

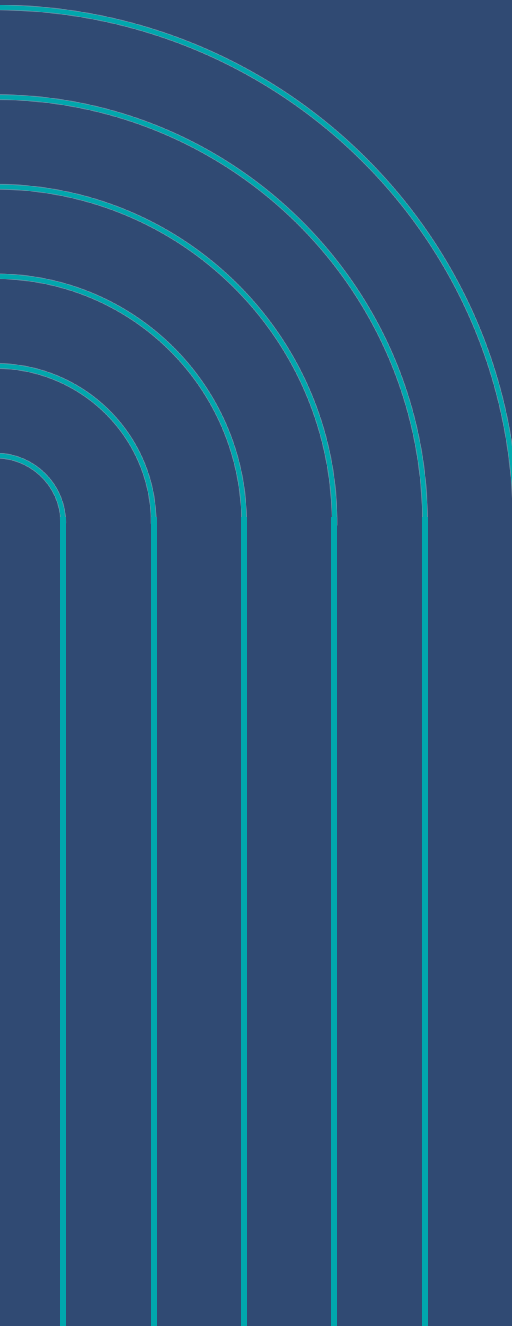
Literacy in Tennessee



About SCORE

- The State Collaborative on Reforming Education (SCORE) is an independent, nonpartisan, and nonprofit advocacy and research institution, founded in 2009 by Senator Bill Frist, MD, former US Senate Majority Leader.
- SCORE's mission is to catalyze transformative change in Tennessee education so that all students can achieve success.





Tennessee Education Policy History Overview



Early Calls To Action For Education Reform In Tennessee

2007

- Tennessee received 3 F's from the US Chamber of Commerce
- Inflated proficiency rates, large achievement gaps, and poor college and career readiness
- Tennessee proficiency rates on state assessment (TCAP) higher than national assessment (NAEP) in math and reading

2010

- Tennessee won \$501 million from the federal Race To The Top (RTTT) competitive grant
- State Act raised academic standards, incorporated student growth in teacher evaluations, and created a system to hold schools accountable



Tennessee Rose in the Nation's Report Card Rankings

2009

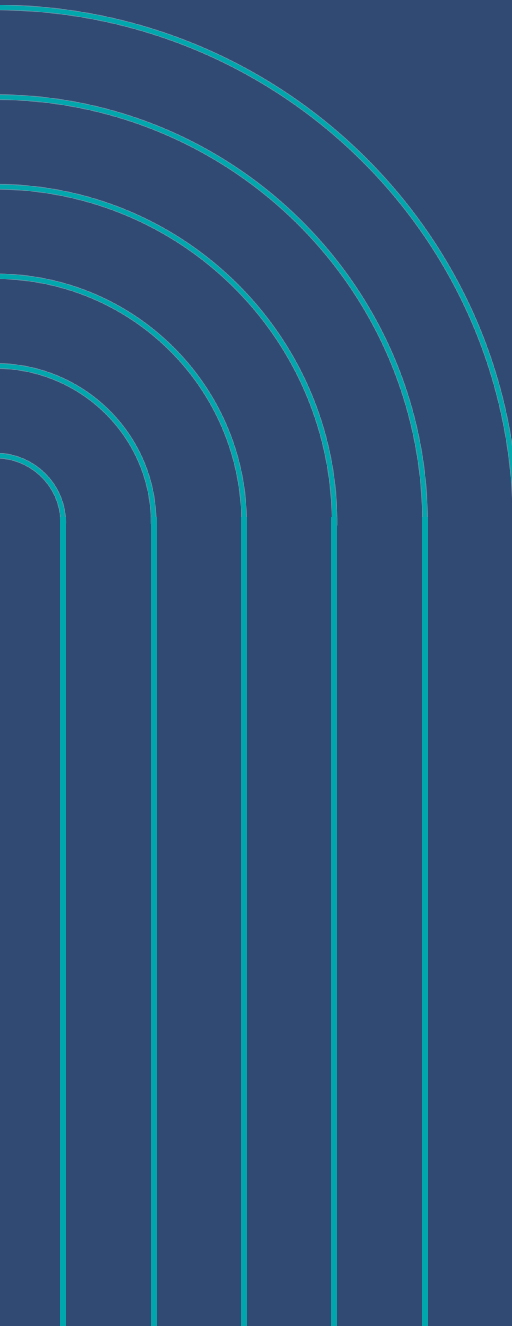
- 4th Grade Reading: 38th
- 8th Grade Reading: 33rd

2019

- 4th Grade Reading: 31st
- 8th Grade Reading: 30th

Fourth Grade Reading Improved by 7 Places
Eighth Grade Reading Improved by 3 Places



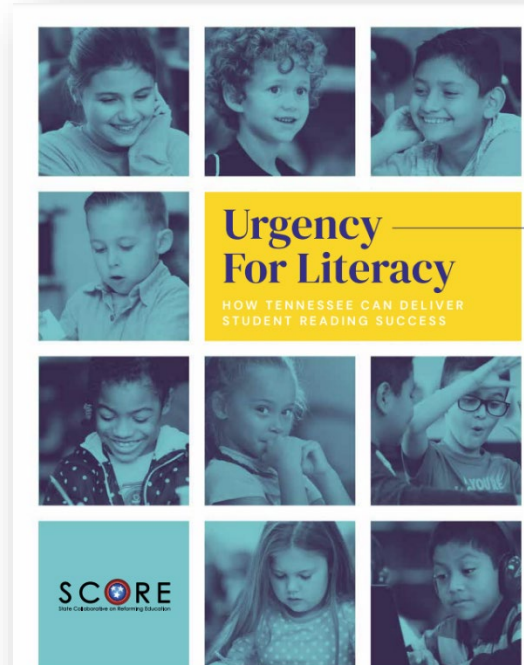


Tennessee has committed to taking strong steps to improve literacy, especially in the early grades.



Literacy: Research

- In January and March of 2020, SCORE released two research reports:
 - **The Science Of Reading**: Outlined the research supporting the science of reading as the path forward for literacy instruction in Tennessee
 - **Urgency For Literacy**: Combined proof points and learnings from the LIFT network with research to arrive at key state-level policy and practice recommendations.
- In March 2020, SCORE convened nearly 400 educators and advocates at the Tennessee Early Literacy Summit to share the findings from the reports and build momentum for policy change.



Tennessee Reading Performance Remained Flat Without Improvement from 2013-2019



Tennessee vs. US fourth-grade reading and math scores, 2009-2019 National Assessment of Educational Progress



Tennessee Literacy Success Act (2021)

- **Goal: every public school student reading on grade level by the end of third grade**
- Foundational literacy skills instruction is required, an evidence-based method of teaching reading
- Adoption of high-quality instructional materials (HQIM)
- Universal reading screener must be administered in grades K-3 to early identify reading deficiencies
- Foundational literacy skills standards must be used in EPP training of new K-3 teaching candidates
- Re-training for all current K-5 educators and a Tennessee reading instruction test for new K-5 teachers

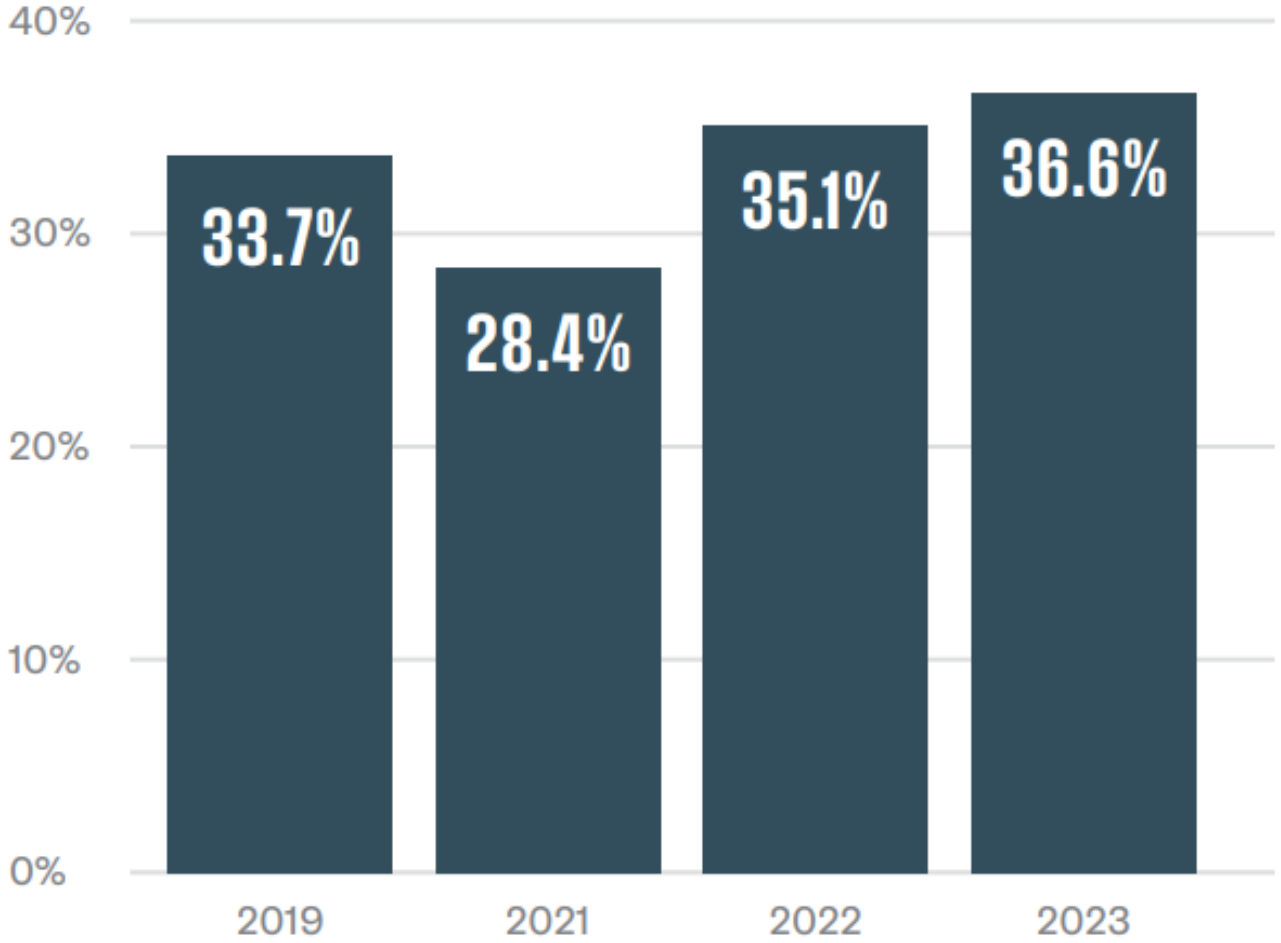


Tennessee Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act (2021)

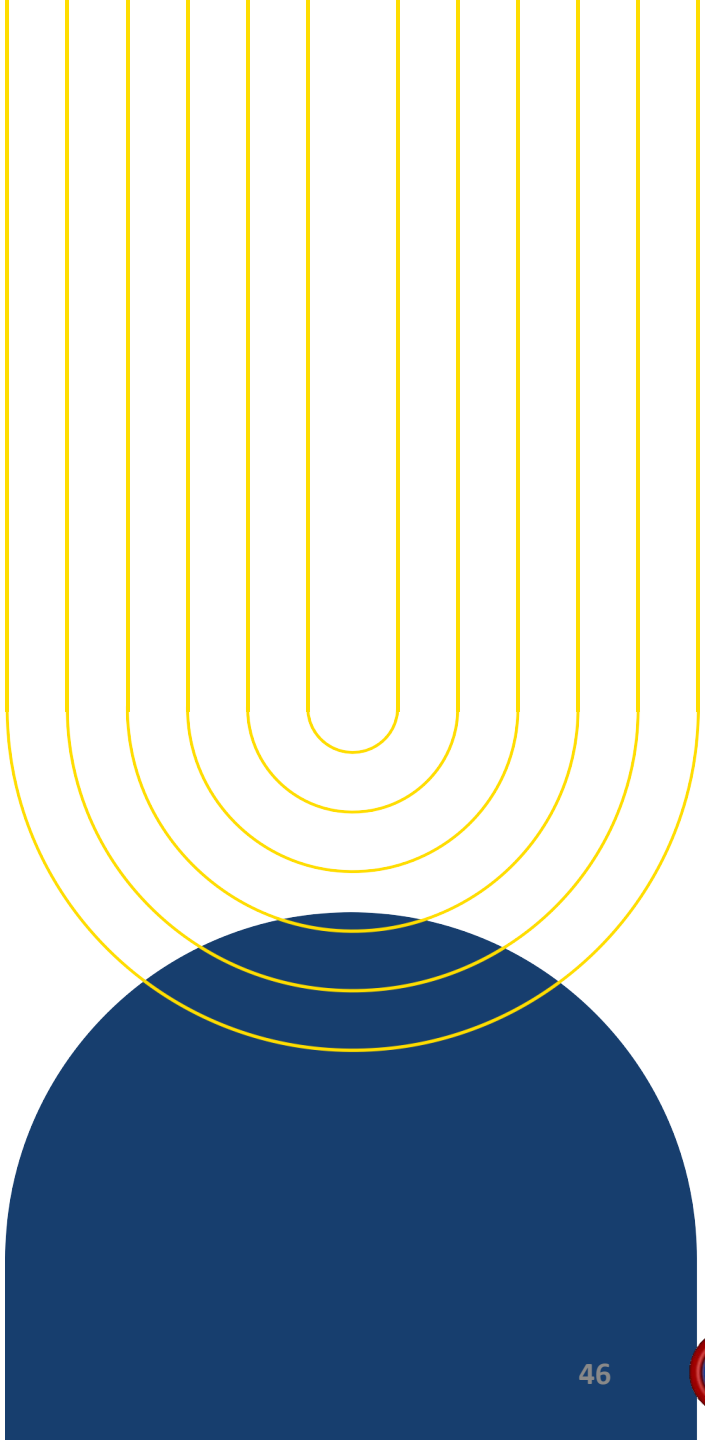
- **Goal: Provide research-based interventions for students not yet proficient in ELA and math**
- Tennessee Accelerating Literacy and Learning Corps (TALLC)
- Summer learning camps (rising K-3rd grade students) and learning loss bridge camps (rising 4th-9th grade students)
- Required promotion and intervention pathways for third grade students not yet meeting expectations on their ELA TCAP
- Innovative benchmark assessment pilot program funded and implemented by the state to provide universal screeners



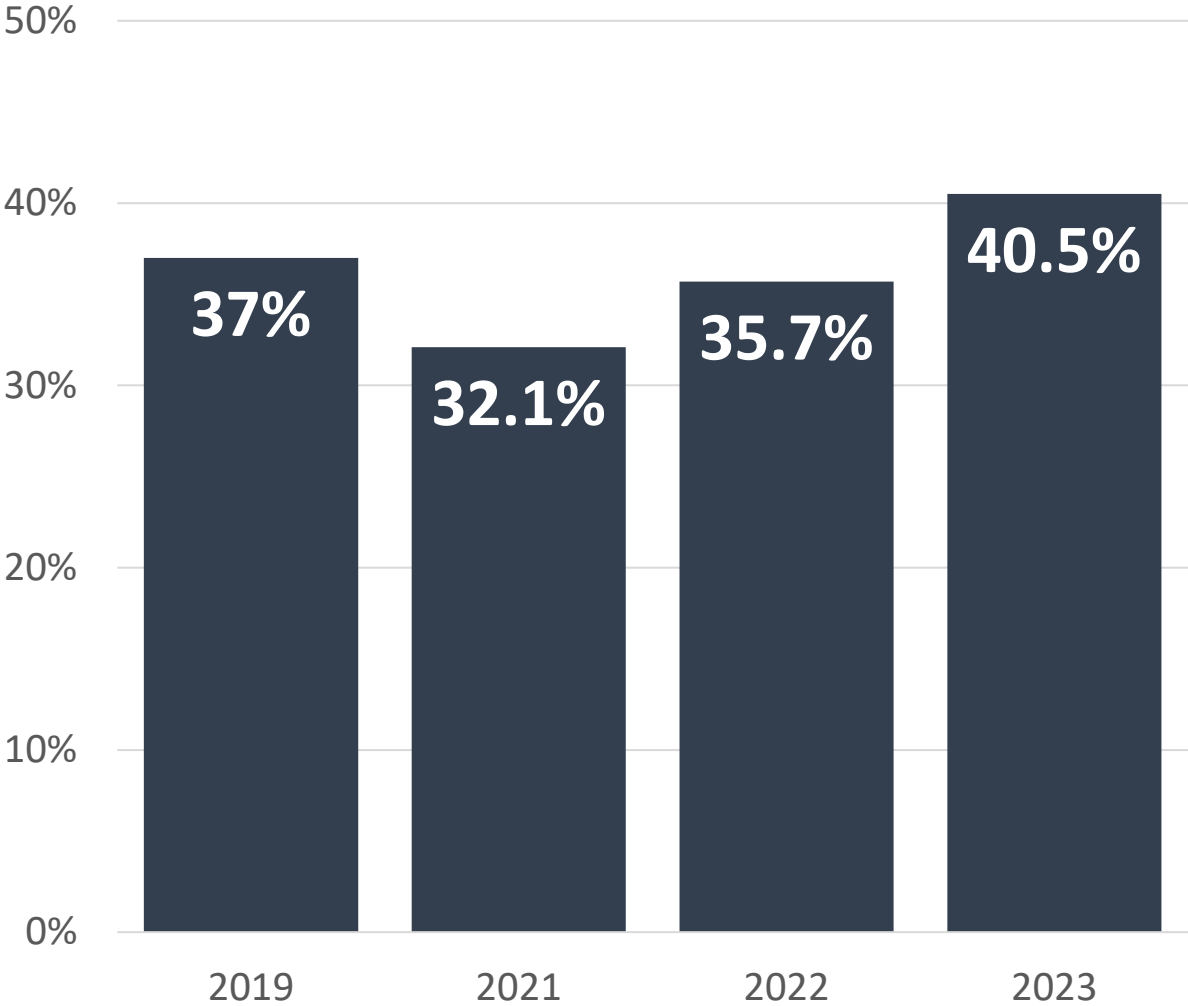
ELA Proficiency Rates in Tennessee Have Surpassed Pre-pandemic Results (Grades 3-8)



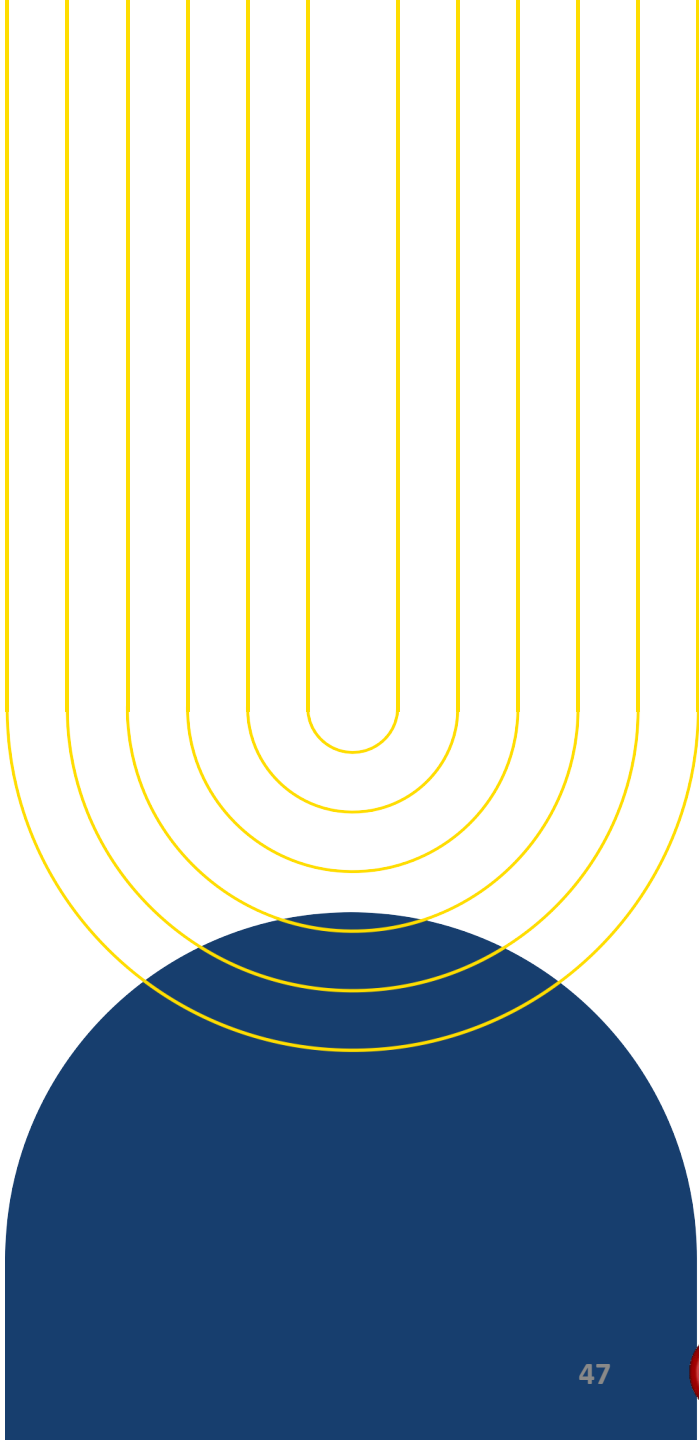
Source: TDOE, 2019-2023



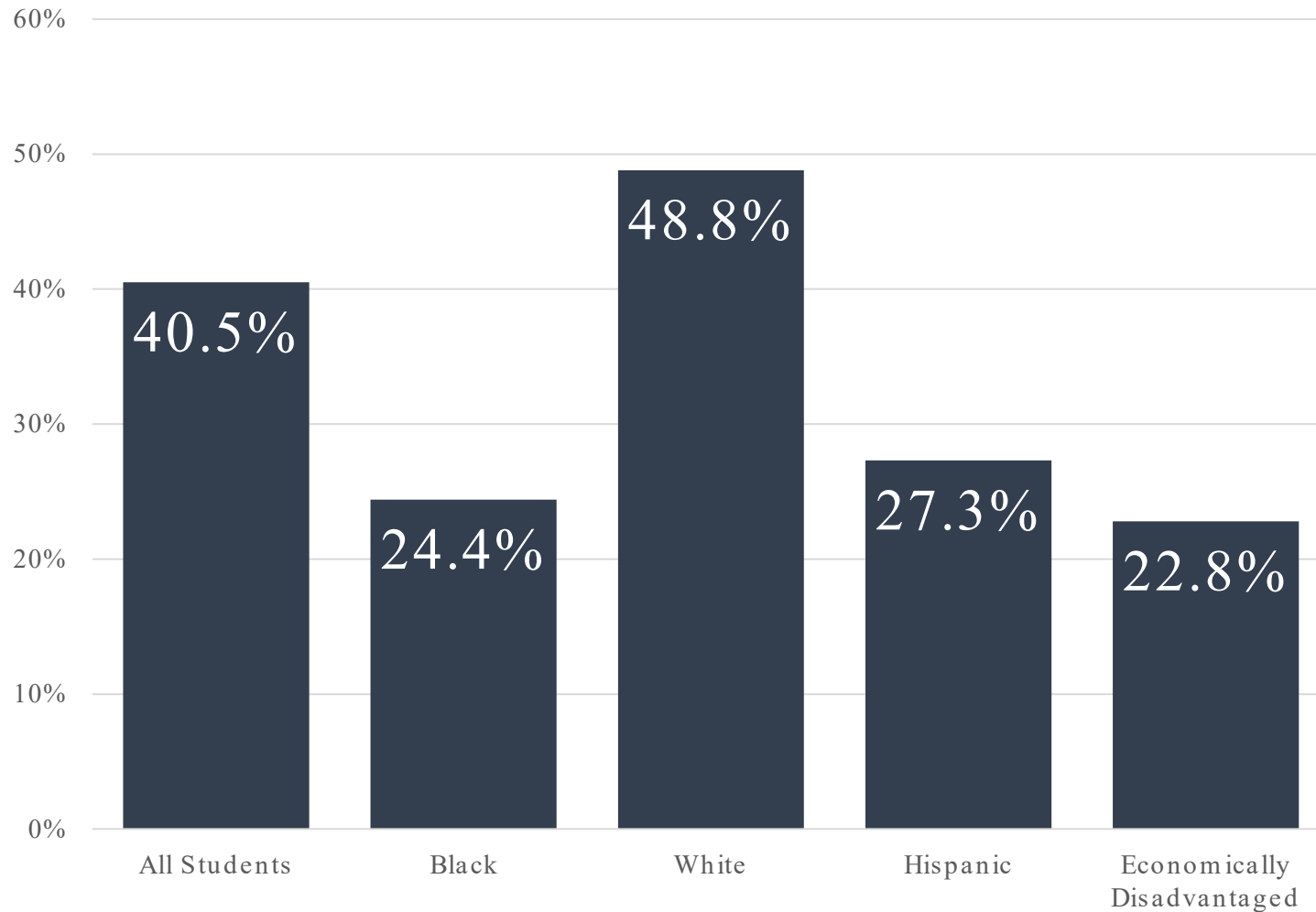
Third Grade ELA Proficiency Rates Grew



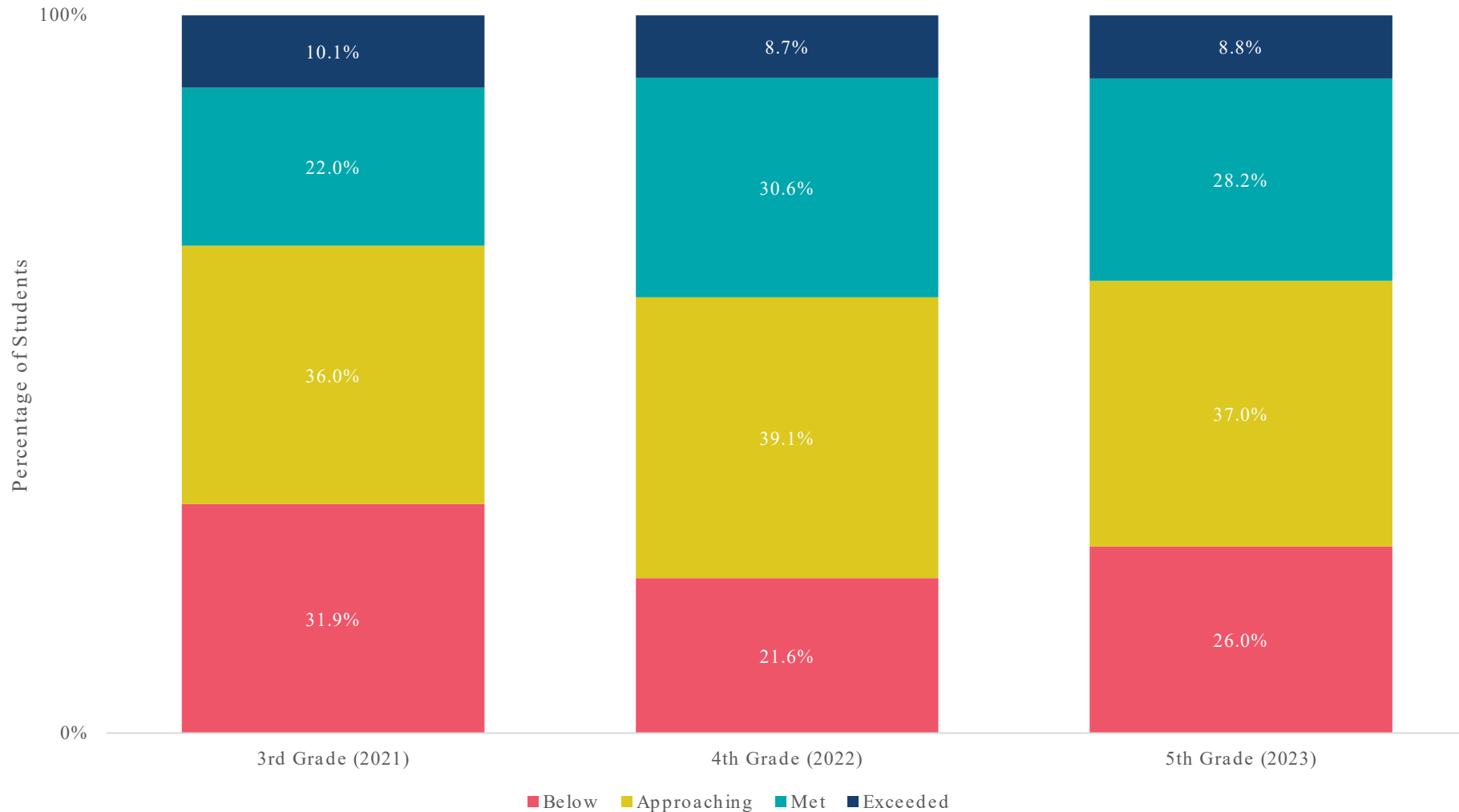
Source: TDOE, 2019-2023



While All Students Are Improving In Grade 3 ELA, Achievement Gaps Are Wide



Despite Post-Pandemic Growth, the 2021 Third Grade Cohort Proficiency Regressed by Fifth Grade



Implementation of Tennessee Literacy Laws

- Students must be being taught with standards-aligned, high-quality instructional materials.
- All Tennessee Educator Preparation Providers must provide training on reading instruction grounded in foundational literacy skills.
- The Tennessee Universal Reading Screener is available at no cost to all LEAs and public charter schools.
- Summer learning programs are available annually and highest need students are prioritized for enrollment.
- Tutors are meeting in low-ratio groups, multiple times a week, and using high-quality instructional materials.



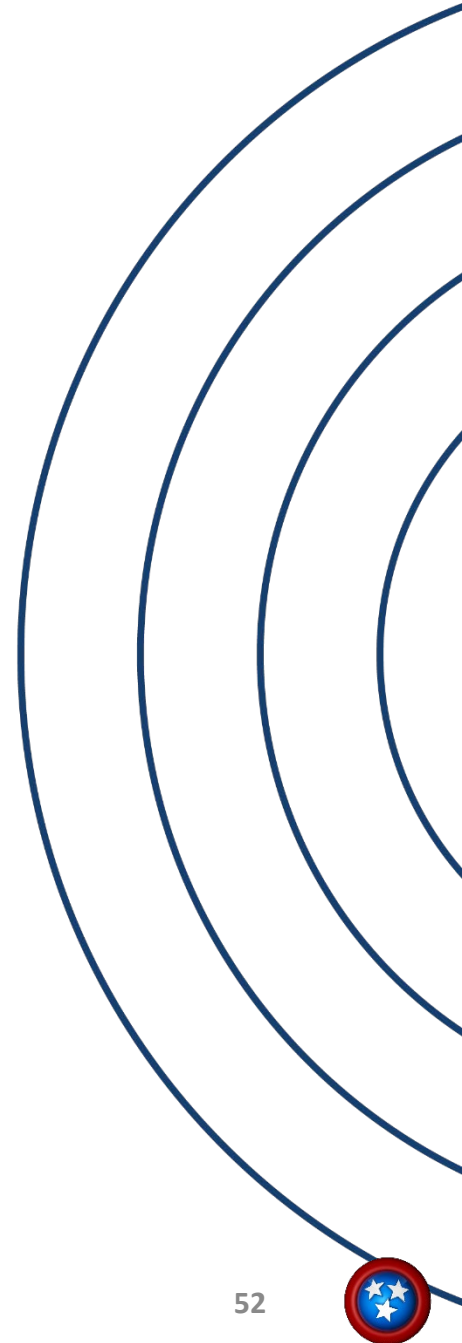
Intervention Efforts for Struggling Readers

- **Tennessee ALL Corps (TALLC) Network**
 - State grant investment in tutoring program for the 2020-21 school year through summer 2024.
 - Guidance aligned to research for teacher-student ratios (3:1 or 4:1), tutoring frequency (2-3x/week), duration (30-45 min), and tutor training/qualifications
- **Summer Learning Camps (SLCs)**
 - Every public school district offered SLCs in summers of 2021, 2022, and 2023
 - Increased funding commitment for recurring SLCs, expansion of priority student designation

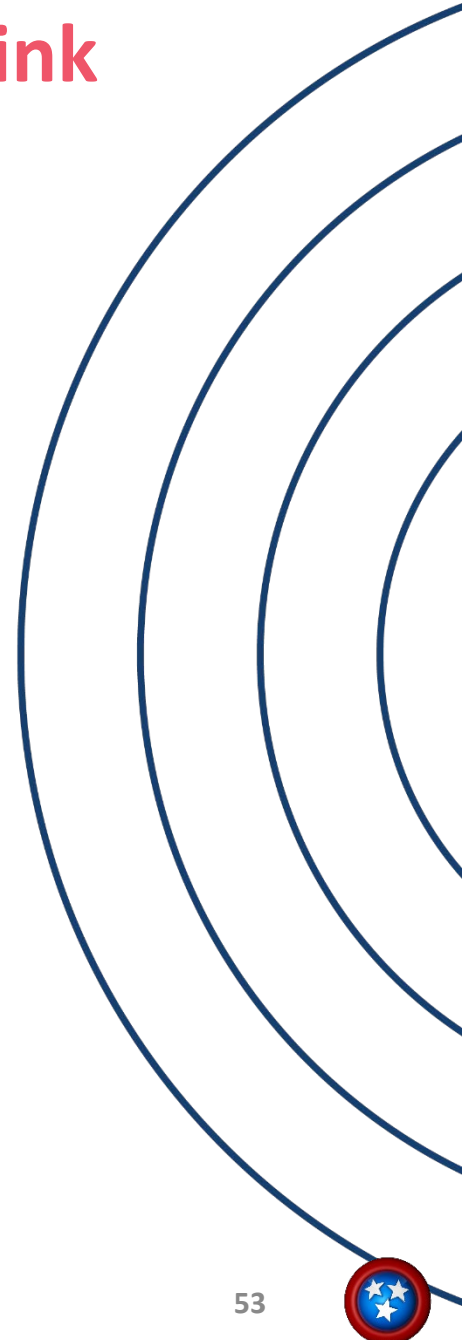
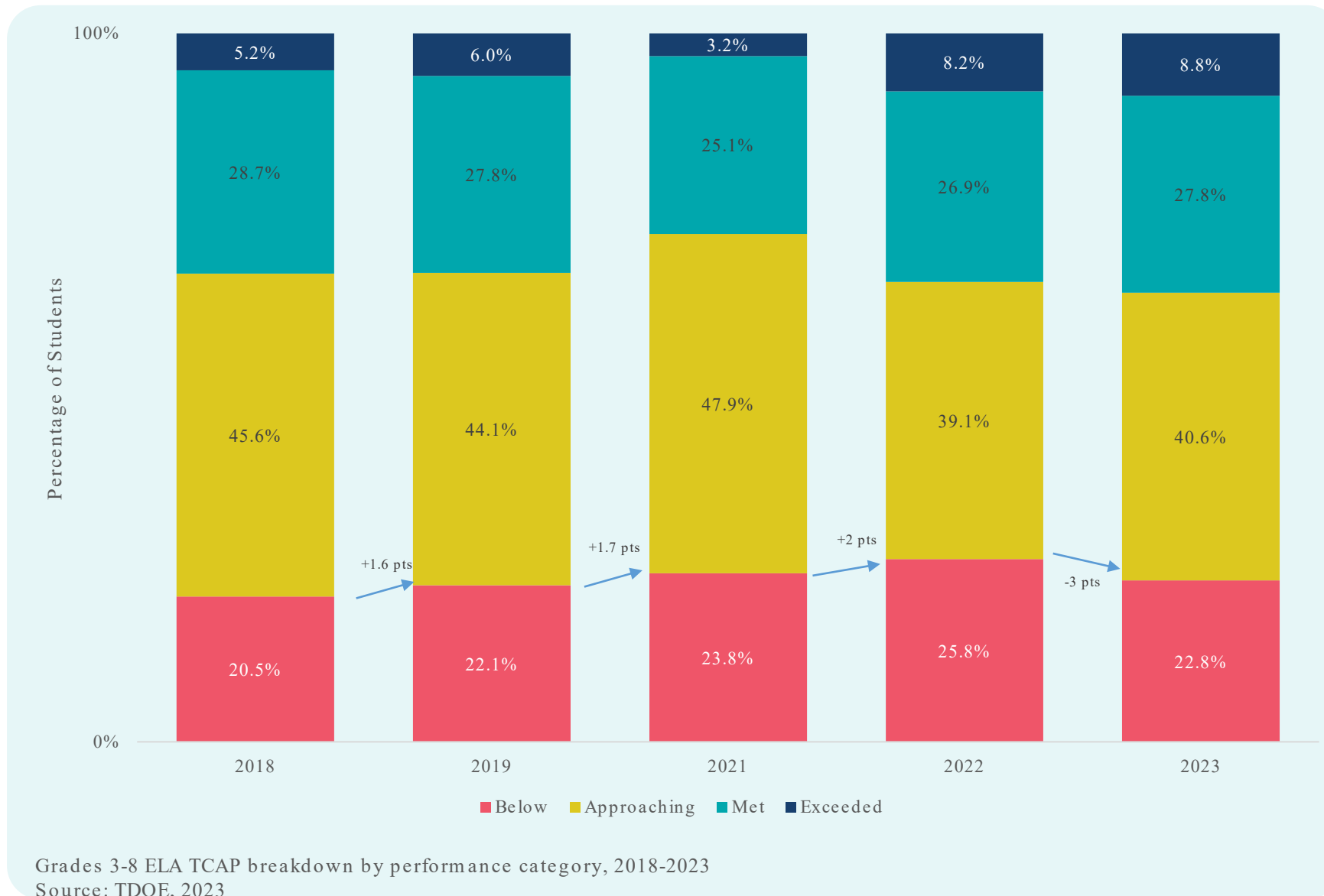


SCORE's Strategic Practice Literacy Networks

- **Leading Innovation for Tennessee (LIFT):** Beginning in 2015, a group of districts working to improve elementary literacy instruction through the use of high-quality instructional materials and professional development for literacy instruction
- **Accelerate Network:** District leaders collaborating to scale high-dosage tutoring programs in early literacy with a focus on long-term financial sustainability and aligned academic and teacher pipeline strategies
- **Lead in Literacy Network:** Partnership of EPPs and districts working to build a pipeline of teachers equipped to provide strong early literacy instruction for all students



The Below Category For Grades 3-8 ELA Is Beginning To Shrink



Setting a Coherent Path Forward for Literacy Success

With a foundation in strong instructional materials, tutoring, and research-proven approaches to literacy, Tennessee still has opportunity for improvement.

The next frontier is to create instructionally coherent experiences in early grades literacy for all students across all academic support structures.

- For students *in the early grades* and for students who are the *furthest behind* in literacy, interventions will be most effective if provided in small groups, multiple times a week, and with instructionally coherent materials





Questions?

Thank You!

