

Building Vibrant Schools: A Closer Look at Oregon's Achievement Gap

October 2011



What is the Achievement Gap?

- The difference in scores between two groups of students (male and female, African American and White, Hispanic and White).
- These gaps are **Red Flags** that tells us some of our youth are not on track to graduate high school prepared for college or career.

The achievement gap matters...



- Students who fall behind in school are more likely to dropout.
- Young people without the educational basics find it more difficult to get jobs that provide adequate pay and security.
- They are more likely to become incarcerated and utilize public assistance.



The achievement gap matters to our entire community...

Achievement gaps create “the economic equivalent of a permanent national recession -- substantially larger than the deep recession the country is currently experiencing.”

Tonight's Key Questions

- What does Oregon' achievement gap look like? Who's affected by it?
- What contributes to the achievement gap?
- What can we do about it?



Our Achievement Gap

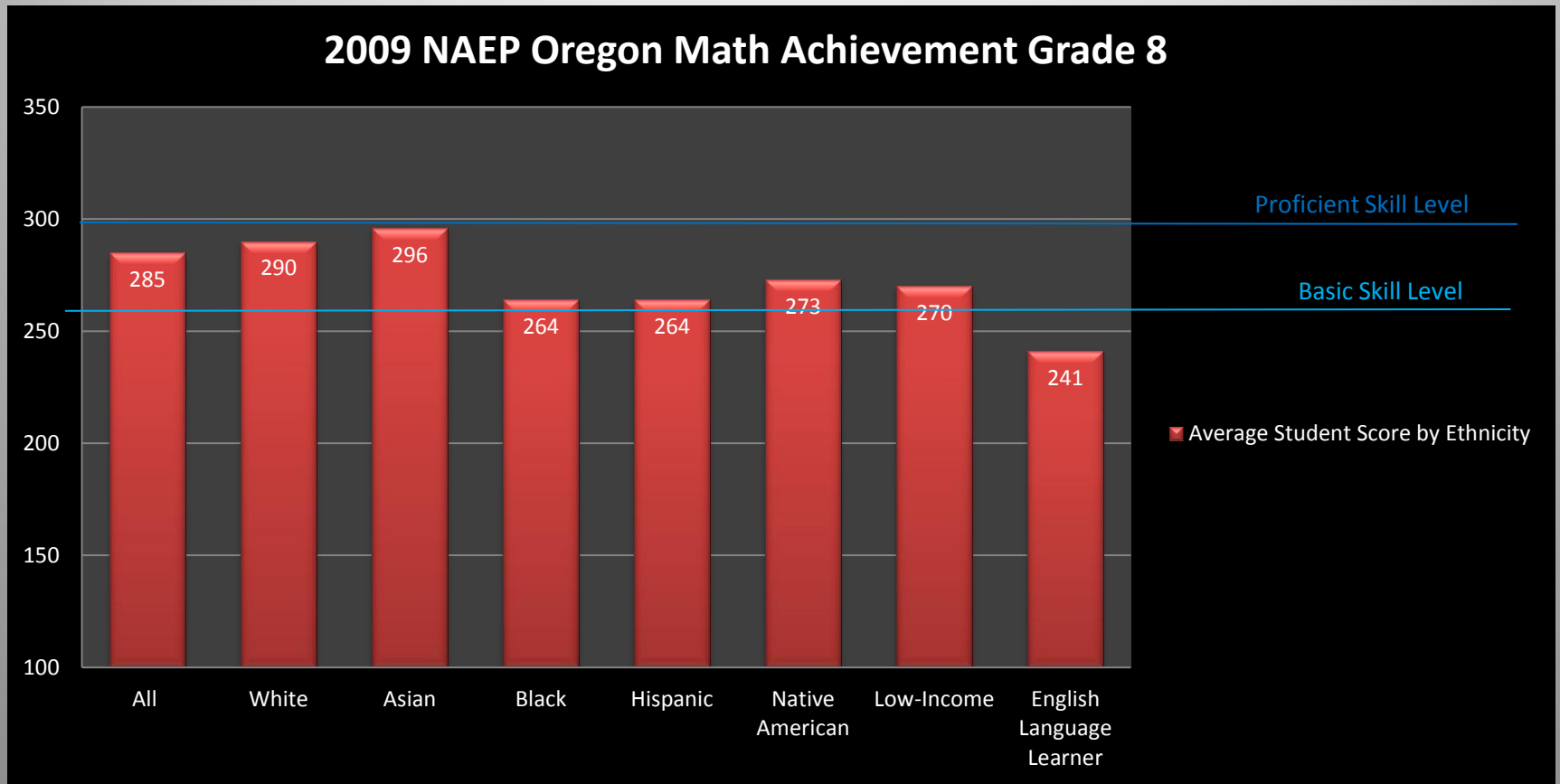
The National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP) is often called “the nation’s report card”, and considered our best objective measure across states.

We can look at student scores in 4th, 8th and 12th grades and see how they compare to one another.

Oregon is one of five states where the overall achievement gap **WIDENED** between 2003 and 2007.

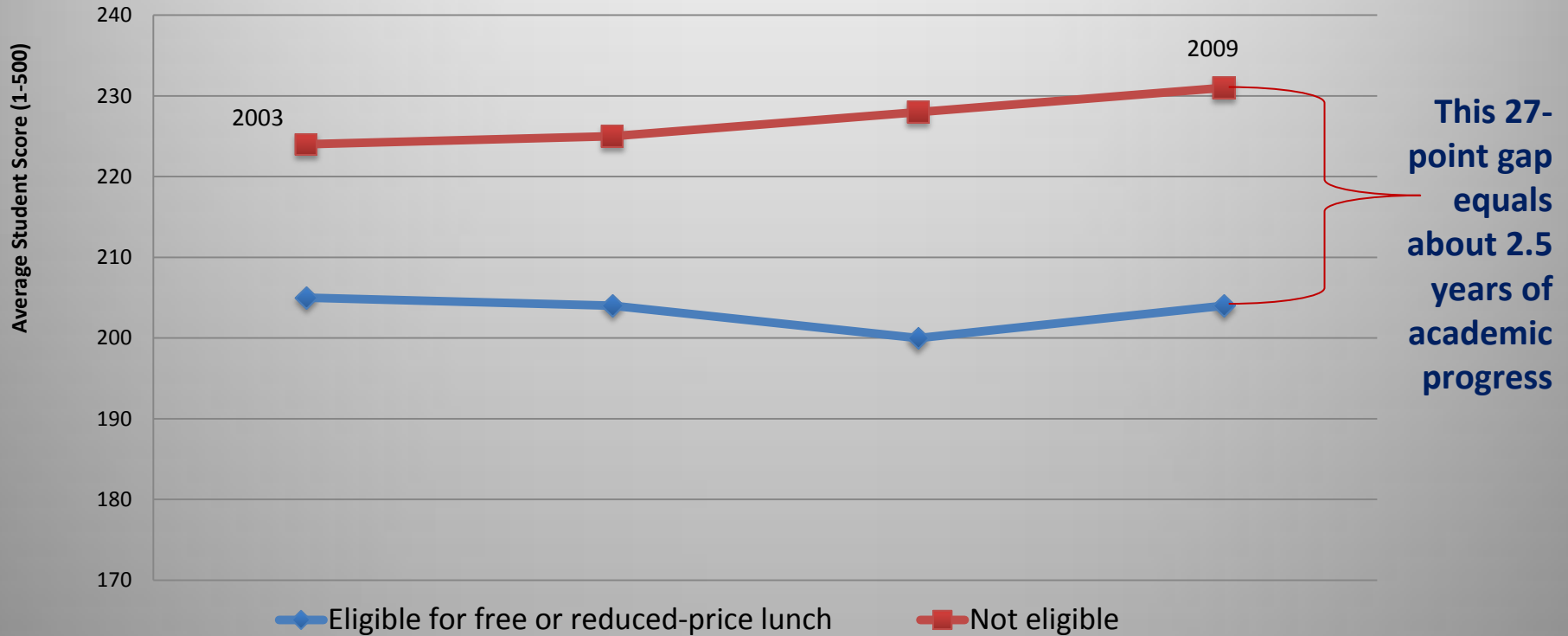


Are Oregon students learning basic skills?



Fourth Grade Achievement & Income

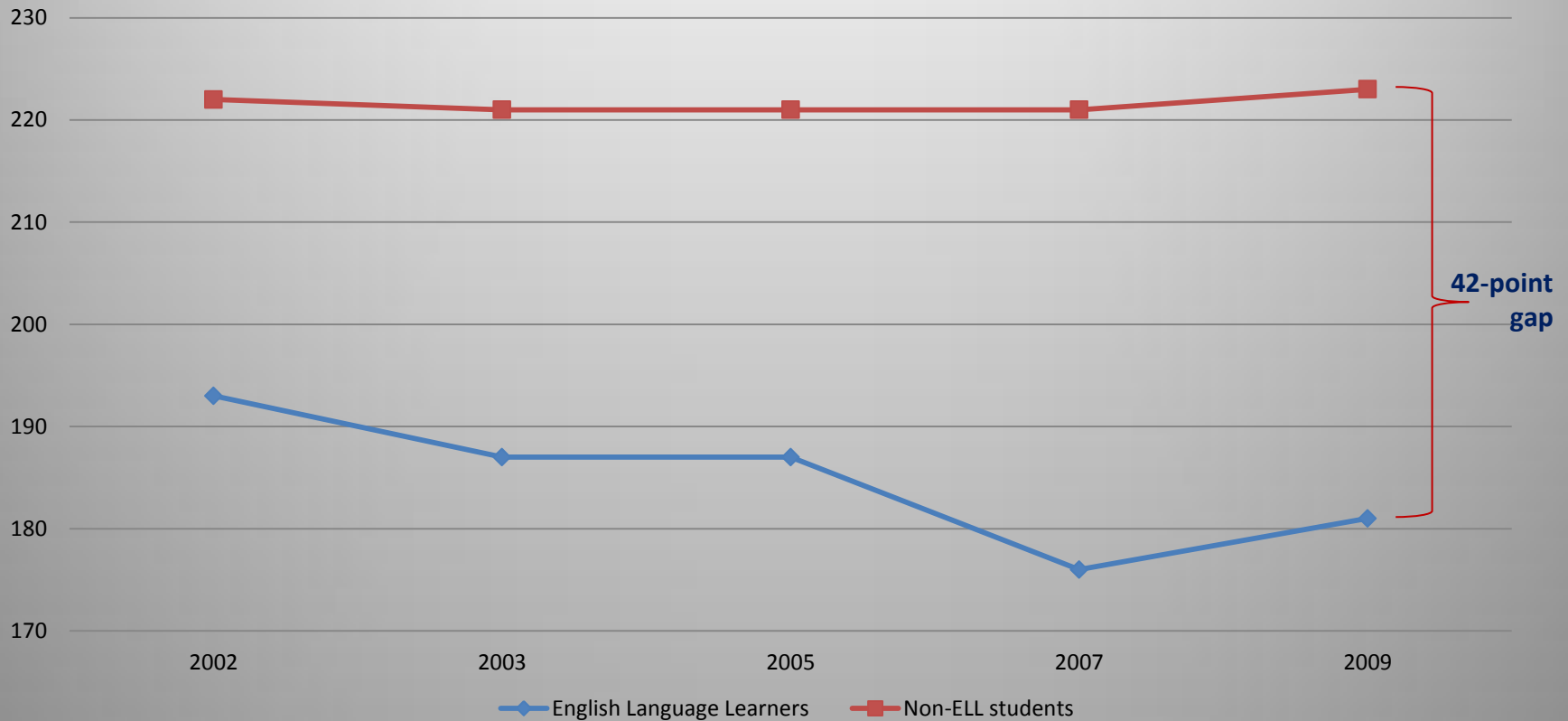
Oregon 4th Grade Reading Achievement - NAEP



Half of Oregon's 561,000 public school students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, compared to 30 percent in 1997

Fourth Grade Reading & English Language Learners

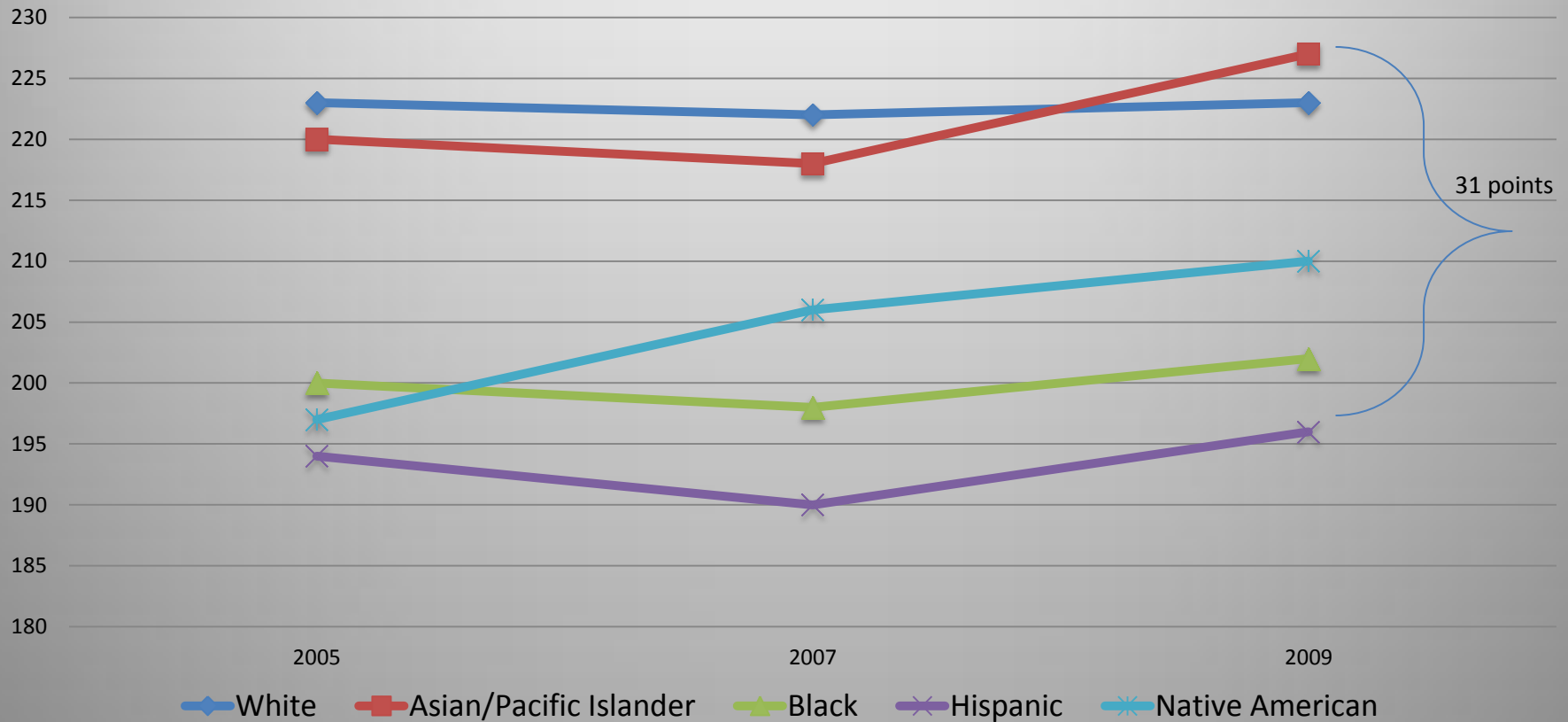
Oregon 4th Grade Reading Achievement ELL Students



65,000 Oregon students speak a primary language other than English, a 387 percent increase since 1997.

Fourth Grade Reading & Ethnicity

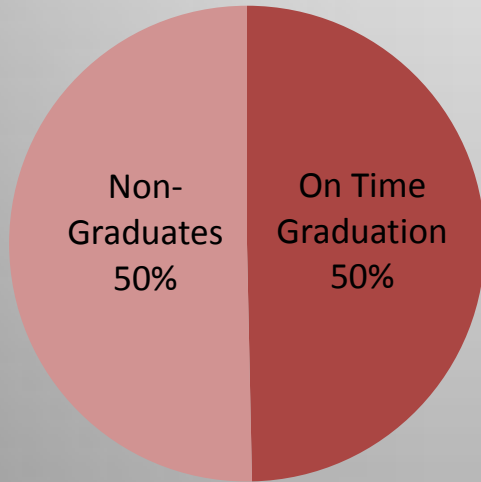
Oregon NAEP 4th Grade Reading Achievement & Ethnicity



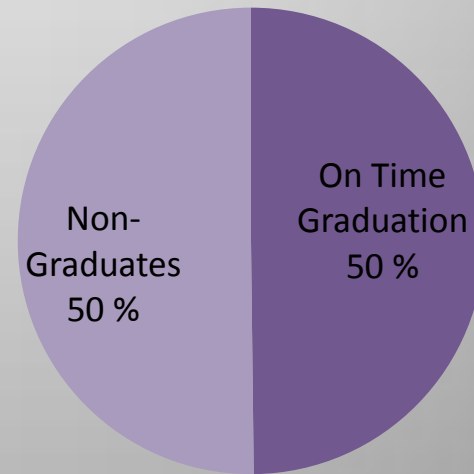
Students of color comprised eighteen percent of Oregon public school enrollment in 1997. Today, students of color make up about one-third of student enrollment.

Who makes it to graduation day?

**Class of 2010
English Language Learners**



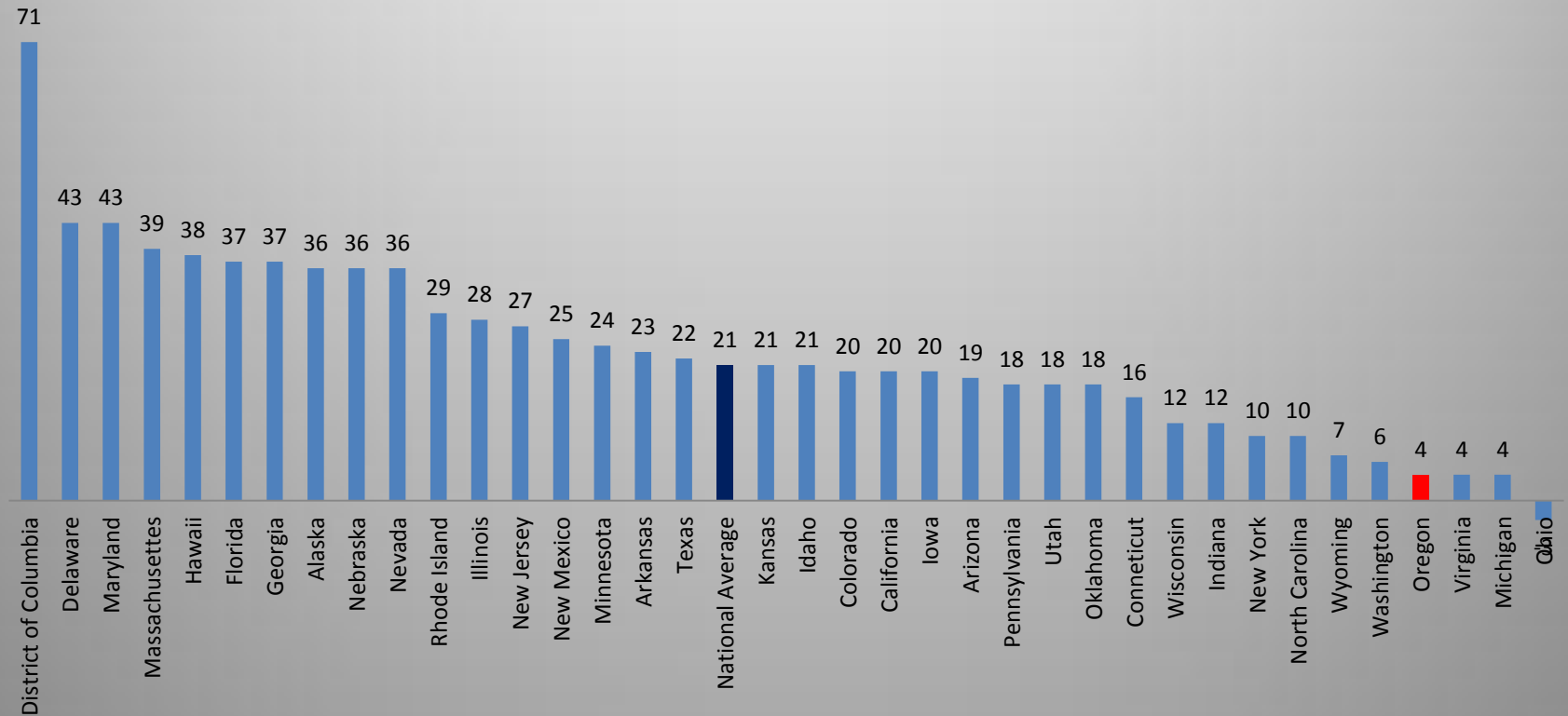
**Class of 2010
African American & Native American
Students**



- State data for 2009-10 shows that African American and Native American students dropped out at nearly twice the rate of their white peers.

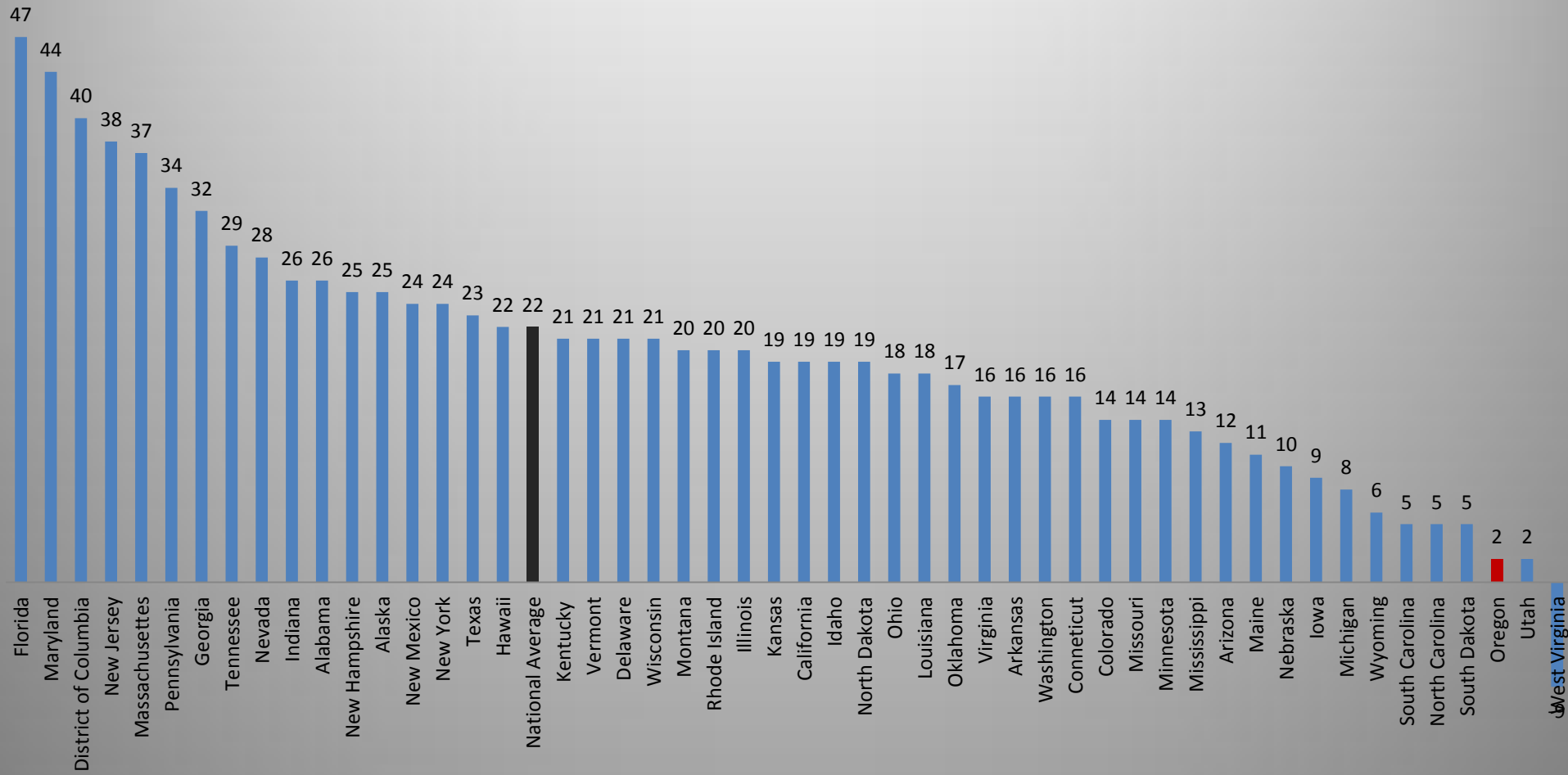
Other states are making progress

Combined Gains for Hispanic Students, 2003-2009 Reading & Math NAEP exams



Note: 13 states did not meet reporting requirements for 2003 or 2009 NAEP assessments.

Combined Academic Gains for low-income students, NAEP Reading & Math exams, 2003-2009





Keys to success

- What's working for our students who have been underserved and experienced less success than their peers?
- That's what we're here to explore with our panel.

