

SPECIAL BRIEFING

New NWEA study shows progress toward academic recovery stalled in 2022-23

nwea



Today's webinar

- + 30 minutes + Q&A
- + Listen-only mode
- + Submit questions via the chat box
- + Recorded and shareable
- + Short survey



Today's Speakers



Nate Jensen, PhD
Vice President
*District Psychometrics and Research
Services*



Karyn Lewis, PhD
Director
*Center for School and Student
Progress*

Education's long COVID:

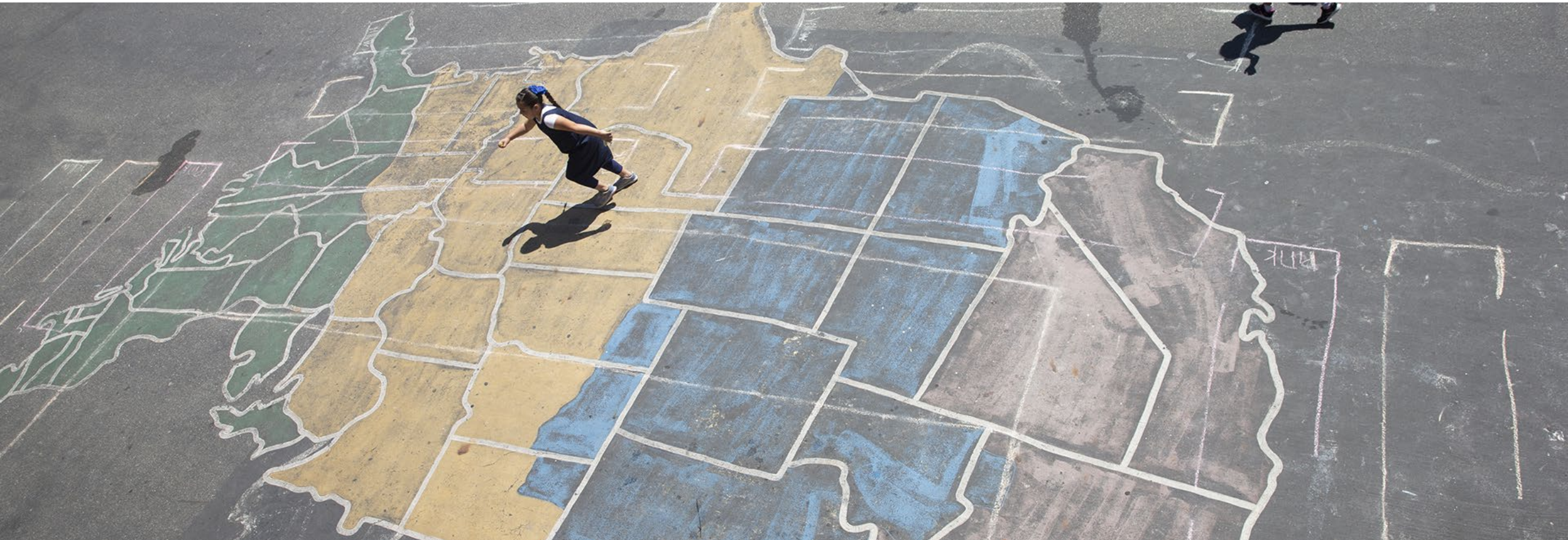
2022-23 achievement data reveal stalled progress towards pandemic recovery

Karyn Lewis, Ph.D.

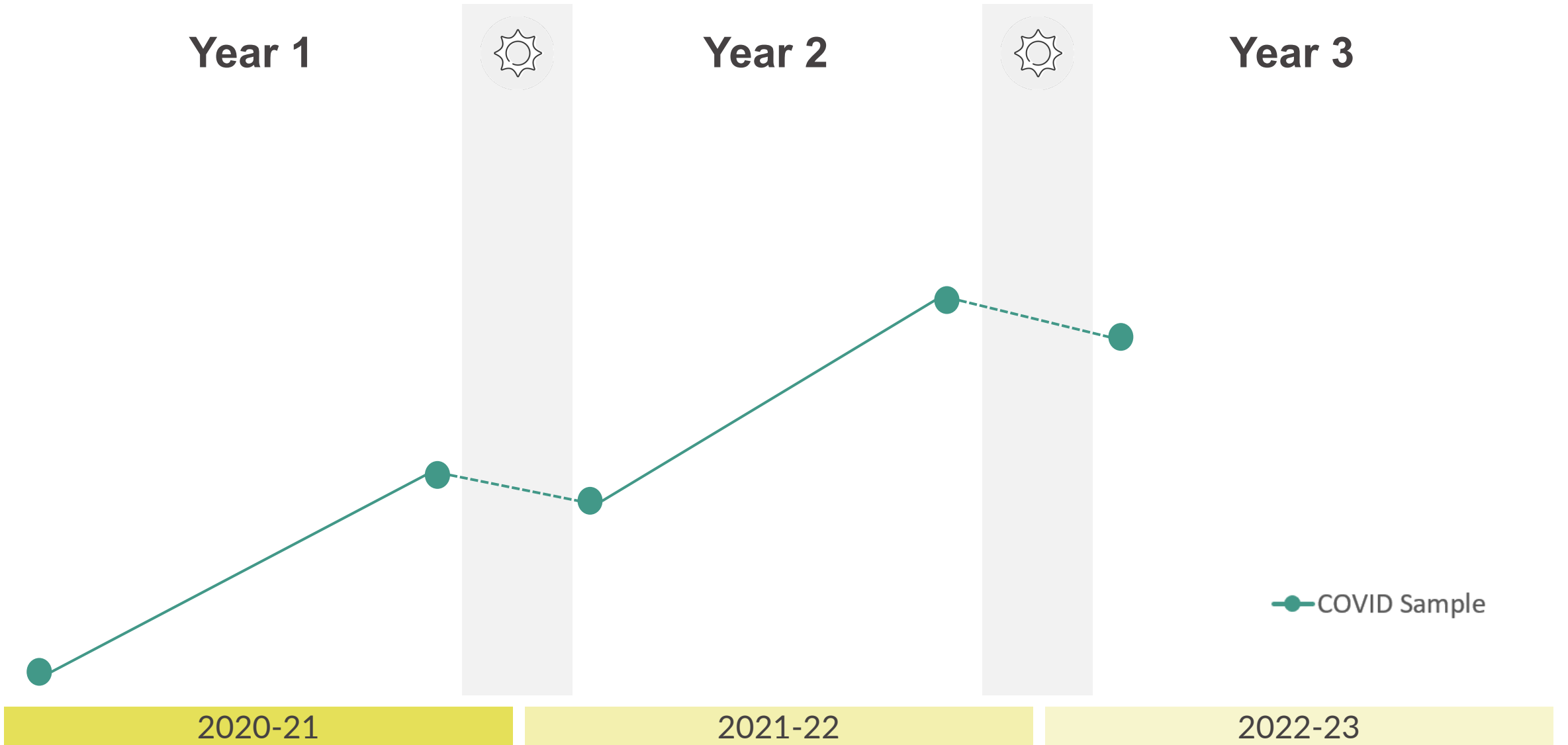
Megan Kuhfeld, Ph.D.

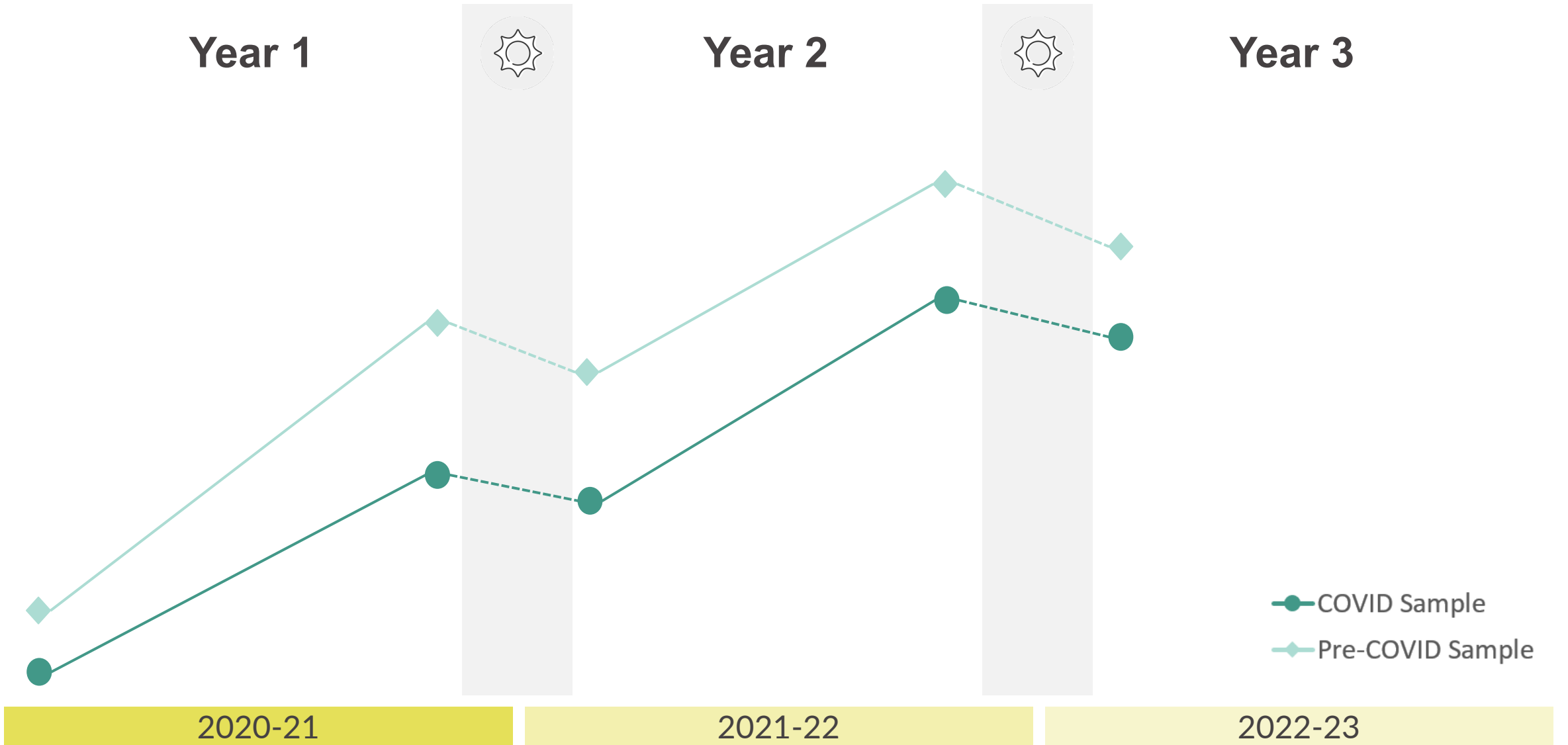
Director, Center for School and Student Progress

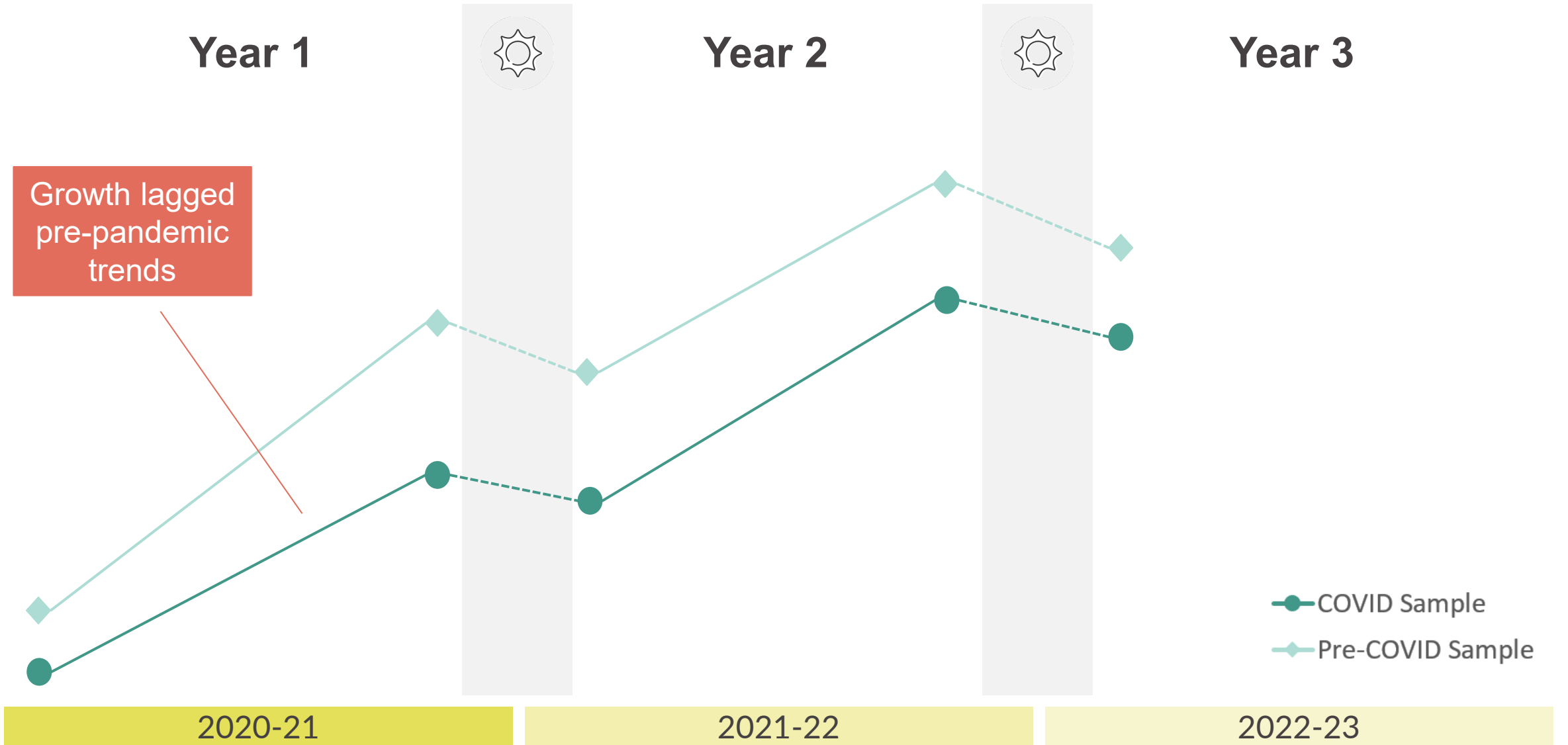
Research Manager, Collaborative for Student Growth



What have we learned so far about the impacts of the pandemic and progress towards recovery?







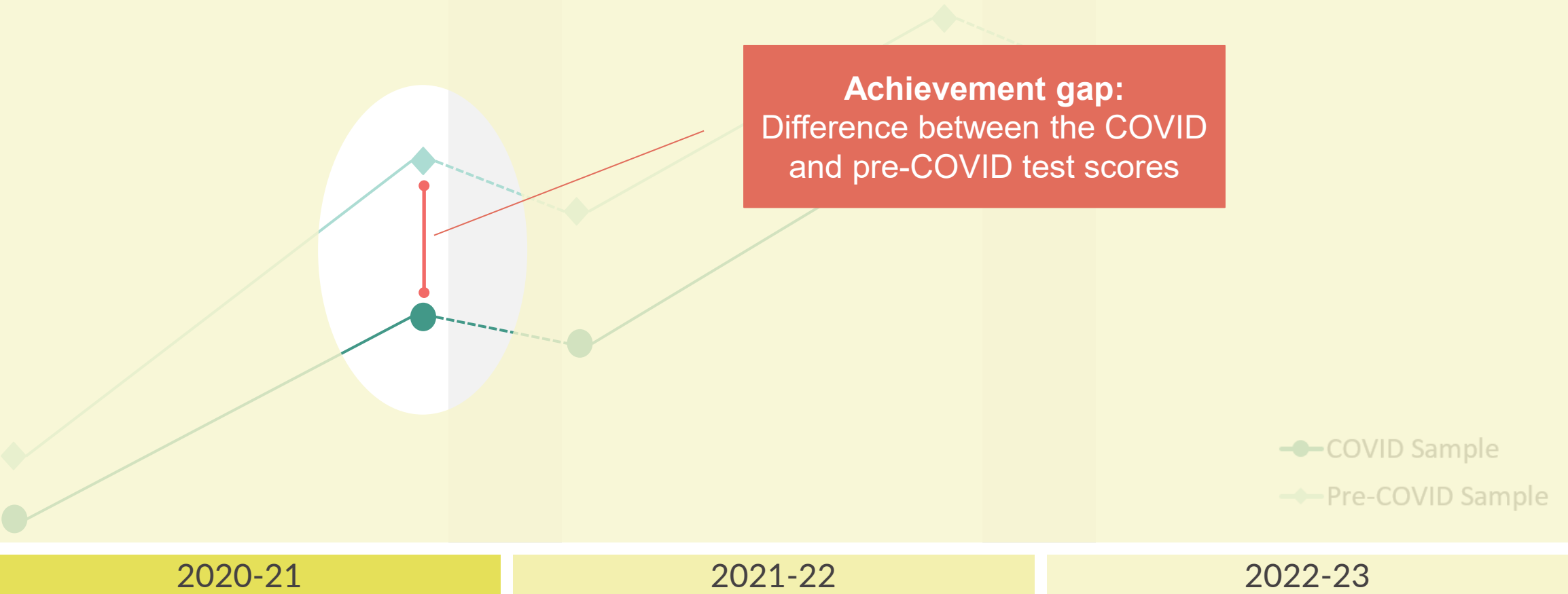
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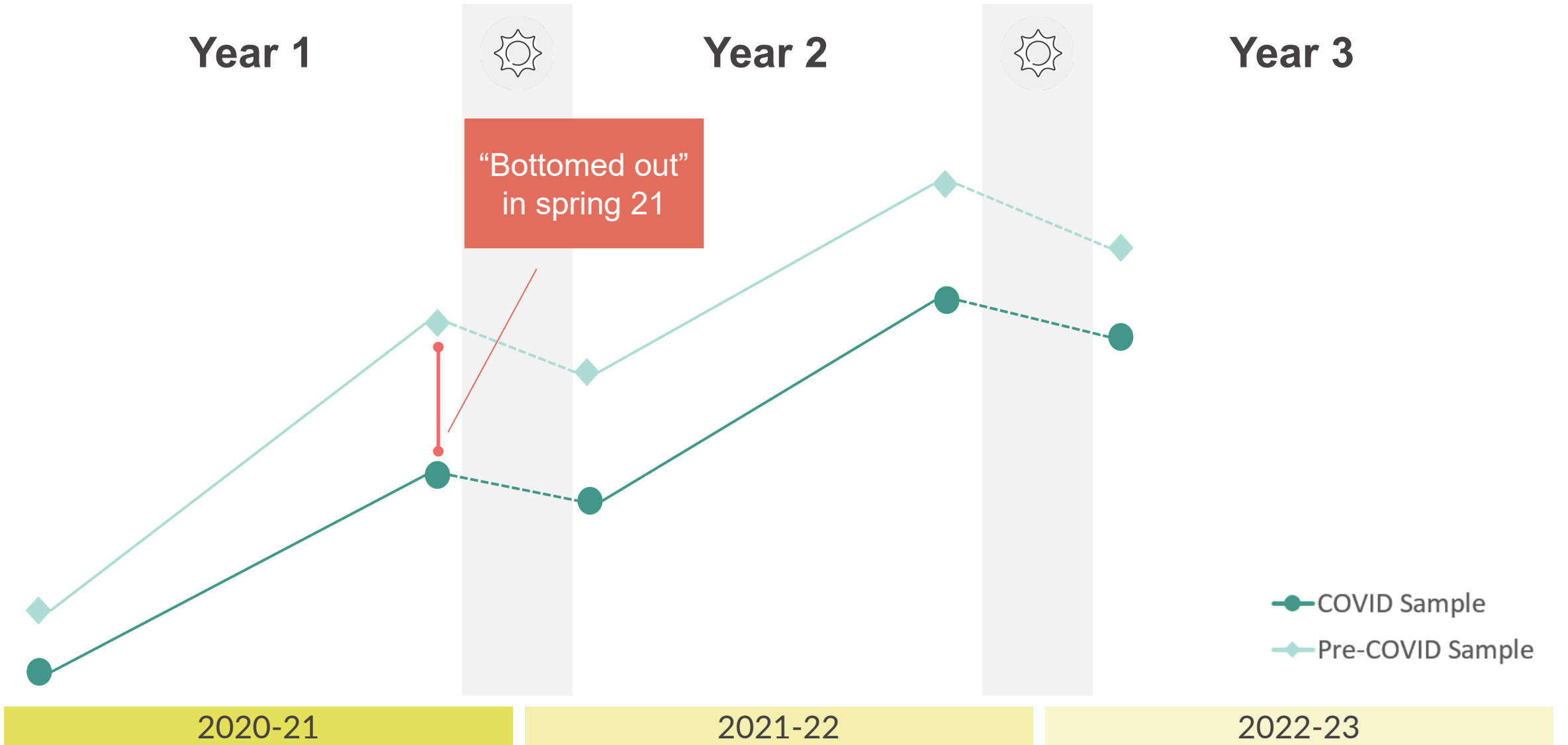


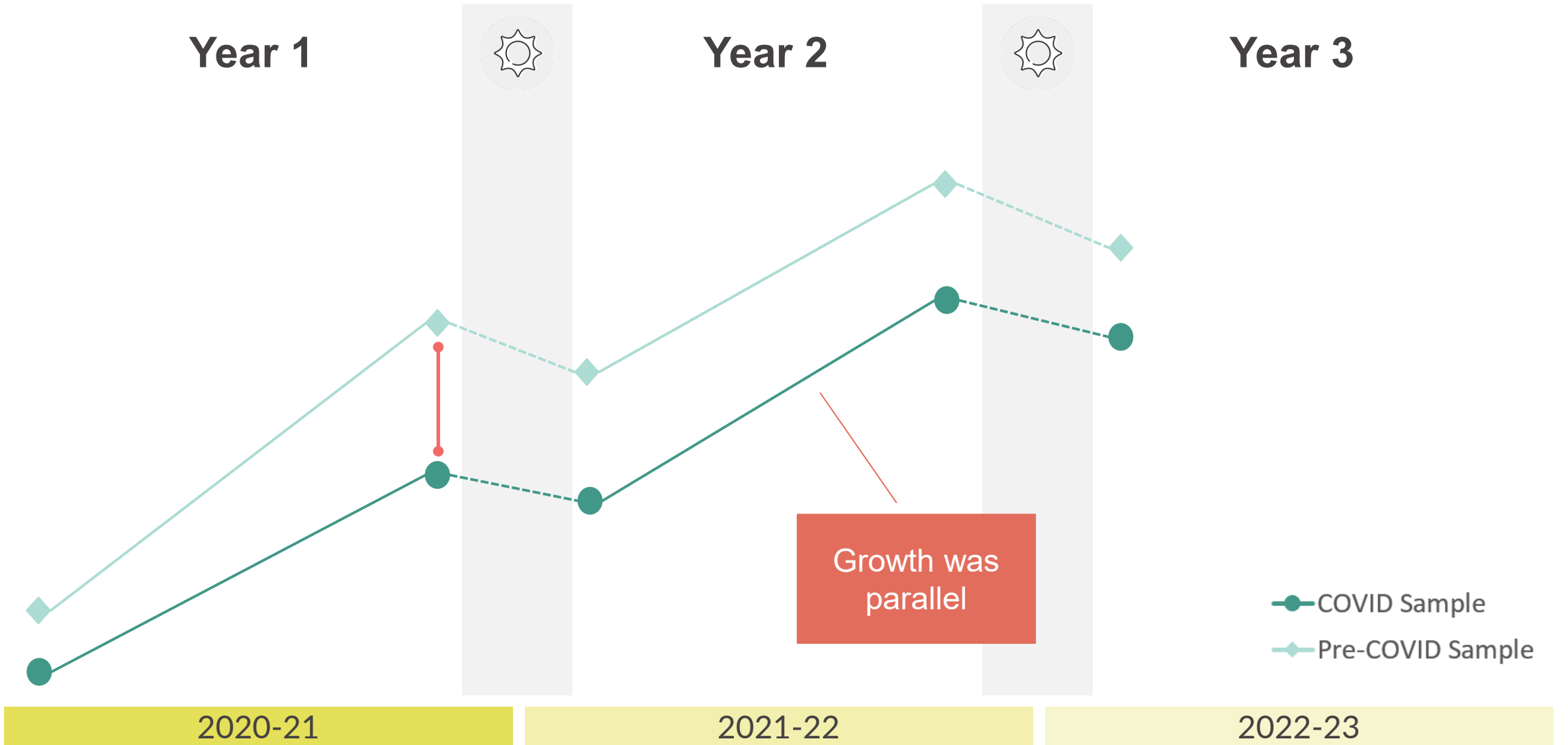
Year 2

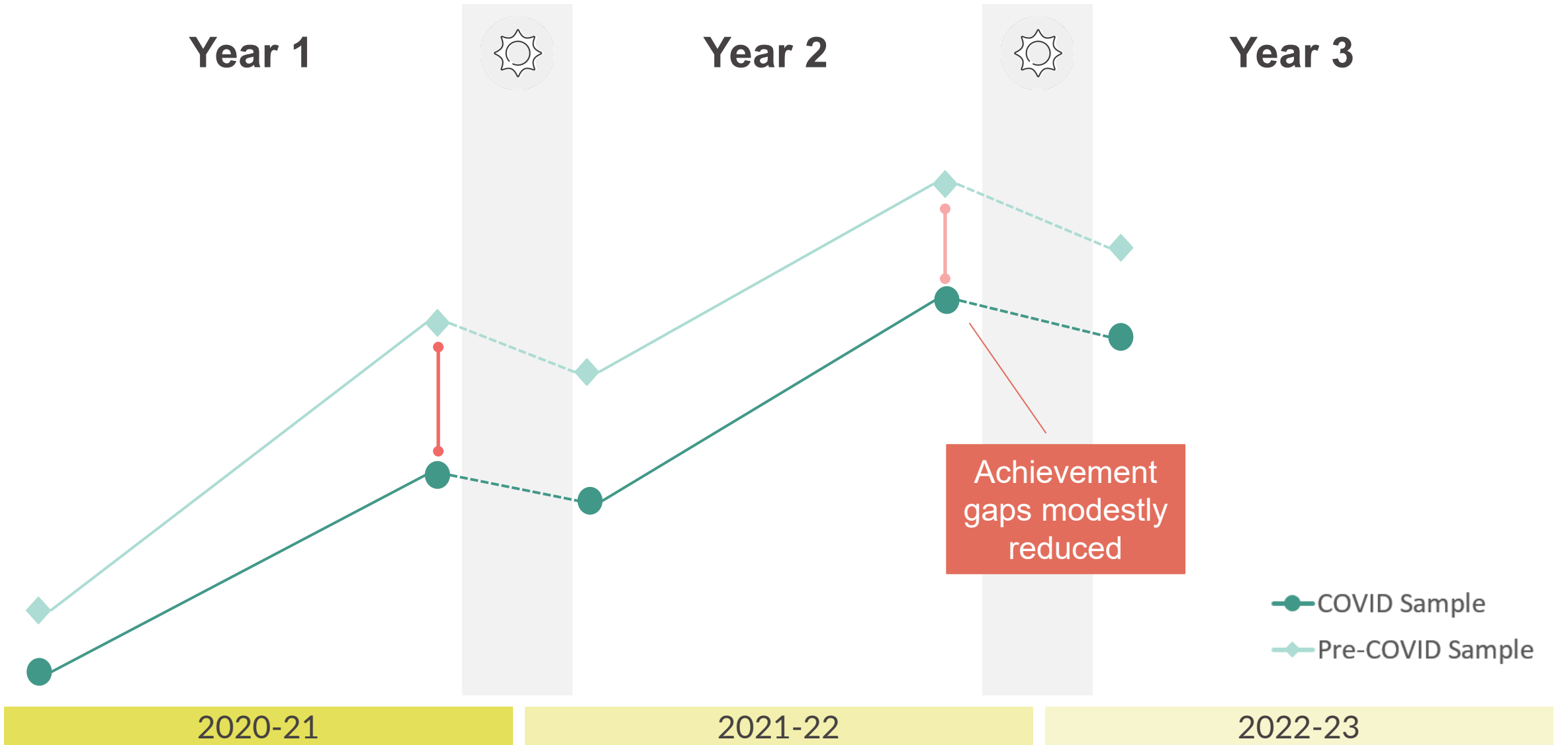


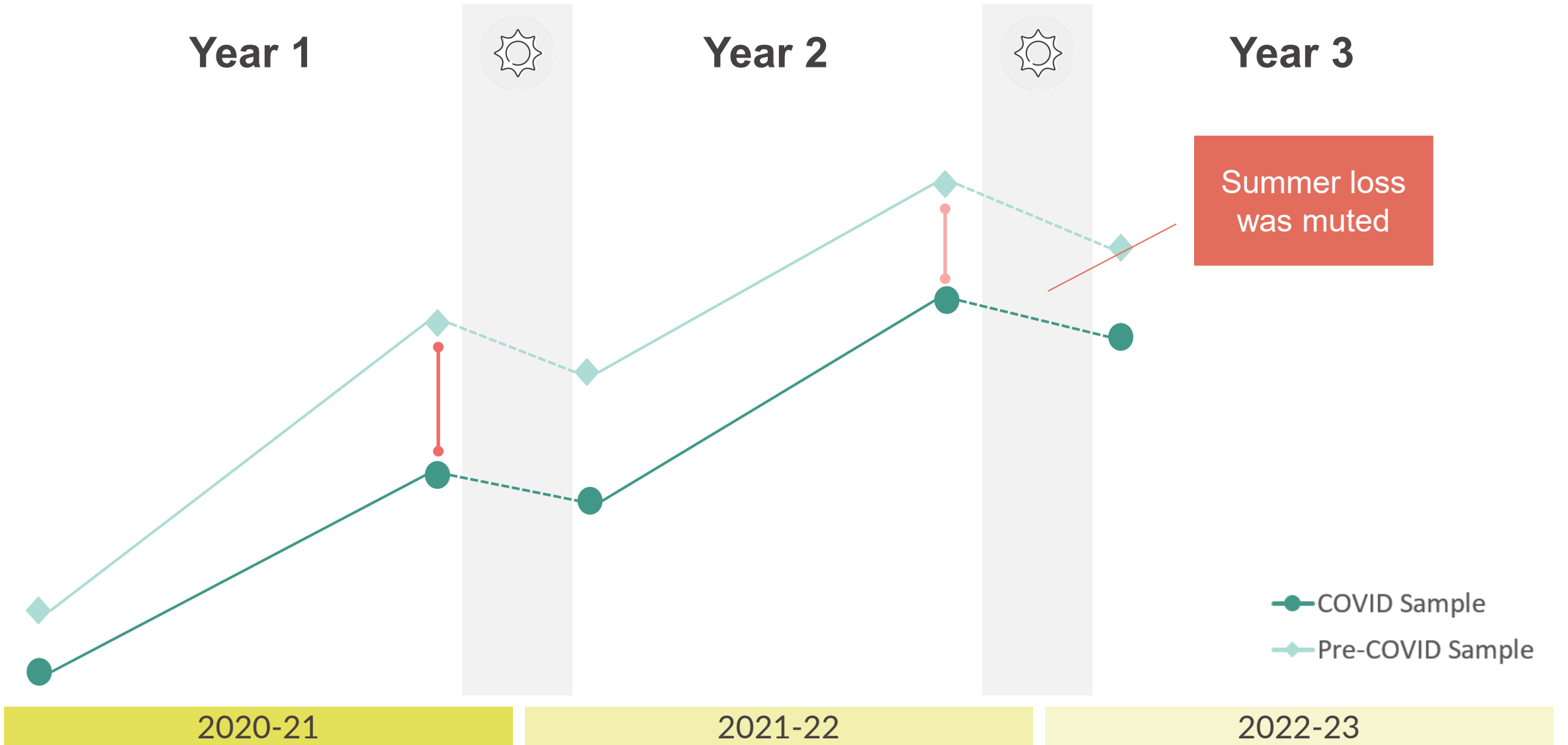
Year 3

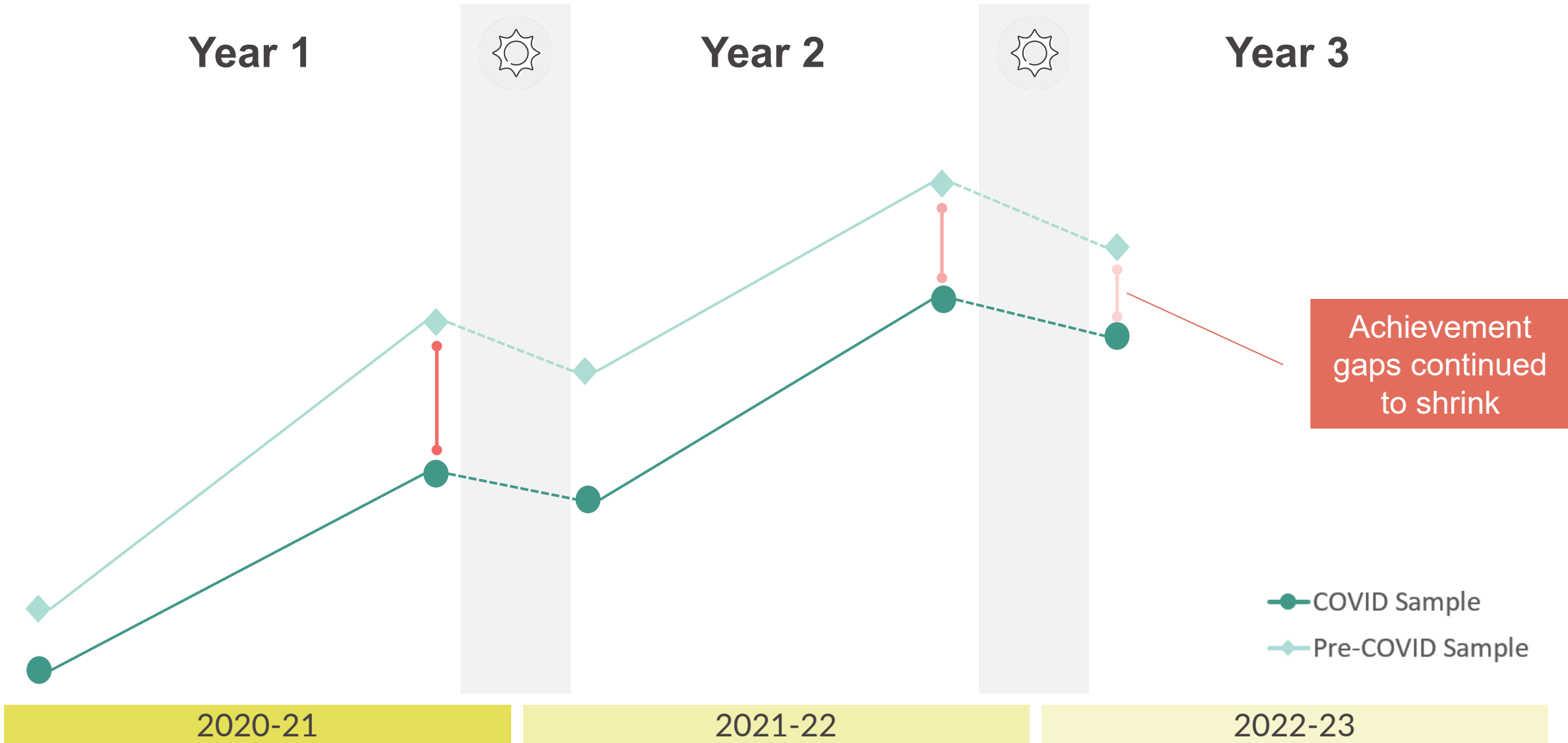


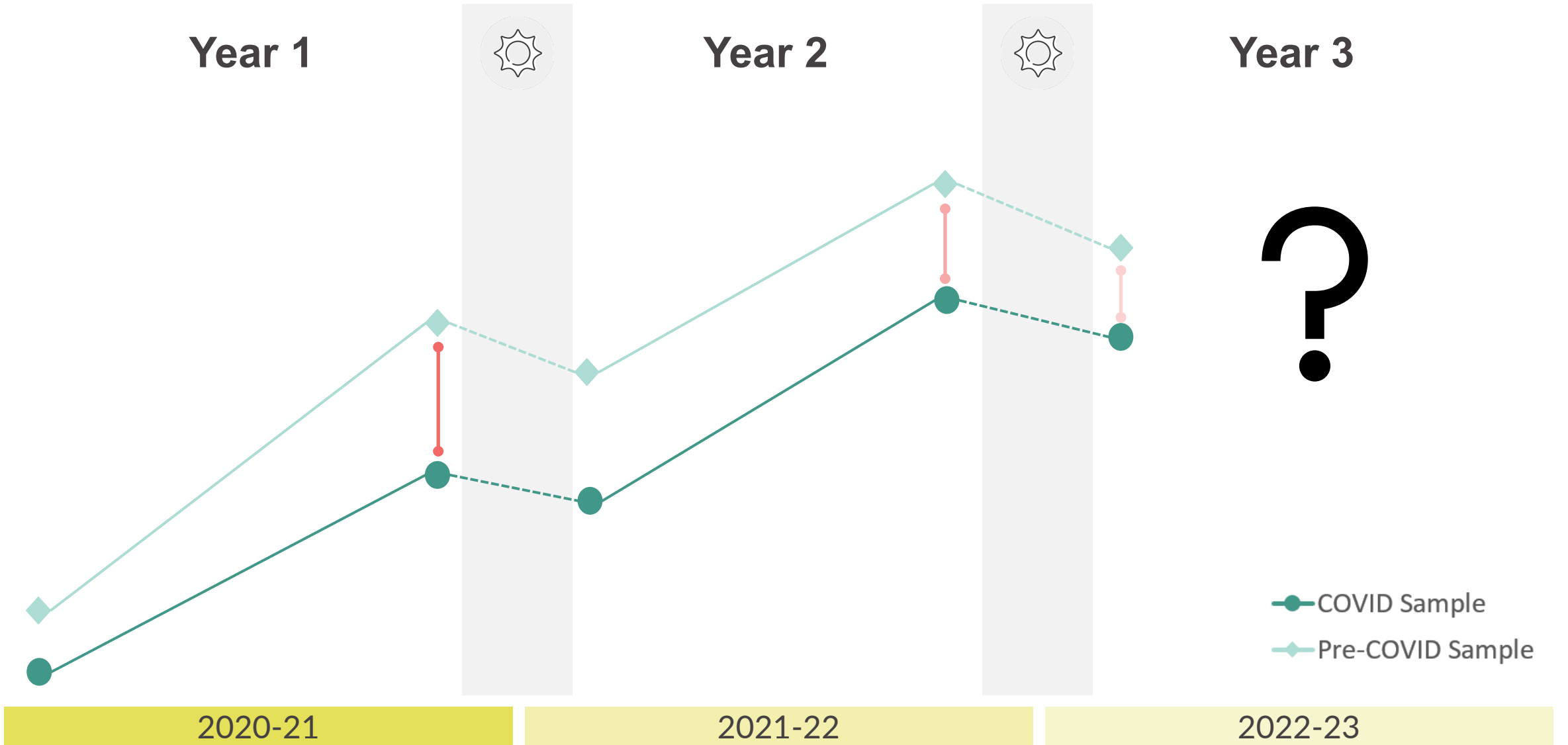










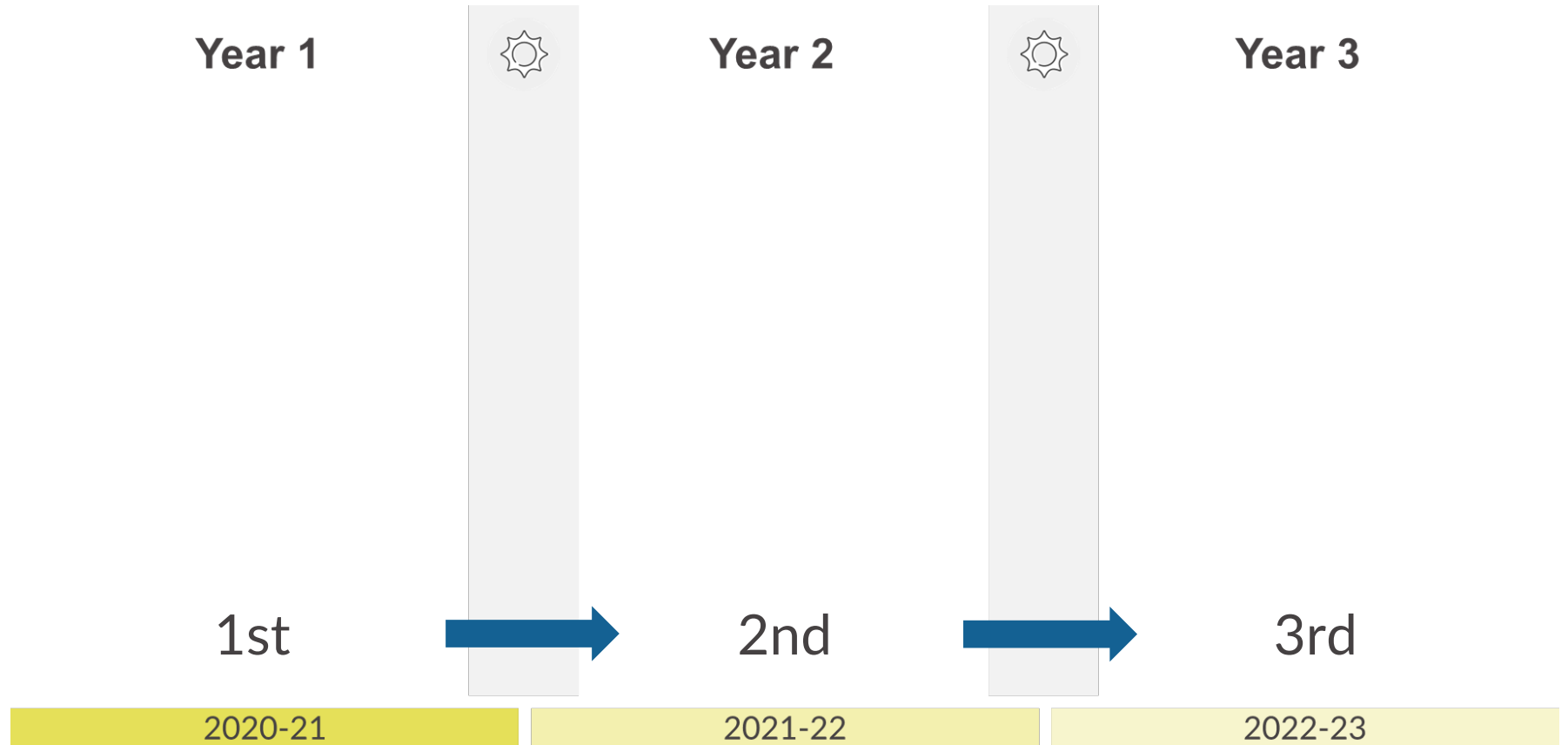


Main Research Questions

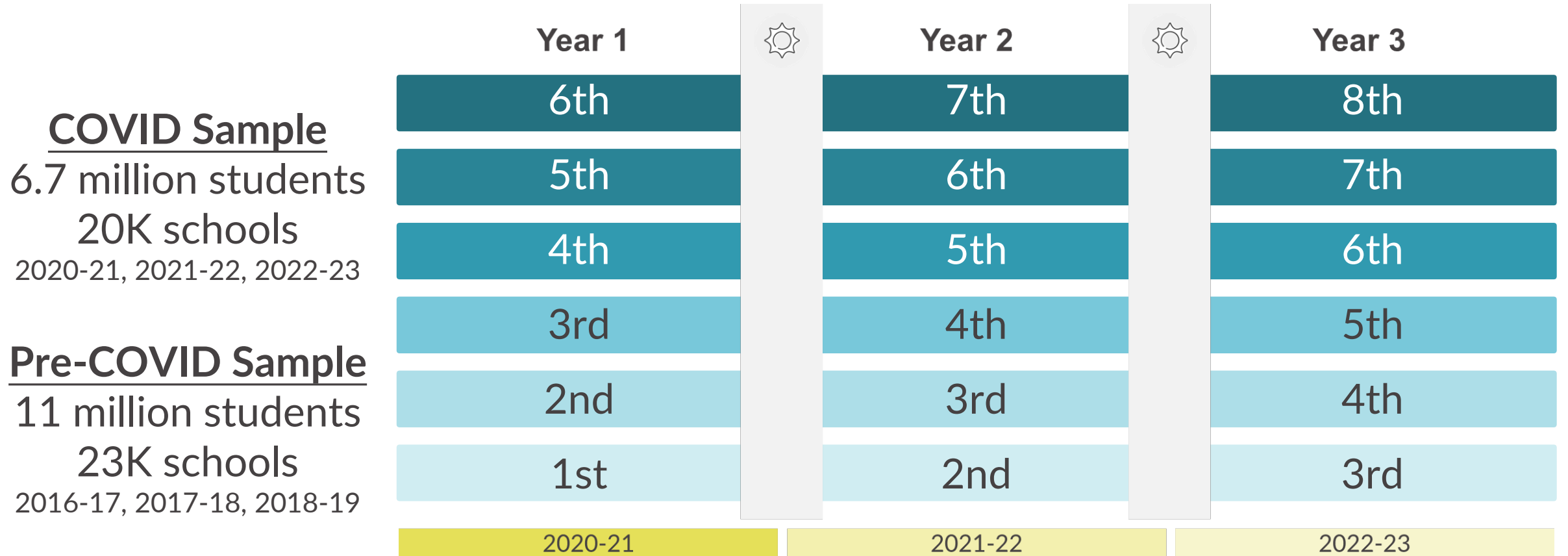
1. How did growth during 2022-23 compare to pre-pandemic trends?
2. At the end of 2022-23, how far are students from recovery?
3. Do growth trends in 2022-23 and distance to recovery differ across student groups?



About the sample

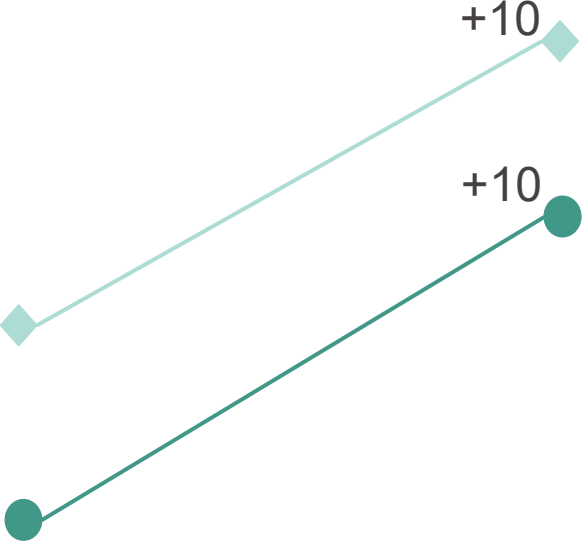


About the sample



**What was growth like during the
2022-23 school year?**

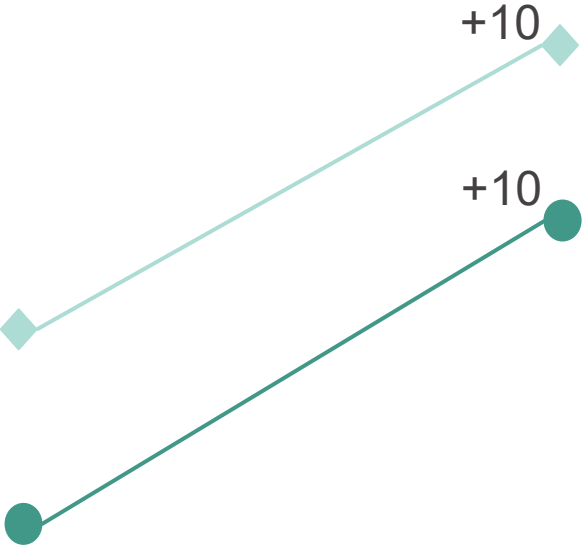
Average Gains



Gaps maintain

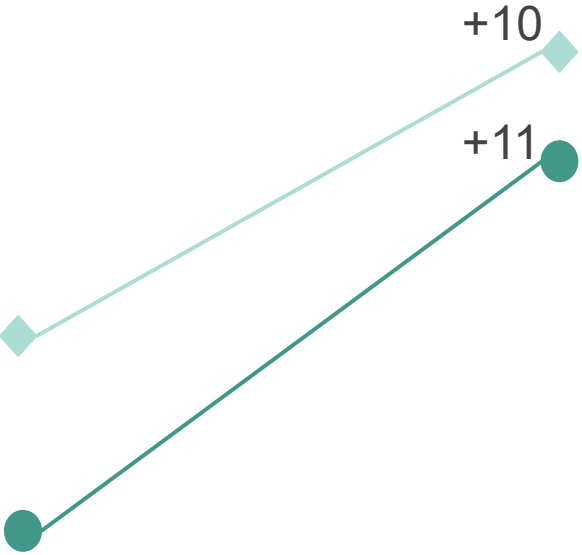
- COVID Sample
- ◆ Pre-COVID Sample

Average Gains



Gaps maintain

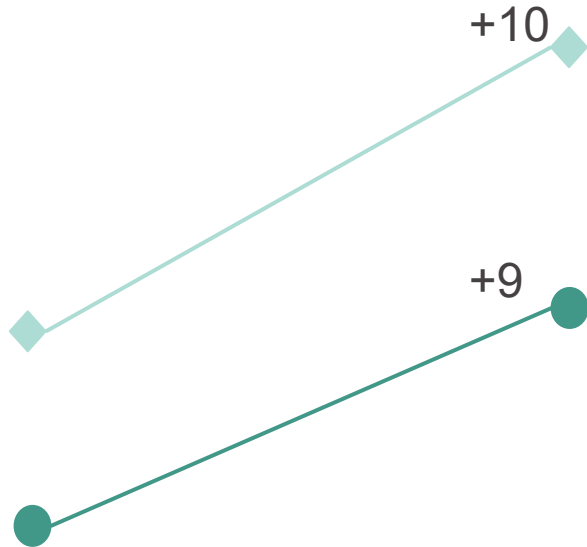
Above-Average Gains



Gaps shrink

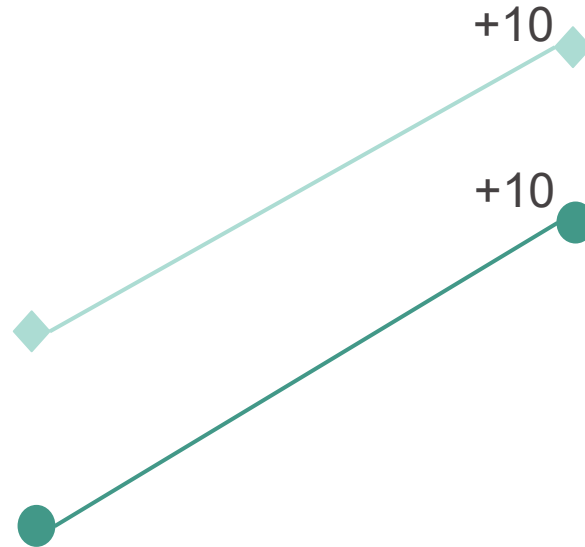
● COVID Sample
◆ Pre-COVID Sample

Below-Average Gains



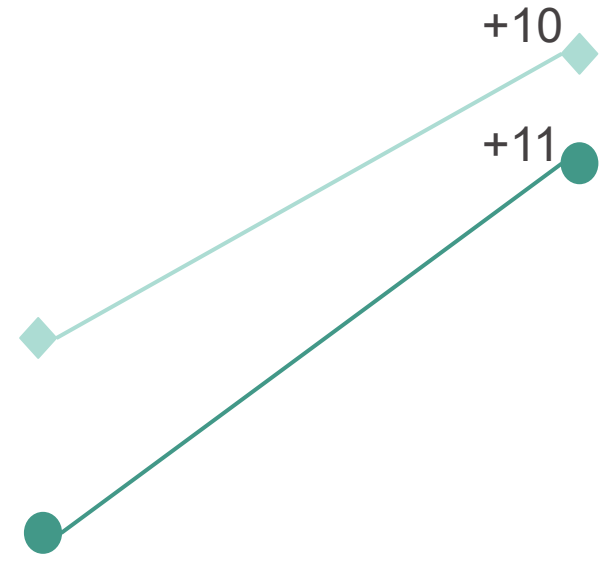
Gaps widen

Average Gains



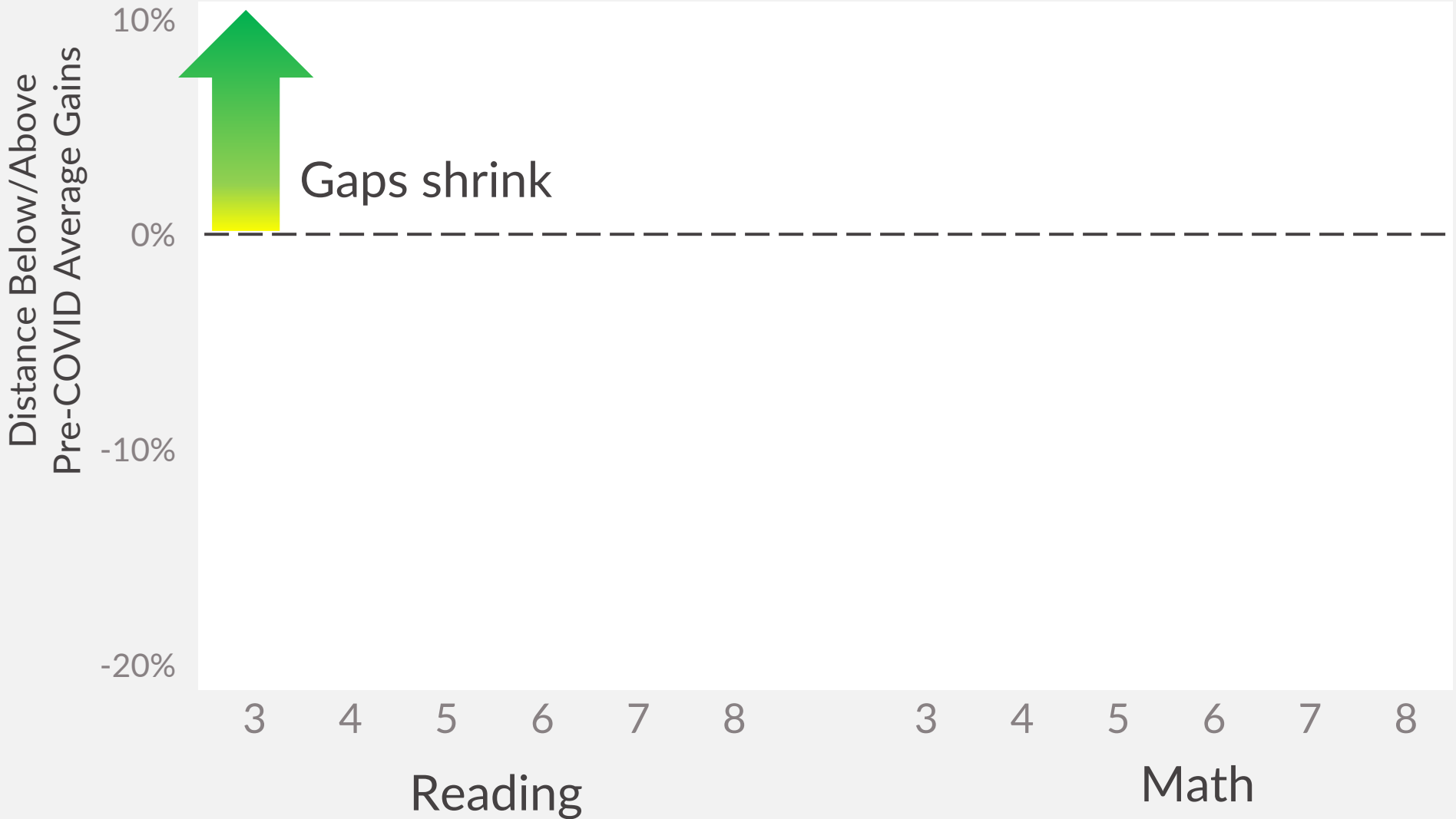
Gaps maintain

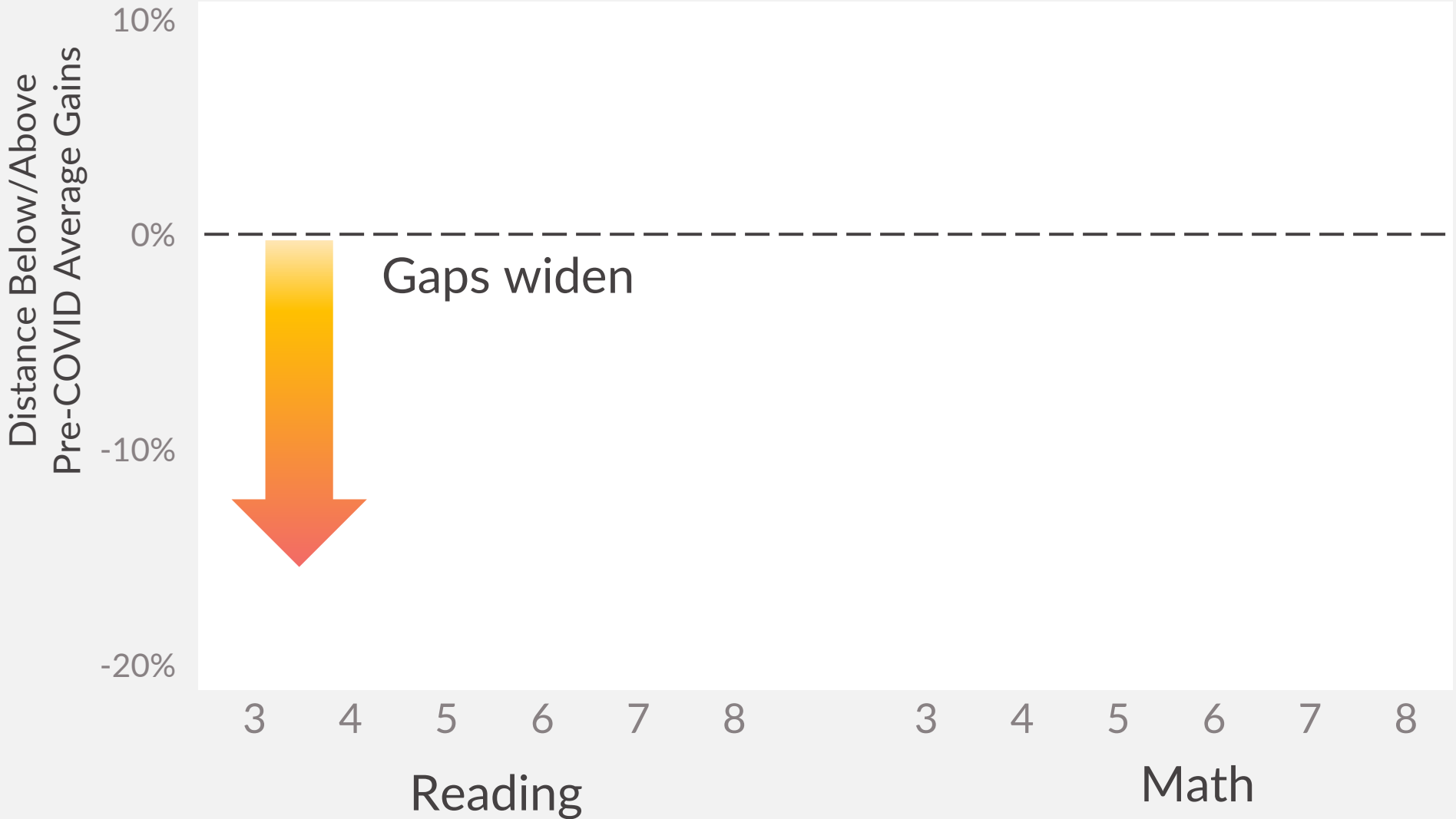
Above-Average Gains

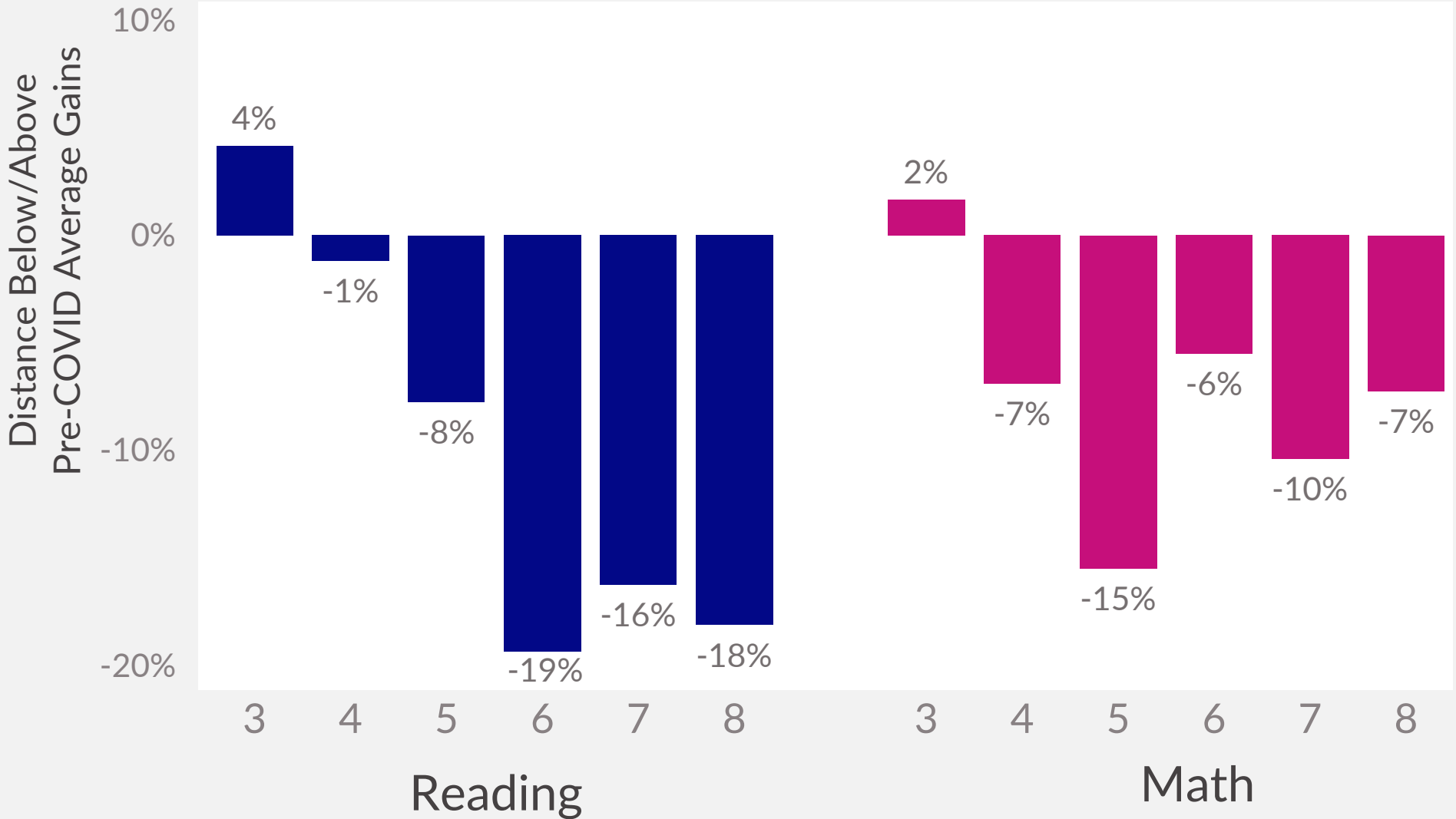


Gaps shrink

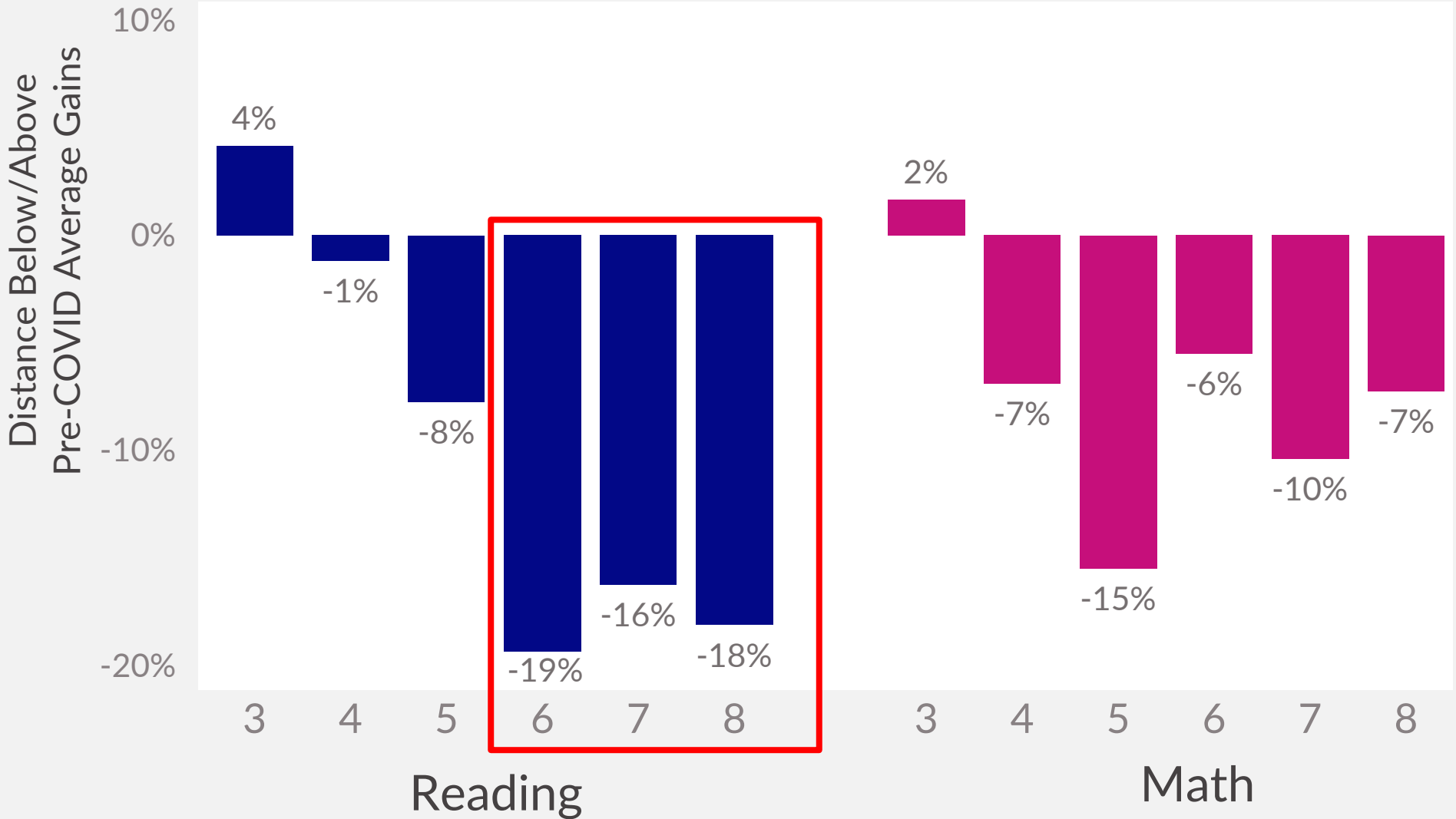
● COVID Sample
◆ Pre-COVID Sample







Achievement gains in 2022-23 fell short of pre-pandemic trends in most grades



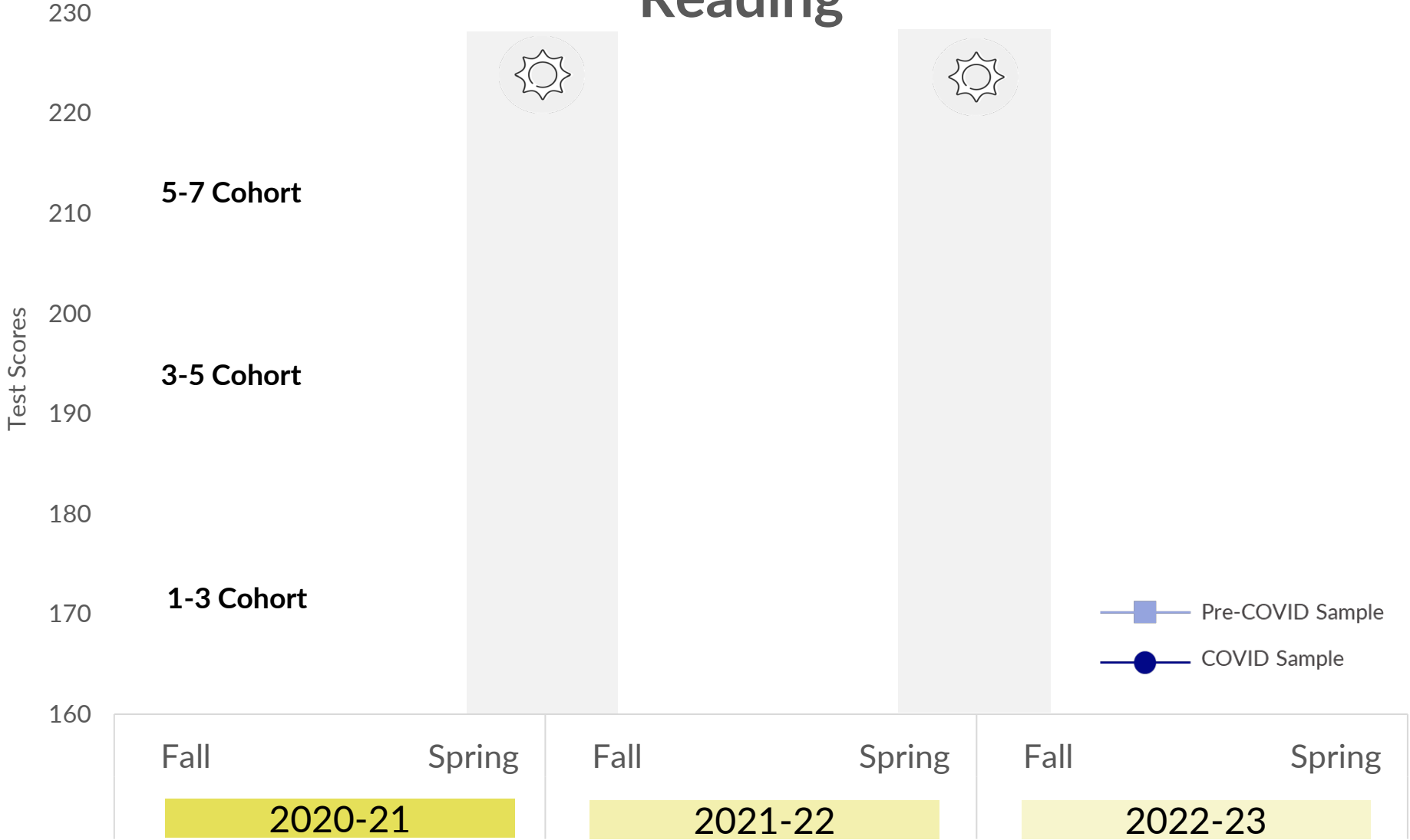
Reading gains for upper grades are furthest below pre-COVID averages



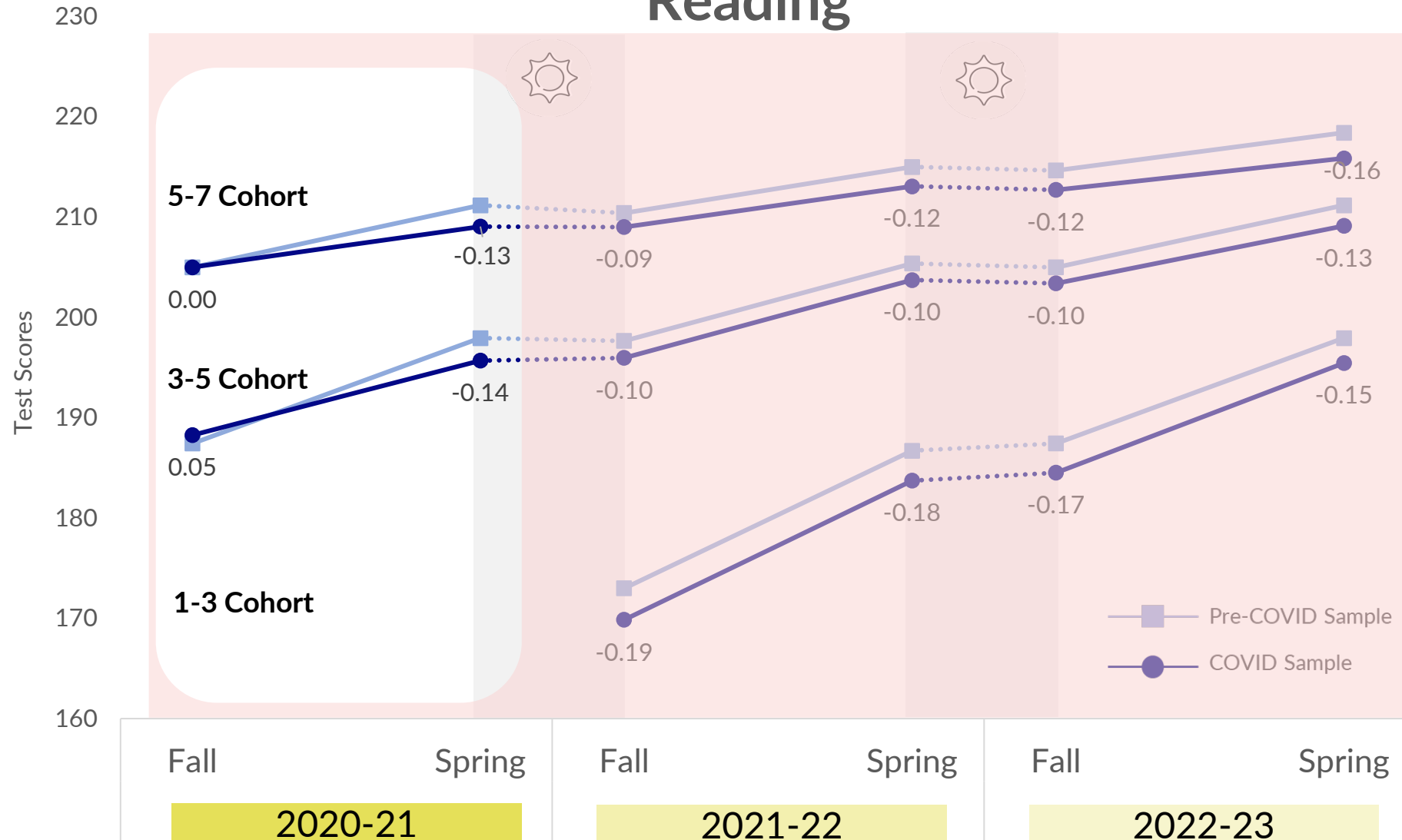
Youngest students buck this trend and made above average gains

How did achievement gaps change?

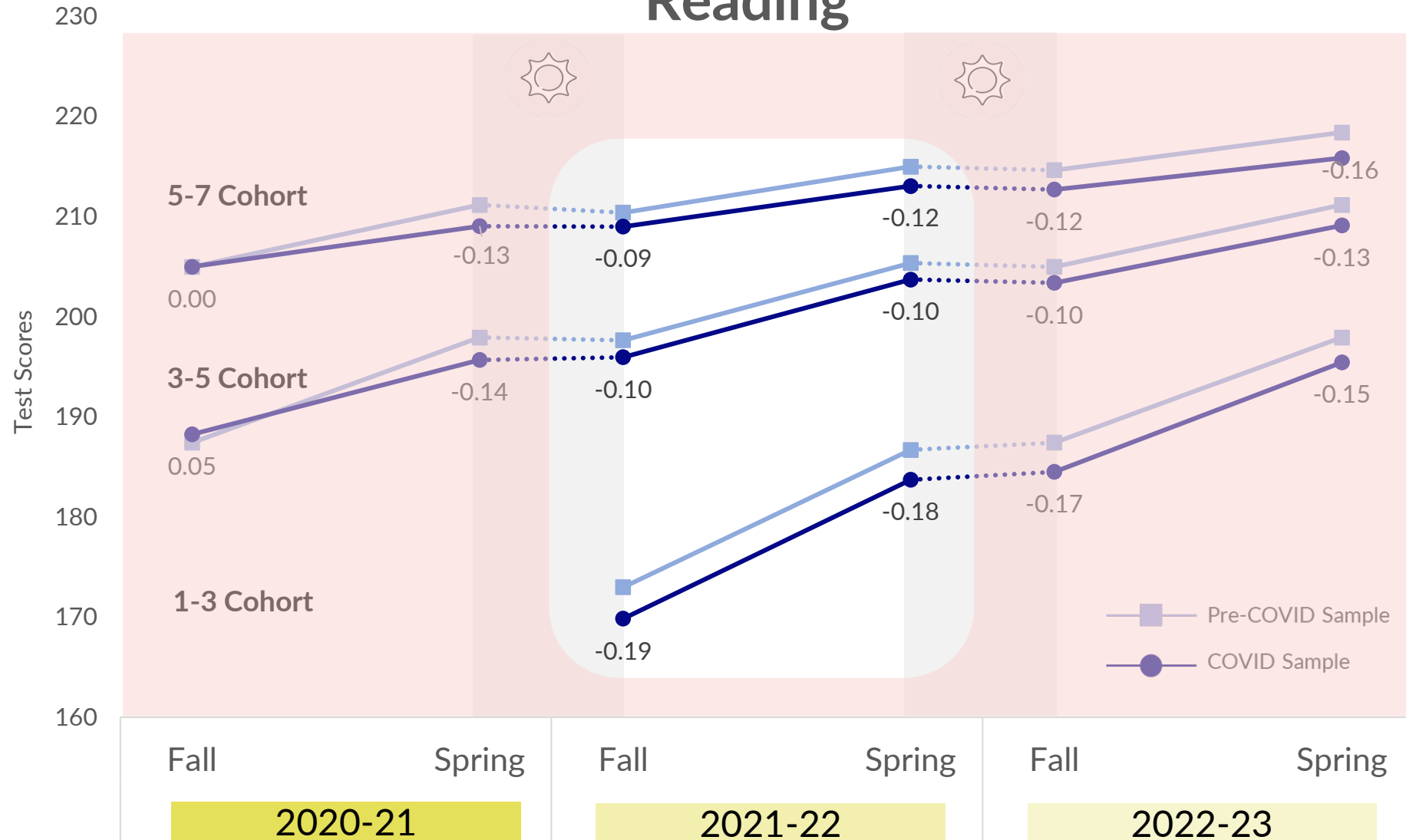
Reading



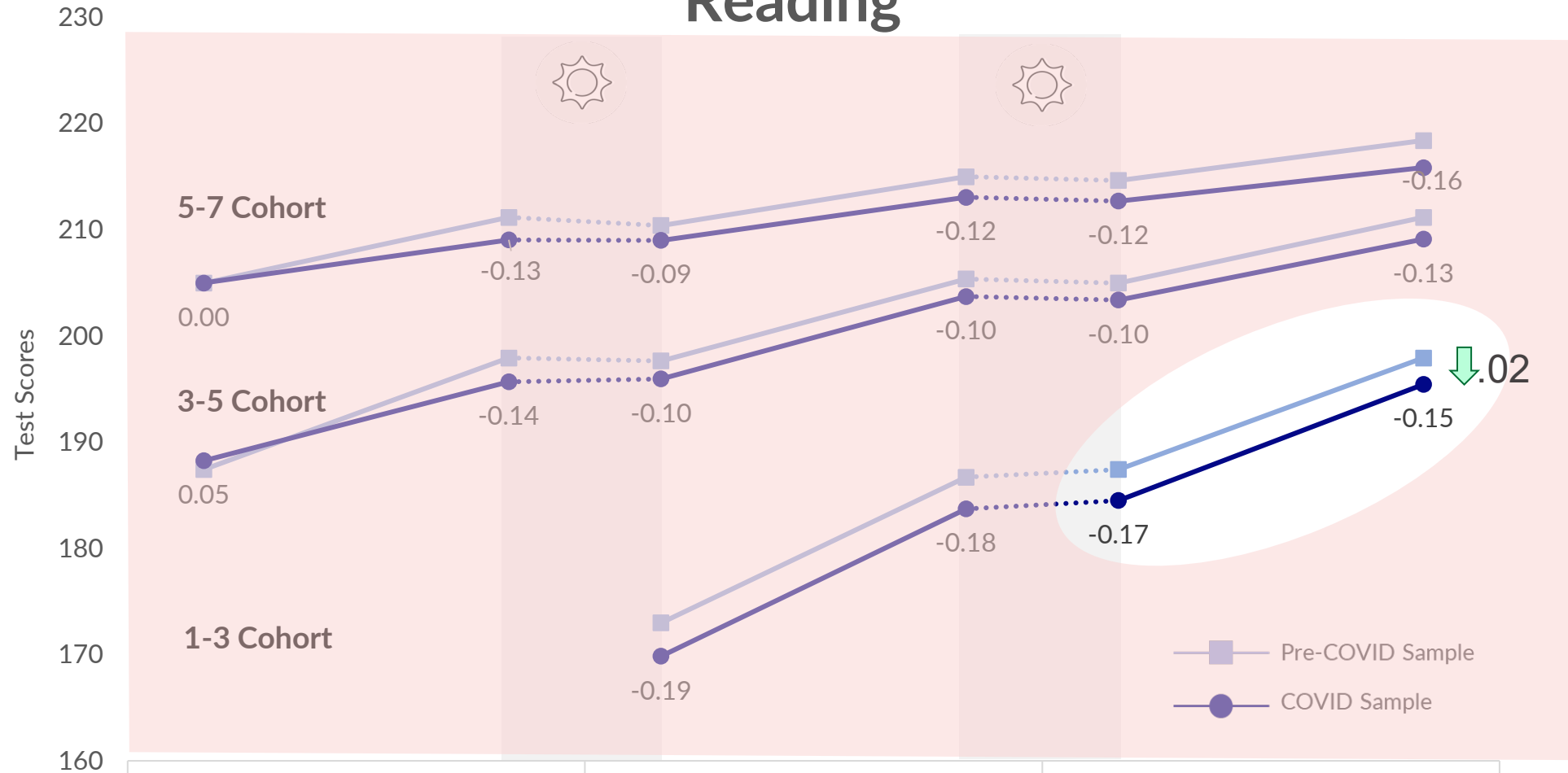
Reading



Reading

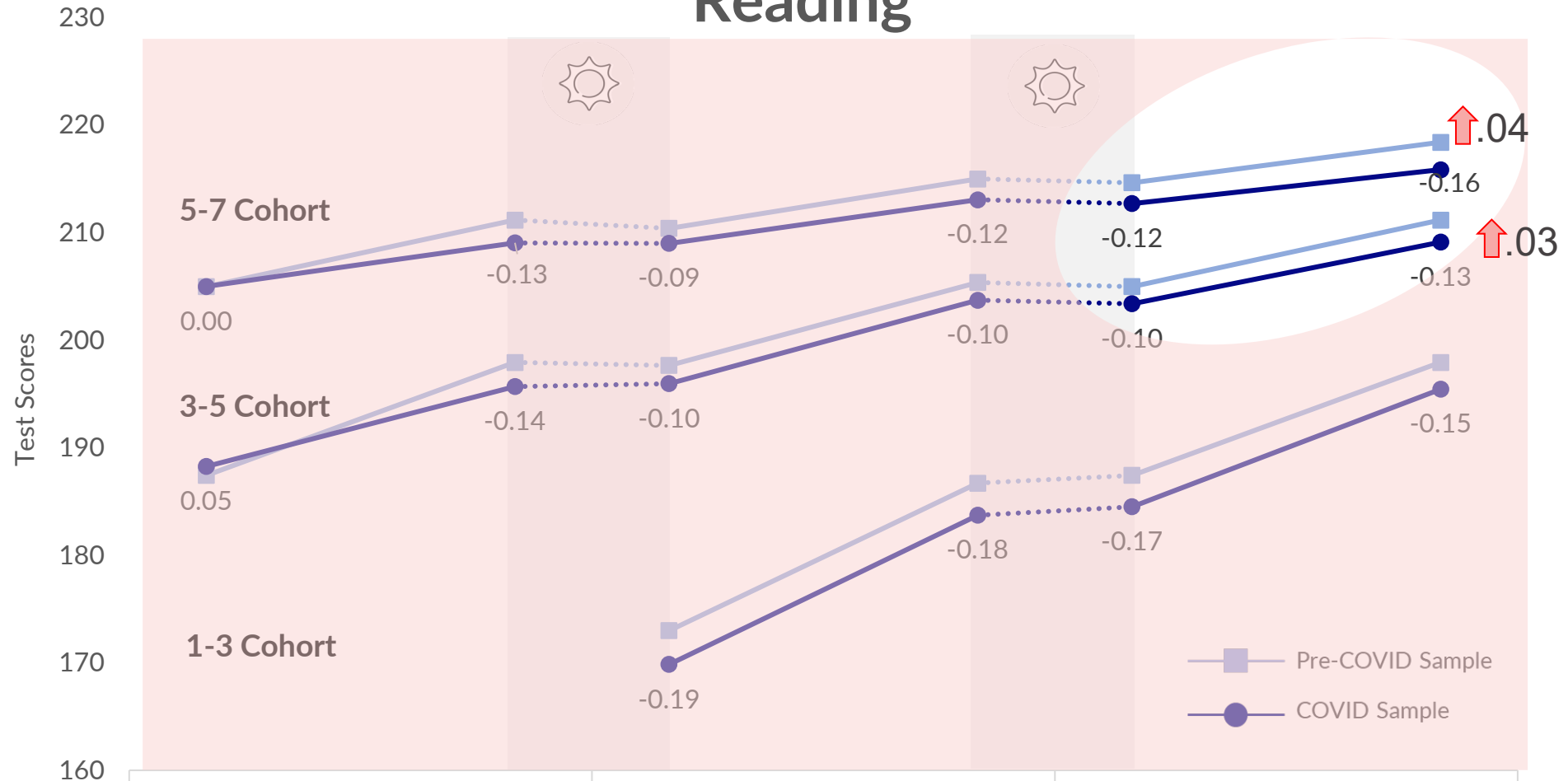


Reading



For the youngest cohort, gaps decreased by 13% in reading and 14% in math

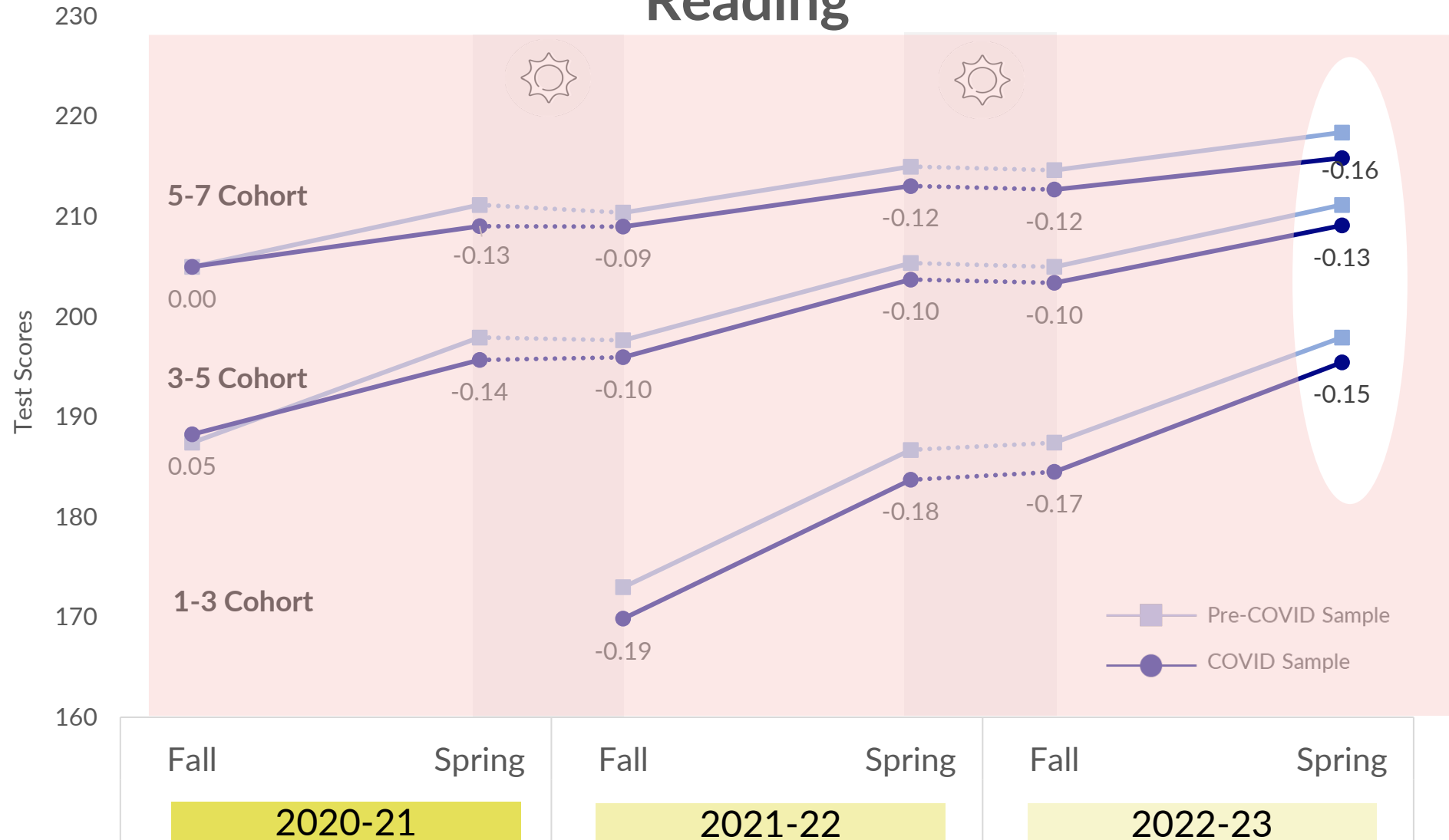
Reading

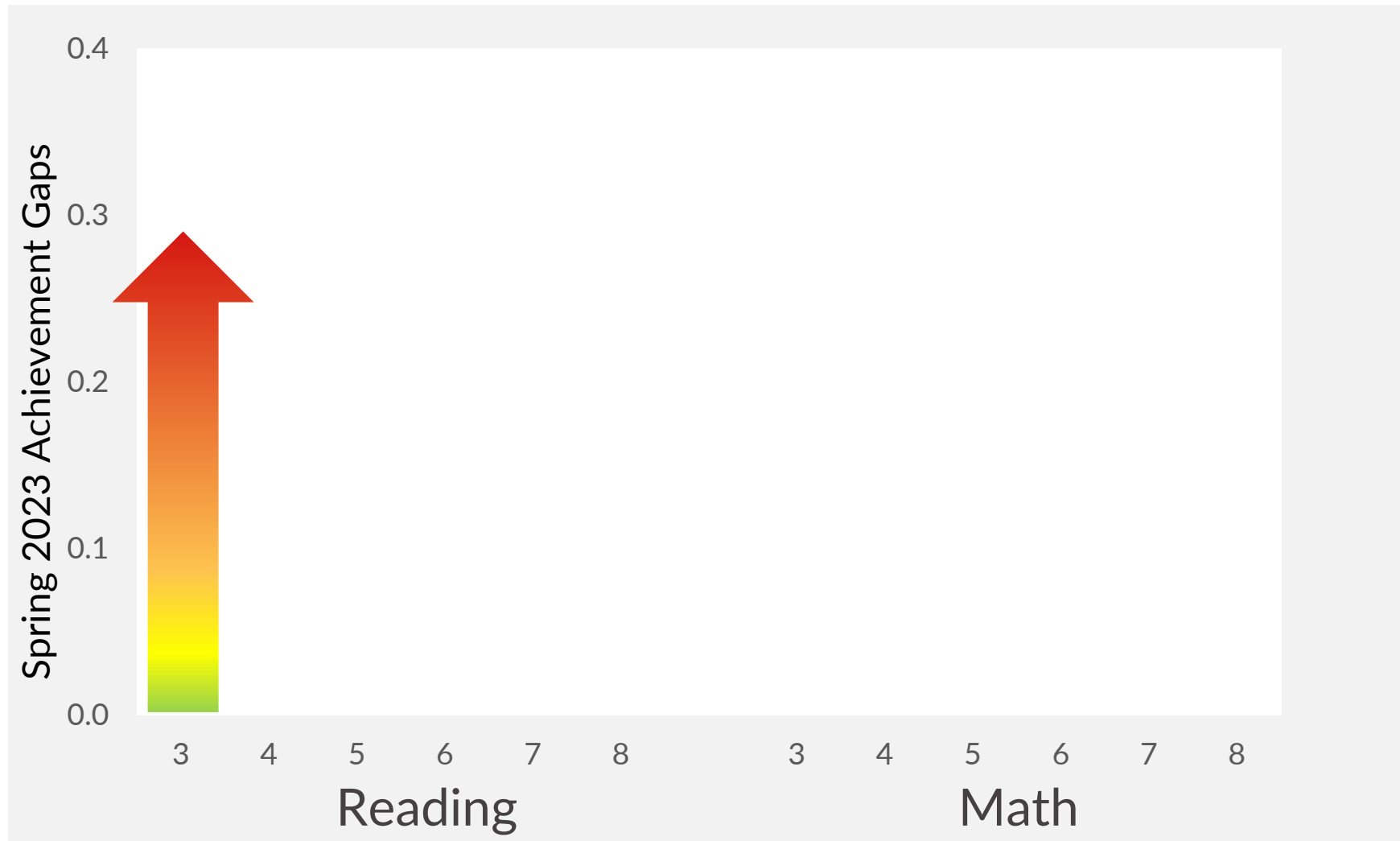


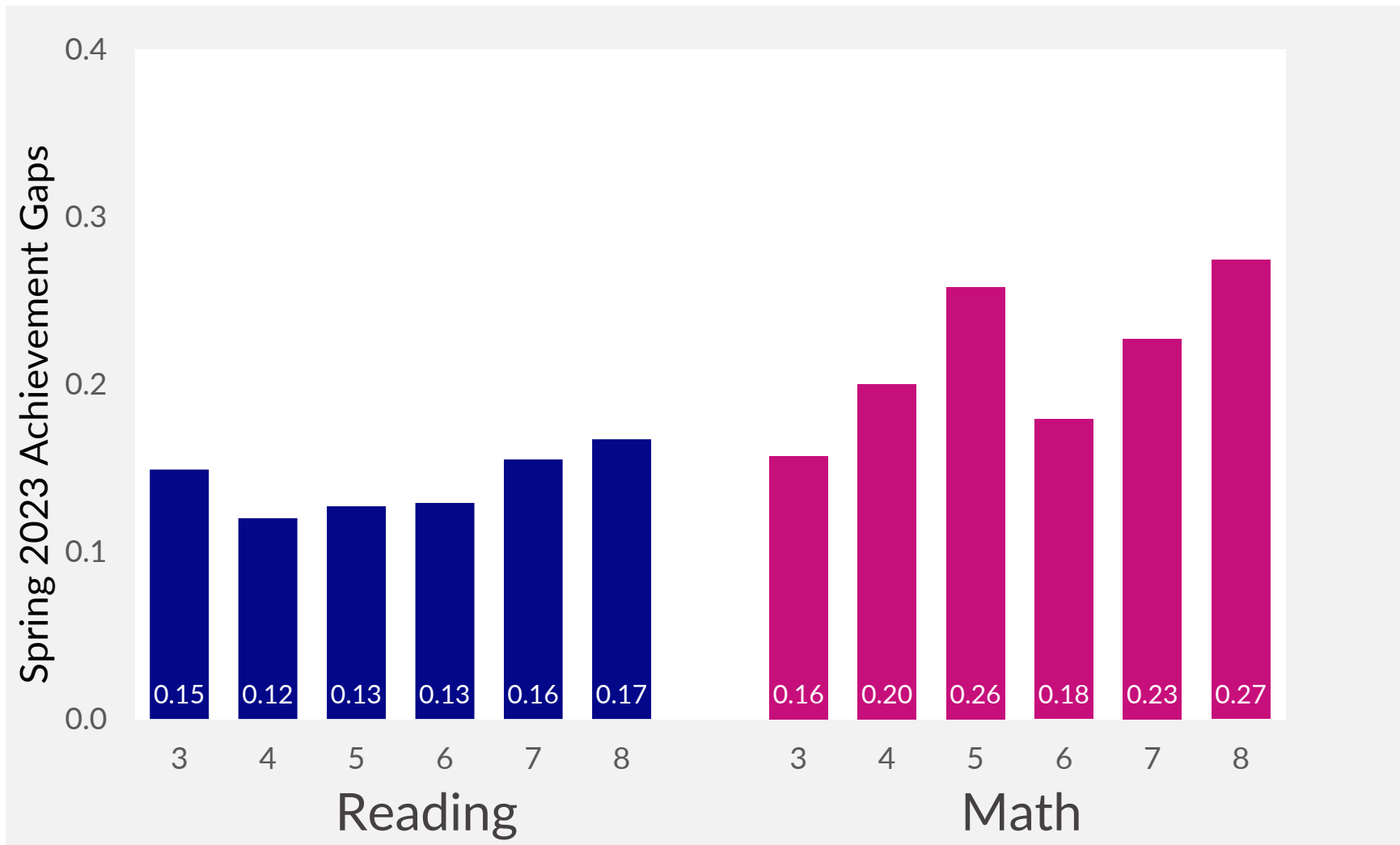
Achievement gaps widened during 2022-23 by an average of 32% in reading and 13% in math

How far are students from recovery?

Reading







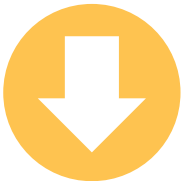
Significant achievement gaps remain at the end of 2022-23.
Achievement gaps are typically larger in math.

Months of additional schooling calculation

Example – 5th grade math



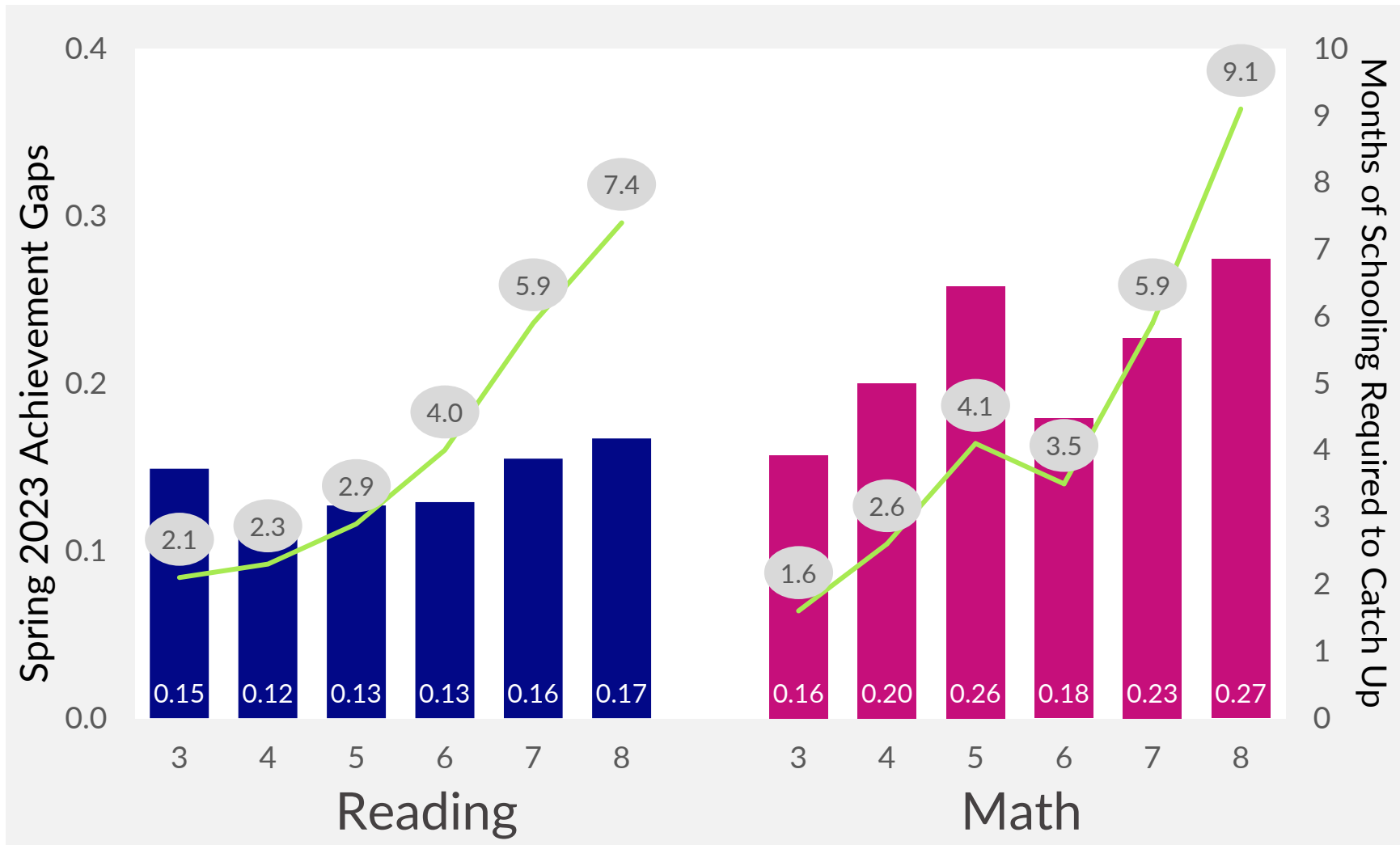
5th graders gain an average of **10 RIT points** between fall and spring which works out to about **1.1 RIT points** per month



The average test score for 5th graders in the COVID sample is **4.5 RIT points** lower than the pre-COVID sample

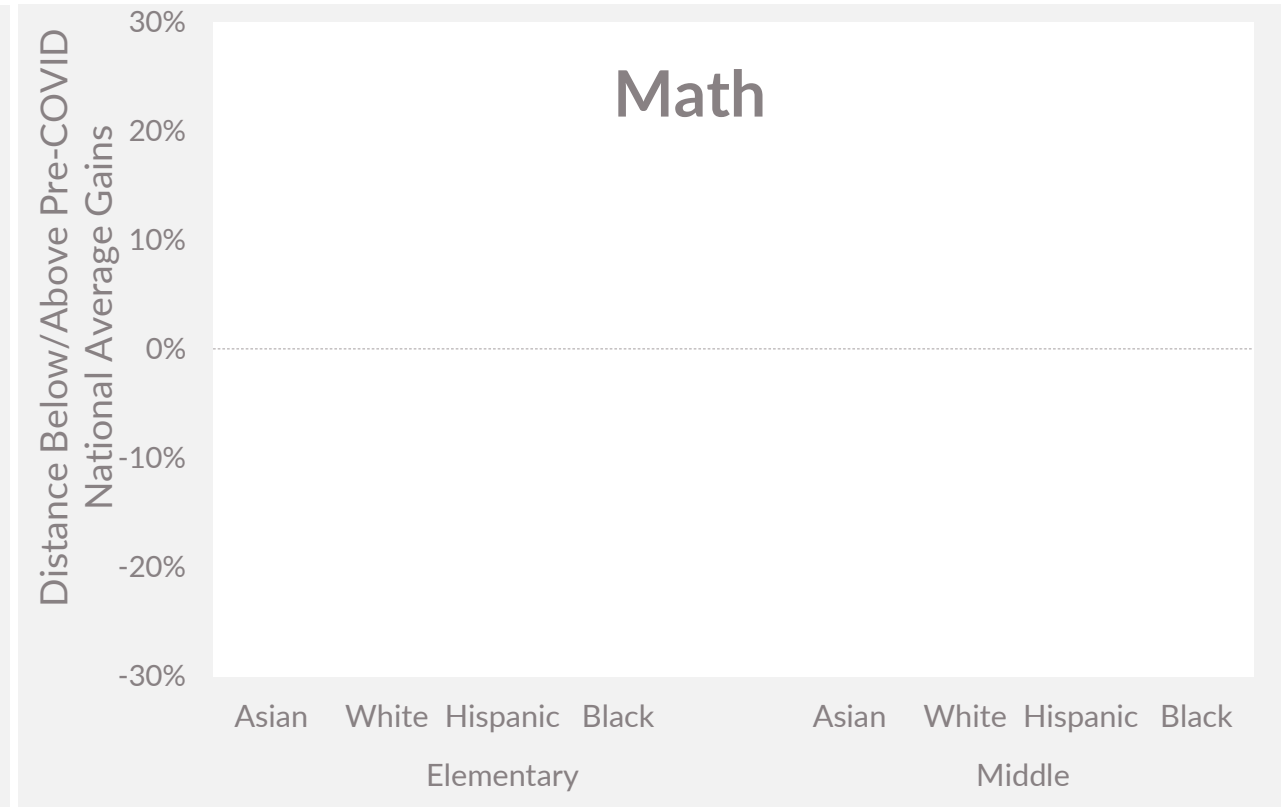
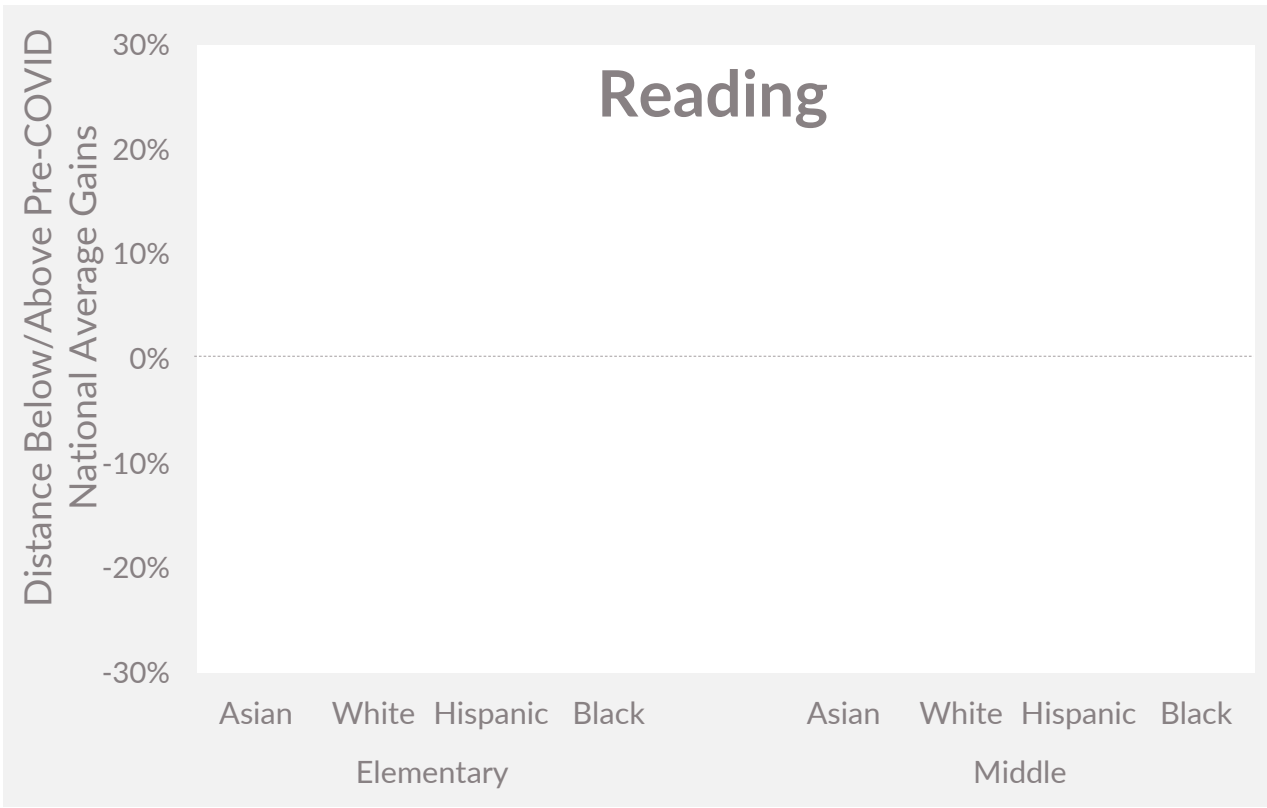


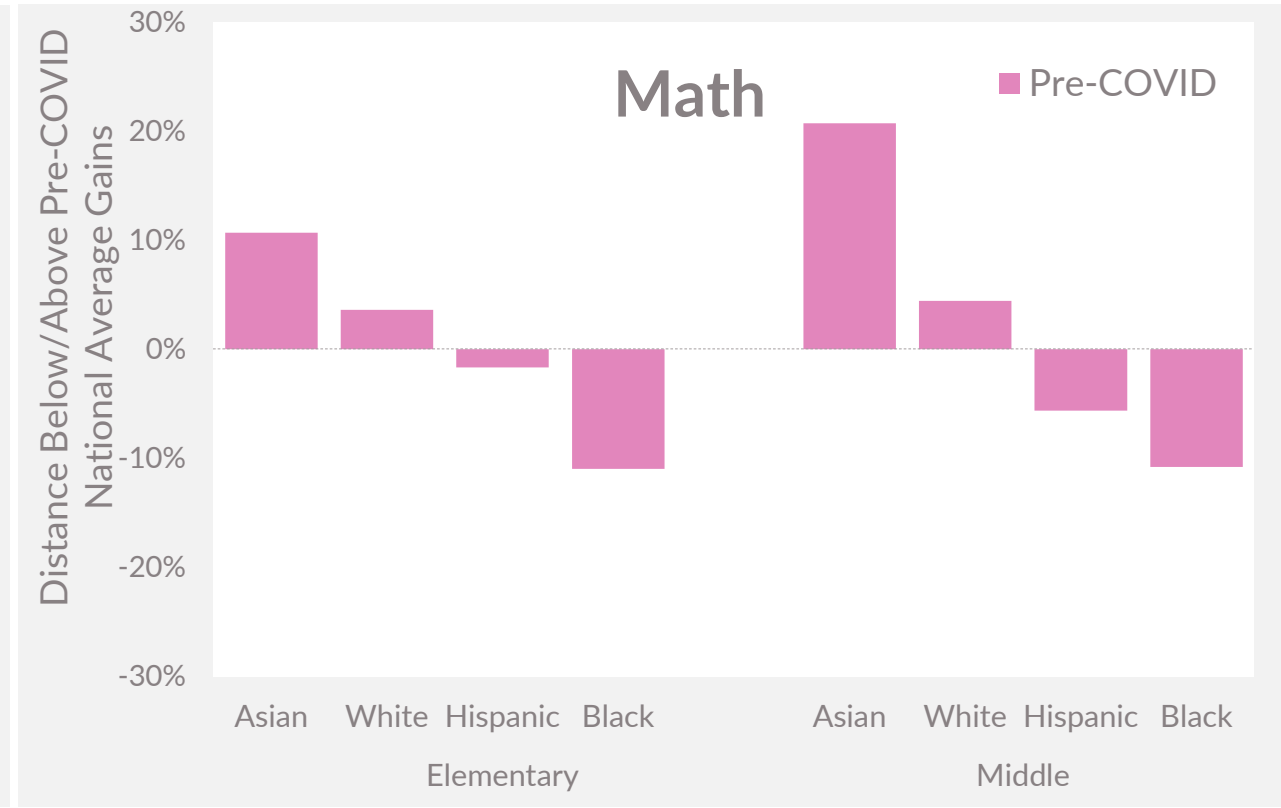
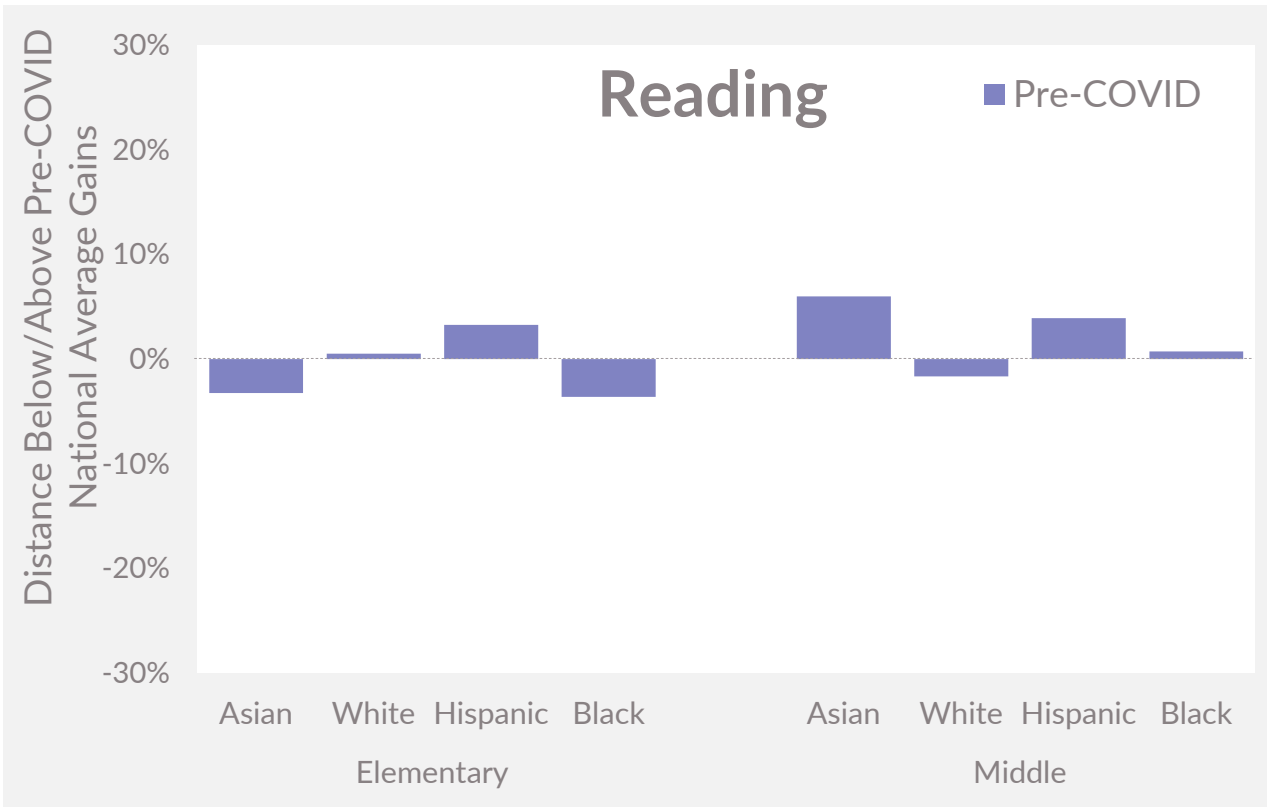
So, it will take about **4 months** of additional schooling to close the math achievement gap for 5th graders (i.e., $4.5/1.1 = 4$)

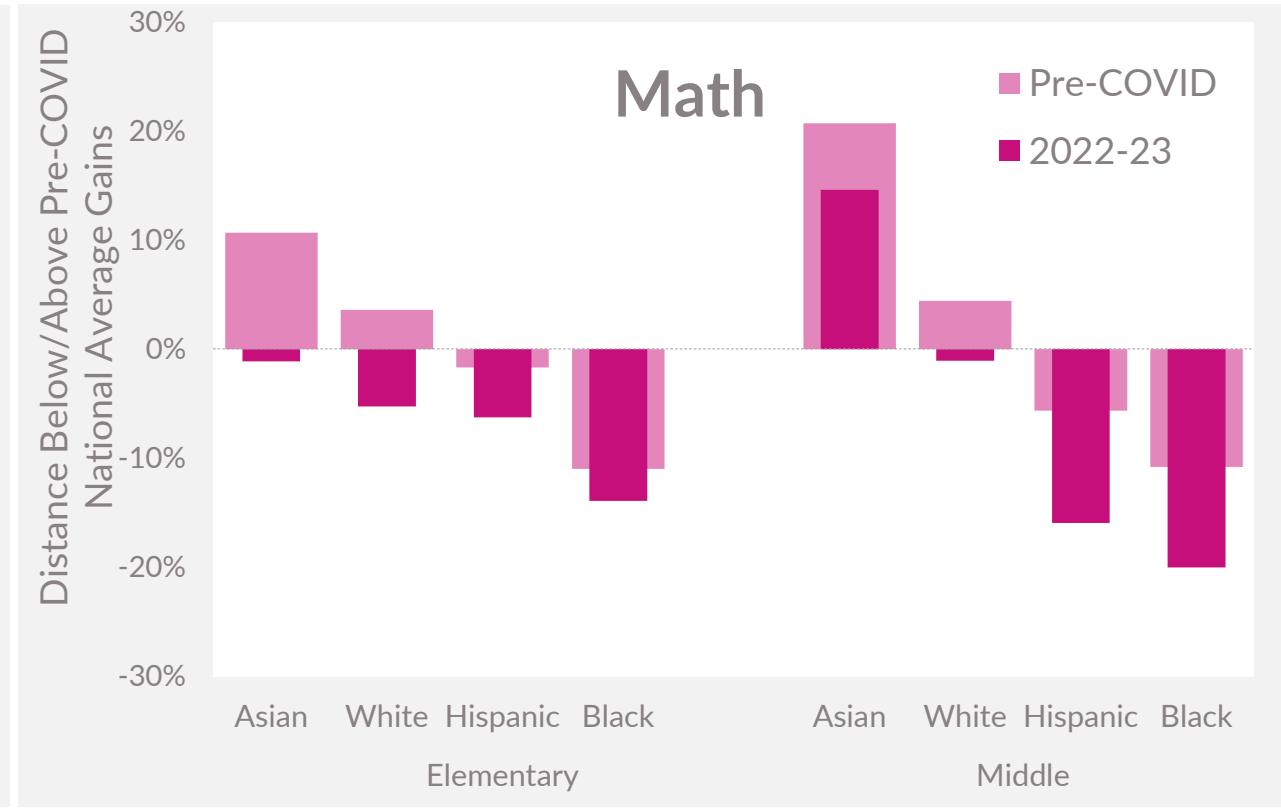
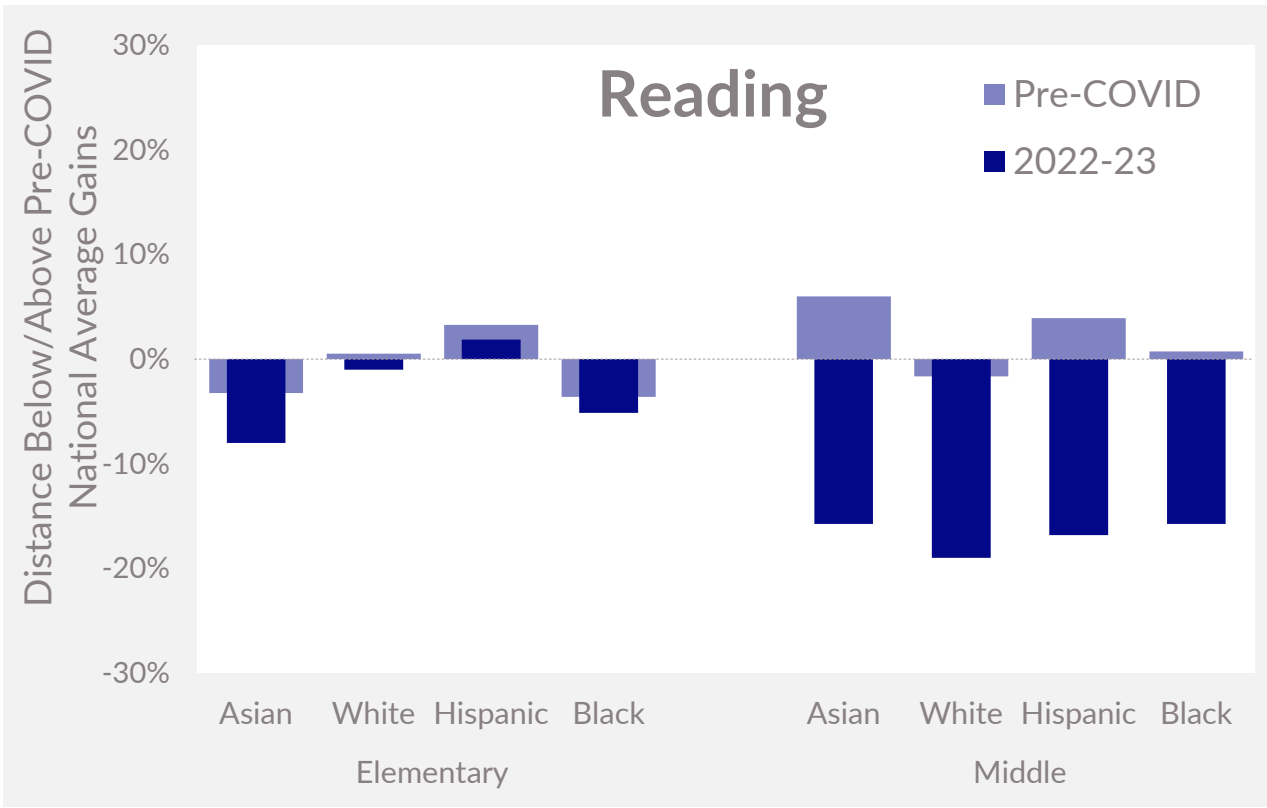


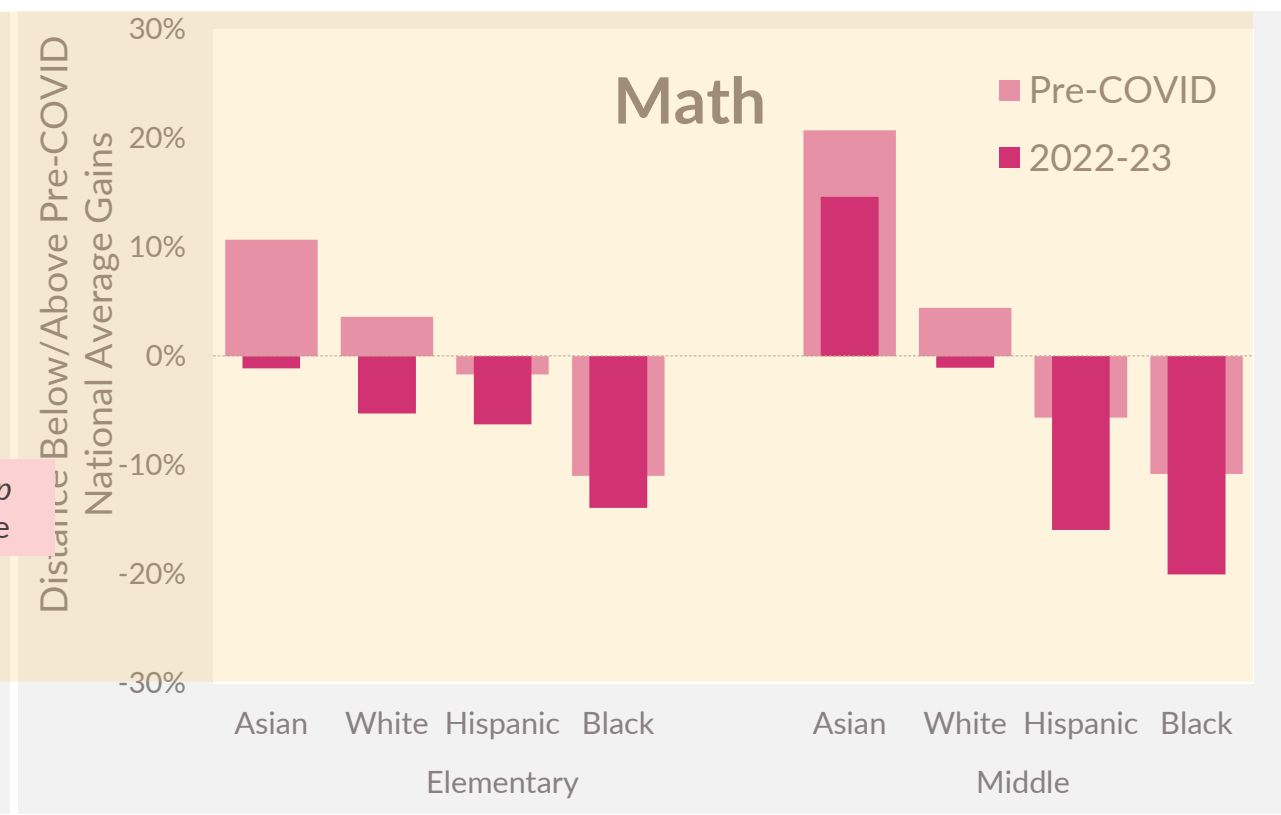
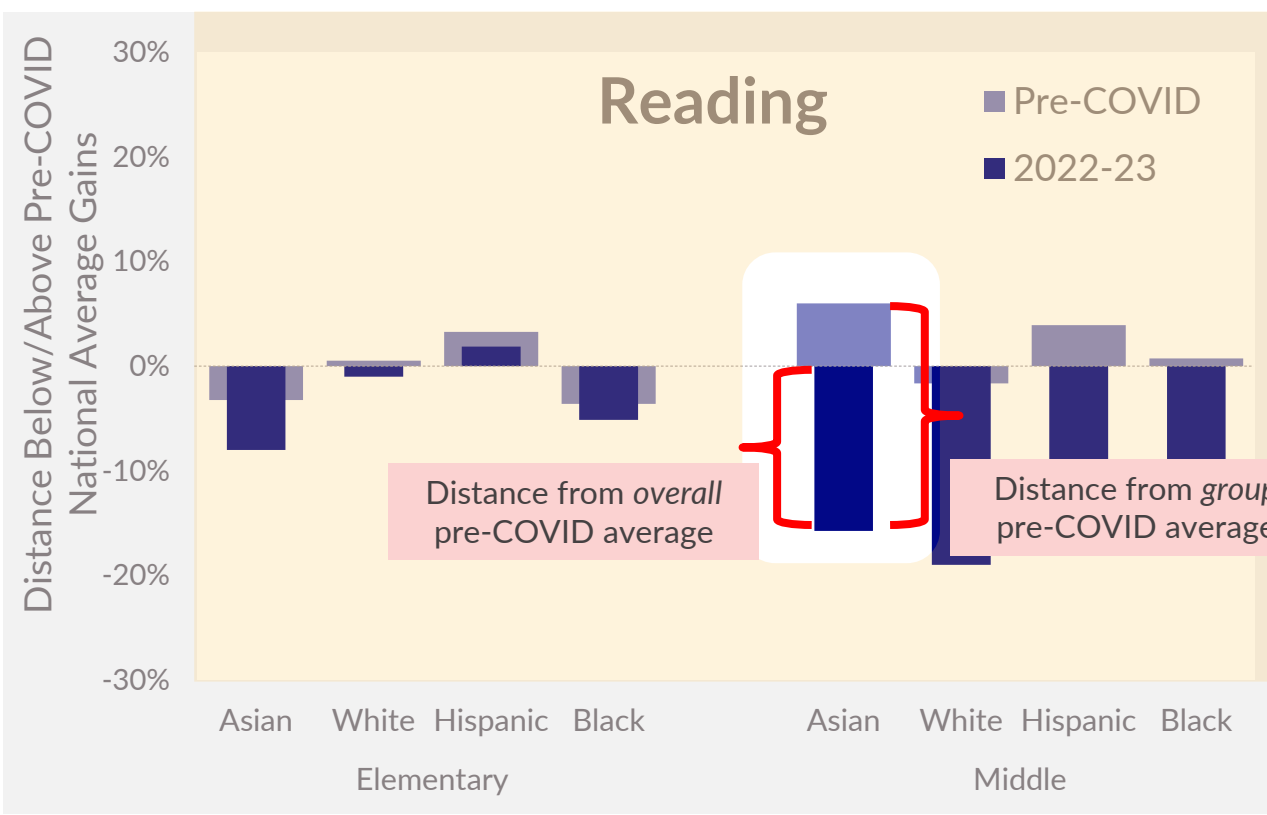
To catch up, the average students needs 4.1 additional months of schooling in reading and 4.5 months in math.

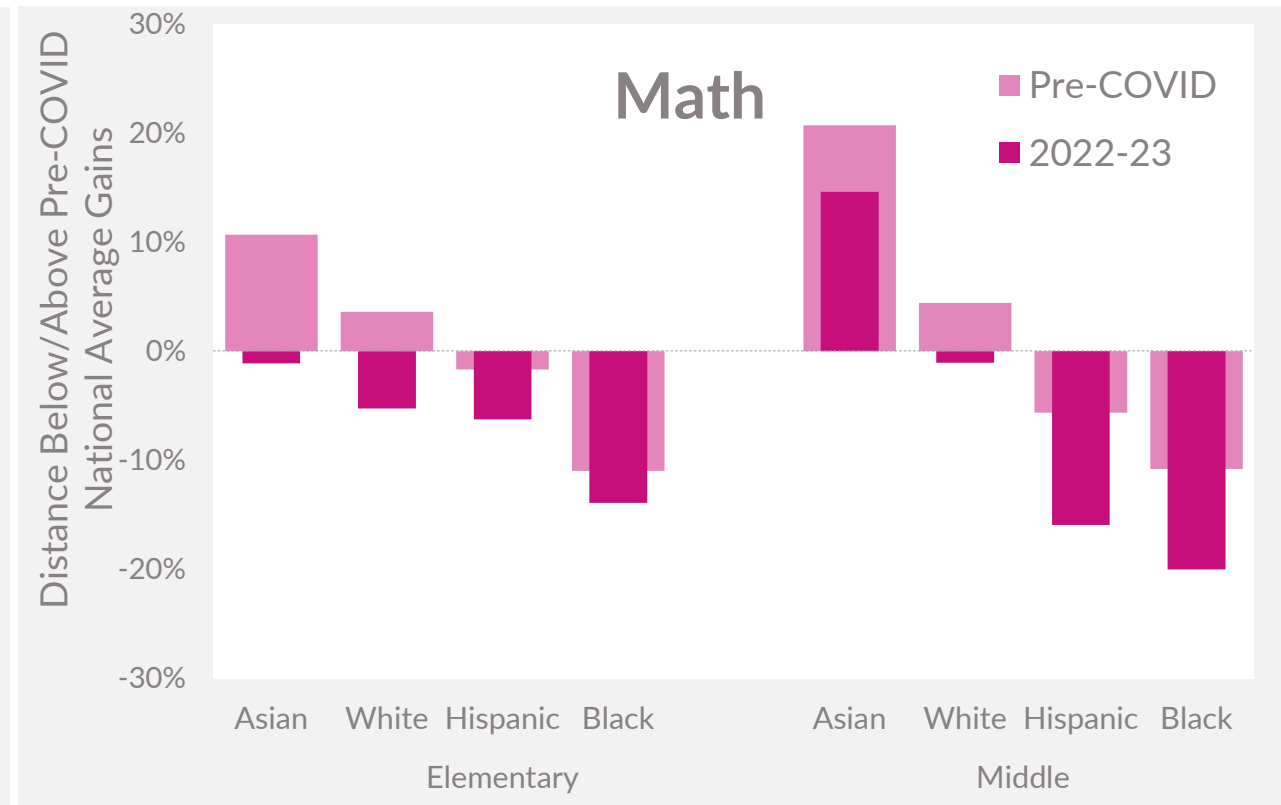
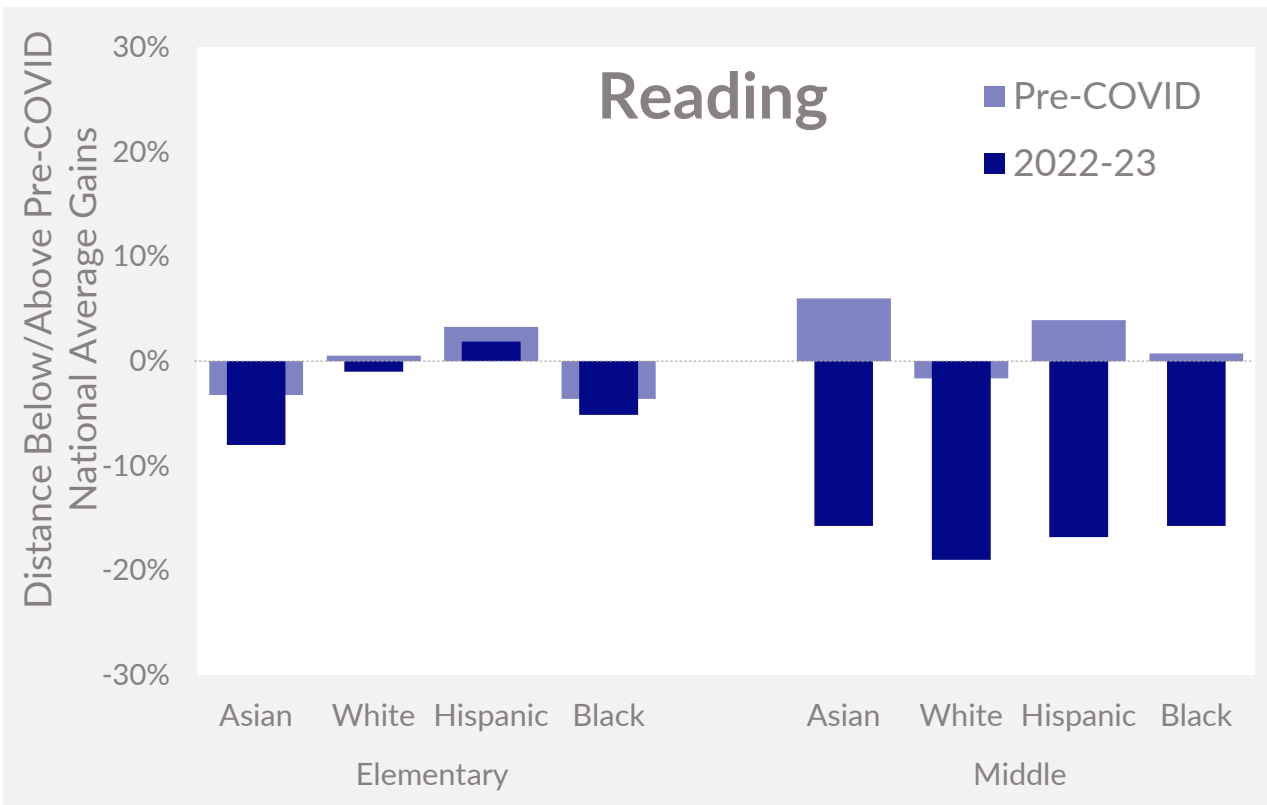
Was the pattern of sluggish gains in 2022-23 consistent across groups?





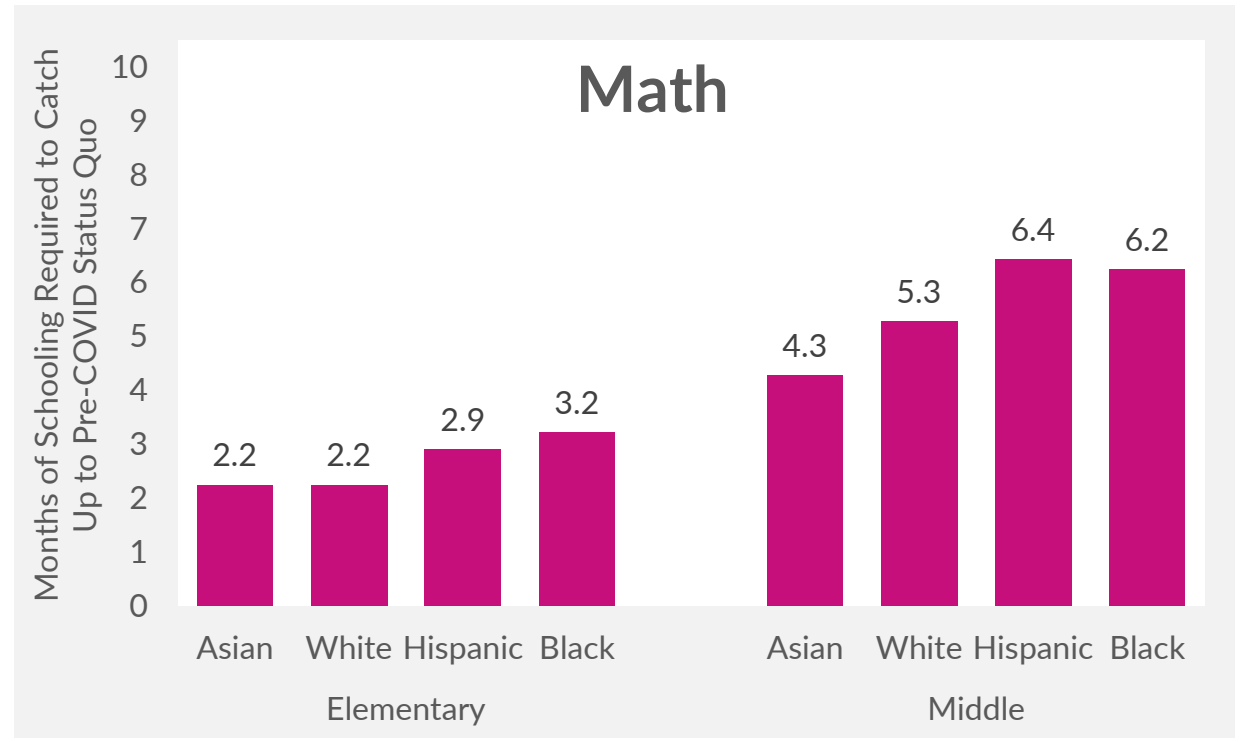
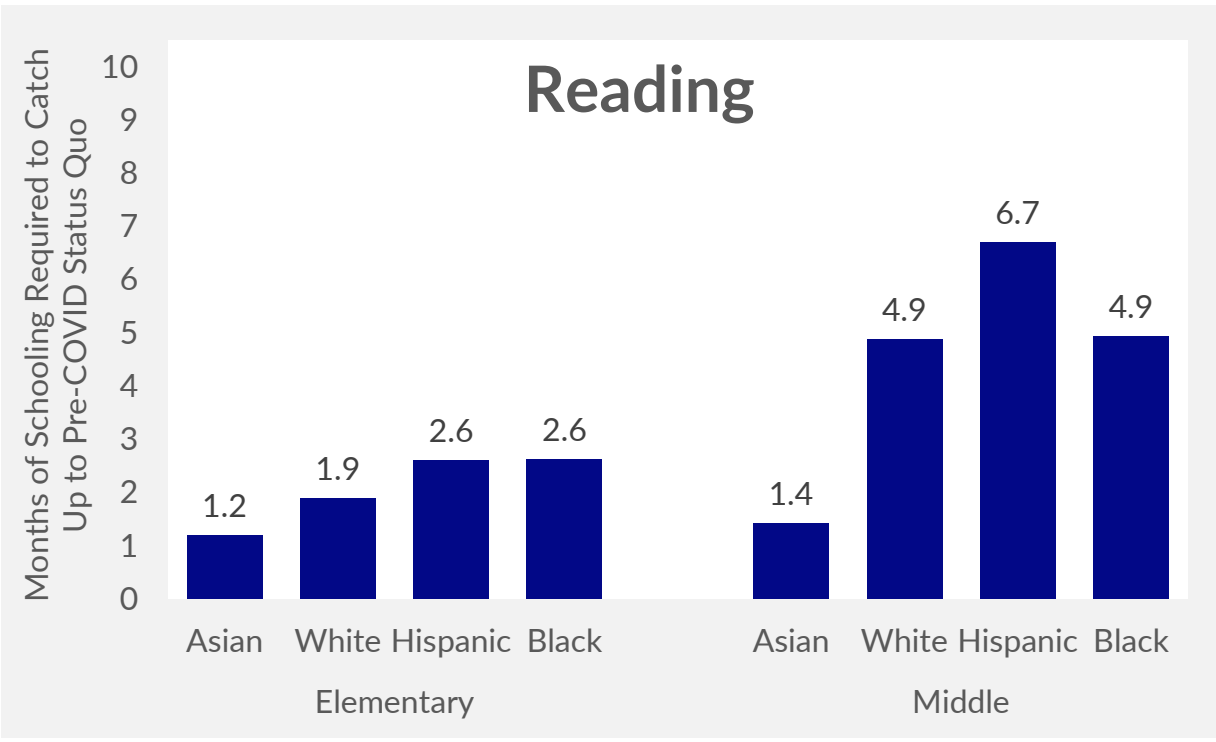




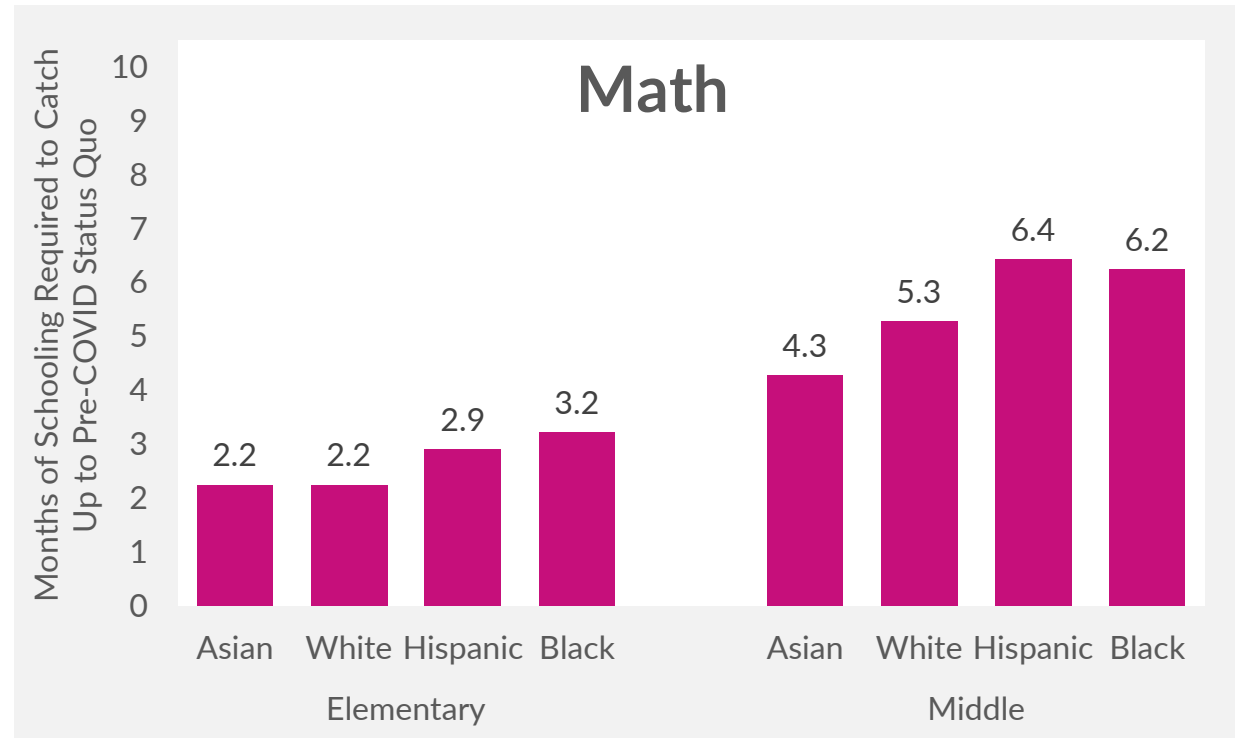
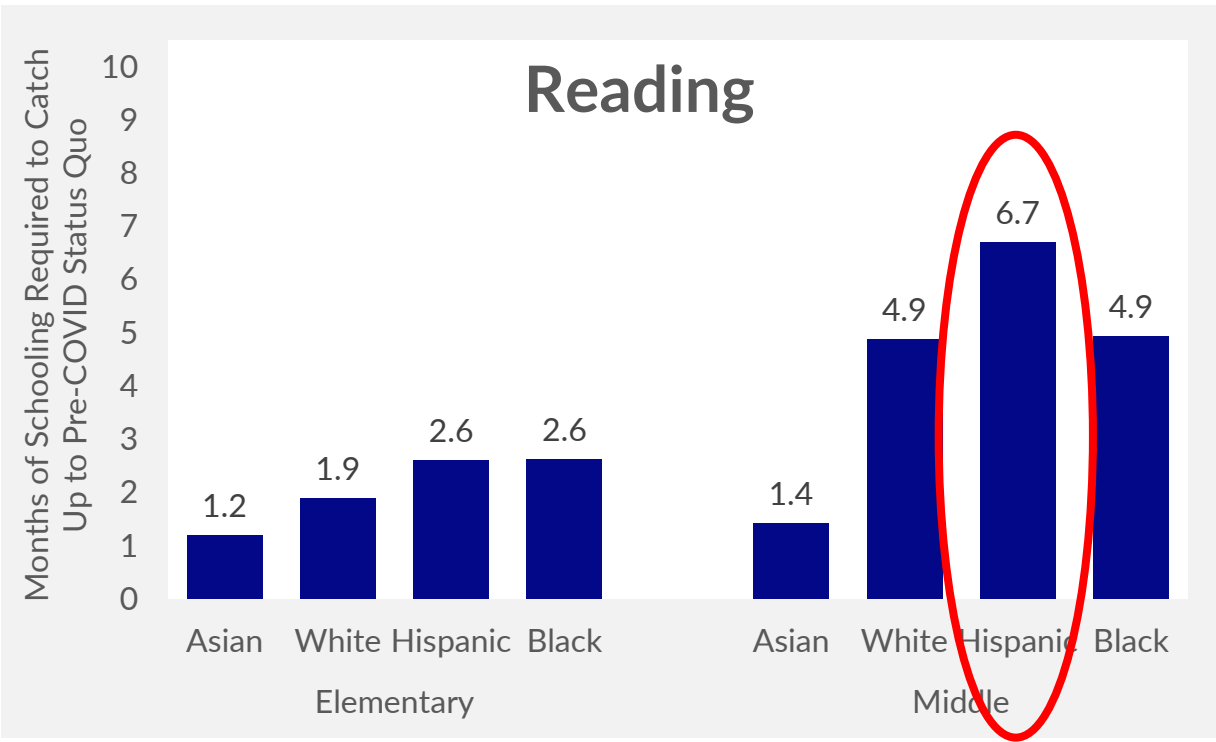


Gains in 2022-23 lagged pre-COVID averages across groups.
 No evidence of additional catch up in hardest hit groups.

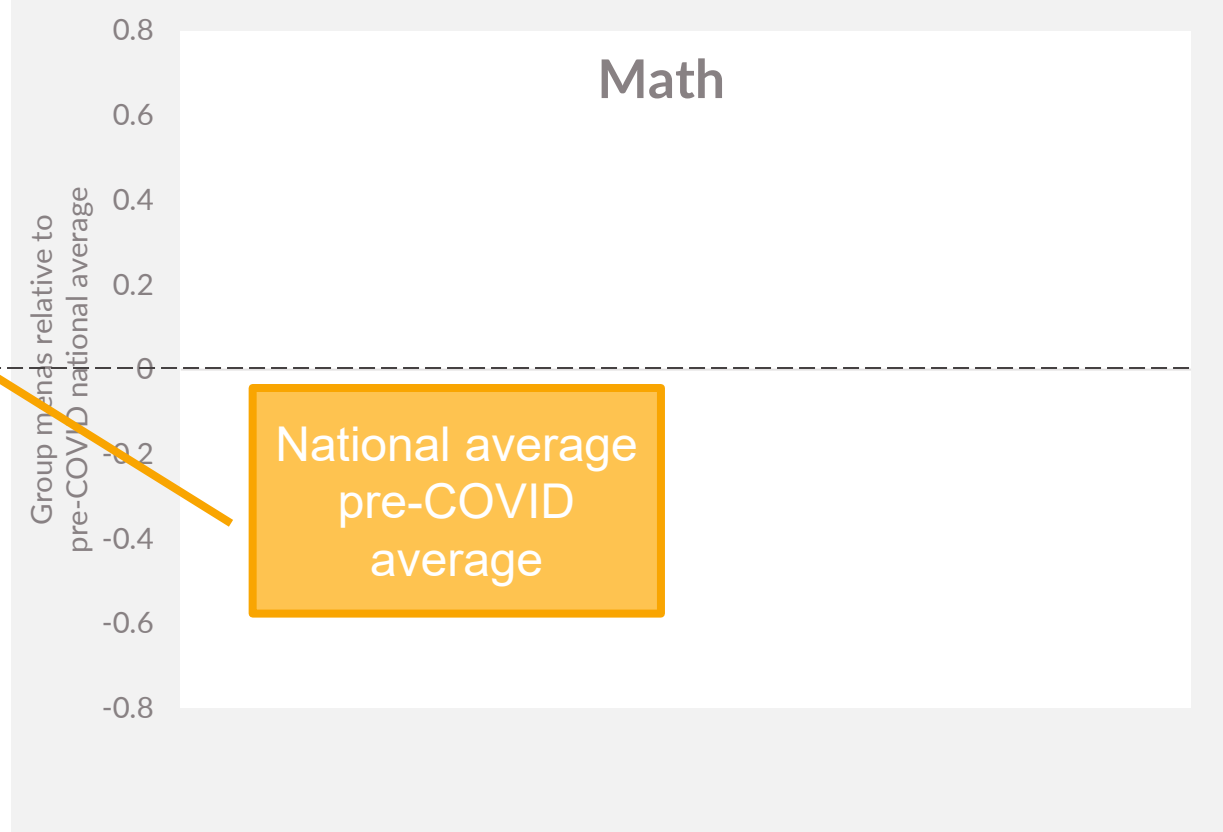
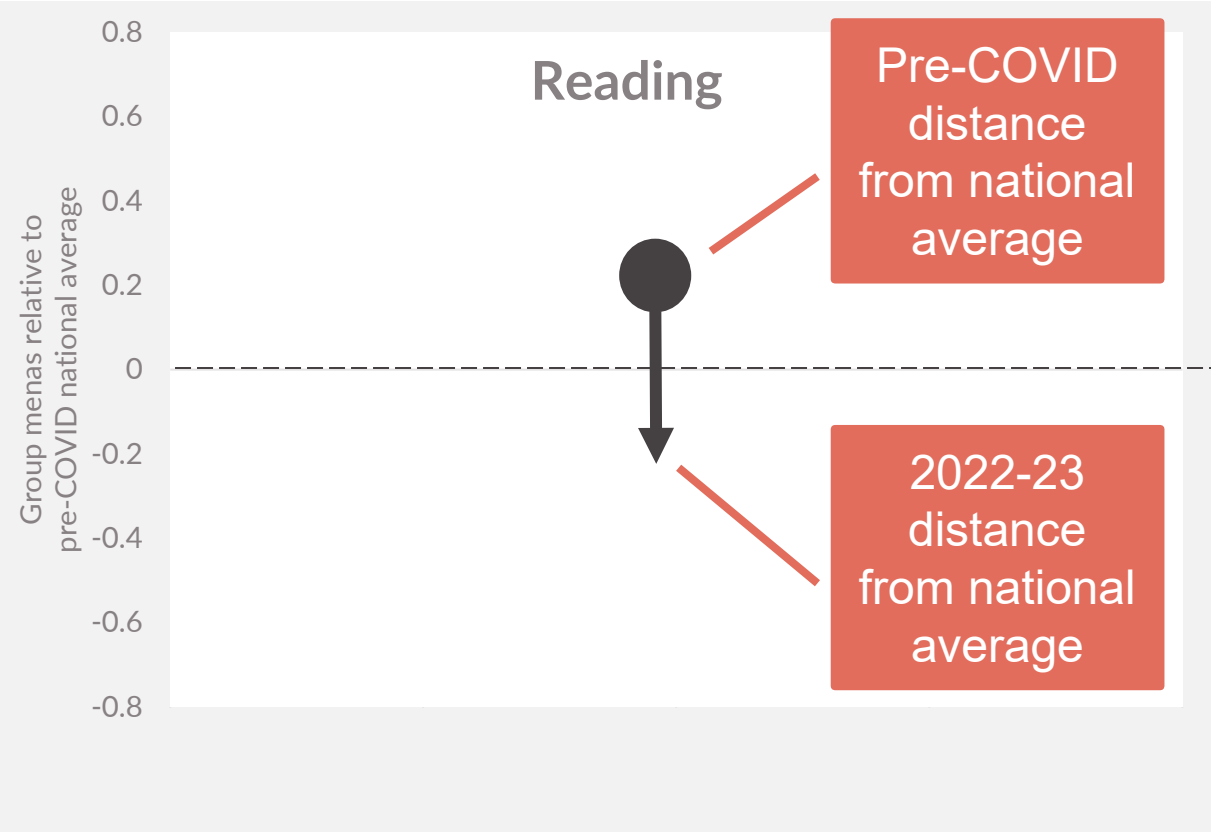
**Does distance from recovery differ
across groups?**

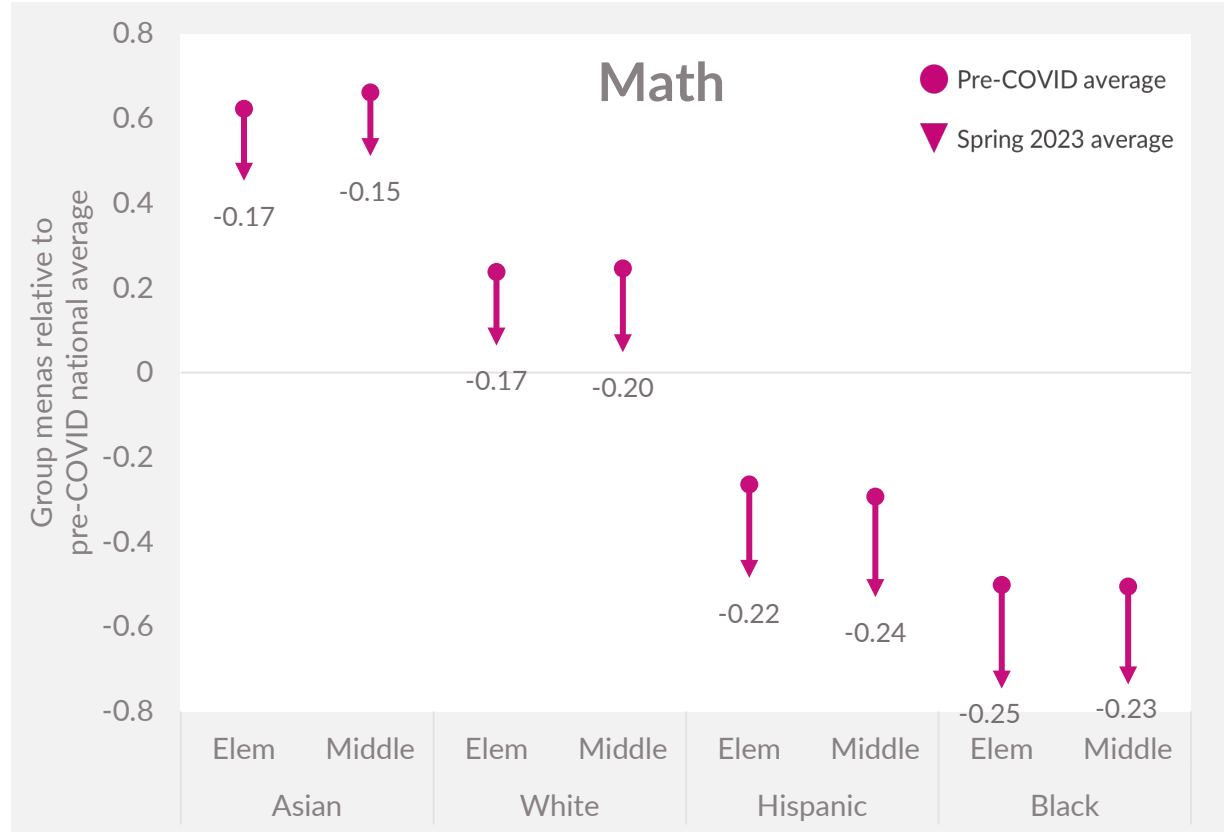
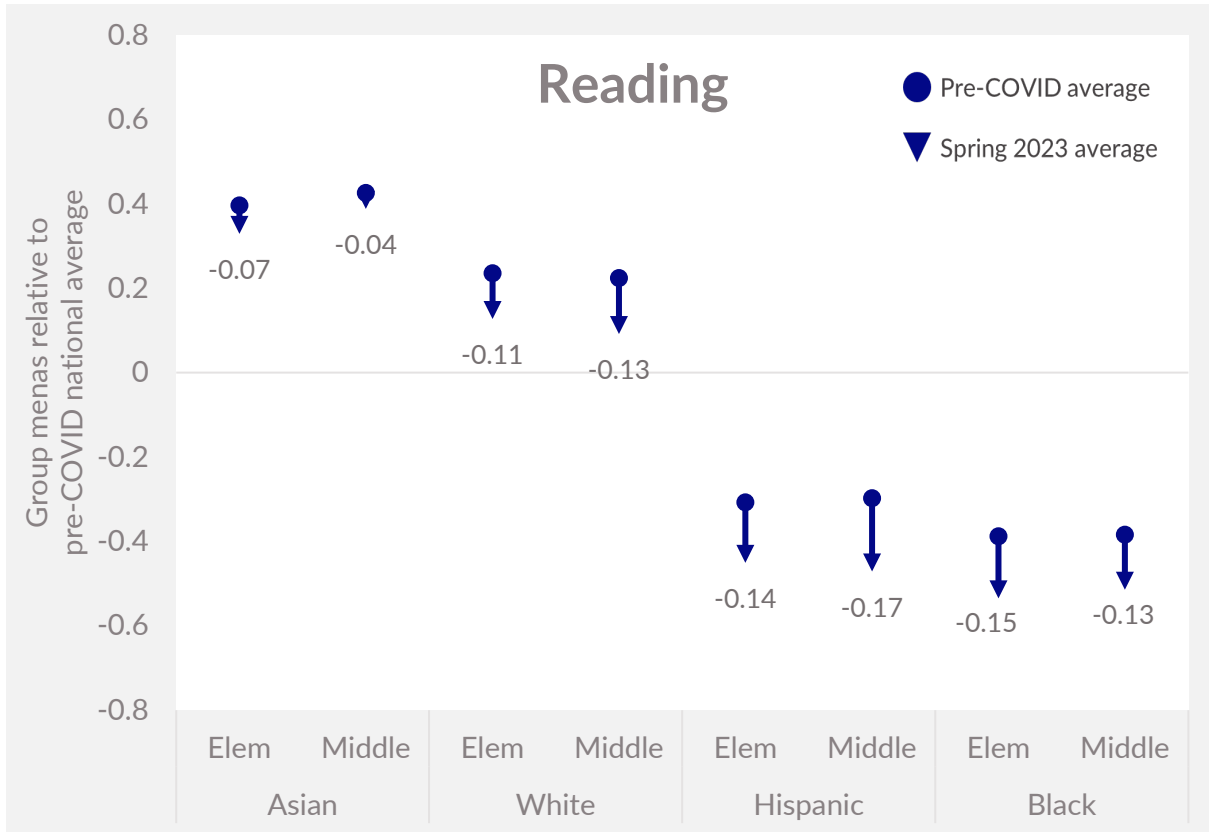


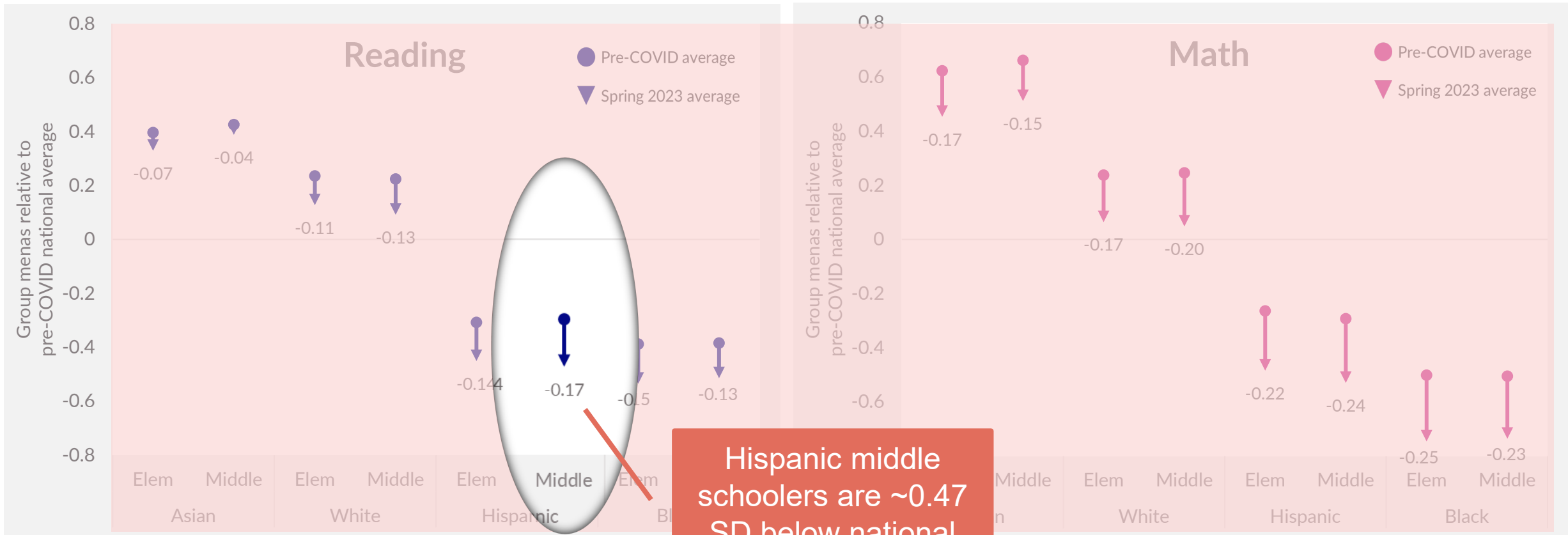
Black and Hispanic students are furthest from recovery to pre-pandemic status quo



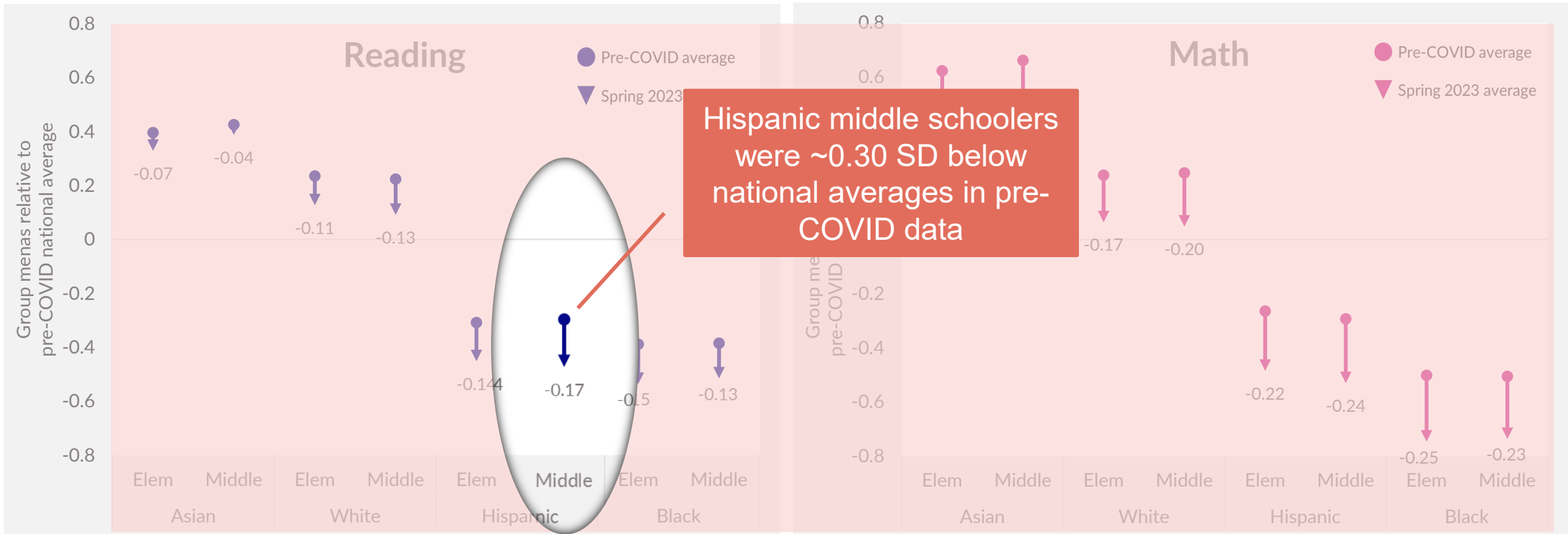
Black and Hispanic students are furthest from recovery to pre-pandemic status quo







Hispanic middle schoolers are ~0.47 SD below national averages in 2023



Even more additional schooling would be required to address pre-existing disparities

Key Findings

01

Achievement gains in 2022-23 lagged pre-pandemic trends and as a result achievement gaps widened.

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Students are further from recovery at the end of 2022-23: the average student needs 4.1 additional months of schooling to catch up in reading and 4.5 months in math.

Key Findings

01

Achievement gains in 2022-23 lagged pre-pandemic trends and as a result achievement gaps widened.

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Students are further from recovery at the end of 2022-23: the average student needs 4.1 additional months of schooling to catch up in reading and 4.5 months in math.

03

All groups showed sluggish gains in 2022-23, but marginalized students remain the furthest from recovery.

Call to Action

Our current response is not proportionate to the magnitude of the crisis. Schools are doing the right things, but the depth and breadth of the crisis demands an even more comprehensive, intensive, and sustained approach.





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believe in
what's possible

Math

