



# New York City Imagine IM Students Outperform Peers on State Math Assessment

## Overview

Several schools across New York City have implemented Imagine IM with students in Grades 3–8 to support standards-aligned mathematics instruction and conceptual understanding. To evaluate academic outcomes, Imagine Learning analyzed Grades 3–8 New York State standardized math assessment results, comparing schools using Imagine IM to schools using other mathematics programs. Among the 1,178 schools in the dataset, 852 had available Grades 3–8 math assessment data. Of these, 183 schools were implementing Imagine IM and 669 were using other mathematics programs. To ensure a fair comparison, schools were matched using 1:1 nearest-neighbor propensity score matching without replacement. Matches were based on school demographic and contextual characteristics, including prior math proficiency, the percentage of students identified as economically disadvantaged, English learner enrollment, the percentage of students with IEPs, racial composition, gender distribution, and total school enrollment. This process matched each Imagine IM school with a similar non-user school, producing 183 matched pairs. After matching, weighted average proficiency rates were calculated across academic years for schools implementing Imagine IM and for schools implementing other programs. A weighted average ensures that each school’s results are represented proportionally based on its total student population, rather than allowing very large schools to disproportionately influence the overall results. Together, statistical matching and the calculation of weighted averages strengthen the validity of the comparison by promoting balance between groups and ensuring that results accurately reflect student performance across schools of varying sizes.

### New York City Schools

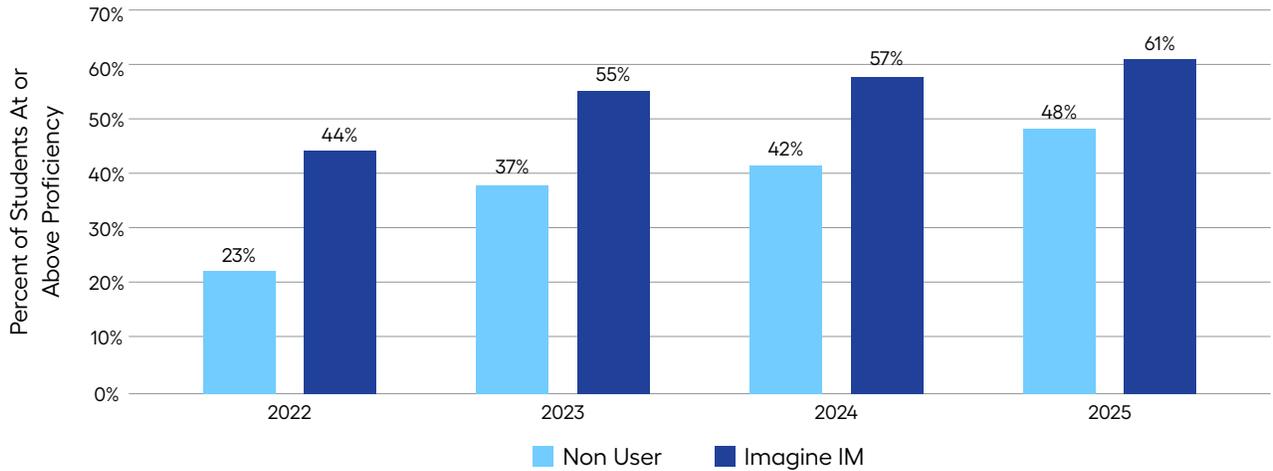
Demographics (N = 1,178 Schools)	
White (Non-Hispanic)	13%
Black/African American	24%
Hispanic	46%
Economically Disadvantaged	79%
English Learner	20%

## Results

Across Grades 3–8, schools using Imagine IM consistently demonstrated higher math proficiency rates than schools using other programs (Figure 1). In every grade, Imagine IM schools outperformed comparison schools. The proficiency gap favoring Imagine IM schools ranged from approximately 3 to 6 percentage points. Proficiency rates increased

steadily across years for both groups; however, the advantage for Imagine IM schools remained consistent. These findings indicate that schools implementing Imagine IM achieved stronger Grade 3–8 outcomes relative to schools using alternative mathematics programs in New York City.

**Figure 1.** Grade 3–8 New York State Math Proficiency Rates in Matched Schools: Imagine IM Schools vs. Other Programs



Note: Figure displays weighted average percentage of students meeting proficiency on the New York State Grade 3–8 Mathematics Assessment. Schools were matched using propensity score matching (1:1 nearest neighbor) based on demographic and contextual characteristics. The matched sample includes 183 Imagine IM schools and 183 comparison schools.

**Table 1.** Grade 3–8 New York City Math Performance: Imagine IM Schools vs. Other Programs

	2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Imagine IM	Non-User						
Level 1	38%	40%	26%	27%	22%	25%	20%	21%
Level 2	23%	24%	23%	25%	23%	25%	22%	24%
Level 3	19%	19%	29%	31%	30%	32%	32%	34%
Level 4	18%	17%	19%	16%	22%	18%	23%	20%
Level 5	2%	0%	3%	1%	3%	1%	3%	1%
Proficient	39%	36%	51%	48%	55%	51%	58%	54%

Note: Table displays weighted average percentage of students at each performance level. Proficient is defined as achieving Level 3 or above. Schools were matched using propensity score matching (1:1 nearest neighbor) based on demographic and contextual characteristics. The matched sample includes 183 Imagine IM schools and 183 comparison schools.