



South Carolina Educational Benchmarking Overview of Performance

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This document provides an outline of a presentation and is incomplete without the accompanying oral commentary and discussion.

Project Context and Objectives

- A **well-educated workforce** is critical to the economic success of any region
- Improving education will depend on an **accurate understanding** of performance
- This can be difficult due to **multiple views & abundant data**

- *Therefore, this project seeks to:*
 - Provide an **outside, third-party perspective**
 - **Normalize the data** to account for the particular characteristics of the state
 - Develop an **accurate picture** of education performance in South Carolina

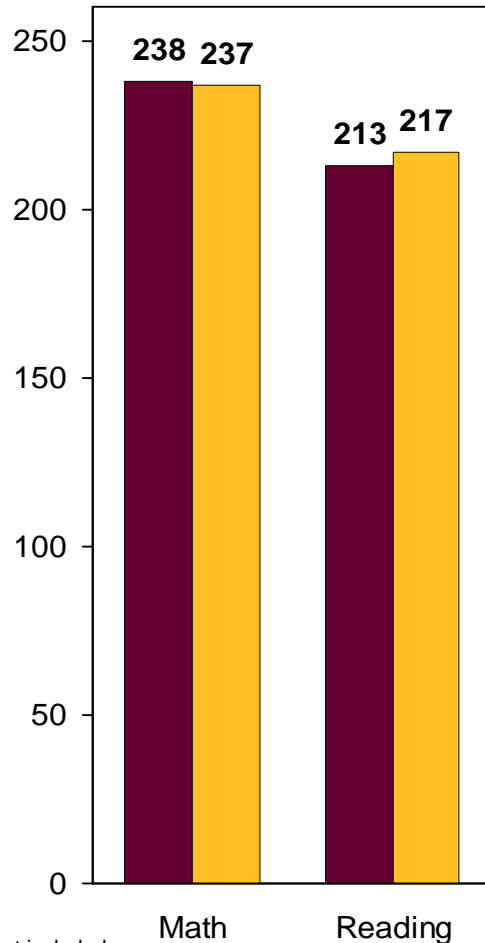
Standardized Tests: Grade 4 NAEP, Grade 8 NAEP, and the SAT

Current Scores for South Carolina and the US in 2005

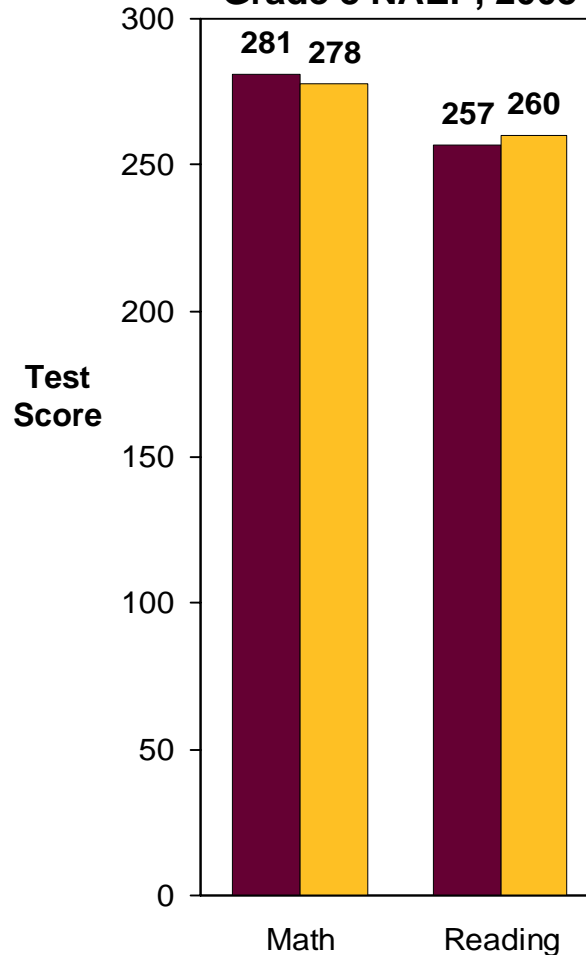
South Carolina is on par with the US in 4th and 8th Grades, but lags slightly in high school

South Carolina
 United States

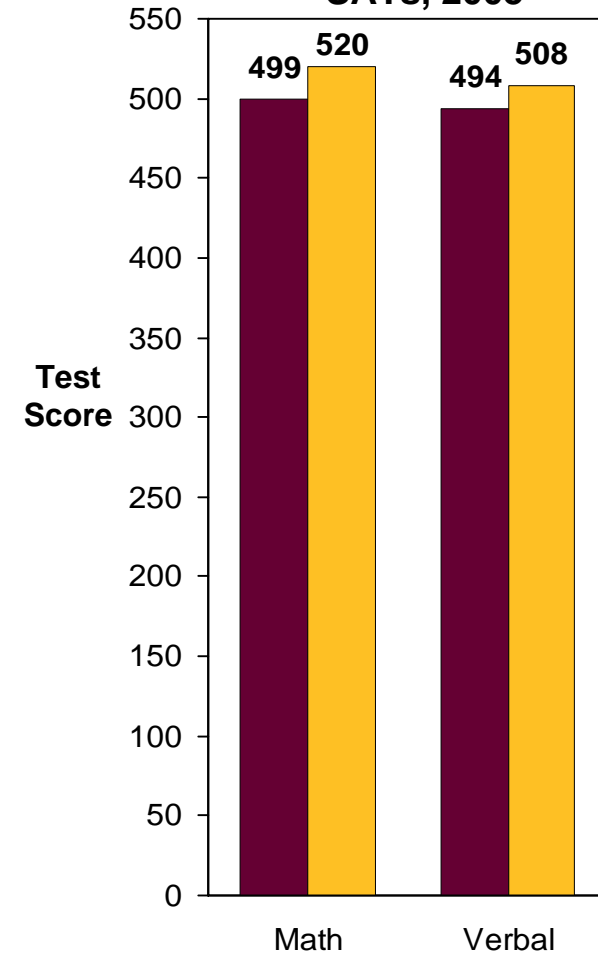
Grade 4 NAEP, 2005



Grade 8 NAEP, 2005



SATs, 2005



Standardized Tests: Grade 4 NAEP, Grade 8 NAEP, and the SAT

Recent Improvement in Scores for South Carolina vs. the US

Standardized Test	Total Points Gained on US*	Ranking in Total Points Gained	Years to Reach US Parity*
Grade 4 Math	+ 10 points	#1	Reached in 2003
Grade 4 Reading	+ 0 points	#19	----
Grade 8 Math	+ 13 points	#1	Reached in 2003
Grade 8 Reading	+ 3 points	#6	7 years
SAT Math	+ 18 points	#1	8 years
SAT Verbal	+ 13 points	#1	8 years

Notes: * Over the last 7-9 years depending upon when the test was administered; ** Monitor analysis, assumes growth rates of South Carolina and the US over the last 7 years remain constant

High School Completion Estimates by Methodology

South Carolina and the United States

There are numerous ways to calculate High School completion rates, but regardless of the method, South Carolina typically ranks last or very near to last

Organization	SC Rate**	U.S. Rate	SC Rank	Method
Higher Education Information Service	48.0%	67.3%	50 of 50	Cohort Survival Rate: Graduates who were 9th graders 4 years earlier
United Health Foundation	49.4%	67.3%	50 of 50	Cohort Survival Rate
Urban Institute	50.7%	68.0%	51 of 51	Cumulative Promotion Index (CPI)
National Board on Educational Testing and Public Policy	51.0%	67.0%	50 of 50	Number of graduates ÷ 9th grade enrollment 4 years earlier
Manhattan Institute	53.0%*	70.0%	50 of 50	Greene Method: # of grads ÷ average of 8th, 9th & 10th graders in same cohort
National Board on Educational Testing and Public Policy	62.0%	74.4%	49 of 50	Number of graduates ÷ 8th grade enrollment 5 years earlier
SC Department of Education	78.0%*	N/A	N/A	Number of graduates ÷ (9th grade enrollment 4 years earlier - transfers & adult education)
US Census Bureau†	93%	92%	15 of 50	Percentage of teens age 16-19 who are not high school dropouts

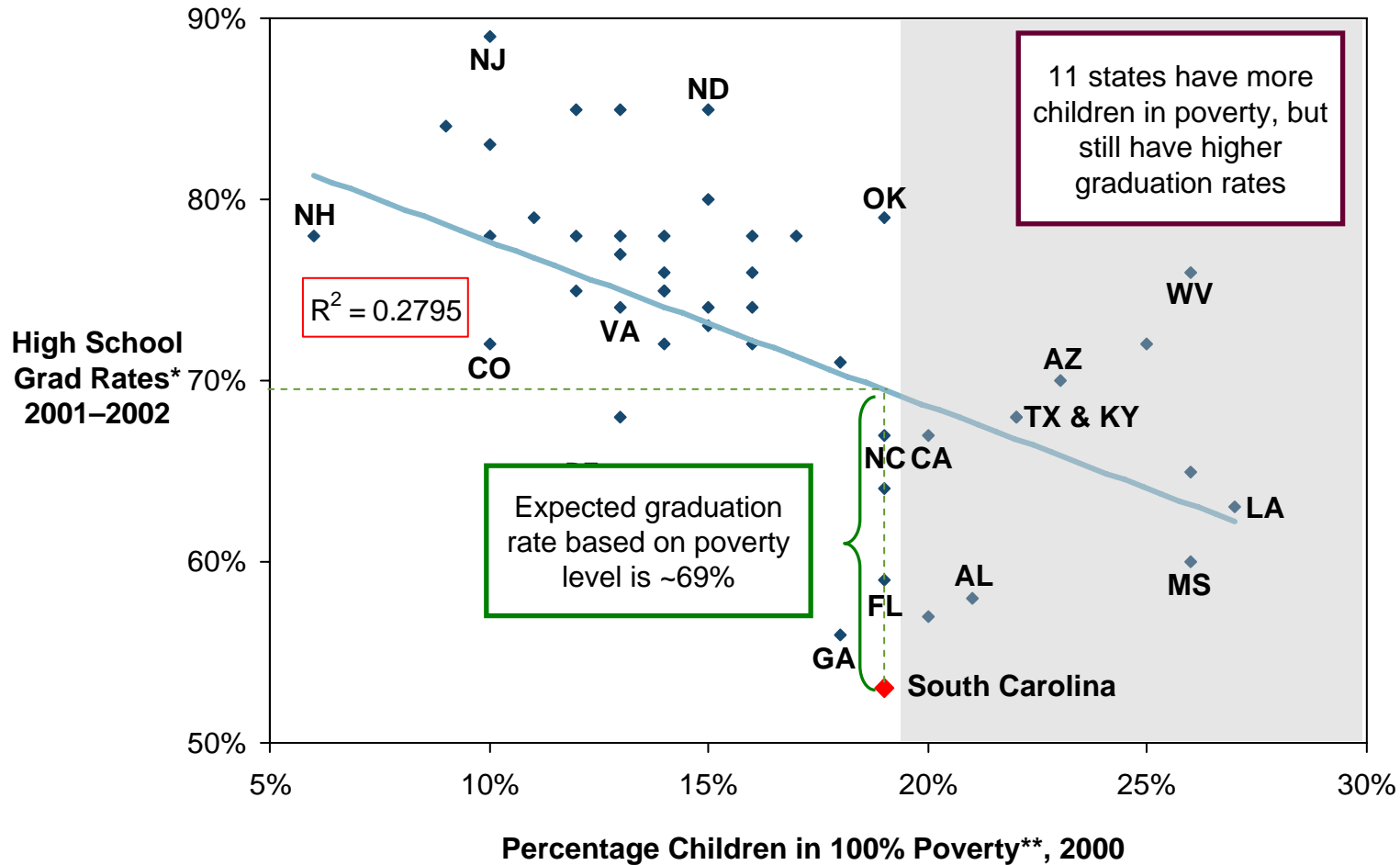
* Updates to original table produced in the Richard Young study; † As compiled by the Anne E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count

** All rates are for 2000/2001 School Year, except Manhattan Institute (01/02), SC Department of Education (02/03), and US Census Bureau (Calendar Yr 2003)
Source: Richard D. Young, The HS Crisis in the United States and South Carolina: Problems related to Dropouts and Recommended Solutions; SC Dept. of Ed.

High School Graduation Rates

Normalizing for Poverty Levels

Higher poverty levels in South Carolina do tend to pull down the graduation rate, but even when we normalize for this factor, graduation rates appear relatively low



* Manhattan Institute (Greene) Method

** Anne E. Casey Foundation: This is an annual average of monthly data from the 2000 Supplementary Survey from U.S. Census

High School Graduation Rates

Summary of Graduation Rate Normalization Analyses

Even after normalizing for a wide range of factors, South Carolina's graduation still appears to be quite low

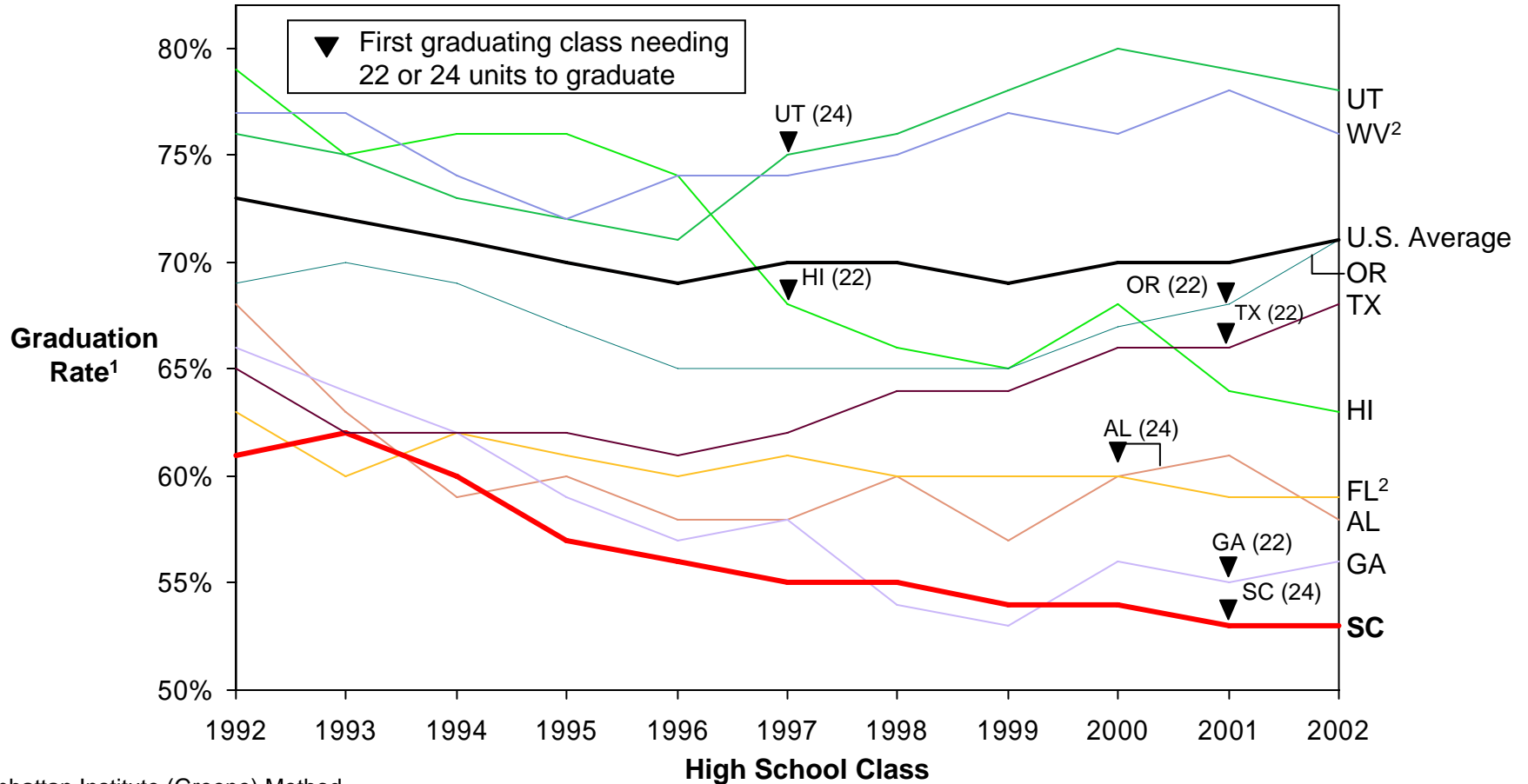
Factor Affecting Graduation Rate	Measurement of Factor	Expected Grad Rate	R ²	# States Higher in Factor AND Grad Rate
Poverty Level¹	Percent of Children in Poverty (at 100% level)	~69%	0.2795	11
Educational Attainment of Parents¹	Percent of Children in Households where Head of Household is a High School Dropout	~69%	0.3543	12
Single Parent Families¹	Percent of Children in Single-Parent Households	~65%	0.4423	6
Ethnic / Racial Mix of Students²	Percent of Minority Students	~68%	0.3448	12
Parental Involvement³	% 8th Graders in Schools that Report that Lack of Parent Involvement is More than a Minor Problem	~62%	0.3995	3
Teen Pregnancy¹	Teen Births per 1000 Females, age 15-17	~68%	0.3769	9
Physical Conflicts³	% 8th Graders in Schools that Report that Physical Conflicts are More than a Minor Problem	~67%	0.2800	5
Absenteeism³	% 8th Graders in Schools that Report that Absenteeism is More than a Minor Problem	~69%	0.2133	12
Suspension Rates⁴	Suspensions as a % of Enrollment	~57%	0.2624	0
Health Care Coverage¹	% Children under 18 without Health Insurance	~74%	0.1522	26

Source: ¹ Anne E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count; ² National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data; ³ Education Week, Quality Counts; ⁴ U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, OCR Elementary and Secondary Survey; Monitor Analysis

Comparison of Credits Required to Graduate vs. Graduation Rates

Increasing the number of units required to graduate does not appear to noticeably affect graduation rates

High School Graduation Rates, Selected States



¹ Manhattan Institute (Greene) Method

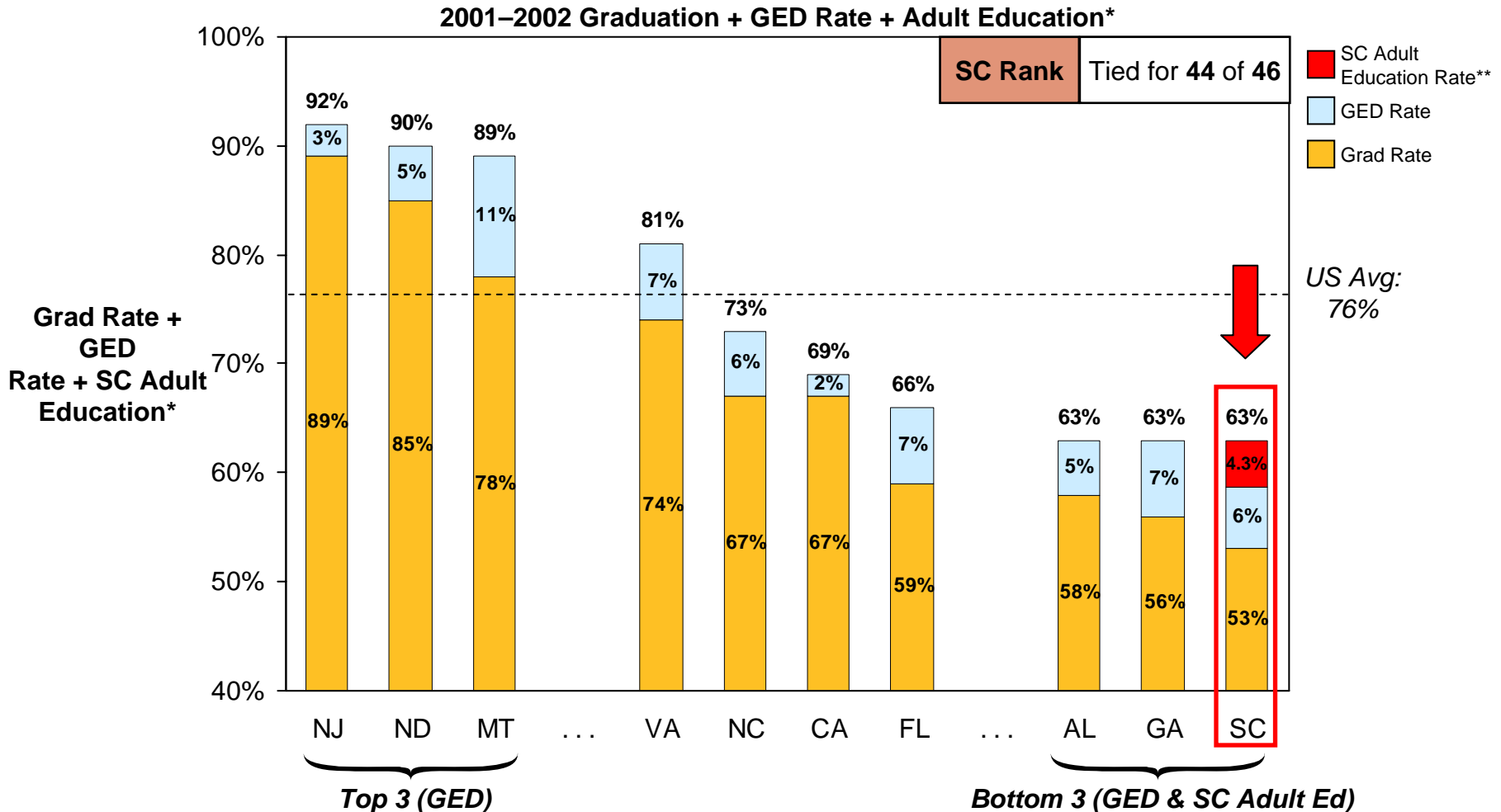
² 2003 is first graduating class where 24 credit grad requirement will come into effect

Note: Years shown reflect data for the class graduating that spring (e.g., class of 2002); Minnesota also requires 24 Units to graduate, however this is currently being implemented on a local district level

Source: Public High School Graduation and College-Readiness Rates: 1991–2002 (Manhattan Institute); CCSSO (credits to graduate)

South Carolina HS Completion Accounting for Adult Education

Adding an estimate of diplomas received in South Carolina through adult education would raise the completion rate to 63%, on par with the lowest ranked states

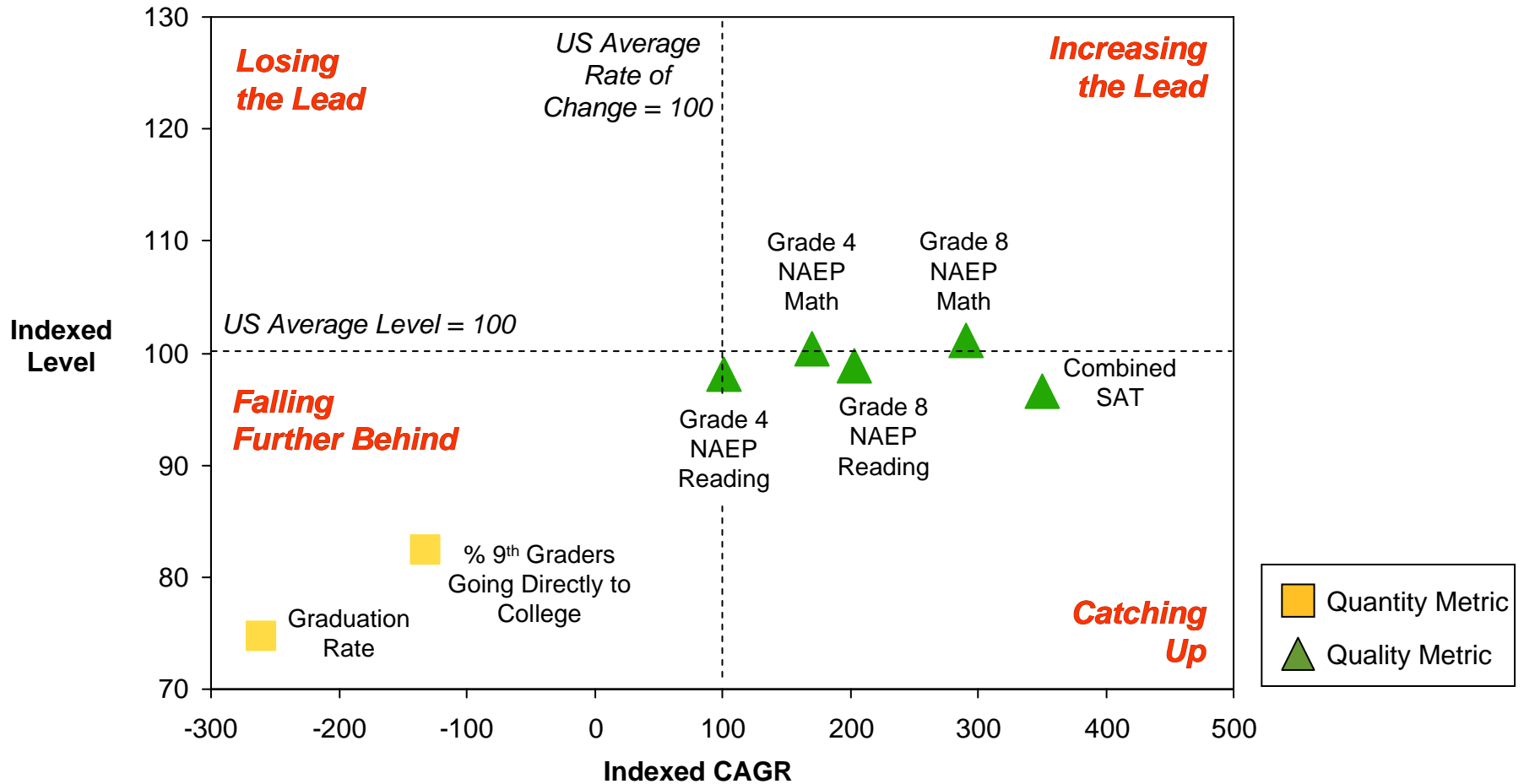


* Manhattan Institute (Greene) Method, American Council on Education, South Carolina Dept. of Education, Monitor Analysis

** Based on SC Department of Education estimates that ~ 3,000 students per year withdraw from high school to enroll in adult education. Calculation assumes 78% of these 3000 students complete the program and receive diplomas, in line with the Department of Education's own graduation rate estimates in 2002

Overall Summary of South Carolina's Educational Performance

South Carolina Indexed to the United States



Note: Standard SC index calculations can be misleading, since in some cases SC CAGR is positive while US CAGR is negative (NAEP G8 Reading), while in others SC and US CAGR are both negative (% Entering HS going directly to college); in these instances, a correction factor of -1 has been added for visual consistency; # years analyzed for CAGR: 5 (Grad Rate), 6 (% entering HS going directly to college), 7 (NAEP Reading), 8 (SAT), 9 (NAEP Math)

Source: NCES, Manhattan Institute, NCHEMS, College Board, ACT Institutional Questionnaire, Tom Mortenson / Postsecondary Opportunity, Monitor Analysis