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Districts of Distinction

Pioneers of Progress in Learning Recovery and Academic Excellence

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An Overview of the Districts of Distinction Initiative

Our **Districts of Distinction** initiative celebrates 10 U.S. school districts that have made exceptional strides in learning recovery and academic success. Through a detailed analysis of 2019-2024 performance data, Agile identified districts demonstrating the highest percentage improvements in English Language Arts (ELA), Math, and Science. The project aims to uncover and share the strategies driving these successes.

Leading the Charge in Learning Recovery

In a post-pandemic world, schools are still working hard to recover lost learning and restabalize education. On average, students need four to five extra months of schooling to catch up, with marginalized students being the most affected.

We're looking at ten districts that aren't just tackling learning recovery, but excelling. With creative, critical-thinking, and problem-solving strategies, these districts are driving real change and setting new standards for academic success.

How We Chose the Top Districts

We analyzed district data from 2019 to 2024, focusing on performance improvements in core subjects.
Key factors included:

- **Academic growth**
- **District strategies**
- **Leadership initiatives**

Insights from interviews with district leaders also helped illuminate the approaches that fueled their remarkable progress in learning recovery.

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Districts Shaping the Future of Education:
Success Stories and Lessons Learned

Profiles and Priorities of the 10 Leading Districts

1. **Arlington Community School District:**
21st-century skills, resilience, and creativity for learning recovery

2. **Neshoba County School District:**
Safety, social-emotional support, and teacher development

3. **Los Alamos Public Schools:**
Strong community support and data-driven strategies for academic and social-emotional success

4. **Perry Community School District:**
Targeted goals and data-driven strategies to improve core subject proficiency

5. **Hattiesburg Public School District:**
High-quality curriculum and targeted intervention for diverse learners

6. **Desoto 73 School District:**
Safety, infrastructure, and technology improvements with community input

7. **Germantown Municipal School District:**
Equitable academics, social-emotional support, and closing achievement gaps

8. **Alabaster City Schools:**
Adaptable learning, personalized support, and professional development for staff

9. **Wright City R-II School District:**
Personalized instruction, adaptable learning, and resource-driven success

10. **Tempe Union High School District:**
Equitable learning, mental health support, and community-driven academic preparation

What Did We Learn?

There's no one-size-fits-all formula for academic improvement. Leading districts combined strong leadership, innovation, and collaboration to create thriving learning cultures. By tailoring unique strategies to their students, they're paving the way for lasting excellence.

Looking Ahead: Fueling Academic Excellence in 2024 and Beyond

The **Districts of Distinction** initiative empowers the future of U.S. education by showcasing strategies that drive academic success and learning recovery. Agile is committed to advancing education with the resources, services, and research schools and stakeholders need to thrive.

Ready to unlock insights that drive lasting progress? Explore district profiles from our Districts of Distinction initiative today!

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SOURCES

1.   https://www.nwea.org/uploads/Educations-long-covid-2022-23-achievement-data-reveal-stalled-progress-toward-pandemic-recovery_NWEA_Research-brief.pdf