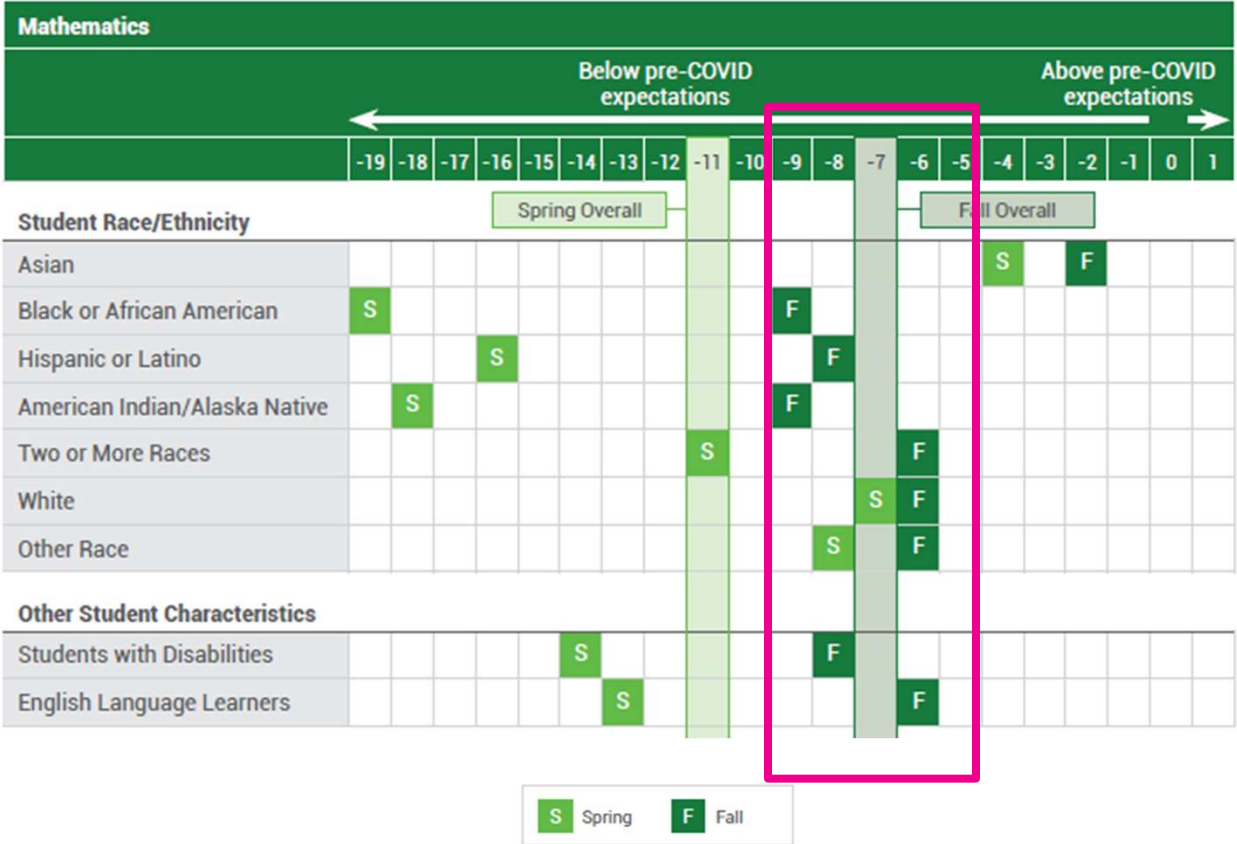
# Reading: School groups analyses



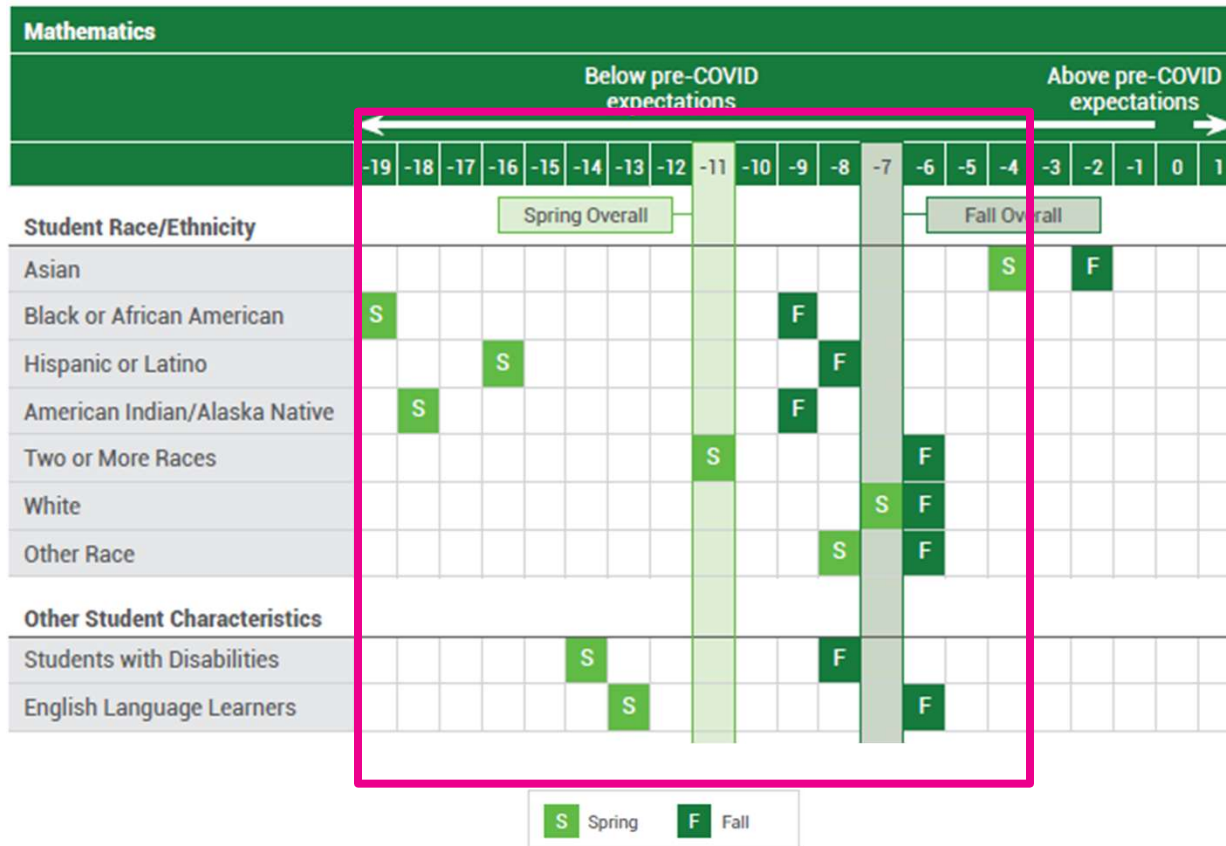
# Math: Student groups analyses



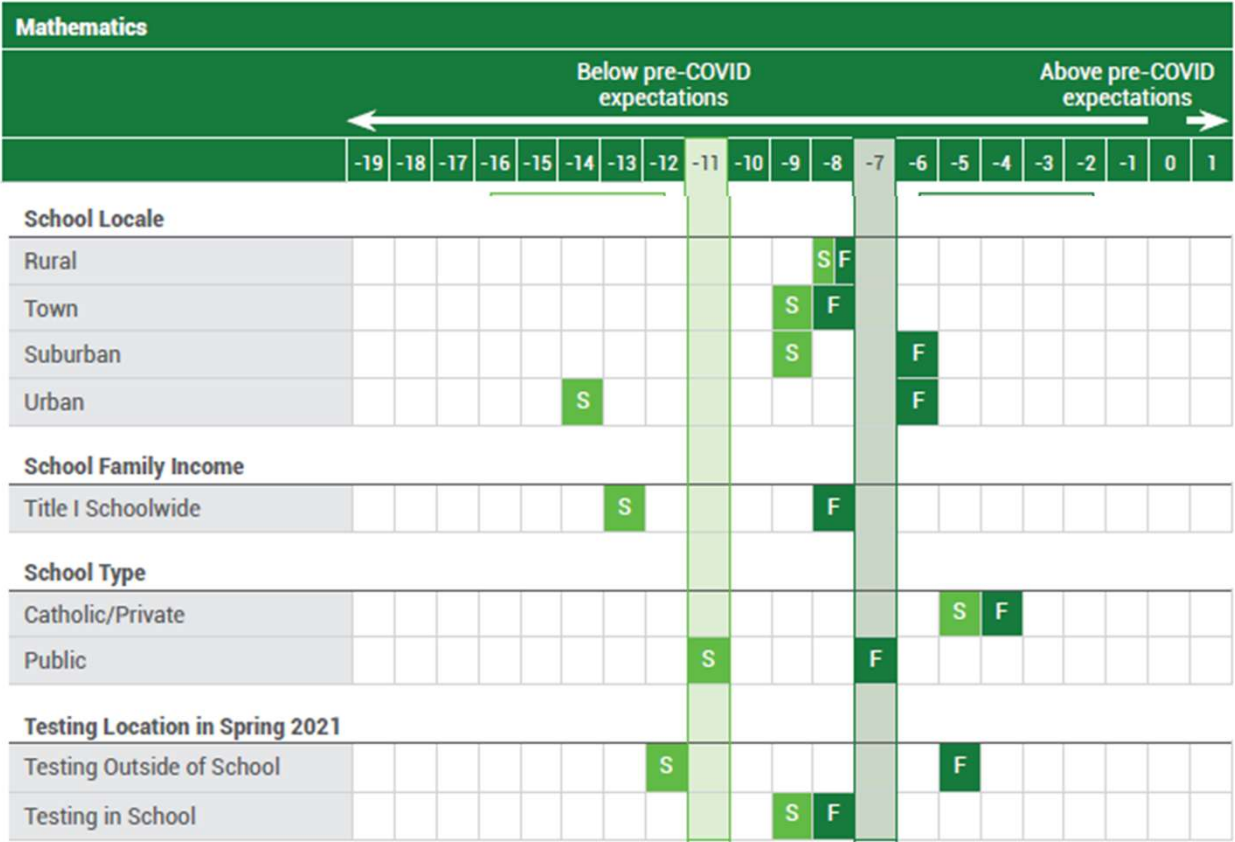
# Math: Student groups analyses



# Math: Student groups analyses



# Math: School groups analyses





# What happens when multiple factors are combined?

*Example:* Higher poverty in urban areas

Figure 2a. Impact on Percentile Rank performance by subgroup and season **Title I schools in urban areas**

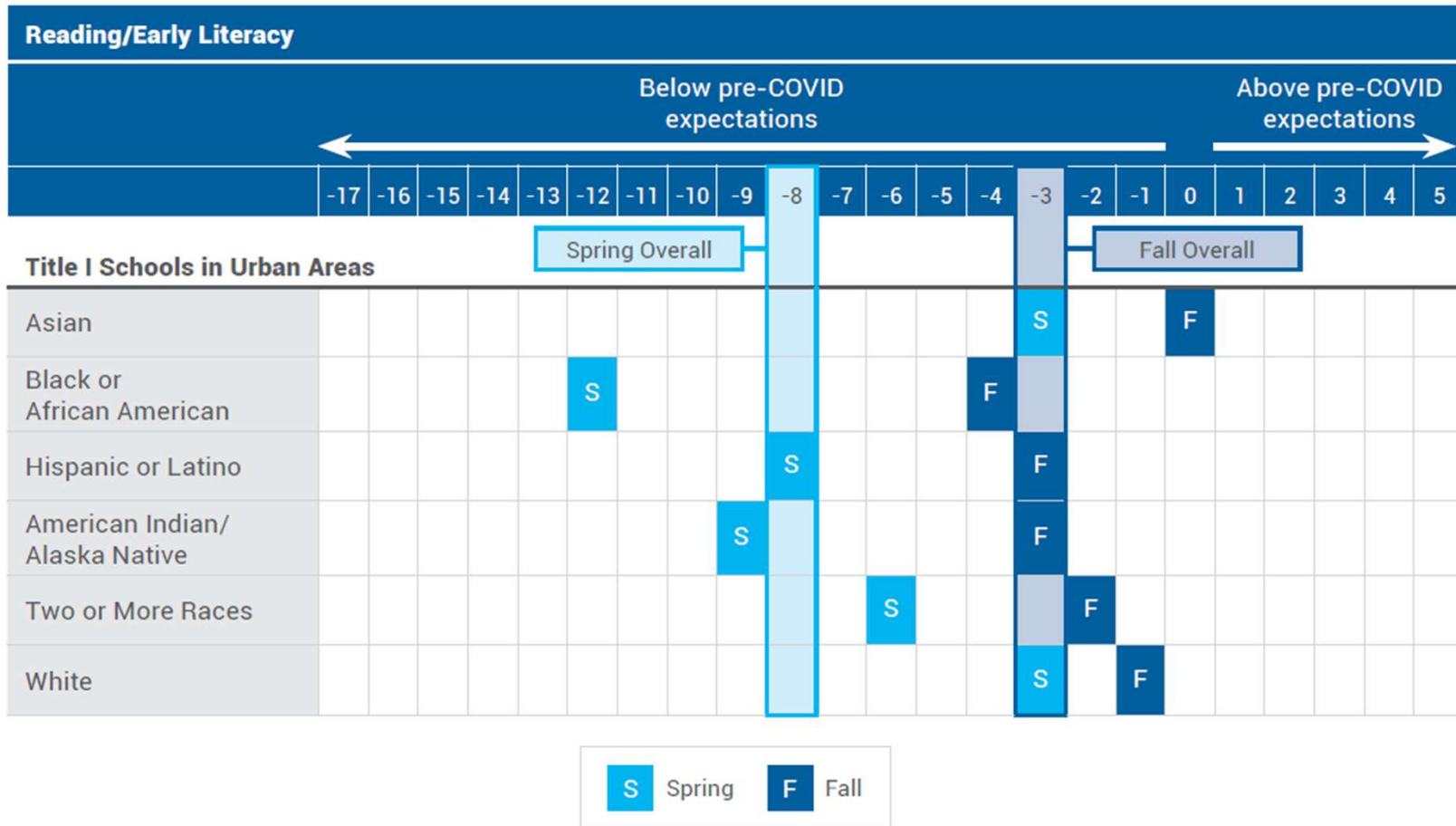
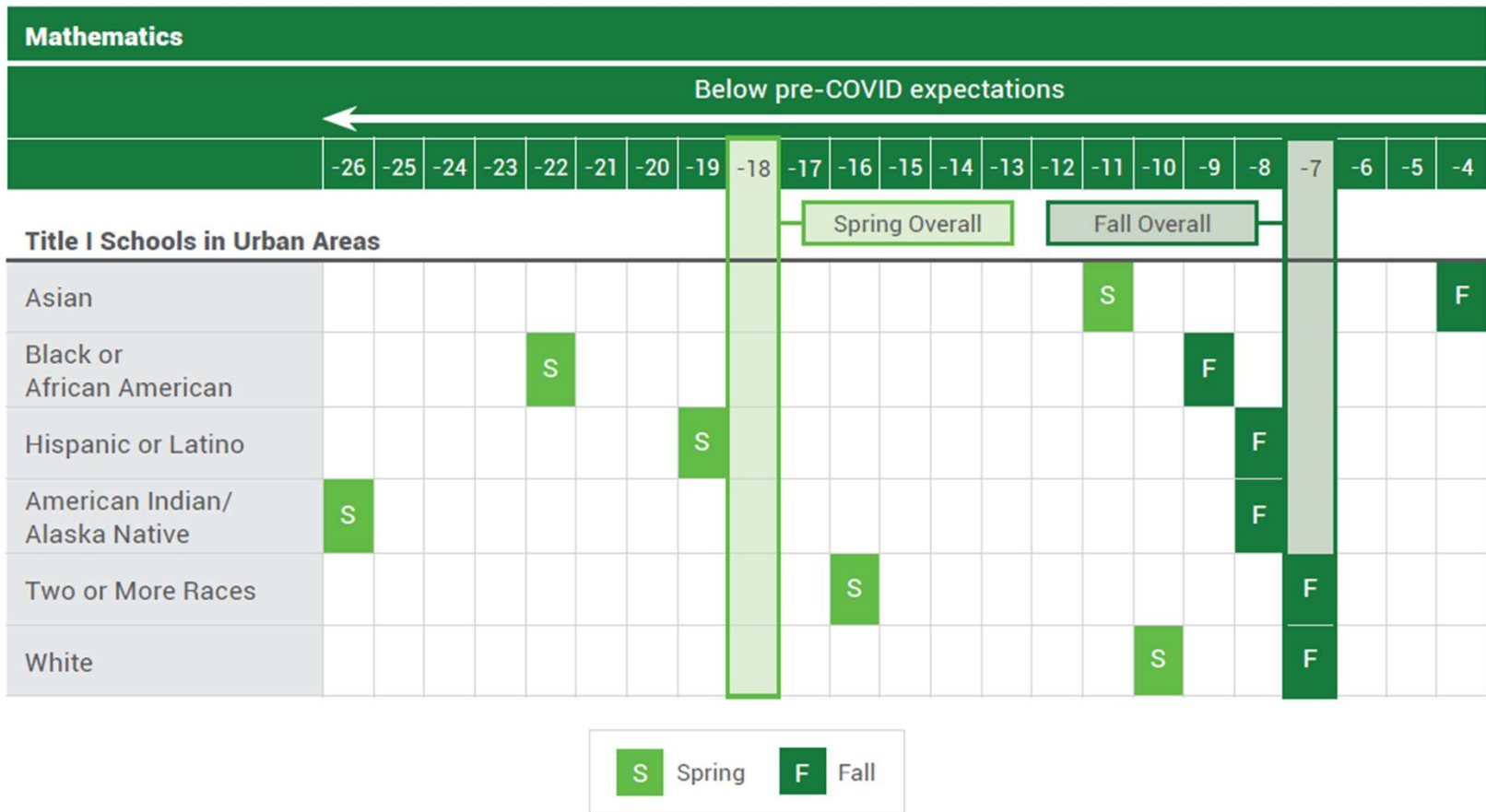


Figure 2a. Impact on Percentile Rank performance by subgroup and season **Title I schools in urban areas**



**It's time to hear from  
you.**

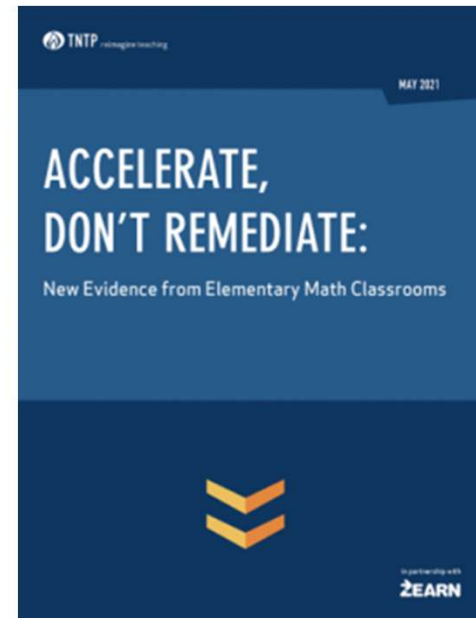
# “Accelerated Learning”

CURRICULUM

# What's the Best Way to Address Unfinished Learning? It's Not Remediation, Study Says



By [Sarah Schwartz](#) — May 24, 2021 ⌚ 5 min read



# Accelerated Learning

An umbrella term


- Encompasses a variety of different strategies
  - e.g., “Acceleration Academies”
  - Specific designs for instructional planning
- Referenced in both US DOE guidance and that of many states
- The common element across the strategies is an emphasis on **maximizing exposure to grade-level content**



# POLL QUESTION




# renaissance.com/focus-skills



**Focus Skills™**




Reverse the “COVID-19 Slide” by focusing on the most critical reading and math skills at every grade level.

[See the Focus Skills Research](#) →



## About Renaissance Focus Skills

Focus Skills are—simply put—the **building blocks of student learning**. Based on extensive research into how learning progresses in reading and mathematics, Focus Skills provide a roadmap for closing learning gaps as you move every student toward greater mastery.

		
<p>Critical</p>	<p>Impactful</p>	<p>Standards-based</p>
<p>Focus Skills are fundamental to student understanding, involving concepts that students must master in order to advance to the next step.</p>	<p>Because Focus Skills are prerequisites for future learning, focusing instruction on these skills provides the greatest return in terms of student growth.</p>	<p>Focus Skills are identified through a detailed study of your state’s standards of learning—and reflect your state’s grade-level expectations.</p>

HOW WE GO BACK TO SCHOOL

# Deciding What to Teach? Here's How

To make up for lost time, instructional leaders will need to streamline curricula and offer "just-in-time" support. These steps can help.

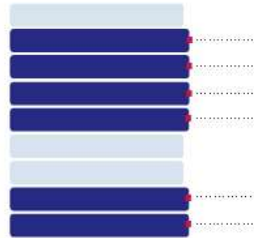
**EducationWeek.**

**RENAISSANCE**

## STANDARDS

1

Review grade-level standards, and highlight the most important work of the grade.



For each priority standard, determine the prerequisite skills students will need to be successful.



(Note: Groups such as Student Achievement Partners and the Council of the Great City Schools have created standards maps that can help schools identify some of these prerequisite skills and understandings. Some publishers have also provided guidance on how to do this within their curricula.)



## CLASSROOM LEVEL

2

As you start a grade-level unit, determine the key skills and understandings that students need to access the work.



**ASK YOURSELF:** Are there prerequisite skills or understandings that students need to succeed?

- For example, if you expect students to add fractions with different denominators, a 5th grade math standard, they will need to understand how to add fractions that have the same denominator—a 4th grade math standard.\*
- For students to read and analyze a text about a complex topic, they might need some relevant background knowledge or understanding of specific vocabulary.

\* "2020-21 Priority Instructional Content in English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics," Student Achievement Partners.

3

Create an activity or quick quiz to see if students have mastered those skills and ideas.



4

Review students' responses and adjust instruction accordingly with "just-in-time" support.

**USE ASSESSMENTS AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FEEDBACK.**



5

Create another activity or quiz designed to see whether all students now understand.

6

As the next unit approaches, look again at the priority content, and the handful of most important skills and knowledge students need. **Process begins again with step 2...**

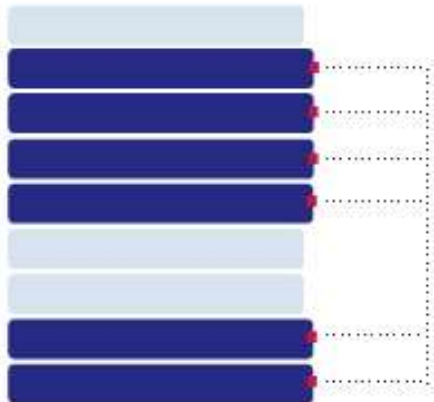
**ASK YOURSELF:** Do you need to plan scaffolding and differentiation for individual students?

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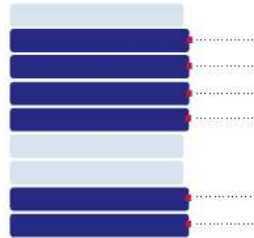
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**Disproportionate COVID-19 impacts are not unique...**



# ...to the United States

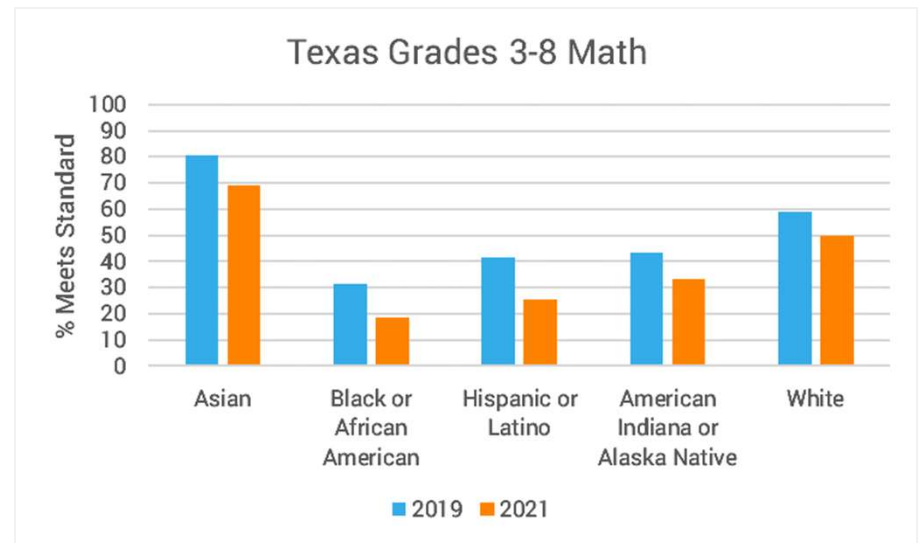
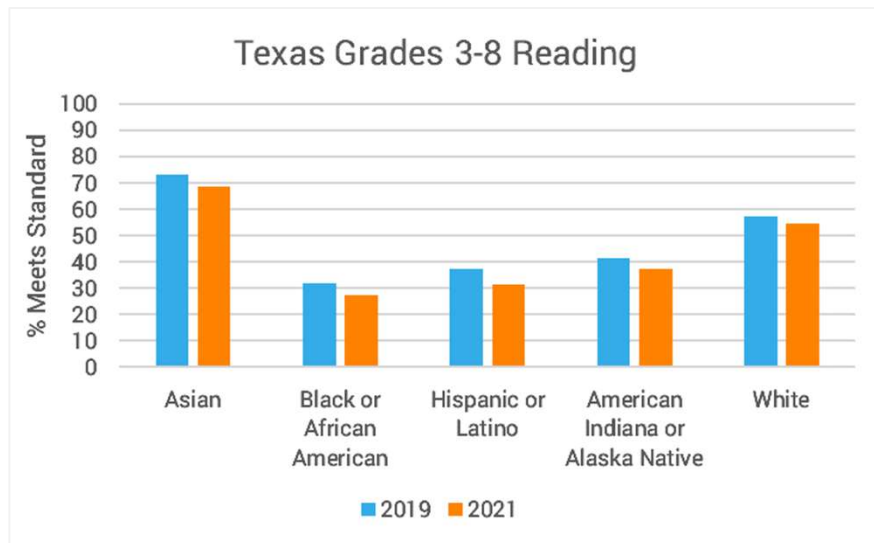
Months behind by mid-year (Autumn 1) in England

Student group	Reading	Math
Overall average	1.7 months	3.7 months
Disadvantaged	2.2 months	4.5 months
English as Additional Language	2.3 months	3.3 months

Source: Education Policy Institute and Renaissance

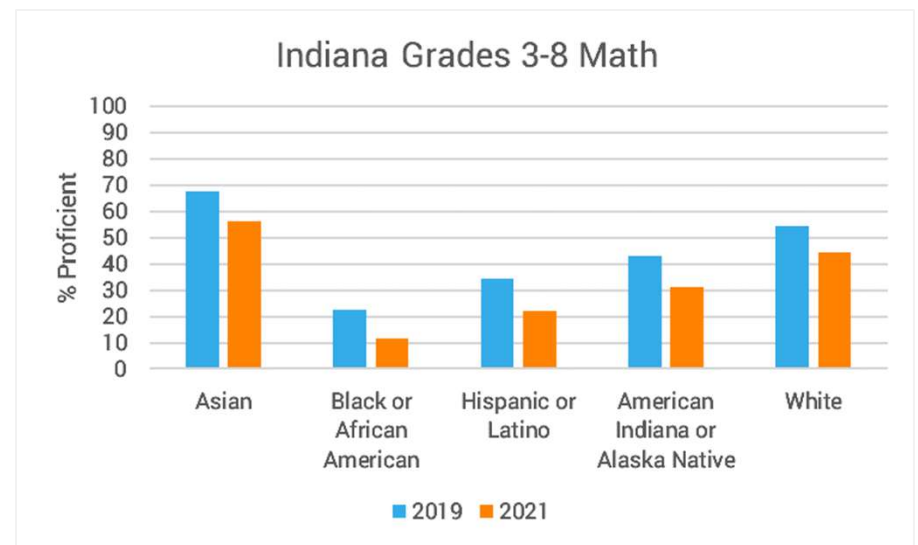
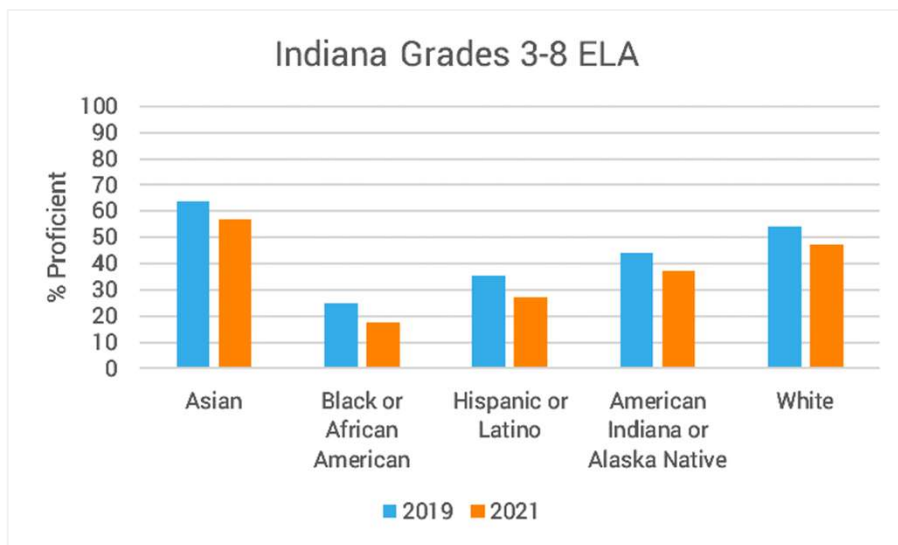
# ...to Star Assessments results

State summative testing—Texas

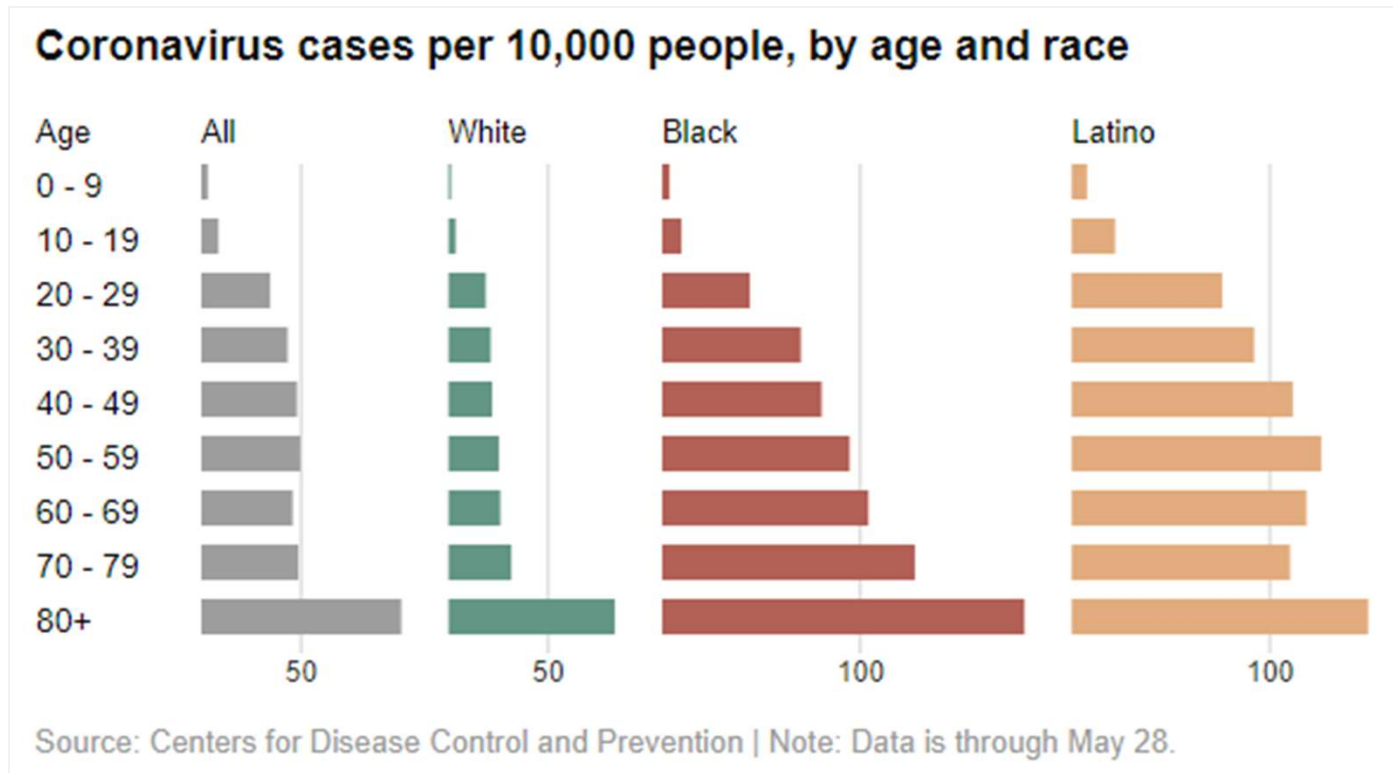


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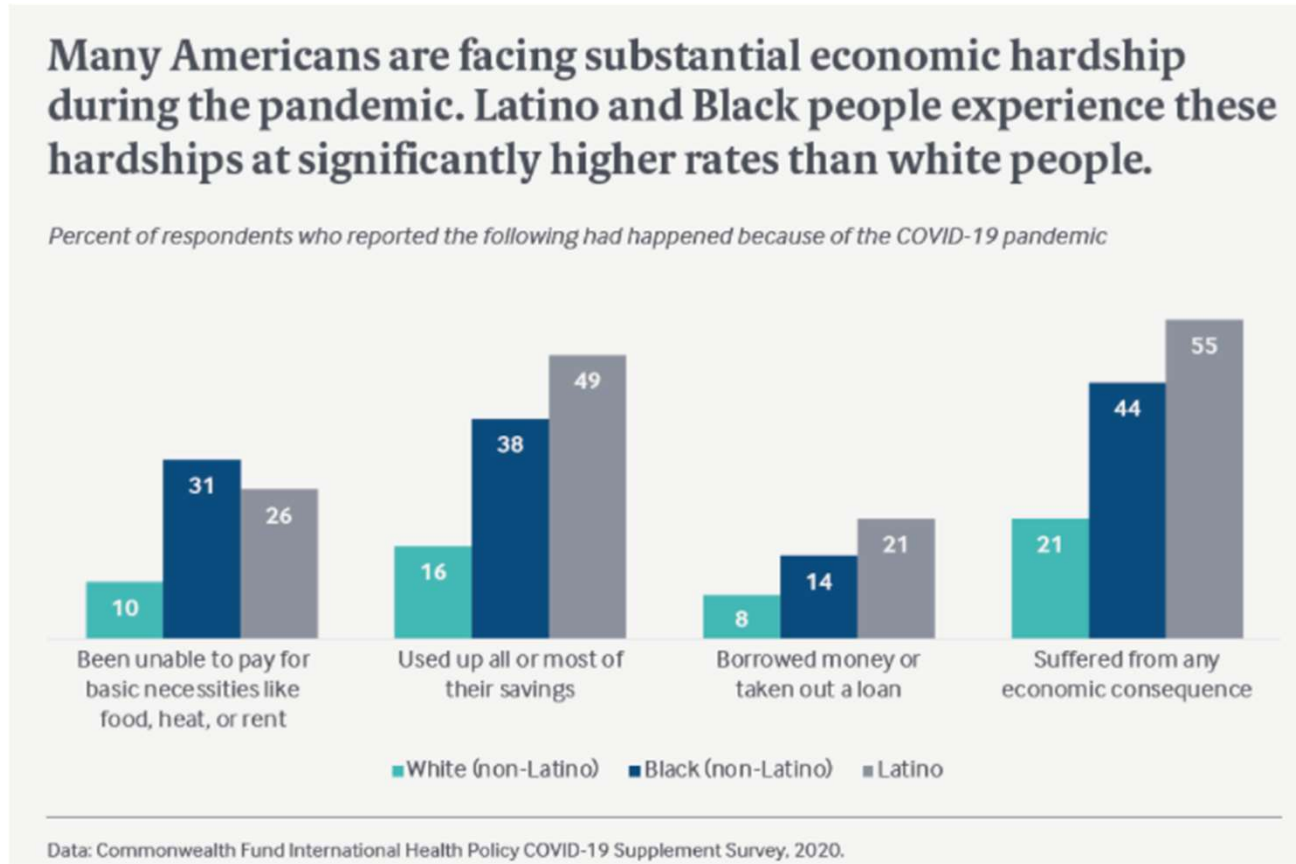
State summative testing—Indiana



# ...to K-12 educational outcomes



## ...to K-12 educational outcomes



**And we need a targeted  
response.**

# How do schools use the *How Kids Are Performing* report?

# POLL QUESTION



# How do schools use the *How Kids Are Performing* report?

First, as a reference point...

# renaissance.com/performing

## MTSS Risk Categories for Math

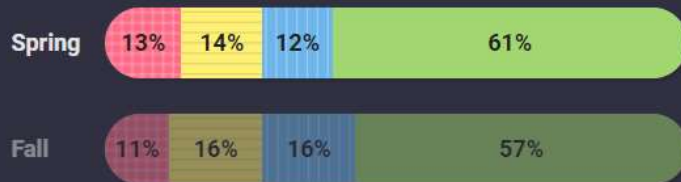
Spring versus Fall comparison of distribution of students by [Multi-Tiered Systems of Support](#) (MTSS) risk categories for Math (grades 2–8), 2020–2021 school year



NEW YORK

↑ +4%

From Fall to Spring, the percentage of students at or above benchmark **increased by 4%**.



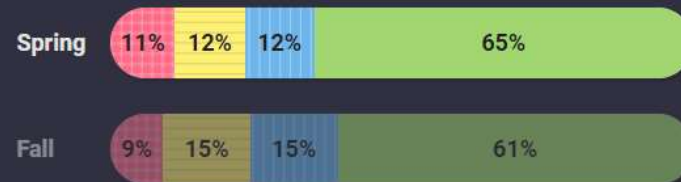
Sample size: 33,884 students



NATIONWIDE

↑ +4%

From Fall to Spring, the percentage of students at or above benchmark **increased by 4%**.



Sample size: 1,357,362 students

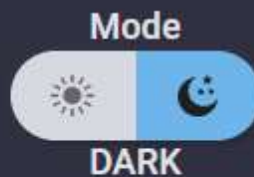


● Urgent intervention ● Intervention ● On watch ● At/above benchmark



# Student Growth Percentile for Math

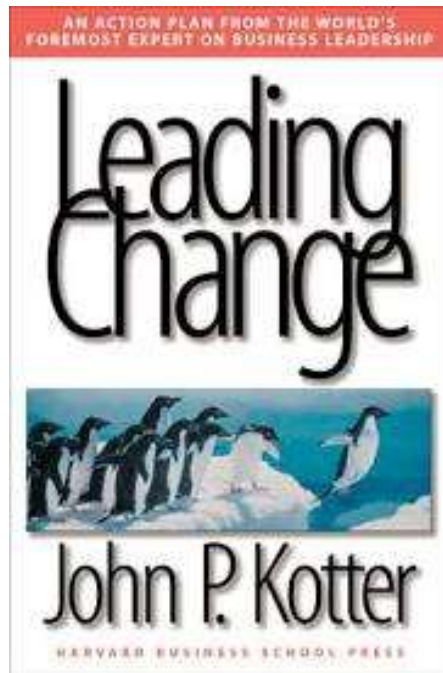
Median Fall to Spring [Student Growth Percentile](#) (SGP) levels for Math  
(grades 2–8), 2020-2021 school year



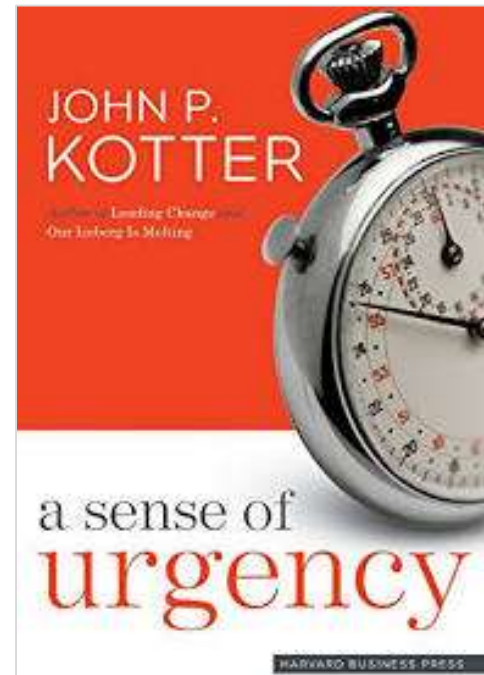
# How do schools use the *How Kids Are Performing* report?

Second, likely, as a way to create urgency...

# Books by John Kotter



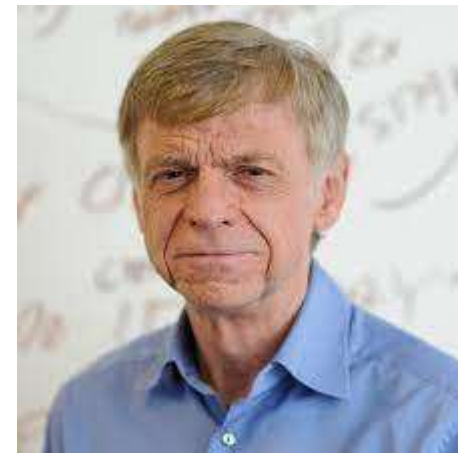
1996



2008

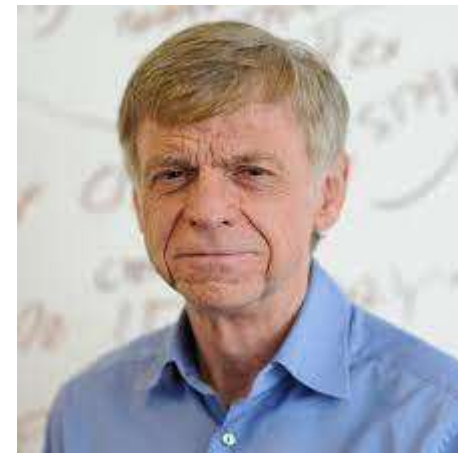
# Sources of complacency (Kotter, 1996)

- The absence of a major visible crisis
- Lack of sufficient performance feedback from external forces
- Internal measurement systems that focus on the wrong performance indexes
- A kill-the-messenger, low-candor, low-confrontation culture
- Human nature, with its capacity for denial, especially if people are already busy or stressed
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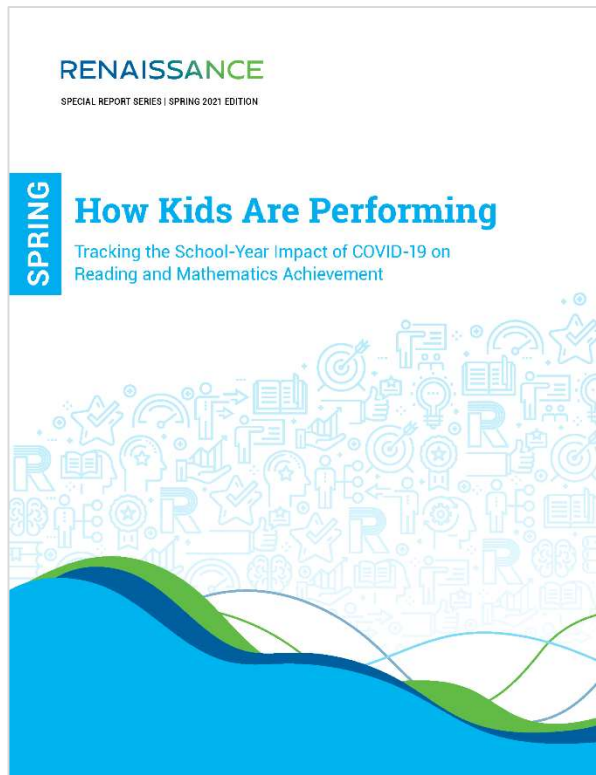




*There is a fire that has to be lit someway, somehow. —F.H.*



# Find even more in the full report



- More information about **Focus Skills**
- **Trip Steps**, the most difficult math skills for students to learn
- **Ongoing dialogue** in future Renaissance blogs and webinars
- **Download your free copy:** [renaissance.com/performing](https://renaissance.com/performing)

**What does all of this  
mean? Is there *any* good  
news?**

**In some ways, education  
has been here before.**



Instruction in a school's cellar or basement was common during WWII.



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In some European countries, 75% of schools were damaged, destroyed, or occupied.



Instruction in a school's cellar or basement was common during WWII.



Radio instruction during a polio outbreak.



In some European countries, 75% of schools were damaged, destroyed, or occupied.

## The Long-Run Educational Cost of World War II

Andrea Ichino, *European University Institute, CEPR, IZA, and CESifo*

Rudolf Winter-Ebmer, *University of Linz, CEPR, IZA, and WIFO*

An important component of the long-run cost of a war is the loss of human capital suffered by school-age children who receive less education. Austrian and German individuals who were 10 years old during the conflict, or were more directly involved through their parents, received less education than comparable individuals from nonwar countries, such as Switzerland and Sweden. We also show that these individuals experienced a sizable earnings loss some 40 years after the war, which can be attributed to the educational loss caused by the conflict. The implied consequences in terms of gross domestic product loss are calculated.

**“The persistence of a sizable earnings effect some 40 years after the end of the conflict appears hardly debatable.”**

EDUCATION

## The Lost Children of Katrina

A decade after the hurricane, New Orleans' community grapples with the effects of missed schooling and mass displacement.

By Katy Reckdahl

Many of the Americans who today lack both jobs and diplomas may have been Katrina-era adolescents, who often suffered such high levels of trauma and instability that learning became nearly impossible. It was "like throwing seeds at cement," said Lisa Celeste Green-Derry, a New Orleans-based education researcher.



EDUCATION

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**We are the educators of  
this unique moment.  
What will history say of  
us?**