

AzCAAR & the AzCAAC Collaborative Presents

EDUCATION in ARIZONA

Improving the Education of African American Children

Panel Facilitator

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AzCAAR Board Member,

Director, Kidswatch/Nurturing Parents, Avondale, AZ



PANELISTS

Sandra Chase, MSW

Director Master's Social Work Internship Program, Children's Institute, Los Angeles, CA

Rev. Steve Cossey

Sr. Pastor, Total Faith Community Church, Rockford, IL

Dr. Darlene Little

Executive Director, Tanner Community Development Corporation

Anabel Maldonado

Community Organizer, Demand2Learn, ACLU Arizona

Janelle Wood

Founder, Black Mother Forum, Phoenix, AZ



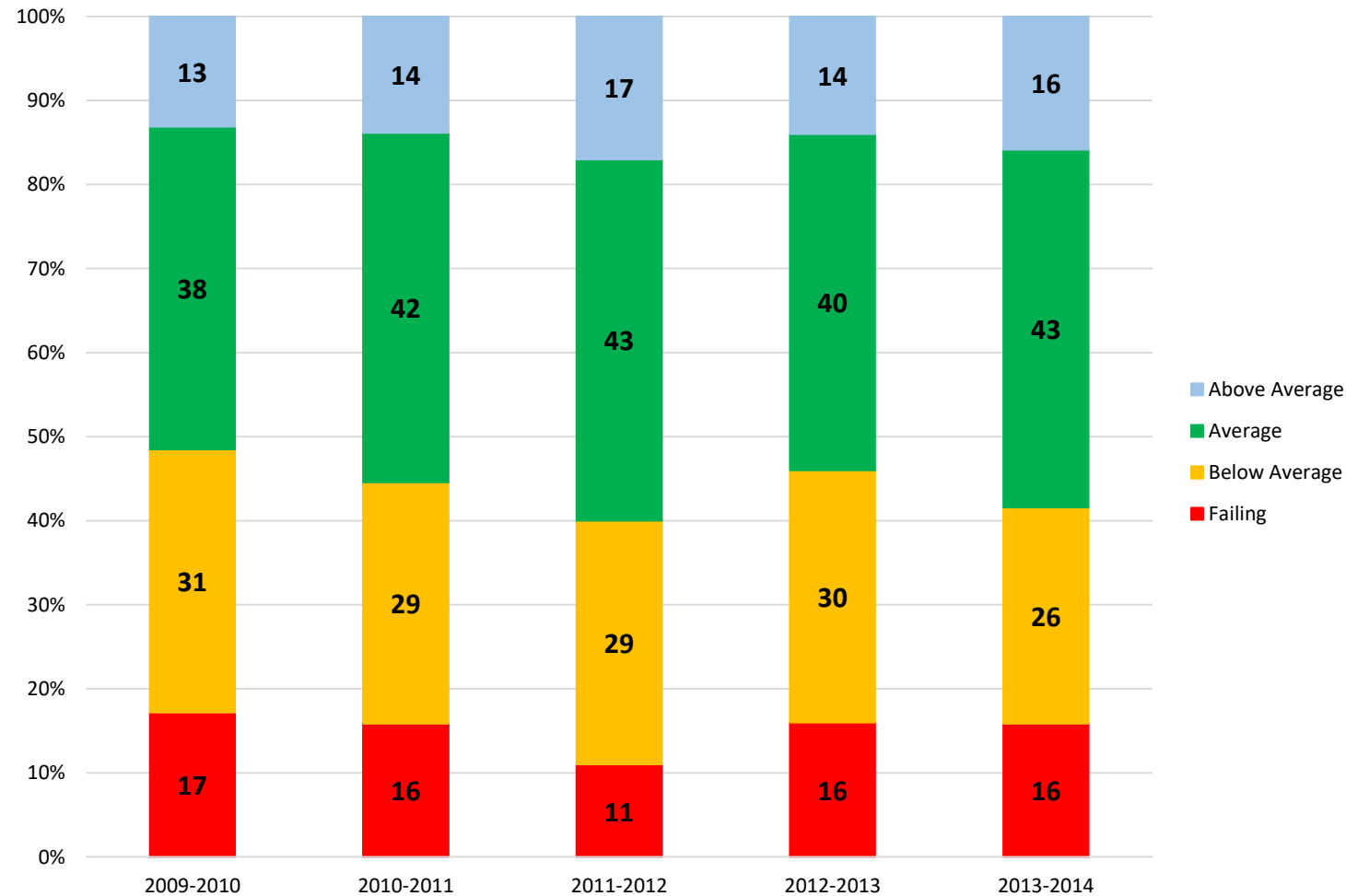
WORKSHOP FOCUS

- **Parent Involvement**
- **Mental Health**
- **Suspensions and Expulsions**
- **Student Achievement**
- **Community Responsibilities**

EDUCATION – Grade 3 Math



**Black Student % Proficiency Grade 3 Math
AIMS 2009-2014**

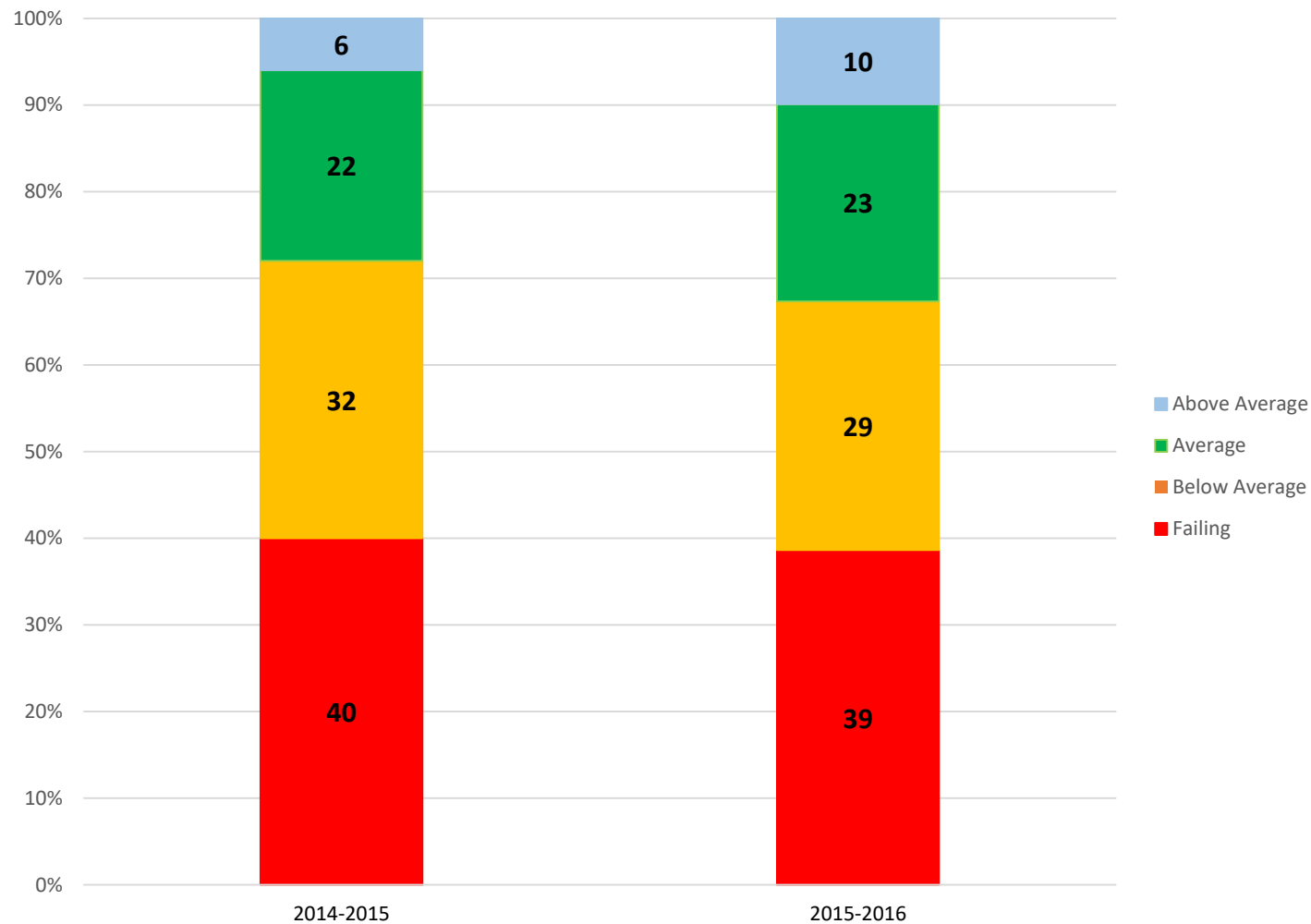


Notes 1-5

EDUCATION – Grade 3 Math



Black Student % Proficiency Grade 3 Math - AzMERIT 2014 -2016

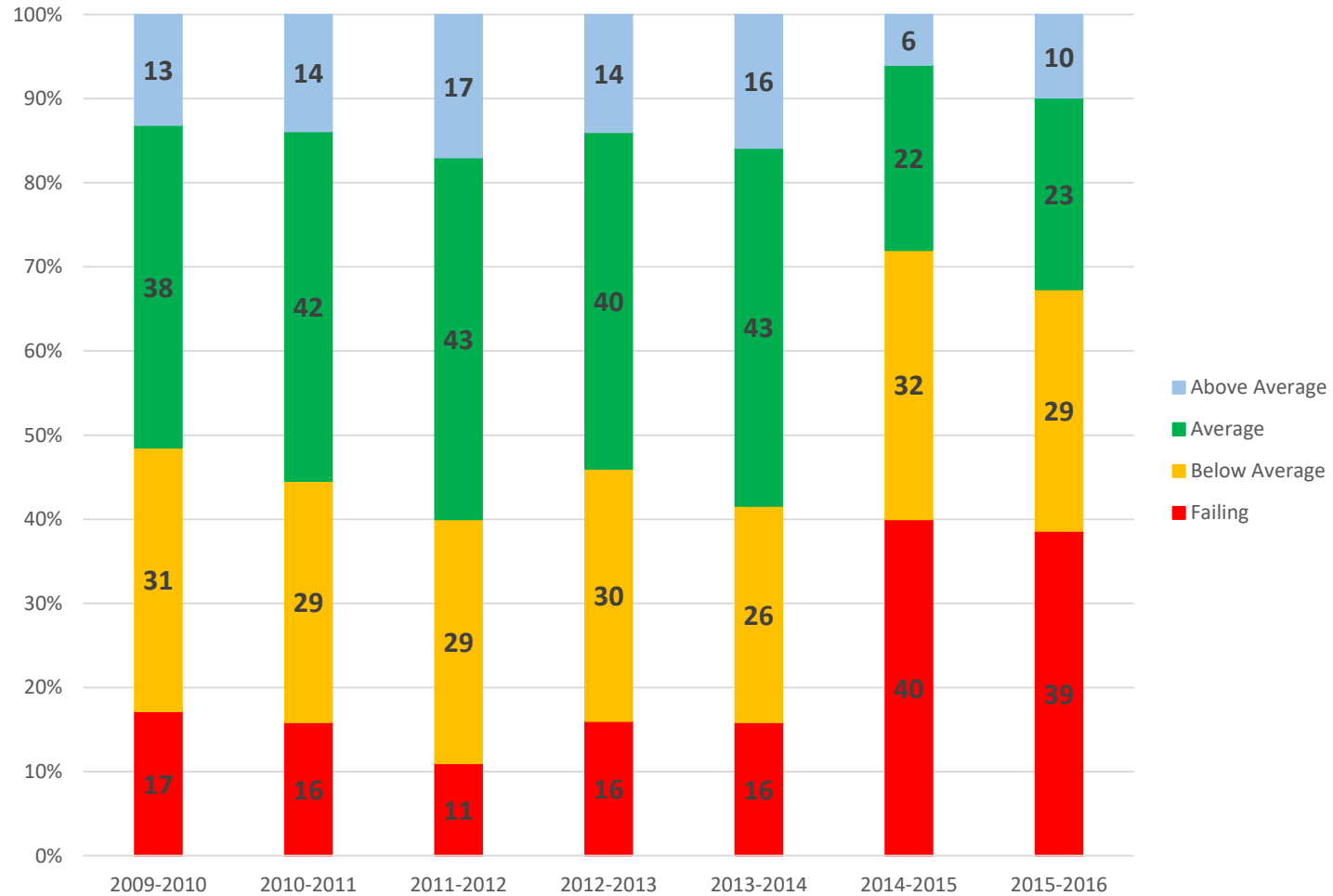


Notes 6 & 7

EDUCATION – Grade 3 Math



**Black Student % Proficiency Grade 3 Math
AIMS 2009-2013 & AzMerit 2014-2016**



Notes 1-7



What the Grade 3 Math Proficiency Scores Tell Us

Under AIMS testing, African American children show no statistically significant improvements in math scores over a 5 year period with **almost 50% at below average and failing scores!**

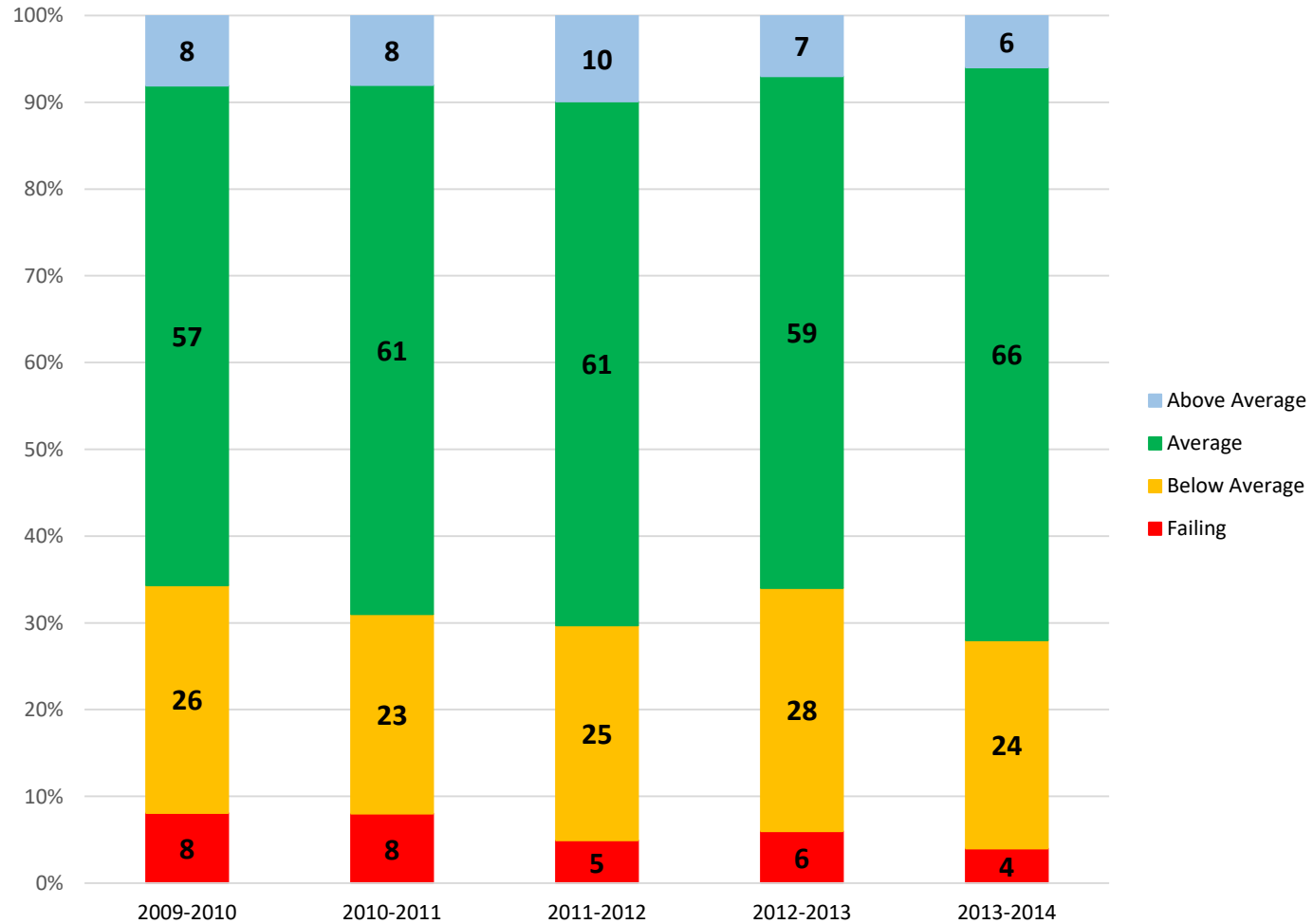
Under AZMERIT testing, African American children show no statistically significant improvements in math scores in the last 2 year period with an even higher cumulative total nearly **reaching 70% at below average and failing scores!**

From the data one can hypothesize a systematic institutionalized lack of providing a proper math education that stems from a host of negative issues including; reinforcing racial stereotypes, underfunding, racial bias, cultural bias, inadequate teaching methods, lack of access to economic resources, state and local government indifference, non-motivated uncaring teachers, lack of parent involvement

EDUCATION – Grade 3 Reading



**Black Student % Proficiency Grade 3 Reading
AIMS 2009-2014**

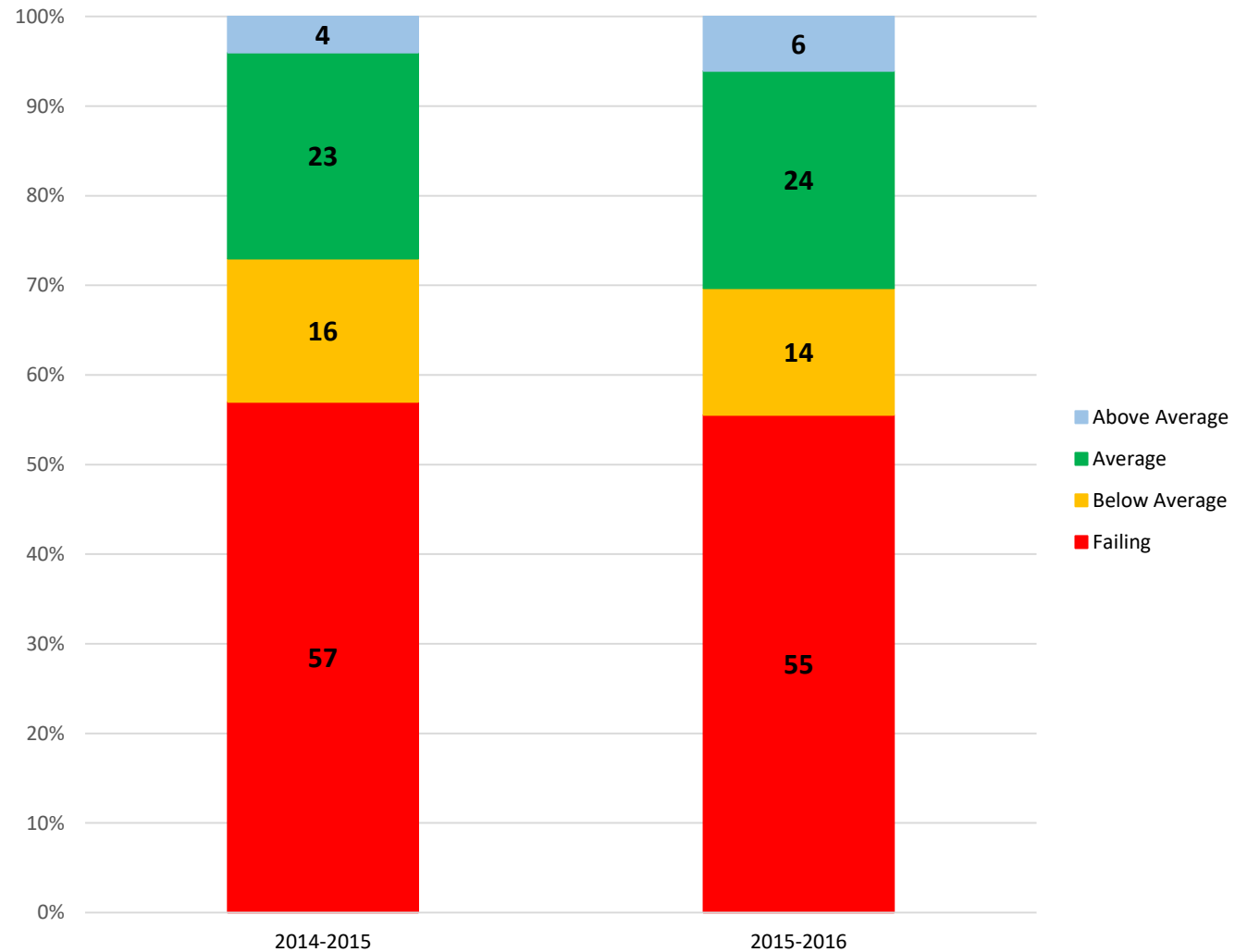


Notes 1-5

EDUCATION – Grade 3 Reading



Black Student % Proficiency Grade 3 Reading - AzMERIT 2015-2016

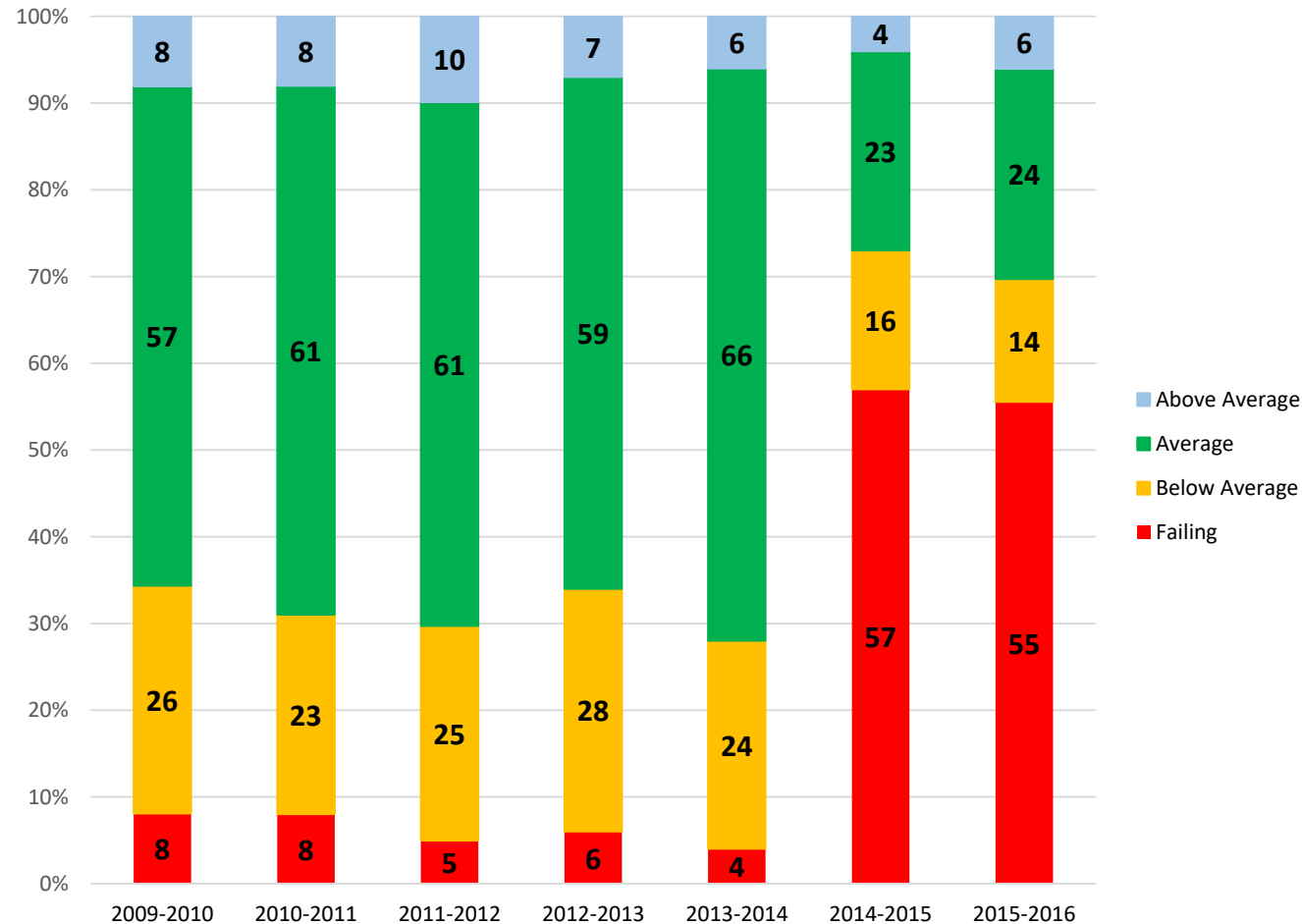


Notes 6 & 7

EDUCATION – Grade 3 Reading



**Black Student % Proficiency Grade 3 Reading
AIMS 2009-2013 & AzMERIT 2014-2016**



Notes 1-7



What the Grade 3 Reading Proficiency Scores Tell Us

Under AIMS testing, African American children show no statistically significant improvements in reading scores over a 5 year period with **over 30% at below average and failing scores!**

Under AZMERIT testing, African American children show no statistically significant improvements in reading scores in the last 2 year period with an even higher cumulative total nearly **reaching 70% at below average and failing scores!**

From the data one can hypothesize a systematic institutionalized lack of providing a proper reading education that stems from a host of negative issues including; reinforcing racial stereotypes, underfunding, racial bias, cultural bias, inadequate teaching methods, lack of access to economic resources, state and local government indifference, non-motivated uncaring teachers, lack of parent involvement



Governor Ducey's Results-Based Funding⁸

In an Arizona Republic online article that appeared on Jan 22, 2018, titled: '***Richest schools get richer in Arizona's results-based funding program***', the AZ Republic's analysis concluded that the big winners were the state's richest districts and charter schools receiving the lion's share of the \$38 million pie.

- Low-income area districts and charter schools received \$14 million or 36.8%.
- Middle-and higher-income districts and charter schools received \$24 million (more than \$8 million went to almost exclusively ***charter schools*** that have ***NO*** low-income students or don't track how many they have).



Arizona's Teacher Shortage⁹

- It is reported that nearly 2,000 teaching positions remained vacant four months into the 2017-2018 school year
- Arizona ranks 50th in the nation for paying elementary school teachers
- There were nearly 8,600 openings at the start of this year's school year
- What have schools done to deal with the shortage?
 - 716 classrooms are being run by long-term substitutes
 - 560 vacancies are covered by teachers working extra periods
 - 210 vacancies have dramatically increased the number of students in classrooms
- The shortage has a dramatic negative impact on low-income and rural school districts and their ability to increase achievement levels for their students



Points to Ponder

- How do we increase and sustain **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**?
 - What resources do parents need?
 - How do we support parents to move beyond conversation?
 - How do we measure success?
- How do we or do we need to institute an '**Education is Key**' mentality with parent(s), guardian(s) and the black community in the black community?
- How to influence teachers and school administrators to better teach children?
- How to bring a voice to state and local politicians and legislators to increase funding for low-income school districts to address achievement gaps?
- Is there too much administrative bureaucracy hindering early childhood education?
- Do we need to just **GET BACK TO BASICS** education and focus on learning and not testing?



QUESTIONS and COMMENTS



Bibliography

1. 2009-2010 State Report Card, AZ Report Cards, pgs 3-4 ([Click here for link](#))
2. 2010-2011 State Report Card, AZ Report Cards, pgs 3-4 ([Click here for link](#))
3. 2011-2012 State Report Card, AZ Report Cards, pgs 4-5 ([Click here for link](#))
4. 2012-2013 State Report Card, AZ Report Cards, pgs 4-5 ([Click here for link](#))
5. 2013-2014 State Report Card, AZ Report Cards, pgs 6 & 13 ([Click here for link](#))
6. 2014-2015 State Report Card, AZ Report Cards, pgs 5-6 ([Click here for link](#))
7. 2015-2016 State Report Card, AZ Report Cards, pgs 5-6 ([Click here for link](#))
8. 'Richest schools get richer in Arizona's results-based funding program', by Alia Beard Rau, The Republic, azcentral.com, Nov. 5th, 2017. ([Click here for link](#))
9. "We continue to worsen': Nearly 2,00 Arizona teaching jobs remain vacant well into school year', by Howard Fischer, Capital Media Services, tucson.com, Dec. 19th, 2017. ([Click here for link](#))



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