

# SOS: New Data Indicate Stalled Learning Loss and Some Bright Spots

September 19, 2023



# Panelists



**Avery Cambridge**  
*Engagement Manager*  
McKinsey and Company



**Peggy Carr Ph.D.**  
*Commissioner*  
National Center for  
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HMH



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*Strategy*  
Curriculum Associates

# Moderator

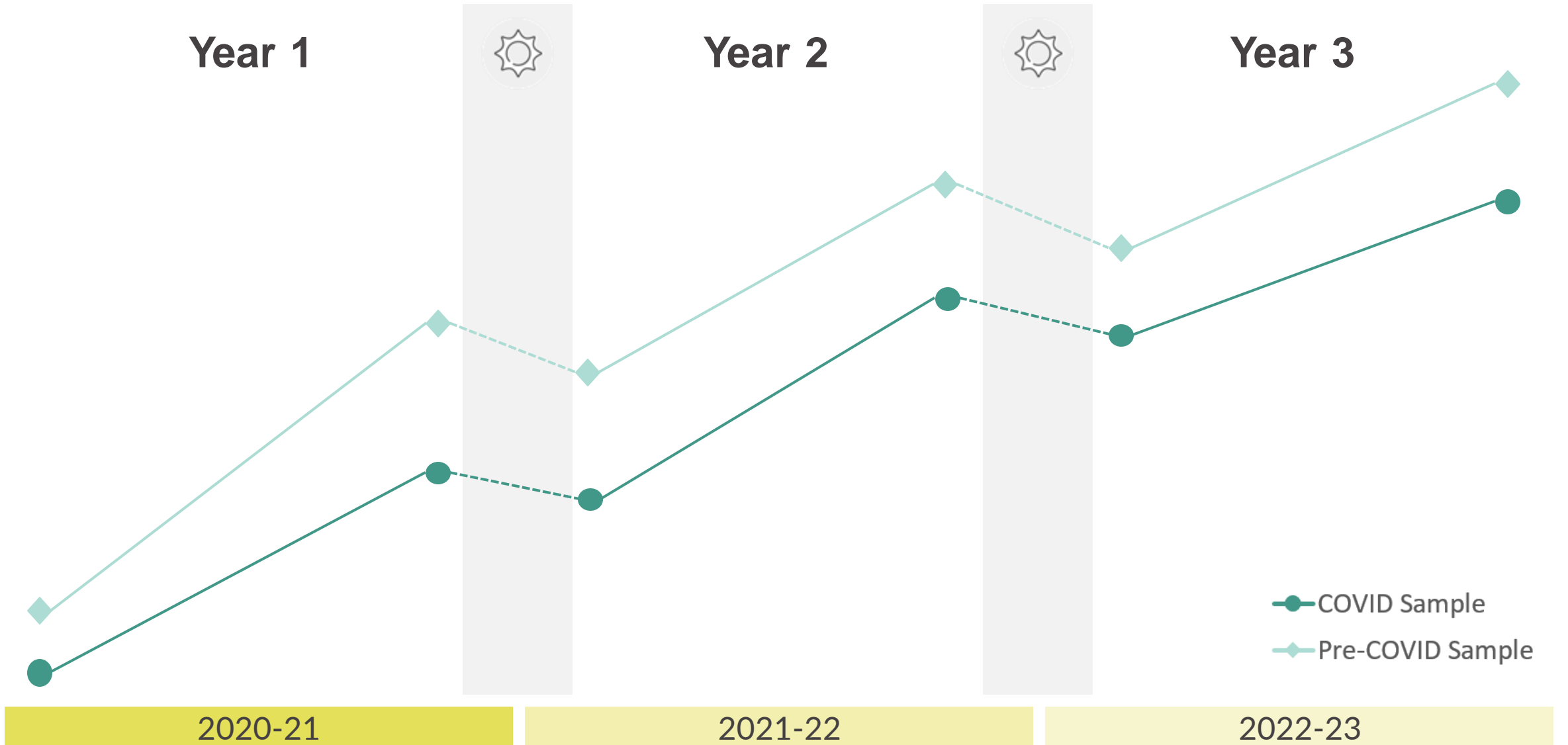


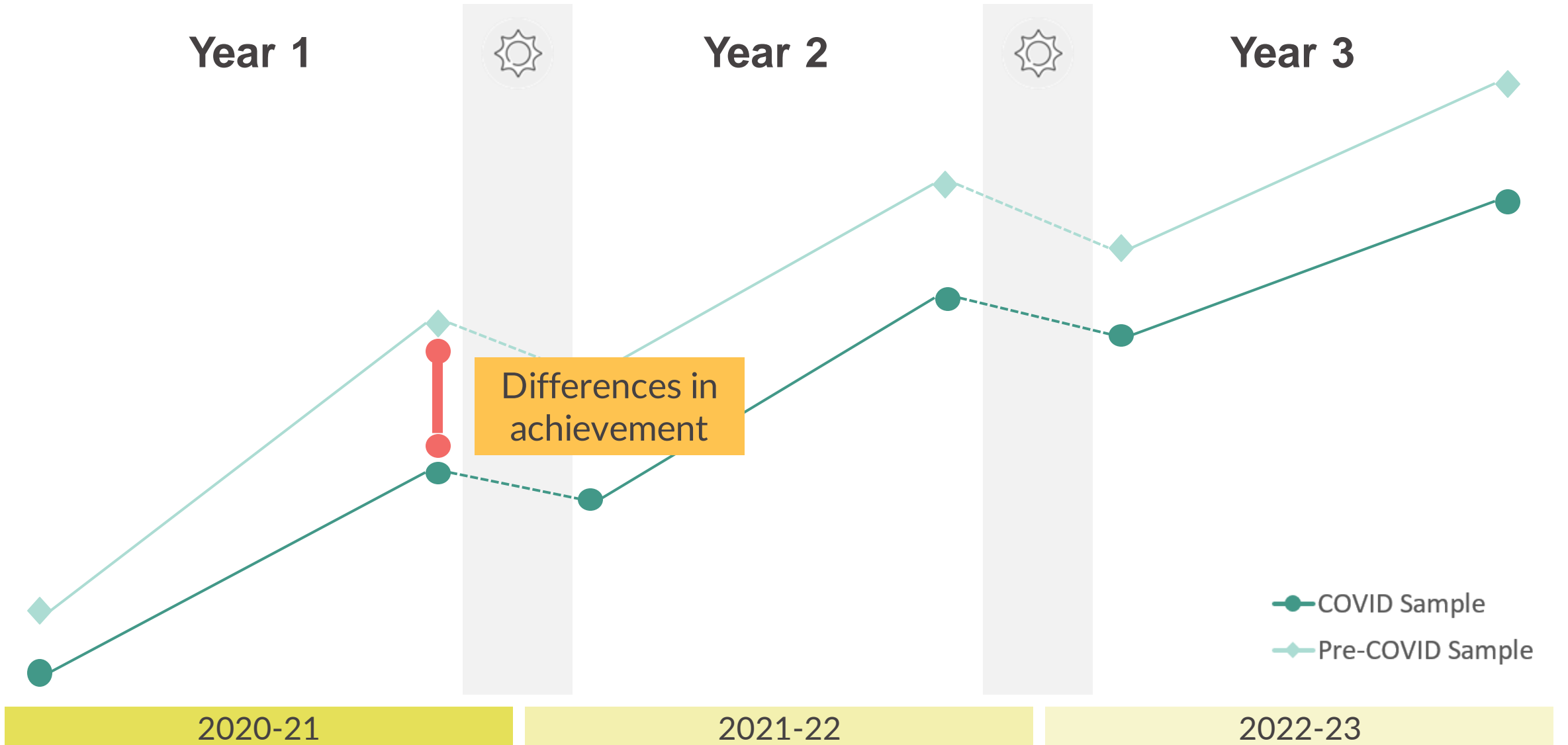
**Hedy Chang**

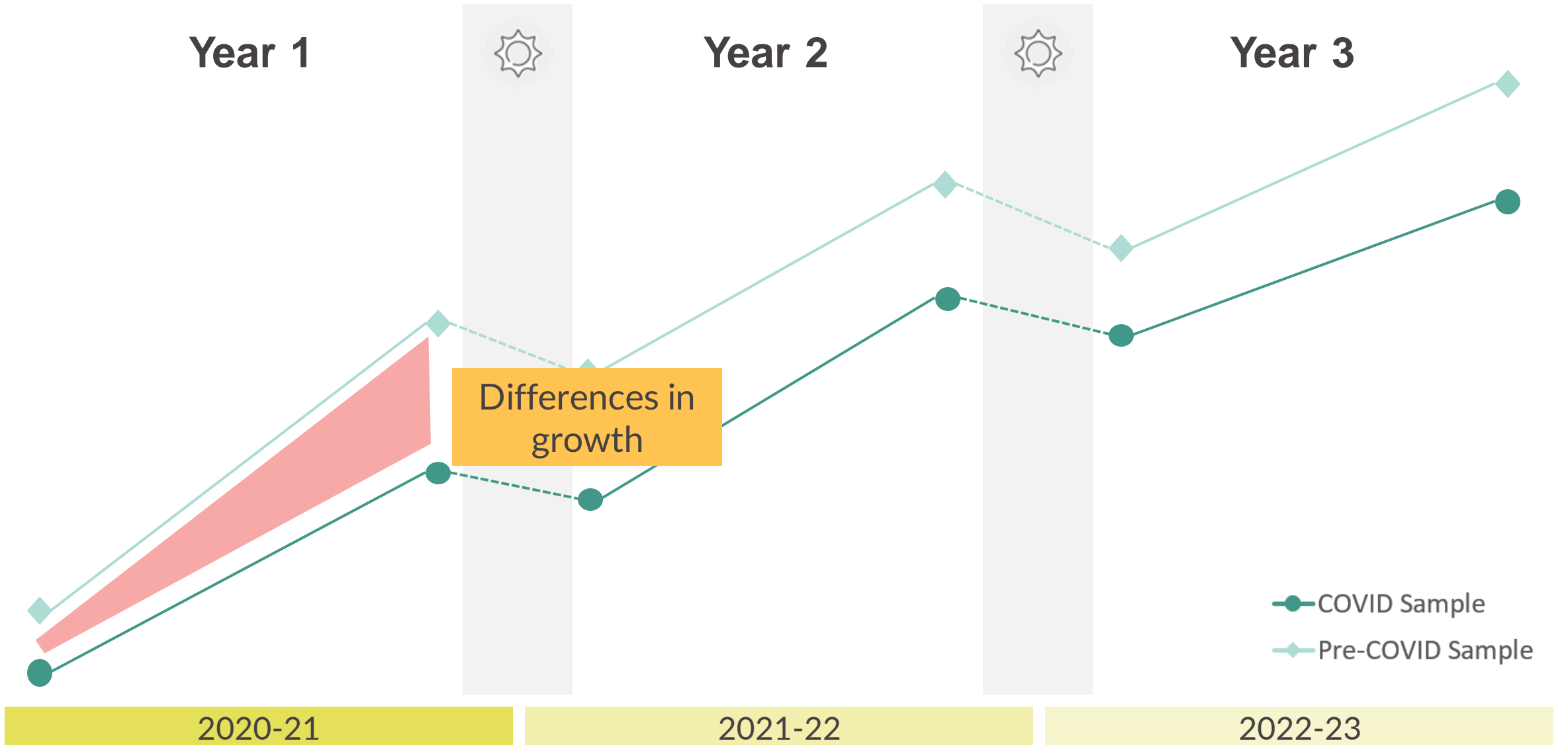
*Executive Director and President  
Attendance Works*



**What do we know about learning loss during the pandemic?**





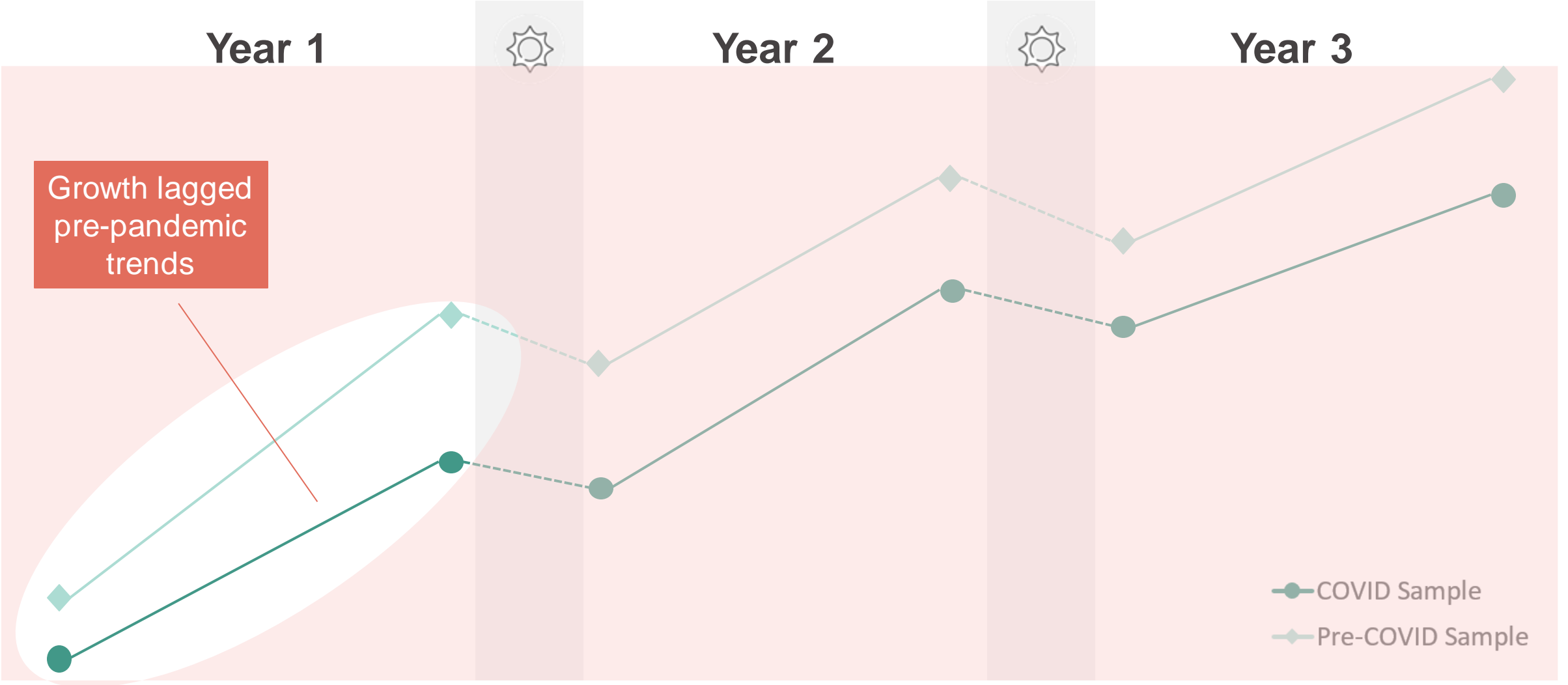


Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Growth lagged  
pre-pandemic  
trends



● COVID Sample  
◆ Pre-COVID Sample

2020-21

2021-22

2022-23



Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

“Bottomed out”  
in spring 21

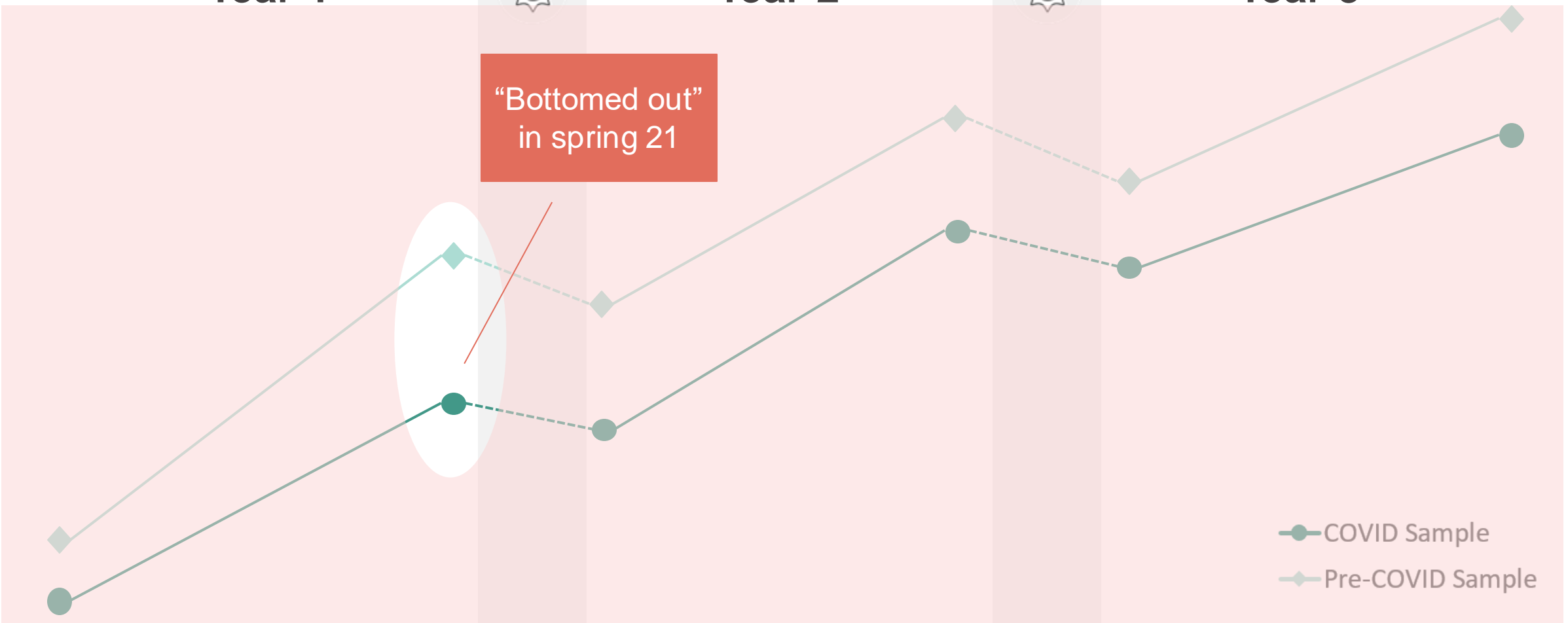


● COVID Sample  
◆ Pre-COVID Sample

2020-21

2021-22

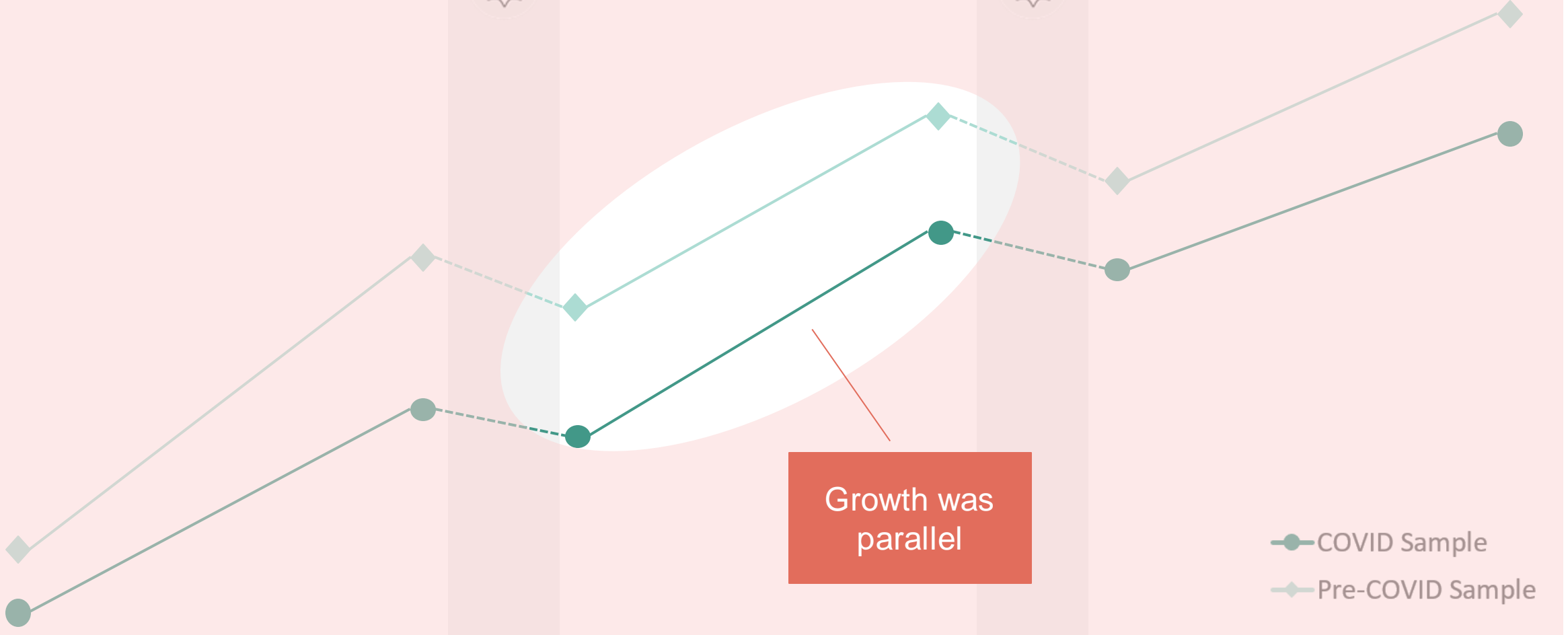
2022-23



Year 1

Year 2

Year 3



Growth was parallel

● COVID Sample  
◆ Pre-COVID Sample

2020-21

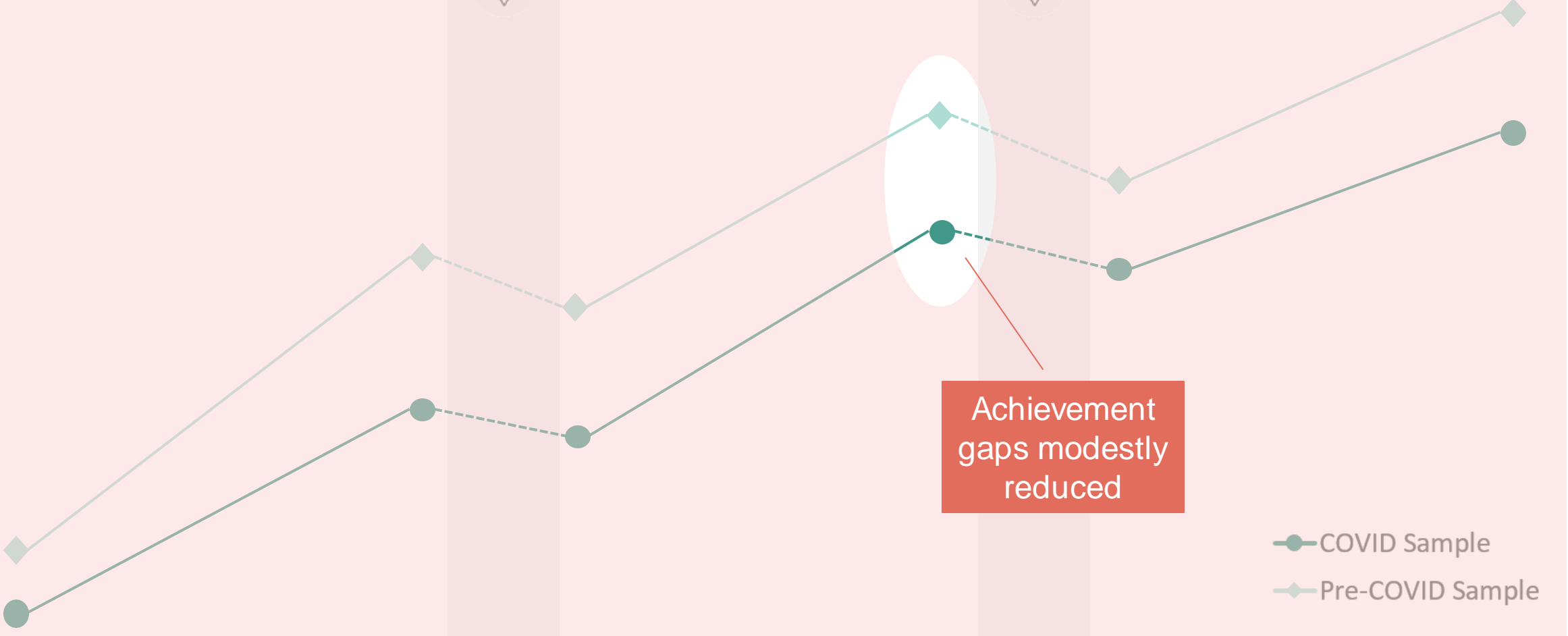
2021-22

2022-23

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3



Achievement gaps modestly reduced

● COVID Sample  
◆ Pre-COVID Sample

2020-21

2021-22

2022-23

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3



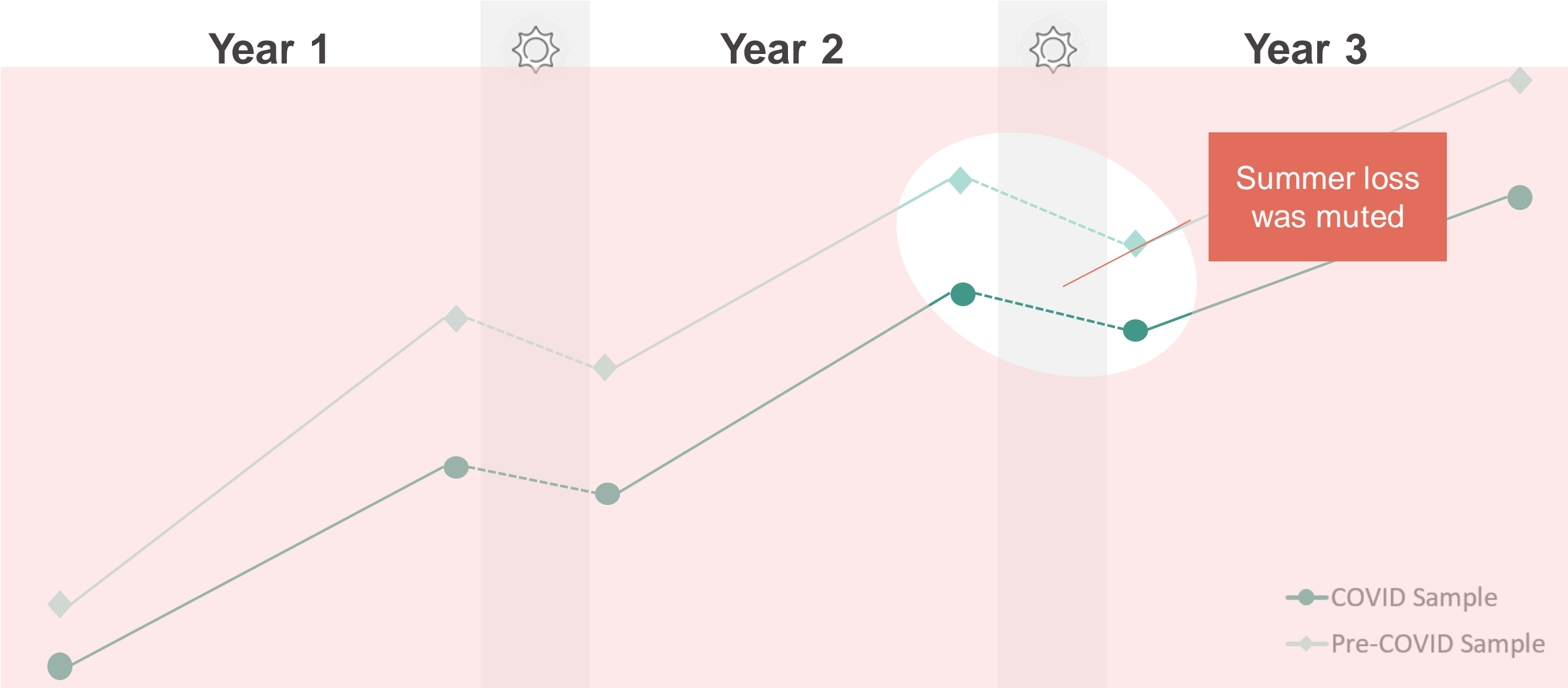
Summer loss was muted

● COVID Sample  
◆ Pre-COVID Sample

2020-21

2021-22

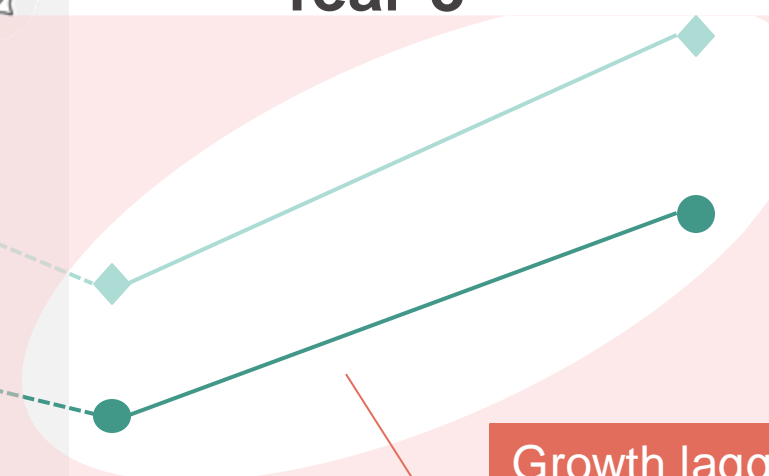
2022-23



Year 1

Year 2

Year 3



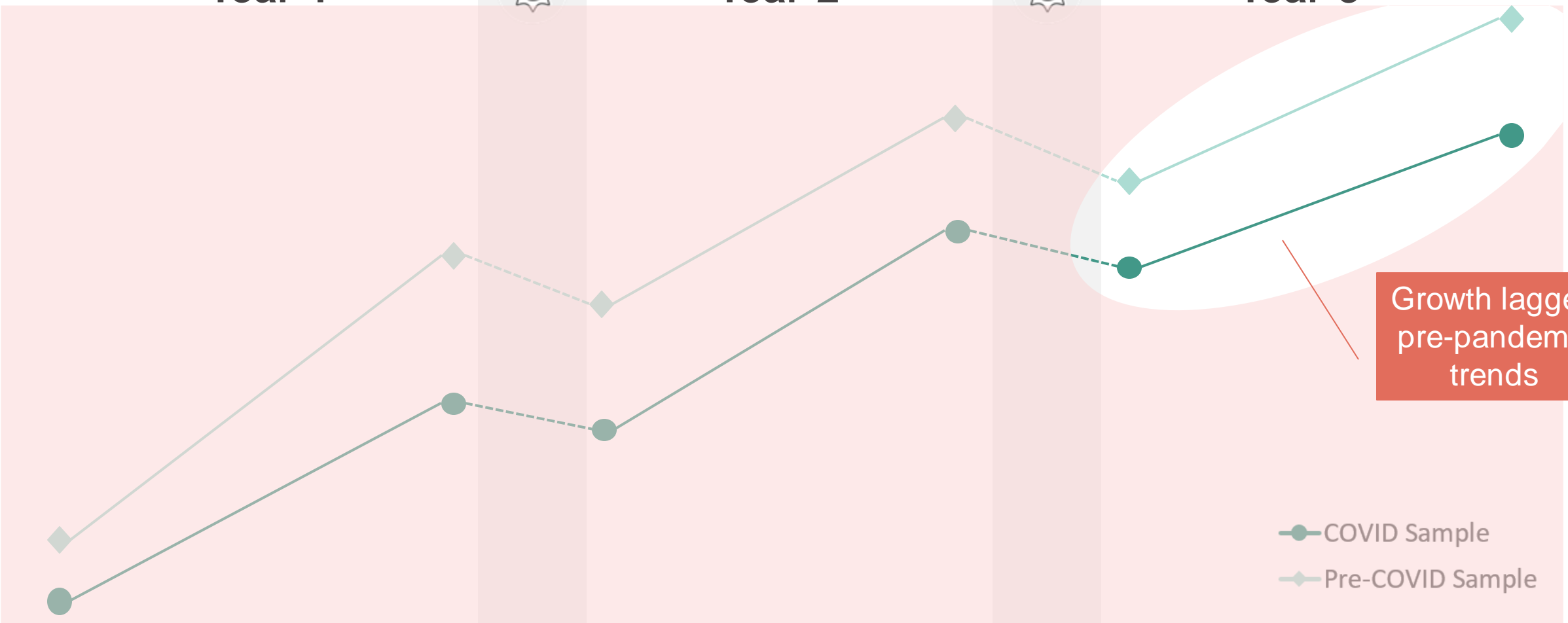
Growth lagged pre-pandemic trends

● COVID Sample  
◆ Pre-COVID Sample

2020-21

2021-22

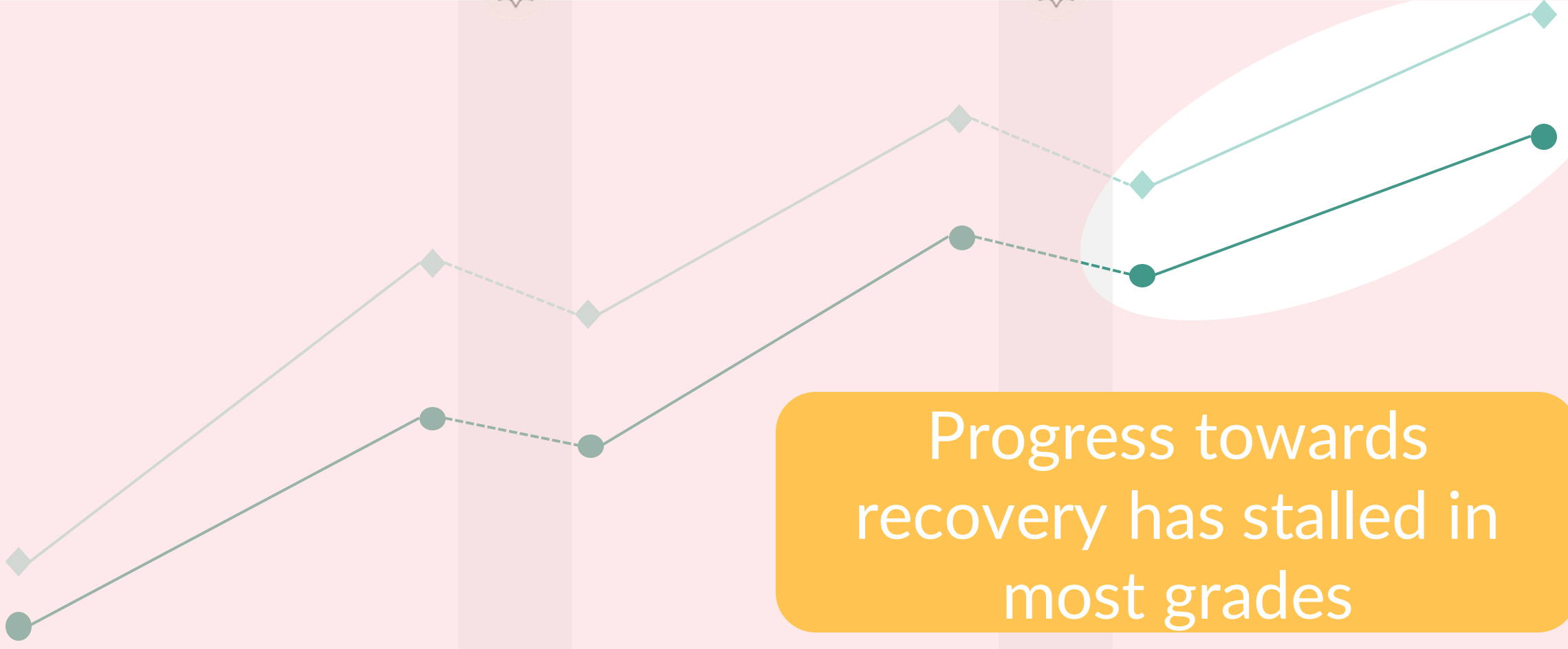
2022-23



Year 1

Year 2

Year 3



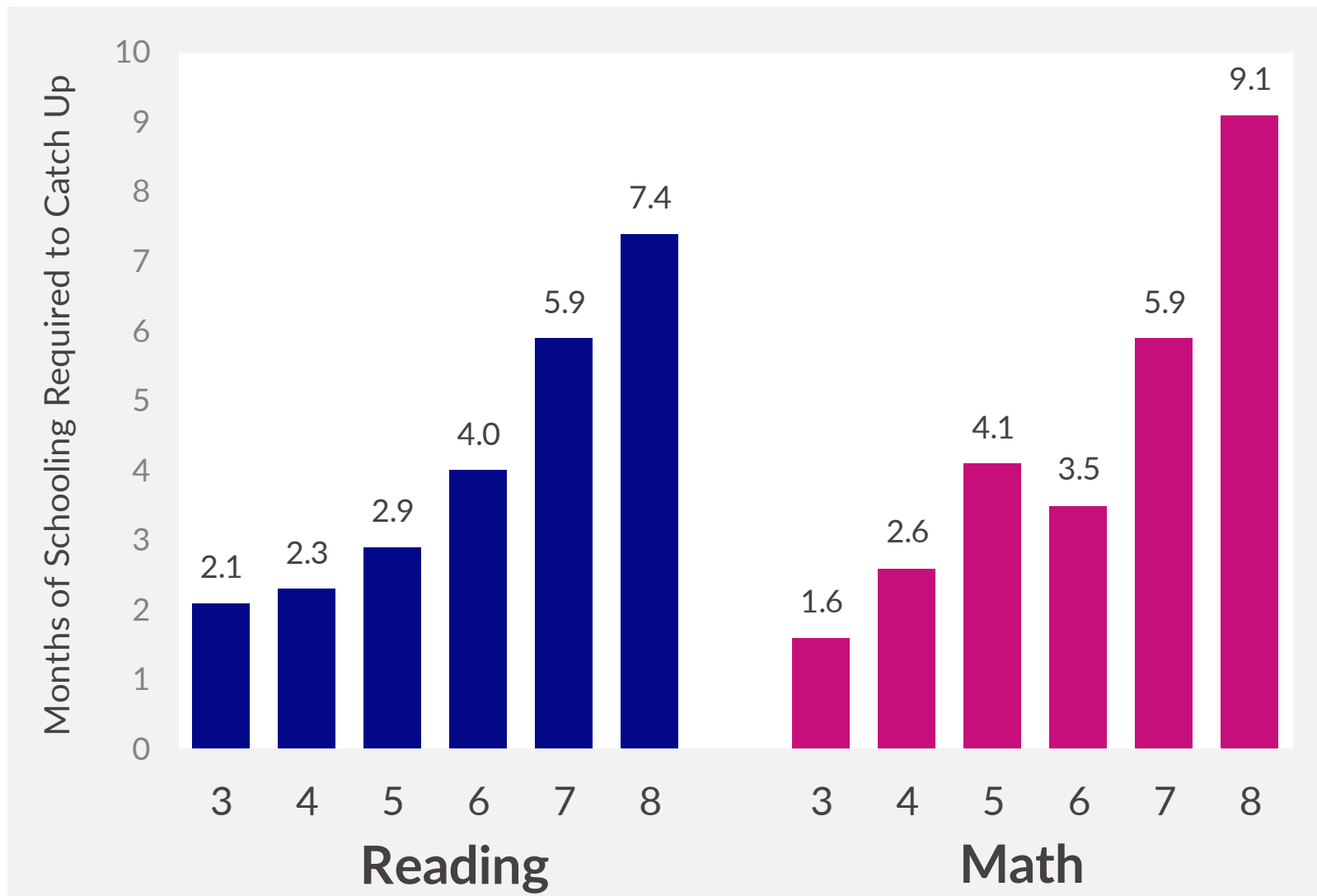
Progress towards recovery has stalled in most grades

2020-21

2021-22

2022-23

**What will it take to get students  
caught up?**



To catch up, the average students needs 4.1 additional months of schooling in reading and 4.5 months in math.



# Summary

## 01

Students are showing signs of some academic recovery, but progress has been modest and largely stalled during 2022-23.

## 02

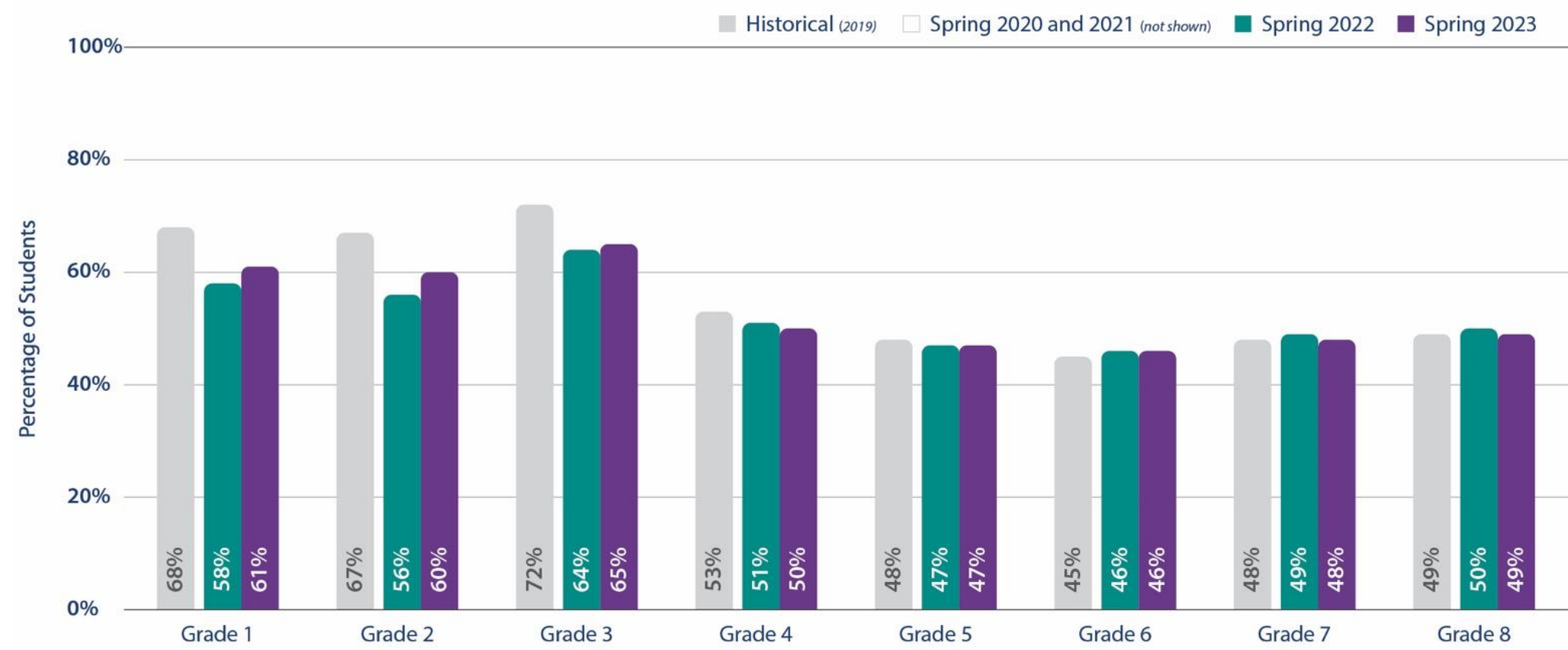
The amount of additional learning needed to catch up cannot be recouped in a single year or in a single intervention, especially for older students.

## 03

Achievement disparities have widened significantly over the last three years, and marginalized students remain the furthest from recovery.

# Overall Reading: % On Grade Level

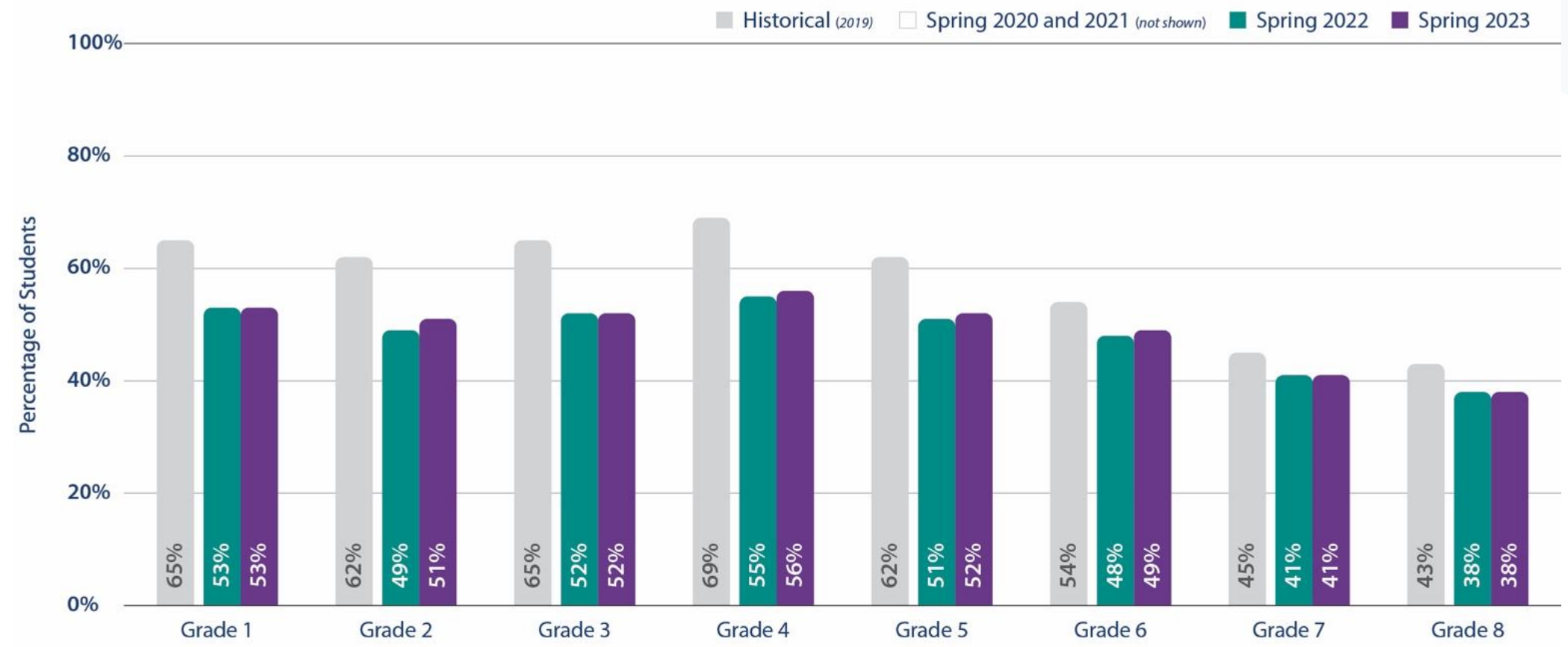
In the early elementary grades, fewer students placed on grade level in 2023 than prior to the pandemic.



March 2020	Pre-K	Pre-K	Pre-K	K	1	2	3	4	5
Spring 2023	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

# Overall Math: % On Grade Level

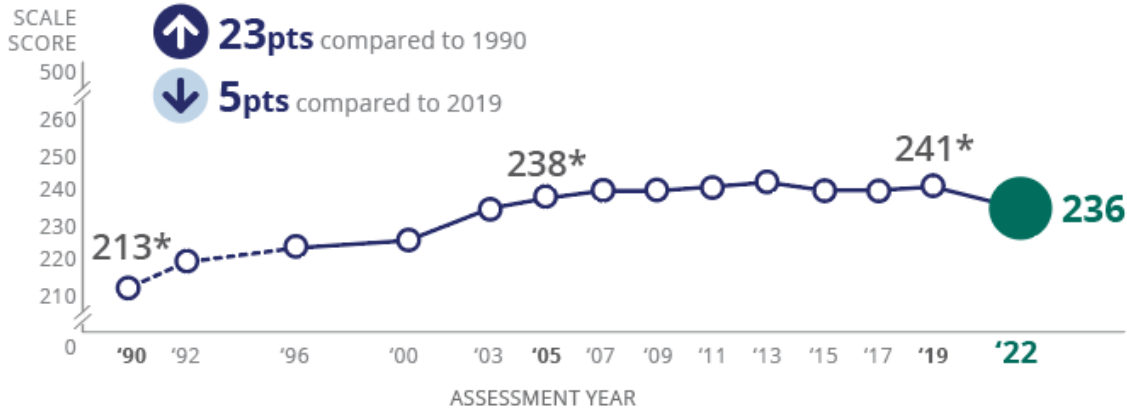
In 2023, fewer students are on grade level than prior to the pandemic.



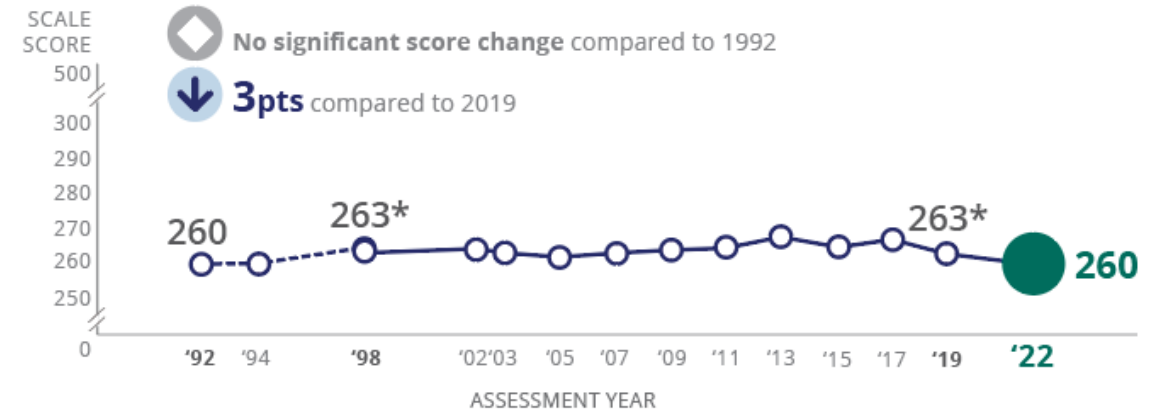
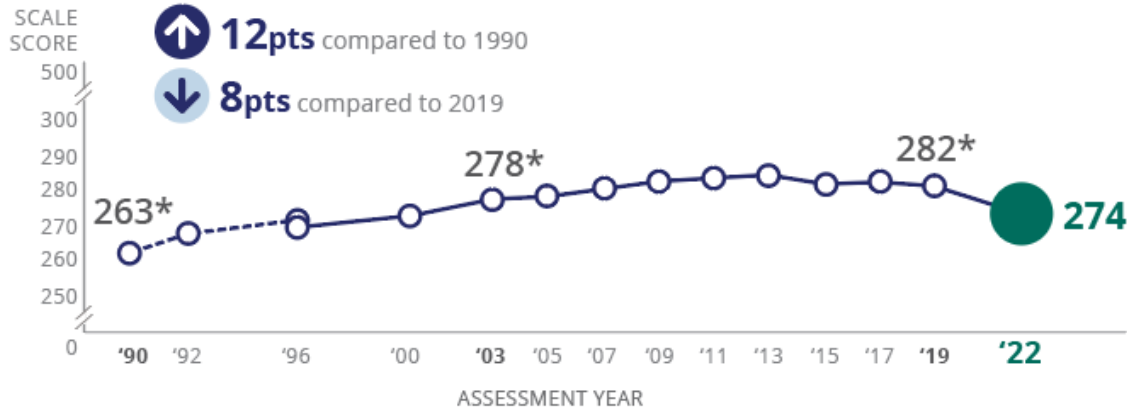
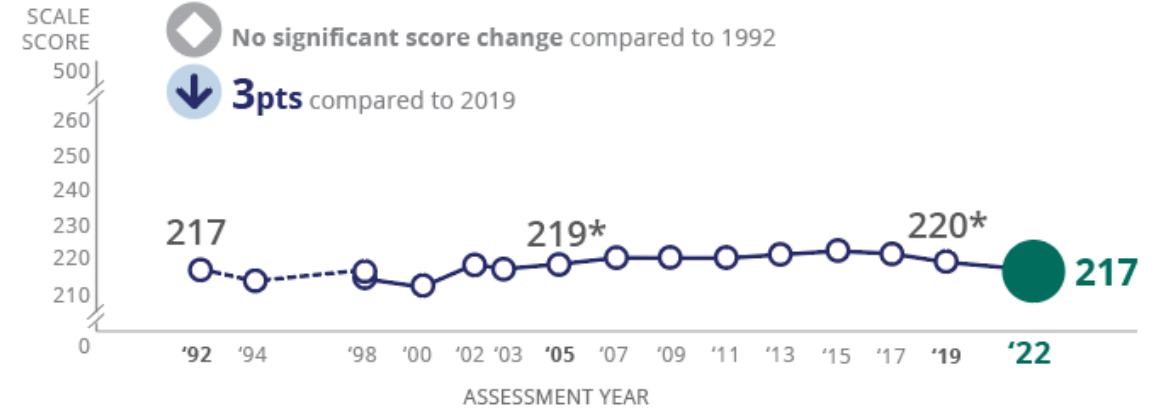
March 2020	Pre-K	Pre-K	Pre-K	K	1	2	3	4	5
Spring 2023	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

# Math and reading scores decline during pandemic

## Mathematics



## Reading

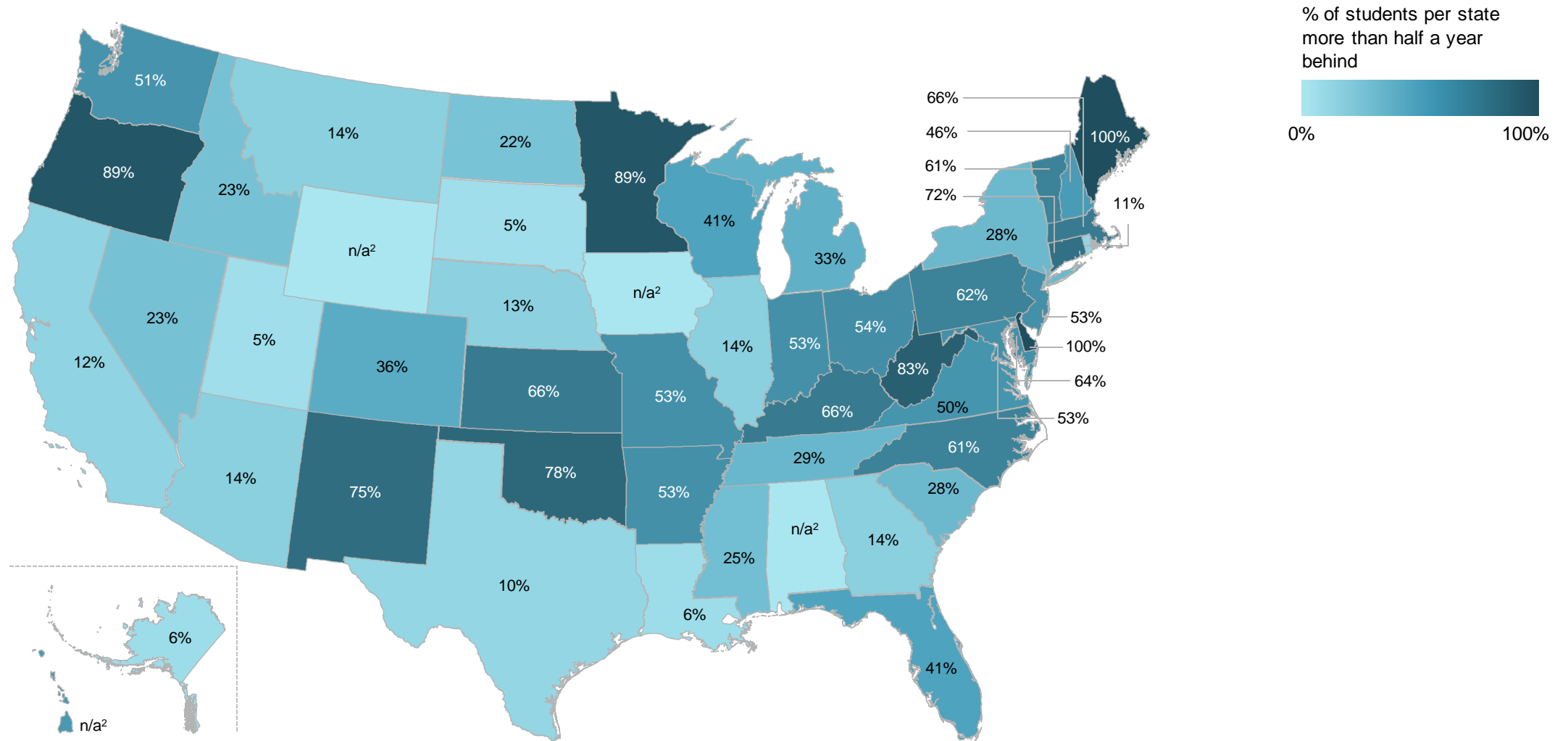


SOURCE: National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1990–2022 Mathematics and Reading Assessments at Grades 4 and 8.

\* Significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) from 2022.

# 17M+ students have had more than half a year of learning delay

% of students with more than 4.5 months or half a year of learning delay between 2019 and 2022 on NAEP, by state<sup>1</sup>



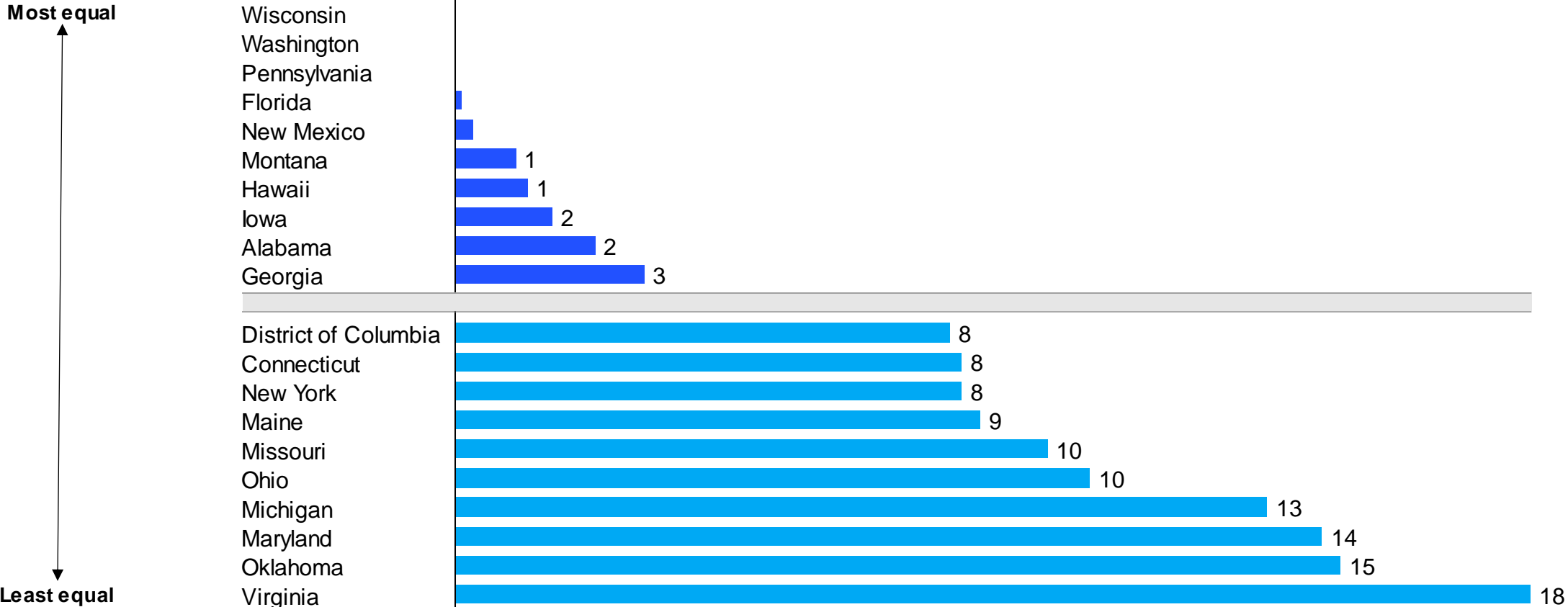
1. Students with greater than 4.5 months of learning delay (of full year of 9 months) based upon conversion of 1 NAEP point to 3 weeks of learning  
 2. Percentages calculated based upon quartile and decile NAEP data. States with n/a have no decile of students with greater than half a year of learning delay



**What do we know about what works  
to promote learning recovery?**

# Even within states, NAEP learning delay is not equitable

Difference in learning delay between top and bottom student performance quartiles, 2019 to 2022  
Weeks behind



Source: [The Nation's Report Card](#)

**Interventions will likely need to be stacked to close the learning delay gap**

1

**High quality instructional materials paired with high quality professional learning**



2

**High quality, high intensity tutoring**



3

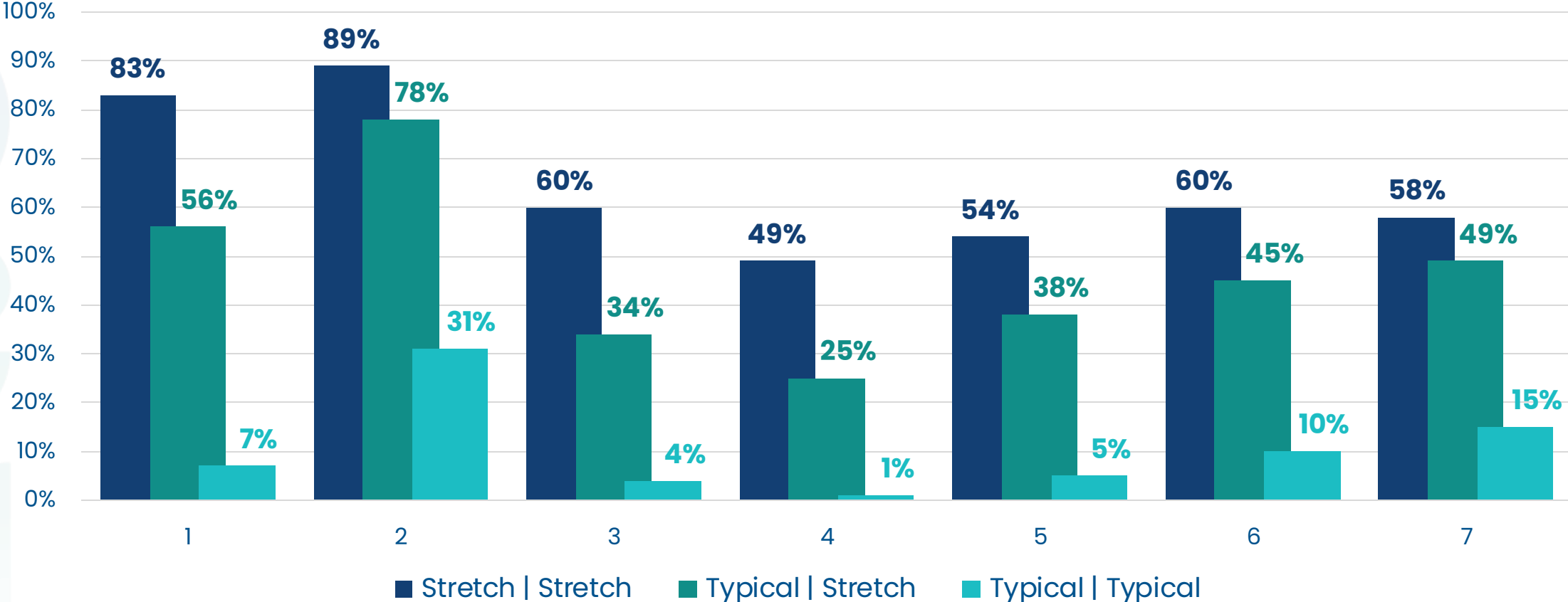
**Summer academies**





Our latest research shows more students—including those multiple years below their given grade level—can reach grade level by setting and meeting Stretch Growth targets two years in a row.

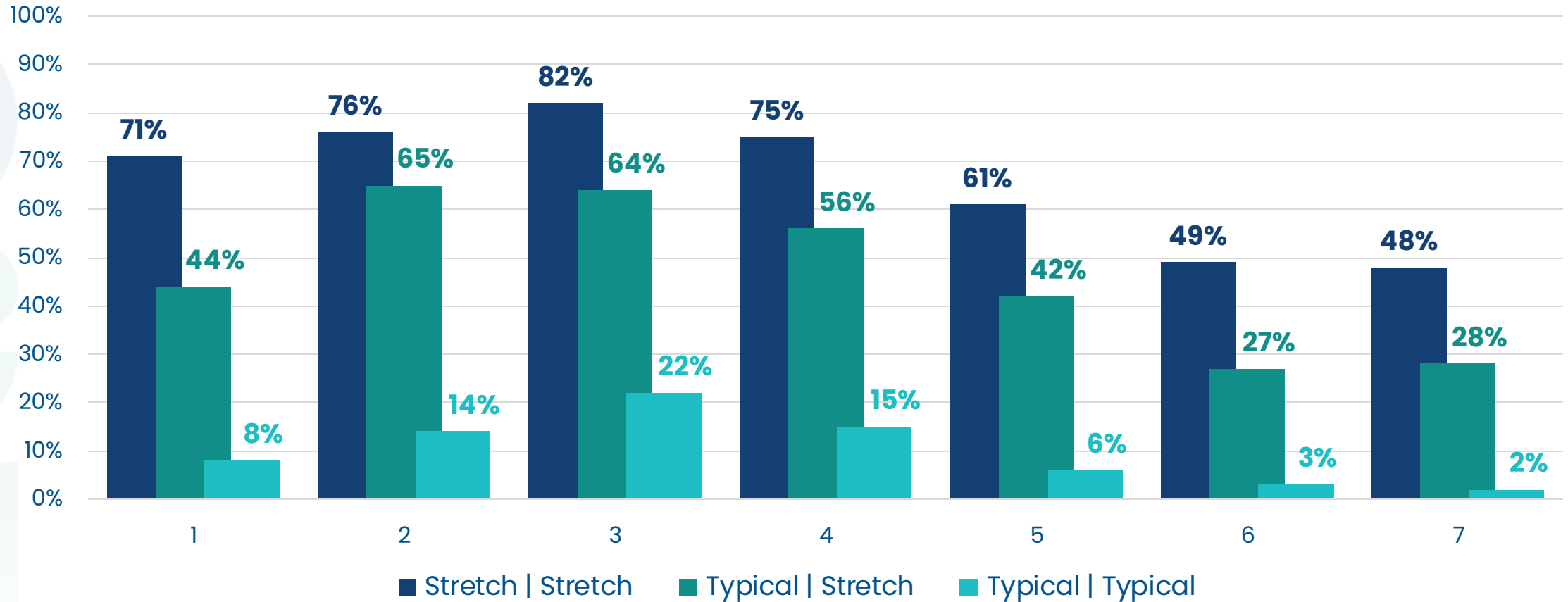
Percentage of Students Reaching Proficiency Based on Growth Targets Achieved Over Two Years; Reading



Note: All students began Y1 two or more grade levels below.

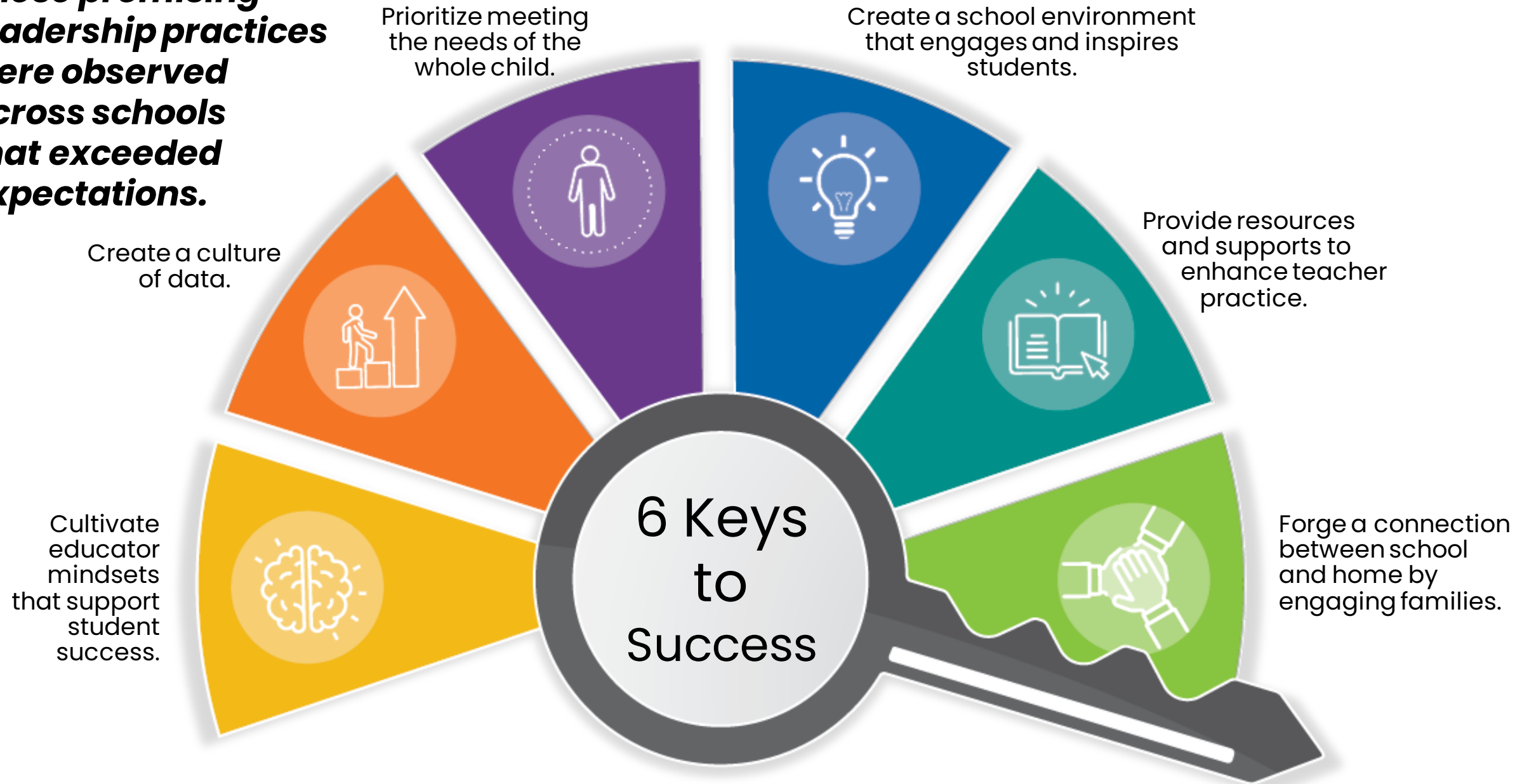
# More students who placed two or more years below grade level reached grade level if they met Stretch Growth targets vs. students who met Typical Growth in both years.

## Percentage of Students Reaching Proficiency Based on Growth Targets Achieved Over Two Years; Math



Note: All students began Y1 two or more grade levels below.

***These promising leadership practices were observed across schools that exceeded expectations.***



# Key recovery strategies in K–12 public schools: December 2022

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49%

Public school students began the 2022–23 school year **behind grade level** in at least one subject

59%

Public schools used **tailored accelerated learning strategies** to promote learning recovery

37%

Public schools offered **high-dosage tutoring** during the 2022–23 school year

59%

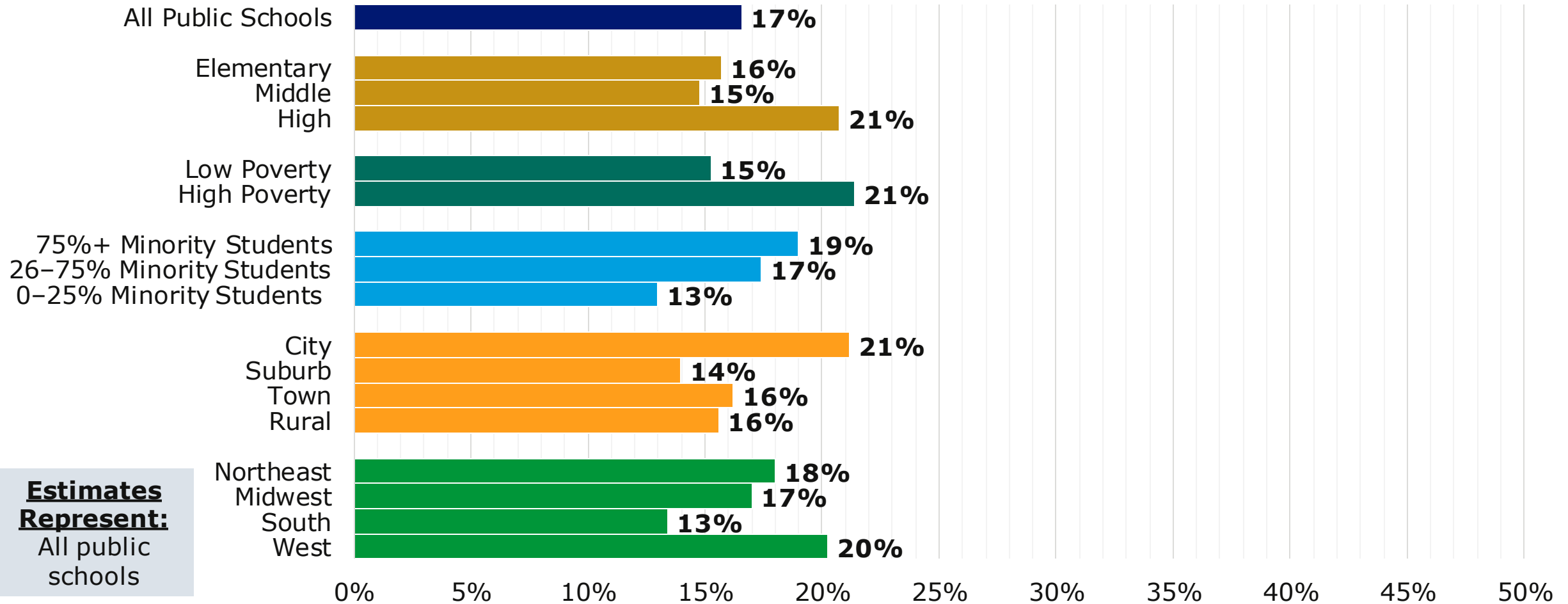
Public schools offered **standard tutoring** during the 2022–23 school year



**What are important things to think about as we start the new school year?**

# Public schools on average reported that **17%** of their students were **chronically absent**

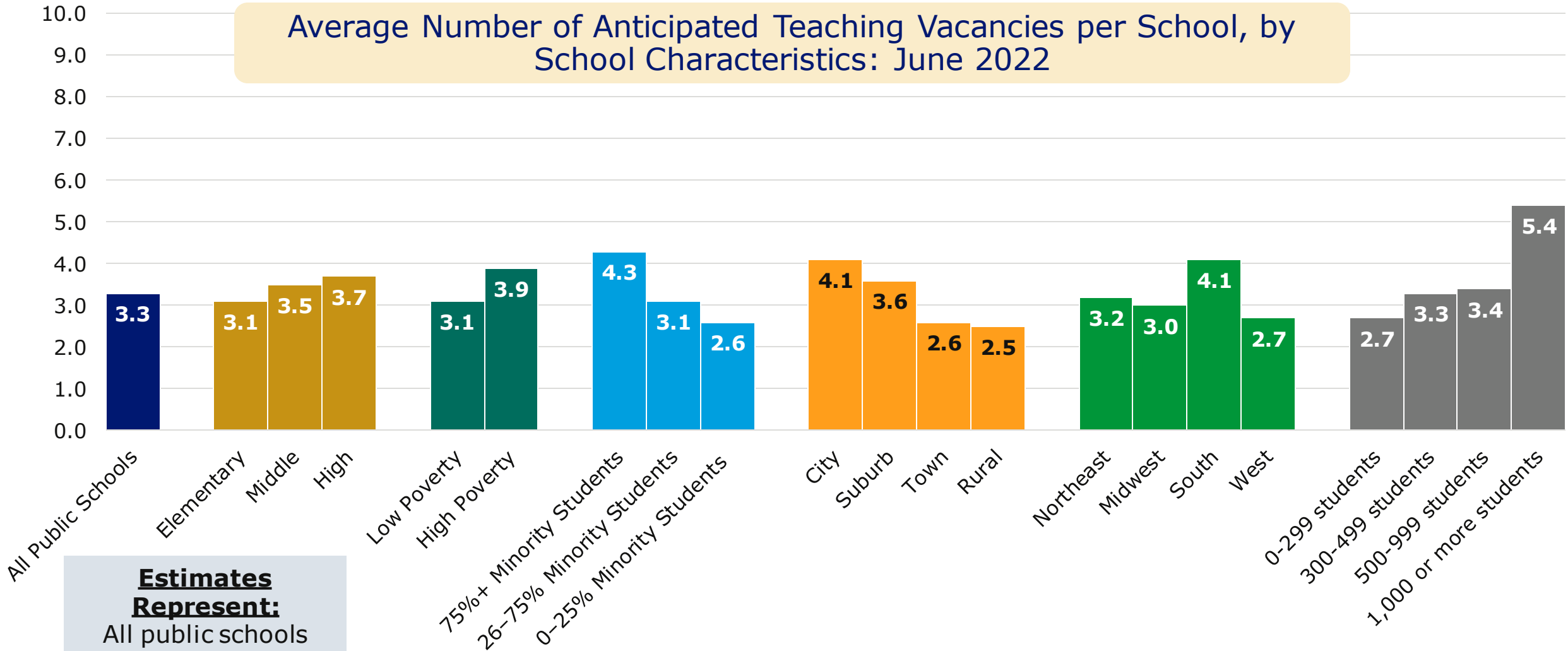
Average Percent of Chronically Absent Students in 2021–22: May 2022



**Estimates Represent:**  
All public schools

# Schools anticipated **3 teaching vacancies** on average before the 2022–23 school year

Average Number of Anticipated Teaching Vacancies per School, by School Characteristics: June 2022



**Estimates Represent:**

All public schools

# 82% of public schools reported **teacher and staff mental health** becoming a more pressing issue

Percentage of Public Schools Reporting the Following Concerns Related to Teaching and Staff as Becoming More Pressing during the 2021–22 School Year: June 2022

## **Well-being**

Teacher and staff **burnout**

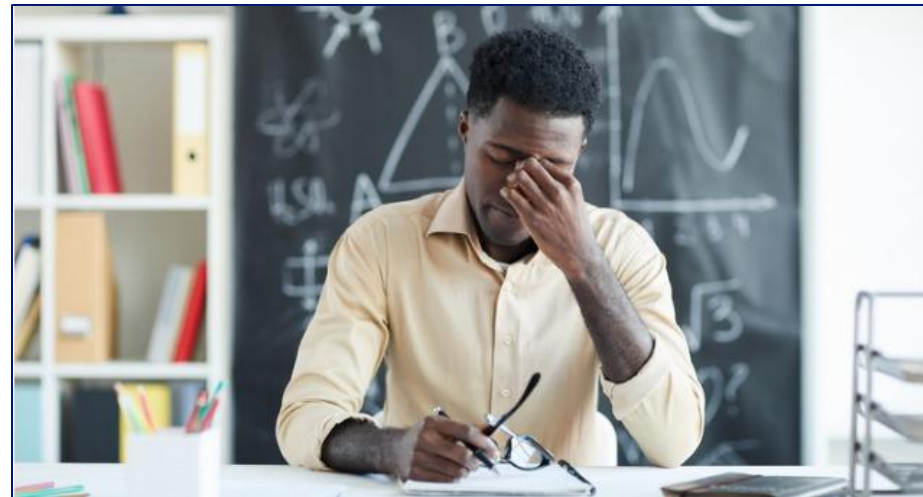
**88%**

Teacher and staff **mental health**

**82%**

Teacher and staff **physical health**

**51%**



**Estimates Represent:**  
All public schools

## **Staffing**

**62%**

Inability to fill **vacant positions**

**42%**

Teachers and staff **leaving** the profession

**29%**

Teachers and staff **retiring** early



# Questions?

[gradelevelreading.net](http://gradelevelreading.net) @readingby3rd #GLReading #LearningTuesdays #GLRKeepers



# Upcoming GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinars

## FUNDER-TO-FUNDER CONVERSATION

Rx Kids: A Prescription for Improved Child Health & Well-Being in Flint, Michigan

Tuesday, September 26, 12:30-2:00 p.m. ET/9:30-11:00 a.m. PT

## GLR LEARNING TUESDAYS: LEARNING LOSS RECOVERY CHALLENGE

Beyond the Headlines: What Data Tell Us a Year Later

Tuesday, September 26, 3:00-4:30 p.m. ET/12-1:30 p.m. PT

## GLR LEARNING TUESDAYS: LEARNING LOSS RECOVERY CHALLENGE

Taking Action: Accelerating Equitable Learning Recovery

October 3, 2023, 3:00-4:30 p.m. ET/12-1:30 p.m. PT

## CRUCIBLE OF PRACTICE SALON

What's Working: CGLR Communities With Learning-Rich Spaces in Everyday Places

October 10, 2023, 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. ET/ 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Please Join Us

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