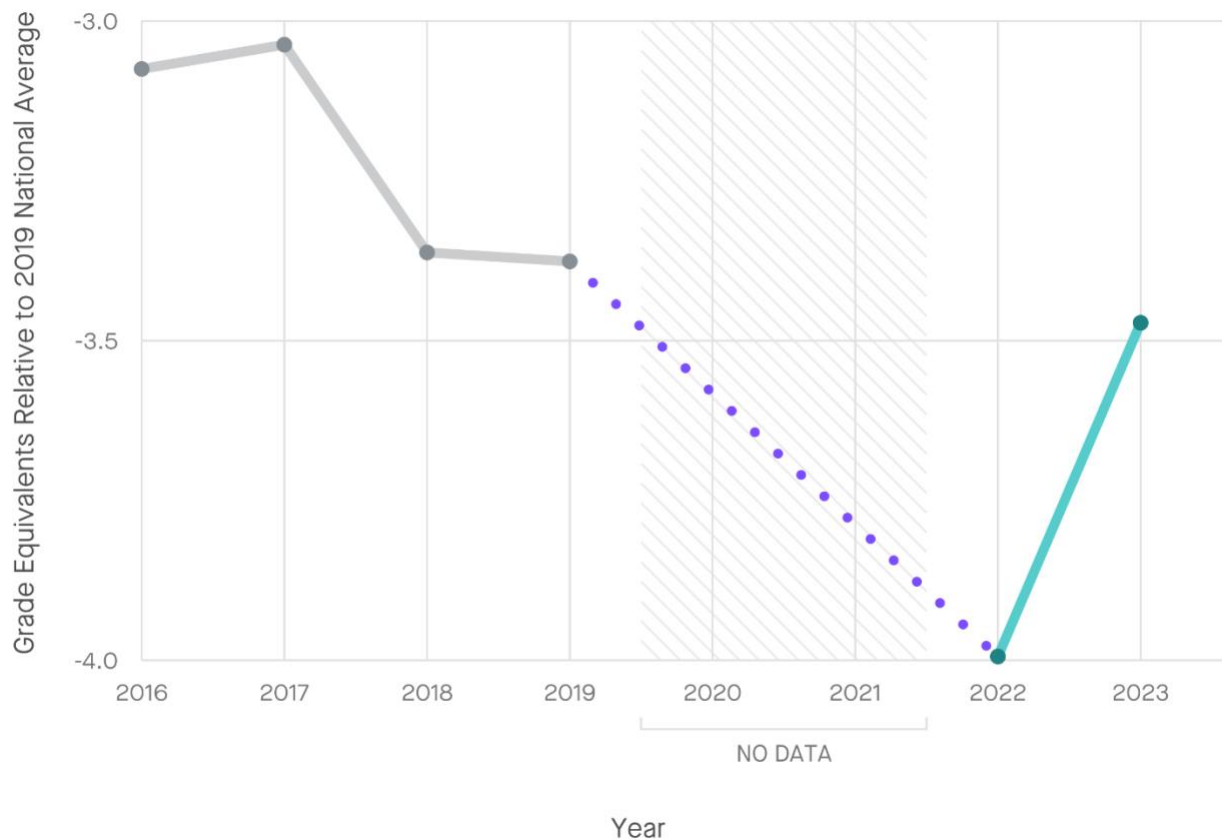


Birmingham City Schools, Alabama

Math Performance, Grades 3-8, 2016-2023



Lessons from Superintendent Mark A. Sullivan and School Board President Jason Meadows

Superintendent Sullivan has over 30 years of experience within Birmingham's educational system, starting as a substitute teacher and rising through various roles, including principal and chief academic officer.

President Meadows was elected to the Birmingham School Board in 2021 and is a two term President. He previously served at Woodlawn United, a nonprofit that works in Birmingham city schools.

Innovative Educational Programs and Interventions to Extend Instructional Time

"We started school early; first of August. We went to school for nine weeks. And then we had a week off...The first intersession we had about 1,800 students." – Superintendent Sullivan

"Smaller classrooms provide the ability to focus on targeted remediation." – President Meadows

- Birmingham implemented intersessions and extended learning opportunities, paying teachers \$60/hour using ESSER funds for extra instructional time.
- Intersessions “[offer direct and explicit whole group and small group instruction that directly aligns with the established criteria as aligned by the state of Alabama.](#)”
- They also offer enrichment programs in math, ELA, and social studies “[to support students in achieving lost instructional time due to the COVID-19 school closures.](#)”
- Compromise with parents and teachers who did not want to extend the school year.
- These interventions included enrichment, remediation, and credit recovery programs.
- Smaller class sizes – around 14-16 students.

High-Dosage Tutoring and Partnerships

"We partnered with six universities... and got college students to come into our schools to provide support." – Superintendent Sullivan

"Unless students opt out, they receive tutoring in perpetuity." – President Meadows

- Collaborated with local universities for high-dosage tutoring, with college students paid \$15/hour to assist in schools.

Social-Emotional Learning and Community Engagement

"We partnered with the DA's office... to provide social resources to children." – Superintendent Sullivan

"District Attorney Danny Carr was very helpful in working to address truancy." – President Meadows

- Invested in social-emotional learning and behavioral support, including a partnership with the DA's office on a program called 'Helping Families' to address school attendance issues.

Academic Success and Achievements

"We are outperforming where we were before the pandemic... We made a 73 last year to 72 this year." – Superintendent Sullivan

- Birmingham achieved significant improvements in state report card scores.
- Before the pandemic, the district scored a 66, 68, and 71.

Additional Support and Programs

"We used our ESSER money to provide free after school care in every elementary school." – Superintendent Sullivan

- Utilized ESSER funds to provide instructional aids and free after-school care.
- Focused on implementing consistent instructional frameworks and using formative assessment tools.

Challenges and Hope for Sustaining Success

"How do we wean ourselves off of the ESSER money and move back to pre-ESSER schooling?" – Superintendent Sullivan

We've had more stability in leadership and have approved some solid recommendations, plus Alabama has been doing better as a state." – President Meadows