MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE

NATIONAL CENTER ON
IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION POLICY

Immigration and Language

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May 4, 2009

Points of Departure

- No growth in native labor force
- Baby boom retirement
- Global competition
- Recession
- Integration: skeletal national policy

Language vs. Integration Policy

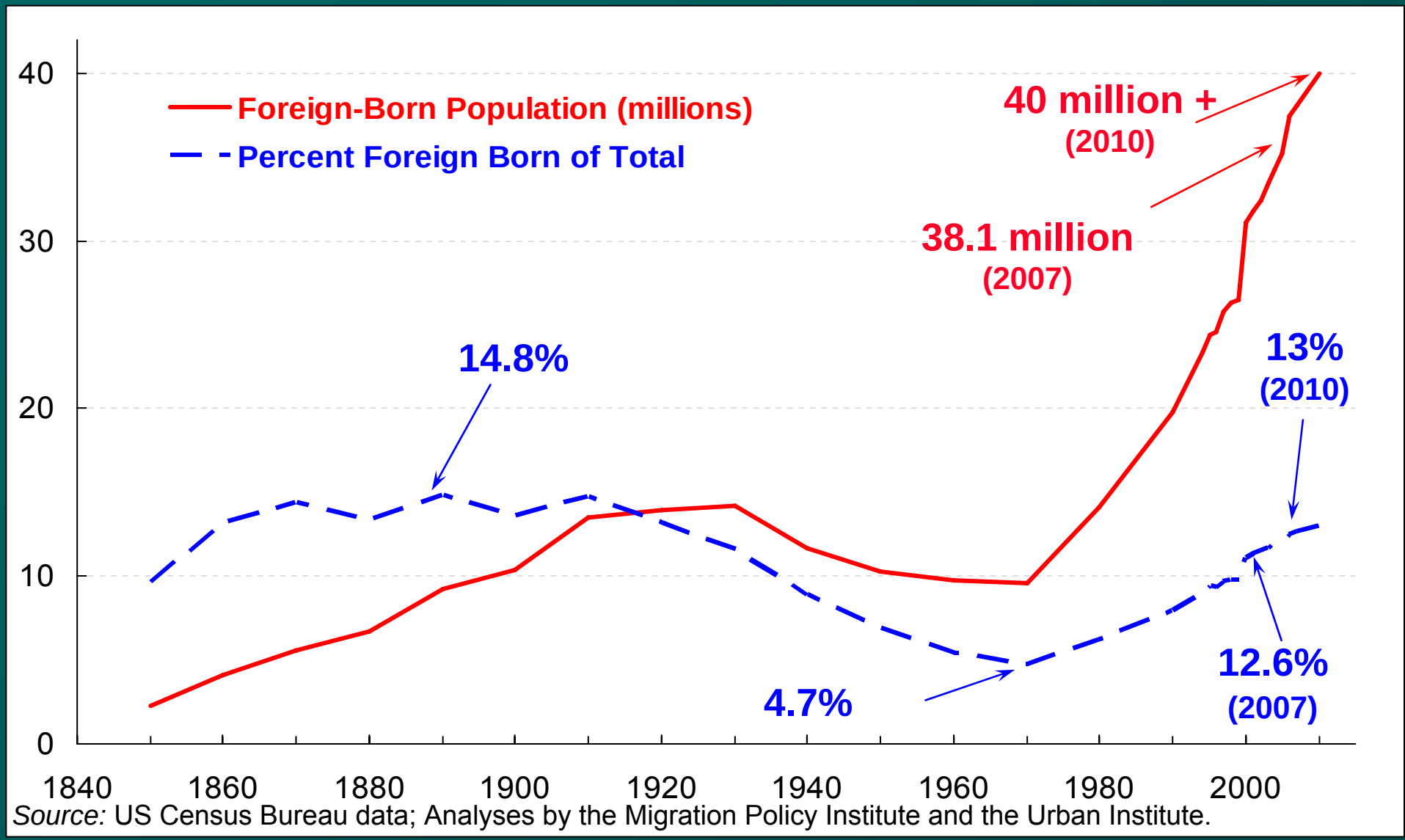
- Language *access*
- Language *acquisition*

  → PreK – 12 education competition

  → Workforce

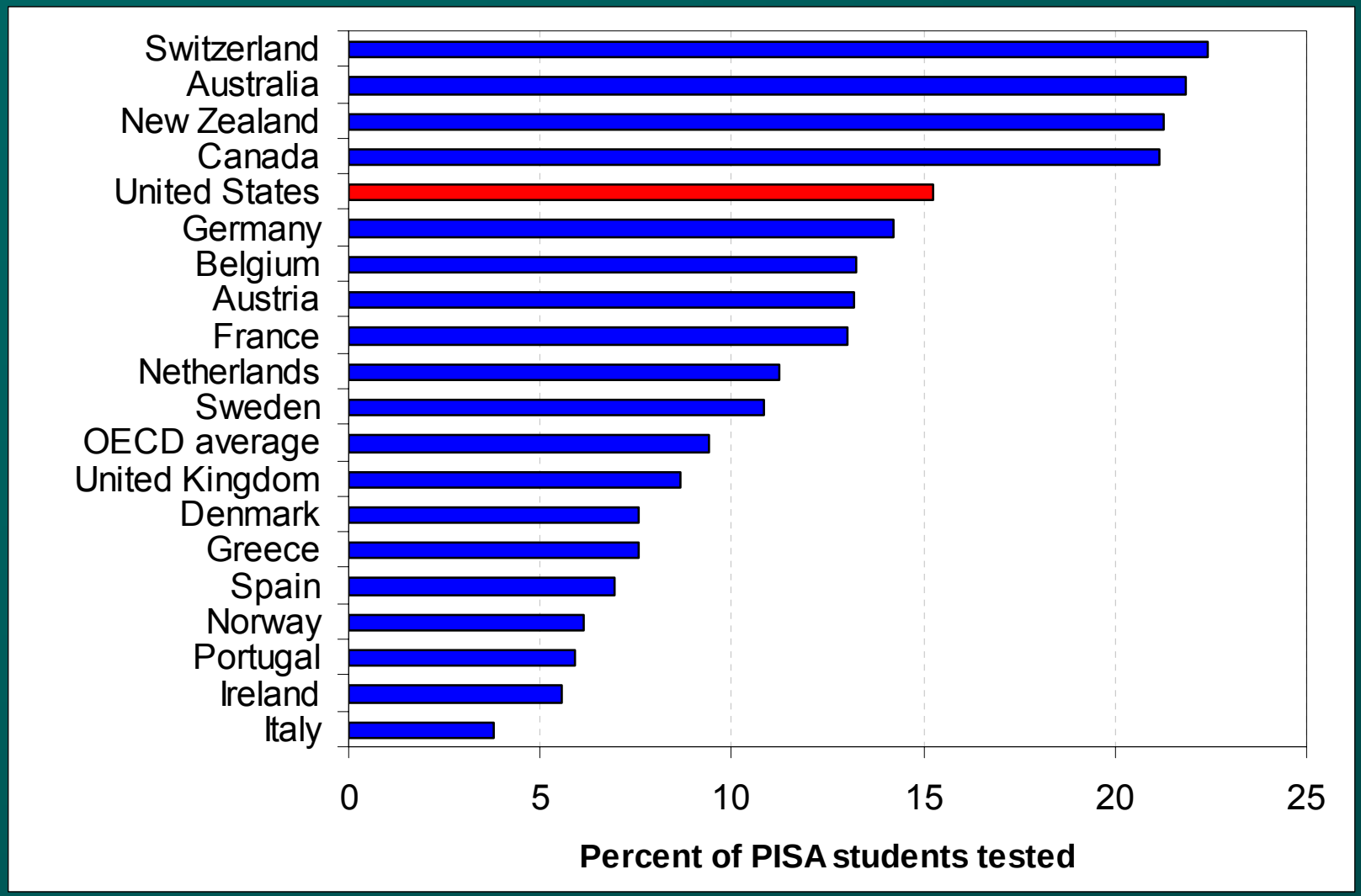
- Data systems

Foreign Born Rose to 38 Million (12.6% of US Population) in 2007



Source: US Census Bureau data; Analyses by the Migration Policy Institute and the Urban Institute.

Children of Immigrants (Age 15) In the OECD PISA Data



Source: PISA International Database, 2006.

Almost Half of All Metro Areas with 1 Million+ Immigrants Are in the US

Source: MPI Data Hub, March 2006.

Demographic Impacts

Immigrants are ...

- **1 in 8 US residents**
- **1 in 2 new workers in 1990s**

Children of immigrants...

- **23% of all children in US**
- **30% of all low-income children**
- **75% *are US citizens***

The Immigrant Workforce

Immigrants are:

- **13% of US residents**
- **16% of US workers**
- **21% of low-wage workers***
- **48% of low-skilled workers****

* Low-wage workers (ages 18 to 64) earned less than twice the federal minimum wage in 2007.
**Low-skilled workers (25 and older) are those with less than a high school education.

Source: MPI's calculations from March 2008 CPS, Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

Highly Skilled Immigrants in US Workforce,* 2005-2006

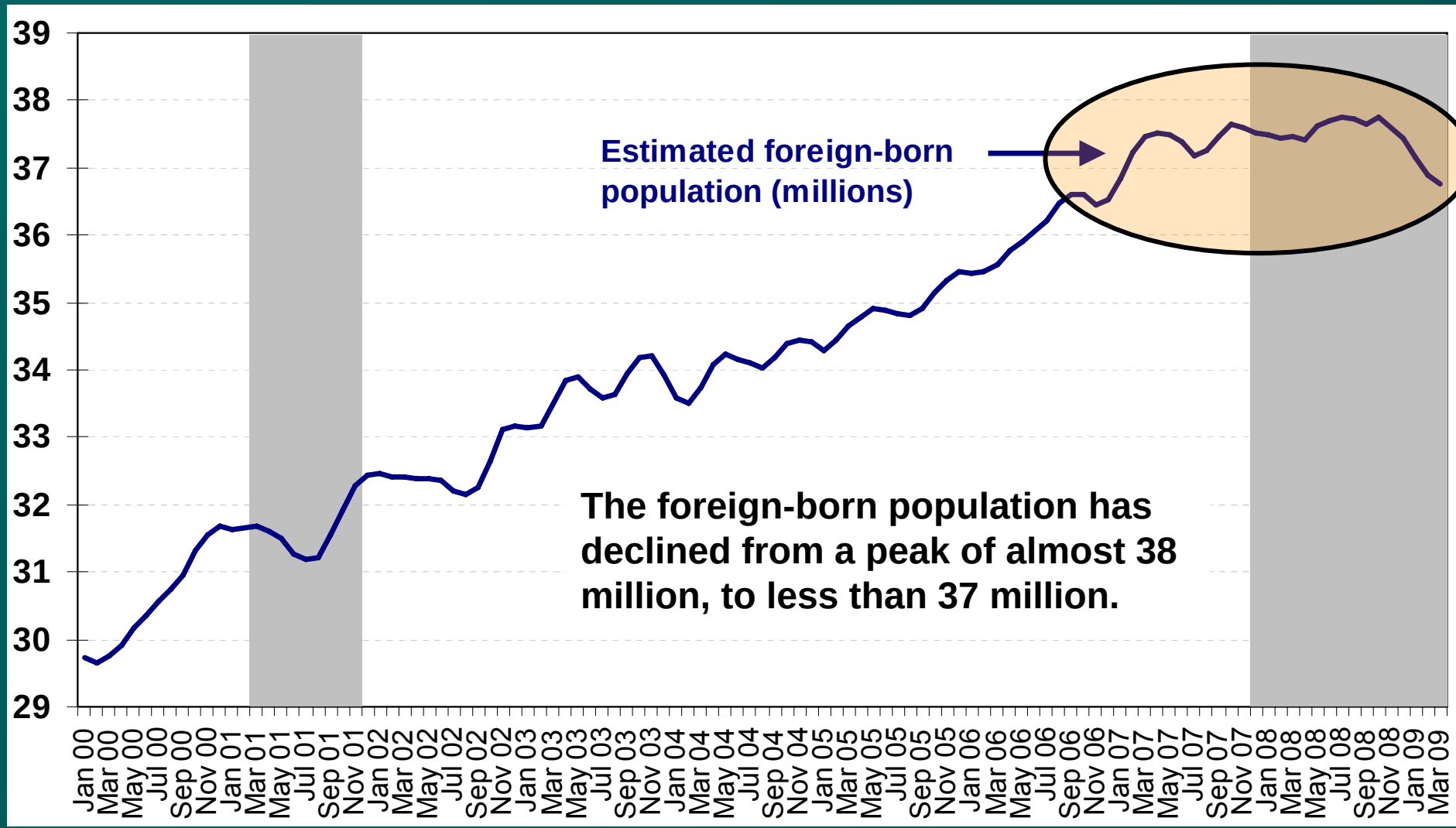
- *1 in 4* doctors
- *2 in 5* medical scientists
- *1 in 3* computer software engineers
- *1 in 5* computer programmers
- *1 in 5* postsecondary teachers

. . . . are immigrants

Notes: *Refers to persons in the civilian labor force, ages 25 and older.

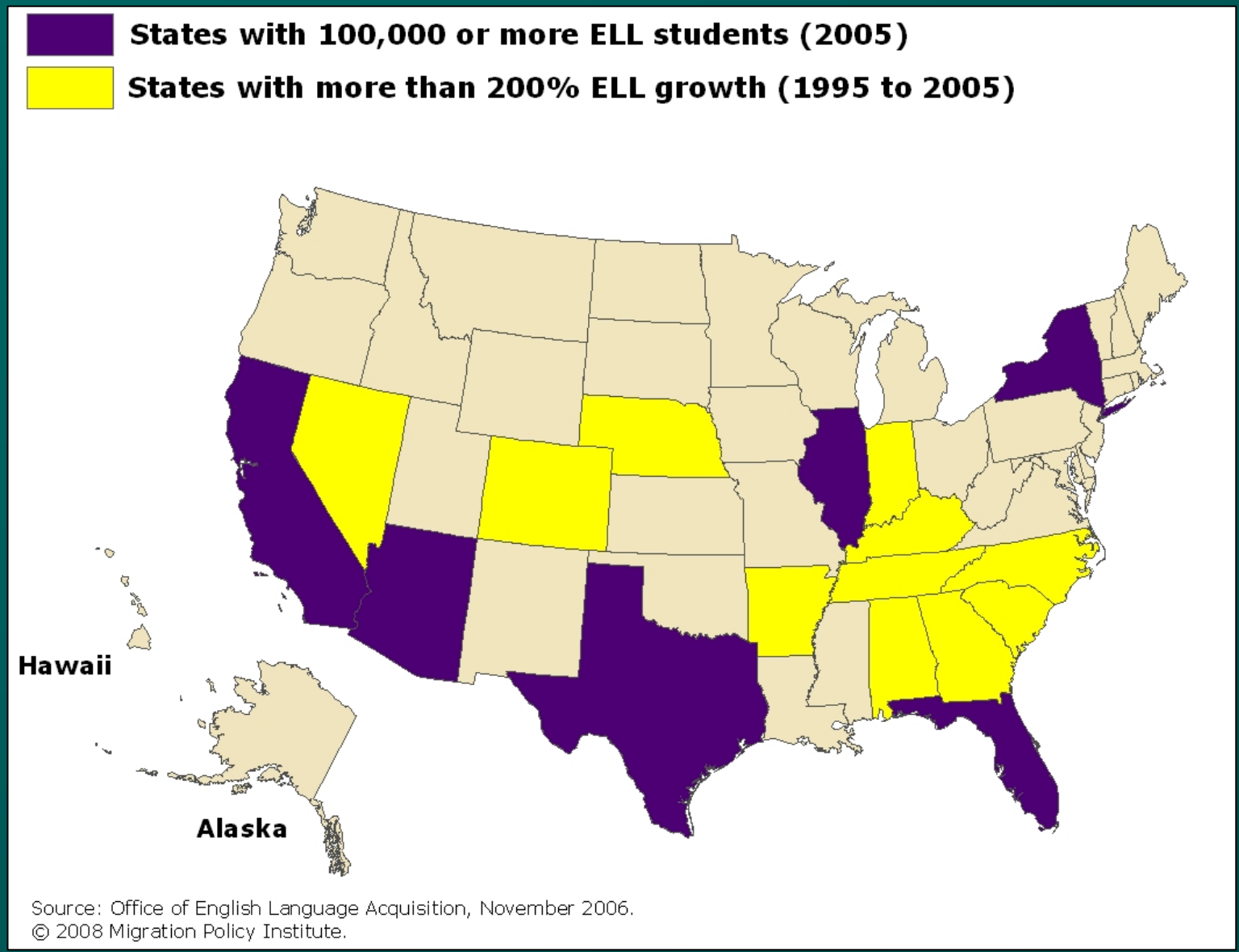
Source: American Community Survey (pooled 2005-2006).

Foreign Born Population Has Fallen Back To Level of Late 2006

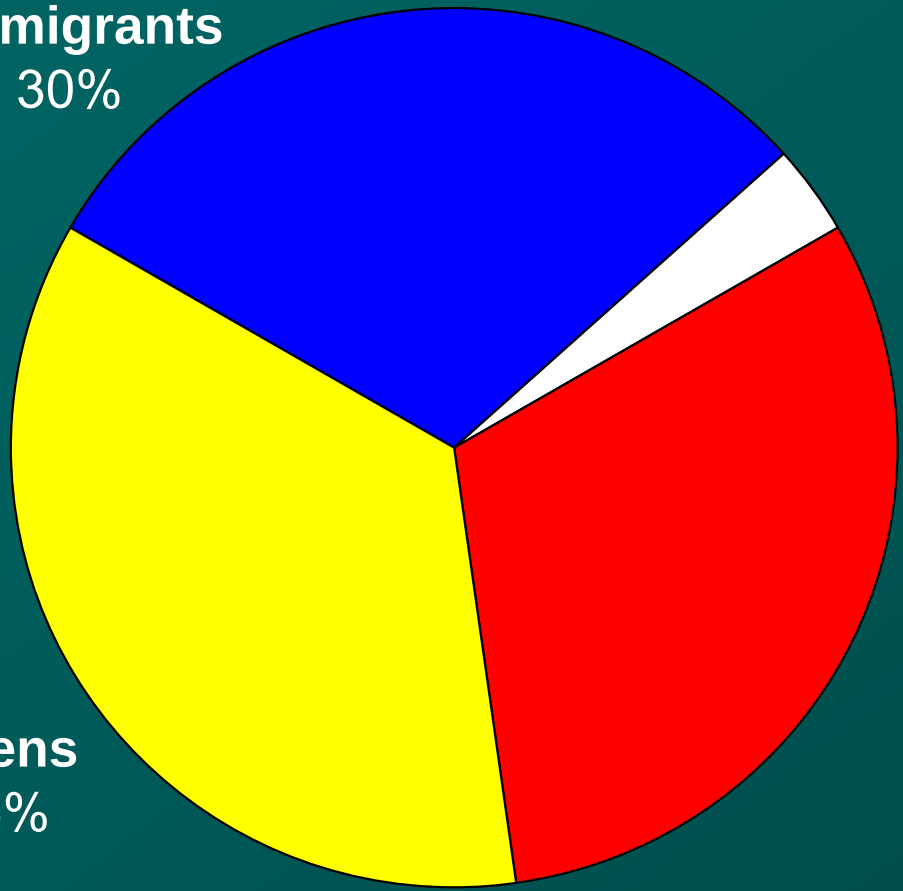


Note: Three month moving average.
Source: Migration Policy Institute analysis of Current Population Survey, January 2000 to March 2009.

ELL Students in US Schools



United States: 3 in 10 Immigrants Are Unauthorized



39.9 million* foreign born in March 2008

* Includes estimate of undercounted immigrants

Source: Passel, Jeffery S., and D'Vera Cohn. 2009. *A Portrait of Unauthorized Immigrants in the United States.* Washington, DC: Pew Hispanic Center.

Three Quarters of Children in Unauthorized Families Are Citizens

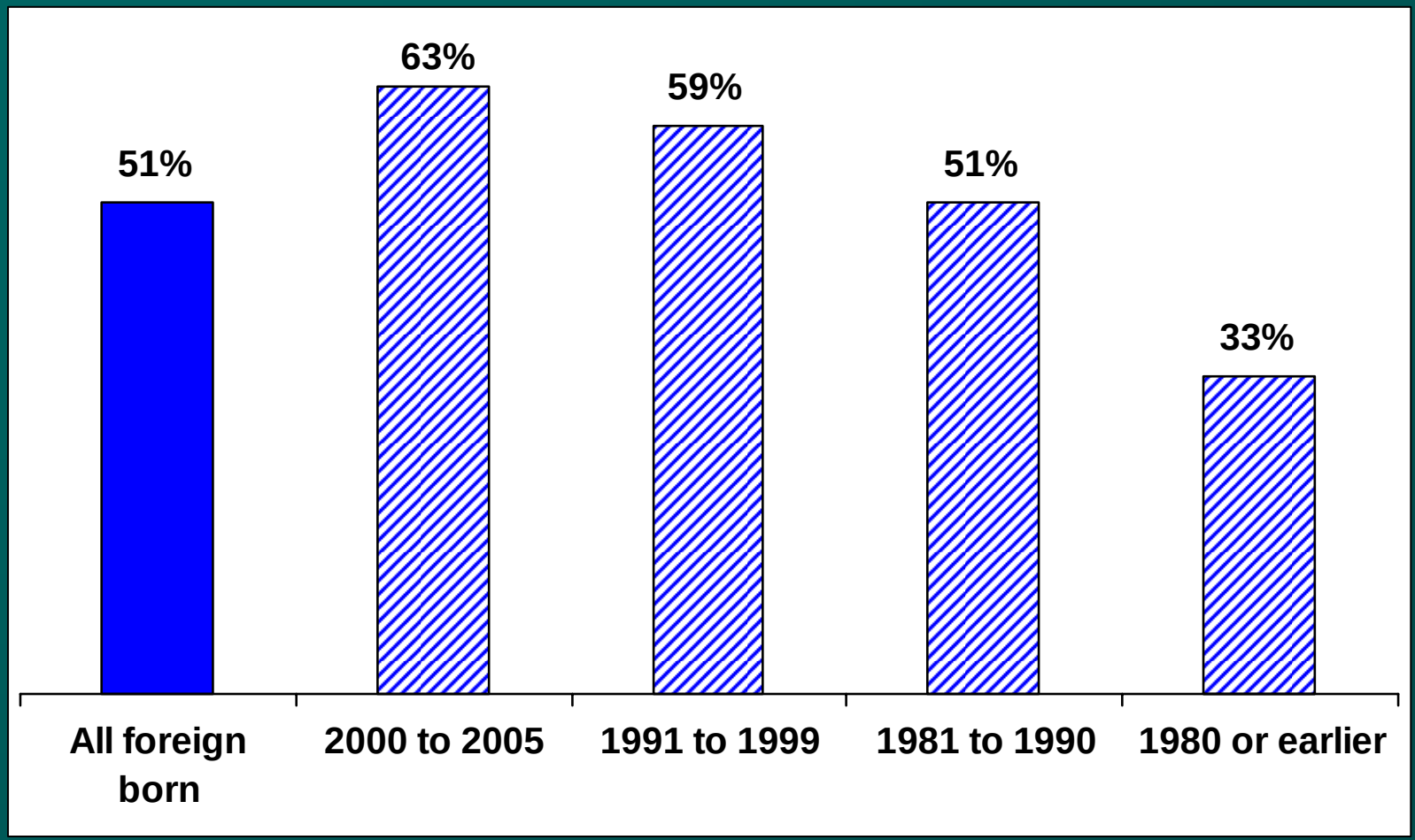
There are 5.5 million children with unauthorized parents:

- **Their children make up 6.8% of all US schoolchildren.**
- **73 percent (4 million) of all children of unauthorized parents are US citizens.**
- **17 percent (1.5 million) are unauthorized.**

Source: Passel, Jeffery S., and D'Vera Cohn. 2009. *A Portrait of Unauthorized Immigrants in the United States.* Washington, DC: Pew Hispanic Center.

Almost Half of All Immigrant Workers Are Limited English Proficient

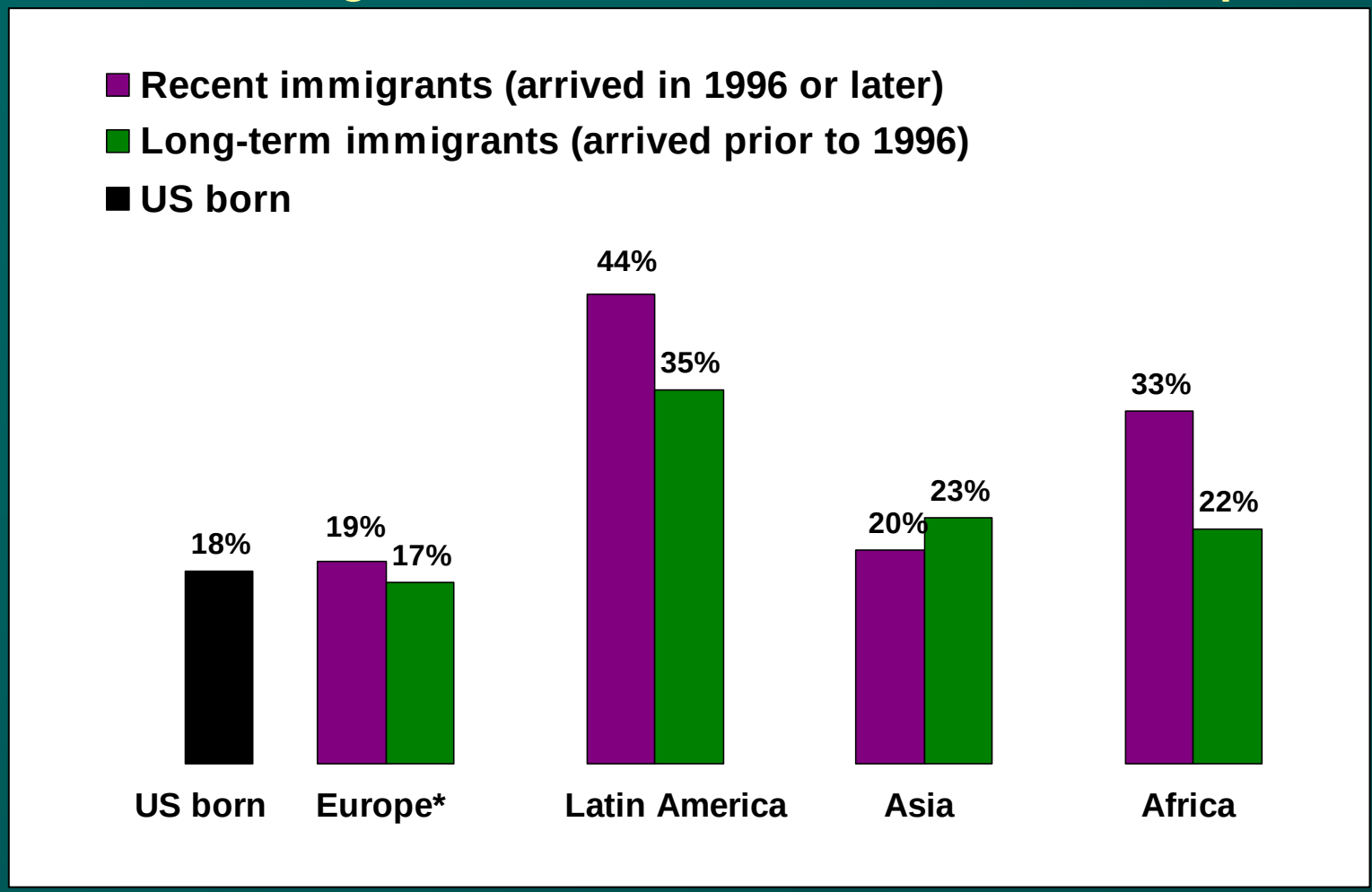
Percent of full-time immigrant workers (age 25 and over) who are LEP



Source: American Community Survey 2005. Limited English proficient (LEP) are persons reporting speaking English less than "very well" to the Census survey.

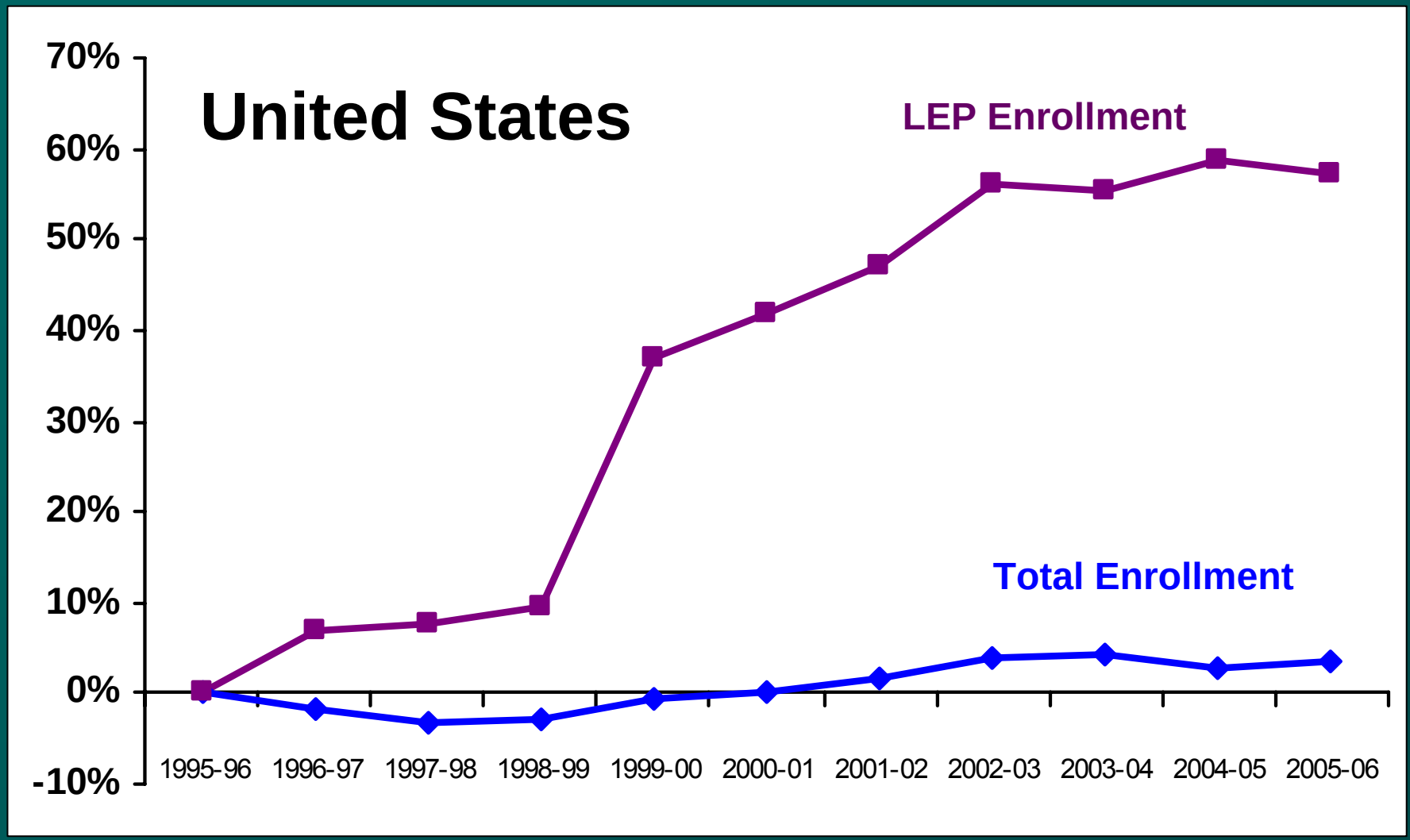
1-in-5 College-Educated Immigrant Workers in Unskilled Occupations

Percent of college-educated workers in unskilled occupations



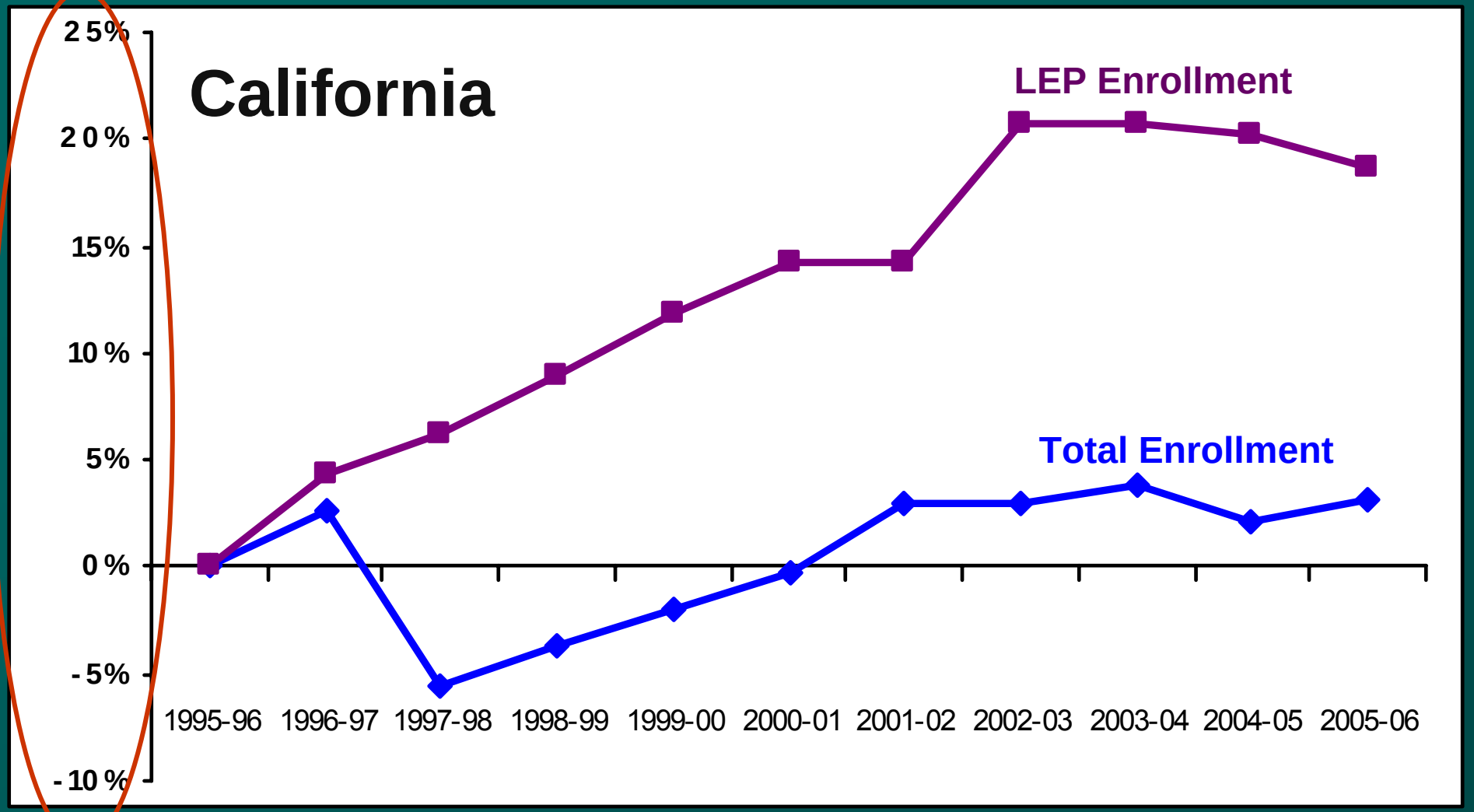
Notes: *Refers to persons from Europe, Canada, and Oceania. Unskilled occupations require no more than modest on-the-job training (e.g., construction laborers, drivers, and maids).
Source: American Community Survey, pooled 2005 and 2006.

LEP Enrollment Growth: United States, 1996 to 2006



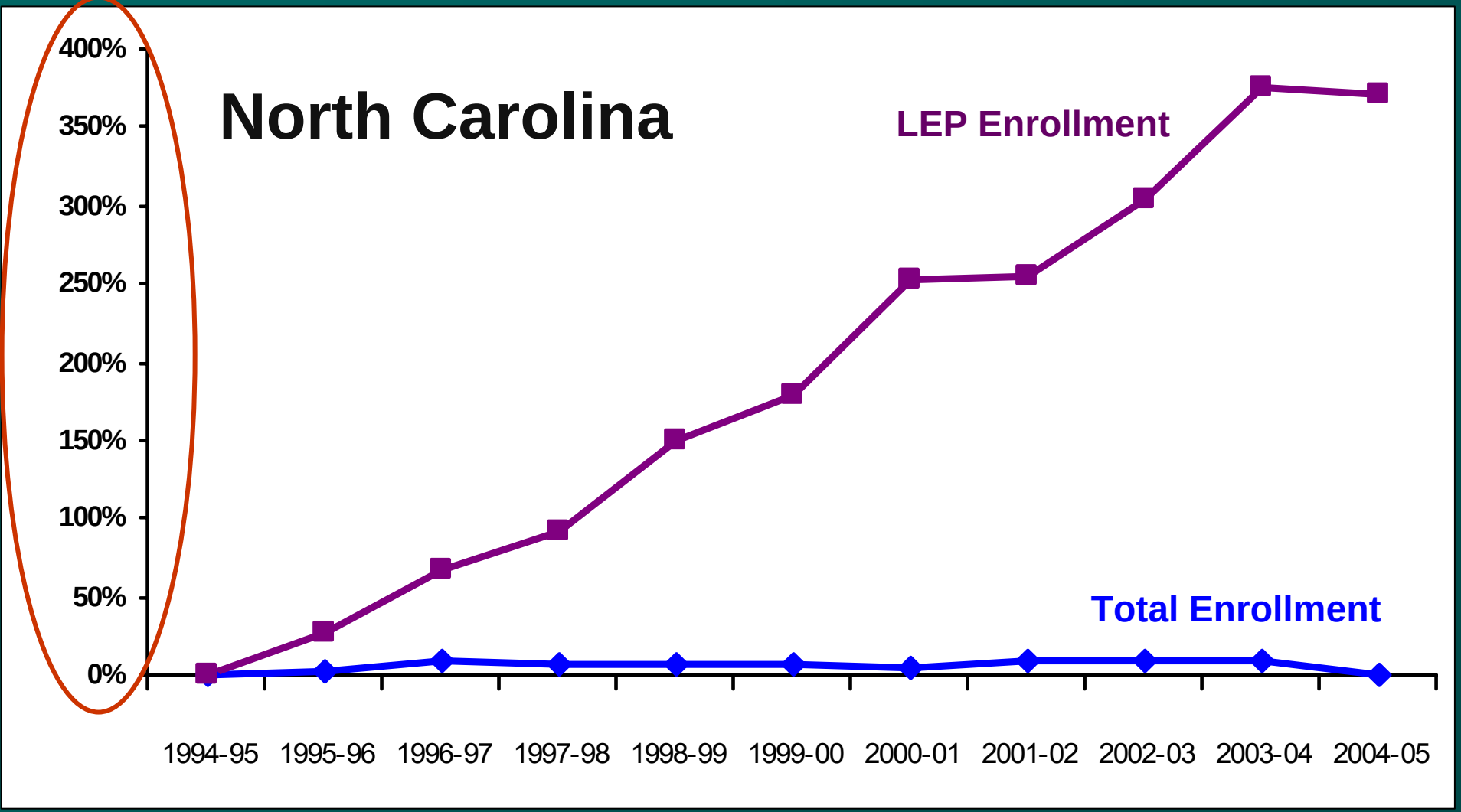
Notes: There were 5.1 million limited English proficient school children in 2005-2006, representing 10 percent of enrolled students.
Source: National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition & Language Instruction Educational Programs (NCELA), 2007.

LEP Enrollment Growth: California, 1995 to 2006



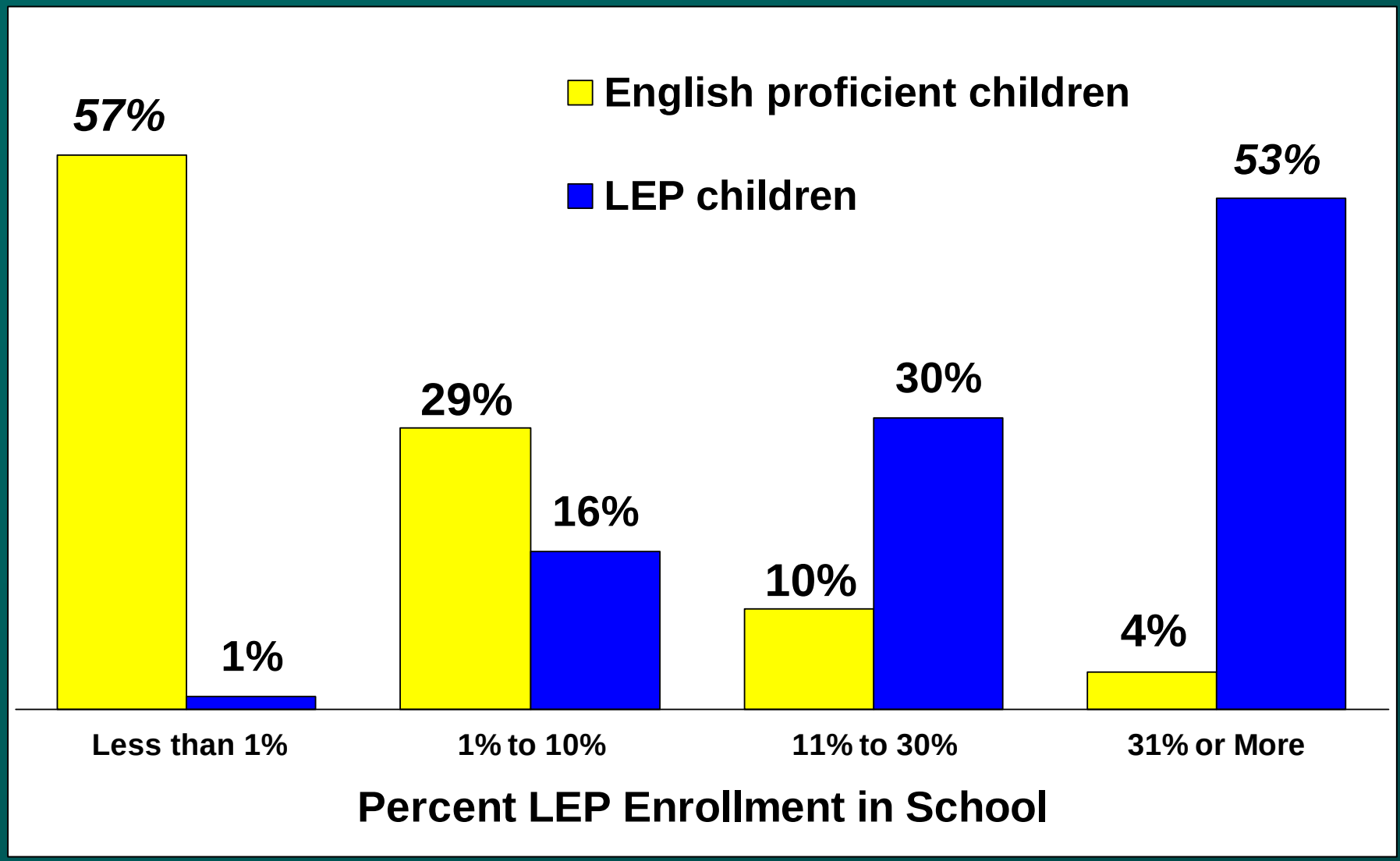
Source: National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition & Language Instruction Educational Programs (NCELA), 2006.

LEP Enrollment Growth: North Carolina, 1995 to 2006



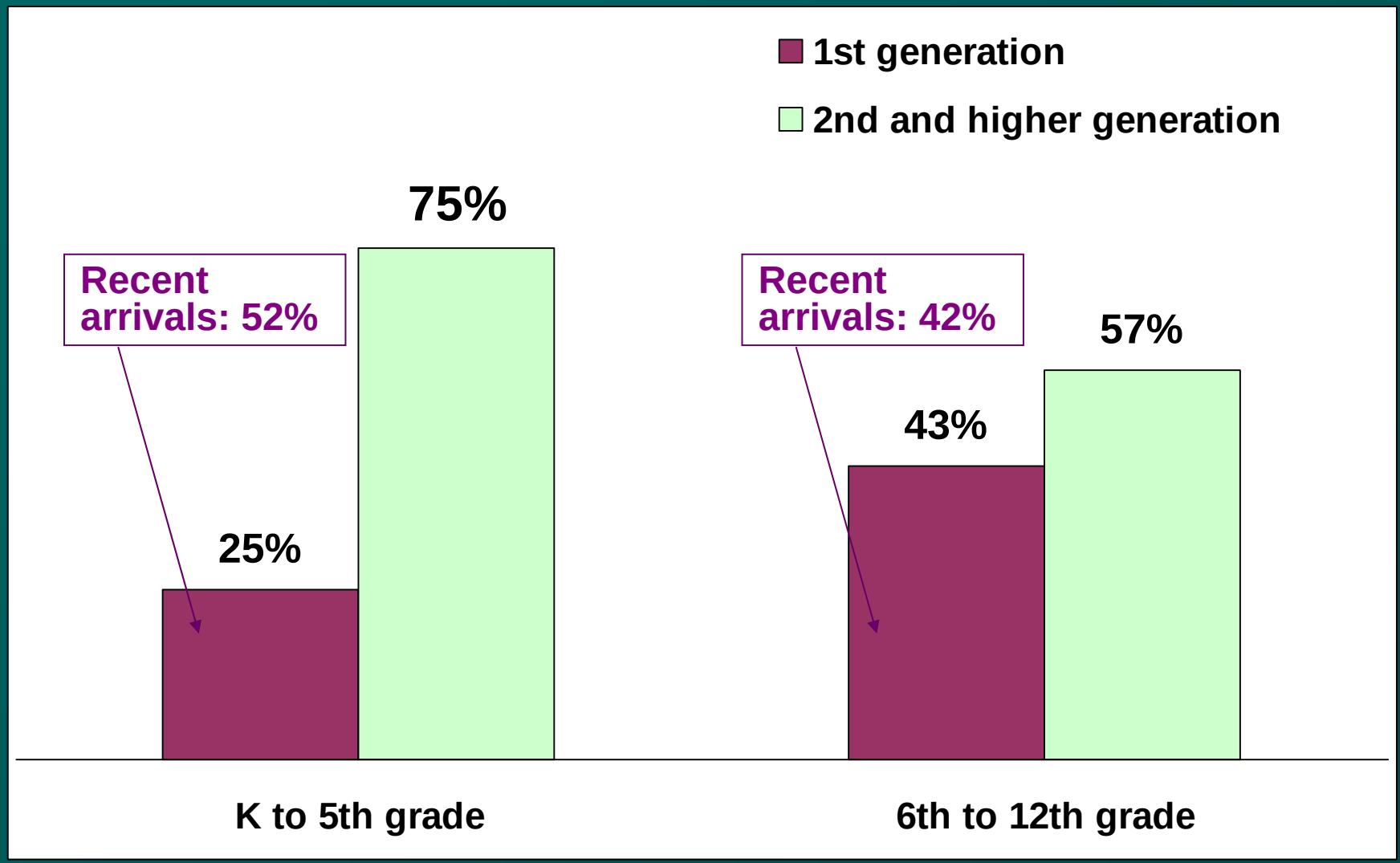
Source: National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition & Language Instruction Educational Programs (NCELA), 2006

LEP Students Attend Linguistically Segregated Schools



Source: Schools and Staffing Survey, 1999.

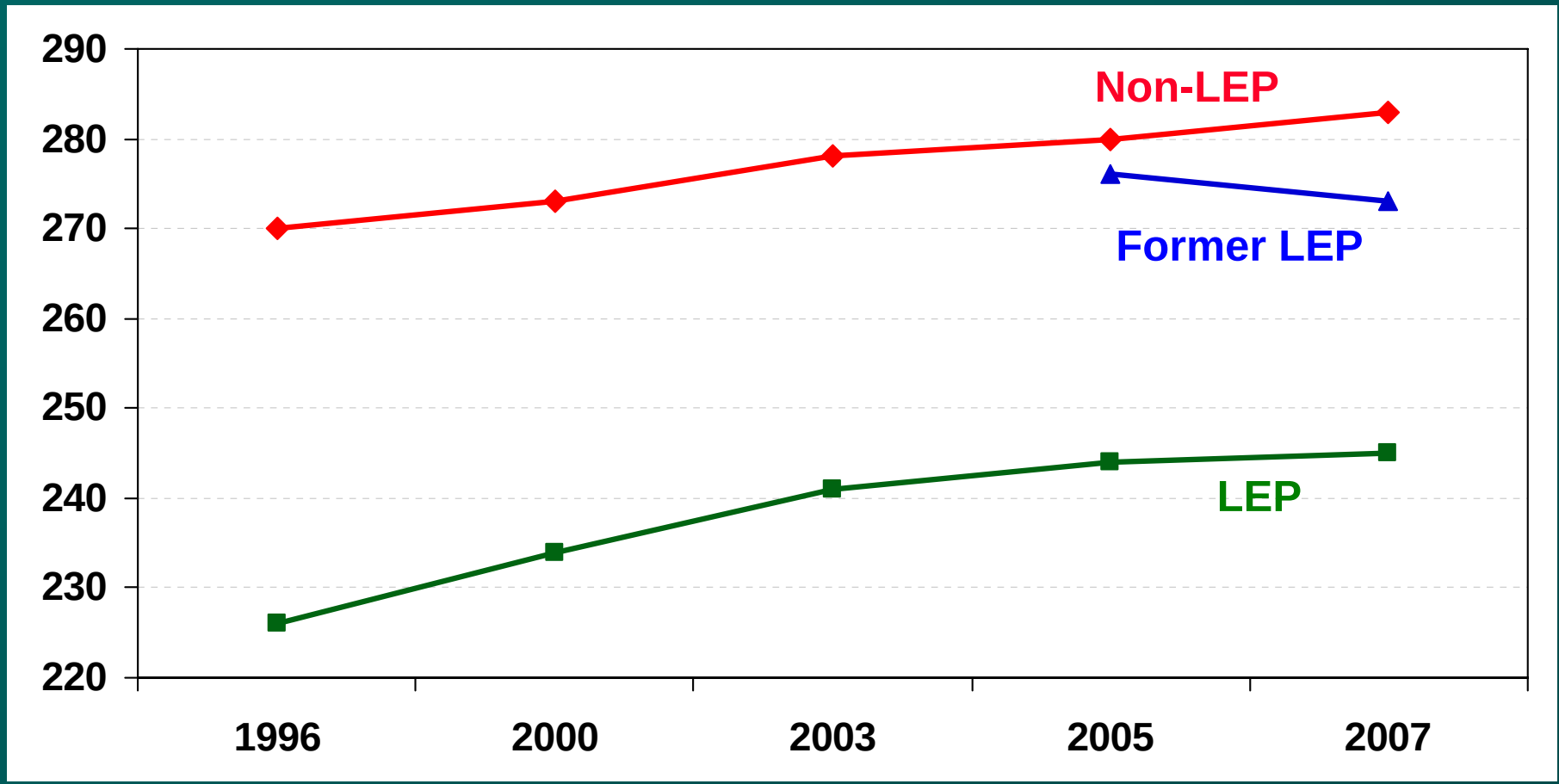
Most LEP Children are Native Born



Notes: The figures refer to LEP students ages 5 to 18 currently enrolled in school.
Source: US Census, 2000.

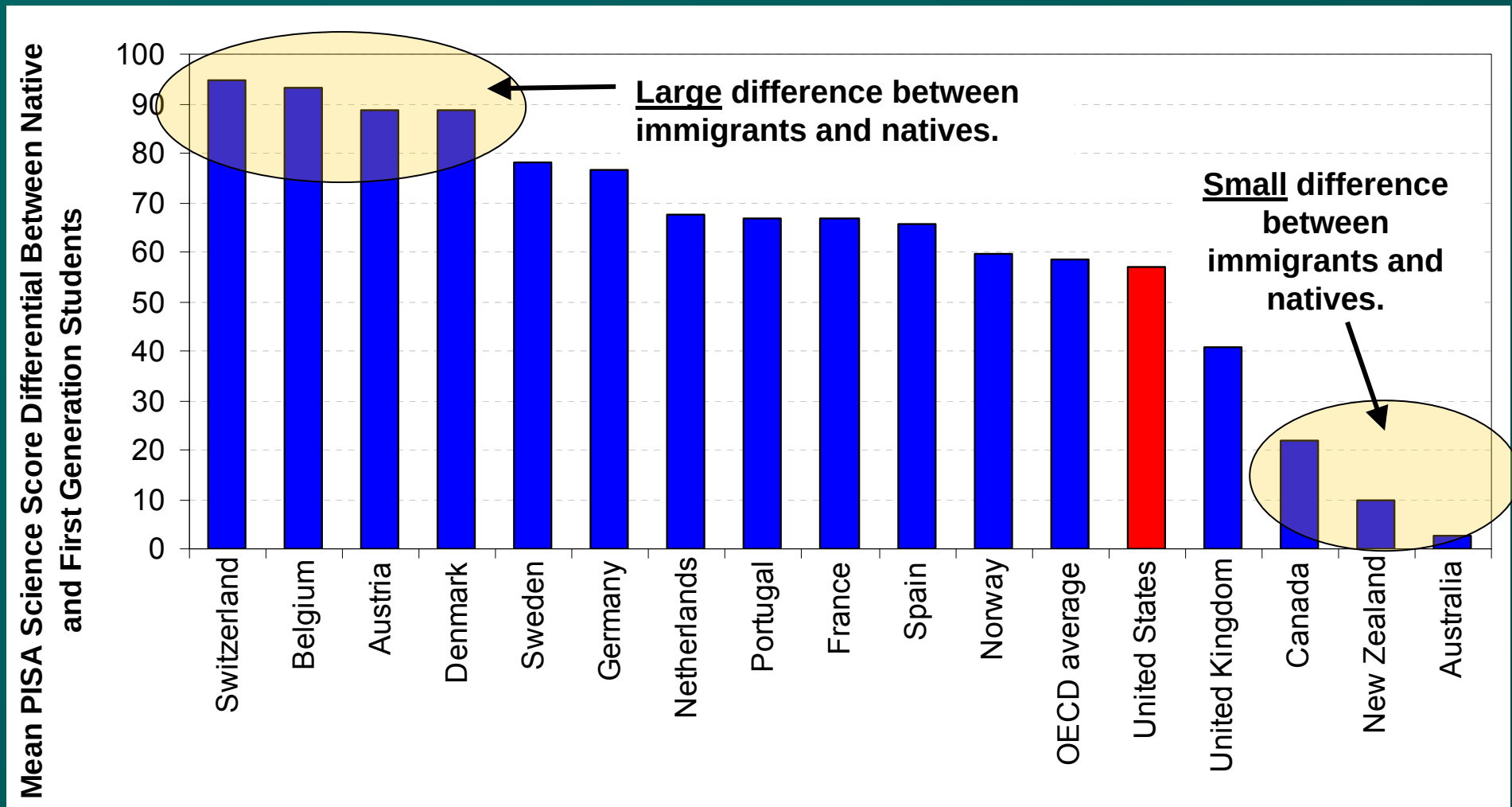
"Former" LEPs Do Better

Average Scores of 8th Graders in Math by English Proficiency: NAEP



Source: US Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1996 to 2007 Math Assessments.

First Generation Immigrant Children's Shortfall In Science Scores Relative to Natives (Age 15)



Note: A rough estimation is that 35 points is equivalent to one year of schooling.

Source: PISA International Database, 2006.

E Pluribus Unum Prizes:

Recognizing Exceptional US Immigrant Integration Initiatives

MPI's National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy, with the J.M. Kaplan Fund, has launched a new national awards program that will give four $50,000 awards annually to exceptional initiatives that promote immigrant integration in hopes of providing inspiration and program models to others doing similar work.

http://www.integrationawards.org

Internationals Network for Public Schools, New York, NY

Source: http://www.internationalsnps.org/

Policy Implications

Adults:

- Address wide unmet needs.
- Integrate language and skill training.
- Differentiate instruction.
- Greater attention to credentialing.

Children:

- Accountability for academic progress.
- Extended time for learning.

For More Information

Find data, reports, and other analysis by state and for the nation:

www.migrationpolicy.org
and
www.migrationinformation.org

… 2007 ACS data and new databases are coming online!
www.migrationpolicy.org/DataHub

For More Information

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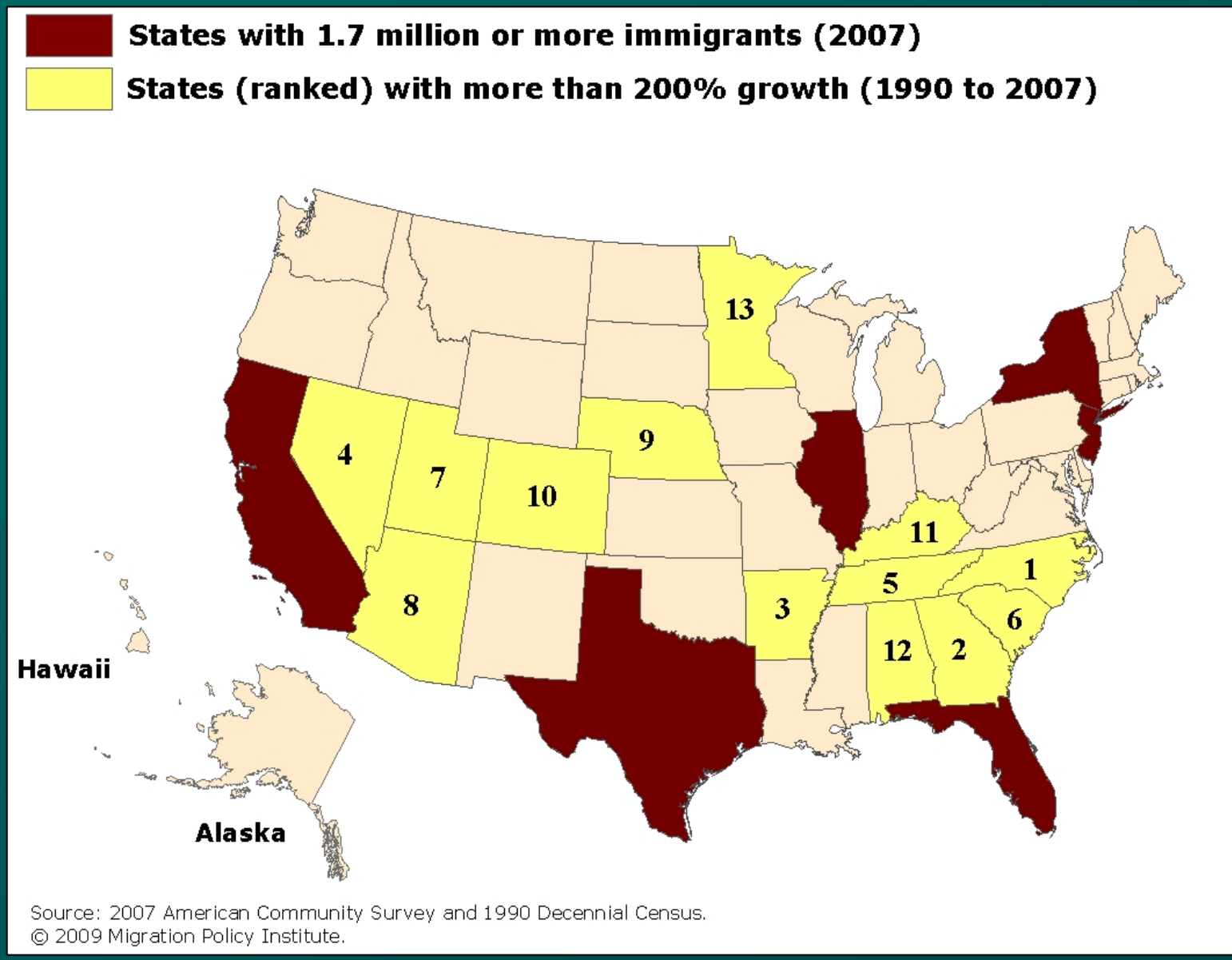
Immigrant Populations: Largest and Fastest Growing States



Source: 2007 American Community Survey and 1990 Decennial Census.

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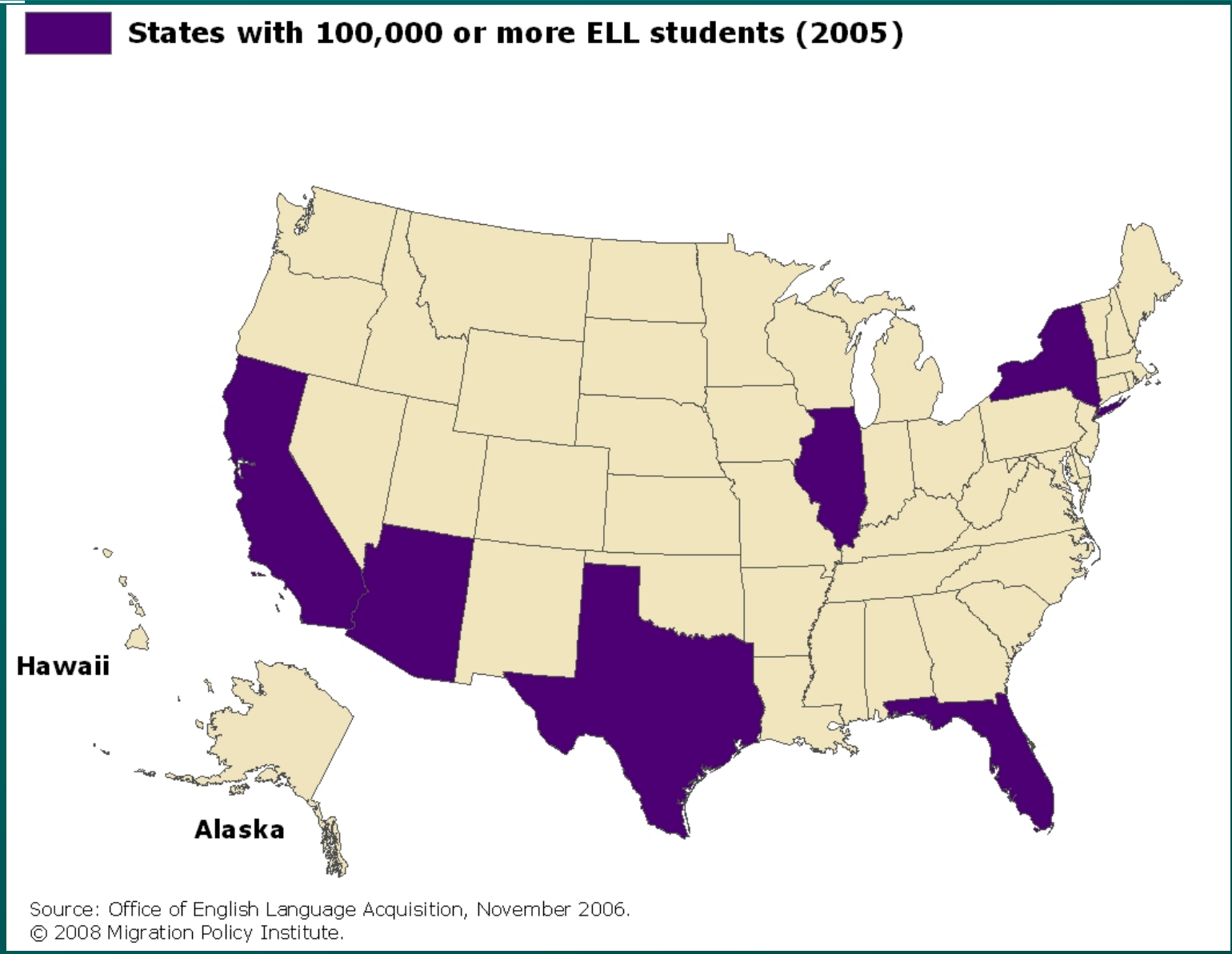
ELL Students in US Schools



2/3 of ELL Students Are in 10 States; 1/3 are in California

	ELL enrollment	Percent ELLs in the state's total K-12 enrollment	State share (%) of the national ELL enrollment
United States	**5,113,636**	**10.4**	
California	1,591,525	25.7	31.1
Texas	684,007	15.5	13.4
Florida	299,346	11.3	5.9
New York	203,583	7.1	4.0
Illinois	192,764	9.2	3.8
Arizona	155,789	15.1	3.0
Colorado	90,391	11.8	1.8
Washington	75,678	7.4	1.5
Nevada	72,117	18.1	1.4
New Mexico	70,926	22.4	1.4
Top 10 states	**3,436,126**		**67.2**

Source: National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition & Language Instruction Educational Programs (NCELA), 2006

ELL Enrollment (2004-2005): Top 10 School Districts

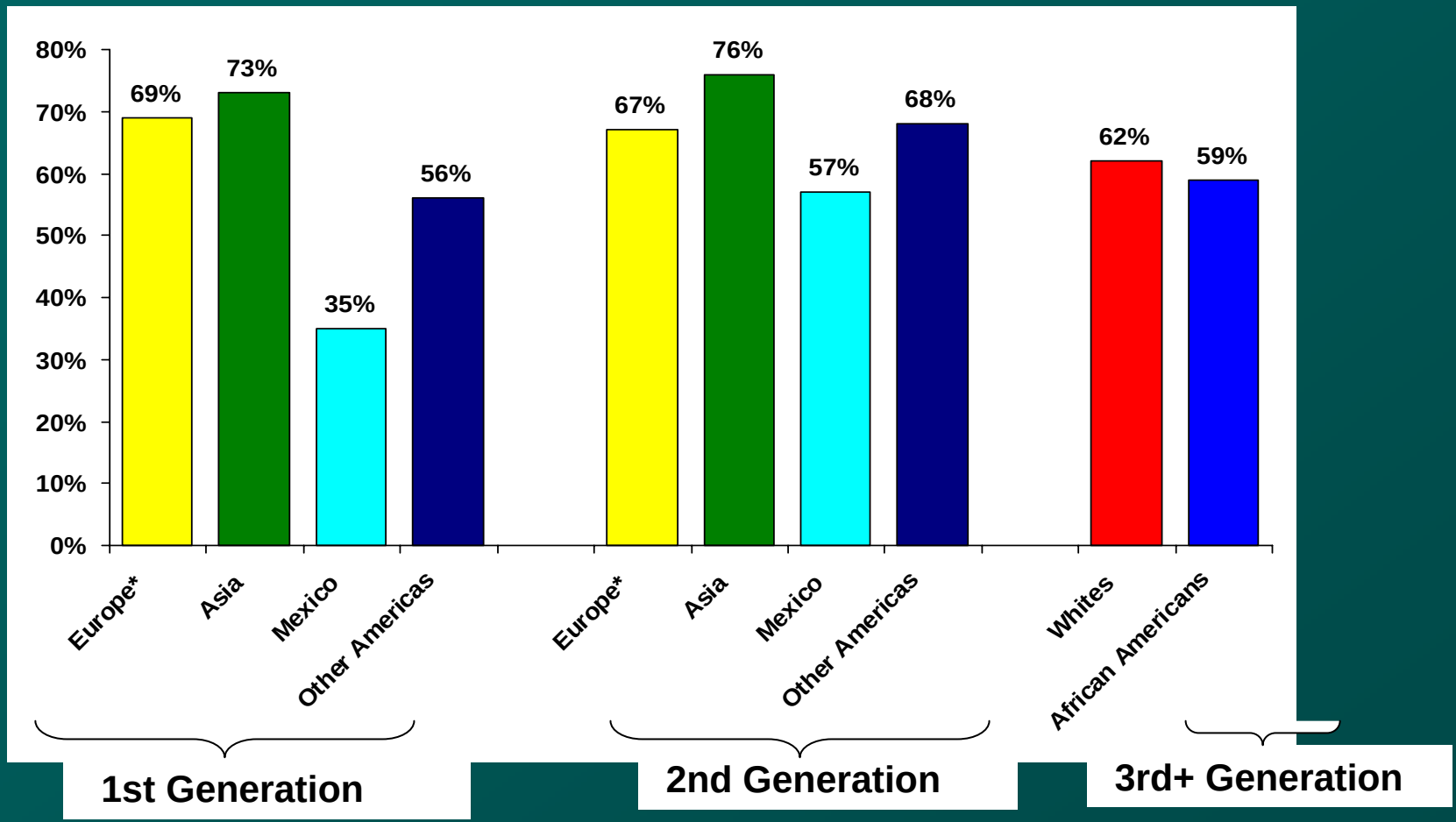
	Number of ELLs	Percent ELLs*
United States	**5,113,636**	**10.4**
Los Angeles, CA	328,684	44.0
New York City, NY	122,840	12.0
Chicago, IL	82,540	19.0
Miami-Dade, FL	62,767	17.0
Houston, TX	61,319	29.0
Clark County, NV	53,517	20.0
Dallas, TX	51,328	32.0
San Diego, CA	38,629	28.0
Santa Ana, CA	36,807	62.1
Broward County, FL	29,909	11.0
Top 10 districts	**868,340**	
Percentage of all ELLs	**17.0%**	

Source: National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition & Language Instruction Educational Programs (NCELA), 2006

*Percent ELLs in the district's total K-12 enrollment.

Generational Progress Continues – for All Groups

Percent Teenagers (Ages 16 to 20) Enrolled in School Full-Time, by National Origin and Generation, 2000

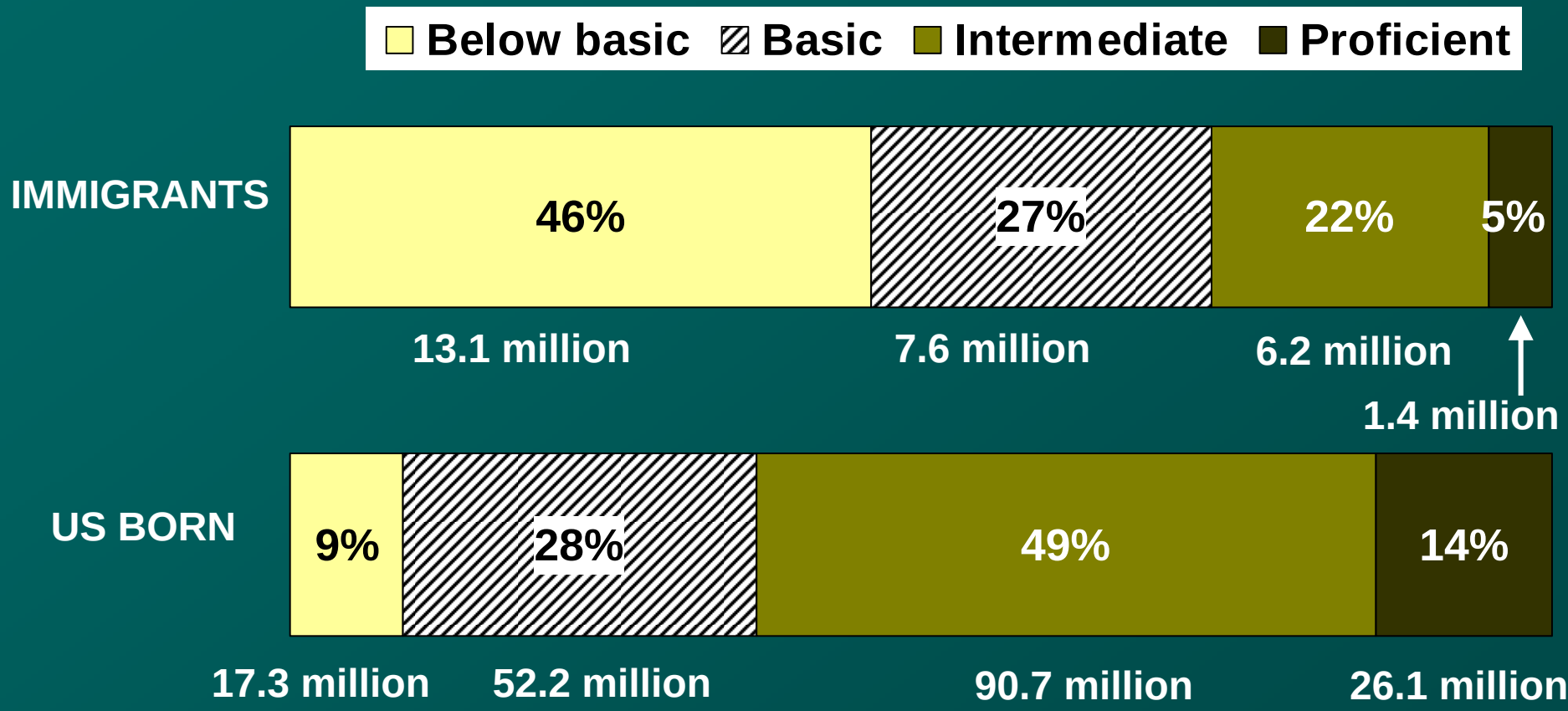


* Europe refers to Europe, Canada, and Australia.

Source: Waldinger and Reichl, 2006, Current Population Survey, March 1997-2003.

English Proficiency of Adults

PROSE LITERACY



Source: Migration Policy Institute analysis of 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy data in Batalova and Fix (2009).

Workforce Preparation Issues

- *Adult English language acquisition*
  - **scale and effectiveness of English instruction programs**
  - **clustering of instruction at lowest levels**
  - **unintegrated nature of English and workforce skills programs**
  - **“bricks and mortar” vs. anytime-anywhere instruction**
- *Immigrant/LEP participation in workforce training programs*
- *Career pathways for LEP youth*
- *Recognition of foreign credentials*

Key K-12 Issues

- *Quality of English instruction services*
  - **Alignment of ELL and mainstream curricula**
  - **Native language instruction and testing policies**
  - **Use of valid and reliable assessments**
  - **Teacher recruitment/retention**
  - **Pre-service and in-service training**
  - **Need for additional time**
- *Lack of targeted federal, state, and local funding to meet immigrant/ELL needs*