



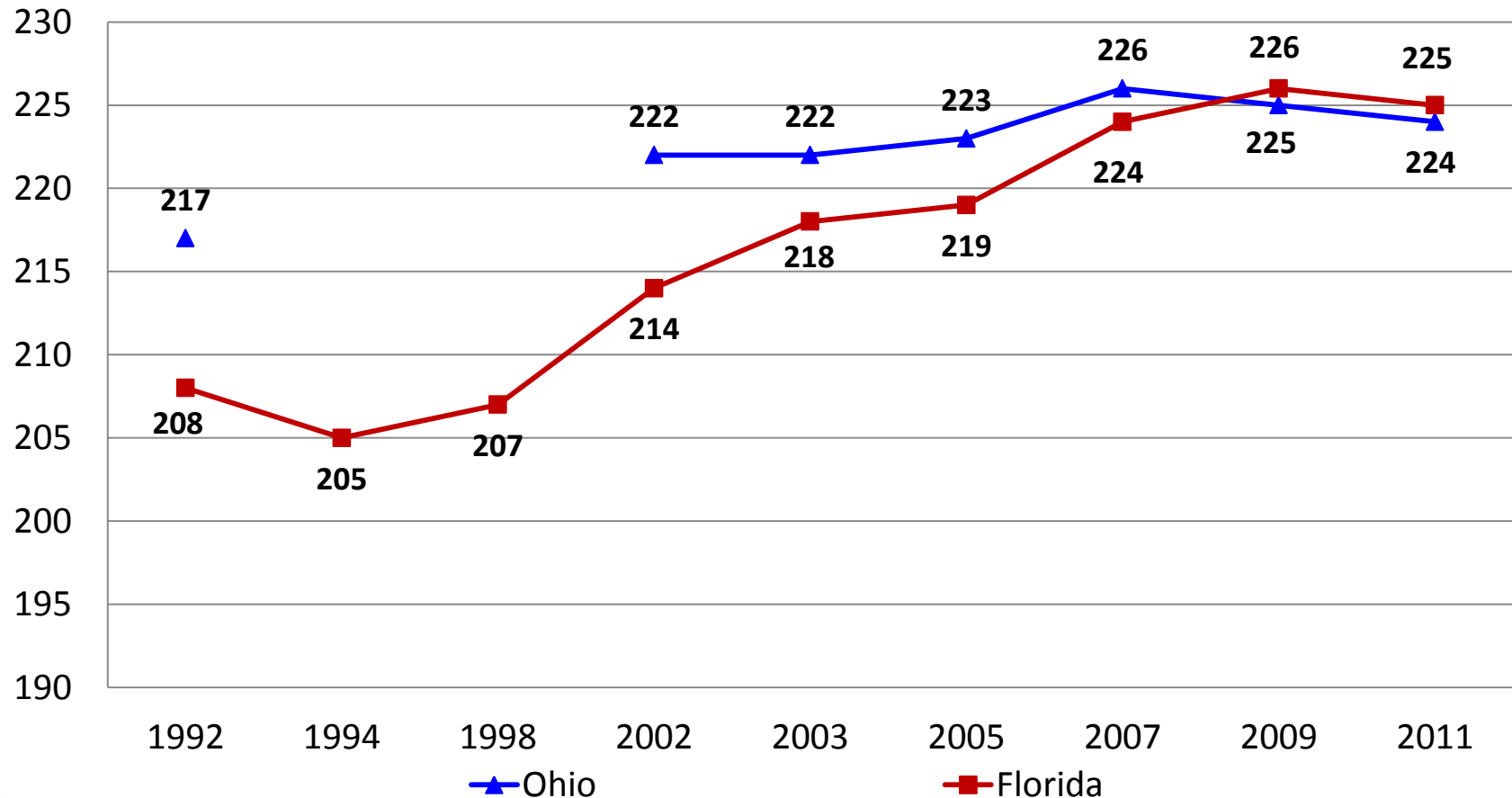
Florida Formula for Student Achievement: *Lessons for the Nation*

Florida Student Population

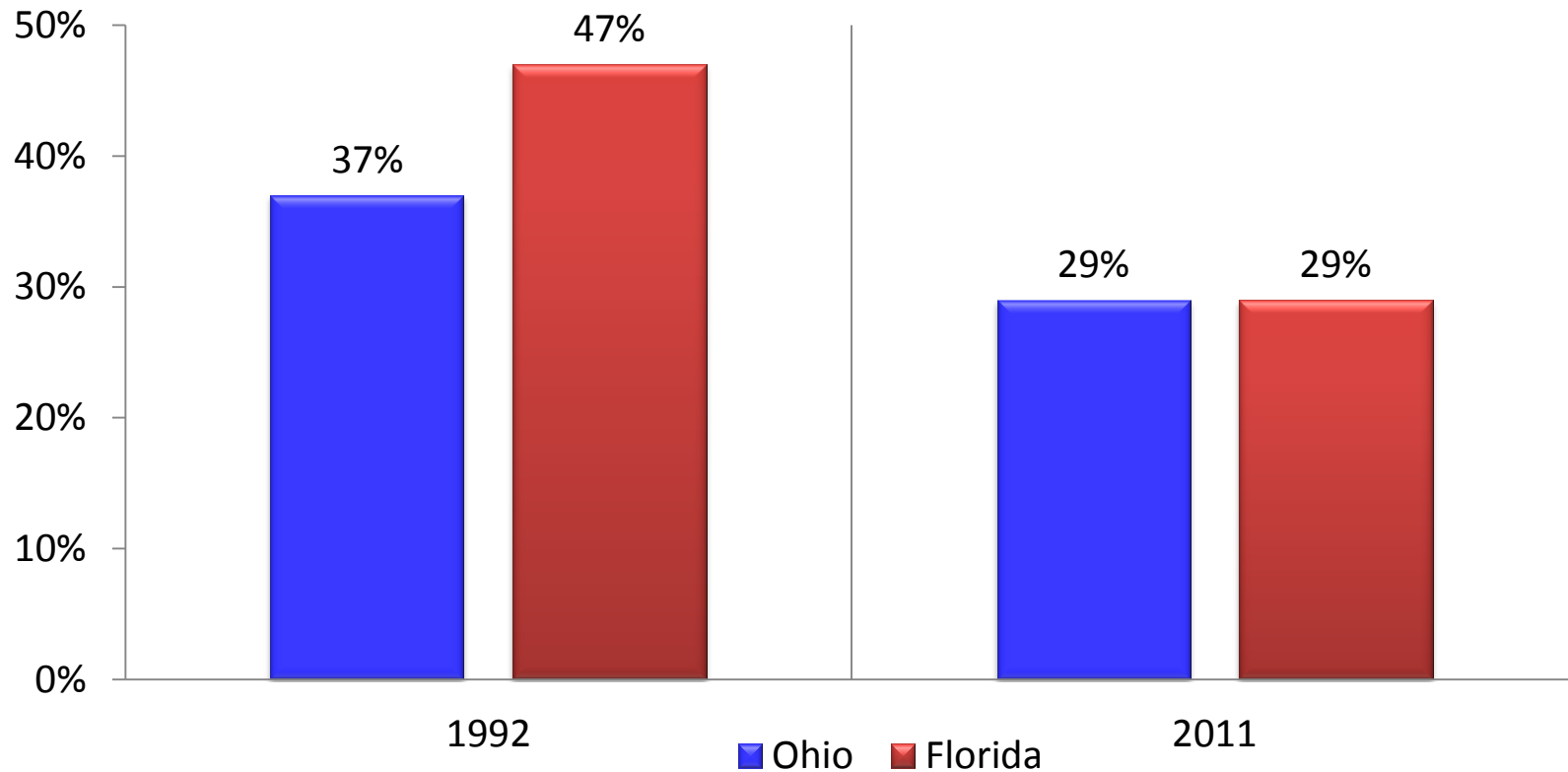
- 2.7 million students
- Majority minority student population
- Large population of students learning English as a second language
- Majority of students are eligible for free and reduced priced lunch

NAEP

Average NAEP 4th Grade Reading Scores, Ohio and Florida 1992-2011

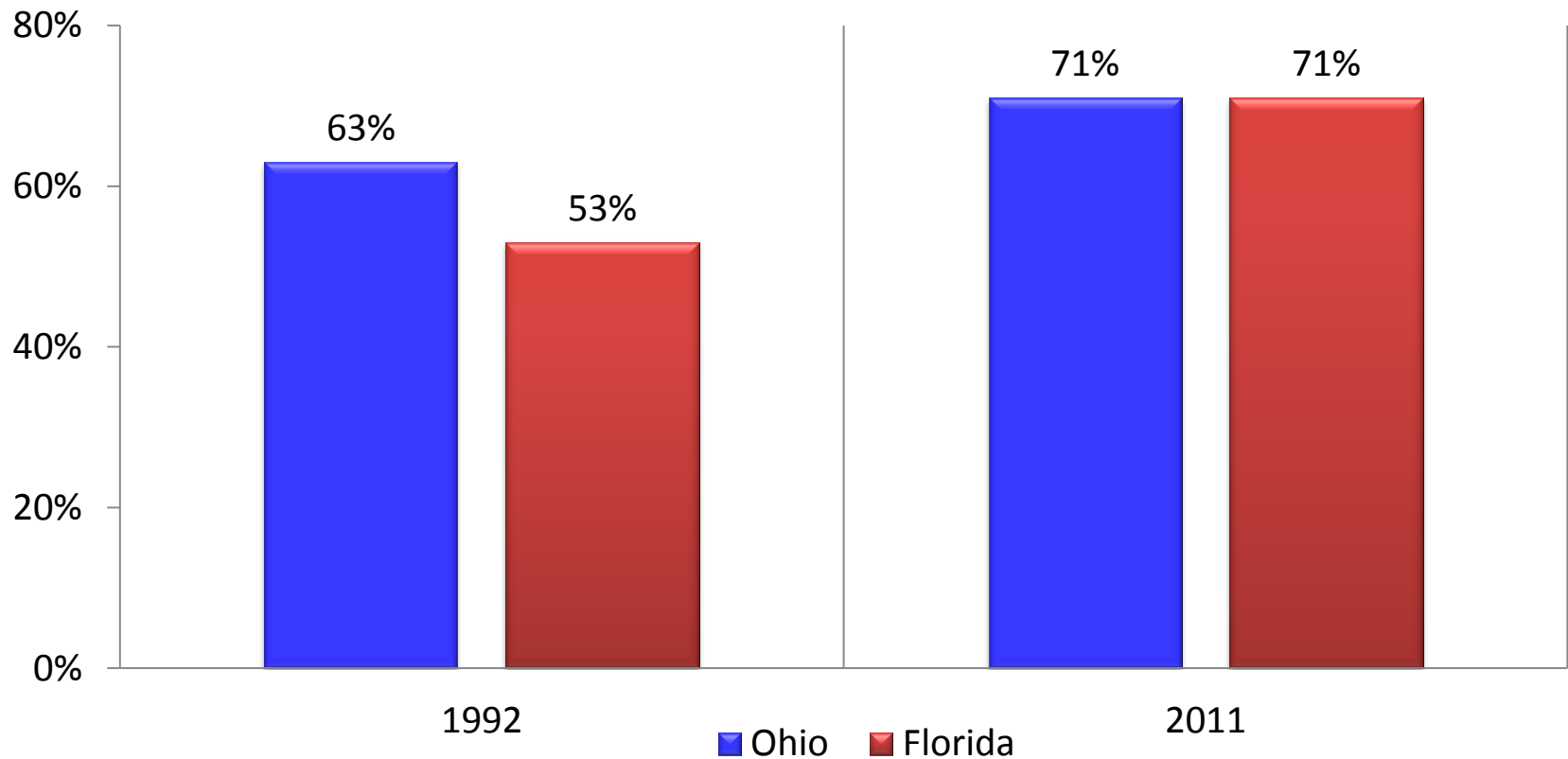


Percentage of Ohio and Florida Students Scoring at the Below Basic Level on NAEP 4th Grade Reading, 1992 and 2011



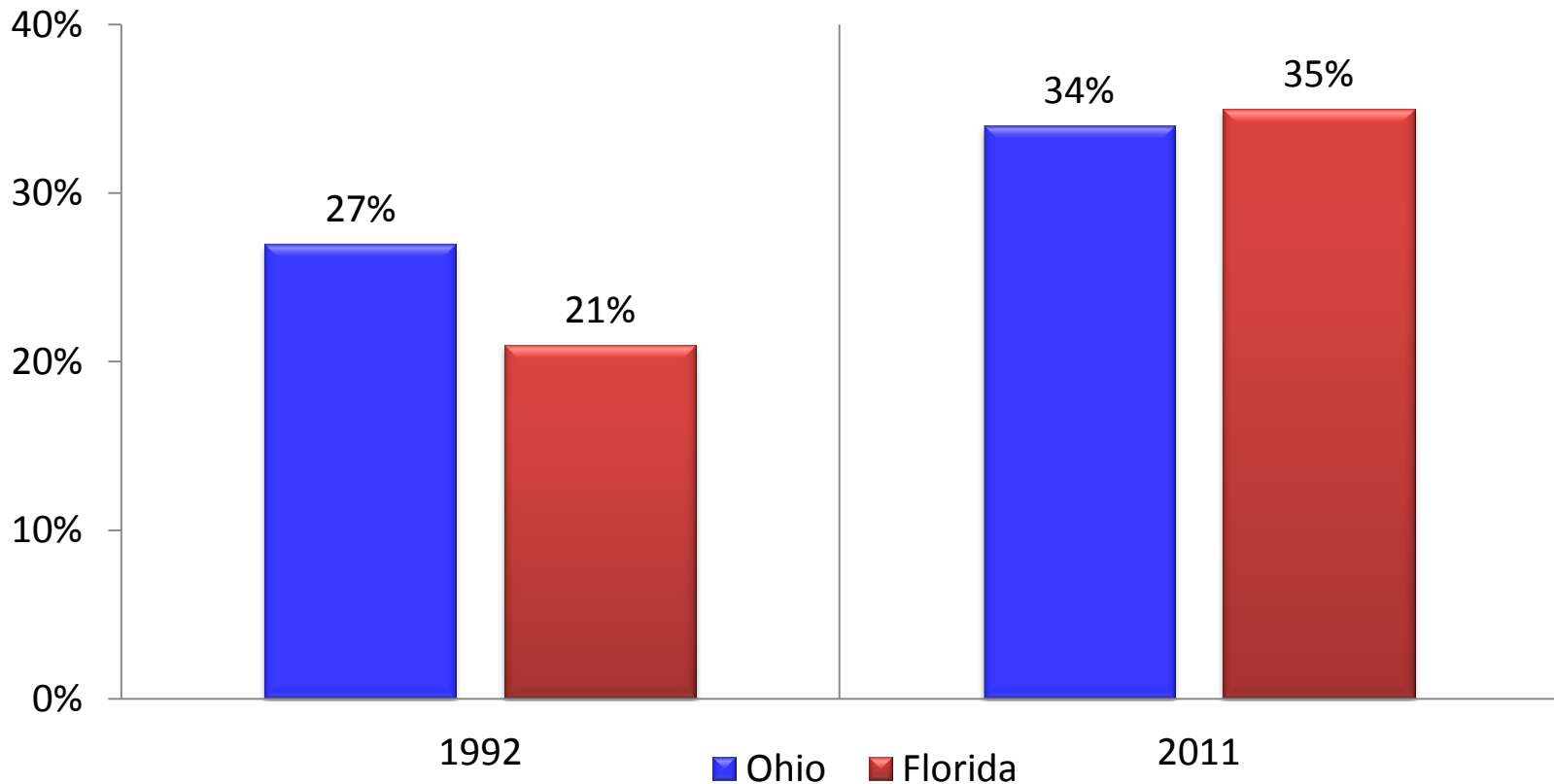
NAEP

Percentage of Ohio and Florida Students Scoring at the Basic or Better Level on NAEP 4th Grade Reading, 1992 and 2011



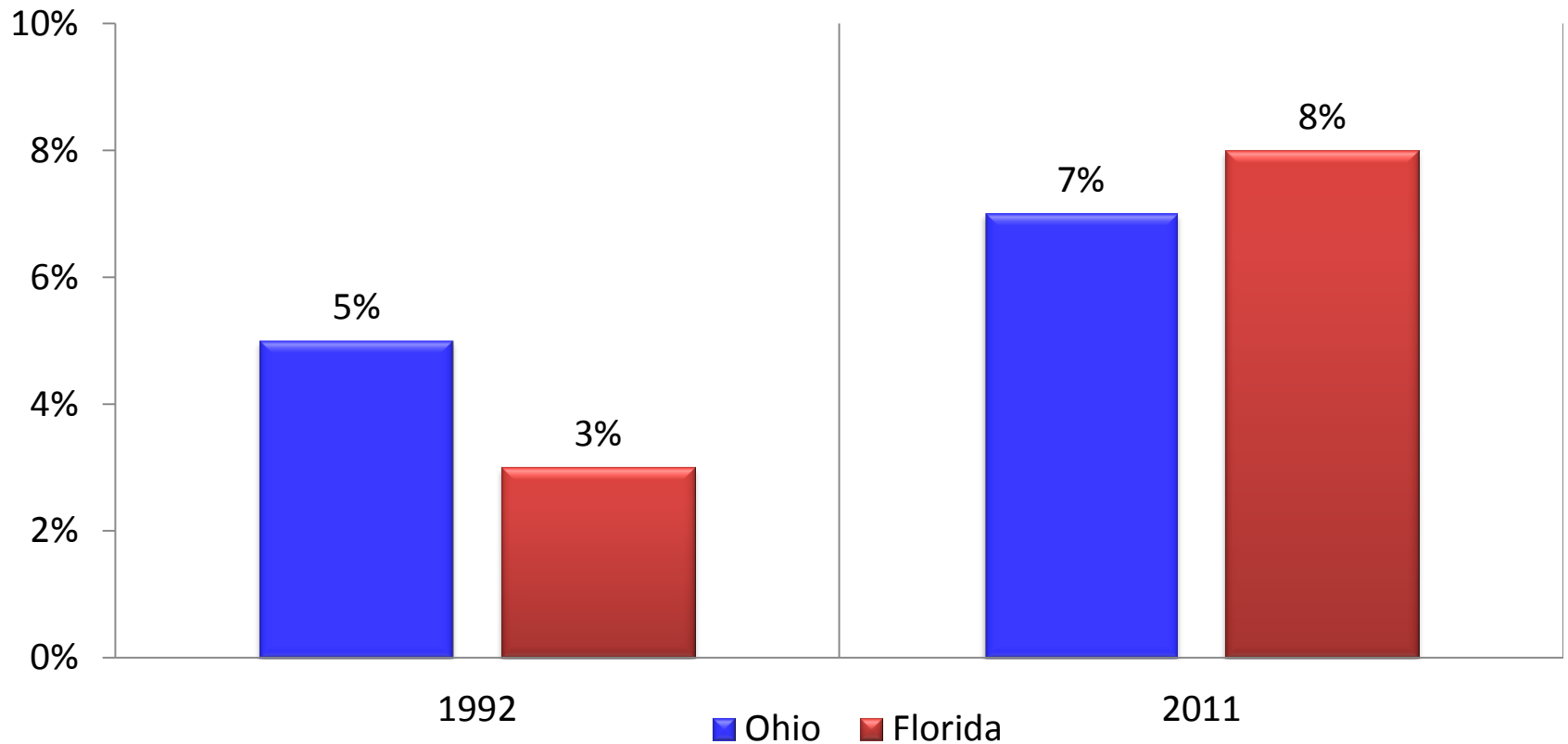
NAEP

Percentage of Ohio and Florida Students Scoring at the Proficient Level on NAEP 4th Grade Reading, 1992 and 2011



NAEP

Percentage of Ohio and Florida Students Scoring at the Advanced Level on NAEP 4th Grade Reading, 1992 and 2011





Florida Formula for Student Achievement: *A Roadmap of Reform*

Florida Reforms 1999-2011

- A – F School Grades
- Rewards for Results and Opting Out of Failure
- Promotion and Graduation Requirements
- Funding for Student Success
- Quality Educators
- Choices, Choices, Choices (charter, private, digital)



A-F School Grades

“What gets measured, gets done.”
– Jeb Bush

Measuring Student Learning

Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)

- Aligned with state academic standards
- Subjects: Reading, Math, Writing and Science

Testing expanded from 3 subjects in 3 grades to:

- In 2001, Reading and Math expanded to all grades 3 to 10
- In 2003, Science added to grades 5, 8 and 11
- Writing in grades 4, 8 and 10

Performance Levels

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| Insufficient | Below Grade Level | Grade Level | Above Grade Level | Advanced |

History of School Grades

1995: Florida began “grading” schools:

- High Performing
- Performing
- Low Performing
- Critically Low Performing

1998: Moved to Performance Levels: I, II, III, IV, V

1999: Adopted Letter Scale of A to F

School Grades: A - F

- **School Grade is based primarily on students' performance on the FCAT.**
- **Proficiency / Achievement:** 50% of the grade
 - Percent of all students performing on grade level
- **Progress / Learning Gains:** 50% of the grade
 - Percent of students learning a year's worth of knowledge, regardless of whether they are on grade level
 - Percent of lowest performing 25 percent students who are making a year's worth of progress

*In 2010, high school grades began including graduation rates, at-risk student graduation rates, acceleration rates, college readiness rates

*In 2012, middle school grades began including participation and performance on high school level EOC assessments; in 2012-13 industry certification and participation performance; 2014-15, performance on civics exam

Defining Progress

- **Progress is when a student:**
 - Increases a performance level
 - Moving from level 3 to 4
 - Stays at same level -- levels 3, 4, or 5 – from one year to the next (example: same level in 4th and 5th grade)
 - Moves up sufficiently within the lowest two levels

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| Insufficient | Below Grade Level | Grade Level | Above Grade Level | Advanced |

School Grades

Each category has 100 possible points (percent of students)

| Reading | Math | Writing | Science |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Proficiency | Proficiency | Proficiency | Proficiency |
| Progress (all students) | Progress (all students) | | |
| Progress (lowest 25%) | Progress (lowest 25%) | | |

Sunshine Elementary School

| Reading | Math | Writing | Science |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Proficiency 63% | Proficiency 59% | Proficiency 90% | Proficiency 51% |
| Progress (all students) 66% | Progress (all students) 68% | 508 points = B | |
| Progress (lowest 25%) 57% | Progress (lowest 25%) 54% | | |

School Grades

| | A | B | C | D | F |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|----------------------------------|
| Points* | ES: 525+ MS: 590+ HS: 1050+ | ES: 495 – 524 MS: 560-589 HS: 990-1049 | ES: 435 – 494 MS: 490-559 HS: 870-989 | ES: 395 – 434 MS: 445-489 HS: 790-879 | ES: <395 MS: <445 HS: <790 |
| Percent of Eligible Students Tested | At least 95% | At least 90% | At least 90% | At least 90% | Less than 90% |
| Adequate Progress with Lowest 25% in Reading and Math | Within one year | Within two years | Within two years | | |

*Beginning in 2011-12, if at least 75% of elementary, middle or high school statewide are As or Bs, the point scale will increase by 5% for that school type statewide the following year.

Grading Florida Middle Schools

Next Generation of Education Reform

In 2013, middle school grades will include:

- Acceleration rates
 - performance and participation of middle school students taking and passing high school end of course exams like Algebra I

In 2015, middle school grades will include:

- Student Performance on Middle School Civics exam

Grading Florida High Schools

Next Generation of Education Reform

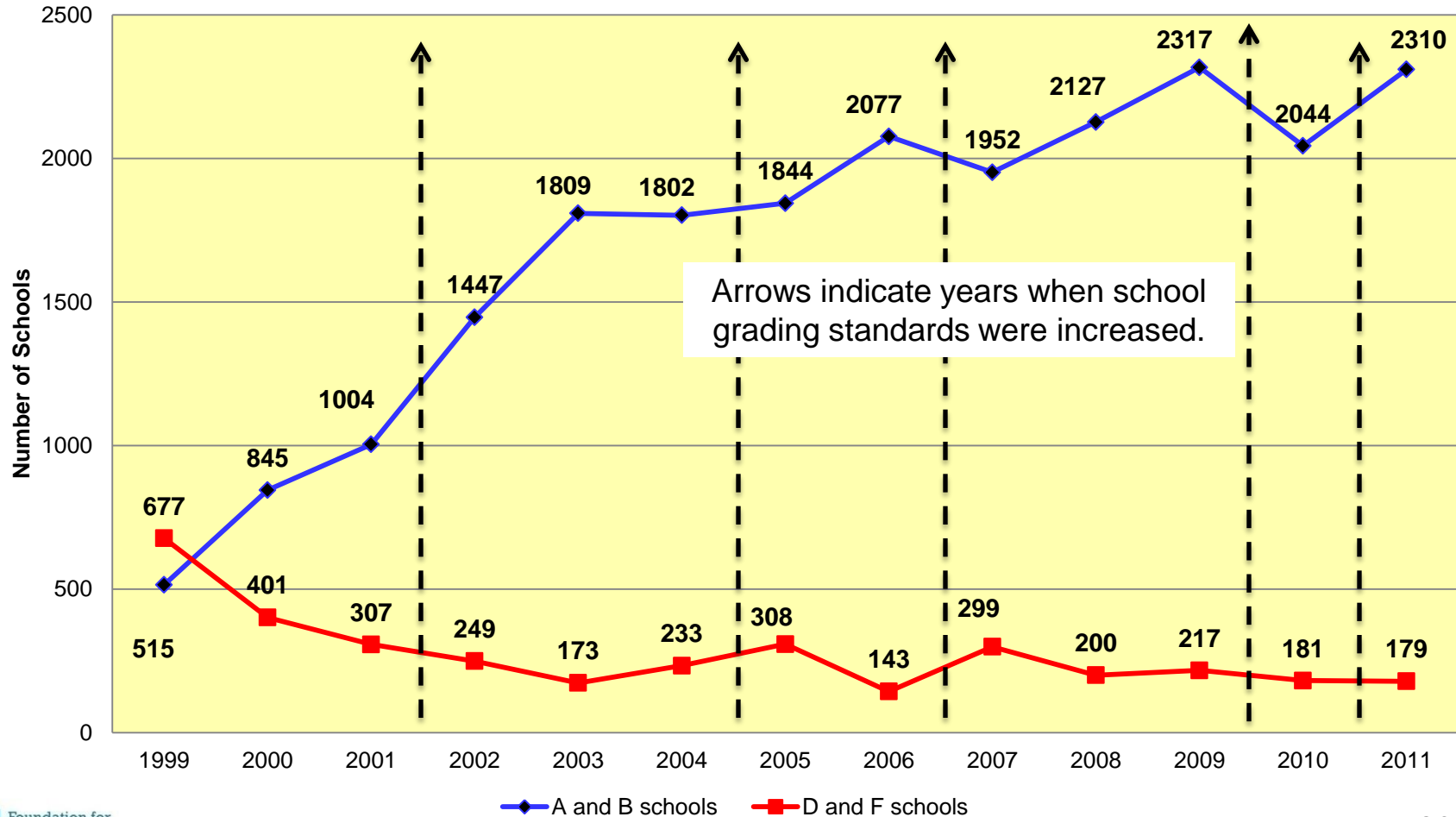
In 2010, high school grades calculation also included:

- Graduation rates for all students
- Graduation rates for at-risk students
 - Graduation rates for 8th grade students entering high school below grade level in reading and math
- Acceleration rates (both performance & participation)
 - Number of students taking and passing Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, dual credit or industry certification courses
- College readiness rates
 - Based upon SAT or ACT and the common placement test for college

Results of Florida A+ Plan

Florida School Grades 1999 – 2011

Number of A & B versus D & F schools



Impact of an A – F School Grading System

- **Excellence v. Complacency**
 - School grading brought a **Command Focus on Learning**.
 - Administrators, educators and parents aren't satisfied with "C" grades, or even "B" grades. Everyone strives for **Excellence**.
- **Media & Public Attention**
 - Transparency in evaluating school performance attracts more attention to education, from extensive media coverage on the quality of education in individual schools to even realtors and realtor guides highlighting good school grades as a selling point on the housing market.
- **Statewide Competition to be the "Best of the Best"**
 - Based on their grades of their schools, each county district in Florida earns a single letter grade, creating added competition.
- **Community Support**
 - Low performing schools are easily identified and communities rally around them. Florida has witnessed countless stories of communities coming together to improve schools and raise student achievement.
- **School Pride**
 - Grading schools establishes public perception of both high performing and low performing schools, creating more ownership at the local level and added incentive to achieve or maintain excellence.

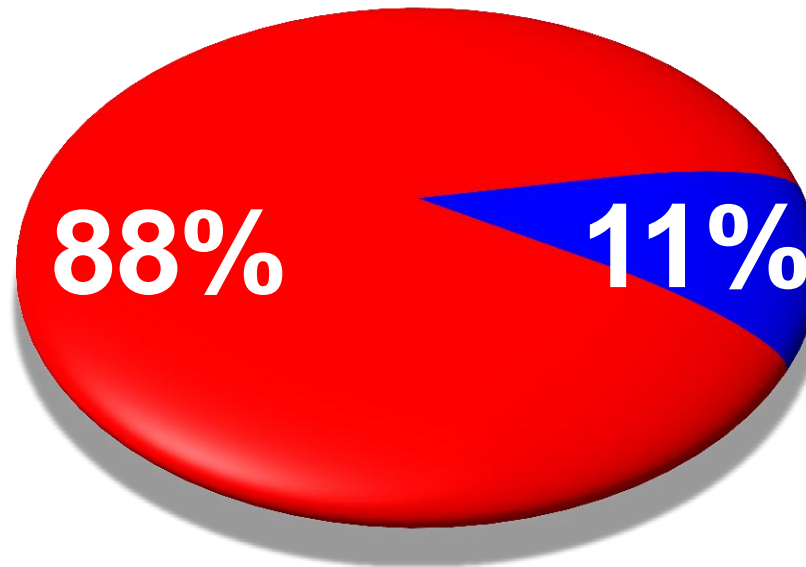


K-3 Reading Priority

Predicting Dropout Rates by 3rd Grade Reading Performance

19 Year Old Dropouts by 3rd Grade Reading Scores

-- Annie E Casey Foundation



- Non Proficient Readers in 3rd grade
- Proficient Readers in 3rd grade

An End to Social Promotion

- Emphasis on reading as a gateway to learning.
 - 3rd grade: students are learning to read.
 - 4th grade: students are reading to learn.
- An end to social promotion in 3rd grade.
 - Students who score the **lowest level** (level 1 out of 5) in reading on the 3rd grade FCAT **must be retained** unless the student meets good cause exemptions.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| Insufficient | Below Grade Level | Grade Level | Above Grade Level | Advanced |

An End to Social Promotion

- Six Good Cause Exemptions:
 - Student with a disability who does not take FCAT
 - English Language Learners (ELL) who have had less than 2 years of English for Speaker's of Other Languages (ESOL) instruction
 - Student with a disability who takes FCAT and has previously been retained
 - Any student with a reading deficiency who has previously been retained twice
 - Student demonstrates proficiency on an **alternate assessment** (Stanford 9 or Stanford 10)
 - Student demonstrates proficiency through a **student portfolio**

A Command Focus on Reading

| Year | Percent of 3rd graders level 1 on reading FCAT | Percent of 3rd graders retained |
|---------|--|---------------------------------|
| 2000-01 | 29% | 2.8% |
| 2001-02 | 27% | 3.1% |
| 2002-03 | 23% | 13.2% |
| 2003-04 | 22% | 10.2% |
| 2004-05 | 20% | 9.8% |
| 2006-07 | 19% | 8.1% |
| 2007-08 | 16% | 6.6% |
| 2008-09 | 17% | 6.4% |
| 2009-10 | 16% | 5.9% |
| 2010-11 | 16% | Data not yet available |

Short-Term Effect

Manhattan Institute researcher Jay Greene did a study on Florida's third grade retention policy, after two years of the policy, and found:

- Retained third graders made significant gains compared to socially promoted students.
- These gains actually grew substantially from the first to the second year after retention.
- Students who are socially promoted appear to fall farther behind over time, while retained third graders are able to catch up and succeed in later grades.
- Retention policies have had greatest impact on minority student learning.

Medium-Term Effect

A follow-up study by Marcus Winters examined the performance of the retained and promoted students once they reached 7th grade:

- **Retained students were still outperforming promoted students in reading and math as late as 7th grade**
- **Similar positive effect on 5th grade science test**
- **Results similar on low-stakes standardized test**



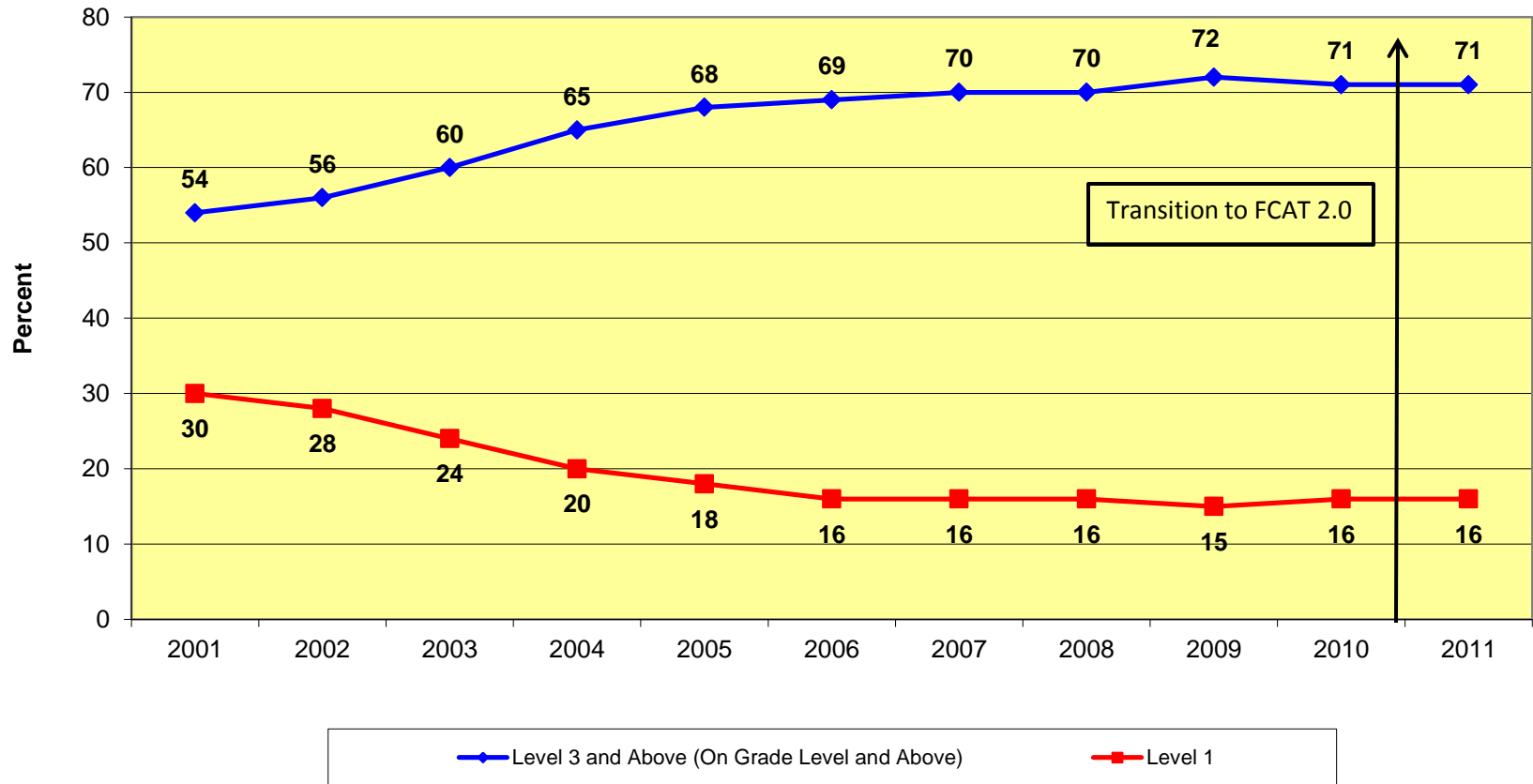
Florida Formula for Student Achievement: *Results*

***As the bar keeps rising on the FCAT, students and educators have met
the challenge.***

Miami Herald, July 29, 2009

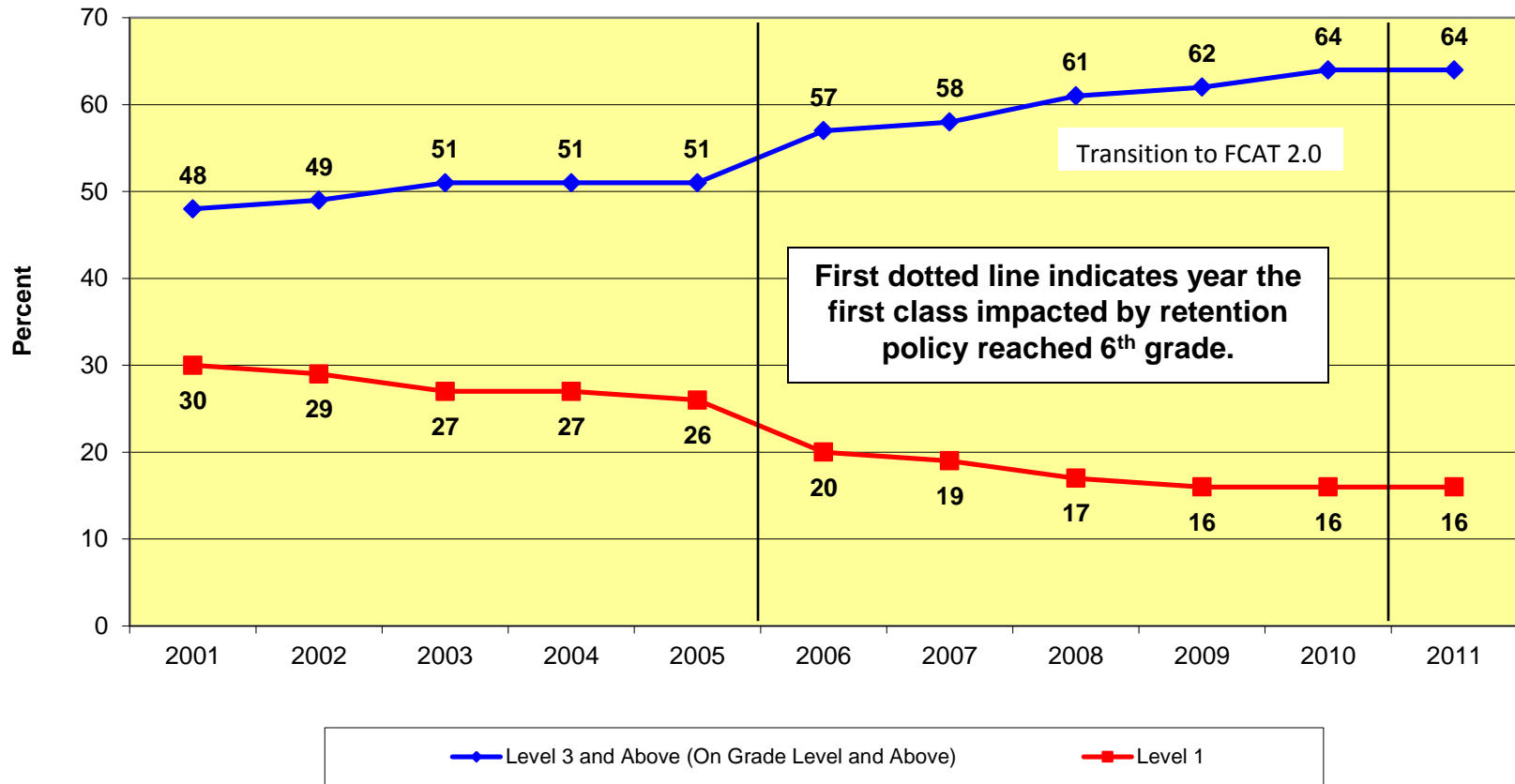
Florida Elementary Students

Elementary School FCAT Reading
Grades 3, 4 and 5



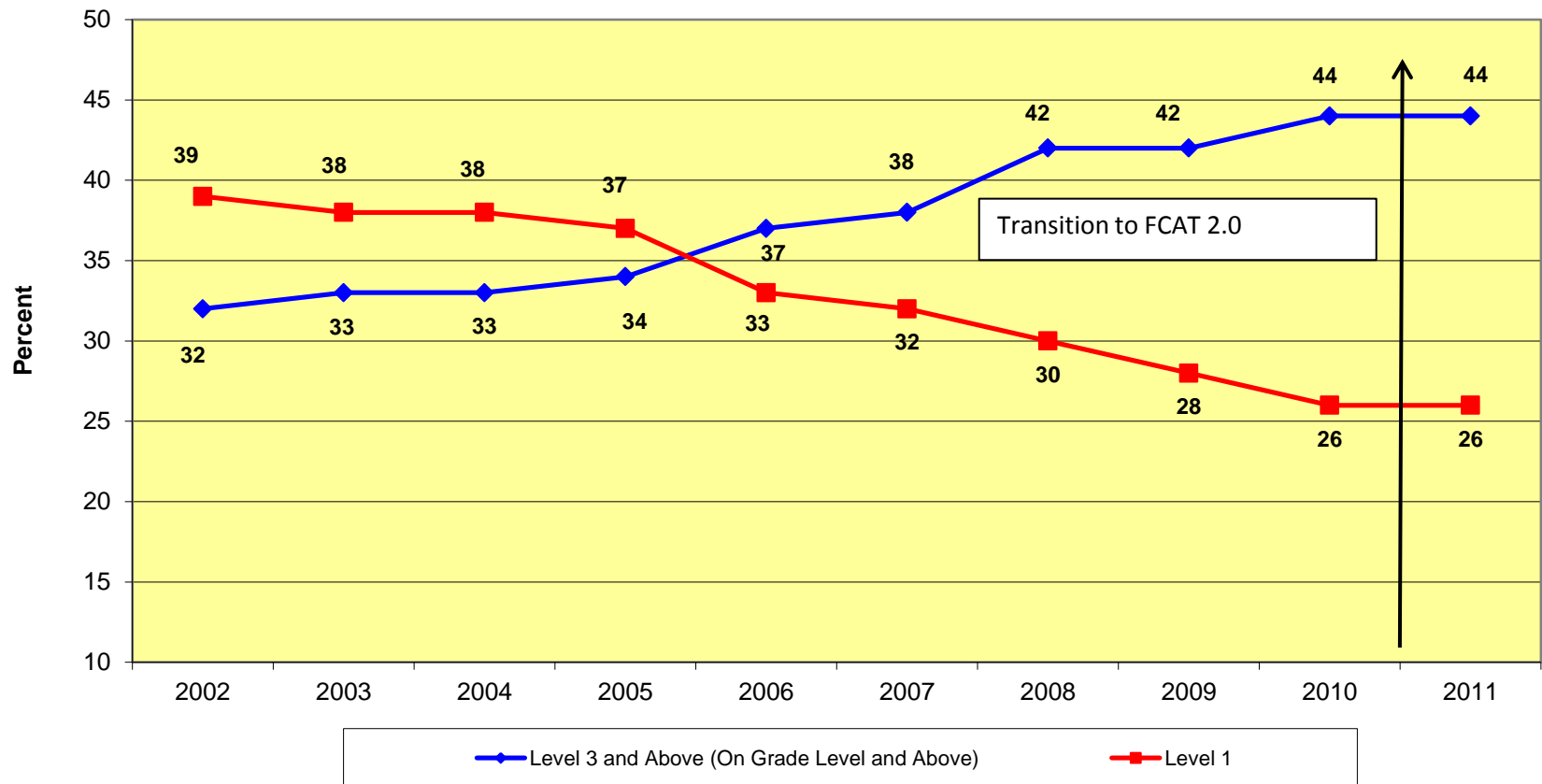
Florida Middle School Students

Middle School FCAT Reading
Grades 6, 7 and 8



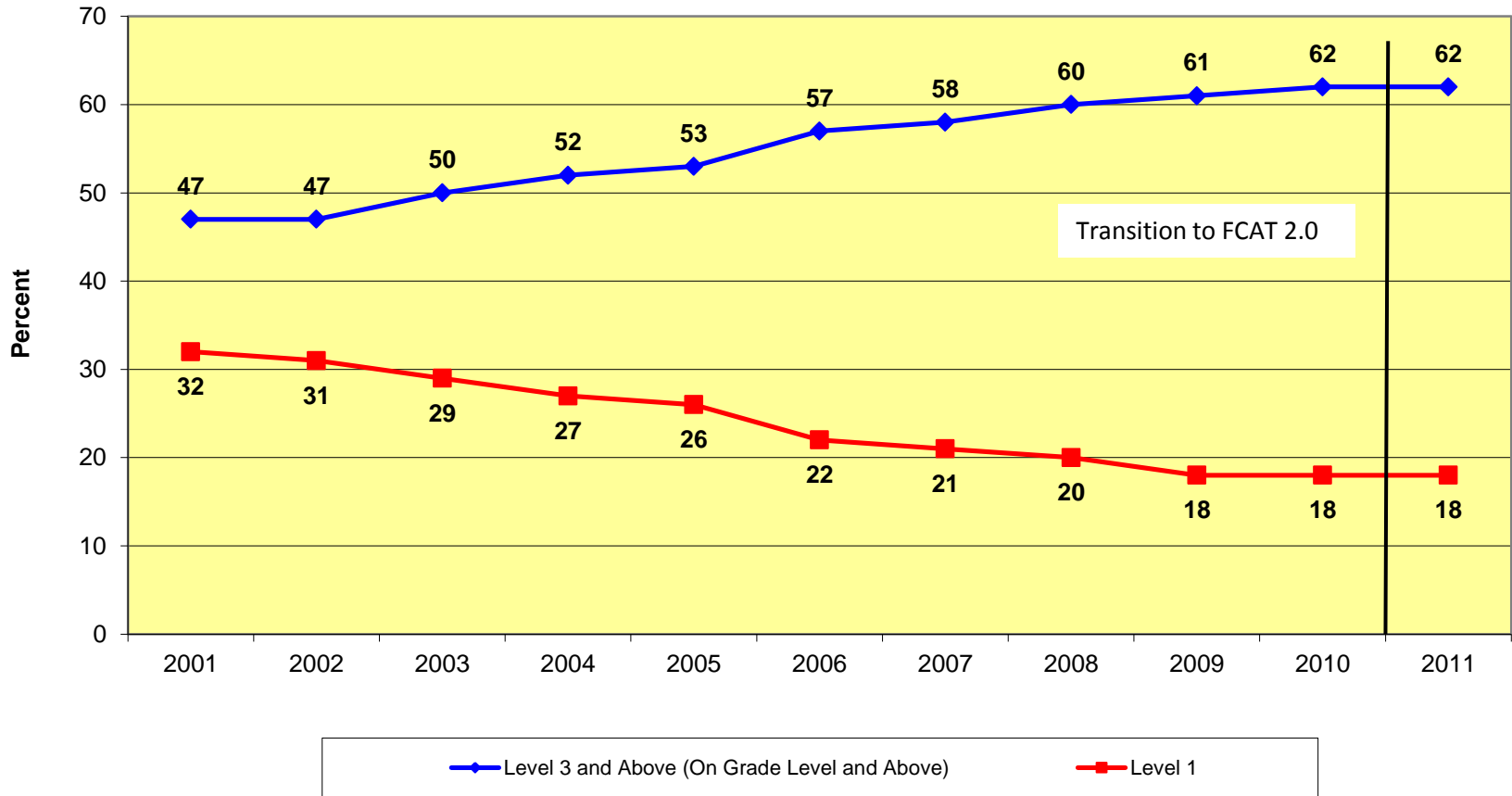
Florida High School Students

High School FCAT Reading
Grades 9 & 10

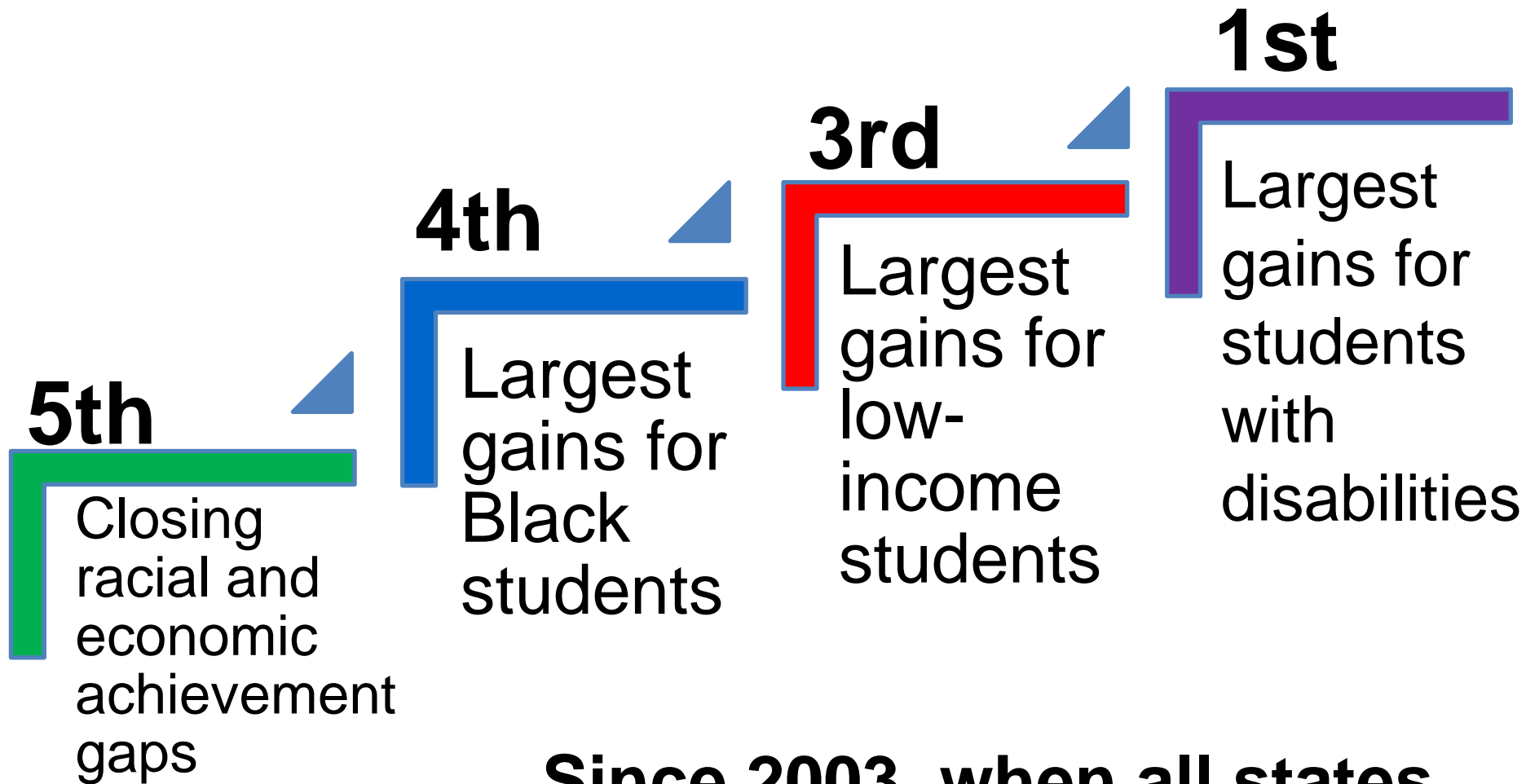


All Florida Students

FCAT Reading
All Students Grades 3-10



Florida Rising in the Ranks



Since 2003, when all states began participating in NAEP

Contact Information

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