



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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Governor Kay Ivey
President

**NATION’S FIRST YEAR OF PANDEMIC RECOVERY REPORT
RELEASED – ALABAMA HIGHLIGHTED
FOR MATH AND READING ACHIEVEMENTS**

Jackie Zeigler
District I

Montgomery, Ala. – This week, new information was officially released and shared in *The First Year of Pandemic Recovery: A District-Level Analysis* report.

Tracie West
District II
Vice President

This report outlines in detail the state of national education and local school recovery efforts from the recent COVID pandemic. Beginning in March of 2020, the COVID pandemic disrupted student learning nationwide, as local schools in every state abruptly shifted to remote instruction.

Stephanie Bell
District III

According to this report, when all states returned to regular testing in the Spring of 2022, the average student in grades 3 through 8 nationally had lost the equivalent of half a grade level in math achievement and a third of a grade level in reading.

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV

This report shares information on the first full year of recovery, between the Spring of 2022 and the Spring of 2023. It states, “to recover, school leaders needed to do more than turn the lights back on and return to “normal” operations. Schools were expected to catch students up, which meant re-organizing school activities to generate more learning per day than prior to the pandemic.”

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.
District V
President Pro Tem

Although some schools returned to in-person instruction quickly, many schools across the country did not return to *fully in-person instruction* until the Fall of 2021. This report also outlines key data and results, which show the revitalization of K-12 learning nationwide.

Marie Manning
District VI

“We are encouraged by the achievements of our state’s education recovery,” said State Superintendent Eric G. Mackey. “This report provides insight into the strategies that many states across the country have utilized to reestablish K-12 classroom learning and achieve full recovery from the COVID pandemic. I am proud of our outstanding success so far. But like every other state across the country, we still have more work to do. This report shows Alabama is on track for continued success.”

Belinda McRae
District VII

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII

Some key points in *The First Year of Pandemic Recovery: A District-Level Analysis*, which highlight Alabama’s progress are:

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer

- This week, The New York Times published an in-depth article on this national report and the Birmingham City School System’s outstanding achievements in its COVID recovery efforts.

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Alabama Highlighted in The First Year of Pandemic Recovery: A District-Level Analysis

- In the *Executive Summary*, which is located on page two of the report, it states, “Alabama is the only state where average student achievement exceeds pre-pandemic levels in math.
- *On page nine of this report it states*, “The second panel reports the improvements between 2022 and 2023 for the same districts. As one would have hoped, the higher poverty districts in Alabama—those that had lost the most ground-- led the recovery, for instance with Birmingham making up nearly half a grade equivalent in math in one year.”
- *The first paragraph, located on page 11 of this document states*, “In the states we analyzed, only 6 states followed the Alabama pattern, with greater recovery in math achievement among high poverty districts between 2022 and 2023 (AL, GA, IL, KY, MS ,and OH).”
- *Figure 4, located on page eight*, also portrays the net loss and gains in math and reading achievement since 2019. “Students in only one state (Alabama) exceeded their pre-pandemic levels of achievement in Spring 2023 testing.
- *Page 14 of this report also outlines four important recommendations* that all states should undertake over the next eight months, to fully achieve. Alabama districts are currently working on all four areas.

To review a full copy of *The First Year of Pandemic Recovery: A District-Level Analysis* document, visit [Education Recovery Scorecard](#).

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