

Public Education in Metro Atlanta:

Assessing the Cradle-to-Career Pipeline



June 2018

A Closer Look at Public Education in Metro Atlanta

Overall, *only 39 percent* of 3rd graders in the 10-county ARC Region are *proficient in reading* by the end of 3rd grade.

A study commissioned by the Annie E. Casey Foundation shows that *children not reading proficiently by the end of third grade are four times more likely to not graduate high school.*

Similar to reading outcomes, *only 43 percent of 8th graders are proficient in math* by the end of 8th grade.

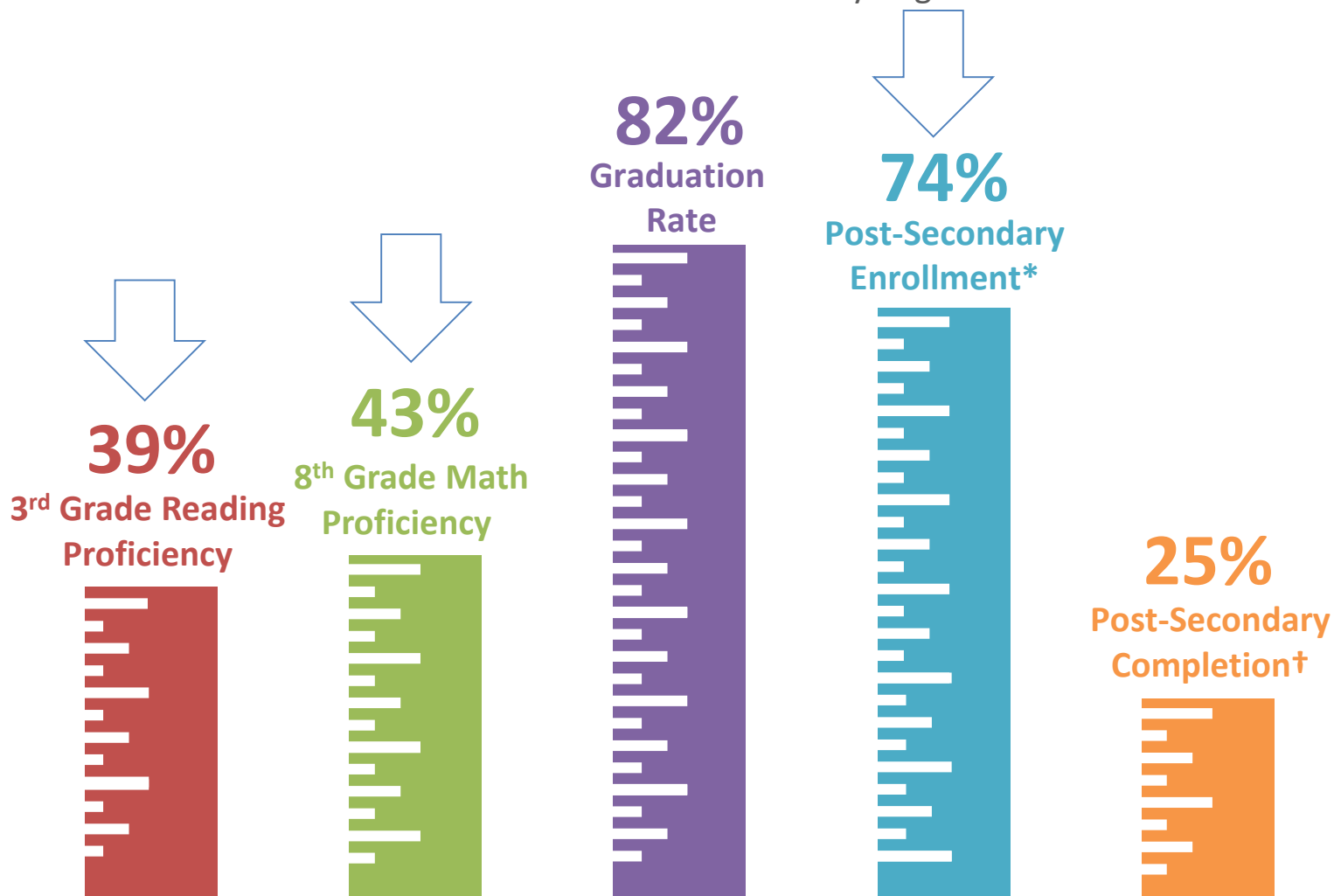
Minority and economically disadvantaged students are *less likely* to take advanced mathematics courses. And, regardless of the type of assessment taken, *achievement gaps persist among subgroups.*

There is a *strong correlation between literacy and 8th grade math proficiency.*

There is also a *strong correlation between socioeconomic status and student achievement*, which is also visible in the spatial distribution of levels of student achievement throughout the region.

Performance on Select Cradle-to-Career Indicators

10-County Region



*Post-secondary enrollment represents the percentage of 2015 graduates enrolling in a post-secondary program within 16 months of graduation.

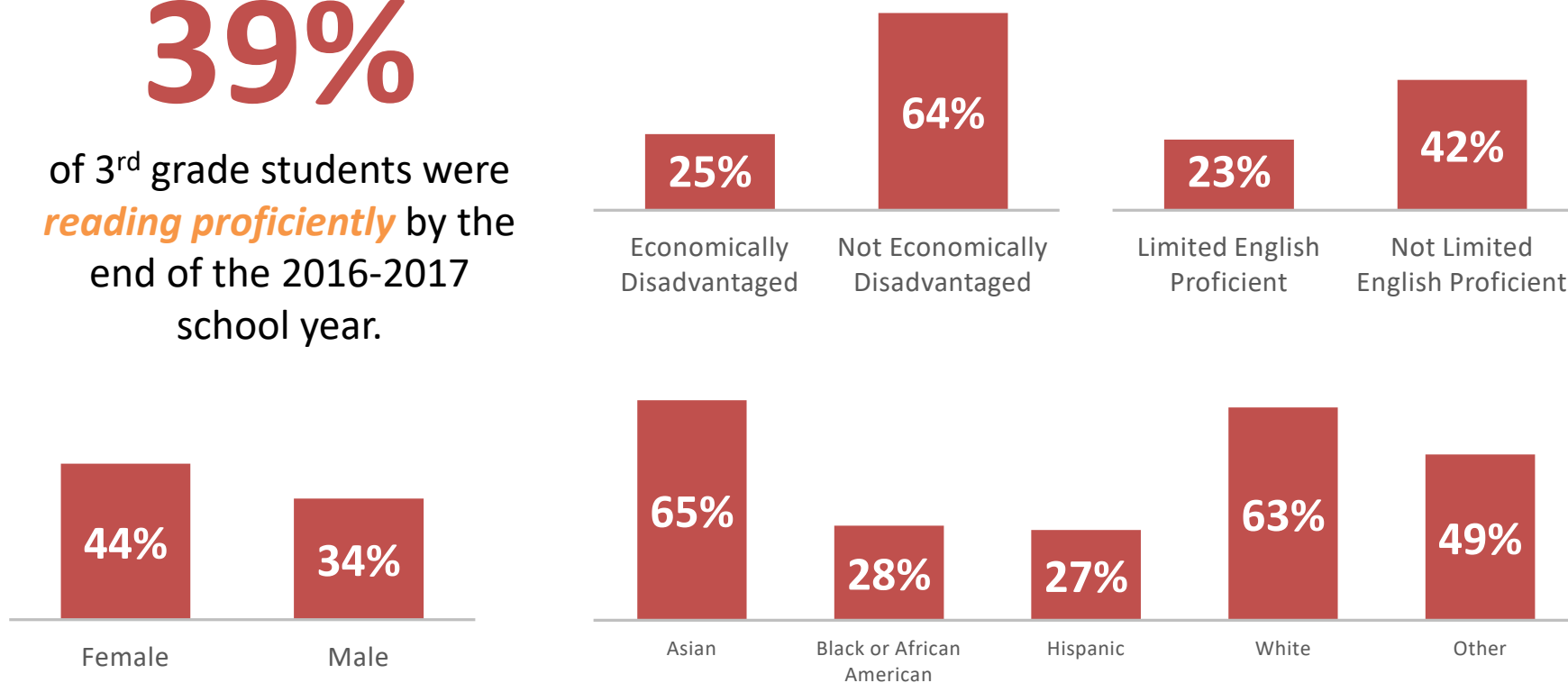
†Post-secondary completion represents the percentage of 2012 graduates earning a post-secondary degree or credential within five years of graduating.

A Look at Regional 3rd Grade Reading Proficiency

% Proficient & Above on 3rd Grade Reading (GA Milestones),
10-County Region, Disaggregated by Subgroup

39%

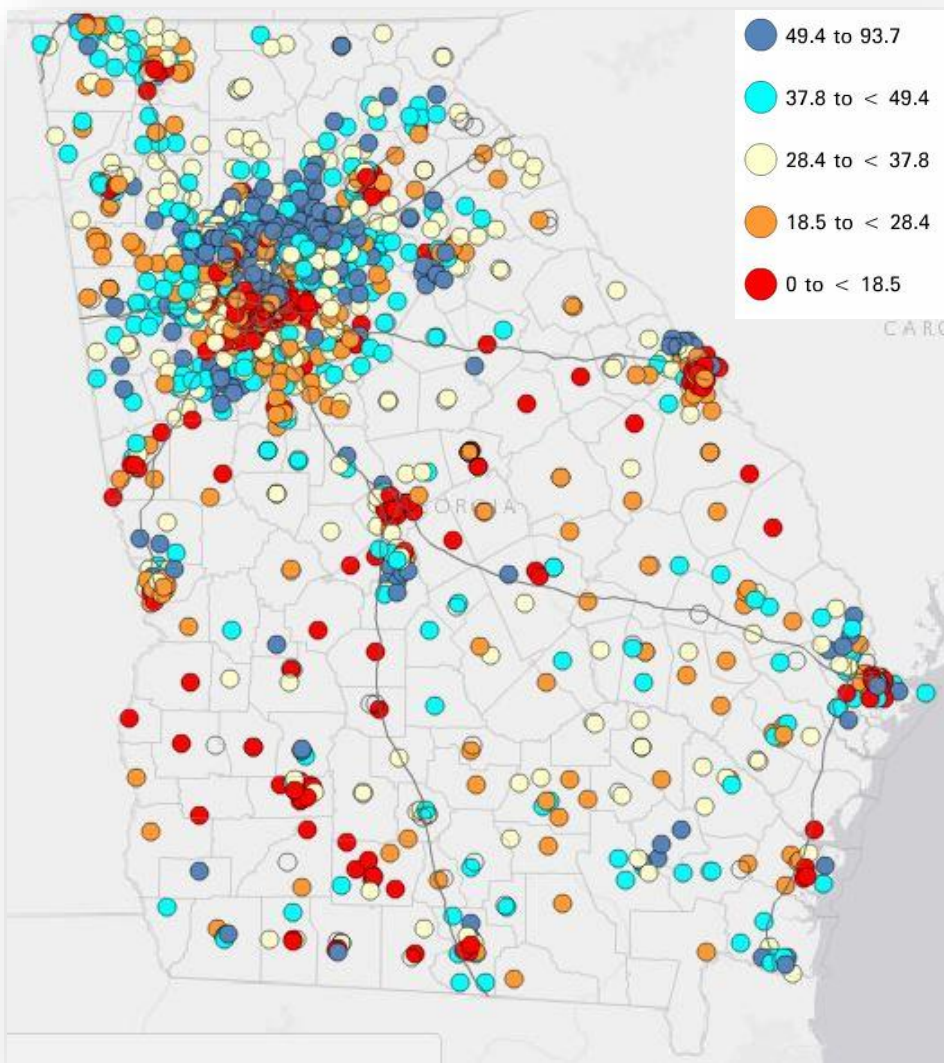
of 3rd grade students were
reading proficiently by the
end of the 2016-2017
school year.



Over *34,000 students were not reading proficiently* by the end of 3rd grade in 2017.

Note: Reading proficiency includes those students scoring proficient or distinguished on the 3rd Grade English Language Arts Milestones assessment.

3rd Grade Reading Proficiency, on the map...



The adjacent map shows 3rd grade reading proficiency by school *across the entire state*.

The blue shades represent higher reading proficiencies, while the orange and red shades represent lower levels of proficiency.

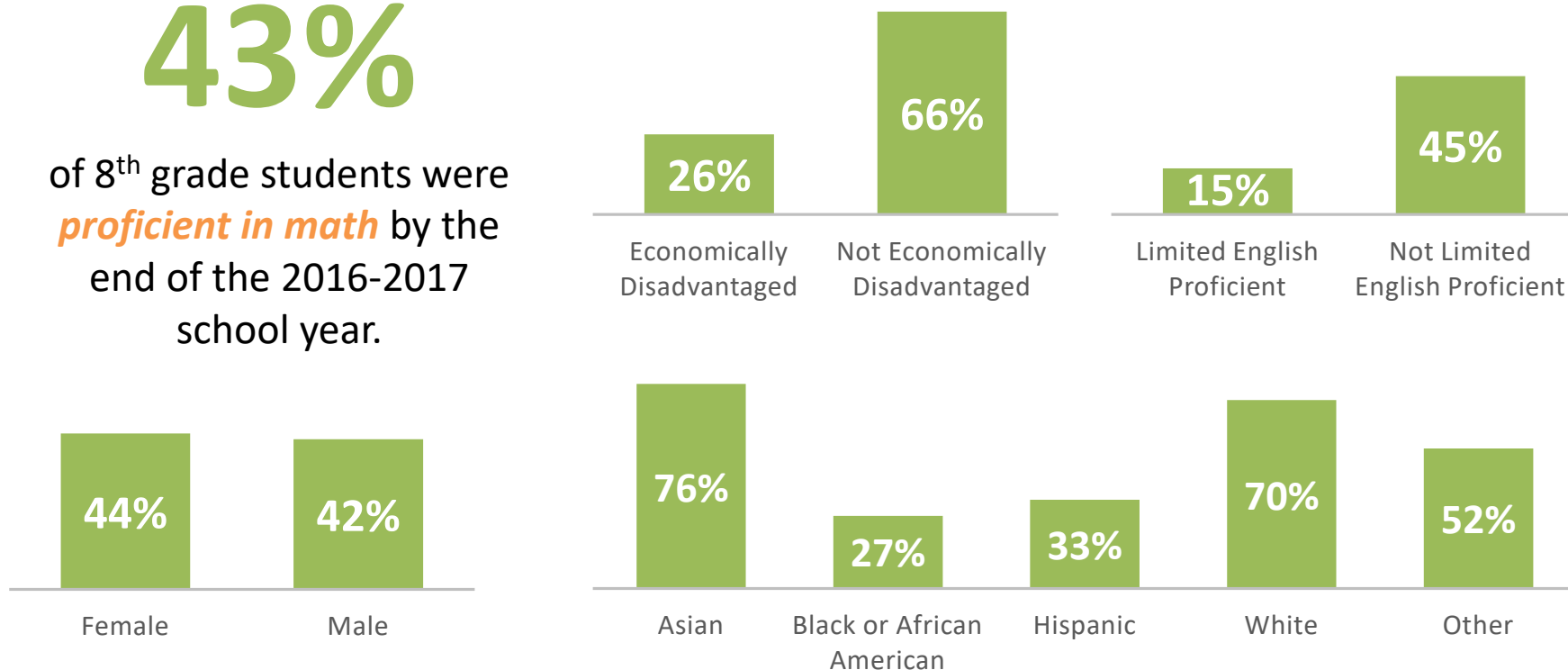
Metro Atlanta schools generally have decent proficiency levels when compared to schools in the southern half of Georgia, but *South Fulton, Clayton, and Spalding schools stand out with the lowest proficiency rates in the metro area.*

A Look at Regional 8th Grade Math Proficiency

% Proficient & Above on 8th Grade Math (GA Milestones, *EOC + EOG*),
10-County Region, Disaggregated by Subgroup

43%

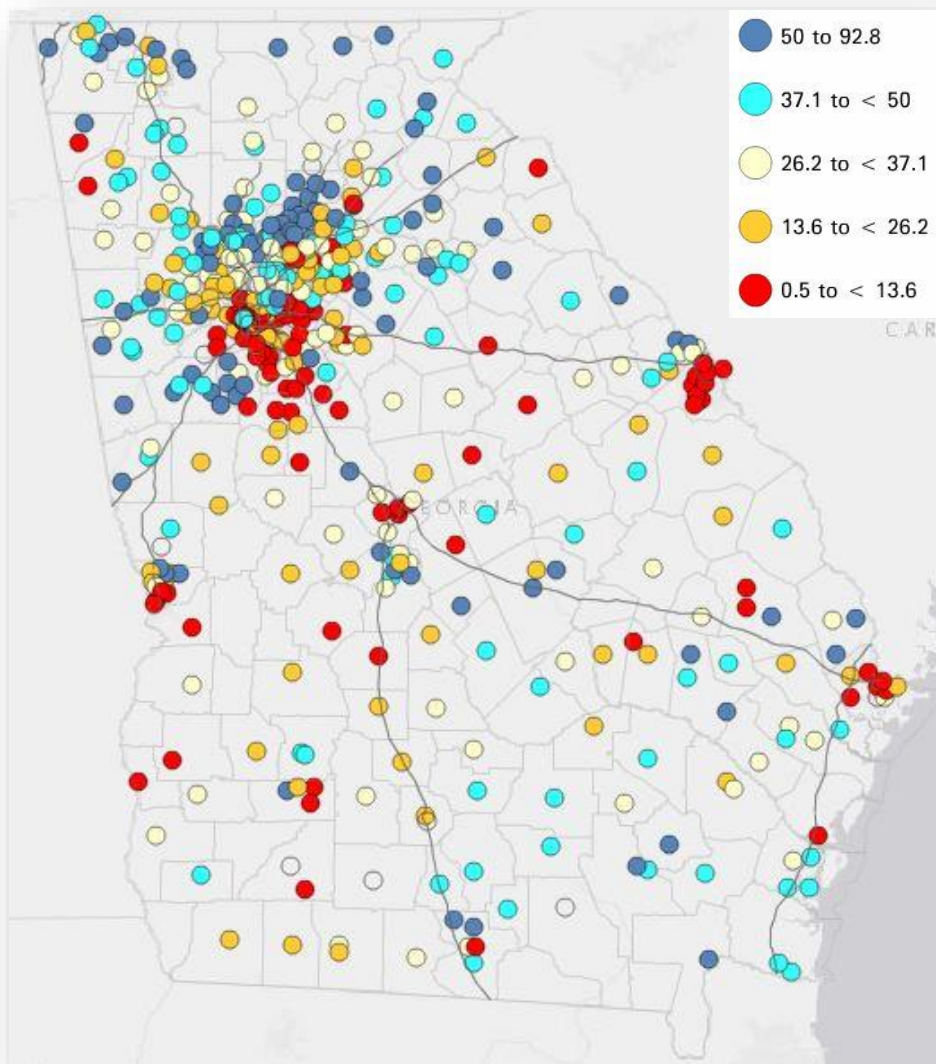
of 8th grade students were
proficient in math by the
end of the 2016-2017
school year.



Nearly *31,000 students were not proficient in math* by the end of 8th grade in 2017.

Note: In 2016, standards changed to allow 8th grade students to take advanced algebra and geometry course assessments to fulfill the Georgia Milestones 8th grade mathematics assessment. Proficiency values on this slide represent the percent of students scoring proficient or above on the Georgia Milestones 8th grade mathematics assessment (EOG Report) and the approved advanced mathematics course assessments (EOC Report) combined.

8th Grade Math Proficiency, on the map...



Similar to the previous 3rd grade proficiency map, this map shows 8th grade reading proficiency by school *across the entire state*.

The blue shades represent higher math proficiencies, while the orange and red shades represent lower levels of proficiency.

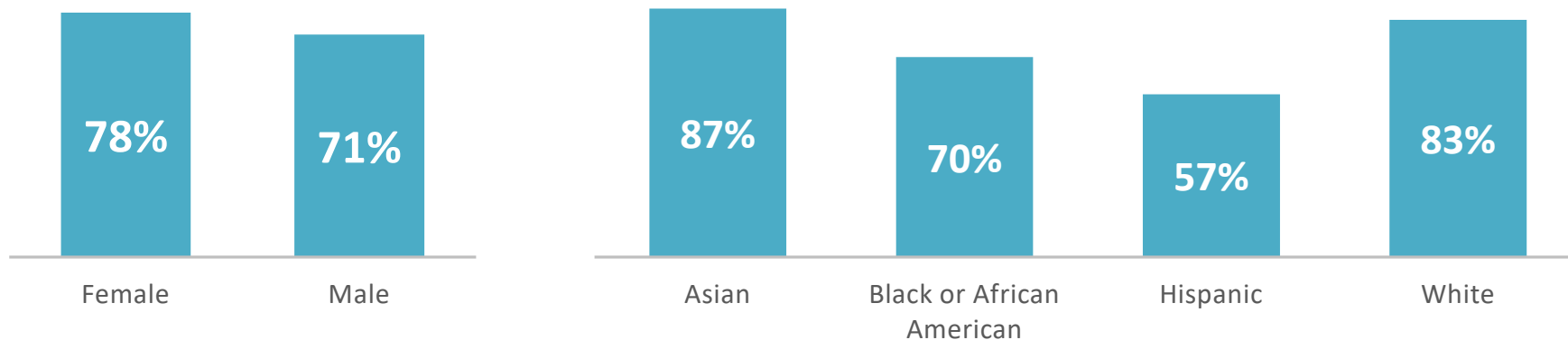
Again, metro Atlanta schools generally have decent proficiency levels when compared to schools in the southern half of Georgia, but *South Fulton, Clayton, and Spalding schools stand out with the lowest proficiency rates in the metro area.*

A Look at Regional Post-Secondary Enrollment...

10-County Region, Disaggregated by Subgroup

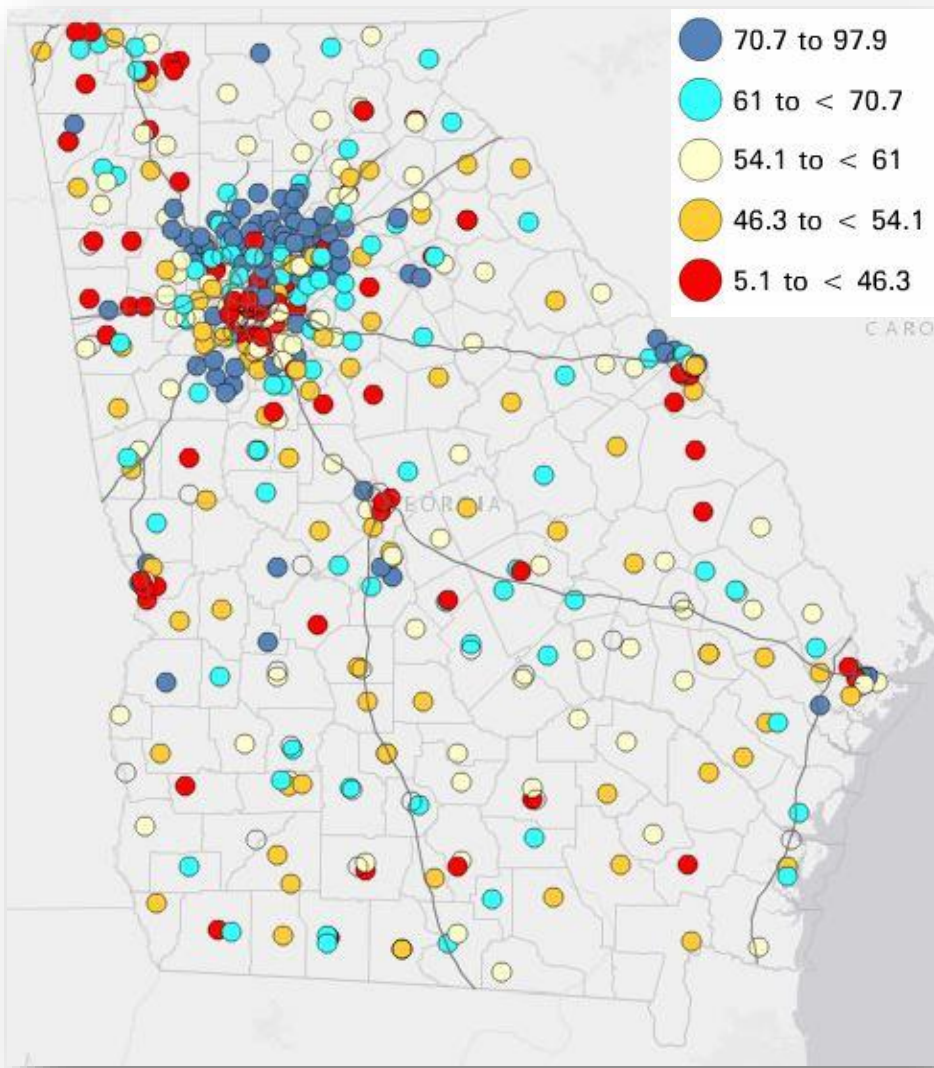
74%

of the 2015 graduating class
enrolled in a post-secondary institution within 16 months of graduation.



While 74% of graduates are enrolling in a post-secondary institution within 16 months of graduating, *completion is another story*, with only one-quarter of students in the region earning a post-secondary credential or degree within five years of graduating.

Post-Secondary Enrollment, Continued...



The adjacent map shows a slightly different measure for post-secondary enrollment than the preceding slide. This map is showing the percentage of 2016 graduates who enrolled in a post-secondary institution within one year of graduation by school *across the entire state*.

The blue shades represent higher rates of enrollment, while the orange and red shades represent lower levels of post-secondary enrollment.

Metro Atlanta schools have the highest rates of post-secondary enrollment in the state, especially among the schools in North Fulton, Cobb, and Gwinnett counties.

Are There Any Differences in Proficiency Depending on the Type of Assessment Taken?

YES!

31%

vs.

76%

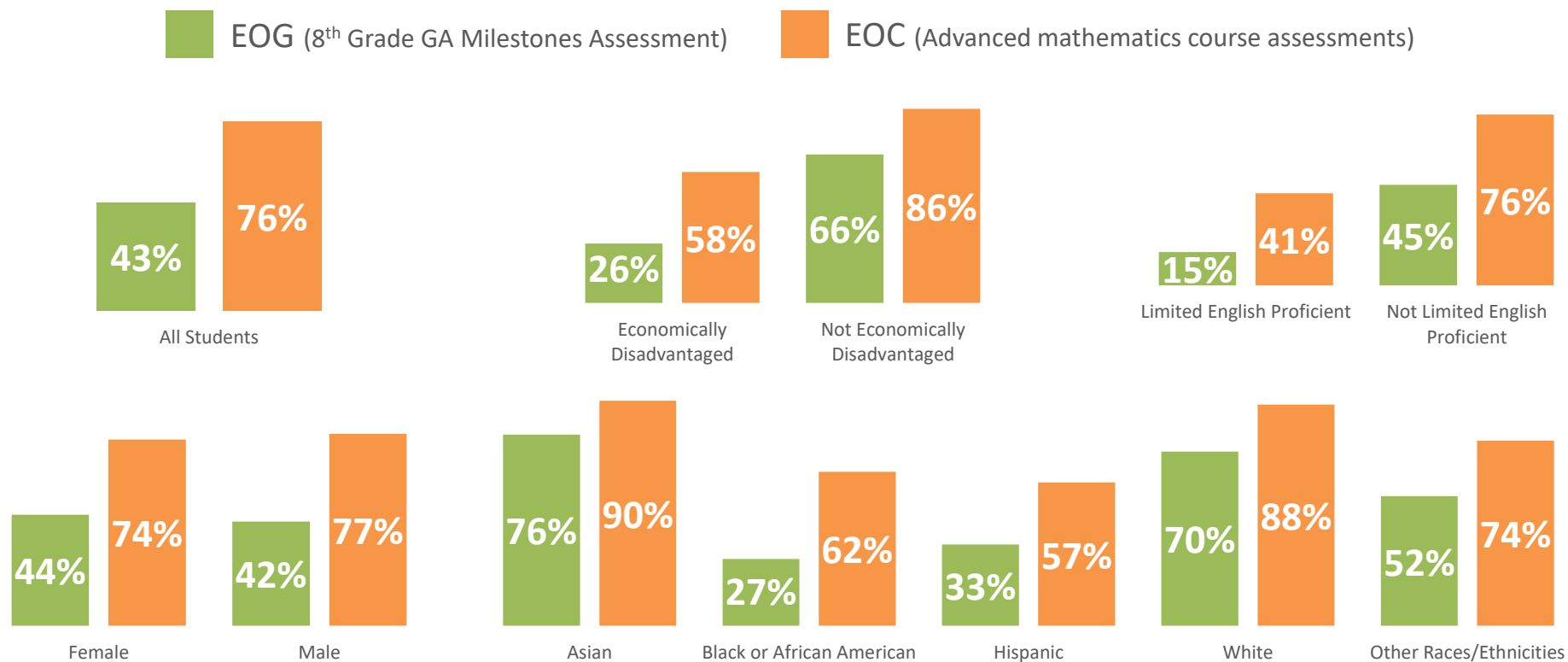
of 8th grade students who took the 8th Grade *Georgia Milestones Assessment* were *proficient in math* by the end of the 2016-2017 school year.

of 8th grade students who took assessments in *advanced courses in algebra or geometry* (in lieu of the Georgia Milestones 8th Grade Mathematics Assessment) were *proficient in those subjects* by the end of the 2016-2017 school year.

Note: In 2016, standards changed to allow 8th grade students to take advanced algebra and geometry course assessments to fulfill the Georgia Milestones 8th grade mathematics assessment. Proficiency values on this slide represent the percent of students scoring proficient or above on the Georgia Milestones 8th grade mathematics assessment (EOG Report) VS the advanced mathematics course assessments (EOG Report).

Socioeconomic and Racial/Ethnic Gaps Persist, Regardless of Type of Assessment

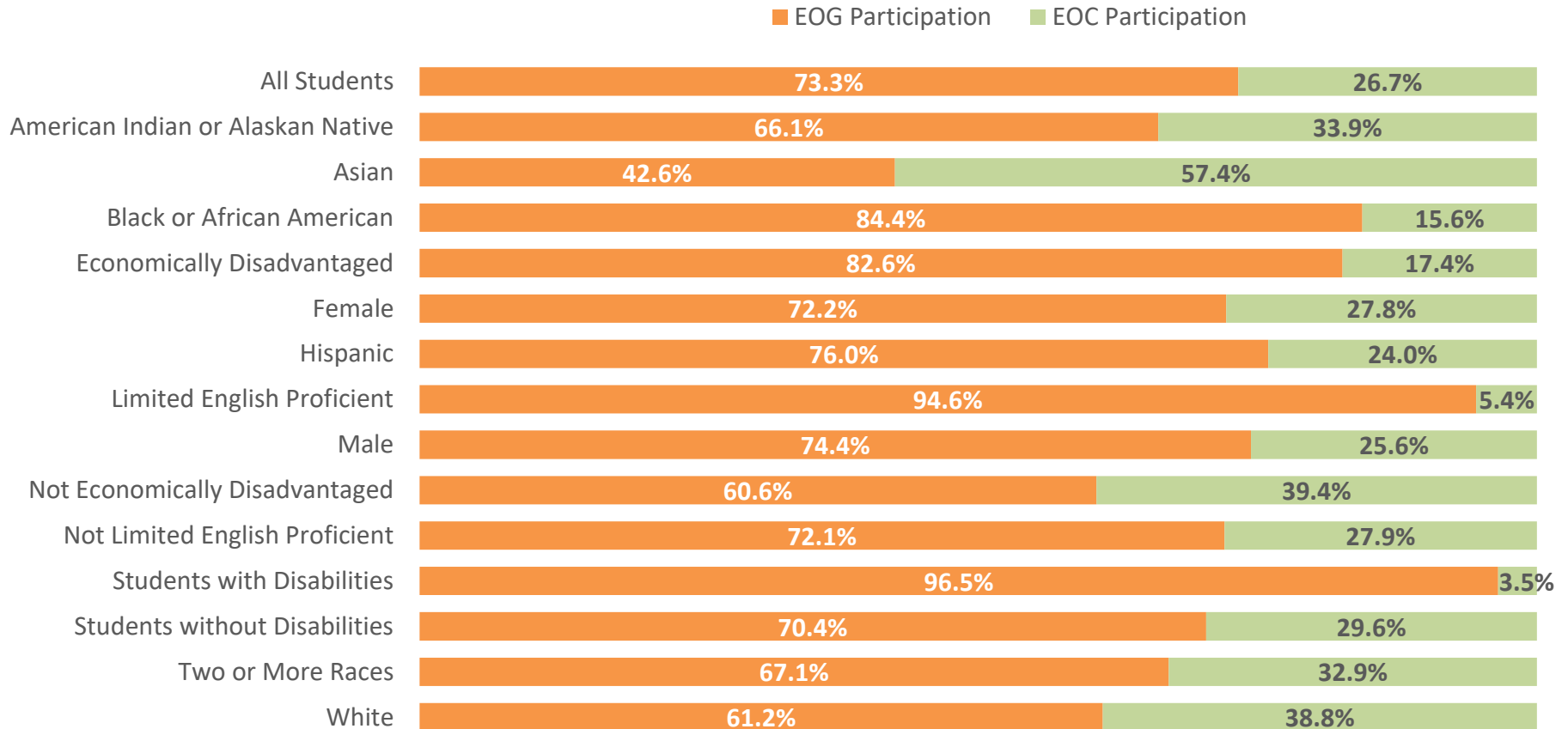
% Proficient & Above on 8th Grade Math (GA Milestones, *EOG* vs. *EOC*),
10-County Region, Disaggregated by Subgroup



Regardless of assessment taken gender, race/ethnicity, English proficiency, and economic status **achievement gaps exist.**

Who is Taking the Advanced Courses?

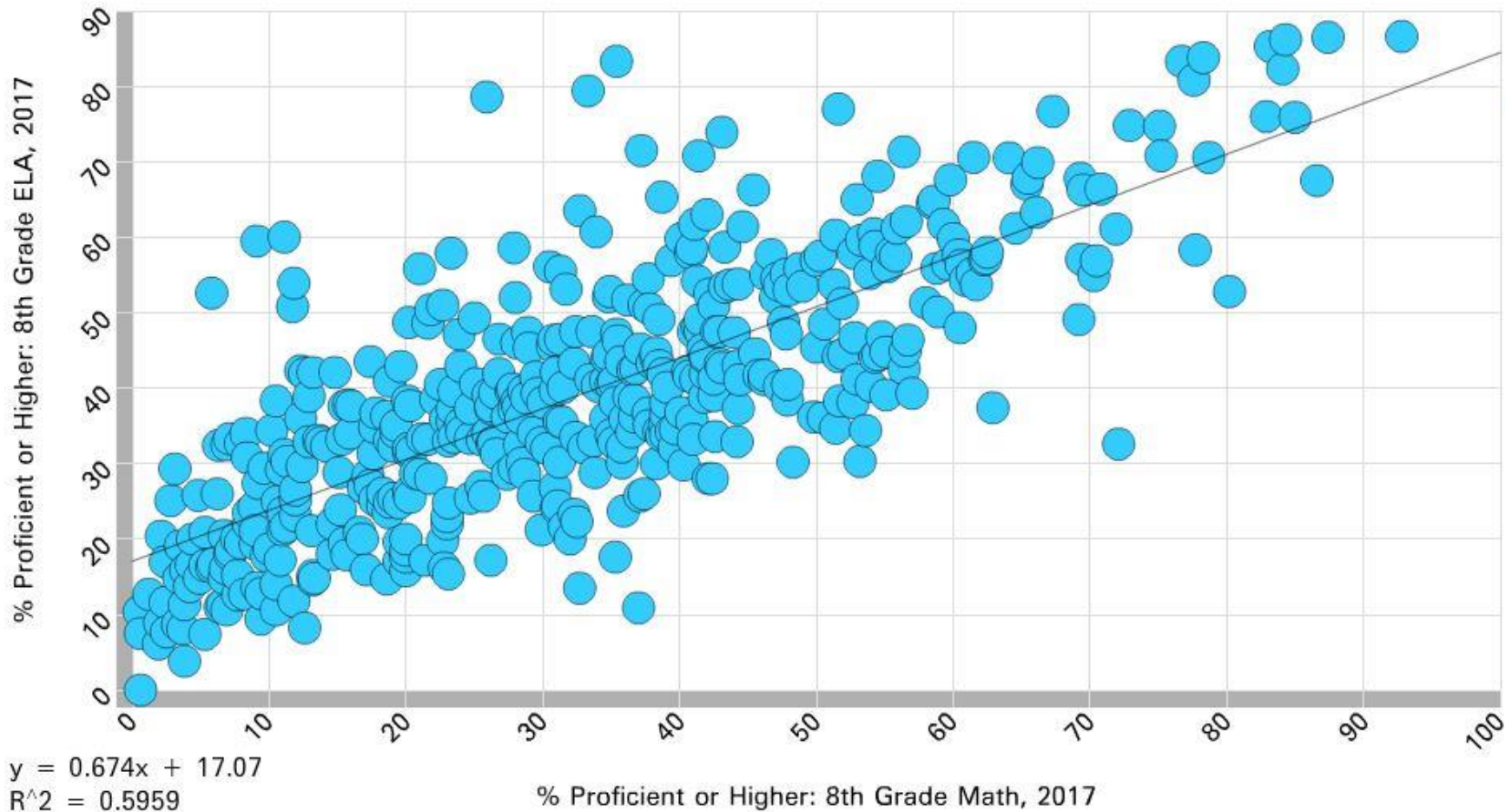
EOG vs. **EOC** Participation Rates, 10-County Region, Disaggregated by Subgroup



Overall, ***smaller numbers of students with disabilities, female, minority*** (with the exception of Asian), ***economically disadvantaged, and limited English proficient students are taking advanced algebra and geometry courses*** (as indicated by the green bars above).

Factors Impacting Achievement: Literacy

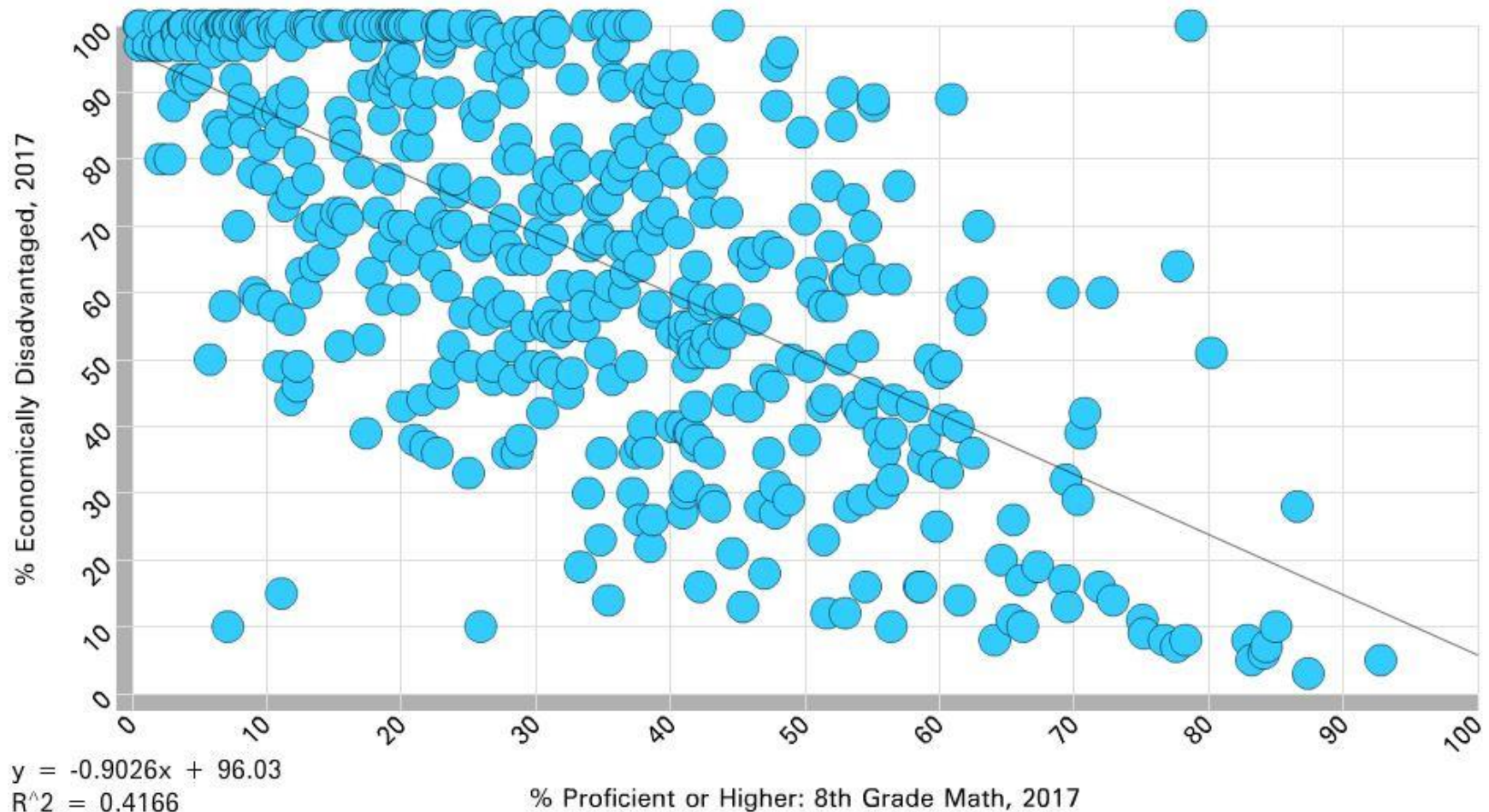
Relationship between 8th Grade ELA Proficiency and 8th Grade Math Proficiency



Perhaps not surprisingly, *as reading proficiency increases, so does math proficiency.*

Factors Impacting Achievement: Socioeconomics

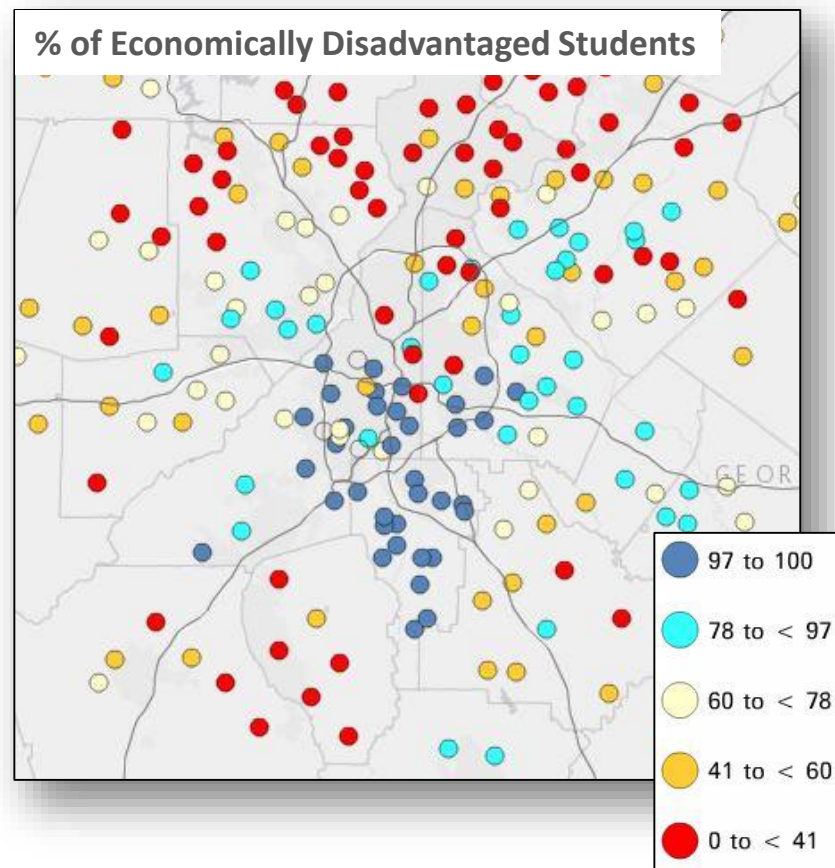
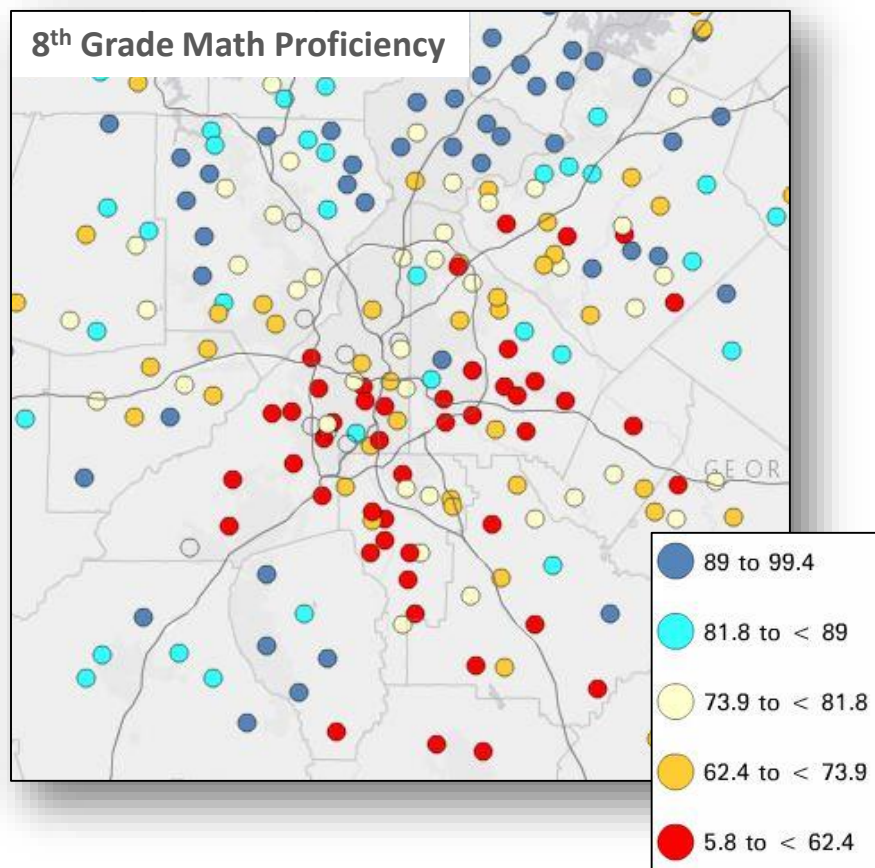
Relationship between Economic Disadvantage and 8th Grade Math Proficiency



And, *as the percentage of economically disadvantaged students in a school increases, math proficiency decreases.*

A Spatial Look at the Impact of Socioeconomics

Spatial Relationship between Economic Disadvantage and 8th Grade Math Proficiency



The two maps above show that *lower rates of proficiency* (represented by the orange and red shades in the map on the left) *map almost perfectly with higher rates of economic disadvantage*, represented by blue shades in the map on the right.

For more information regarding the state of education
among metro Atlanta's core counties, please visit:



Learn4Life

Metro Atlanta Regional Education Partnership

www.l4lmetroatlanta.org