

Equal Talents, Unequal Opportunities:

A Report Card on State Support for Academically Talented Low-income Students

Researchers looked at how state education policies nationwide impact the success of our nation's 3.4 million high-ability, low-income students. The dartboard below shows how states performed in **9 key policy measures** — underscoring the randomness of whether states identify, track, report on and provide resources for advanced learners.

States Missing the Mark



40 states **account for/track high-achieving learners.**

35 states permit middle school/high school **co-enrollment.**

31 states require **services for high-achieving learners.**

28 states **monitor/audit gifted programs.**

28 states support **statewide grade acceleration**

19 states **grant honors diplomas**

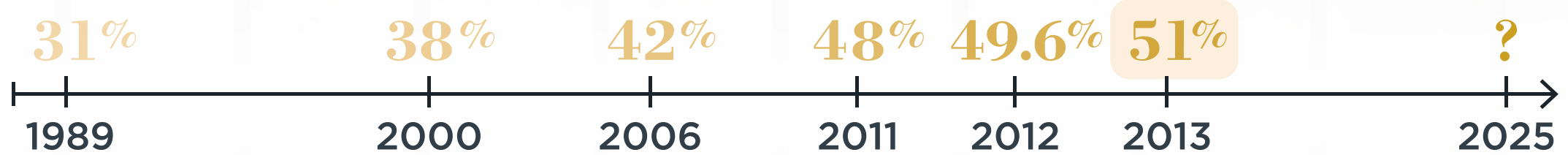
21 states allow **early entrance kindergarten**

9 states benchmark against **international assessment**

2 states require **gifted teacher training**

% OF LOW-INCOME STUDENTS IN AMERICA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

For the first time in at least 50 years, America's public schools teach a population that is more than 50 percent low income.



3.4 Million
low-income, high-achieving
students in the U.S.

While America has improved school performance at basic proficiency, a growing and troubling “excellence gap” exists at the upper levels of performance. As the population of low-income school age America grows, the question of what can be done to realize the full potential of high-performing, low-income students becomes a national priority.

“We think that high-achieving, low-income kids don’t need our help. **Nothing could be further from the truth.**”

Harold O. Levy, Executive Director, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation – NPR Interview, October 30, 2014

Visit www.excellencegap.org/reportcard to view the full report.

Sources: www.excellencegap.org/reportcard.

http://www.jkcf.org/assets/1/7/Achievement_Trap.pdf

<http://www.southerneducation.org/Publications/New-Diverse-Majority/Percent-of-Low-Income-Students-in-PS-2015-01.aspx>

