



# DeKalb County's Literacy Journey

10.30.2025



# DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

# FACT SHEET 2025-2026



**138**

**SCHOOLS  
& CENTERS**



**91,186**

**STUDENTS**



**79.1%**

**GRADUATION  
RATE**



**14K**

**STAFF**



**177**

**SPOKEN  
LANGUAGES**

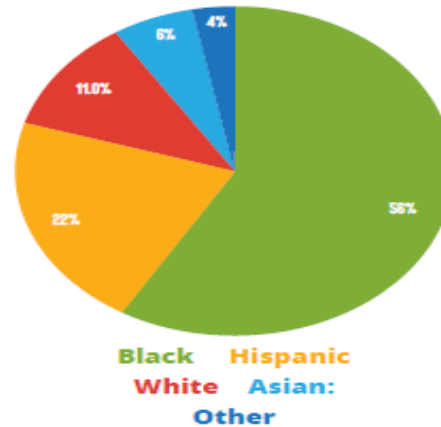
## SCHOOLS

Elementary	77
Middle	19
High	23
Programs (PK-12)	11
Charter (K-12)	8

## STUDENTS

Elementary	38,260
Middle (6-8)	17,709
High (9-12)	25,974
Programs (PK-12)	2,148
Charter (K-12)	4,345
PK (3-4)	2,750

## OUR STUDENTS



**51%  
MALE**



**49%  
FEMALE**

## HIGHLIGHTS



**1<sup>st</sup>** Most Diverse  
District in GA



**3<sup>rd</sup>** Largest School  
District in GA



**16** Schools Ranked in Georgia's  
Top 100 by U.S. News and  
World Report



**40** Schools Named  
Georgia Math and  
Literacy Leaders



**DeKalb County**  
School District

# Strategic Plan 2024-2029

## VISION

- To prepare students for success as lifelong learners and responsible global citizens

## MISSION

- To promote the academic, social, and emotional growth of each student by fostering a safe, supportive and engaging learning environment



# Goal Area 1:

## Student Academic Success with Equity and Access

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### Performance Objective

#### 1.1 Increase proficiency rates in literacy on district and state assessments.

- a. Implement a progress monitoring tool in grades K-3 focused on increasing early literacy skills and provide professional learning for teachers on how to use the tool.
- b. Implement district-provided reading interventions for students performing below grade level, using supplemental instruction, small group support and resources to accelerate student learning.
- c. Implement evidence-based instructional strategies that have been shown to improve literacy skills such as structured literacy, academic vocabulary development and explicit reading and writing instruction across the curriculum.

#### SMART Goals by 2029

ELA EOG proficiency rate will be 47%

ELA EOC proficiency rate will be 46%

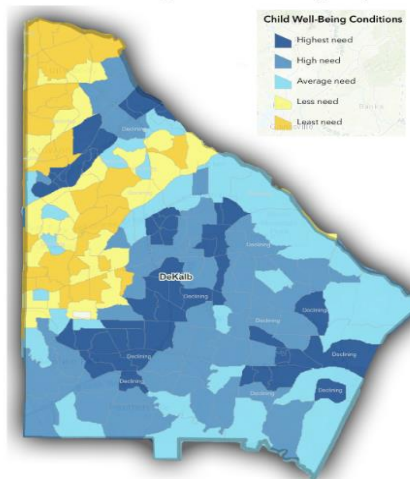
# Data Overview

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# United Way Child Well-Being

Child Measures	Family Measures	Community Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low birth weights</li> <li>• Students exceeding 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading status</li> <li>• Students exceeding 8<sup>th</sup> grade math standards</li> <li>• Student mobility</li> <li>• High School Graduation Rate</li> <li>• % 16 to 19 yr olds enrolled in school or in the work force</li> <li>• Children without health insurance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families not financially stable</li> <li>• Families with housing cost burden</li> <li>• Births to mothers without High School Diploma</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enrolled in post-secondary education</li> <li>• Adults without a High School Diploma</li> <li>• Adults without Health Insurance</li> <li>• Unemployment rate</li> <li>• Access to broadband internet</li> <li>• Food accessibility</li> </ul>

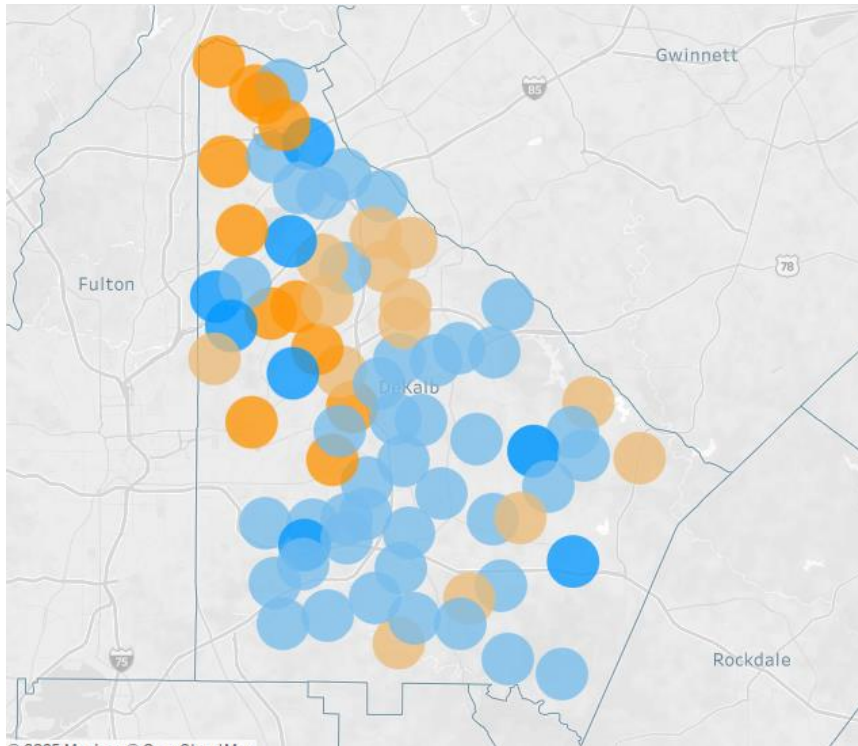
United Way Child Well-Being Map



# DeKalb County School District



Average Lexile Scores



Grade Level	Lexile Band	GADOE 2026 Target
3 <sup>rd</sup>	520L-820L	520L
5 <sup>th</sup>	830L-1010L	830L
8 <sup>th</sup>	1010L-1185L	1010L

# What are Lexile Measures?

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- The Lexile Framework for Reading is a scientific approach to reading that places both readers and texts on the same measurement scale.
- A Lexile level is a number that helps show how well your child can read and understand different kinds of books and texts.
- Each book or passage also has its own Lexile level, which shows how difficult it is to read.
- Use Lexile levels to find “just right” books and track reading progress over time.

Grade	College & Career Ready Lexile Bands
1	190L - 530L
2	420L - 650L
3	520L - 820L
4	740L - 940L
5	830L - 1010L
6	925L - 1070L
7	970L - 1120L
8	1010L - 1185L
9	1050L - 1260L
10	1080L - 1335L
11-12	1185L - 1385L

# Notice and Wonder

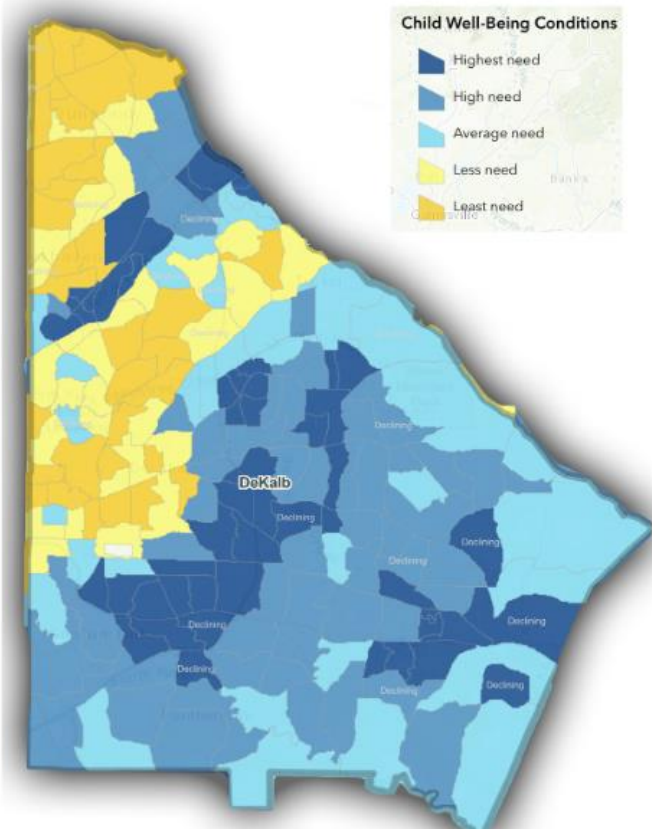
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- What patterns or trends do I notice?
- What might be driving these patterns?
- What questions do these patterns raise?
- Are there equity or access concerns?
- What are possible next steps?

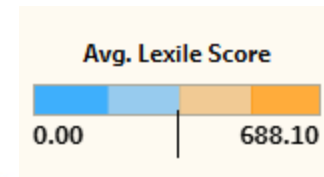
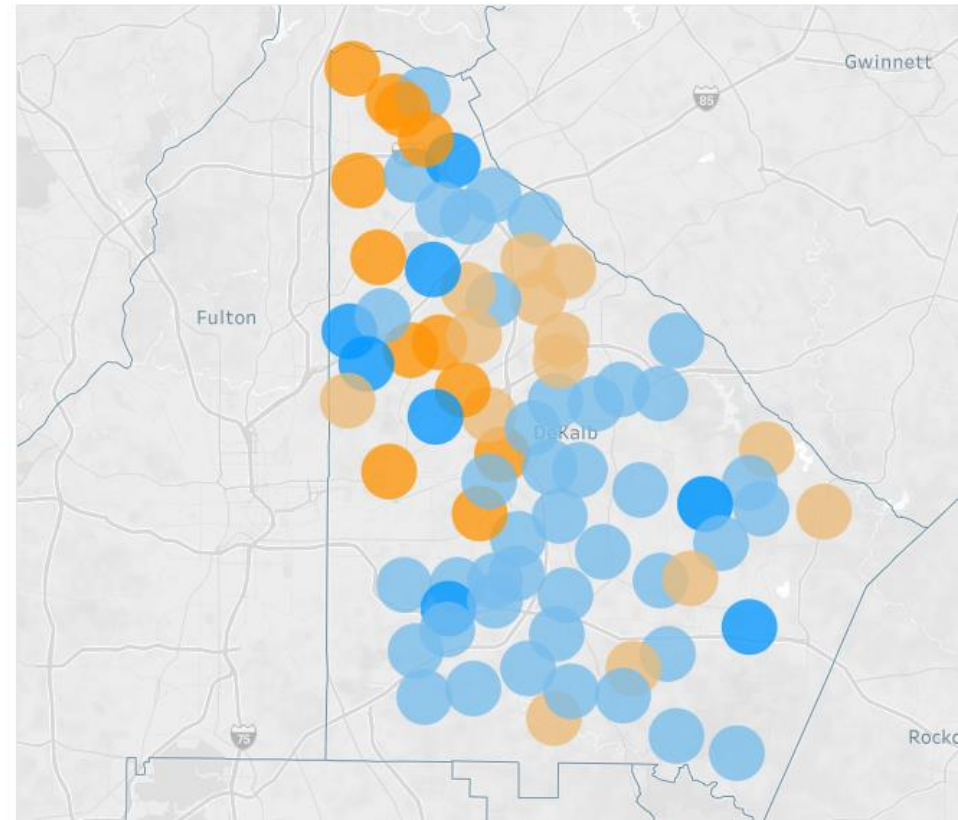


# Lexile Grade 3 520L-820L

United Way Child Well-Being Map

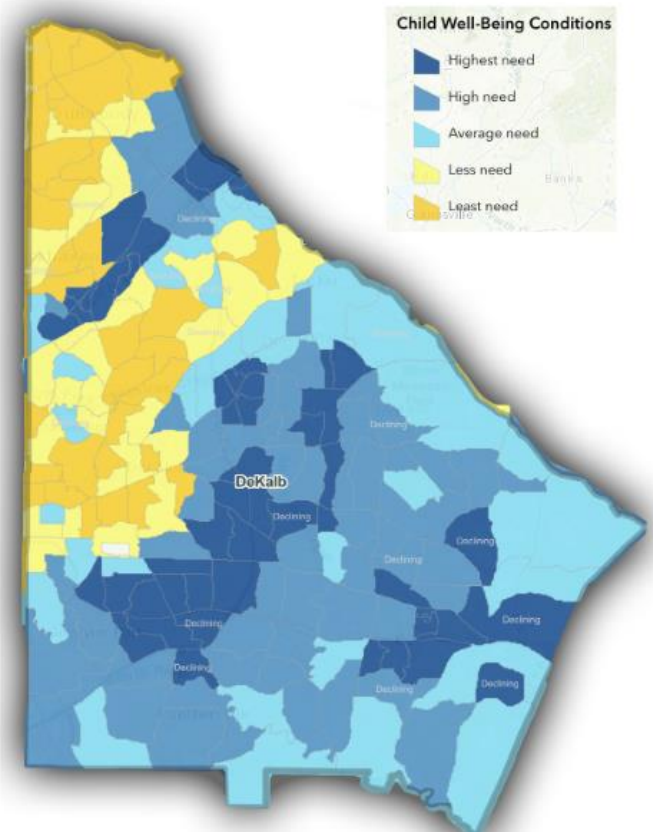


Average Fall 2025 NWEA MAP Lexiles

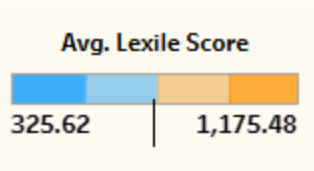
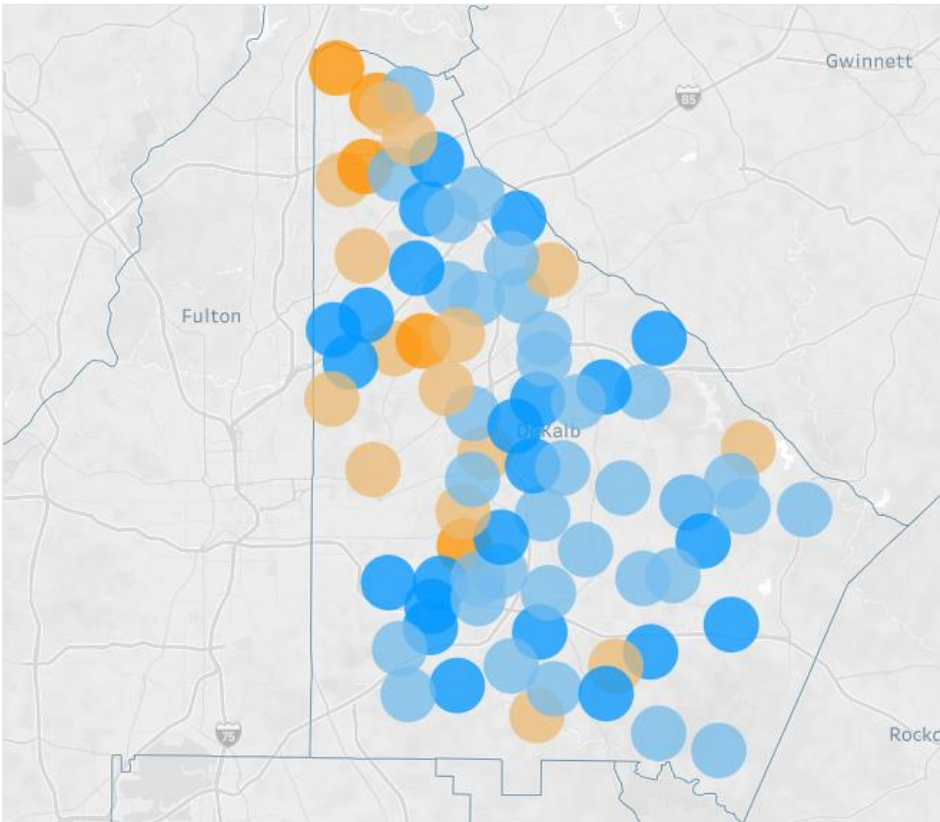


# Lexile Grade 5 830L-1010L

United Way Child Well-Being Map

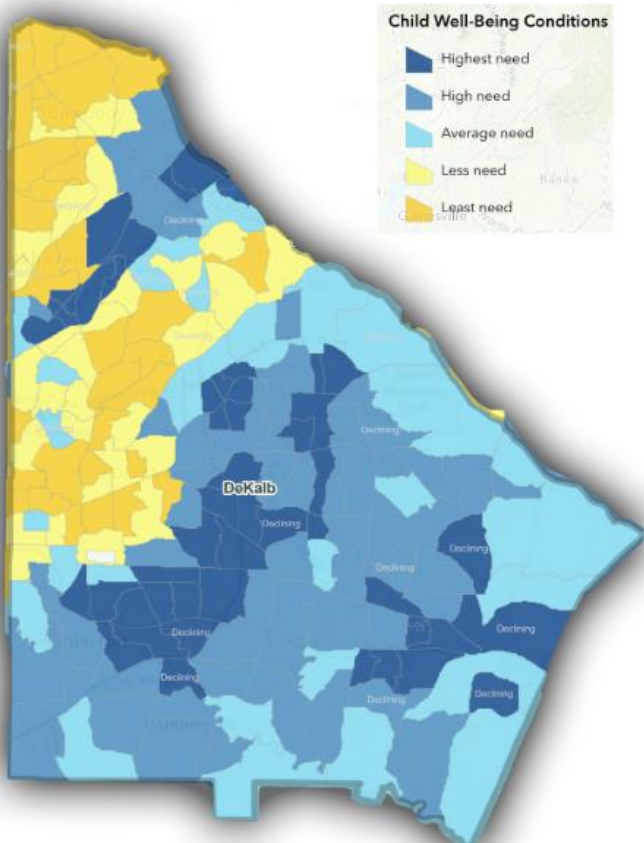


Average Fall 2025 NWEA MAP Lexiles

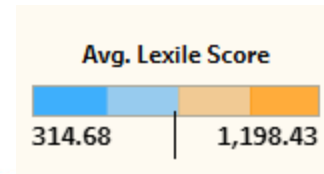
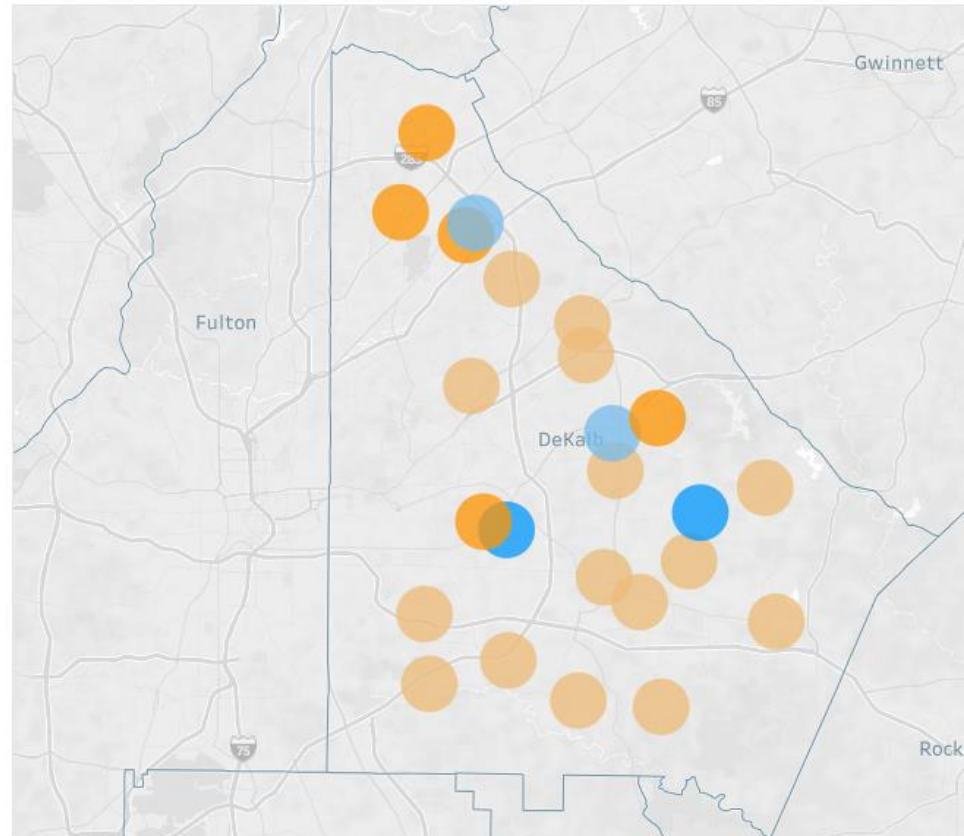


# Lexile Grade 8 1010L-1185L

United Way Child Well-Being Map

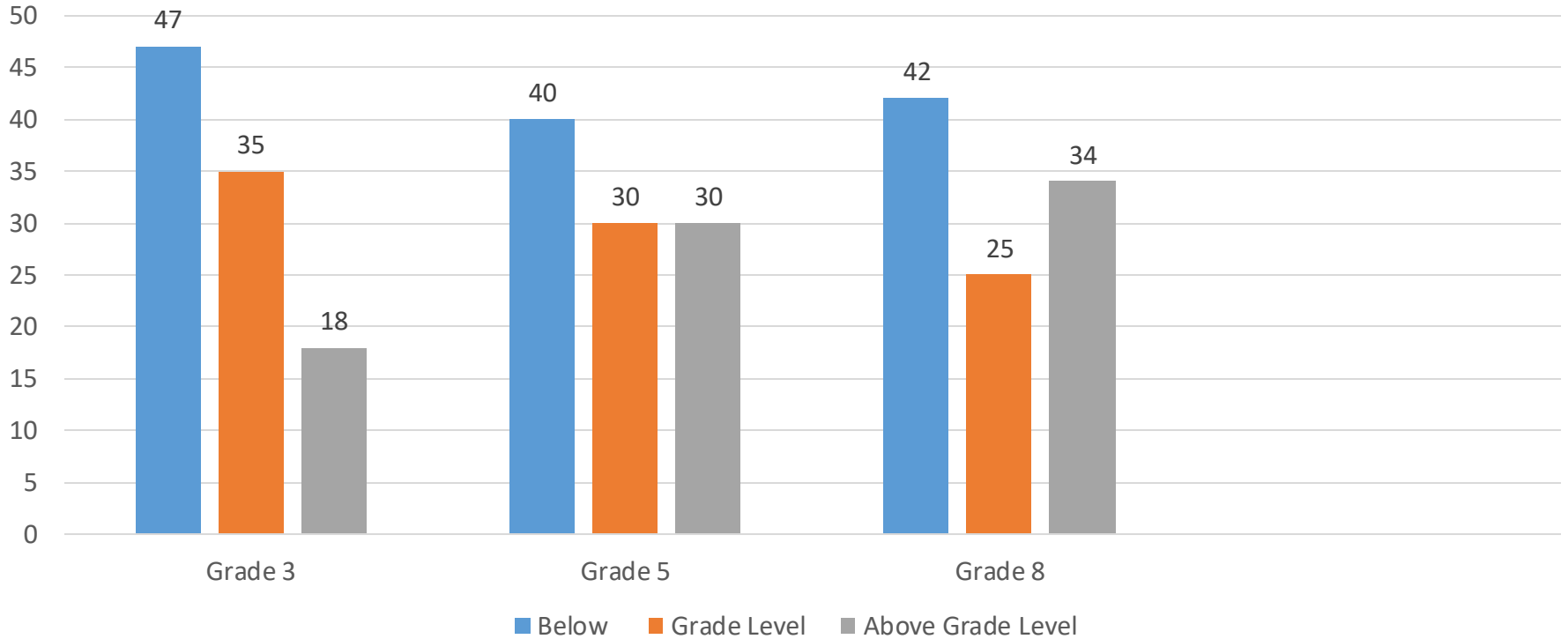


Average Fall 2025 NWEA MAP Lexiles



# Georgia Milestones Reading Readiness

2024-2025

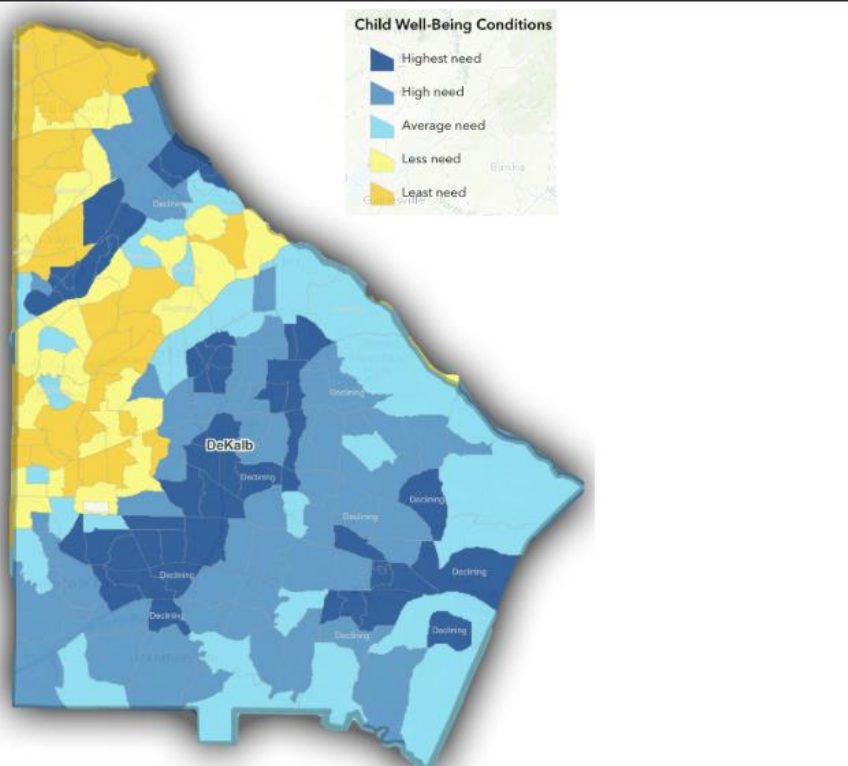


Grade Level	Below	Grade Level	Above Grade Level
Grade 3	<520L	520L-820L	>820
Grade 5	<830L	830L-1010L	>1010L
Grade 8	<1010L	1010L-1185L	>1185L

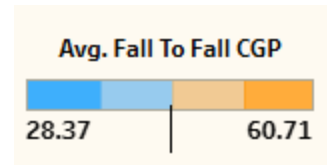
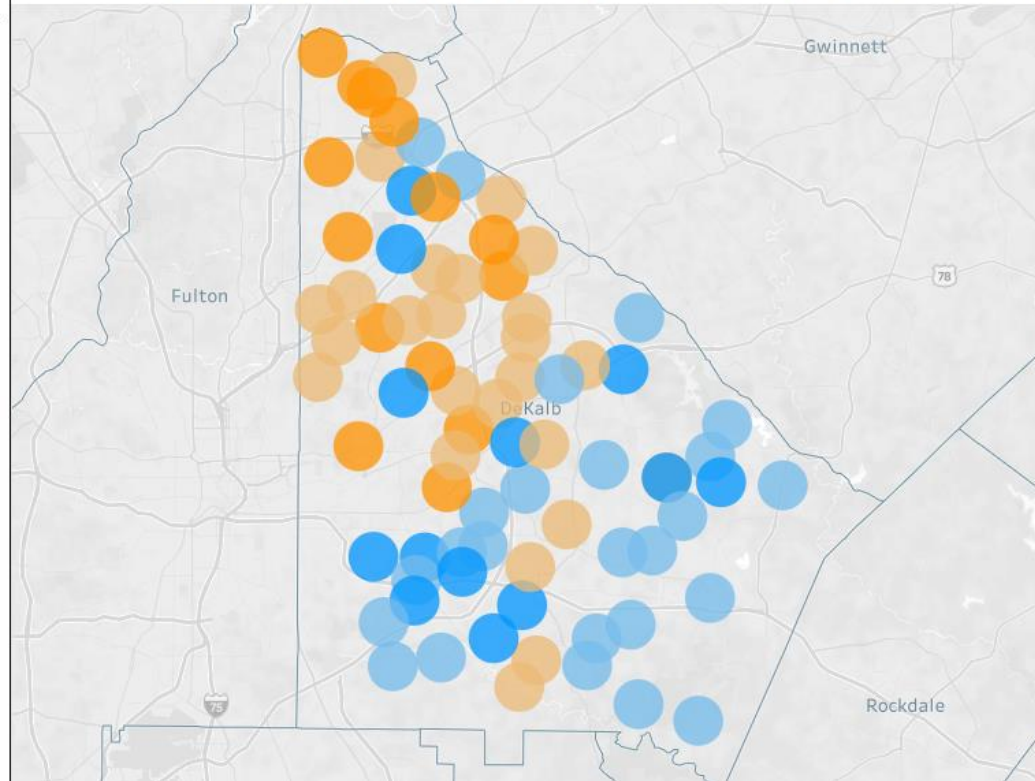
<https://georgiainsights.gadoe.org/dashboards/reading-readiness/>

# Conditional Growth- Grade 3

United Way Child Well-Being Map



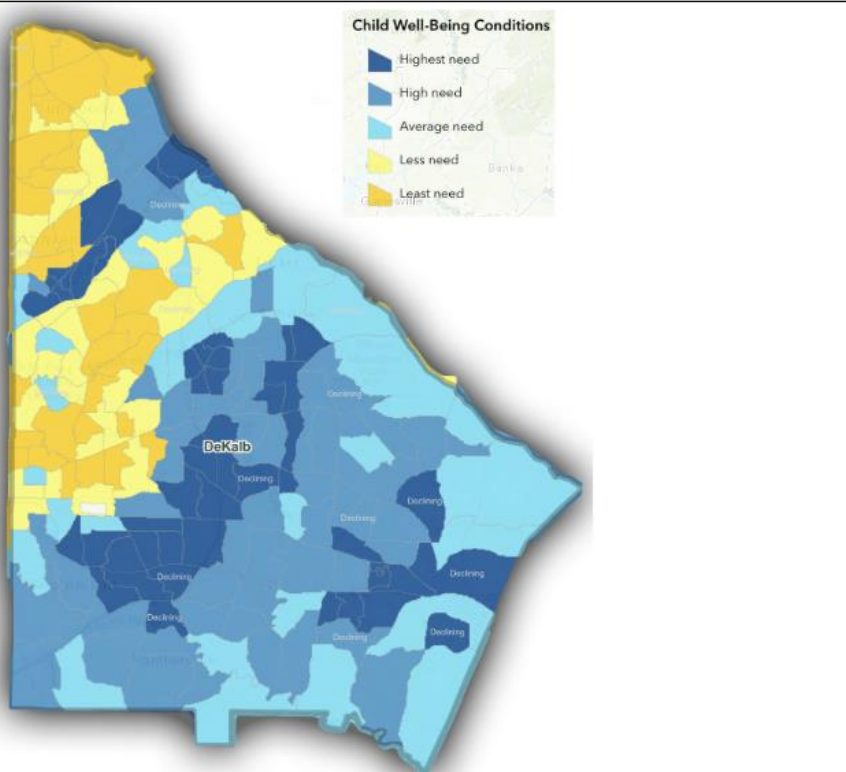
Average Fall 2025 NWEA MAP Fall to Fall Conditional Growth Percentiles



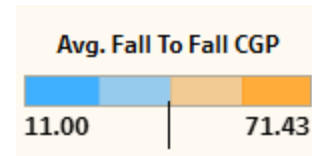
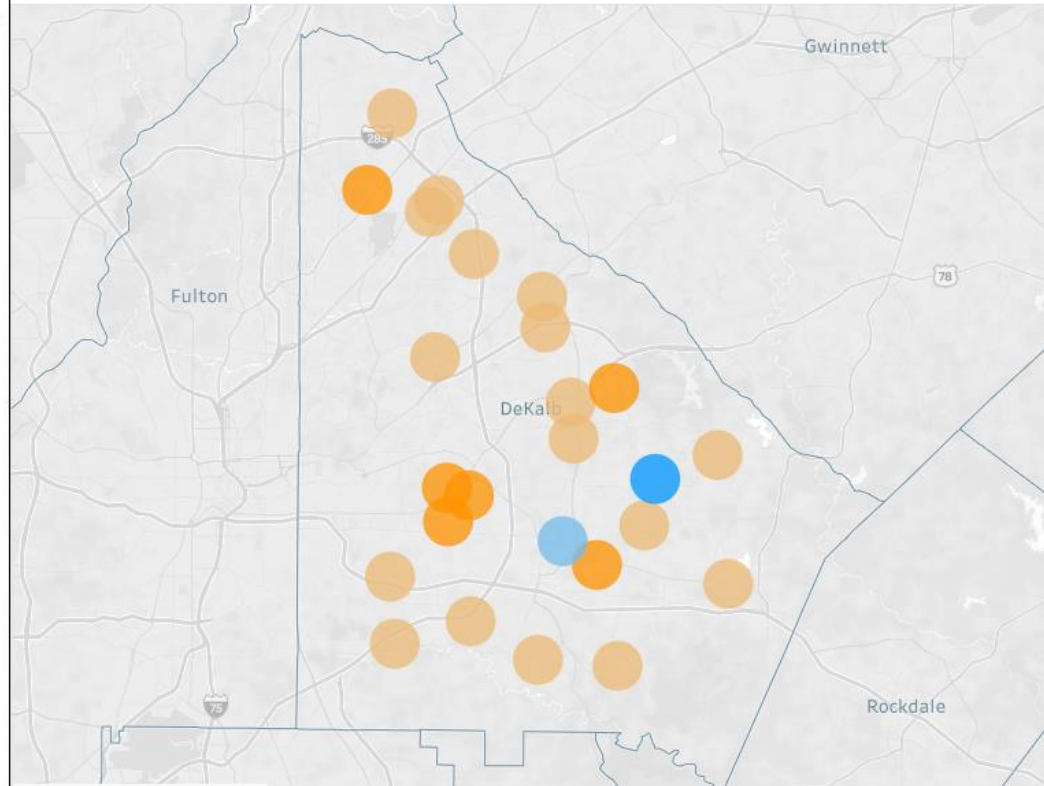


# Conditional Growth- Grade 8

United Way Child Well-Being Map

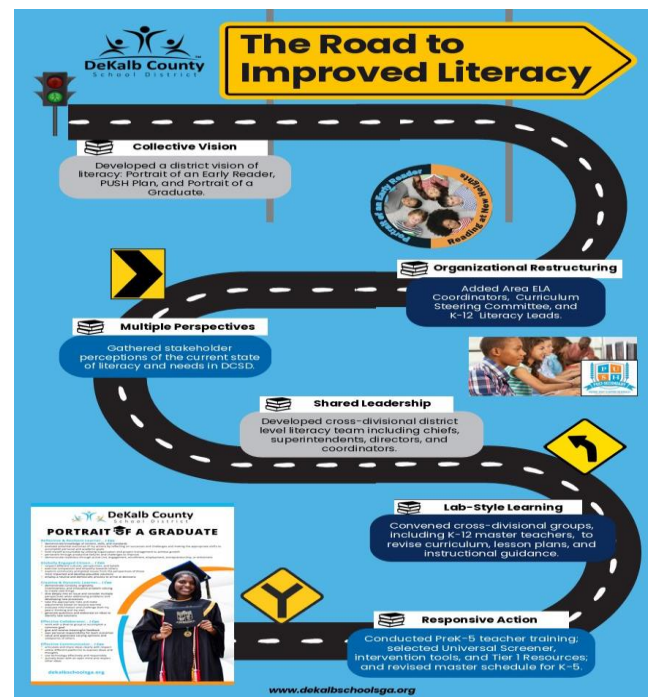


Average Fall 2025 NWEA MAP Fall to Fall Conditional Growth Percentiles



# DCSD Culture of Literacy

- Build Coherence in Literacy Instruction
- Strengthen Foundational Literacy
- Differentiate Student Support
- Strengthen Adolescent Literacy
- Enhance Community Engagement



# Building Coherence

- Over 85% of K-5 teachers trained in structured literacy
- Dedicated phonics block in all K-5 classrooms
- Adopted High Quality Instructional Materials(HQIM)
- Providing professional learning to principals, teachers, coaches and families on New ELA standards
- Using GADOE ELA instructional framework
- Amira ISP K-3 reading assessment
- Amira Tutor intervention tool K-3
- Academic Skills Centers
- Partnership with MRESA Let's Read
- Growing Readers Schools
- Beanstack reading challenge



# Lifting Lexiles Campaign



## Daily Reading

- \*Provide access to books at or slightly higher than Lexile Range.
- \*Read across various genres (fiction, non-fiction, articles).
- \*Set goals to read 20-30 minutes per day.

## Goal Setting & Tracking Progress

- \*Establish individual reading goals based on Lexile levels.
- \*Celebrate to keep students motivated.
- \*Develop school-wide campaign to monitor and celebrate monthly.

## Leverage Technology

- \*Utilize Beanstack.
- \*Listen to audiobooks.
- \*Maximize programs such as Lexia, Newsela.

## Reading Culture

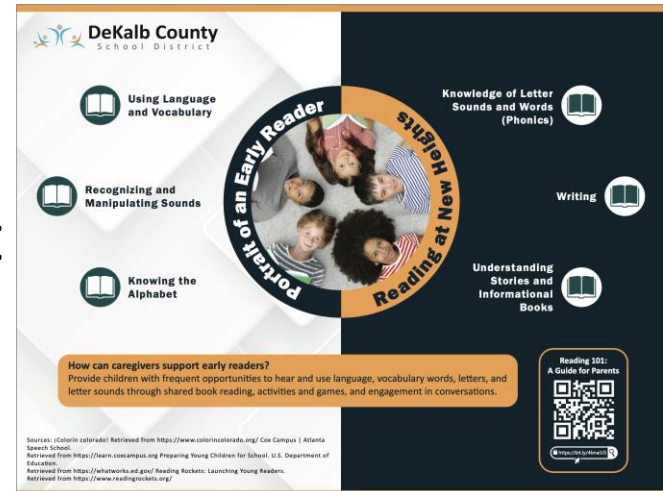
- \*Build a classroom library.
- \*Host book talks.
- \*Promote reading challenges.
- \*Allow student book clubs with choices.

## Cross-Curricular

- \*Broaden comprehension by introducing reading materials from science, history, and mathematics.

# Strengthening Foundational Literacy

- Portrait of an Early Reader
- Trained all Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 teachers and paraprofessionals structured literacy
- Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 utilizes Waterford supplemental resources to support instruction



# Adolescent Literacy

Providing professional learning on the following:


- Adolescent literacy
- Explicit vocabulary
- Disciplinary literacy
- Fluency and comprehension
- Writing across contents



# Community Engagement

- FACE advocates *Let's RISE and Read*
- Literacy YouTube videos
- Family literacy night events across the district





## Parent Guide for Understanding Lexile Levels for Reading

The Lexile Framework® for Reading is a scientific approach to reading that places both readers and texts on the same measurement scale. More than half of all U.S. students receive Lexile measures from national, state and local assessments. GaDOE has worked with MetaMetrics®, the developers of the Lexile® Framework for Reading, to establish the link between the Georgia Milestones English language arts (ELA) assessments and the Lexile scale. Students who participate in the Georgia Milestones ELA assessments receive a Lexile measure, which describes reading ability, based on student achievement in the Reading and Vocabulary domain of the assessment.

What Are Lexile Measures?

Lexile measures, indicated by a number followed by an "L" (such as "800L"), span from below OL for novice readers and texts to over 1600L for proficient readers and texts. These measures help match students with reading materials that are appropriately challenging for their reading level.

Match Readers with Texts on the Lexile Scale

A **Lexile reader measure** indicates a student's reading proficiency. Pairing students with books within their Lexile range, which spans from 100L below to 50L above their reported measure, offers an optimal reading challenge.

A **Lexile text measure** indicates the difficulty level of a text. More than 100 million books, articles, and websites have been assigned Lexile text measures.

A **grade-level stretch band** provides an indication of whether students are reading at or above grade level.

Grade	MetaMetrics Grade-Level Stretch Band
K	180L – 200L
1	190L – 300L
2	400L – 600L
3	500L – 800L
4	740L – 940L
5	850L – 1010L
6	920L – 1070L
7	970L – 1100L
8	1010L – 1180L
9	1050L – 1300L
10	1080L – 1330L
11 & 12	1160L – 1360L

How to Use Lexile Measures

Determine Your Child's Lexile Measure

Lexile measures are reported from a variety of tests students take throughout the school year. You can request the score from your child's teacher.

STEP 1

Find Just Right Books

Use the school library's online card catalog or Find a Book tool ([hub.lexile.com/fab](http://hub.lexile.com/fab)) for books to match your child's interests and reading level.

STEP 2

Monitor Growth

Monitor your child's Lexile growth from year to year and use these measures in conversations with the teacher for ways to support your child at school and home.

STEP 3

Adapted from:  
LEXILE FRAMEWORK® for Reading Librarian Guide and Parent Guide and GaDOE

**“Literacy is...the road to  
human progress and the  
means through which every  
man, woman and child can  
realize his or her full  
potential.”**

**- Kofi Annan**

