

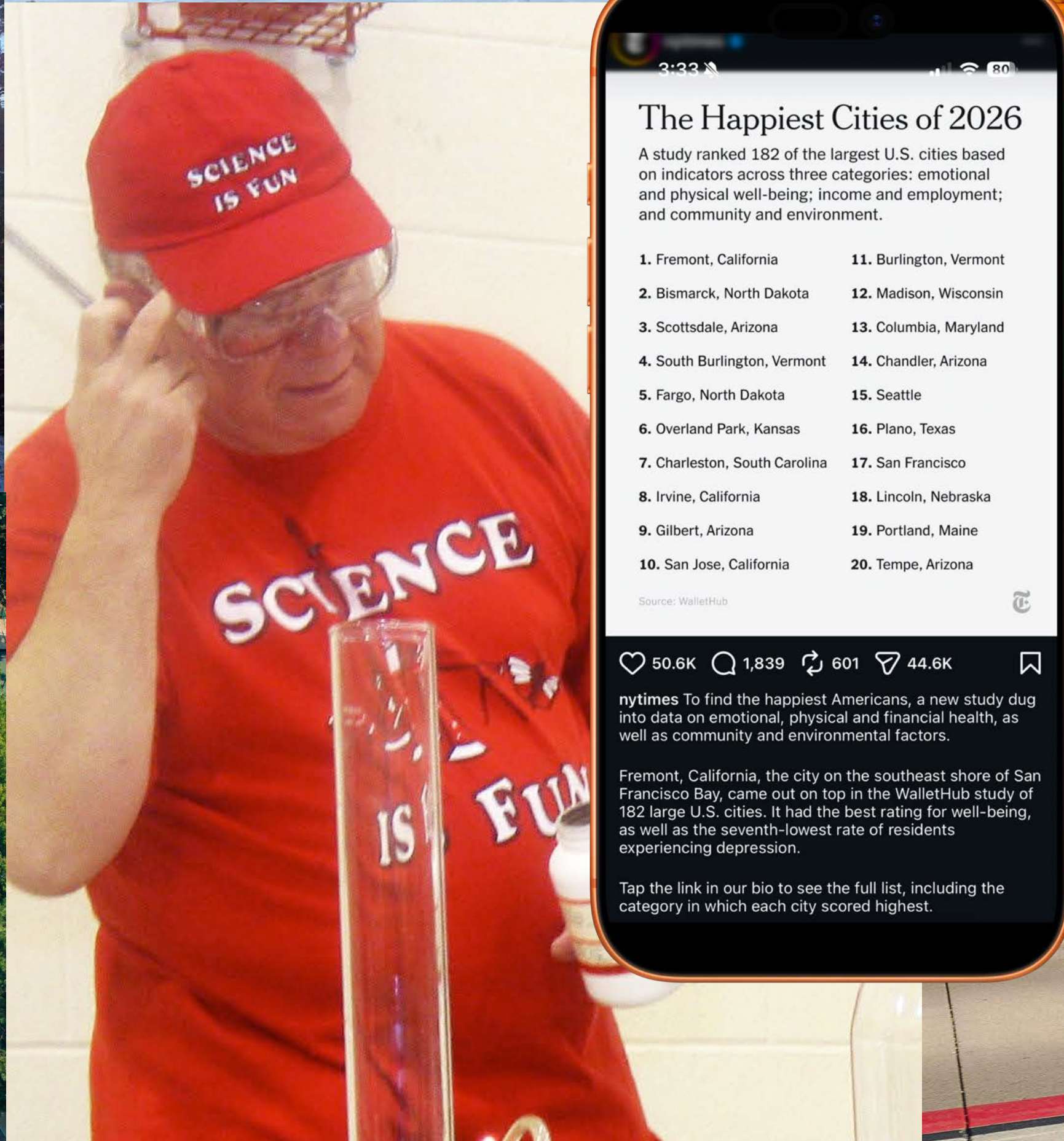
“There are a few things you should know.”



Madison Scorecard



Will our kids be ready?



The Happiest Cities of 2026

A study ranked 182 of the largest U.S. cities based on indicators across three categories: emotional and physical well-being; income and employment; and community and environment.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Fremont, California | 11. Burlington, Vermont |
| 2. Bismarck, North Dakota | 12. Madison, Wisconsin |
| 3. Scottsdale, Arizona | 13. Columbia, Maryland |
| 4. South Burlington, Vermont | 14. Chandler, Arizona |
| 5. Fargo, North Dakota | 15. Seattle |
| 6. Overland Park, Kansas | 16. Plano, Texas |
| 7. Charleston, South Carolina | 17. San Francisco |
| 8. Irvine, California | 18. Lincoln, Nebraska |
| 9. Gilbert, Arizona | 19. Portland, Maine |
| 10. San Jose, California | 20. Tempe, Arizona |

Source: WalletHub

50.6K 1,839 601 44.6K

nytimes To find the happiest Americans, a new study dug into data on emotional, physical and financial health, as well as community and environmental factors.

Fremont, California, the city on the southeast shore of San Francisco Bay, came out on top in the WalletHub study of 182 large U.S. cities. It had the best rating for well-being, as well as the seventh-lowest rate of residents experiencing depression.

Tap the link in our bio to see the full list, including the category in which each city scored highest.



In 1998, the Madison School Board adopted an important academic goal:

“that all students complete the 3rd grade able to read at or beyond grade level”.

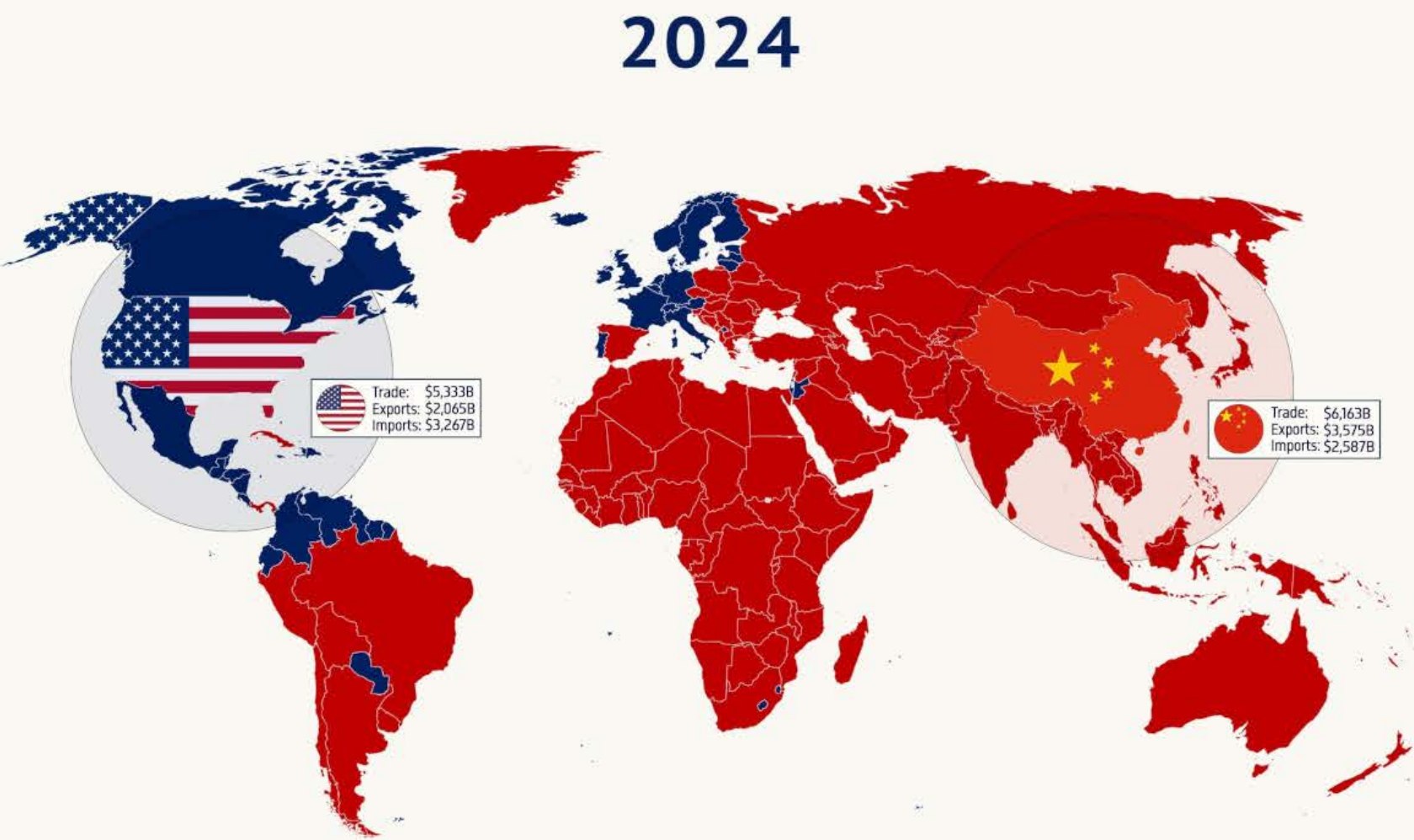
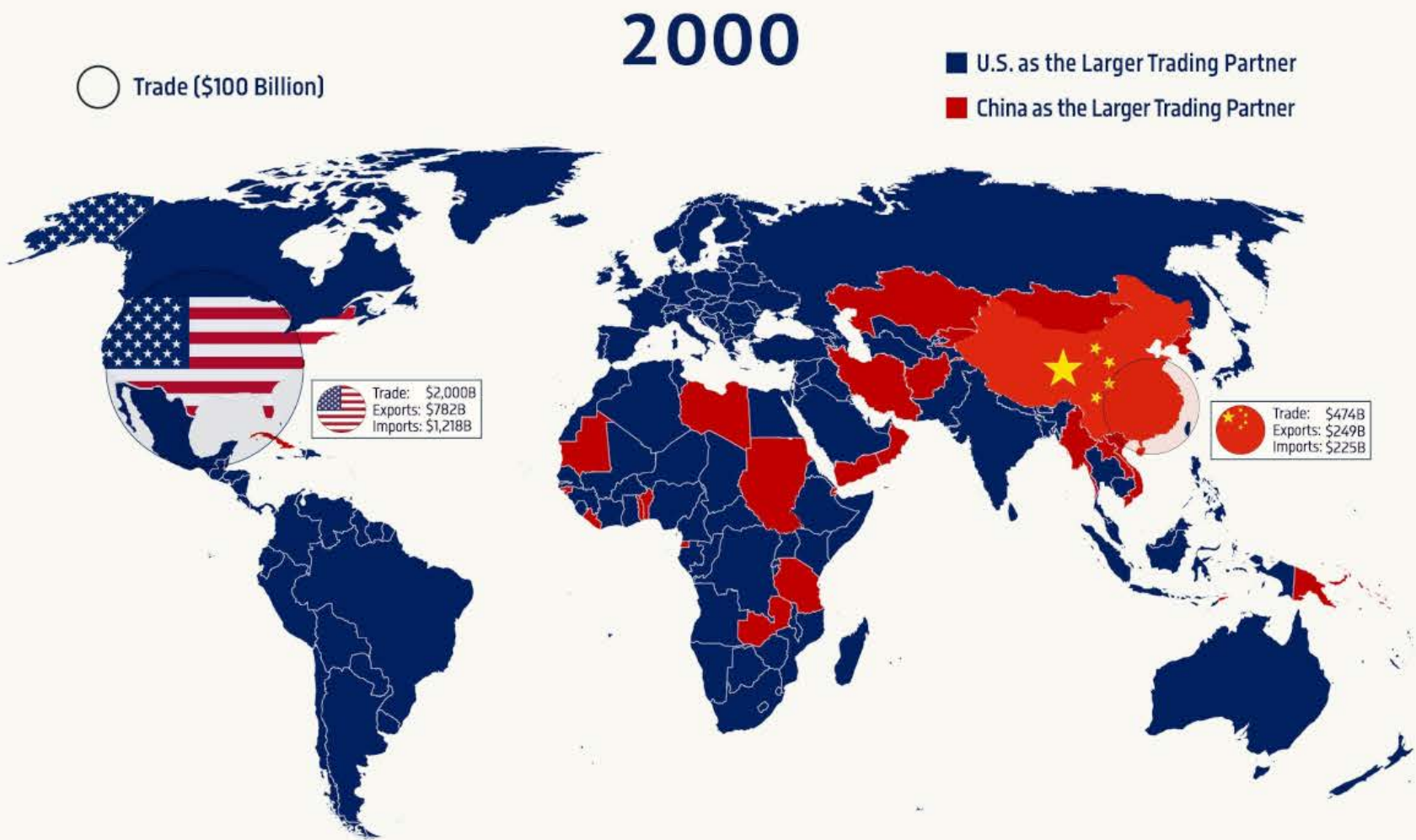
“We adopted this goal in response to recommendations from a citizen study group that believed that minority students who are not competent as readers by the end of the third grade fall behind in all academic areas after third grade.”

Carol Carstensen, Calvin J. Williams, Ray Allen, Deborah C. Lawson, Joann Elder, Juan Jose Lopez, and Ruth Robarts

November 12, 2005 [blog post](#) by Ruth Robarts

Global Trade Dominance: U.S. vs. China

In 2000, U.S. trade totaled \$2.0 trillion—more than four times China's \$474 billion. From 2000 to 2024, U.S. trade expanded by 167% (4.2% CAGR), while China's trade surged by 1,200% (11.3% CAGR), surpassing the U.S. in 2012. By 2024, total trade reached \$5.3 trillion for the U.S. and \$6.2 trillion for China.

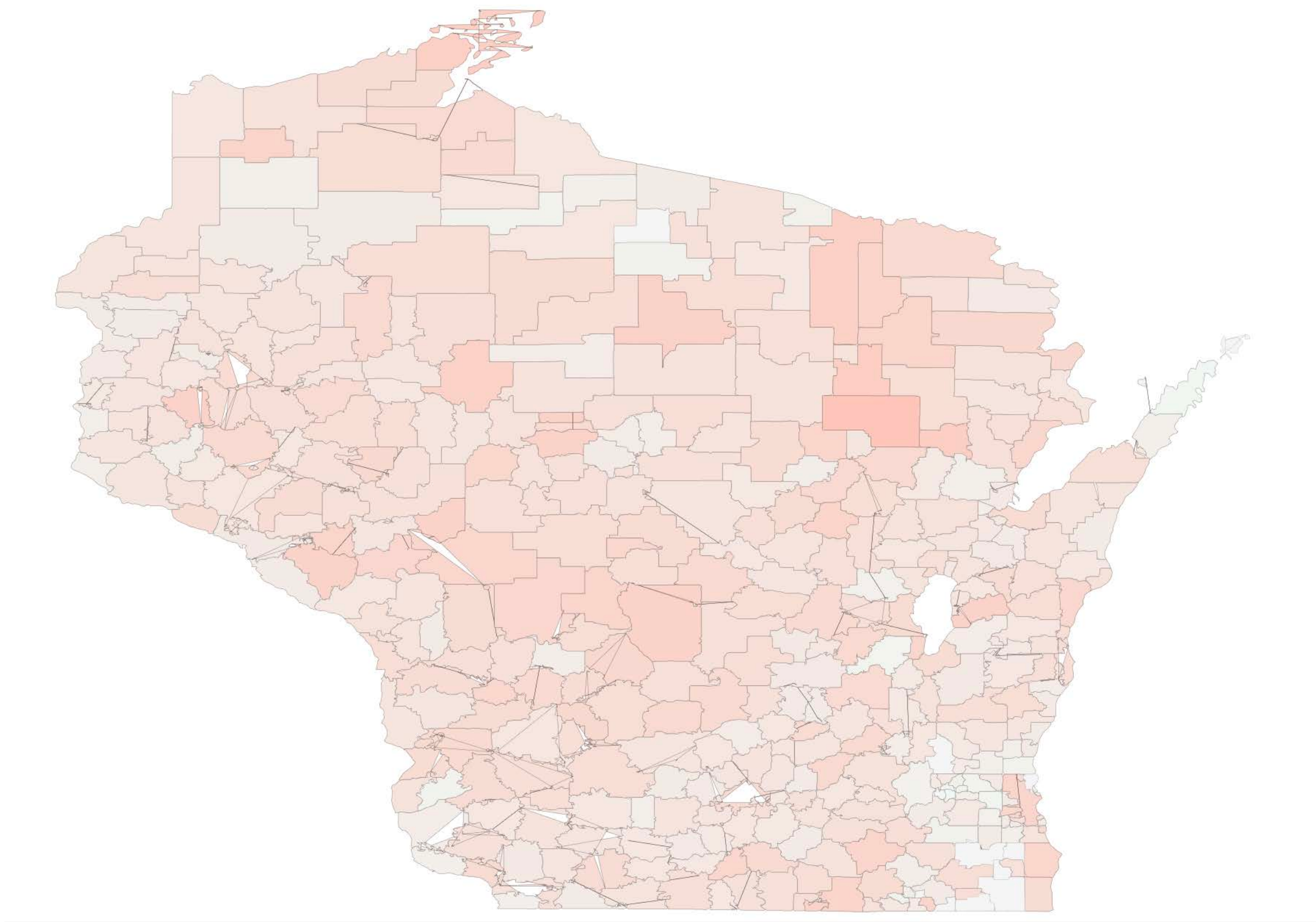


Merchandise trade = exports plus imports
The data on U.S. trade partners is sourced from the U.S. Census Bureau and data on China's trade partners comes from the General Administration of Customs.



2000 Barksdale \$100,000,000 for Mississippi Literacy

Reading Proficiency



2003

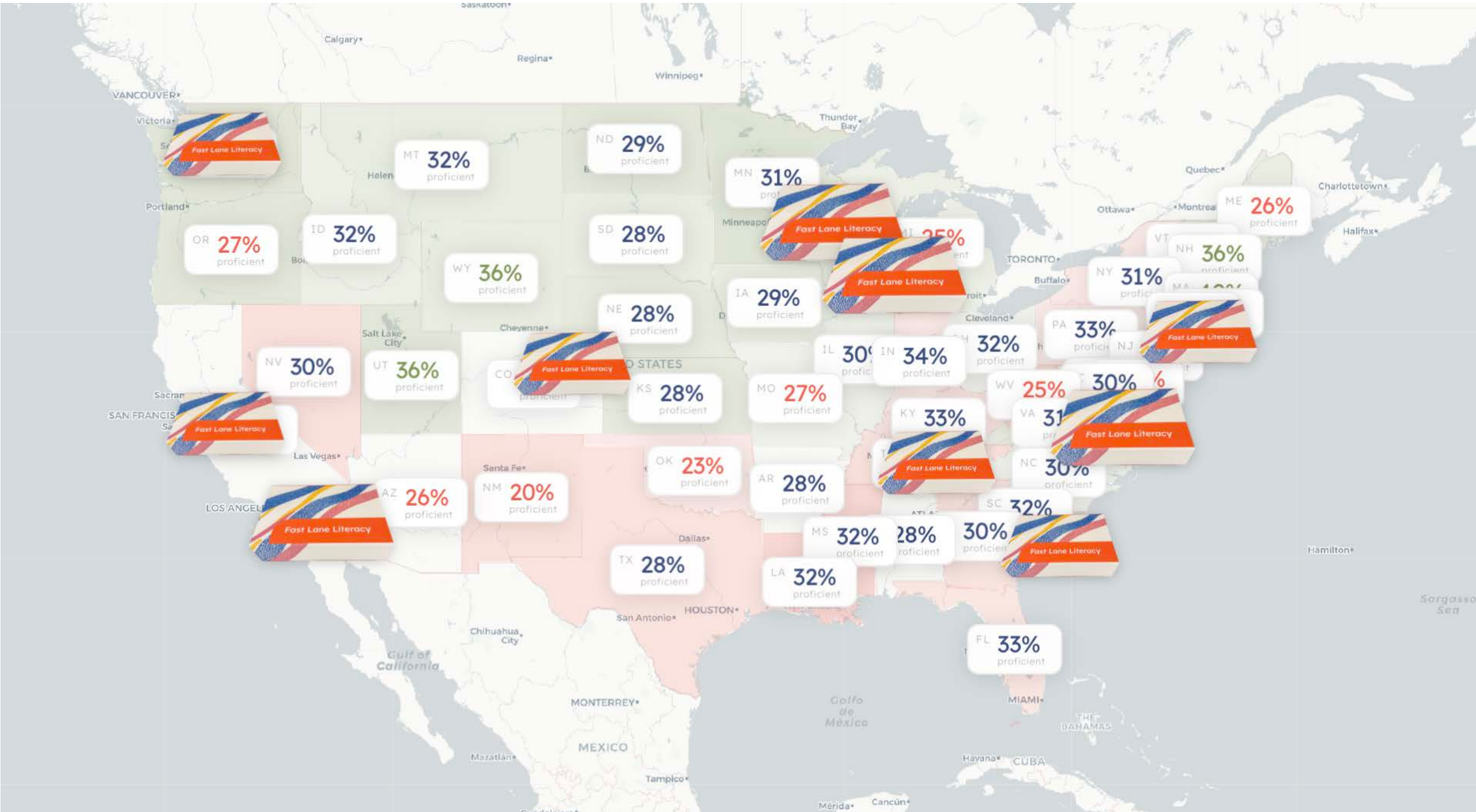
Wisconsin Students on our
State Test

80%



Reading Proficiency

Wisconsin Students on the
National Test (NAEP)



33%



2003

Look Up Your School District’s Test Scores

By [Francesca Paris](#) May 13, 2026

 Share full article  

American math and reading test scores [have fallen in the last decade](#), according to data [released Wednesday](#) by the Educational Opportunity Project at Stanford.

[Read more about why that’s happening.](#)

Below, you can look up how test scores for your district have changed since 2015.

(Note that some states — New York among them — are excluded because of low test participation rates or insufficient public data. And some districts are excluded because they’re missing data.)

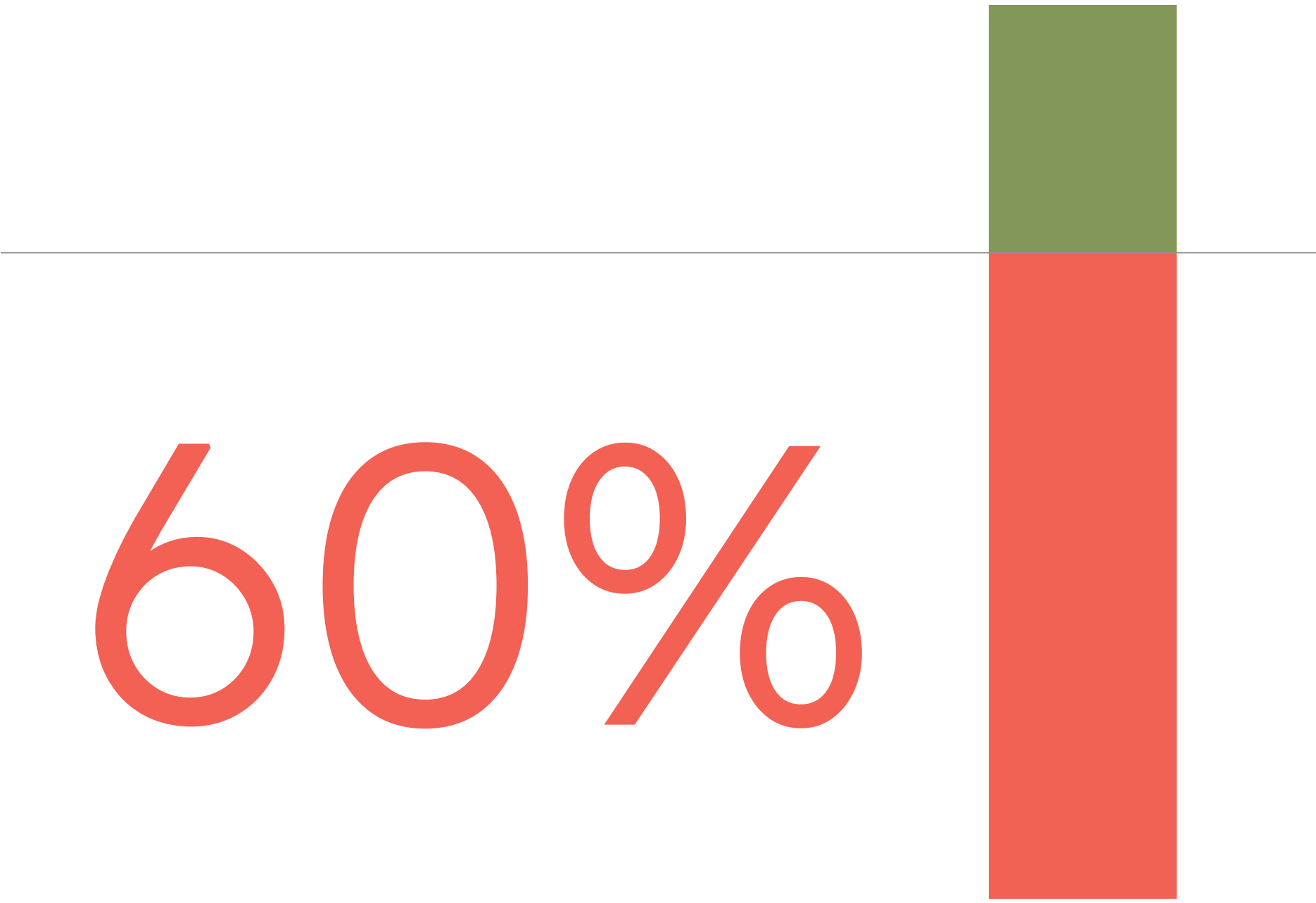
Over the past decade,

Los Angeles, Calif.



The 2024 NAEP results land: **Mississippi** fourth graders (219) [outscore the national average for the first time](#). Wisconsin (215) is now statistically indistinguishable from the nation (214).

The New York Times publishes a [district-by-district test-score lookup](#), and reports that a Black fourth grader in **Mississippi is now two and a half times** as likely to be proficient in reading as one in California.



60%

“We should not be sitting in a place where we can say sixty percent of our students are not proficient at their grade level in reading.”

— Madison School District Administration 29 July 2026 Downtown Rotary Club Speech

Lobbying Against 2021 AB 446; eventually became Act 20 in 2023

Assembly Bill 446

Relating To: Relating to: reading readiness assessments and granting rule-making authority. (FE)

[Bill Text and History](#)

Add to a FOCUS Subscription

Lobbying Principals

[Print](#)

Principal Name	Notified Date	Communication Date	Comments	Supporting Documentation
 Association of Wisconsin School Administrators	9/14/2021	N/A		
 Curriculum Associates	11/5/2021	N/A		
 Decoding Dyslexia-WI	7/13/2021	N/A		
 Excellence in Education National, Inc., d/b/a Excellence in Education in Action	7/13/2021	N/A		
 Institute for Reforming Government	9/9/2021	N/A		
 League of Women Voters of Wisconsin	8/26/2021	N/A		
 Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin	7/28/2021	N/A		

Booked, but can't read (Madison): functional literacy, National citizenship and the new face of Dred Scott in the age of mass incarceration

In Madison's MMSD, for over a decade (2005–2016 data), fewer than 15% of Black fourth graders were proficient or advanced in literacy compared to over 50% of White fourth graders (with 2017–18 figures at 8.4% Black vs. 66.1% White).

Black boys in Madison who are not reading proficiently by fourth grade have a greater lifetime likelihood of incarceration than of becoming functionally literate in school.

If current trends continue, at least 85% of Black fourth graders in Madison are four times more likely than peers to drop out, and roughly two-thirds will end up in prison or on welfare.

“Prison planners use third-grade reading scores to predict the number of future beds needed.”

2020



“Well, it’s kind of too bad that we’ve got the smartest people at our universities, and yet we have to **create a law** to tell them how to teach.”

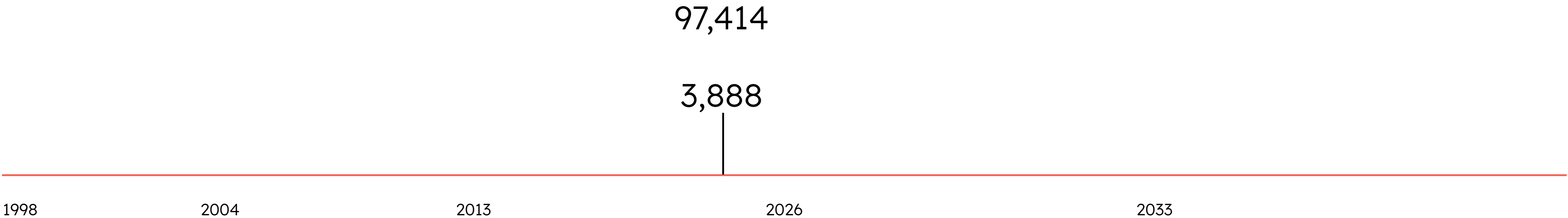
— Senator Duey Stroebe

2023



(Kaylee) Jackson believes Wisconsin will see impacts of Act 20 (July 2023) on test scores within **six to eight years** based on what she has observed in other states.

- June 24, 2026 Capital Times





Nothing // status quo

More of more of the same

New, new thing

Our goals

Effective

Fast

Easy to Use

For **anyone**, no training required







pail



pale



Team Reading

Practice with **he**, **she**, **the**, and **this**. The child should read as many of the words as possible. The adult should read the "extra" words that are not in bold if needed. Repeat the activity reading more of the extra words.

The **ship**, that **hat**.

She is, **he** has.

The **lass**, a **pass**.

His lip, this **lap**.

This **ship** is **tall**.

This is as **tall** as MJ.

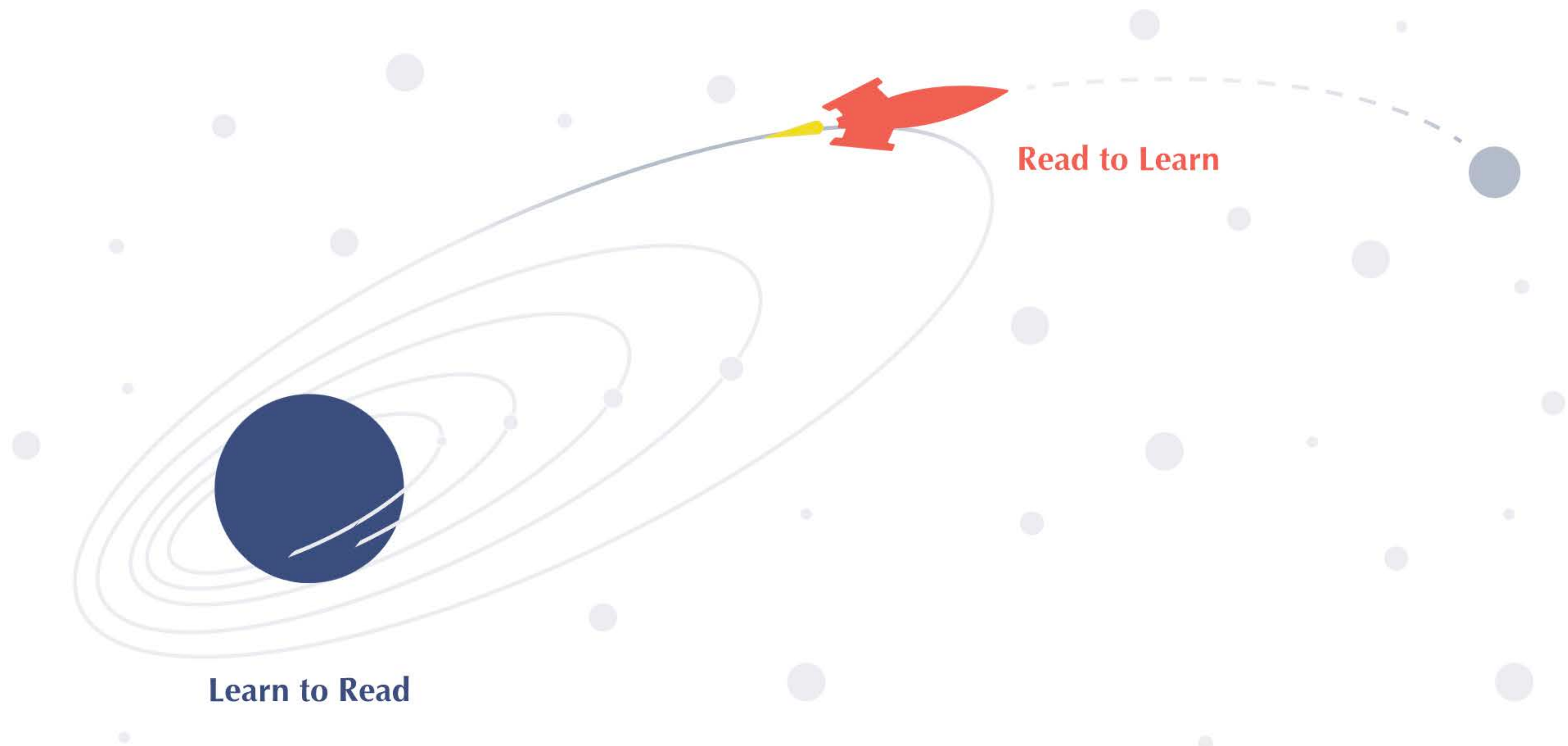
She has a **tin pan** and a **tall hat**.

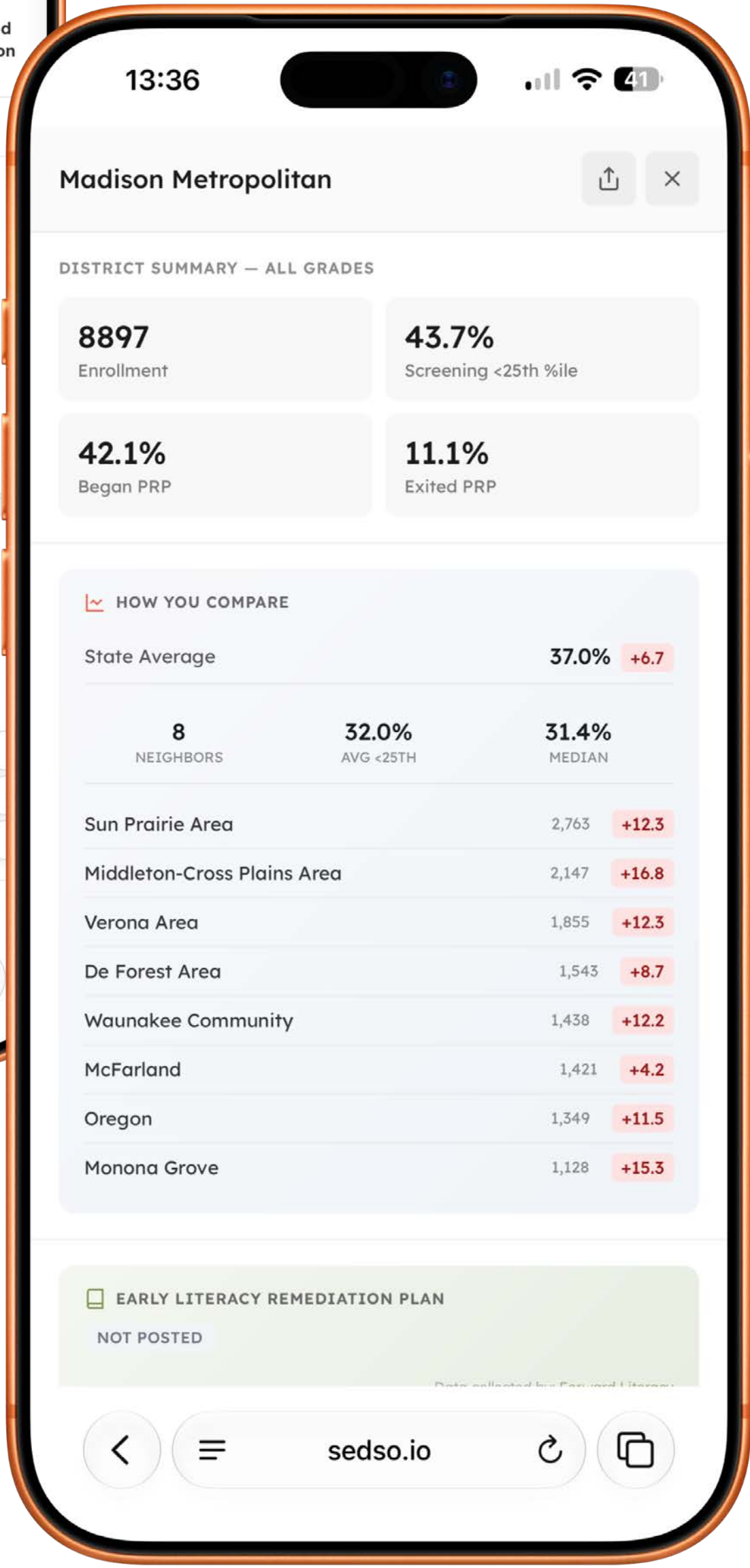
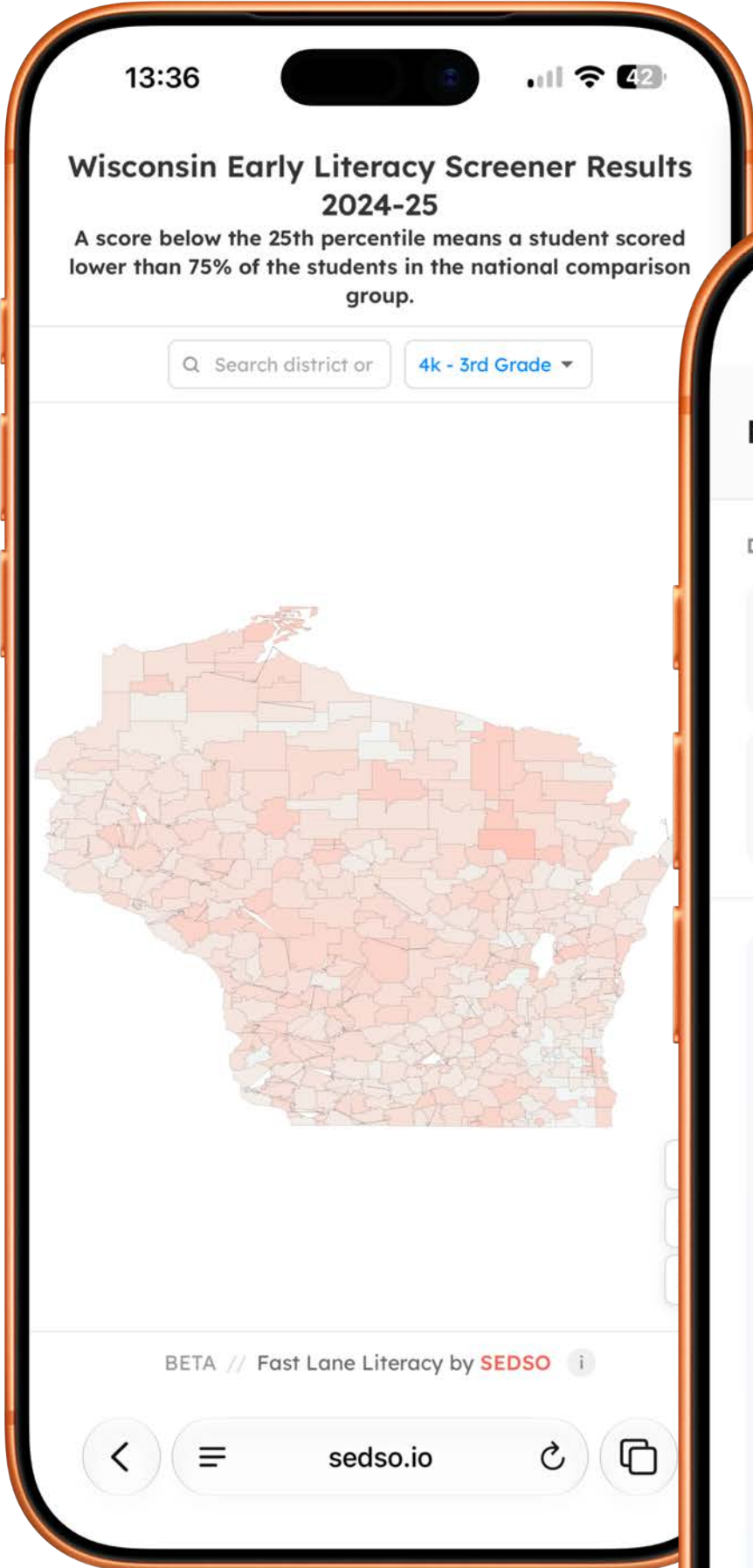
She had a **sip** of **this** and a **sip** of **that**.

That is all. That is it.

The logo is a white rectangular box with rounded corners. The top half of the box is filled with a pattern of diagonal, wavy stripes in blue, yellow, and red. The bottom half of the box is a solid orange color. The text "Fast Lane Literacy" is written in a white, sans-serif font across the orange section.

Fast Lane Literacy





97,414

WI 4k - 3rd Graders

3,888

Madison 4k - 3rd Graders

scored lower than 75% of the students
in the national comparison group.

www.sedso.io/maps/wi/



us@sedso.io

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“There are a few things you should know.”



Thank you