



Literacy in Michigan

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on PreK-12

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Emily Mohr
Managing Director

THE EPIC APPROACH

The **Education Policy Innovation Collaborative (EPIC)** is an independent, non-partisan education policy research center located in the College of Education at Michigan State University. In **close collaboration** with our state, district, and agency partners, we establish a **comprehensive research agenda** and pursue a series of coordinated projects examining an array of interrelated questions and look at them from multiple angles.

This approach requires a **team of experts** doing rigorous work that integrates multiple methods. As a university-based center, we are also **training the next generation of talented researchers** to provide evidence that strengthens decision-making.



Together with our partners, we are ultimately working to **improve educational outcomes** for all kids, and especially students, educators, and families in urban, rural, and historically underserved communities by providing **objective and actionable research** to inform decisions.

RESEARCH WITH CONSEQUENCE

Drawing From These Two Long-Term EPIC Studies to Give us Specific Insight on Literacy in Michigan



Read by Grade Three Evaluation

Five-year study on the implementation and efficacy of the Read by Grade Three Law



Benchmark Assessments

Analysis of student progress in the wake of the pandemic as measured by benchmark assessments

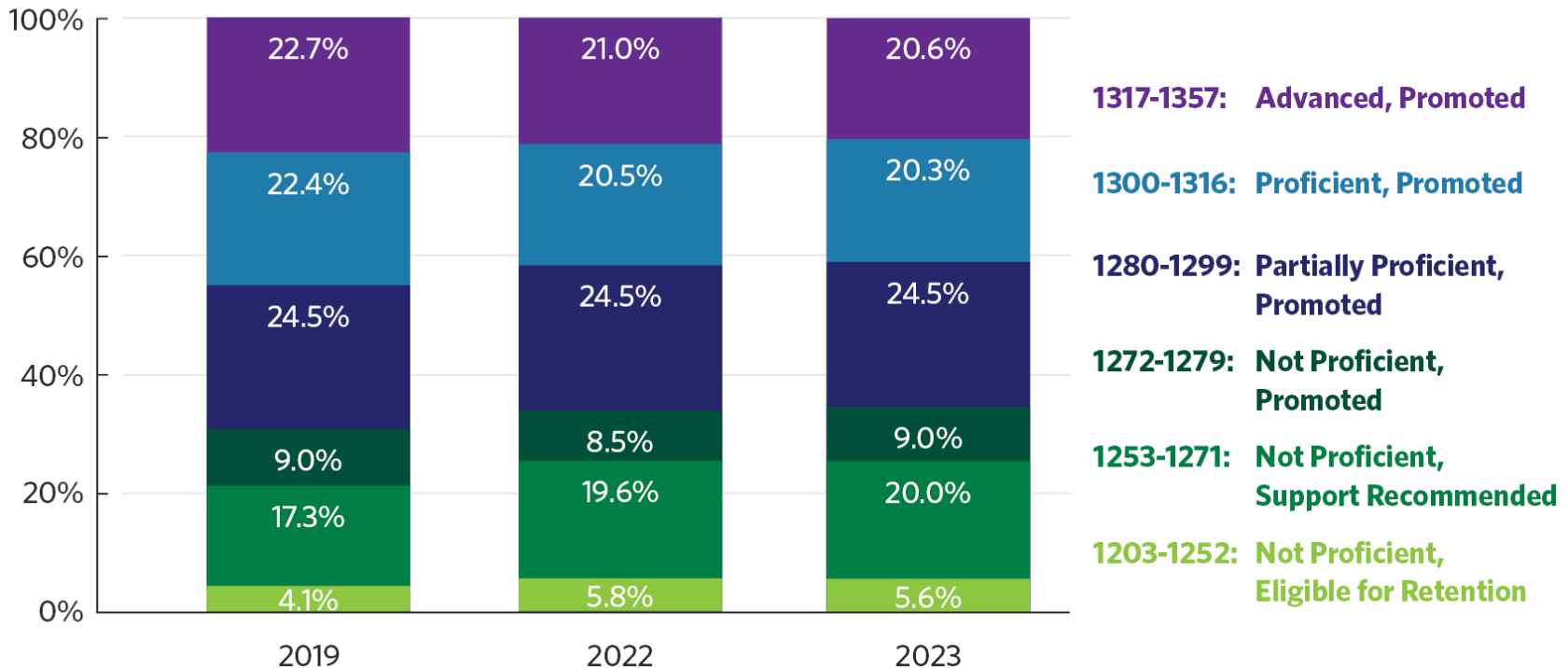
THIRD GRADE LITERACY ACHIEVEMENT

Students in 2023 Were Less Likely to Meet State Standards for 3rd Grade ELA Proficiency

More than one-quarter of 3rd-grade students qualify for literacy support under the Read by Grade Three Law

Distribution of Students Across 3rd-Grade ELA M-STEP Score Ranges by Year

Percent of 3rd Grade Students

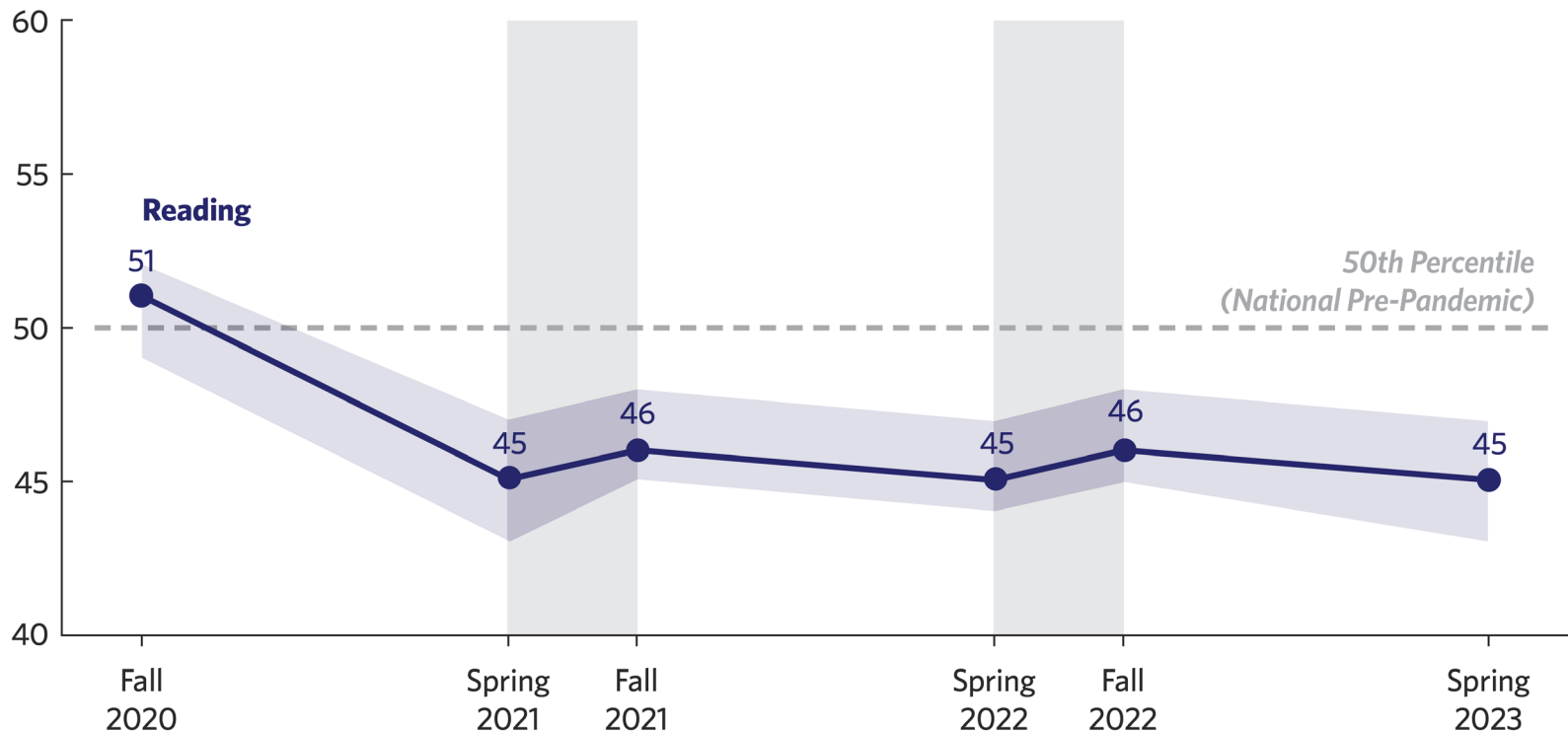


DECLINES IN READING ACHIEVEMENT HAVE YET TO REBOUND

In fall 2020, MI students were just above the national average in reading. This dropped to the 45th by spring 2021 and has remained steady through spring 2023.

MAP Growth and i-Ready, 3rd-8th Grade

Regression-Adjusted Percentile Rank

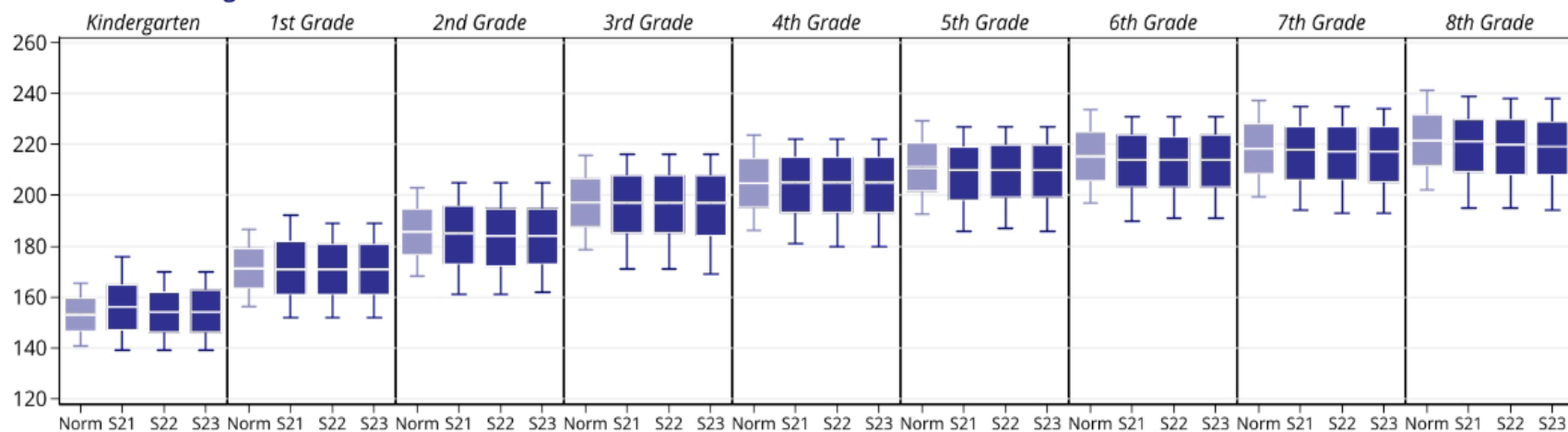


MORE VARIATION IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT THAN BEFORE THE PANDEMIC

Not All Students Were Impacted Equally, and Lower-Performing Students Were Hit the Hardest

The 90th percentile of MI students is relatively close to the 90th percentile norm, but the 10th percentile of MI students is much further below the 10th percentile norm.

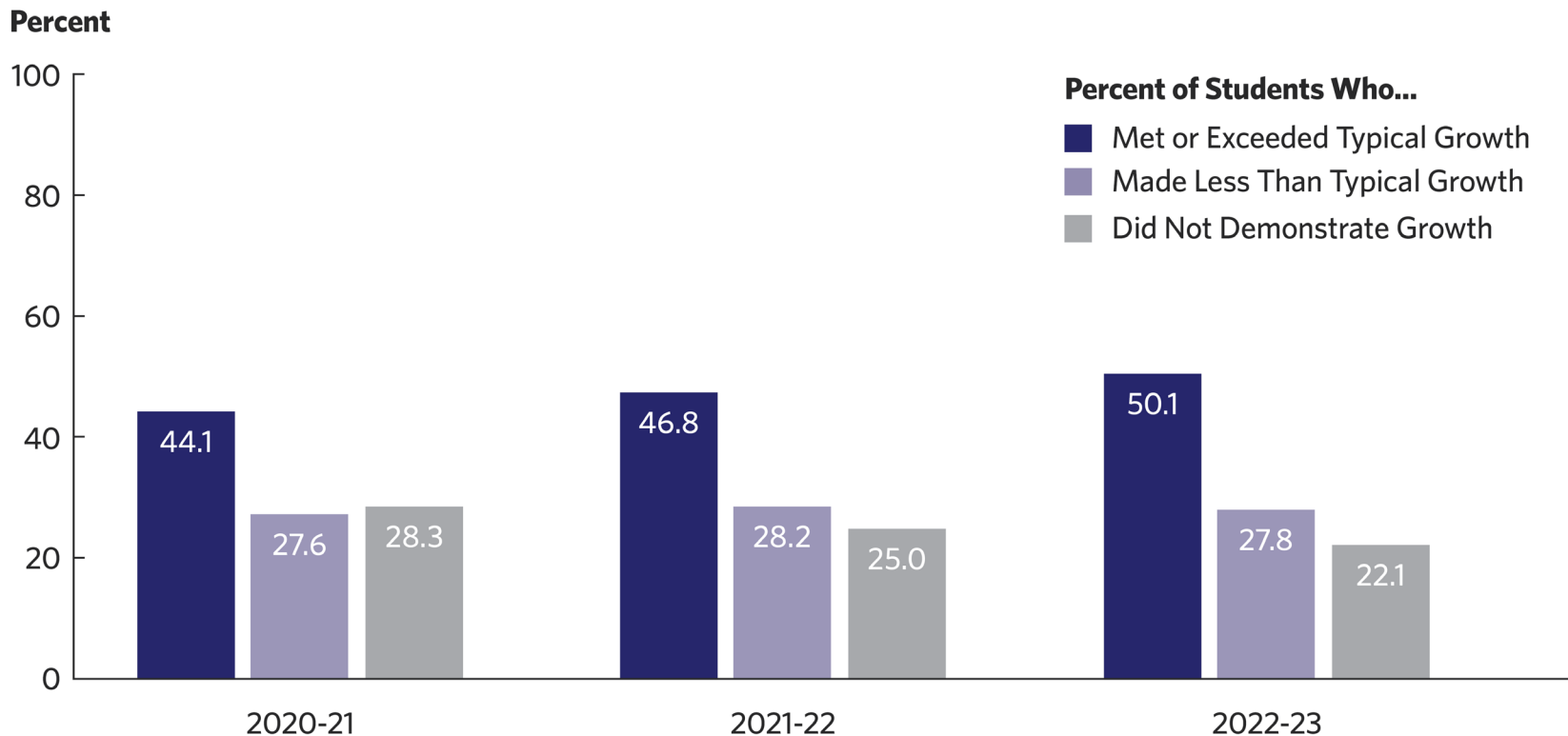
MAP Growth Reading



SIGNS OF RECOVERY

Beginning to See More Students Making or Exceeding Typical Academic Growth in Reading

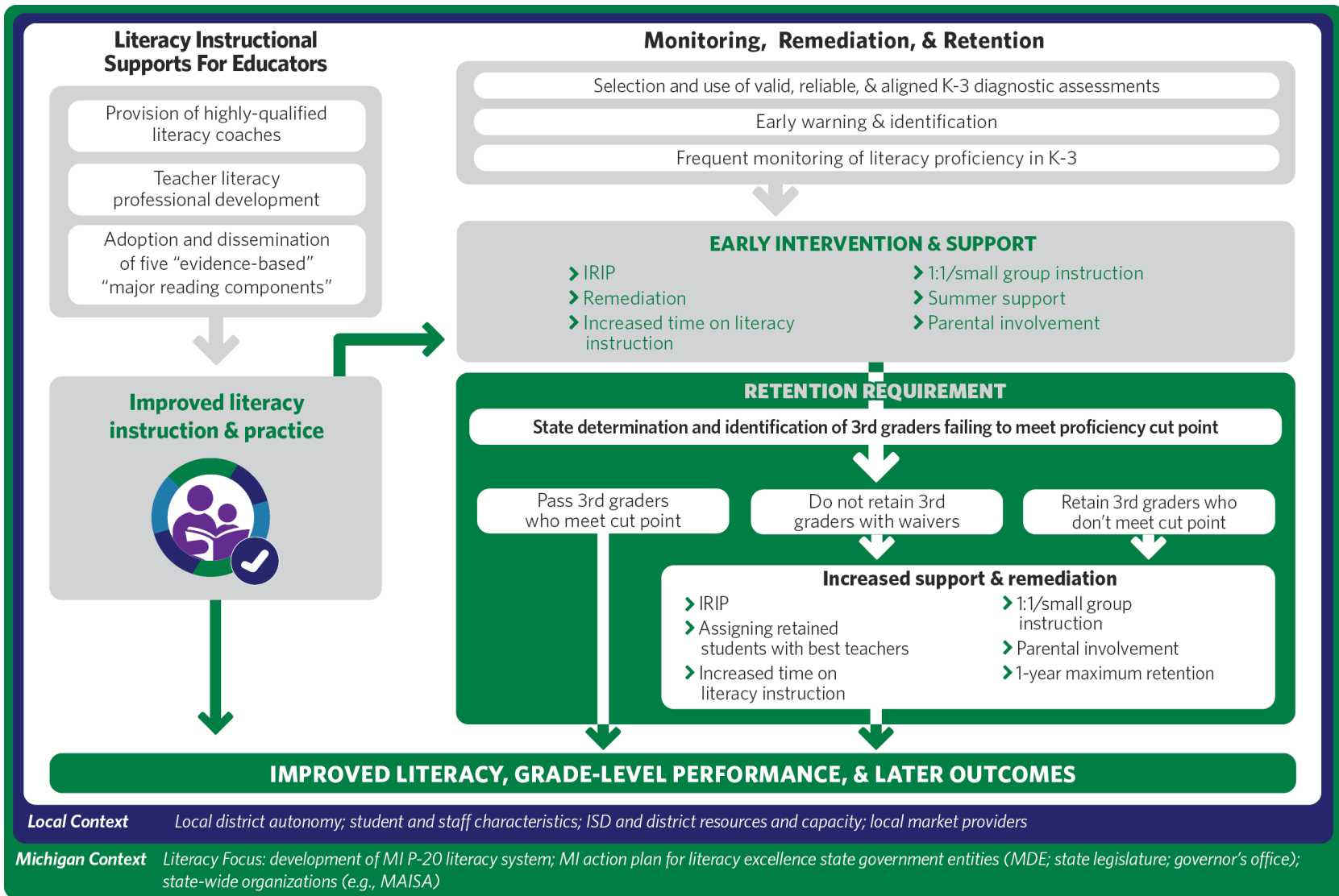
Fall-to-Spring Growth Outcomes by School Year (Reading – All Vendors)



Note: The percentages of each school year only include students with benchmark assessment scores in both the fall and spring. Thresholds for "typical growth" represent the median growth for students before the pandemic who took the same benchmark assessments in the subject area and grade level and had similar initial scores in the fall.

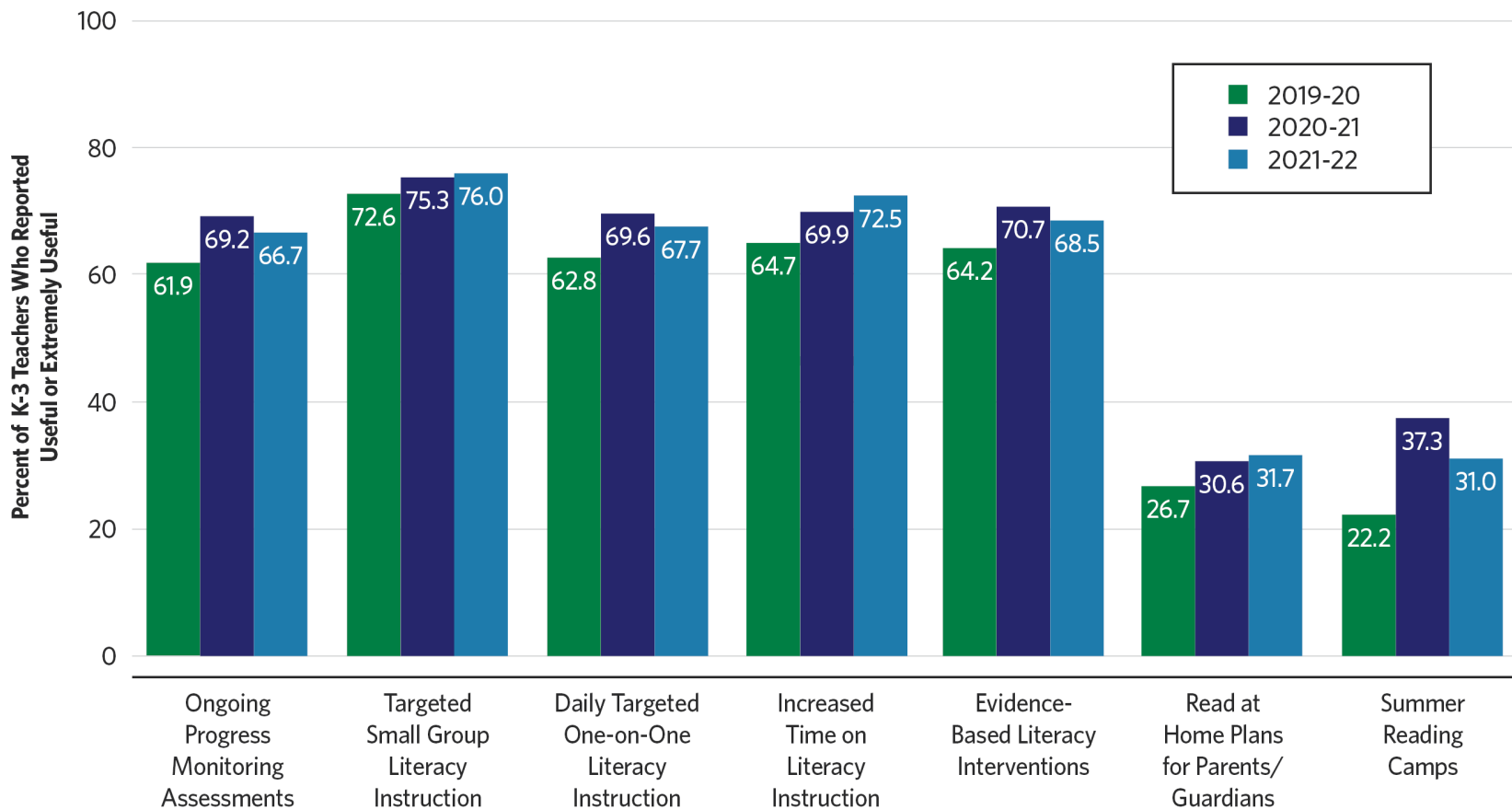
LITERACY POLICY IN MICHIGAN

Read by Grade Three is a comprehensive approach



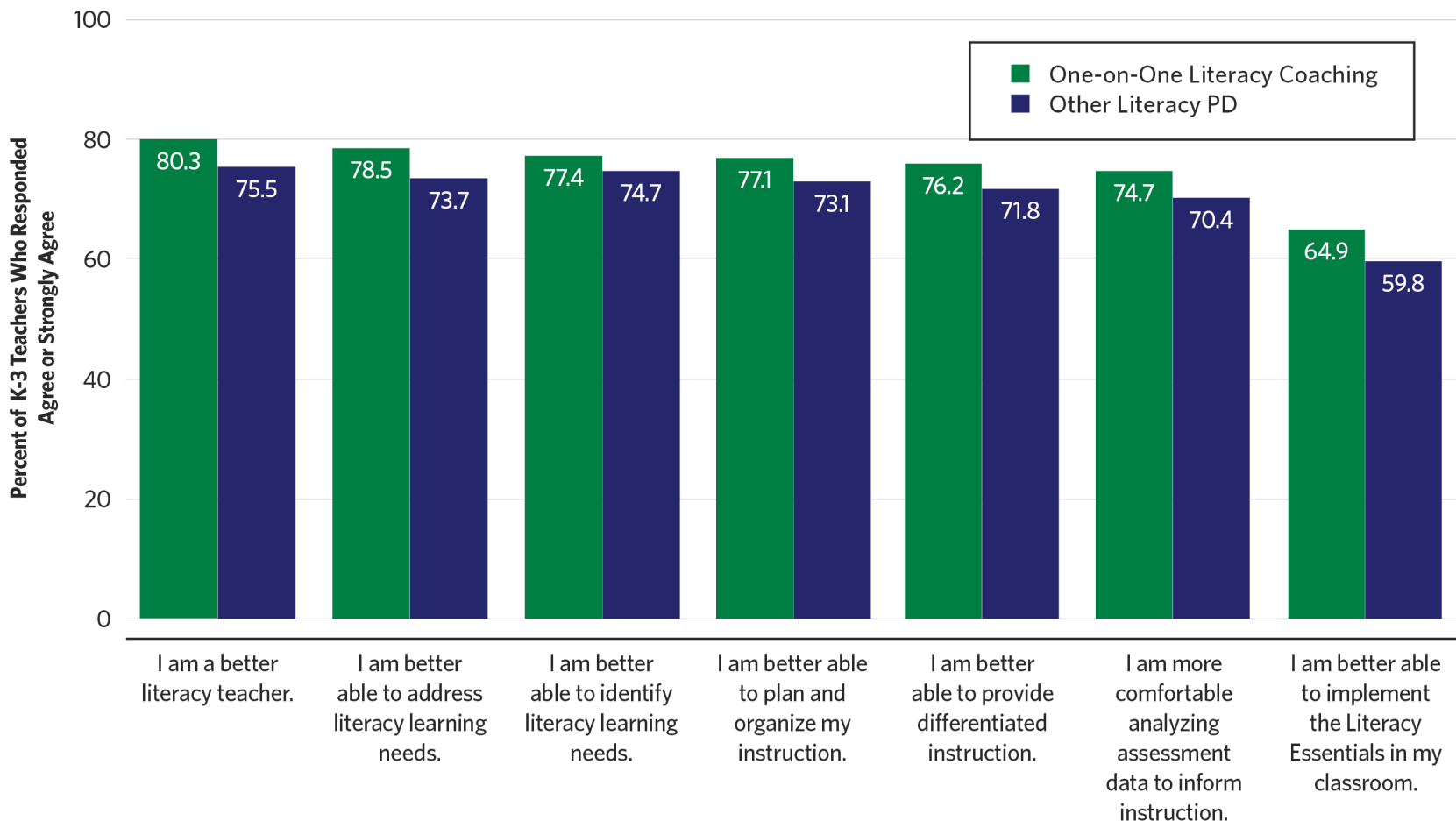
TEACHERS PERCEIVE MANY OF THE LAW'S SUPPORTS TO BE EFFECTIVE

This intervention is... useful in improving students' literacy.



MOST TEACHERS BELIEVED PD HELPED IMPROVE THEIR PRACTICE

To what extent do you agree that these aspects of 1:1 literacy coaching and/or professional development received this year affected your literacy instruction?



K-5 ELA CURRICULUM LANDSCAPE IN MICHIGAN

- Michigan elementary teachers reported **464 different ELA curriculum resources** to support their literacy instruction. This includes:
 - 170 different resources they used as core ELA curriculum
 - An additional 128 resources to support writing instruction and 166 to support phonics/spelling instruction
- Not all 170 resources that teachers reported using to support core ELA instruction are considered by their publishers to be a core ELA curriculum.

LITERACY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- **The Challenge:**

- Literacy achievement and growth continues to lag and gaps persist.
- There is more variation in student need after the pandemic than before.

- **The Opportunity:**

- More students making typical growth.
- Educators report many of the supports under the Read by Grade Three law are useful in improving students' literacy.
- Educators believe literacy coaching and professional development is helpful, but they want more of it.
- A very broad range of ELA curriculum resources in use, many of which are not highly rated.



Education Policy Innovation Collaborative

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION | MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

236 Erickson Hall, 620 Farm Lane, East Lansing, MI 48824 | (517) 884-0377 | EPICedpolicy@msu.edu