



Malden Public Schools

Special Education Parent
Advisory Committee (SEPAC)

**Helping Every Student
Succeed:
Reviewing Our Data and How We're
Moving Forward**

**Thursday, May 8th
6:30 PM**

DESE Report: Closing Opportunity Gaps



DESE Requirements:

All districts create a 3-year plan for incorporating evidence-based programs to close identified opportunity gaps. (Student Opportunity Act; Chapter 132 of the Acts of 2019)



Malden's Focus (identified in 2024):

K-8 English Language Arts Implementation of "High Quality Instructional Materials"

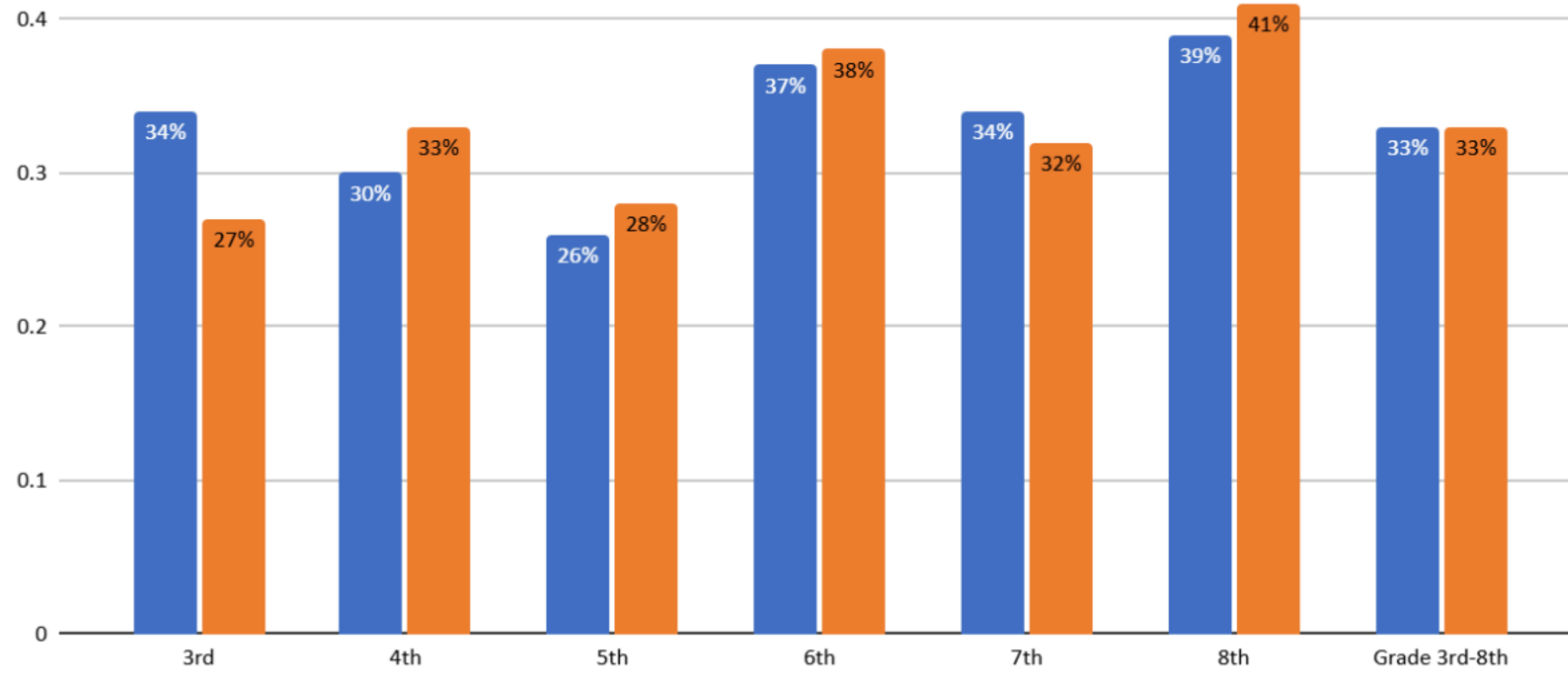


Our Process:

Review data from assessments and classroom observations. Building leadership have reflected on this data; made mid-year plans to address the trends; and are planning for next year with these trends in mind

Core Instruction

SY 24 and SY25 Comparison: Reading Comprehension



SY24 EOY Proficiency



SY25 Projected Proficiency

Core Instruction

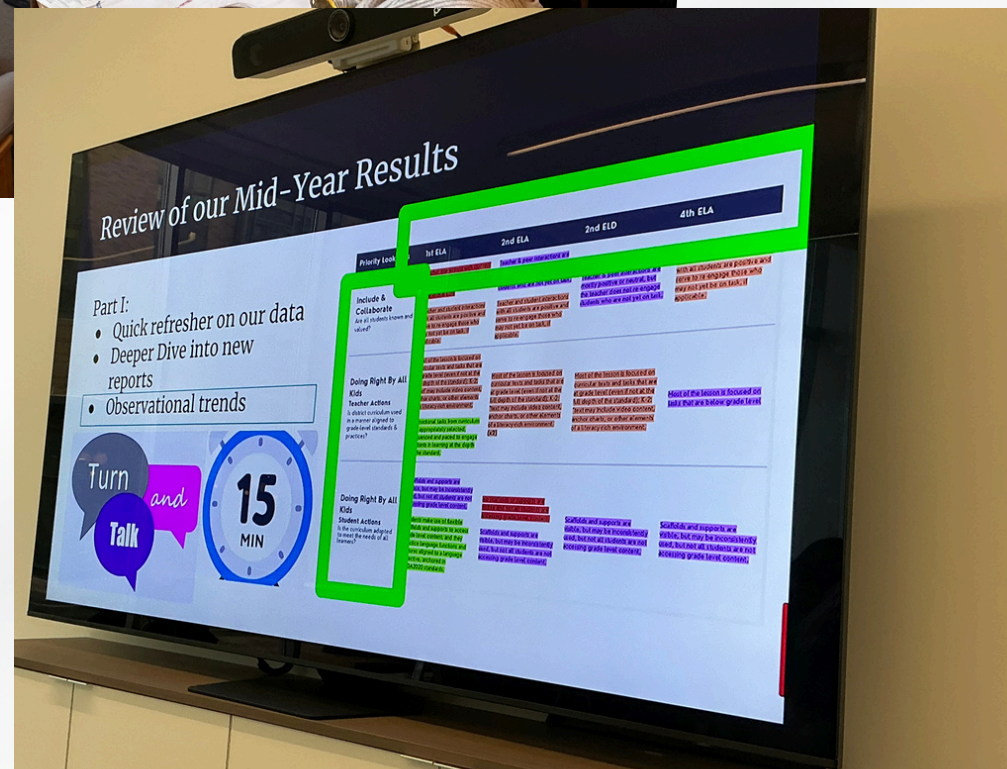


What are our next steps?

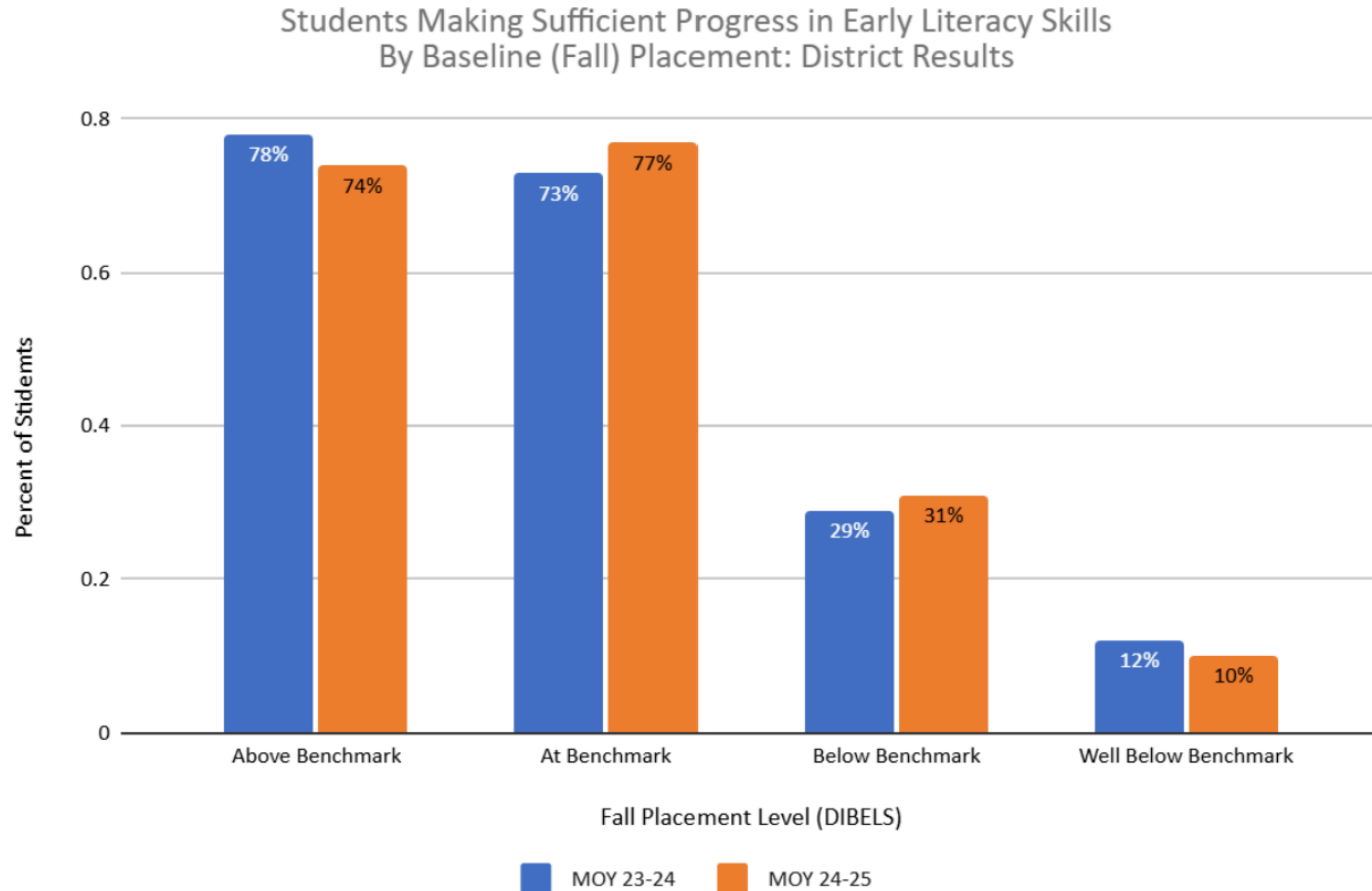
- Our focus for next year is on supporting diverse learners to “do the heavy lifting” in class.

How will we accomplish that?

- Professional learning
- Staffing & Service Delivery



Foundational Reading



Interventions

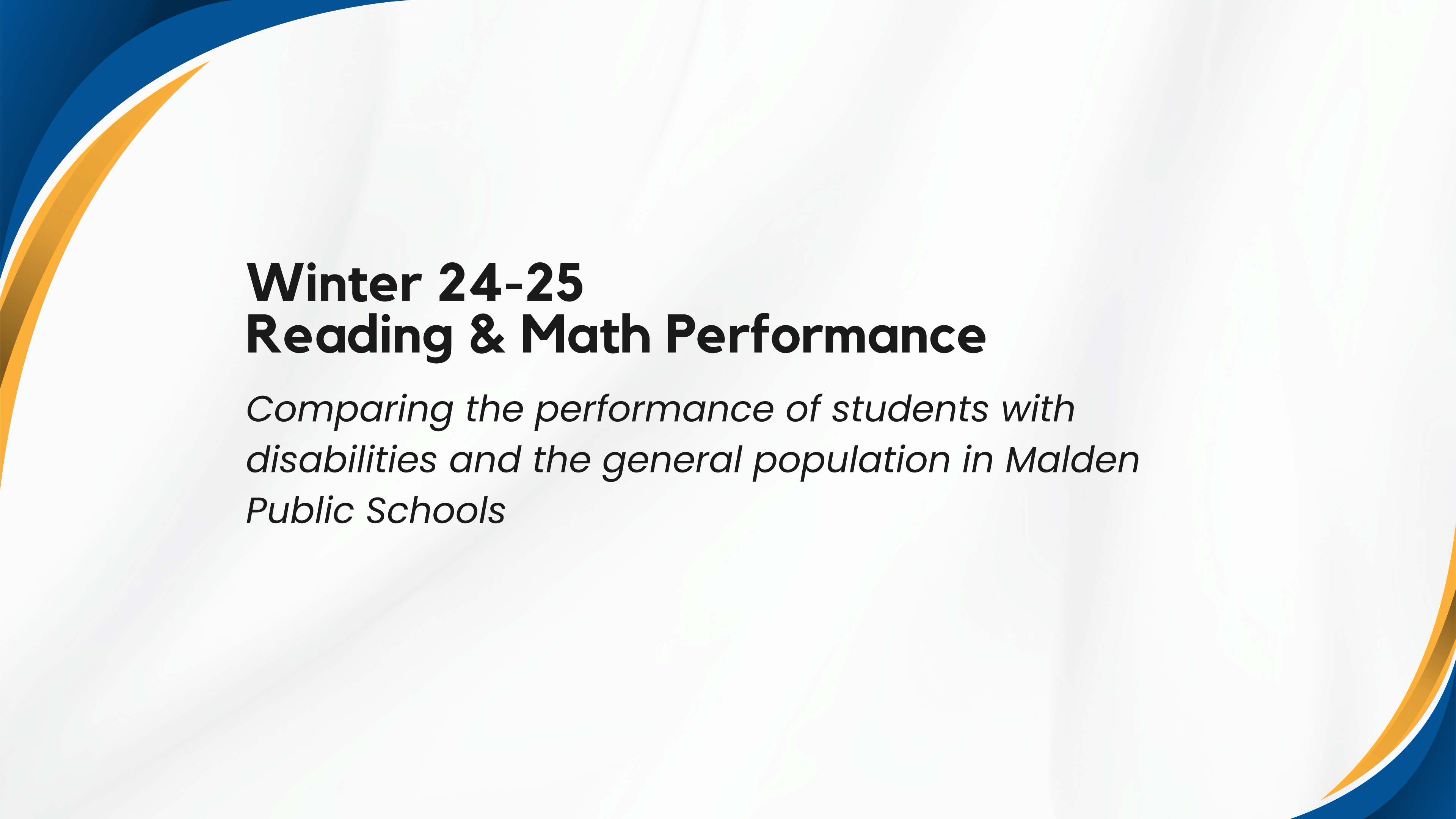
What are our next steps?

In SY26 we will improve our support for students starting well-below benchmark, and this support needs to continue beyond 3rd grade.

How will we accomplish that?

- Dedicated literacy intervention time, grades K-8, in every school
- Professional Learning
- Strategic Scheduling



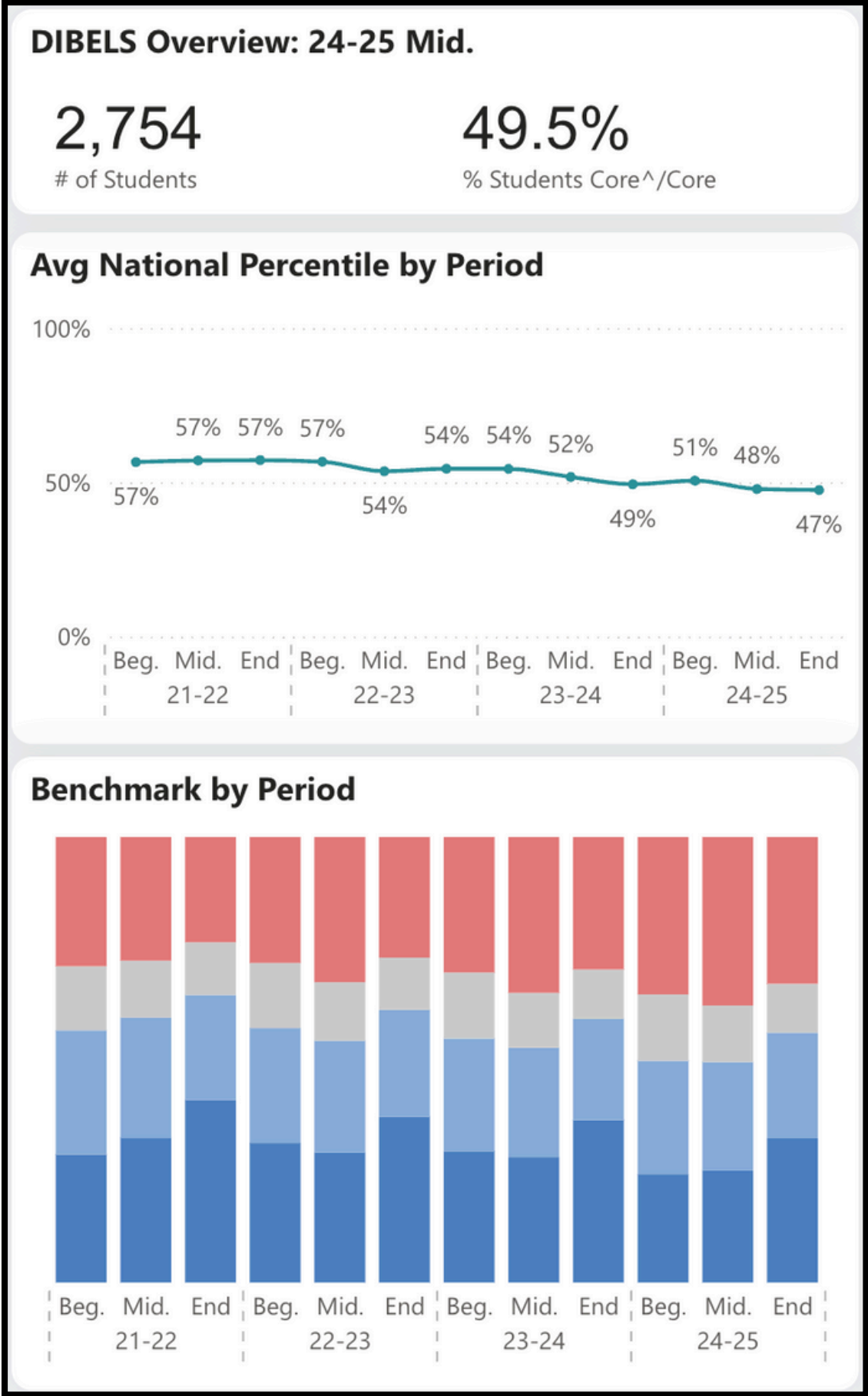


Winter 24-25 Reading & Math Performance

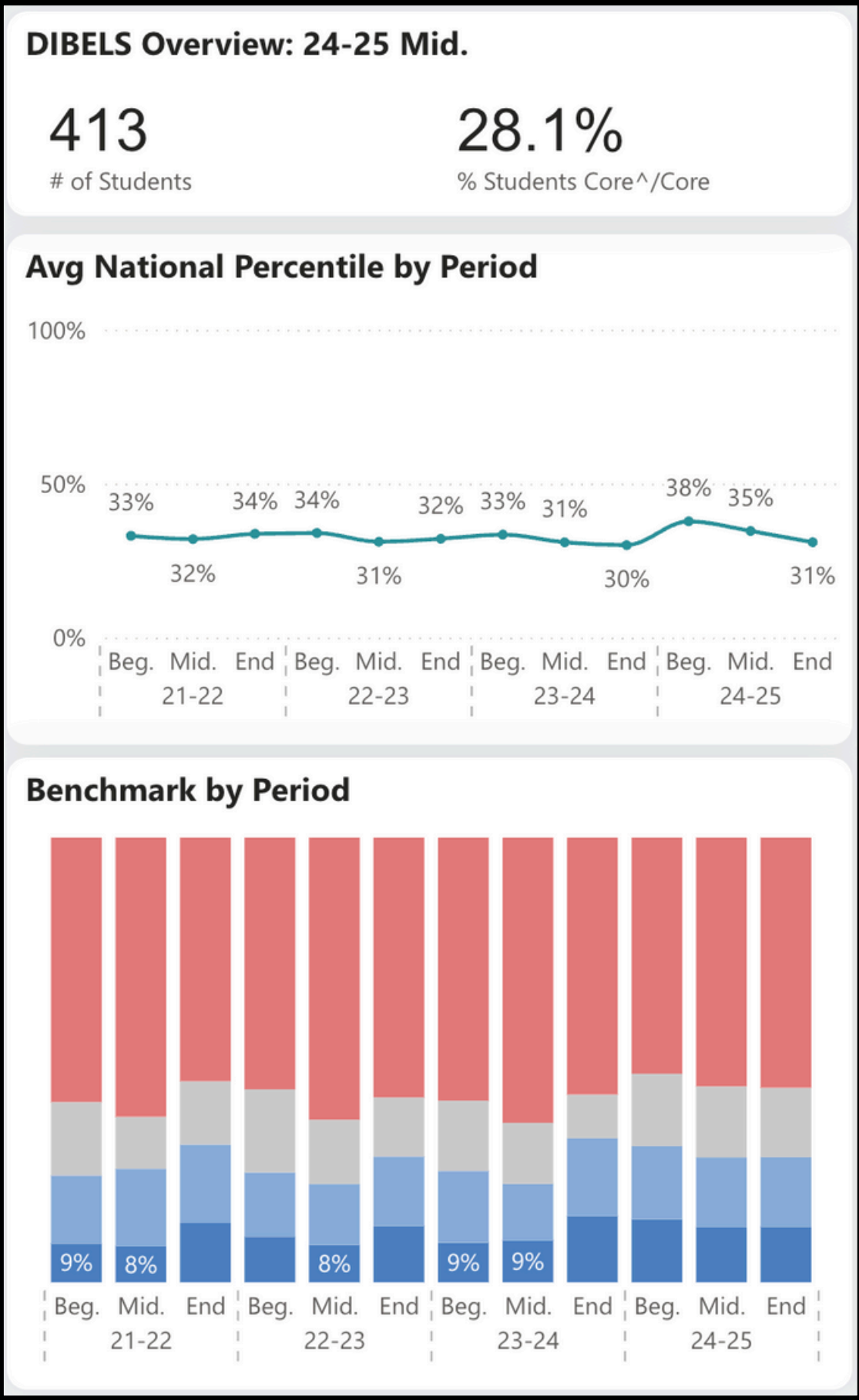
*Comparing the performance of students with
disabilities and the general population in Malden
Public Schools*

DIBELS
Foundational
Reading
(*Grades K-3*)

Total Population



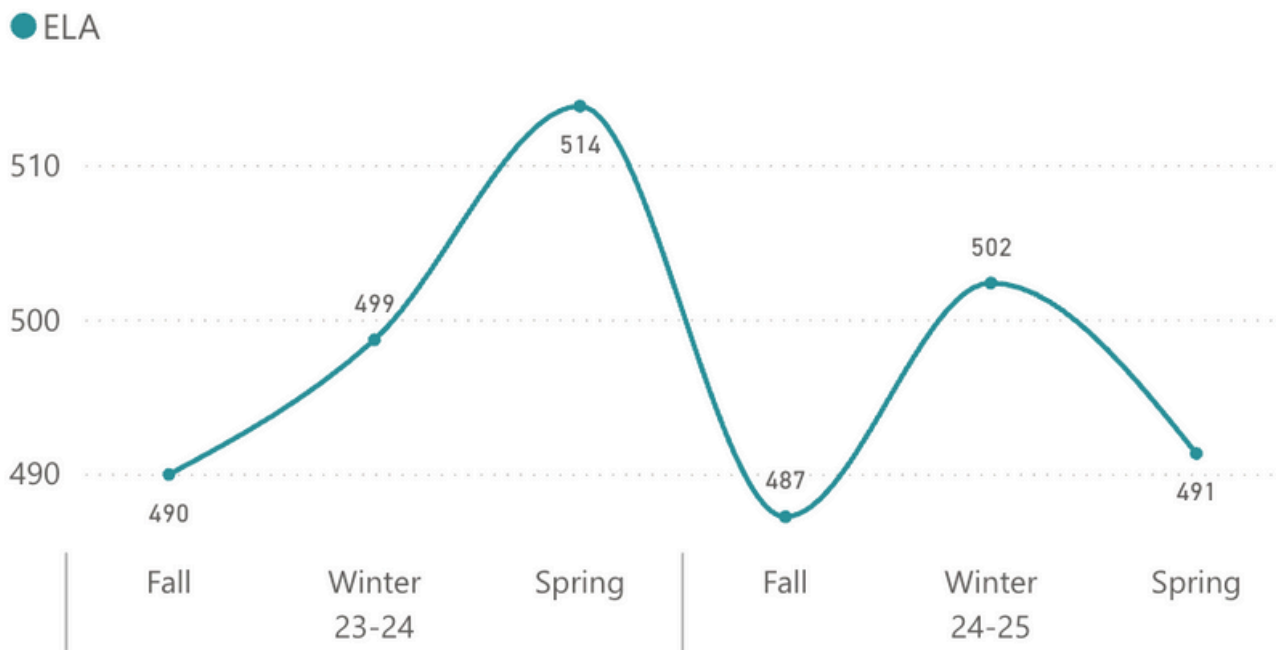
Students with Disabilities



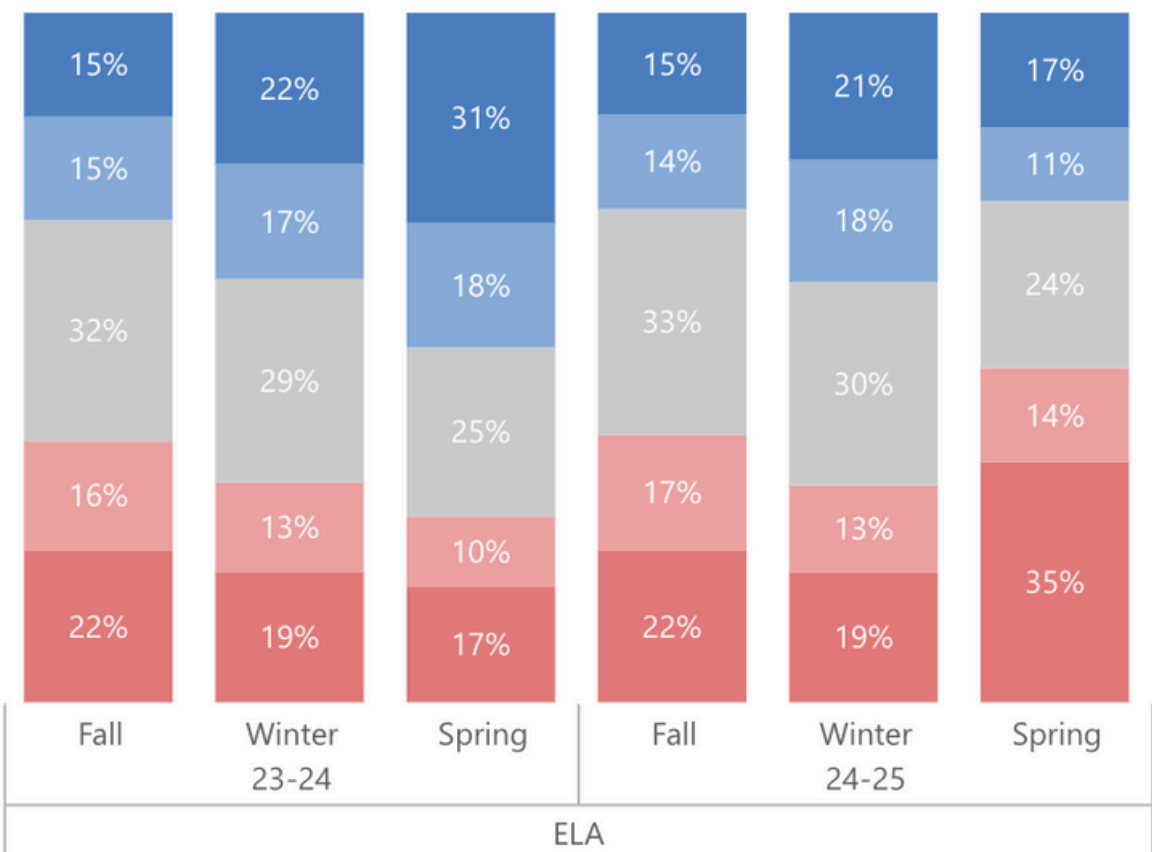
i-Ready Reading (Grades K-8)

Total Population

Average Scale Score by Testing Period

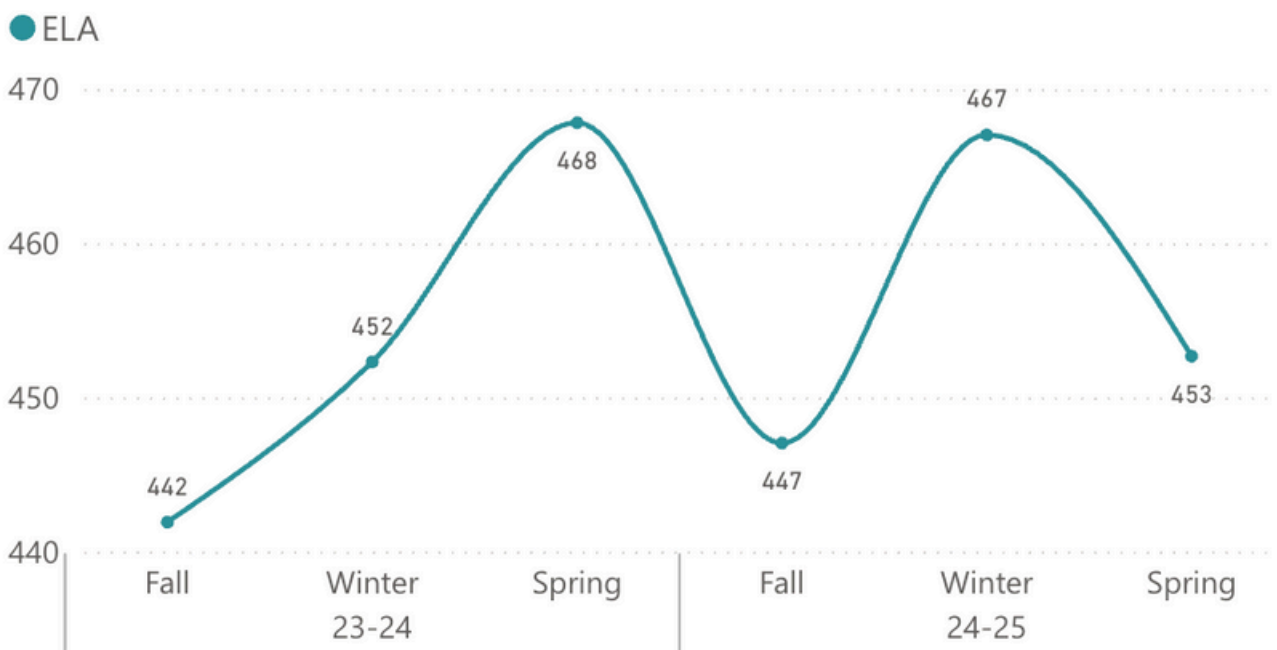


Overall Placement by Testing Period

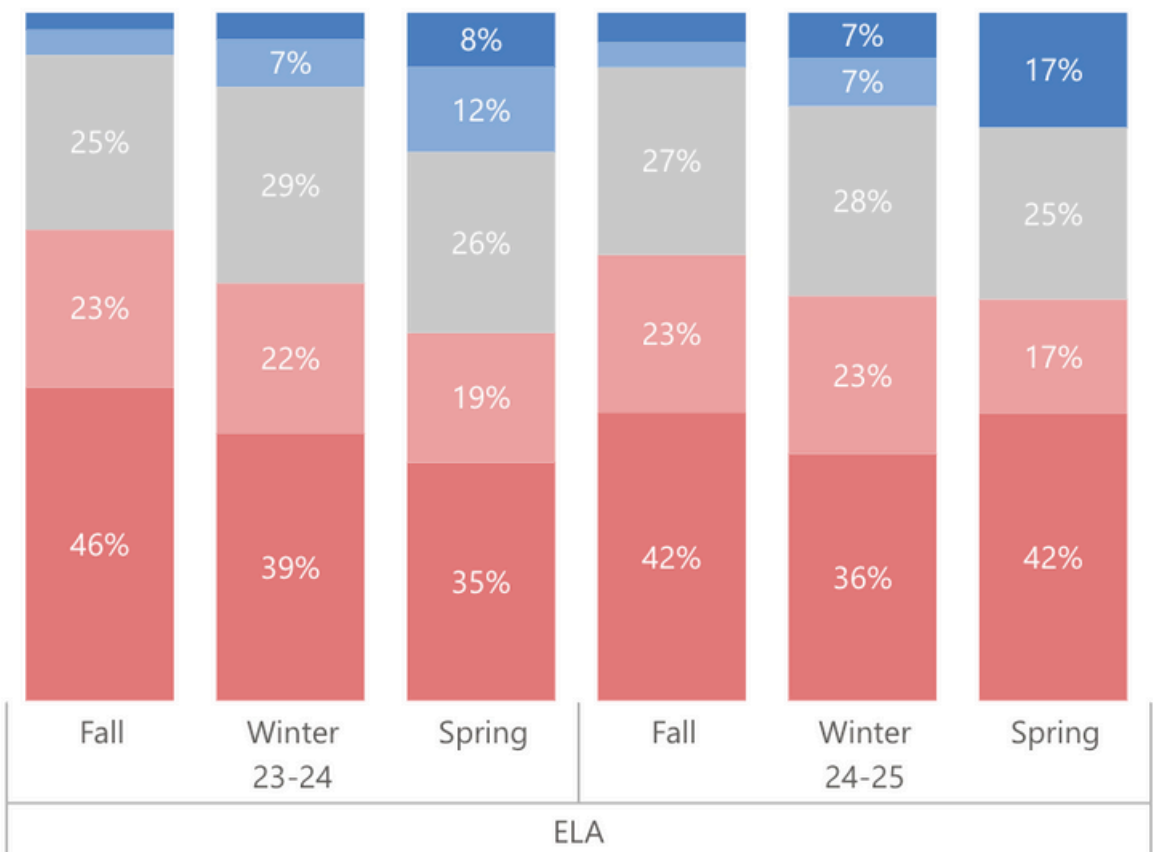


Students with Disabilities

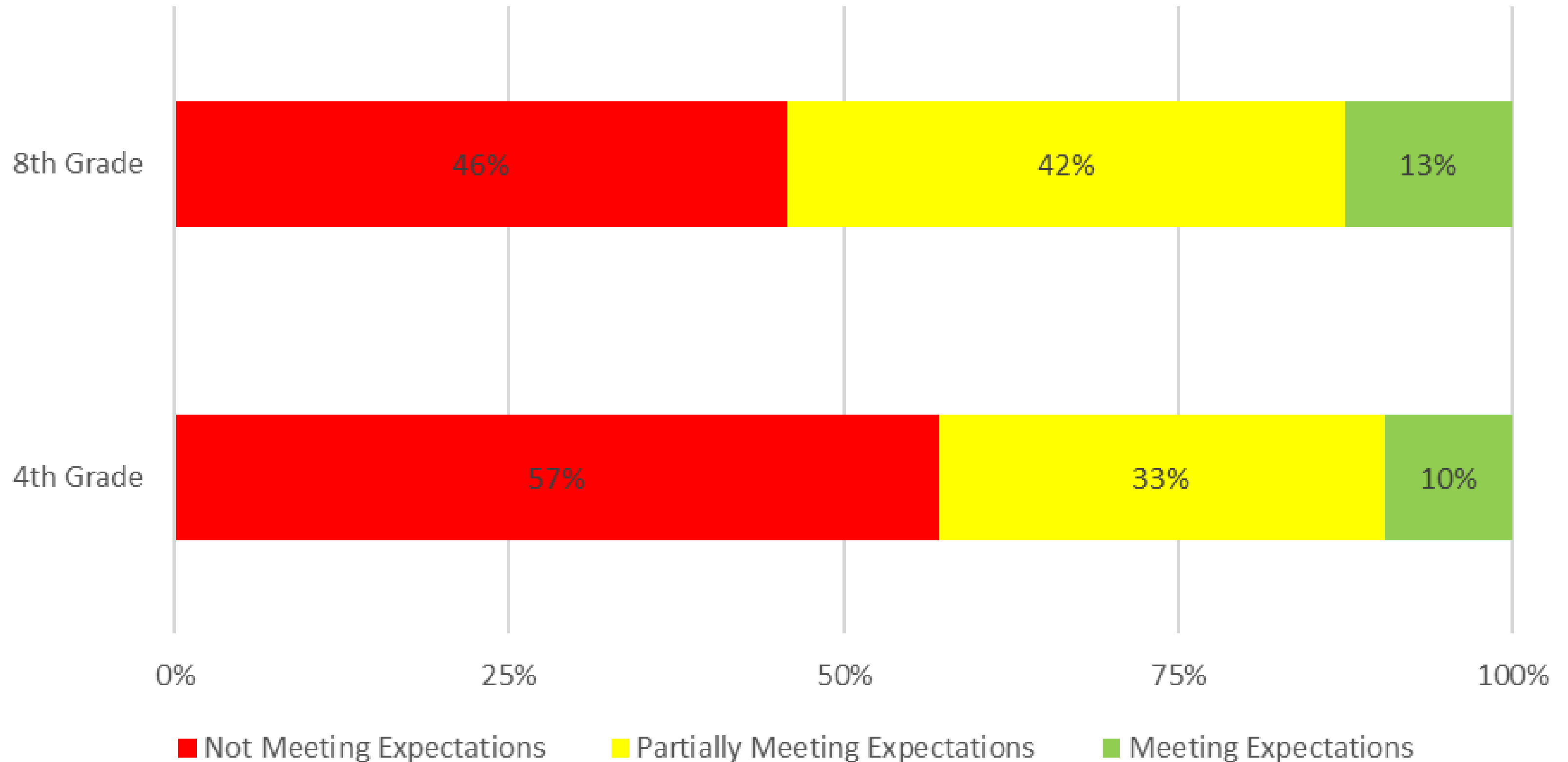
Average Scale Score by Testing Period



Overall Placement by Testing Period

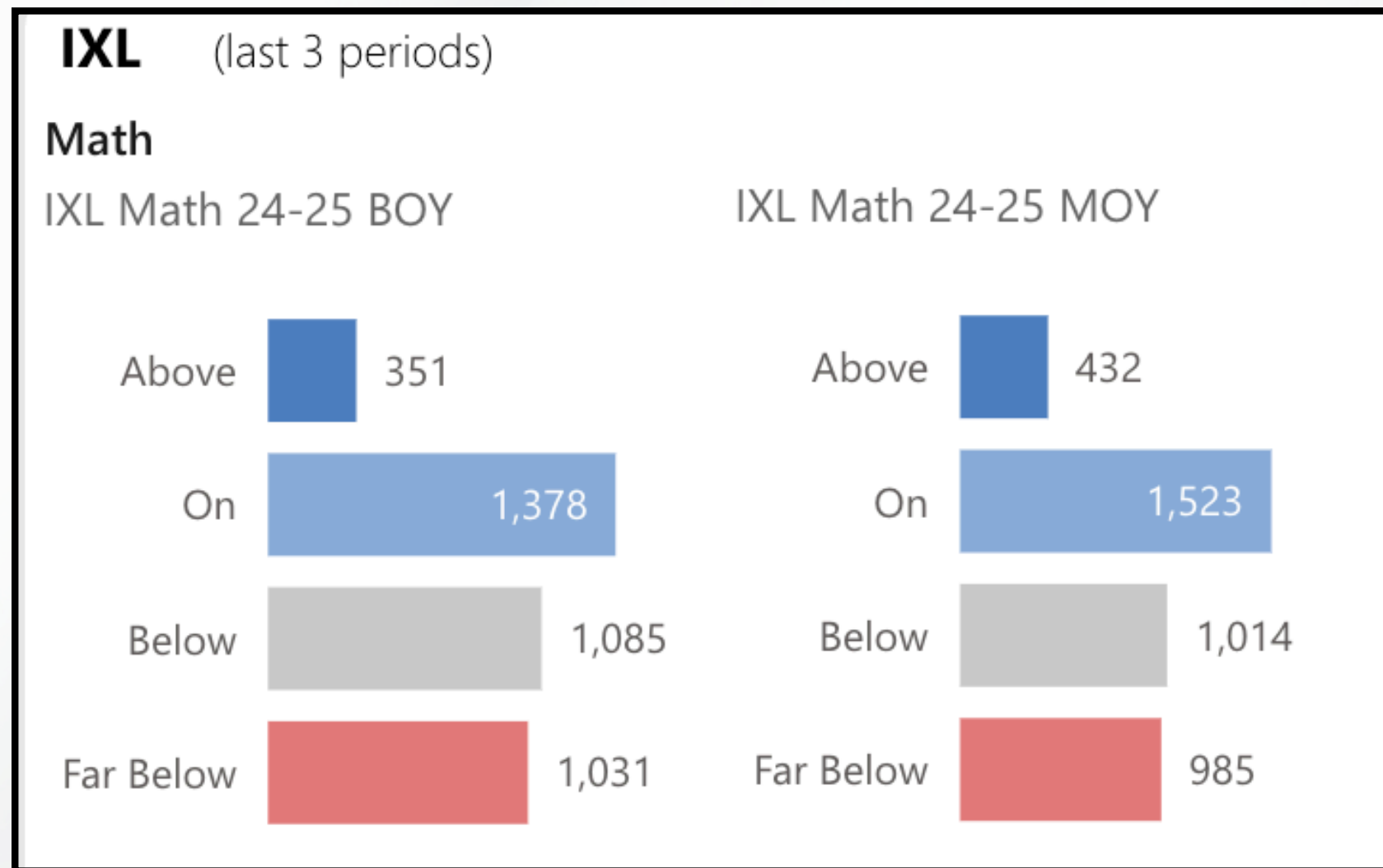


Projected Proficiency in Reading (i-Ready, Winter 24-25) Special Education

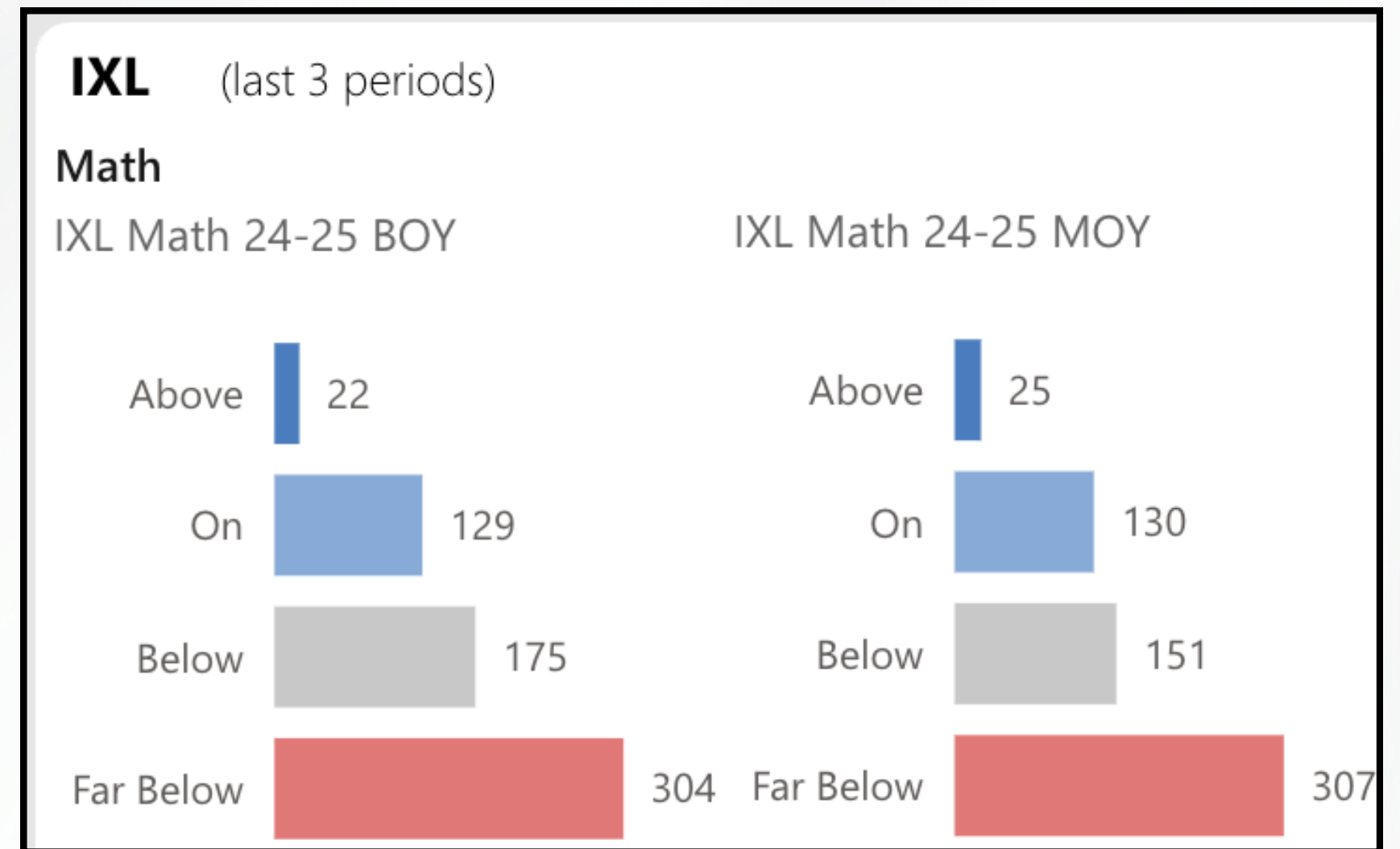


iXL Math (*Grades K-8*)

Total Population



Students with Disabilities



Time on Learning- Increasing Tier 1 instruction

- We are expecting our schools to have more time for learning next year
- Access to High Quality Tier 1/Core Instruction-- without access to this core instruction, special education students miss developing foundational skills
- Raising expectations-- Including special education students in Tier 1 instruction communicates high expectations for their learning, which research shows positively impacts achievement

Specialized Instruction and Targeted Interventions

- The combination of full access to Tier 1 core instruction plus strategically scheduled intervention blocks represents the ideal approach for special education students, ensuring they receive both grade-level content and targeted support for their specific needs. This allows for
 - Targeted Skill Development
 - Differentiated Pace, Approach and Instruction
 - Access to Specialized curriculum
 - Addressing prerequisite skills
- For 25–26 school year intervention blocks that do not detract from core instruction are being prioritized at every school

Identifying Bright Spots

- Diving into data to find successes and seeing what is producing those outcomes
- Promising “Walk to Read” initiative
- Project Read & Megawords programs at the Middle School Level

Qualified Special Education Teachers

- We have had many unfilled positions as well as teachers with Emergency Licenses and Waivers
- The specialized knowledge and skills these professionals bring to schools directly impact students' academic progress, social development, and long-term outcomes
- We are heavily recruiting, posting earlier and convening a focus group to hire great special educators for 25–26

Investing in Our Special Educators

- What is the specialized instruction our students are receiving?
- Training in Specialized Phonics Programs– In the last year we have trained 20 Special Educators
- Trainings in Specialized Math Program
- Summer Offerings
 - Specialized Reading Comprehension
 - Applied Behavior Analysis
 - Universal Supports and strategies in the classroom
 - How to understand Behavior.
- More planned in the Fall for New Hires!