

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: Students Are Making a ‘Surprising’ Rebound From Pandemic Closures. But Some May Never Catch Up

Article

Link: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/01/31/us/pandemic-learning-loss-recovery.html>

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Publication	New York Times
Publication Date	January 31, 2024

Tweet: According to a new analysis by teams at Stanford and Harvard, US students have made up 1/3 of pandemic-related learning loss in math and 1/4 in reading; the gap in performance between rich and poor school districts has increased.

Summary: Elementary and middle-school students have made up significant ground since the pandemic school closings in 2020. Overall in math, a subject where learning loss has been greatest, students have made up about a third of what they lost. In reading, they have made up a quarter, according to the new analysis of standardized test score data led by researchers at Stanford and Harvard. Once schools reopened, the pace of recovery was similar across districts, the analysis shows. Both the richest and poorest districts managed to teach more than in a usual school year — about 17 percent more in math, and 8 percent more in reading — as schools raced to help students recover. Yet because poor districts had lost more ground, their progress was not nearly enough to outpace wealthier districts, widening the gulf between them. The typical rich district is about a fifth of a grade level behind where it was in 2019. The typical poor district: nearly half a grade.

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