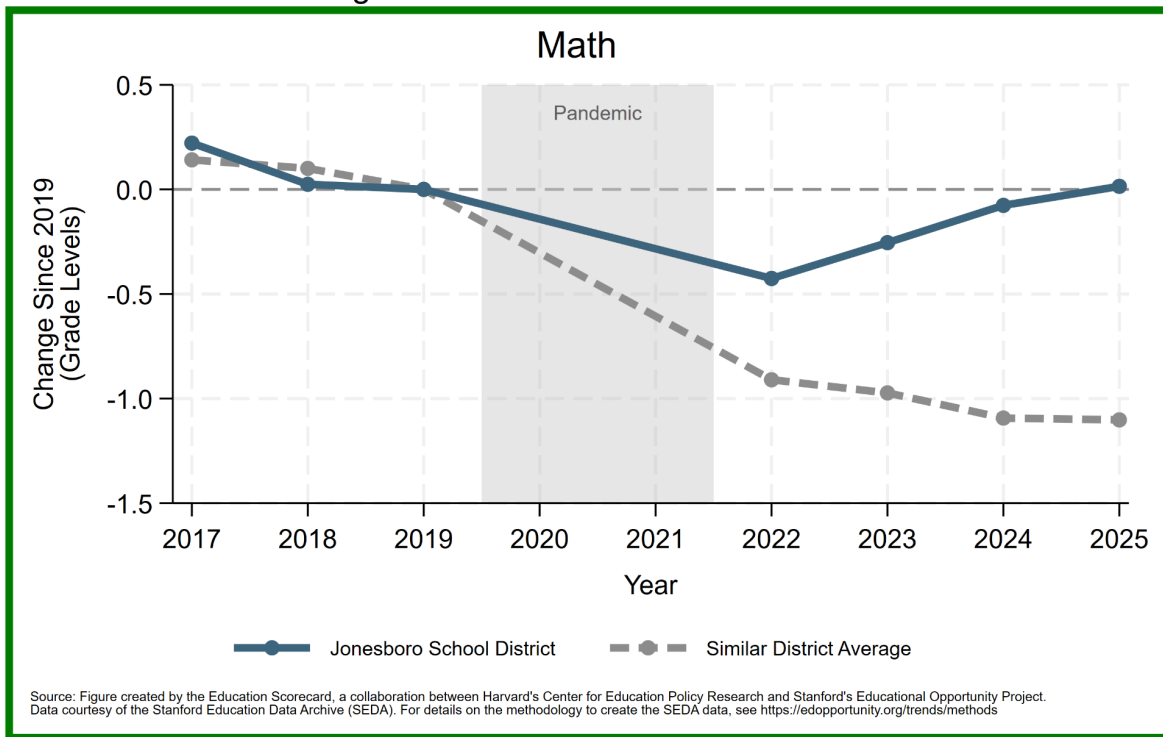


Jonesboro Public Schools
Jonesboro, Arkansas

Jonesboro School District, AR
Rising Faster than Similar Districts in Math



Similar Districts: Hot Springs School District, North Little Rock School District, Nettleton School District, Conway School District, Little Rock School District

Student Demographics:

Total student population: 6,298 (K-12)

Economically Disadvantaged: 72%

Three largest racial demographics:

Black/African-American: 47%

White: 32%

Hispanic/Latino: 15%

Mrs. Misty Doyle, Superintendent

- “The Jonesboro School District has strategically prioritized improving student achievement by ensuring that comprehensive systems are in place to support learners at all levels. We have intentionally focused on strengthening core instruction, implementing targeted interventions based on individual student needs, and providing opportunities for acceleration. We believe that all students can achieve at high levels. To support this vision, the district emphasizes high-quality, embedded professional learning for teachers,

centered on their understanding of instructional materials, specially designed instruction, analysis of student growth data, and the development of teacher efficacy.”

Background:

Jonesboro Public Schools has taken a systems-level approach to improving student outcomes by aligning curriculum, expanding student choice, and building strong instructional and support structures across schools. Over the past decade, district leadership has focused on creating coherent pathways for students—from early learning through career preparation, while ensuring that teachers and school leaders are equipped with the tools and data needed to drive continuous improvement.

Strategies for Success:

Coherent Instructional Systems (Curriculum + Tiered Support)

- The district implemented a high-quality, aligned curriculum across all schools, including i-Ready for elementary math, Savvas for secondary math, and research-based literacy practices grounded in the science of reading, alongside Great Minds’ Arts & Letters (formerly Wit & Wisdom) to support ELA instruction.
- Jonesboro built a multi-tiered system of support (Response to Intervention) that includes Tier 1, 2, and 3 instruction and provides targeted interventions for students needing additional support.
- Schools prioritize small-group instruction and flexible supports, allowing students to move in and out of interventions based on real-time needs.
- The district partnered with external providers, including TNTP (The New Teacher Project), to deliver embedded instructional support, including classroom walkthroughs, live modeling, participation in team meetings, and coaching on instructional practices such as lesson annotation and planning.
- The district offers annual salary supplements for teachers based on student growth performance, rewarding educators whose students demonstrate measurable academic progress.

Data-Driven Culture

- Every campus operates with dedicated data teams that include teachers, instructional leaders, and principals who meet regularly to analyze student performance. These teams use data to identify skill gaps, adjust instruction, and monitor intervention effectiveness on an ongoing basis.
- The district also applies a growth-focused mindset, using student growth data to inform teacher support and professional learning.
- Leaders have built systems to differentiate support not only for students, but also for teachers and principals, ensuring targeted coaching at every level.

Expanding Student Pathways (Magnet Schools + Career Academies)

- Jonesboro converted all [elementary schools into theme-based magnet schools](#), giving families meaningful choice within the district.
- At the secondary level, the district restructured its high school into career academies (STEM, Health & Human Services, and Business/Communications) aligned to student interests and workforce pathways.
- The district also expanded access to career and technical education through regional partnerships, including a technical center serving Northeast Arkansas.

Attendance and Student Engagement Systems

- Jonesboro launched a districtwide attendance campaign called “[STRIVE for Less Than 5](#),” challenging schools to reduce chronic absenteeism and keep attendance at the center of student success efforts.
- Each campus created a team to analyze attendance data and identify students who needed additional outreach.
- Schools used personal phone calls, home visits, family engagement events, classroom challenges, and positive incentives to encourage consistent attendance.
- As part of the campaign, schools used individual incentives and classroom-wide challenges, recognizing students and classrooms with the fewest absences and strongest attendance habits.