



Fast Facts

Pandemic recovery has failed for the vast majority of students, especially the most vulnerable.



Share of US students in districts that have recovered to pre-pandemic achievement in both math and reading

(Education Scorecard, 2025)



States that have returned to pre-pandemic attendance levels

(FutureEd)

Change in US eighth-grade math scores since 2022:

TOP 10% OF STUDENTS:



BOTTOM 10% OF STUDENTS:



(NAEP via *The 74*)

Students chronically absent:

BEFORE THE PANDEMIC:



IN 2024-25:



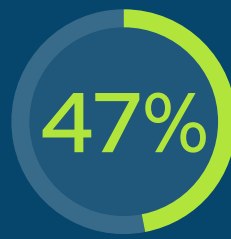
(AEI)

The problem is even bigger than pandemic recovery.



The year nationwide academic achievement began to decline

(Wyckoff, 2025)



Share of the post-pandemic decline on NAEP eighth-grade math that pre-pandemic trends alone would have predicted

(Wyckoff, 2025)



Teachers who reported experiencing burnout in 2026

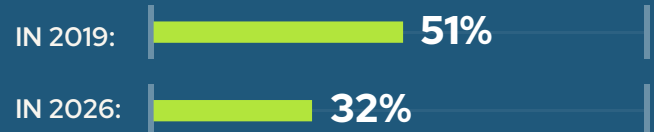
(RAND)

Change in the share of fourth graders with disabilities scoring at least "Basic" in NAEP math:

Adults satisfied with American public education:



(CRPE analysis of NAEP data, forthcoming)



(Gallup)

AI is already in classrooms, and state guidance is a patchwork.

Teachers and students who used AI for school purposes:



(Center for Democracy and Technology)



States without K-12 AI guidance



States that have published or endorsed K-12 AI guidance since 2023



States with AI guidance, requiring AI tools to be vetted for academic outcomes (Maryland)

(CRPE analysis, 2026)

Student outcomes vary dramatically across states.

Estimated lifetime earnings loss due to pandemic learning loss for students:

IN THE LEAST-AFFECTED STATES:

2%

IN THE HARDEST-HIT STATES:

up to 9%



State scoring above 2019 levels in both math and reading (Louisiana)

(Education Scorecard)

(Hanushek et al., 2024)

Growth in the gap between highest and lowest performers, 2013–24:



25.5 NAEP POINTS IN PENNSYLVANIA, WHERE THE GAP HAS GROWN FASTEST

(NAEP via *The 74*)



6.6 NAEP POINTS IN NORTH DAKOTA, WHERE THE GAP HAS GROWN SLOWEST

But every state has work to do.

50/50 (+DC)

States where the gap between the highest- and lowest-performing eighth graders in math grew from 2013 to 2024

(*The 74*)

States with “strong” policies for effectively preparing teachers:



(NCTQ)

IN LITERACY



(NCTQ)

IN MATH