



Teaching and Learning Report: Literacy

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Overview

- READ Act: Bringing Legislation to Life
- Update: What happened in schools in 24-25?
- Data: What does student achievement data say?
- What are our next steps?





The READ Act

Minnesota's Plan for literacy achievement

- Minnesota **Reading to Ensure Academic Development** Act, known as the READ Act, was passed and signed into law by Governor Tim Walz on May 24, 2023.
- The READ Act replaces Read Well by Third Grade in Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 120B.12, effective July 1, 2023.



READ Act Literacy Goal

To have every child reading at or above grade level every year, beginning in kindergarten, and to support multilingual learners and students receiving special education services in achieving their individualized reading goals.



READ Act

REQUIREMENTS:

- **Identification Process: Universal Screening**
 - FastBridge, Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), Capti
- **Evidence-Based Curriculum and Intervention**
 - University of Florida Literacy Institute, Bridge to Read
- **Training in Structured Literacy**
 - CAREIALL, OL & LA, ALS, LETRS
- **Employ a District Literacy Lead**
 - Leah Boulos

SoWashCo Schools Policy and Procedures



- **Policy** 626 Literacy and the READ Act
- **Procedures** to Support Implementation
 - Identification Process: Universal Screening
 - Procedure
 - Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) Handbook
 - Evidence-Based Curriculum and Intervention
 - Standards and Instruction Review Cycle (SIRC) Process
 - Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) Handbook
 - Training in Structured Literacy
 - Procedure
 - Partnership with Human Resources

Together We Can...Read!



- Create a **deeper understanding** of foundational literacy skills and the **complexity of the science of reading**.
- **Regardless of our role** in the district, we can each contribute to students' literacy development.
- **Recognize and differentiate for our students** who may be struggling in any area of reading, understanding that these difficulties may present in a variety of ways.
- Even though it might look different based on our role or content area, **no one staff member is less responsible** for this critical literacy work.

Our work in 2024– 2025

Training for All Staff



Structured Literacy Training for all Birth-21+/ABE educators

More than 1,400 Educators!

CAREIAL (*Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement-
Advancing Language & Literacy)-**745**

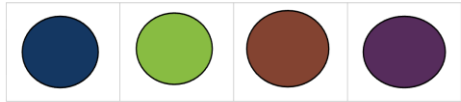
OL & LA (*Online Language & Literacy Academy)-**500**

ALS (Adolescent Literacy Solutions)-**149**

LTRS (*Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling)-**30**

**MDE approved for Phase 1 Professional Development*

Elementary: Foundational Skills

Module in the Course	Strategy or Protocol	Examples or Description
Module 3: Language and Literacy	Elkonin Boxes: Used to break apart words into phonemes	Sound Boxes  /b/ /a/ /t/ /s/

High School Science

Module in the Course	Strategy or Protocol	Examples or Description
Module 6: Vocabulary	Vocabulary Mapping	Example – types of weathering Showing connections to the word and examples of it, using pictures as well as definitions

Next Step, Pathways and Adult Education

Module in the Course	Strategy or Protocol	Examples or Description
Module 6: Vocabulary	Morphology: Studying root words, suffixes and prefixes.	Teaching root words to build vocabulary, spelling, and comprehension, focusing on root words that are practical for customer service contexts with derivatives students will encounter in real-world use or trainings. Examples include: “Serv” (to serve) – serve, service, server, servant, deserve, observe “Man” (hand) – manual, manage, manufacture, manager

Feedback on SoWashCo Staff from Outside Trainers

South Washington is full of **passionate, dedicated** educators, and it was an **absolute joy** to learn alongside this team.

I was **impressed with how your staff dug into** the multisyllabic reading learning, even though we know they are not the staff who teach it daily.

They are showing us that **literacy belongs to every teacher, every subject, and every student**—and **their efforts are making a real difference.**

It's a joy to witness the **harmony of disciplines coming together** for the benefit of our students.

Family Academy Nights



- **December 10:** Five pillars of Literacy and what they would look like across all the different ages/grades
- **January 28:** Introduced morphology and the importance of reading AND writing across PreK-12. We broke up into Elementary and Secondary and engaged in practices seen in these levels.
- **April 8:** Resource and vendor fair

SoWashCo FastBridge Screeners-2024-2025

Grade	Fall	Winter	Spring
K	 Letter Names Letter Sounds Word Segmenting *Nonsense Words *Site Assessment Team decision; Need to have strong 1st three subtests	 Letter Names Letter Sounds Word Segmenting Nonsense Words	 Letter Names Letter Sounds Word Segmenting Nonsense Words
1	Word Segmenting Nonsense Words *CBMReading (optional) *Recommended for 1R and above	Word Segmenting Nonsense Words CBMReading	Word Segmenting Nonsense Words CBMReading
2 and 3	CBMReading **Nonsense Words	CBMReading **Nonsense Words	CBMReading **Nonsense Words

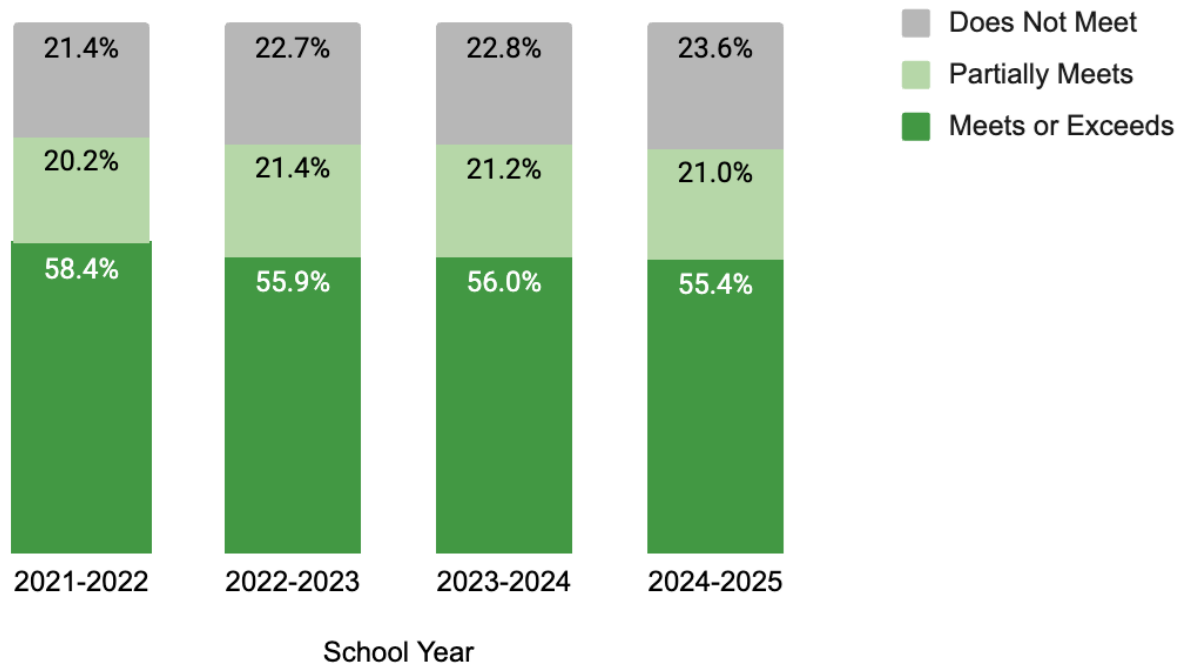
What Data Points Help Us Measure Reading Proficiency?

- Reading Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) (grades 3–8, and 10th grade)
- Pre-ACT (10th grade)
- ACT (11th grade)
- K–5 Universal Screener: FastBridge
- Independent Reading Level Assessment (IRLA) (K–5)

MCA Reading Data

MCA Reading Proficiency Grades 3-5

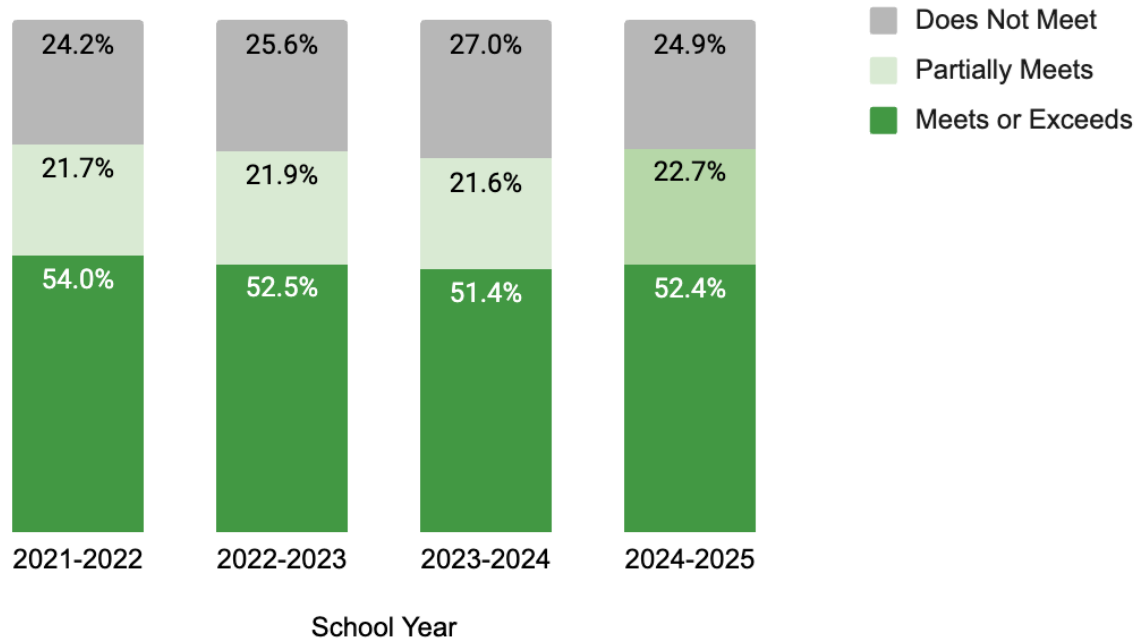
Percent of students by achievement levels



MCA Reading Data

MCA Reading Proficiency Grades 6-8

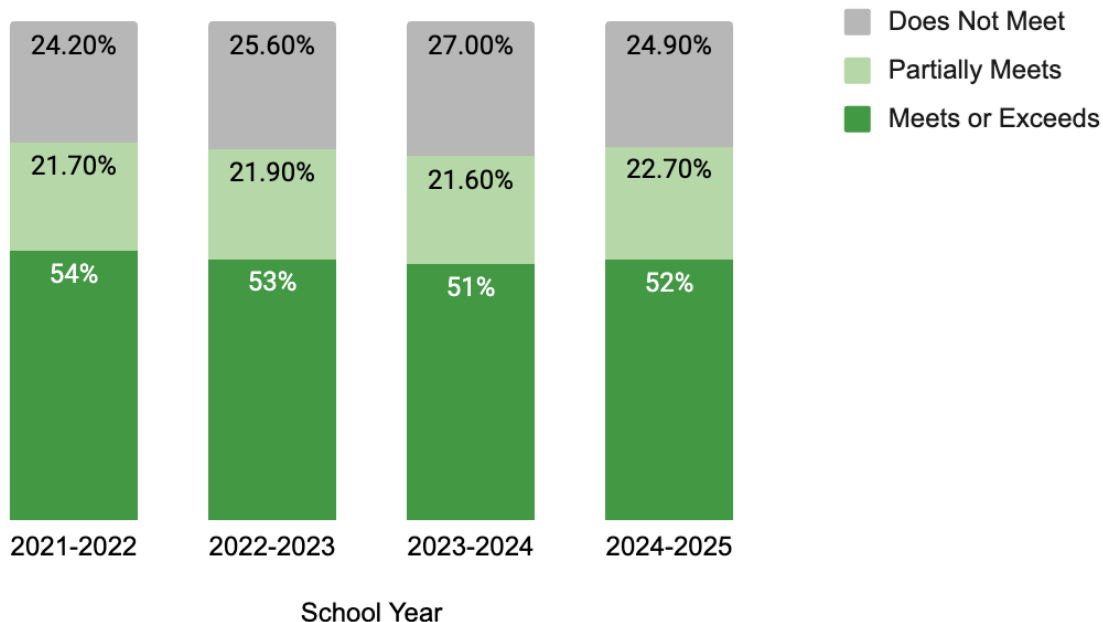
Percent of students by achievement levels



MCA Reading Data

MCA Reading Proficiency Grade 10

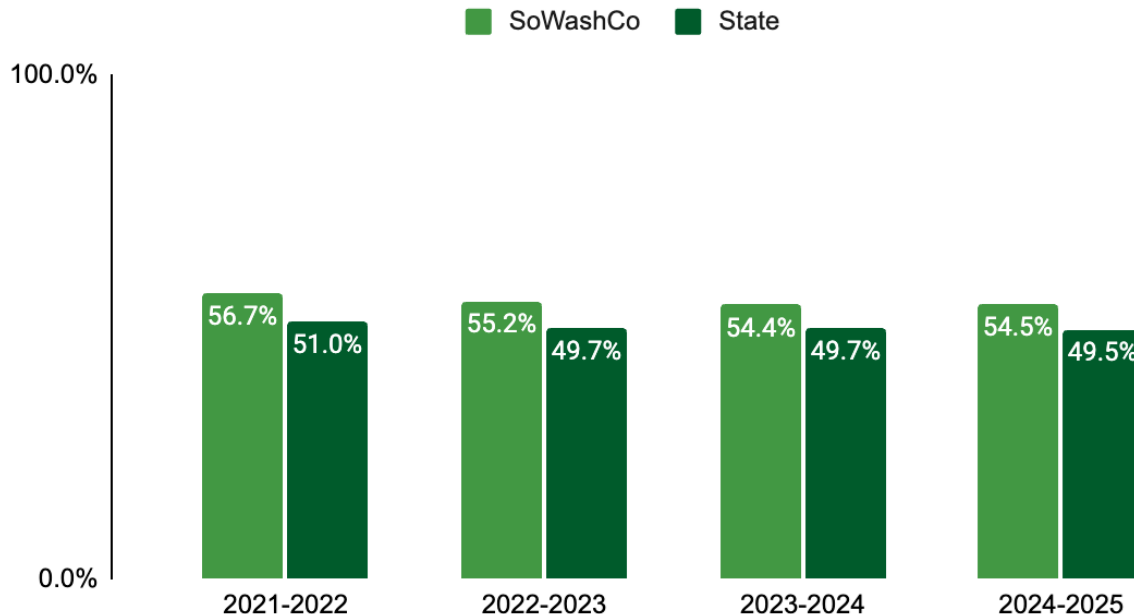
Percent of students by achievement levels



MCA Data: Grade 3-8, 10 from 2021-2025

MCA Reading Proficiency Grades 3-8, 10

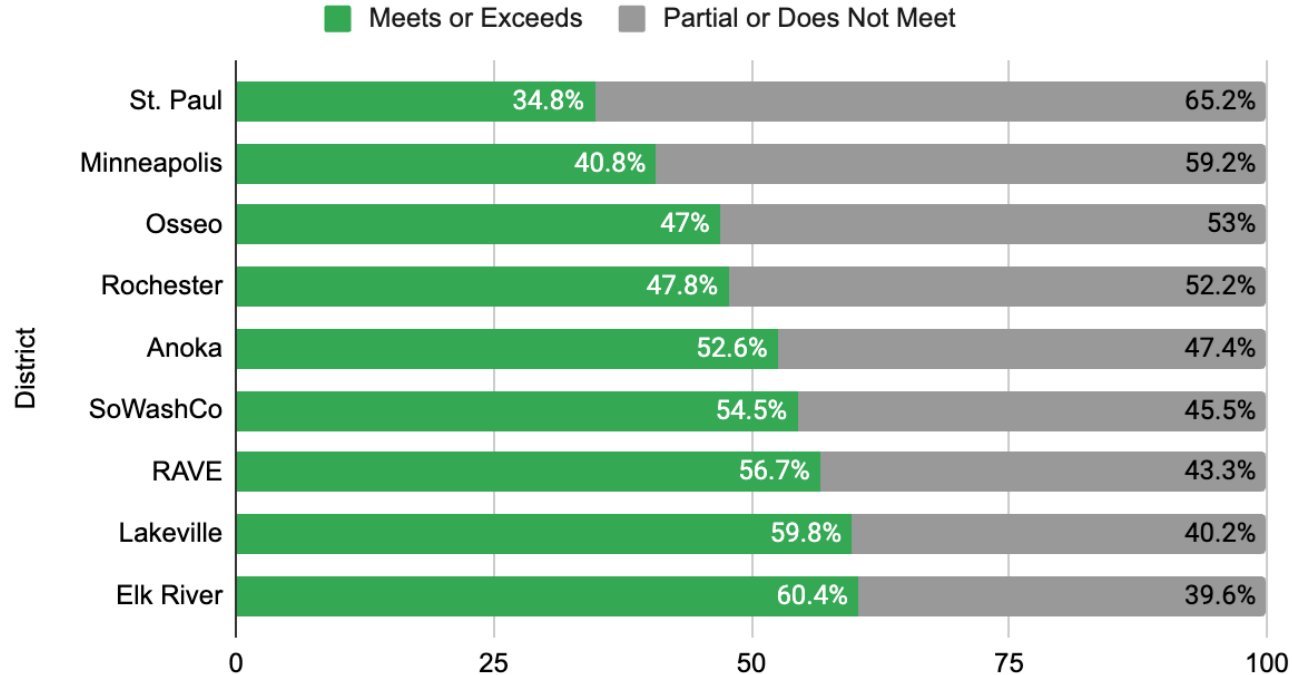
Percent of students meeting or exceeding grade-level standards



MCA Data: District Comparison



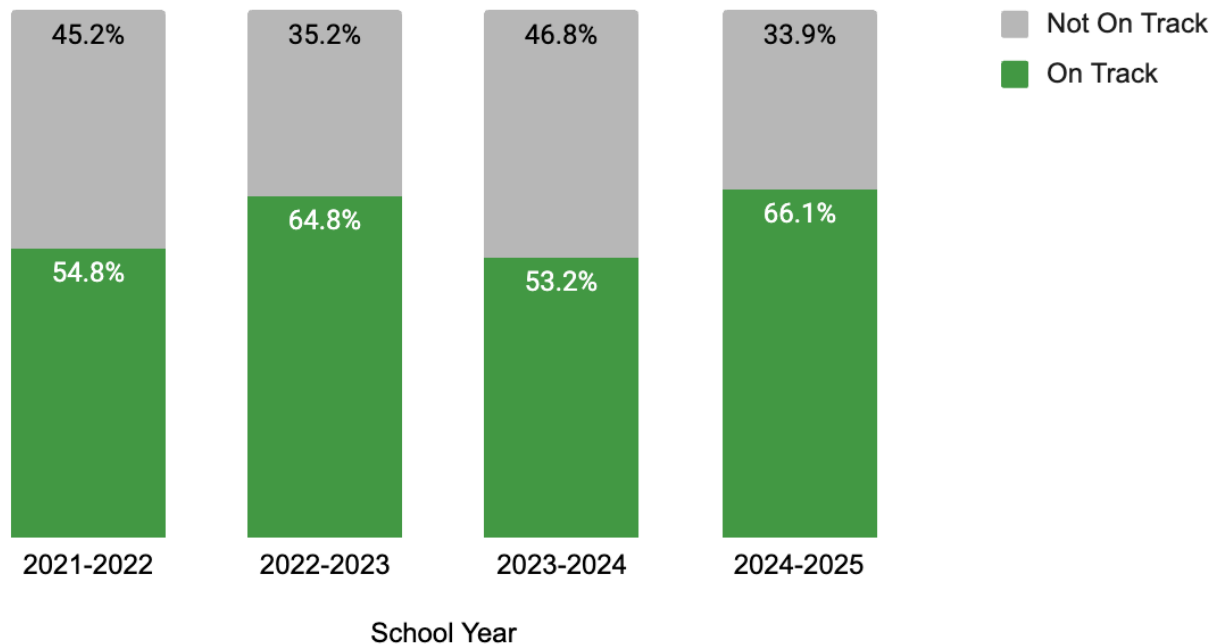
MCA 2024-25 Year



Pre-ACT Data: Reading

Pre-ACT Reading Grade 10

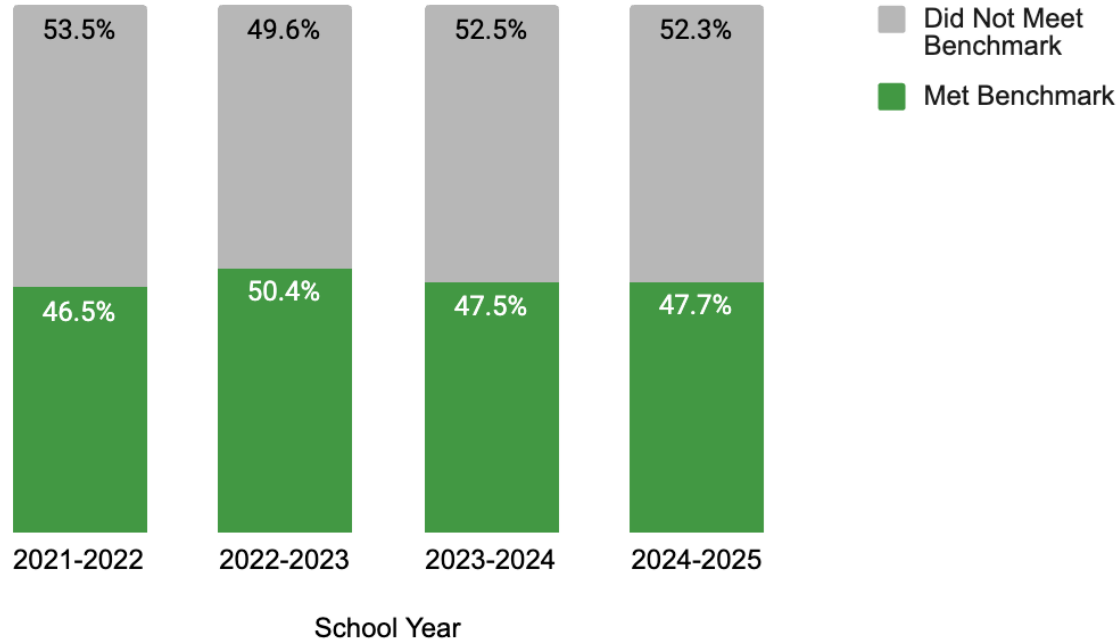
Percent of students on track to meet college readiness benchmarks



ACT Data: Reading

ACT Reading Grade 11

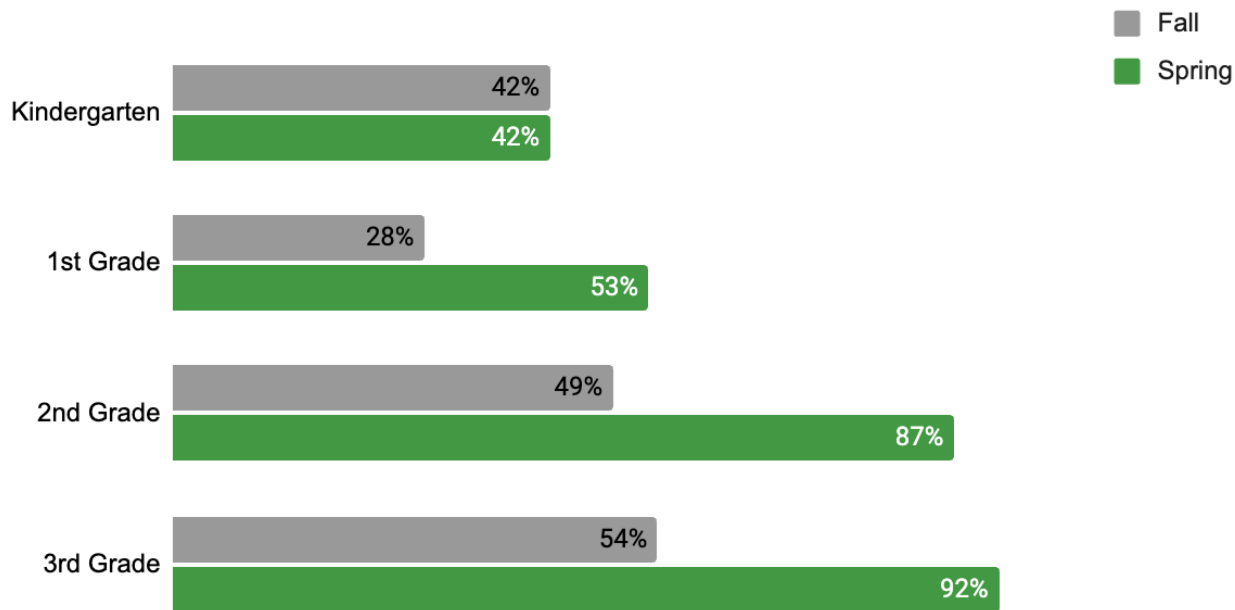
Percent of students meeting college readiness benchmarks



K-3 Universal Screening Data-FastBridge

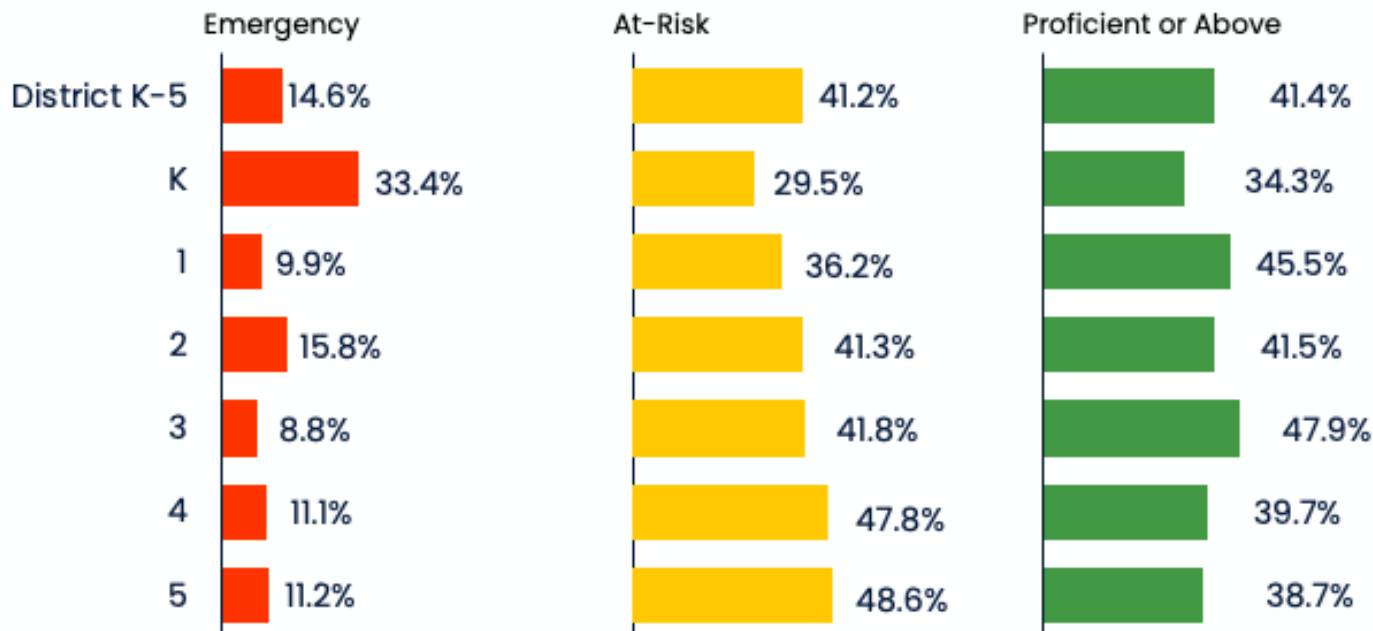


2024-25 FastBridge Screening: MDE composite scores



Independent Reading Level Assessment (IRLA)

IRLA Proficiency by Grade Level (As of June 4, 2025)



Our work in 2025– 2026

Training

New Staff	Paraprofessionals
• Train all new-to-SoWashCo staff (about 70-80 staff) in Structured Literacy	• Train about 450 paraprofessionals • Required by statute of our program paraprofessionals

Identification Process: Universal Screening

Elementary	Secondary
• Continue universal screening K-3 • Adding diagnostic assessments	• Universal Screening for 4th-12th grade

Evidence-Based Curriculum and Interventions

Elementary	Secondary
● *K-2 Foundational Skills resource: UFLI ● *3-5 morphology resource: TBD ● K-5: Implementation of Priority Benchmarks in Literacy <i>*Training in Spring 2026; Implement in Fall 2026</i>	● Learning and transfer to practice: Revisit on November 4th professional development day ● Evidence-based literacy Interventions: Begin Standards & Instruction Review Cycle (SIRC) in January, following MDE guidance

Literacy Training: Voices from the Schools

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SCHOOLS



Questions?