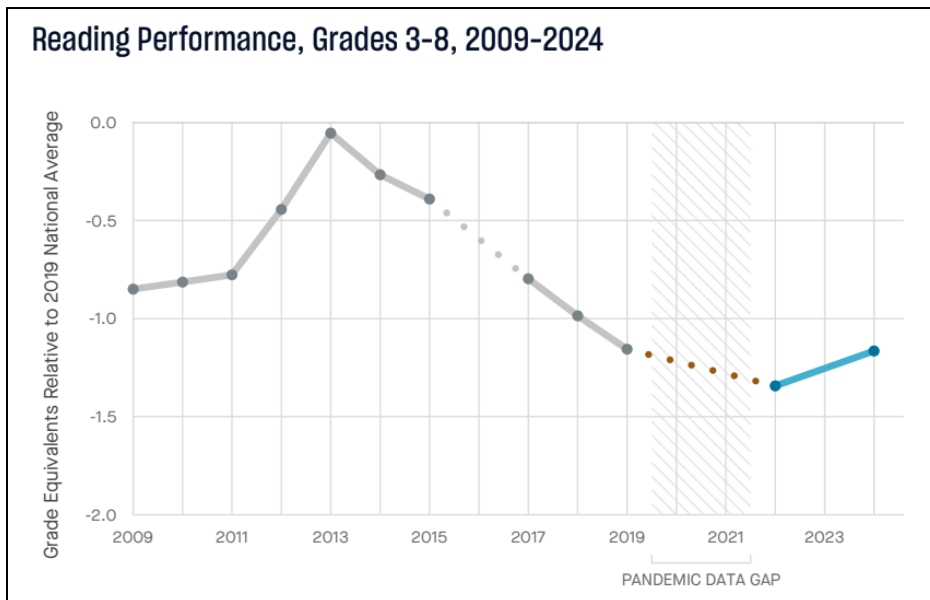
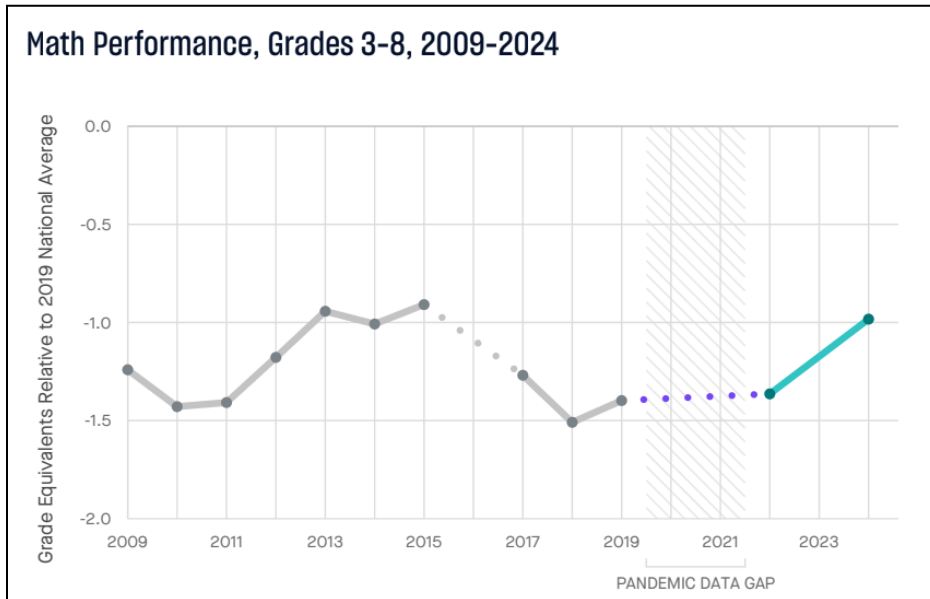


EDUCATION RECOVERY SCORECARD

Maury County Public Schools
Columbia, Tennessee



Student Demographics:

Total student population: 12,719

White: 62%

Black/African-American: 20%

Hispanic/Latino: 16%

Economically disadvantaged: 26%
English learners: 7%

Lisa Ventura, Superintendent

Background:

March 16, 2020 is a day that Superintendent Lisa Ventura will never forget: the day Maury County Public Schools shut their doors due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Like many districts, MCPS faced a litany of challenges, from figuring out how to deliver necessary technology to students across rural, urban, and suburban communities, to ensuring teachers had as much support as possible to transition to remote teaching, and, eventually, figuring out how to execute a hybrid setup at the beginning of August, which Superintendent Ventura called “the most challenging of all.” But under her leadership the past two years, Maury County Public Schools has made strategic investments that have helped the district recover the learning loss experienced during those school closures.

Strategies for Success:

High-dosage, low-ratio tutoring:

- Starting in the 2021-2022 school year and through the summer of 2024, Maury County Public Schools participated in the [Tennessee Accelerated Learning and Literacy Corps](#) (TN ALL Corps) to deliver high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring focused on literacy.
- In MCPS, a majority of the TN ALL Corps tutors were classroom teachers already working at the schools, enabling them to leverage their existing relationships with students and families to hit the ground running on their recovery efforts.
- Over the course of this time, approximately 300-500 students received tutoring in small groups of up to three students per group for 30-45 minutes, 2-3 times per week, for 12 weeks each semester. Students were identified for mandatory tutoring if they placed below the 25th percentile in the benchmark assessment.
- If a school has the capacity to serve additional students, school leaders may raise the percentile cutoff. Schools with capacity can also narrow in on skills deficits or weaknesses in a skillset.
- Diagnostic reports were used to track growth and benchmark assessments were administered three times per school year, helping to identify what was working and where improvement was needed.
- Having teachers serve as tutors gave them greater insight into the information they needed to tailor their instruction in the classroom and during tutoring sessions to increase student achievement, and also gave them the confidence to strategically use data in this way, delivering a clear picture of areas in which students were struggling.

Grow Your Own partnerships:

- MCPS engages in multiple models and partnerships to implement [Grow Your Own](#) teacher recruitment and retention programs, offering both online and in-person programs and including partnerships with Columbia State Community College and the University of Tennessee Southern.
- Current MCPS support staff and instructional aides are eligible for grants to receive their teaching credential, allowing them to continue working at the school district while they are in school, receive ongoing support from the district, and have a clear pathway to full time teaching positions.
- MCPS selects certified teachers to become New Teacher Coaches based on high evaluation scores, high student achievement, positive behavior management, and strong interpersonal relationship skills. The New Teacher Coaches receive specialized

professional development to effectively support new teachers. These Coaches model lessons and support lesson planning, coach new teachers on behavior management and classroom set-up, and more, serving as “on-call” support to new teachers.

Parent support and engagement:

- MCPS emphasizes the role of parents in supporting their child’s education outside of the classroom. Most schools in MCPS host at least one kind of parent engagement event each month, such as family nights, community resource fairs, and events focused on literacy designed to engage parents in the learning process and foster home/school partnerships.
- MCPS also hosts Behavior 101 Nights geared towards helping parents with tools such as positive behavior support, understanding their child’s mental health, and other parenting skills.