Office of the State
Superintendent of Education

DC Statewide Assessment Results

English Language Arts (ELA) and Math

Media Briefing

August 20, 2026

Media Briefing Ground Rules

- Briefing on background (no direct quotes)
- On-the-record Q&A after briefing
  – get sound, visuals, quotes
- No embargo – free to report after briefing

AGENDA

2026 Performance Summary
Dr. Antoinette S. Mitchell, State Superintendent of Education

2026 Statewide Results | School Performance | In Depth: English Language Arts (ELA), Math
Kelley Scholl, Assistant Superintendent of Data, Assessment, and Research

Statewide Investments
Superintendent Mitchell

DC Public Schools Insights
Dr. Kim Jackson, Interim Chancellor, District of Columbia Public Schools

DC Public Charter Schools Insights
Dr. Michelle Walker-Davis, Executive Director, DC Public Charter School Board

Closing
Superintendent Mitchell

On Background Media Q&A
Theola DeBose, Director of Communications, Office of the State Superintendent of Education

On Camera Q&A

Interview Opportunities with Friendship Staff

2026 Performance Summary

Antoinette S. Mitchell, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Education

2026 Statewide Performance Summary

- **DC continues its forward momentum with an overall increase in both subjects and gains across every student group**.
- **Proficiency rates increased** across the city in nearly every Ward.
- **A majority of grades** had improved proficiency rates.
- **Key investments like High-Impact Tutoring** are associated with promising increases.
- Since 2022, ELA proficiency rate increased by 8.8 percentage points and math by 9.1 percentage points

2026 Statewide Assessment Results

Kelley Scholl
Assistant Superintendent of Data, Assessment, and Research

Overview of DC CAPE

- Annual rigorous statewide assessment designed by OSSE*
  - Administered in grades 3-8 and high school
- Participation rate:
  - 95.5% English language arts (ELA)
  - 94.9% Math
- Results reported across five performance levels
  - Level 3: Approaching proficiency
  - Levels 4 and 5: Proficient
    - Met or exceeded grade-level expectations

DC CAPE
DC COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS OF PROGRESS IN EDUCATION

DC CAPE Performance Levels

Level 5: Exceeded Expectations

Level 4: Met Expectations

Level 3: Approached Expectations

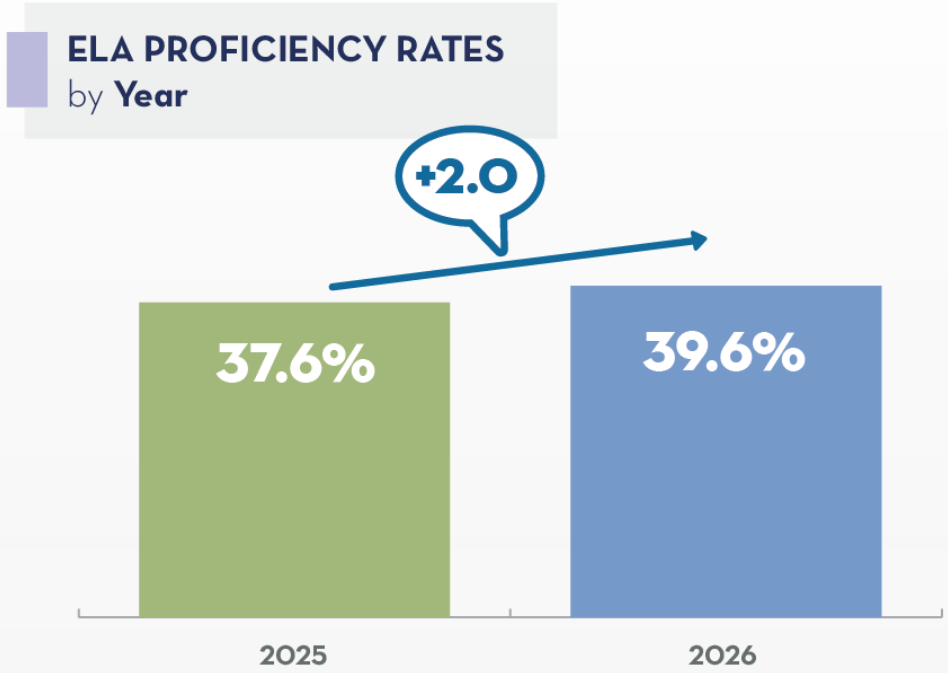
Level 2: Partially Met Expectations

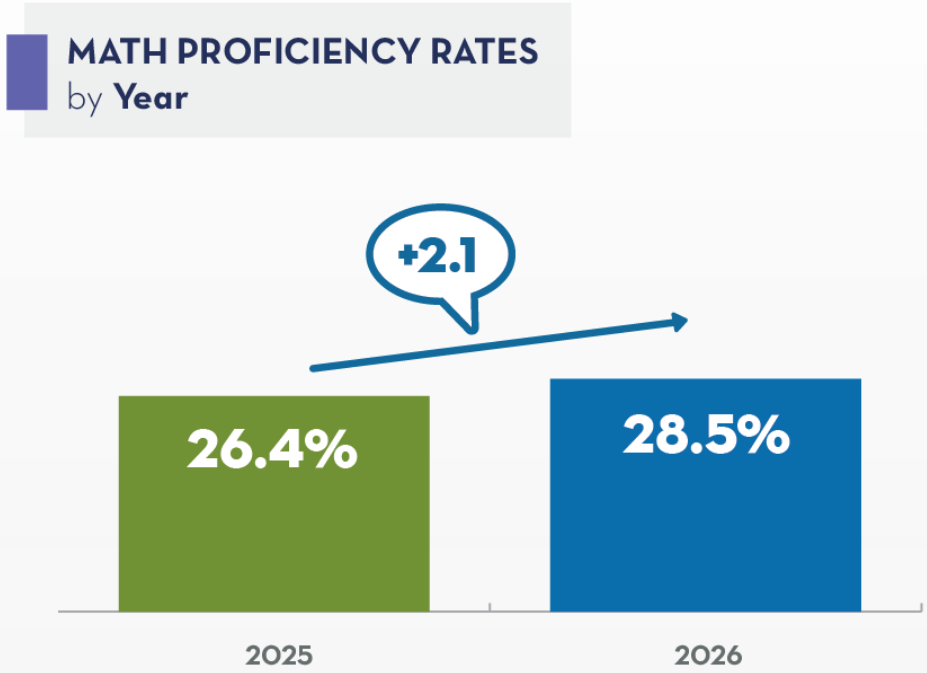
Level 1: Did Not Yet Meet Expectations

**Note: One percent of test-takers – students with significant cognitive disabilities – take an alternate ELA and Math assessment: Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA)*

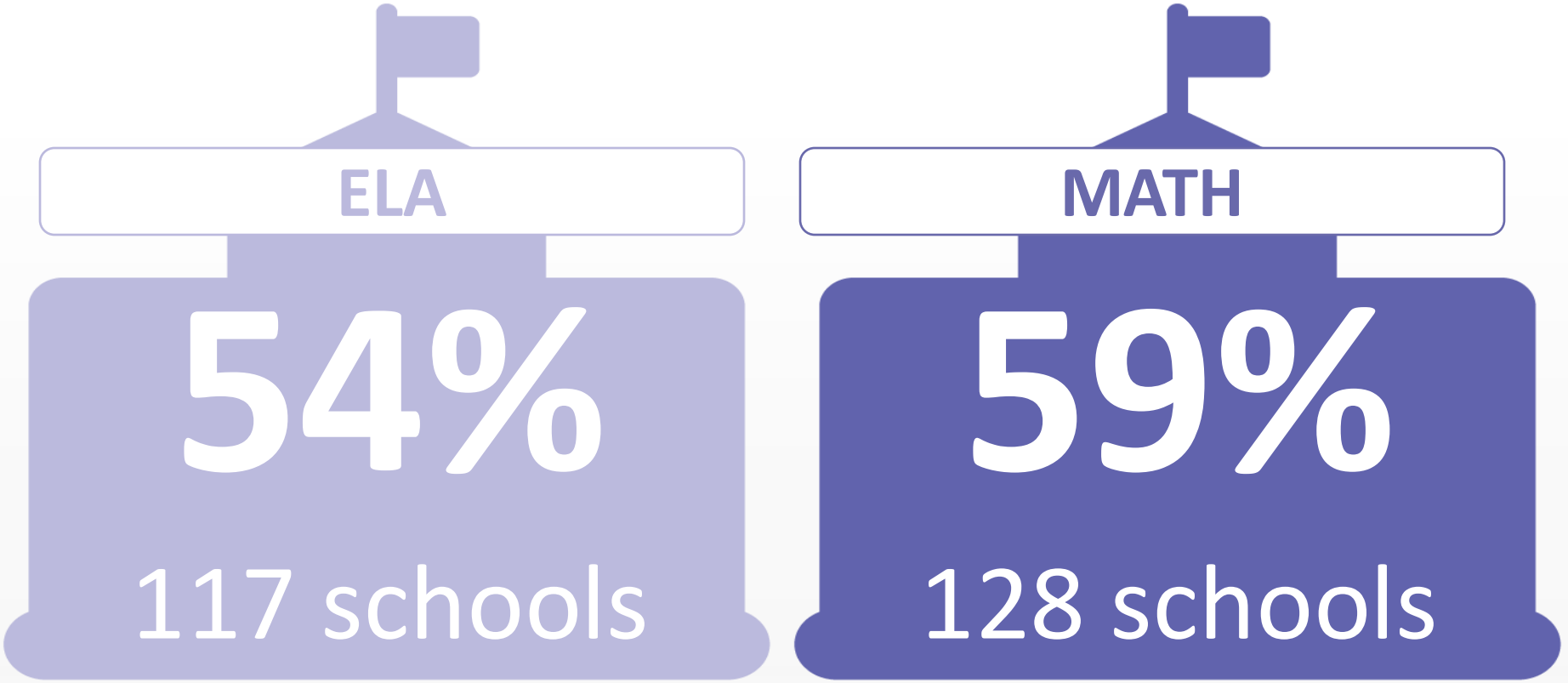
2026 Statewide Performance

ELA proficiency is the highest since 2015.





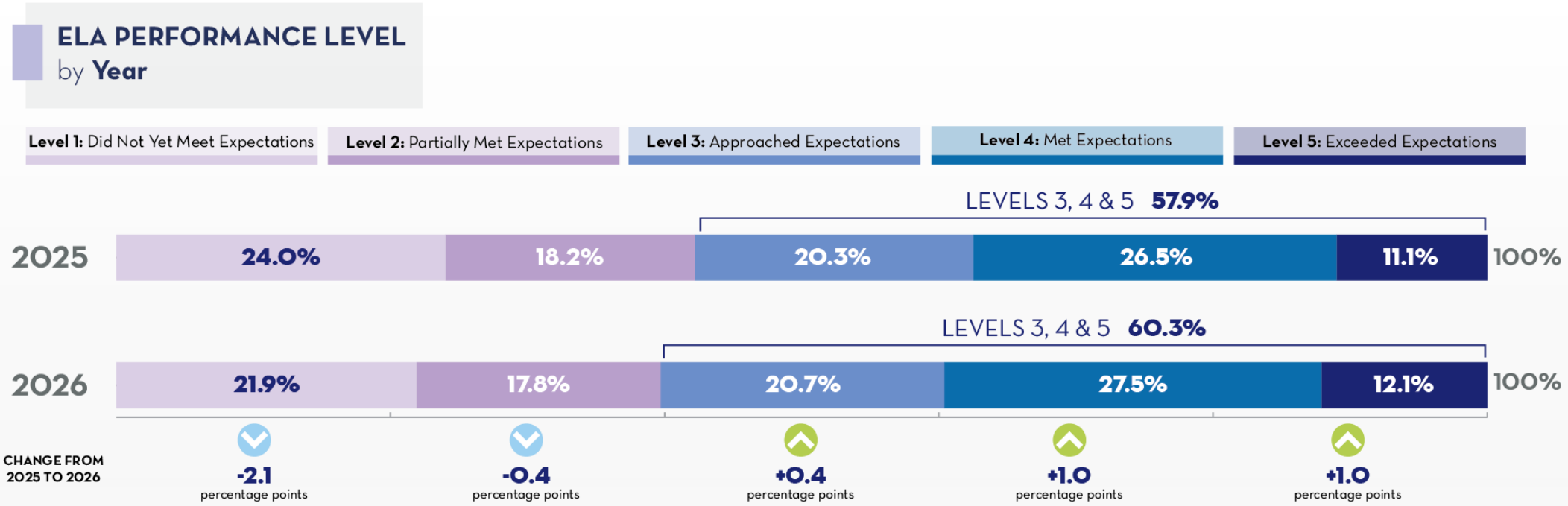
More than half of schools saw a proficiency increase



Schools with proficiency increases of at least 1 percentage point compared with 2025.

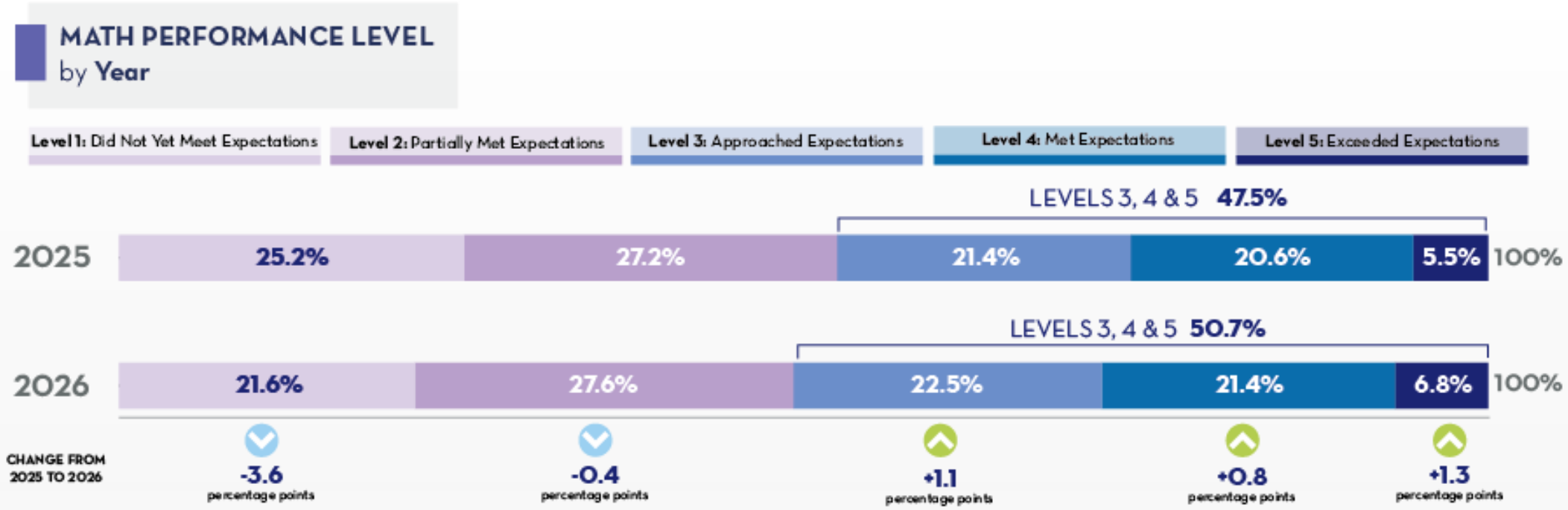
Total number of schools: 217

ELA | More students moving toward proficiency



Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

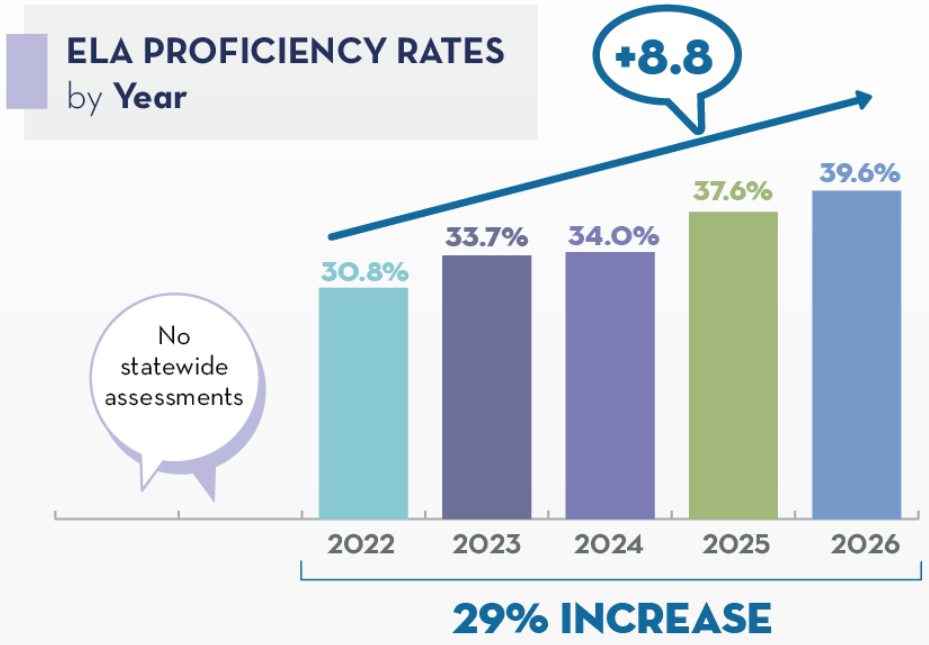
Math | More students moving toward proficiency

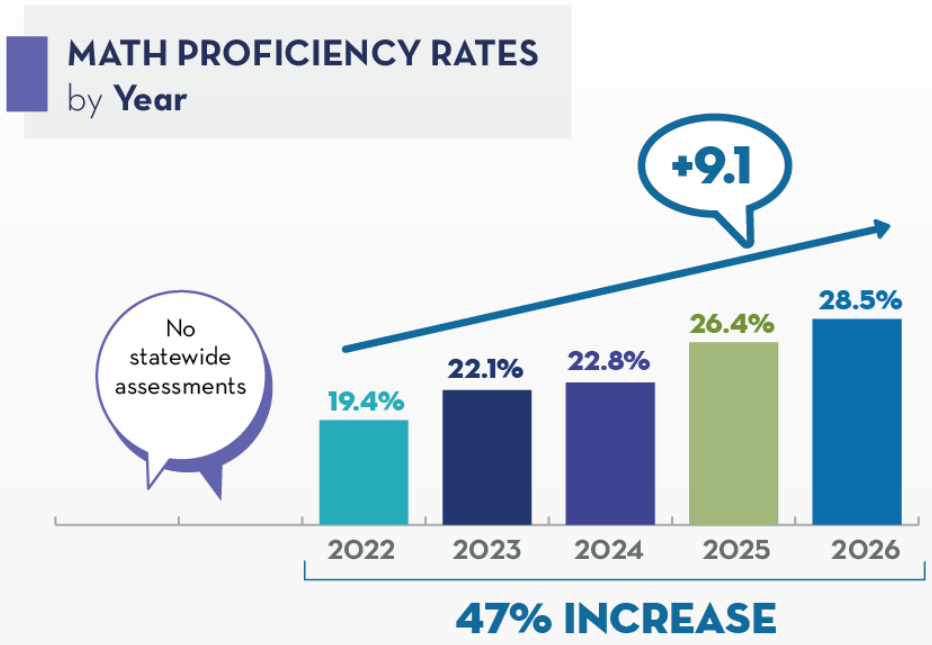


Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Historical Performance Statewide: Four Years of Gains

ELA proficiency has increased by 29 percent and Math proficiency by 47 percent, since 2022.





Historical Performance of Schools: Four Years of Gains

Most schools have increased proficiency since 2022.

ELA
since 2022

74% By at least 1 percentage point

57% By at least 5 percentage points

35% By at least 10 percentage points

MATH
since 2022

78% By at least 1 percentage point

57% By at least 5 percentage points

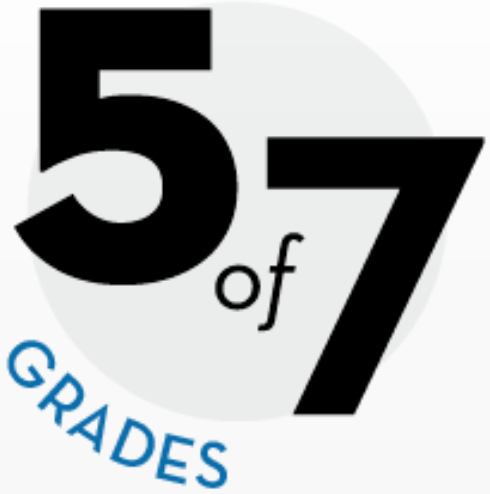
36% By at least 10 percentage points

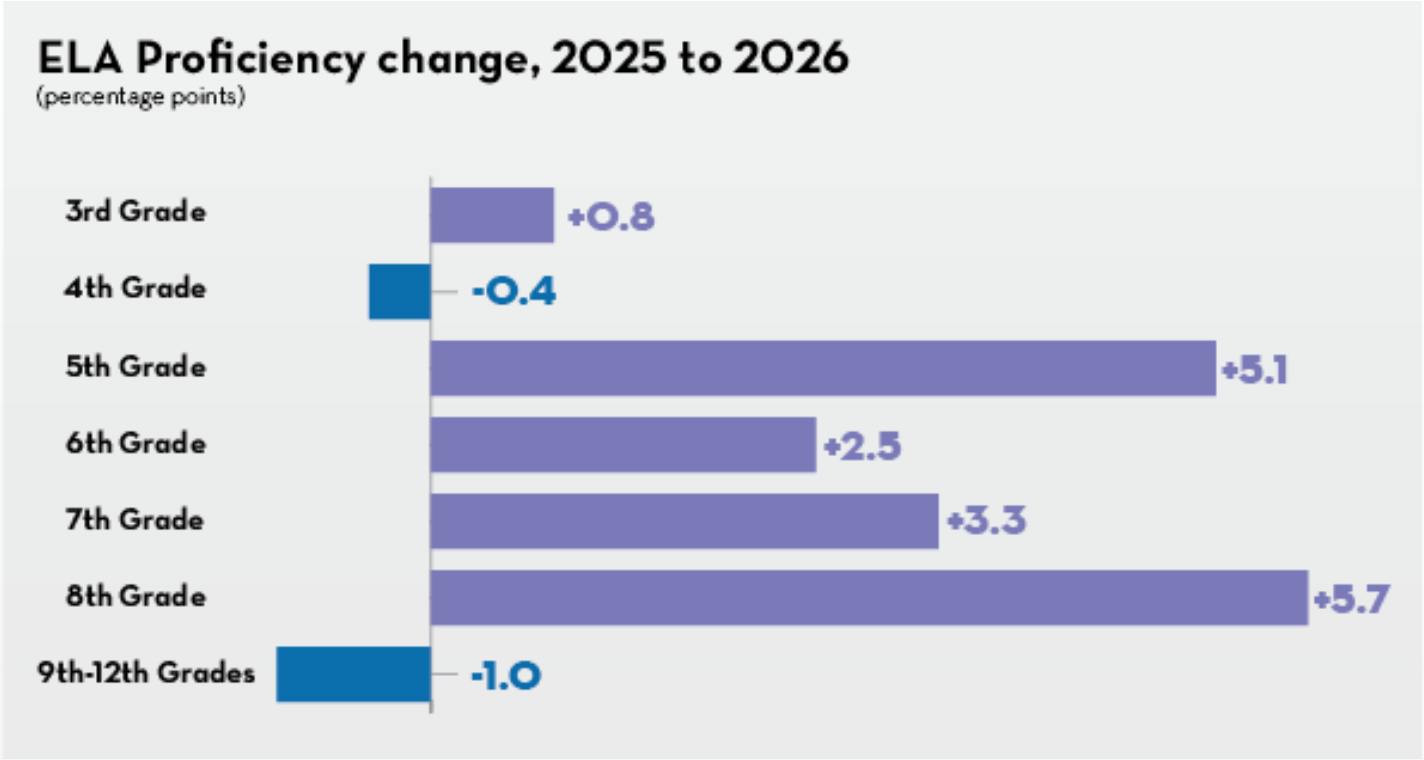
Total number of schools: 212

In Depth: ELA Performance

By Grade Level and Across Student Groups

Grade Level | ELA Proficiency

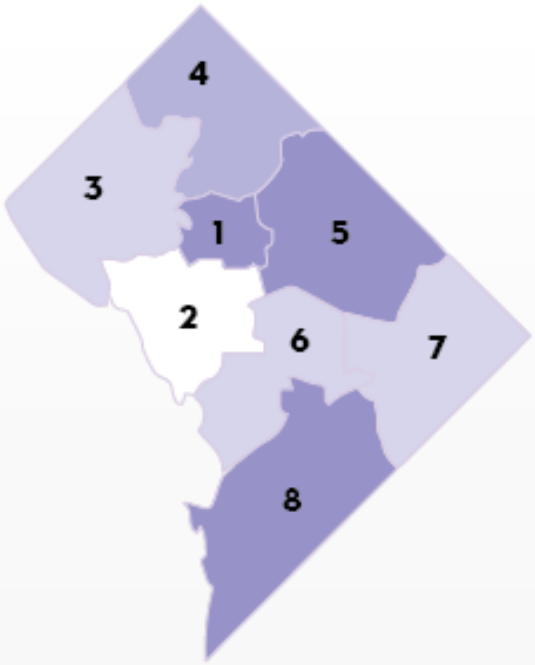




Ward | ELA Proficiency

CHANGE IN ELA PROFICIENCY RATE
From 2025 to 2026, By Ward

7 of 8 WARDS

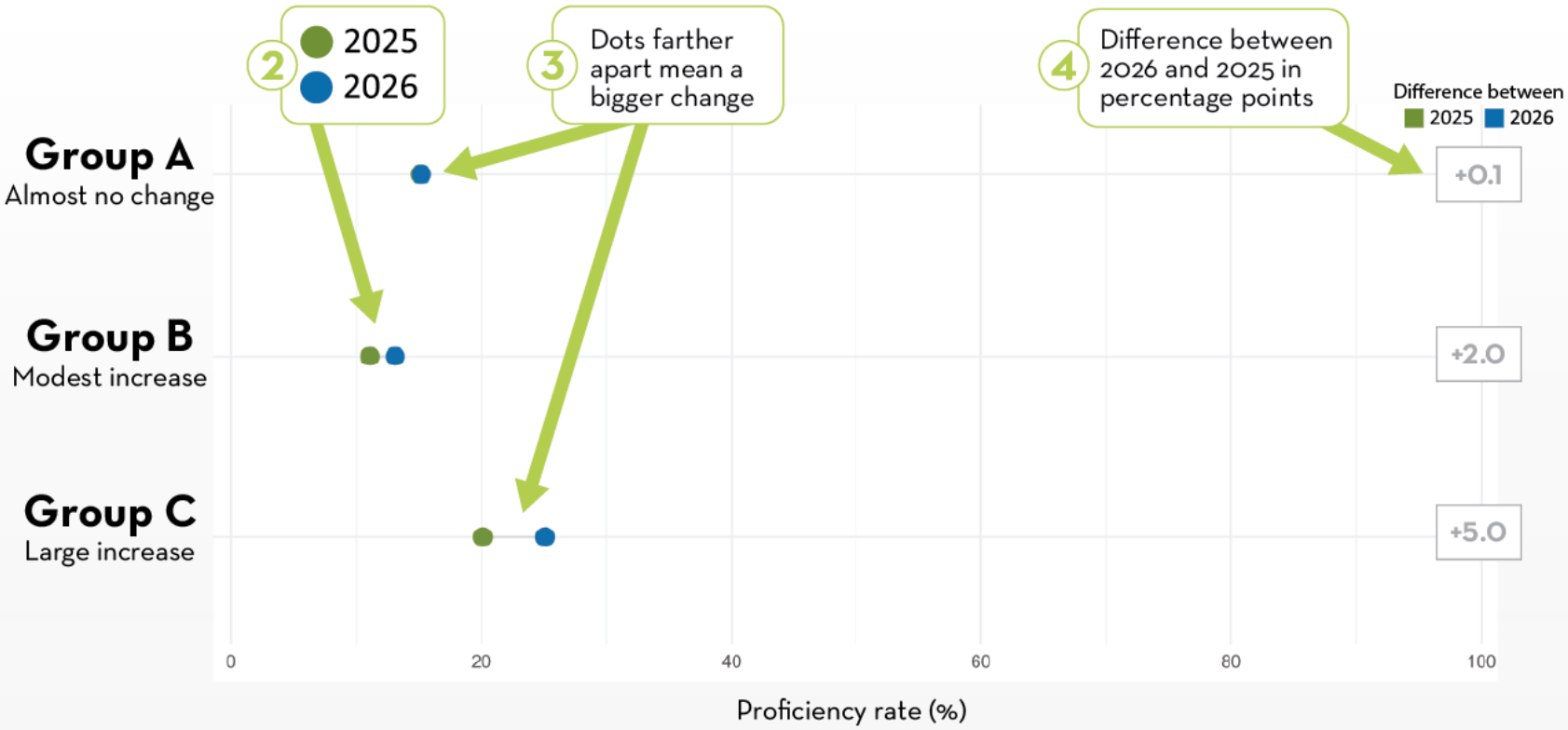


Ward is based on school location

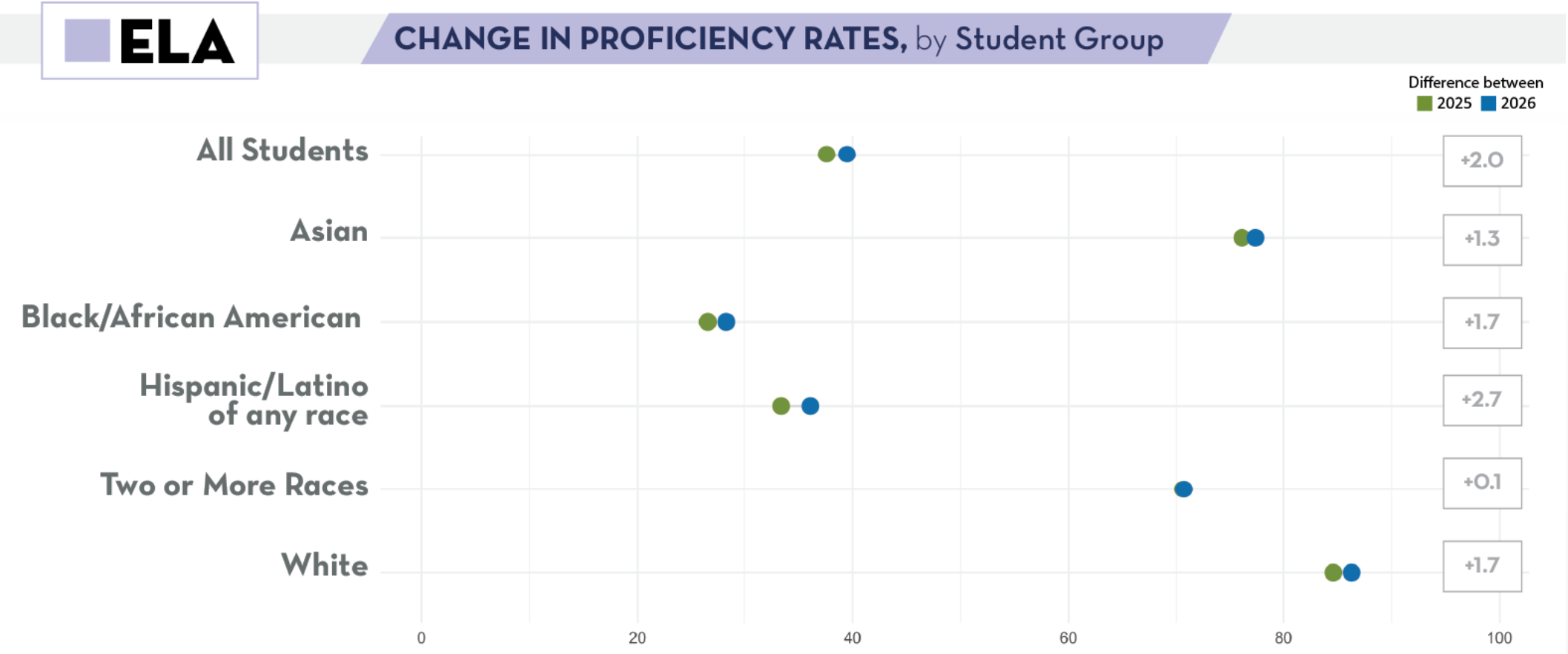
SAMPLE | How to read a dot plot chart

WHAT IT SHOWS
A dot plot compares the change in proficiency rate between 2025 and 2026 for groups.

1. Each row is a group (this is a sample)
2. Data show proficiency rate in each year. 2025 is green 2026 is blue.
3. Horizontal position shows the proficiency rate from 0 to 100% Farther right = higher rate.
4. The column to the right of the chart shows the difference between 2025 and 2026 in percentage points.



Students improved across different groups

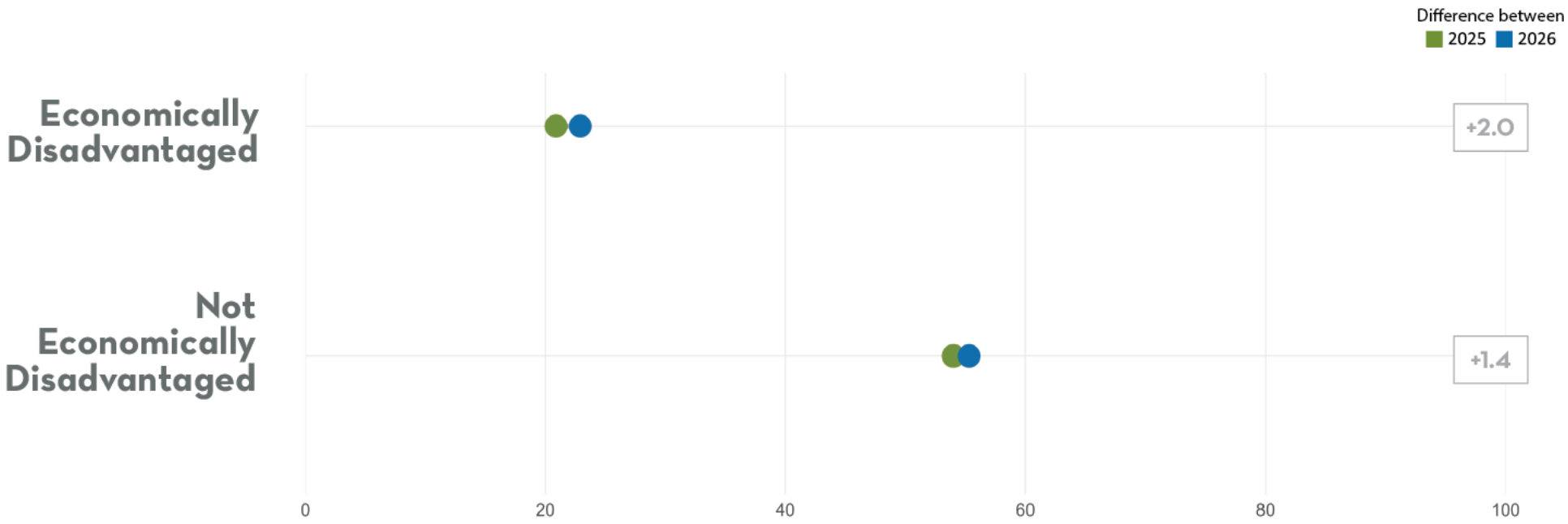


Note: American Indian/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander students excluded because they make up less than 1% of the assessed population

Students identified as economically disadvantaged saw gains

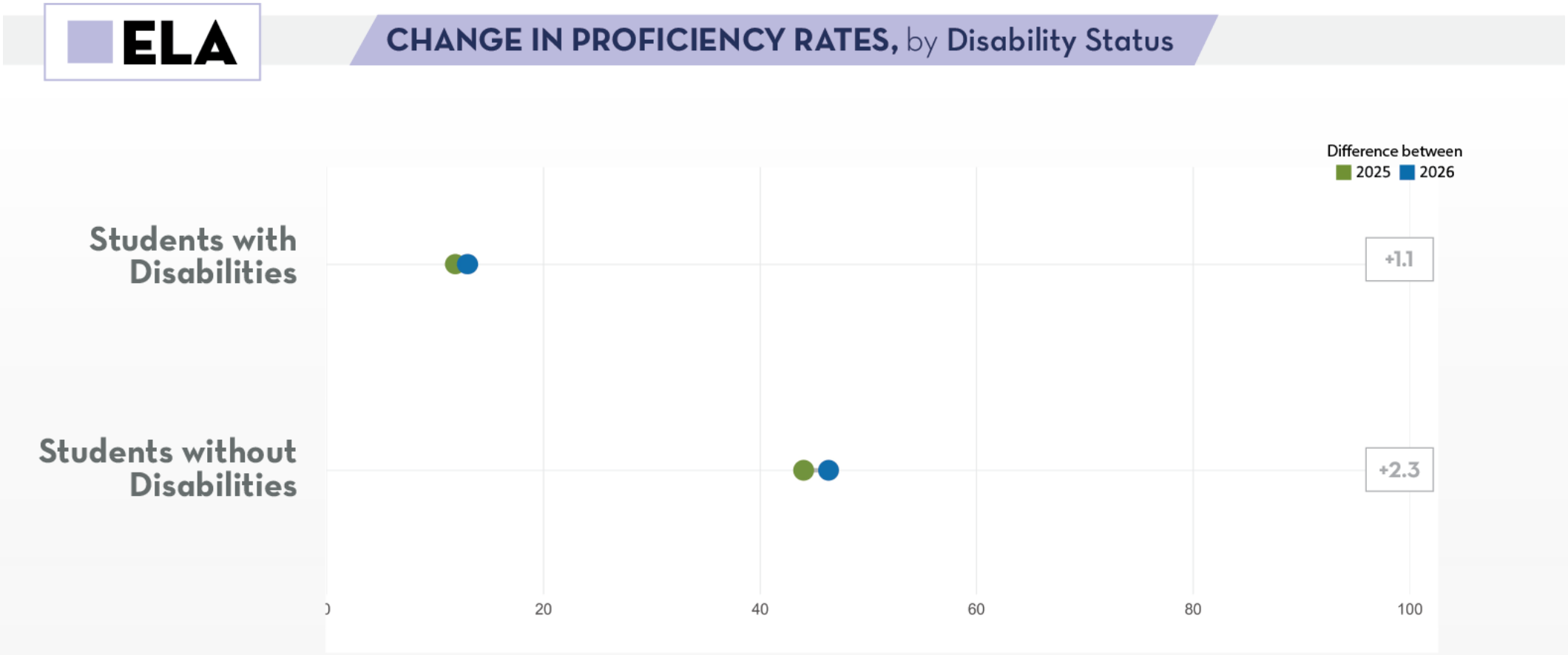
ELA

CHANGE IN PROFICIENCY RATES, by Economic Status



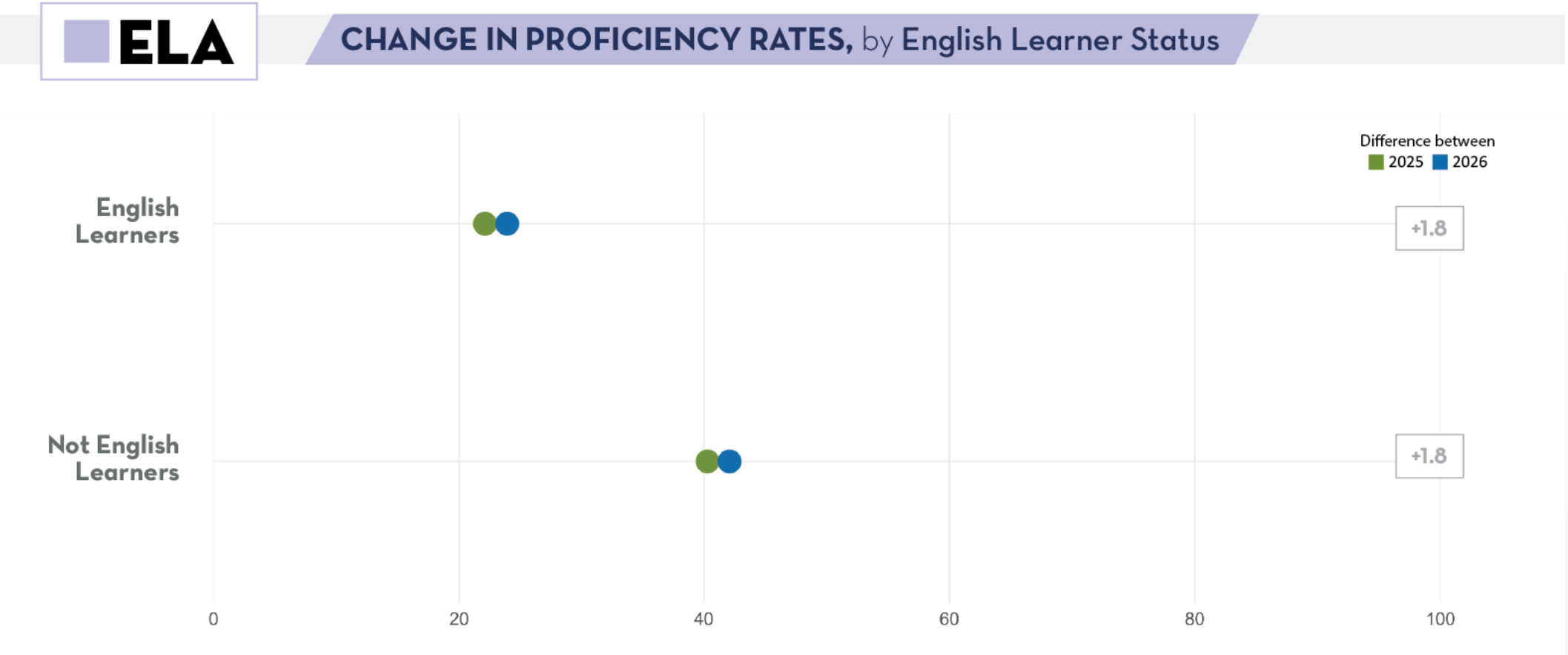
Note: Students are identified as economically disadvantaged if they received TANF or SNAP benefits, experienced homelessness, or were a ward of the state through DC Child and Family Services during the 2025-26 school year.

Students with disabilities increased in proficiency



Note: Students are identified as a student with a disability if they had an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) during the 2025-26 school year.

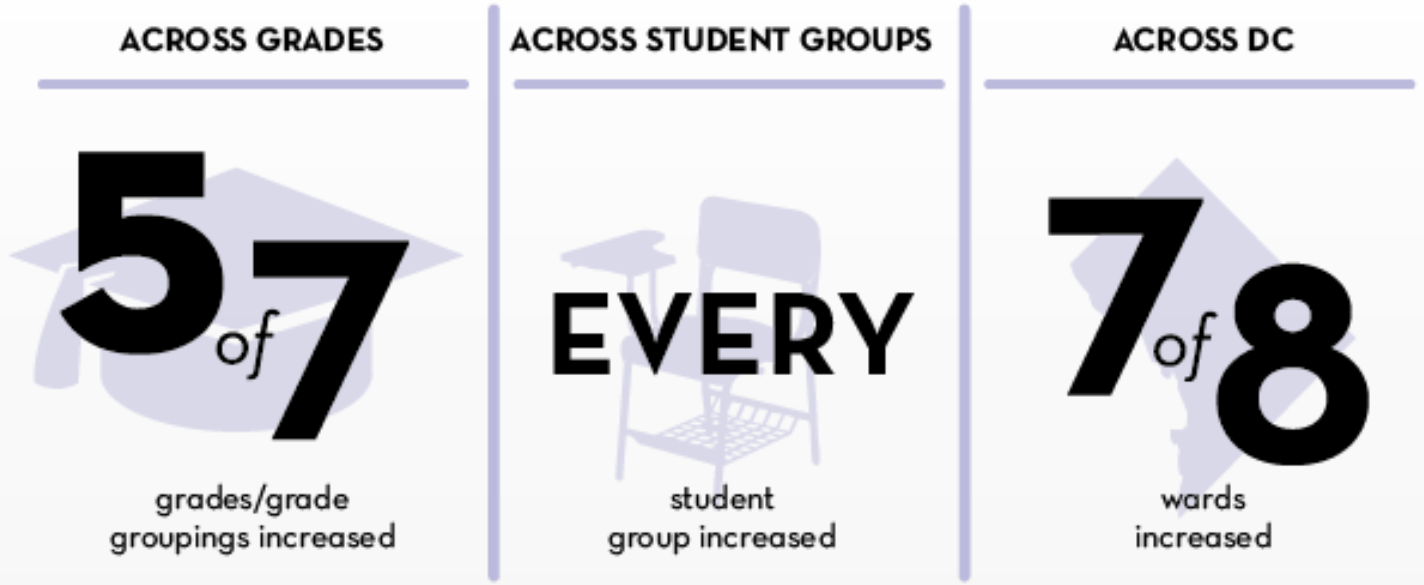
English Learners made proficiency improvements



Note: Students are identified as English learners if they were active English learners during the 2025-26 school year or had exited English learner status following the English language proficiency assessment in spring 2025 or spring 2024.

ELA improved across grades, students, and across DC

- **Increase of +2.0 percentage points from last year**
- **Highest ELA proficiency rate since 2015**
- **4 years of ELA improvements**

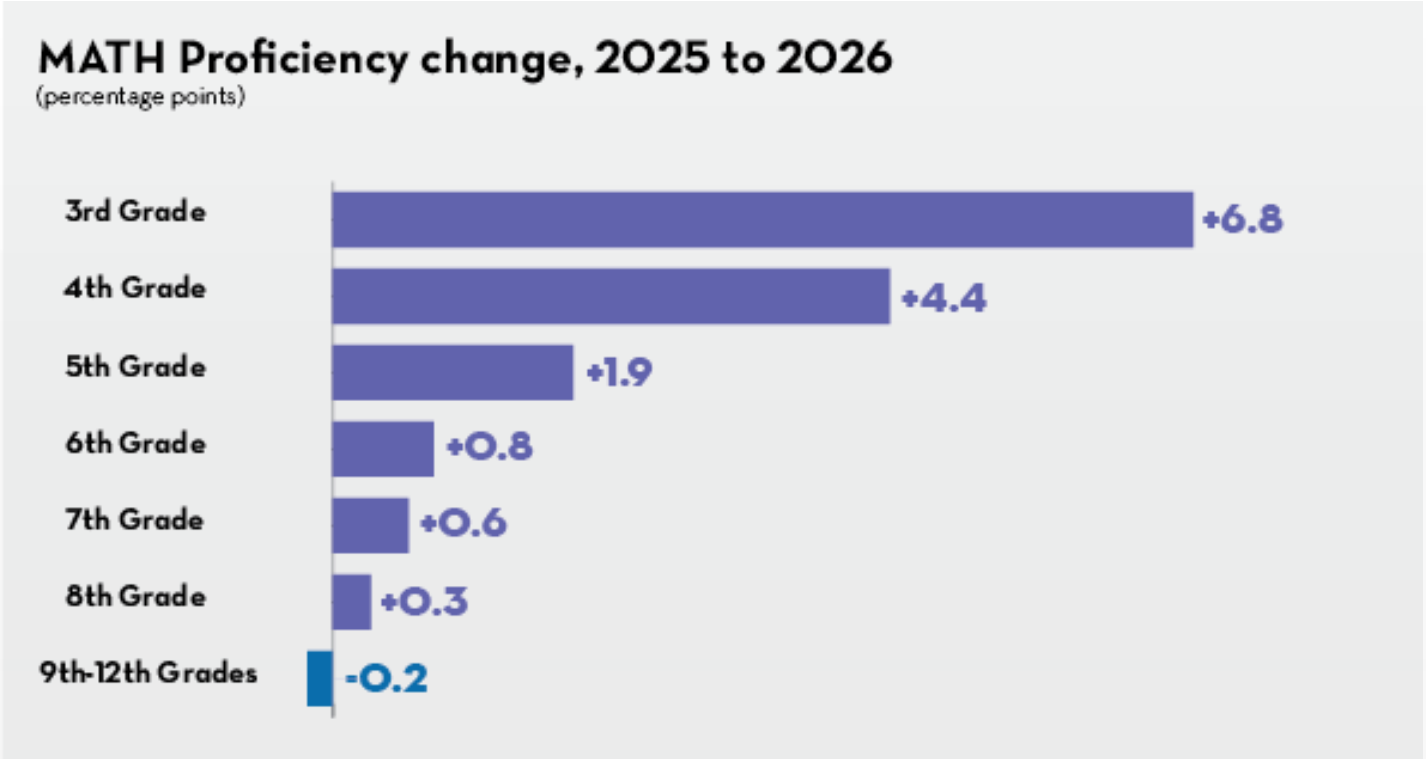


In Depth: Math Performance

By Grade Level and Across Student Groups

Multiple grades had improved math proficiency

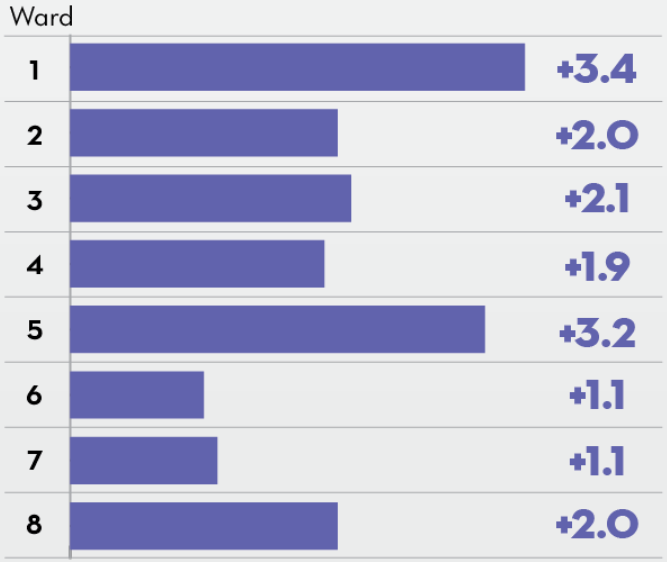
6 of 7 GRADES

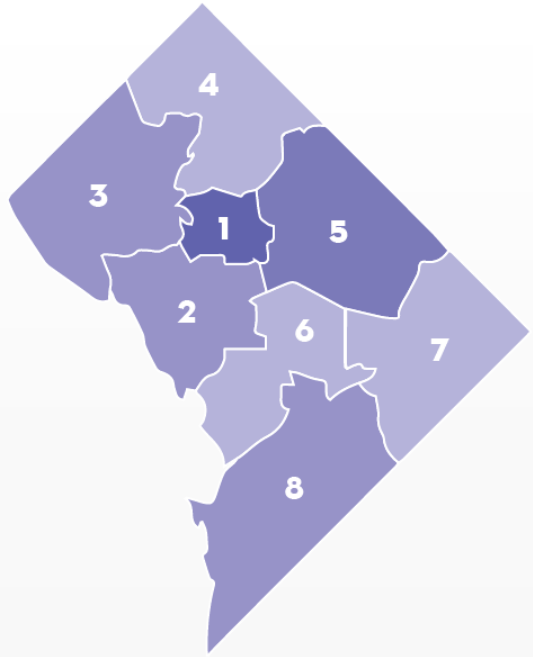


Proficiency increased in every Ward

CHANGE IN MATH PROFICIENCY RATE
From 2025 to 2026, By Ward

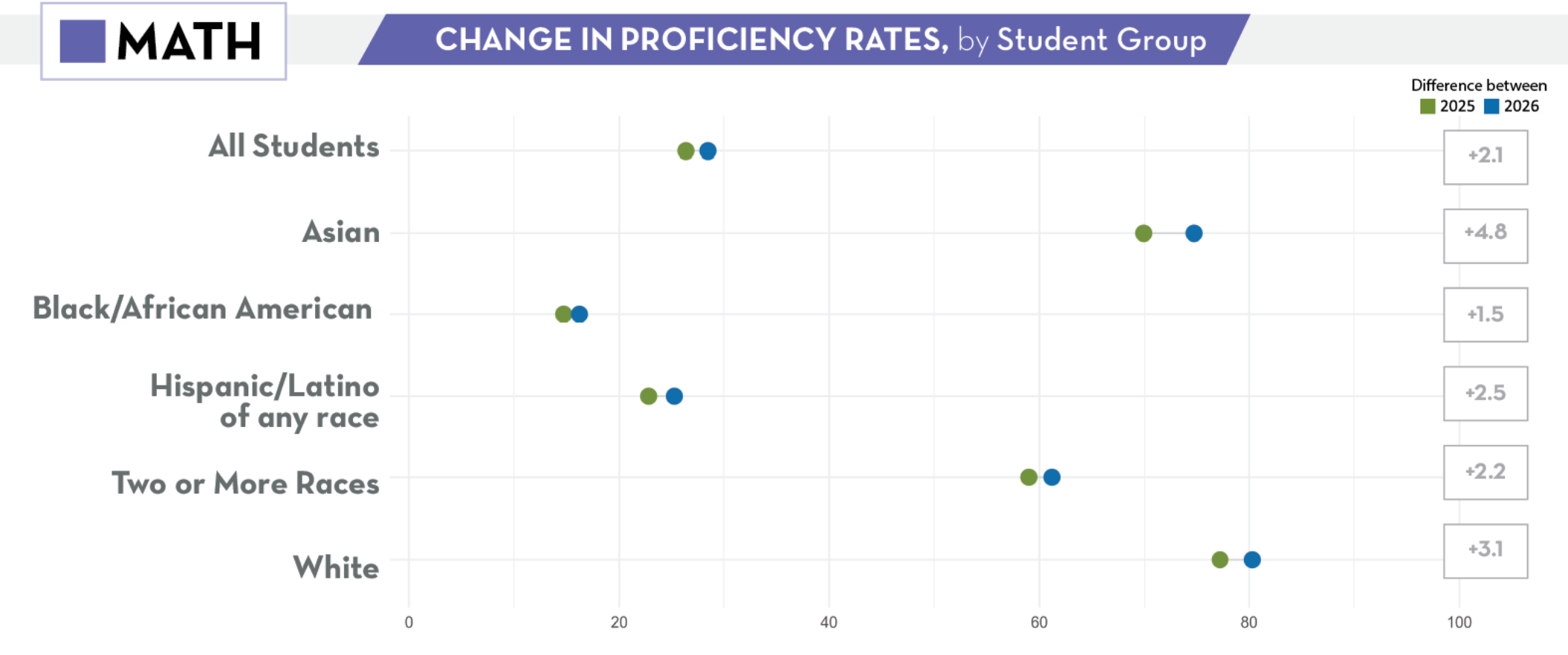
8 of 8 WARDS





Ward is based on school location

Students improved across different groups



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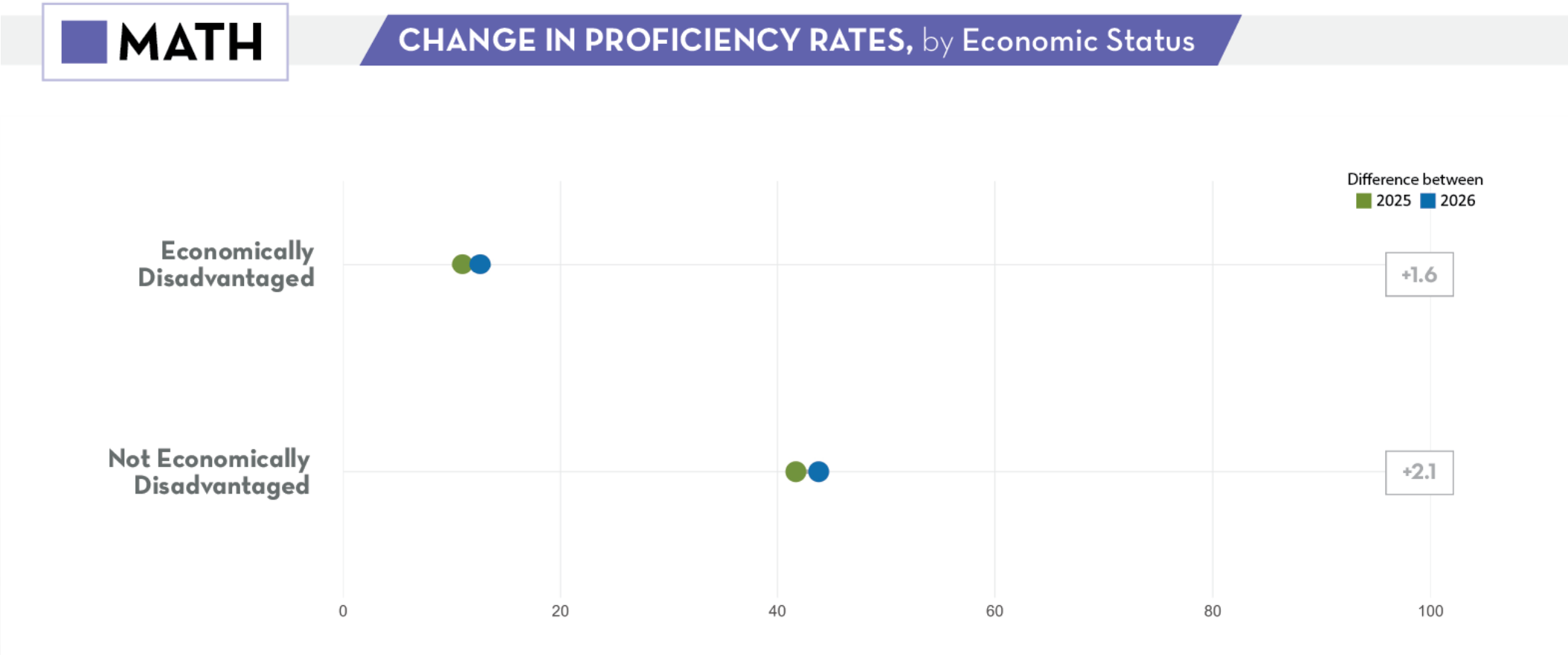

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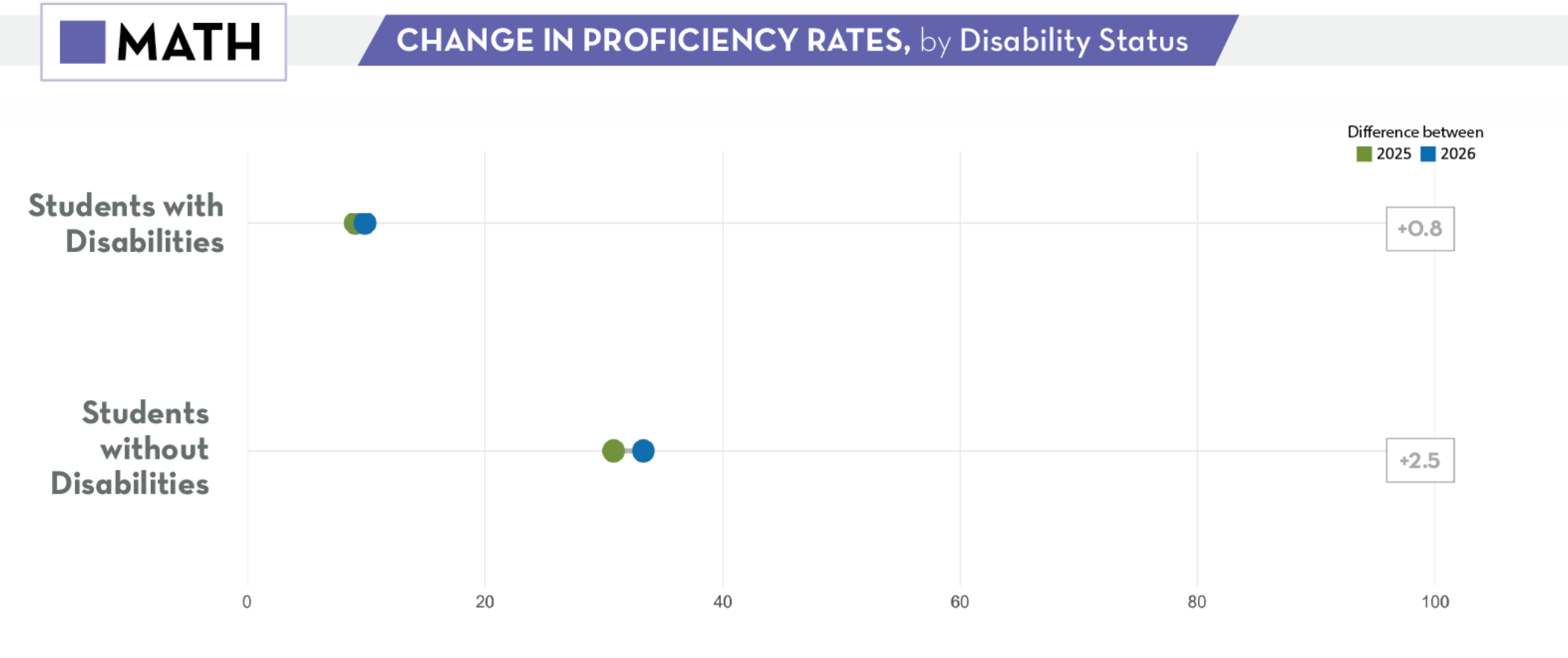

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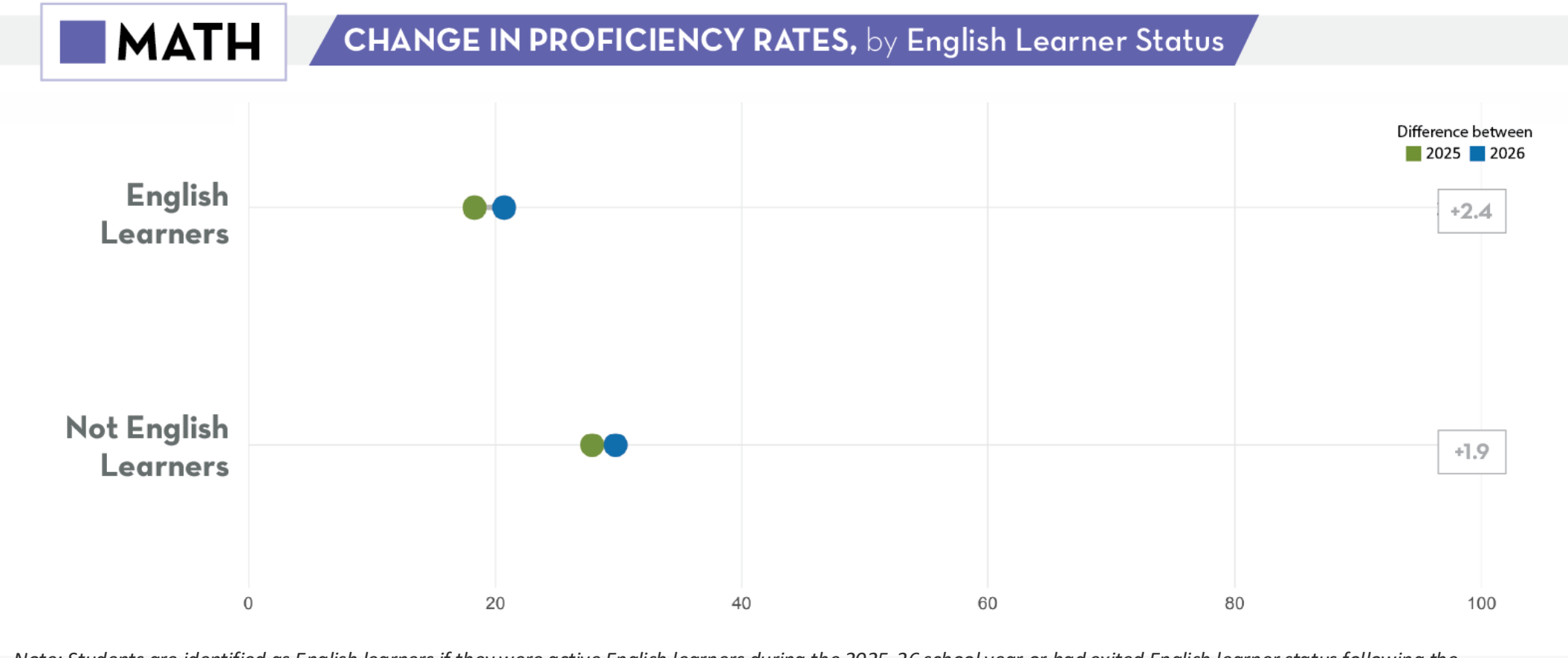

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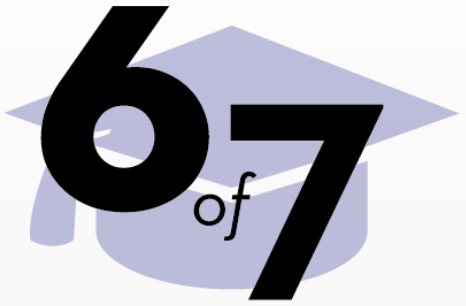
Math improvements continue to gain momentum

- 4 years of math increases
- All student groups improved
- Largest increase in 3rd grade

ACROSS GRADES



grades/grade groupings increased

ACROSS STUDENT GROUPS

student group increased

ACROSS DC

wards increased

Statewide Education Investments

Supporting Learners in ELA and Math

Superintendent Mitchell

High-Impact Tutoring is Promising Tool for ELA and Math

- OSSE served more than 4,700 unique students in 2025-26 in ELA and math
- 69% of students who received HIT were economically disadvantaged compared to 50% city-wide.
  - OSSE supported schools with professional learning throughout the year to reinforce the tutoring programs
- In ELA, our analysis finds that participation in at least 20 hours of high-impact tutoring is associated with more favorable assessment score changes across grade bands.

Advancing Literacy Through Strategic Grant Investment

- More than $66 million for literacy under the CLSD grant since 2020
  - Results under first five years of subgrants awarded to early education programs, middle and high schools (2020-2025)
  - Under the second CLSD grant, $50 million, for FY26-29 to reach 25,000 students
    - Seven early childhood programs
    - 15 LEAs including $5.6 million to DC Public Schools

Math Strategy

We are working collectively as a city to improve math outcomes.

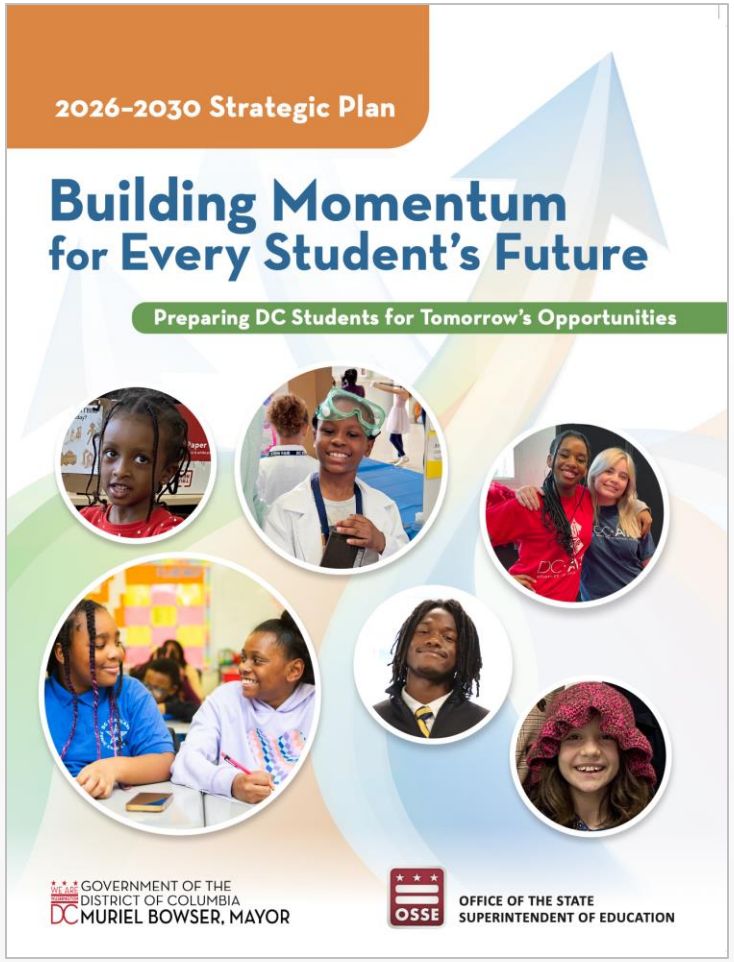
- Math Task Force recommendations
  - Planning citywide math trainings on evidence-based practices for teaching and leaning
  - Instructional materials that are high quality
  - Launching a math professional leaning community in October 2026
  - Exploring integrated math pathways

- Building on the Math Task Force, the Capital Math Collective is a $20 million public-private partnership to improve math outcomes for students across the District
  - Core strategies include teacher training, high-impact tutoring, and family engagement

Reimagining the High School Experience

- We have increased our career and technical education options
- Two Advanced Technical Centers allow students to work toward certifications and college coursework in multiple pathways
- Results:
  - **4-year graduation rate for Class of 2025**: **78.7%**
  - **#1 in the nation in Advanced Placement**:
    - # of exams taken (Student Participation rate)
    - Highest 1-year increase of students scoring 3 or higher

The Road Ahead: OSSE Strategic Plan 2026-2030



LITERACY AND MATH ACHIEVEMENT

POSTSECONDARY SUCCESS

HIGH-QUALITY SPECIAL EDUCATION

HEALTHY AND ENGAGED LEARNERS

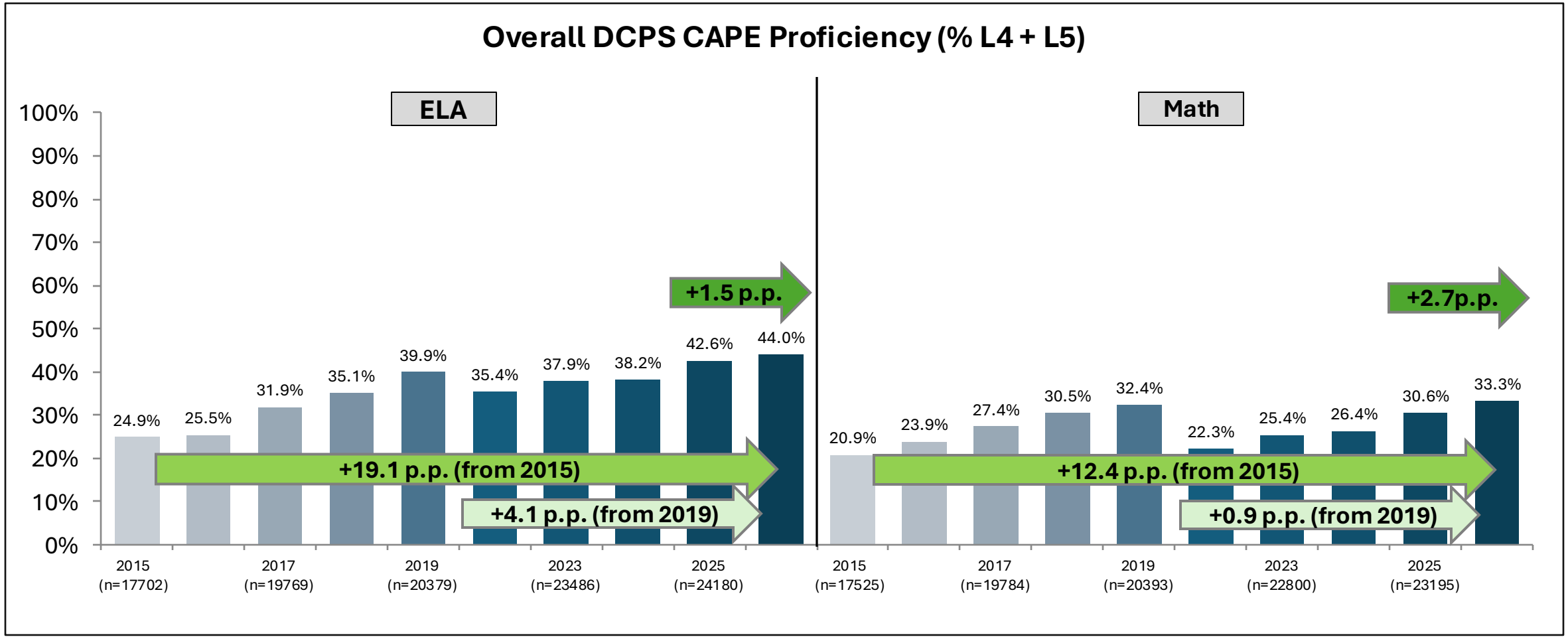
EXCELLENT CORE OPERATIONS

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DC PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Continued Progress in Student Achievement

For 2026, DCPS students demonstrated growth in both ELA and math proficiency since last year, with gains of 1.5 percentage points (PP) in ELA and 2.7 PP in math.



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Note. Algebra I and English I were not required assessments until 2022. Therefore, results from 2022 and later may not be comparable to results from 2019 and before.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

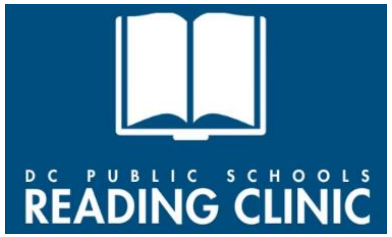
DCPS ELA Highlights

2026 ELA Progress 📚

- In **ELA** 📚: **44%** of DCPS students scored proficient (Levels 4 and 5), 1.5 percentage points (PP) higher than 2025 and 4.1 PP higher than pre-pandemic proficiency in 2019.
- 64 schools improved their ELA proficiency when compared to their 2025 proficiency rate.
  - ⬆️ 4 schools with double-digit ELA gains.

Improving Literacy Across DCPS

- DCPS Reading Clinic
- DCPS Decodables, year five
- Small group literacy instruction
- Support classes ensure dedicated time for data-driven intervention
- Dyslexia screeners to identify reading difficulties and inform intervention planning
- CAPE/Required Curricular Task (RCT) alignment
- 6th and 9th grade Academies

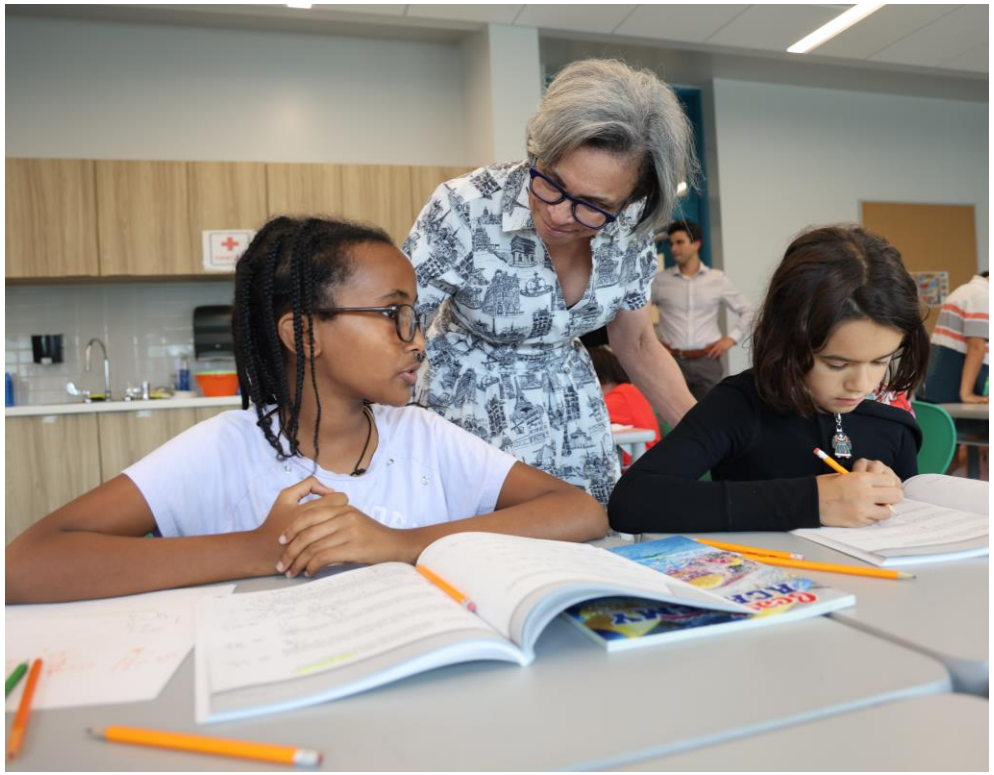


DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DCPS Math Highlights

2026 Math Progress 📊

- **33.3%** of DCPS students scored proficient (Levels 4 and 5), up 2.7 PP from 2025 and 0.9 PP higher than pre-pandemic proficiency in 2019.
- DCPS has now exceeded pre-pandemic proficiency levels in math.
- 86 schools improved their math proficiency compared to their 2025 proficiency rate.
  - 🚀 5 schools with double-digit math gains.



Sustaining DCPS Math Gains

- ECE Building Blocks, year four
- DCPS Math Centers
  - Ballou High School
  - Cardozo Education Campus
- Support classes ensure dedicated time for data-driven intervention
- Professional development partnerships with local universities
- Yearlong Algebra 1 and Geometry
- 6th and 9th Grade Academies
- Family Math Nights

Building Blocks PRE-K MATH

EUREKA MATH®

i-Ready

Illustrative® Mathematics LEARN MATH FOR LIFE

A Path Forward

🎯 High-Impact Tutoring (HIT): Small-group, high-frequency support in core subjects

📊 Weekly Data Meetings: Analyze student work, align instruction to grade-level standards

🔄 Continuous Improvement: Evaluate and refine interventions for maximum impact

📈 Increase gains through targeted supports

🎓 Expand access to rigorous coursework

🏫 Strengthen instructional leadership in every school by ensuring continued learning opportunities for educators

DC PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CAPITAL COMMITMENT

2023-2028

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

SUCCEEDING ACADEMICALLY

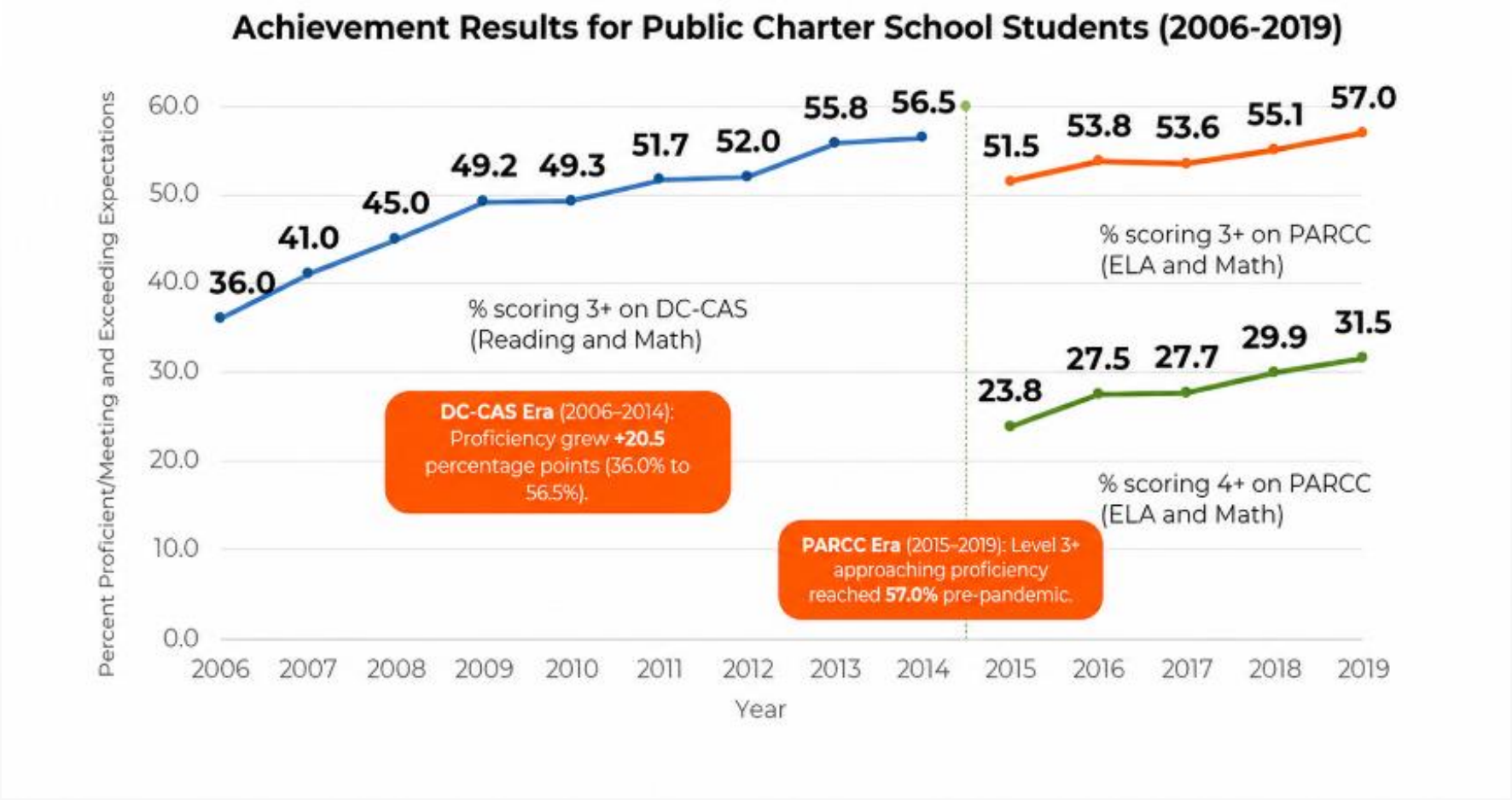
Students thrive across all subjects when they have strong foundations in math and literacy. Through enhanced hands-on learning experiences, real-world inquiry, and knowledge-building—as well as additional resources and supports for instructors—DCPS will ensure every scholar has what they need to excel in the classroom and beyond.

DC PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

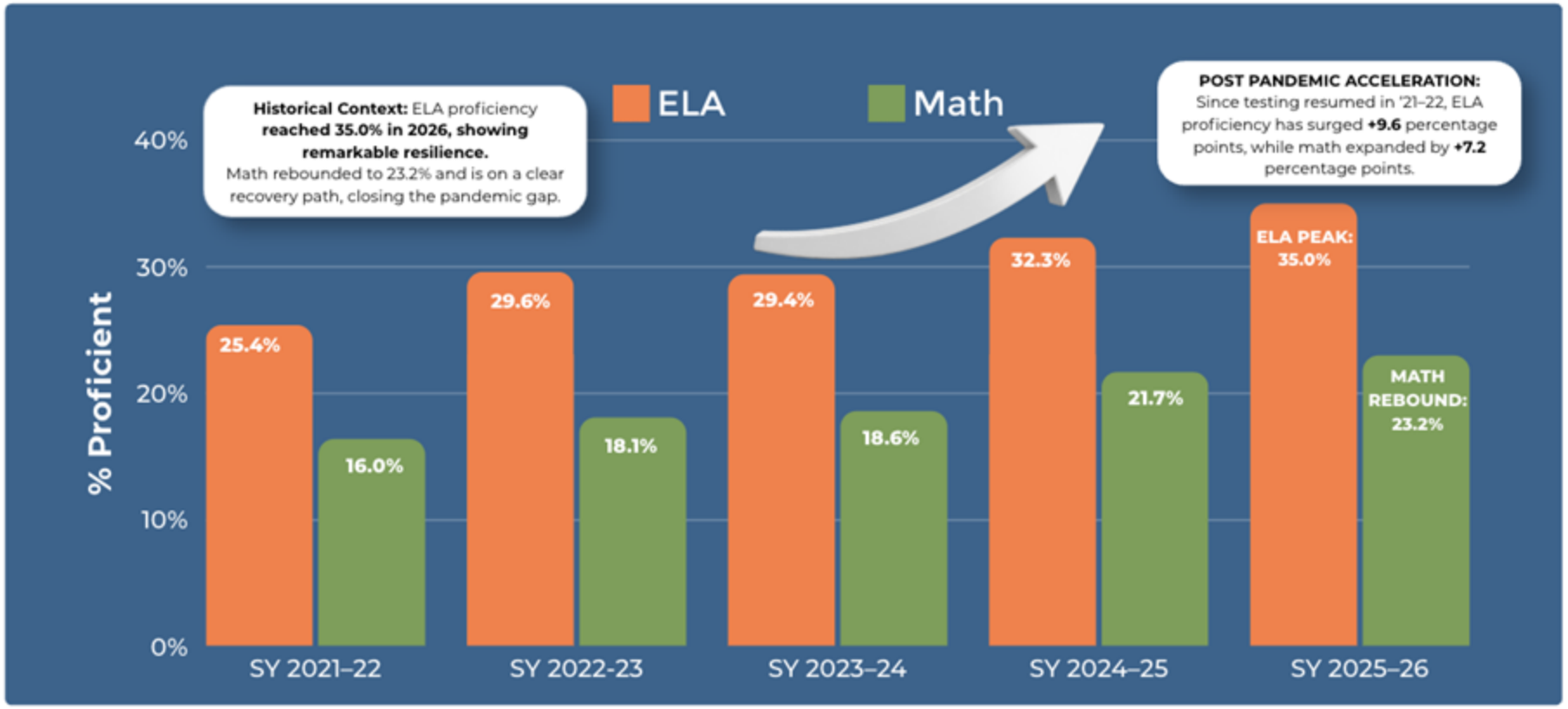
DC PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

Celebrating 30 Years of DC Public Charter Schools

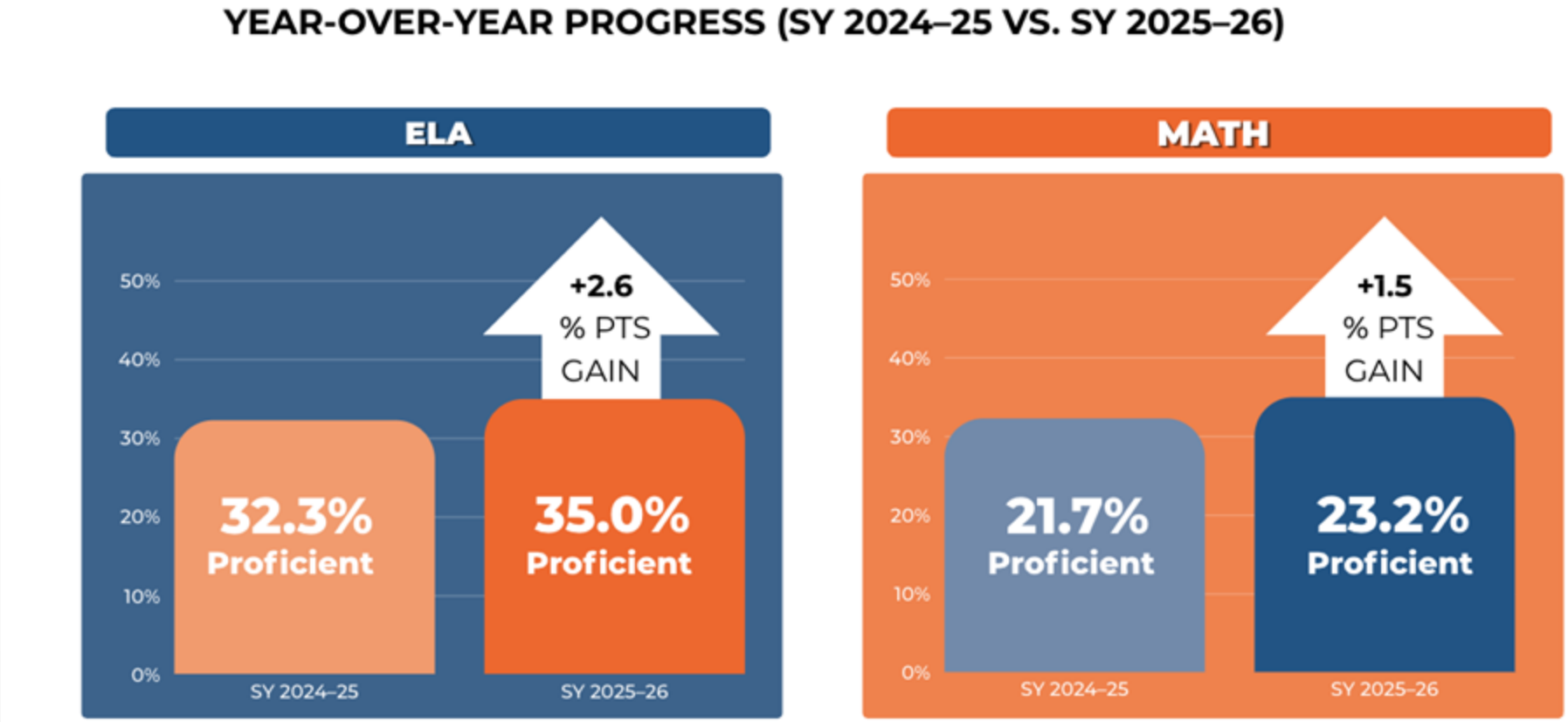
A Long Trajectory of Academic Progress



2026 Public Charter School Results: ELA Proficiency Hits 35.0%, Math Rises to 23.2%

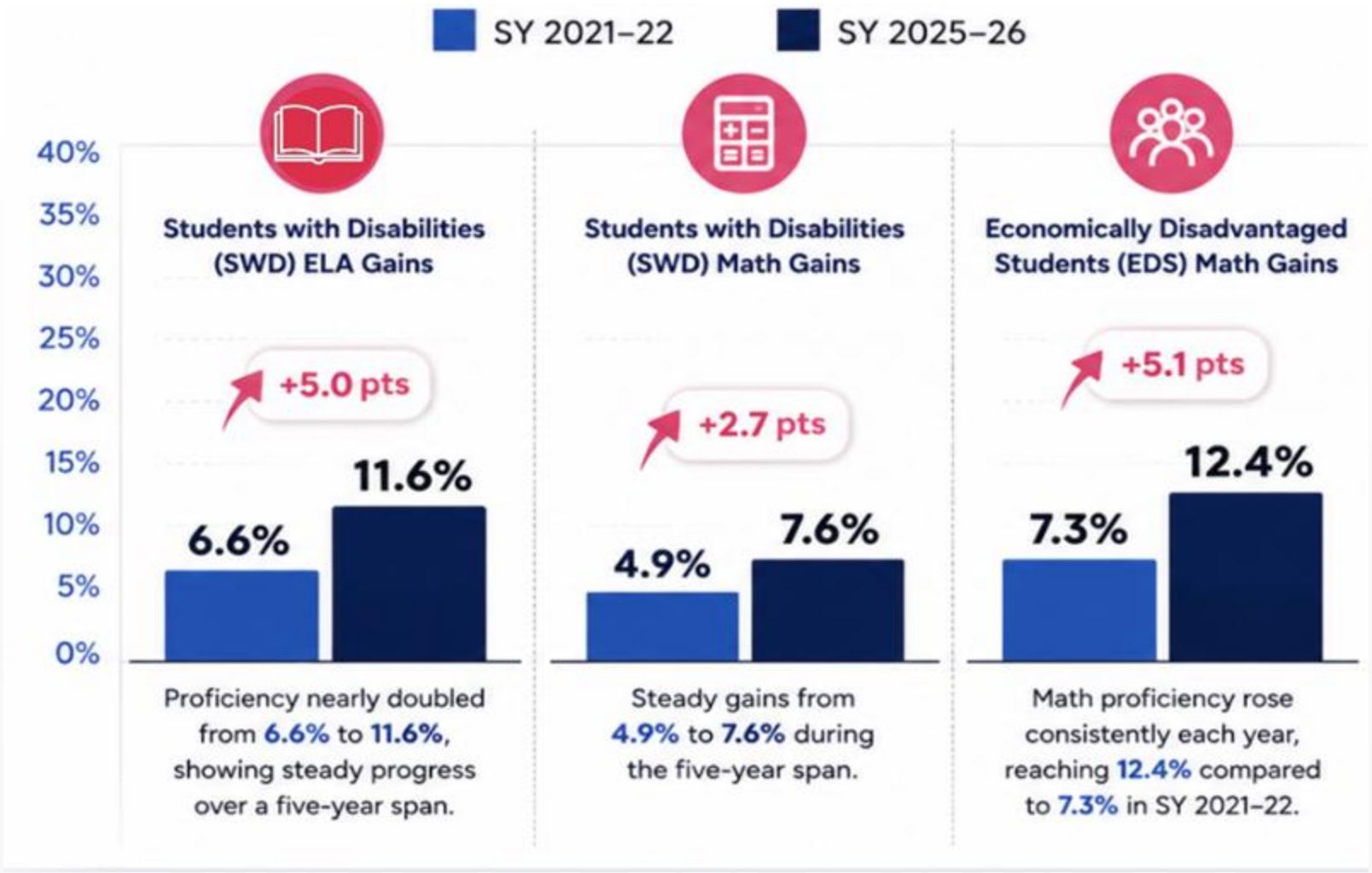


Progress Continues in 2026



Year-over-year gains build on a multi-year upward trajectory in both subjects.

Progress Is Reaching Students Who Need It The Most



How Public Charter Schools Delivered Gains: 4 Core Instructional Drivers

What Schools Said Supported Reading Gains

Strengthening Literacy Supports & Interventions

Protected Schedule Blocks: Guarded non-negotiable daily intervention time within the master schedule, treating intervention as an essential priority.

Tier 2 & Tier 3 Supports: Facilitated targeted small-group planning for Tier 2 students while deploying evidence-based intensive intervention strategies for Tier 3.

Responsive Teacher PD: Delivered small-group professional development designed specifically around real-time classroom trends and student reading data.

What Schools Said Supported Math Gains

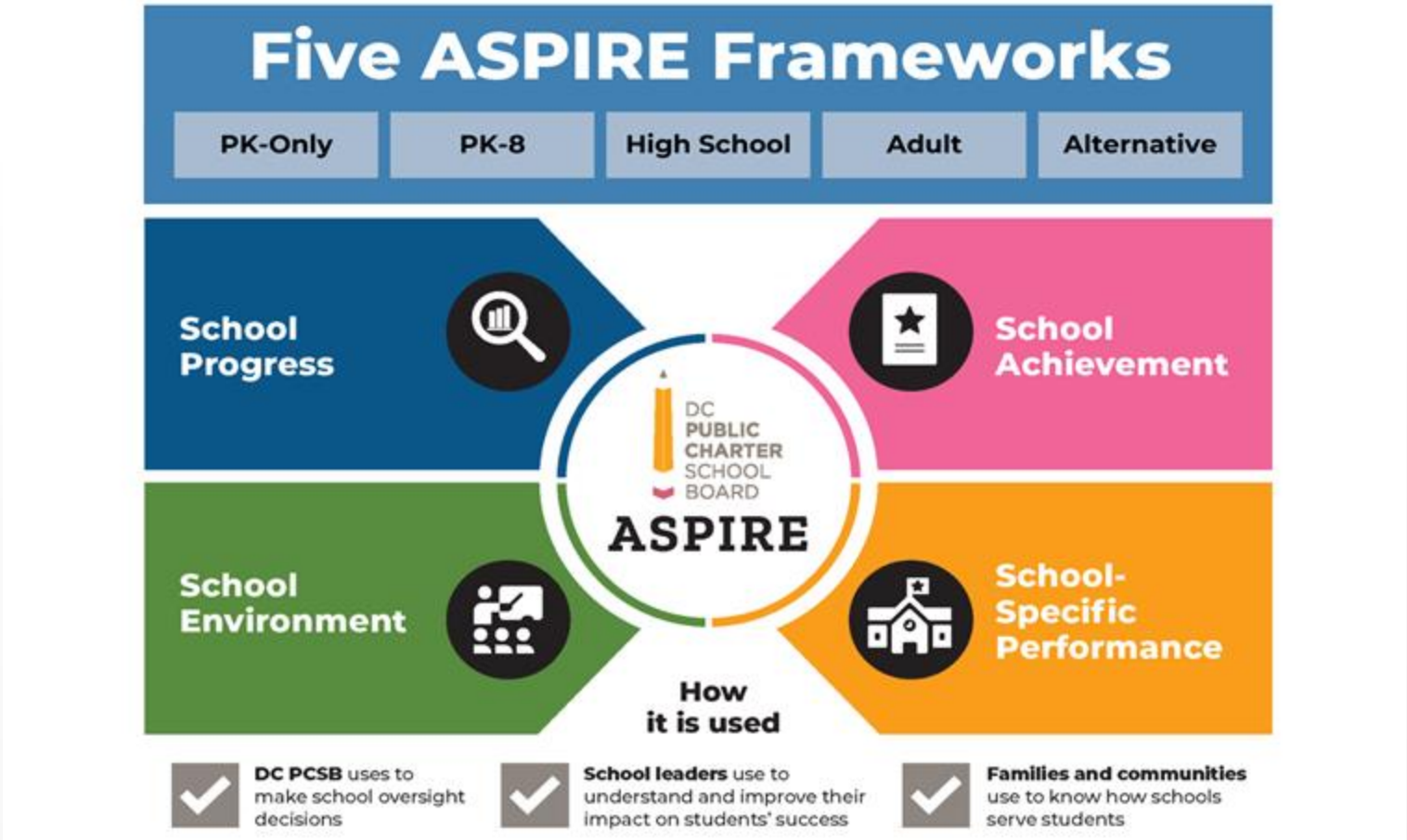
Strengthening Math Rigor & Instructional Practices

Balanced Math Rigor: Equal emphasis on conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and problem-solving.

Modeling & Connections: Coached teachers on explicit connections between current learning and prior standards.

Mathematical Writing: Required students to articulate and explain their mathematical thinking in writing.

Accountability Continues: ASPIRE Results Available January 2027



ASPIRE levels and scores will be available in January 2027.

Closing Summary
2026 Statewide Assessment Results

Superintendent Mitchell

DC is building momentum for every student's future

- **ELA proficiency increased** by 2.0 percentage points and **math proficiency increased** by 2.1 percentage points.

- **DC has had four consecutive years of performance increases**; since 2022, ELA proficiency has increased by 8.7 percentage points and math proficiency has increased by 9.1 percentage points.
- **Academic progress is happening across the city.** In ELA and math, 1 out of 4 schools has seen an increase in proficiency of at least ten percentage points since 2022.
- Schools receiving key investments, such as High Impact Tutoring and school improvement supports are **demonstrating promising improvements**.

Media Q&A

On Camera Briefing