Academics Updates

The Upward Trajectory

Lancaster County Academic Achievement & SC READY Results (2024-2026)

Gemini Notebook

Three Distinct Stories of System-Wide Achievement

The 2026 SC READY results demonstrate that Lancaster County's recent academic growth is not isolated, but rather driven by three powerful, district-wide trends.



Early Literacy & Numeracy

Sweeping, foundational gains across third and fourth-grade classrooms.



Broad-Based Acceleration

Historic, double-digit leaps occurring in our historically lower-proficiency schools.



Middle School Momentum

Unprecedented, universal improvement across Grade 8 (Math and ELA) and Grade 6 (Science).

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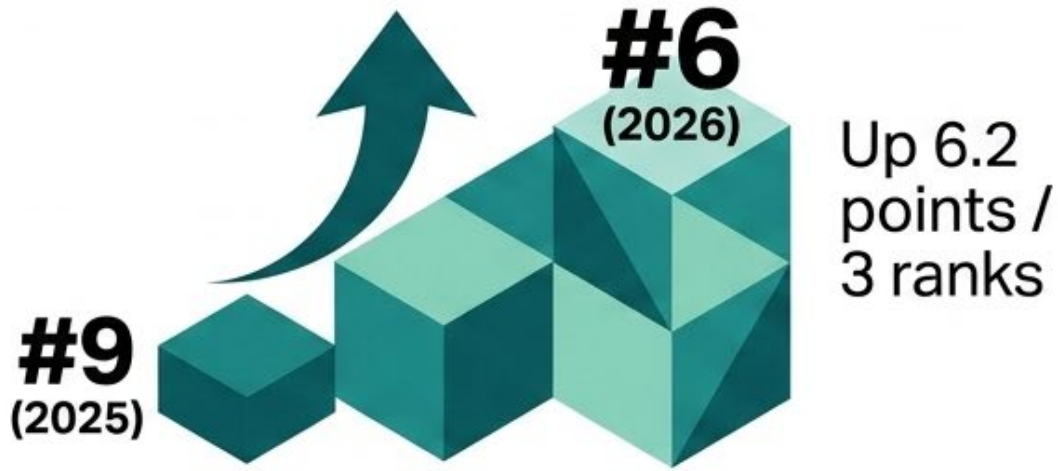
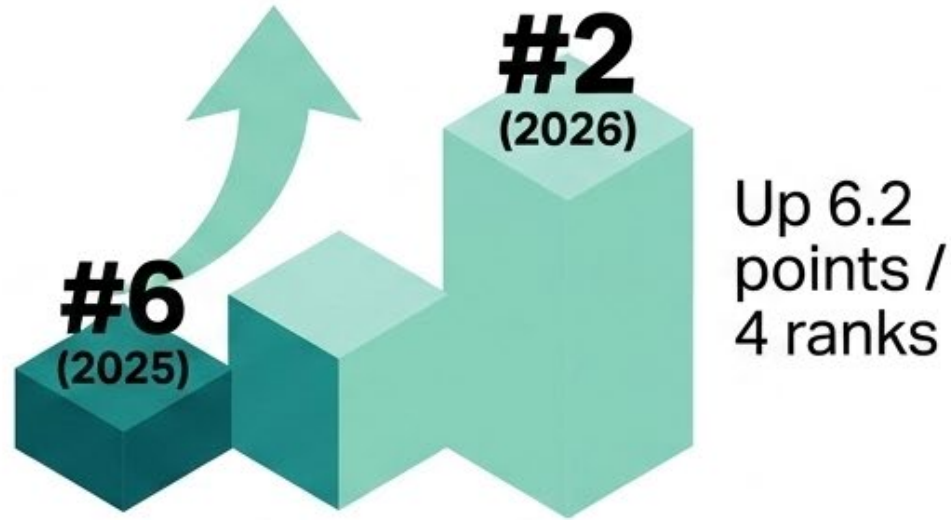
Lancaster County is Now 4th in the State

Out of 75 districts in South Carolina, our third graders have rapidly climbed the ranks when ELA and Math performance are considered together.

4th out of 75



3rd Grade ELA



3rd Grade Math

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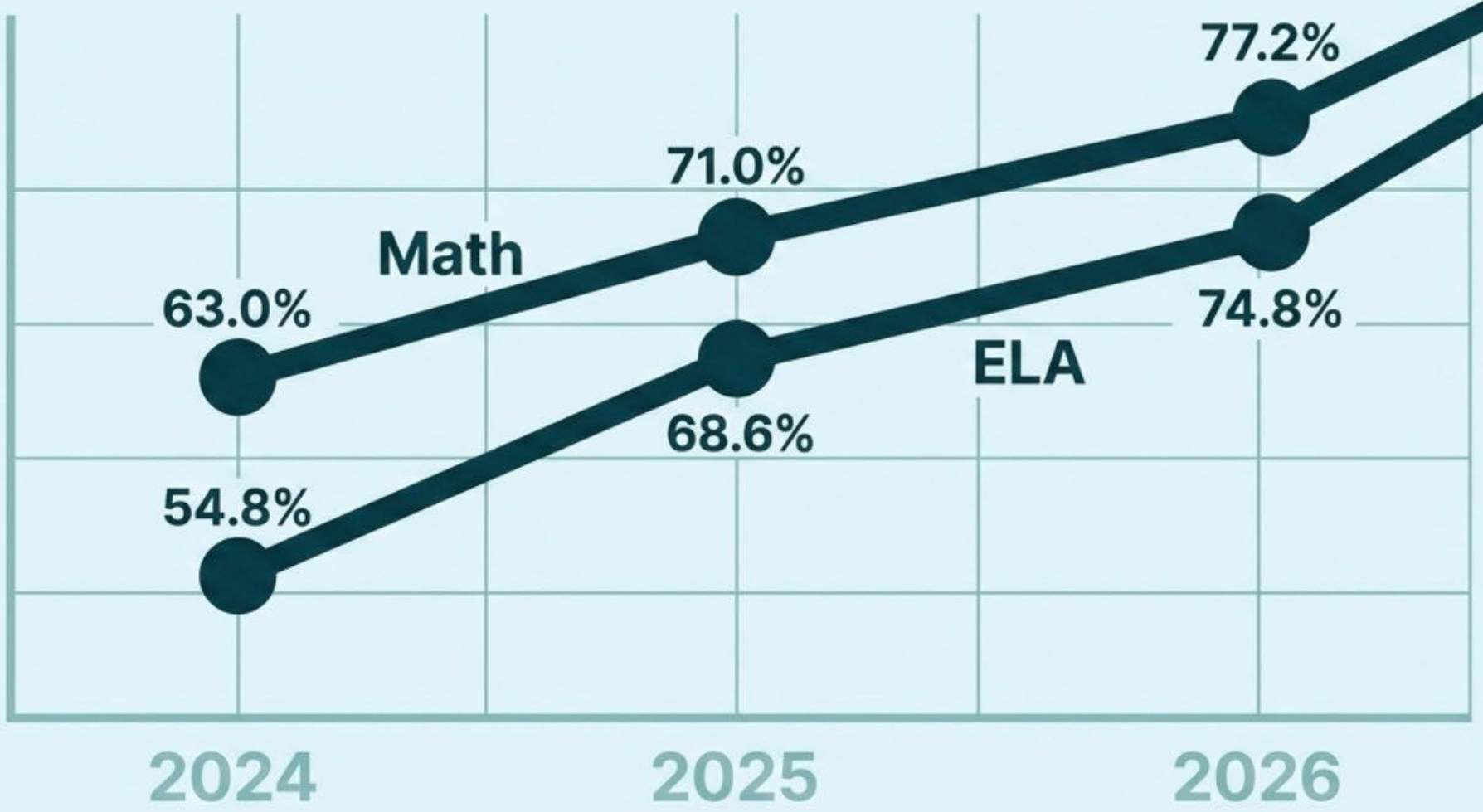
The Catalyst at Grade 3

Over just two years, third-grade performance has undergone a transformation, yielding a staggering 20-point increase in ELA.



+20 Points

+14.2 Points

Key Insight: In 2026, 3rd Grade Math officially ranks #2 in the entire state (up 4 ranks from 2025).

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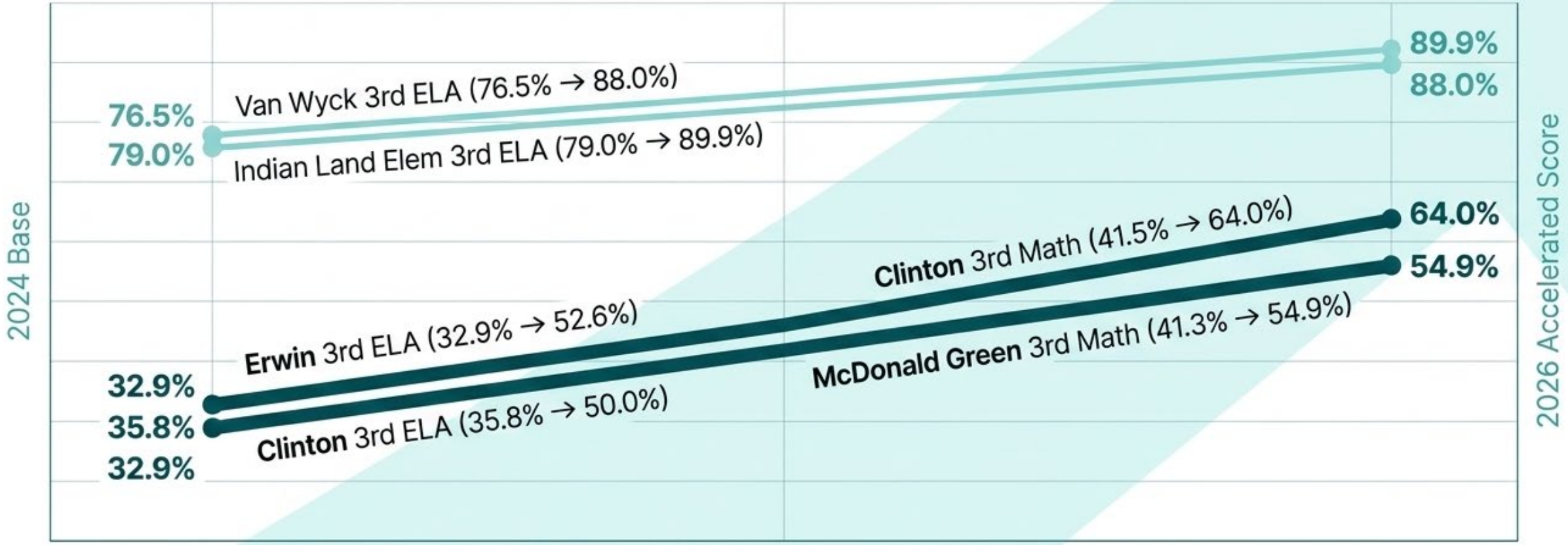
Equitable Acceleration: Closing the Gap Across Communities



Growth is not isolated to historically high-performing schools. We are witnessing massive **acceleration** across campuses serving distinct communities from entirely different starting lines.

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Broad-Based Growth: Accelerating from All Starting Points

Clinton (3rd Math)

41.5% → **64.0%**

(+22.5 pts)

Erwin (3rd ELA)

32.9% → **52.6%**

(+19.7 pts)

North (4th ELA)

37.2% → **62.8%**

(+25.6 pts)

Brooklyn Springs (4th ELA)

30.2% → **48.1%**

(+17.9 pts)

Acceleration is occurring universally, with some of the most dramatic year-over-year leaps happening at schools with historically lower proficiency rates.

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Striking, District-Wide Gains in Grade 4 ELA

The vast majority of our elementary schools improved in fourth-grade ELA, with the average school gaining **8.6 percentage points** overall. Our district ranking surged from #25 to #10 in the state.

1

North

37.2% → 62.8%

+25.6 points

2

Heath Springs

40.4% → 61.9%

+21.5 points

3

Brooklyn Springs

30.2% → 48.1%

+17.9 points

4

Clinton

29.7% → 45.8%

+16.1 points

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Transitioning to Secondary

Middle School Momentum

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The Breakout Story: Universal Grade 8 Growth

The Grade 8 results represent an exceptionally strong system story: every single middle school improved in both ELA and Math. Our state rank in Math rocketed from #23 up to #18, driven by a 16.6-point district-wide increase.

Grade 8 ELA



5 out of 5 Schools Improved

Average gain: +9.6 pts

Grade 8 Math



5 out of 5 Schools Improved

Average gain: +14.4 pts

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Exceptional System-Wide Leaps in Grade 8

The universal improvement is anchored by double-digit gains across multiple middle school campuses.

Grade 8 Math Growth



ELA Spotlights

South:
+17.0 points

Buford:
+12.0 points

Andrew Jackson:
+10.7 points

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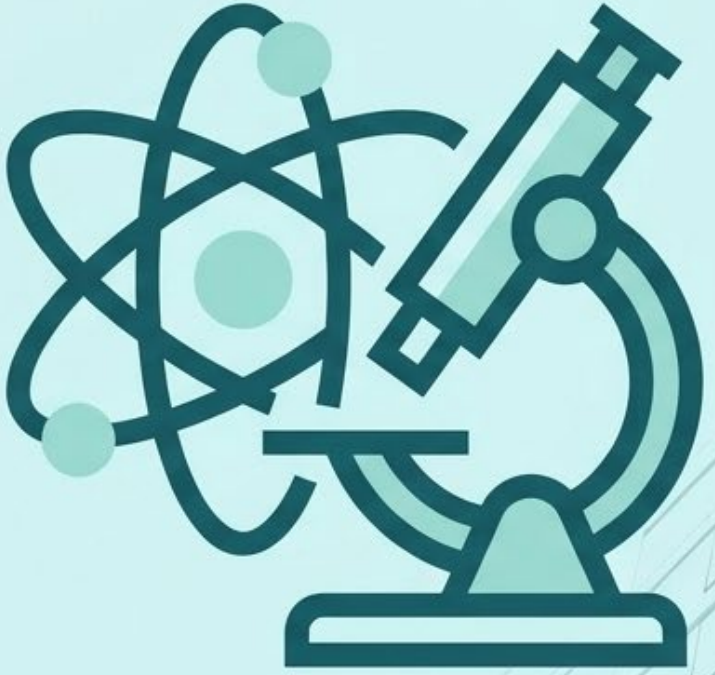
6th Grade Science: Positive Momentum Across the Board



Double-Digit Growth: A.R. Rucker (**+13.3**) and South Middle (**+11.6**).

Sustained Excellence: Indian Land Intermediate maintained exceptionally high achievement (**79.5%**) while still posting positive growth (**+1.0**).

Steady Climbs: Andrew Jackson Middle (**+9.1**) and Buford Middle (**+2.5**).

All Campuses
District-wide improvement is undeniable, with every single school serving Grade 6 demonstrating gains in Science.

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Targeted Focus Areas for the Year Ahead

True system-wide growth requires a clear-eyed analysis of all data. While the vast majority of indicators are historic, we have identified two clear instructional priorities where data was mixed or declined.

Diagnostic Priority: Grade 5 Math	A mixed story across the district, resulting in a slight average dip of -0.8 points (though the state rank of #6 was successfully held).
Diagnostic Priority: Grade 7 ELA	A clear system-wide weakness, with an average decline of -4.5 points and a corresponding drop in state ranking. This is our primary instructional intervention focus for secondary ELA.

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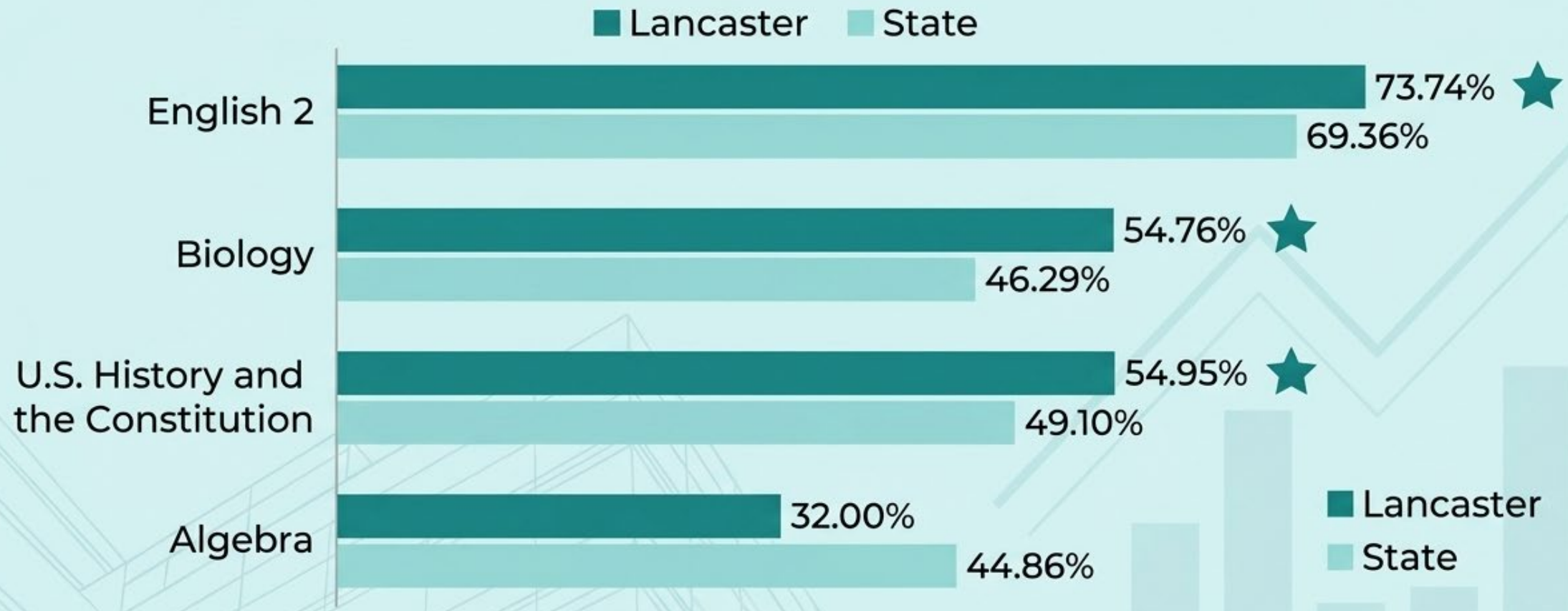
High School Core Subjects: Outperforming State Averages



Note: Algebra represents a targeted area for structural instructional alignment in the upcoming academic year.

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A District Moving Forward

District-Wide Improvement

Gains are not isolated to pockets of the county; the vast majority of **campuses** are driving the upward trajectory.

Equitable Acceleration

Monumental **point leaps** are occurring **across communities** and demographic starting **lines, closing historical gaps.**

Historic Milestones

From 3rd-grade securing #4 in the state to universal middle school breakouts, Lancaster County's academic momentum is undeniable.

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The State of the District is Strong—and Rising.

- ↑ Early foundations are rapidly strengthening.
- ↑ Historically marginalized schools are accelerating at unprecedented rates.
- ↑ Secondary achievement is aggressively outpacing the state average.

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