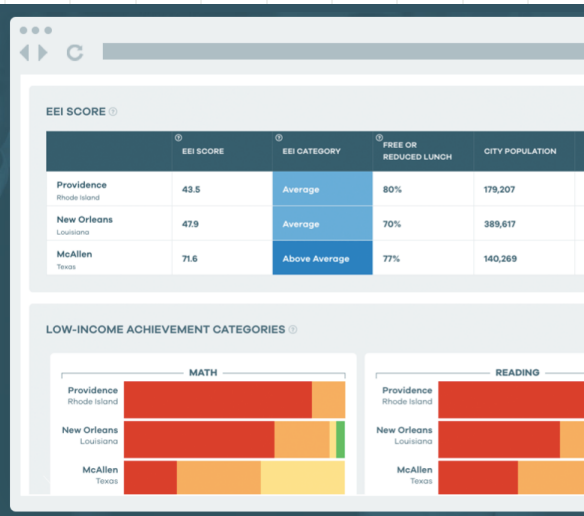## ROKKINCAT CASE STUDY:
EDUCATION EQUALITY INDEX

A website and dataset designed to allow comparative analysis of school performance while taking into account income and state exam practices.

The *Education Equality Index (EEI)* is the first **comparative** national measure of the performance of students from low-income families at the school- and city-level. The Index accounts for differences in state exams and poverty concentration at the school level.

We partnered with Savage Solutions to build a web interface for exploring the Education Equality Index, which is an invention of Education Cities. The website was built with the WordPress CMS, but was heavily modified to support the unique blend of educational content, interactive data, and usability for the Education Cities staff. The website is no longer active, but can be redeployed upon request.

TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY

Our strategy centered around cost-effective ways to maximize usability and design. We selected technologies which would allow us to integrate many off the shelf components in a way that would feel polished.

We selected **AngularJS** as the framework since the MVC architecture it uses maximized developer productivity when building the highly modal interaction pattern designed by Savage. Angular also empowered us to quickly integrate with **ChartistJS**, a mature charting tool that had pre-built integration with Angular. This enabled beautiful and interactive charts for a lower cost than more customizable tool such as D3. **WordPress** was chosen due to Education Cities staff familiarity with the CMS, which was already powering their main website. Savage was also very familiar with the templates, hosting, and plugin ecosystem of WordPress. We chose to make small modifications to the WordPress interface to enable REST-ful data access and easy integration with Tableau, minimizing training, and discovery from the execution team, all while delivering a performant and interactive experience for the user.

OUR CONTRIBUTION

RokkinCat built the interactive components of the website and all necessary CMS modifications to improve ease of use for Education Cities staff. We took design files provided by Savage Solutions and built interactive map, comparison tool, and filterable data grid components. Throughout the design process, RokkinCat provided guidance to the client and Savage to balance usability, beauty, and budget.

Once each of the components was built and integrated into the larger website, RokkinCat built custom WordPress plugins to support data import and verification. The client's data partner had them using the Tableau suite of tools, so we built a custom importer to accept raw data exported from Tableau so Education Cities would not be required to do any manual processing of the data. We also built plugins to allow export of the data for viewers.