

# 2026 Annual State Advisory Council on Indian Education Report to the North Carolina State Board of Education



*Dr. Stacey Wilson-Norman, Chief Academic Officer*

*Dr. Leslie Locklear, Director, Office of Indian Education*

*Stephen Bell, Chair of State Advisory Council on Indian Education*

*Korbyn Walton, NC State University*

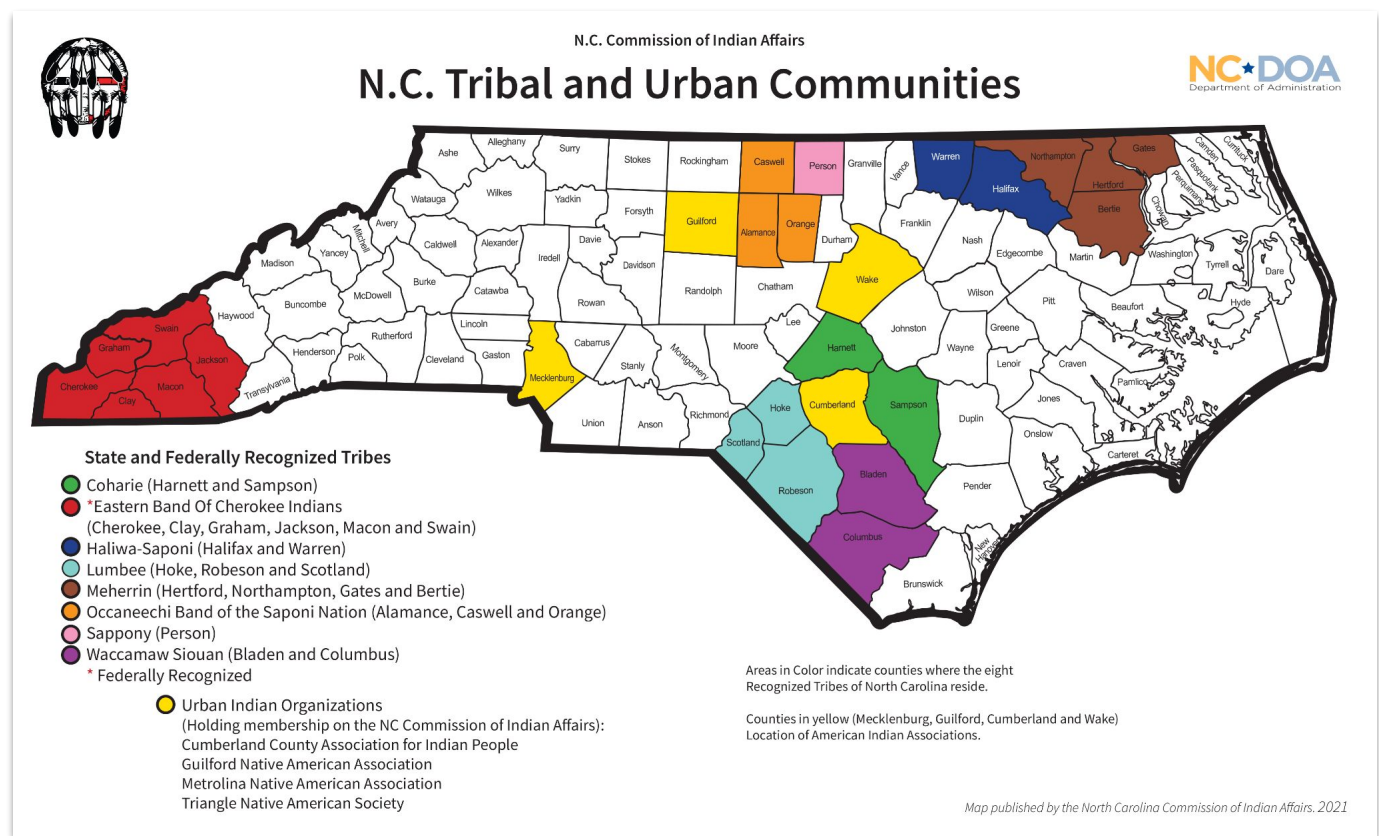
*April 2026*

# Land Acknowledgement

The state of North Carolina is situated on the ancestral homelands of many American Indian tribes who have lived in this place, cared for these lands, and traveled throughout the region for thousands of years. Tribes spoke different variants of Algonquian, Iroquoian, and Siouan languages.

**We honor them as the first stewards of this place and acknowledge, with sorrow and remorse, the violent history of their dispossession and forced removal.**

We respectfully acknowledge the Coharie, Eastern Band of Cherokee, Haliwa-Saponi, Lumbee, Meherrin, Occaneechi Band of the Saponi, Sappony, and Waccamaw Siouan and honor the enduring presence, vibrance, and diversity of contemporary Indigenous communities.



# Desired Outcomes

## Champion the Establishment of a Formal Tribal Consultation Protocol

We seek the Board's influential voice to advocate for a structured framework that integrates tribal community expertise and student data into statewide decision-making.

## Advocate for High-Quality, Disaggregated Data Systems

Support the enhancement of statewide data systems to accurately identify and monitor American Indian students across all Public School Units.

## Promote a Holistic Vision of Student Excellence

We encourage the Board to model an educational perspective that recognizes students find meaning and purpose through their connections to community, culture, and the natural world, ensuring American Indian students graduate as well-prepared, culturally grounded lifelong learners.

## Validate the Strategic Value of the Office of Indian Education

We seek the Board's public endorsement of the reinstated Office of Indian Education as the essential bridge between state leadership and tribal communities.

*“American Indian cultures are still here and thriving.”*



**Bo Brooks**

# ACHIEVING EDUCATIONAL **EXCELLENCE**



## PILLAR 5

Optimize  
Operational  
Excellence



## PILLAR 6

Lead  
Transformative  
Change

*“Being American Indian means honoring my ancestors and making sure their voices continue to be heard.”*



**Kay'Leigh Jacobs**

*“Being American Indian is a living responsibility, carrying my people with pride and honoring the resilience of my ancestors.”*



**Malia Graham**

# Beyond The Numbers

Telling the Story of the Whole Child in Indian Education

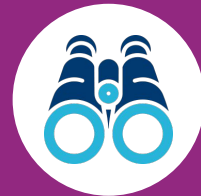
# SACIE

## State Advisory Council on Indian Education



### Mission

The mission of the **State Advisory Council on Indian Education** is to create a system that engages state policy leaders, public school personnel, parents, tribal leaders, and communities in providing educational experiences and cultural opportunities that promote high expectations and accountability for the academic achievement of American Indian students, thus preparing students for success in a globally competitive environment.



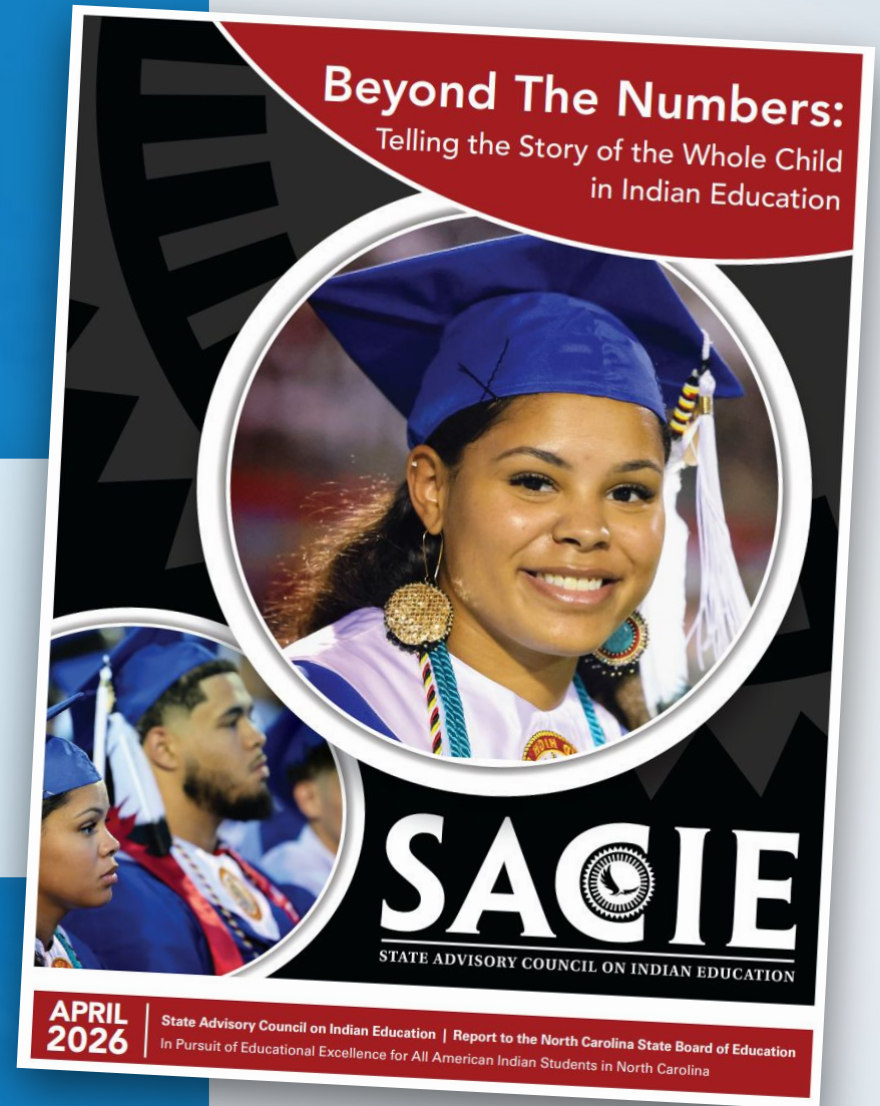
### Vision

**Every American Indian student in North Carolina will graduate** from academically rigorous and culturally relevant high schools as well-prepared lifelong learners, globally competitive for work and postsecondary education.

# SACIE 2026 Report



**Beyond the Numbers**  
Telling the Story of the Whole  
Child in Indian Education





# Student Presentation **Korbyn Walton**



**2025 Graduate**  
**Public Schools**  
**of Robeson**  
**County**



**Class of 2029**  
**NC State**  
**University**  
*Goodnight Scholar*



**Major**  
**Biological**  
**Sciences**



“*Indian Education helps us stay connected to who we are. It gives us a place in school where our culture is understood, our voices matter, and our traditions are honored.*”

*“American Indian students enjoy sharing their culture year-round, it is a unique and beautiful heritage.”*

”

# Celebrating The Good



**Chloe Brewington**

2024-2025

# American Indian/Alaskan Native Student Enrollment

# 14,769 Students

representing **41** Tribal Nations

of this number, **11,720** students were enrolled in **19** school districts that receive funding through the Title VI Indian Education Act (IEA) of 1972



*\*self-reported based only on student identification*



# 16,174

American Indian  
Students Supported  
through **Title VI programs**

## Expanding Impact 2024-2025

As part of the 2024-2025 academic year, there were **19 Title VI grants** within NC public school units and **one grant which resides with the Coharie Indian Tribe** (serving Sampson County students).

*\*Based Upon American Indian Lineage*

*“Being American Indian is a rare honor that ties me to an endangered people who lived in balance with Mother Earth.”*

**Dylan Riddick**



*“Being American Indian means living authentically and proudly while encouraging others to embrace who they are.”*

**Aiyana Reynolds**



# NC Public School AP Exam Data

## 2024–2025 Key Highlights

### Black Students

 **+7.5%**  
participation

Just Behind the Nation's 8.9% Growth

 **+33.5%**  
qualifying scores  
Outpacing the National Rate of 30.5%

### Hispanic or Latino Students

 **+9.9%**  
participation

Outpacing the Nation's 8.1% Growth

 **+26.0%**  
qualifying scores  
Exceeding the National Rate of 20.6%

### American Indian Students

 **+15.8%**  
participation

Outpacing the Nation's -8.0% Growth

 **+49.7%**  
qualifying scores  
Exceeding the National Rate of 4.5%

# Fostering Partnership

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

1

**Native North Carolina:** Exploring the Past, Present, and Future of North Carolina Tribal Communities

2

Design teaching materials and curate resources for K-12 educators to teach about North Carolina's **diverse and rich tribal life.**

3

Materials will be grounded in current events or recent history, empowering students to learn about NC's distinct Indigenous populations in ways that situate tribal life **in the present.**

**DNCR**

North Carolina Department of  
Natural & Cultural Resources



NORTH CAROLINA  
**AMERICAN INDIAN**  
HERITAGE COMMISSION



**Learning**  
HAPPENS HERE

# 2027 American Indian Education Summit

*February 2027*

Biennially, the State Advisory Council on Indian Education in collaboration with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction sponsors an American Indian Education Summit highlighting **K-12 education programs and outcomes** for native students.



***Planning is Underway***

*“Being American Indian means having a community where I feel understood and supported.”*

**Antonio Davis**



*“Our cultural identity matters and deserves to be respected in everything we do.”*

**Chloe Locklear**



# Overall State Level Findings

2024-2025



## EOG State Level Findings by Grade Level

Reading, Math, Science



## EOC State Level Findings by Gender

Math I, Biology, English I

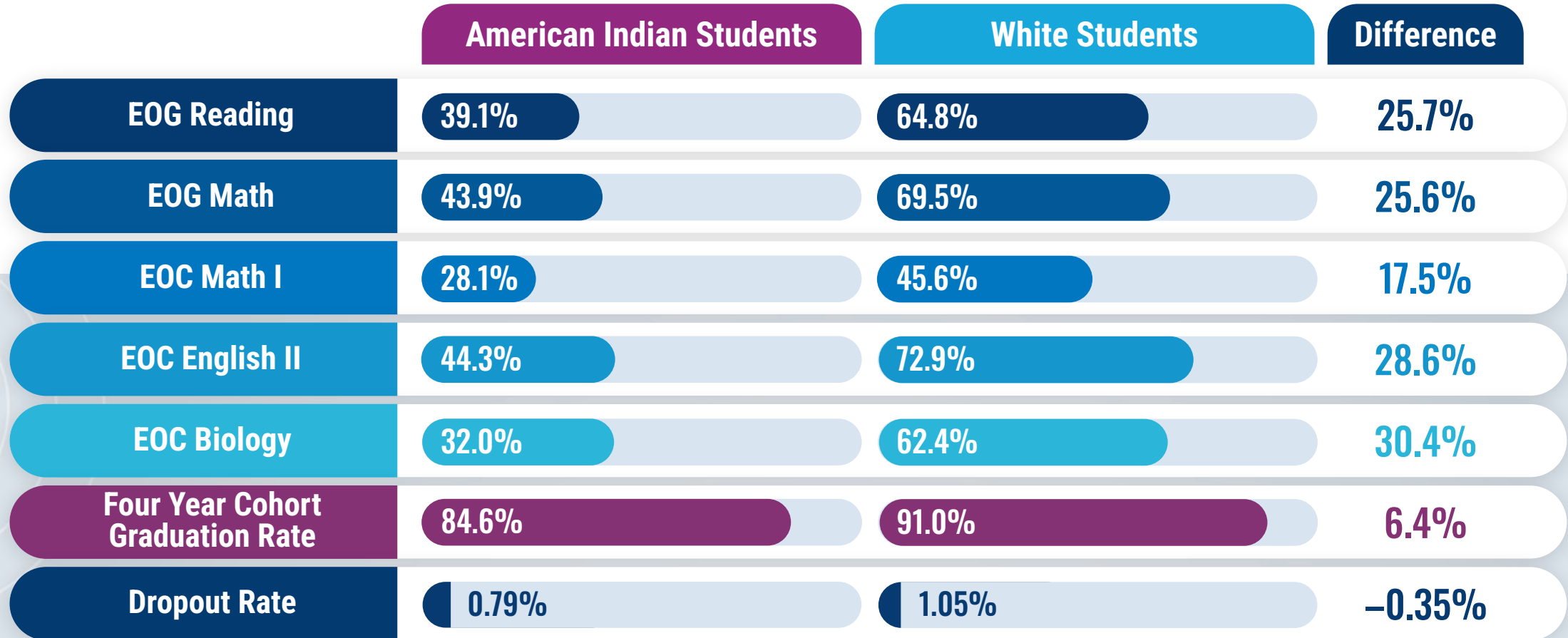


## Overall State Level Findings

Cohort Graduation Rates,  
Dropout Rates

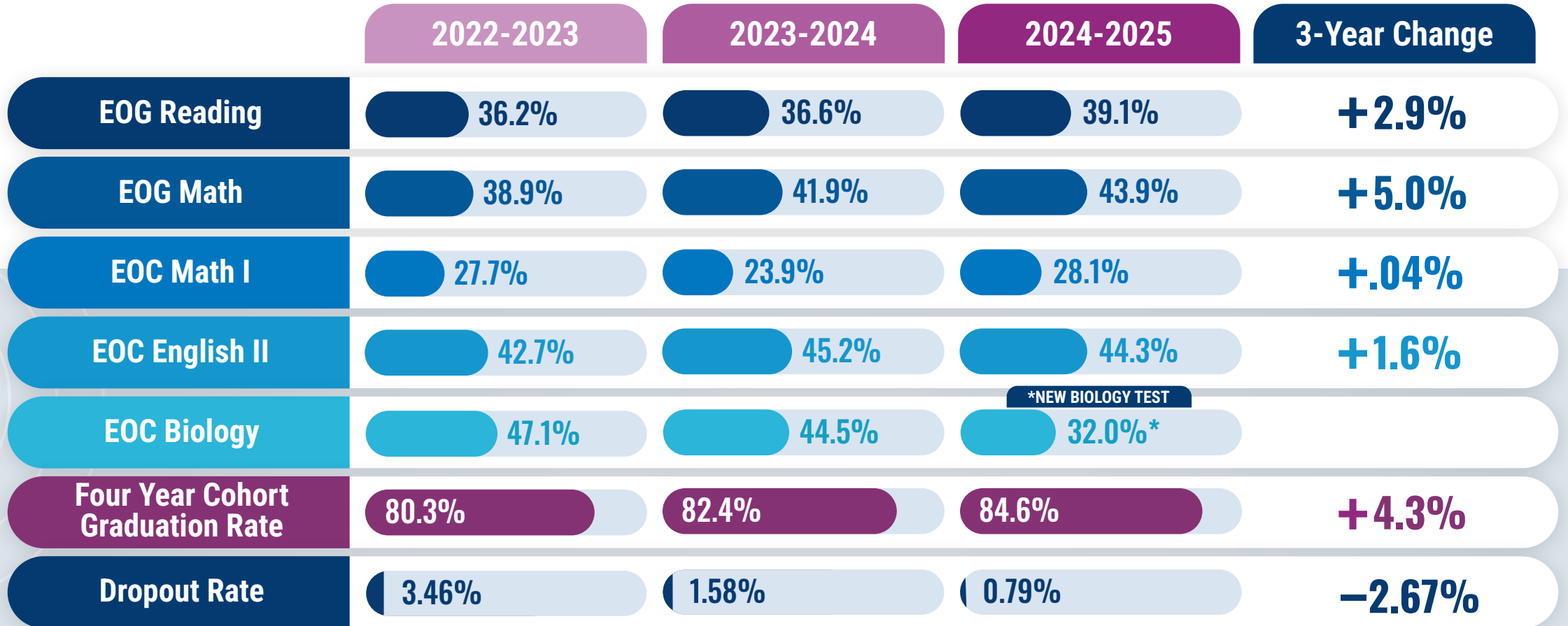
# Overall State Level Findings

## 2024-2025 Data Comparison | % At/Above Grade Level



# Overall State Level Findings

## American Indian Only | % At/Above Grade Level



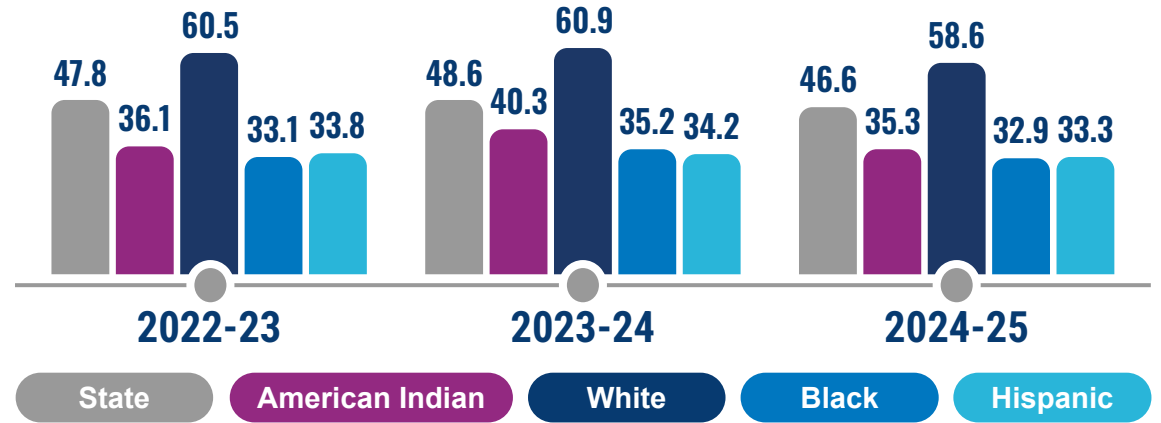
# State Level Findings

Percent At / Above Grade Level

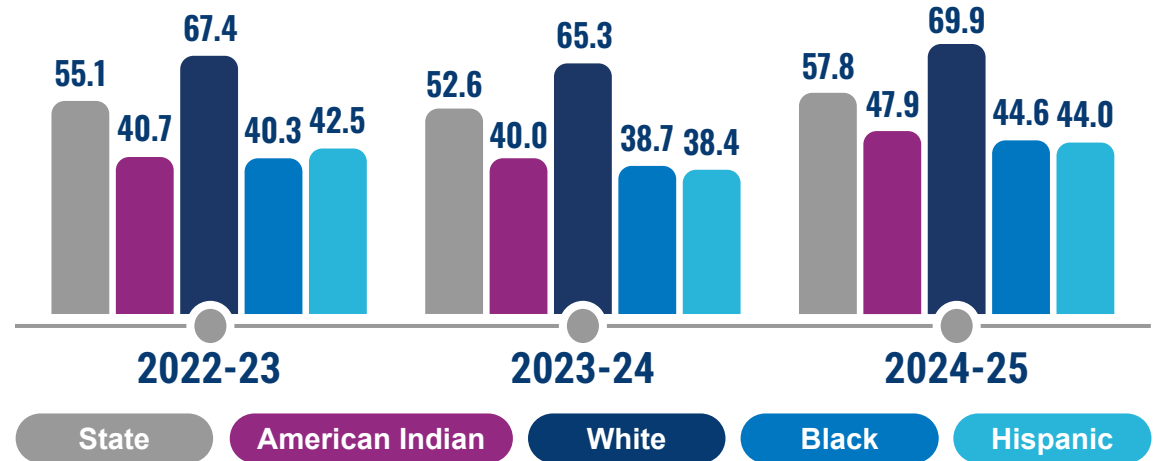


## Reading

Grade  
**3**



Grade  
**4**



# State Level Findings

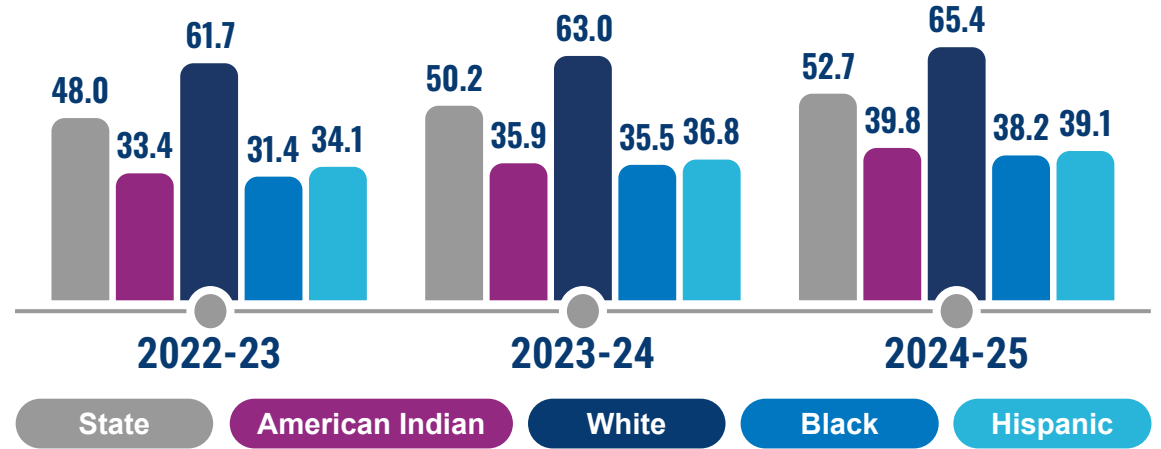
Percent At / Above Grade Level



## Reading

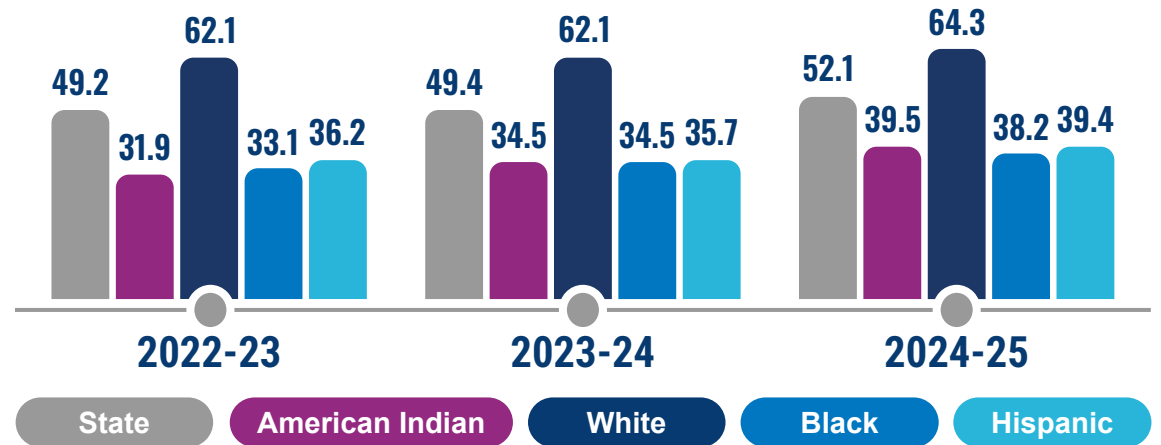
Grade

# 5



Grade

# 6



# State Level Findings

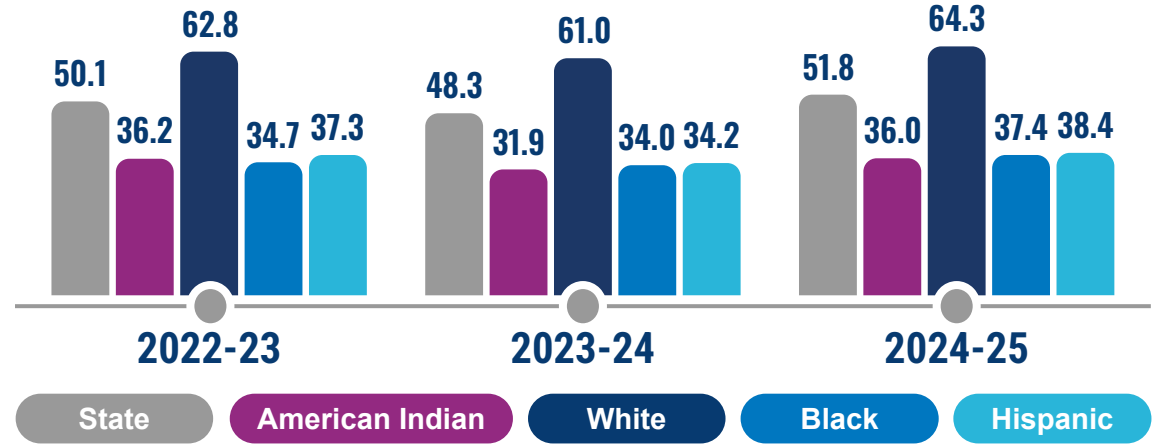
Percent At / Above Grade Level



## Reading

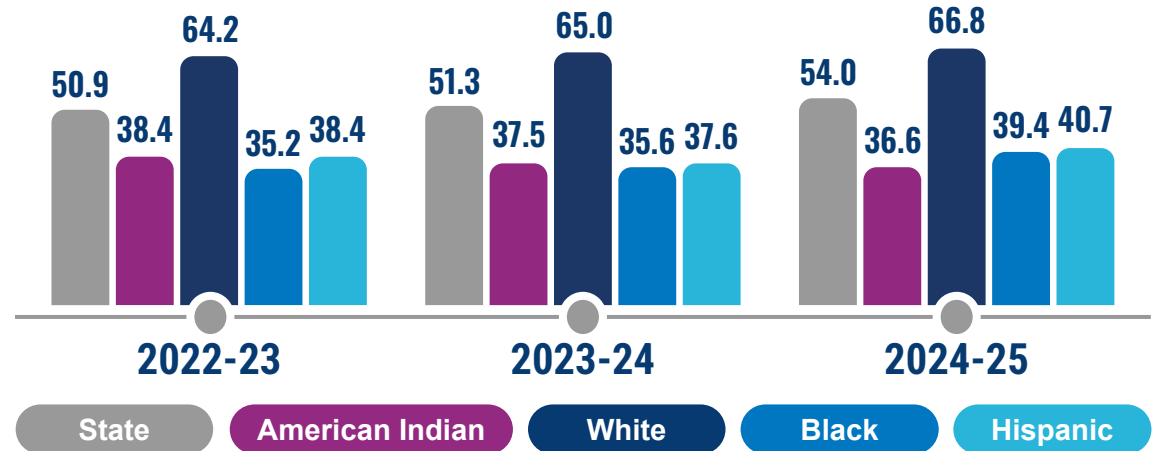
Grade

# 7



Grade

# 8



# State Level Findings

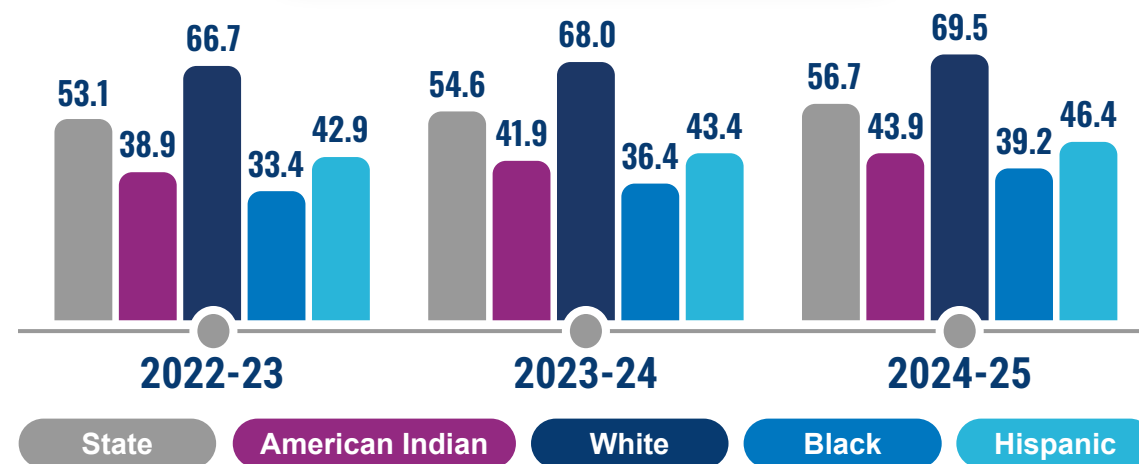
Percent At / Above Grade Level



Math

Grades  
**3-8**

Combined



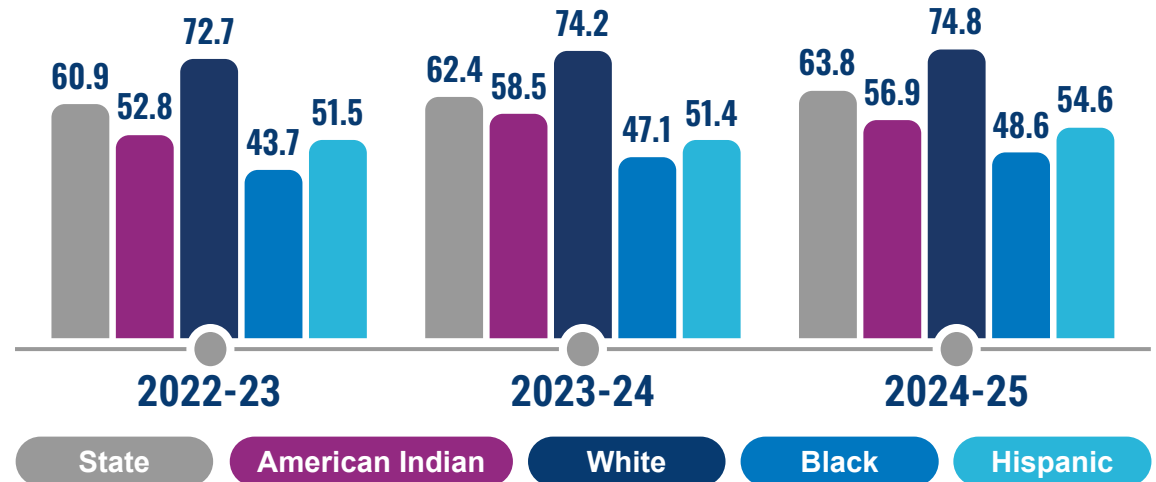
# State Level Findings

Percent At / Above Grade Level

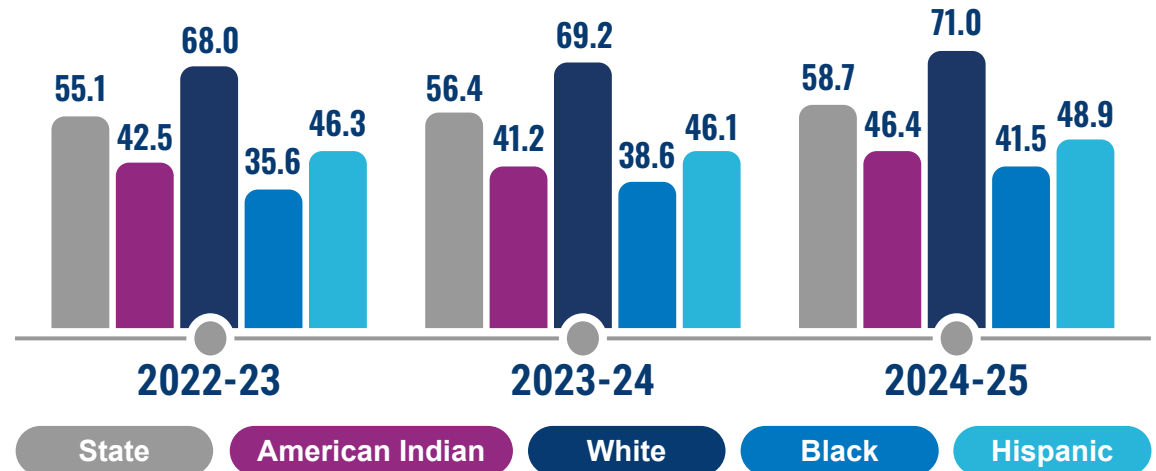


Math

Grade  
**3**



Grade  
**4**



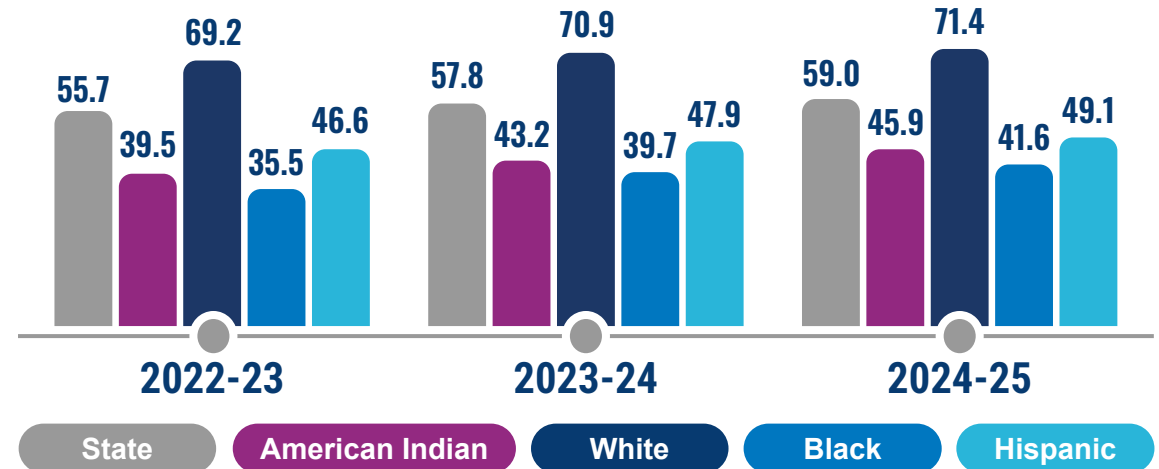
# State Level Findings

Percent At / Above Grade Level

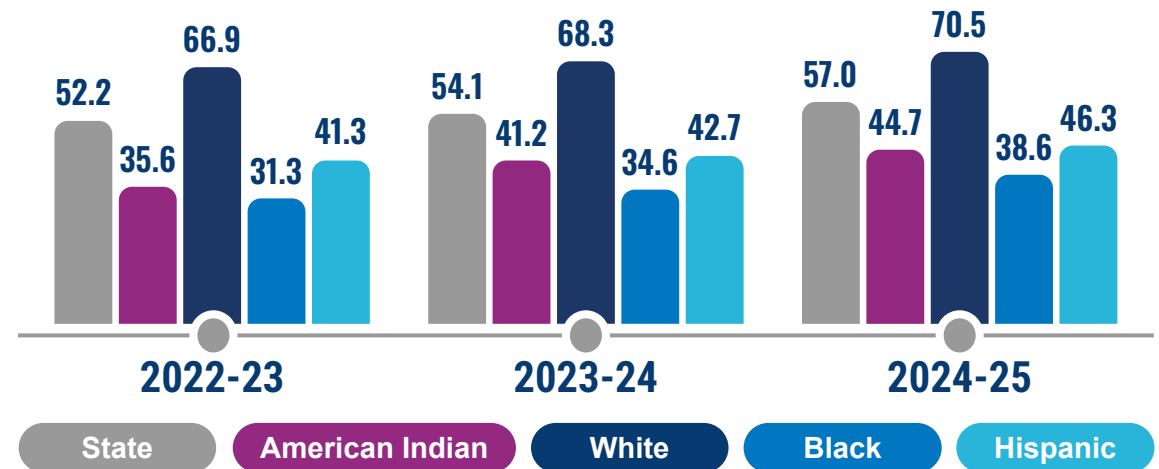


## Math

Grade  
**5**



Grade  
**6**



# State Level Findings

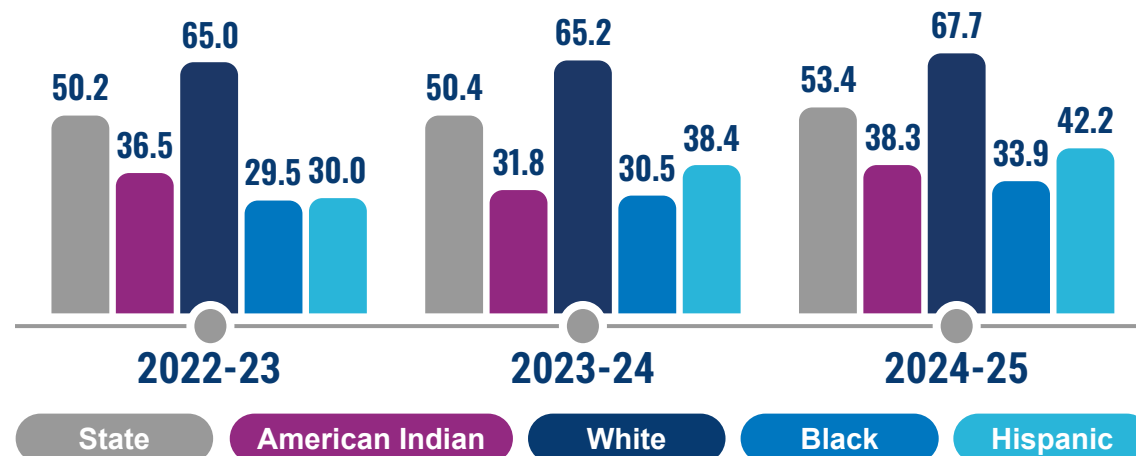
Percent At / Above Grade Level



Math

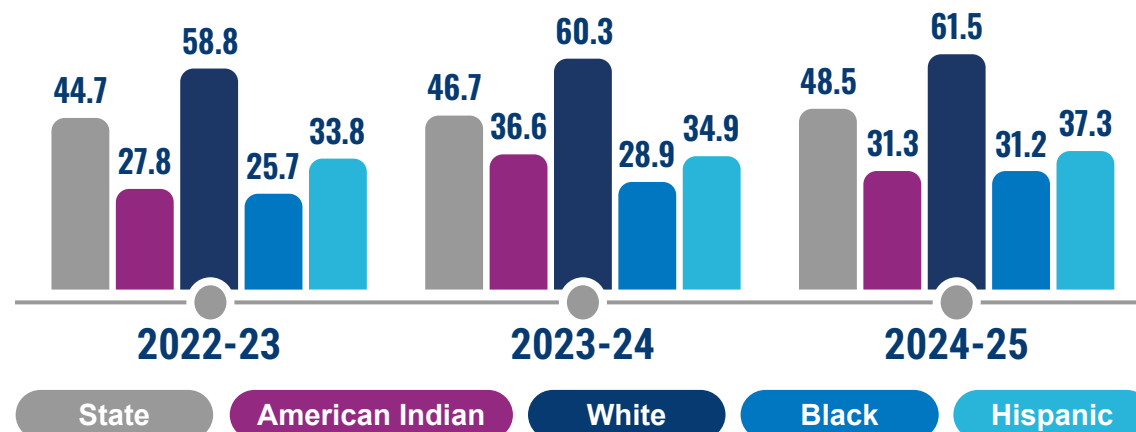
Grade

7



Grade

8

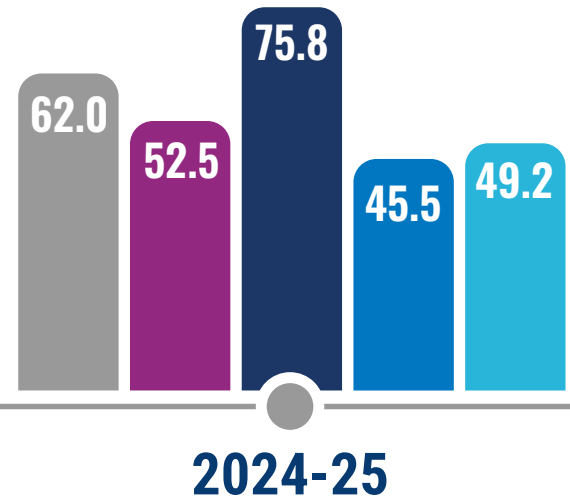


# State Level Findings

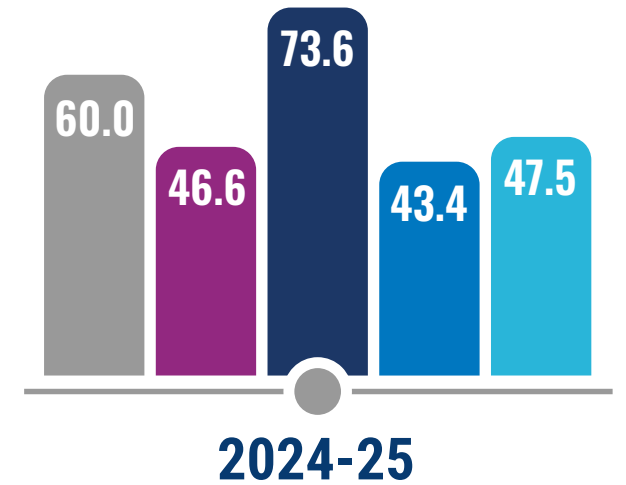
Percent At / Above Grade Level



## Grade 5



## Grade 8



State

American Indian

White

Black

Hispanic

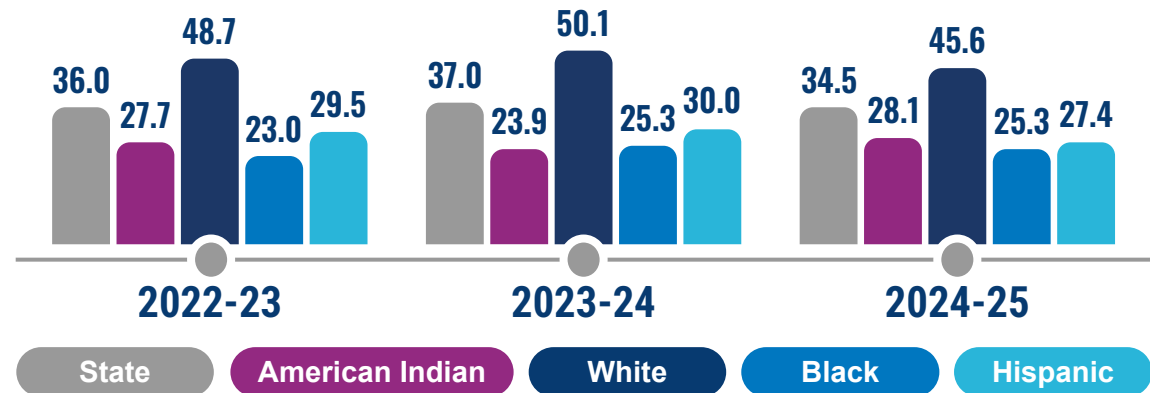
# State Level Findings

Percent At / Above Grade Level



## EOC Math I

### High School

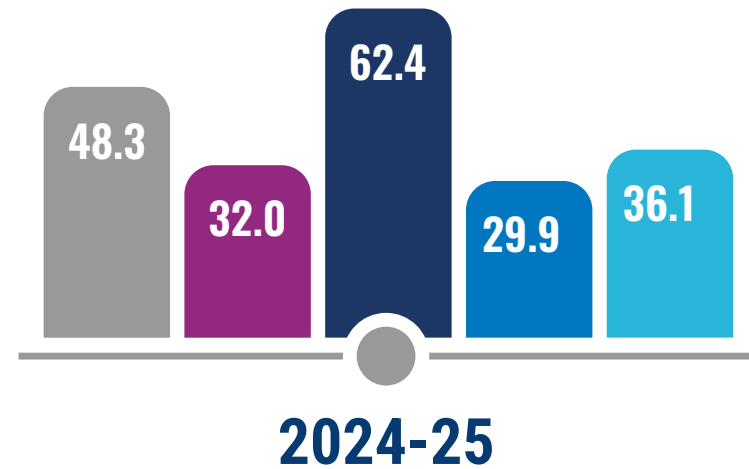


# State Level Findings

Percent At / Above Grade Level

 **EOC Biology**

## High School



State

American Indian

White

Black

Hispanic

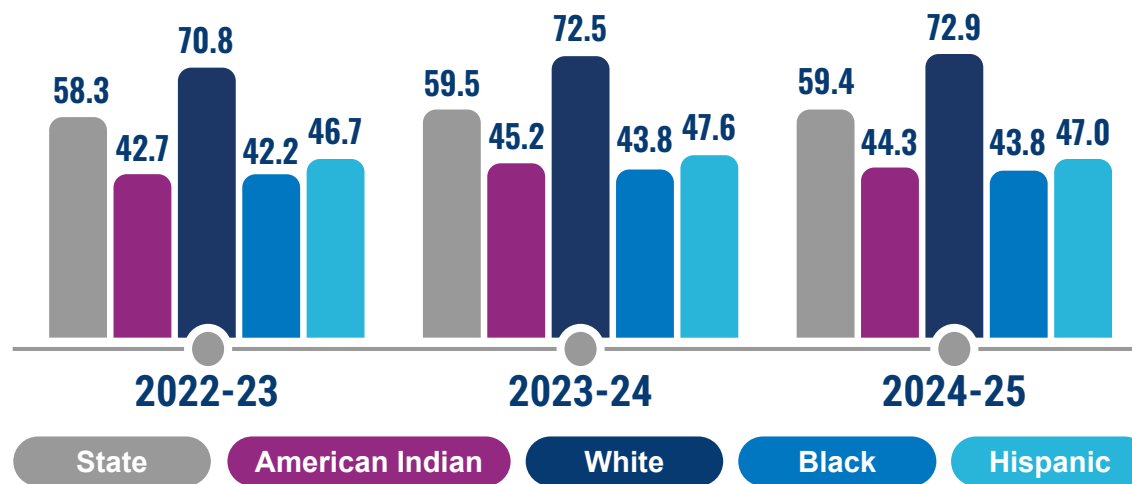
# State Level Findings

Percent At / Above Grade Level



## EOC English II

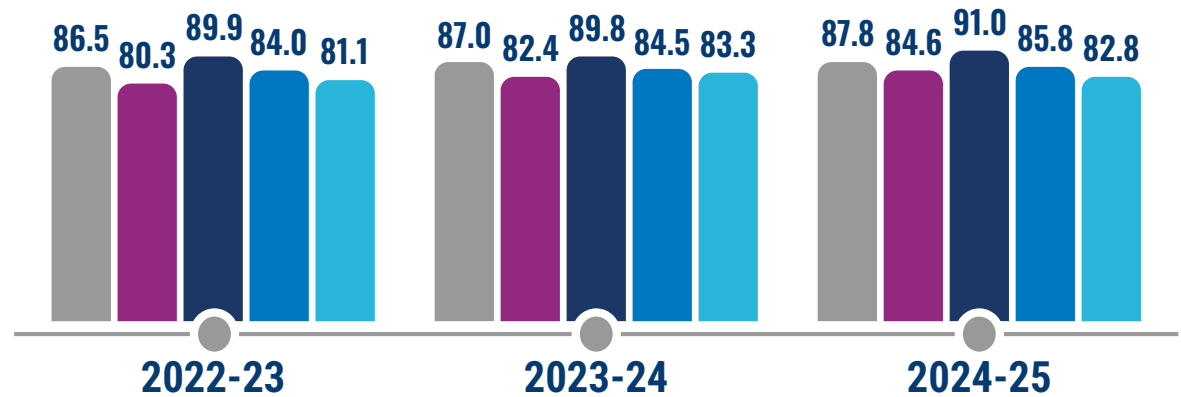
### High School



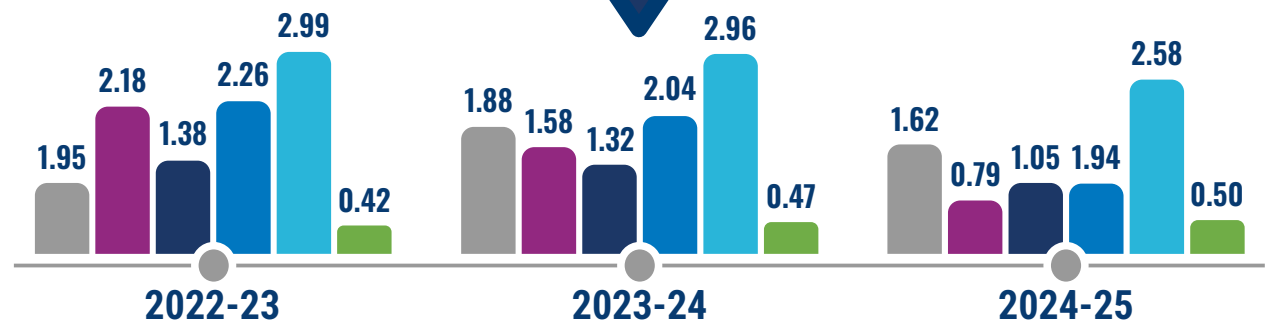
# State Level Findings

## 4-Year Cohort Graduation and Dropout Rates

### NC 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate



### Grades 9–12 Annual Dropout Rate (%)



State

American Indian

White

Black

Hispanic

Asian



*“Being American Indian means honoring my ancestors and learning traditions to pass on to future generations.”*

**Brielle McCoy**



*“My identity is a source of pride and resilience, something I hope to pass down to my future children.”*

**Apollo Zapata**

*“My culture guides me through family, community, and the values my elders have passed down to me.”*

”



**Elena Yulfo**

# SACIE Recommendations

When American Indian students thrive,  
North Carolina thrives.

# 2026 Recommendations

## Recommendation #1

### PILLAR 6

#### *Lead Transformative Change*

Develop and implement a **formal tribal consultation protocol** that integrates tribal input and student data into decision-making and evidence-based strategies, resulting in measurable improvements in academic achievement, attendance, and graduation rates for American Indian students

## Recommendation #2

### PILLAR 5

#### *Optimize Operational Excellence*

Support the enhancement of **statewide data systems** to accurately identify, monitor, and inform instructional and programmatic supports for American Indian students across all Public School Units

“

*“American Indian students are still here, thriving, and working to make a difference.”*



**Madison Oxendine**

# Recommendation #1

Develop and implement a **formal tribal consultation protocol** that integrates tribal input and student data into decision-making and evidence-based strategies, resulting in measurable improvements in academic achievement, attendance, and graduation rates for American Indian students.

Lead  
Transformative  
Change



PILLAR 6

## Objective 1 | Establish a Tribal Consultation Protocol



Establish a formal, statewide tribal consultation protocol that **ensures meaningful, ongoing input from federally and state-recognized tribes in educational decision-making.**

## Objective 2 | Build Statewide Capacity for Tribal Consultation



**By July 2027**, build statewide capacity for **meaningful tribal consultation by delivering training** on the tribal consultation process to **all NC tribes, urban Indian organizations, and Public School Units with Title VI programs.**

# Recommendation #2

Support the enhancement of **statewide data systems** to accurately identify, monitor, and inform instructional and programmatic supports for American Indian students across all Public School Units.

**Optimize  
Operational  
Excellence**



**PILLAR 5**

## Objective 1 | Identify Gaps or Inconsistencies



Review existing **student race/ethnicity identification processes** to identify gaps or inconsistencies affecting American Indian student counts.

## Objective 2 | Coordinate with DPI Data Teams



Coordinate with DPI data teams to **refine data system fields and validation checks** for American Indian students and students enrolled in the Title VI Indian Education program.

## Objective 3 | Provide Training & Technical Assistance



Provide training and technical assistance to **Title VI Indian Education representatives data entry**.

*“I’m proud to lead, learn, and carry forward the traditions of my Chickasaw heritage.”*

**Colton Walker**



*“American Indian students are determined, hardworking, and carry a unique spirit of resilience.”*

**Caylee Collins**

# Questions?

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