



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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DC PUBLIC SCHOOLS

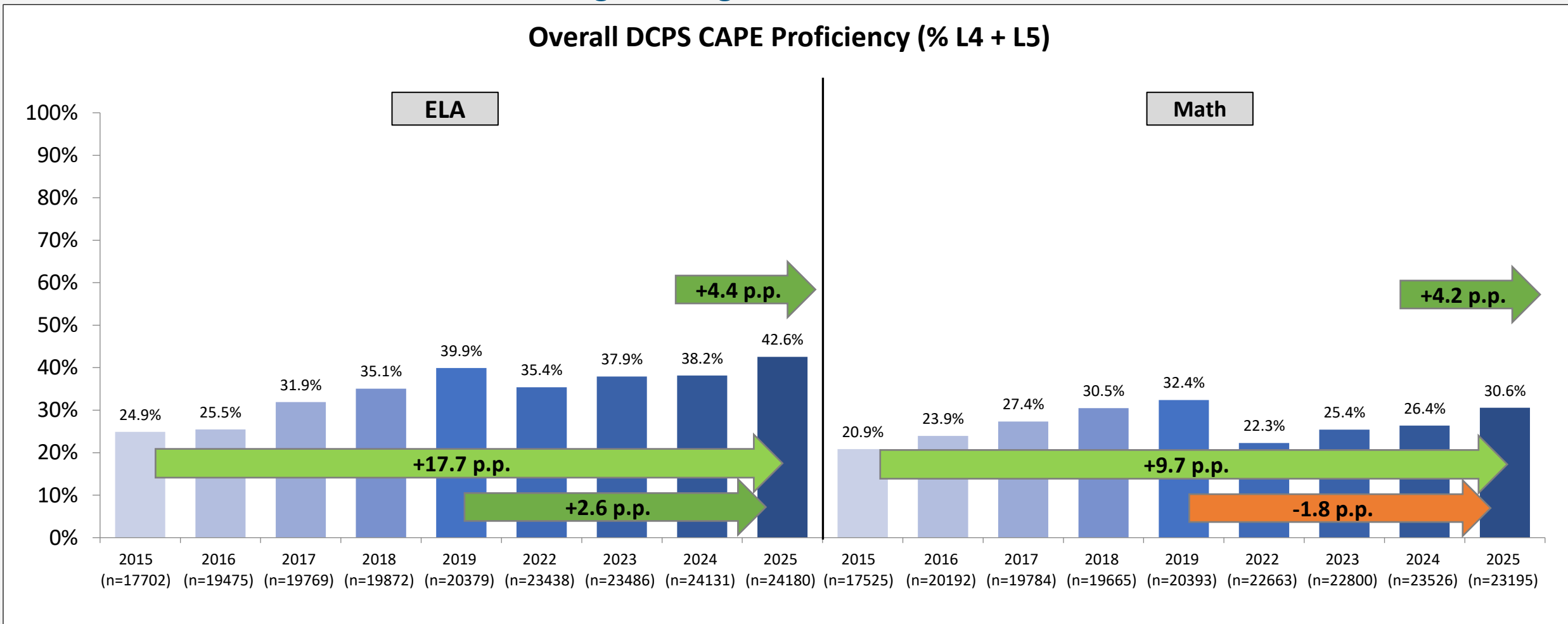
2025 DC CAPE Results

August 21, 2025

Office of Data and Technology

Overall Results

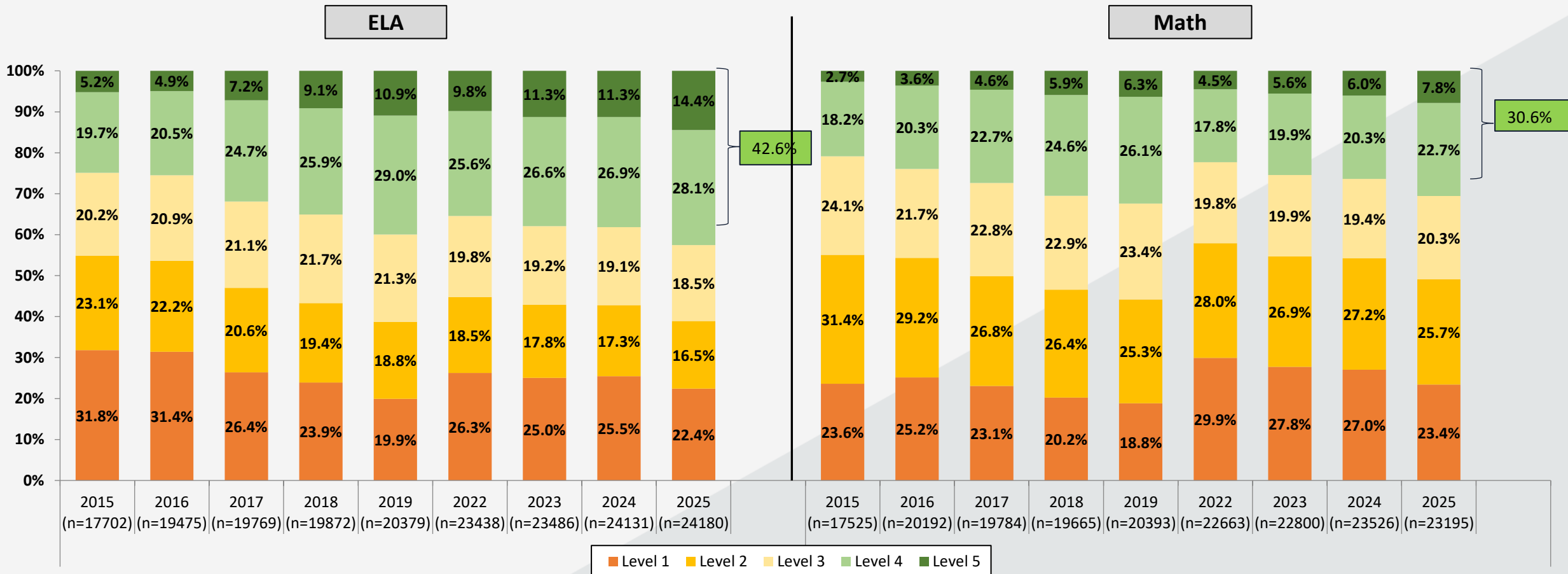
Overall, DCPS students have demonstrated growth in both ELA and math since last year, with gains of 4.4 percentage points (PP) in ELA and 4.2 PP in math. Notably, these gains represent the highest annual growth in both subjects since the pandemic, with this year’s growth in math also marking the largest increase since 2015.



Note. Algebra I and English I were not required assessments until 2022. Therefore, results from 2022 and later may not be comparable to results from 2019 and before.

Since 2024, the percentage of students scoring at Levels 4 and 5 has increased in both subjects, while the percentage at Levels 1 and 2 has declined.

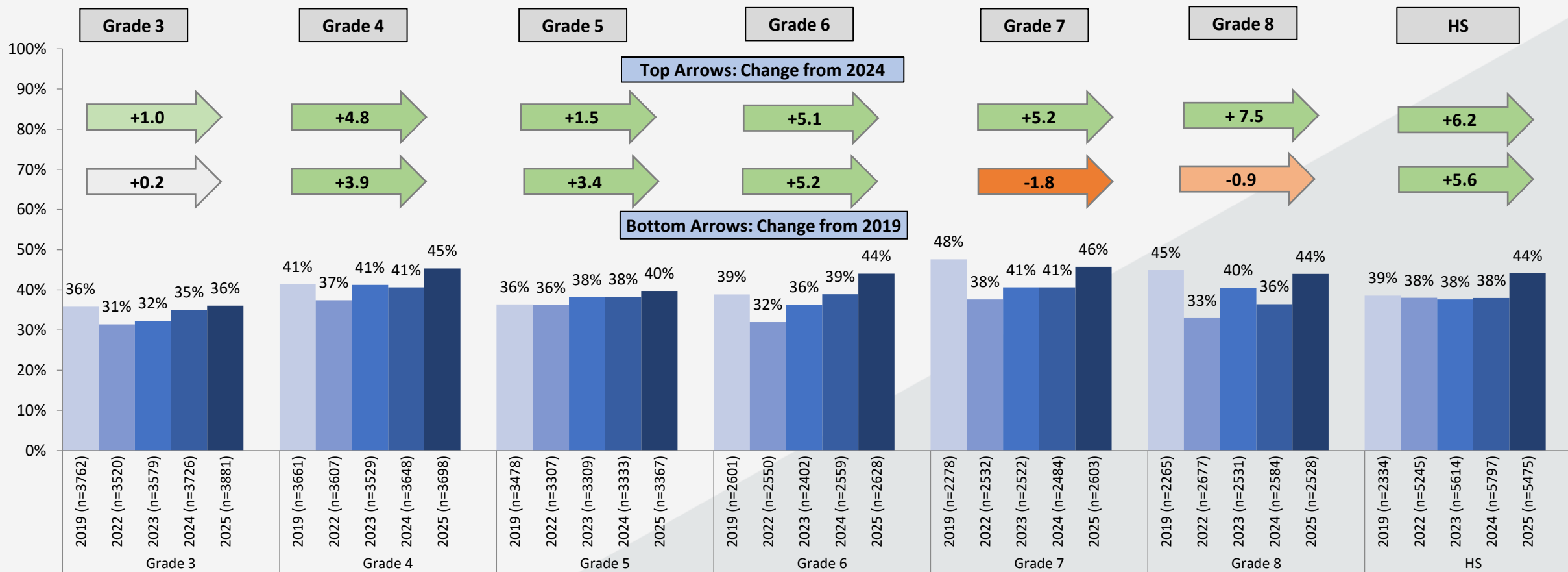
Overall DCPS CAPE Performance by Achievement Level



Note. Algebra I and English I were not required assessments until 2022. Therefore, results from 2022 and later may not be comparable to results from 2019 and before.

In ELA, 8th grade (+7.5 PP) and HS grades (+6.2 PP) saw the largest gains in proficiency compared to last year. However, grades 7 and 8 were still below pre-pandemic levels.

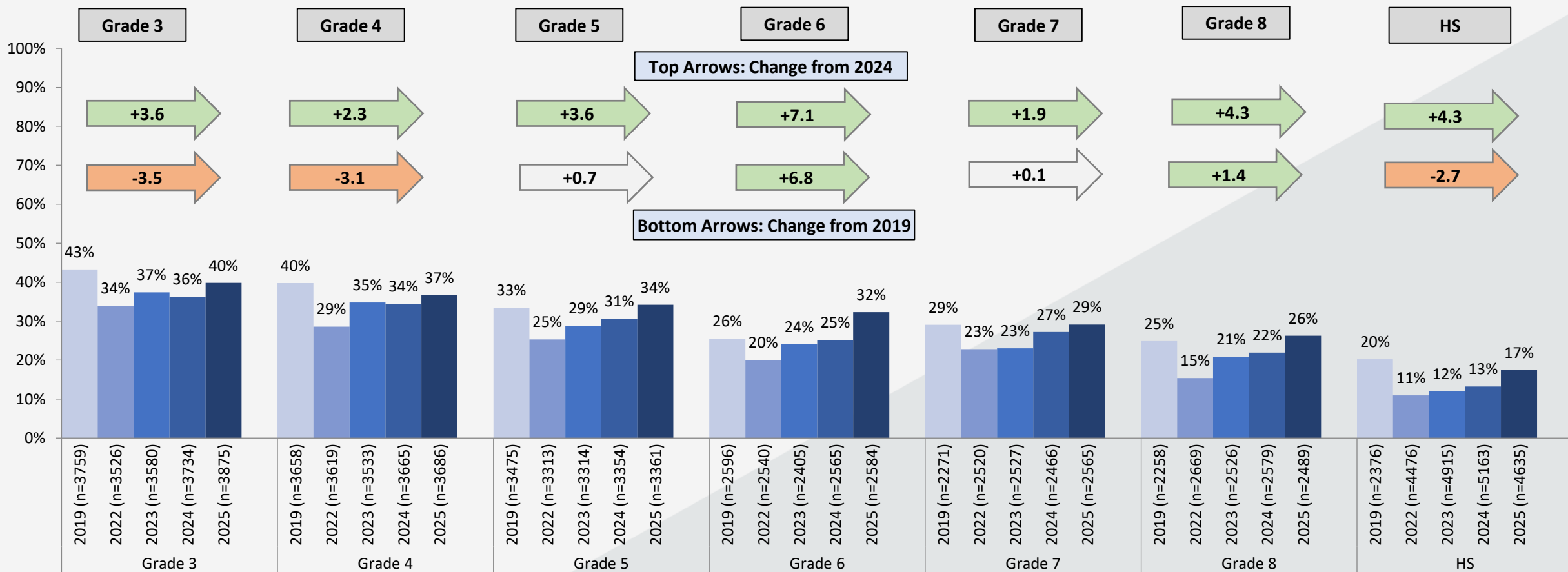
DCPS ELA CAPE Proficiency (% L4 + L5) by Grade



Note. English I was not a required assessment until 2022. Therefore, results from 2022 and later may not be comparable to 2019 and before.

In Math, **6th grade (+7.1 PP)** stood out with the largest gain in proficiency compared to last year, surpassing its pre-pandemic level by 6.8 PP. Additionally, all middle school grades have now exceeded pre-pandemic proficiency levels.

DCPS Math CAPE Proficiency (% L4 + L5) by Grade

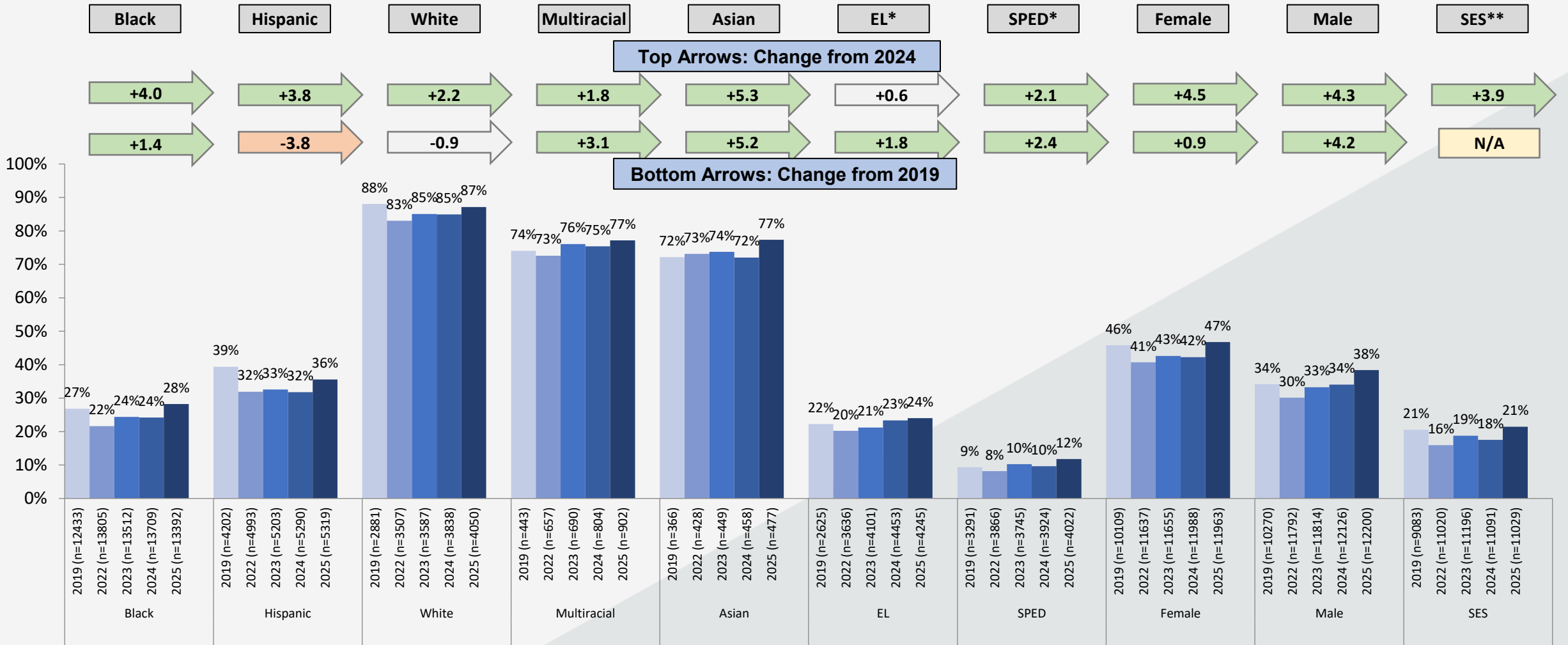


Note. Algebra I was not a required assessment until 2022. Therefore, results from 2022 or later may not be comparable to 2019 and before.

CAPE ELA: Subgroups and Schools

All major racial/ethnic groups and student subgroups made gains in ELA compared to 2024. With the exception of Hispanic and White students, all major subgroups have now exceeded their 2019 performance levels.

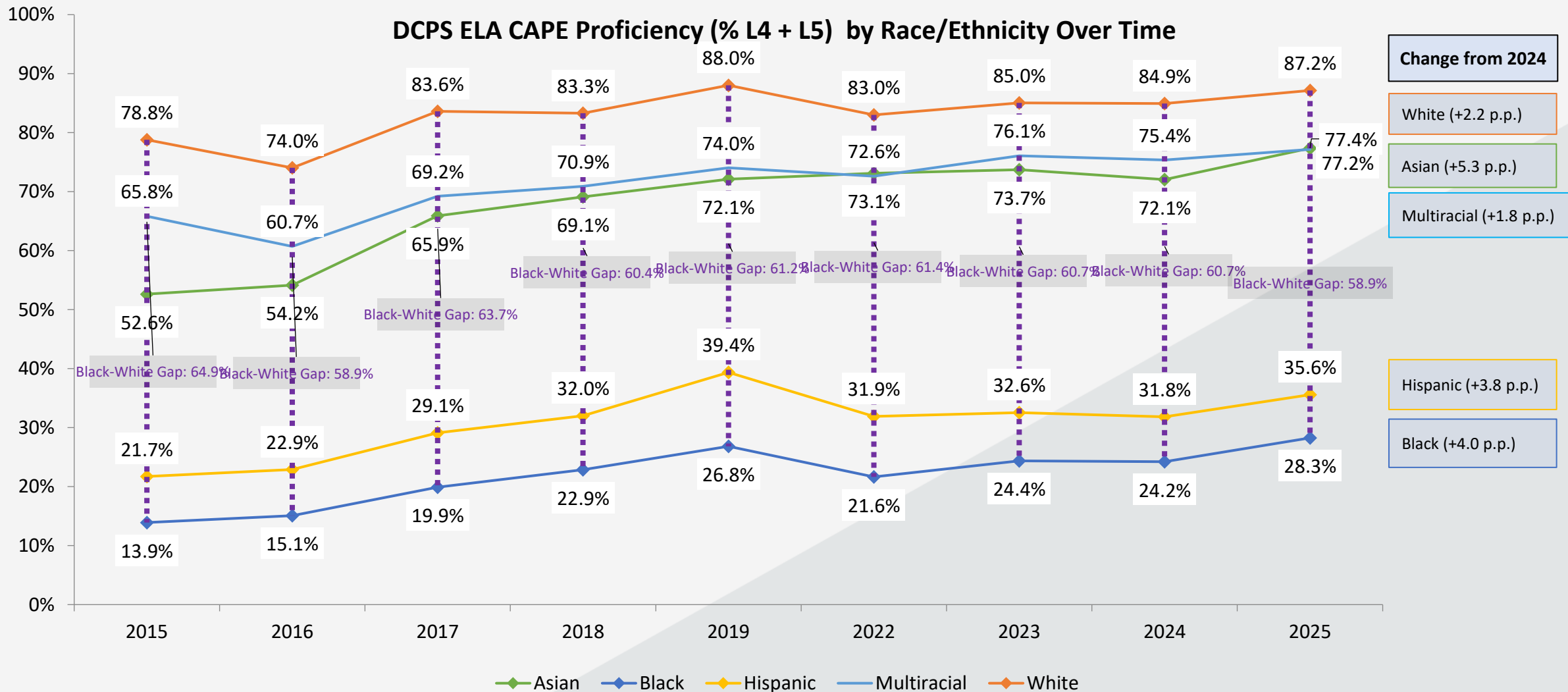
DCPS ELA CAPE Proficiency (% L4 + L5) by Student Subgroup



*EL (English Learners) includes both students who are active ELs and those who are being monitored. SPED (Special Education) includes only students who have an active IEP.

**Socioeconomic Status (SES): At-Risk was used by OSSE as an SES measure from 2018 through 2022. It includes students who are homeless, under the care of the District's foster care system, qualify for TANF or SNAP, or high school students who are overage. In 2023 OSSE switched to using Economically Disadvantaged as an SES measure, representing the same subgroup but without overage HS students. For this reason, the SES measure in 2023 is NOT an exact comparison to the measure for 2022 and before.

The ELA proficiency gap between White and Black students slightly narrowed compared to last year, now standing at 58.9 percentage points.



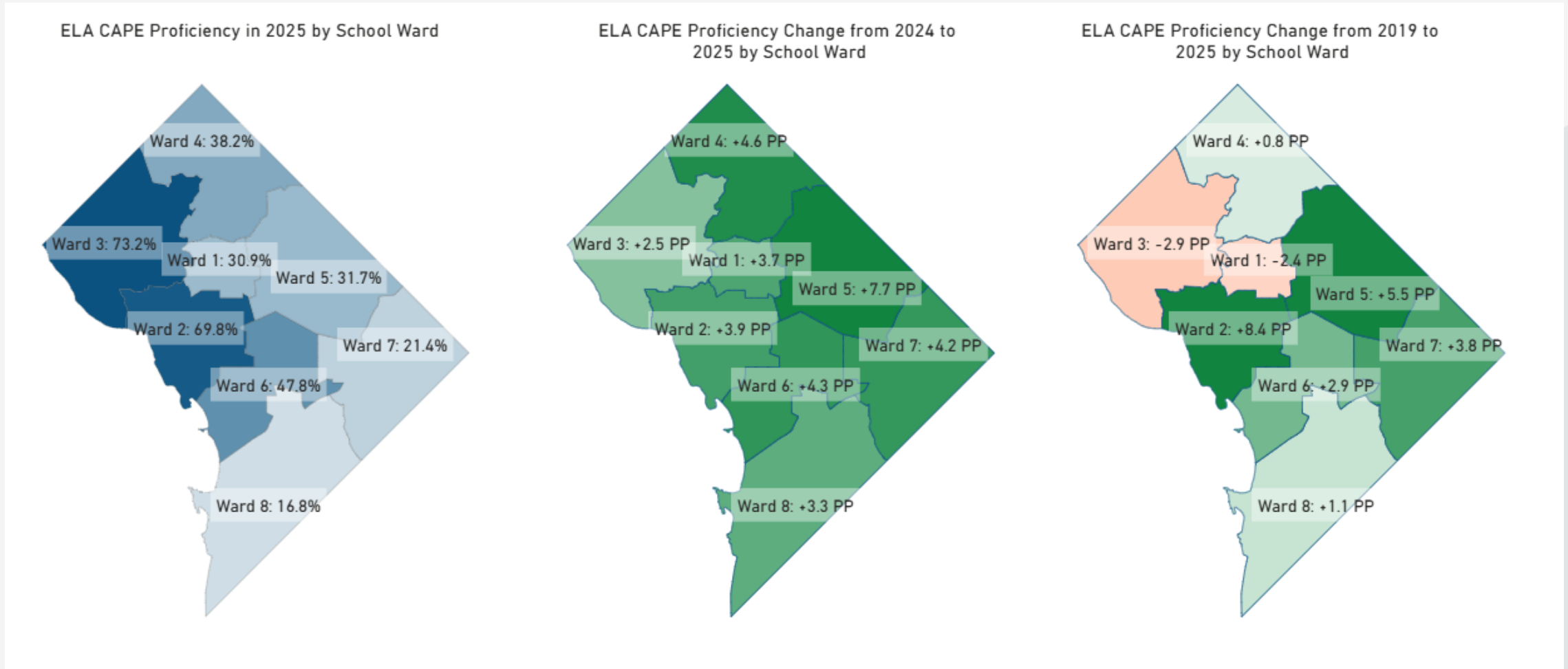
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Bright Spot Schools (ELA)

- In ELA, several schools demonstrated exceptional growth since 2024:
 - McKinley Tech HS (+22.7 PP)
 - Bard HS (+20.5 PP)
 - Thomson ES (+20.5 PP)
 - Moten ES (+17.6 PP)
- 7 schools had over 80% of their students scoring Levels 4 and 5 in ELA:
 - School Without Walls HS (99.3%)
 - Benjamin Banneker HS (92.3%)
 - Ross ES (83.8%)
 - Stoddert ES (82.2%)
 - Deal MS (81.4%)
 - Janney ES (81.0%)
 - Lafayette ES (80.8%)
- 81 schools improved their ELA proficiency when compared to their 2024 proficiency rate.

Detailed overall, subgroup, school-level results are available for reference, and will be posted in the Data Request Tool (DRT) once the embargo is lifted.

ELA proficiency shows significant variation across wards, with 73% of students proficient in Ward 3 and only 17% in Ward 8. **All wards demonstrated growth compared to last year.**

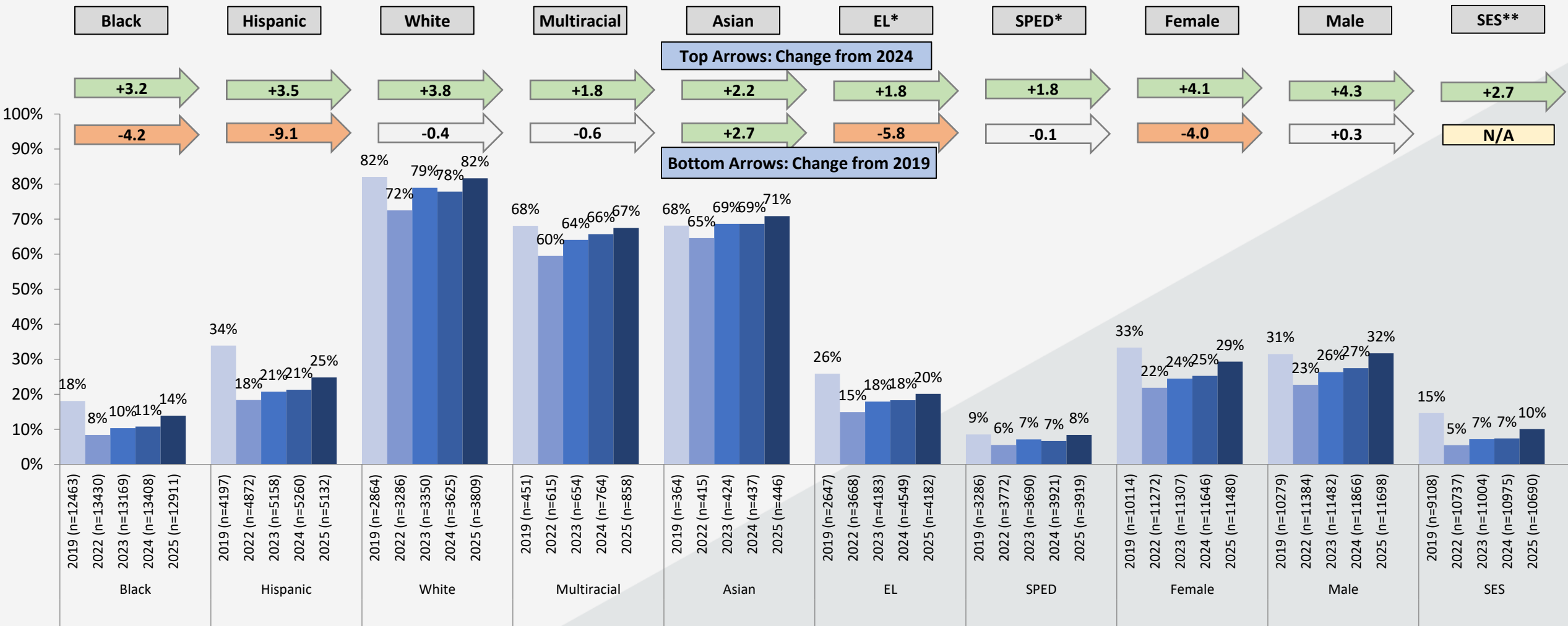


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CAPE Math: Subgroups and Schools

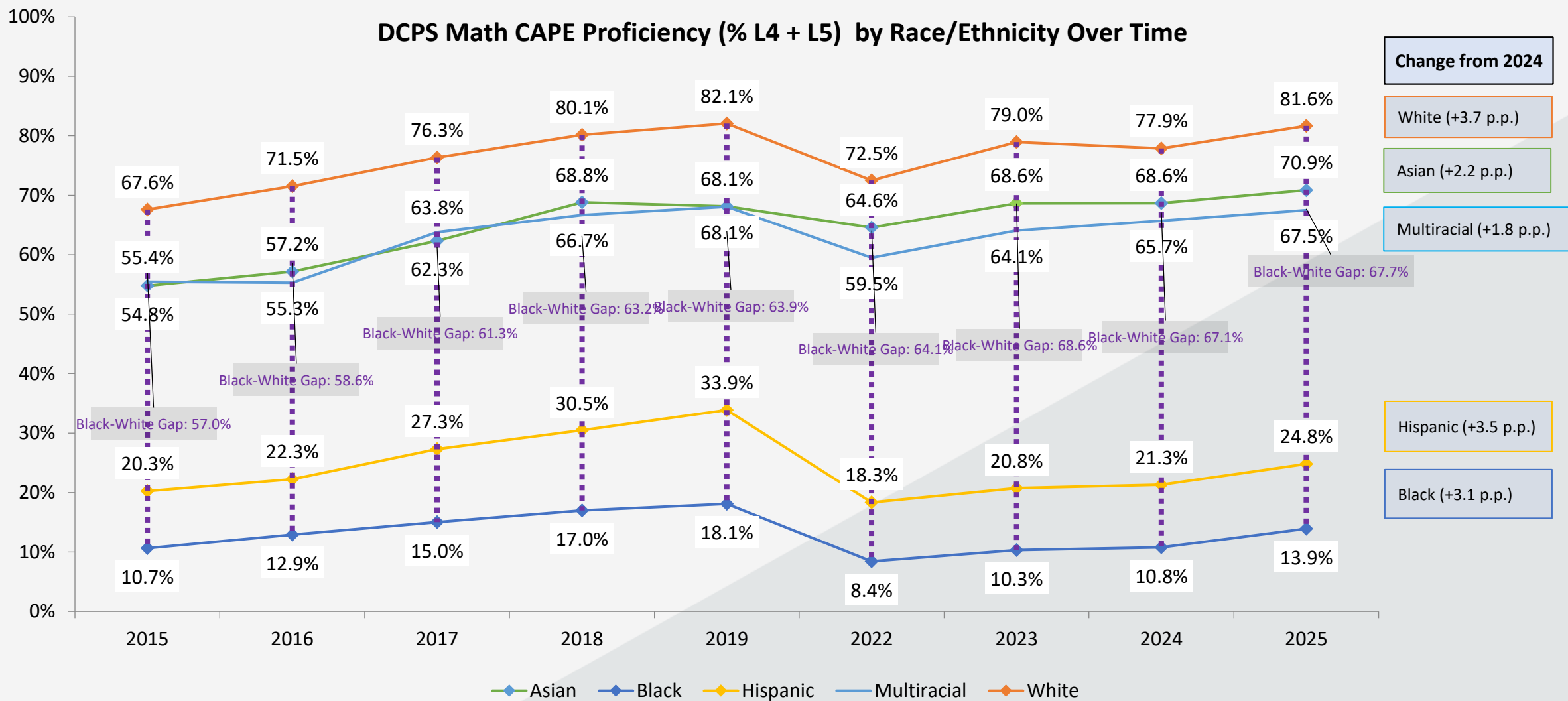
All major racial/ethnic groups and student subgroups showed improvement from 2024, with Black and Hispanic students gaining over 3 P.P. However, most groups have yet to return to their pre-pandemic performance levels, with only Asian students surpassing their 2019 proficiency.

DCPS Math CAPE Proficiency (% L4 + L5) by Student Subgroup



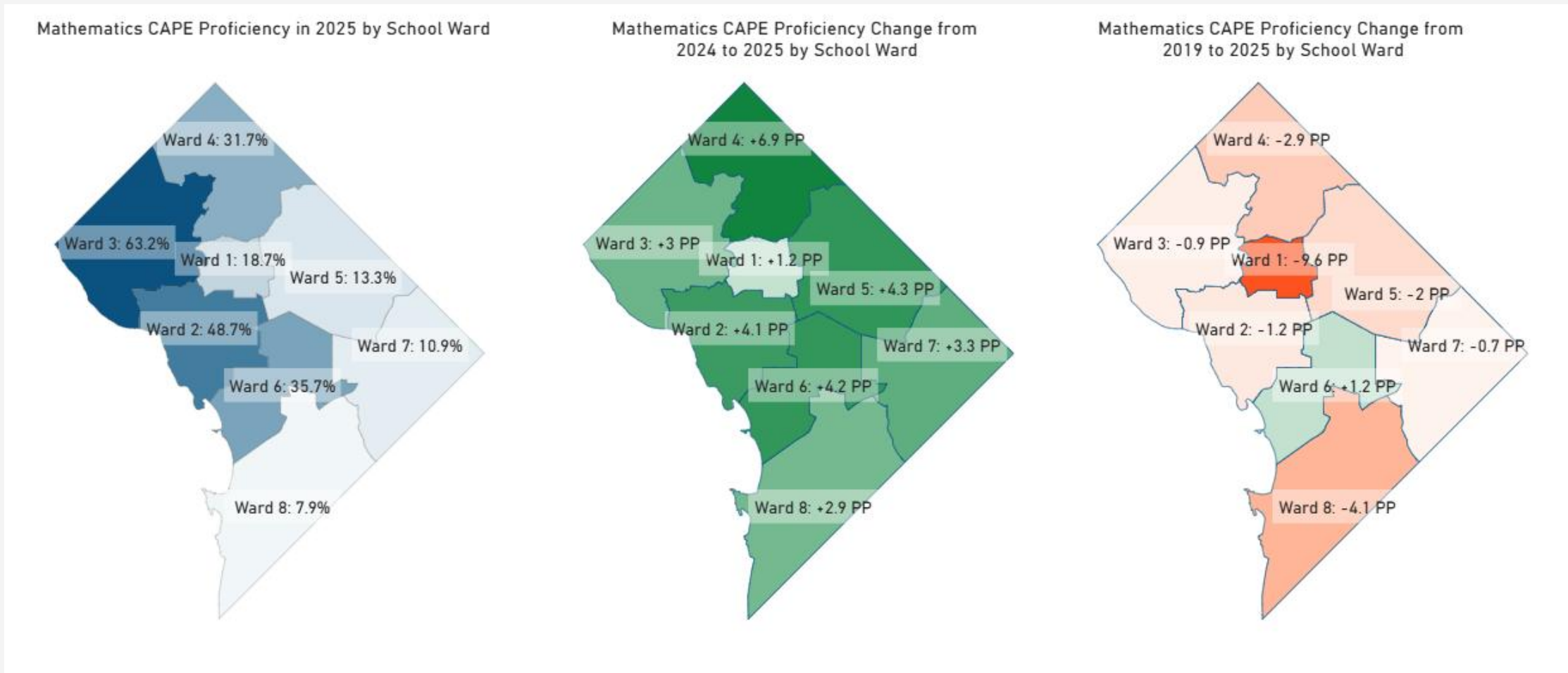
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Since the pandemic, the math CAPE proficiency gap between Black, Hispanic/Latino, and White students has widened. Although Black and Hispanic students have made recent gains, the gap has continued to grow slightly compared to last year.



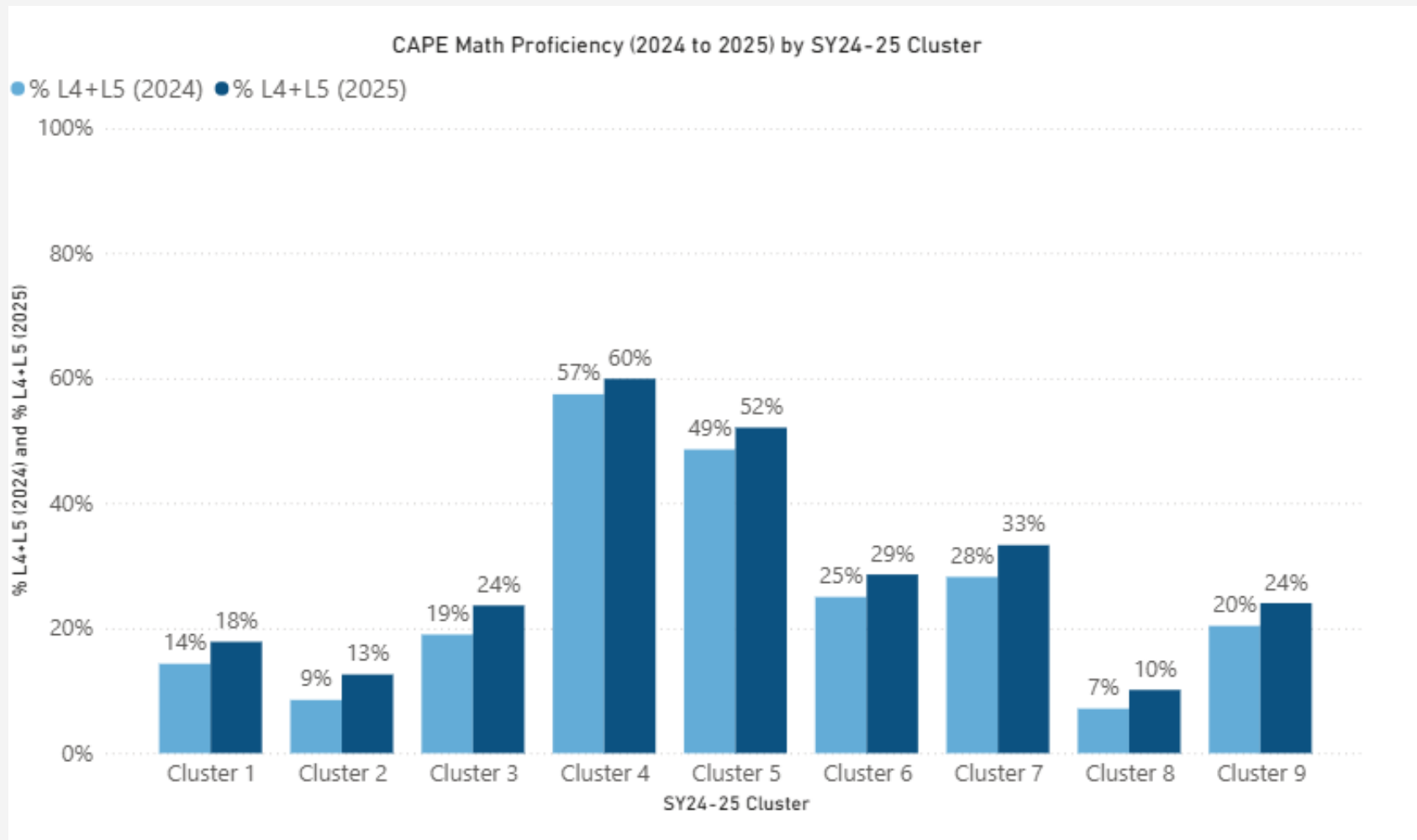
Note. Algebra I was not a required assessment until 2022. Therefore, results from 2022 or later may not be comparable to 2019 and before.

Math proficiency varies widely across wards, with 63% of students proficient in Ward 3 compared to just 8% in Ward 8. Although **all wards improved from last year**, only Ward 6 has surpassed its pre-pandemic proficiency levels from 2019; the rest continue to trail behind.



Note. English I was not a required assessment until 2022. Therefore, results from 2022 and later may not be comparable to 2019 and before.

Cluster 4 had the highest proficiency rate in CAPE Math, with 60% of students scoring proficient. Although gains were relatively similar across clusters, Cluster 3 and 7 saw the largest increase (+5 PP).



Recap: Takeaways

- Overall, DCPS students have demonstrated **growth in both ELA and math** since last year.
 - In **ELA**, **42.6%** of DCPS students scored proficient (Levels 4 and 5), 4.4 percentage points (PP) higher than 2024 and 2.6 PP higher than pre-pandemic in 2019.
 - In **Math**, **30.6%** scored proficient, up 4.2 PP from 2024 but still 1.8 PP below 2019.
- All major student subgroups and grade levels have made gains in both ELA and math since 2024.
- However, **persistent disparities** are evident across subgroup results, with significant gaps in both proficiency and pandemic-related learning loss.
 - The **opportunity gap** between **Black and White** student proficiency was about 59 PP in ELA and 68 PP in Math. While the ELA gap has narrowed slightly compared to last year, the math gap has increased slightly.
 - In ELA, except for Hispanic and White students, all major subgroups have now exceeded their 2019 performance levels. In Math, only **Asian** students exceeded their 2019 proficiency levels.
 - SPED and EL students made modest but positive gains in both subjects compared to last year. In ELA, both groups have now exceeded their 2019 pre-pandemic levels.
- **Great disparities across wards persist** in both ELA and Math proficiency: in Ward 3, 73% of students were proficient in ELA and 63% in Math, compared to 17% and 8%, respectively, in Ward 8.
- CAPE participation rate was **94.2% in ELA** and **93.4% in Math**, slightly lower than last spring and below the OSSE requirement threshold (95%).