

**TheUpshot**

# See How Your School District Is Recovering From the Pandemic

By Francesca Paris Feb. 1, 2024

Elementary and middle-school students are recovering from pandemic learning losses, according to a new study by researchers at Stanford and Harvard.

But there are huge differences across the country. Some school districts are testing better than in 2019. Many more are still worse off. (Read our full analysis here.)

This tool includes math test scores for public school districts from 41 states. Several states — New York among them — are excluded because of low test participation rates or insufficient public data.

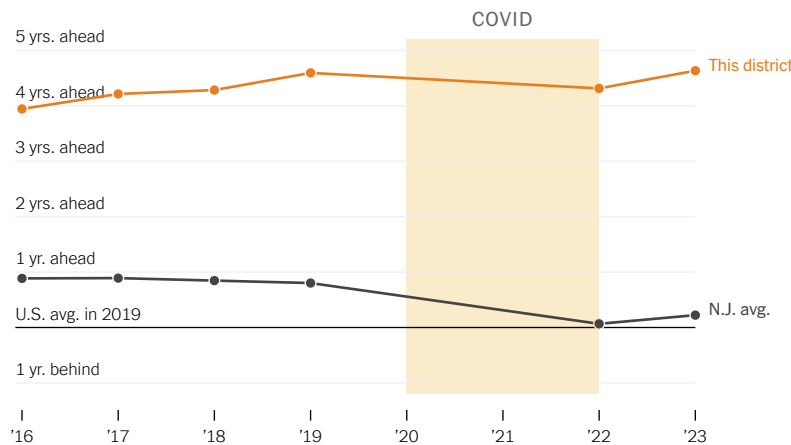
Other states, including Texas and Florida, have data only through 2022 because of changes to their state tests. Each circle represents a year of testing; there was no testing in the spring of 2020 and incomplete testing in 2021.

## Look up a district

Choose a district. You can scroll or type.

Rumson Borough School District (N.J.) x

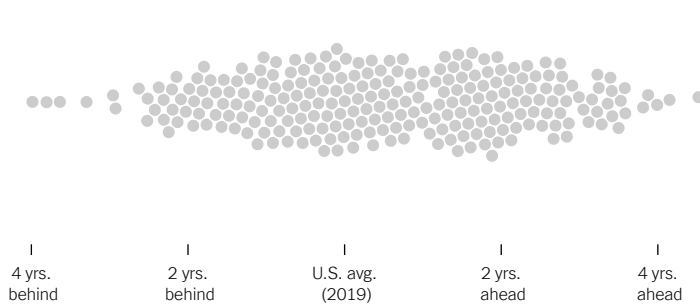
### Math test scores, 3rd grade through 8th



Here's how the latest math scores compare to districts with available data in the rest of the state:

2023 math scores in **New Jersey**

Rumson Borough



Note: "Covid" signifies the school years most affected by the pandemic. The U.S. average is based on districts in states with available 2023 data. State and district results are reported relative to that average. Source: The Educational Opportunity Project at Stanford University, and the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University

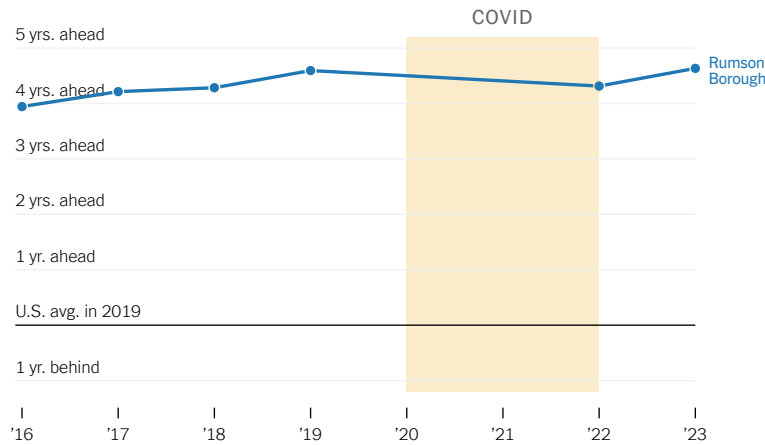
By linking state test results with the results of a federal exam, the National Assessment of Educational Progress, the researchers' method allows for comparisons across states.

### Compare districts

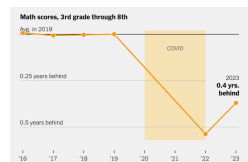
Choose one or more districts. You can scroll or type.

Rumson Borough School District (N.J.) ×

#### Math test scores, 3rd grade through 8th



Many factors influence student test scores, but among the most significant are family and community incomes. Districts in poorer communities tend to have lower scores than those in richer communities, and students from poorer families tend to score below students from richer families in the same district, gaps that were worsened by the pandemic.



#### Students Are Making a 'Surprising' Rebound From Pandemic Closures. But Some May Never Catch Up.

The first detailed nationwide data on schools' recovery shows that achievement gaps have widened, with the poorest students the furthest behind.

By Claire Cain Miller, Sarah Mervosh and Francesca Paris

Big districts are often poorer, and so on average tend to score lower. But across states, and even within the same state, major school districts had significantly different performances during the pandemic.

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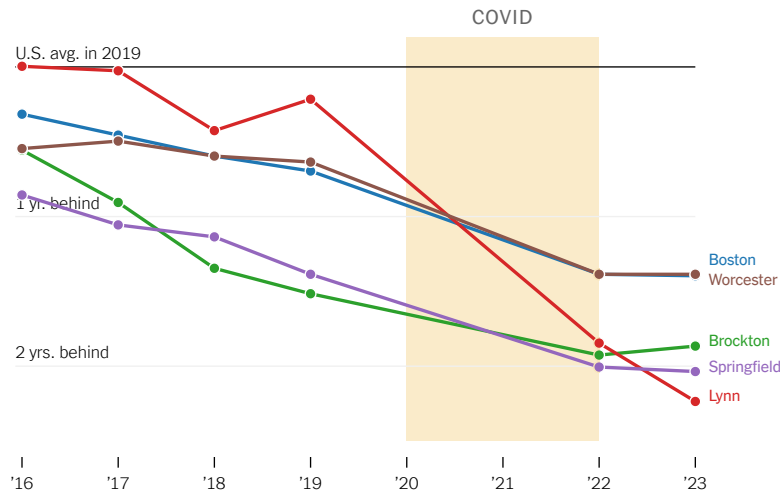


### The Coolest Inventions of 2024

Here are 33 cool inventions you should grab before they're gone.

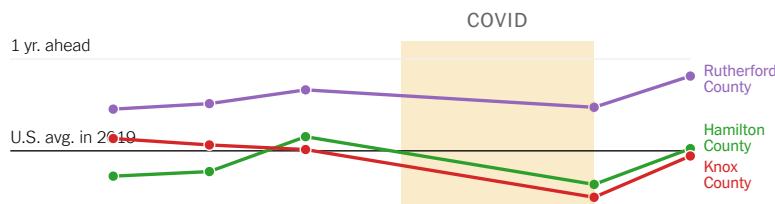
Massachusetts saw large drops in math test scores, driven by losses among its poorer students.

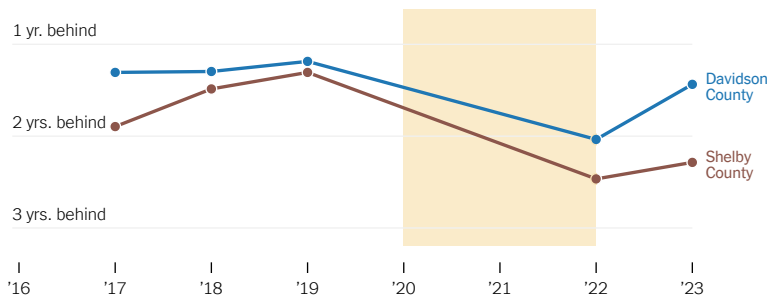
Math test scores for major school districts in Massachusetts



Tennessee districts fared relatively well during the pandemic, in many cases making up their losses and scoring roughly as well in 2023 as they had in 2019. On average, across the state, both poorer and richer students in Tennessee were able to recover significant ground.

Math test scores for major school districts in Tennessee

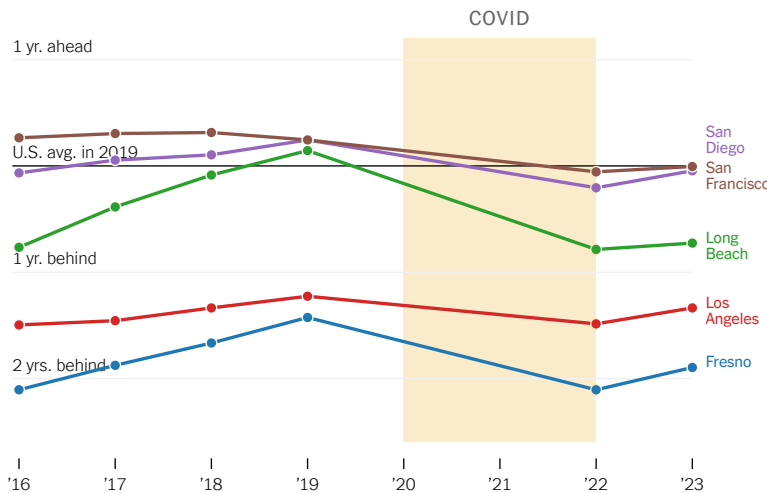




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And some major districts in California performed surprisingly well. Los Angeles, the second-biggest public school district in the country, lost less ground than many major districts and had an above-average recovery relative to the rest of the state.

**Math test scores for major school districts in California**



How did some districts find success? In many cases, they combined multiple strategies for recovery.

Update, Feb. 8, 2024: This article has been updated to reflect a change to the data from researchers at Stanford and Harvard. On Monday, the researchers removed Oregon from the data set because its test participation rates were slightly below their threshold of 94 percent in 2022 and 2023. This tool and article previously included Oregon districts.

Source: The Educational Opportunity Project at Stanford University and the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University

Researchers calculated average test scores for students from third through eighth grade in about 30 states, representing about 60 percent of the U.S. public school population in those grades.

Researchers excluded school districts in states that do not provide sufficiently detailed test data on their public websites, and in states for years when participation rates were below 94 percent. Charter schools and some small districts were also excluded due to insufficient data.

Small differences from year to year may be a result of imprecision in the methods used to link state tests to a common scale, rather than a real change in student academic performance. Data for some smaller districts, which have larger margins of error on average, was excluded

from this tool but can be found at The Educational Opportunity Project. Margins of error for every district's estimates can also be found there.

To develop a consistent scale across states and over time, researchers link each state's test results with the results of a federal exam, the National Assessment of Educational Progress. Since there was no NAEP test in 2023, researchers relied on the stability of state tests and proficiency definitions for recovery estimates; states that changed their exams between 2021-22 and 2022-23 were excluded from the 2023 data.

Additional reporting by Sarah Mervosh and Claire Cain Miller. Additional work by Aatish Bhatia.