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Trends in Academic Performance in District of Columbia

VERSION 2025.1

This report summarizes district-level educational outcomes using data from the Stanford Education Data Archive (SEDA) from 2009-2025. Figures may contain gaps where source data are unavailable.

For more information, please visit edopportunity.org

Report created by the Educational Opportunity Project at Stanford University in collaboration with the Education Scorecard at Harvard University, using data provided by the National Center for Education Statistics and the Education Data Center. See final page for full information on data sources.



District of Columbia



Average Grade 3-8 Test Scores, 2022-2025, by State Socioeconomic Status

Average test scores in grades 3-8 reflect the set of educational opportunities available to students in the district, including those provided by their families, preschools, neighborhoods, and elementary and middle schools.



Note: each bubble is a U.S. state, with size proportional to state enrollment. State socioeconomic status is a composite measure of average family income, parental education, poverty rate, SNAP eligibility rate, unemployment rate, and female-headed household rate. Test scores are measured in grade levels relative to the 2019 national average.

Average Test Scores and Trends, 2022-2025

ALL STUDENTS

	2022-2025 Average Scores	2022-2025 Trend in Test Scores
District of Columbia	-1.20	0.07
National Average	-0.46	0.00

Test scores are reported in grade level units, relative to the 2019 national average. For example, the first row above reads: "Students in District of Columbia performed 1.20 grade levels below the 2019 national average. Test scores in District of Columbia have been changing at a rate of +0.07 grade levels/year since 2022."

STUDENT SUBGROUPS

	2022-2025 Average Scores	2022-2025 Trend in Test Scores
White	3.79	0.02
Black	-2.32	-0.09
Hispanic	-1.17	-0.15
Asian	2.97	0.08
Poor	-2.78	-0.15
Non-Poor	0.75	-0.01
Female	-0.92	-0.05
Male	-1.41	-0.01



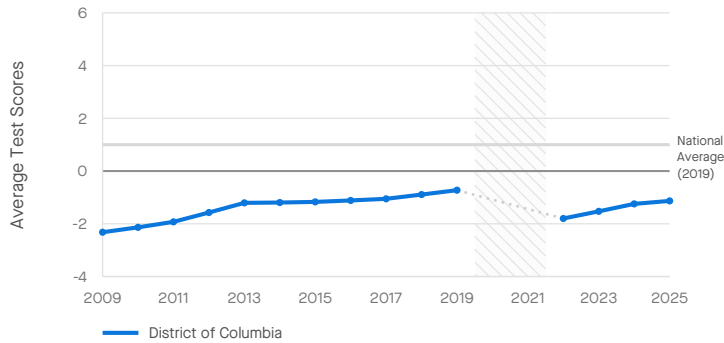
District of Columbia



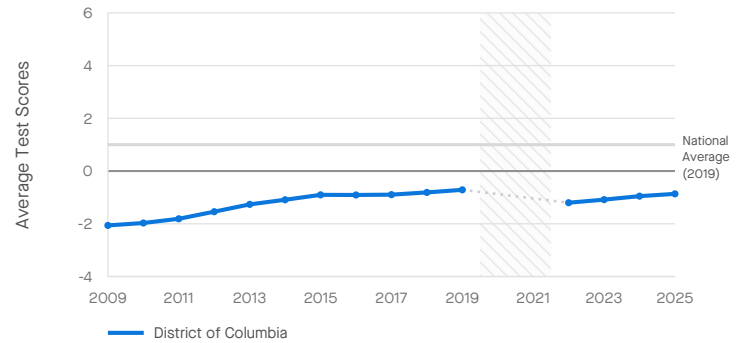
Trends in Average Grade 3-8 Test Scores, 2009-2025, by Subject and Student Subgroup

Trends in test scores may reflect changes in school quality, changes in demographics, and/or changes in out-of-school educational opportunities.

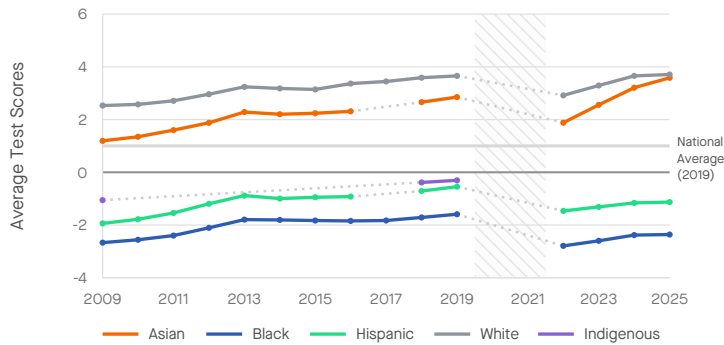
Trend in Math Scores (All Students)



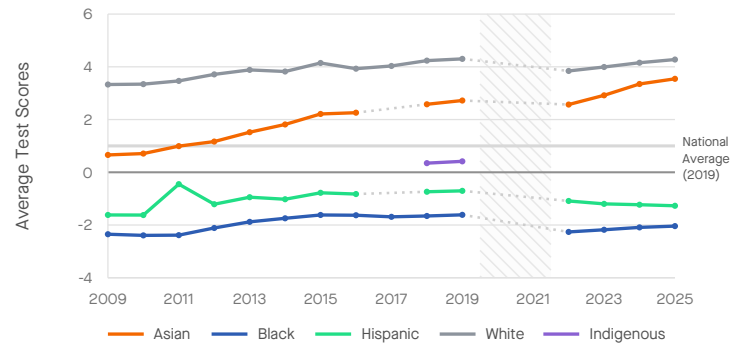
Trend in Reading Scores (All Students)



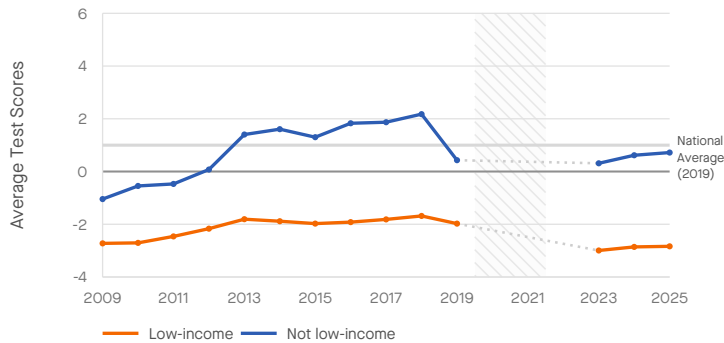
Trend in Math Scores, by Student Race/Ethnicity



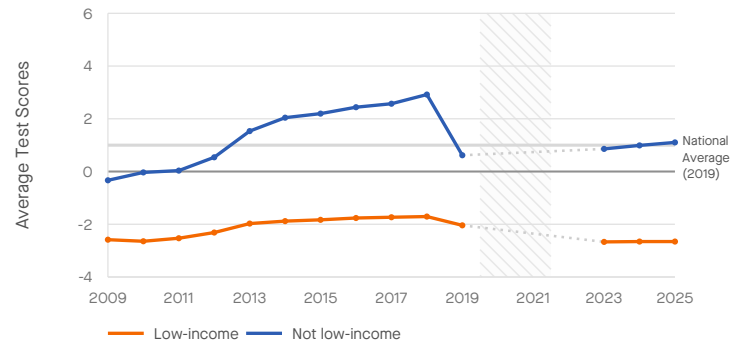
Trend in Reading Scores, by Student Race/Ethnicity



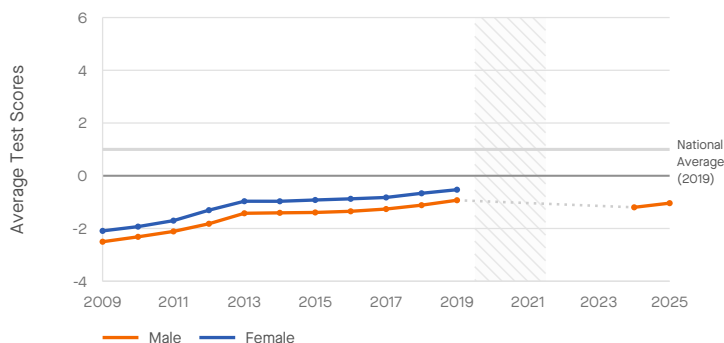
Trend in Math Scores, by Student Income Level



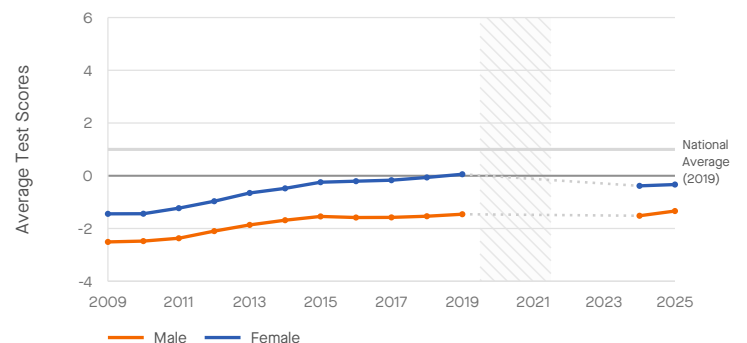
Trend in Reading Scores, by Student Income Level



Trend in Math Scores, by Student Gender



Trend in Reading Scores, by Student Gender

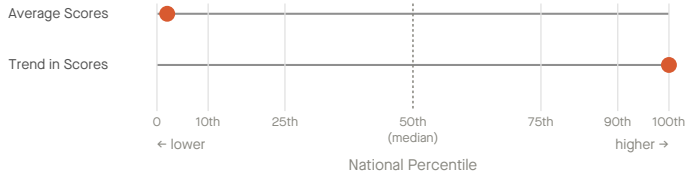


District of Columbia



Academic Performance Rankings, 2022-2025, Relative to Other States in the U.S.

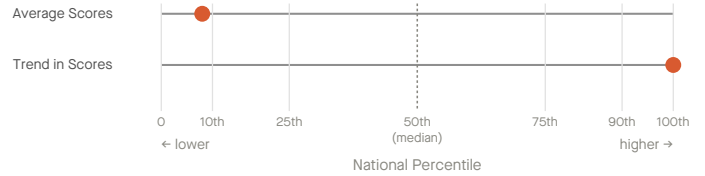
Math Ranks



	Average	Trend
District of Columbia	50 / 51 (2nd pct)	1 / 51 (100th pct)

District of Columbia ranked higher than 2% of states nationwide in average math performance during the 2022-25 school years (50th of 51 states with available data).

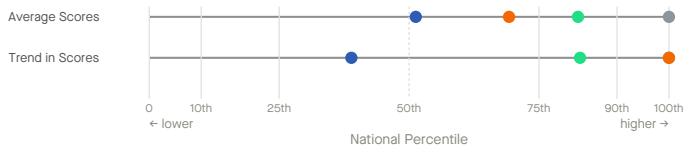
Reading Ranks



	Average	Trend
District of Columbia	47 / 51 (8th pct)	1 / 51 (100th pct)

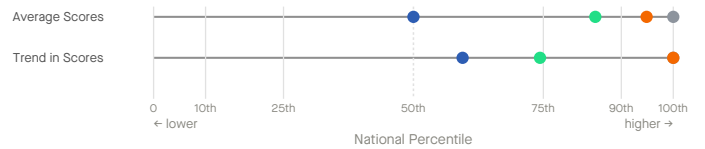
District of Columbia ranked higher than 8% of states nationwide in average reading performance during the 2022-25 school years (47th of 51 states with available data).

Math Ranks by Race/Ethnicity



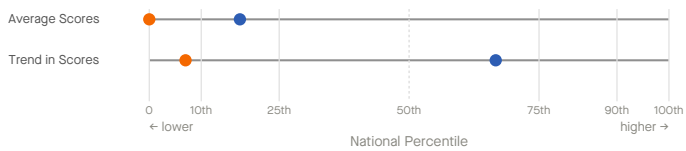
	Average	Trend
White	1 / 41 (100th pct)	1 / 41 (100th pct)
Black	20 / 40 (51st pct)	23 / 37 (39th pct)
Hispanic	8 / 41 (83rd pct)	8 / 39 (83rd pct)
Asian	13 / 40 (69th pct)	1 / 36 (100th pct)

Reading Ranks by Race/Ethnicity



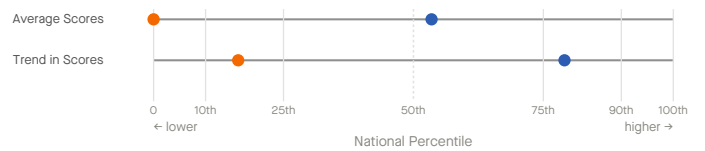
	Average	Trend
White	1 / 41 (100th pct)	1 / 41 (100th pct)
Black	21 / 41 (50th pct)	16 / 38 (59th pct)
Hispanic	7 / 41 (85th pct)	11 / 40 (74th pct)
Asian	3 / 40 (95th pct)	1 / 36 (100th pct)

Math Ranks by Income



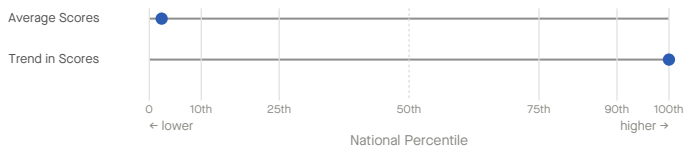
	Average	Trend
Low-income	44 / 44 (0th pct)	41 / 44 (7th pct)
Not low-income	37 / 44 (17th pct)	15 / 43 (67th pct)

Reading Ranks by Income



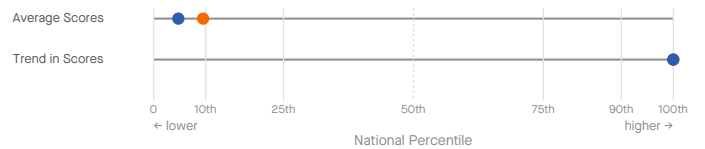
	Average	Trend
Low-income	44 / 44 (0th pct)	37 / 44 (16th pct)
Not low-income	21 / 44 (53rd pct)	10 / 44 (79th pct)

Math Ranks by Gender



	Average	Trend
Male	42 / 43 (2nd pct)	1 / 43 (100th pct)

Reading Ranks by Gender



	Average	Trend
Female	39 / 43 (10th pct)	1 / 43 (100th pct)
Male	41 / 43 (5th pct)	1 / 43 (100th pct)

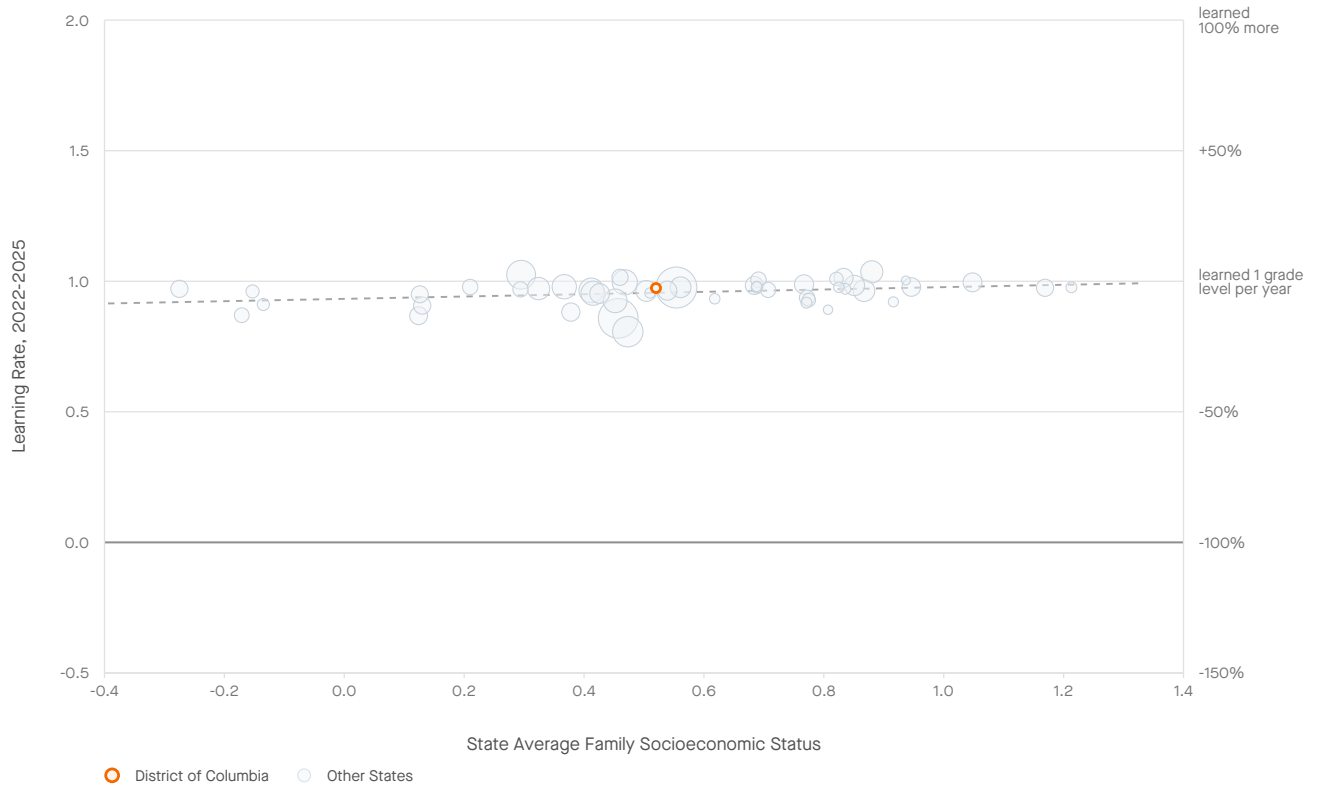


District of Columbia



Average Grades 3-8 Learning Rates, 2022-2025, by State Socioeconomic Status

Learning rates measure how much students' scores improve as they progress from grade to grade. They are a better indicator of school quality than average test scores, which are influenced by a range of experiences outside of school.



Note: each bubble is a U.S. state, with size proportional to state enrollment. State socioeconomic status is a composite measure of average family income, parental education, poverty rate, SNAP eligibility rate, unemployment rate, and female-headed household rate.

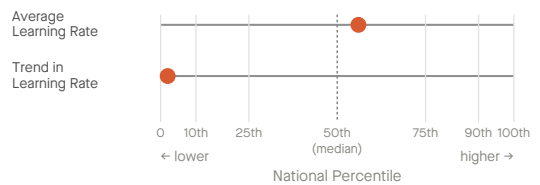
Learning Rates and Trends, 2022-2025

ALL STUDENTS

	2022-2025 Learning Rate	2022-2025 Trend in Learning Rates
District of Columbia	0.97	-0.04
National Average	0.96	-0.01

Learning rates are measured in grade levels of skills gained per year and are averaged over math and reading. The national average learning rate is 1.0. For example, the first row above reads: "Students in District of Columbia learned an average of 0.97 grade levels/year during 2022-2025. Learning rates in District of Columbia have been changing at a rate of -0.04 grade levels/year since 2022."

Learning Rate Rankings



	Average	Trend
● District of Columbia	23 / 51 (56th pct)	50 / 51 (2nd pct)

District of Columbia ranked higher than 56% of states nationwide in average learning rates during the 2022-25 school years (23rd of 51 states with available data).



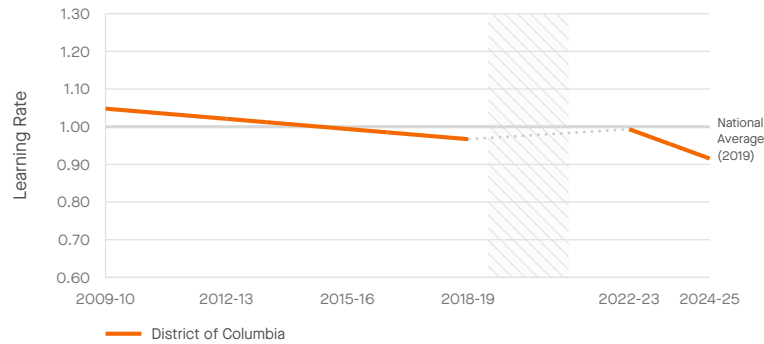
District of Columbia



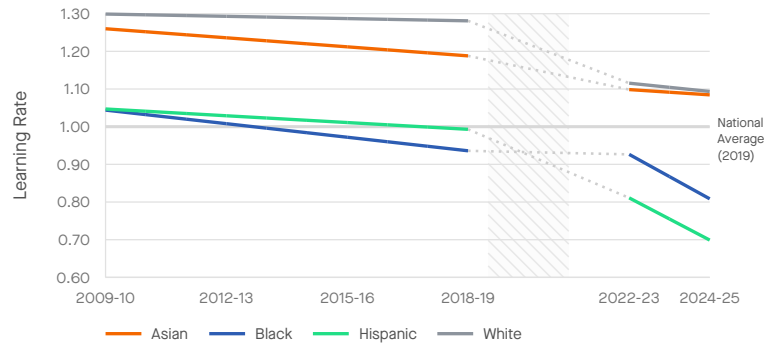
Trends in Average Grade 3-8 Learning Rates, 2009-2025, by Student Subgroup

Trends in learning rates measure how annual learning rates change over time. They are a better indicator of changes in school quality than trends in average test scores, which are influenced by a range of experiences outside of school.

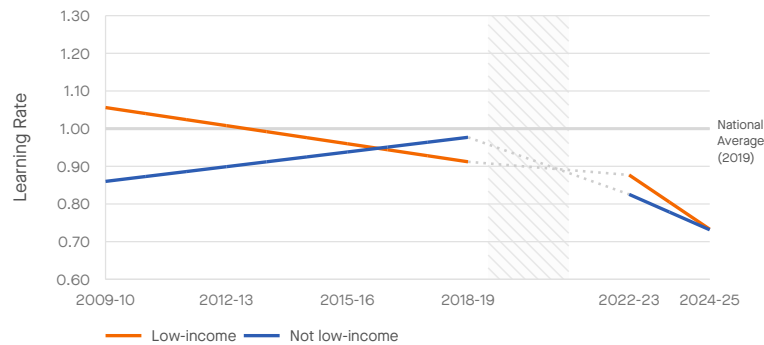
Trend in Learning Rates (All Students)



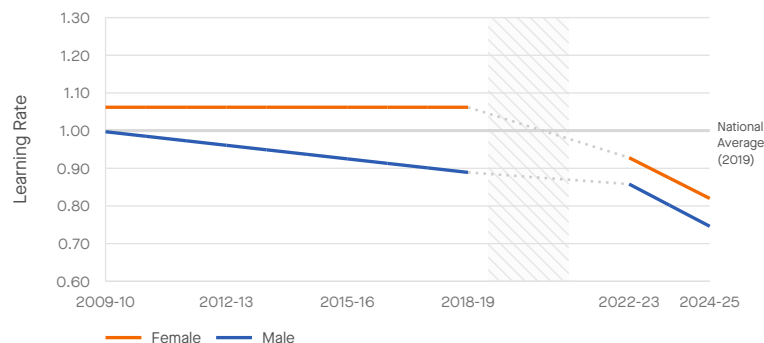
Trend in Learning Rates, by Student Race/Ethnicity



Trend in Learning Rates, by Student Income Level



Trend in Learning Rates, by Student Gender



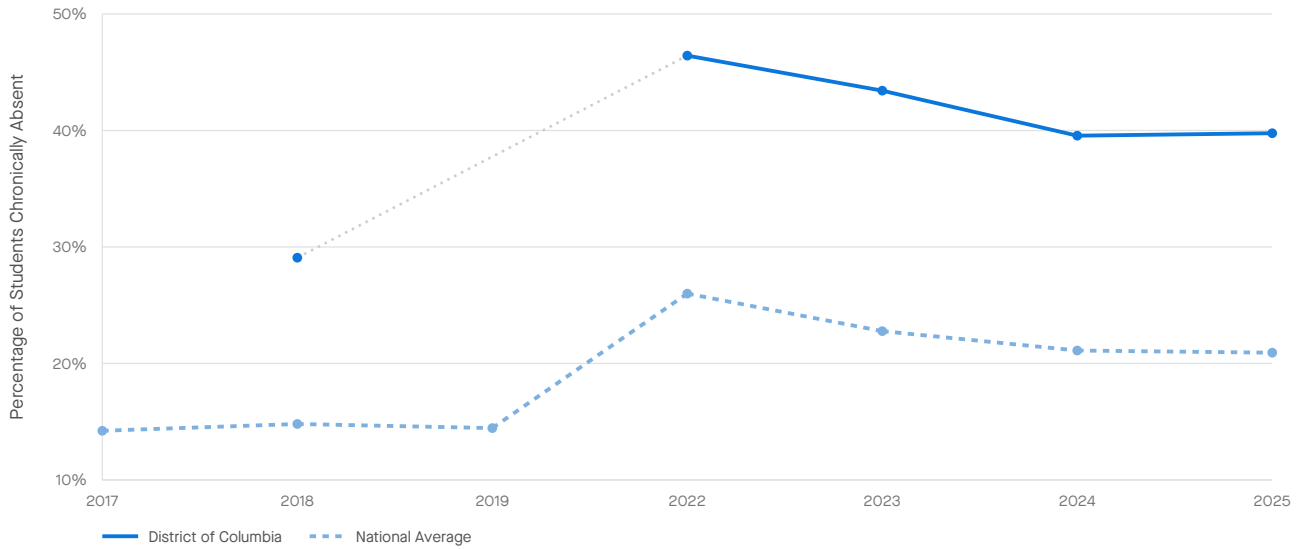
District of Columbia



Trends in Chronic Absenteeism

Chronic absenteeism rates indicate the proportion of students who were absent 10% or more of the school year.

Trends in Chronic Absenteeism



Trends in Chronic Absenteeism

ALL STUDENTS

	2017-2019 Avg. Chronic Absenteeism	2022-2025 Avg. Chronic Absenteeism	Change
District of Columbia	29.1	42.3	-0.0
National Average	14.5	22.7	N/A

Absenteeism data courtesy of [Nat Malkus, American Enterprise Institute](#).





Notes & Acknowledgments

This report summarizes academic performance in District of Columbia from 2008-09 through 2024-25, using data from the Stanford Education Data Archive (SEDA). SEDA is a national database of U.S. academic performance produced by the Educational Opportunity Project at Stanford University. The SEDA data are based on the standardized accountability tests in math and reading language arts (RLA) administered by each state to all public-school students in grades 3-8.

The raw test score data used to construct the SEDA 2022-2025 estimates here were graciously provided to us by Emily Oster and Clare Halloran at the [Education Data Center](#). The raw test score data used to construct the SEDA 2009-2019 estimates are available through the [EDFacts](#) data system at the U.S. Department of Education, and were provided to us by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Detailed NAEP data used to harmonize test scores across states was provided by NCES and the National Assessment Governing Board. Chronic absenteeism data were provided by [Nat Malkus at the American Enterprise Institute](#). Funding to construct and analyze SEDA was provided by the Gates Foundation. Funding for the Education Scorecard was provided by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Joyce Foundation, Kenneth C. Griffin and Citadel Catalyst. The findings and opinions expressed in our research and reported here are those of the authors alone; they do not represent the views of any of the above organizations.

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