

# Whitnall School District's Journey Toward Improvement



Where are  
we now?



Where do we  
want to be?



How will we  
get there?

Facilities

Teaching &  
Learning

Financial

# Whitnall School District's Journey Toward Improvement



## Where are we now?

# WHS

Teaching &  
Learning

Whitnall School District's  
Journey Toward Improvement



# WHS MYTHBUSTERS

Teaching &  
Learning

# WHS Mythbusters :



**Here are some “inaccuracies” that continue to float around WHS:**

WHS is removing AP courses, Honors courses and college-level courses

GPA will no longer be used at WHS

Classes will no longer be grade-weighted

Classes will have 50+ students in one room

The 5-pt grading scale rewards students at the bottom – not the top

## College Ready Indicators

Students are **College Ready** if they meet either the academic indicators **OR** standardized testing benchmarks listed below.

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### Academic Indicators

GPA 2.8 out of 4.0 and **one or more** of the following academic indicators:

- Advanced Placement Exam (3+)
  - Advanced Placement Course (A, B or C)
  - Dual Credit College English and/or Math (A, B or C)
  - College Developmental/Remedial English and/or Math (A, B or C)
  - Algebra II (A, B or C)
  - International Baccalaureate Exam (4+)
- 

### Standardized Testing Benchmarks (minimum score)

- SAT Exam: Math (530) | Reading and Writing (480)
  - ACT Exam: English (18) | Reading (22) | Science (23) | Math (22)
  - College Readiness Placement Assessment (determined by post-secondary institution)
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### Additional Factors that Contribute to College Success

Earning As, Bs, Cs; FAFSA completion; enrollment in career pathway course sequence; college academic advising; participation in college bound bridge programs; senior year math class; completion of a math class after Algebra II.



## National College and Career Readiness Indicators

*AASA looked at the research from leading educational institutions and research organizations to develop a new multi-metric, research-based definition of College and Career Ready.*

### Career Ready Indicators

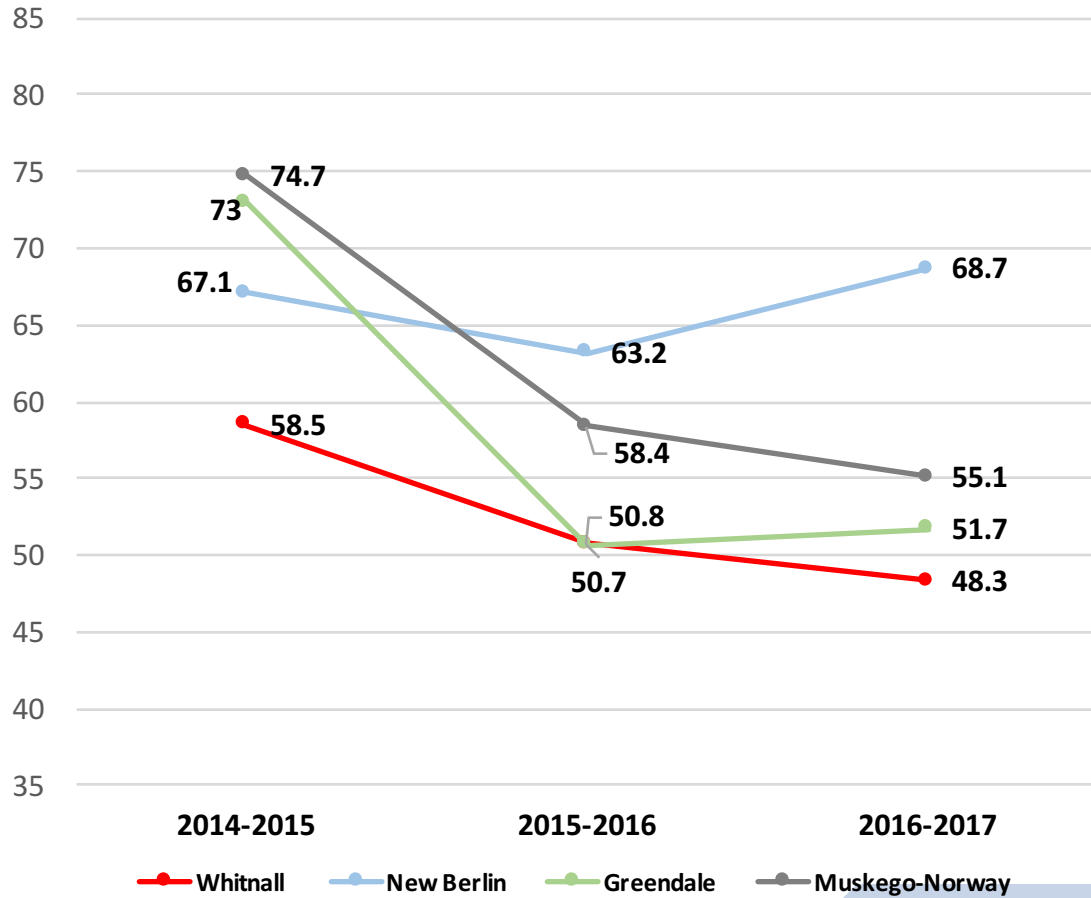
Students are **Career Ready** if they have identified a career interest and meet two of the behavioral and experiential benchmarks listed below. In addition, students entering the military upon graduation must meet the passing scores on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) for each branch of the military.

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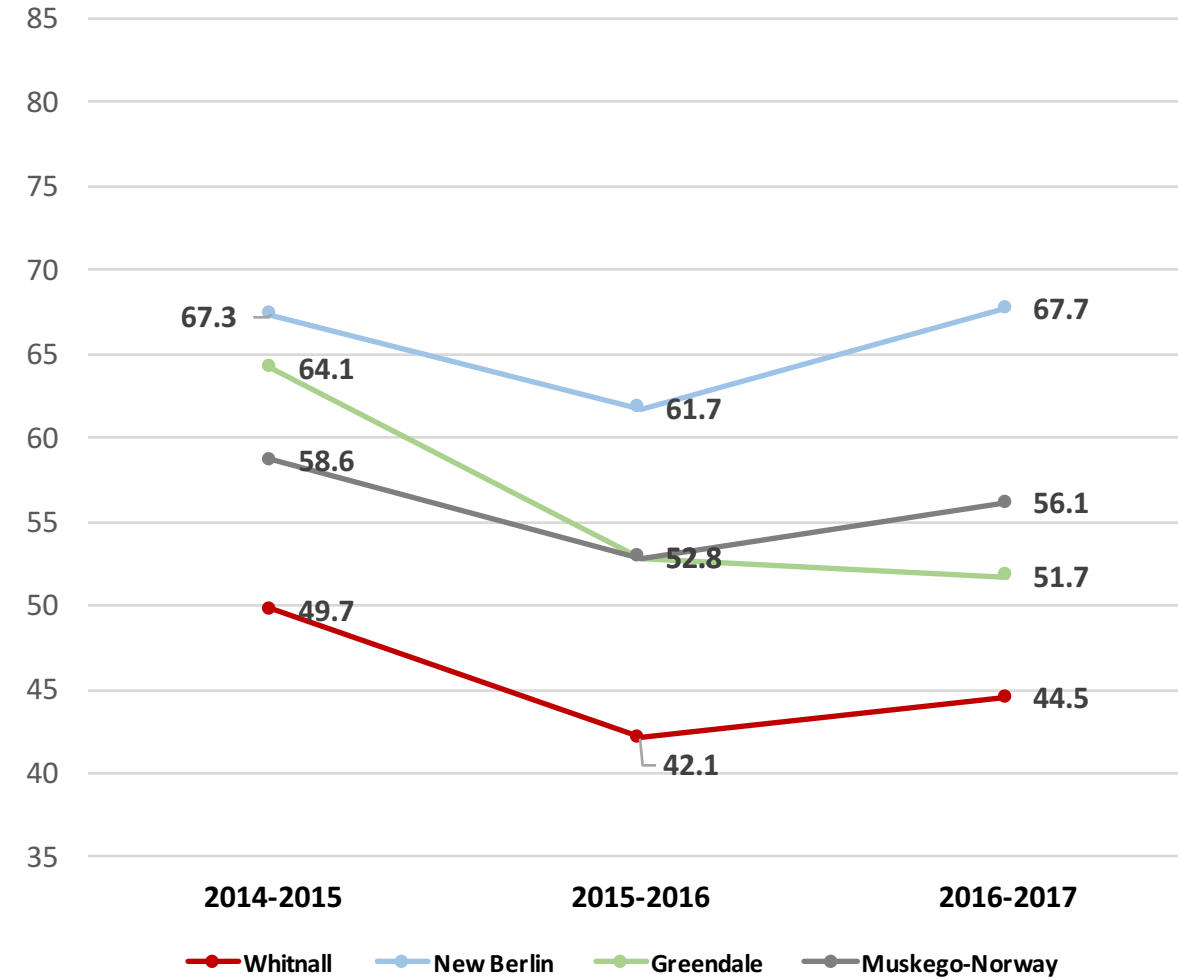
Career Cluster Identified and **two or more** of the following benchmarks:

- 90% Attendance
  - 25 hours of Community Service
  - Workplace Learning Experience
  - Industry Credential
  - Dual Credit Career Pathway Course
  - Two or more organized Co-Curricular Activities
-

## ACT Language Arts Students Proficient or Advanced

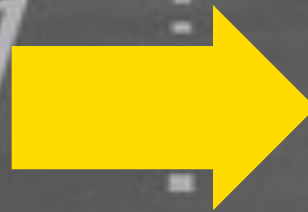


## ACT Math Students Proficient or Advanced





## Is GPA an accurate measure of student achievement?



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- Algebra II (A, B or C)
- International Baccalaureate Exam (4+)

How DO grading practices affect student achievement?



**Student work**



**Assessment**



**Grades/GPA**





# Is GPA an accurate measure of student achievement?

As of the end of semester one of the 2017-2018 academic school year:

- ➔ 38% of WHS 9<sup>th</sup> grade students have less than a 2.8 GPA
- ➔ 40% of WHS 12<sup>th</sup> grade students have less than a 2.8 GPA



**If GPA *is* an accurate measure of student achievement...**

**...how consistent and reliable are our grading practices?**



## College Ready Indicators

Students are **College Ready** if they meet either the academic indicators **OR** standardized testing benchmarks listed below.

### Academic Indicators

GPA 2.8 out of 4.0 and **one or more** of the following academic indicators:

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- International Baccalaureate Exam (4+)



Teaching &  
Learning



## Success Indicator #1: Score of 3, 4, or 5 on an Advanced Placement Exam

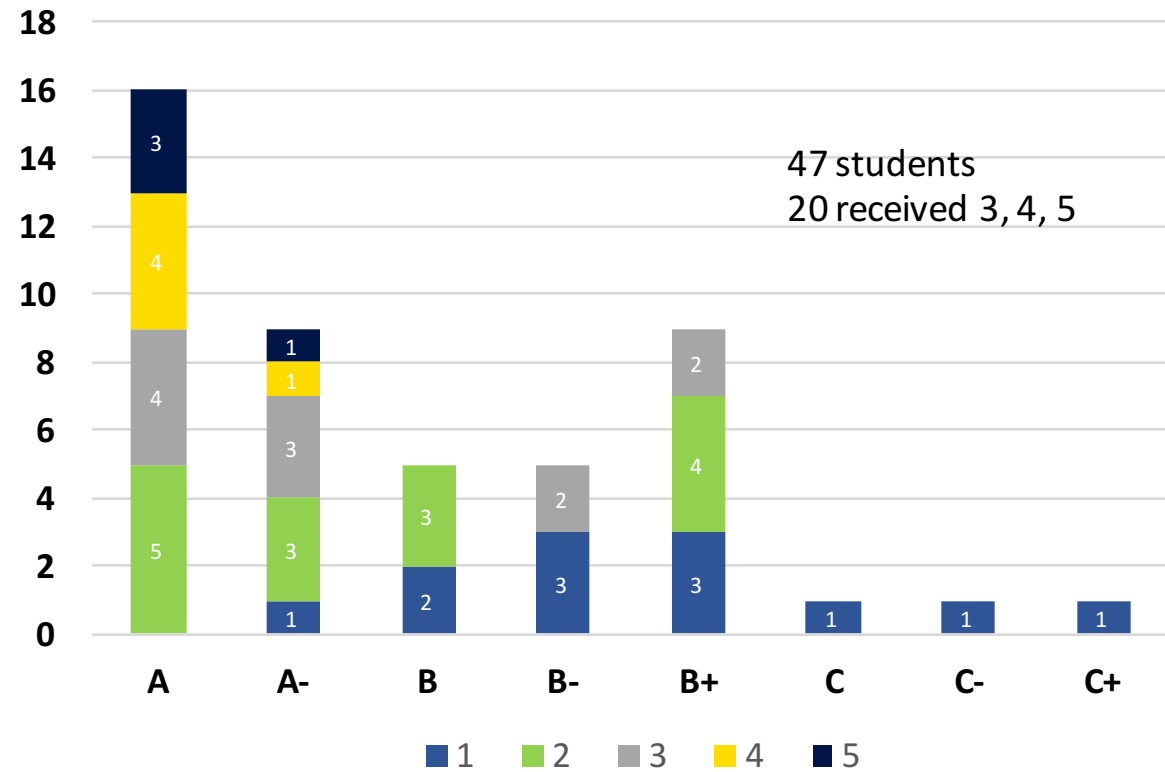
- If all students who took AP courses took the correlating exam, 444 exams would have been taken.
- 157 exams were taken, with a 62% rate of success. (Scoring a 3 or higher)

## Success Indicator #2: Grade of A, B, or C in Advanced Placement Course

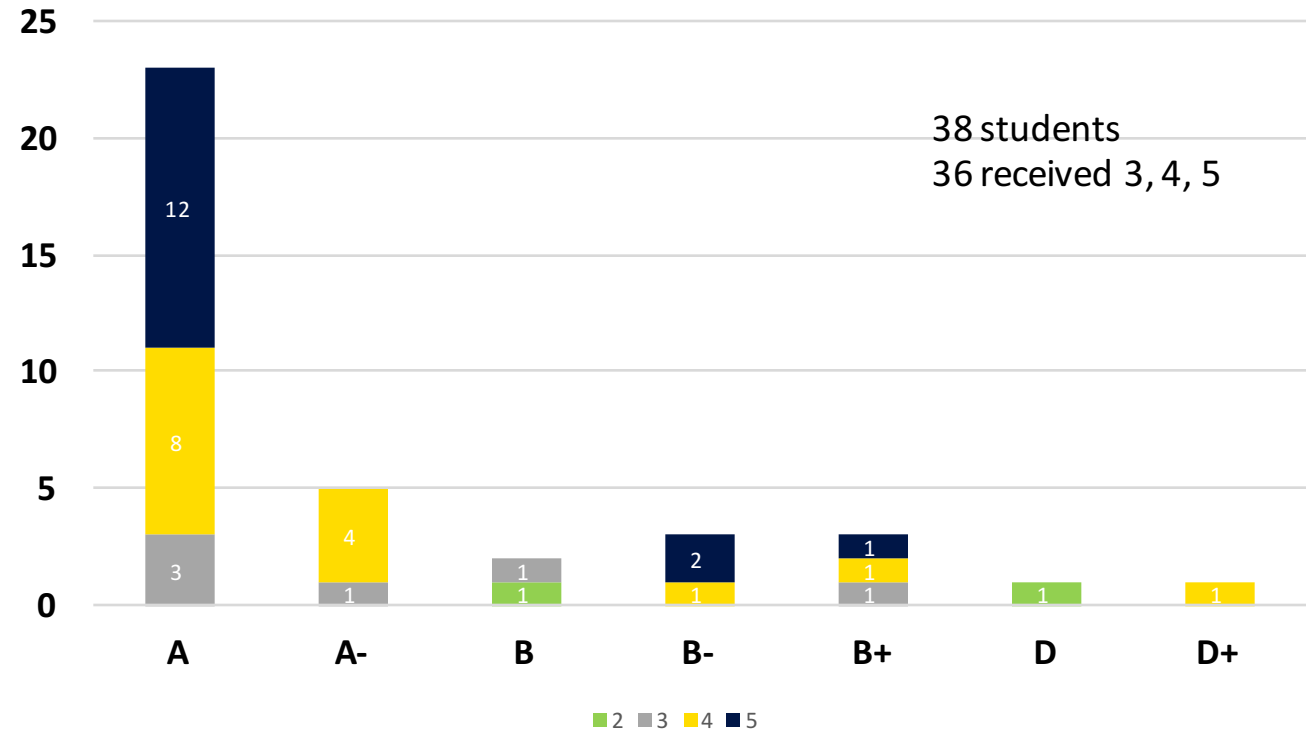
- In 2016-2017, 282 Students took at least one Advanced Placement Course (many students took multiple courses)
- 97.5% Received a grade of A, B or C in AP courses

# Achievement Data

## AP Course 1



## AP Course 2

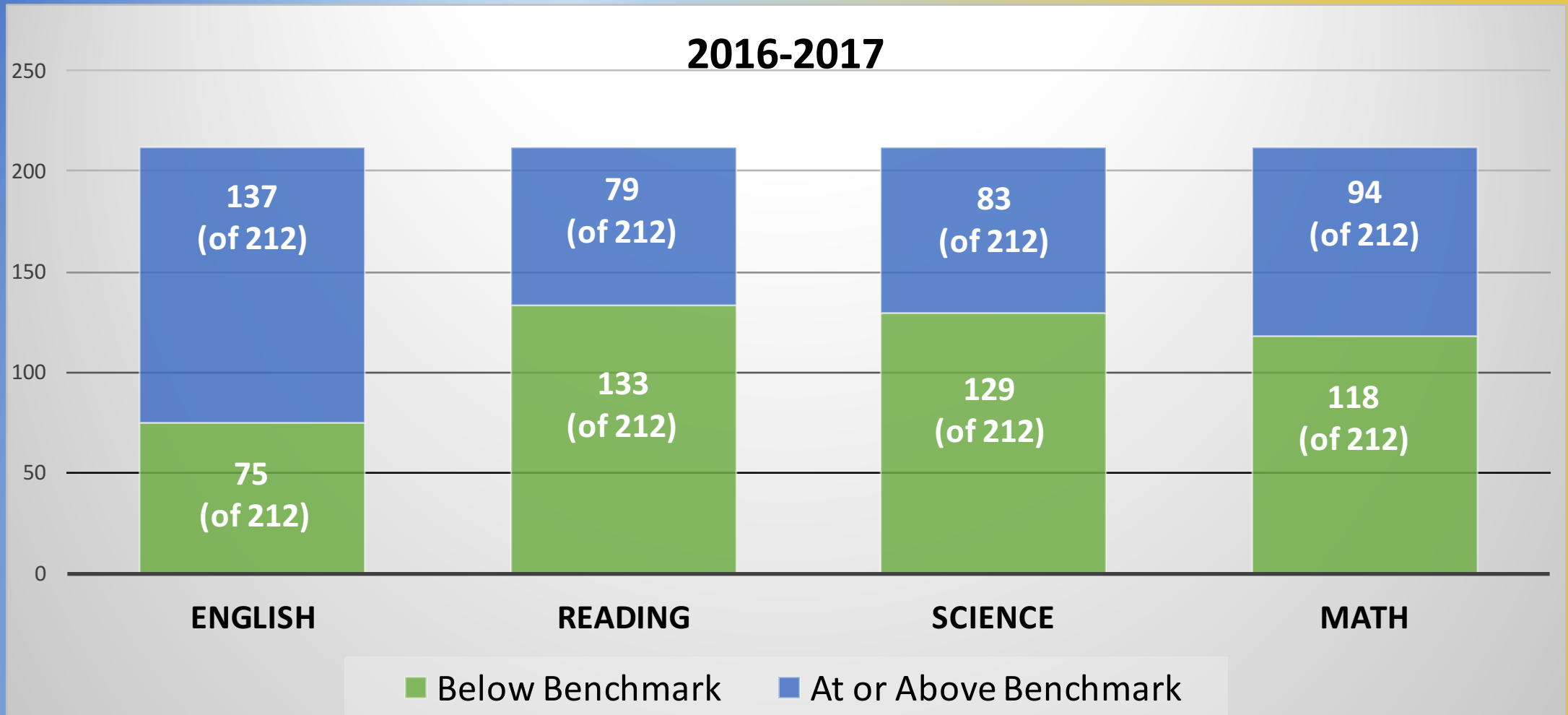


# ACT Benchmark Scores Indicating College Readiness

English = 18 | Reading = 22 | Science = 23 | Math = 22

*Meeting all four Benchmarks indicates a “College-ready” student*

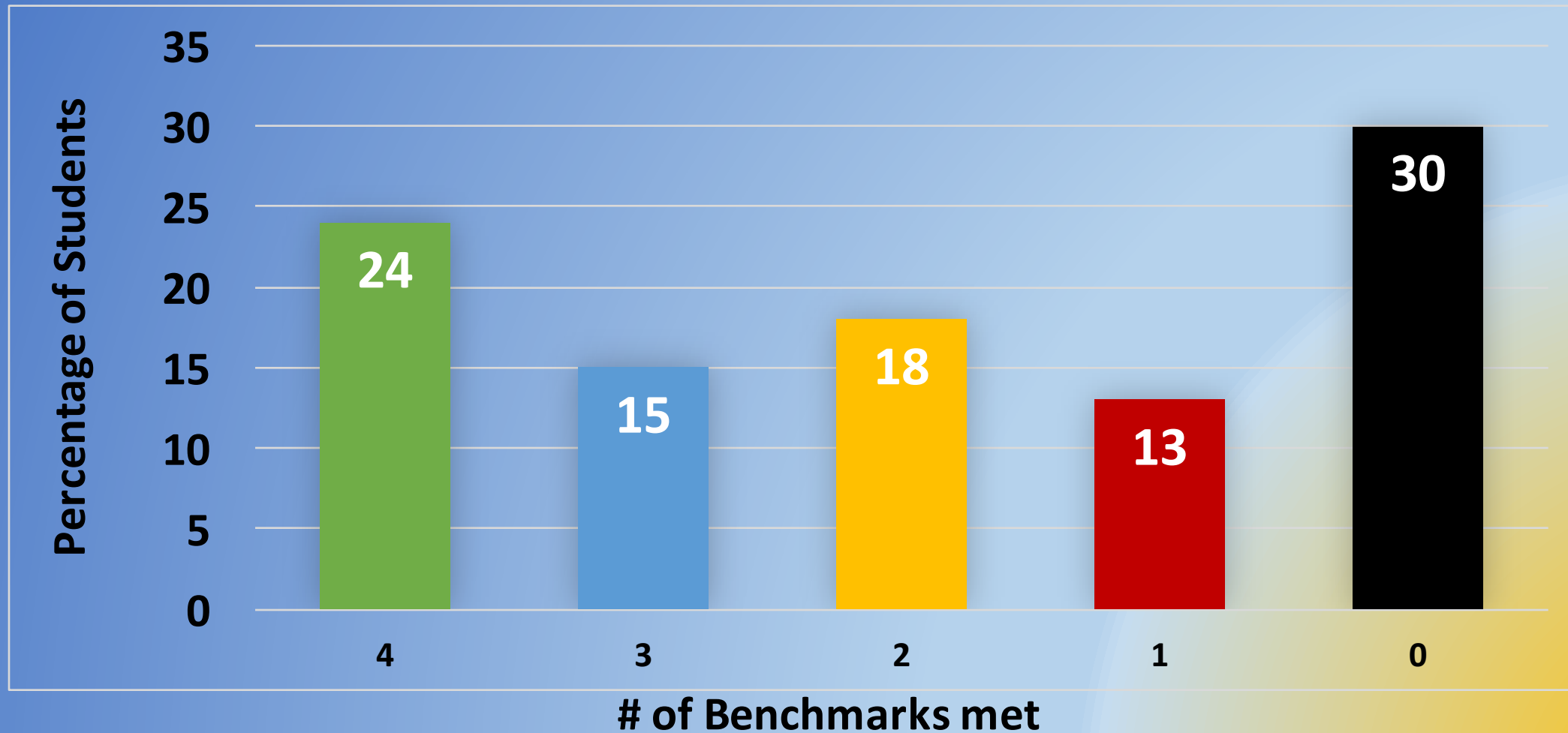
Number of WHS students scoring “Below” or “At or Above” Benchmark:



# ACT Benchmark Scores Indicating College Readiness

English = 18 | Reading = 22 | Science = 23 | Math = 22

Percentage of 2016-17 WSD students who have met 4, 3, 2, 1, or 0 of the Benchmark scores:



## Grading & Assessment



**Concern:** Shifting grading systems are causing (or will cause) inconsistencies in grading and reporting.

**Reality:** There have always been inconsistencies within the system. Examining current and best practice is in the interest of creating more consistent and accurate reporting platforms.



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we now?



Where do we  
want to be?



How will we  
get there?

Facilities

Teaching &  
Learning

Financial

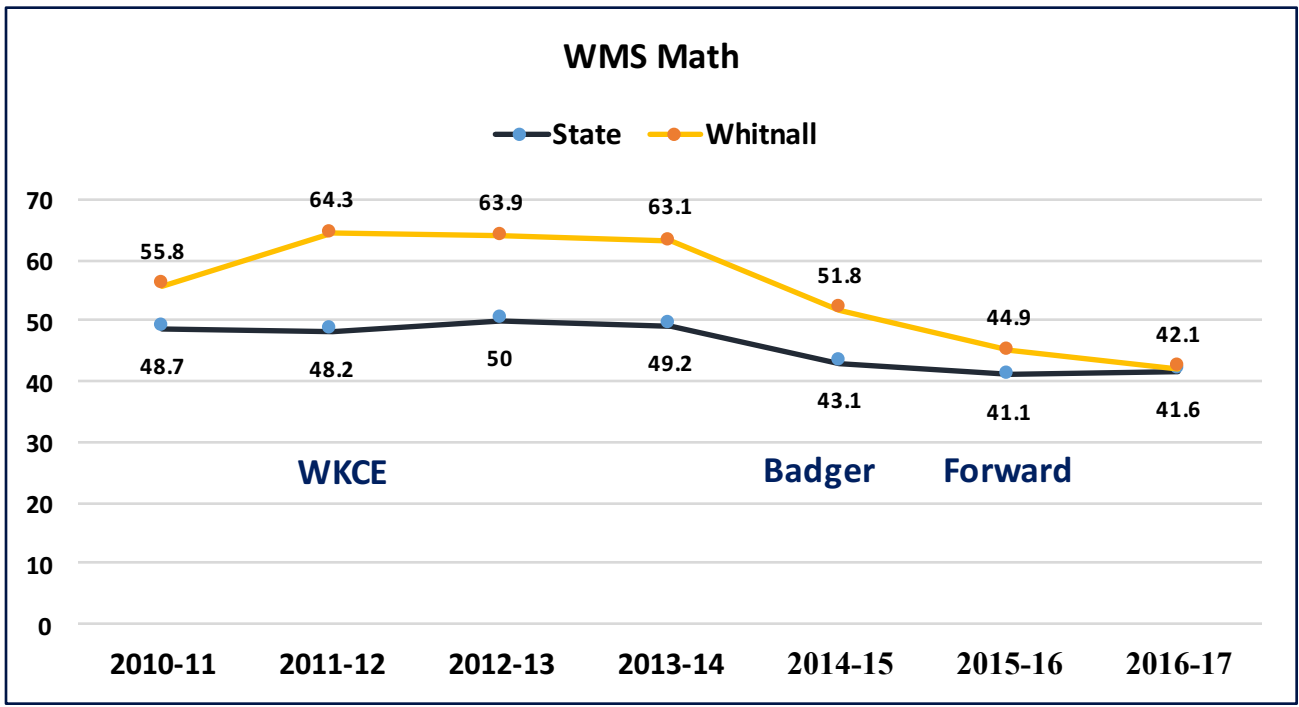
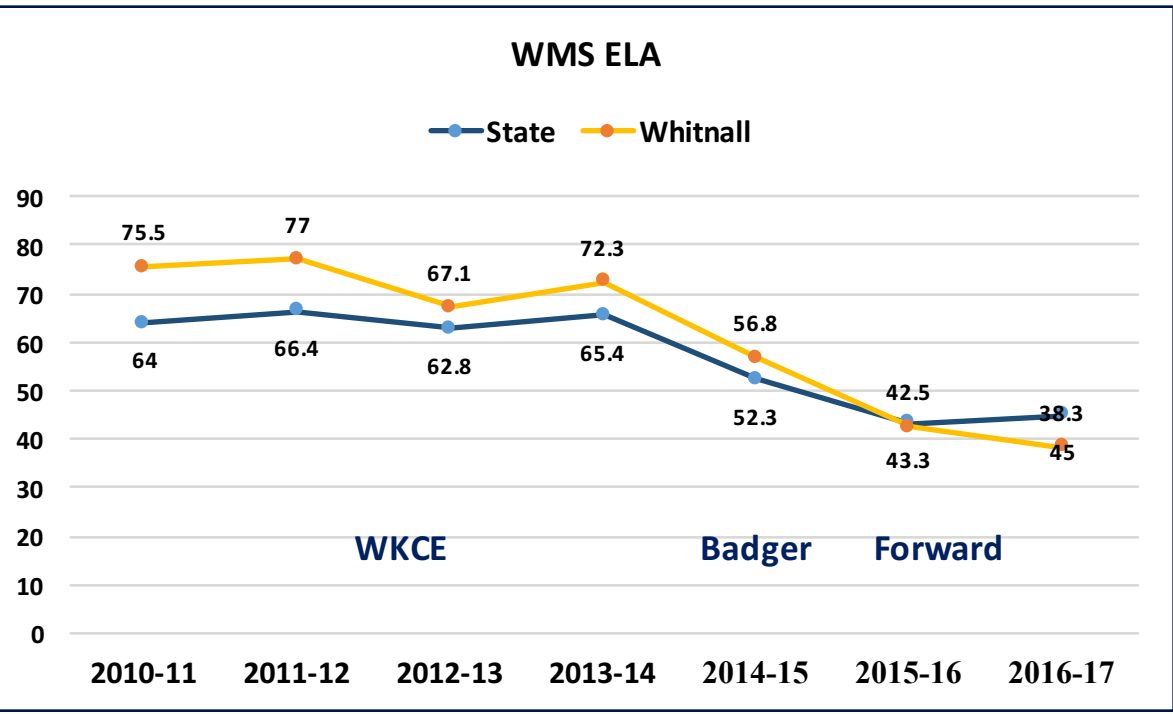
# Whitnall School District's Journey Toward Improvement



## Where are we now?

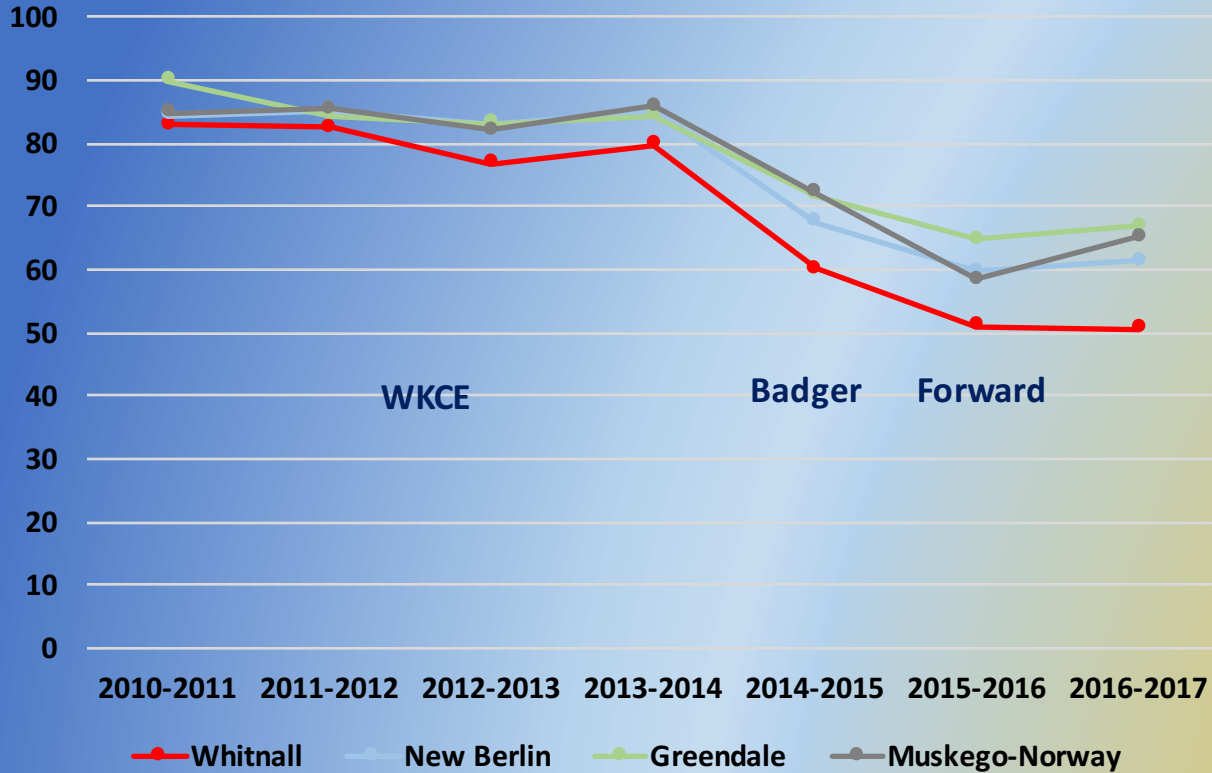
### WMS

Teaching &  
Learning



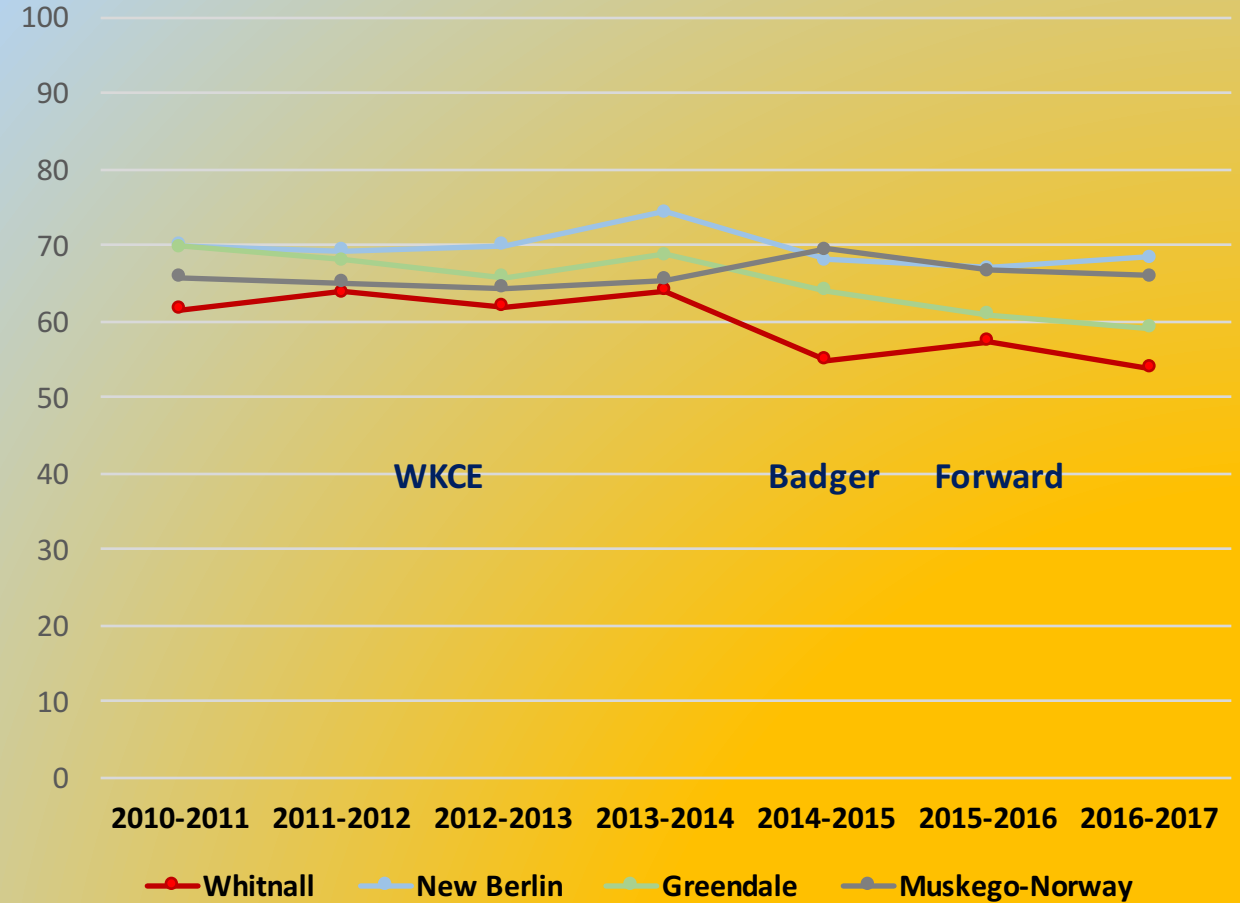
## Language Arts

Students Proficient and Advanced



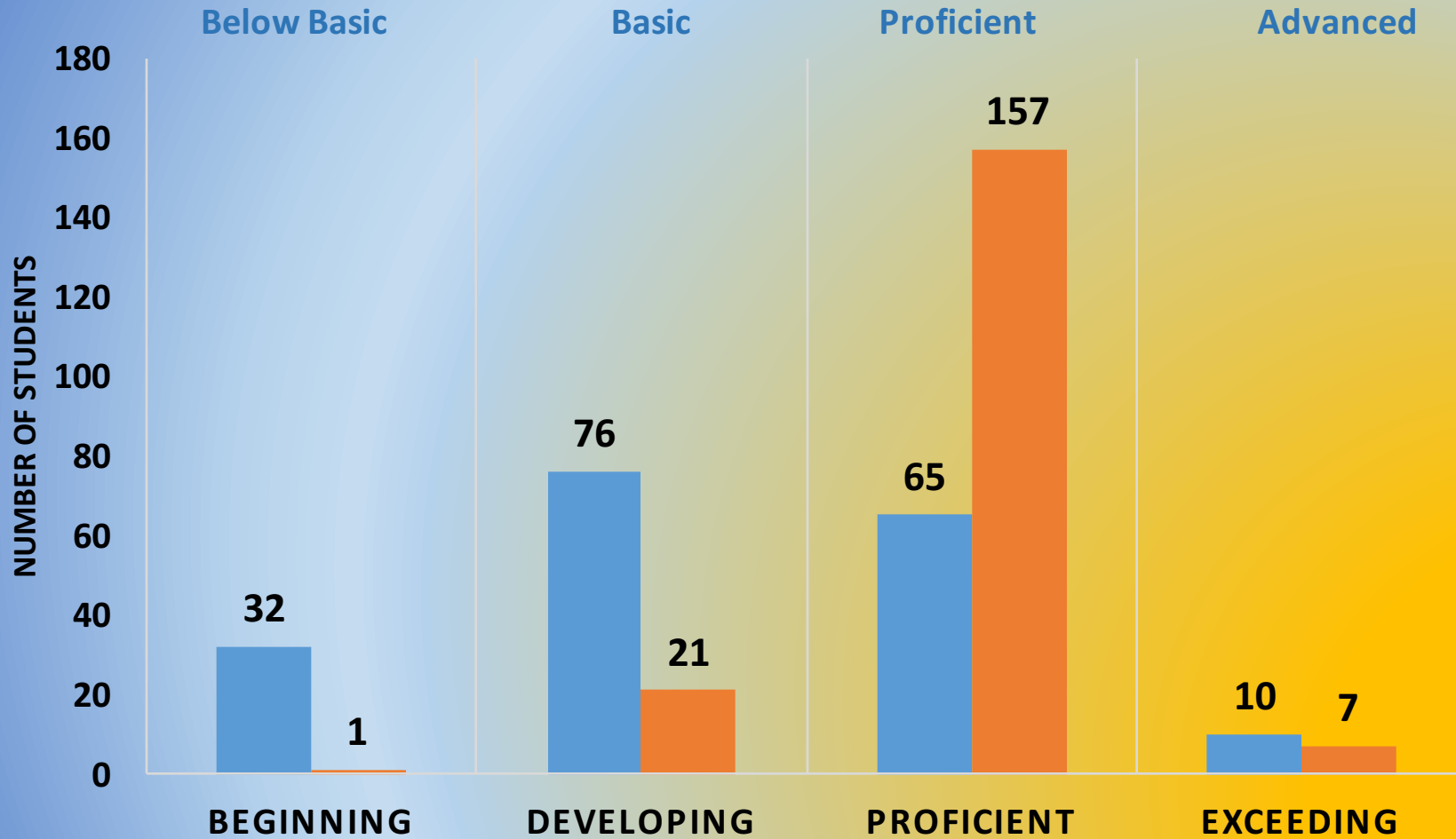
## Math

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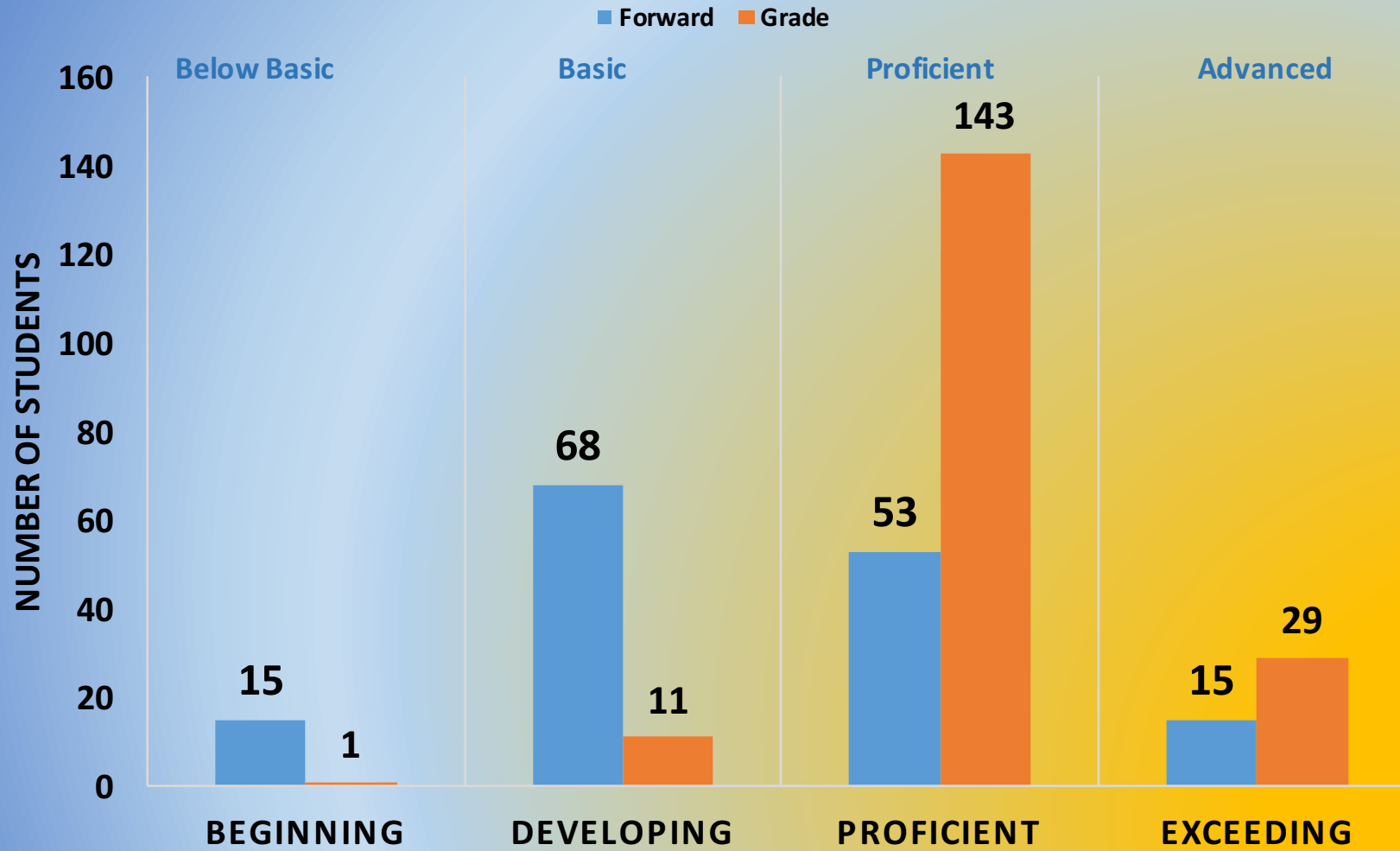


# 8TH GRADE MATH

■ Forward ■ Grade



# 8TH GRADE ELA



## Whitnall School District K-8 Grading Scale

Level Indicator	Level Descriptions
<b>Exceeding (E)</b>	<p>A student achieving this level will independently demonstrate learning that is significantly and consistently above targeted expectations as evidenced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to transfer learning into multiple content areas or situations</li> <li>• High levels of complex reasoning</li> <li>• Multiple approaches to solving problems</li> </ul> <p>Student Indicator of Success: "I'm very confident with this. I can teach someone how to do this."</p>
<b>Proficient (P)</b>	<p>A student achieving this level will independently demonstrate mastery of all grade-level standards and targeted expectations as evidenced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application of specific skills to related standards and other content areas</li> <li>• Solid foundational skills for future learning</li> <li>• Communication of understanding to others</li> <li>• Complex reasoning and problem-solving skills</li> </ul> <p>Student Indicator of Success: "I can do this independently. I can demonstrate my understanding."</p>
<b>Developing (D)</b>	<p>A student achieving this level will demonstrate partial progress toward meeting grade-level standards and targeted expectations as evidenced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foundational skills that are either incomplete or inconsistent</li> <li>• A need for deeper or more specific instruction</li> <li>• A need for more time and practice in order to demonstrate independent and consistent mastery</li> </ul> <p>Student Indicator of Emerging Success: "I can do this with support, prompting or an example in front of me"</p>
<b>Beginning (B)</b>	<p>A student achieving this level will demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited or no understanding of grade-level standards or targeted expectations</li> <li>• A need for additional support to develop knowledge and understanding</li> <li>• A requirement for further practice and significant assistance in order to acquire foundational skills</li> </ul> <p>Student Indicator of Limited or Inadequate Progress: "I'm starting to get it, but I'm still confused."</p>

## Grading & Assessment



**Concern:** Shifting grading systems are causing (or will cause) inconsistencies in grading and reporting.

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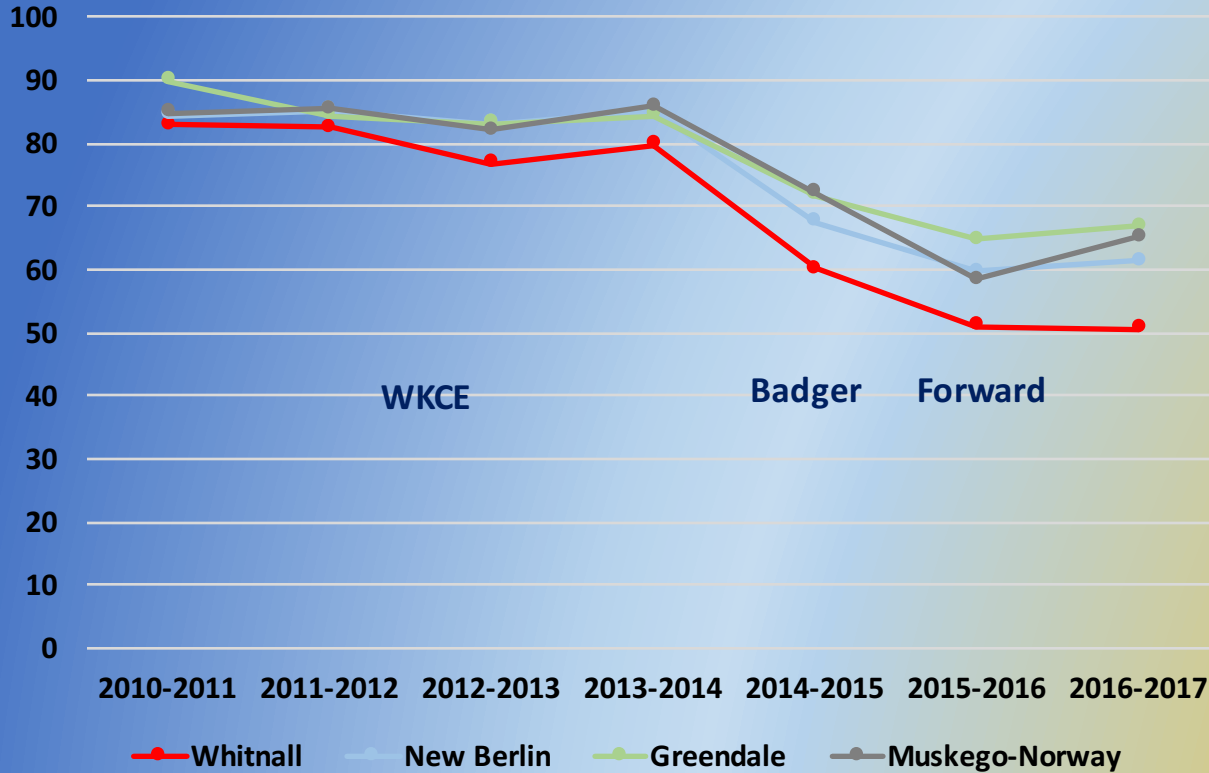
## Where are we now?

### EES & HCE

Teaching &  
Learning

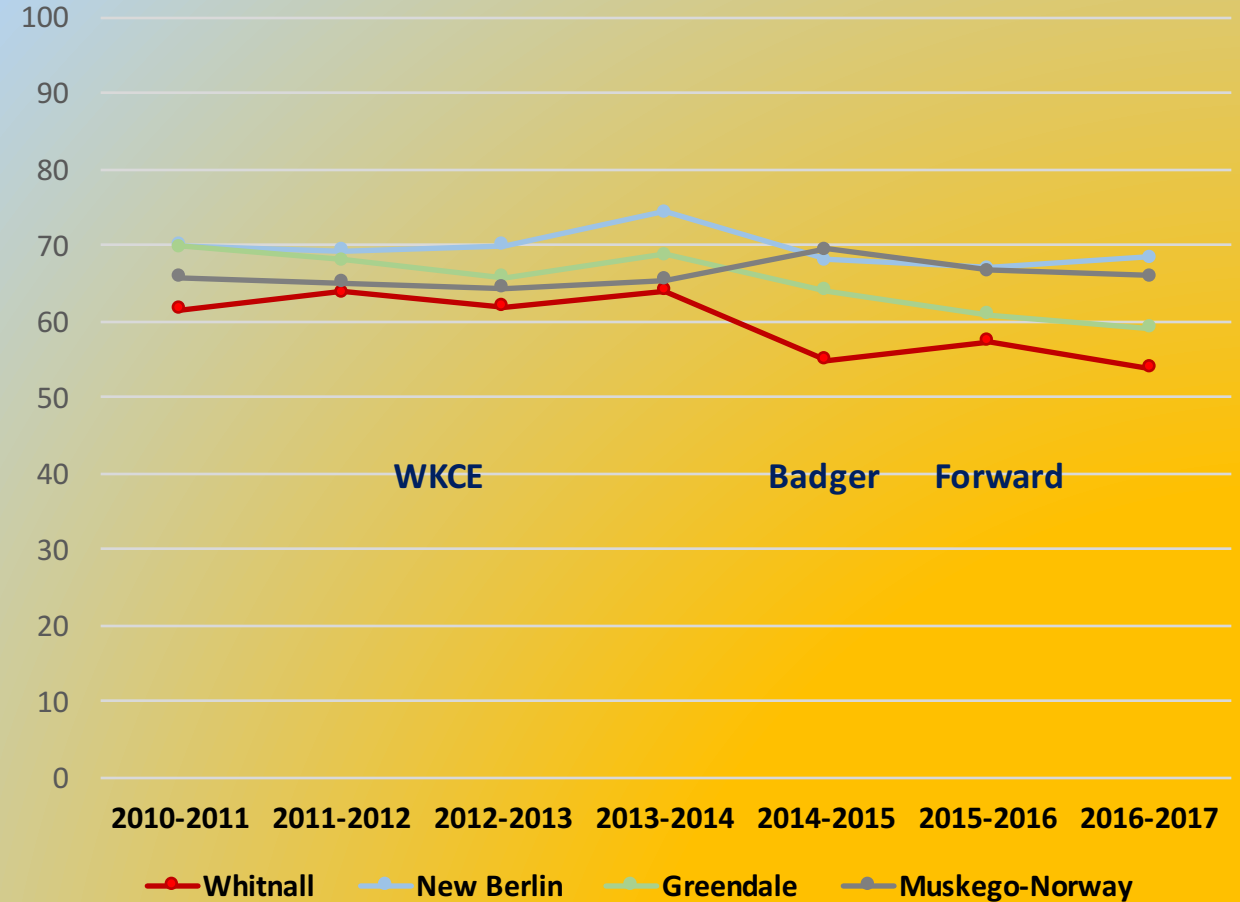
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Students Proficient and Advanced

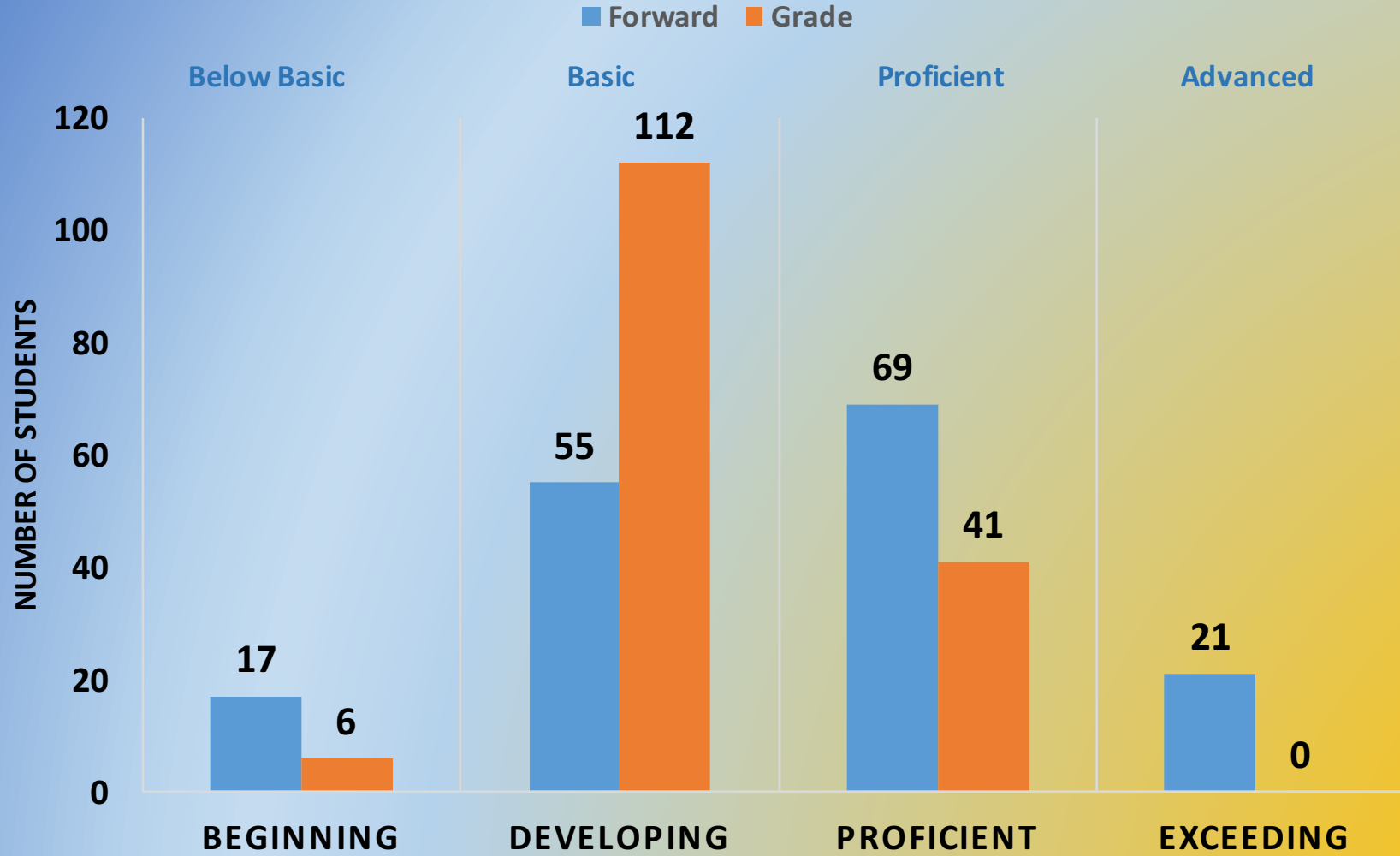


## Math

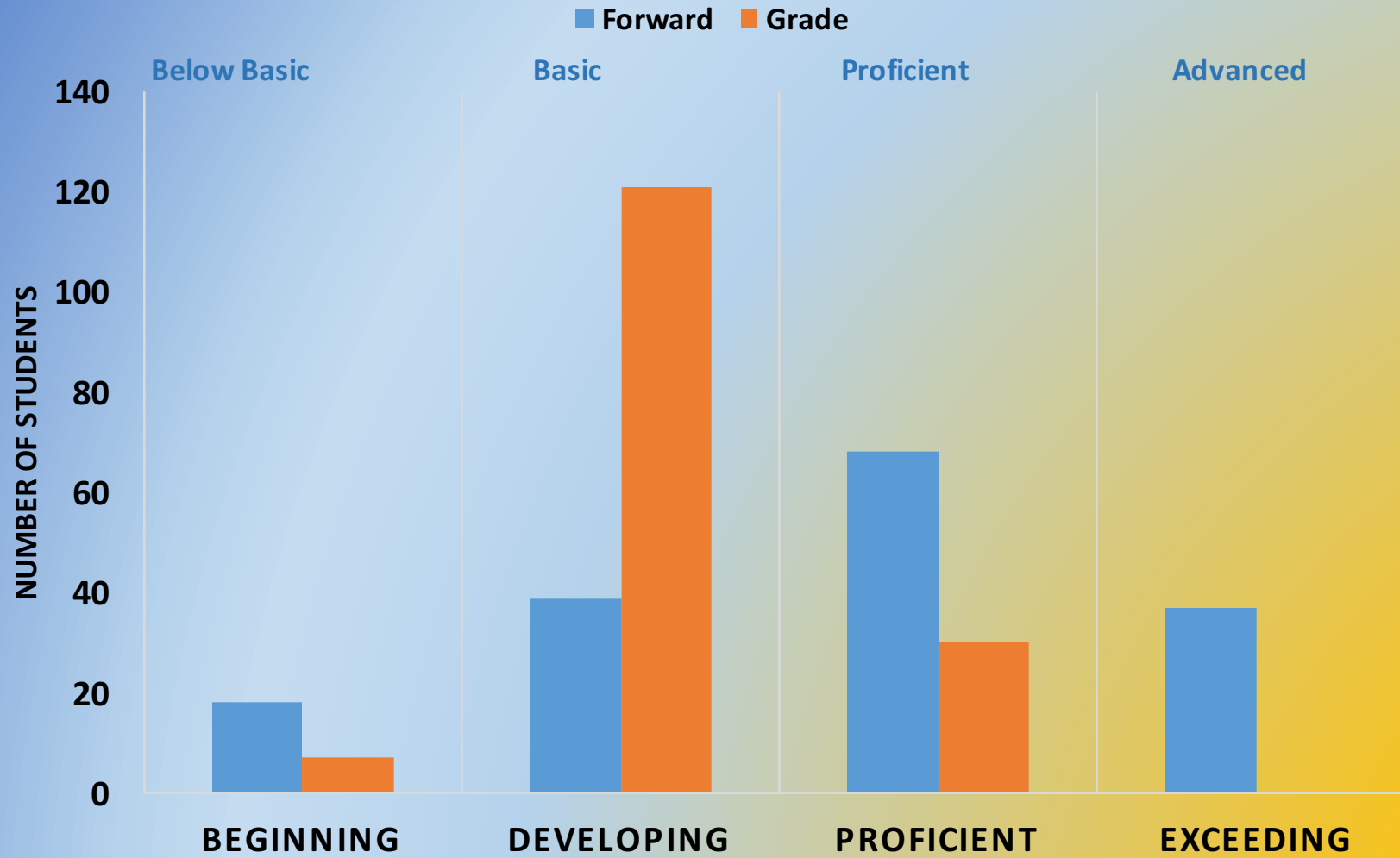
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# 3RD GRADE READING



# 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE MATH



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