

# ALASKA'S *Education* CHALLENGE

## Kick-Off Committee Meeting

Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center

April 20, 2017

#akedchallenge



# Alaska's Education Challenge: Current Context and Public Survey

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**Alaska Department of Education & Early Development**  
**Thursday, April 20, 2017**





# Introduction

- DEED's Data Management Supervisor since Sept. 2013
- Oversight of data collections, accountability implementation, and assessment reporting
- 10 years in Alaska (Juneau and Dillingham)



# Agenda

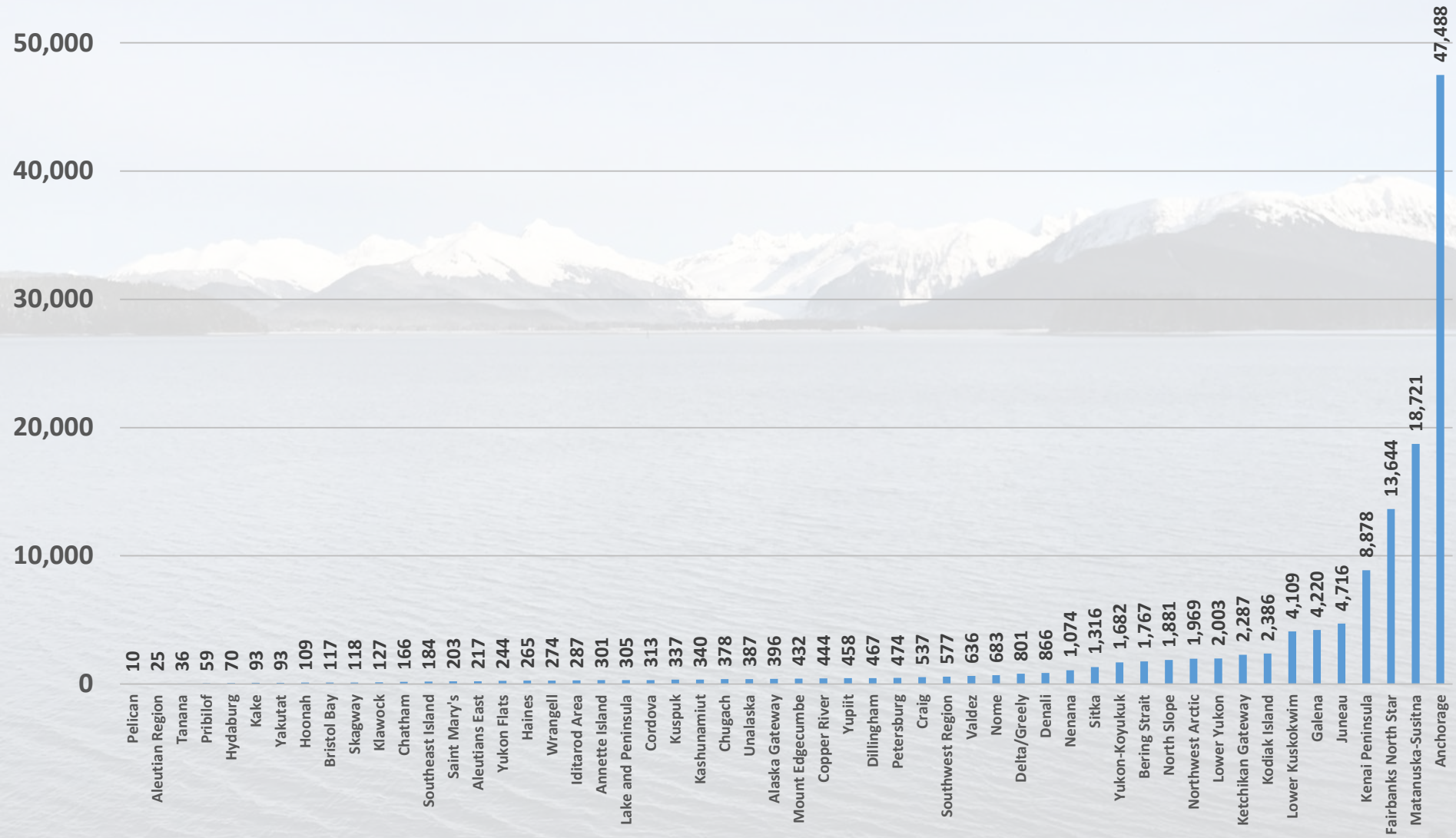
- About Alaska's Schools
- The need for Alaska's Education Challenge
- Survey of Alaskans – topics for committees



# About Alaska Schools – The Basics

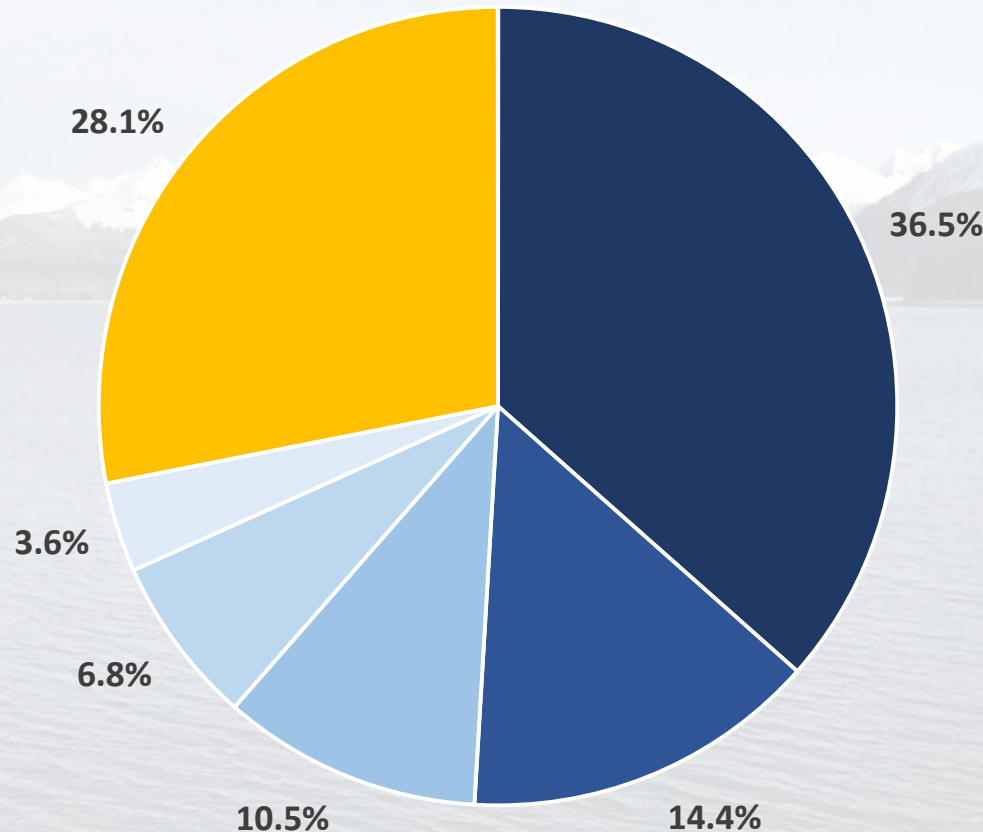
- 53 school districts plus Mount Edgecumbe High School
- 507 operational schools in 2016-2017
- Almost 130,000 K-12 students on 10/1/2016
- Majority-minority student population
- 8,109 graduates during the 2015-2016 school year
- The public school system includes traditional, alternative, charter, correspondence, and residential boarding schools.
  - On 10/1/2016, 9.4 percent of all K-12 students were enrolled in public correspondence schools.

# Alaska K-12 District-Level Enrollment as of October 1, 2016



# Enrollment as of October 1, 2016

## “Big 5” Districts vs. Non-“Big 5”



■ Anchorage ■ Matanuska-Susitna ■ Fairbanks North Star ■ Kenai Peninsula ■ Juneau ■ All Other Districts



# The system is working for some students...

Connections student invited to STEM congress

Alaska's Top Youth Volunteers Of 2017 Selected By National Program

## **Goodnews Bay Student Wins National Reading Award**

North Pole middle schoolers win national award for app design

**This Anchorage high school student is already working to cure cancer**



... but the system is not working for all students

Globally

Nationally

Statewide

Districts

Schools

Subgroups

# What is PISA?

- The Programme for International Student Assessment is administered every three years “to evaluate education systems worldwide by testing the skills and knowledge of 15-year-old students”
- Approximately 540,000 students completed the assessment in 2015
- 72 participating countries and economies (two countries excluded from rankings)
- The major domain in 2015 was science

# 2015 PISA Statistics

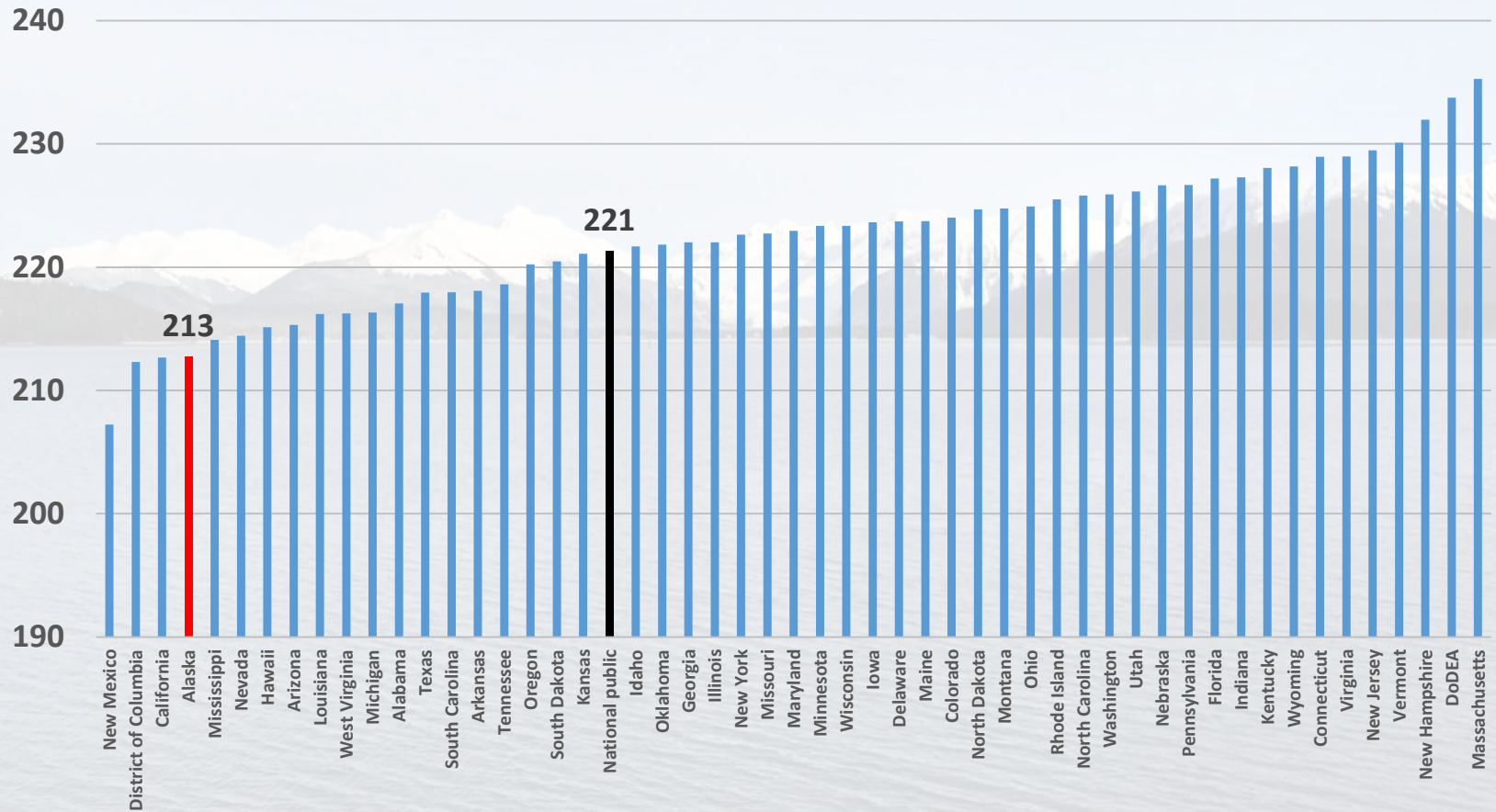
	Science	Reading	Math
U.S. overall rank	25	24	40
U.S. average score: 2015 vs. 2012	Not measurably different	Not measurably different	Lower
Education systems scoring similarly to the U.S.	Norway, Austria, France	Portugal, UK, Chinese Taipei, Spain	Slovak Republic, Israel, Croatia



# What is NAEP?

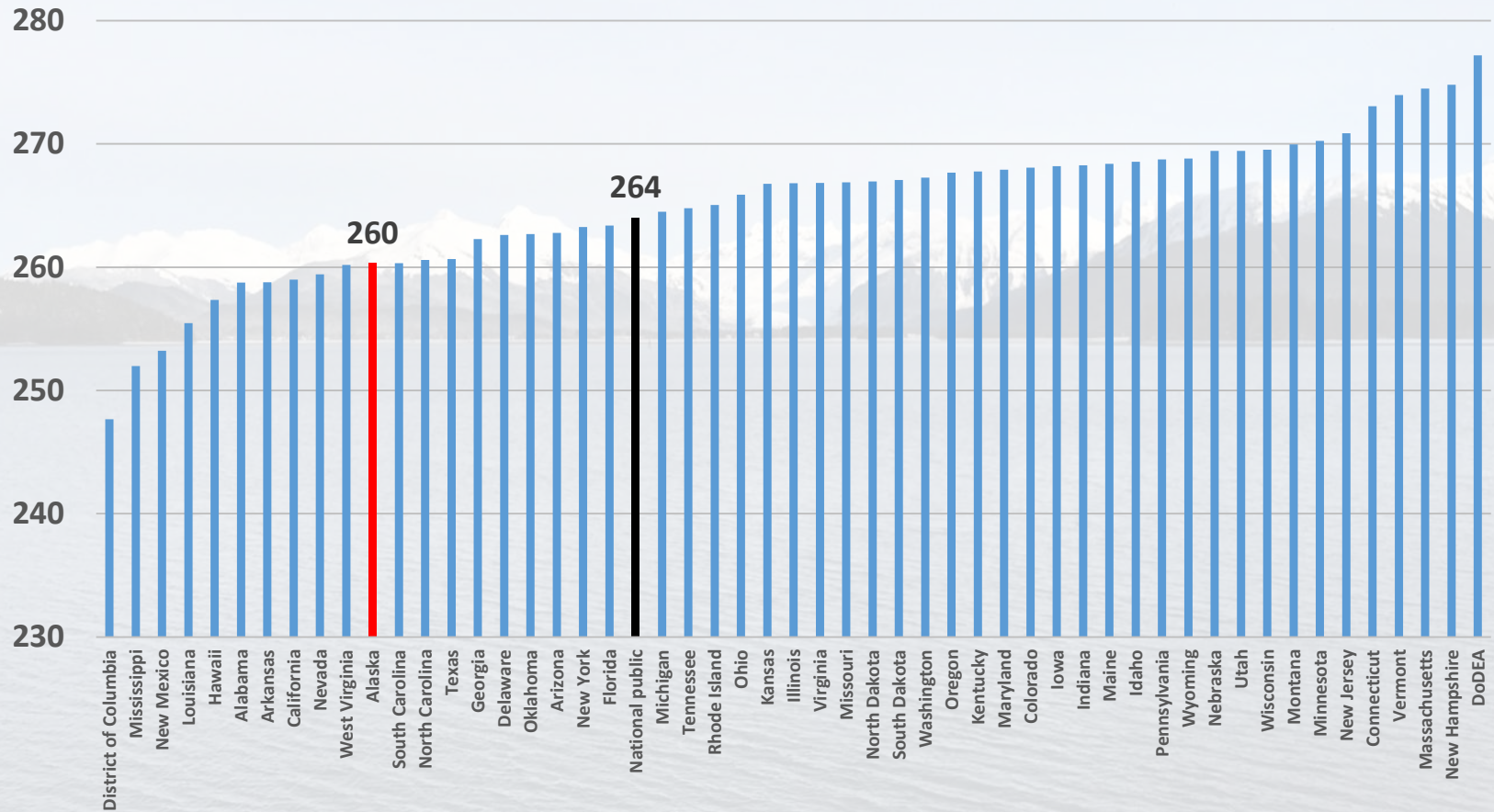
- National Assessment of Educational Progress
- Administered every other year to a representative sample of students in grades 4 and 8
- “...built from a content framework that specifies what students should know and be able to do in a given grade.”
- State-level results only
- 2017 NAEP window: January 30-March 10
- Transitioned to a digitally based assessment

# 2015 NAEP Grade 4 Reading Average Scale Score by State



Note: Alaska ranked 49<sup>th</sup> out of 52 jurisdictions.

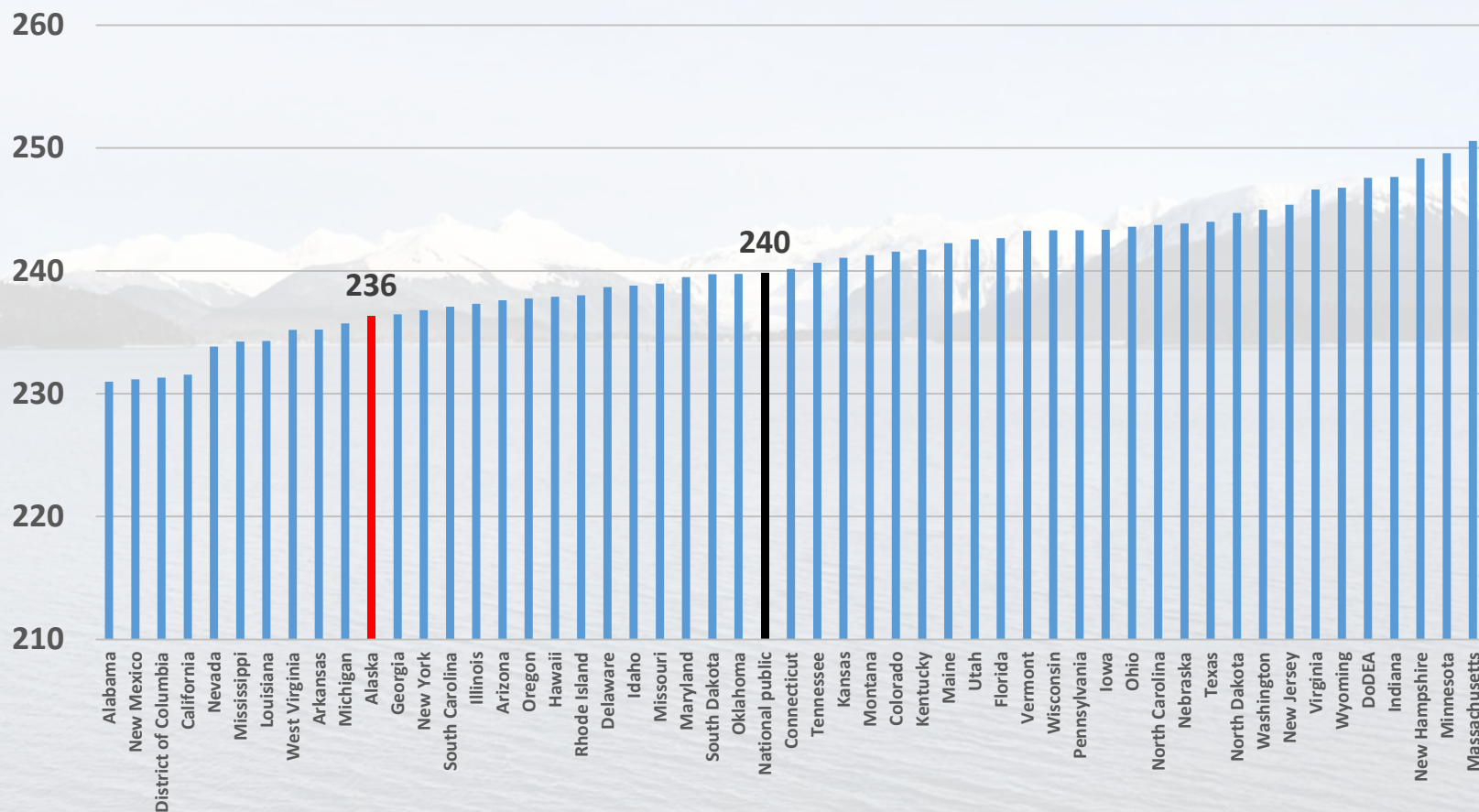
# 2015 NAEP Grade 8 Reading Average Scale Score by State



Note: Alaska ranked 42<sup>nd</sup> out of 52 jurisdictions.

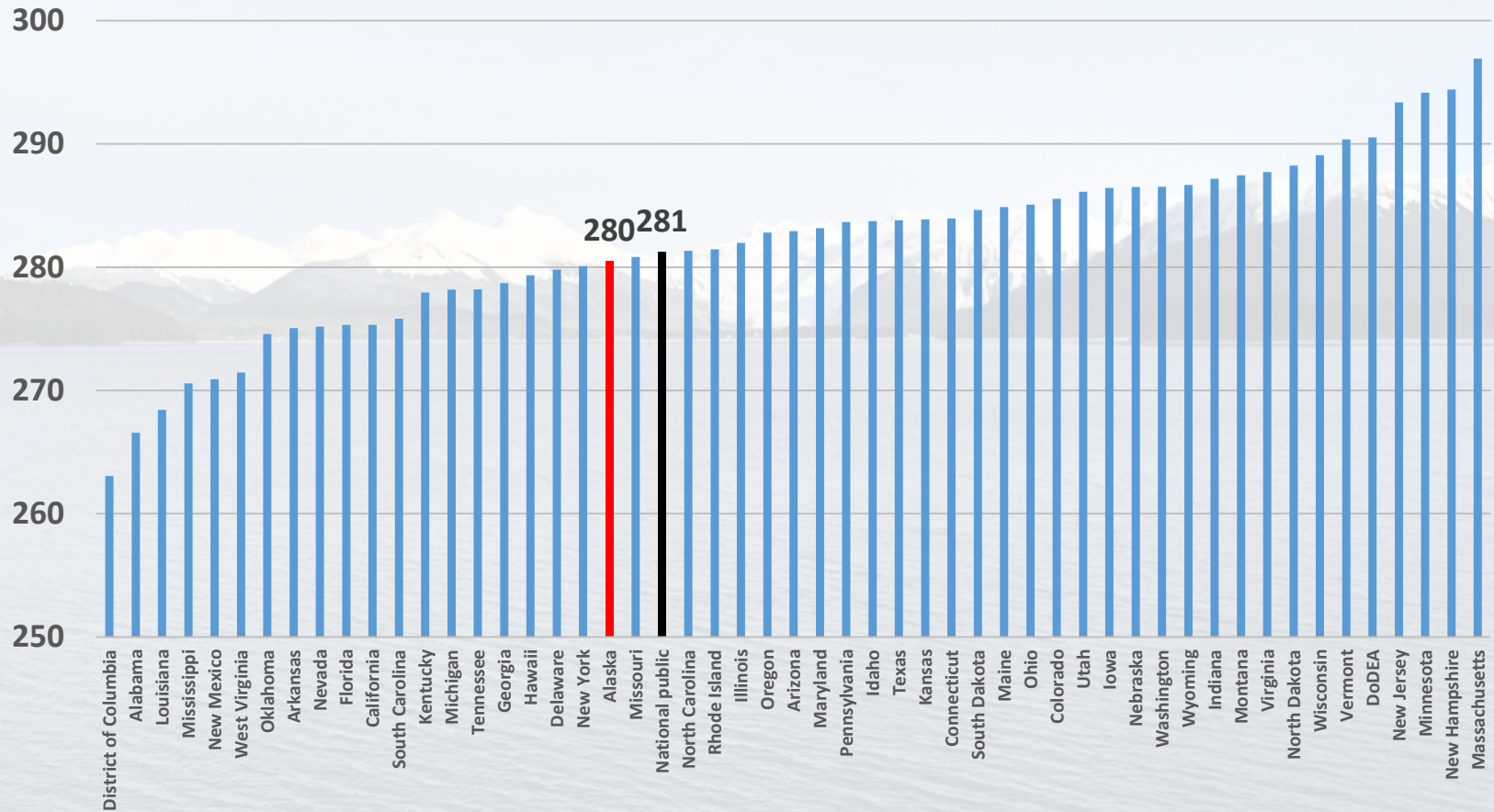


# 2015 NAEP Grade 4 Mathematics Average Scale Score by State



Note: Alaska ranked 42<sup>nd</sup> out of 52 jurisdictions.

# 2015 NAEP Grade 8 Mathematics Average Scale Score by State



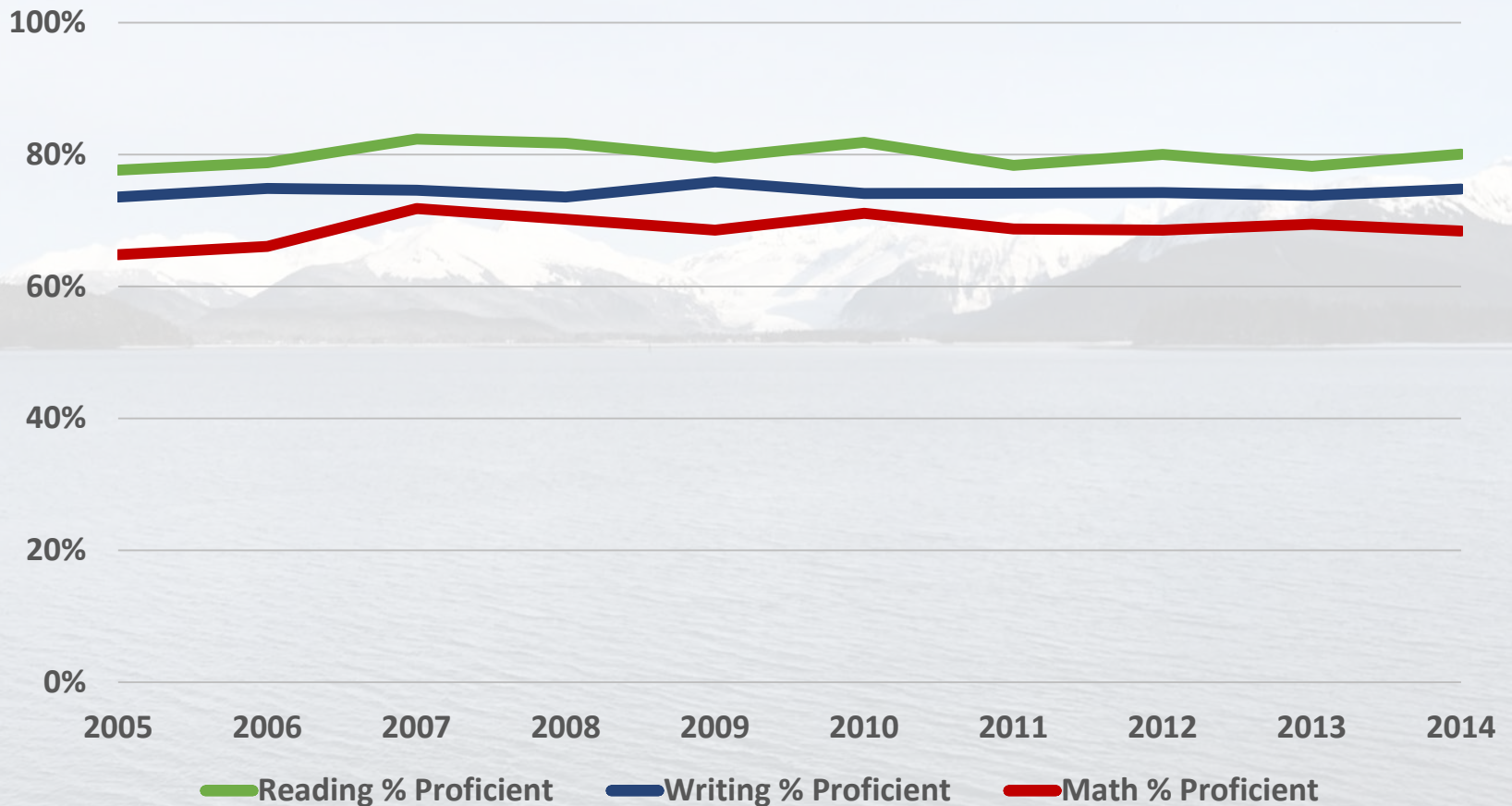
Note: Alaska ranked 33<sup>rd</sup> out of 52 jurisdictions.

# Statewide Standards and Assessments

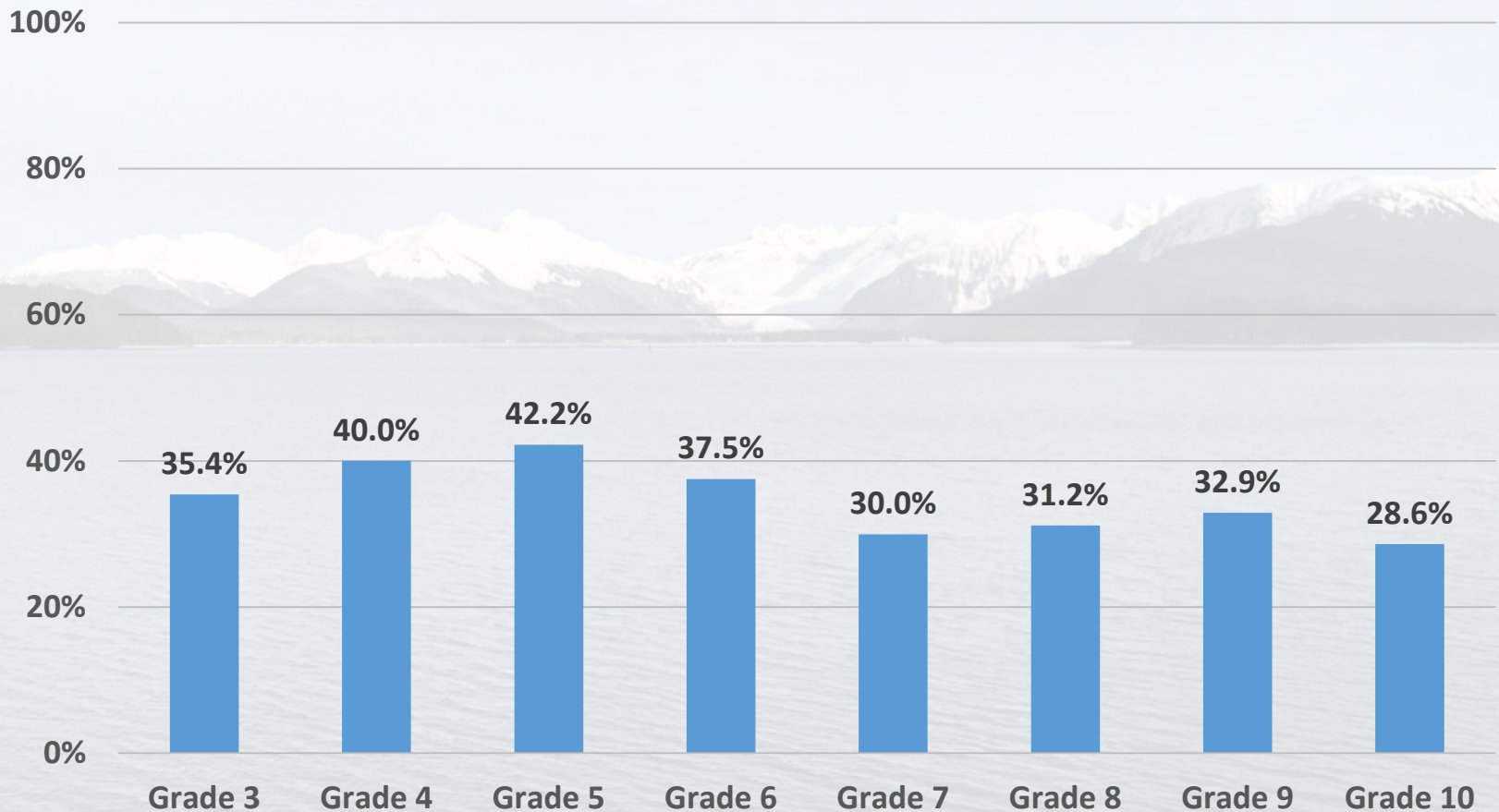
- 2005-2014: Standards Based Assessments (SBAs)
- 2012: State Board adopted more rigorous English Language Arts (ELA) and Math standards
- 2015: Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP)
  - First computer-based summative assessment in Alaska
  - Comparisons between SBAs and AMP are **NOT** possible
- 2016: No assessment data available
- 2017: Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools (PEAKS)



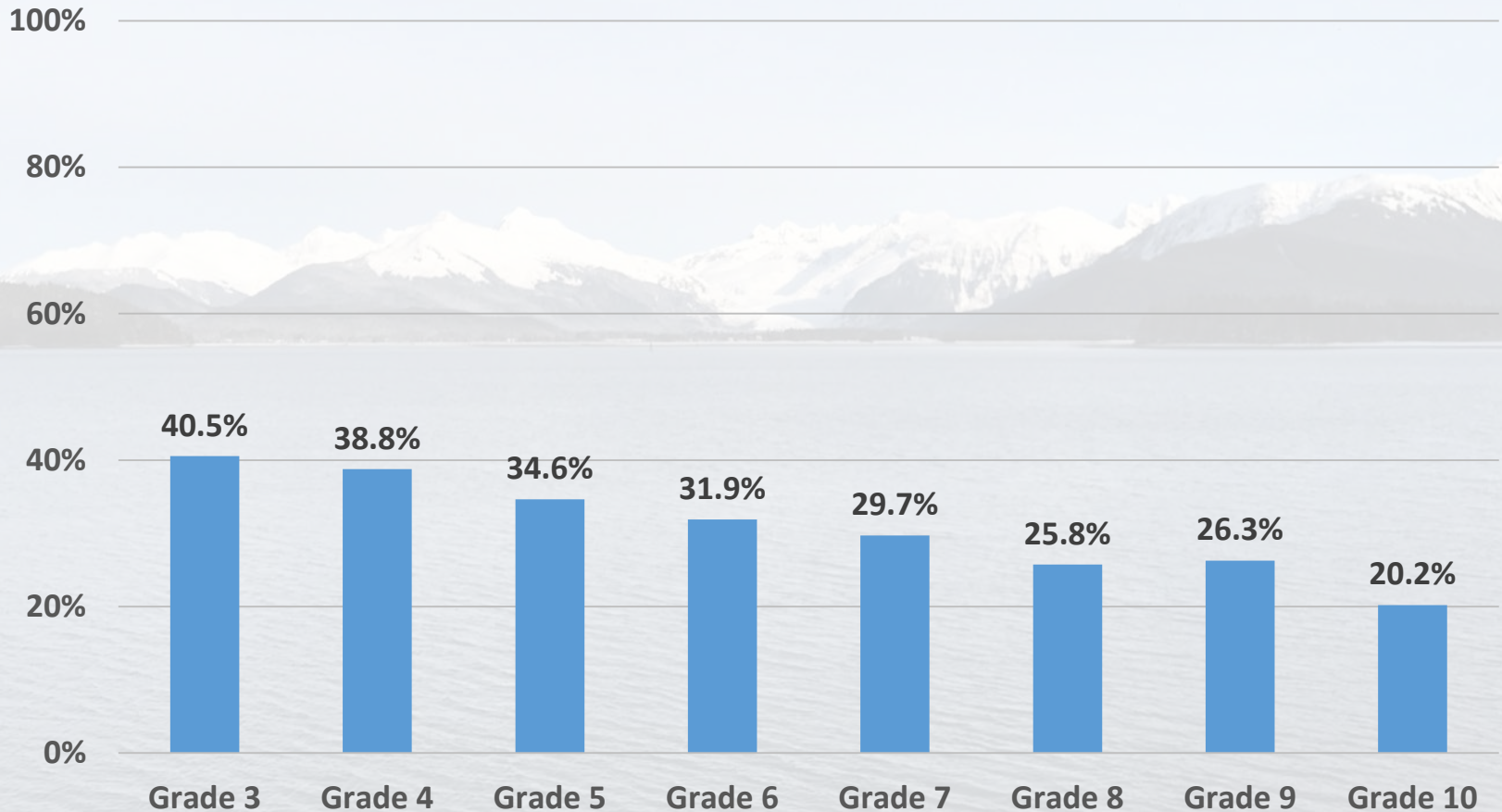
# SBA Results by Content Area: Statewide, All Students



# AMP English Language Arts Results: Statewide, All Students, 2015



# AMP Mathematics Results: Statewide, All Students, 2015

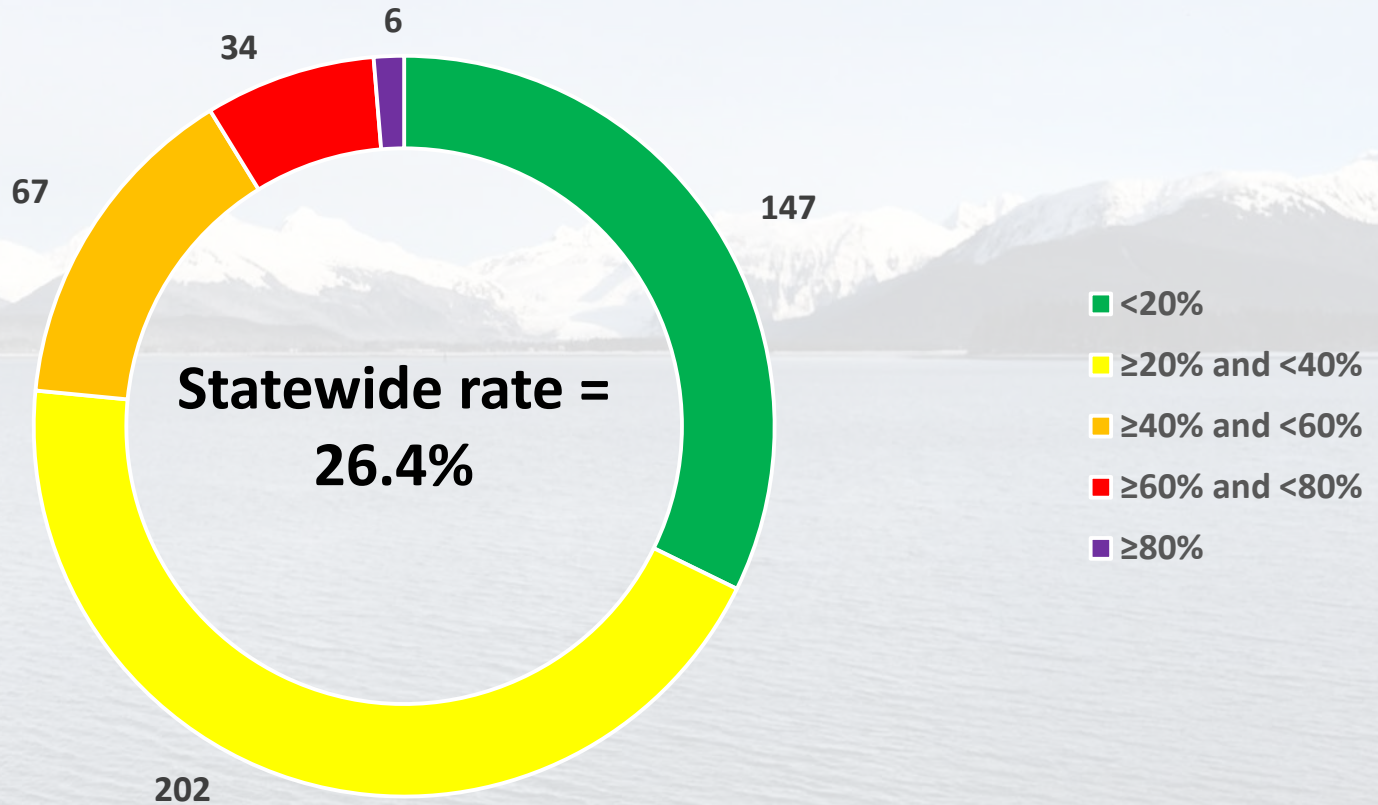




# Teacher New Hires

- About 8,000 teachers each year
- In 2016-2017, 10.5 percent were new hires
  - New Hire = Any teacher designated by the district as new to the district.
- Big 5 districts all had New Hire percentages of less than 10 percent
- 30 districts had New Hire rates of at least 20 percent

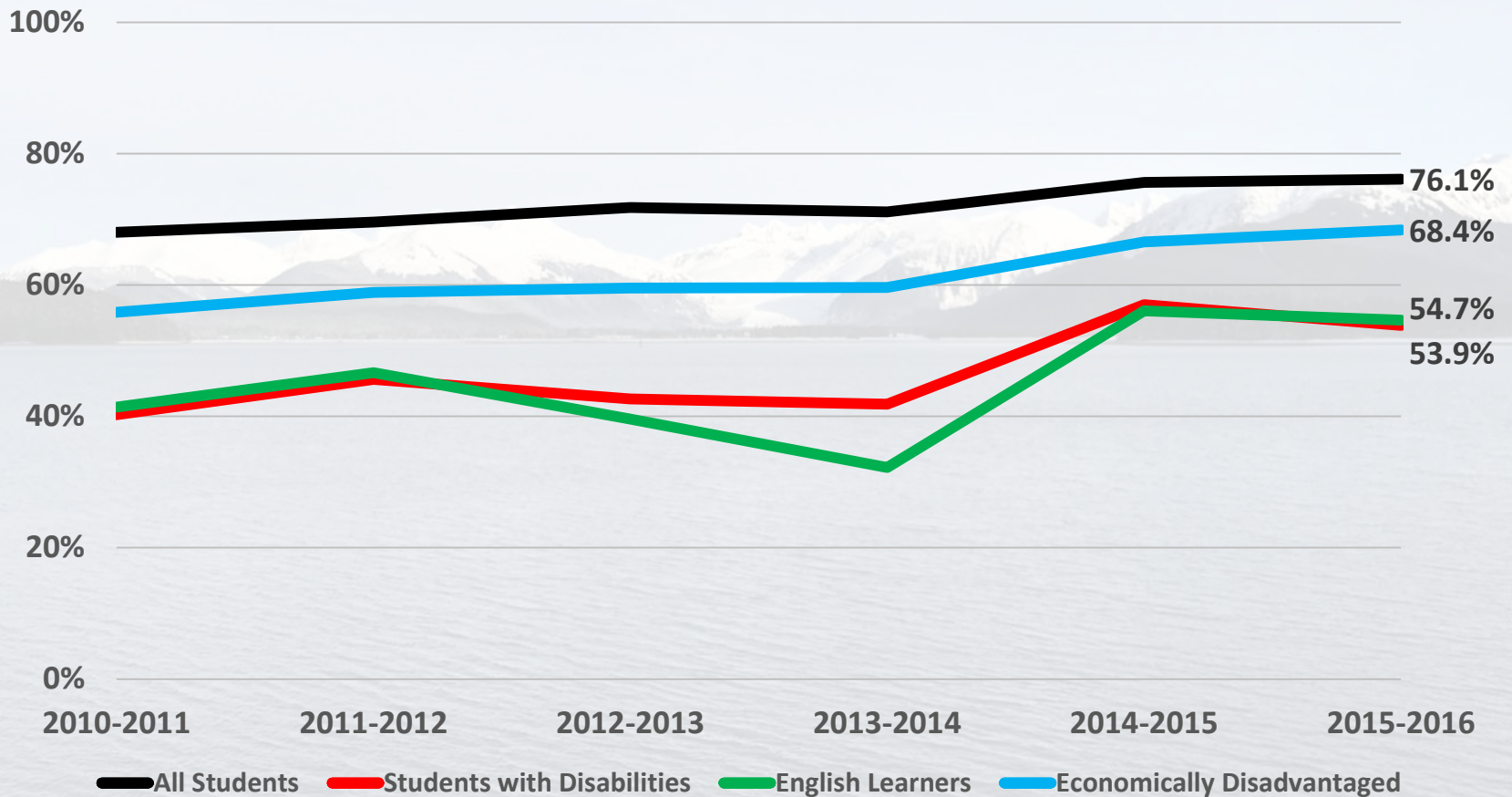
# Percentage of Chronically Absent Students by School, 2015-2016



22

Note: Chronically Absent is defined as any student who was absent from school for at least 10 percent of the school days in which the student was enrolled.

# Four-Year Graduation Rate: Statewide by Subgroup





# Shifts in Graduation Requirements

- July 1, 2014
  - Repeal of the High School Graduation Qualifying Examination (HSGQE) requirement is effective (HB 278)
  - Beginning of College/Career-Ready Assessment (CCRA) graduation requirement
    - ACT
    - SAT
    - WorkKeys
- June 30, 2016
  - Repeal of CCRA graduation requirement is effective (HB 44)
- Now
  - Students must meet all local requirements to receive a diploma

# Final Notes about Data

- Subpar U.S. performance compared to other countries
- Low/subpar Alaska performance compared to other states
- One in three students met the standards on AMP
- One in 10 teachers is new to the district
- One in four students is chronically absent
- Graduation rate below national average, even with shift in graduation requirements

# Survey of Alaskans

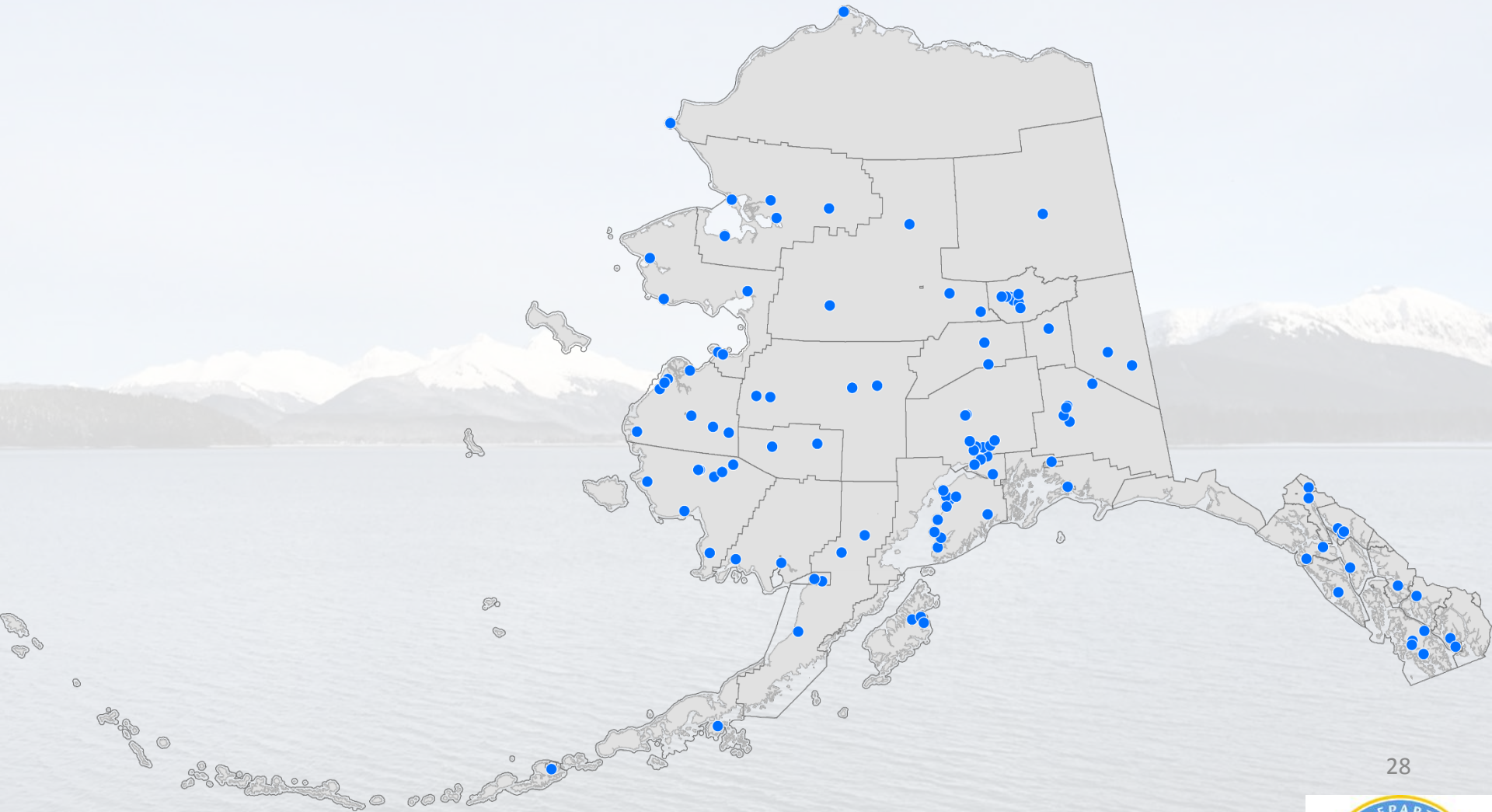
- First step in Alaska's Education Challenge
- Open throughout February
- Survey participants were asked to provide their ideas for topics to be discussed by the committees
- Up to five ideas per committee (up to 25 total)
- Anonymous
- Respondents were asked to provide their role and home community



# Survey Responses

- 1,383 respondents
- 18,575 ideas for topics
- 109 communities represented
- Responses were coded into one or more of 47 broad categories
  - Education Northwest provided support for the coding of responses into broad categories

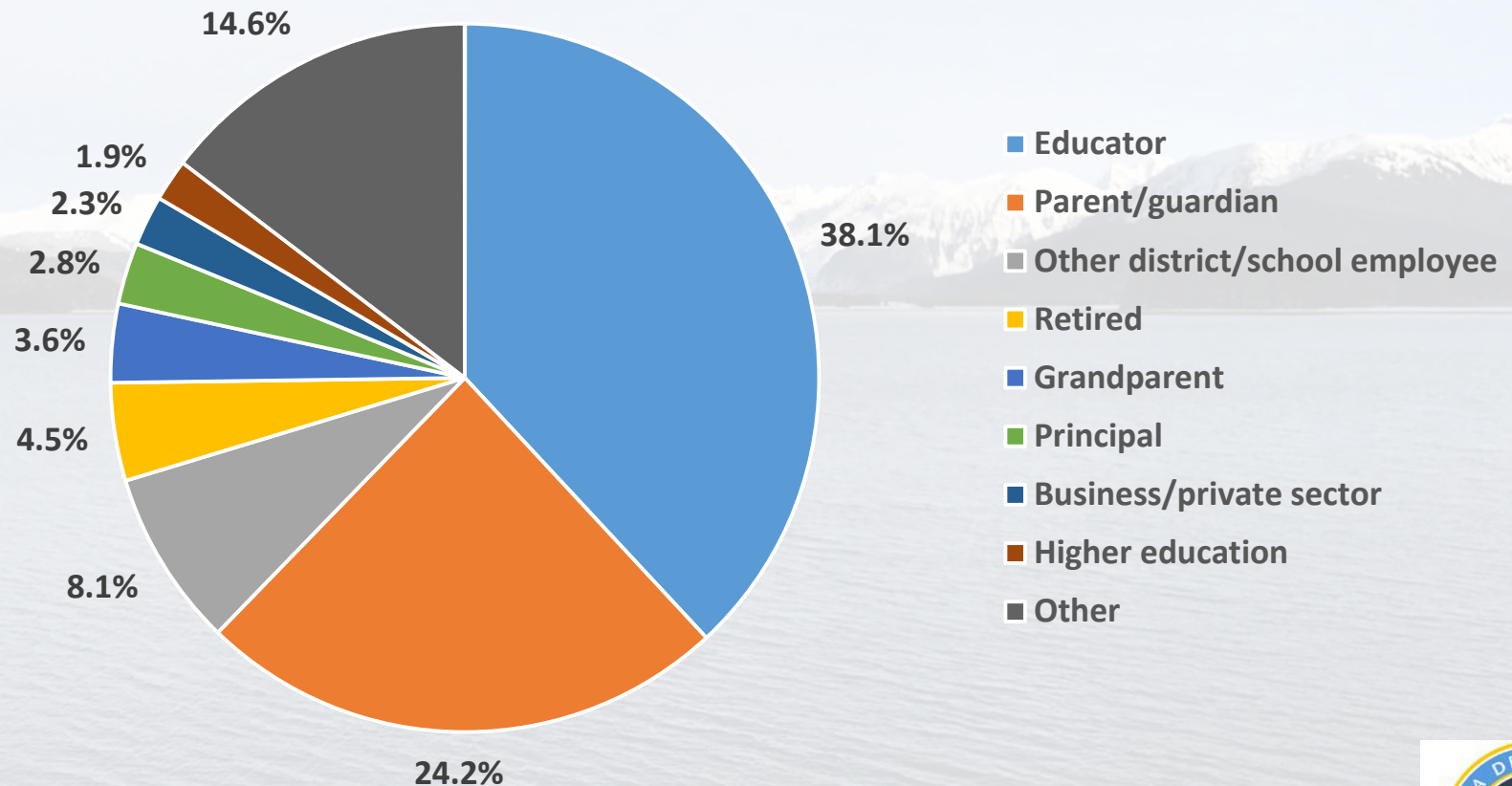
# Where do the respondents reside?



28

Note: Out of 1,383 respondents, 1,142 provided their home community.

# Who responded to the survey?





# What did the respondents say?

## Student Learning Committee

Improvements  
in buildings  
need more  
state funding.

Make  
educational  
funding a  
priority for AK.

Permanent  
funding  
situation instead  
of year by year  
funding.

# What did the respondents say?

## Educator Excellence Committee

**Provide  
professional  
development  
funding to Pre-K  
teacher  
assistants.**

**Teachers attend  
professional  
development to  
take back skills to  
use in the  
classroom  
immediately.**

# What did the respondents say?

## Modernization and Finance Committee

Leverage --  
eliminate  
textbooks.  
Transition to  
fully digital.

Have master  
teachers mentor  
newer teachers  
by distance  
delivery.

In a fiscal crisis, this  
seems unrealistic.  
Technology costs  
money and we  
don't have it.



# What did the respondents say?

## Tribal and Community Ownership Committee

**Having elders  
mentor in  
classrooms on a  
regular basis.**

**Allow for flexibility  
and local control in  
all situations, with  
enforceable  
accountability.**

# What did the respondents say?

## Safety and Well-Being Committee

Understand  
drugs and  
bullying are a  
problem.

Every school  
needs a nurse.  
They provide  
another person  
to talk to.

Adopt trauma-  
informed  
approaches to  
discipline and  
education alike.

# Final Notes about the Survey

- Statewide representation
- Over half of respondents identified as either an educator or parent/guardian
- Topic overlap between committees
- Topics are broad enough to include a wide range of responses (e.g. for and against)
- How do the survey responses lead to transformational change to the educational system?



# In closing...

- The need for systemic change is apparent.
- What does systemic change look like in a state as diverse as Alaska?
- How can data inform transformational changes to Alaska's public education system?