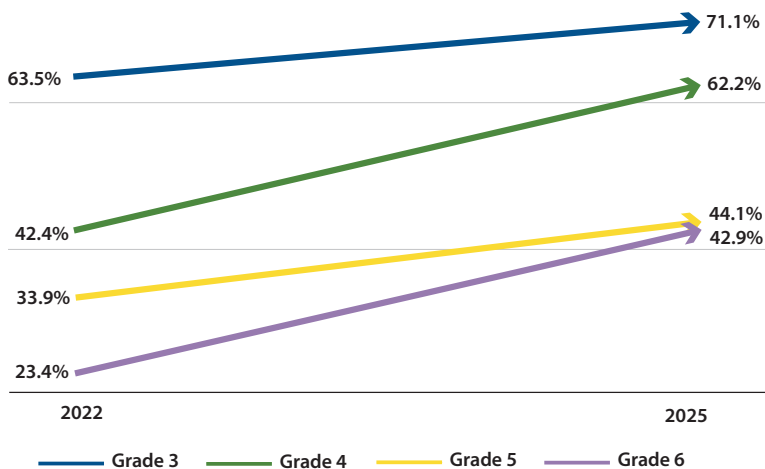


Number 1 in Maryland: How WCPS Climbed to the Top in Math

Since implementing *i-Ready Classroom Mathematics* for Grades K–6 in 2022, Worcester County Public Schools has outpaced the state by more than 21 percentage points, becoming Maryland's top-performing district.

WCPS Students Scoring Proficient in Mathematics on the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP)



Following implementation of *i-Ready Classroom Mathematics* in 2022, WCPS students in Grades 3–6 have shown a consistent upward trend in mathematics proficiency—with Grade 6 nearly doubling its proficiency from 2022 to 2025.¹

Four Years of Focus: Building Math Excellence across Worcester County

In 2025, Worcester County Public Schools earned a remarkable distinction: the number 1 ranking in Maryland for mathematics performance on the state assessment.

That achievement was years in the making. Since 2022, WCPS has implemented *i-Ready Classroom Mathematics* across Grades K–6, pairing the curriculum with four consecutive years of professional learning for teachers and coaches.

District leaders credit the growth to consistent instruction, sustained professional learning, and classrooms designed around student thinking and discussion.

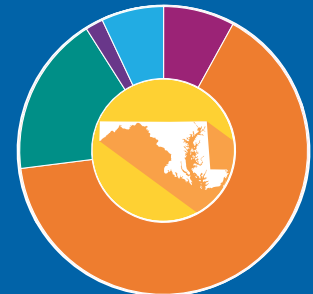
¹Source

²Stanford University Education Data Archive (SEDA) 2025. Math score trend ranked 73rd of 5,468 US districts with available data.

Worcester County Public Schools (WCPS)

Newark, Maryland

6,841 Grades Pre-K–12 Students



Asian Black Hispanic
Other White

53% Students with Socioeconomic Disadvantages



#1

in Maryland for math proficiency on spring 2025 MCAP

+21
pts

above state average in math proficiency

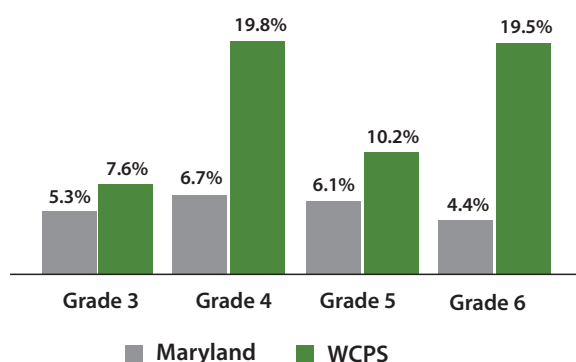
4x

state growth rate in Grade 6 math

99th

percentile in math growth nationally²

Mathematics Growth on the MCAP
from 2022–2025: Maryland versus WCPS



WCPS students in Grades 3–6 outpaced statewide growth in mathematics proficiency on the MCAP from 2022–2025.³

Grade 4 proficiency growth was nearly three times higher than the state average, while Grade 6 growth was more than four times higher.

A Framework Built around Student Thinking and Understanding

At the heart of *i-Ready Classroom Mathematics* is the Try–Discuss–Connect framework, which guides students to discuss their thinking with peers and make connections across multiple strategies.

"The focus on the student thinking first, before the teacher tells or shows what to do, has really increased both student ownership and teachers' expectations of what students bring to the table," said Coordinator of Instruction Sarah Blackburn. "It's been a big shift."

Students now share strategies openly, build directly on each other's thinking, and see their own ideas reflected and valued by their peers.

"One of our students said, 'I used the same strategy my classmate used yesterday,'" Blackburn recalled. "That thinking about each other's thinking has increased."

See how *i-Ready Classroom Mathematics* puts students on a successful path to grade-level mathematics.



Investing in Professional Learning Since Day One

Since launch, WCPS has fully invested in the recommended professional learning each year, and staff have actively engaged in sessions to strengthen implementation fidelity, build classroom confidence, and drive measurable results.

Coaches and teachers work through a lesson internalization protocol together, unpacking standards, identifying critical questions, and anticipating student strategies.

"There can be a pitfall of thinking, 'Oh, I can just open the curricular materials and that's it,'" Blackburn said. "But our teachers know that they are the ones who make the difference. The curriculum-focused professional learning communities have really helped all teachers deepen their understanding of both the math and the instructional moves needed to increase student learning."

A New, Student-Centered Math Culture

What started in Grades K–6 has reshaped how the whole district thinks about math, and the results back up the approach. Worcester County now tops the state by more than 21 percentage points in mathematics.⁴

Teachers collaborate differently, leaders coach differently, and students show up expecting to think, not just follow steps.

"The instructional experience has really changed to be more student centered," Blackburn said.

Looking Forward with WCPS

For WCPS, the number 1 ranking is not the finish line.

"We want to make sure that all our students think and know they are math people," Blackburn said. "Our ultimate goal is 100% of students feeling this way. We're doing well, we're growing. Let's keep going."

³Source

⁴Source