

The Real Benchmarks: New York City Student Performance on National Tests

Presented By:
Assemblyman James F. Brennan
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NYS Scale Score Adjustments

- In June 2010, the NYS Board of Regents announced a new standard for proficiency
- Test score threshold change results in:
 - 26 point drop in ELA in grades 3-8 in NYC
 - 28 point drop in Math in grades 3-8 in NYC

Student Testing in New York City

- New York State Exams
- National Assessment of Education Progress Trial Urban District Assessment (NAEP TUDA)
 - NAEP is a national testing program funded by the U.S. Department of Education
 - Same test is administered in 4th and 8th grade reading and math every two years

Significance of NAEP

- Provides a clear picture of student progress over time
- Difficult to prepare students for test, NAEP test more likely to reflect actual learning
- Provides insight into how well state tests are measuring student ability
- Comparisons can be made between cities and states across the nation
- Considered by experts to be the gold standard in educational testing

NAEP TUDA & New York State Tests

Large disparities between proficiency level results for New York State tests and NAEP TUDA

In New York City in 2009:

- 50 point disparity in 4th grade math
- 45 point disparity in 8th grade math
- 40 point disparity in 4th grade reading
- 35 points in 8th grade reading

Proper Benchmarking

- Mayor Bloomberg announced his overhaul of the school system in January 2003
 - Community school districts were to be closed in June 2003 and folded into regions
 - New curriculum was to be introduced in the school year beginning September 2003
 - Test results under the new structure began in 2004
- Since the 2003 tests pertain to the 2002-2003 school year, 2003 scores should be the benchmark to which current results can be compared

TUDA Cities

Ten large cities that have been participating in the NAEP TUDA since 2003:

- Atlanta
- Boston
- Charlotte
- Chicago
- Cleveland
- Washington DC
- Houston
- Los Angeles
- New York City
- San Diego

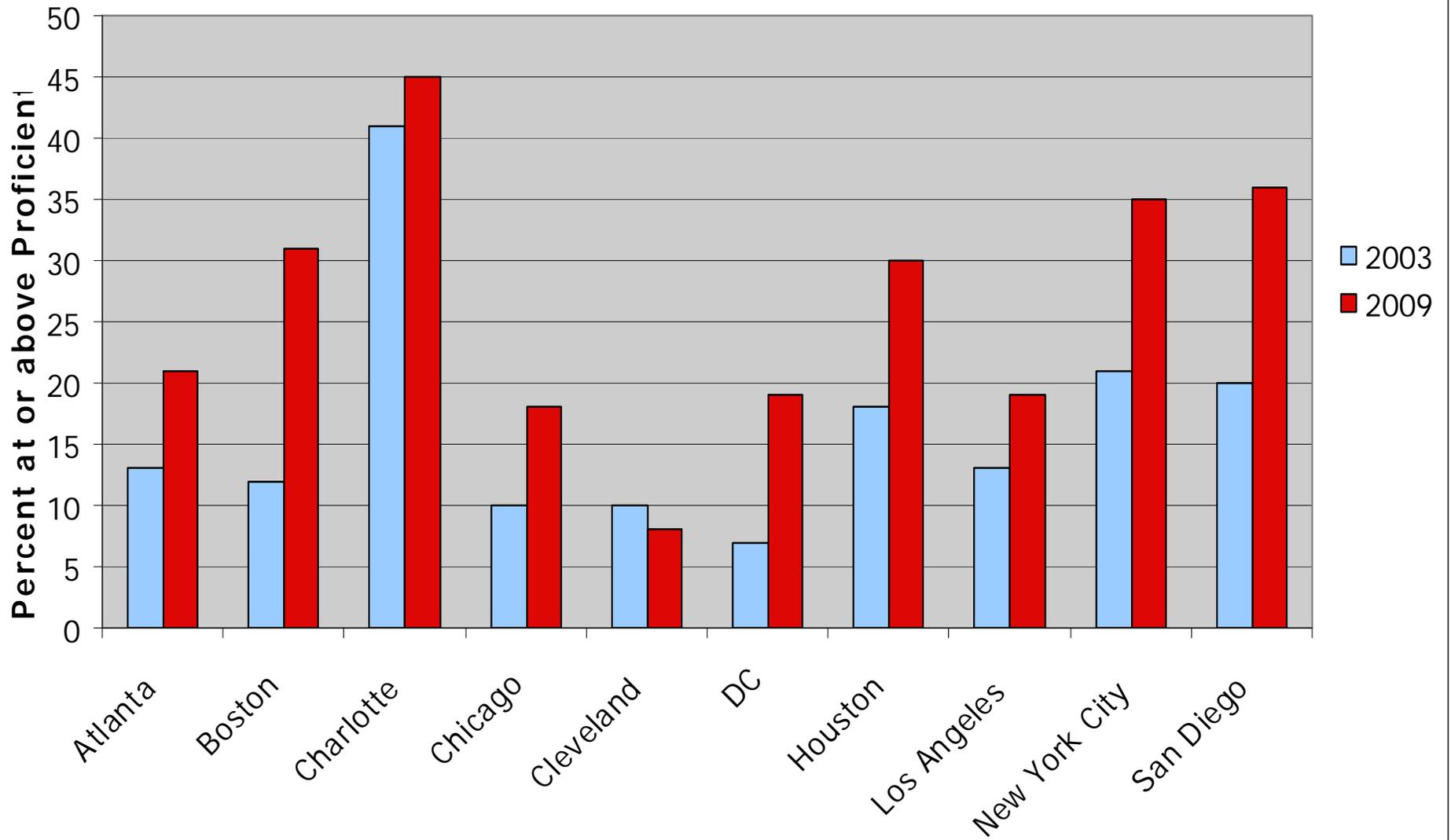
Organization of Presentation

- Achievement level results
- Achievement level gains
- Average scores
- Average score gains
- Achievement gap



4th Grade Math

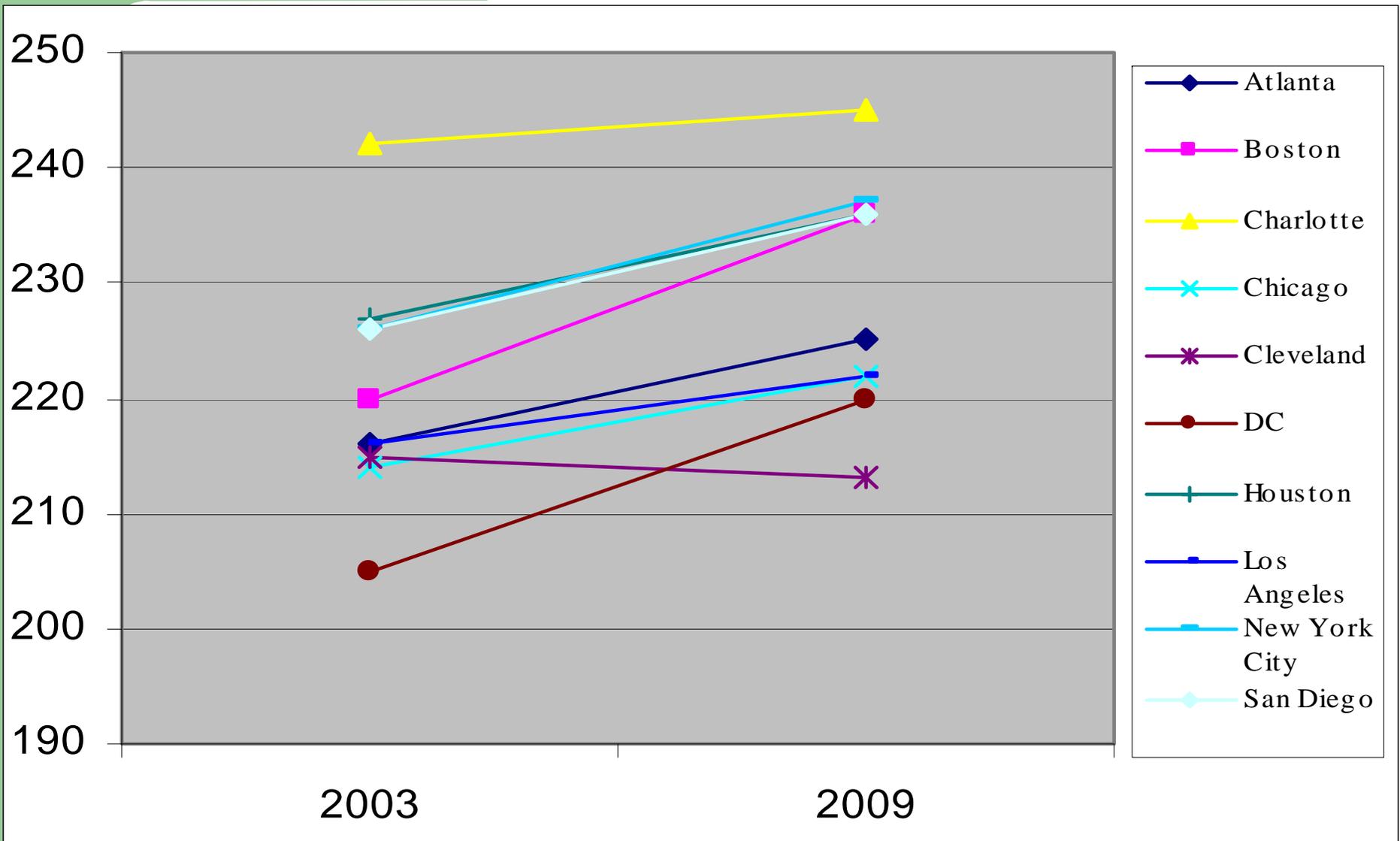
Proficiency Level Results in 4th Grade Math



Proficiency Level Gains in 4th Grade Math

- In 2003, 21% of students in New York City were at or above proficient
 - This is higher than 8 out of 10 cities
- In 2009, 35% of students in New York City were at or above proficient
 - This is higher than 7 out of 10 cities
- From 2003-2009, New York City gained 14 points in the percentage of students at or above proficient
 - Two other cities had similar gains

Average Scores in 4th Grade Math



Average Scores in 4th Grade Math

- In 4th grade math in 2003, the average score in New York City was 226
 - This is higher than six out of ten TUDA cities
- In 2009, the average score in New York City was 237
 - This is higher than eight out of ten TUDA cities
- As measured by both proficiency rates and average scores, New York City students showed the strongest improvement in 4th grade math

Achievement Gap

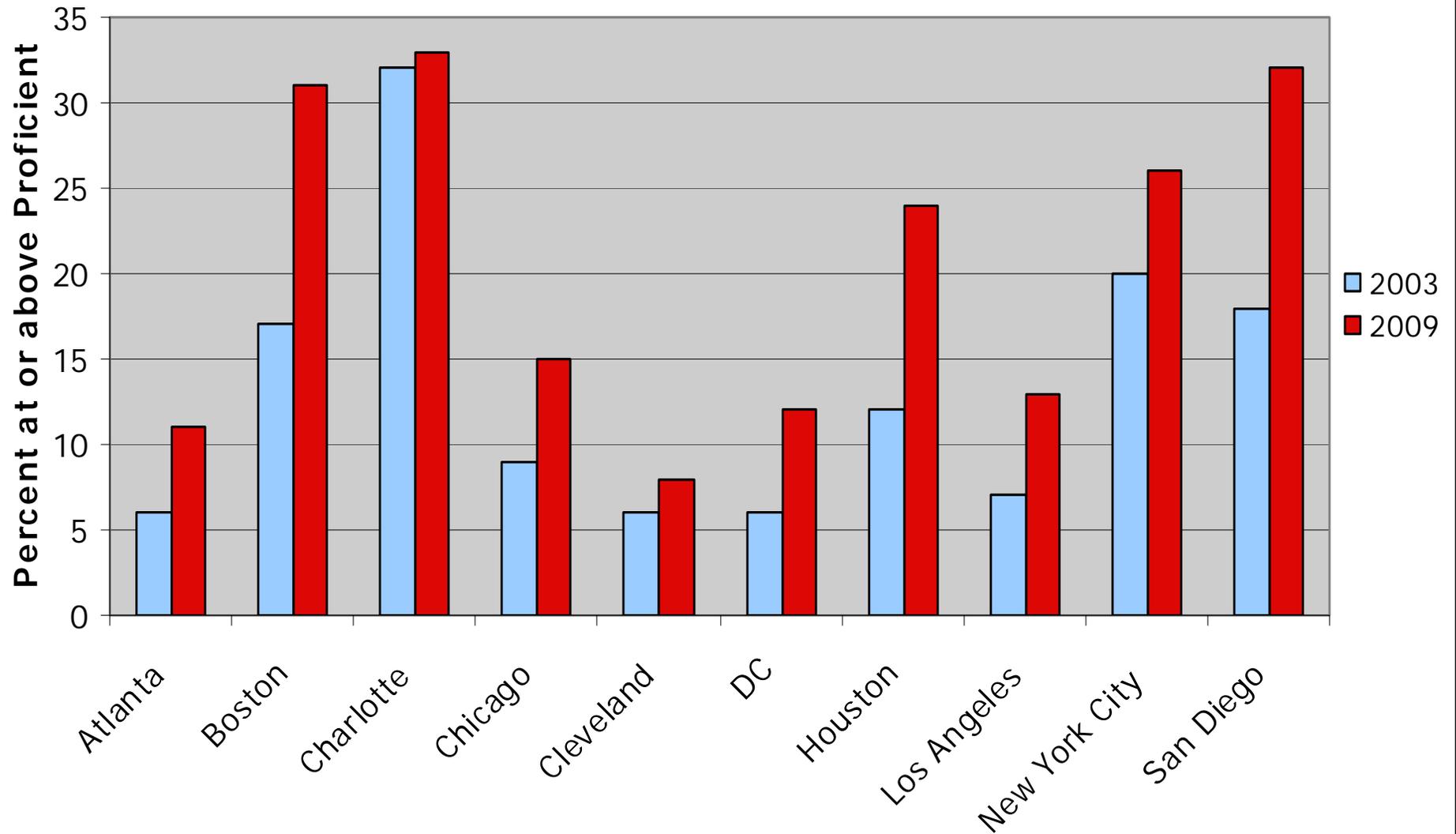
4th Grade Math

	2003	2009	Change 2003- 2009
White-Black	25	26	-1
White-Hispanic	24	23	+1



8th Grade Math

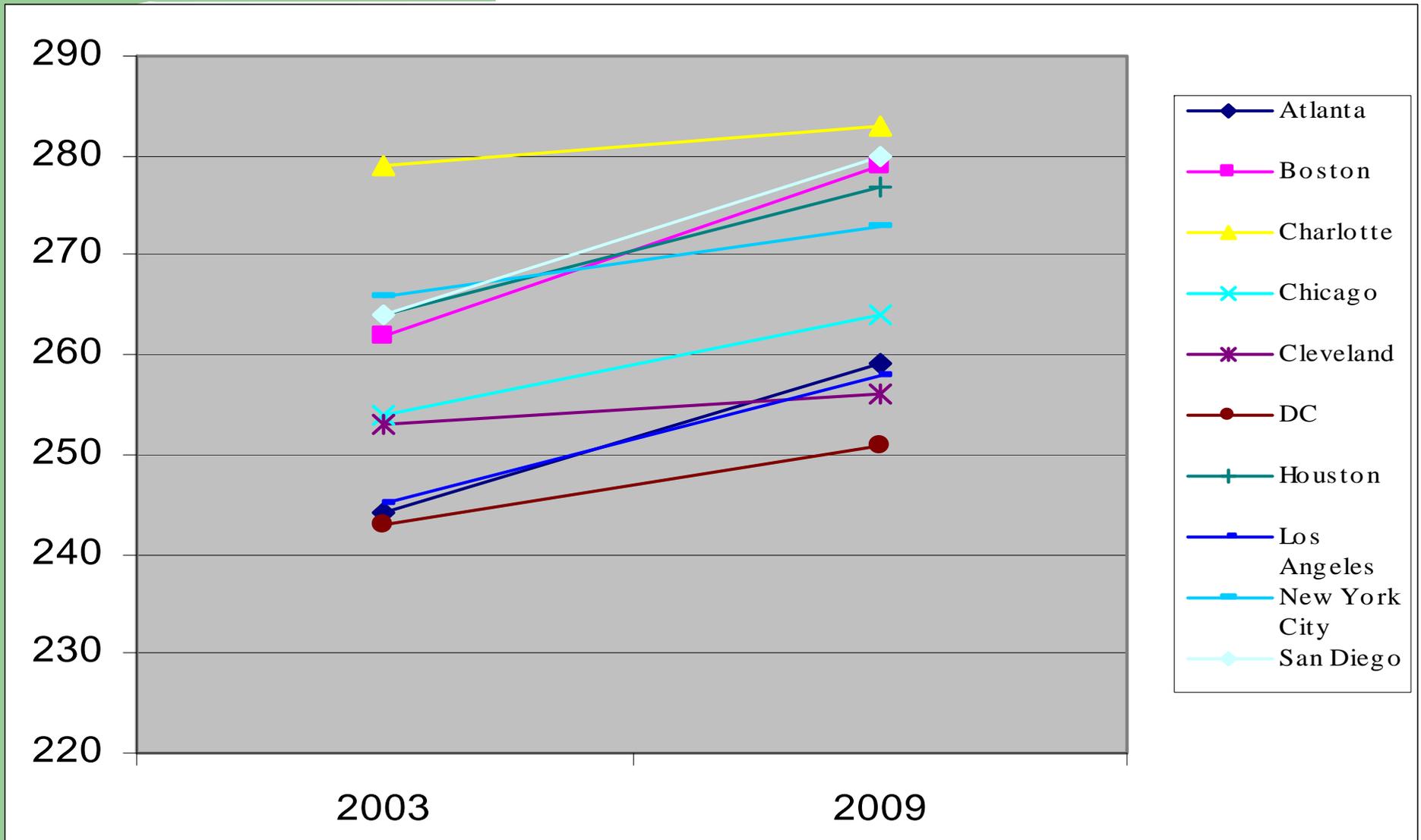
Proficiency Level Results in 8th Grade Math



Proficiency Level Gains in 8th Grade Math

- In 2003, 20% of students were at or above proficient,
 - This is higher than eight out of ten cities
- In 2009, 26% of students were at or above proficient
 - This is higher than six out of ten cities
- From 2003-2009, New York City gained six points in the percentage of students at or above proficient
 - Three cities had higher gains
 - Three other cities had the same gain

Average Scores in 8th Grade Math



Average Scores in 8th Grade Math

- In 8th grade math in 2003, the average score of New York City students was 266
 - This is higher than 8 out of 10 cities
- In 2009, the average score of New York City students was 273
 - This is higher than 5 out of 10 cities
- From 2003-2009 New York City schools declined relative to cities in 8th grade math

Achievement Gap

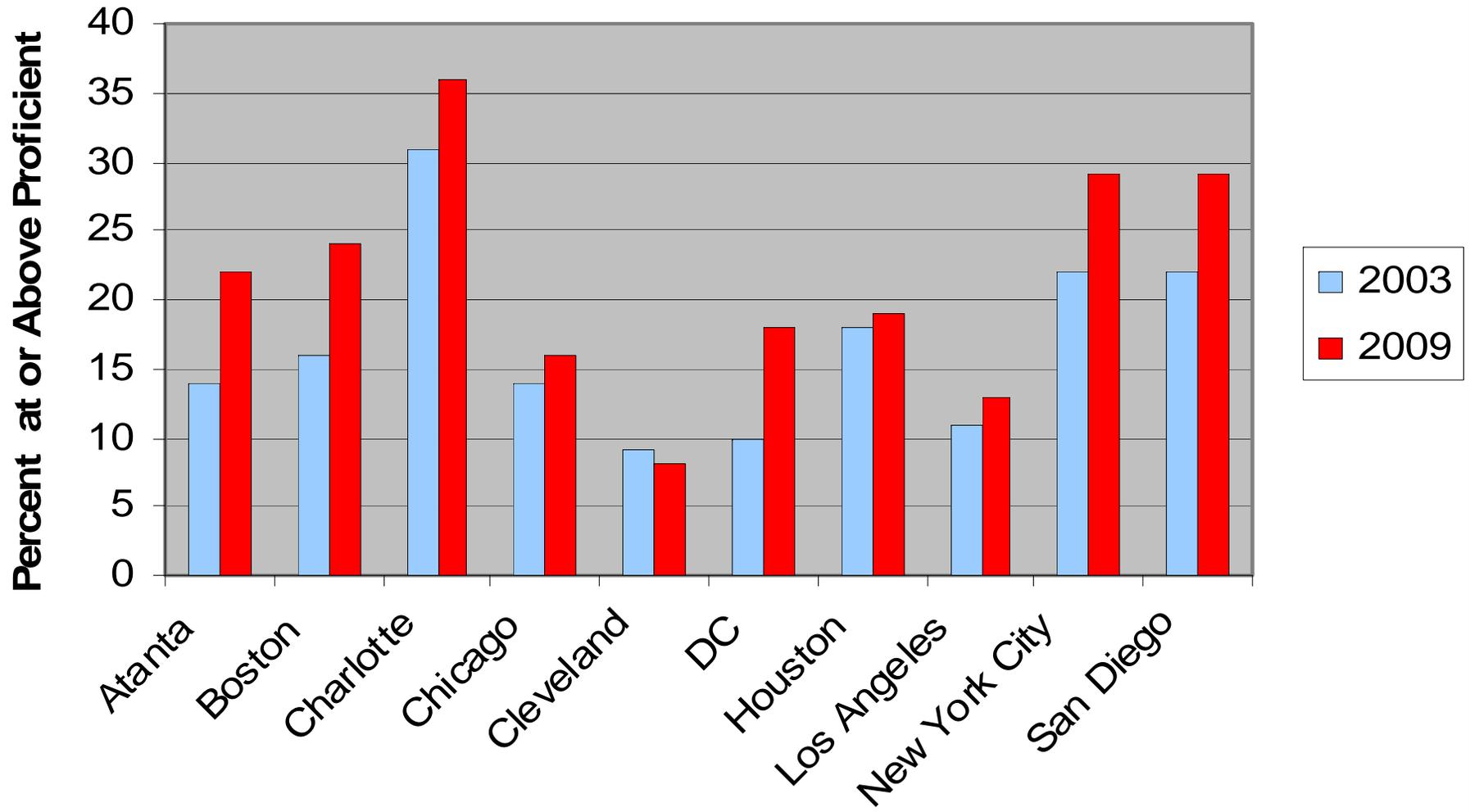
8th Grade Math

	2003	2009	Change 03-09
White-Black	36	34	-2
White-Hispanic	29	35	+6



4th Grade Reading

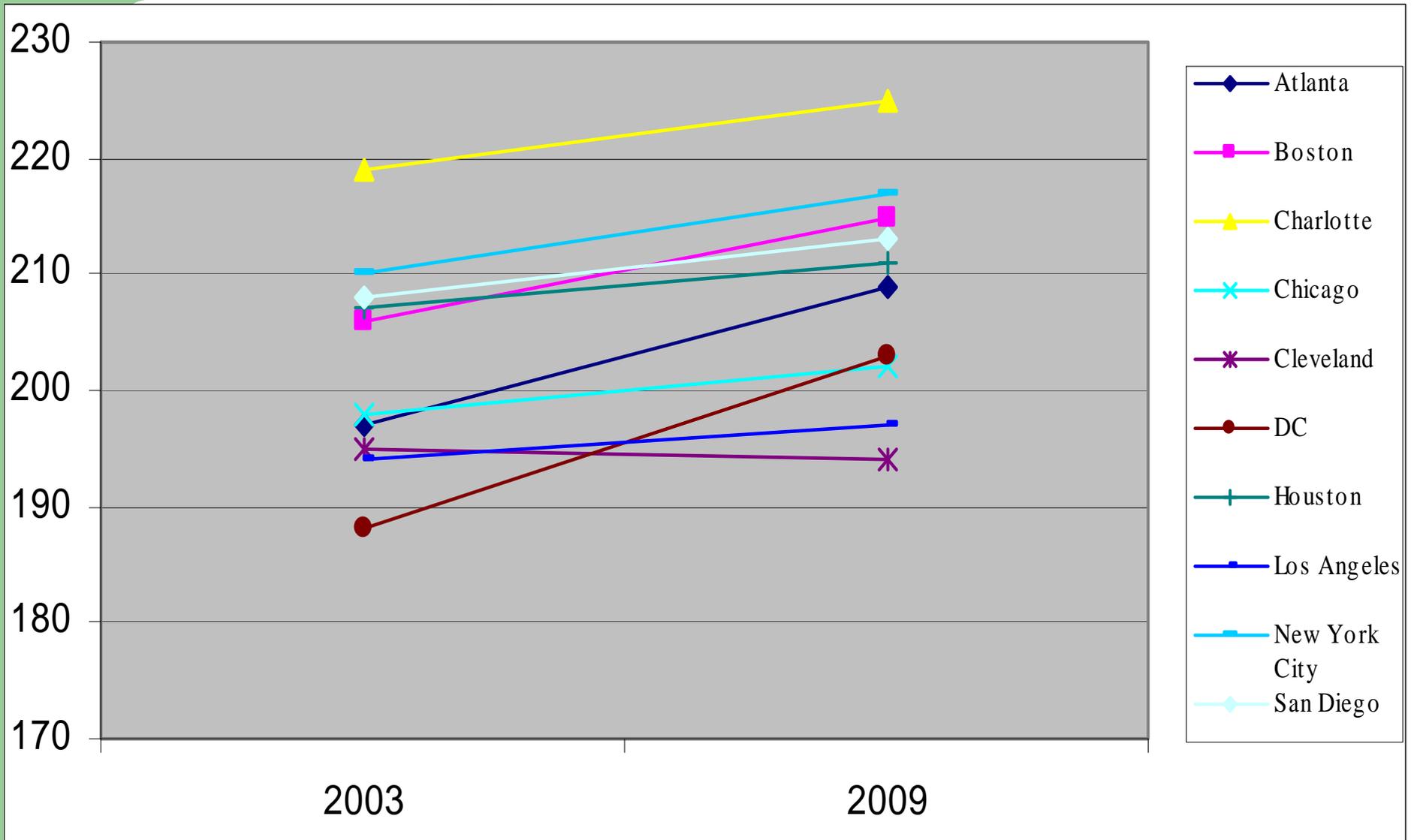
Achievement Level Results in 4th Grade Reading – Percent at or Above Proficient



Proficiency Level Gains in 4th Grade Reading

- In 2003, 22% of students in New York City were at or above proficient,
 - This is higher than 7 out of 10 cities
- In 2009, 29% of students in New York City were at or above proficient
 - This is higher than 7 out of 10 cities
- From 2003-2009, New York City gained seven points in the percentage of students at or above proficient
 - Four other cities had similar gains
- Thus from 2003-2009, New York City preserved its standing relative to other TUDA cities

Average Scores in 4th Grade Reading



Average Scores in 4th Grade Reading

- In 4th grade reading in 2003, the average score in New York City was 210
 - This is higher than 8 out of 10 cities
- In 2009, the average score in New York City was 217
 - This higher than 8 out of 10 cities
- From 2003-2009, New York City gained seven points
- Two other cities had higher gains

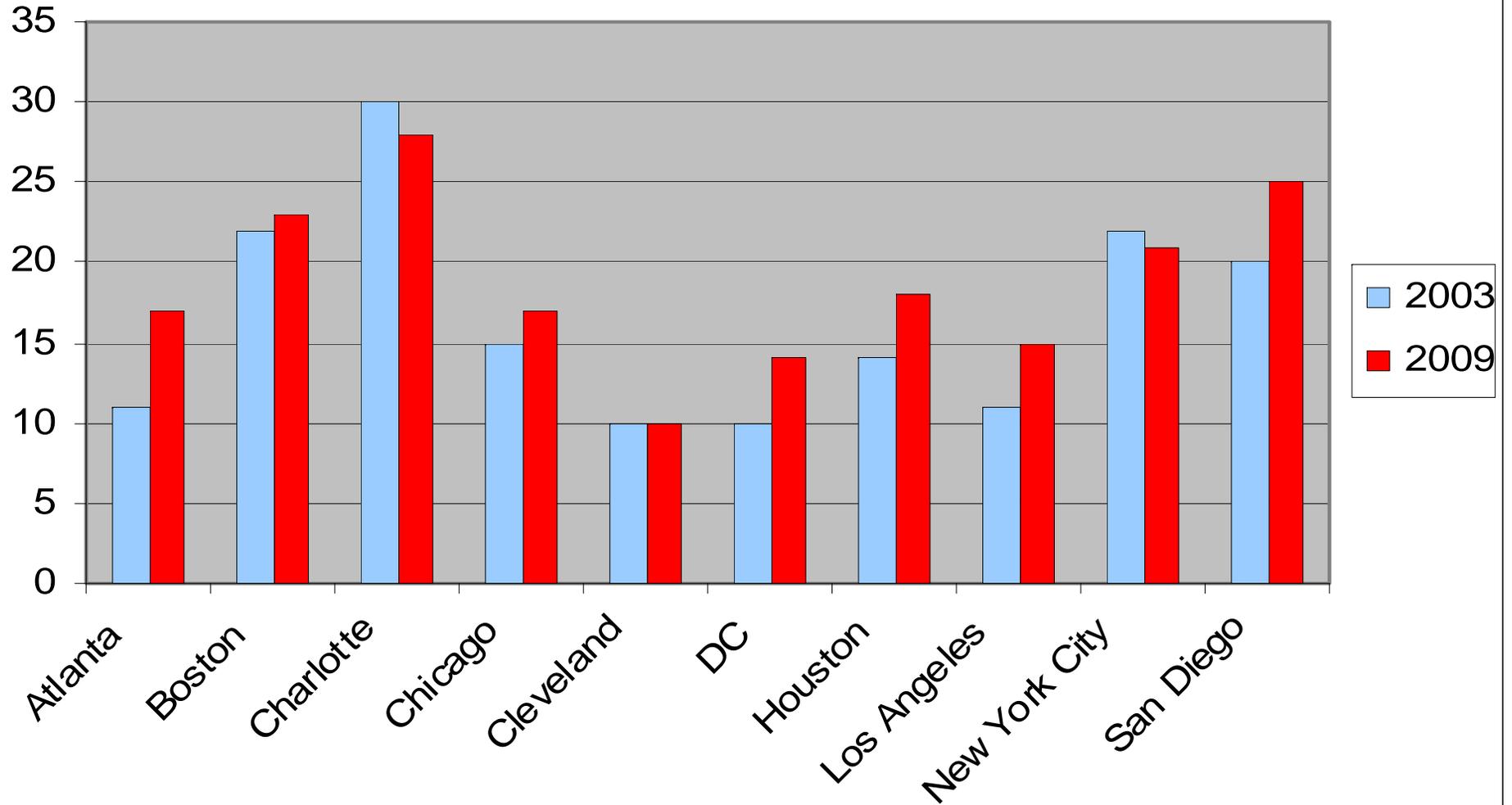
Achievement Gap

4th Grade Reading			
	2003	2009	Change 03-09
White-Black	30	27	-3
White-Hispanic	26	27	+1



8th Grade Reading

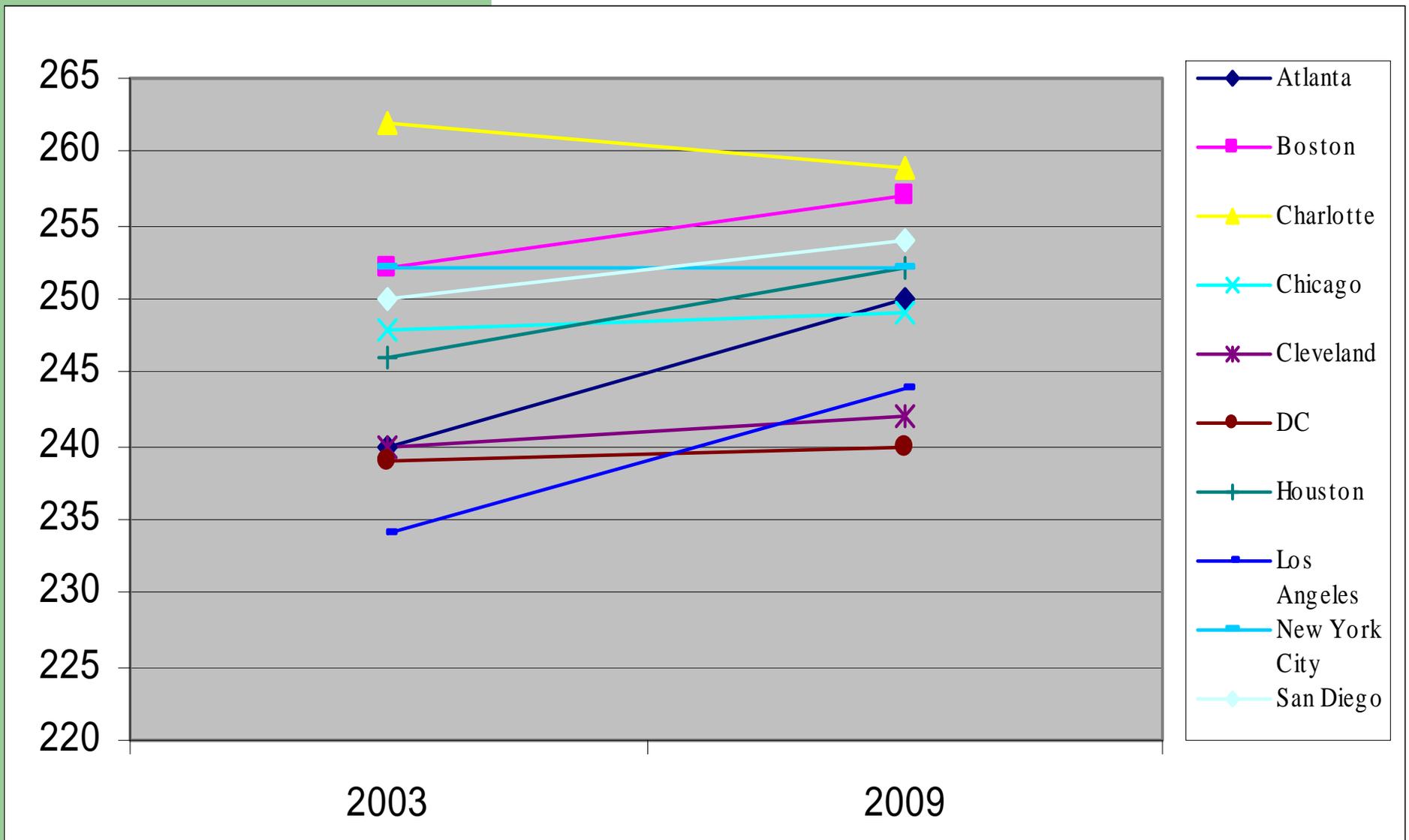
Percent at or Above Proficient in 8th Grade Reading



Achievement Level Gains in 8th Grade Reading

- In 2003, 22% of New York City students were proficient in 8th grade reading
 - This is higher than 7 out of 10 cities
- In 2009, 21% of New York City students were proficient in 8th grade reading
 - This is higher than 6 out of ten cities
- New York City experienced a decrease in the percentage of students reaching proficiency level from 2003-2009

Average Scores in 8th Grade Math



Average Scores in 8th Grade Reading

- In 2003 in 8th grade reading, the average score in New York City was 252
 - This is higher than 7 out of 10 cities
- In 2009, the average score was 252
 - This is higher than 5 out of 10 cities
- From 2003-2009, New York City made no progress in 8th grade reading
- Every other city except from one made progress between 2003 and 2009

Achievement Gap

8th Grade Reading			
	2003	2009	Change 2003-2009
White-Black	25	26	+1
White-Hispanic	23	28	+5

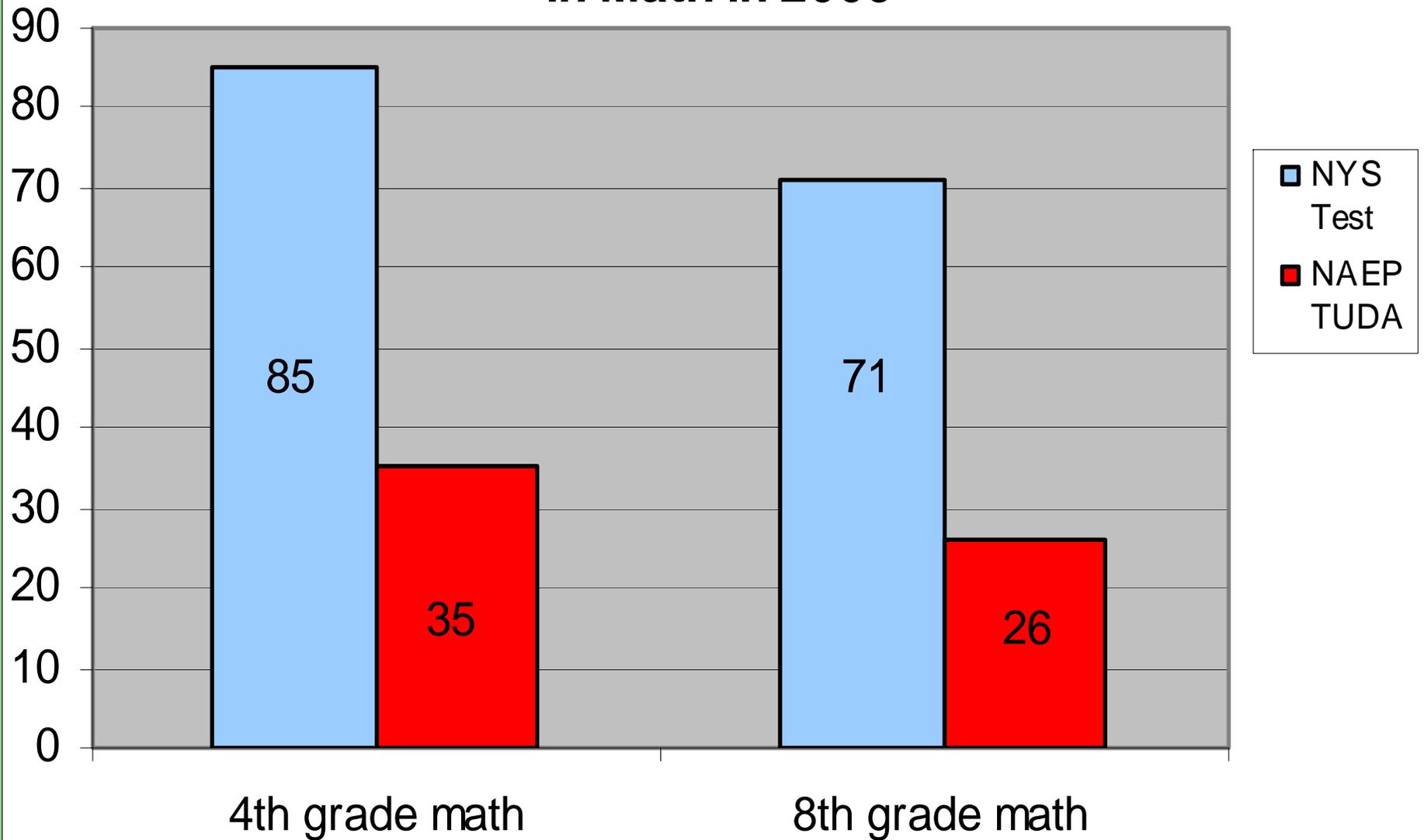


Early Warning Signs of the Inadequacy of State Tests

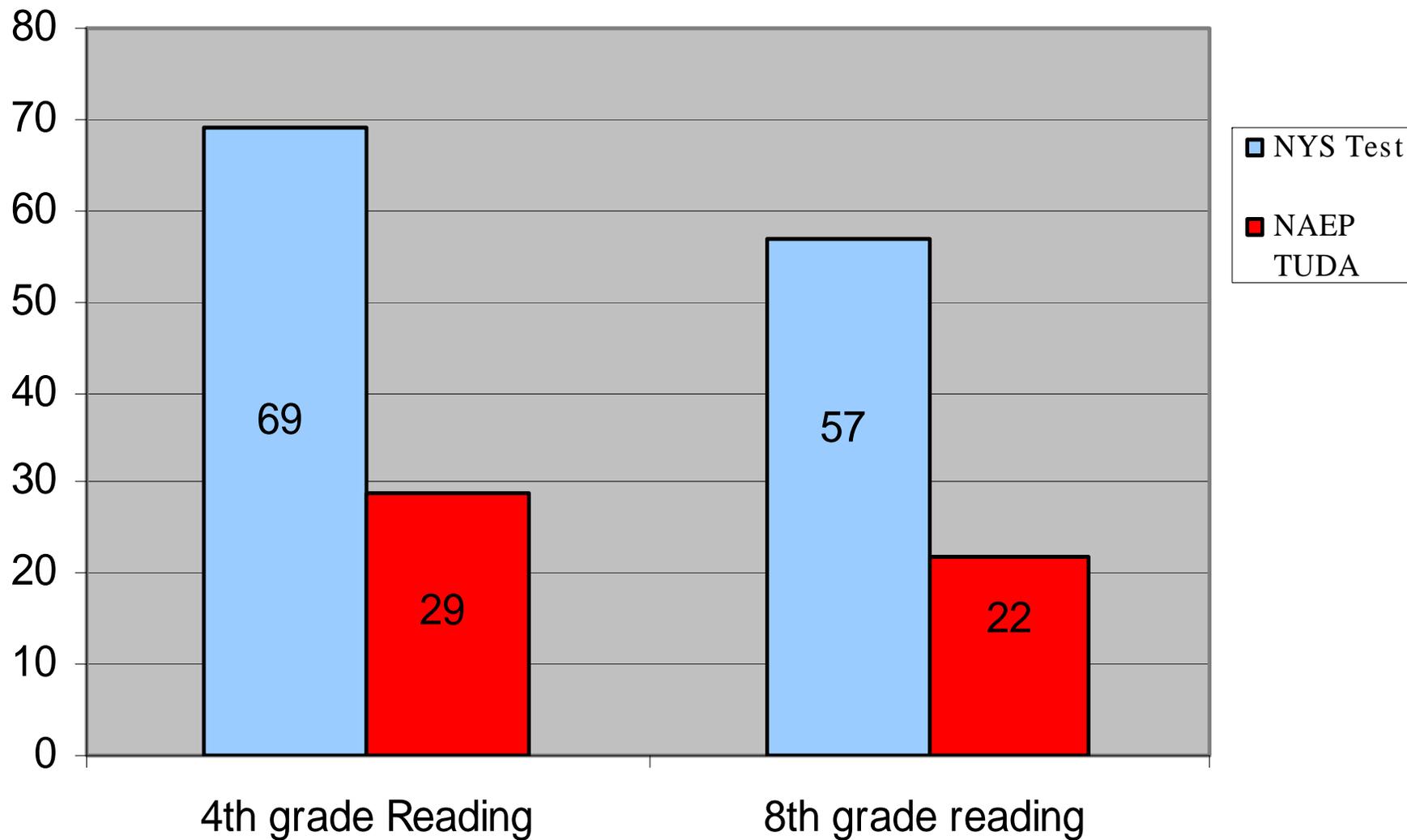
Disparity between NYS Exams and NAEP TUDA

- New York State and New York City are aware of disparity between proficiency levels on NYS exams and the NAEP TUDA
- 2007 exams indicate disparities
 - 40 points in 4th grade math
 - 23 points in 8th grade math
 - 31 points in 4th grade reading
 - 16 points in 8th grade reading
- Disparities between NYC student performance on NAEP and New York State tests widens in 2009

Percentage of Students At or Above Proficient in Math in 2009



Percentage of Students At or Above Proficient in Reading in 2009



Other Indicators

- In February of 2008 Harvard Professor Koretz writes State Education Department suggesting test scores are not providing an adequate measure of student achievement
- In 2008 the NYC Department of Education informs the State that eighth graders who scored at least a 3 on the State math exam had only a 50% chance of graduating in four years with a regents diploma
- Following the release of the 2009 scores NYS indicates tests are under review
- New York State recalibrates tests in Summer 2010

Conclusions

- Disparities between New York State exams and the NAEP TUDA pointed to the inadequacy of the State tests and prompted officials to rethink State exams
- Performance of NYC students on the NAEP exam indicates that the City's students started out ahead of many other cities in 2003
- In 4th grade math and 4th grade reading, New York City students preserved their standing relative to other large cities across the nation
- In other cases, such as 8th grade math and 8th grade reading, New York City students have not been making gains on par with these other cities
- On the NAEP tests there was little or no change on the achievement gap, and in some instances the gap widened
- Since the 8th grade is a critical indicator of high school preparation and college readiness, minor gains in 8th grade math and literally no gain in 8th reading indicate New York City students are falling behind other comparable large cities