

# California Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC)

## 2015-16 Results

Created August 24, 2016  
Updated September 7, 2016


# 2015-16 SBAC Results

## ABOUT THE TEST & SCORES

- The Smarter Balanced (SBAC) assessments were administered for the first time in 2015. These assessments, aligned with new California standards that are based on the Common Core, are more challenging than the previous California Standards Test. SBAC test results from last and this year should not be compared to previous CST results.
- California is part of a consortia of 15 states administering the Common Core assessments.
- SBAC measures knowledge and skills in English language arts/literacy (ELA) and Mathematics for grades 3-8 and 11. These standards are meant to foster college and career readiness.
- The scores tell us how many students are meeting the newer, more rigorous standards – the goals for what students should know and do at each grade level. They also tell us how many students are exceeding standards, nearly meeting standards, and not meeting standards.
- Because we now have access to two years of SBAC results, we are able to measure improvement from last year's baseline.

## WHAT THE RESULTS TELL US

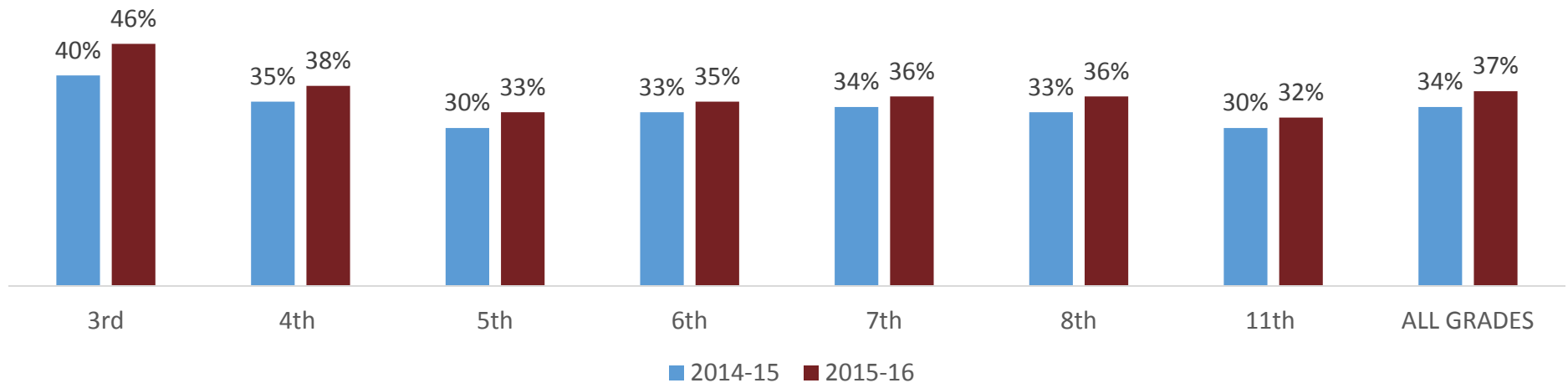
- There are large achievement gaps, with economically disadvantaged students, English learners, African American students, and Latino students performing far below their economically advantaged, White, and Asian peers.
- Virtually all subgroups have improved performance from last year to this year. However, some groups have improved at a faster rate, further widening achievement gaps.



# 2014-15 to 2015-16 Comparisons

# Improvement is evident across all grades in Math from 2014-15 to 2015-16

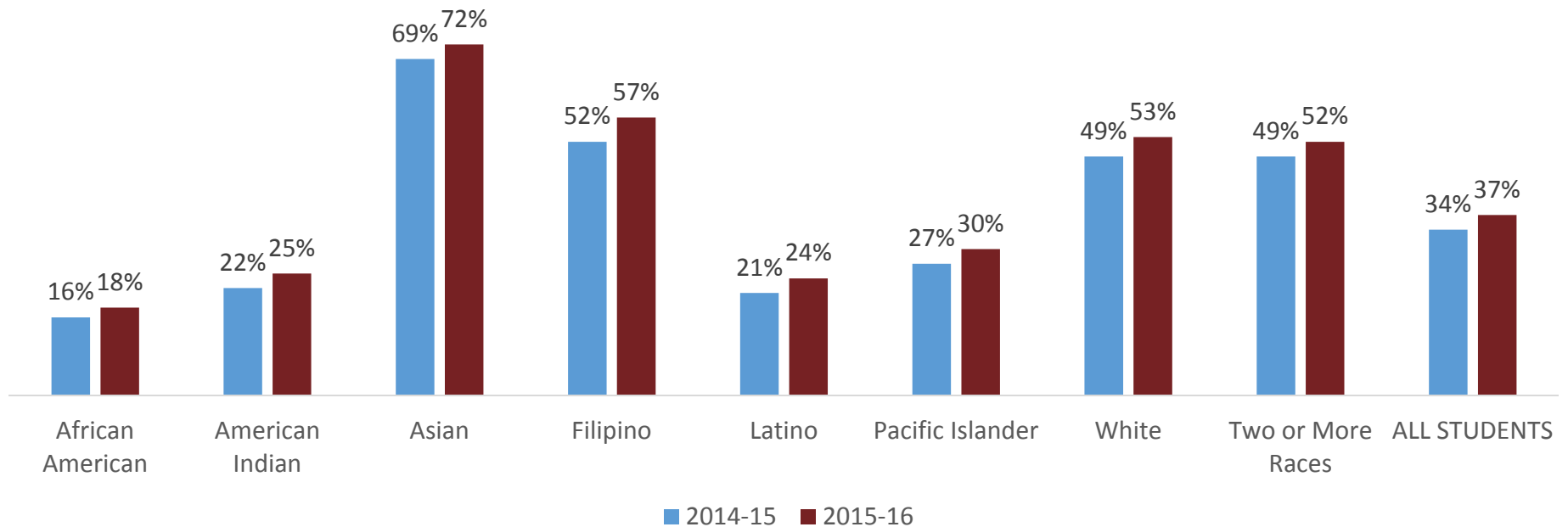
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Standards on SBAC Math Across the Grades  
(2014-15 vs. 2015-16)



Source: California Department of Education, 2016 (accessed August 2016). Numbers may sum differently due to rounding.

# Achievement gaps widened between African American and Latino students and their peers of other ethnicities in Math

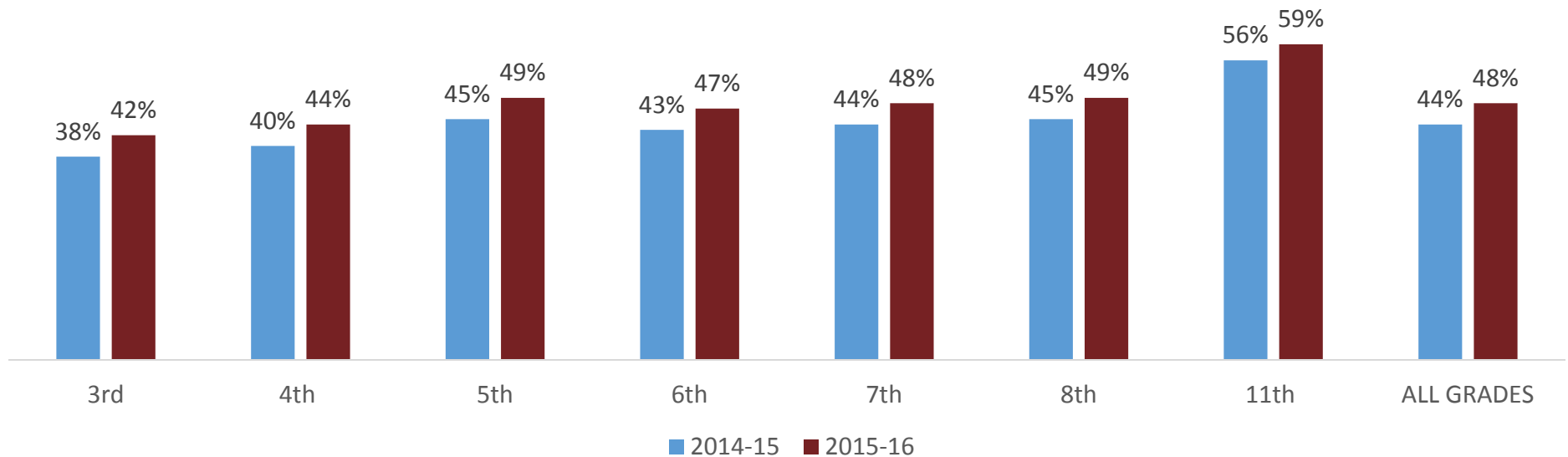
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Standards on SBAC Math, All Grades, by Ethnicity (2014-15 vs. 2015-16)



Source: California Department of Education, 2016 (accessed August 2016). Numbers may sum differently due to rounding.

# Improvement is evident across all grades in ELA from 2014-15 to 2015-16

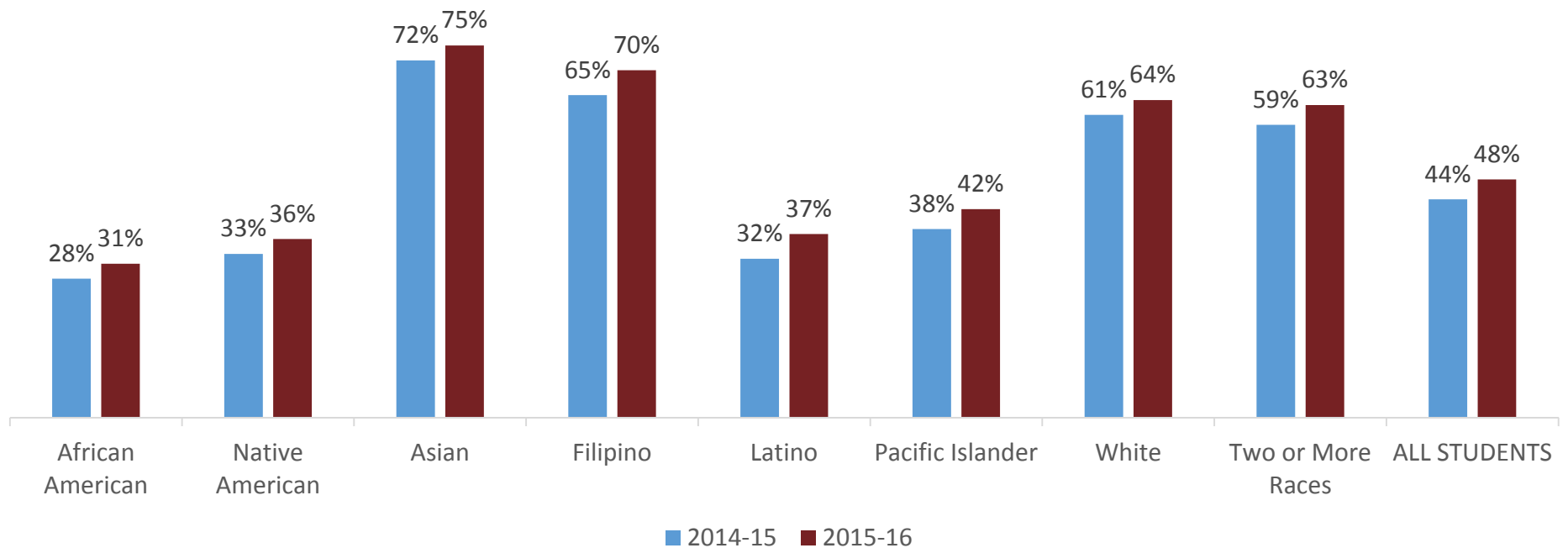
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Standards on SBAC English Language Arts Across the Grades (2014-15 vs. 2015-16)



Source: California Department of Education, 2016 (accessed August 2016). Numbers may sum differently due to rounding.

# Improvement across all ethnic subgroups is still not sufficient to close achievement gaps in ELA

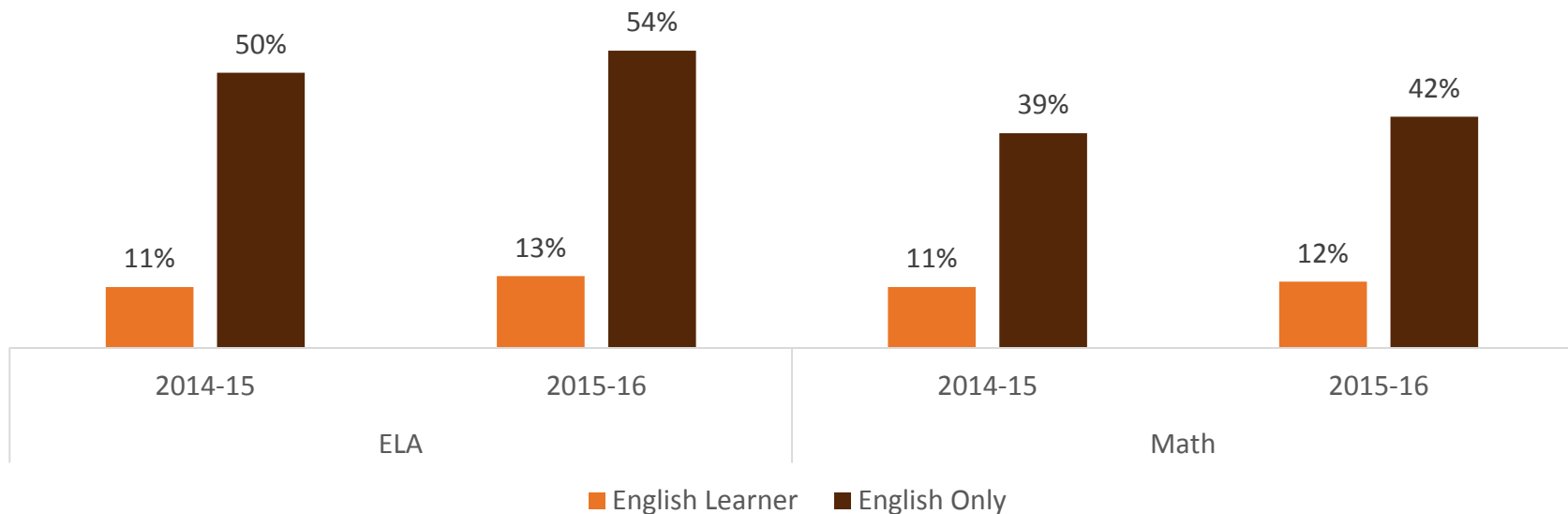
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Standards on SBAC English Language Arts, All Grades, by Ethnicity (2014-15 vs. 2015-16)



Source: California Department of Education, 2016 (accessed August 2016). Numbers may sum differently due to rounding.

# Gaps between English learners and non-English learners have widened in ELA and Math

Percent Meeting or Exceeding Standards on SBAC English Language Arts and Math, All Grades, by English Learner Status (2014-15 vs. 2015-16)

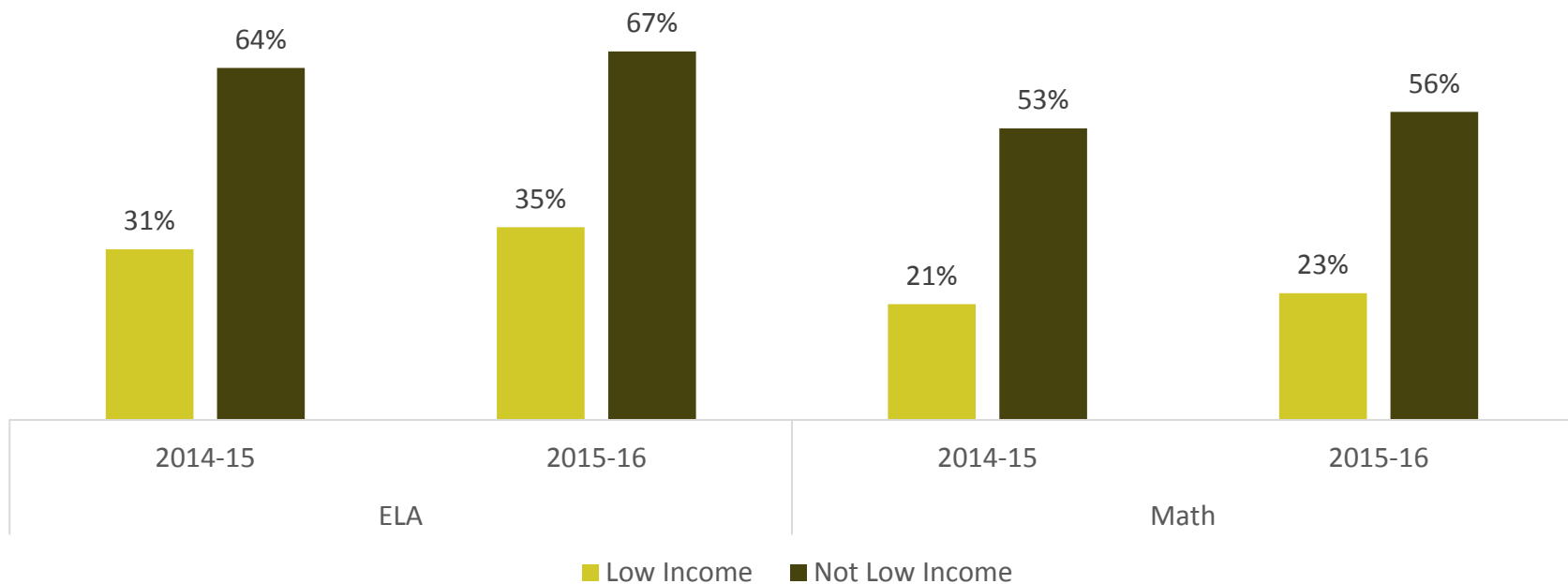


Source: California Department of Education, 2016 (accessed August 2016). Numbers may sum differently due to rounding.



# Gaps between low income and non-low income students have widened in Math

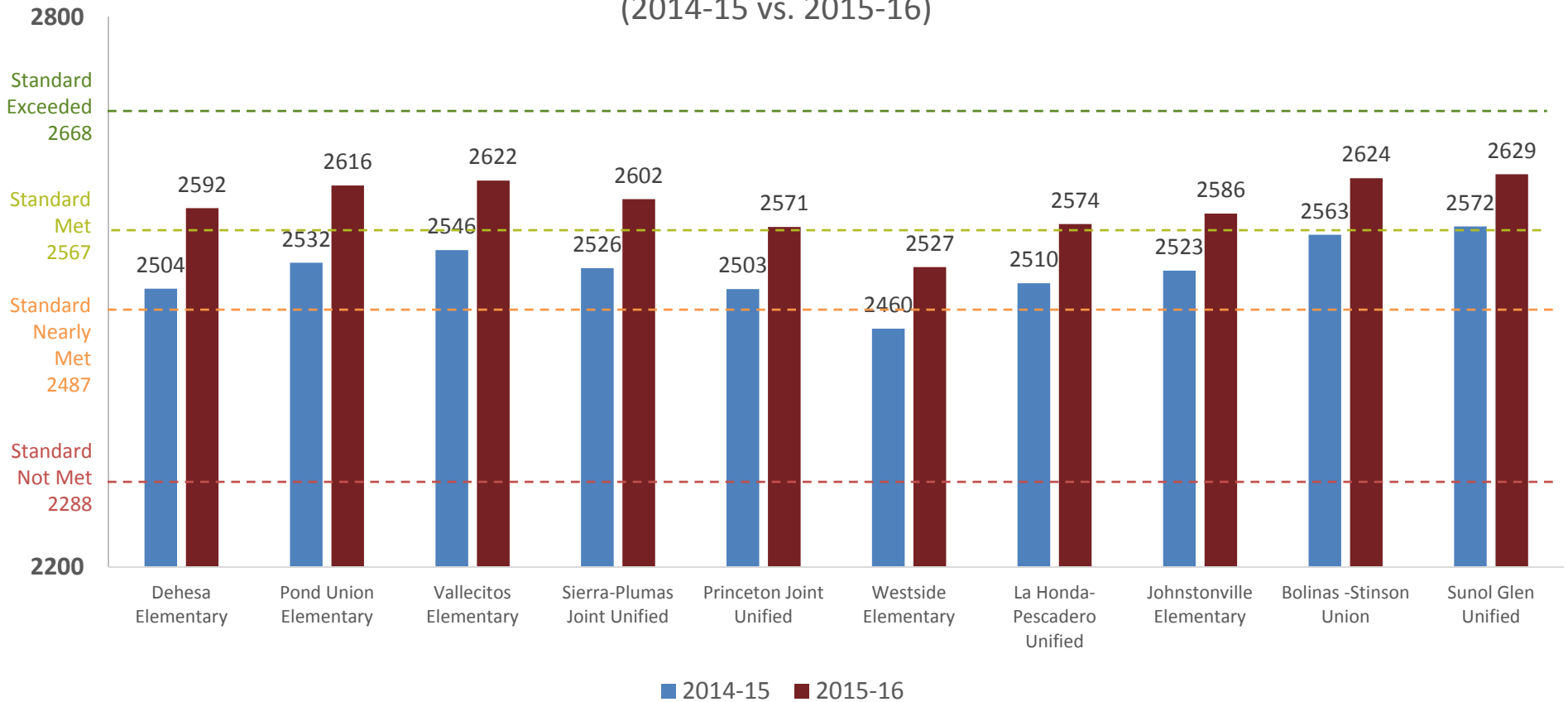
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Standards on SBAC English Language Arts and Math, All Grades, by Income Status (2014-15 vs. 2015-16)



Source: California Department of Education, 2016 (accessed August 2016). Numbers may sum differently due to rounding.

# Some districts' average scores improved by an entire performance level from 2014-15 to 2015-16

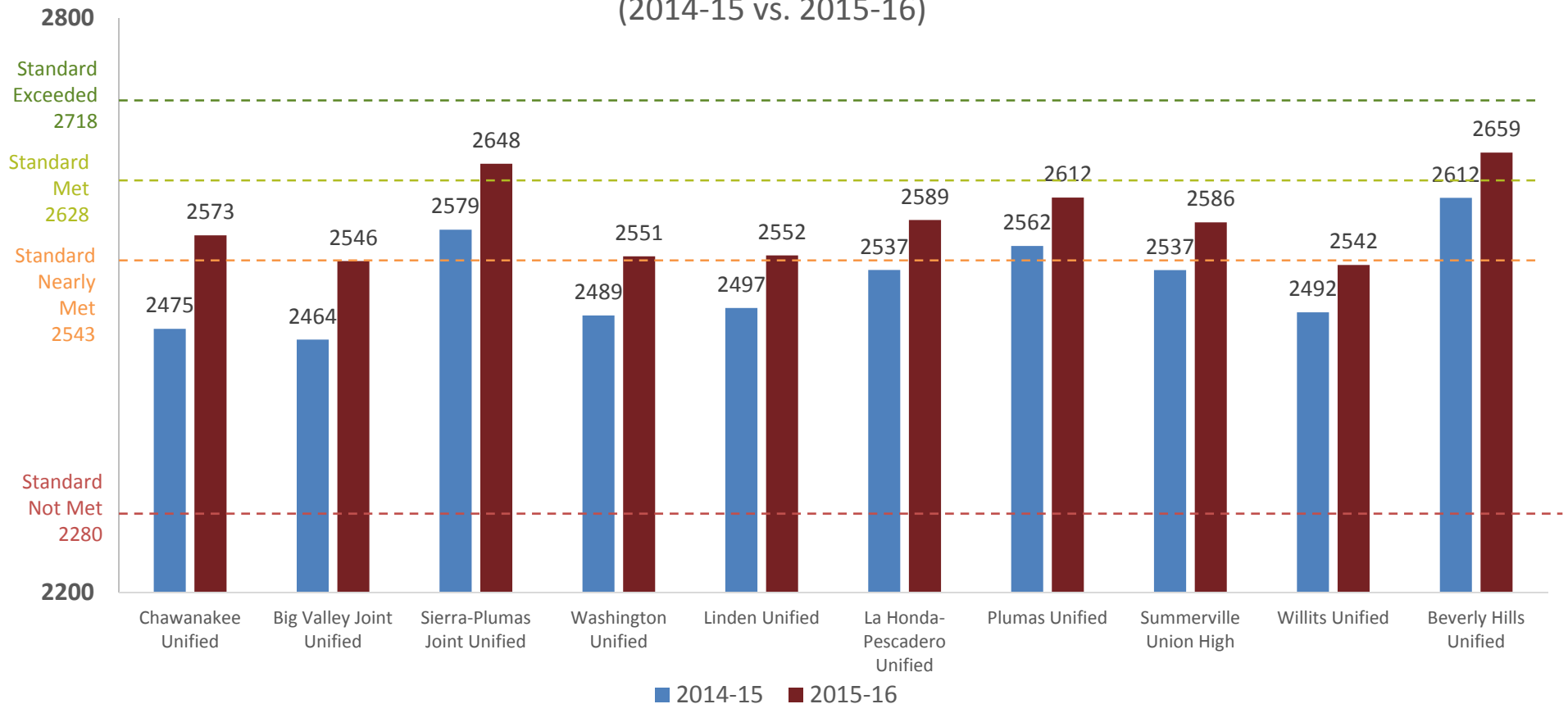
Mean Scale Scores for Most Improved Districts on SBAC ELA, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
(2014-15 vs. 2015-16)



Source: Education Trust-West analysis of California Department of Education data, 2016 (accessed August 2016). Scale scores fall on a continuous scale (from approximately 2000 to 3000) that increases across grade levels and can be used to understand achievement and growth over time.

# Some districts' average scores improved by an entire performance level from 2014-15 to 2015-16

Mean Scale Scores for Most Improved Districts on SBAC Math, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade  
(2014-15 vs. 2015-16)



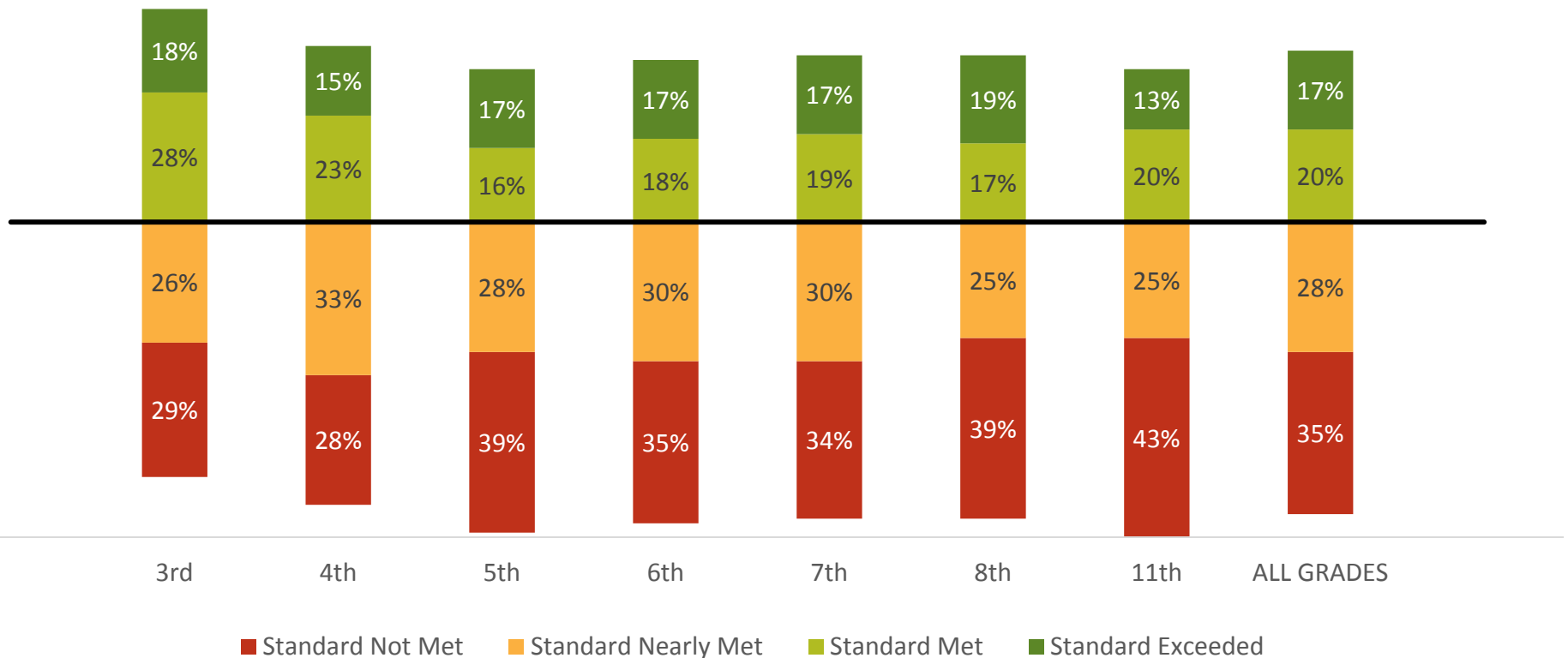
Source: Education Trust-West analysis of California Department of Education data, 2016 (accessed August 2016). Scale scores fall on a continuous scale (from approximately 2000 to 3000) that increases across grade levels and can be used to understand achievement and growth over time.



# 2015-16 Mathematics Results

# Math performance is highest in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade but relatively similar across the other grades

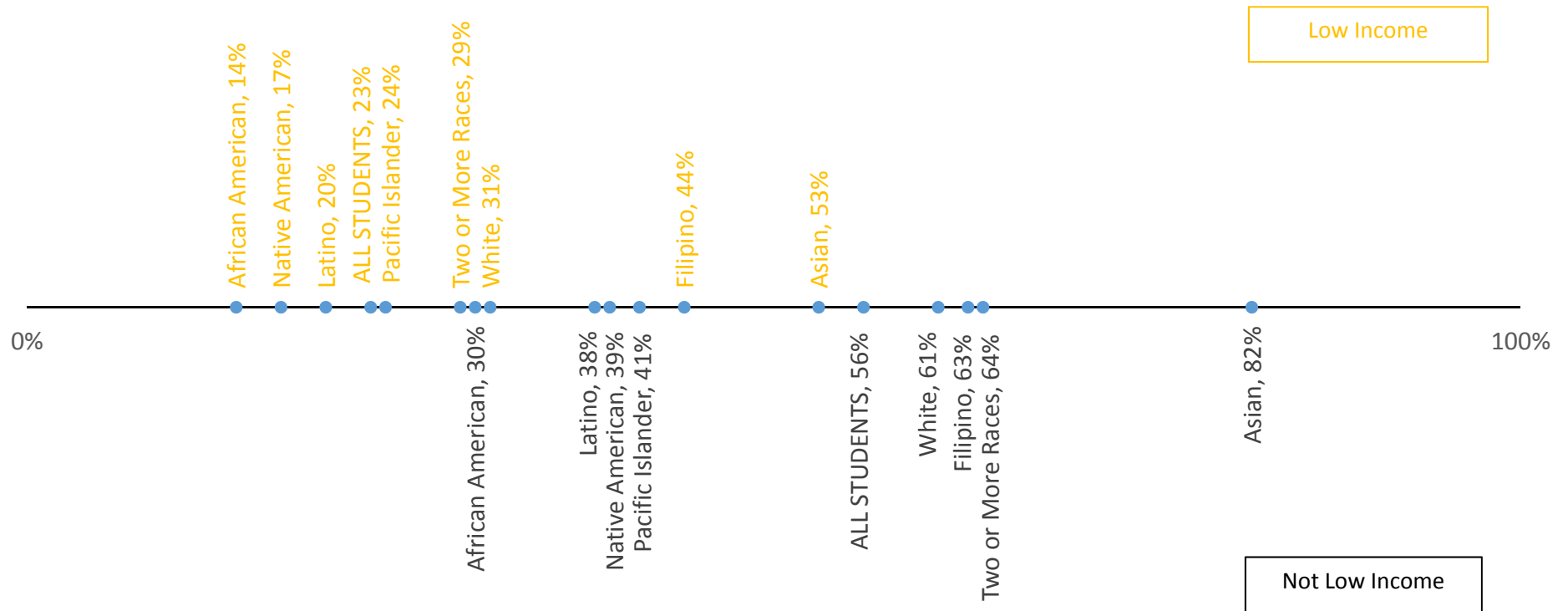
Performance on SBAC Math Across the Grades (2015-16)



Source: California Department of Education, 2016 (accessed August 2016).

# Some low-income ethnic subgroups outperform non-low income ethnic subgroups in Math

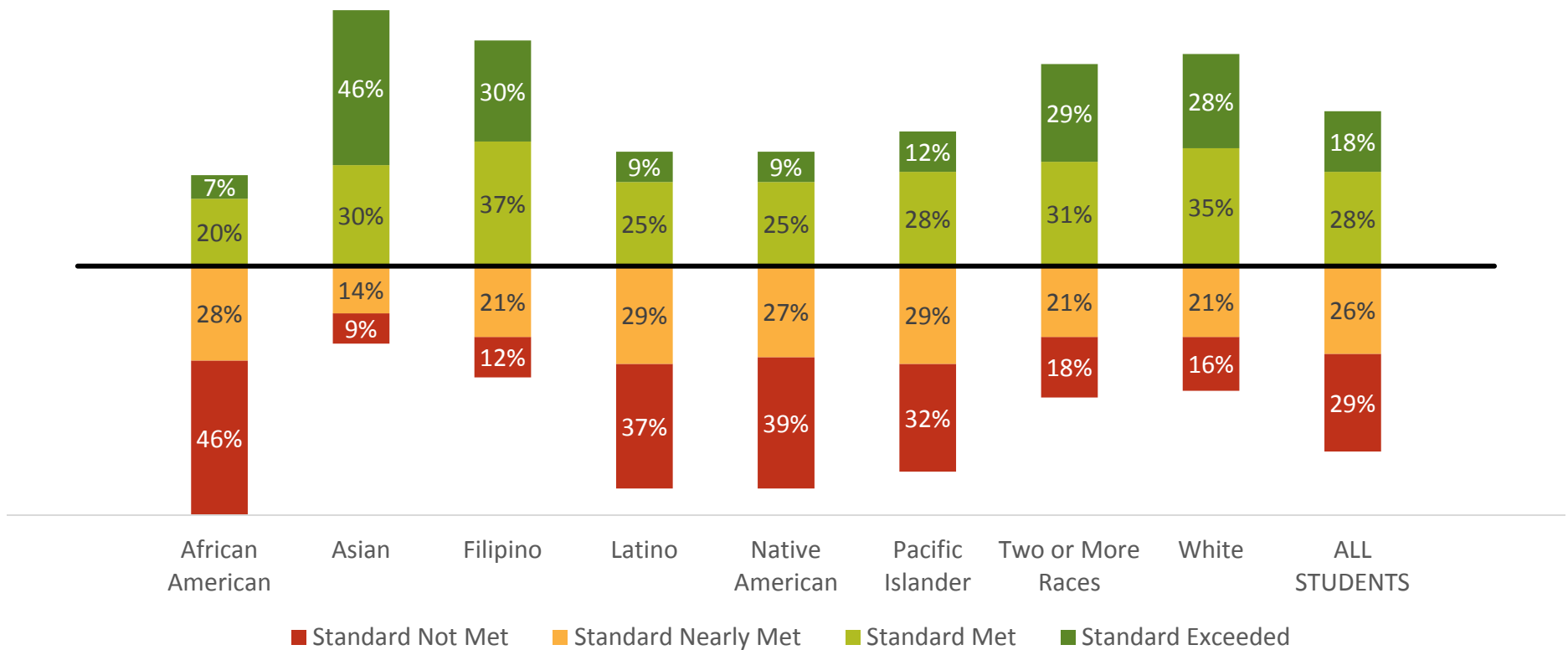
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Standards on SBAC Math, All Grades, by Income by Ethnicity (2015-16)



Source: California Department of Education, 2016 (accessed August 2016). Numbers may sum differently due to rounding.

# Achievement gaps begin as early as 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

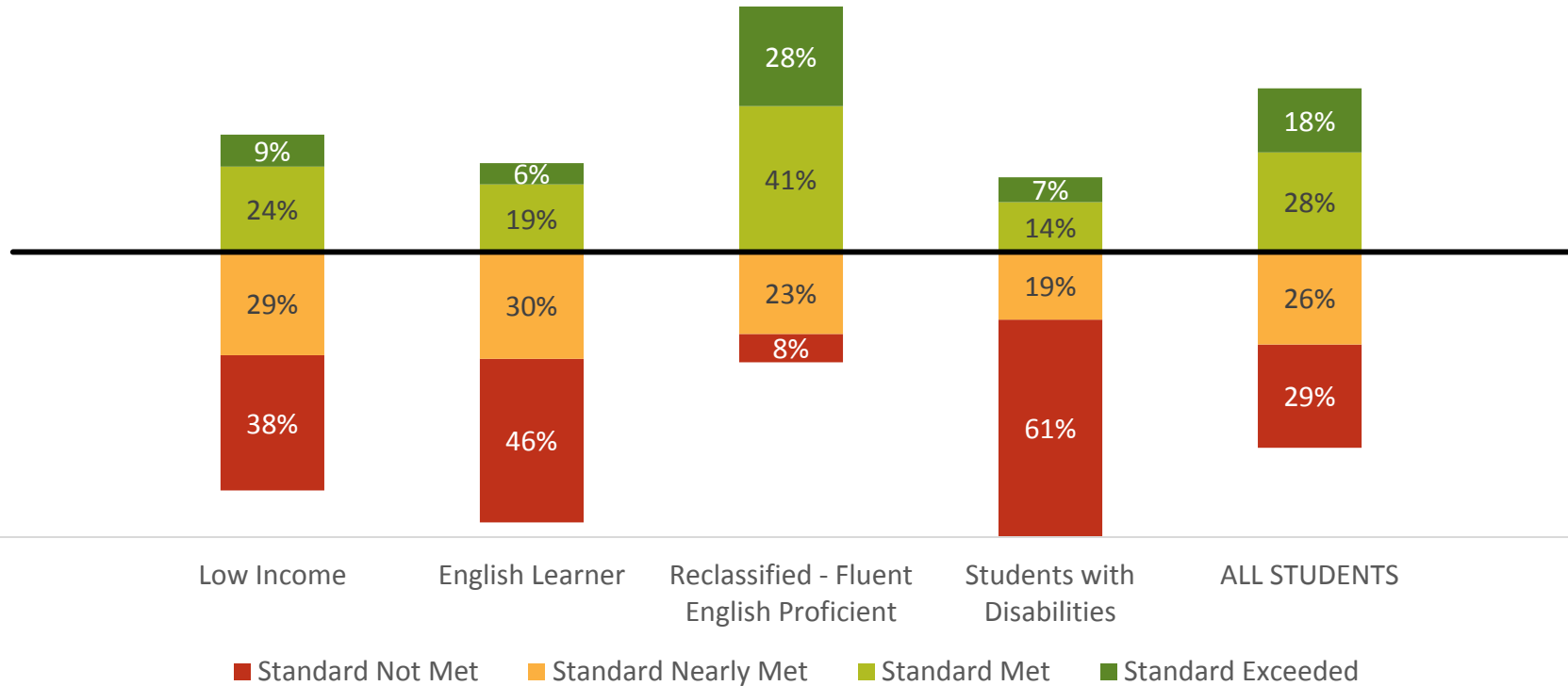
Performance on SBAC Math, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, by Ethnicity (2015-16)



Source: California Department of Education, 2016 (accessed August 2016).

# Reclassified English learners far outperform English learners and other selected subgroups in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Math

Performance on SBAC Math, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, by Selected Subgroups (2015-16)

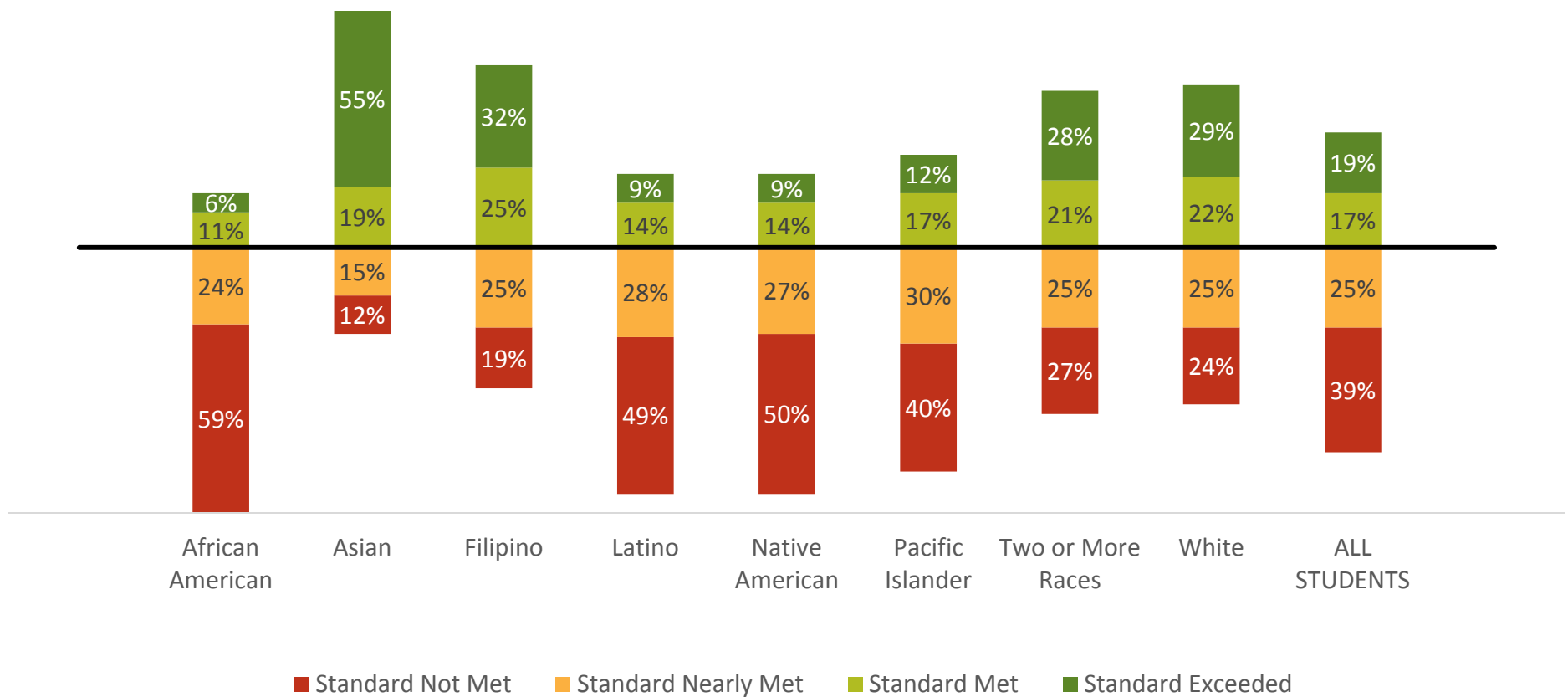


Source: California Department of Education, 2016 (accessed August 2016).



# Most subgroups of color are not meeting standards in 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math

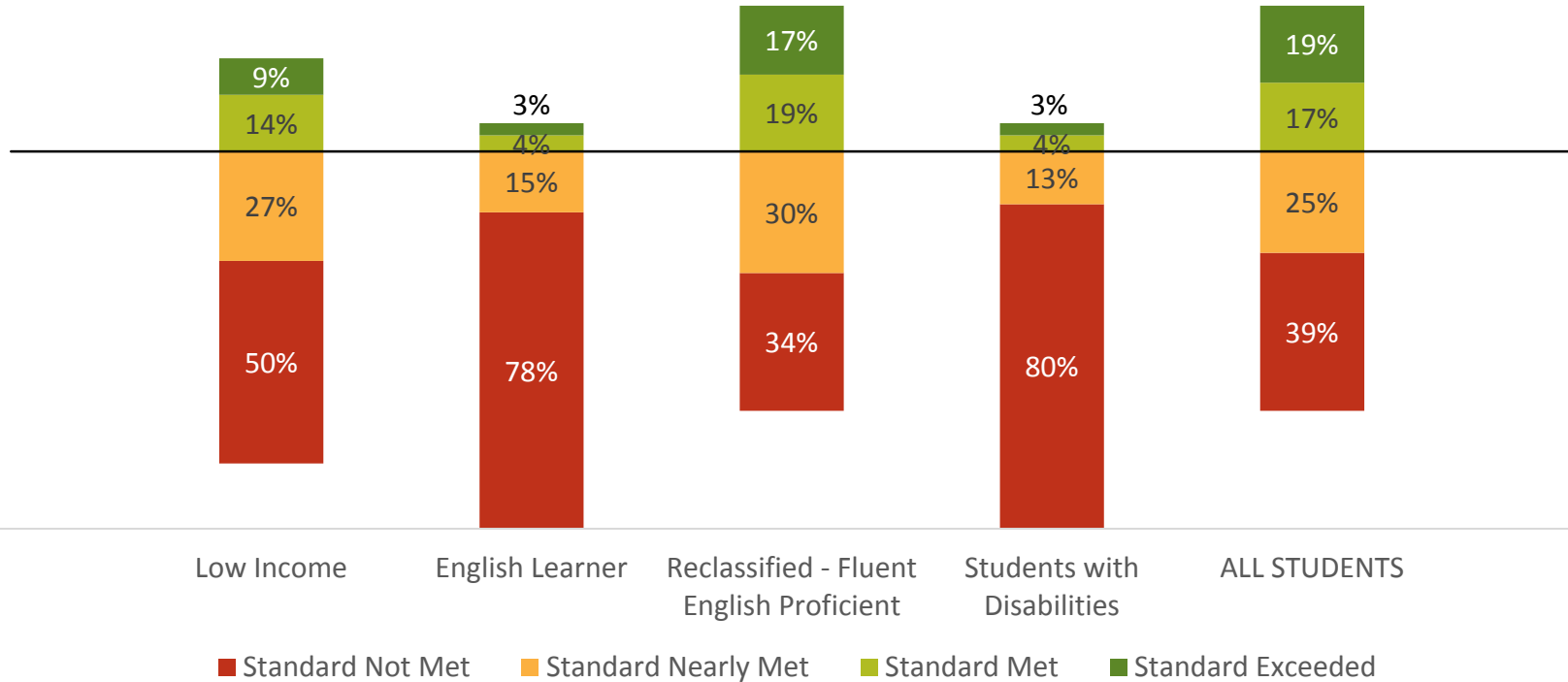
Performance on SBAC Math, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, by Ethnicity (2015-16)



Source: California Department of Education, 2016 (accessed August 2016).

# Too few students in selected subgroups are meeting standards in 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math

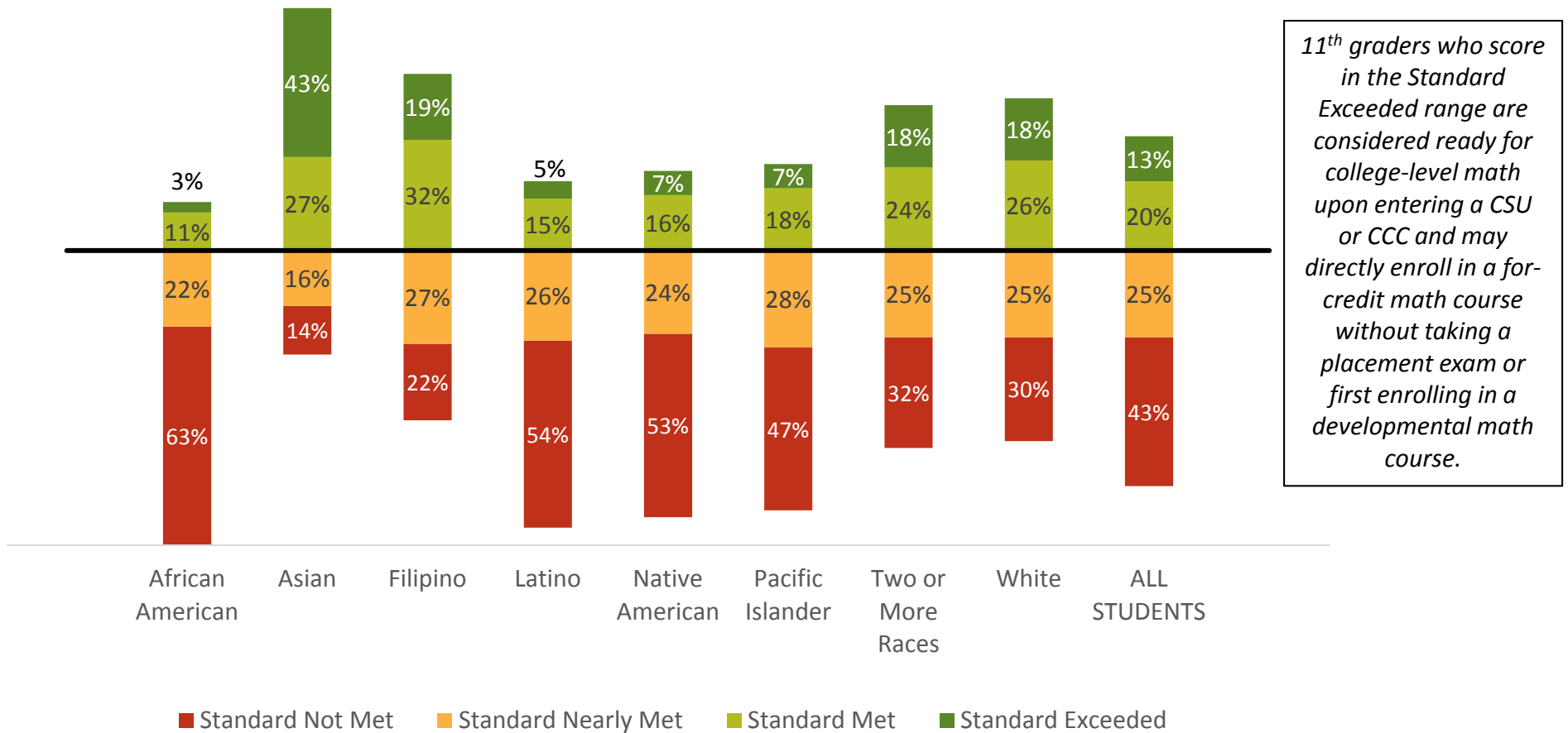
Performance on SBAC Math, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, by Selected Subgroups (2015-16)



Source: California Department of Education, 2016 (accessed August 2016).

# Few 11<sup>th</sup> grade students are considered “college-ready” in Math

Performance on SBAC Math, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, by Ethnicity (2015-16)

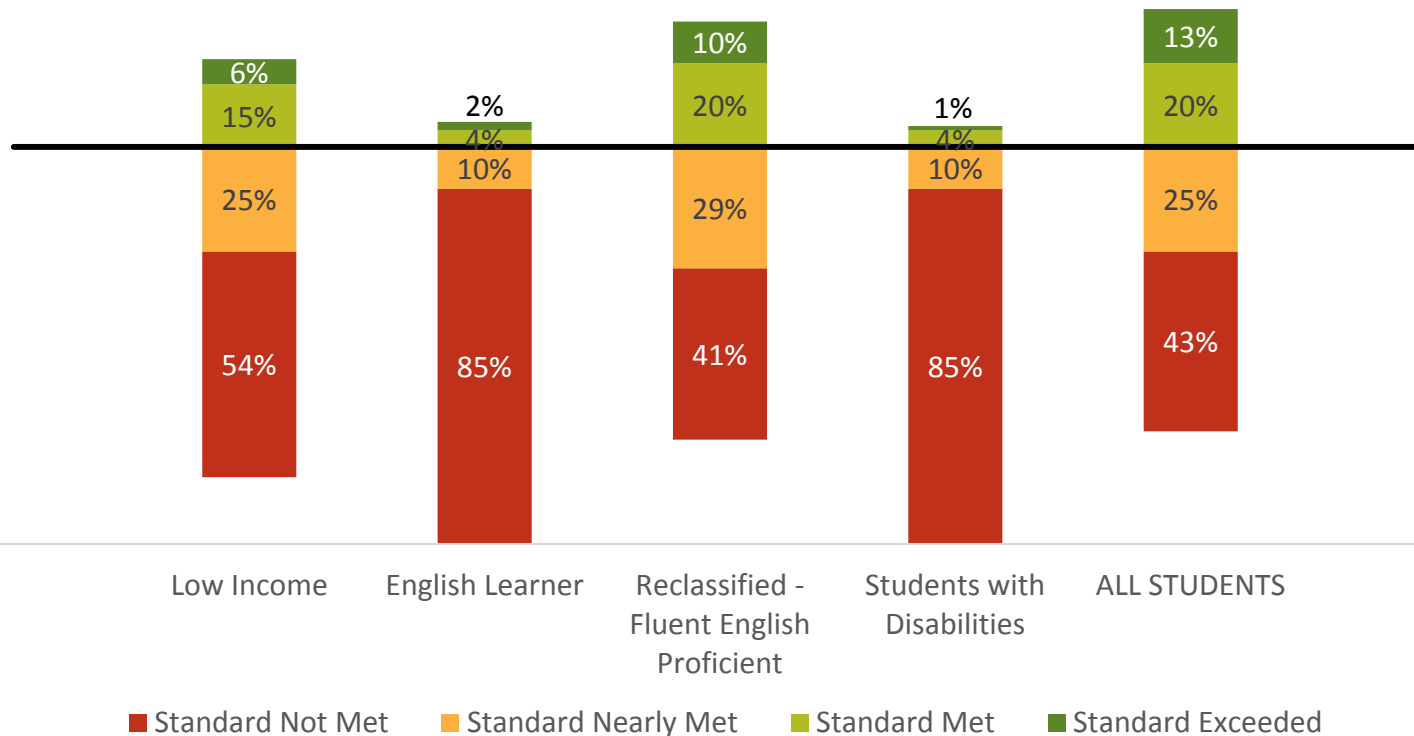


11<sup>th</sup> graders who score in the Standard Exceeded range are considered ready for college-level math upon entering a CSU or CCC and may directly enroll in a for-credit math course without taking a placement exam or first enrolling in a developmental math course.

Source: California Department of Education, 2016 (accessed August 2016).

# Most students in selected subgroups are performing far below standards in high school Math

Performance on SBAC Math, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, by Selected Subgroups (2015-16)



*11<sup>th</sup> graders who score in the Standard Exceeded range are considered ready for college-level math upon entering a CSU or CCC and may directly enroll in a for-credit math course without taking a placement exam or first enrolling in a developmental math course.*

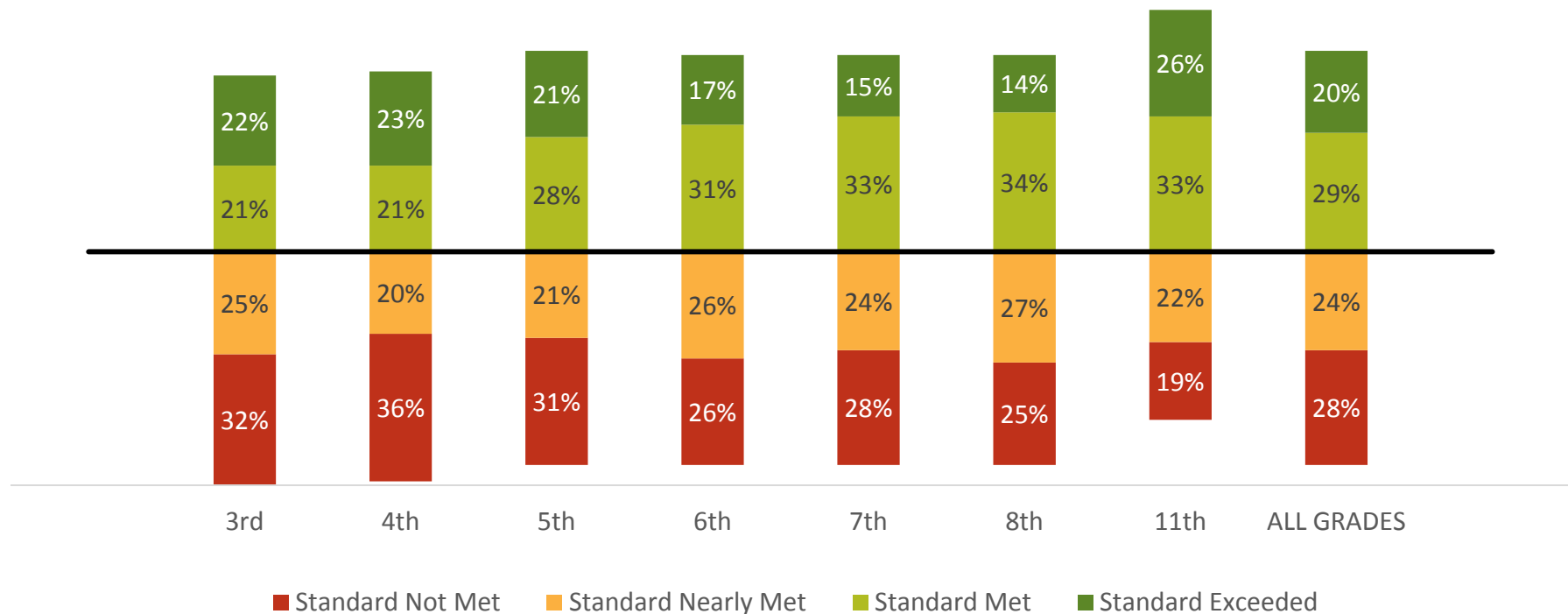
Source: California Department of Education, 2016 (accessed August 2016).



# 2015-16 English Language Arts / Literacy Results

# ELA performance across the grades is relatively similar

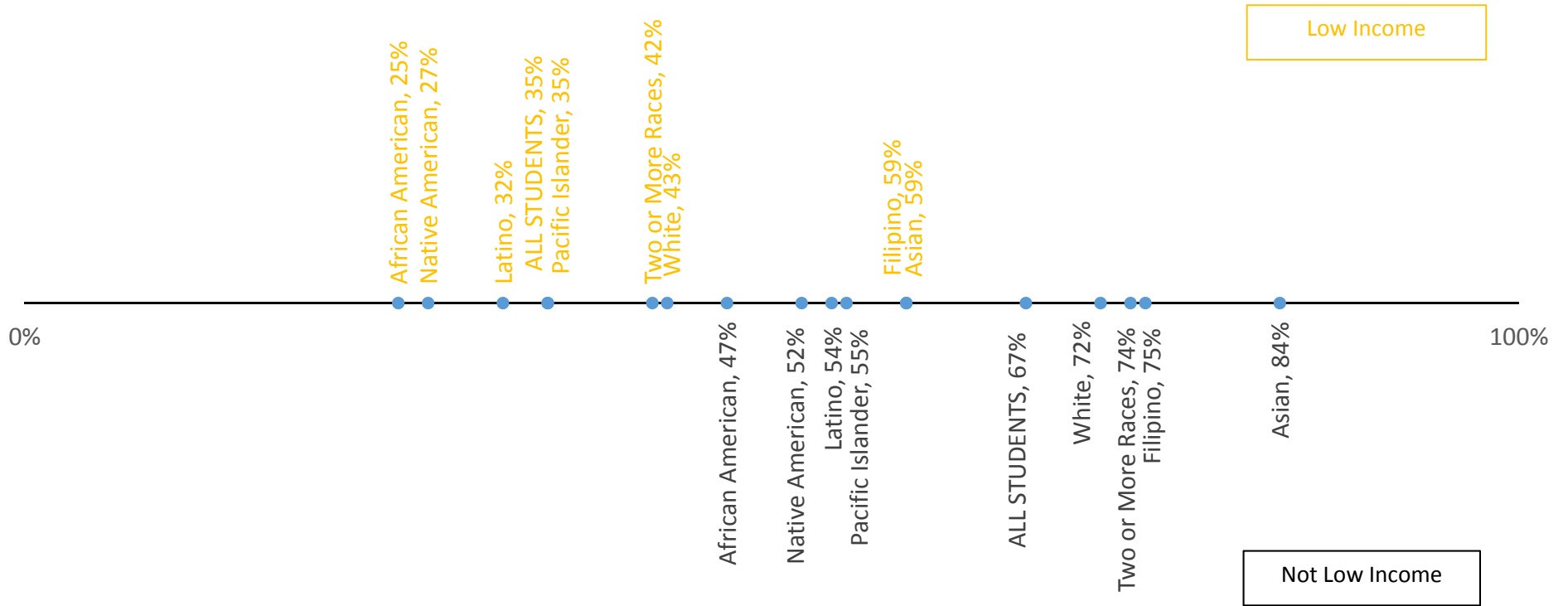
Performance on SBAC ELA Across the Grades (2015-16)



Source: California Department of Education, 2016 (accessed August 2016).

# Some low-income ethnic subgroups perform better than non-low income ethnic subgroups in ELA

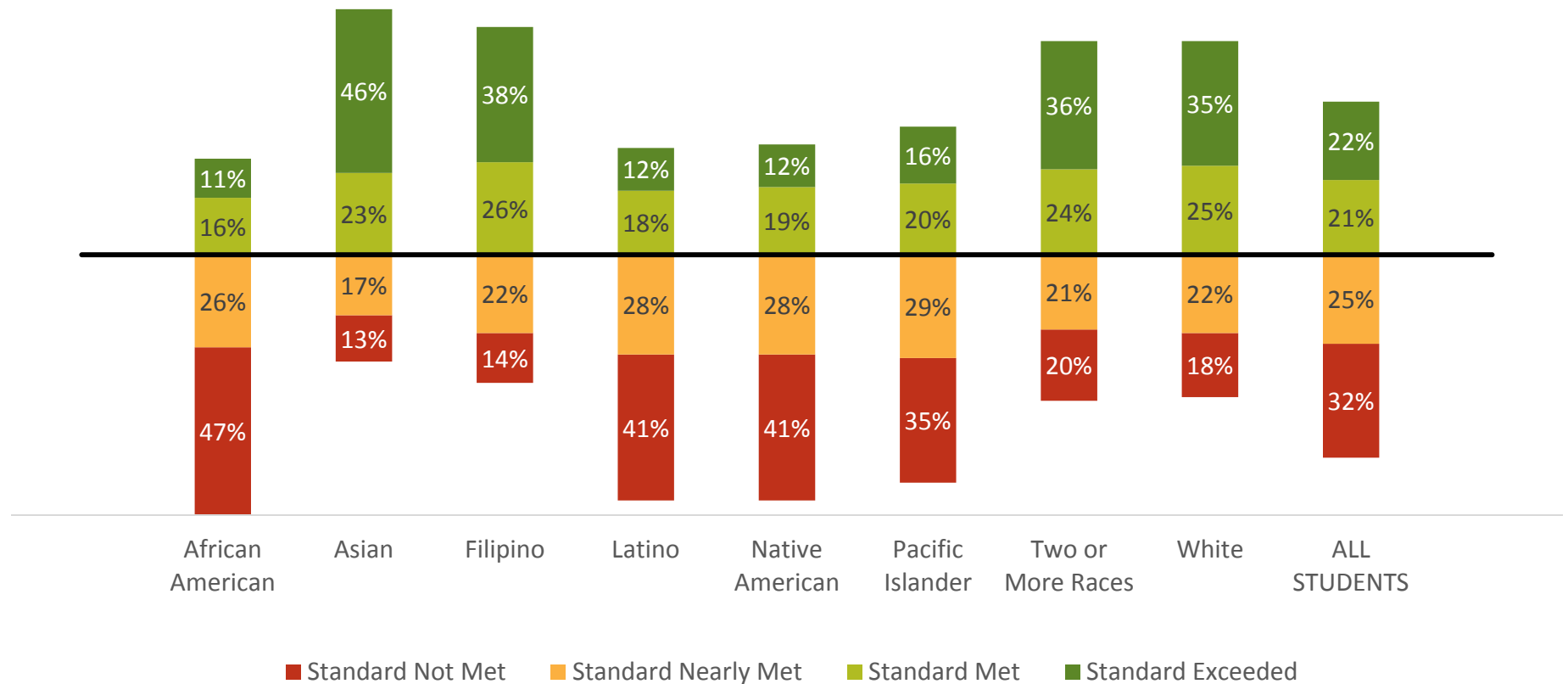
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Standards on SBAC ELA, All Grades, by Income by Ethnicity (2015-16)



Source: California Department of Education, 2016 (accessed August 2016). Numbers may sum differently due to rounding.

# Most subgroups of color are not meeting standards in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade ELA

Performance on SBAC ELA, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, by Ethnicity (2015-16)

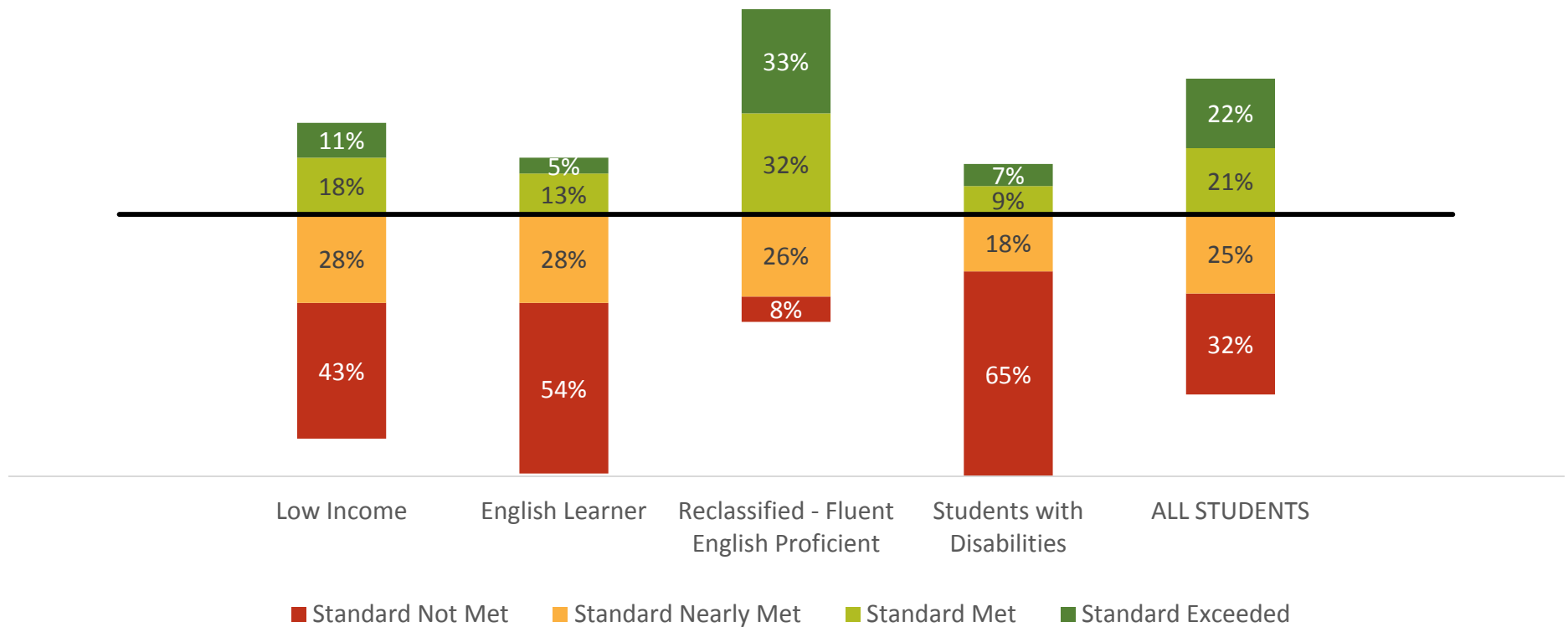


Source: California Department of Education, 2016 (accessed August 2016).



# Income and language proficiency gaps are persistent in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade ELA

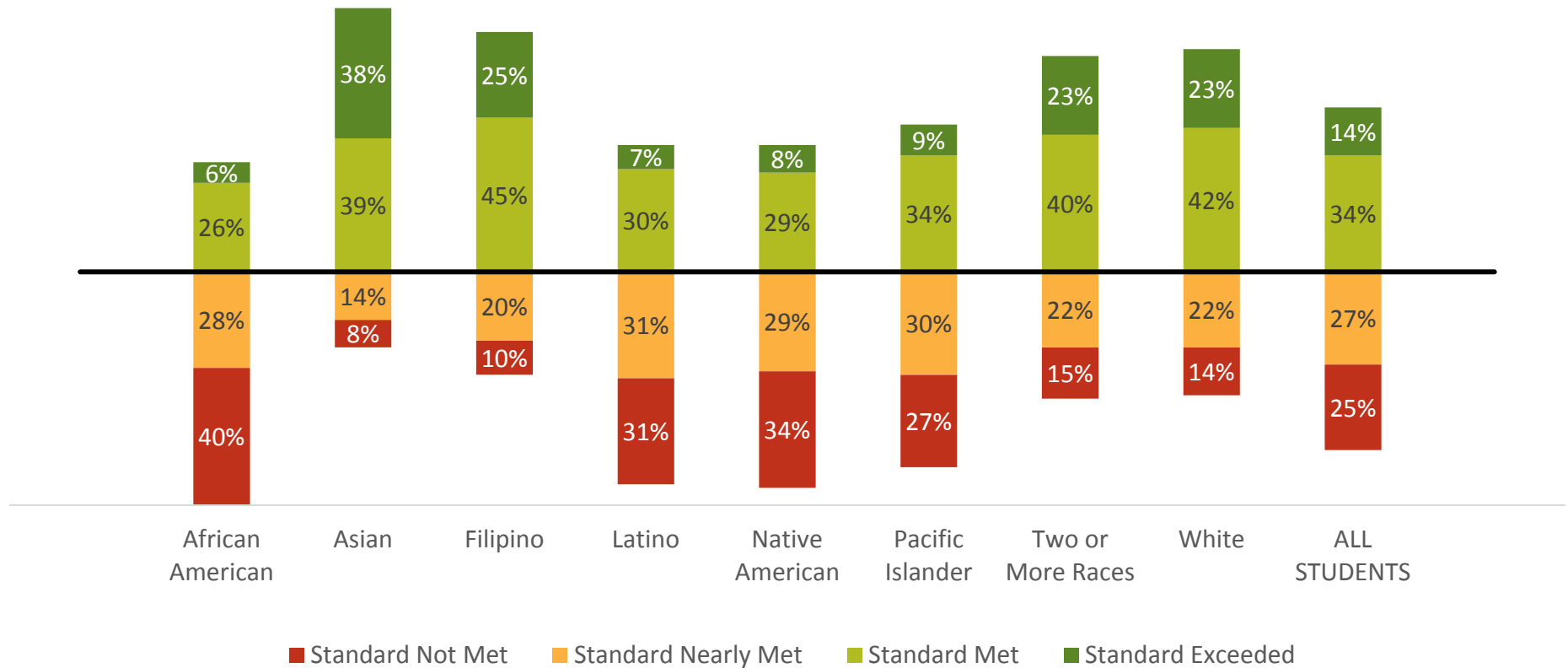
Performance on SBAC ELA, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, by Selected Subgroups (2015-16)



Source: California Department of Education, 2016 (accessed August 2016).

# Just one-third of African-American, Latino, and Native American students are proficient in 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA

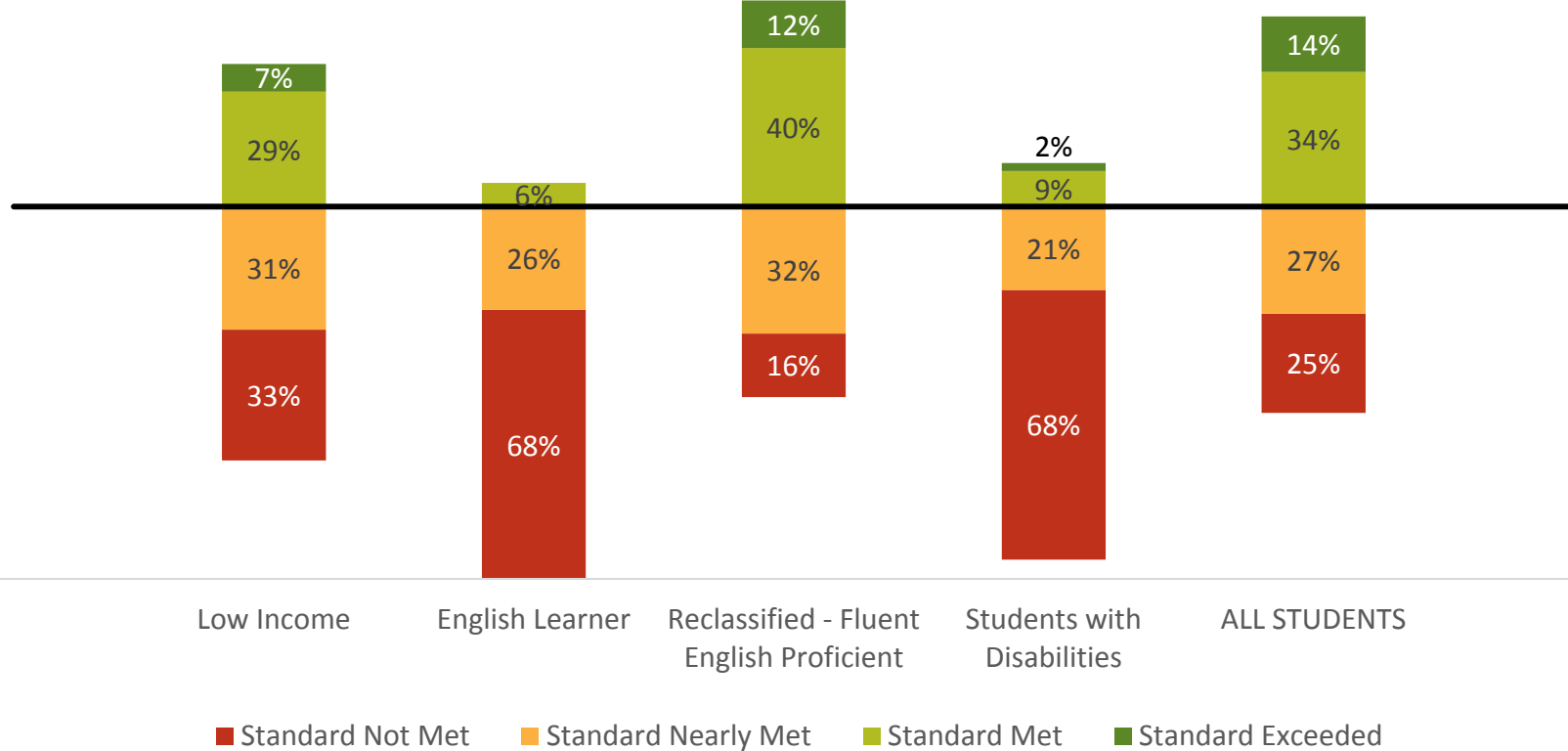
Performance on SBAC ELA, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, by Ethnicity (2015-16)



Source: California Department of Education, 2016 (accessed August 2016).

# English learners post the lowest proficiency rates in 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA

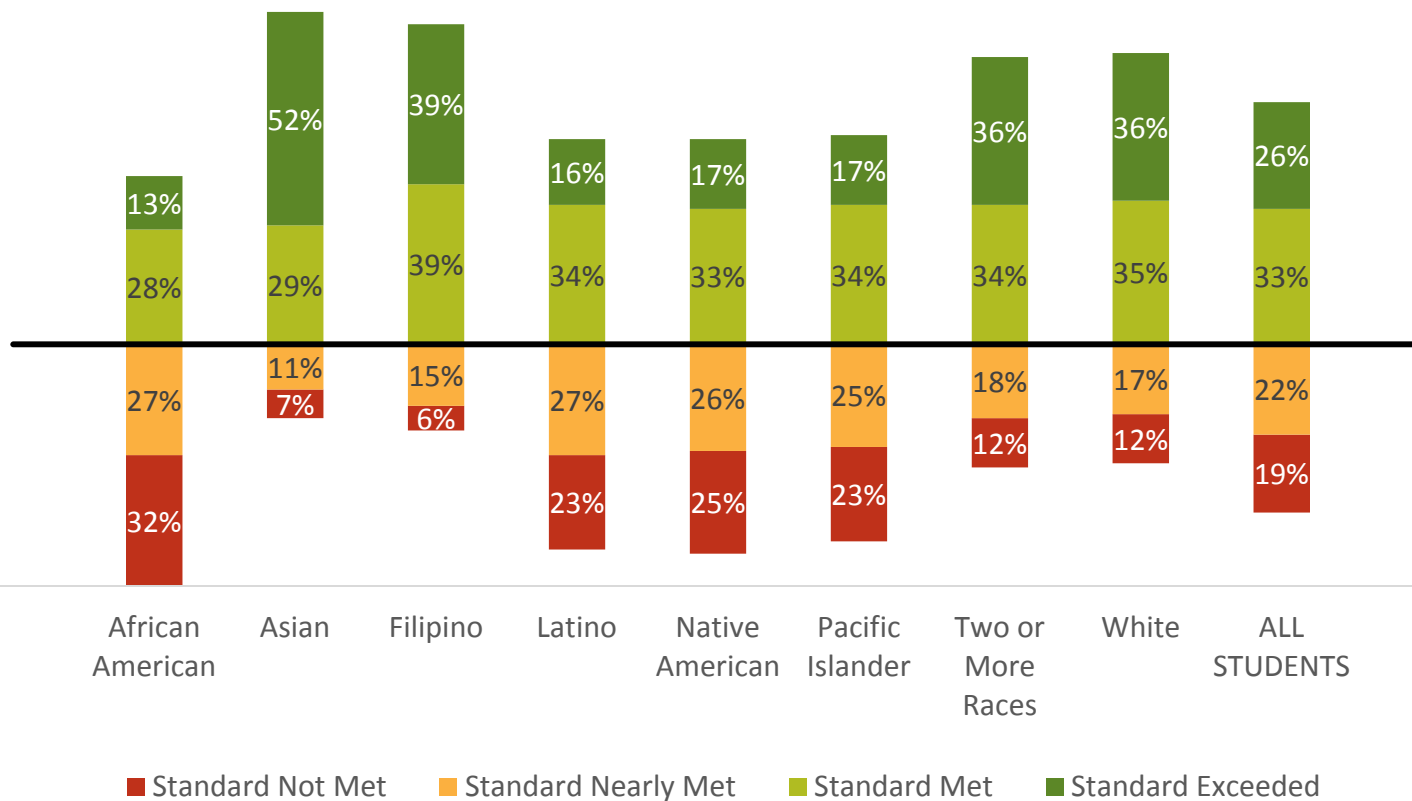
Performance on SBAC ELA, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, by Selected Subgroups (2015-16)



Source: California Department of Education, 2016 (accessed August 2016).

# Proficiency rates are highest across subgroups in 11<sup>th</sup> grade ELA

Performance on SBAC ELA, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, by Ethnicity (2015-16)

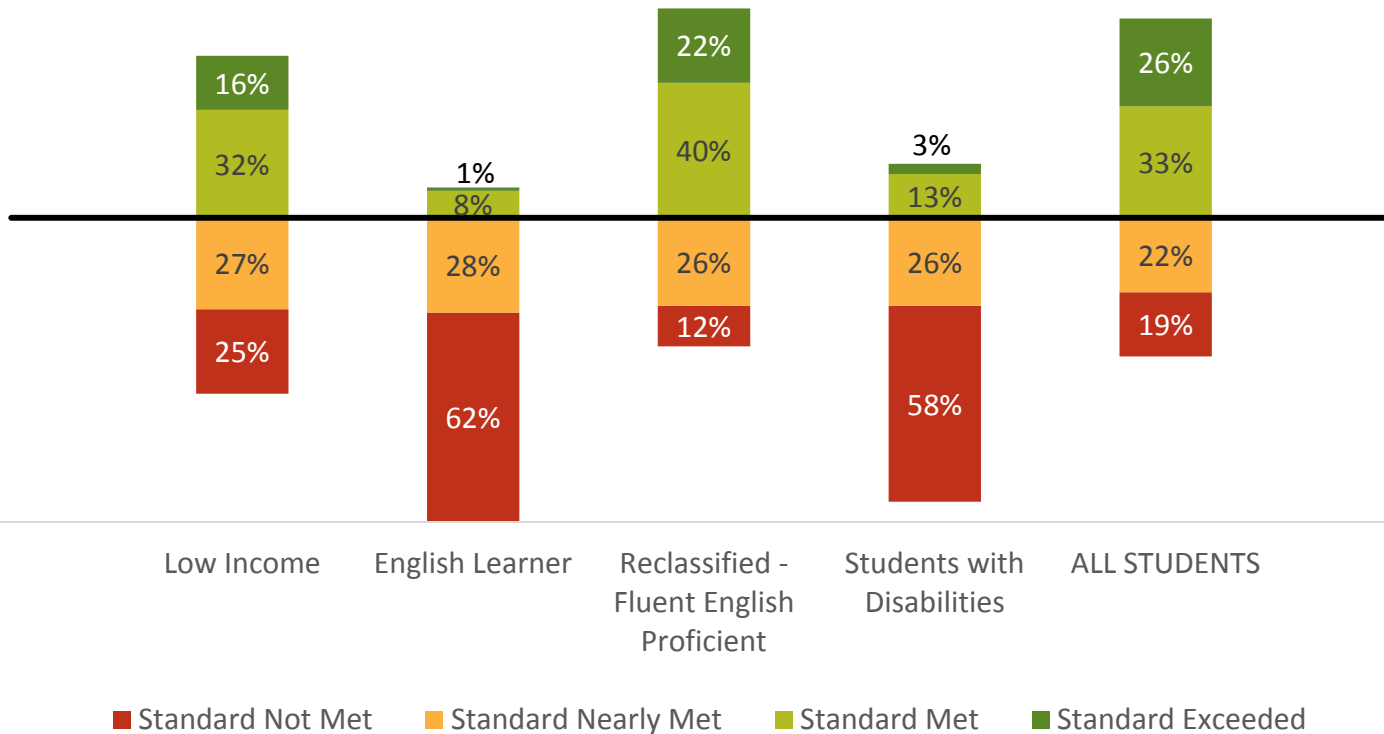


*11<sup>th</sup> graders who score in the Standard Exceeded range are considered ready for college-level English upon entering a CSU or CCC and may directly enroll in a for-credit English course without taking a placement exam or first enrolling in a developmental English course.*

Source: California Department of Education, 2016 (accessed August 2016).

# Performance varies significantly across selected subgroups in 11<sup>th</sup> grade ELA

Performance on SBAC ELA, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, by Selected Subgroups (2015-16)



*11<sup>th</sup> graders who score in the Standard Exceeded range are considered ready for college-level English upon entering a CSU or CCC and may directly enroll in a for-credit English course without taking a placement exam or first enrolling in a developmental English course.*

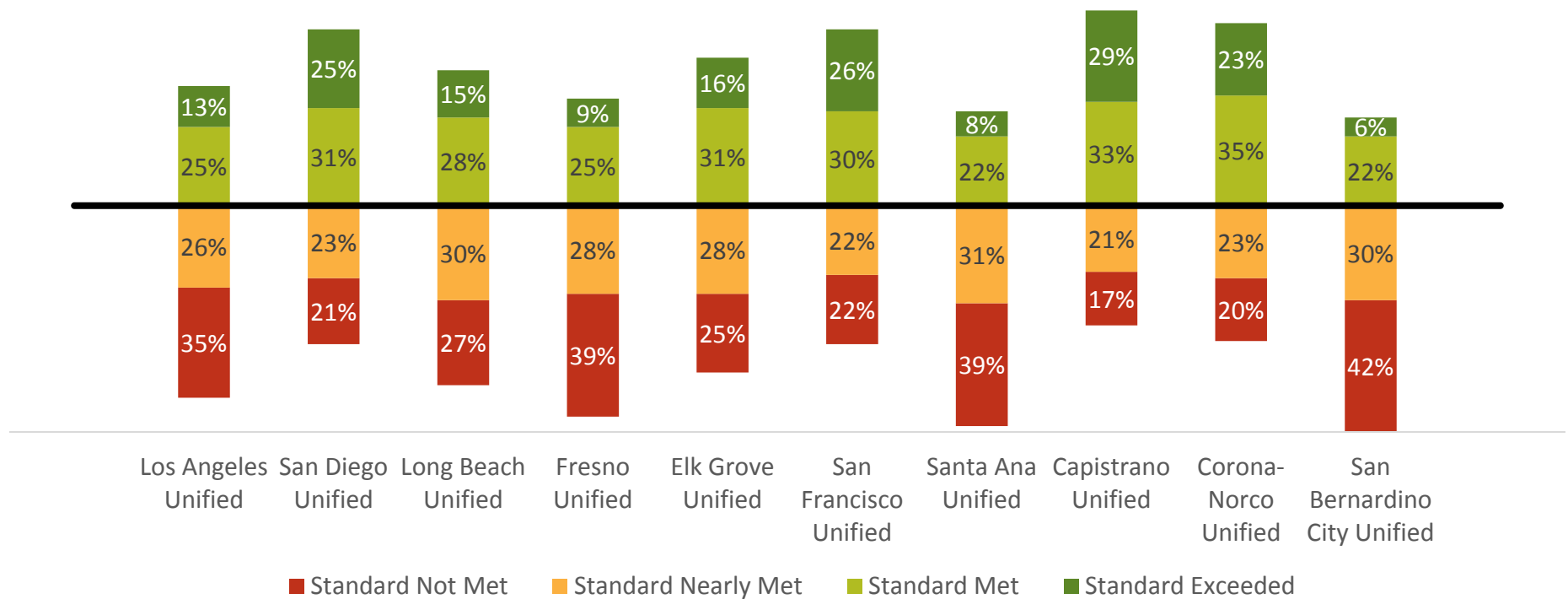
Source: California Department of Education, 2016 (accessed August 2016).



# 2015-16 Largest District Comparisons

# Performance varies significantly across districts with the largest student enrollment in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Math

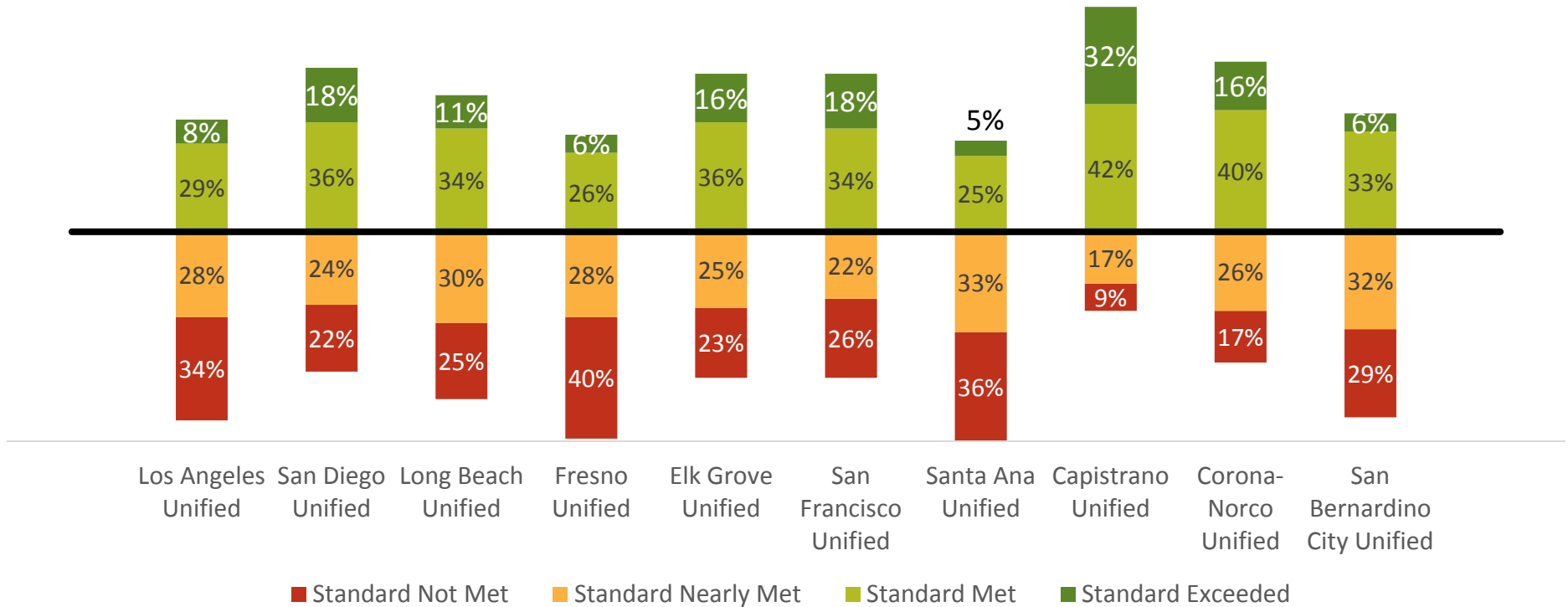
Performance on SBAC Math, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, Ten Largest Districts in California (2015-16)



Source: California Department of Education, 2016 (accessed August 2016).

# Even greater variation in performance is evident across the largest districts in 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA

Performance on SBAC ELA, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, Ten Largest Districts in California (2015-16)



Source: California Department of Education, 2016 (accessed August 2016).