

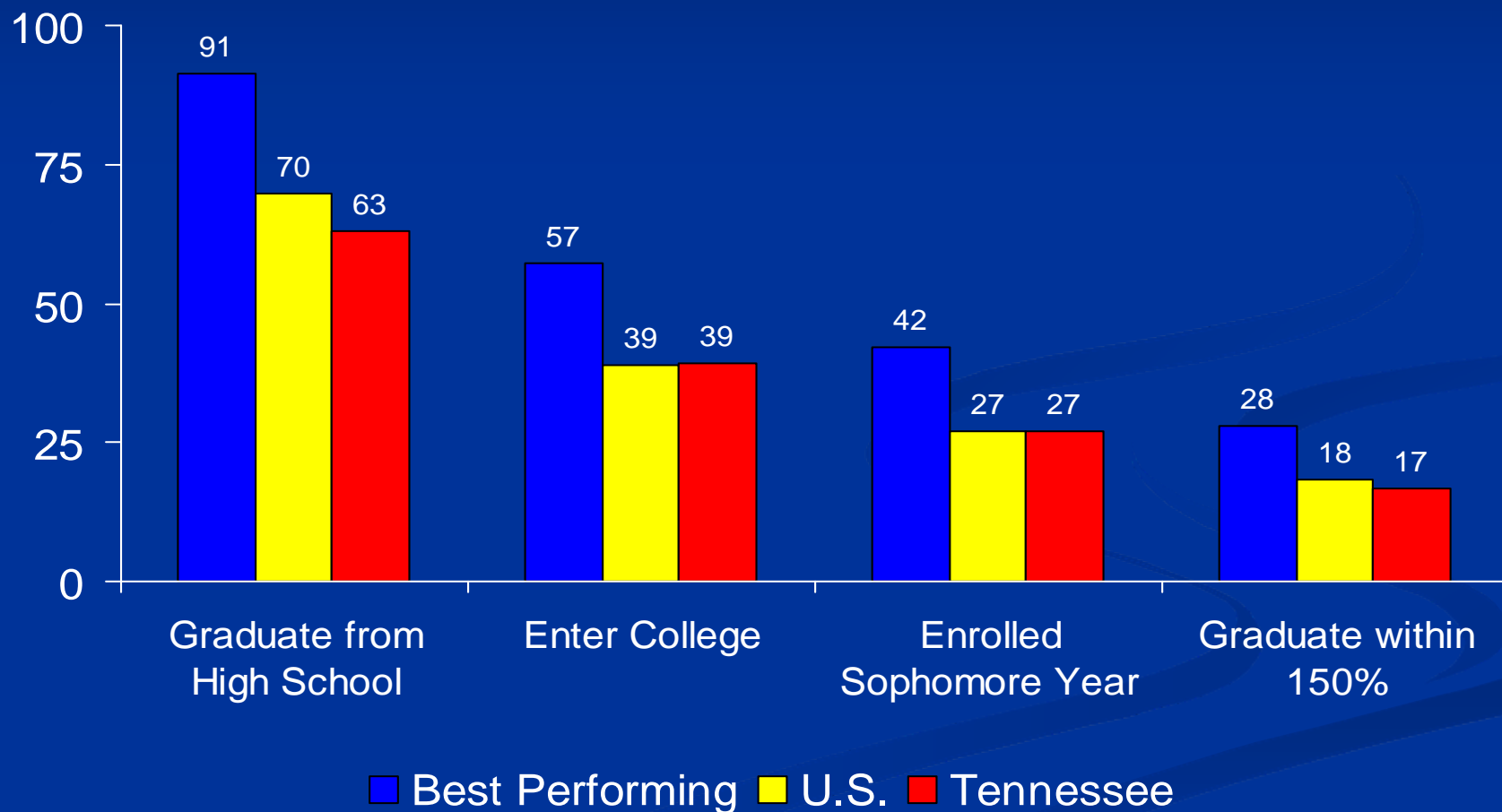
# Education In Tennessee: At a Crossroads?

Associated Press & Tennessee Press  
Association

Legislative Planning Session

February 14<sup>th</sup> 2008

# The Student Pipeline - Tennessee, 2004



# Heading In The Right Direction

- Tennessee participating in American Diploma project.
  - More closely aligned with national standards
  - Raise high school graduation requirements to increase the value of a high school diploma
  - Improve the alignment of curriculum content, assessments and exit requirements
  - Improve integration of educational levels from Pre-k through senior level of college

# National Ranking of Difference between State Proficiency and NAEP Proficiency

## Tennessee

46

Out of 50 states ranked on the difference between the share of 4<sup>th</sup> graders rated proficient on the state reading test, compared to the NAEP test (1= best, 50= worst)

## Tennessee

49

Out of 50 states ranked on the difference between the share of 4<sup>th</sup> graders rated proficient on the state math test, compared to the NAEP test (1= best, 50= worst)

## Tennessee

43

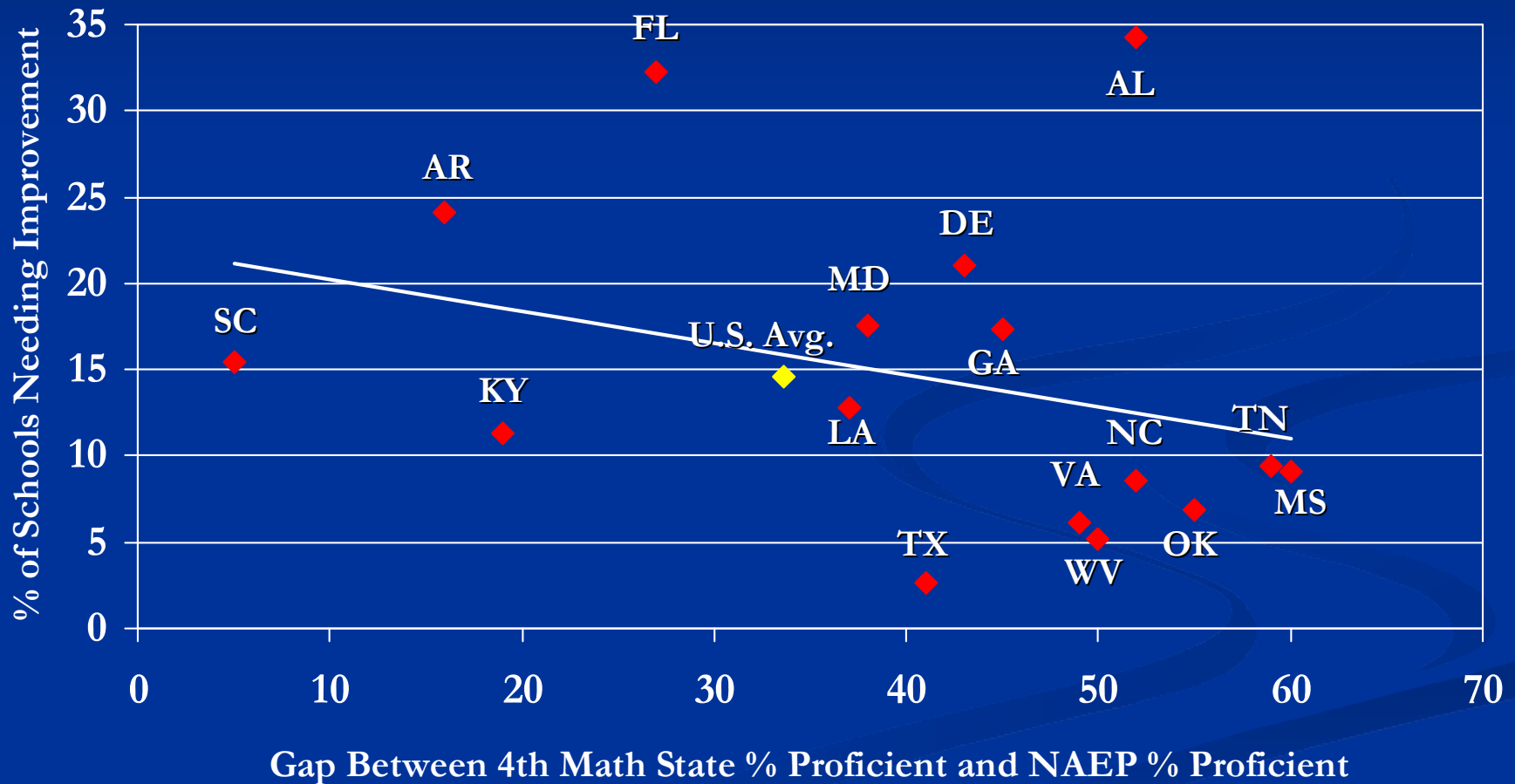
Out of 47 states ranked on the difference between the share of 8<sup>th</sup> graders rated proficient on the state reading test, compared to the NAEP test (1= best, 47= worst)

## Tennessee

47

Out of 47 states ranked on the difference between the share of 8<sup>th</sup> graders rated proficient on the state math test, compared to the NAEP test (1= best, 47= worst)

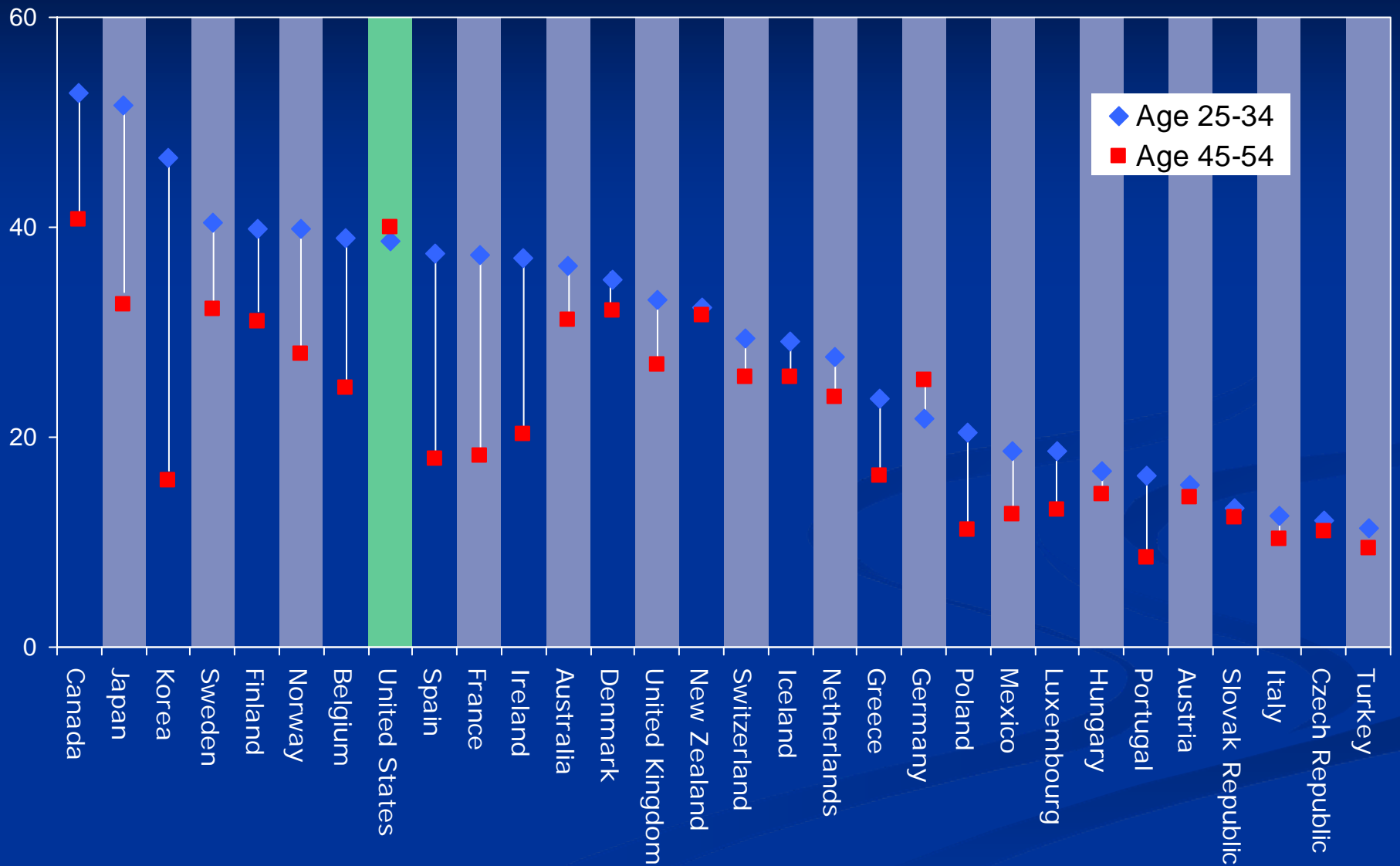
# Relationship between Proficiency Gap and % of Schools In Need of Improvement – 2005



# Reporting Progress

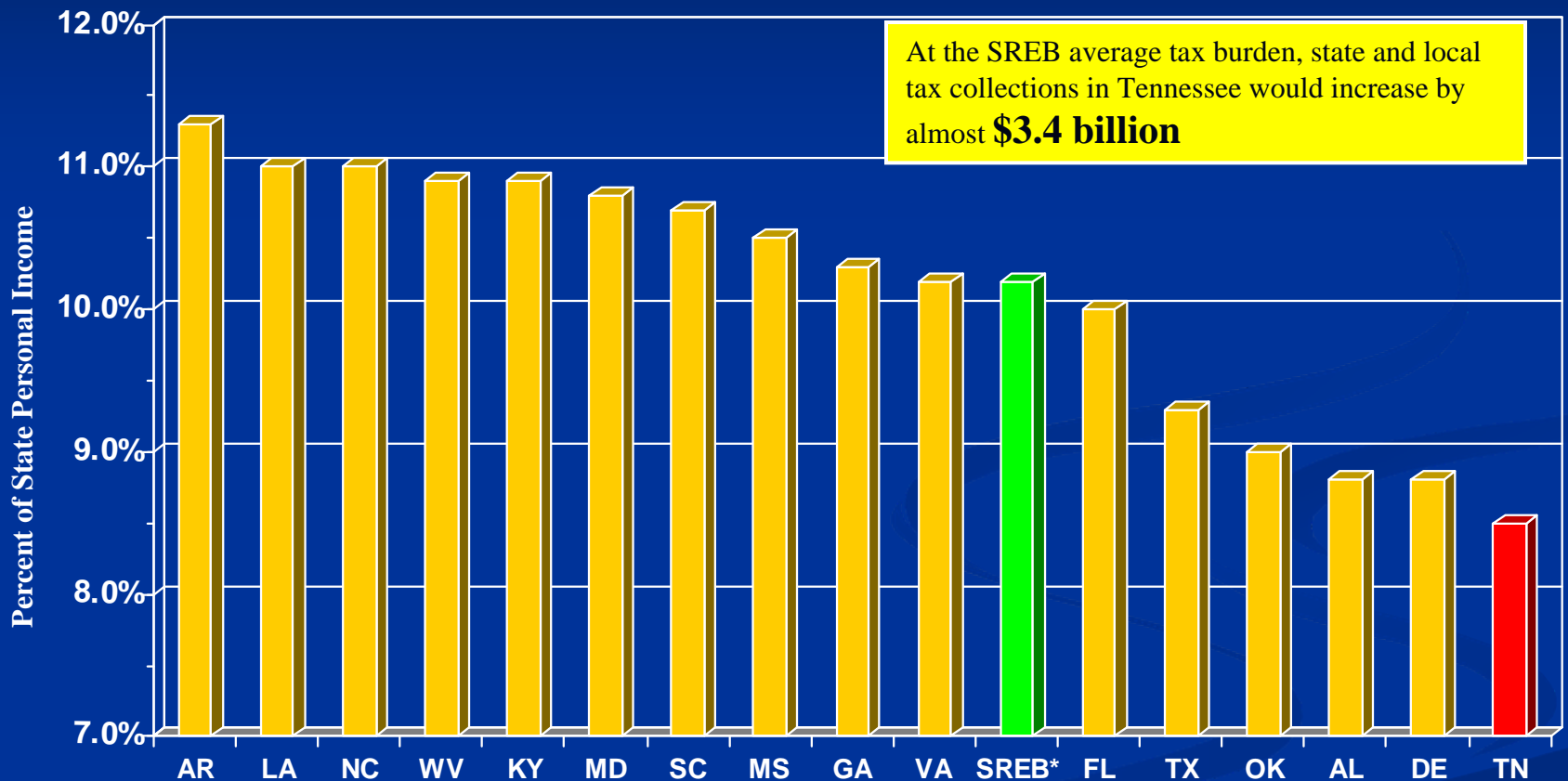
- Common logic leads us to know that the impact of making school harder means more schools will not make measured progress, INITIALLY.
- Media will serve a vital role (negative or positive)
  - Will be the interpreter of the results of the changes
  - Will serve as the source individuals turn to for explanation of what is happening in schools.
- *How the media interprets the initial results from the American Diploma changes will be very important to the long-term success.*

# Differences in College Attainment (Associate and Higher) Between Young and Older Adults, 2000



Source: Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development, American Community Survey

# 2007 State and Local Tax Burden as Share of Personal Income in the SREB States



\*Average of SREB states excluding Tennessee. The SREB average including Tennessee is 10.1%



# Education Crossroads

- A book about how education affects our lives and the lives of those around us.
- The data is easily accessed and verified through online and other sources.
- Broken into 6 chapters: Future, Foundation, Prosperity, Family, Citizenship, and Public Sector.
- *If we cannot articulate and document how education matters, we cannot develop the momentum for change.*

# An Informational Tool

- We tend to earn more income and have greater economic security when we have better education.
- Children with well-educated parents benefit from parent's income and lifestyle choices.
- Society at large bears many costs associated with poor education.
- Many harmful lifestyle choices link closely to education attainment.
- *These are things we know to be true and this book provides us with all this information in a usable manner!*

6,038,803\* reasons to care

# EDUCATION CROSSROADS



**Opportunity for You, Me, and Tennessee**

Let's uncover more of what lies beneath the iceberg.  
Look beyond the obvious.

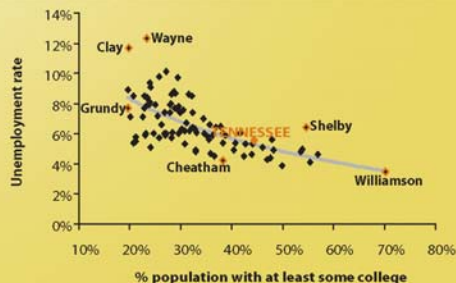
More education also supports lower rates of unemployment within Tennessee counties.

In Tennessee, counties that have higher portions of their population that have attended at least some college have generally lower unemployment rates. Communities with poorly skilled workforces experience higher unemployment rates, which translates into more foregone income, less production on the part of businesses, and a greater burden on the community at large.

Like the other relationships considered here, this trend is consistent regardless of the measure of educational attainment used.

**Dare to uncover what's beneath the iceberg...**

**Unemployment Rates Are Lower in Counties that Have More Residents Who've Taken Some College Courses**



Source: CBER UT and Bureau of Labor Statistics

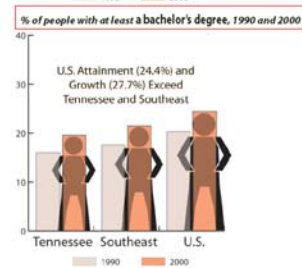
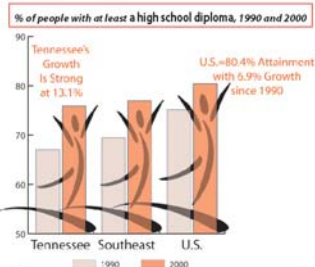
**FOUNDATION**

*educational attainment: state-level*

**The Foot Race**

You might as well call it a foot race, so put on your best sneakers. If we look only at ourselves, we can see that things are improving. Education spending has increased, pre-k programs serve more students each year, more and more teenagers are graduating from high school, more and more students are attending and graduating from college. But guess what? The same is true for other states across the country. And countries around the world are investing more and more in education to better enable their competition in the global marketplace. Tennessee has gained some ground in this foot race—notably high school graduates—but by many measures, our relative standing has not changed.

- \* In 1990, only 67.1% of Tennesseans had at least a high school diploma. By 2000, that number had grown to 75.9%. This represents a growth rate of 13.1% over 10 years.
- \* In both 1990 and 2000, Tennessee lagged the Southeast and the U.S. as a whole in the state of adults with a high school diploma. However, Tennessee had a higher rate of growth than both the Southeastern states and the nation between 1990 and 2000. The U.S. growth rate was only 6.9% compared to 13.1% for Tennessee. Since we start from a lower baseline, we need stronger growth to allow us to catch up to others.
- \* Tennessee has narrowed the gap with respect to both the Southeast and the nation as a whole.



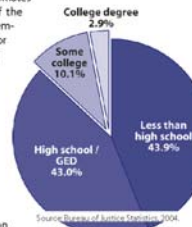
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Public Use Microdata 1% Sample

**PUBLIC SERVICES**

*the justice system*

**U.S. inmates are relatively less educated than the overall population**

Educational attainment of U.S. inmates is low in comparison to the rest of the population. The pie graph here demonstrates the education levels for inmates across the U.S. in 2002 (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2004).

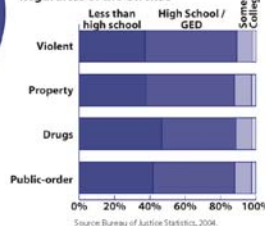


- 12.3% of inmates in the U.S. had less than an eighth grade education.
- Nearly 44.0% of inmates had less than a high school education, compared to only 14.8% and 24.1% of U.S. and Tennessee populations 25 years and older.
- While 35.0% of the U.S. population and 24.3% of Tennesseans had a college degree, less than 3.0% of U.S. inmates had a college degree.

We can delve deeper into educational attainment of inmates by looking at attainment levels based on the crime the inmate committed. Offenses are broken into four main categories: violent, property, drug, and public-order crimes. It is evident that

individuals with at least some college education commit fewer offenses across all types. Of those inmates with a drug offense, 46.6% had less than a high school education, 42.2% had a high school diploma or GED, 8.9% had some college education, and 2.3% had a college degree.

**Educational Attainment is Low, Regardless of the Offense**



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2004.

**But Correctional Education Reduces Likelihood of Repeat Offenses**

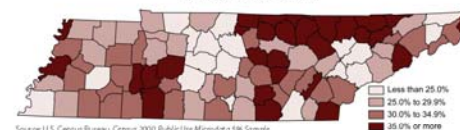
Recidivism is common among offenders of all crimes. More than two-thirds of released inmates were rearrested within 3 years of their leaving jail (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2002). However, rates of rearrest, conviction, and reincarceration are all lower for those inmates who participated in correctional education (National Institute for Literacy, 2007).

- Non-participants of correctional education were rearrested at a rate of 57.0% compared to 48.0% for those that did participate.
- Those who were involved in correctional education were *reconvicted* at a rate of 27.0% while non-participants were reconvicted at a rate of 35.0%.
- *Reincarceration* rates for non-participants were 10.0% higher than for those that took part in correctional education.

**FOUNDATION**

*educational attainment: county-level*

**% of individuals living in the county with less than a high school education, 2000**  
Tennessee average = 24.1%



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Public Use Microdata 1% Sample

**% of individuals aged 25 and older living in the county with a bachelor's degree or higher, 2000**  
Tennessee average = 19.6%



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Public Use Microdata 1% Sample

**Education is Rewarded by the Labor Market**

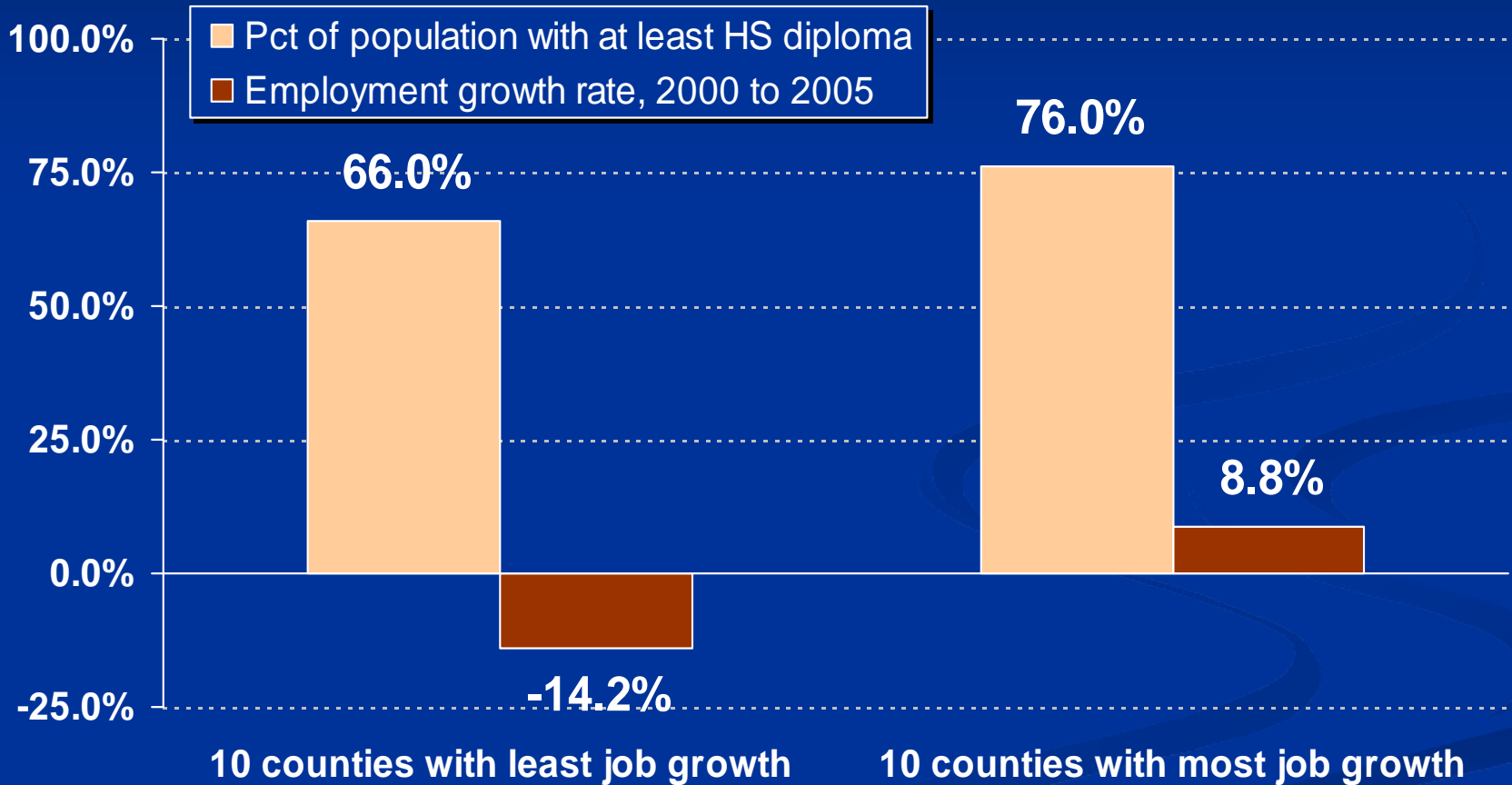
Levels of education are closely linked to participation in the labor market and individual earnings in the marketplace.

- ▶ As educational attainment increases, so does the propensity to work. Nearly 58% of Tennessee residents over the age of 25 who did not graduate from high school did not have earned income in 1999.
  - ▶ Only 17.7% of Tennessee residents with a bachelor degree had no earned income.
  - ▶ There is a clear positive relationship between educational attainment and earnings.
  - ▶ add thec
- See pages XX-XX of this report for more details.

In this race, we don't want to lose our teammates. But we do. What difference does it make?...

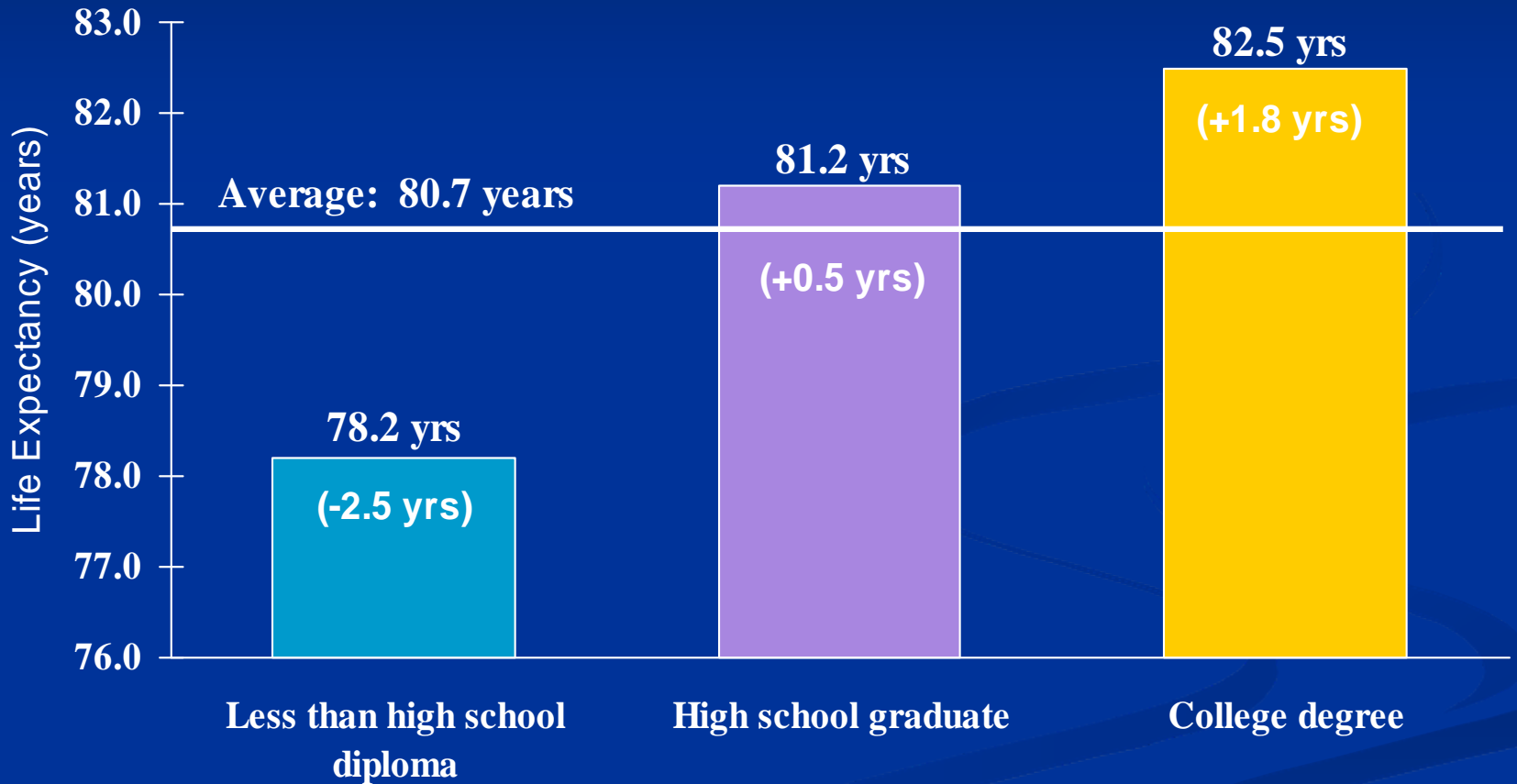


# A Better Educated Workforce Means Greater Regional Prosperity

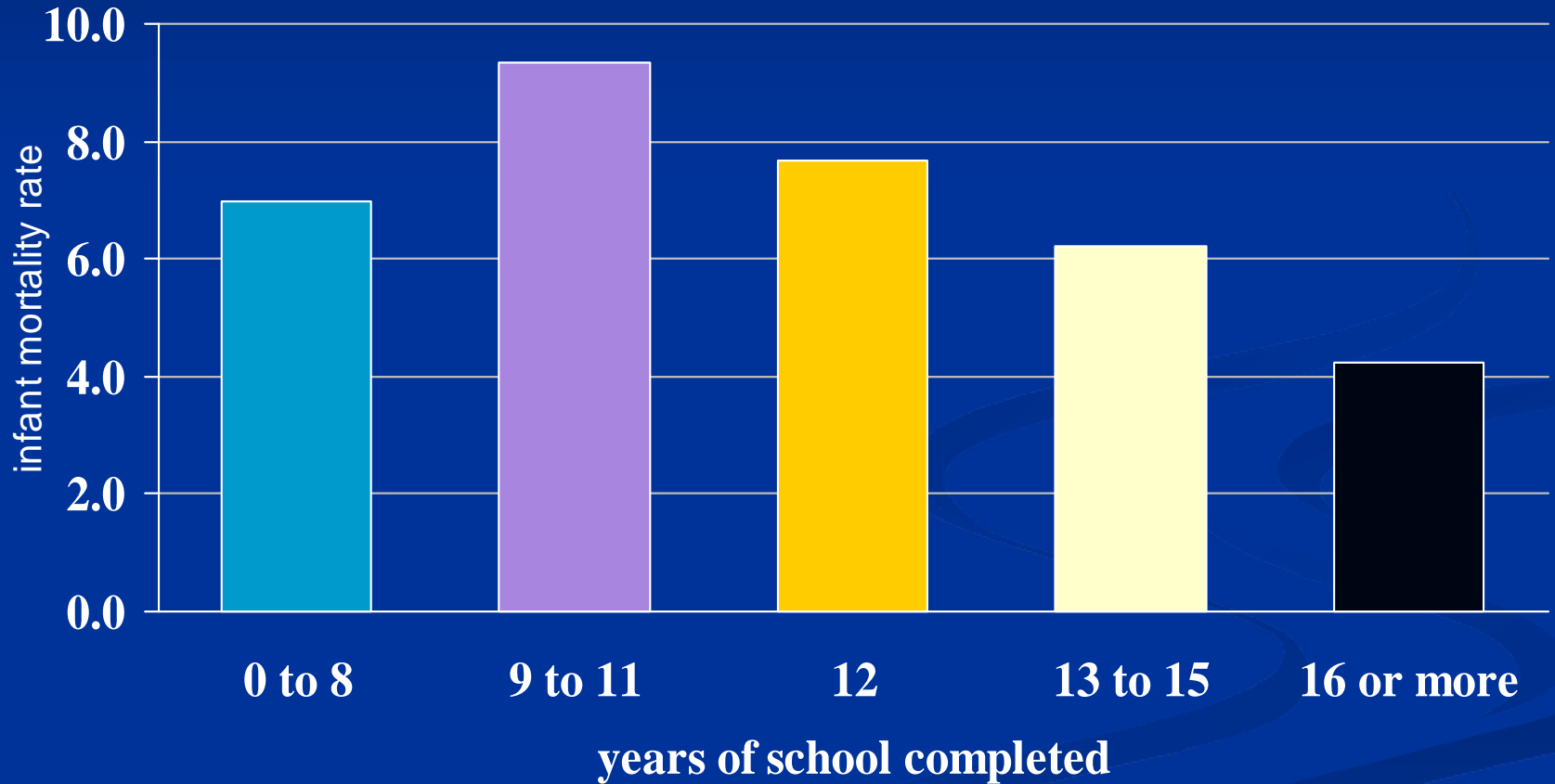


Source: CBER and TN Dept. of Labor & Workforce Development.

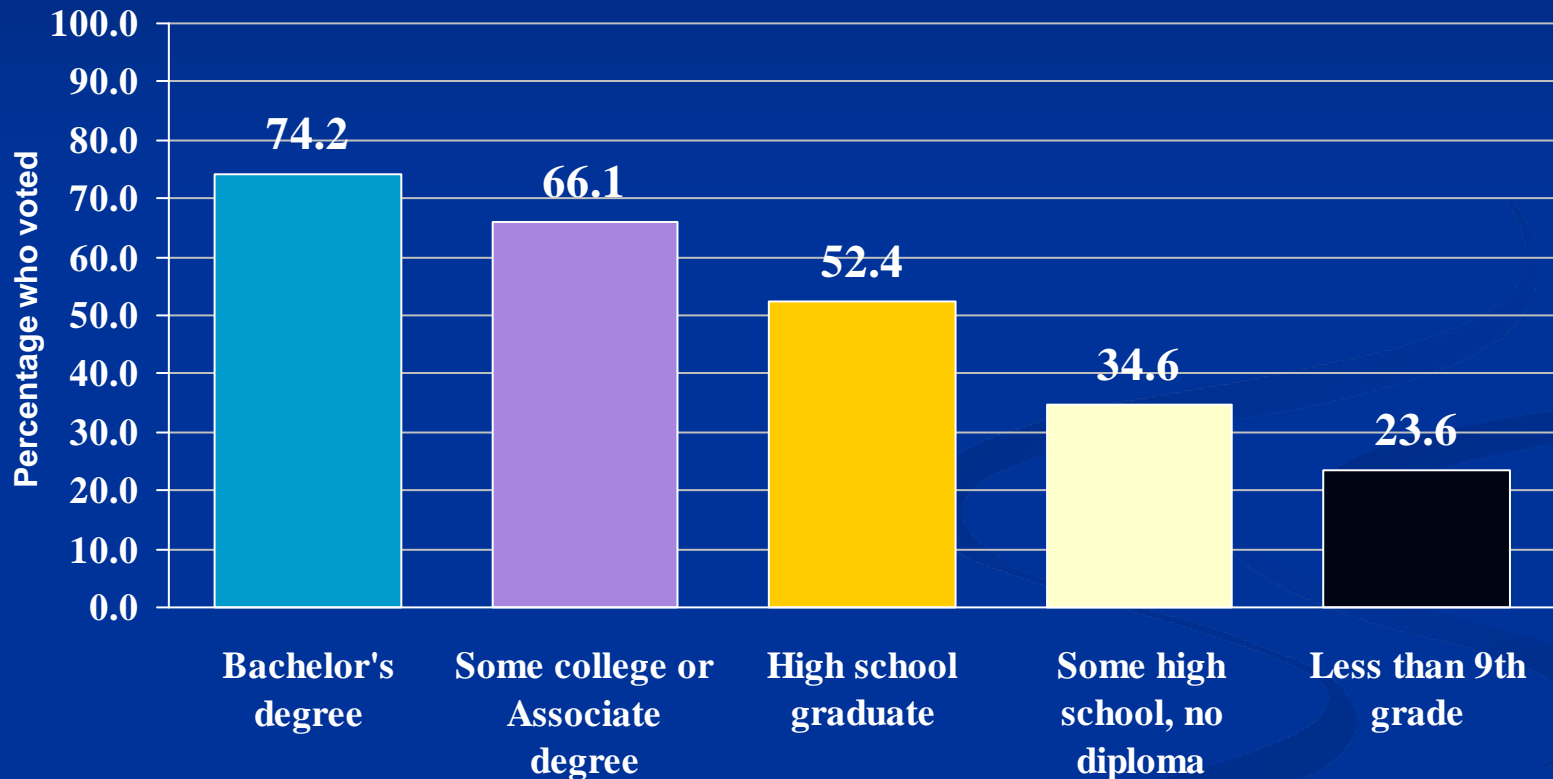
# A Person Without a High School Diploma has a Shorter Life Expectancy



# Infant Mortality Rate by Maternal Educational Attainment



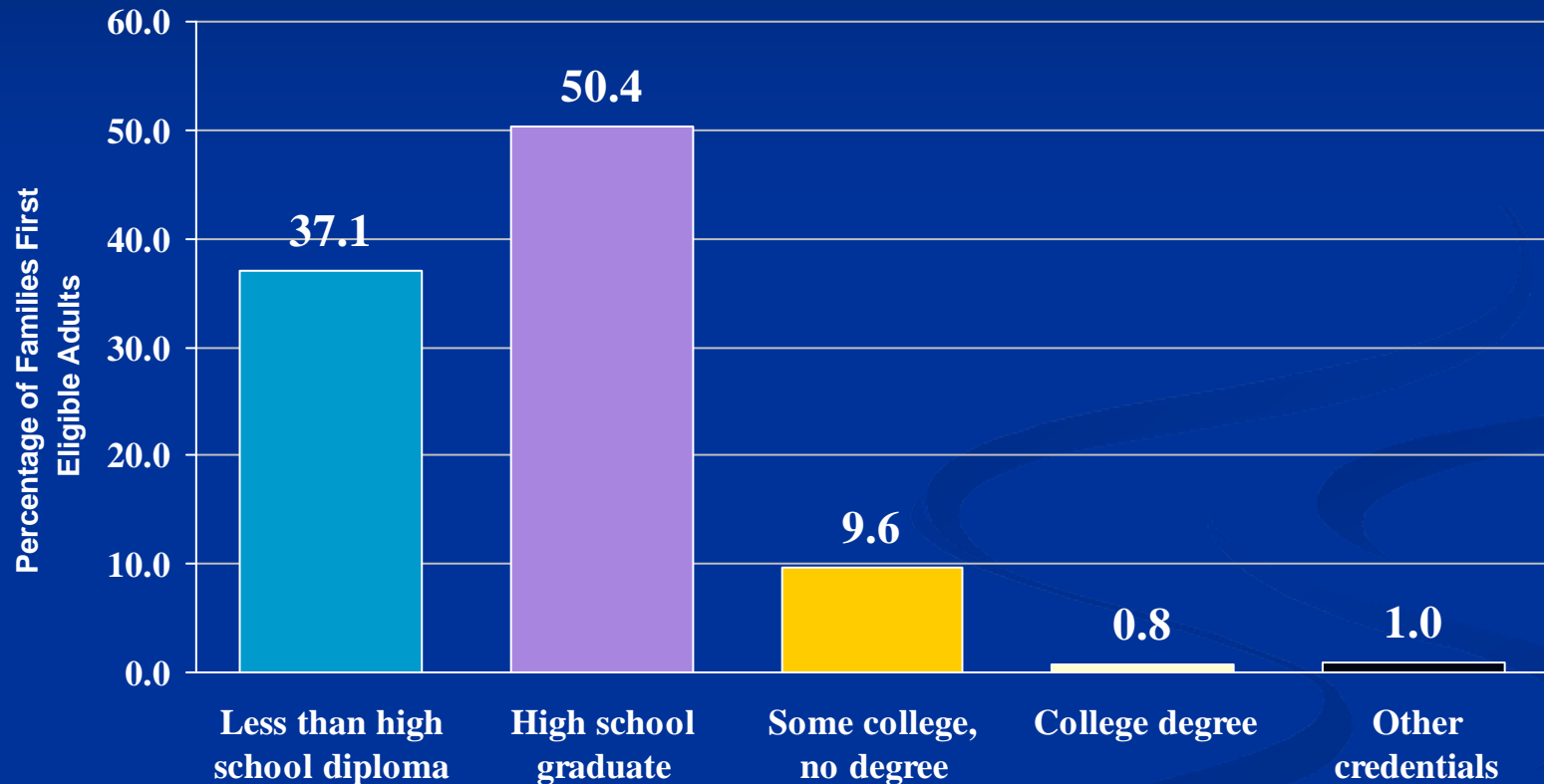
# Voting Rates for Persons Aged 18 Years & Older by Educational Attainment in 2004: U.S.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau.



# Highest Grade of School Completed by a Families First Eligible Adult



Source: Center for Business & Economic Research, University of Tennessee, Families First 2005 Case Characteristics Study.

# The Path Forward

Empower people and organizations with *information*, not just numbers

- Teachers, educators, guidance counselors
- Parents and family
- Elected/appointed govt officials
- Business community
- Society at large

Book and its distribution to stakeholders; media

Active, living website: [www.educationcrossroads.com](http://www.educationcrossroads.com)

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