

# Graduation Rates and Academic Achievement in Alaska

Presentation to the Senate Education Committee  
March 1, 2017

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Alaska Department of Education & Early Development



# Agenda

- Graduation rate overview
- Academic achievement overview

# Graduation rate overview

- How is the graduation rate calculated?
- What does DEED publish?
- Four-year rate vs. five-year rate
- Shifts in graduation requirements
- Statewide trends
- Graduation rate data on the web

# How is the graduation rate calculated?

- Cohort assignment based on initial entry into 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- e.g. 2015-2016 four-year cohort based on first-time 9<sup>th</sup> graders in 2012-2013 school year
- Students transfer into and out of cohorts
  - Final cohort based on school of most recent enrollment
- Graduation rate is the percentage of students in the cohort who graduated within four years
- Method in place since the 2010-2011 school year

# What does DEED publish?

- State, district, and school levels
- Subgroups, including:
  - Race/ethnicity
  - Students with disabilities
  - English learners
  - Economically disadvantaged
- Four- and five-year graduation rates

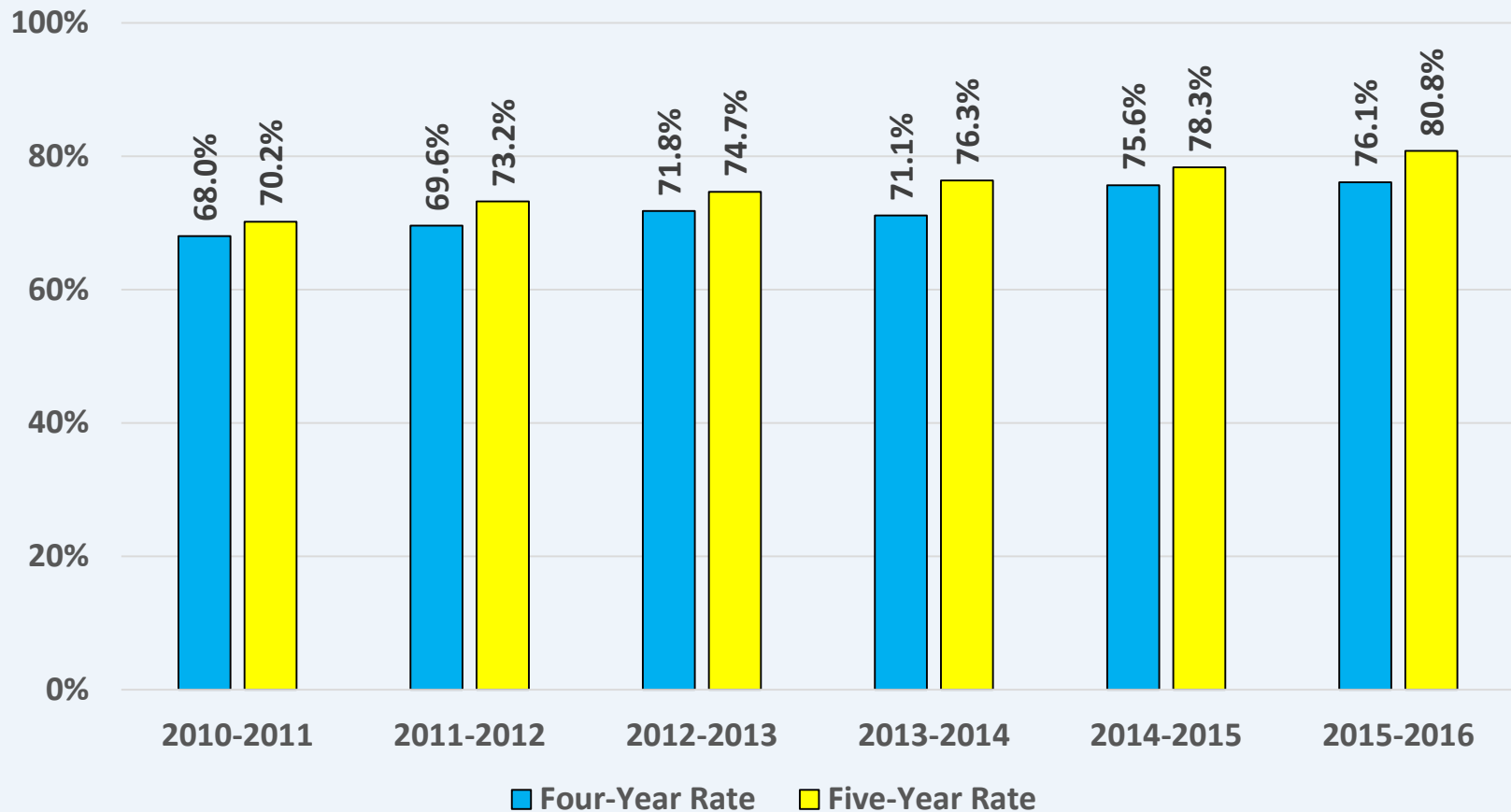
# Four-year rate vs. five-year rate

- 2015-2016 four-year cohort based on first-time 9th graders in **2012-2013** school year
- 2015-2016 five-cohort based on first-time 9th graders in **2011-2012** school year
- i.e. In a given year, the four-year cohort is a completely different group of students than the five-year cohort
- 2015-2016 four-year cohort will become the base for the 2016-2017 five-year cohort

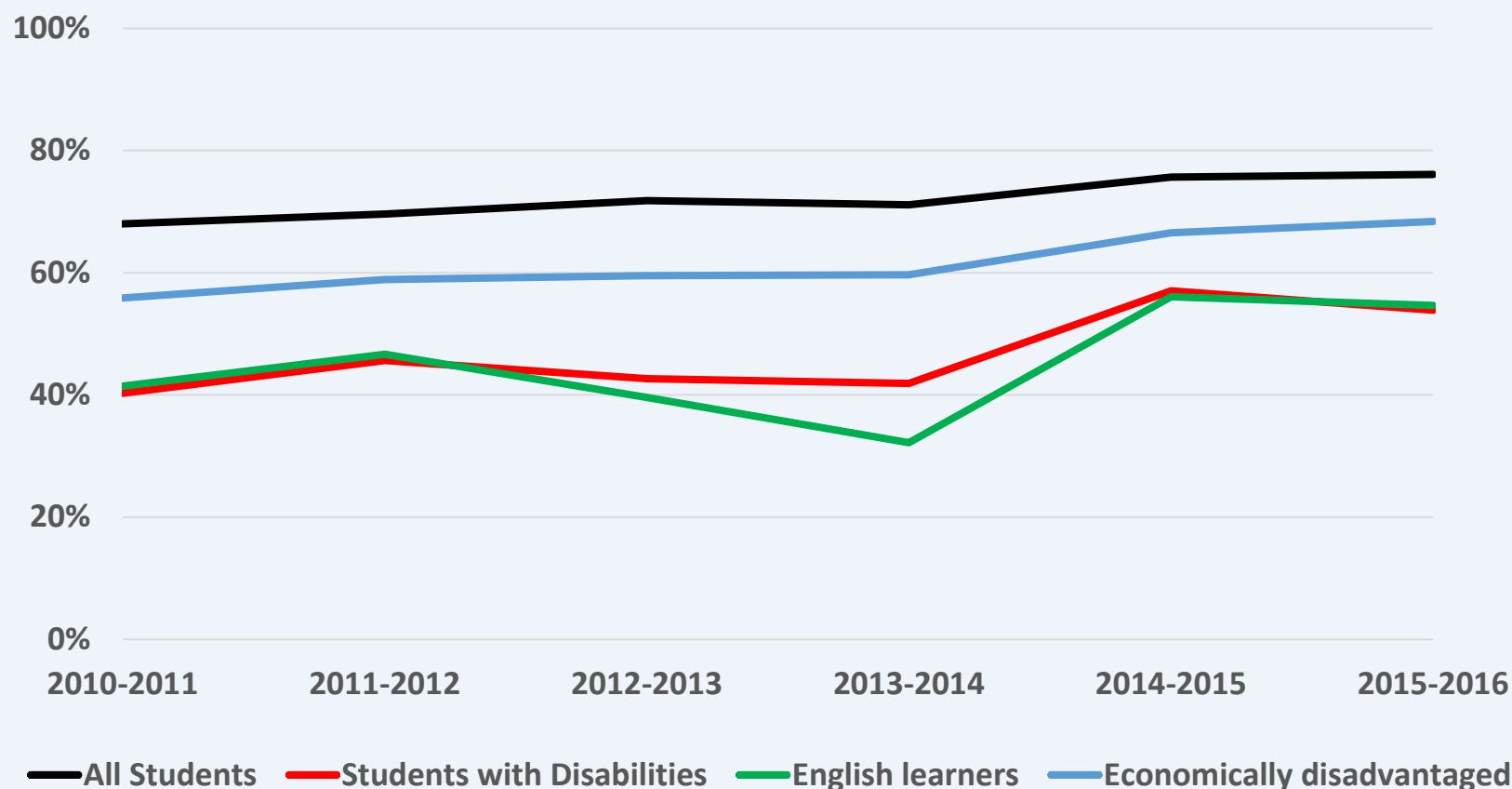
# Shifts in graduation requirements

- 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

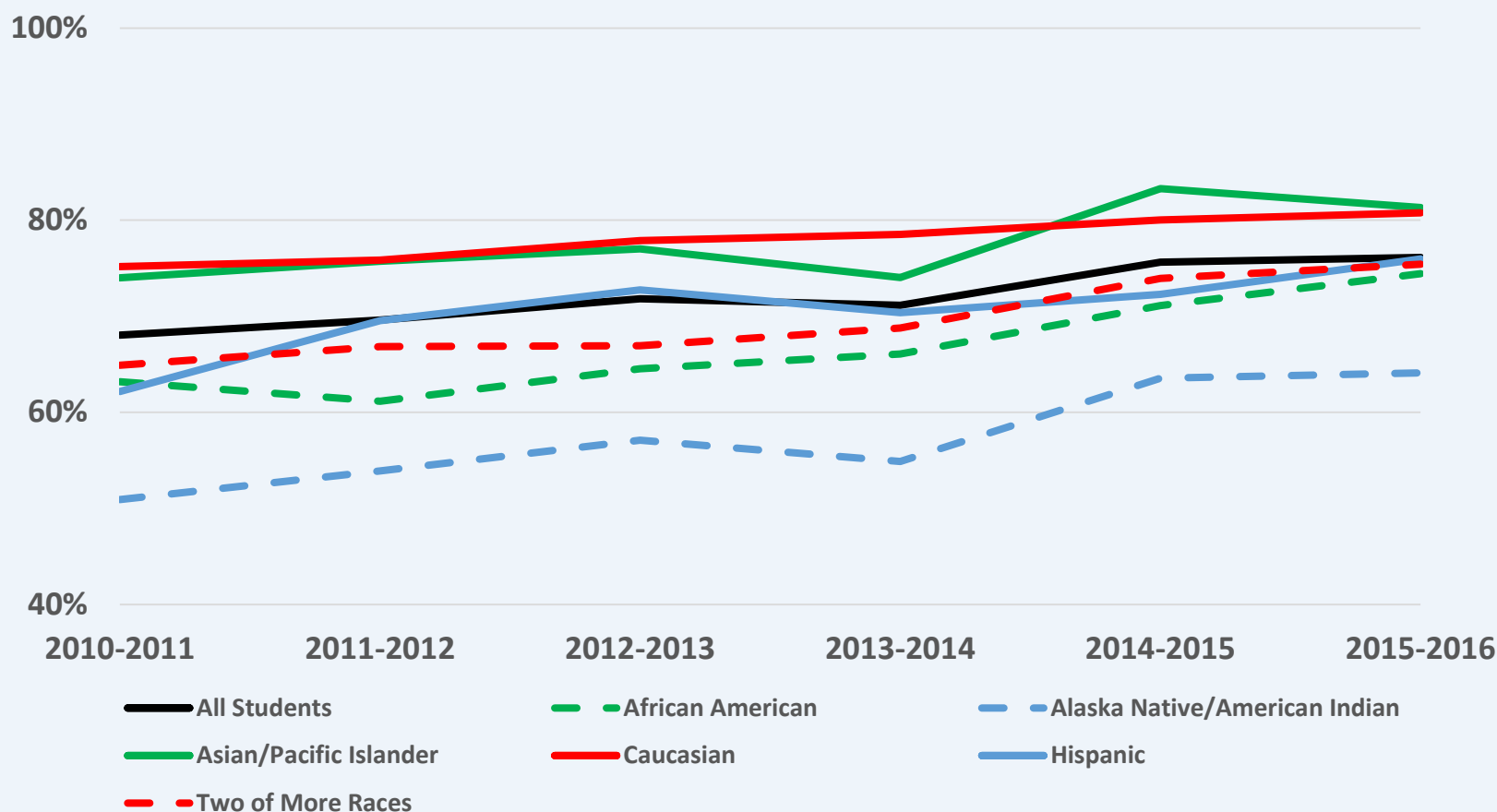
# Four- and five-year graduation rate: Statewide, all students



# Four-year graduation rate: Statewide by subgroup



# Four-year graduation rate: Statewide by race/ethnicity



# Graduation rate data on the web

State of Alaska

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## Preparing College, Career, & Culturally Ready Graduates

**STANDARDS**

**ASSESSMENTS**

**ACCOUNTABILITY**

**ESSA**

**PARENTS & COMMUNITY**

**SUPPORT**

Click on star for information and resources.

**James K. Fields**  
STATE BOARD CHAIR

**Dr. Michael Johnson**  
COMMISSIONER

**Sana Efird**  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

### Information On...

- Teacher Certification
- Districts and Schools Contact Information
- Report Card to the Public
- Conference, Training, & Event Calendar
- Alaska Safe Children's Act
- New Statewide Assessments

# Graduation rate data on the web

**Statistics & Reports**

**Alaska's Report Card to the Public**

- [School and District Report Cards to the Public - from 2009-2016](#)
- [School and District Report Cards to the Public - from 2000 to 2009](#)
- [State Report Cards - from 1993 to 2016](#)
- [Personalized Dangerous Reports](#)
- [Special Education District Data Profile - from 2006-2014](#)
- [2014-2015 Graduation and Attendance Rates](#)

**Dropout Rates**

- [2001-2016 By Ethnicity \(pdf\)](#)
- [1991-2016 By District \(pdf\)](#)

**Statewide School Count by Grade Span**

Select Year

**Average Daily Membership & State Entitlement**

- [Average Daily Membership by Districts FY88 - FY16 \(pdf\)](#)
- [State Aid to Each District FY88 - FY16 \(pdf\)](#)
- [Base Student Allocations FY07 - FY17 \(pdf\)](#)

**Resources**

- [2010-2017 Quick Facts](#)
- [National Center for Education Statistics \(NCES\) - Demographic Information](#)
- [Prior Annual Revenues](#)

Select Year

**Enrollment Totals: As of October 1 of Each Year**

- [District Enrollment Totals for all Alaskan Public School Districts](#)

Select Year

- [School Enrollment Totals for all Alaskan Schools](#)

Select Year

- [Statewide Enrollment by Grade by Ethnicity](#)

Select Year

- [Goals 2000 Annual Reports](#)

Select Year

- [High School Graduates by District by School](#)

Select Year

- [Graduation Rates by Subgroups](#)

Select Year

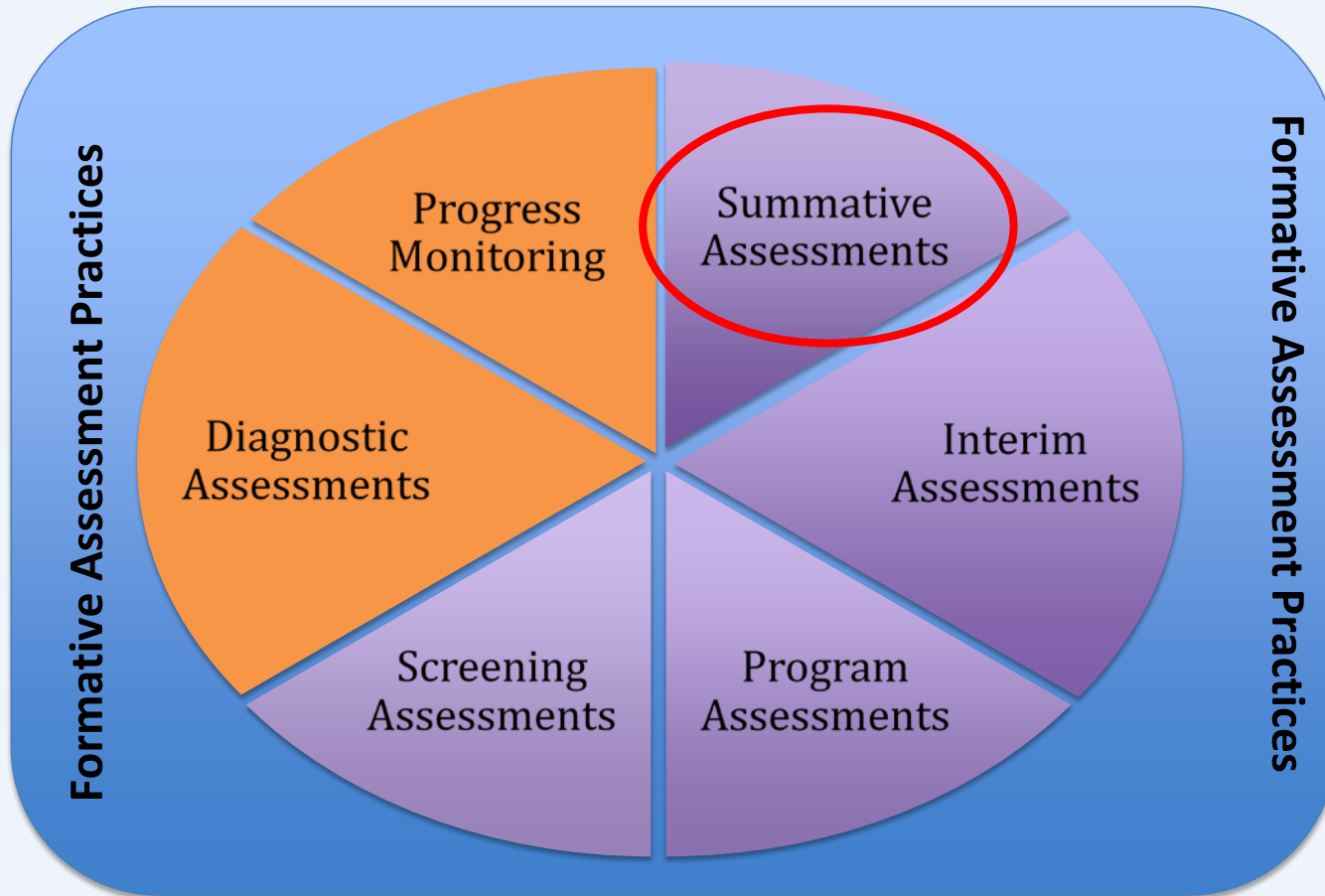
# Closing thoughts on graduation rates

- The graduation rate increased after the repeal of the HSGQE
- No comparisons to rates prior to the 2010-2011 school year should be made (different calculation)
- For small schools and districts, the graduation rate (like many indicators) can fluctuate wildly over time
- The inverse of the graduation rate is **NOT** the dropout rate
- Graduation cohort vs. count of graduates – **NOT** the same thing

# Academic achievement overview

- Balanced assessment system
- Recent history of Alaska's summative assessment
  - SBAs
  - AMP
- Other assessment results
  - NAEP
  - PISA

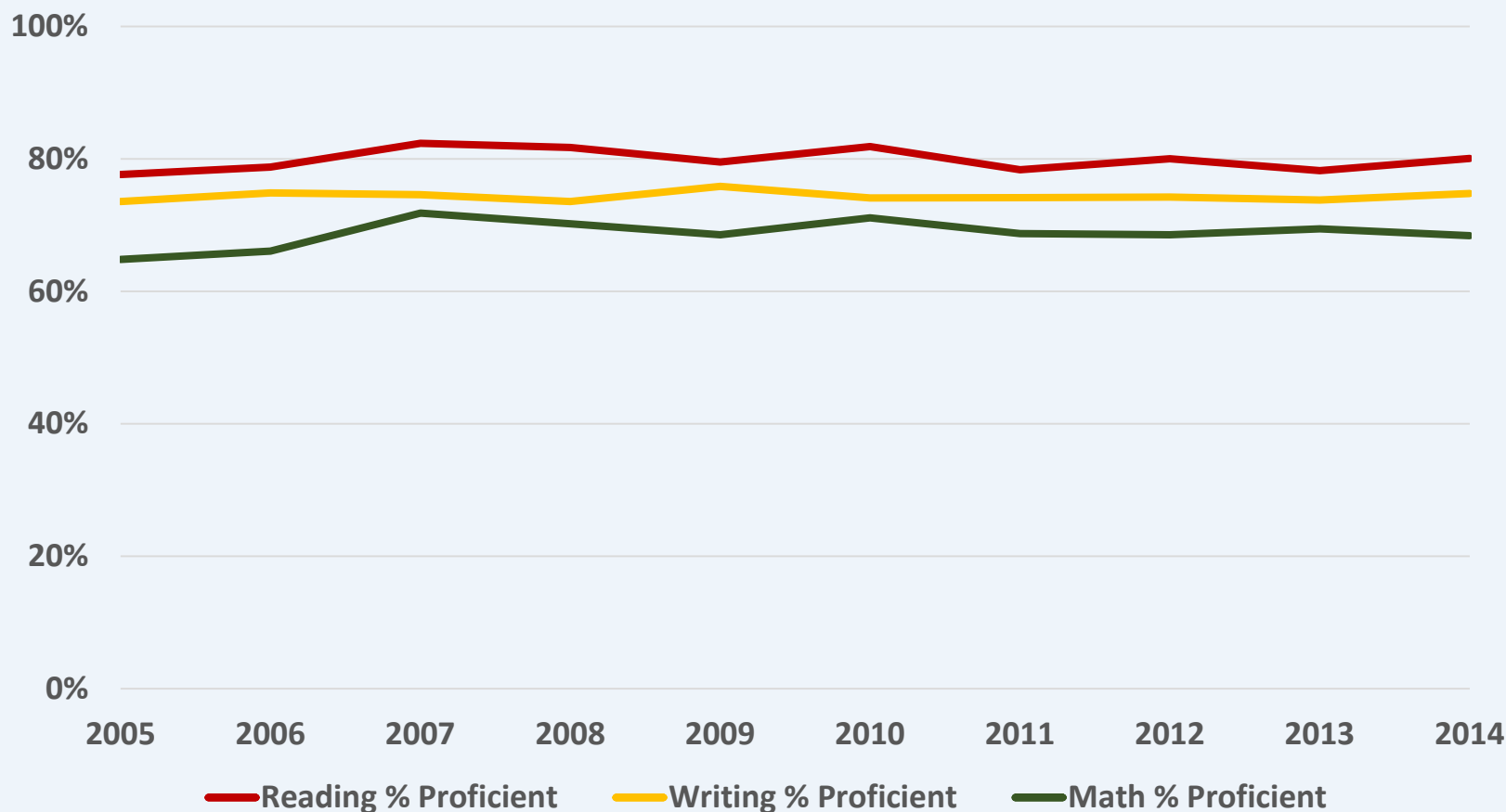
# Balanced assessment system



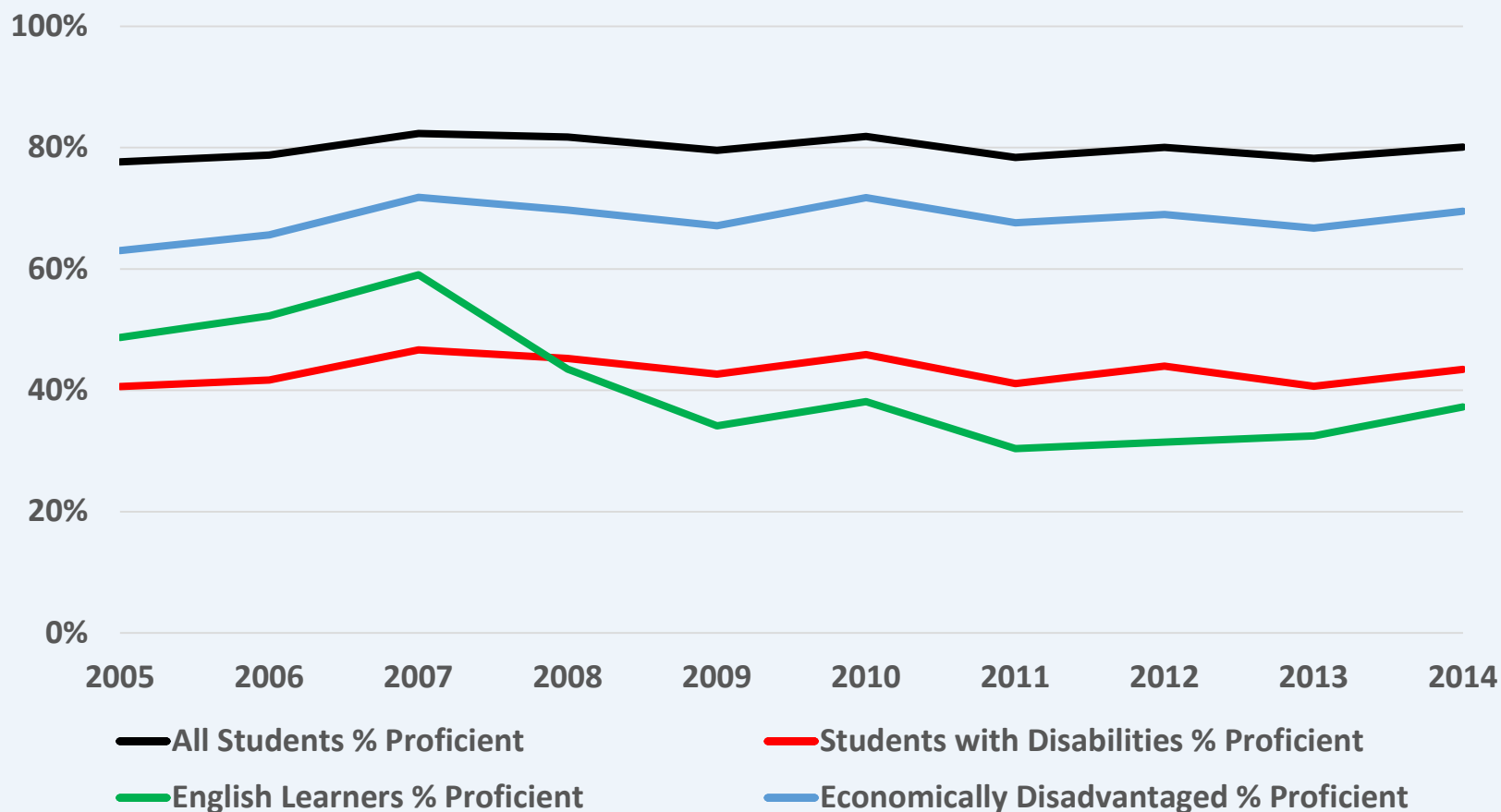
# Recent history of Alaska's summative assessment

- 2005-2014: Standards Based Assessments (SBAs)
  - Aligned to Grade Level Expectations (GLEs)
  - Reading, Writing, and Mathematics
  - 2005: Grades 3-9
  - 2006-2014: Grades 3-10
- The SBAs also included Science for students in grades 4, 8, and 10

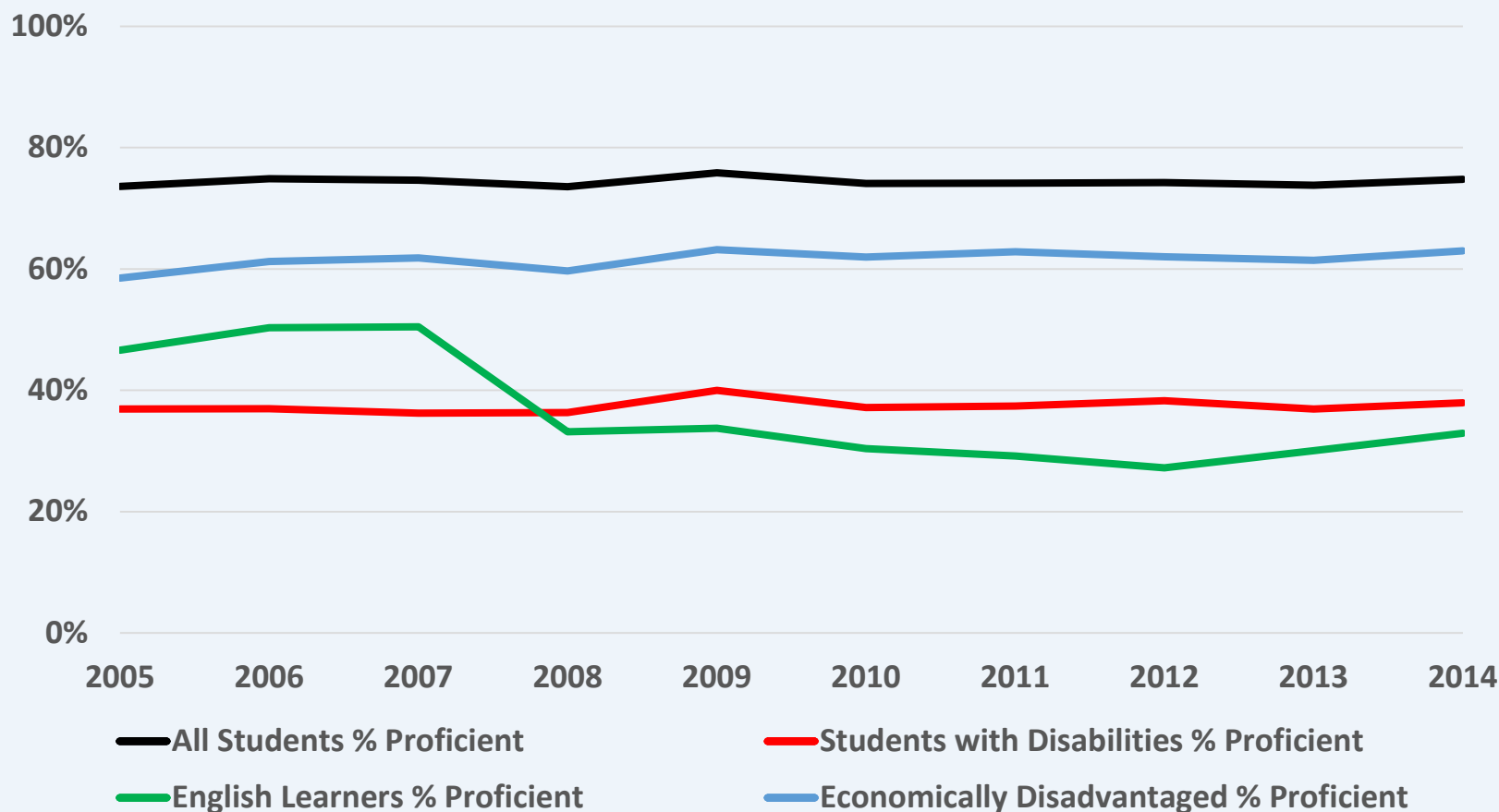
# SBA results by content area: Statewide, all students



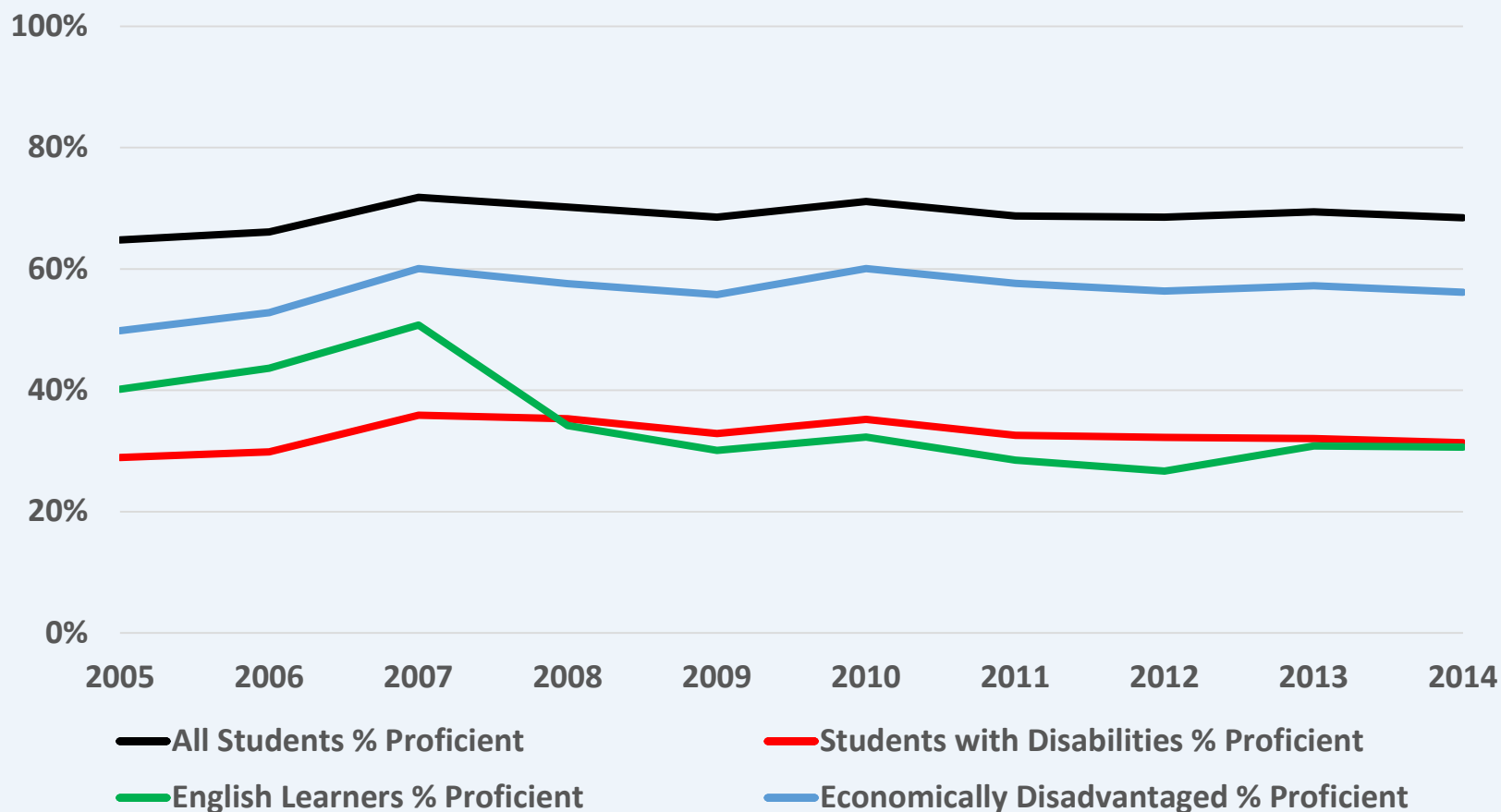
# SBA Reading results: Statewide by subgroup



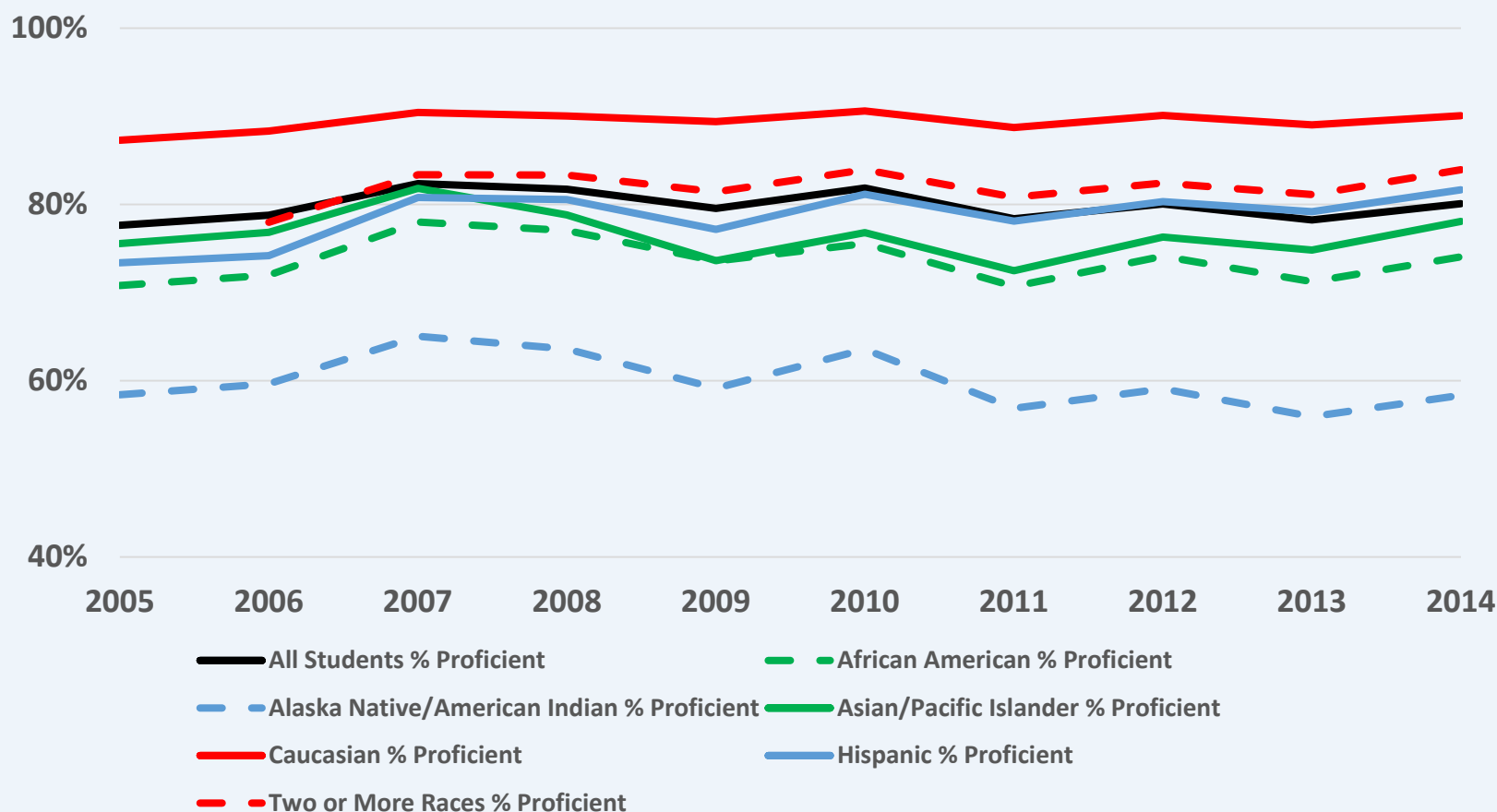
# SBA Writing results: Statewide by subgroup



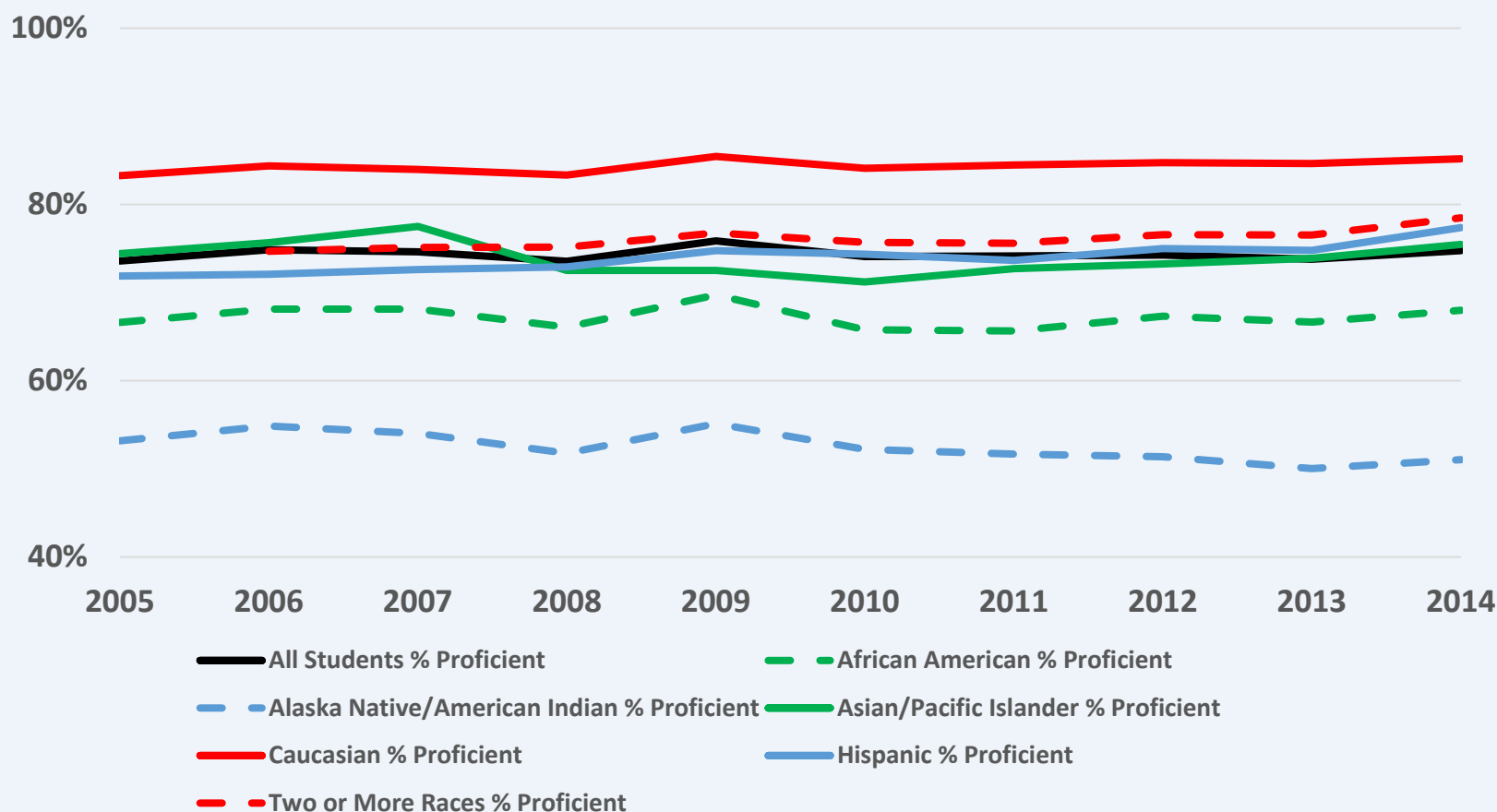
# SBA Math results: Statewide by subgroup



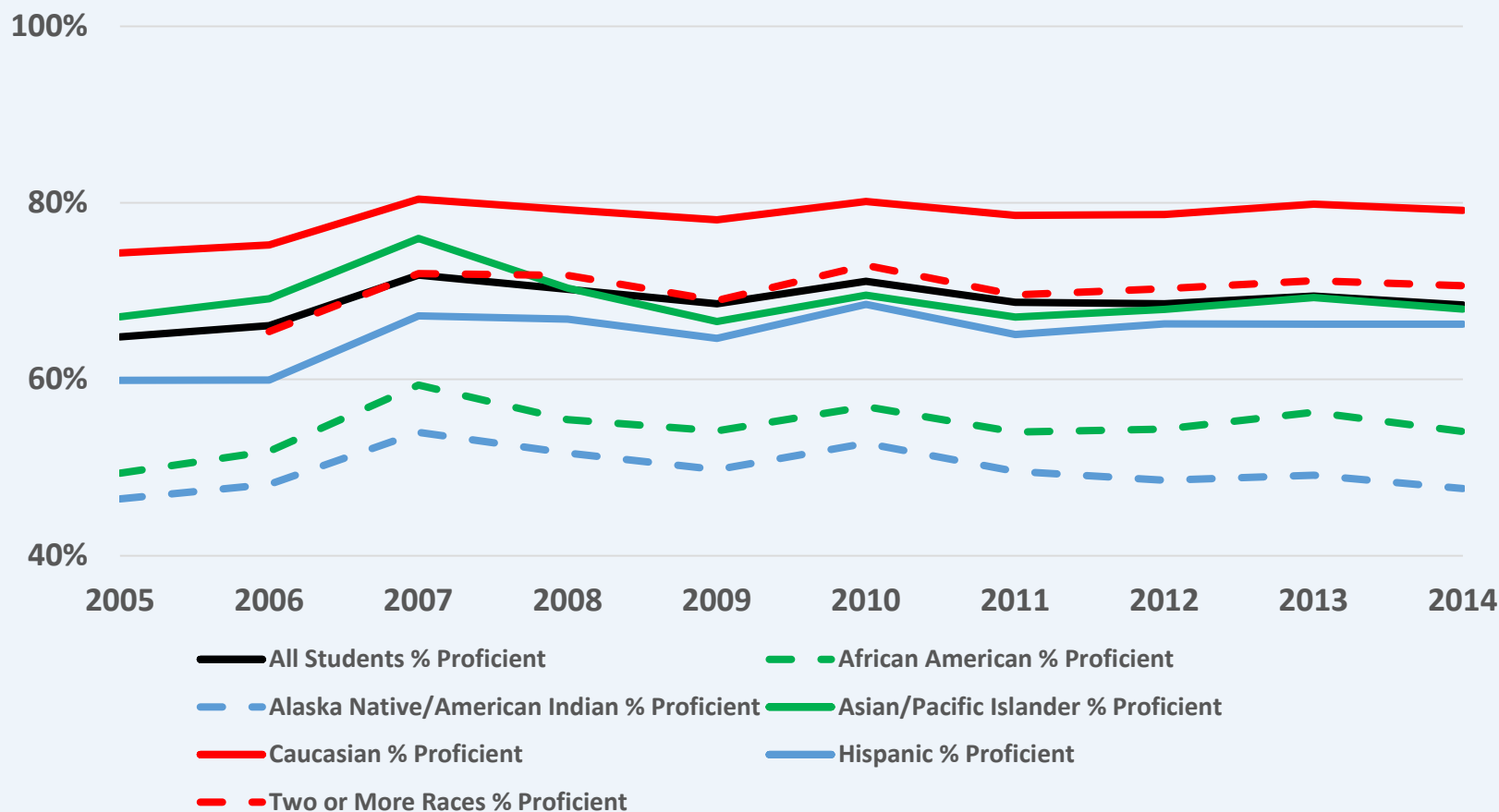
# SBA Reading results: Statewide by race/ethnicity



# SBA Writing results: Statewide by race/ethnicity



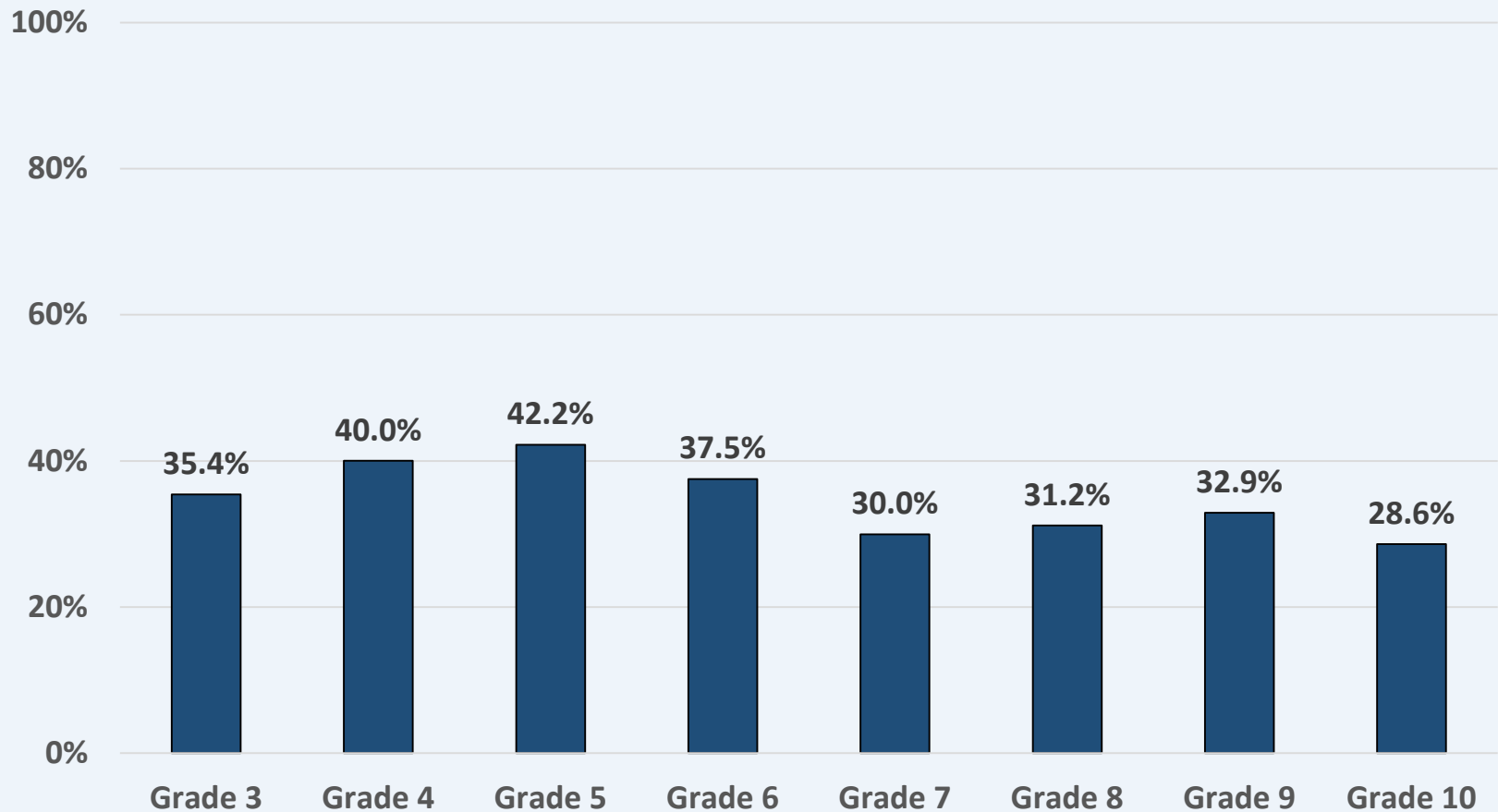
# SBA Math results: Statewide by race/ethnicity



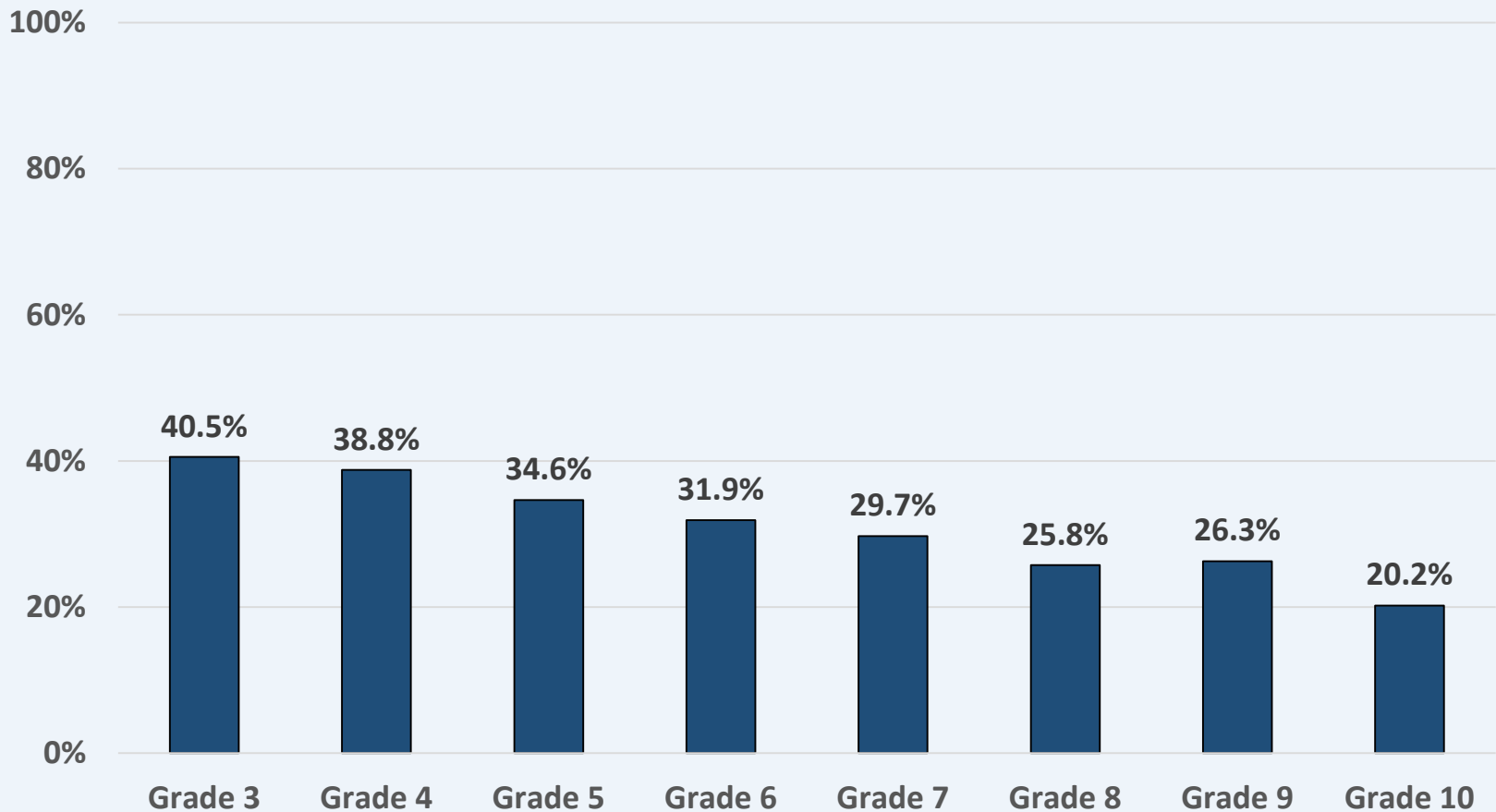
# Recent history of Alaska's summative assessment

- 2015: Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP)
  - Aligned to more rigorous Alaska English Language Arts and Mathematics Standards, which the State Board of Education adopted in June 2012
  - English Language Arts and Mathematics
  - First computer-based summative assessment in Alaska
  - Comparisons between SBA proficiency and AMP achievement are **NOT** possible
  - Meeting the Standards vs. Partially Meeting the Standards

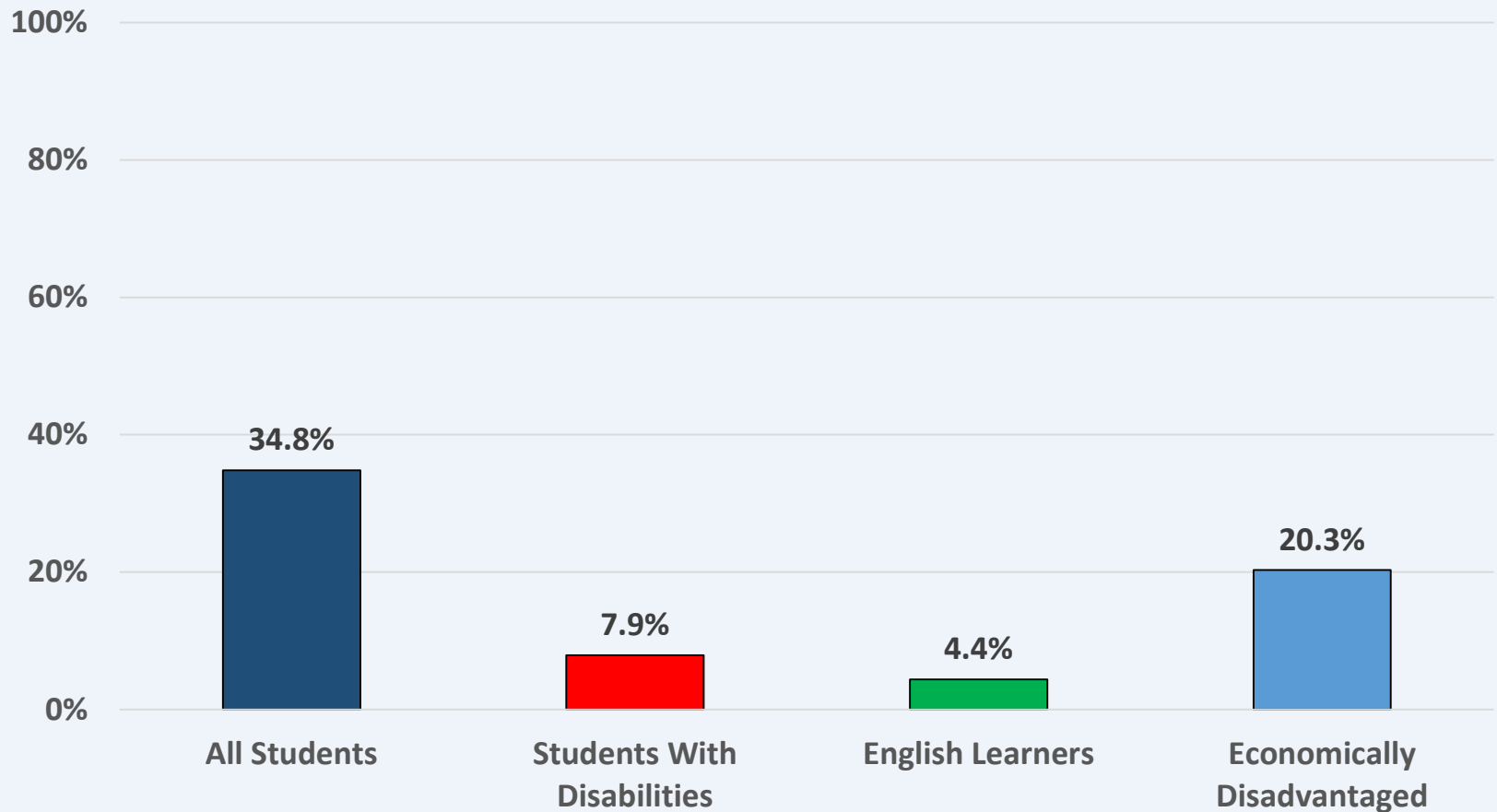
# AMP ELA results: Statewide, all students, 2015



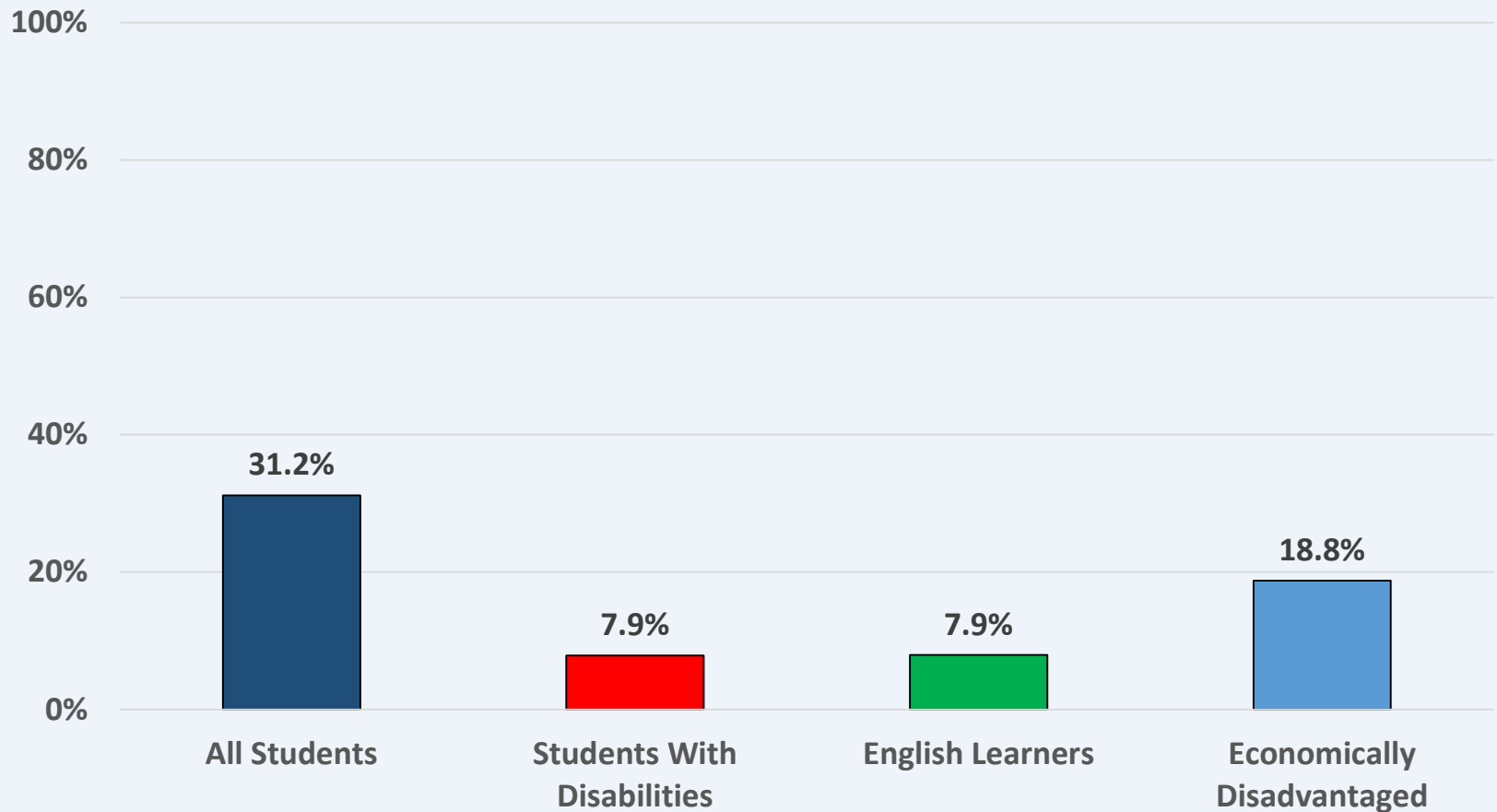
# AMP Math results: Statewide, all students, 2015



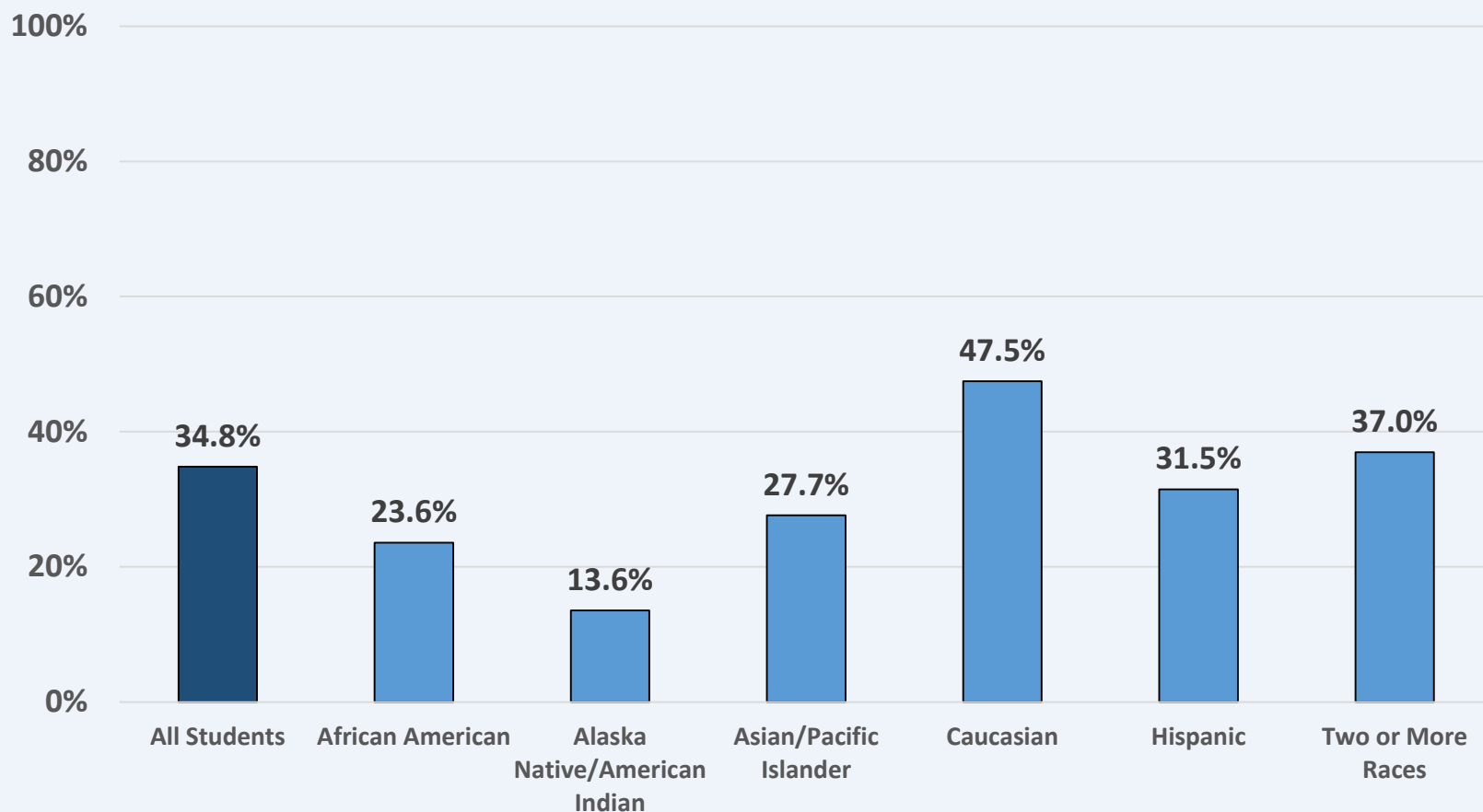
# AMP ELA results: Statewide by subgroup, 2015



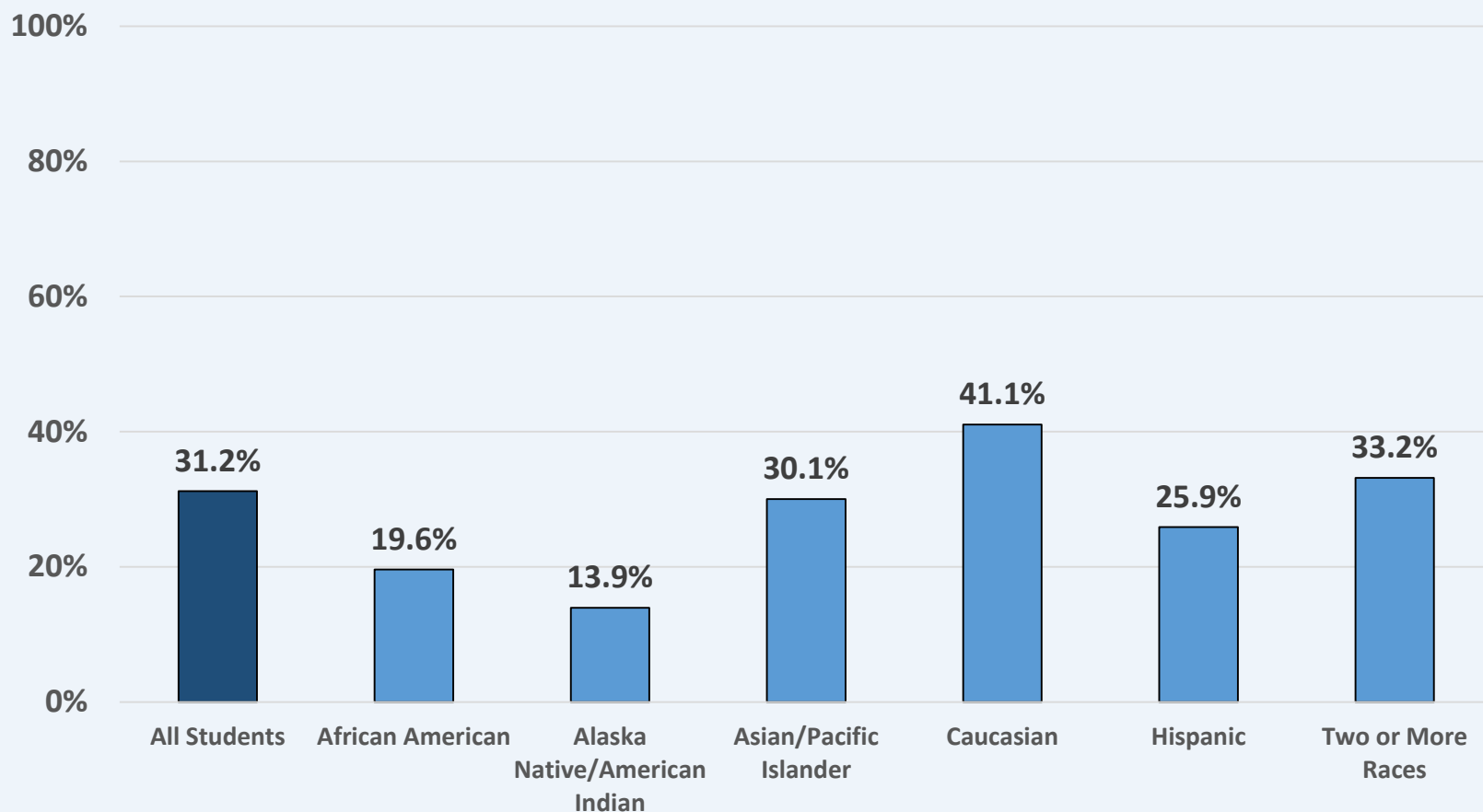
# AMP Math results: Statewide by subgroup, 2015



# AMP ELA results: Statewide by race/ethnicity, 2015



# AMP Math results: Statewide by race/ethnicity, 2015



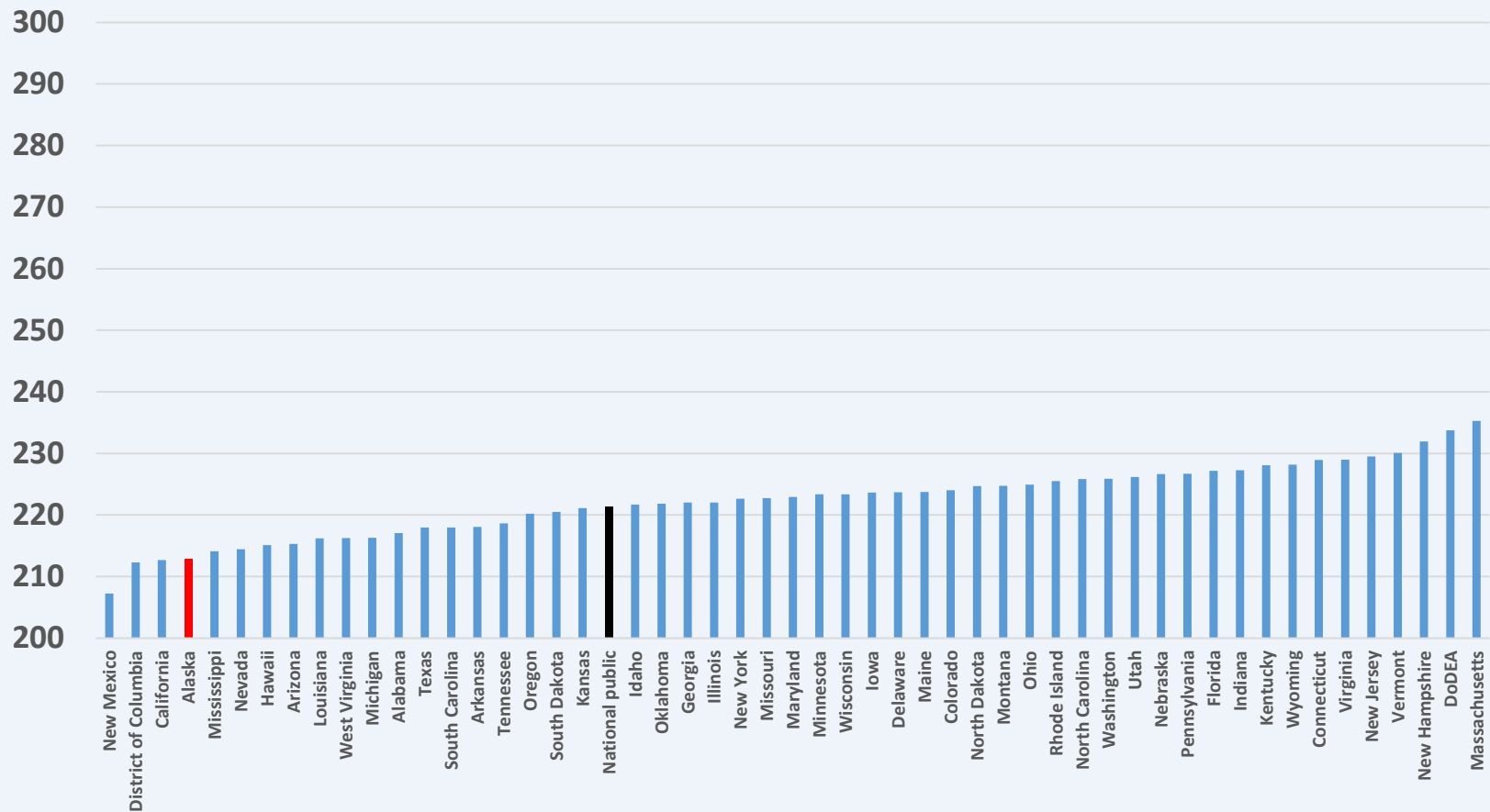
# Recent history of Alaska's summative assessment

- 2016: No summative assessment data available
- 2017: Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools (PEAKS)
  - Also aligned to Alaska English Language Arts and Mathematics Standards
  - Test window opens March 27, 2017

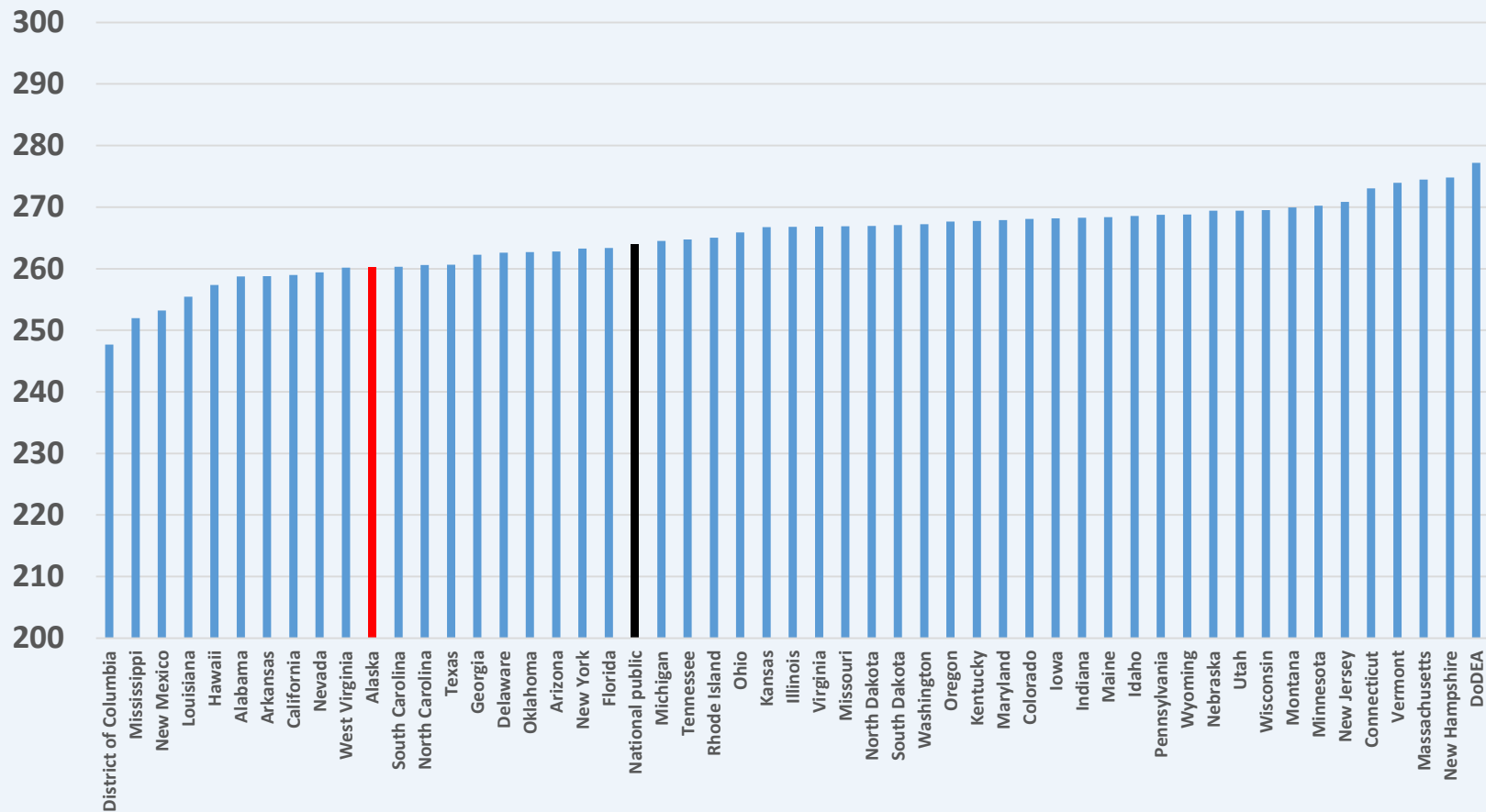
# What is NAEP?

- National Assessment of Educational Progress
- Administered every other year
- “...built from a content framework that specifies what students should know and be able to do in a given grade.”
- Administered to a representative sample of students in grades 4, 8, and 12 across the country (only grades 4 and 8 in Alaska)
- State-level results only
- 2017 NAEP window: January 30-March 10
- Transition to a digitally based assessment

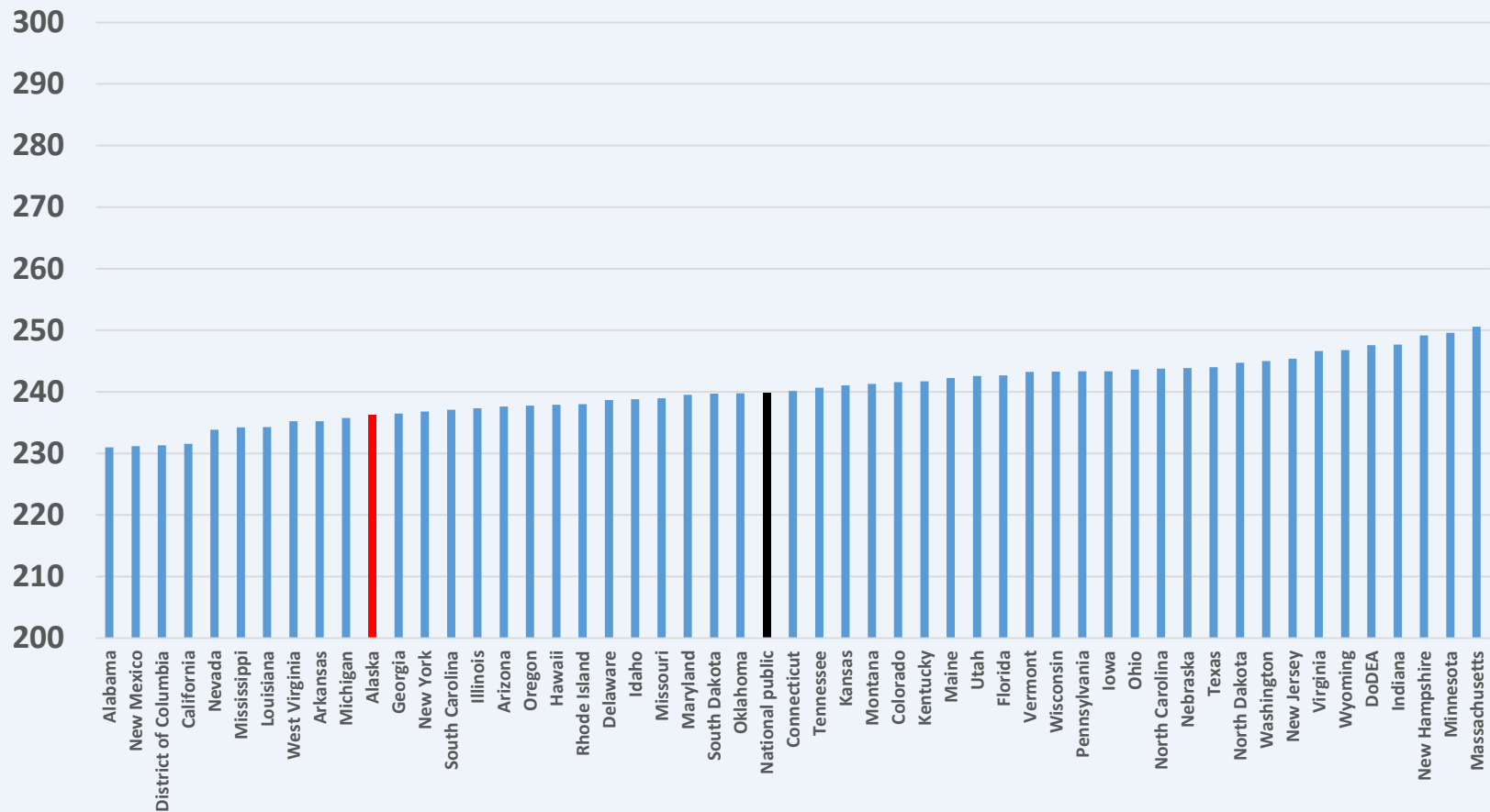
# NAEP Grade 4 Reading Average Scale Score by State



# NAEP Grade 8 Reading Average Scale Score by State

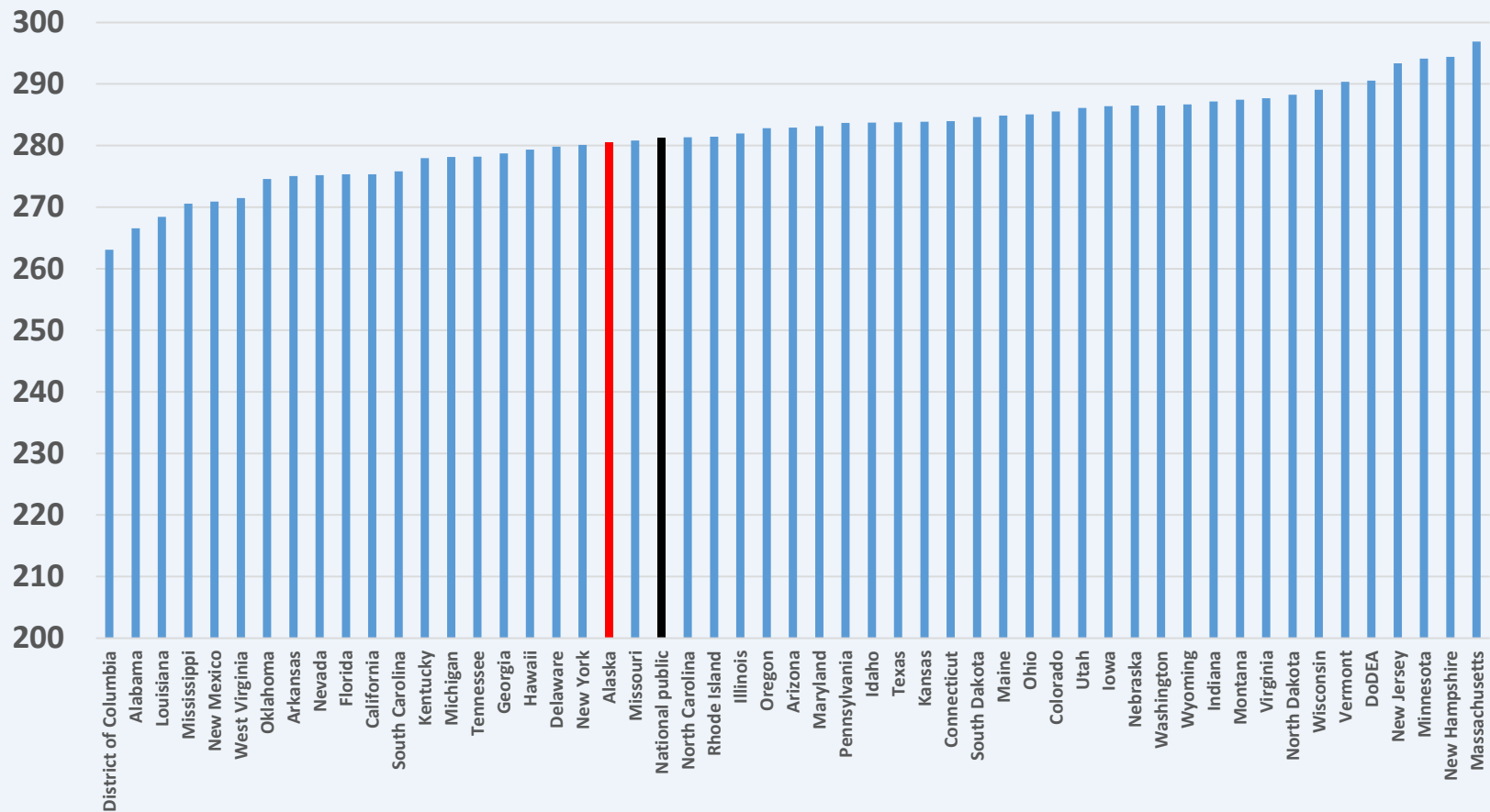


# NAEP Grade 4 Math Average Scale Score by State

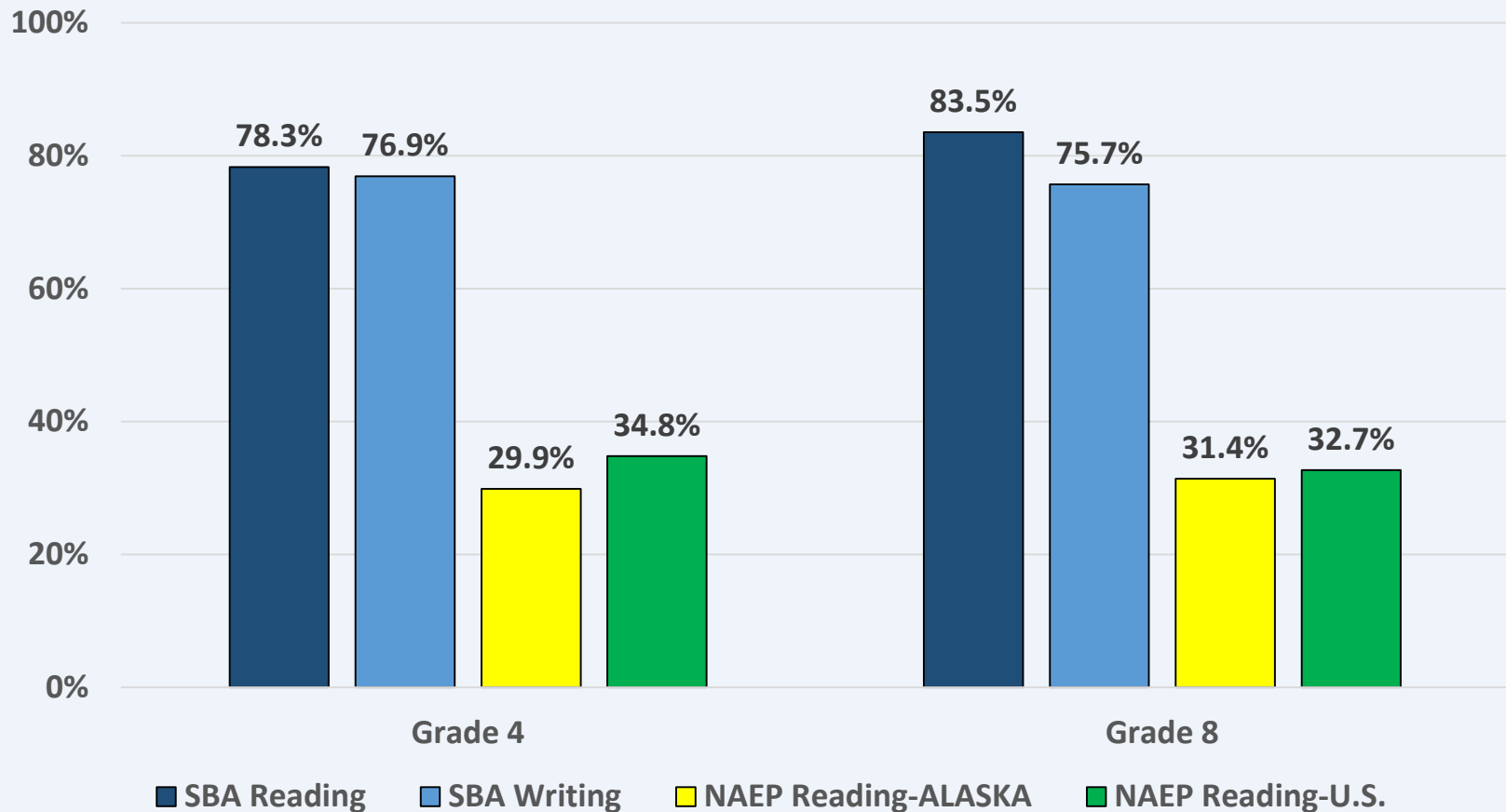


Note: Alaska ranked 42<sup>nd</sup> out of 52 jurisdictions.

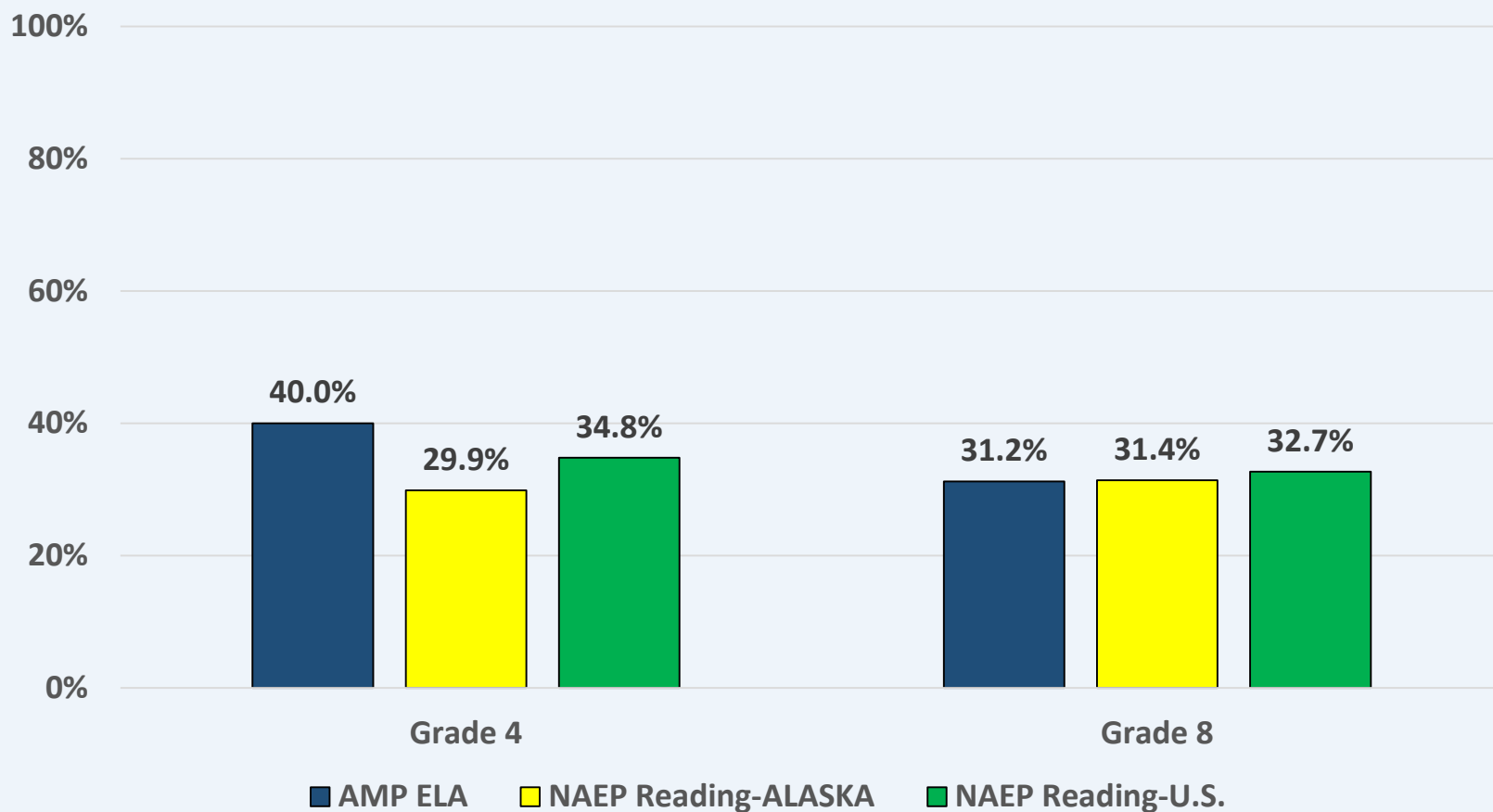
# NAEP Grade 8 Math Average Scale Score by State



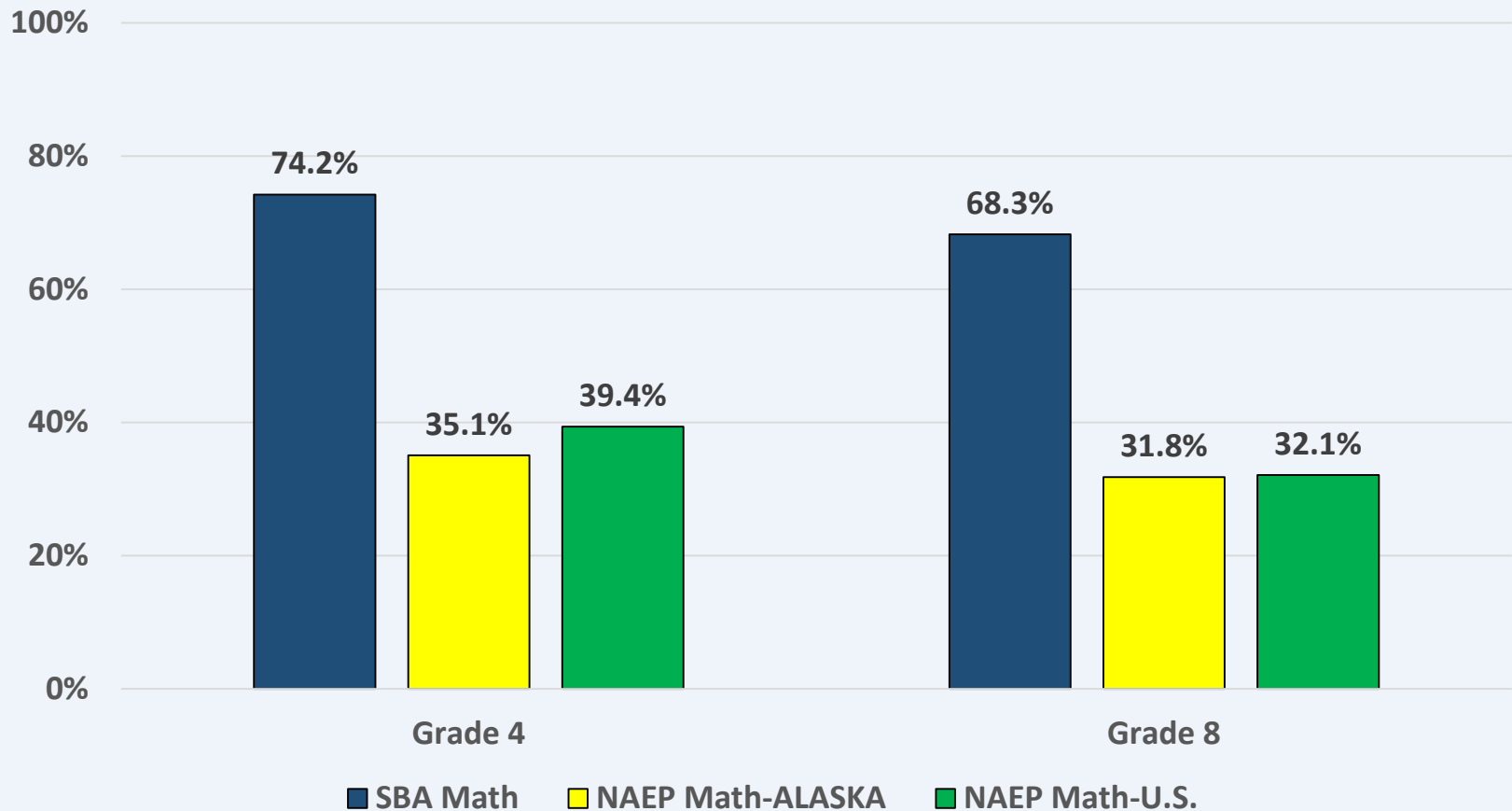
# 2014 SBA vs. 2015 NAEP: Reading and Writing



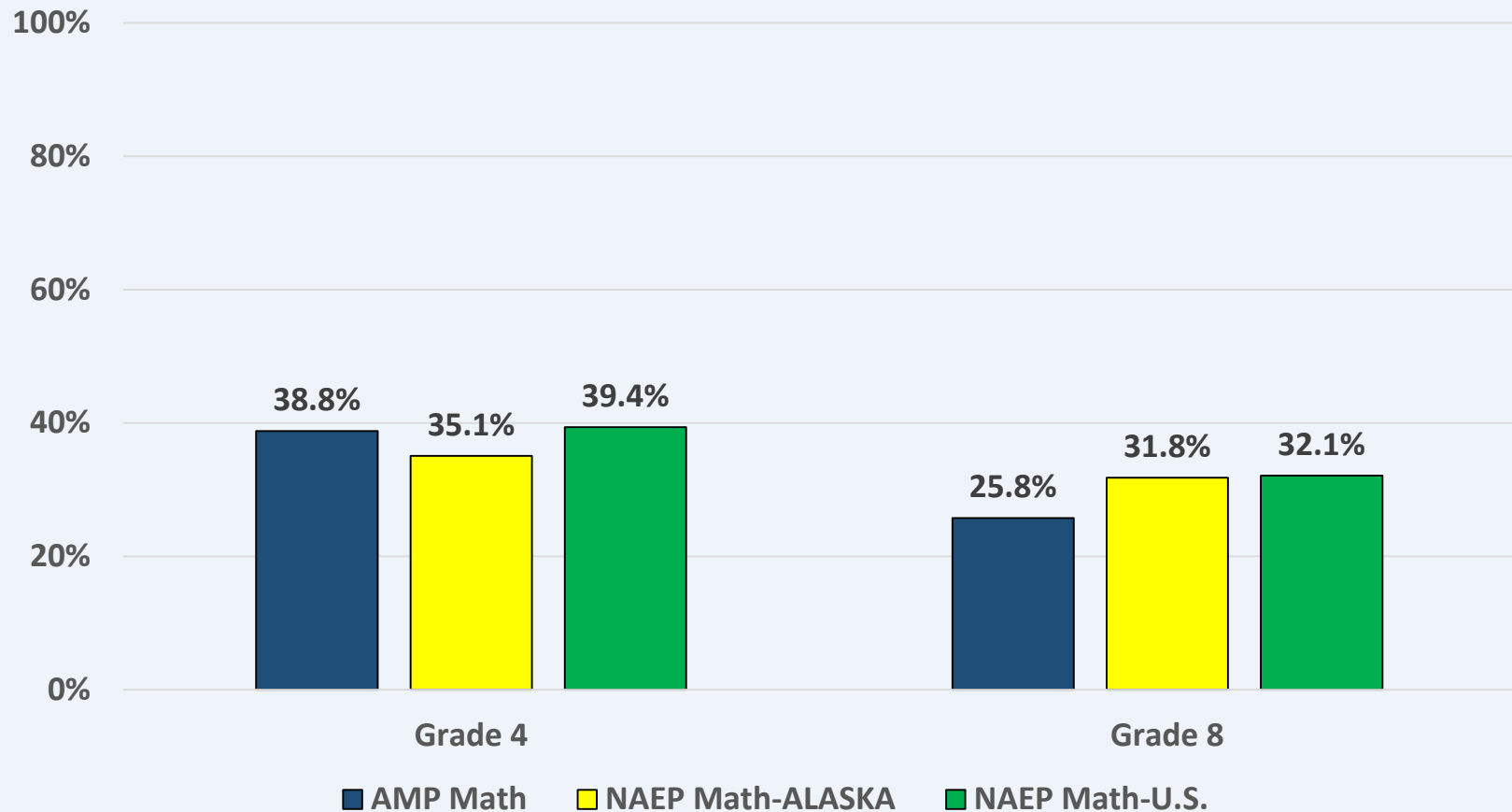
# 2015 AMP vs. 2015 NAEP: English language arts



# 2014 SBA vs. 2015 NAEP: Math



# 2015 AMP vs. 2015 NAEP: Math



# 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
Rank	25	24	40
# of education systems <b><u>higher</u></b> than U.S.	18	14	36
# of education systems <b><u>not statistically different</u></b> than U.S.	12	13	5
# of education systems <b><u>lower</u></b> than U.S.	39	42	28
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

# Closing thoughts on assessments

- Summative assessment is just one piece of a balanced assessment system
- SBA and AMP results cannot be compared
- AMP achievement looks very different than SBA proficiency – but more like NAEP
- Alaska has room for growth when compared to other states
- U.S. has room for growth when compared to other countries

# Thank you

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