Department of Education and Early Development (DEED)

October 15, 2026

Commonwealth North, Exit Interviews

Deena Bishop, Ed.D., Commissioner

MISSION

An excellent education for every student every day.



VISION

All students will succeed in their education and work, shape worthwhile and satisfying lives for themselves, exemplify the best values of society, and be effective in improving the character and quality of the world about them.



PURPOSE

DEED exists to provide information, resources, and leadership to support an excellent education for every student every day.



Points of Pride…

State Board of Education Strategic Plan

Early Literacy/Reads Act Achievement

K-12 Career Guide Initiative

A look back to move forward

2016

The State Board of Education established five strategic priorities to improve outcomes for Alaska students

2017

Alaska's Education Challenge (AEC) launched through statewide collaboration and public engagement

Nearly 1,400 Alaskans from 109 communities contributed more than 18,000 ideas to inform the work

2026

Since 2017, AEC has served as the state's framework for continuous educational improvement

Alaska's Education Challenge

Alaska's Education Challenge

Five Shared Strategic Priorities

01 Support all students to read at grade level by the end of third grade.

02 Increase career, technical, and culturally relevant education to meet student and workforce needs.

03 Close the achievement gap by ensuring equitable educational rigor and resources.

04 Prepare, attract, and retain effective education professionals.

05 Improve the safety and well-being of students through school partnerships with families, communities, and tribes.

AEC Strategic Priorities & SBOE SMART Goals

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

All students read at grade level by the end of third grade.

K–3 Literacy Benchmark Achievement

The number of Kindergarten-Grade 3 students performing at or above benchmark on the literacy screener will increase by 10 percent from the End-of-Year 2026 baseline by End-of-Year 2029, as measured by the mCLASS DIBELS 8 Curriculum-Based Measures.

Grade 3 Literacy Proficiency

The number of Grade 3 students scoring proficient or above in English Language Arts (ELA) will increase by five percent from the Spring 2026 baseline by Spring 2029, as measured by the Alaska System of Academic Readiness (AK STAR).

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

Increase career, technical, and culturally relevant education for student and workforce needs.

3-Year Perkins CTE Concentrators

High school students who complete two credits of Perkins-approved CTE courses in a program of study (CTE concentrators) will increase by 25 percent over three years from the 2026 baseline by 2029, as reported in the Carl Perkins All-In-One Reports and Summer OASIS submissions.

3-Year Alaska Performance Scholarship

High school graduates eligible for the Alaska Performance Scholarship through Option B, which includes 2 credits of CTE coursework, will increase by six percent from the 2026 baseline by 2029, as reported in the Summer OASIS submissions.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

Close the achievement gap through equitable educational rigor and resources.

3-Year Literacy

The number of Grade 3-9 students scoring proficient or above in English Language Arts (ELA) will increase by six percent from the Spring 2026 baseline by Spring 2029, as measured by the Alaska System of Academic Readiness (AK STAR).

3-Year Math

The number of Grade 3-9 students scoring proficient or above in Mathematics will increase by six percent from the Spring 2026 baseline by Spring 2029, as measured by the Alaska System of Academic Readiness (AK STAR).

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

Prepare, attract, and retain effective education professionals.

3-Year Educator Apprenticeship Program

The percentage of educators participating in either a U.S. Department of Labor-approved apprenticeship pathway or the Green to Teach pathway to certification will increase by 25 percent over three years from the 2026 baseline by 2029, as reported to the Alaska Office of Apprenticeship and DEED.

3-Year Career Pathway Participation

The percentage of high school seniors who complete two consecutive Perkins-approved CTE courses or an approved dual credit sequence within an Education career pathway will increase by 25 percent over three years from the 2026 baseline by 2029, as reported in the district Carl Perkins All-In-One Reports and the Career and Technical Student Organization report.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5

Improve student safety and well-being through family, community, and tribal partnerships.

3-Year Bullying and Harassment Reduction

The percentage of students involved in bullying, harassment, and cyberbullying incidents resulting in suspensions or expulsions will decrease by nine percent from the 2026 baseline by 2029, as reported in the bullying, suspension, and expulsions data.

3-Year Chronic Absenteeism

The percentage of students identified as chronically absent will decrease by six percent from the 2026 baseline by 2029, as reported in the State of Alaska annual accountability reporting system.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Alaska's Education Challenge (AEC)

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

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One Shared Planning Framework: Two Paths to Improve Student Learning Outcomes

SEA ACTION PLAN

DEED will align its programs, resources, technical assistance, funding, and continuous improvement efforts to advance the State Board of Education's Alaska's Education Challenge Strategic Priorities and SMART Goals.

GOAL
- AK Education Challenge Strategic Priority
- State Board SMART Goal
- Performance Measures
  - Performance Indicators
  - Data Source
  - Baseline
  - Annual Targets (Year 1–3)

→

STRATEGY
- If - Then Statement
  (How DEED's strategy will drive improvement in student outcome)
- Implementation Measures
  - Implementation Indicators
  - Data Source
  - Baseline
  - Annual Targets (Year 1–3)

→

ACTION PLAN
- Actions
- Anticipated Output/Deliverable
- Timeline
- Person Responsible
- Collaborators

DEED monitors progress and provides technical assistance, resources, and continuous support to advance outcomes statewide.

LEA STRATEGIC PLANNING TOOL

May be used by local education agencies (LEAs) to develop strategic plans aligned with the AEC and district school board goals.

GOAL → STRATEGY → ACTION PLAN

Districts may use this tool to plan, implement, and monitor strategies that improve outcomes for their students and communities.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING TOOL

May be used by schools to develop school improvement plans aligned with the AEC and district school board goals.

GOAL → STRATEGY → ACTION PLAN

Schools may use this tool to plan, implement, and monitor strategies that improve outcomes for their students and communities.

AEC | Alaska's Education Challenge • LEA | Local Education Agency • SEA | State Education Agency • SMART | Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound • ELA | English Language Arts • OMB | Office of Management and Budget

LEA Strategic + School Improvement Planning Tool



LEA Strategic Planning Tool

May be used by local education agencies (LEAs) to develop strategic plans aligned with the AEC and district school board goals.

GOAL → **STRATEGY** → **ACTION PLAN**

Districts may use this tool to plan, implement, and monitor strategies that improve outcomes for their students and communities.



School Improvement Planning Tool

May be used by schools to develop school improvement plans aligned with the AEC and district school board goals.

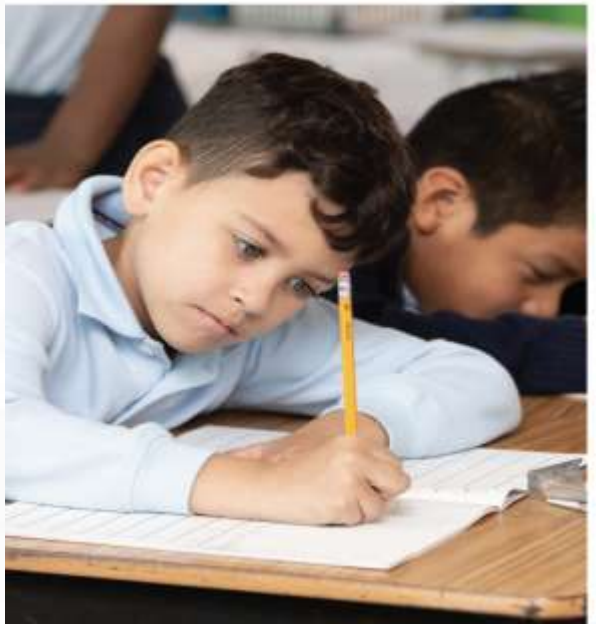
GOAL → **STRATEGY** → **ACTION PLAN**

Schools may use this tool to plan, implement, and monitor strategies that improve outcomes for their students and communities.

Early Literacy Results 2026, Alaska Reads Act

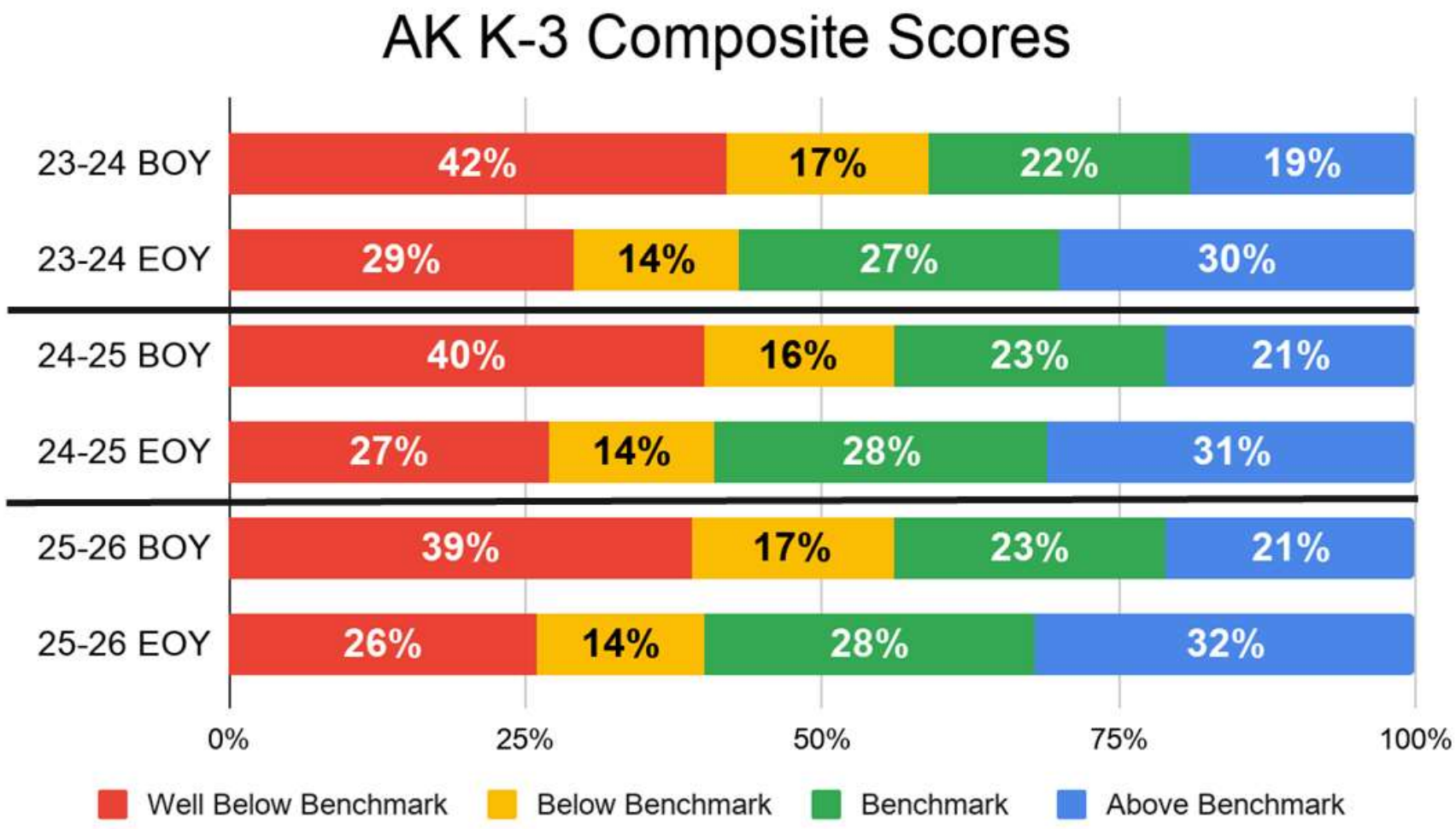
AS 14.30.760





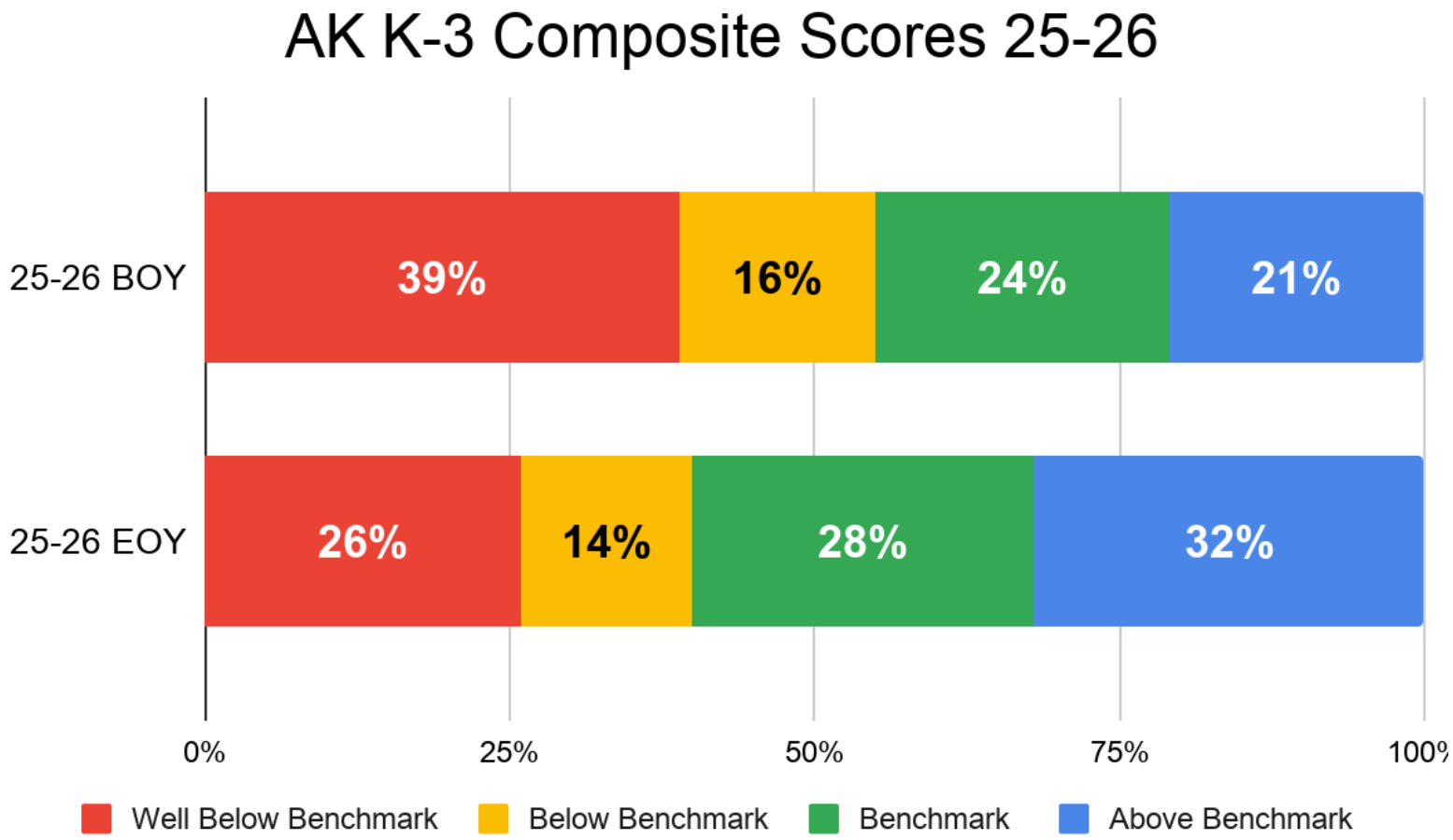


BOY- EOY Composite Scores 23-24 through 25-26



Alaska BOY- EOY K-3 Composite Scores 25-26

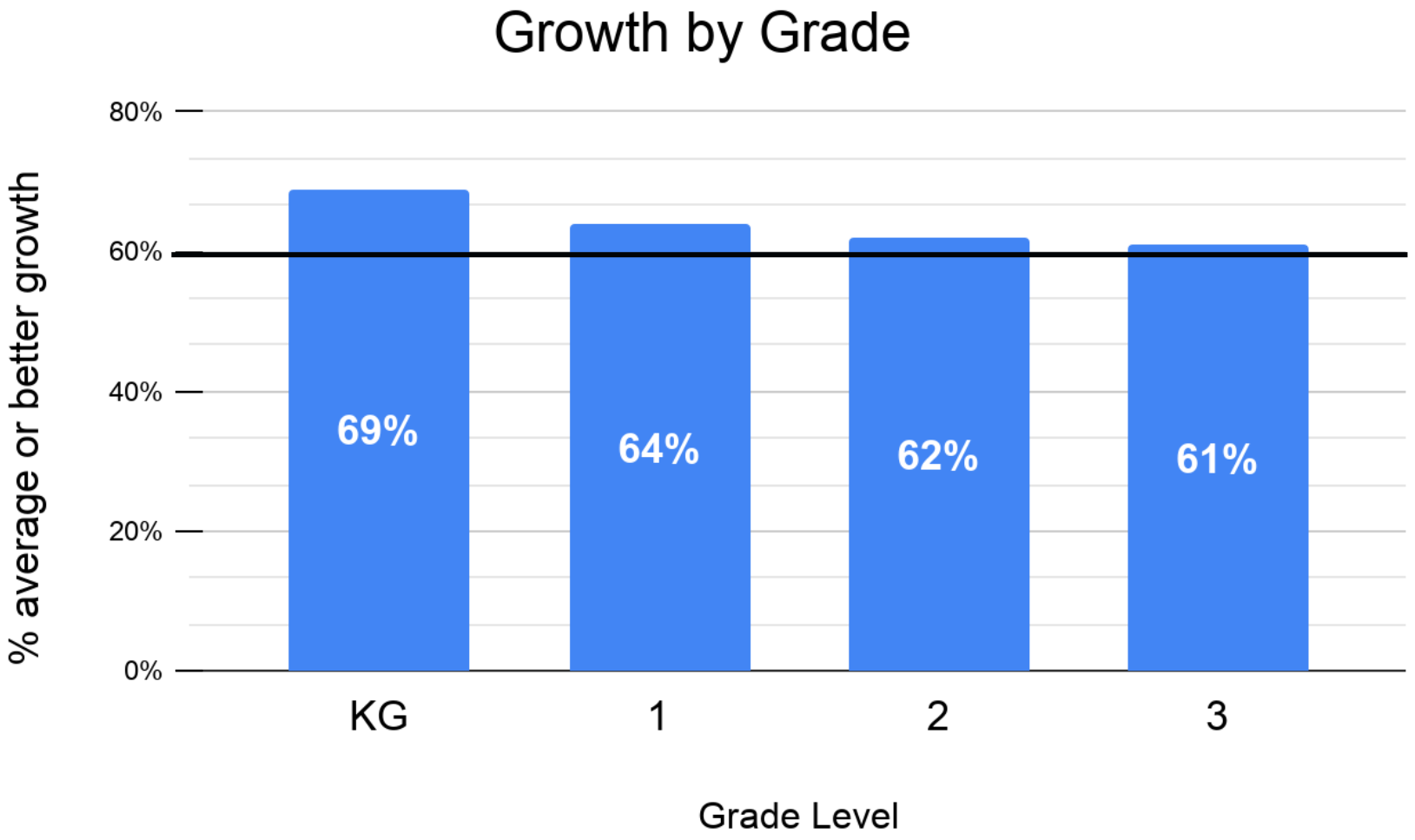
4,264 fewer students are well below benchmark at EOY!



3,771 more students are at and above benchmark at EOY!

Alaska Growth BOY- EOY 25-26
Compared to National Norms

Alaska students are on track with peers nationwide making average or better growth on DIBELS 8 throughout the 25-26 SY.



Other School Programs/Grant Opportunities

Career Guide rootED Program

DEED and DOLWD are partnering to connect K–12 learning with Alaska's workforce opportunities.



K–12 EDUCATION

ALASKA'S WORKFORCE

CAREER GUIDES: THE STUDENT-LEVEL BRIDGE

Supporting Every Pathway for Every Student

Alaska is expanding the definition of success beyond the four-year model



Every pathway is a pathway to success.

Alaska Led the Nation in FAFSA Growth

The Class of 2026 recorded the largest year-over-year increase of any state.

20.7%

increase in completed FAFSAs

Class of 2025 to Class of 2026 through June 26

A statewide effort

In Fall 2023, the Alaska Council on Post-Secondary Education (ACPE) brought partners together for a statewide FAFSA convening. That collaboration continued through the coordinated work of students, families, schools, districts, counselors, Tribal and community partners, postsecondary institutions, and state agencies.

A statewide win worth celebrating

Thank you to ACPE for your leadership and to every Alaskan who helped students complete the FAFSA.

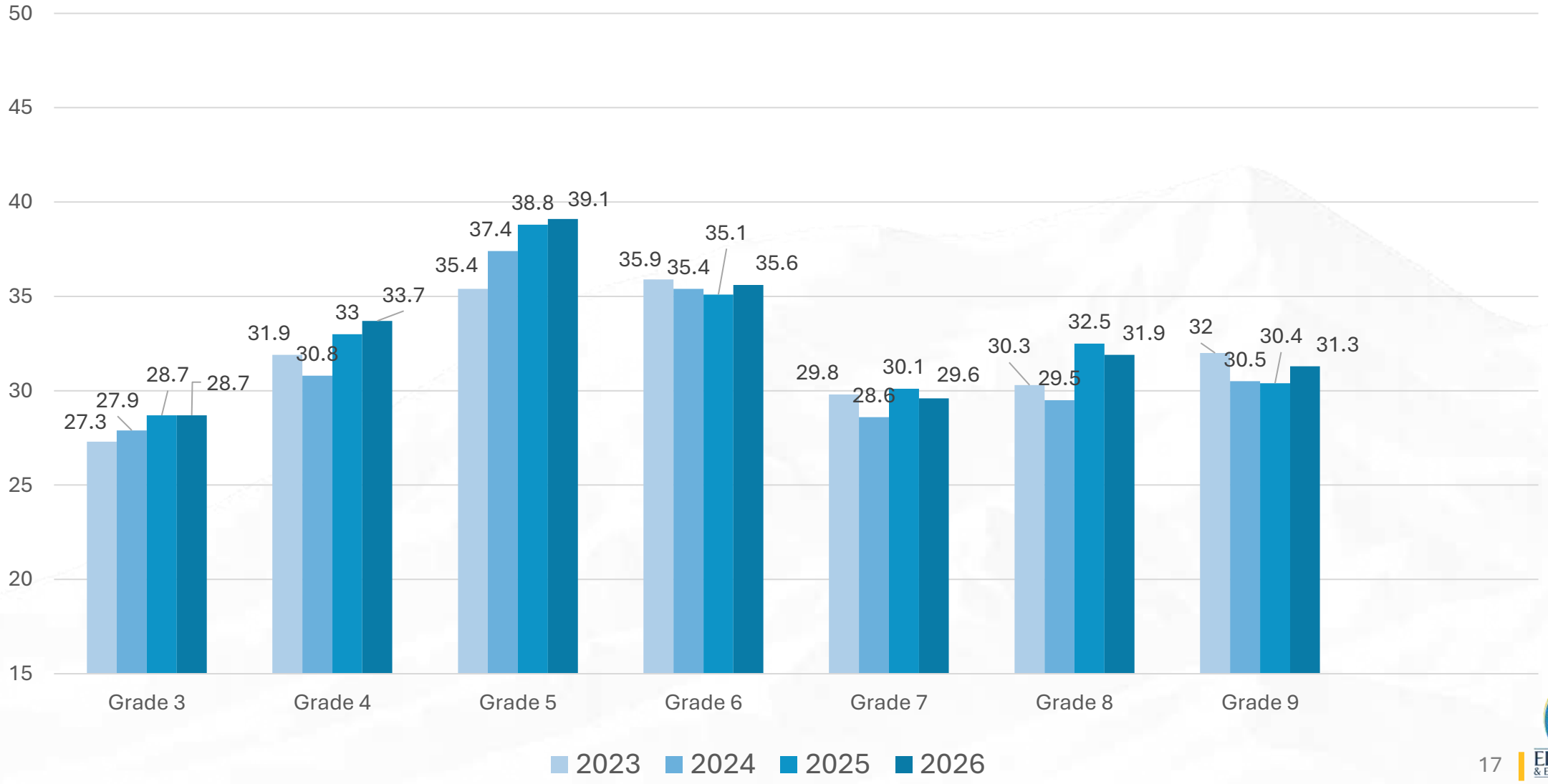
Source: National College Attainment Network, FAFSA Tracker, June 26, 2026

Wish for Time to Solve…
Student Achievement and Funding Cost Drivers

Four-Year Trend – English Language Arts

AK STAR
ALASKA SYSTEM OF ACADEMIC READINESS

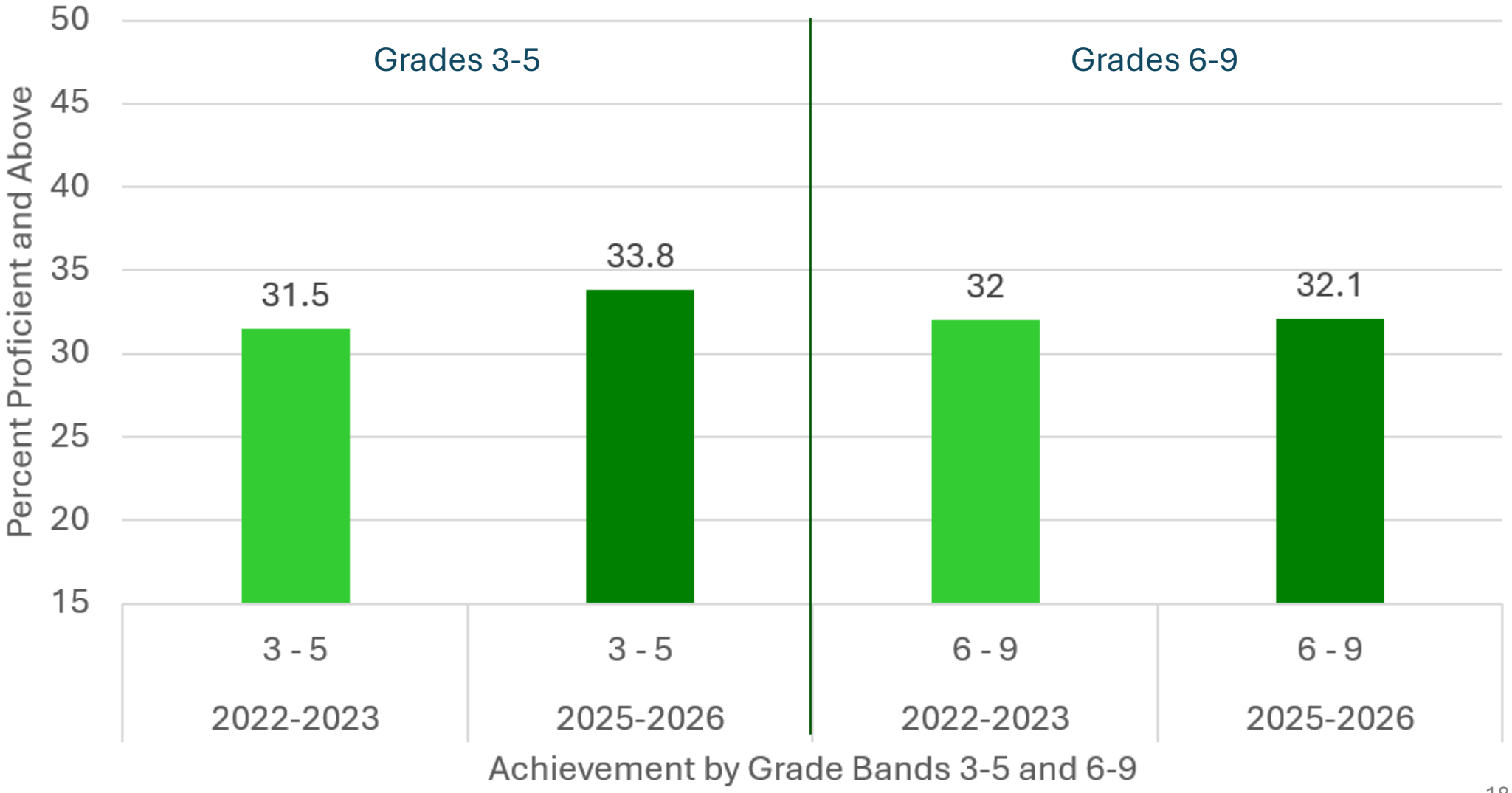
Percent of Students at Proficient/Advanced



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT

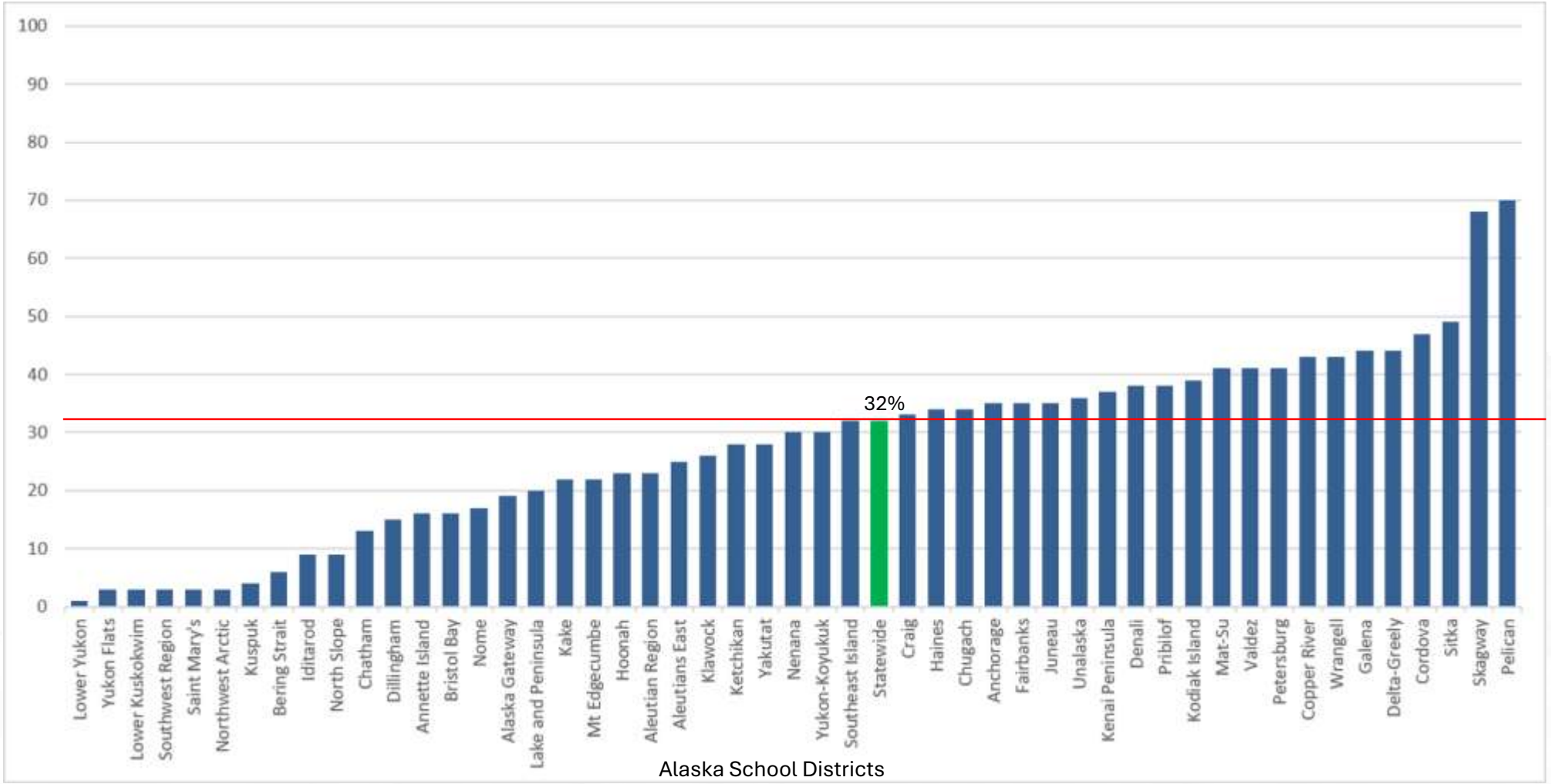
ELA Achievement Grade Band Comparison

2022-2023 to 2025-2026



AK STAR ELA Performance by District

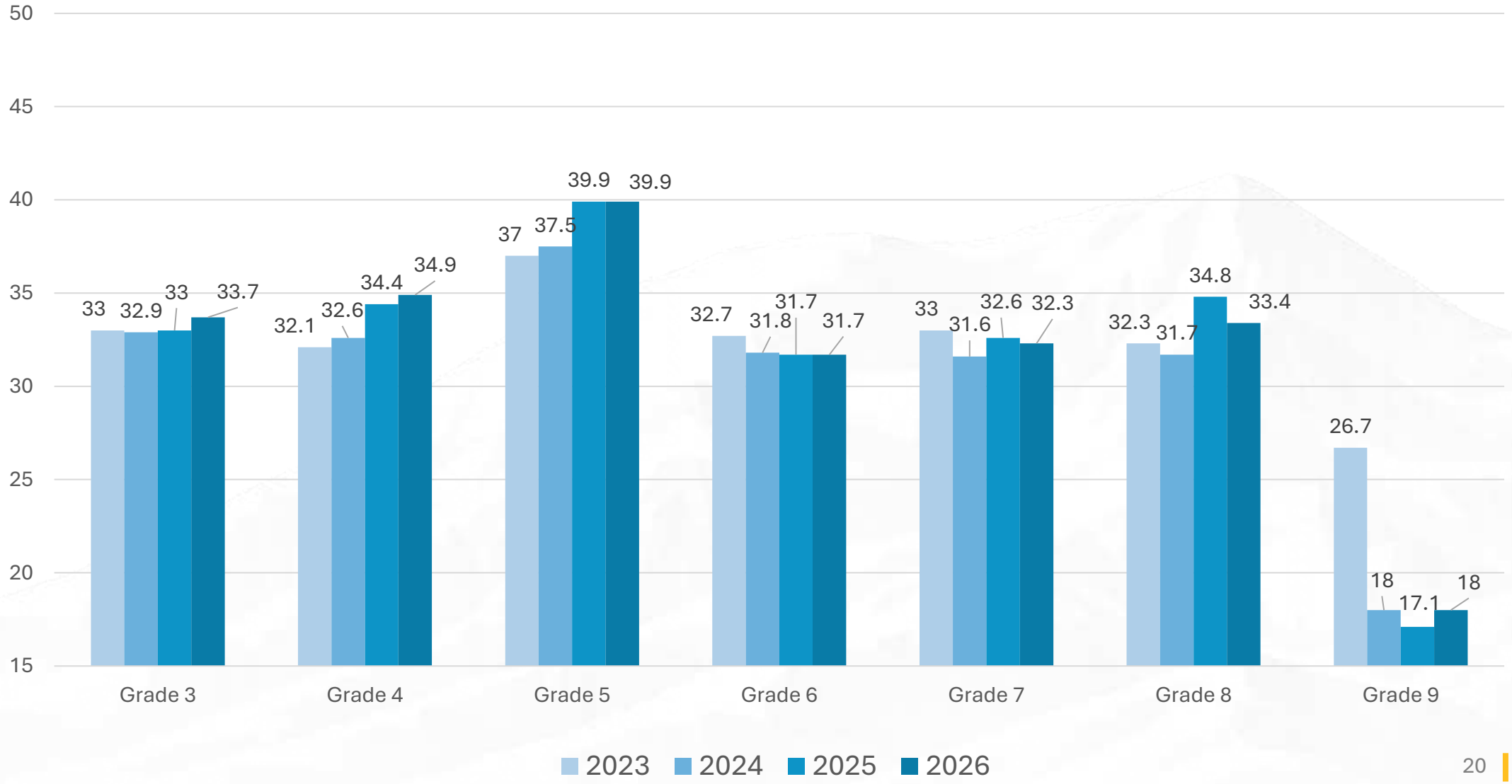
Represents percentage of students at or above Proficient - 2026



* Due to suppression rules, Hydaburg, Kashunamiut, and Yupiit are not included.

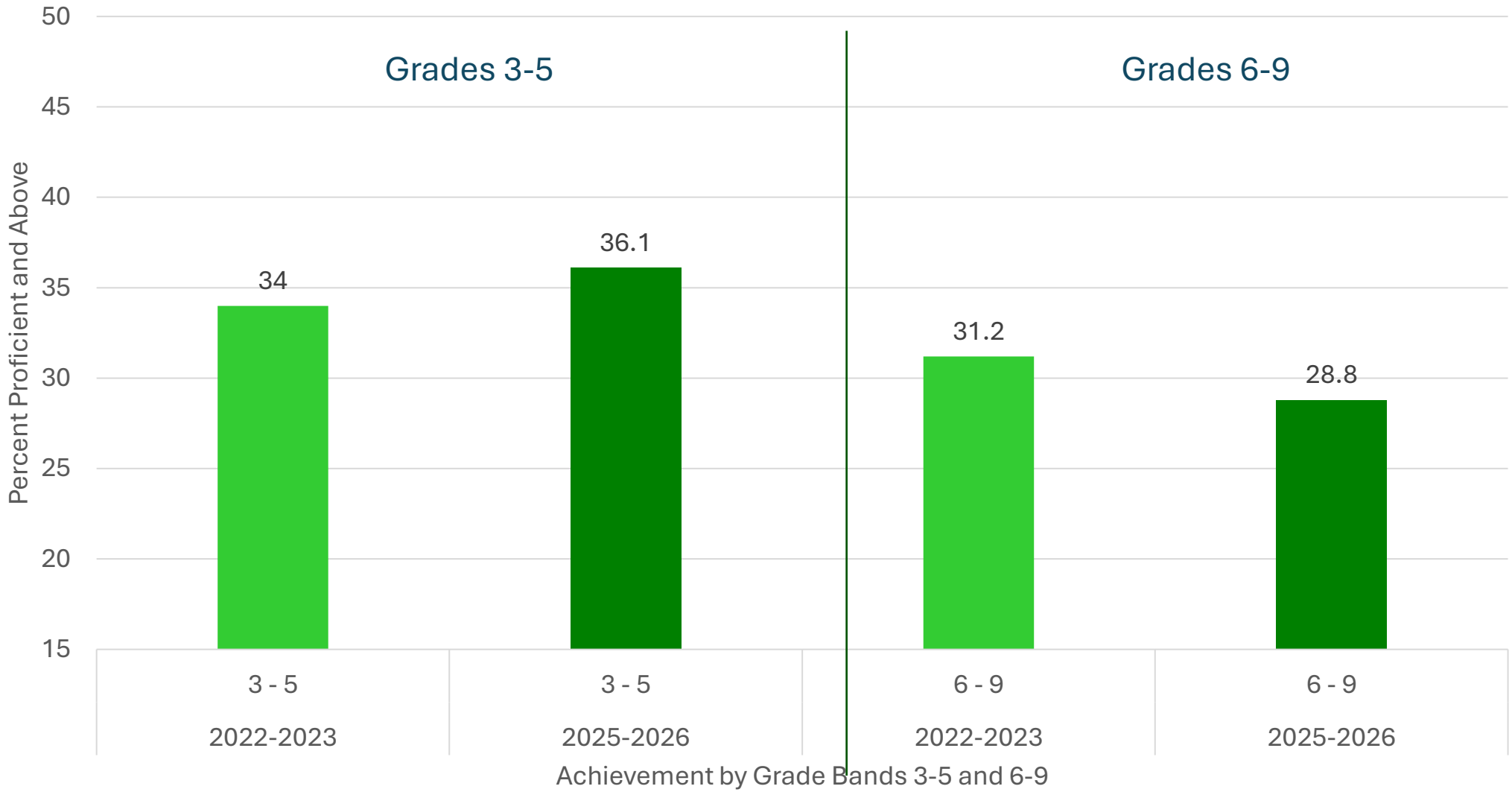
Four-Year Trend - Math

Percent of Students at Proficient/Advanced



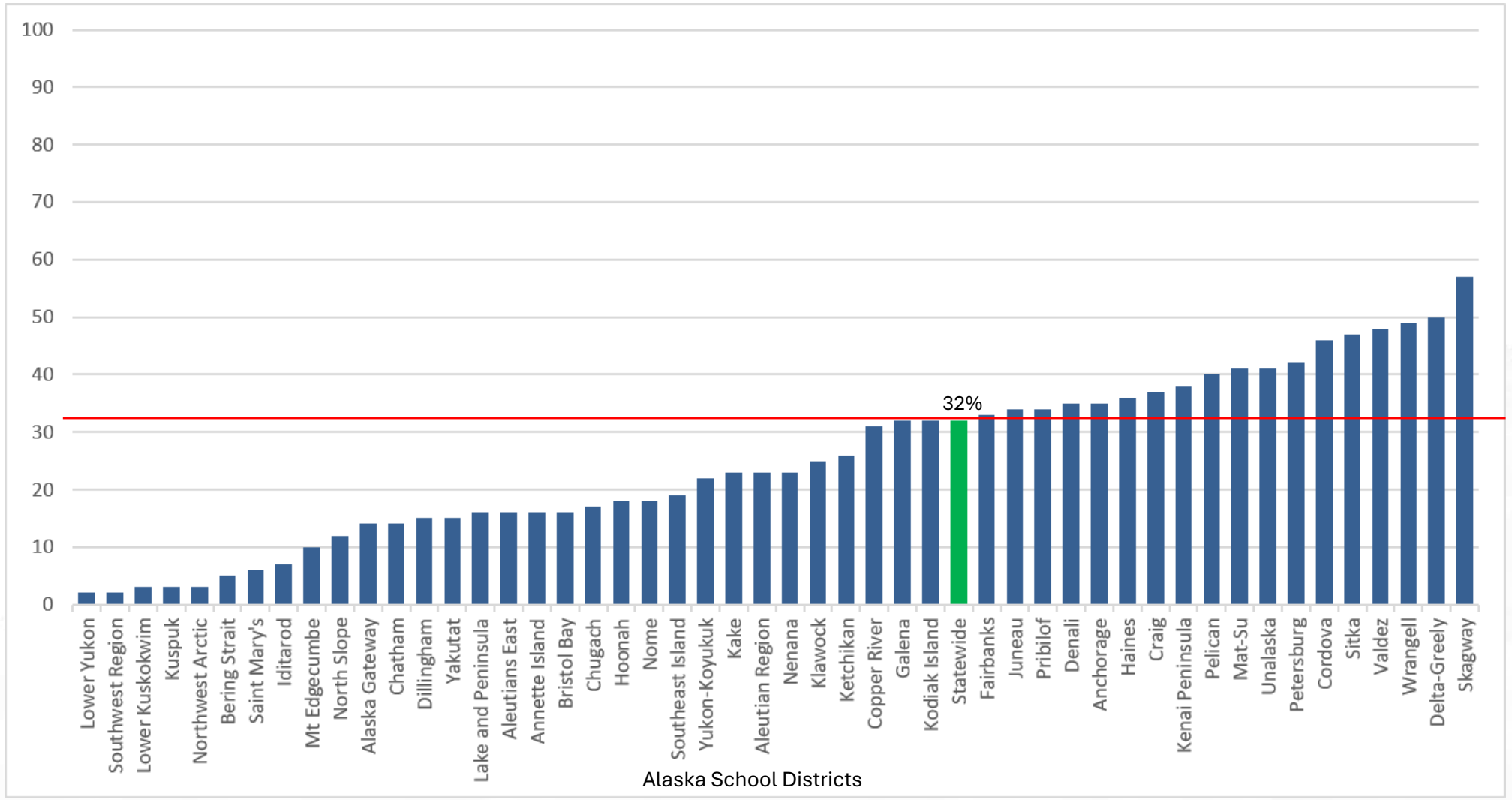
Math Achievement Grade Band Comparison

2022-2023 to 2025-2026



AK STAR Math Performance by District

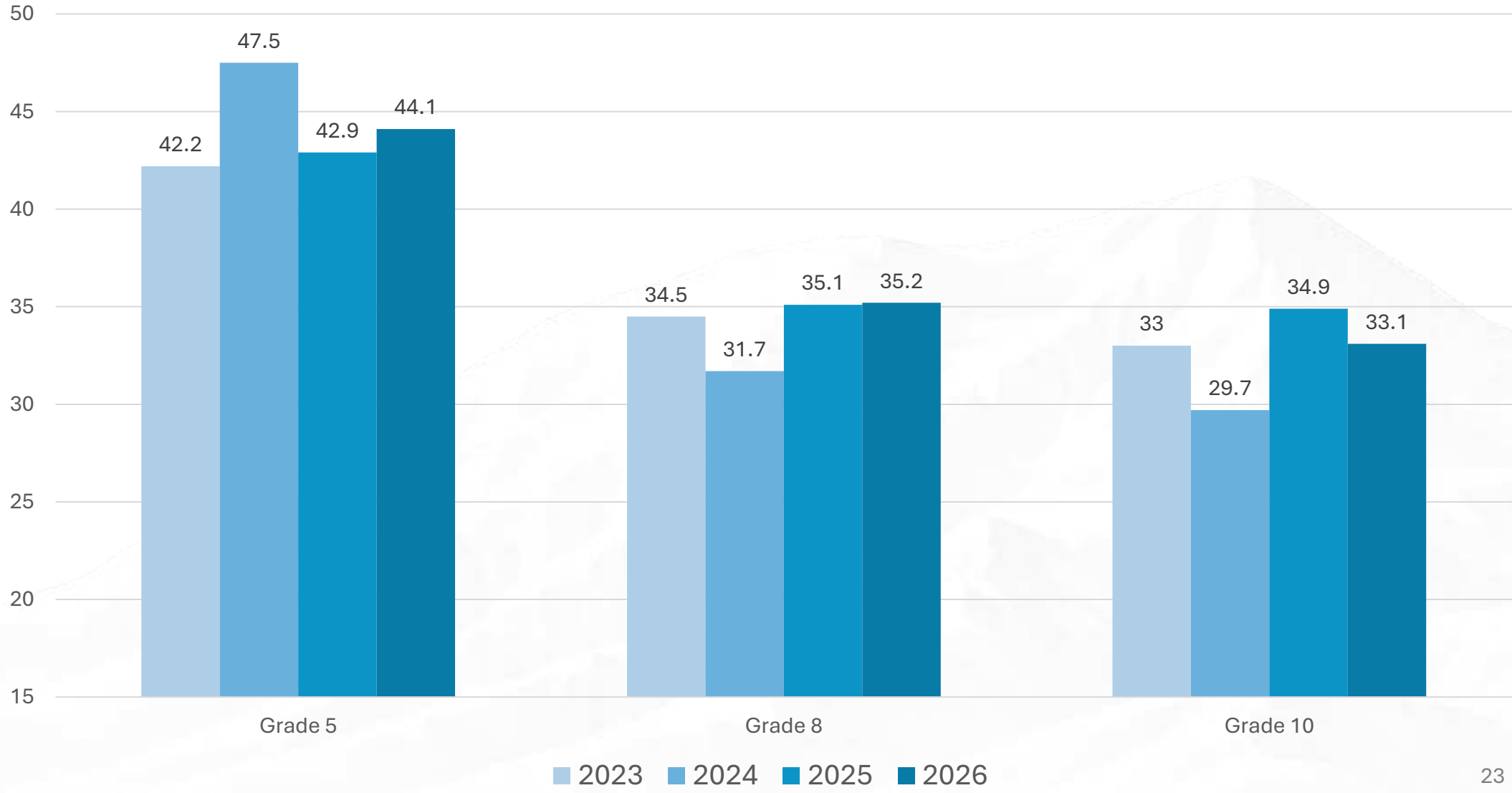
Represents percentage of students at or above Proficient - 2026



* Due to suppression rules, Hydaburg, Kashunamiut, Yukon Flats, and Yupiit are not included.

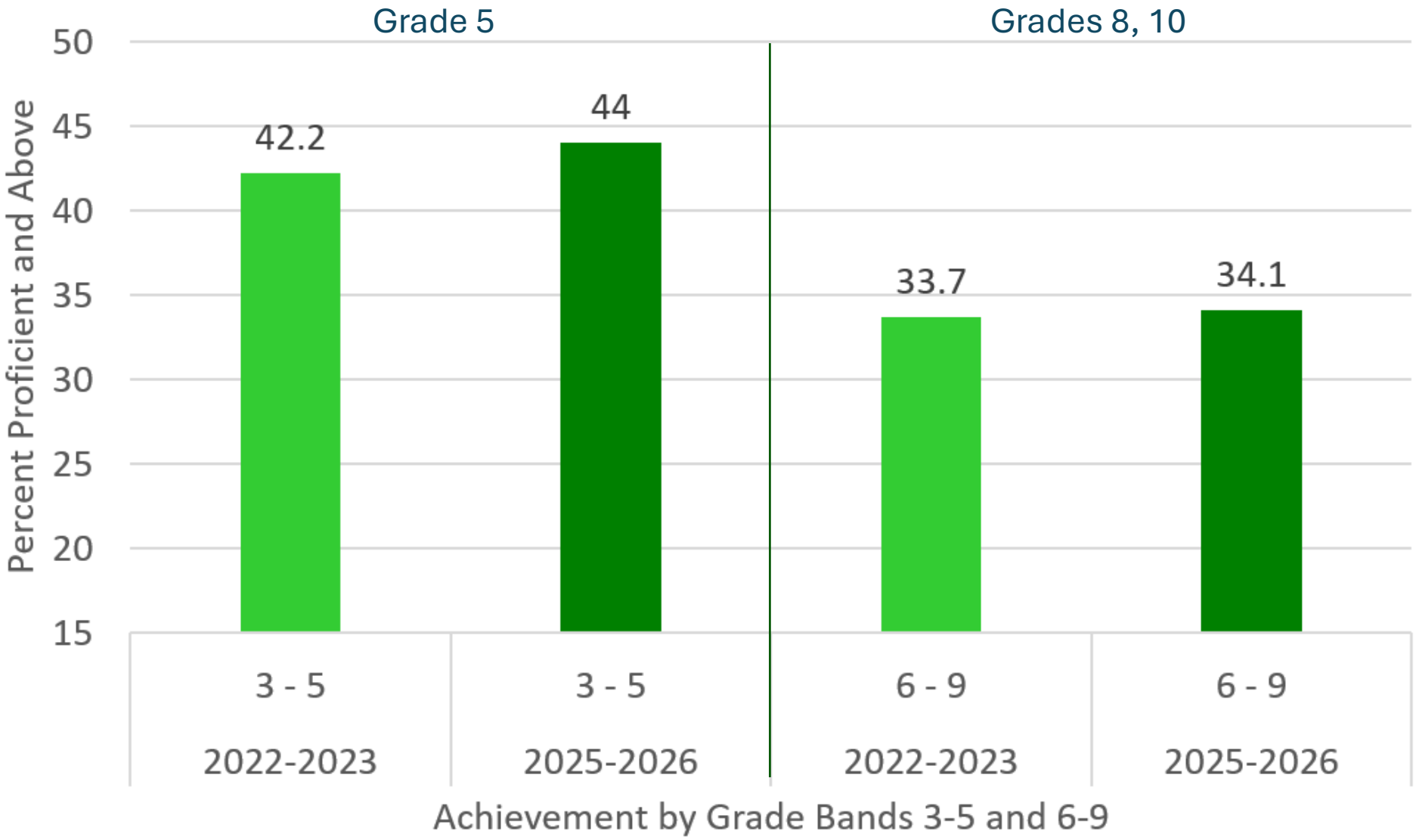
Four-Year Trend - Science

Percent of Students at Proficient/Advanced



Science Achievement Comparison

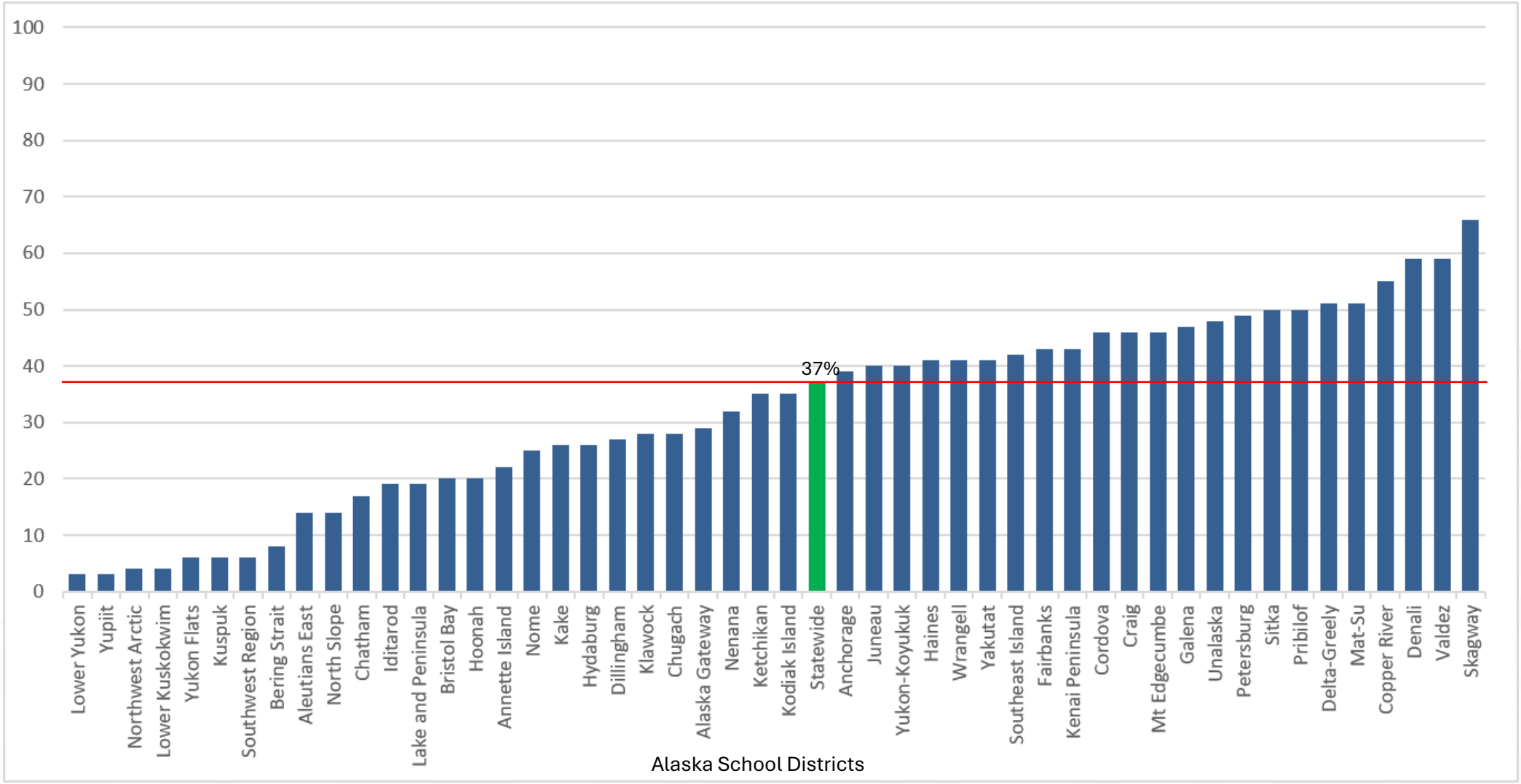
2022-2023 to 2025-2026



*Science is assessed in grades 5, 8, and 10. Grade bands group grades 8 and 10 together.

Alaska Science Assessment Performance by District

Represents percentage of students at or above Proficient - 2026



* Due to suppression rules, Aleutian Region, Kashunamiut, Pelican, and St. Mary's are not included.

Annual Funding Sources

- BSA Foundation Program – AS 14.17
- PFD Raffle Grant - AS 43.23.230(c)
- Pupil Transportation – AS 14.09
- Boarding Home – 4 AAC 09.050
- Youth in Detention - AS 14.07.020(a)(5)
- Special Schools – AS 14.30.650
- Municipal Debt Reimbursement – AS 14.11.100

Present PreK-12 School Funding

FY2027 School Operational Funds

- Foundation Program: $1.292 billion
- Pupil Transportation: $72.8 million
- One-Time Foundation Funding: $115.0 million

Total K–12 Aid to School Districts: $1.480 billion

FY2027 State Capital Program

- 105.5 million dollars was allocated for major maintenance.
- 18.5 million dollars is dedicated to school construction to support school replacement.

Knowledge for Next Administration

Transition Highlights

- State Sector Partnerships are Strong (DOWLD, DEC, DOT)
- State Board of Education Strategic Plan Will Deliver Results
- Competent Employees in Department
- DEED Division is Service Oriented
- HB28 Funding will be based on legislative appropriation up to 100% reimbursement of the three-year prior average of energy expenditures.

Contact

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