

A Word of Appreciation . . .

From the Public School Forum



Tonight, We'll Look At the Context of K-12 Schools

- 20+ Years of School Reform
- The Factors Driving Reform
- How North Carolina Has Responded
- Where We Stand Today
- Remaining Challenges
- Impediments

Sparking the Reform Movement:

“Nation at Risk,” issued by a Blue Ribbon Commission largely composed of business leaders appointed by the Reagan Administration, in 1983.

The 1st Wave of Reform was Marked by:

- Governor's Blue Ribbon Commissions
- Focus on Teacher Pay/Recruitment
- Lowered Class Sizes
- New Student/Family Services
- Teacher & Principal Training Programs
- Merit Pay Experiments
- Literacy Campaigns

In the Late 80's and Early 90's the Focus Shifted . . .

“Time for Results,” issued by the National
Governor's Association

- Statewide Curriculum Development
- Statewide Testing
- Public Release of Student Scores

In 2002, the Focus on Student Performance
Focused Even More with the Passage of . . .

The Federal Government's
No Child Left Behind Legislation

The Federal Government Requires Schools To Report Performance For Students in These Categories:

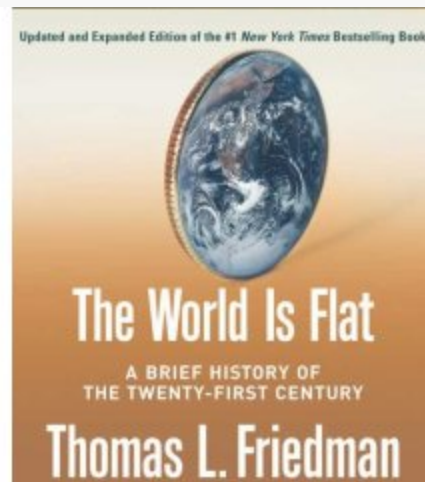
- Asian
- African American
- Hispanic
- White
- Mixed Race
- Indian
- Students with Special Needs
- Low Income Students
- Non-English Speaking

AND There Are Consequences for Schools Not Meeting Performance Goals

- Must Offer Parents Choice
- Must Pay for Tutorial Services
- Must Close or be Reconstituted

The Latest Phase of Reform Has Been Sparked By the Publication of . . .

“The World is Flat,” by Thomas
Friedman



Themes of “The World is Flat” Include:

- Other countries are out-producing the U.S. in knowledge workers
- Jobs and companies will move for skilled workers
- In the global economy, place is less and less important
- America’s economic leadership is threatened as never before

Since 2005 . . .

- Major studies decrying slippage in math and science
- National business groups calling for new focus on education, especially in STEM areas (science, technology, engineering & math)
- The National Chamber of Commerce made education top priority
- Newly announced Institute for a Competitive Workforce

We've Come Full Circle Since 1983. But the Themes Remain the Same

- School reform driven by economics
- Reform driven by fear of US falling behind
- Realization that our “safety net” is shredded

Let's Look at How NC Has Responded . . .

In Phase One (Nation at Risk)

- Commission on Education & the Economy
- The Basic Education Plan
- Merit Pay Experimentation
- Establishment of Principals Executive Program
- Establishment of Teaching Fellows Program
- Establishment of NCCAT

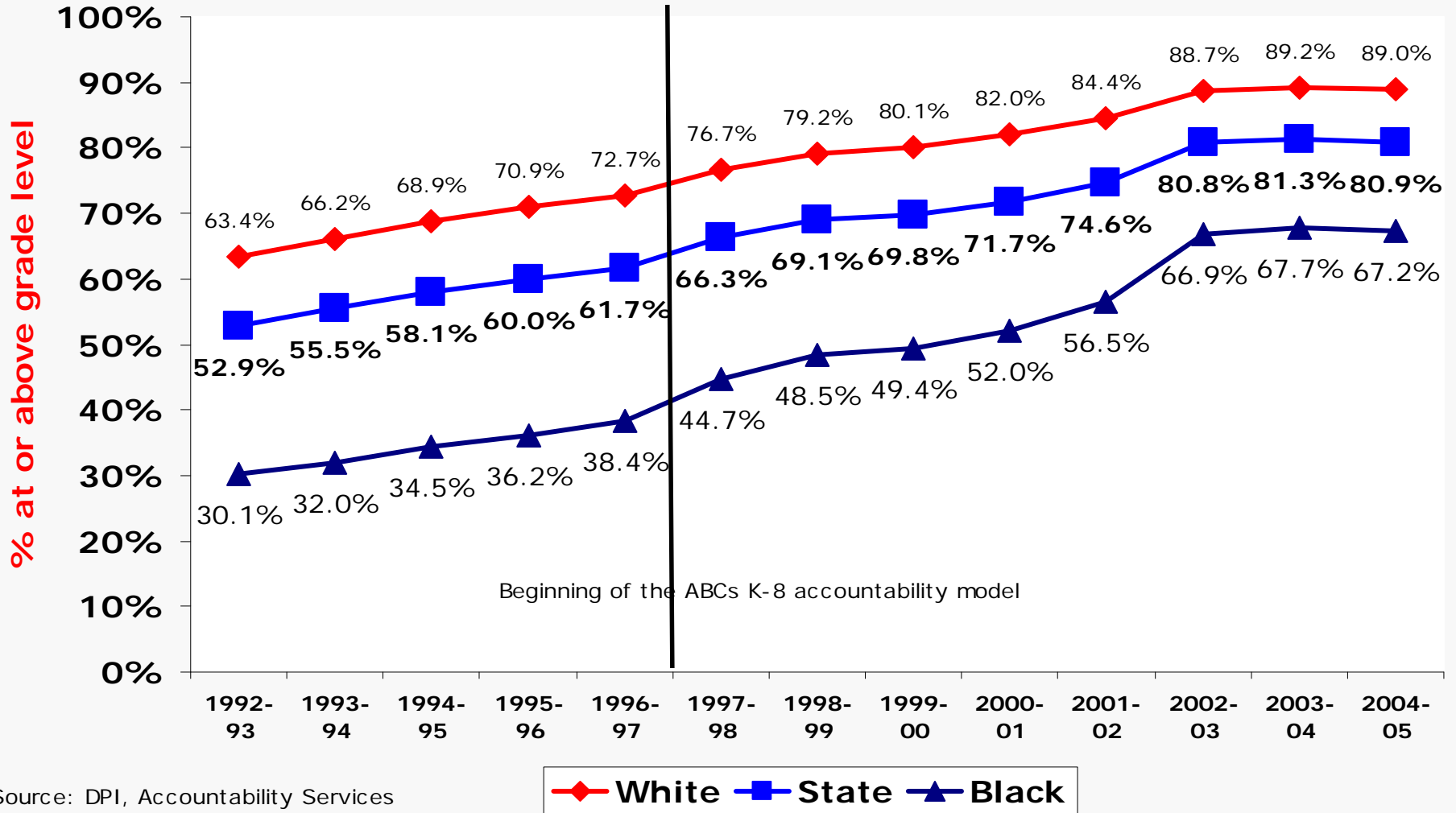
In Phase Two (Time for Results) . . .

- SB 2 (tests/accountability)
- ABC's (consequences & rewards)
- Excellent Schools Act
- No Child Left Behind

Which Brings Us to Recent History

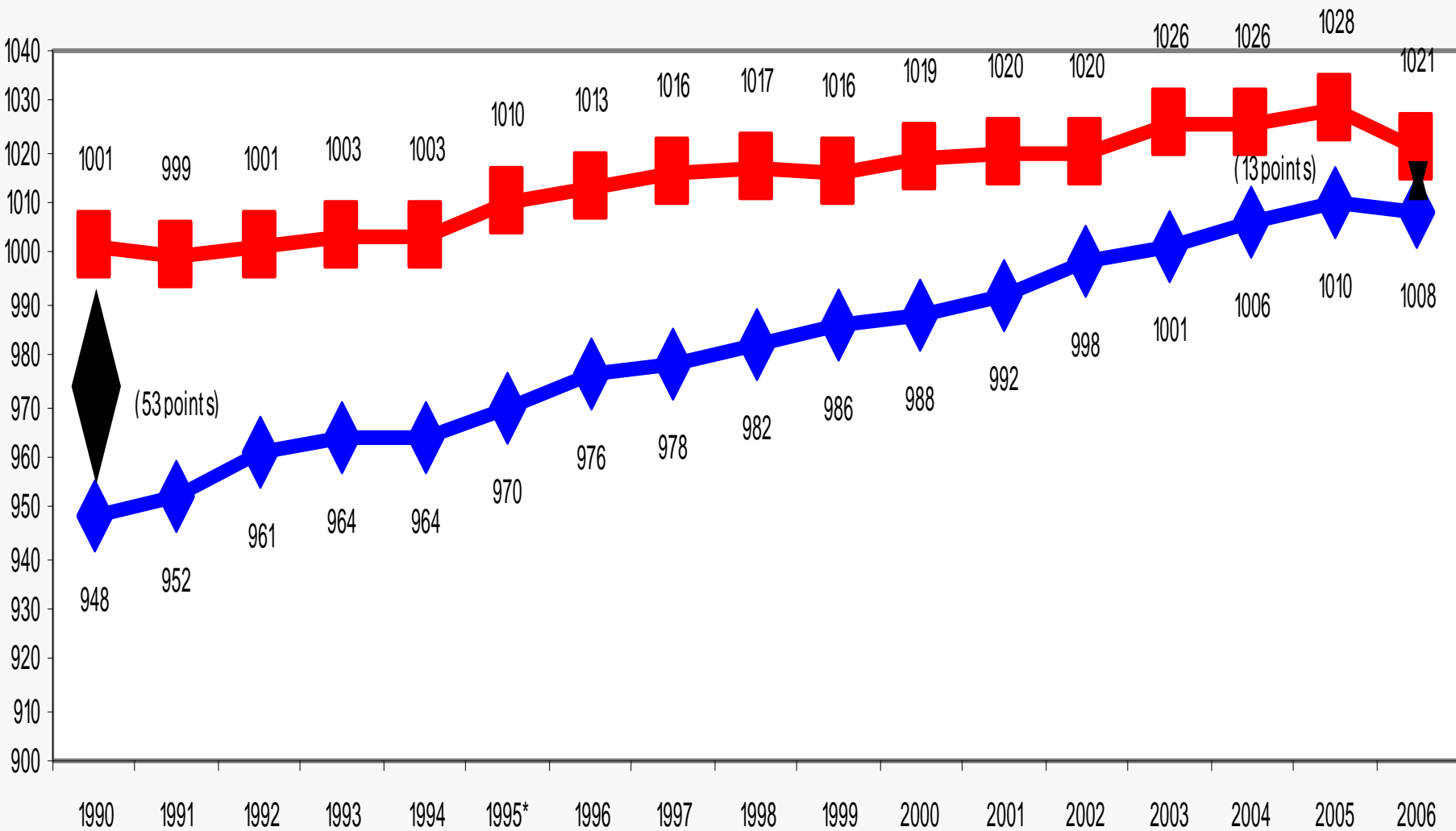
How Are We Doing?

1992-93--2004-05 Students At or Above Grade Level, Grades 3-8



Source: DPI, Accountability Services

Comparison of US & NC SAT Scores



* scores recentered

Source: College Board



In fact . . .

- NC & Texas were honored by the National Goals Panel for making the most measurable progress in the U.S.A.
- NC was honored by the National Alliance of Business for leading school reform efforts.
- NC was the subject of a Rand Corporation study on successful state-level improvement efforts.
- NC has made the decade's largest improvement in SAT scores.

All of that said . . .

What Are the Remaining
Challenges?

Challenge One:

High School Completion Rates

NORTH CAROLINA'S Educational Pipeline



In North Carolina, for every **100** ninth grade students ...



... **59** students graduate four years later.



... **38** students enter college.



... **28** students are still enrolled in their second year.



... **18** students graduate with either an associate's degree within three years or a bachelor's degree within six years.

Sources: NCES, ACT Institutional Survey; IPEDS Graduation Rate Survey.

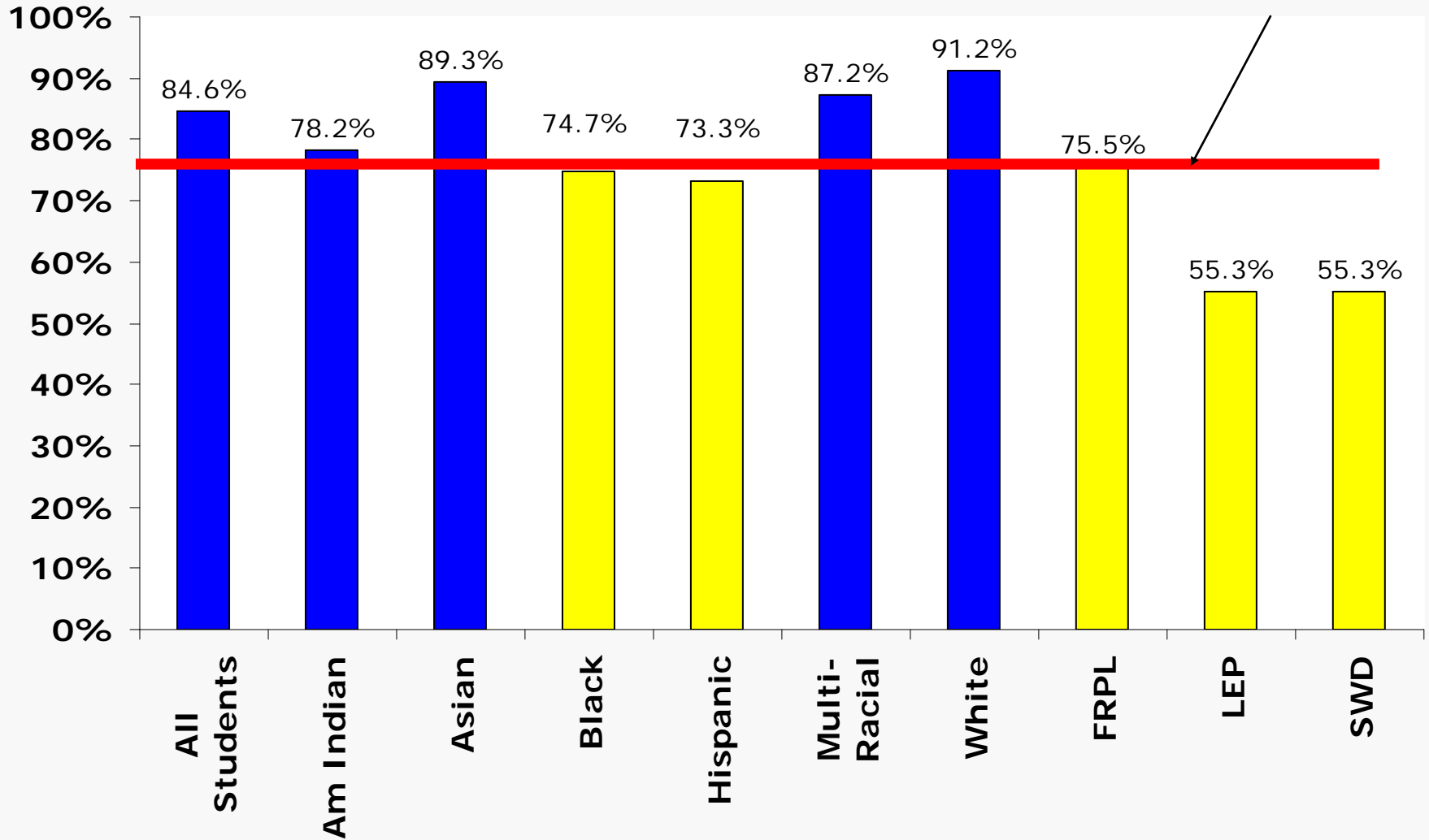
Information in this supplement is taken from *Conceptualizing and Researching the Educational Pipeline*, by Peter T. Ewell, Dennis P. Jones, and Patrick J. Kelly of The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems. For the full report, see The National Information Center for Higher Education Policymaking and Analysis web site under Special Analyses at www.higheredinfo.org/analyses/

Challenge Two:

The Continuing Performance Gaps

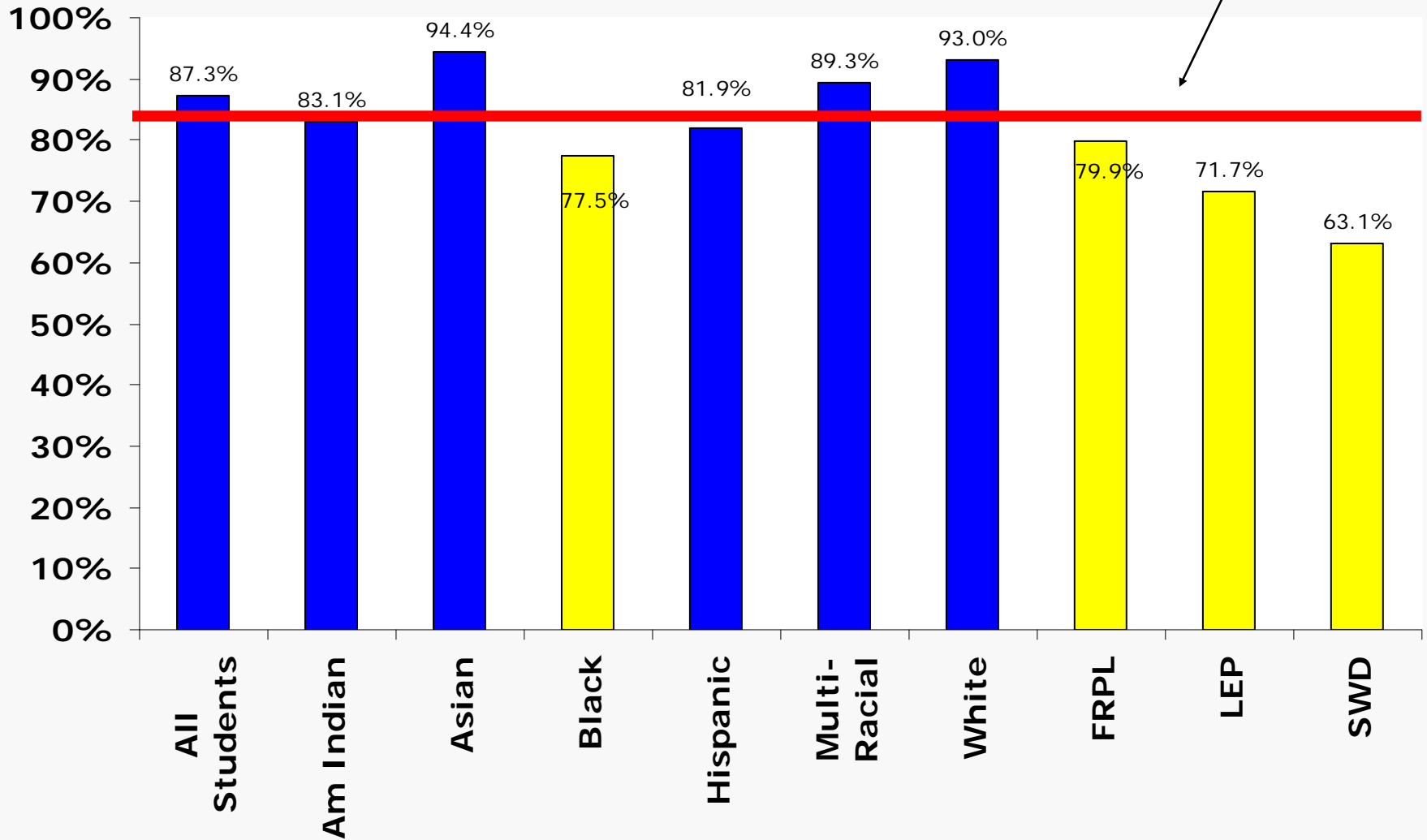
2004-05 NC Reading 3-8 Composite

**Target:
76.7%**



2004-05 NC Math 3-8 Composite

**Target:
81.0%**



Challenge Three:

Coping With Growth

35,000+ New Students

This Year Alone

County	1999 Final ADM	2006 Final ADM	% Growth	Rank % growth	Actual Growth	Rank Actual Growth
Wake	89,074	120,367	35.1%	5	31,293	1
Mecklenburg	94,359	122,261	29.6%	8	27,902	2
Union	19,646	31,330	59.5%	1	11,684	3
Johnston	18,252	27,433	50.3%	2	9,181	4
Guilford	59,120	68,118	15.2%	16	8,998	5
Cabarrus	20,899	28,503	36.4%	4	7,604	6
Forsyth	42,120	49,237	16.9%	14	7,117	7
Iredell	18,832	25,009	32.8%	7	6,177	8
Orange	14,517	17,641	21.5%	10	3,124	9
Randolph	20,014	22,860	14.2%	19	2,846	10
Top Ten	396,833	512,759			115,926	

Challenge Four:

Successfully Meeting the
Challenge of Increased Diversity

Challenge Five:

Finding Balance . . . Making School More
Than a Boot Camp for Test Taking

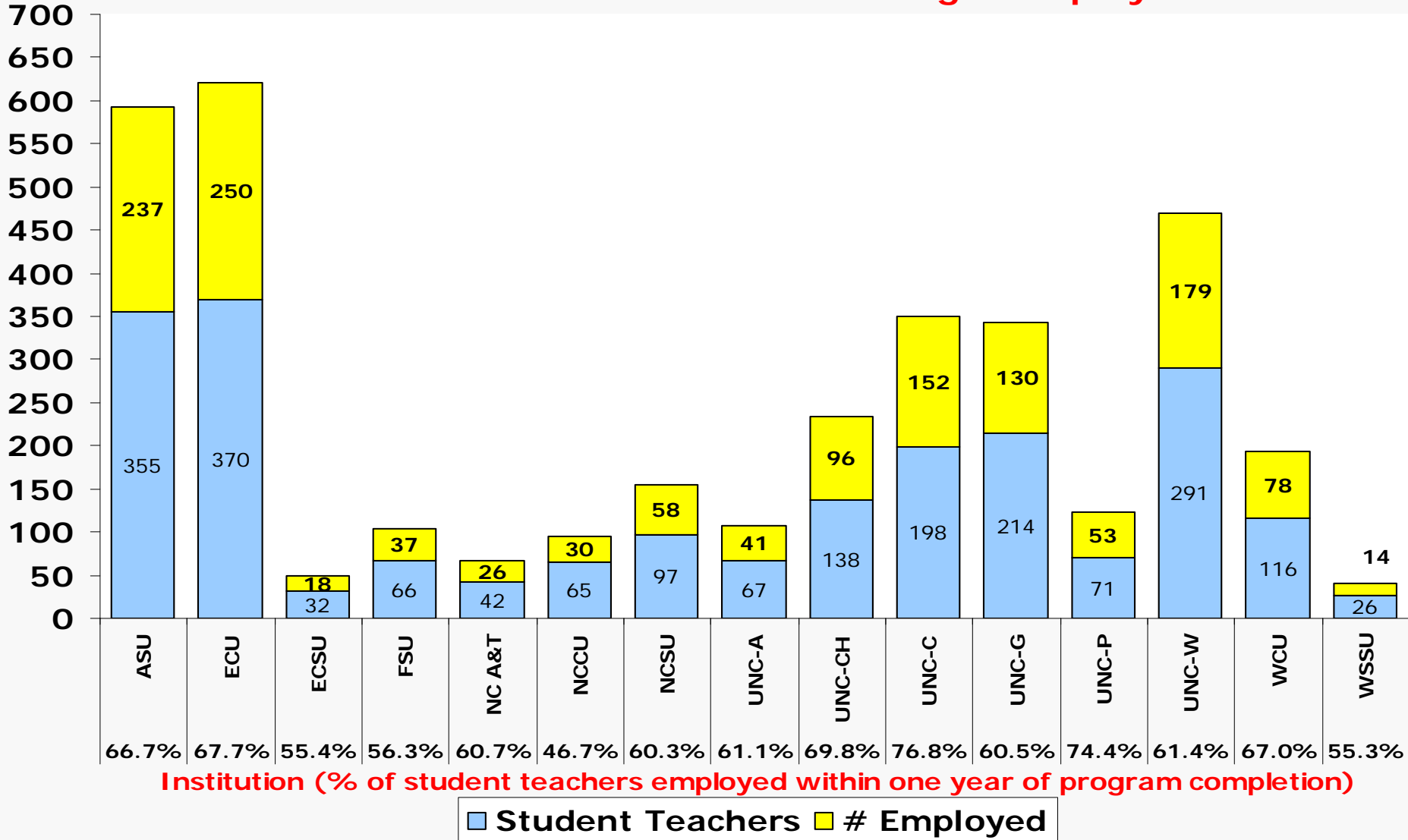
(disappearing foreign language courses,
art, music, etc.)

Challenge Six:

Recruiting & Keeping
Qualified, Caring Teachers

UNC's Teacher Pipeline

Attrition Rates Between Student Teaching & Employment



Note: The number employed is a percentage of the number of student teachers and a percentage of graduates who are licensed to teach. The 15 campuses began with 2,148 student teachers and within one year of program completion only 1,399 were licensed and employed.

Source: based upon data from Table X of the 2003-04 Institute of Higher Education Report

Challenge Seven:

Preparing Young People for a World
Gone Flat

(cultural awareness, geography,
languages, economy)

Challenge Eight:

Keeping the Public
In Support of Public Education

Issues to Watch Post-Election

- 1) To Bond or Not to Bond?
- 2) DSSF
- 3) Low Wealth vs. High Growth
- 4) HS scores/change

AND

- 5) House Leadership
- 6) A Billion \$ Deficit
- 7) Pressure for Roads/Water/Sewers/Conservation



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