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Trends in Academic Performance in New Jersey

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.

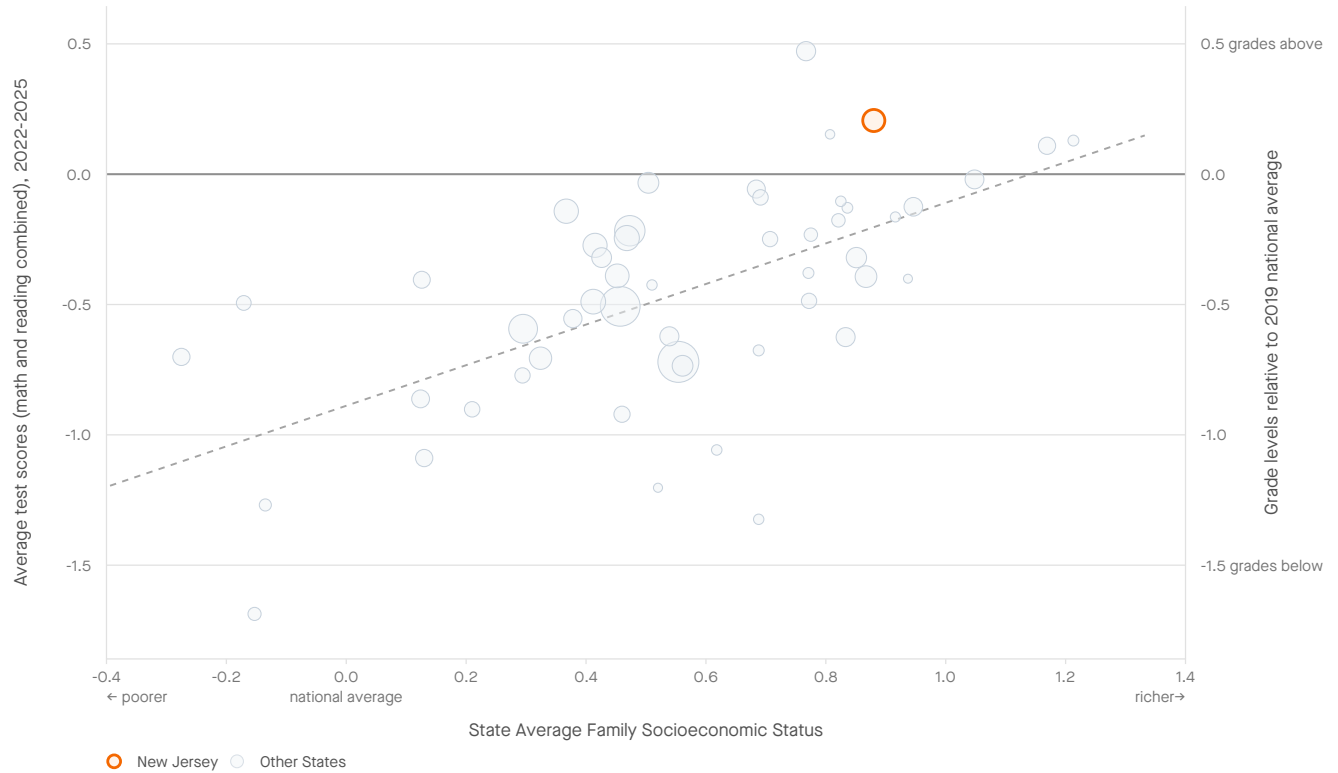


New Jersey



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
New Jersey	0.21	0.01
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 New Jersey performed 0.21 grade levels above the 2019 national average. Test scores in New Jersey have been changing at a rate of +0.01 grade levels/year since 2022."

STUDENT SUBGROUPS

	2022-2025 Average Scores	2022-2025 Trend in Test Scores
White	1.24	0.03
Black	-1.72	0.05
Hispanic	-1.26	-0.04
Asian	3.47	0.07
Poor	-1.57	0.02
Non-Poor	1.32	0.14
Female	0.40	-0.01
Male	0.01	0.03



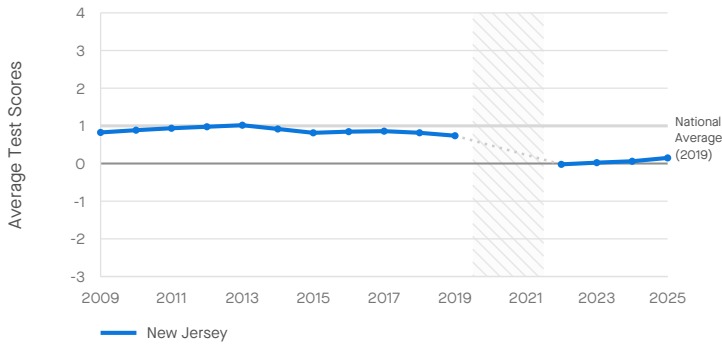
New Jersey

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

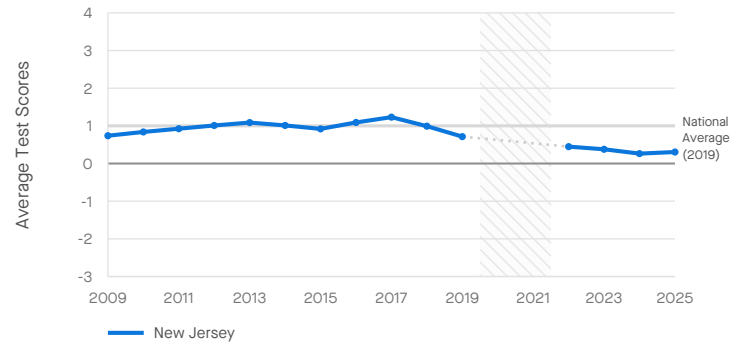
Trends in test scores may reflect changes in school quality, changes in demographics, and/or changes in out-of-school educational opportunities.



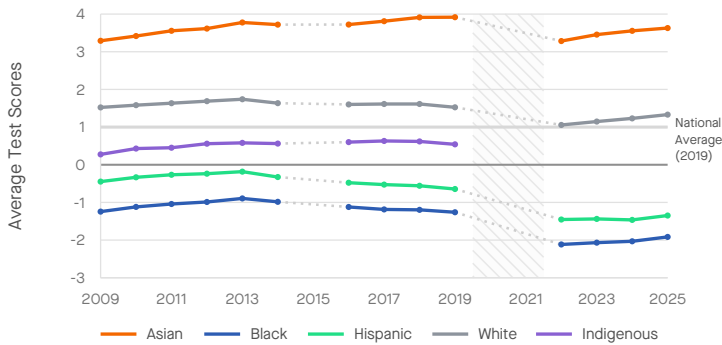
Trend in Math Scores (All Students)



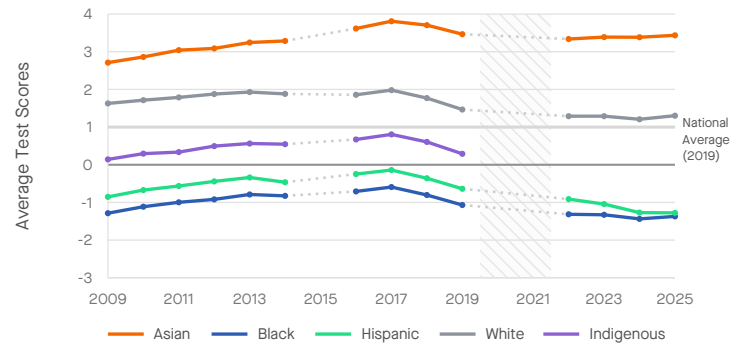
Trend in Reading Scores (All Students)



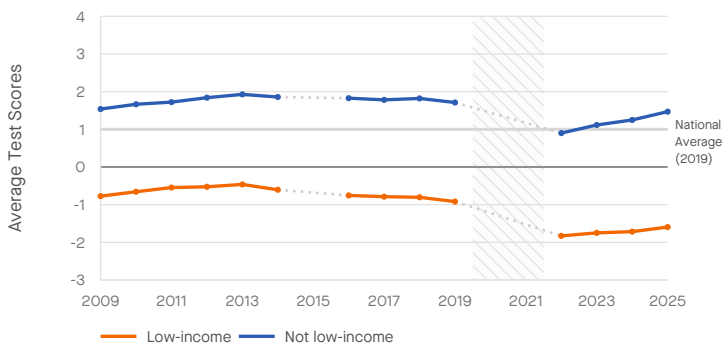
Trend in Math Scores, by Student Race/Ethnicity



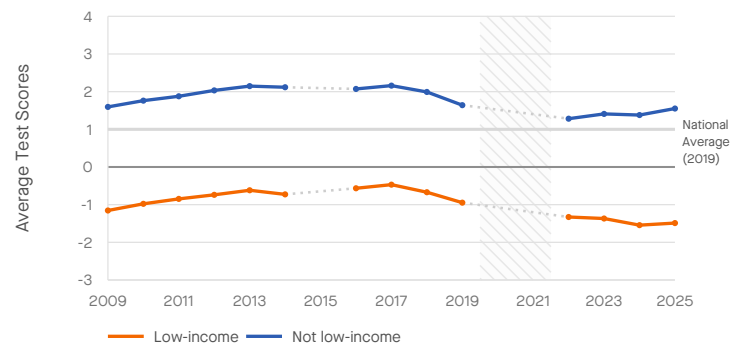
Trend in Reading Scores, by Student Race/Ethnicity



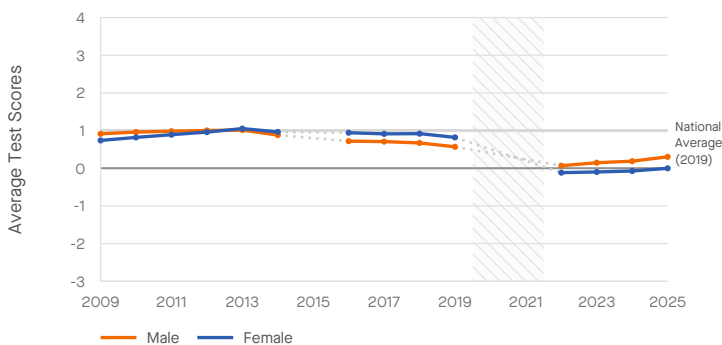
Trend in Math Scores, by Student Income Level



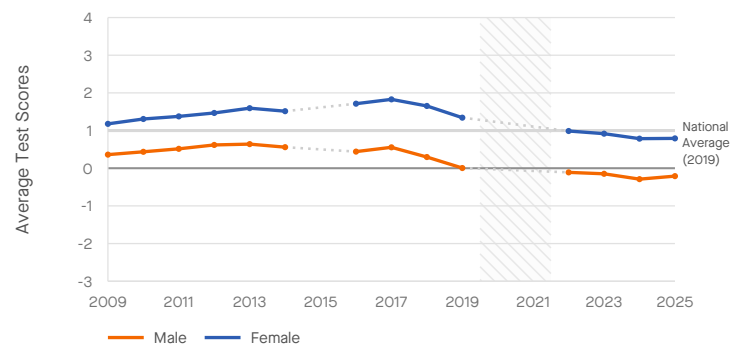
Trend in Reading Scores, by Student Income Level



Trend in Math Scores, by Student Gender



Trend in Reading Scores, by Student Gender

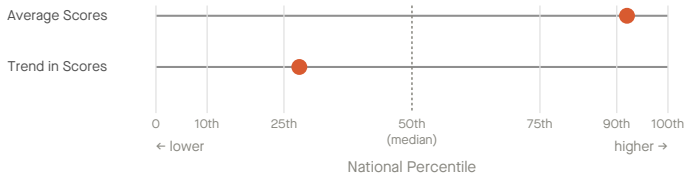


New Jersey

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



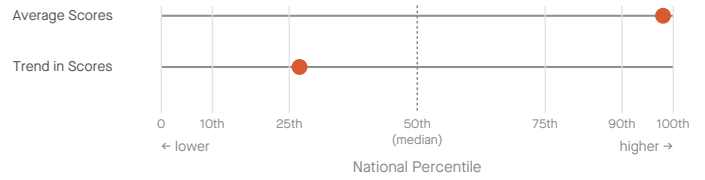
Math Ranks



	Average	Trend
New Jersey	5 / 51 (92nd pct)	37 / 51 (28th pct)

New Jersey ranked higher than 92% of states nationwide in average math performance during the 2022-25 school years (5th of 51 states with available data).

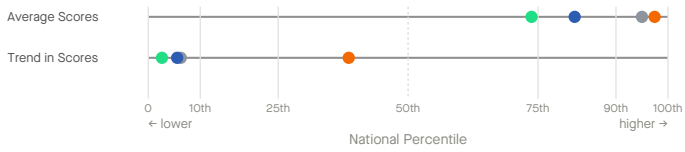
Reading Ranks



	Average	Trend
New Jersey	2 / 51 (98th pct)	38 / 51 (27th pct)

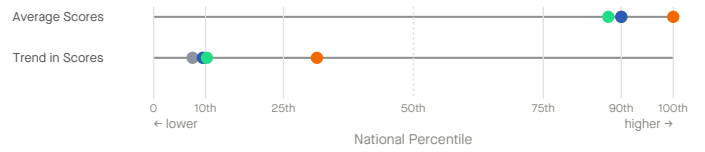
New Jersey ranked higher than 98% of states nationwide in average reading performance during the 2022-25 school years (2nd of 51 states with available data).

Math Ranks by Race/Ethnicity



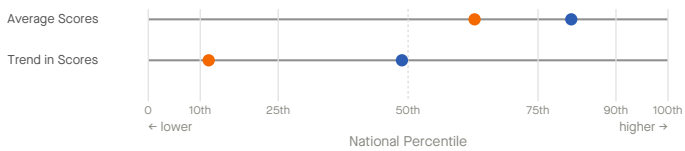
	Average	Trend
White	3 / 41 (95th pct)	39 / 41 (6th pct)
Black	8 / 40 (82nd pct)	35 / 37 (6th pct)
Hispanic	12 / 41 (74th pct)	38 / 39 (3rd pct)
Asian	2 / 40 (97th pct)	23 / 36 (39th pct)

Reading Ranks by Race/Ethnicity



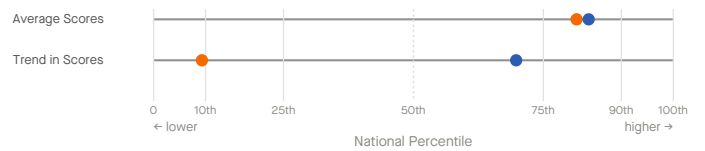
	Average	Trend
White	5 / 41 (90th pct)	38 / 41 (8th pct)
Black	5 / 41 (90th pct)	35 / 38 (9th pct)
Hispanic	6 / 41 (88th pct)	36 / 40 (10th pct)
Asian	1 / 40 (100th pct)	25 / 36 (31st pct)

Math Ranks by Income



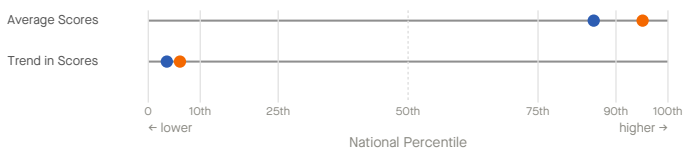
	Average	Trend
Low-income	17 / 44 (63rd pct)	39 / 44 (12th pct)
Not low-income	9 / 44 (81st pct)	23 / 43 (49th pct)

Reading Ranks by Income



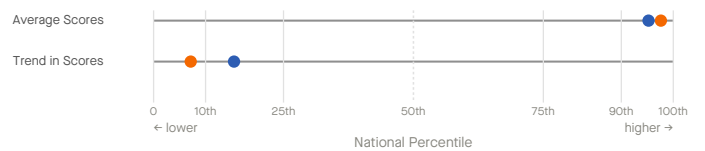
	Average	Trend
Low-income	9 / 44 (81st pct)	40 / 44 (9th pct)
Not low-income	8 / 44 (84th pct)	14 / 44 (70th pct)

Math Ranks by Gender



	Average	Trend
Female	3 / 42 (95th pct)	40 / 42 (6th pct)
Male	7 / 43 (86th pct)	42 / 43 (4th pct)

Reading Ranks by Gender



	Average	Trend
Female	2 / 43 (98th pct)	40 / 43 (7th pct)
Male	3 / 43 (95th pct)	37 / 43 (15th pct)

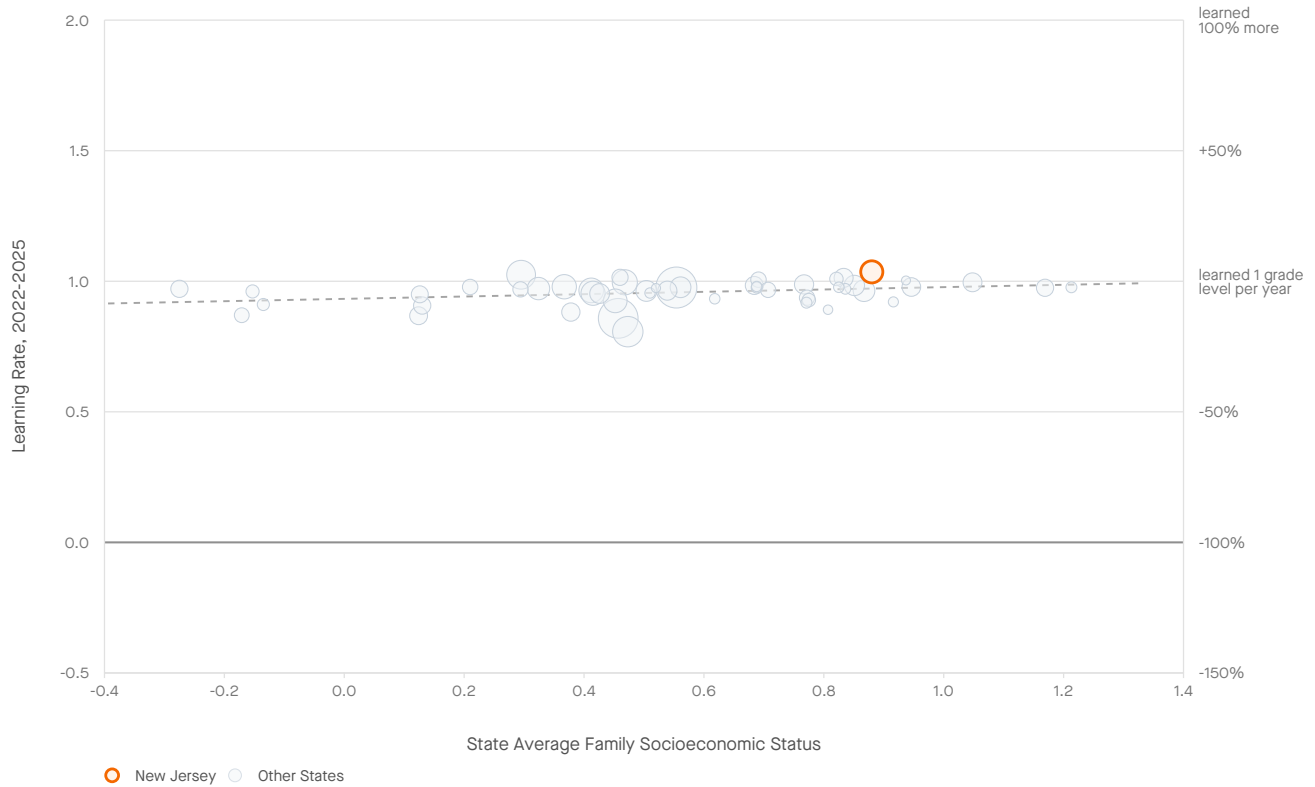


New Jersey



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.

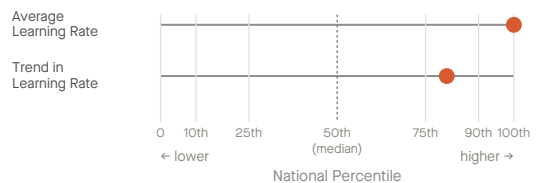
Learning Rates and Trends, 2022-2025

ALL STUDENTS

	2022-2025 Learning Rate	2022-2025 Trend in Learning Rates
New Jersey	1.04	0.00
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 New Jersey learned an average of 1.04 grade levels/year during 2022-2025. Learning rates in New Jersey have been changing at a rate of 0.00 grade levels/year since 2022."

Learning Rate Rankings



	Average	Trend
New Jersey	1 / 51 (100th pct)	11 / 51 (81st pct)

New Jersey ranked higher than 100% of states nationwide in average learning rates during the 2022-25 school years (1st of 51 states with available data).



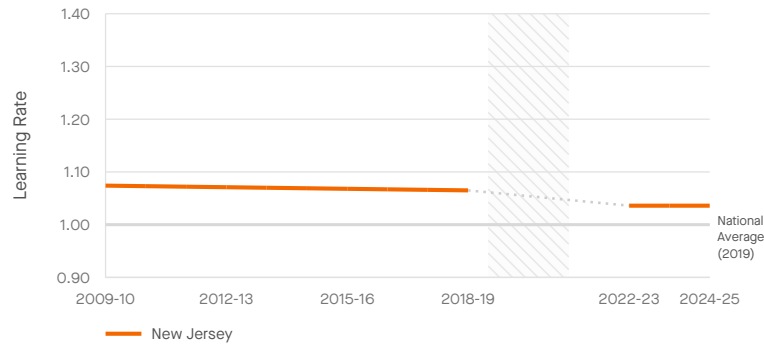
New Jersey

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

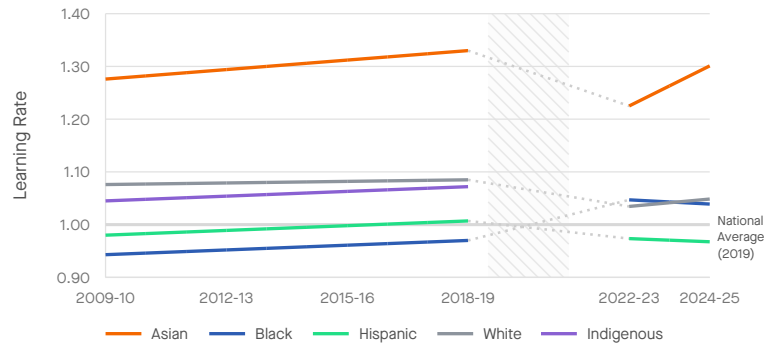


Trends in learning rates measure how annual learning rates change over time. They are a better indicator of changes in school quality than trends in average test scores, which are influenced by a range of experiences outside of school.

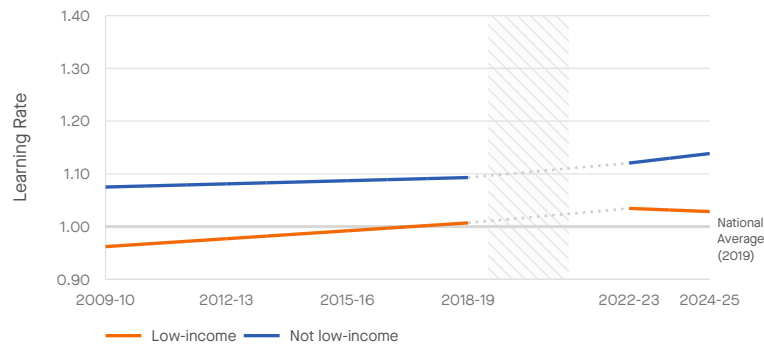
Trend in Learning Rates (All Students)



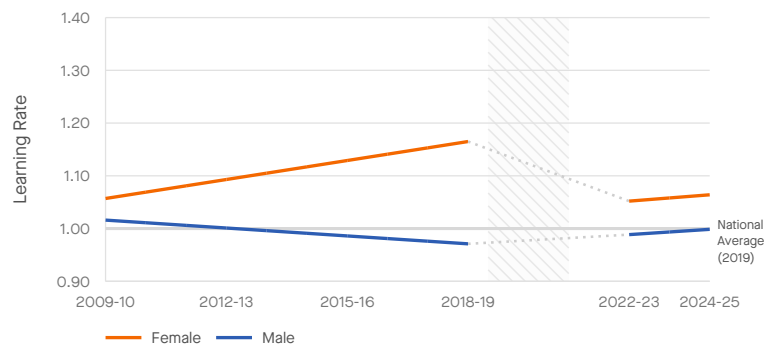
Trend in Learning Rates, by Student Race/Ethnicity



Trend in Learning Rates, by Student Income Level



Trend in Learning Rates, by Student Gender



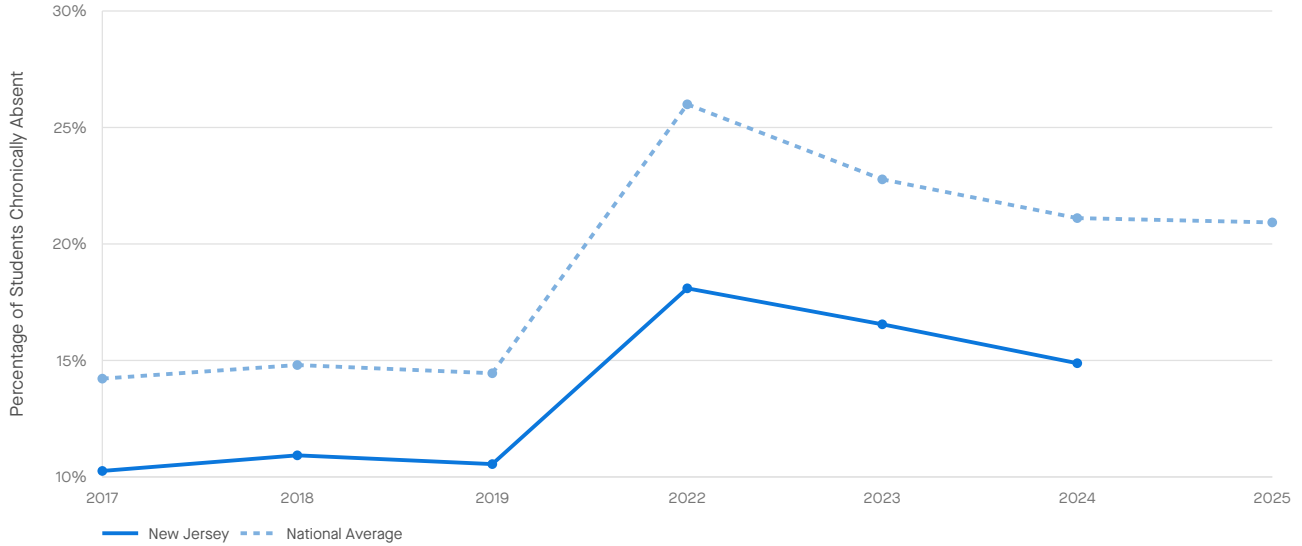
New Jersey



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
New Jersey	10.6	16.5	-0.0
National Average	14.5	22.7	N/A

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



New Jersey



Changes in Average Math Scores in New Jersey Districts, 2019-2025 and 2022-2025, by District Free/Reduced-Price Lunch Eligibility Rate

Change in Math Scores, 2019-2025

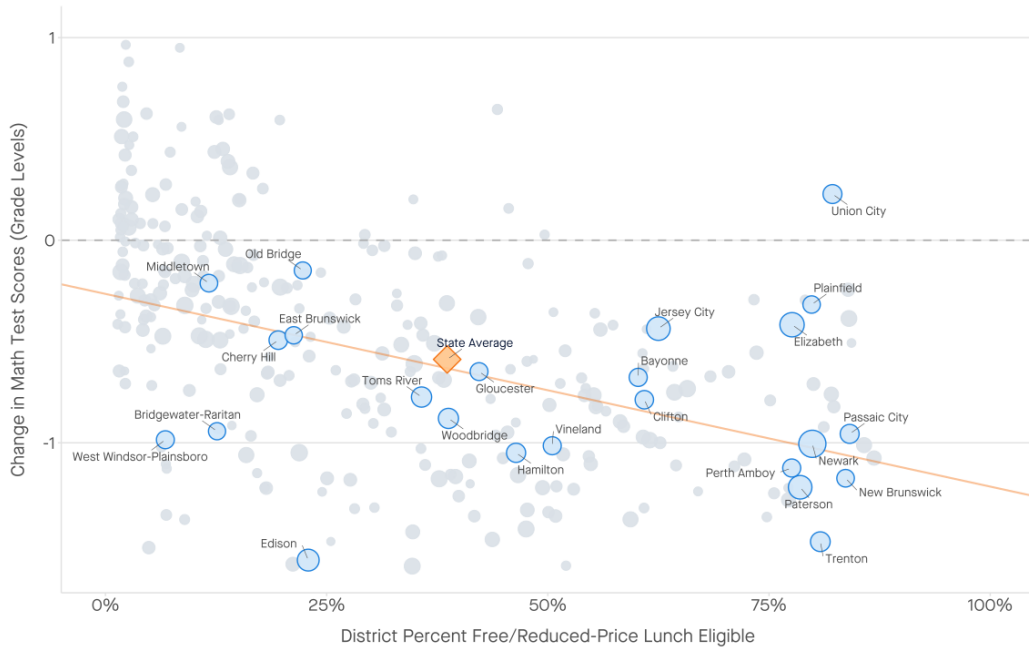


Figure produced by the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University

○ Largest Districts ◆ State Average

Change in Math Scores, 2022-2025



Figure produced by the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University

○ Largest Districts ◆ State Average





Changes in Average Reading Scores in New Jersey Districts, 2019-2025 and 2022-2025, by District Free/Reduced-Price Lunch Eligibility Rate

Change in Reading Scores, 2019-2025

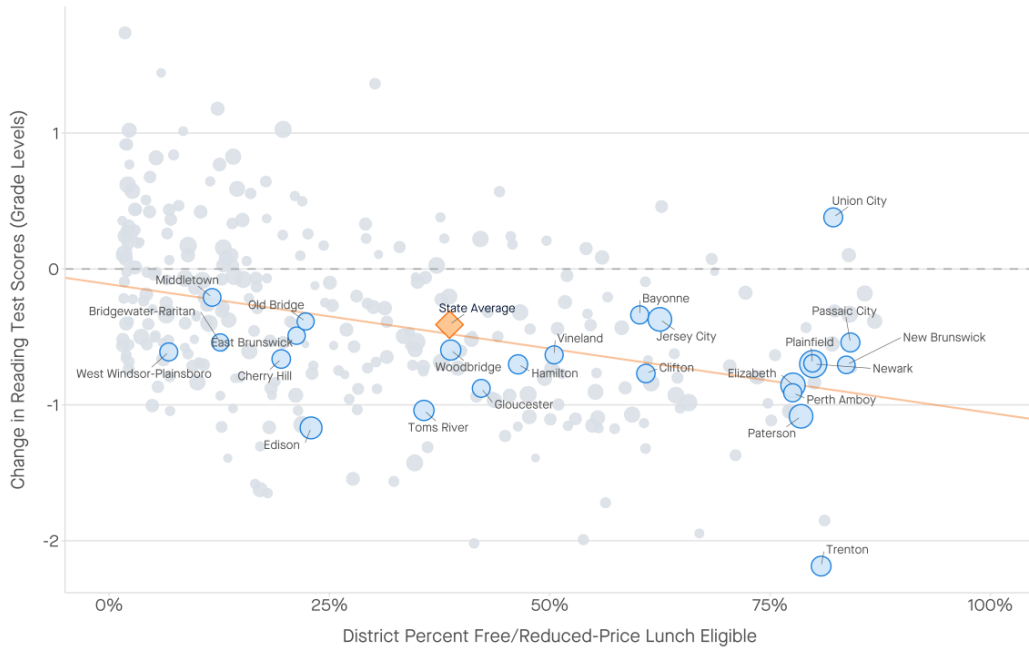


Figure produced by the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University

○ Largest Districts ◆ State Average

Change in Reading Scores, 2022-2025



Figure produced by the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University

○ Largest Districts ◆ State Average





Change in Chronic Absenteeism in New Jersey Districts, 2019-2024, by District Free/Reduced-Price Lunch Eligibility Rate

Change in Chronic Absenteeism, 2019-2024



Figure produced by the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University

○ Largest Districts ◆ State Average





Notes & Acknowledgments

This report summarizes academic performance in New Jersey 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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