2026–2027 District Academic Goal Update

Prepared For: HBR Board of Education

Reporting Period: Fall 2026 Baseline & 2026 State Assessment Review (November 2026)

Data Sources: IAR, Grade 11 ACT Proficiency & Class of 2026 Scale-Score Benchmarks, Graduation Rates, and Benchmark 1 Baselines (DIBELS, CORE Phonics, MAP Growth, Progress Learning)

Executive Overview

HBR School District demonstrates strong literacy performance across all three grade bands while facing targeted instructional opportunities in secondary mathematics. District proficiency rates exceed 2026 state averages in Elementary ELA (+20.37 percentage points), Elementary Math (+26.10 percentage points), Middle School ELA (+13.40 percentage points), and High School Grade 11 ACT English (+4.00 percentage points). Conversely, Middle School Math (-11.60 percentage points) and High School ACT Math (-5.80 percentage points) trail state proficiency benchmarks, while HBRHS Grade 11 ACT scale-score averages trail Class of 2026 Illinois benchmarks by 0.2 to 1.1 points across reported sections.

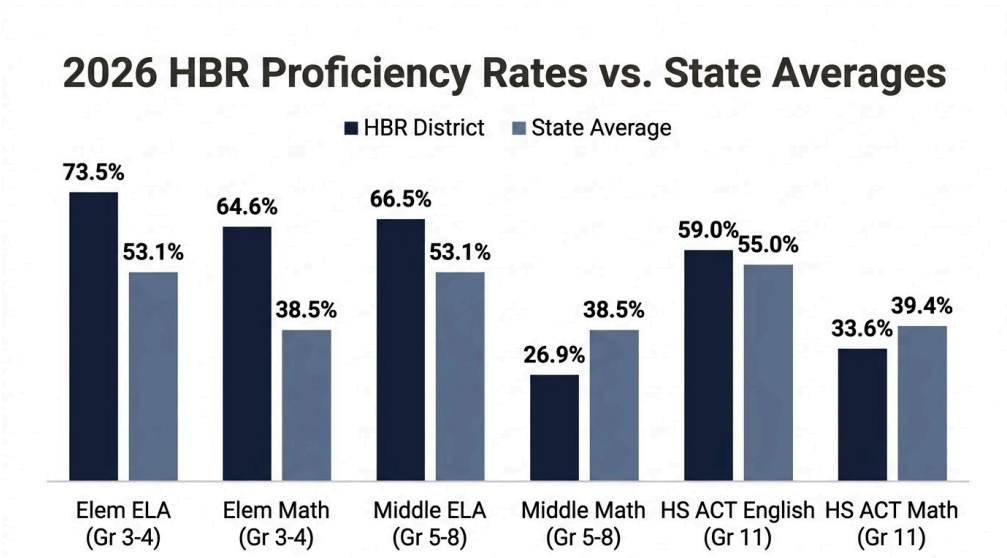


Figure 1. 2026 HBR District proficiency rates compared to Illinois state averages across Elementary IAR (Grades 3–4), Middle School IAR (Grades 5–8), and High School Grade 11 ACT assessments.

School Band & Assessment	Subject	2026 HBR Rate	2026 State Avg	Variance vs. State	District Goal Status
Elementary (Grades 3–4 IAR)	ELA	**73.47%**	53.1%	+20.37 pts	**Exceeds Goal**
Elementary (Grades 3–4 IAR)	Math	**64.6%**	38.5%	+26.10 pts	**Exceeds Goal**
Middle School (Grades 5–8 IAR)	ELA	**66.5%**	53.1%	+13.40 pts	**Exceeds Goal**

School Band & Assessment	Subject	2026 HBR Rate	2026 State Avg	Variance vs. State	District Goal Status
Middle School (Grades 5–8 IAR)	Math	**26.9%**	38.5%	-11.60 pts	**Below Goal**
High School (Grade 11 ACT)	English	**59.0%**	55.0%	+4.00 pts	**Exceeds Goal**
High School (Grade 11 ACT)	Math	**33.6%**	39.4%	-5.80 pts	**Below Goal**

School-Level Performance & Subgroup Equity Analysis

1. Elementary School (Grades 1–4)

- **Summative Achievement (IAR Grades 3–4):** HBR students surpassed the 2026 state proficiency benchmarks by substantial margins in both ELA (73.47% vs. 53.1%) and Math (64.6% vs. 38.5%).
- **Early Literacy & Growth Baselines:** Baseline data for DIBELS, CORE Phonics, and Grades 3–4 MAP Growth were established in August/September 2026. Progress toward the 80% projected growth target on MAP Growth will be evaluated at the December 2026 and May 2027 checkpoints.
- **Subgroup Gap Closure (Target: +5.0 Percentage Points):**
  - **Low-Income ELA:** Proficiency surged from 44.7% in 2025 to 57.7% in 2026 (+13.0 percentage points), more than doubling the 5-point gap-closing goal.
  - **Low-Income Math:** Proficiency rose from 42.1% in 2025 to 46.2% in 2026 (+4.1 percentage points), advancing steadily within 0.9 percentage points of the 5-point goal.
  - **Special Education:** 2025 ELA proficiency stood at 22.7%, while 2026 ELA and 2025–2026 Math figures are redacted to protect student privacy due to small cohort sizes.

2. Middle School (Grades 5–8)

- **Summative Achievement (IAR Grades 5–8):** ELA proficiency remained strong at 66.5%, outperforming the 53.1% state average by 13.4 percentage points. However, Math proficiency registered at 26.9% compared to the 38.5% state average (-11.6 percentage points), signaling an urgent need for Tier 1 and Tier 2 math alignment.
- **Growth Baselines:** Baseline assessments were collected in August/September 2026 toward the 80% projected growth target, with interim and final reviews scheduled for December 2026 and May 2027. *(Governance note: The internal tracking template carries a residual "grades 3 and 4 only" label on the Middle School MAP row that should be updated for clarity.)*
- **Subgroup Gap Closure (Target: +5.0 Percentage Points):**
  - **Low-Income ELA:** Proficiency dipped slightly from 58.9% in 2025 to 57.4% in 2026 (-1.5 percentage points), missing the 5-point gain target.
  - **Low-Income Math & Special Education:** 2026 Low-Income Math proficiency is 17.5% (2025 baseline redacted). Special Education ELA was 16.1% in 2025, with 2026 ELA and 2025–2026 Math rates redacted.

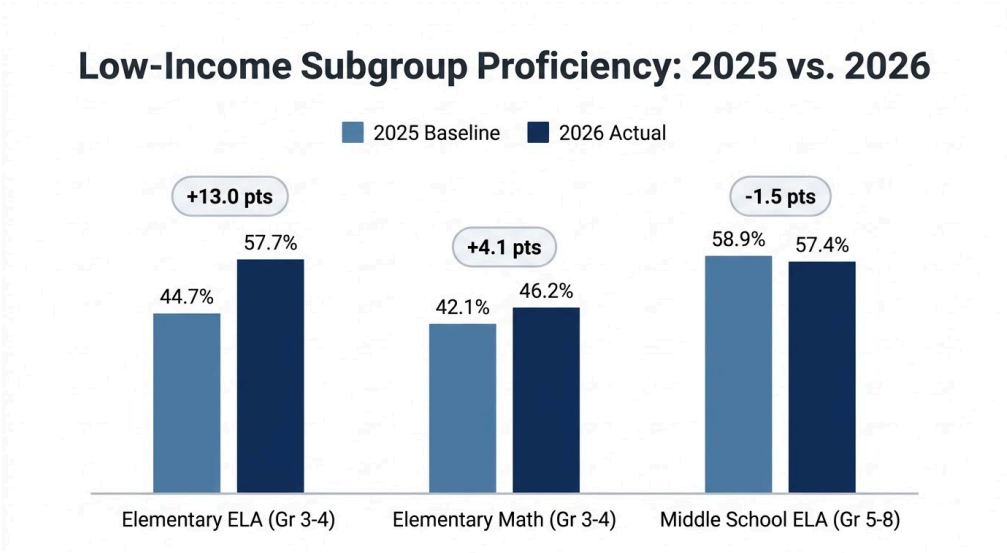


Figure 2. Year-over-year Low-Income subgroup proficiency rates (2025 baseline vs. 2026 actual) measured against the District's +5.0 percentage-point achievement gap-closure target.

3. High School (HBRHS) & Comparative ACT Benchmarks

- **Grade 11 ACT Proficiency:** HBRHS exceeded the state proficiency benchmark in English (59.0% vs. 55.0%) but trailed the state benchmark in Math (33.6% vs. 39.4%).
- **Grade 11 ACT Scale-Score Averages vs. State & National Benchmarks:** Following Illinois's transition to statewide census ACT testing (~100% of graduates tested), the Class of 2026 Illinois average Composite score is **19.0** compared to **19.2** nationally. HBRHS recorded a Composite average of **17.9** (-1.1 points vs. Illinois), with section averages of **17.5** in English (-0.5 points), **17.8** in Math (-0.2 points), and **17.8** in Science (-0.6 points). Notably, HBRHS's Math mean (17.8) sits within 0.2 points of the state mean (18.0) despite a 5.8 percentage-point proficiency gap, indicating a high concentration of students scoring just below the college-readiness cutoff threshold.

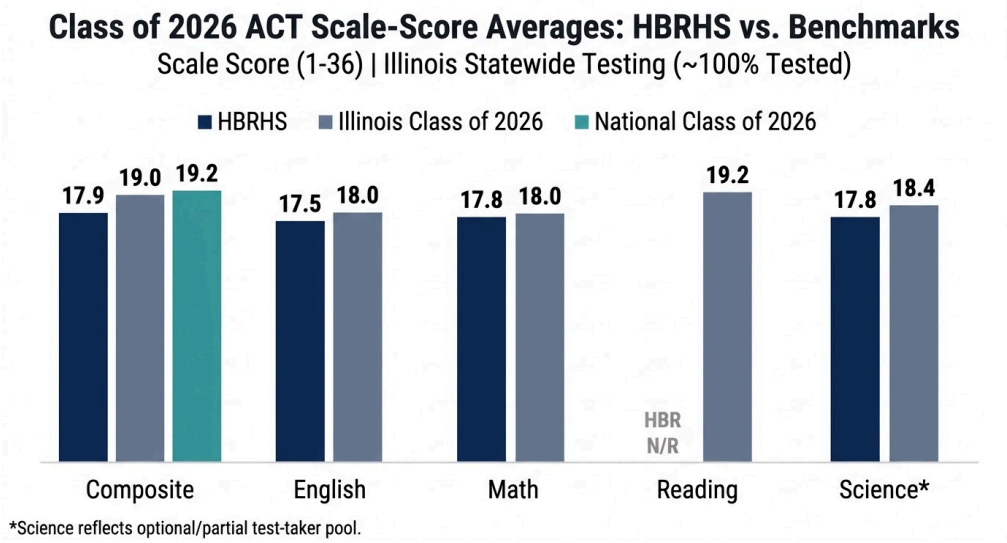


Figure 3. HBRHS Class of 2026 Grade 11 ACT scale-score averages (1–36 scale) compared against Illinois statewide (~100% tested) and national benchmarks.

ACT Metric (1–36 Scale)	HBRHS Average	Illinois Class of 2026 (~100% Tested)	National Class of 2026	HBRHS Variance vs. IL	Goal Status (Target: ≥ State Avg)
Composite Score	**17.9**	**19.0**	**19.2**	**-1.1 pts**	**Below Benchmark**
English	**17.5**	**18.0**	—	**-0.5 pts**	**Below Benchmark**
Math	**17.8**	**18.0**	—	**-0.2 pts**	**Near Benchmark (-0.2)**
Reading	Not Reported	**19.2**	—	—	**Pending Section Data**
Science*	**17.8**	**18.4**	—	**-0.6 pts**	**Below Benchmark**

*Science reflects an optional/partial test-taker pool.

- **High School Subgroups:** Low-Income English proficiency reached 37.5%, slightly outperforming the 37.3% state subgroup average. Low-Income Math proficiency is redacted (state average: 21.4%). Special Education English and Math results are redacted for public reporting due to small cohort size (state subgroup proficiency averages: 17.7% English and 8.7% Math).
- **Progress Learning Growth:** Baseline data were collected in August/September 2026 against the 80% projected growth goal, with checkpoints in December 2026 and May 2027.

High School Graduation Performance

HBRHS achieved an overall graduation rate of **89.2%**, tracking 0.6 percentage points below the 89.8% state average and 0.8 percentage points shy of the Board's **90.0%** target. Low-Income students graduated at **87.5%**, outperforming the 84.8% state Low-Income average by 2.7 percentage points and remaining within 1.7 percentage points of HBRHS's overall rate—successfully meeting the Board's equity mandate that subgroup rates stay within 5 percentage points of the overall rate. Current Special Education graduation data are redacted (state average: 75.7%); the last publicly reportable HBRHS rate was **90.0%** in 2023 compared to 72.3% statewide.

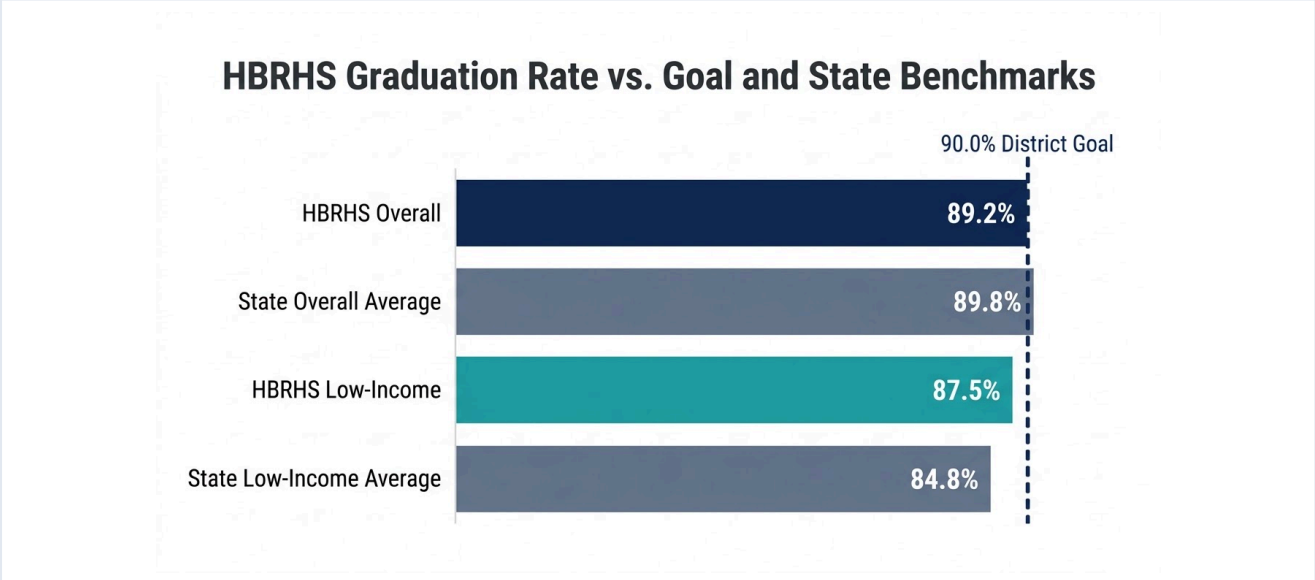


Figure 4. HBRHS 4-year cohort graduation rates overall (89.2%) and for Low-Income students (87.5%) compared against Illinois state averages and the 90.0% District Goal.

2026–2027 Benchmark Roadmap

Benchmark Window	Timeline	Assessment Instruments	Board & Instructional Focus
1st Benchmark (Completed)	Aug/Sept 2026	DIBELS, CORE Phonics, MAP Growth, Progress Learning	Establish baseline student growth targets
2nd Benchmark (Upcoming)	December 2026	Mid-year diagnostic & growth checkpoints	Evaluate mid-year trajectory & recalibrate Tier 2 math/ELA supports
3rd Benchmark (Final)	May 2027	End-of-year summative growth evaluation	Measure attainment of the **80% projected growth target**