

Boosting Accountability in New York's Schools
How to Meet the Governor's Historic Challenge
March 8, 2007



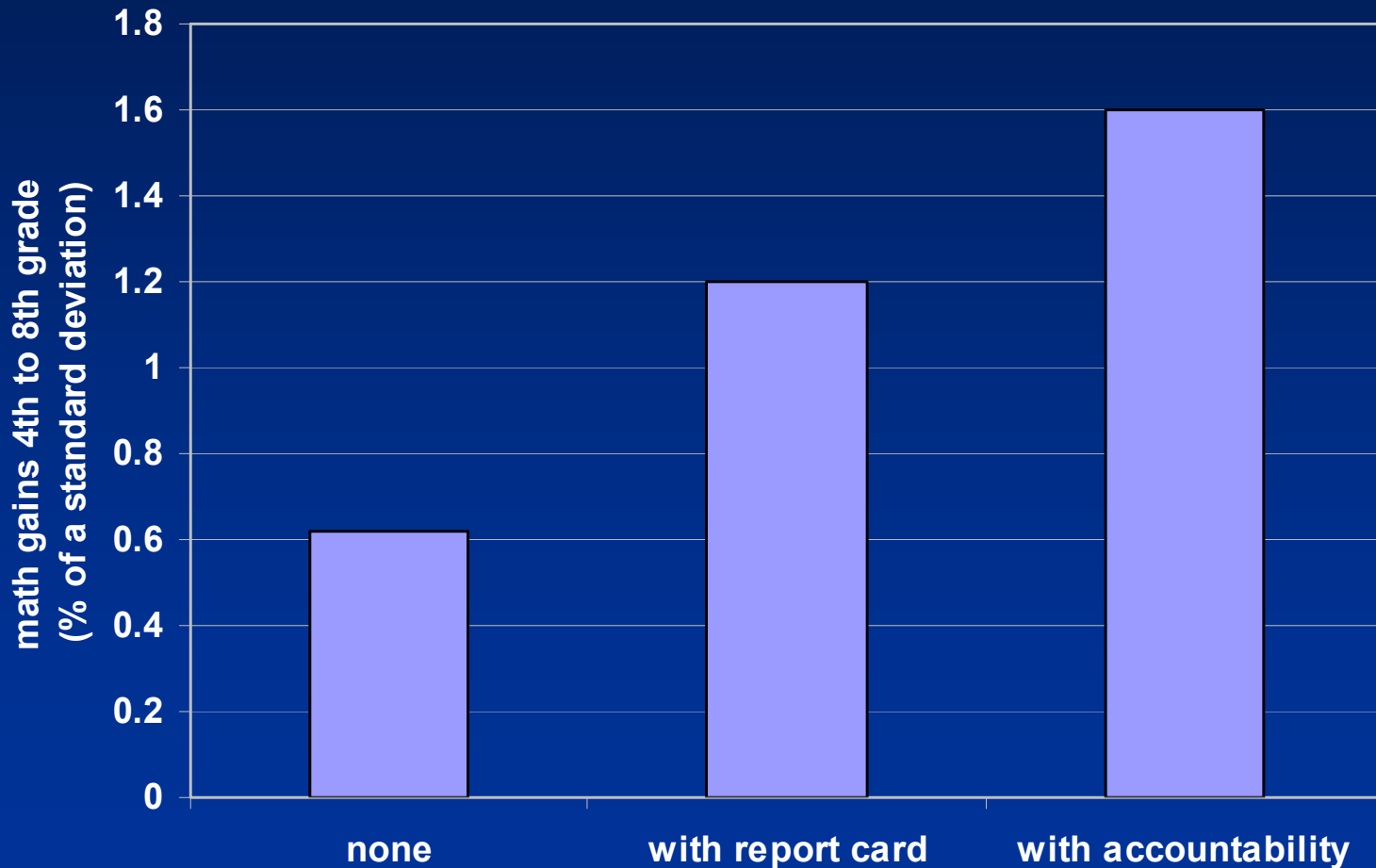
Ten Accountability Lessons:
What Works and What Does Not

Paul E. Peterson – Harvard University

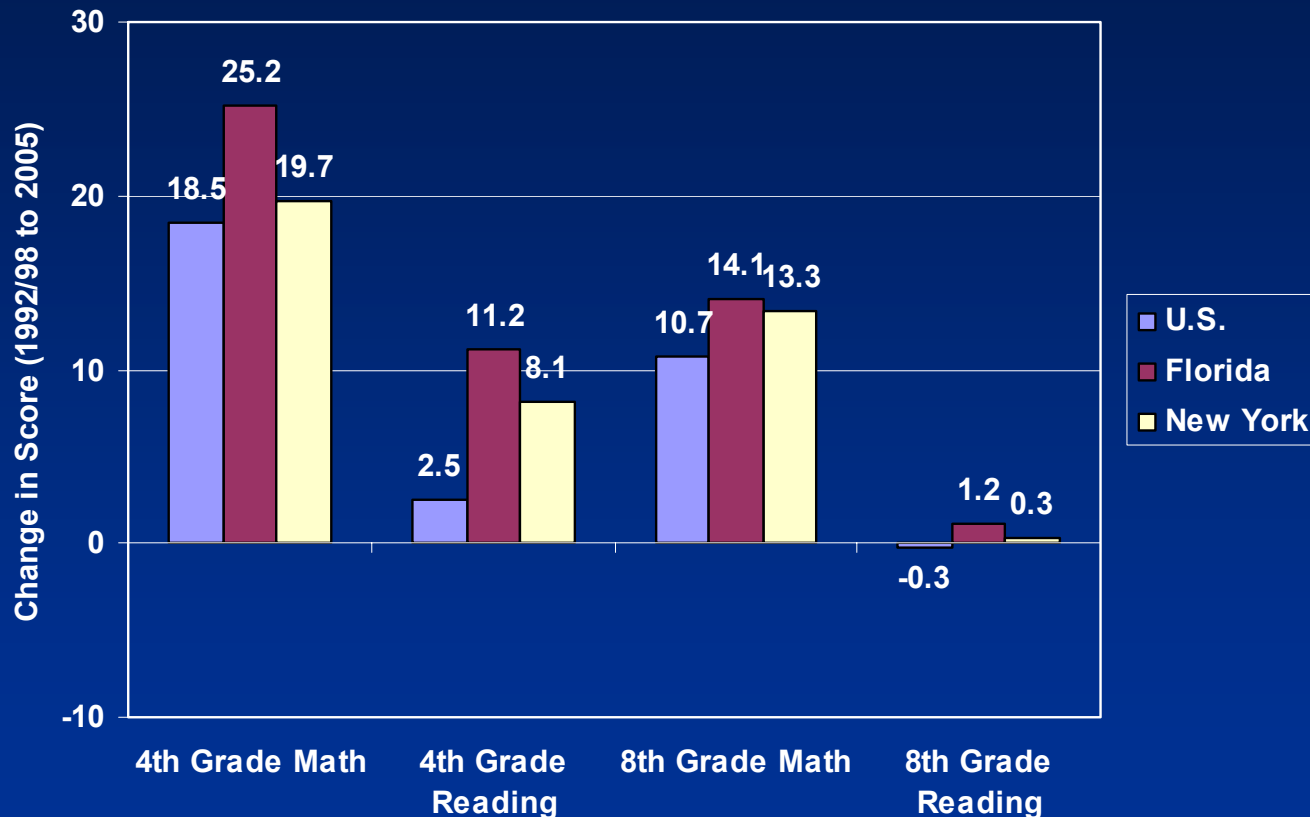
Lesson 1:

Overall, accountability seems to have positive effects.

Effect of State Accountability Systems on NAEP Performance

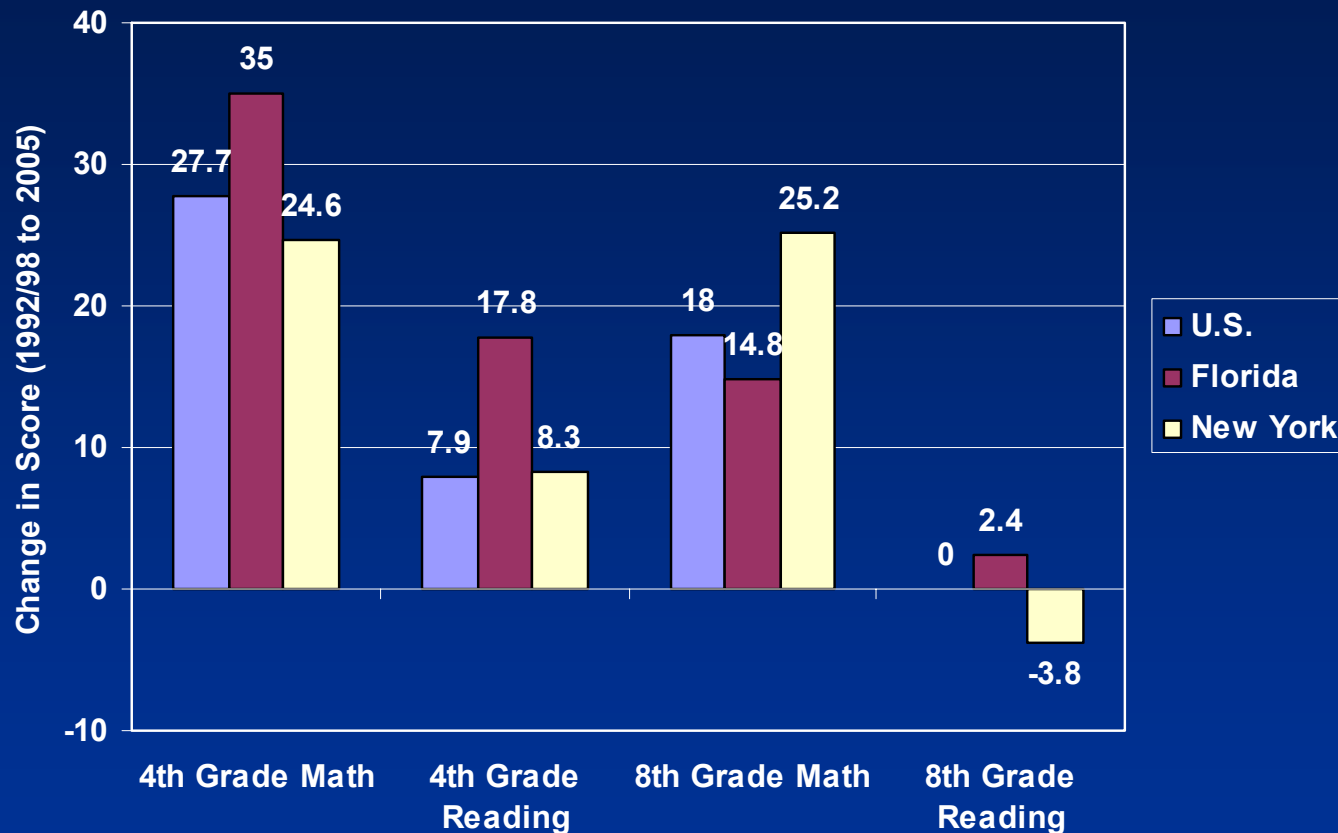


Change in NAEP Test Scores (All Students, 1992/98 - 2005)



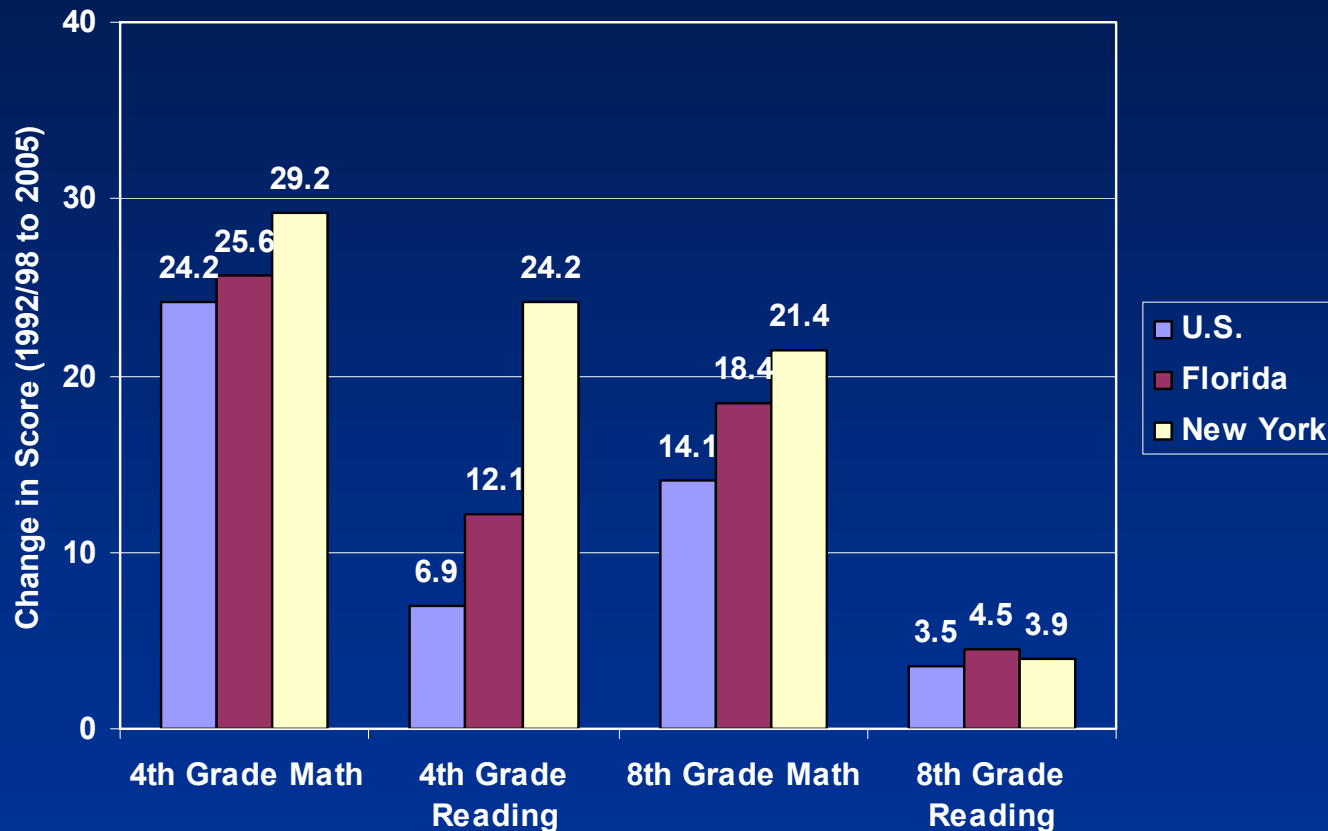
Note: For 8th Grade Reading, comparison years are 1998 and 2005; for all others, 1992 and 2005. Stars denote changes in the state scores that were significantly higher or lower than the changes in the U.S. overall.

Change in NAEP Scores (Black Students, 1992/98 - 2005)



Note: For 8th Grade Reading, comparison years are 1998 and 2005; for all others, 1992 and 2005. Stars denote changes in the state scores that were significantly higher or lower than the changes in the U.S. overall.

Change in NAEP Scores (Hispanic Students, 1992/98 - 2005)



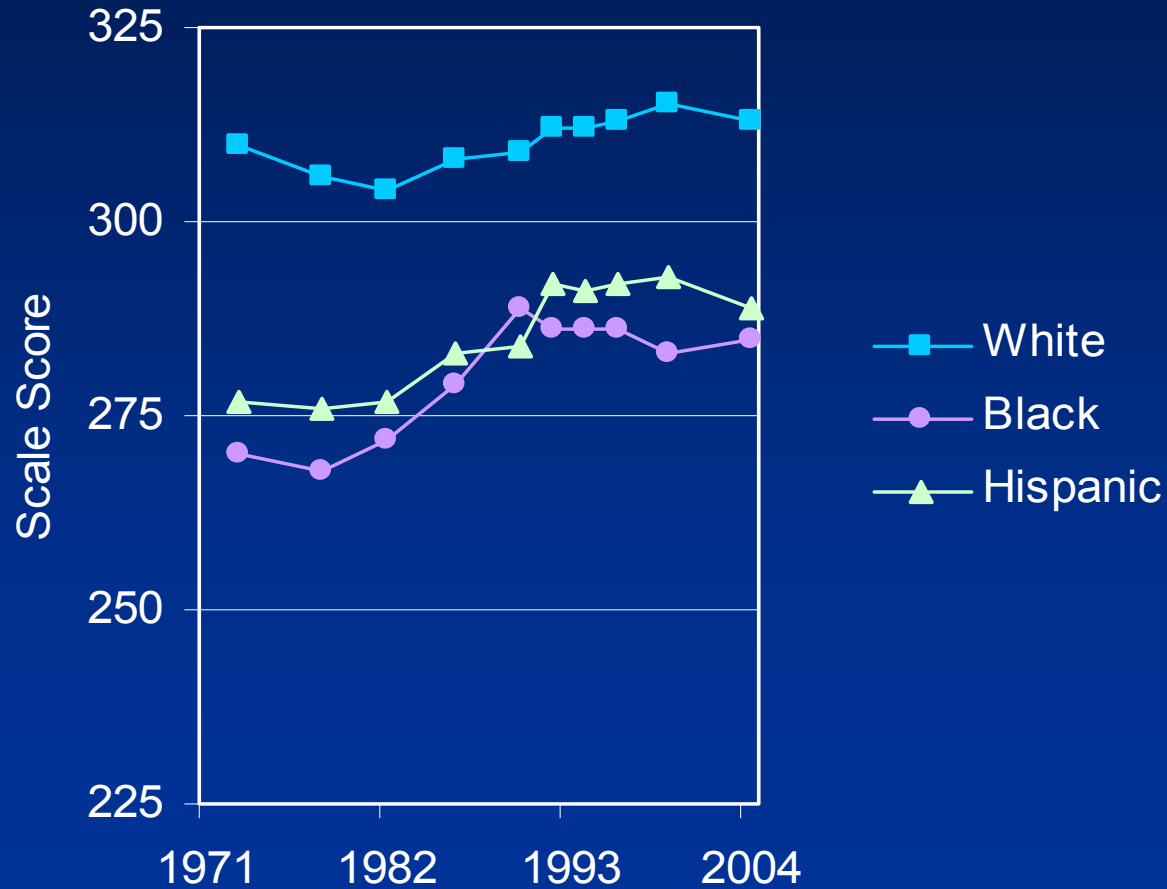
Note: For 8th Grade Reading, comparison years are 1998 and 2005; for all others, 1992 and 2005.

Lesson 2:

Accountability, as we know it, is not transforming schools.

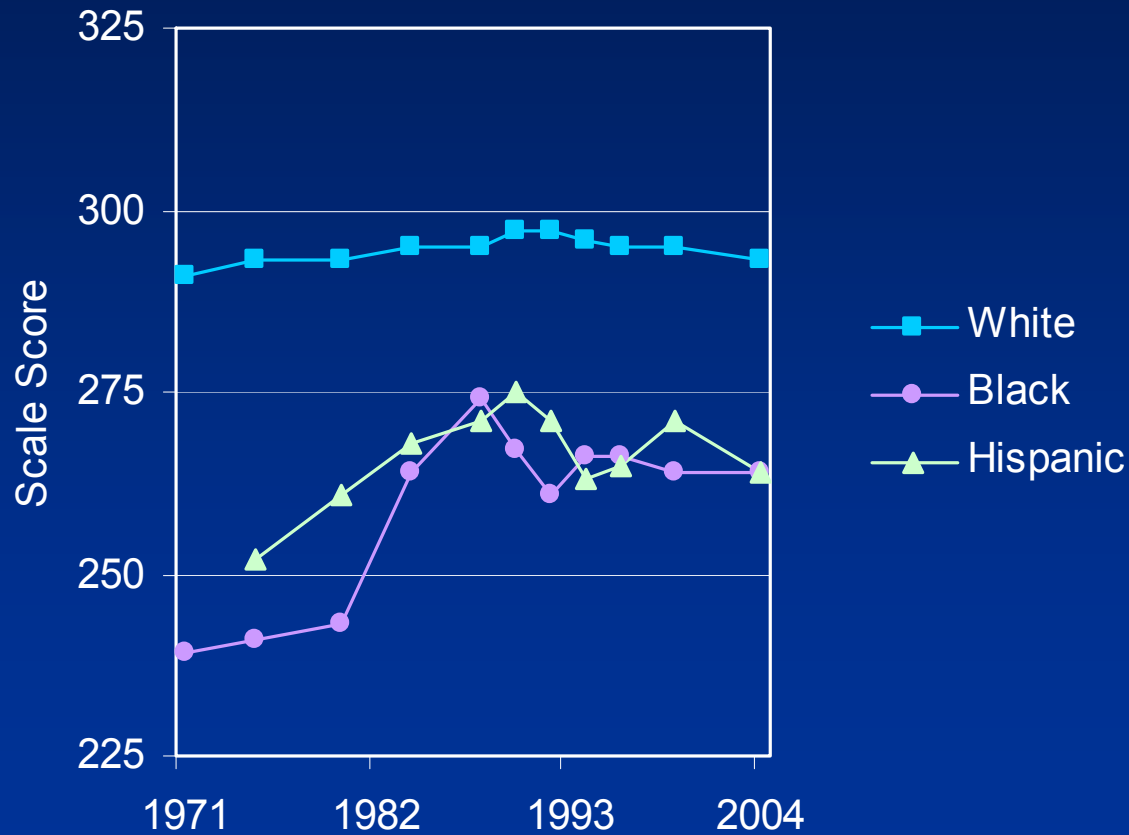
National Assessment of Educational Progress, 1971-2004

Age 17, Math



National Assessment of Educational Progress, 1971-2004

Age 17, Reading



Lesson 3:

Accountability is cost effective.

Lesson 4:

NCLB's measuring stick is flawed – standards vary by state.

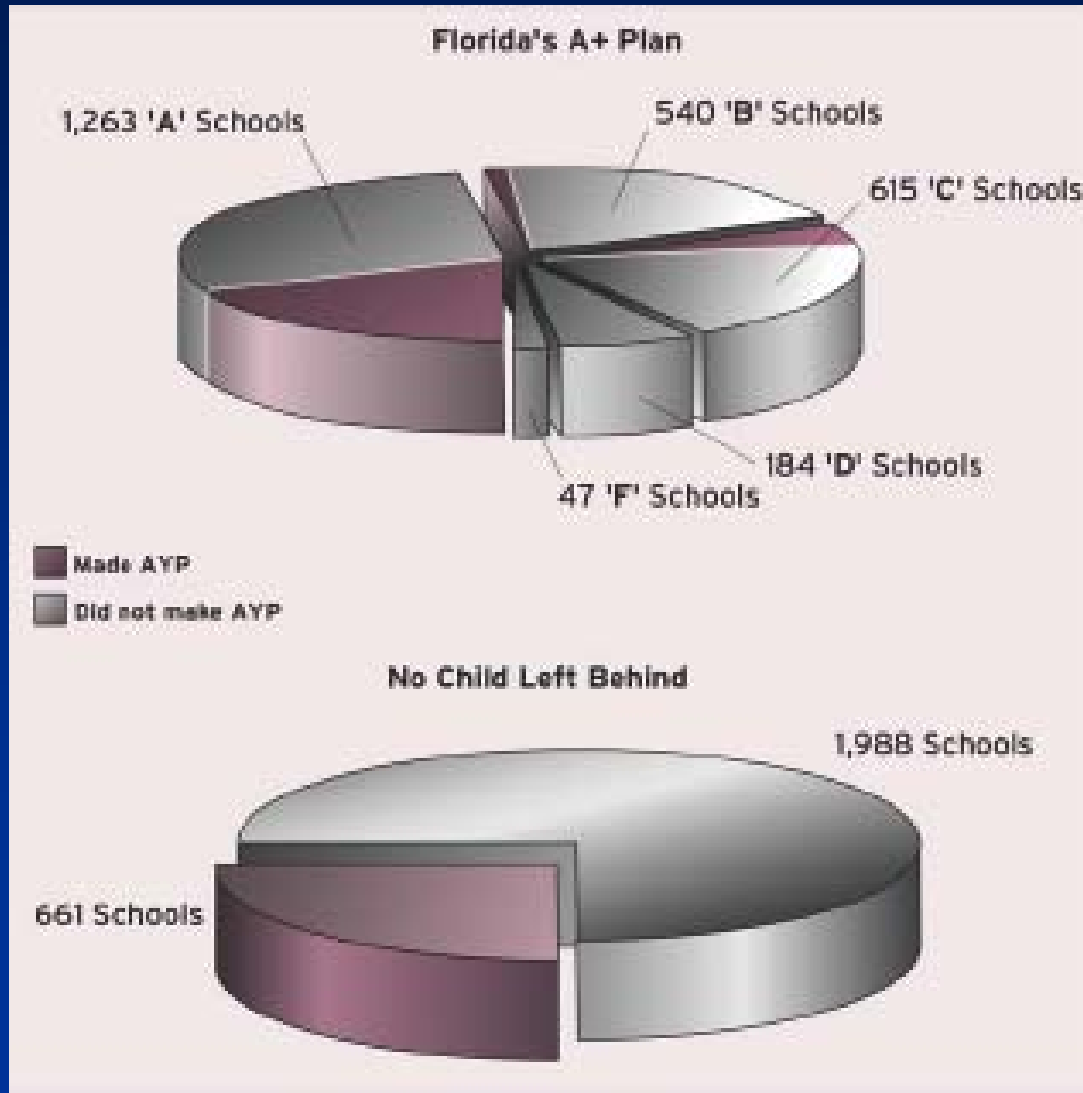
Variation in State Proficiency Standards, 2005

	4th grade Math Reading		8th grade Math Reading		OVERALL 2005
Massachusetts	A	A	A		A
Maine	A	A	A	A	A
South Carolina	A	A	A	A	A
Wyoming	A	A	B	A	A
Missouri	B		A		A
Hawaii	A	C+	A	B	B+
California	C+	B		B	B-
Arkansas	B	B+	B	C	B-
Rhode Island	C+	C	B-	B+	B-
New Mexico	B-	C+	B	C	C+
Kentucky		C	B-		C+
Montana	B-	C	C	C+	C
Florida	C	C	C-	B	C
Washington	B-	C-			C
Nevada			C	C+	C
New York	D-	C	C	B+	C
Oregon			C	C	C
Pennsylvania			C-	C+	C
District of Columbia			C	C+	C
Ohio	C+	C	C	D+	C
New Jersey	C-	C-	C	C	C
North Dakota	C-	C	C	C	C
Illinois			C	C-	C
Louisiana	C-	C-	C-	C	C
Connecticut	C-	B-	D	C-	C
Maryland	C-	D+	C	C	C
Delaware			C	D	C-
Indiana	C-	C	D	C-	C-
Michigan	C	D+	C-		C-
Kansas	C-			D+	C-
Wisconsin	C	D+	D+	D	C-
Iowa	D+	C-	D	C	D+
Arizona	D	C-	D+	D+	D+
South Dakota	D+	D	C-	D+	D+
Utah	C-	C-	D	D	D+
Alaska	C-	D	C-	D-	D+
Texas	D+	D+	C	F	D+
Virginia			D-	C-	D+
Idaho	D-	D	D+	D	D
Colorado	D-	D+	D	D-	D
Nebraska	D-	D	D-	D-	D-
Alabama	D-	F	D-	D	D-
Mississippi	F	F	D+	C-	D-
Georgia	D	F	D-	F	D-
West Virginia	D-	D-	F	F	D-
North Carolina	D-	D	F	F	F
Oklahoma	F	F	F	F	F
Tennessee	F	F	F	F	F

Lesson 5:

NCLB's measuring stick conflicts with state accountability measures.

Comparison with Florida's Measuring Stick

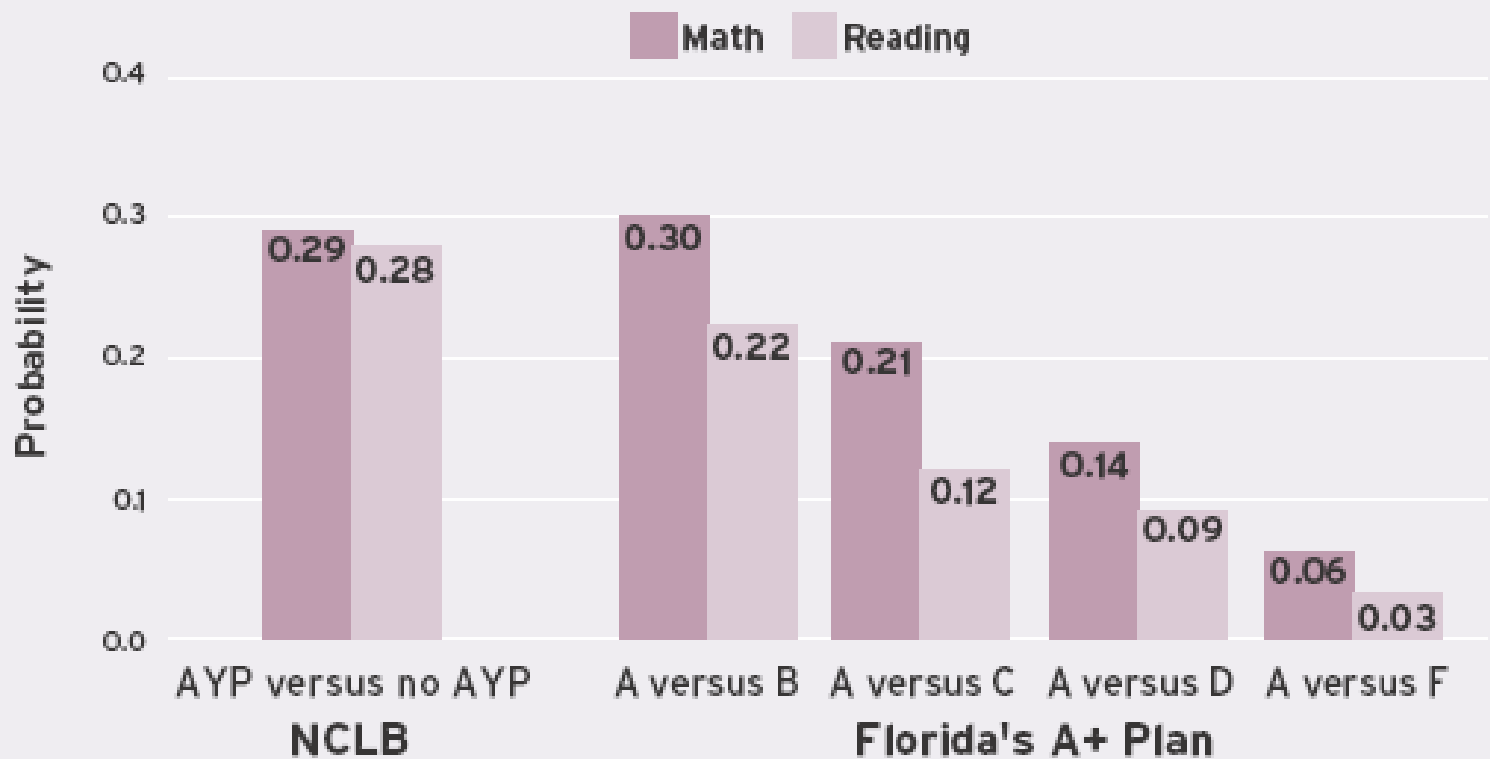


Lesson 6:

NCLB does a poor job of identifying good schools.

Accuracy of Measuring Stick

Error Rate: Probability That a School Receiving a Higher Evaluation Will Actually Have Lower Student Achievement Gains



Lesson 7:

For accountability to work, states need to build a data base that can track students over time.

Lesson 8:

Schools respond if accountability
contains a penalty.

Florida Student Gains from Being Threatened by the Voucher Option

10 percent of a standard deviation

*(about half the size of the class size reduction,
at little or no cost)*

Lesson 9:

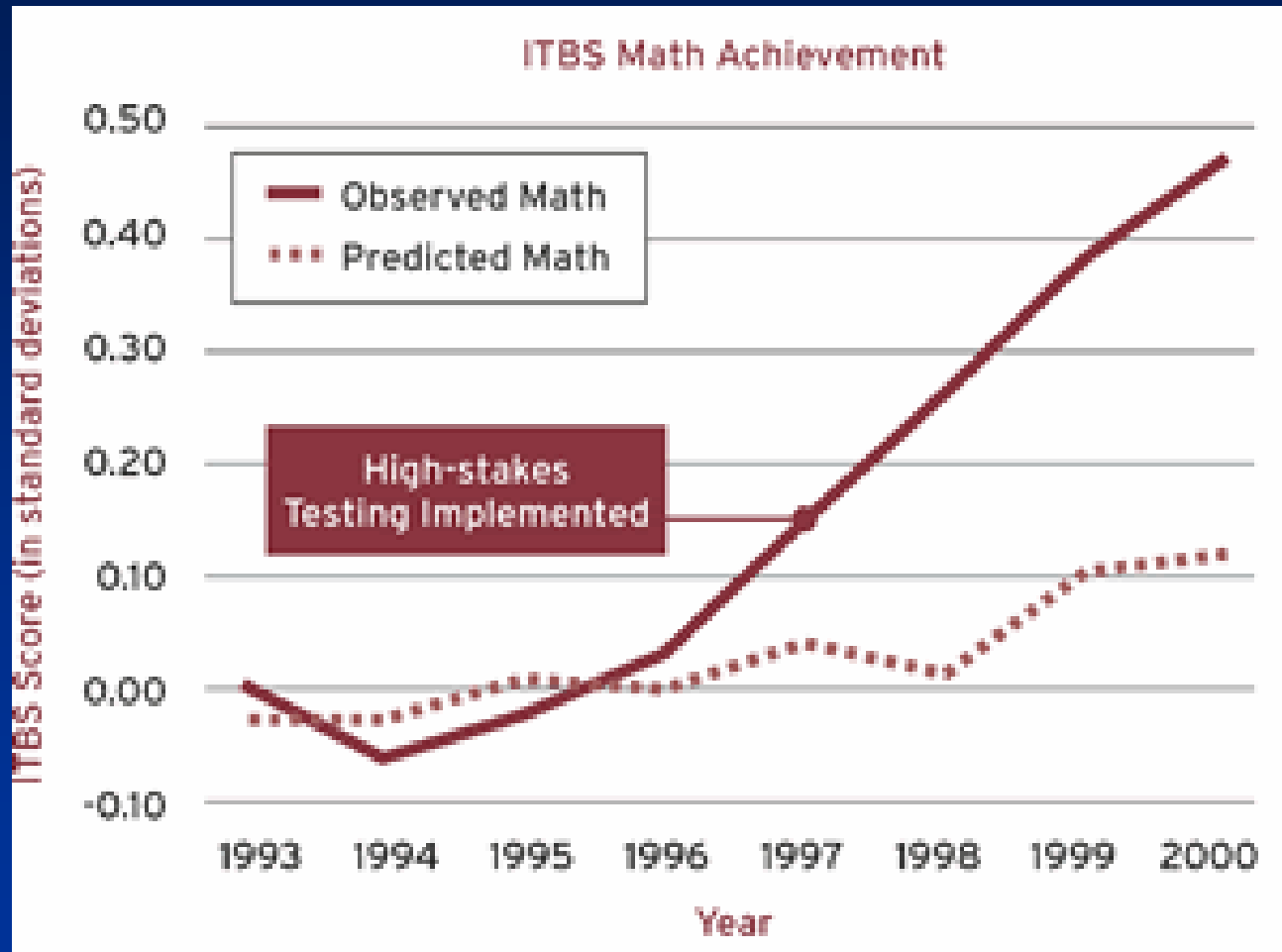
Student accountability is more effective than school accountability.

“The student is the crucial actor.

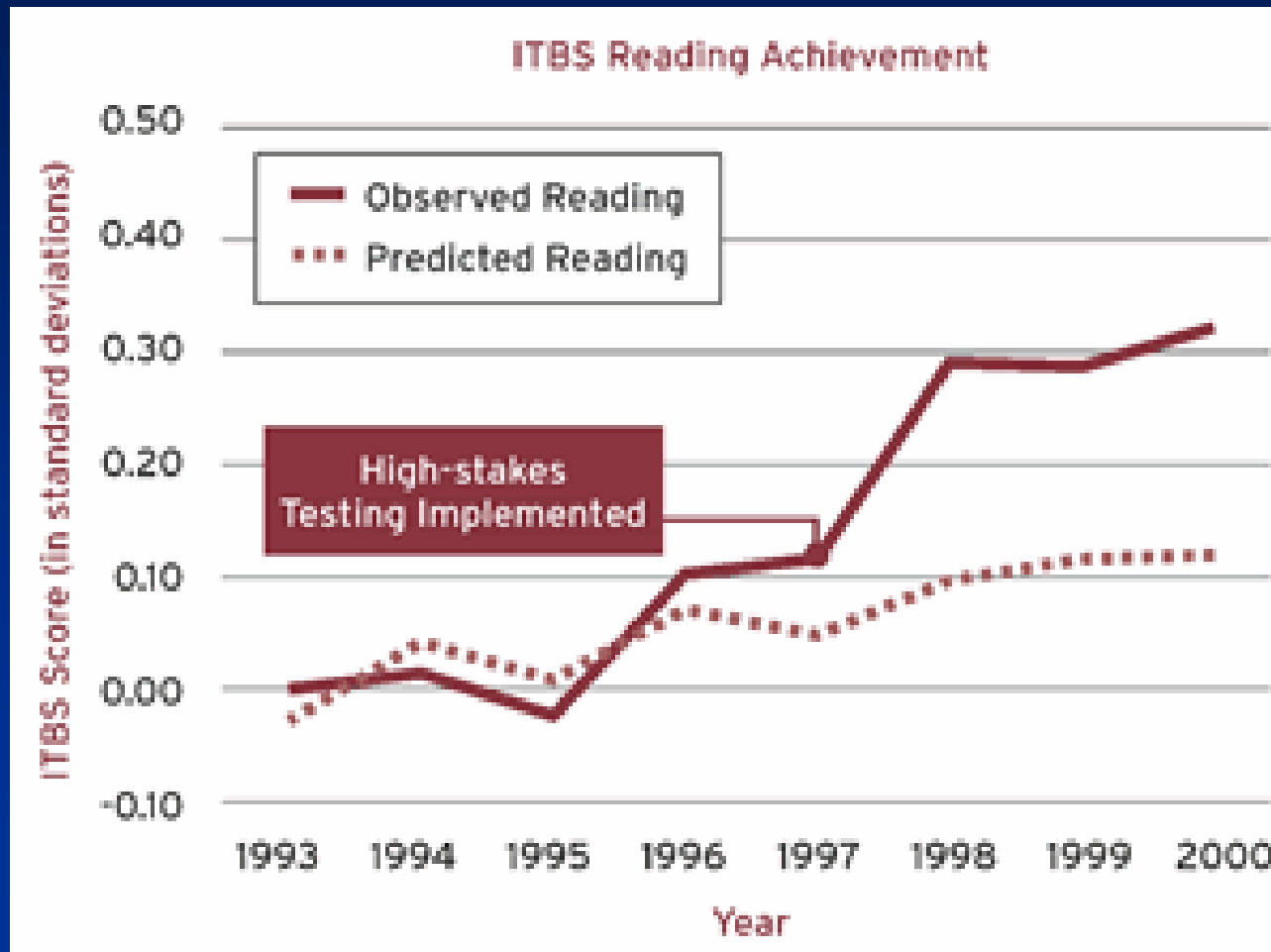
Whether we adults like it or not, he or she decides what has been purveyed.”

- TheodoreSizer

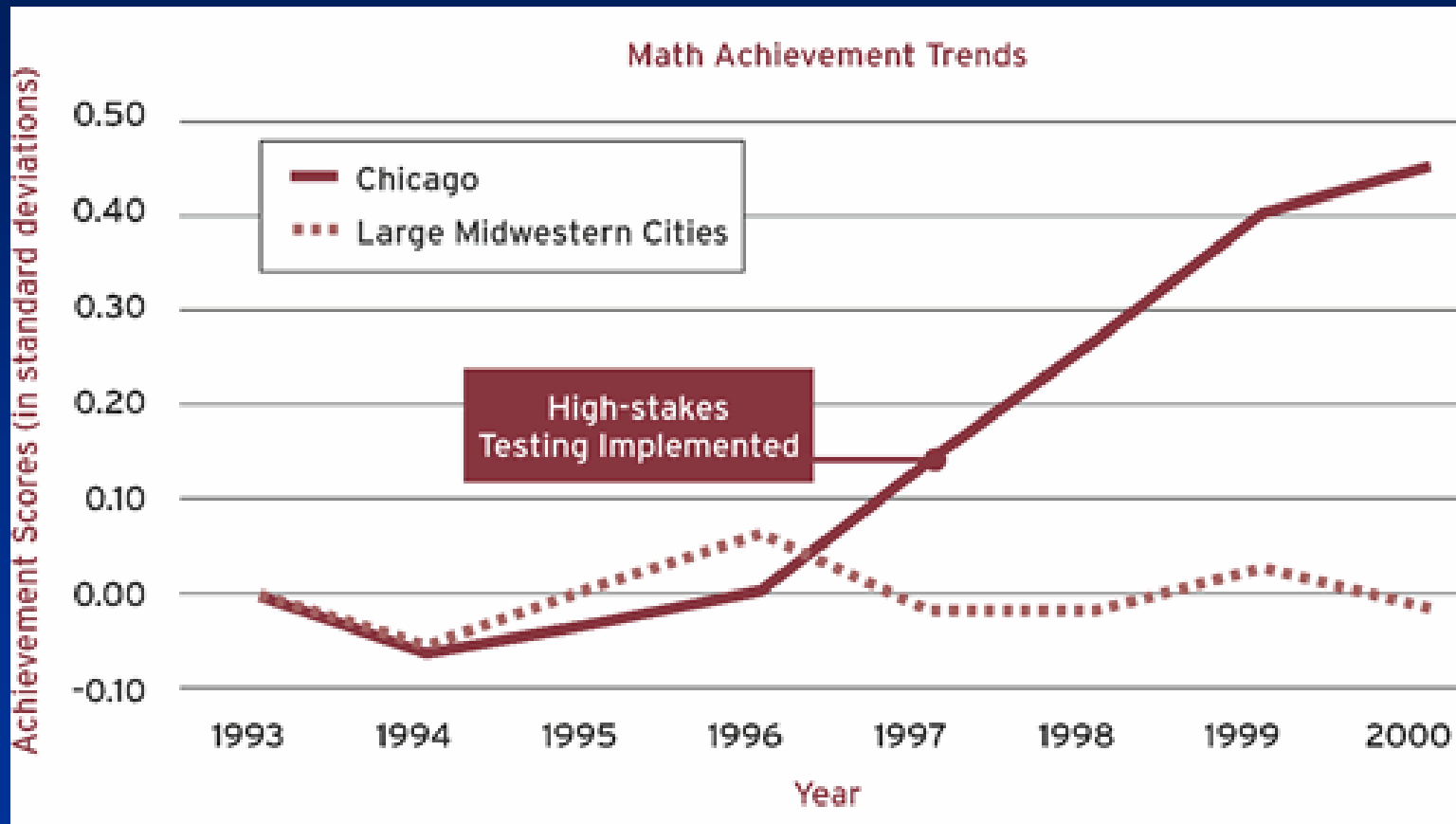
High Stakes Testing in Chicago Math Results



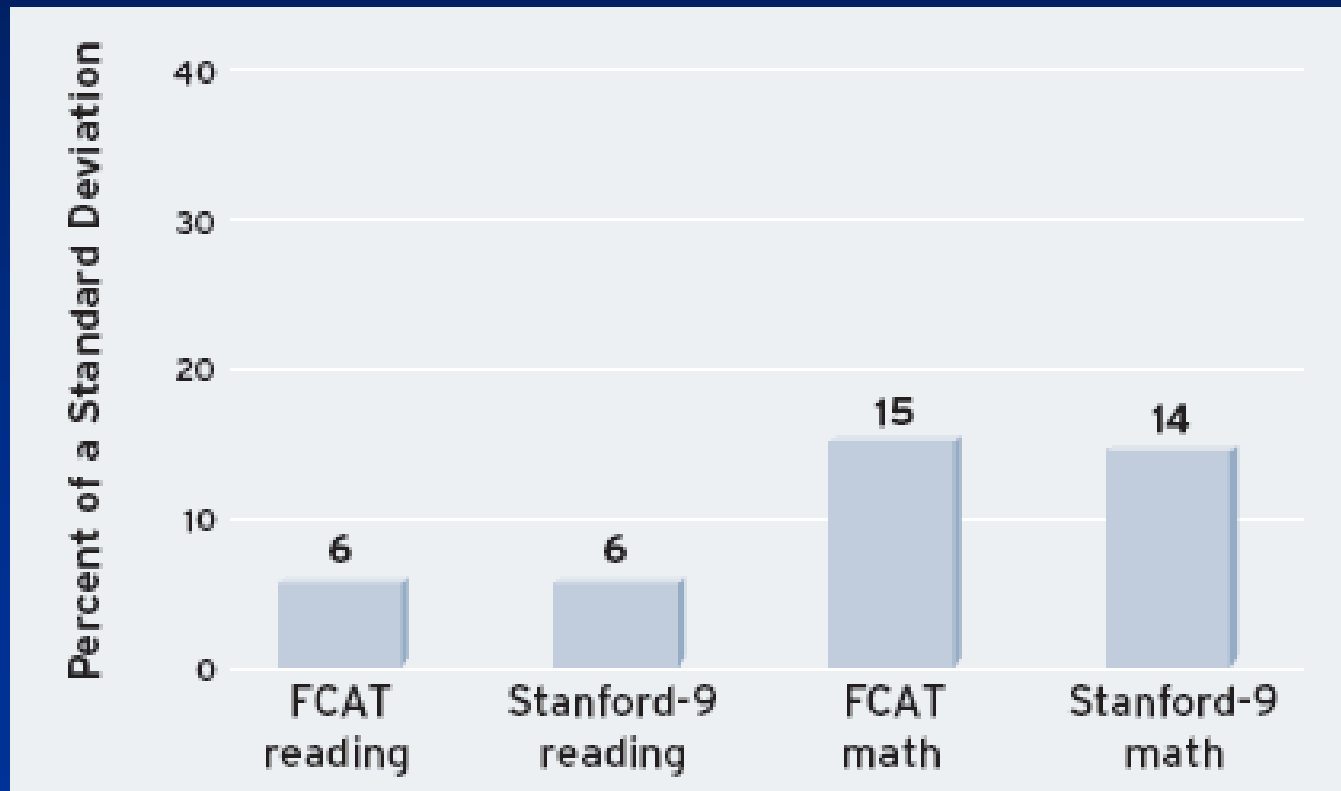
High Stakes Testing in Chicago Reading Results



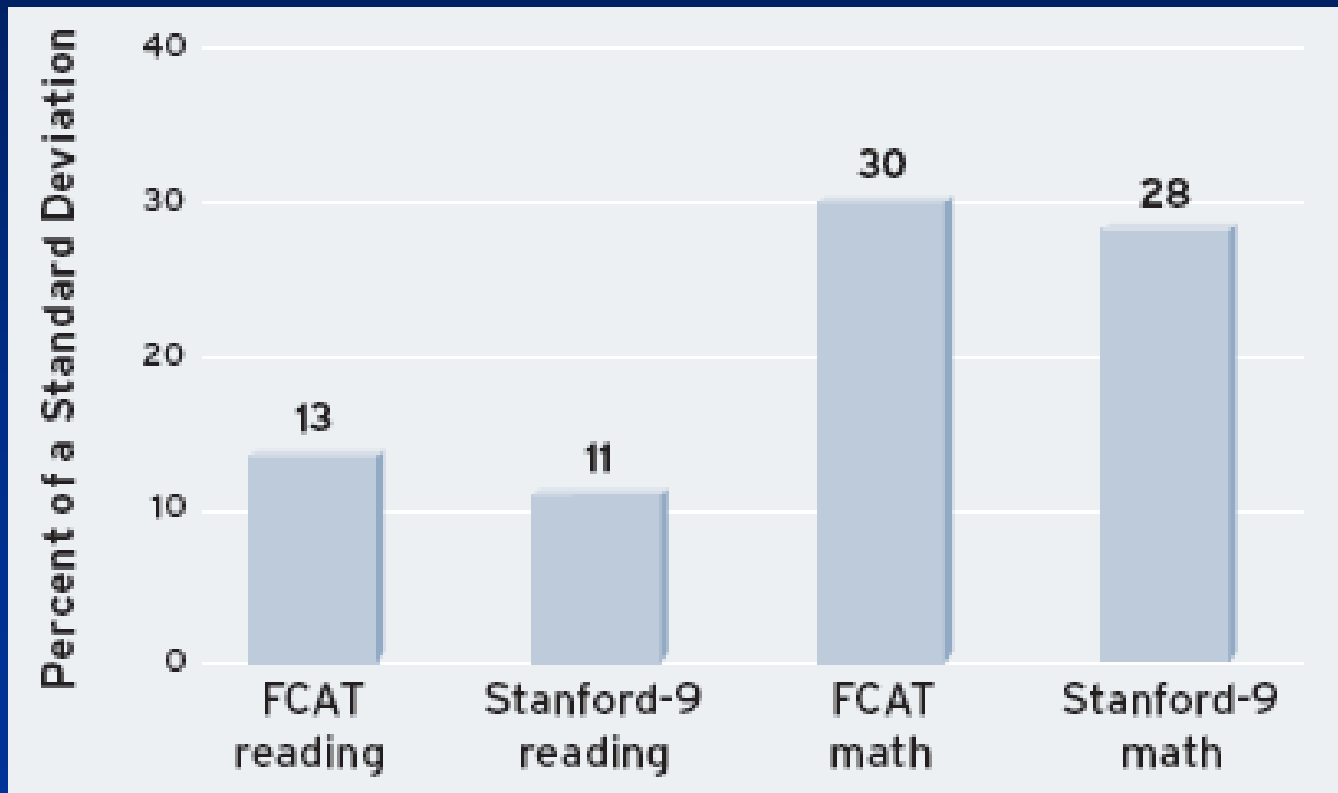
Achievement Trend – Chicago vs. Other Large Midwestern Cities



Change in Test Score Gains Resulting from Florida's Retention Policy – Low Performing Students

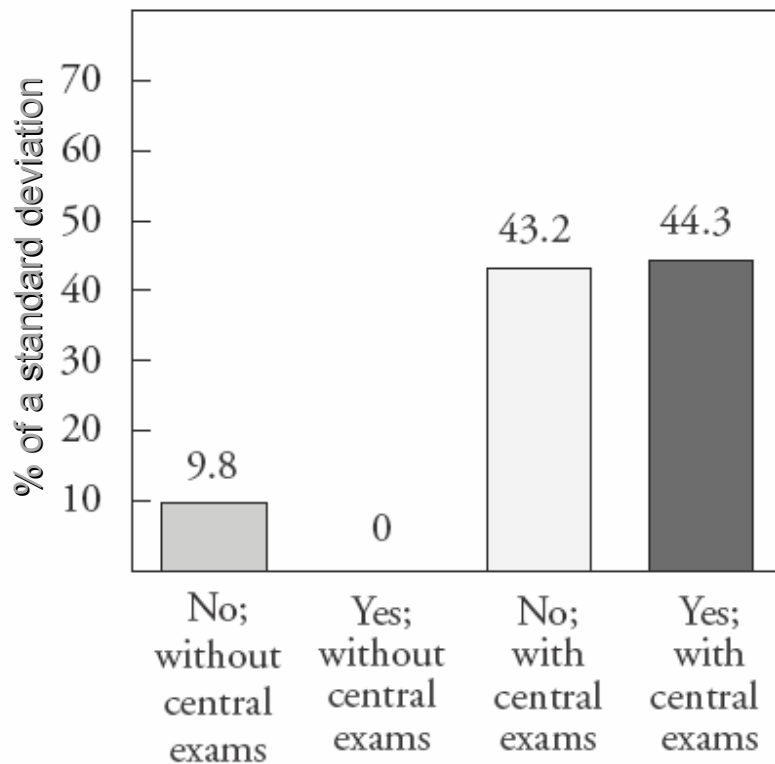


Change in Test Score Gains Resulting from Florida's Retention Policy – Retained Students

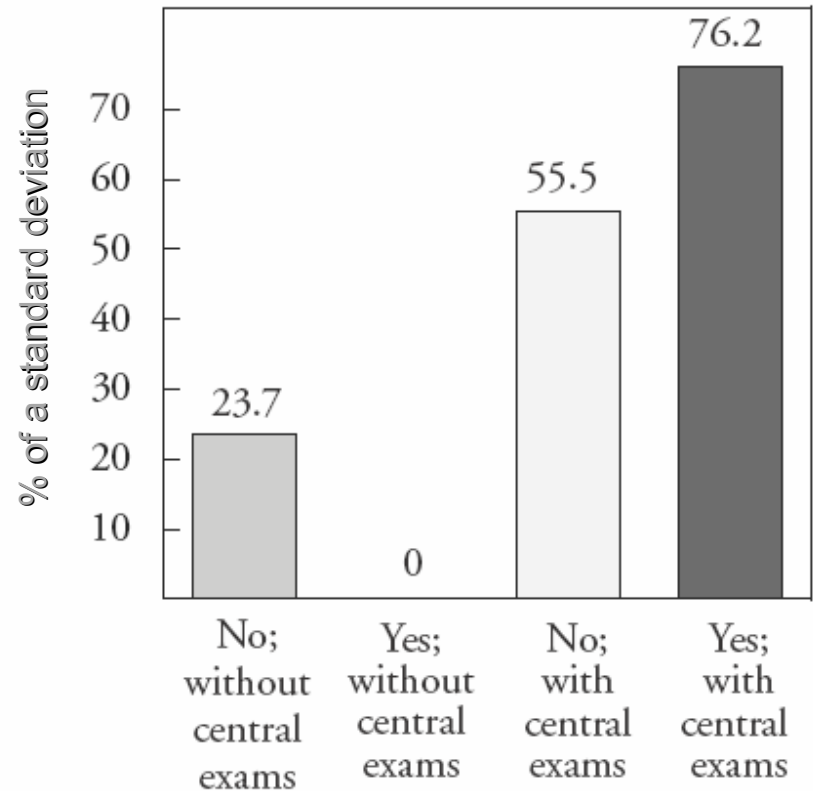


Impact of School Autonomy and Central Exams on Math Test Scores

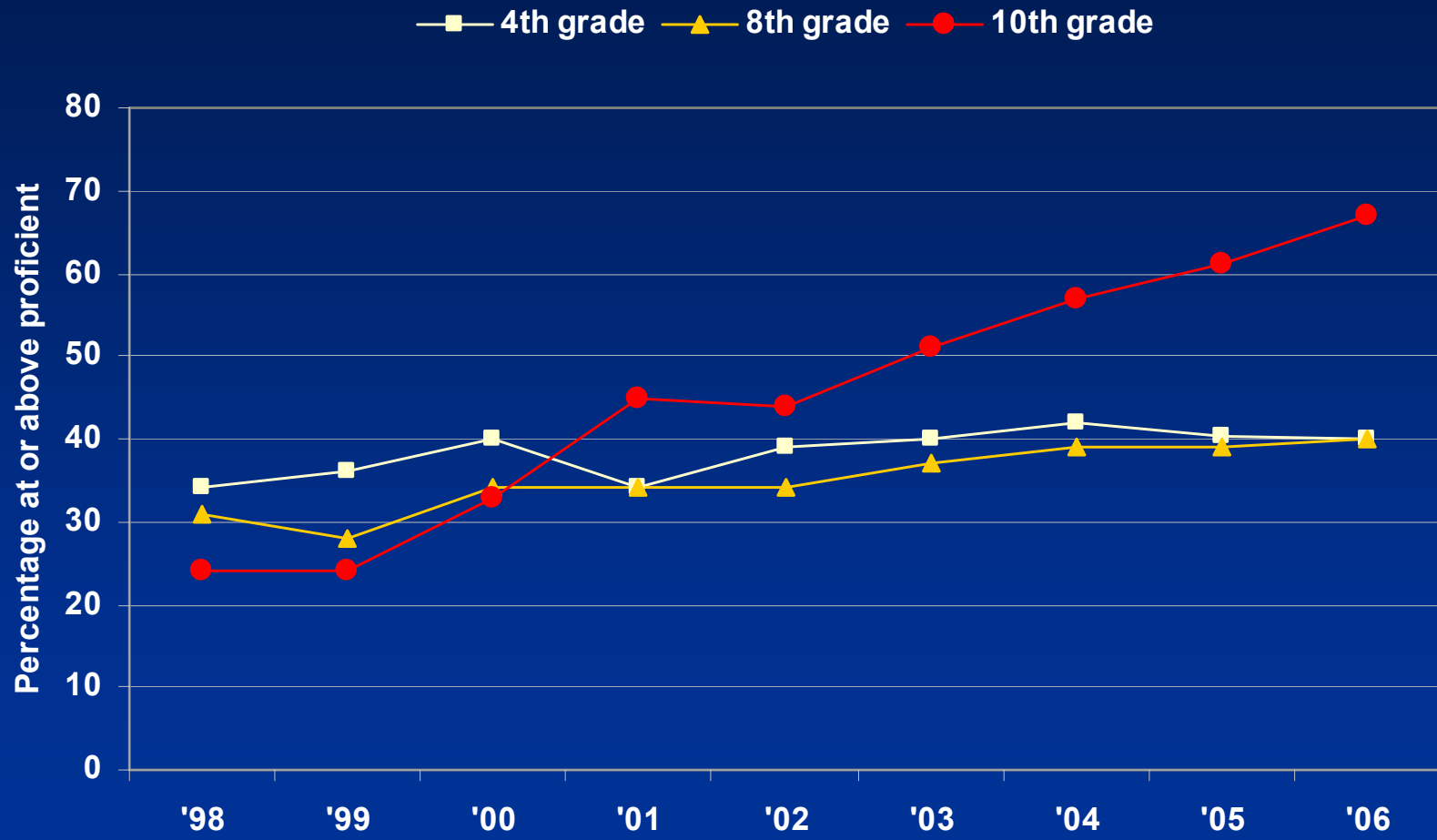
A. Does school have budget autonomy?



B. Does school have salary autonomy?



Statewide MCAS Math Results



Lesson 10:

Principals and teachers, not schools,
need to be held accountable.