Early Literacy

K-3 Reading Improvement and SB 127 Early Literacy Outcomes Improvement

Board Member Emily Green

Dr. Jennifer Throndsen | Director of Teaching and Learning

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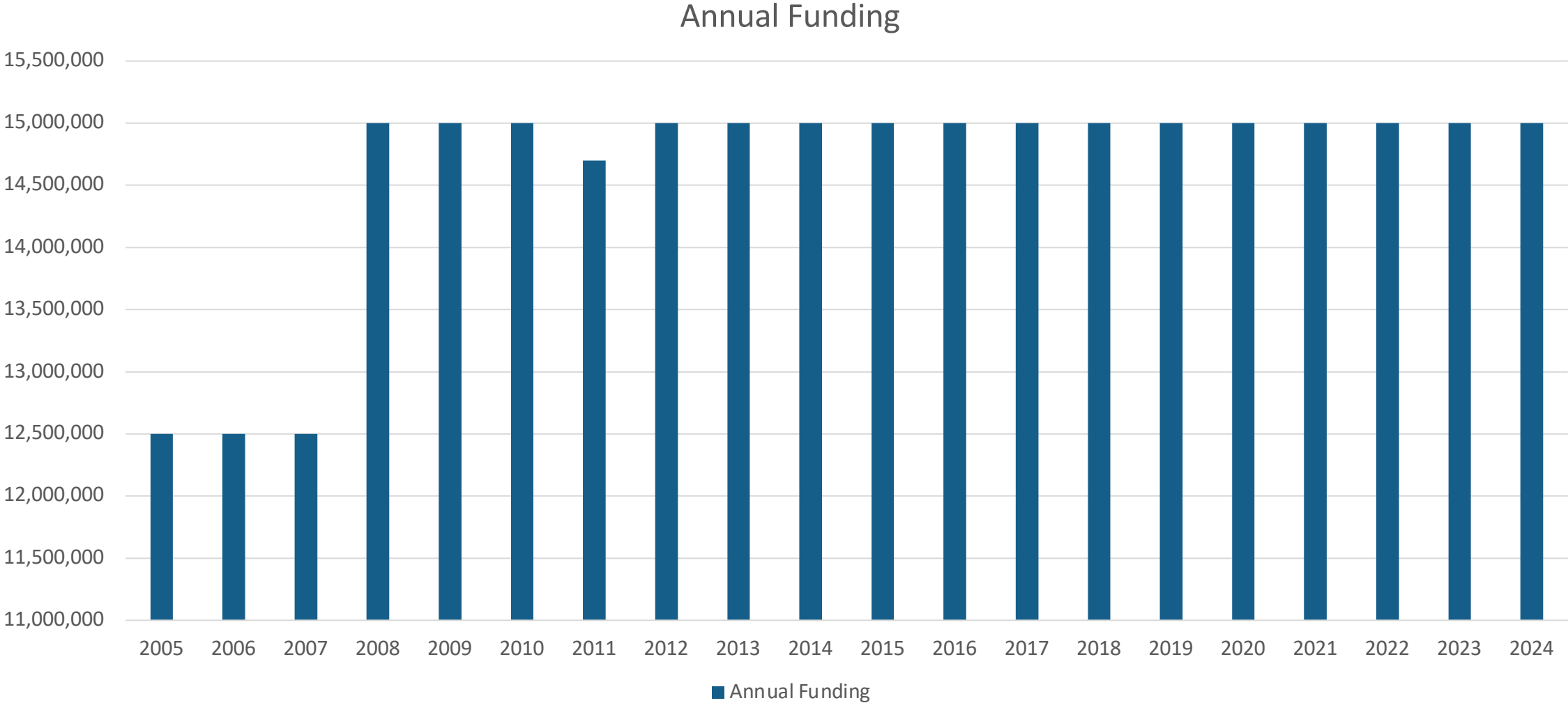# 1 in 2 children are reading on grade level by the end of 3ʳᵈ grade in Utah

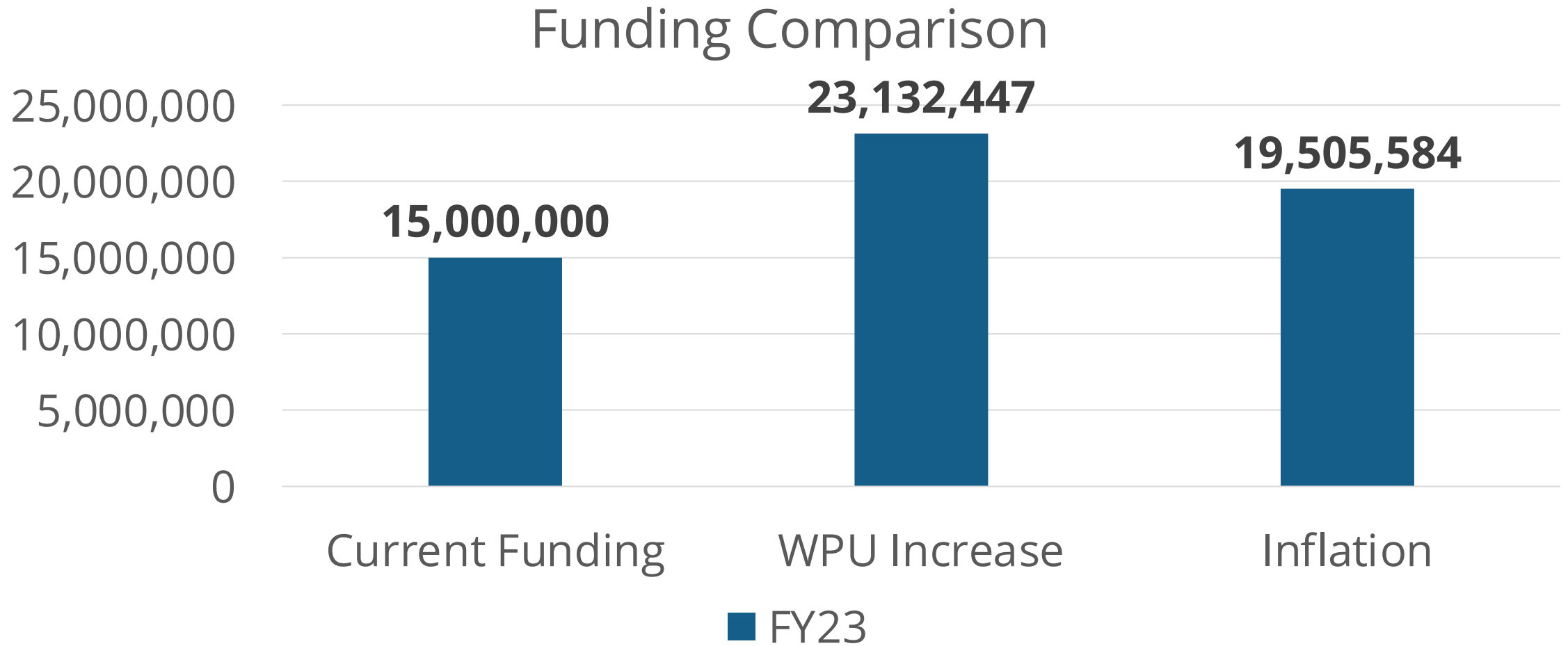Students who are not reading
on grade level:

- Higher rates of school dropout

- Reliance on public assistance

- Higher rates of being arrested
  or teenage pregnancy

- Lack of skilled workforce

History of K-3 Reading Improvement

Annual Funding

Implications of Static Funding

Funding Comparison

	Current Funding	WPU Increase	Inflation
FY23	15,000,000	23,132,447	19,505,584

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History of Impact on Student Outcomes

Benchmark Rates Over Time—Grades 1-3

Bar chart showing % of Students at Benchmark by year:
- 2014: 75
- 2015: 75
- 2016: 72
- 2017: 71
- 2018: 71
- 2019: 71
- 2020: (no data)
- 2021: 64
- 2022: 65
- 2023: 66

Legend: % of Students at Benchmark

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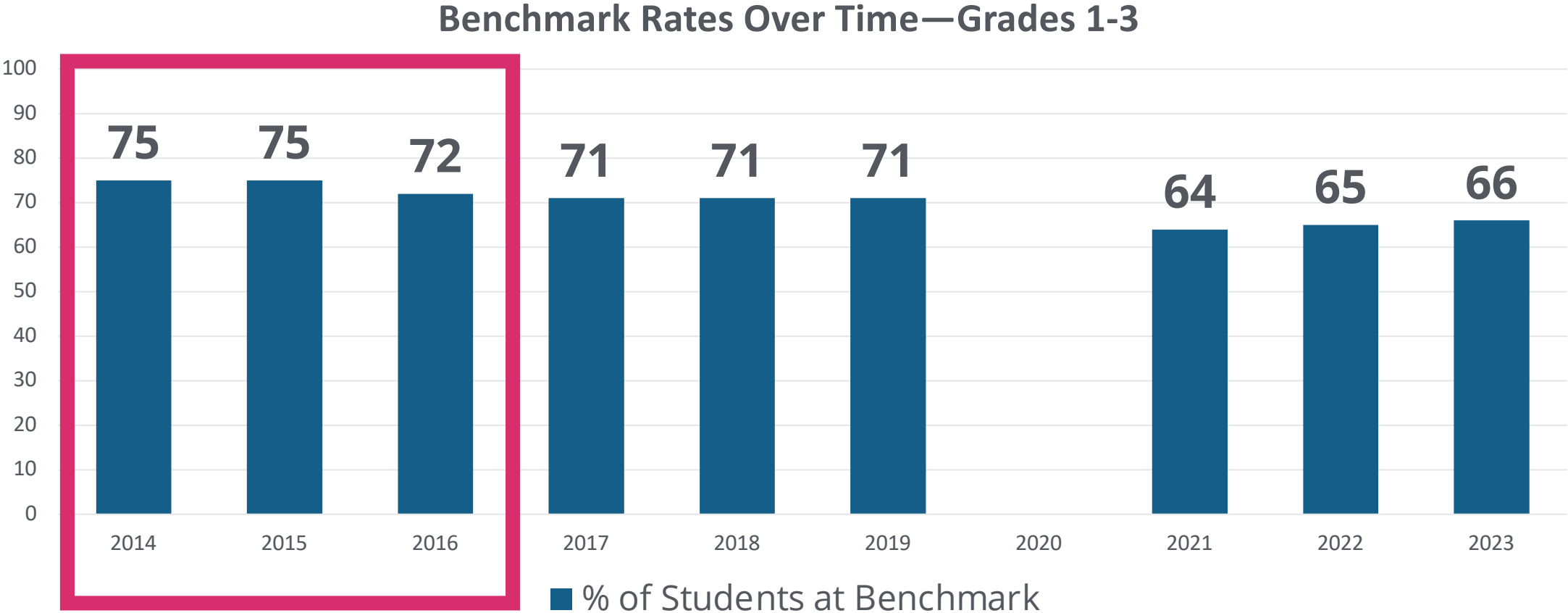
Moving Early Literacy to the WPU

Pros

- Increased flexibility of funding use
- Reduce application burden
- Increase in amount of funding over time
- Local control

Cons

- Loss of additional local matching funding
- Removes the focus area of literacy as a legislative priority
- Removes restrictions on use of funds
- Reduces accountability for the funding
- Competing priorities may minimize impact

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Early Literacy Outcomes Improvement (SB 127)

Passed in 2022 Legislative General Session

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Four Key Areas

Instructional Support	**Professional Learning**
Systems Support	**Educator Preparation Supports**

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What changed with SB 127?
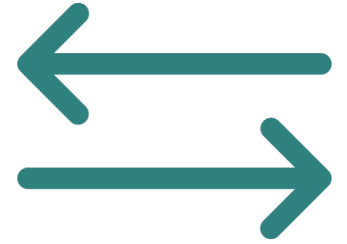
- Required diagnostic assessment and progress monitoring
- Required educators to participate in LETRS professional learning
- Required instruction materials to be aligned with the science of reading
- Required change management in literacy for school, district, and charter leaders
- Added state literacy coaches to lowest performing schools
- Required teacher candidates to take/pass the Foundations of Reading Assessment
- And more…

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Progress Monitoring: **Instructional Support**

- SB 127 established a requirement for progress monitoring of students
- In the first year, we saw small improvements towards meeting the law
  - Sent notices to schools below 20%
  - Certificates of Achievement for schools above 90%
- This year, we will be issuing corrective action notices to LEAs who are out compliance

Progress Monitoring At Rate		
	Winter	Spring
Above 90%	6%	11%
Below 20%	11%	20%

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Impact of State Coaches (Benchmark): **System Support**
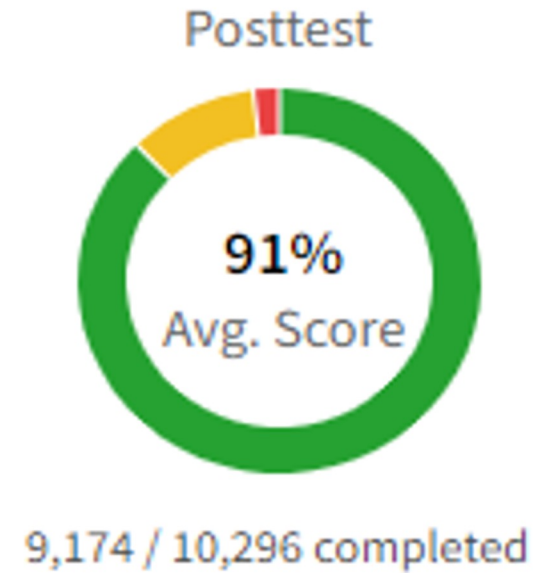
0.9%
State Average % Increase
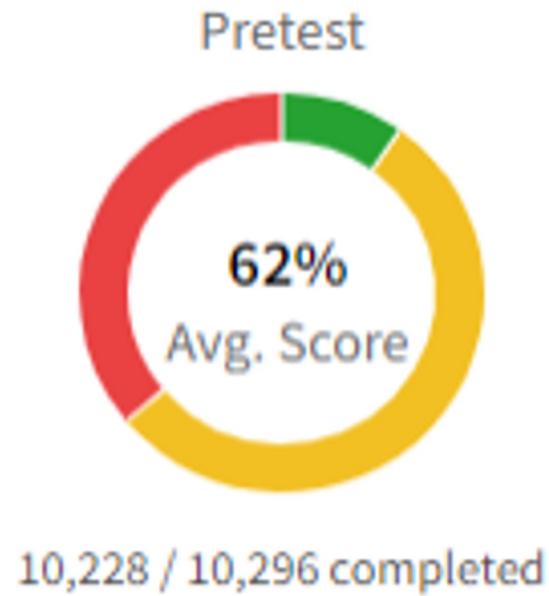
5x

4.7%
Lowest Performing Schools
Average with State Coaches

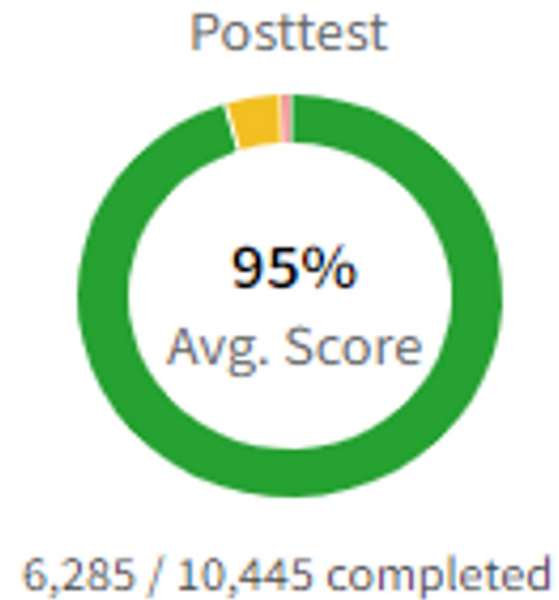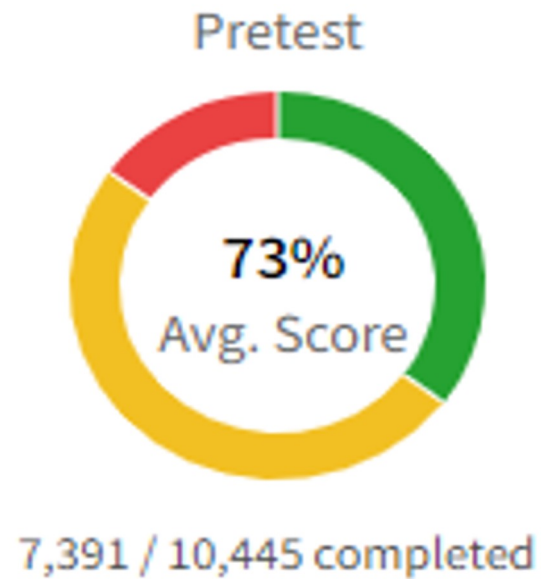# LETRS for Educators: **Professional Learning**

- Professional learning provided for 10,000+ educators

- 6,200+ completed all 8 units and **4,000+ are in progress**

- Provided shared understanding and language

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Volume 1

Pretest
62% Avg. Score
10,228 / 10,296 completed

Posttest
91% Avg. Score
9,174 / 10,296 completed

Volume 2

Pretest
73% Avg. Score
7,391 / 10,445 completed

Posttest
95% Avg. Score
6,285 / 10,445 completed

Foundations of Reading Results: Educator Preparation Supports

University	# Tested in 2023	% with 240	Mean score
Utah Valley	112	56%	241
University of Utah	70	46%	237
Southern Utah	108	75%	254
Utah Tech	37	76%	250
Utah State	208	46%	236
Brigham Young	211	77%	251
Weber State	80	61%	242
Western Governors	804	49%	236
Westminster University	9	NA	NA
State Average	1,630	61%	243

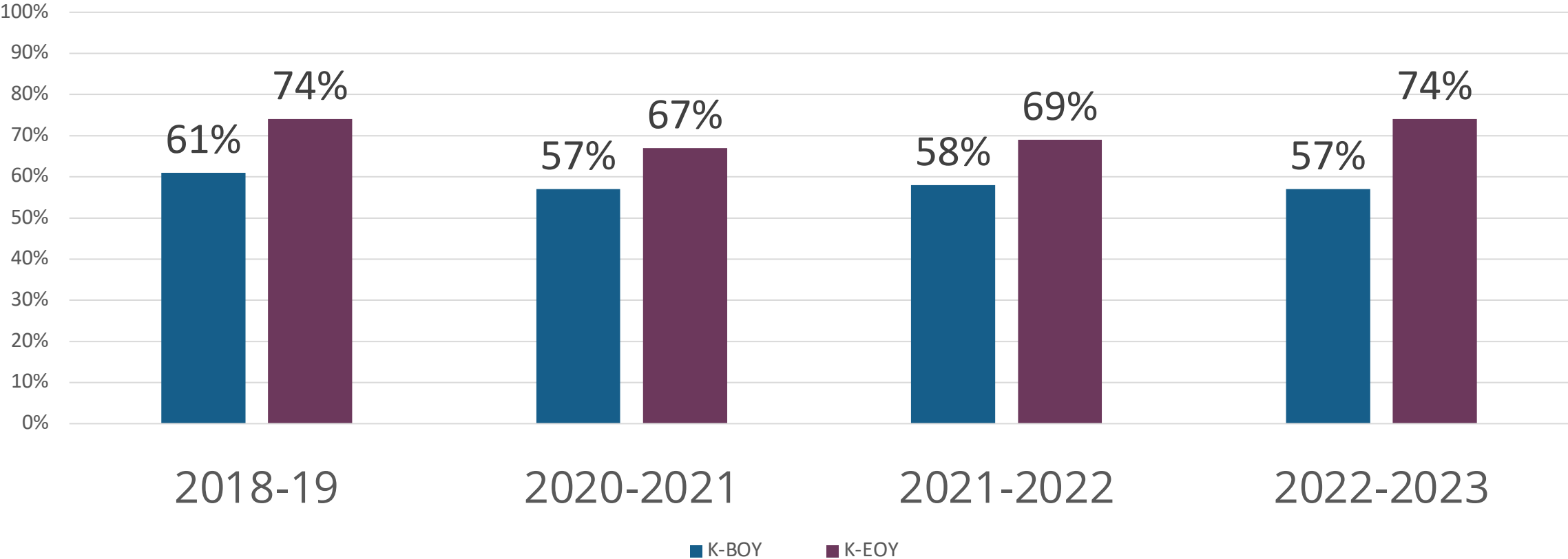Utah State Board of Education

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2022-2023 Literacy Outcomes

1st Grade

% of Students Achieving Benchmark
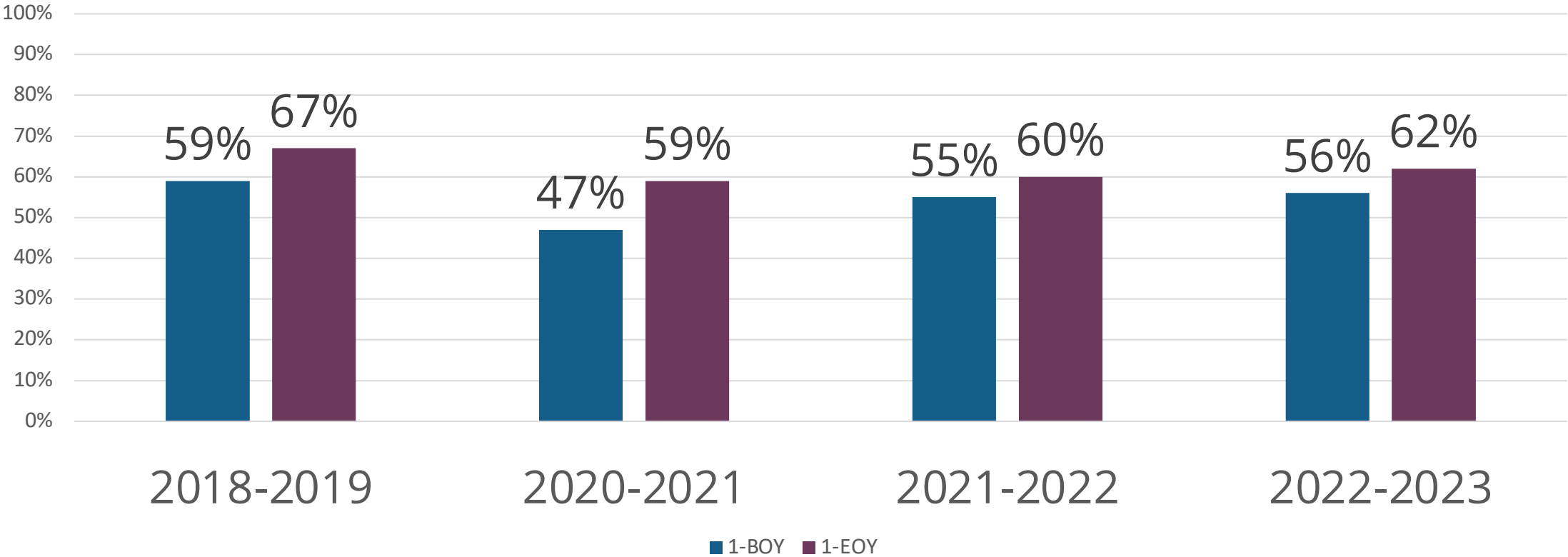
2nd Grade

% of Students Achieving Benchmark

	2018-2019	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
2-BOY	72%	65%	67%	67%
2-EOY	71%	64%	66%	67%

Legend: ■ 2-BOY ■ 2-EOY

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3rd Grade

% of Students Achieving Benchmark

Bar chart showing % of Students Achieving Benchmark for 3rd Grade (3-BOY and 3-EOY):
- 2018-2019: 3-BOY 70%, 3-EOY 74%
- 2020-2021: 3-BOY 65%, 3-EOY 69%
- 2021-2022: 3-BOY 66%, 3-EOY 70%
- 2022-2023: 3-BOY 66%, 3-EOY 71%

Legend: ■ 3-BOY ■ 3-EOY

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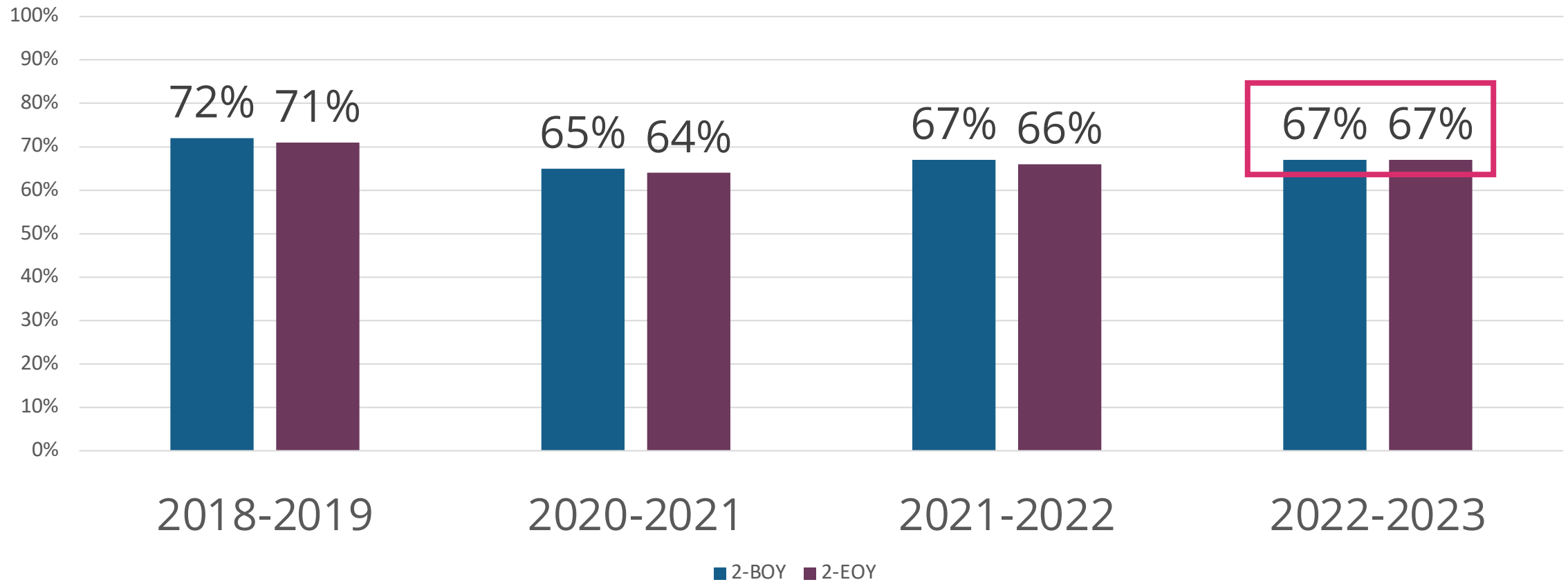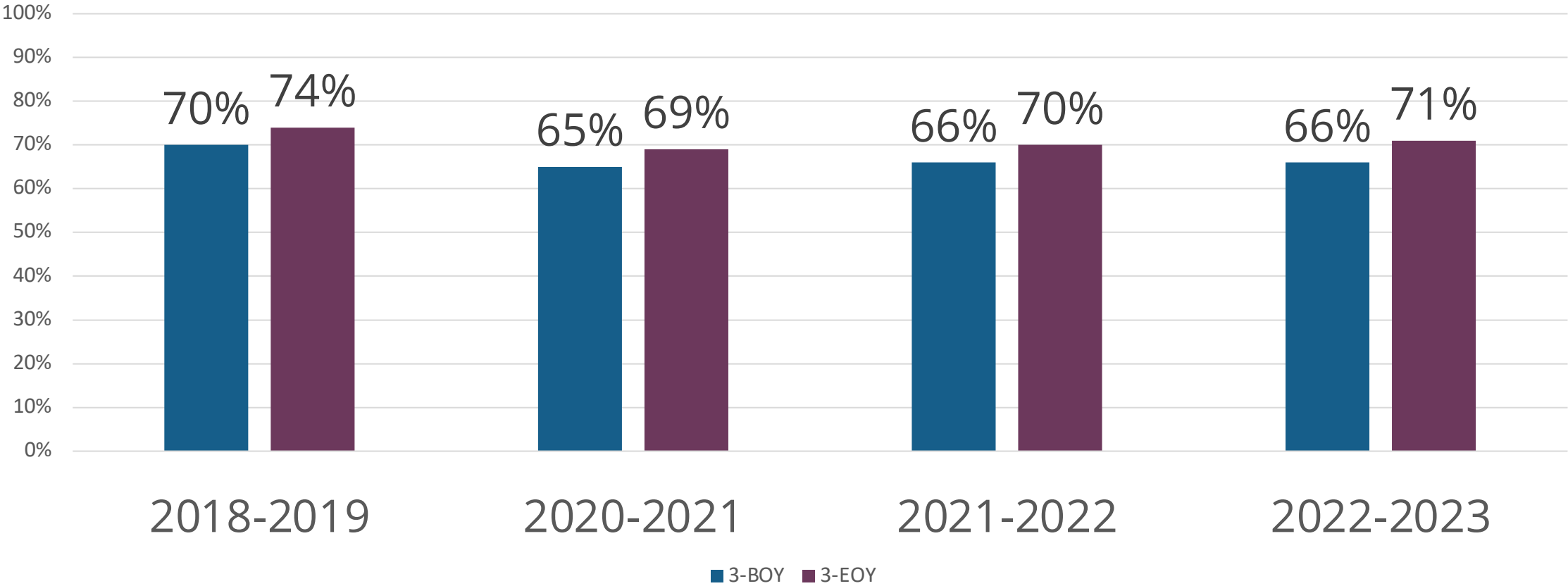
Pathways of Progress

| Kindergarten | **55%** 2021+2022 | **64%** 2023 |

| First Grade | **64%** 2021+2022 | **64%** 2023 |

| Second Grade | **66%** 2021+2022 | **70%** 2023 |

| Third Grade | **70%** 2021+2022 | **72%** 2023 |

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Progress Towards Achieving the State's Goal

Percentage of Students Who Can Read Grade Level

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Grades 1-3	43	45	47
Grade 1	42	44	46
Grade 2	43	45	47
Grade 3	44	46	48

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IMPLEMENTATION DIP

Consciously skilled

Awkward

Beginning awareness

GROWTH

PRACTICE OVER TIME

Overnight Success?

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AVERAGE SCORES FOR STATE/JURISDICTION AND THE NATION (PUBLIC)

Mississippi

AVERAGE SCORES FOR STATE/JURISDICTION AND THE NATION (PUBLIC)
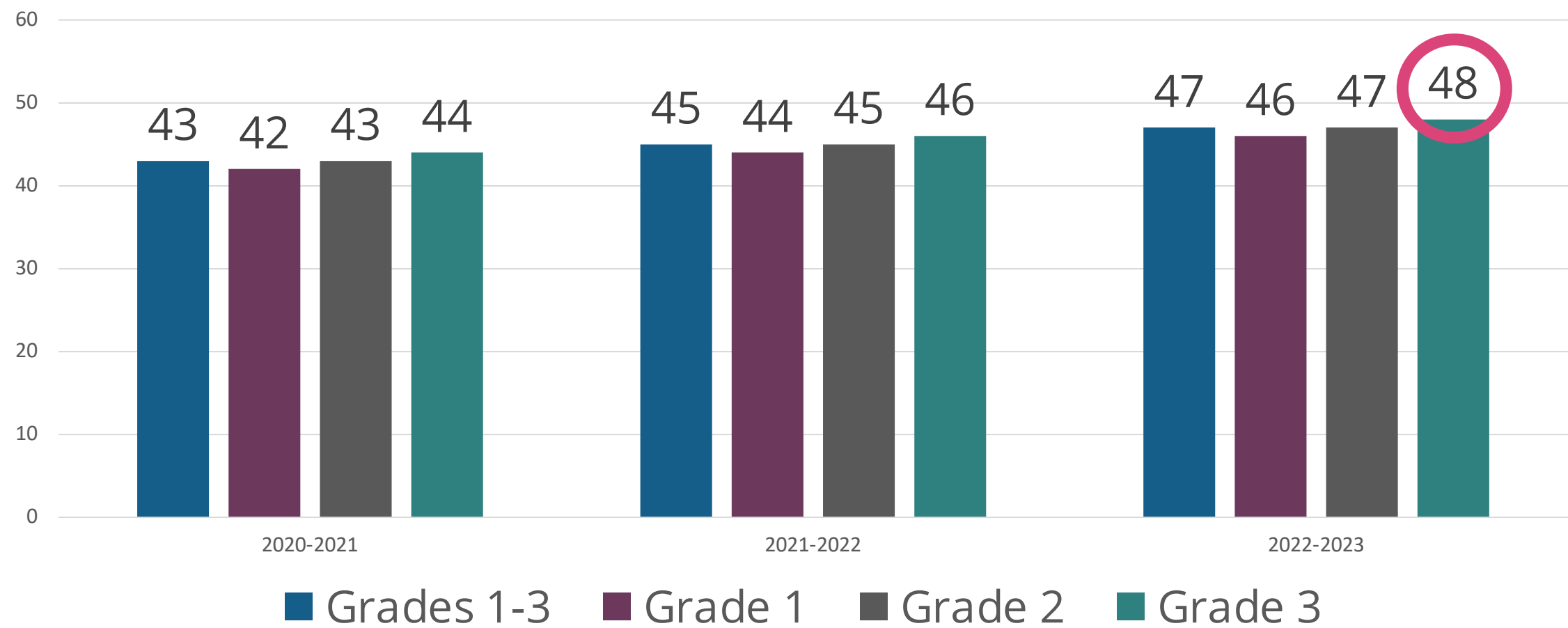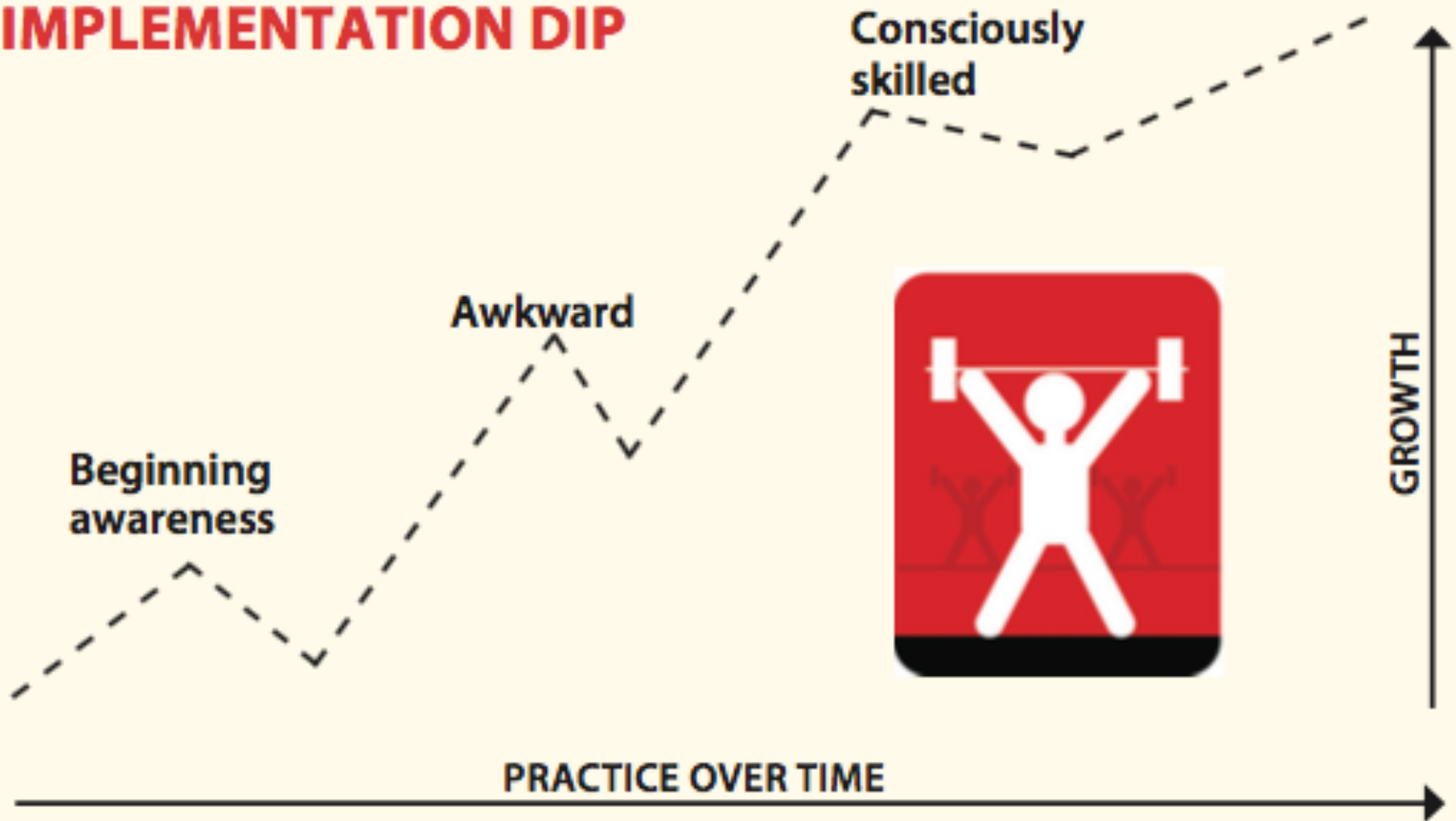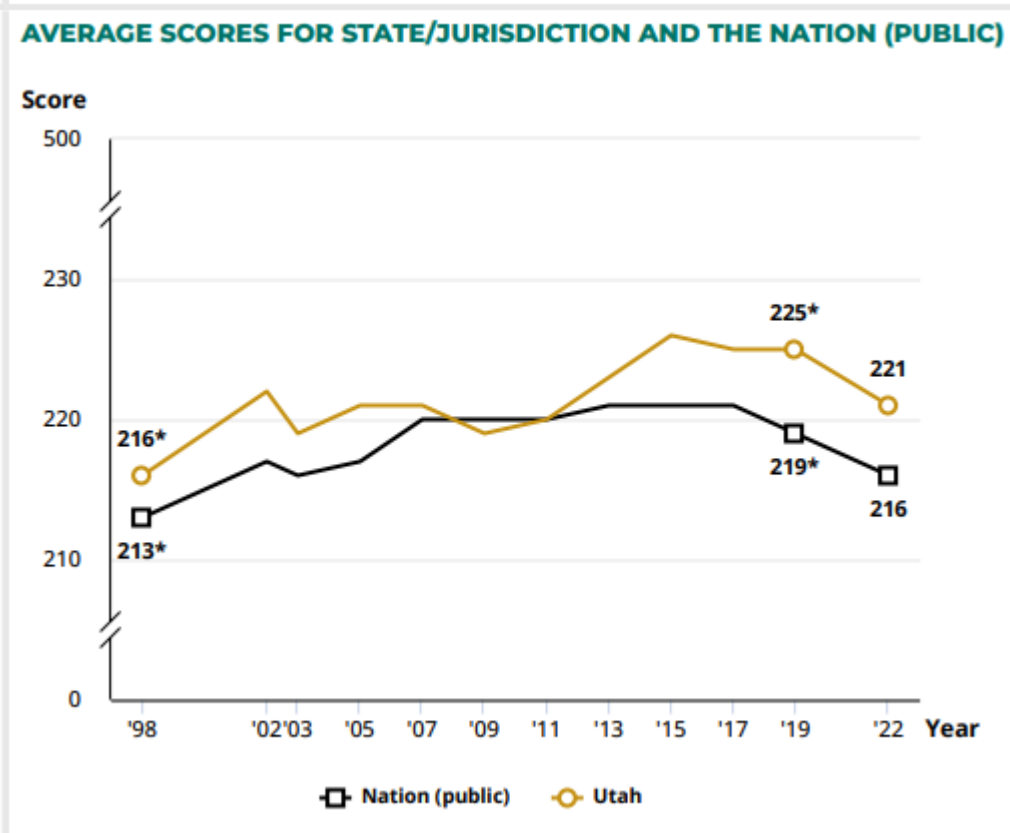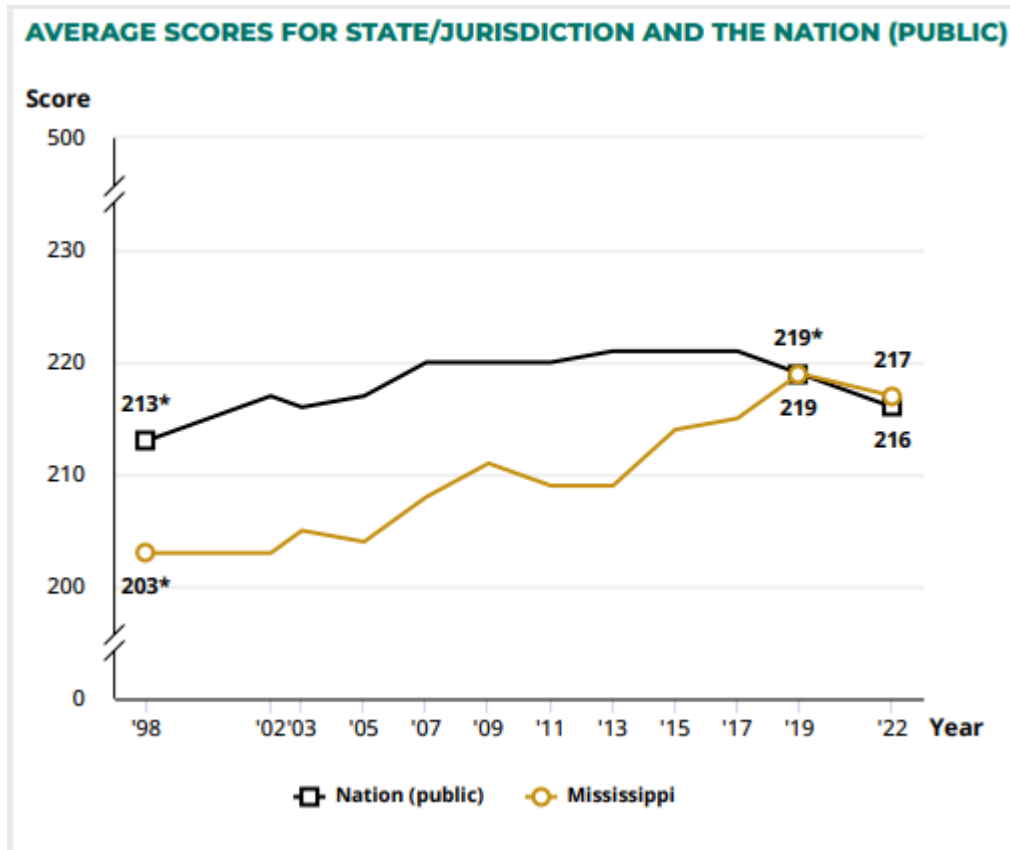
LEA Level Data: **Top 10 School Districts**

North Summit District	78.6%
Rich District	66.7%
Wayne District	62.5%
Provo District	60.8%
Cache District	60.7%
Tintic District	60.0%
Morgan District	59.8%
Kane District	57.9%
Park City District	57.8%
South Sanpete District	56.5%
Canyons District	54.9%

LEA Level Data: **Top 10 Charter Schools**

John Hancock Charter School	82.6%
North Star Academy	76.5%
Bear River Charter School	76.2%
Mountainville Academy	70.8%
Edith Bowen Laboratory School	69.4%
Early Light Academy at Daybreak	68.7%
Wasatch Peak Academy	68.0%
Canyon Rim Academy	67.1%
Channing Hall	67.1%
Legacy Preparatory Academy	66.7%
George Washington Academy	64.6%

Common Factors of High Performance

Common Factors Found Across all Levels of Performance

- Evidence-based intervention materials

- Collaboration time

- Interventions based on student needs

For High-Performing LEAs, the Key Factors in Impact are:

- Literacy coaches

- Instructional time

- School-wide and grade level specific goals

- School leader monitoring implementation

- School leaders deep knowledge in literacy

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School Level Data: **Top 10**

School	District/Charter
South Mesa Elementary	Washington District
Kaysville School	Davis District
Thomas Edison - South	Thomas Edison
Granite Elementary	Canyons District
Crimson View School	Washington District
Snow Horse School	Davis District
Springdale School	Washington District
Monticello School	San Juan District
Willard School	Box Elder District
North Star Academy	North Star Academy

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Highlights by Grade and Student Group

Kindergarten

76% Increase	**64%** Increase	**63%** Increase
Esperanza School	Edison School SLC District	Eureka School Tintic District

First Grade

72% Increase	**63%** Increase	**49%** Increase
Valley School Kane District	Minersville Beaver District	Open Classroom

Utah Standing Out

1 of 10 states with comprehensive legislation addressing:

- Teacher preparation
- Professional development
- Curriculum
- Principal leadership

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