



Ann Arbor Public Schools NWEA Spring Benchmark Report Spring 2023

**Board of Education
June 21, 2023**

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We will review:

- Background Information and Student Growth Goals
- Key Understandings
- NWEA Data Discussion
 - Achievement Comparison to National Norms By Grade Level
 - Student Growth

Background Information

- During the 2020-21 academic year, AAPS students were assessed in remote settings, outside the school buildings and without in-person support of AAPS staff. Assessment experiences differed greatly from student to student. Comparisons to other results should be made with caution.
- Locally-created benchmark assessments for K-1 mathematics and K-2 reading were administered and reported in the 2020-21 academic year due to pandemic-required remote instruction.
- In fall 2021 we returned to in-person instruction while maintaining a robust, fully online option for families. Students attending online were invited to assess in-person with varying impact to participation rates.
- The 2022-2023 academic year represents the second year of full administration for grades 6-8, providing us our first glimpse of year-to-year cohort growth.

Our Commitment to Student Growth

Our goal is to ensure that each and every student reaches high levels of achievement while demonstrating appropriate growth each year.

In addition, PA 48, Section 98b legislates for the 2022-23 school year, that all public school districts assess students (K-8) within the first nine weeks of school and again before the end of the year. These results must be shared on or before the first Board of Education meeting in February 2023 and posted to the district's transparency website. The results must be shared again at the end of the academic year.

Key Understandings

- The impact of the global pandemic continues to impact academic outcomes, mental health, and the everyday lives of every person in the AAPS. This impact, and our work to ensure strong student growth to ameliorate it, will continue over multiple years.
- Before we begin our current data review, it's important that we remind ourselves of the context for our return from remote/hybrid learning to full-time, in-person learning in the Fall of 2021.
- AAPS teachers and staff continue to focus our efforts toward ensuring that all students make strong, continuous academic progress.

One Measure at One Point in Time

It is important to understand that the NWEA represents **one measure** of student achievement and growth. It is used in conjunction with **many other data** to support and design instruction and experiences to maximize and monitor student learning.

NWEA data, in addition to detailed report cards, is shared with our families to keep them informed about the progress of their students.

Norm-referenced vs. Criterion-referenced

Norm-referenced means that we are comparing student scores to other students' scores.

NWEA results are norm-referenced, comparing a student a large national set of students' scores that NWEA used to create “norms” prior to the onset of COVID.

Criterion-referenced means that we are comparing student scores to a defined set of knowledge.

E.g., M-STEP scores are designed to determine proficiency against a set of skills/knowledge.

AAPS NWEA Spring 2023 Achievement Report

Results to Explore:

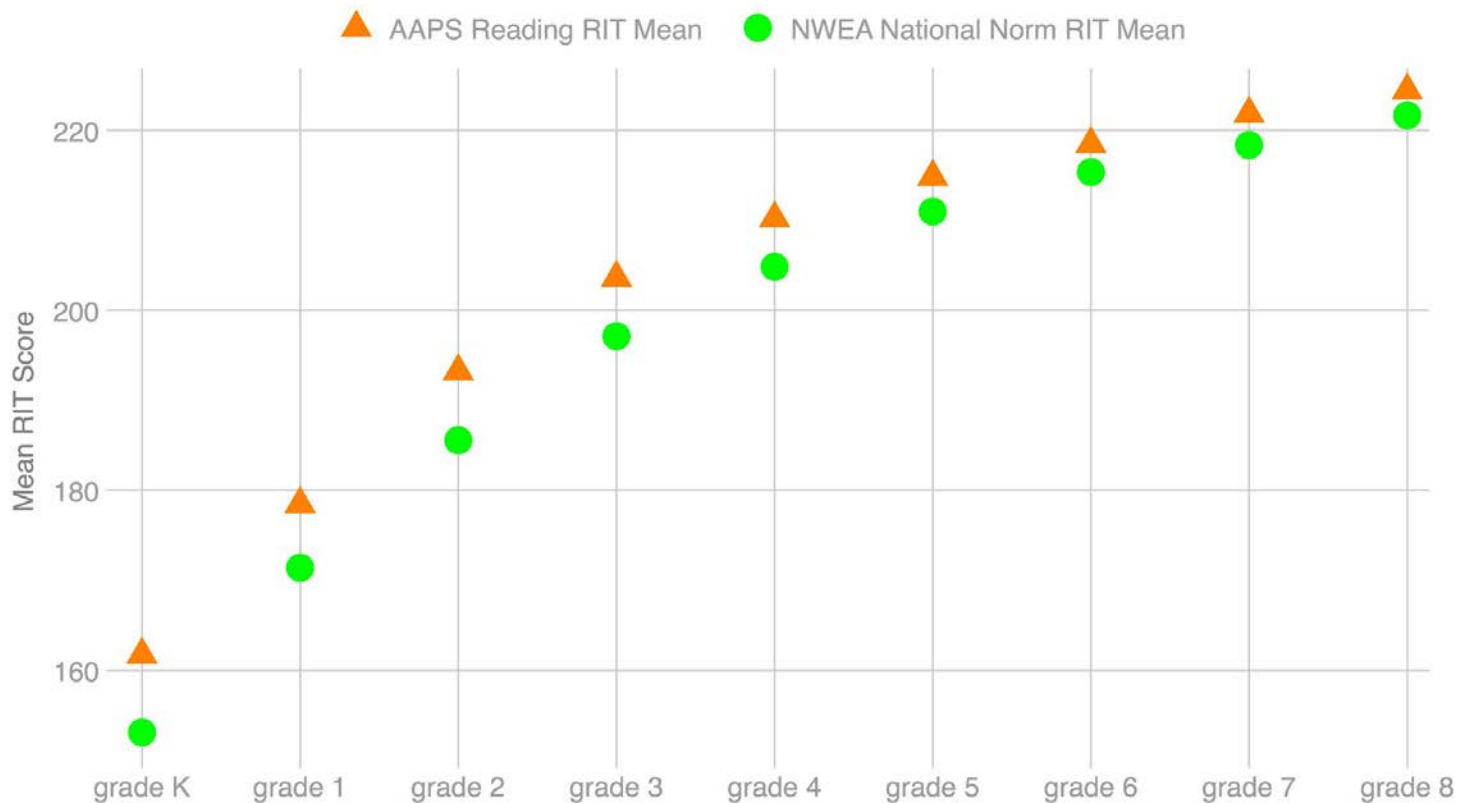
1. Mean NWEA Achievement Snapshot (mean RIT scores)
 - a. Reading
 - b. Math
2. Mean RIT scores over time
3. NWEA Growth (percent meeting or exceeding growth norms over time)

AAPS NWEA Spring 2023 Achievement Compared to National 2020 Norms

The AAPS continues to demonstrate achievement at all grade levels in both reading and mathematics that exceeds national pre-pandemic norms.

AAPS Reading RIT Mean Scores Compared to National RIT Norms

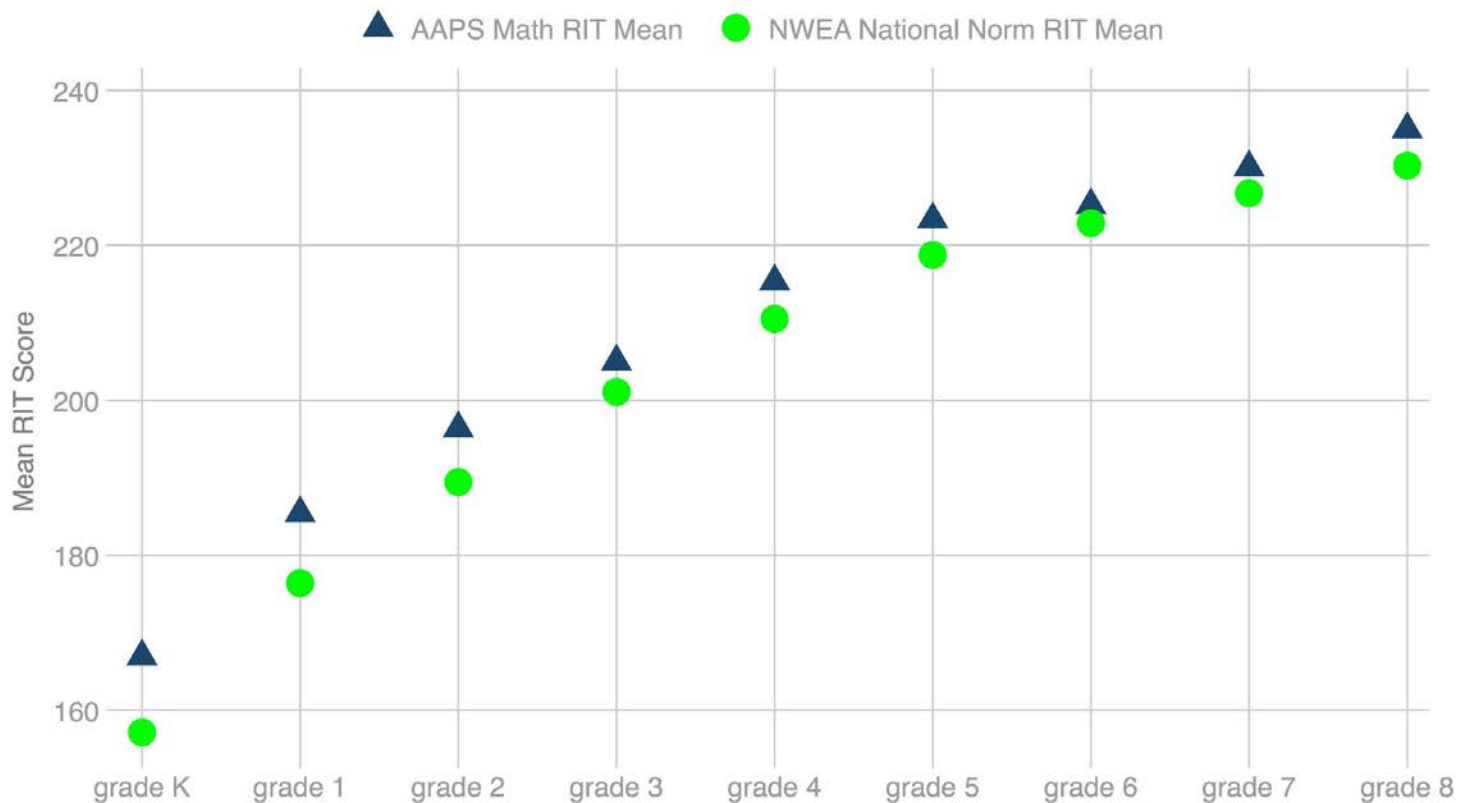
Spring 2023 NWEA Administration



	AAPS Reading Spring 2023 Mean RIT	NWEA Reading Spring Norm RIT Mean	Percent of Norm RIT Mean Score Achieved
Grade K	161.75	153.09	105.66%
Grade 1	178.49	171.40	104.14%
Grade 2	193.24	185.57	104.13%
Grade 3	203.62	197.12	103.30%
Grade 4	210.24	204.83	102.64%
Grade 5	214.86	210.98	101.84%
Grade 6	218.51	215.36	101.46%
Grade 7	221.87	218.36	101.61%
Grade 8	224.43	221.66	101.25%

AAPS Math RIT Mean Scores Compared to National RIT Norms

Spring 2023 NWEA Administration



	AAPS Math Spring 2023 Mean RIT	NWEA Math Spring Norm RIT Mean	Percent of Norm RIT Mean Score Achieved
Grade K	166.94	157.11	106.26%
Grade 1	185.42	176.40	105.11%
Grade2	196.39	189.42	103.68%
Grade 3	204.99	201.08	101.95%
Grade 4	215.33	210.51	102.29%
Grade 5	223.35	218.75	102.10%
Grade 6	225.19	222.88	101.03%
Grade 7	230.07	226.73	101.47%
Grade 8	234.99	230.30	102.04%

Mean NWEA Spring RIT Scores and Percent At/Above Mean RIT, 2018-19 through 2022-23 by Grade by Year, 2020 Norms

Math Test																	
Administered Remotely																	
	Spring 18-19			Spring 19-20			Spring 20-21			Spring 21-22			Spring 22-23				
	Mean RIT	Percent At/Above Norm Mean	n	Mean RIT	Percent At/Above Norm Mean	n	Mean RIT	Percent At/Above Norm Mean	n	Mean RIT	Percent At/Above Norm Mean	n	Mean RIT	Percent At/Above Norm Mean	n		
Grade 0	168.91	78.0%	1165	NWEA was not administered in Spring 2020 due to COVID closure			NWEA was not administered in grades 0-1 in Math in Spring 2020			166.17	76.5%	1188	166.94	79.5%	1146		
Grade 1	193.39	85.6%	1140				186.09			75.3%	1225	185.42	73.8%	1239			
Grade 2	210.60	85.7%	1227				194.88			67.9%	1086	195.28	70.0%	1184	196.38	71.4%	1222
Grade 3	209.48	75.2%	1167				204.62			64.3%	1051	206.27	67.0%	1196	204.99	64.8%	1192
Grade 4	220.85	74.5%	1214				214.63			61.8%	1161	214.85	63.1%	1157	215.33	65.3%	1237
Grade 5	231.37	74.9%	1088				225.83			66.5%	1139	224.81	64.5%	1253	223.35	63.1%	1171
Grade 6							227.09			59.9%	1038	224.21	56.4%	1102	225.19	58.1%	1181
Grade 7							234.94			66.5%	988	230.81	58.7%	1127	230.07	57.1%	1127
Grade 8							240.63			70.4%	980	236.56	60.4%	1103	234.99	57.8%	1156

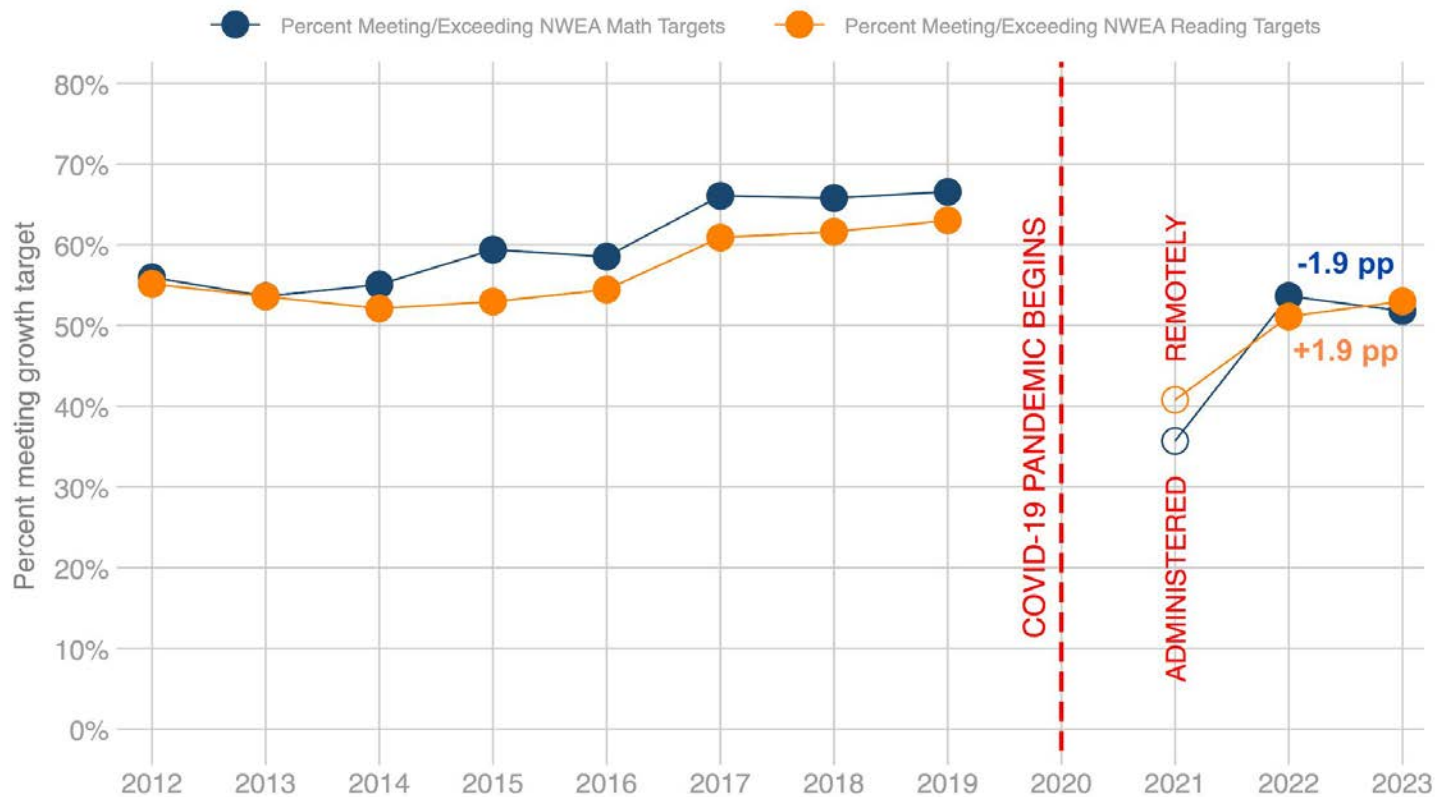
Reading Test															
Administered Remotely															
	Spring 18-19			Spring 19-20			Spring 20-21			Spring 21-22			Spring 22-23		
	Mean RIT	Percent At/Above	n	Mean RIT	Percent At/Above	n	Mean RIT	Percent At/Above	n	Mean RIT	Percent At/Above	n	Mean RIT	Percent At/Above	n
		Norm Mean			Norm Mean			Norm Mean			Norm Mean			Norm Mean	
Grade 0	167.70	82.9%	1160	NWEA was not administered in Spring 2020 due to COVID closure			NWEA was not administered in grades 0-2 in Reading in Spring 2020			161.41	69.5%	1189	161.75	73.1%	1151
Grade 1	188.19	84.6%	1147							178.77	68.4%	1219	178.49	68.6%	1238
Grade 2	200.31	81.6%	1231							193.29	69.4%	1186	193.24	68.4%	1220
Grade 3	206.52	75.4%	1165				204.08	68.0%	1049	204.30	69.7%	1195	203.62	67.6%	1190
Grade 4	212.63	75.6%	1213				210.07	66.8%	1167	210.01	68.1%	1156	210.24	67.2%	1230
Grade 5	218.43	74.1%	1090				216.44	68.7%	1142	215.25	67.1%	1251	214.85	66.4%	1170
Grade 6							221.29	69.7%	1047	218.62	62.2%	1113	218.51	61.2%	1169
Grade 7							225.72	70.7%	1008	222.00	64.5%	1134	221.87	61.4%	1115
Grade 8							228.48	69.0%	1015	226.25	66.0%	1069	224.43	61.5%	1153

Notes: 6th, 7th, and 8th NWEA tests were first administered to the entire district in Fall 20-21. NWEA Reading was not administered to grades 0, 1, or 2 in 2020-21, a local benchmark was used instead. Lower assessment completion rates were anticipated and confirmed for fall 2020 due to variances in the remote assessment settings and factors facing families due to the pandemic. Beginning with 3rd grade, the NWEA Assessment no longer provides students with "read aloud" options and drops from 2nd grade to 3rd grade are expected at that transition.

AAPS NWEA Growth Compared to National 2020 Norms

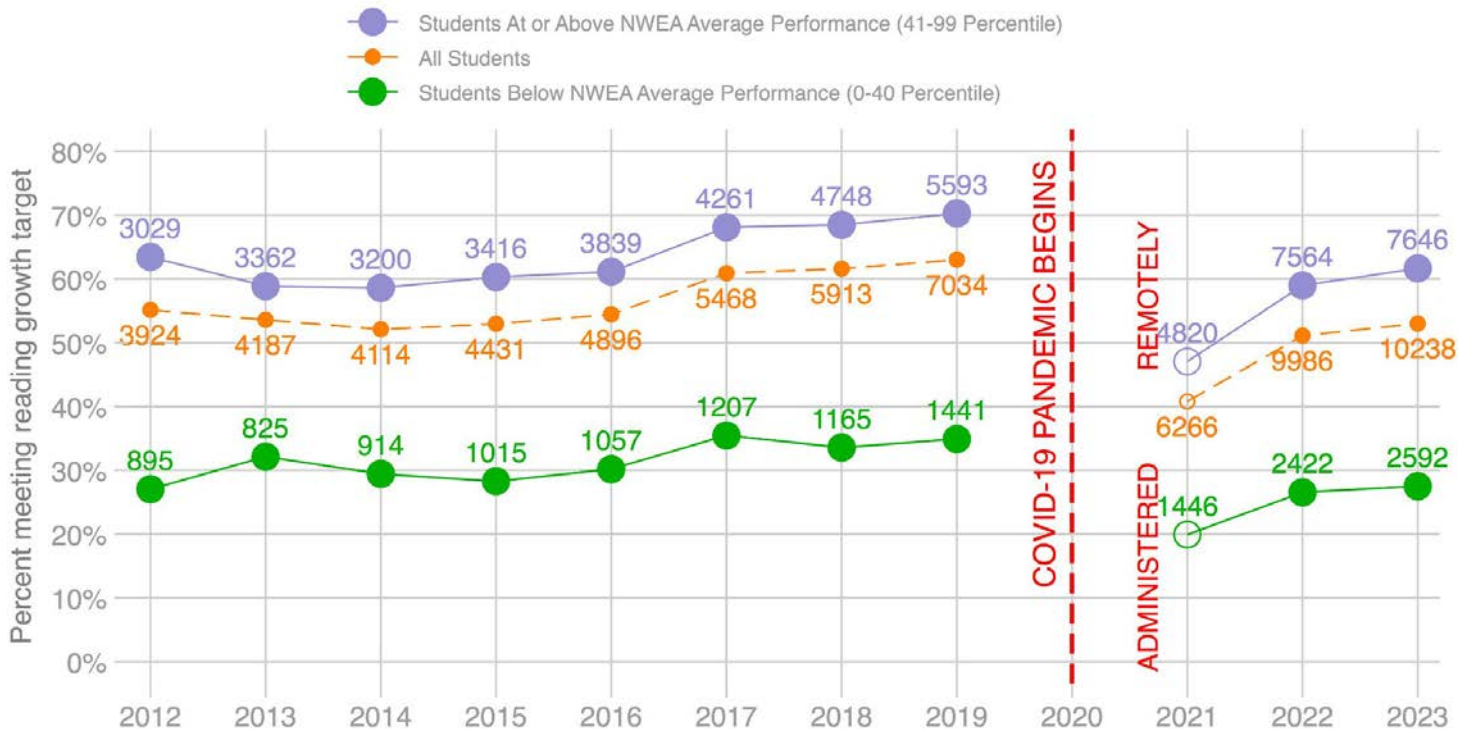
NWEA norms specify expected growth for students based on their prior performance. The AAPS continues to work to increase students meeting average growth rates, particularly among our lowest achieving students.

Percent of AAPS Students Meeting or Exceeding NWEA Growth Target Spring NWEA Administration, 2012-2023, Fall-to-Spring Growth Targets



Percent of AAPS Students Meeting or Exceeding NWEA Growth Target

Spring NWEA Administration, 2012-2023, Reading Fall-to-Spring Reading Growth Targets



Values on display show the number of students in each group
 NWEA was not administered districtwide in grades K or 6-8 prior to 2020-21
 Reading NWEA was not administered in grades K-2 in Reading or K-1 in Math in 2021

Percent of AAPS Students Meeting or Exceeding NWEA Reading Growth Target by Level Spring NWEA Administration, 2012-2023, Reading Fall-to-Spring Growth Targets

● Students At or Above NWEA Average
 ● All Students
 ● Students Below NWEA Average

Grade levels K-8



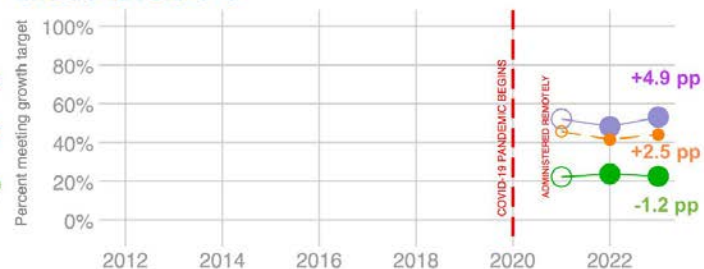
Grade levels K-2



Grade levels 3-5



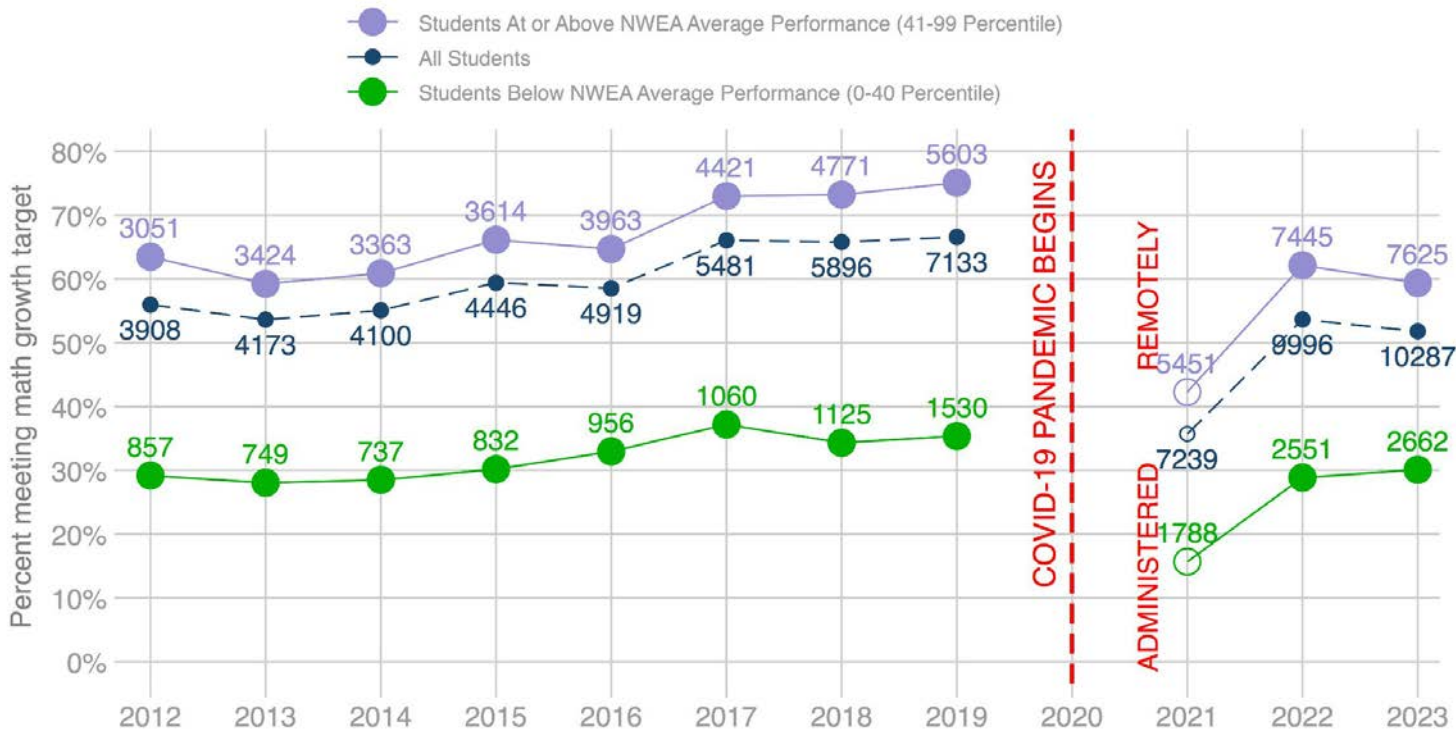
Grade levels 6-8



NWEA was not administered districtwide in grades K or 6-8 prior to 2020-21
Reading NWEA was not administered in grades K-2 in Reading or K-1 in Math in 2021

Percent of AAPS Students Meeting or Exceeding NWEA Growth Target

Spring NWEA Administration, 2012-2023, Math Fall-to-Spring Mathematics Growth Targets



Values on display show the number of students in each group
 NWEA was not administered districtwide in grades K or 6-8 prior to 2020-21
 Reading NWEA was not administered in grades K-2 in Reading or K-1 in Math in 2021

Percent of AAPS Students Meeting or Exceeding NWEA Mathematics Growth Target by Level Spring NWEA Administration, 2012-2023, Reading Fall-to-Spring Growth Targets

● Students At or Above NWEA Average
 ● All Students
 ● Students Below NWEA Average

Grade levels K-8



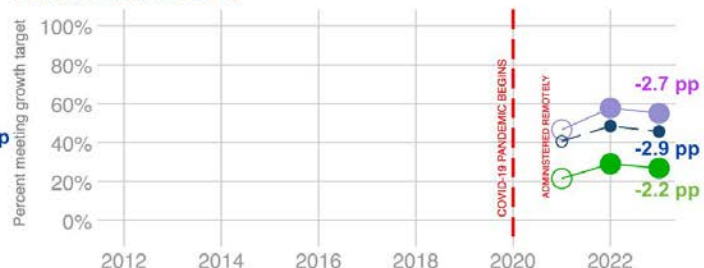
Grade levels K-2



Grade levels 3-5



Grade levels 6-8



NWEA was not administered districtwide in grades K or 6-8 prior to 2020-21
Reading NWEA was not administered in grades K-2 in Reading or K-1 in Math in 2021

AAPS NWEA Spring 2023 Review Summary

The AAPS continues to exceed national pre-pandemic norms in mean RIT scores and thus in the percent of students at or above grade level in both reading and mathematics.

Growth data indicates that our lowest performing students are not meeting growth goals at the same rate as their higher-performing peers, and require additional layers of support to close gaps in urgent and targeted ways.

Growth areas of strength:

Reading showed increase overall in meeting growth expectations, driven by lower elementary grades

Math showed significant increases in meeting growth expectations in grades K-2

Areas for growth:

Math showed decrease overall in meeting growth expectations, driven by grades 4, 5, & 8

Reading grade 5 showed decreases in meeting growth expectations