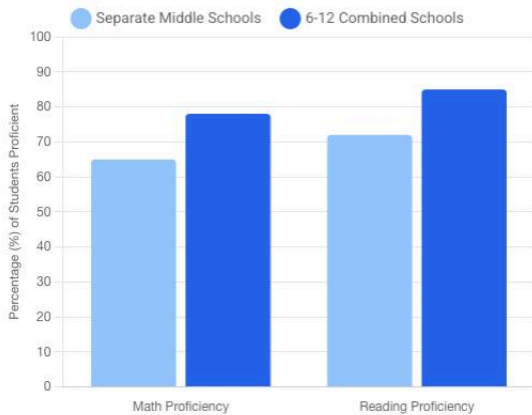


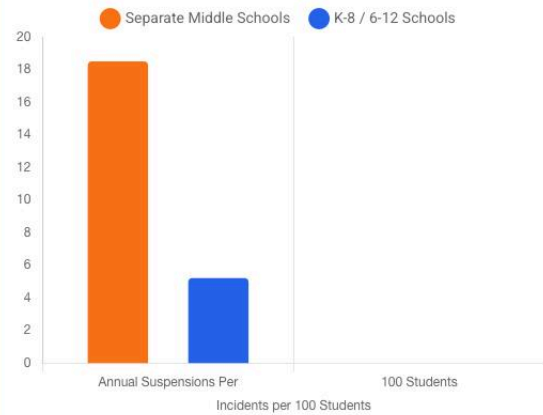
## Achievement Comparison

Comparative analysis shows that by Grade 8, students in continuous school environments outperform those who transitioned into a middle school. The data highlights a persistent gap in both Mathematics and Reading/ELA.



## Behavior & Discipline

Rockoff & Lockwood (2010) found that "middle schools are toxic to student behavior." Students in 6-8 middle schools reported significantly higher rates of suspensions and behavioral infractions compared to peers in K-8 or 6-12 settings.



## School Climate & Belonging

The 6-12 model fosters long-term relationships. In surveys measuring "School Connectedness," students in combined schools report higher levels of safety, belonging, and teacher support.

**The "Anonymity" Factor:** Large middle schools often leave students feeling anonymous. 6-12 schools, often smaller or more community-focused, allow teachers to track student development over seven years, creating a "family-like" atmosphere.

### KEY RESEARCH INSIGHT

"The transition to high school (9th grade) is the single most critical point for dropping out. 6-12 schools eliminate this transition entirely." – Alspaugh (1998)



- **1. Schwerdt, G., & West, M. R. (2013).** "The Impact of Alternative Grade Configurations on Student Outcomes through Middle and High School." *Journal of Public Economics*.
- **2. Rockoff, J. E., & Lockwood, B. B. (2010).** "Stuck in the Middle: Impacts of Grade Configuration in Public Schools." *Journal of Public Economics*.
- **3. Alspaugh, J. W. (1998).** "Achievement Loss Associated with the Transition to Middle School and High School." *The Journal of Educational Research*.
- **4. Looker, E. D., & Thiessen, V. (2008).** "The Impact of School Transitions on Student Engagement."