The Culminating **Goal**

60% Postsecondary Attainment

Gauging Progress

Joan M. Lord

Vice President
Education Data, Policy Research and Programs

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Postsecondary Credentials
Certificates
Associate Degrees
Bachelor's Degrees
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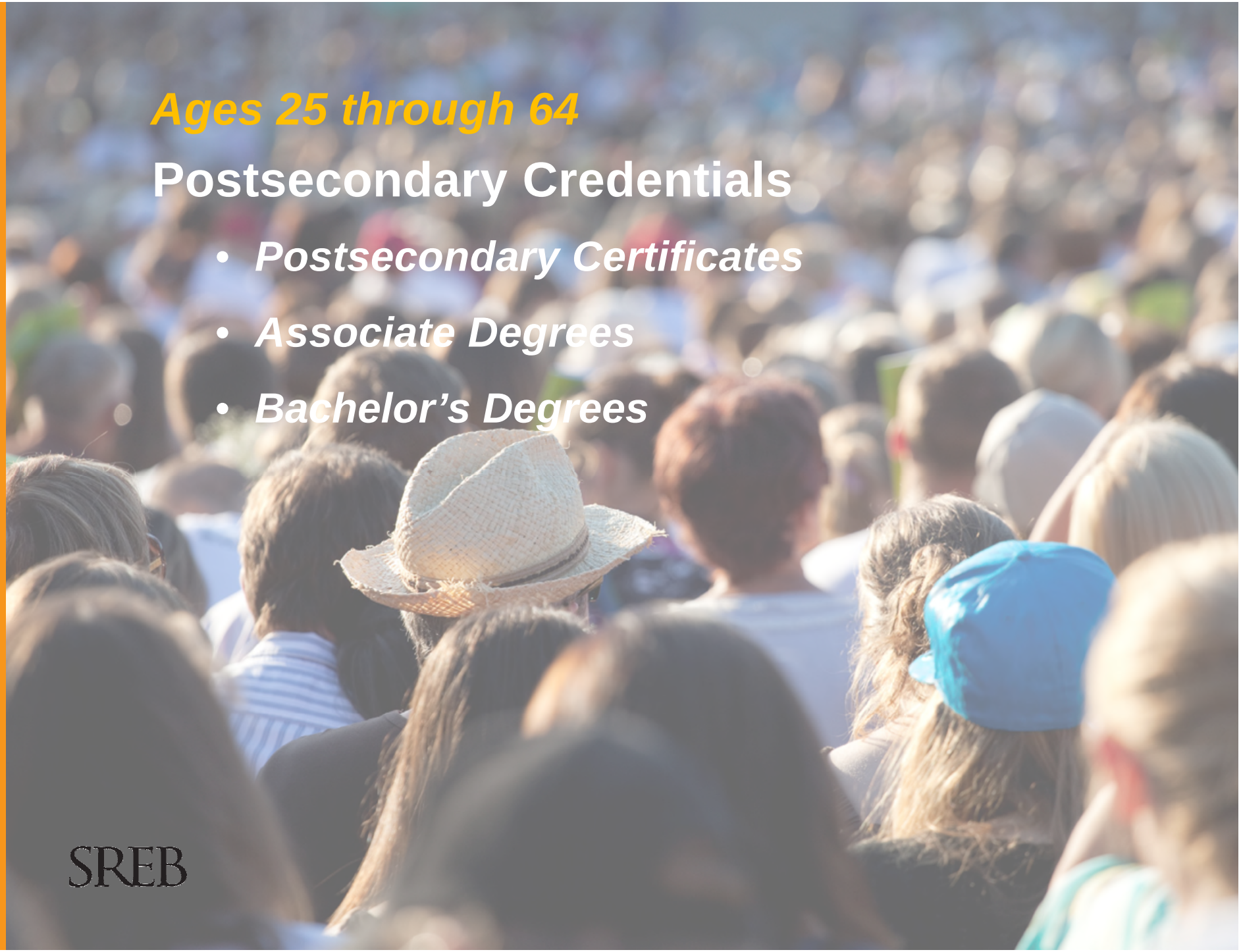
Ages 25 through 64
Postsecondary Credentials
• Postsecondary Certificates
• Associate Degrees
• Bachelor's Degrees
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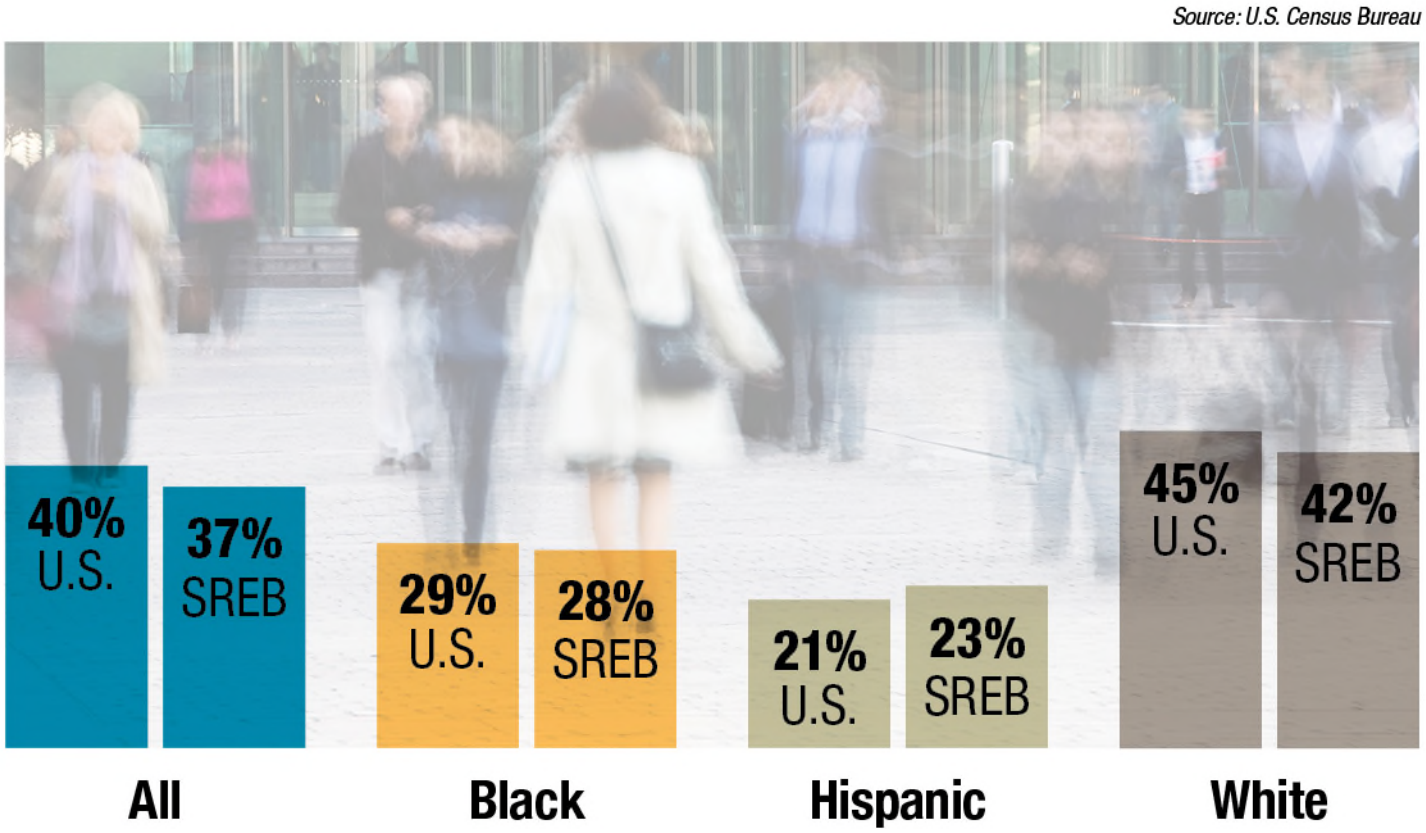
Adults with **Associate Degrees** or Higher

Percentage working-age adults, by race and ethnicity, 2014



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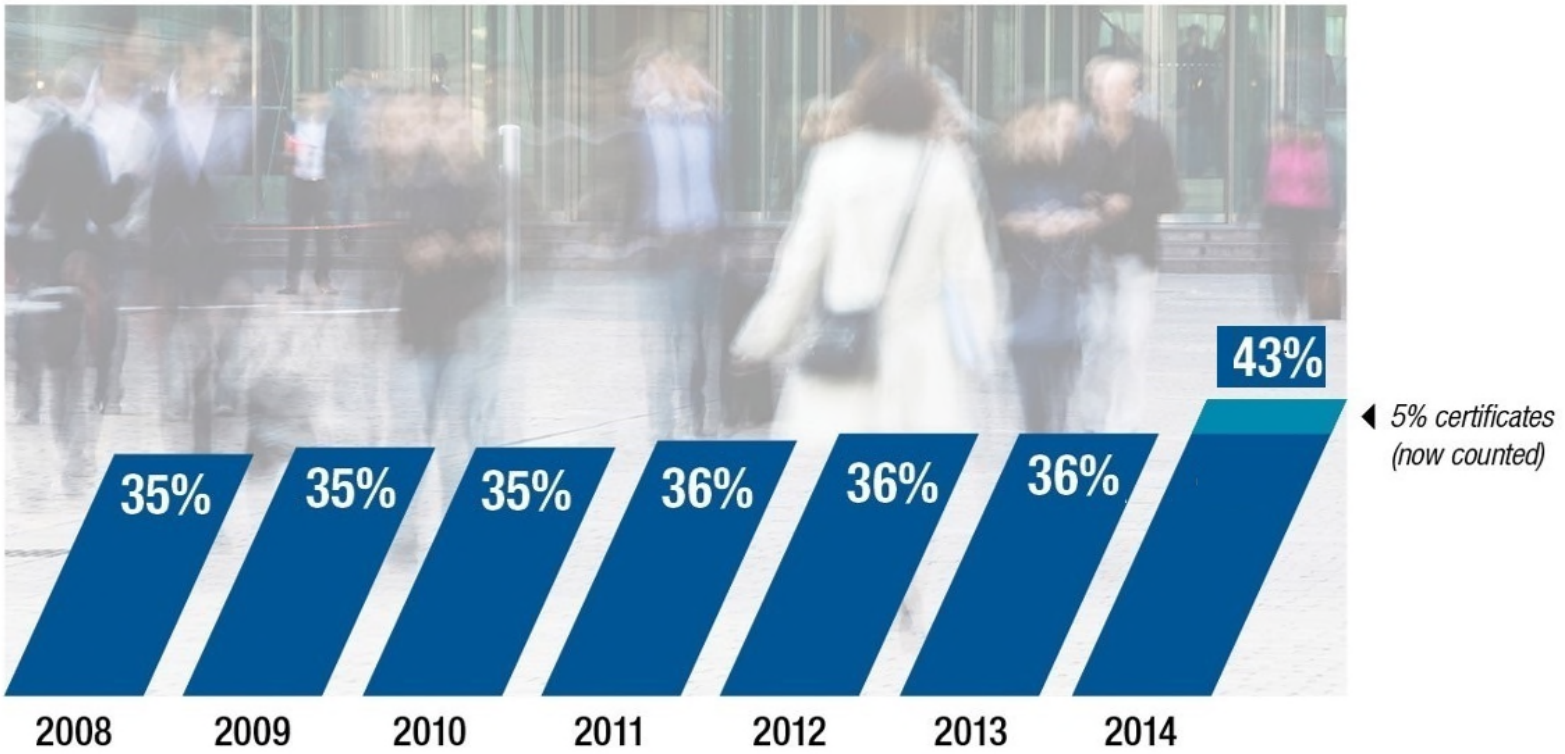
Adults with **High-Quality Postsecondary Credentials**

Percentage working-age adults, southern region, 2008-2014

Source: SREB Fact Book and Lumina Foundation



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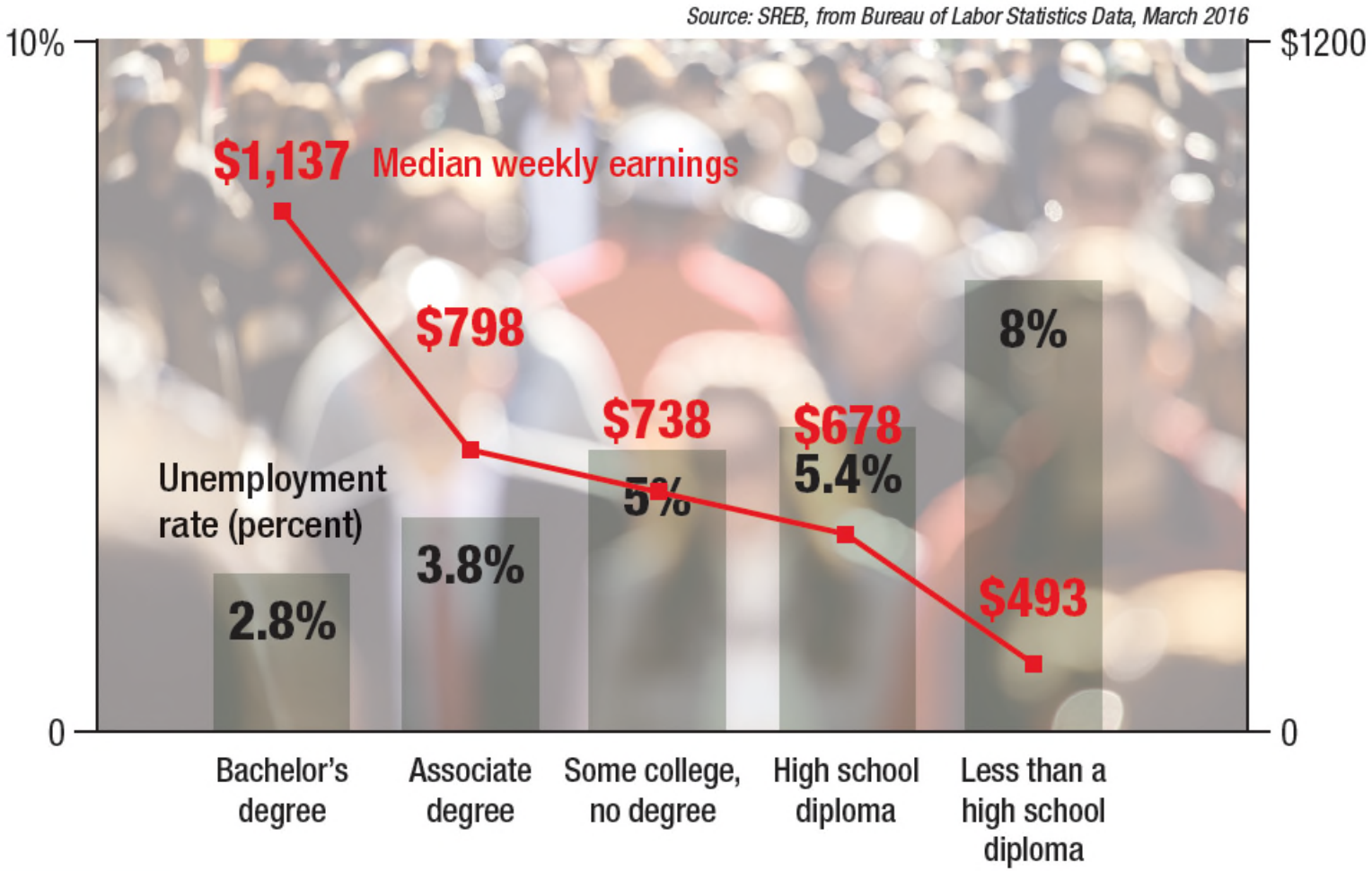
Unemployment Rates and Median Weekly **Earnings**

By education level in U.S., 2015



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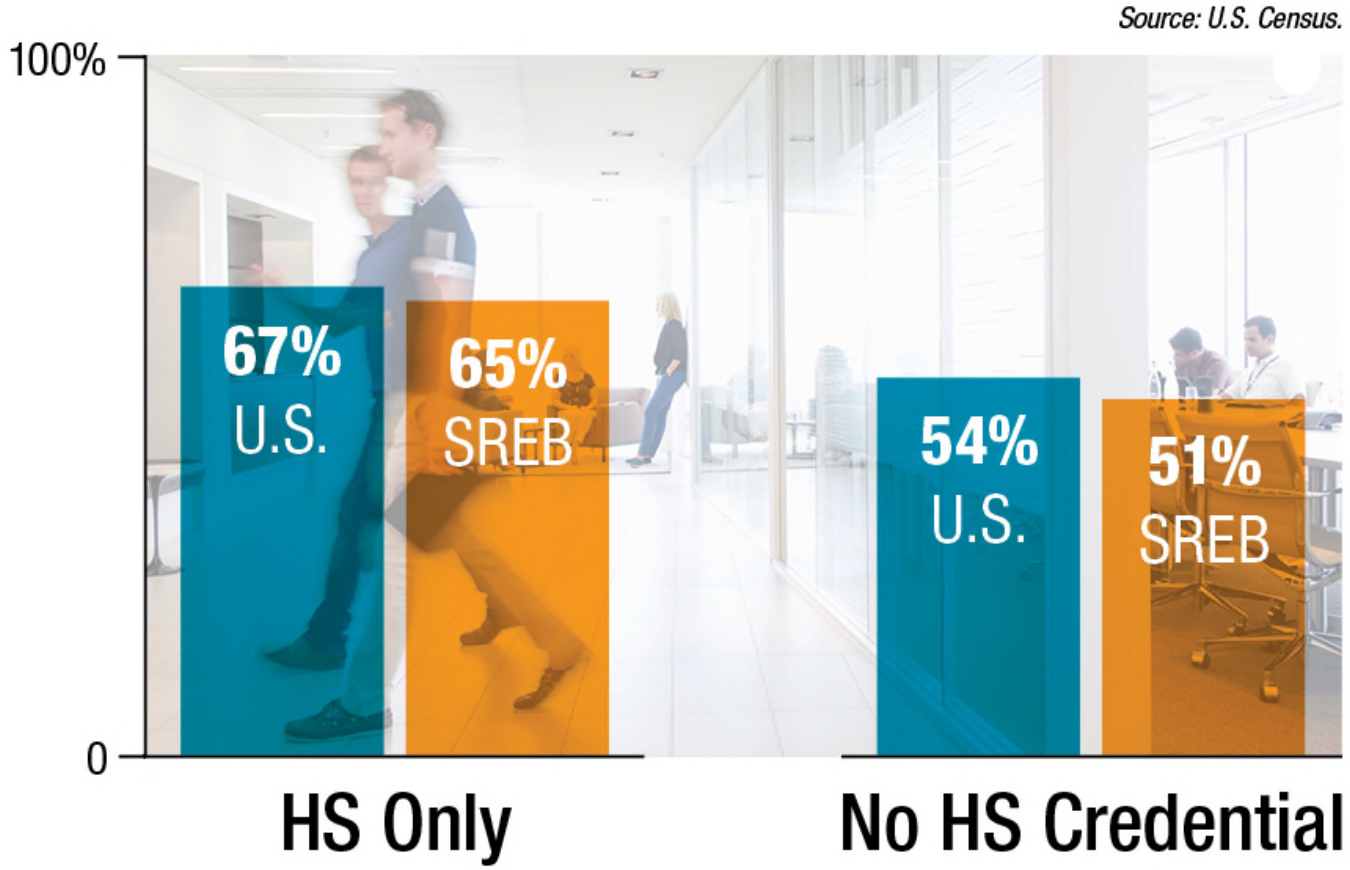
Employment rates for working-age adults

High school credential only vs. no high school credential



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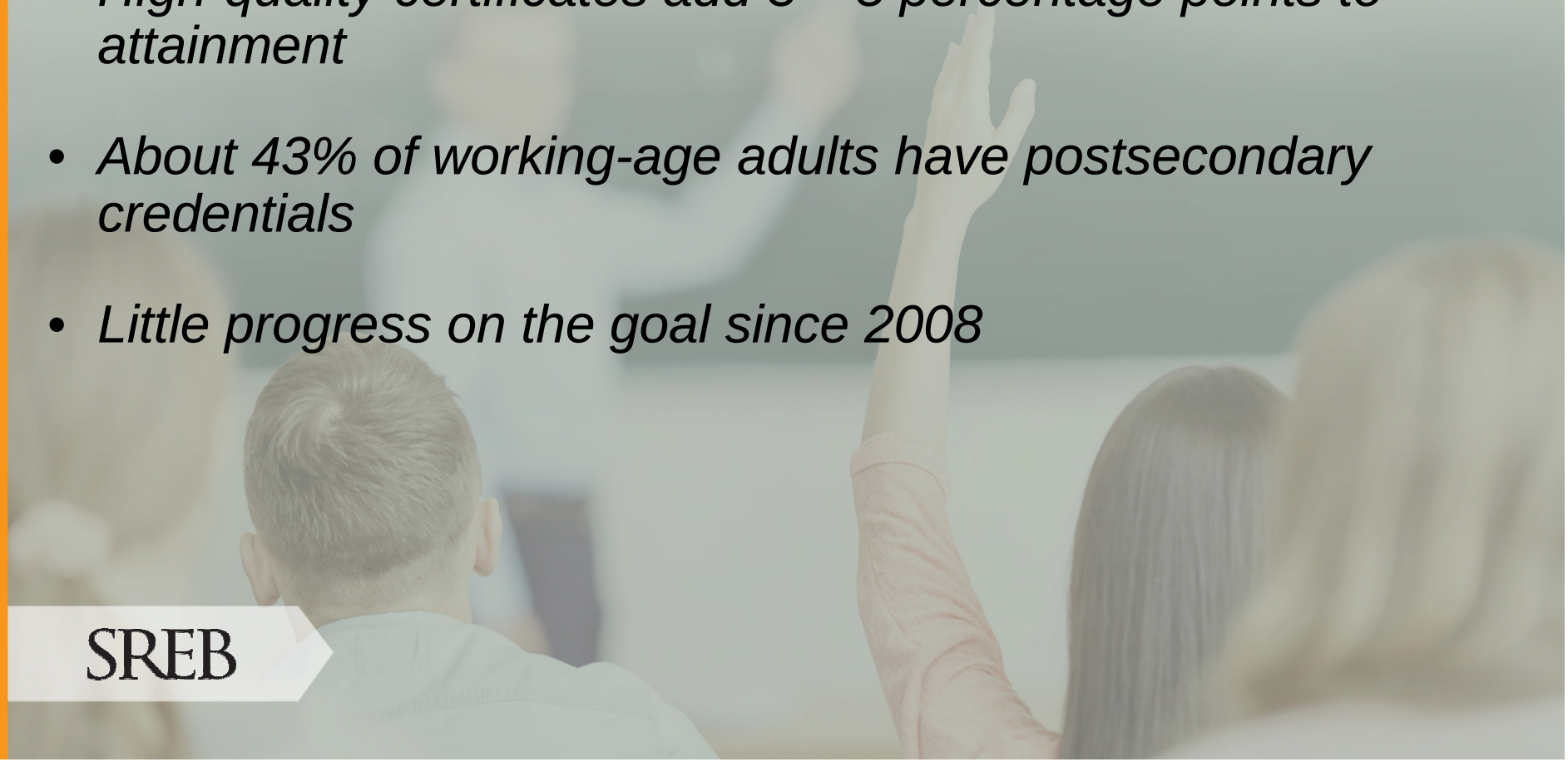
So far, what do we know?

- *Goal on postsecondary attainment rate involves working-age adults*
- *High-quality certificates add 3 – 5 percentage points to attainment*
- *About 43% of working-age adults have postsecondary credentials*
- *Little progress on the goal since 2008*



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Demographic trends in SREB states set the context for making progress and achieving goals.

- **Enrollment**
- **Diversity**
- **Economic status**

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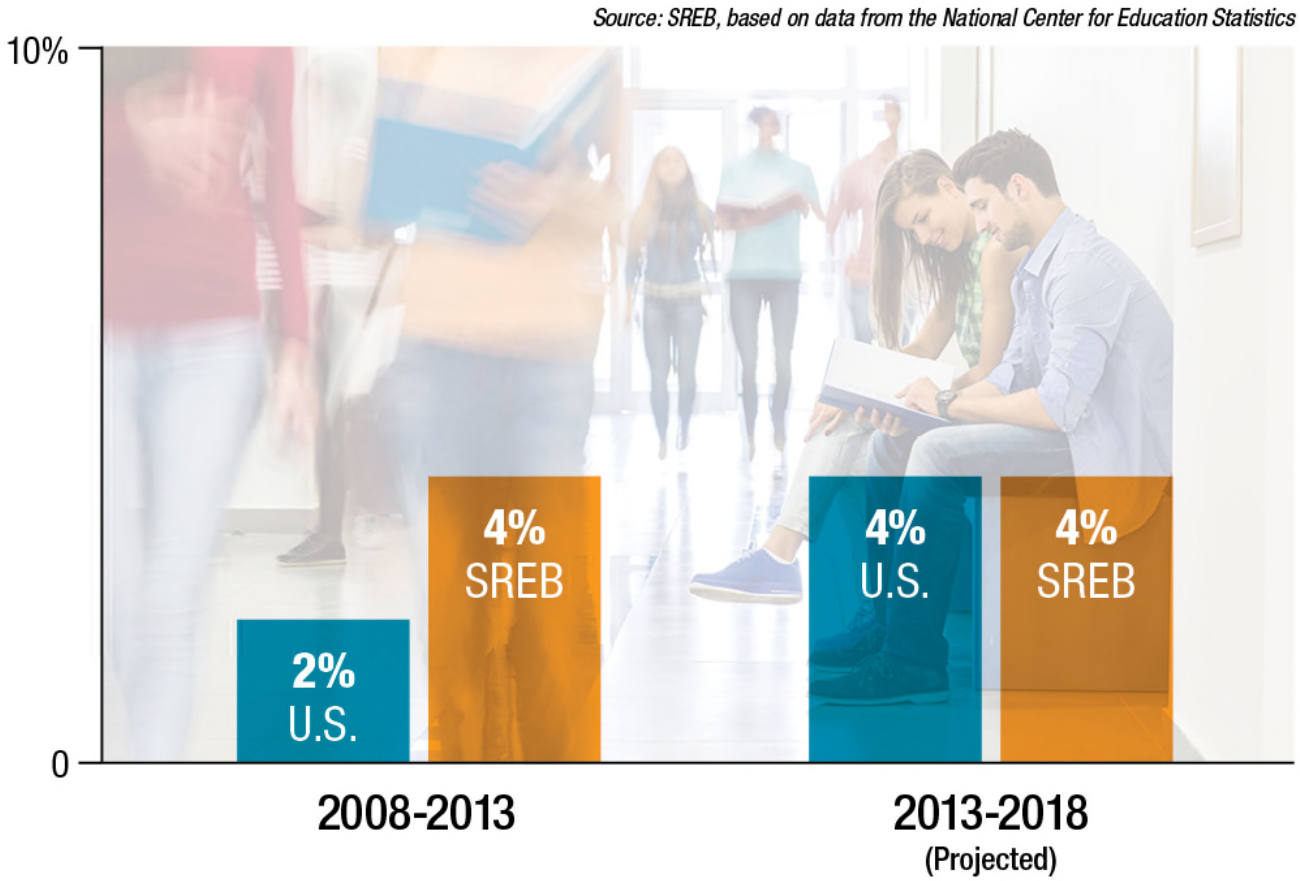
K-12 Enrollment **Growth**



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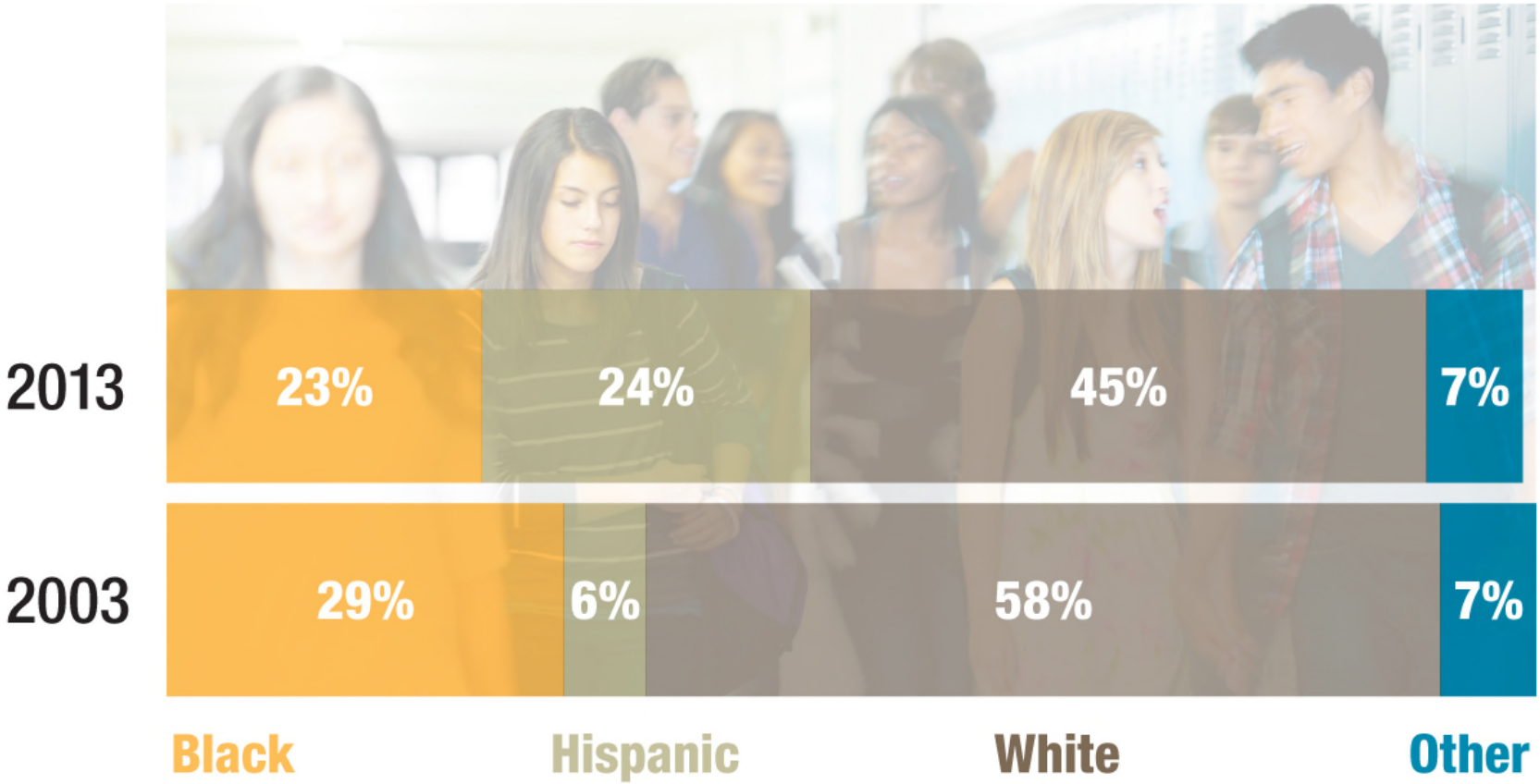
Public **K-12 Enrollment**

By race and ethnicity in the southern region



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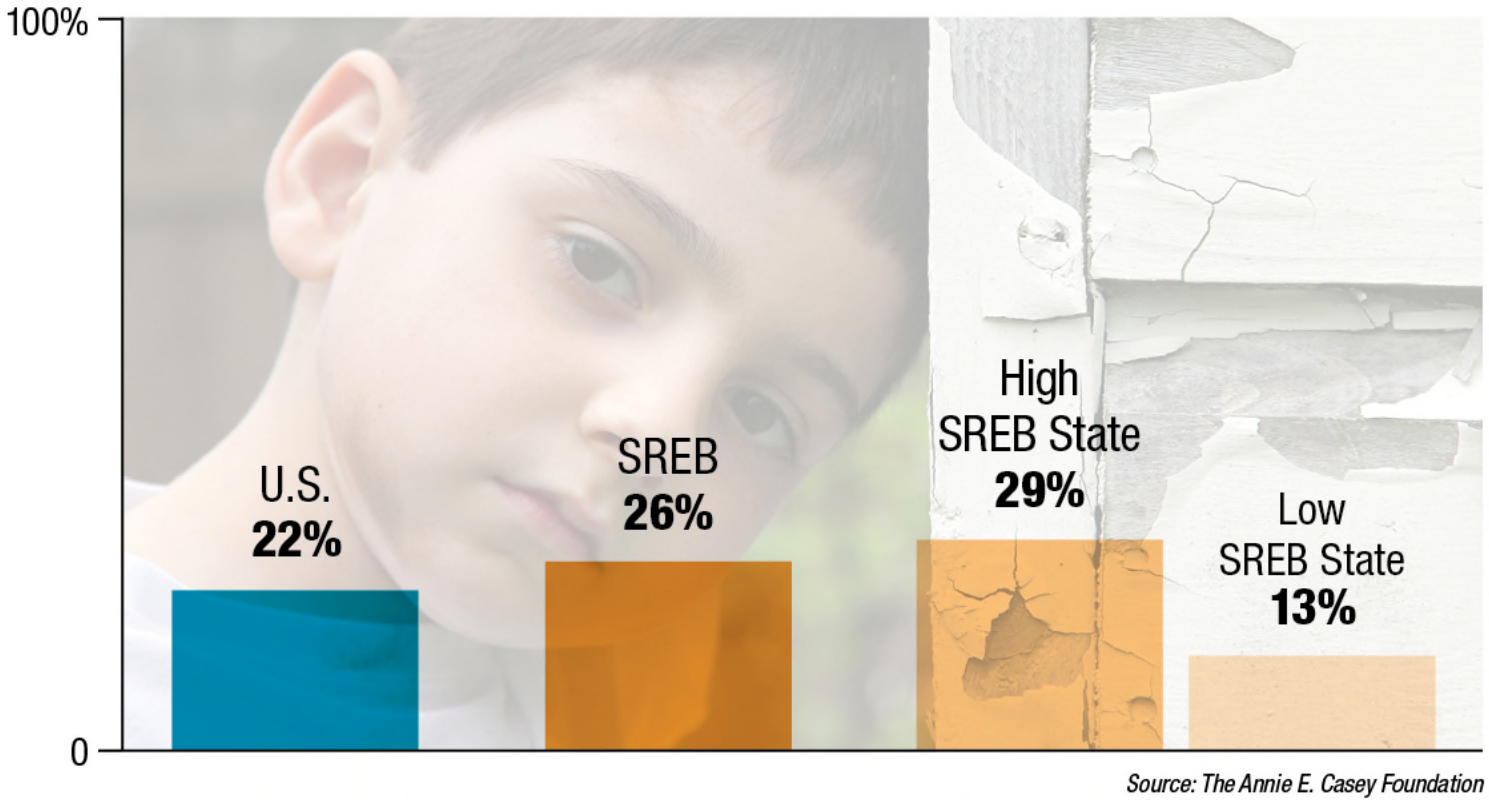
Children in **Poverty**

Percentage under 18 living in poverty, 2014



Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation

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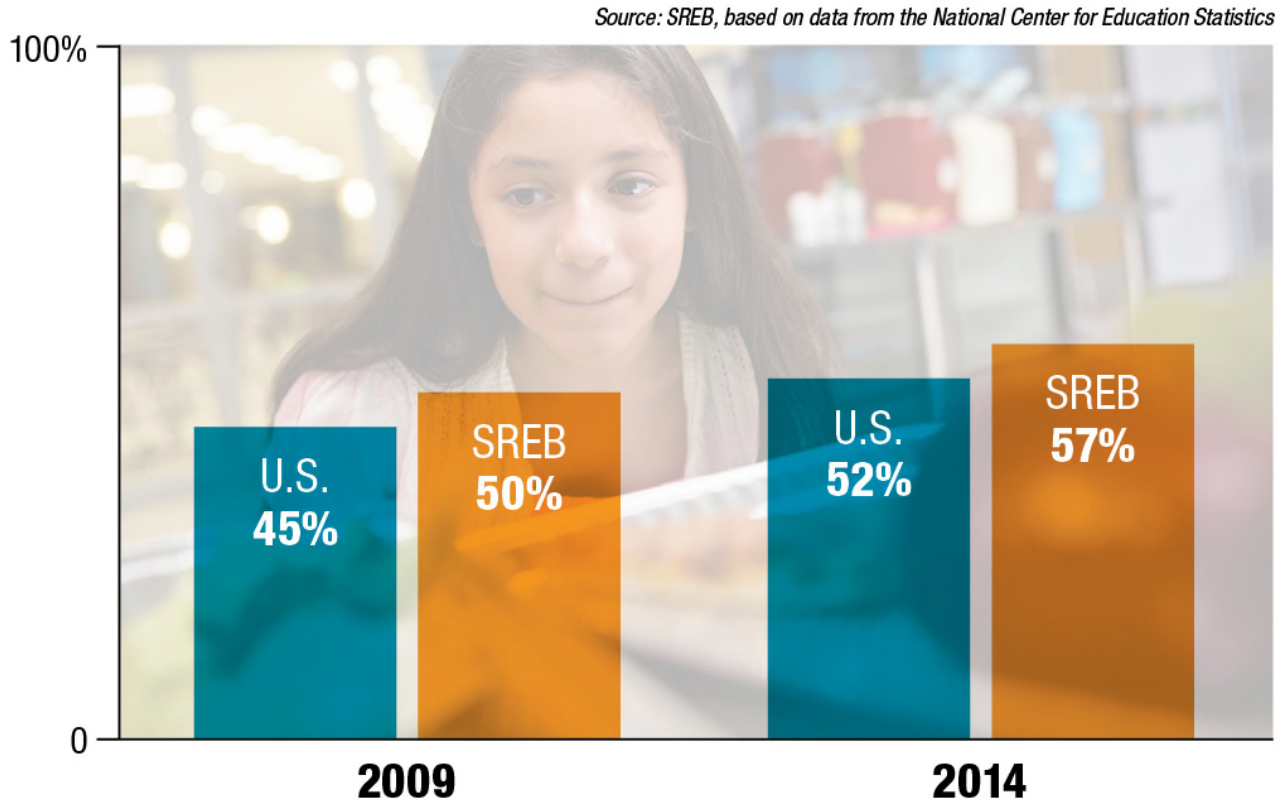
Students from **Low-Income Families**

Percentage eligible for free or reduced-price meals



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So now, what more do we know?

- *More children in public schools*
- *Increases among Hispanic children*
- *High incidence of children from poor families*
- *More children among low-income families*

It's harder to do the job, particularly to do it well

- *Strains on school's financial resources*
- *Students less likely to be engaged*
- *Need for more resources for English language learners*
- *Need for ongoing professional development*
- *Need to help more struggling families*

What stands in the way of the goal?

Student engagement

Readiness

Financial means

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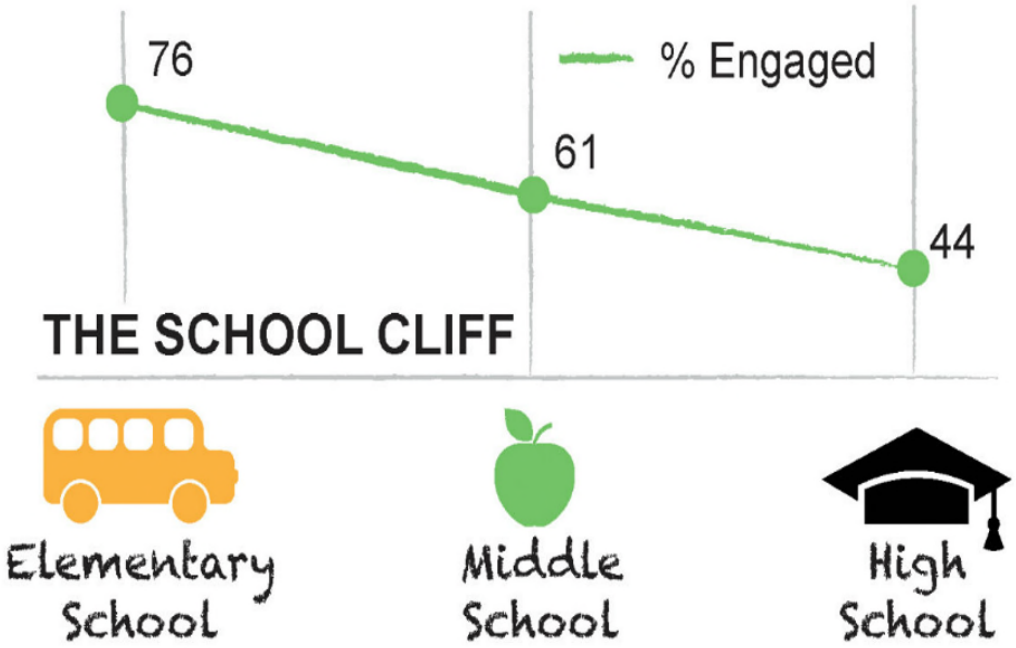
AS THEY GROW, our students get LESS ENGAGED each year they are in school.

The Gallup Student Poll



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GALLUP

Student engagement in school matters.

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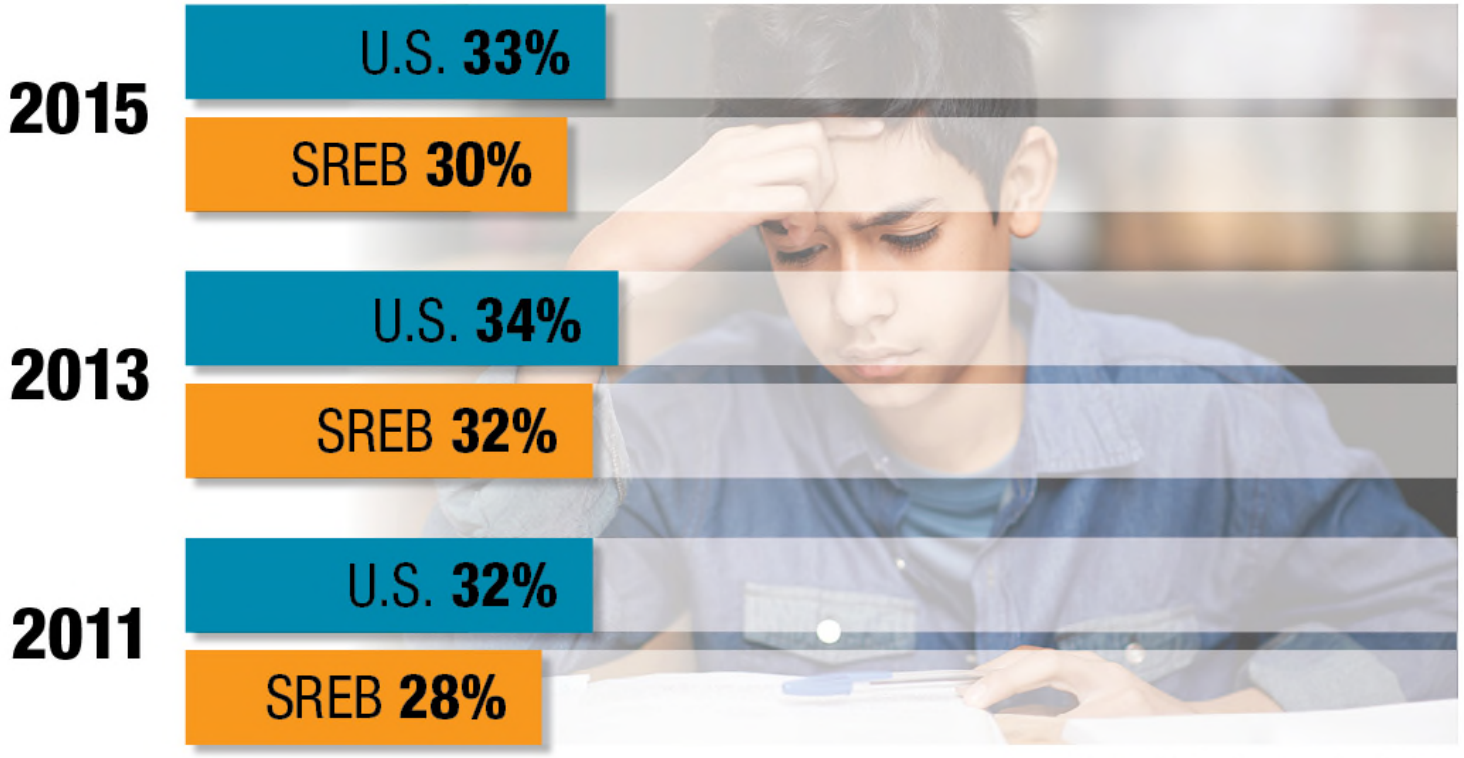
GALLUP®

Eighth-Grade **Reading**

Percentage scoring at or above NAEP Proficient



Source: National Center for Education Statistics

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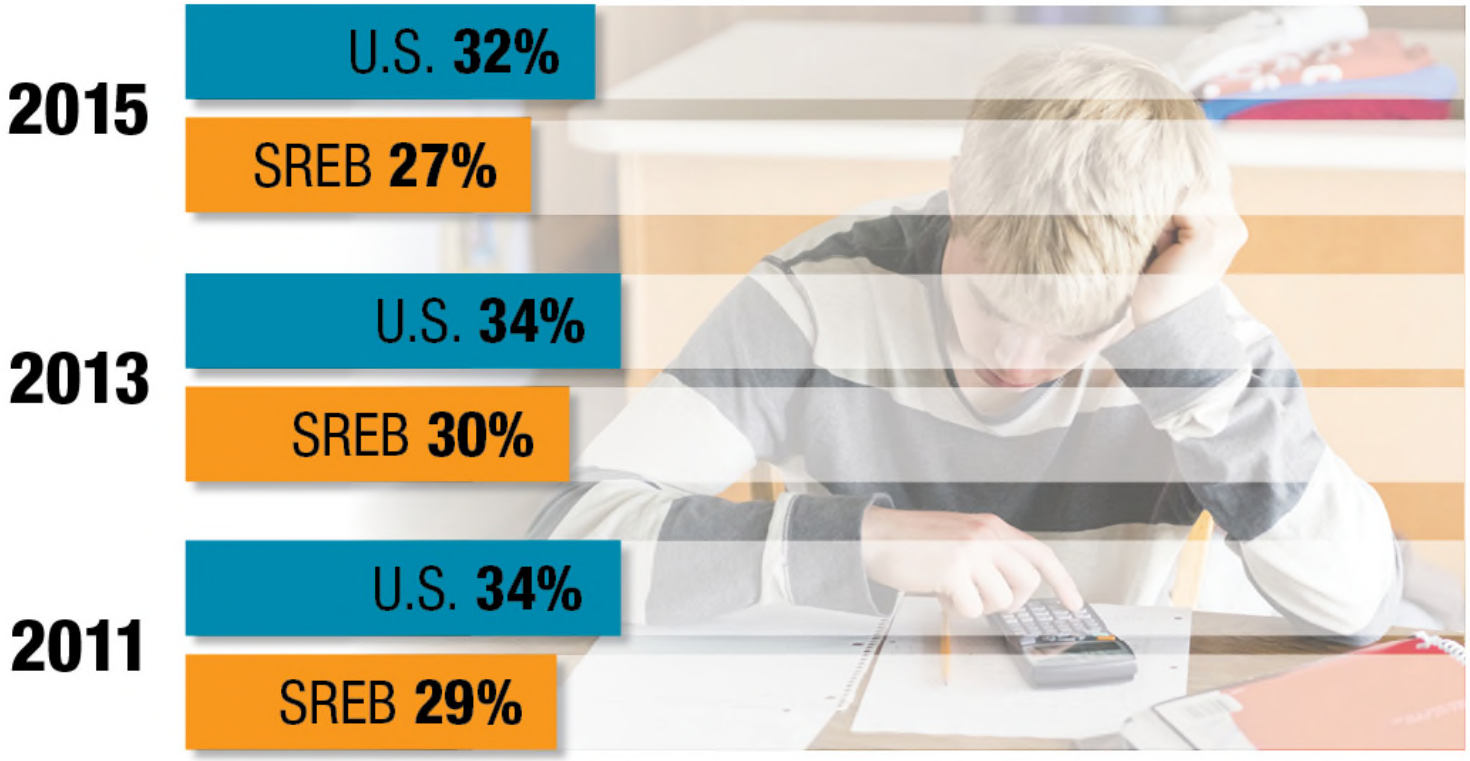
Eighth-Grade **Math**

Percentage scoring at or above NAEP Proficient



Source: National Center for Education Statistics

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12th-Grade **Reading**

Percentage scoring at or above NAEP Proficient

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

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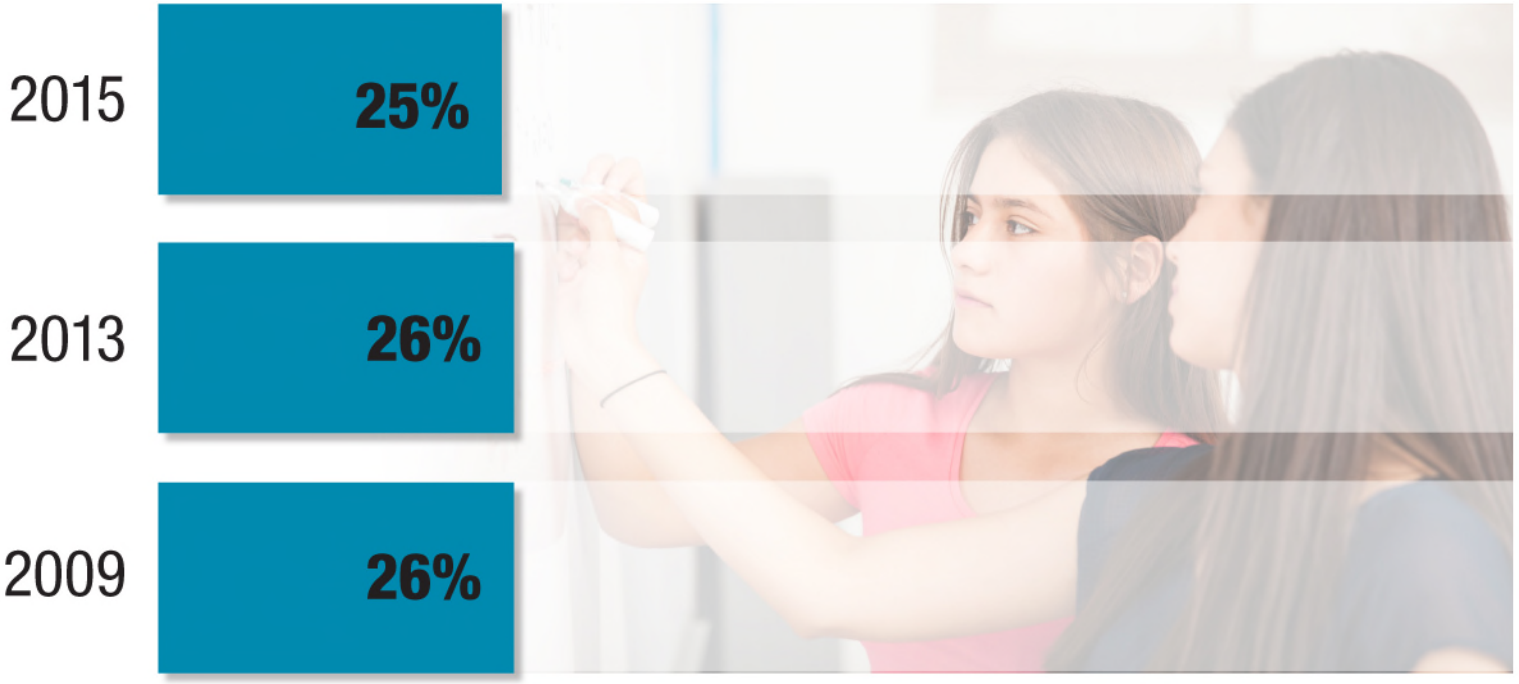
12th-Grade **Math**

Percentage scoring at or above NAEP Proficient



Source: National Center for Education Statistics

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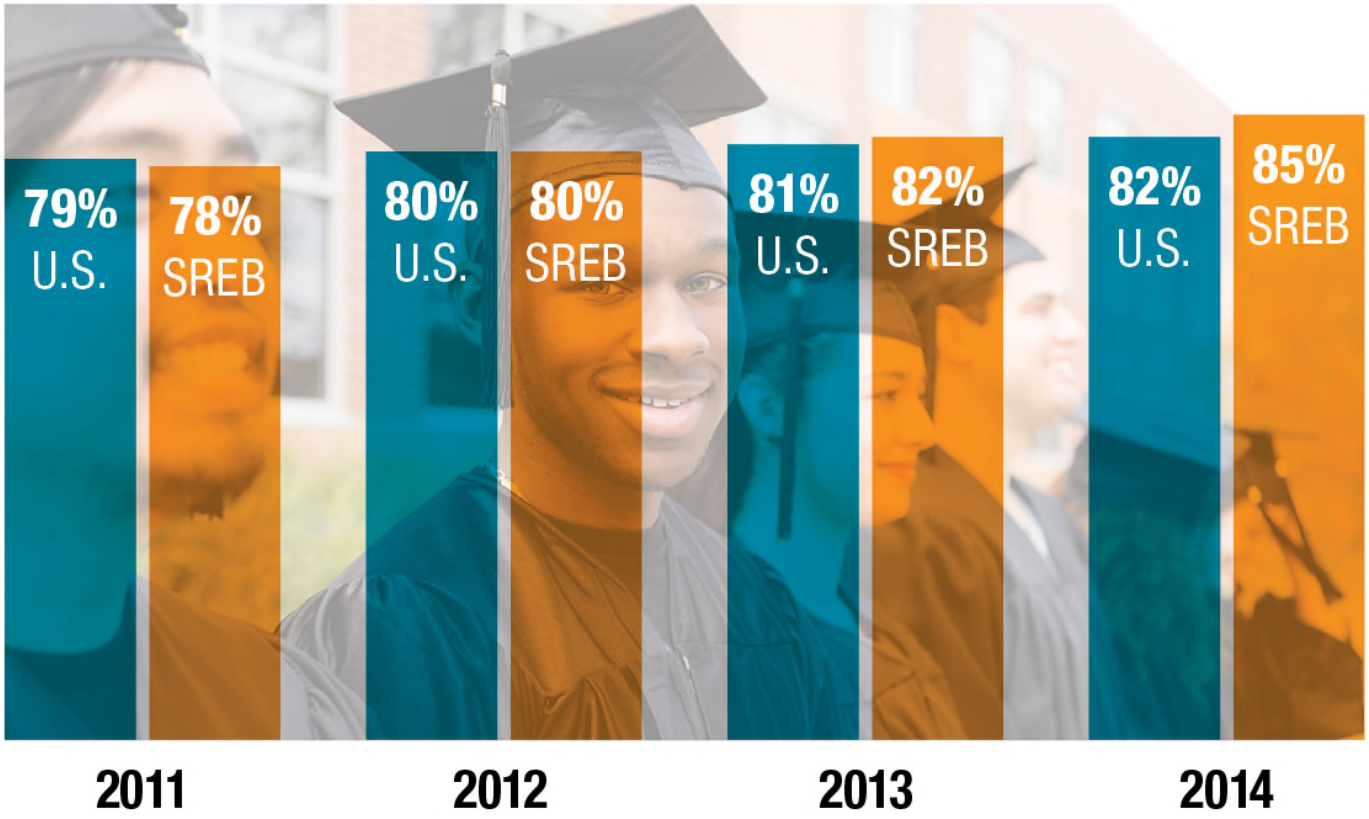
High School **Graduation Rates**

All students



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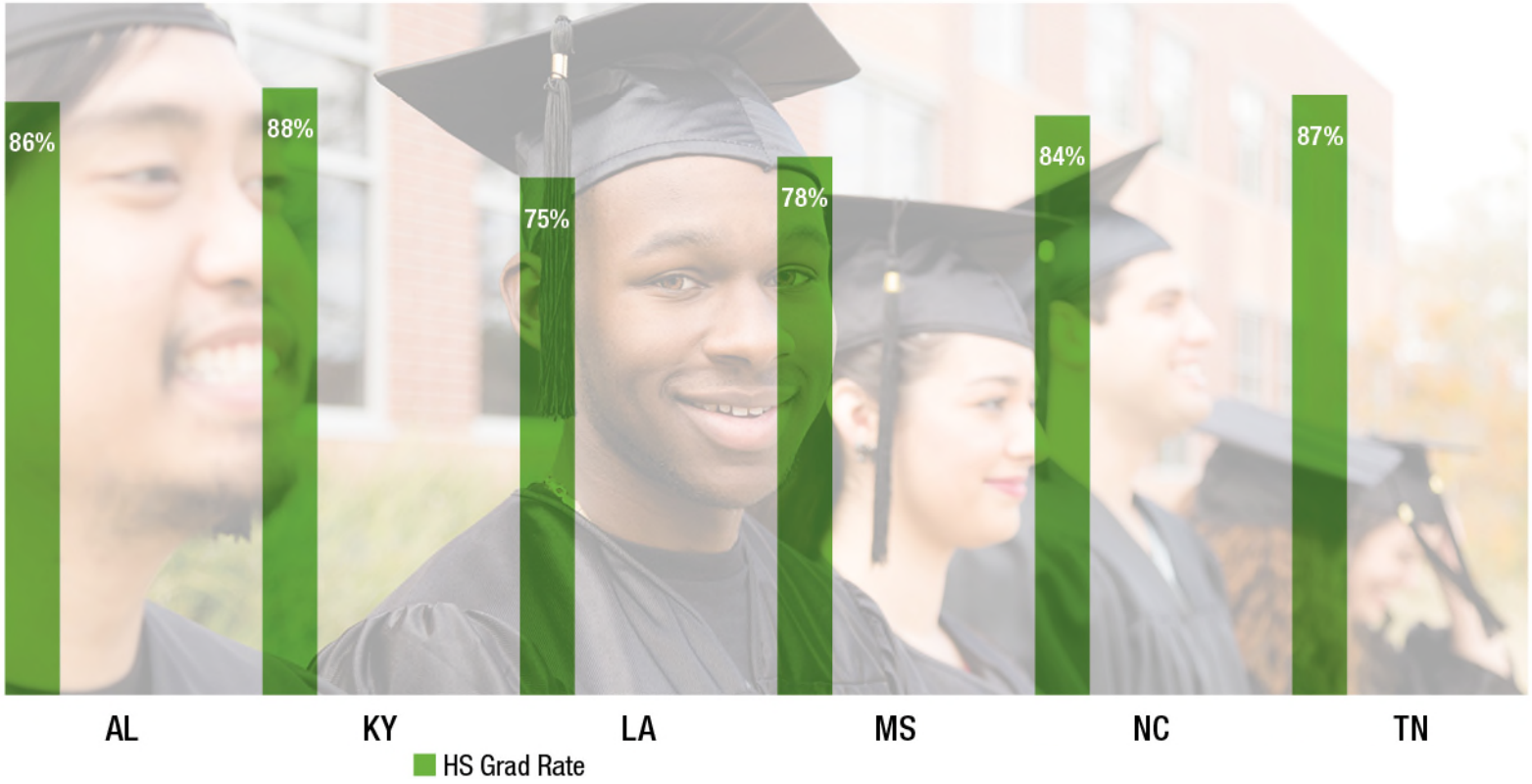
HS Graduation and **College Readiness**

SREB states where 100% of seniors took the ACT

Note: Grad rates for 2014; ACT benchmarks for 2015
Sources: NCES and ACT, Inc.



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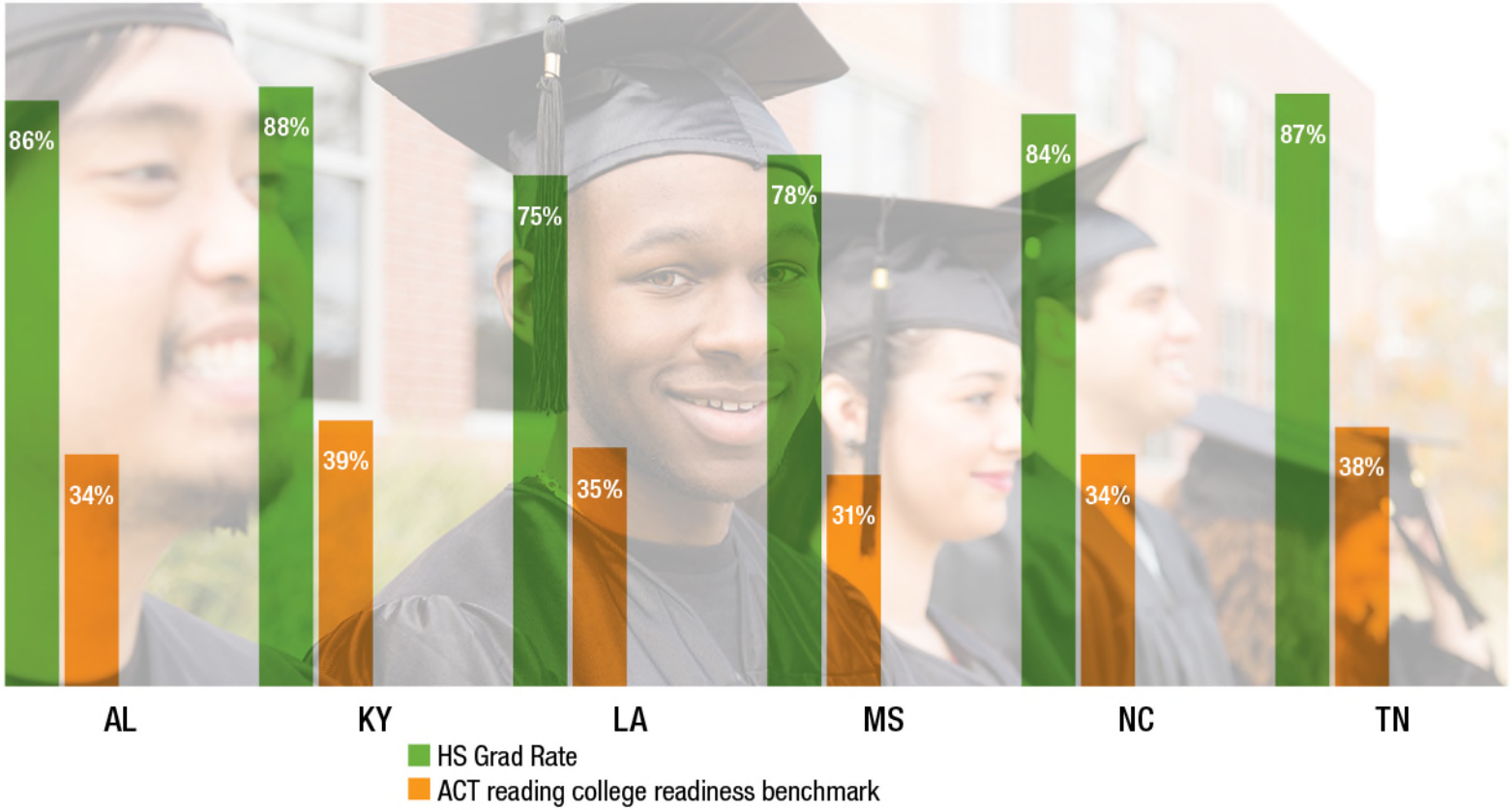

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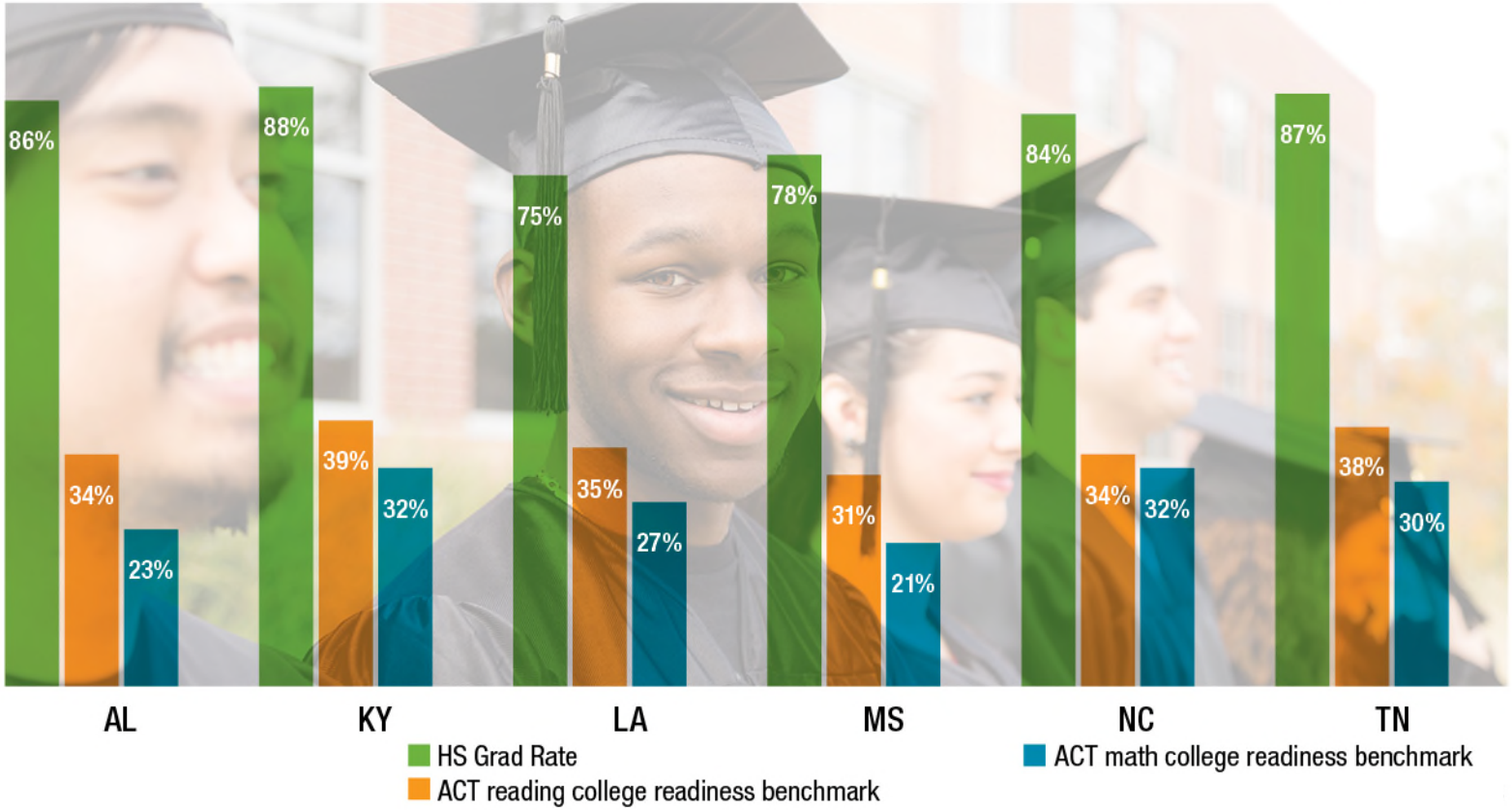

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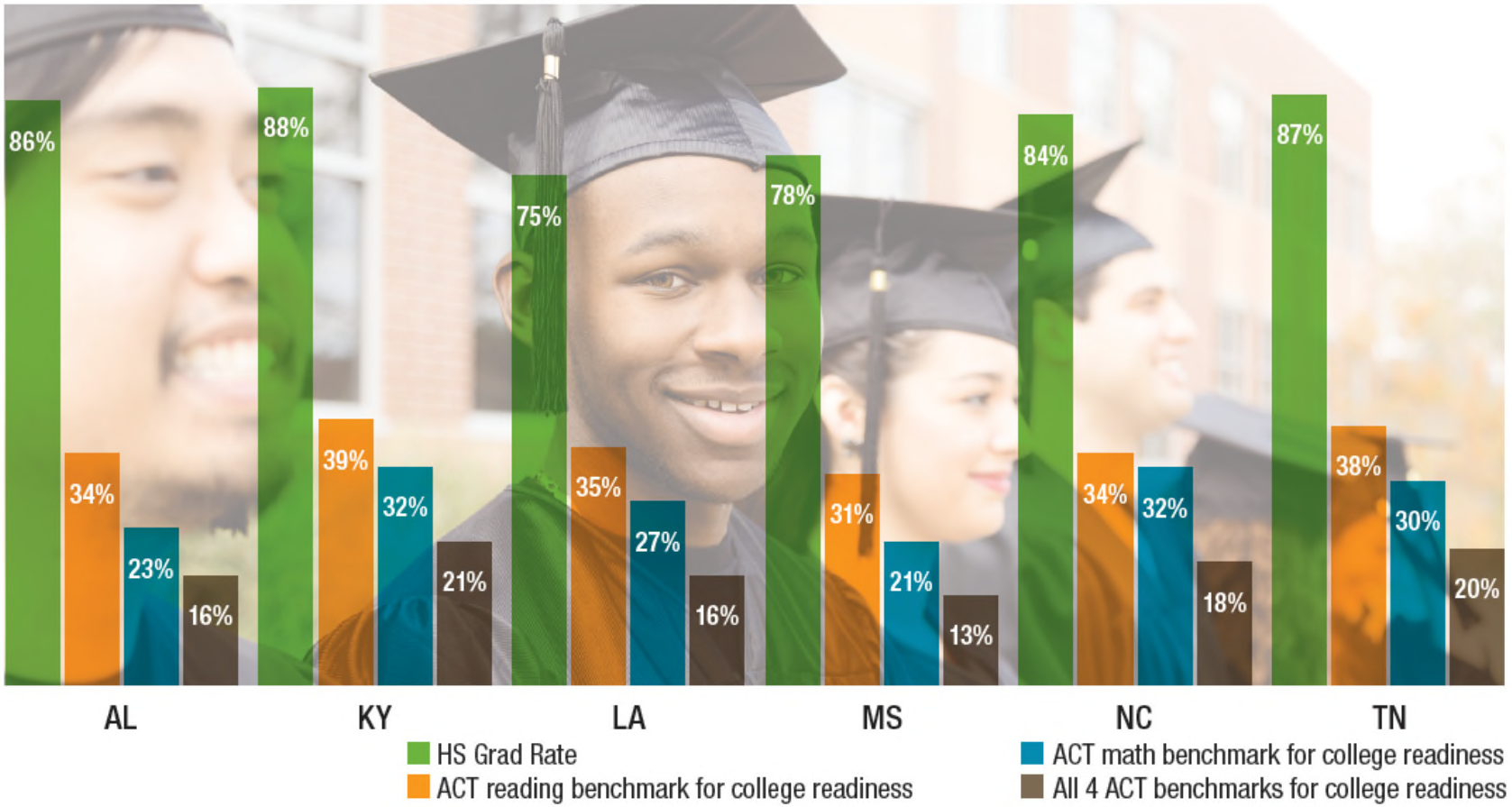

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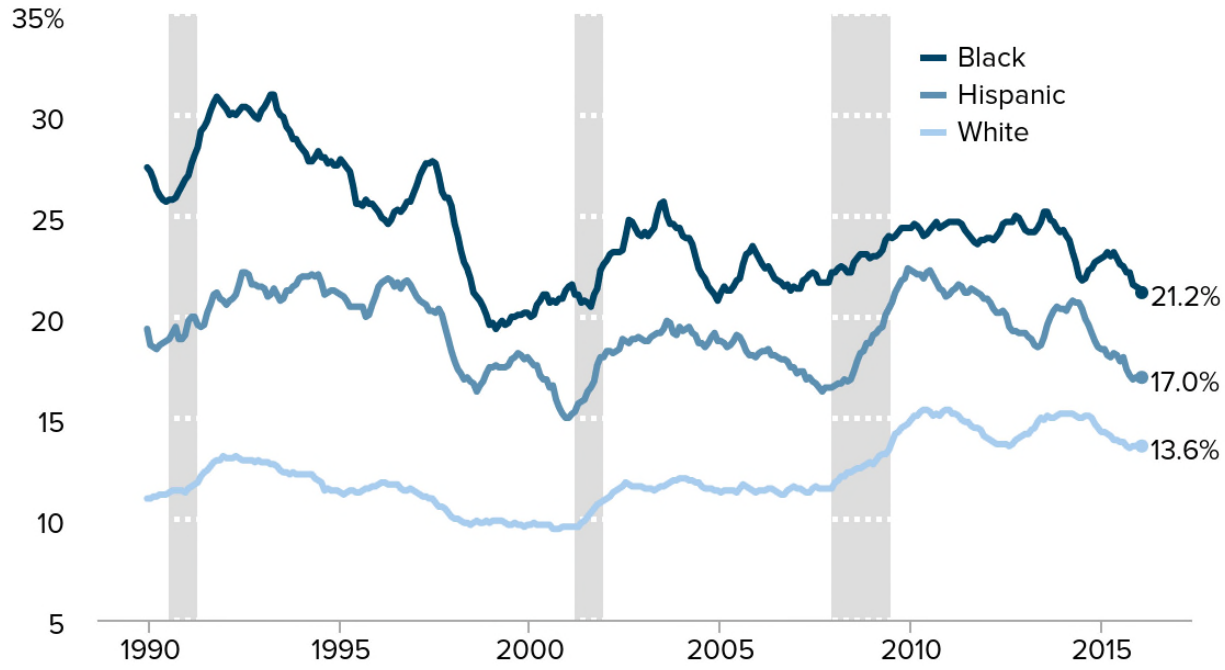
Share of young high school graduates **not enrolled and not employed**

By race and ethnicity, 1990 to 2016



Note: Shaded areas denote recessions

Source: EPI analysis of basic monthly Current Population Survey microdata

Economic Policy Institute

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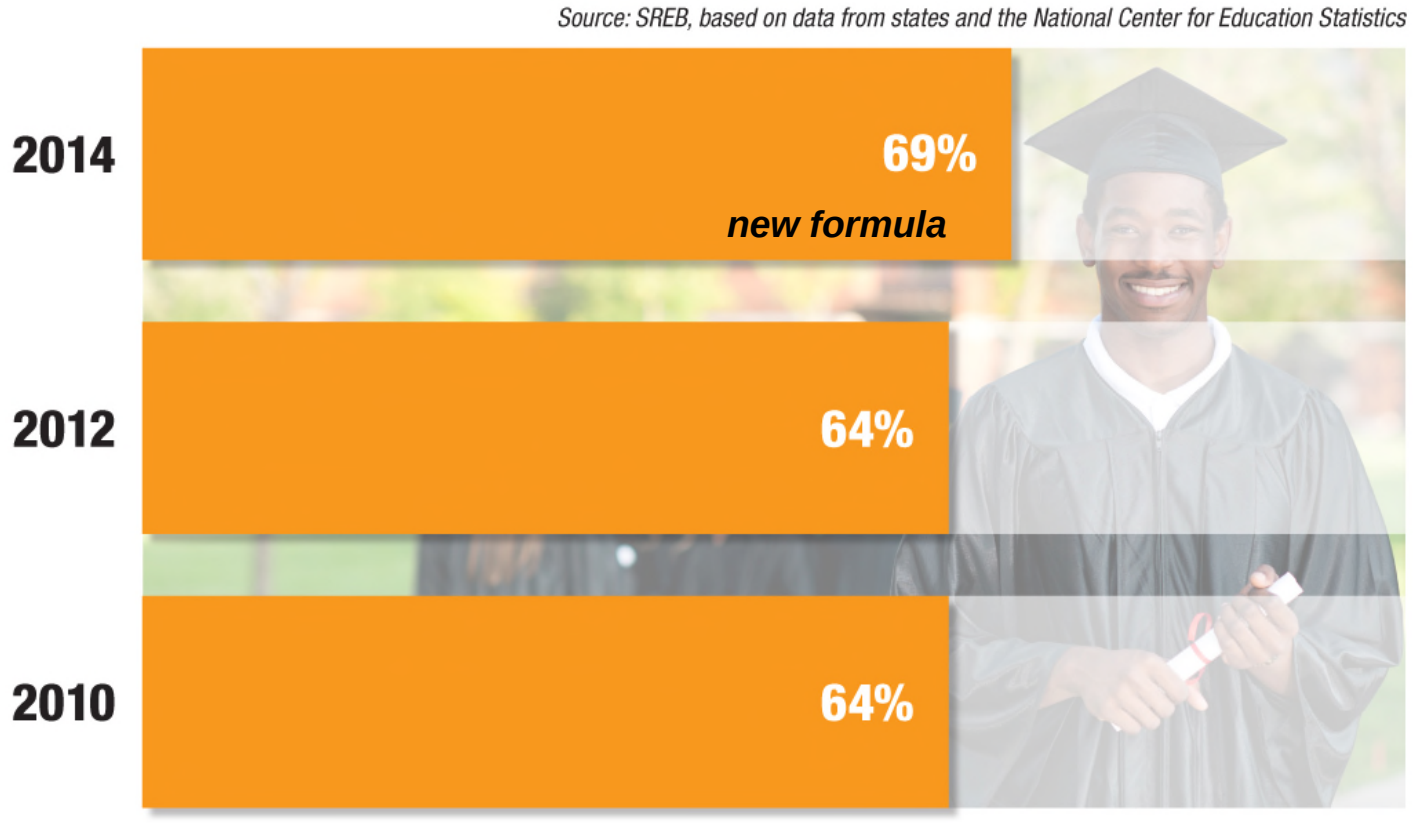
Postsecondary Enrollment – SREB States

Rate of recent HS graduates enrolling, Fall 2014



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6-Year **College Graduation** Rates

Fall 2008 first-time, full-time freshmen at public 4-year colleges and universities (2014)

U.S. **59%**

SREB **56%**

Source: SREB Data Exchange

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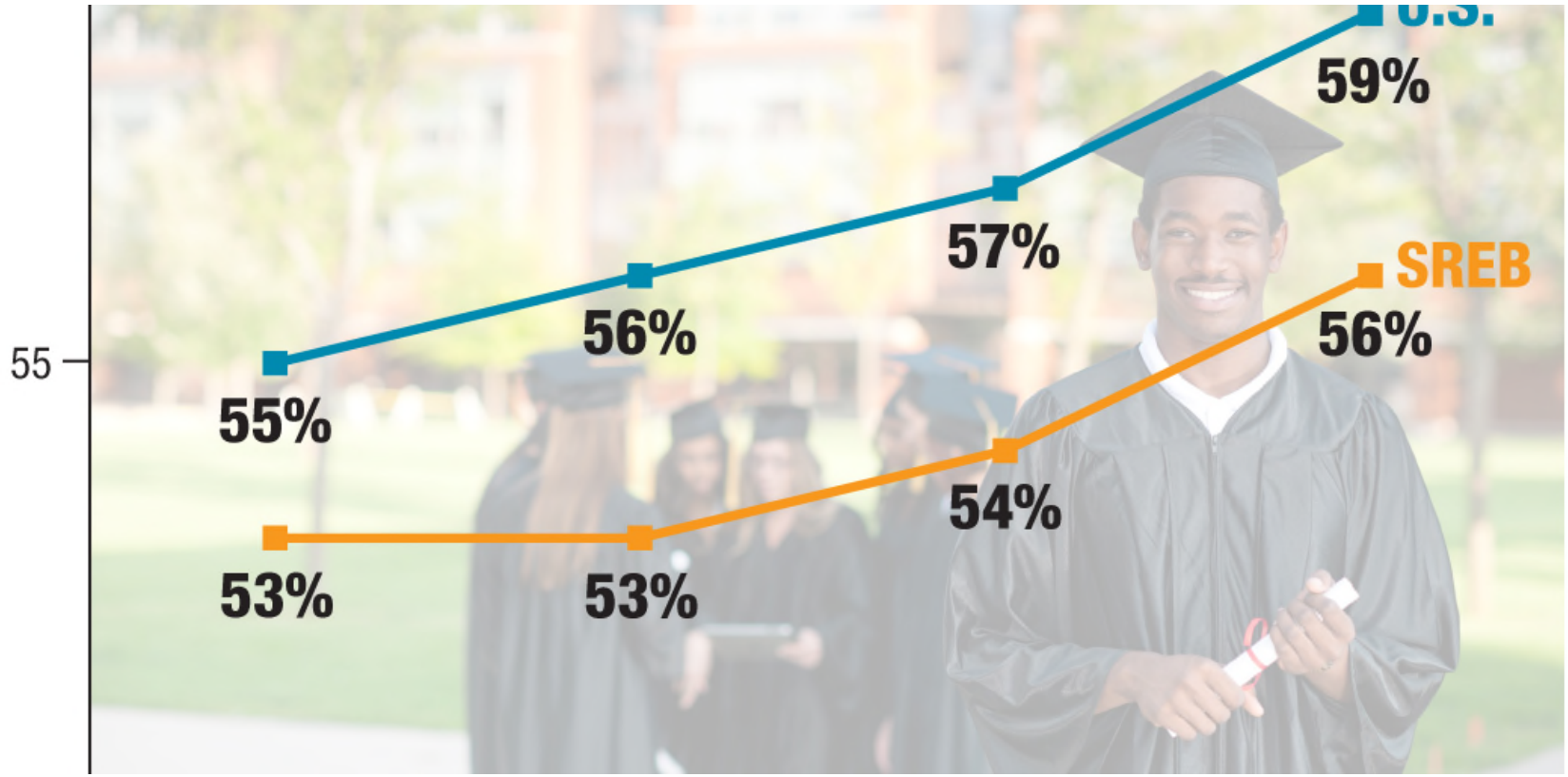
6-Year **College Graduation** Rates

First-time, full-time freshmen starting in fall at public 4-year colleges and universities



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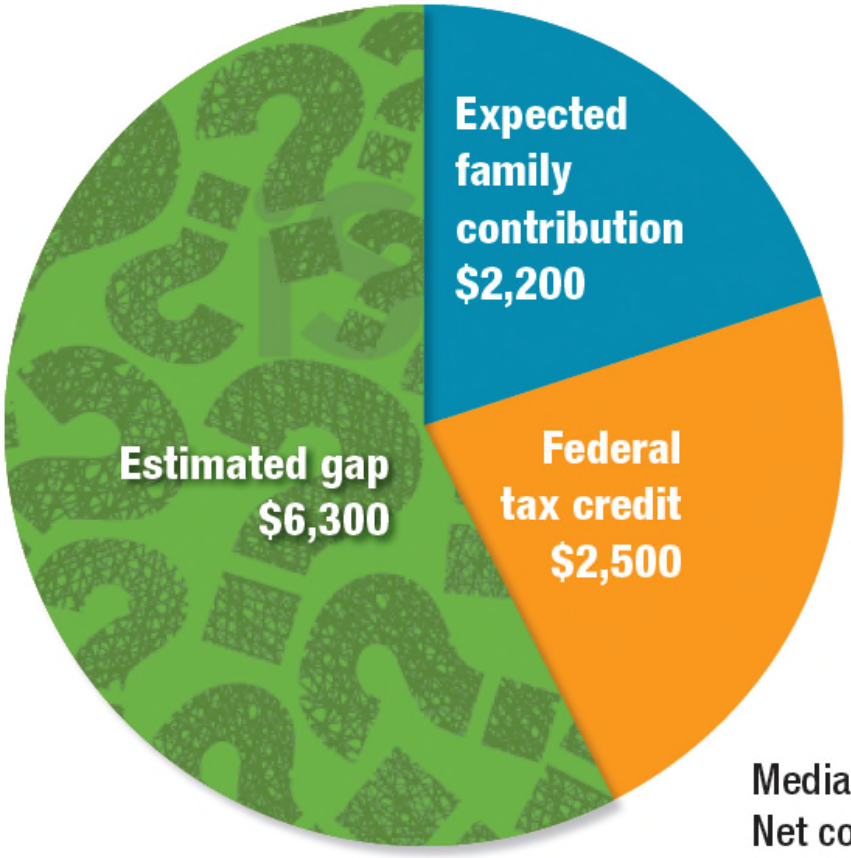
College **Affordability Gap**

In median SREB state, 2014



Median HH income: $40,800
Net cost for public 4-year institution: $11,000

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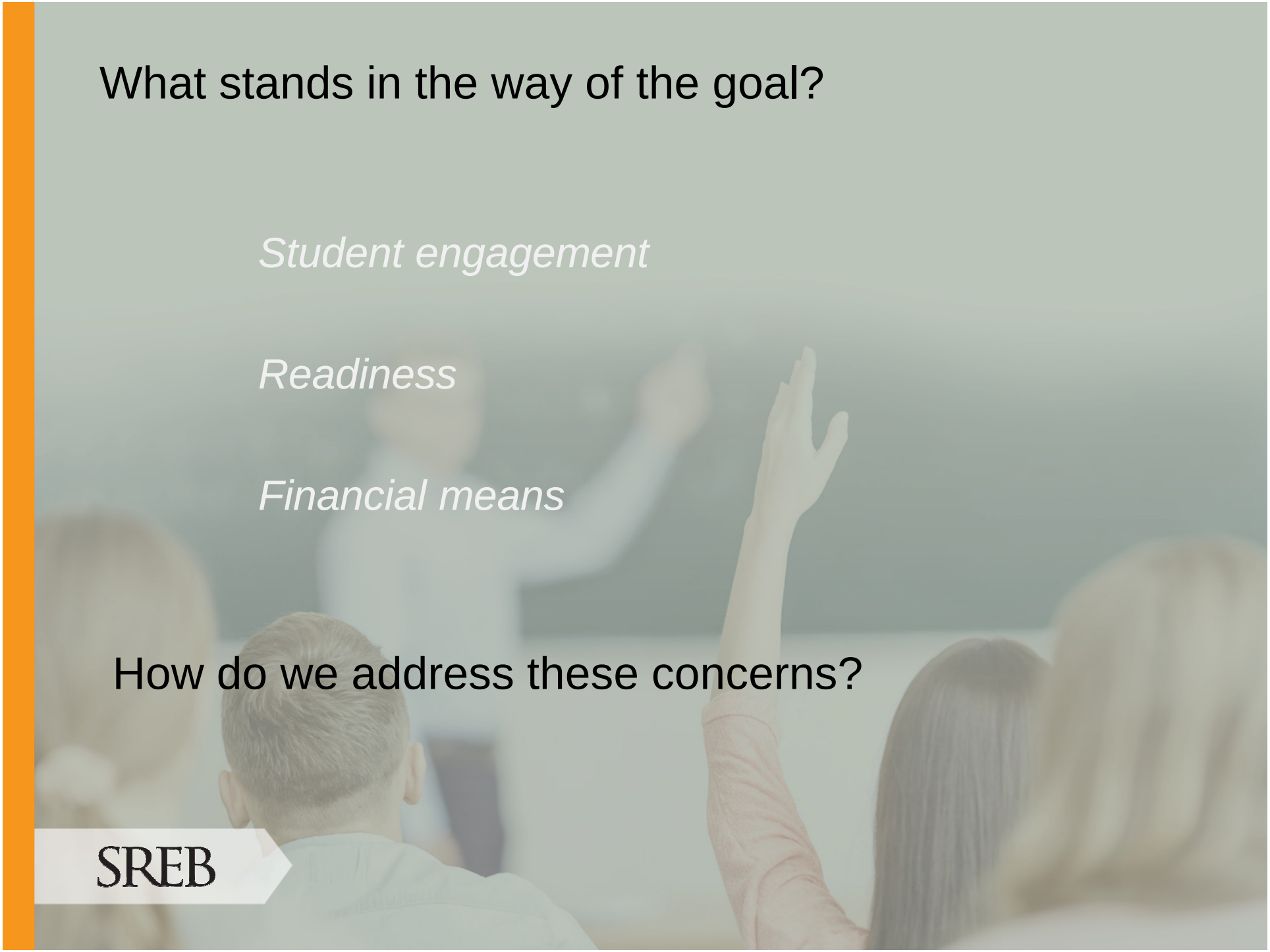

What stands in the way of the goal?

Student engagement

Readiness

Financial means

How do we address these concerns?

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*It's about expanding student **horizons**.*

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It's about charting ***pathways*** *to* SOMEWHERE.

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*It's about encouraging dives to **deeper learning**.*

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Accelerating Pace

Discussion

joan.lord@sreb.org