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The road to education recovery: New data says CPS math, reading scores promising

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CINCINNATI (WKRC) – Nearly four years after the pandemic started, schools are still working to get children's learning back on track.

A report from the Education Recovery Scorecard says that for Ohio as a whole, there is an uneven post-pandemic recovery pattern, with high-poverty school districts still heavily impacted.

Cincinnati Public Schools, which says students lost about a year and a half's worth of learning, is just one district across the nation working to get students back to pre-pandemic learning levels.

The good news? The Education Recovery Scorecard report says CPS' education recovery is looking promising.

The data, which measures reading and math levels—two of the primary subjects to gauge grade-level proficiency--reports that CPS outpaced other large, urban school districts in both subjects.

In Ohio between 2019 and 2022, students lost about a half a grade equivalent in math and reading.

In high-poverty districts, like Cincinnati, Akron, Springfield City, Canton, and Columbus City, that loss was even greater, with the districts losing more than 3/4 of a grade equivalent.

This year, out of the **Council of Great City Schools** —the 44 largest urban school districts in the country —CPS' recovery was ranked second in the nation and recovery for reading was ranked 16th. Similar-sized urban districts were still behind in math about a full grade equivalent.

"These are still areas of challenge, because we're not quite where we want to be yet. We celebrate the improvement, we celebrate the growth, we still have a long way to grow.

Essentially, what this data is telling us, we've been able to recover almost a year and three quarters of what our students lost. So focusing on that current year as well as really digging into that year and a half they lost during COVID," said CPS Superintendent Iranetta Wright.

Local 12 asked Wright about the district's plans to continue its upward recovery trend.

"Of course we're still looking at third grade reading, really closing the gap between our Black students and our non-Black students, we're looking at making sure that our algebra 1 scores are on target for our students as they're first time test-takers and of course, we're really wanting to make sure we're focusing on graduation rate. Because at the end of the day, it's really about making sure students graduate, and they graduate proficient and do whatever it is that they choose to do as an individual," said Wright.