



EDUCATION WEEK®

**Quality
Counts
2007**

**From
Cradle
To Career**

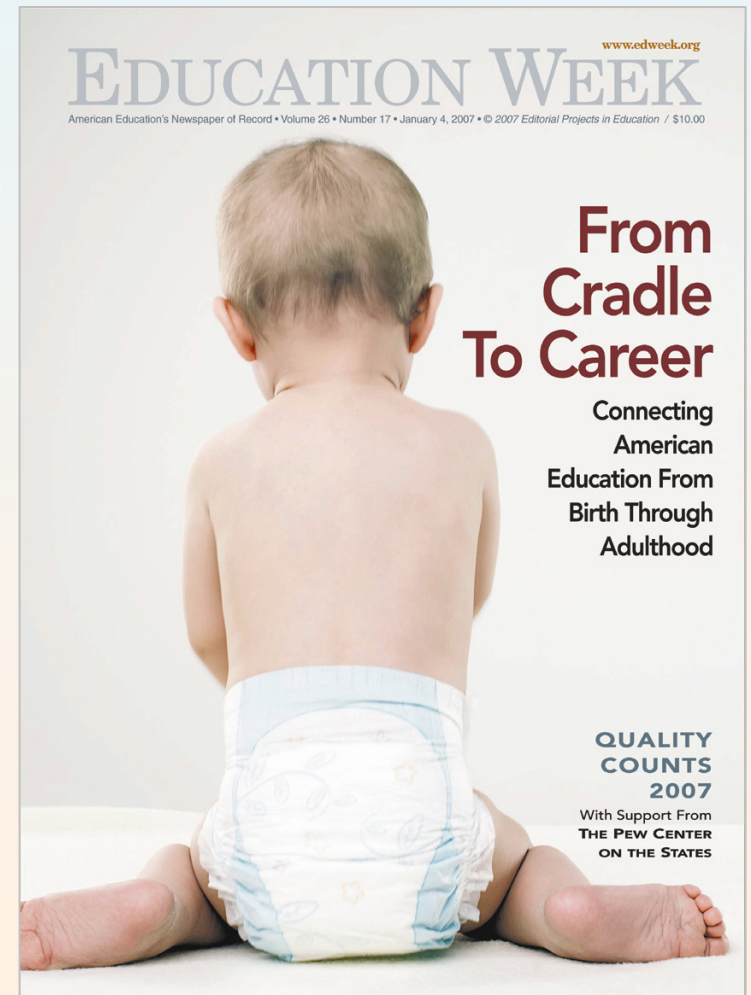
Connecting
American
Education From
Birth Through
Adulthood

with support from

PEW CENTER
THE STATES

The 11th Year of Quality Counts

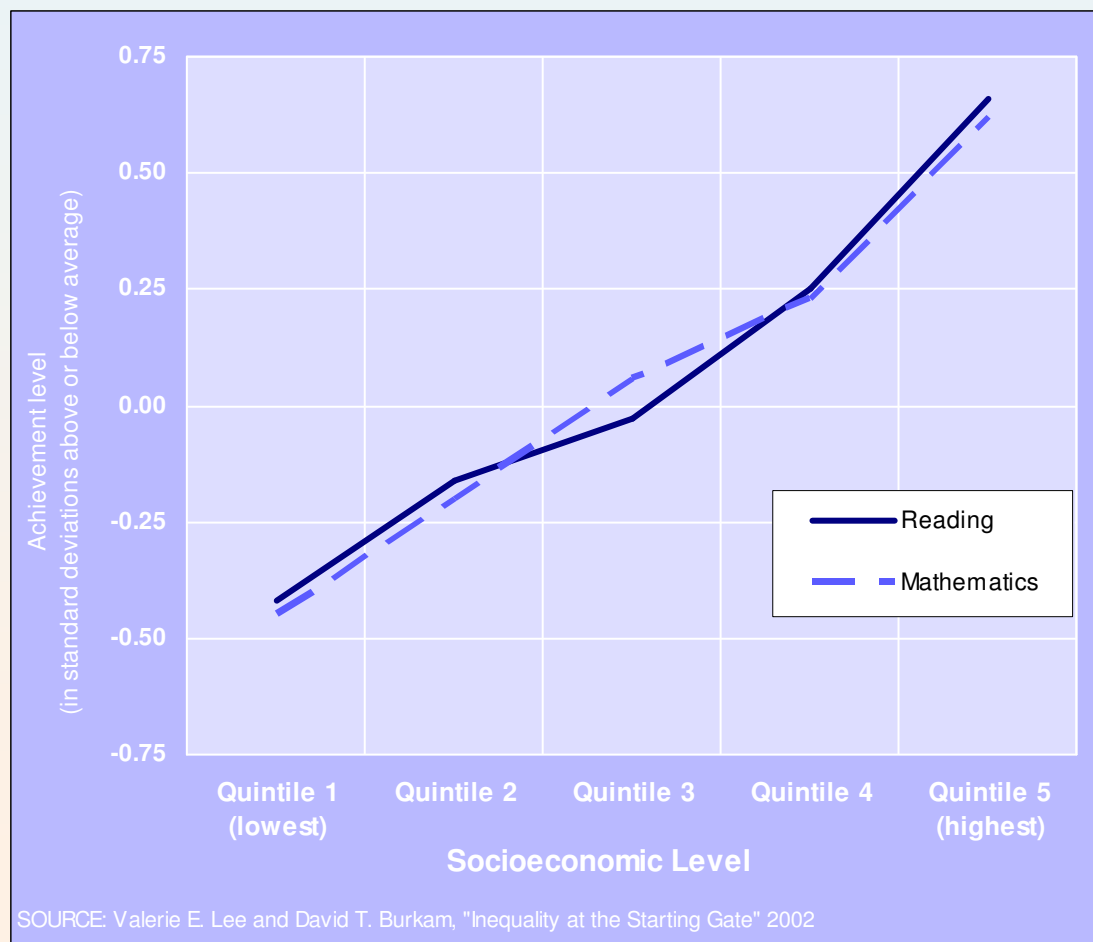
- Annual report from *Education Week* and the EPE Research Center enters a new generation
- Viewing K-12 education through a wider lens
- Tracking state efforts to align education from childhood through adulthood



Off to a Shaky Start

Poor Students Lag Behind in Kindergarten

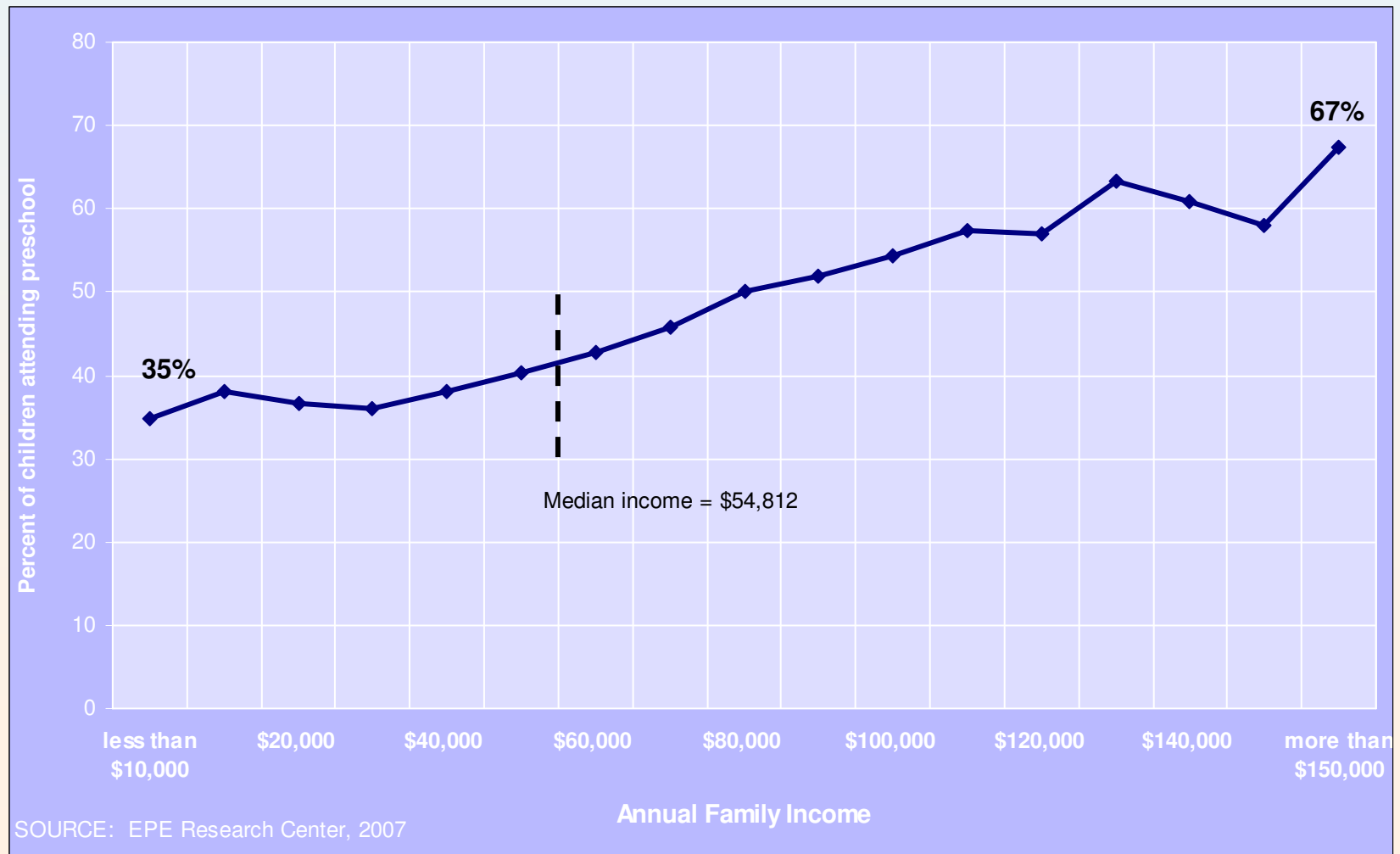
- Children from low-income families perform significantly worse when they enter kindergarten
- Pattern found for both literacy and mathematics skills



The Preschool Split

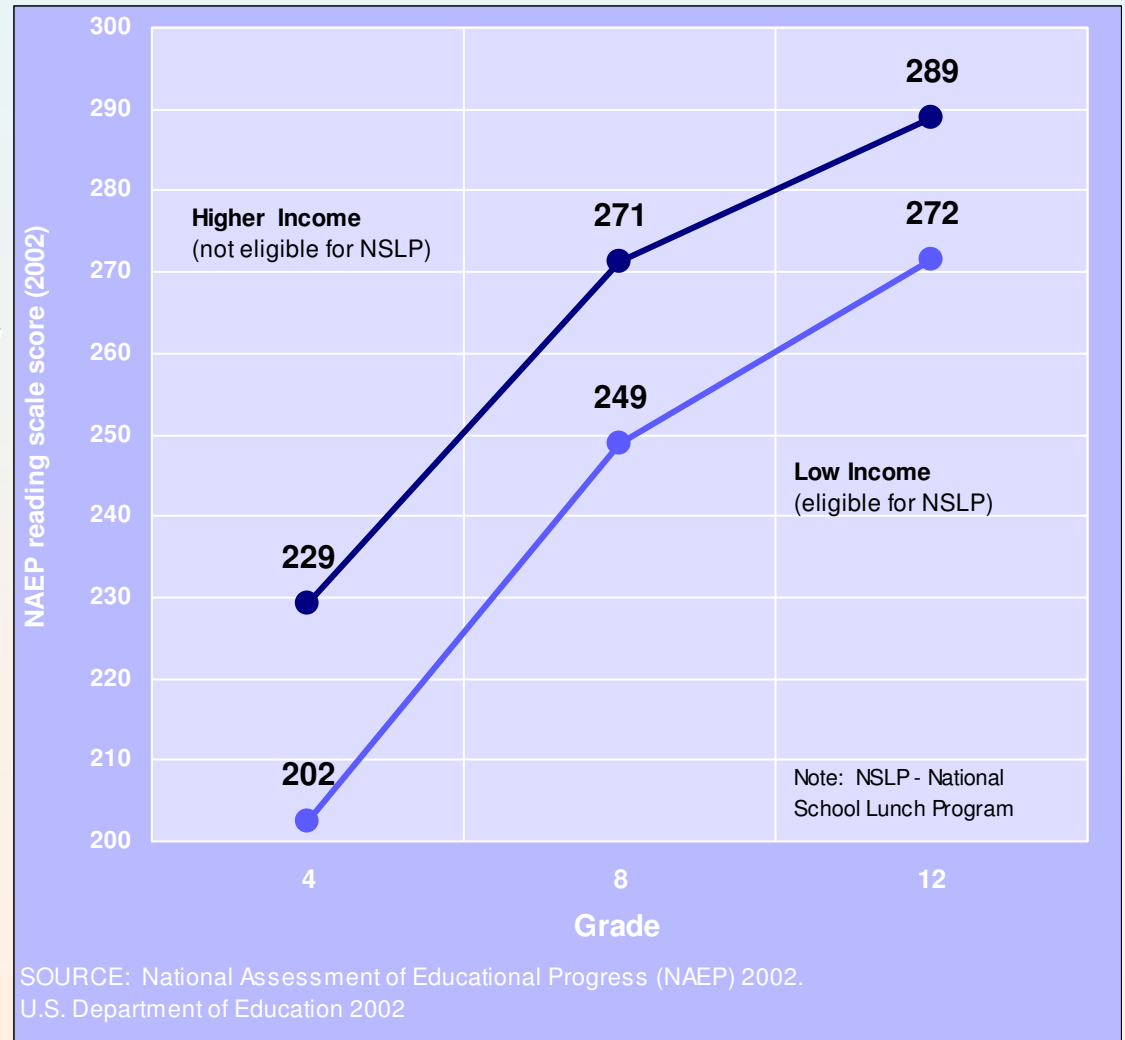
Preschool attendance tied to family income

- Children from low-income families are far less likely to attend center-based preschool



Achievement Gaps Persist

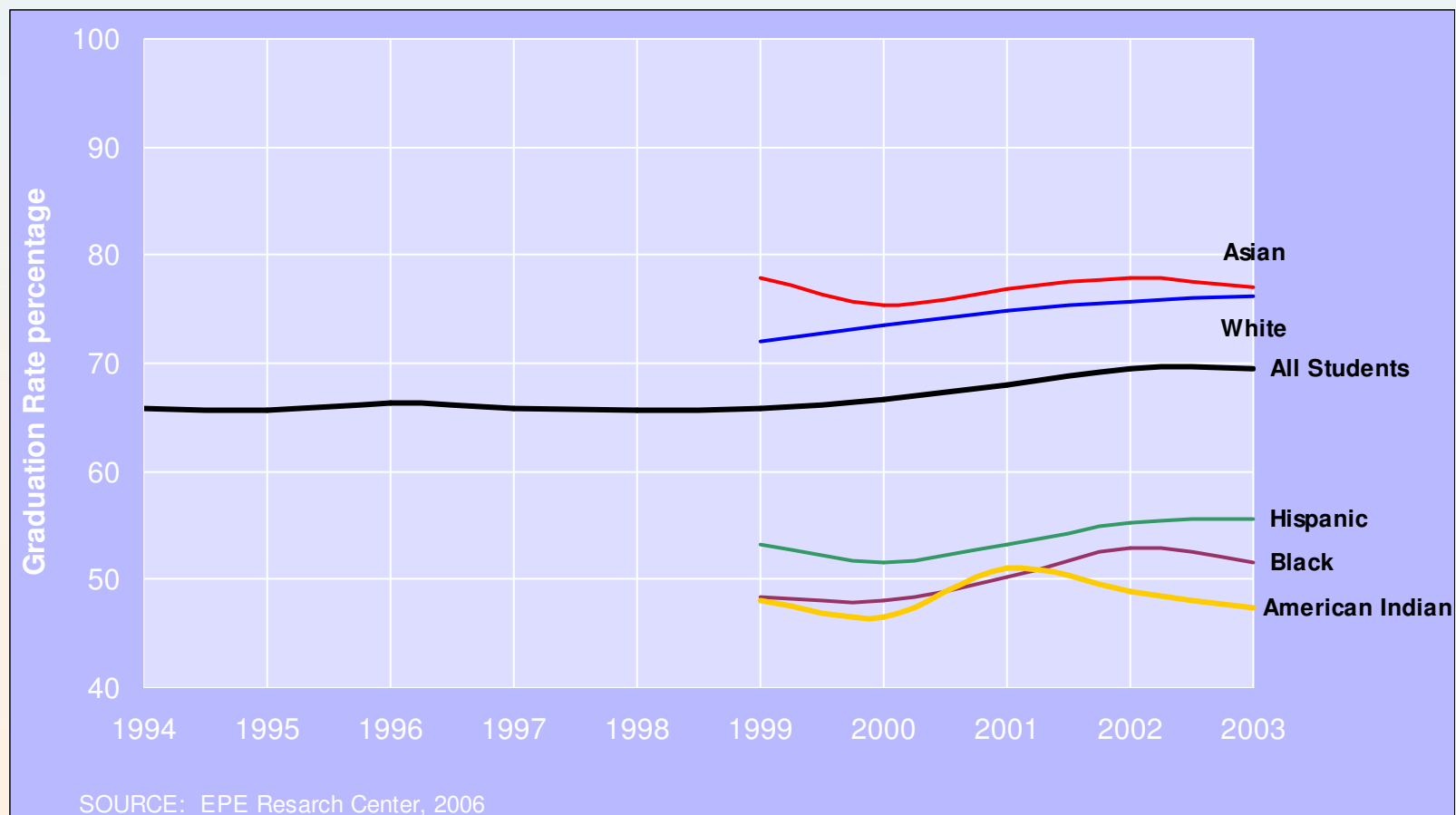
- Significant income-based gaps in reading achievement persist through the elementary and secondary grades
- Poor 12th graders read on par with affluent 8th graders



High School Graduation Stalls

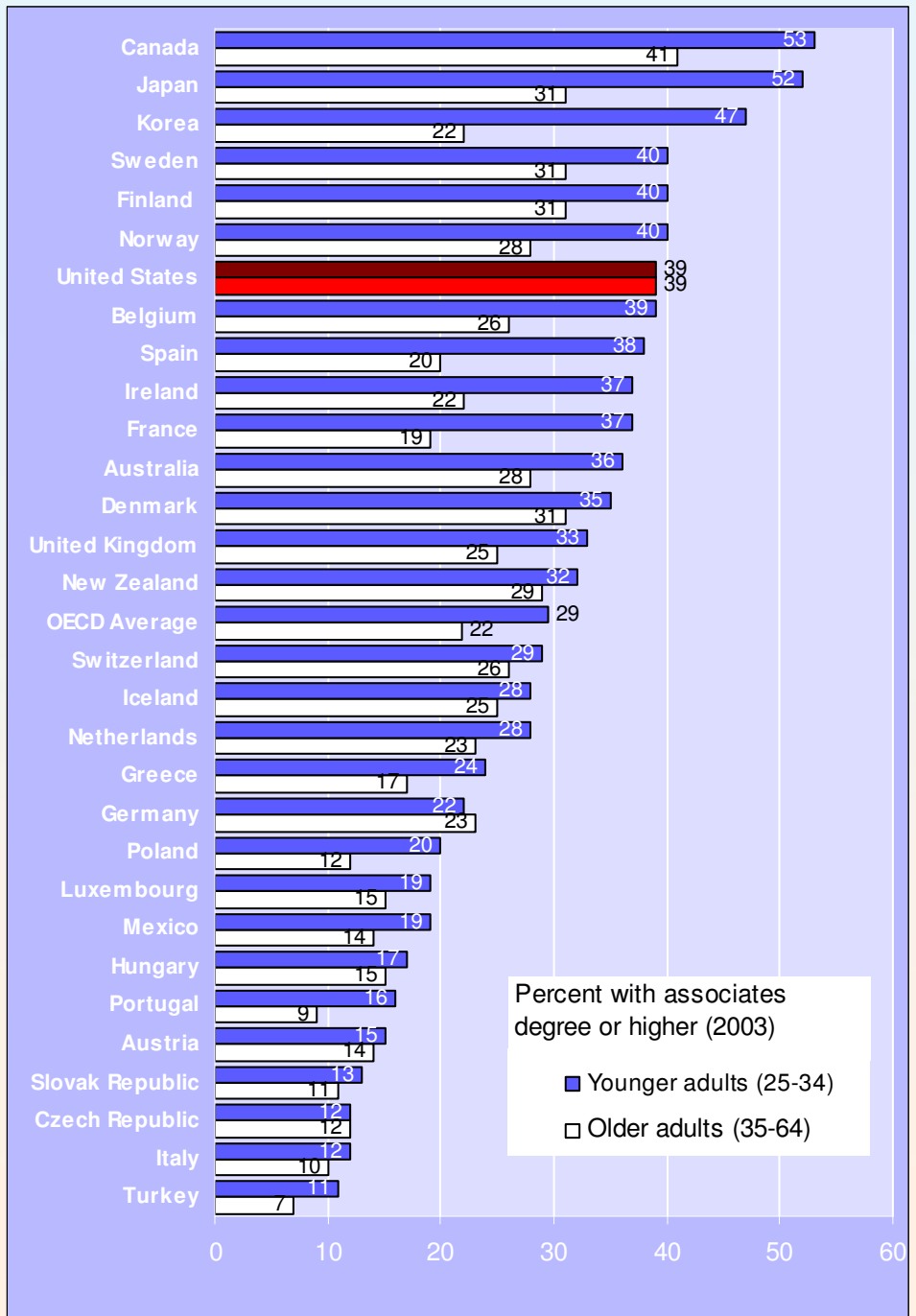
During much of the 1990s graduation rates stagnated

- Overall, 7 of every 10 students now graduate with a diploma
 - ◆ Large disparities exist among racial and ethnic groups



U.S. Bucks Attainment Trend

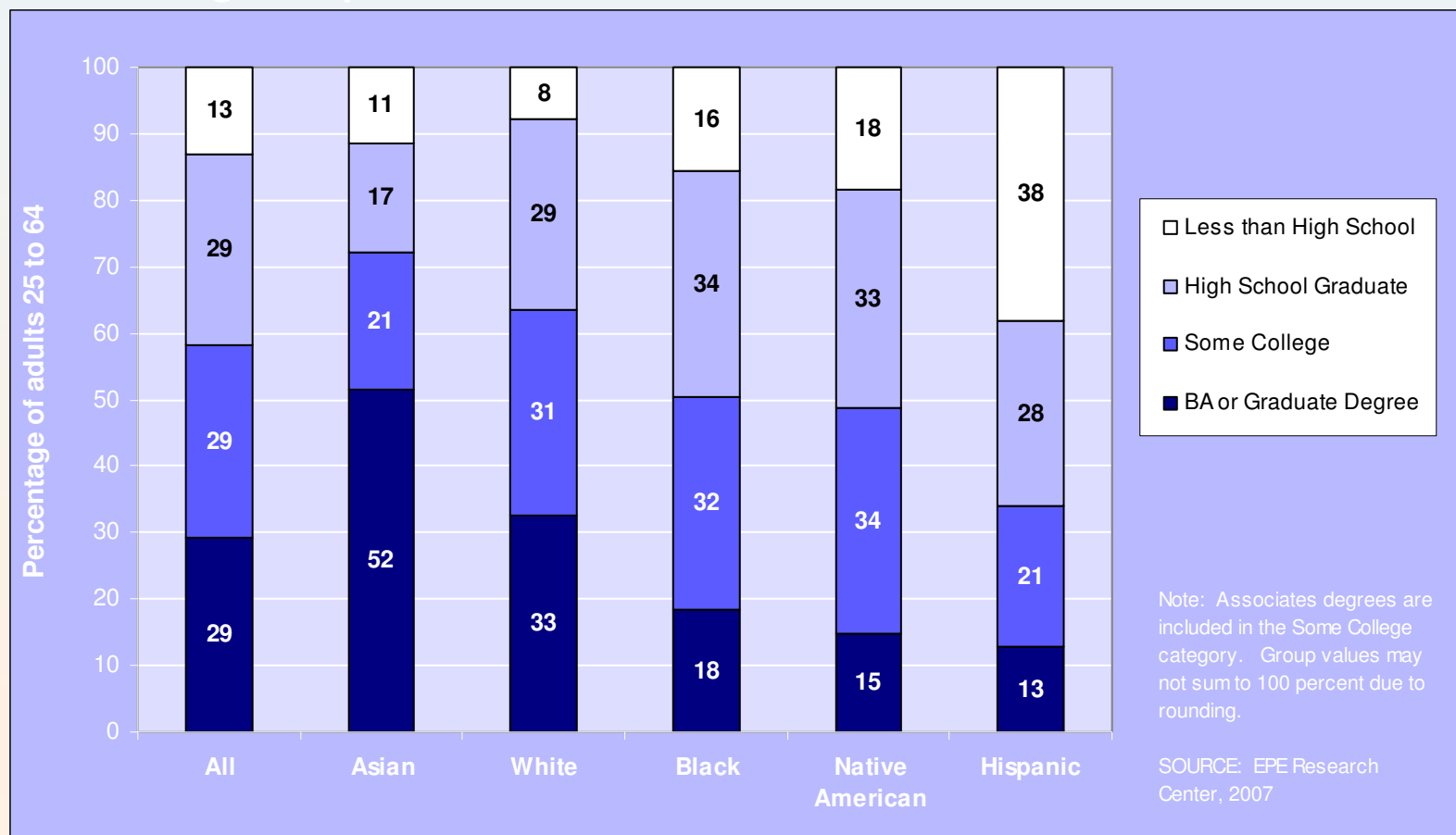
- In nearly all developed countries, younger generations are attaining higher educational levels.
- But in the U.S., younger adults have not surpassed the previous generation.



An Attainment Divide in the U.S.

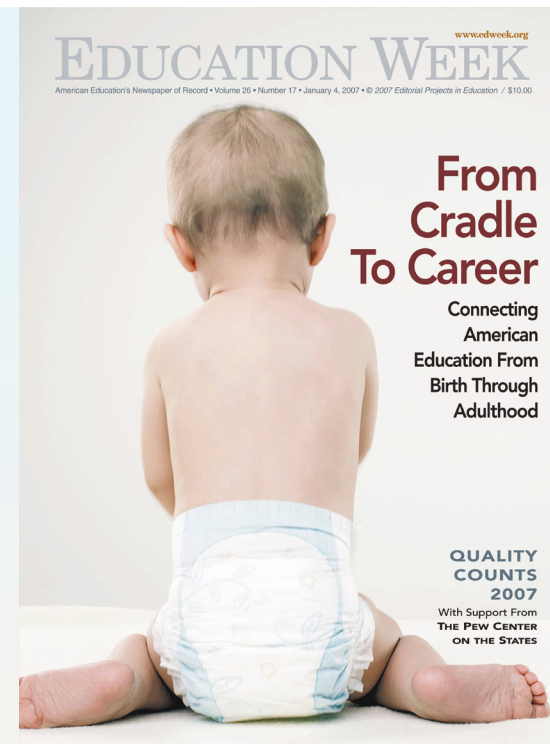
Large disparities found in adult education levels

- Nearly three quarters of Asian Americans have some postsecondary education, more than twice the college-going rate among Hispanics



Inside Quality Counts 2007

- A cradle-to-career perspective
- Chance for Success Index
- State-by-state policy indicators
- Expert commentaries
- State of the States - Standards, Assessment, Accountability
- **New** K-12 State Achievement Index

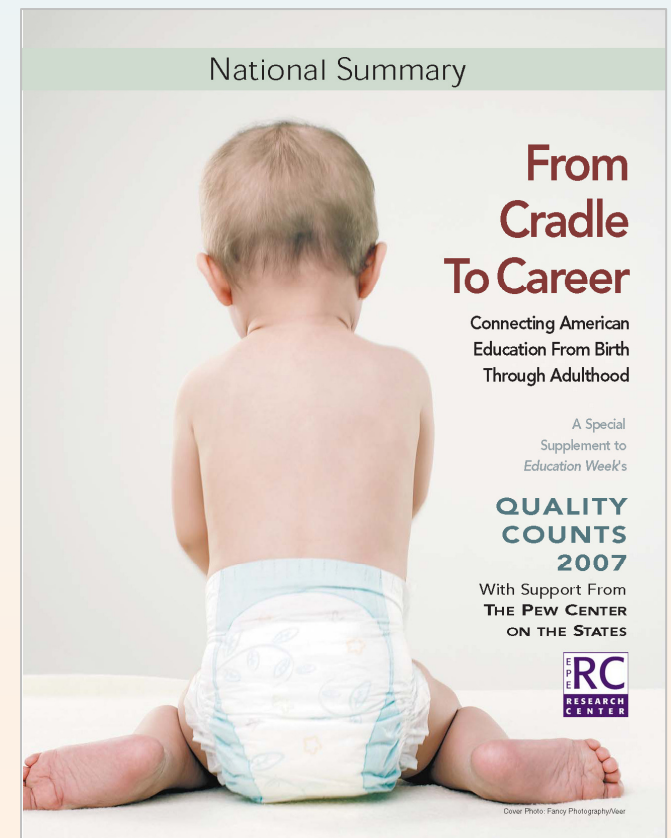


Reframing K-12 Education

- *Quality Counts* reached a crossroads after its first decade
- **Our strategy:** work to better understanding the role of K-12 schooling within a broader educational, social, and economic landscape
- More emphasis on **hard outcomes**
- In a "flat world" *Quality Counts* cannot just be about education any more
- Retain our commitment to **state-by-state** policy and analysis

Highlights from the EPE Research Center

- Chance for Success Index
- Alignment of state policies
- K-12 State Achievement Index



Chance for Success - the Concept

- Education is a thread that weaves through our national consciousness
- Education is ...
 - ◆ a leveler
 - ◆ a stepping stone
 - ◆ a barometer of social and economic health
 - ◆ a foundation of the "American Dream"
- In the 21st century, education may be **the** most important factor determining one's life chances

A Thought Experiment

What if ...

We took a newborn child in this country and randomly placed him or her in a given state (State A). That child would grow up, go to school, and eventually enter the labor force in that state.

What if ...

That child grew up in State B instead.

How much difference would that make?

Chance for Success - the Indicators

Early Childhood

foundations for learning

Family Income
Parent Education
Parental Employment
Linguistic Integration
Preschool Enrollment

The Schooling Years

formal education kindergarten
through postsecondary

Kindergarten Enrollment
Elementary Reading
Middle School Math
High School Graduation
Postsecondary Participation

Post-Schooling

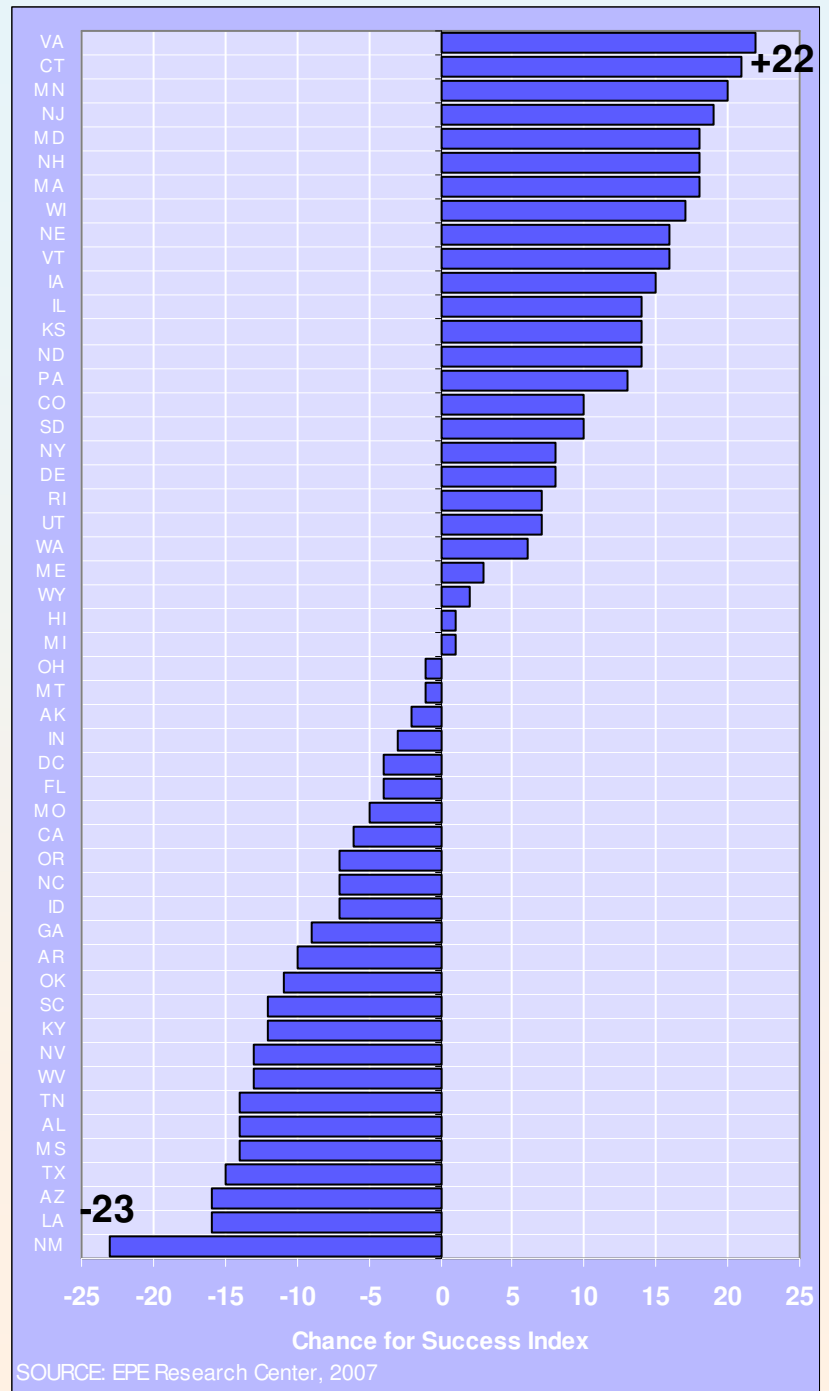
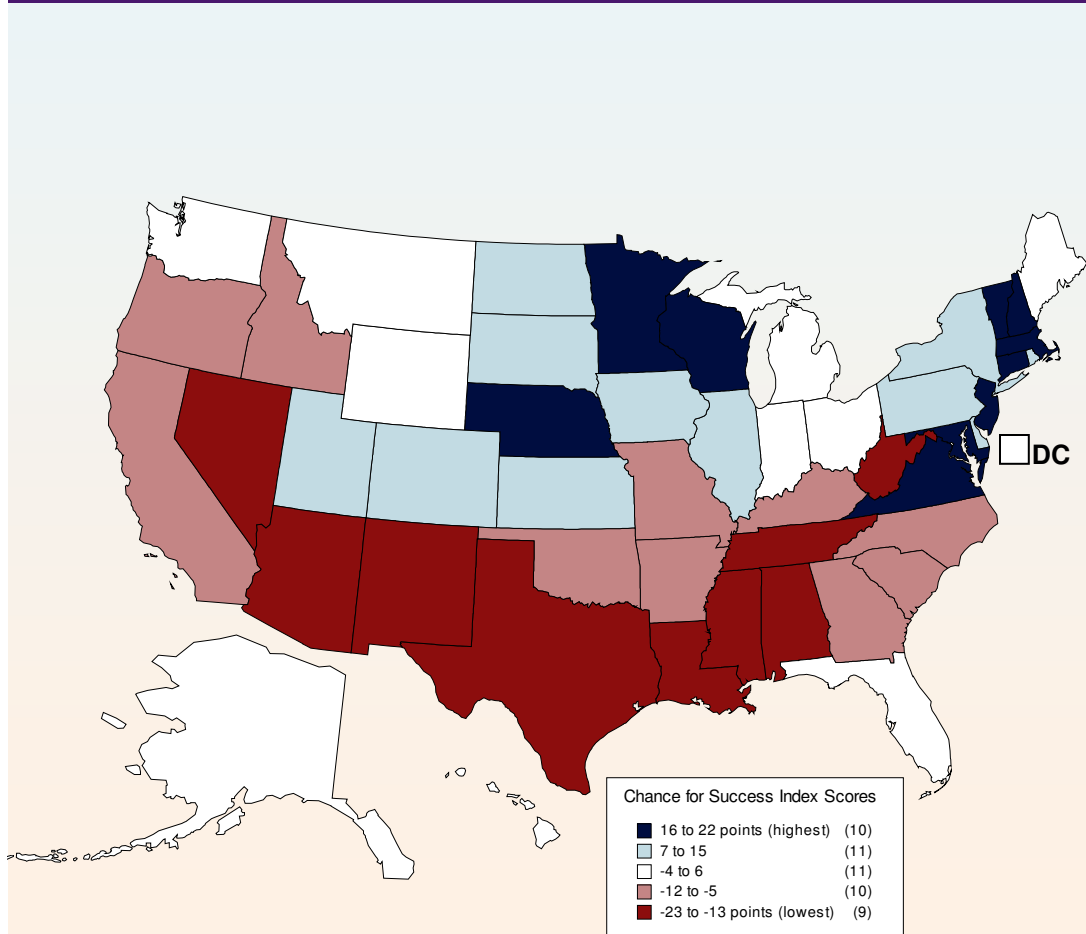
returns to education

Adult Education Levels
Annual Income
Steady Employment

The Chance-for-Success Index

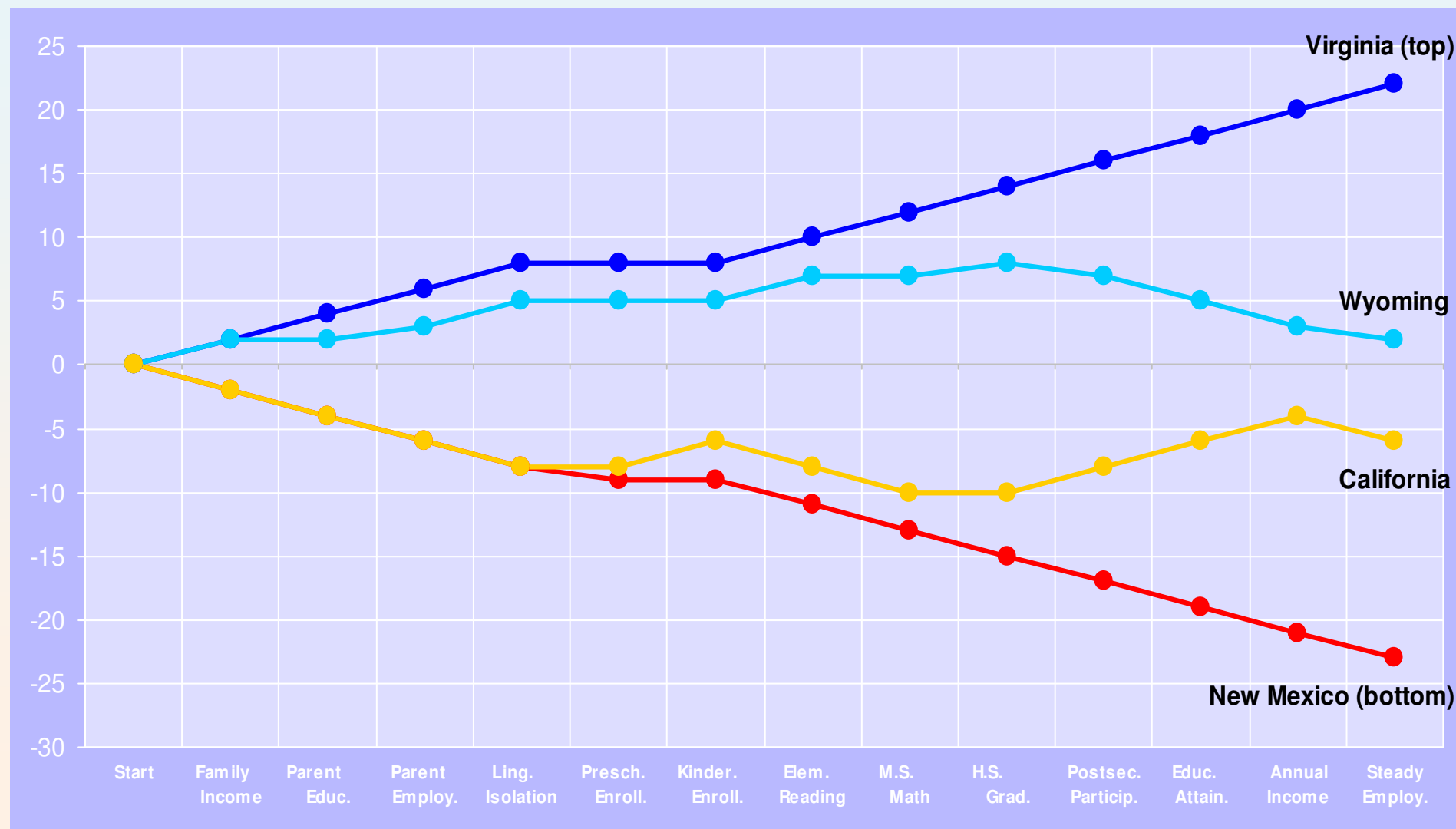
- Index based on an original EPE Research Center analysis of 50-state data from several sources
- Statistical tests were performed to evaluate states relative to a national norm and award points
 - ◆ 0 pts. = not statistically different than national avg.
 - ◆ +1 (-1) = statistically above (below) national avg.
 - ◆ +2 (-2) = above (below) national avg. with very high confidence
- Points tallied across the 13 indicators
- Possible range for index: -26 to +26

Life Prospects Vary Dramatically Across States



Divergent State Paths

- Where a child lives matters for his or her life prospects



Aligning Education from Cradle to Career

- The Chance-for-Success Index shows great variation in educational life prospects across states
- The Index could be used to
 - ◆ Identify strong and weak points in the education pipeline
 - ◆ Target state efforts accordingly
- *Quality Counts* also examines state policy efforts to align elementary and secondary systems with other stages of school and work life

Alignment Efforts - State Policy

Early Childhood Education

Early learning standards aligned	42 states
School-readiness definition	13 states
School-readiness assessment	16 states
School-readiness intervention	18 states
Kindergarten standards	45 states

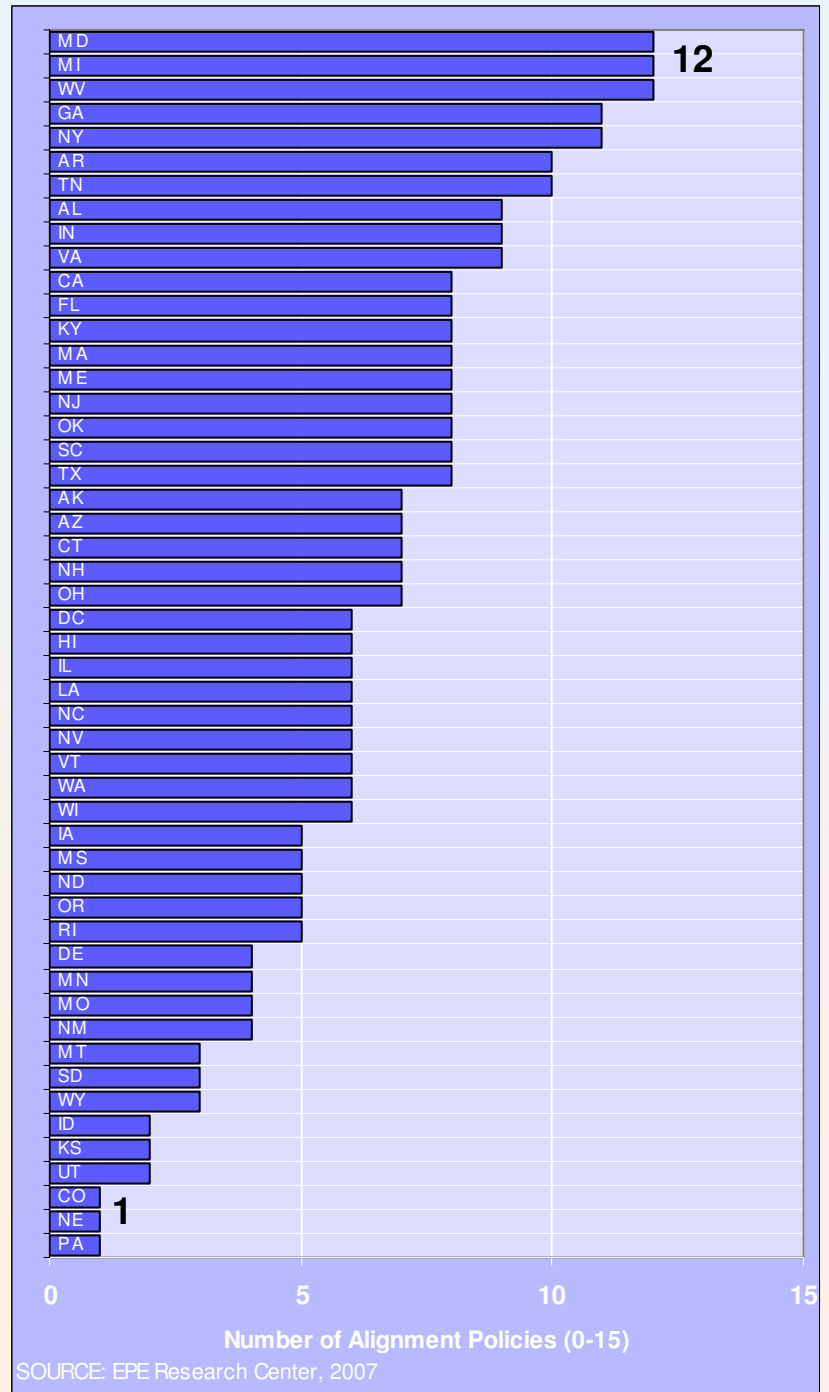
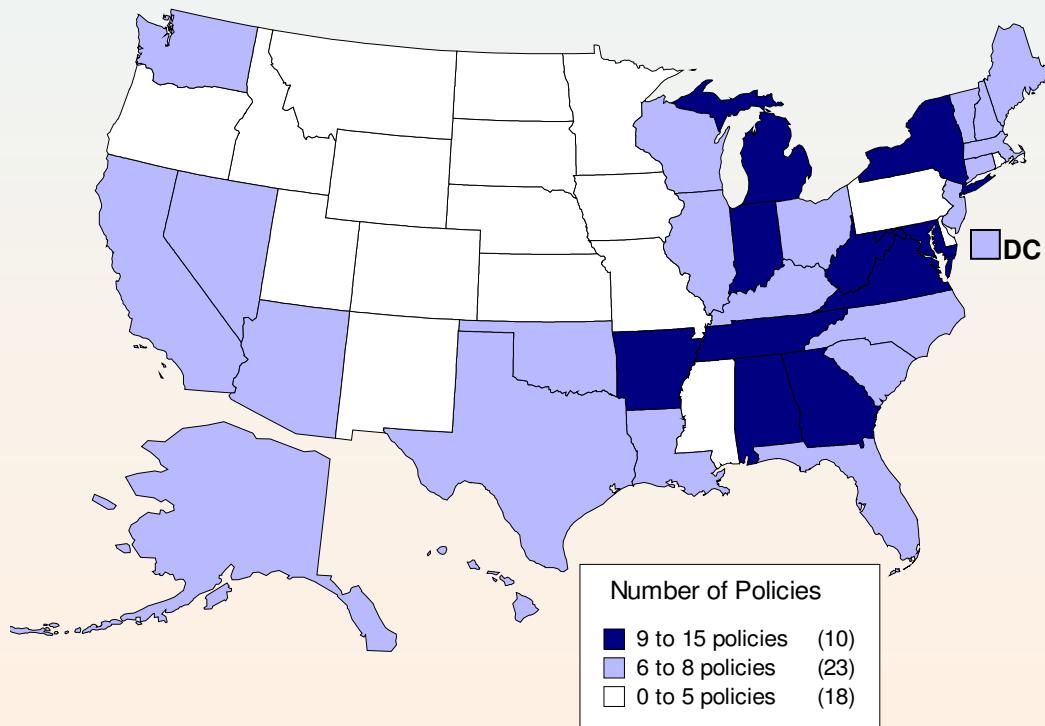
Postsecondary Education

College-readiness definition	11 states
College prep required	9 states
HS credits aligned	5 states
HS assessment aligned	6 states
Postsecondary decisions	9 states

Economy and Workforce

Work-readiness defined	21 states
Work-readiness is distinct	19 states
Career-tech diploma	35 states
Industry certification	38 states
Portable HS credits	38 states

Policy Alignment at Different Stages across the States



Assessing K-12 Achievement

- For the first time, *Quality Counts 2007* evaluates states based on the performance of their public schools
- The **K-12 State Achievement Index**
 - ◆ 50-state data from reliable sources
 - ◆ spans the elementary and secondary grades
 - ◆ includes status and growth elements
- Important to consider achievement in light of social and demographic conditions and state policy activity

15 Indicators of State Performance

Achievement Levels
4th grade math – Percent proficient on NAEP (2005)
8th grade math – Percent proficient on NAEP (2005)
4th grade reading – Percent proficient on NAEP (2005)
8th grade reading – Percent proficient on NAEP (2005)
Achievement Gains
4th grade math – Scale score change on NAEP (2003-2005)
8th grade math – Scale score change on NAEP (2003-2005)
4th grade reading – Scale score change on NAEP (2003-2005)
8th grade reading – Scale score change on NAEP (2003-2005)
Poverty Gap (National School Lunch Program, noneligible vs. eligible)
Size of gap – 8th grade math scale score (2005)
Change in gap – 8th grade math (2003-2005), negative value = closing gap
High School Graduation
Graduation rate – Public schools (2003)
Change in graduation rate – Public schools (2000-2003)
Advanced Placement
High AP test scores – Scores of 3 or above per 100 students (2005)
Change in AP Scores – Change in high scores per 100 students (2000-2005)
Bonus Indicator
8th grade math excellence – Percent advanced on NAEP (2005)

The Achievement Index

- Index based on an original EPE Research Center analysis of 50-state data from several sources
- Statistical tests were performed to evaluate states relative to a nation norm (or change benchmark) and award points
 - ◆ +1/+2 pts. = higher than national avg. (or gain over time)
 - ◆ 0 points = not different than national avg. (or no change over time)
 - ◆ -1/-2 pts. = lower than national avg. (or decline over time)
- Points tallied across the 15 indicators
- Possible range for index: -30 to +30

Mapping State Achievement

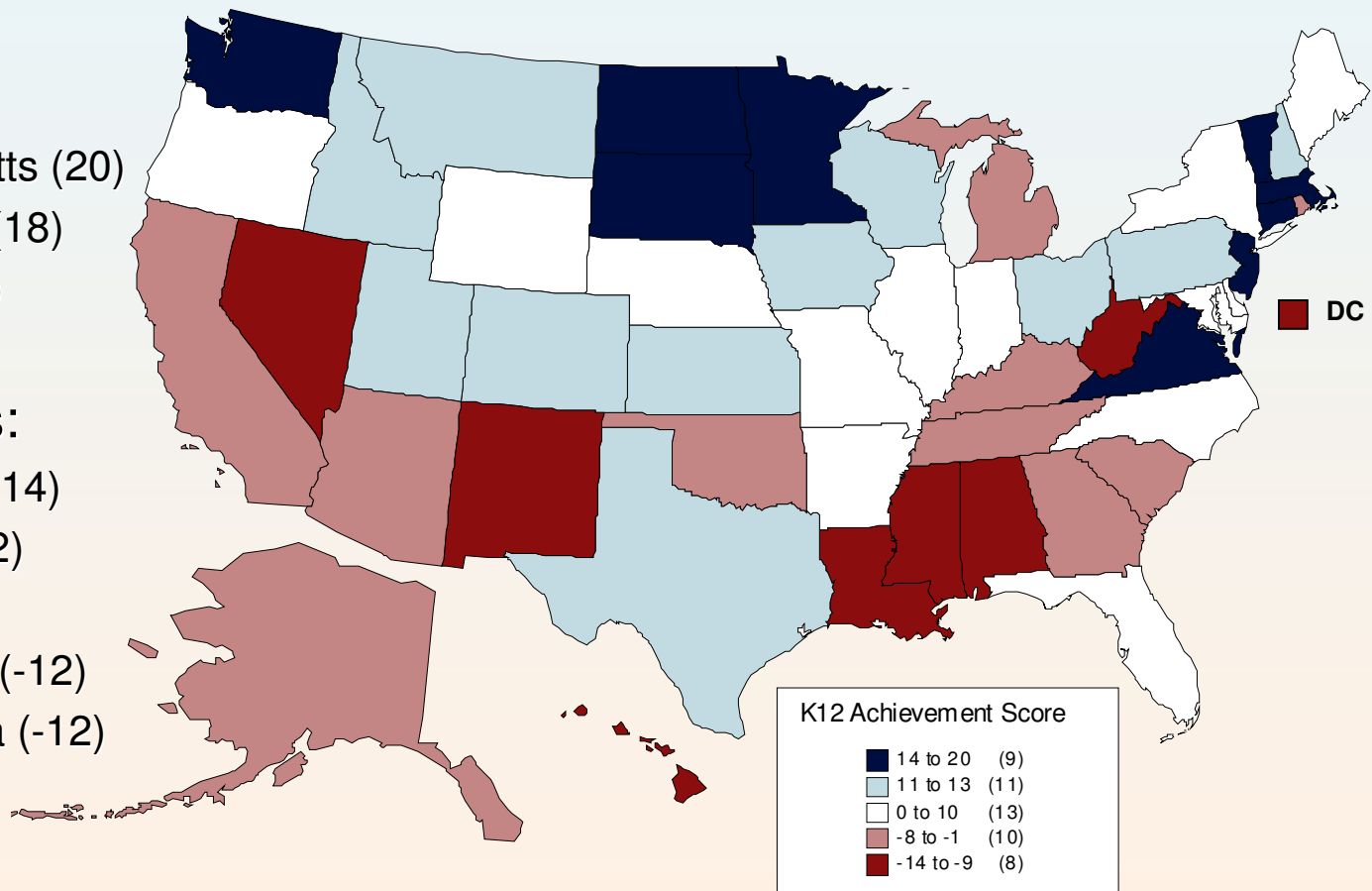
■ State scores range from -14 to +20

■ Top states:

- ◆ Massachusetts (20)
- ◆ New Jersey (18)
- ◆ Vermont (16)

■ Bottom States:

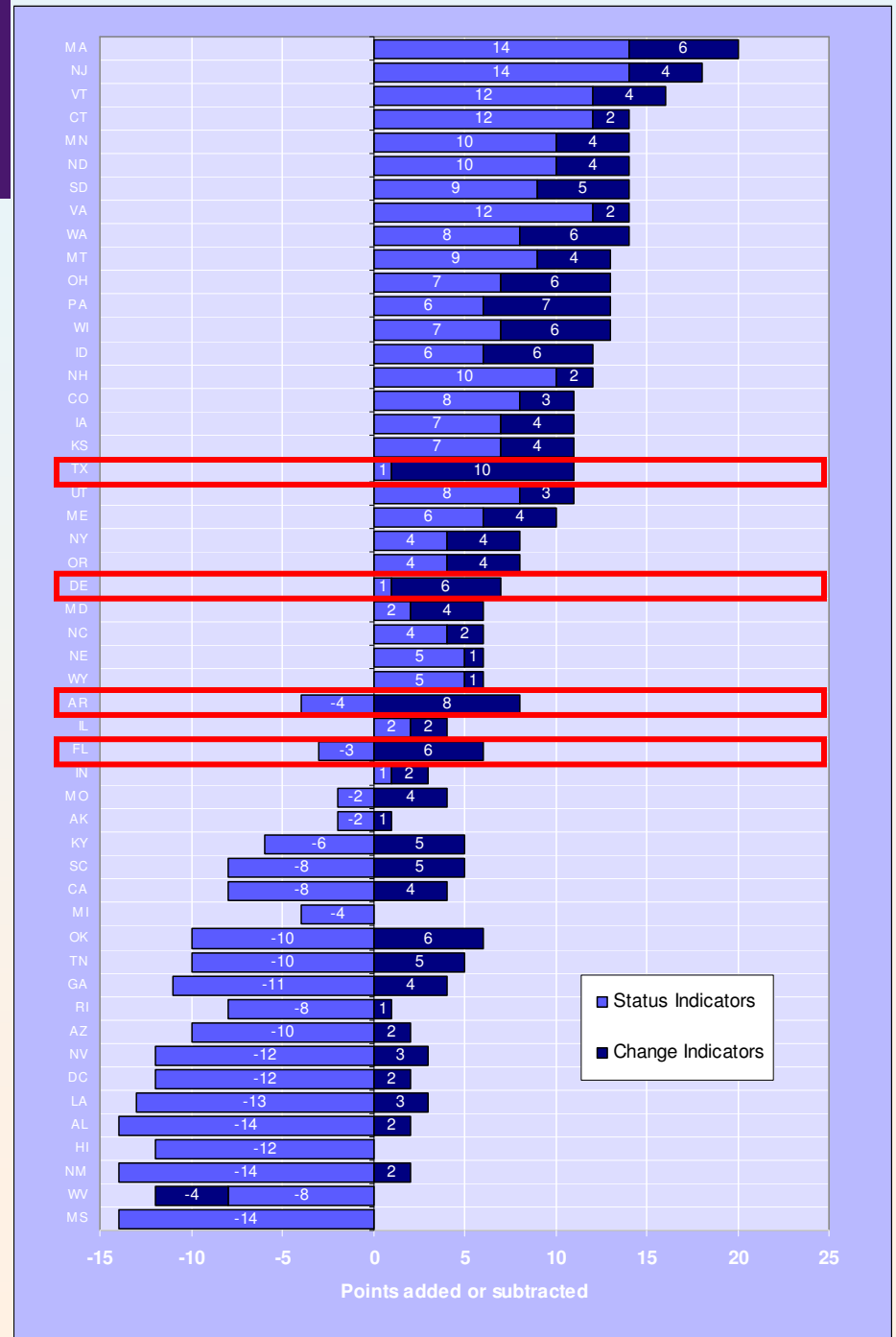
- ◆ Mississippi (-14)
- ◆ Alabama (-12)
- ◆ Hawaii (-12)
- ◆ New Mexico (-12)
- ◆ West Virginia (-12)



Achievement Status vs. Change

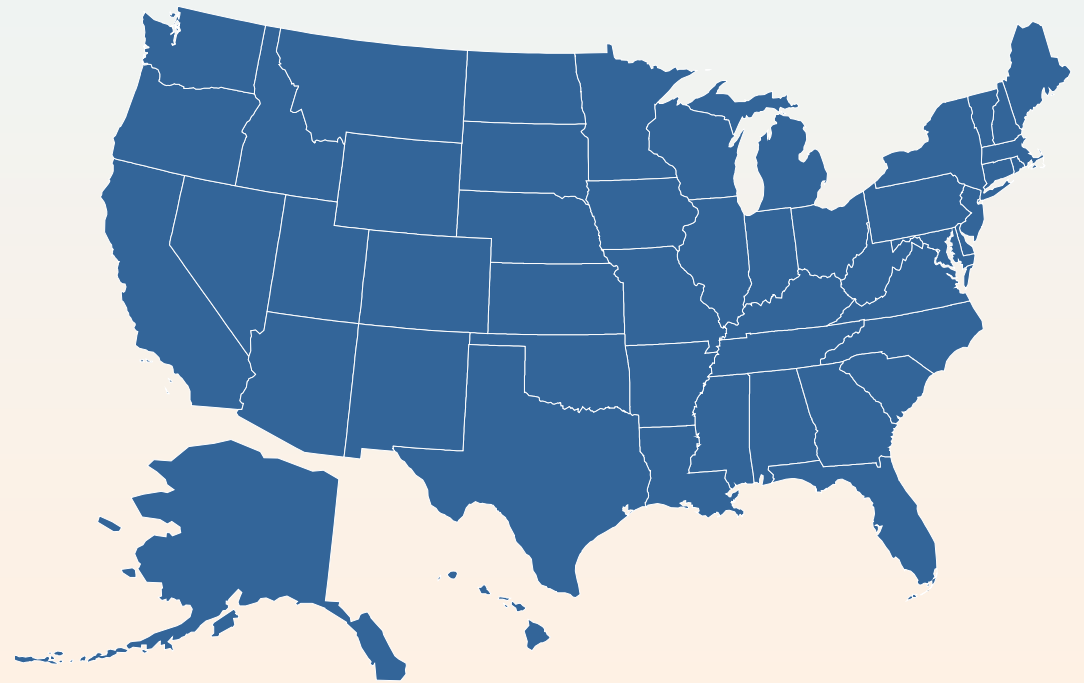
States gain (or lose) points for both achievement levels and gains

- Top-ranked states show both high performance and significant improvements
- Some low-ranking states lose points due to low performance and gain none or few for gains
- Several states show strong growth profiles
 - ◆ Texas, Arkansas, Florida, Delaware



State of the States 2007

- Academic Standards
- Student Assessment
- School Accountability



The 2007 Policy Survey

- Each year, the EPE Research Center surveys the 50 states and District of Columbia
- Meticulous administration and vetting of surveys
 - ◆ State respondents complete survey
 - ◇ Answers to questions about educational policies
 - ◇ Supporting documentation for each response
 - ◆ EPE Research Center evaluates responses
 - ◆ States review final answers
- States not graded this year for policy implementation

Note: When describing survey highlights, the District of Columbia will be included in state tallies.

Academic Standards

Highlights 2007

- **All 50 states and District of Columbia** have adopted standards in English/language arts, mathematics, and science
 - ◆ Only Iowa and Rhode Island lack history standards
- **40 states** have standards in Math **and** Science that are "clear, specific, and grounded in content" at all grade levels
 - ◆ Only 14 states meet that mark for English/language arts.
- **37 states** have resources to supplement standards documents
- **35 states** have a regular timeline for revising standards

Assessments

Highlights 2007

- **Nearly all states** have assessments aligned with their academic standards at all grade levels for English/language arts (49 states) and Math (48 states)
- Far fewer states have aligned assessments for other core subjects (25 for science and 11 for history)
- Testing requirements and Adequate Yearly Progress under NCLB
 - ◆ English and Math - tested and part of AYP
 - ◆ Science - tested (by 2007-08) but not part of AYP
 - ◆ History/Social Science - testing not mandated under NCLB

School Accountability

Highlights 2007

- Many state accountability systems exceed what is required under federal law
- **29 states** rate all schools (Title 1 and non-Title 1) based state-developed criteria
- Consequences attached to school performance
 - ◆ **35 states** - assistance to low-performing schools
 - ◆ **33 states** - sanctions for low-performing schools
 - ◆ **17 states** - rewards for high-performing or improving schools
- States are beginning to use individual student growth for accountability
 - ◆ **5 states** for AYP
 - ◆ **9 states** for state-specific ratings

Plans for the Future of Quality Counts

Seeking input on Teacher Quality and School Finance

- In the coming year we will be seeking feedback to guide future approaches to teacher quality and finance
- Upcoming convenings:
 - ◆ March - at annual meeting of the American Education Finance Association in Baltimore
 - ◆ April - prior to the American Education Research Association conference in Chicago
- Online forum:
 - ◆ Talkback features to solicit comment
 - ◆ Whitepapers and other information
 - ◆ Stay tuned to the EPE Research Center website for details
www.edweek.org/rc

Editorial Projects in Education Research Center

Online Extras

Quality Counts 2007:

www.edweek.org/go/qc07

National and State Highlights Reports:

www.edweek.org/go/qc07/shr

Education Counts

www.edweek.org/rc/edcounts

Live Online Chats

The collage consists of three overlapping screenshots from the edweek.org website. The top screenshot shows the 'RESEARCH CENTER' page with a featured article titled 'Federal Report Examines Charter Schools'. The middle screenshot shows the 'STATE INFORMATION' page with a map of the United States. The bottom screenshot shows a 'Quality Counts 2007' report for Maryland, featuring a photo of a baby and the text 'From Cradle To Career'.



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From Cradle To Career

Connecting
American
Education From
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