

The 2009 **Broad Prize** for Urban Education

Event Program

September 16, 2009 • United States Capitol, Washington, D.C.



The 2009 **Broad Prize** Finalist Districts

Aldine Independent School District, Texas

Broward County Public Schools, Florida

Gwinnett County Public Schools, Georgia

Long Beach Unified School District, California

Socorro Independent School District, Texas

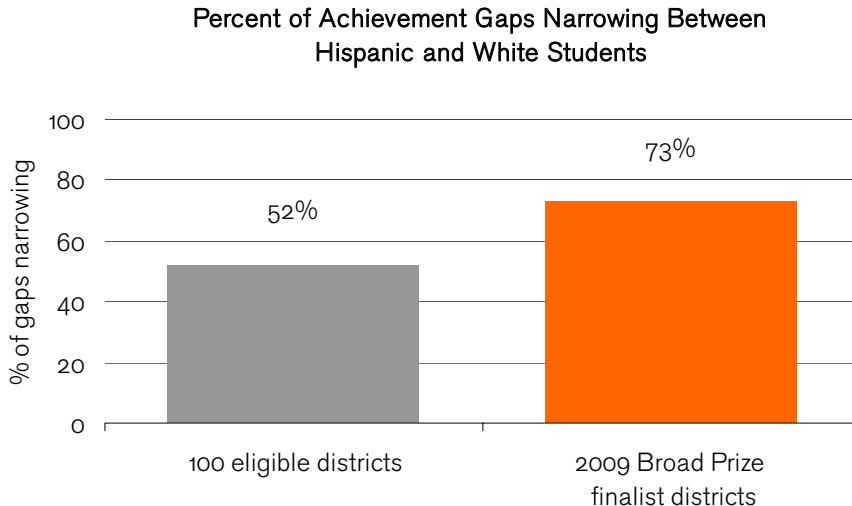
The 2009 Broad Prize for Urban Education
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Event Program

- 9 a.m.** **Superintendents Panel**
A lively discussion among the superintendents from
the five 2009 Broad Prize finalist school districts.
Moderator: USA Today Co-Founder Richard Whitmire
- 11 a.m.** **Press Conference and Announcement of Winner**
Keynote Speaker: U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan
- Noon** **Celebratory Networking Reception**

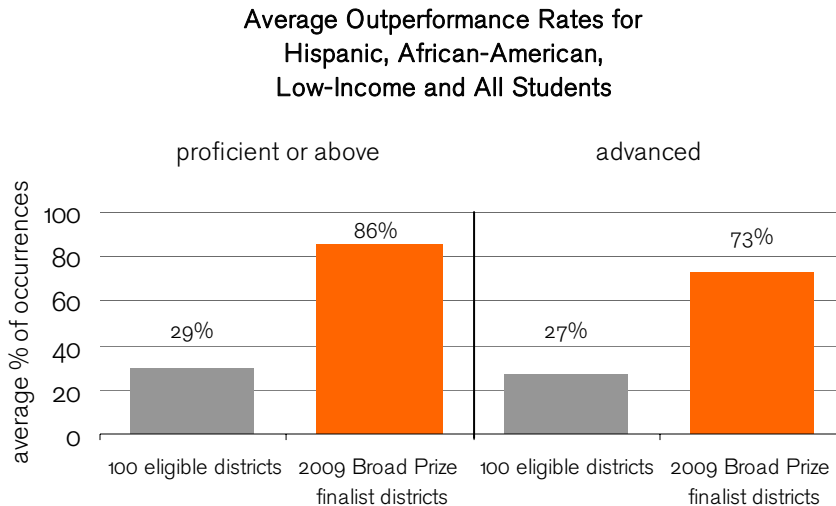
Success Despite Adversity

Even as our country suffers from the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, there are signs of hope and change everywhere—from the nation's highest office to our public school systems. While this year's Broad Prize finalist districts and the students they serve have not been immune to numerous resource challenges, these school systems have proven that there are bright spots of success and achievement among urban American youth.



For example, while on average just 52 percent of achievement gaps between Hispanic and white students in elementary, middle and high school reading and math have narrowed across the 100 urban school districts that are eligible for The Broad Prize, 73 percent of gaps are narrowing between Hispanic and white students across grade levels in the five 2009 Broad Prize finalist districts on average.

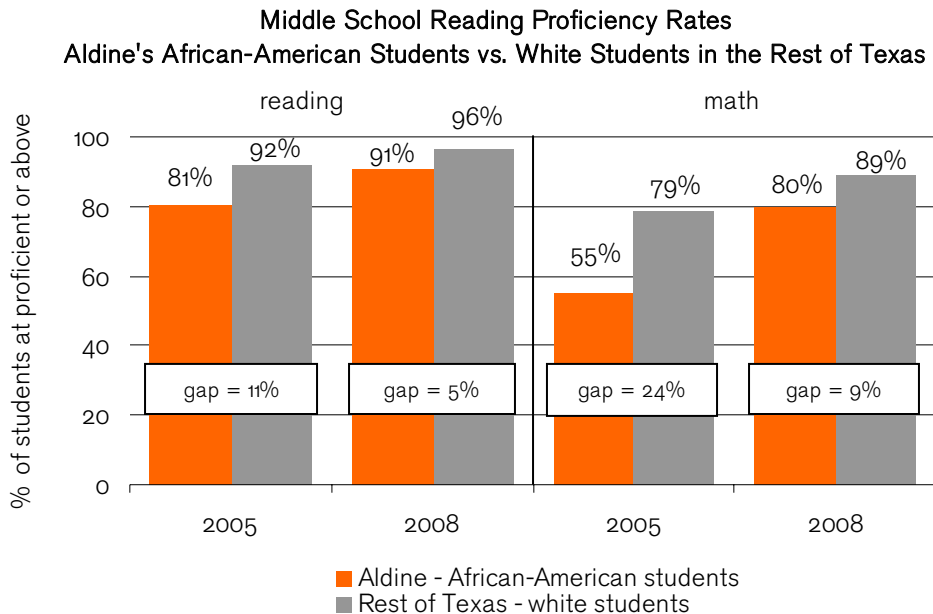
Further, in The Broad Prize finalist districts in 2008, proficiency and advanced proficiency rates for Hispanic, African-American and low-income students, as well as all students, exceeded their respective statewide rates more often than did the 100 eligible urban districts.



While we see impressive achievements in all of the 2009 Broad Prize finalist school districts, the following pages highlight one notable and quantifiable example of success in each district, demonstrating that success comes in many forms and is being achieved by districts with some of the most disadvantaged student populations.

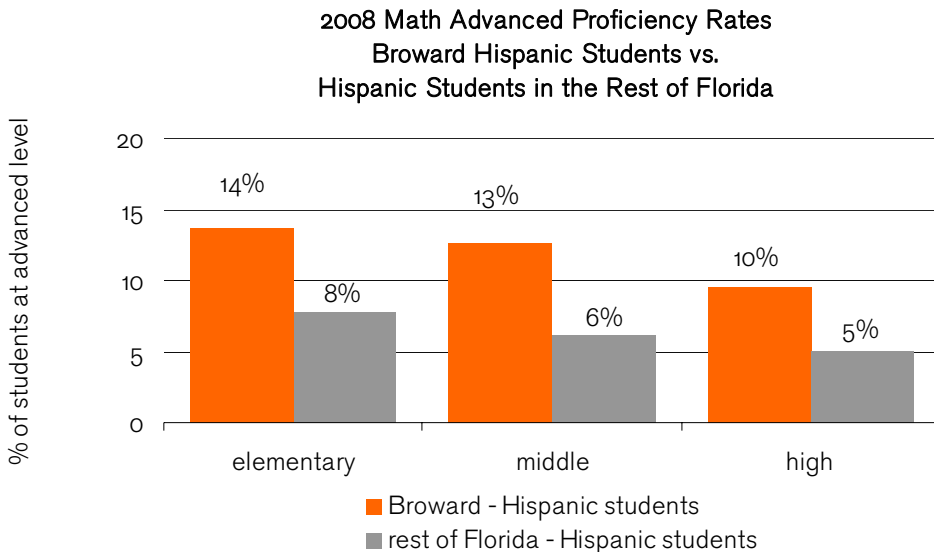
Aldine Independent School District

In Aldine Independent School District, a Houston-area district with more than 60,000 students, 30 percent of whom are African-American and 80 percent of whom are eligible for free and reduced-price school lunch, African-American middle school students have steadily narrowed the achievement gap in reading and mathematics compared to their white counterparts in the rest of the state.



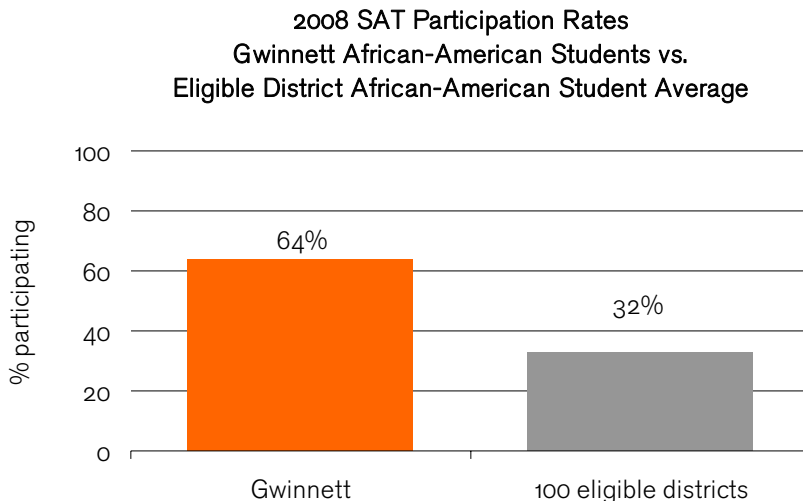
Broward County Public Schools

In this coastal Florida district, where 26 percent of the nearly 260,000 students are Hispanic and 44 percent qualify for free and reduced-price school lunch, a higher percentage of Hispanic students in Broward County Public Schools scored at the advanced level in mathematics at all school levels in 2008 than their Hispanic peers in the rest of the state.



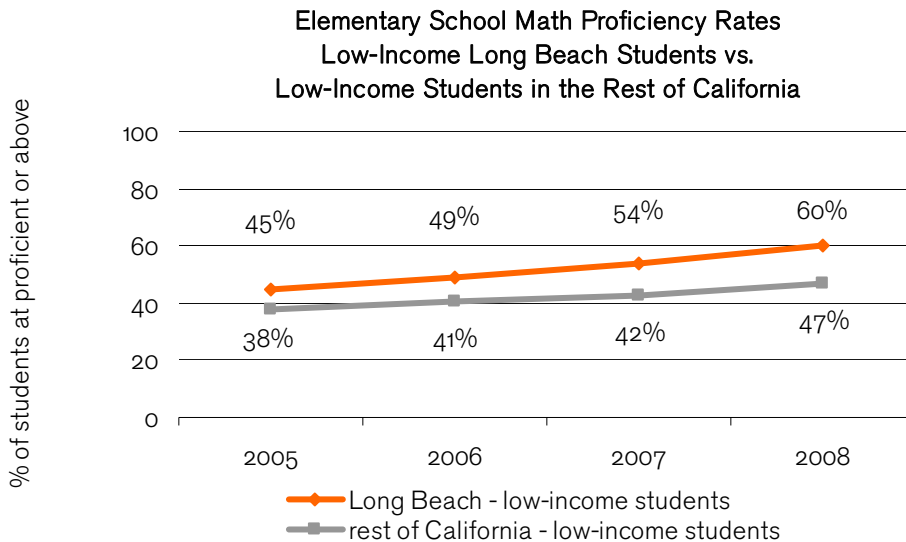
Gwinnett County Public Schools

Georgia's largest school district is Gwinnett County Public Schools, where every other student qualifies for free and reduced-price school lunch and 28 percent of students are African-American. In 2008, the percent of African-American students in Gwinnett who took the SAT exam was double the average percent of African-American students in the 100 Broad Prize-eligible districts who took the college readiness exam.



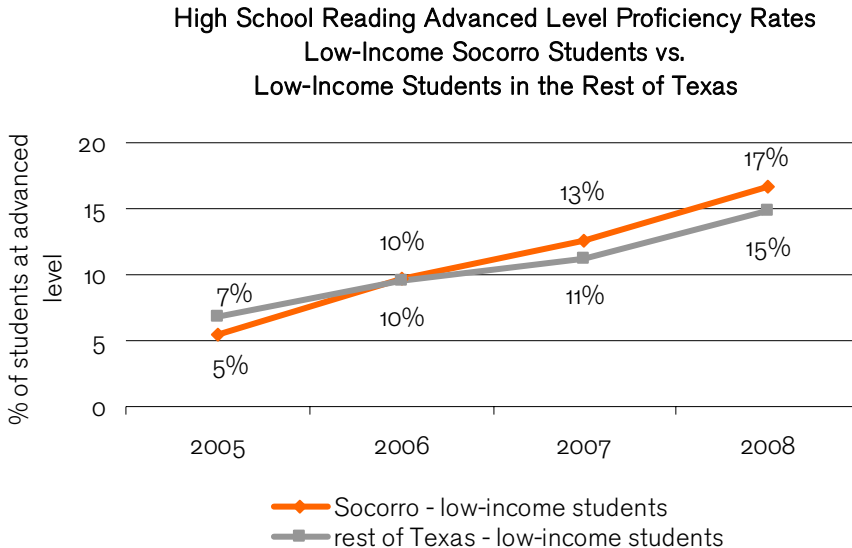
Long Beach Unified School District

In the Long Beach Unified School District, California's third-largest district with nearly 88,000 students, 68 percent of whom qualify for free and reduced-price school lunch, low-income elementary school students have outperformed their peers in the rest of the state at an increasing rate in mathematics since 2005.



Socorro Independent School District

In Socorro Independent School District in Texas, where 73 percent of students qualify for free and reduced-price school lunch and 93 percent of students are Hispanic, a greater percentage of the district's low-income high school students have passed the state reading assessment at the advanced level than their peers in the rest of the state.





sculpture © Tom Otterness, 2002

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