



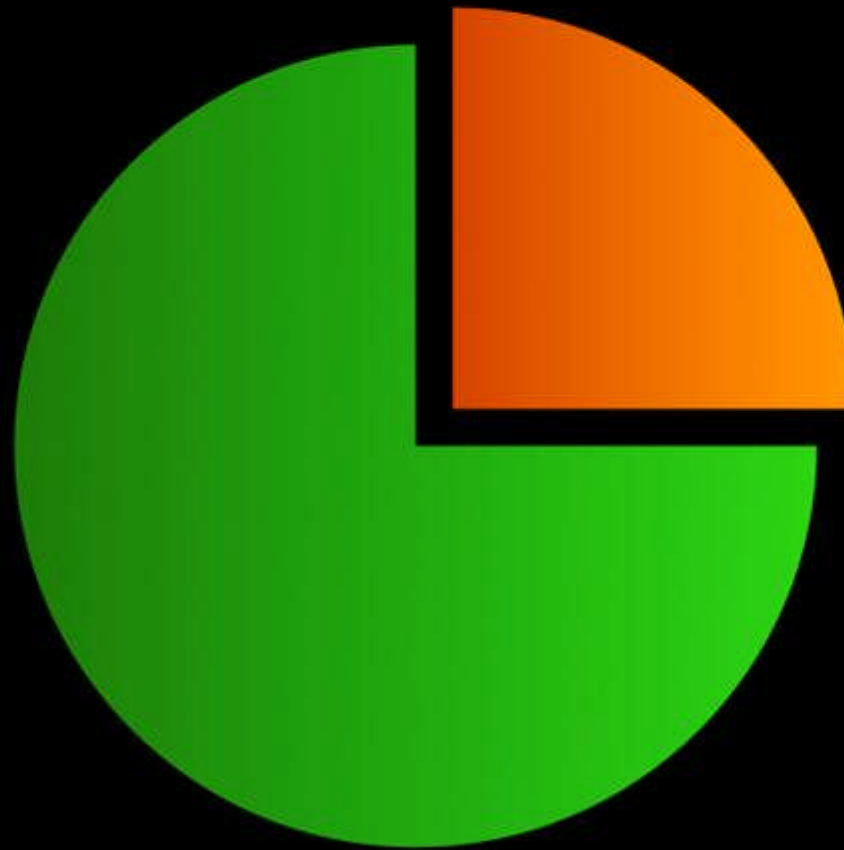
Prepared especially for

The NC Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee

March 11, 2008

Why and how Asheville City Schools is
changing the way we do business...and
how the Legislature & DPI can support
our efforts.

**The 25% of the population in China
with the highest IQ's...**



**...is greater than the total population
of North America.**

Translation:

**They have more honors kids
than we have kids**



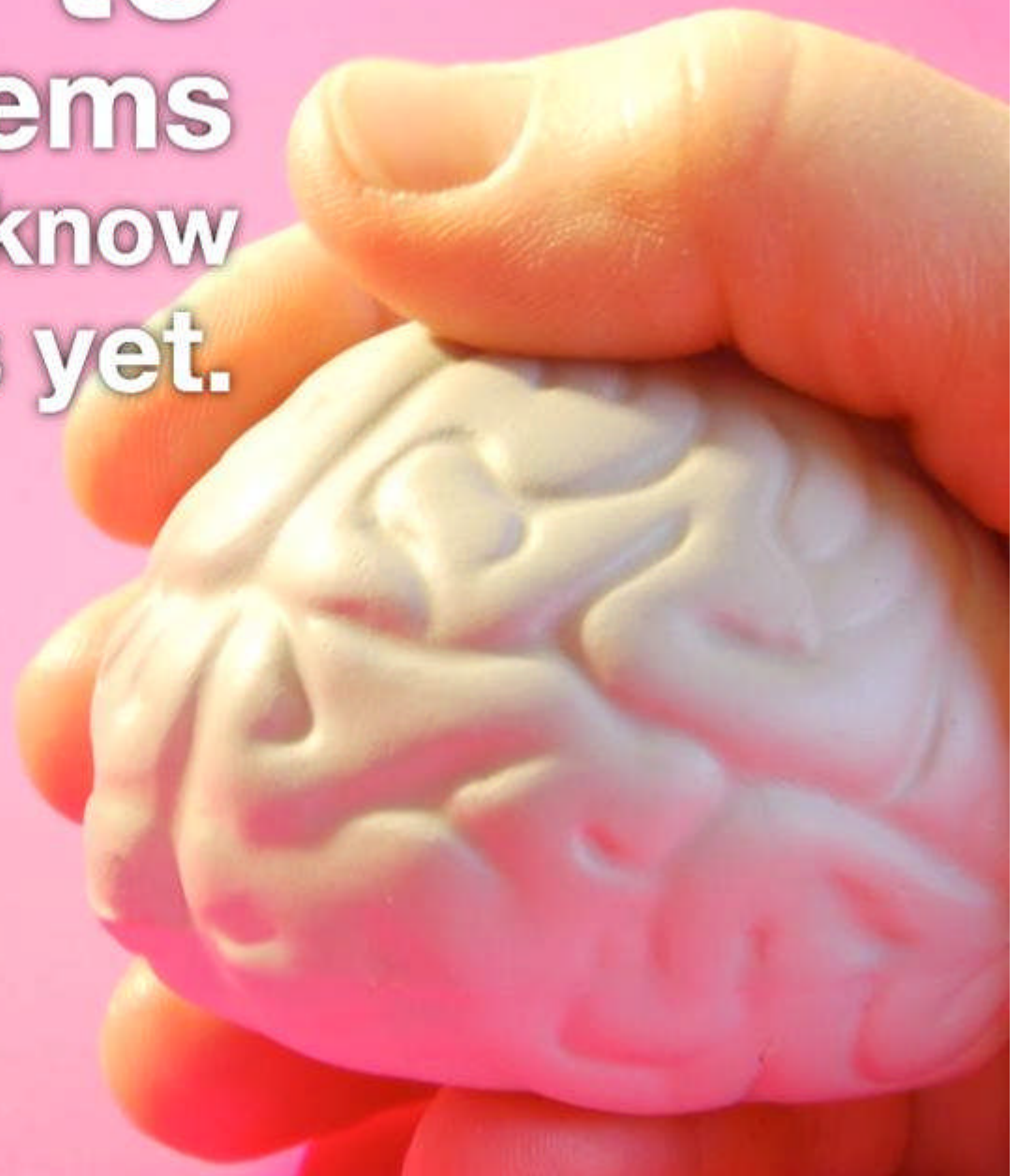
A photograph showing two orange chairs with chrome frames in the foreground. The background is a bright green wall. In the upper left corner, a portion of a whiteboard is visible. Overlaid on the green wall is white text.

**We are currently
preparing students
for jobs that
don't yet exist...**

using technologies
that haven't
been invented...



**in order to
solve problems
we don't even know
are problems yet.**





We're striving to meet
that challenge

**2007-12
strategic goals**

Produce globally-competitive students

Lead and teach with 21st Century professionals

Develop healthy, responsible and engaged students

Foster continuous improvement via innovation and collaboration

Utilize 21st Century systems to maximize communication and efficiency

Who are we?

One 5-Star Preschool



**Five
Elementary
Magnet
Schools**

**One
Special
Program**

Claxton Elementary

Dickson Elementary

Hall Fletcher Elementary

Jones Elementary

Vance Elementary

FX@AHS

One Middle School



**Asheville Middle
School**

One Alternative School



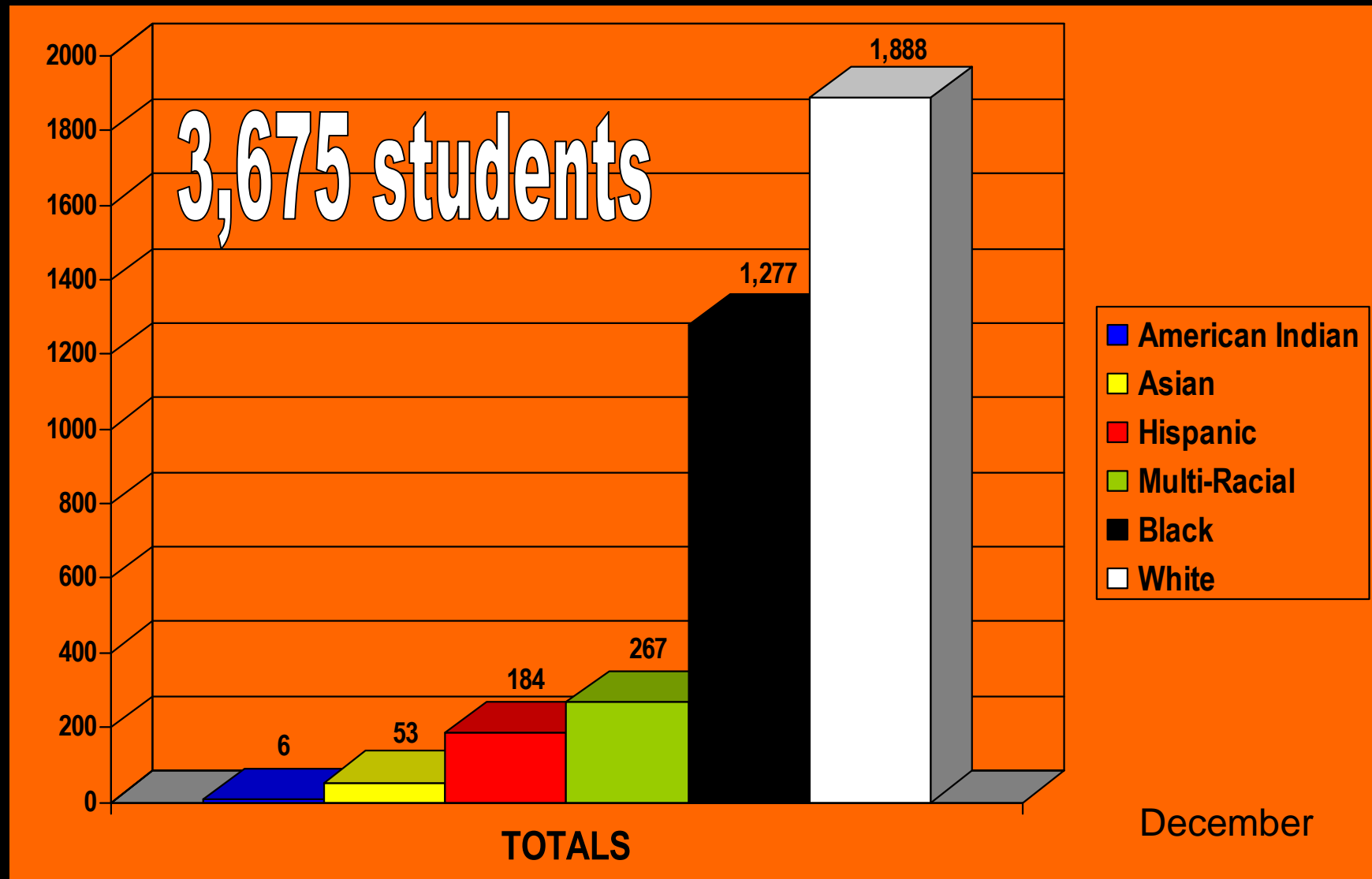
**Randolph Learning
Center**

**Asheville High School
&
School of Inquiry &
Life Sciences at
Asheville**



Month 4 '07-08

By ethnicity





Socio-economics

50.71% Free- or Reduced-Price Meals

**226 Reduced
1,635 Free**

**As of
3/06/2008**



May 2006

Special Needs Population

496 students

12.8% of 3,864 students

**50 Autistic students comprises the
highest percentage statewide**



Budget – by Revenue Source

2007-08

Fund Balance &
Transfers -

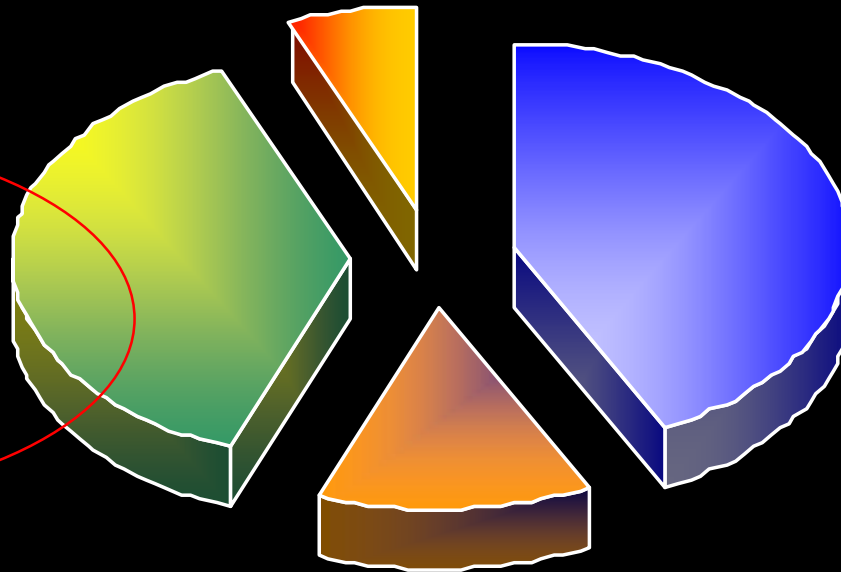
\$3.28M

6.11%

State - \$22.79M

42.52%

Local - \$20.45M
38.15%



Total Budget \$53,595,169

Federal - \$7.08M

13.21%

The Changing Face of K-12 Education



Elementary



The Stone Soup Project

Vance Elementary 2nd Grade

- Collaborative endeavor
- Focuses on social studies and healthful living competencies
- Used Super 3 Research Model
Plan-Do-Review
- Integration of technology

Stone Soup Dinner Theatre culminating project

Student-created nutrition books

Healthy Living web site

Four presentations

Stone Soup Dinner

Proceeds – field trip to Ingles
to buy groceries for needy



L I T E R A C Y

- Veteran teachers
- Administer Language & Literacy program
- Moving into math & science
- Model lessons
- Co-teaching/best practices
- Organize materials/rooms
- Lead professional development
- Confer with teachers

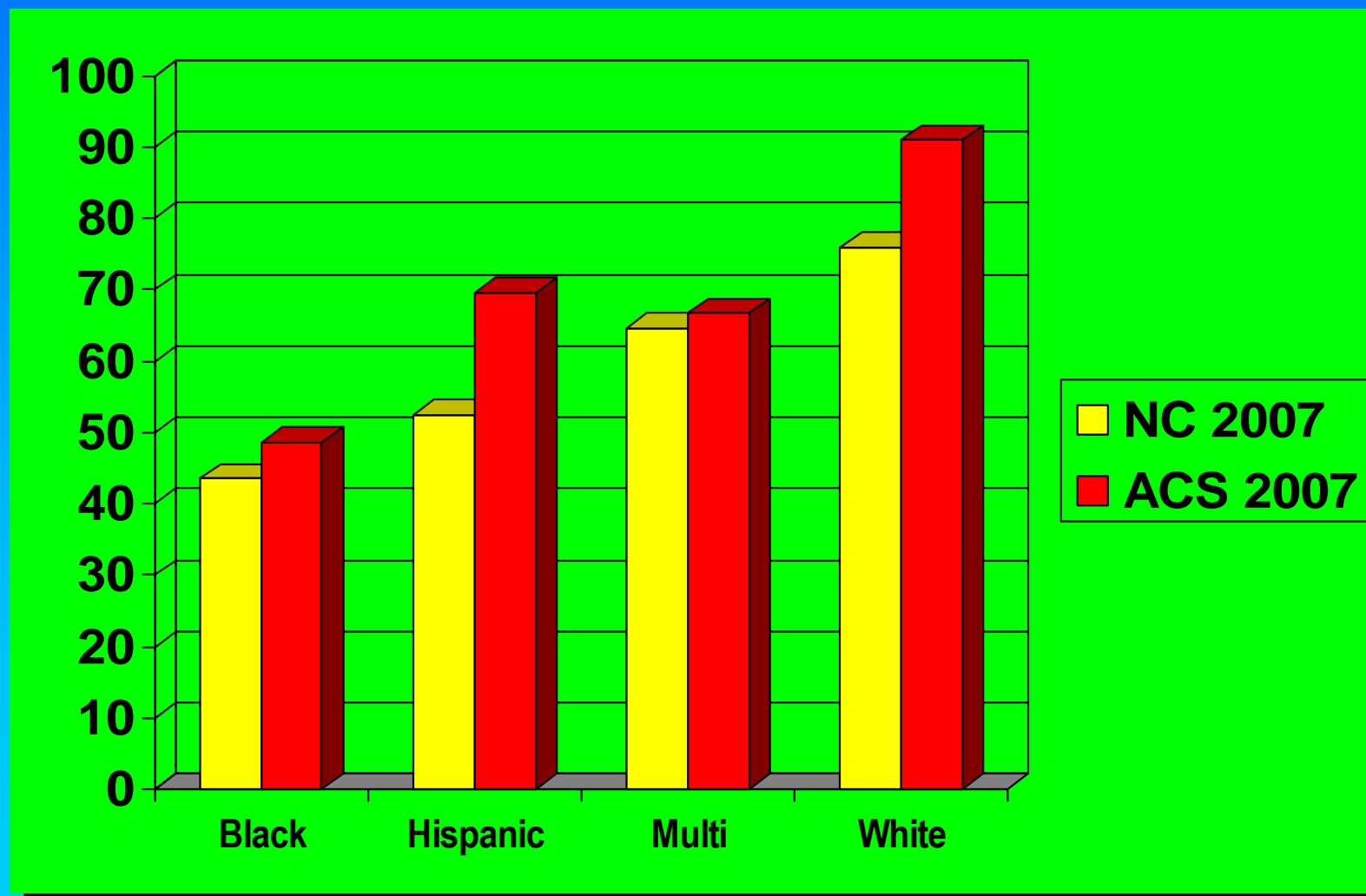


COACHES

Students Proficient

Grades 3-8

in Both Reading & Math (NC vs. ACS – 2007)

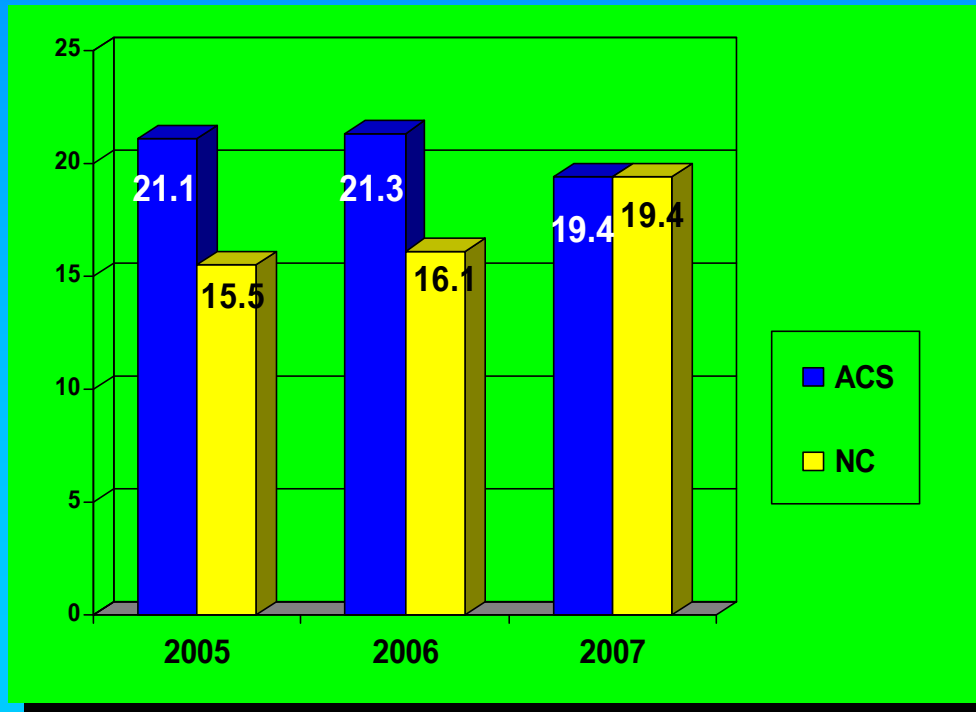


Achievement Gaps*

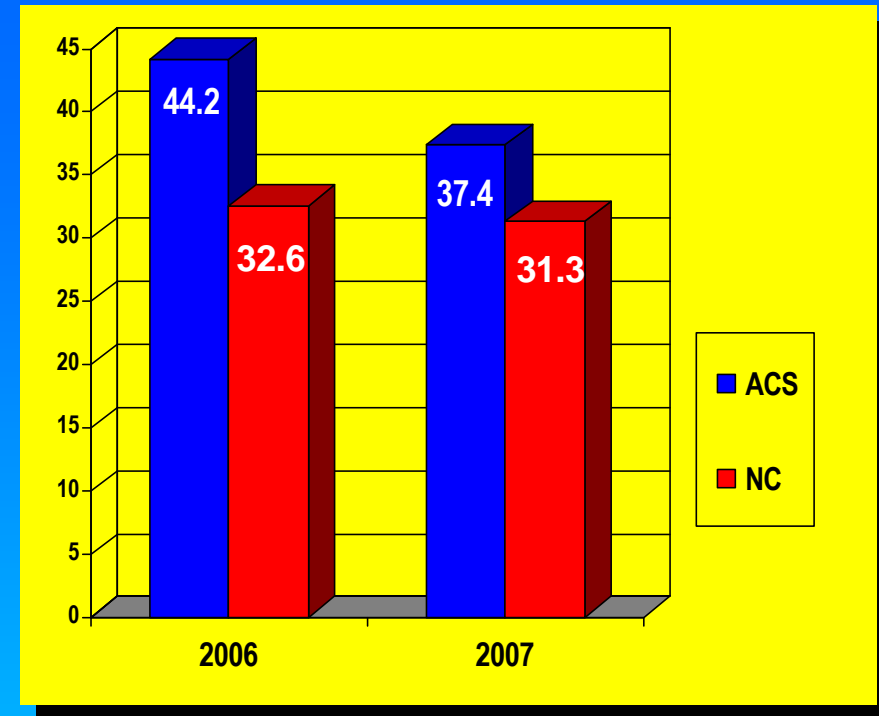
3-year look

Percent proficient

Reading, grades 3-8



Math, grades 3-8



A new math test plus higher standards were mandated by the State Board in 2006

*All students

The Changing Face of K-12 Education



Middle School

Asheville Middle School

Coached Paideia Project

“We are evolving from didactic instruction to inquiry and project-based learning – with differentiated instruction.”

-Dr. Pam Cocke
Principal, AMS

AMAZON Rainforest –Nov '07

Asheville
Middle
School



Integration of social studies, math, technology,
science, language and visual arts



AMAZON Rainforest

Team A: Medicinal plants

Team B: Deforestation

Team C: Indigenous
peoples



AMAZON Rainforest

Team D: Rainforest
ecosystem

Team E: Layers of the
Rainforest

The Changing Face of K-12 Education



High School

Spotlight on High School

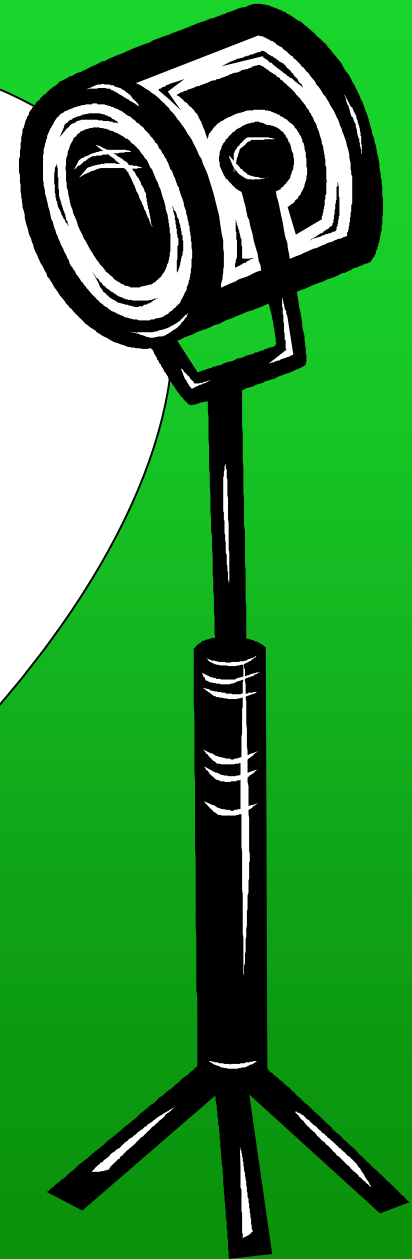
Graduation rates

Graduation requirements

Rigor – Relevance – Relationships

New core academic requirements

Small schools / schools within
schools



Classrooms without walls

Students are:

- ✓ **Empowered** with technology and **highly engaged** in authentic tasks
- ✓ **Taking responsibility** for their own learning
- ✓ **Practicing** ethical use of information and technology
- ✓ **Publishing** content of their own
- ✓ **Making significant contributions** to improving quality of life in our community

IMPACT III Model School Grant ---Enhancing education through technology



Laptops
Graphing Calculators
Interactive White Boards
Document Cameras
Student Response Systems
Professional Development
Video Projectors
Digital Microscopes
Probeware
Student Workstations



\$1,772,000

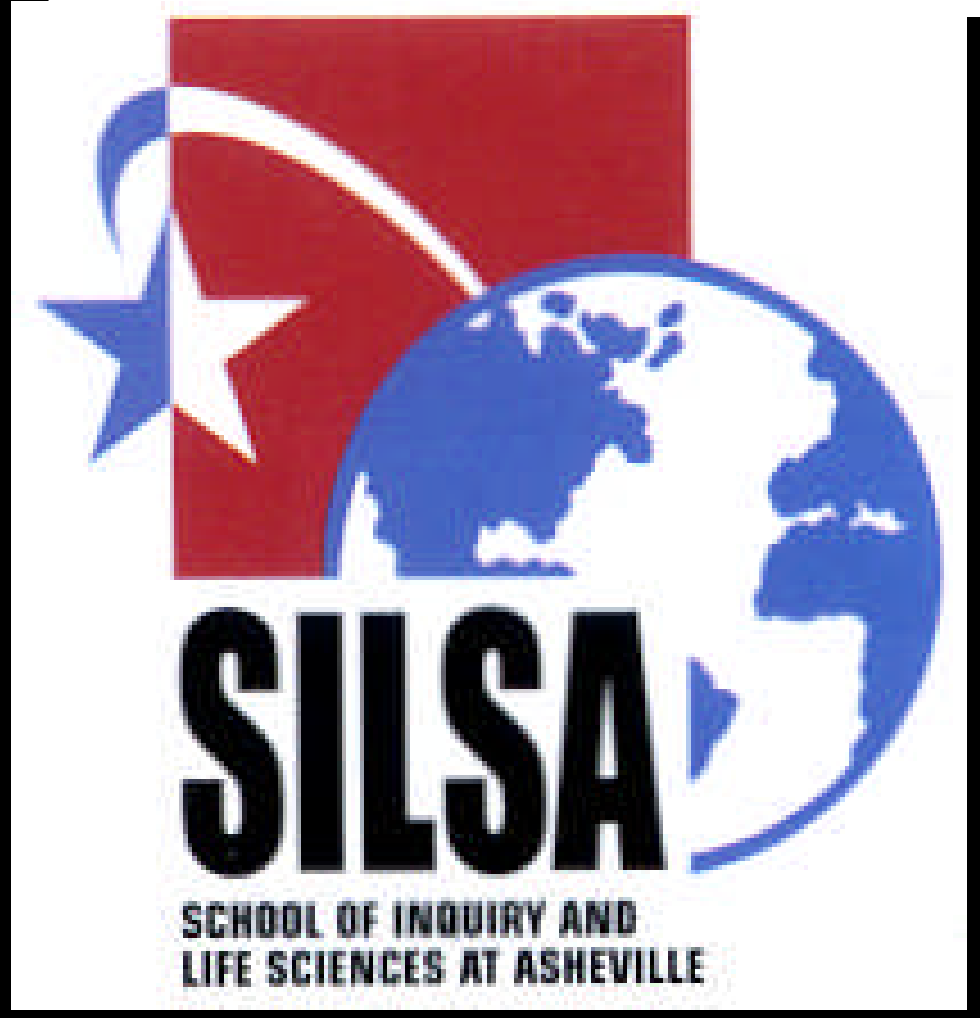
Awarded March 5, 2008

One of NC's original seven
Gates Foundation-funded projects

107 students

**62% majority – 38% minority
(mirrors AHS)**

- **Use of Big6
Research Model**
- **Habits of Mind –
life skills**
- **Project-based
learning**
- **Academic Rigor**



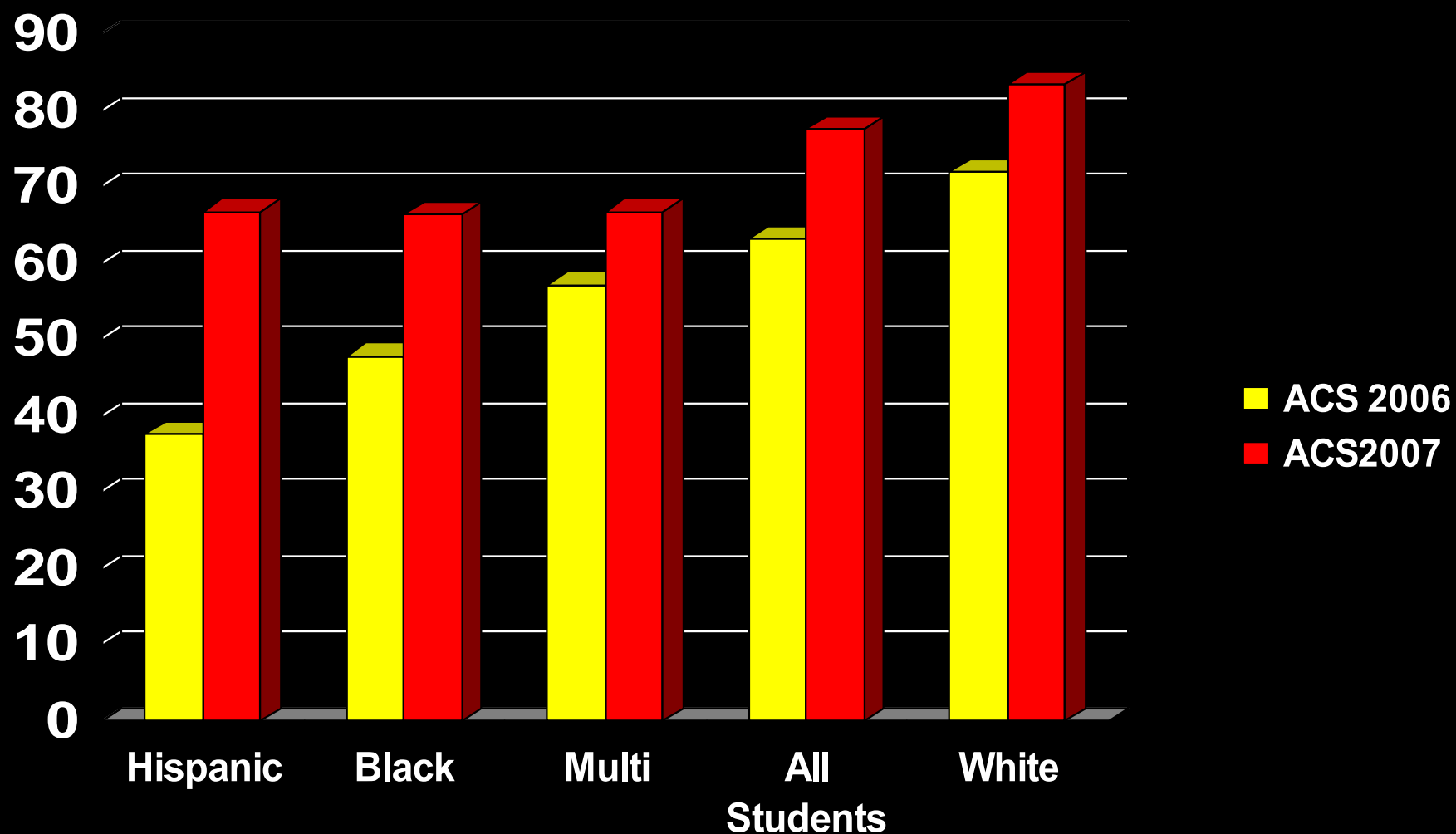
Graduation Project



- Research paper
- Product
- Portfolio
- Oral presentation

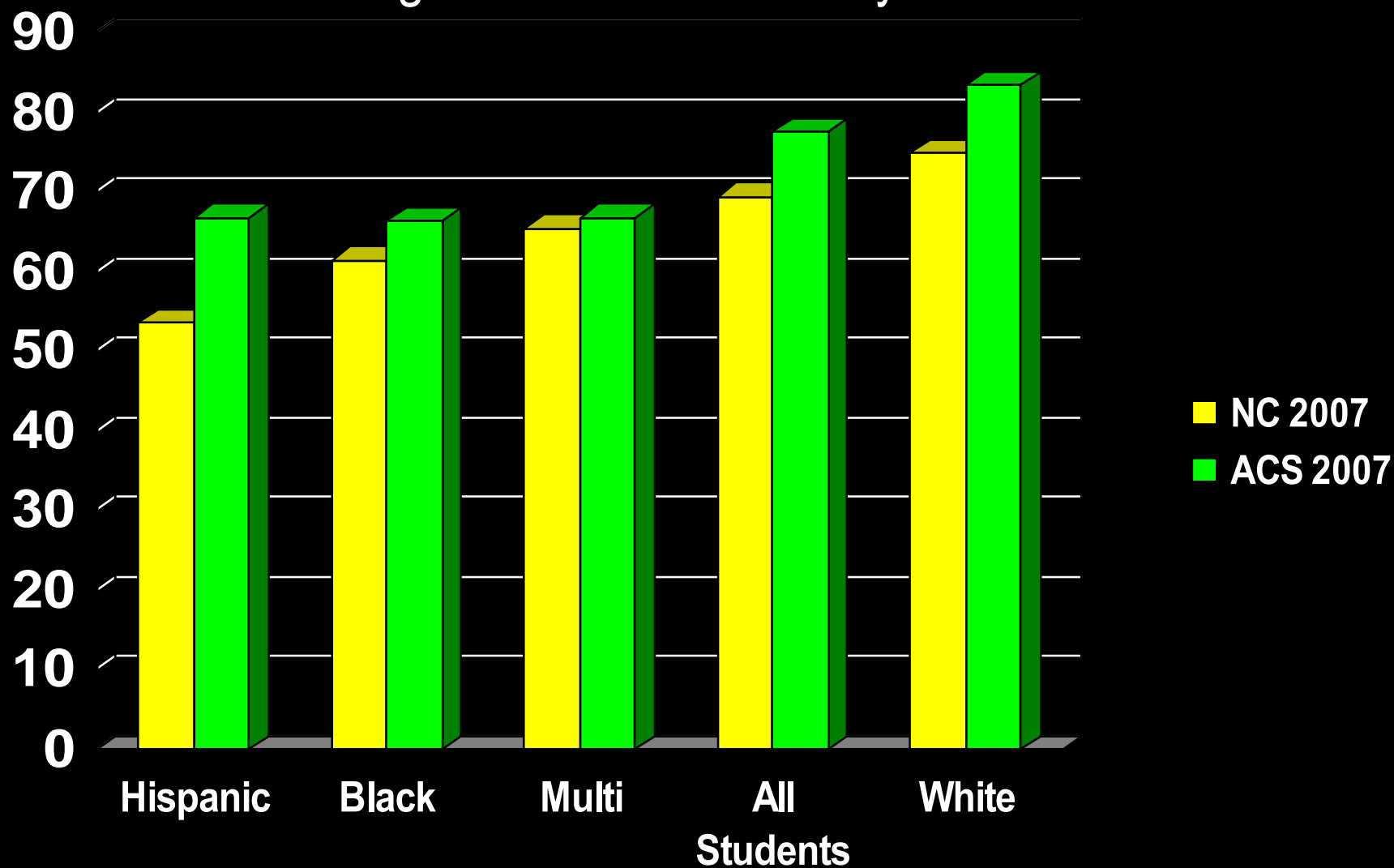
Graduation Cohort Data

Number of students who entered as 9th graders
and graduated within four years

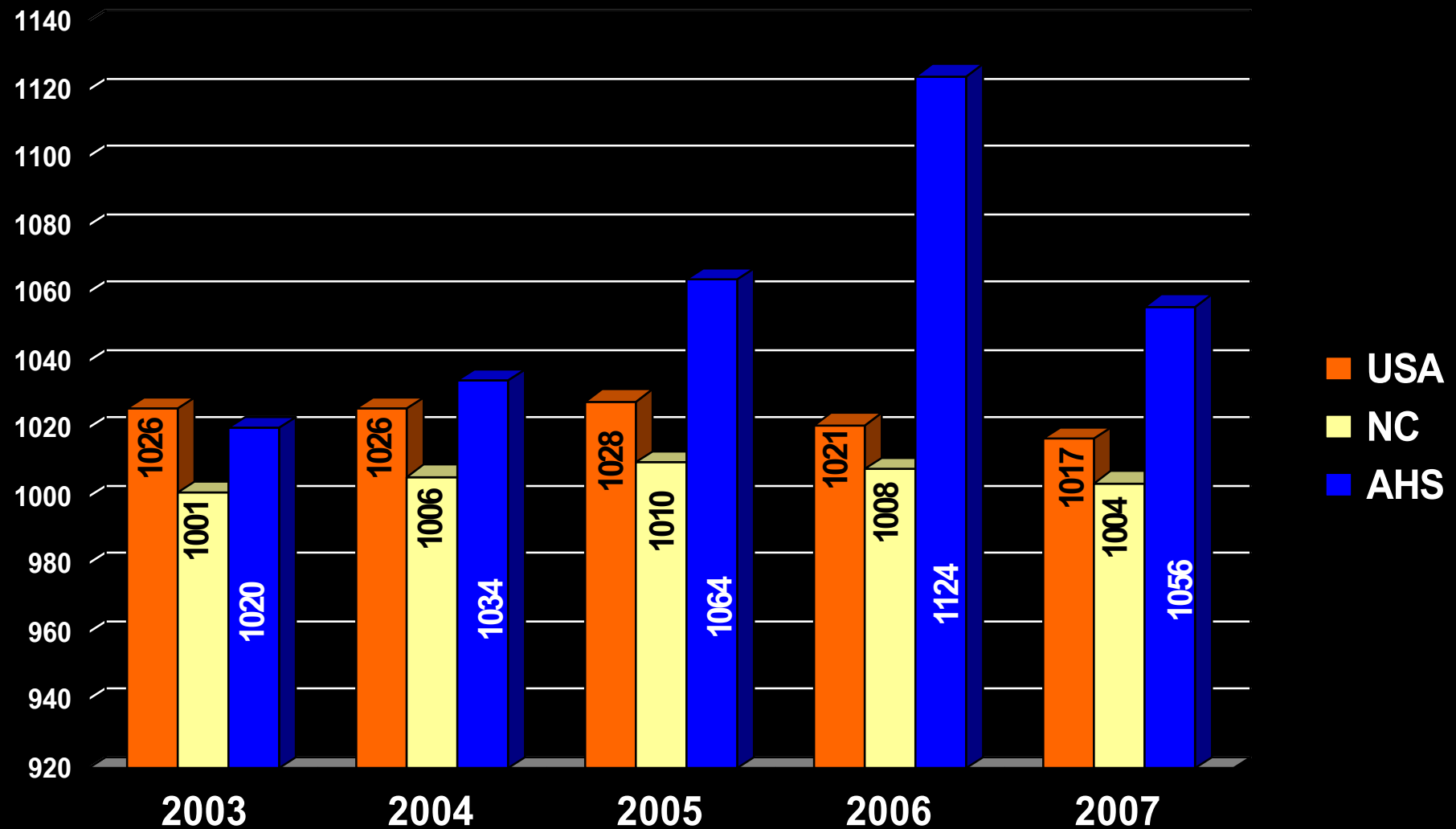


ACS vs. NC Graduation Cohort Data

Number of students who entered as 9th graders
and graduated within four years

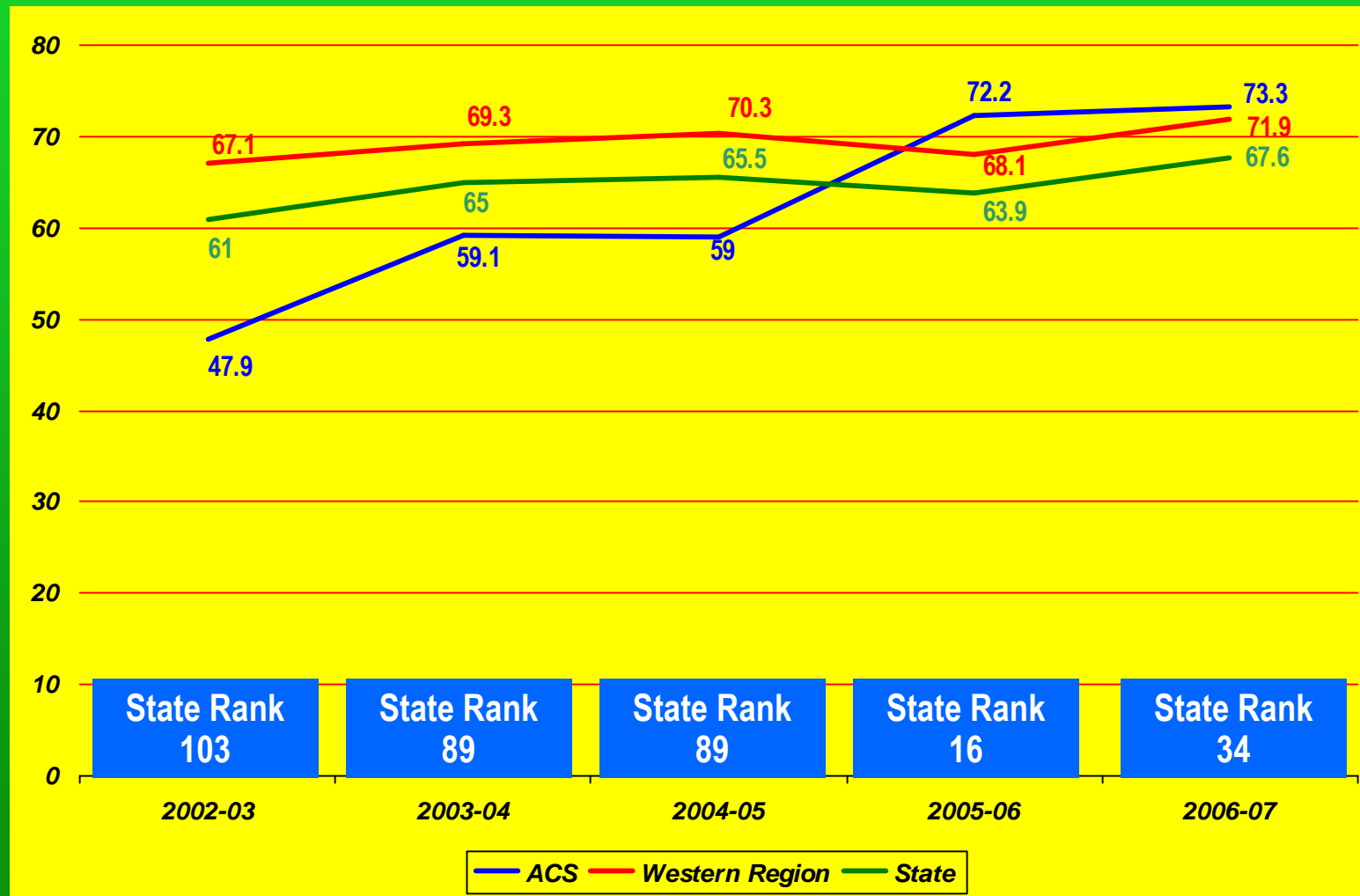


SAT Scores – 5-year history



CTEs (Career Technical Education) – ACS

Overall % of students receiving 3's and 4's



**How best can the
NC Legislature and
NCDPI serve us?**

#1

Local School Calendar

**Early
release
days**

Professional Development
Issue



Asheville City Schools

2007-08 Calendar

- F** First day for students
- L** Last day for students
- Annual Leave
- Holiday
- Required Workday

- Required Workday/Parent Teacher Conference Day

- Optional Workday
- School Discretionary Workday
- Protected Workday
- Early release/Teachers/Staff Development Noon (K-5) 1 PM (6-12)

Snow make-up days pending total days missed

January 2
February 15
March 21
June 2
June 4

Early Release
October 3
December 5
February 27
April 16

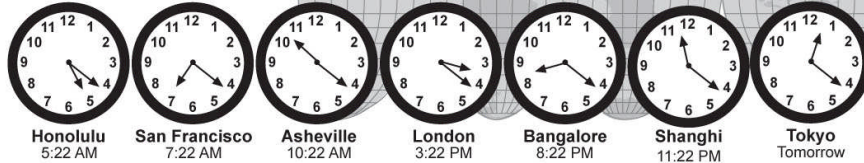
Approved by
ACS Board of Education
February 5, 2007



* Non-student day

Protected workday may adjust based on a snow make-up
Report cards sent to parents 5 days after end of each quarter

*The World Is Flat?



Changing Times

The World is Flat, according to Pulitzer Prize winner Thomas L. Friedman in his bestselling 2005 book. What Friedman means by "flat" is "connected", or put another way, "the playing field has been leveled" for many global economic transactions.

What does that mean to us right here in Western North Carolina? Perhaps you've ordered phone service and discovered you are talking with a service rep in India. Maybe you bought furniture from High Point, furniture which was actually manufactured in China. Or, via your own "surfing" prowess, your new HDTV came to you at a low cost from an eBay store in western Montana.

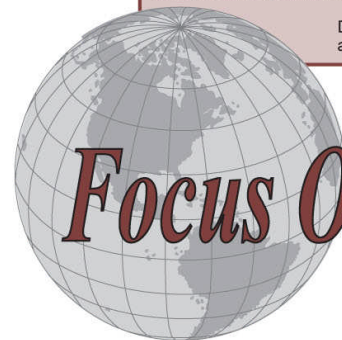
As time marches on, Friedman predicts, the service sector will be further outsourced to the English-spoken abroad. We'll continue to lose jobs in telemarketing, accounting, computer programming, engineering and scientific research, while manufacturing jobs will continue to be off-shored to China.

But outsourcing is just one dimension of our rapidly changing world of work. Over the past five years a massive worldwide investment in technology coupled with broadband connectivity, inexpensive computers and powerful software that drives Internet sites like Google have combined to power a global economy that is already affecting jobs in our community.

In a world where countries like India and China can compete for "global knowledge work" like never before, how can you as a student/parent plan for a secure job future? Friedman says that American education should be as "flexible as possible." Parents must take a keen interest in their children's education. Technology, math and science skills are/will be in demand.

Our challenge to you is simply this. Start now. Use this guide to help map a smart career progression. Stay engaged in academics and tuned in to changing avenues and opportunities. *The World is Flat?*

Don't let a redesigned globe stand between you and a successful and a happy career.



Now, more than ever, it's time to Focus On Your Future!

**The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the 21st Century*
Thomas L. Friedman
Farrar, Straus and Giroux © 2005

#2

Support for an expanded real-world curriculum

Offshoring
Common web
standards
Internet-email-
browser
confluence
In-forming
Collaborative
communities

Global capitalist
unification
Insourcing
Outsourcing
Supply-chaining
Amplifying
technologies

#3 Statewide emphasis and resources for improving graduation rates



- Dropout prevention grants
- Freshmen “Experience”
- Literacy coaches
- Learn/Earn type options
- Redesigned high schools/small or school-within-a-school

#4 Keep the resources flowing to help close the digital divide



All Asheville City Schools are connected by fiber optic cable. The schools also have approximately 3000 Ethernet jacks and 2000 Cisco ports.

But what about at home?

1,674 computers

480 phones

#5

Improve Communication Channels



NCDPI

Licensure
Personnel Issues
Exceptional Children



#6

Target resources against needs

State...District...School...Classroom



Thank you for all you do!



QUESTIONS???



Small...Family-friendly...Safe...Academic Excellence
