



A-F School Grading



Foundation for Excellence in Education

Our vision is to build an education system that maximizes every student's potential for learning and prepares all students for success in the 21st century.

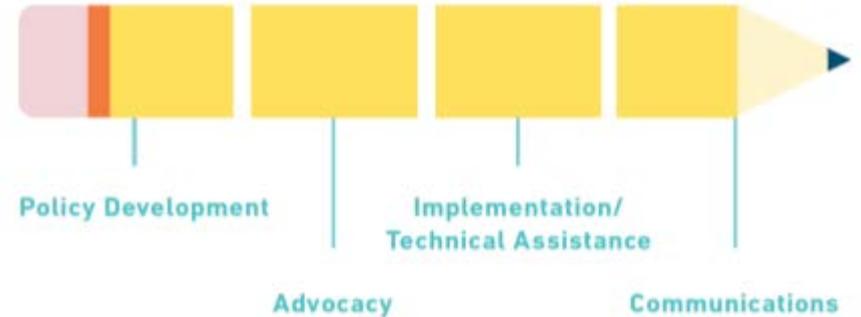
Our Guiding Principles

All children can learn.

All children should learn at least a year's worth of knowledge in a year's time.

All children will achieve when education is organized around the singular goal of student success.

What We Do



Our Board of Directors



Dr. Condoleezza Rice
Chair of the Board
of Directors



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Board of Directors



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Student Success Impacts Society

23

%

Of 17-20 year olds taking the Armed Forces Qualification Test do not earn a qualifying score.¹

74

%

Of ACT-tested high school graduates fail to score “college ready” in English, reading, math and science.²

600,000

Vacant manufacturing jobs due to lack of qualified applicants.³

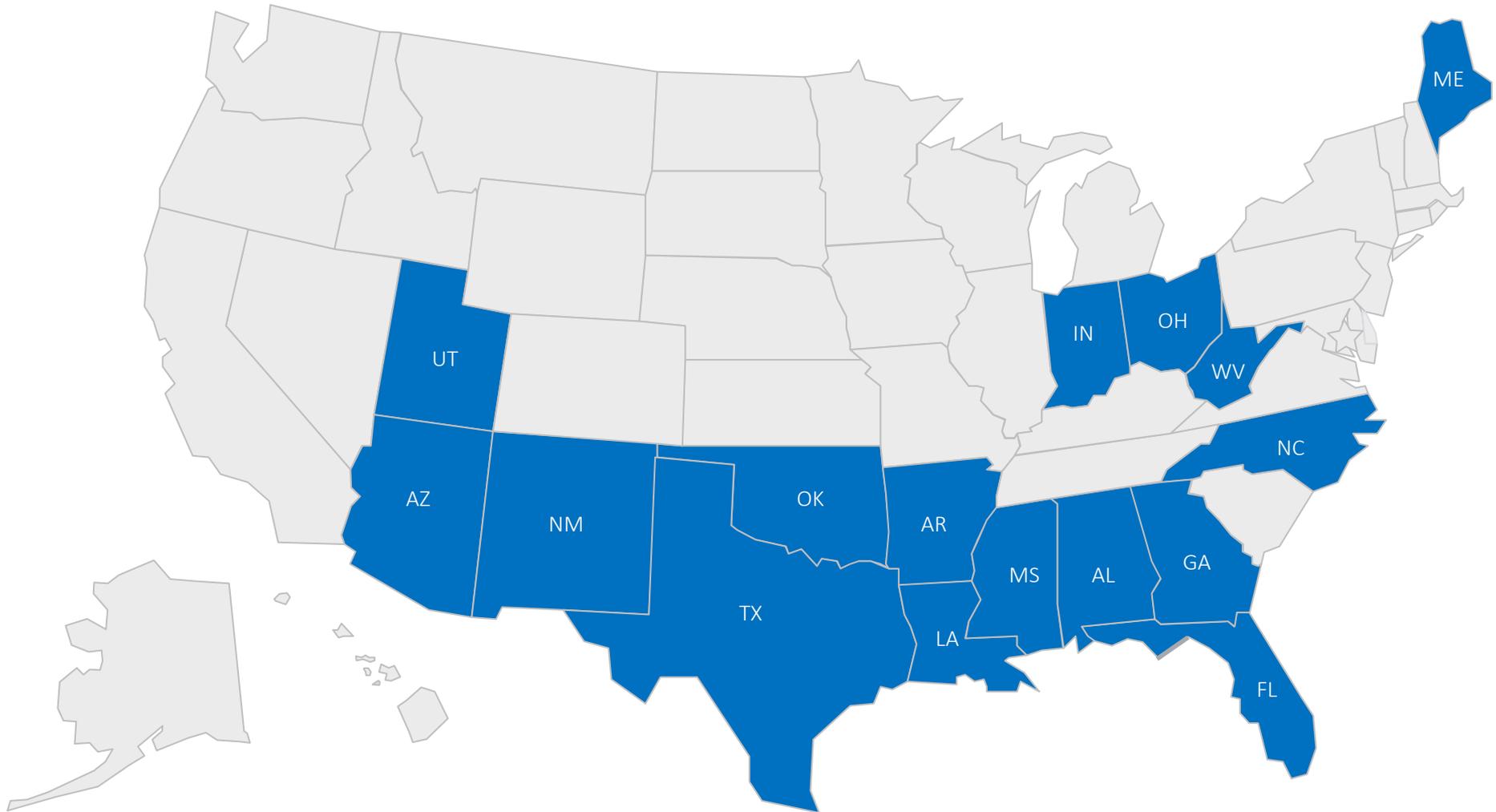
\$7B

is spent by first-year college students to learn what they should have been taught in high school.⁴

1. Education Trust, Shutout of the Military: Today’s High School Education Doesn’t Mean You’re Ready for Today’s Army, 2010
2. ACT, Condition of College & Career Readiness, 2014
3. The Manufacturing Institute, The Growing Skills Gap Report, 2013
4. J. Scott-Clayton, P. M. Crosta, and C. R. Belfield, Improving the Targeting of Treatment: Evidence from College Remediation, Washington, DC: the National Bureau of Economic Research, 2012

All states are required to have a school accountability system, but not many are transparent and built only on student learning outcomes

16 States Have Adopted A-F School Grading



States often have confusing classifications



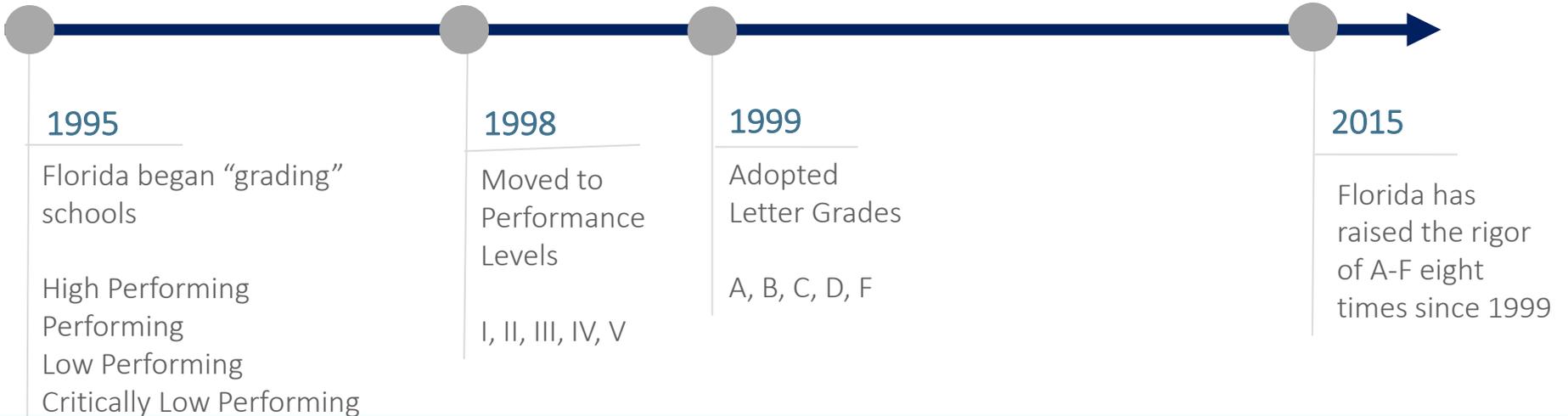
State School Classifications

- Fully Accredited
- Provisionally Accredited
- Accredited with Warning
- Accreditation Denied
- Conditionally Accredited—New
- Conditionally Accredited—Reconstituted

- Red
- Orange
- Yellow
- Lime Green
- Dark Green



Florida School Grades



School Grades: Fundamental Principles

A-F school grades provide **transparent, objective, and easily understood data** to parents, educators and the public to spur improvement among all schools.

1

Use clear and transparent descriptors of A, B, C, D, and F

2

Include only objective, concise student learning outcome measures

3

Measure college and career readiness in high school

4

Balance measures of student performance and progress

5

Calculate student progress toward grade level and advanced achievement

6

Focus attention on the progress of the lowest performing students in each school, irrespective of race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status

7

Report results in a timely manner as close to the end of the school year as possible

8

Communicate clearly to parents

9

Establish rigorous criteria, with automatic increases, in order to earn A, B, C, D or F grades

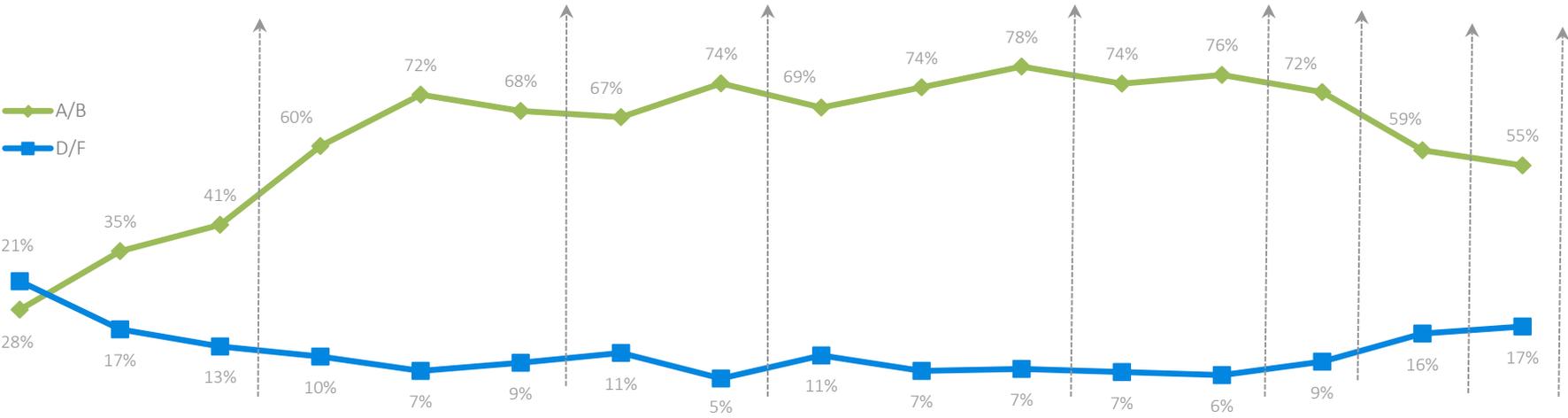


Example Elementary and Middle School Grade

English/ Language Arts	Math	Social Studies	Science
Proficiency 83%	Proficiency 78%	Proficiency 81%	Proficiency 63%
Progress (all students) 90%	Progress (all students) 85%	800 Points Total Each component has 100 possible points The percent equals the points earned 648 points earned / 800 points possible 81% = B	
Progress (lowest 25%) 86%	Progress (lowest 25%) 82%		

A high school grade includes additional components for graduation rate and college and career readiness.

Florida A-F Increased in Rigor and Improved Student Achievement Dramatically Since 1999



1999
Moved to A, B, C, D, F grades

2002
Student learning gains added to calculation

2005
Students with disabilities and ELL added to the calculation

Writing standard raised

2007
Science and math for lowest 25% gains added to the calculation

2010
High school accountability components added:
- Graduation rate
- At Risk Graduation rate
- Acceleration rate
- College readiness rate

2012
Proficiency expectation increased

2013
Writing expectation increased

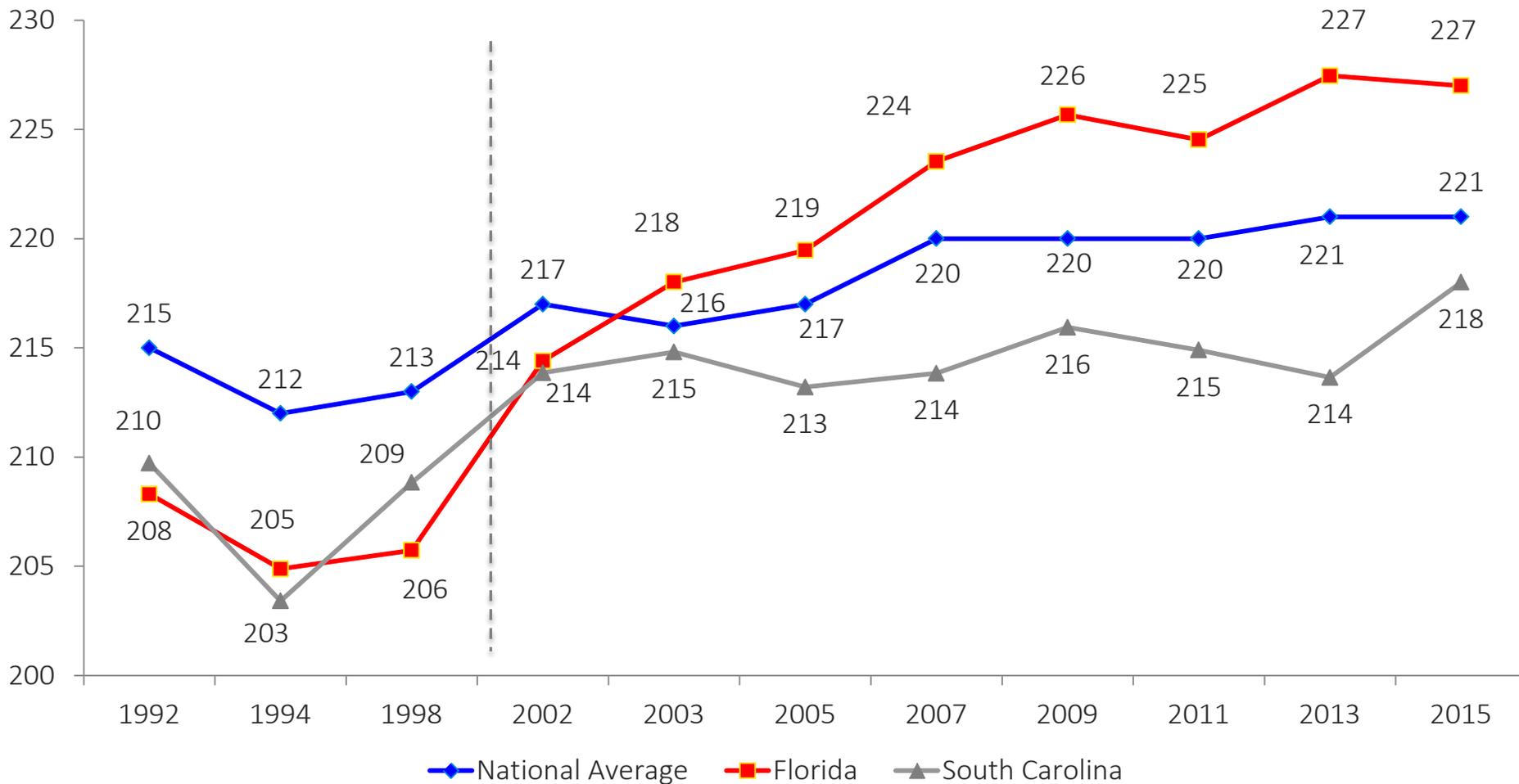
"F" if less than 25% proficient readers

2014
HS A-F scale increased
Harder grad requirements

2015
New grading formula

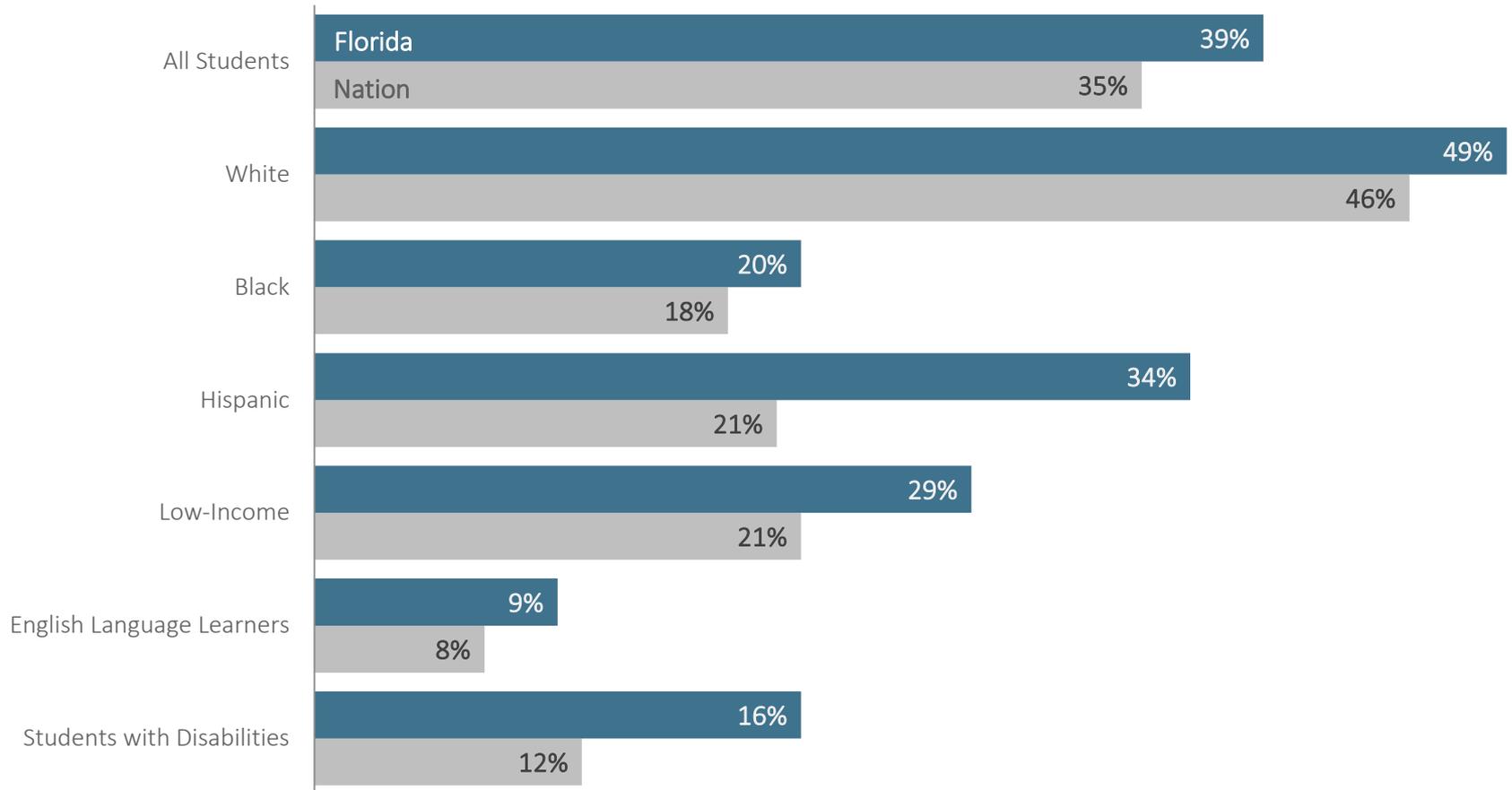
New, rigorous tests

Average NAEP 4th Grade Reading Scores for All Students
Florida, South Carolina, and National Average 1992-2015



Florida students outperform their peers nationally in every category

National Average and Florida Students Scoring “Proficient or Better” on 2015 NAEP Grade 4 Reading, by subgroup



Florida Results



	Florida Pre-Reform	Florida Turnaround
Graduation Rates	Eight years of consecutive decline	At an all-time high and continue to rise
Dropout Rates	Continue to rise	Rates continue to decrease
NAEP	Ranked among the bottom performing states on NAEP	Above the national average in grades 4 and 8 reading and math
Achievement Gaps	Wide gaps in every demographic comparison	Gaps narrower for all demographic comparisons

A-F School Grading



Pros

- Extremely Successful
- Positive Pressure to Raise Student Learning
- Clear Communications
- Fundamental Principles

Cons

- Focus on the Calculation
- Negative Pressure to Keep the Bar Low
- Clear Communications
- Constant Effort

WhyProficiencyMatters.com

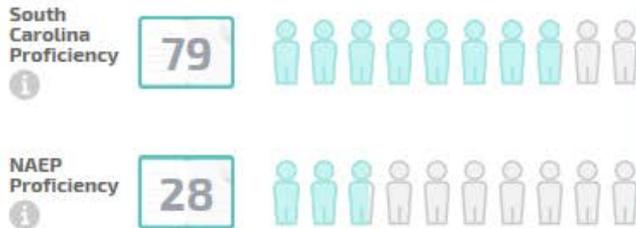
South Carolina 2013 Proficiency Gap



Comparison of 2013 State Assessment to 2013 NAEP Results

Across the country, states are in the process of reviewing their proficiency cut scores. Achieving proficiency ensures every student graduates prepared for success in college, a career or the military. Our education systems must raise proficiency expectations to ensure every child masters essential knowledge and skills.

4th Grade Reading 2013
4th Grade Math 2013
8th Grade Reading 2013
8th Grade Math 2013



STATE	NAEP	GAP	DEMOGRAPHIC
79	28	51	All Students
38	7	32	Disabled
71	17	53	Low Income
88	39	49	White
66	13	52	Black
72	21	50	Hispanic

Measuring proficiency is essentially measuring readiness.

When you compare the national measure (NAEP) to your state, the difference between the two is the proficiency gap. Why does proficiency matter? It matters because you need to know if your child is ready for the next grade, and more importantly, their future in the competitive national and global market we live in.

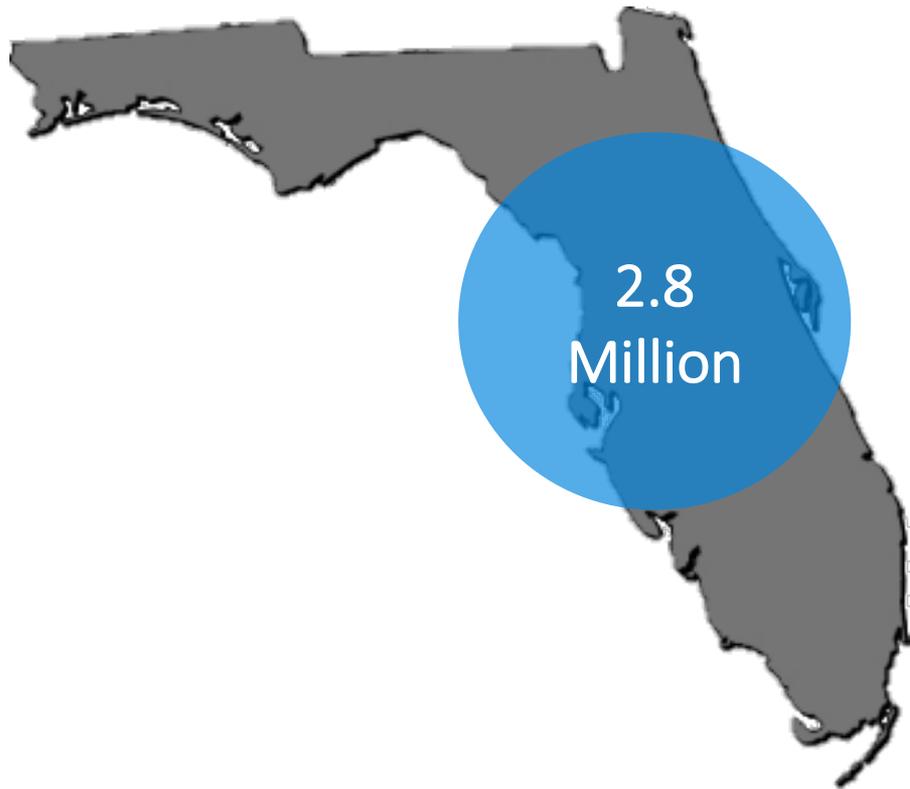
States must raise the bar and set realistic expectations to ensure students are ready for college, career and the military.

School Grades: States Meeting the Fundamental Principles



Clear and transparent descriptors	Includes only objective, concise measures of student learning	Balance of proficiency and growth measures	Growth is measured to proficient and advanced	Includes growth of the lowest performing students	Sets rigorous, criteria-based standard to earn a grade w/automatic increases	College and career readiness measures	Timely reporting	Clear, accessible communication to parents
AL, AZ, AR, FL, GA, IN, LA, ME, MS, NM, NC, OH, OK, TX, UT, WV	AZ, FL, GA, IN, LA, ME, MS, NC, OH, OK, UT, WV	AZ, AR, FL, ME, MS, NM, OK, UT, WV	FL, ME, MS	AL, AZ, FL, IN, LA, ME, MS, NM, OH, OK, UT, WV	AR, LA, ME, MS, NM, NC, OK, UT	AL, AZ, AR, FL, IN, LA, ME, MS, NM, NC, OH, OK, UT, WV	FL, NM, NC, TX, WV	AZ, IN, LA, ME, MS, OK, UT
Do not meet or TBD	Do not meet or TBD AL, AR, NM, TX	Do not meet or TBD AL, GA, IN, LA, NC, OH, TX	Do not meet or TBD AL, AZ, AR, GA, IN, LA, NM, NC, OH, OK, TX, UT, WV	Do not meet or TBD AR, GA, NC, TX	Do not meet or TBD AL, AZ, FL, GA, IN, OH, TX, WV	Do not meet or TBD GA, TX	Do not meet or TBD AL, AZ, AR, GA, IN, LA, ME, MA, OH, OK, UT	Do not meet or TBD AL, AR, FL, NM, NC, OH, TX, WV
Yes: 16 No/TBD: 0	Yes: 12 No/TBD: 4	Yes: 9 No/TBD: 7	Yes: 3 No/TBD: 13	Yes: 12 No/TBD: 4	Yes: 8 No/TBD: 8	Yes: 14 No/TBD: 2	Yes: 5 No/TBD: 11	Yes: 7 No/TBD: 9

Florida Student Population



58% LIVING IN OR NEAR POVERTY

60% NON-WHITE
Majority Minority State

Large population of students learning English as a second language.

Impact of A-F

Increased Transparency

- A, B, C, D, F vs. . . .
- Reward, Celebration Eligible, Continuous Improvement, Focus, Priority

Improved Student Achievement*

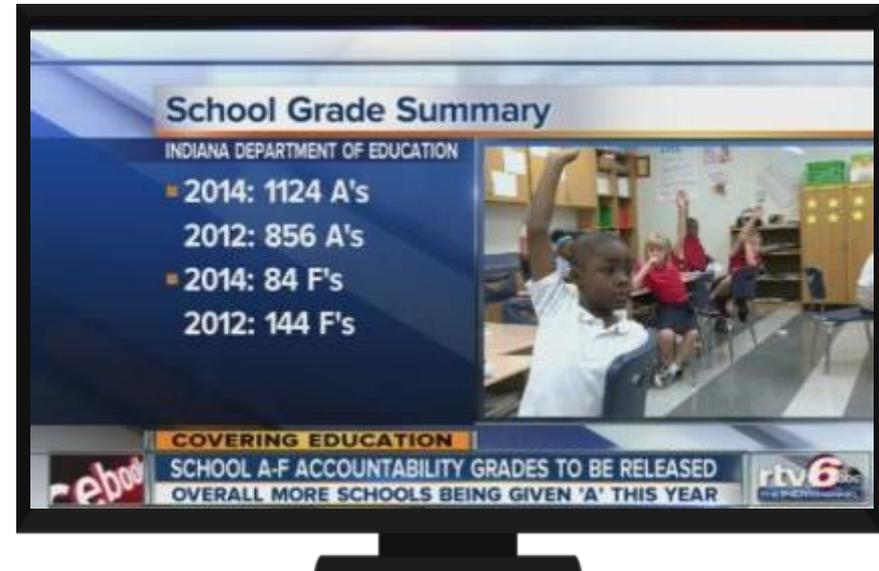
- Schools facing accountability under A-F change their instructional policies and practices in meaningful ways.
- Evidence supports that improvement in student achievement and test scores in low-performing schools are because of the pressure to improve.

Increased Parent Involvement

- In Oklahoma, first year of issuing grades, 25,000 more hits on the A-F website than number of students in Oklahoma schools.

Command Focus on Learning

- Leon County (Tallahassee, FL) School board dedicated entire meeting on how to be the first district in the state with no “C” schools.



School Accountability Resources and Materials

Policy Resources

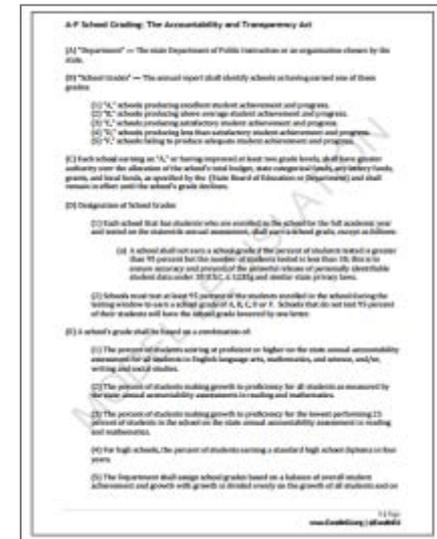
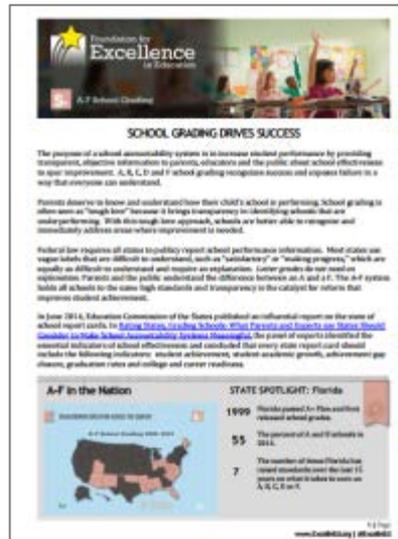
- Model Legislation
- School Accountability Summary
- Fundamental Principles
- School Accountability Policy Brief
- Growth Models Policy Brief

Implementation Resources

- Action Plan Form
- Excuse v. Reality

Videos

- What grade would your school earn?
- National Summit on Education Reform 2008-2014



Thank You !

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