

edtrust

The State of Education Equity

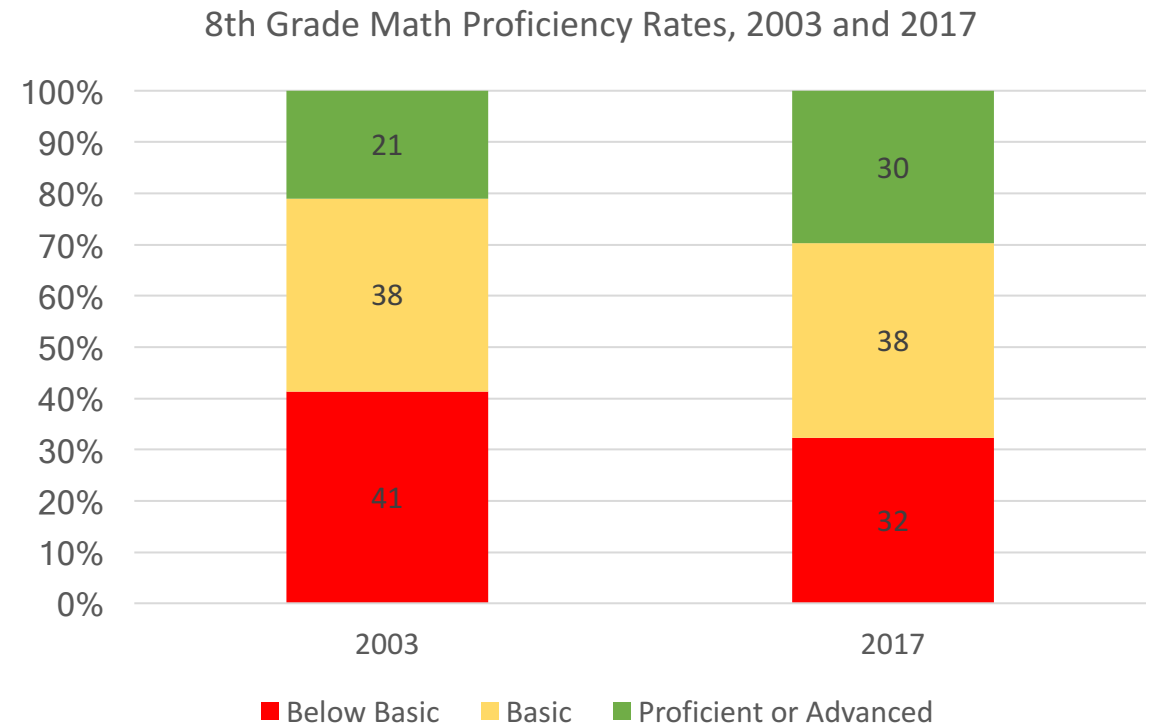
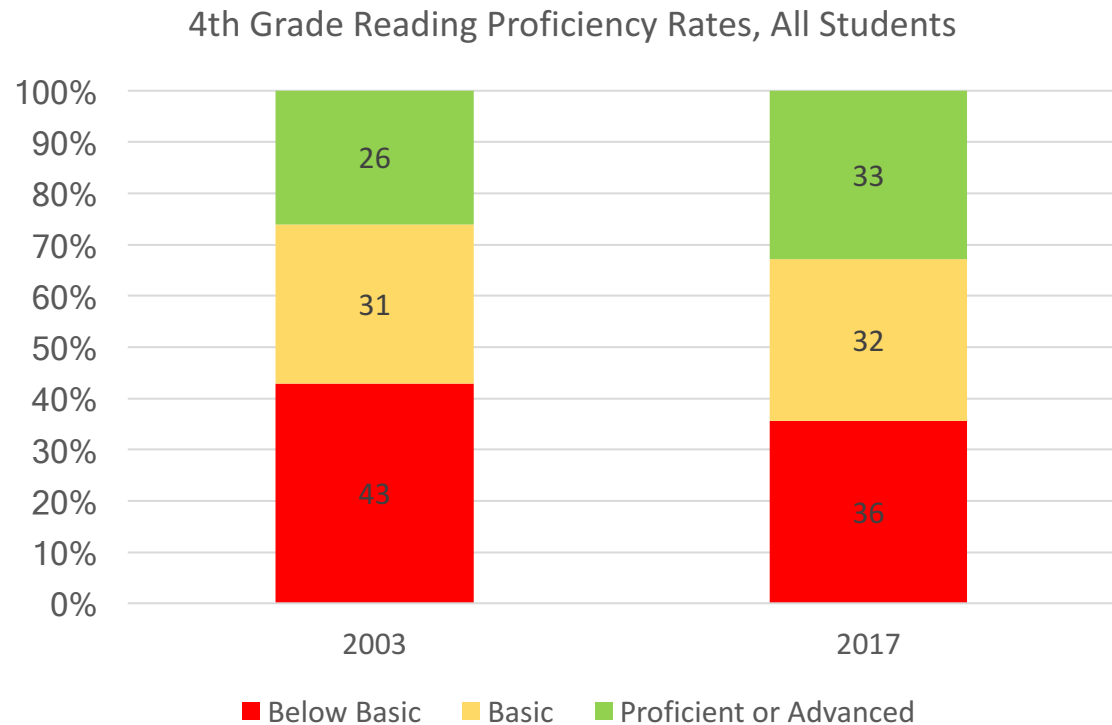
A Long Way to Go: The Story of Education in Tennessee



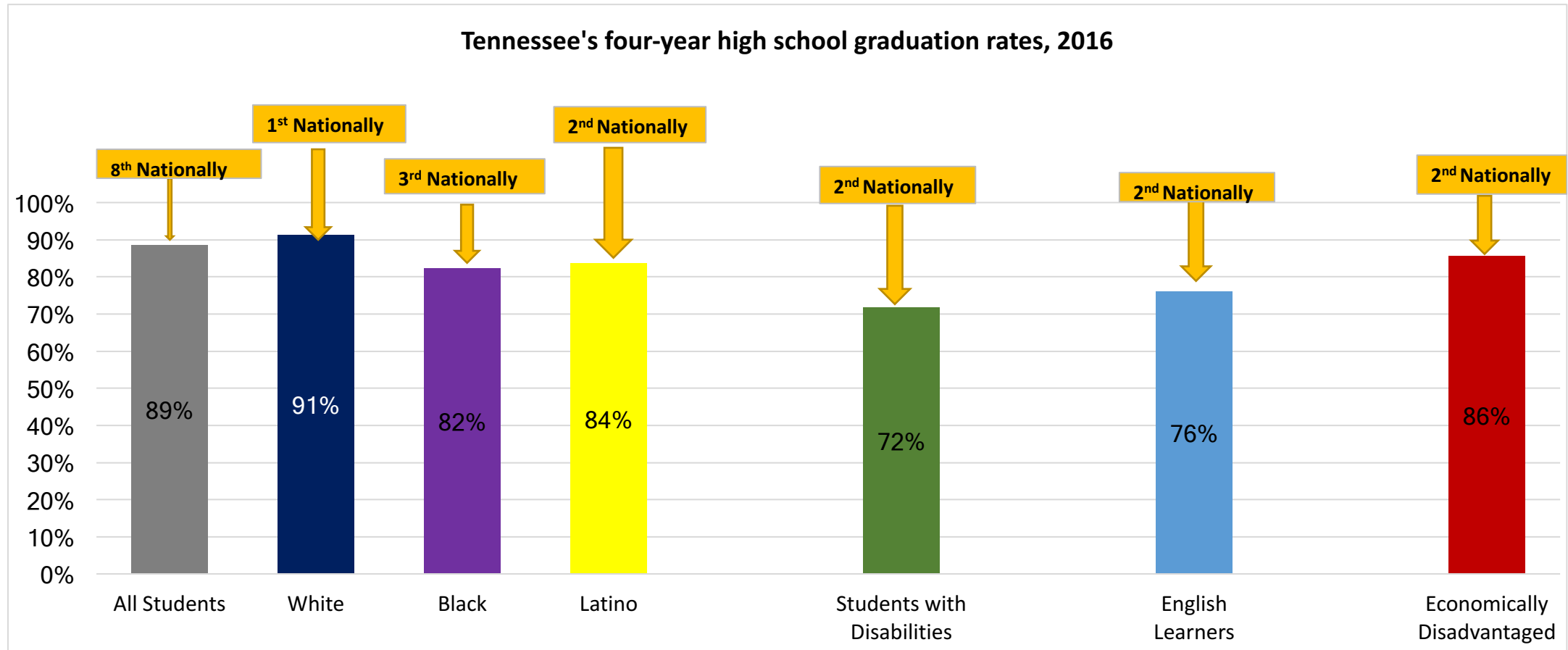
The Education Trust

Tennessee has made some important gains over the past 15 years. *Even with progress,* Tennessee has a long way to go for low-income students, English Learners, and students of color who lag behind their peers in opportunity and academic success.

In 2003, *only 1 in 4* 4th graders were proficient in 4th grade reading and more than 40 percent scored below even the basic level. Since then, the percent of students who are proficient *has increased* and the percent below basic declined. Trends are similar in 8th grade math.



Tennessee's graduation rates today are higher than they have ever been – and among the highest in the nation.

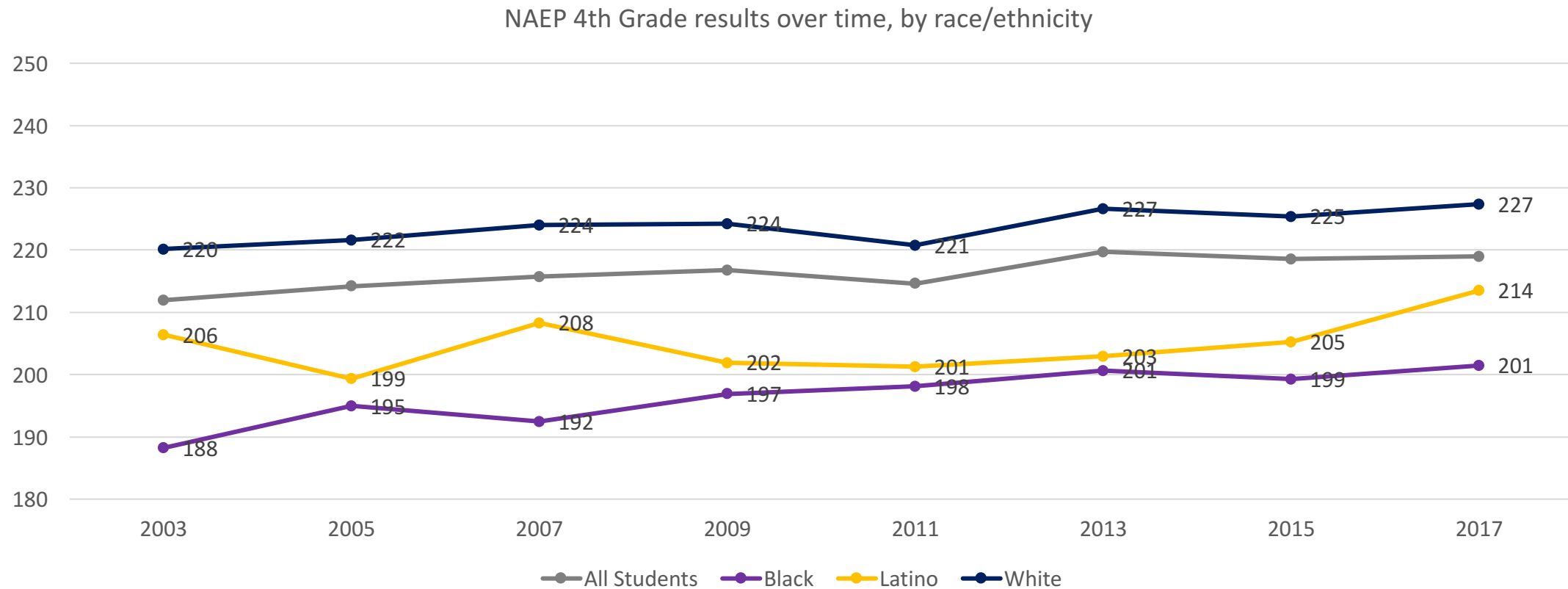


Source: National Center for Education Statistics, "Table 1. Public high school 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate (ACGR), by race/ethnicity and selected demographic characteristics for the United States, the 50 states, and the District of Columbia: School year 2015–16.

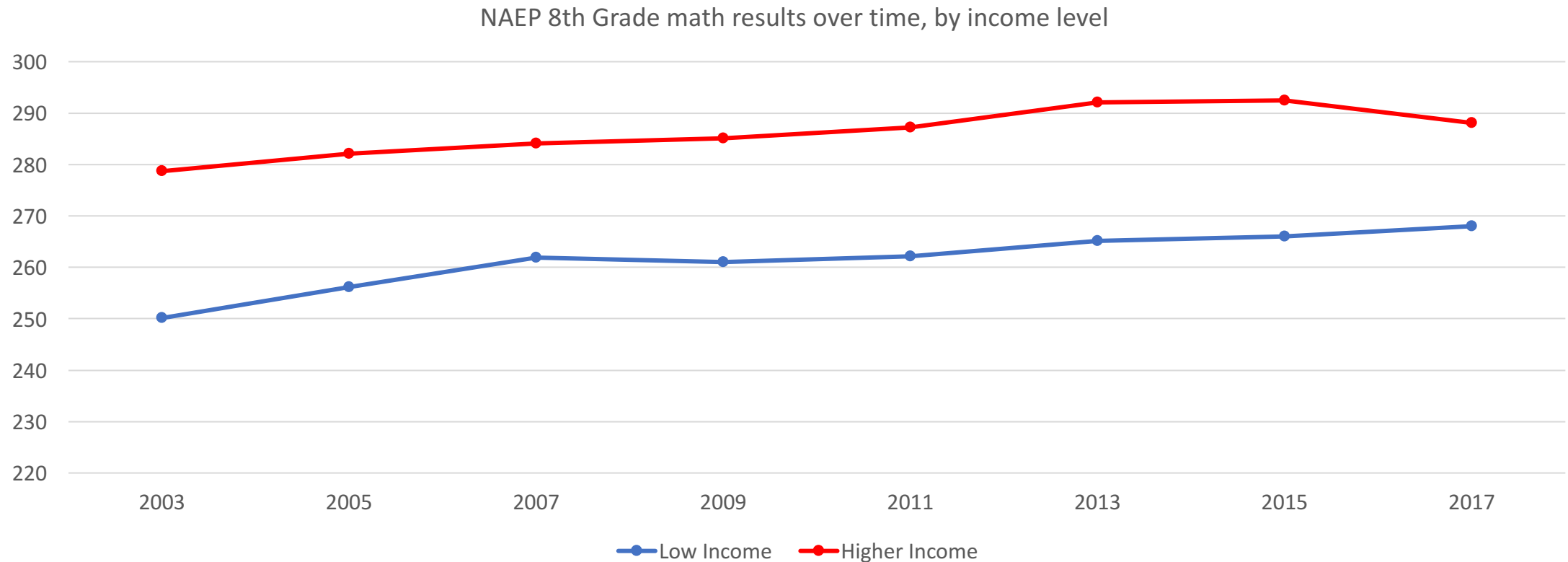
But Tennessee has much further to go.

More importantly, too few students demonstrate mastery of academic content – and too many score far below expectations, especially among historically underserved student groups.

Although Tennessee has made gains for all groups of students in 4th grade reading, disparities in achievement remain wide.

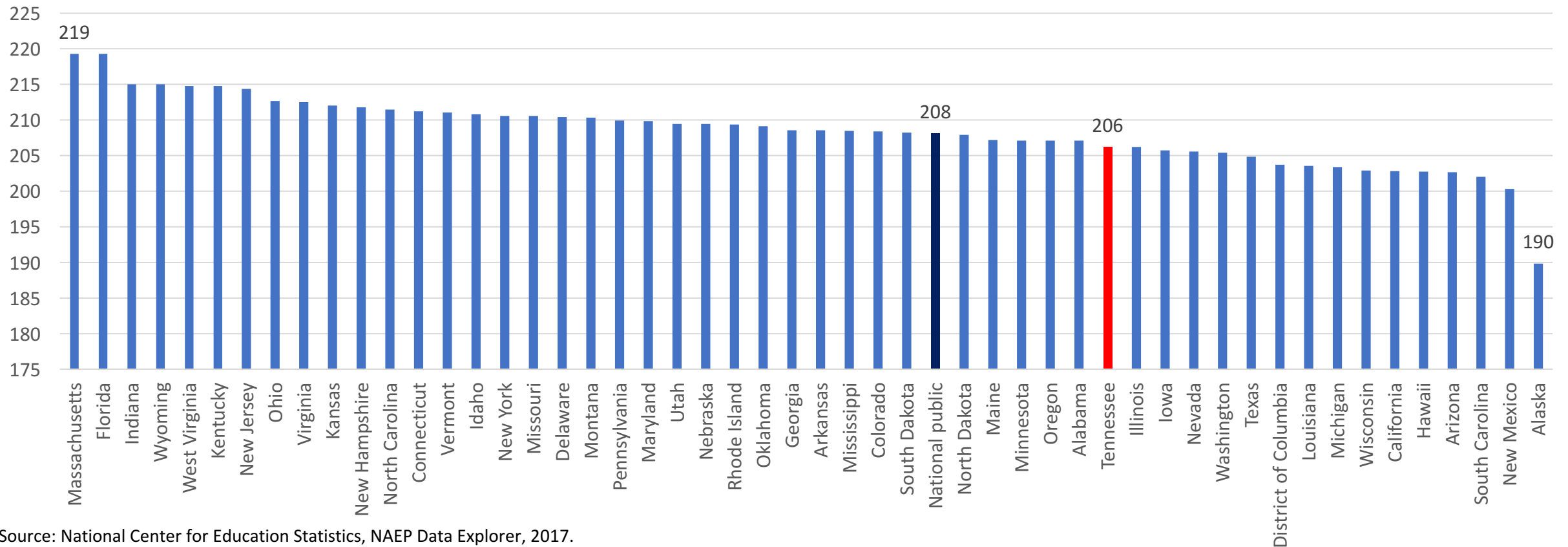


In addition to the gaps for students of color, the gap between low income and higher income students has barely changed.



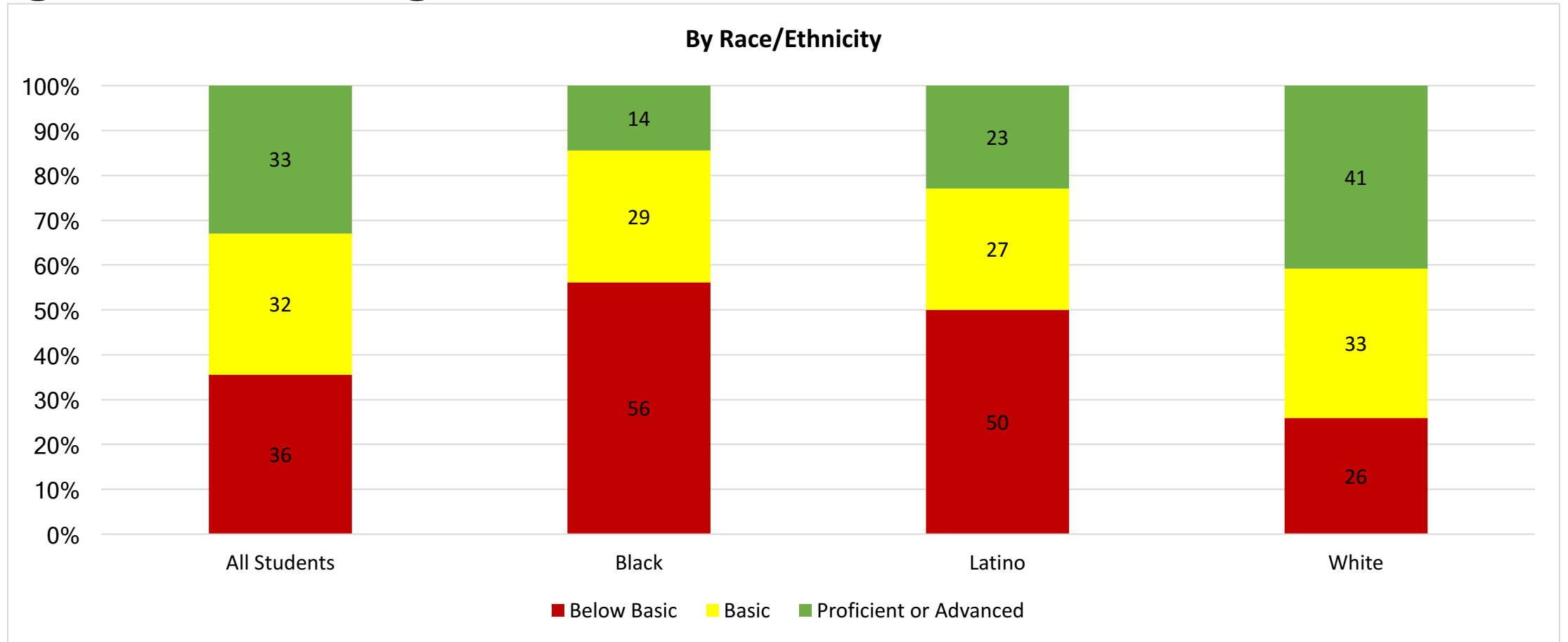
Even with small improvements in Tennessee, 4th grade reading proficiency rates for low income students are lower than most other states. These trends are similar in math.

4th Grade Average NAEP Reading Scores for Low Income Students, 2017

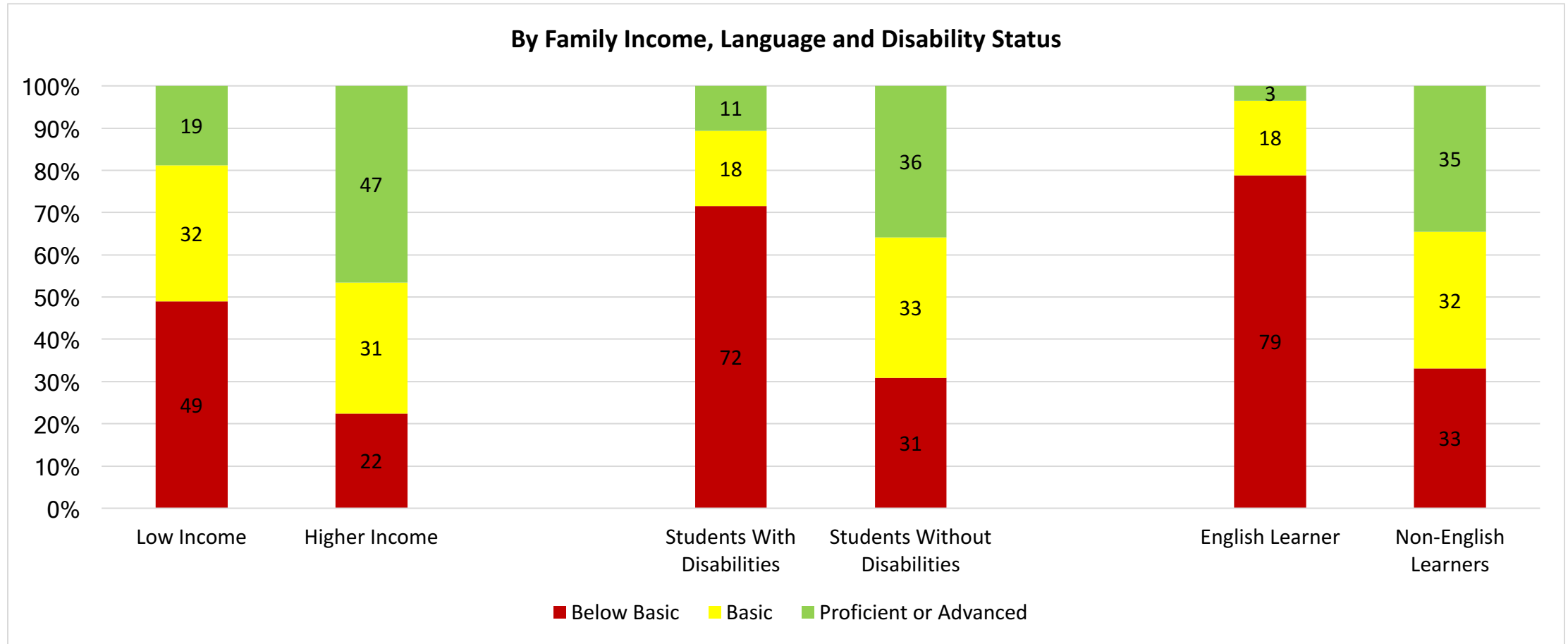


Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NAEP Data Explorer, 2017.

In 2017, Tennessee schools got less than 1 in 4 Black and Latino students to grade level in 4th grade reading.

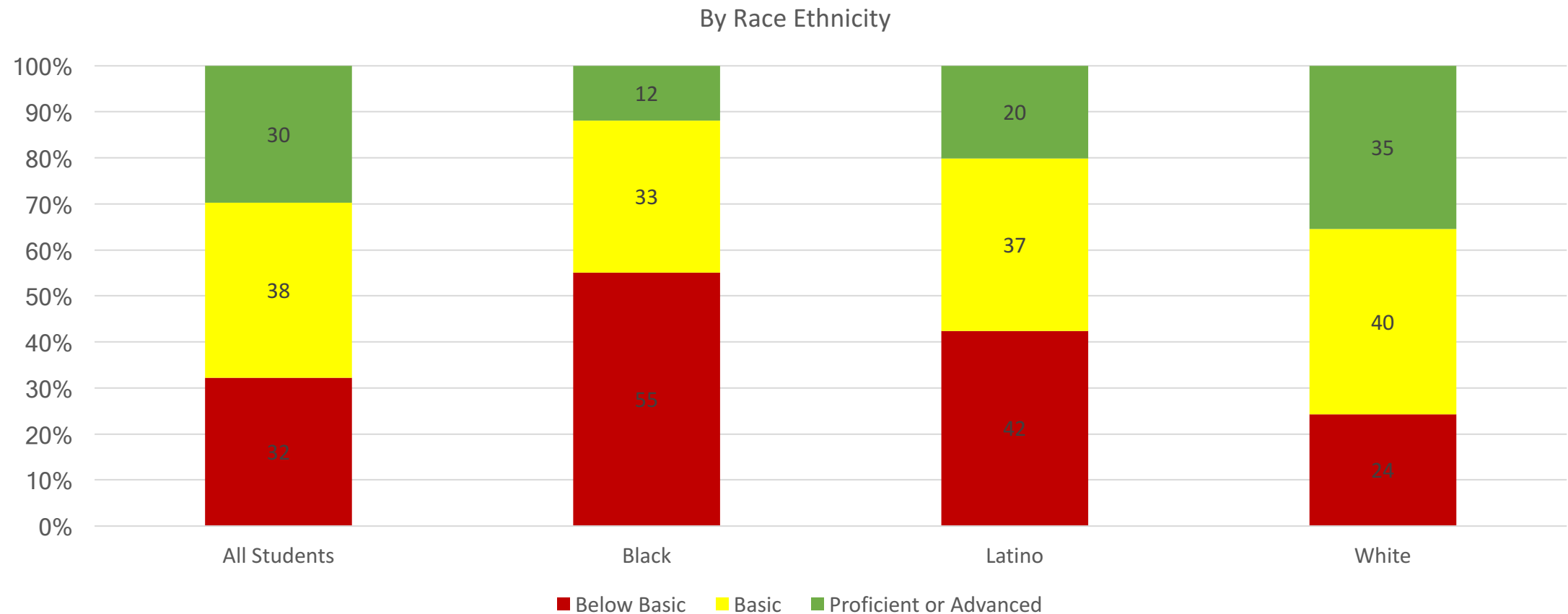


Even worse, Tennessee schools got less than 1 in 30 English Learner 4th graders to grade level.



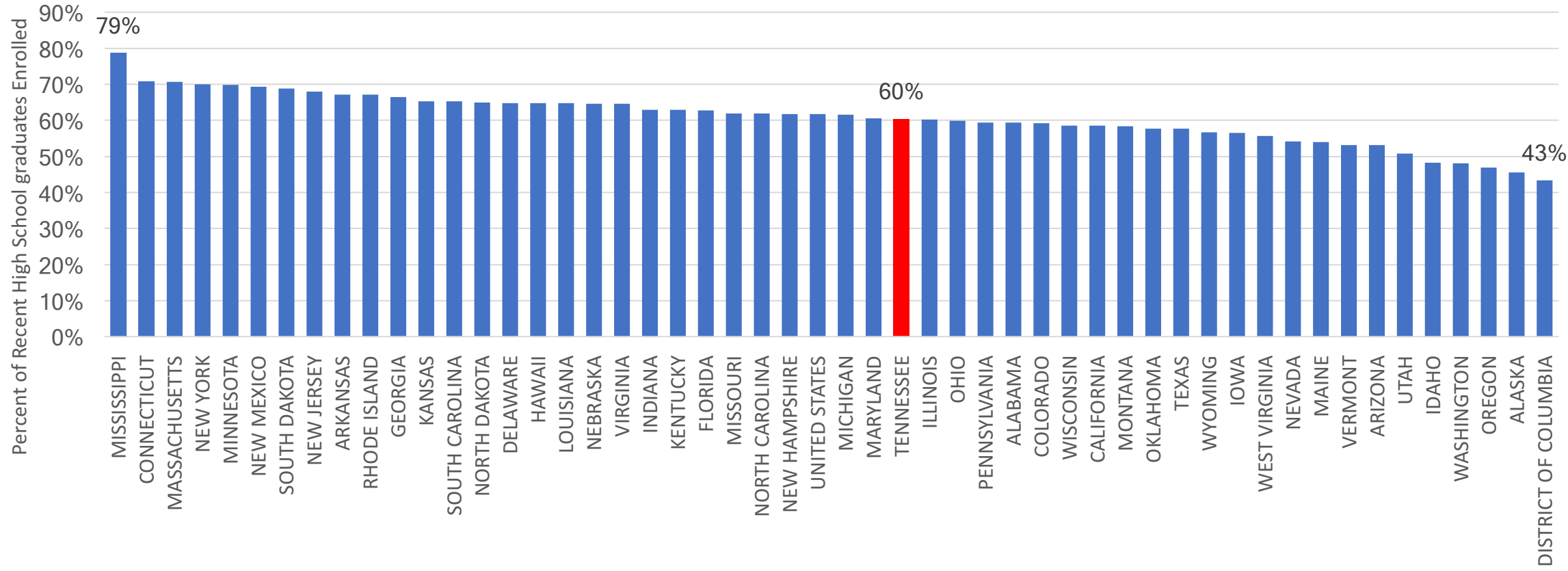
8th Grade NAEP scores also show large disparities.

Tennessee schools have only gotten 12% of Black student and 20% of Latino students to 8th grade level in math.



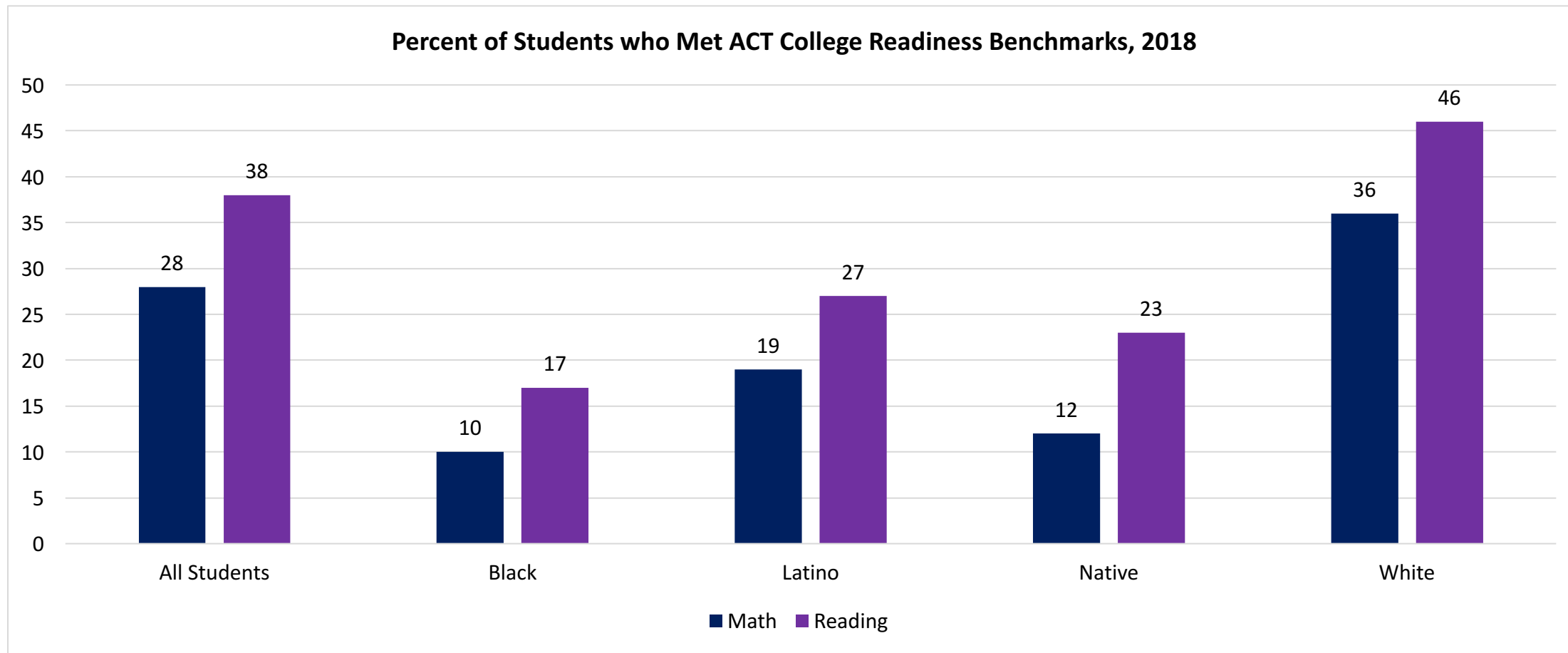
In Tennessee, 60% of high school graduates enrolled in higher education programs –nationally, 62% enrolled. **But the question remains: Are Tennessee’s students graduating college and career ready?**

Higher Education Enrollment Rate for Recent High School Graduates by State



Source: Data are for 2012. National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics, Table 302.50

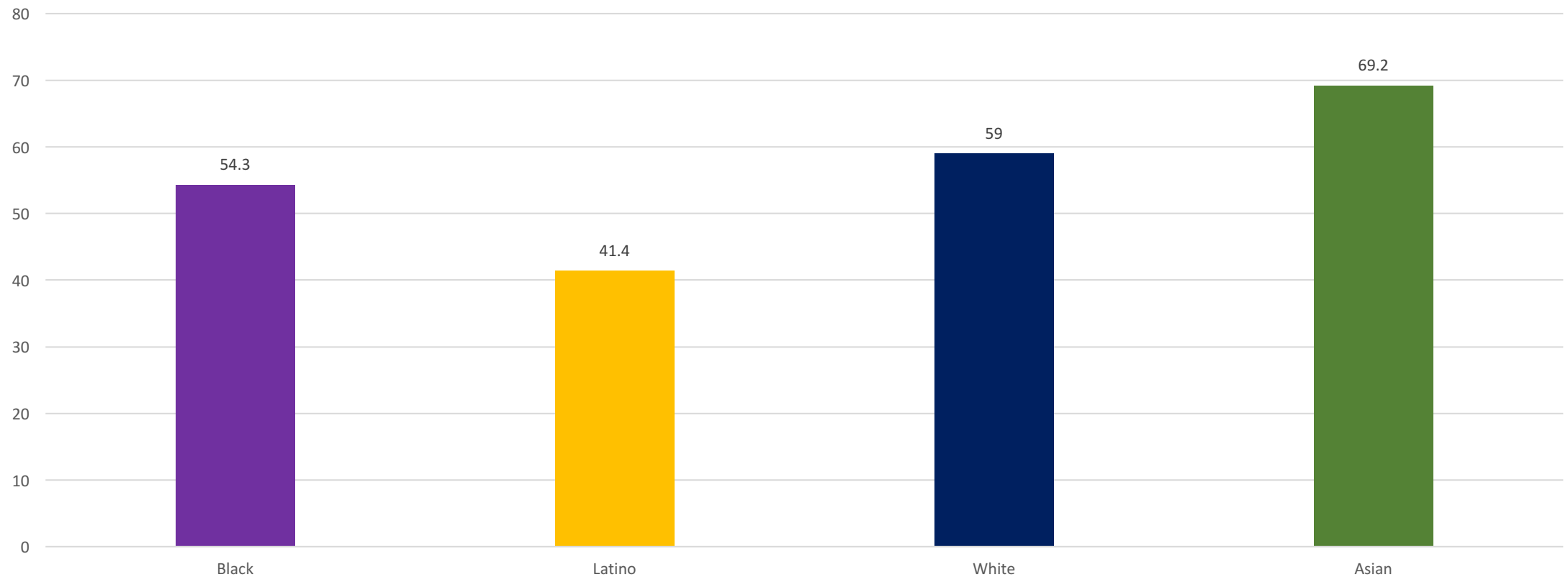
Tennessee got less than half of all students to the college-ready benchmark in reading. And just 10% of Black students scored at the college-ready benchmark in math.



Source: ACT, The Condition of College and Career Readiness State Briefings and Profile Reports, 2018.

In fact, half of Black graduates and even fewer Latino graduates enroll in college.

Tennessee College-going Rates by Race/Ethnicity, 2014



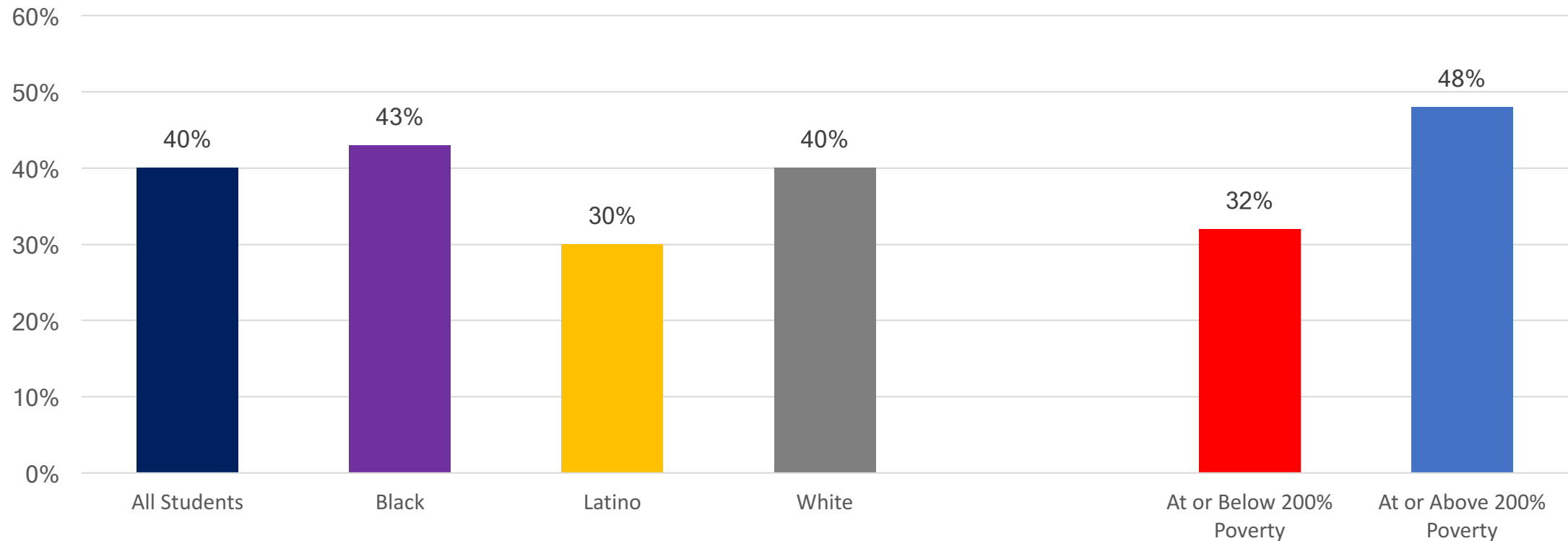
Source: Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Profile and Trends in Tennessee Higher Education, 2016 Annual Report.

Disparities in student outcomes are the direct result of disparities in opportunity to learn both outside and inside the classroom.

Students of color and low-income students in Tennessee receive less of a number of important learning resources – **and these disparities begin early.**

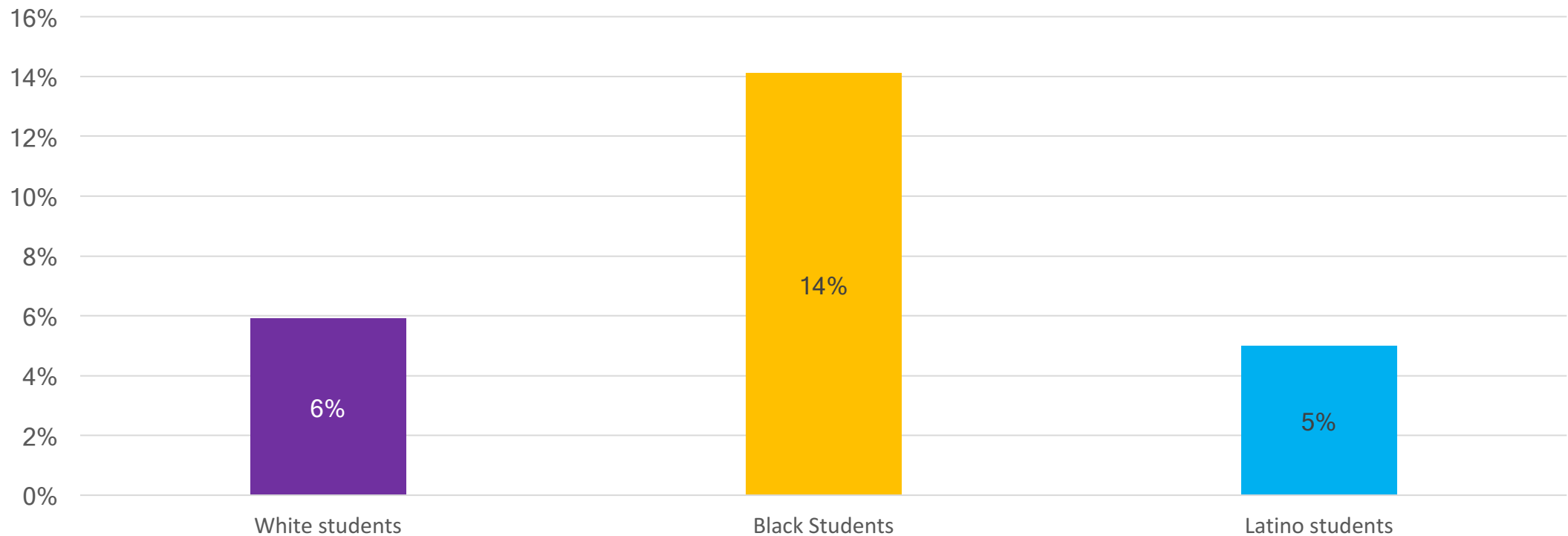
Latino and low-income students are less likely than their peers to be enrolled in early childhood education – which is associated with higher graduation and college attainment rates, as well as secure a fulfilling career.

Percent of Tennessee 3 to 4-year-olds enrolled in early childhood education, by race/ethnicity and family income level, 2016



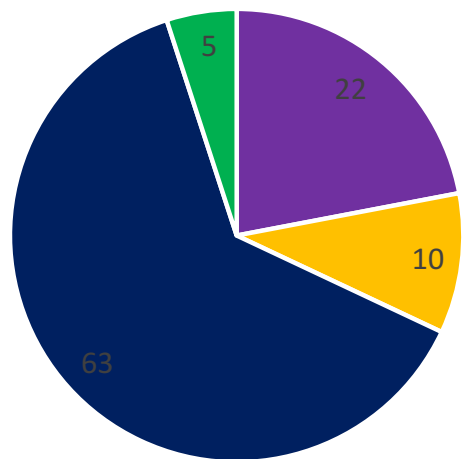
Teachers make a big difference for kids. In Tennessee, Black students are **over twice** as likely to be assigned a first-year teacher for 4th-grade reading compared to White students

Percentage of 4th-grade reading teachers in their 1st year, 2015



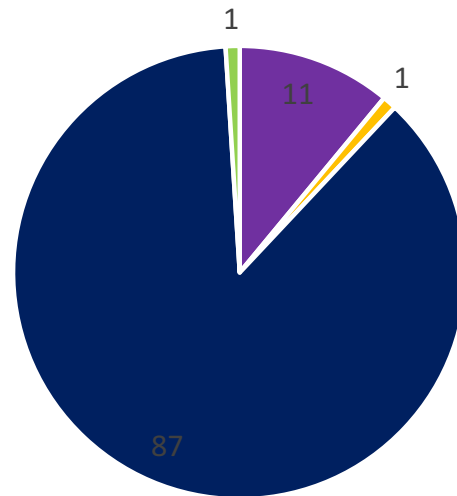
Students of color are less likely to encounter teachers or administrators who look like them. Latino students make up 10% of the student body but are only 1% of teachers.

Racial Diversity of Tennessee Students



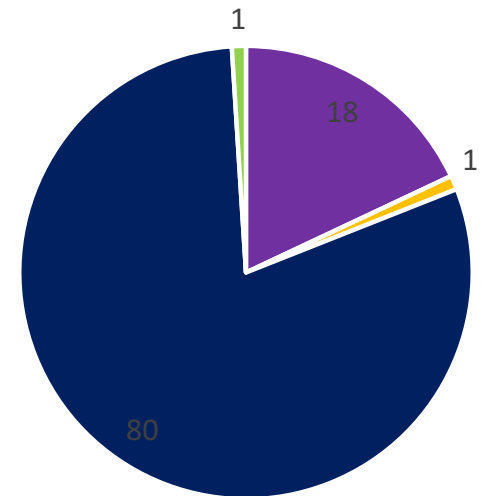
■ Black ■ Latino ■ White ■ Other

Racial Diversity of Tennessee Teachers



■ Black ■ Latino ■ White ■ Other

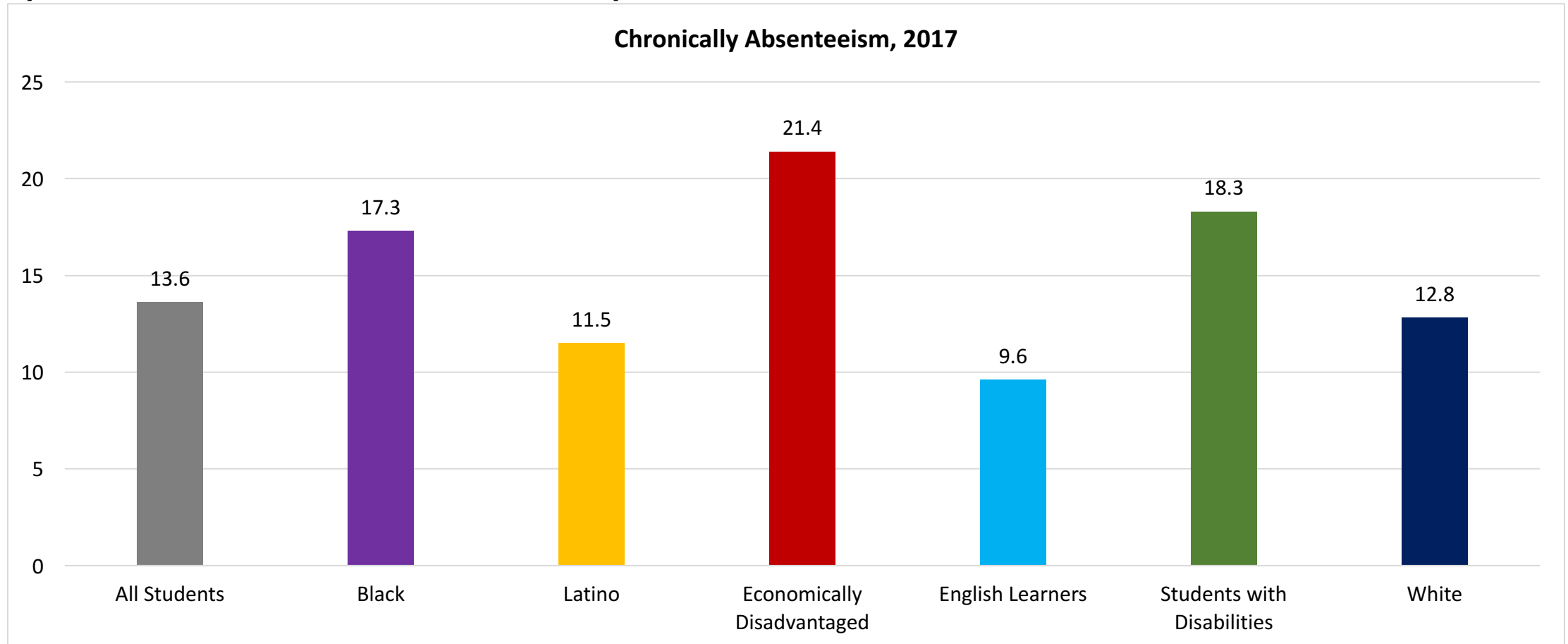
Racial Diversity of Tennessee Administrators



■ Black ■ Latino ■ White ■ Other

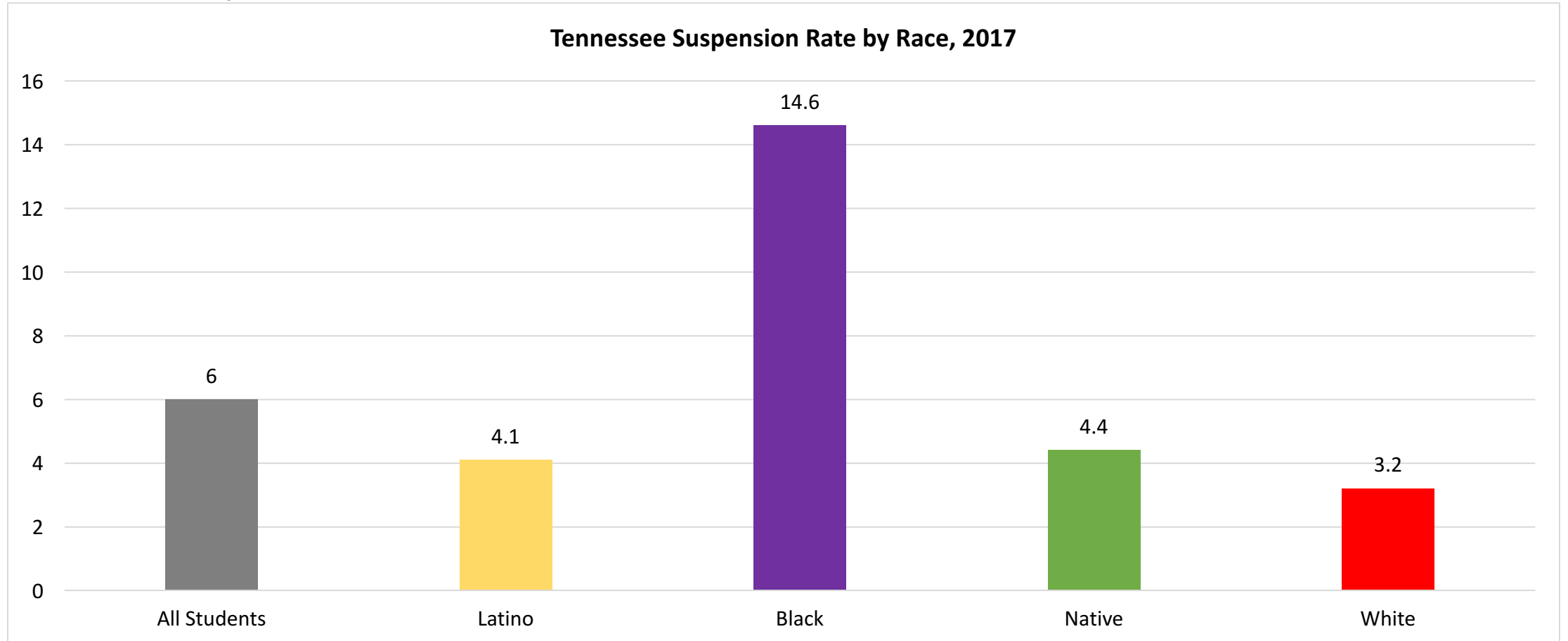
In addition to having access to strong teachers, student attendance has a strong relationship with achievement and graduation rates. Simply put, students who aren't in the classroom aren't learning.

So it is concerning that more than 1 in 5 economically disadvantaged students missed 10 percent or more days of school in 2017.



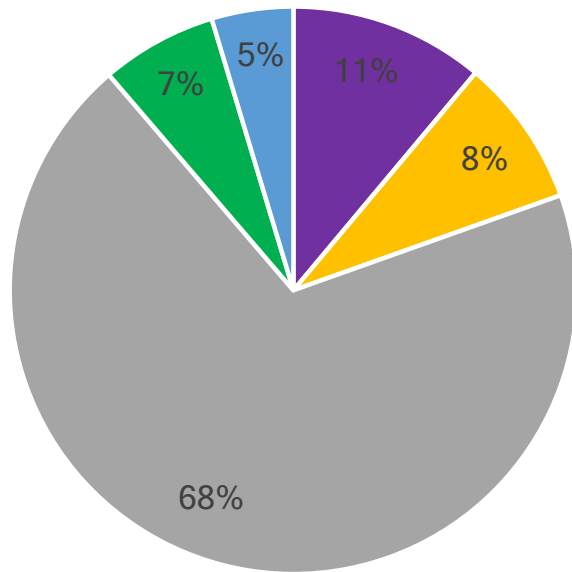
Across the country, Black, Latino, and low-income students are more likely to be subjected to exclusionary discipline than their white, wealthier peers – Tennessee is no exception.

Black students in Tennessee are 5 times more likely to be suspended from school than their White peers.



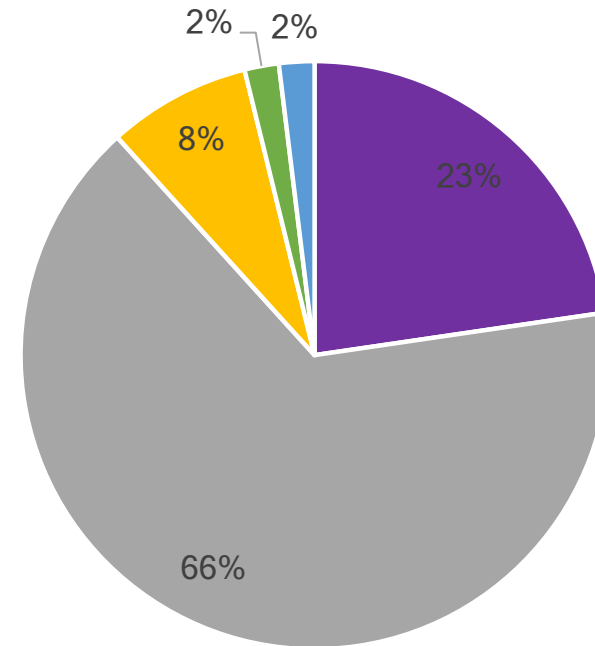
And less access to rigorous learning opportunities....Black students in Tennessee are underrepresented as AP test takers.

Race and Ethnicity of High School AP Test Takers, 2018



Black Latino White Asian Other

High School Enrollment by Race, 2017

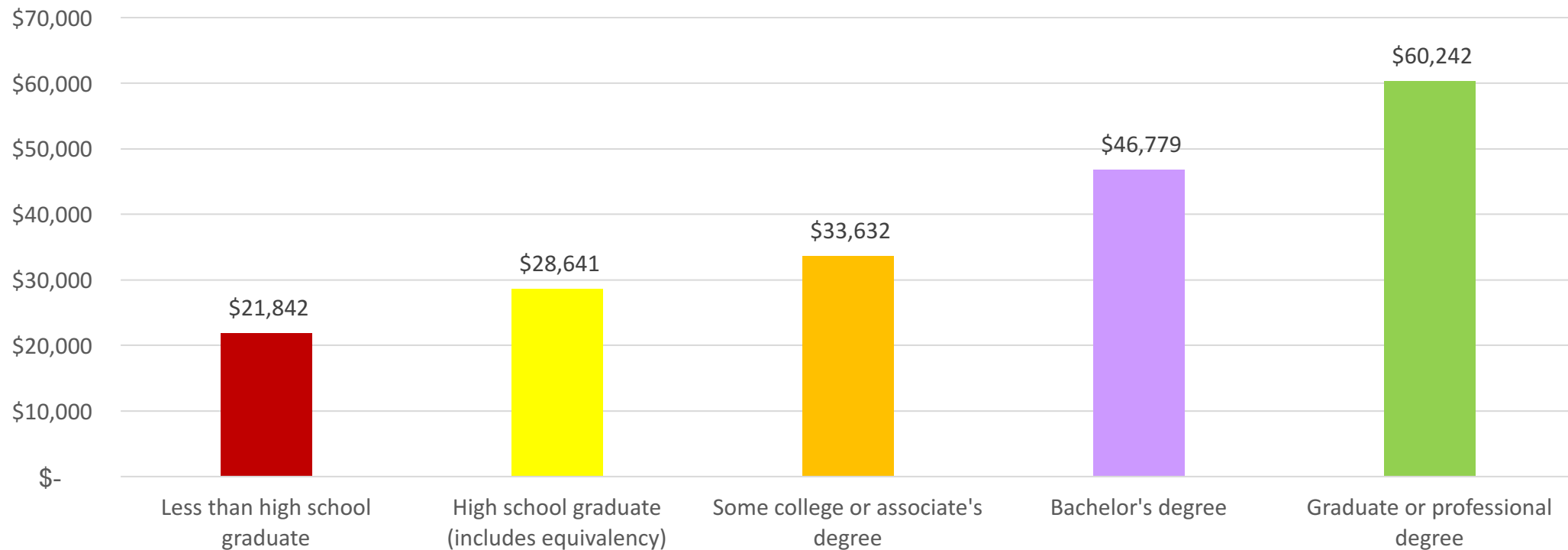


Black White Latino Asian Other

These disparities matter....The relationship between educational attainment and economic well-being in Tennessee is undeniable.

In 2017, the median salary for an adult with a bachelor's degree in Tennessee was \$46,000. An adult with just an high school diploma stood to earn \$28,000; those who didn't complete high school –just \$21,800

Tennessee median earnings by educational level, population 25 and over, 2017

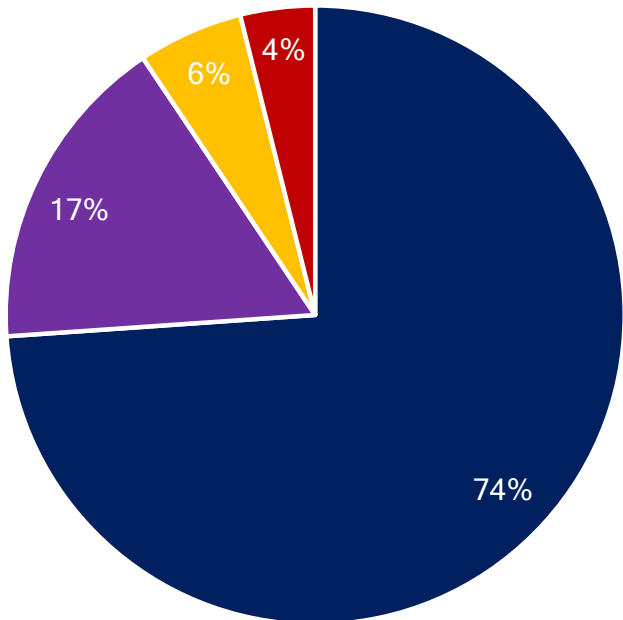


The fastest growing jobs in Tennessee require at least some college but most require a bachelor's degree.

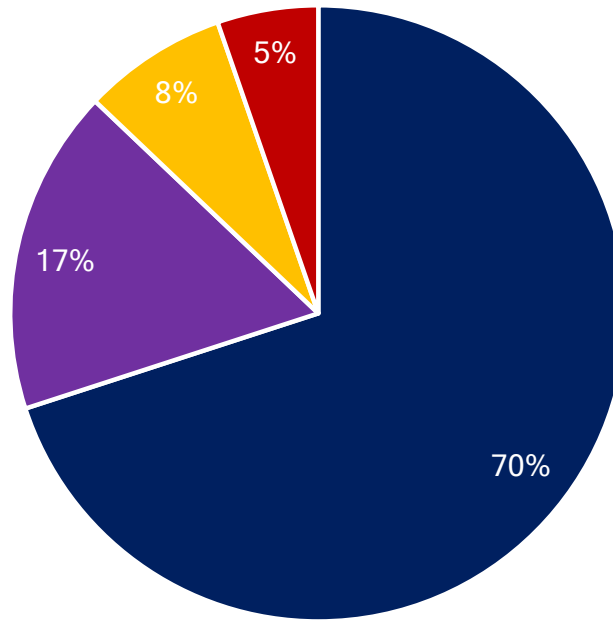
	Typical Education Required	Typical Annual Salary
Software Developers, Applications	Bachelor's Degree	\$87,890
Operations Research Analysts	Bachelor's Degree	\$63,440
Information Security Analysts, Web Developers, and Computer Network Architects	Bachelor's Degree	\$81,030
Statisticians	Master's Degree	\$66,640
Computer Network Architects	Bachelor's Degree	\$96,540
Software Developers, Systems Software	Bachelor's Degree	\$86,890
Computer User Support Specialists	Some College, No degree	\$45,560
Computer and Information Research Scientists	Master's Degree	\$102,750

The demographics of Tennessee are changing. Tennessee is projected to increase the population of people of color by 8 percentage points over the next 20 years.

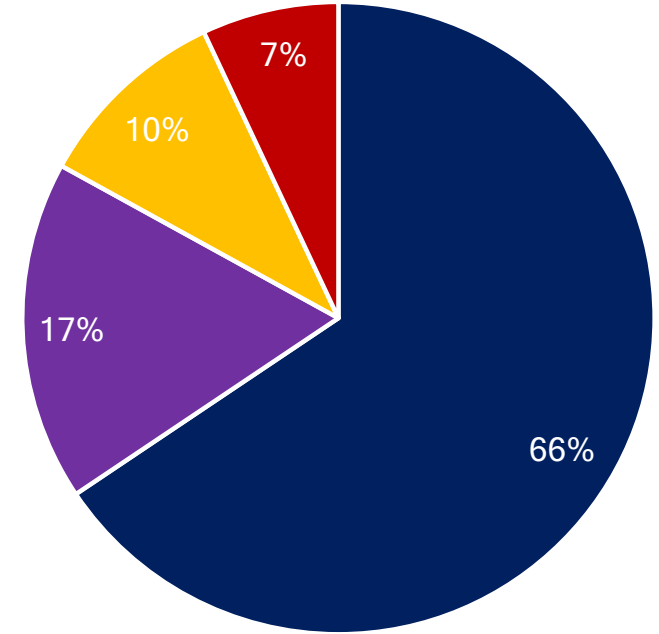
Tennessee Population, 2015



Tennessee Population Projection, 2025



Tennessee Population Projection, 2035



■ White ■ Black ■ Latino ■ Other

■ White ■ Black ■ Latino ■ Other

■ White ■ Black ■ Latino ■ Other

Tennessee's education system will have to adapt to the language, learning, and cultural differences the changing demographics present.

Because as long as these disparities in opportunity to learn exist, there will be disparities in every valuable outcome in Tennessee.