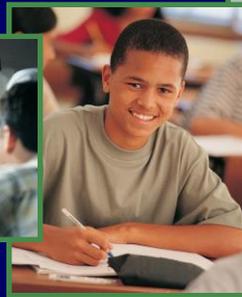
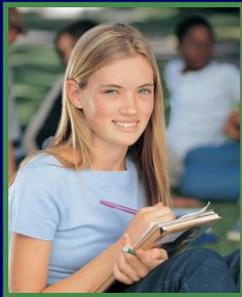


GEAR UP 101: An Overview of the National GEAR UP Program



NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference
July 20-23, 2008 • Washington, DC



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR
Community and Education Partnerships

National Council For Community & Education Partnerships (NCCEP)



- Non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to assisting students in becoming eligible for and academically successful in higher education.
- Serve as the national technical assistance provider & lead advocacy agency for GEAR UP Programs
- Founded by the Ford and Kellogg Foundations to foster K-16 partnerships among: colleges/universities, K-12 schools, parent groups, businesses, government agencies, foundations, and CBO's

Presentation Goals

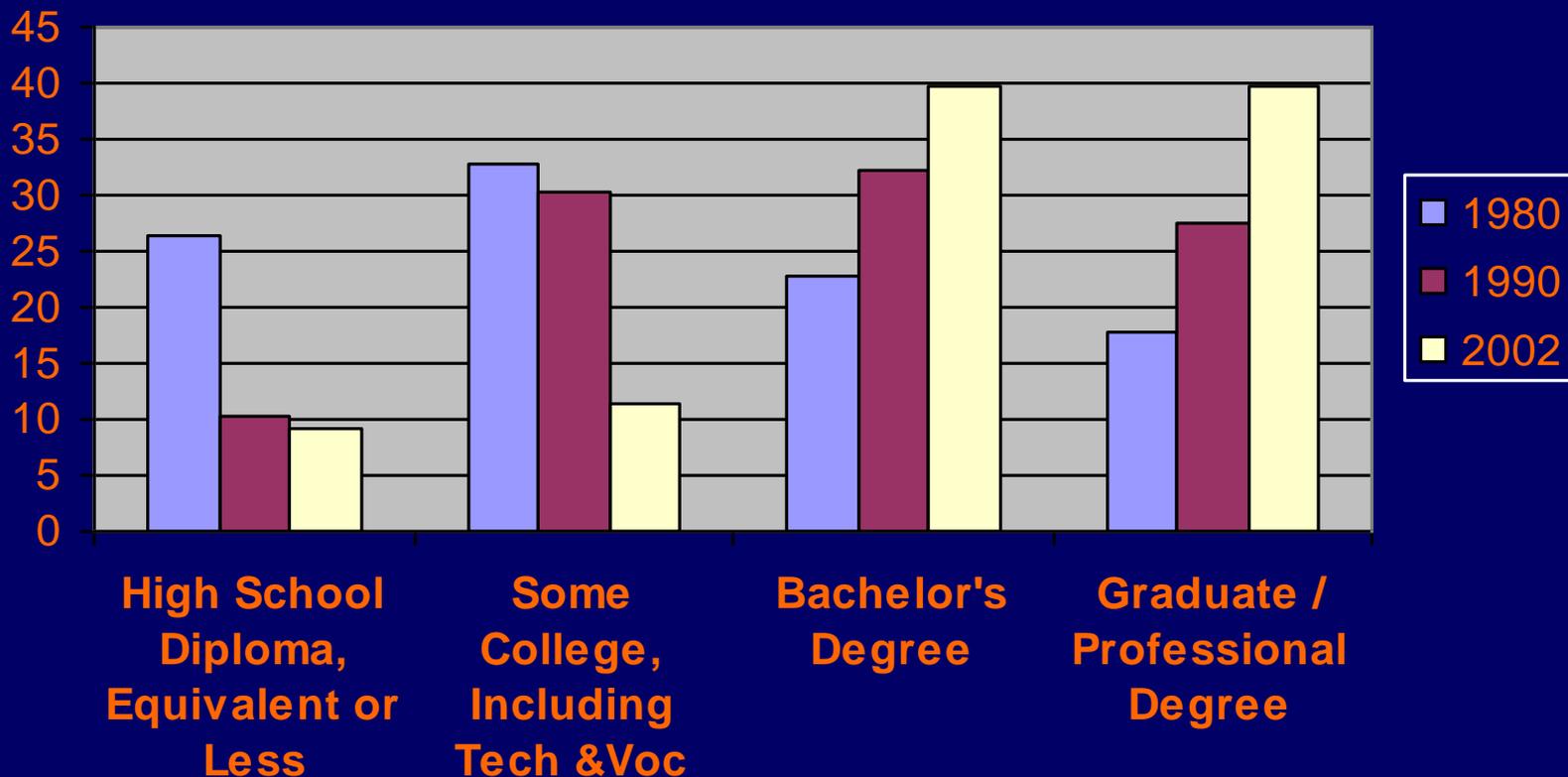
- Provide new GEAR UP professionals with an overview of the GEAR UP program and its theory of change;
- Discuss common GEAR UP program strategies, interventions and activities; and
- Explore GEAR UP program outcomes and best practices for preparing lower income students for postsecondary education.

Increasing Access and Readiness: An Overview of GEAR UP

While Students Have High Expectations . . .



- Percentage of 10th-graders who expected to attain various levels of education

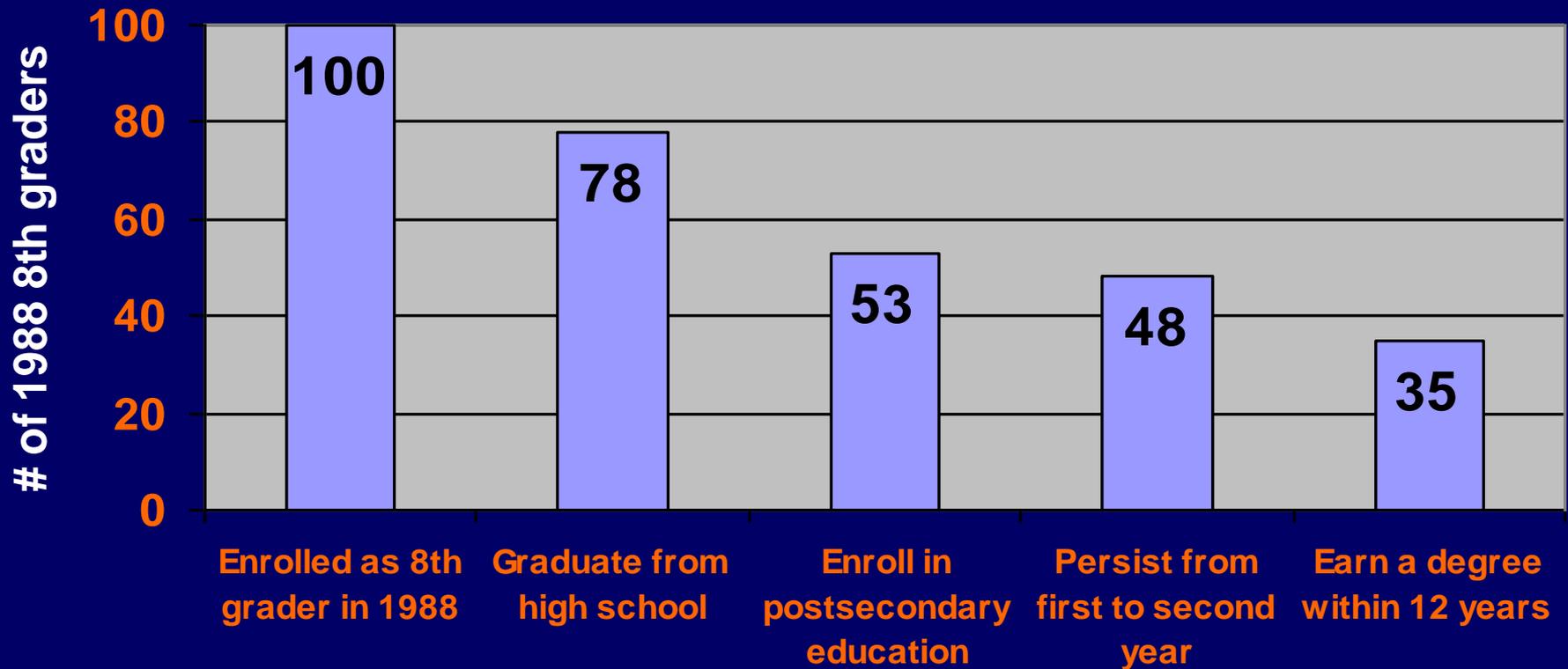


Fox, M.A., Connolly, B.A. and Snyder, T.D. (2005). *Youth Indicators 2005: Trends in the Well-Being of American Youth*, (NCES 2005-050). U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Washington D.C.: GPO. Indicator 18

The Education Pipeline is Leaking . . .



- Of 100 8th Graders in 1988:



Source: Clifford Adelman, NELS:88:2000 data files.

What We Know About College Readiness



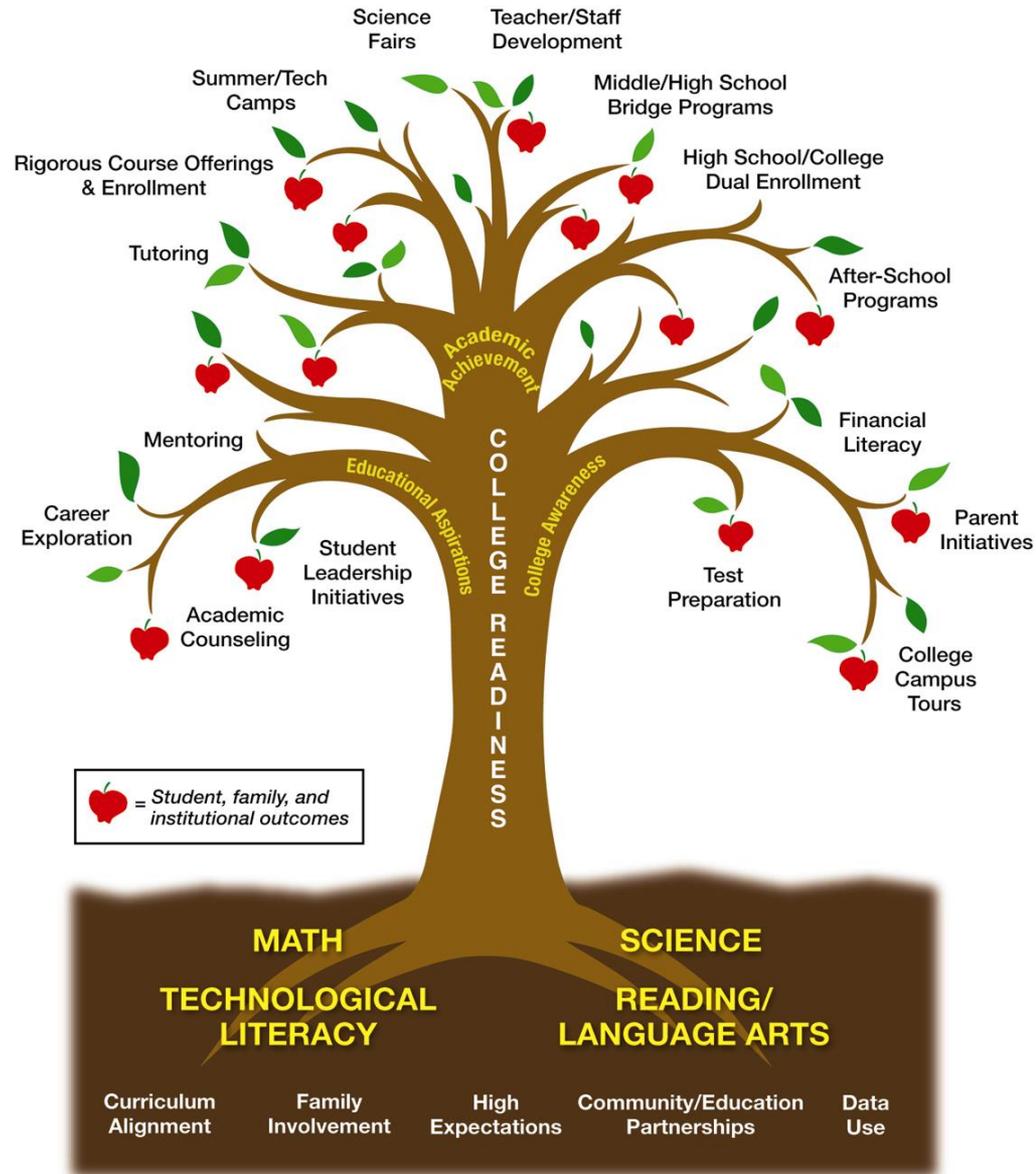
- By the 8th grade, significant gaps exist in the academic achievement of student groups
- Low-income students are less likely to be enrolled in a college-prep curriculum (28%)
- African American and Hispanic students are far more likely to drop out than their White peers
- Minority and low-income students are less likely to receive a BA degree

Building College Readiness



- **GEAR UP is a holistic program that:**
 - **diagnoses the root causes of student barriers to higher education;**
 - **facilitates the completion of a rigorous college preparatory curriculum;**
 - **provides intensive academic and social support to students;**
 - **engages students and families about the value of education; and**
 - **guides students and families through the college search, application, and enrollment process**

Cultivating Student Success



The Objectives of GEAR UP

- Increase the academic preparedness of GEAR UP students for postsecondary education
- Increase the rate of high school graduation and enrollment in postsecondary education
- Helping GEAR UP students and families navigate the college enrollment and financial aid processes

What Makes GEAR UP Unique

- Holistic program rooted in early intervention
 - *Beginning no later than 7th grade*
- Provides whole grades with sustained programs
 - *Programs follow students as they mature (cohort approach)*
- Applies research-based practices to local efforts
 - *Applications require deep analysis of local needs and resources*
- Community and education partnerships
 - *Legislation requires K-12, postsecondary, and community partners to work towards common goals*
- Leverages local assets and resources for sustainability
 - *Dollar-for-dollar match requirement*

GEAR UP Grants



State Grants

- Competitive, six-year grants
- Awarded to a organization appointed by Governor
- Must spend 50% of funds to provide scholarships to GEAR UP students
- Provide early intervention and services to cohorts of students, or alternatively, priority students
- Annual budget is limited--new applicants were limited to \$3 million
- Dollar-for-dollar match requirement

Partnership Grants

- Competitive, six-year grants
- Awarded to a school district or college/university
- Provide early intervention and services to cohorts of students, in specific feeder patterns
- Annual budget is limited to \$800 per student served
- Dollar-for-dollar match requirement

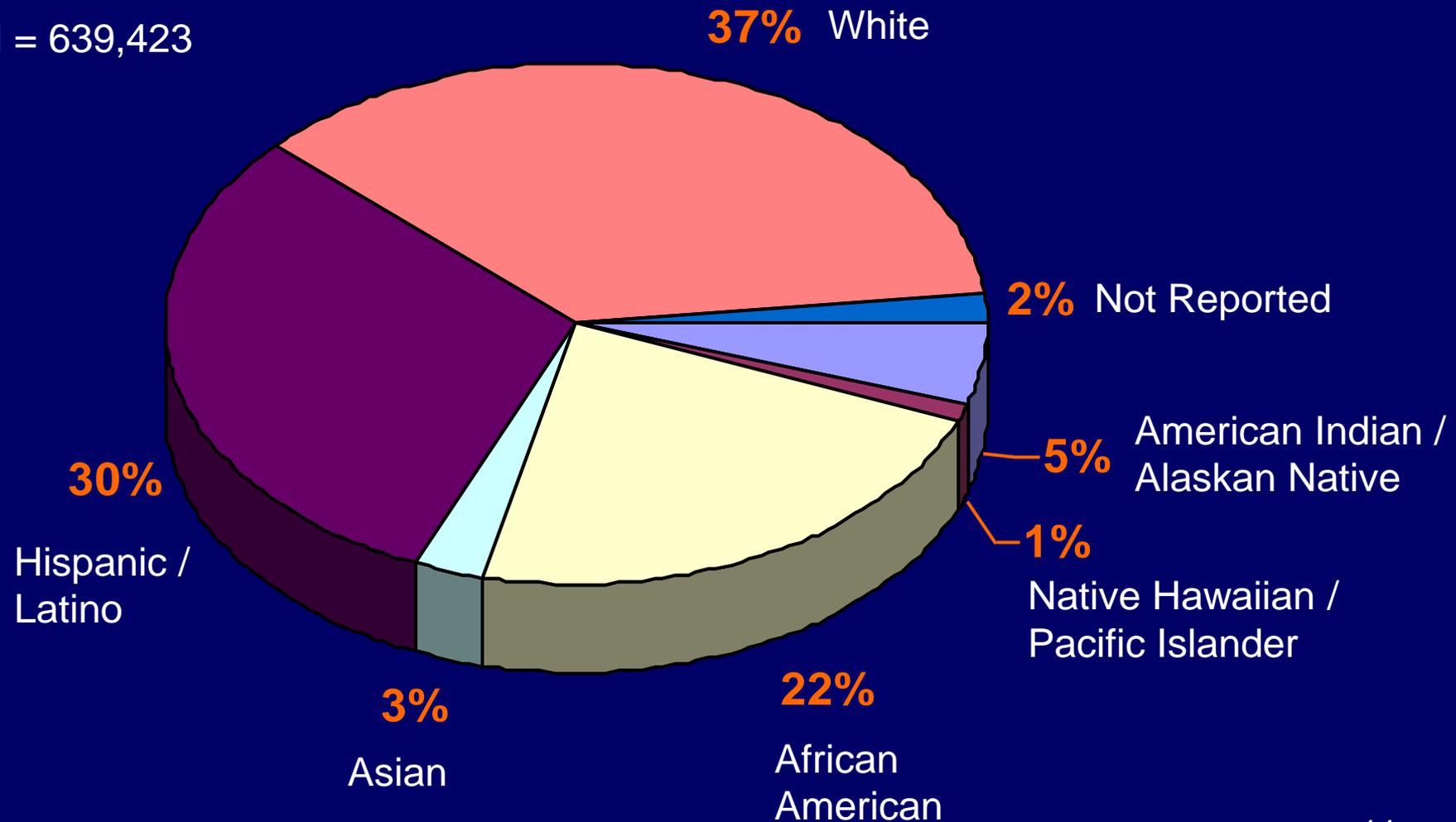
Scope of GEAR UP Program

- Active grants in 47 states, DC, PR, Palau, American Samoa
- 5,263 schools served
- Serving approximately 640,000 Students
- Per student federal investment of \$474
- Highly competitive: 10.4% of applicants funded in 2006 with a cut-off score of 97.3
- 8.5 % of applicants funded in 2008

Racial and Ethnic Composition of Students Served by GEAR UP (April 2007)



N = 639,423



What We Know Works – Characteristics of Successful Practice

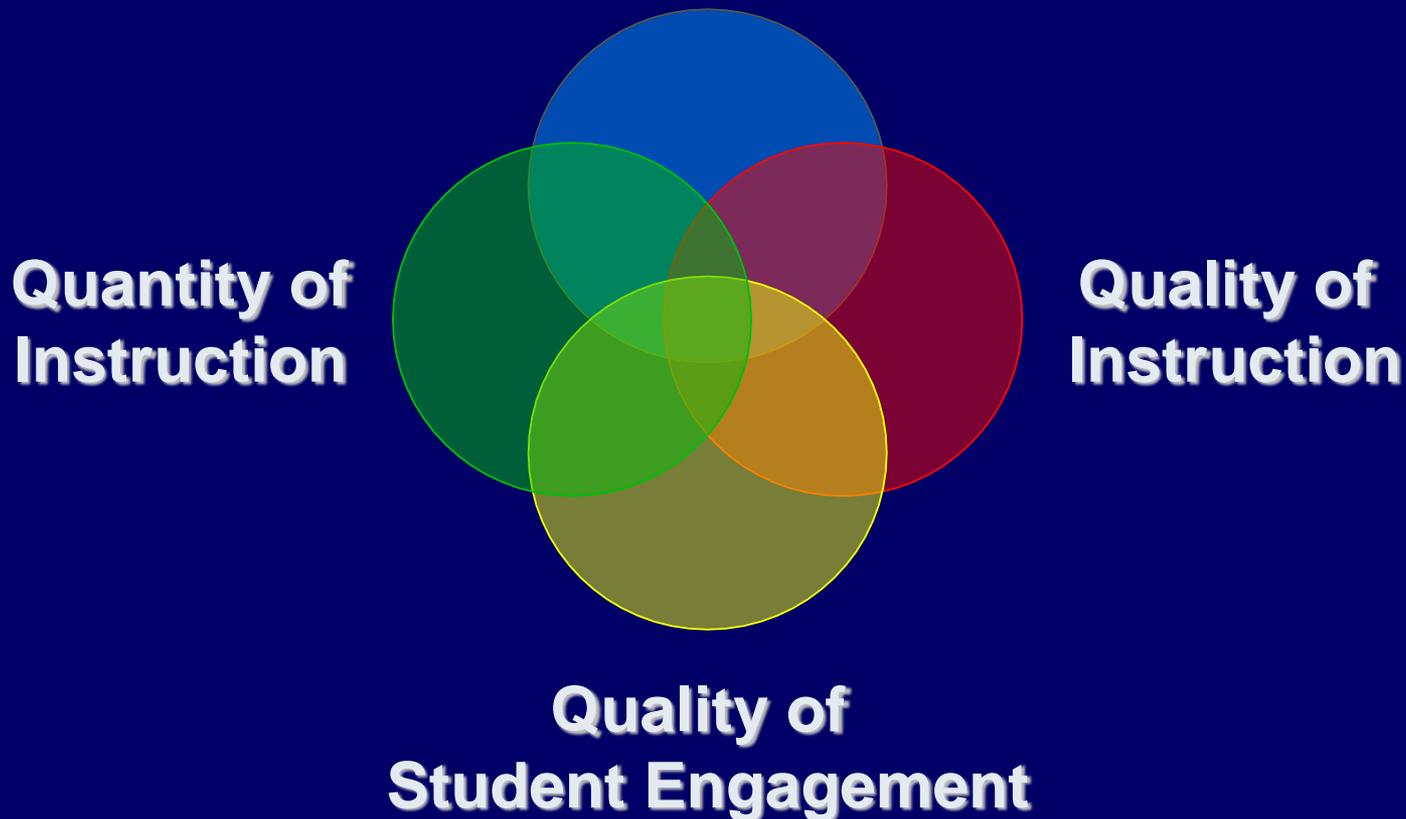


- Comprehensive information
 - to students & parents
 - about local school system processes & community resources
- Comprehensive services
 - to students and parents
 - to address academic & social issues
- Comprehensive integration
 - of the K-12 and postsecondary school systems
 - of the school systems and the community
 - of community needs, program goals, program evaluation, & program improvement

How GEAR UP Works



Renegotiating Relationships



How GEAR UP Works



**Raise College
Awareness**

**Increase Academic
Aspirations**

**Strengthen Academic
Achievement**

What is GEAR UP doing?

Academic Achievement

- Professional development for teachers, counselors, administrators, and school staff
- Curriculum development and alignment
- Supplemental academic offerings
 - after-school, weekend, and summer academic programs
- Academic mentoring and tutoring
- Academic counseling

What is GEAR UP doing?

Academic Aspirations

- Student, family and community outreach programs
- College visits and tours
- Career counseling, mentoring, and internships
- Student leadership, service learning, and motivational programs
- Scholarships, financial awards, and reduced tuition

What is GEAR UP doing?

College Awareness

- Student, family, and community educational programs about the college search, application, and enrollment process
- College counseling, mentoring, SAT/ACT prep, and application services
- Financial literacy activities for students and families

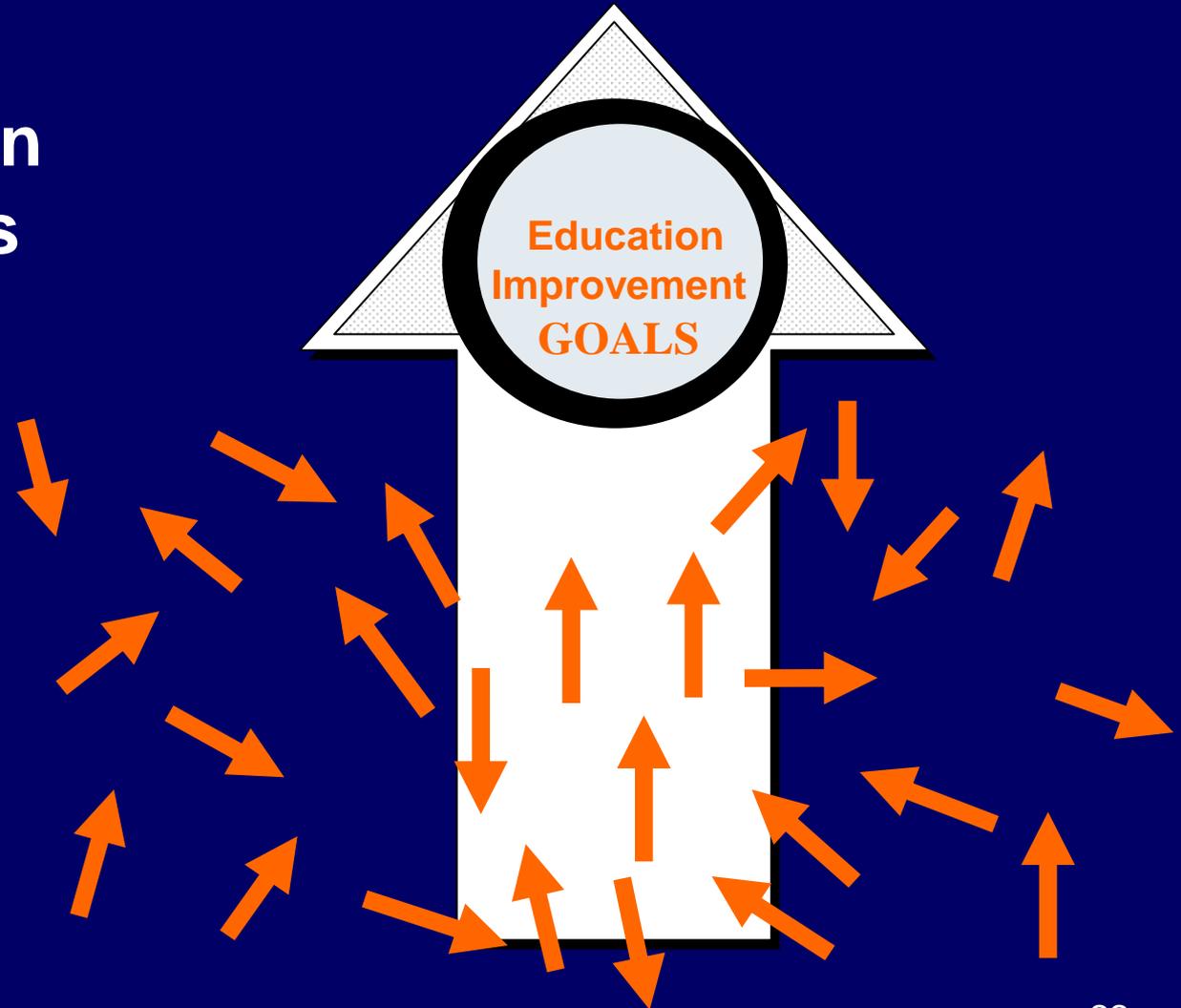
What is GEAR UP doing?

K-16 Partnership Development

- Development of shared agenda and action plan to improve college readiness in local communities
- Increased collaboration, joint programming, and local policy initiatives among partnership members
- Collaborating with community-based partners to provide a wealth of supplemental services to students and families outside of “school time”

Why Partnerships?

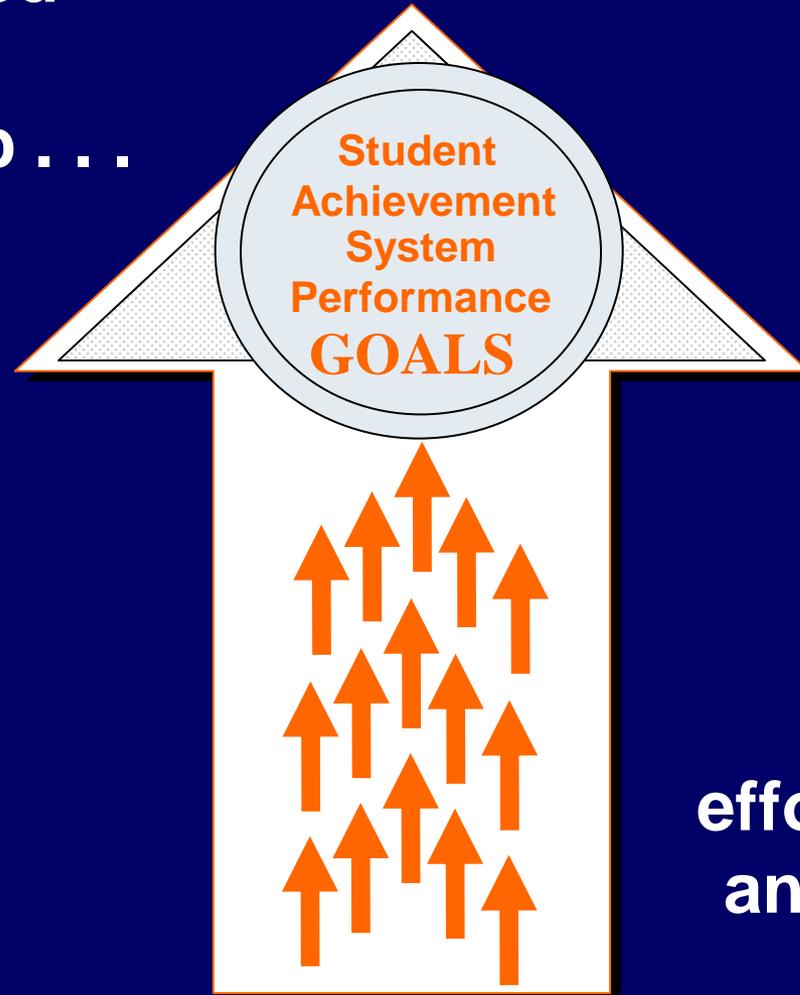
 = Education Initiatives



GEAR UP = Strategic Alignment



In an aligned
education
partnership . . .



... improvement
efforts are integrated
and results-oriented

The Truth About GEAR UP Success

- While the strategies that GEAR UP provide are essential . . .
 - GEAR UP is about people
 - GEAR UP is about leadership
 - GEAR UP is about relationships

The Evolving Role of the GEAR UP Professional



- GEAR UP requires skill sets above and beyond content expertise:
 - Program Administration and Grant Compliance
 - Change Management
 - Advocacy and Public Policy
 - Community Relations and Communication
 - Fundraising and Partnership Building

Increasing Access and Readiness: A Summary of GEAR UP Outcomes

GEAR UP's Structure and Data

- Data about what?

- *Postsecondary education enrollment rates*

- High school graduation rates
 - College preparation academic behaviors
 - College-going behaviors

- Data about whom?

- Students, parents, teachers, school systems

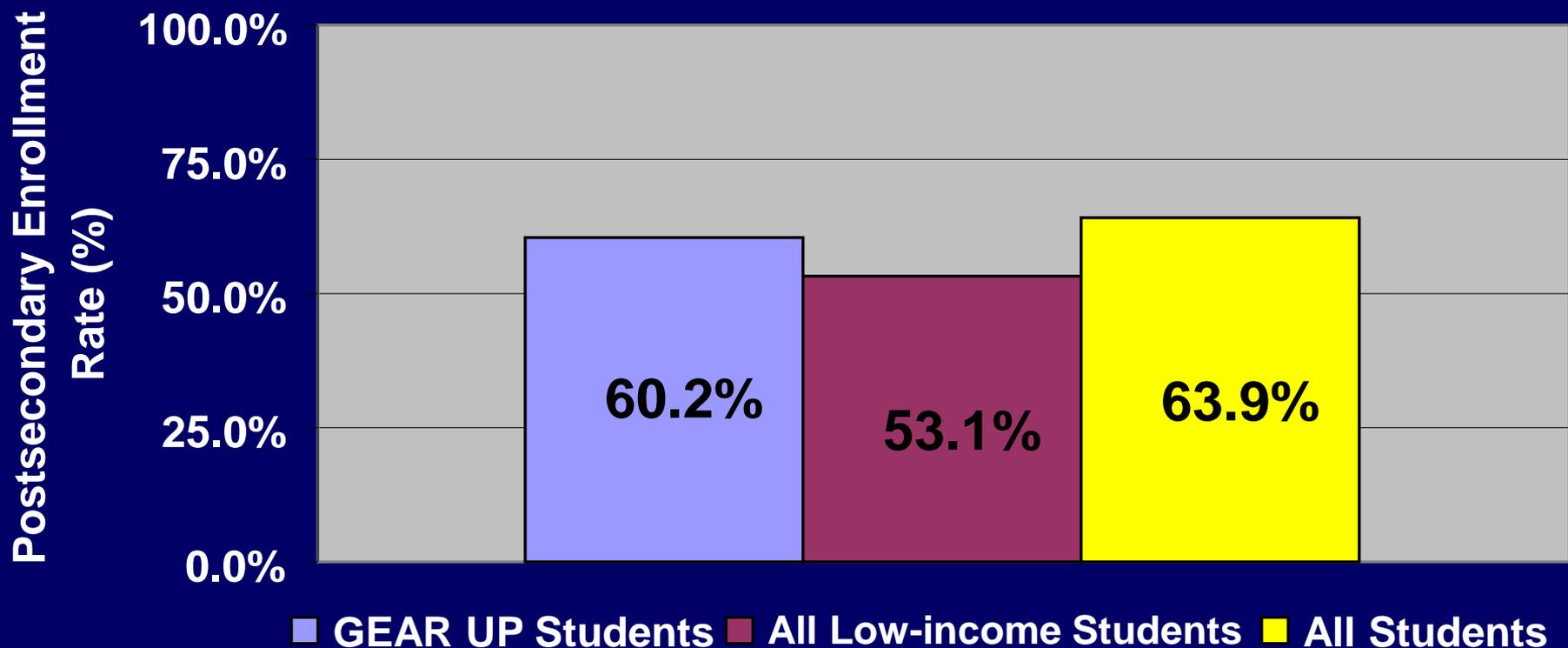
- Data about which level?

- National-level (federal and non-federal)
 - State/local partnership levels

GEAR UP Outcomes – Students; National



Comparison of Postsecondary Enrollment Rates

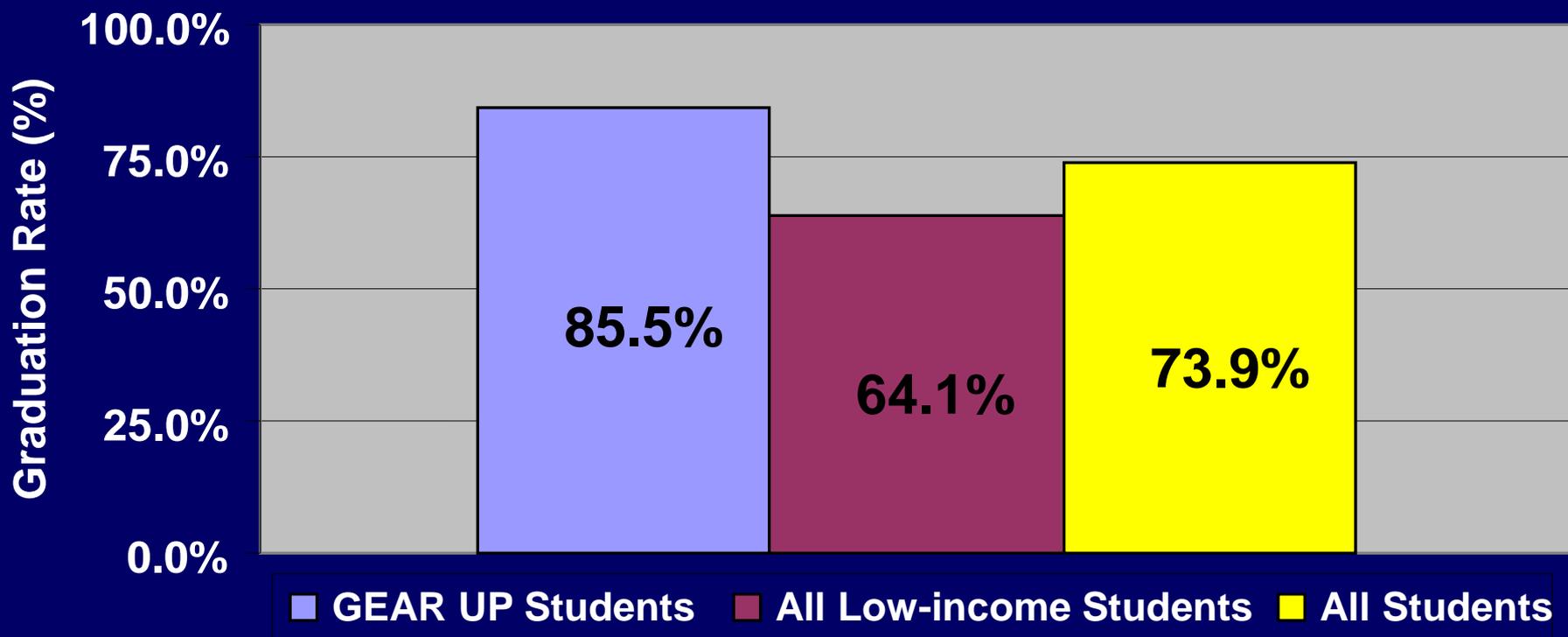


Source: U.S. Department of Education GEAR UP data files;
Condition of Education 2004; NCES publication 2002-23.
GEAR UP data for 2004-05 academic year.

GEAR UP Outcomes – Students; National



Comparison of High School Graduation Rates

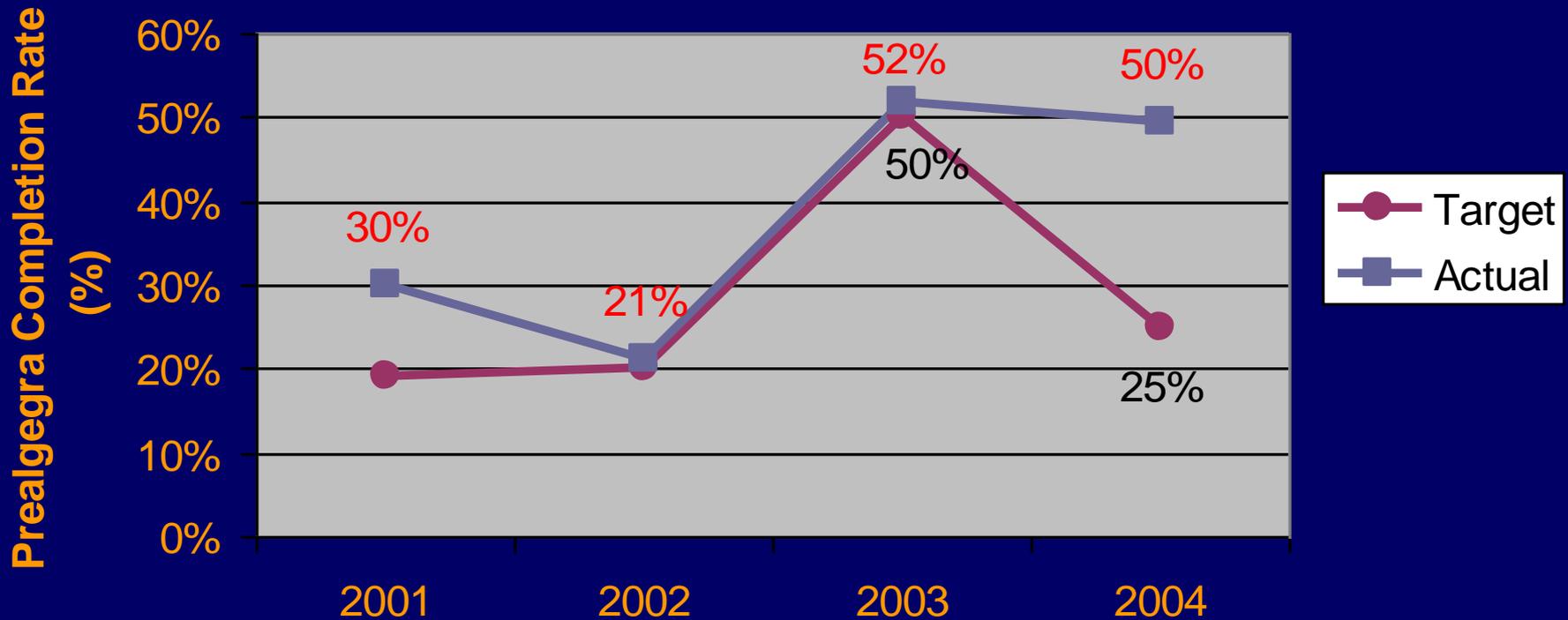


Source: U.S. Department of Education GEAR UP data files;
Condition of Education 2004; NCES publication 2002-23.
GEAR UP data for 2006-07 academic year.

GEAR UP Outcomes – Students; National



GEAR UP Student Algebra Completion by 9th Grade - Actual vs. Target

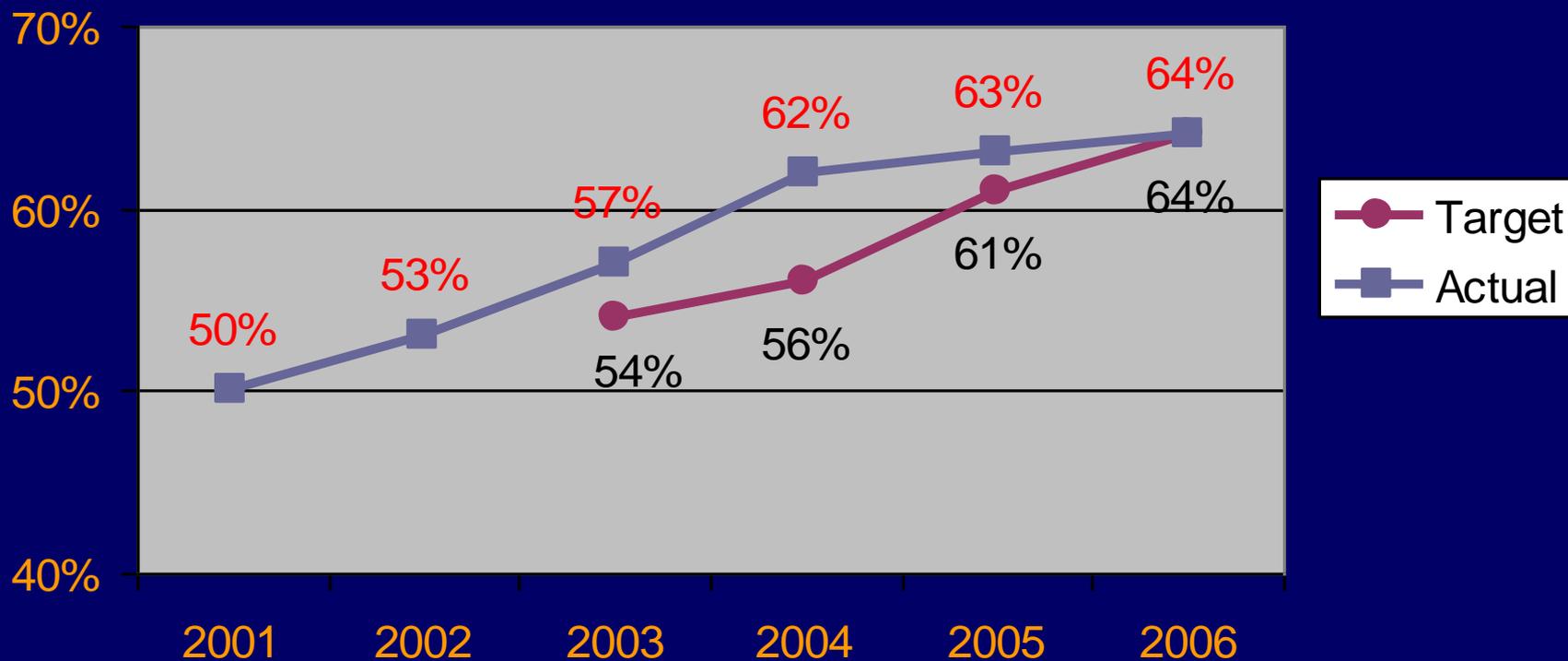


Source: U.S. Department of Education

GEAR UP Outcomes – Students; National



GEAR UP Students with Knowledge of Necessary Academic Preparation for College - Actual vs. Target

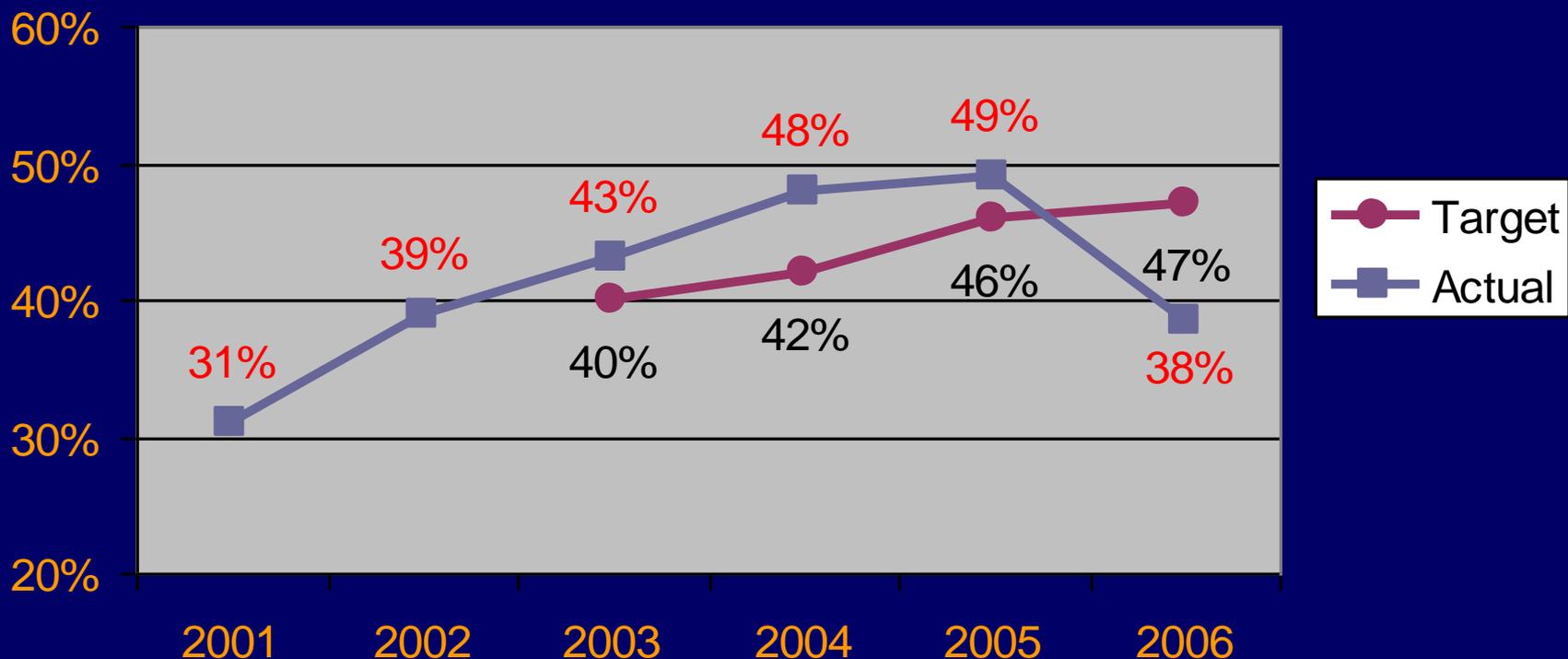


Source: U.S. Department of Education

GEAR UP Outcomes – Parents; National



GEAR UP Parents with Knowledge of Necessary Academic Preparation for College - Actual vs. Target

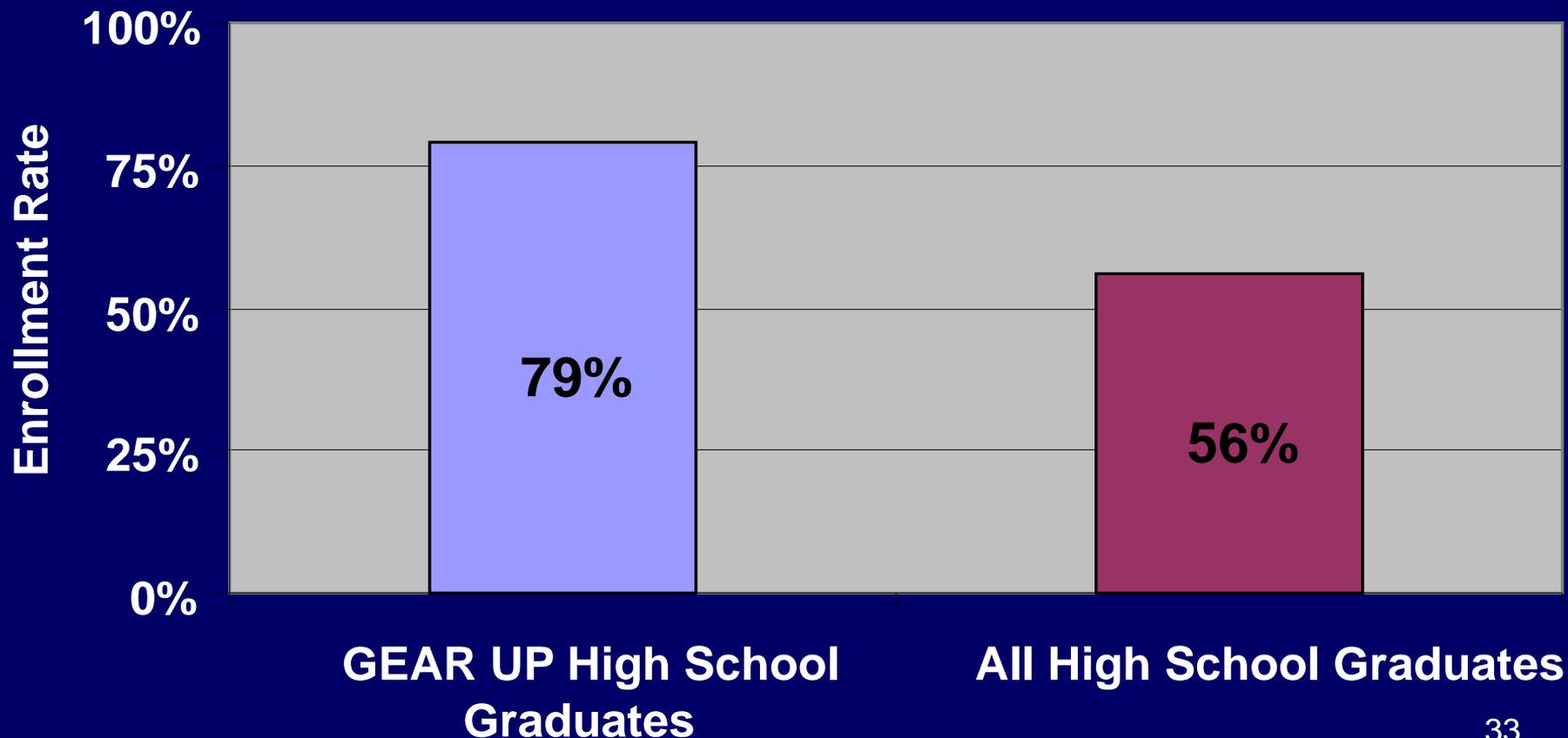


Source: U.S. Department of Education

GEAR UP Outcomes – Students; Local



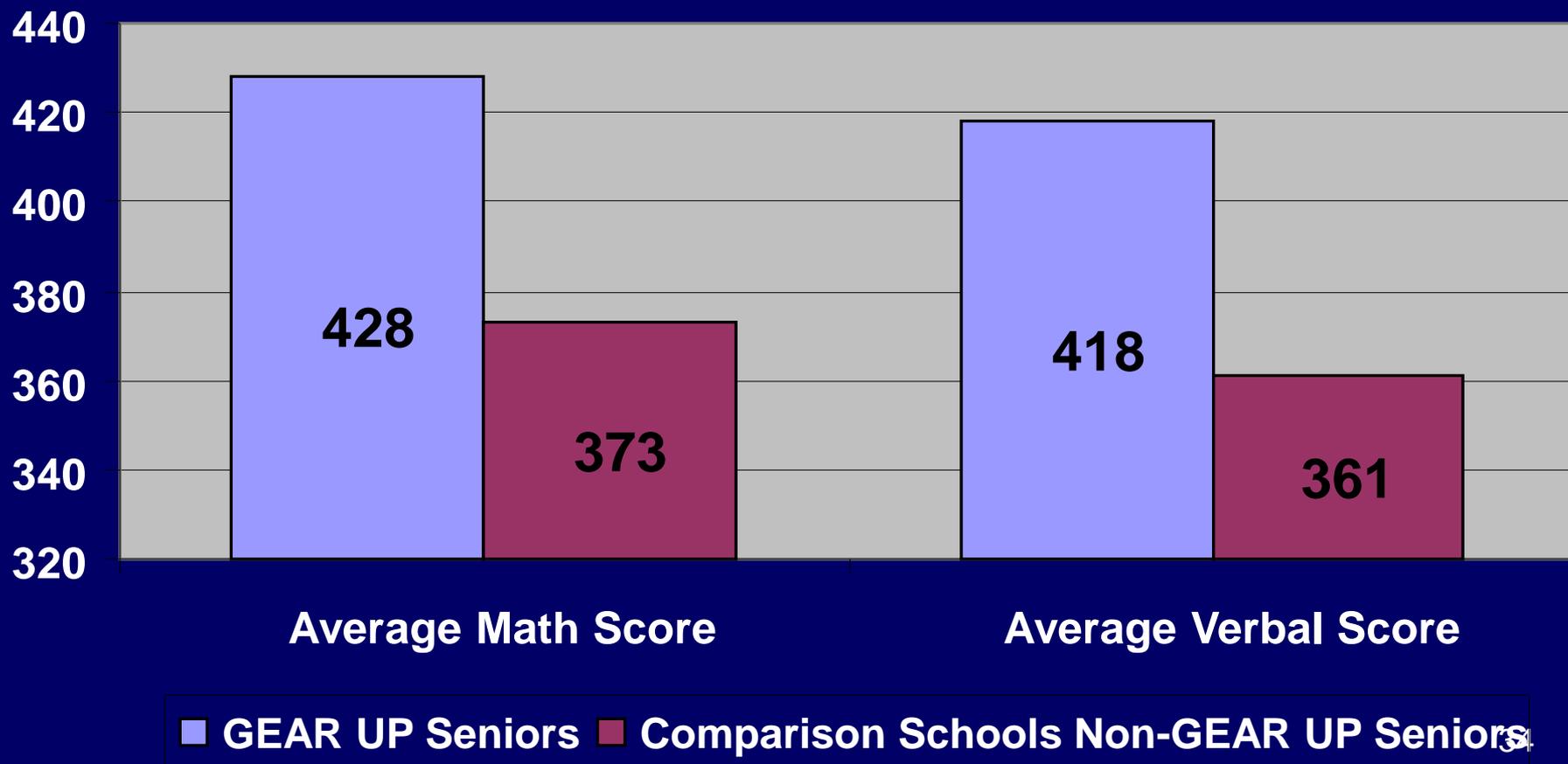
Washington State GEAR UP College Enrollment, 2005-06



GEAR UP Outcomes – Students; Local



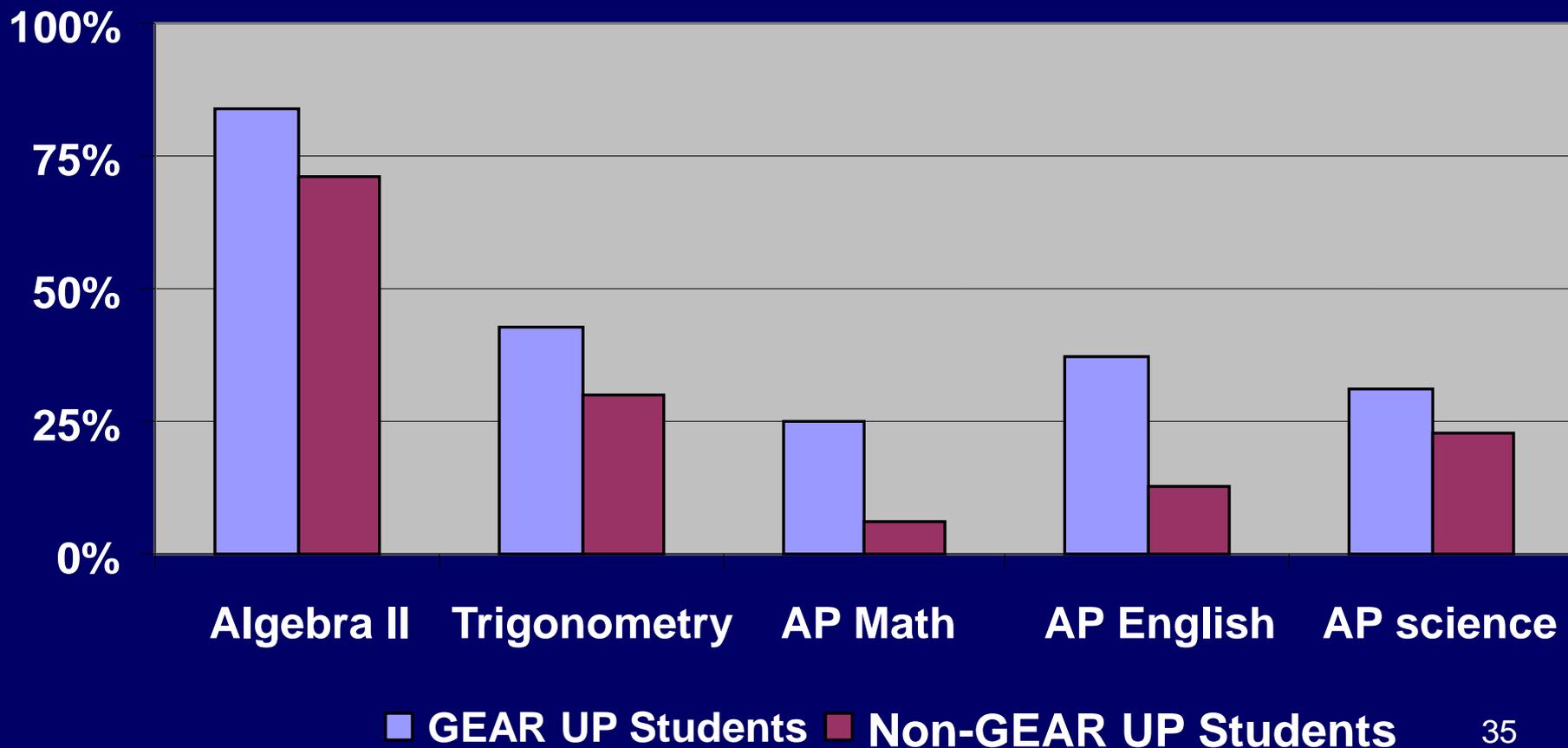
New Jersey State GEAR UP Average SAT Scores 2002-03



GEAR UP Outcomes – Students; Local



Fairmont State, WV GEAR UP Course Enrollment or Completion, 2004-05



Santa Ana, CA GEAR UP

Partnership schools in the Santa Ana GEAR UP program have increased the rigor of their high school exit standards by aligning them with The University of California/California State University entrance standards. GEAR UP initiated this school-wide reform that impacts both GEAR UP and non-GEAR UP students.

GEAR UP Outcomes – Student; Individual

Being a seventh grader, one does not think about the road to college. College itself seems unreachable. GEAR UP helped me realize that college is within reach. I recently was selected to receive a \$100,000 scholarship to attend the University of Michigan. Thank you GEAR UP!

- Ben Ruano

First-generation College Student,
GEAR UP High School Graduate,
College Student

For More Information

Alex Chough

National Council for Community and
Education Partnerships

202-530-1135

Alex_Chough@edpartnerships.org

www.edpartnerships.org