

Learning Expectations

FOR ARKANSAS STUDENTS

2020 ADEQUACY STUDY / JAN. 7, 2020

Report covers...

- ▶ Theories about learning
- ▶ Learning barriers
- ▶ The development of Academic Standards in Arkansas
- ▶ Smart Core and Core graduation requirements
- ▶ Advanced educational courses
- ▶ Computer Science focus
- ▶ New recess requirement
- ▶ RISE/Right to Read Act
- ▶ Student-focused learning

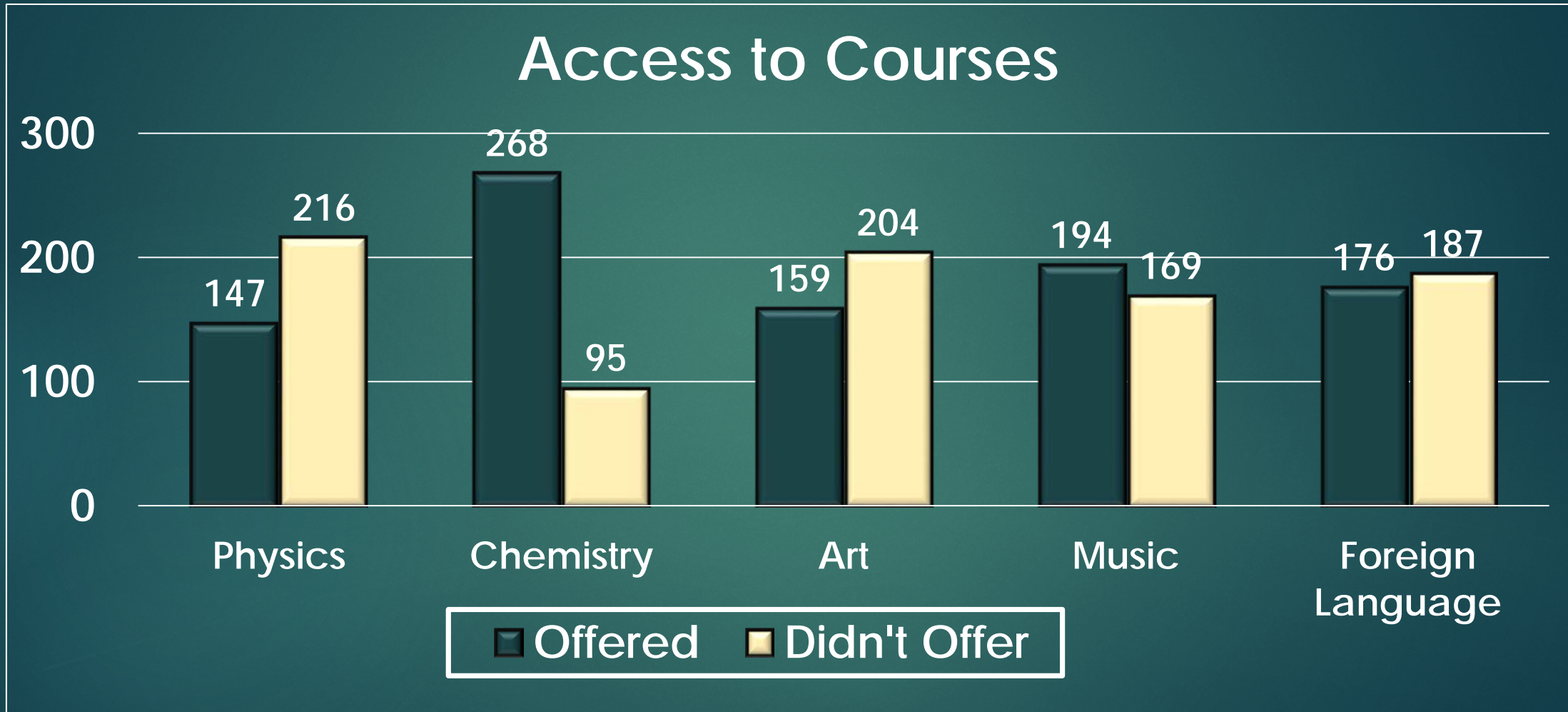
Today's presentation...

- ▶ The development of Academic Standards in Arkansas
- ▶ Advanced educational courses
- ▶ Learning barriers
- ▶ Student-focused learning

1983

- ▶ A Nation at Risk
- ▶ Dupree v. Alma
- ▶ Course accessibility

1983: 363 High Schools offered....



Arkansas responds...

- ▶ Act 445 of 1983
- ▶ The Rules Governing the Standards for Accreditation for Arkansas Public Schools
 - ❖ Must teach 38 courses (at least every other year for some)
 - ❖ Must have 20 required course credits to graduate
- ▶ More stringent through the years

P = Probation

2015

- ▶ Act 1240
- ▶ Act 853
- ▶ “Offer” instead of “teach”

Adequacy Definition

- ▶ The standards included in the state's curriculum framework, which define what Arkansas students are to be taught, including specific grade level curriculum, a mandatory thirty-eight (38) Carnegie units defined by the Arkansas Standards of Accreditation to be taught at the high school level, and opportunities for students to develop career readiness skills;
- ▶ The standards included in the state's testing system. The goal is to have all, or all but the most severely disabled, students perform at or above proficiency on these tests; and
- ▶ Sufficient funding to provide adequate resources as identified by the General Assembly

Adequacy in High School Courses

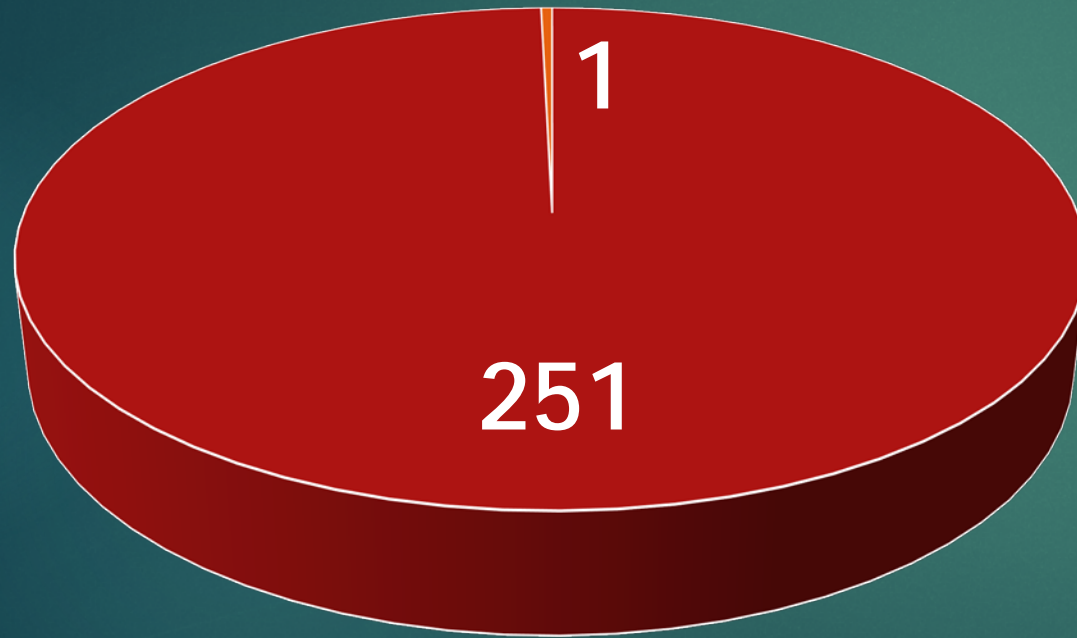
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- ▶ 294 high schools in 2018-19
- ▶ Included courses taught at feeder schools
(9th grade & above)
- ▶ Excluded charter schools that did not
include 9-12 grades
- ▶ Included stand-alone ALE schools
(though not all consortium programs like Arch Ford Hub programs)

2018-19 Chemistry

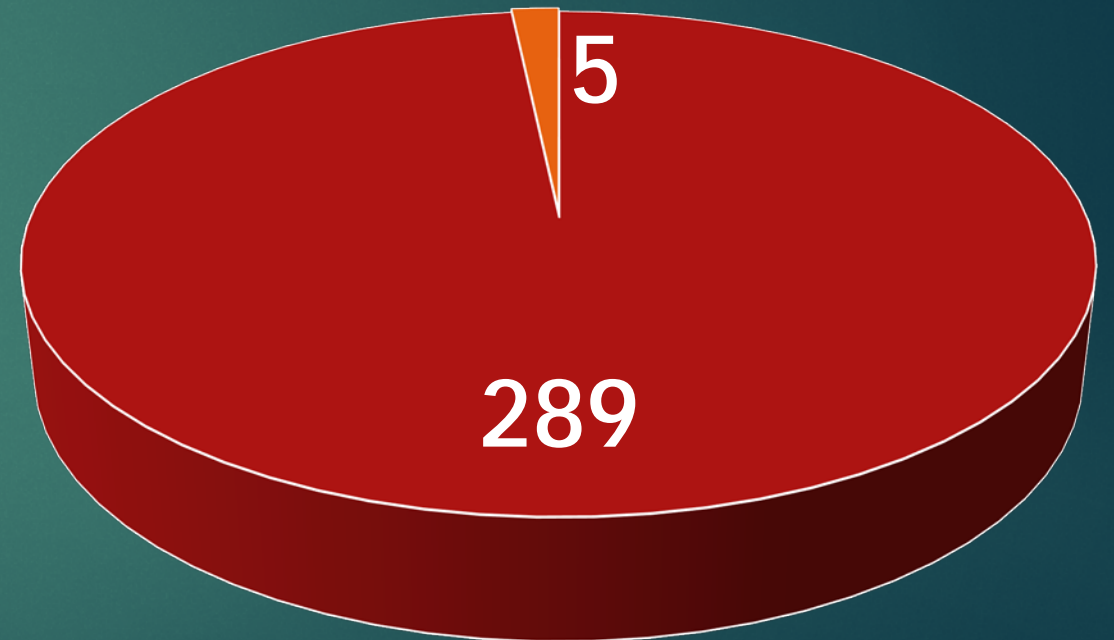
27,544 students

Districts/Charter Systems



Teach Not Teach

High Schools

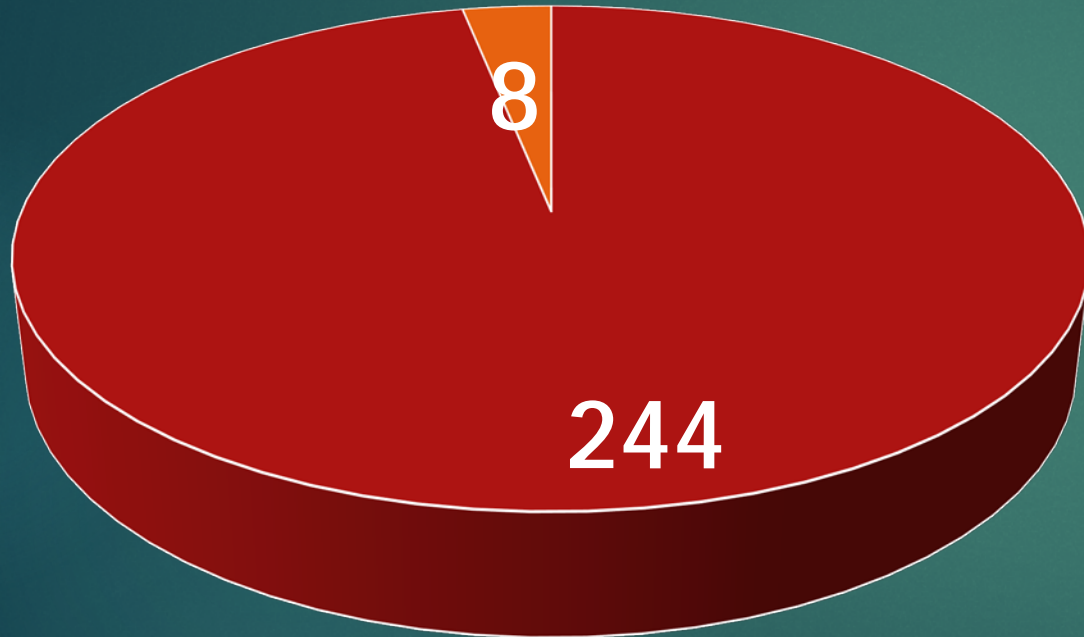


Teach Not Teach

2018-19 Vocal Music

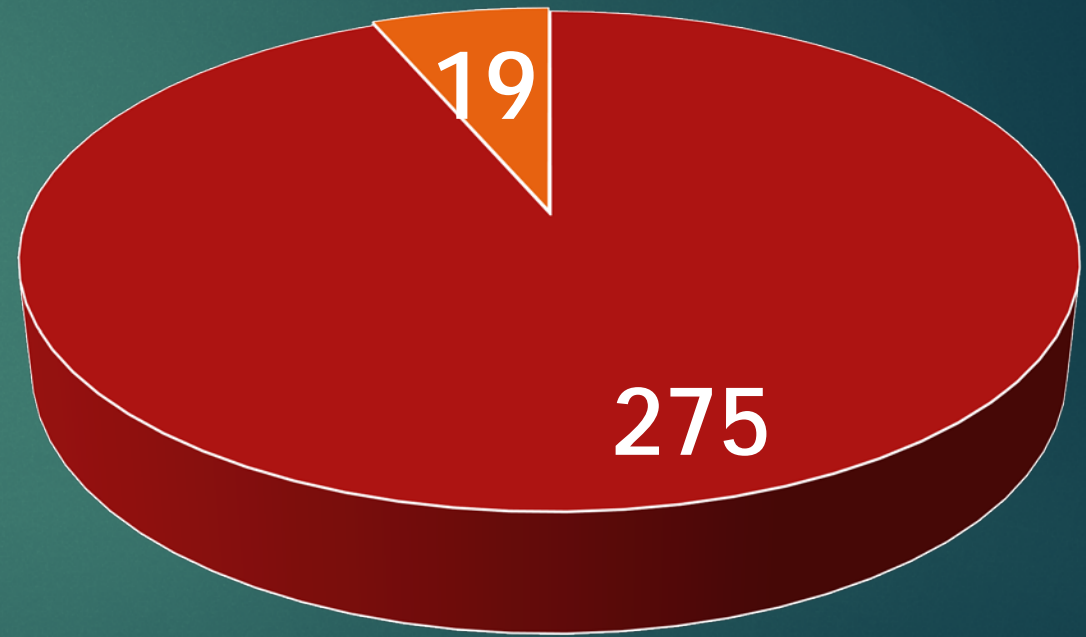
18,422 students

Districts/Charter Systems



Teach Not Teach

High Schools

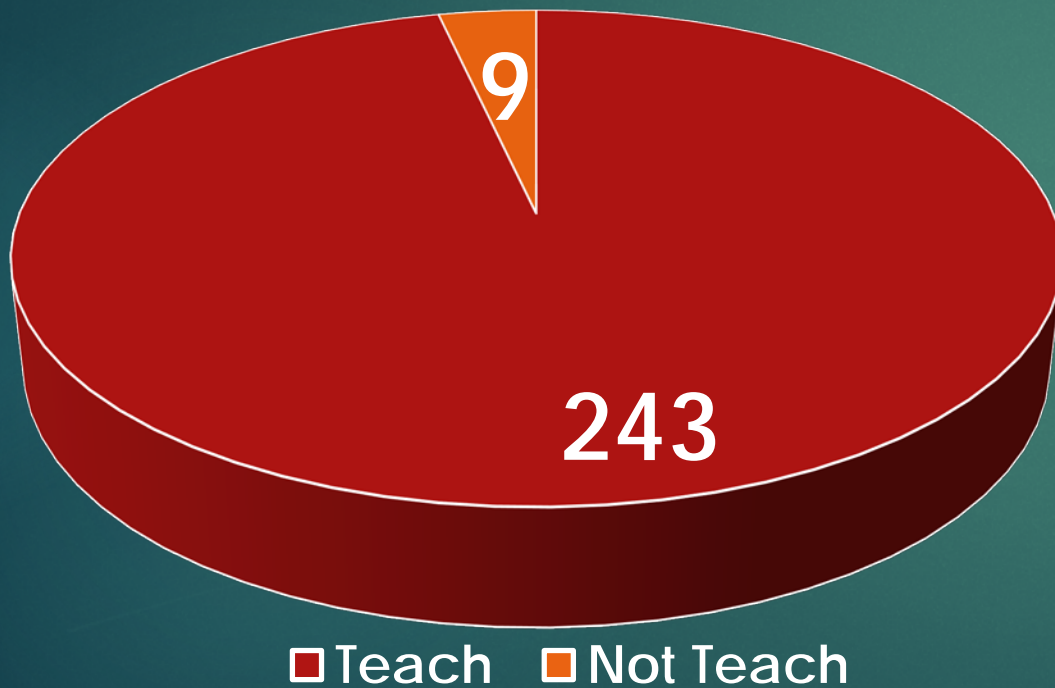


Teach Not Teach

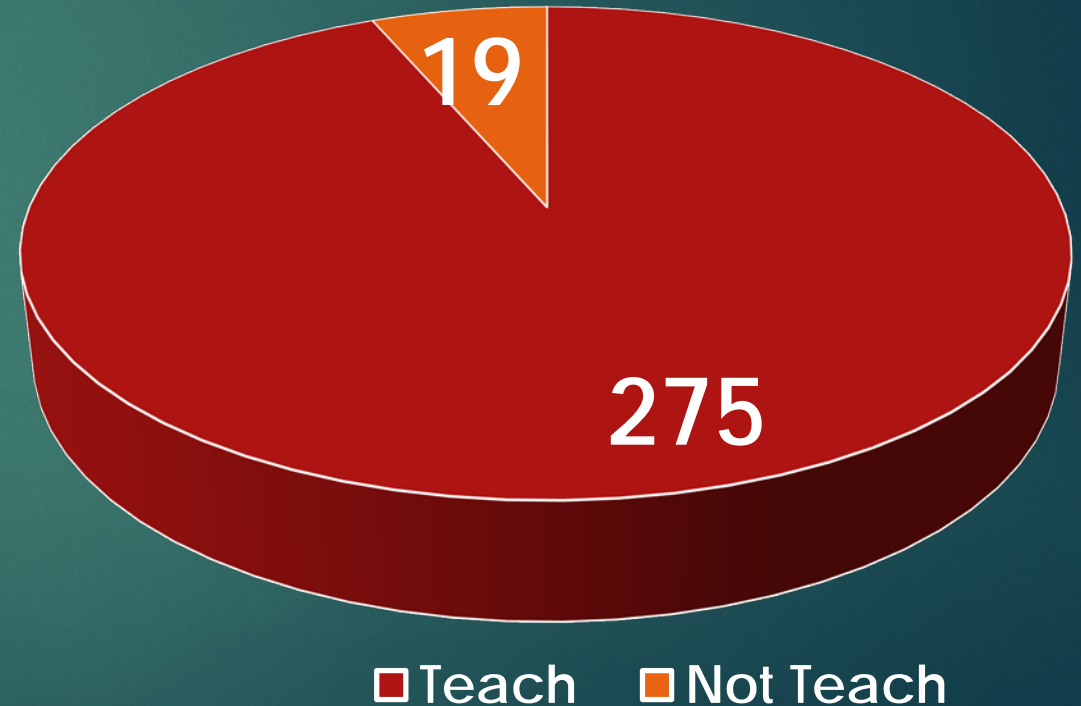
2018-19 Instrumental Music

20,201 students

Districts/Charter Systems



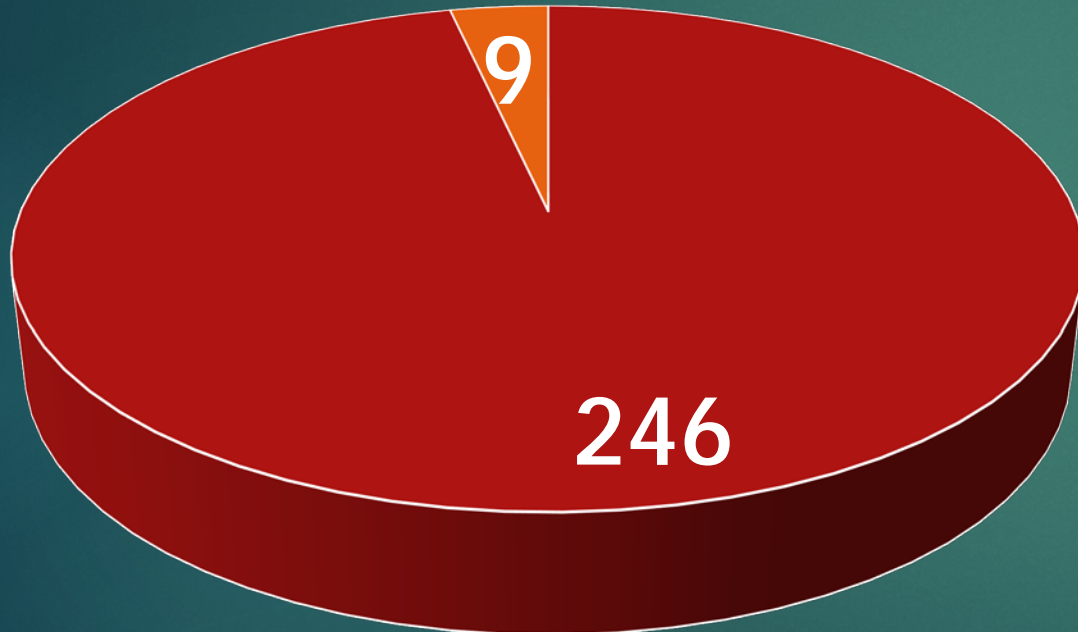
High Schools



2018-19 Foreign Language

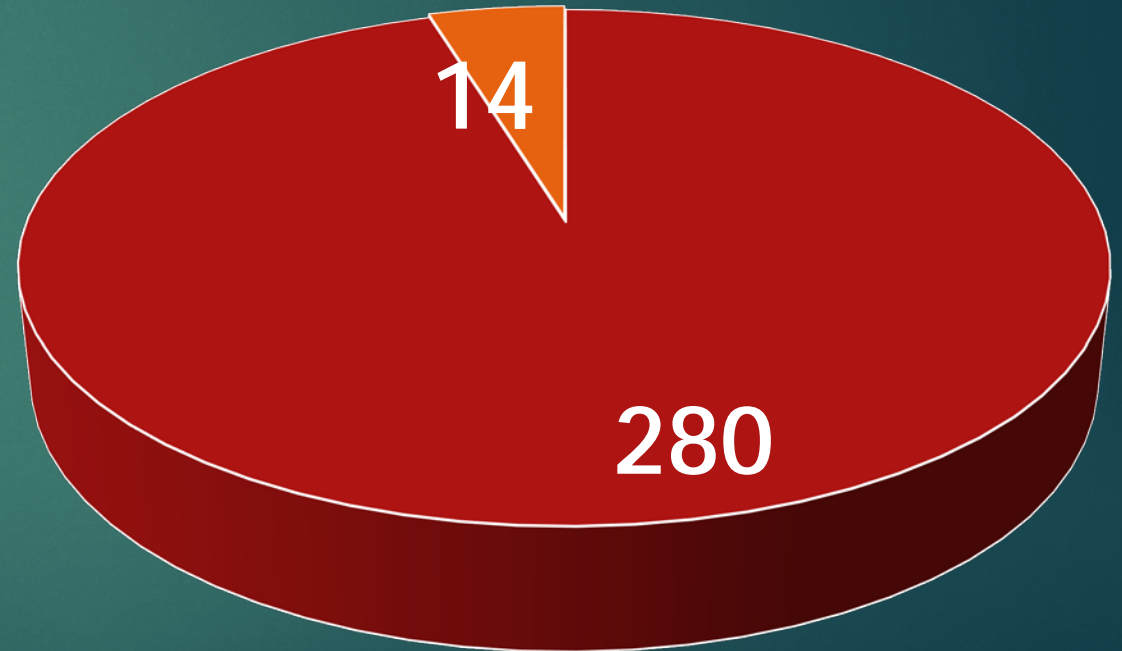
44,967 students

Districts/Charter Systems



Teach Not Teach

High Schools

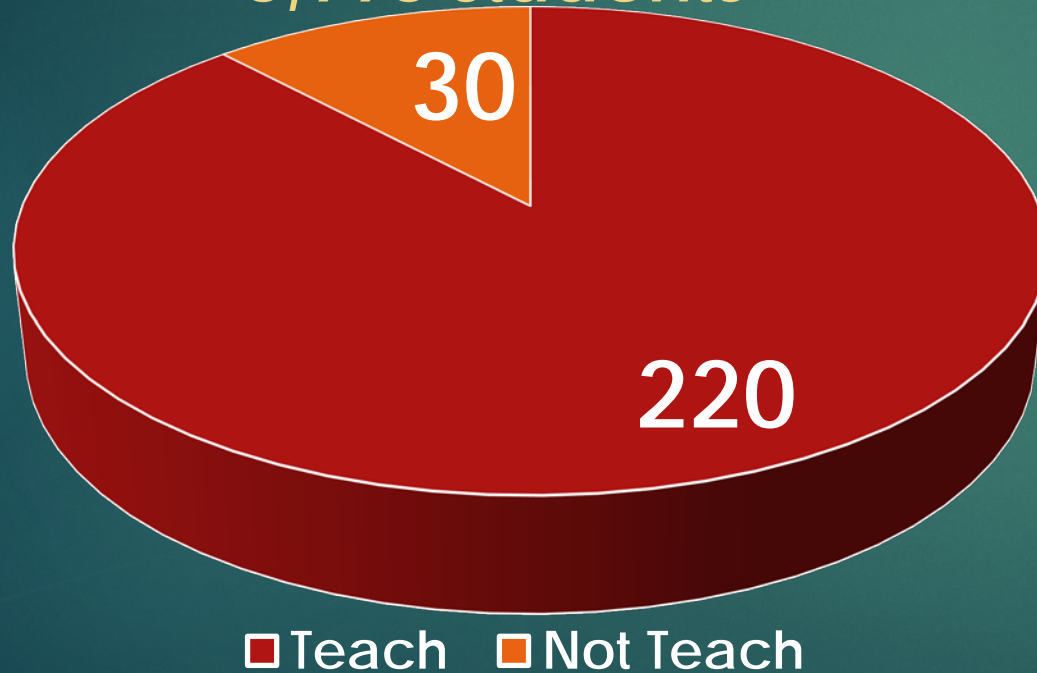


Teach Not Teach

Physics

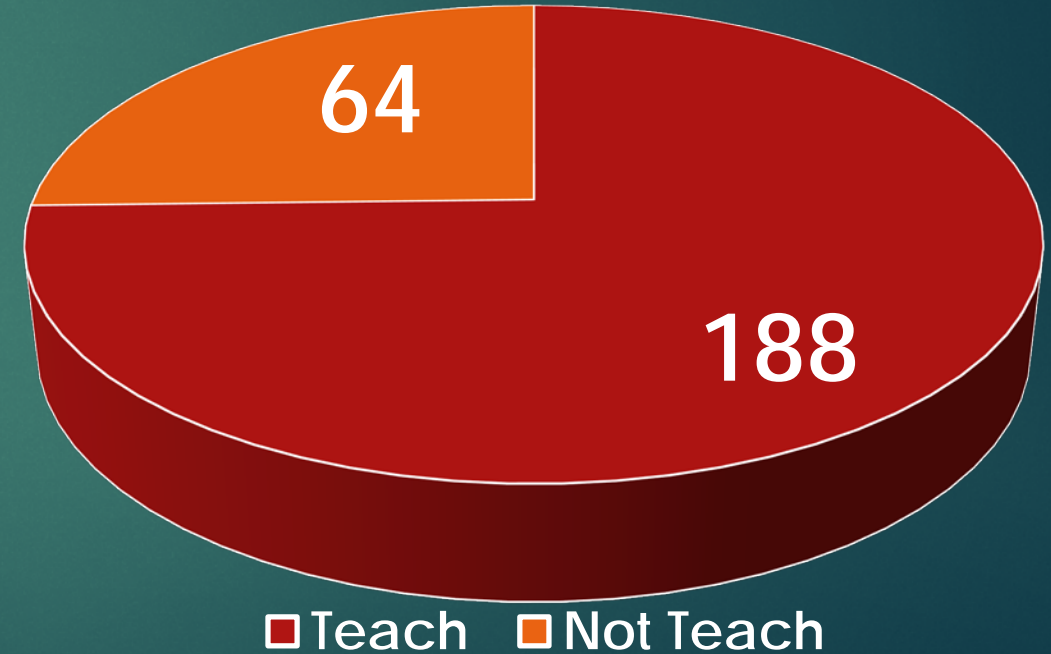
2016-17

Districts/Charter Systems
6,995 students



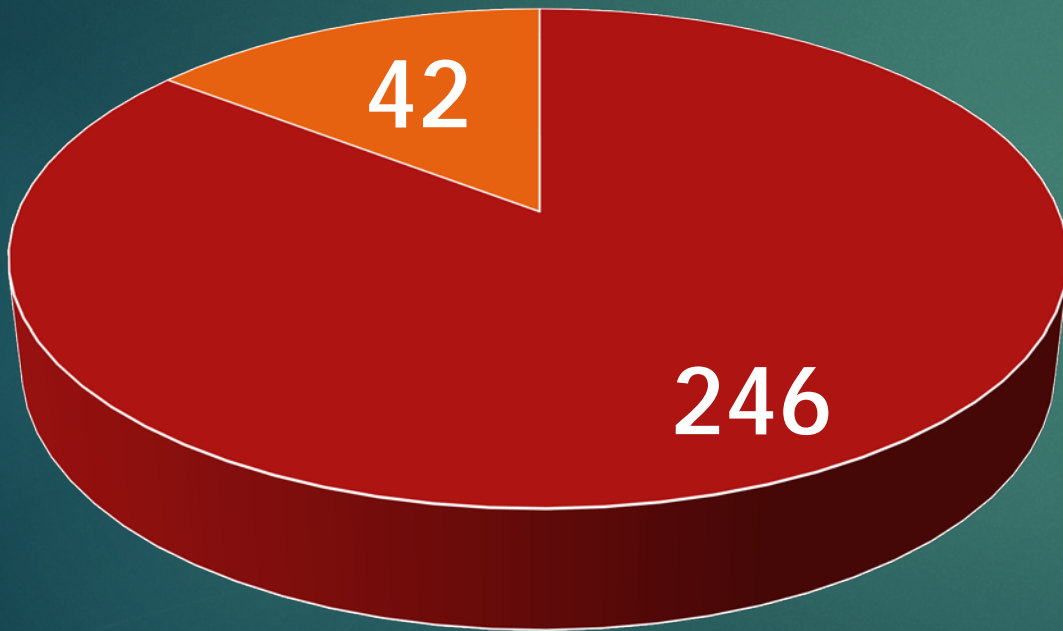
2018-19

Districts/Charter Systems
5,525 students



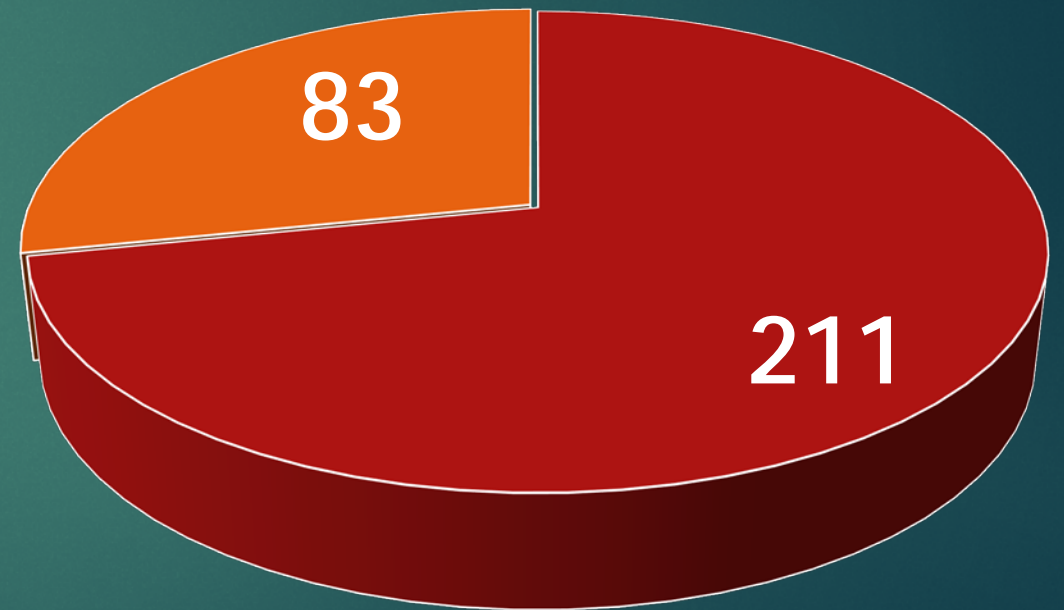
Physics

2016-17
High Schools



Teach Not Teach

2018-19
High Schools

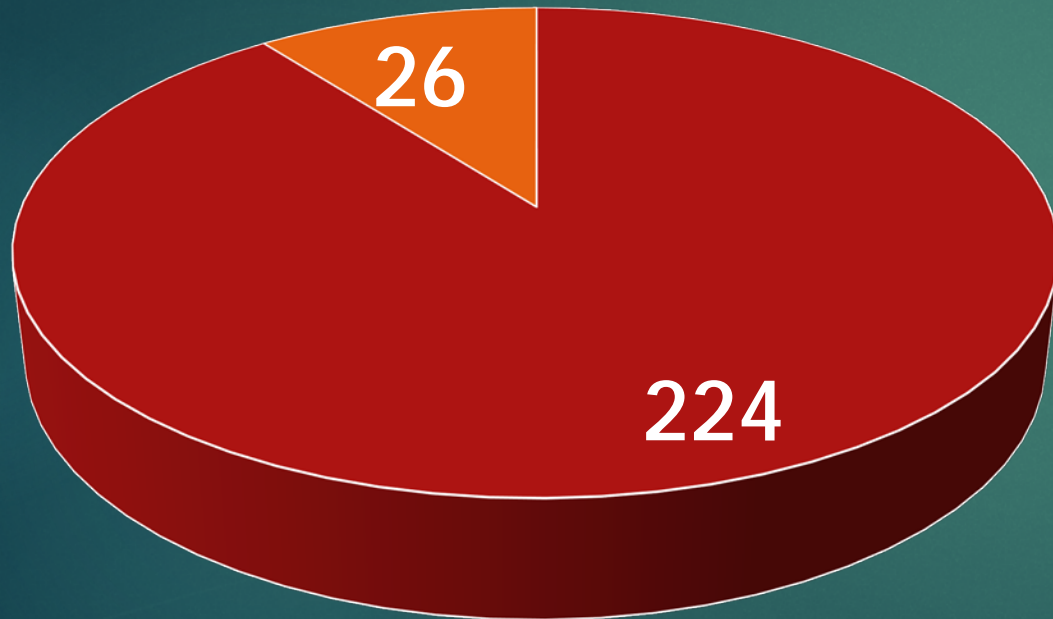


Teach Not Teach

Journalism

2016-17

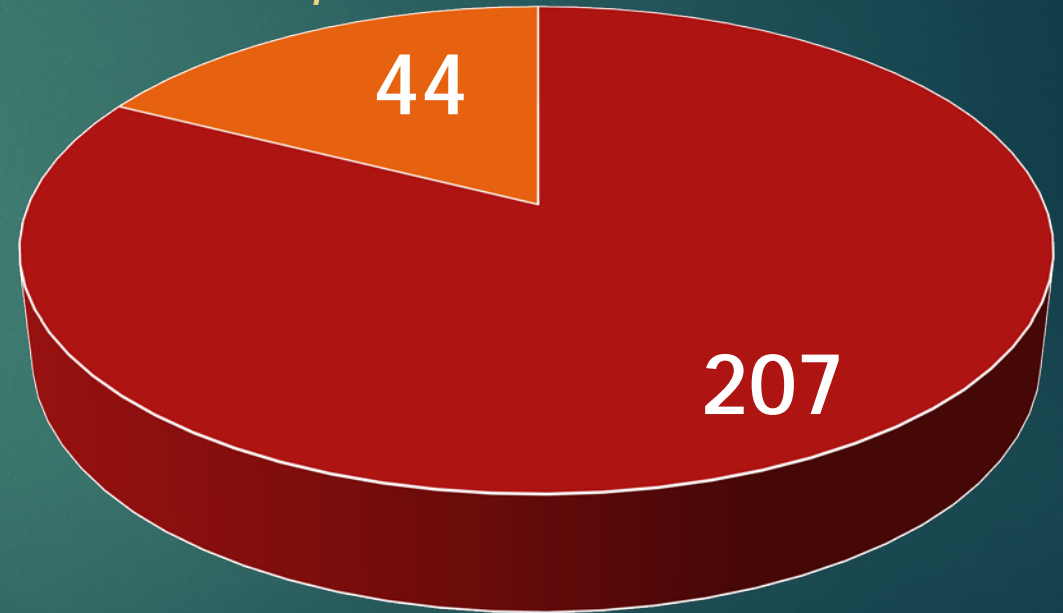
Districts/Charter Systems
5,623 students



Teach Not Teach

2018-19

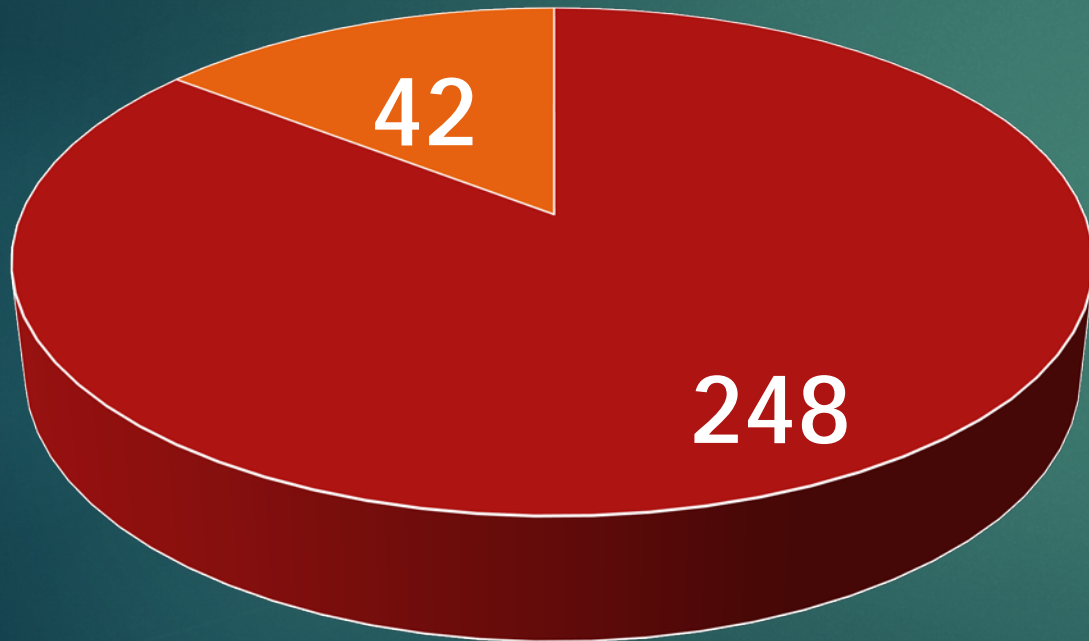
Districts/Charter Systems
5,255 students



Teach Not Teach

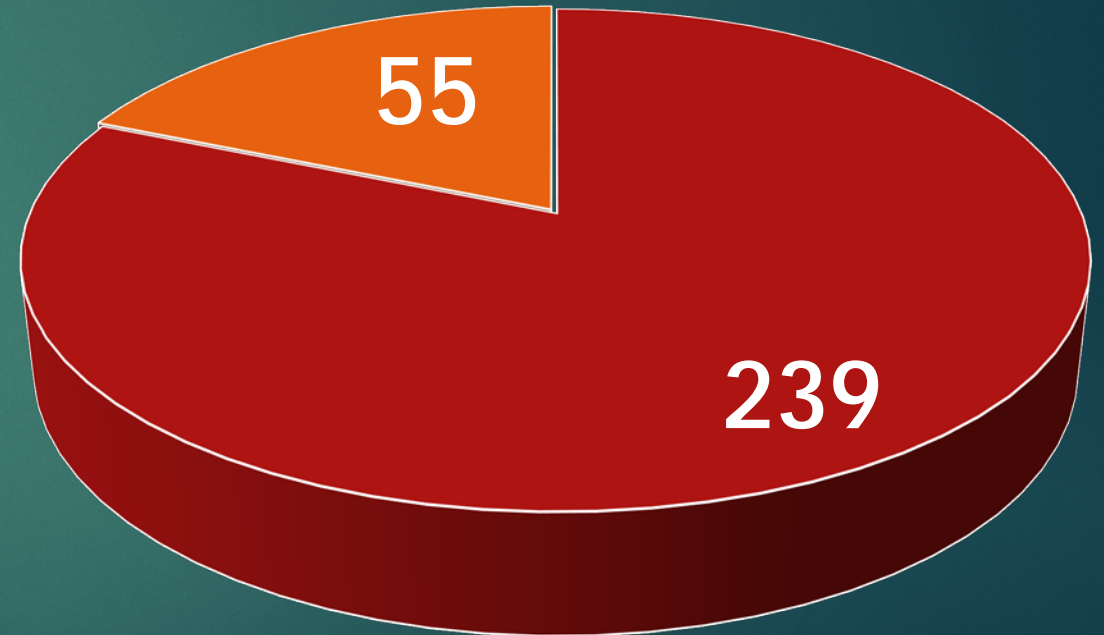
Journalism

2016-17
High Schools



Teach Not Teach

2018-19
High Schools

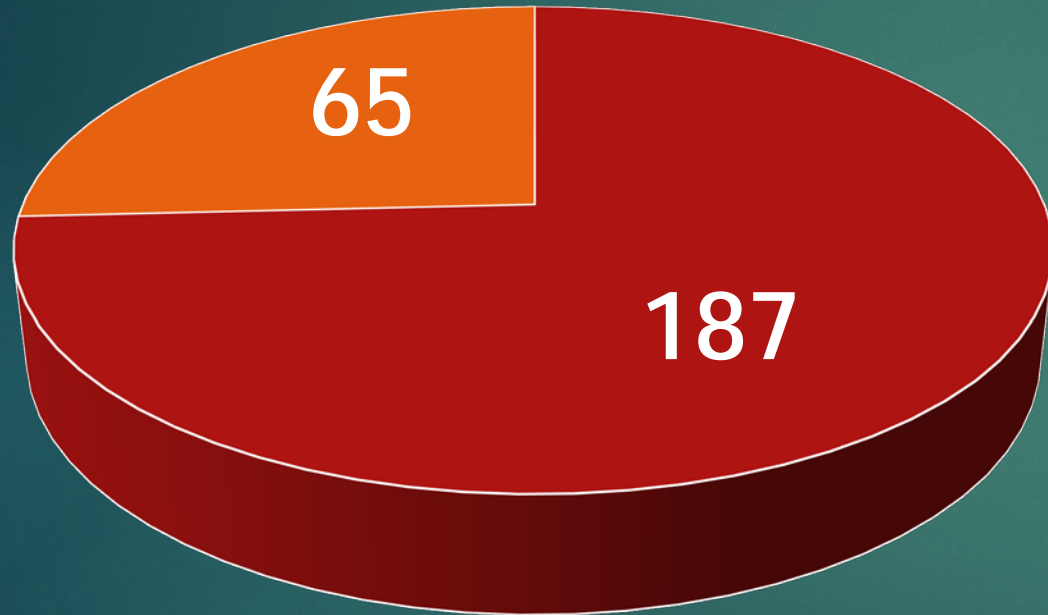


Teach Not Teach

2018-19 Drama

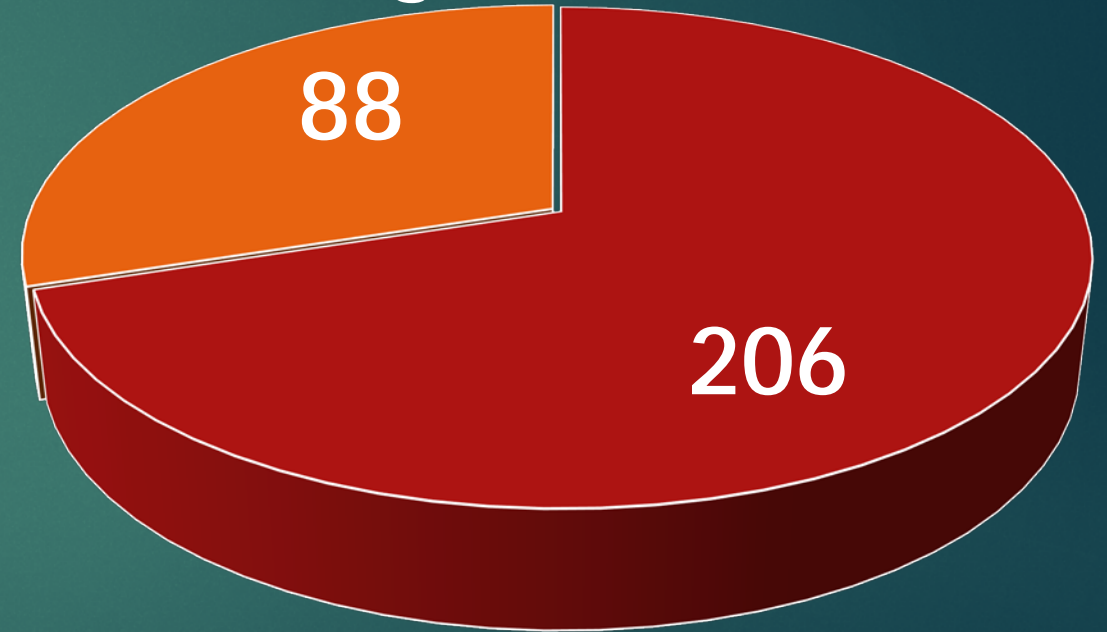
2,744 students

Districts/Charter Systems



Teach Not Teach

High Schools



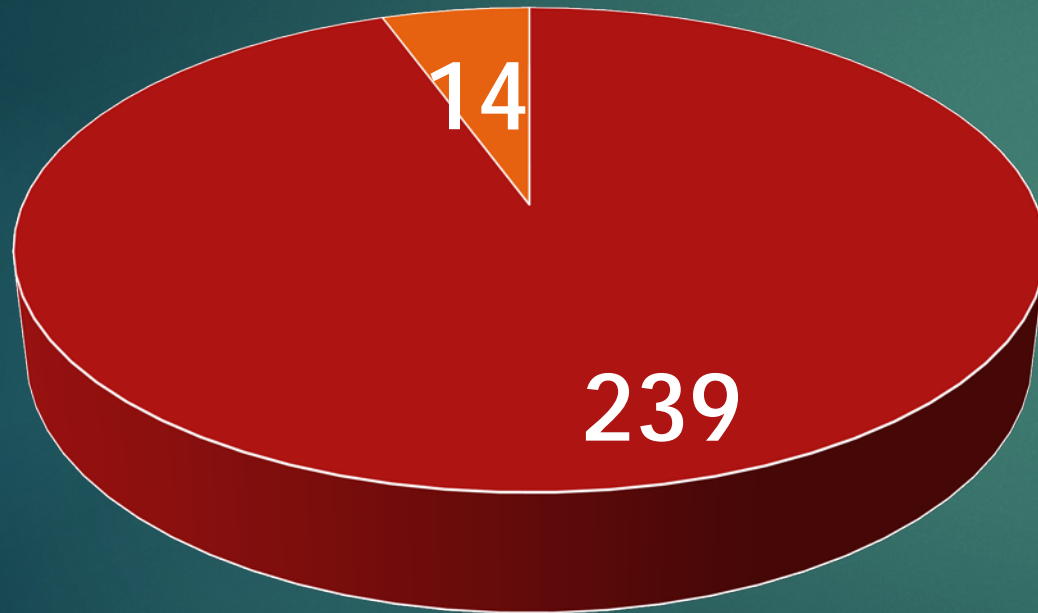
Teach Not Teach

2018-19 Advanced Placement

20

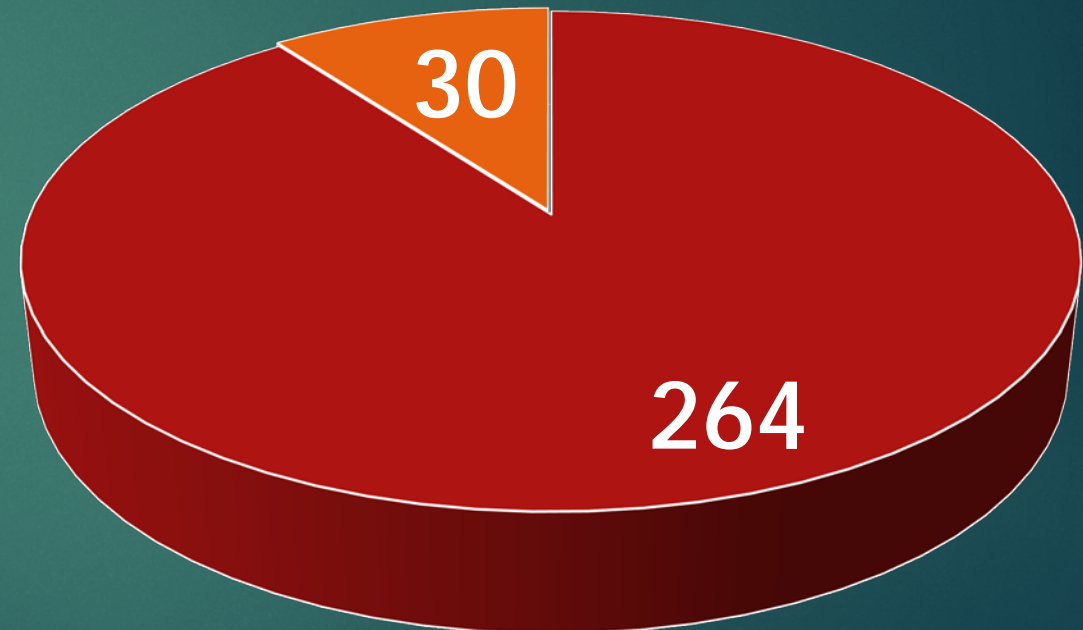
13,882 students

Districts/Charter Systems



Teach Not Teach

High Schools



Teach Not Teach

Graduation requirements (subset of required 38)

Smart Core (96%)

- ▶ 22 credits
- ▶ 4 math, 4 English, 3 science, 3 social studies
- ▶ Math includes Algebra II and another higher level course

Core (4%)

- ▶ 22 credits
- ▶ 4 math, 4 English, 3 science, 3 social studies
- ▶ Math must include Algebra I and geometry

Grad Requirements: How Do We Compare?

- ▶ Arkansas – 22 required credits to graduate
 - ▶ National range: 13 to 24 credits in the 47 states and DC with requirements*:
 - ❖ Ohio – 20
 - ❖ California – 13
 - ❖ District of Columbia – 24
 - ❖ Maryland – 21
- * Colorado, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania allow local school districts to set graduation requirements.

Grad Requirements: How Do We Compare?

COURSE-TAKING REQUIREMENTS IN THE SREB REGION

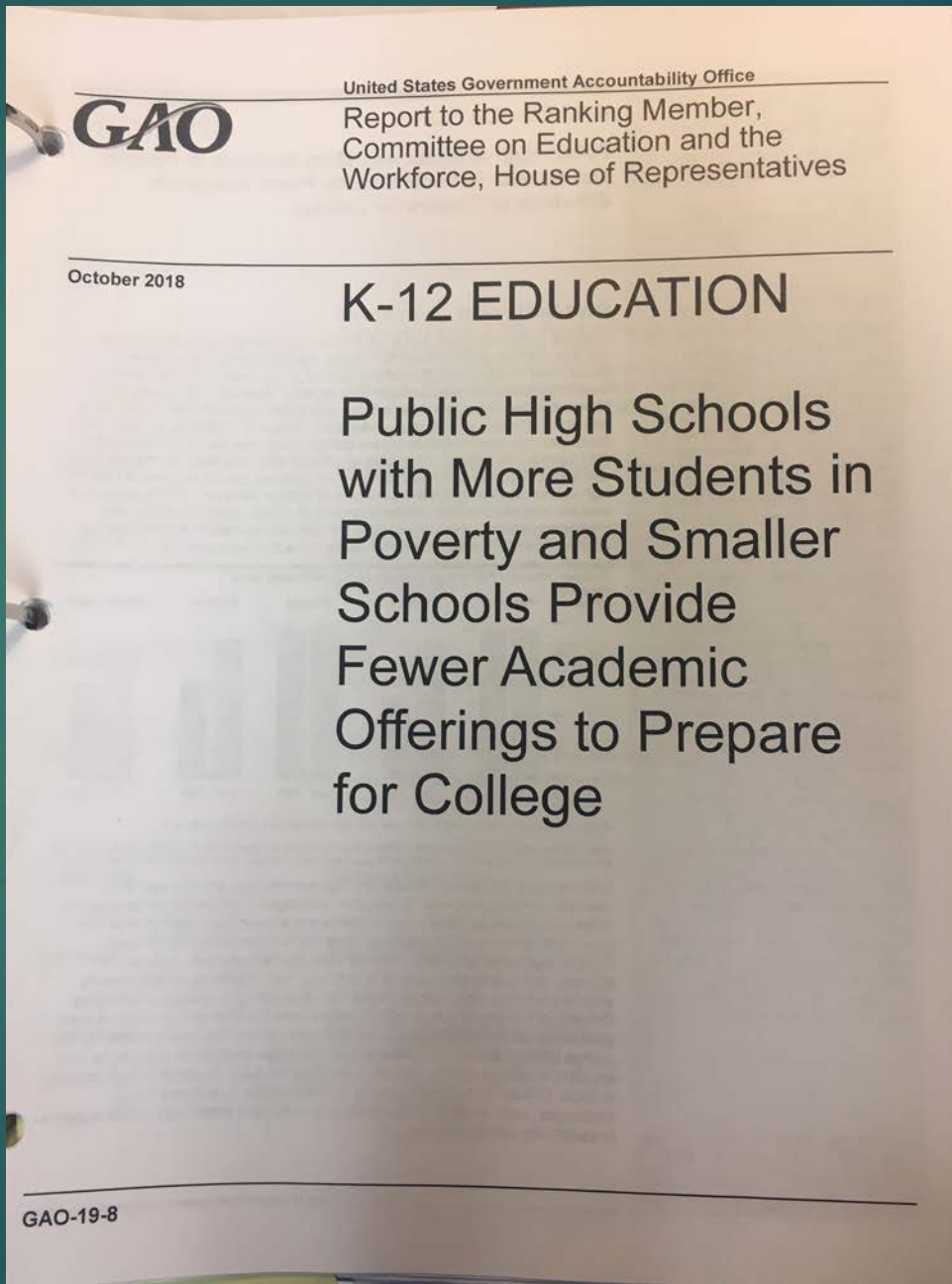
Standard Diploma Option

- 4 English / 3 Math / 3 Science
- 4 English / 4 Math / 3 Science
- 4 English / 4 Math / 4 Science



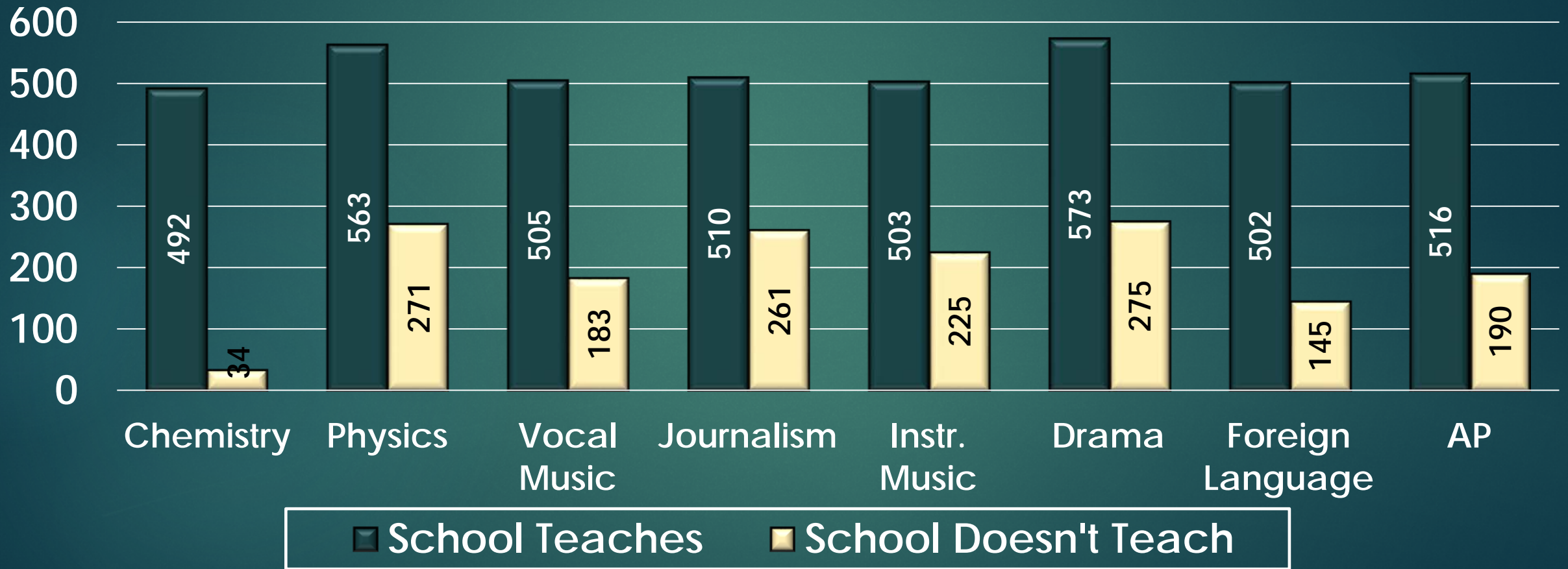
Source: SREB analysis of state documents

Equity...



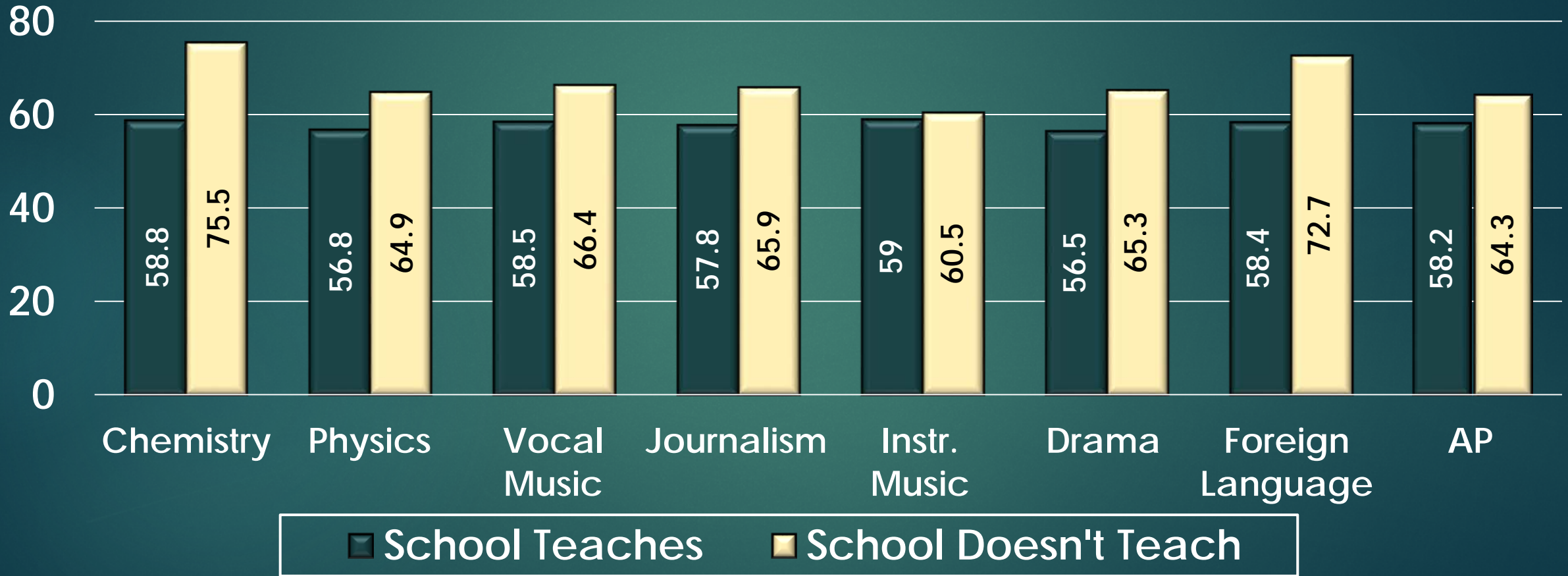
School size disparities

Average Enrollment



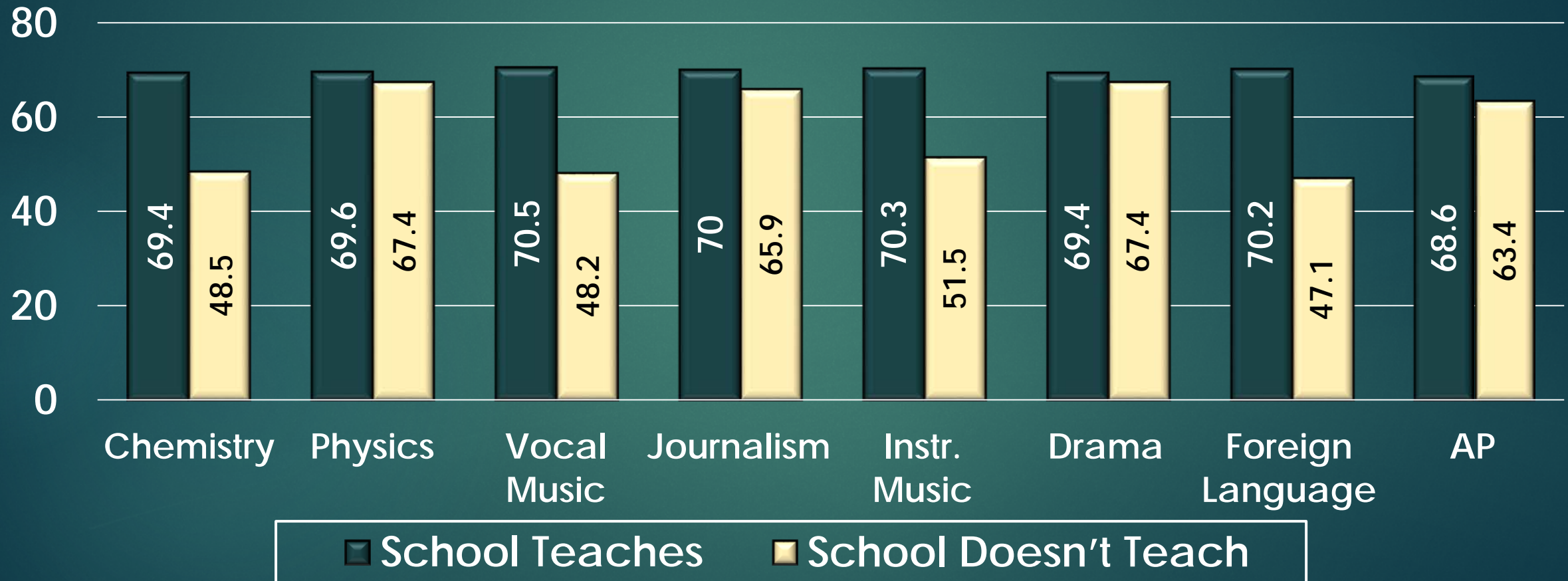
Poverty disparities

Average Percent ESL Students

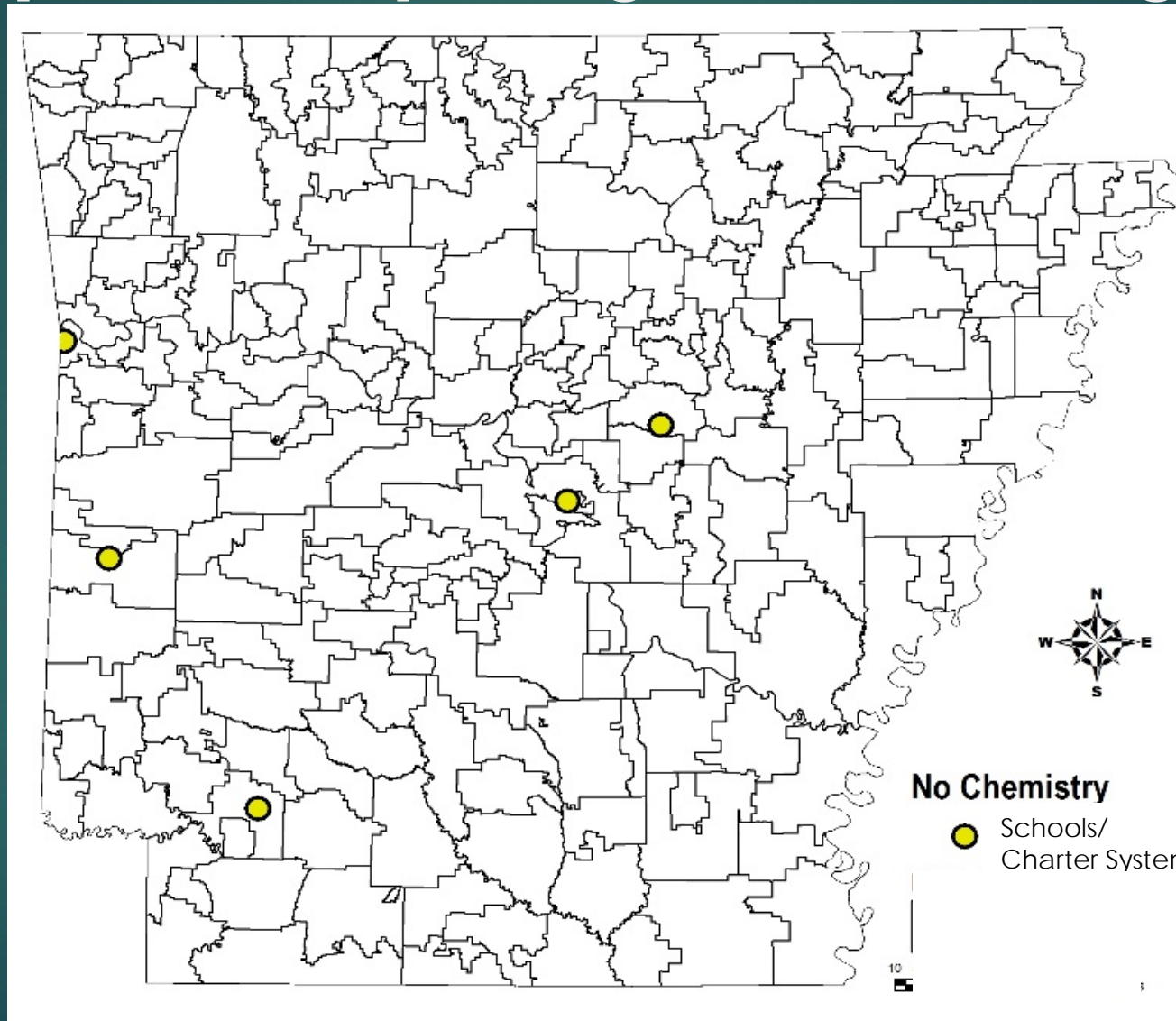


Racial/ethnic disparities

Average Percent White Students

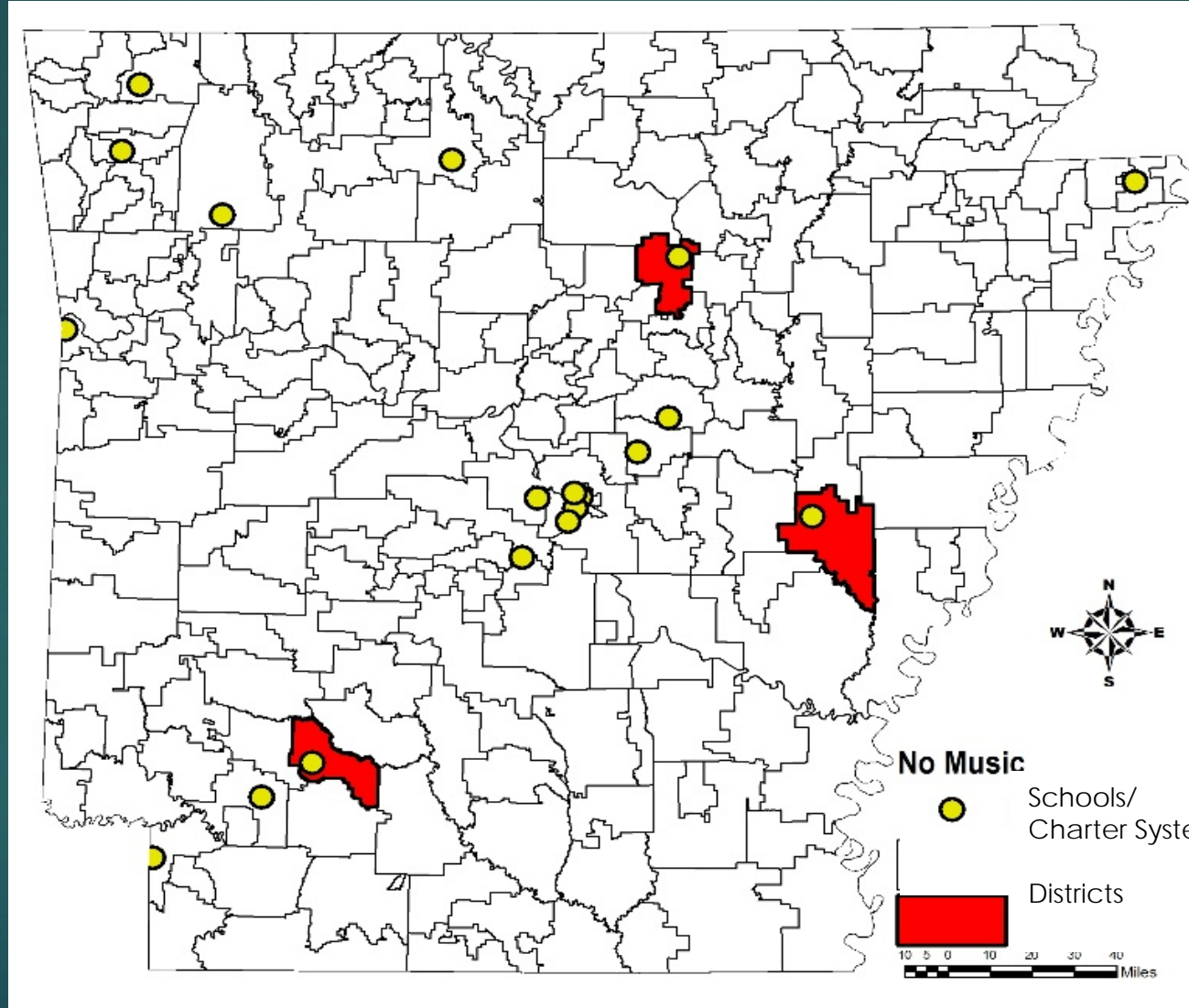


Geographic disparity: chemistry

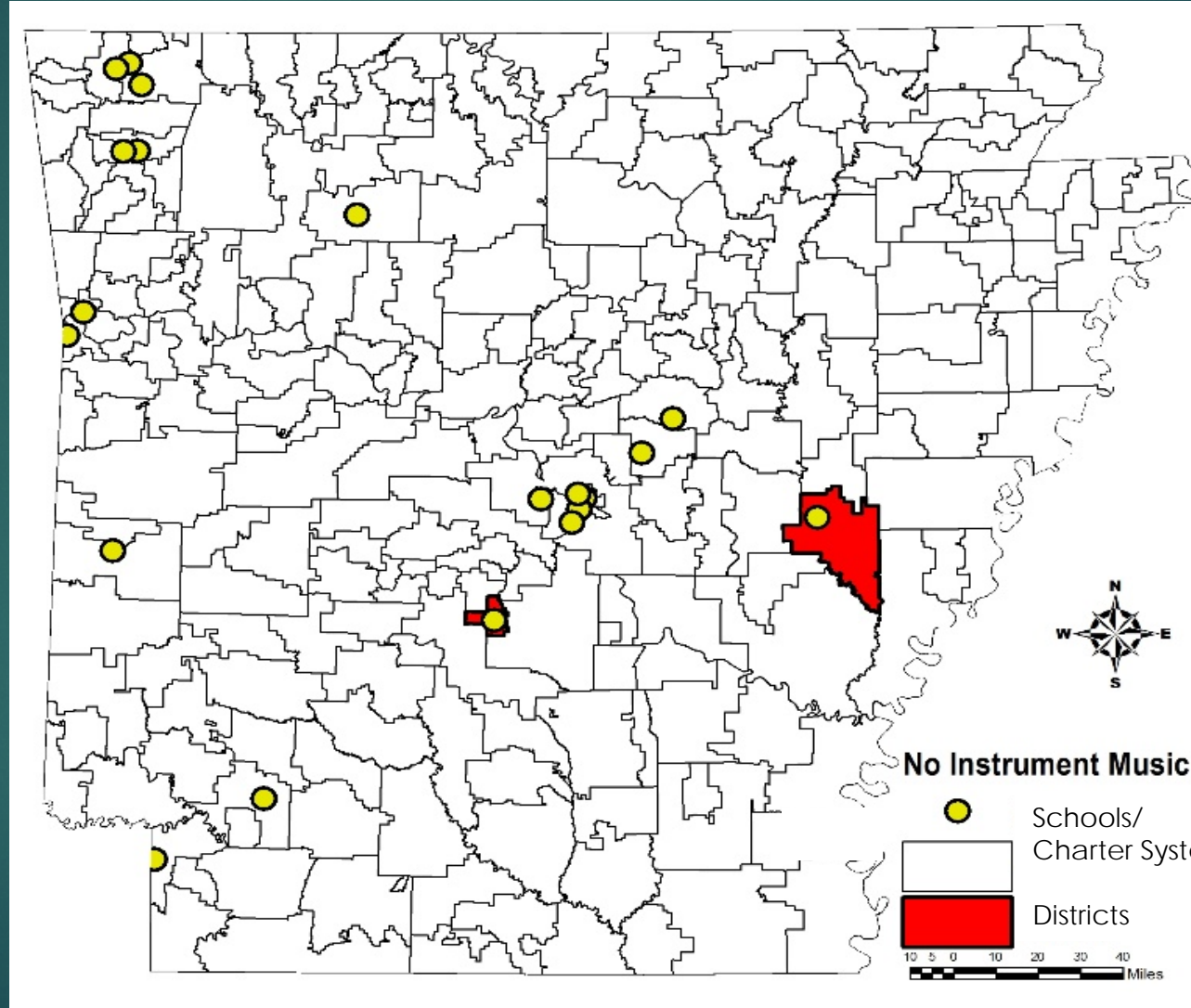


Geographic disparity: vocal music

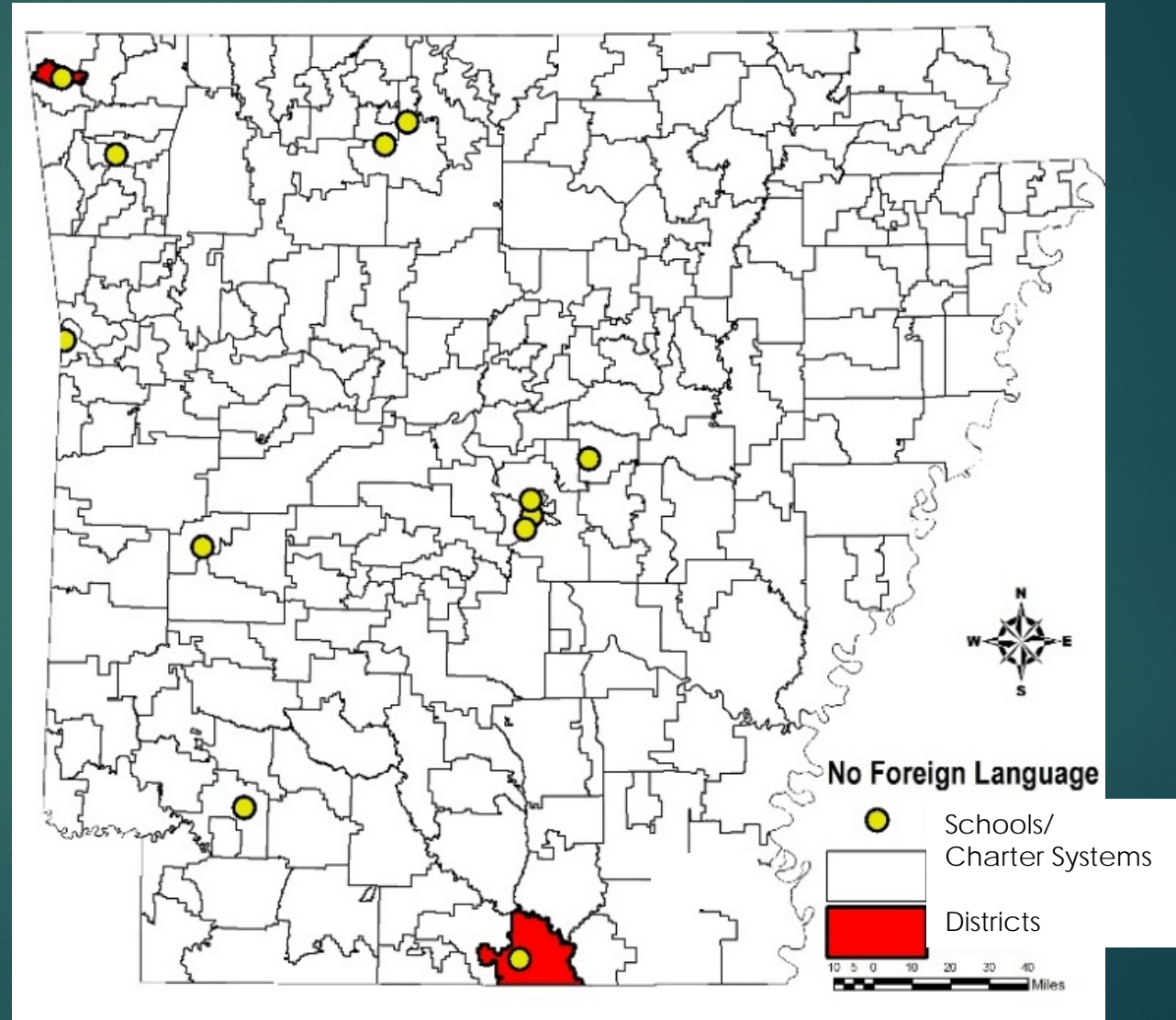
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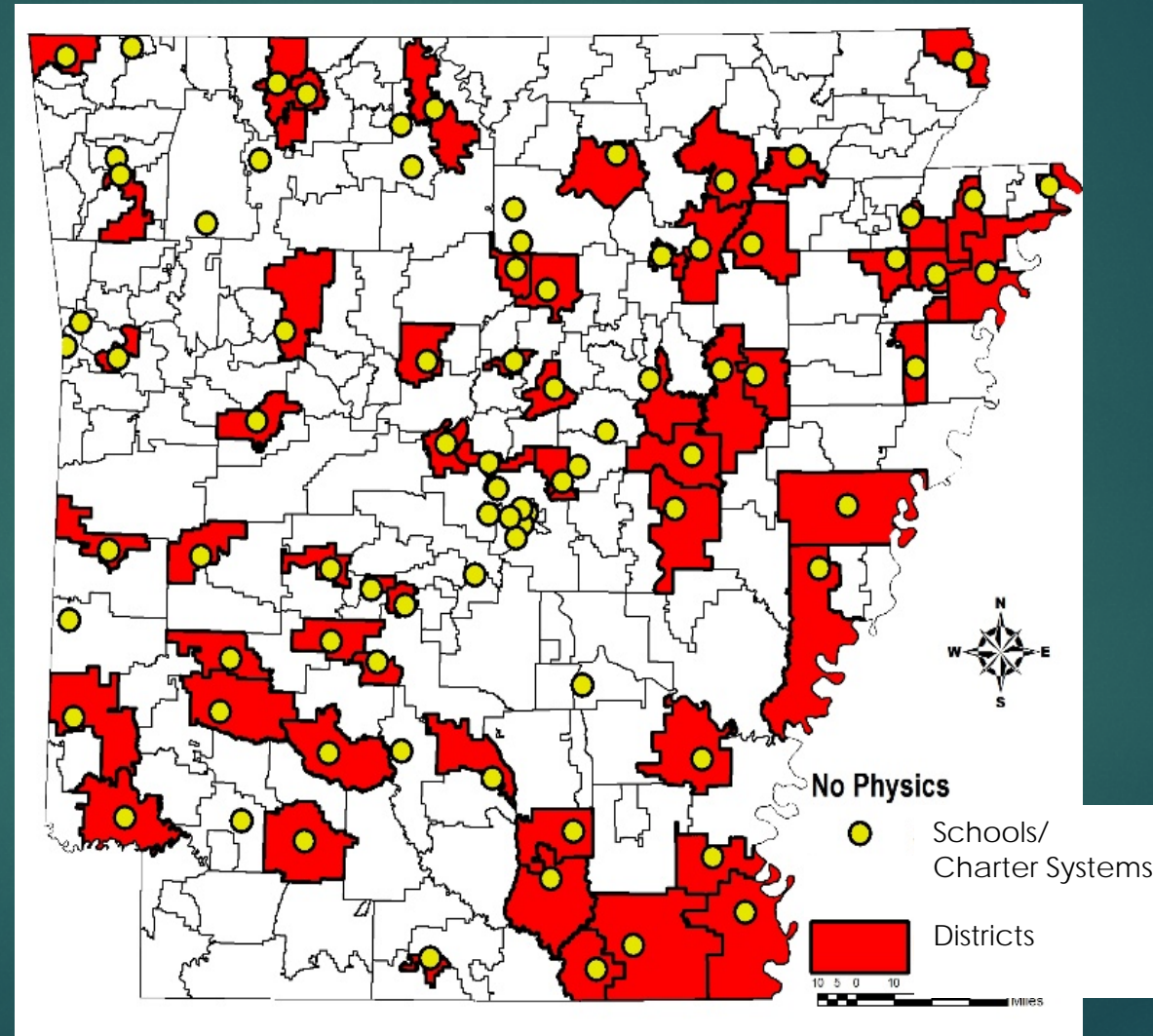
Geographic disparity: instrumental music



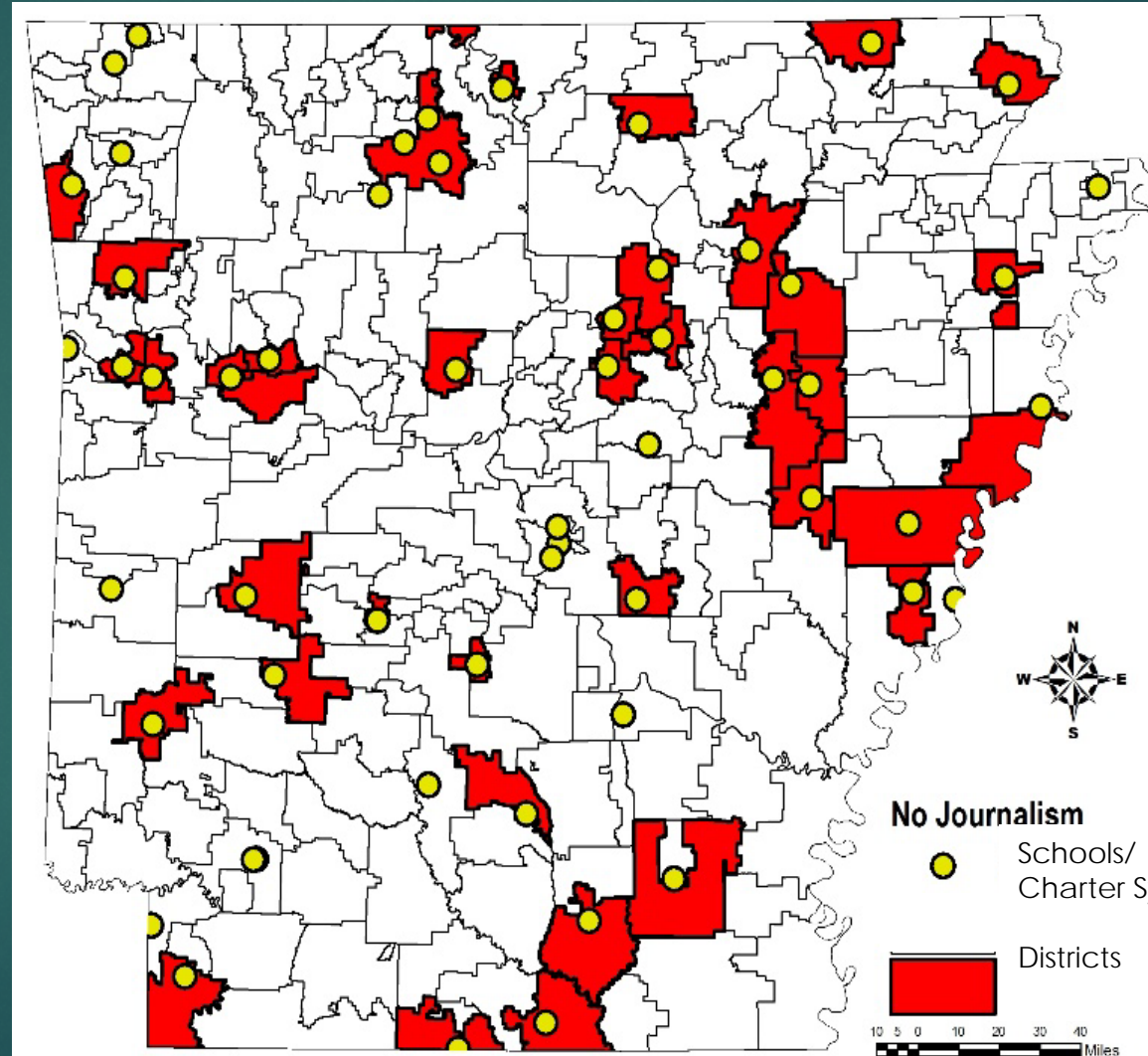
Geographic disparity: foreign language



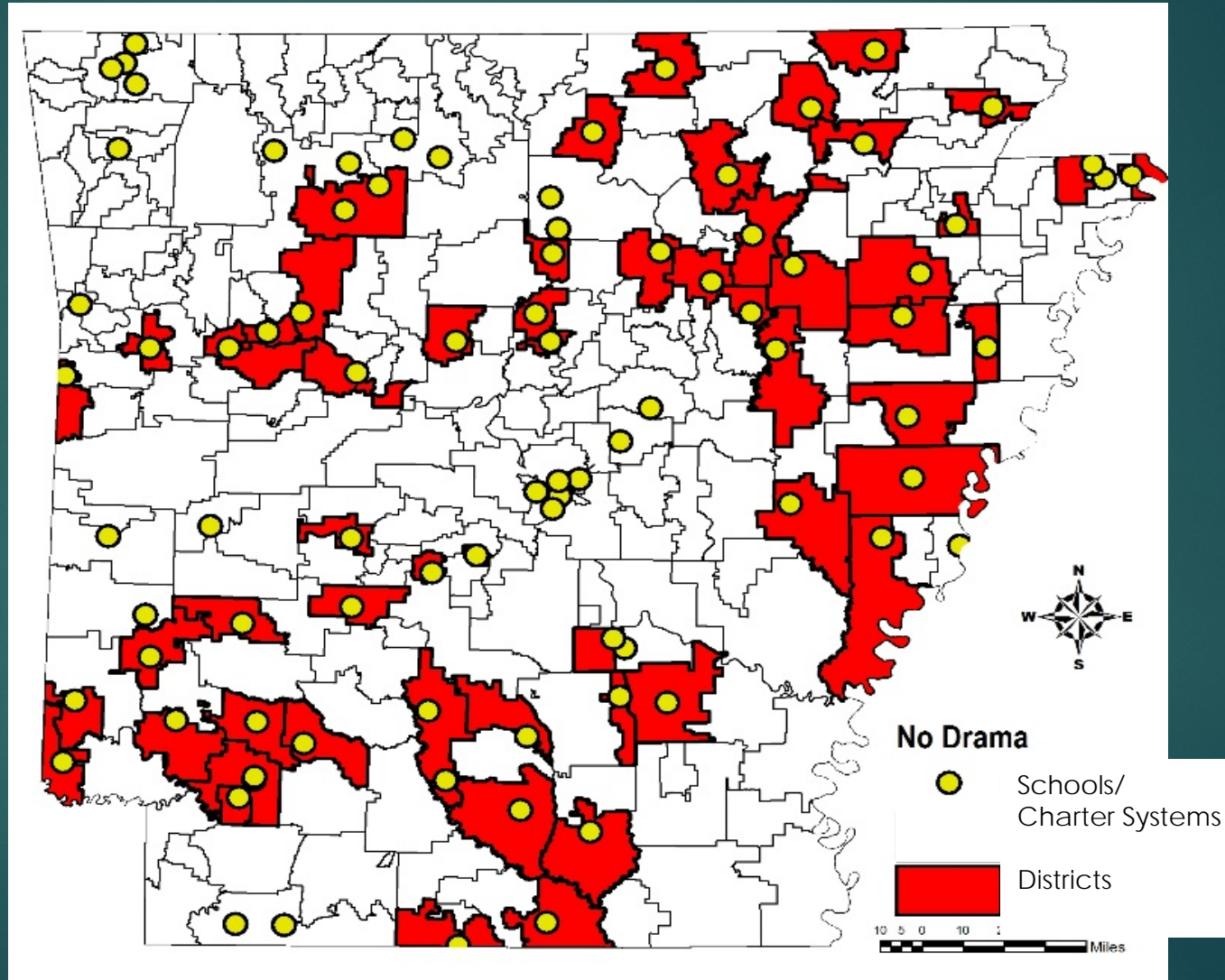
Geographic disparity: physics



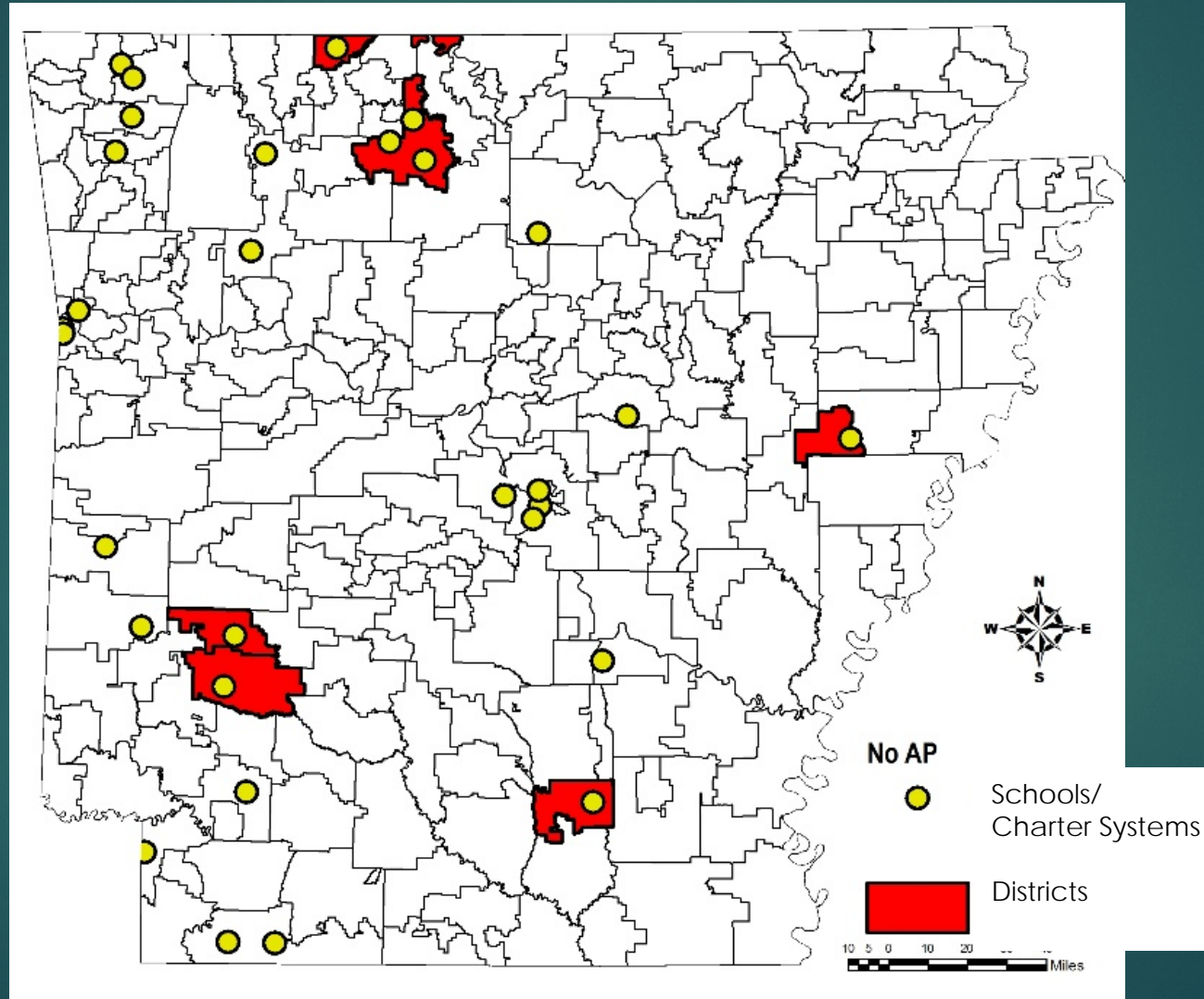
Geographic disparity: journalism



Geographic disparity: drama



Geographic Disparity: AP



School governance disparities

Traditional and conversion charter
MOST likely to teach courses (depending on course):

Type	Not Teaching
ALEs	37.5% to 100%
Virtual Schools	25% to 100%
Open enrollment charter schools	5% to 45%
Traditional & conversion high schools	0% to 27%

Barriers to learning

“A very small portion of my job has anything to do with curriculum. I'm busy with students who may not have electricity, who are involved in drugs or already in the juvenile system, whose parents are getting a divorce, who may not have eaten the previous night, who may have been abused...I could go on.” – Middle school teacher

Barriers to learning

38

Poverty

“There’s a hidden population in this state. Most legislation is not passed for the 82% of [this school’s] students who live in poverty. It’s passed for the 18% who live in a house that looks like the legislators’.”

– *Arkansas superintendent*

Barriers to learning

▶ Mental health/public health



Barriers to learning

40

“These kids have seen and heard and done things in 16 years that in 48 years, I’ve never seen. They’ve been traumatized at home...They’ve experienced things that I can’t even relate to. Some have scars.”

– *Arkansas high school principal*

Personalized Learning

Superintendent survey responses:

- ▶ **98%** say student success planning process beneficial for students
- ▶ **93%** say student success planning process beneficial for schools
- ▶ **Less than half** said 100% of their 9th-12th graders had plan in place by fall
- ▶ **About half** involve all of these personnel in student success planning process: student, teacher, counselor, administrator & parent
- ▶ **About a third** address all these things while planning: courses to take in high school, internships, civic volunteer roles, college planning, post-high school jobs & post-high school military service.

Report covers...

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- ▶ RISE/Right to Read Act
- ▶ Student-focused learning

Questions?

LATER: HOLTJ@BLR.ARKANSAS.GOV / 501-537-9194