BOARD OF EDUCATION · OCTOBER 2026

Personal Reading Plans and Early Literacy

Fall 2026 update: Act 20 plans, aimswebPlus trends through the 2025 renorming, and the i-Ready cross-check

Amy Fassbender, Director of Elementary Curriculum and Instruction

WAUNAKEE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

THE BOTTOM LINE

166 students have plans; reading skills are steady; the measuring stick moved

166

students on Personal Reading Plans this fall: 101 in K-3 and 65 in grades 4-5, 9% of K-5

15%

of 2nd and 3rd graders below the fluency bar this fall, flat for two years on one yardstick

67%

of plan students just under the line exit at the next fall screening, against 9% of those far below

85%

of this fall's plans are continuing plans; only 25 are new

Sources: Act 20 plan rosters 2024-25 to fall 2026; aimswebPlus benchmarks; i-Ready reading, fall 2026

WHERE PLANS STAND THIS FALL

Grades 2, 3 and 5 carry the most plans; Heritage holds nearly half

Grade	Plans	% enrolled	Arboretum	Heritage	Prairie	Intermediate
K	11	4%	2	9	0	–
1	15	5%	4	3	8	–
2	34	12%	6	12	16	–
3	41	13%	5	26	10	–
4	24	7%	4	10	10	–
5	41	13%	–	–	–	41
K-5	**166**	**9%**	**21**	**60**	**44**	**41**

K-3 plans come from screening

Below the 25th percentile on fall aimswebPlus. Grades 4-5 plans continue until a student scores proficient on Forward.

Heritage grade 3: 26 of 114

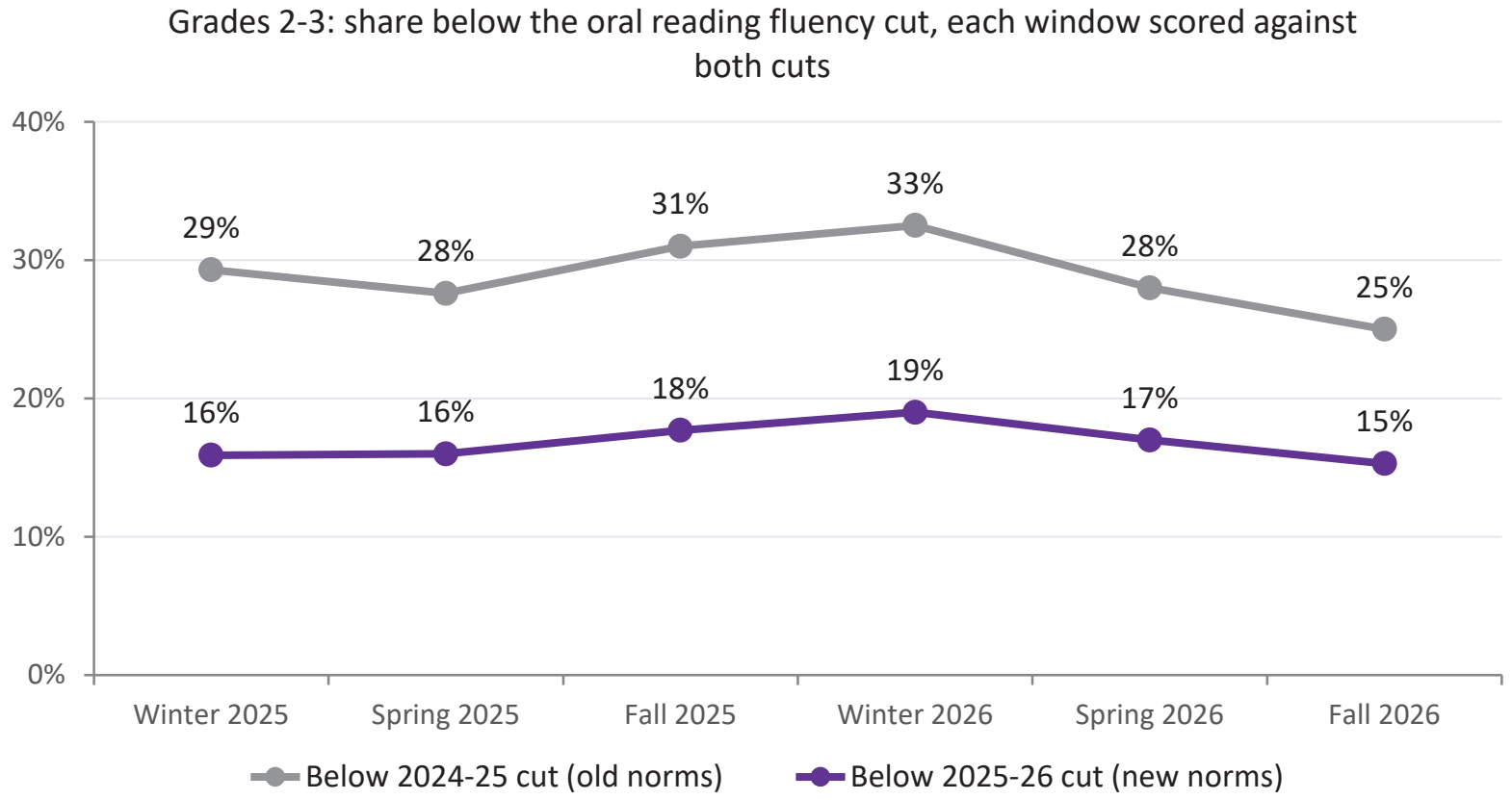
23% of third graders. Heritage's K-3 rate is 13%, against 9% at Prairie and 5% at Arboretum.

Plans concentrate by group

IEP: 25% of plan holders, 13% of enrollment. Economically disadvantaged: 23% and 7%.

Source: Act 20 plan rosters, fall 2026; district enrollment files. Grade 5 includes 8 plans closed last year that the state platform still lists; 158 of 166 are active.

On one yardstick, grades 2-3 are steady; the renorming cut who qualifies



The law did not change; the bar under it did

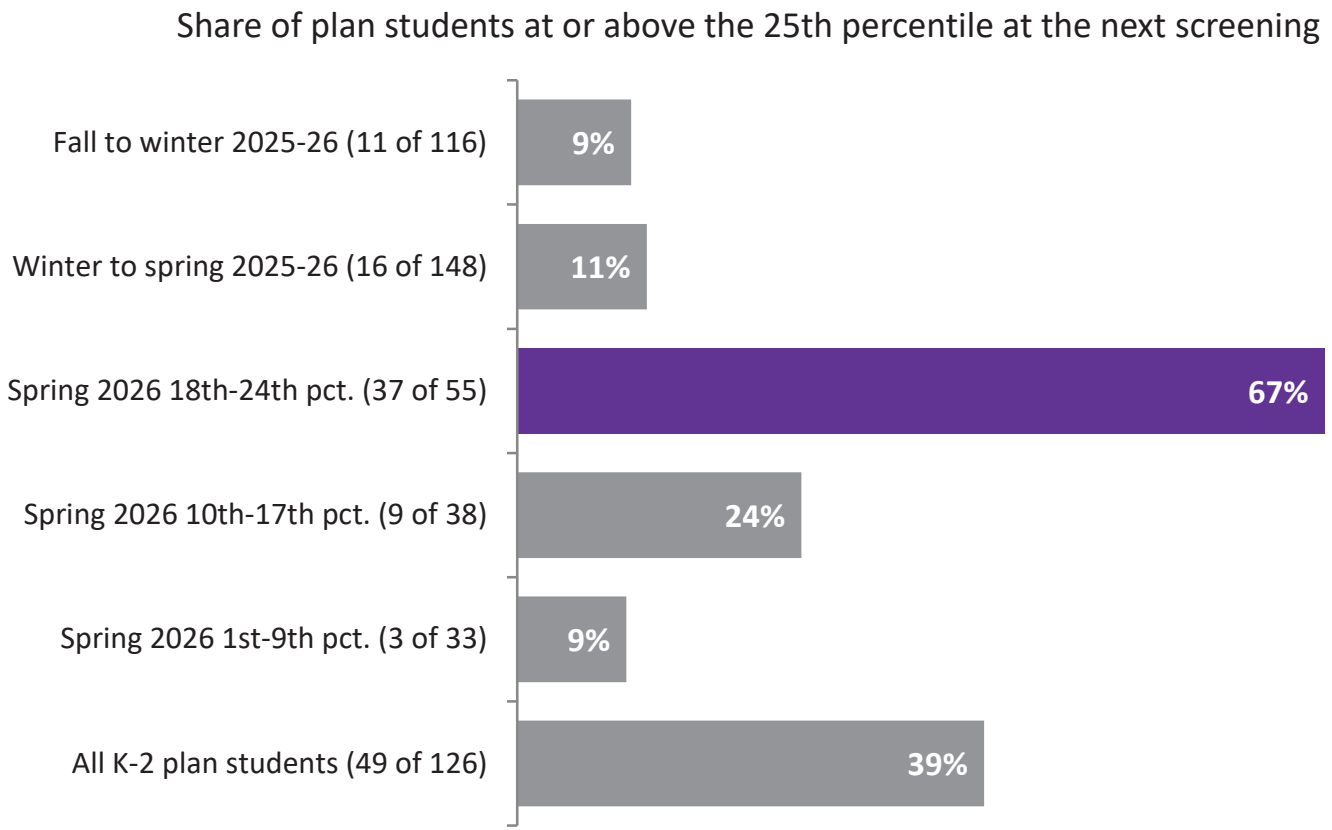
In August 2025 the grade 3 fall fluency cut fell from 67 to 45 words correct per minute.

About 55 second and third graders this fall sit between the two cuts: no plan required, but worth watching.

Treat 2025-26 as the new baseline.

Source: aimswebPlus oral reading fluency raw scores, grades 2-3, about 560-620 students per window. The renorming took effect between spring and fall 2025.

Exits come at the fall screening, mostly for students just below the line



Exiting takes catch-up growth

Typical growth (a growth percentile of 50) holds a student in place.

Median growth percentile of fall 2025 plan students:

Grade 3: 55 · Grade 2: 45 · K and 1: 25

Only 13 of 116 (11%) were above the line by spring.

Source: plan rosters matched to aimswebPlus, 2025-26 and fall 2026 (2025 norms). Students near the line can cross it on score variation alone.

WHO STAYS ON PLANS

About half of plans persist for years, and they follow students past grade 3

48%

of students first identified in 2024-25 and still enrolled have a plan this fall (109 of 228)

57%

of third graders on a plan carry it into grade 4, not yet proficient on the grade 3 Forward Exam (24 of 42)

33 of 41

Third-grade plan holders have had a plan in each of the last three years

Plans concentrate among students with IEPs (25% of plan holders, 13% of enrollment) and economically disadvantaged students (23% and 7%).

Source: Act 20 plan rosters, fall 2024 to fall 2026; district enrollment files

i-Ready confirms who is on plans and flags a group just above the line

Fall 2026 group	Students	Median percentile	2+ grade levels below	Reading difficulty flag
K-3, on a plan	101	23rd	58%	58%
K-3, 25th-39th on aimswebPlus (no plan)	**111**	**37th**	**21%**	**21%**
K-3, all other students	872	74th	3%	3%
Grades 4-5, on a plan	65	24th	72%	K-3 only
Grades 4-5, no plan	557	69th	11%	K-3 only

No K-3 plan student placed on grade level. About 50 K-3 students without a plan are two or more grade levels below; 23 of them are in the 25th-39th band the renorming moved above the line (bold row).

Source: i-Ready reading diagnostic, fall 2026, as of Oct. 7 (1,706 K-5 students); aimswebPlus fall 2026

NEXT STEPS

More intensity where students are stuck, and a safety net above the line

Staff next steps

1. Reconcile rosters: 16 K-3 students below the line are not on the plan export (15 have IEPs); 8 fifth graders are flagged as needing a plan.
2. Monitor the 111 K-3 students at the 25th-39th percentile, starting with the 23 two or more grade levels below on i-Ready.
3. Review intervention intensity for students below the 10th percentile and for K-1 plan students.

Measures for the Board to monitor

- Share of K-3 below the line, fall to fall, from the 2025-26 baseline
- Share of plan students making more than typical growth
- Grade 3 Forward proficiency among plan students

Drafted with AI assistance (Claude, Anthropic); reviewed and approved by Amy Fassbender and Tim Schell. Estimated energy for the AI work behind the brief and slides: about 0.35 kWh, roughly 4.5 hours of Netflix streaming or about 0.4 mile in a car that gets 30 mpg (an order-of-magnitude estimate).