

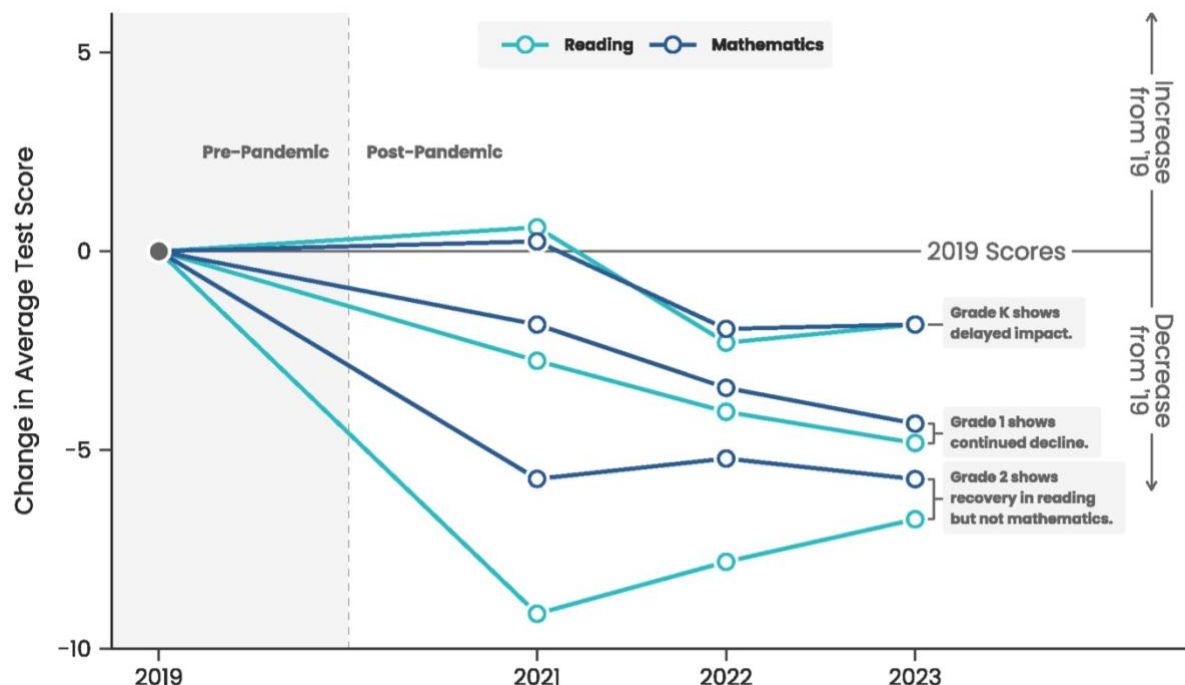
School Readiness for Young Students Post-Pandemic

Nearly four years following the abrupt education and childcare closures resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, there are continued effects on student academic achievement. Though these effects have been well documented in Grades 3 and beyond, Curriculum Associates' research offers an initial glimpse into the pandemic's impact on children who entered formal schooling after March 2020. We found these students are performing behind pre-pandemic levels, with limited signs of recovery.

Key Findings

- Our data suggest students are **entering school less prepared for grade-level learning**, and more students are placing further behind.
- Reading performance shows some small signs of recovery, but **mathematics performance remains stagnant** following an initial drop.

In 2023, test scores for young students remain below pre-pandemic levels.



To accurately reflect trends in student performance across the US, we leveraged a nationally representative sample of more than five million Grades K-2 students from 2019 (i.e., pre-pandemic) and following the return to in-person schooling from 2021 to 2023.

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