SUCCESS SNAPSHOT

Birmingham Leads Alabama in Mathematics Recovery

Achievement up half a grade level equivalent in one year.

A recent study[1] of 8,000 school districts across 30 states found that Alabama is the only state where students' average mathematics proficiency exceeds pre-pandemic levels. BCS is ranked first in the state for mathematics recovery.

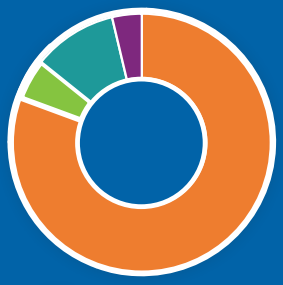
To overcome pandemic-related learning loss, Superintendent Mark Sullivan credits a comprehensive districtwide initiative to increase engagement and growth, including "layering the supports[2]" available to BCS via state and federal funding. The district is leaning into best practices, enrolling students in enrichment sessions, implementing wraparound services, seeking additional funding, and partnering with community organizations—including local universities whose undergrads provide high-intensity tutoring to BCS students.

ENROLLMENT
20k

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
14%

Birmingham City Schools (BCS)

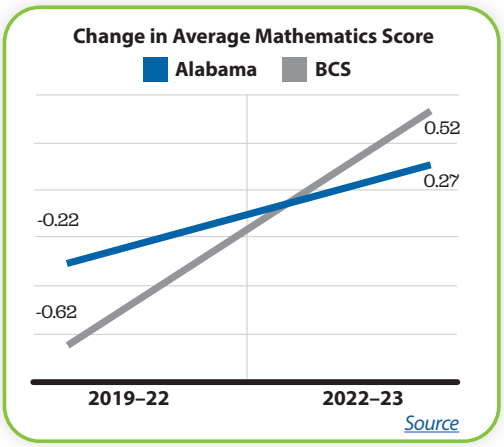
Grades Pre-K–12 Breakdown



Black
Hispanic/Latino
White
Other

4
years partnering with Curriculum Associates

87%
Students Who Are Economically Disadvantaged

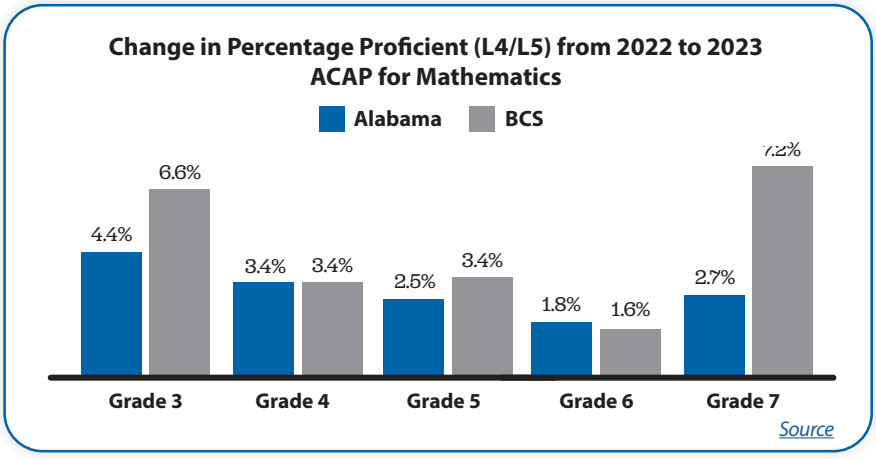


For Genita Matthews, principal of Huffman Middle School, it's all about "Changing the Mindset to Mastery. . .We believe in having weekly math [professional learning communities] to meet the teachers' needs, so the teachers can meet the students' needs," she said. "Teachers used to work alone. Now they work as a group, along with the instructional coach and the administrators. This is an exciting meeting to get all math teachers and administrators to ask questions and share their strategies."

Across Grades 3–8, the number of BCS students scoring on track (L4) or mastered (L5) on the Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP) in mathematics grew by four percentage points from 2022 to 2023. Growth in Grades 3 and 7 was especially impressive at 6.6 and 7.2 percentage points, respectively.

Curriculum Associates and the *i-Ready* team are proud to partner with and support BCS' success.

BCS ranks first in Alabama and seventh among other large, urban districts studied nationally for mathematics recovery.[3]



[1]Fahle, E., Kane T. J., Reardon, S. F., & Staiger, D. O. (2024). Education Recovery Scorecard: The first year of pandemic recovery: A district-level analysis.
[2]WBRC News. (2024). Birmingham City Schools pandemic recovery.
[3]Education Recovery Scorecard. (2024). Academic recovery for school districts in 30 states. Education Recovery Scorecard.

©2024 Curriculum Associates, LLC. All rights reserved. | 02/24 0K | 2246132