

Has Education Reform Failed?

Three Decades of Improvement in U.S. Education

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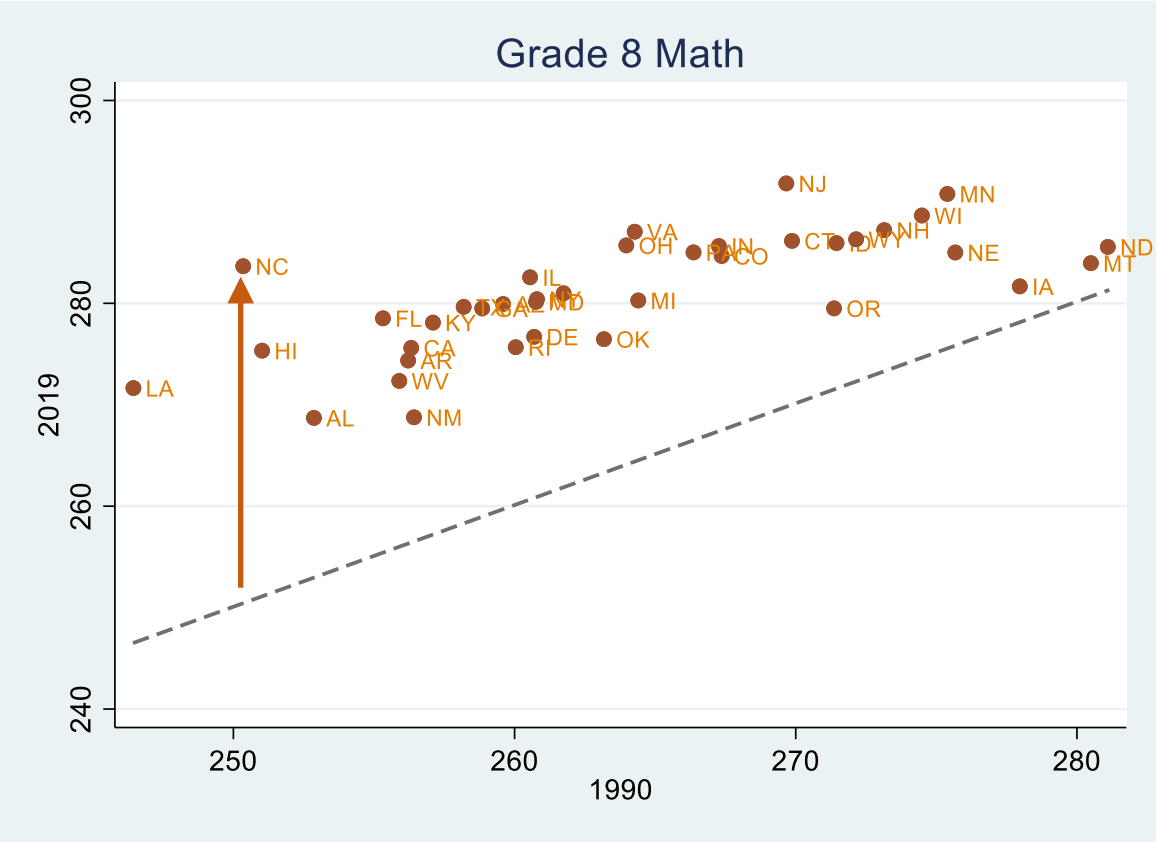
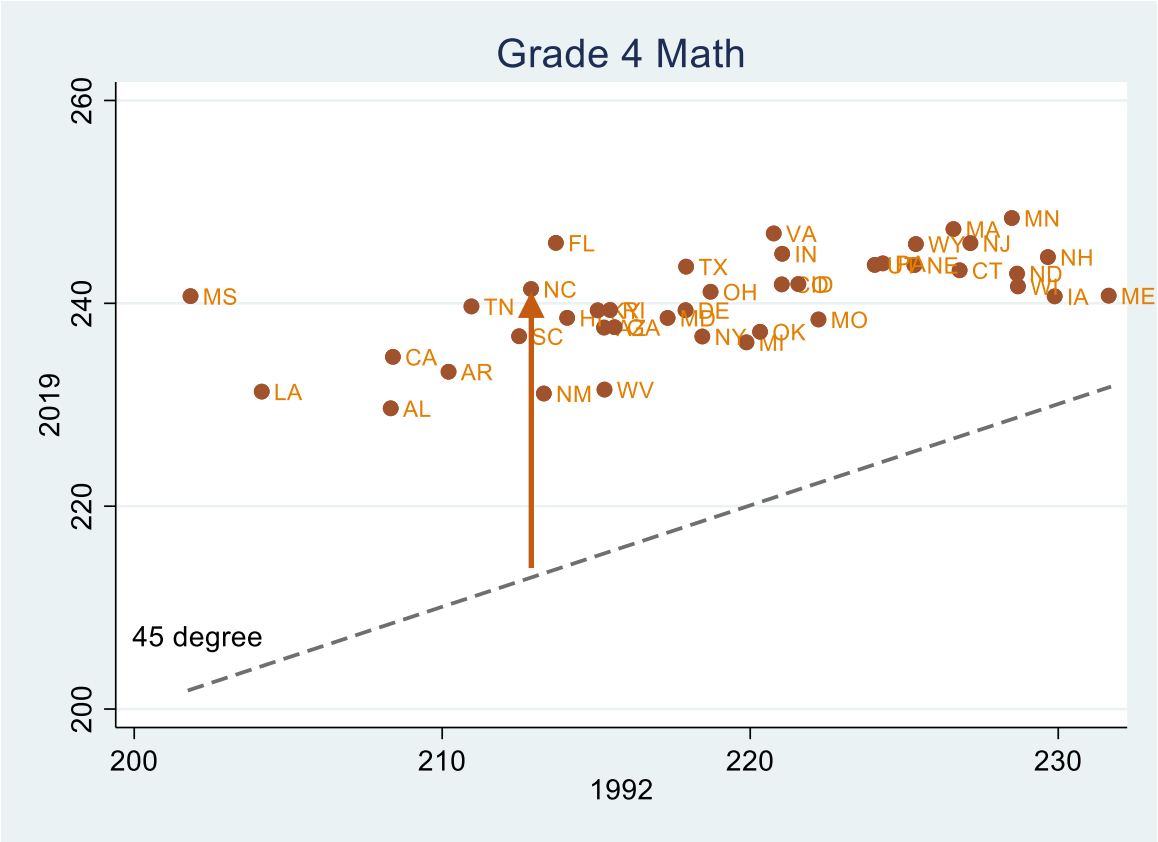
“The education reform movement that started with George W. Bush’s No Child Left Behind law is dead. It died because every strategy it imposed on the nation’s schools has failed.”

Diane Ravitch

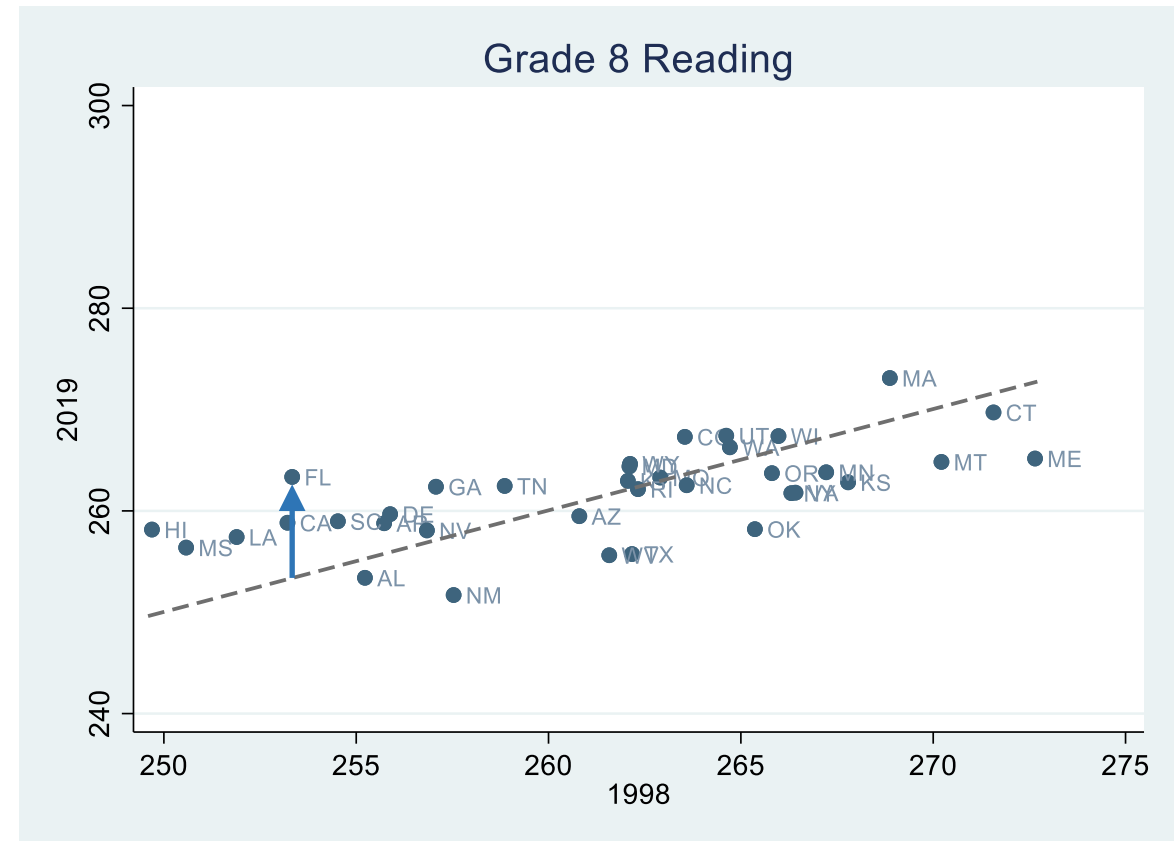
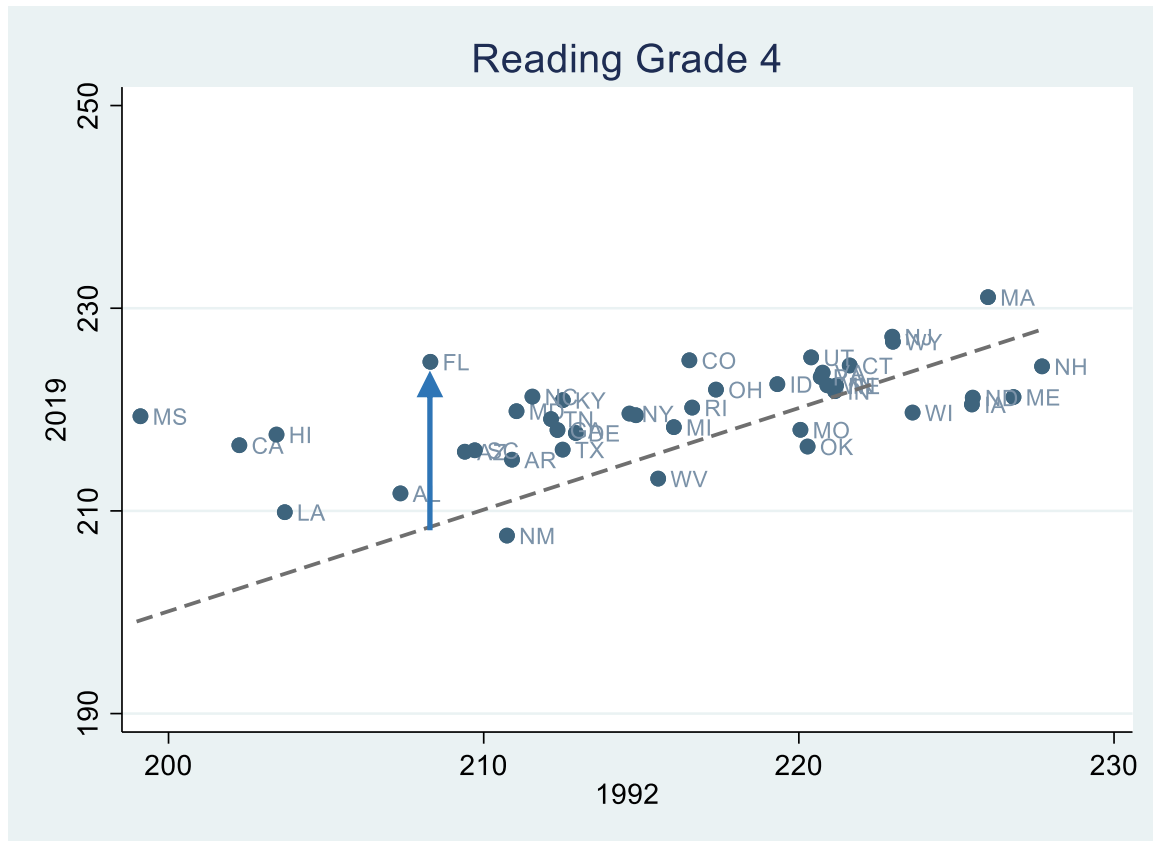
Time, February 1, 2020



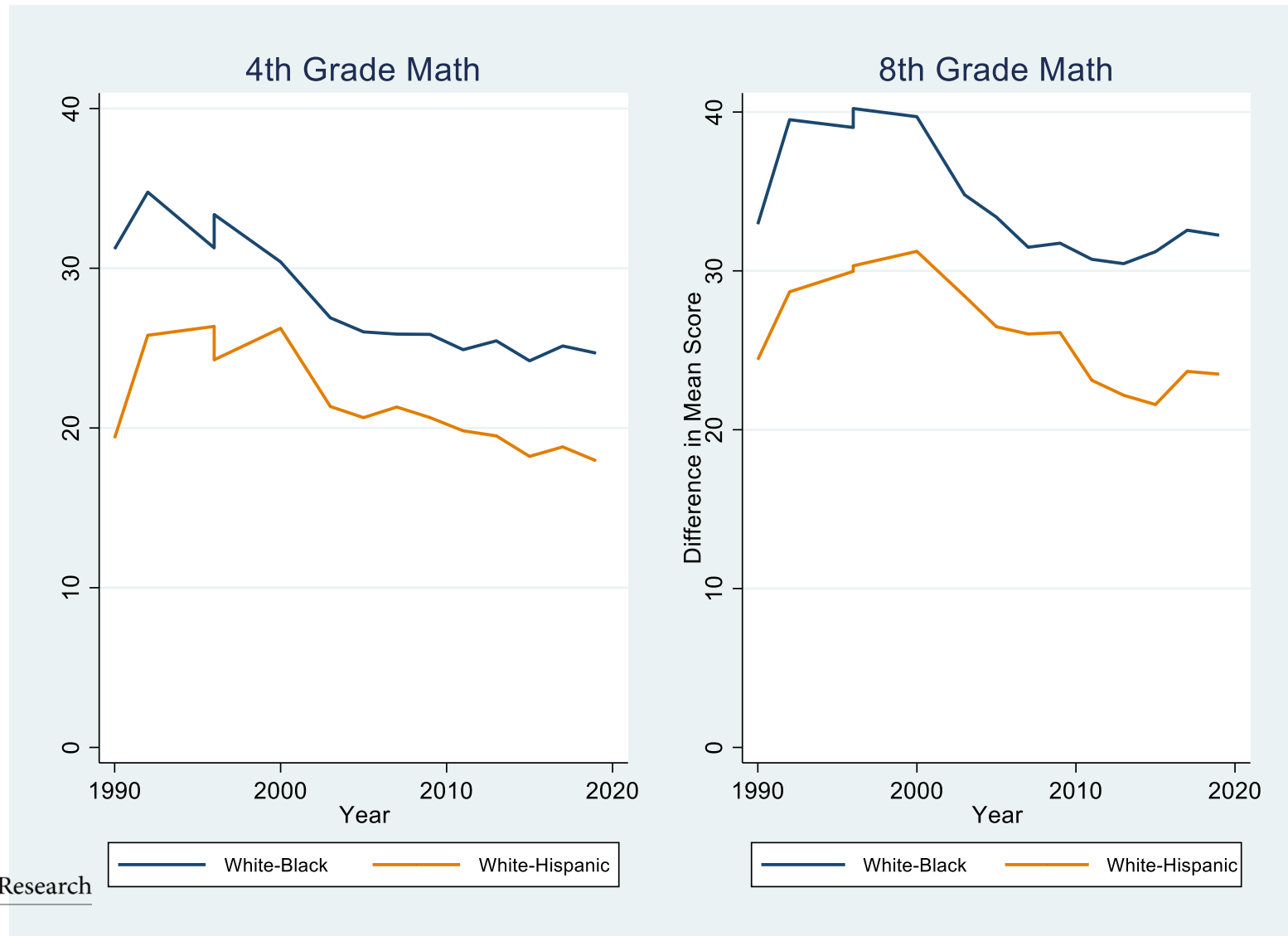
Before 2019, every state had improved in math.



And many states improved in reading.

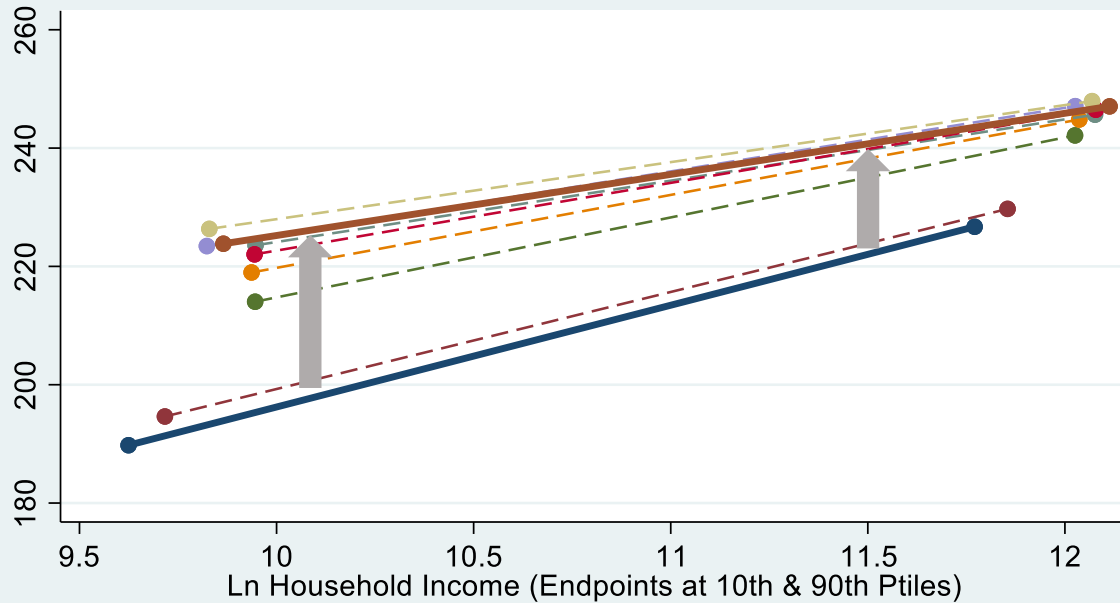


Gaps were narrowing by race.

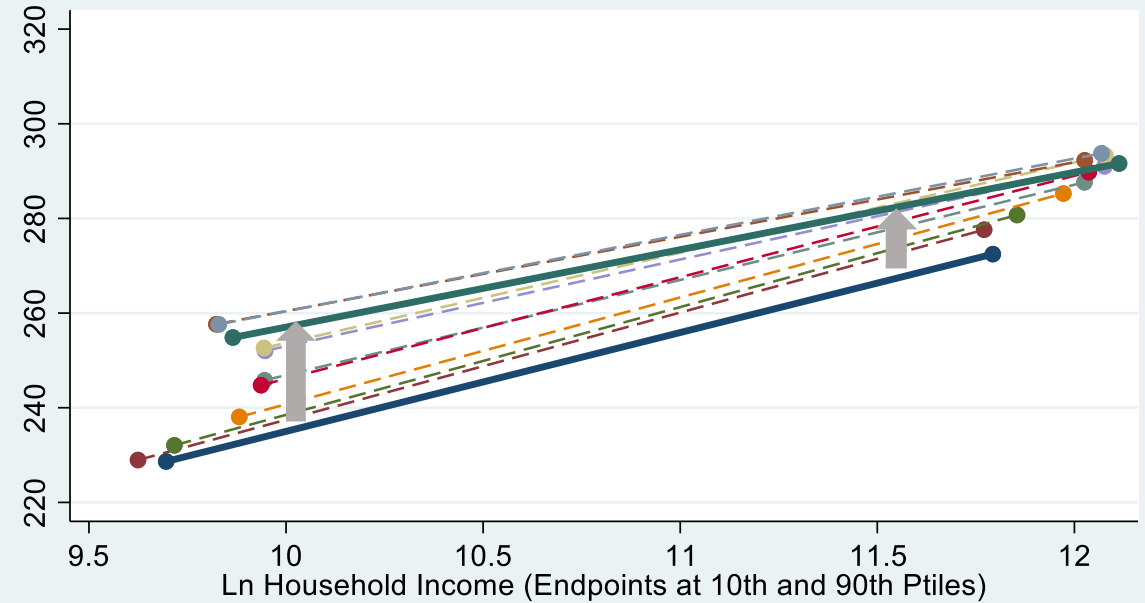


As well as by income.

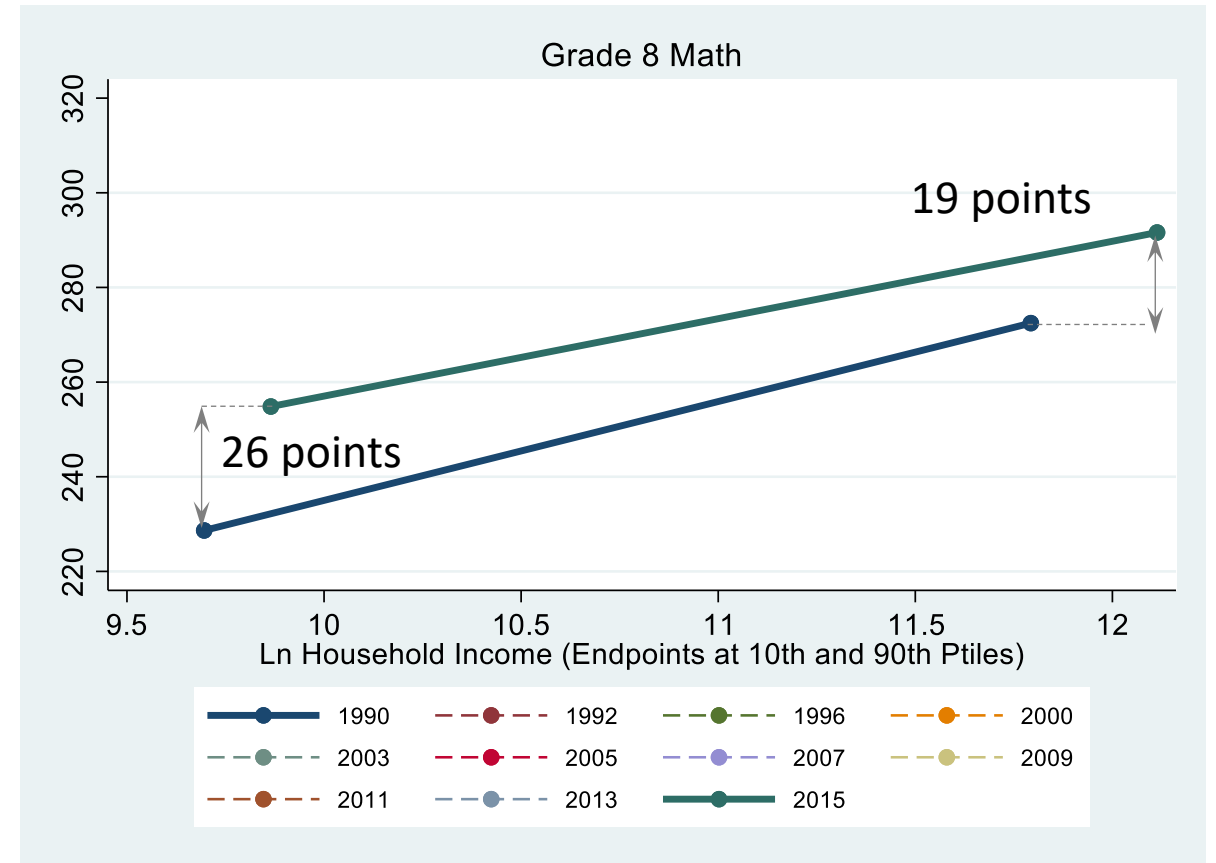
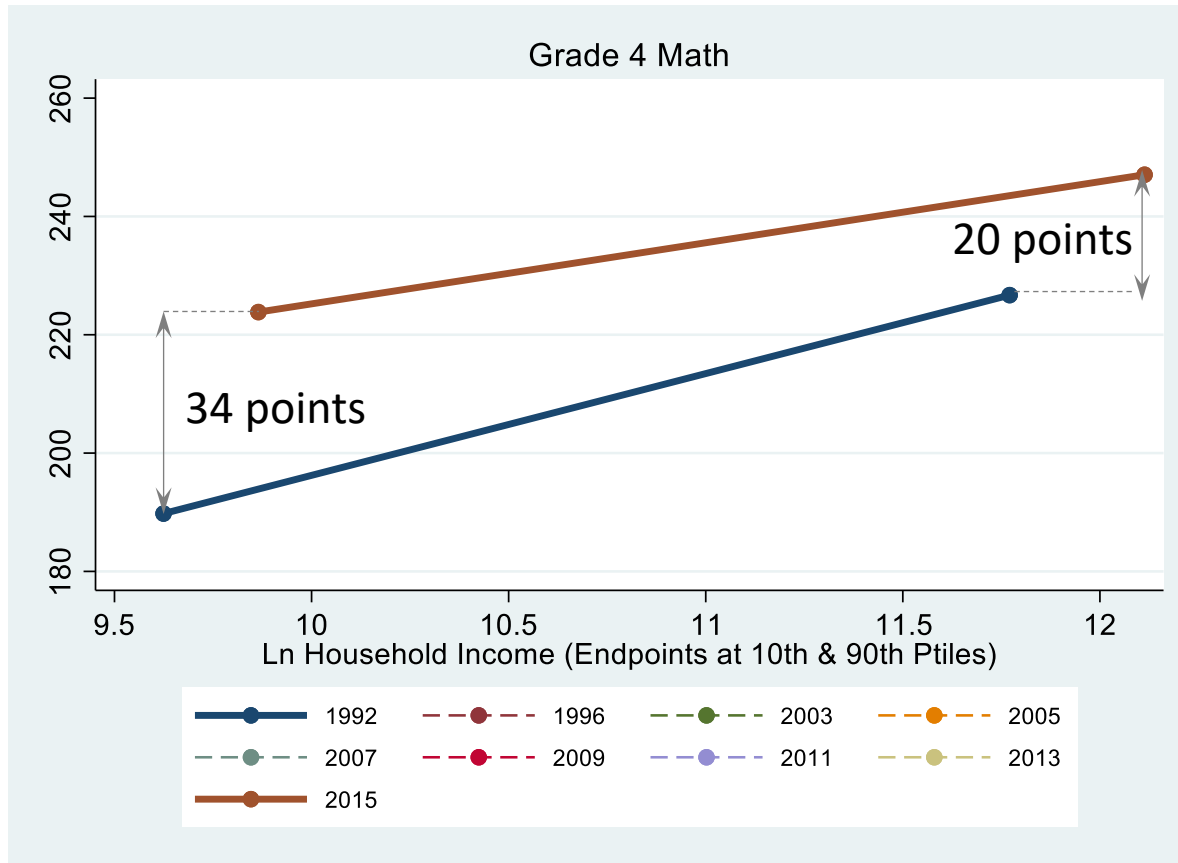
Grade 4 Math



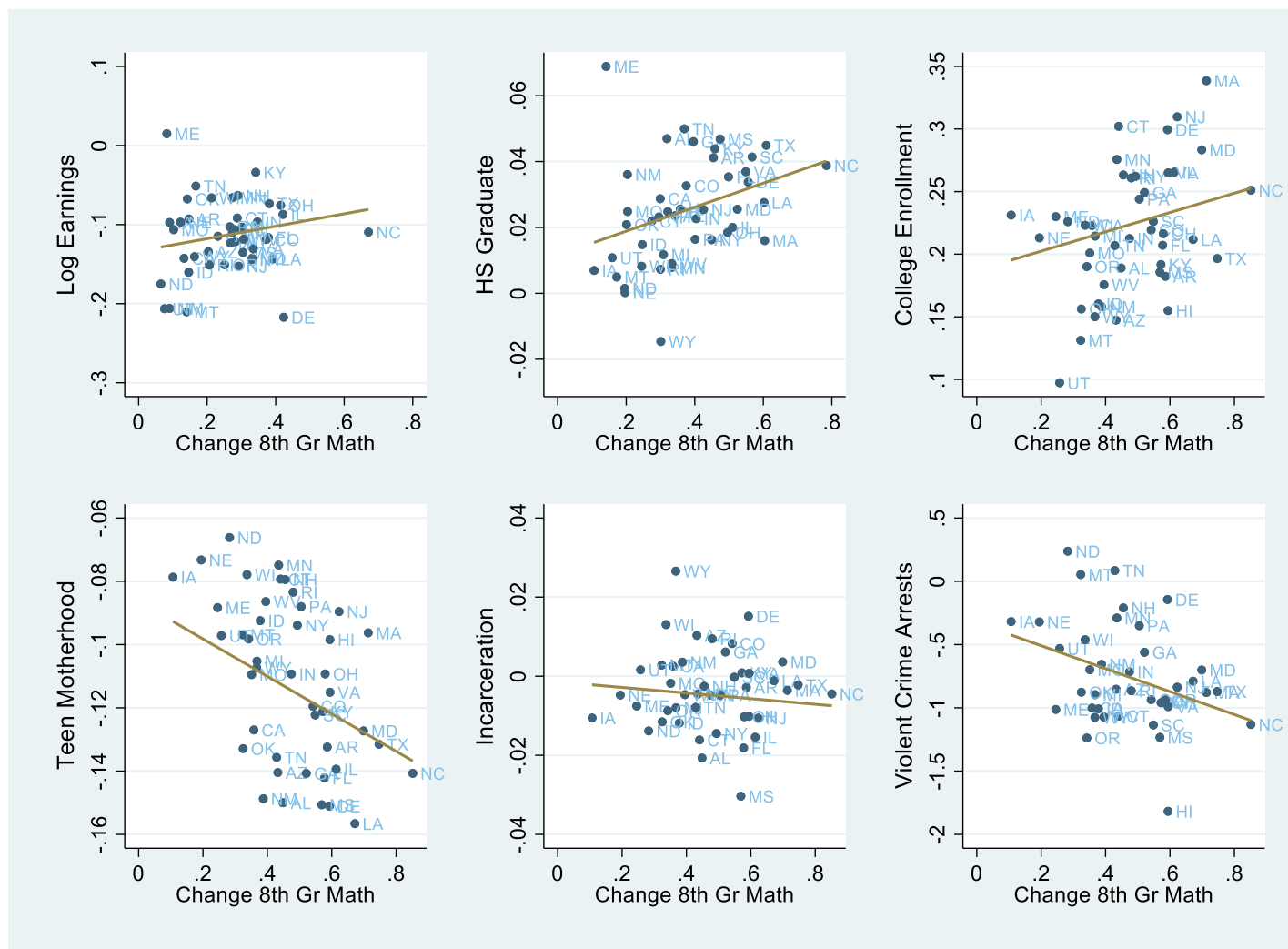
Grade 8 Math



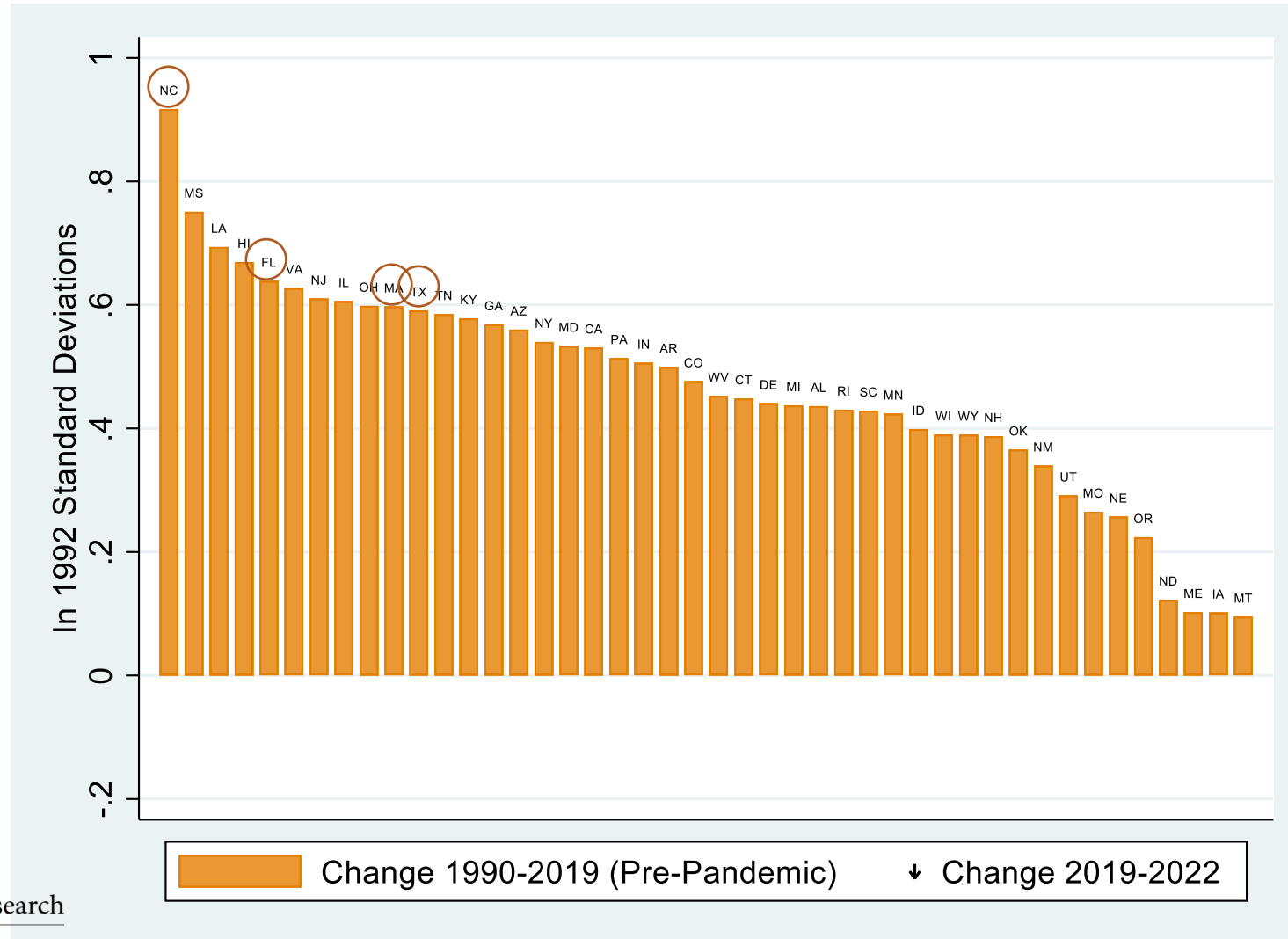
As well as by income.



Those Born in States with Large NAEP \uparrow Benefited



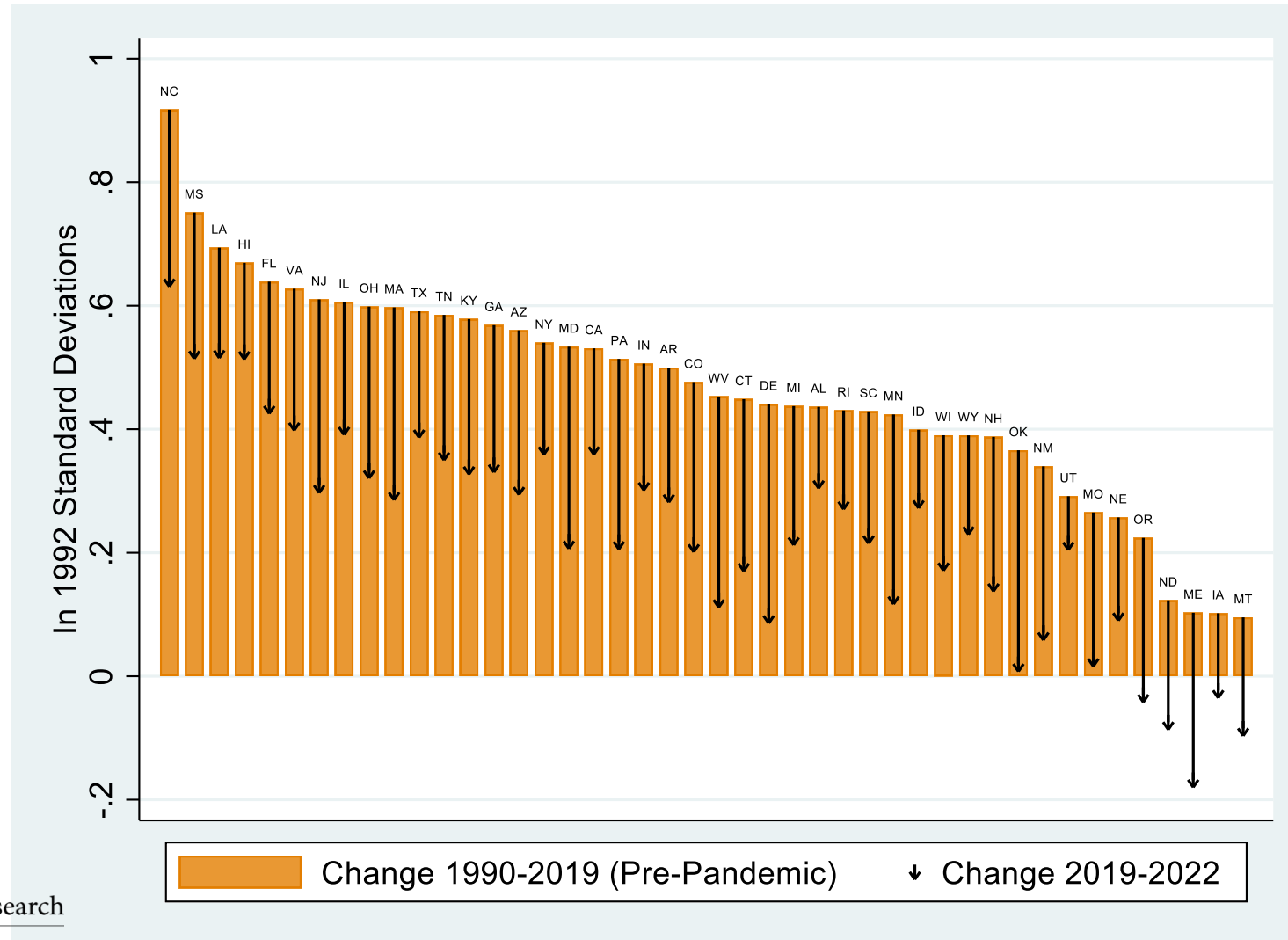
Before 2019, every state improved in 8th grade math.



Source: E. Doty, T.J. Kane, T. Patterson & D. Staiger "What Do Changes in State Test Scores Imply for Later Life Outcomes?" NBER Working Paper No. 30701, December 2022.



But the U.S. just gave up 40% of pre-pandemic progress!



Source: E. Doty, T.J. Kane, T. Patterson & D. Staiger "What Do Changes in State Test Scores Imply for Later Life Outcomes?" NBER Working Paper No. 30701, December 2022.

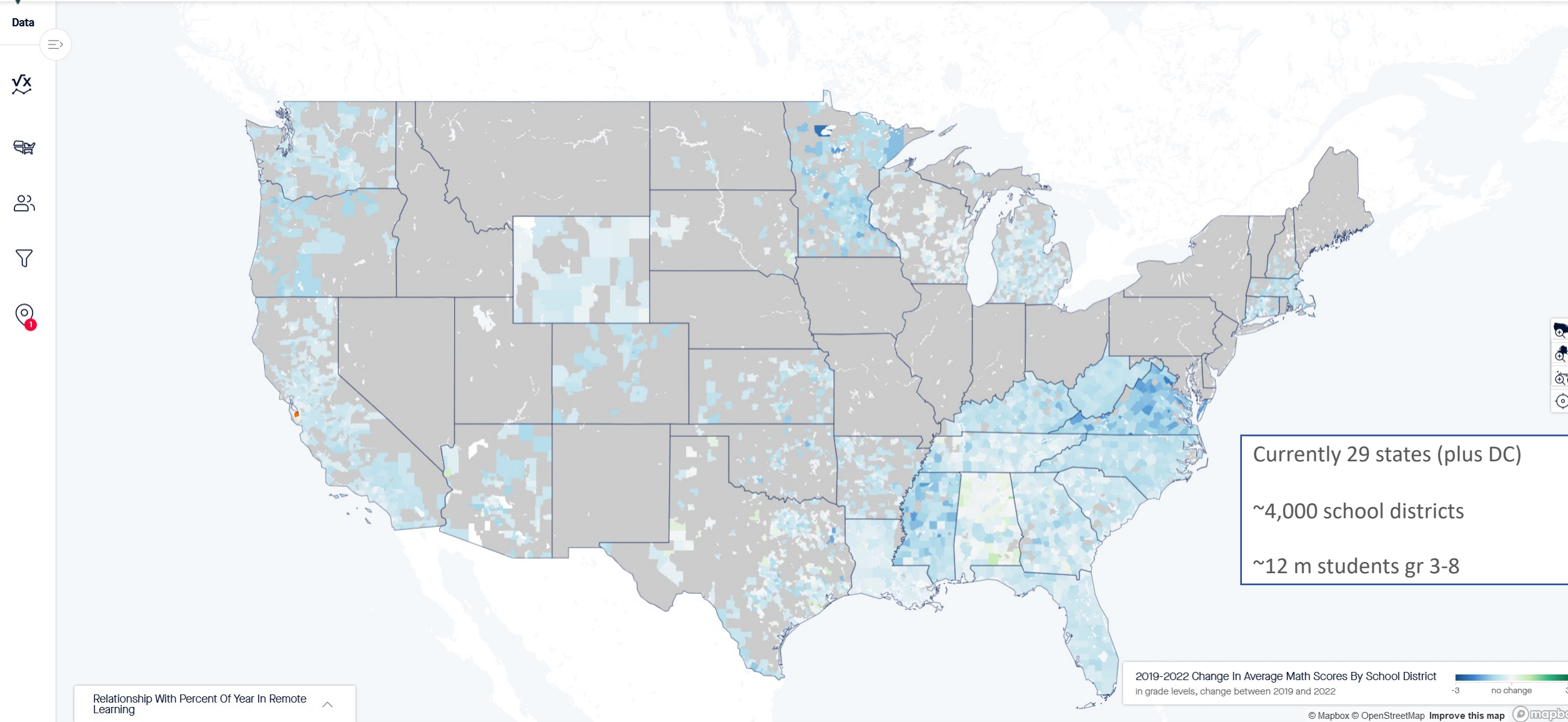


EDUCATION RECOVERY SCORECARD

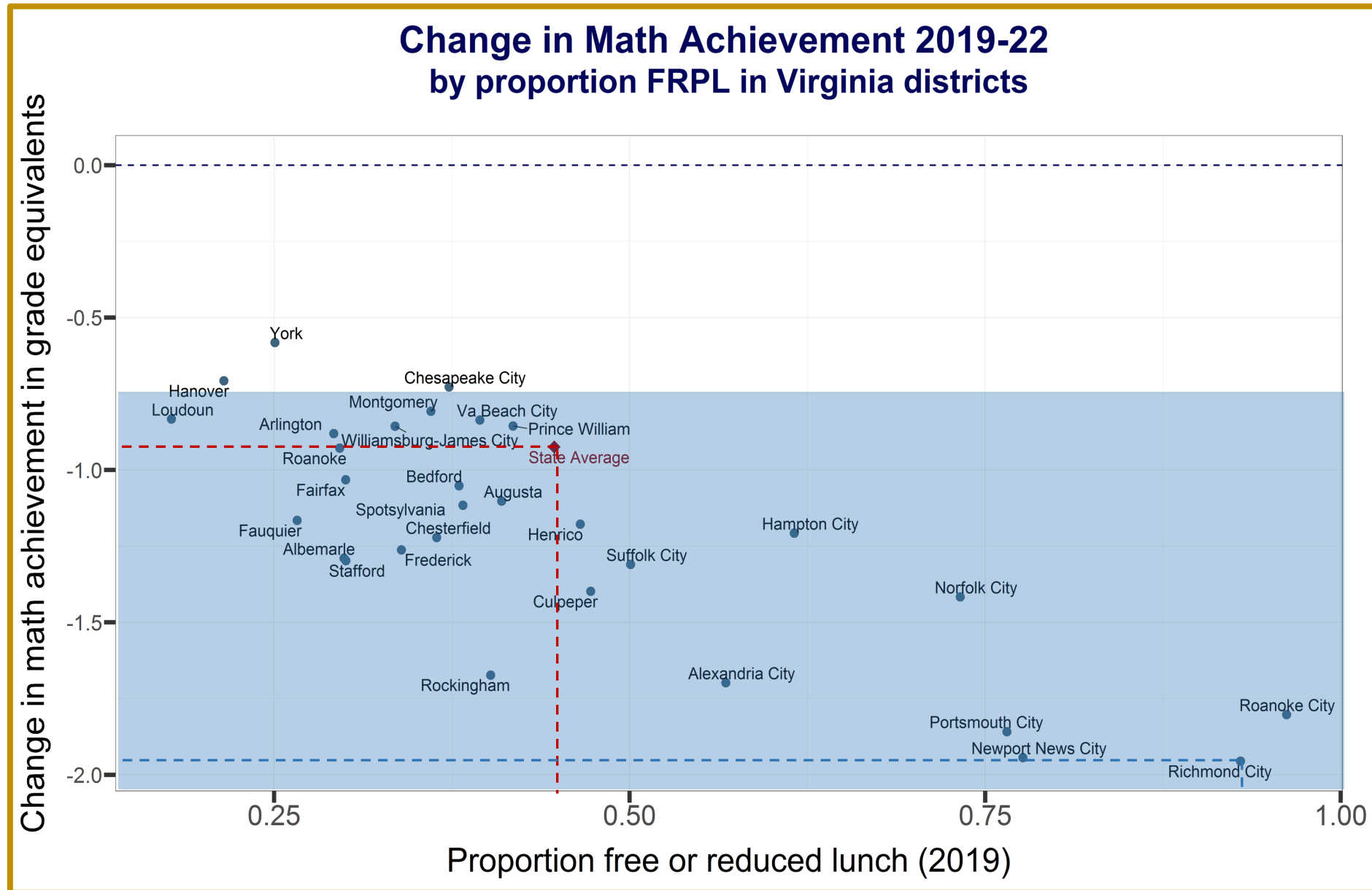
What happened in my district?

Use state scores on NAEP

To rescale local achievement losses on state tests.



The pandemic widened achievement gaps.



Implications

1. No time to **abandon** test-based accountability.
2. Ask districts to **revisit their recovery plans**, show their plans are **commensurate** with student losses.

Right-sizing the response

An “ambitious” – but under-sized plan.

Intervention Options	% of students		Effect Size from Research		Multiply % by Effect Size
Tutors	10%	×	1 year	=	<i>.1 year</i>
Double Math	30%	×	.5 year	=	<i>.15 year</i>
Summer Sch	18%	×	.25 year	=	<i>.045 year</i>
Extend school year	0		Per week		<i>0</i>
Sum of expected effects:					<i>.295 years</i>



Implications

1. No time to **abandon** test-based accountability.
2. Ask districts to **revisit their recovery plans**, show their plans are **commensurate** with student losses.
3. **Instructional Time Set-Aside**: Require districts to set aside funds for additional instructional time unless/until all subgroups return to 2019 proficiency.
4. A Chance to **Reinvent Summer/Support for Learning at Home**

Right-sizing the response

Closer to the right size.

Intervention Options	% of students		Effect Size from Research		Multiply % by Effect Size
Tutors	10%	×	1 year	=	.1 yr
Double Math	30%	×	.5 year	=	.15 yr
Summer Sch	70%	×	.25 year	=	.175 yr
Extend school year	100	×	2.5 weeks		.083 yrs
Sum of expected effects:					.495 years

Repeat for 2 years to replace 1 year.

