



GENERATED ON APRIL 28, 2026

# Trends in Academic Performance in South Carolina

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](https://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.

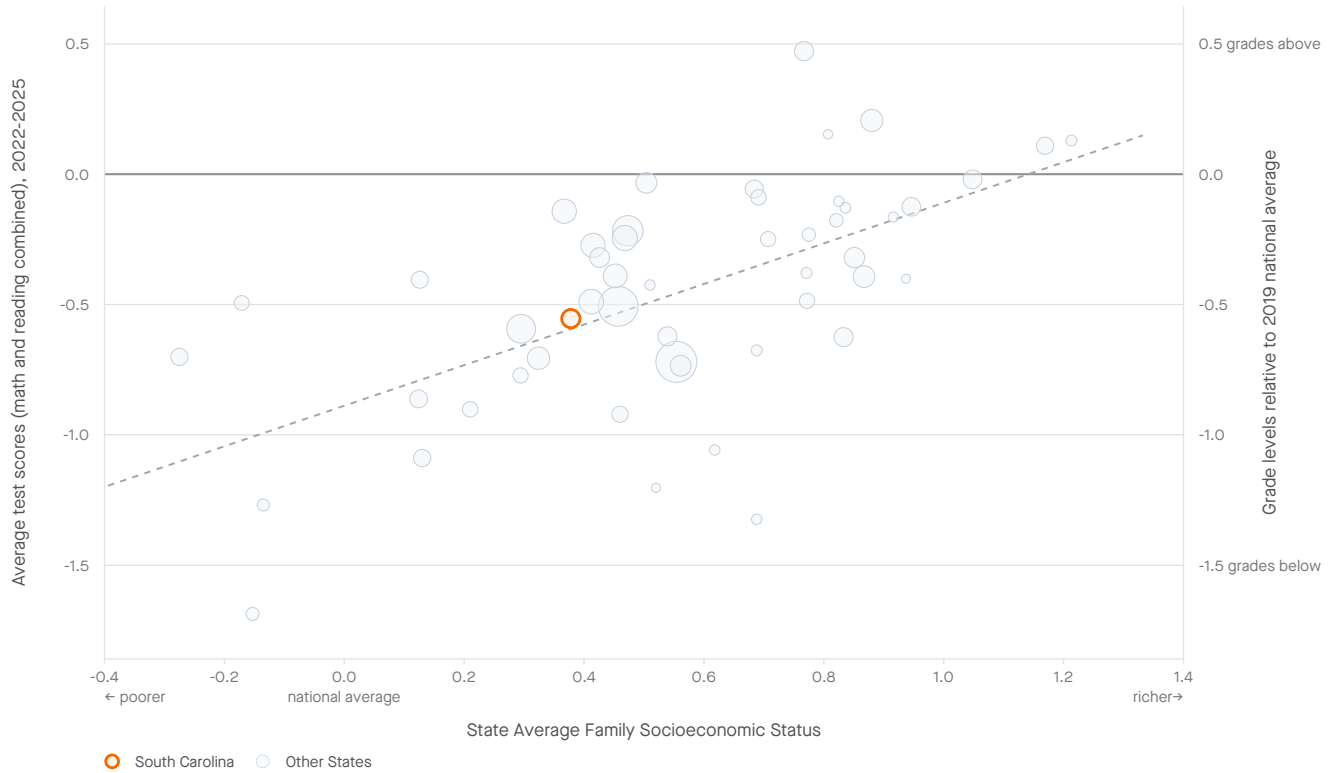


# South Carolina



## 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
South Carolina	-0.55	0.03
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 South Carolina performed 0.55 grade levels below the 2019 national average. Test scores in South Carolina have been changing at a rate of +0.03 grade levels/year since 2022."

### STUDENT SUBGROUPS

	2022-2025 Average Scores	2022-2025 Trend in Test Scores
White	0.76	0.04
Black	-2.28	0.04
Hispanic	-1.48	-0.07
Asian	2.70	0.06
Poor	-1.64	0.04
Non-Poor	1.32	0.03
Female	-0.37	0.00
Male	-0.76	0.04



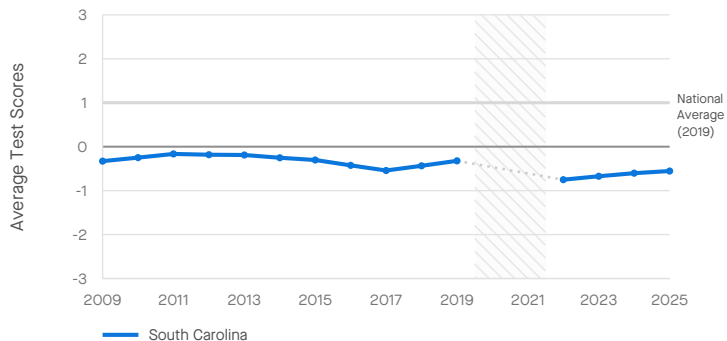
# South Carolina



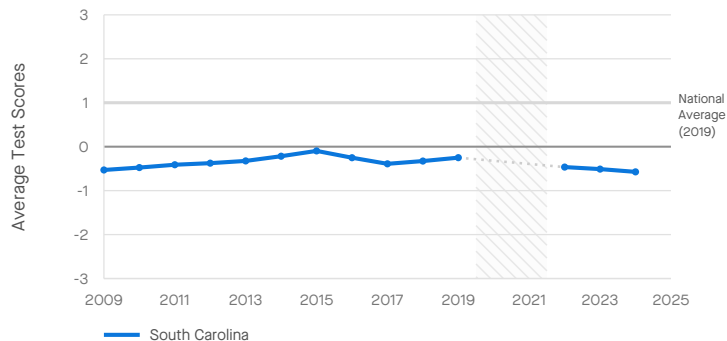
## Trends in Average Grade 3-8 Test Scores, 2009-2025, by Subject and Student Subgroup

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

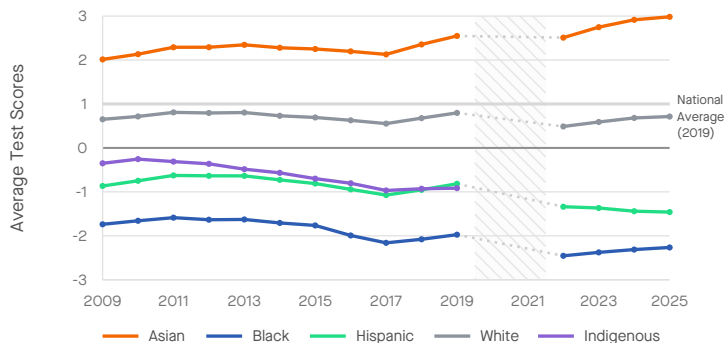
### Trend in Math Scores (All Students)



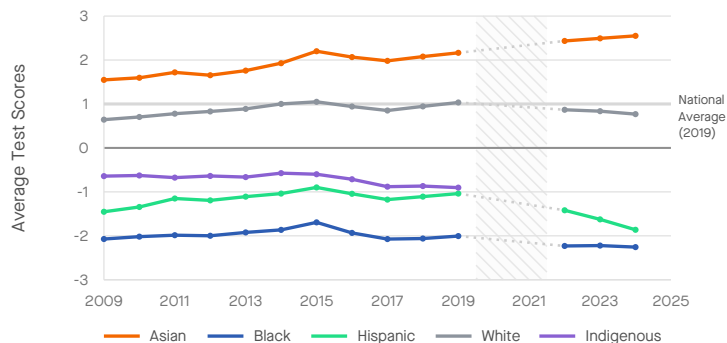
### Trend in Reading Scores (All Students)



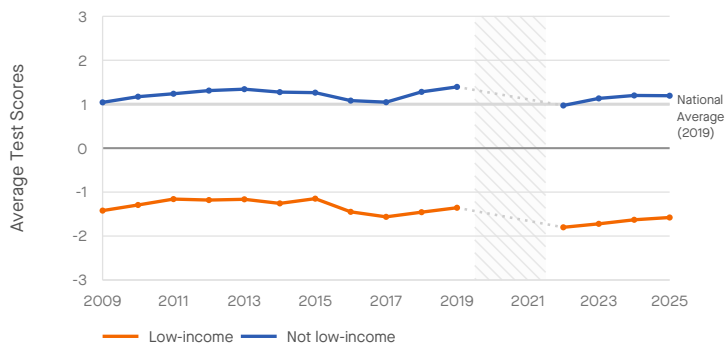
### Trend in Math Scores, by Student Race/Ethnicity



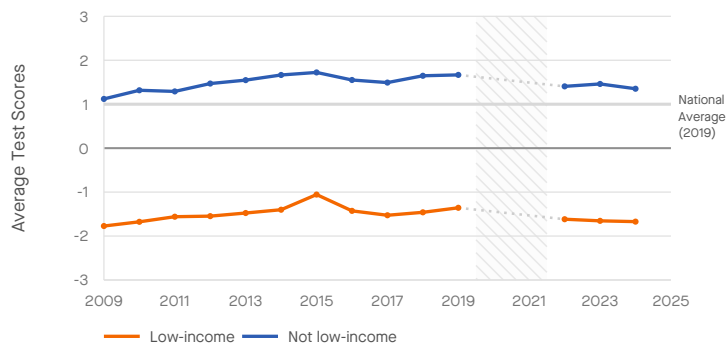
### Trend in Reading Scores, by Student Race/Ethnicity



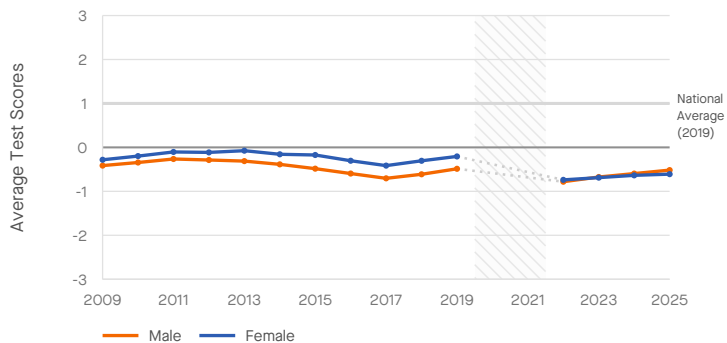
### Trend in Math Scores, by Student Income Level



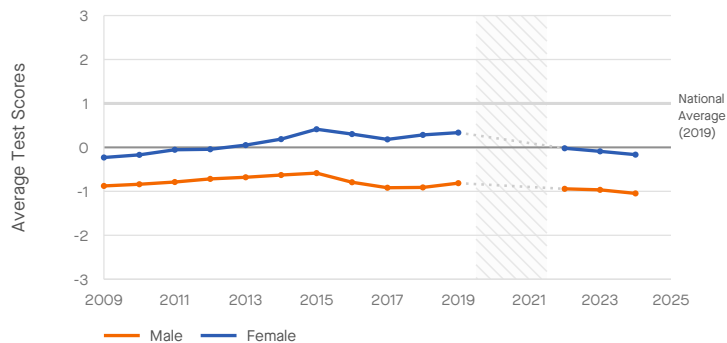
### Trend in Reading Scores, by Student Income Level



### Trend in Math Scores, by Student Gender



### Trend in Reading Scores, by Student Gender

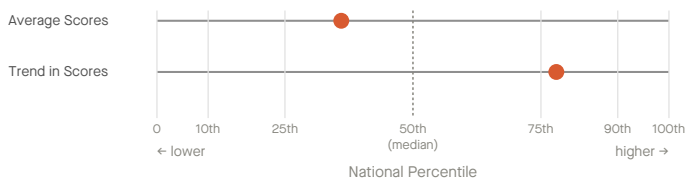


# South Carolina



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

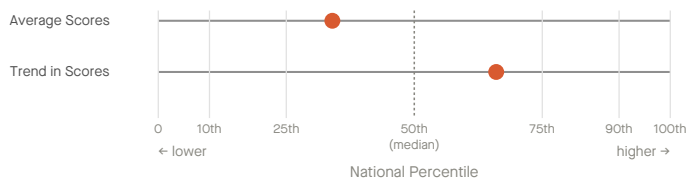
### Math Ranks



	Average	Trend
● South Carolina	33 / 51 (36th pct)	12 / 51 (78th pct)

South Carolina ranked higher than 36% of states nationwide in average math performance during the 2022-25 school years (33rd of 51 states with available data).

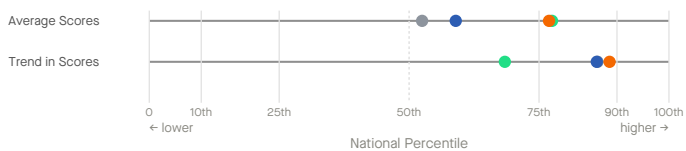
### Reading Ranks



	Average	Trend
● South Carolina	34 / 51 (34th pct)	18 / 51 (66th pct)

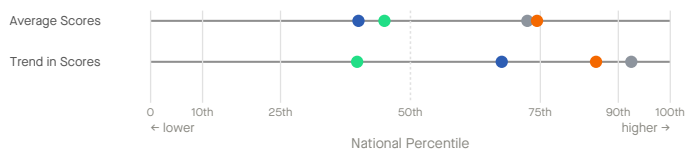
South Carolina ranked higher than 34% of states nationwide in average reading performance during the 2022-25 school years (34th of 51 states with available data).

### Math Ranks by Race/Ethnicity



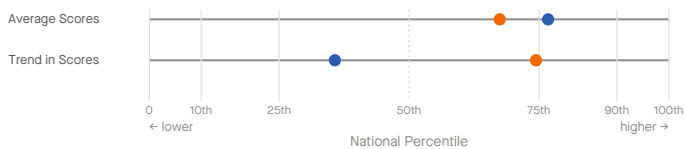
	Average	Trend
● White	20 / 41 (53rd pct)	7 / 41 (86th pct)
● Black	17 / 40 (59th pct)	6 / 37 (86th pct)
● Hispanic	10 / 41 (78th pct)	13 / 39 (68th pct)
● Asian	10 / 40 (77th pct)	5 / 36 (89th pct)

### Reading Ranks by Race/Ethnicity



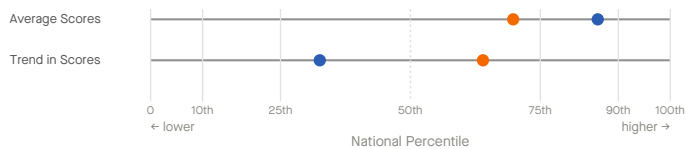
	Average	Trend
● White	12 / 41 (73rd pct)	4 / 41 (93rd pct)
● Black	25 / 41 (40th pct)	13 / 38 (68th pct)
● Hispanic	23 / 41 (45th pct)	25 / 40 (40th pct)
● Asian	11 / 40 (74th pct)	6 / 36 (86th pct)

### Math Ranks by Income



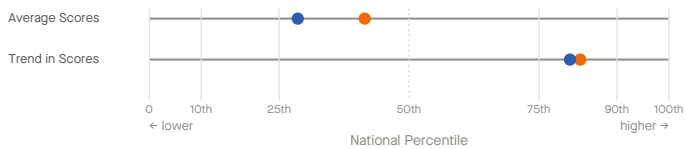
	Average	Trend
● Low-income	15 / 44 (67th pct)	12 / 44 (74th pct)
● Not low-income	11 / 44 (77th pct)	28 / 43 (36th pct)

### Reading Ranks by Income



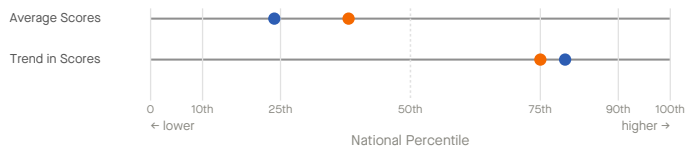
	Average	Trend
● Low-income	14 / 44 (70th pct)	17 / 44 (64th pct)
● Not low-income	7 / 44 (86th pct)	30 / 44 (33rd pct)

### Math Ranks by Gender



	Average	Trend
● Female	25 / 42 (41st pct)	8 / 42 (83rd pct)
● Male	31 / 43 (29th pct)	9 / 43 (81st pct)

### Reading Ranks by Gender



	Average	Trend
● Female	27 / 43 (38th pct)	12 / 43 (75th pct)
● Male	33 / 43 (24th pct)	10 / 43 (80th pct)

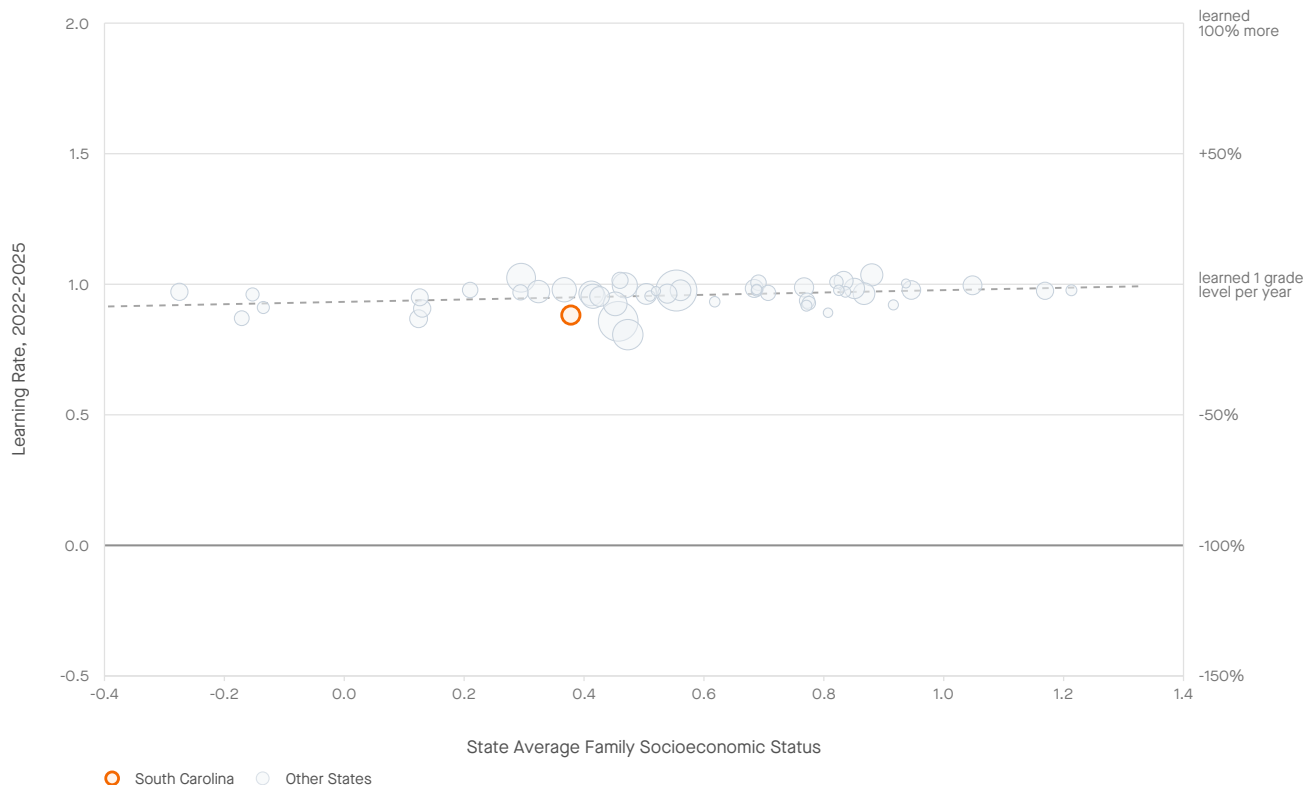


# South Carolina



## 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.

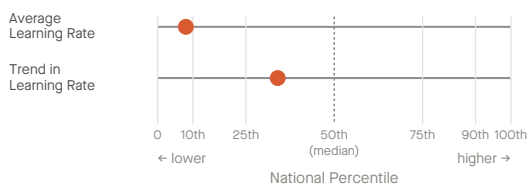
### Learning Rates and Trends, 2022-2025

#### ALL STUDENTS

	2022-2025 Learning Rate	2022-2025 Trend in Learning Rates
South Carolina	0.88	-0.02
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 South Carolina learned an average of 0.88 grade levels/year during 2022-2025. Learning rates in South Carolina have been changing at a rate of -0.02 grade levels/year since 2022."

### Learning Rate Rankings



	Average	Trend
South Carolina	47 / 51 (8th pct)	34 / 51 (34th pct)

South Carolina ranked higher than 8% of states nationwide in average learning rates during the 2022-25 school years (47th of 51 states with available data).



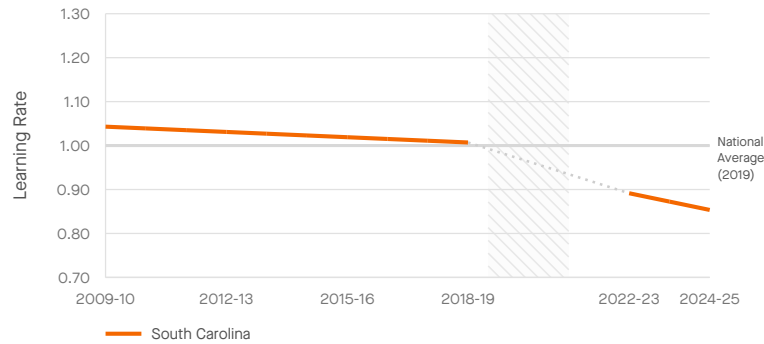
# South Carolina



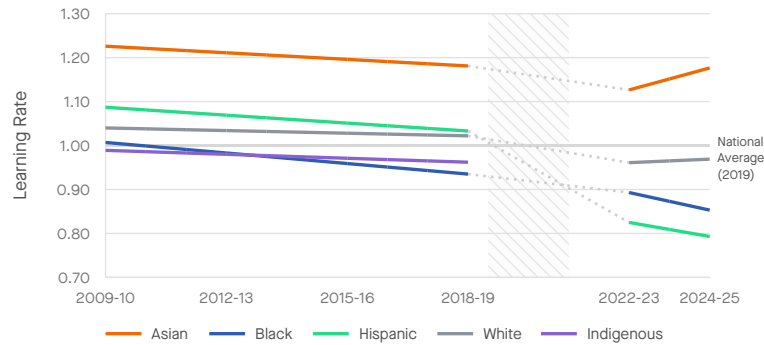
## Trends in Average Grade 3-8 Learning Rates, 2009-2025, by Student Subgroup

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.

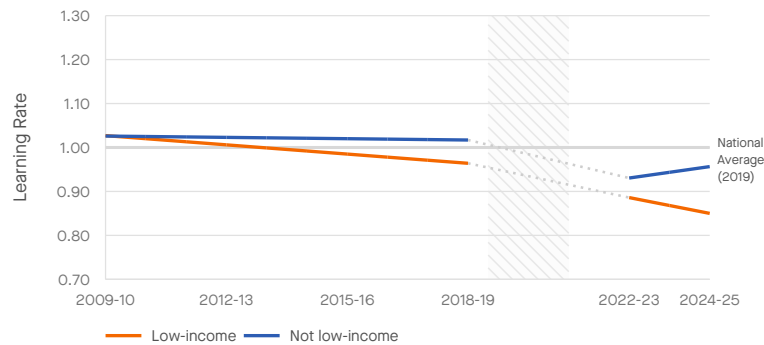
### Trend in Learning Rates (All Students)



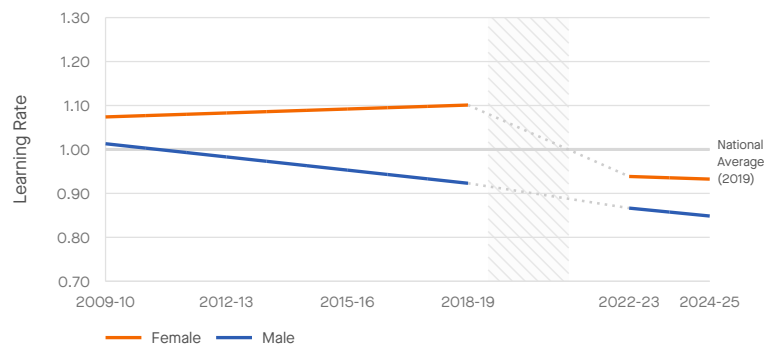
### Trend in Learning Rates, by Student Race/Ethnicity



### Trend in Learning Rates, by Student Income Level



### Trend in Learning Rates, by Student Gender



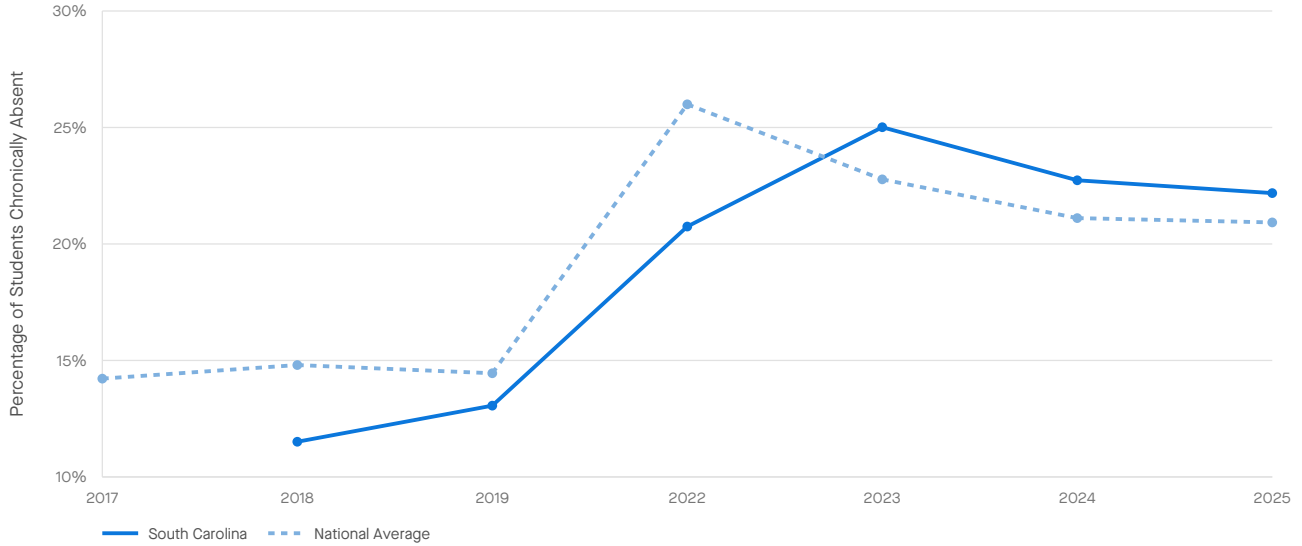
# South Carolina



## 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
South Carolina	12.3	22.7	-0.0
National Average	14.5	22.7	N/A

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



# South Carolina



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

### Change in Math Scores, 2019-2025

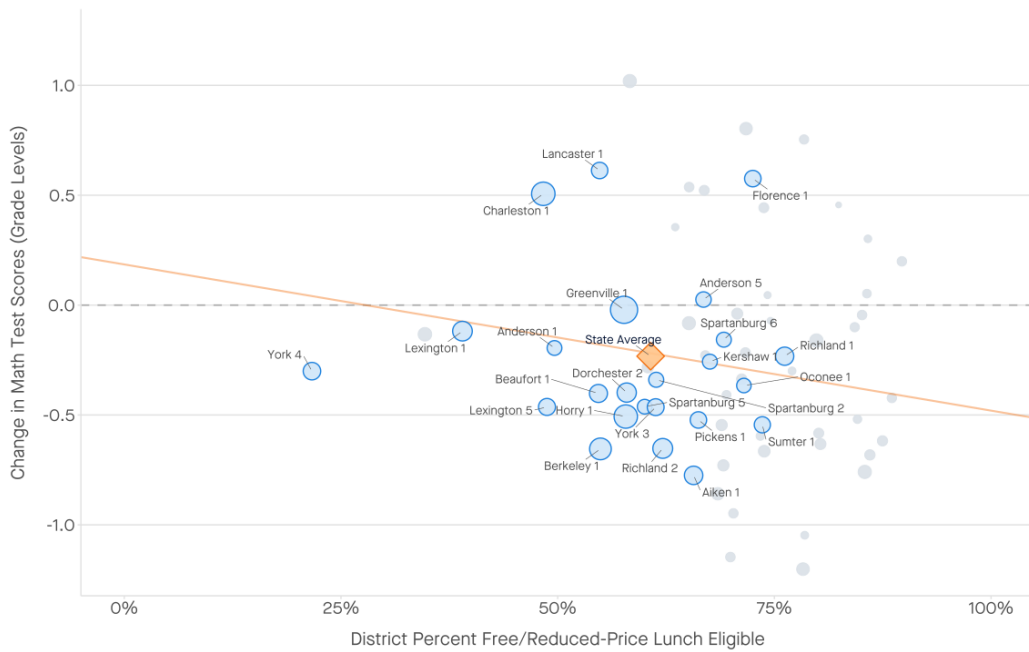


Figure produced by the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University

○ 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



# South Carolina



## Change in Chronic Absenteeism in South Carolina Districts, 2019-2025, by District Free/Reduced-Price Lunch Eligibility Rate

### Change in Chronic Absenteeism, 2019-2025



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

○ Largest Districts    ◆ State Average





## Notes & Acknowledgments

This report summarizes academic performance in South Carolina 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.

### Citation:

Educational Opportunity Project. (2026). "Trends in Academic Performance in South Carolina." Report version 2025.1. Available at:  
[https://edopportunity.org/reports/trends/2025/SC/report\\_SC\\_45\\_south-carolina.pdf](https://edopportunity.org/reports/trends/2025/SC/report_SC_45_south-carolina.pdf)

