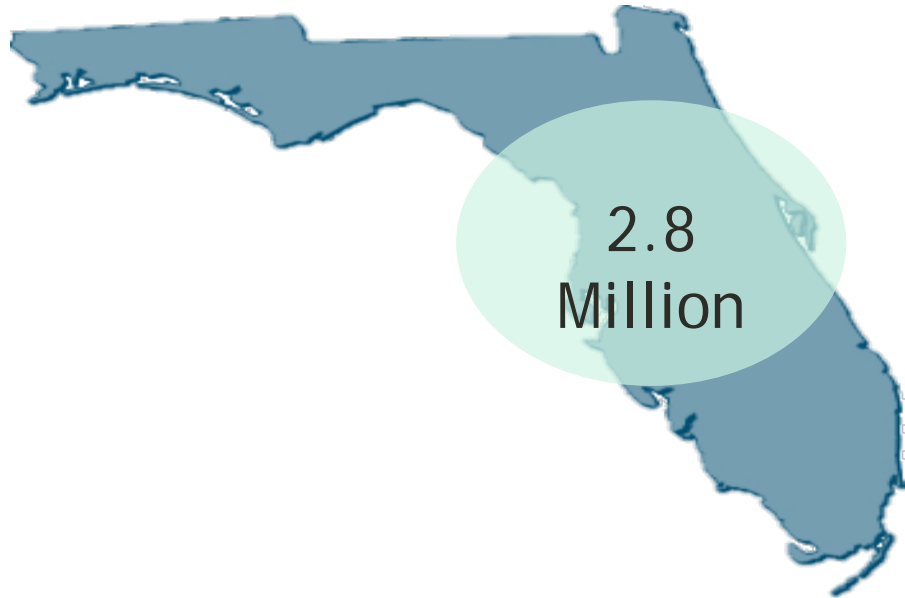




**Florida's Education Story:  
Lessons for Michigan**  
*Western Michigan Policy Forum*

September 2018

# Florida Reforms: No Silver Bullet for Transforming Education System



58% LIVING IN OR NEAR POVERTY

61% NON-WHITE  
Majority Minority  
State

More than quarter of a million students are English learners with more than 300 different Native languages.

FLORIDA K-12 **Students Living in Poverty**  
1.7 Million



MICHIGAN K-12 **Entire Student Population**  
1.5 Million



*Beginning in 1999, Florida passed comprehensive education reform policies and has built upon them every year.*

- **Grade schools A, B, C, D, F** with a high (and increasing) bar for performance.
- **School Recognition Program** - financial rewards for good student outcomes
- **Ending Social Promotion** - early identification, early intervention, reading coaches, to help all kids earn promotion to 4<sup>th</sup> grade.
- **Financial Incentives and High School Accountability** to ensure kids are graduating with real credentials:
  - College Credit in Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Cambridge Certificate and dual enrollment and/or
  - Rigorous Industry Certification
- **Raised high school graduation standards** - moved from 8<sup>th</sup> grade exit exams to 10<sup>th</sup> grade test in English Language Arts and Algebra I



*Of the 3.7 million Pre-K-12 students, 46% attended a school other than their district-assigned school in 2016-17.*

- Massive opportunities for families to pick the right education for their child:
  - **Opportunity Scholarships** for students in failing schools
  - **McKay Scholarships** for Students with Disabilities (31,000 students)
  - **Tax Credit Scholarships** for Low-income Students (108,000 students)
  - **Gardiner Scholarship Accounts** for Students with Disabilities (10,000 students)
  - **Universal Public School Choice**
  - **Florida Virtual School** (396,130 course enrollments)
  - Grew **Charter Schools** from 5 (in 1995) to over 650, serving 283,000 students
  - **Pre-K 4 Voucher Program** (169,230 students)

# Deep Dive: School Accountability

# A-F School Grades: What gets measured, gets done



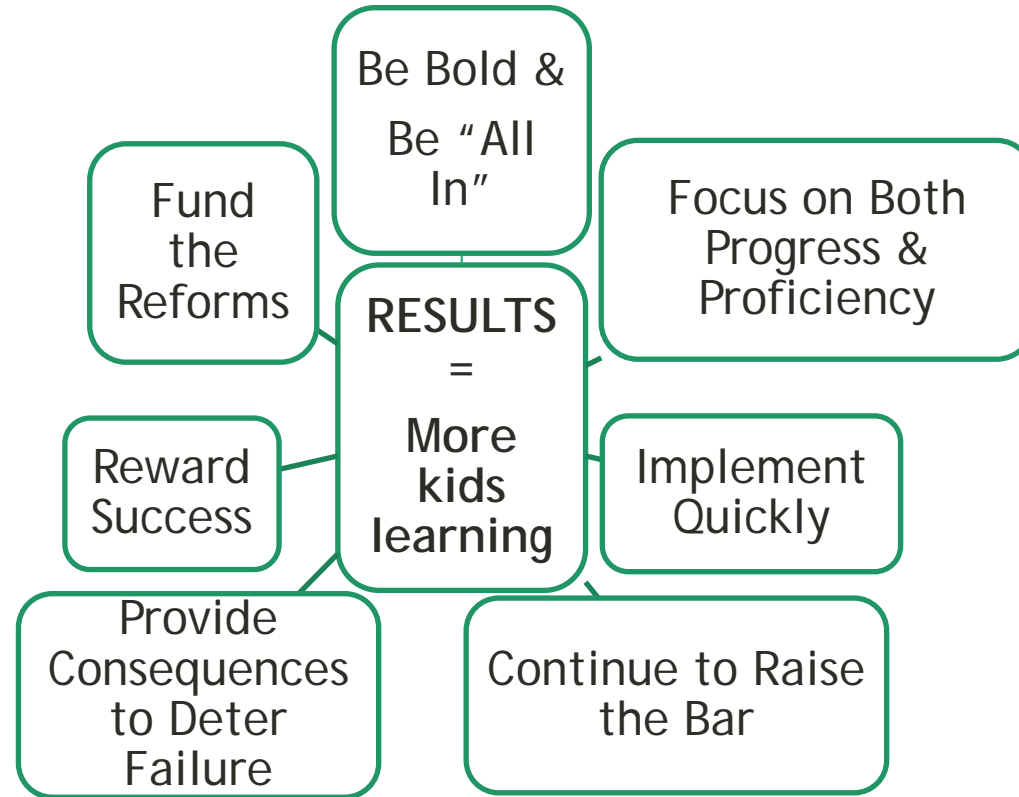
*Grading schools on an A-F scale creates a sense of urgency for excellence, heightens focus on school quality, generates community support and empowers parents with better information.*

## Fundamental Principles of A-F School Grades

- 1 Use clear and transparent descriptors of A, B, C, D, and F
- 2 Include objective, concise student learning outcome measures
- 3 Balance measures of student performance and progress
- 4 Calculate student progress toward grade level and advanced achievement

- 5 Focus on the progress of the lowest performing students in each school
- 6 Report results as close to the end of the school year as possible
- 7 Communicate clearly to parents
- 8 Establish rigorous criteria, with automatic increases, in order to earn an A, B, C, D or F grades
- 9 Use grades to identify schools for recognition, intervention, and support

# Keys to Achieving Real School Accountability

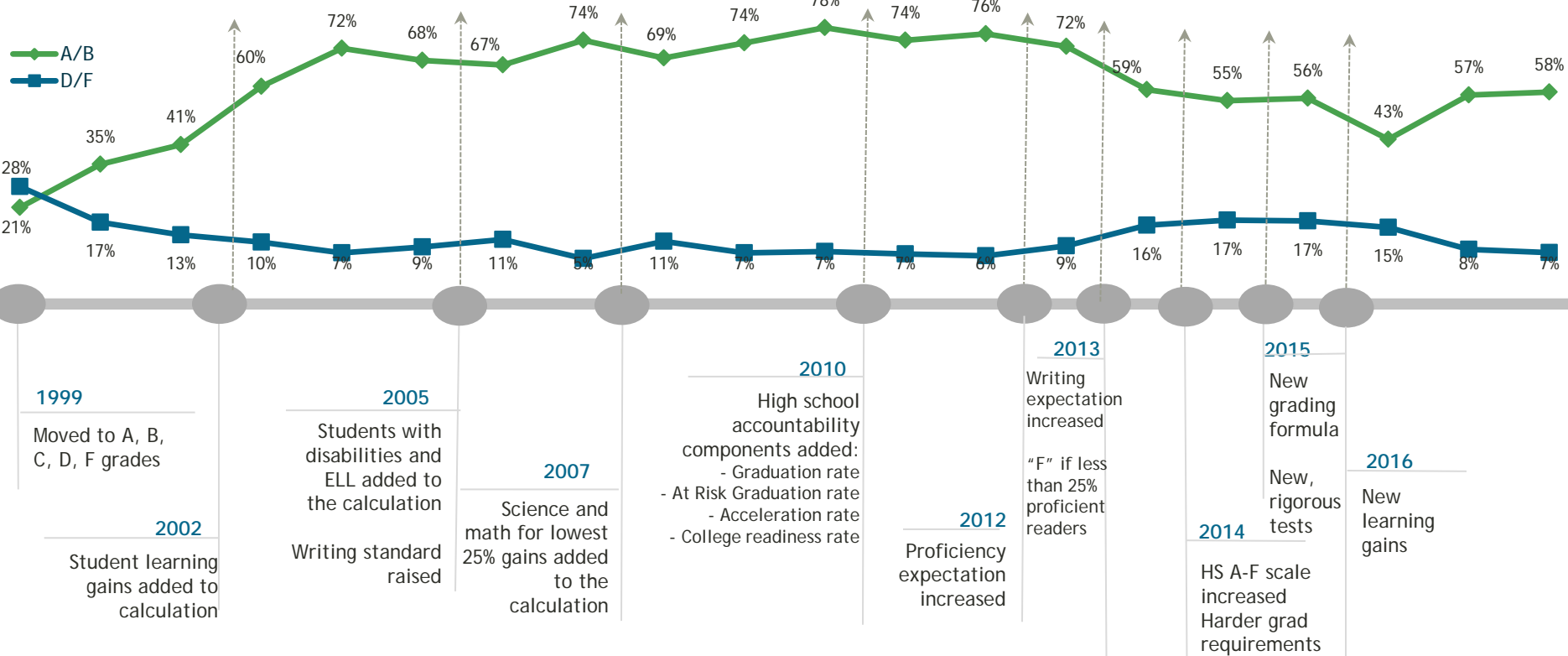




# Impact of A-F School Grades in Florida



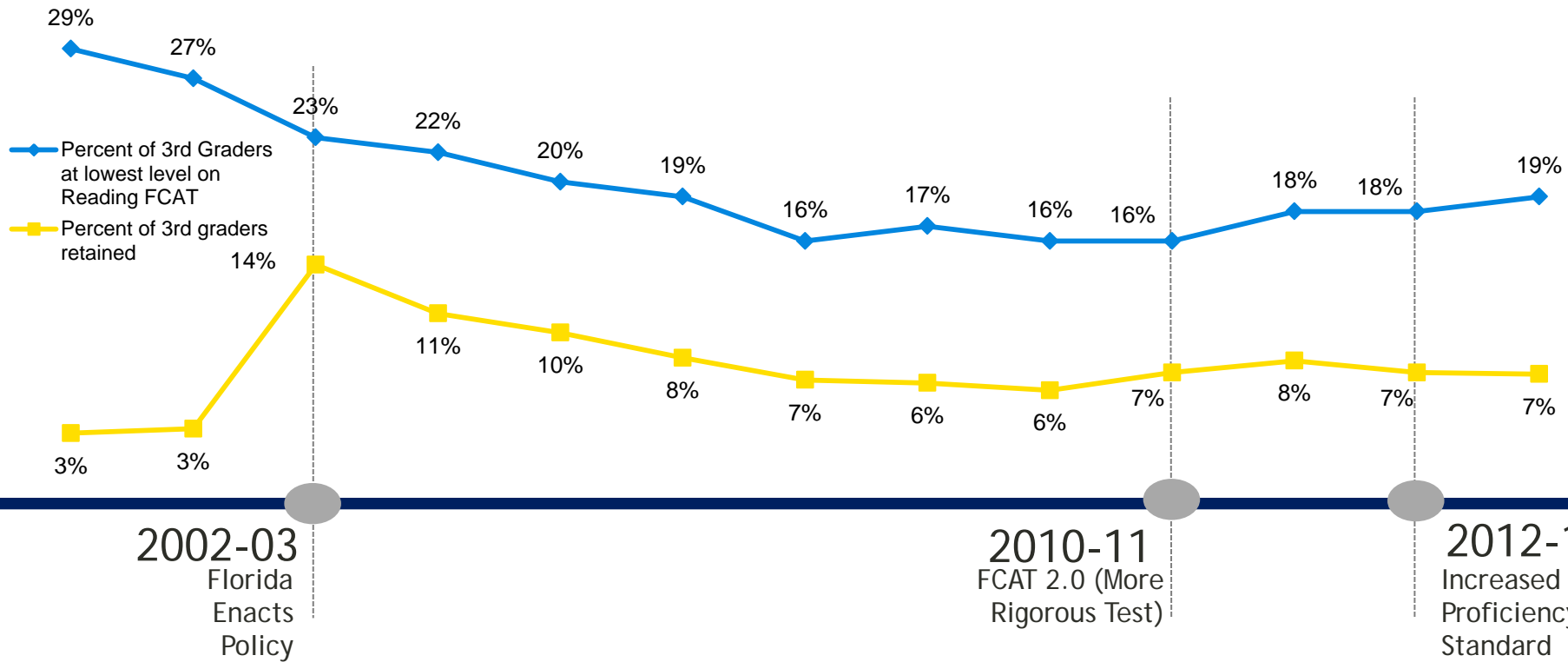
*Florida A-F has increased in rigor and improved student achievement since 1999*



# In the Last Decade, FL Has Nearly Cut Illiteracy In Half



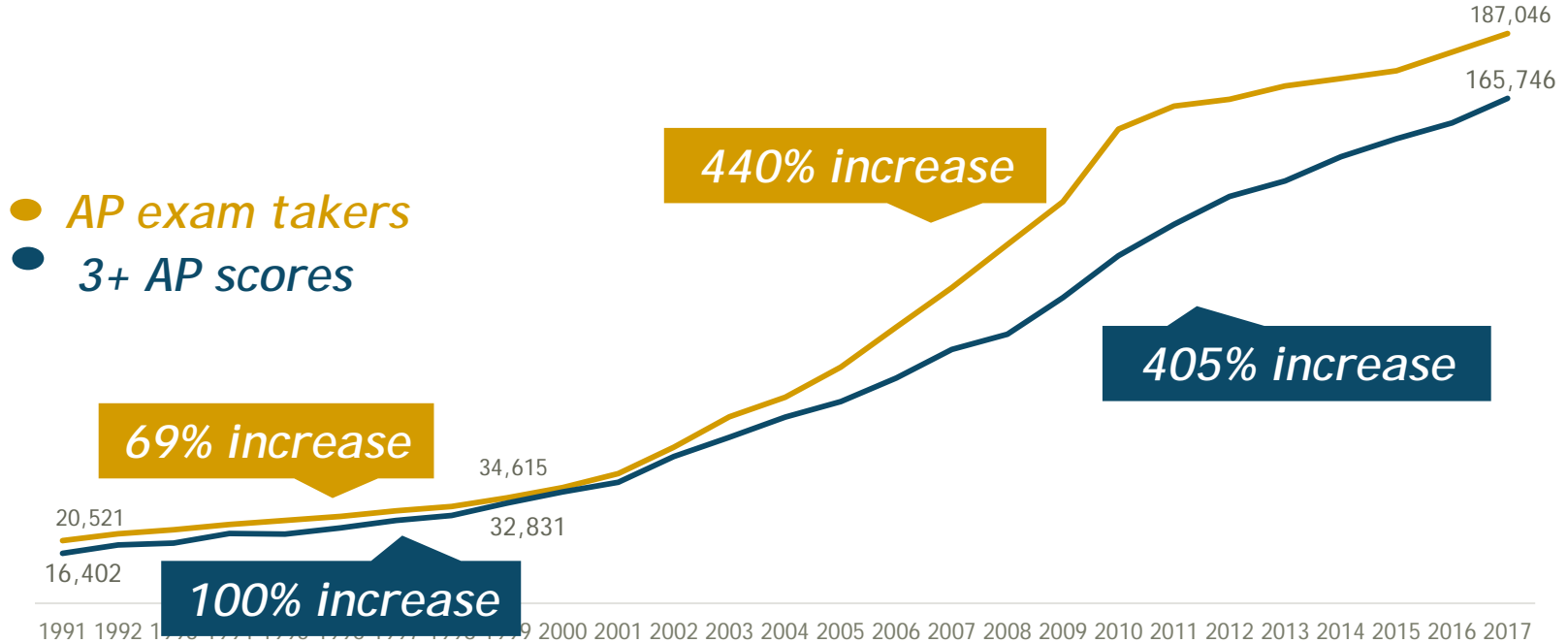
Percent of Third Graders Scoring at the Lowest Level Who were Not Promoted 2001-2014



# Impact of the AP Incentive in Florida



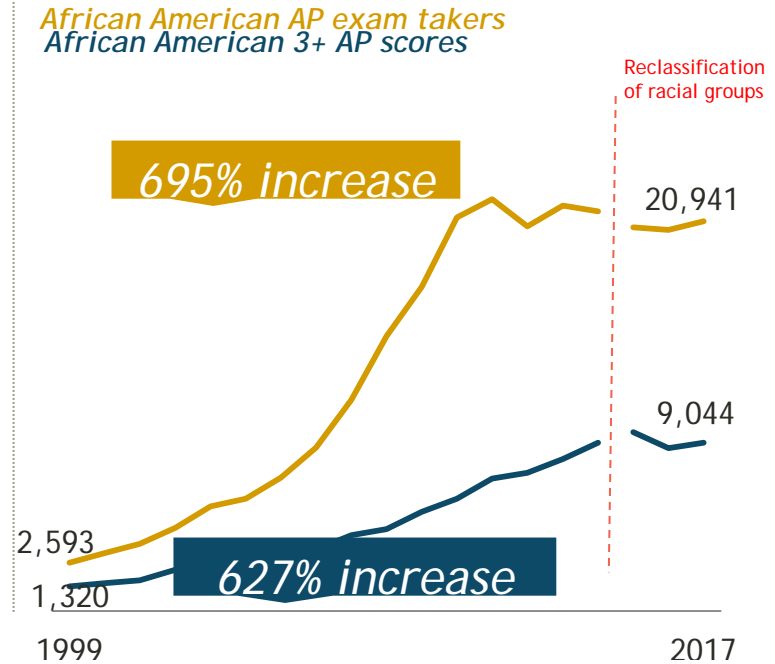
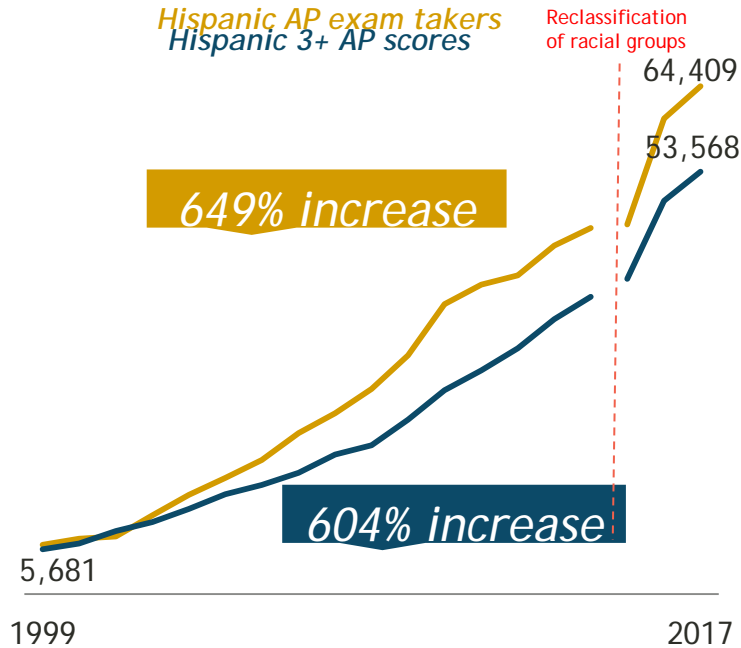
## Improved AP participation and passing scores



# Impact of the AP Incentive on Florida's Subgroups

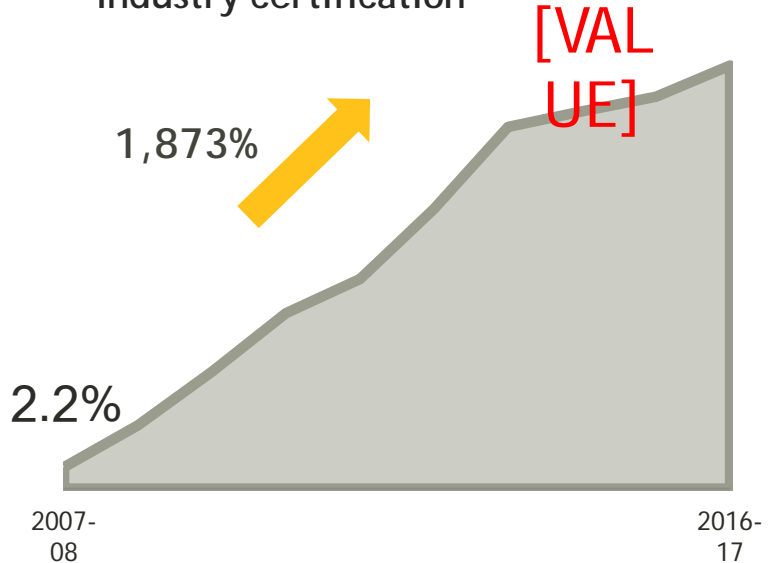


## Improved minority participation and passing scores

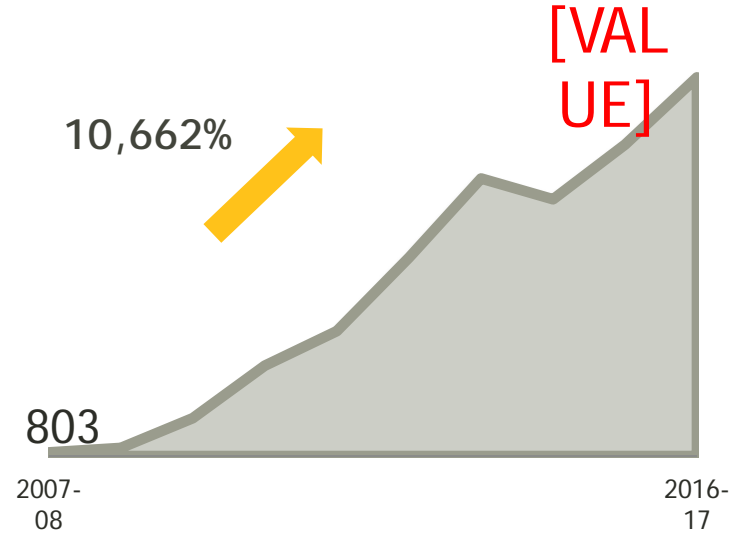




Percentage of Florida high school students enrolled in courses that lead to a qualifying industry certification



Number of students earning qualifying industry certifications in Florida



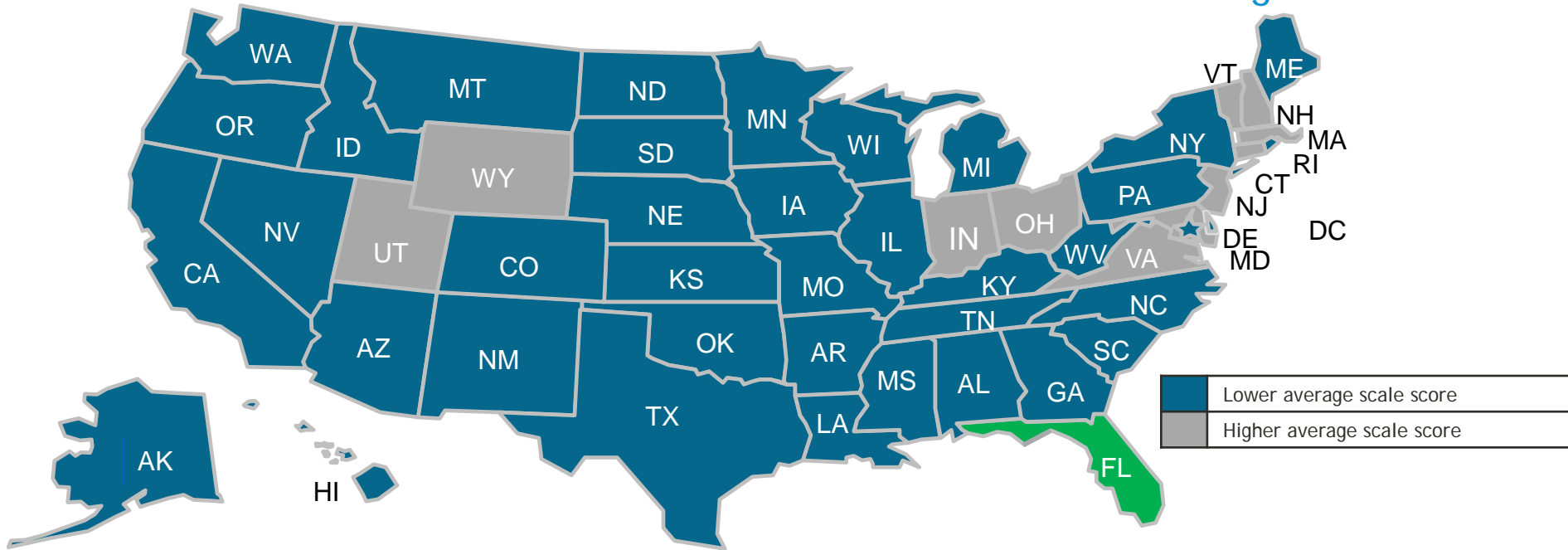


- **Graduation Rates** – 18 consecutive years of increasing graduation rates, increased graduation rates by 30% since reforms began.
- **Dropout Rates** – declined from 4.9% in 2011-12 to 4% in 2016-17.
- **2017 NAEP** – Made more progress than any other state in the nation:
  - Showed improvement on all four NAEP tests
  - Only state that showed statistically significant improvement in grades 4 and 8 math from 2015 to 2017
  - Florida’s students outperformed the nation in grades 4 and 8 reading and grade 4 math
  - All of Florida’s subgroups significantly outperformed their national peers in grade 4 math
  - All of Florida’s subgroups outperformed their national peers in grade 4 reading
- **EdWeek’s Quality Counts 2018** ranked Florida as 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation for K-12 student achievement.

# Florida NAEP Reading 2017



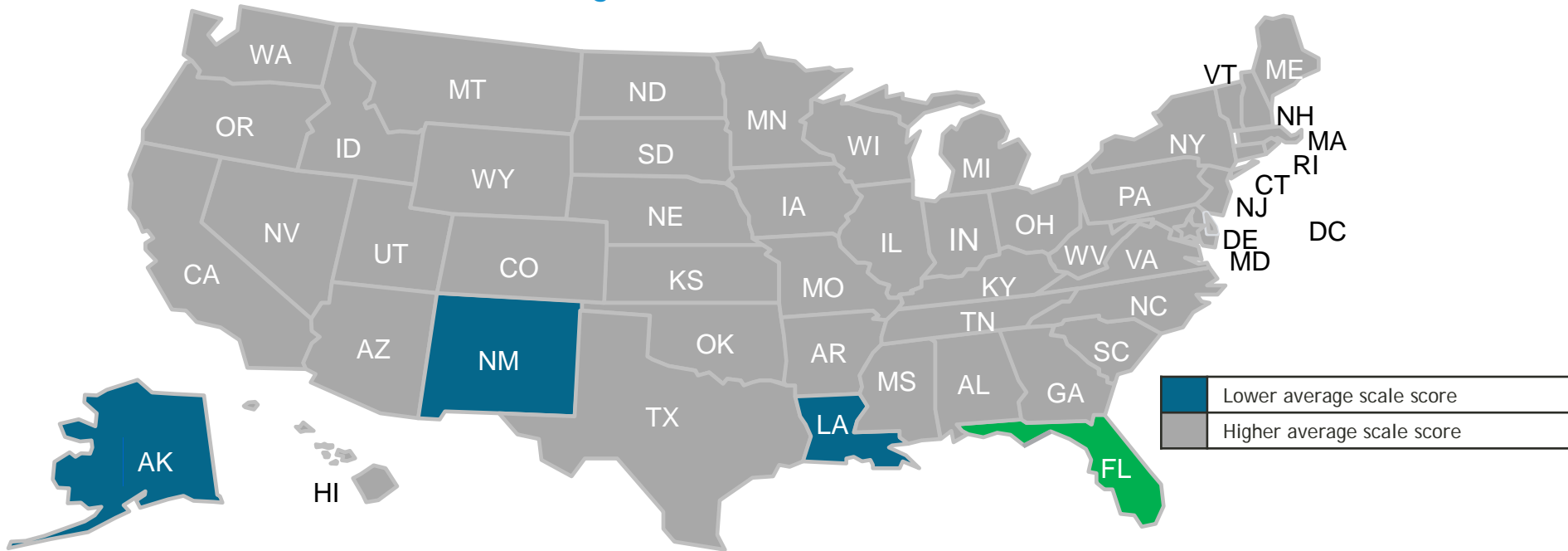
Florida's 4<sup>th</sup> grade Hispanic students outperformed the average student in 38 states and the District of Columbia on 2017 NAEP Reading



# Florida NAEP Reading 2017



Florida's 4<sup>th</sup> grade Black students outperformed the average student in three states and on 2017 NAEP Reading.

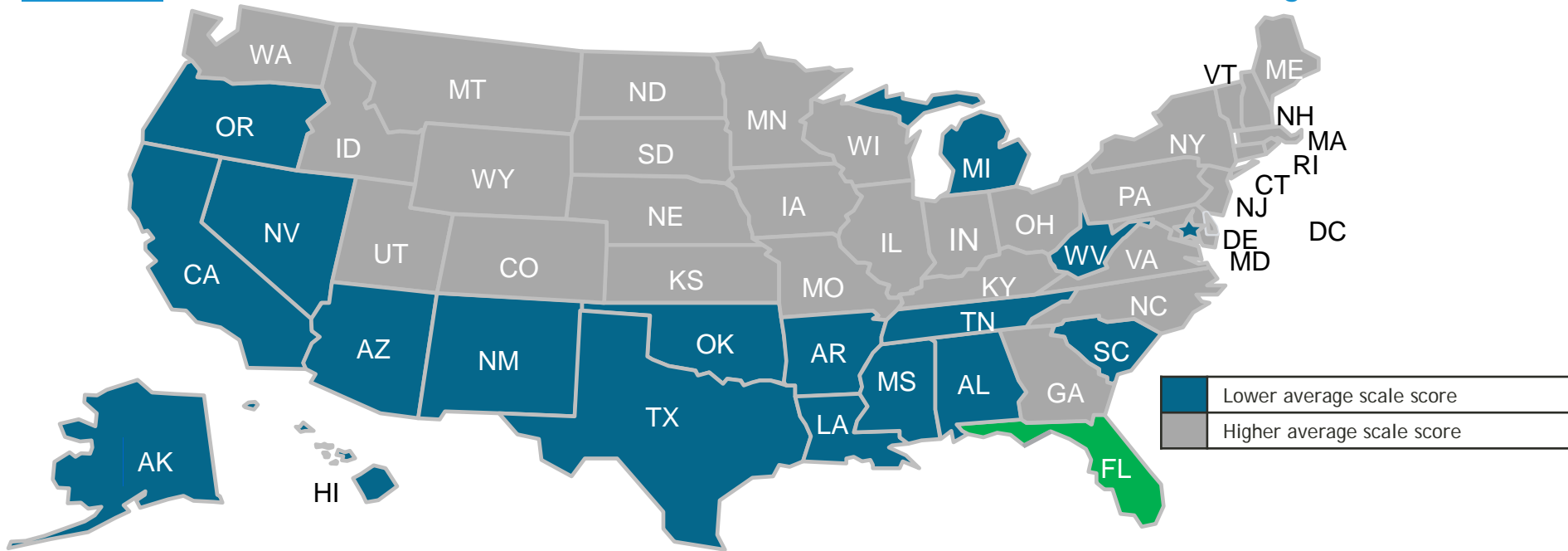




# Florida NAEP Reading 2017



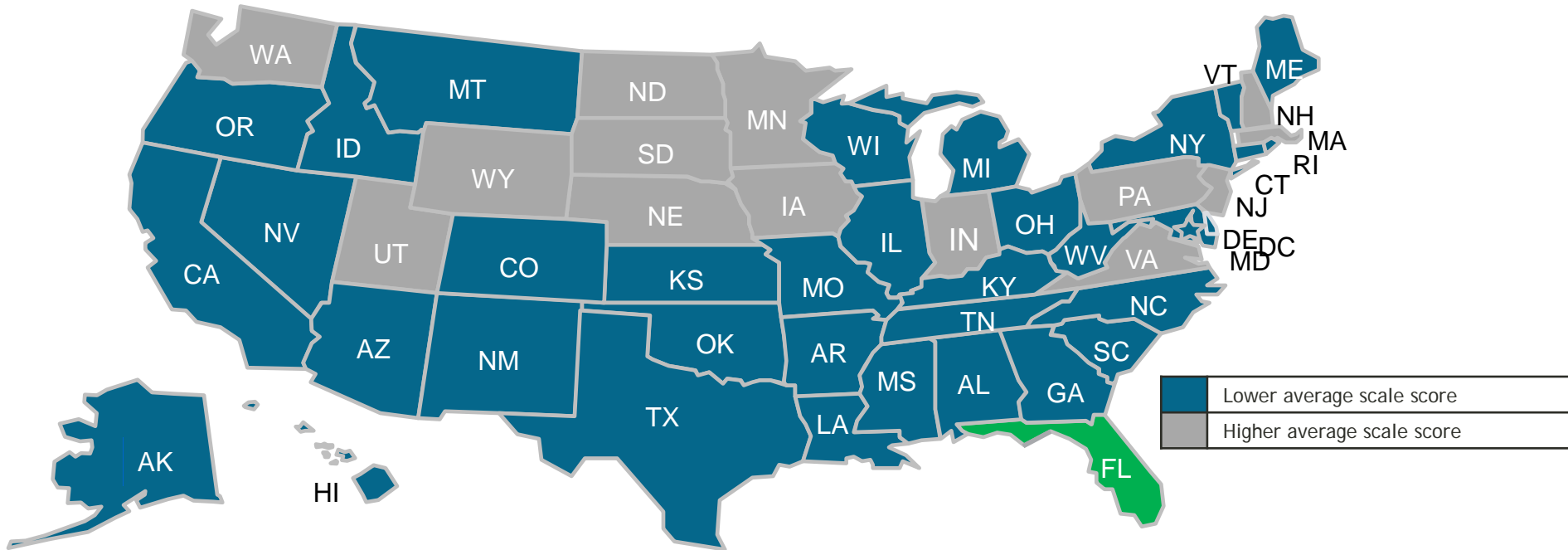
Florida's 4<sup>th</sup> grade free/reduced price lunch students outperformed the average student in 17 states and the District of Columbia on 2017 NAEP Reading.



# Florida NAEP Math 2017



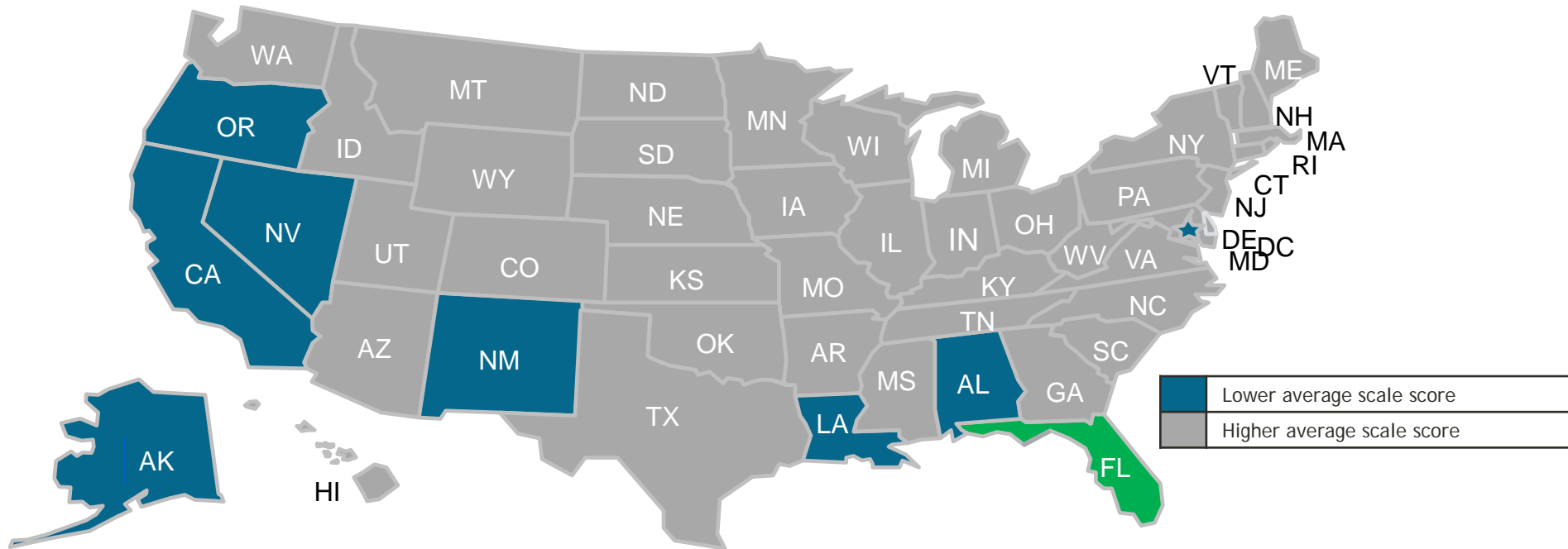
Florida's 4th Grade Hispanic students outperformed the average student in 35 states and the District of Columbia on 2017 NAEP Math.



# Florida NAEP Math 2017



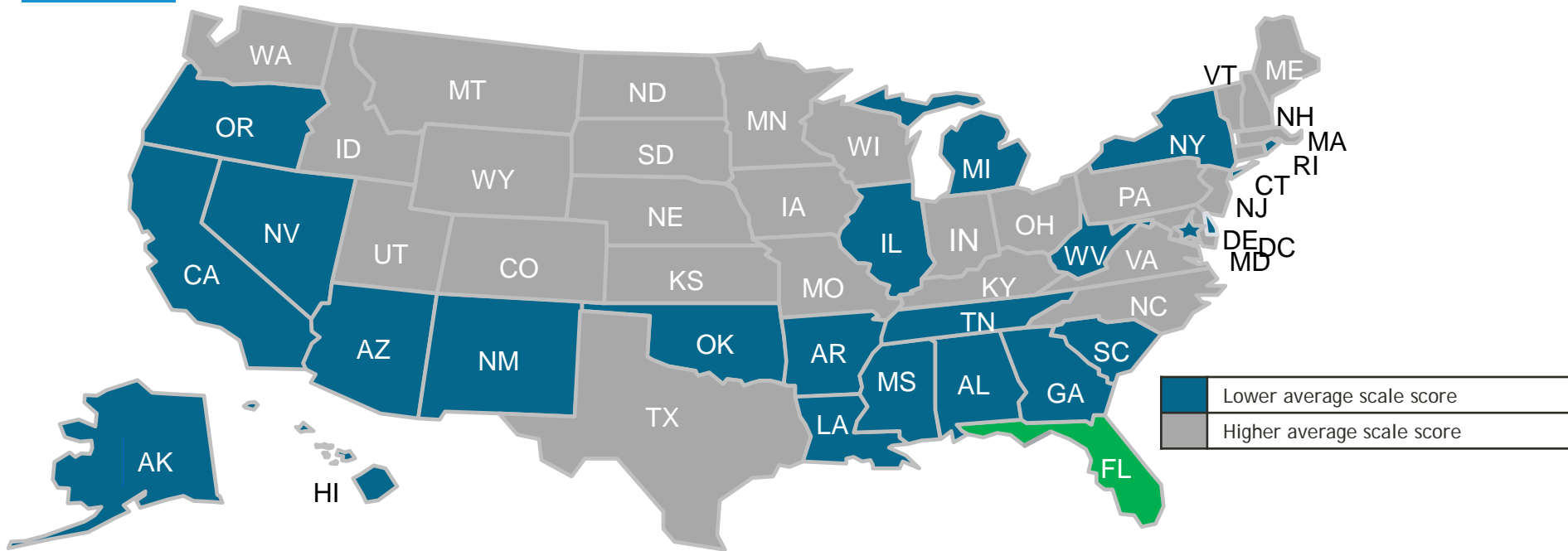
Florida's 4th Grade black students outperformed the average student in seven states and the District of Columbia on 2017 NAEP Math.



# Florida NAEP Math 2017



Florida's 4th Grade free/reduced price lunch students outperformed the average student in 21 states and the District of Columbia on 2017 NAEP Math.





*Michigan has a school accountability calculation that can be made better.*

- Use A-F school ratings.
- Create a **single, statewide** federally compliant system.
- Measure achievement based on **percent proficient**.
- Use **criterion-based growth** to measure progress/growth to proficient and advanced achievement
- Consider including **growth of the lowest performing students** in each school in addition to all student growth.
- Create **automatic increases** in for earning an A, B, C, and D grades.
- **Improve reporting** tool and report results over the summer so parents and educators have time to make decisions before the start of the next school year.

# Florida v. Michigan: By the Numbers

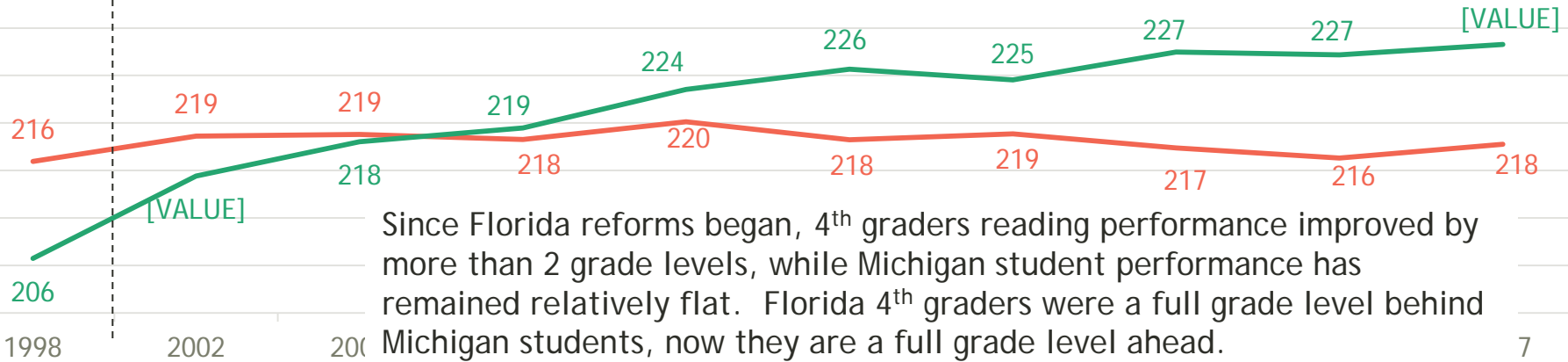
# Michigan vs. Florida NAEP Grade 4 Reading



## Change in Average Reading Performance of 4<sup>th</sup> Graders (NAEP Average Scale Scores)

— Michigan — Florida

1999 - Florida reforms begin



Since Florida reforms began, 4<sup>th</sup> graders reading performance improved by more than 2 grade levels, while Michigan student performance has remained relatively flat. Florida 4<sup>th</sup> graders were a full grade level behind Michigan students, now they are a full grade level ahead.

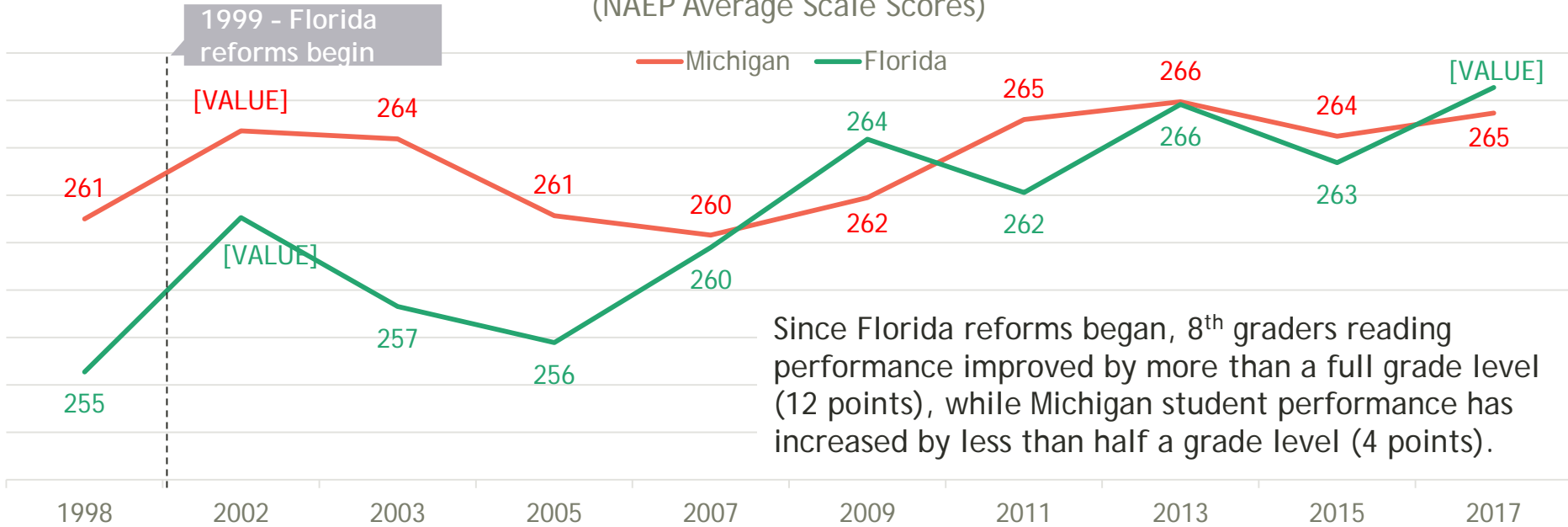
Dotted line indicates year Florida began comprehensive reforms

10 points = 1 grade level

# Michigan vs. Florida NAEP Grade 8 Reading



## Change in Average Reading Performance of 8<sup>th</sup> Graders (NAEP Average Scale Scores)



Since Florida reforms began, 8<sup>th</sup> graders reading performance improved by more than a full grade level (12 points), while Michigan student performance has increased by less than half a grade level (4 points).

Dotted line indicates year Florida began comprehensive reforms

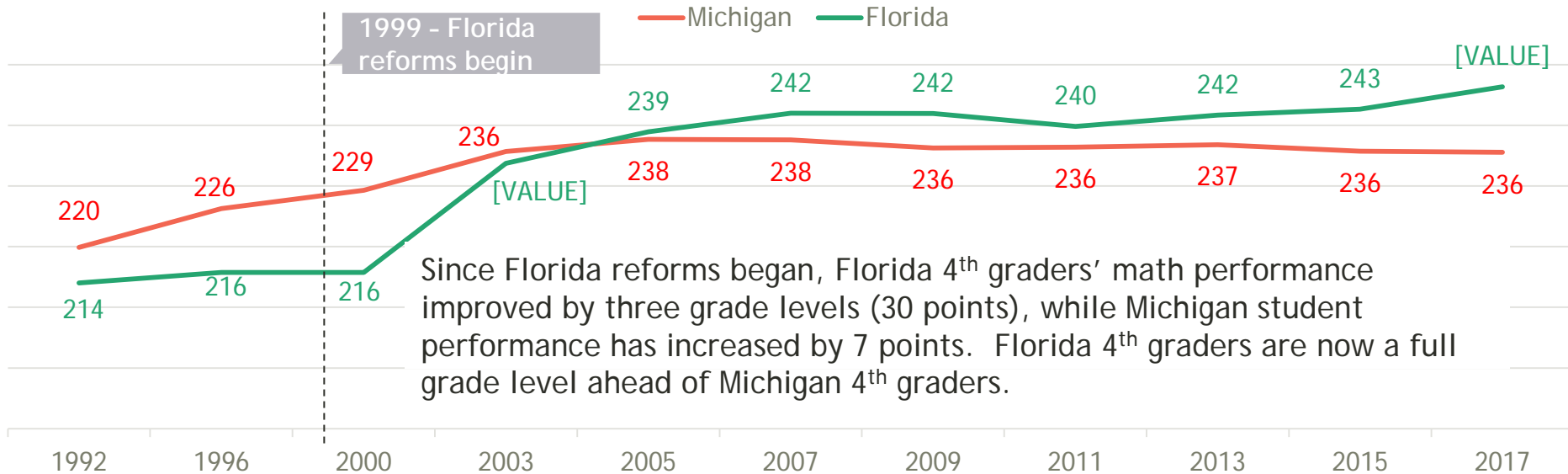
10 points = 1 grade level



# Michigan vs. Florida NAEP Grade 4 Math



## Change in Average Math Performance of 4<sup>th</sup> Graders (NAEP Average Scale Scores)



Since Florida reforms began, Florida 4<sup>th</sup> graders' math performance improved by three grade levels (30 points), while Michigan student performance has increased by 7 points. Florida 4<sup>th</sup> graders are now a full grade level ahead of Michigan 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

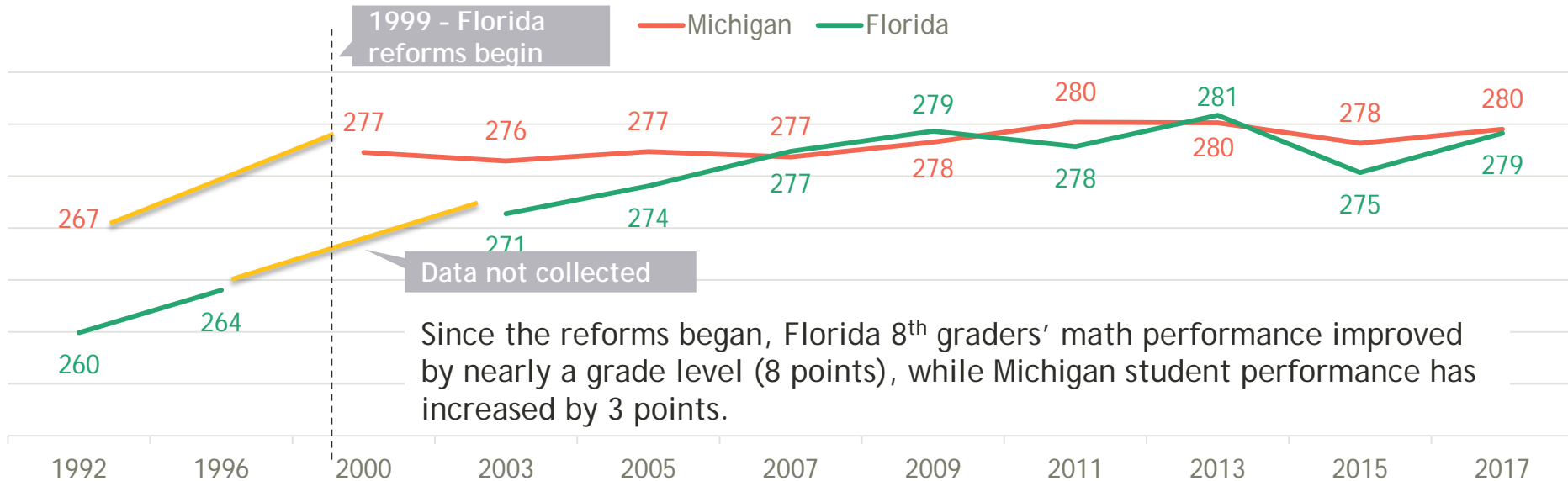
Dotted line indicates year Florida began comprehensive reforms

10 points = 1 grade level

# Michigan vs. Florida NAEP Grade 8 Math



## Change in Average Math Performance of 8<sup>th</sup> Graders (NAEP Average Scale Scores)



Since the reforms began, Florida 8<sup>th</sup> graders' math performance improved by nearly a grade level (8 points), while Michigan student performance has increased by 3 points.

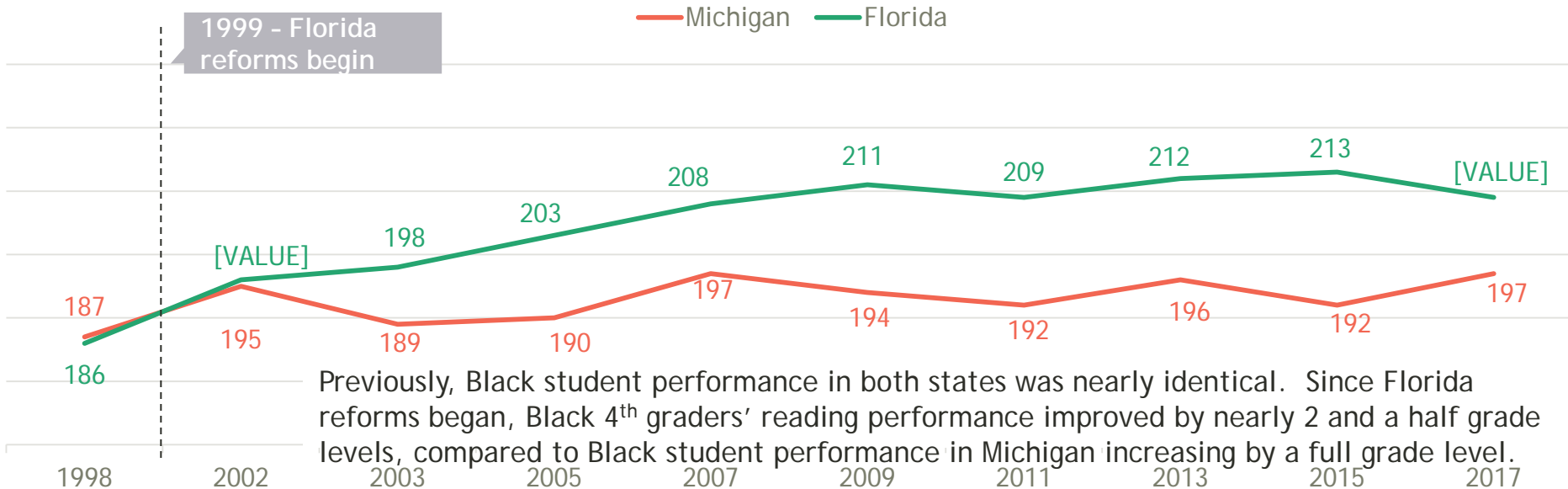
Dotted line indicates year Florida began comprehensive reforms

10 points = 1 grade level

# Michigan vs. Florida NAEP Grade 4 Reading - Black Students



## Average NAEP 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Scores for Black Students Michigan and Florida (1998-2017)



Previously, Black student performance in both states was nearly identical. Since Florida reforms began, Black 4<sup>th</sup> graders' reading performance improved by nearly 2 and a half grade levels, compared to Black student performance in Michigan increasing by a full grade level.

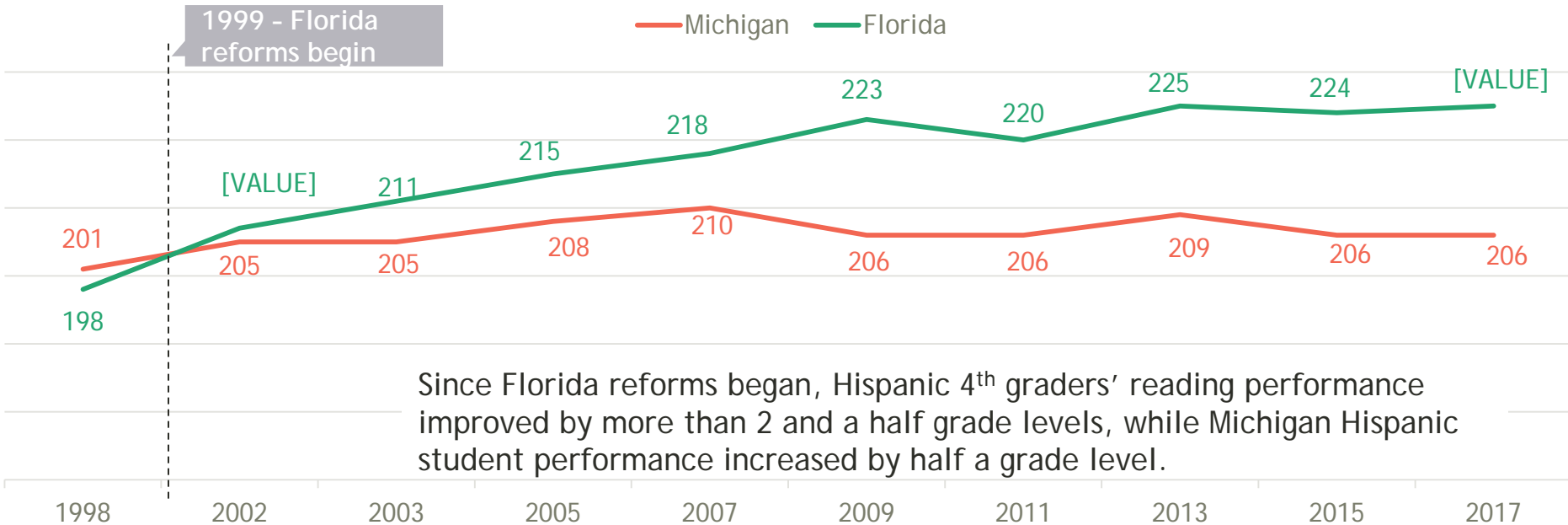
10 points = 1 grade level

Dotted line indicates year Florida began comprehensive reforms

# Michigan vs. Florida NAEP Grade 4 Reading - Hispanic Students



## Average NAEP 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Scores for Hispanic Students Michigan and Florida (1998-2017)



Since Florida reforms began, Hispanic 4<sup>th</sup> graders' reading performance improved by more than two and a half grade levels, while Michigan Hispanic student performance increased by half a grade level.

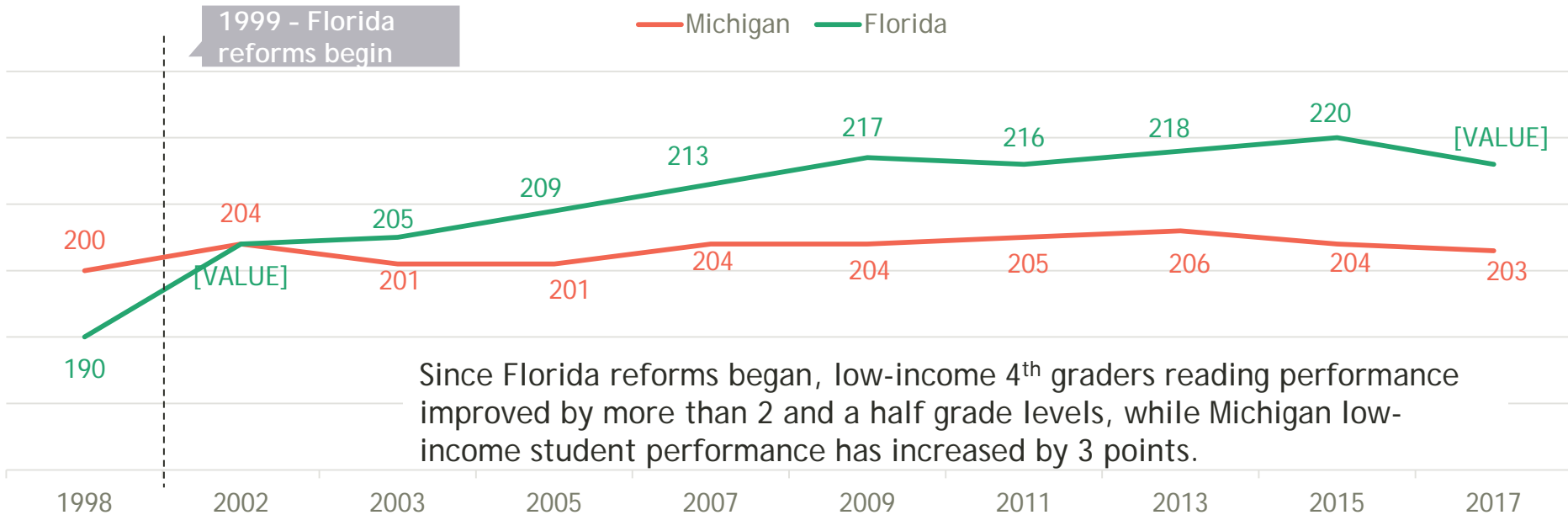
10 points = 1 grade level

Dotted line indicates year Florida began comprehensive reforms

# Michigan vs. Florida NAEP Grade 4 Reading - Low-Income



Average NAEP 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Scores for Students Eligible for Free and Reduced Price Lunch (FRL) Michigan and Florida (1998-2017)



Since Florida reforms began, low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders reading performance improved by more than 2 and a half grade levels, while Michigan low-income student performance has increased by 3 points.

Dotted line indicates year Florida began comprehensive reforms

10 points = 1 grade level



# ExcelinEd

Thank You!

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