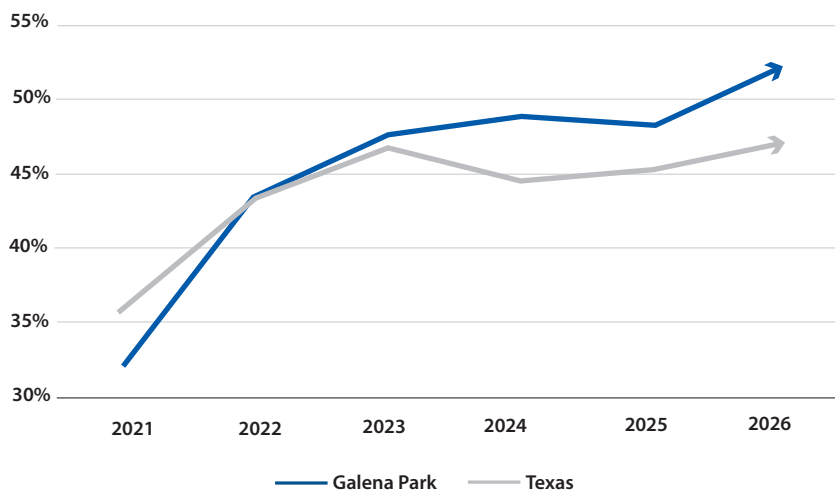


How One Title I District Built a Math Program Strong Enough to Outlast a Pandemic



Galena Park ISD in Texas strengthened its math program over seven years, recovering from pandemic learning loss and outperforming the state.

Percentage of Grades 3–5 Students Scoring Meets or Above on the STAAR Mathematics



Galena Park ISD students in Grades 3–5 scored Meets or Above on the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) mathematics at a rate of 52 percent in spring 2026, outpacing the Texas state average of 47 percent, recovering from the pandemic faster than the state and continuing to climb. ([Source](#))

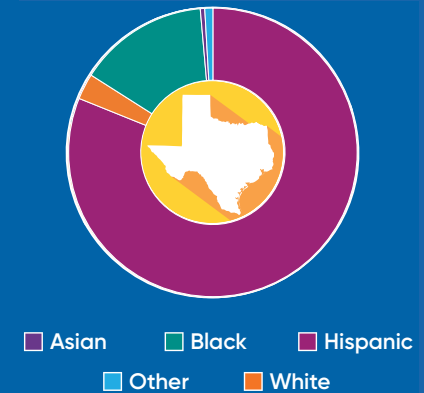
What Seven Years Can Do: Consistency, Resilience, and Growth at Galena Park

In 2019, Galena Park ISD—a Title I district east of Houston—adopted *i-Ready Inform*[®] and Personalized Instruction in mathematics in Grades K–5, looking for a better way to run small groups and close gaps.

Seven years later, their investment has paid off in ways that show up in the data, the classrooms, and in the confidence of a district that has grown stronger every year. While many Texas districts declined after the pandemic, Galena Park has pulled ahead, outperforming the state on the STAAR mathematics assessment.

Galena Park
Independent School
District (ISD)
Houston, Texas

21,105 Grades Pre–K–12
Students



88.8% Students with
Socioeconomic
Disadvantages

“Having *i-Ready* for so long has allowed us to explore deeper aspects of the program. It's not just a surface implementation. Each year, we go deeper into the data and the practices we're doing.”

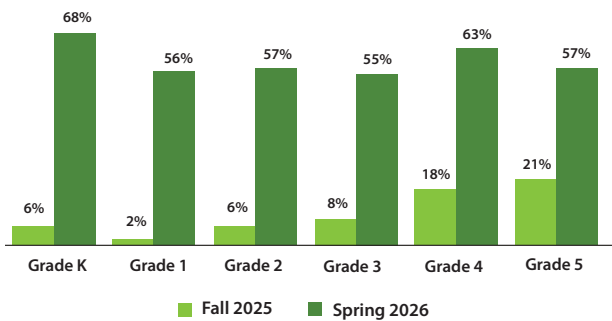
—Cindy Marez, District Elementary
Math Specialist

**i-Ready Inform*[™] is the new name for the adaptive assessment previously named “*i-Ready Diagnostic*.”

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Percentage of Students Scoring Mid or Above Grade Level on *i-Ready Inform*



Galena Park ISD students in Grades K–5 showed gains of 36 to 62 percentage points in scoring Mid or Above Grade Level on *i-Ready Inform* from fall 2025 to spring 2026.

Building the Foundation

"We were just beginning to implement small groups, and we were looking for a program that would help fill in learning gaps for kids," District Elementary Math Specialist Lori Fillbrandt said.

i-Ready Inform gives teachers three diagnostic data points a year to pinpoint exactly where each student is, while Personalized Instruction delivers targeted practice to address individual needs during those small group rotations.

Sustaining through the Storm

When the pandemic hit, Galena Park was better positioned than most. Because *i-Ready* was already part of daily routines, teachers had a familiar, accessible tool to keep students learning at home.

"Even if teachers hadn't figured out how to teach online yet, they knew that students had that access," said Marez. "We had the system in place, and I think that's what really helped our students not lose as much as other districts."

Galena Park, which was slightly below the state average in 2021, grew 20 percentage points on the STAAR assessment from 2021 to 2026 as compared to the state's 11-percentage-point growth.

Growing Internal Expertise

Through Curriculum Associates' professional learning, Galena Park's team built the foundation they needed to become the district's go-to experts, ready to answer questions on the fly.

"If a teacher had a question in between sessions, we could troubleshoot to figure it out, or we knew who to ask," said Marez. "It was really about becoming experts within ourselves."

Bringing Data to Action

That expertise showed up in how the district used data. *i-Ready Inform* gives teachers a clear picture of where every student stands, down to the subskill level, so teachers know exactly what to target when they pull small groups.

"The most important part is that they're taking that data and turning it around to their guided groups with their students," said Director of Elementary Math and Science Laurie Crockett.

A Peek into the Classroom

One fourth grade teacher watched a student go from well below grade level to on grade level on the *i-Ready* assessment in a single year, achieving 200 percent of Typical Growth.

Across schools, students are also responding to Fluency Flight, which offers short, daily math fact practice built into the program.

"It was exciting to see classes getting excited for *i-Ready*. They always look forward to Fluency Flight," said Marez.

"Our last couple years, we've jumped three or four percent in each grade level in how many students are on level or above," said Crockett. For Galena Park, year eight is just the next step.



See how Personalized Instruction turns assessment data into targeted student learning.