



**Public Affairs
Research Council
of Alabama**

Reality Check – Where is Alabama Now?

Alabama Reading Summit
February 24, 2022

Ryan Hankins
Executive Director

ABOUT US

PARCA

Alabama's first and only
nonprofit, nonpartisan
good government
research institute.



Research in the public interest.

to **inform and improve** the **decision making** of state and local leaders in Alabama through **objective research and analysis.**



Data Analysis



Policy Research



Program Evaluation



Technical Assistance

Alabama Can Do Better

Transparent government making sound policy.



Literacy in Alabama: Reality Check

Education as a Policy Priority
Adult Literacy
Educational Attainment
College Going & Remediation
ACT
NAEP
Summative Assessments
Literacy Act

Education as a Policy Priority

Adult Literacy

Educational Attainment

College Going & Remediation

ACT

NAEP

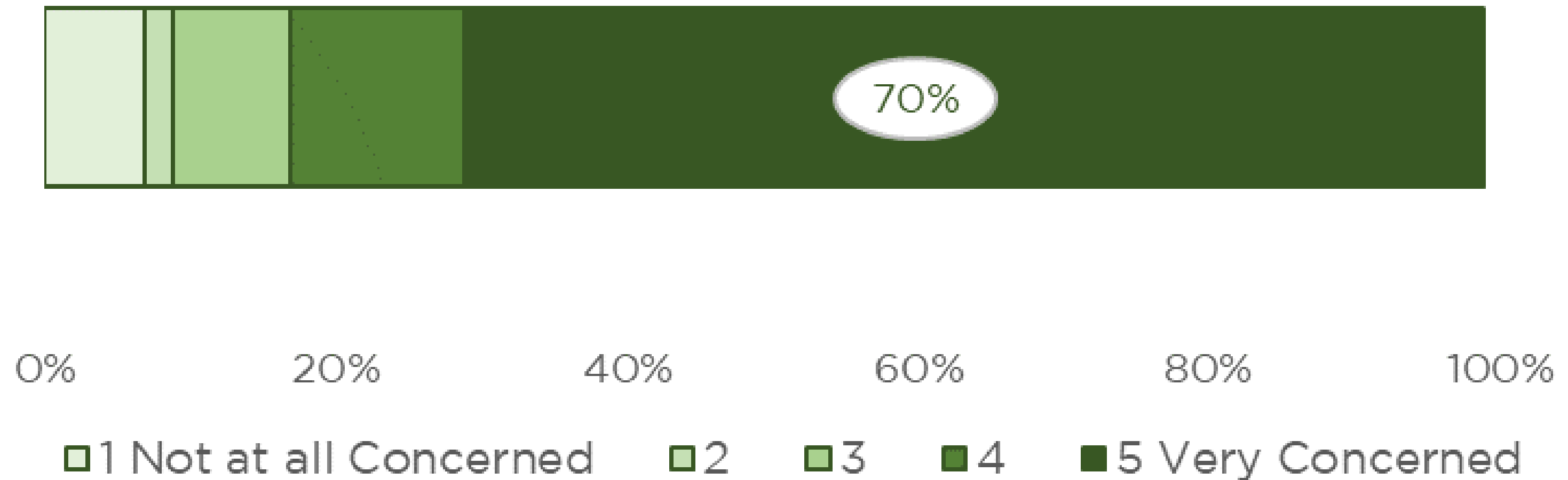
Summative Assessments

Literacy Act

Education: Alabamian's #1 Priority

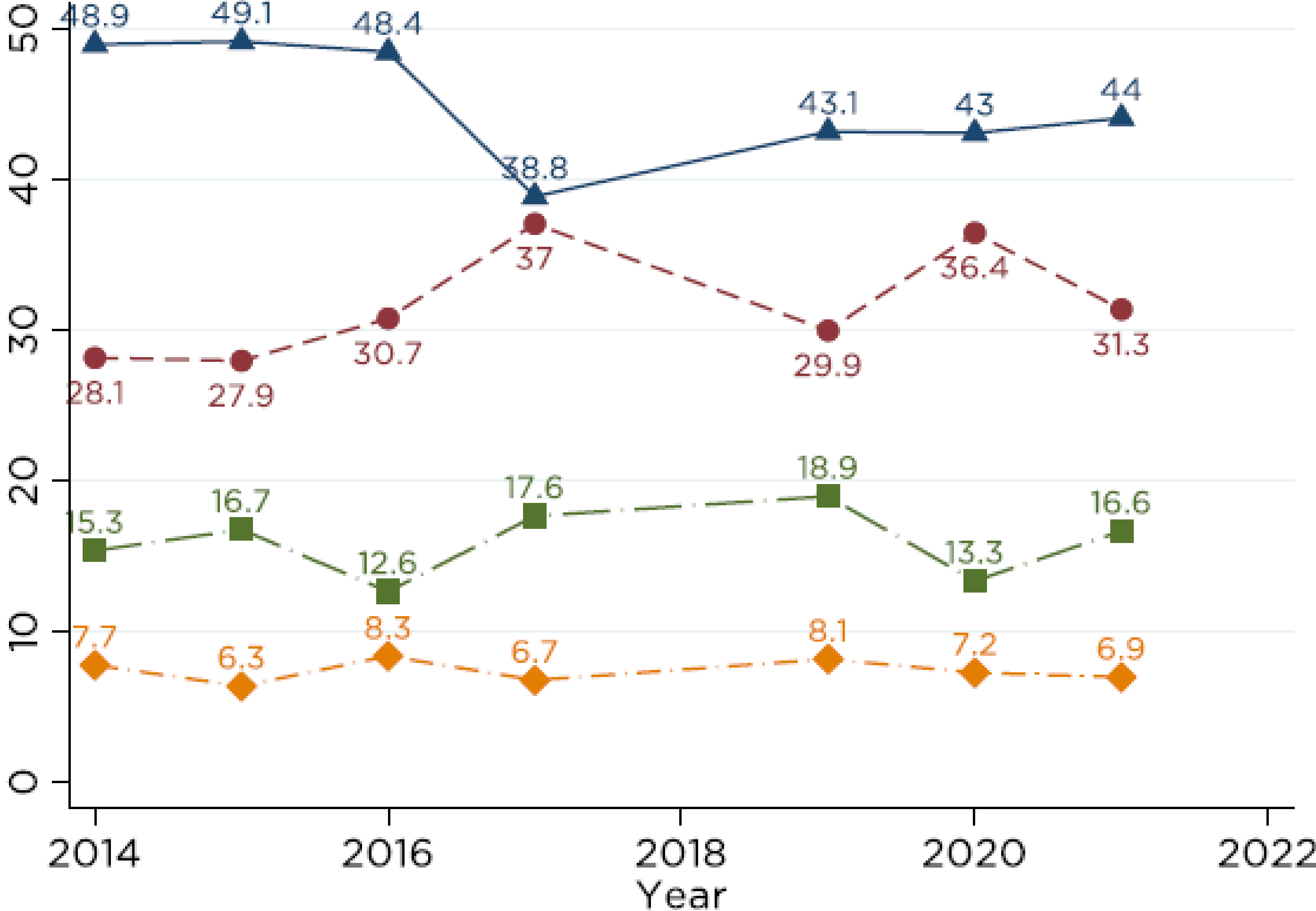
K – 12 Education

Mean: 4.38



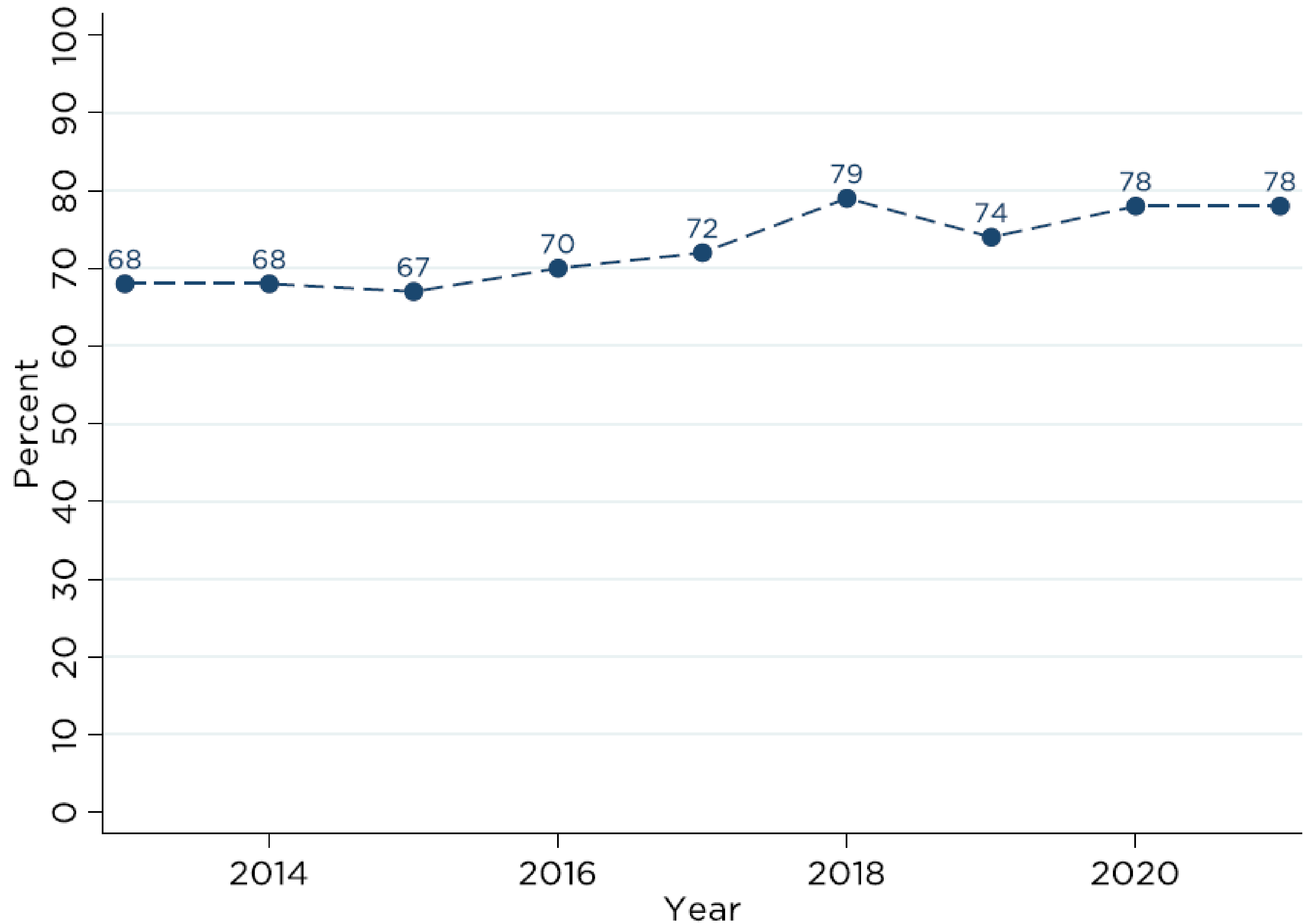
Source: 2017 Alabama Priorities Survey

Education Most Important Government Service



Education Healthcare
Public Safety Highways

To Little Spent on Education?

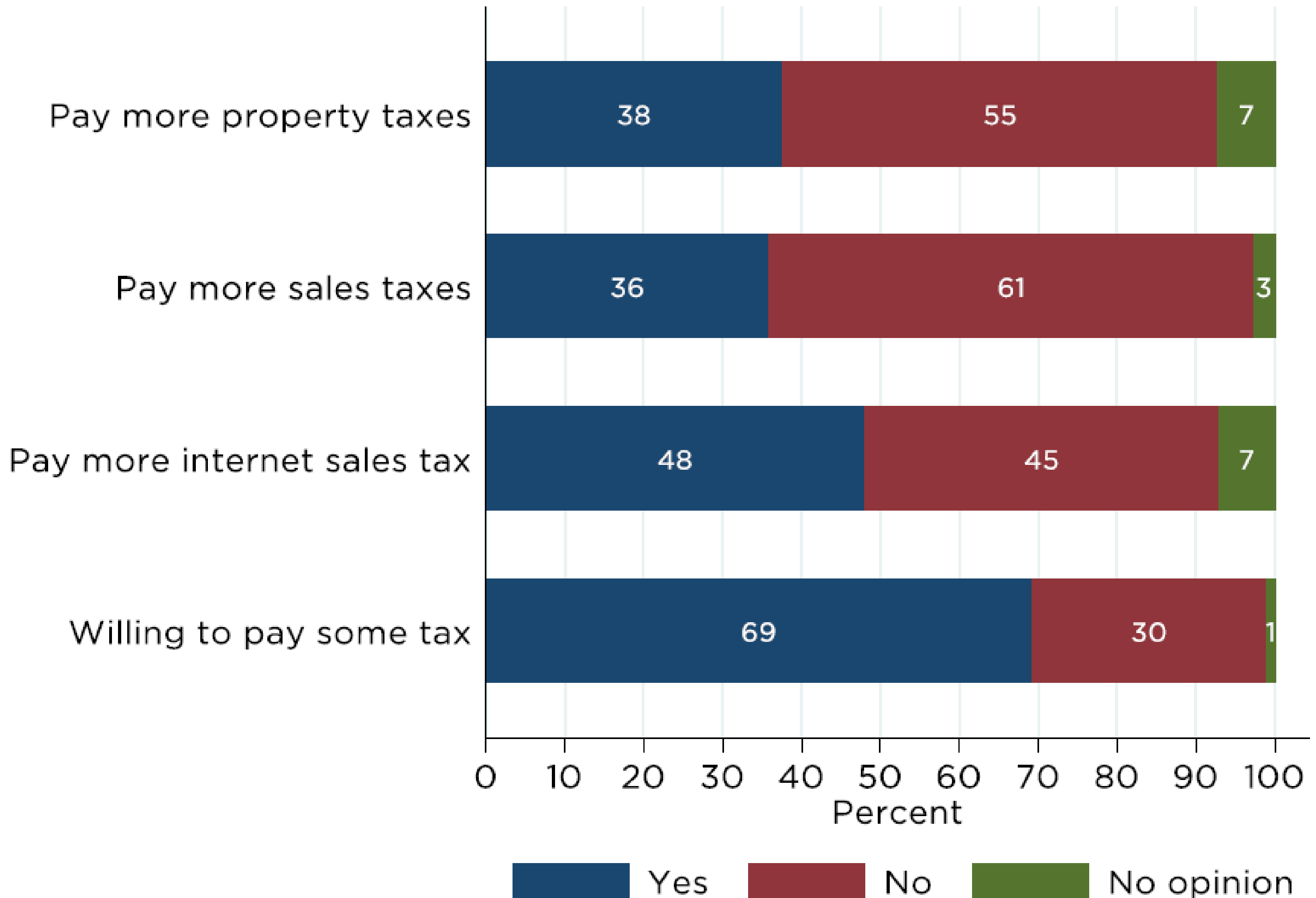


Are Alabamians willing to pay more
in taxes for education?

69%

The percentage of Alabamians willing to pay more in taxes to support education.

What taxes are you willing to increase?



Education as a Policy Priority

Adult Literacy

Educational Attainment

College Going & Remediation

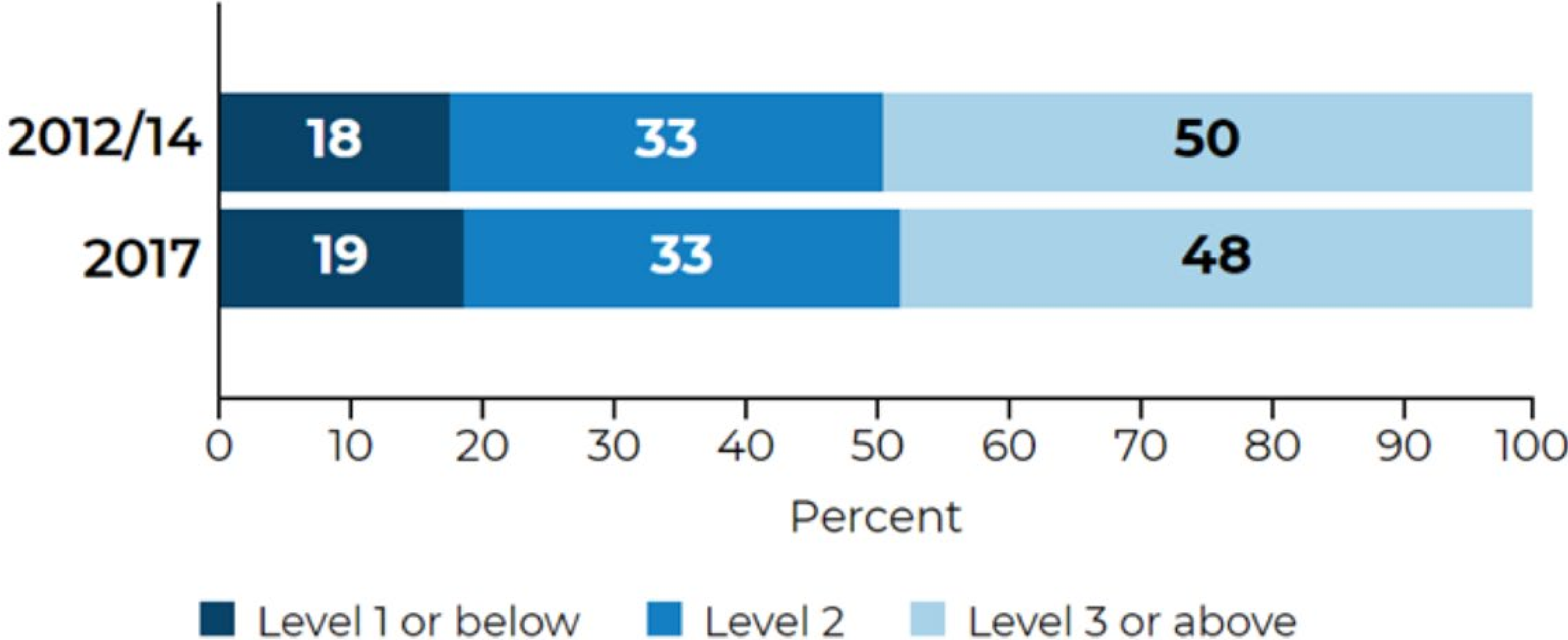
ACT

NAEP

Summative Assessments

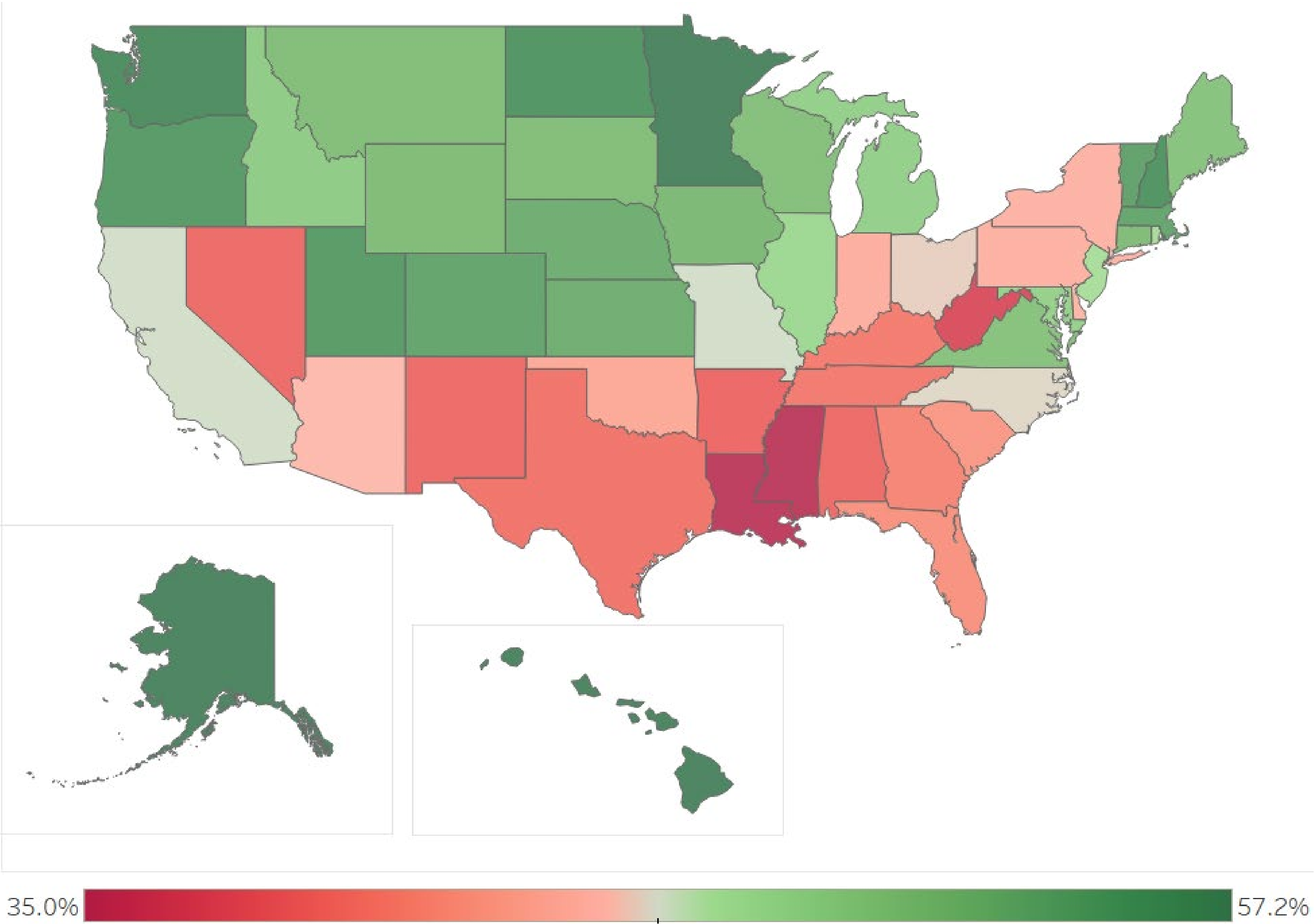
Literacy Act

Literacy: Adults 16 to 65

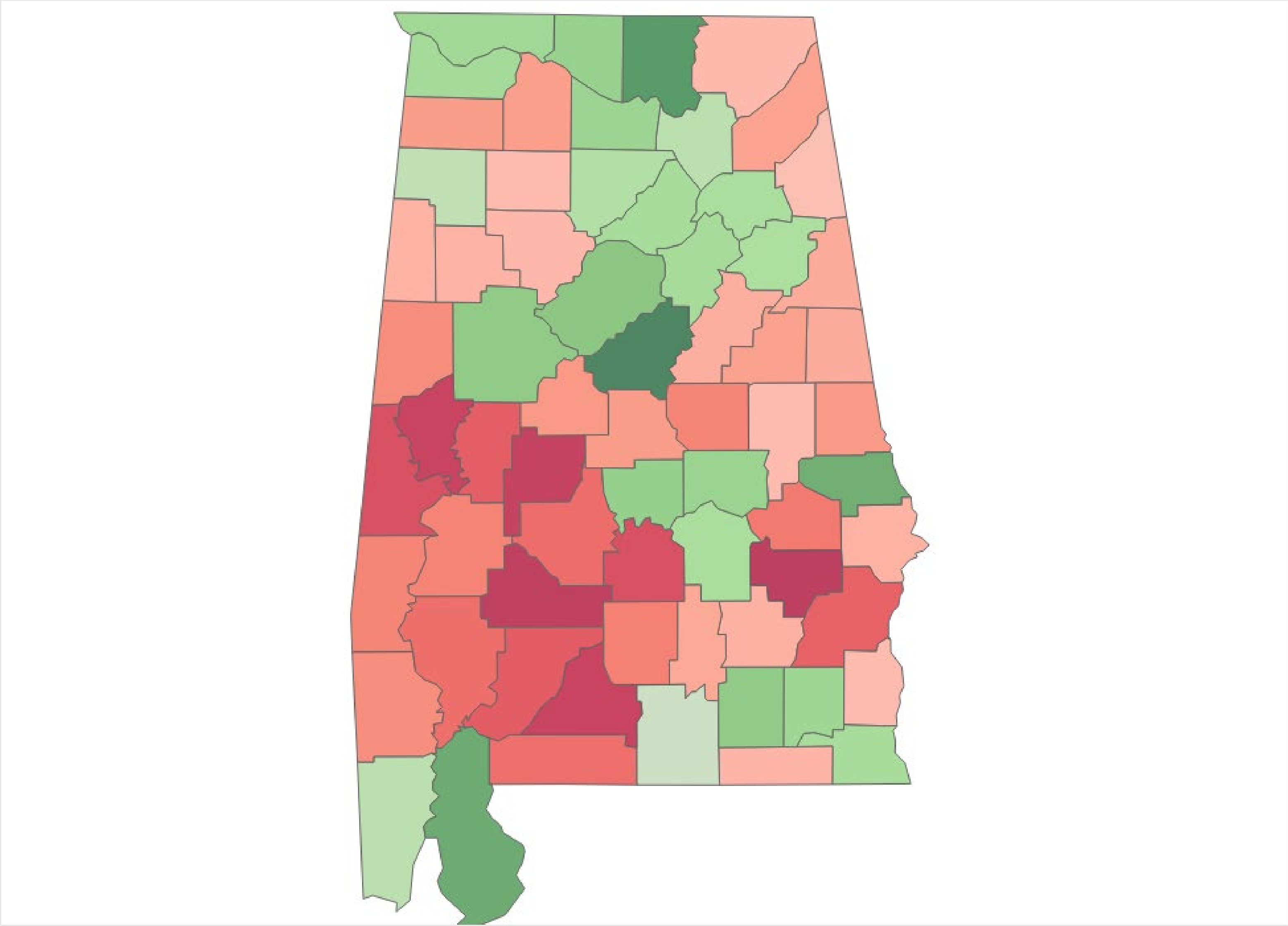


NCES: Percentage distribution of U.S. adults age 16 to 65 at selected levels of proficiency on PIAAC literacy: 2012/14 and 2017

Literacy: Adults 16 to 65



Literacy: Adults 16 to 65



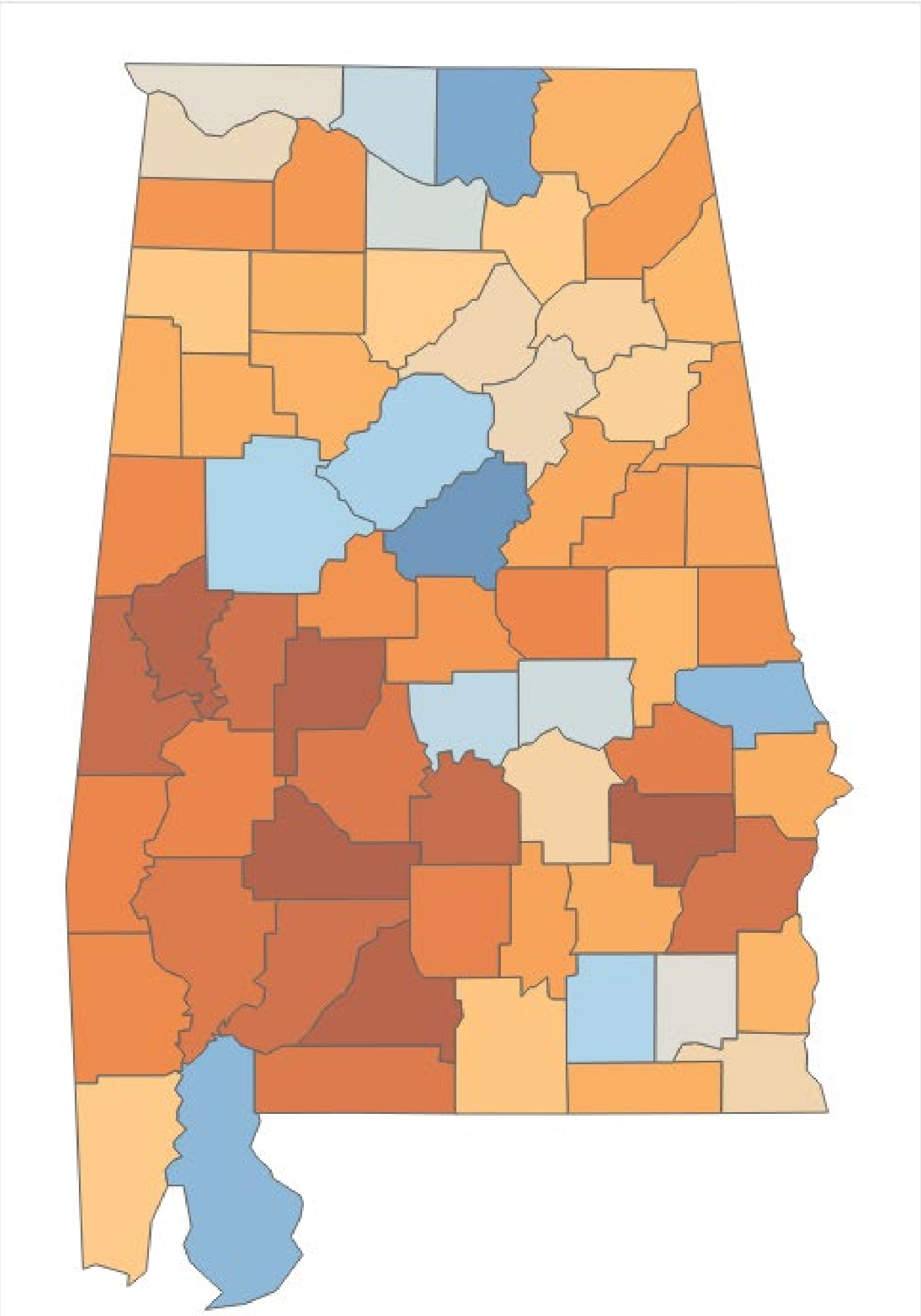
13.0%



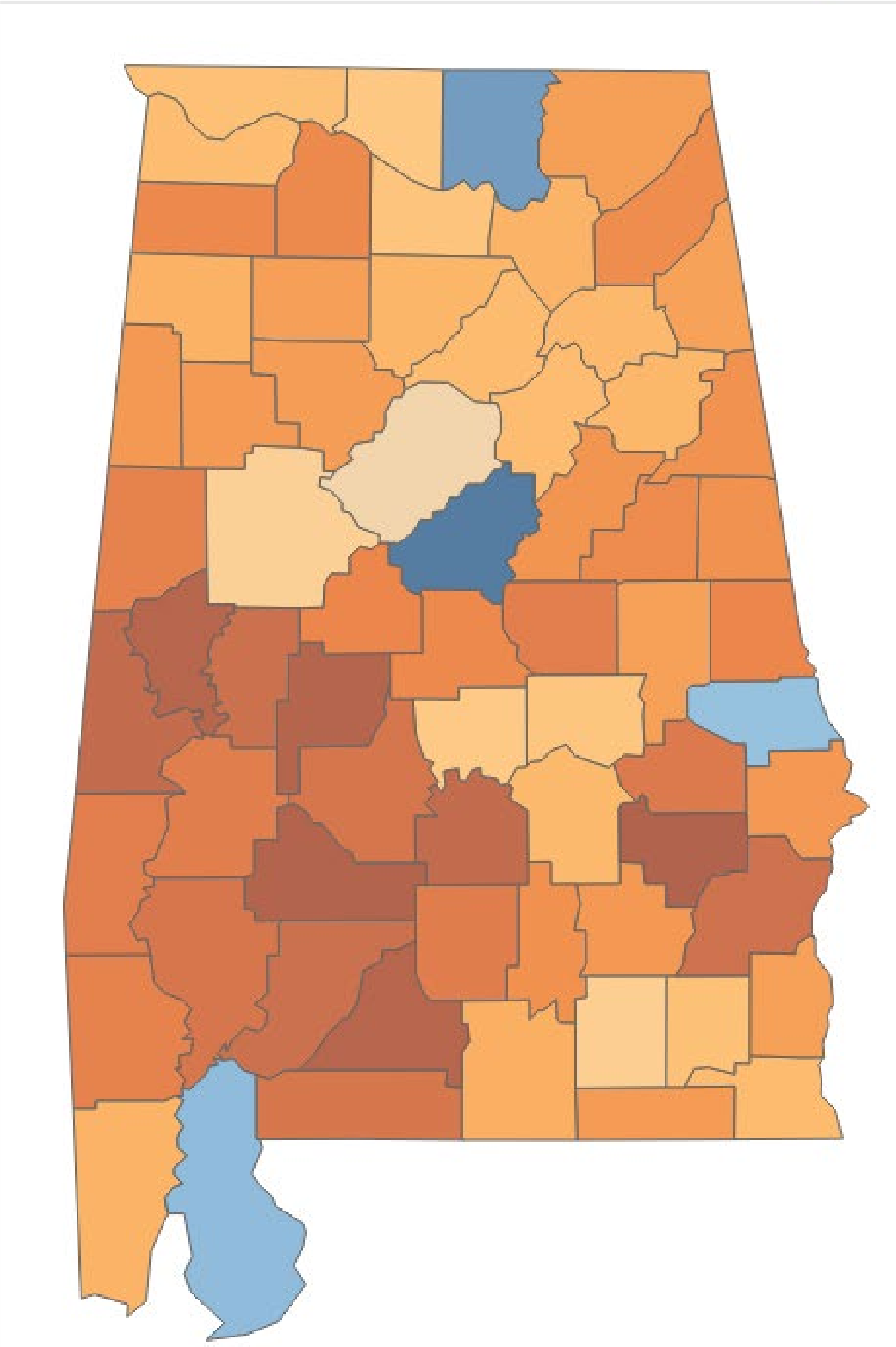
57.6%

Literacy: Adults 16 to 65

Variance from State Average



Variance from National Average



Education as a Policy Priority

Adult Literacy

Educational Attainment

College Going & Remediation

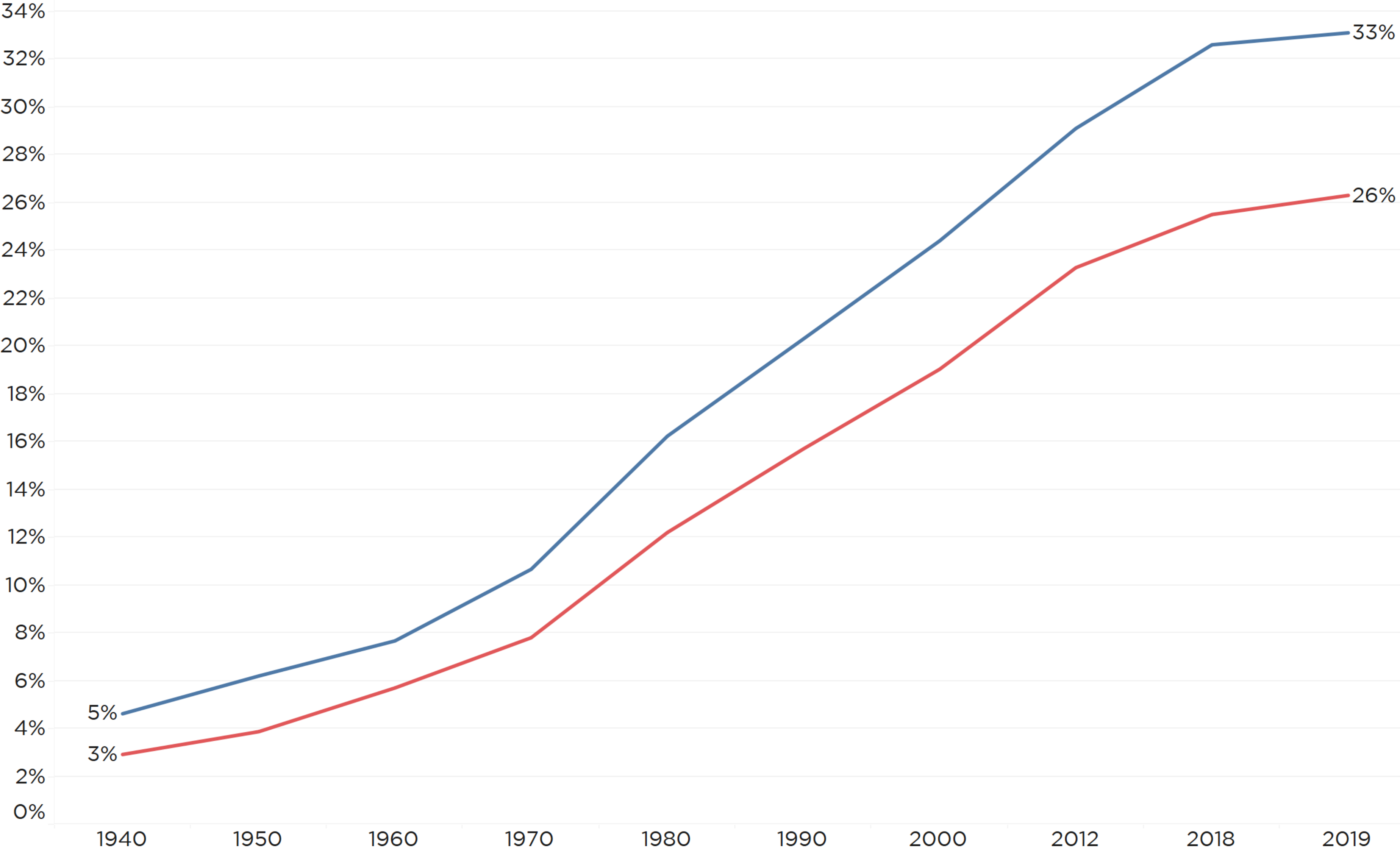
ACT

NAEP

Summative Assessments

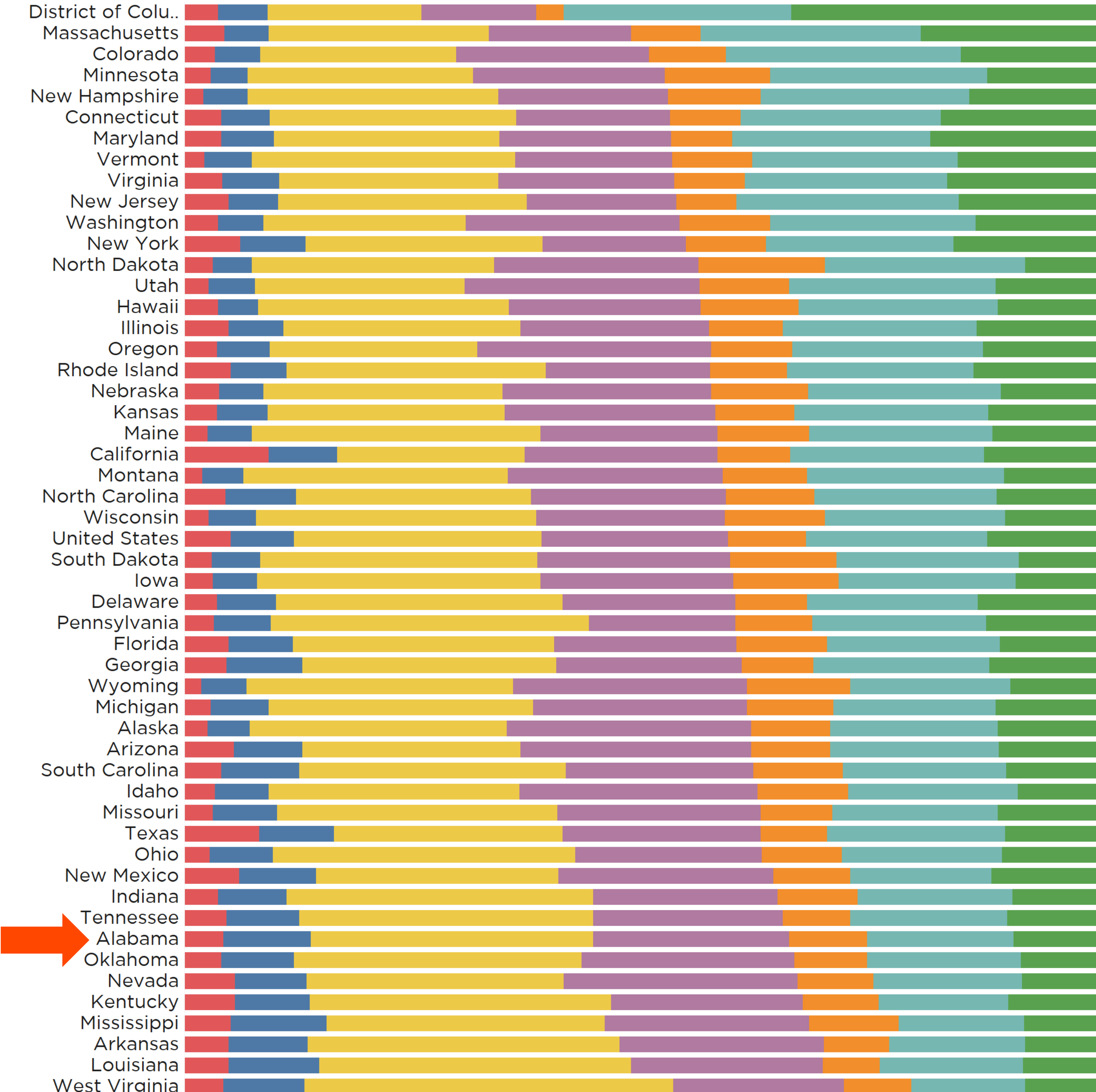
Literacy Act

Attainment: College Degree

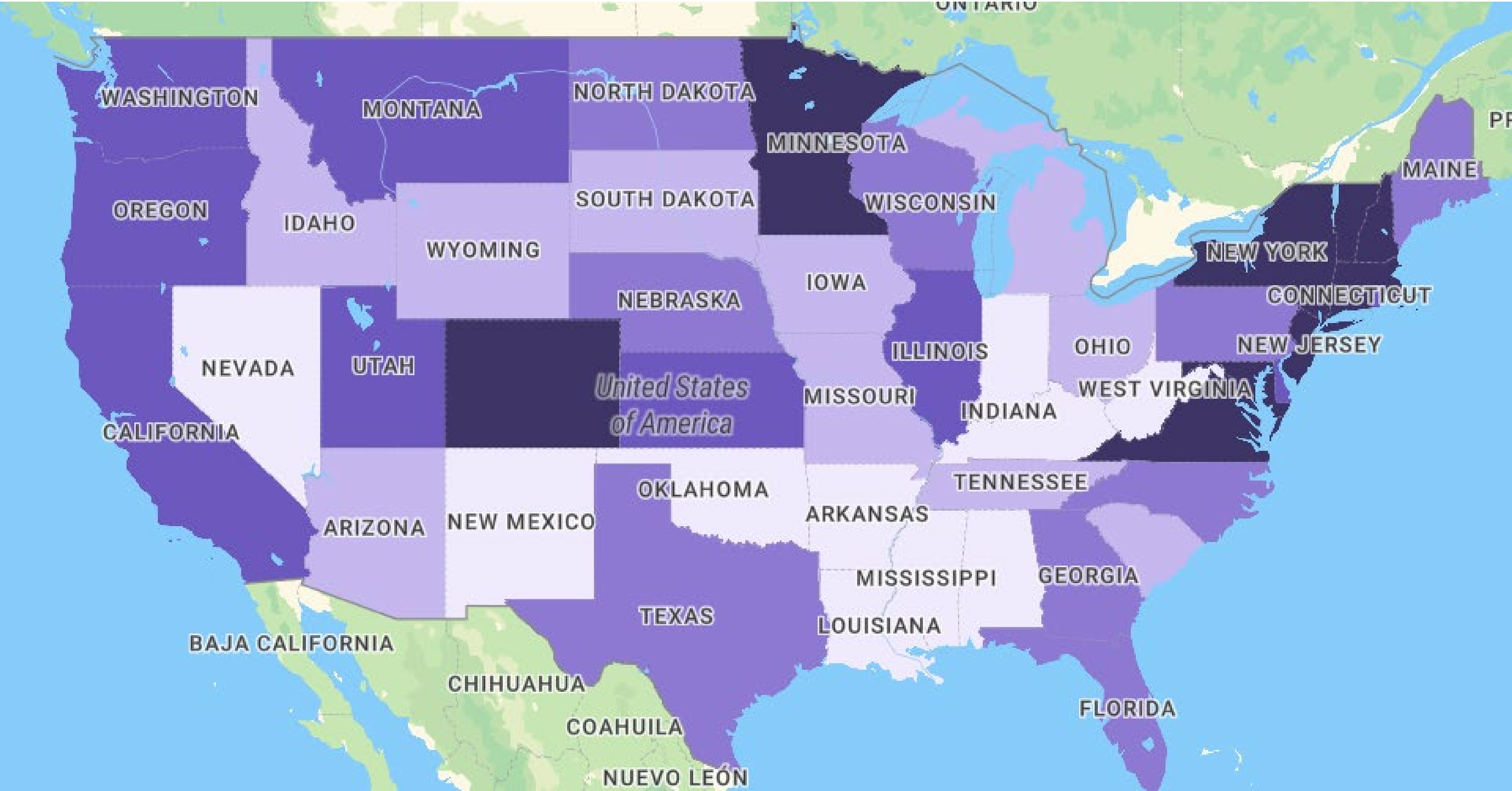


U.S. Alabama

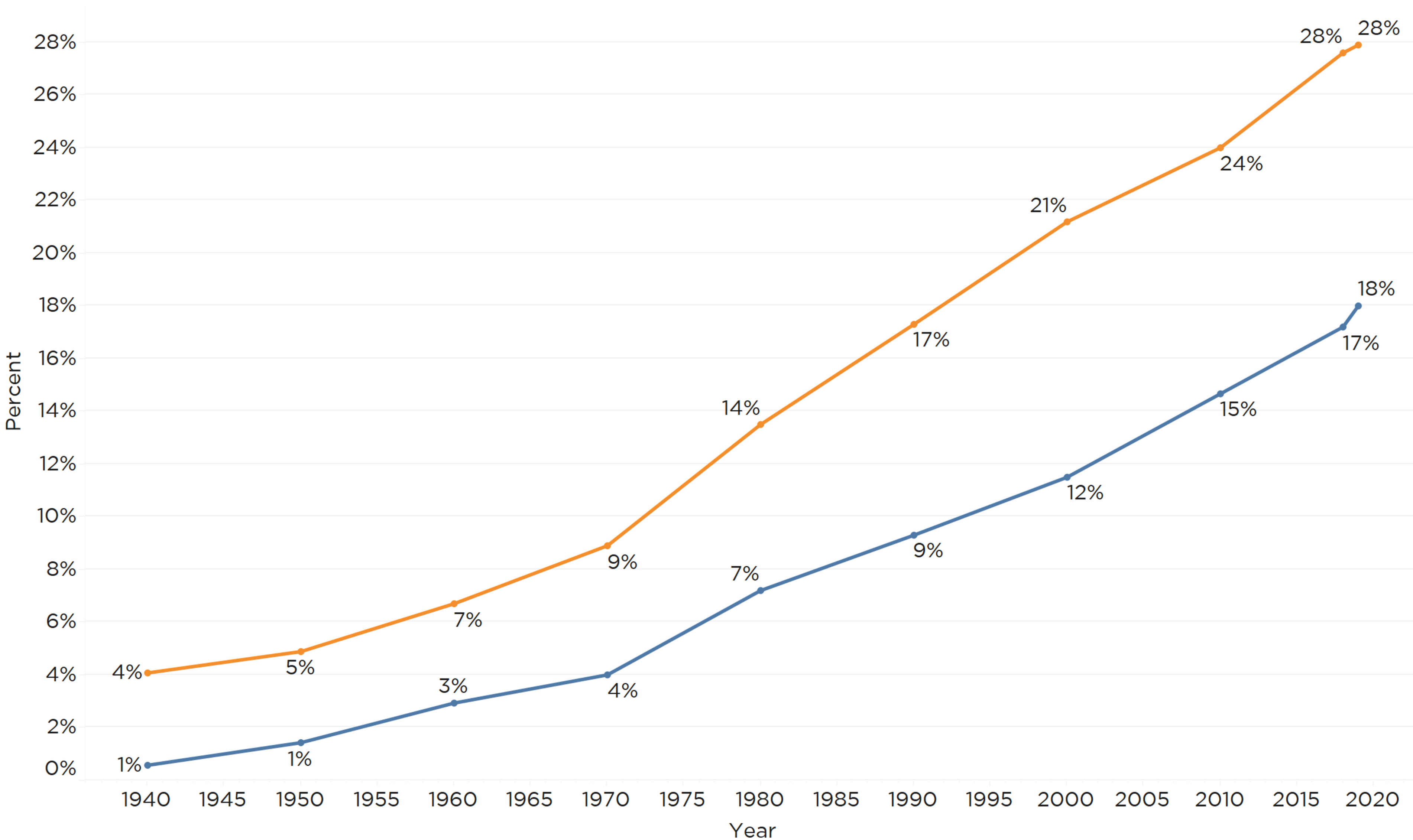
Educational Attainment: By State



Attainment: At Least a Bachelor's



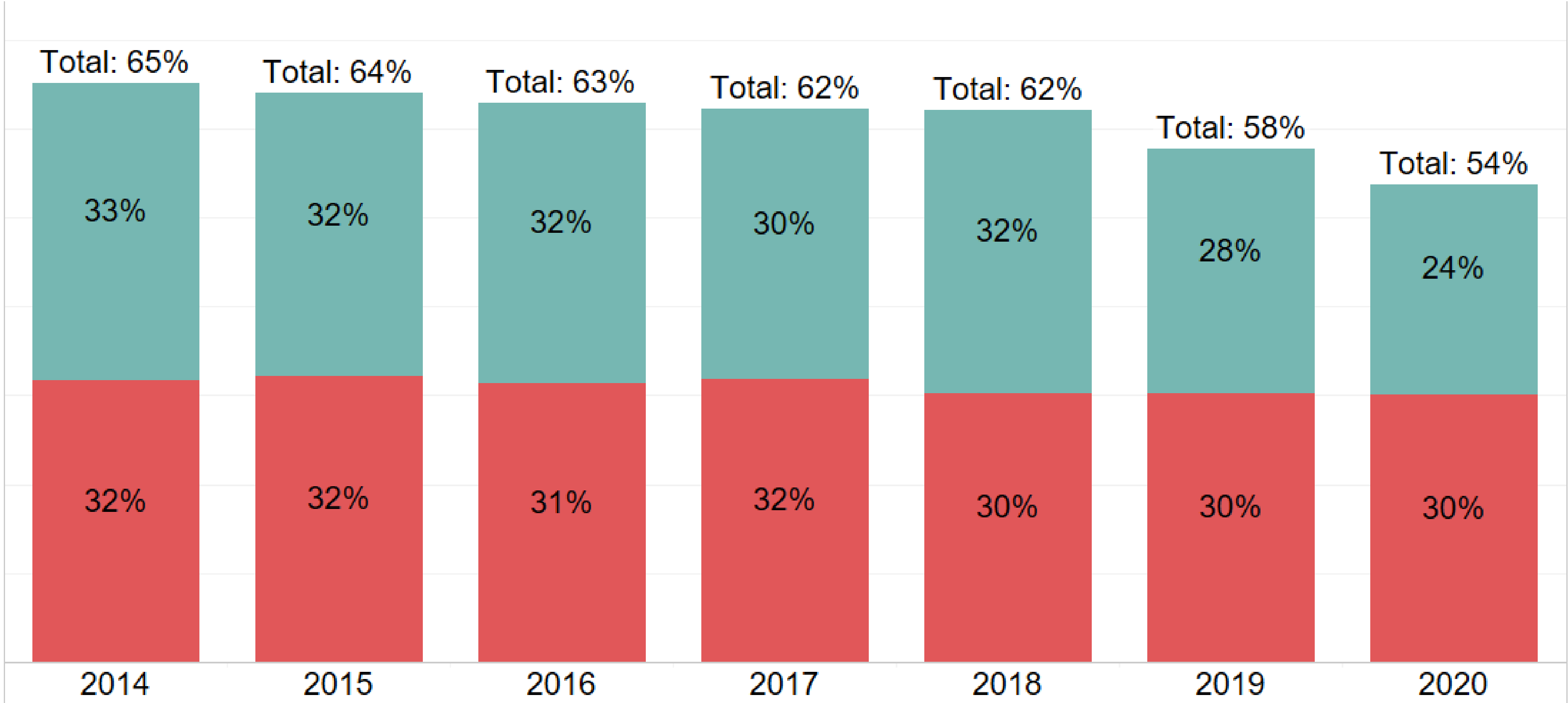
Educational Attainment: Alabamians with a College Degree



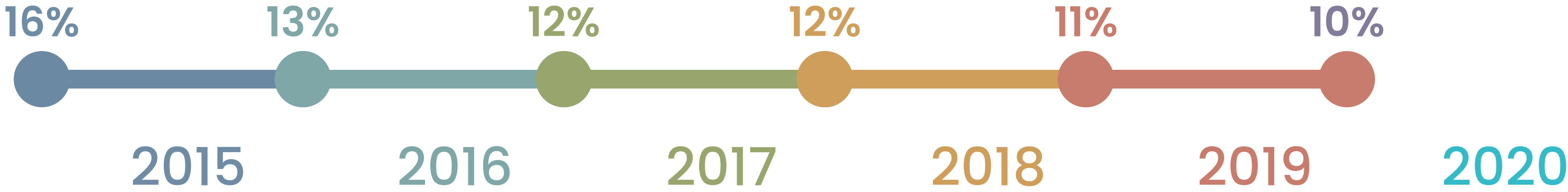
White Black

Education as a Policy Priority
Adult Literacy
Educational Attainment
College Going & Remediation
ACT
NAEP
Summative Assessments
Literacy Act

College Going: Two-Year, Four-Year, Total

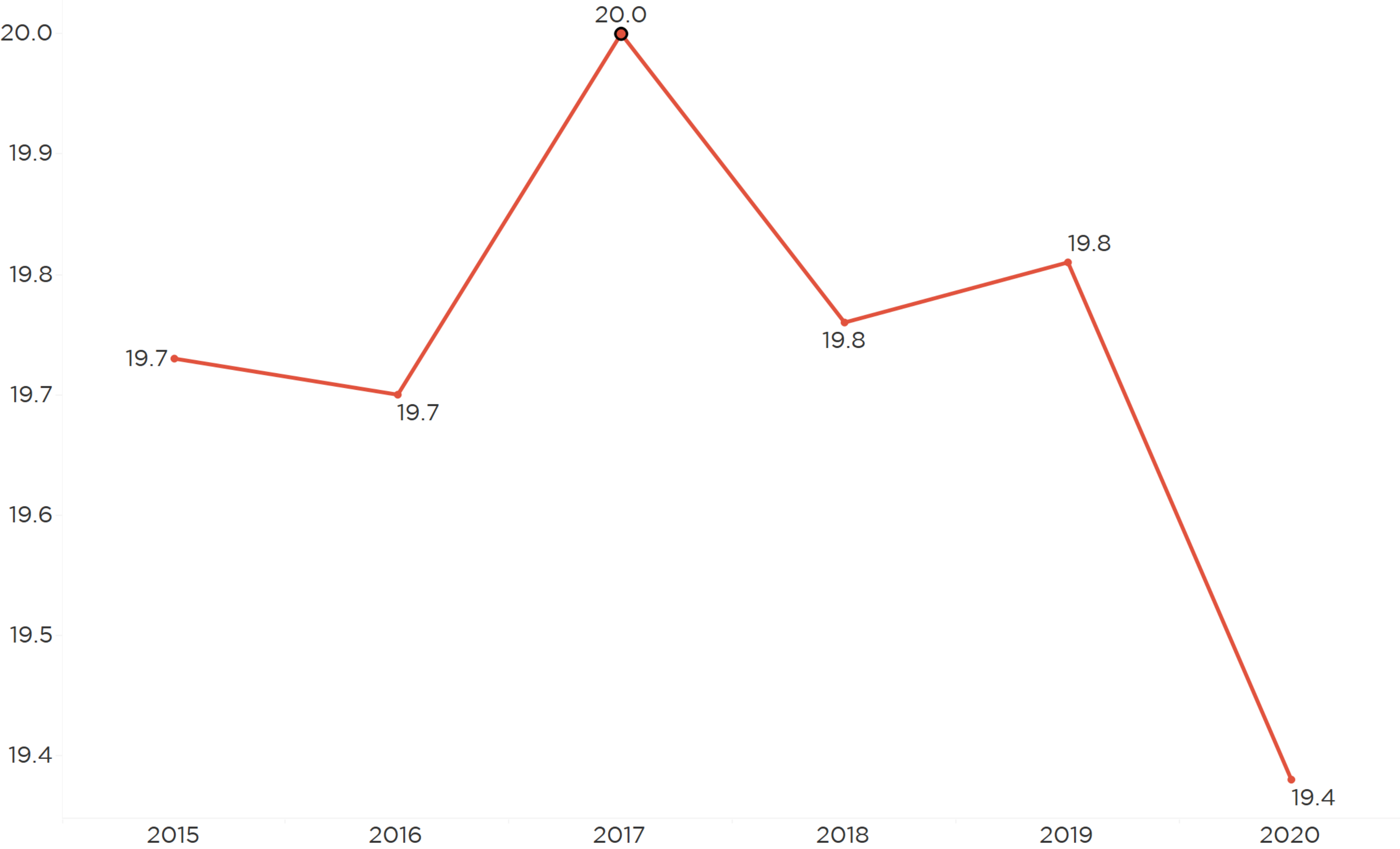


First Time College Freshmen in English Remediation

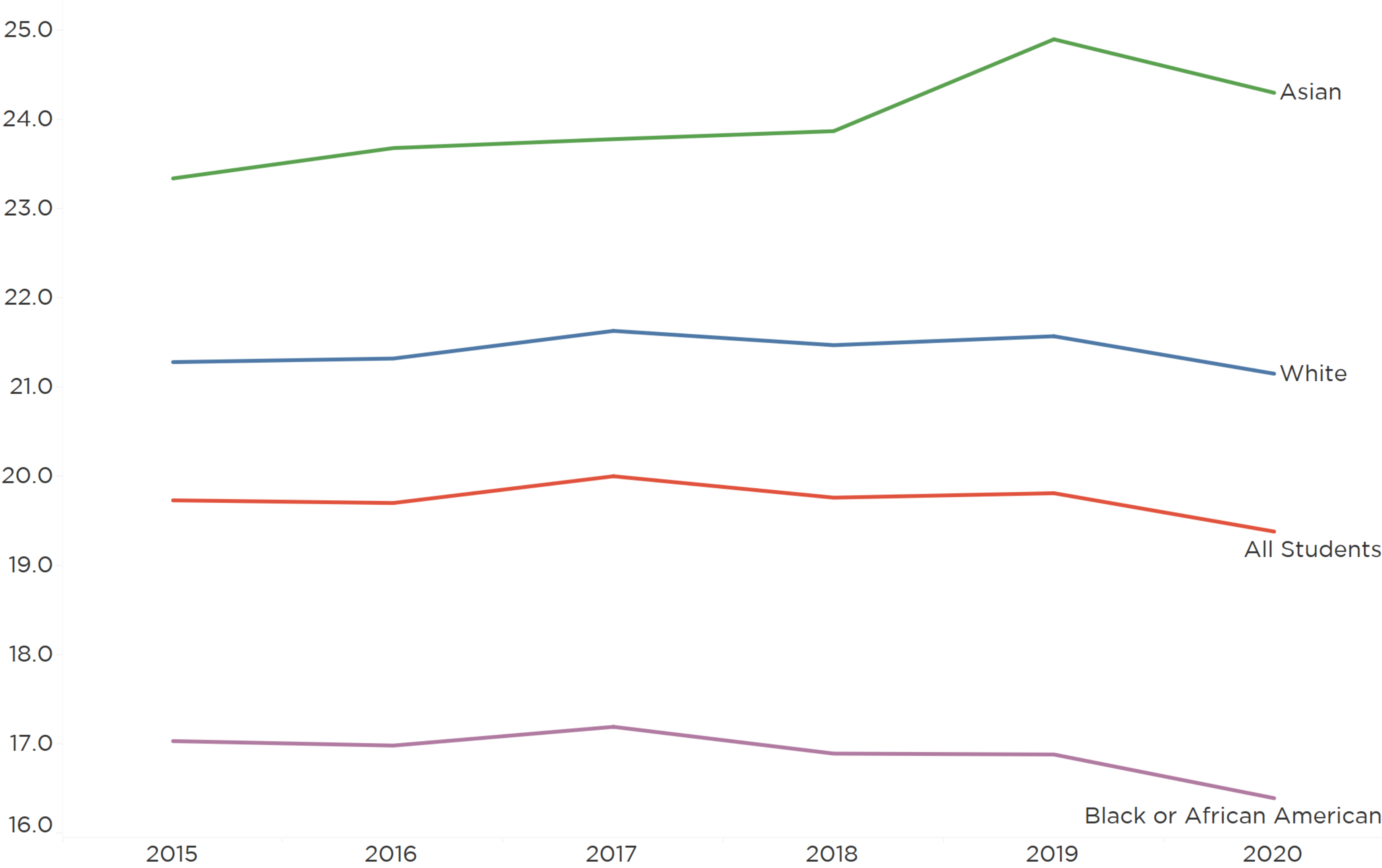


ACT[®]

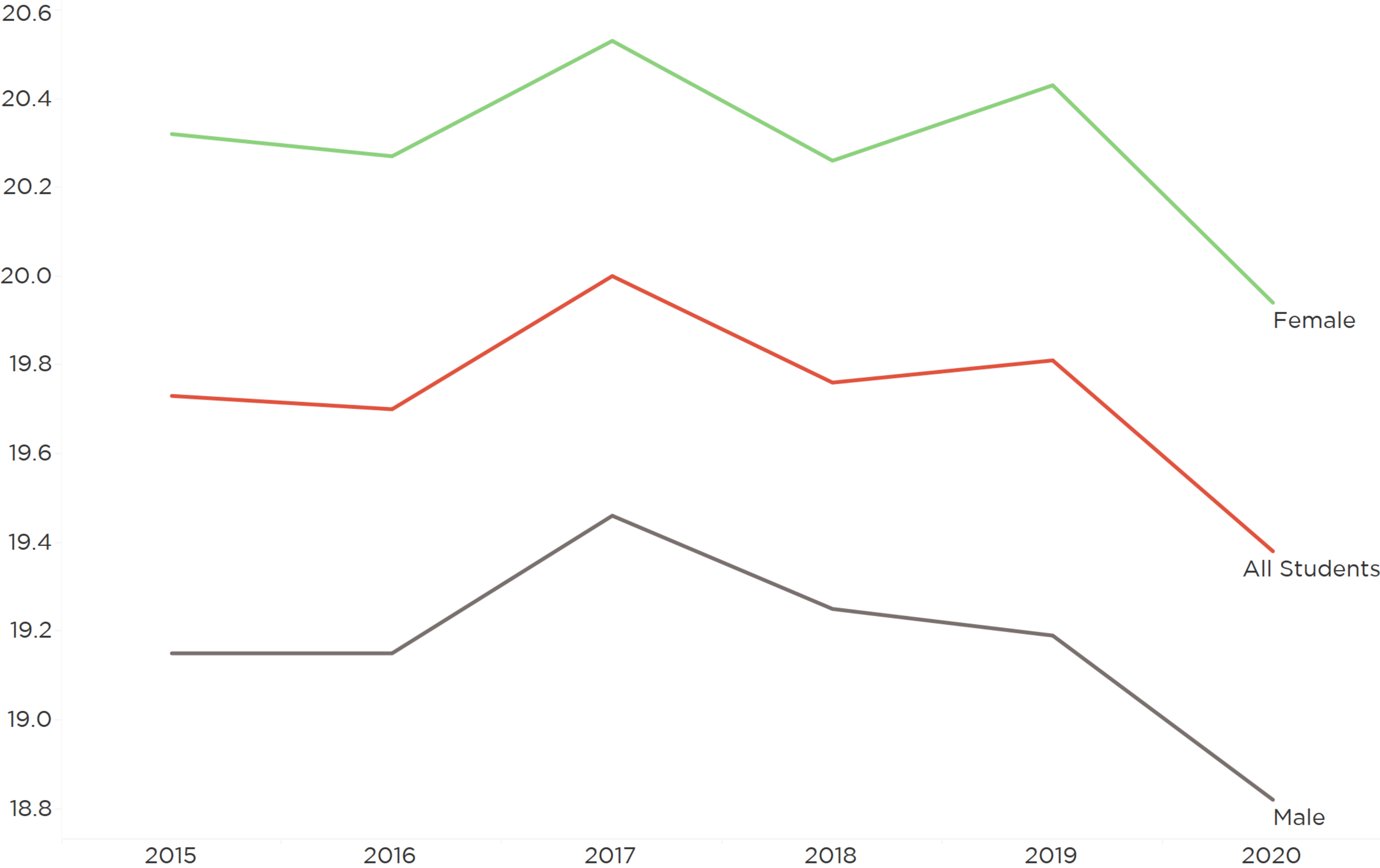
ACT Reading Score: All Students



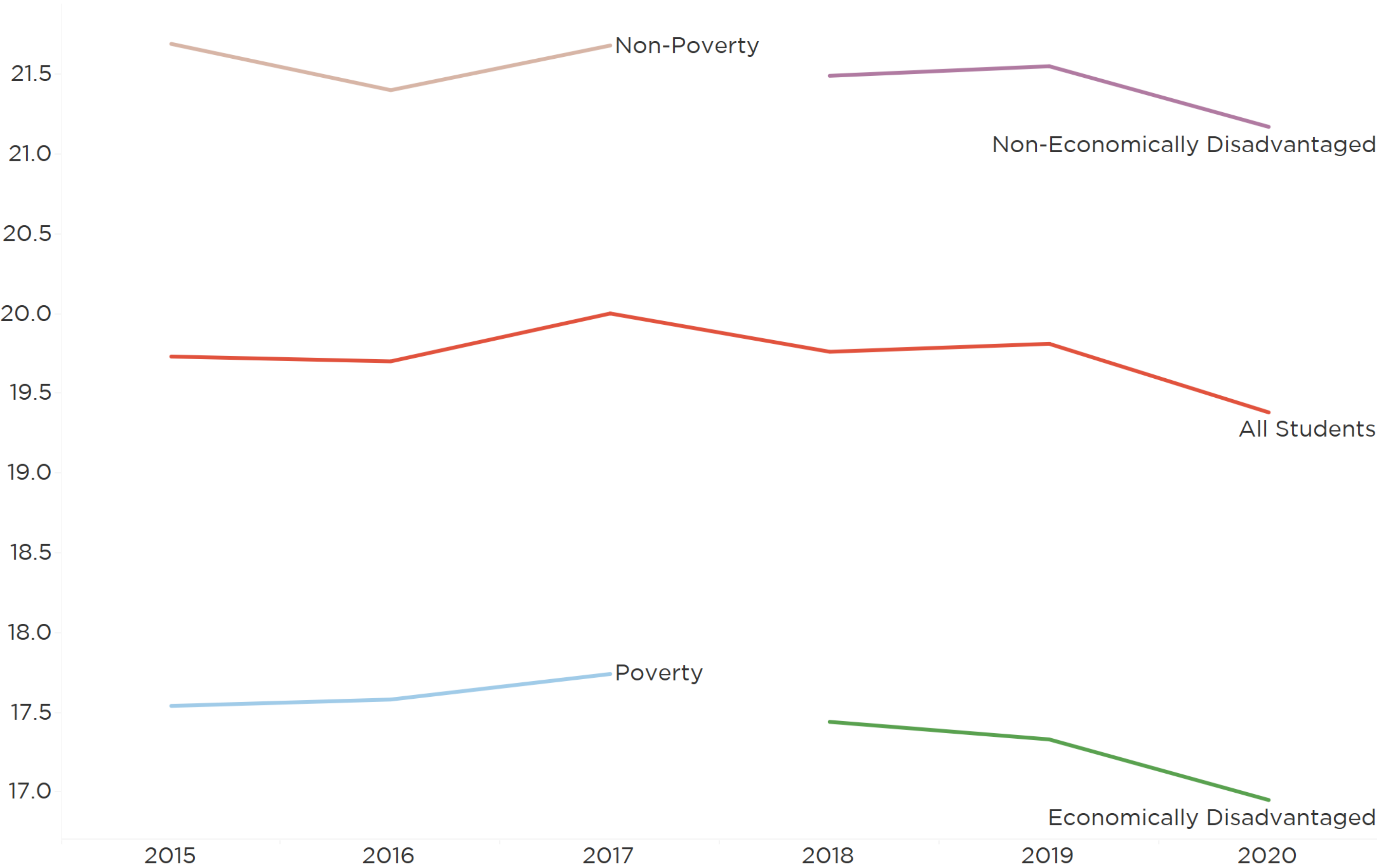
ACT Reading Score: By Race



ACT Reading Score: By Gender



ACT Reading Score: By Poverty

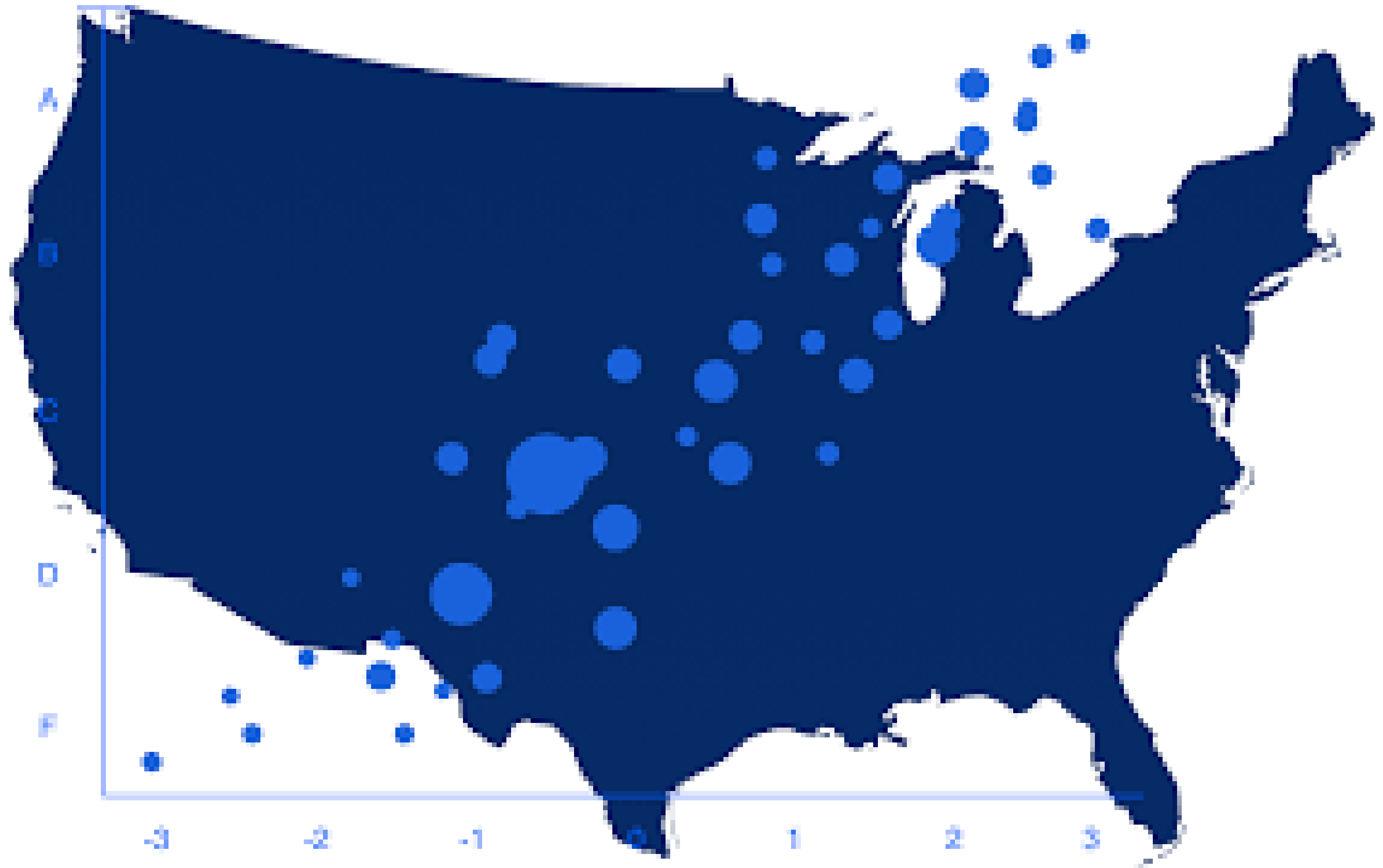


Education as a Policy Priority
Adult Literacy
Educational Attainment
College Going & Remediation
ACT
NAEP
Summative Assessments
Literacy Act

ARMT

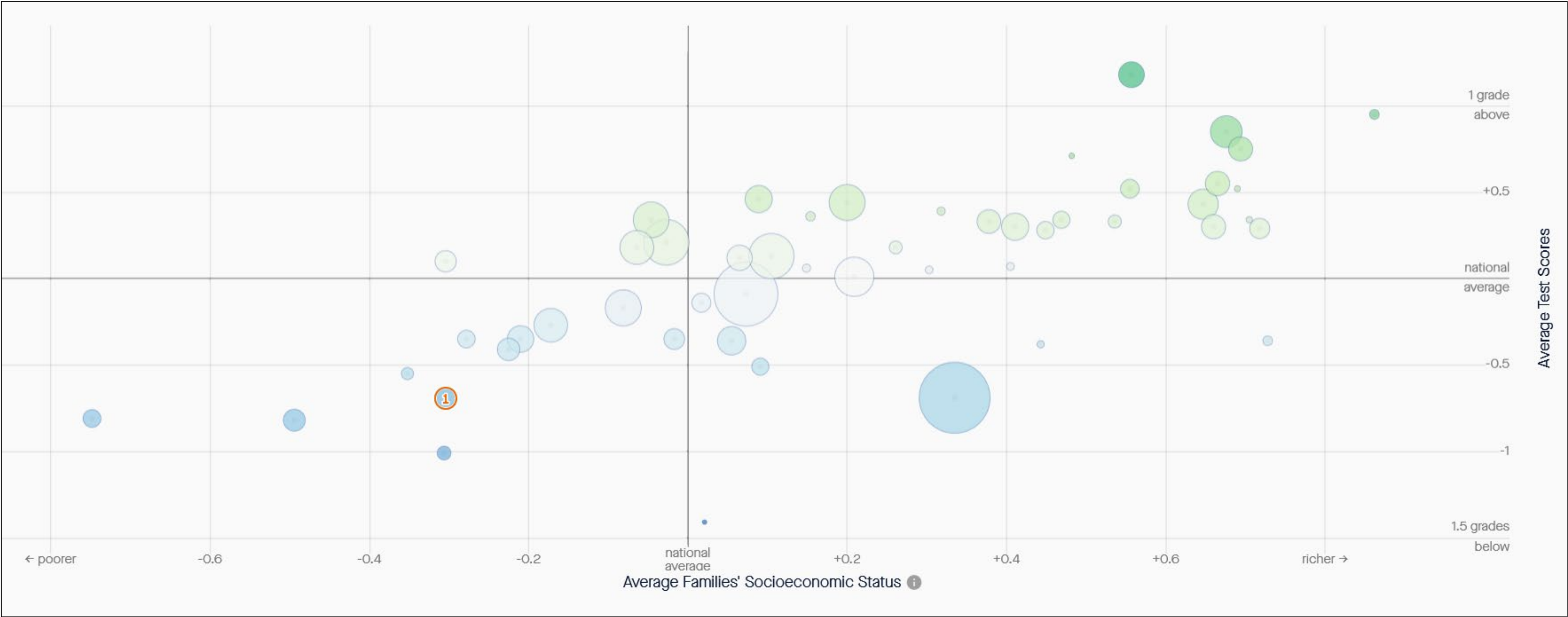
ACT[®] **Aspire**[®]


SCANTRON[™]



**Educational Opportunity
Project
Stanford University**

Opportunity Project: Average Test Scores

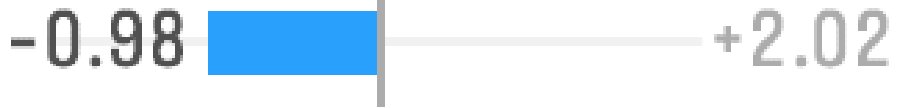


Opportunity Project: Average Test Scores

ALL STUDENTS



MALE



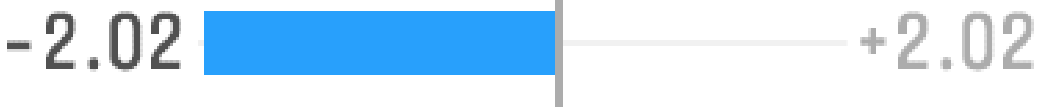
WHITE



FEMALE



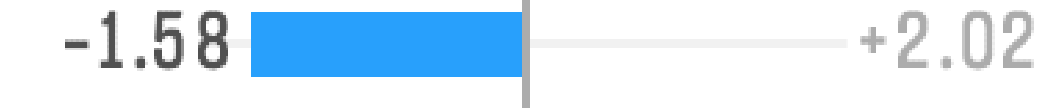
BLACK



POOR



HISPANIC



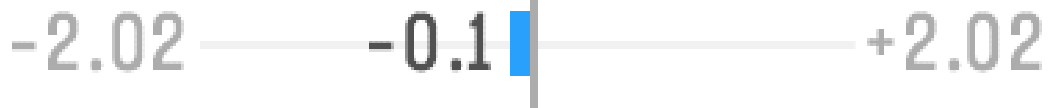
NON-POOR



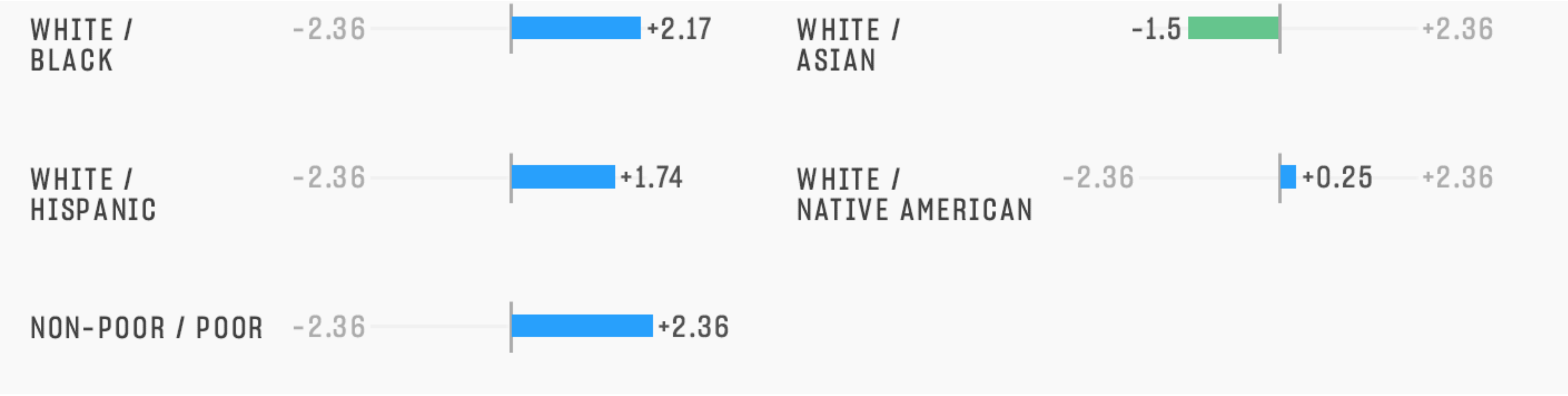
ASIAN



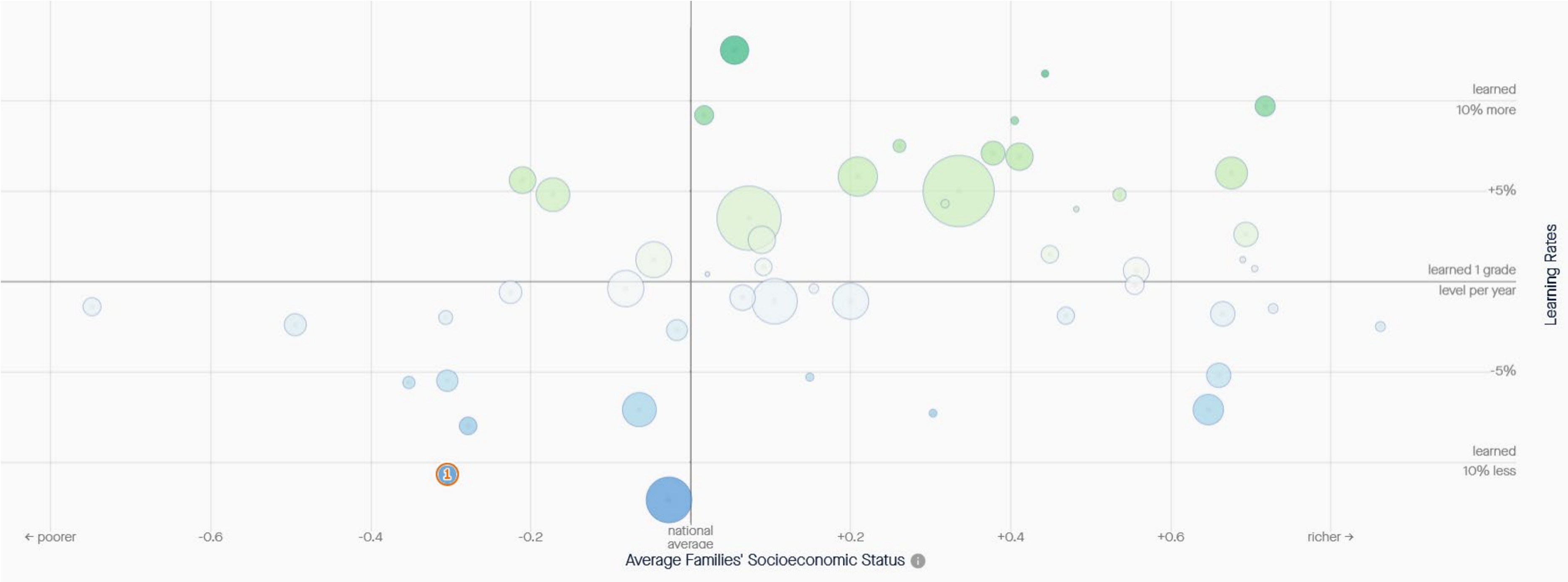
NATIVE AMERICAN



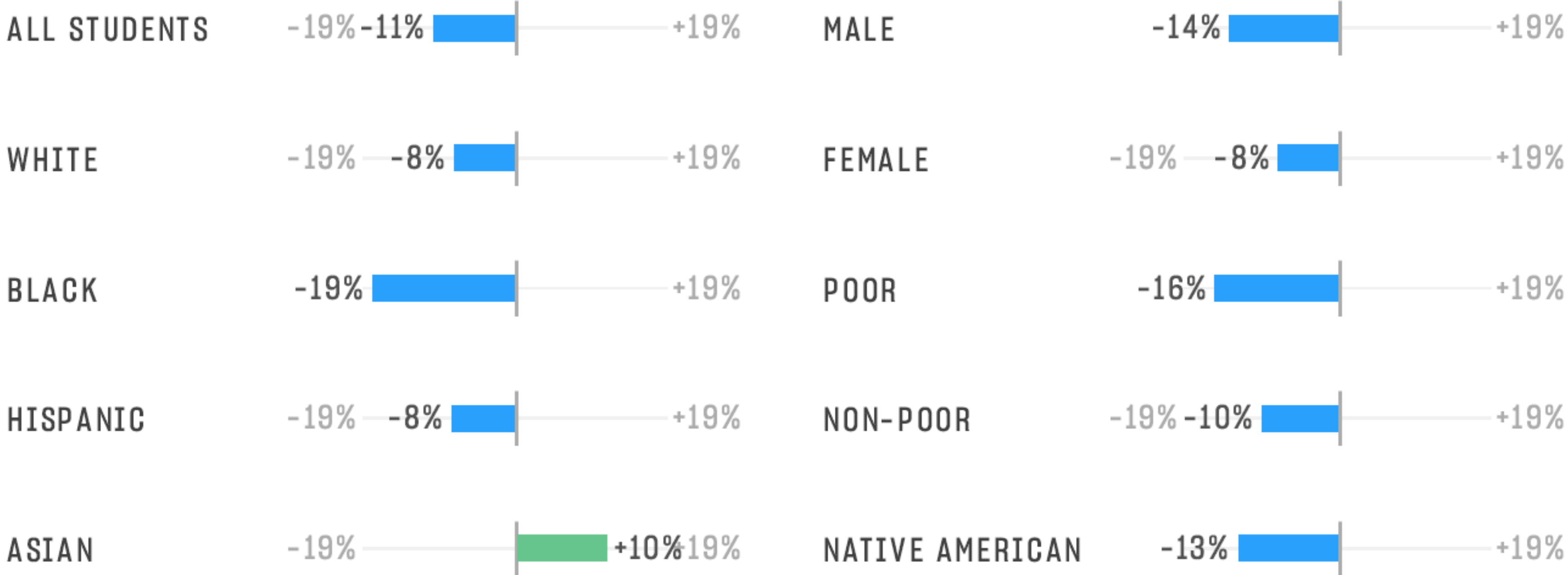
Opportunity Project: Average Test Scores



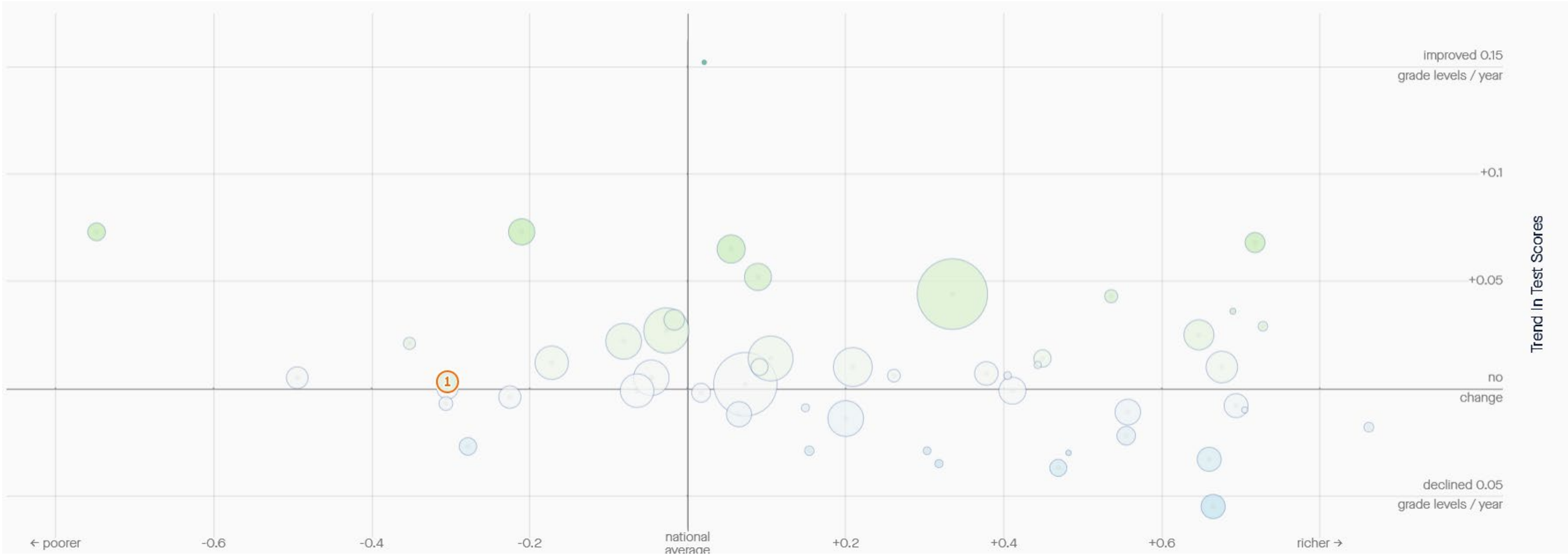
Opportunity Project: Learning Rates



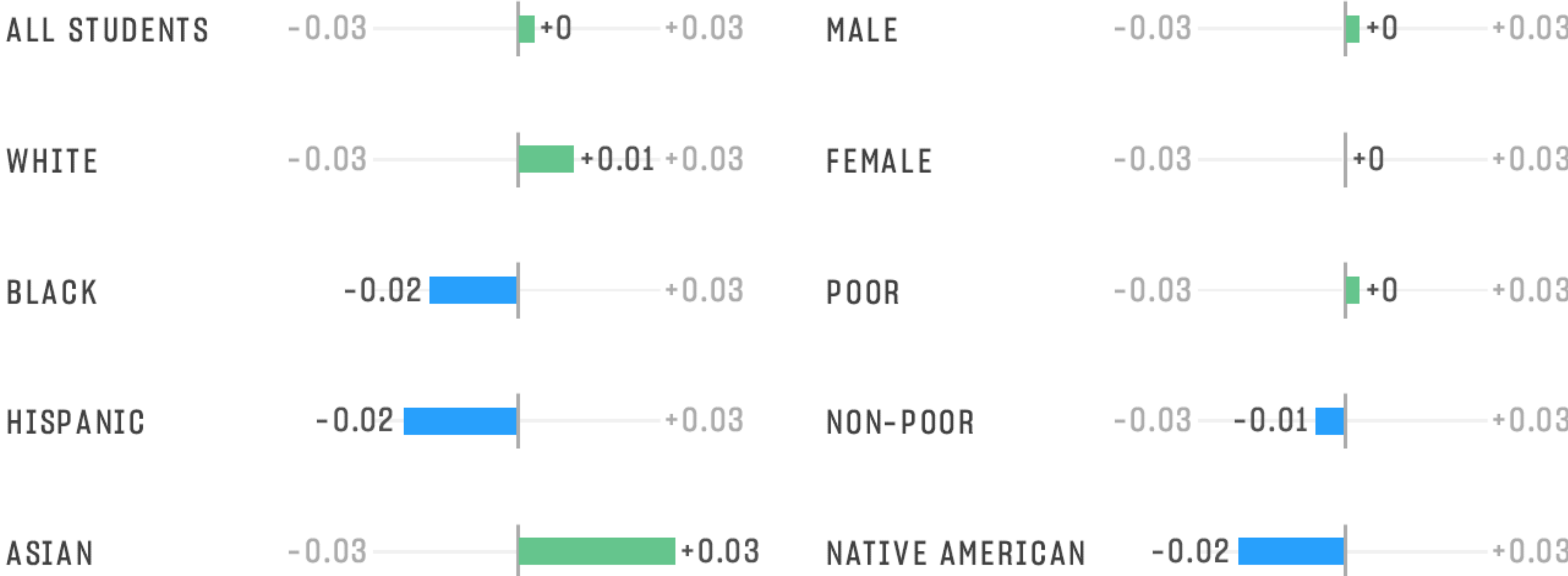
Opportunity Project: Learning Rates



Opportunity Project: Learning Trends



Opportunity Project: Learning Trends

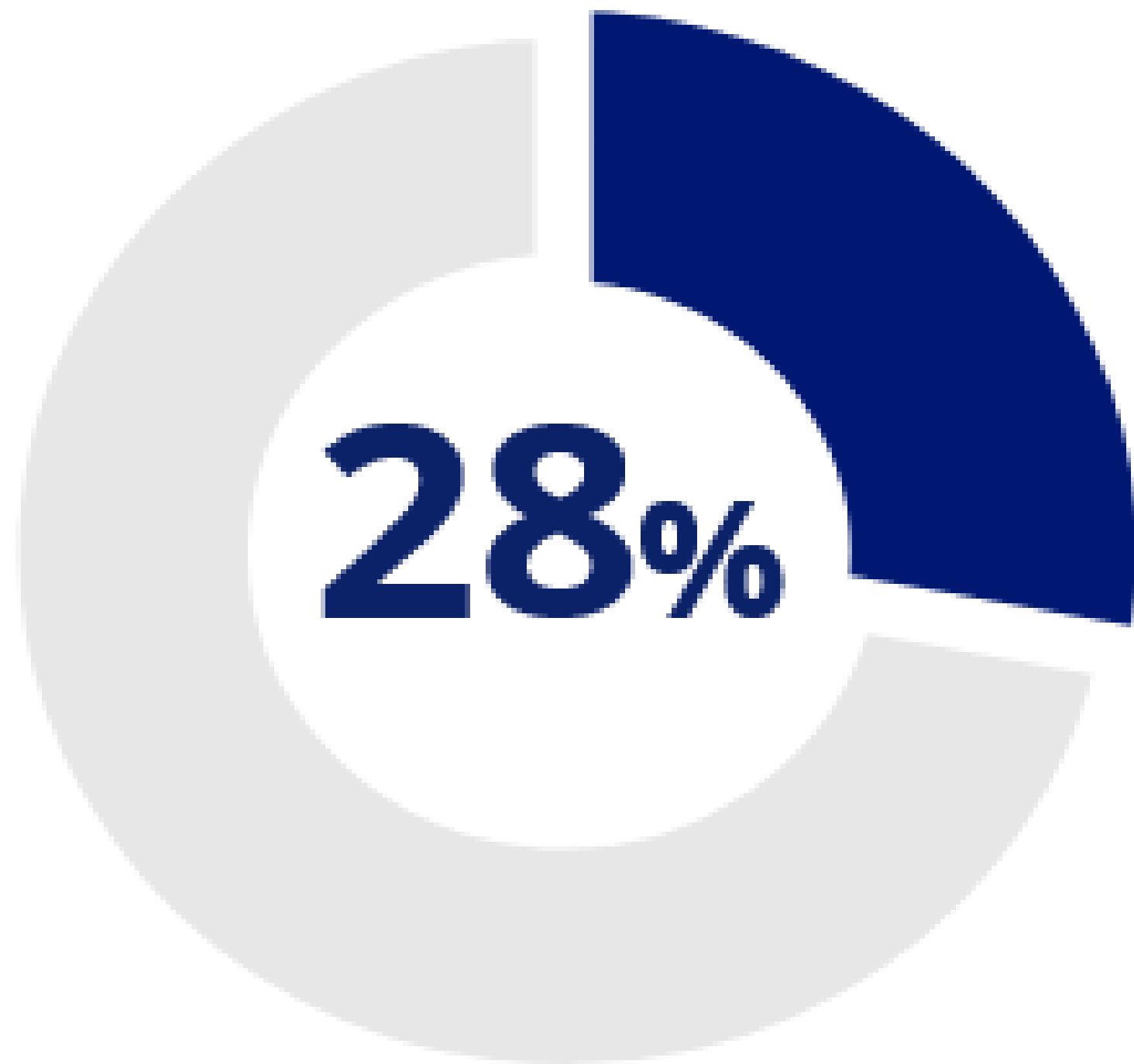




N A E P
NATIONAL ASSESSMENT
OF EDUCATIONAL
PROGRESS

GRADE 4 | READING | 2019

At or above *Proficient*

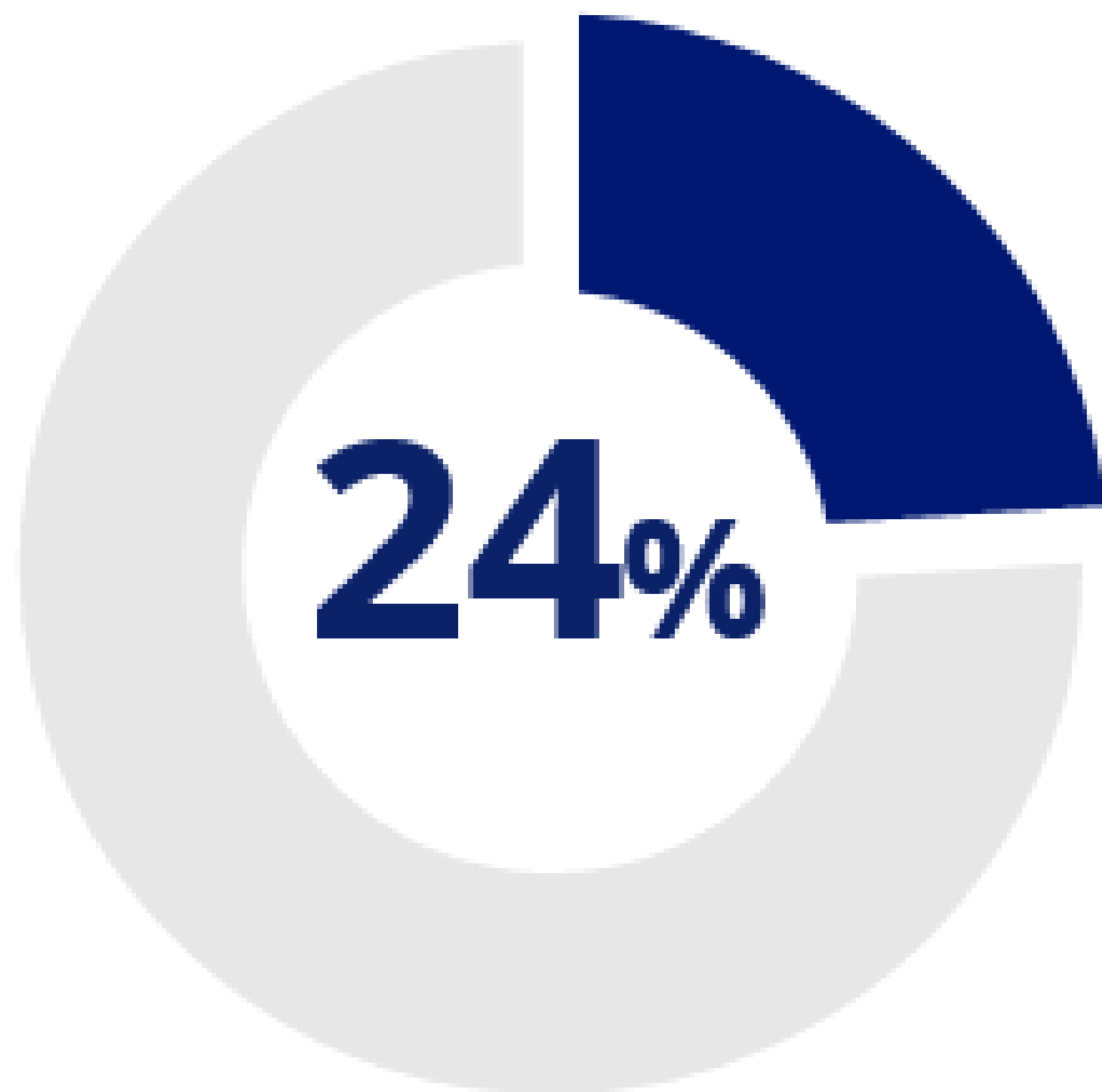


The percentage of students in Alabama who performed at or above the NAEP Proficient level was 28 percent in 2019. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2017 (31 percent) and in 1998 (24 percent).

Source: www.nationsreportcard.gov

GRADE 8 | READING | 2019

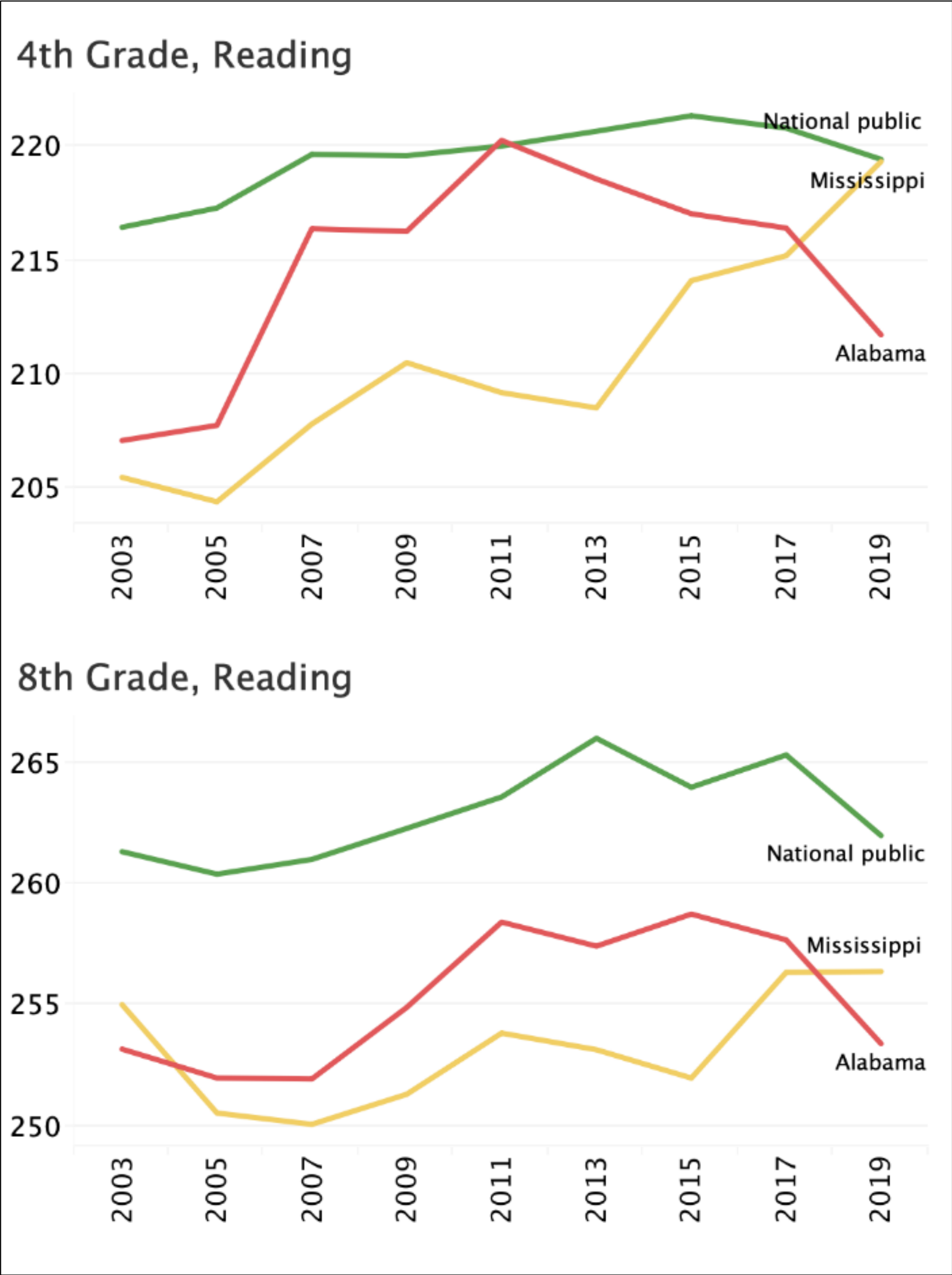
At or above *Proficient*



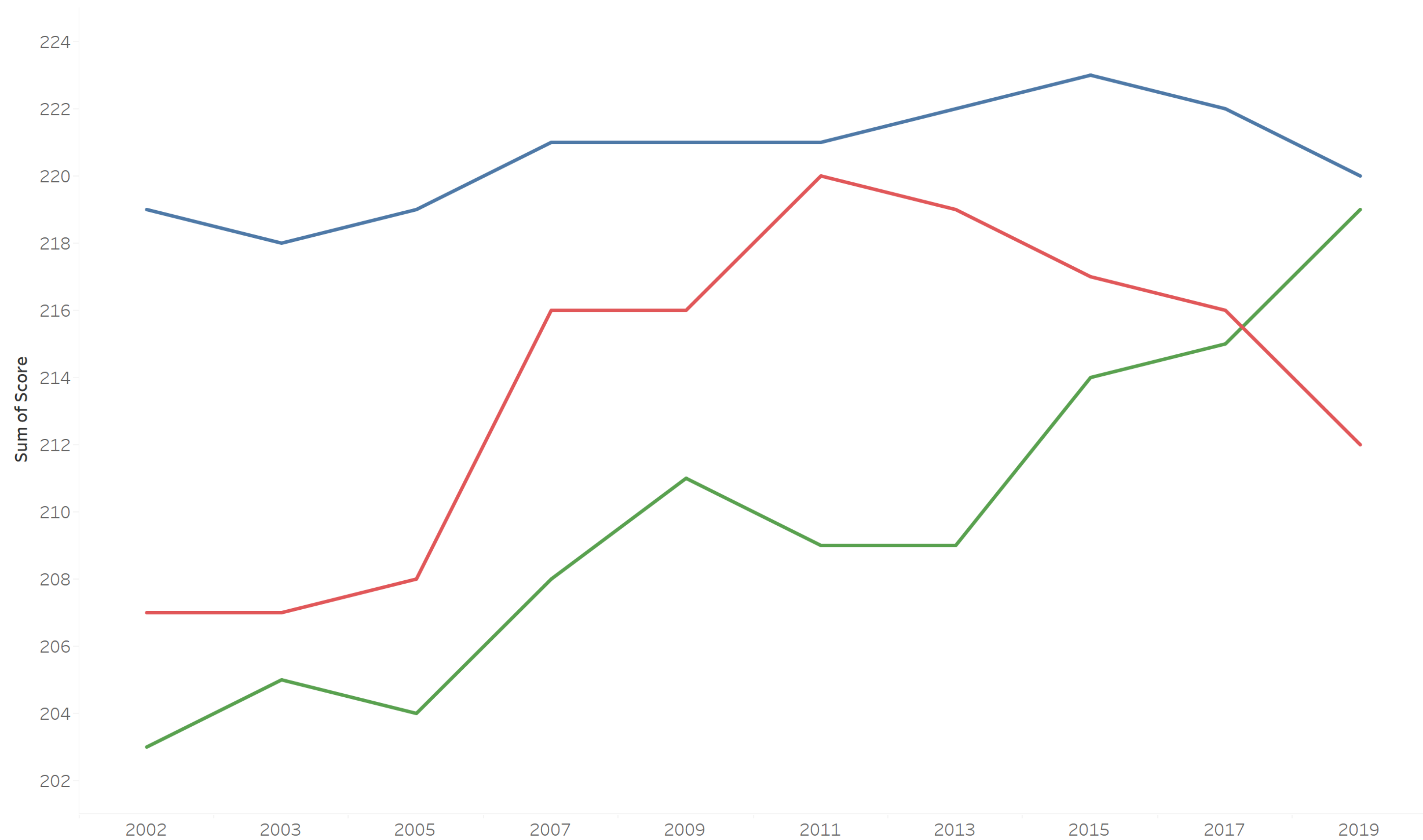
The percentage of students in Alabama who performed at or above the NAEP Proficient level was 24 percent in 2019. This percentage was smaller than that in 2017 (28 percent) and was not significantly different from that in 1998 (22 percent).

Source: www.nationsreportcard.gov

NAEP Trends: Ethnicity




NAEP, ELA: Percent at or Above Proficiency



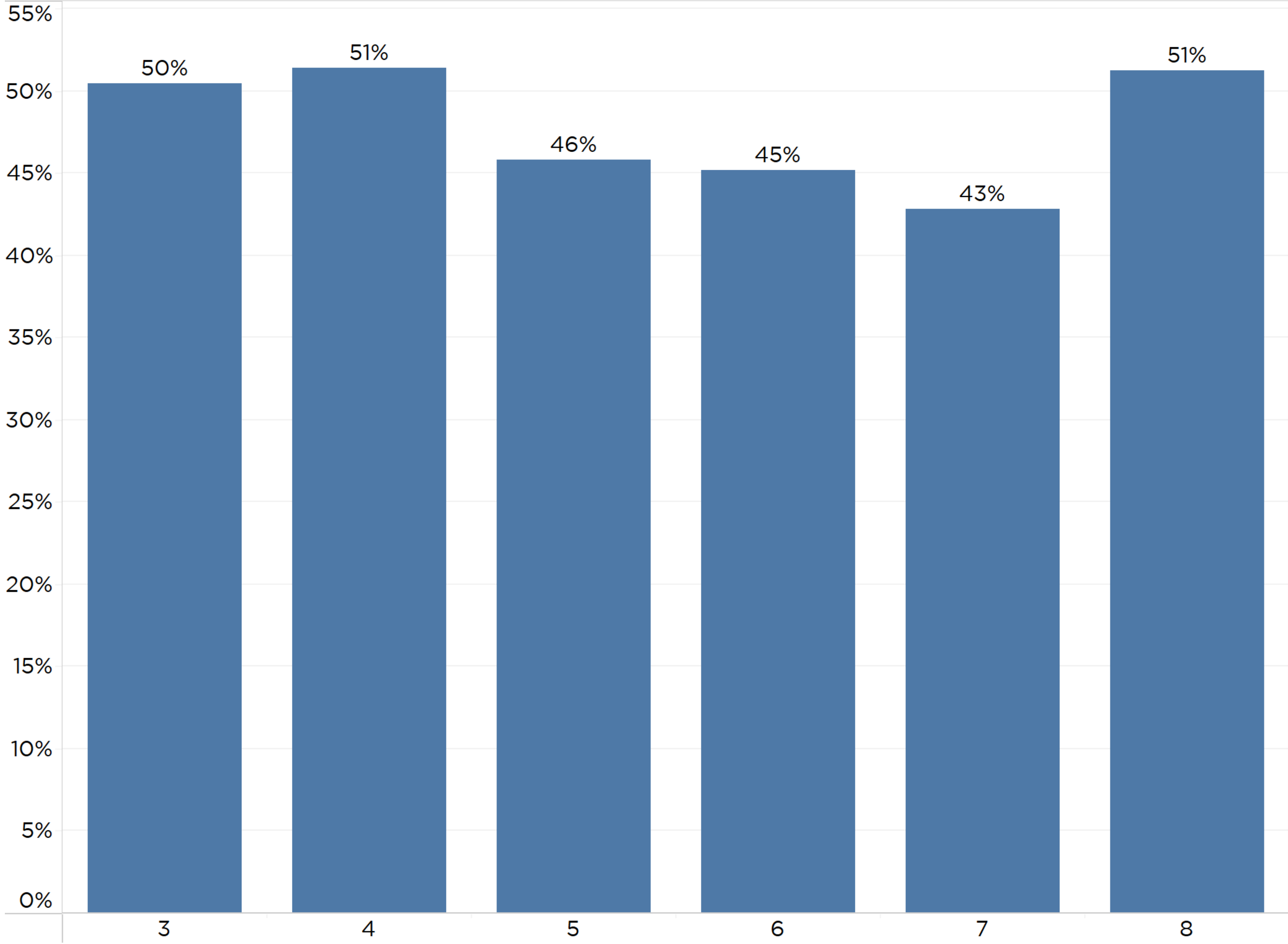
ARMT

ACT[®] **Aspire**[®]

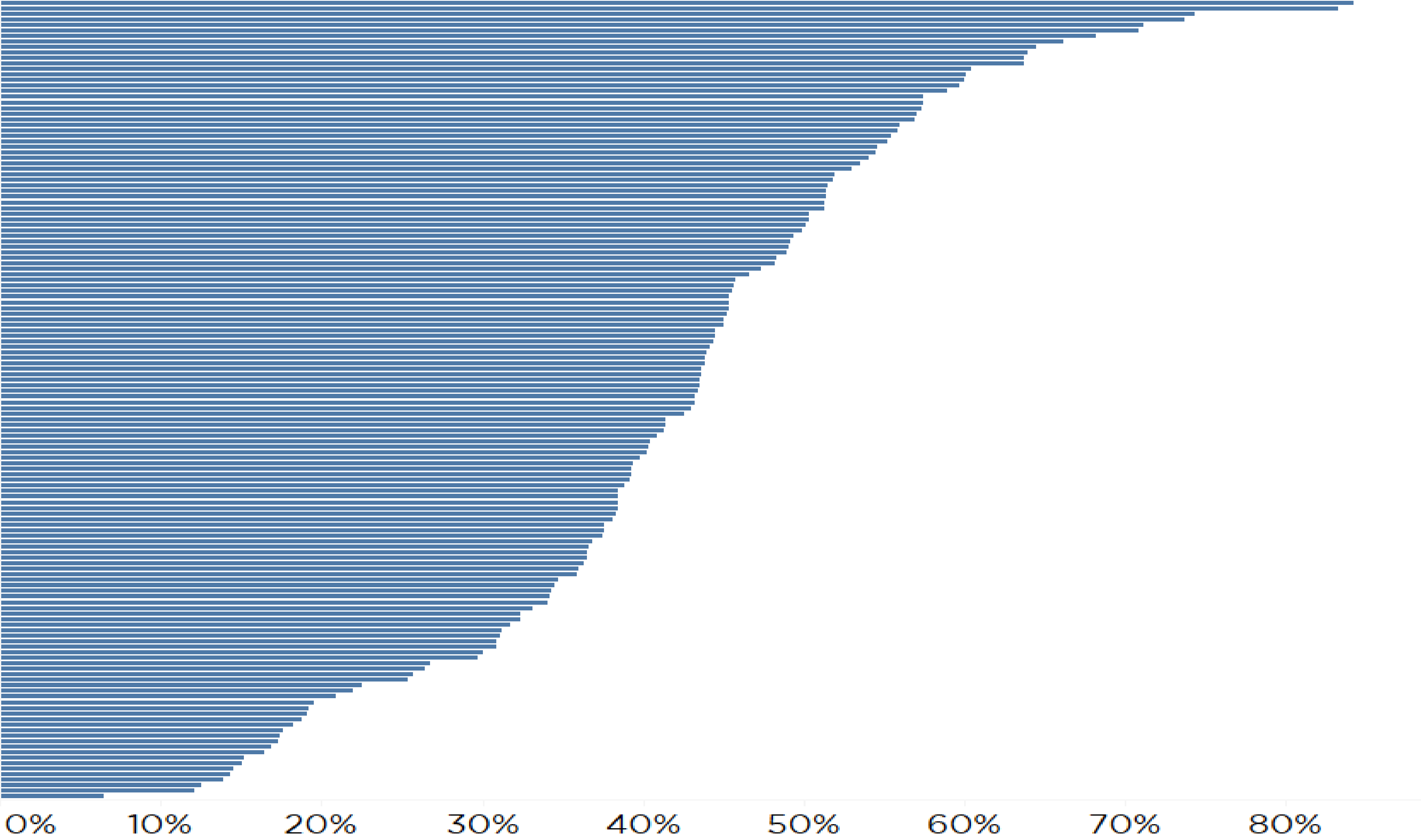

SCANTRON[™]

A**ACAP** 
Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program

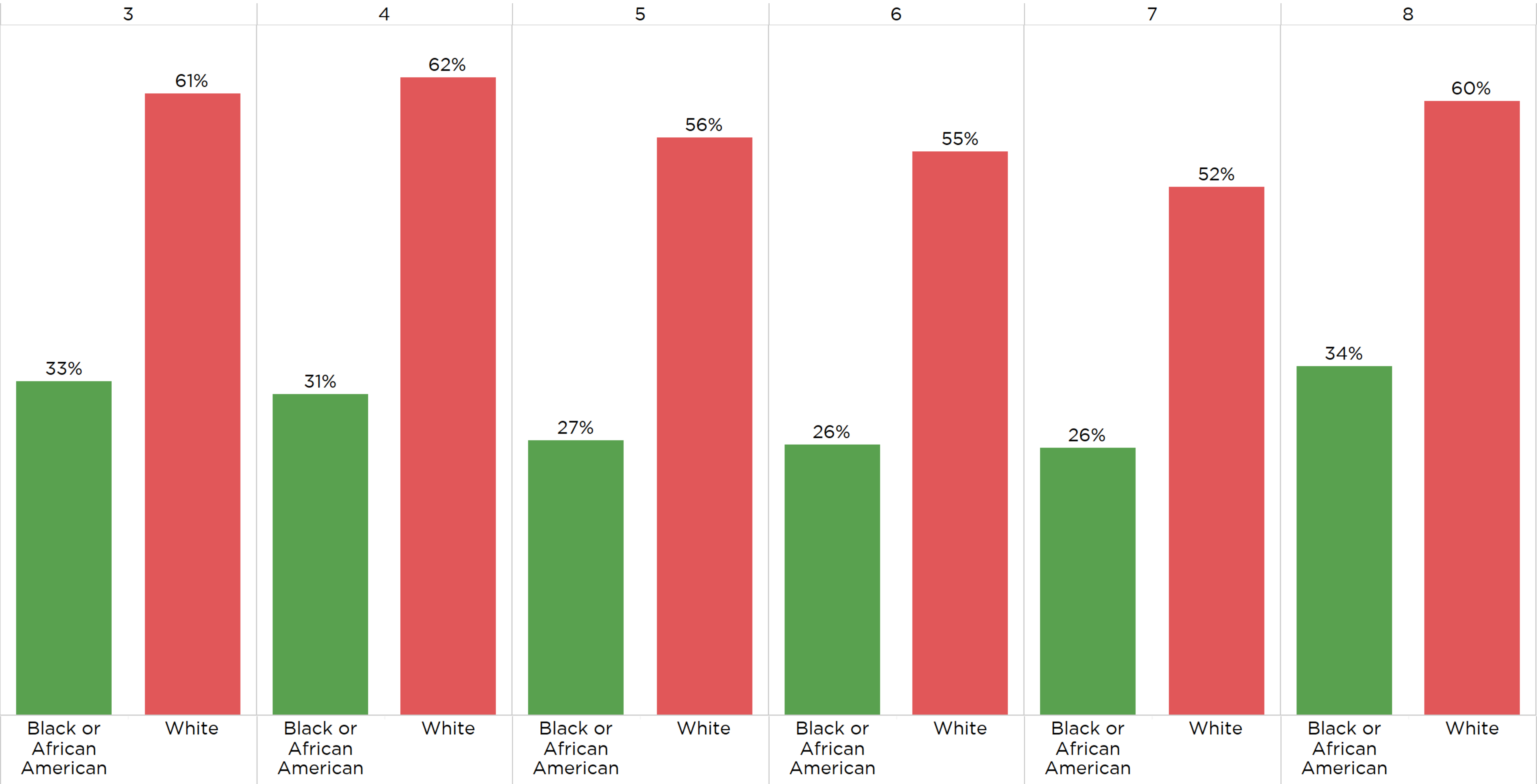
ACAP Proficiency: All Students



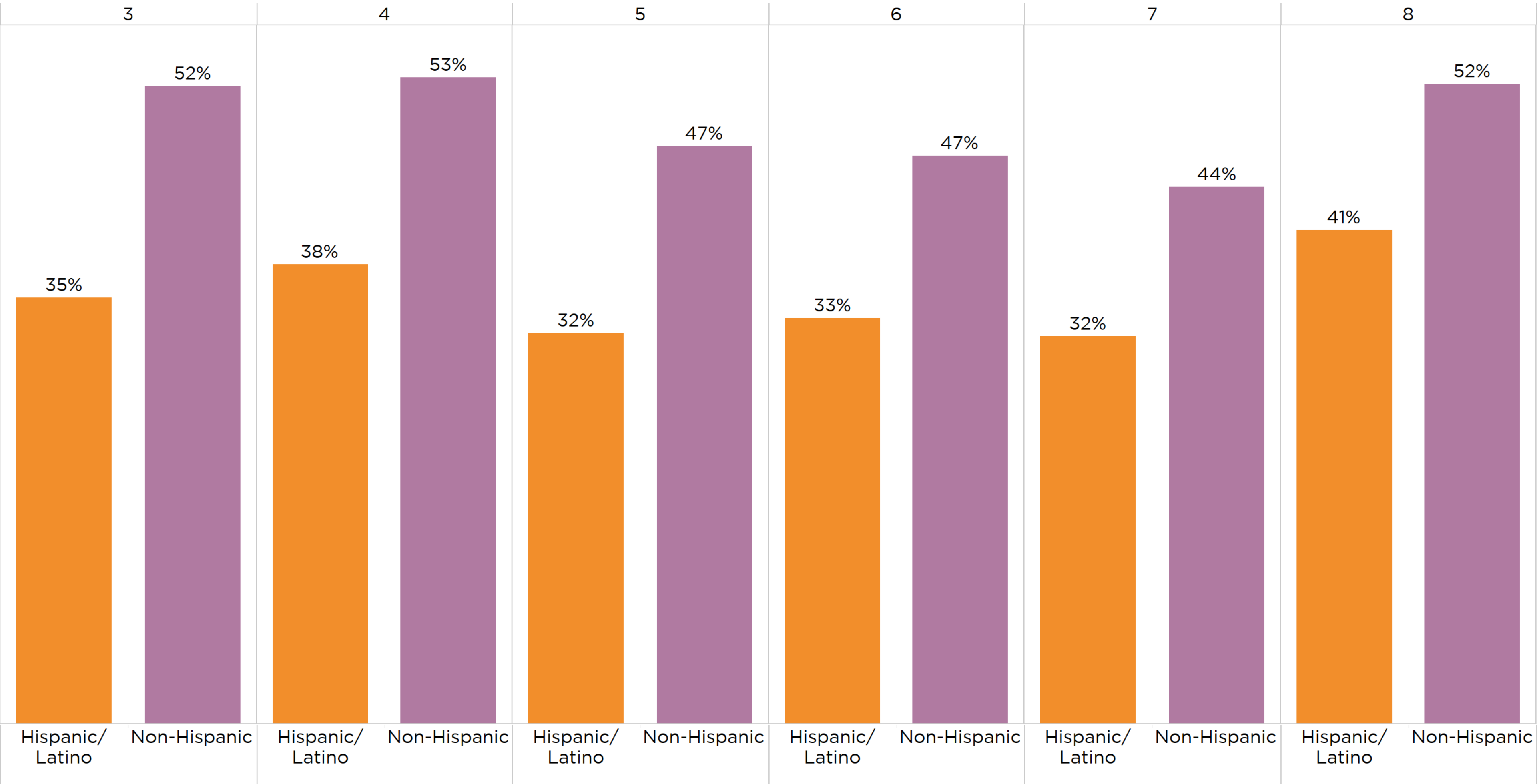
ACAP Proficiency: All Students



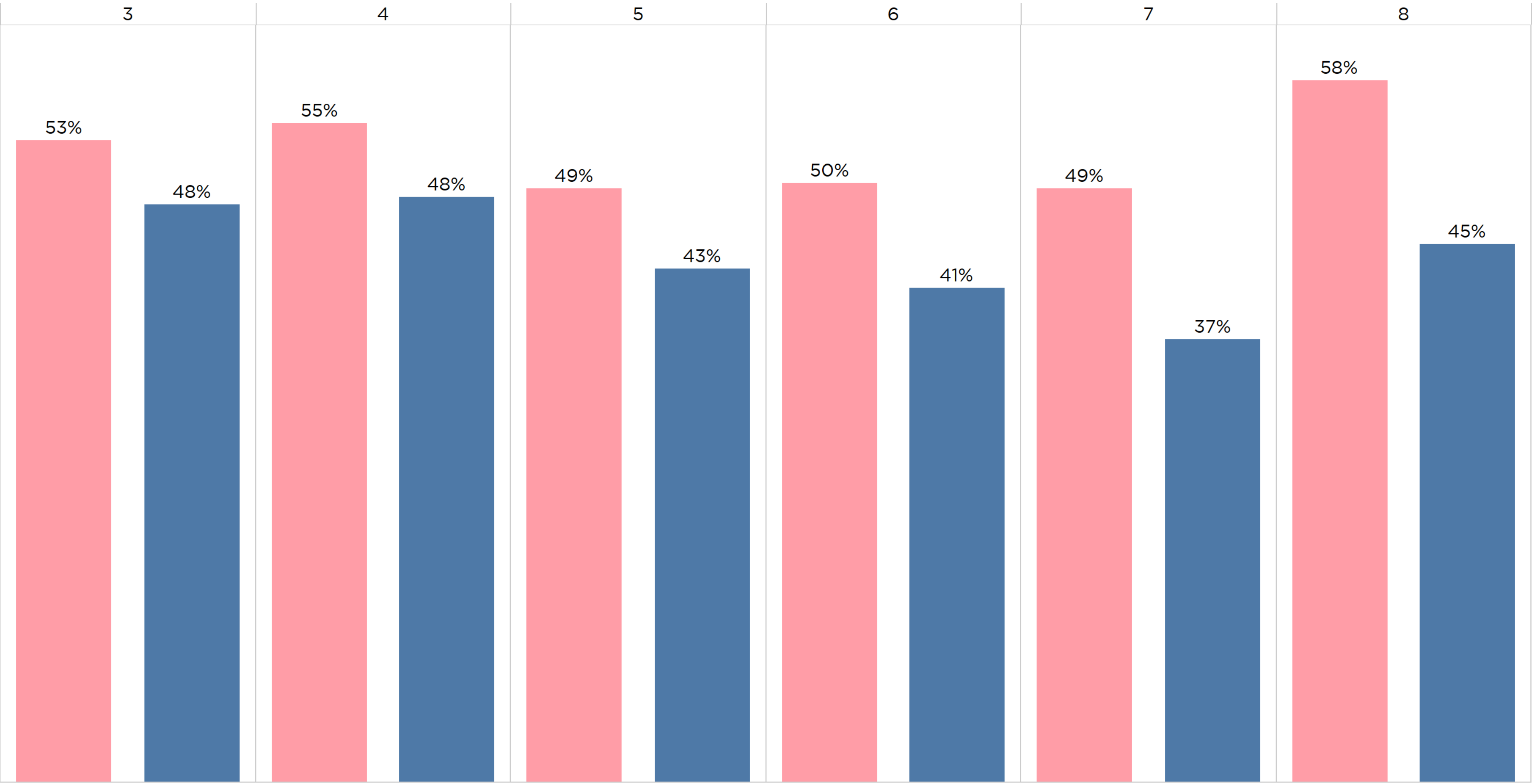
ACAP Proficiency: Race



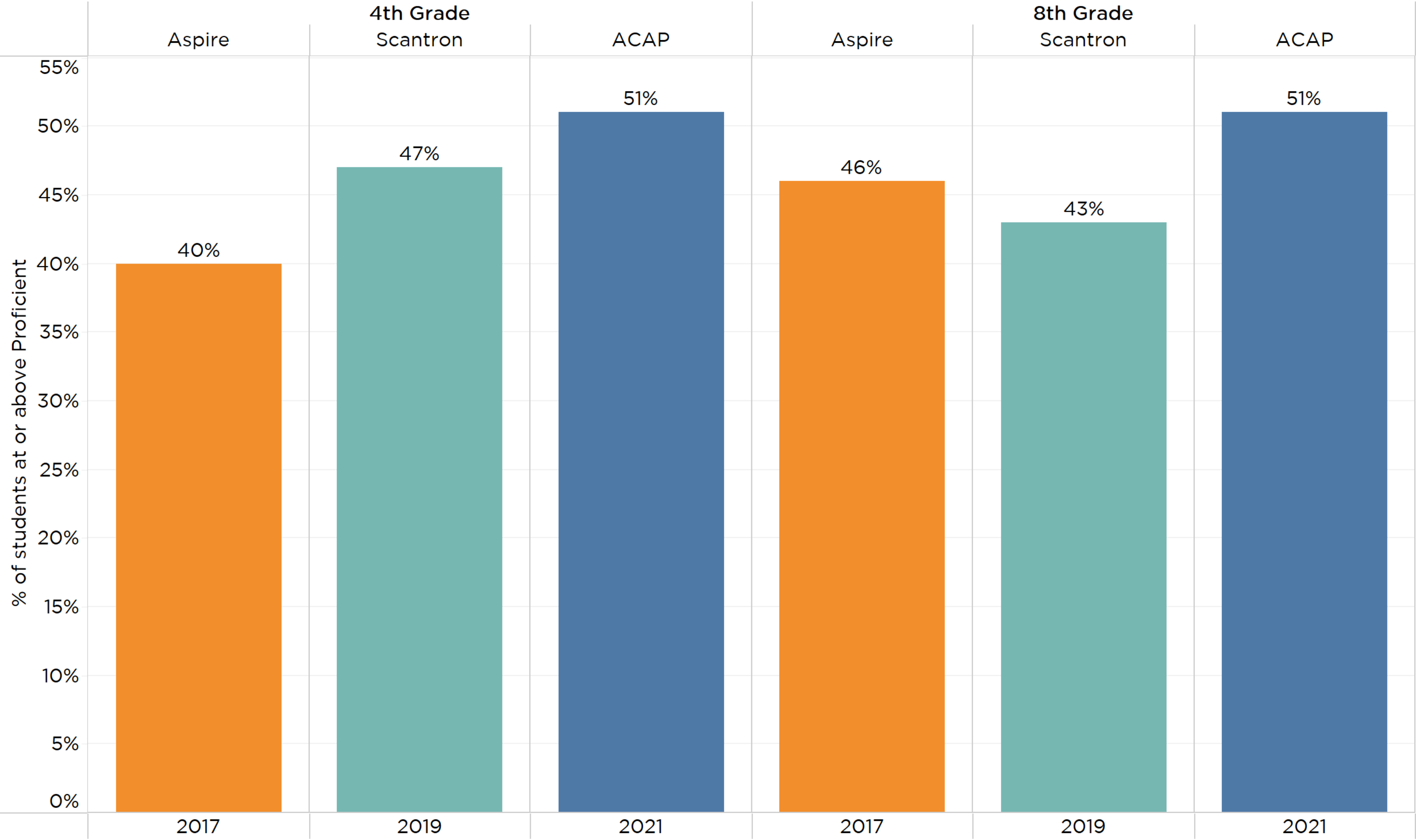
ACAP Proficiency: Ethnicity



ACAP Proficiency: Gender

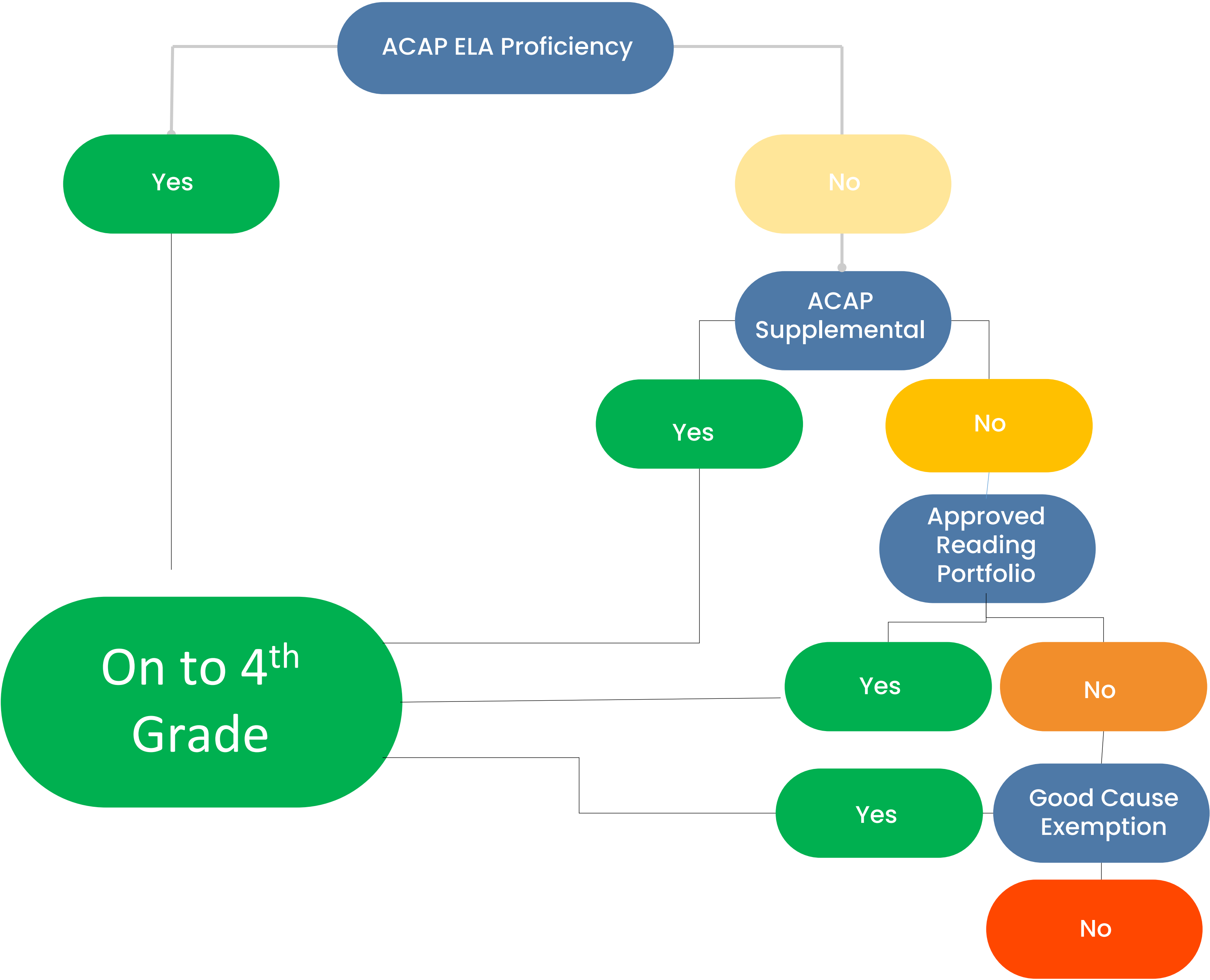


ACAP vs Other Assessments: ELA



Education as a Policy Priority
Adult Literacy
Educational Attainment
College Going & Remediation
ACT
NAEP
Summative Assessments
Literacy Act

Retention Decision Tree





LETTERS®

LETRS: Trained Teachers

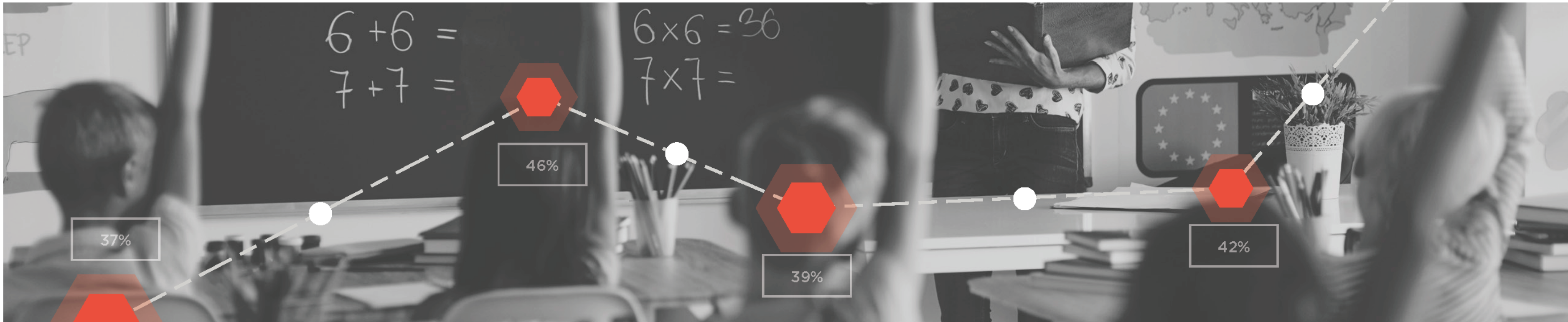
Cohort	Enrolled	Completed	Percent	Completed at Mastery	Percent Completed at Mastery
1	230	214	93.0%	168	78.5%
2a	1,591	1,367	85.9%	1,027	75.1%
2b	820	276	79.3%	220	131.2%
3a	836	638	76.3%	505	79.2%
3b	3,857	2,299	59.6%	1,964	85.4%
Grand Total	7,334	4,794		3,884	

LETRS: Trained Teachers

Cohort	Enrolled	Completed	Percent	Completed at Mastery	Percent Completed at Mastery
1	208	198	95.2%	174	87.9%
2a	1,328	1,192	89.8%	1,050	88.1%
3a	523				
3b	1,998				
Grand Total	4,057	1,390		1,224	

Realizing Our Potential:

A Plan for Reading & Math in Alabama



Alabama students rank last in math and 47th in reading. Such was not always the case. Through the first years of this century, Alabama students showed growth in both subjects, culminating with Alabama 4th grade reading scores matching the national average in 2011. However, in the decade since, we have seen a steady downward drift.

What happened? How can we chart a course toward a better future? How is the Alabama Literacy Act refocusing efforts to teach reading? What can we do about math? These questions shape PARCA's 2022 Annual Forum.

FEATURED SPEAKERS:

GOVERNOR KAY IVEY

DR. ERIC MACKEY

Alabama State Superintendent of Education

STEVE LEINWAND

American Institutes for Research

DR. LAURA WOOLF

Voyager Sopris Learning

DR. CASSANDRA WHEELER

Voyager Learning/Sopris

DR. CAREY WRIGHT

Mississippi State Superintendent of Education

Questions & Discussion



Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama

P.O. BOX 293931
800 LAKESHORE DRIVE
219 BROOKS HALL
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35229
205-726-2482

PARCALABAMA.ORG

Facebook: [PARCA.AL](https://www.facebook.com/parca.al)

Twitter: [PARCALabama](https://twitter.com/parcalabama)