



WAUNAKEE

COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Fall 2026 i-Ready Diagnostic Results

Reading and mathematics, grades K–8, with multi-year trends
and student trajectories for grades 5–8

Board of Education · October 2026

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Data as of October 7, 2026

Two ways to read a fall i-Ready result

Placement level

Compares a student with what is expected for the whole grade. "On grade level" means Early On or Mid or Above Grade Level.

In the fall, "1 grade level below" is typical: it matches students who have just begun the year. It becomes a concern in winter or spring.

National percentile

Compares a student with students in the same grade nationally at the same time of year. The 50th percentile is the national middle.

The better measure for comparing grades, schools and years.

In the fall, a 1st grader must score at about the 90th national percentile in mathematics to place on grade level, so only about 1 in 10 first graders nationally do.

Every grade starts the year above the national middle

74.5

median national percentile, K–8
mathematics

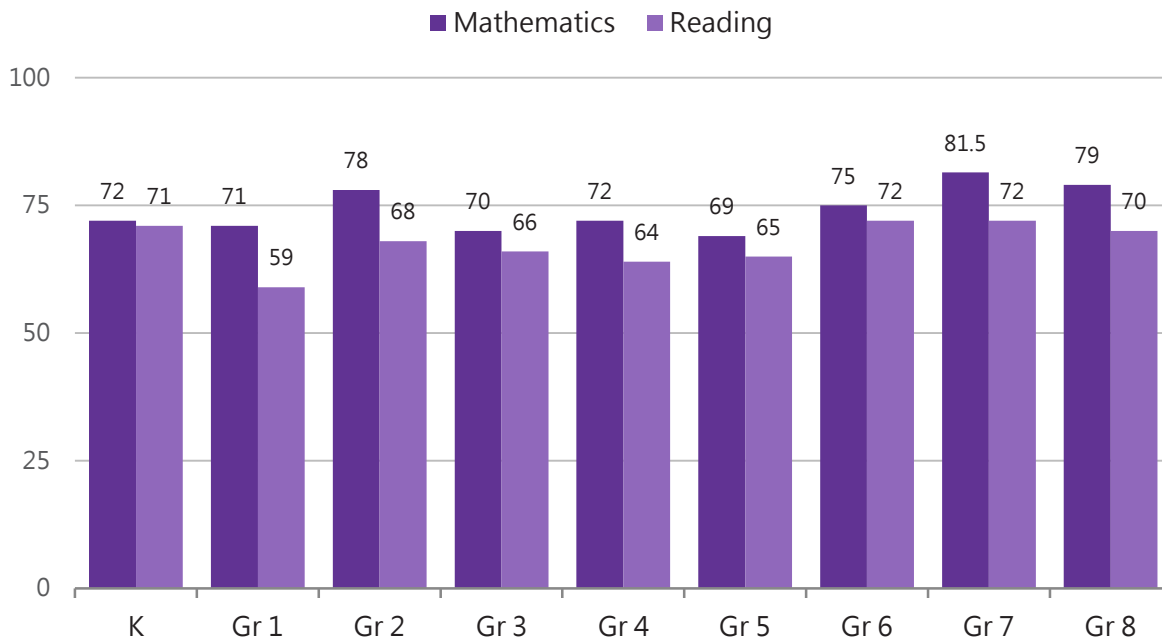
68

median national percentile, K–8
reading

77%

of K–8 students at or above the
national median in mathematics
(71% in reading)

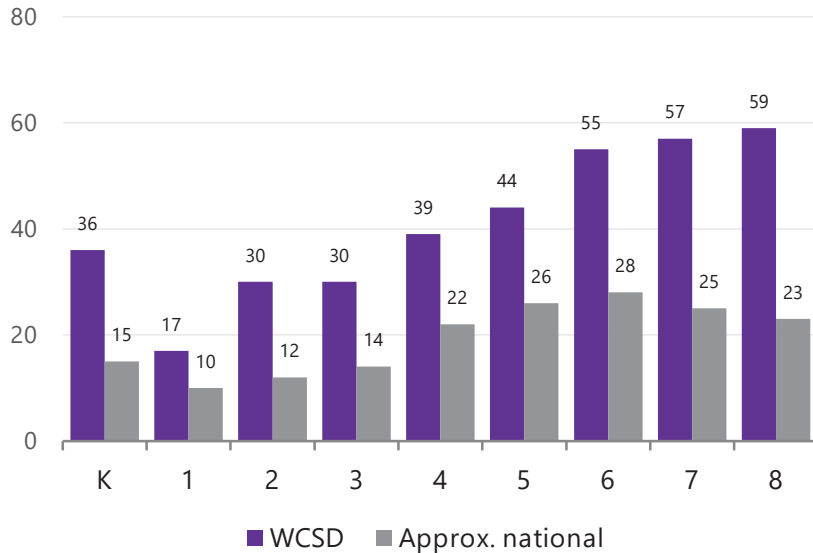
Median national percentile by grade (national median = 50)



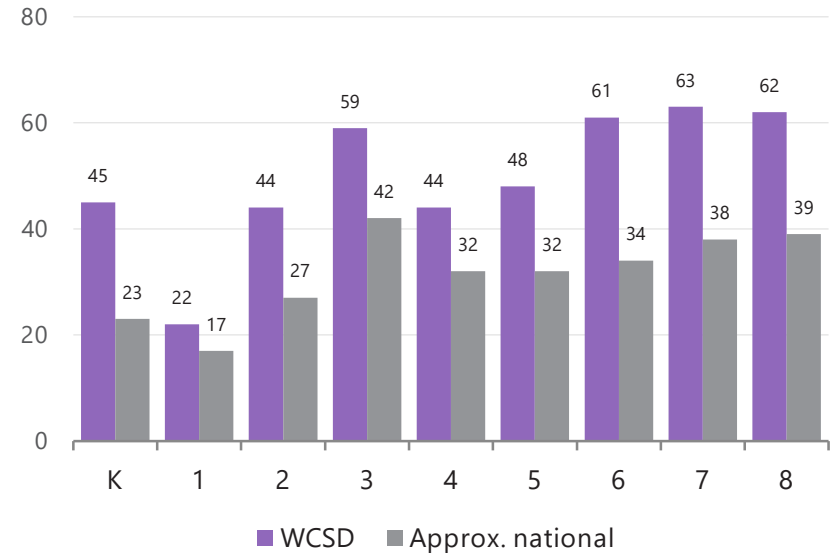
Elementary placements look low, but they are not low

First K–4 administration. Grades K–4 placed 31% on grade level in mathematics (nation about 15%) and 43% in reading (nation about 29%).

Mathematics: % on grade level, fall 2026

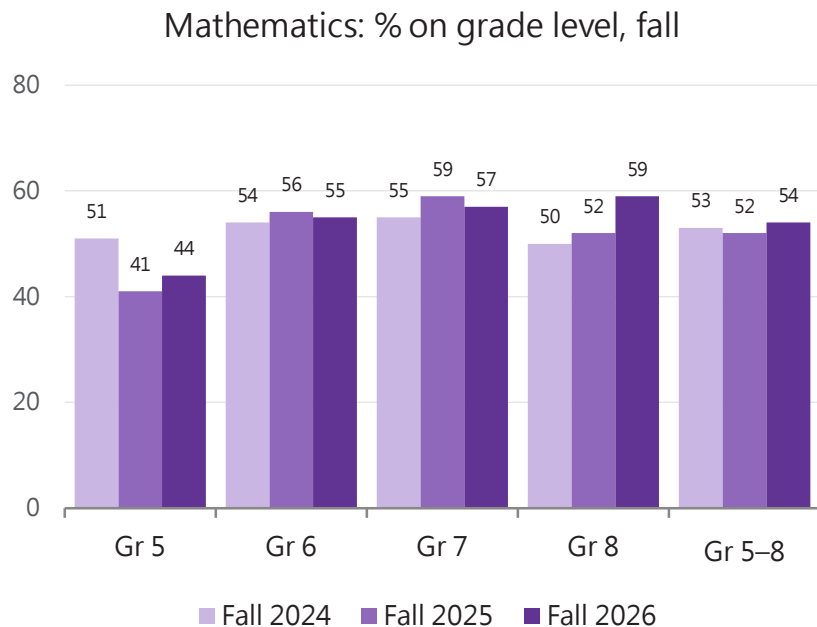
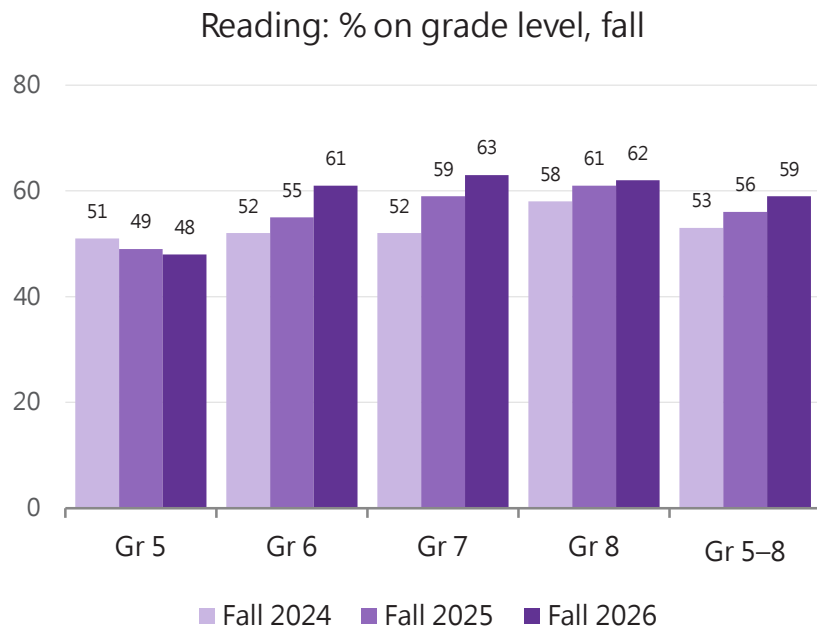


Reading: % on grade level, fall 2026



Grades 5–8: reading rising, mathematics steady

Percent on grade level in the fall. In mathematics, the share two or more grade levels below fell from 17% to 14%.



The same students are gaining ground

76th → 84th

Today's 7th graders, mathematics
(national percentile, fall 2024 to fall 2026)

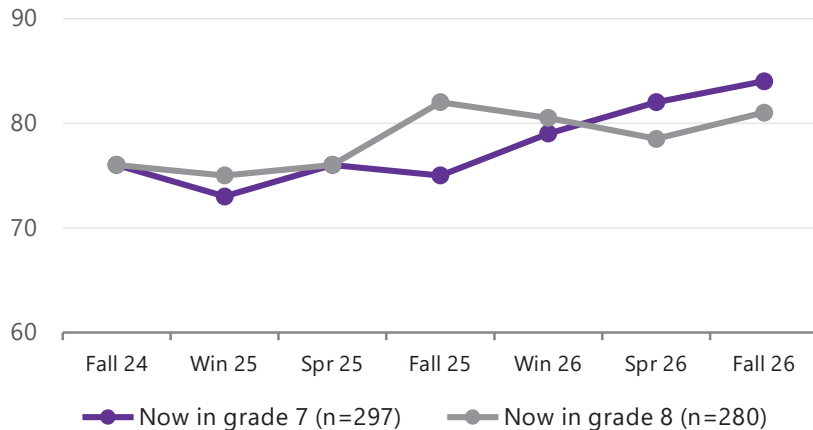
69th → 74.5th

Today's 7th graders, reading

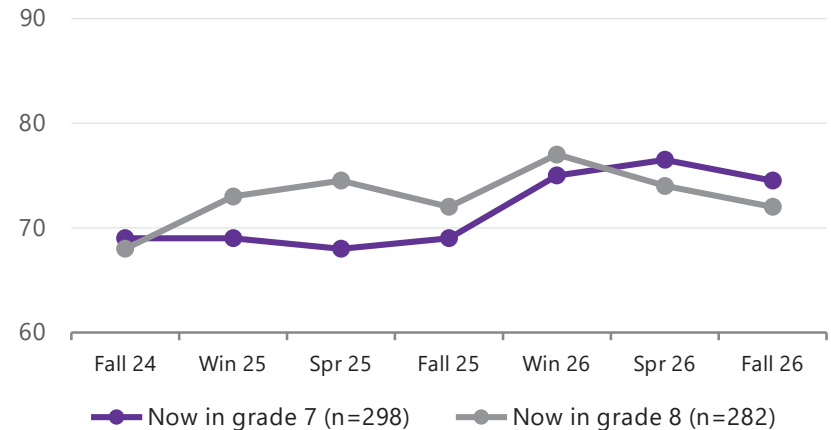
71% / 66%

Met typical annual growth in 2025-26,
math / reading (about 50% nationally)

Mathematics (median national percentile)

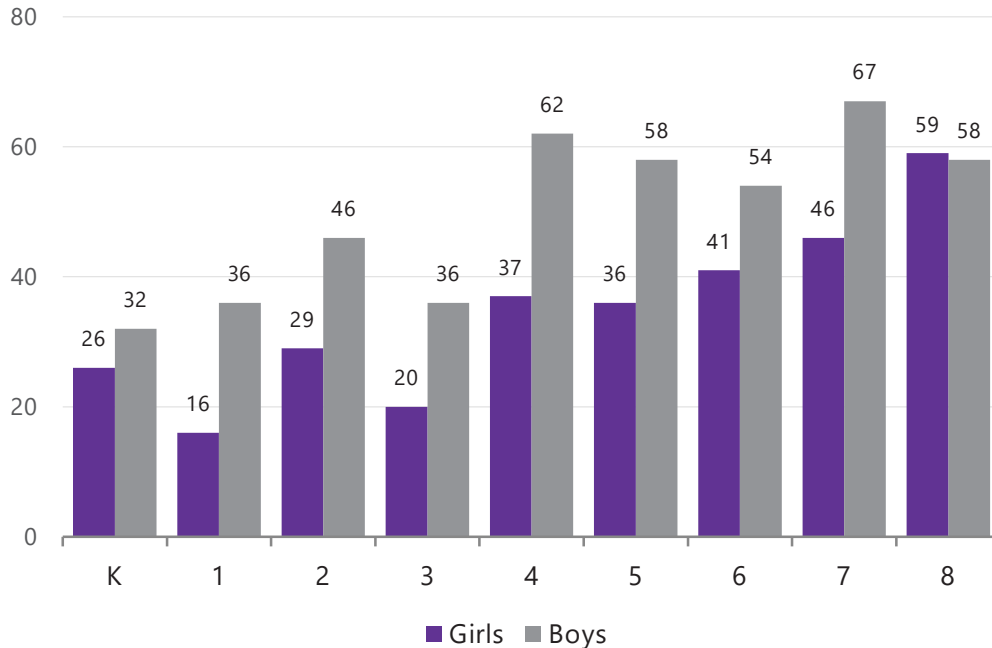


Reading (median national percentile)



The girls' math gap starts in number and operations

Number and operations: % on grade level, fall 2026



25 points

Grade 4 gap in number and operations (37% of girls vs 62% of boys on grade level). Girls trail in most grades in all four domains; K–4 gaps are largest here.

Mixed in 5–8

The gap arrives with each grade 5 class. For the same students it all but closed for today's 8th graders but widened for today's 7th graders.

62% stay far behind

of students 2+ grade levels below in number and operations (vs 44–50% in other domains). No clear extra slowdown once overall level is accounted for.

Where we will focus

Students far behind

59%

of 5th–6th graders two or more grade levels below in math in fall 2024 are still that far behind (56% in reading).

Next: Review intervention: who is served, how often, and progress checks between diagnostics.

Number and operations

25 points

Grade 4 gap between girls and boys in number and operations. Girls trail from kindergarten, and this deficit is the hardest to close.

Next: Strengthen K–4 number and operations; targeted number-sense intervention in grades 5–8.

Student groups

28th–44th

Median percentiles for economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities and English learners.

Next: Monitor these groups' growth at winter and spring, read across years.

Also: report fall results with percentiles alongside placements; watch grade 1 and grade 5 reading at winter; link spring i-Ready to spring Forward results.

Prepared with AI assistance (Claude, Anthropic); reviewed and approved by Tim Schell. Data: i-Ready Diagnostic, fall 2026, as of October 7, 2026. Full tables, methods and Board questions are in the Board information brief.