

Administration for Children and Families
Grantee and Community Roundtable

May 29, 2013

The Arkansas Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

Campaign Goal:

By 2020, ALL Arkansas children will read at grade-level by the end of third grade

ARKANSAS
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GRADE-LEVEL
READING

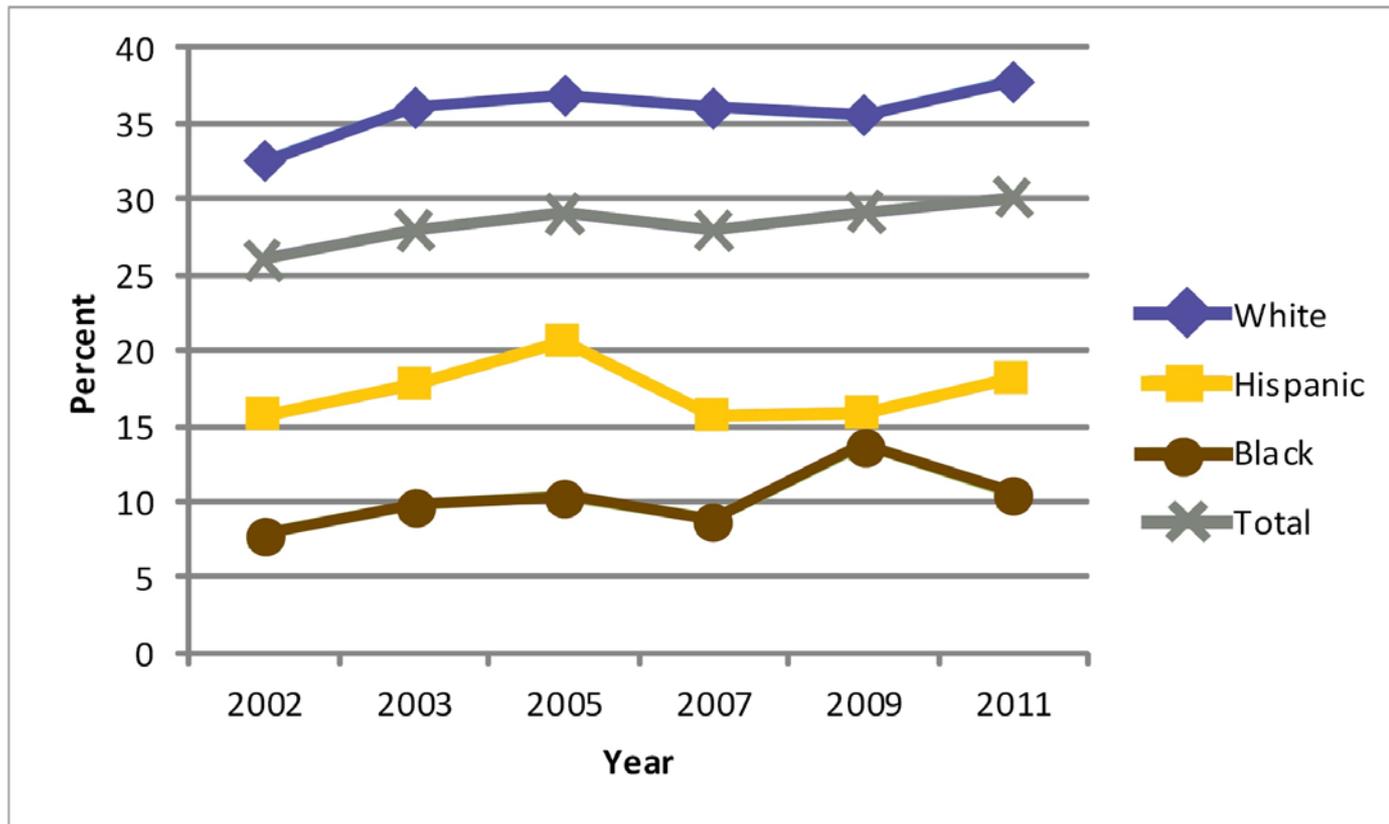
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The Importance of Grade-Level Reading in Arkansas

- The transition from third to fourth grade marks a shift from “learning to read” to “reading to learn.”
- 2011 Study - Almost all (96 percent) readers who were proficient in the third grade graduated from high school.
- Cutting Arkansas’s dropout rate in half would lead to \$42 million in increased earnings.

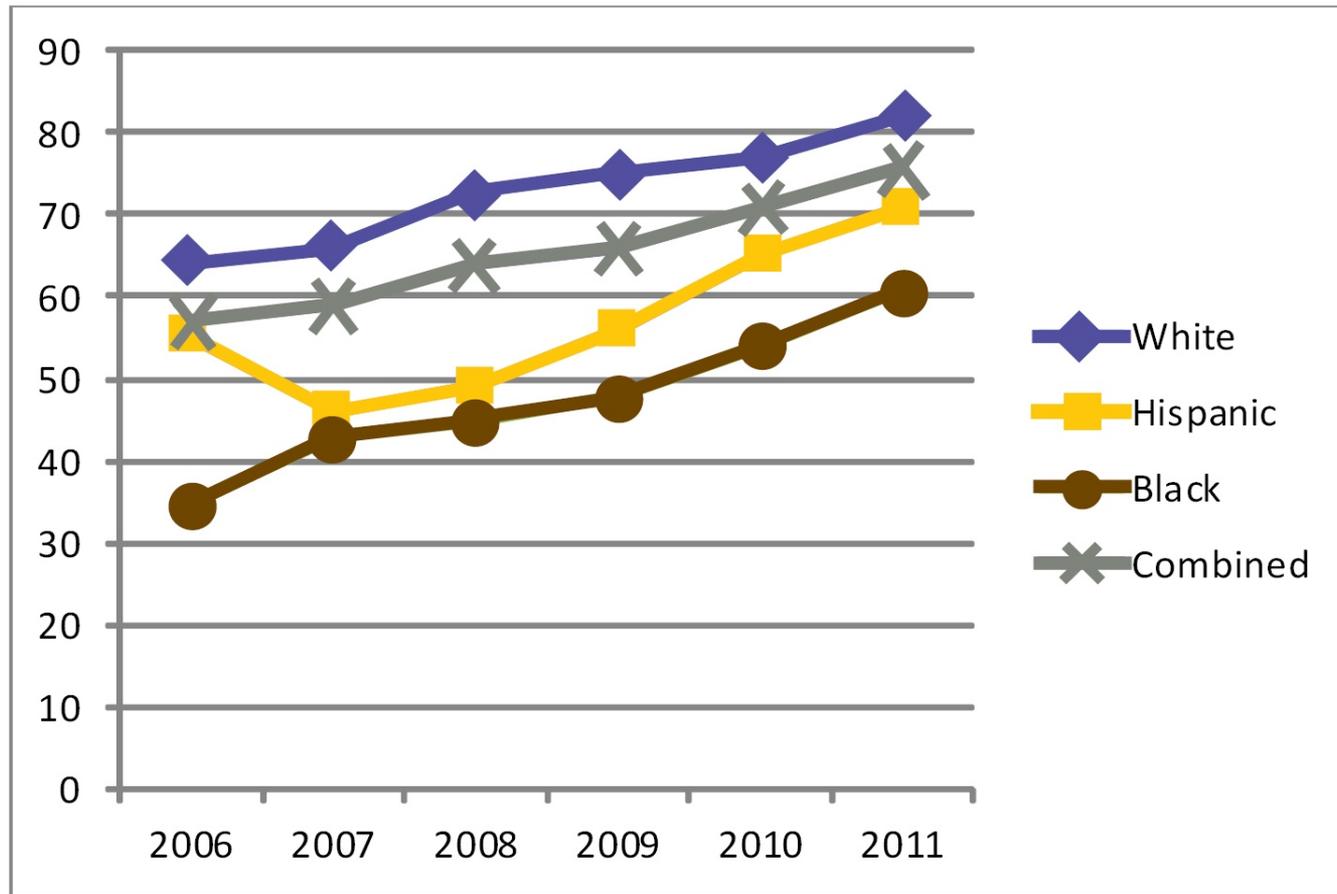
The Reading Gap in Arkansas

Percentage of 4th graders reading at or above proficient
based on NAEP data, 2002-2011



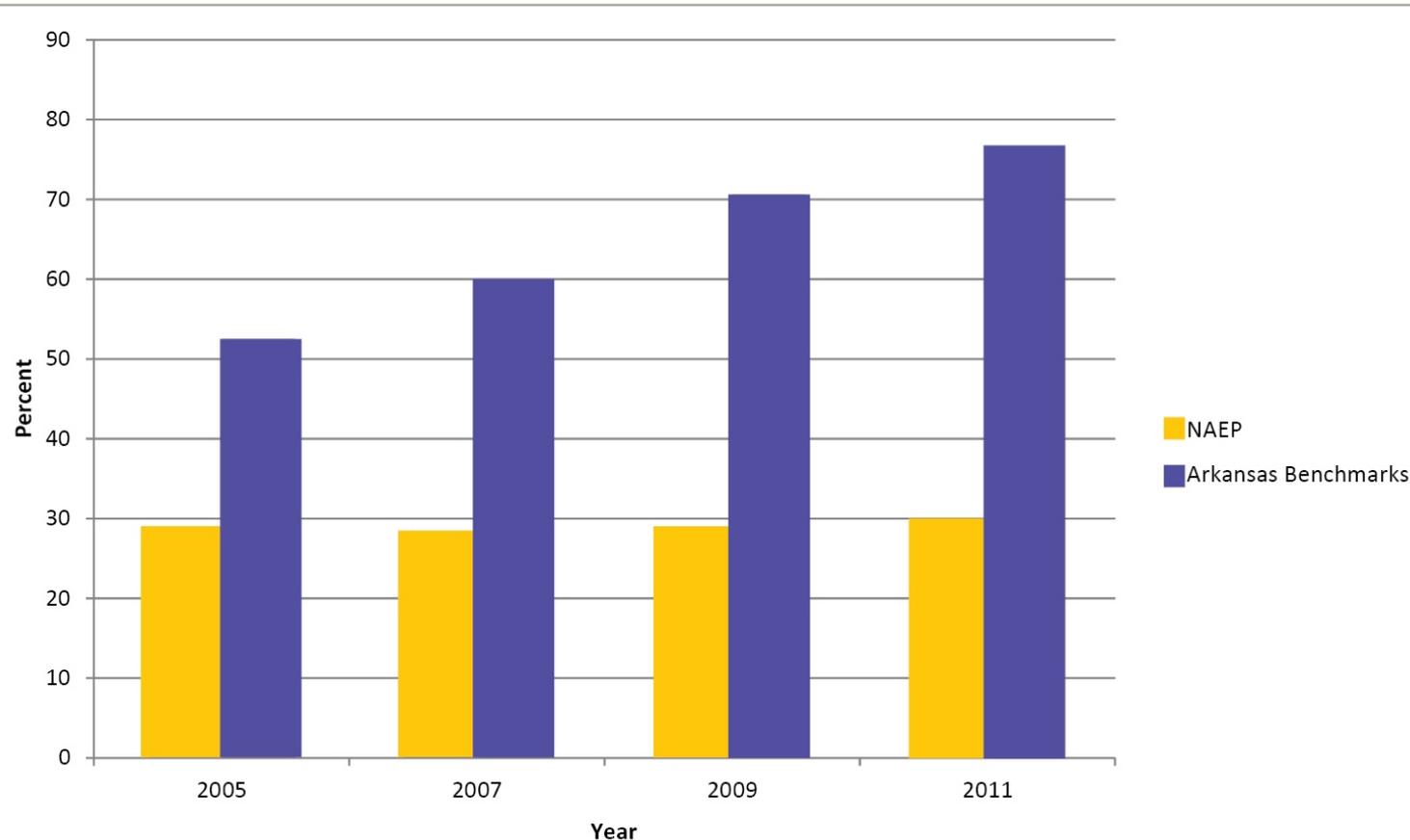
The Reading Gap in Arkansas

Percentage of 3rd graders reading at or above proficient
based on state benchmark data, 2006-2011



The Reading Gap in Arkansas

Comparison of state benchmark and NAEP scores for proficient and above, 2005-2011



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AR-GLR Impact Areas

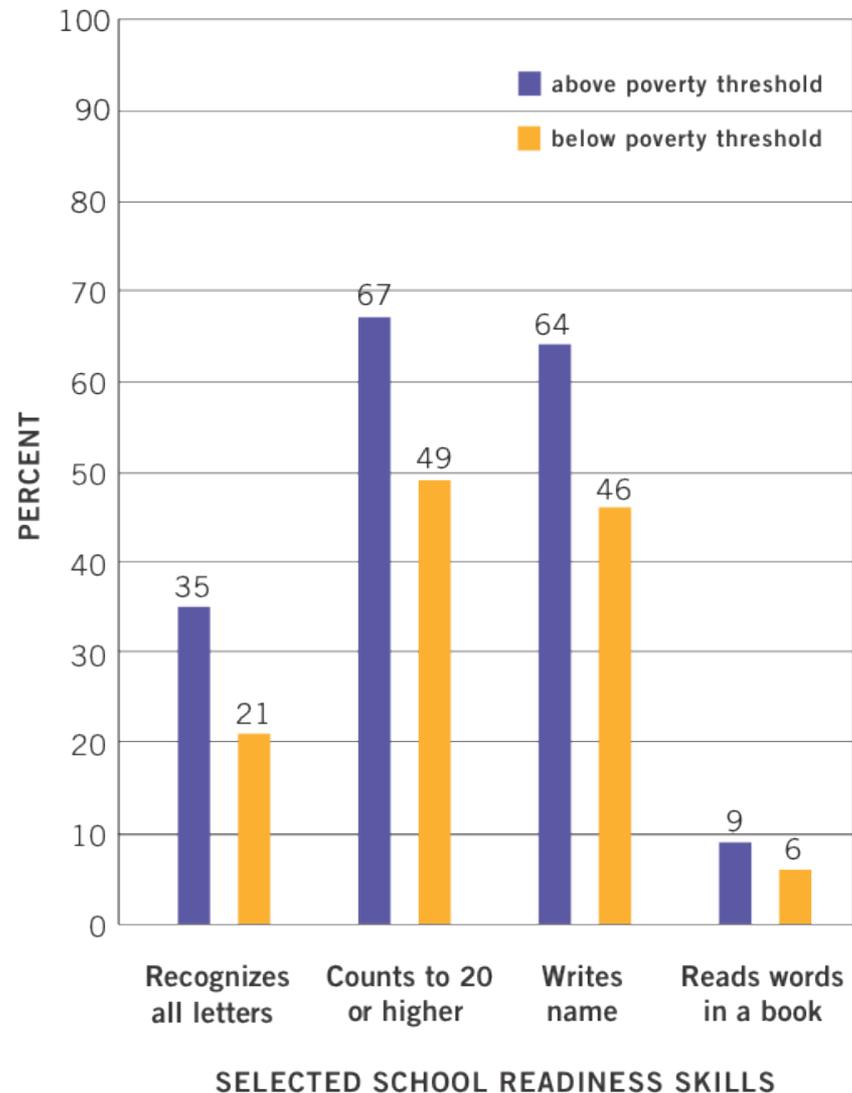
- School Readiness
- Chronic Absence
- Summer Learning Loss
- Parent & Community Engagement

School Readiness

- Too many children from low-income families begin school already far behind.
- Only about half of kindergarten students in the state are ready when they get there.



Percentage of Children Ages 3–6 With Selected School Readiness Skills, by Poverty Status



Source: O'Donnell, Kevin. Parents' Reports of the School Readiness of Young Children from the National Household Education Surveys Program of 2007, Table 2. National Center for Education Statistics. August 2008.
www.childtrendsdatabank.org/?q=node/291

School Readiness – What Can You Do?

- Encourage the use of existing resources like NSLA for high quality pre-K
- Launch a chapter of Imagination Library
- Work with a local pediatrician to launch Reach Out and Read



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Chronic Absence



- Defined as missing 10 percent or more of the school year
- Average daily attendance can mask chronic absence problems
- Children who are chronically absent in pre-K are more likely to be chronically absent in elementary school and less likely to be proficient readers by 3rd grade

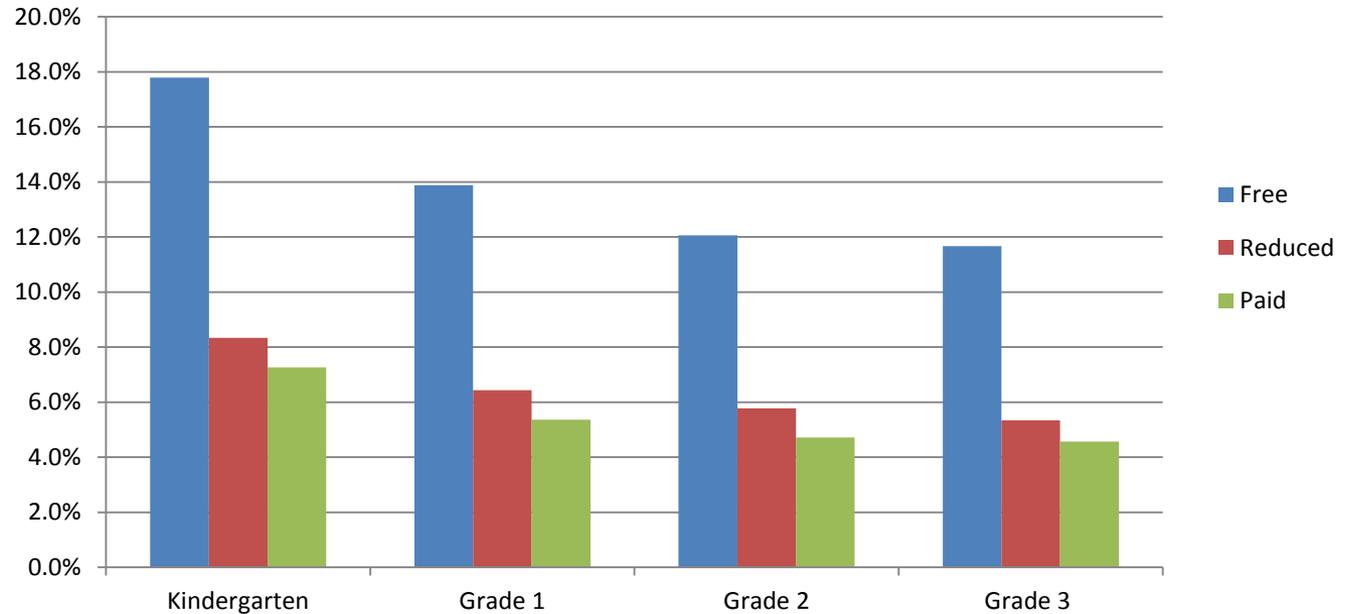
Chronic Absence



- Too many children miss too many days of school.
- In Arkansas, 13% of kindergarten students and 11% of first graders are chronically absent.

Chronic absence is 2.5 times higher among the lowest income students.

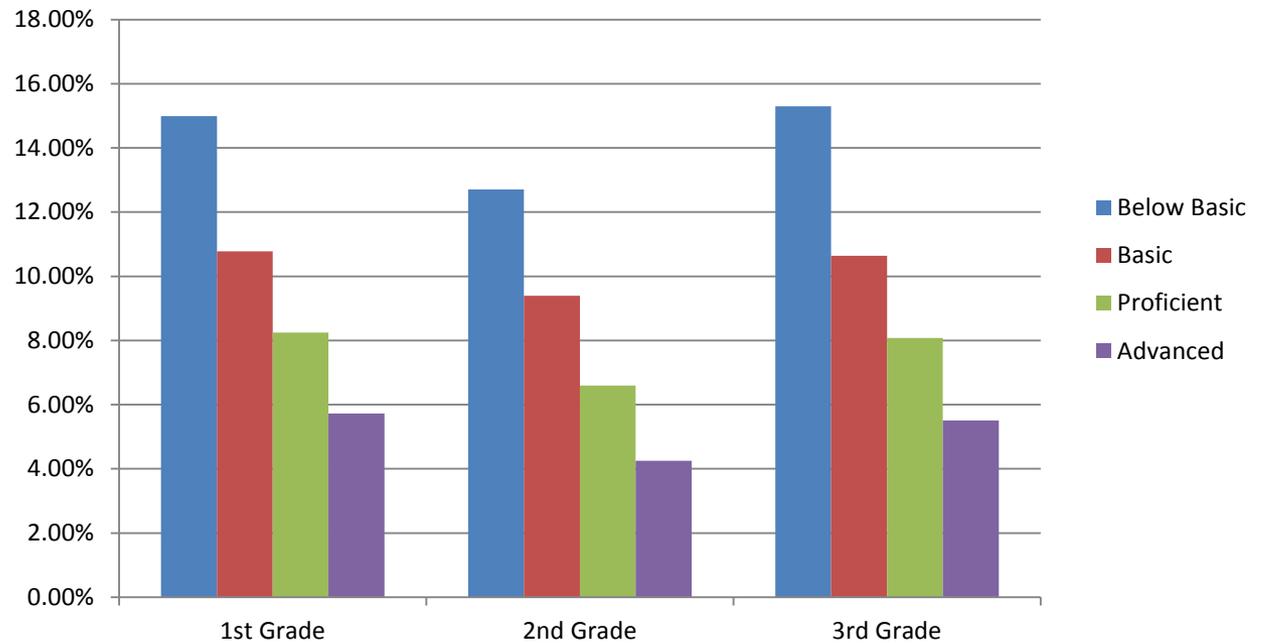
Percent of Chronically Absent Students Grouped by Grade and Meal Status



Source: Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families analysis of Arkansas Department of Education data.

Chronic absence is 3 times higher among young students scoring below basic vs. advanced.

Percent of Chronically Absent Students Grouped by Proficiency Level



Source: Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families analysis of Arkansas Department of Education data.

Chronic Absence – What Can You Do?



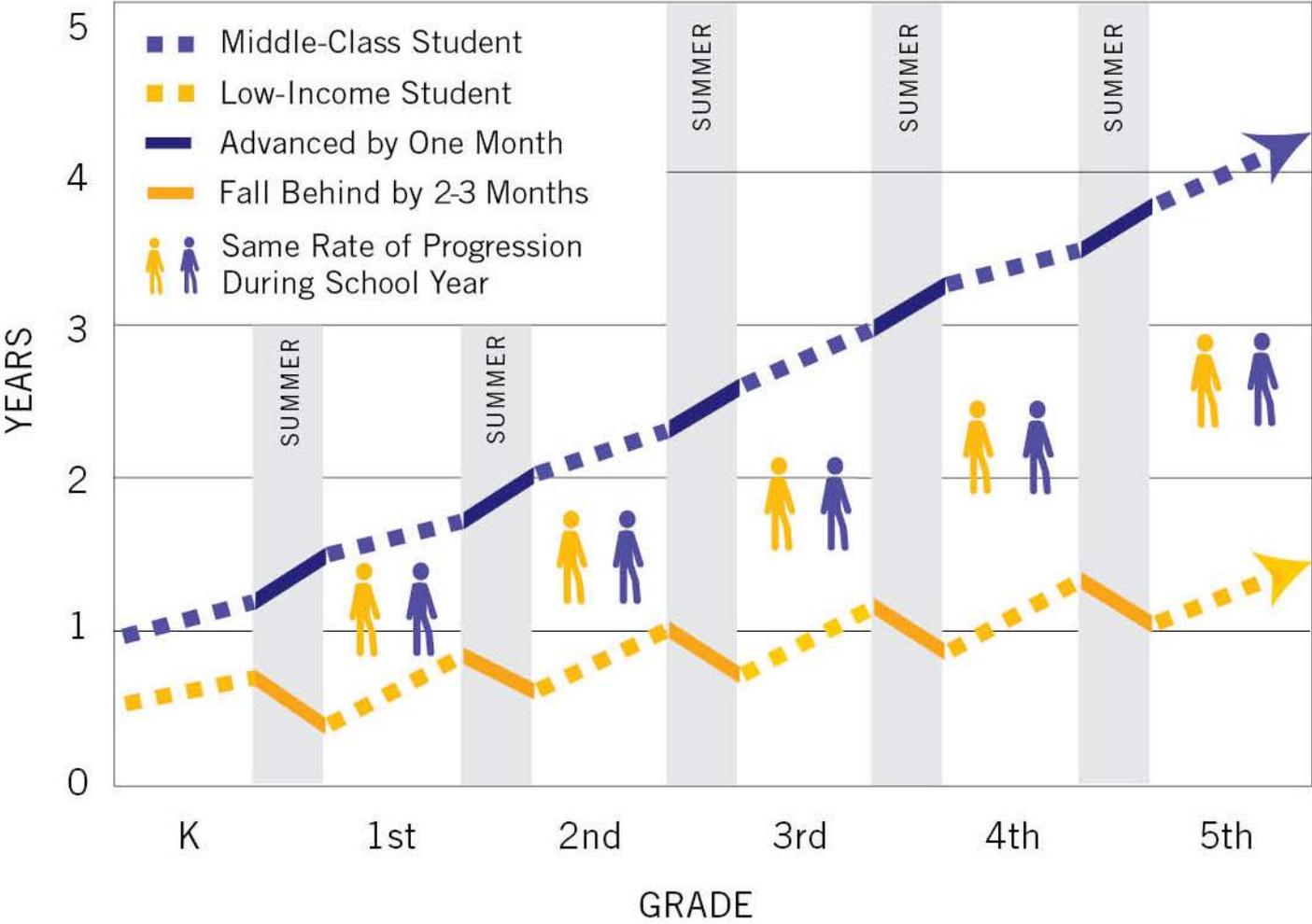
- Join the Make Every Day Count Campaign
 - Find out how many of your students are chronically absent
 - Find out why they are absent
 - Develop and implement solutions

Summer Learning Loss

- Too many children lose ground over the summer months.
- Just 17 percent of Arkansas school children participate in summer learning programs.



Low-Income Students Fall 2.5 to 3 Years Behind by Fifth Grade



Source: Cooper, H., Borman, G., & Fairchild, R. (2010). "School Calendars and Academic Achievement." In J. Meece & J. Eccles (Eds.), *Handbook of Research on Schools, Schooling, and Human Development* (pp. 342-355). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.

Summer Learning Loss – What Can You Do?

- Turn summer school into summer day camp
- Open school libraries during the summer
- Partner with churches, libraries, youth organizations, and volunteer fire departments to offer activities



Parent and Community Engagement

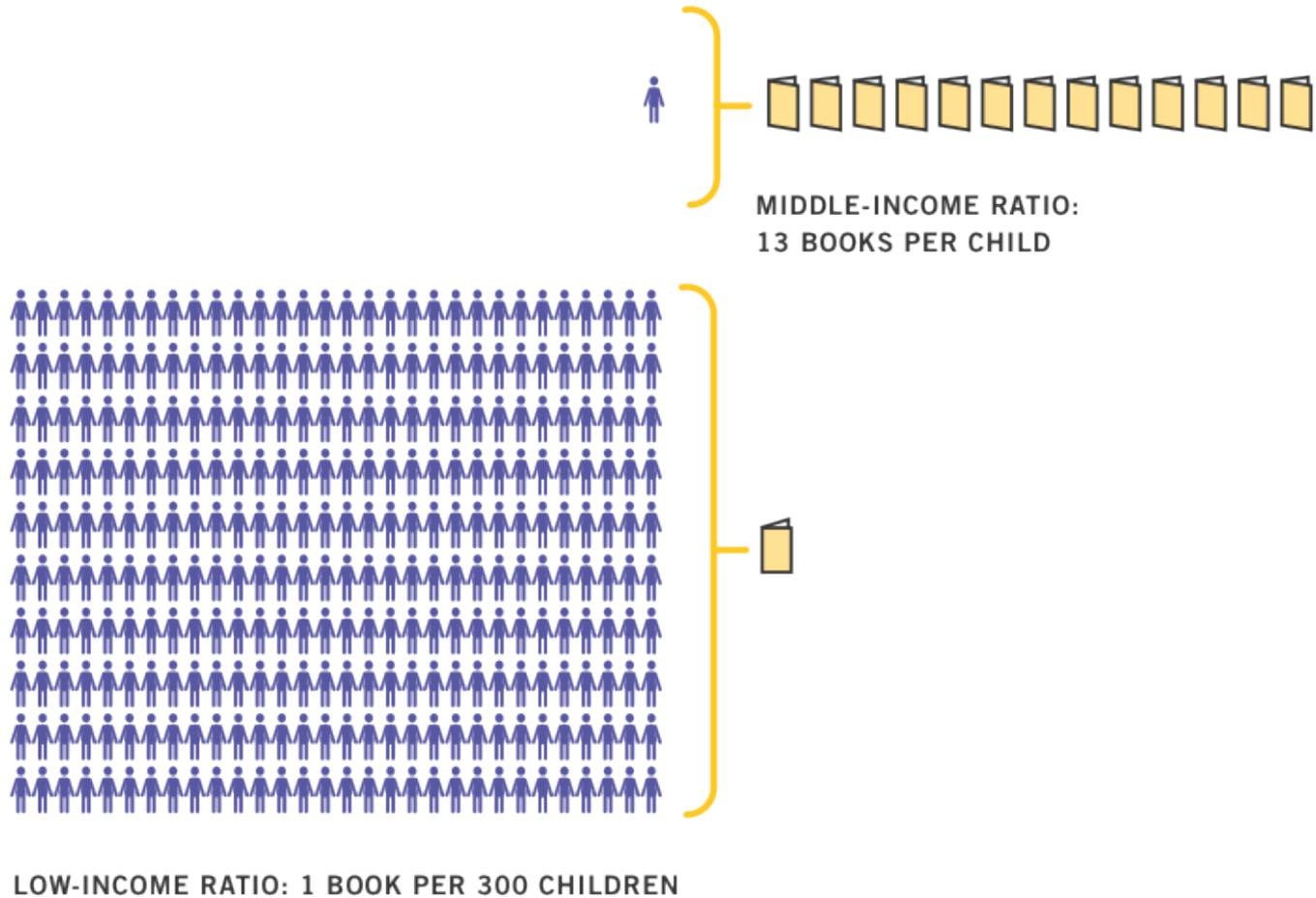
- Children and schools succeed when parents and the community are engaged in the school and with the children.
- Per capita funding for public libraries in Arkansas is one-half of the national average.



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Ratio of Age-Appropriate Books Per Child in Middle- and Low-Income Neighborhoods



Parent and Community Engagement – What Can You Do?

- Engage parents in school board meetings and ask for their input
- Launch a “My Town Reads” Campaign
- Organize volunteers to tutor children and help with other school activities



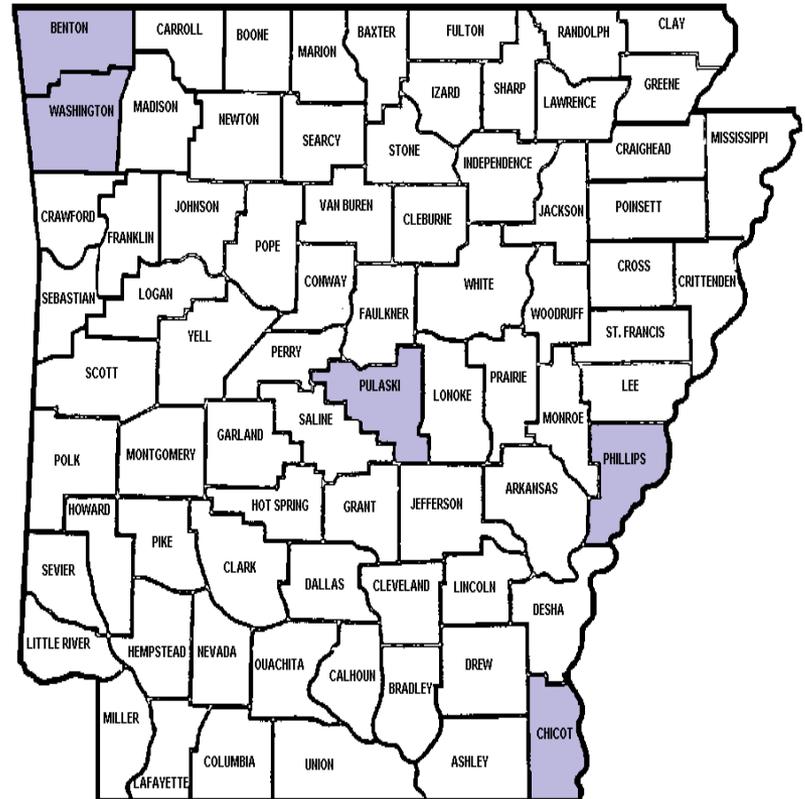
The Arkansas Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

Campaign Goal: By 2020, ALL Arkansas children will read at grade-level by the end of third grade

- Sub-Goal 1: Foster culture that understands importance of reading
- Sub-Goal 2: Build capacity at the local level to make policy change and implement programs
- Sub-Goal 3: Expand the knowledge base about what works to increase reading levels
- Sub-Goal 4: Develop and advocate for policy solutions to increase third-grade reading proficiency

AR-GLR CSI Sites

- Eudora Reads! in Eudora
- BGACDC & Marvell Elementary School in Marvell
- Second Baptist Church & MLK Elementary School in Little Rock
- AR KIDS READ in Pulaski County
- OneCommunity in Springdale





**JOIN THE
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Contact Information

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