

UPDATED FEBRUARY 2026

2025

# **Black Student Performance**

# Context and Purpose



**This presentation is a review of academic performance for Black students in Denver Public Schools in 2025.**

It is intended to be objective in order to inform conversations about next steps, not prescriptive about what those next steps should be.



**It is entirely based on publicly available data from the Colorado Department of Education** which limits the availability of some inputs because of data suppression rules and other limitations.



**The presentation is focused on academic outcomes** because we have valid, reliable measures of this—not because it is the only indicator of school quality.

# Black Student Proficiency 2025

Black students make up a large percentage of DPS' student body but have low proficiency rates compared to white students.

Grades 3-8 CMAS ELA (27%)



Grades 3-8 CMAS Math (18.4%)



Grade 11 SAT ELA (42.1%)



Grade 11 SAT Math (19.7%)



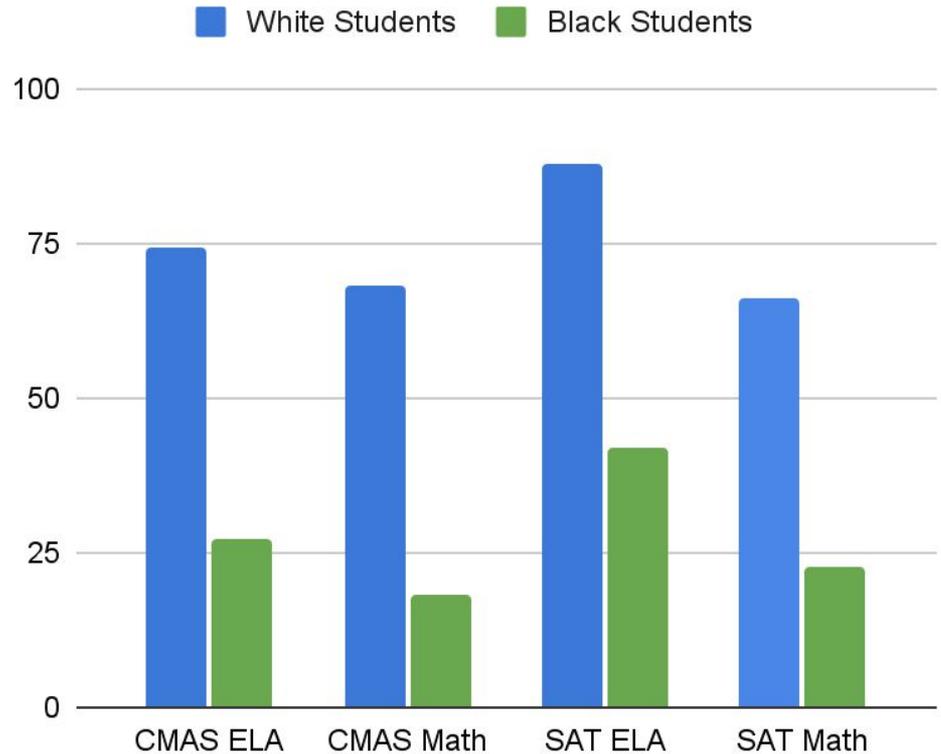
# 2025 Proficiency Rates

White students are 2-3 times more likely to be proficient

Only slightly more than 1 in 4 Black students in DPS grades 3-8 are reading at grade level; Fewer than 1 in 5 are doing math at grade level.

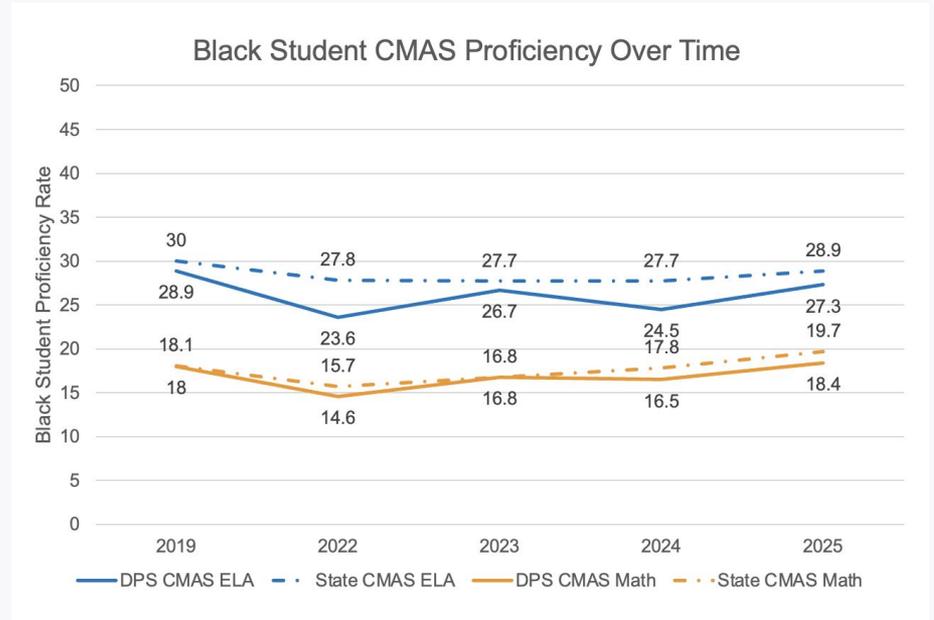
In 11th grade, fewer than 1 in 2 Black students are reading at grade level and 1 in 5 are doing math at grade level.

## 2025 Proficiency Rate



# Black Student CMAS Proficiency Over Time

Black students in DPS did see an increase on CMAS proficiency in 2025 but still lag their statewide peers in both subjects.



**Solid Lines**

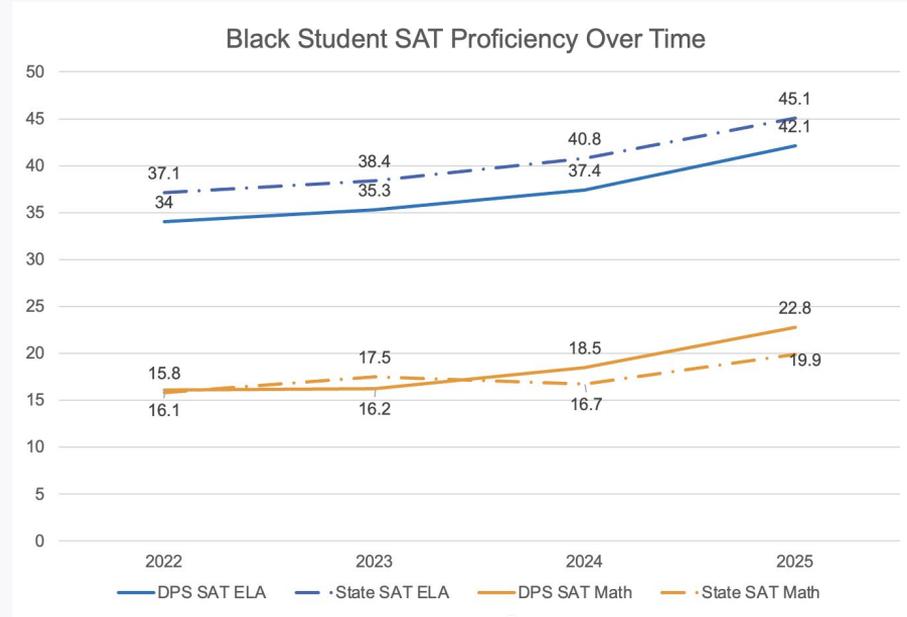
DPS Performance

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State Performance

# Black Student SAT Proficiency Over Time

Black students in DPS did see an increase on SAT proficiency in 2025 and now outperform their peers statewide in math.



**Solid Lines**

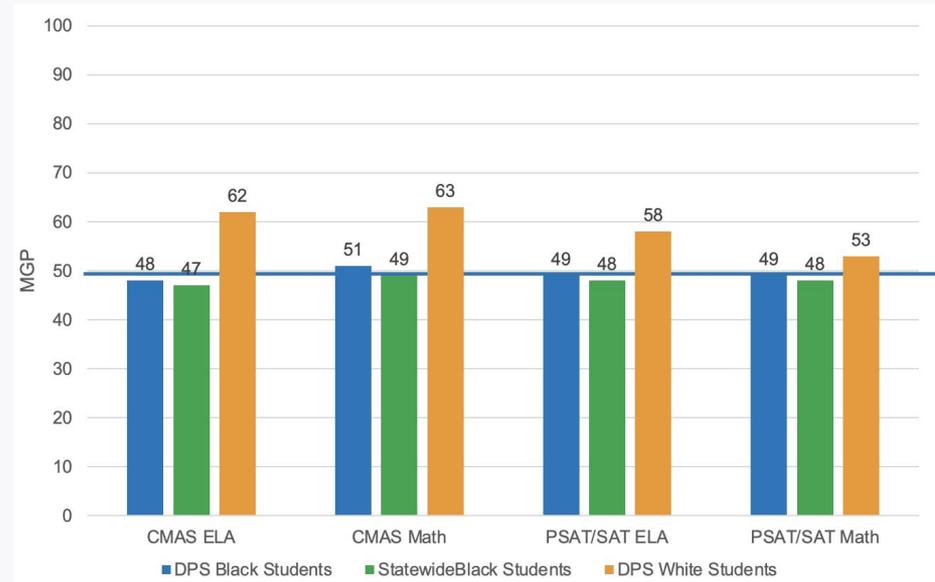
DPS Performance

**Dotted Lines**

State Performance

# 2025 Academic Growth

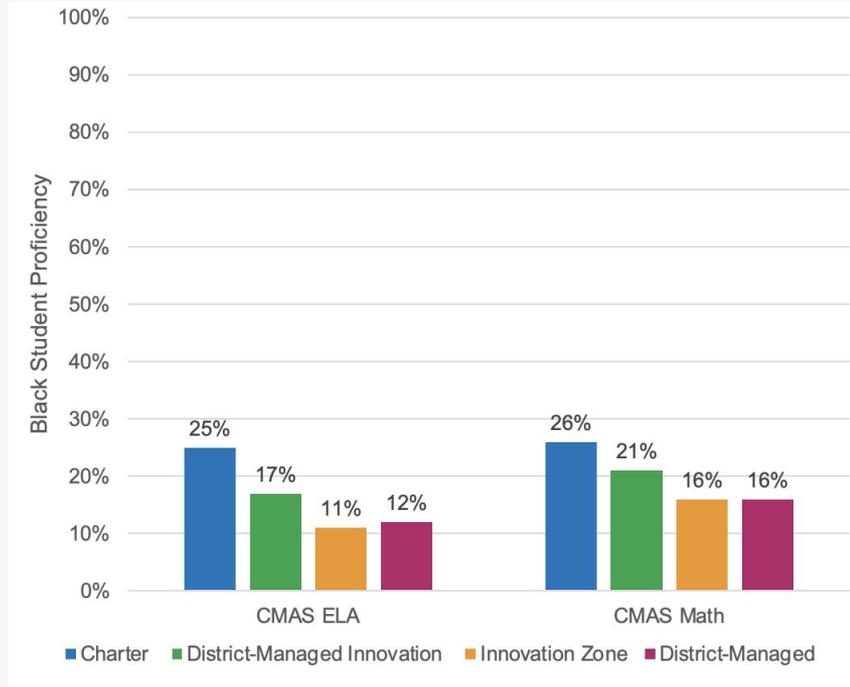
Black students did see more growth in 2025 than statewide peers, but in many cases it was still less than their academic peers statewide (MGP less than 50). They also saw less growth than white students in DPS, which could lead to widened gaps.



**State Expectation**

# 2025 CMAS Proficiency for Black Students

Black student performance did vary by governance type, but gaps exist across all governance models.

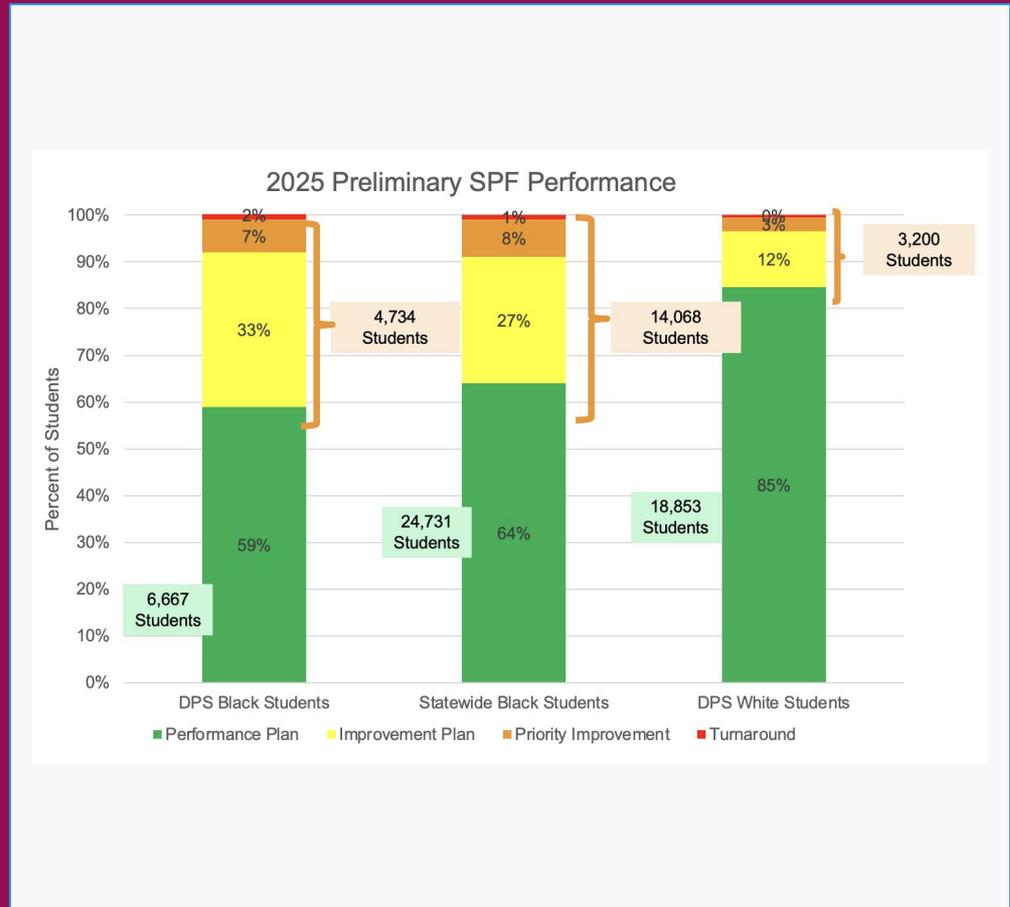


**Note**

Due to small N sizes and data suppression the same analysis is not reliable for high schools.

# 2025 Preliminary SPF Performance

Black students are also less likely to be attending a Performance rated school compared to both Black students statewide and white students in DPS. Over 40% or almost 5,000 Black students in DPS are not attending a Performance rated school.



A woman with glasses and a striped shirt is smiling and holding a tablet. The image is overlaid with a blue filter. The text is in white, bold font.

**Some schools did achieve strong results for Black students and should be studied for best practices.**

## Schools Serving 25%+ Black Students With Highest CMAS Proficiency Rates\* for Black Students

School	Proficiency Rate (ELA/Math)	% Black Students Served
Rocky Mountain Prep Creekside (ELA and Math)	62.1/69.5	47.4%
KIPP Northeast Elementary (ELA and Math)	46.2/32.8	26.3%
DSST: Green Valley Ranch Middle School (ELA and Math)	40.7/26.3	25.5%
KIPP Northeast Denver Middle School (ELA)	36.8/NA	25.2%
Highline Academy Northeast (ELA)	30.4/NA	37.2%
DSST: Montview Middle School (Math)	NA/24.7	40.6%
KIPP Northeast Denver Middle School (ELA)	NA/23.1	25.2%

\*Selected schools with 5 highest proficiency rates for Black students on each assessment. Ordered based on proficiency; scores only provided for subjects where schools were strong performances.

## Schools With Highest SAT Proficiency Rates for Black Students\*\*

School	Proficiency Rate (ELA/Math)	% Black Students Served
DSST: Conservatory Green High School	76.9/49.2	17%
Denver School of the Arts	76.2/33.3	6%
DSST: Green Valley Ranch High School	74.3/53.3	25.4%
DSST: Cedar High School	69.2/53.3	25.6%
DSST: Montview High School	62.7/37.4	38.3%

\*\*Includes all schools due to low number of high schools serving a high percentage of black students.