



# **Commission on No Child Left Behind**

**Testimony of Governor Mitt Romney, Massachusetts**

**Thursday, August 31, 2006**

# A Look at Education

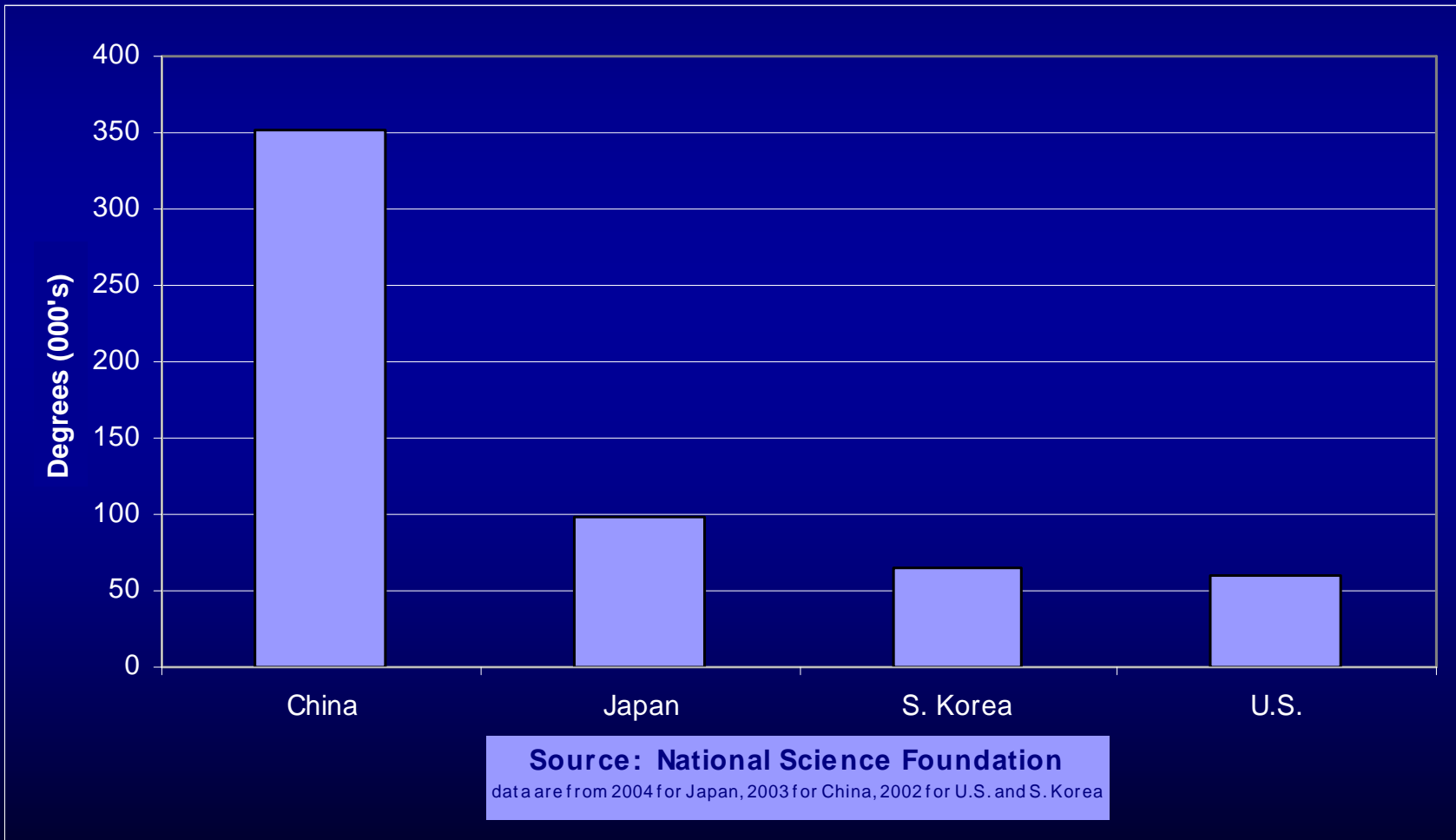
- What children become, a nation becomes
- A nation's primary task: the development of its children
- We have room for improvement

# America's Excellence Gap

- America's 15 year olds rank 24<sup>th</sup> out of 29 OECD countries in mathematics
- America's high school seniors rank in the bottom 10% in math, the bottom 25% in science

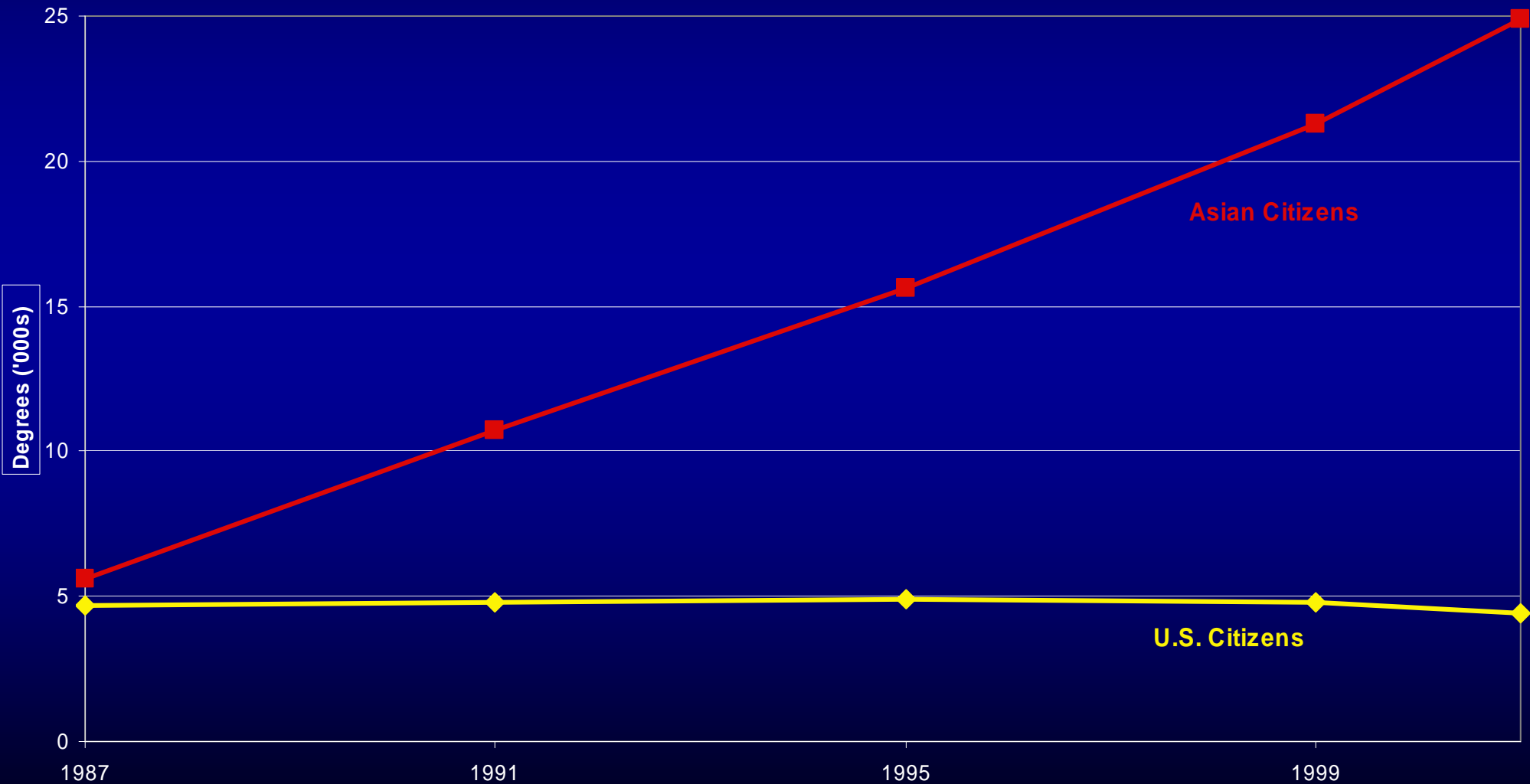
# America's Excellence Gap

## Annual Engineering Degrees (2002)



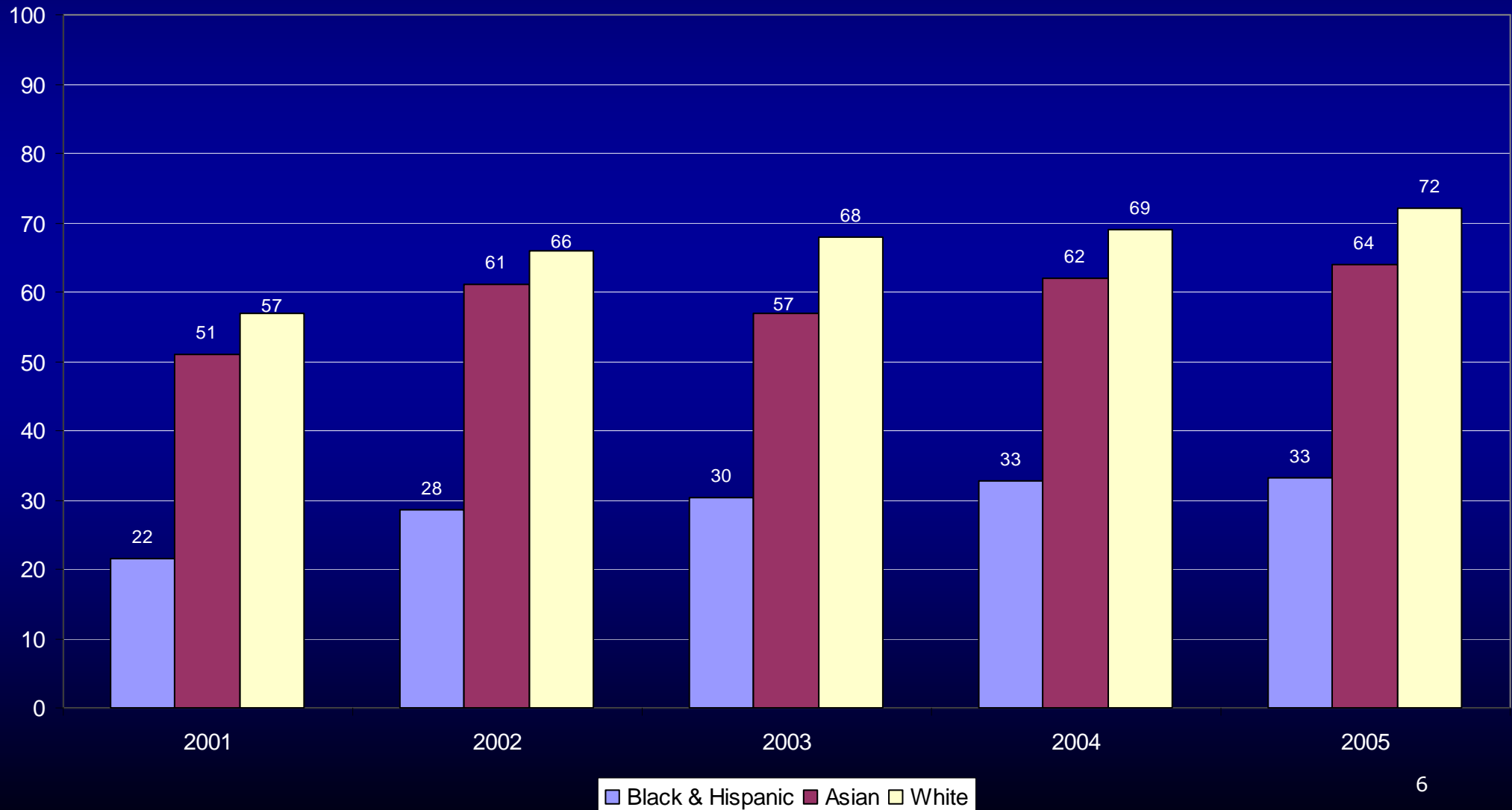
# America's Excellence Gap

## Annual Ph.D.'s in Physical Science, Engineering



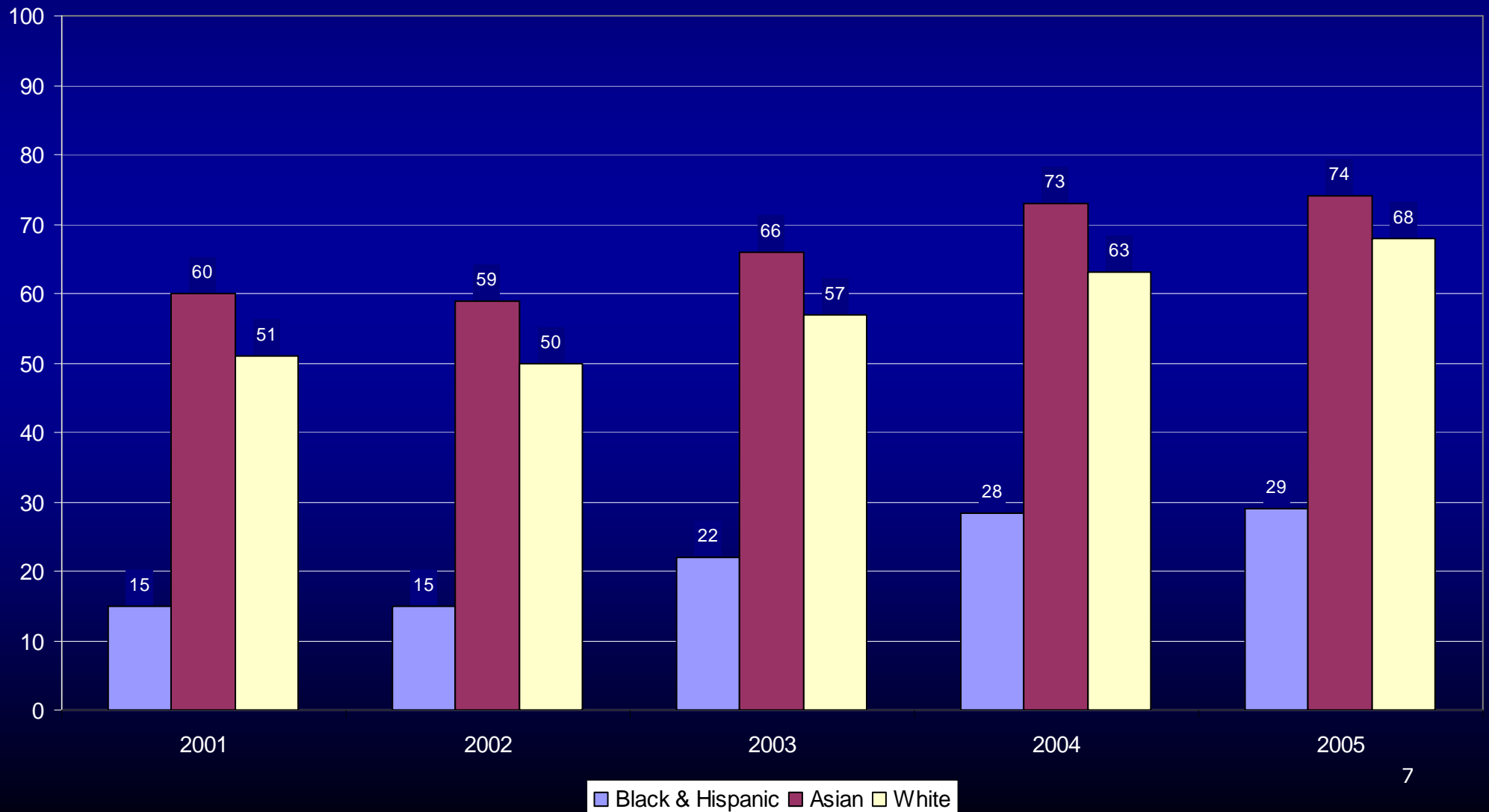
# America's Achievement Gap

## Proficiency Rate in English, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade (Massachusetts MCAS)



# America's Achievement Gap

## Proficiency Rate in Math, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade (Massachusetts MCAS)



# American Education

- Our excellence gap dulls our edge for invention and innovation
- Our achievement gap is the civil rights issue of our generation
- Troubling “leading indicators”

# Massachusetts Education Reform

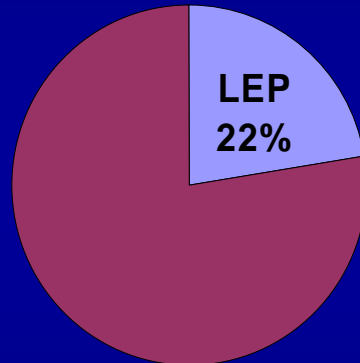
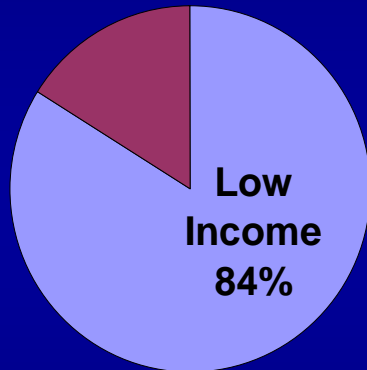
## Actions Already Taken:

- Rigorous academic standards
- Graduation exam, student testing
  - Adding science by 2010
- Charter schools
- Foundation funding
- Merit scholarships
- English immersion

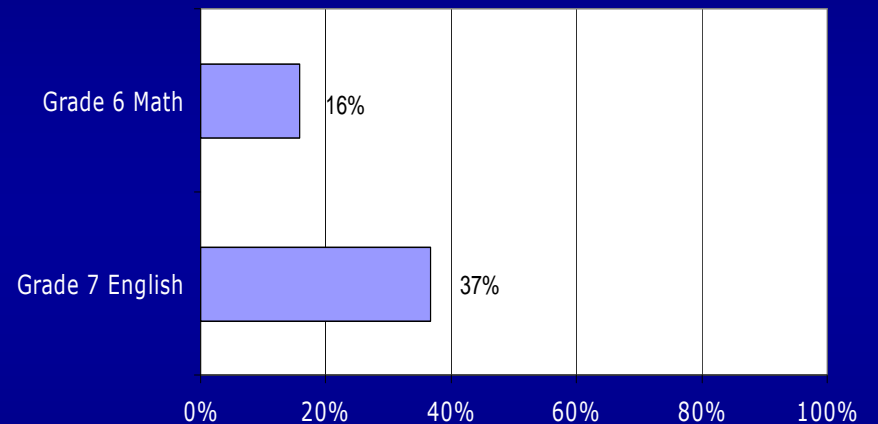
# Choice Works

Charter vs. district schools:  
similar students, dramatically different results

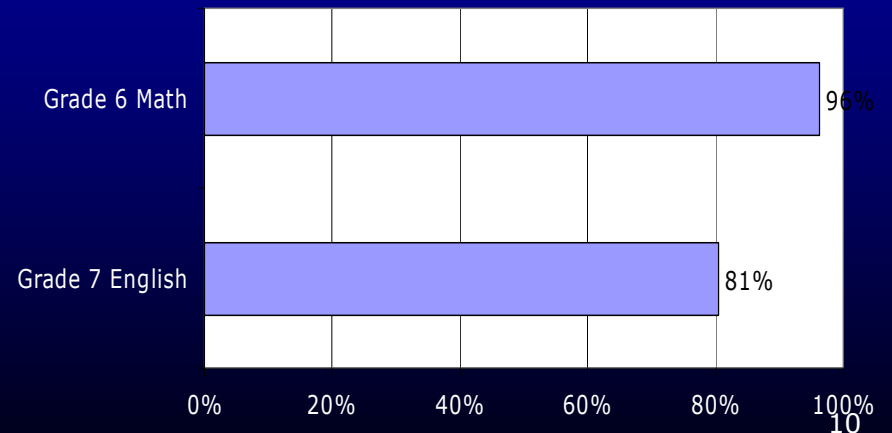
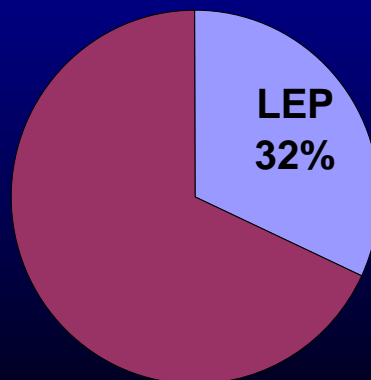
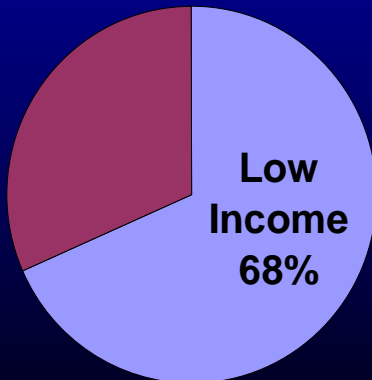
## Lawrence District Schools



## Students Scoring Proficient or Advanced, MCAS 2005



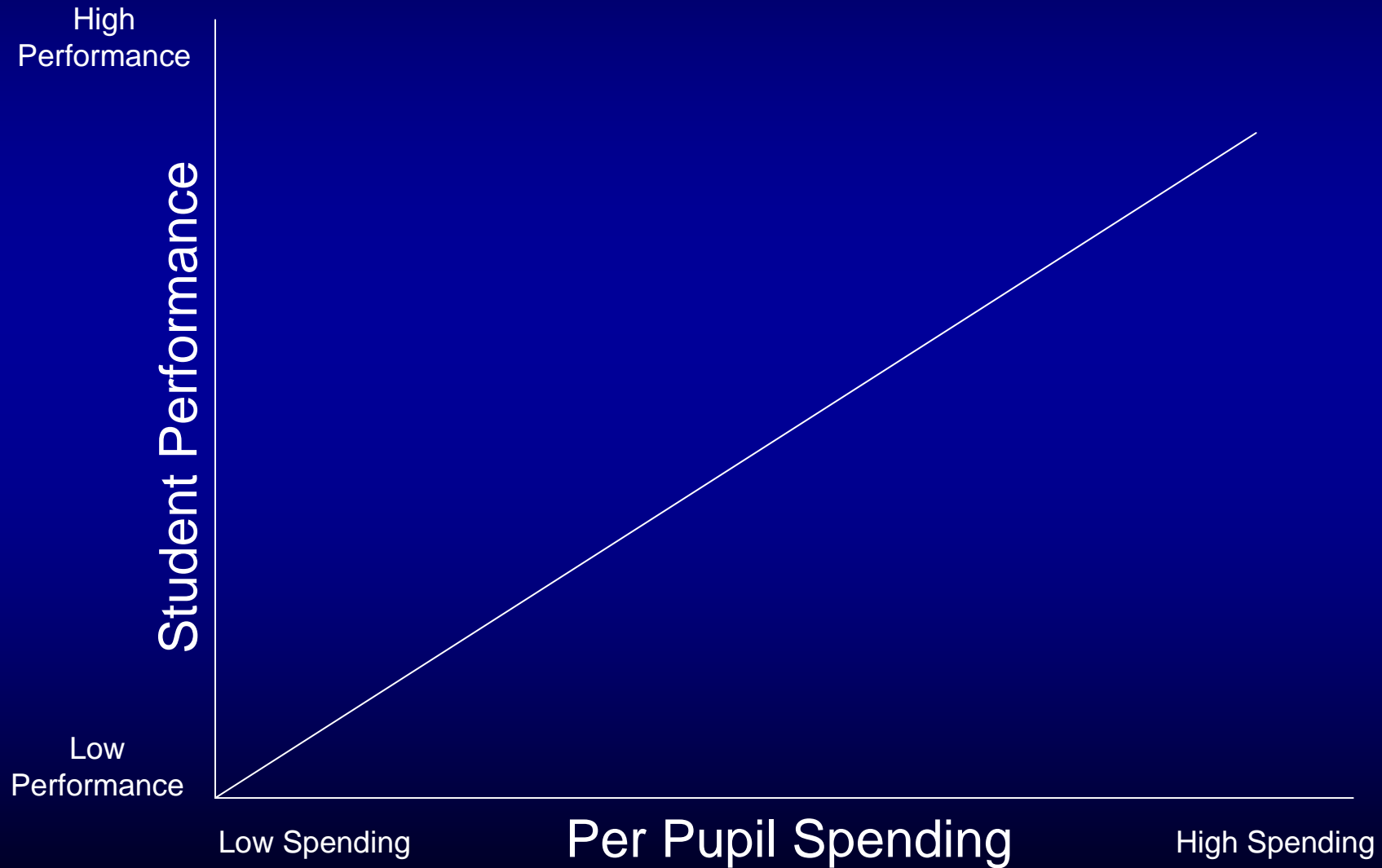
## Community Day Charter School, Lawrence



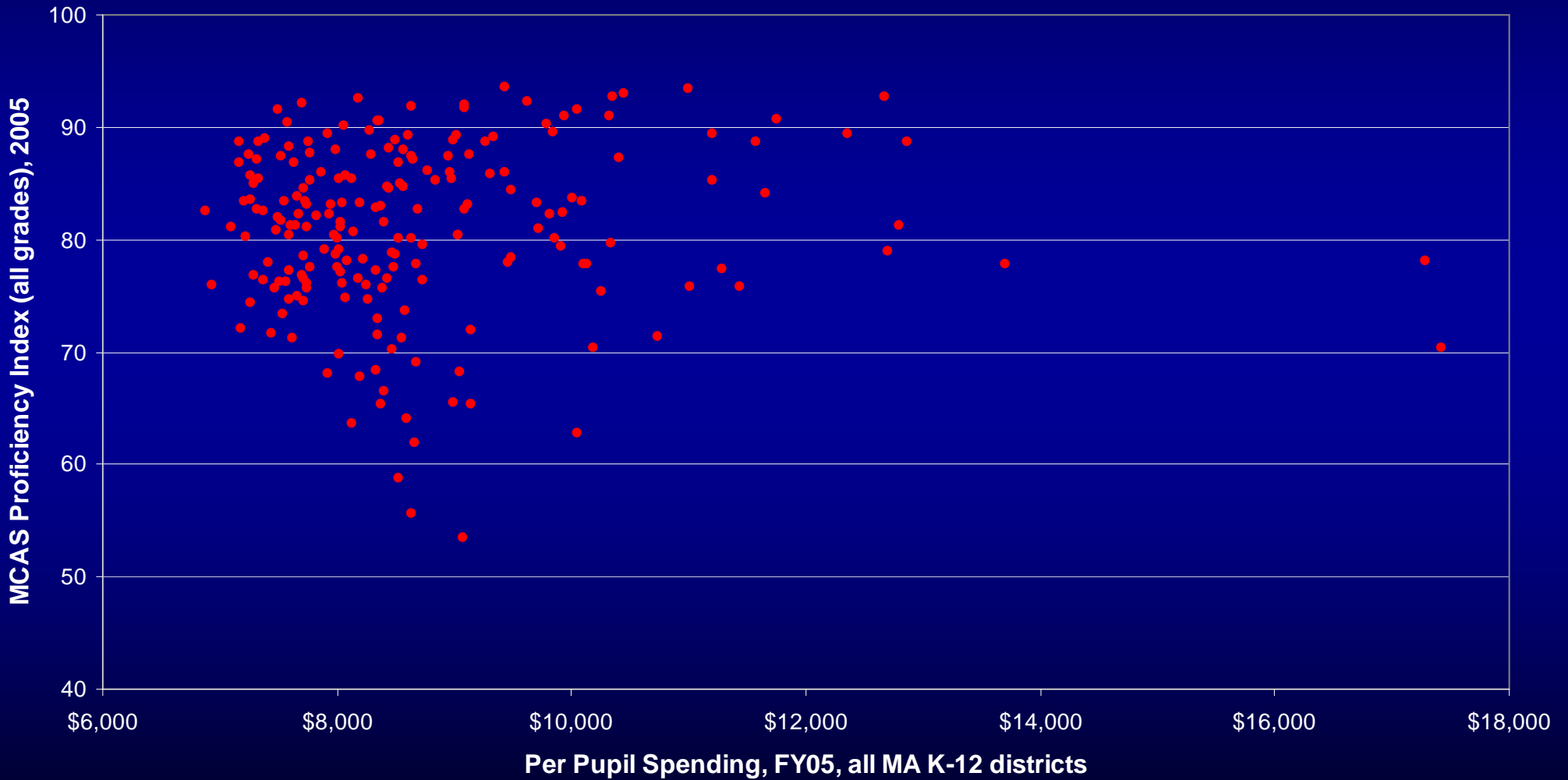
# Improving Our Schools

Reform	Grogan Commission	Mass Insight	Teaching Commission	AEI Harvard	Teachers Unions
Faster intervention	✓	✓	NA	NA	
Suspend union rules	✓	✓	NA	✓	
Performance pay	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Increase math and science teachers	NA	✓	✓	✓	
Spend more money					✓
Smaller classes					✓

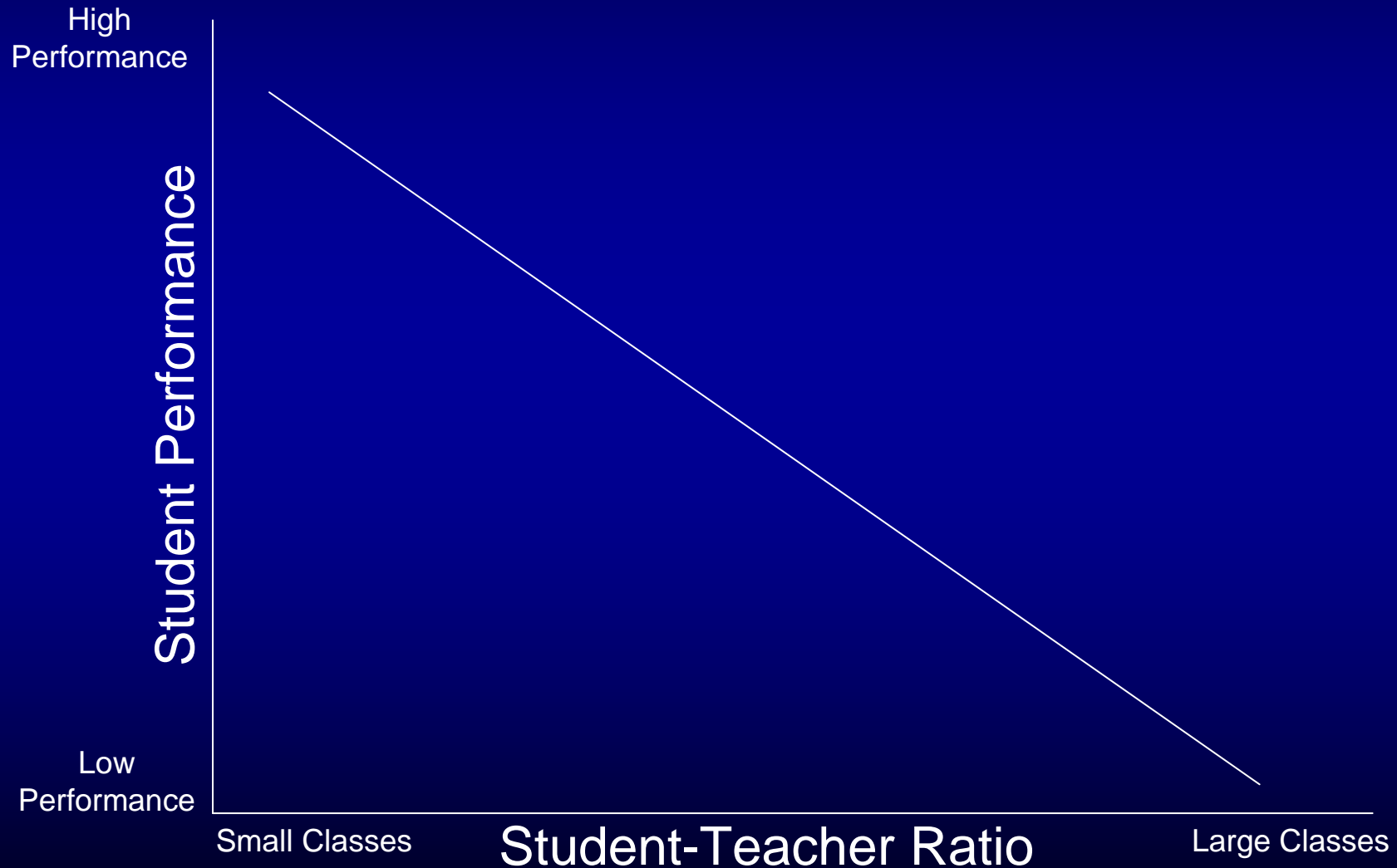
# The Expected Impact of Per-Pupil Spending



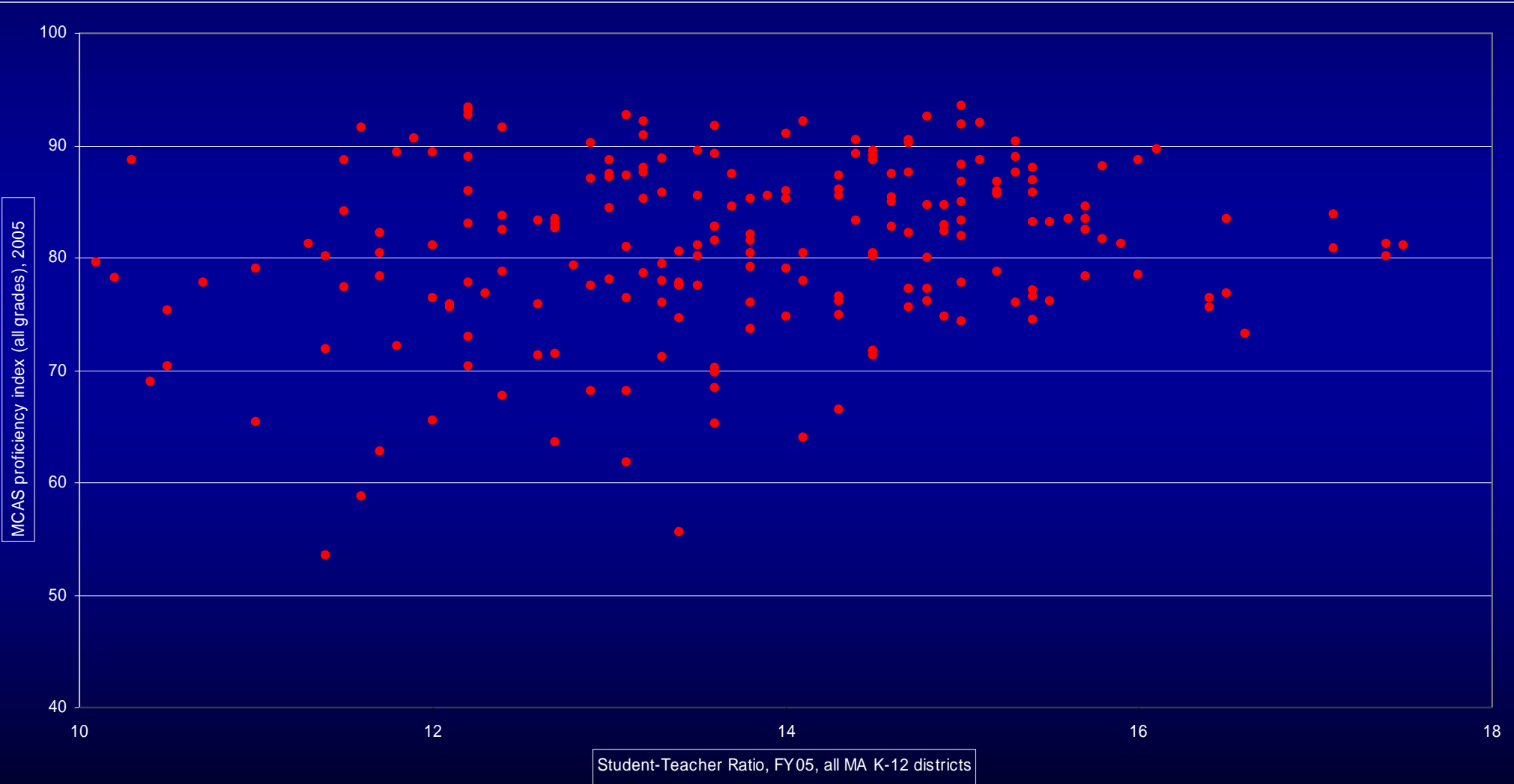
# Performance and Per Pupil Spending



# The Expected Impact of Smaller Classrooms



# Performance and Student-Teacher Ratio



# Massachusetts Education Reform

## THE ROAD AHEAD:

### 1. Make Teaching a Profession

- Better pay for better teachers
- \$5K Bonus for AP, math/science, top 1/3 teachers
- Advancement, mentoring opportunities
- Teacher development based on need

# Massachusetts Education Reform

## THE ROAD AHEAD:

### 2. Superintendent/Principal Authority and Responsibility

- Ability to hire, assign
- Ability to remove, particularly in failing schools
- Participation in evaluation, compensation
- Remove work rule impediments from collective bargaining  
– troubled districts

# Massachusetts Education Reform

## THE ROAD AHEAD:

### 3. Measure Progress

- Annual testing of student program
- Linkage to teacher training, evaluation, compensation

# Massachusetts Education Reform

## THE ROAD AHEAD:

### 4. Math and Science Excellence Initiative

- Exam schools
- AP in every high school
- College dual enrollment in math and science
- 1000 more math and science teachers, with relevant academic credentials
- Teacher training, testing in math/science
- Laptop computers for 6-12<sup>th</sup> graders
- Education path planning program

# Massachusetts Education Reform

## THE ROAD AHEAD:

### 5. “Mandatory” Parental Preparation

#### ➤ **Target: Troubled school districts**

- America’s education culture and its link to opportunity
- School discipline and parental support
- Homework
- TV do’s and don'ts
- English immersion
- After school resources
- Involvement at school

# Education Reform– Getting There

*We know the answers, parents and teachers agree:*

- Rigorous standards and testing work
  - ▶ Massachusetts is an example
  - ▶ Testing provides base and data for reform
- To compete in a global environment, we must do much more
  - ▶ Make teaching a profession
  - ▶ Hold management accountable for results
  - ▶ Measure progress
  - ▶ Focus on math and science
  - ▶ Mandatory parental involvement
- A national priority with profound human and competitiveness implications