

PLANNING SESSION AGENDA
April 27, 2011

**A. *HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS IN MEETING BOARD OF
EDUCATION OBJECTIVES***

Presenter:

Dr. Deborah Jonas, Executive Director of Research and Strategic
Planning

Dr. Jonas will distribute handouts at the planning session.

Frequently Asked Questions: State and Federal Accountability for Graduation Rates in Virginia

1. How are graduation rates included in Virginia's state accountability system, the Standards of Accreditation?
 - ❖ Beginning with the accreditation ratings issued in the 2011-2012 school year and based on data through the 2010-2011 school year, schools must meet a minimum threshold on the Board of Education-approved Graduation and Completion Index (GCI) and meet current pass-rate thresholds to be fully accredited. Schools accreditation ratings will be based on their current GCI or a three-year average GCI.
 - ❖ The GCI is calculated based on cohorts of students who start ninth grade in the same year and progress through high school. The GCI has differential weights based on the outcomes of students who graduate with Board of Education-approved diplomas, earn alternative completion credentials (GED or Certificate of Program Completion) or stay in school beyond their on-time year. For most students, on-time is four years. However, for certain students with disabilities and English language learners who are permitted more time to graduate in their IEP, the on-time year may be more than four years. Attachment A provides more detail about the index weightings.
 - ❖ To earn full accreditation, schools must have a Graduation and Completion Index of at least 85. Schools with an index that is less than 85 but at least 80 will be provisionally accredited in the first year. The minimum index required to earn provisional accreditation will increase one point each year. Provisional accreditation will no longer be issued beginning in the 2015-2016 school year. Appendix A shows the index points needed each year to earn provisional accreditation.

2. What is the Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate?
 - ❖ The Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate is Virginia's official graduation rate, and is used to publically report school graduation rates. The rate is based on individual student-level data tracked over time that fully accounts for student mobility and retention patterns. The cohorts defined in the Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate form the basis for the cohorts in the GCI calculation.
 - ❖ The Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate was first reported in October 2008 for students who entered the ninth grade for the first time during the 2004-2005 school year. VDOE will annually publish graduation rates based on cohorts being enrolled in school for four, five, and six years.

- ❖ The Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate is calculated by dividing the number of students earning a diploma in four years or less by the number of students who entered the ninth-grade for the first time four years earlier (plus transfers in minus transfers out).
 - ❖ The Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate recognizes the achievement of students who earn a diploma approved by the Board of Education (Advanced Studies, Standard, Modified Standard, Special and General Achievement).
 - ❖ The Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate includes adjustments for students who under federal and state law may take longer than four years to earn a diploma and still count as “on-time” graduates by assigning these students to the appropriate ninth-grade cohorts. For example, students with disabilities who entered the ninth grade for the first time in 2004-2005 and graduate in June 2009 would be assigned to the 2005-2006 ninth-grade cohort and counted as on-time graduates.
 - ❖ The Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate is disaggregated by student group to enhance public understanding and accountability.
 - ❖ Students who earn GEDs or Certificates of Completion are not dropouts; these students have earned non-diploma completion credentials. Therefore, these students do not count as graduates in the On-Time Graduation Rate.
3. How are graduation rates included in the federal accountability system?
- ❖ The federal graduation indicator (FGI) is one of 29 indicators that schools with a graduating class must meet to make adequate yearly progress (AYP). The “all student” subgroup must meet the statewide goal or the target for continuous and substantial improvement for the state, school divisions, and schools to meet the annual measurable objective for graduation rates. Subgroups must meet the goal or targets for continuous and substantial graduation rate improvement if they do not meet the AYP pass rate requirements.
 - ❖ To comply with federal regulations, in June 2010, the Virginia Board of Education established the statewide goal of 80 percent in either four, five, or six years. This means that schools, school divisions, and the state will meet the statewide goal if their four-year, or five-year, or six-year federal graduation indicator is 80 percent or higher. The FGI used in accountability ratings lags one year due to report timing.
 - ❖ To comply with federal regulations, in June 2010, the Virginia Board of Education established targets for continuous and substantial improvement that are equal to a 10 percent reduction in the percent of nongraduates from the previous year. Improvement targets are calculated on the four-year federal graduation indicator only.
 - ❖ As mandated by the US Department of Education, the FGI only includes Virginia’s standard and advanced diplomas.

4. How does the calculation of the federal graduation indicator differ from the Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate, which is the official graduation rate of the Commonwealth of Virginia?
 - ❖ The Board of Education-approved Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate permits the following:
 - Students with disabilities who have plans in place that allow them more time to graduate are counted when they earn a diploma or otherwise exit high school. In the calculation, eligible students have their cohort adjusted to permit them more time to graduate.
 - English language learners who have plans in place that allow them more time to graduate are counted when they earn a diploma or otherwise exit high school. In the calculation, eligible students have their cohort adjusted to permit them more time to graduate.
 - All Board of Education-approved diplomas are included in the Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate. Current diplomas are:
 - Advanced-Studies Diploma
 - Advanced-Studies Technical Diploma
 - Standard Diploma
 - Standard Technical Diploma
 - Modified Standard Diploma
 - Special Diploma
 - General Achievement Diploma (GAD)
 - ❖ The Federal Graduation Indicator differs from the Virginia On-Time Graduation rate in the following ways:
 - The federal indicator does not permit any students to have their cohort adjusted, regardless of language or disability status;
 - The federal indicator only includes Virginia's standard and advanced studies diplomas.
5. When will the federal graduation indicator goal and targets for continuous and substantial improvement be used to make AYP determinations?
 - ❖ AYP ratings calculated in the summer of 2010, and applied during the 2010-2011 school year will use the new formula, goals, and target calculation.
 - ❖ AYP determinations made in 2010 will not include data from a six-year federal graduation indicator. The six-year federal graduation indicator will be included in AYP determinations beginning in 2011.
6. How does the fifth or sixth year figure into the federal graduation indicator and AYP determinations?
 - ❖ Virginia will report four-, five-, and six-year federal graduation indicators as they become available. Federal regulations permit states to use extended-year graduation rates in making AYP determinations.

- ❖ Upon U.S. Department of Education approval, schools, school divisions, and the state can meet the federal graduation indicator (FGI) for purposes of making AYP determinations:
 - If the four-year FGI is ≥ 80 percent; or
 - If the five-year FGI is ≥ 80 percent; or
 - If the six-year FGI is ≥ 80 percent (note that this rate will not be available for calculations made in 2010, but will be available beginning in 2011); or
 - If the average four-year, five-year, or six-year FGI using up to three years of data ≥ 80 percent; or
 - If there is at least a 10 percent reduction in the percent of students who did not graduate with a standard or advanced studies diploma in four years compared to the prior year's four-year FGI.
7. How are the three-year averages included in the federal accountability system?
- ❖ Up to three years of data will be aggregated to make AYP determinations when comparing the four-, five-, and six-year FGI to the statewide goal. They will not be calculated or considered for determining whether targets have been met.
 - ❖ In 2010, the calculation will aggregate the total number of students who graduated with standard or advanced studies diplomas in four years or less divided by the total number of students in two cohorts of graduates.
 - ❖ When data are available, averages will be calculated for the five-year, and six-year FGI.
8. Where can I find the graduation rate data?
- ❖ Authorized school and school division personnel can access the data from the Cohort Graduation application in VDOE's Single Sign-On for Web Systems (SSWS) application. The application includes data for the Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate and the Federal Graduation Indicator. It will include the Graduation and Completion Index in the coming year.
 - ❖ The public can access the Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate data via the Web at: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/graduation_completion/index.shtml.
 - ❖ VDOE will update the school, school division, and state report cards that are available on the Web to include the federal graduation indicator on report cards released in the summer of 2010.

For more information:

- Data questions from schools and school divisions should be sent to: resultshelp@doe.virginia.gov.
- Public inquiries should be directed to Mr. Charles Pyle, Director of Communications at: Charles.Pyle@doe.virginia.gov.

Attachment A

Highlights of Revisions to the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia

Point Values Assigned to Graduation and Completion Index in the SOA	
<u>Diploma/Certificate/Other</u>	<u>Point Value</u>
Board recognized diplomas in SOA	100
GED	75
Still in school	70
Certificates of Program Completion	25

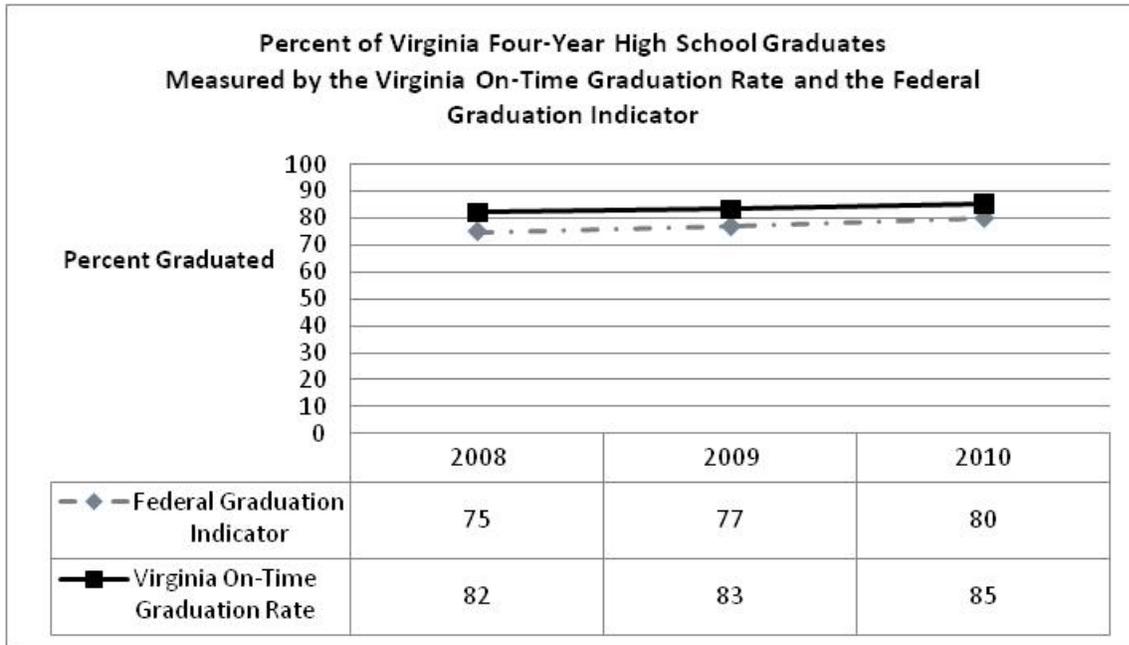
- Benchmark of 85 points must be met for full accreditation rating.
- Current index points or three-year trailing average of index points are the basis for ratings (same as current calculation for SOL pass rates).
- Accommodations exist for alternative accreditation plans.

Benchmarks for Graduation and Completion Index and Rating of Provisionally Accredited-Graduation Rate		
<u>Academic Year</u>	<u>Accreditation Year</u>	<u>Point Value</u>
2010-2011	2011-2012	80
2011-2012	2012-2013	81
2012-2013	2013-2014	82
2013-2014	2014-2015	83
2014-2015	2015-2016	84

The Provisionally Accredited-Graduation Rate Rating will not be awarded after the 2015-2016 accreditation year.

Schools rated Provisionally Accredited-Graduation Rate must undergo an academic review (see [8 VAC 20-131-310](#)).

Attachment B



Highlights of Progress in Meeting Board of Education Objectives

Deborah L. Jonas, Ph.D.

Board of Education Planning Meeting

April 27, 2011

Overview

- Comprehensive plan includes metrics to assess the Board's progress towards meeting objectives and the state of public PK-12 education in Virginia.
- Metrics are reported comprehensively each fall in the Board's annual report.
- The report includes qualitative and quantitative measures.

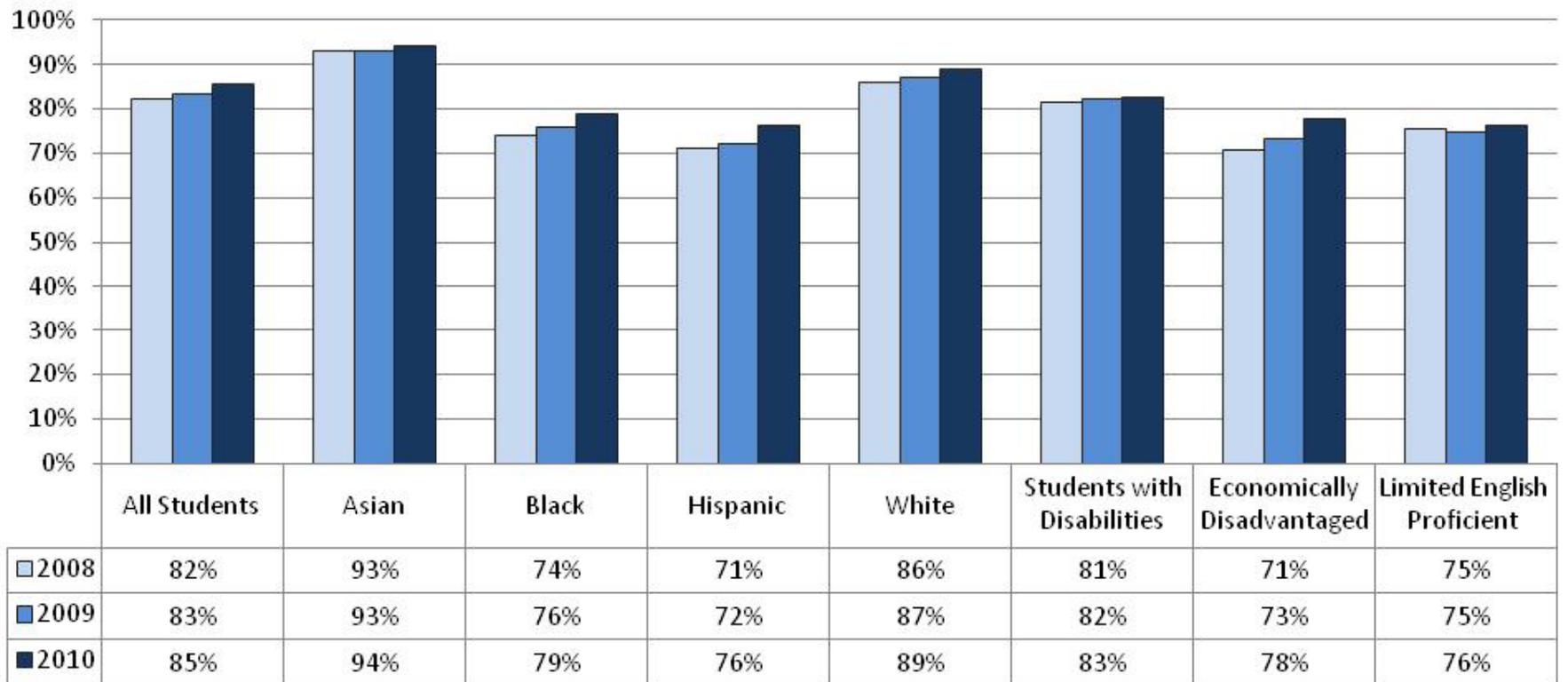
Today's Highlights

- High school graduation rates
- Preparation for college and careers
- The achievement gap

High School Graduation Rates

- Virginia's On-Time Graduation Rate (OTGR)
 - Recognizes all Board of Education-approved Diplomas.
 - Includes adjustments for students who under federal and state law may take longer than four years to earn a diploma.
 - Students with disabilities and English language learners who graduate in more than four years count as "on-time" using the formula agreed upon under the National Governors Association compact and adopted by the Board in November 2006.
- OTGR cohort is used as the basis for Virginia's Graduation and Completion Index.
- The Graduation and Completion Index will be included in high school accreditation determinations for the first time in Fall 2011.

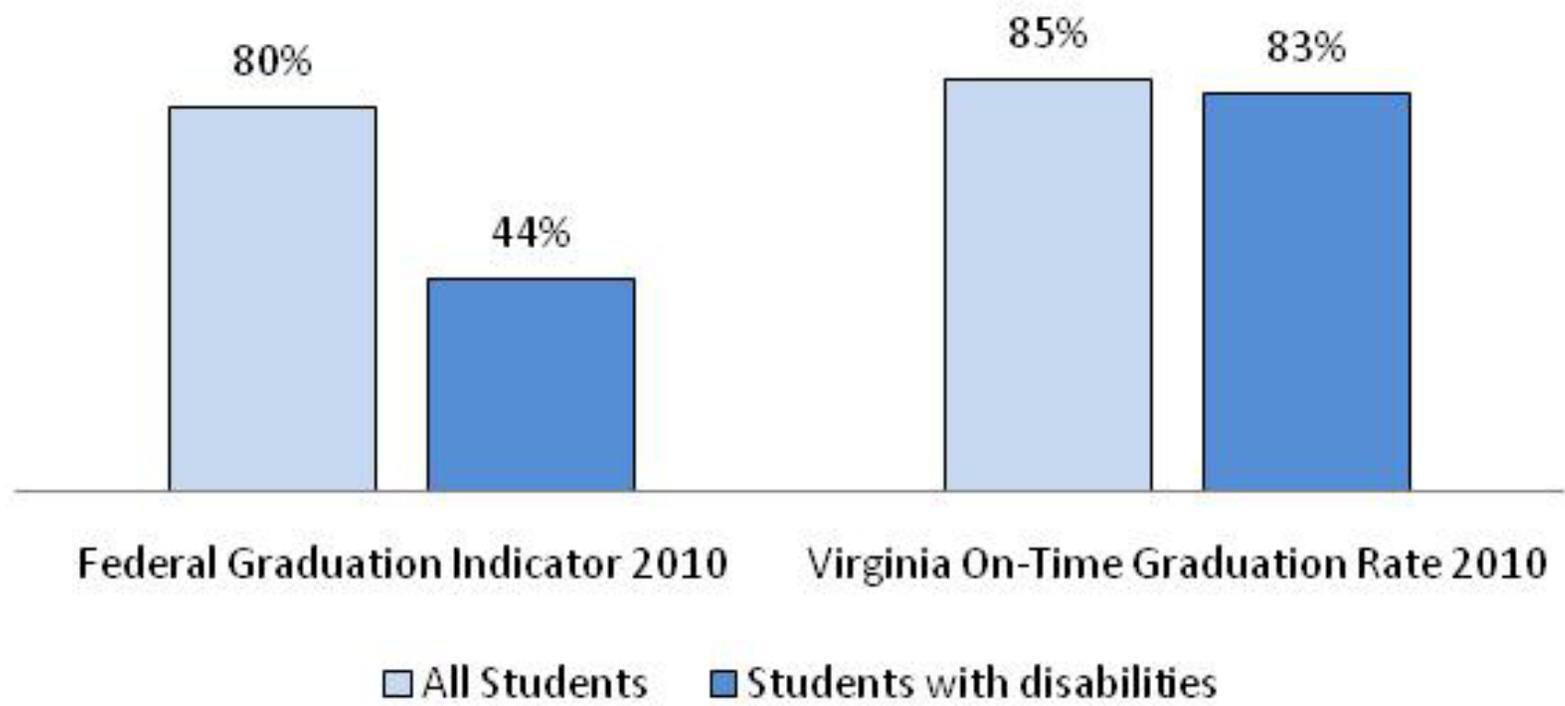
Percent of On-Time Graduates Virginia On-Time Graduation Rates 2008-2010



Federal Graduation Indicator

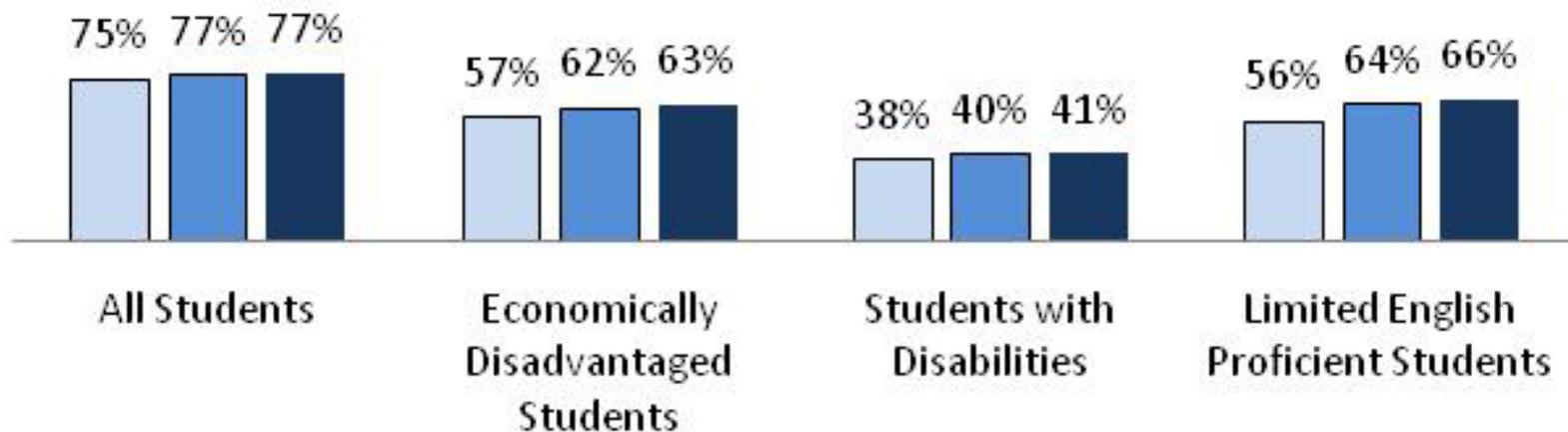
- Used in federal accountability determinations as of fall 2010.
- Relies on a formula prescribed in federal regulations.
- Recognizes Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas only.
- Does not permit adjustments for students who, under federal and state law, may take more than four years to graduate.

Percent of Graduates in Federal and State Graduation Rate Calculations



Additional Time Can Make a Difference!

Percent of Students Entering High School in 2004-2005 who Earned Standard or Advanced Studies Diplomas in Four, Five, and Six Years



□ Four-year Federal Graduation Indicator, adjusted cohort of 9th graders 2004-2005

■ Five-year Federal Graduation Indicator, adjusted cohort of 9th graders 2004-2005

■ Six-year Federal Graduation Indicator, adjusted cohort of 9th graders 2004-2005

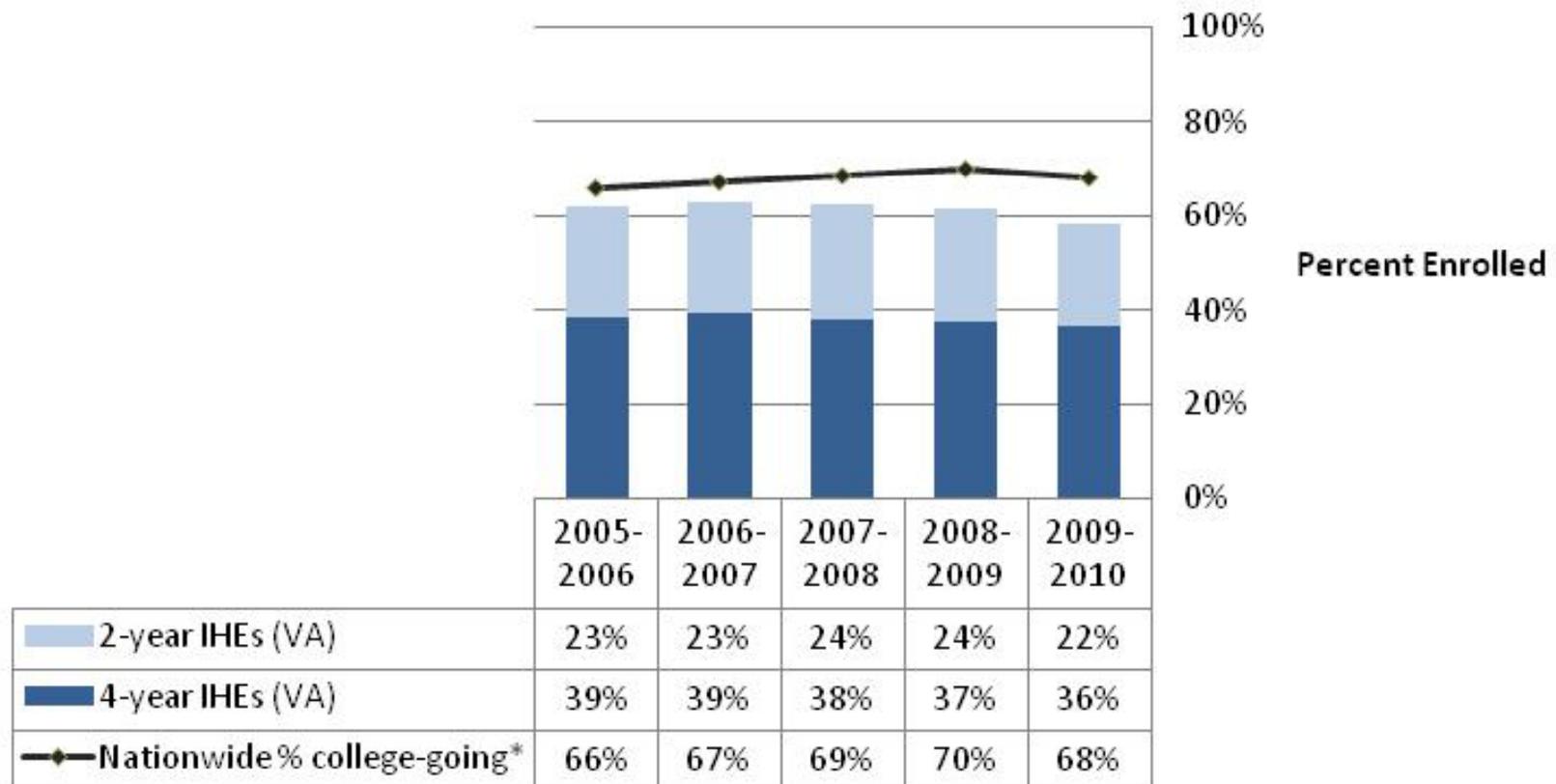
College and Career Readiness

Indicators of College Readiness in Virginia*

Coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra II • Lab science (e.g., chemistry) • Participation in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dual enrollment - Advanced placement courses - International Baccalaureate (IB) programs
Diploma Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Studies
SOL Scores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Advanced • Writing: Advanced • Algebra I: Advanced • Geometry: Advanced • Algebra II: Advanced or Near Advanced
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College ready on external assessments (e.g., SAT, ACT)

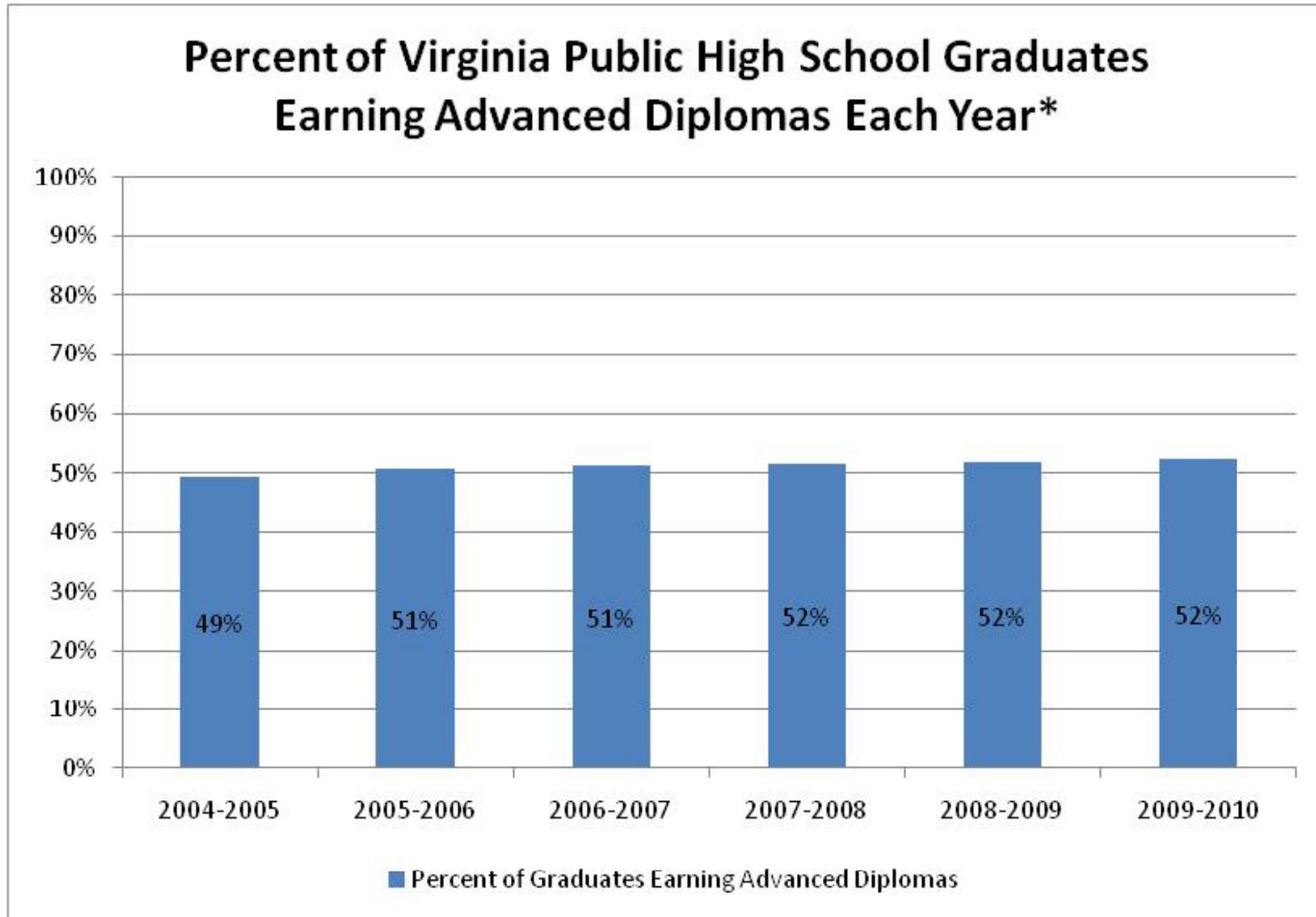
*Indicators are based on analyses of data from two- and four-year colleges, including enrollment and course taking patterns.

Percent of Virginia High School Graduates and Completers Enrolled in Institutions of Higher Education



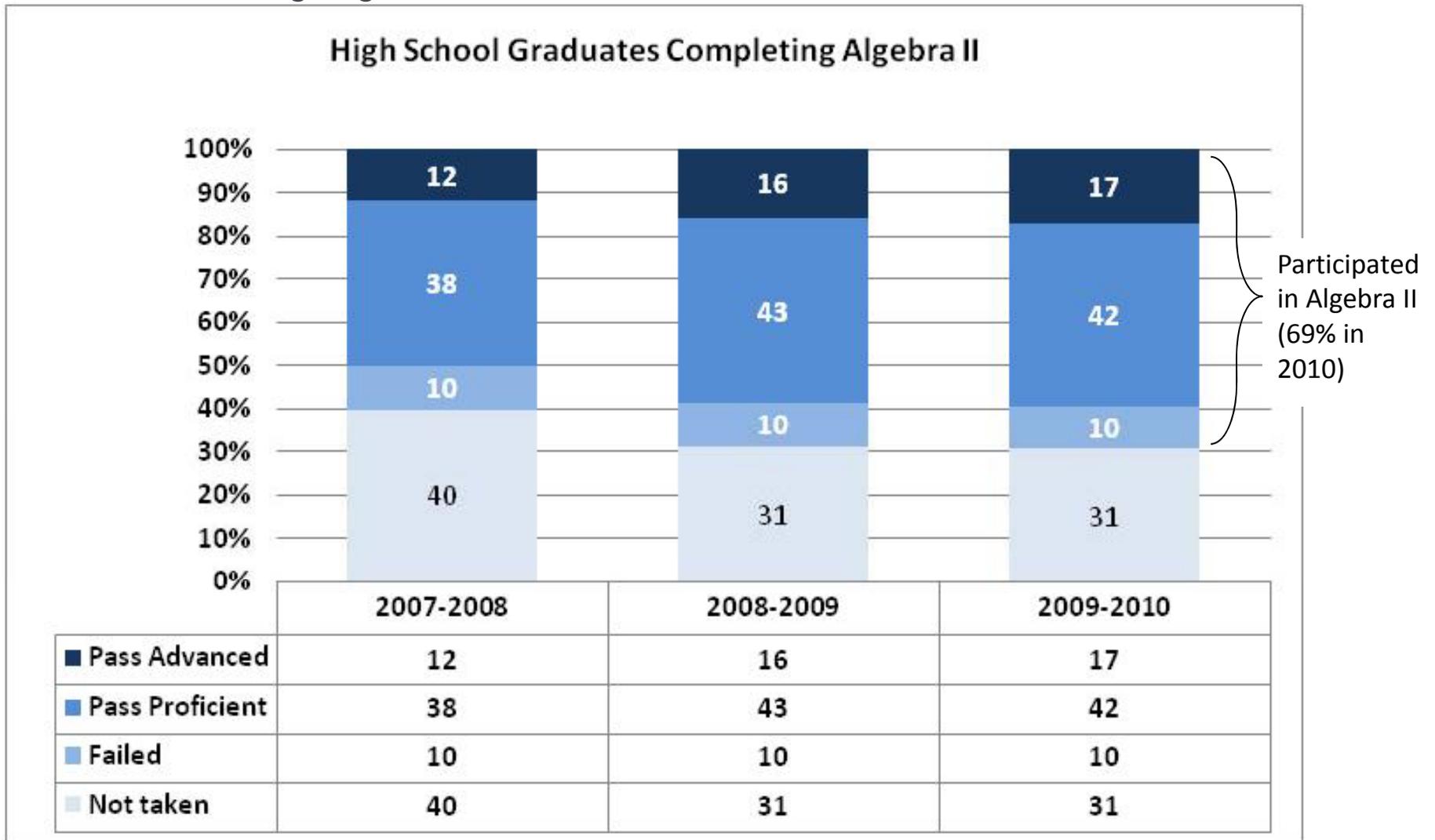
Virginia's college enrollment rate, estimated based on enrollment data provided by the National Student Clearinghouse. Includes public high school students only.

National rate estimated from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Includes high school students from public and private schools.



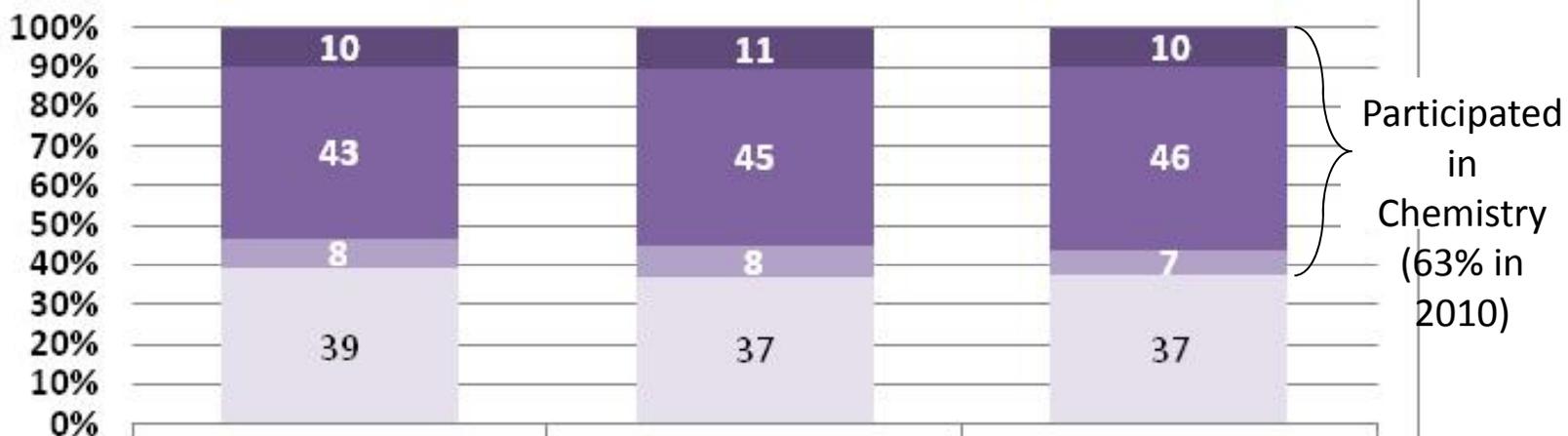
*Based on total graduates each year. Data do not account for the longitudinal cohort of high school graduates.

Nearly 70 percent of Virginia's graduates have completed Algebra II before leaving high school in 2010.



Approximately 63 percent of Virginia's graduates have completed Chemistry before leaving high school in 2010.

High School Graduates Completing Chemistry



	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Pass Advanced	10	11	10
Pass Proficient	43	45	46
Failed	8	8	7
Not taken	39	37	37

Average SAT scores in Virginia are higher than the national average.

	Group	2000	2009	2010	One Year Change	10 Year Change
Critical Reading	Virginia	506	509	511	2	5
	Nation	502	497	498	1	-4
Mathematics	Virginia	498	511	513	2	15
	Nation	510	510	511	1	1
Writing	Virginia	NA	495	496	1	NA
	Nation	NA	487	488	1	NA

Source: College Board: Virginia College Readiness Indicators
August/September 2010

Virginia ranks 7th on SAT average total score among states with participation rates of at least 50%.

Rank	State & Participation Rate	Average Total Score	Average Critical Reading Score	Average Mathematics Score	Average Writing Score
1	Washington (54%)	1564	524	532	508
2	New Hampshire (77%)	1554	520	524	510
3	Massachusetts (86%)	1547	512	526	509
4	Oregon (54%)	1546	523	524	499
5	Vermont (66%)	1546	519	521	506
6	Connecticut (84%)	1536	509	514	513
7	Virginia (67%)	1521	512	512	497
8	California (50%)	1517	501	516	500
9	New Jersey (76%)	1506	495	514	497
10	Maryland (70%)	1502	501	506	495

Source: 2010 SAT Trends. Mean SAT Scores by State, All Schools. Downloaded April 18, 2011 from: <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/data-reports-research/sat/cb-seniors-2010/tables>.

Virginia ranks 7th on ACT average composite score among states with participation rates of at least 20%.

Rank	State	Percent of Graduates Tested	Average Composite Score	Average English Score	Average Math Score	Average Reading Score	Average Science Score
1	Massachusetts	21	24	24	24.3	24.2	23.1
2	Connecticut	24	23.7	23.8	23.5	23.9	22.9
3	New York	27	23.3	22.7	23.6	23.3	23.1
4	Vermont	26	23.2	22.8	22.8	23.7	22.8
5	Minnesota	70	22.9	22.3	22.9	23.2	22.8
6	Indiana	26	22.3	21.7	22.4	22.6	21.9
7	Virginia	22	22.3	22	22.1	22.5	21.9
8	Iowa	60	22.2	21.8	21.8	22.6	22.3
9	California	22	22.2	21.7	22.9	22.3	21.5
10	Nebraska	73	22.1	21.8	21.6	22.4	22

Source: ACT: Average ACT Scores by State, Data for the Class of 2010.
 Downloaded April 6, 2011: <http://www.act.org/news/data/10/states.html>.

Virginia students rank third in Nation in achievement on Advanced Placement tests in 2010.

National Rank	State	Percent of Seniors scoring 3 or higher on an AP Exam at any point in high school in 2010
1 st	Maryland	26.4%
2 nd	New York	24.6%
3rd	Virginia	23.7%
4 th	Connecticut	23.2%
5 th	Massachusetts	23.1%
6 th	California	22.3%
7 th	Florida	22.3%
8 th	Vermont	21.8%
9 th	Colorado	21.4%
10 th	Utah	19.2%

Source: College Board: The 7th Annual AP® Report to the Nation. February 9, 2011.

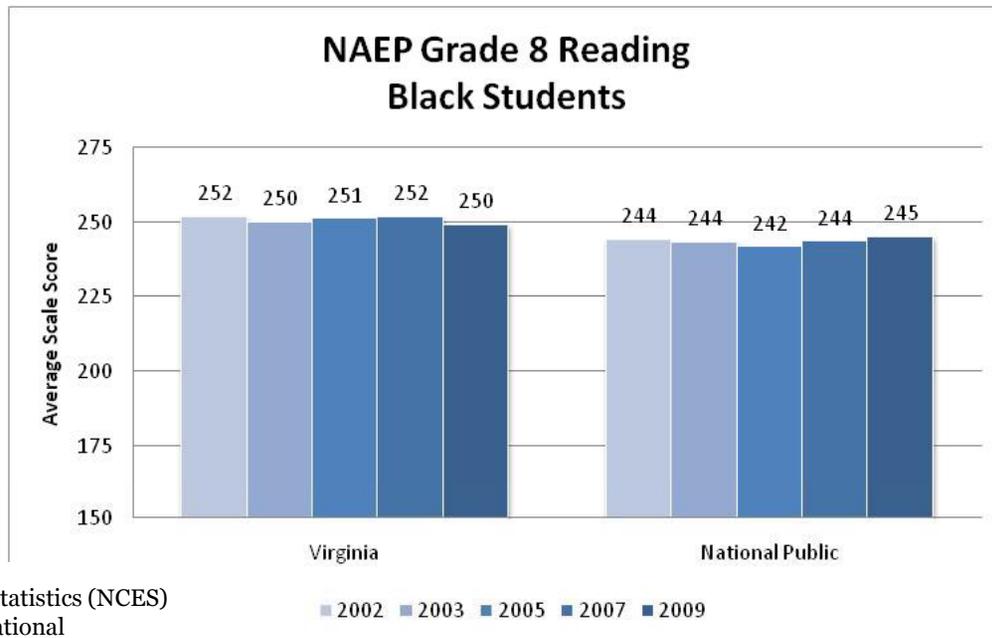
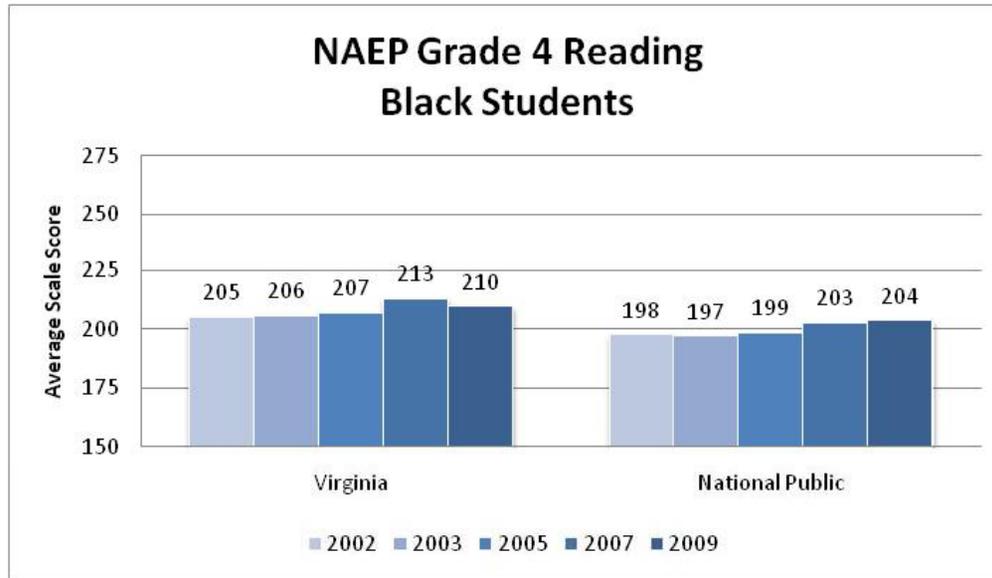
Are AP test takers representative of Virginia's graduating class?

- College Board established “Equity and Excellence” indicators to determine how representative each state's AP test takers are relative to the population of the graduating class.
- College Board Equity and Excellence scores in Virginia
 - Hispanic students: 100 percent equity and excellence achieved
 - African American students: 28.4 percent equity and excellence achieved.
- Higher “equity and excellence” scores indicate that the percentage of students participating and earning a score of 3 or better on at least one AP exam was closer to the percentage of that group in the high school graduating class.

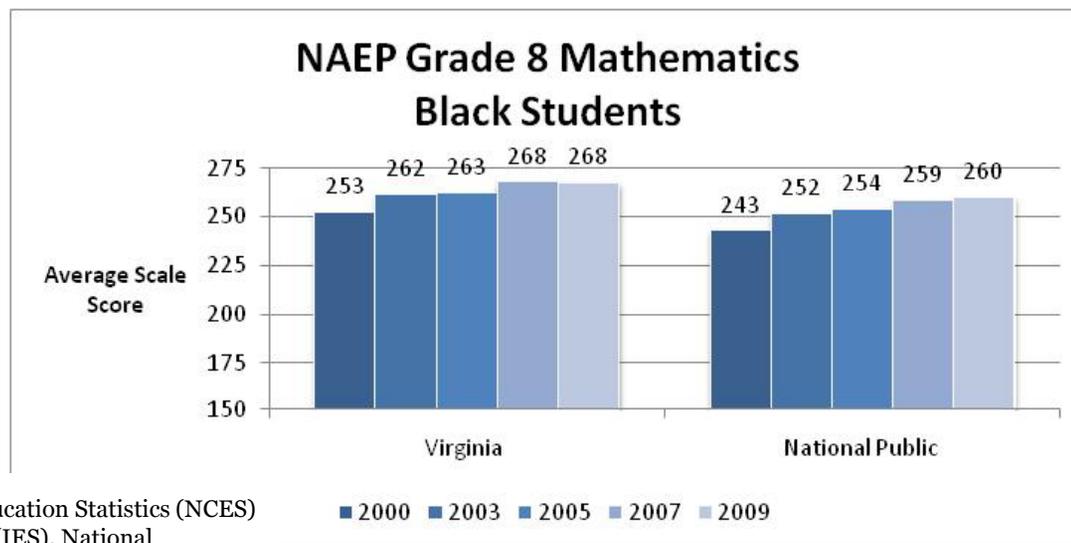
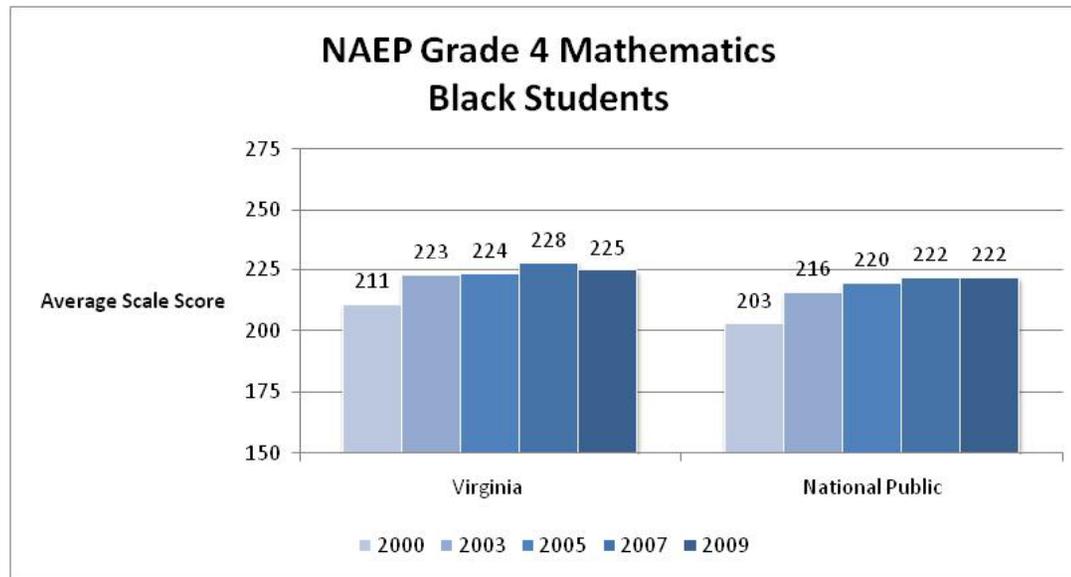
Closing the Achievement Gap

Virginia's black students consistently outperform others across the country on NAEP

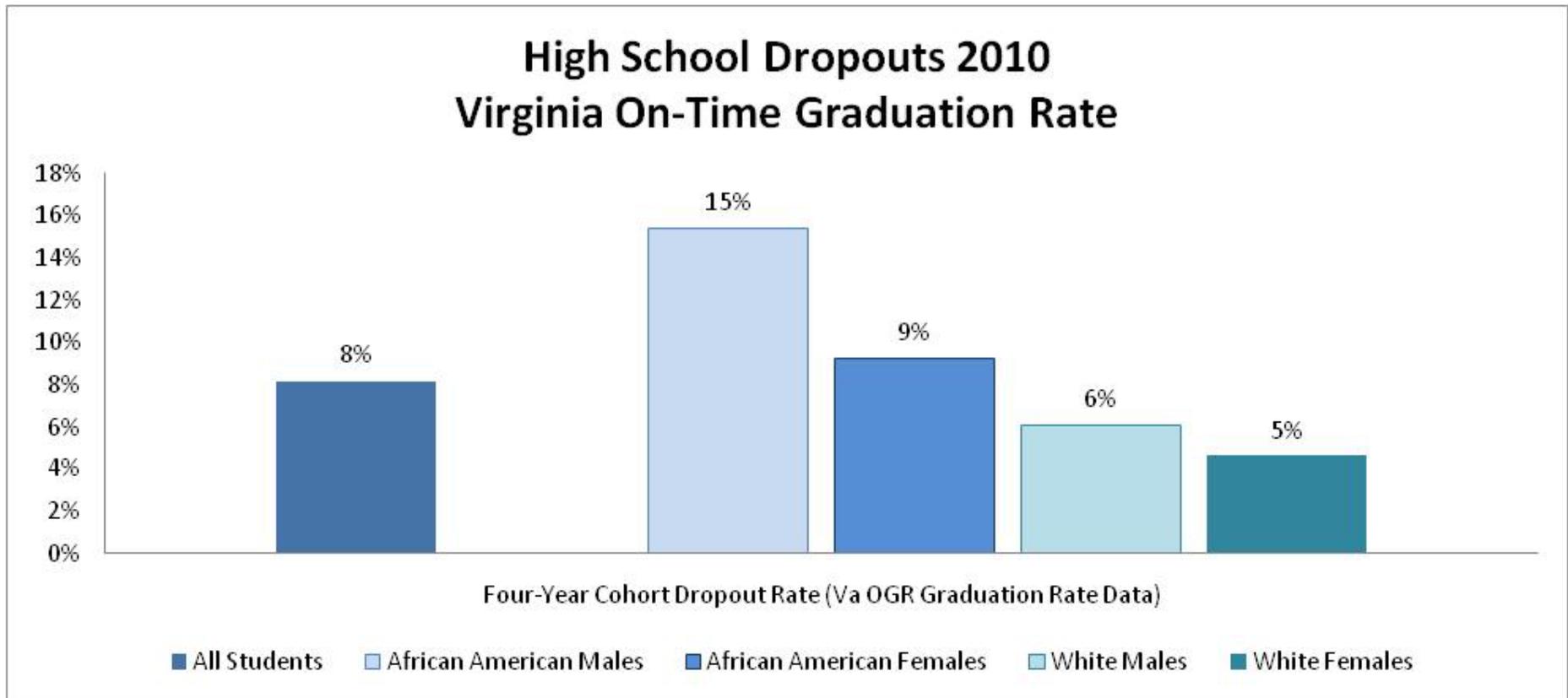
- Virginia's black students consistently outperform black students in the NAEP national public sample; one exception occurred in 2009 grade 8 reading.
- Each year since 2000, Virginia's black students outperformed black students nationwide on NAEP grades 4 and 8 mathematics and grade 4 reading.



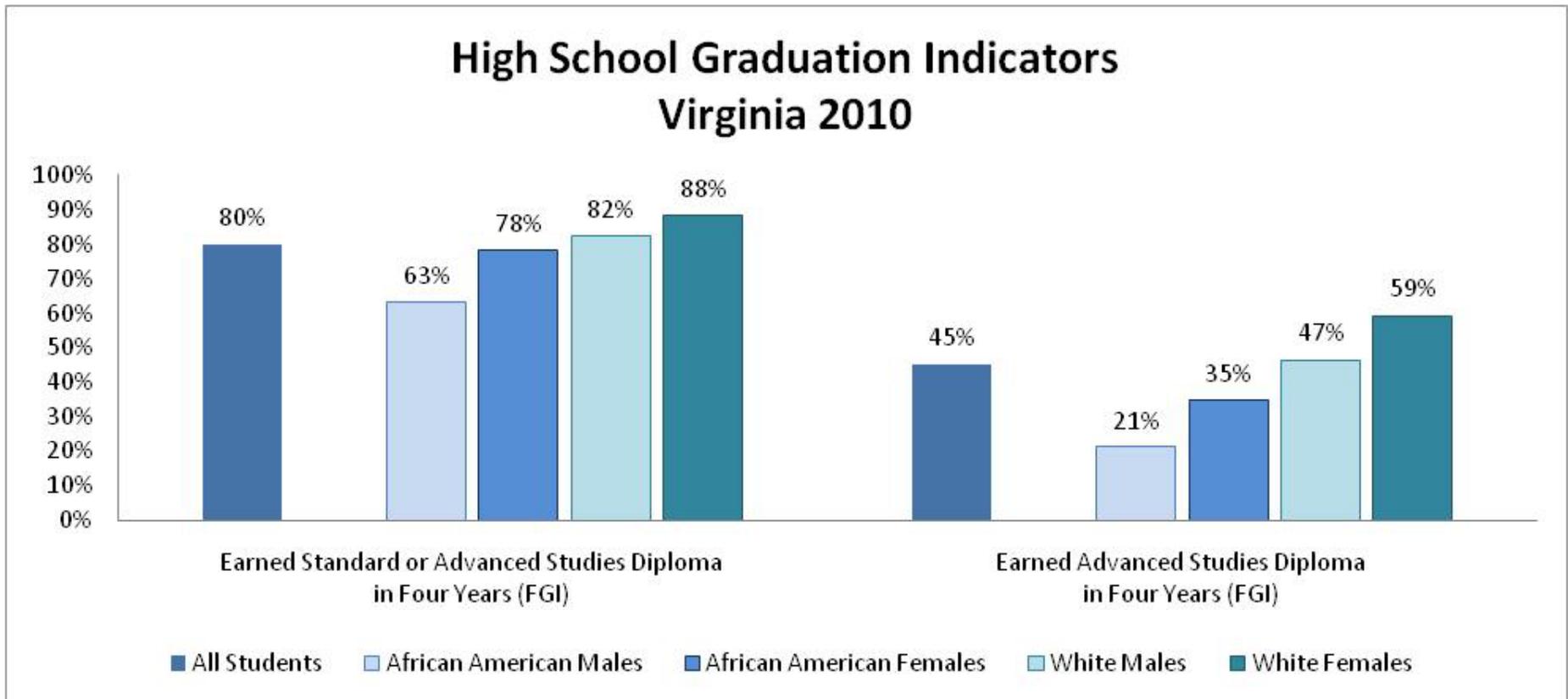
Source: National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Institute of Education Sciences (IES), National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).



Source: National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Institute of Education Sciences (IES), National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

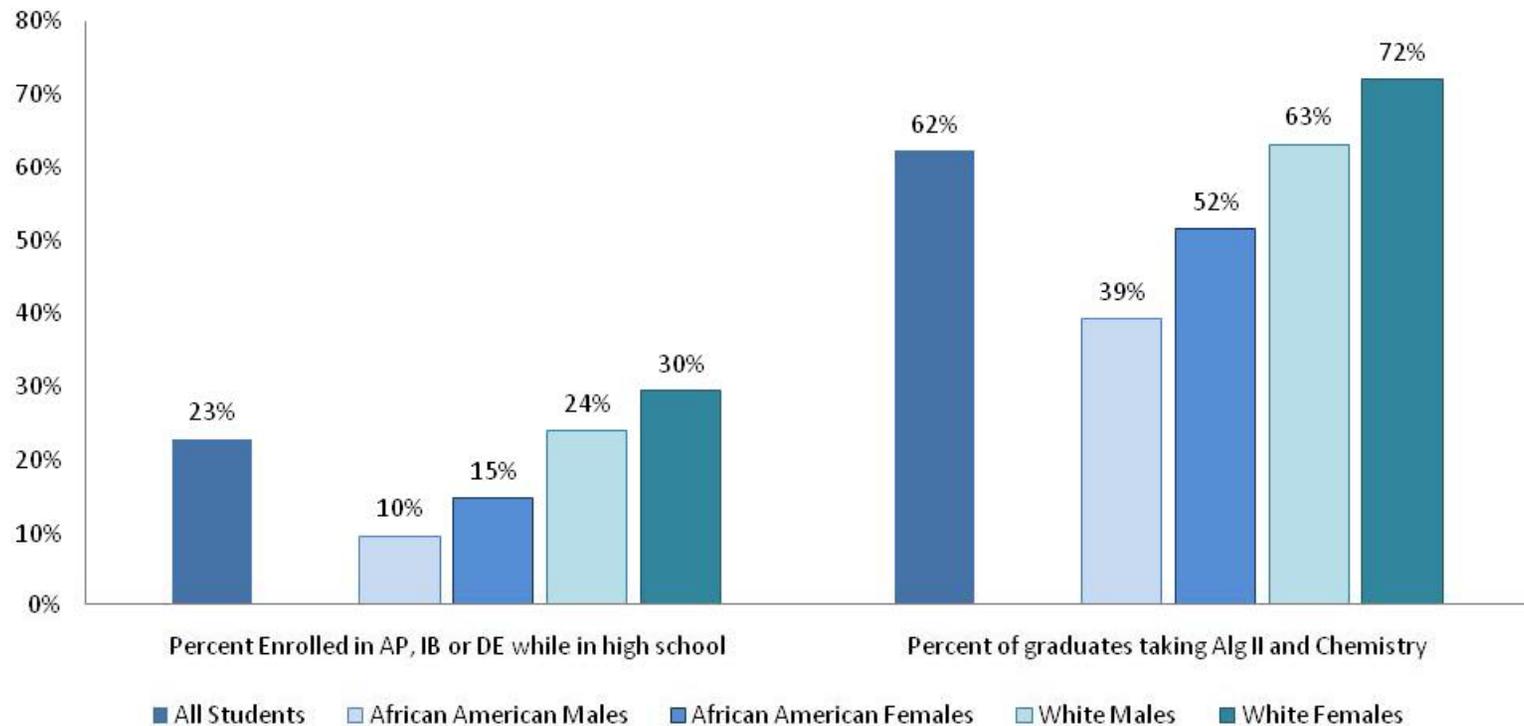


*Data are based on Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate, which is an adjusted cohort graduation rate.

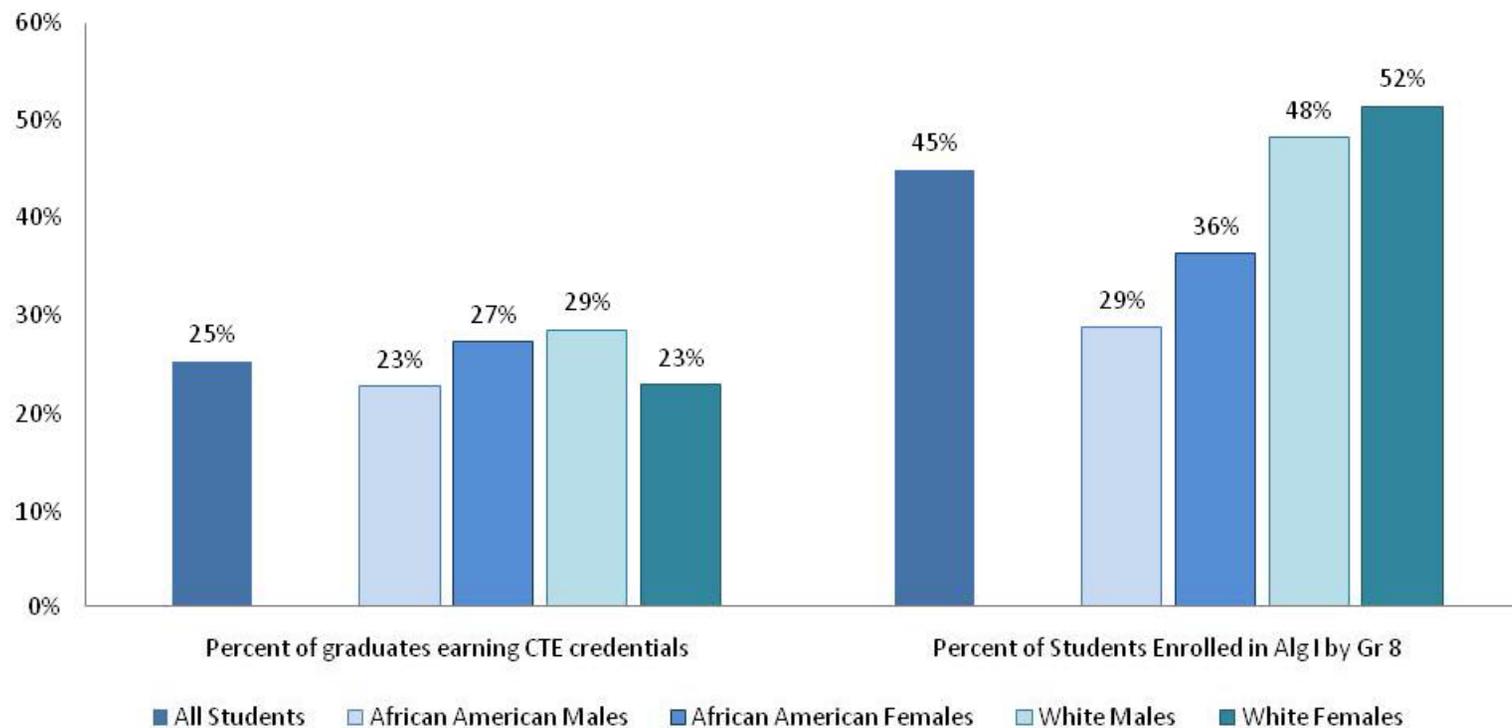


FGI=federal graduation indicator. Data are based on percent of students earning credentials in four years using the federally prescribed longitudinal graduation rate calculation.

Coursework that Prepares Students For Success After High School Virginia 2010



Coursework that Prepares Students For Success After High School Virginia 2010



Contact Information

Deborah L. Jonas, Ph.D.
Executive Director for Research and Strategic
Planning
Virginia Department of Education
Deborah.Jonas@doe.virginia.gov