

Getting Ready for College and Careers

New Policy Initiatives

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Deputy Commissioner
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Purpose of Today's Forum

- To assist you in implementing the new Competency Determination Standard beginning with the Class of 2010. The new standard requires students who do not score at least at the Proficient level on the grade 10 MCAS ELA and Math tests to complete an Educational Proficiency Plan (EPP).

Format for Today's Forum

- Background
 - Jeff Nellhaus
- FAQs about the EPP
 - Peg Helgaard

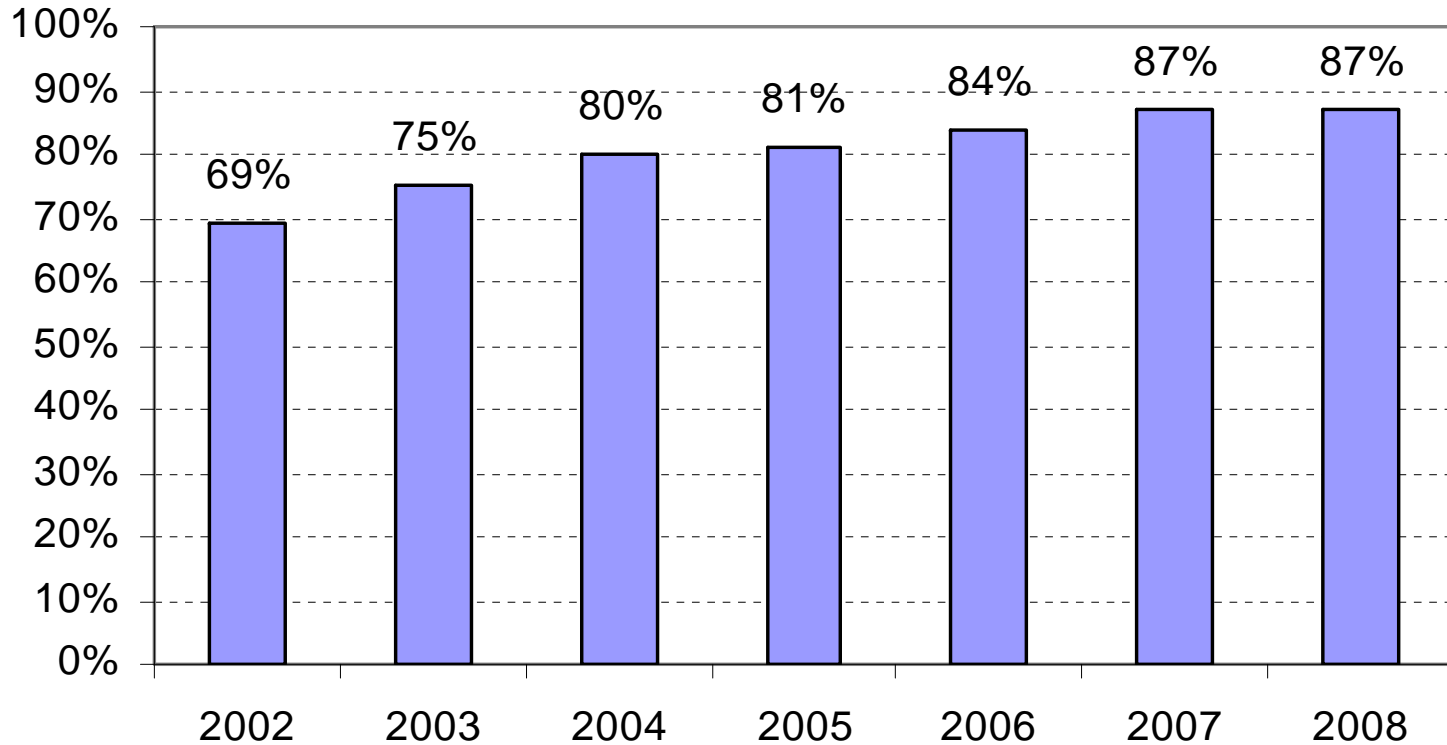
Short Break

- Some Implementation Strategies
- Questions and Answers
 - Jeff Nellhaus, Stafford Peat, Nyal Fuentes, Sharyn Sweeney, Peg Helgaard

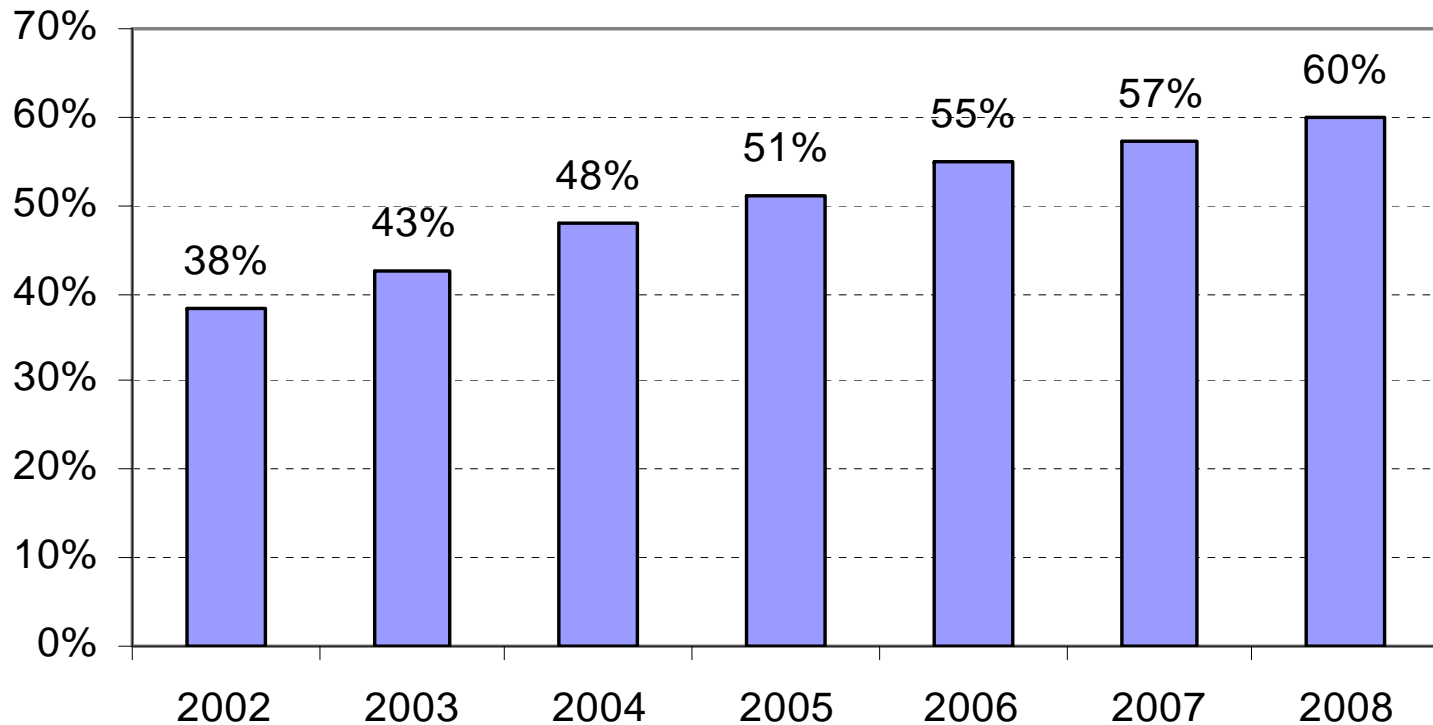
The Competency Determination Standard

- In 2000, Board of Education set the CD passing standard for students in the Class of 2003 at 220, and included in their vote their intention “raise the standard in future years.”
- In 2006, the Board of Education asked the Commissioner to consider raising the standard to 240. Their request was prompted by:
 - Annual increases in the % of students scoring at least 220 on their first attempt
 - Annual increases in the % of students scoring at least 240 on their first attempt
 - Anecdotal information that many MA high school graduates still required remediation in college

Percentage of Students Scoring Needs Improvement or Higher on both ELA and Mathematics MCAS Grade 10 Tests on their First Attempt



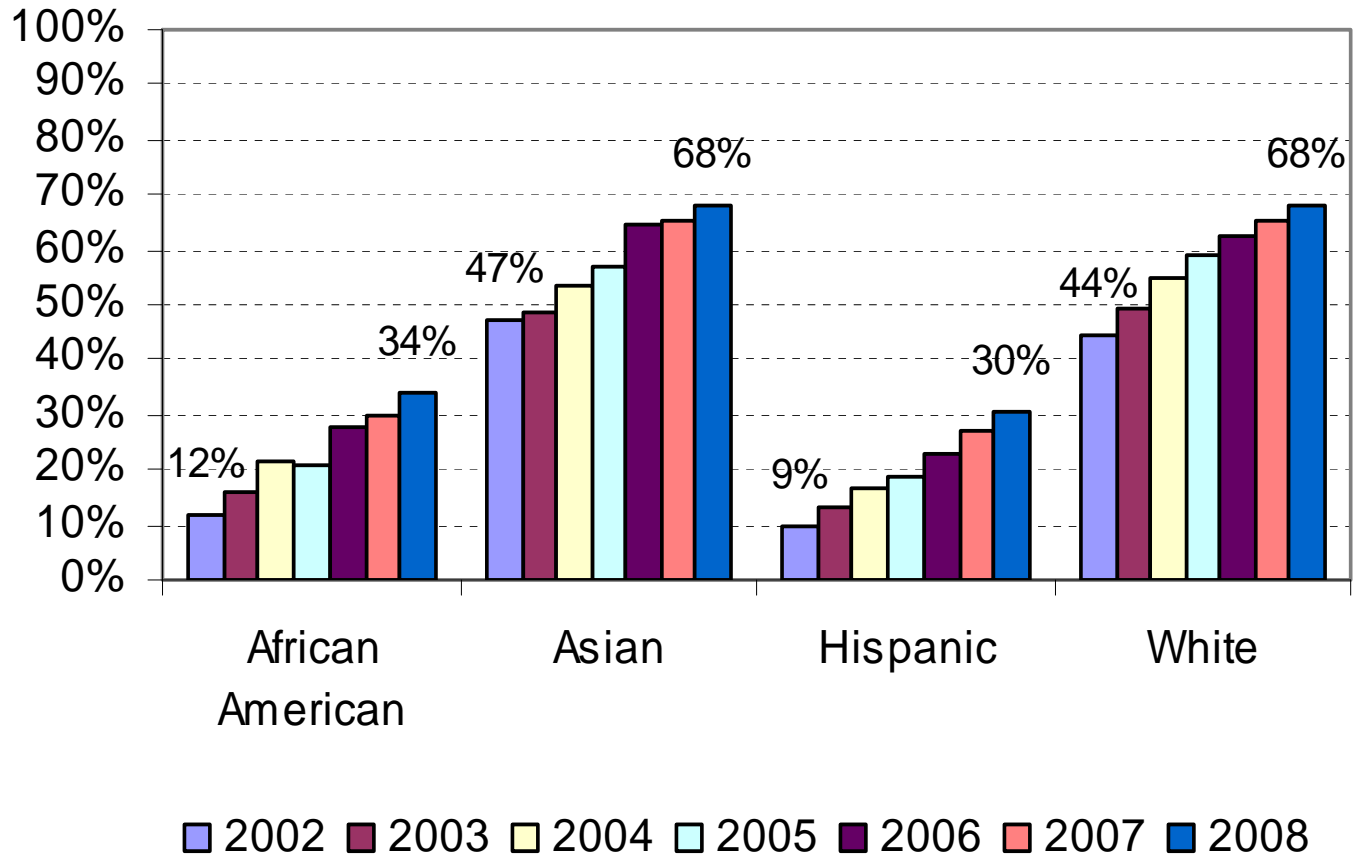
Percentage of Students Scoring Proficient or Advanced on both ELA and Mathematics Grade 10 MCAS Tests on their First Attempt



Subgroup Performance

- While the increase in the percentage of students achieving at the Proficient and Advanced levels was increasing each year, and those increases were evident among nearly all subgroups, the “proficiency gap” between subgroups remained relatively high.

Percentage of Students Scoring Proficient or Advanced on both ELA and Mathematics Grade 10 MCAS Tests on their First Attempt by Race and Ethnicity



New CD Standard

- Based on the trend data, there was concern that raising the standard to *Proficient (240)* might be too great a stretch for all students at the time.
- Accordingly, the Commissioner recommended that the passing standard be raised to 240, but that students who did not achieve at that level be able to earn a CD as long as they successfully completed a plan designed to help them achieve proficiency of grade 10 standards at the same time as they were taking more advanced coursework in grades 11 and 12 – an Educational Proficiency Plan (EPP).
- *The Board adopted the new standard in 2006 for the Class of 2010.*

Developmental Course Taking by Grade 10 Mathematics and ELA MCAS Performance 2005 High School Graduating Class

MCAS Mathematics Performance Level	% Enrolled Developmental Math
Advanced	4%
Proficient	20%
Needs Improvement	50%

MCAS ELA Performance Level	% Enrolled Developmental Reading
Advanced	0%
Proficient	4%
Needs Improvement	28%

