

African American Students in Albuquerque Public Schools

Presentation to NAACP

April 15, 2007



ALBUQUERQUE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

APS Strategic Directions

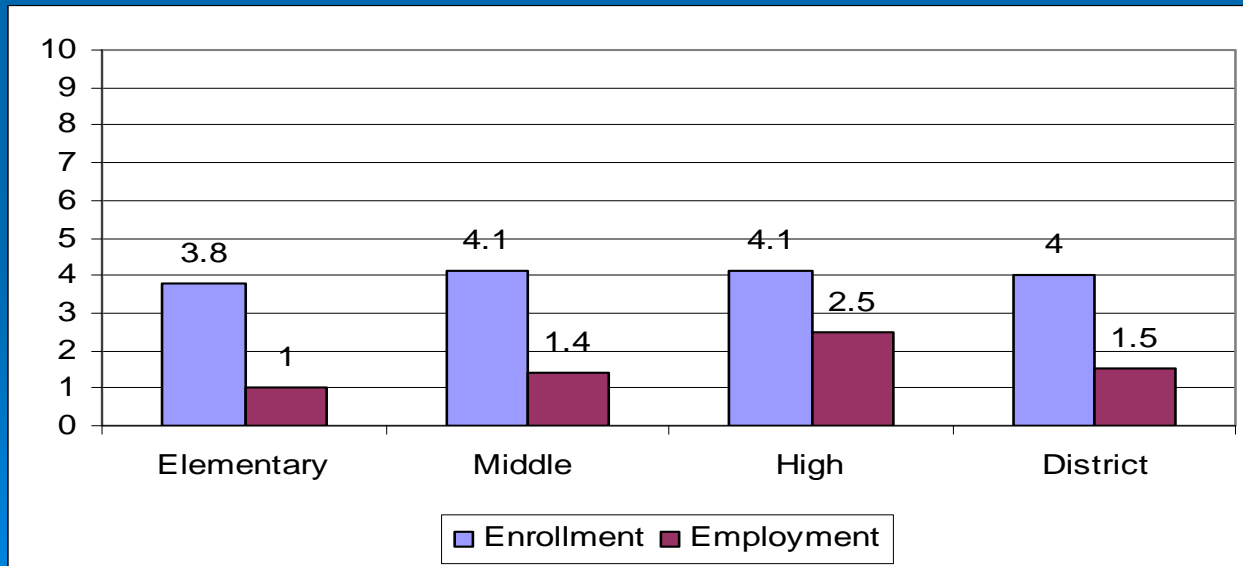
- Academic Excellence
- Safe, Quality Learning Environments
- Efficient, Effective Services

African-American Students

- African Americans make up about 4% of our student body
- A variety of studies have been conducted over the years
- Significant finding – African American students attend in small numbers and feel isolated

African American Staff

- African-American staff are a smaller proportion than our enrollment
- Teaching Staff range from 0% to 8% of the school staff



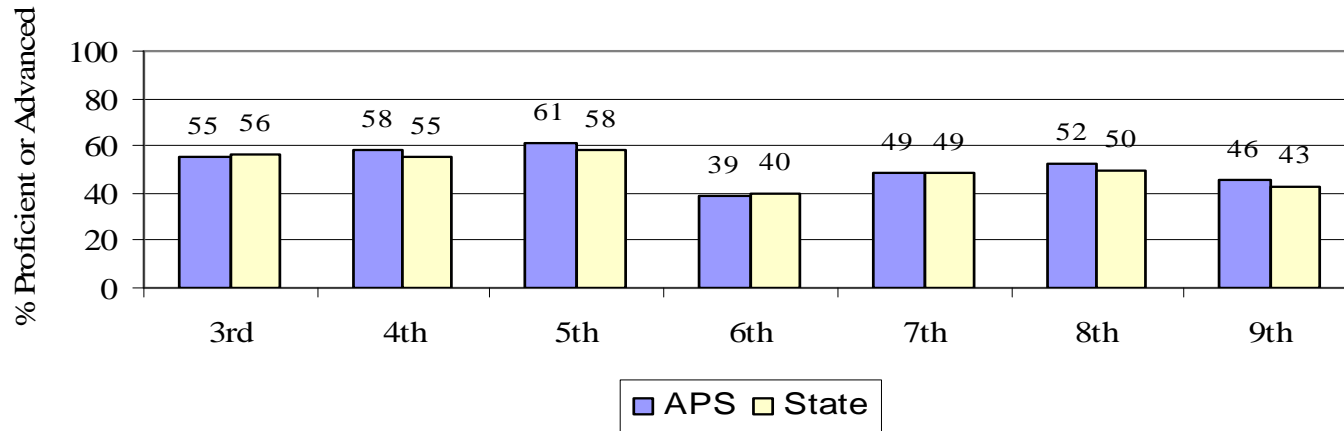
Recruitment and Retention

- APS considers ethnic representation among staff a part of Safe and Quality Learning Environments
- APS actively recruits minority staff for all positions
- APS is developing Community Schools to help with role model opportunities for our students

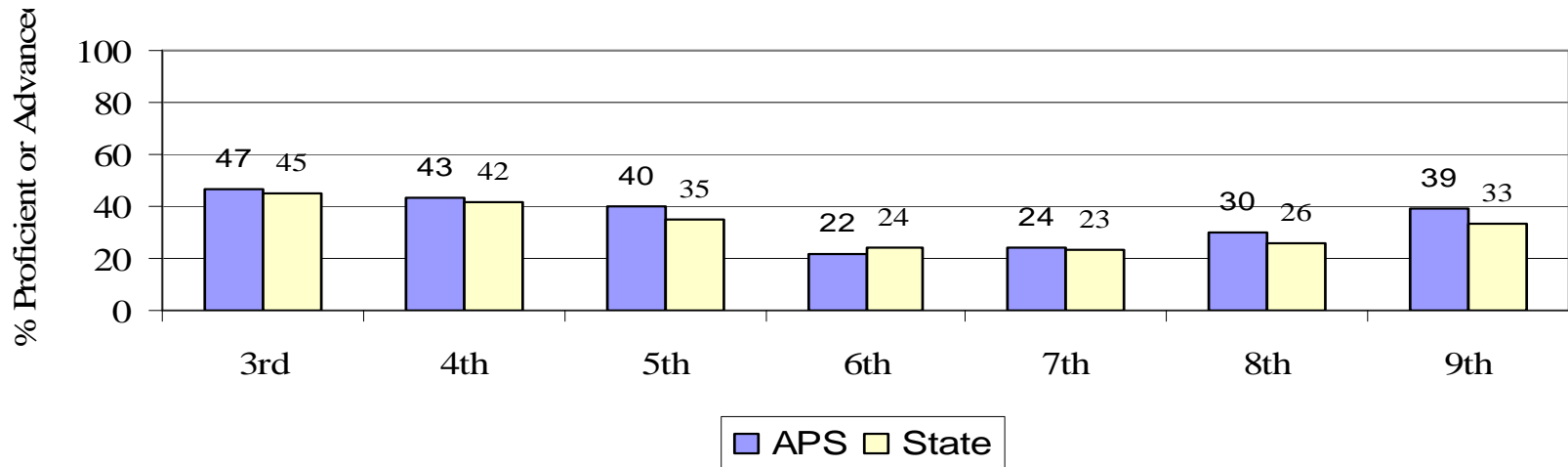
Academic Excellence

- APS studies results from State mandated achievement tests in grades 3-9 and 11 to identify successes and continuing challenges
- One of 7 large urban districts that out-performs its state
 - 4/7 grades in Reading
 - 6/7 grades in Math
- Academic Excellences for ALL student groups and for EVERY student means closing the achievement gap

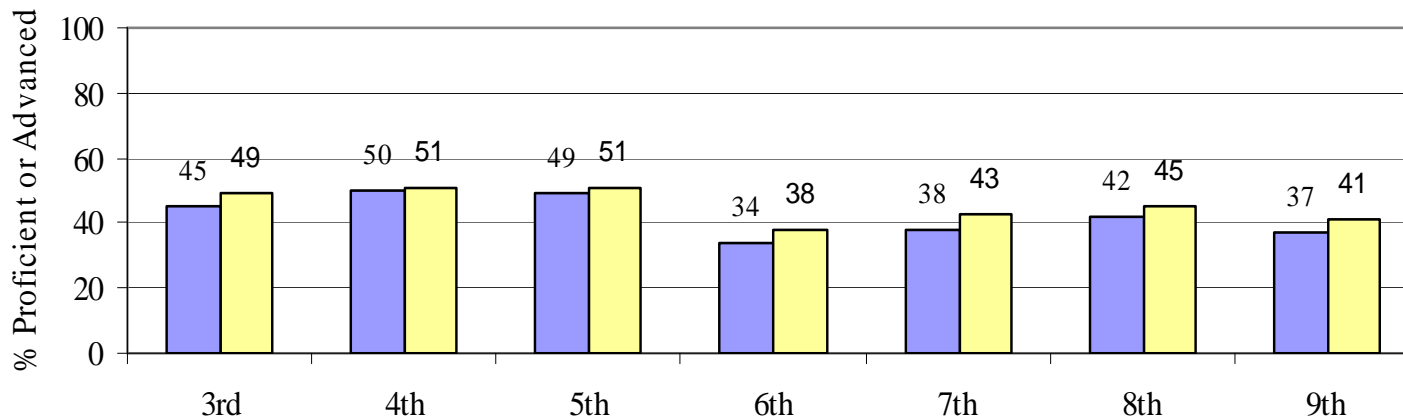
Comparison of APS and State -- 2006 Reading



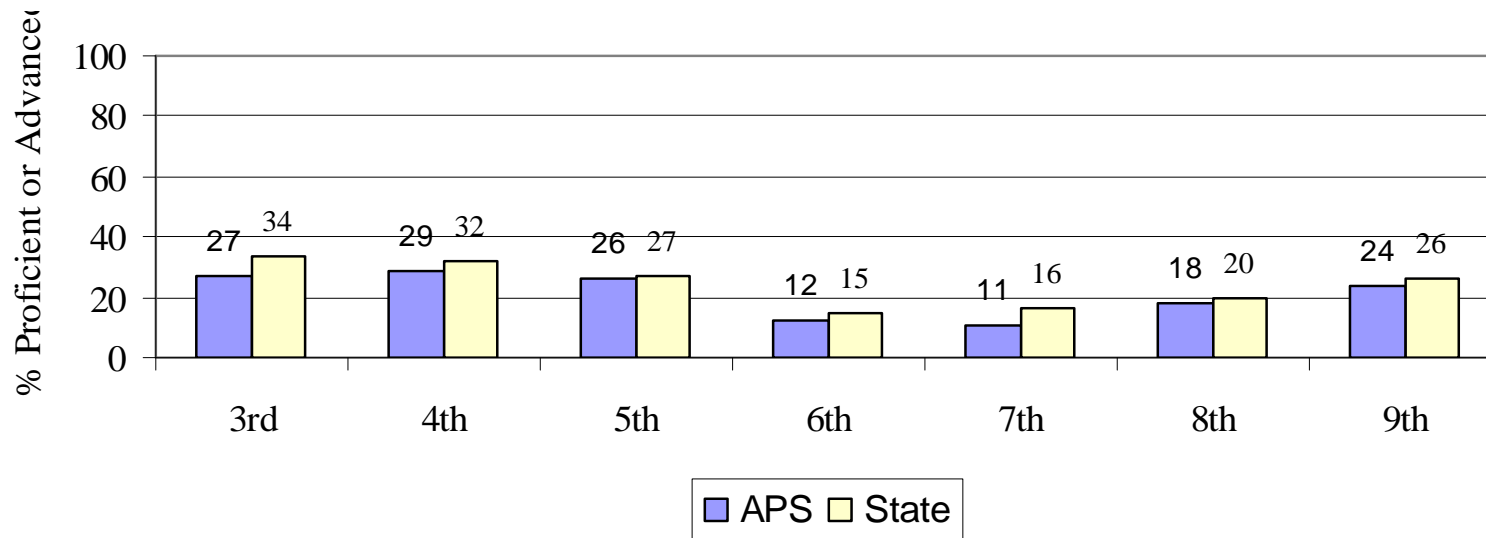
Comparison APS and State in 2006 Math



Comparison of APS and State African American-- 2006 Reading



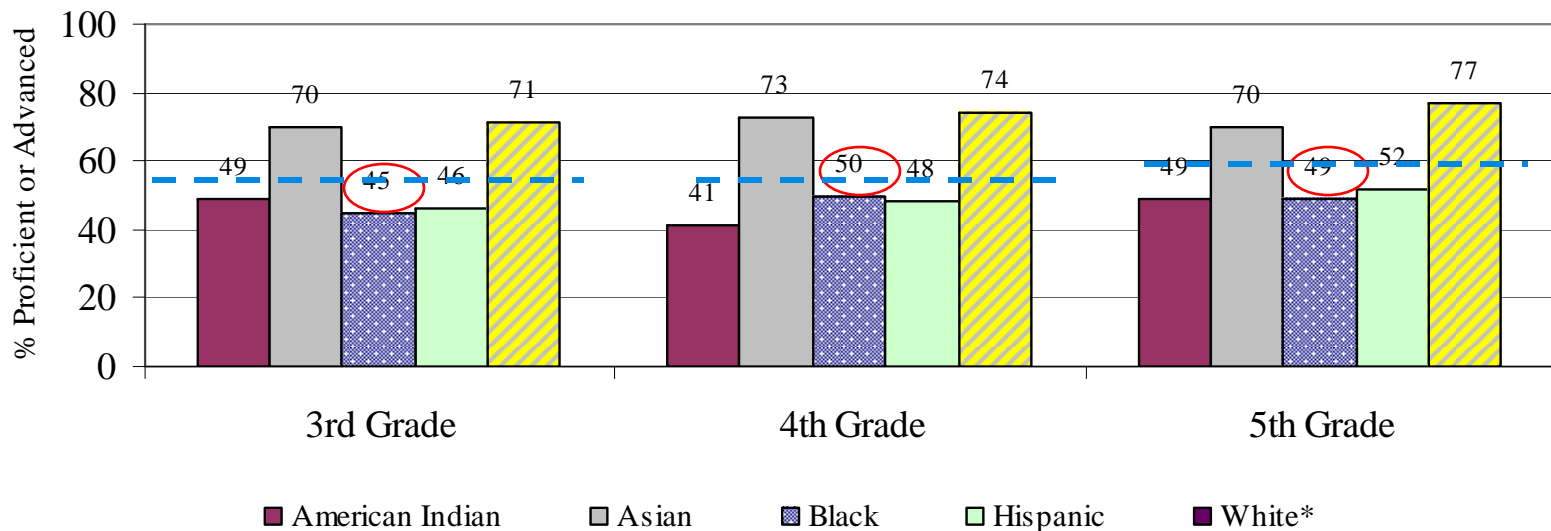
Comparison APS and State African American -- 2006 Math



African American students in the State out-perform APS students in most grades

Achievement Gap

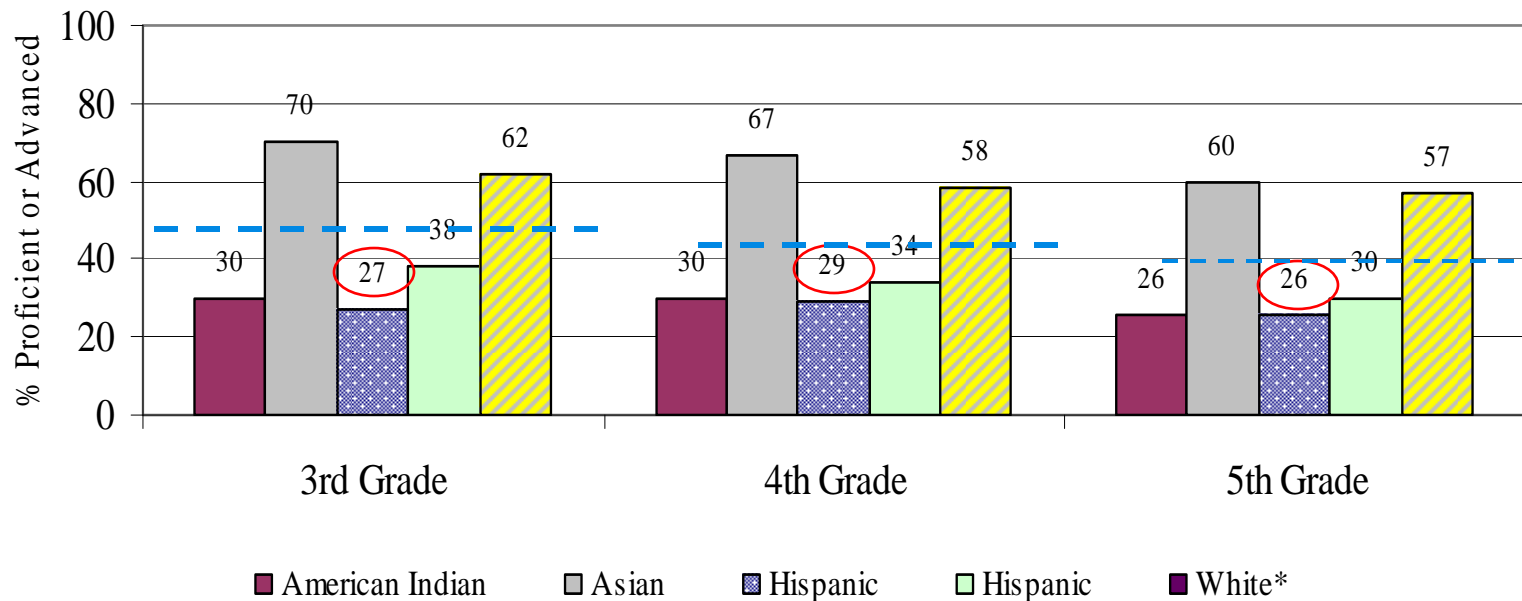
Comparison of Ethnic Groups
Elementary Reading 2006



African American student performance in elementary grades is comparable to other minority students but below the overall district

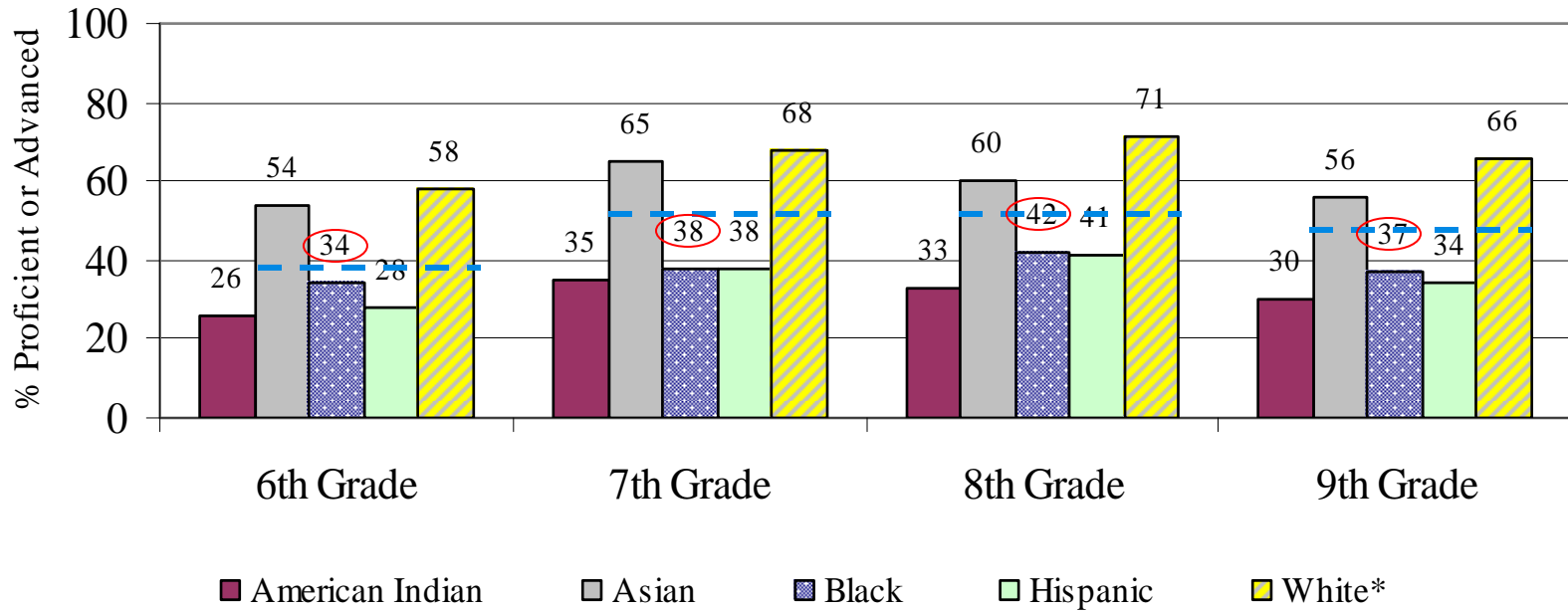
--- District Average

Comparison of Ethnic Groups Elementary Math 2006



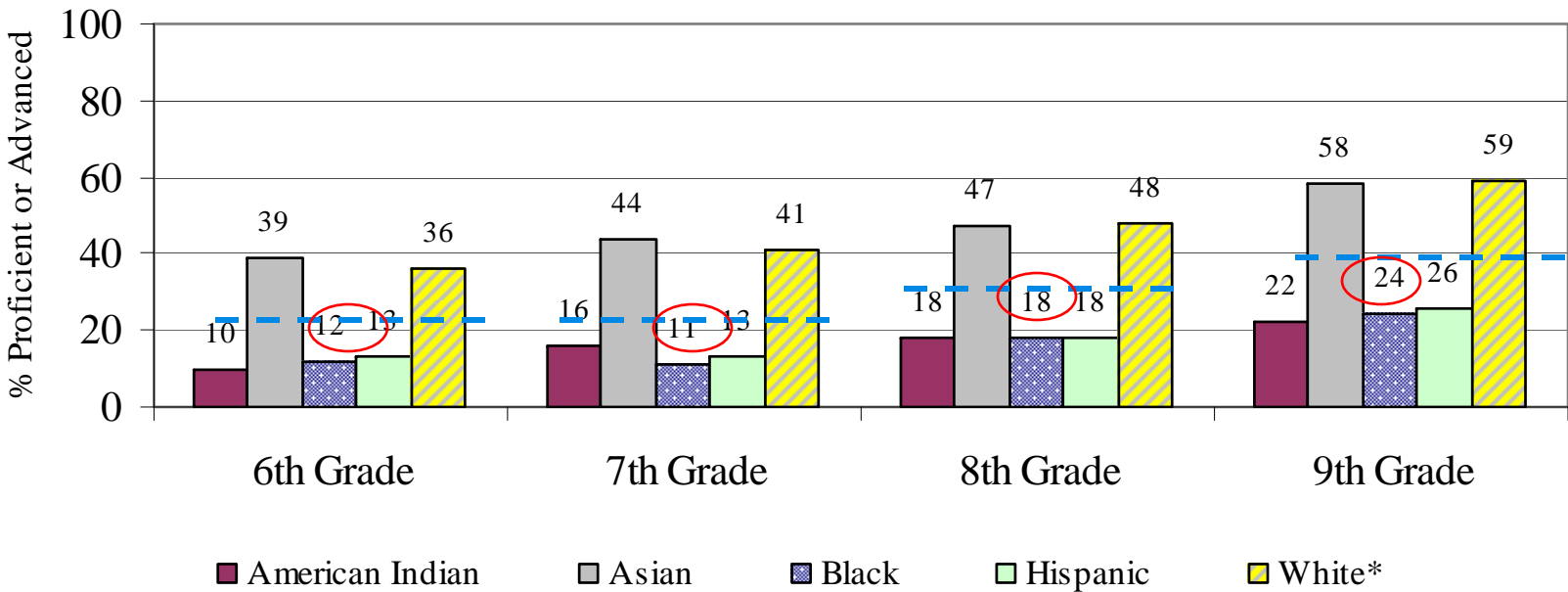
African American students are among the lowest performing minority groups in elementary math

Comparison of Ethnic Groups Secondary Reading 2006



Middle school African American students are performing at or slightly above other minority groups but below the overall district scores

Comparison of Ethnic Groups Secondary Math 2006



Secondary math performance for African American students is comparable to other minority groups but below the district proficiency

Responding to the Challenge

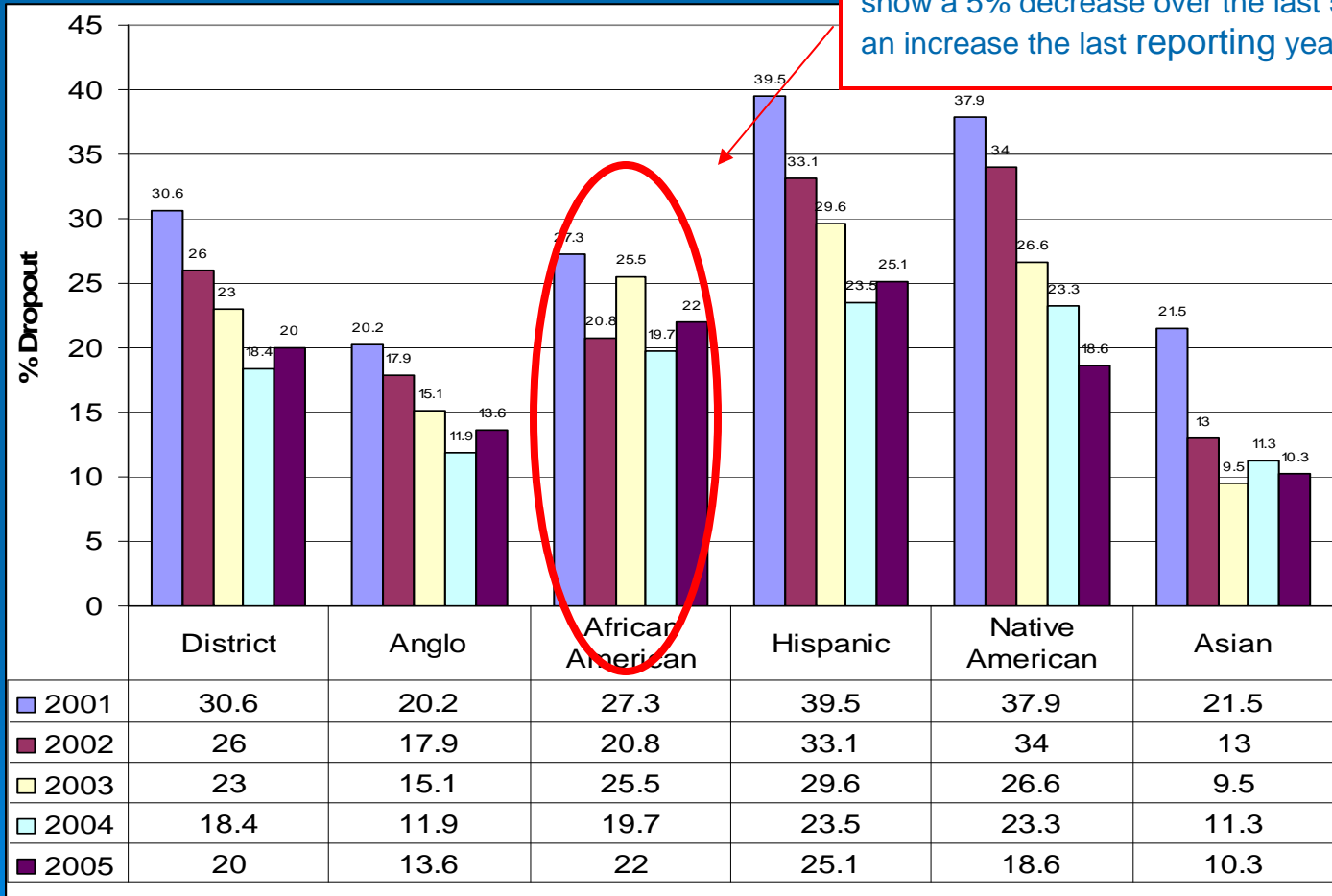
- Recognize that differential strategies are critical to the success of all minority students
- Every student not reading at grade level has access to free 2nd Grade Academy
- Every student not at standard by the end of the first grading period will have a written Academic Improvement Plan developed with parents
- After-school and in-school tutoring programs are available to students

Dropout and Graduation

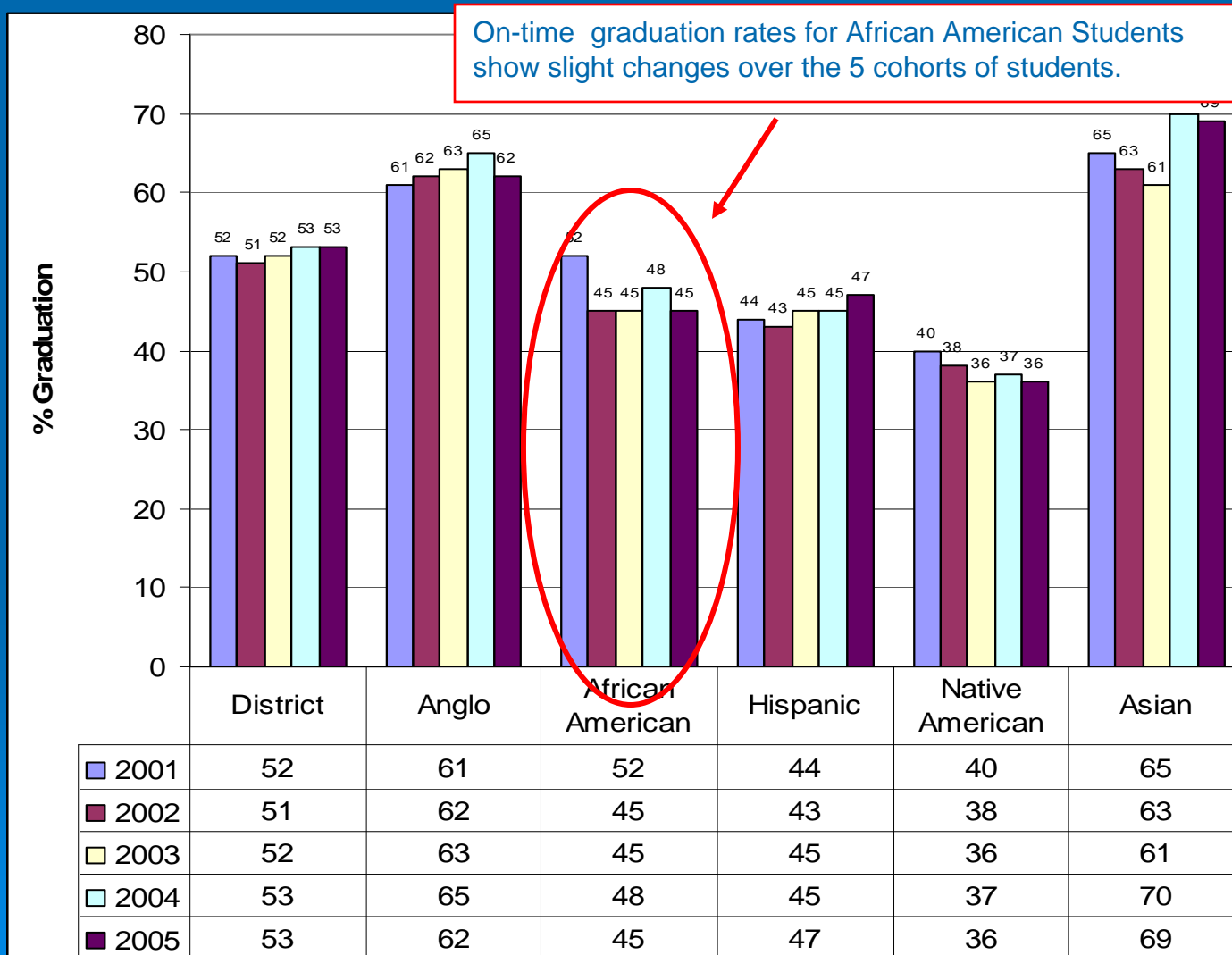
- APS already uses the required NCLB strategy of calculating Graduation and Dropout
- Cohort studies start with the 9th grade class and follow these students through their anticipated graduation date
- NCLB requires students graduate within 4 years to be counted as a graduate

Cohort Dropout (4-Year)

Dropout rates for the entering freshman cohort show a 5% decrease over the last 5 years with an increase the last reporting year.

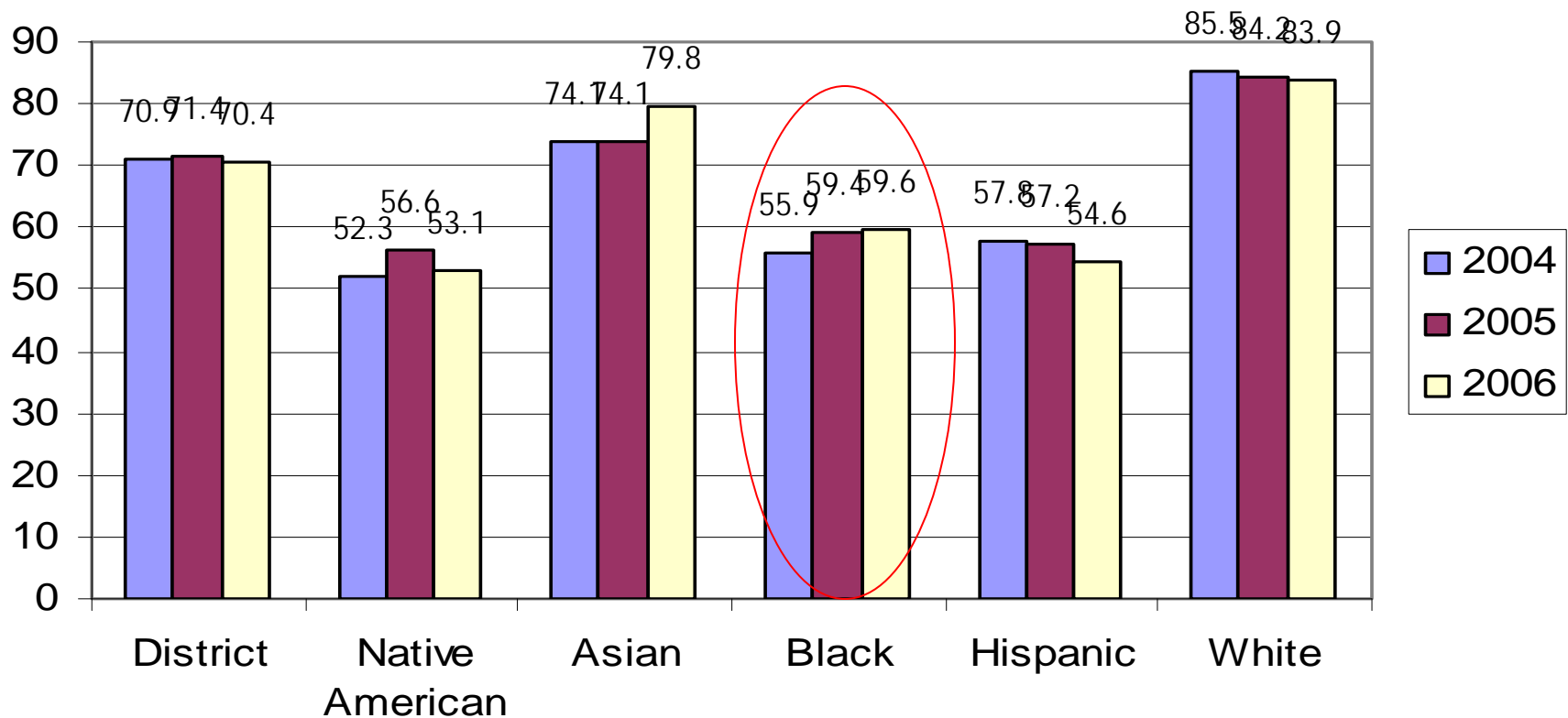


Cohort On-Time Graduation



As greater numbers of students stay in school, the rate of on-time graduation decreases. Students who historically dropped out now stay in school, but earn credits at a slower rate. They do not graduate in 4 years.

High School Competency Exam



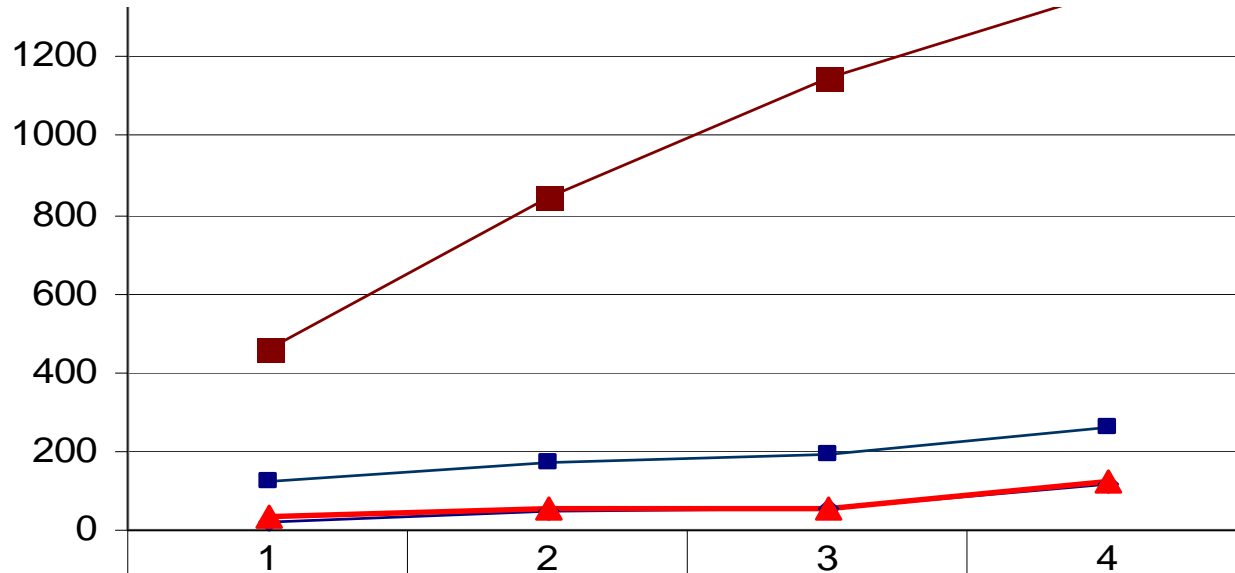
African-American students who take all 6 subtests as 10th graders have shown slight improvements in passing rates on the high school competency exam

Advanced Placement

- 3-year focus on increasing enrollment
- Especially directed to under-served students
- Research shows
 - Students who take AP classes are more successful in college, regardless of the grades earned in AP
 - Schools offering more AP classes increase expectations for all students

Increases in AP Enrollment

African American enrollment in AP classes has tripled over the last four years

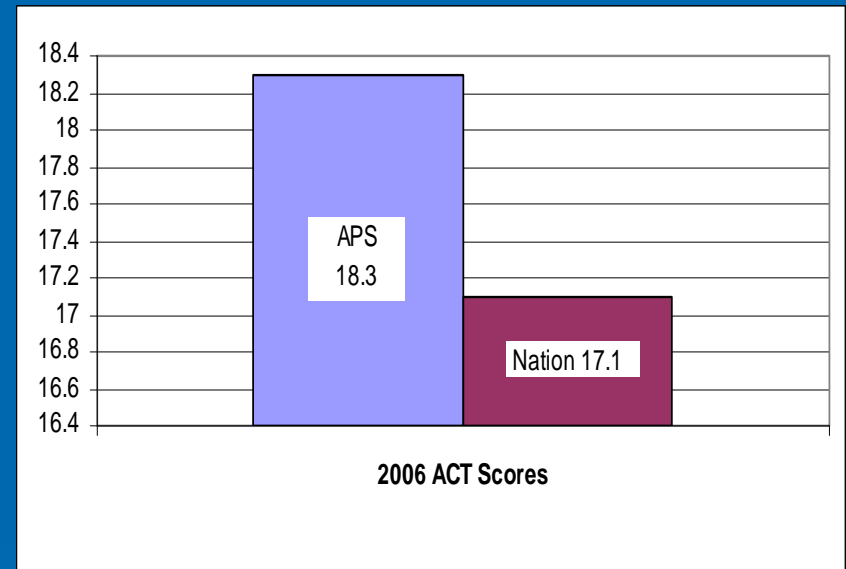
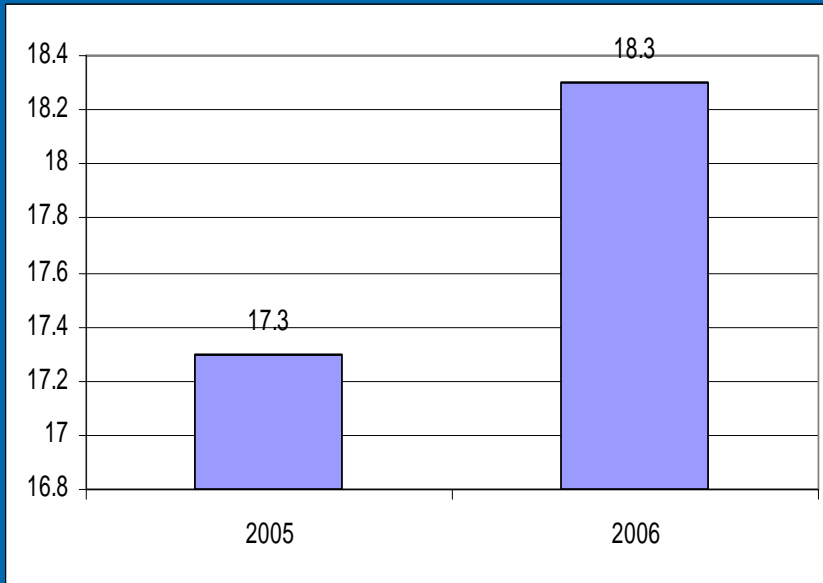


◆ Indian	24	47	53	118
■ Asian	125	169	192	260
▲ Black	37	54	56	124
■ Hispanic	458	842	1144	1369

College Entrance Exams

- *Keeping Options Open* -- Encouraging ALL students to take ACT or SAT
- In New Mexico 201 African American students participated in the ACT
 - 71 were APS students
- APS students out-performed the state and national averages
- APS African-American students showed increase from 2005 to 2006

ACT – College Entrance Exam



APS African American students increase scores on the ACT by 1 point on a 36 point scale

APS African American students out-perform African American students in the nation

Share Successes
Work Together
to Answer the Challenge of
Academic Excellence for Every
Student in APS

- The Multicultural Education Framework is a process for APS to support all students in meeting content standards in a manner that addresses the diversity and multiculturalism of our student population. Critical to the success of the multicultural framework is to address and understand the role that race plays on student achievement. To that end, the district is working with Glenn Singleton from Pacific Educational group to begin having “Courageous Conversations about Race” to ensure equal access for all students.
- The Department of Language and Cultural Equity works with school clusters to help principals, teachers, and community members to understand the importance of using culturally relevant curriculum and instructional materials to actively engage students in their education. Ms Jackson, Multicultural Education Coordinator, is responsible for providing racism and diversity training for the district and coordinates the work of Black Student Unions. The BSU’s provide a strong academic and social support network for all students. She is also instrumental in organizing venues for students to set and reach high academic goals (i.e. college visits). Ms. Jackson is actively involved in community efforts that support students and parents across cultures.