

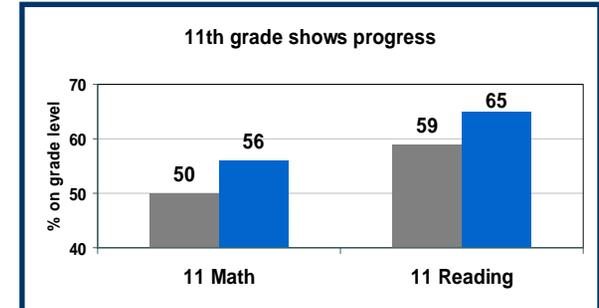
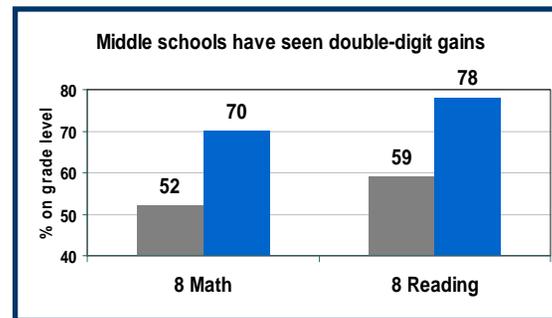
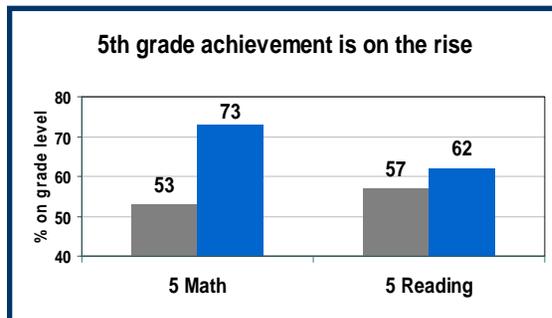
Pennsylvania is Making Progress

2007-2008 Student Achievement Results

Pennsylvania is making progress – 7 out of 10 students are now on grade level, but significant challenges remain

- The number of students at grade level has increased by 29% since 2002
- Historically low-achieving schools are driving Pennsylvania's progress
- The students who are still below grade level are heavily concentrated in districts with the largest adequacy funding gaps and in high schools
- In spite of higher Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) achievement goals in 2008, 72% of schools are meeting all of their targets

Student achievement is on the rise for all grades, all subjects and all groups



- The percent of students on grade level in grades 5, 8 and 11 has grown from 55% to 71% from 2001-02 to 2007-08
- Pennsylvania's progress in moving students to proficiency is especially impressive since independent experts find that the PSSA is one of the most rigorous assessments in the nation

15,000 more students reached grade level in math since 2007

Percent of students on grade level in math

| Math | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|--------------------------|------------|------|------|------------|------------|------|------------|
| 3 rd graders | * | * | * | 81% | 83% | 79% | 81% |
| 4 th graders | * | * | * | * | 77% | 78% | 80% |
| 5 th graders | 53% | 56% | 62% | 69% | 67% | 71% | 73% |
| 6 th graders | * | * | * | * | 68% | 70% | 72% |
| 7 th graders | * | * | * | * | 66% | 67% | 71% |
| 8 th graders | 52% | 51% | 58% | 63% | 62% | 68% | 70% |
| 11 th graders | 50% | 49% | 49% | 51% | 52% | 54% | 56% |

* no test administered

13,000 more students reached grade level in reading since 2007

Percent of students on grade level in reading

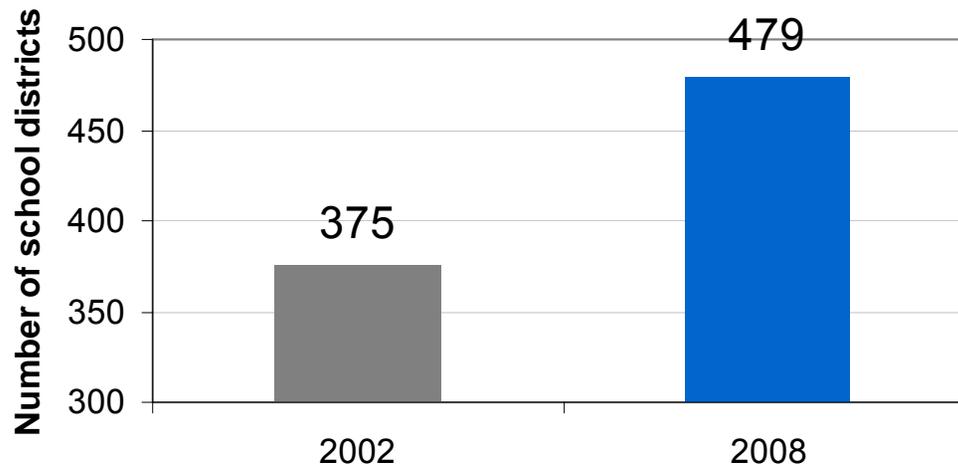
| Reading | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|--------------------------|------------|------|------|------------|------------|------|------------|
| 3 rd graders | * | * | * | 68% | 69% | 73% | 77% |
| 4 th graders | * | * | * | * | 68% | 70% | 70% |
| 5 th graders | 57% | 58% | 63% | 64% | 61% | 60% | 62% |
| 6 th graders | * | * | * | * | 66% | 64% | 67% |
| 7 th graders | * | * | * | * | 68% | 67% | 70% |
| 8 th graders | 59% | 63% | 69% | 64% | 71% | 75% | 78% |
| 11 th graders | 59% | 59% | 61% | 65% | 65% | 65% | 65% |

* no test administered

Improvement in historically low-achieving school districts is driving the state's progress

- 479 school districts have a majority of students on grade level compared to 375 in 2002 – an increase of nearly 30%

School districts with more than half of students on grade level



- 72 districts have increased the proportion of students on grade level by at least 40% since 2002

The number of students scoring in the lowest performance level decreased by 38%

- 36,000 fewer students are “below basic” in math and 13,000 fewer students are scoring in the lowest level in reading in 2008 compared to 2002
- The number of students scoring below basic at the elementary, middle and high school levels decreased in the 2007-2008 school year

High-achieving students have increased by 88% since 2002

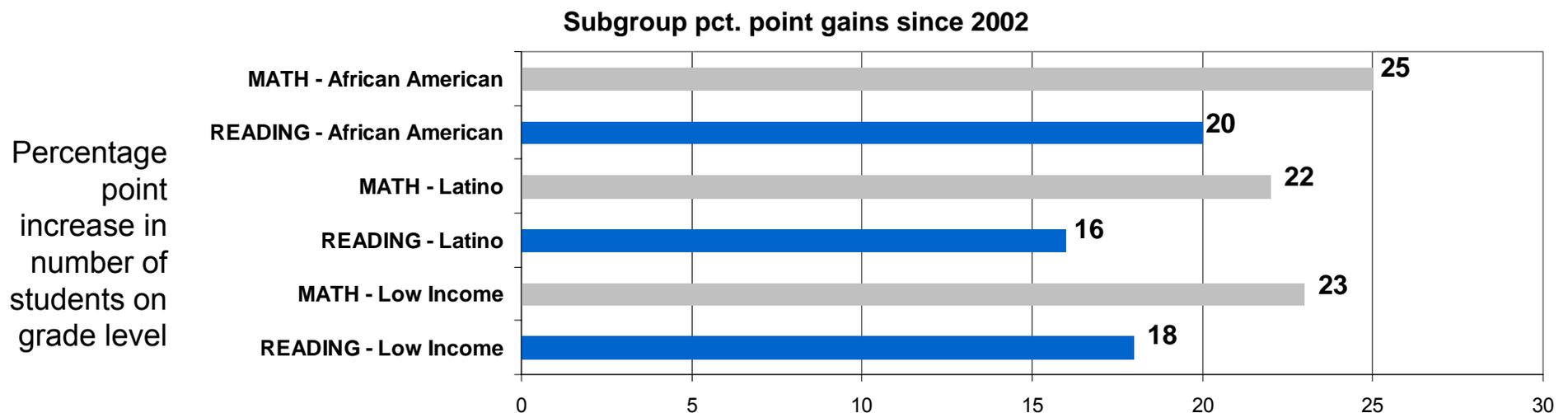
- 65,000 more students are “advanced” in math and 75,000 more students are in the highest level in reading in 2008 compared to 2002
- The number of students who scored advanced increased at the elementary, middle and high school levels

Significantly more minority and low-income students are on grade level than in 2002

- The percent of African-American students who scored on grade level has increased by 131%
- The percent of Latino students who scored on grade level has increased by 84%
- The percent of low-income students who scored on grade level has increased by 88%

PA is closing the achievement gap

- Minority students have made double-digit gains:



- Since 2002, the achievement gap (the difference between achievement levels of white and minority students) has shrunk by an average of:
 - 26% for African-American students
 - 20% for Latino students
 - 23% for economically disadvantaged students

Pennsylvania's schools have succeeded in raising student achievement

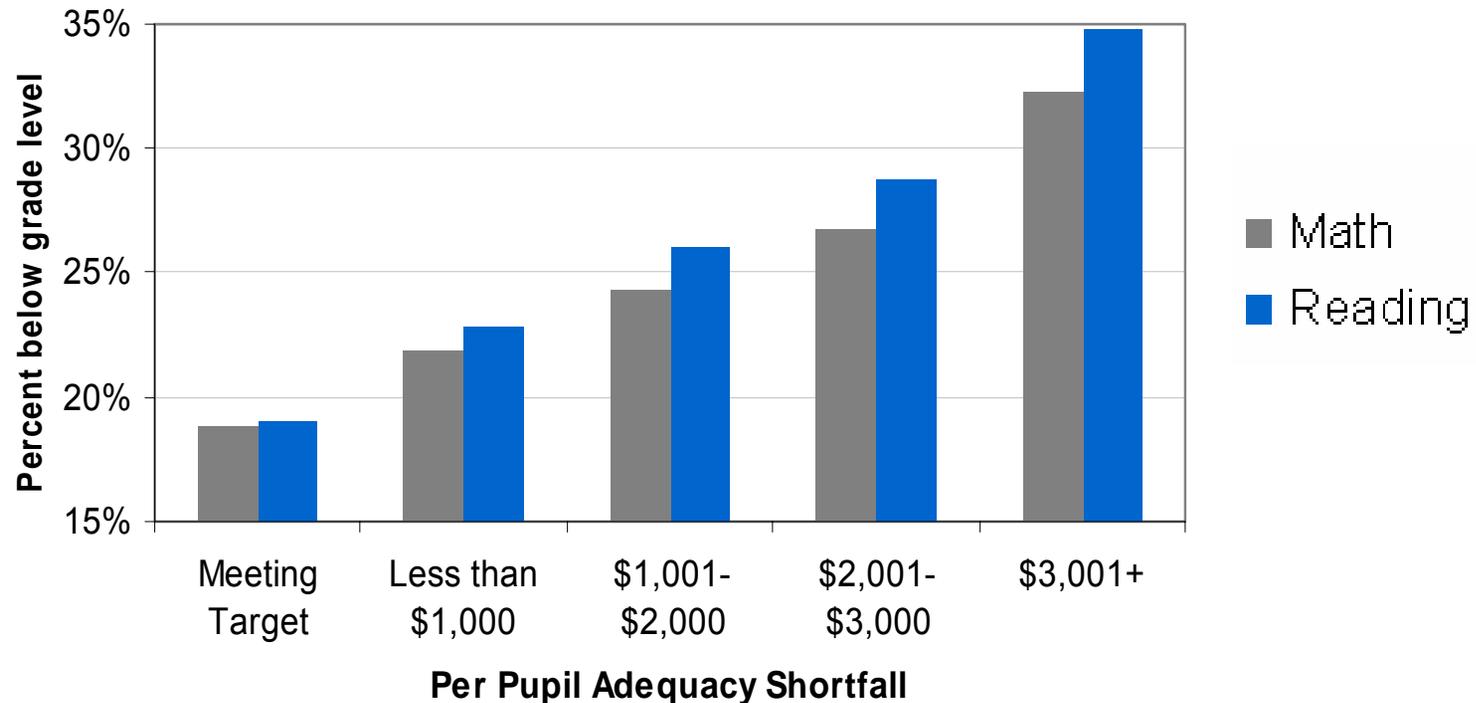
- Since 2002, Pennsylvania has invested an additional \$2.7 billion in PreK-12 education to support the hard work of the Commonwealth's educators
- Pennsylvania has targeted this funding to under-funded and under-performing schools
- Schools invested in programs proven to improve student achievement:
 - Early childhood education
 - Tutoring
 - Smaller classes
 - Teacher training
- There is still a lot of work to do

To continue making progress, Pennsylvania schools need to focus on the hardest-to-reach students

- Most of the remaining students who score below basic are concentrated in relatively few low wealth school districts
- Even high-achieving districts and schools need to increase their focus on building skills for struggling students
- All schools need to provide rigorous curriculum and clear, high expectations for all students to prepare them for post-secondary success
- Increased common commitment must be shared by students, parents and schools for success for all kids
- The state and schools must deepen reforms in all areas

Adequate funding is critical to student success

- Districts with the largest funding gaps average 78% more students below grade level than districts with adequate resources



- “68% basic” students attend schools where the adequacy gap is at least \$2,000 per pupil

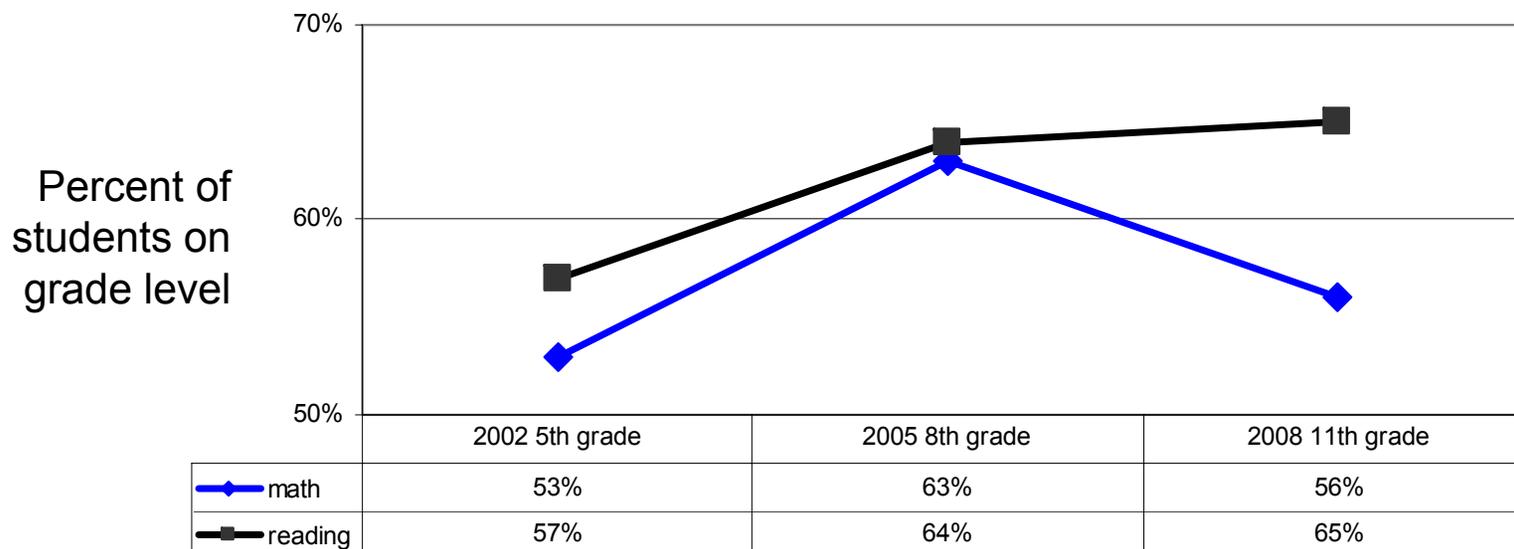
PA high schools: The greatest challenge

- 2 out of 5 Pennsylvania high school students are below grade level
- Independent research shows that students who score on grade level on the 11th grade PSSA are more likely to succeed in college
- At the current pace, without significant intervention, it would take 40 years for all 11th graders to meet state standards

PA students lose momentum in high school

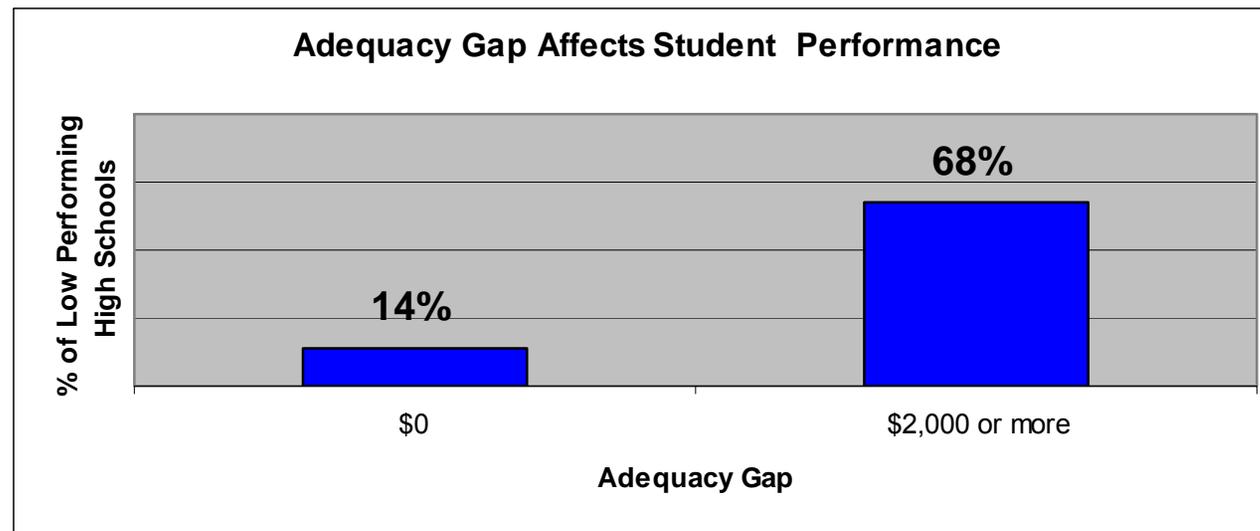
Current high school students declined in math and made little progress in reading since 8th grade

2002 5th Graders Are Next Year's High School Graduates



Pennsylvania knows how to overcome the high school challenge

- Closing the adequacy gap will benefit the lowest-achieving high schools
- 68% of low-performing high schools are in districts with at least a \$2,000 per pupil funding gap



PA must act to improve high school achievement

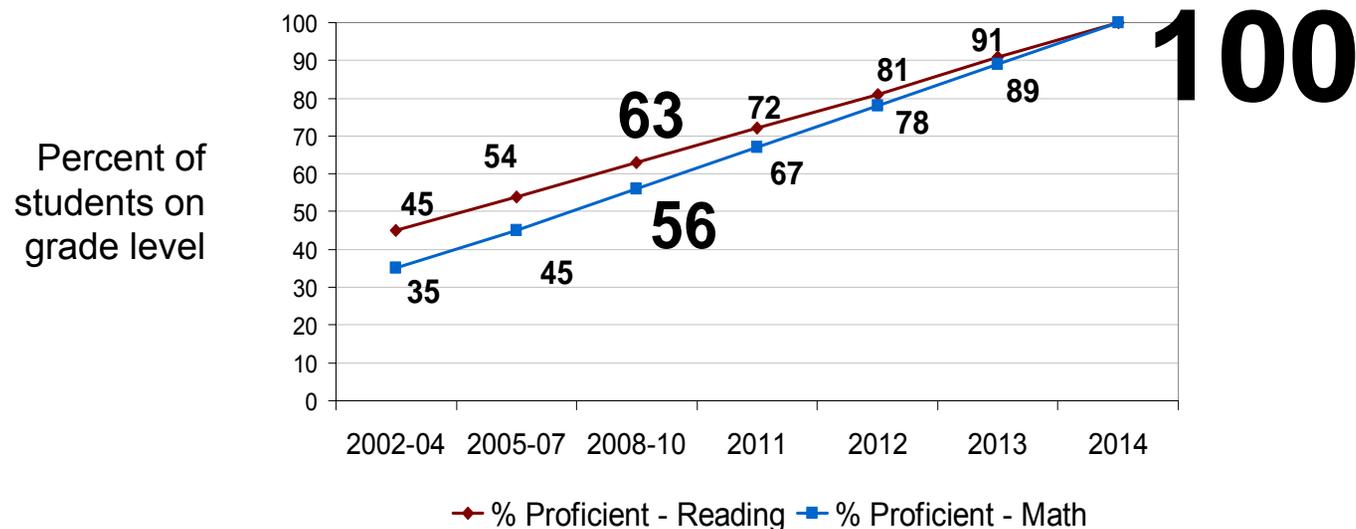
- Schools must provide a rigorous curriculum that delivers core content regardless of where the student lives
- Increasing achievement demands state of the art teaching tools and strong professional development for educators
- Students need to meet clear expectations in order to earn a diploma

There are four components to making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

- Achievement
- Participation
- Graduation
- Attendance

PA schools have 6 more years to get every student to grade level

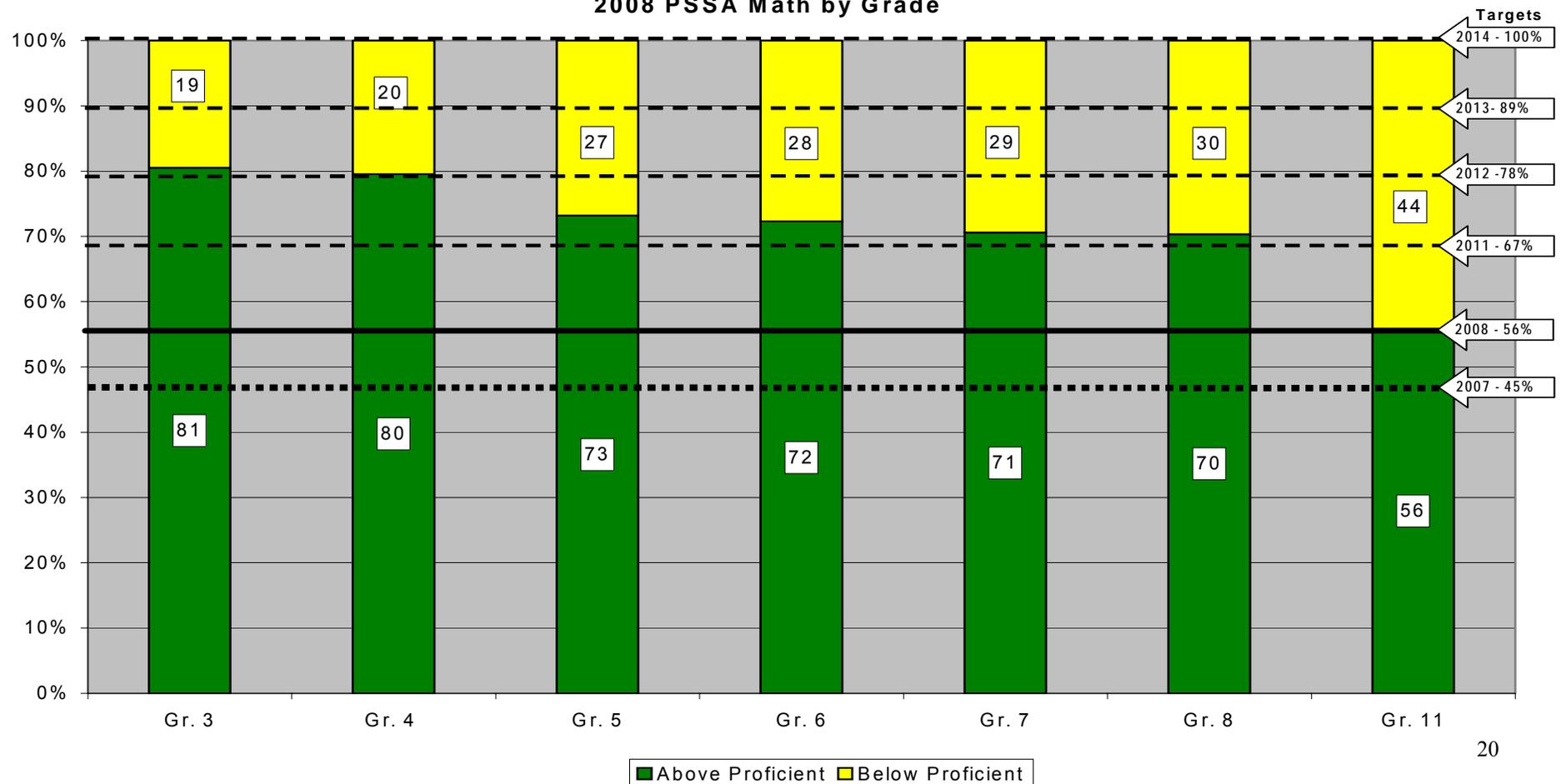
The 2007-08 AYP targets are 9 percentage points higher for reading and 11 percentage points higher for math than last year



PA met all 7 math achievement targets in 2008

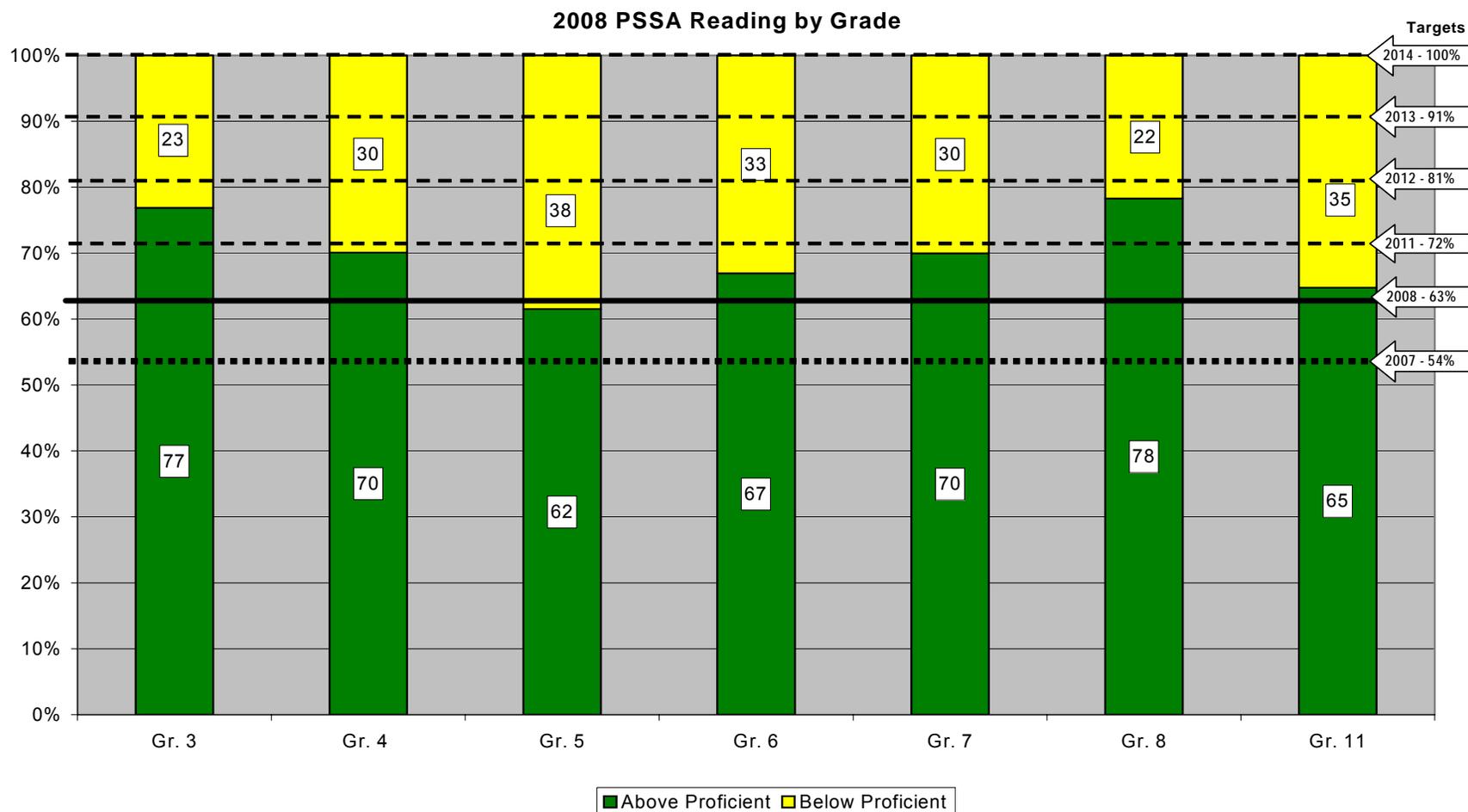
Students met this year's AYP math targets in all grades, but must improve high school achievement to meet the 2011 target

2008 PSSA Math by Grade



PA met 6 of 7 reading targets in 2008

Reading poses a greater challenge, demanding progress over the next three years in high school and in grades 4 to 7



72% of schools are making AYP – in spite of higher targets

- If the targets had stayed at 2007 levels, 85% of PA schools would have made AYP – compared to 78% last year
- Showing significant progress, 97 schools met all of this year's higher targets after failing to make AYP last year

| | 2007 | | 2008 | |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | Number of schools | Percent of schools | Number of schools | Percent of schools |
| Met AYP | 2,302 | 74.2% | 2,138 | 68.9% |
| Making Progress | 102 | 3.3% | 97 | 3.1% |
| Warning | 380 | 12.2% | 461 | 14.8% |
| School Improvement 1 | 81 | 2.6% | 149 | 4.8% |
| School Improvement 2 | 53 | 1.7% | 75 | 2.4% |
| Corrective Action 1 | 44 | 1.4% | 33 | 1.1% |
| Corrective Action 2 | 142 | 4.6% | 152 | 4.9% |

72% of schools met all AYP targets in 2008

92% of Pennsylvania school districts made AYP

Five fewer school districts are in Corrective Action – the lowest AYP rating

| | 2007 | | 2008 | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| | Number of districts | Percent of districts | Number of districts | Percent of districts |
| Met AYP | 452 | 90.4 % | 455 | 91.0% |
| Making Progress | 8 | 1.6 % | 6 | 1.2% |
| Warning | 18 | 3.6% | 21 | 4.2% |
| District Improvement 1 | 0 | 0.0% | 2 | 0.4% |
| District Improvement 2 | 2 | 0.4% | 1 | 0.2% |
| Corrective Action 1 | 12 | 2.4% | 2 | 0.4% |
| Corrective Action 2 | 8 | 1.6% | 13 | 2.6% |

92% of school districts met all AYP targets in 2008

Struggling districts share three common characteristics

- Three-quarters of districts that did not make AYP have adequacy gaps of at least \$2,000 per pupil; these districts educate one out of every two Pennsylvania students
- 39% of the schools that missed their AYP targets had at least 3 in 10 students who are minorities or low-income
- All 39 districts that missed AYP had at least one high school that failed to meet targets

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Pennsylvania Students Achieving



Edward G. Rendell, Governor

Dr. Gerald L. Zahorchak, Secretary of Education

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