



M I G

*Mary Jean Gallagher*

Excellence,  
Equity &  
Well-being  
Working Together for Student  
Success  
in Secondary Schools

# Leadership Habits

 The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short, but in setting our aim too low, and achieving our mark. 

*-Michelangelo*

# PISA 2018 worldwide ranking

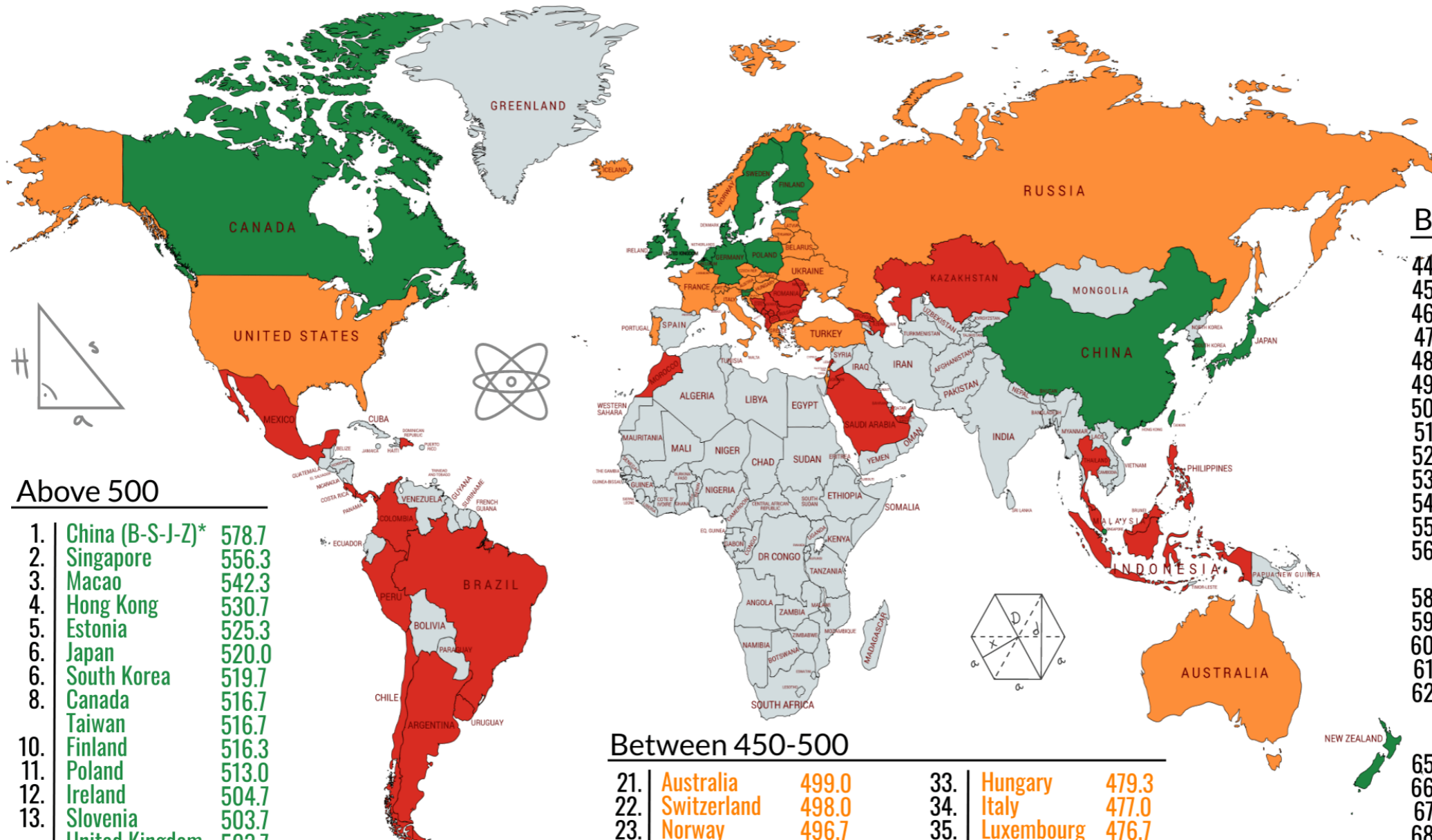
average score of math, science and reading

The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a worldwide study by OECD in 78 nations of 15-year-old students' scholastic performance on mathematics, science and reading.

factsmaps.com

Source: OECD, 2018-2019

■ above 500   
 ■ 450-500   
 ■ below 450



## Above 500

1.	China (B-S-J-Z)*	578.7
2.	Singapore	556.3
3.	Macao	542.3
4.	Hong Kong	530.7
5.	Estonia	525.3
6.	Japan	520.0
6.	South Korea	519.7
8.	Canada	516.7
	Taiwan	516.7
10.	Finland	516.3
11.	Poland	513.0
12.	Ireland	504.7
13.	Slovenia	503.7
	United Kingdom	503.7
15.	New Zealand	502.7
16.	Netherlands	502.3
17.	Sweden	501.0
18.	Denmark	500.3
18.	Germany	500.3
20.	Belgium	500.0



## Below 450

44.	Serbia	442.3
45.	Cyprus	438.0
46.	Chile	437.7
47.	Un. Arab Emirates	433.7
48.	Malaysia	431.0
49.	Romania	428.0
50.	Bulgaria	426.7
51.	Moldova	424.3
52.	Uruguay	423.7
53.	Brunei	423.0
54.	Montenegro	422.0
55.	Albania	419.7
56.	Jordan	416.0
	Mexico	416.0
58.	Costa Rica	414.7
59.	Qatar	413.3
60.	Thailand	412.7
61.	Colombia	405.3
62.	Kazakhstan	402.3
	Azerbaijan	402.3
	Bosnia and Herz.	402.3
65.	Peru	401.7
66.	Brazil	400.3
67.	North Macedonia	400.0
68.	Argentina	395.0
69.	Georgia	387.0
70.	Saudi Arabia	386.0
71.	Indonesia	382.0
72.	Lebanon	376.7
73.	Morocco	368.0
74.	Panama	365.0
75.	Kosovo	361.3
76.	Philippines	350.0
77.	Dominican Rep.	334.3

## Between 450-500

21.	Australia	499.0
22.	Switzerland	498.0
23.	Norway	496.7
24.	Czechia	495.3
25.	United States	495.0
26.	France	493.7
27.	Portugal	492.0
28.	Austria	491.0
29.	Latvia	487.3
30.	Russia	487.1
31.	Iceland	481.3
32.	Lithuania	479.7
33.	Hungary	479.3
34.	Italy	477.0
35.	Luxembourg	476.7
36.	Belarus	472.3
37.	Croatia	471.7
38.	Slovakia	469.3
39.	Israel	465.0
40.	Turkey	462.7
	Ukraine	462.7
42.	Malta	459.0
43.	Greece	453.3



\* Beijing, Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang



# Snapshot – Province of Ontario



- **Canada's area is 9,985,000 km<sup>2</sup> (1<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> times the area of Europe)**

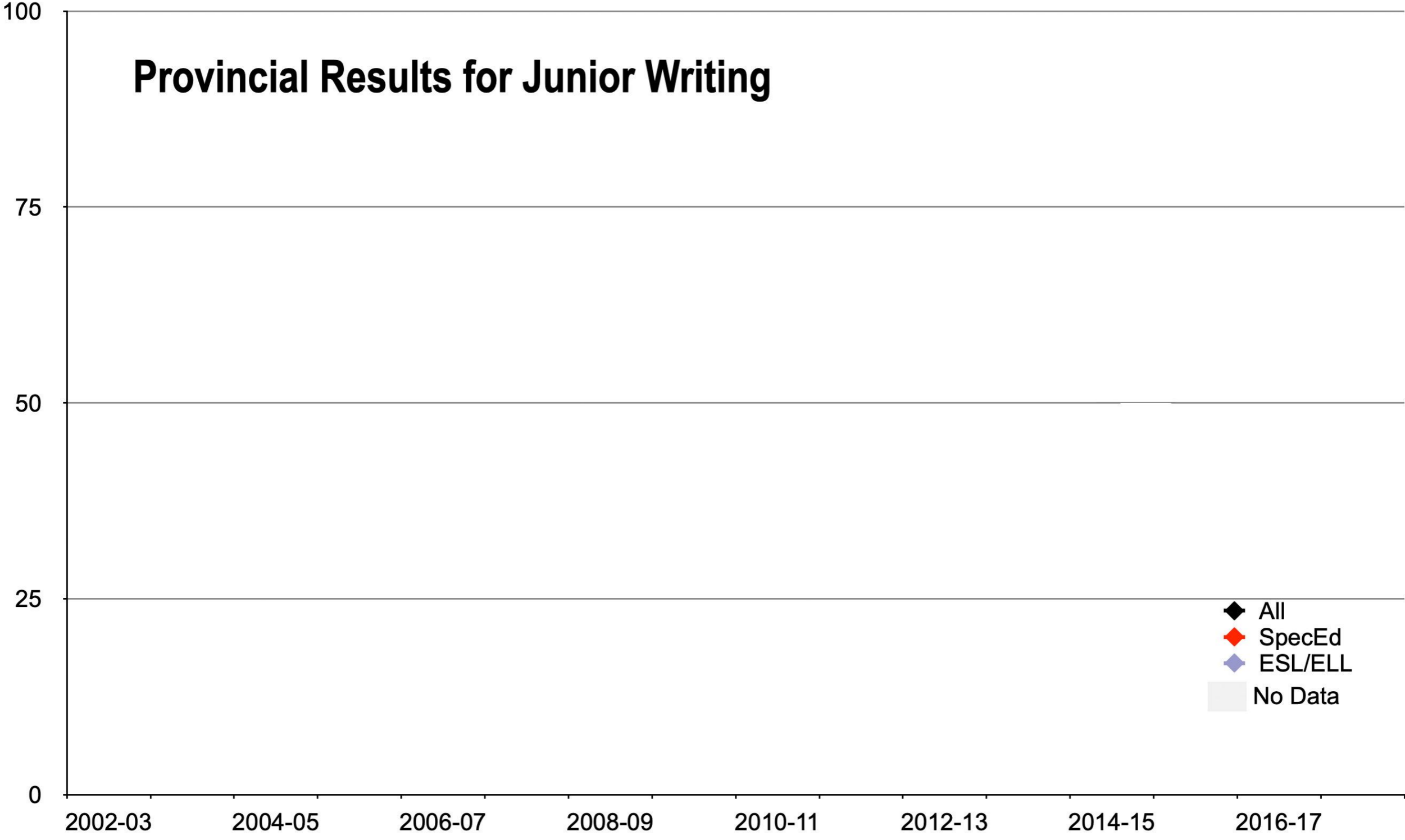
# Snapshot – Province of Ontario

- **Area 1,076,400 km<sup>2</sup> (about 40% the area of Kazakhstan)**
- **Home to 40% of Canada's 38 million people**
- **2 million students**
- **English is not the first language of 27%**
- **5,000 schools**
- **213,700 staff**

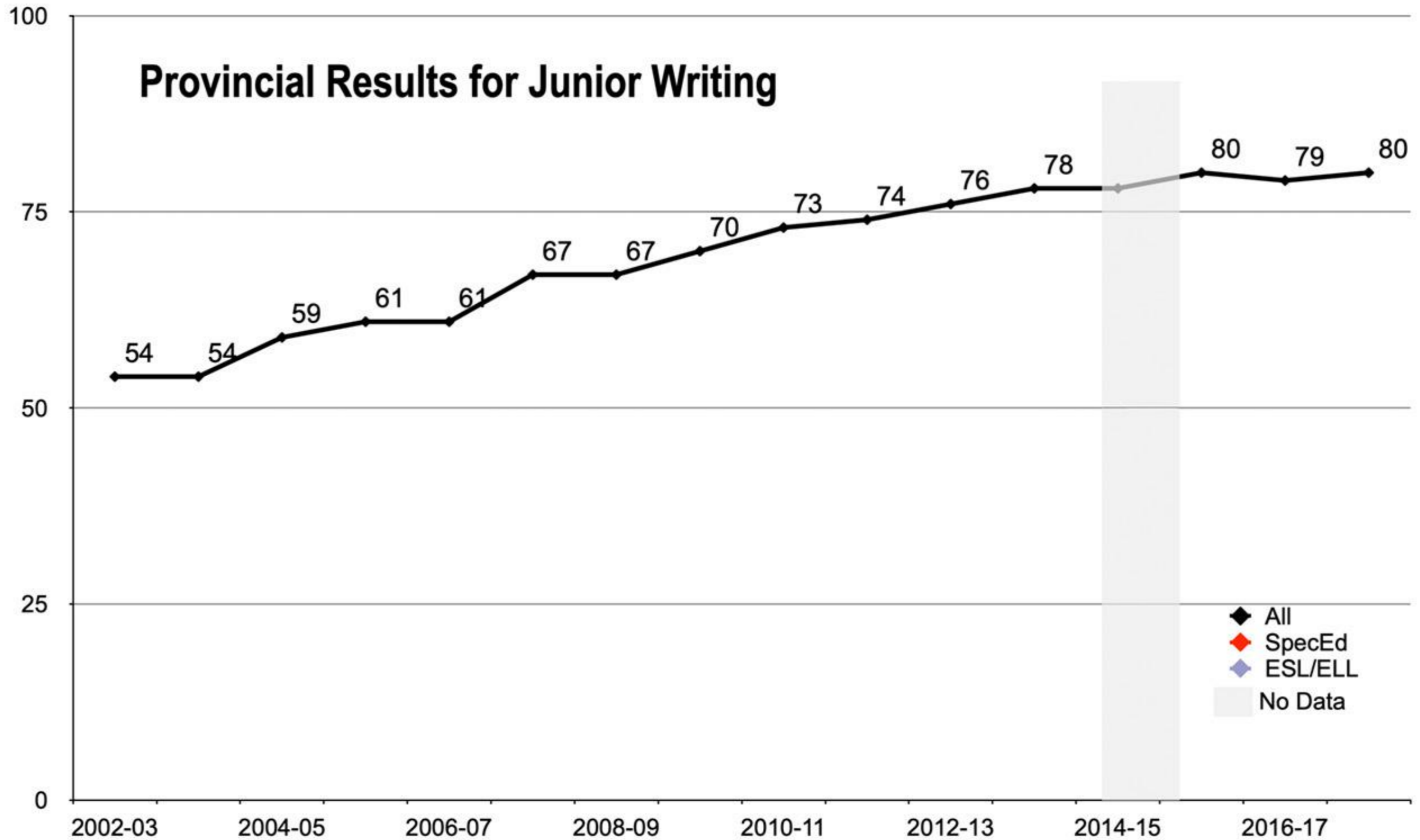


# Mobilizing Data and Effective Practices

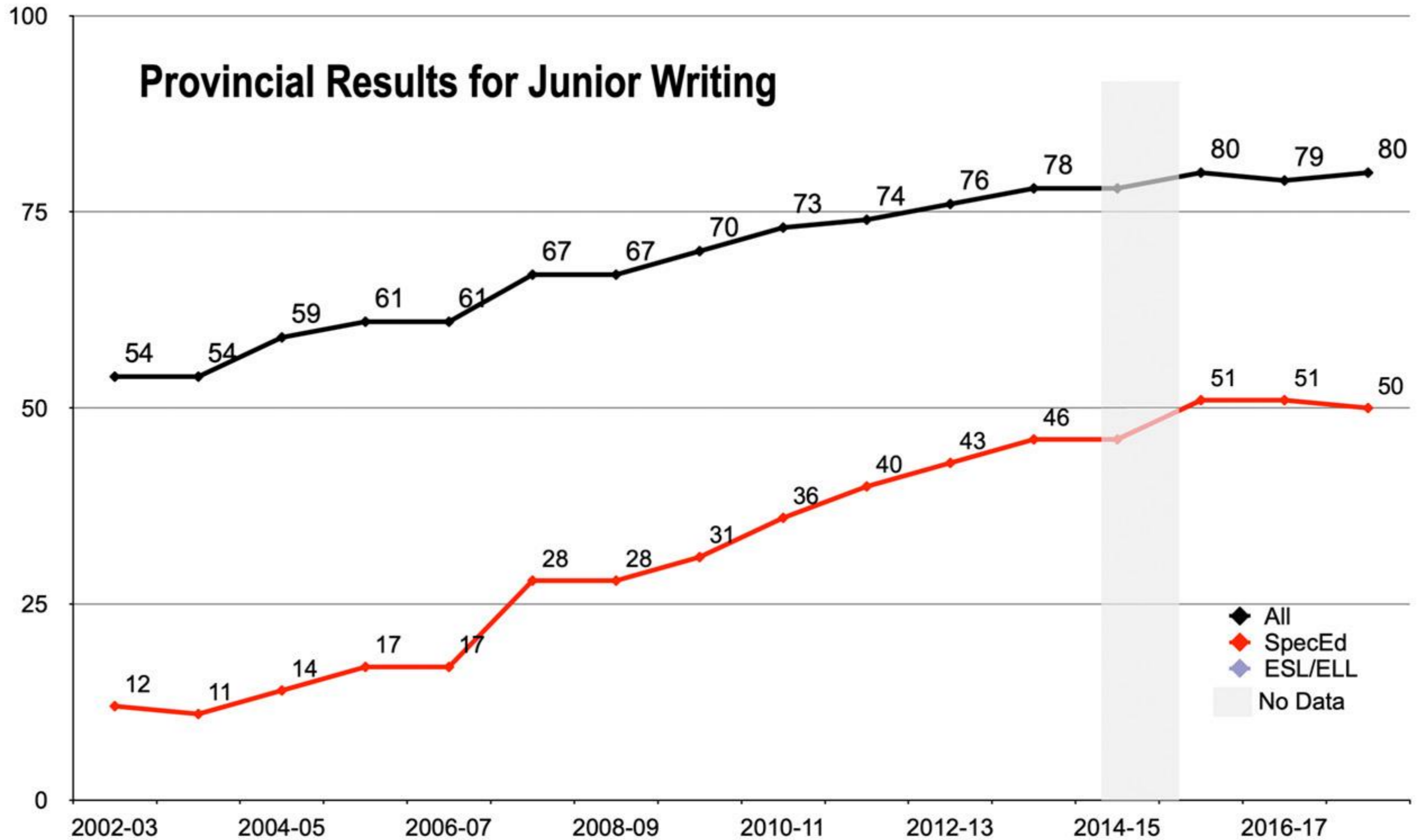
# Mobilizing Data and Effective Practices



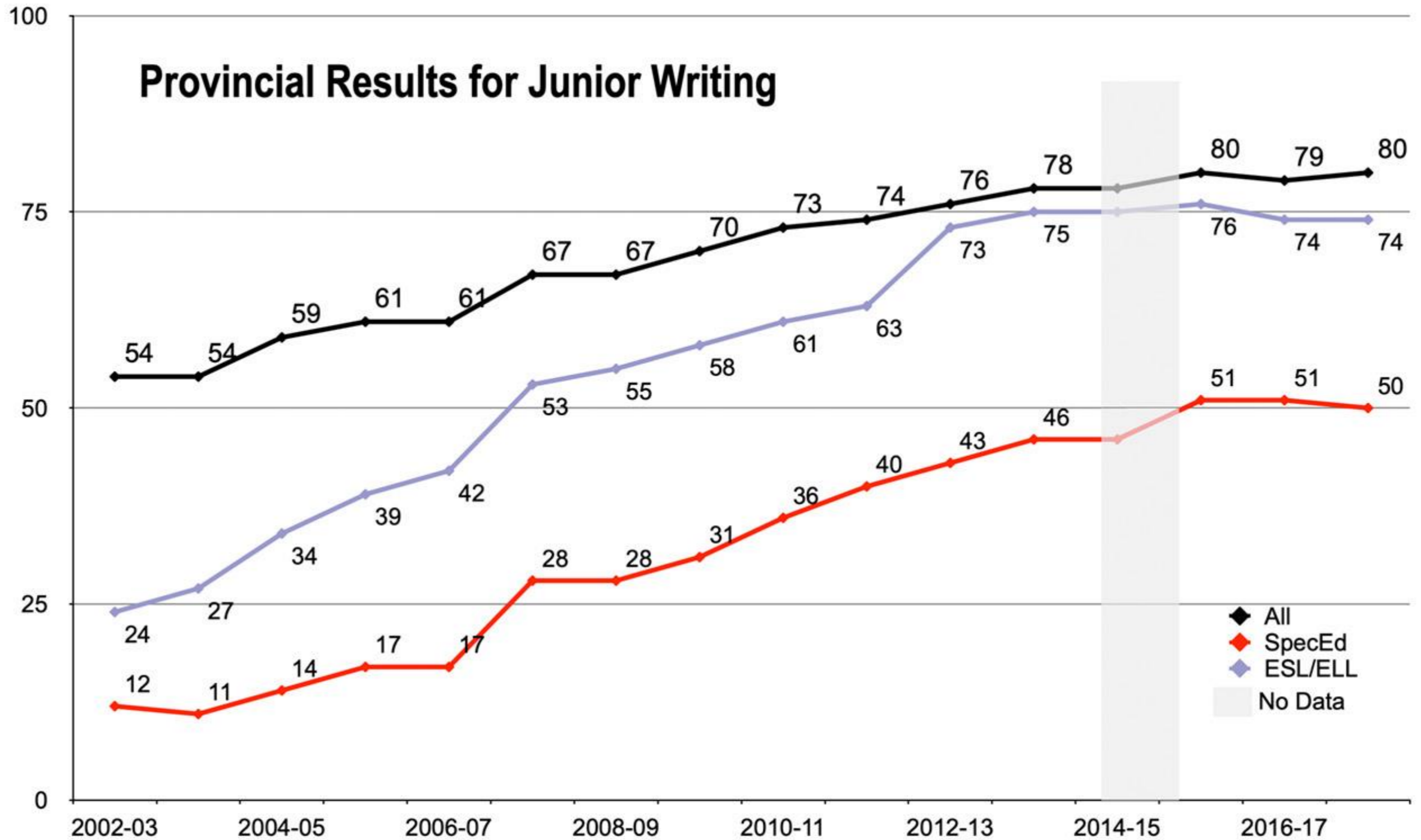
# Mobilizing Data and Effective Practices



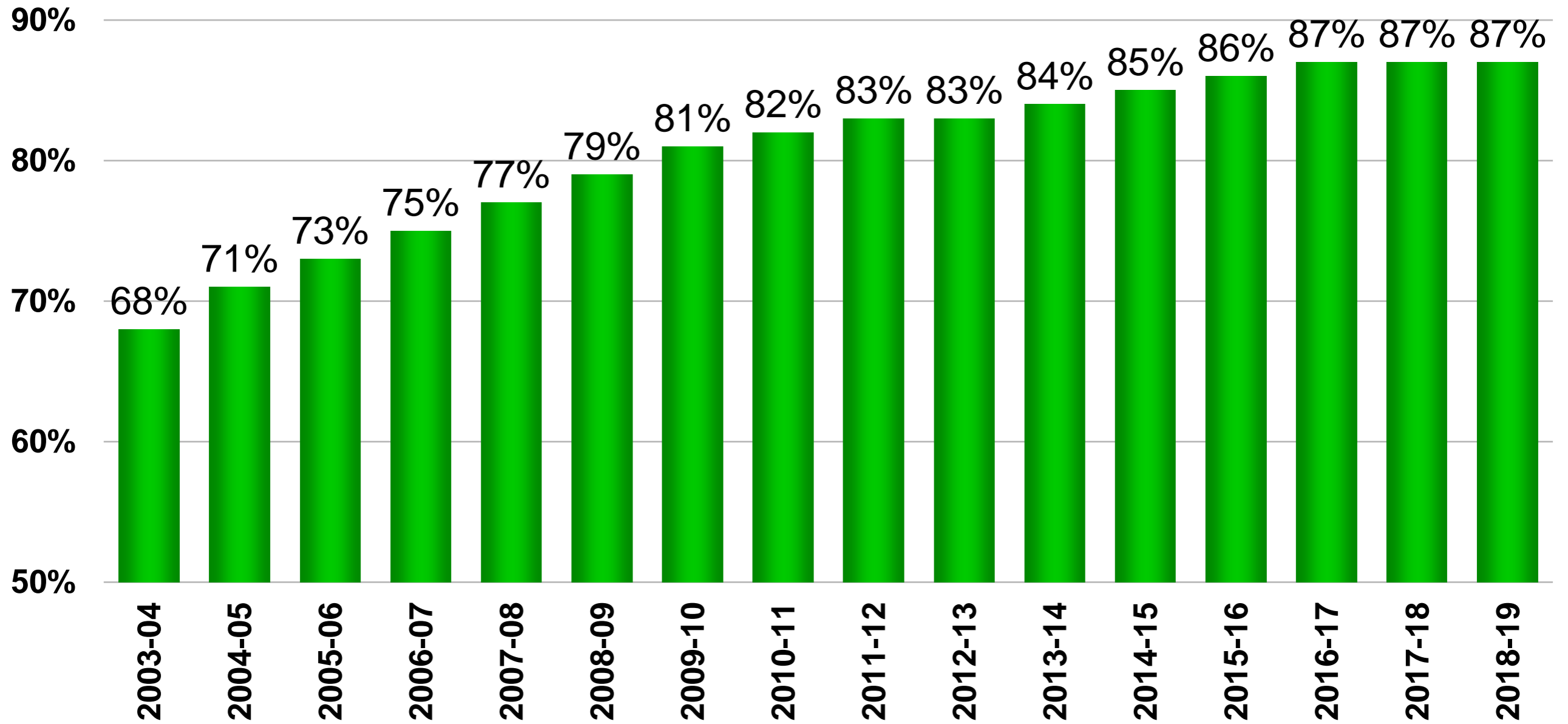
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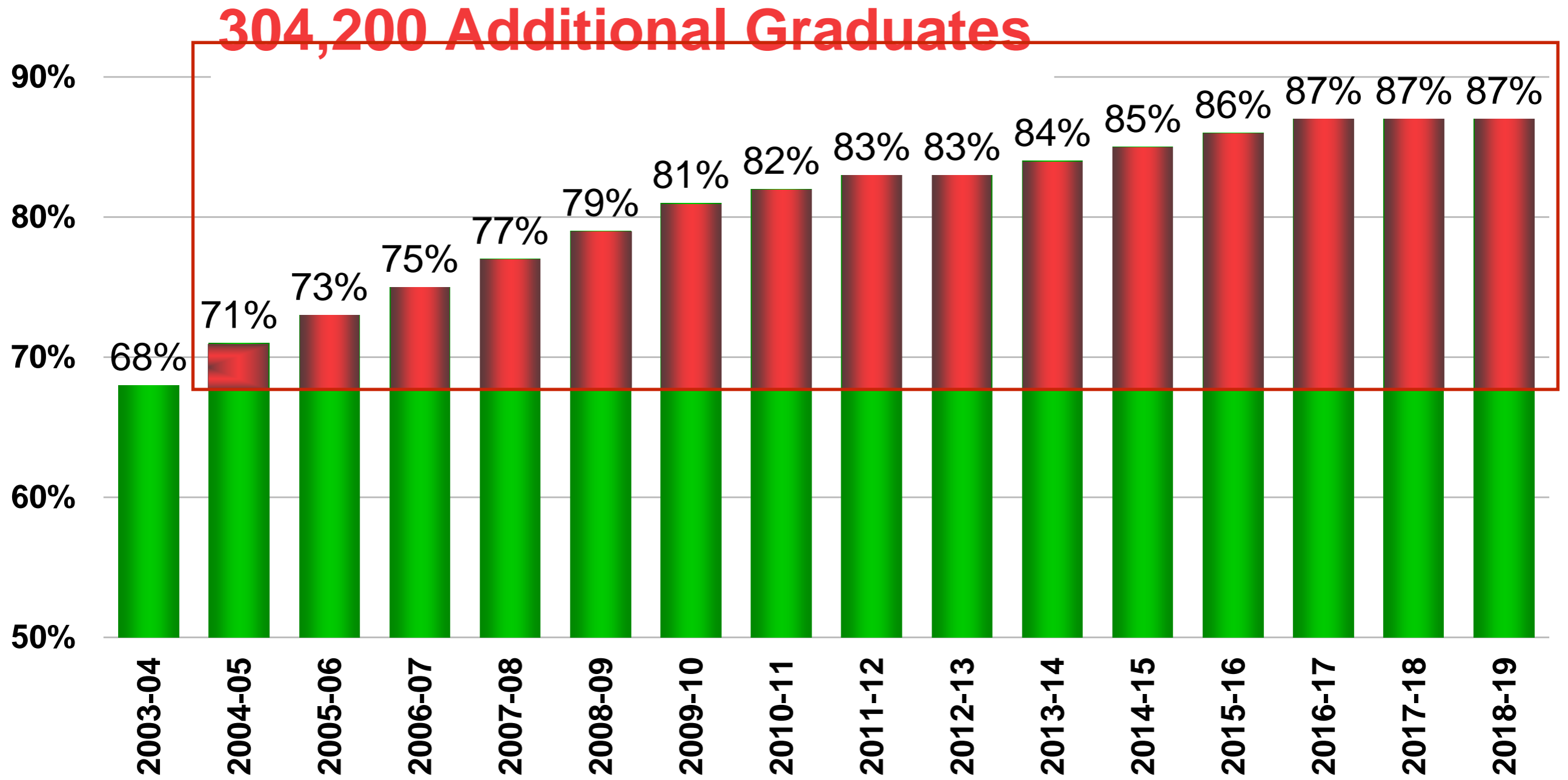
# Mobilizing Data and Effective Practices



# Provincial Graduation Rate



# Provincial Graduation Rate



# My Engagements in Education

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# What Students (and Teachers) Need

High expectations

Strong Foundation

Deep Learning



# Conference Board of Canada – Employability Skills, 2000

- a. Fundamental Skills
- b. Personal Improvement Skills
- c. Teamwork Skills

# Conference Board of Canada – Innovation Skills

- a. Creativity, problem solving and continuous improvement skills
- b. Risk assessment and risk-taking skills
- c. Relationship building and communication skills
- d. Implementation skills



A group of seven diverse secondary school students are smiling and posing for a photo. They are holding folders and books, suggesting a school setting. The students are of various ethnicities and are dressed in casual attire. The background is a bright, indoor space with large windows.

# A Student's Voice:

“Education is not just about gaining knowledge from a textbook but taking action by applying our knowledge to make an impact.”

- Ontario secondary student, Minister's Student Advisory Council Representative, 2014

# Education

 We now accept the fact that learning is a lifelong process of keeping abreast of change. And the most pressing task is to teach people how to learn. 

- *Alan Luke*



What have we learned about  
Educational Improvement?



**Equity**

**Excellence**

**Well-being**

 The greatest influence on student progression in learning is having highly expert, inspired and passionate teachers and school leaders working together to maximize the effect of their teaching on all students in their care. 

*- John Hattie, 2015*



# Improving Secondary Schools

1. School Culture and Pathways
2. Engaging programs
3. Effective Instruction
4. Intervention for students
5. Parent & community engagement

# SCHOOL CULTURE & PRACTICES

- strong collaborative teams
- clear focus on teaching & learning
- high expectations for all and by all
- trust
- engagement and ownership - inside and outside the school



# Student Success

## School Culture and the Four Pathways

- **Student Success teams**
- **Career / life planning for all students**
- **Parent engagement**

# Student Success

## Engaging programming

- Experiential learning
- Project-based learning
- Student voice
- Alternative and adult education

# Engaging Programs

## Specialist High Skills Major

- Schools offer Specialist High Skills Majors in some 19 economic sectors.
- A business advisory committee is formed.
- Students are half time in the workplace.
- Academic program supports career connections.
- Students gain extra “credentials”.

# Engaging Programs

## Dual Credit



- Students in secondary schools take college or apprenticeship courses that count for both secondary school and college credits.
- Some programs located in colleges and universities.

# Student Success

## Effective instruction

- Collaborative Learning
  - Project Based Learning
  - Knowledge Building
  - Integrative Thinking
- Differentiated instruction
- Literacy and mathematics
- Professional learning cycle

# THE GOOD NEWS!

 Educators can integrate a powerful focus on equity in foundational skills into and across the broader curriculum, and engage deeply in collaborative inquiry and knowledge building with their students as stepping stones to greater metacognition, actually preparing their students to learn for a lifetime. 

- *Adapted from the Devil is in the Details,  
Fullan & Gallagher, 2020*



# Student Success

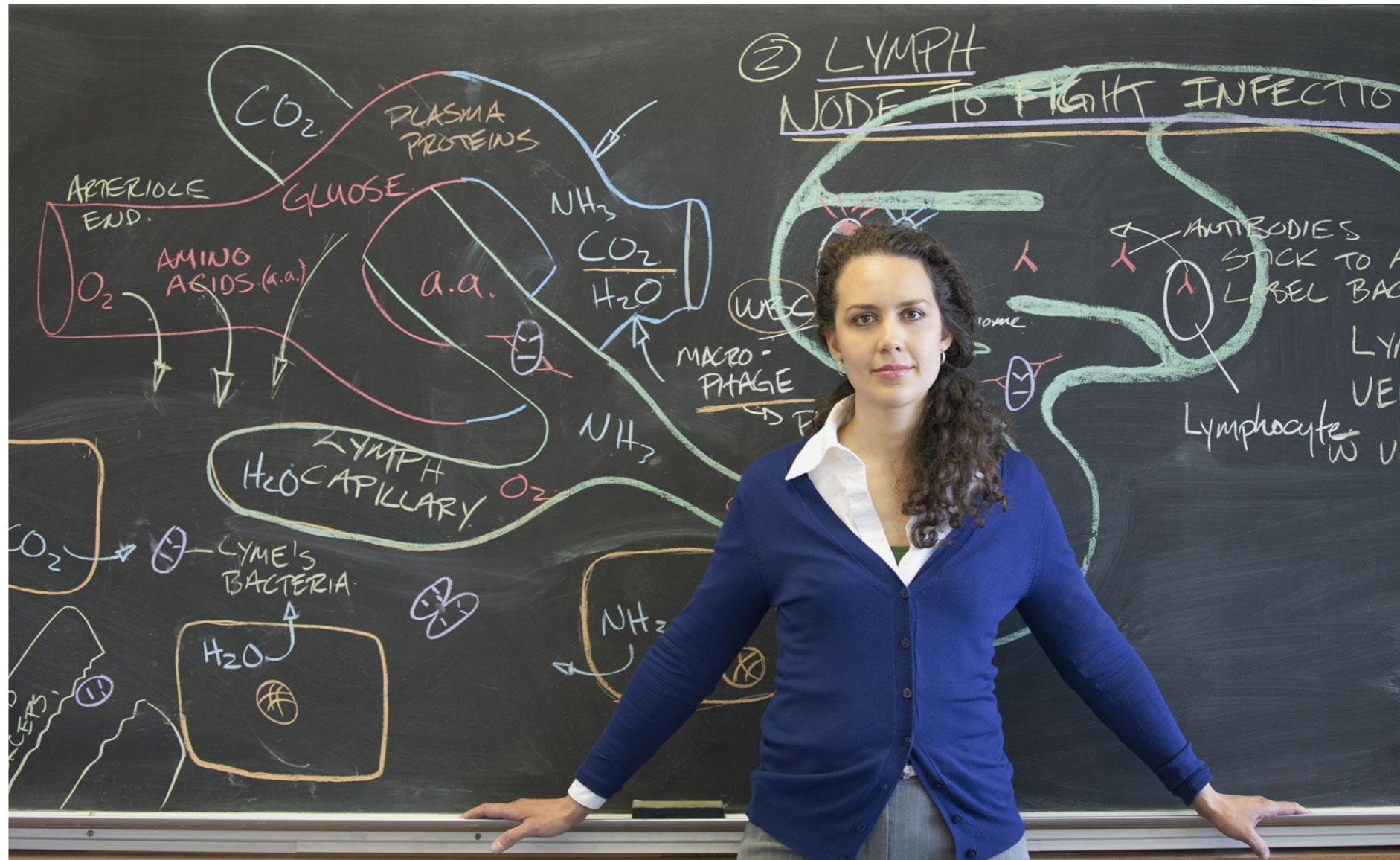
## Interventions for students

- Credit recovery
- Caring adult
- Re-engagement in high school

# Parent & Community Engagement

- Career and life planning
- Experiential learning
- Additional “credentials”
- Differentiated instruction
- Foundational skills

# Some Examples



## STAR: STudents As Researchers

# Schools: The Leading Edge of Change

- A cultural shift
- Evolution, not revolution
- Engage and learn together
- Purposeful action to improve learning and teaching
- Urgently and for the long term



Thank You

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