

Site Visit: District Report

Heritage of Excellence... Commitment to the Future



- Sections:
- I. **Vision and Leadership**
 - II. Student Learning
 - III. Professional Development
 - IV. Instruction and Curriculum
 - V. Partnerships
 - VI. Challenges




West Branch Community Schools

Heritage of Excellence

- Established in 1878
- Consolidated with Springdale in 1956
- Includes the communities of Downey, Springdale, Oasis, and West Branch
- Currently serving 811 students K-12
- West Branch District encompasses 135 square miles in Cedar and Johnson County
- Kirkwood Community College partner that includes PSEO, dual enrollment, and Career Academies
- Employs 69 certified staff and 71 non-certified staff
- Largest employers in the district are Acciona Energy, Procter/Gamble Distributing Center, Hoover National Park, West Branch Community Schools

West Branch and its schools

PEOPLE

- 3rd largest school district in the county  785 Students (October 2008)
- Average Household size  2.5 members per family
- Minority enrollment has increased  State minority enrollment is 13.6%;
WB minority enrollment is 5.4%

SCHOOLS

- Decade of declining enrollment



West Branch serves 785 students...5.3% decline in 10 years, the state serves 516,862...6% decline in 10 years

- district declining



One of 365 public districts (437 in 1986) in decline

West Branch Community Schools

“Heritage of Excellence, Commitment to the Future”

- Board of Directors
 - Mike Owen, President
 - Dick Paulus, Vice-President
 - Kathy Knoop
 - Marty Jacobson
 - Carolyn Harold
 - Angie Walter, Board Secretary
- Superintendent
 - Craig Artist



West Branch Community Schools

“Heritage of Excellence, Commitment to the Future”

- **Administration**
 - Steve Hennesy, High School Principal
 - Sara Oswald, Middle School Principal
 - Jess Burger, Elementary School Principal
- **Athletic Director**
 - Lynnette Poula, Athletic Director/Instructor

Community Leadership

- School Improvement Advisory Committee
 - Review Student Achievement Data
 - Goal Setting
 - APR Report
 - AYP Report
 - Bond Issue Conversation
 - District Policy

Board of Director Successes

- Solvency Ratio of 17.3%
- Passing a HVAC Upgrade Bond Issue worth \$3.2 Million
- Keeping Class size low (18-20 students)
- Adding an additional Counselor
- 81% participation in extracurricular activities
- Graduation Rate 97%
- 78.6% score 20 or above on the ACT
- 14+ days of professional development annually

Our Mission

The West Branch Community School District creates a collaborative partnership through students, family, teachers, staff, and community, while providing appropriate learning opportunities to meet the needs of all students so they can become effective community members.



Beliefs

- All students are able to learn.
- It is important to have positive relationships among students, staff and parents because they play a critical role in meeting the learning needs of all students.

Beliefs

- A quality school system is responsive and accountable; and requires fair treatment, honesty and respect.
- Learning and teaching are the responsibilities of every individual in the community.
- All students are valued and important.

CSIP Goals

- 1) All K-12 students will improve reading comprehension, math and science as they prepare for success beyond high school.
- 2) Technology will be updated continually, and integrated to meet the academic needs of all learners.
- 3) All students will feel welcomed, safe, and connected in our school environment.

Board of Directors' Goal

“Increase student learning through improved instruction and improving the climate of learning.”

Administrative Goals

- **Promote and support improved instruction to increase student learning**
 - Report and monitor progress toward the third year of curriculum mapping.
 - Design and report an effective plan of professional development.
 - Monitor and report to the Board about the progress of student learning.
- **Effectively lead the improvement of learning relationships**
 - Collect and report base line data affecting student and employee/teacher relationships.
 - Communicate and collaborate with the learning community about the progress of student learning and the mission of the district.
- **Lead the development of a plan for continuously improving facilities and grounds**
 - Design and communicate progress on an installation plan of the new HVAC for the elementary prior to the construction in the spring of 2009.
 - Report on the construction progress of the Elementary HVAC system and Middle School air-conditioning.
 - Design a five year facility update plan (PPEL/SILO) by the Spring of 2009
 - Begin collecting data to help prepare for renewing the PPEL in the spring of 2010.

Progress Toward Goals

ELL Program

Olweus Program

TAG Program Growth

At-Risk Improvement

Work Place Learning Connection

Improve Professional Development

Maintain Small Class Sizes

Financially Strong District

Administrative Team is collaborative, and communicates with stakeholders

Improve Parent Teacher Conference Attendance

Improve Teacher Retention

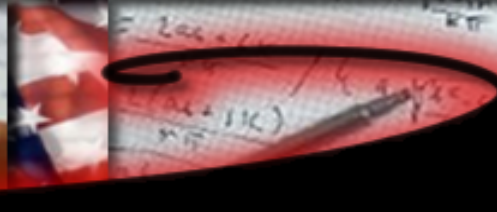
Email updates to Board and Staff

Improving Communication with Community

Alignment of Curriculum through Curriculum Mapper

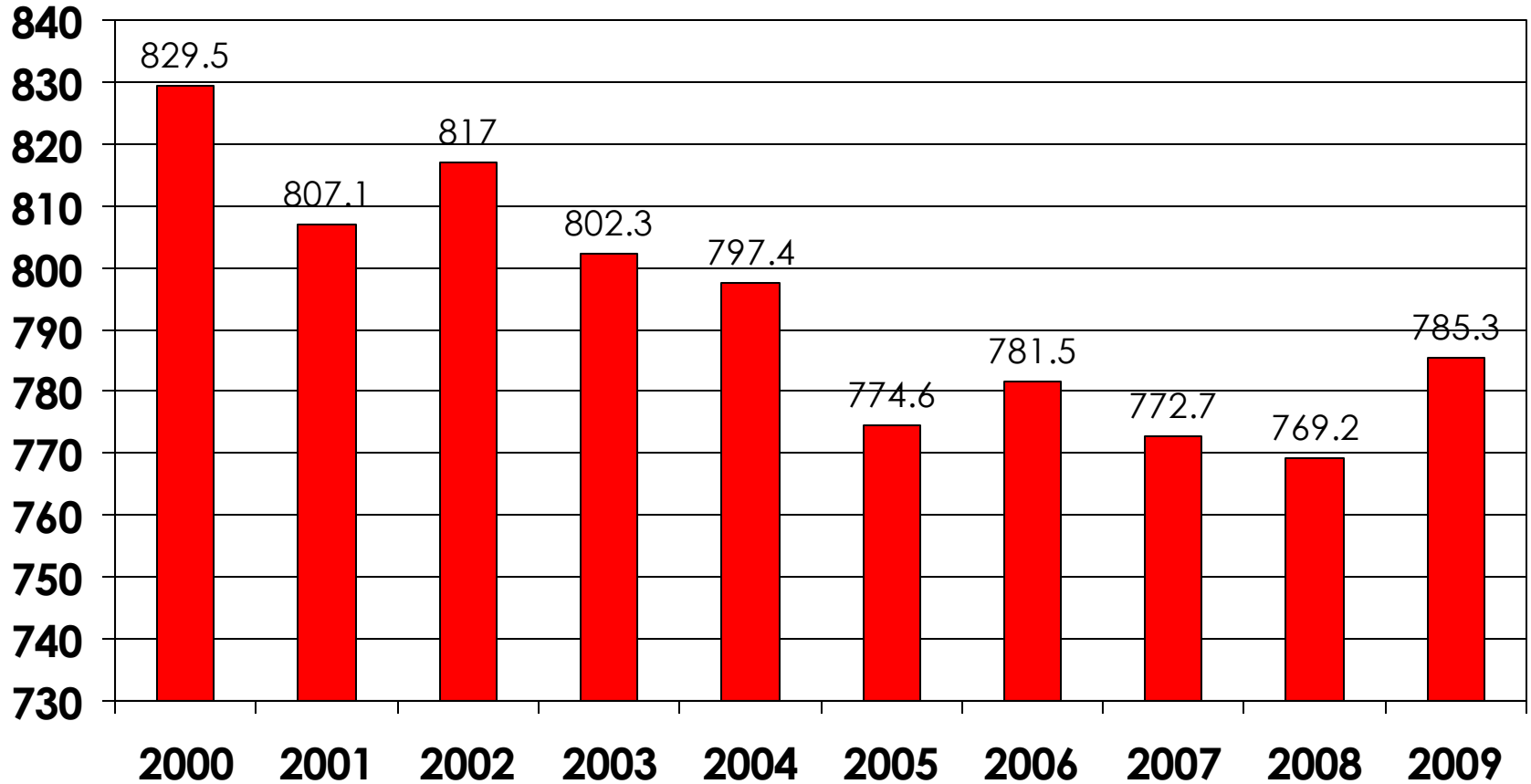
Site Visit: District Report

Heritage of Excellence... Commitment to the Future

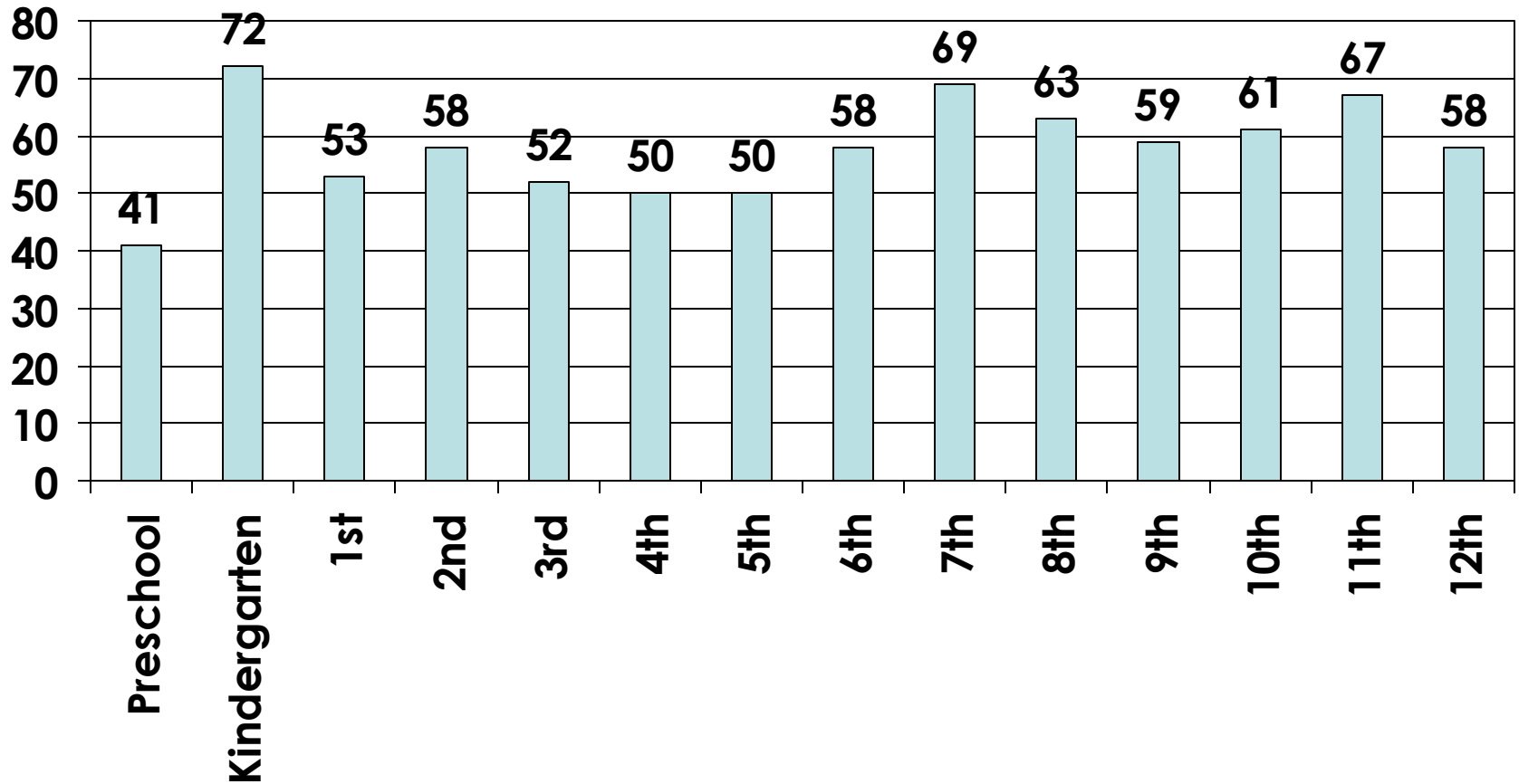


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History of Enrollment



Student Enrollment 2008-09



STUDENTS

- Notifying parents  According to students, 74% feel parents are notified when doing a good job...91% are notified when something was wrong
- More students feel school staff & students are supportive  44% of our 11th graders feel supported at school; 43.9% responded positively state-wide
- Reported alcohol & tobacco use down  60% of 11th graders have not had a drink and 84% have not had a cigarette in the past 30 days

WHAT STUDENTS ARE LEARNING

West Branch must offer specific courses for each grade level.

- West Branch sets its own curriculum, and it must be based on state and local standards.
- At the high school level, West Branch requires:

58 Total Credits to Graduate

8

units of English

6

units of math

6

units of science

7

units of social studies

RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES

<i>Enrollment</i>	<i><250</i>	<i>West Branch</i>	<i>7,500+</i>
English	6.9	8	14.8
Math	7.3	8	13.4
Science	5.9	12	12.3
Social Science	5.8	9	11.7
Foreign Language	4.1	8	16.5

One of my students came back for his book because he wanted to read over the weekend. We have several students coming up to me saying, “I’ve never read a whole book outside of school before.” Some students are feeling successful for the first time and have a new attitude toward life.

This is one outcome of implementing Second Chance Reading

Student Leadership

- Student Council (MS and HS)
- National Honor Society
- FFA
- Extra-Curricular Activities
- Character Counts
- Olweus
- BLT(Bear Leadership Team)

Extra-Curricular Activities

- Football
- Volleyball
- Cross Country
- Wrestling
- Basketball
- Mock Trial
- Softball
- Baseball
- Track
- Soccer
- Jazz Band
- Marching Band
- Concert Band
- Mixed Choir
- Show Choir
- Cheerleading
- Drama
- Speech

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WHO IS **TEACHING** OUR STUDENTS?

*Iowa has 34,444 full-time public school teachers,
and West Branch has 69.*

28% → **30%** have advanced degrees

73.7% → **74%** are female

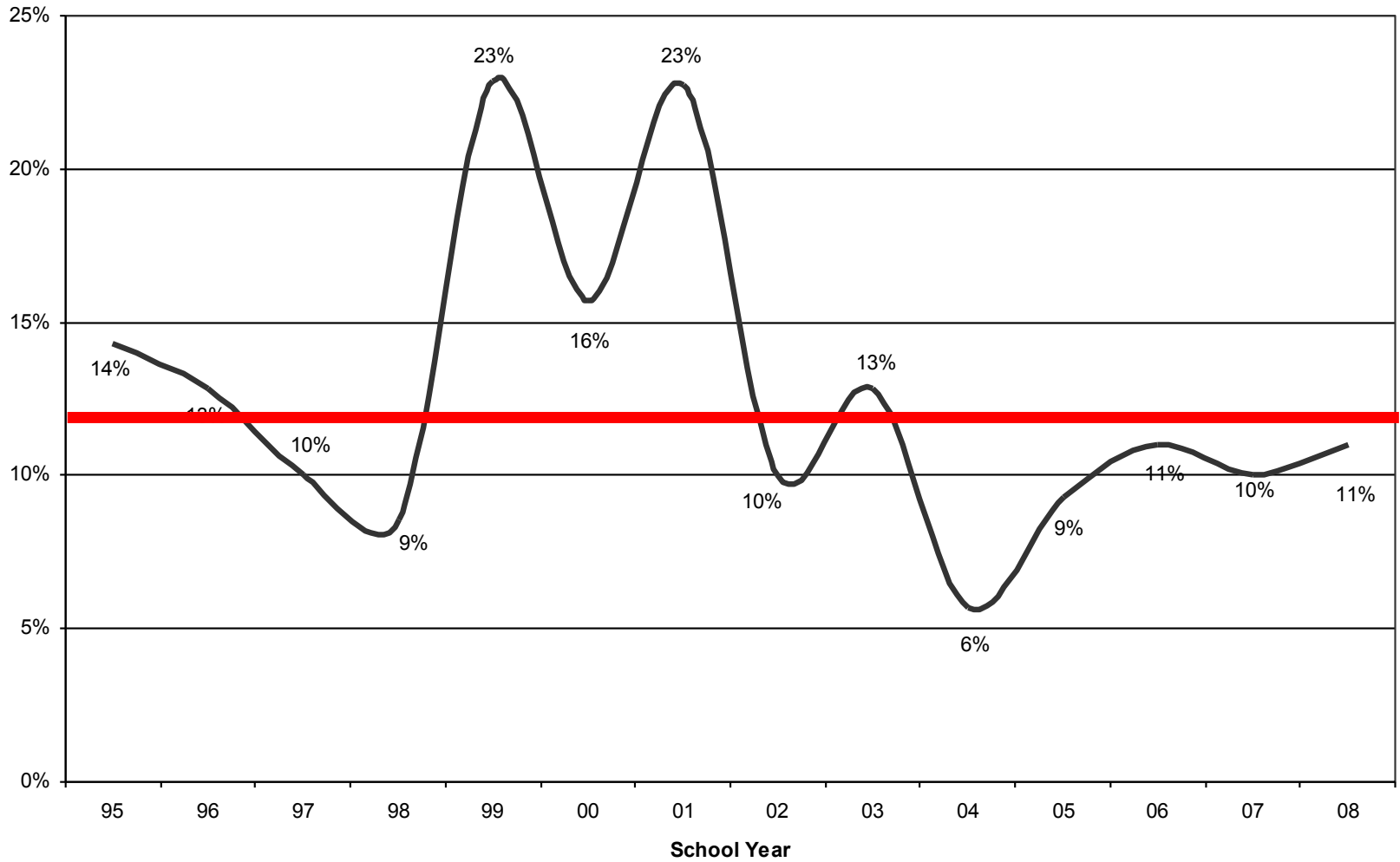
1.8% → **4.35%** are minority

42.1 → **43** avg. age

Employees

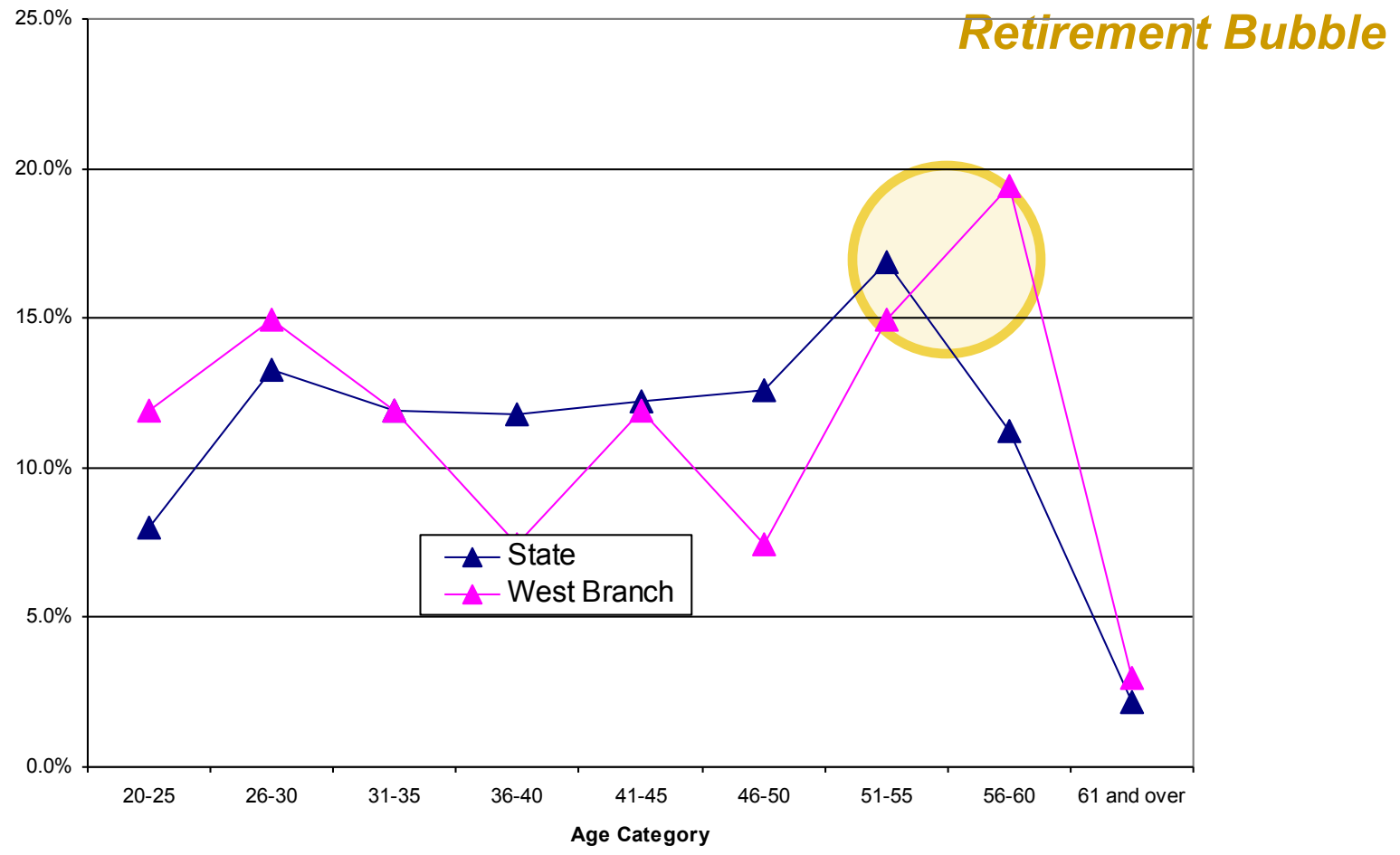
- 141 Employees District-Wide
- 33%(46) are male
- 67%(95) are female
- 97%(138) are white
- 3% (3) are non-white

Instructional Staff Turnover



Teacher Shortage

Teacher Availability
State/Local Comparison



Professional Development

- 97% average attendance each week
- More instructors are involved in instructional collaboration
- 92% approval rating on our County Wide Professional Development
- Equivalent of 14 days per year
- Many have mapped 3 courses of study
- Selected Staff are attending Iowa Core Initiative of the DE
- Teacher Quality Committee – Helps design Professional Development for the district

Types of Professional Development

- Brain-Based Research
- LtoJ – Lee Jenkins
- Reading Instruction
- Differentiated Instruction
- Subject Area Work (reading, math, science, social studies and writing)
- Building Level Learning (IEL or the four quadrants)
- Assessment Modified Instruction
- Independent Learning
- What Great Teachers Do Differently – Todd Whitaker
- UNI Price Lab – Iowa Core
- 7-12 Rigor, Relevance and Relationships
- Writing Instruction

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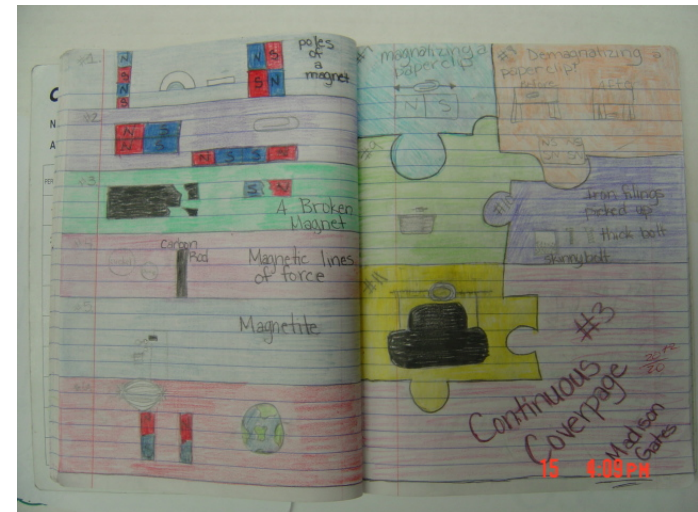
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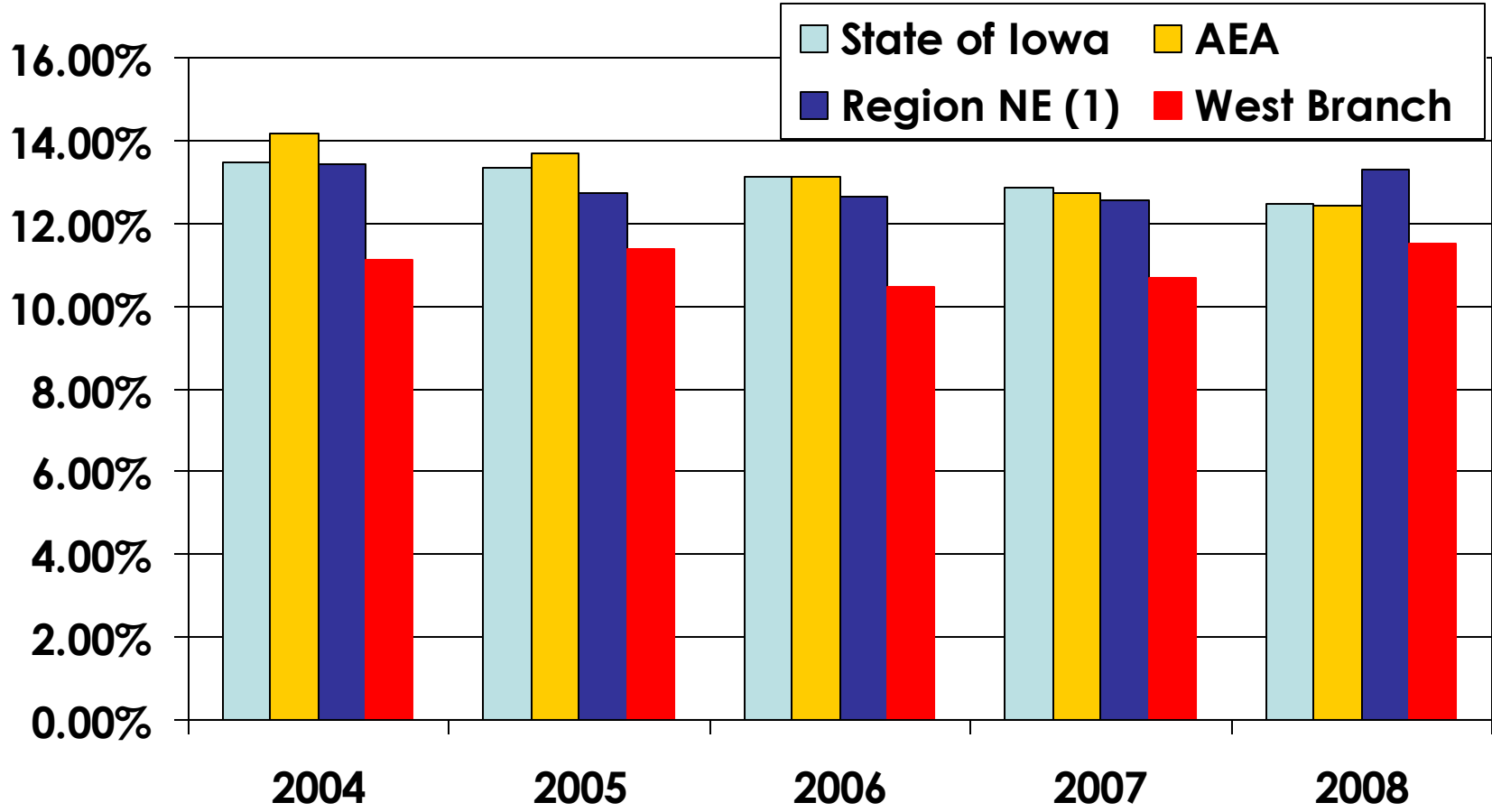
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Assessments

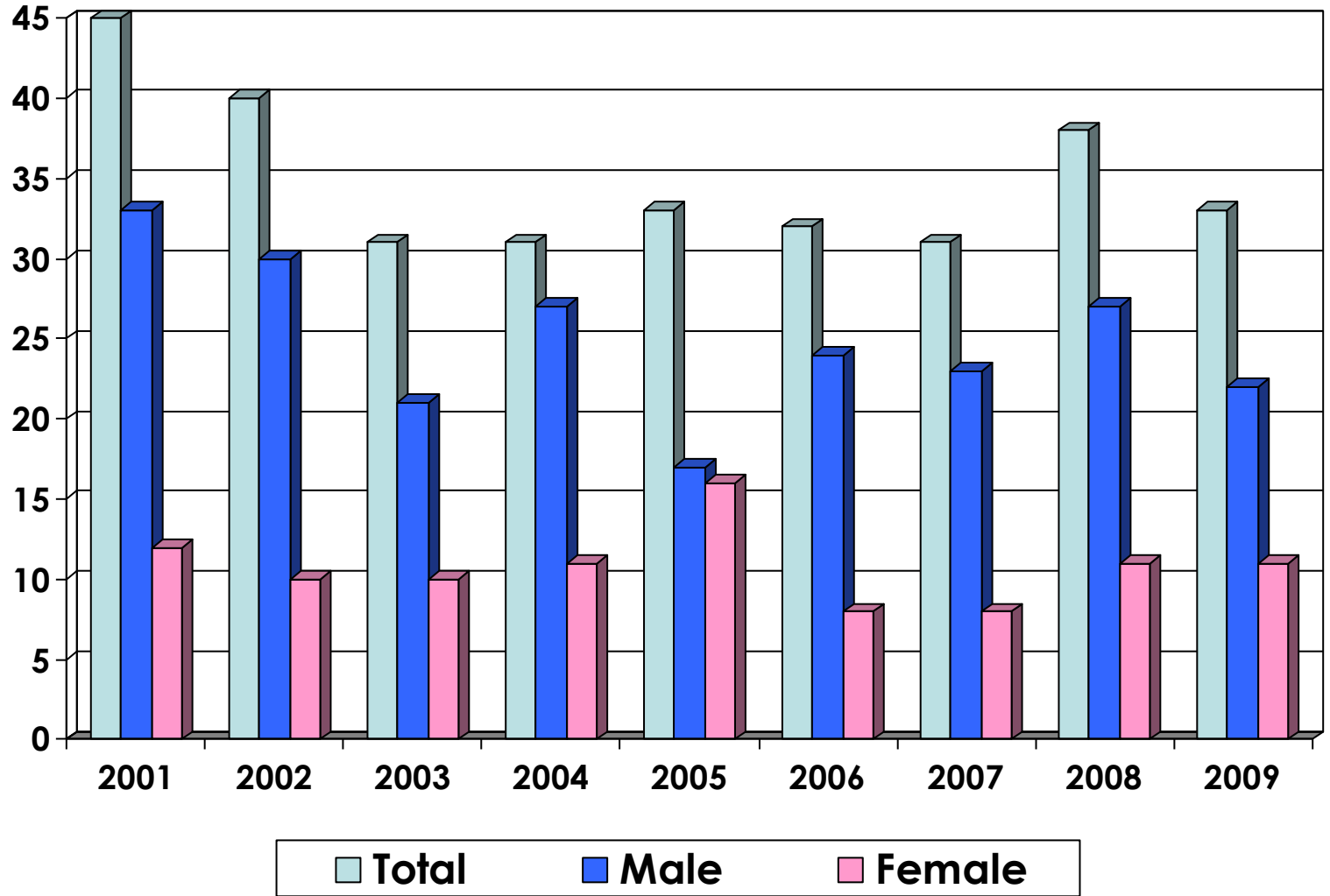
- MAPS
- ITBS
- ITED
- ACT
- IPI (Instructional Practice Inventory)
- Summative Assessment
- Rubrics
- Iowa Youth Survey
- Community Survey
- PSAT



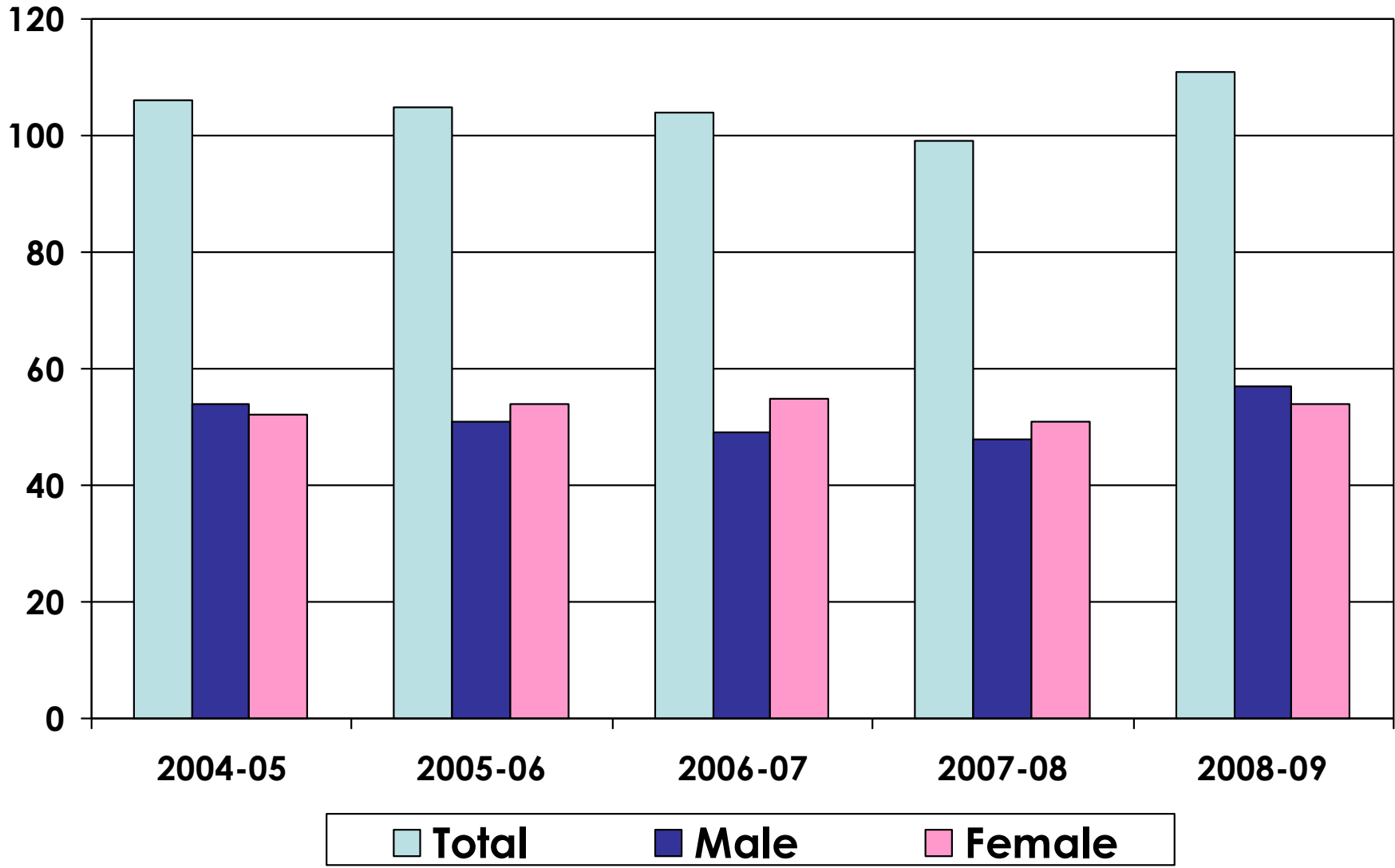
Special Education %



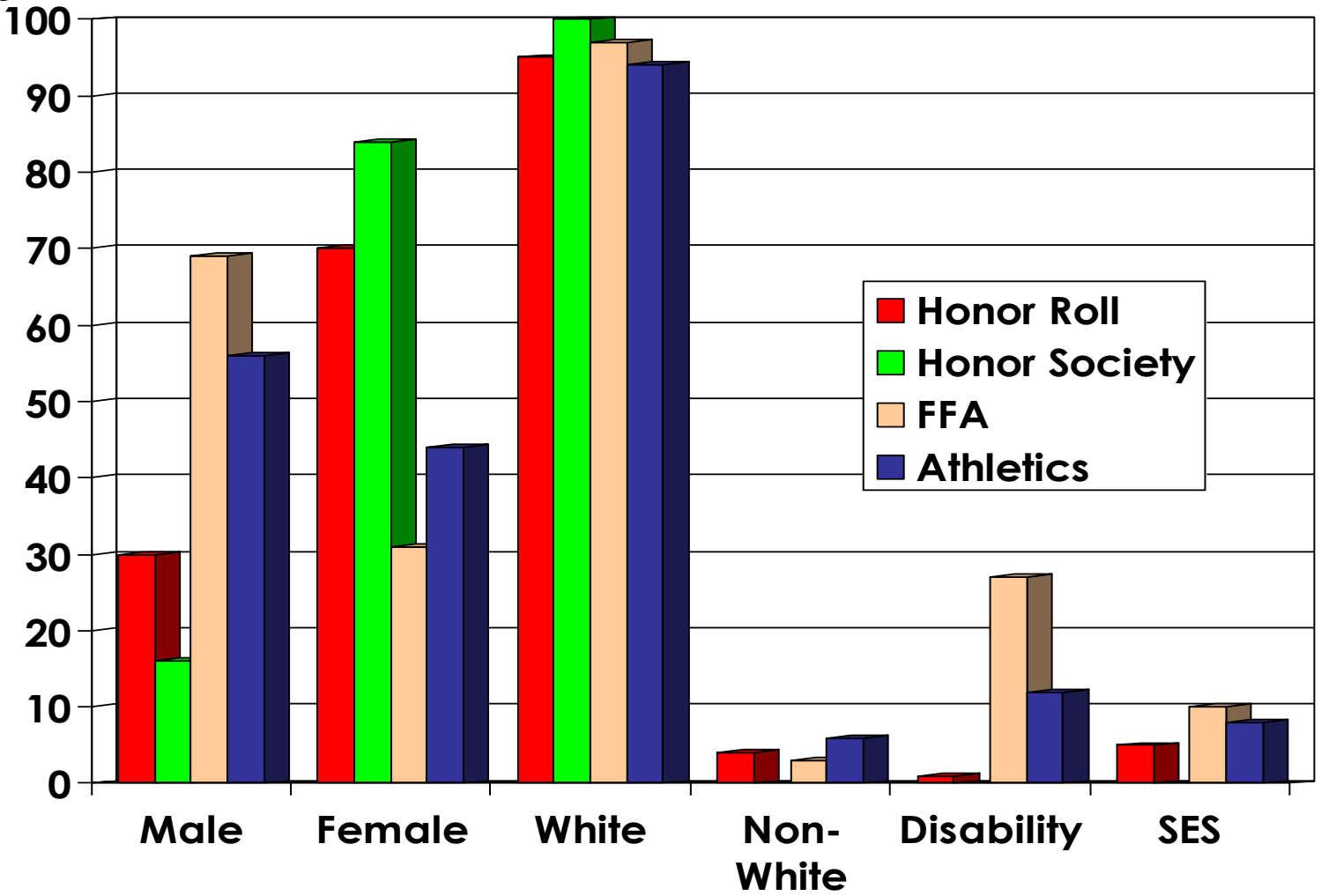
At-Risk Data



Talented And Gifted Data

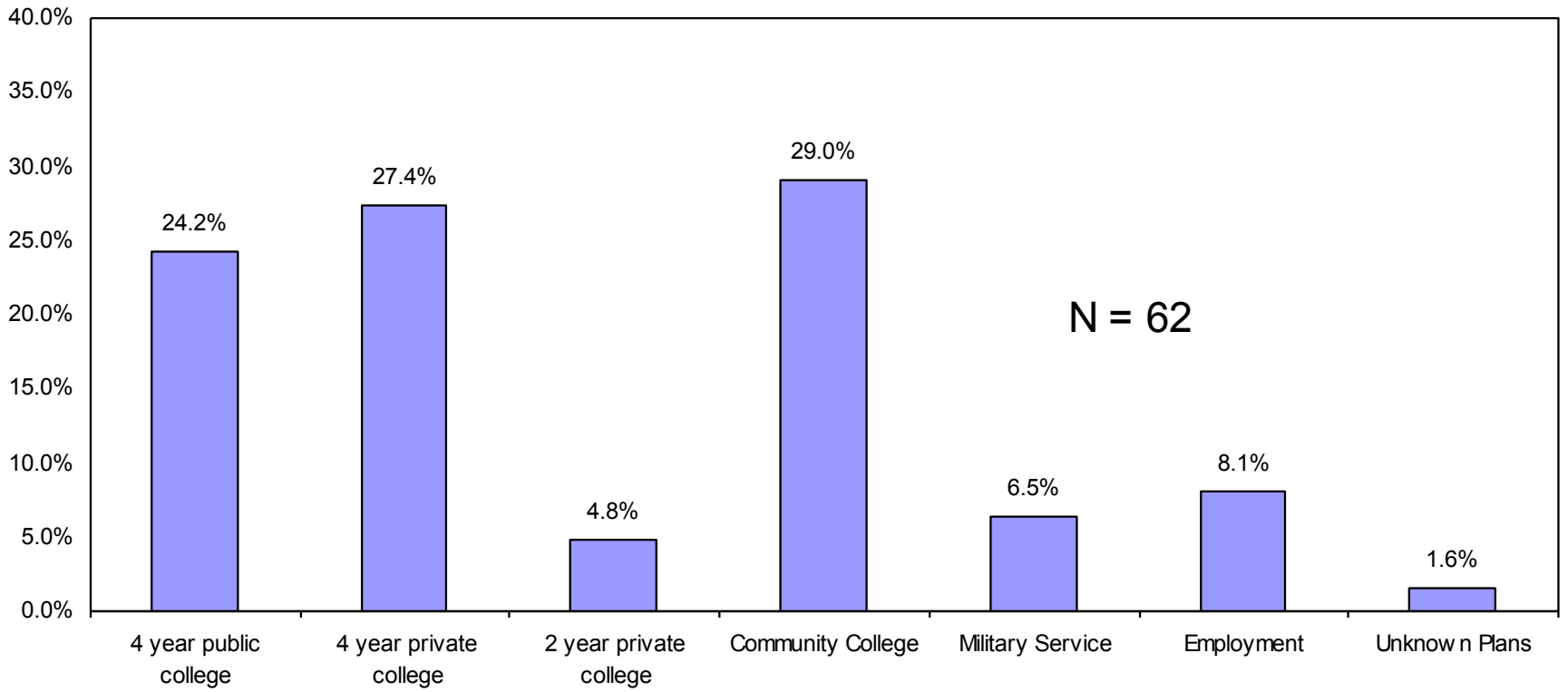


Student Statistics



Intentions to Pursue Postsecondary Education

Graduate Intentions 2008



COLLEGE PREP & **READINESS**

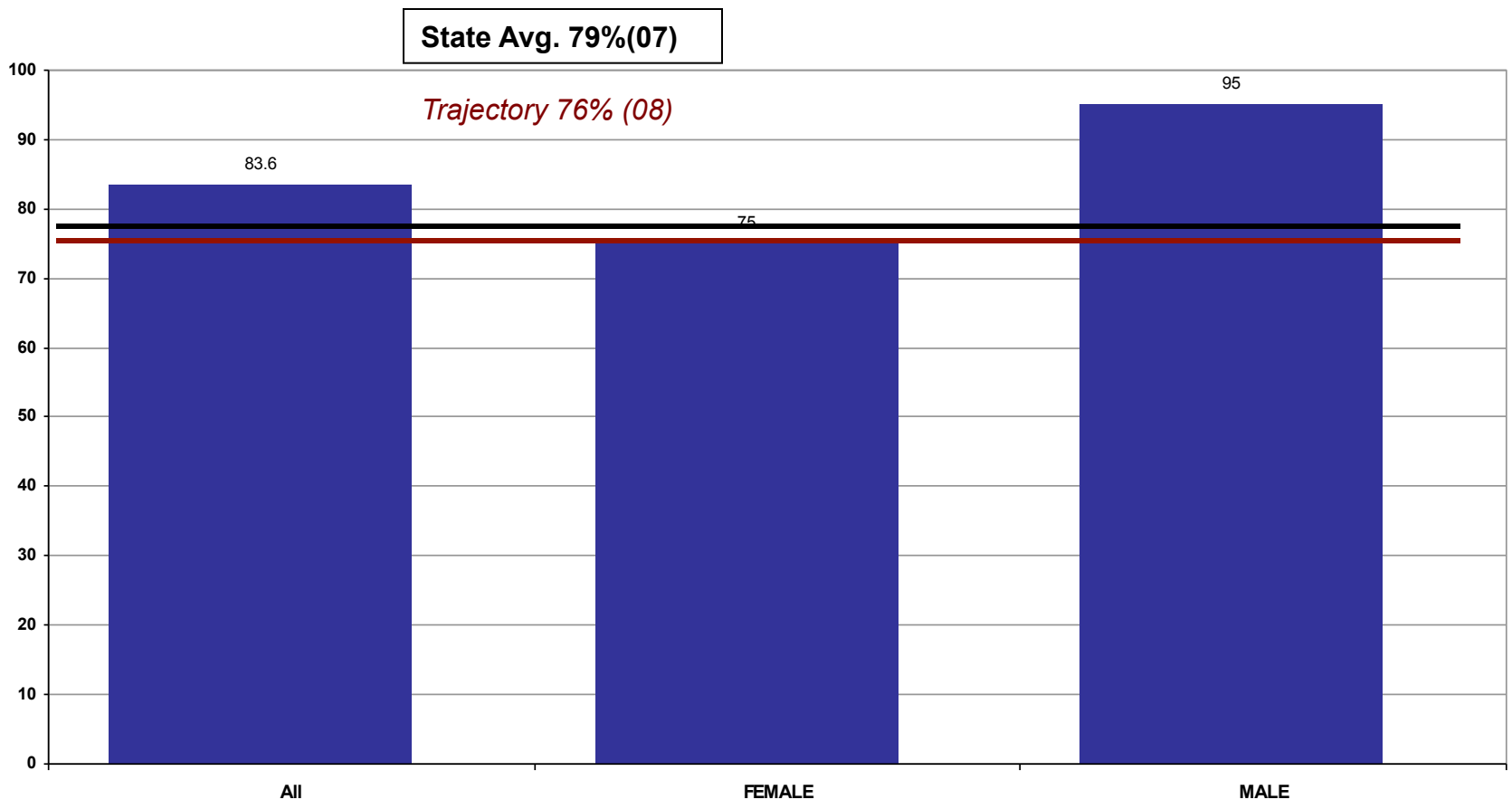
23.5 average ACT score

41/63 completed ACT core

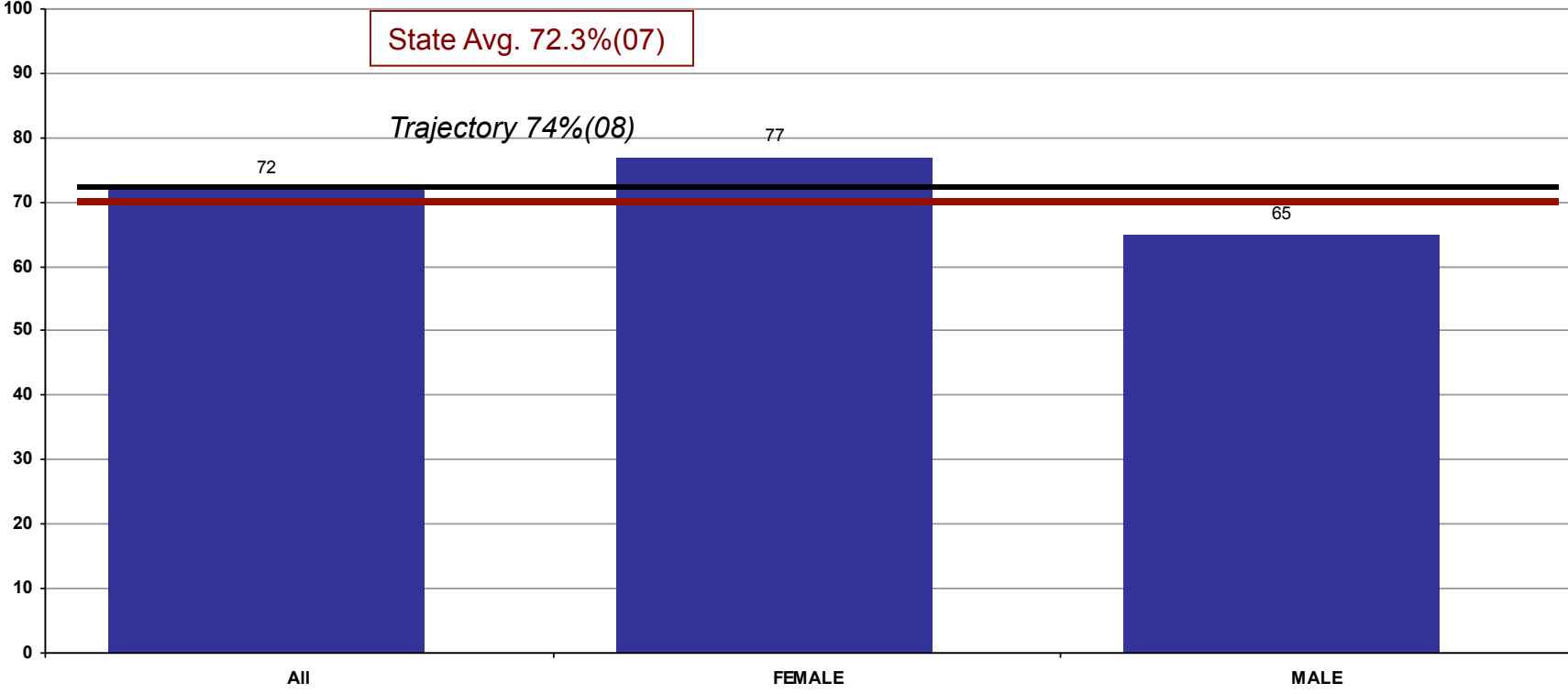
98.44% graduation rate

84.2% plan to pursue additional training or college after high school.

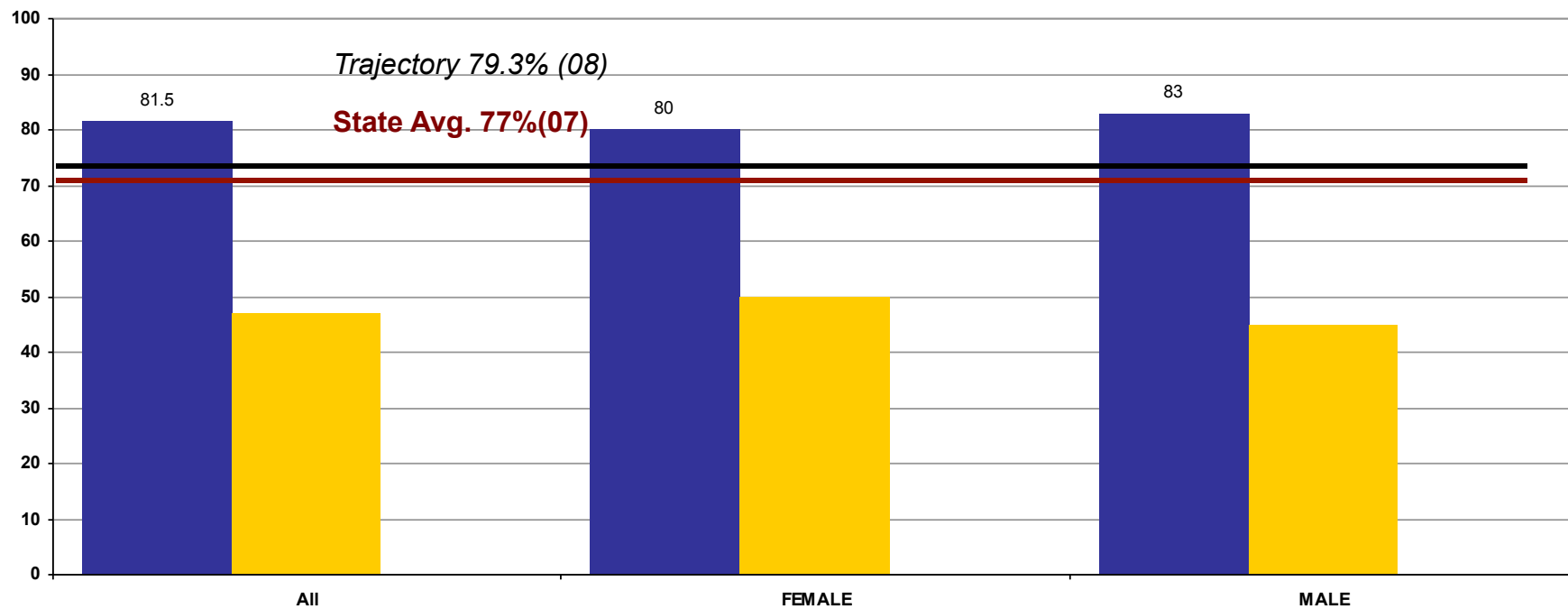
Fourth Grade Reading (2008)



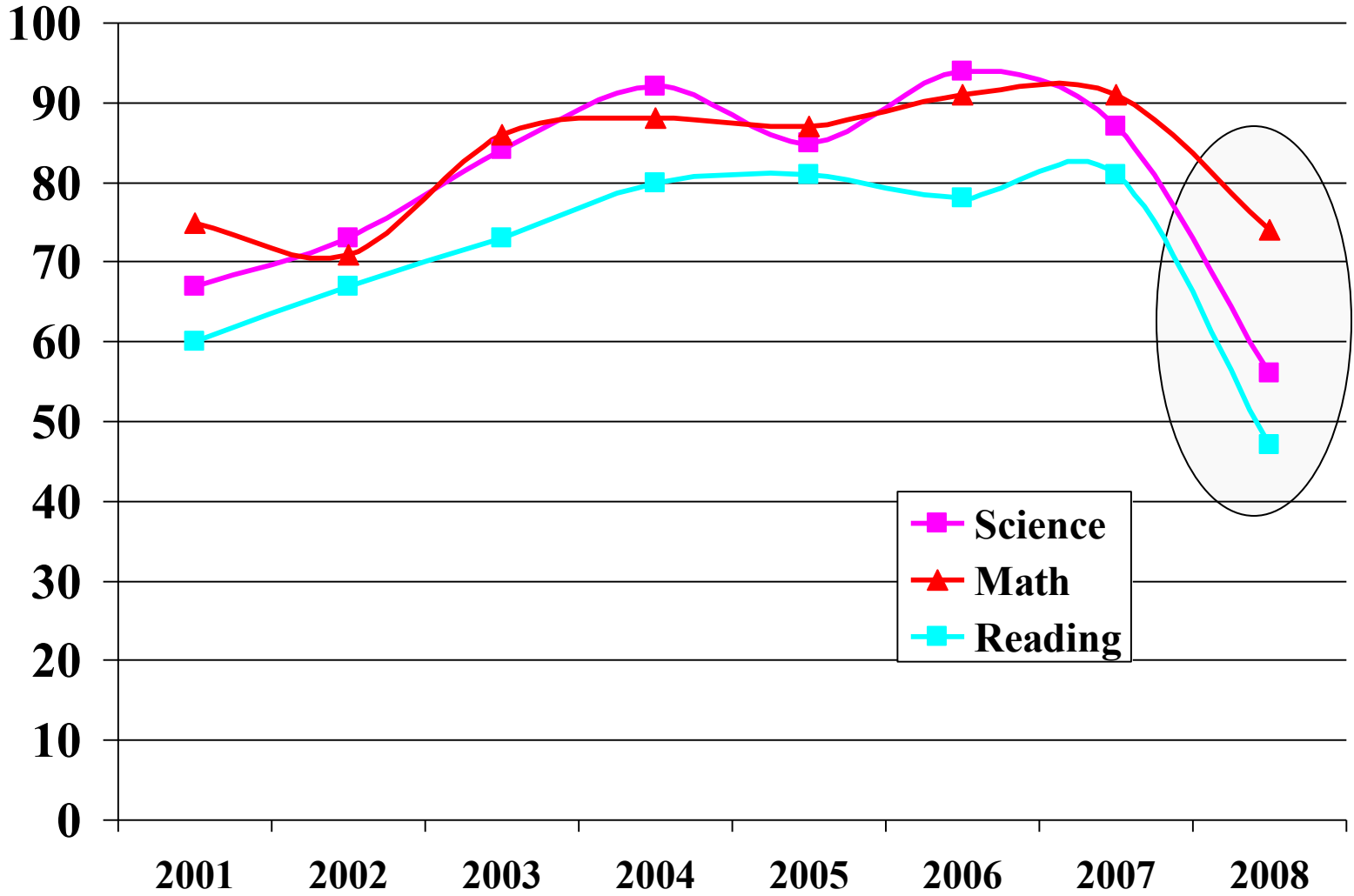
8th Grade Reading



11th Reading Comprehension



History of 11th Grade Scores



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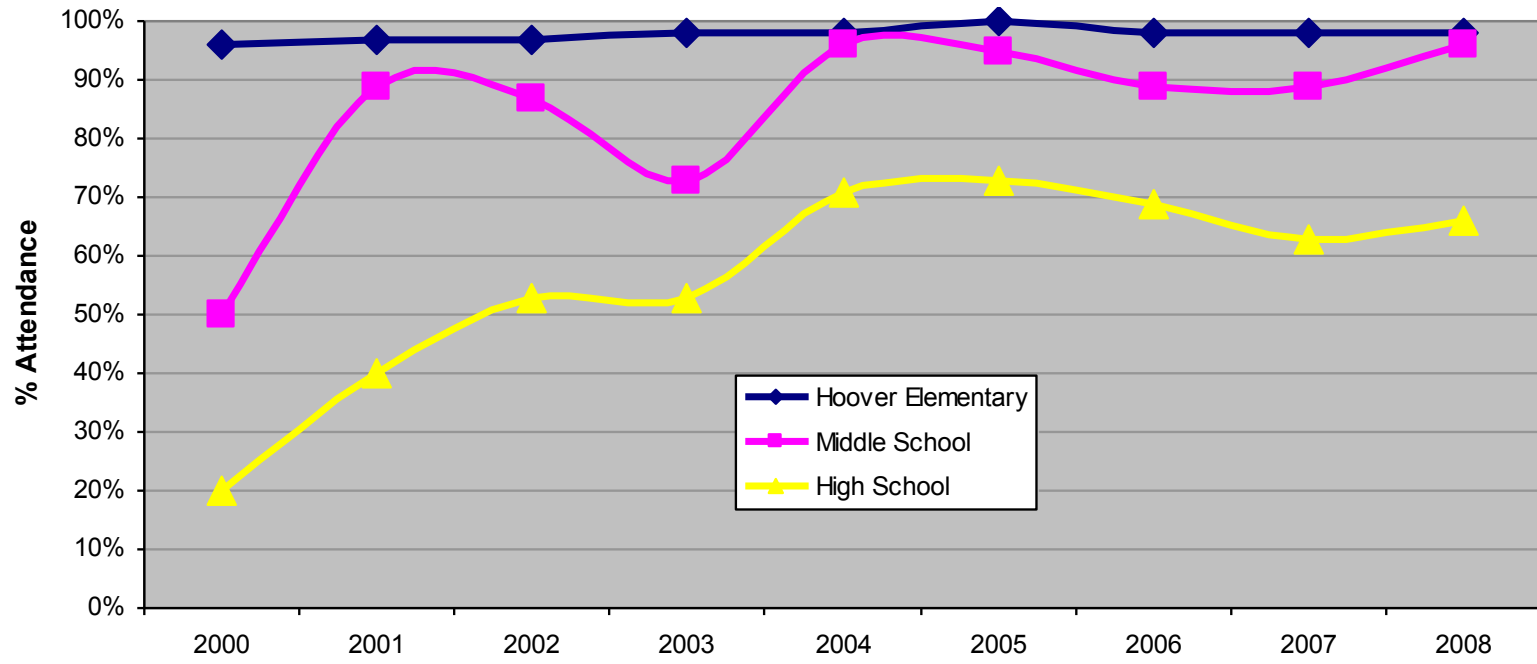
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Parent-Teacher Conferences

Fall Conferences - Last Eight Years



WEST BRANCH COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

- Number of ELL students increased



ELL students make up 3.5% of the state's K-12 enrollment; .7% of WB k-12 enrollment






- Special education




12% of West Branch certified enrollment; 13% of state certified enrollment


2007-08 WBCSD Information sources, and the Department Education Website

Climate

- Middle School Suspensions  17 suspensions in 2001...
7 suspensions in 2008
- Middle School Harassment  8 claims of student harassment
- High School Suspensions  27 suspensions in 2001...
11 suspensions in 2008
- High School Harassment  6 reports of student harassment
- Volunteer Hours  2002 students acquired 400 hours....2008 students acquired 5719 hours

INCOME

- Household Income  Median Salary \$42,500

- Percent of children living in poverty  18% of West Branch students live in poverty, 13.1% of Iowa's; 18.5% national average

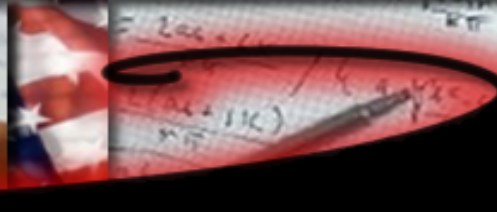
Highlights

- ~~Silver Cord~~
- AP Classes
- Graduation Rate
- Additional Section of Kindergarten
- New Reading Series
- Pre-School Program
- MS Science Projects
(*ECybermission*)
- Extra-Curricular Participation
- Class Offerings
- Olweus Program



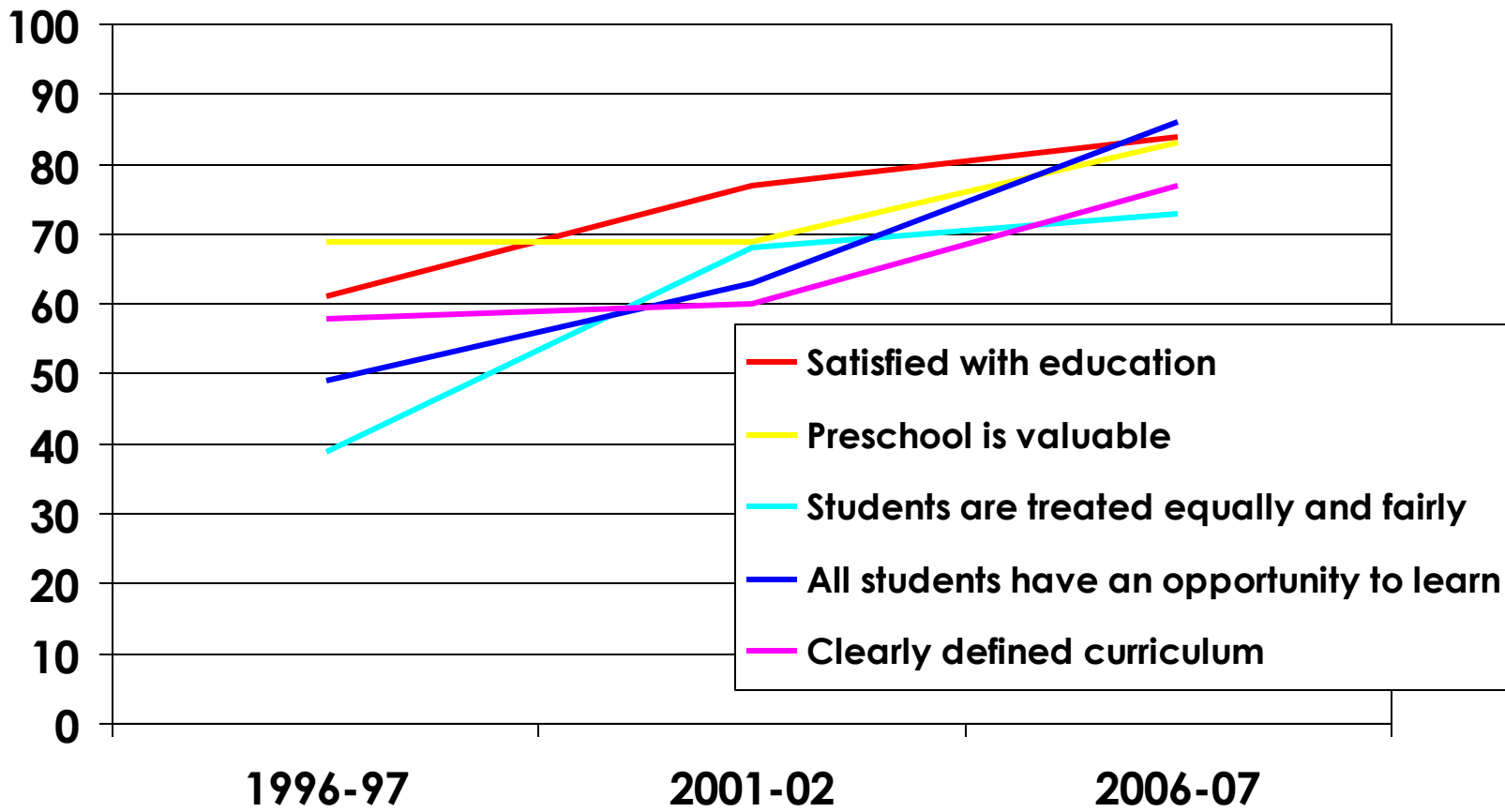
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Community Survey Results

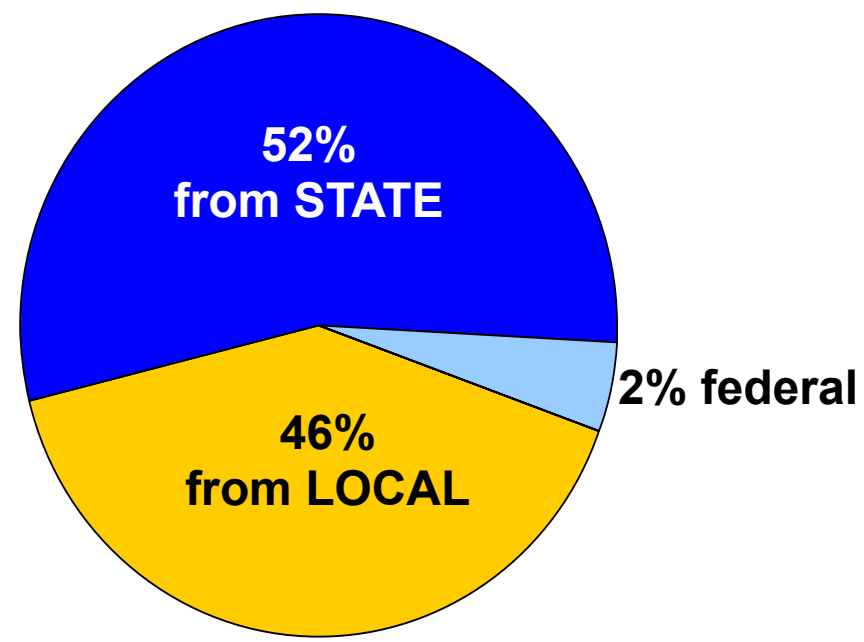


ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES

- Recruit, train and retain qualified educators
- Provide adequately for students with critical behavior needs
- Provide adequate resources to improve student achievement at all levels
- Maintain welcoming and engaging school environment

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Each Iowa public school district has a general fund that is comprised of revenues from local, state, and federal sources.



Total initial general fund appropriations (millions, FY 2008)	\$6,296,541
Average total expenditures per pupil \$7,848	
State cost per pupil (2008)	\$5,365

We must ensure that public education provides a good return on taxpayers' investment.

Average Total Expenditure Per Pupil

State/Nation	Per Pupil Expenditure	National Rank
Nation	\$9,002	—
Illinois	\$10,271	11
Wisconsin	\$10,072	14
Minnesota	\$9,675	19
Kansas	\$8,178	32
Nebraska	\$7,980	35
South Dakota	\$7,911	36
Iowa	\$7,087/\$7,848	37
Missouri	\$7,680	39

INVESTMENT BY FUNCTIONAL CATEGORY

Instruction & Student Support	71%
Transportation	4.0%
Operations & Maintenance	9.0%
Administration & Management	12%
Support Services	4%

A Special Moment

