



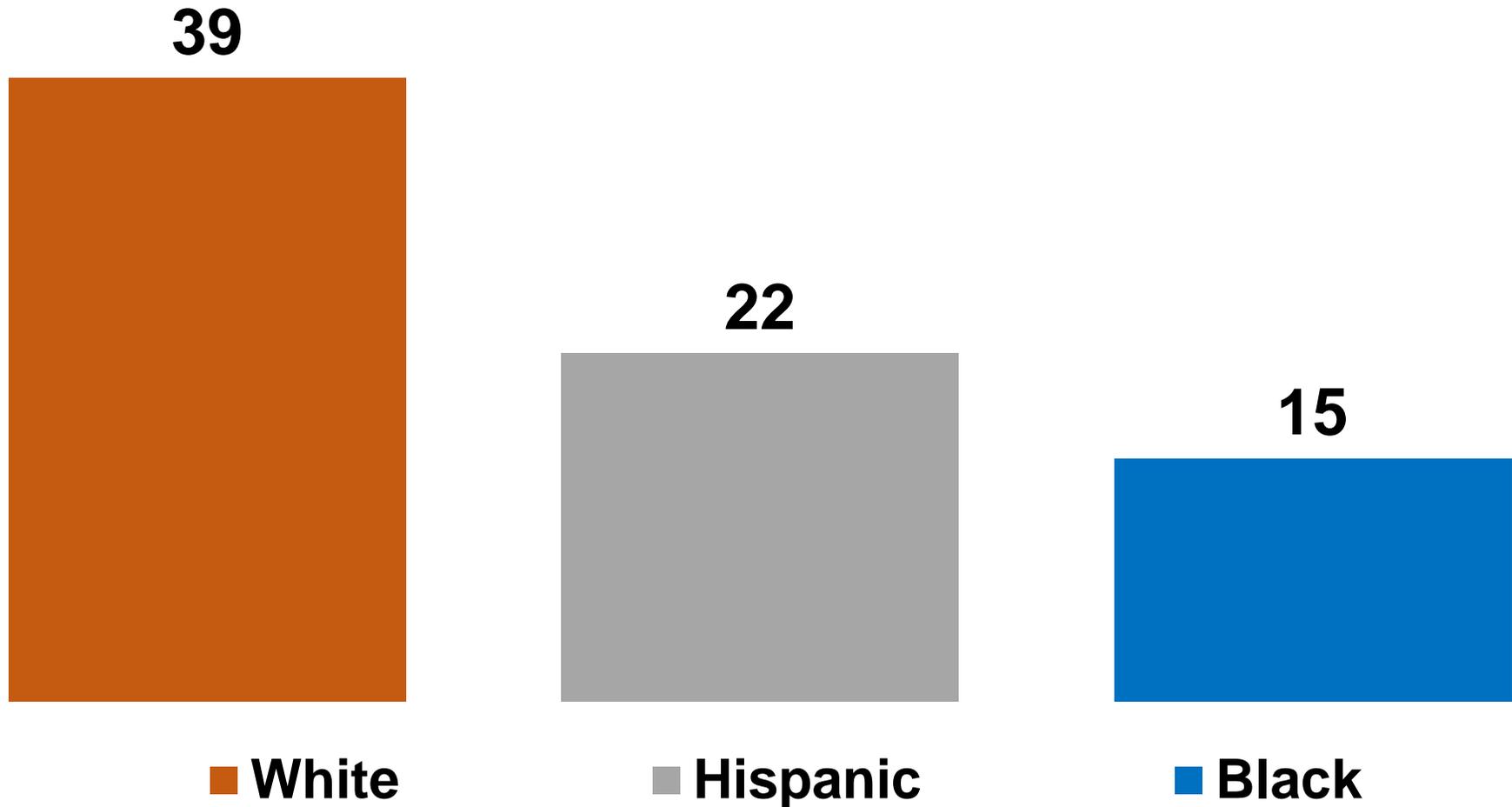
Gauging the Climb to College and Career Readiness

**Jeff Gagné, Director
SREB Policy Analysis**

SREB

8th Grade Reading, SREB States

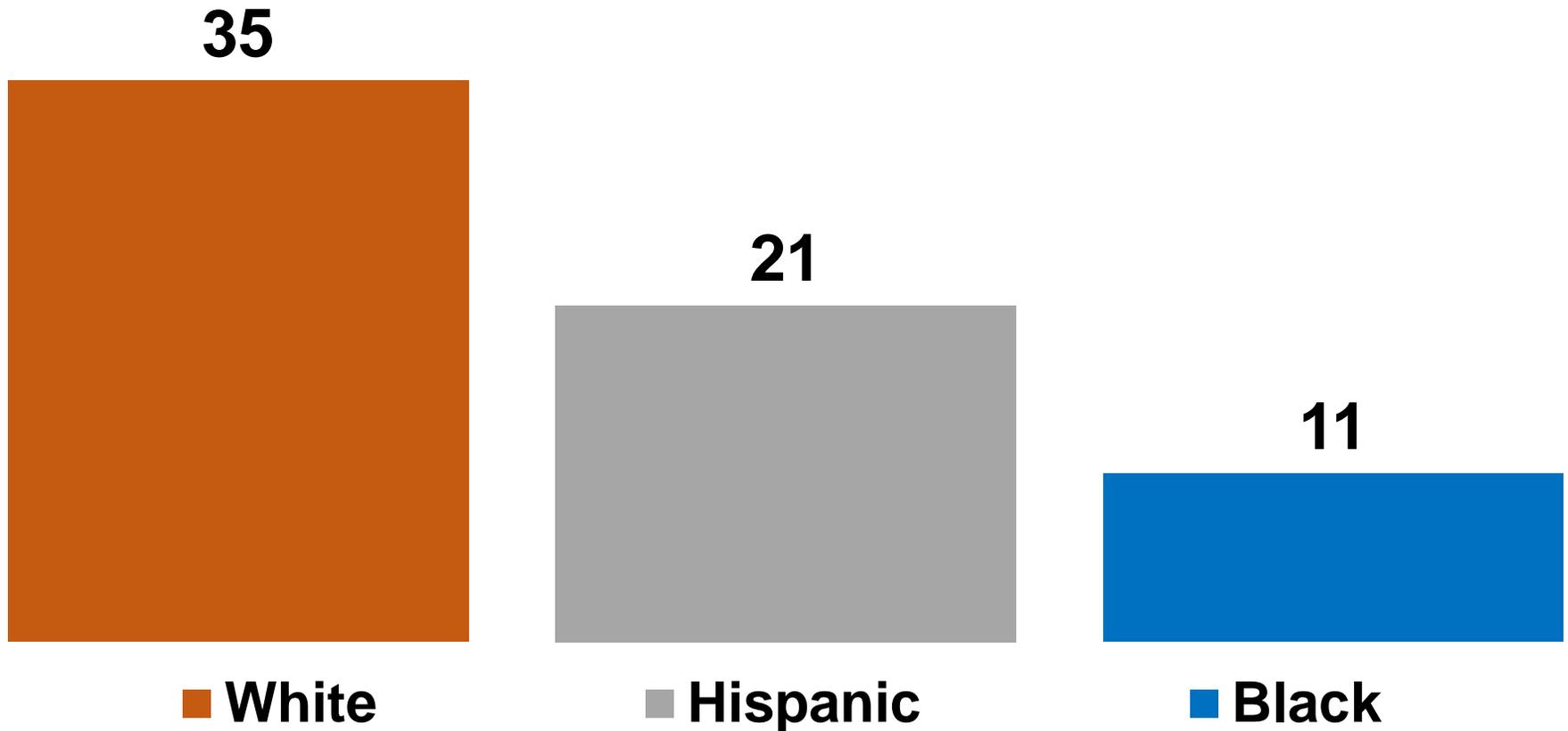
Percent at Proficient and Above, 2015 NAEP



SREB

8th Grade Math, SREB States

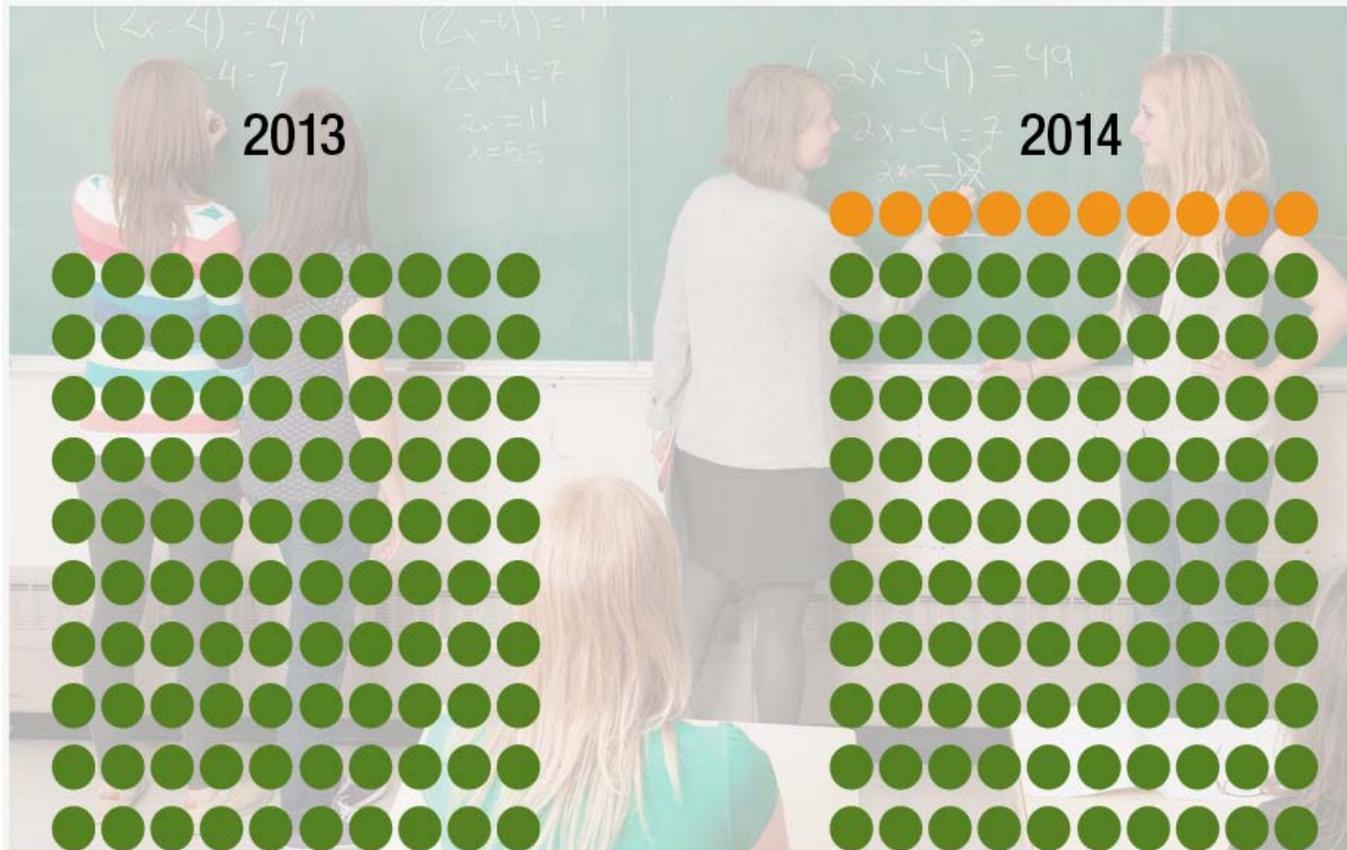
Percent at Proficient and Above, 2015 NAEP



SREB

Ninth Grade Enrollment Spike

8th graders in 2013 v. 9th graders in 2014 – SREB states



100 8th graders



110 9th graders

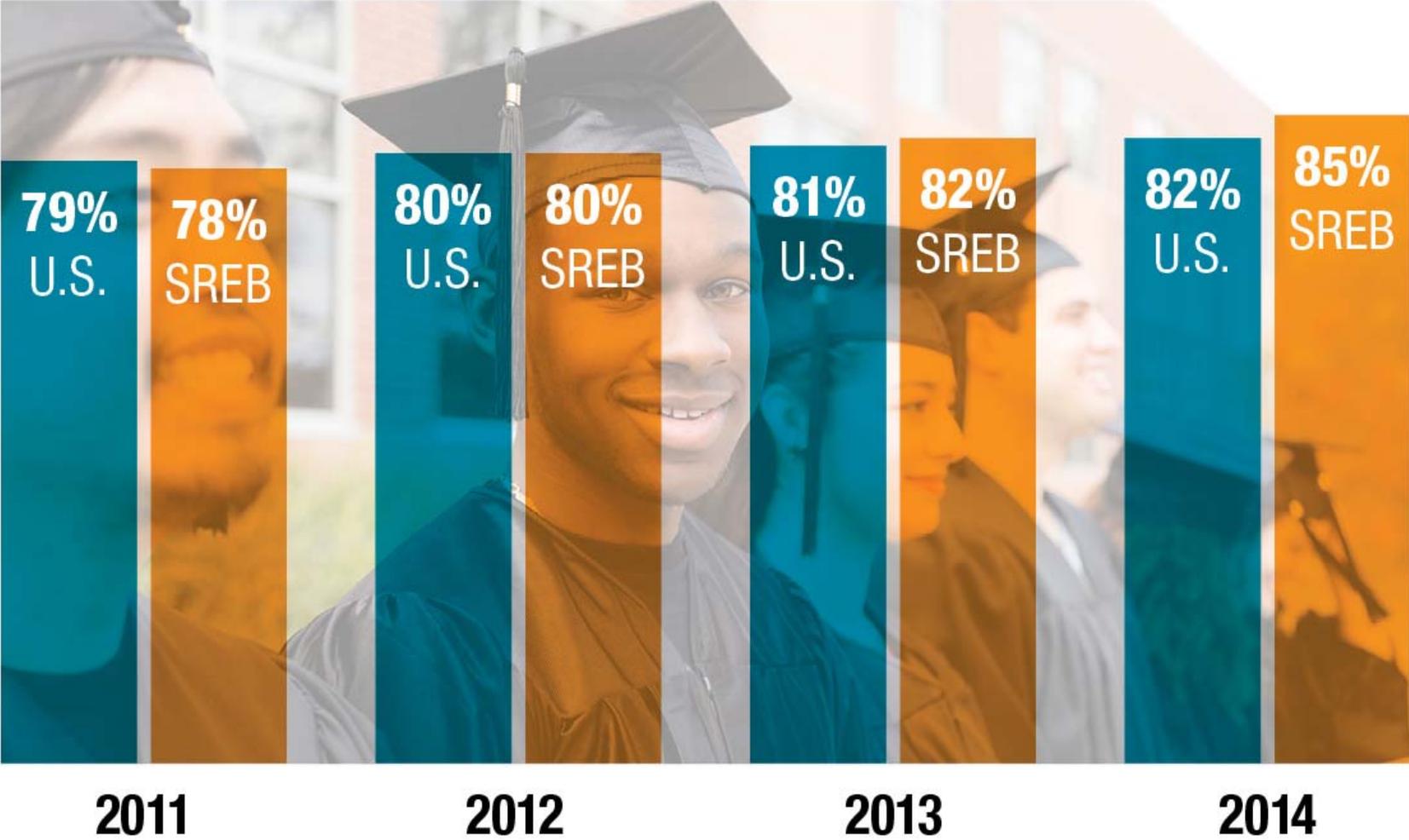
High SREB State: 118

Low SREB State: 103

SREB

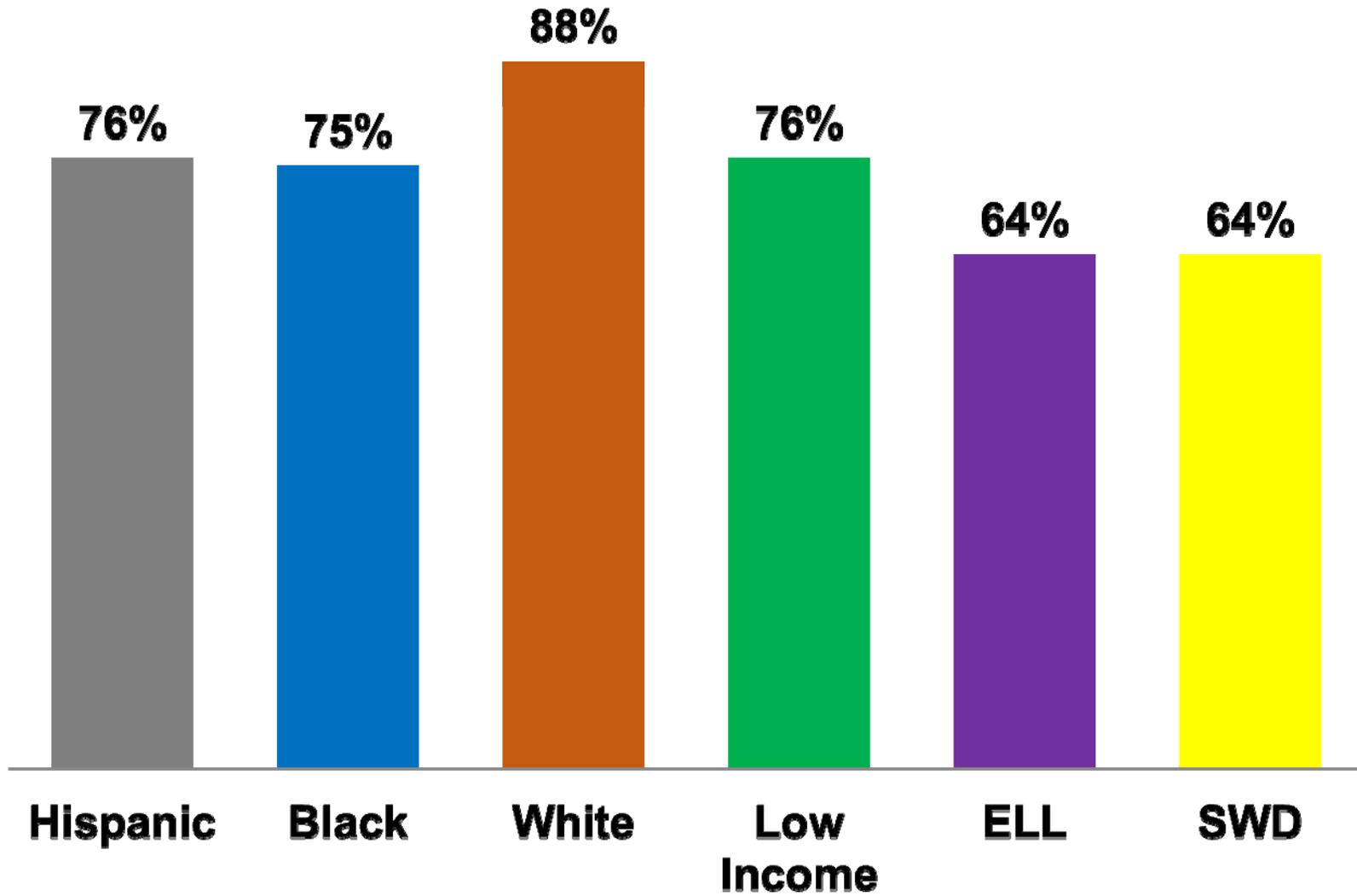
High School Graduation Rates

All students



SREB

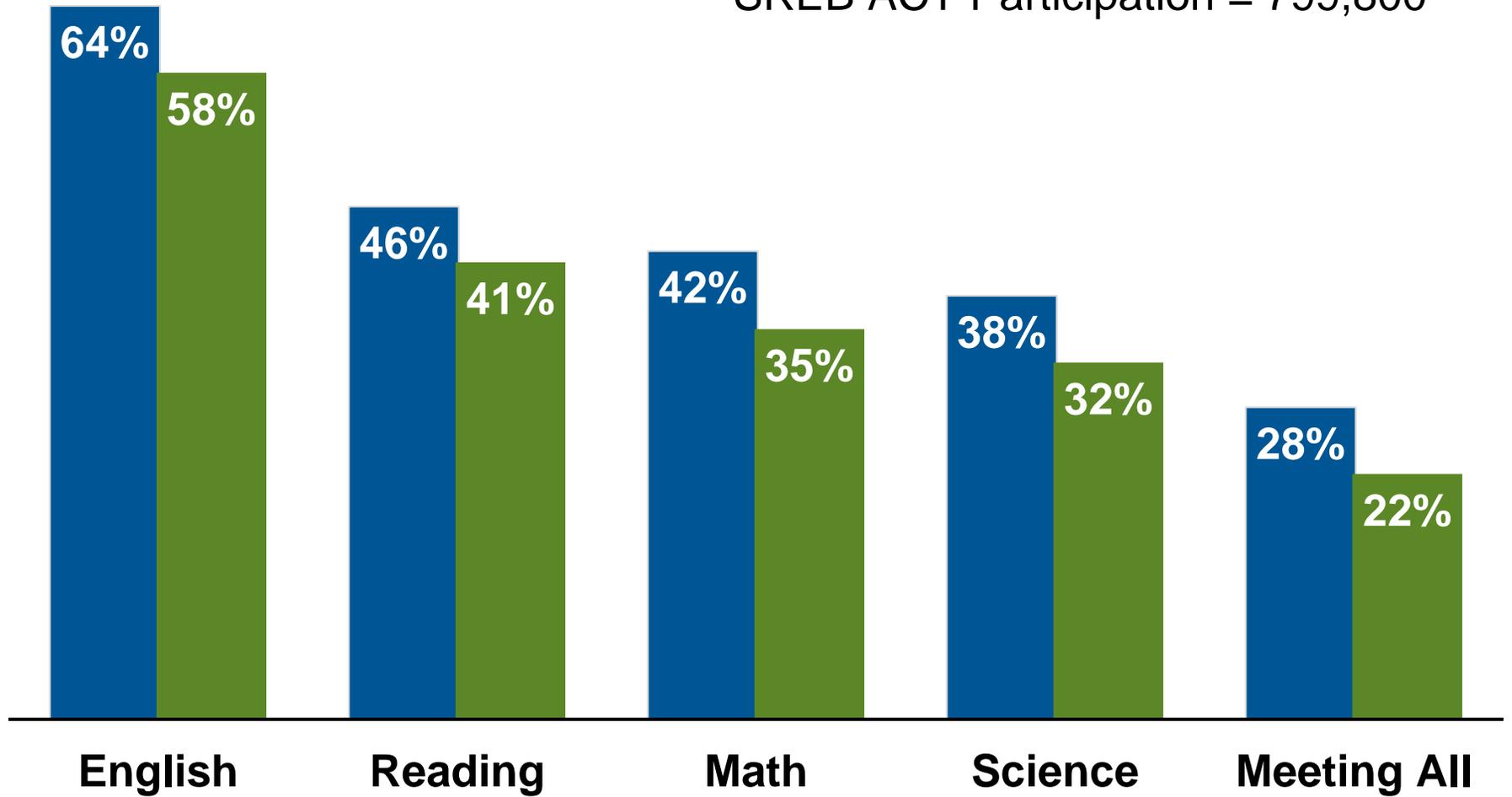
SREB Graduation Rates, by Student Group



SREB

Students Meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmarks U.S. Versus SREB

U.S. ACT Participation = 1,924,436
SREB ACT Participation = 799,800



SREB



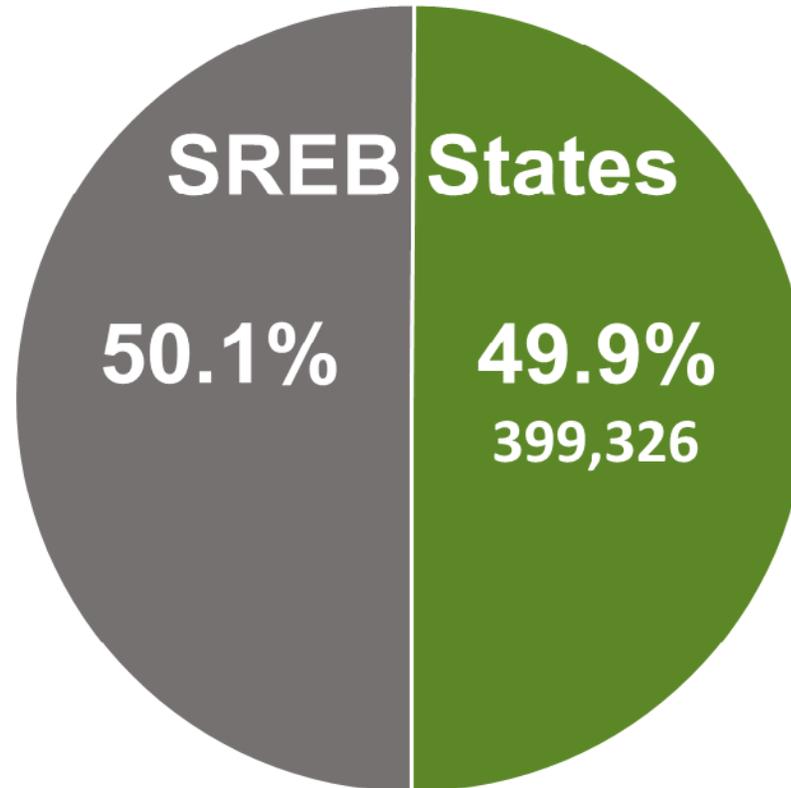
SREB

Math and Science Readiness

STEM-Interested Student Readiness, 2015

U.S. ACT Participation = 1,924,436

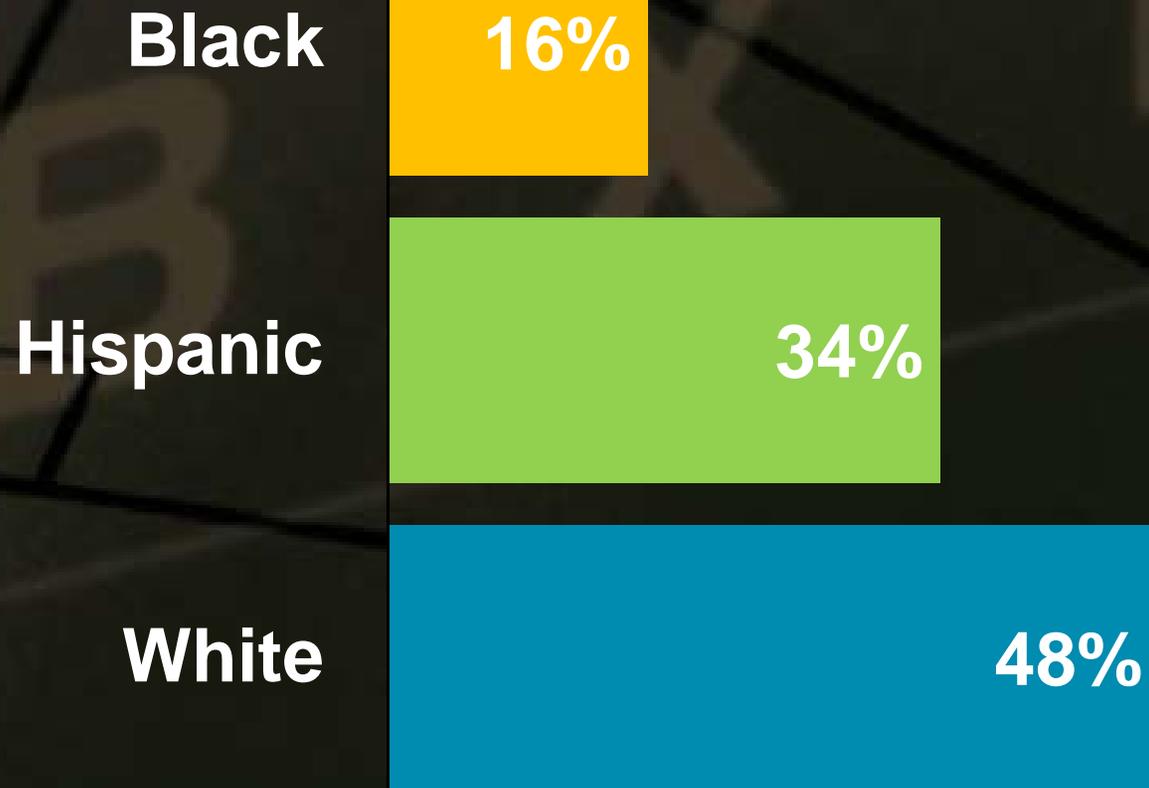
SREB ACT Participation = 799,800



- Not Interested in STEM Careers
- Interested in STEM Careers

SREB

SREB STEM-Interested Seniors Who Met ACT's College-Readiness Math Benchmark



SREB

SREB STEM-Interested Seniors Who Met ACT's College-Readiness Math Benchmark

Women

35%

Men

47%

SREB

Women Tested = 203,736
Men Tested = 195,590

SREB STEM-Interested Seniors Who Met ACT's College-Readiness Science Benchmark

Black

14%

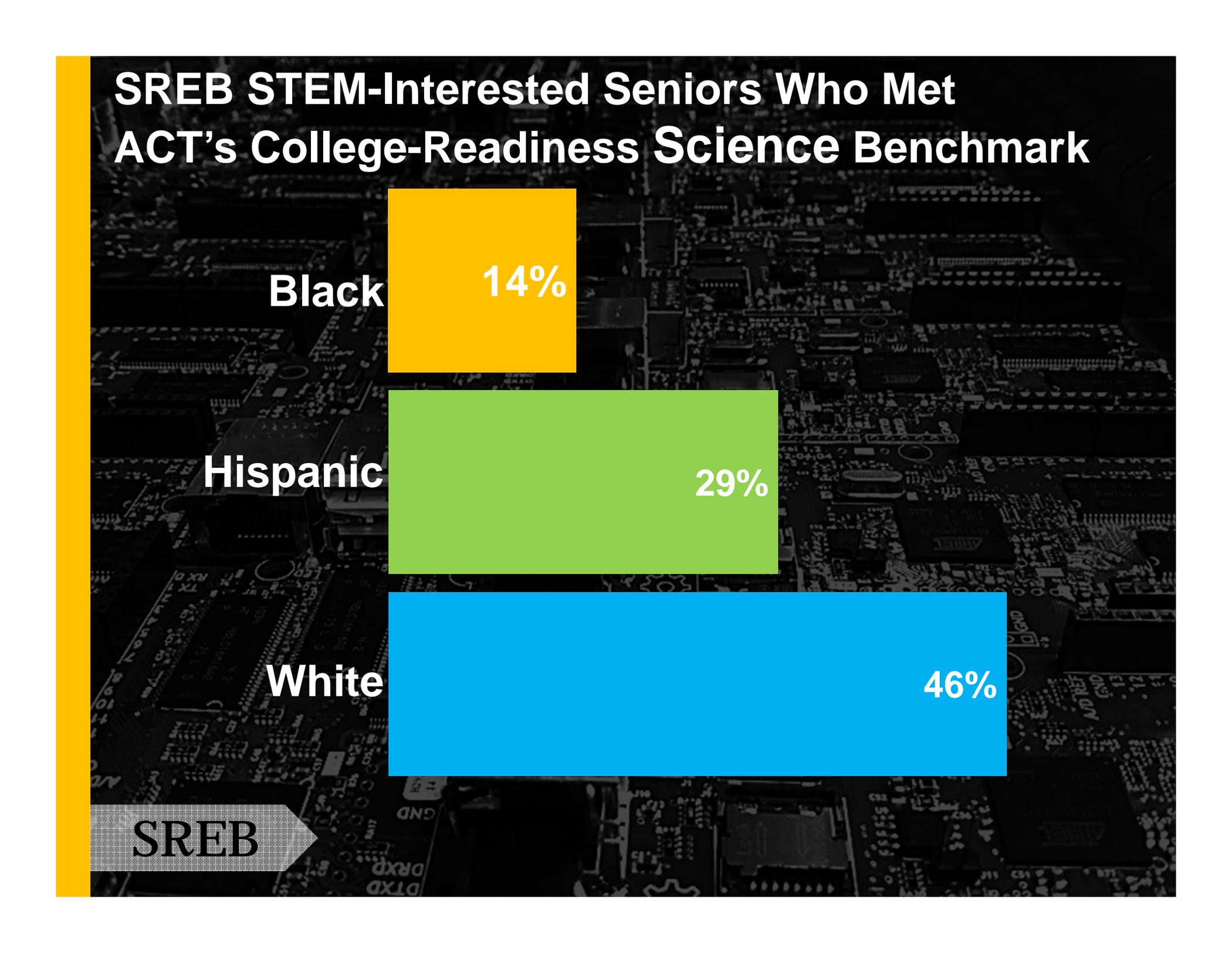
Hispanic

29%

White

46%

SREB



SREB STEM-Interested Seniors Who Met ACT's College-Readiness Science Benchmark

Women

33%

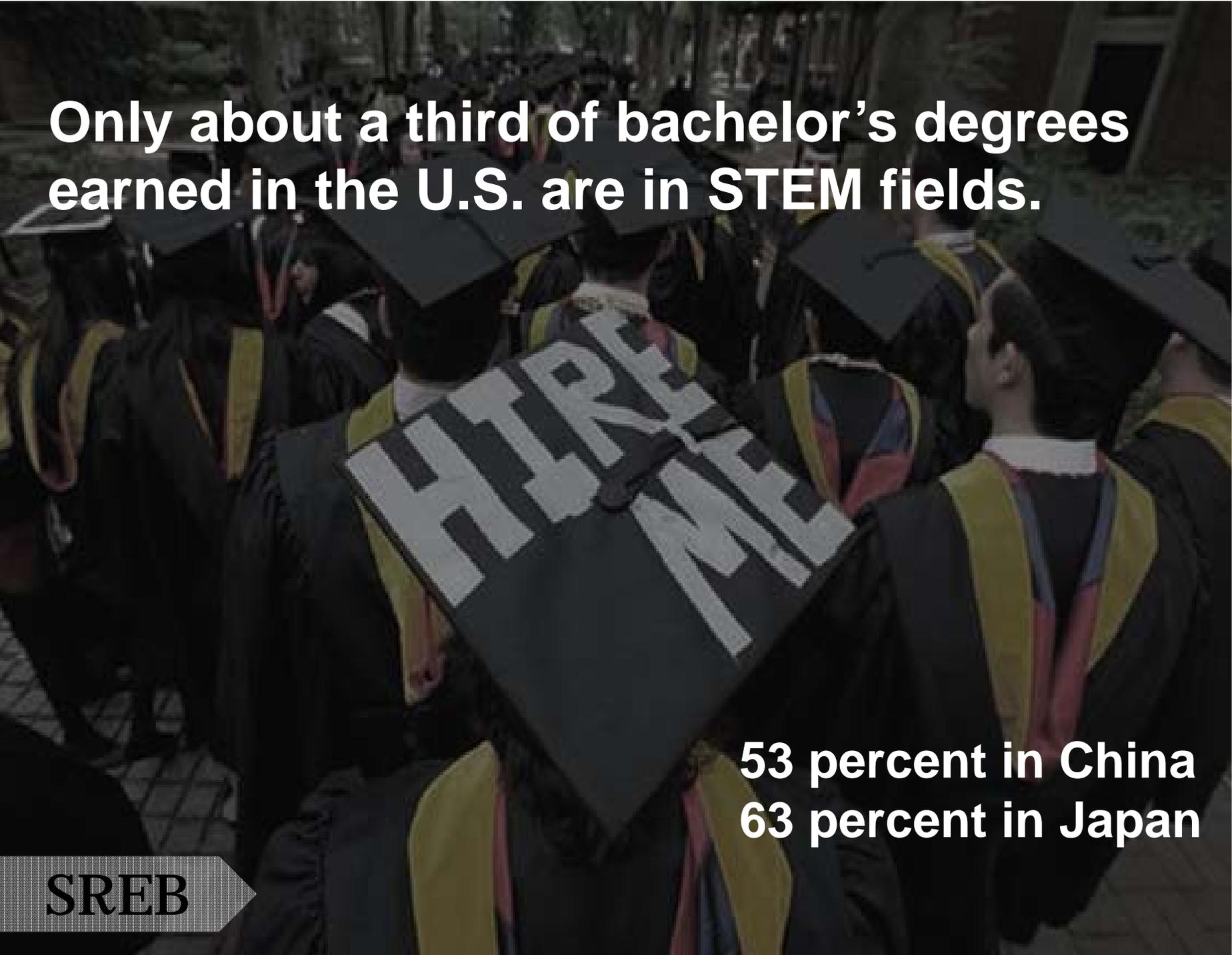
Men

44%

SREB

Women Tested = 203,736

Men Tested = 195,590



Only about a third of bachelor's degrees earned in the U.S. are in STEM fields.

**53 percent in China
63 percent in Japan**

SREB



Less than 40 percent of U.S. students who start a STEM major finish it.

Students leaving STEM at higher rates

- **Low-income students**
- **First-generation college students**
- **Underrepresented minorities and**
- **Women**

National Experts Cite Several Key Factors Connected to STEM Attrition

- Academic preparation
- Inadequate advising and career counseling
- Experiences in “gatekeeper” courses
- Self Confidence
- Cost of longer STEM degree programs
- Insufficient institutional support
- A lack of peers and role models
- Student isolation and motivation