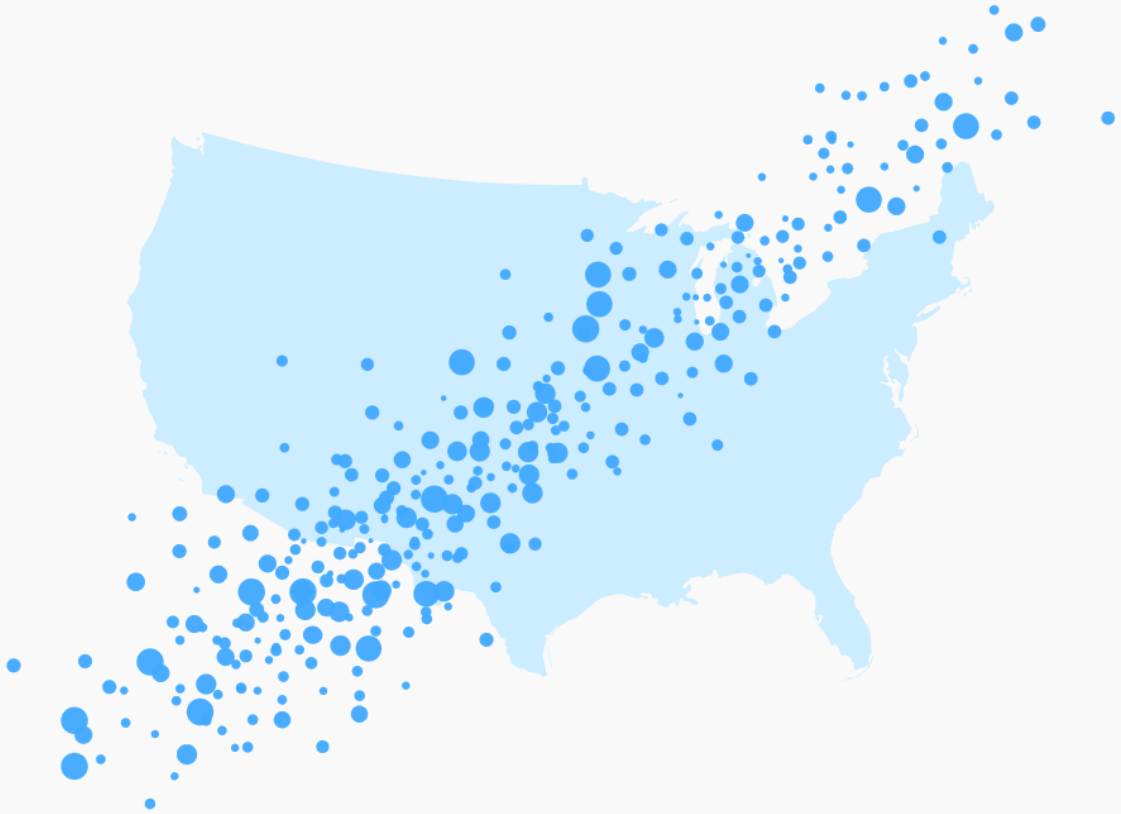


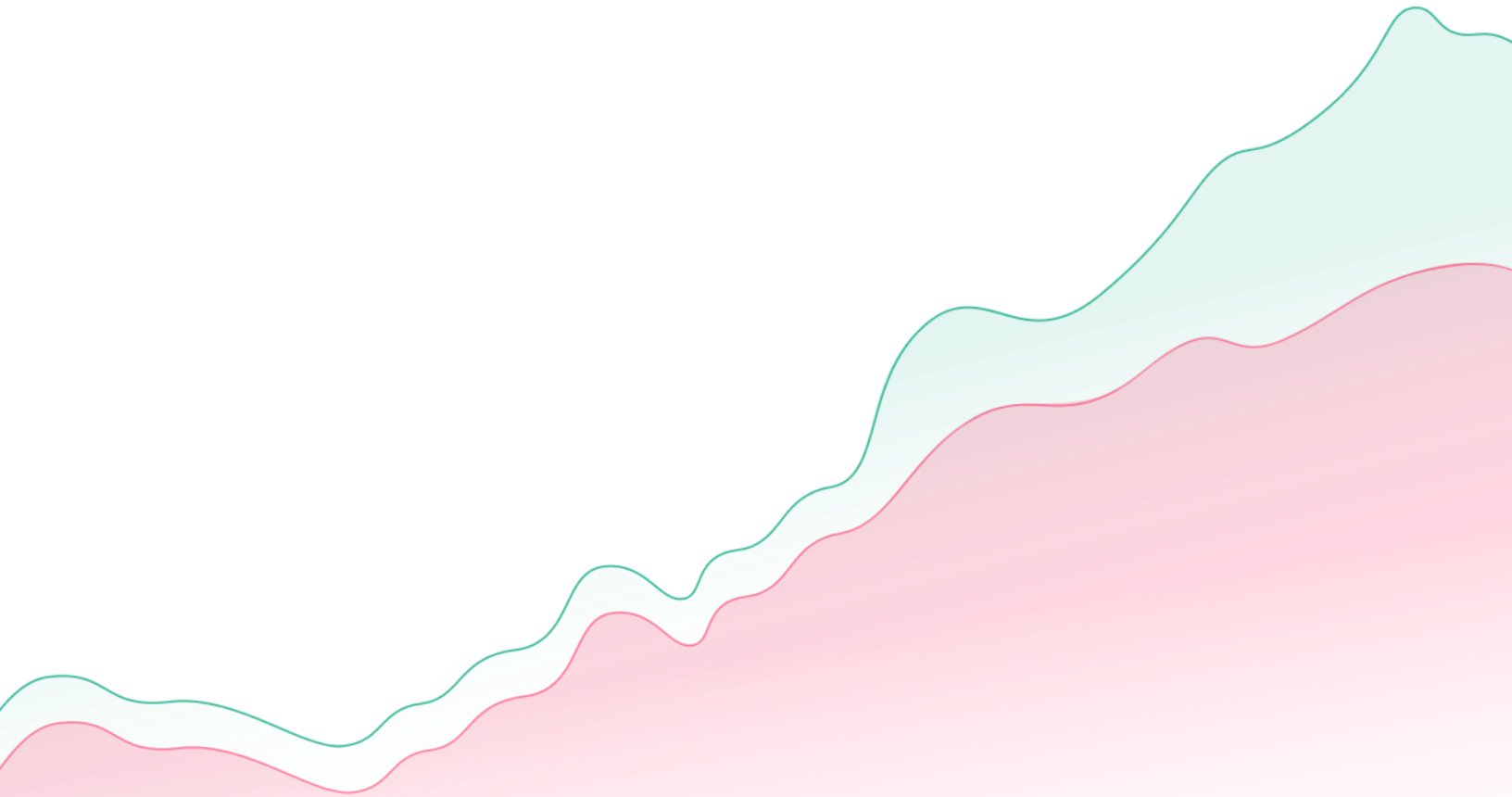
# Exploring Educational Opportunity in Alabama

A report created by the Educational Opportunity Project at Stanford University

GENERATED ON 10/13/22

VERSION 4.0

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT EDOPPORTUNITY.ORG



# About the Data

The Educational Opportunity Project has derived these data and visualizations from the Stanford Education Data Archive (SEDA), which is the first national database of academic performance in the U.S.

The SEDA data are based on the standardized accountability tests in math and Reading Language Arts (RLA) administered by each state to all public-school students in grades 3–8 in each school year from 2008–09 through 2017–18. In these years, 3rd- through 8th-graders in U.S. public schools took roughly 350 million standardized math and RLA tests.

The Educational Opportunity Project harnesses data to help scholars, policymakers, educators, and parents learn how to improve educational opportunity for all children.

# Test scores reveal three aspects of educational opportunity in America:

## Average test scores

### The educational opportunities available in a community, both in and out of school, are reflected in students' average test scores.

Average test scores are influenced by children's opportunities to learn at home, in neighborhoods, in childcare, preschool, and after-school programs, from peers and friends, and at school. Average test scores therefore reflect the total set of educational opportunities available in a community.

## Learning rates

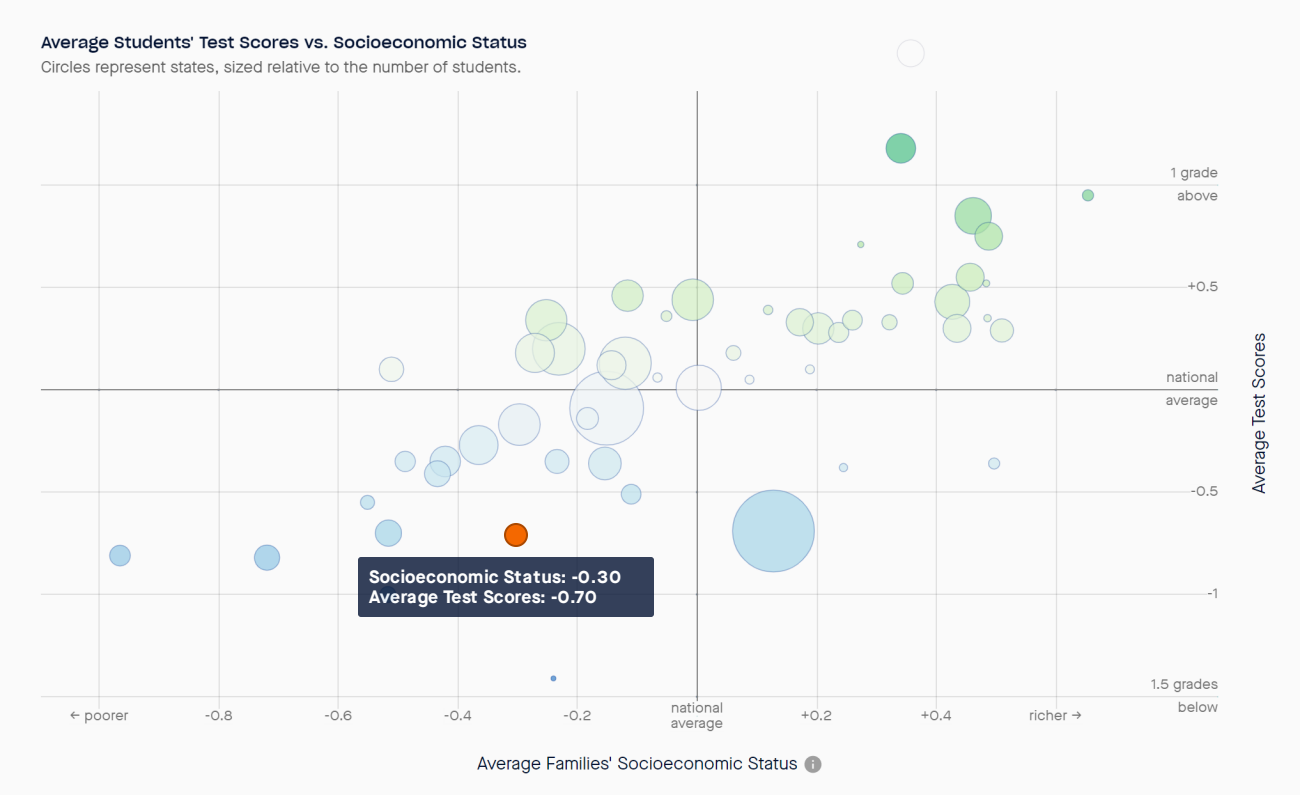
### The contribution of schools to educational opportunity is reflected in the growth of test scores while children attend school.

Learning rates measure how much scores improve each year while students are in school. They are a better indicator of school quality than average test scores, which are influenced by a range of experiences outside of school.

## Trends in test scores

### The change in a community's educational opportunities, both in and out of school, is reflected in average test score gains or losses.

Trends in test scores reflect both changes in school quality and changes in family and community features that provide opportunities for children.




# Average Test Scores

## Alabama

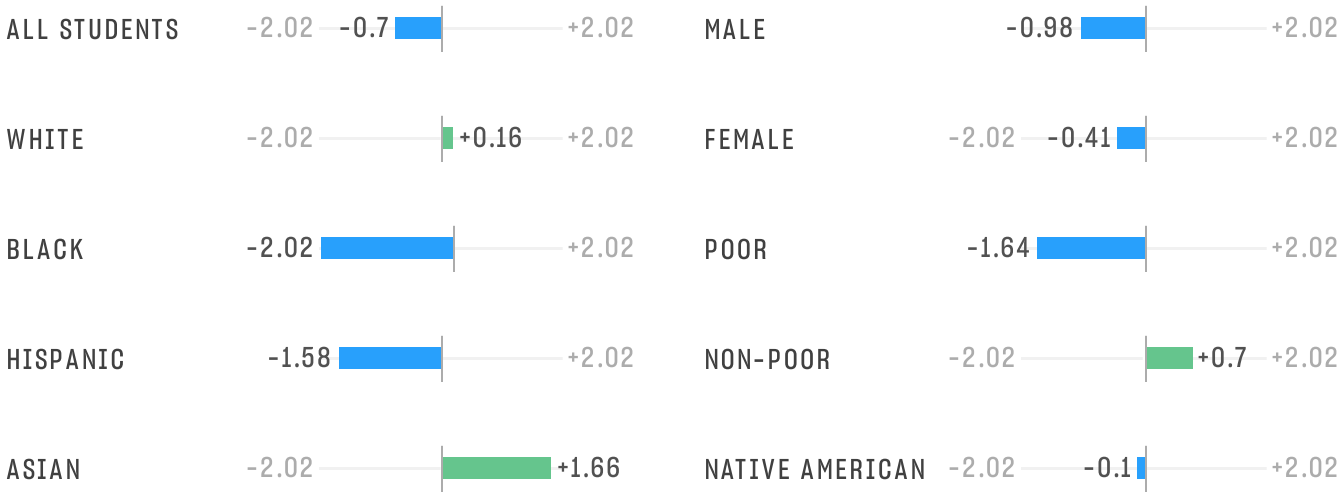
Alabama provides lower than average educational opportunities. Average test scores are 0.7 grade level(s) below the national average. Socioeconomic status is at roughly the national average. Average scores are 0.7 grade levels lower than those of states with similar socioeconomic status.

Average scores are influenced by opportunities to learn at home, in neighborhoods, in child-care, preschool, and after-school programs, from peers and friends, and in schools. Because of all these influences, average test scores are not a good way to assess how much children learn in schools. But they are a good way to assess the average set of educational opportunities available to children in a community. Where average scores are low, students have fewer opportunities to learn. Schools are better evaluated using learning rates, which measure how much student scores improve while they are in school.

# Average Test Scores
## Alabama

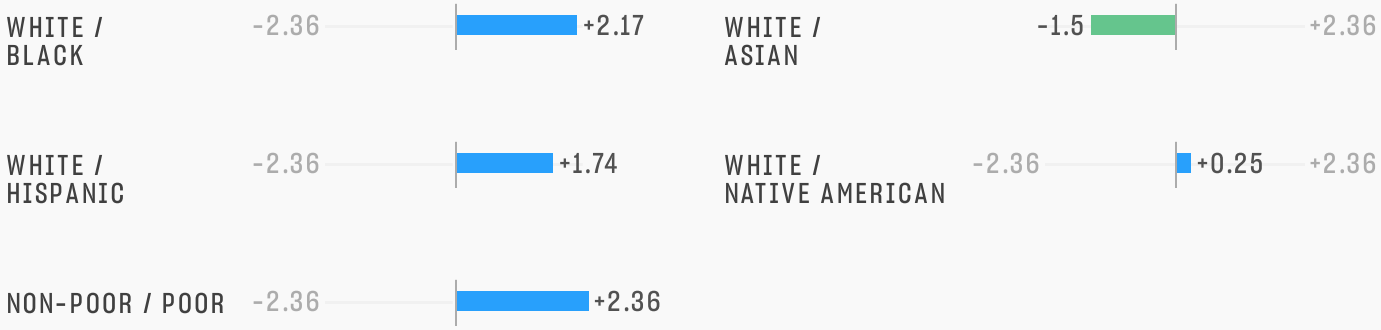
### By Demographic Group

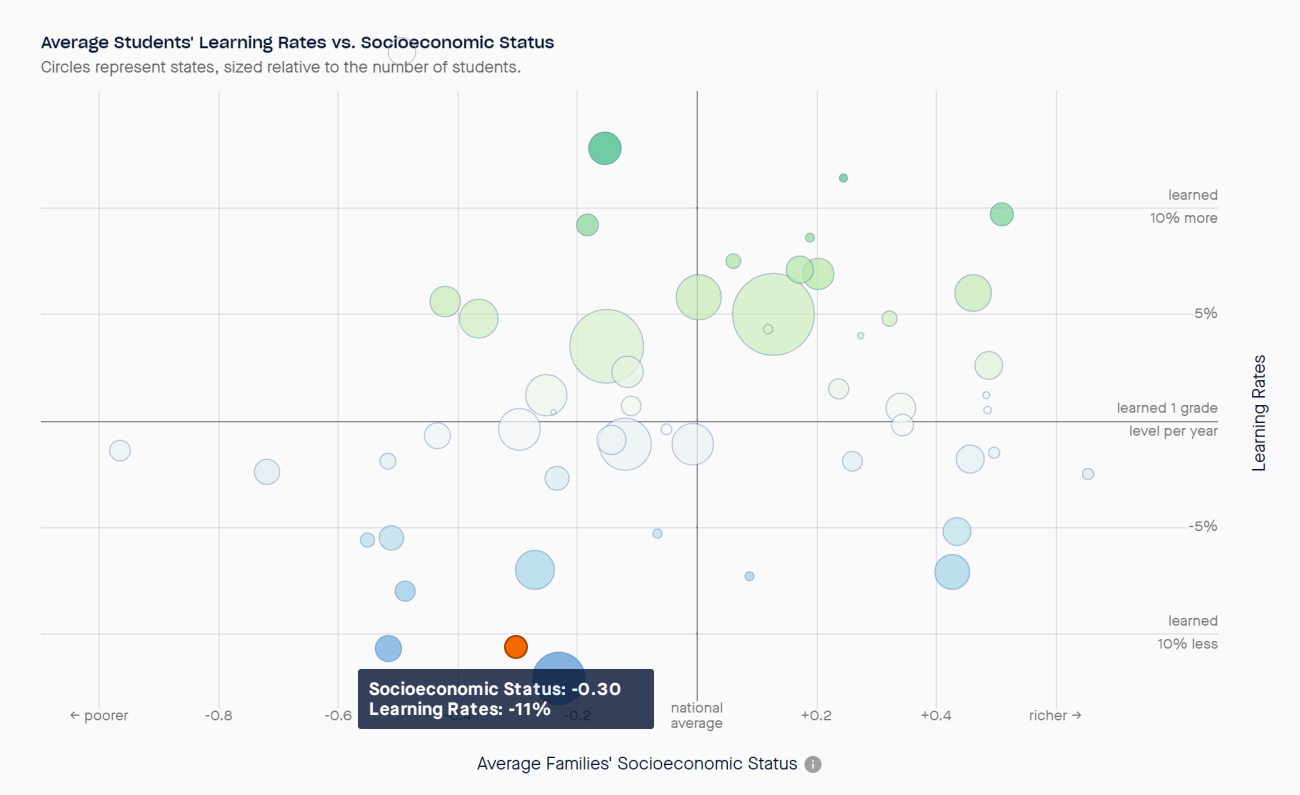
This section shows Average Test Scores for various demographic groups in Alabama. A value of 0 represents the national average for all students; a value less than 0 indicates scores below the national average, and values above 0 indicate scores above the national average.




### Gaps

This section shows differences in Average Test Scores between demographic groups in Alabama. A value of 0 indicates no difference between the two demographics. Values above 0 indicate that the scores of the first group listed are higher than those of the second group; values below 0 indicate the opposite.






# Learning Rates

## Alabama

Alabama provides roughly average educational opportunities while children are in school. Students learn 11% less each grade than the U.S. average. Socioeconomic status is at roughly the national average. Learning rates are 0.89% higher than those of states with similar socioeconomic status.

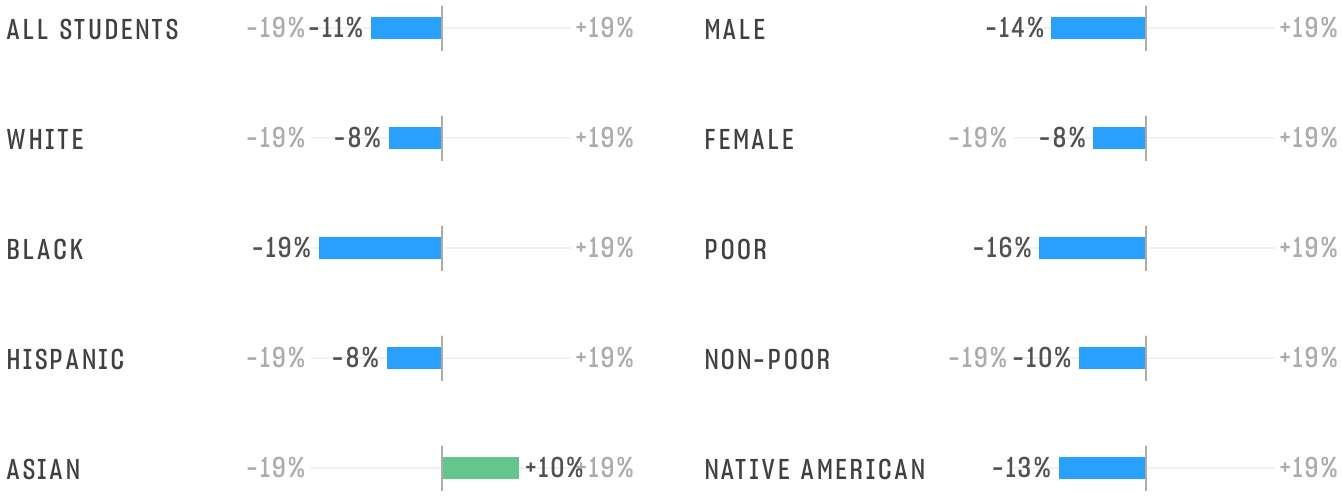
Learning rates measure how much students' scores improve each year while they are in school. This is a better way to assess what children learn in schools than average test scores, which are heavily influenced by factors outside of school. To understand the distinction, think of a hospital: We wouldn't assess a hospital based on the health of its patients; rather, we'd judge it on how much the health of patients improves as a result of their time in the hospital. Similarly, we shouldn't evaluate a school based on the average scores of its students, but rather by how much their test scores improve while in school.

# Learning Rates Bar Charts

## Alabama

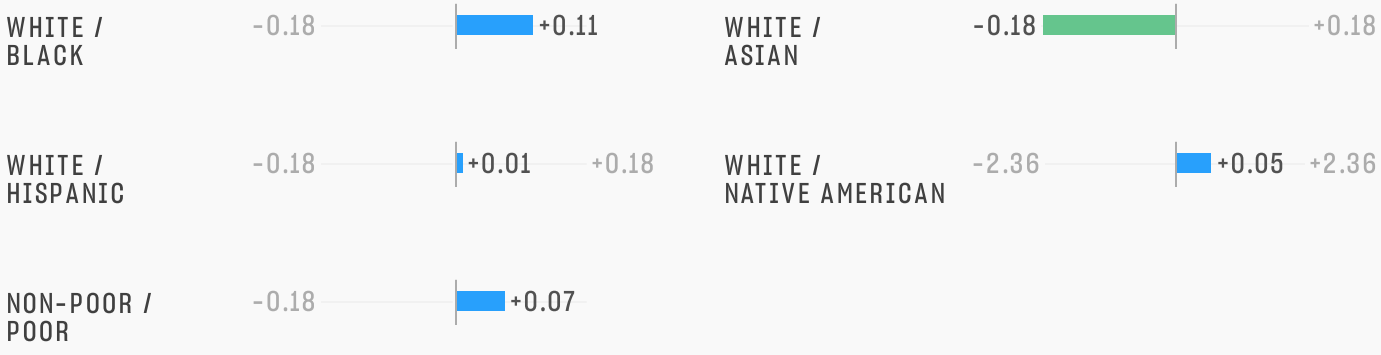
### By Demographic Group

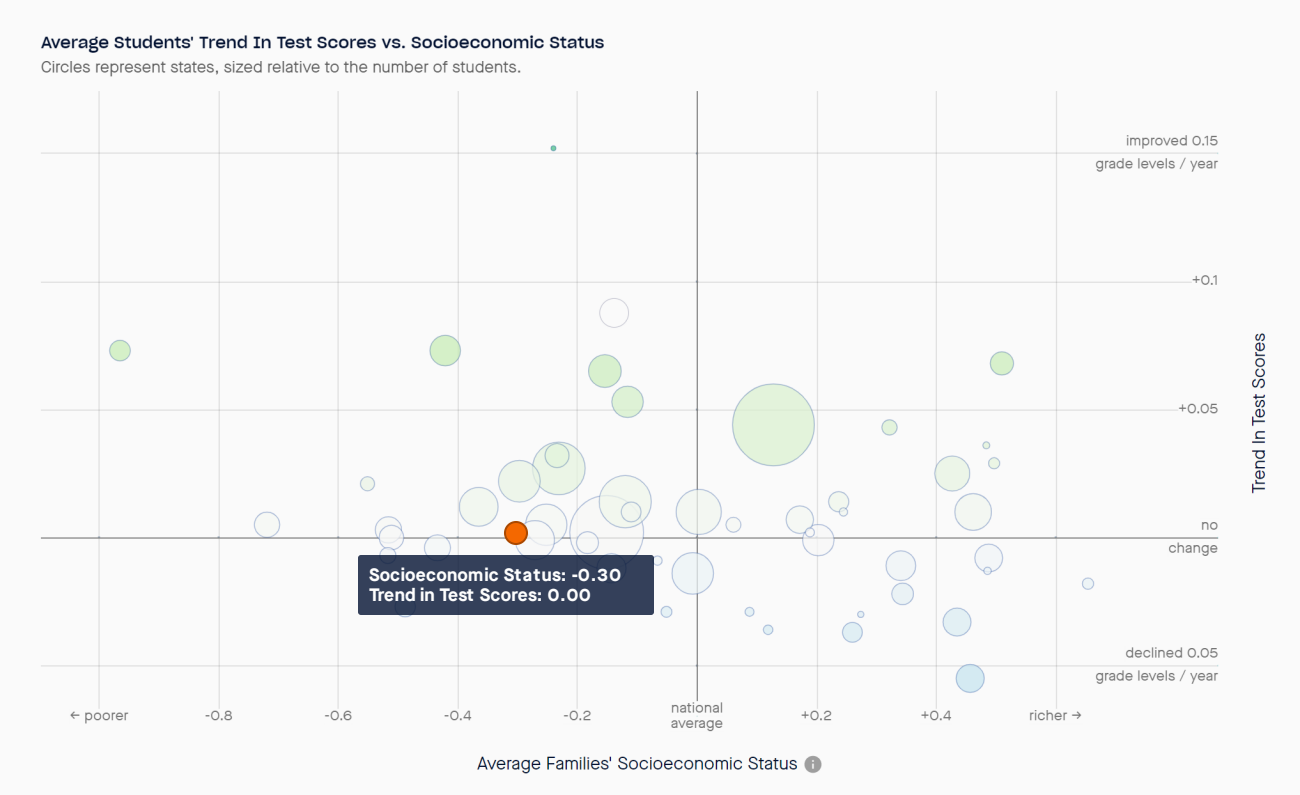
This section show Learning Rates for various demographic groups. A value of 0 represents the national average for all students; a value below 0 indicates Learning Rates below the national average, and a value above 0 indicates Learning Rates above the national average.




### Gaps

This section shows differences in Learning Rates between demographic groups. A value of 0 indicates no difference in learning rates. Values above 0 indicates that Learning Rates of the first group listed are higher than those of the second group; values below zero indicate the opposite.






# Trend in Test Scores

## Alabama

Alabama shows relatively stable educational opportunity. Test scores increased an average of 0.00 grade levels each year from 2009-2018. Socioeconomic status is at roughly the national average.

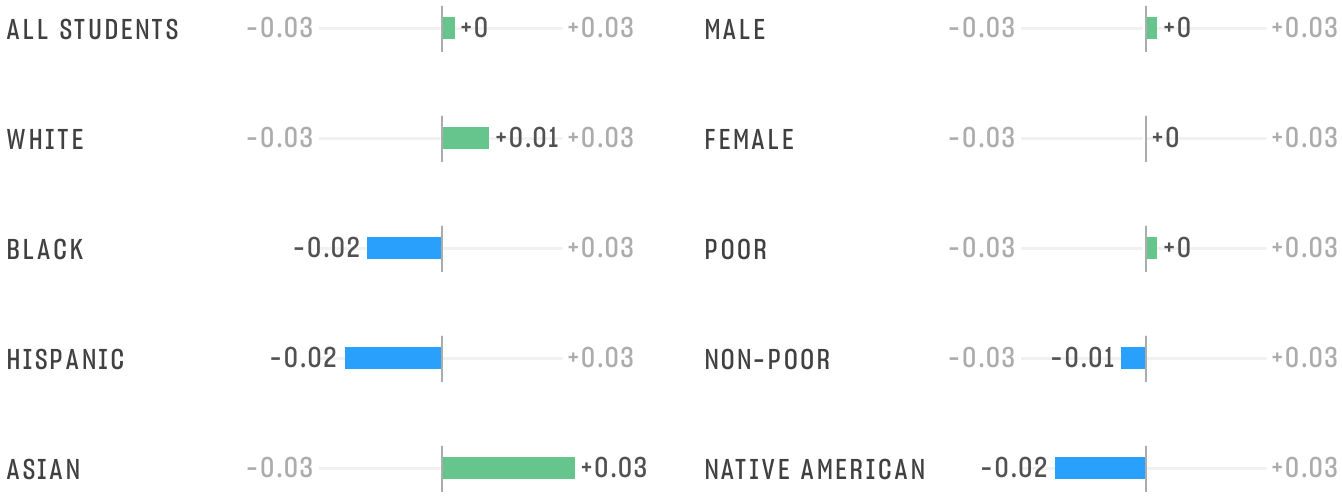
Average student test scores are influenced by home environments, early childhood experiences, community resources, and schools. The trend (or change) in average student test scores from one year to the next indicates whether educational opportunities are improving or declining in a community. Where the trend is positive, students' opportunities to learn are improving. Opportunities may improve over time because of changes in school quality or because of changes in family resources, home environments, early childhood experiences, and/or community resources.

# Trend in Test Scores Bar Charts

## Alabama

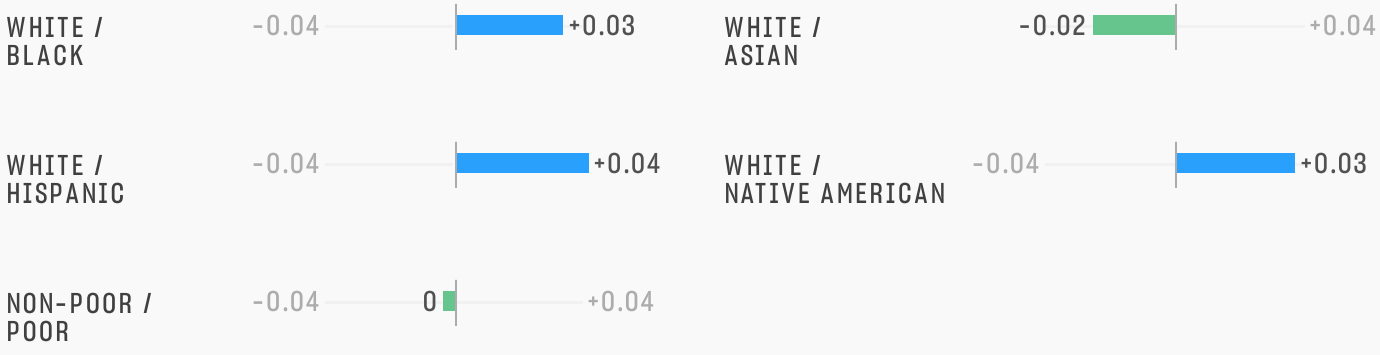
### By Demographic Group

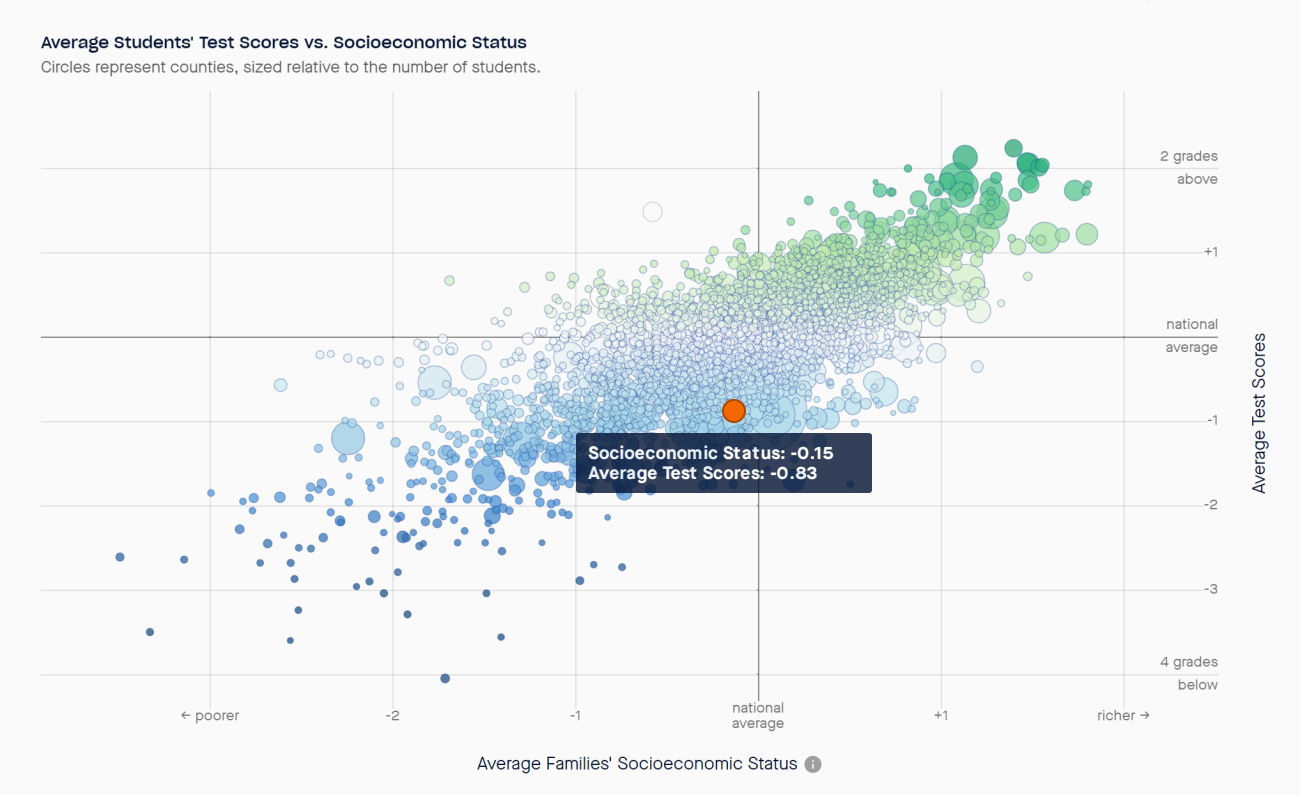
This section shows Trends in Test Scores for various demographic groups. A value of 0 represents no change in average test scores from 2009-2018; a value below 0 indicates a decline in average test scores from 2009-2018, and a value above 0 indicates a rise in average test scores from 2009-2018.




### Gaps

This section shows differences in Test Score Trends between demographic groups. A value of 0 indicates no difference in Trend in Test Scores from 2009-2018. Values above 0 indicate that the Test Score Trends of the first group listed are higher than those of the second group; values below 0 indicate the opposite.






# Average Test Scores

## Jefferson County, Alabama

Jefferson County, Alabama provides lower than average educational opportunities. Average test scores are 0.83 grade level(s) below the national average. Socioeconomic status is at roughly the national average. Average scores are 0.77 grade levels lower than those of counties with similar socioeconomic status.

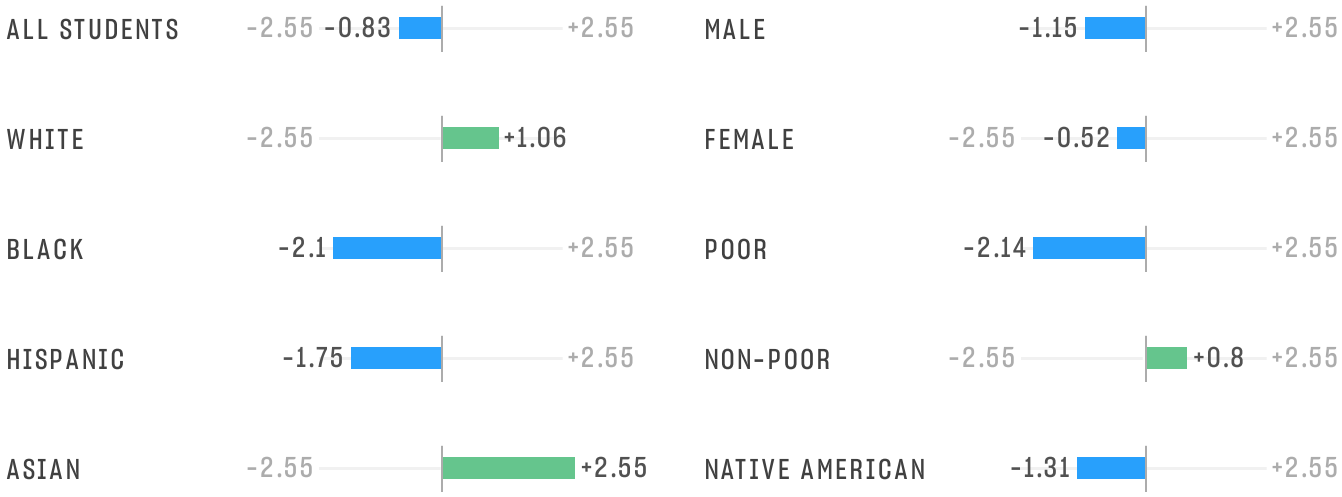
Average scores are influenced by opportunities to learn at home, in neighborhoods, in child-care, preschool, and after-school programs, from peers and friends, and in schools. Because of all these influences, average test scores are not a good way to assess how much children learn in schools. But they are a good way to assess the average set of educational opportunities available to children in a community. Where average scores are low, students have fewer opportunities to learn. Schools are better evaluated using learning rates, which measure how much student scores improve while they are in school.

# Average Test Scores

## Jefferson County, Alabama

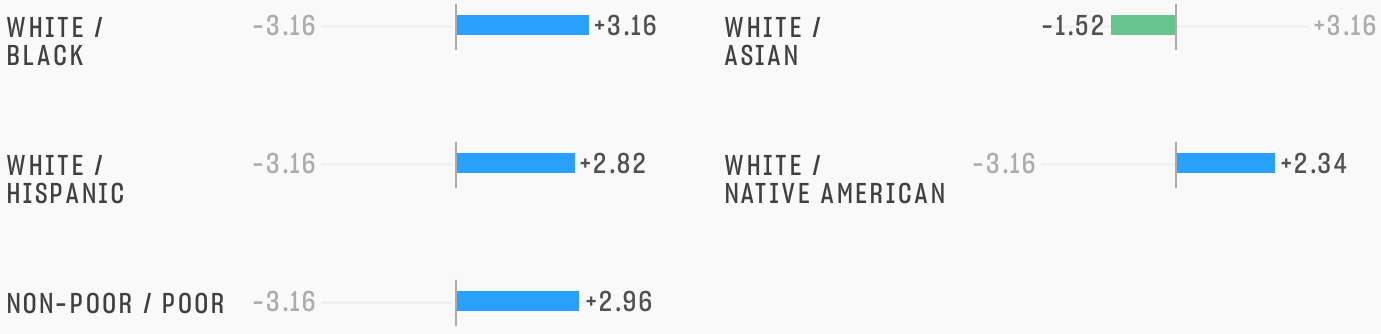
### By Demographic Group

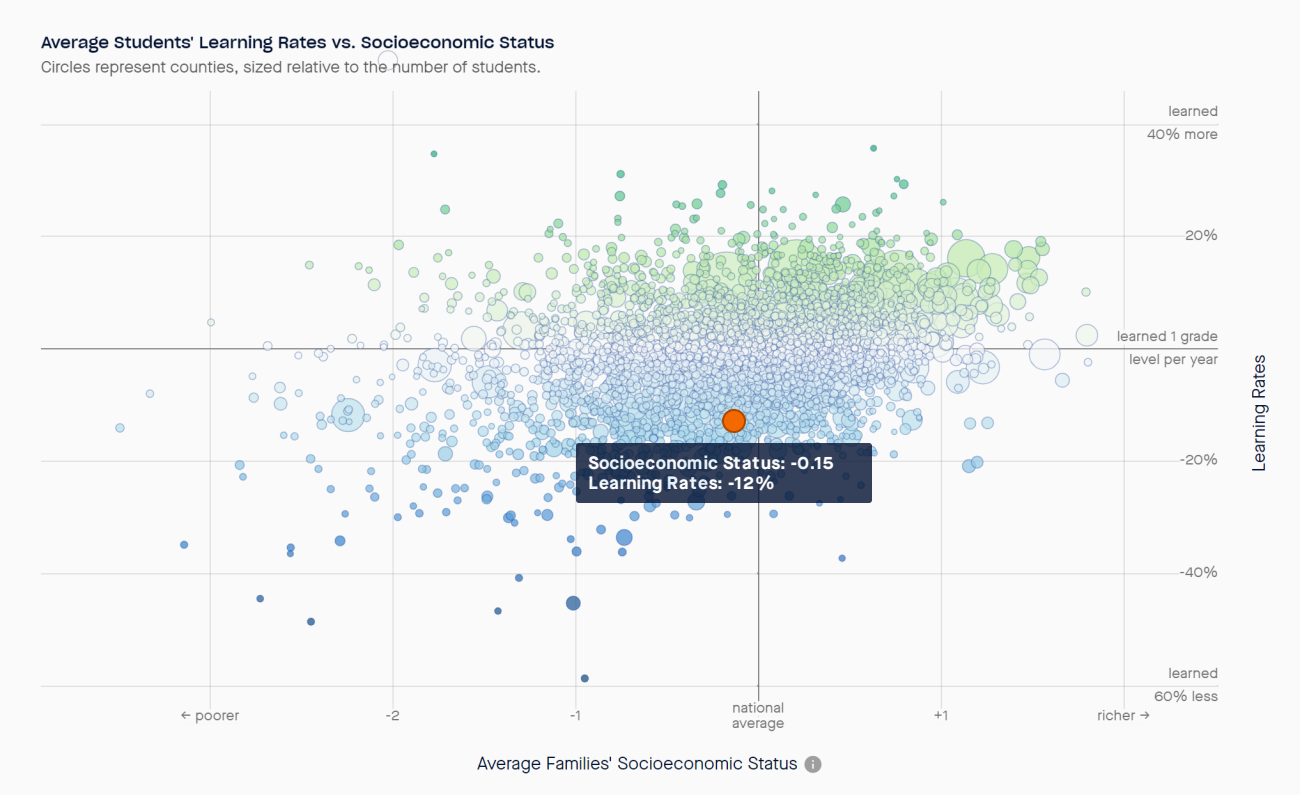
This section shows Average Test Scores for various demographic groups in Jefferson County, Alabama. A value of 0 represents the national average for all students; a value less than 0 indicates scores below the national average, and values above 0 indicate scores above the national average.




### Gaps

This section shows differences in Average Test Scores between demographic groups in Jefferson County, Alabama. A value of 0 indicates no difference between the two demographics. Values above 0 indicate that the scores of the first group listed are higher than those of the second group; values below 0 indicate the opposite.






# Learning Rates

## Jefferson County, Alabama

Jefferson County, Alabama provides roughly average educational opportunities while children are in school. Students learn 12% less each grade than the U.S. average. Socioeconomic status is at roughly the national average. Learning rates are 0.11% lower than those of counties with similar socioeconomic status.

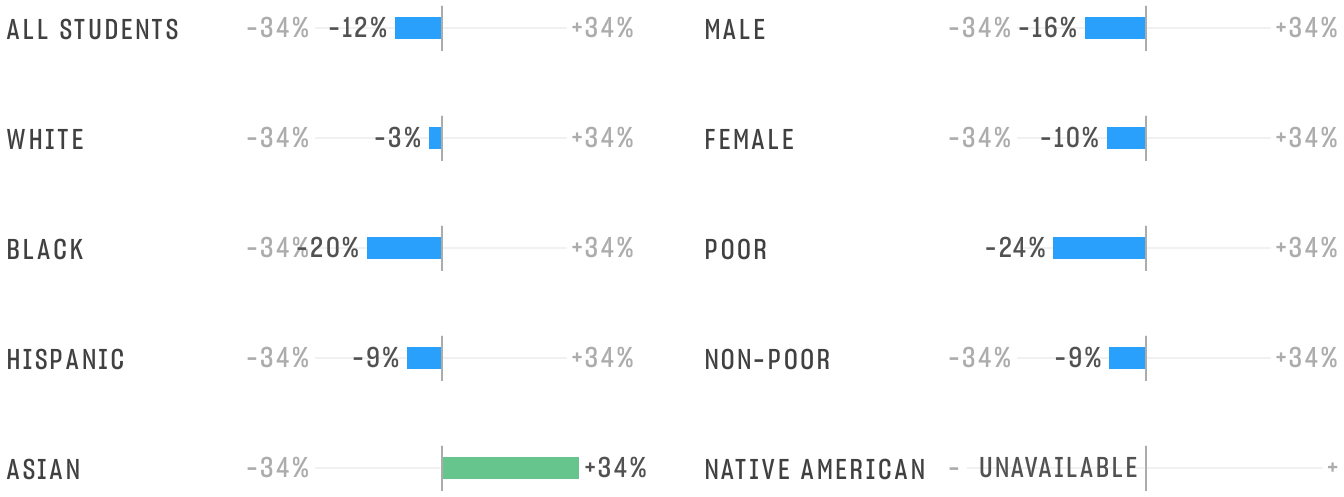
Learning rates measure how much students' scores improve each year while they are in school. This is a better way to assess what children learn in schools than average test scores, which are heavily influenced by factors outside of school. To understand the distinction, think of a hospital: We wouldn't assess a hospital based on the health of its patients; rather, we'd judge it on how much the health of patients improves as a result of their time in the hospital. Similarly, we shouldn't evaluate a school based on the average scores of its students, but rather by how much their test scores improve while in school.

# Learning Rates Bar Charts

## Jefferson County, Alabama

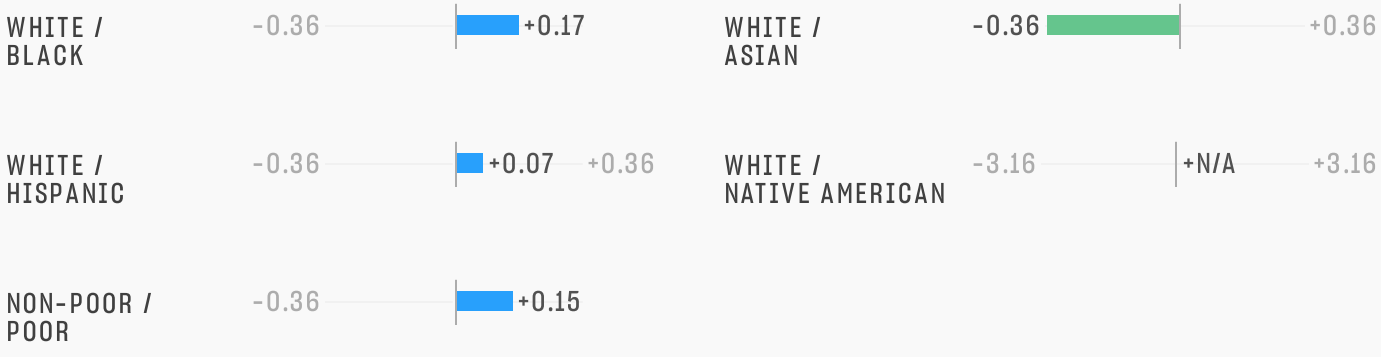
### By Demographic Group

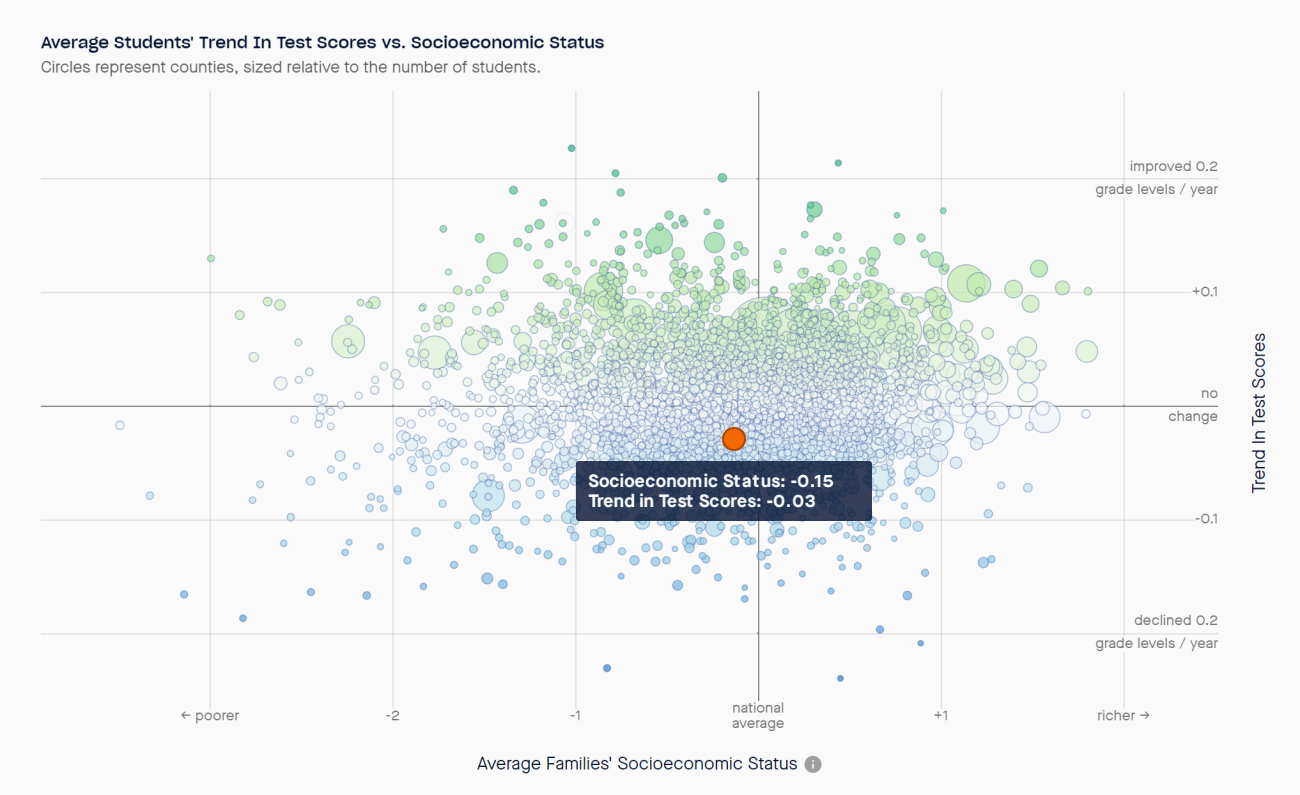
This section show Learning Rates for various demographic groups. A value of 0 represents the national average for all students; a value below 0 indicates Learning Rates below the national average, and a value above 0 indicates Learning Rates above the national average.




### Gaps

This section shows differences in Learning Rates between demographic groups. A value of 0 indicates no difference in learning rates. Values above 0 indicates that Learning Rates of the first group listed are higher than those of the second group; values below zero indicate the opposite.






# Trend in Test Scores

## Jefferson County, Alabama

Jefferson County, Alabama shows declining educational opportunity. Test scores decreased an average of 0.03 grade levels each year from 2009-2018. Socioeconomic status is at roughly the national average. Average scores have decreased by 0.03 grade levels less than those of counties with similar socioeconomic status.

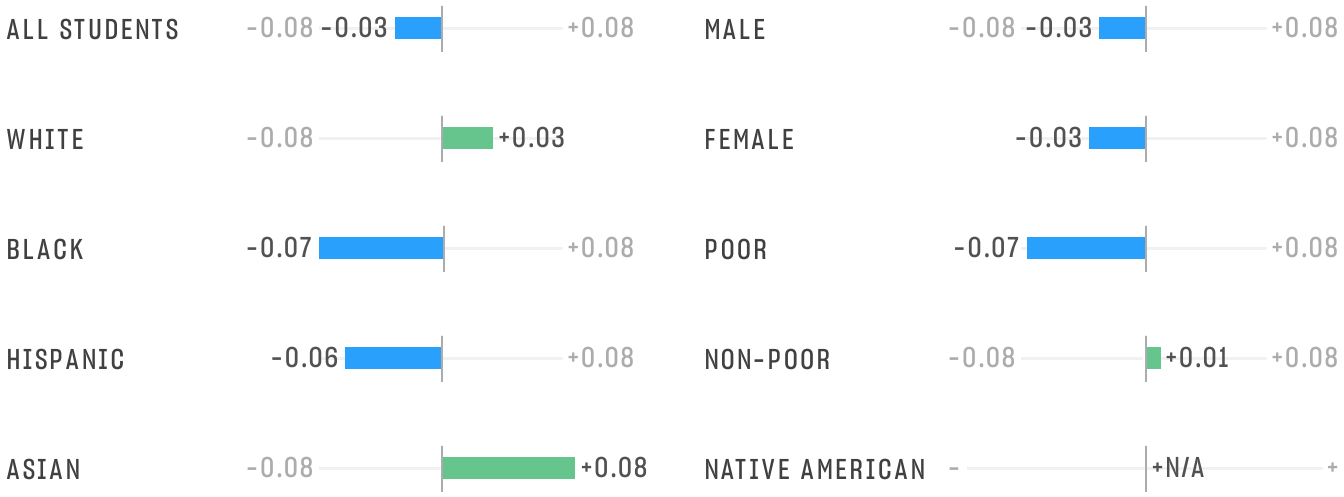
Average student test scores are influenced by home environments, early childhood experiences, community resources, and schools. The trend (or change) in average student test scores from one year to the next indicates whether educational opportunities are improving or declining in a community. Where the trend is positive, students' opportunities to learn are improving. Opportunities may improve over time because of changes in school quality or because of changes in family resources, home environments, early childhood experiences, and/or community resources.

# Trend in Test Scores Bar Charts

## Jefferson County, Alabama

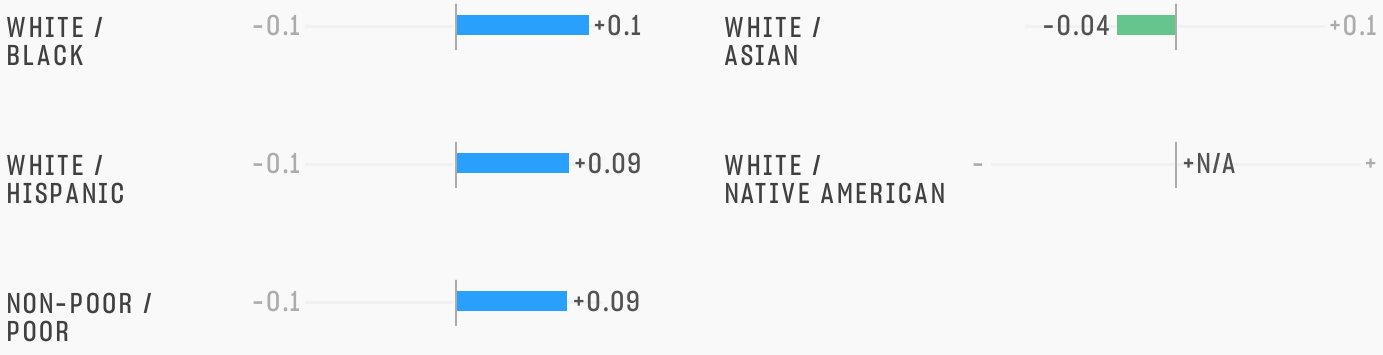
### By Demographic Group

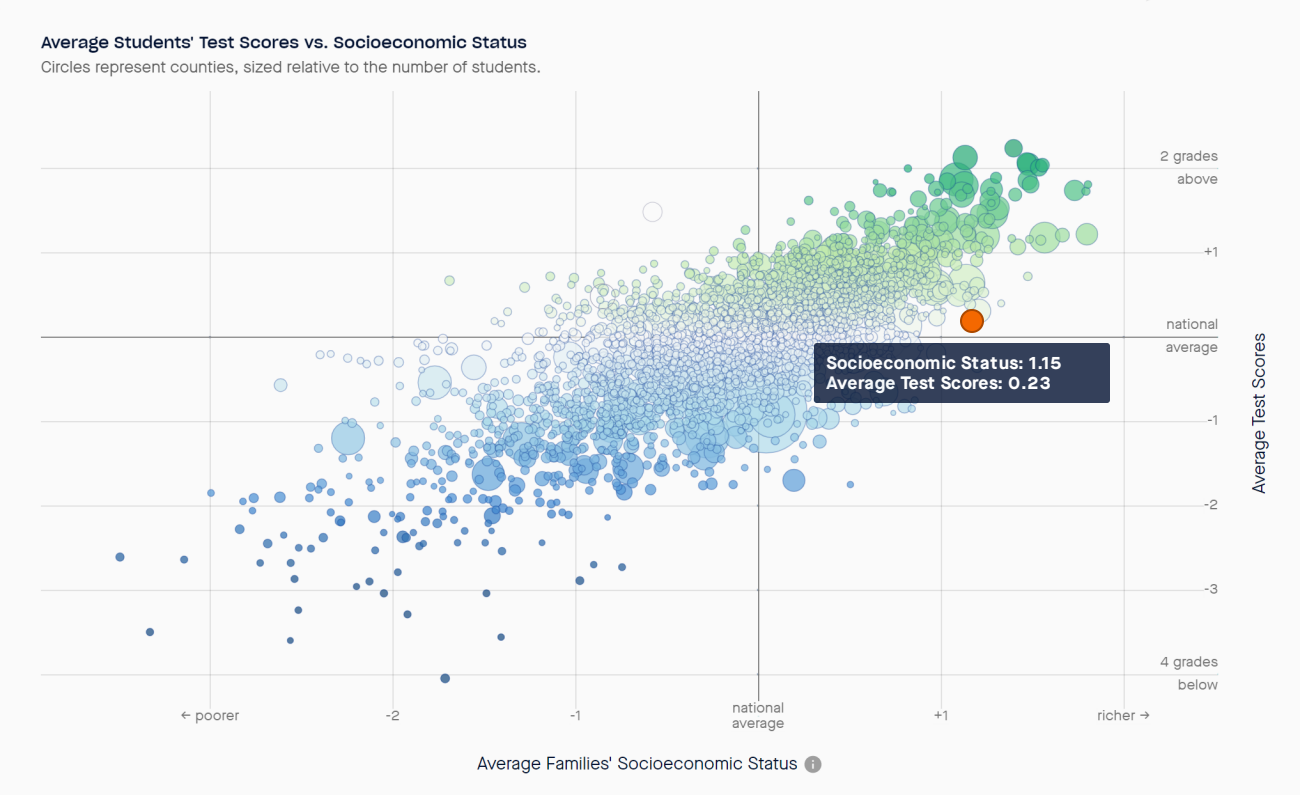
This section shows Trends in Test Scores for various demographic groups. A value of 0 represents no change in average test scores from 2009-2018; a value below 0 indicates a decline in average test scores from 2009-2018, and a value above 0 indicates a rise in average test scores from 2009-2018.




### Gaps

This section shows differences in Test Score Trends between demographic groups. A value of 0 indicates no difference in Trend in Test Scores from 2009-2018. Values above 0 indicate that the Test Score Trends of the first group listed are higher than those of the second group; values below 0 indicate the opposite.






# Average Test Scores

## Shelby County, Alabama

Shelby County, Alabama provides roughly average educational opportunities. Average test scores are 0.23 grade level(s) above the national average. Socioeconomic status is above the national average. Average scores are 0.69 grade levels lower than those of counties with similar socioeconomic status.

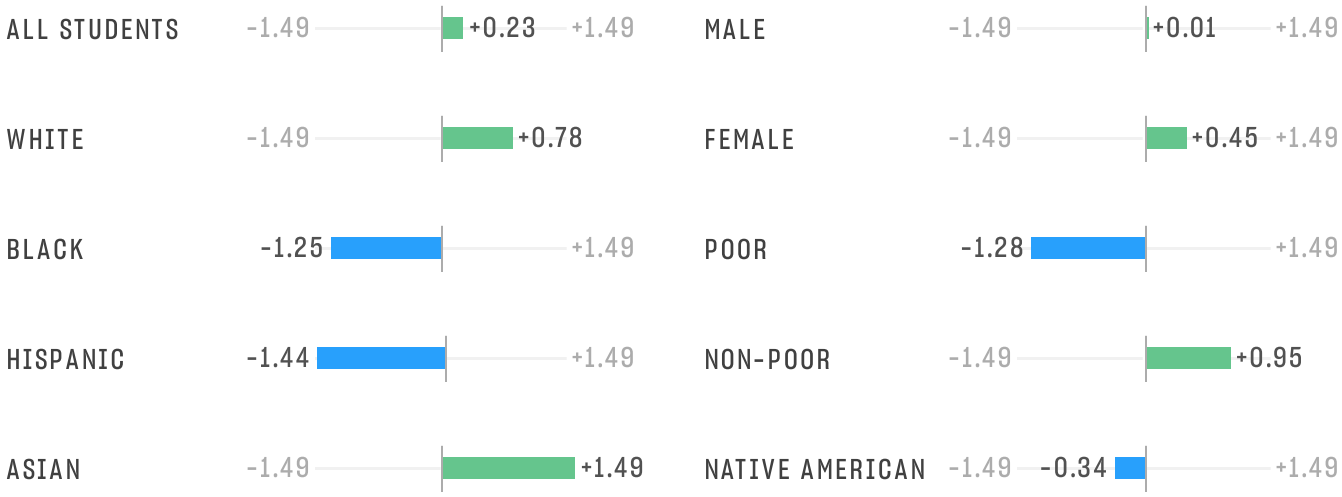
Average scores are influenced by opportunities to learn at home, in neighborhoods, in child-care, preschool, and after-school programs, from peers and friends, and in schools. Because of all these influences, average test scores are not a good way to assess how much children learn in schools. But they are a good way to assess the average set of educational opportunities available to children in a community. Where average scores are low, students have fewer opportunities to learn. Schools are better evaluated using learning rates, which measure how much student scores improve while they are in school.

# Average Test Scores

## Shelby County, Alabama

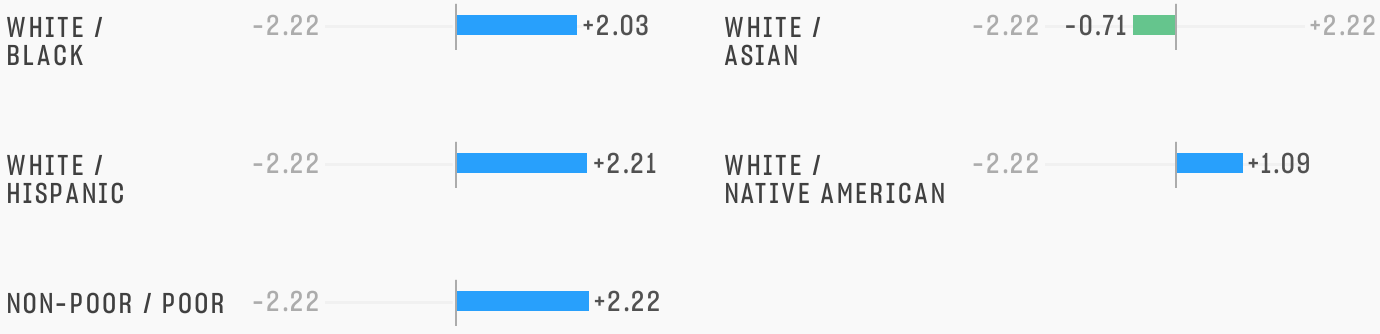
### By Demographic Group

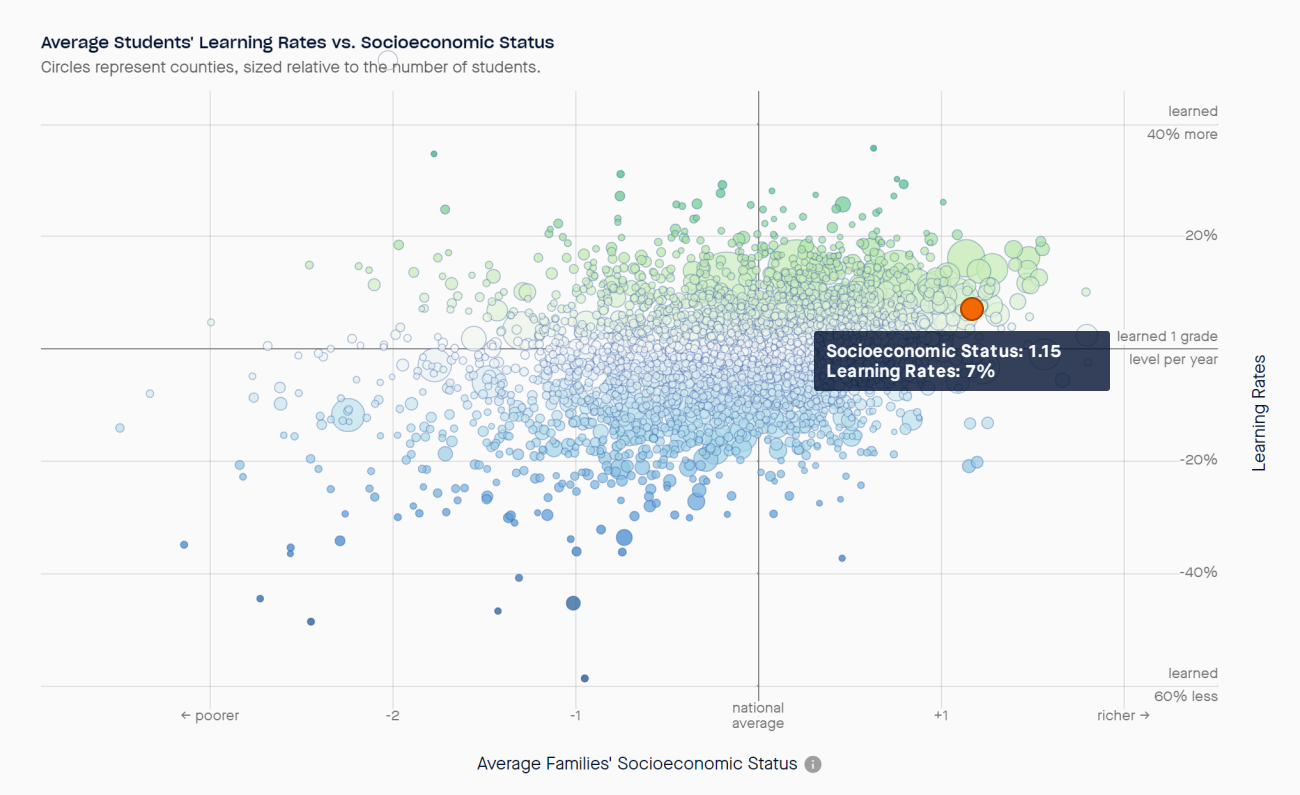
This section shows Average Test Scores for various demographic groups in Shelby County, Alabama. A value of 0 represents the national average for all students; a value less than 0 indicates scores below the national average, and values above 0 indicate scores above the national average.




### Gaps

This section shows differences in Average Test Scores between demographic groups in Shelby County, Alabama. A value of 0 indicates no difference between the two demographics. Values above 0 indicate that the scores of the first group listed are higher than those of the second group; values below 0 indicate the opposite.






# Learning Rates

## Shelby County, Alabama

Shelby County, Alabama provides roughly average educational opportunities while children are in school. Students learn 7% more each grade than the U.S. average. Socioeconomic status is above the national average. Learning rates are 0.02% higher than those of counties with similar socioeconomic status.

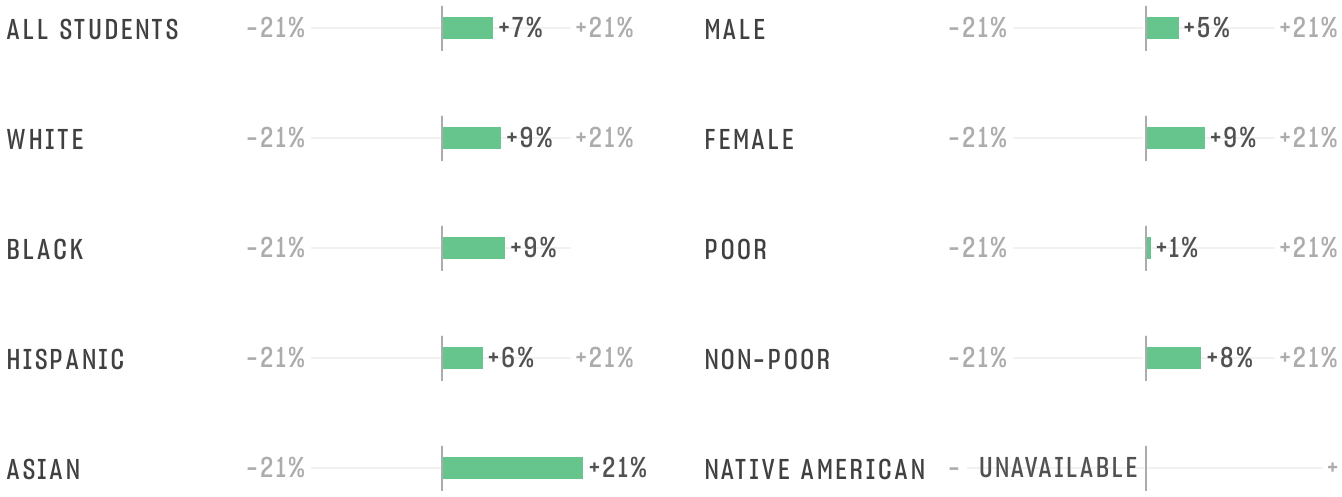
Learning rates measure how much students' scores improve each year while they are in school. This is a better way to assess what children learn in schools than average test scores, which are heavily influenced by factors outside of school. To understand the distinction, think of a hospital: We wouldn't assess a hospital based on the health of its patients; rather, we'd judge it on how much the health of patients improves as a result of their time in the hospital. Similarly, we shouldn't evaluate a school based on the average scores of its students, but rather by how much their test scores improve while in school.

# Learning Rates Bar Charts

## Shelby County, Alabama

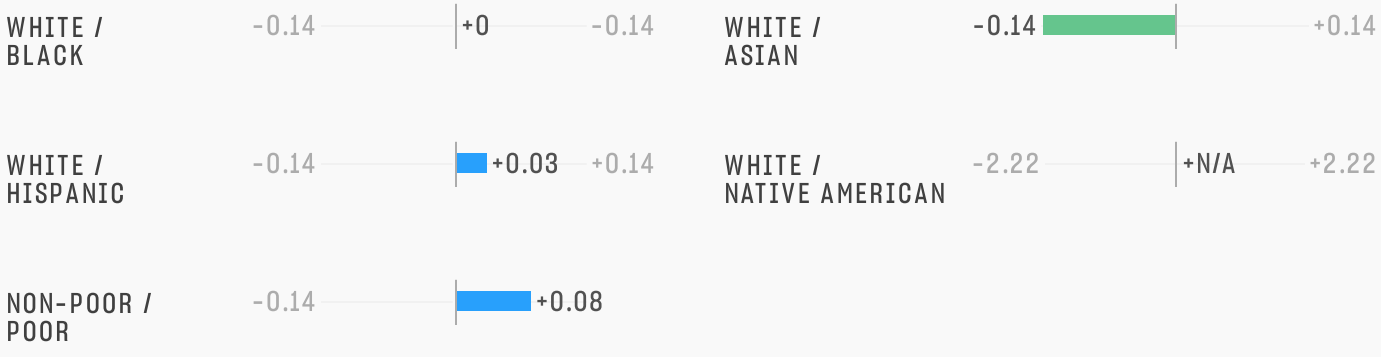
### By Demographic Group

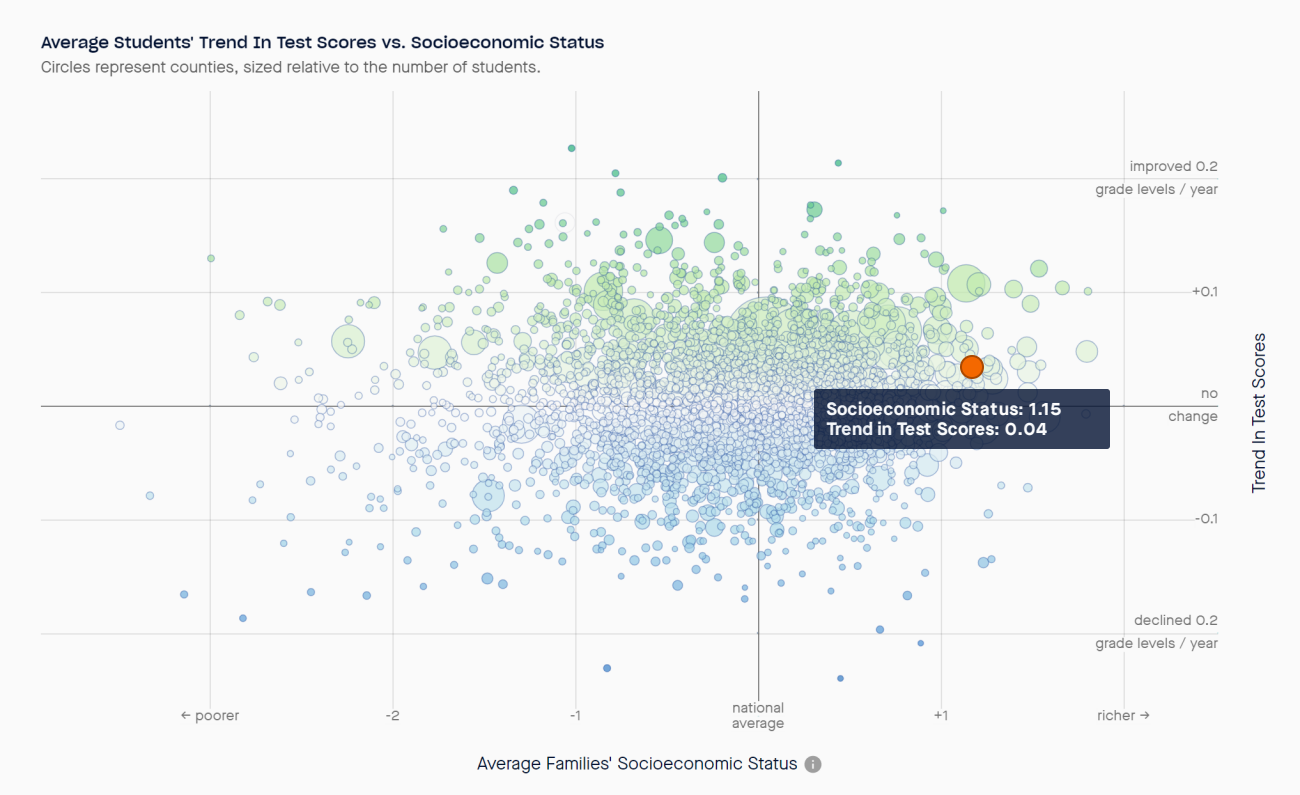
This section show Learning Rates for various demographic groups. A value of 0 represents the national average for all students; a value below 0 indicates Learning Rates below the national average, and a value above 0 indicates Learning Rates above the national average.




### Gaps

This section shows differences in Learning Rates between demographic groups. A value of 0 indicates no difference in learning rates. Values above 0 indicates that Learning Rates of the first group listed are higher than those of the second group; values below zero indicate the opposite.






# Trend in Test Scores

## Shelby County, Alabama

Shelby County, Alabama shows improving educational opportunity. Test scores increased an average of 0.04 grade levels each year from 2009-2018. Socioeconomic status is above the national average. Average scores have increased by 0.02 grade levels more than those of counties with similar socioeconomic status.

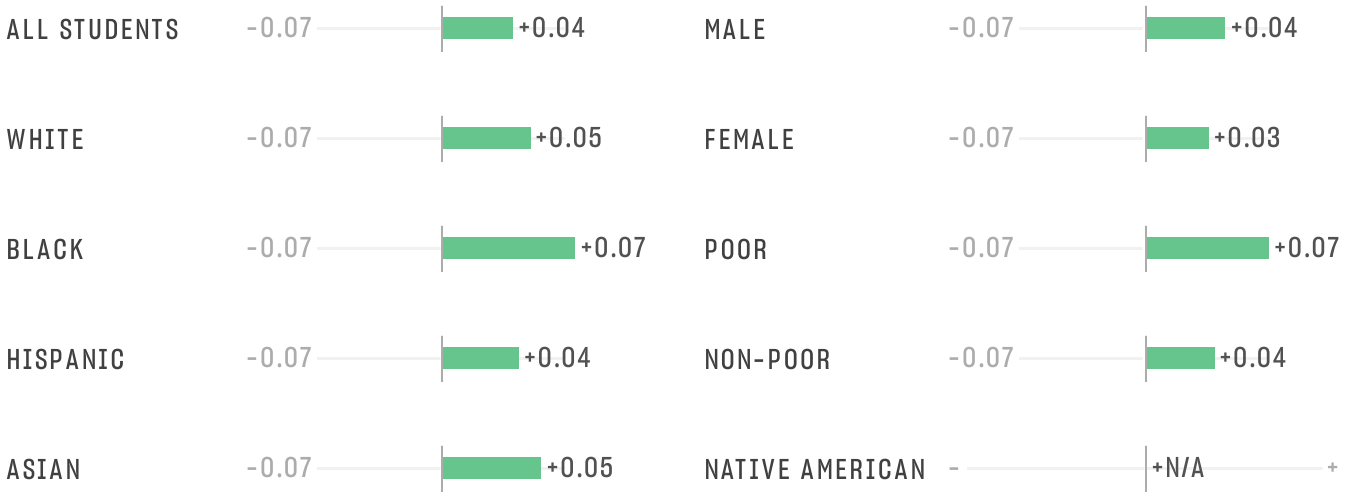
Average student test scores are influenced by home environments, early childhood experiences, community resources, and schools. The trend (or change) in average student test scores from one year to the next indicates whether educational opportunities are improving or declining in a community. Where the trend is positive, students' opportunities to learn are improving. Opportunities may improve over time because of changes in school quality or because of changes in family resources, home environments, early childhood experiences, and/or community resources.

# Trend in Test Scores Bar Charts

## Shelby County, Alabama

### By Demographic Group

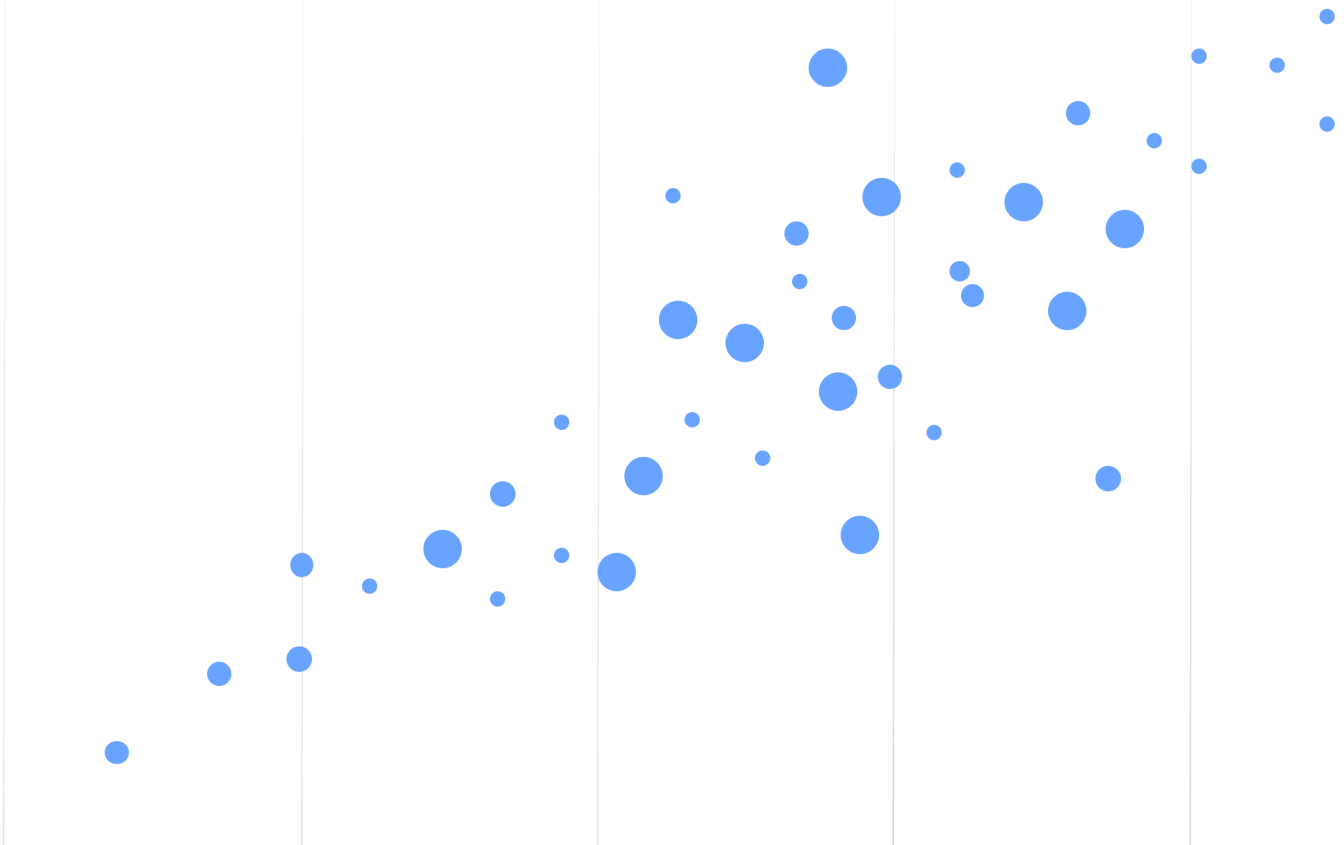
This section shows Trends in Test Scores for various demographic groups. A value of 0 represents no change in average test scores from 2009-2018; a value below 0 indicates a decline in average test scores from 2009-2018, and a value above 0 indicates a rise in average test scores from 2009-2018.




### Gaps

This section shows differences in Test Score Trends between demographic groups. A value of 0 indicates no difference in Trend in Test Scores from 2009-2018. Values above 0 indicate that the Test Score Trends of the first group listed are higher than those of the second group; values below 0 indicate the opposite.

# Learn more

View more information about Shelby County and see how it compares to the rest of the country.

GO TO THE SITE