

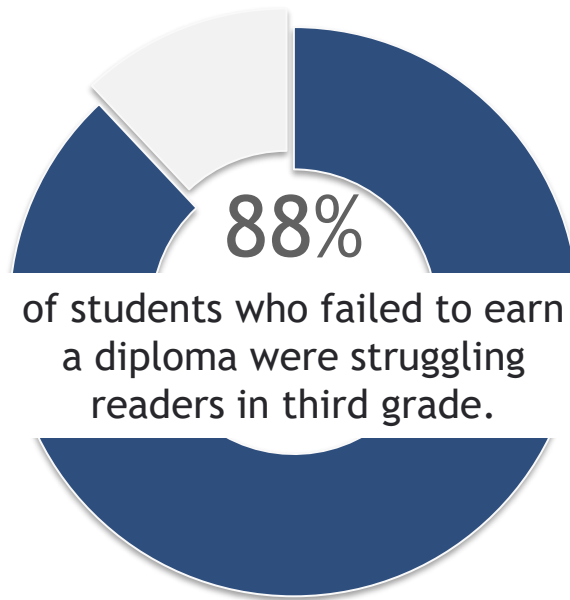


# **Comprehensive Early Literacy Policy: Improving Literacy Outcomes for All Students**


*Alaska House and Senate Education Committees*


*Tuesday, July 27, 2021*


# Reading is an Education and Economic Issue



Students who are not reading proficiently in third grade:

4 x  Are four times more likely to not to graduate high school.

6 x  If African American or Hispanic, are six times more likely to drop out or fail to graduate from high school.

8 x  If low-income minority, are eight times more likely to drop out or fail to graduate from high school.

## High School Dropouts

- Are not eligible for 90% of the jobs in the economy.
- Have yearly earnings that are less than 50% of someone who earns a Bachelor's Degree.
- Make-up nearly 50% of all heads-of-households on welfare.

Annie E. Casey Foundation, [Double Jeopardy: How Third-Grade Reading Skills and Poverty Influence High School Graduation](#), 2011. [Begin to Read, Literacy Statistics](#), 2014



## U.S. Department of Education

- More than half of U.S. adults aged 16 to 65-years-old (54% or 130 million people) lack proficiency in literacy, reading below the equivalent of a sixth-grade level.

## Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy

- The nation could be losing up to \$2.2 trillion annually due to low adult literacy rates.
- Nationwide, low-literate adults struggle to earn a living wage, participate in the democratic process, and manage their family's health and finances simply because they lack the ability to read, write and comprehend.

# Why focus on the Science of Reading?



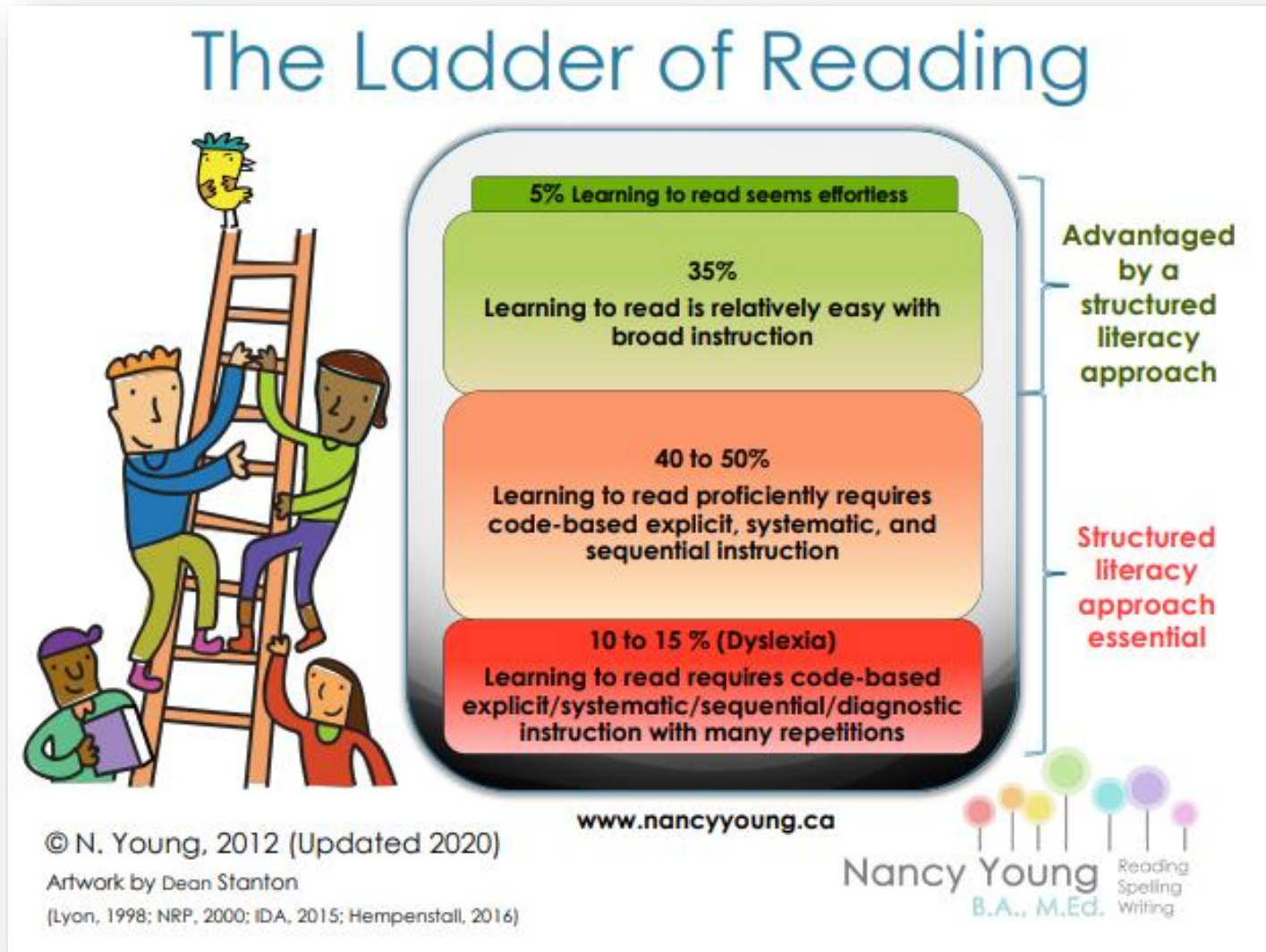
## Science of Reading

The Science of Reading, also described as Structured Literacy, places a focus on teaching the five components of reading: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. This method of instruction has been proven to provide students with the foundational skills needed to learn to read, even those students with reading difficulties, such as those with dyslexia.

## Dyslexia-Focused Reform

As parents and teachers are learning more about dyslexia and other reading challenges, efforts are underway to ensure that teachers can identify dyslexia characteristics and provide appropriate instruction and interventions.

# How can we reach ALL students?



Used with Nancy Young's permission.

[www.nancyyoung.ca](http://www.nancyyoung.ca)

# Comprehension = The Goal of Reading



The Simple View of Reading by Gough & Tunmer, 1986  
a model that represents the skills students need to comprehend



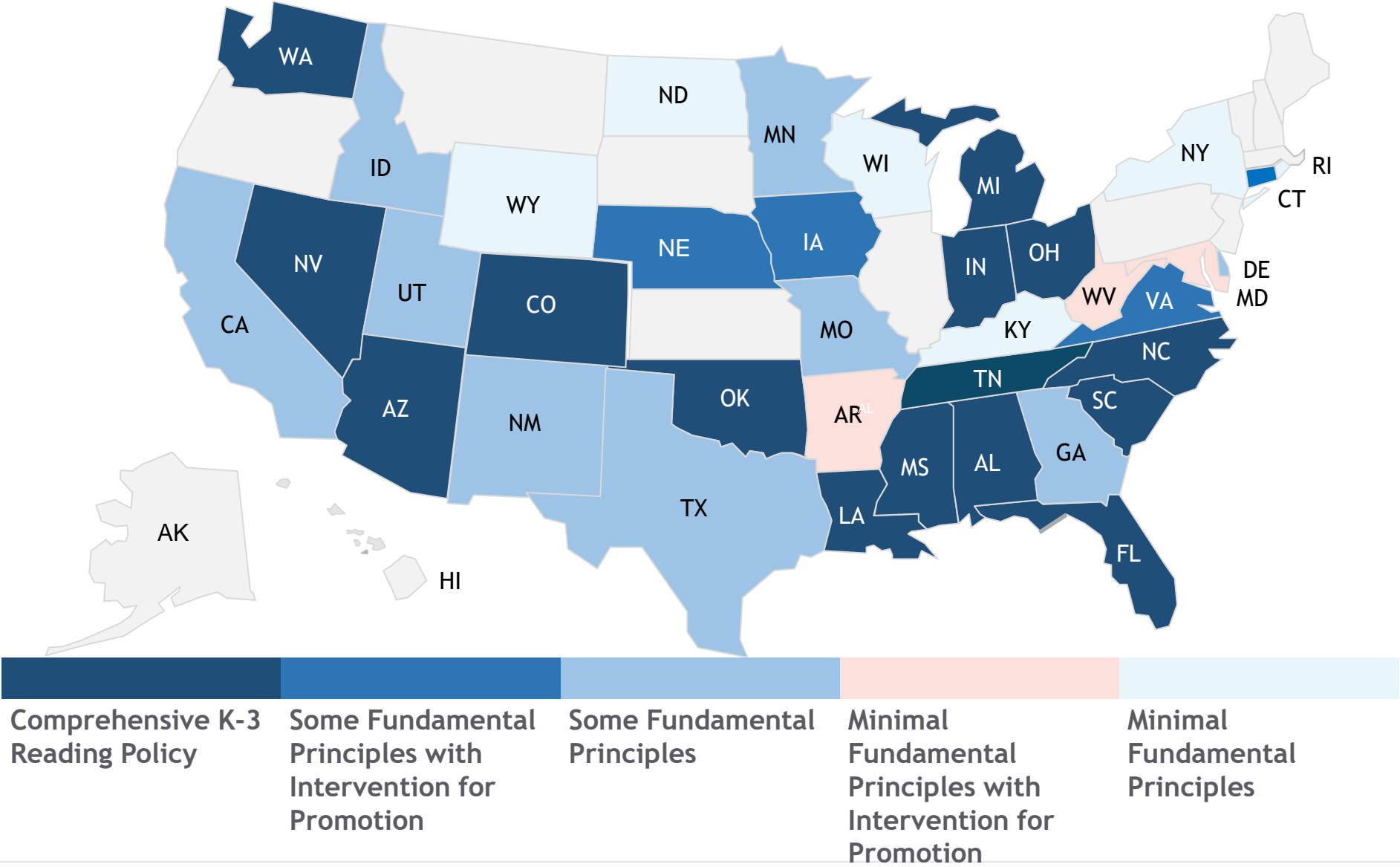
- **Word Recognition/Decoding** - Ability to transform print into spoken language (phonics, phonological awareness)
- **Language Comprehension** - Ability to understand spoken language (vocabulary, background knowledge, structure of language)



# Alaska's Early Literacy Landscape



# K-3 Reading Policy by State (2021)





## The Nation's Report Card - A Common Measure of Student Achievement

NAEP is:

- the only assessment that measures and compares what U.S. students know and can do in various subjects across the nation, states, and in some urban districts.
- a congressionally mandated project administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the U.S. Department of Education and the Institute of Education Sciences (IES).
- given to a representative sample of students across the country.
- administered every two years.

*Note: Results are reported for groups of students with similar characteristics (e.g., gender, race and ethnicity, school location), not individual students.*

# Context for state comparisons

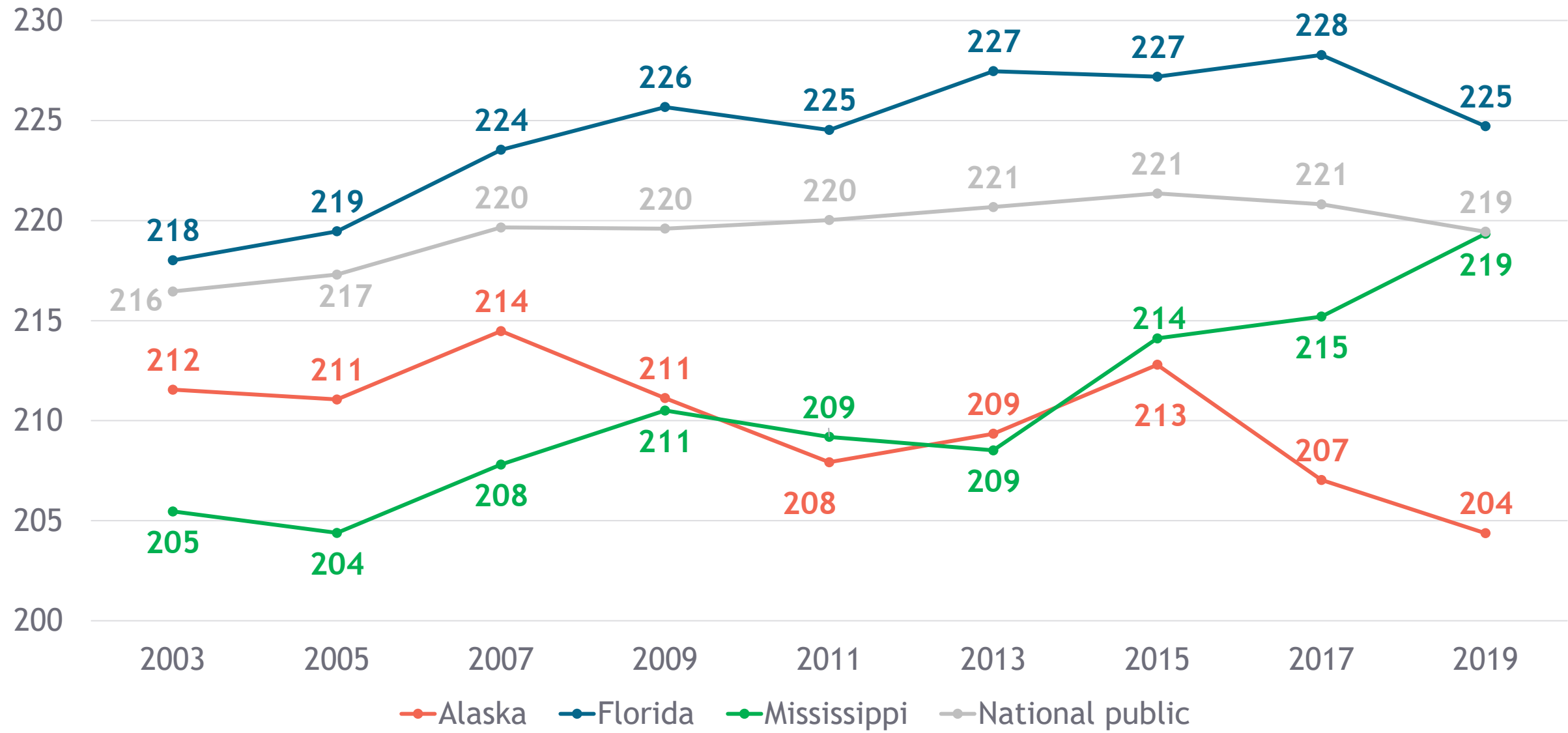


*ALL students can learn. No excuses.*

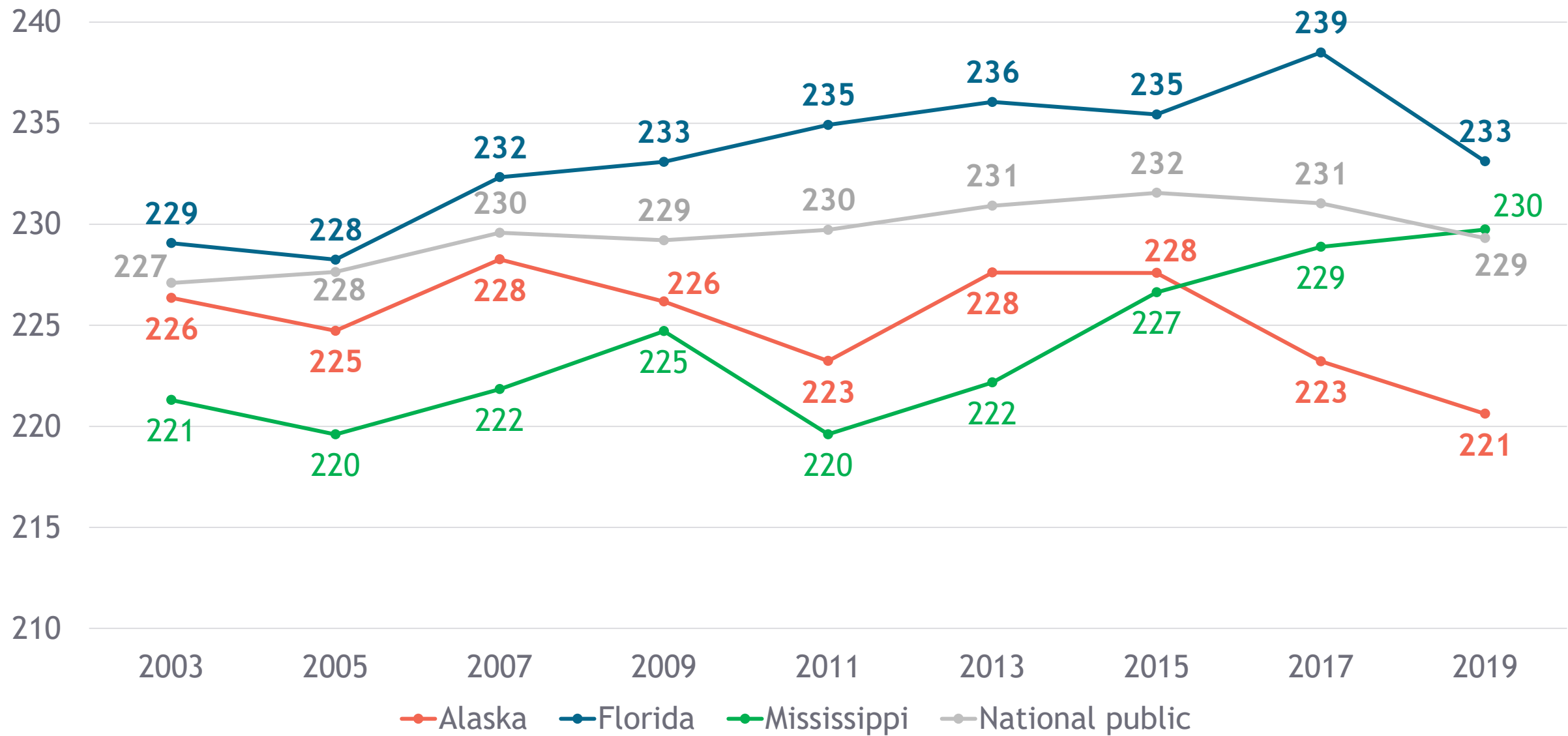
2019 NAEP	Alaska			Florida			Mississippi			National Public	
Grade 4 Read	Scale Score	Rank	Gap	Scale Score	Rank	Gap	Scale Score	Rank	Gap	Scale Score	Gap
All Students	204	51		225	6		219	29		219	
American Indian/Alaska Native	173			-			-			204	
White	221	50		233	9		230	19		229	
Black	-			211	4	23	209	7	21	203	26
Hispanic	206	36	15	221	1	12	221	2	9	208	21
FRL	189	51	32	216	1	22	215	3	24	207	28

	Alaska	Florida	Mississippi
Student Population	130,963	2,846,444	471,298
American Indian/Alaska Native	23%	0.29%	0.23%
Black	3%	22%	48%
Hispanic	7%	34%	4%
White	47%	37%	44%
Free/Reduced Lunch	35%	55%	74%
Per Pupil Expenditure	\$17,726	\$ 9,663	\$ 8,909

# NAEP Average Scale Score Grade 4 Reading: All Students



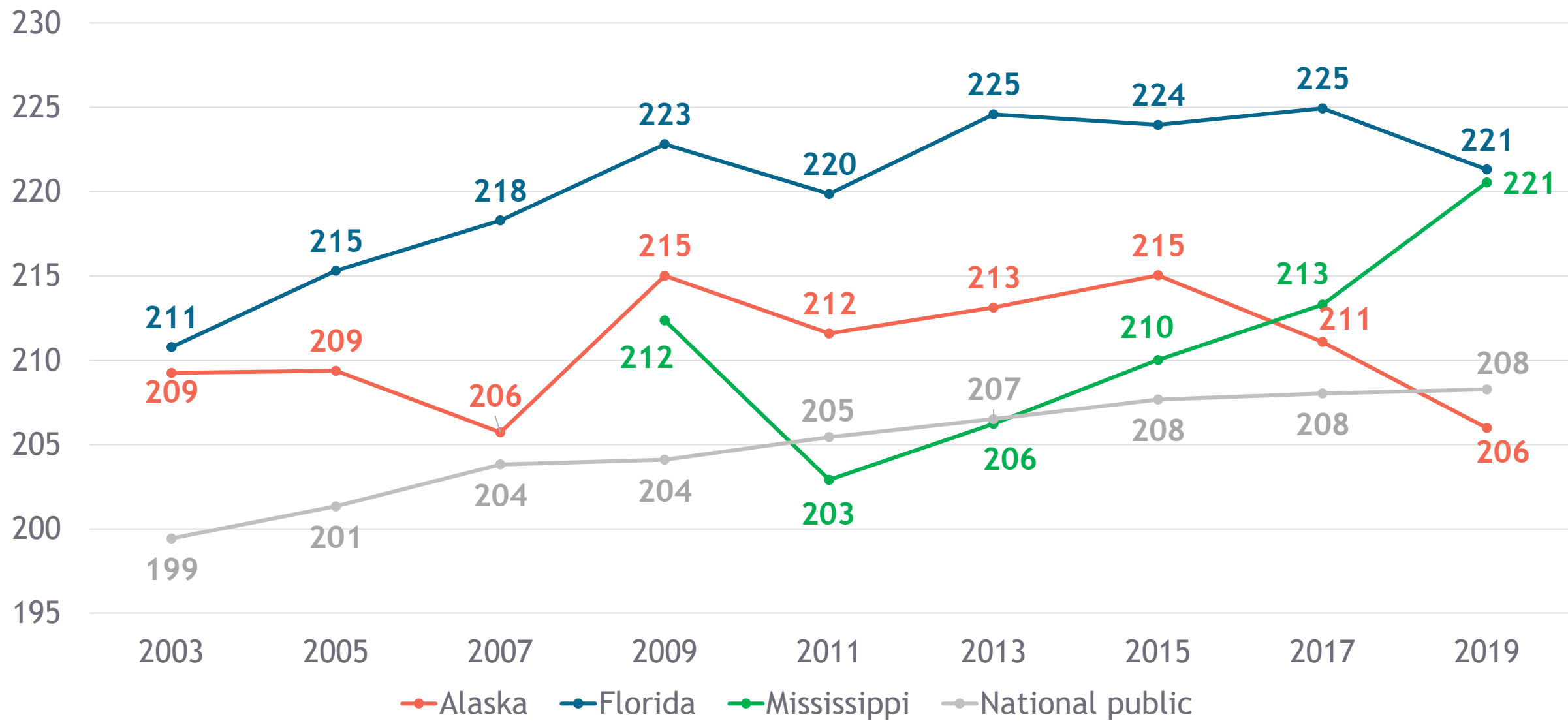
# NAEP Average Scale Score Grade 4 Reading: White Students



# NAEP Average Scale Score Grade 4 Reading: American Indian/Alaska Native Students

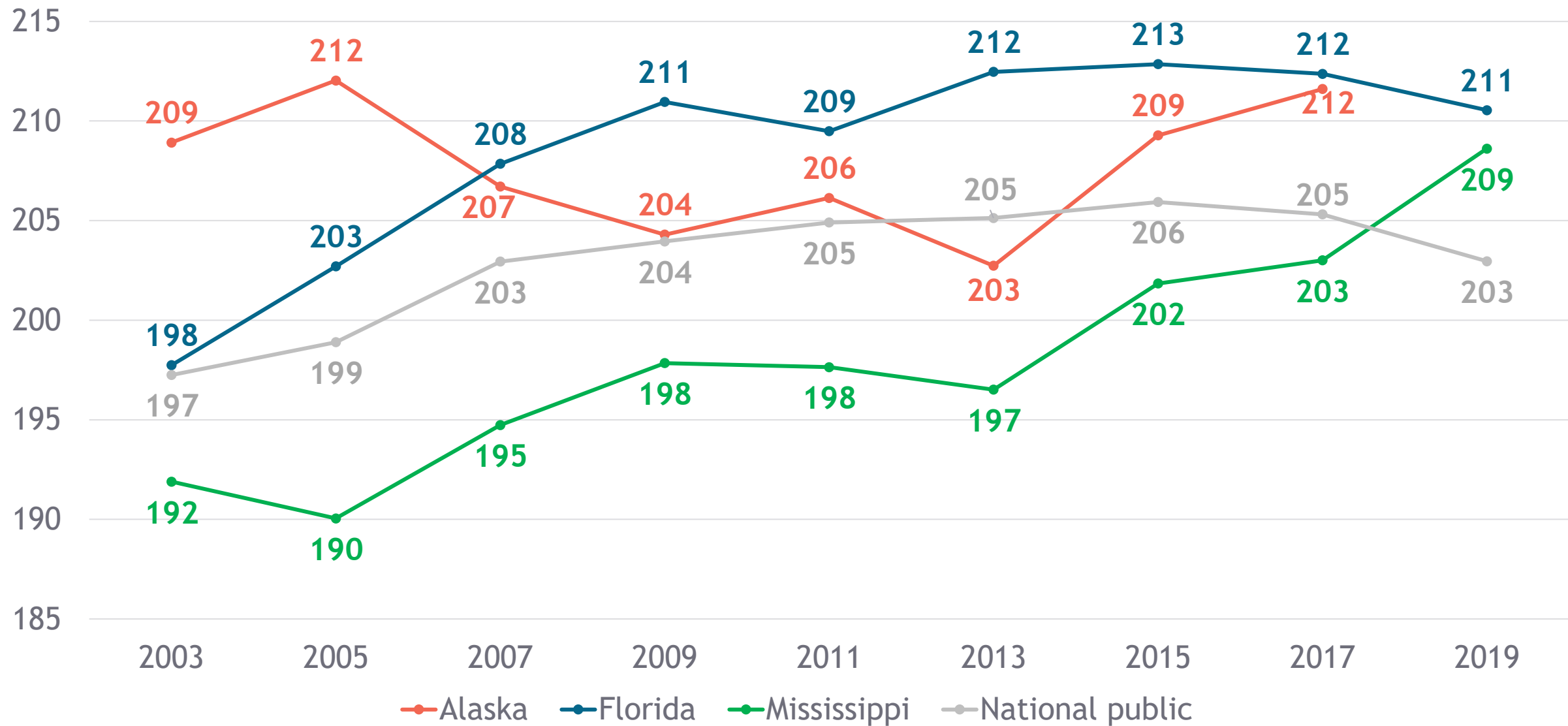


# NAEP Average Scale Score Grade 4 Reading: Hispanic Students

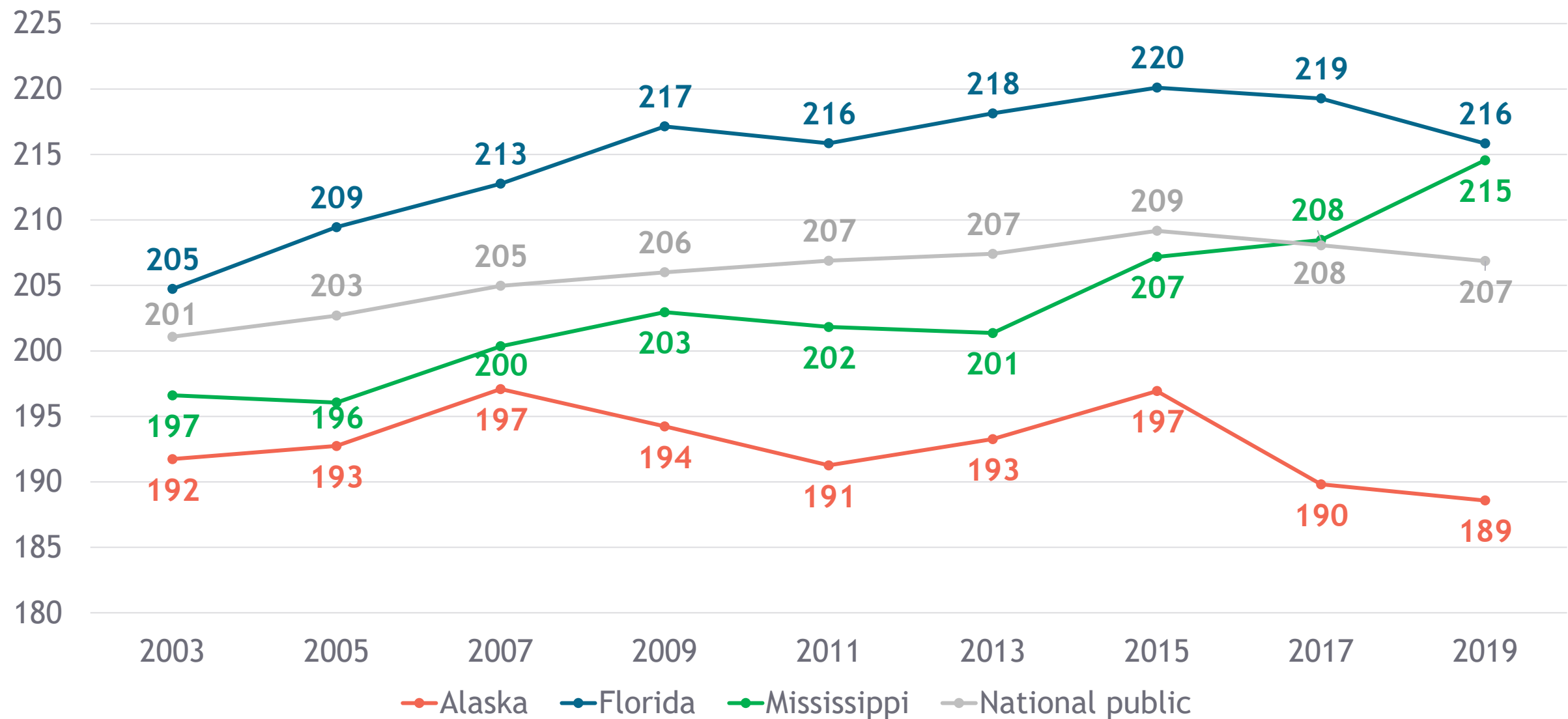




# NAEP Average Scale Score Grade 4 Reading: Black Students



# NAEP Average Scale Score Grade 4 Reading: Economically Disadvantaged Students



# Reading Struggles Don't Discriminate



Reading scores for the nation's lowest-performing students saw a continued decline at both the fourth and eighth-grade levels during the past decade. *And the problem is more widespread than you might think.*

- Reading struggles are not just limited to Black or Latino students.
- Lower-performing readers scored by NAEP tests came from a variety of backgrounds, and the pandemic could have worsened gaps between low- and high-scoring students.
- Across the board, NAEP has shown that lower-performing students are struggling with reading more now than they were a decade ago.

“It's not a problem just for poor students, or students with special needs. We all are represented in the bottom. Perhaps disproportionately for some relative to their representation in the population. But nonetheless, we're all there.”

- Peggy Carr, the Associate Commissioner for Assessments at the Education Department's National Center for Education Statistics, during the June 8, 2021, summit [co-hosted by the Council of the Great City Schools](#).

**Where does Alaska go from here? Close learning and opportunity gaps for all students, especially those most at-risk, through support for early literacy and increased access to high-quality literacy instruction.**



# ExcelinEd

Thank You!

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