

THE EDUCATION TRUST

ACHIEVEMENT AND OPPORTUNITY IN AMERICA

The Power of **You** in
Charting a Different Path

Virginia Association of Secondary
School Principals
Roanoke, VA
June, 2015

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America: Two Powerful Stories



1. Land of Opportunity:

Work hard, and you can become anything you want to be.



2. Generational Advancement:

Through hard work, each generation of parents can assure a better life — and better education — for their children.



These stories animated hopes and
dreams of people here at home

And drew countless immigrants to our
shores



Yes, America was often intolerant...

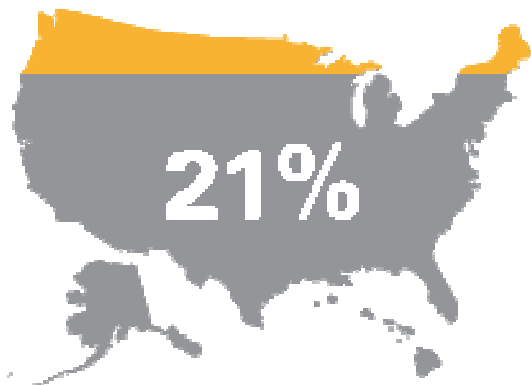
And they knew the “Dream” was a work in progress.

We were:

- The first to provide universal high school;
- The first to build public universities;
- The first to build community colleges;
- The first to broaden access to college, through GI Bill, Pell Grants, ...

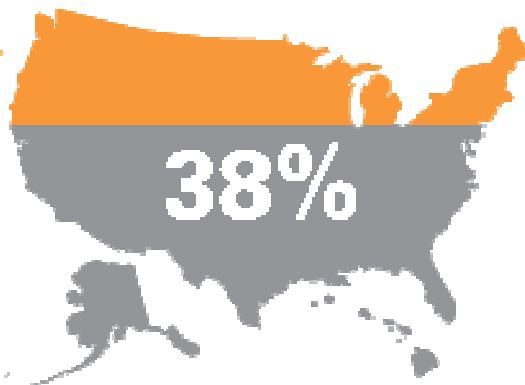
Percent of U.S. adults with a high school diploma

1920



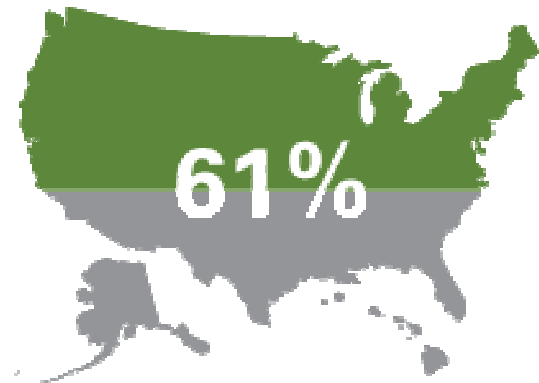
21%

1940



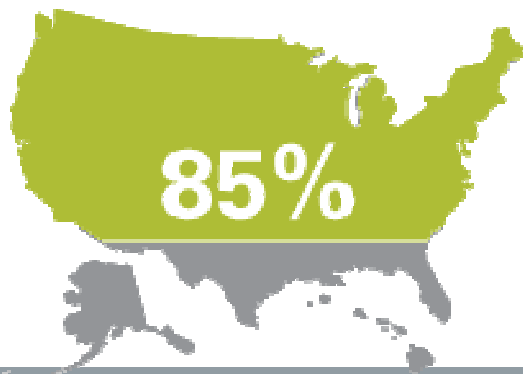
38%

1960



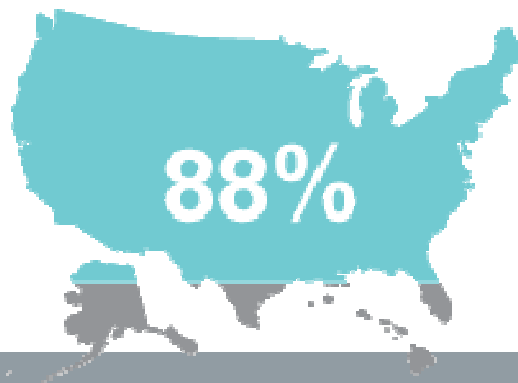
61%

1980



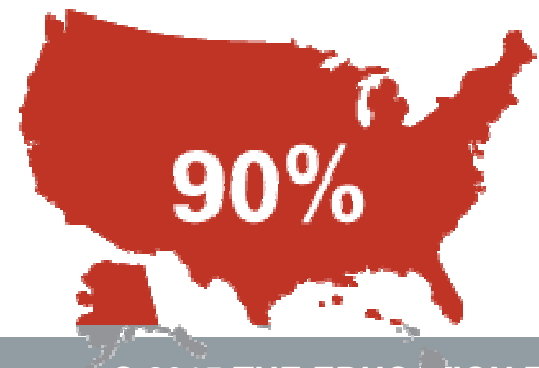
85%

2000



88%

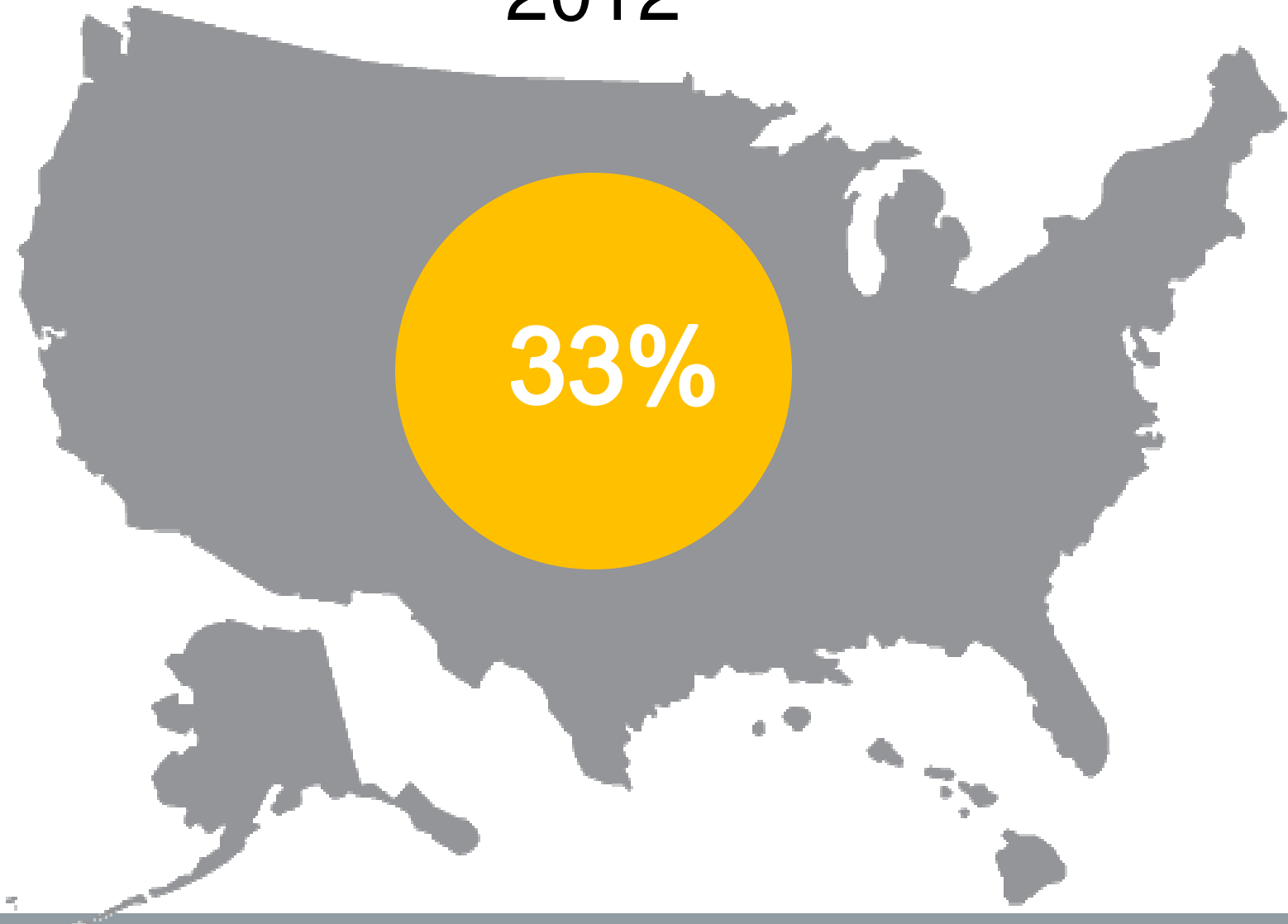
2012




90%

Percent of U.S. adults with a B.A. or more

2012

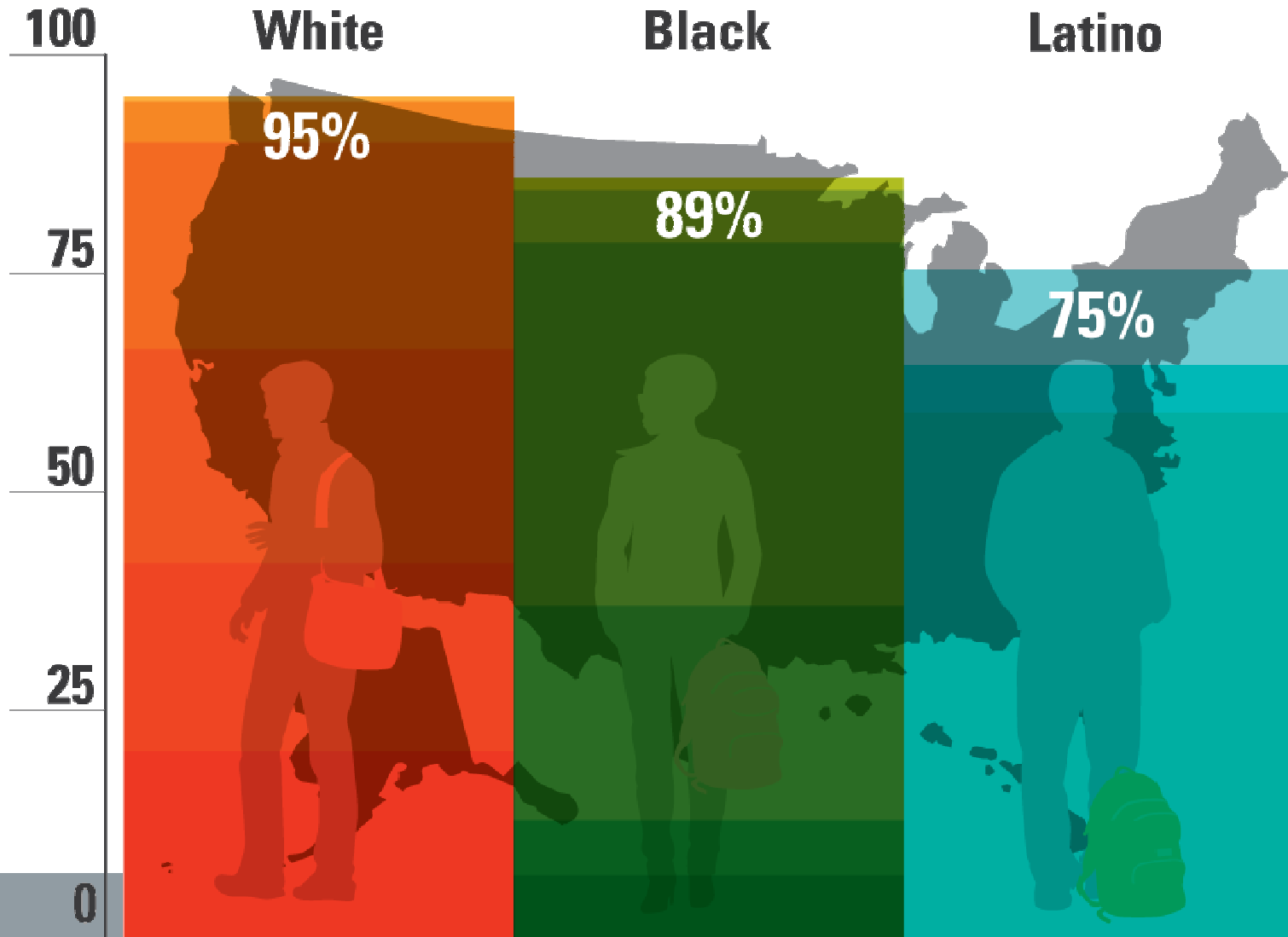




Progress was painfully slow, especially
for people of color. But year by year,
decade by decade...

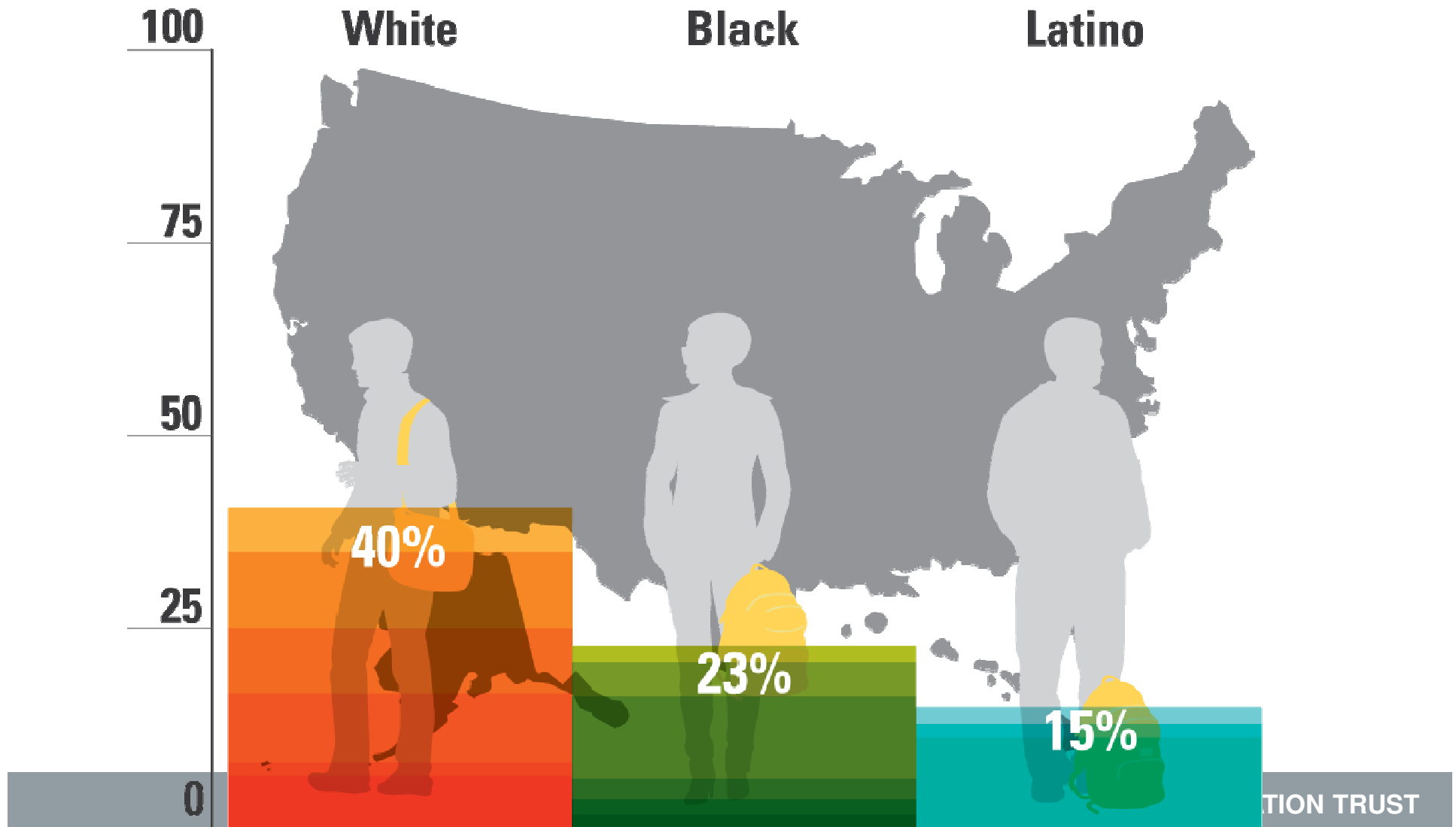
Percent of U.S. adults with a high school diploma, by race


2012




Percent of U.S. adults with a B.A. or more, by race

2012





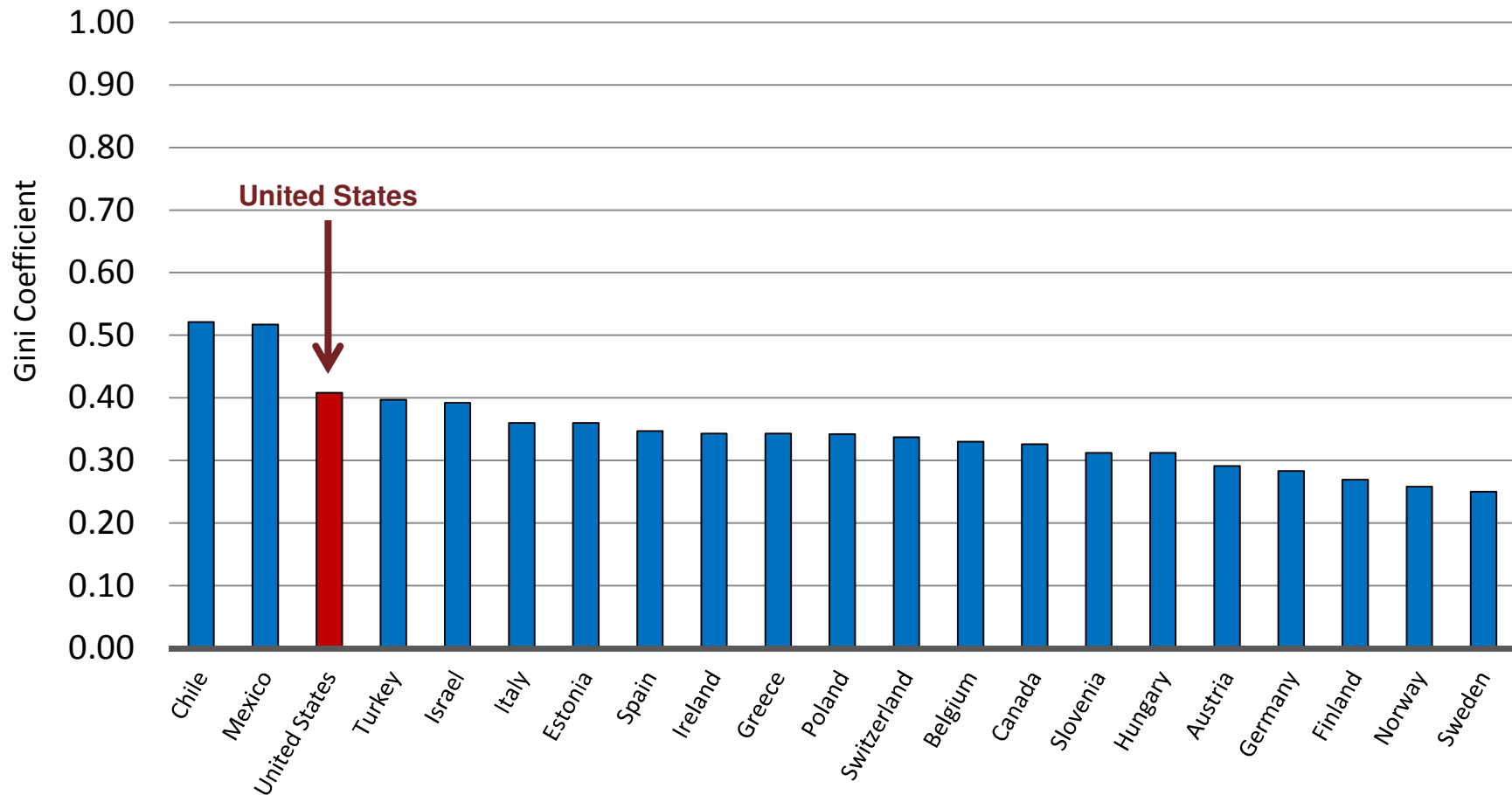
**Then, beginning in the
eighties, inequality started
growing again.**



In recent years, most income gains have gone to those at the top of the ladder, while those at the bottom have fallen backwards.

Source: Stiglitz, "Inequality is a Choice," *New York Times*, October 13, 2013.

Instead of being the most equal, the U.S. has the third highest income inequality among OECD nations.



Note: Gini coefficient ranges from 0 to 1, where 0 indicates total income equality and 1 indicates total income inequality.

Source: United Nations, U.N. data, <http://data.un.org/DocumentData.aspx?q=gini&id=271>: 2011

Median Wealth of White Families

20 X that of African Americans

18 X that of Latinos

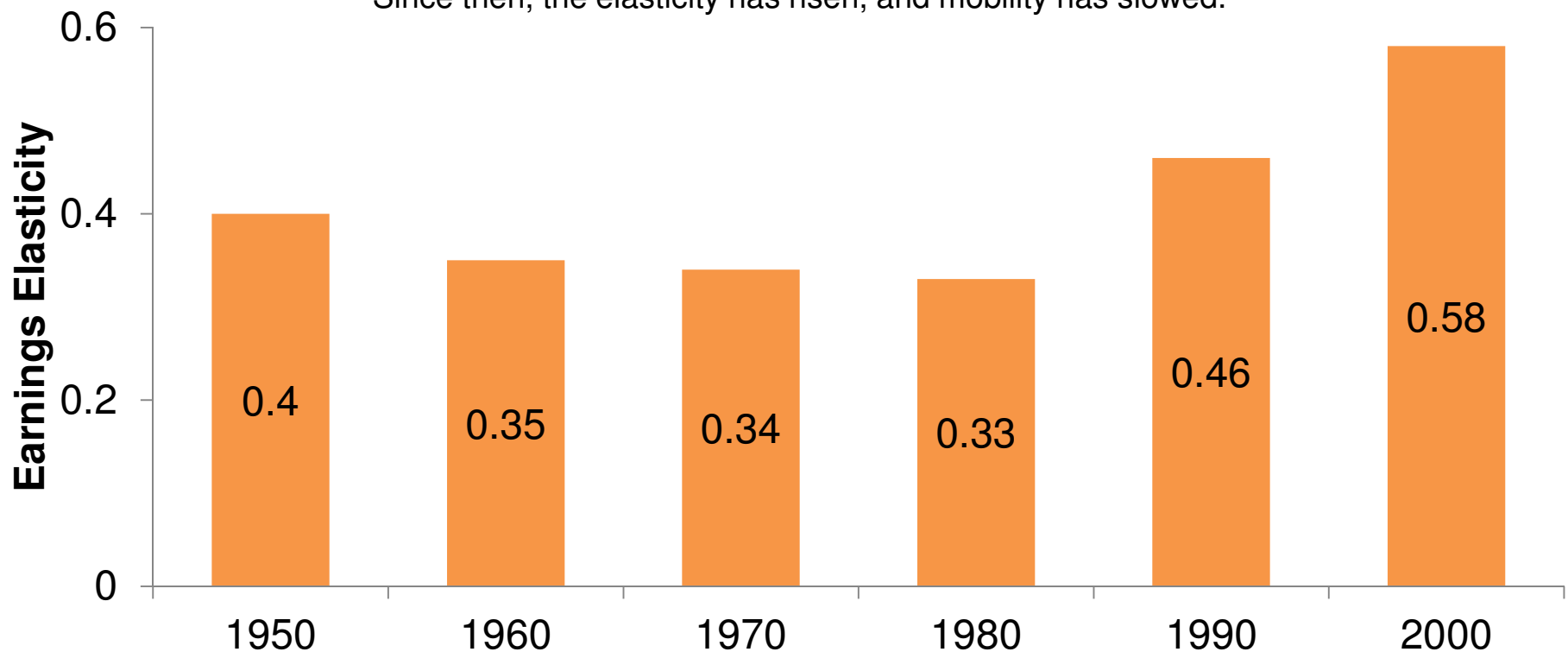
Source: Rakesh Kochhar, Richard Fry, and Paul Taylor, "Twenty-to-One: Wealth Gaps Rise to Record Highs Between Whites, Blacks, and Hispanics," Pew Social & Demographic Trends, 2011.



Not just wages and wealth, but
social mobility as well.

U.S. intergenerational mobility was improving until 1980, but barriers have gotten higher since.

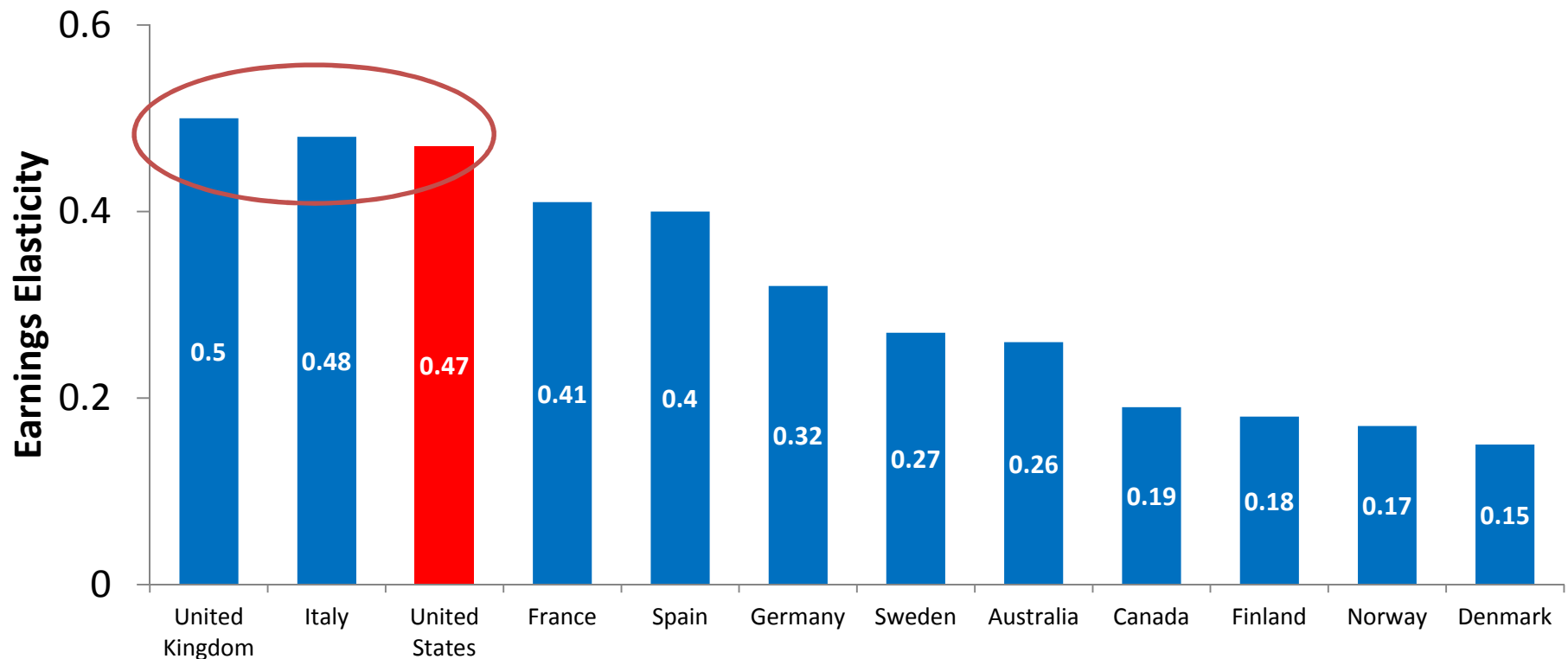
The falling elasticity meant increased economic mobility until 1980.
Since then, the elasticity has risen, and mobility has slowed.




Source: Daniel Aaronson and Bhashkar Mazumder. *Intergenerational Economic Mobility in the U.S., 1940 to 2000*. Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago WP 2005-12: Dec. 2005.

The US now has one of lowest rates of intergenerational mobility

Cross-country examples of the link between father and son wages




Source: Corak, Miles. *Chasing the Same Dream, Climbing Different Ladders*. Economic Mobility Project; New Charitable Trusts, 2010.




At macro level, better and more equal
education is not the only answer.

But at the individual level, it really is.



There is one road up, and that
road runs through us.



What schools and colleges do, in other words, is hugely important to our **economy**, our **democracy**, and our **society**.

So, how are we doing?



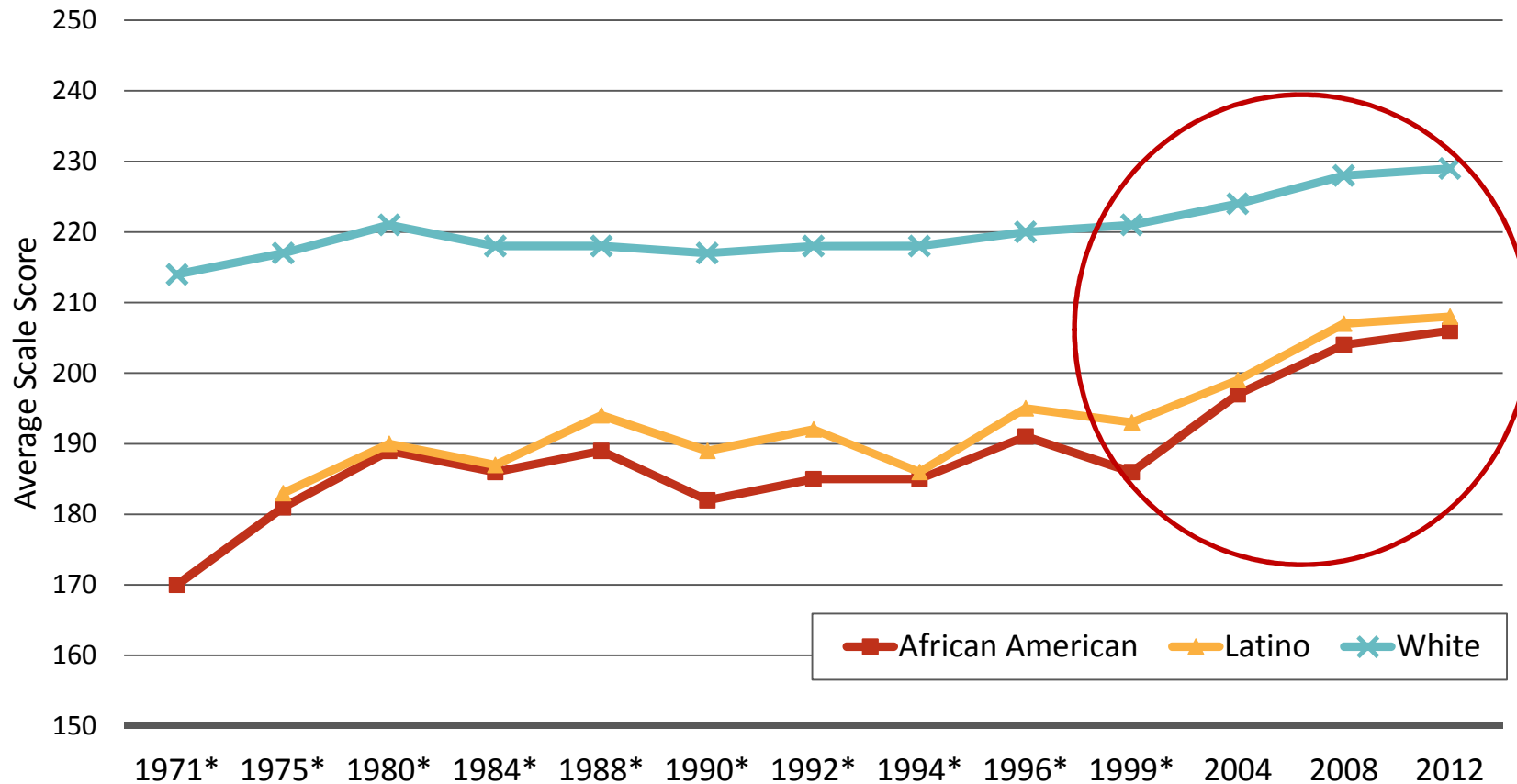


First, some good news.

After more than a decade of fairly flat achievement and stagnant or growing gaps in K-12, we appear to be turning the corner with our elementary students.

Since 1999, large gains for all groups of students, especially students of color

9 Year Olds – NAEP Reading



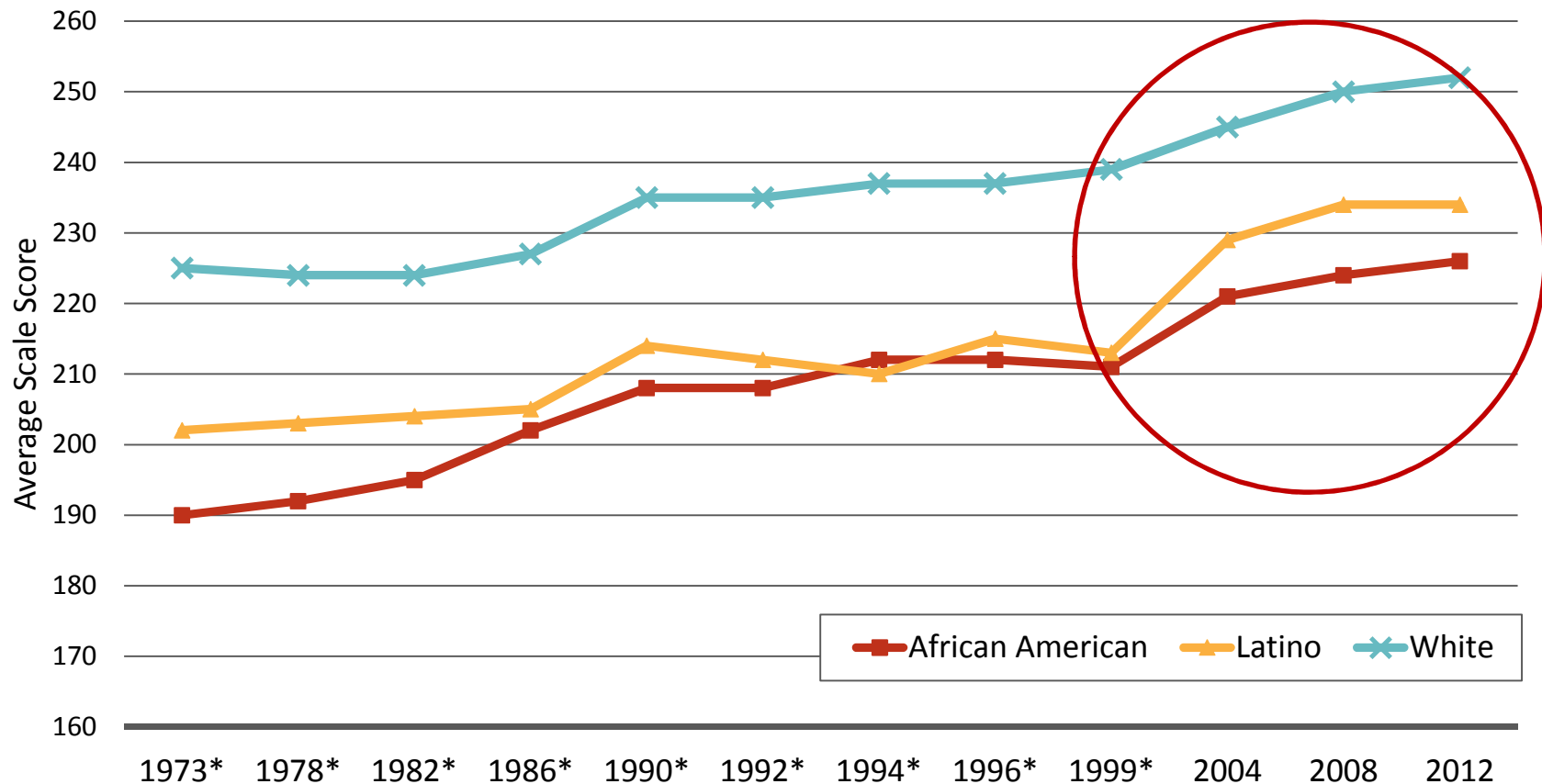
*Denotes previous assessment format

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, "The Nation's Report Card: Trends in Academic Progress 2012"

e:

Since 1999, performance rising for all groups of students


9 Year Olds – NAEP Math



*Denotes previous assessment format

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, "The Nation's Report Card: Trends in Academic Progress 2012"

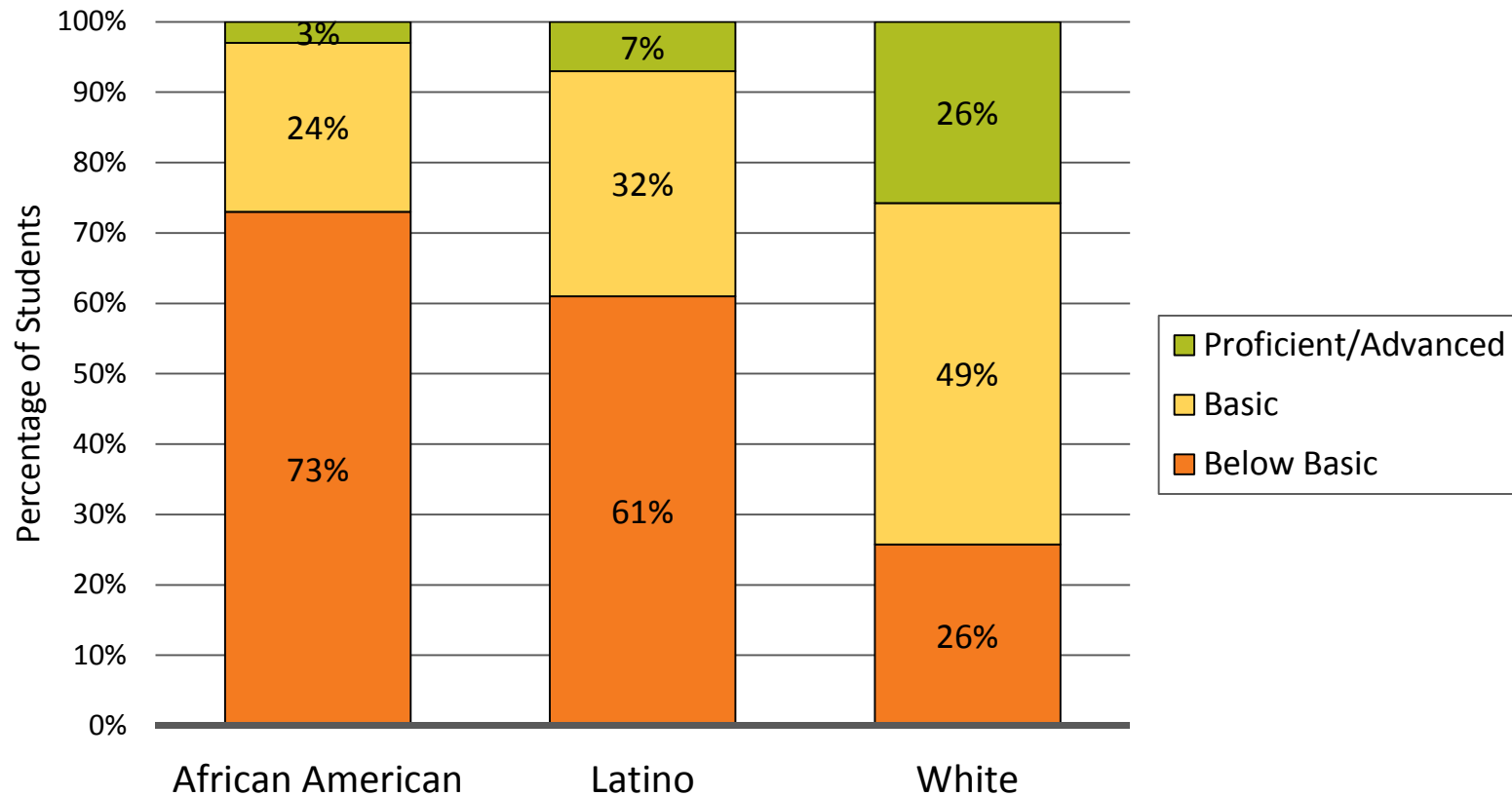
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Looked at differently
(and on the “other” NAEP exam)...

1996 NAEP Grade 4 Math

By Race/Ethnicity – National Public

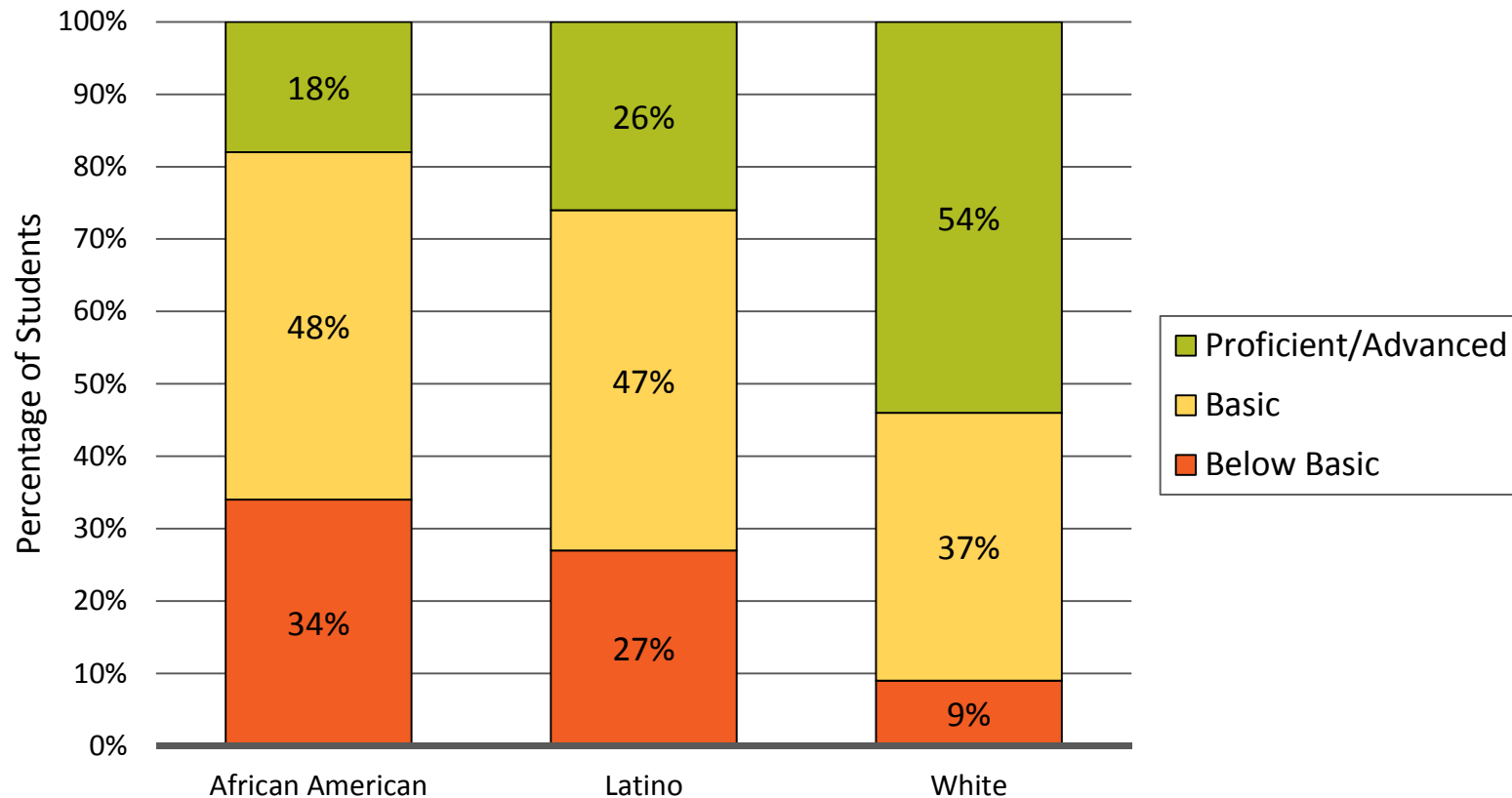


Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NAEP Data Explorer, <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nde/>

e:

2013 NAEP Grade 4 Math

By Race/Ethnicity – National Public



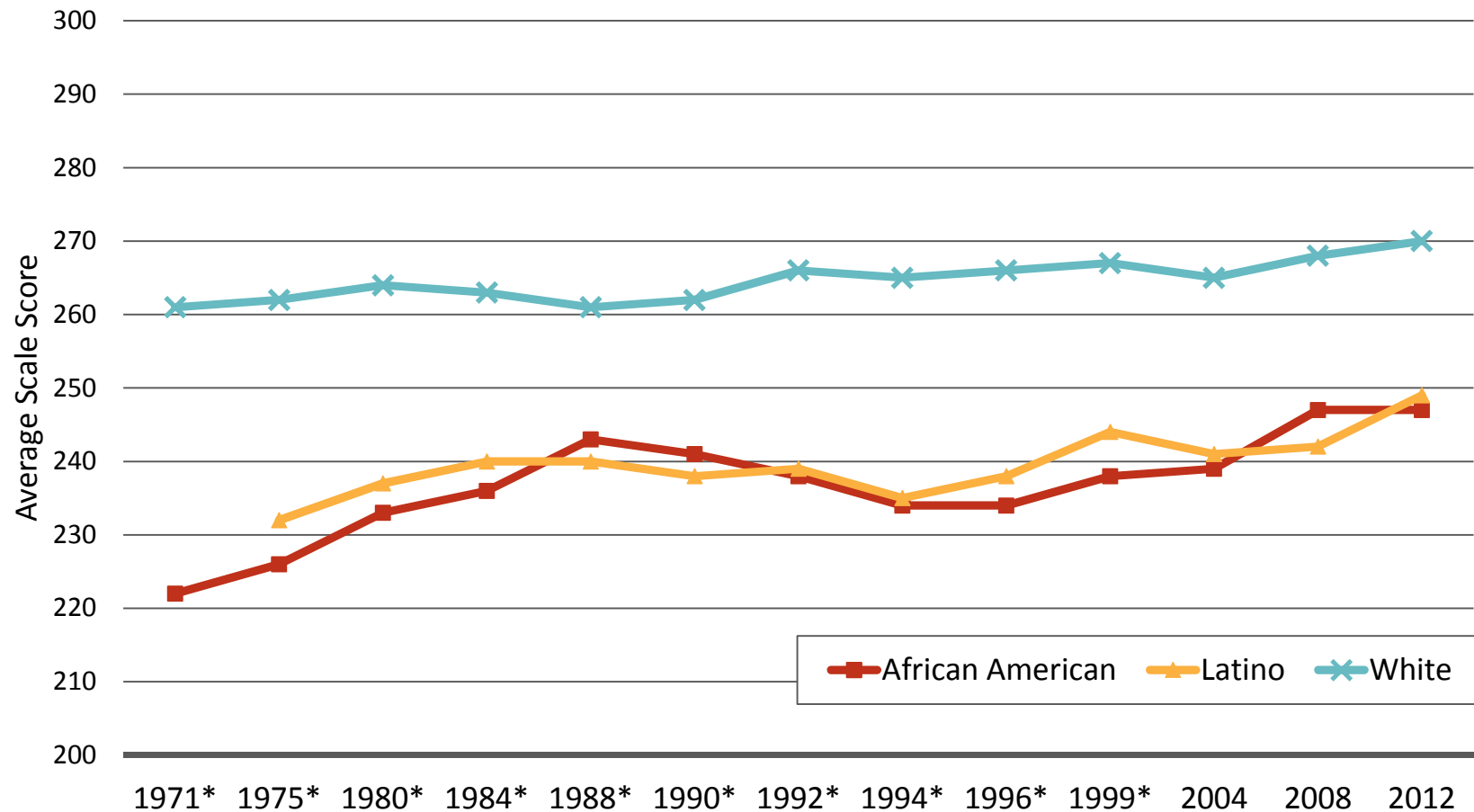
Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NAEP Data Explorer, <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nde/>



Middle grades are up, too.

Record performance for students of color

13 Year Olds – NAEP Reading

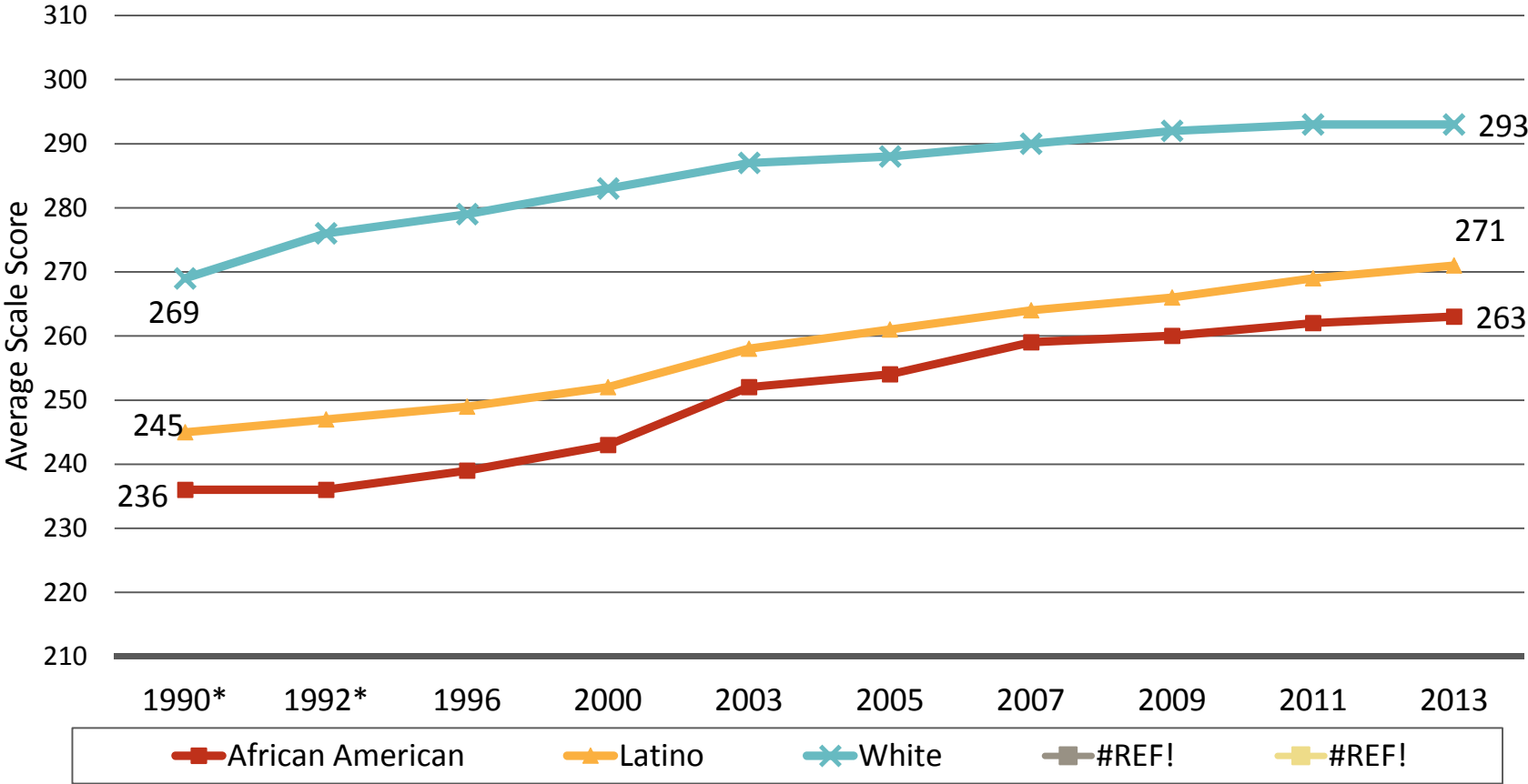


*Denotes previous assessment format

- National Center for Education Statistics, "The Nation's Report Card: Trends in Academic Progress 2012"

Over the last decade, all groups have steadily improved and gaps have narrowed

National Public – Grade 8 NAEP Math




*Accommodations not permitted
 Source: NAEP Data Explorer, NCES (Proficient Scale Score = 299)




Bottom Line:

When we really focus on something, we make progress!



Clearly, much more remains to be done
in elementary and middle school

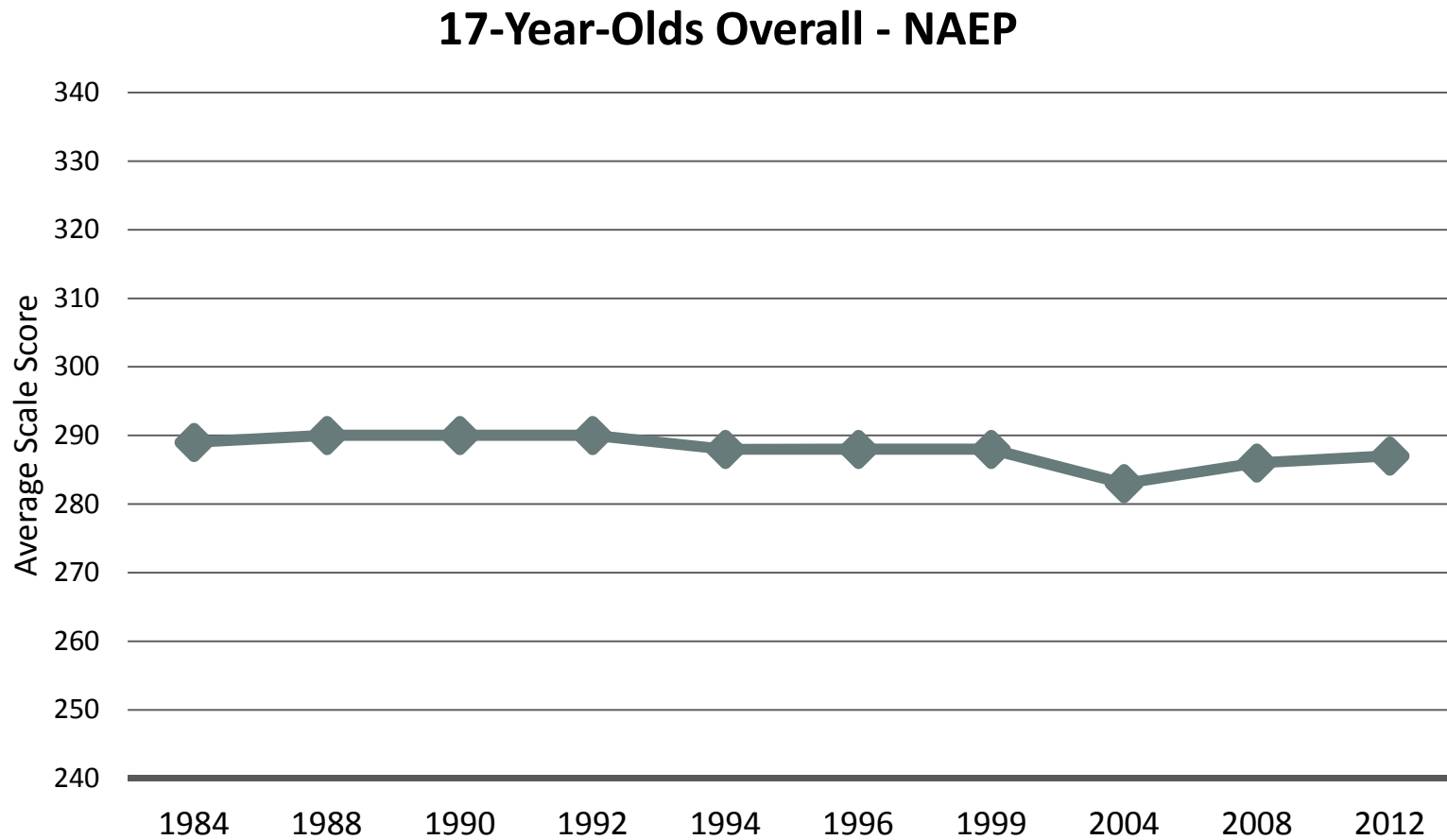
Too many youngsters still enter high
school way behind.



But at least we have some traction on elementary and middle school problems.

The same is NOT true
of our high schools.

Achievement is flat in reading for students overall.

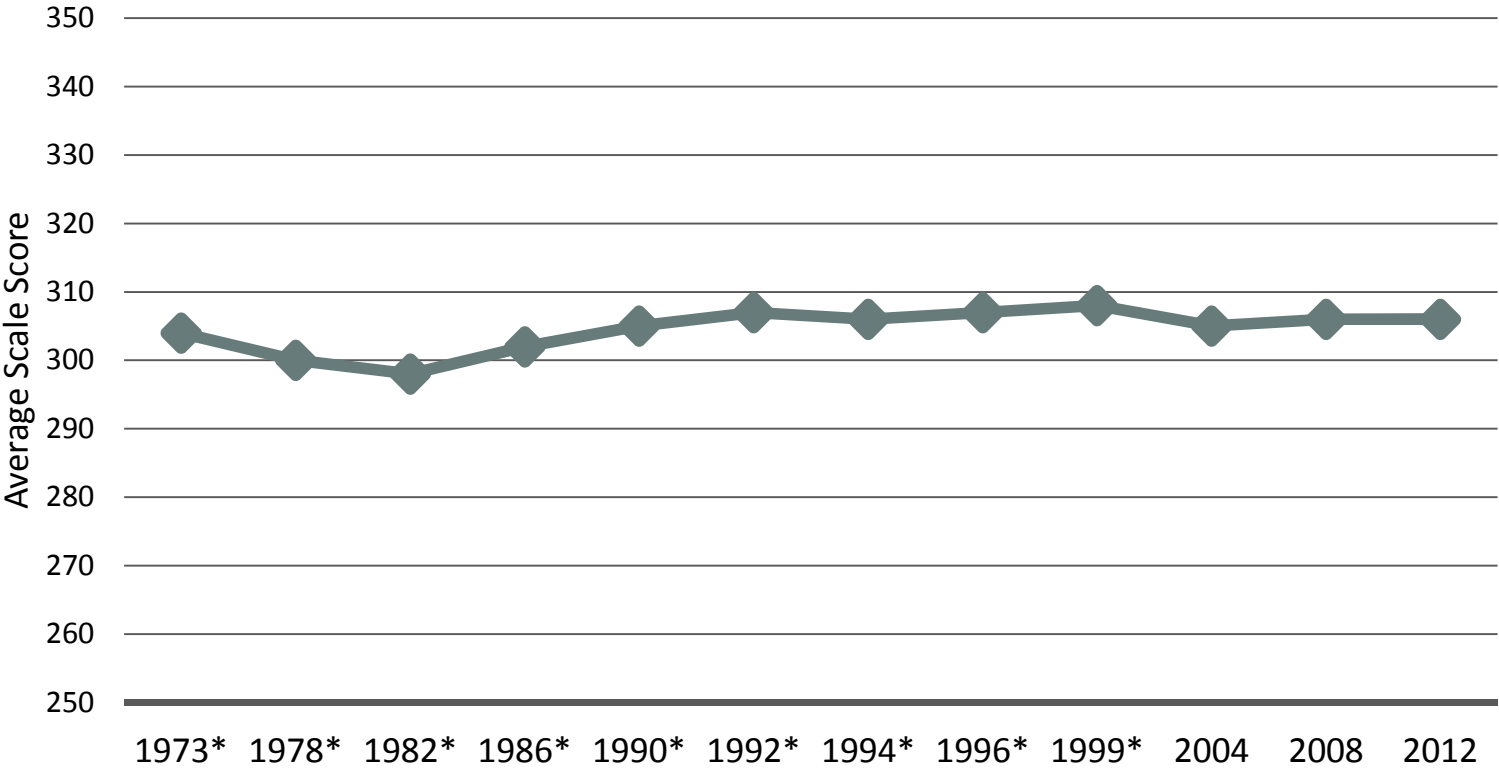


Source: NAEP Long-Term Trends, NCES (2004)

e:

Math achievement for students overall is flat over time.


17-Year-Olds Overall - NAEP



* Denotes previous assessment format

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NAEP 2008 Trends in Academic Progress

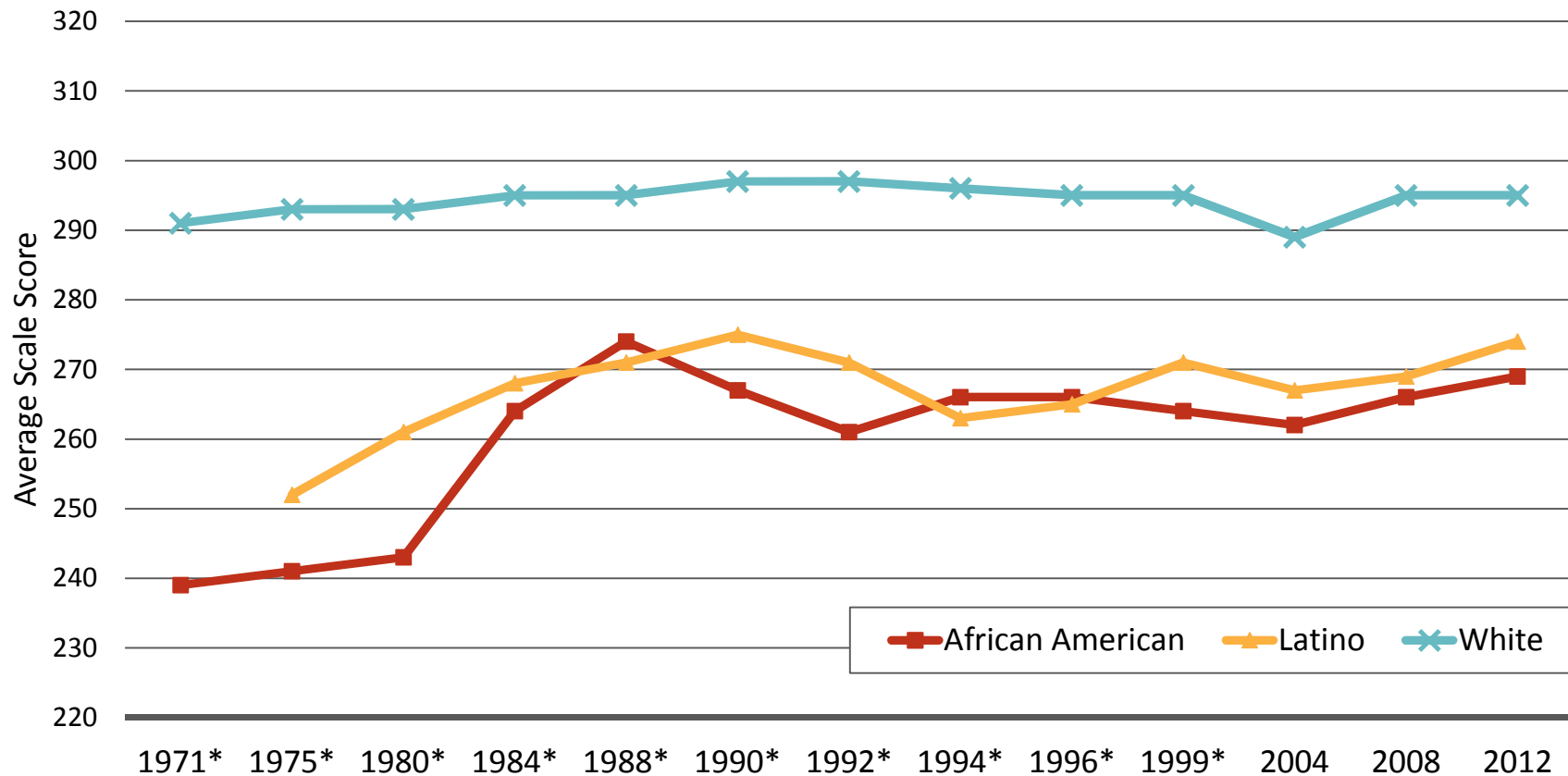
e:



And despite earlier improvements, gaps between groups haven't narrowed much since the late 80s and early 90s.

Reading: Not much gap narrowing since 1988.

17 Year Olds – NAEP Reading



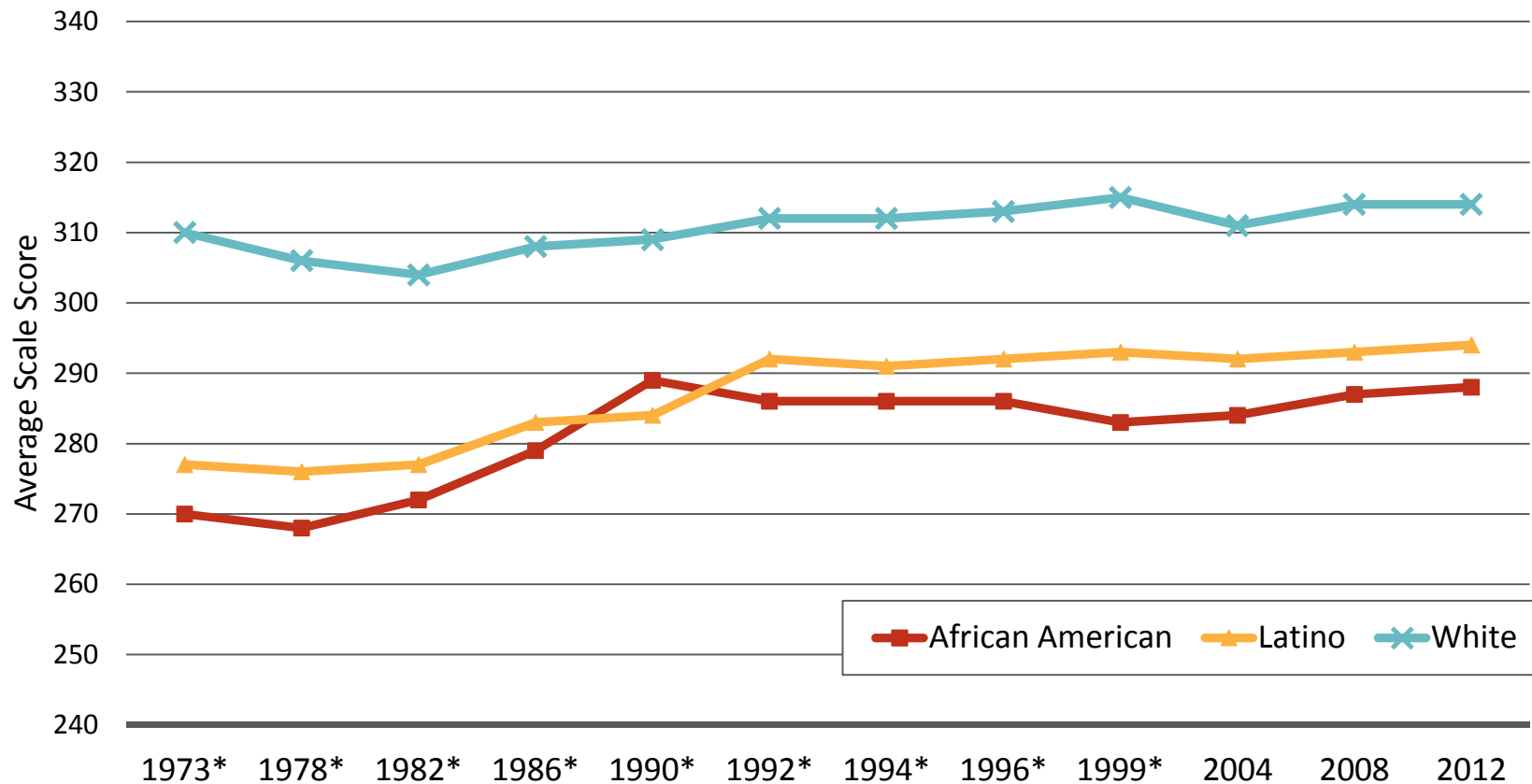
*Denotes previous assessment format

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, "The Nation's Report Card: Trends in Academic Progress 2012"

e:

Math: Not much gap closing since 1990.


17 Year Olds – NAEP Math



*Denotes previous assessment format

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, "The Nation's Report Card: Trends in Academic Progress 2012"

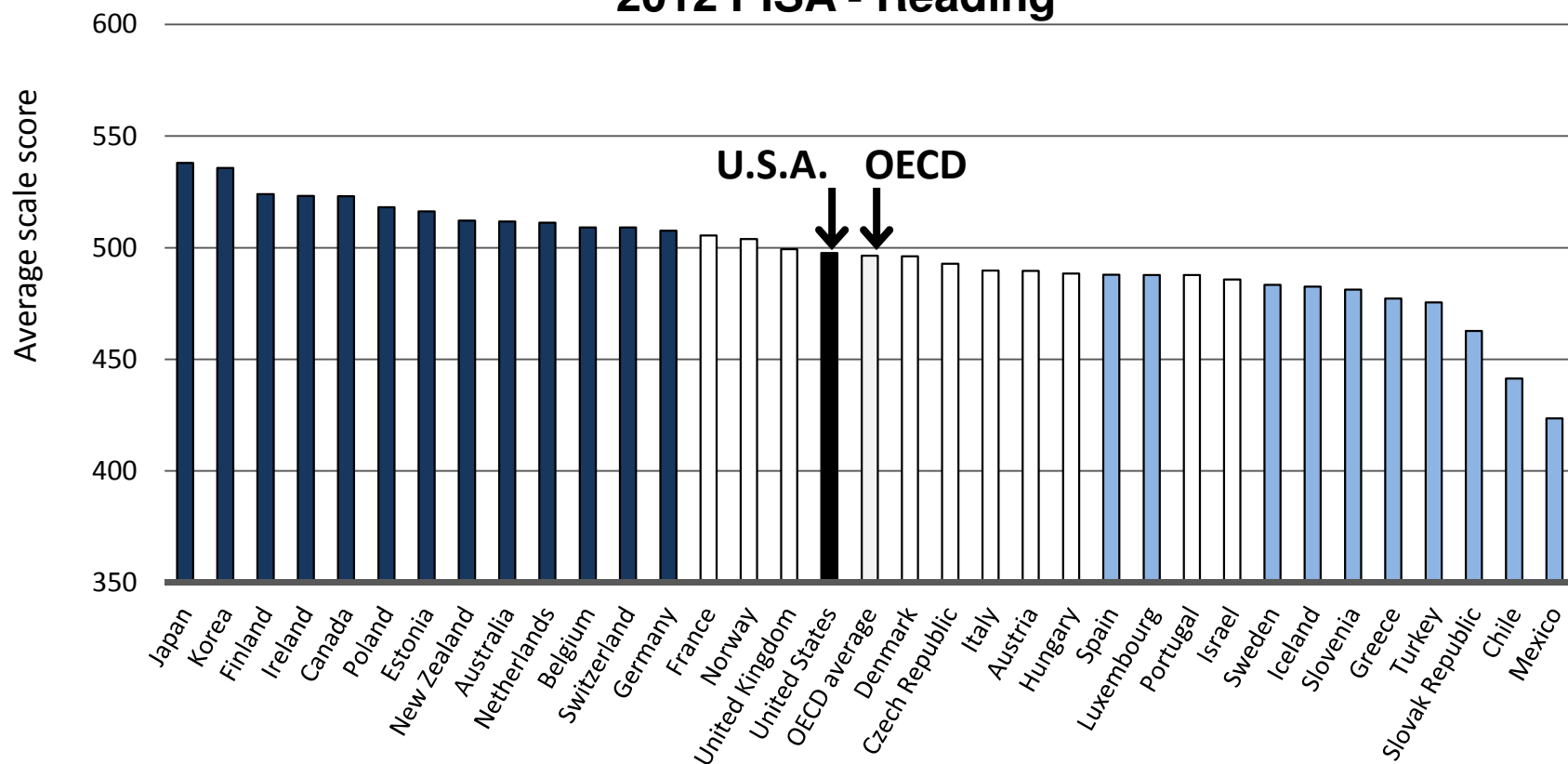
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Moreover, no matter how you cut the data, our students aren't doing well compared with their peers in other countries.

Of 34 OECD Countries, U.S.A. Ranks 17th in Reading

2012 PISA - Reading



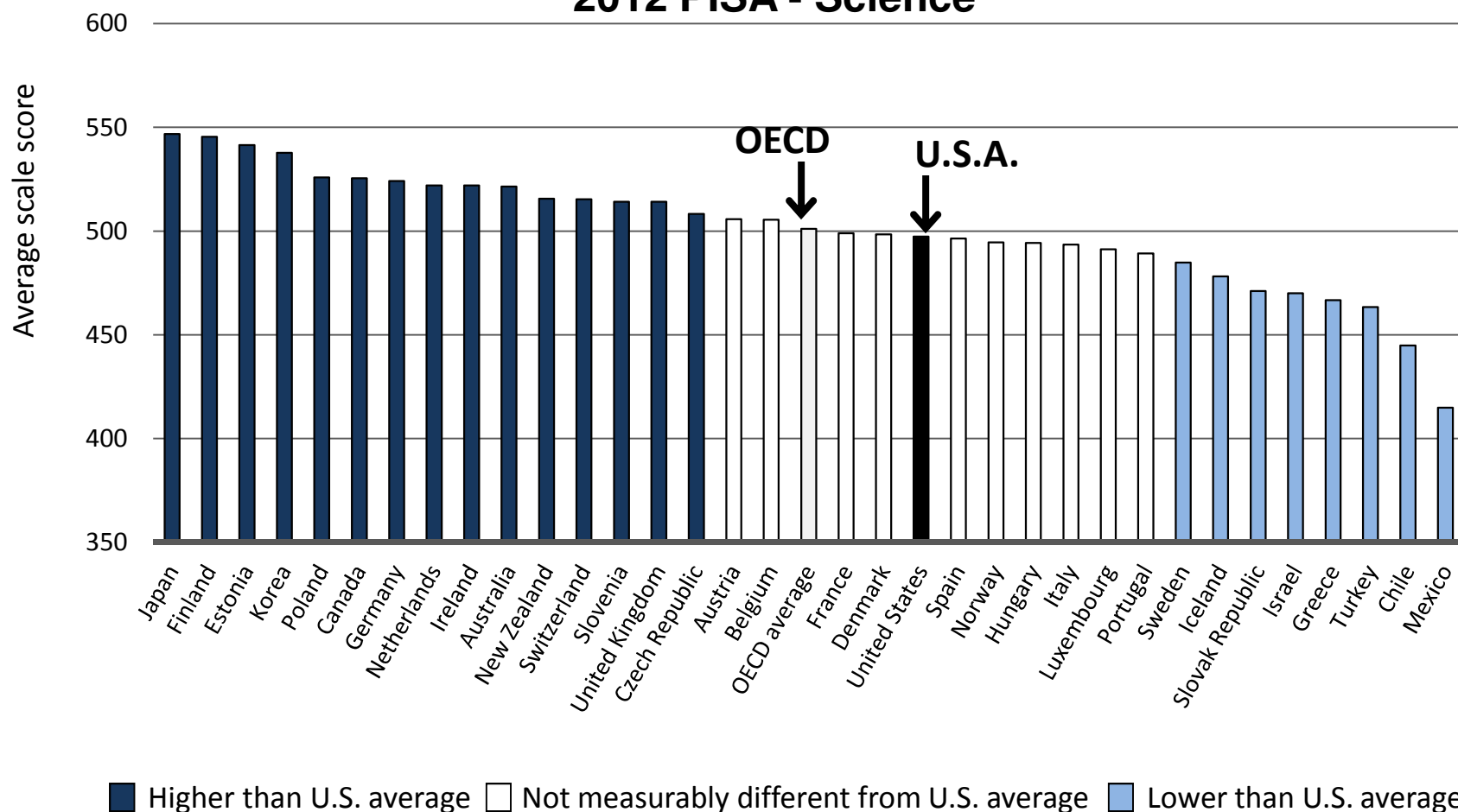
Higher than U.S. average
 Not measurably different from U.S. average
 Lower than U.S. average

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 2013, http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pisa/pisa2012/pisa2012highlights_5a.asp.

e:

Of 34 OECD Countries, U.S.A. Ranks 20th in Science

2012 PISA - Science

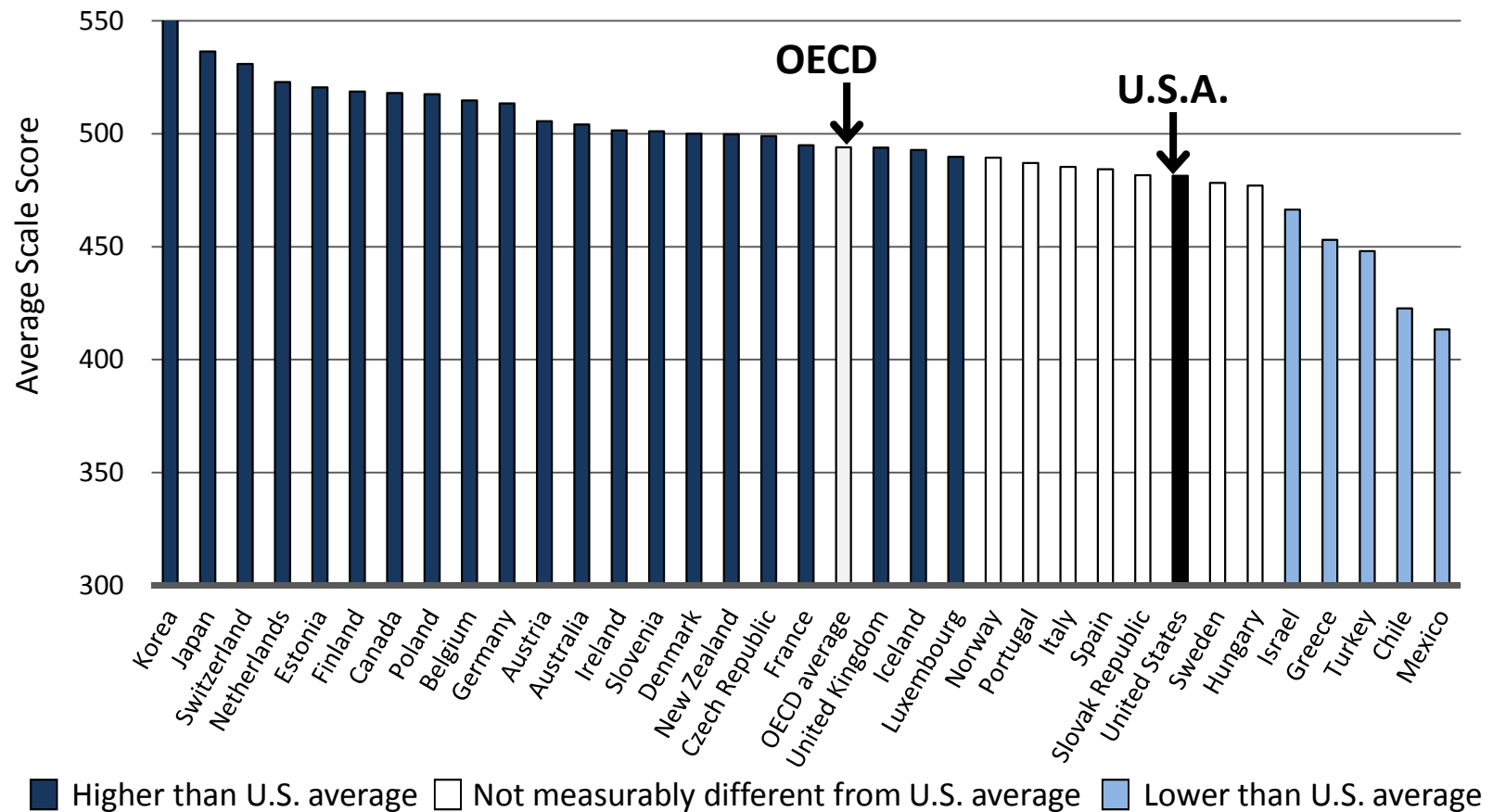


Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 2013, http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pisa/pisa2012/pisa2012highlights_4a.asp.

e:

Of 34 OECD Countries, U.S.A. Ranks 27th in Math Literacy

2012 PISA - Math



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 2013, http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pisa/pisa2012/pisa2012highlights_3a.asp.

e:

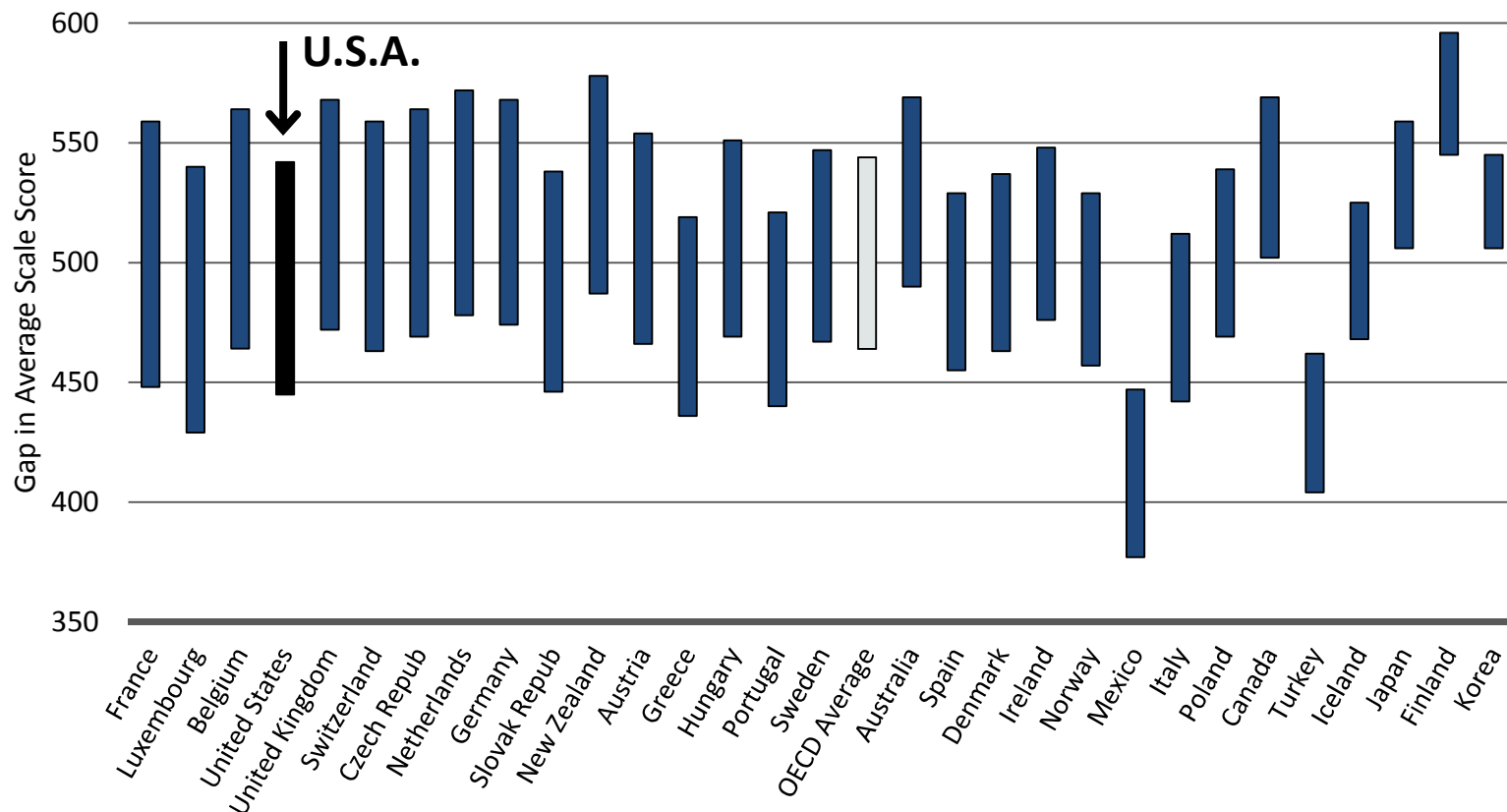


Only place we rank high?

Inequality.

Among OECD Countries, U.S.A. has the 4th Largest Gap Between High-SES and Low-SES

Students 2006 PISA - Science

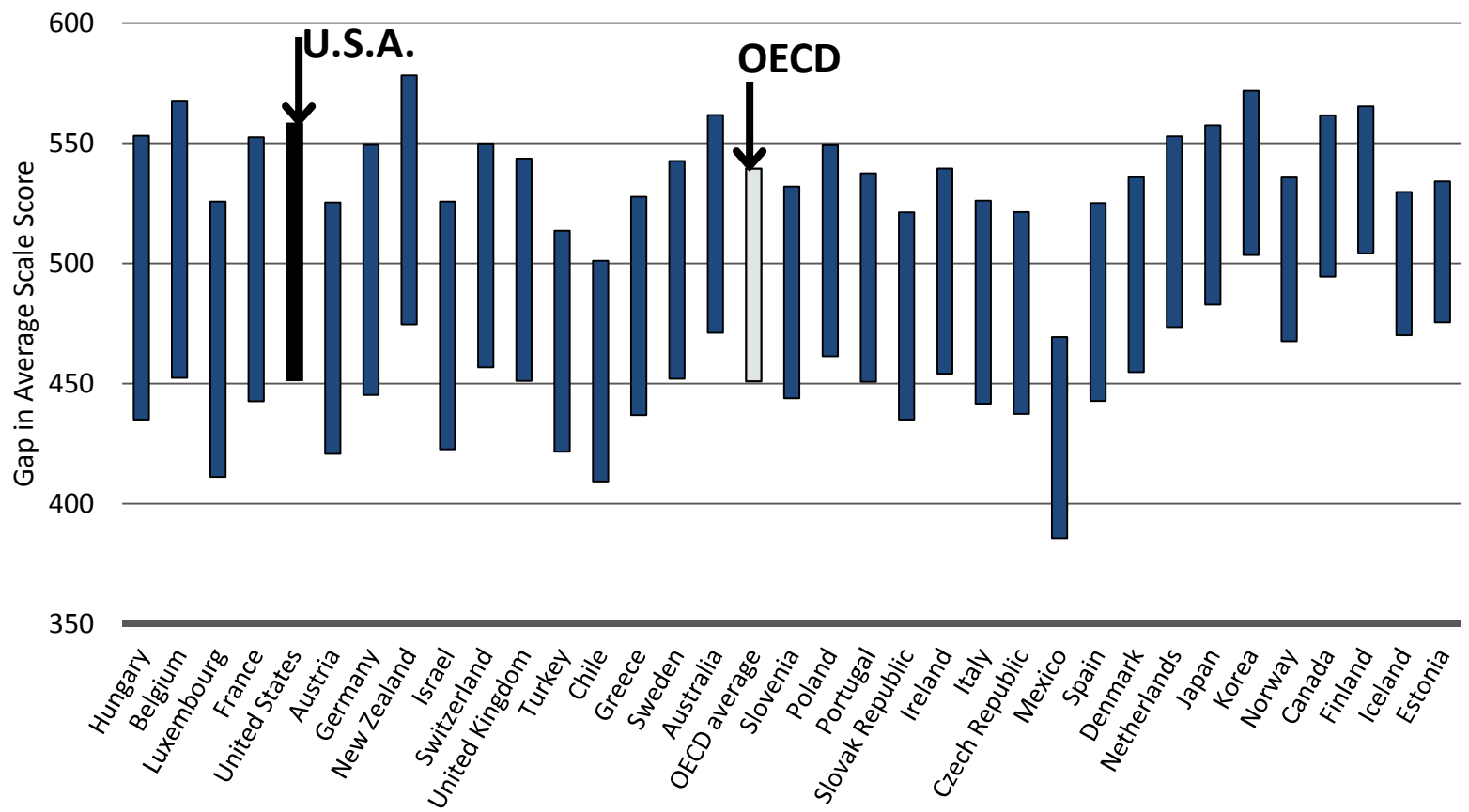


Source: PISA 2006 Results, OECD, table 4.8b

e:

Among OECD Countries, U.S.A. has the 5th Largest Gap Between High-SES and Low-SES

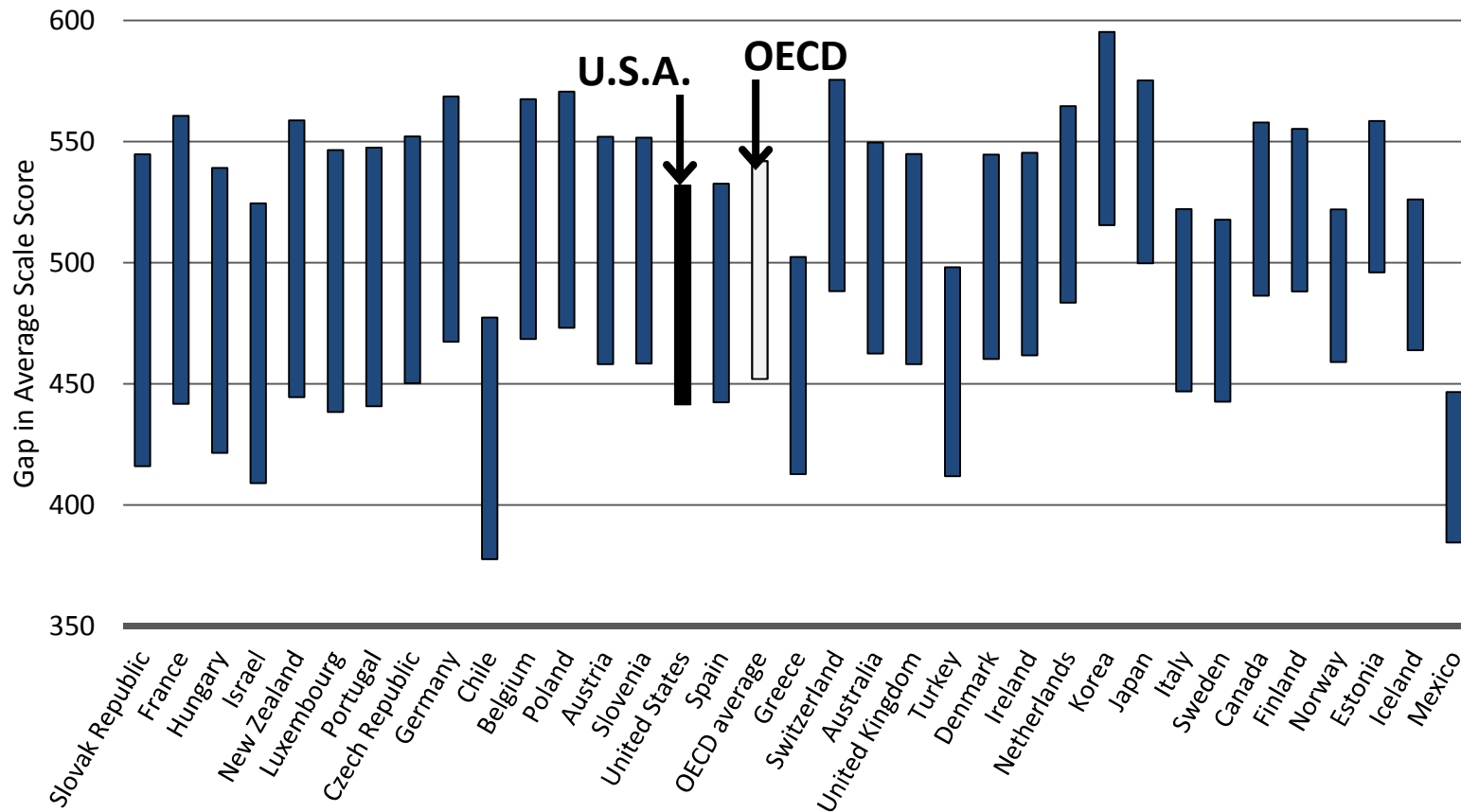
Students
2009 PISA – Reading



Source: PISA 2009 Results, OECD, Table II.3.1


The U.S. Gap Between High-SES and Low-SES Students is Equivalent to Over Two Years of Schooling

2012 PISA – Math



Source: PISA 2012 Results, OECD, Annex B1, Chapter 2, Table II.2.4a

e:




Gaps in achievement begin before
children arrive at the schoolhouse door.

But, rather than organizing our educational
system to ameliorate this problem, we organize
it to exacerbate the problem.



How?

By giving students who arrive with less,
less in school, too.




Some of these “lesser” are a
result of choices that
policymakers make.

National Inequities in State and Local Revenue Per Student

	Gap
High Poverty vs. Low Poverty Districts	-\$1200 per student
High Minority vs. Low Minority Districts	-\$2,000 per student

Source: Education Trust analyses based on U.S. Dept of Education and U.S. Census Bureau data for 2010-12

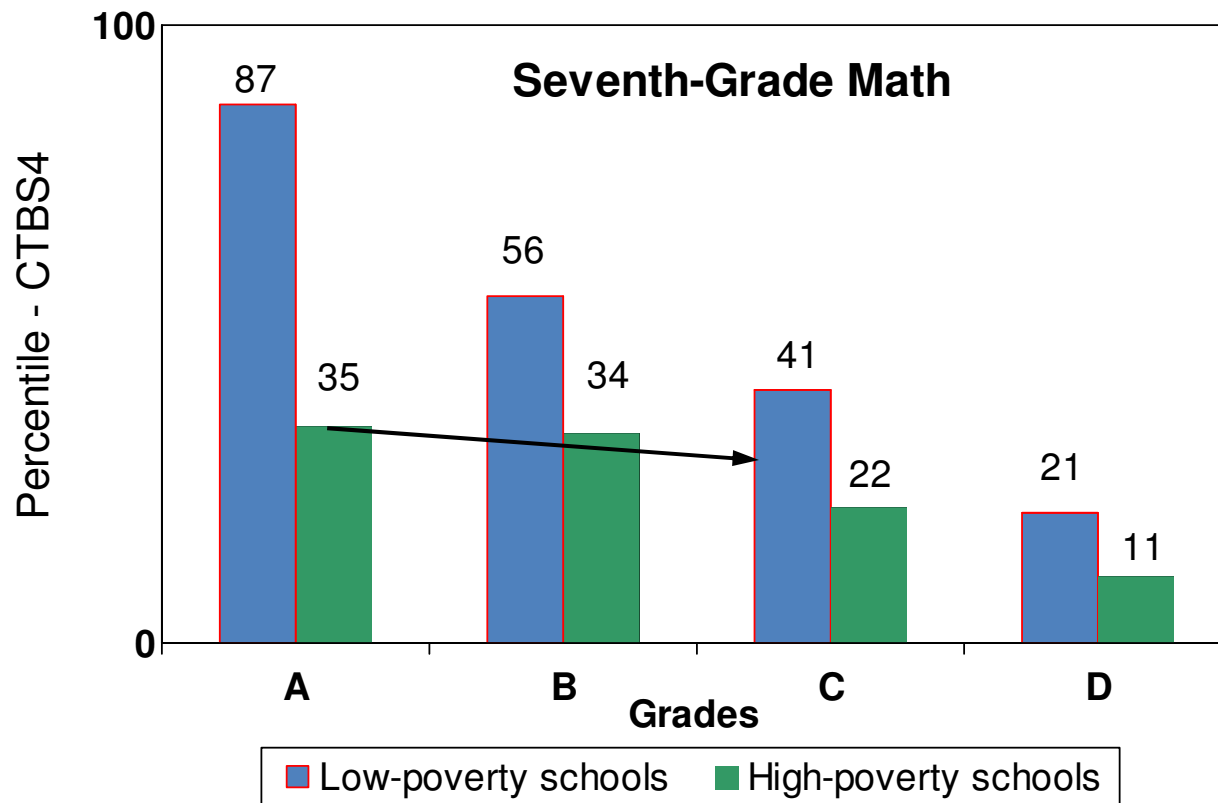


In truth, though, some of the most devastating “lessees” are a function of choices that we educators make.


Choices we make about what to
expect of whom.....



Students in poor schools receive As for work that would earn Cs in affluent schools.

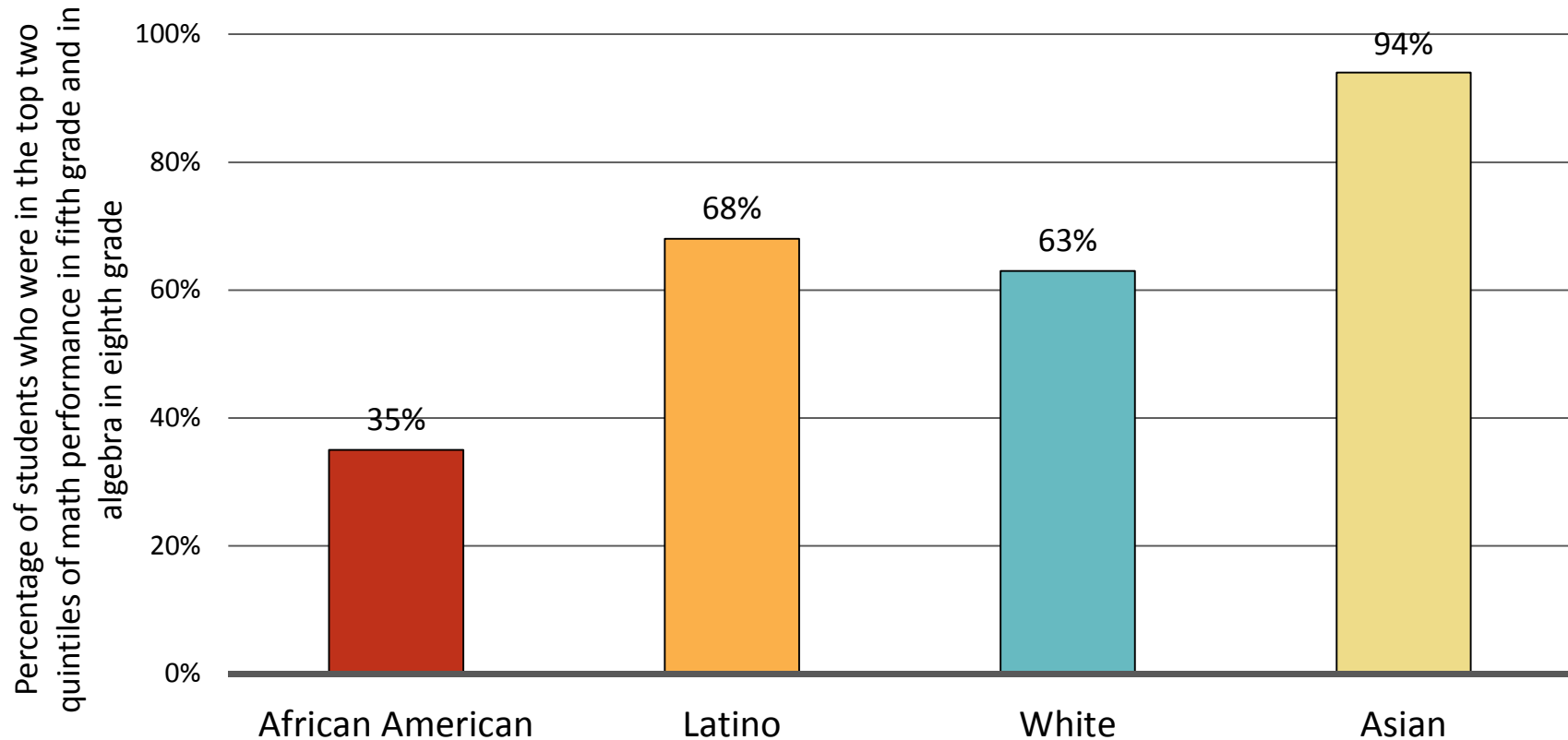


Source: Prospects (ABT Associates, 1993), in "Prospects: Final Report on Student Outcomes", PES, DOE, 1997.



Choices we make about what to
teach whom...

Even African-American students with *high math performance* in fifth grade are unlikely to be placed in algebra in eighth grade

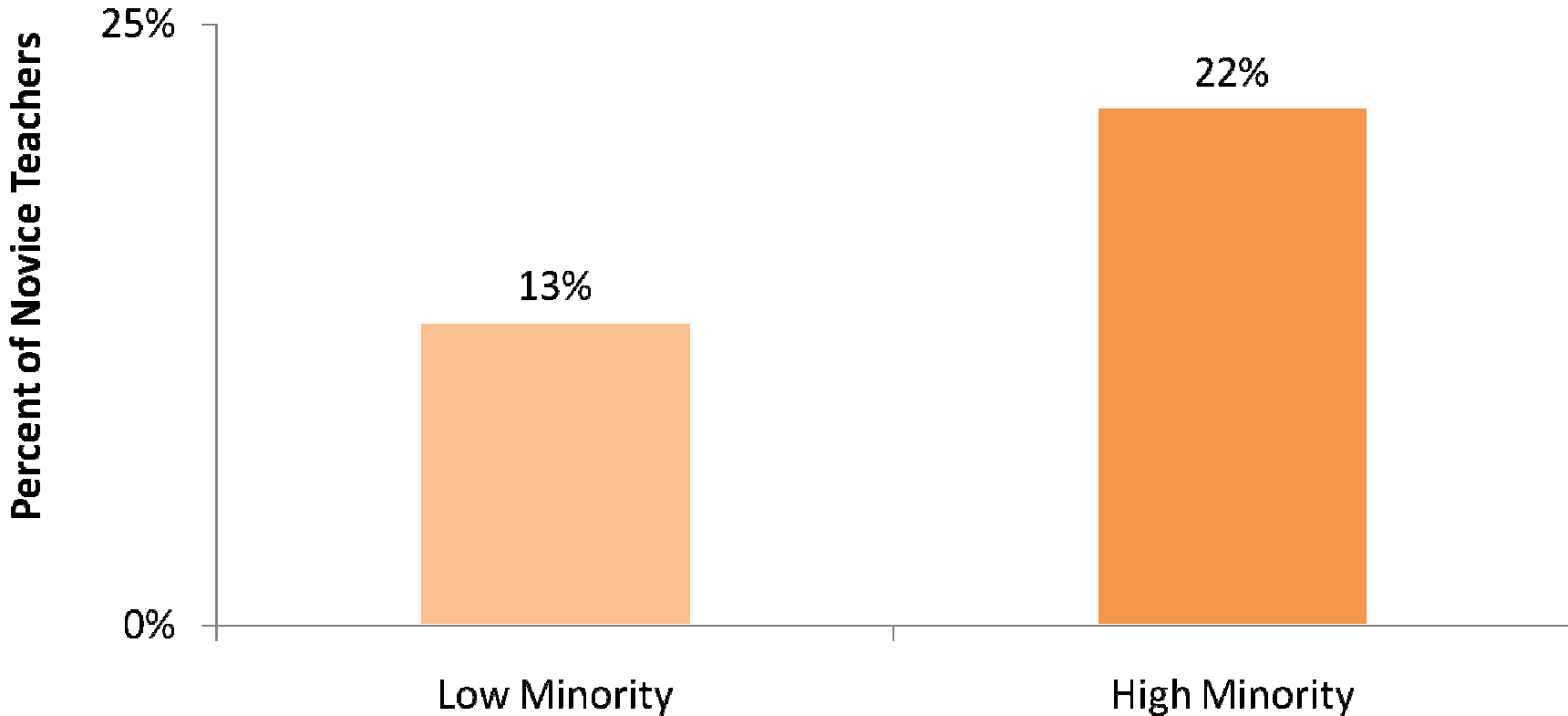


Source: NCES, "Eighth-Grade Algebra: Findings from the Eighth-Grade Round of the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 1998-99 (ECLS-K)" (2010).



And choices we make about
who teaches whom...

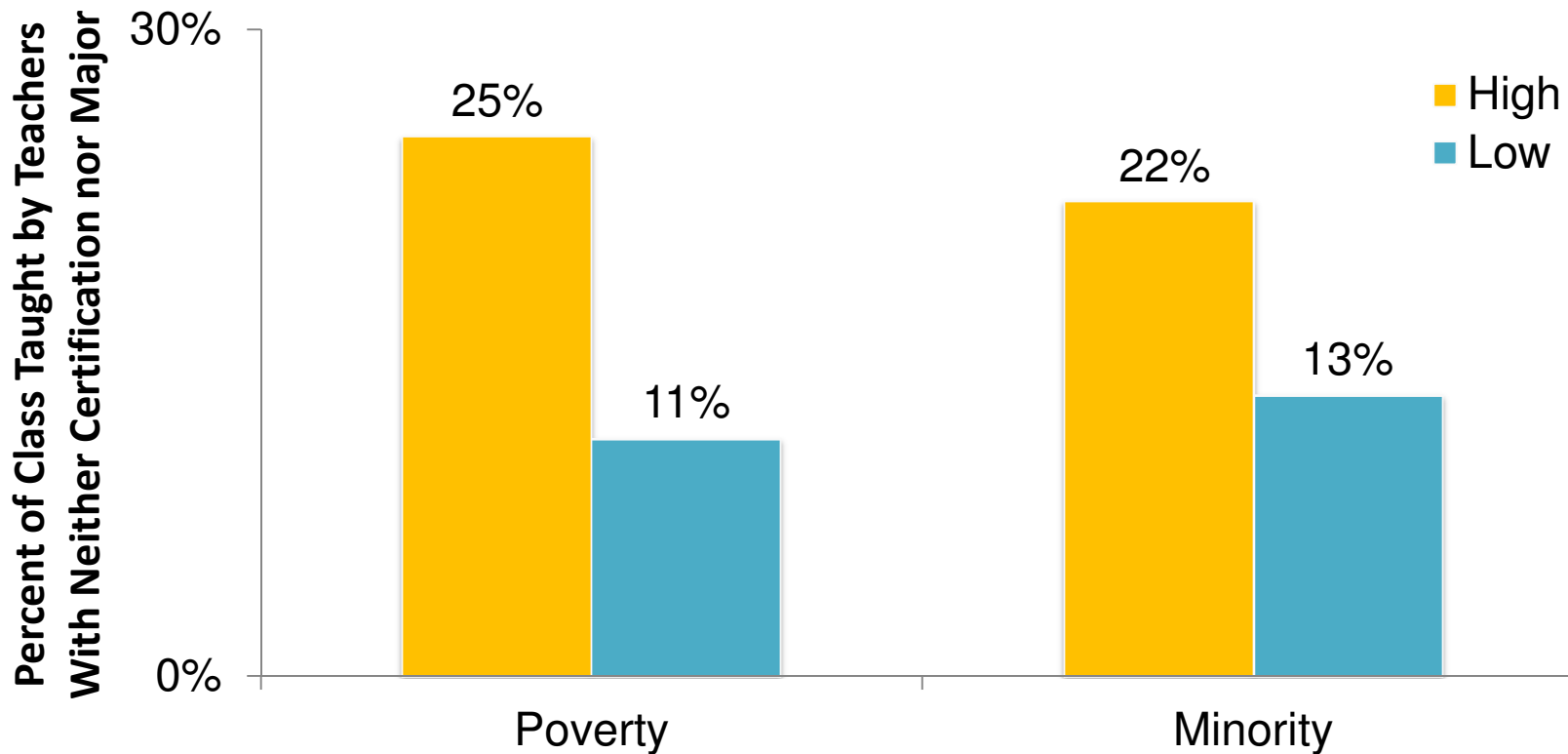
Students at high-minority schools more likely to be taught by novice* teachers.



Note: High minority school: 75% or more of the students are Black, Hispanic, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian or Pacific Islander. Low-minority school: 10% or fewer of the students are non-White students. Novice teachers are those with three years or fewer experience.

Source: Analysis of 2003-2004 Schools and Staffing Survey data by Richard Ingersoll, University of Pennsylvania 2007.

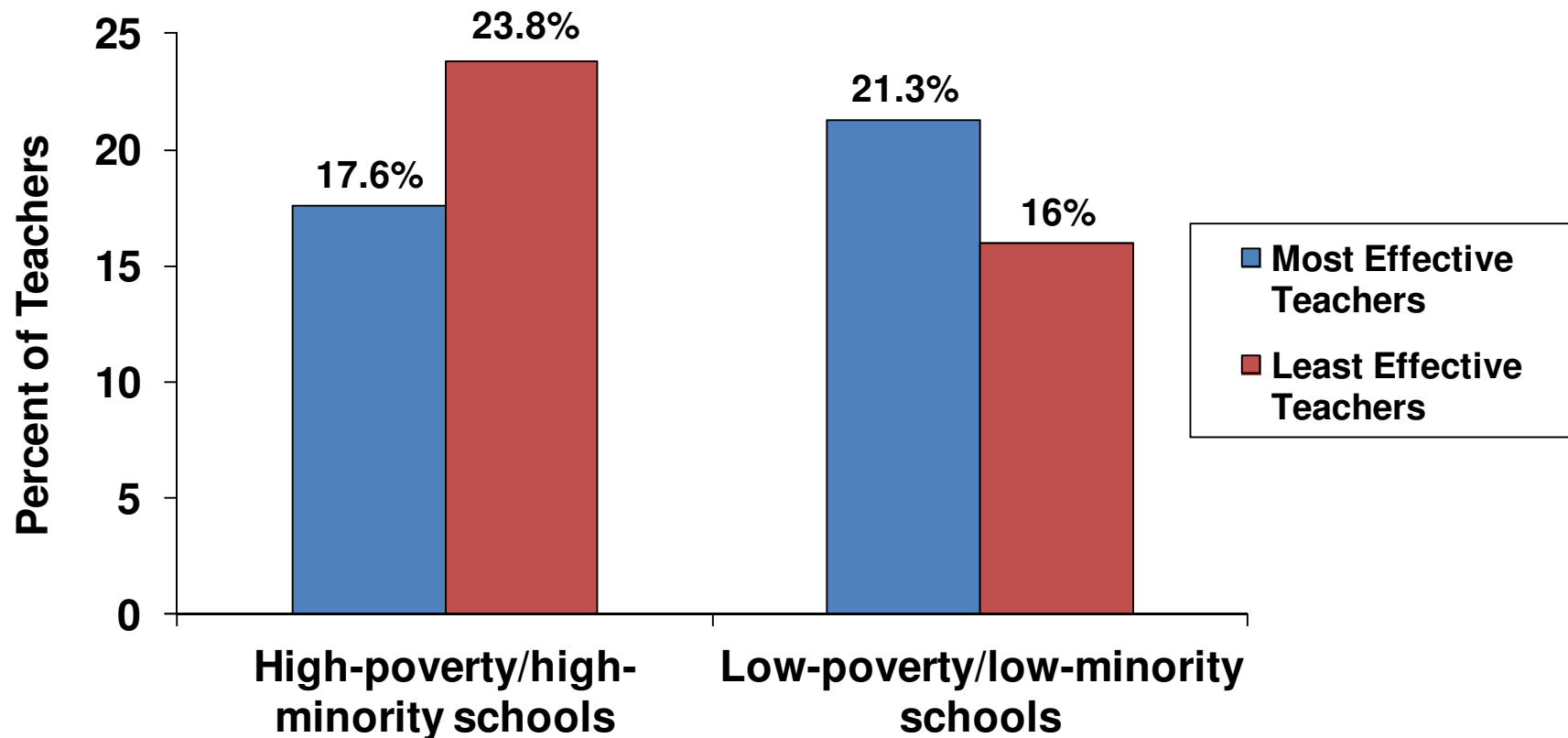
Math classes at high-poverty, high-minority secondary schools are more likely to be taught by out-of-field* teachers.



Note: High-poverty school: 55 percent or more of the students are eligible for free/reduced-price lunch. Low-poverty school :15 percent or fewer of the students are eligible for free/reduced-price lunch. High-minority school: 78 percent or more of the students are black, Hispanic, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian or Pacific Islander. Low-minority school : 12 percent or fewer of the students are non-white students with neither certification nor major. Data for secondary-level core academic classes (math, science, social studies, English) across the U.S.

Source: Education Trust Analysis of 2007-08 Schools and Staffing Survey data.

Tennessee: High-poverty/high-minority schools have fewer of the “most effective” teachers and more “least effective” teachers.



Note: High poverty/high minority means at least 75 percent of students qualify for FRPL and at least 75 percent are minority.

Source: Tennessee Department of Education 2007. “Tennessee’s Most Effective Teachers: Are they assigned to the schools that need them most?” http://tennessee.gov/education/nclb/doc/TeacherEffectiveness2007_03.pdf.

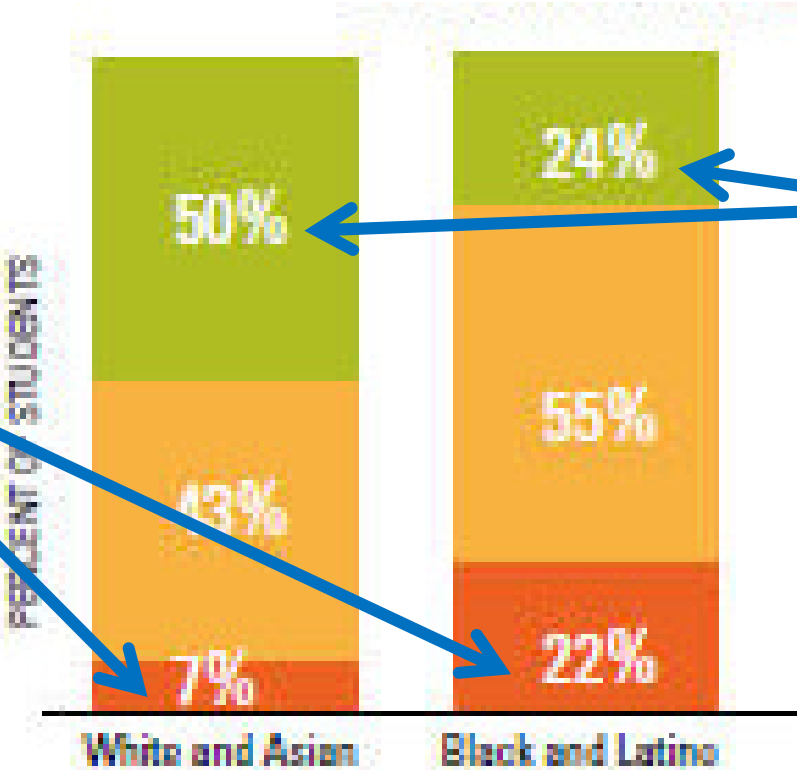
Los Angeles: Black, Latino students have fewer highly effective teachers, more weak ones.

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS

Latino and black students are:

3X as likely to get low-effectiveness teachers

1/2 as likely to get highly effective teachers




Top Quartile Value-Added Teacher Average (Middle 50%) Value-Added Teacher Bottom Quartile Value-Added Teacher

Source: Education Trust—West, *Learning Denied*, 2012.



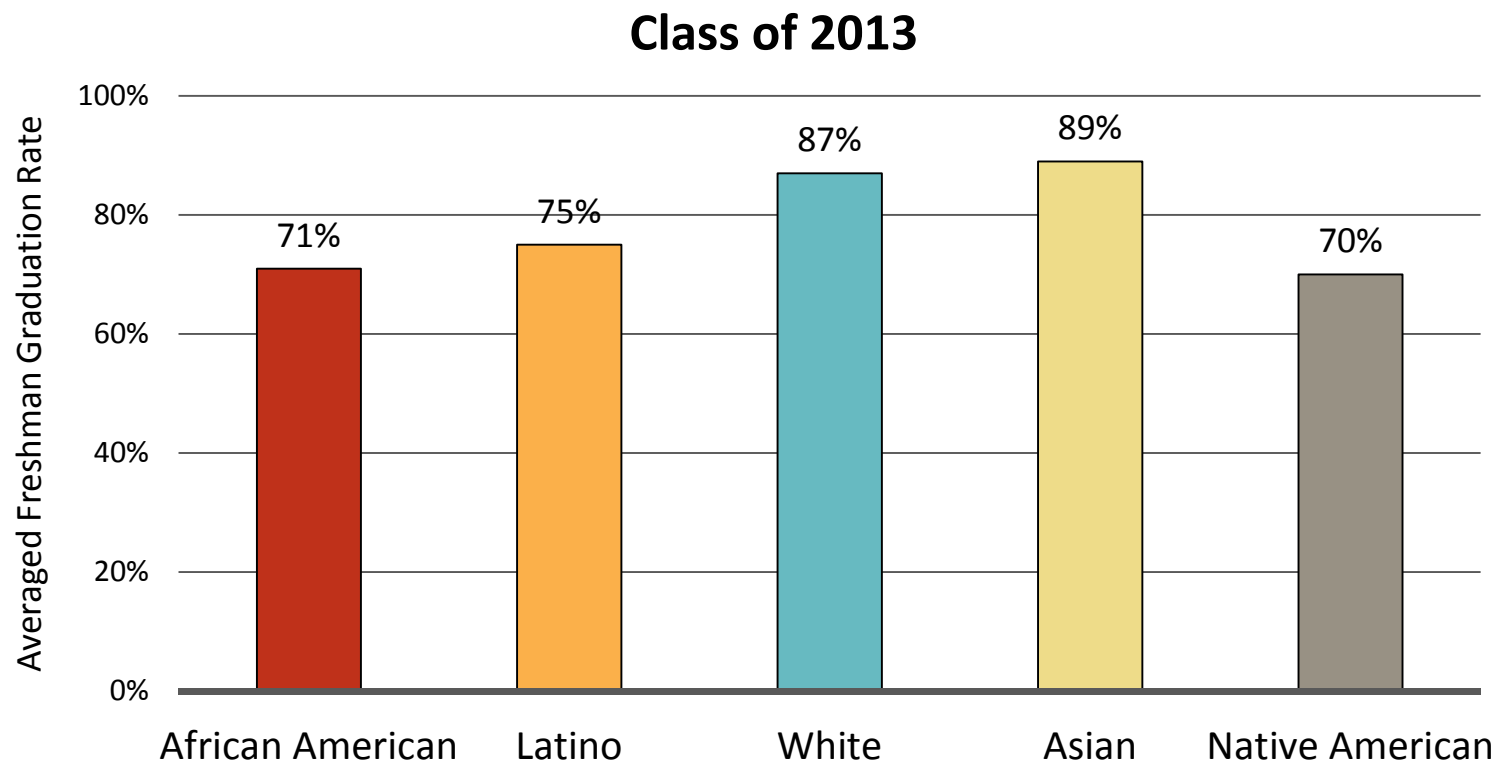
The results are devastating.

Kids who come in a little behind, leave a
lot behind.



And these are the students who
remain in school through 12th
grade.

Students of color are less likely to graduate from high school on time.

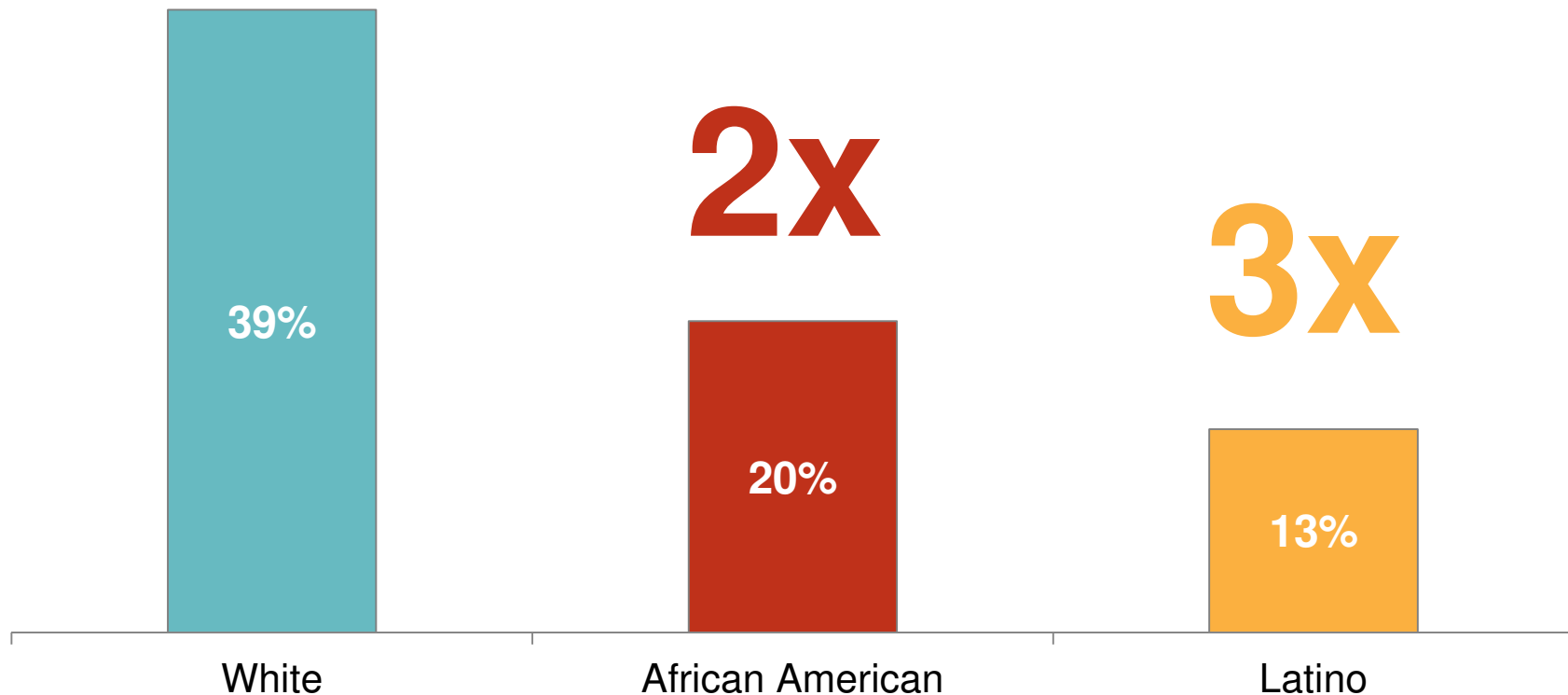


Source: National Center for Education Statistics, "Public School Graduates and Dropouts from the Common Core of Data: School Year 2008-09" (2011).

Add those numbers up and throw
in college entry and graduation,
and different groups of young
Americans obtain degrees and
very different rates...

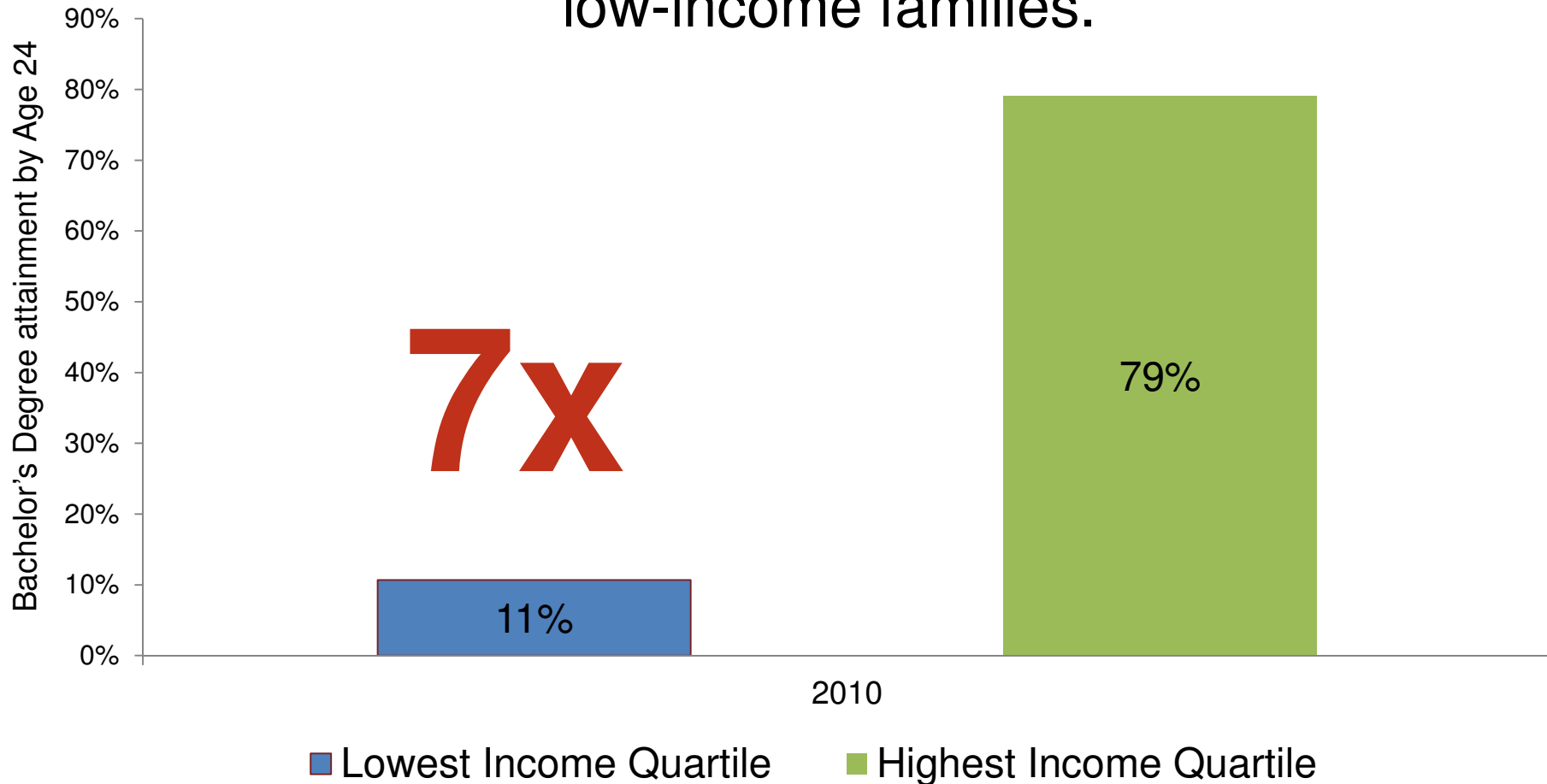
Whites attain bachelor's degrees at twice the rate of blacks and three times the rate of Hispanics.

**Bachelor's Degree Attainment of Young Adults
(25-29-year-olds), 2011**



Source: NCES, *Condition of Education* 2010 and U.S. Census Bureau, *Educational Attainment in the United States: 2011*.

Young people from high-income families earn bachelor's degrees at seven times the rate of those from low-income families.



Source: Postsecondary Education Opportunity, "Bachelor's Degree Attainment by Age 24 by Family Income Quartiles, 1970 to 2010."



What Can We Do?

An awful lot of Americans have decided
that we can't do much.

What We Hear Many Educators Say:

- They're poor
- Their parents don't care
- They come to schools without breakfast
- Not enough books
- Not enough parents




And let's be clear, these things
do matter.

Child Poverty in the US, 2013

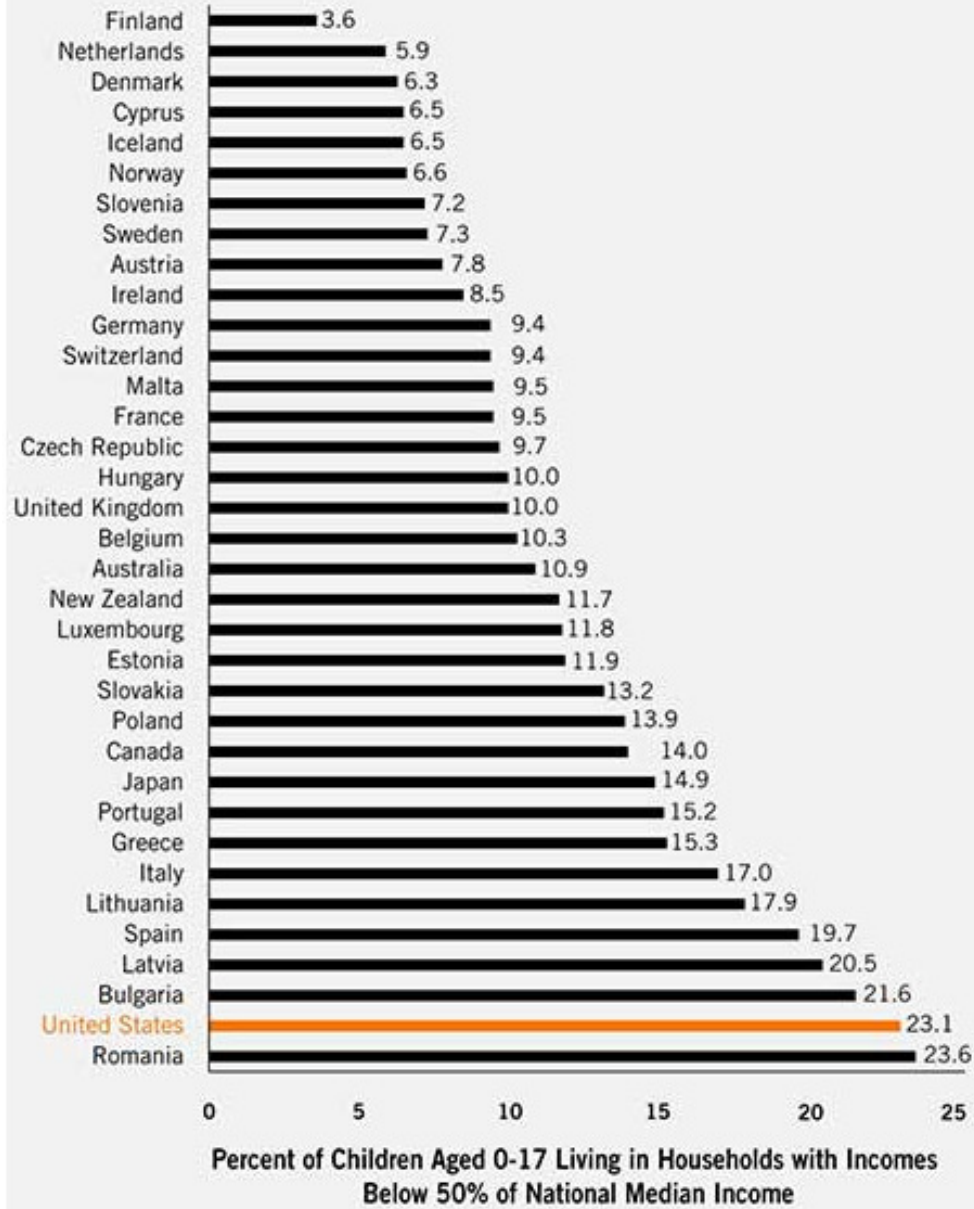
White	13.4%
Black	36.9%
Hispanic	30.4%
Asian	9.6%
ALL	19.9%

Source: US Census Bureau




And let's also be clear: tolerating
high child poverty rates is a
policy choice.

U.S. Ranks Second to Last in Child Poverty




Source: Unicef, 2013




Not, by the way, because we have the highest rate of single parenting. (We don't.)


Or because we have the highest unemployment rate. (We don't.)



But because policymakers in
America made that choice.



Yet, how **we** as educators
respond to the effects of that
choice is a choice, too.



We can choose to go along with what has become *conventional wisdom* in our profession—that, until we fix poverty, there's not much we educators can do...



Or we can *choose differently*.

We can choose to disrupt conventional wisdom, joining colleagues in schools all over this country that serve very poor kids but get very good results.

George Hall Elementary School

Mobile, Alabama

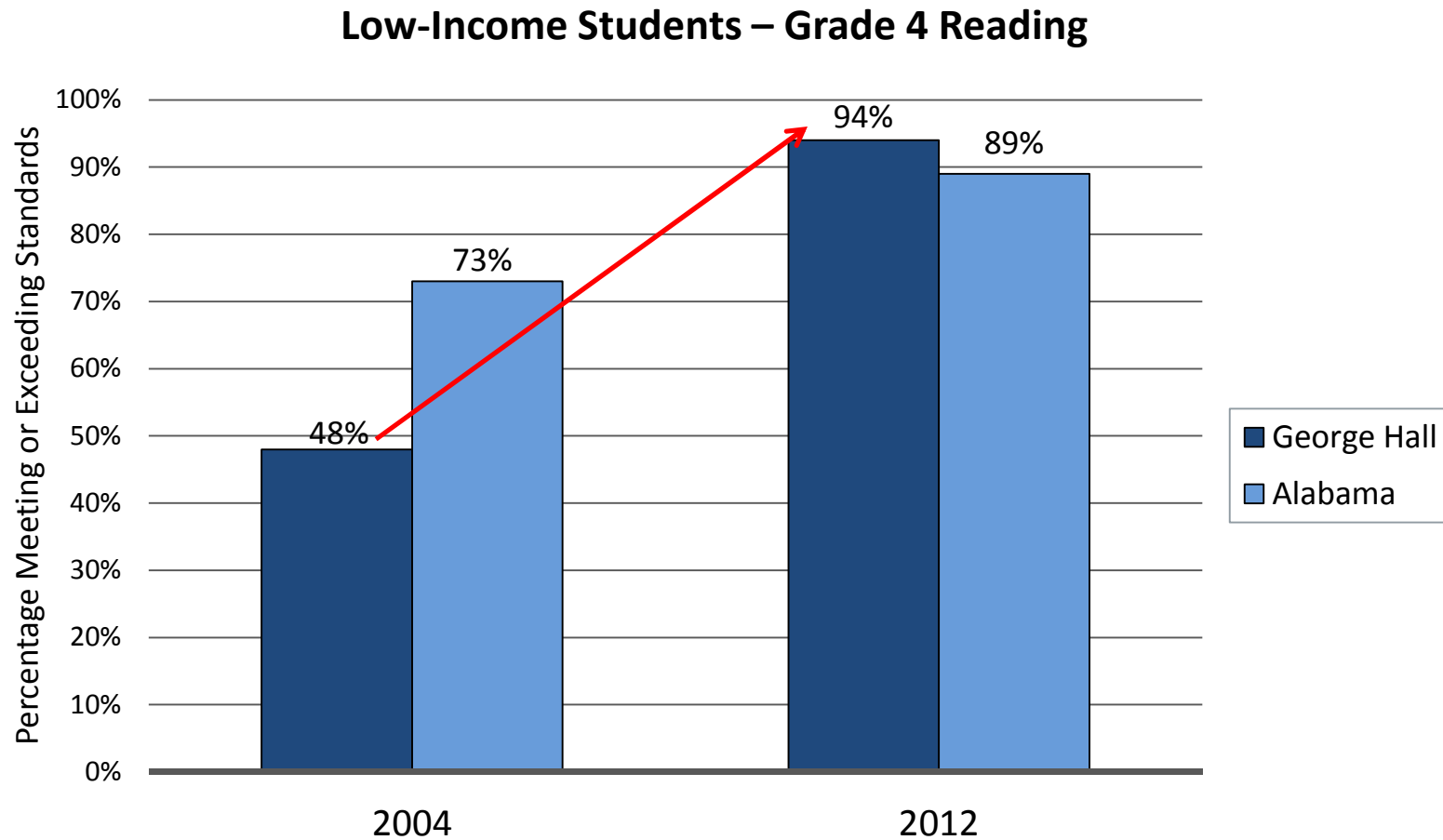
- 545 students in grades PK-5
 - 99% African American
- 98% Low Income



Note: Enrollment data are for 2011-12 school year
Source: Alabama Department of Education

 **DISPELLING THE MYTH**
2009 Award Recipient

Big Improvement at George Hall Elementary

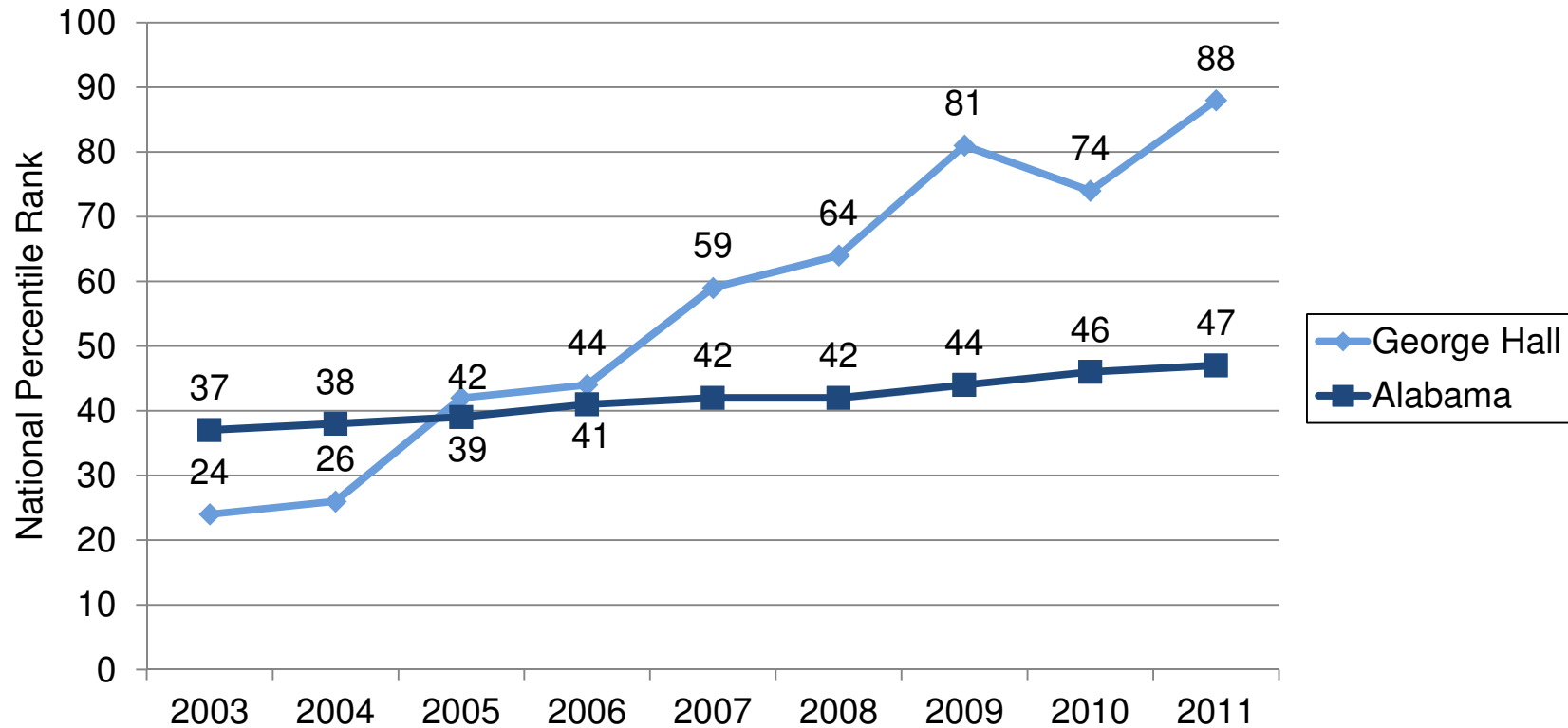


Source: Alabama Department of Education

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Outperforming the State – and Nation – at George Hall Elementary

African-American Students – Grade 4 Reading (SAT 10)



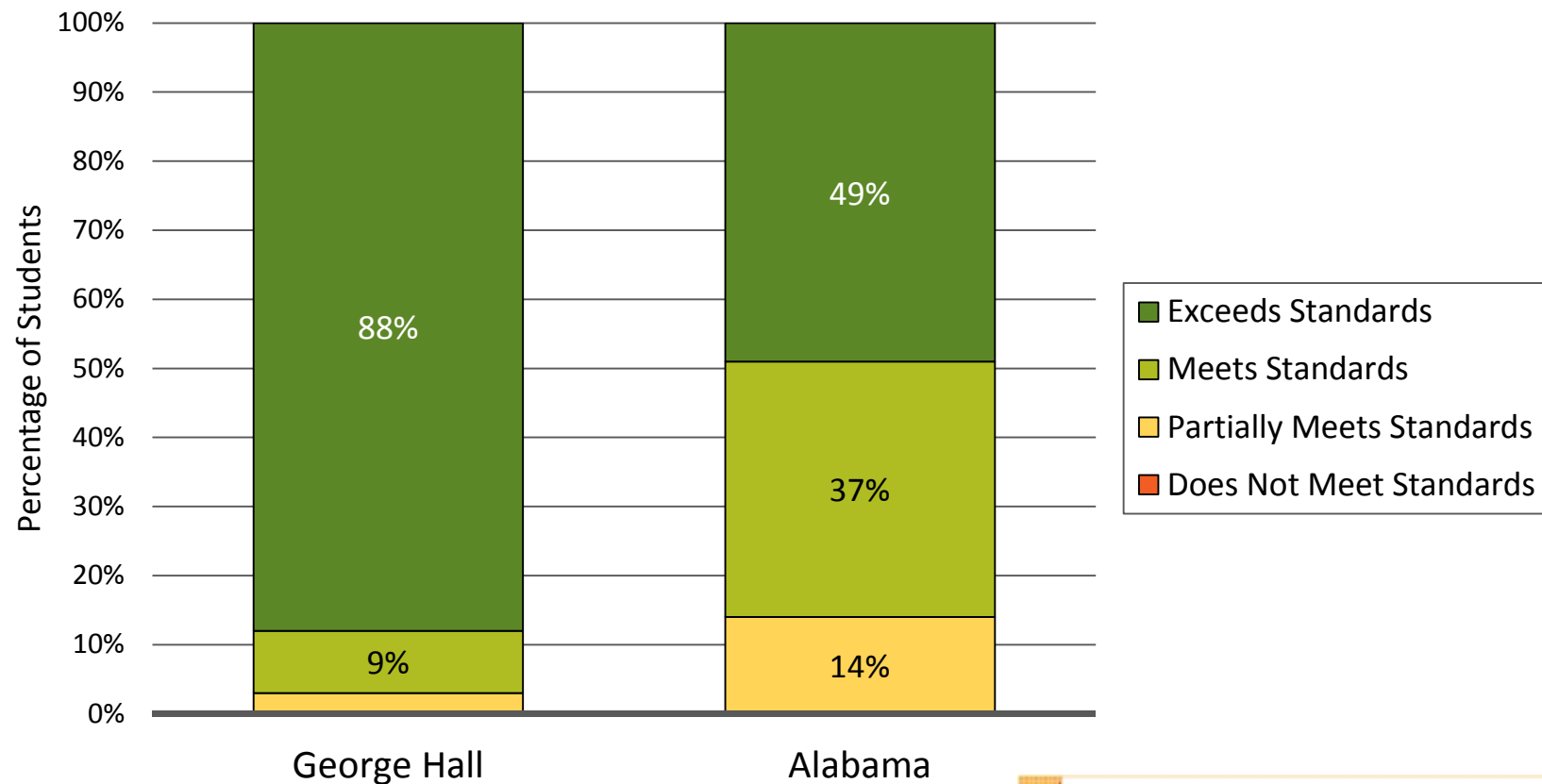
Source: Alabama Department of Education

 **DISPELLING THE MYTH**
2009 Award Recipient

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High Rates of Advanced at George Hall

African-American Students – Grade 5 Math (2012)



Source: Alabama Department of Education

 **DISPELLING THE MYTH**
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Osmond A. Church School (P.S./M.S. 124)

Queens, New York

- 1,227 students in grades K-8
 - 31% African American
 - 44% Asian
 - 22% Latino
- 97% Low Income



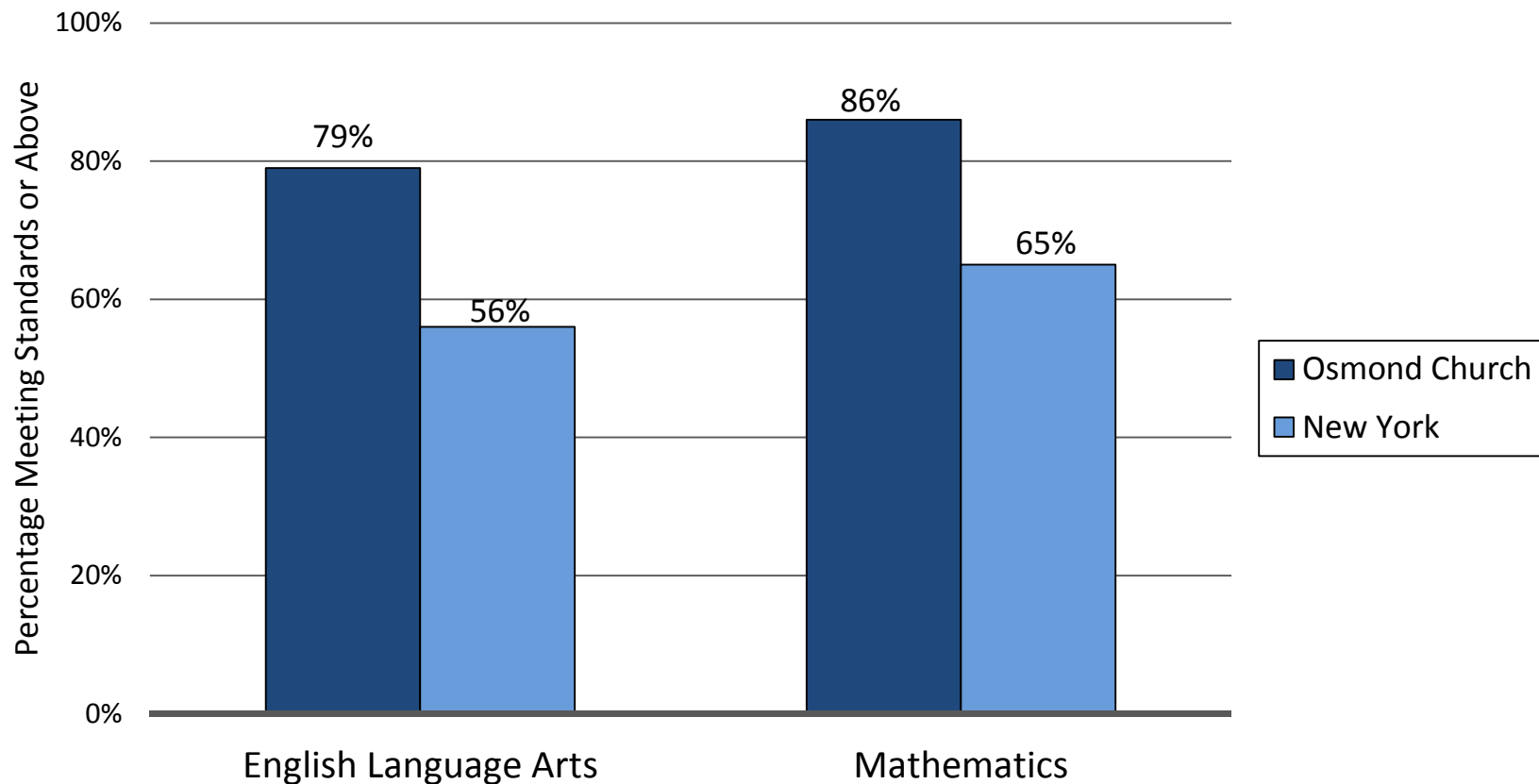
Note: Enrollment data is for 2011-2012 school year
Source: New York State Department of Education

 **DISPELLING THE MYTH**
2007 Award Recipient

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Outperforming the State at P.S./M.S. 124 Osmond Church

All Students – Grade 6 (2012)



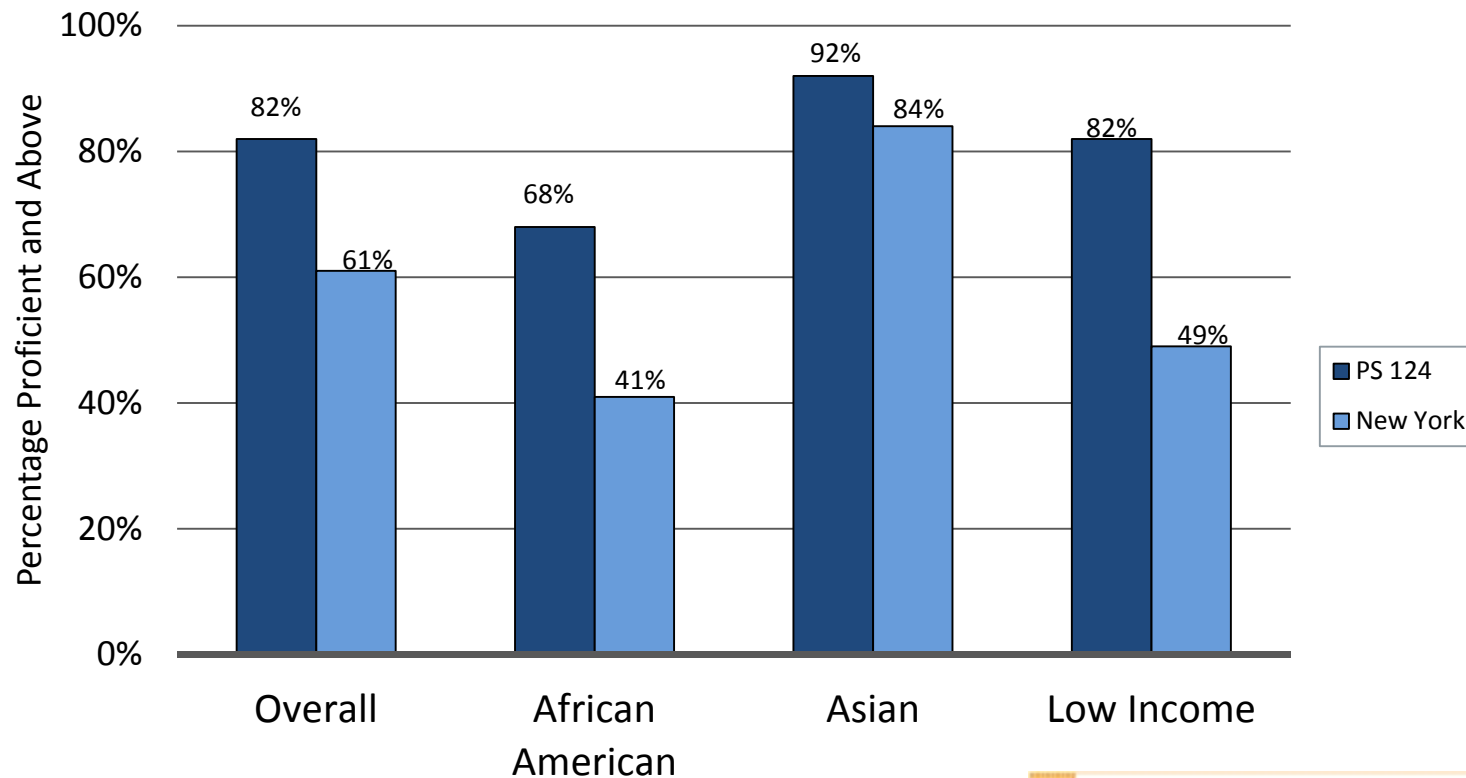
Source: New York State Department of Education

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Outperforming the State at P.S./M.S. 124 Osmond Church

Grade 8 Math (2012)

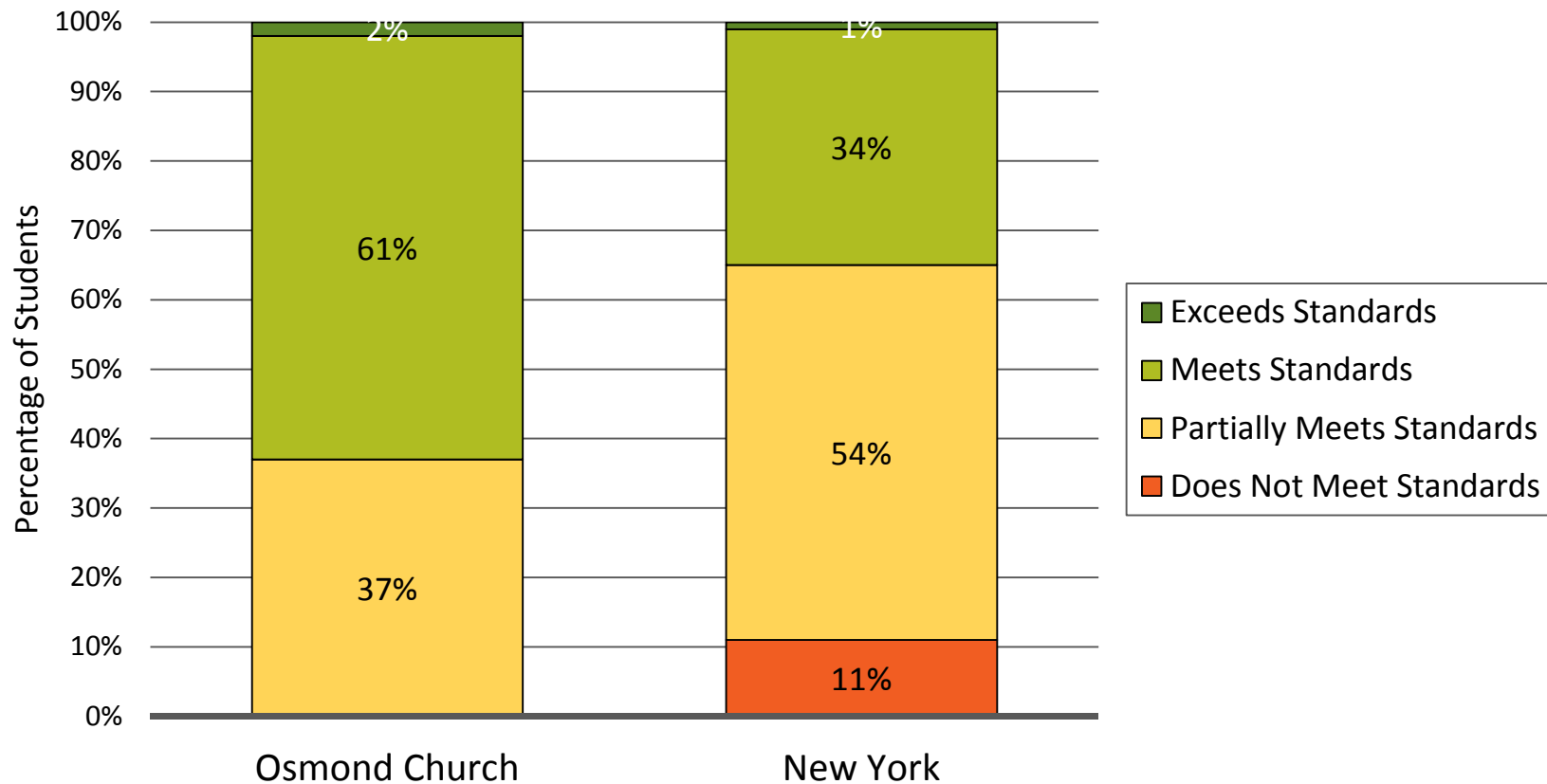


Source: New York State Department of Education

 **DISPELLING THE MYTH**
2009 Award Recipient

High Performance In Reading at Osmond Church

Low-Income Students– Grade 8 ELA (2012)



Source: New York Department of Education

 **DISPELLING THE MYTH**
2009 Award Recipient

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Elmont Memorial High School

Elmont, New York

- 1,907 students in grades 7-12
 - 78% African American
 - 12% Latino

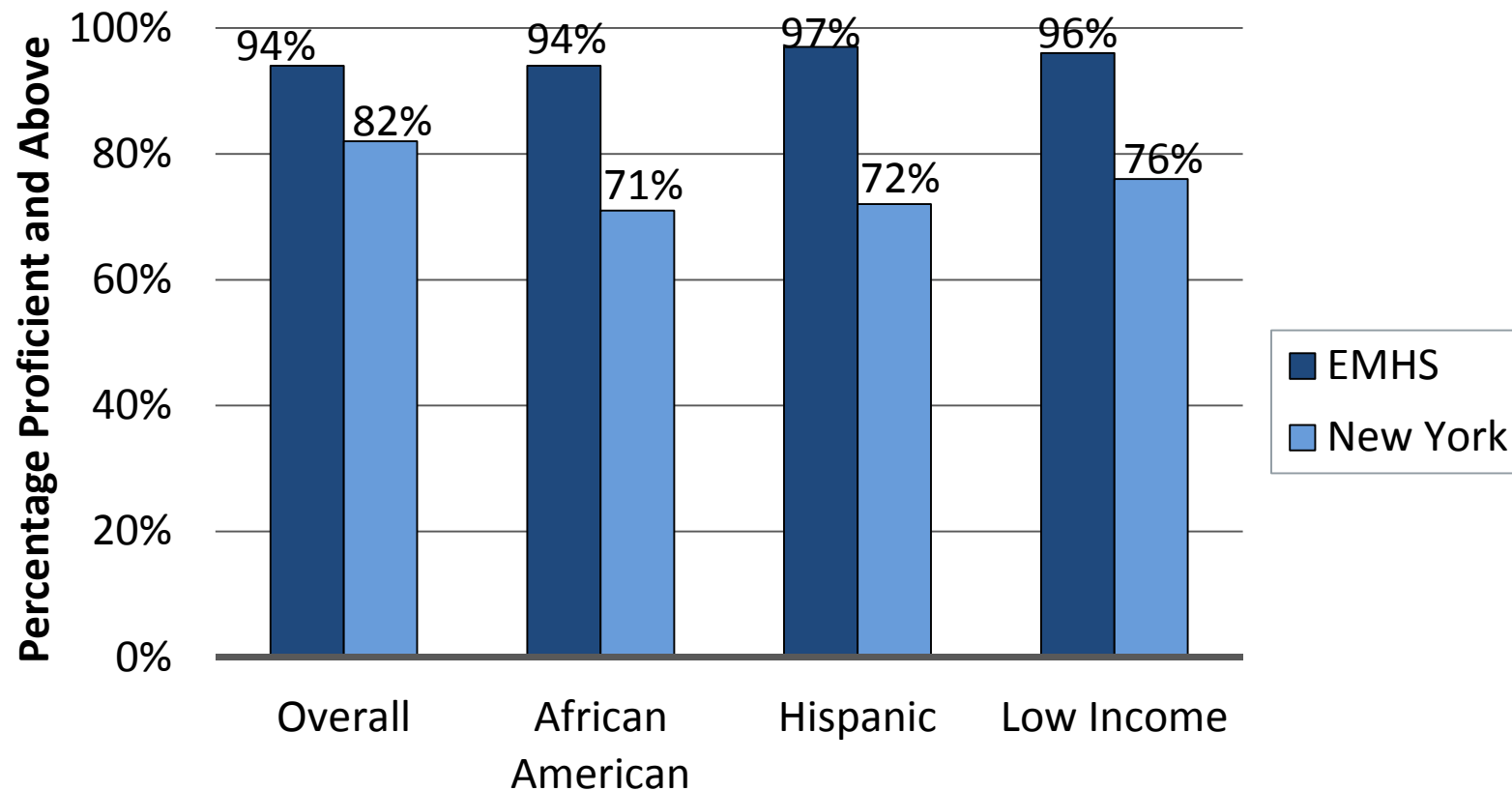


Source: New York Department of Education

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High Performance by ALL Students at Elmont Memorial High School

Secondary Level Math (2012)

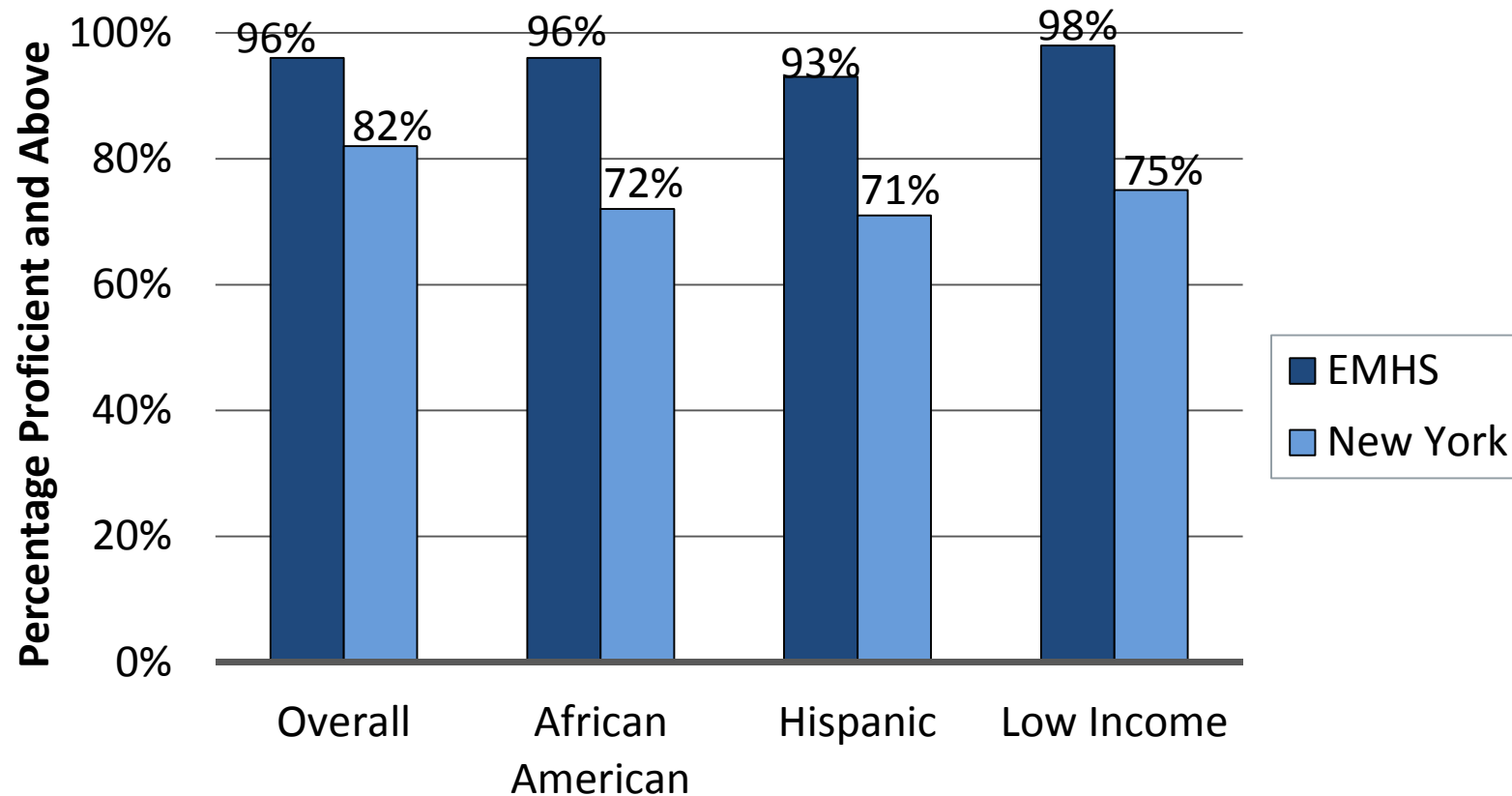


Source: New York Department of Education <https://reportcards.nysed.gov/schools.php?district=800000049235&year=2012>

e:

High Performance by ALL Students at Elmont Memorial High School

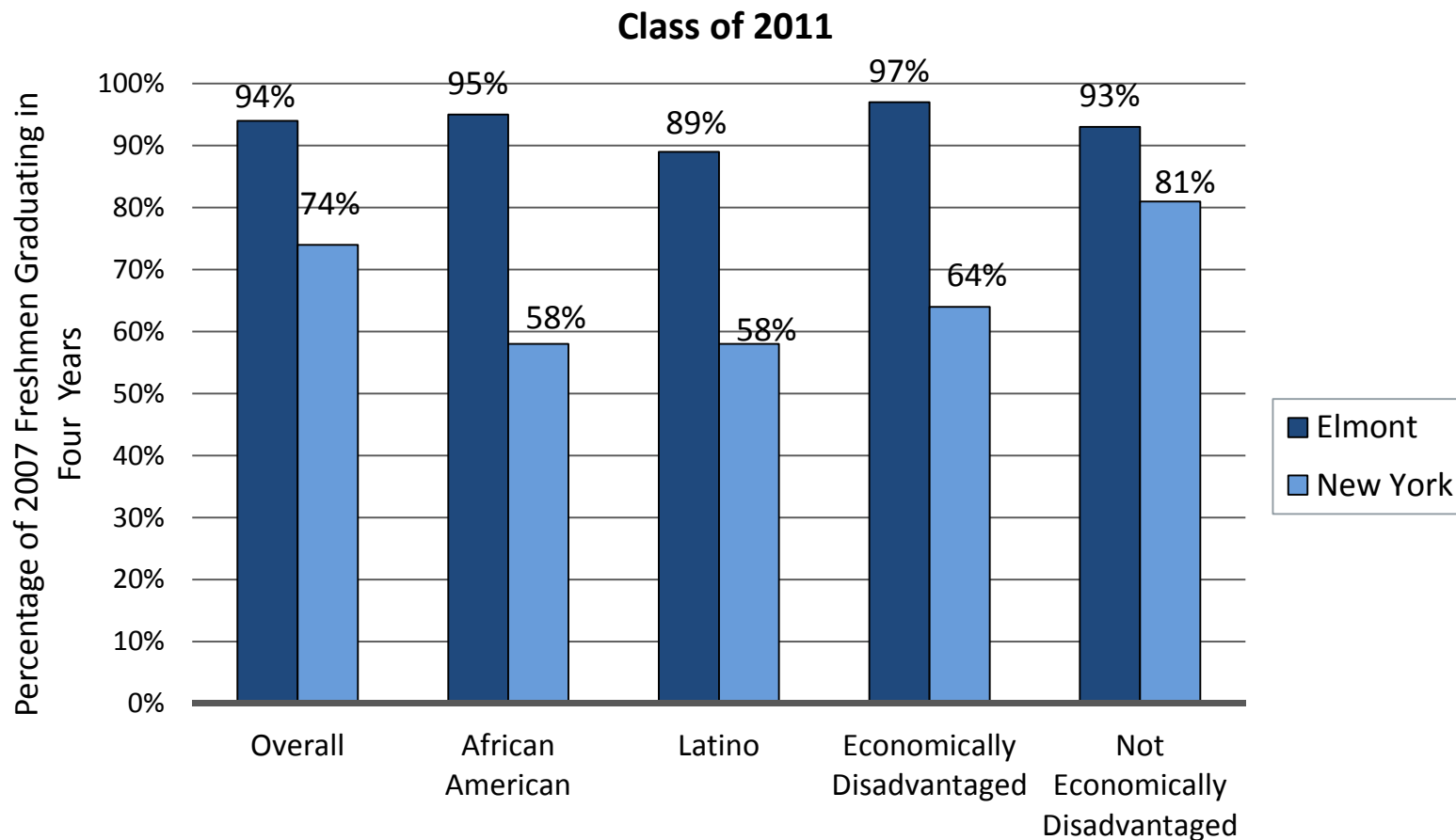
Secondary Level English (2012)



Source: New York Department of Education <https://reportcards.nysed.gov/schools.php?district=800000049235&year=2012>

e:

High Graduation Rates at Elmont Memorial High School



Note: Includes students graduating by June 2011.
Source: New York State Department of Education

e:

Pass Christian High School

Pass Christian, Mississippi

518 students in grades 9-12

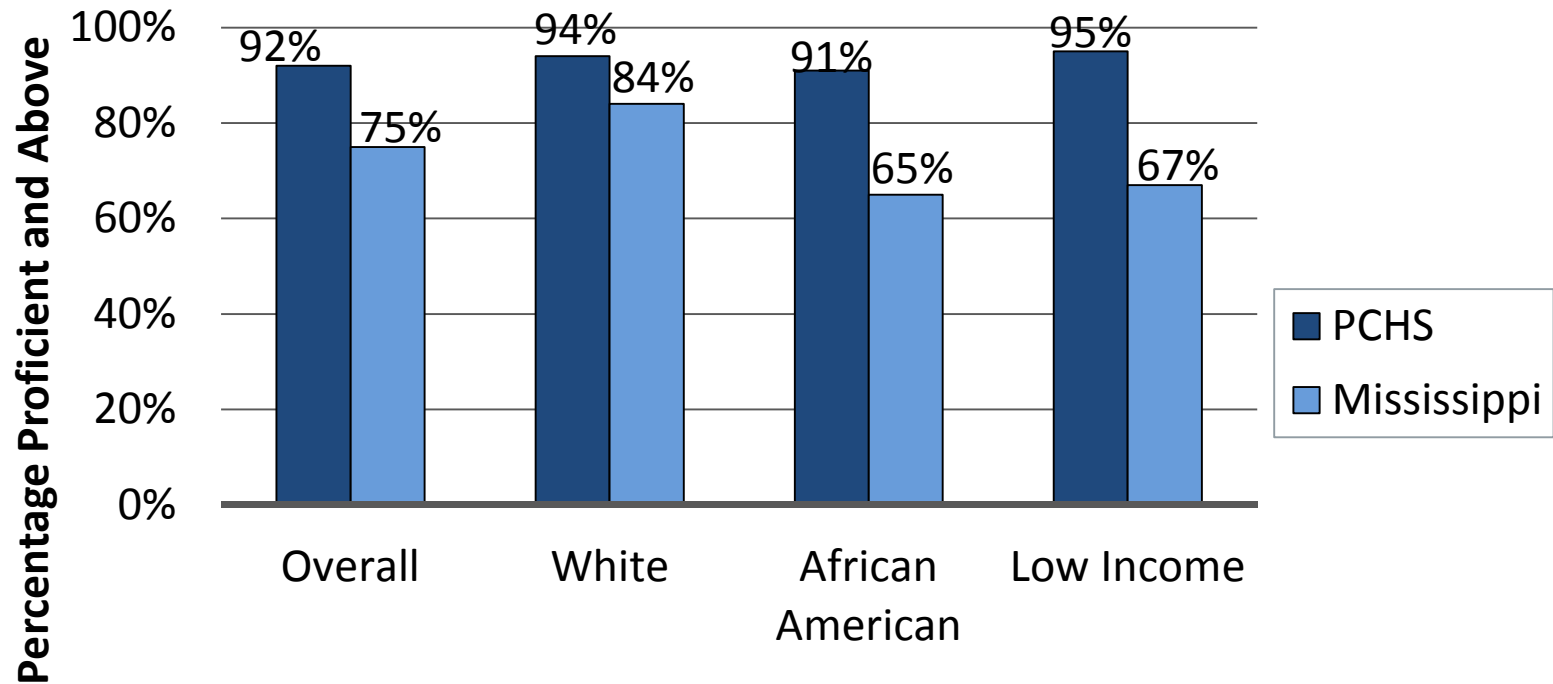
- 62% White
- 31% African American
- 56% Low Income



Note: Data are for 2012-2013 school year.
Source : Mississippi DOE, Pass Christian School District

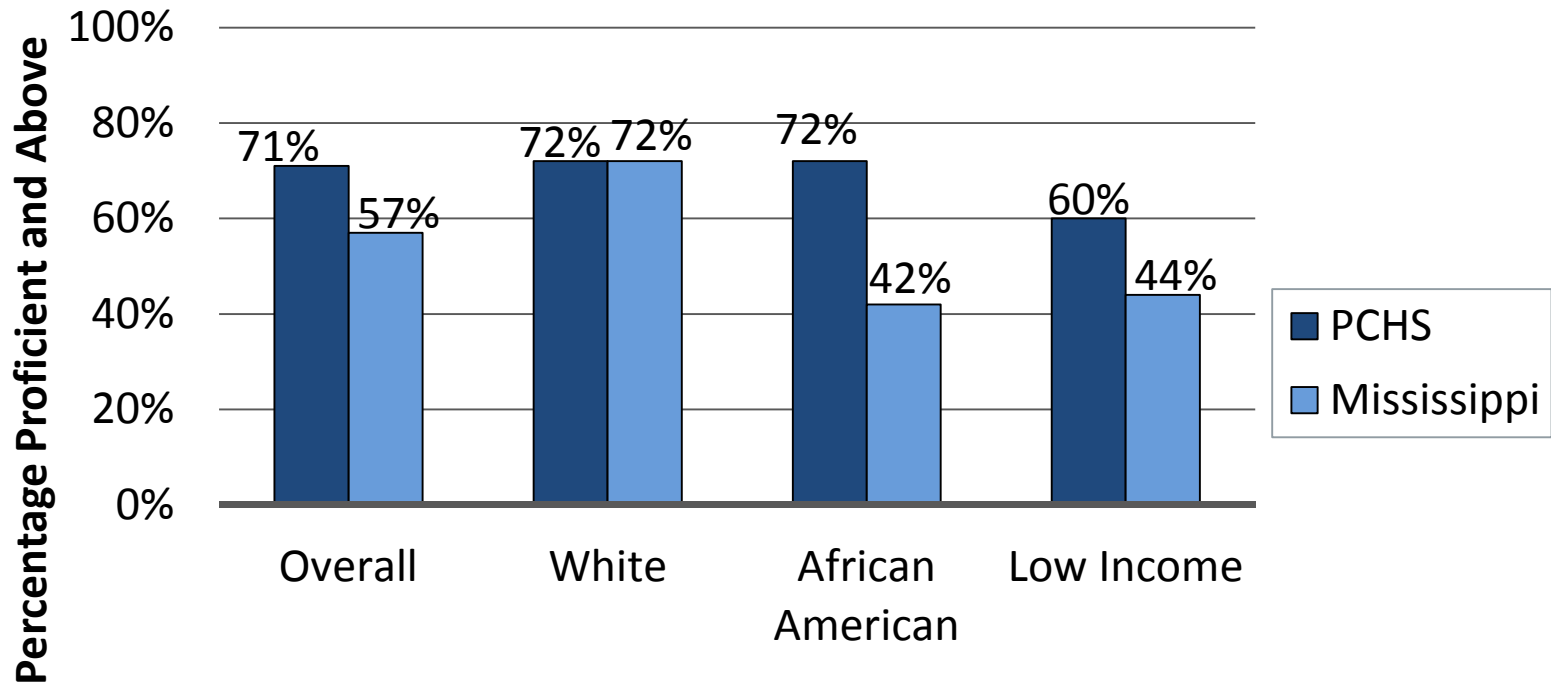
All Groups of Students Outperforming State at Pass Christian High School

Algebra I (2012)



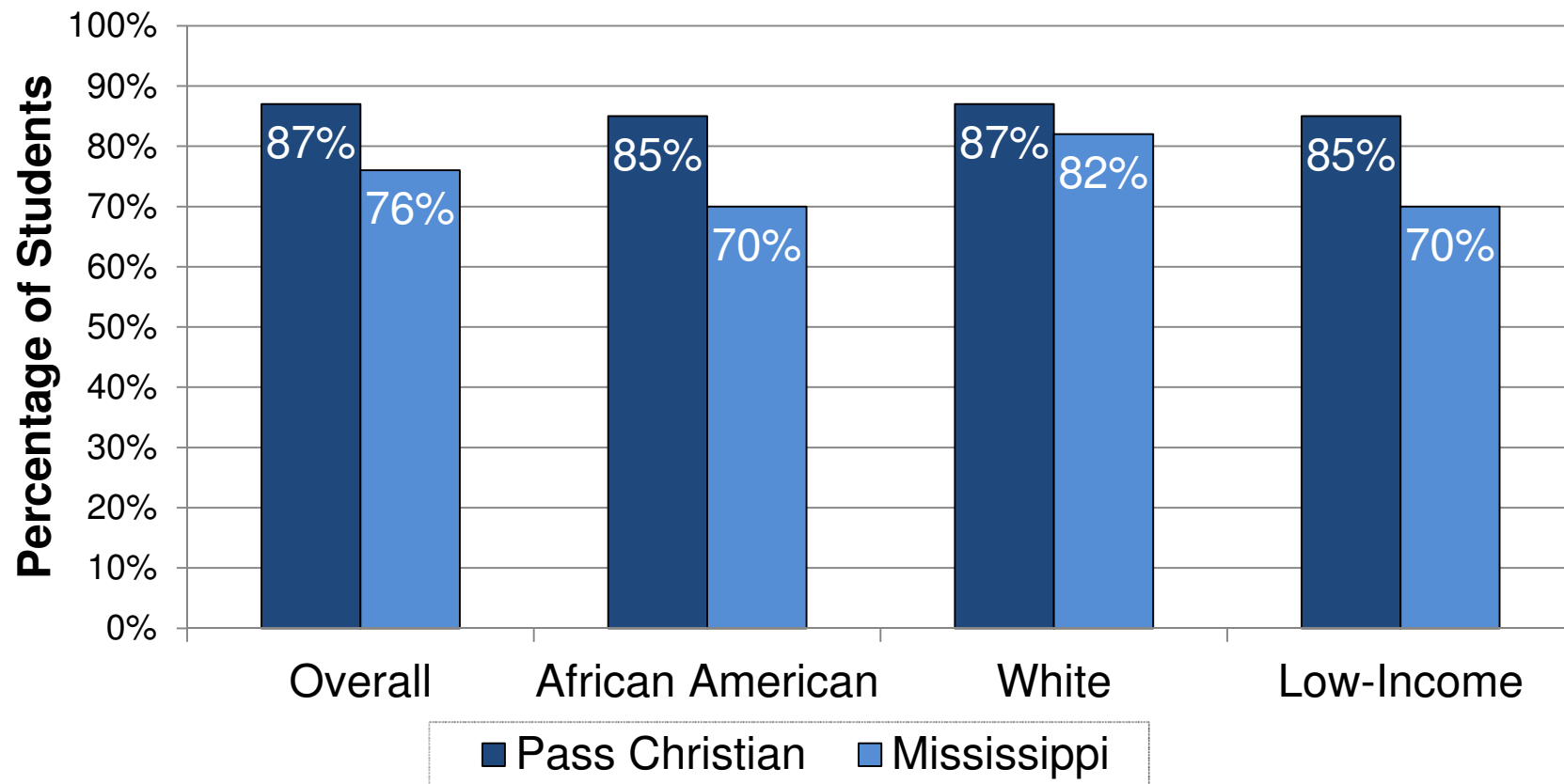
All Groups of Students Outperforming State at Pass Christian High School

English (2012)



High Graduation Rates at Pass Christian

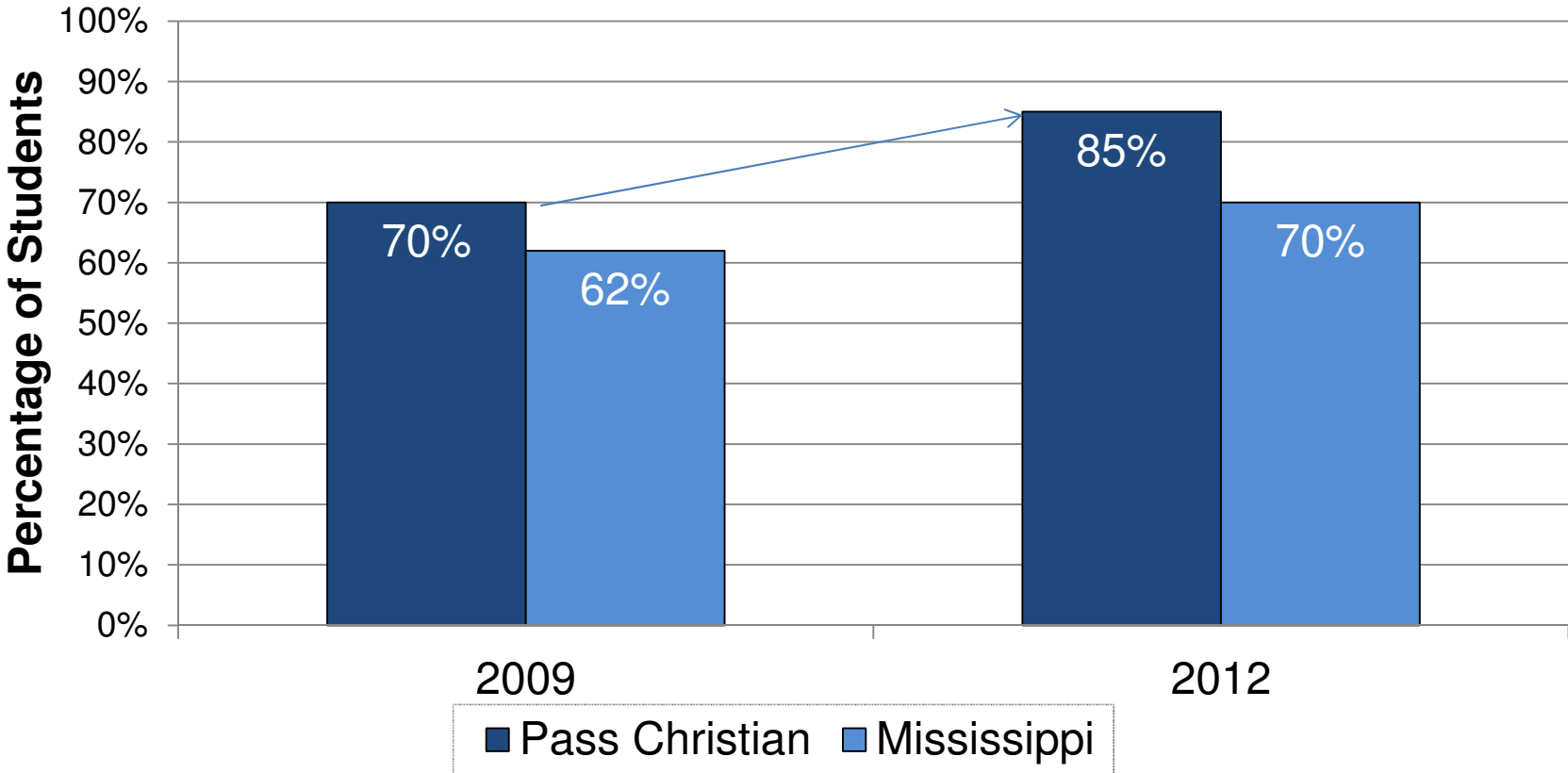
Graduation Rates (2012)



Source : Mississippi Department of Education

Improving Graduation Rates at Pass Christian


2012 Graduation Rates – Low-Income Students



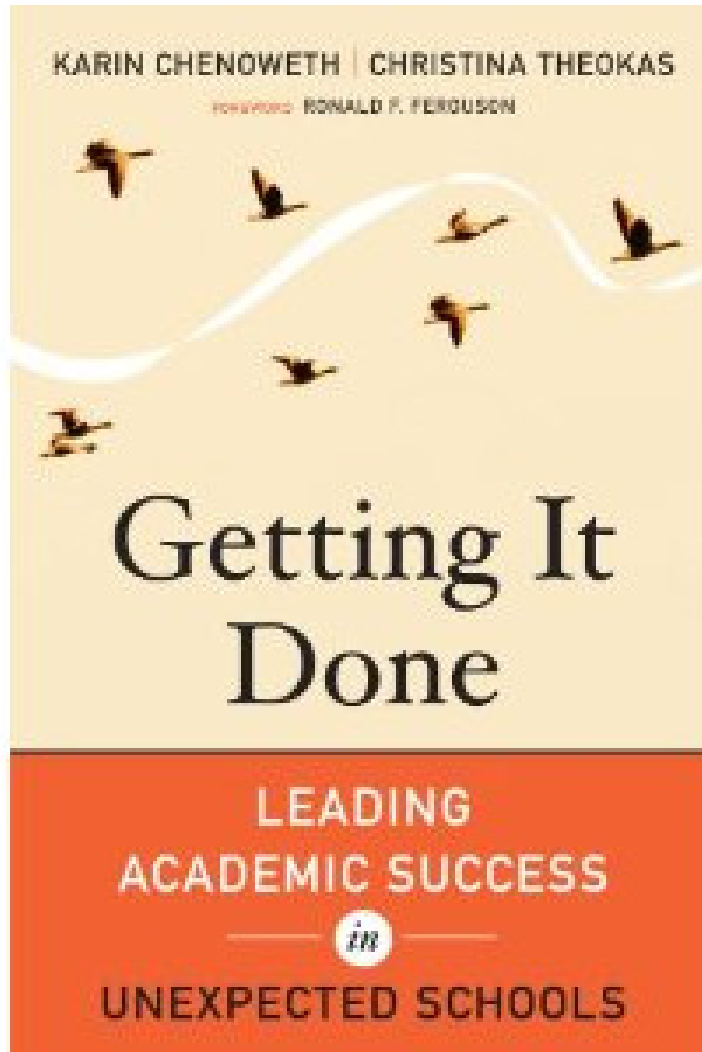
Source : Mississippi Department of Education

Pass Christian High School

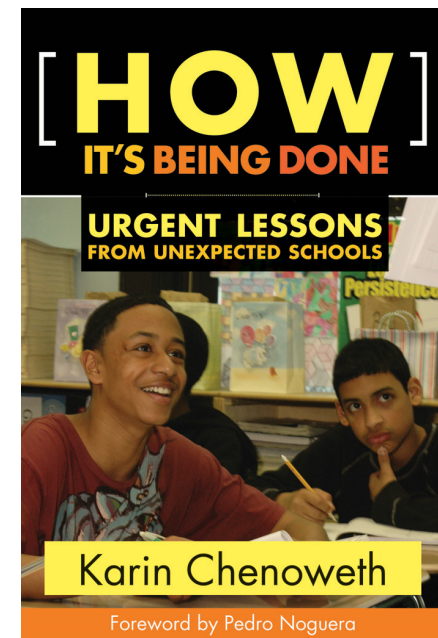
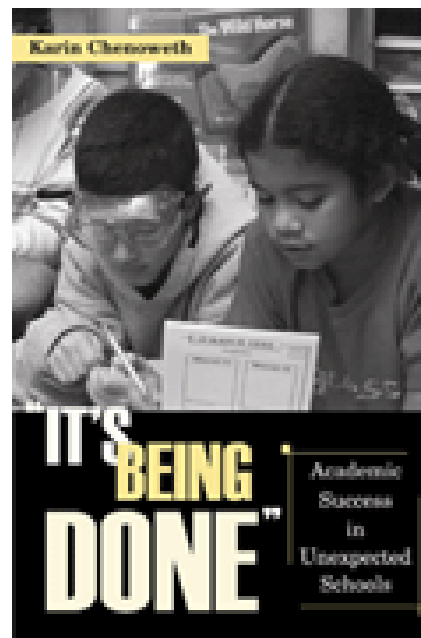




This is what happens when
teams of educators choose
differently.



Available from
Harvard Education
Press and amazon.com



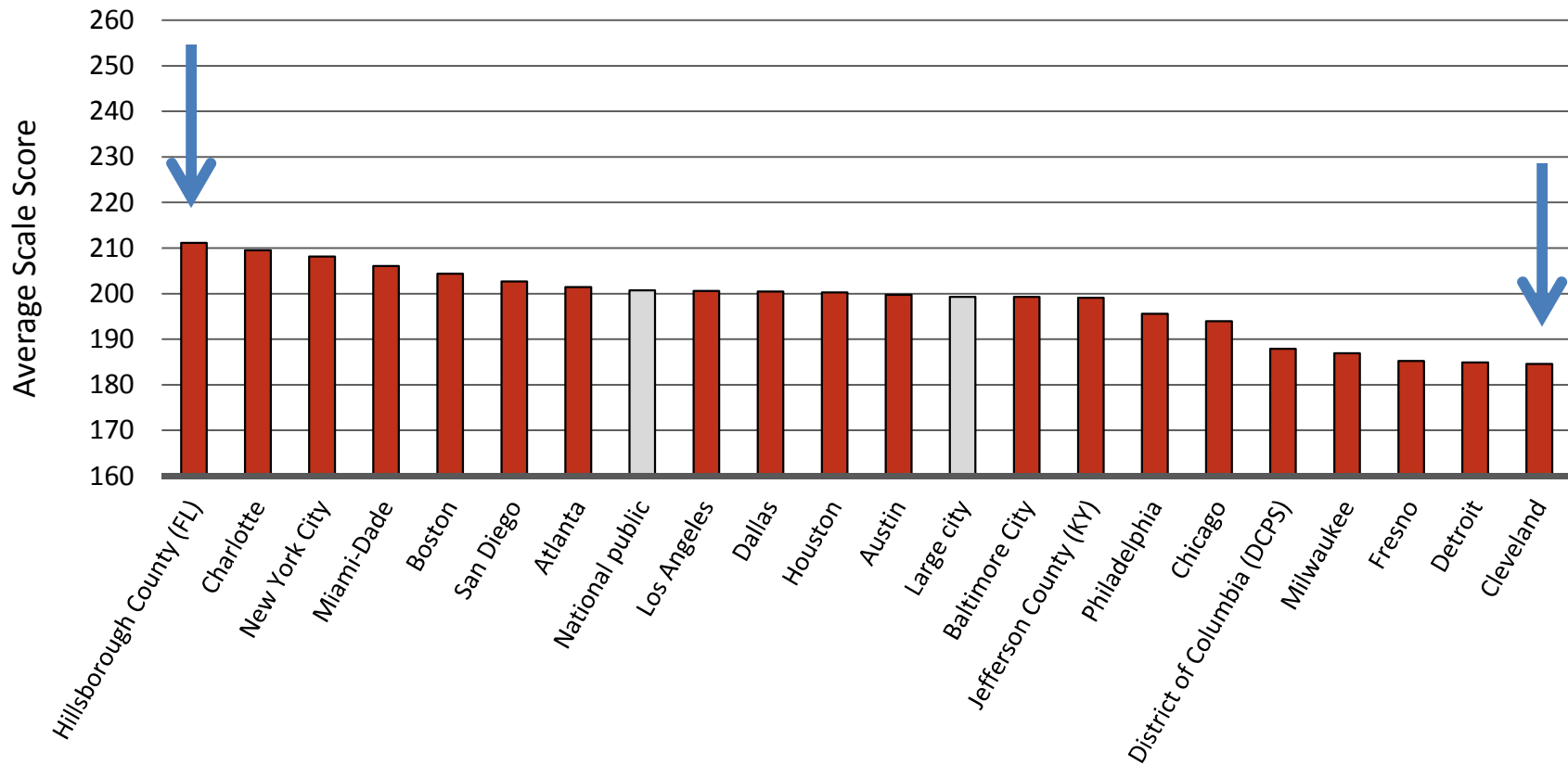


Just isolated schools here and there?

No. Very big differences at district and state levels, too—even in the progress and performance of the “same” group of students.

Average Scale Scores, by District Low-Income African American Students

Grade 4 – NAEP Reading (2013)



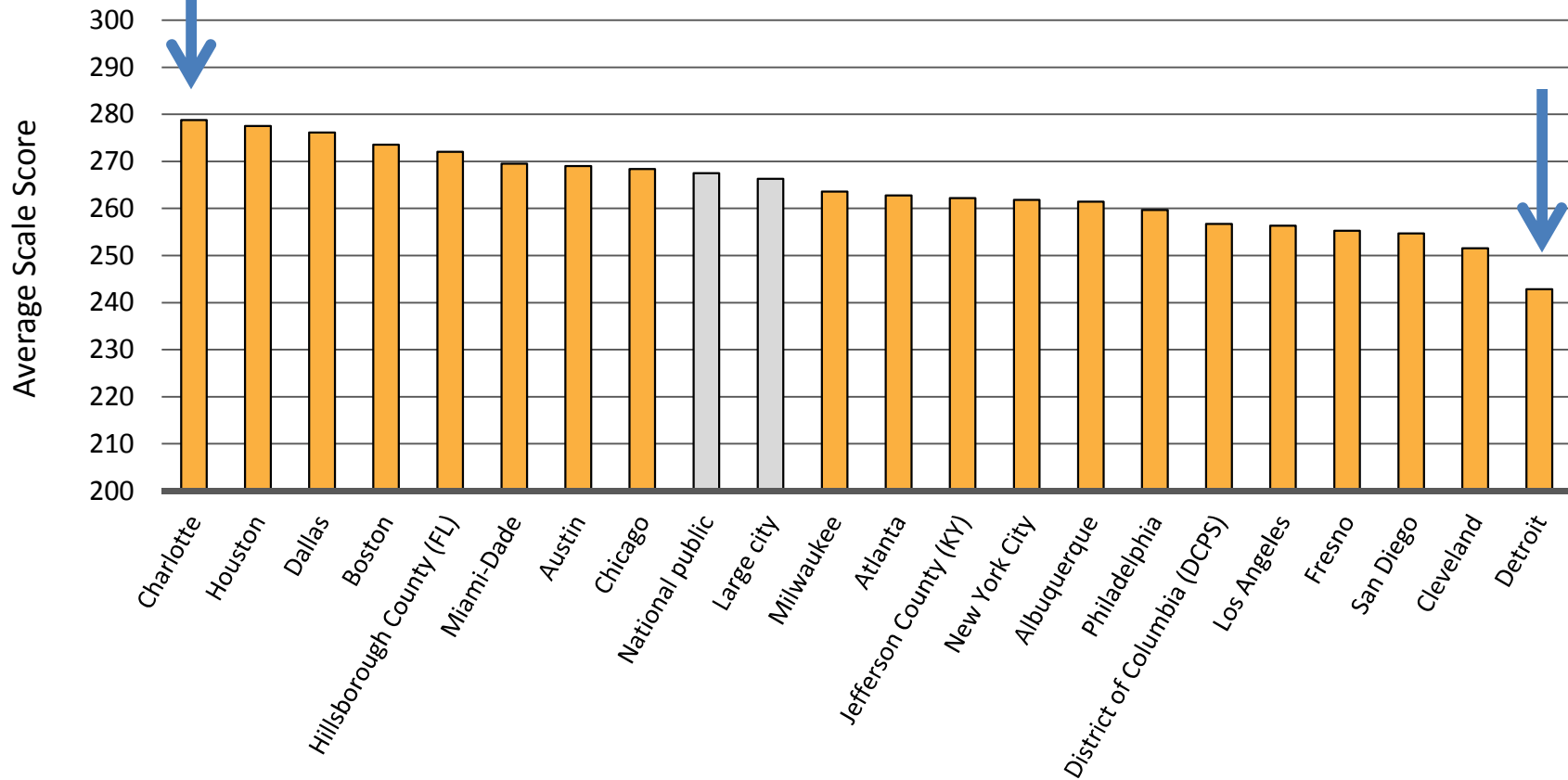
Note: Basic Scale Score = 208; Proficient Scale Score = 238

Source: NAEP Data Explorer, NCES

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Average Scale Scores, by District Low-Income Latino Students

Grade 8 – NAEP Math (2013)



Note: Basic Scale Score = 262; Proficient Scale Score = 299

Source: NAEP Data Explorer, NCES

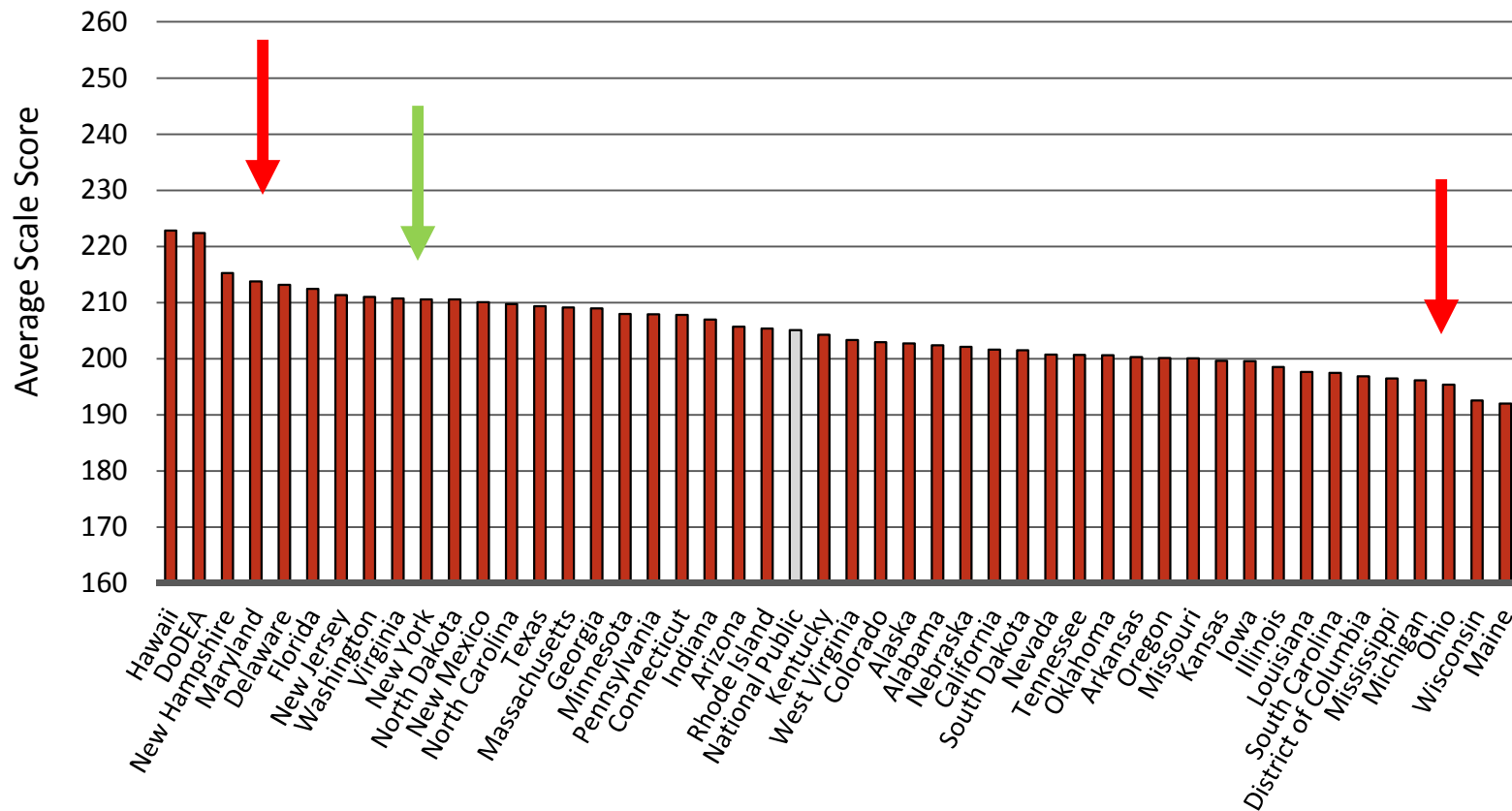
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Even big differences in whole
states...

Scale Scores by State – African-American Students

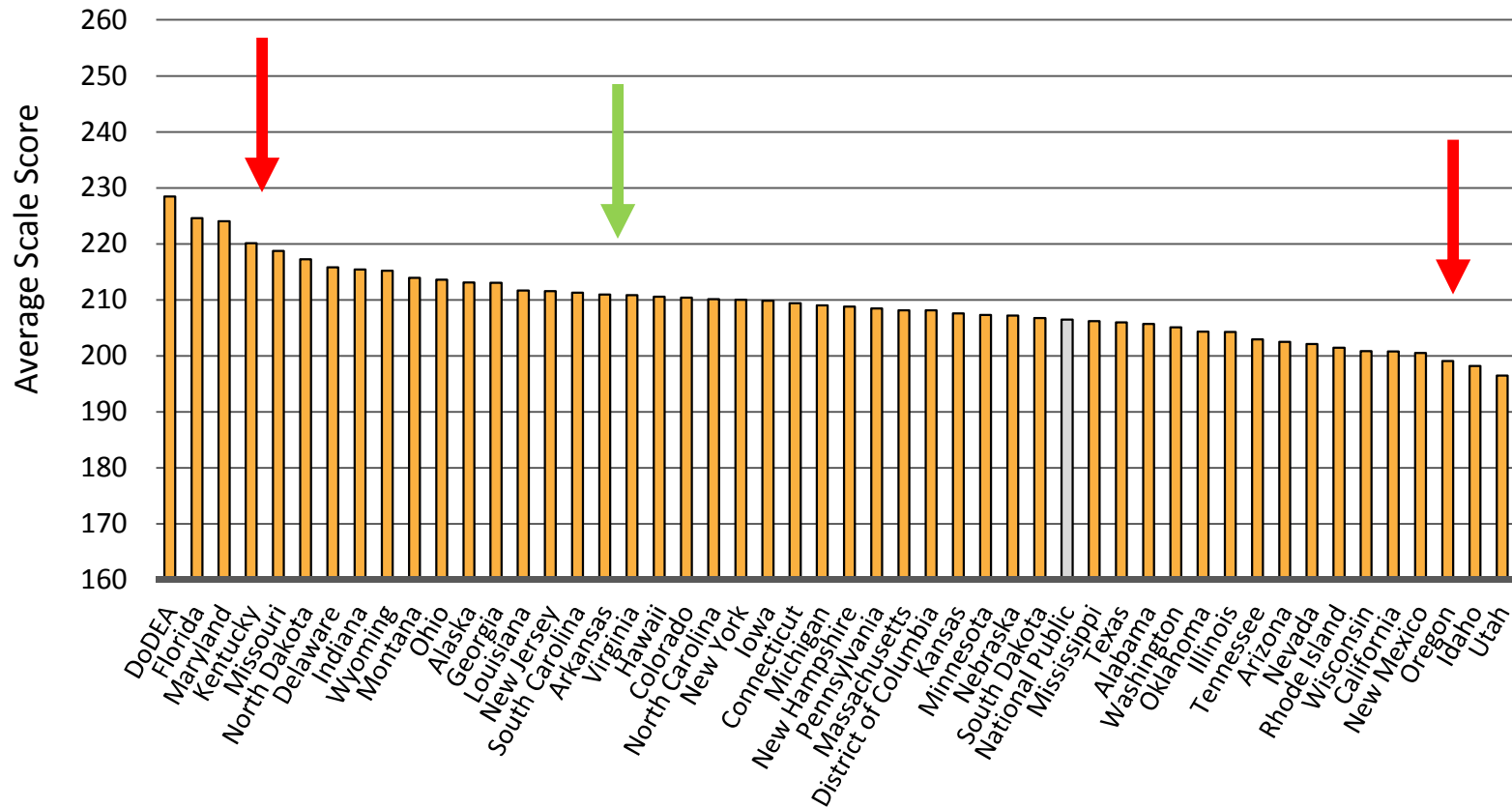
Grade 4 – NAEP Reading (2013)



- NAEP Data Explorer, NCES (Proficient Scale Score = 238; Basic Scale Score = 208)

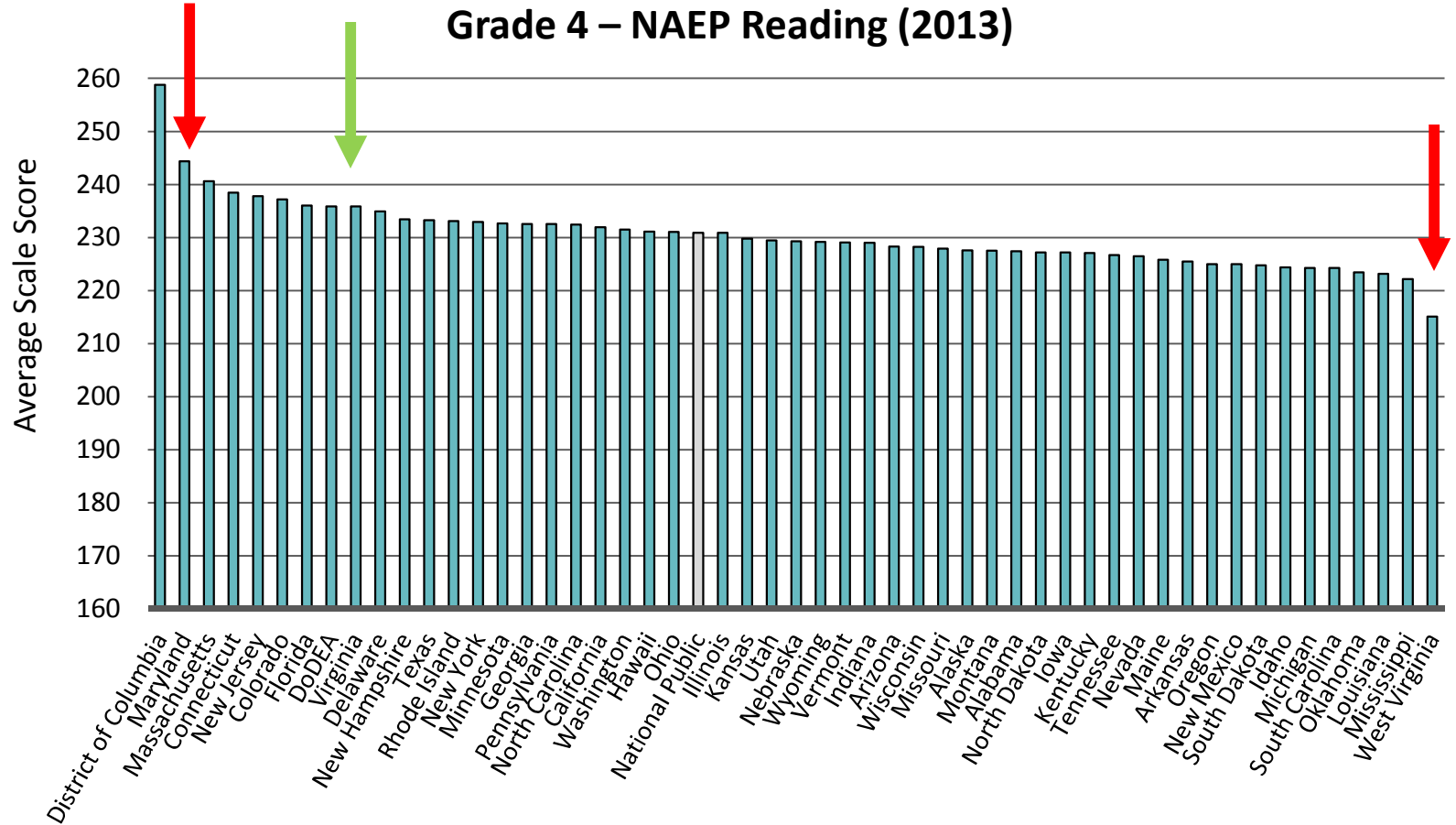
Scale Scores by State – Latino Students

Grade 4 – NAEP Reading (2013)



- NAEP Data Explorer, NCES (Proficient Scale Score = 238; Basic Scale Score = 208)

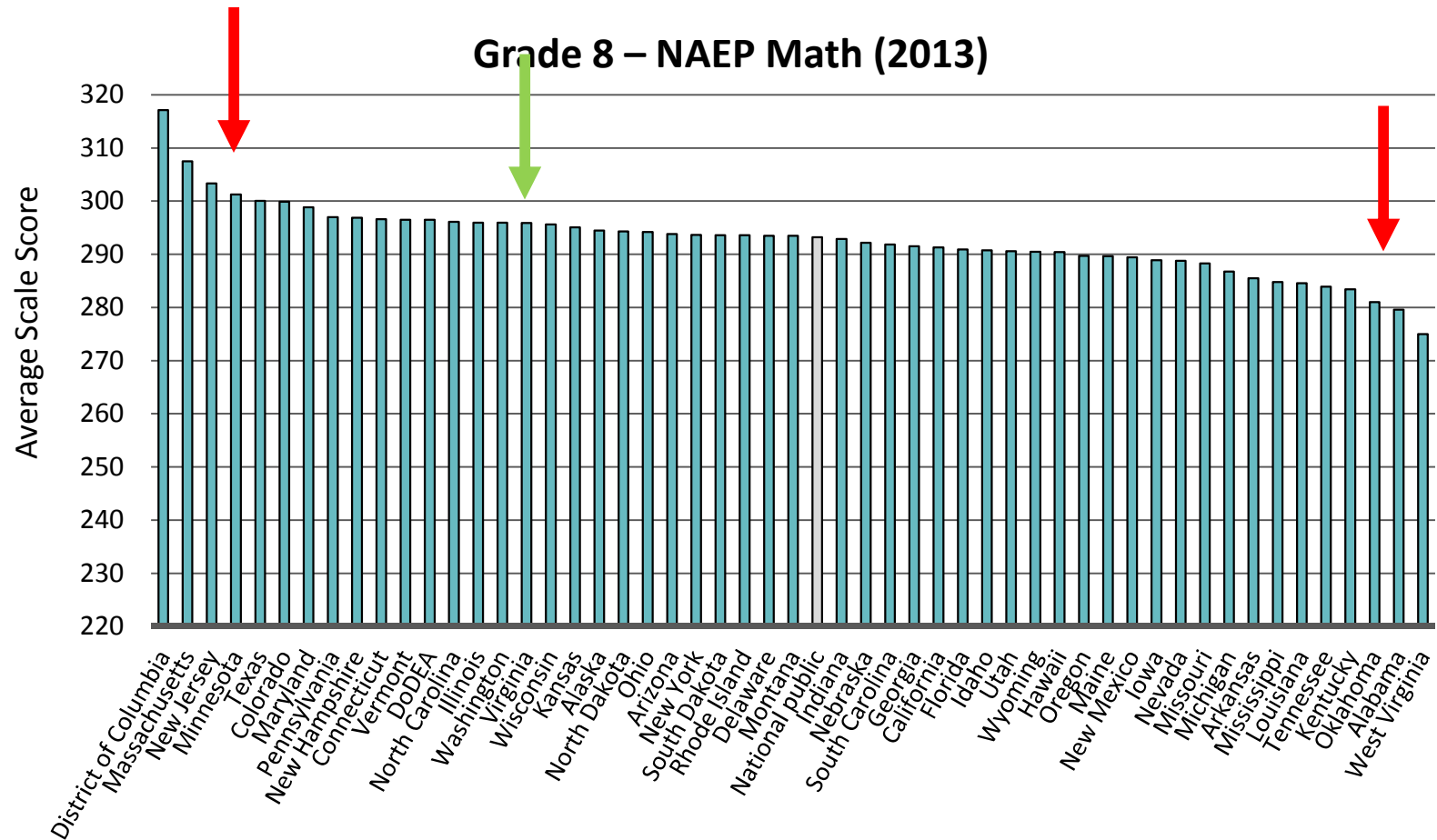
Scale Scores by State – White Students



Source: NAEP Data Explorer, NCES (Proficient Scale Score = 238; Basic Scale Score = 208)

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Scale Scores by State – White Students

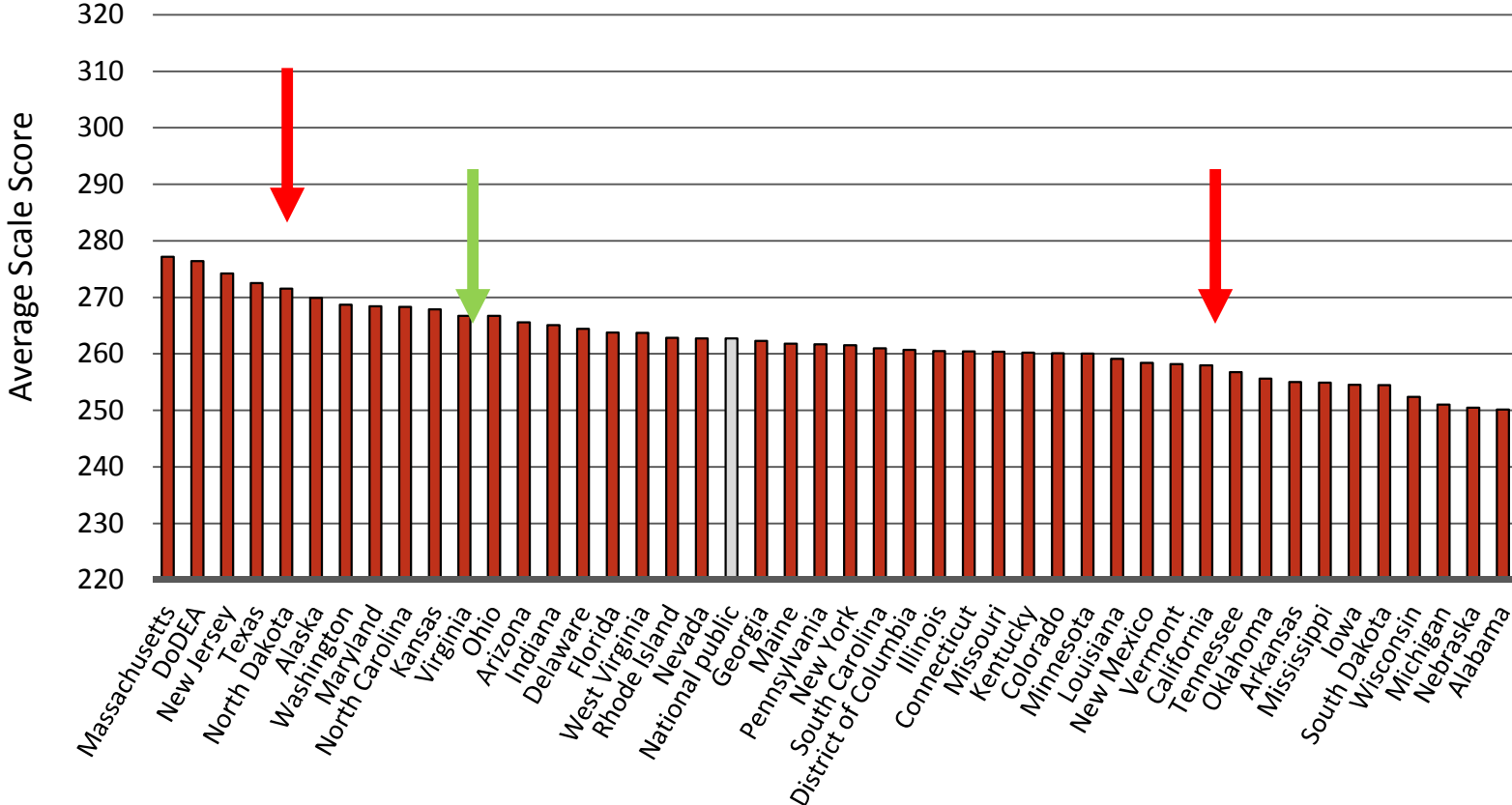


Source: NAEP Data Explorer, NCES (Proficient Scale Score = 299; Basic Scale Score = 262)

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Scale Scores by State – African-American Students

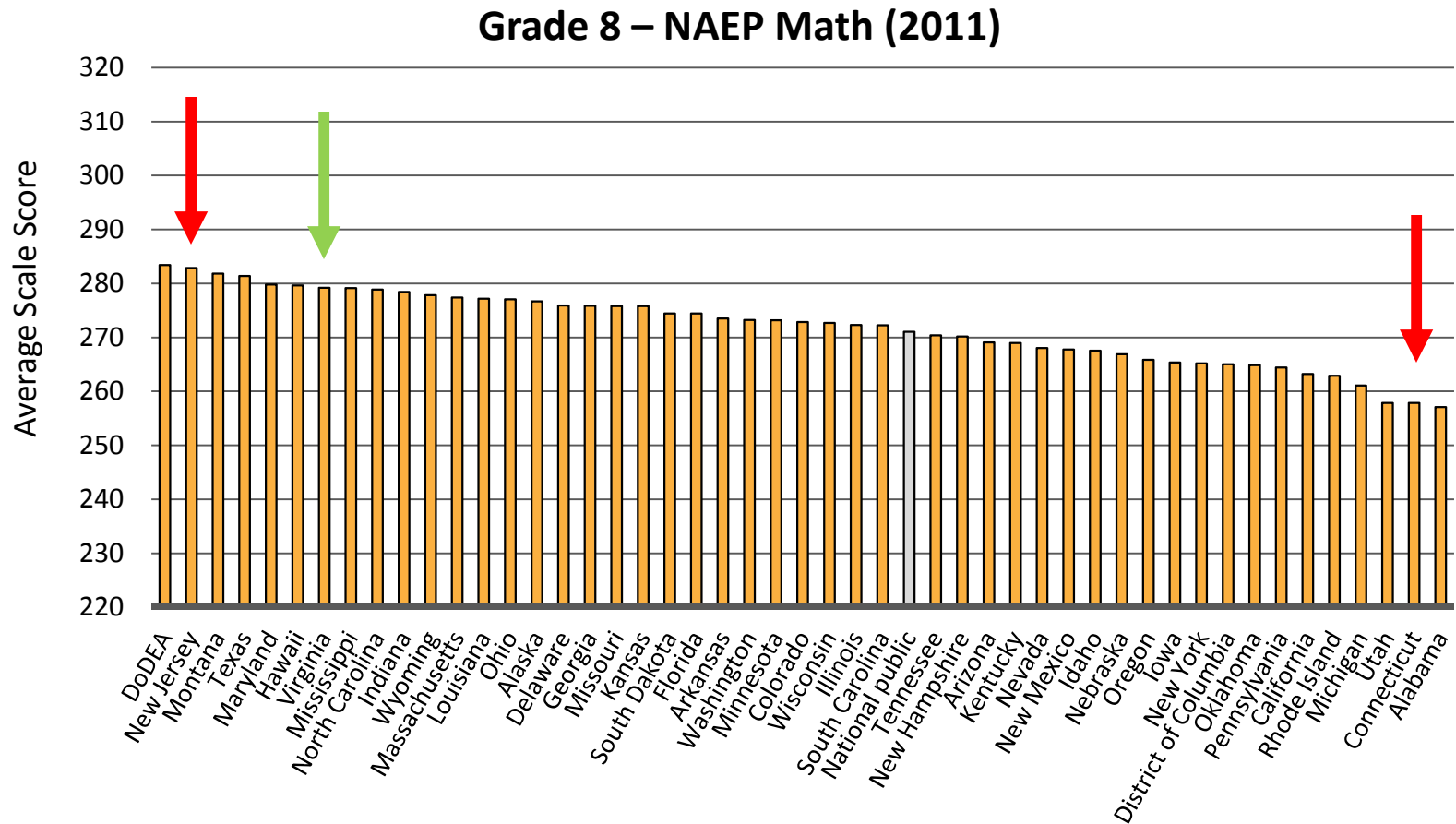
Grade 8 – NAEP Math (2013)



Source: NAEP Data Explorer, NCES (Proficient Scale Score = 299; Basic Scale Score = 262)

e:

Scale Scores by State – Latino Students



Source: NAEP Data Explorer, NCES (Proficient Scale Score = 299; Basic Scale Score = 262)

e:

NAEP Reading Performance: Where Does Virginia Rank Among States?

	All	White	Black	Latino	Low Income	Higher Income
4 th Grade	6	7	8	17	26	6

Source:

NAEP Reading Improvement, 2003-2013

Where Does Virginia Rank?

	All	White	Black	Latino	Low Income	Higher Income
4 th Grade	13	21	24	33	22	17

Source:

NAEP Math Performance: Where Does Virginia Rank Among States?

	All	White	Black	Latino	Low Income	Higher Income
4 th Grade	12	15	10	8	29	19

Source:

NAEP Math Improvement, 2003-2013

Where Does Virginia Rank?

	All	White	Black	Latino	Low Income	Higher Income
4 th Grade	31	40	30	31	36	35
/.						

Source:




Bottom Line:
At Every Level of Education,
What We Do Matters!

What Can We Learn From Top Performers and Top Gainers?

Four common sense, but ultimately disruptive ideas.

#1. Good schools, districts don't leave anything about teaching and learning to chance.



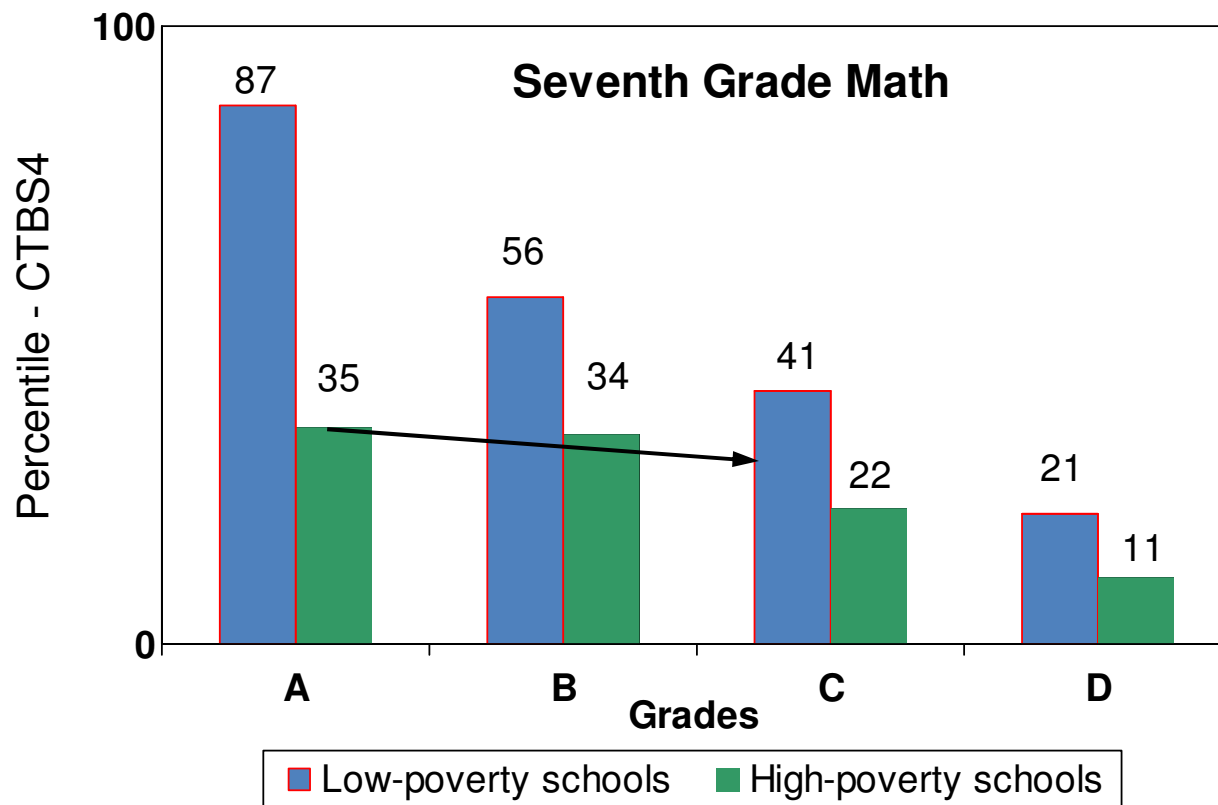
An awful lot of our teachers—even brand new ones—are left to figure out on their own what to teach and what constitutes “good enough” work.




What does this do?

Leaves teachers entirely on their own to figure out what to teach, what order to teach it in, HOW to teach it...and to what level.

'A' Work in Poor Schools Would Earn 'Cs' in Affluent Schools



Source: Prospects (ABT Associates, 1993), in "Prospects: Final Report on Student Outcomes", PES, DOE, 1997.



Students can do
no better than
the assignments
they are given...

Grade 10 Writing Assignment

A frequent theme in literature is the conflict between the individual and society. From literature you have read, select a character who struggled with society. In a well-developed essay, identify the character and explain why this character's conflict with society is important.

Grade 10 Writing Assignment

Write a composition of at least 4 paragraphs on Martin Luther King's most important contribution to this society. Illustrate your work with a neat cover page. Neatness counts.

Grade 7 Writing Assignment

Essay on Anne Frank

Your essay will consist of an opening paragraph which introduced the title, author and general background of the novel.

Your thesis will state specifically what Anne's overall personality is, and what general psychological and intellectual changes she exhibits over the course of the book

You might organize your essay by grouping psychological and intellectual changes OR you might choose 3 or 4 characteristics (like friendliness, patience, optimism, self doubt) and show how she changes in this area.

Grade 7 Writing Assignment

The "ME" Page	
My name:	
Three words which describe me best:	
Three words others would use to describe me:	
My best feature:	
A neat expression:	
My best friend:	
My favorite food:	
A chore I hate:	
Something I wish would happen at my home:	
My hero:	
My favorite sport:	
A car I want:	
The best thing about my school:	
My biggest secret:	
A television character I act like:	
My worst fear:	
A contest I want to win:	
My favorite movie star:	
My heartthrob:	
A political office I would like to hold:	
Something I want to buy:	
My chosen career:	
My favorite beverage:	
A place I want to visit:	
A school subject I adore:	
My favorite book:	
A nightmare I have:	
Someone I would like to have as a relative:	
A movie I would like to be the star in:	
Something I would like to do for my family:	
A teacher I respect:	
What I would do if I were in Hollywood:	
A friend I would like to have:	
What I would do to change our school:	
My dream for America:	

- My Best Friend:
- A chore I hate:
- A car I want:
- My heartthrob:

Comparison/Contrast Paper Between Homer's Epic Poem, *The Odyssey* and the Movie "O Brother Where Art Thou"

By nature, humans compare and contrast all elements of their world. Why? Because in the juxtaposition of two different things, one can learn more about each individual thing as well as something about the universal nature of the things being compared.

For this 2-3 page paper you will want to ask yourself the following questions: what larger ideas do you see working in *The Odyssey* and "O Brother Where Art Thou"? Do both works treat these issues in the same way? What do the similarities and differences between the works reveal about the underlying nature of the larger idea?

The Odyssey

Ninth Grade

Low-level Assignment

Divide class into 3 groups:


Group 1 designs a brochure titled "Odyssey Cruises". The students *listen* to the story and write down all the places Odysseus visited in his adventures, and list the cost to travel from place to place.

Group 2 draws pictures of each adventure.

Group 3 takes the names of the characters in the story and gods and goddesses in the story and designs a crossword puzzle.

High Performing Schools and Districts

- Have clear and specific goals for what students should learn in every grade, including the order in which they should learn it;
- Provide teachers with common curriculum, assignments;
- Have regular vehicle to assure common marking standards;
- Assess students regularly to measure progress; and,
- Don't leave student supports to chance.



In other words, they strive for consistency in everything they do.

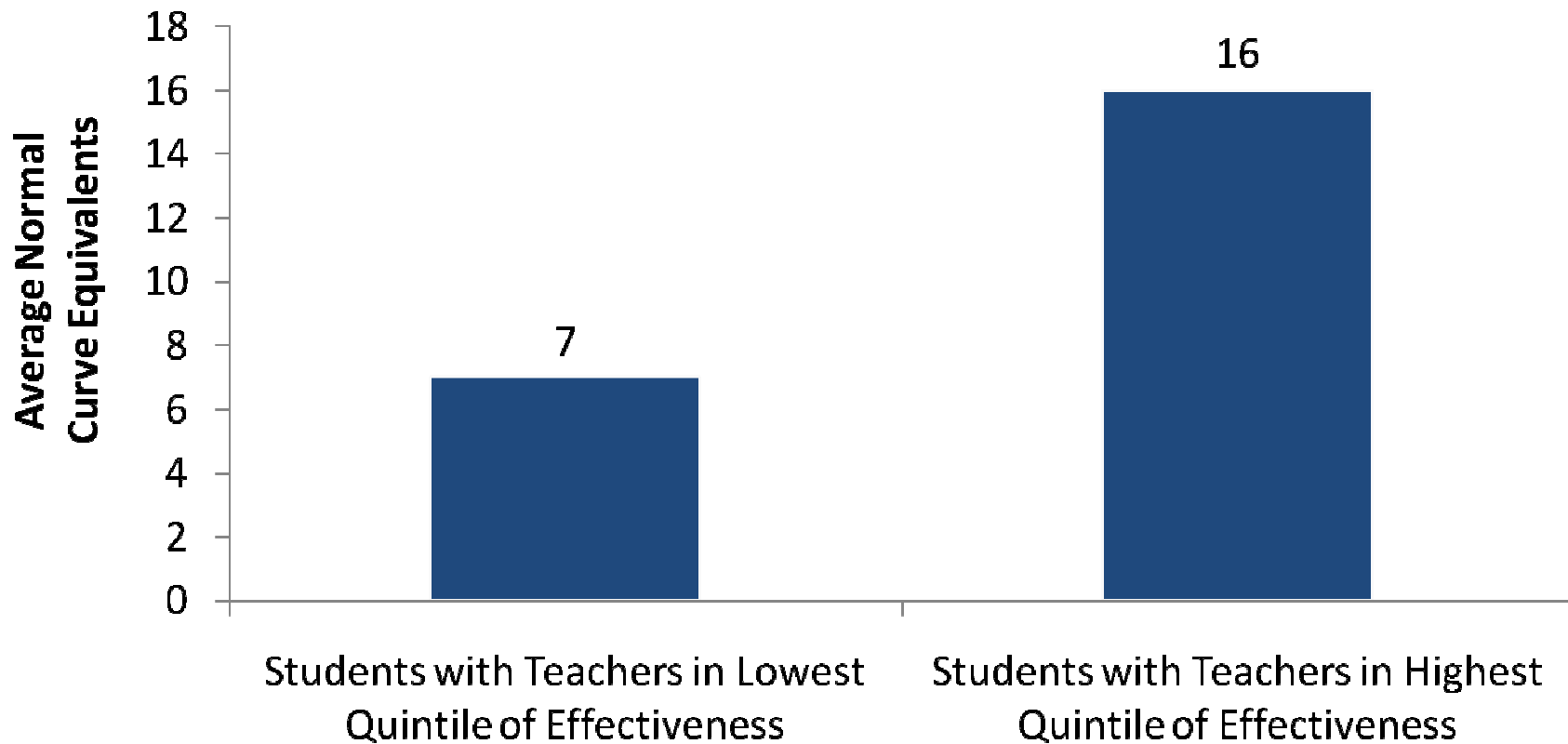
#2. Good schools, districts know how much teachers matter, and they act on that knowledge.

Not leaving anything to chance means not leaving who teaches whom to chance, either.



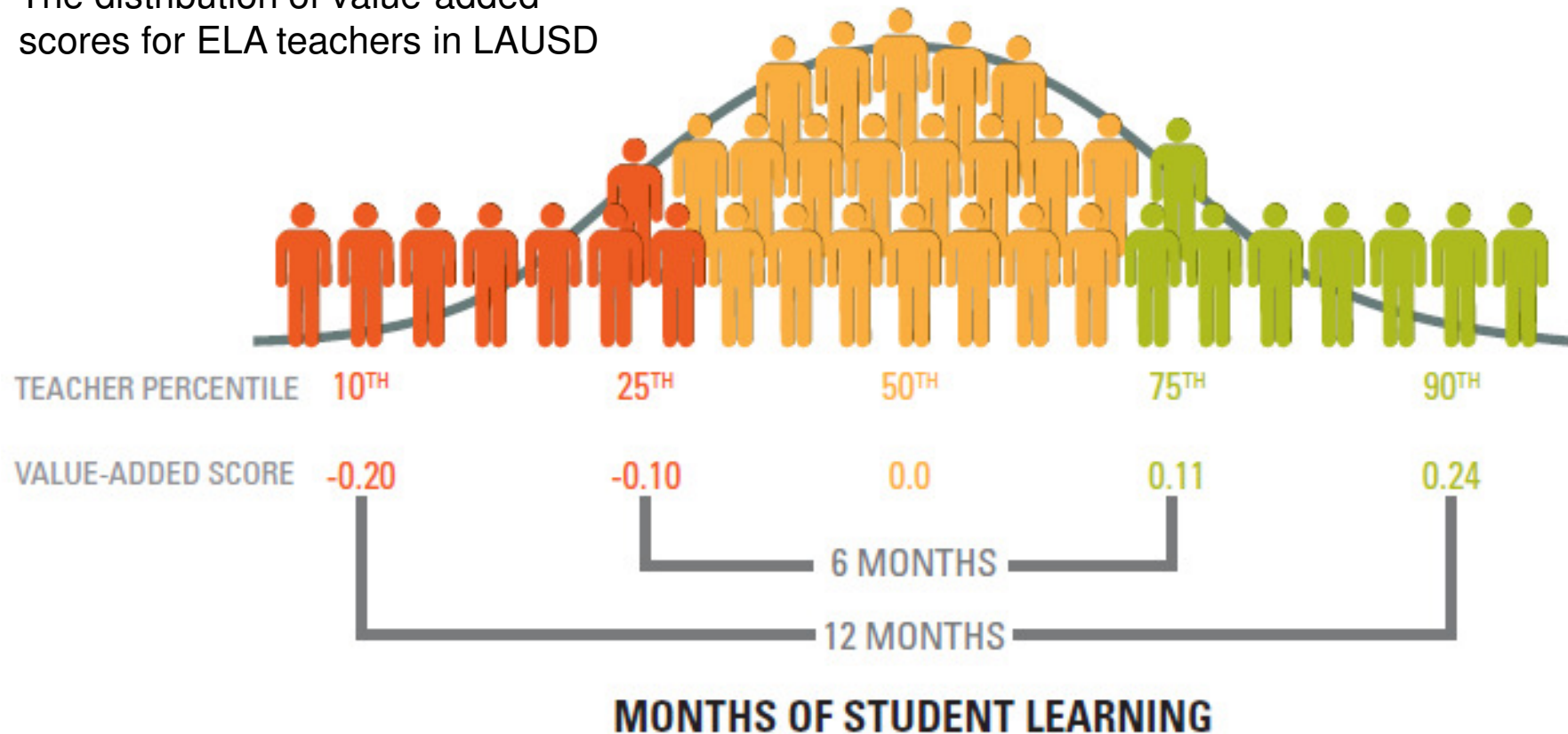
In our roles as parents...

Students in Dallas Gain More in Math with Effective Teachers: One Year Growth From 3rd-4th Grade



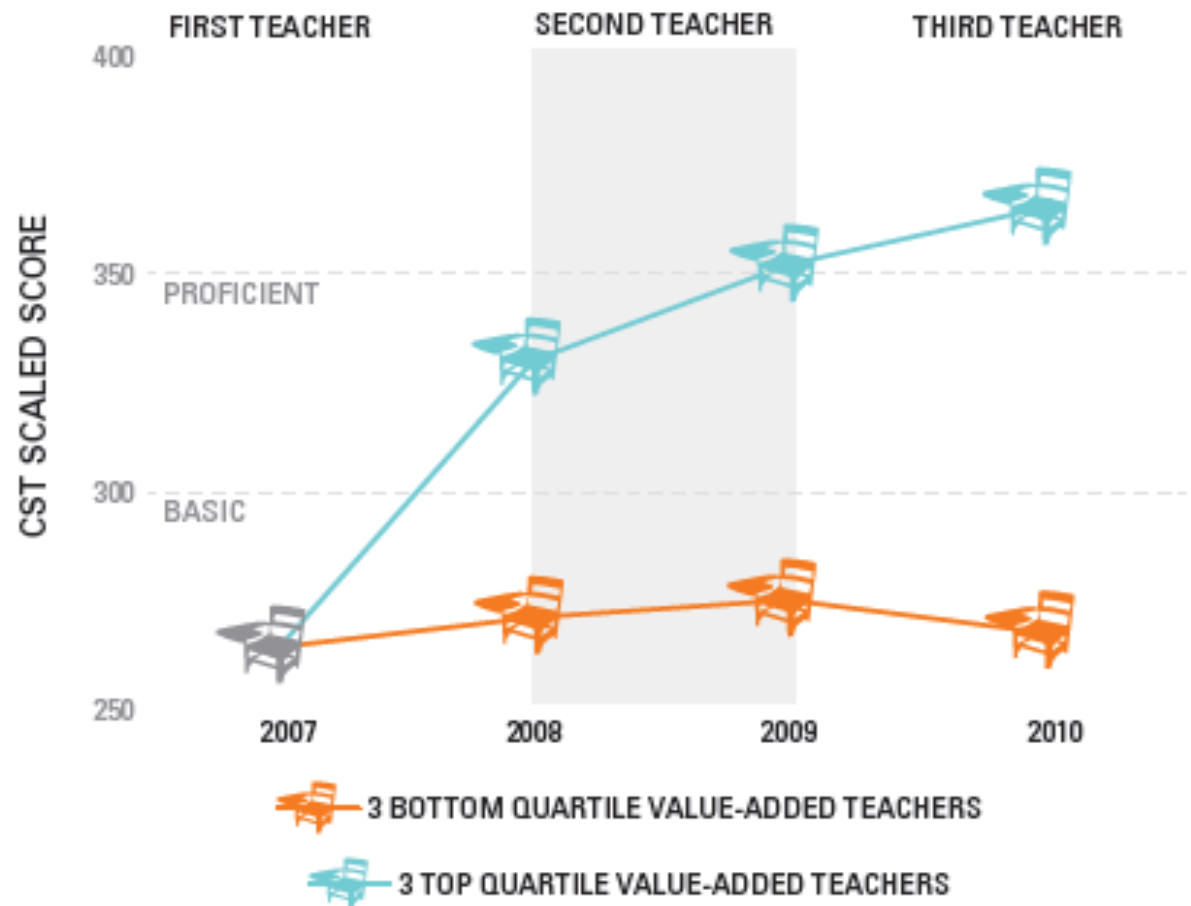
DIFFERENCES IN TEACHER EFFECTIVENESS ACCOUNT FOR LARGE DIFFERENCES IN STUDENT LEARNING


The distribution of value-added scores for ELA teachers in LAUSD



ACCESS TO MULTIPLE EFFECTIVE TEACHERS CAN DRAMATICALLY AFFECT STUDENT LEARNING

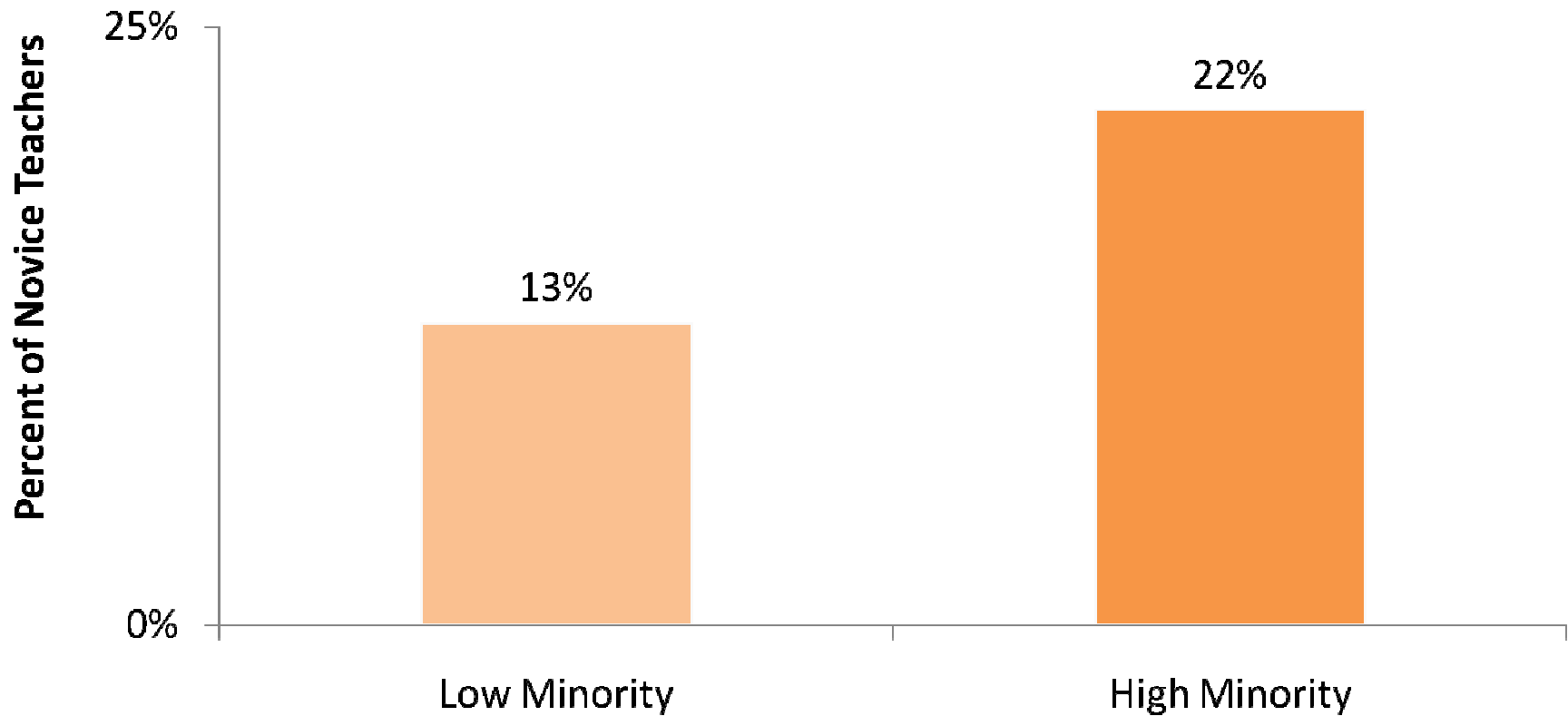
CST math proficiency trends for second-graders at 'Below Basic' or 'Far Below Basic' in 2007 who subsequently had three consecutive high or low value-added teachers





And, no matter how you measure, some kids aren't getting their fair share.

Students at High-Minority Schools More Likely to Be Taught By Novice* Teachers

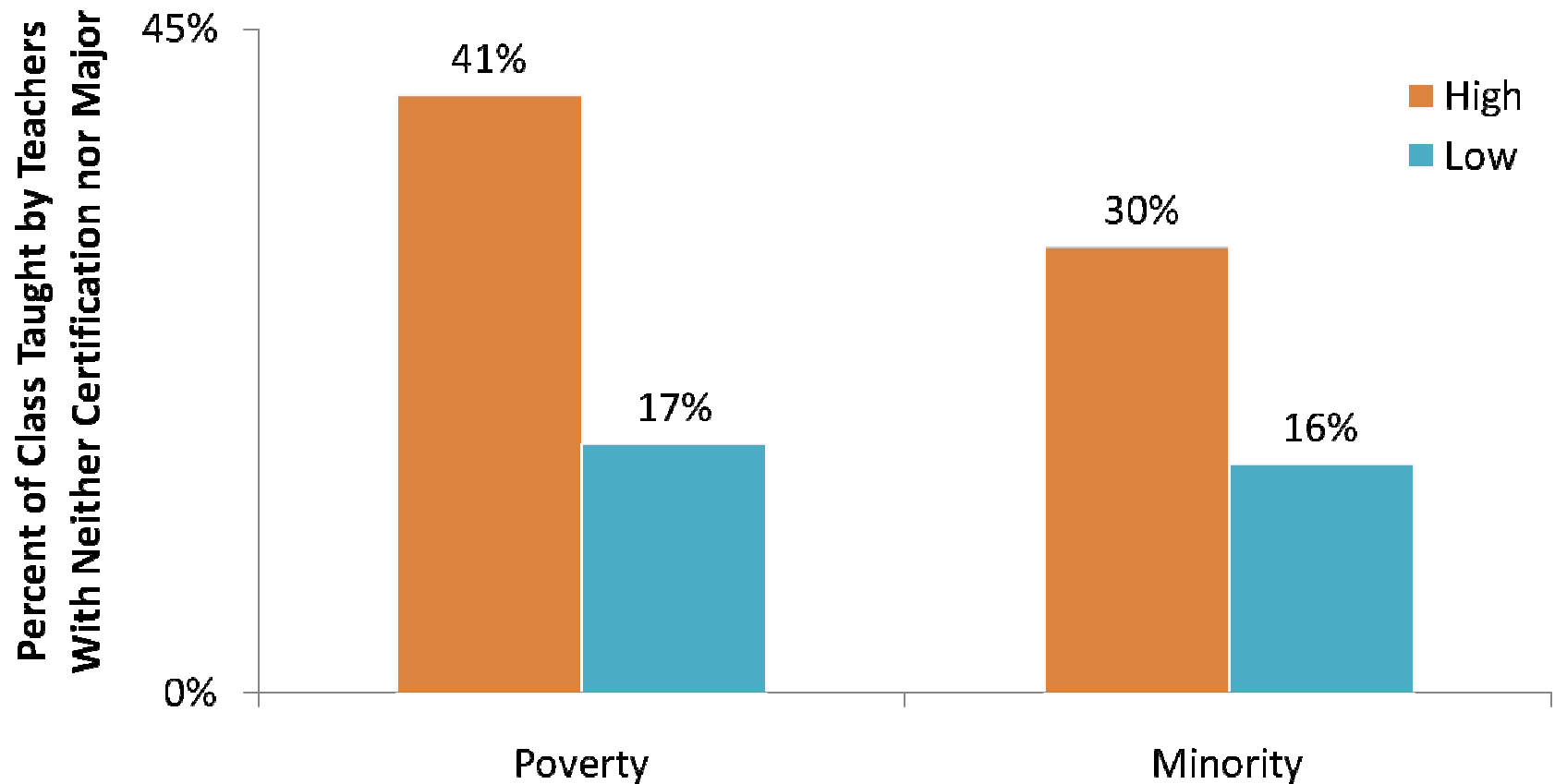


Note: High minority school-75% or more of the students are Black, Hispanic, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian or Pacific Islander. Low-minority school -10% or fewer of the students are non-White students.

*Novice teachers are those with three years or fewer experience.

Source: Analysis of 2003-2004 Schools and Staffing Survey data by Richard Ingersoll, University of Pennsylvania 2007.

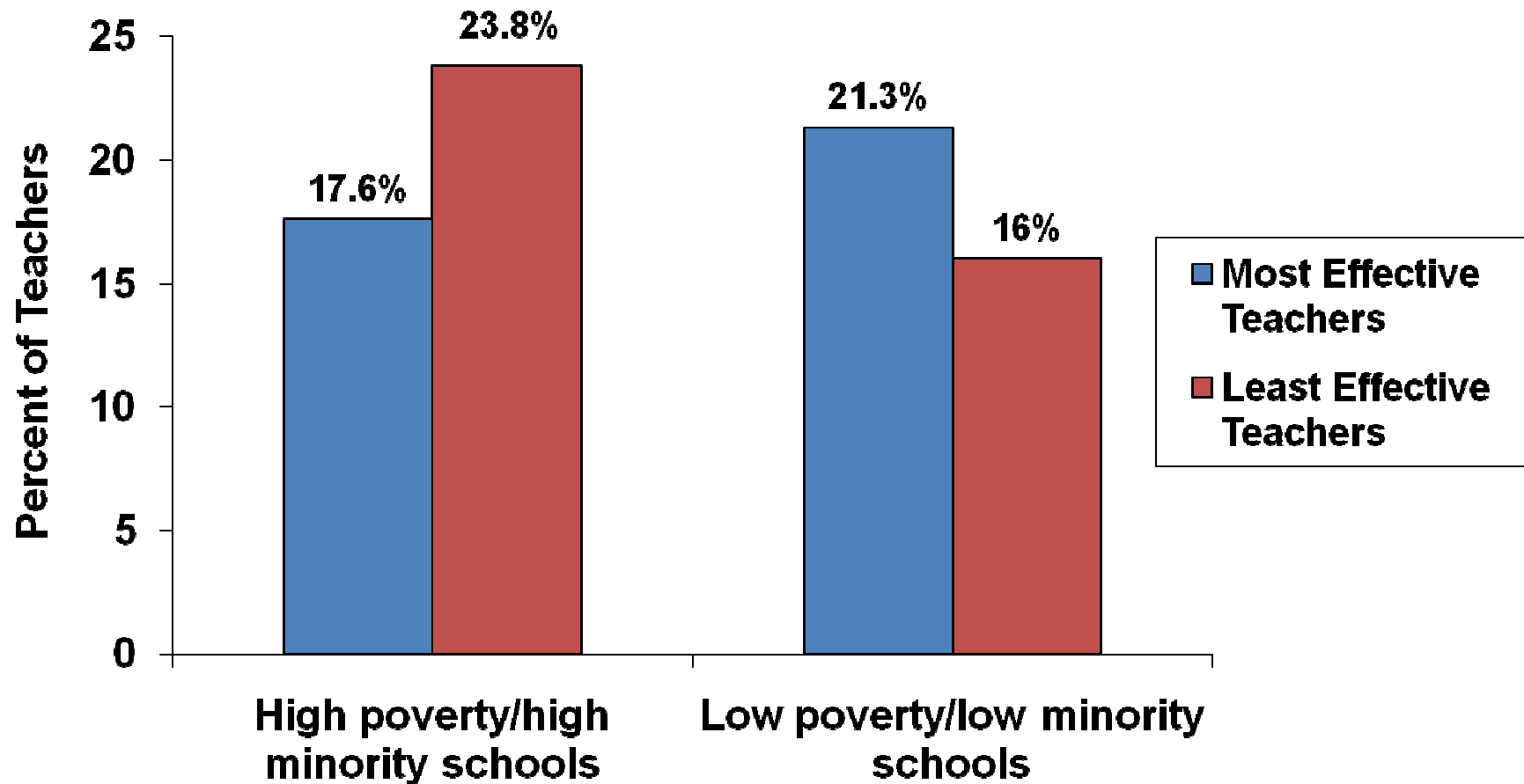
Math Classes at High-Poverty and High- Minority Schools More Likely to be Taught by Out of Field* Teachers



Note: High Poverty school-75% or more of the students are eligible for free/reduced price lunch. Low-poverty school -15% or fewer of the students are eligible for free/reduced price lunch. High minority school-75% or more of the students are Black, Hispanic, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian or Pacific Islander. Low-minority school -10% or fewer of the students are non-White students.

*Teachers with neither certification nor major. Data for secondary-level core academic classes (Math, Science, Social Studies, English) across USA. © 2015 THE EDUCATION TRUST

Tennessee: High poverty/high minority schools have fewer of the “most effective” teachers and more “least effective” teachers



Note: High Poverty/High minority means at least 75% qualify for FRPL and at least 75% are minority.

Source: Tennessee Department of Education 2007. “Tennessee’s Most Effective Teachers: Are they assigned to the schools that need them most?” http://tennessee.gov/education/nclb/doc/TeacherEffectiveness2007_03.pdf

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Los Angeles: LOW-INCOME STUDENTS LESS LIKELY TO HAVE HIGH VALUE-ADDED TEACHERS

ELA

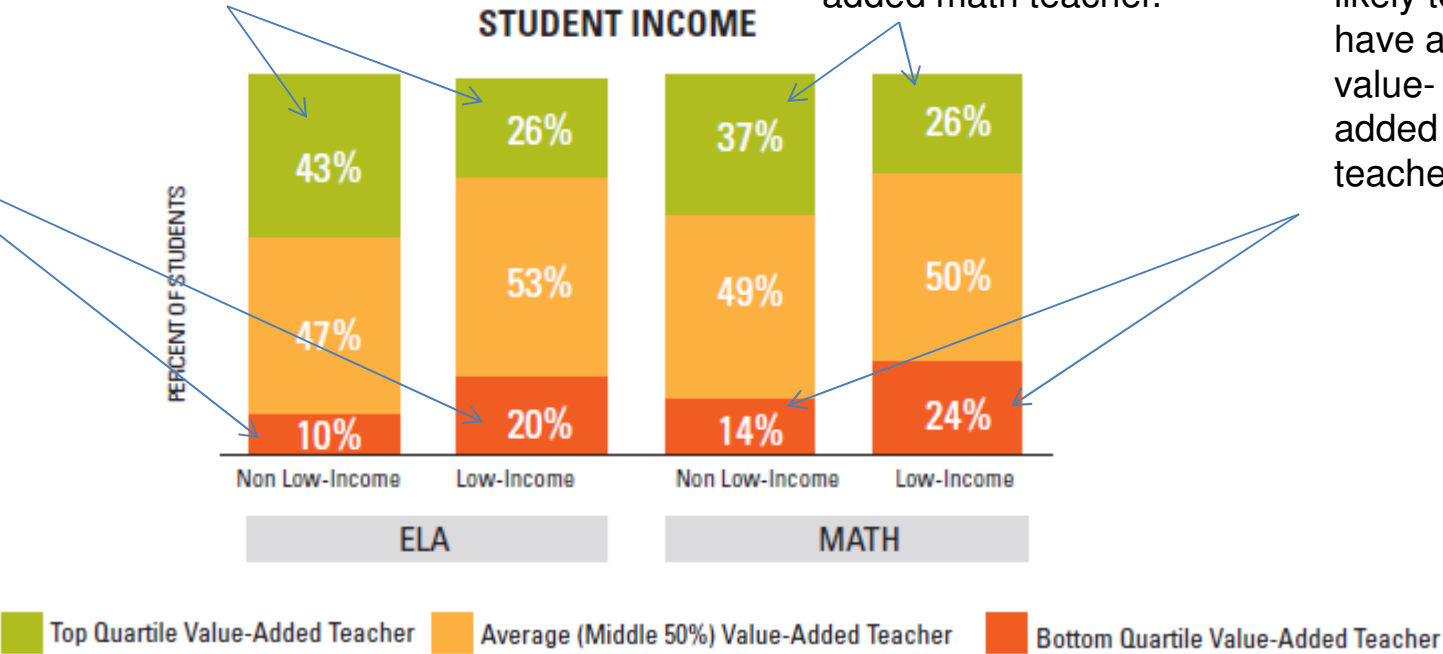
A low-income student is *more than twice as likely to have a low value-added teacher for ELA*

A student from a relatively more affluent background is 62% more likely to get a high value-added ELA teacher.

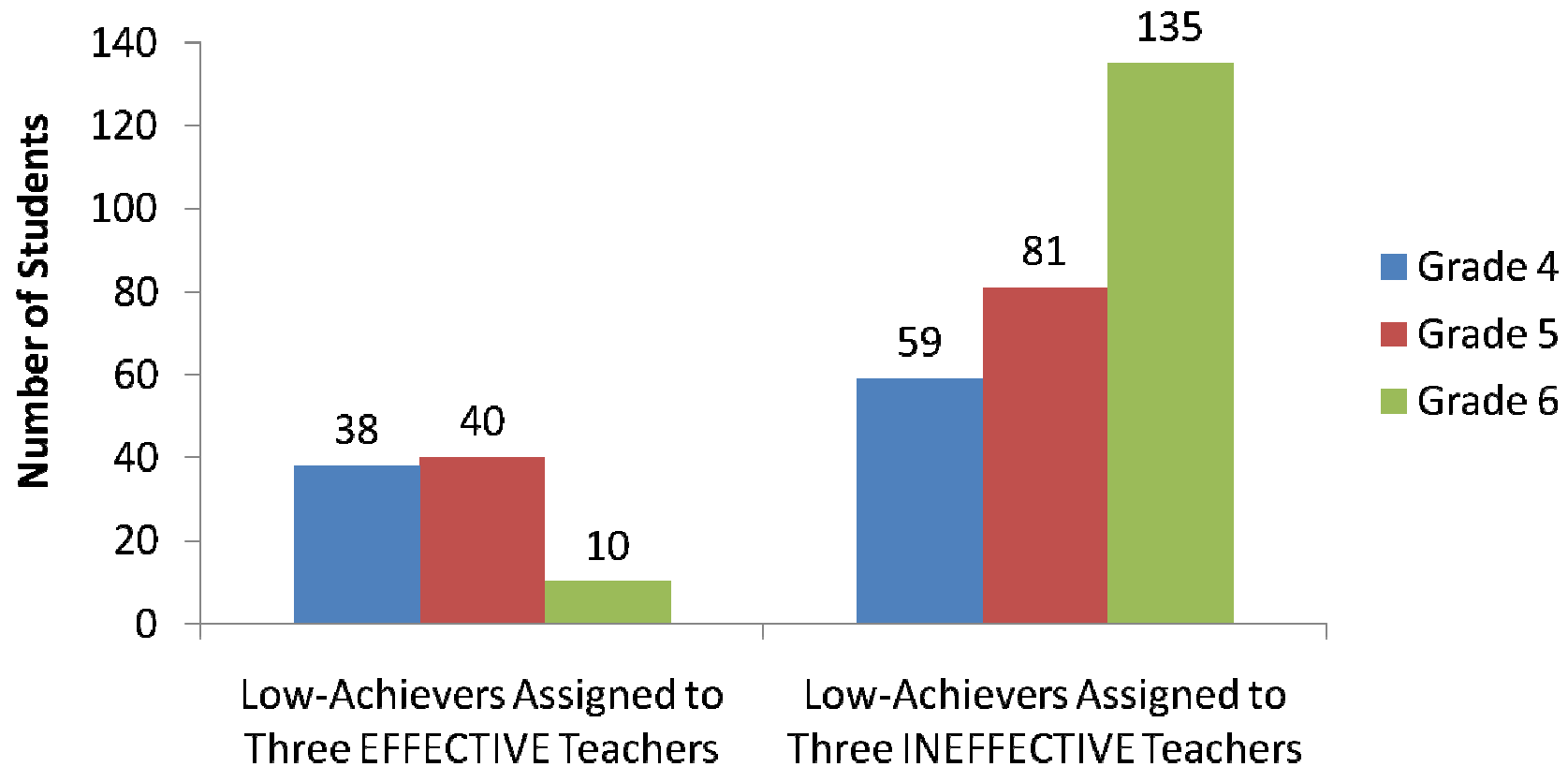
MATH

In math, a student from a relatively more affluent background is 39% more likely to get a high value-added math teacher.

A low-income student is 66% more likely to have a low value-added teacher.



Low-Achieving Students are More Likely to be Assigned to Ineffective Teachers than Effective Teachers




Source: Sitha Babu and Robert Mendro, *Teacher Accountability: HLM-Based Teacher Effectiveness Indices in the Investigation of Teacher Effects on Student Achievement in a State Assessment Program*, AERA Annual Meeting, 2003.



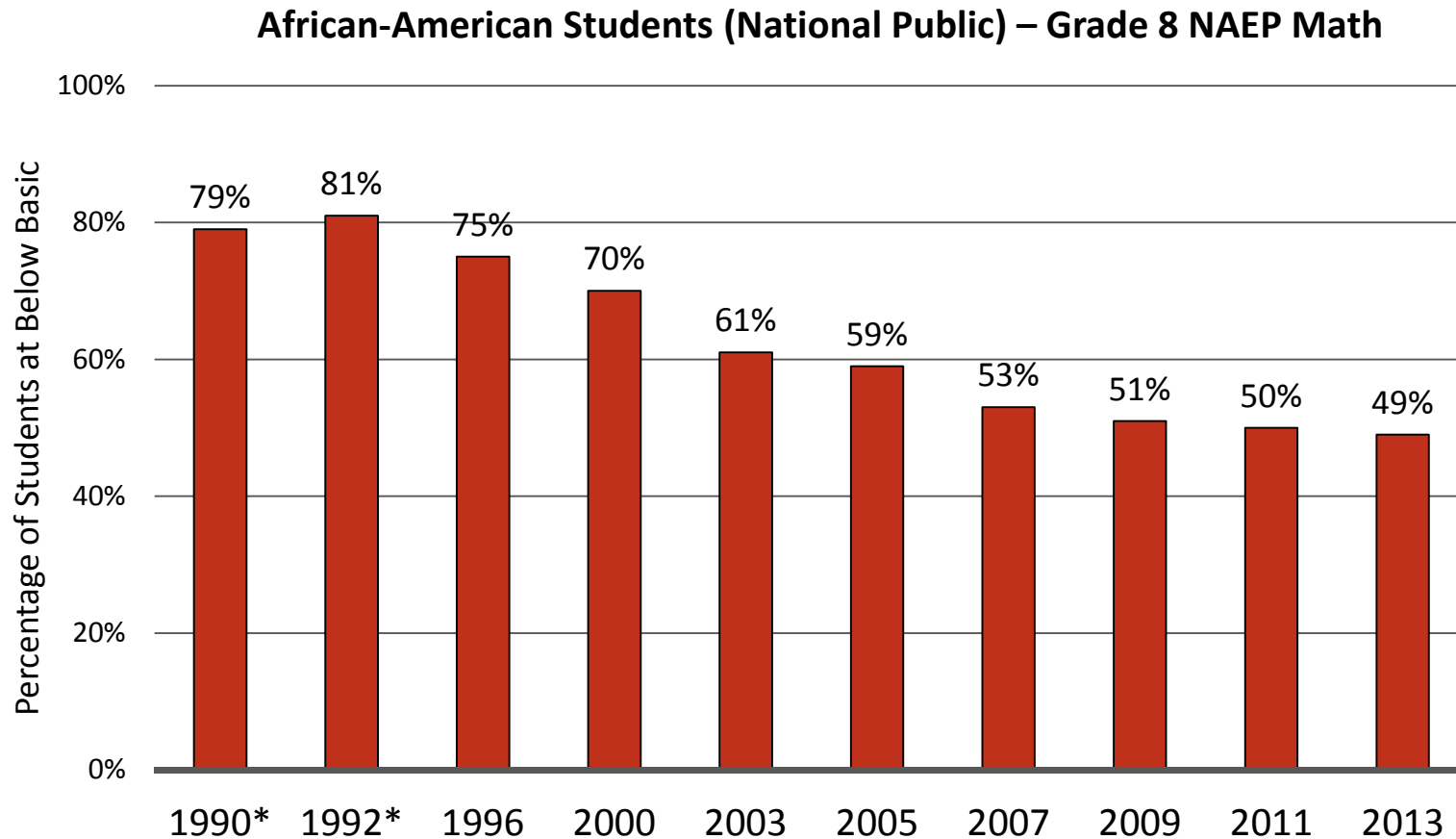
These patterns not, however,
inevitable.

#3. Good schools, districts don't think about closing the achievement gap only as "bringing the bottom up."



In part because of the push from NCLB, there's been a lot of energy directed at bringing bottom achievers up.

Percentage Below Basic Over Time



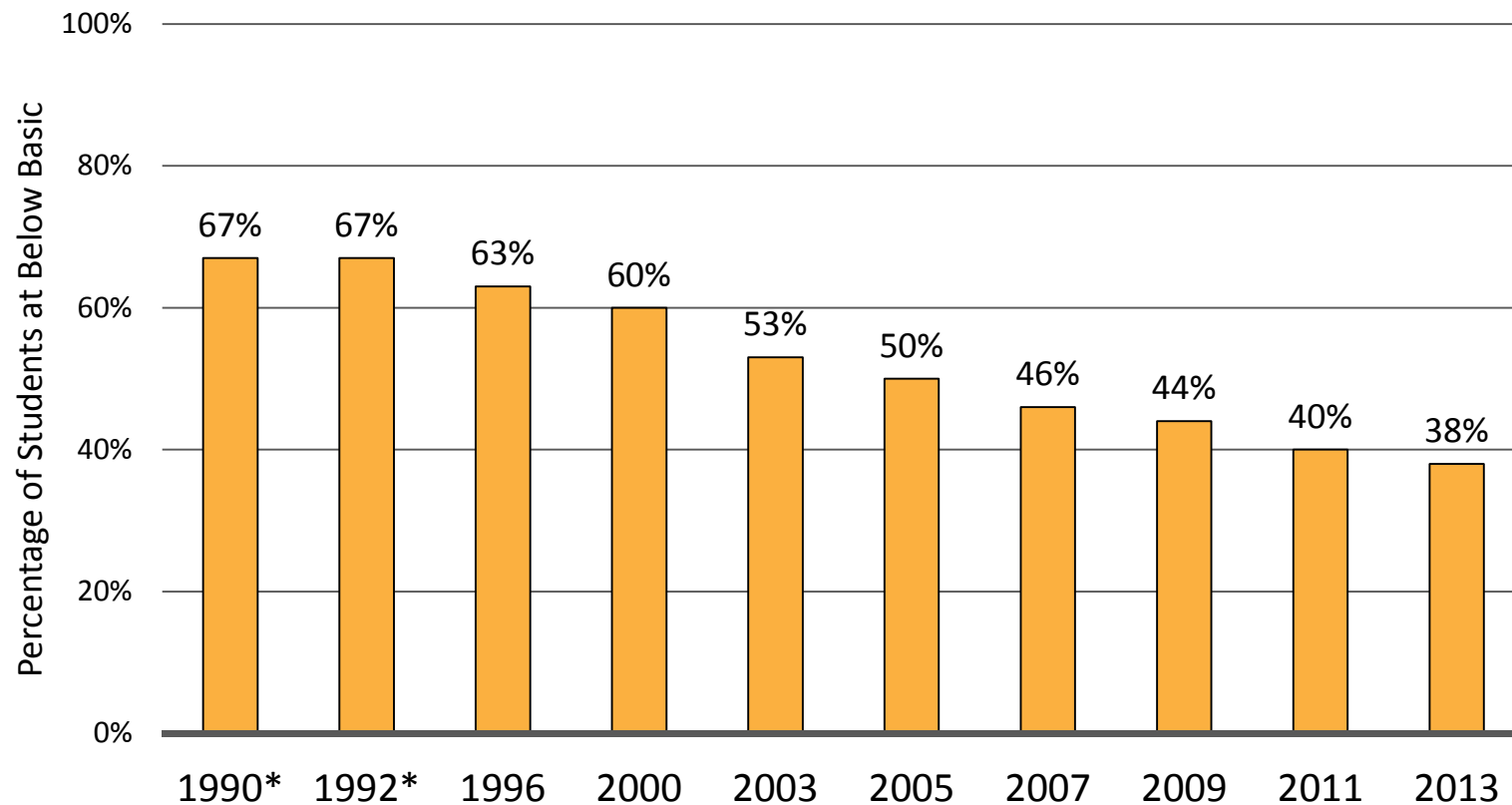
*Accommodations not permitted

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NAEP Data Explorer, <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nde/>

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Percentage Below Basic Over Time

Latino Students (National Public) – Grade 8 NAEP Math



*Accommodations not permitted

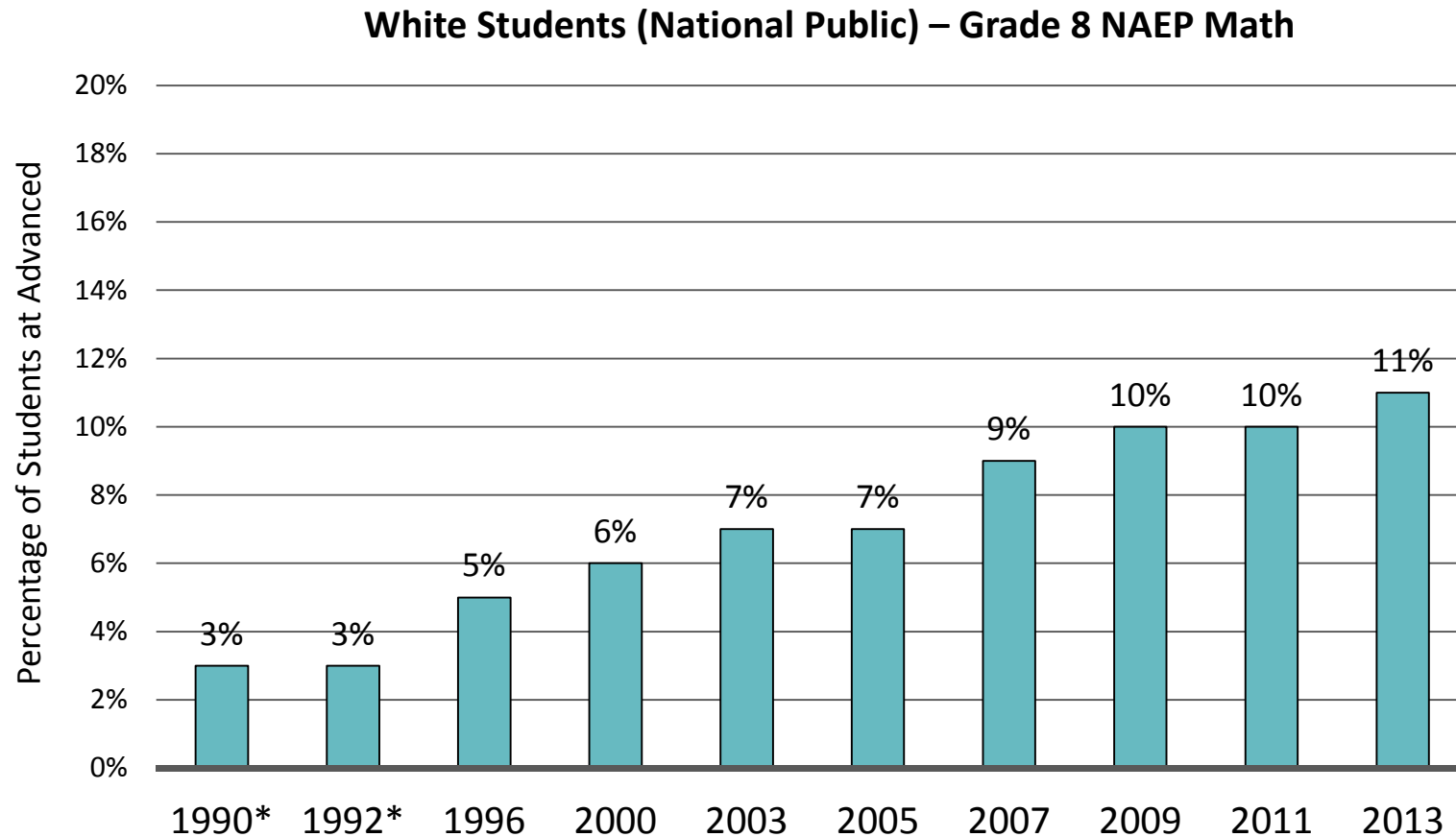
Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NAEP Data Explorer, <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nde/>

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At the same time, though...

Percentage Advanced Over Time

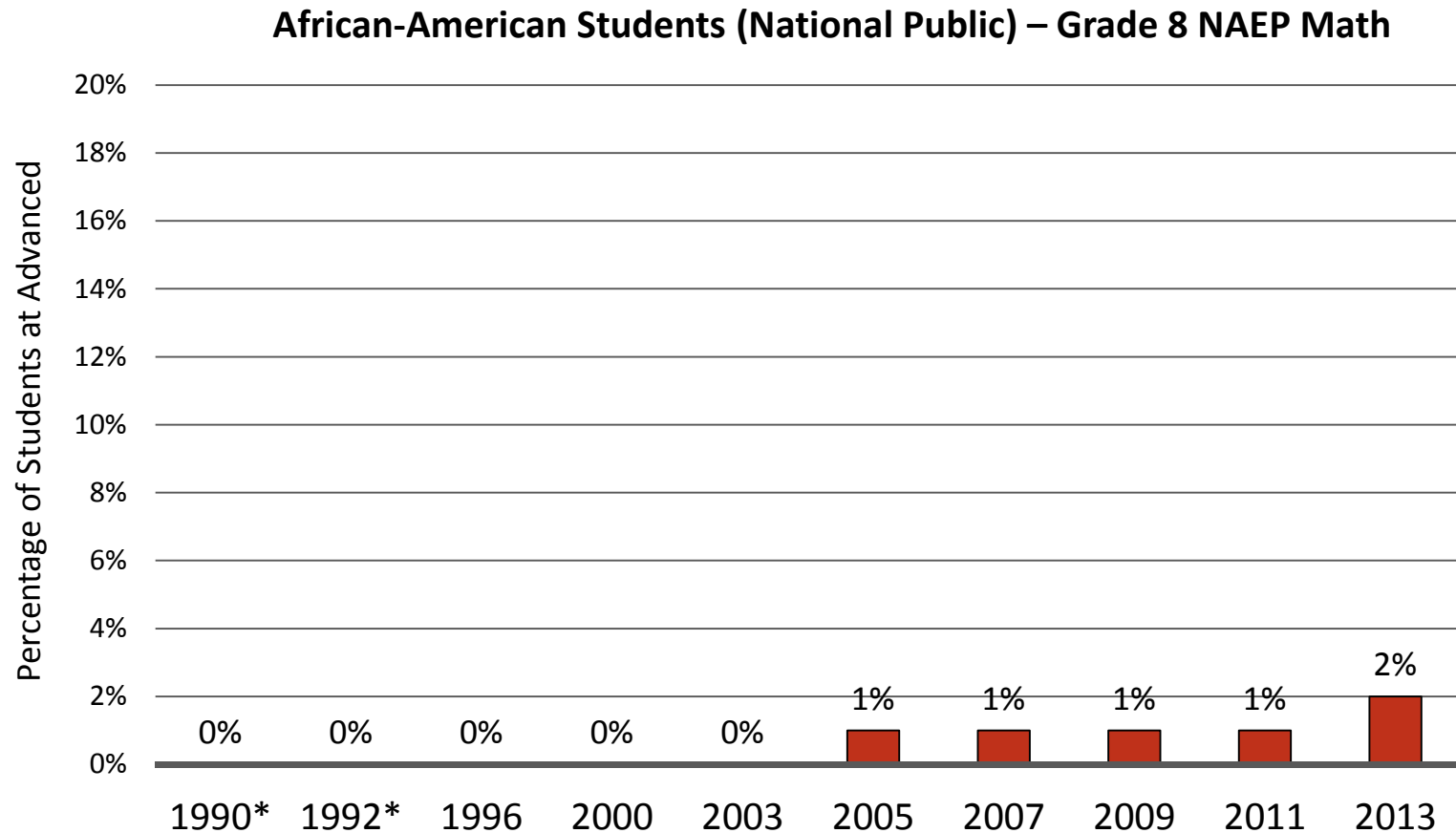


*Accommodations not permitted

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NAEP Data Explorer, <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nde/>

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Percentage Advanced Over Time

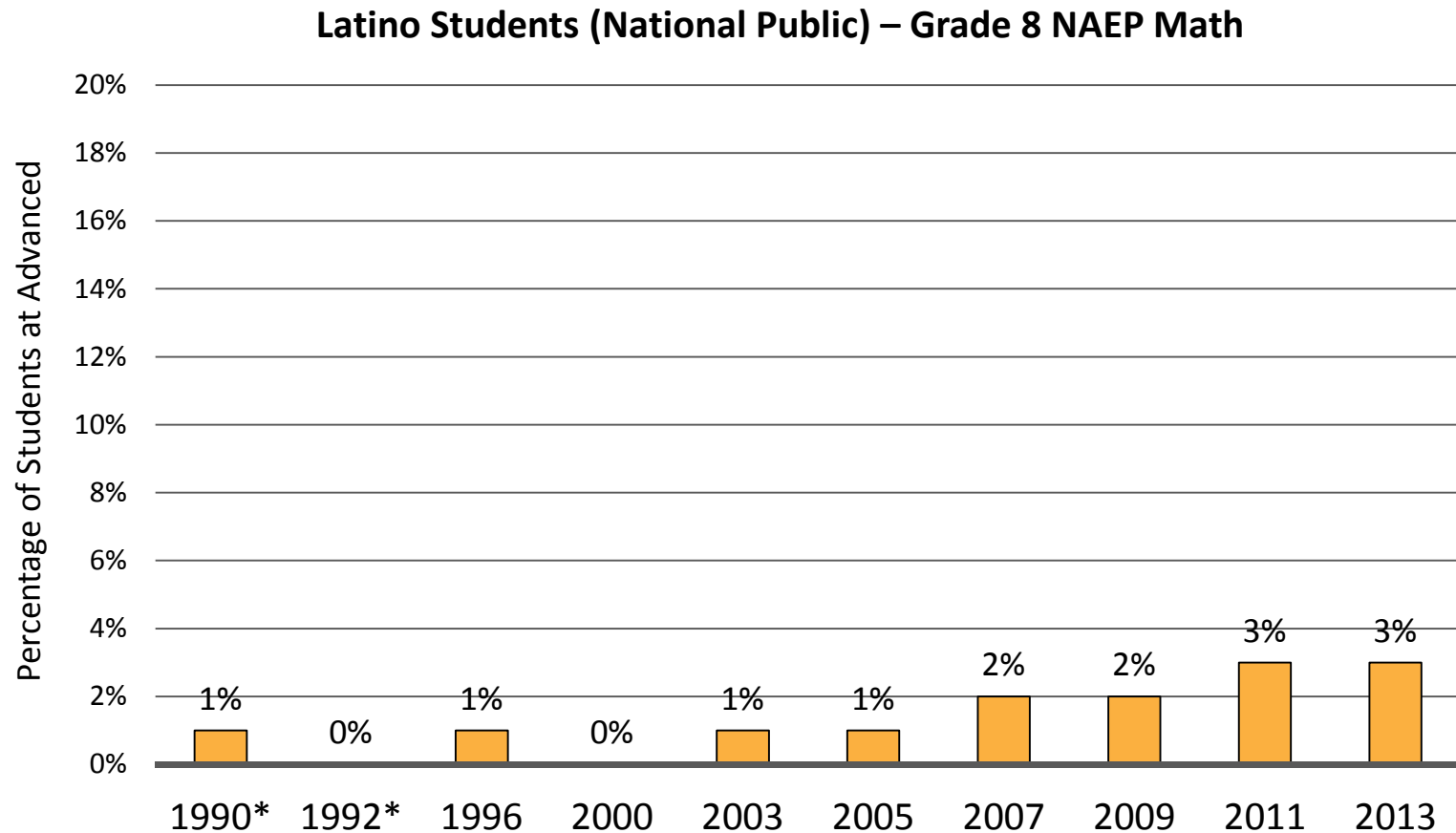


*Accommodations not permitted

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NAEP Data Explorer, <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nde/>

e:

Percentage Advanced Over Time



*Accommodations not permitted


Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NAEP Data Explorer, <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nde/>

e:




We can—and must—do better.

#4. In good schools, educators know that they have enormous power to shape children's lives.




They know that it's not about heroic
individuals.

That path, as we all know, is
unsustainable.



But they have seen the awesome power of the collective—some describe it as the “huddle”—to lift children up.

As well as the destructive power of individual adults to tear children down.




So they organize and celebrate the
lifting, and they do not tolerate those
who tear down.




No, things aren't fair out there.

And we should fight hard to make sure
families get what they need.



But in the meantime, we have enormous
power to pave the path upward for far
more children...



And they need us to exercise that power.

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