

A Closer Look Recent Oregon Rankings from EdWeek and USEd

February 2015

With low school funding and stagnant achievement, Oregon ranks No. 41 in education, group says

545
comments

Oregon posts nation's worst graduation rate for class of 2013

1567
comments

Education Week

Betsy Hammond on EdWeek

Oregon ranks No. 41 in the nation when it comes to educating its children and youth, largely because it **draws so lightly on its tax base** to fund schools and its students' math and reading **skills have barely improved** over the past decade, the national news outlet Education Week reported Wednesday.

Oregon also ranks low because **so few preschoolers and kindergartners attend full-day programs** and because the reading and math **skills of low-income students have fallen so dramatically behind** those of their better-off peers, it said.

http://www.oregonlive.com/education/index.ssf/2015/01/with_low_school_funding_and_st.html

EdWeek's Key Issues

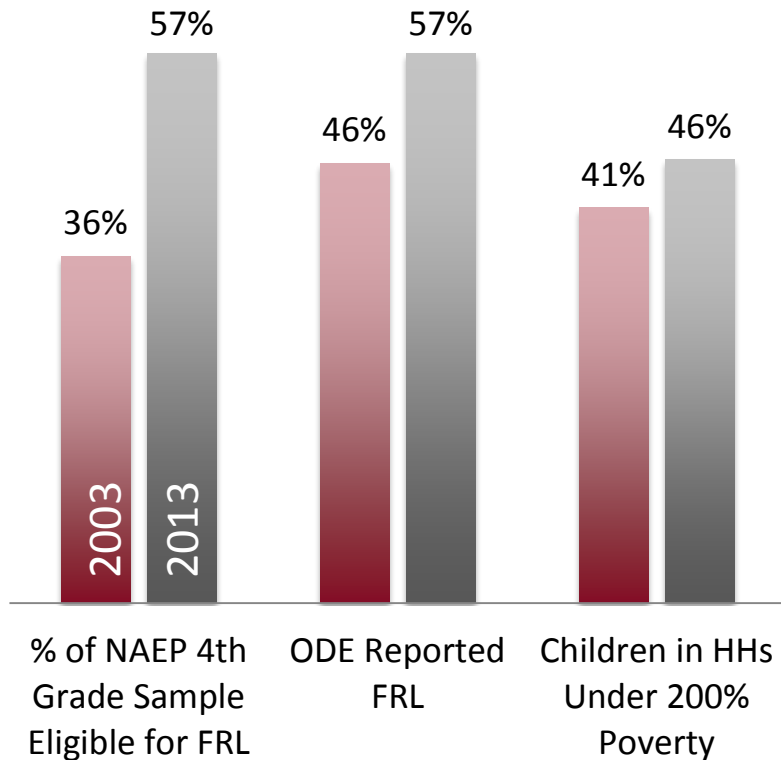
1. Stagnant skill growth and growing achievement gap since 2003 (related for technical reasons)
2. Low K12 spending/draws lightly on tax base
3. Few pre-schoolers/kindergartners attend full day

Issue #1: Stagnant Growth/Growing Gaps

	OR Avg.	OR Rank
Achievement Gains		
4th grade math – Scale-score change on NAEP (2003-2013)	+3.8	45
8th grade math – Scale-score change on NAEP (2003-2013)	+2.6	45
4th grade reading – Scale-score change on NAEP (2003-2013)	+1.5	38
8th grade reading – Scale-score change on NAEP (2003-2013)	+4.3	20
Poverty Gap (National School Lunch Program, noneligible minus eligible)		
Reading gap – 4th grade NAEP scale score (2013)	29.3	38
Math gap – 8th grade NAEP scale score (2013)	27.7	36
Reading-gap change – 4th grade NAEP (2003-2013), negative value = closing gap	+10.9	50
Math-gap change – 8th grade NAEP (2003-2013), negative value = closing gap	+7.9	50
Achieving Excellence		
Math excellence – Percent advanced on 8th grade NAEP (2013)	8.1%	22
Change in math excellence – Percent advanced on NAEP (2003-2013)	+1.5%	48

Oregon is close to bottom on several 2003-2013 “change” variables

Issue #1: Stagnant Growth/Growing Gaps



The share of NAEP’s 4th grade test takers eligible for free/reduced lunch increased by 21 percentage points during 2003-2013—tied with WV as the largest increase in U.S. That’s inconsistent with ODE and US Census data for the same period.

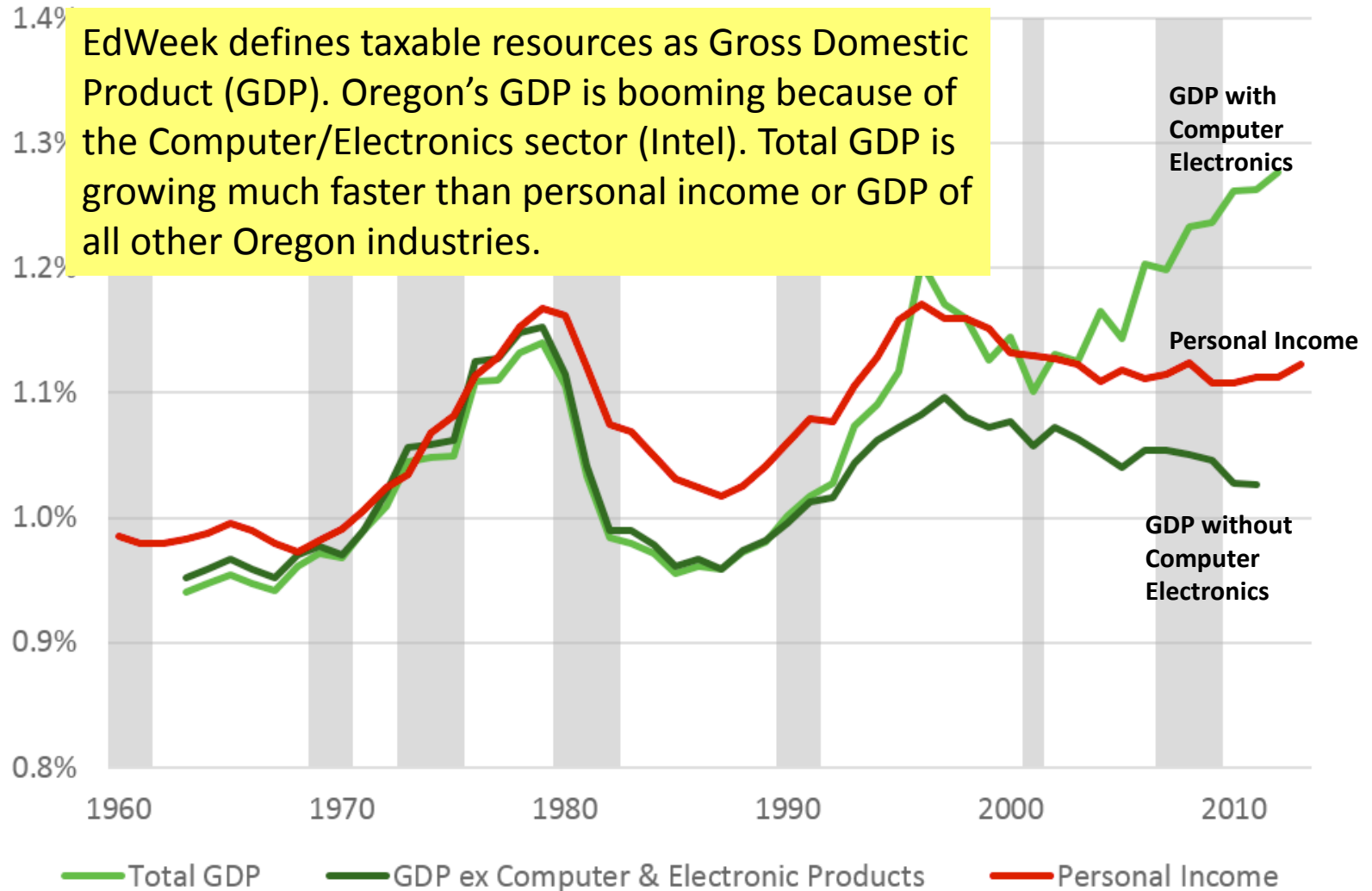
It appears NAEP drew an unrepresentative Oregon sample in 2003—more so than other states. That muddies any analysis that links back to 2003.

Issue #2: Low K12 spending/draws lightly on tax base

	OR Avg.	OR Rank
Spending (2012)		
Adjusted per-pupil expenditures (PPE) – Analysis accounts for regional cost differences	\$10,415	33
Students funded at or above national average – Percent of students in districts with PPE at or above U.S. average	10.3%	38
Spending Index – Per-pupil spending levels weighted by the degree to which districts meet or approach the national average for expenditures	86.1	35
Spending on education – State expenditures on K-12 schooling as a percent of state taxable resources	2.6%	46

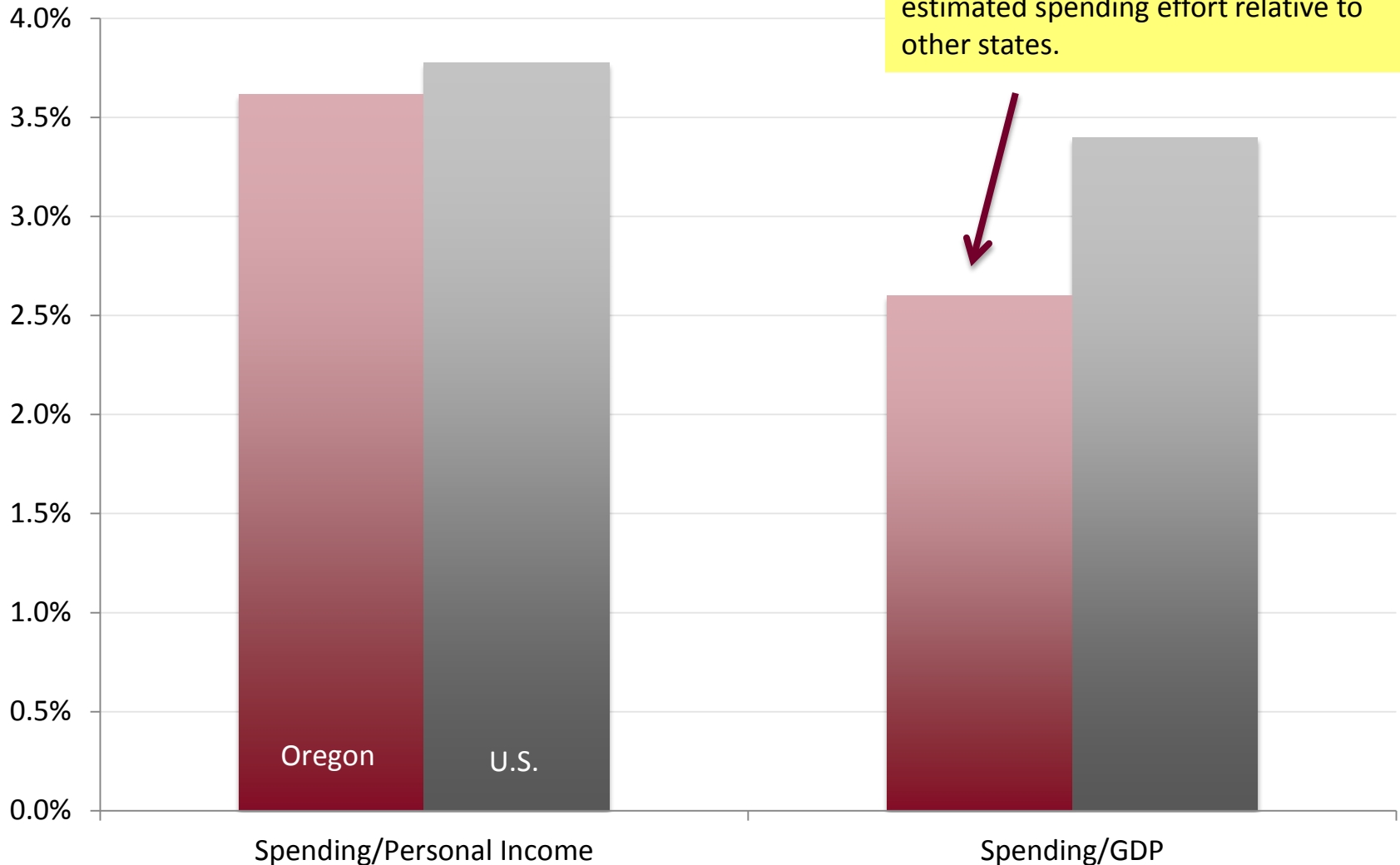
Issue #2: Low K12 spending/draws lightly on tax base

Oregon's Share of U.S.



Issue #2: Low K12 spending/draws lightly on tax base

EdWeek's use of GDP as a base, rather than personal income, pulls down our estimated spending effort relative to other states.



Issue# 3: Few preschoolers/kindergarteners attend full-day

Preschool

Preschool enrollment

Three- and 4-year-olds enrolled in preschool (2013)

40.5% 40

Preschool enrollment gains

Change in percent of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled (2008-2013)

-0.2 25

Preschool poverty gap

Enrollment rate for non-poor children minus poor children (2013)

17.6 39

Preschool poverty-gap change

Change in enrollment gap (2008-2013), negative value = closing gap

+1.9 34

Full-day preschool

Students attending full-day programs (2013)

29.8 48

Head Start enrollment

Enrollment as a percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds in poverty (2013)

49.8 8

Kindergarten

Kindergarten enrollment

Eligible children enrolled in kindergarten programs (2013)

75.7 33

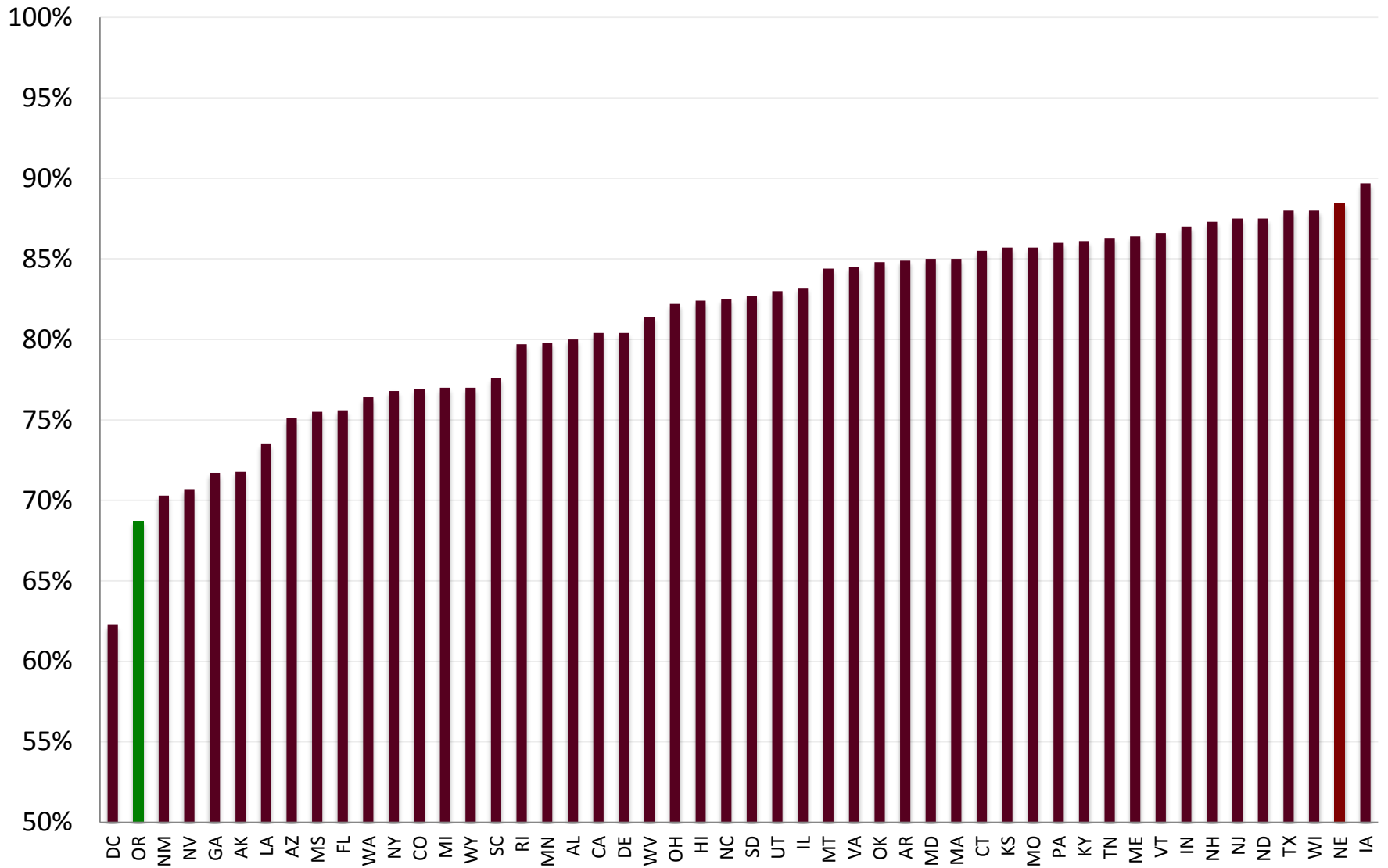
Full-day kindergarten

Students attending full-day programs (2013)

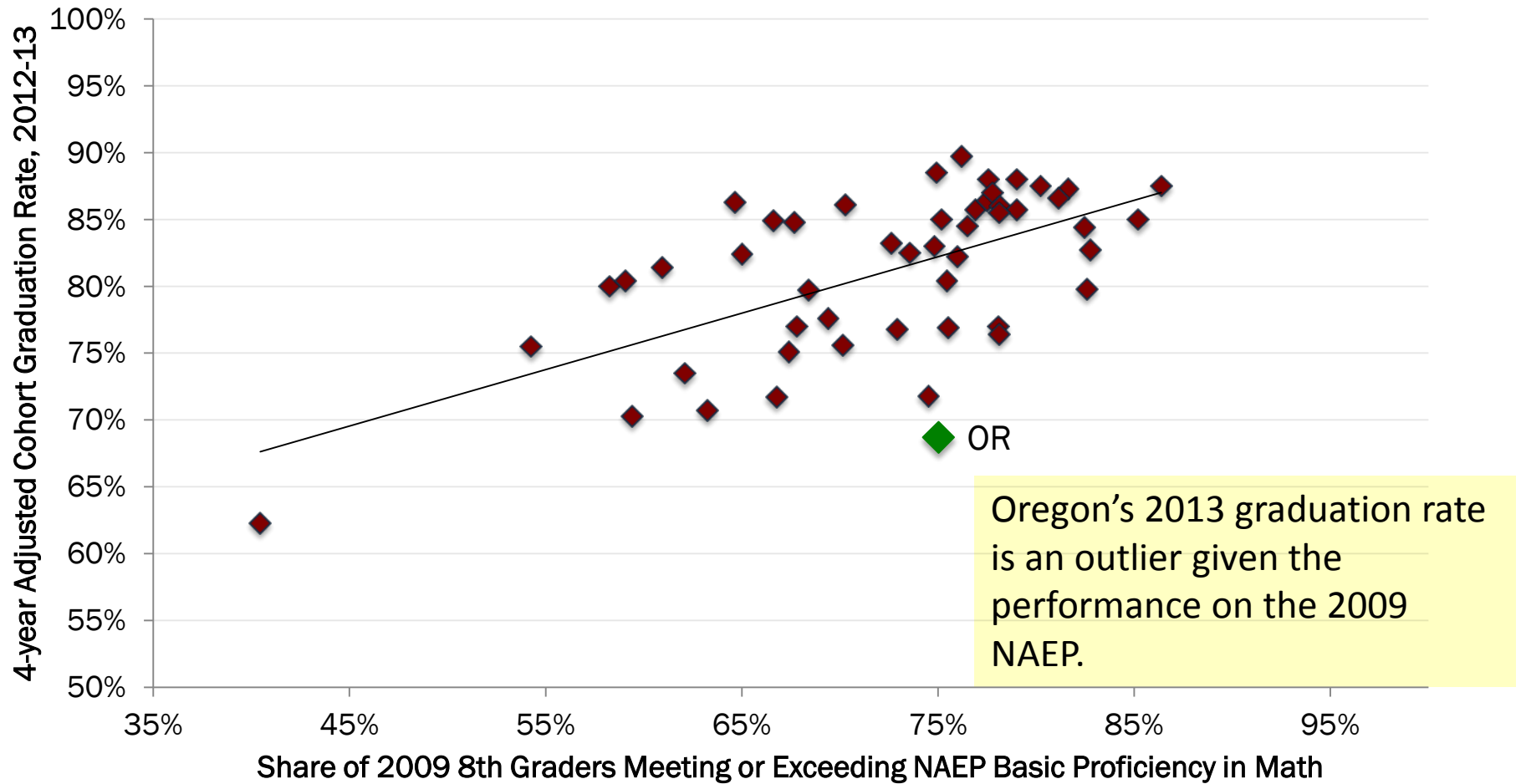
60.6 46

USEd High School Graduation Report for 2013

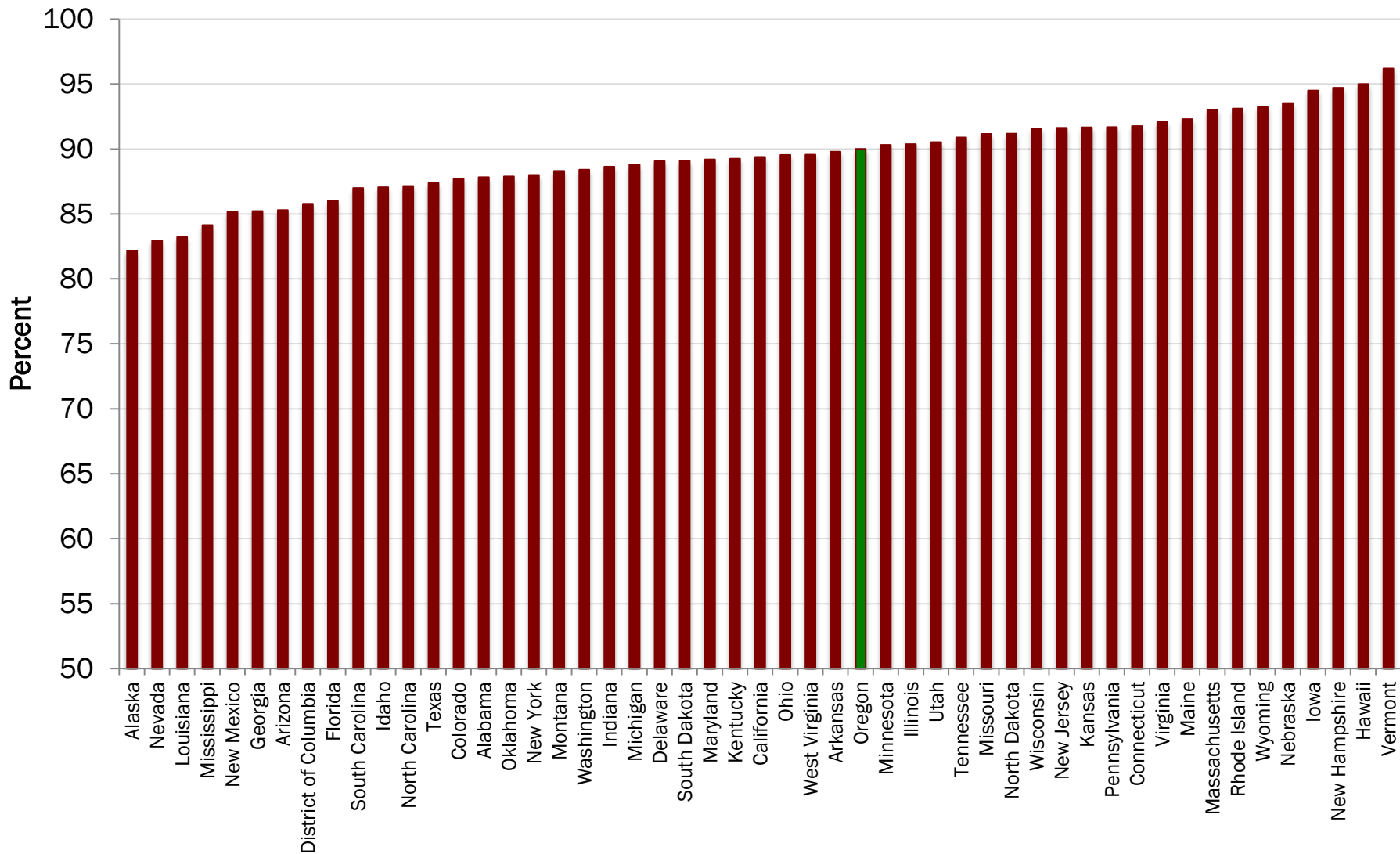
Regulatory Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate, All Students: 2012-13



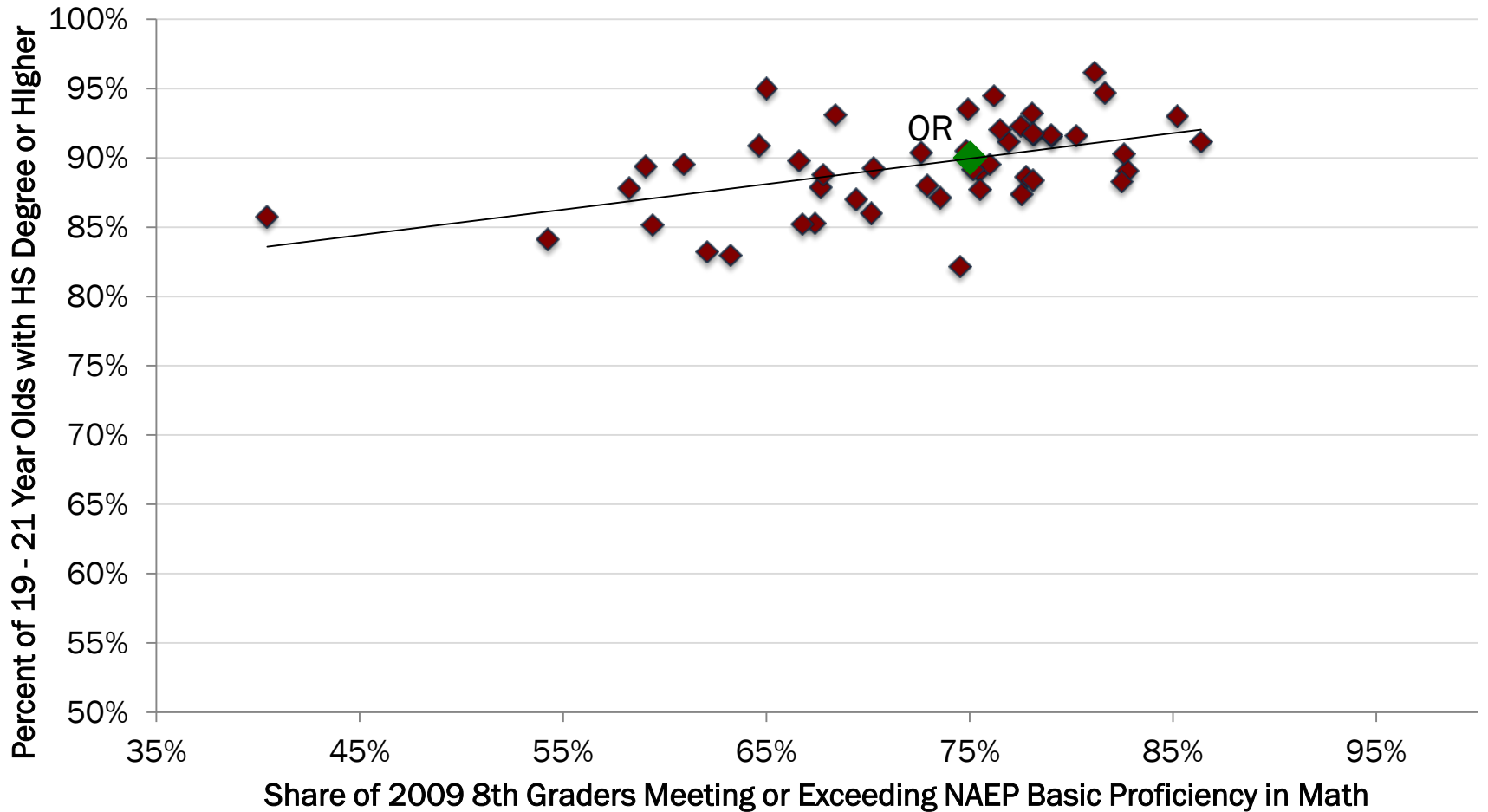
Share of 2009 8th Graders Math Proficient v. 2013 4-Year Graduation Rates, By State



Percent of Population Aged 19 - 21 with High School Degree or Higher, 2013



Share of 2009 8th Graders Math Proficient v. 2013 Percent of Population Aged 19 - 21 with High School Degree or Higher, By State



Policy Options

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- Identify a central responder/reviewer of P20 education statistics
- Coordinate with USEd/NAEP and discourage the use of older, less reliable samples
- Provide technical assistance and/or fiscal incentives to districts to strengthen accuracy of cohort graduation rate data
- Follow Tennessee's example and underscore the importance of the NAEP to the state's reputation.