Whittier International
State of the School







November 20, 2026

Who We Are:

School and Community Description:

- Whittier International is a community school serving students from Minneapolis and surrounding communities in grades pre-kindergarten through five.
- We serve a diverse student body with a number of mother tongues, cultures, races, and ethnicities.
- We offer:
  - After school programming
  - Instrumental Music lessons for grades 3-5
  - Spanish in grades 2-5
  - International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program
  - UFLI, Bridges Math, Arts and Letters Literacy
  - Interventions for Reading, Math, and SEL

Our Pathway Schools are:

- Andersen United Middle School
- Minneapolis South High School

Who we are:

Our Vision and Mission:
All Whittier International Elementary students will become independent global thinkers through inquiry and action.

Our Strengths:

- International Baccalaureate program (1 of only 3 elementary IB programs in Minneapolis)
- Diverse student body representing many different cultures and languages
- Veteran staff, translation/interpretation support
- Enrichment activities across grade levels

Our Challenges:

- Reading and Math scores on standardized assessments
- Student attendance
- Consistently differentiating instruction and assessing learning to support the needs of all learners

What's a School Improvement Plan?

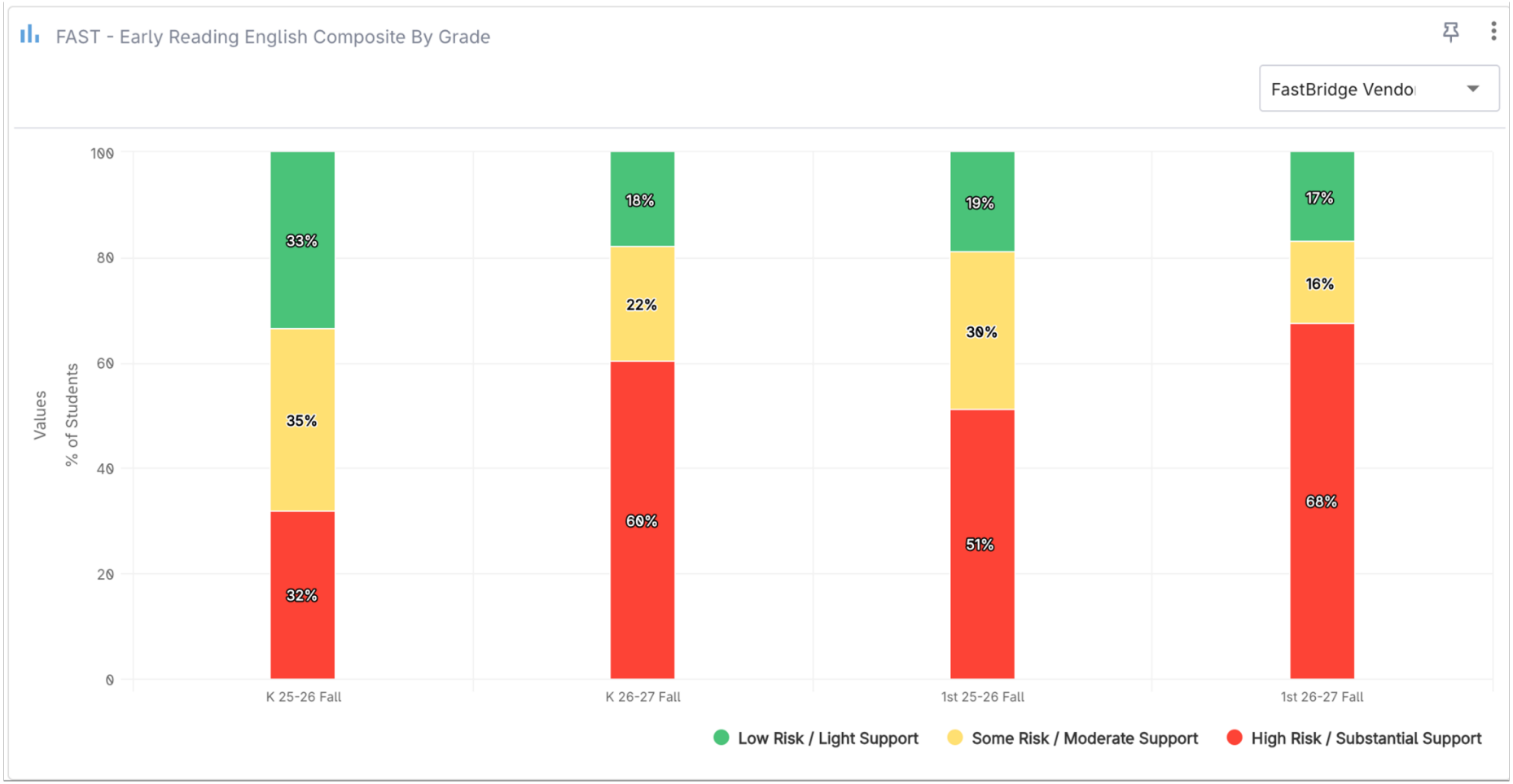
Our school improvement plan:

- Sets the **goals** that our school community is working to achieve
- Identifies the **strategies or activities** that will help us reach those goals together

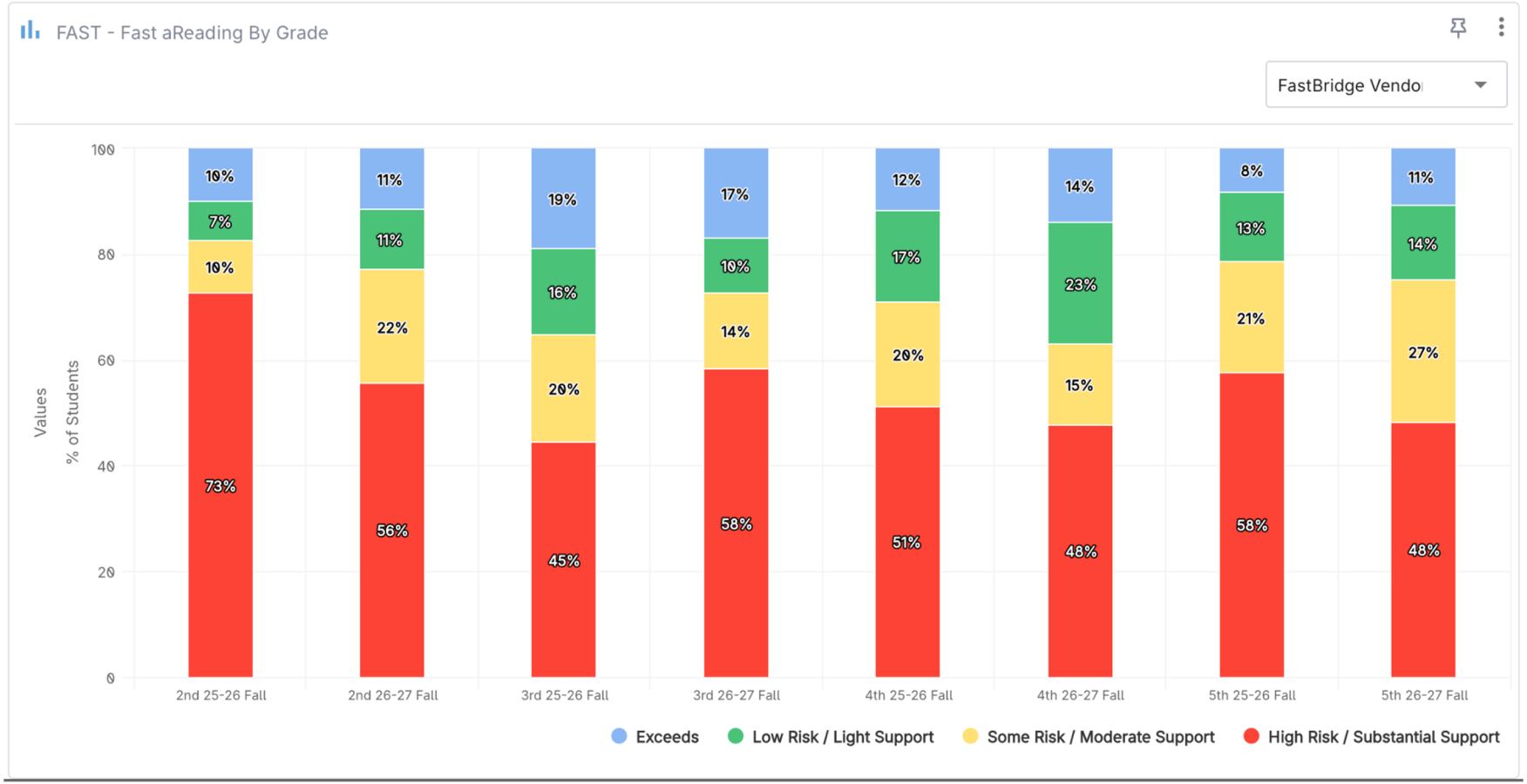
Every Minneapolis Public School is required to develop, implement, and monitor a school improvement plan.



K-1st Grade Reading Proficiency (earlyReading)

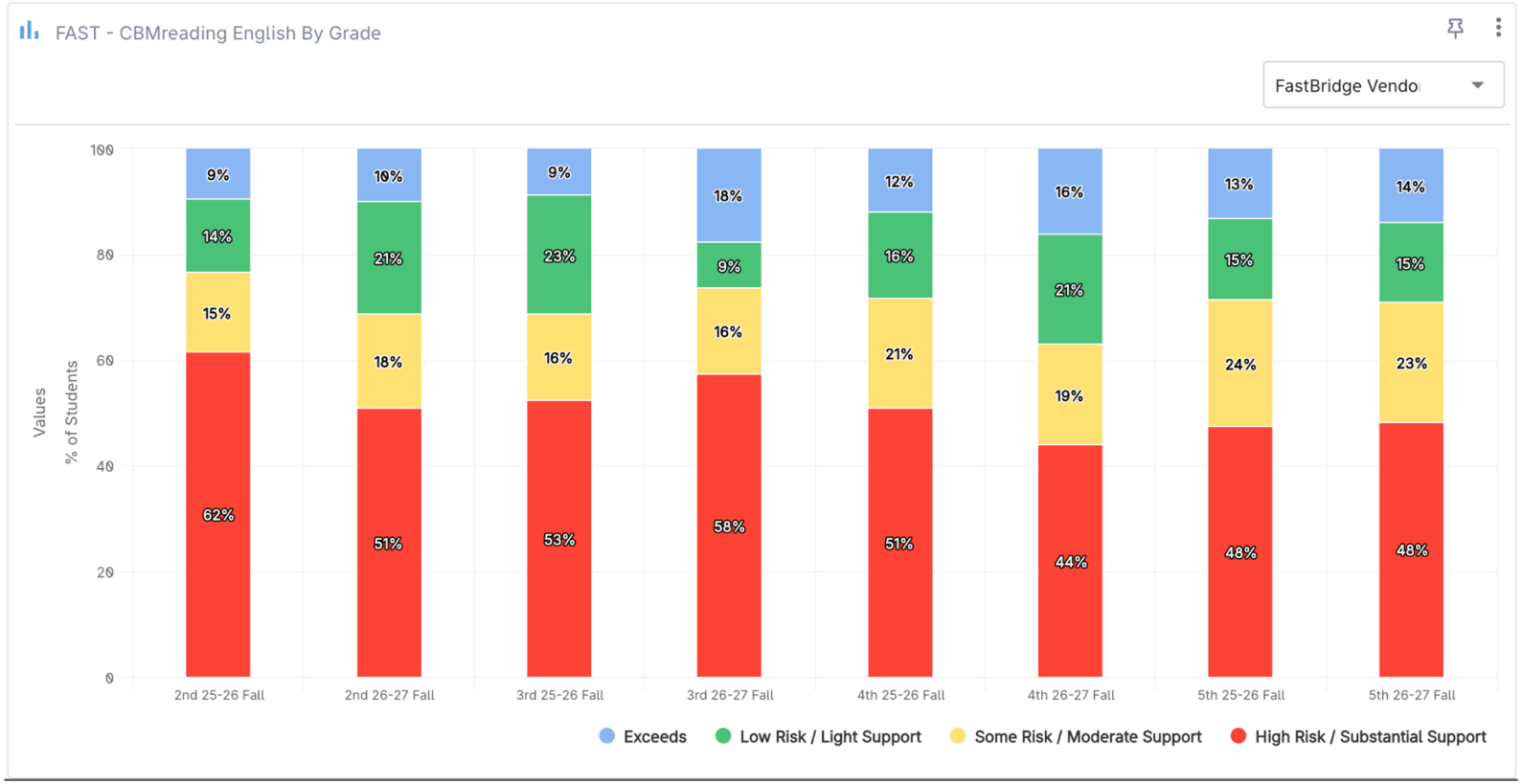


2nd - 5th Grade Reading Proficiency (aReading)

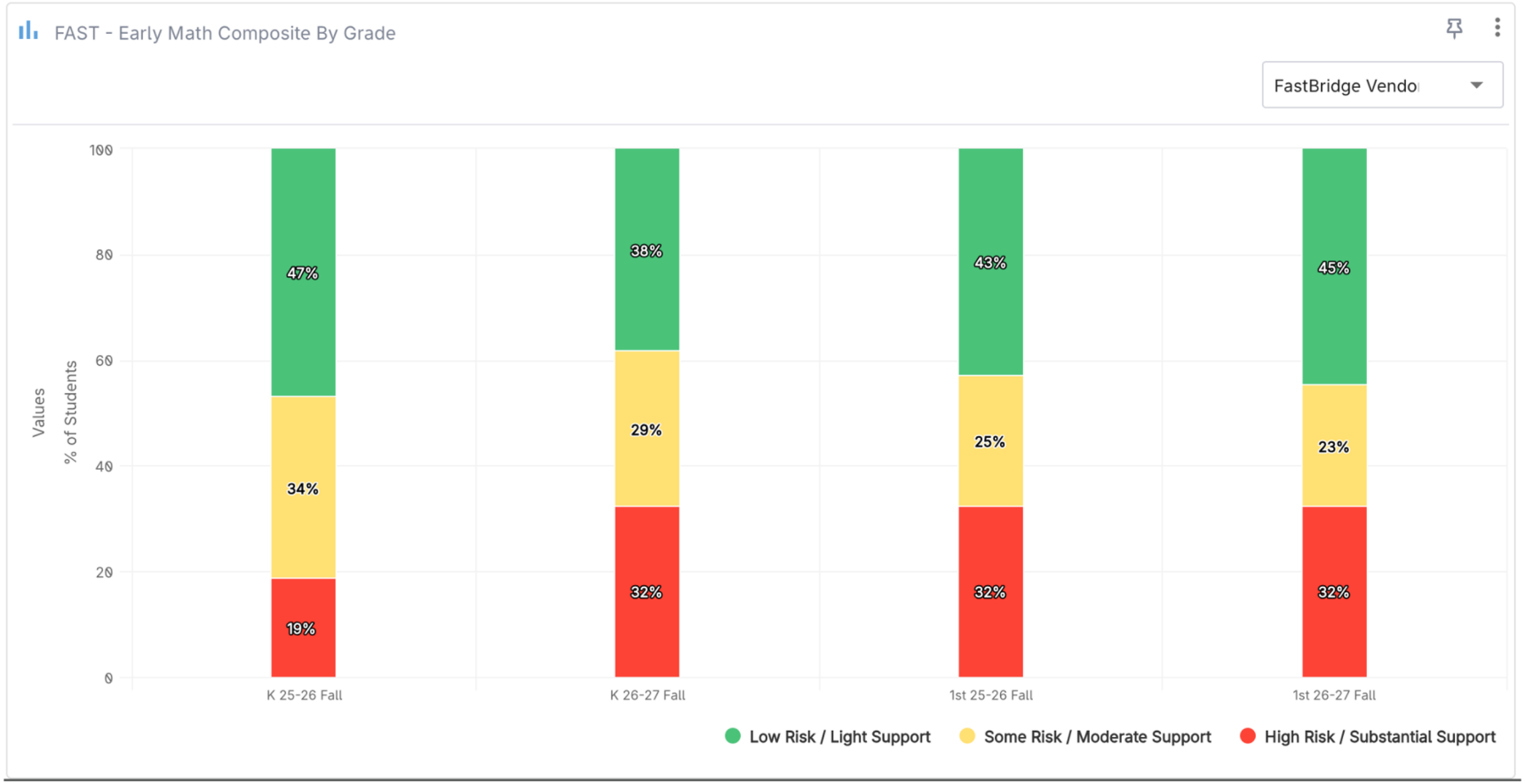


2nd - 5th Grade Reading Proficiency (CBM-Reading)

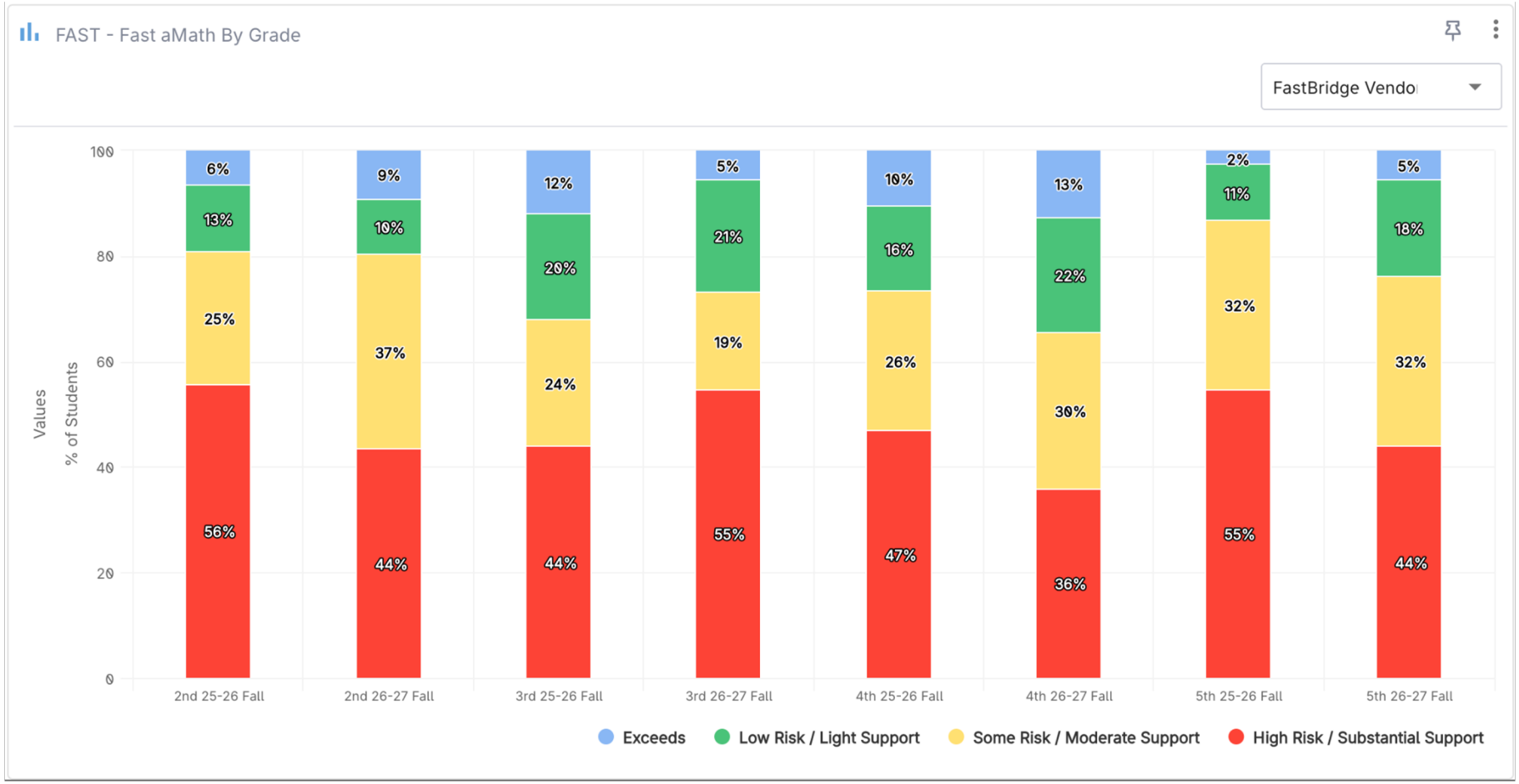
We have seen growth in some areas on students' ability to decode what they are reading.



K-1st Grade Math Proficiency (earlyMath)



2nd - 5th Grade Math Proficiency (aMath)



Whittier's School Improvement Plan Goals

Goal Area: Literacy:

The percentage of all students in grades K-5 at Whittier who make typical or aggressive growth from fall to spring in reading will increase from 43% to 50% as measured by FAST Overall Literacy.

Evidence Based Practice: Building Comprehension

Whittier's School Improvement Plan Goals

Goal Area: Math

The percentage of all students in grades K-5 at Whittier who make typical or aggressive growth from fall to spring in math will increase from 55% to 62% as measured by FastBridge Overall Math (Tableau).

Evidence Based Practice: Formative Assessments

Whittier's School Improvement Plan Goals

Goal Area: Attendance

The percentage of all students at Whittier who have consistent attendance will increase from 51% (SY25-26) to 60% (SY26-27).

Evidence Based Practice: Develop infrastructure for reviewing attendance data

How We Measure Student Progress

Assessments help us answer questions such as:

- *Are we teaching what we think we are teaching?*
- *Are students learning what we intend for them to be learning?*
- *Are all students improving and being appropriately challenged?*

Some of the assessments our students will take this year are:

- Teacher created assessments
- Observational Data
- Student work/presentations
- FASTBridge
- Capti
- Curriculum Based Measures (Reading)
  - Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs)

How We'll Share Student Progress with You

Throughout the year, we'll share information with you about how your student is doing in the classroom.

We'll do it in the following ways:

- Family-Teacher conferences on October 12th and 13th (fall) and February 12th (winter)
- Quarterly report cards
- Notices of intervention
- Periodic meetings with teachers upon request.



Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Designation



Due to our Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) results for our students, Whittier has been designated as an ESSA Comprehensive Support and Improvement School.

What does this mean?

- We have developed a plan to address the root causes behind the reasons identified in our needs assessment.
- We are receiving support to implement and monitor our school improvement plan.

What is Title I?



Title I is a federal program that provides **money to schools and districts** to help them ensure all children have an **equal opportunity to get a high-quality education** and achieve proficiency on our state's academic standards and assessments.

Title I supports our School Improvement Plan, and the funding we receive helps us reach our goals.

How We're Using our Title I Funding

We are required to use Title I funding to improve the academic achievement of all students and engage YOU, our families, in that process!

Curriculum and Instruction Support

- Staffing
  - Classroom staff buy-up
  - Intervention support staff
  - School Social Work FTE
  - Classroom Support Associate Educators
  - Translation support
  - Student Support Specialist
- Professional Collaboration - Extended Time for Planning & Translation

Family Engagement

- Conferences
- Cultural and Academic Family Nights
- Translation/Interpretation for Events
- Supplies for learning and family engagement events

As a family member in a Title I School, you have the right to…



- **Request information from the district** about whether your student's teacher meets State licensing approval for the grade and subject being taught, is teaching with a waiver, and/or has certification for the field being taught
- Request information about the qualifications of any paraprofessional providing instruction
- Know how your child's **school is rated** on its state test scores
- Expect **regular communication** with your school in a language that you can understand
- Work with other families and staff to develop a **compact** between our school and our families
- Help plan how **money for family involvement** should be spent
- Work with teachers, other families, and the school principal to develop a **family engagement plan**
- **Ask for a meeting** with your school principal or your child's teacher at any time

Opportunities for Families to be Involved!

We want your input on our:

- School Improvement Plan goals and strategies
- Family Engagement Plan
- School activities, curriculum, etc

- **Participate in Site Council!**
- **Visit** your child's classroom or **volunteer** at our school!
- Talk to your child's teacher about events and issues that may affect your child's work or behavior.

We'd love to see you at the following school events:

- October 29th: Latino Heritage/Dia de los Muertos Celebración 5pm-7pm
- November 12th: Curriculum Night 5:30-7:00
- December 17th: Winter Wonderland 5:30-7:30
- January (ELL night - specific date pending)
- February 25th: Black History Night 5:30-7:30
- March 18th: Family Reading Night
- April 29th: Somali Heritage NIght 5:30-7:00
- June 4th: Wolfpack Party 5:00-7:30

School Staff Information

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