



# Learning during COVID-19: Initial findings on students' reading and math achievement and growth

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# Main Research Questions

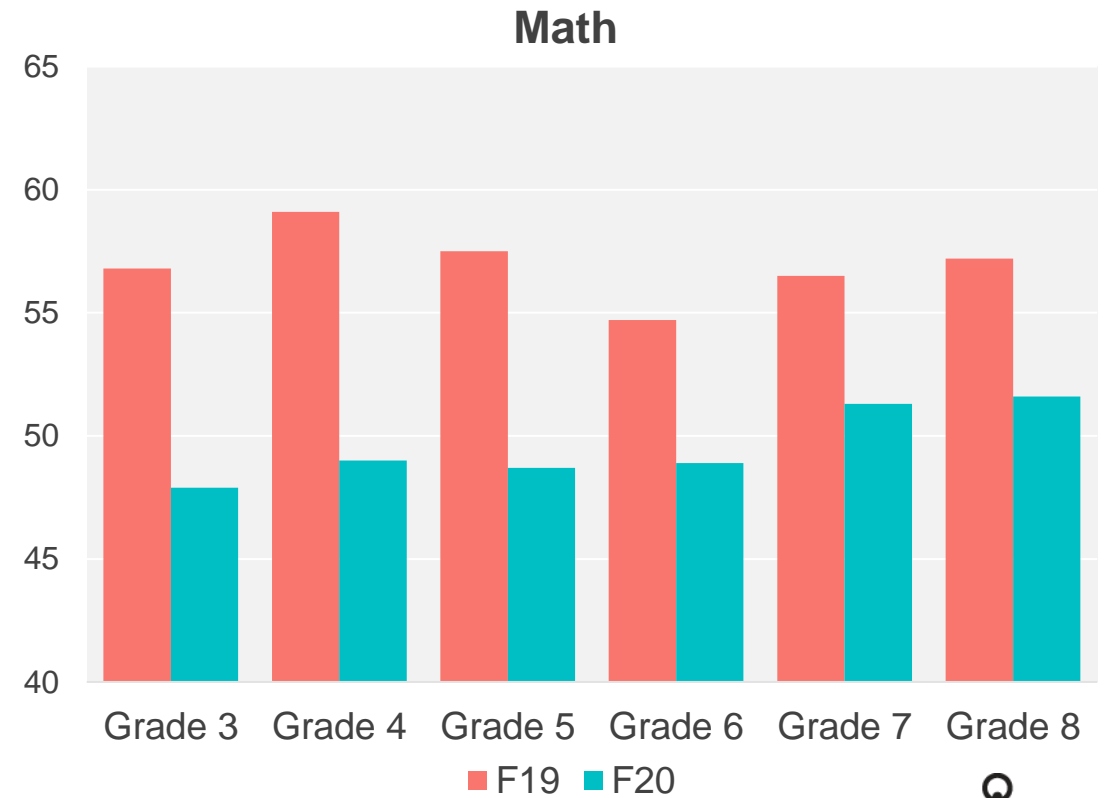
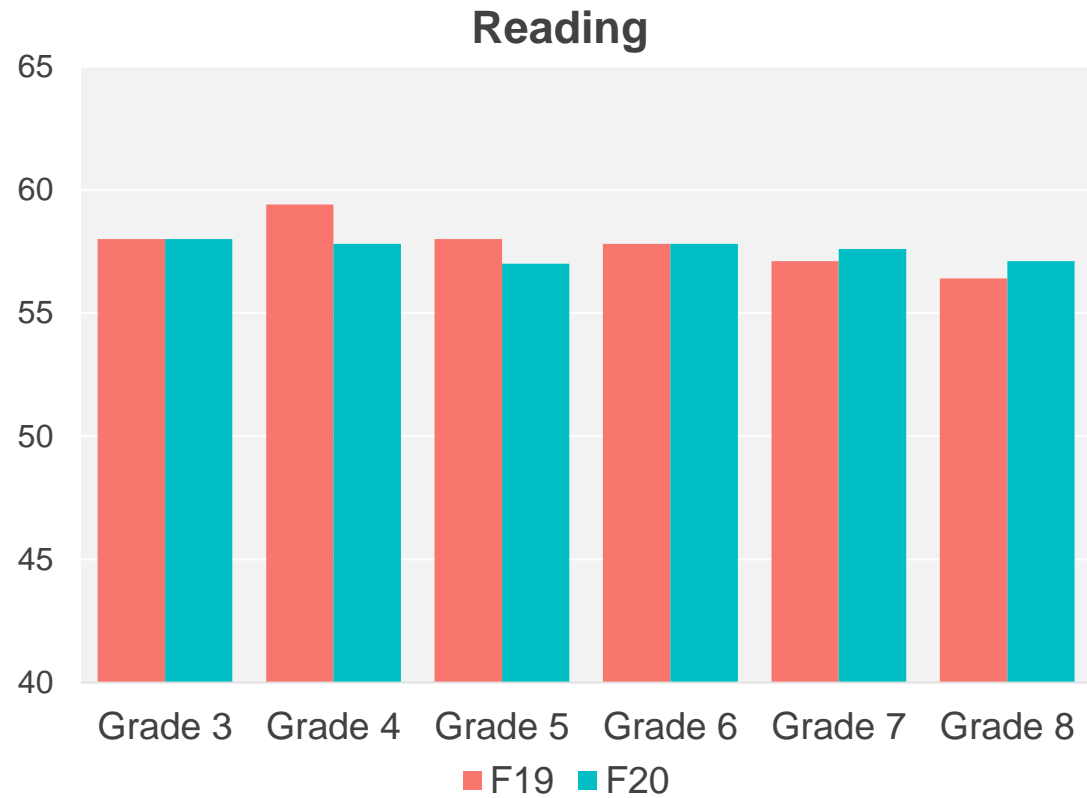
1. How are students performing this fall relative to a typical school year?
2. Have students made any learning gains since schools physically closed in March 2020? How do gains compare to a typical school year?



**How are students performing this fall relative to a typical school year?**



# MAP Growth Achievement Percentiles in Fall 2020 relative to Fall 2019



Compared to fall 2019, student achievement this fall was, on average, 5 to 10 percentile points lower in math, but similar in reading



**Have students made any learning gains since schools physically closed in March 2020? How do gains compare to a typical school year?**

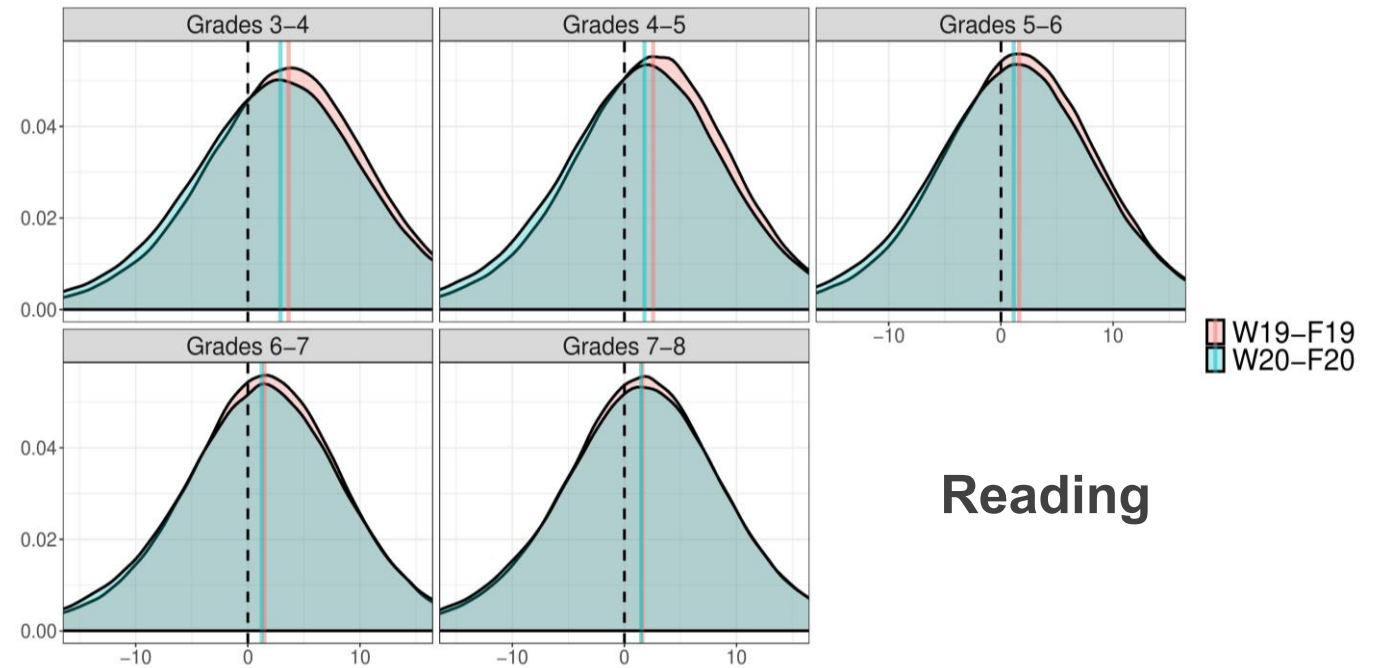


# Average gains

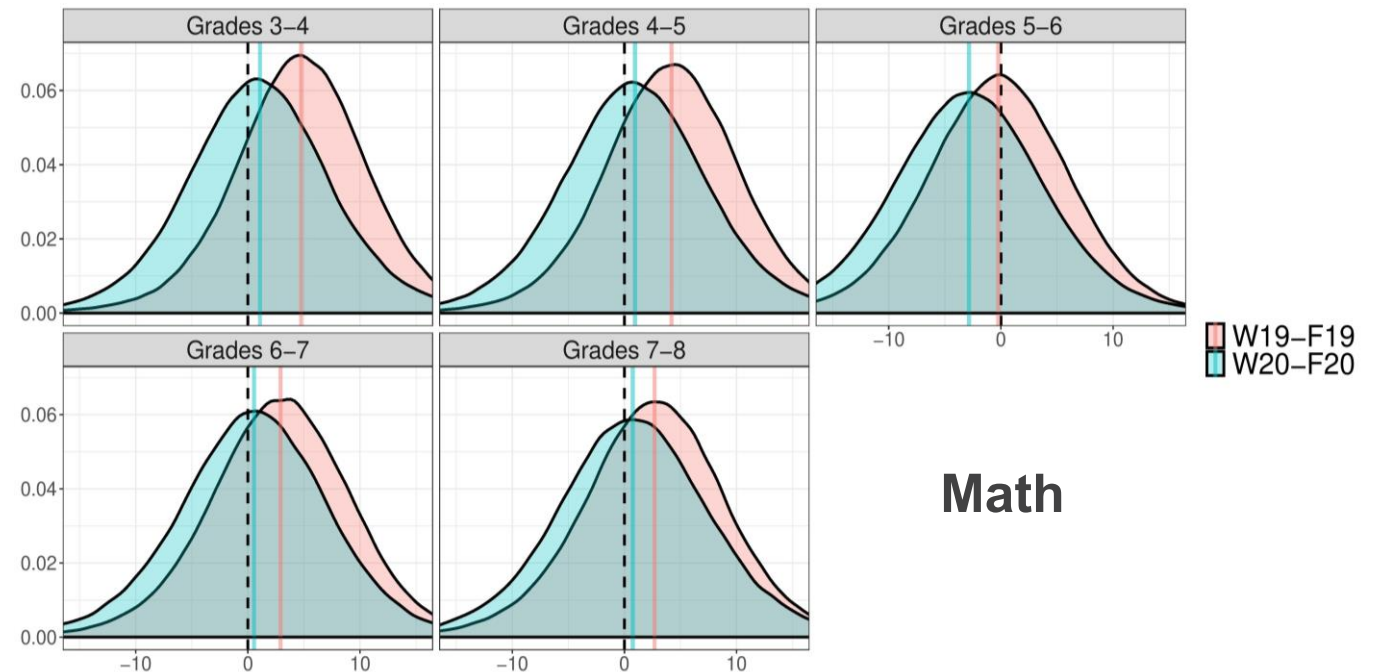
Most students showed gains in reading and math...

...but growth patterns in math are lower than a typical year.

Distribution of within-student change from Winter 2019-Fall 2019 vs Winter 2020-Fall 2020



Reading



Math

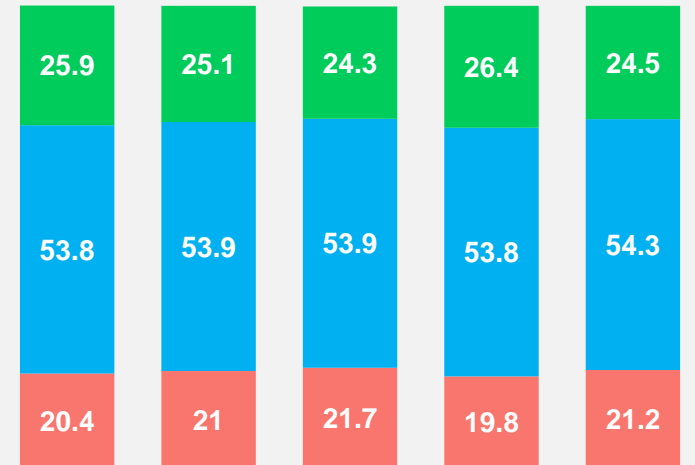
# Shifts in normative status

**Gainers:** Moved to a higher quintile

**Maintainers:** Stayed in same quintile

**Sliders:** Moved to a lower quintile

Winter 2019 to Fall 2019



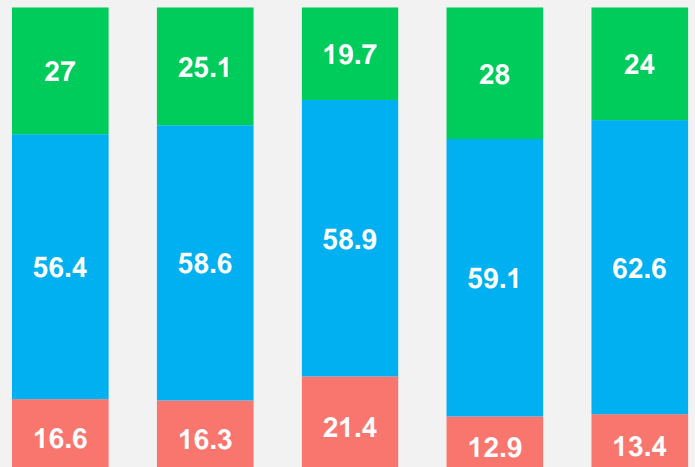
Winter 2020 to Fall 2020



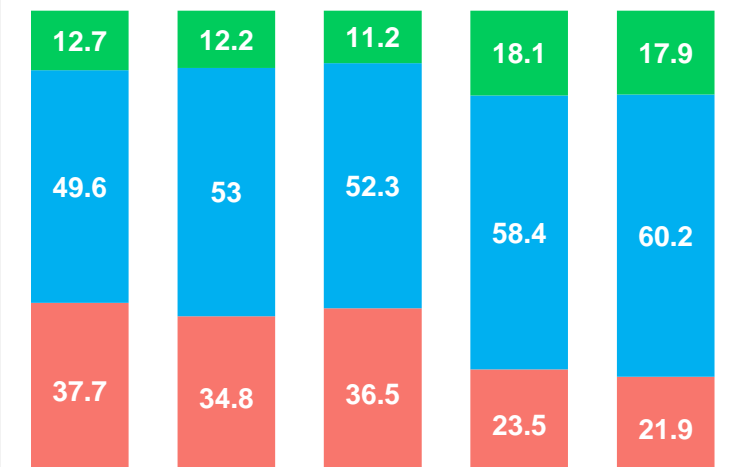
Gainers  
Maintainers  
Sliders

Reading

Winter 2019 to Fall 2019



Winter 2020 to Fall 2020



Gainers  
Maintainers  
Sliders

Math

+ Close to a third of grade 3-8 students moved down a quintile or more in math since winter 2020 (approximately double the amount in a normal year)

# Additional Finding

- + What are the characteristics of students who were tested in 2019-20 but not in fall 2020?**



# Who is missing?

**All:** Students tested in 2019-20



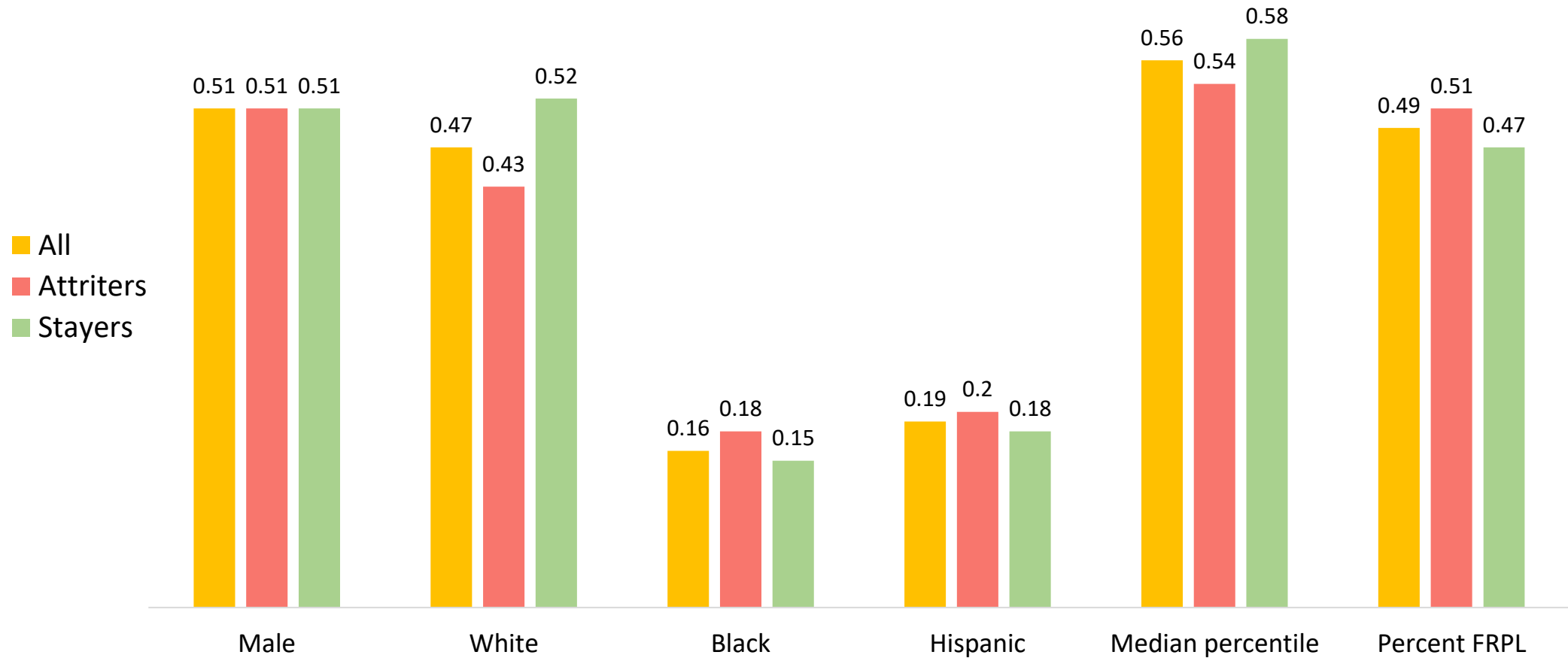
**Attriters:** Students tested in 2019-20 that were missing from fall 2020 data



**Stayers:** Students tested in 2019-20 that were present in fall 2020 data



# Who is missing?



# Key Findings

- + Average scores for math were considerably lower – between 5 and 10 percentile points– for students this year as compared to same-grade students last year.
- + In almost all grades, the majority of students made some learning gains in both reading and math since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, gains in math were lower on average in fall 2020 than prior years, resulting in more students falling behind relative to their prior standing.
- + Some differences by racial/ethnic groups are emerging in the fall 2020 data, but it is too early to draw definitive conclusions from these initial results. Student groups especially vulnerable to the impacts of the pandemic were more likely to be missing from our data. Thus, we have an incomplete understanding of how achievement this fall may differ across student groups and may be underestimating the impacts of COVID-19.