

RURAL RENAISSANCE OR “RUN TO THE HILLS?”

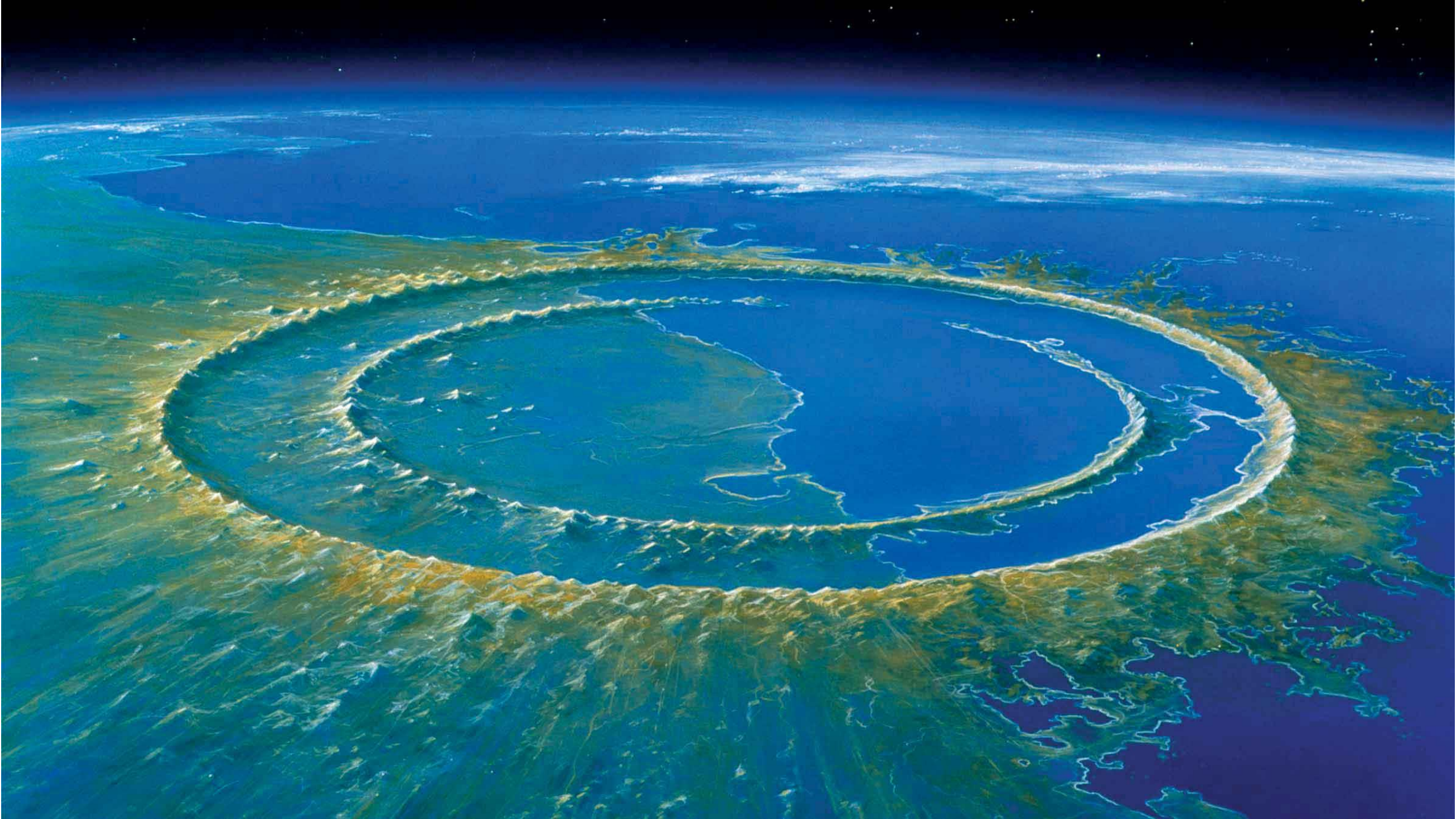
K-12 CHOICE AND RURAL EDUCATION

Dr. Matthew Ladner

Senior Advisor for K-12

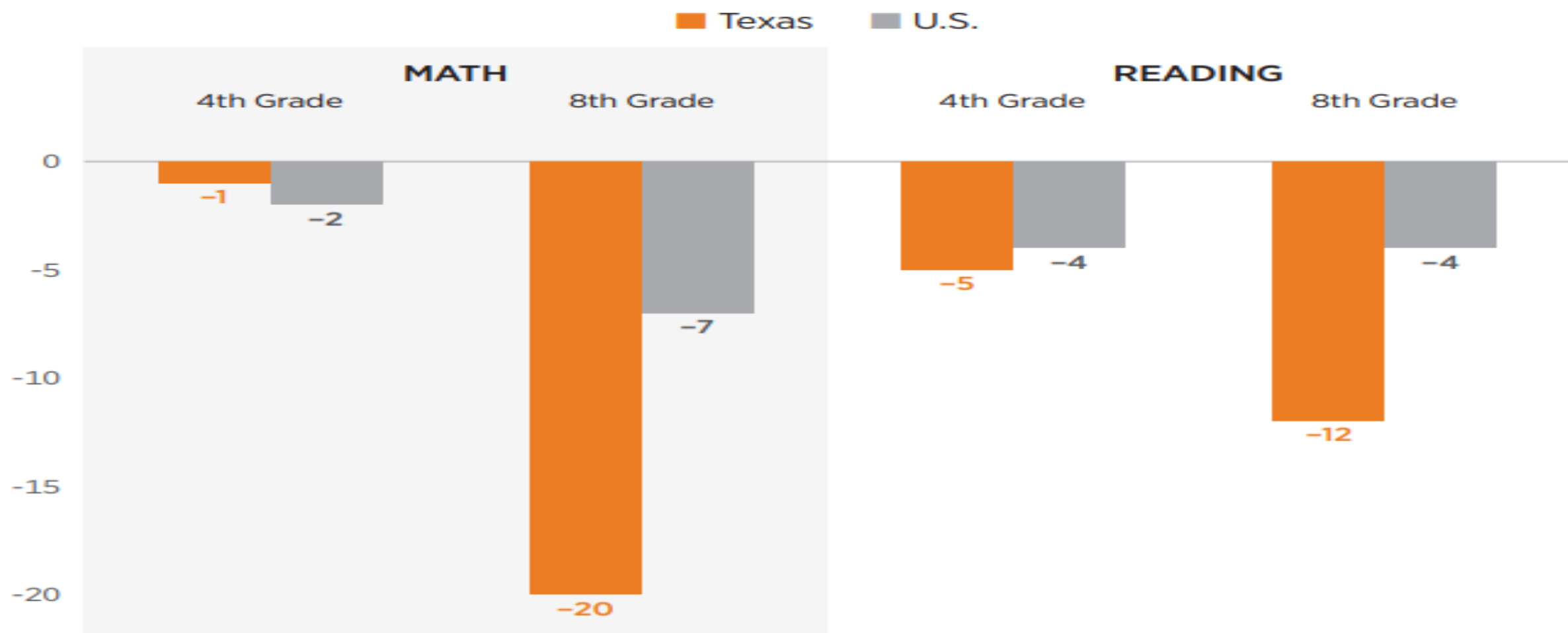
Heritage Foundation





NAEP Trends for Rural Students, Post-COVID: Texas and the United States

Figures are for 2007–2022.



SOURCE: National Assessment of Educational Progress, “NAEP Data Explorer,” <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/ndecore/landing> (accessed August 4, 2023).

A golfer in a blue shirt and khaki pants is captured in the middle of a golf swing on a lush green course. The background features a dramatic desert landscape with red rock formations and dense green trees under a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

School Choice in Arizona

District Open Enrollment (1994)

Nation's Largest State Charter Sector (1994) at 22% of students

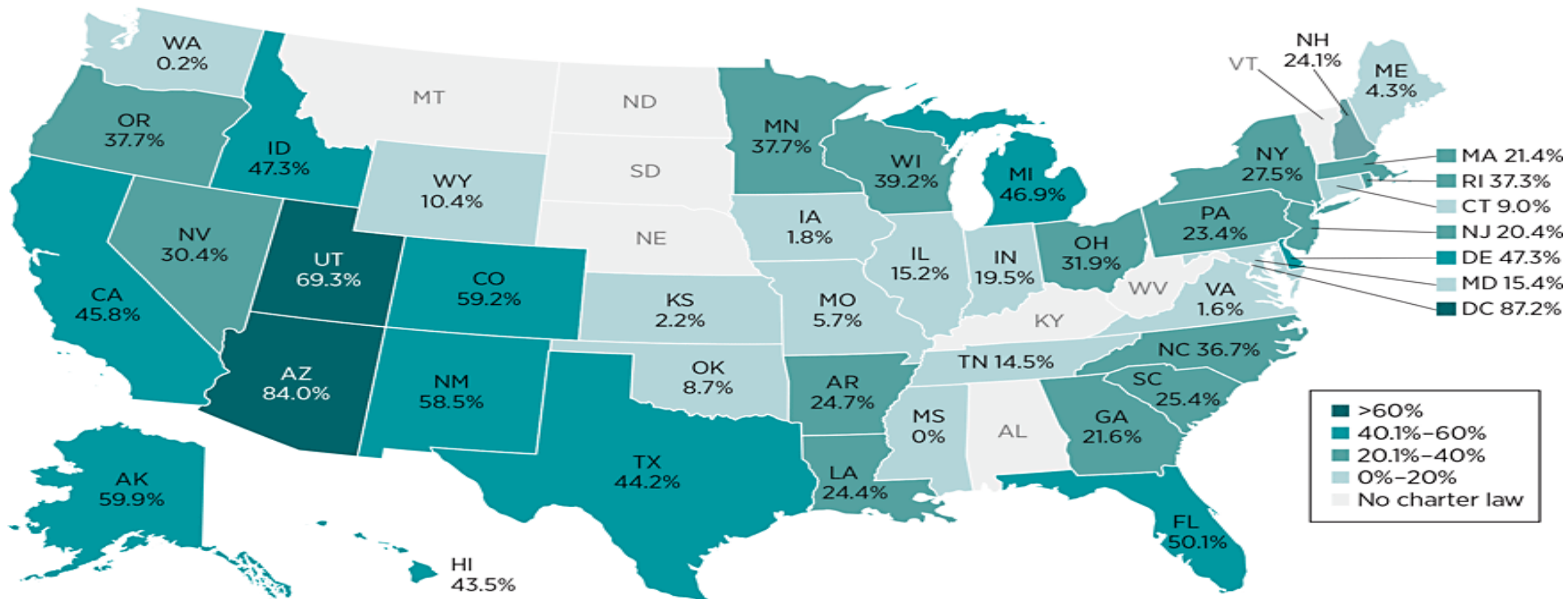
Scholarship Tax Credits (1997 expanded multiple times)

Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (2011, expanded to all K-12 students 2022)

State-funded micro-schools

Home-schooling

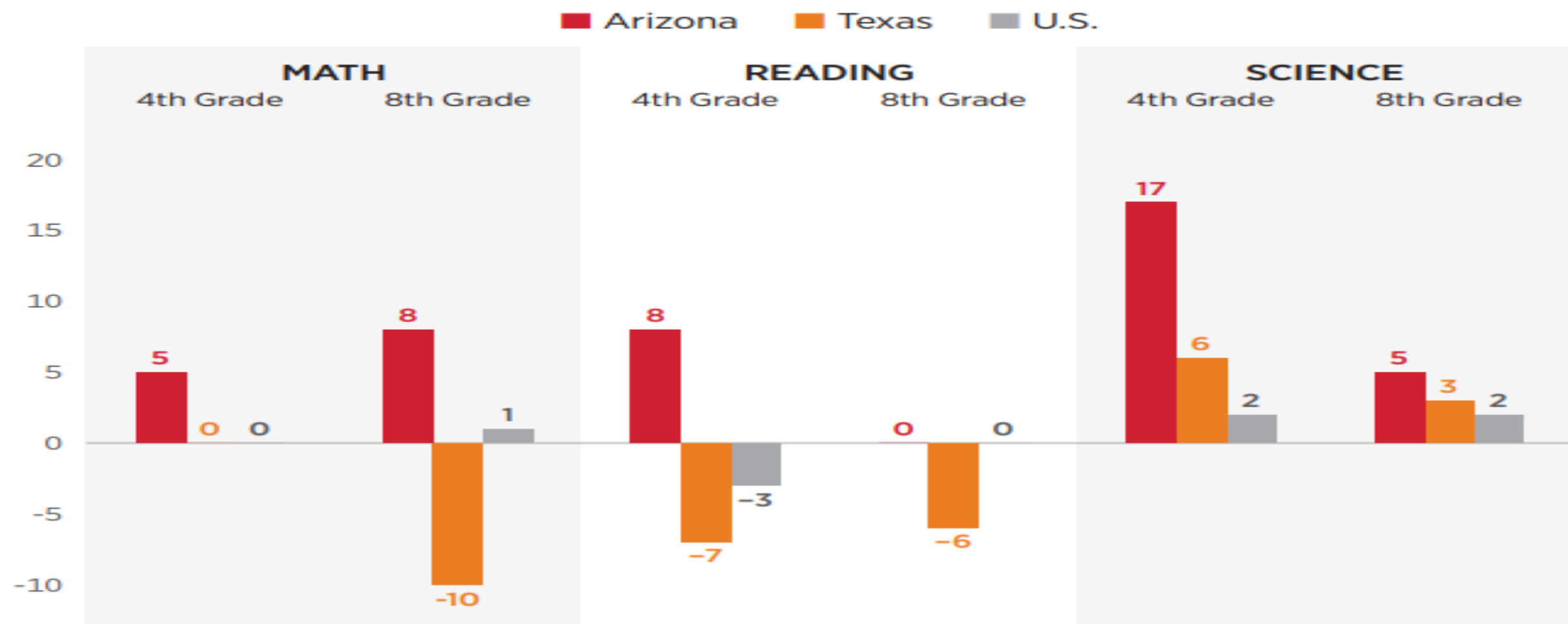
Percentage of Students with One or More Charter Schools Operating Within Their ZIP Code, 2015



SOURCE: Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach, Megan Mumford, and Lauren Bauer, "Who Has Access to Charter Schools?" The Hamilton Project, March 17, 2016, https://www.hamiltonproject.org/papers/who_has_access_to_charter_schools (accessed November 7, 2022).

NAEP Trends for Rural Students, Pre-COVID: Arizona, Texas, and the United States

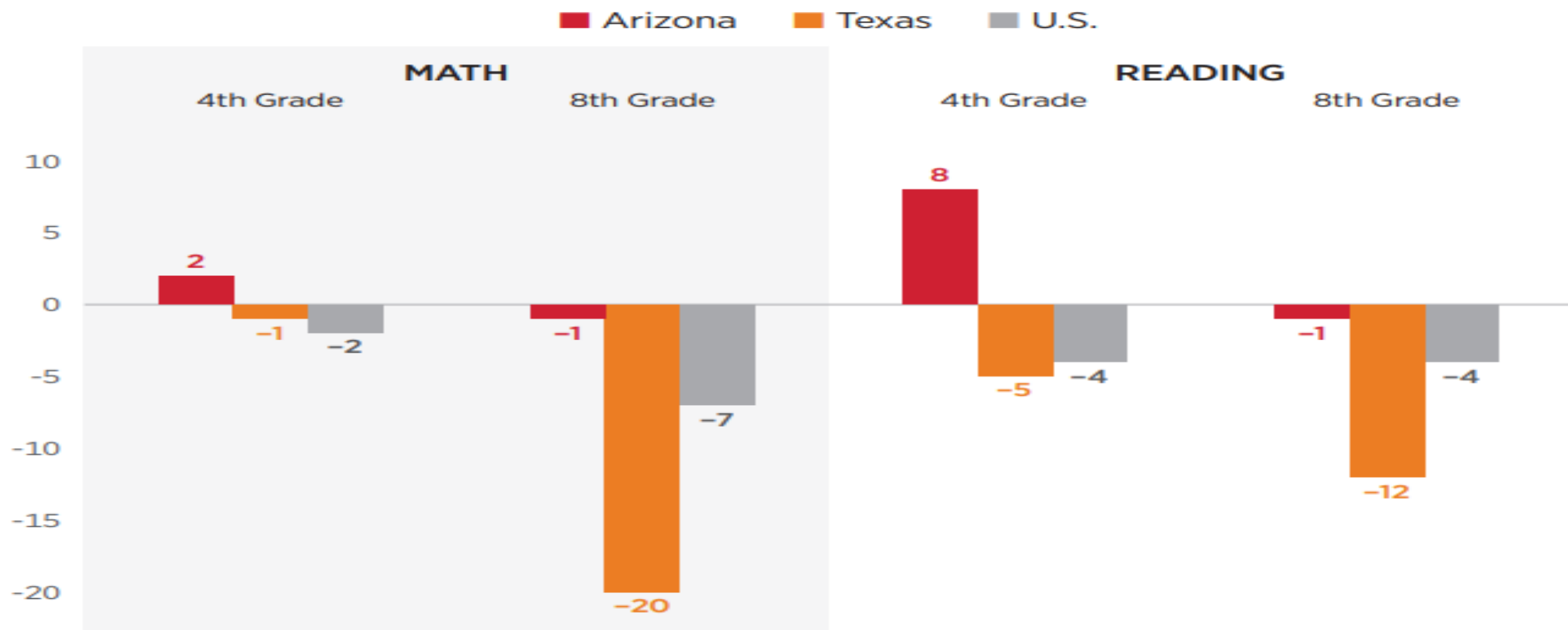
Figures are for 2007–2019 for math and reading, and for 2009–2015 for science.



SOURCE: National Assessment of Educational Progress, “NAEP Data Explorer,” <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/ndecore/landing> (accessed August 4, 2023).

NAEP Trends for Rural Students, Post-COVID: Arizona, Texas, and the United States

Figures are for 2007–2022.

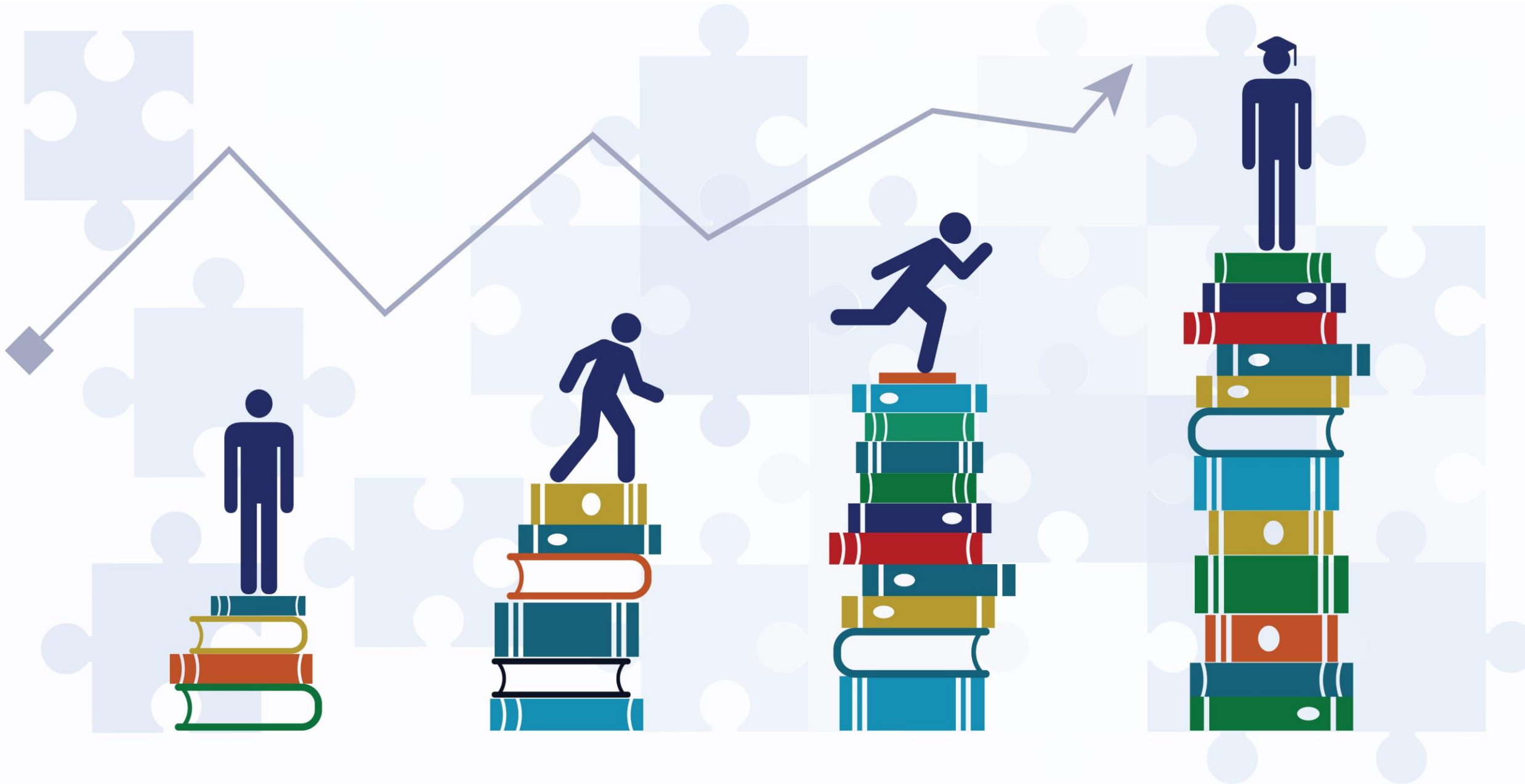


SOURCE: National Assessment of Educational Progress, "NAEP Data Explorer," <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/ndecore/landing> (accessed August 4, 2023).

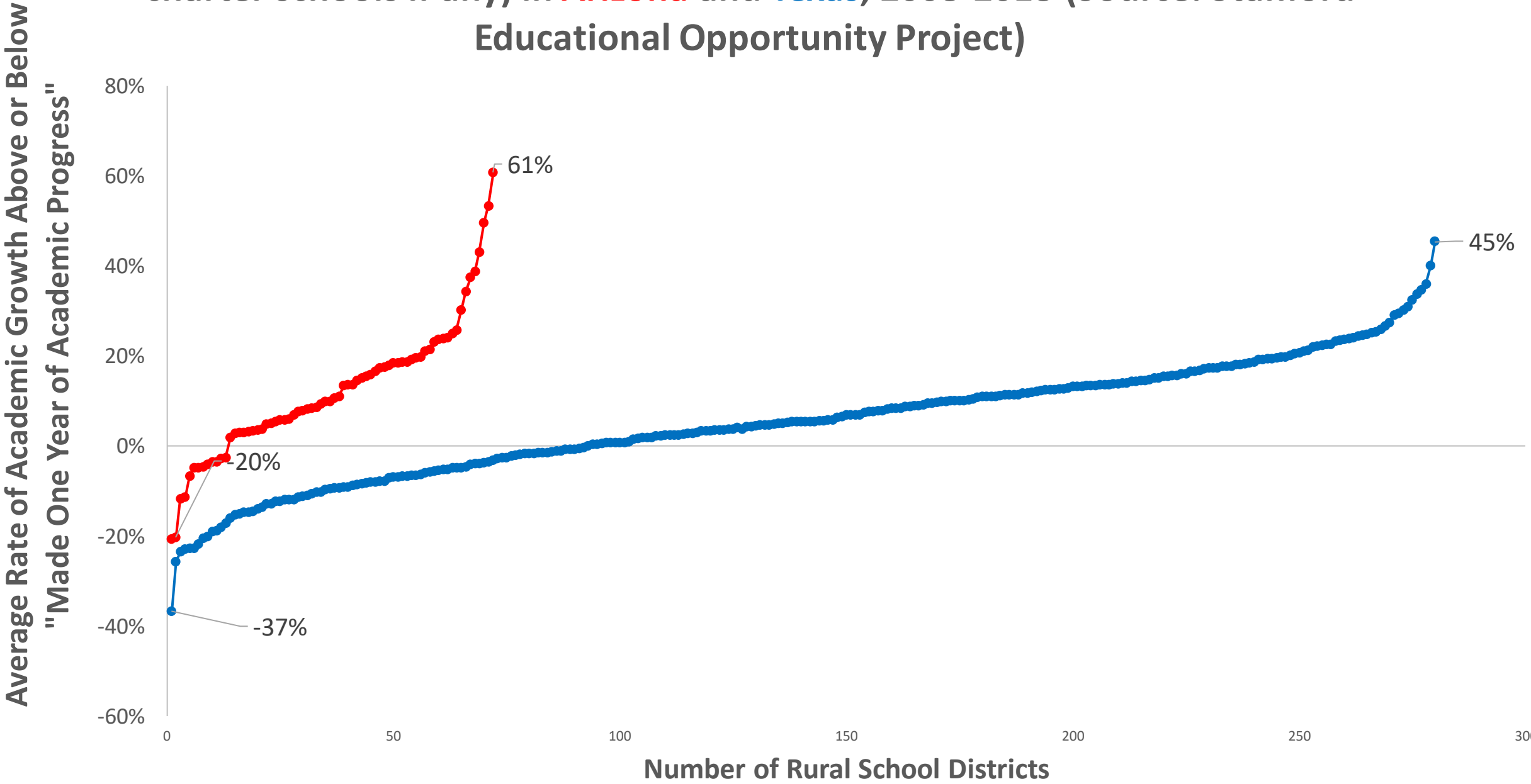
Stanford Educational Opportunity Project



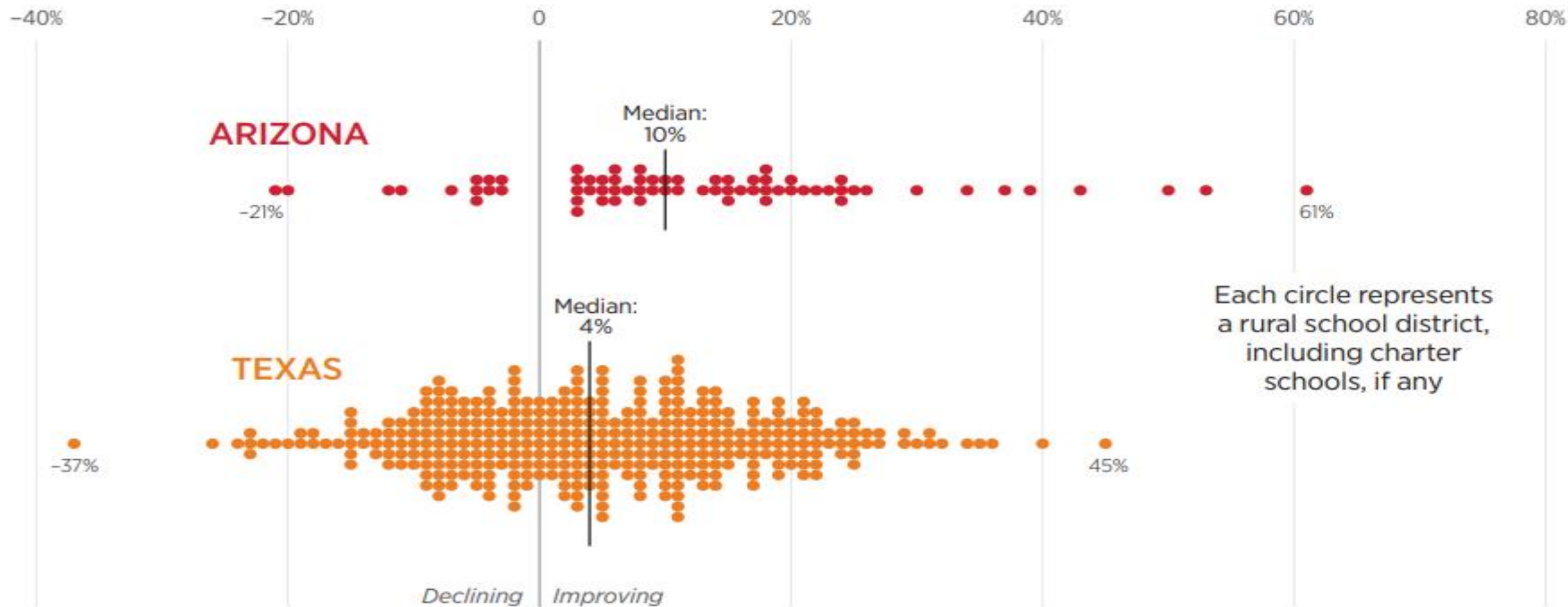
[The Educational Opportunity Project at Stanford University](http://edopportunity.org)
(edopportunity.org)



Average Rate of Academic Growth for Rural School Districts (including charter schools if any) in **Arizona** and **Texas**, 2008-2018 (Source: Stanford Educational Opportunity Project)



Average Rate of Academic Growth for Rural School Districts in Arizona and Texas, 2008–2018



SOURCE: Stanford University, "The Educational Opportunity Project at Stanford University," <https://edopportunity.org/> (accessed August 4, 2023).





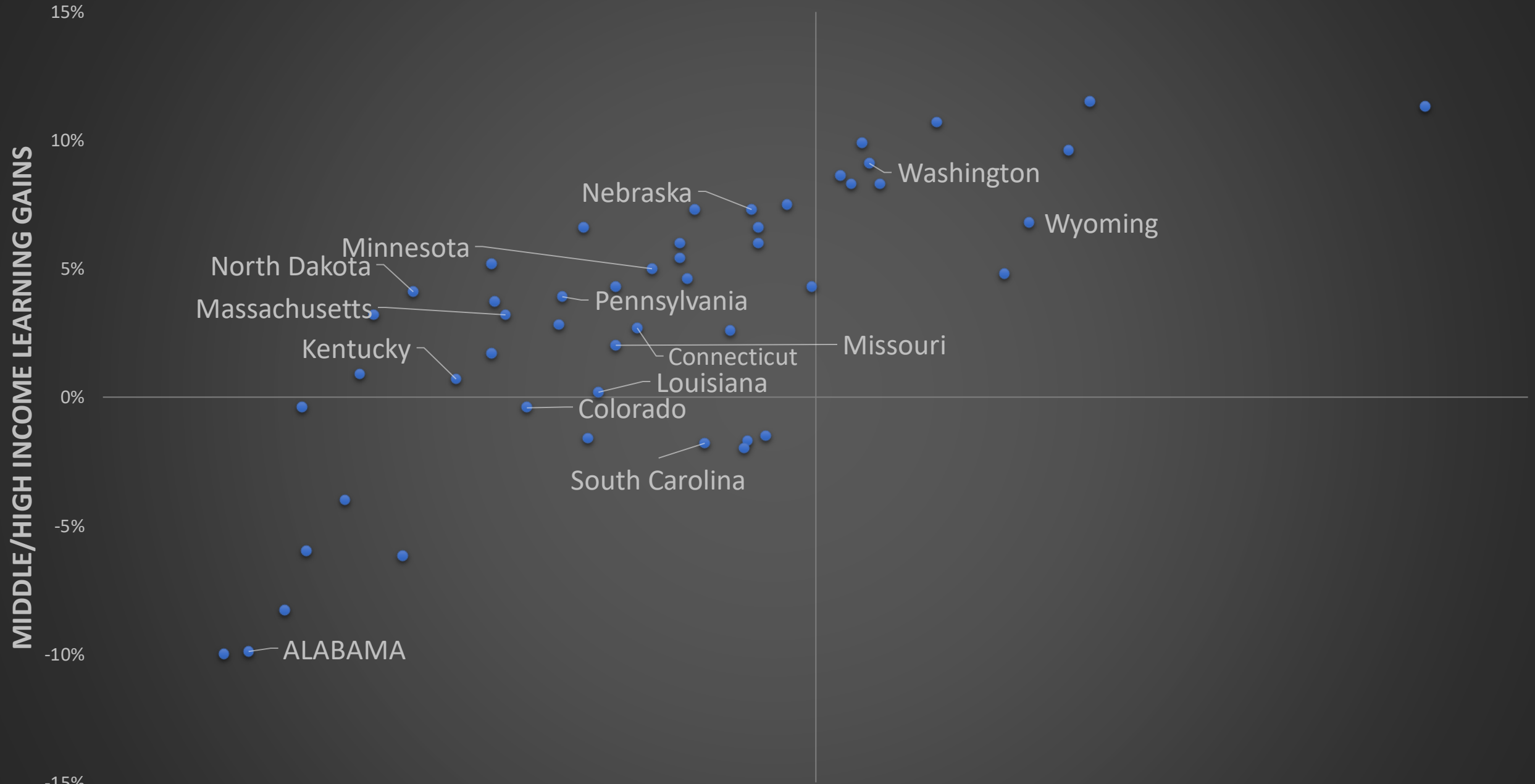
“But Matt, what about ACCOUNTABILITY?”



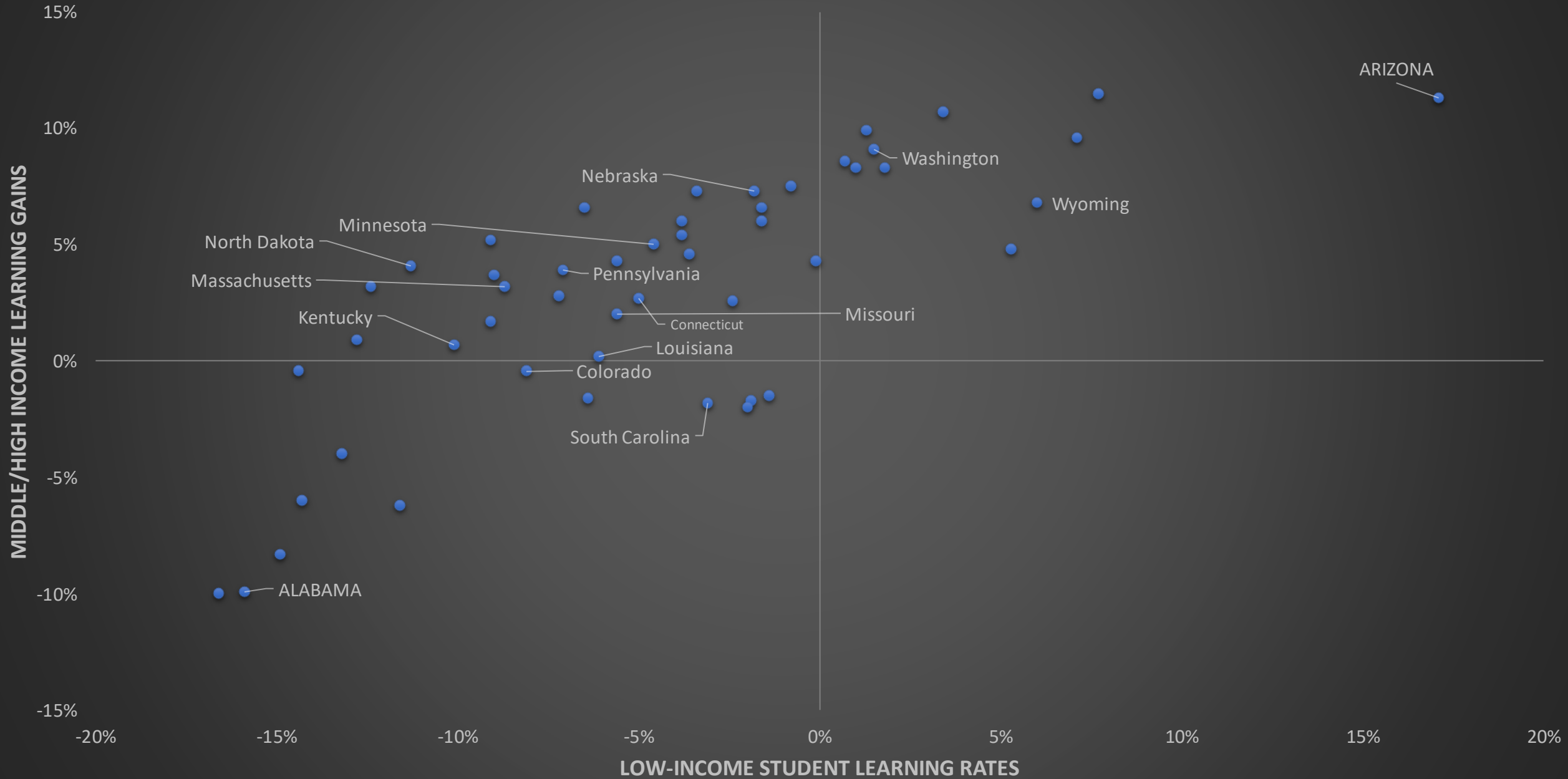
The Vice Presidency isn't worth a pitcher of warm spit.

(John Nance Garner)

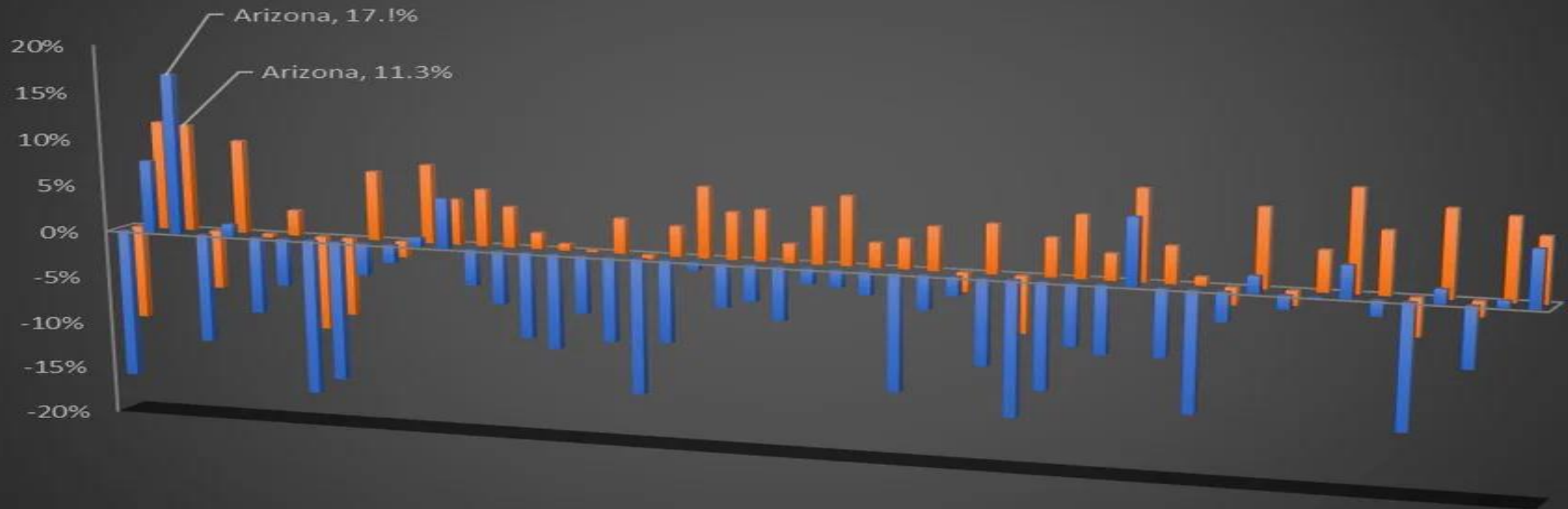
Average Student Learning Gains by State for Low-Income and Middle/High Income Students, 2008-2018 (Source: Stanford Educational Opportunity Project)



Average Student Learning Gains by State for Low-Income and Middle/High Income Students, 2008-2018 (Source: Stanford Educational Opportunity Project)



Student Learning Gains for **Non-Poor and **Poor** Students by State, Zero Line = Learned One Year of Reading and Math in One Year, 2008-2018 (Source: Stanford Educational Opportunity Project)**





Drinking is illegal