

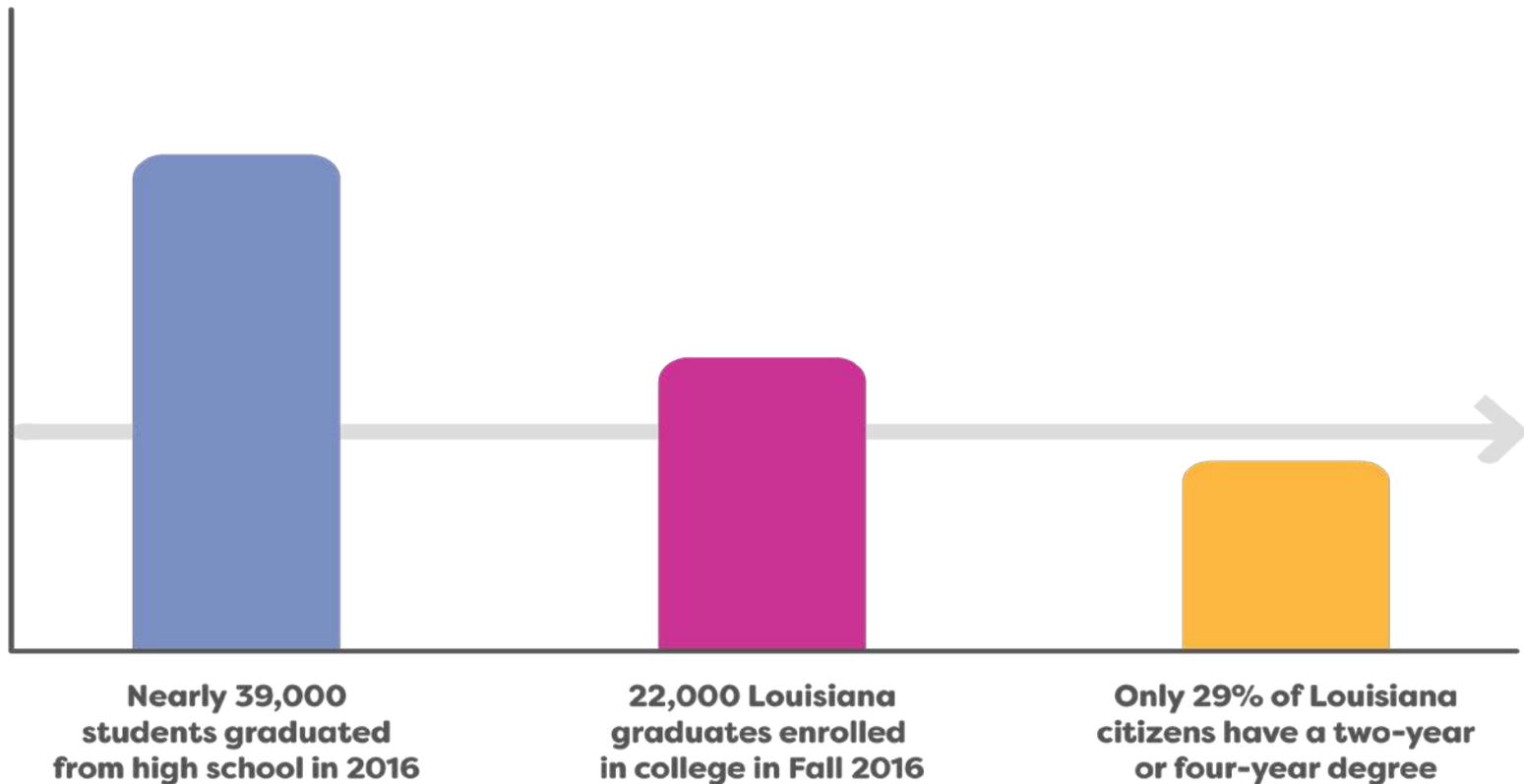
# Louisiana Believes

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Increasing Education Levels for the Class of 2016

# The Education Level of a Citizenry and a Workforce

By 2018, 51 percent of Louisiana's jobs will require some type of postsecondary education. However, in 2016, only about 29 percent of the Louisiana citizenry had a four-year or a two-year degree.



# Increasing Education Levels

Louisiana's economy demands young adults who are literate, numerate, and prepared for the workplace. This calls for **not just more high school graduates but also more graduates with relevant credentials to work or take advanced courses in college.** A diploma is not enough.

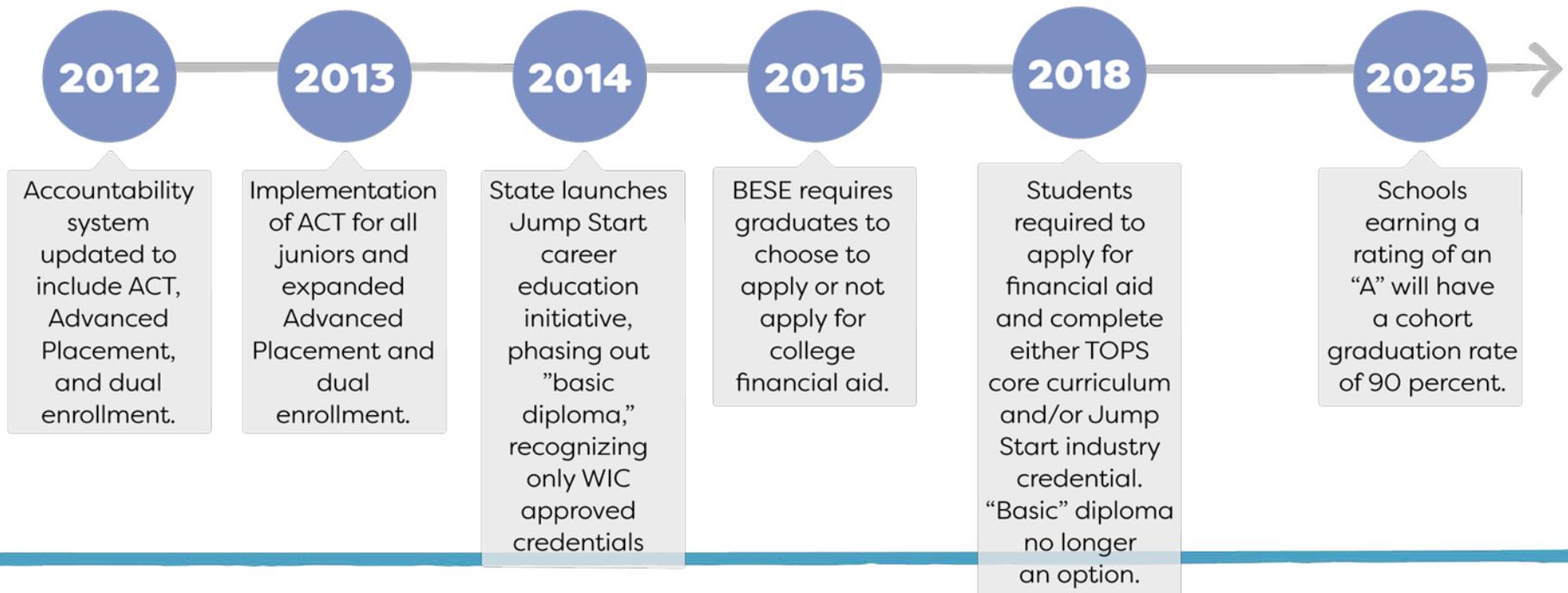
For example, 56 percent of 2015 high school graduates currently in college or employed earned an industry credential or college credit while in high school. In comparison, of graduates from the same class who are currently neither in college nor have a job, only 39 percent earned a promising credential or college credit before leaving high school.



# Increasing Education Levels

Recognizing the need to increase the education levels of graduates, Louisiana launched a series of policies and programs in 2012 designed to increase the number of high school graduates who

- demonstrate academic readiness for community colleges and universities;
- earn advanced standing in college or the workplace while in high school;
- earn financial aid awards so that they can continue education in universities, community colleges, or technical training programs.



# Increasing Education Levels through Credentials

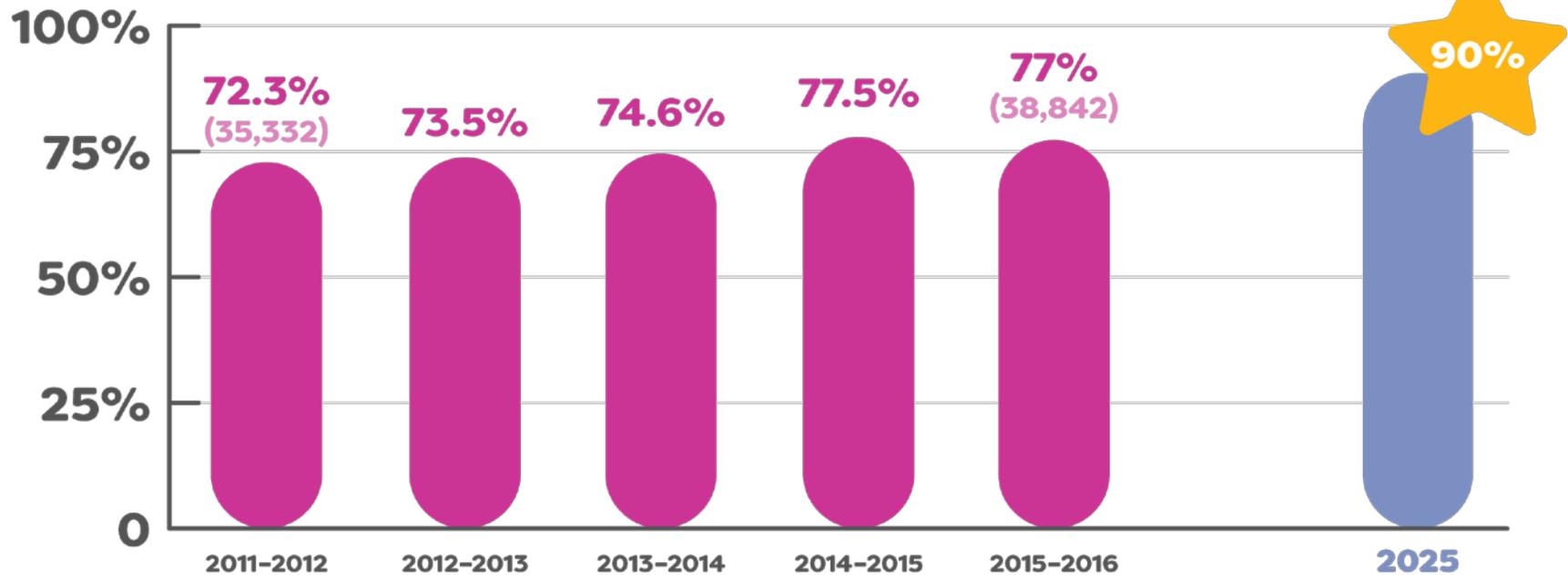
CREDENTIAL OBTAINED	WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR SCHOOLS?	WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR STUDENTS?
<b>Basic</b> (Basic Jump Start credential or passing college-level courses)	Schools earn 110 points out of 150 points.	Indicates a student completed college-level coursework or attained proficiency with an industry-valued skill set recognized by the Workforce Investment Council (WIC).  <b>Ex:</b> Student completes a college-level course aligned to TOPS or earns a NCCER Welding Level 1 certificate.
<b>Advanced</b> (Advanced Jump Start credential or passing college-level exams)	Schools earns 150 points or an A+.	Indicates a student earned a post-secondary certificate or college credit validated by an exam or has attained advanced proficiency with an industry-valued skill set recognized by WIC.  <b>Ex:</b> Student passes rigorous national examination to receive college credit or earns a NCCER Welding Level 2 certificate.

Students who earn a Basic or Advanced high demand industry-based credential earn from \$3,000 to \$8,000 more in starting salary versus students in lower-demand industry sectors.

# Class of 2016: Sustained Increase in Graduates

## LOUISIANA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

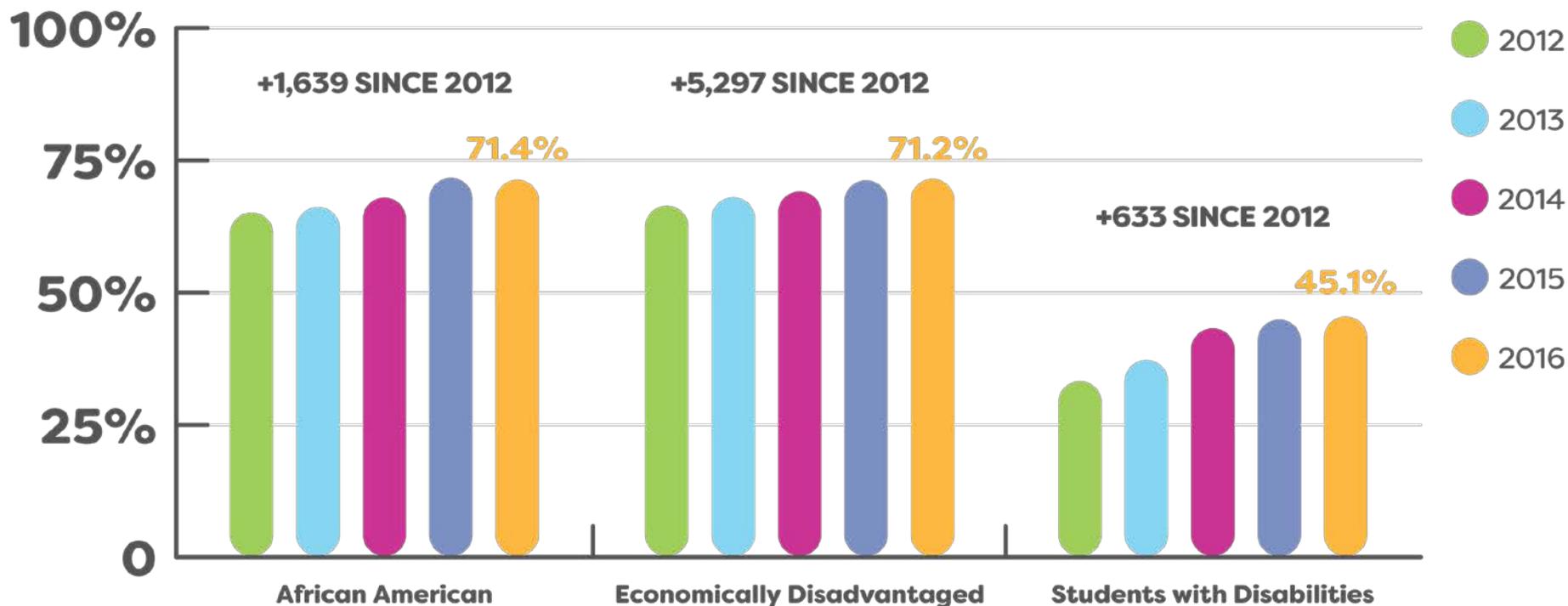
● Cohort Graduation Rate



The number of graduates in the class of 2016 is more than **3,500** greater than in the class of 2012.

# Class of 2016: Sustained Increase in Graduates

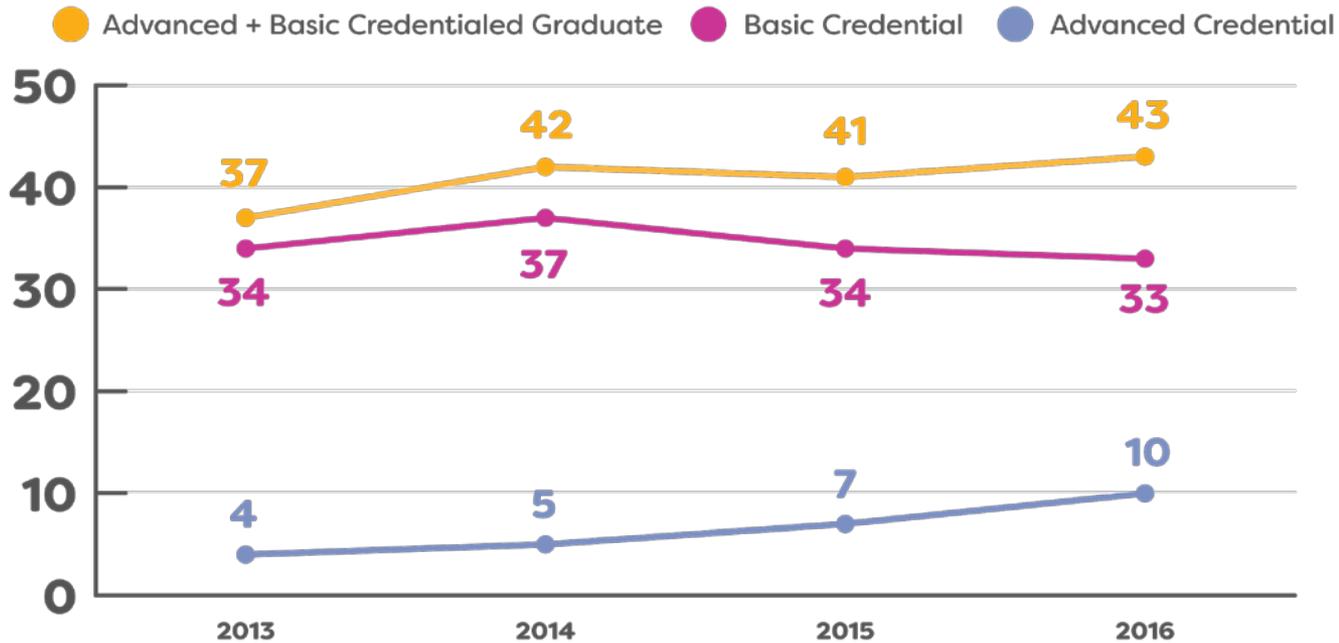
## LOUISIANA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES BY STUDENT SUBGROUPS



*\*Over the past five years, the economically disadvantaged definition was adjusted per federal guidance.*

# Class of 2016: Increasing Advanced Credentials

## ADVANCED + BASIC CREDENTIALS RECEIVED BY GRADUATION COHORT



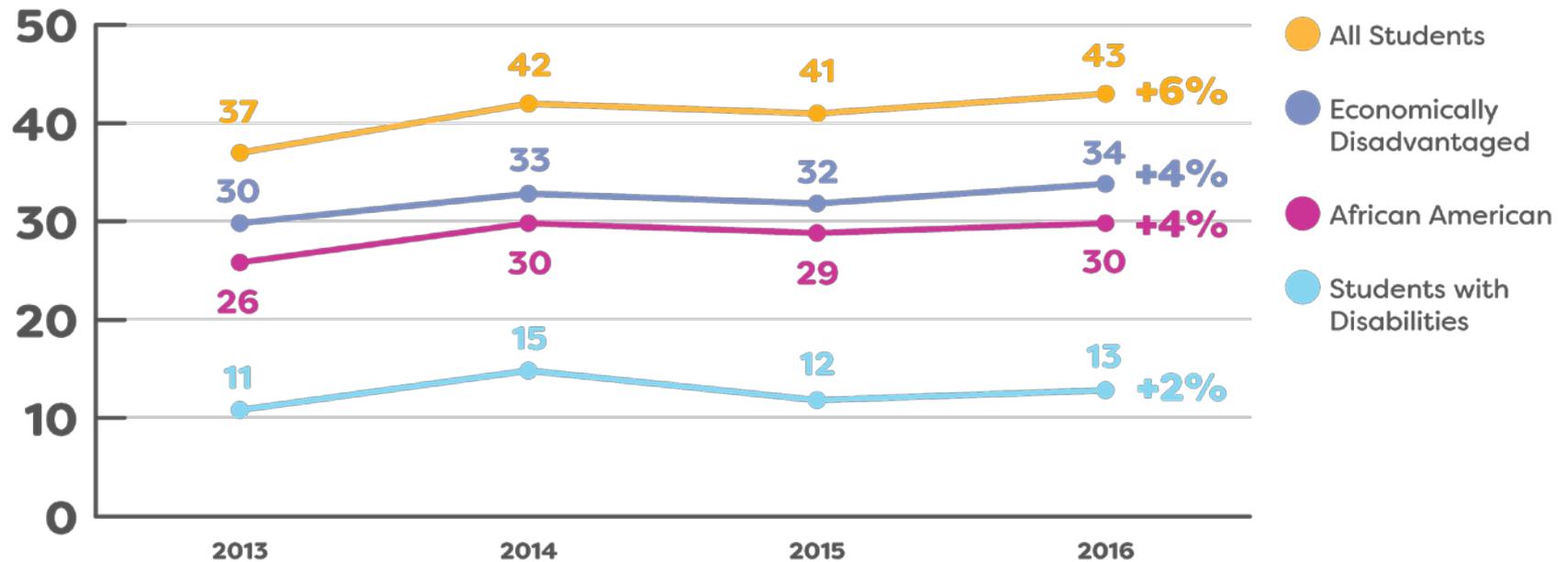
- **3,108** more graduates earned relevant credentials in 2016 than in 2013.
- **3,130** more graduates earned an advanced credential in 2016 than in 2013.

*\*Beginning in 2015, dual enrollment credits earned must be aligned to TOPS requirements in order to receive credential-level credit.*

# Class of 2016: Increasing Credentials, Gaps Persist

While nearly half of the Class of 2016 earned a credential during high school, this opportunity is not being experienced equally by all students. Historically disadvantaged students have less access to college or career opportunities than their peers.

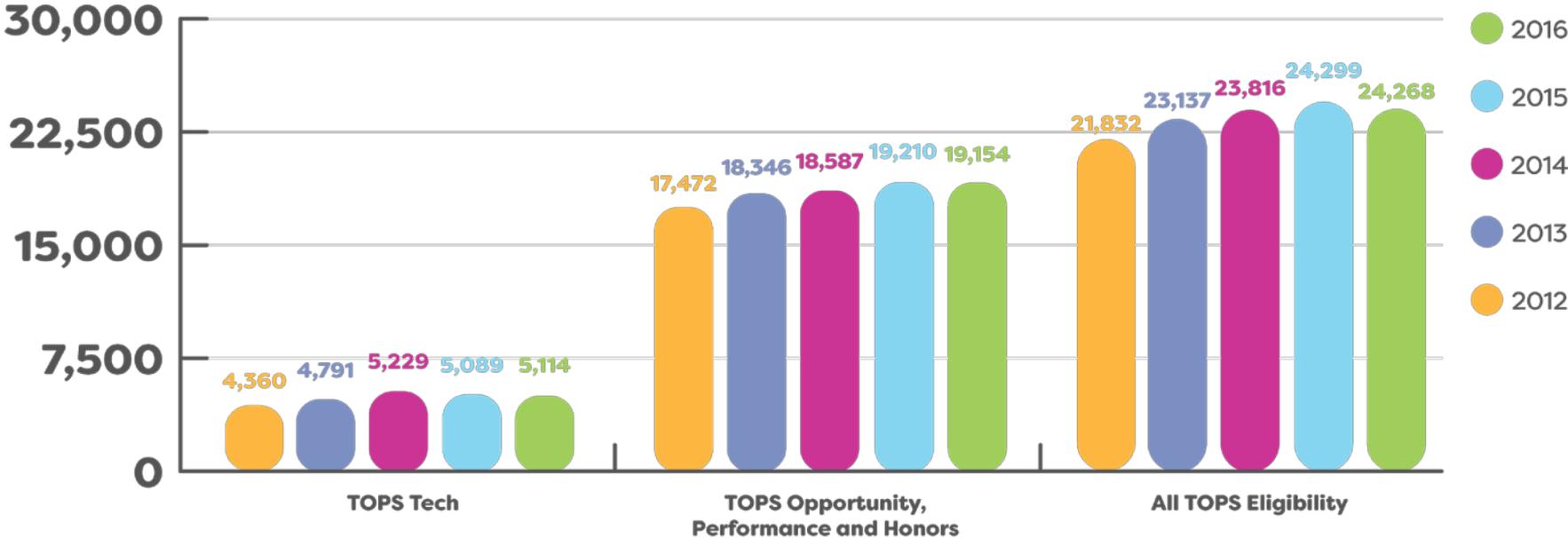
## STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED ADVANCED + BASIC CREDENTIALS



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# Class of 2016: Increasing Access to Financial Aid

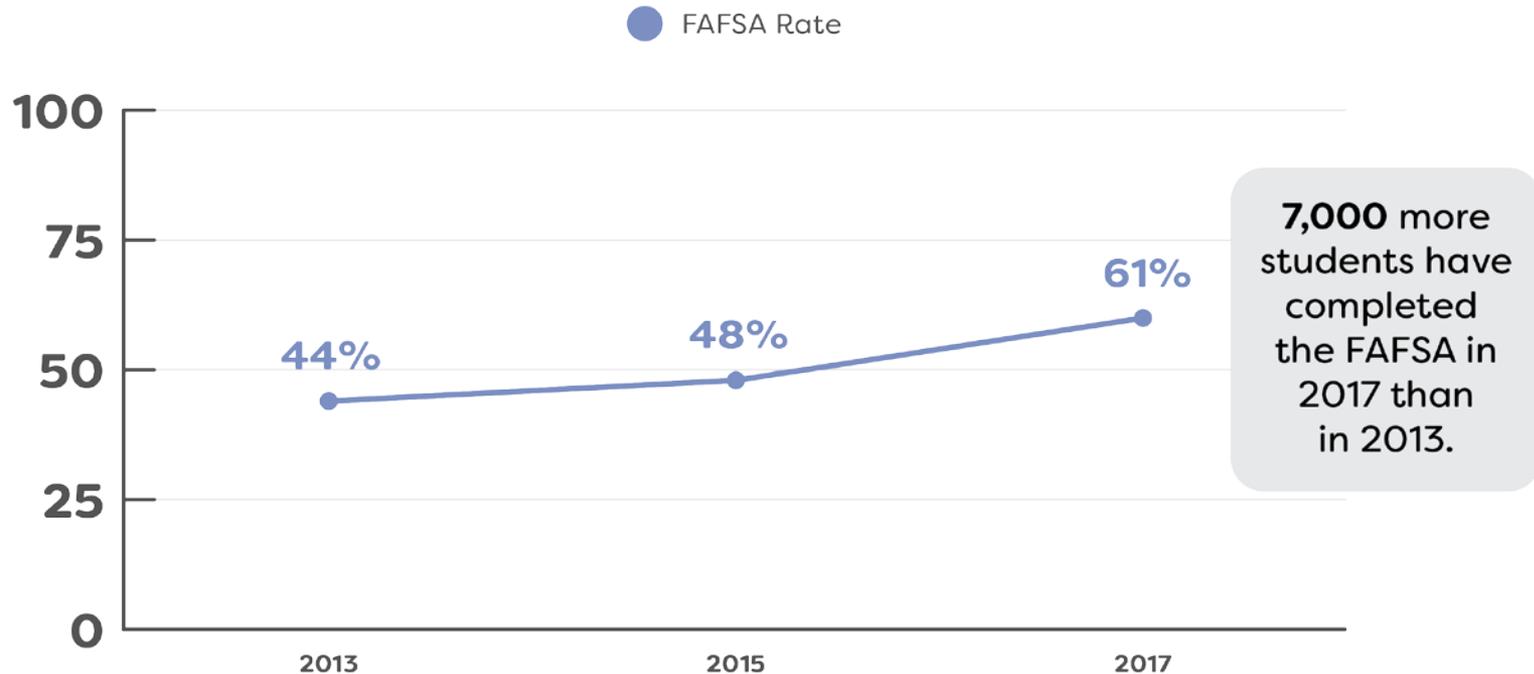
## LOUISIANA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS' TOPS ELIGIBILITY



# Class of 2016: Increasing Access to Financial Aid

Starting in the 2017-2018 school year, all students that graduate high school will apply for financial aid or decide not to do so.

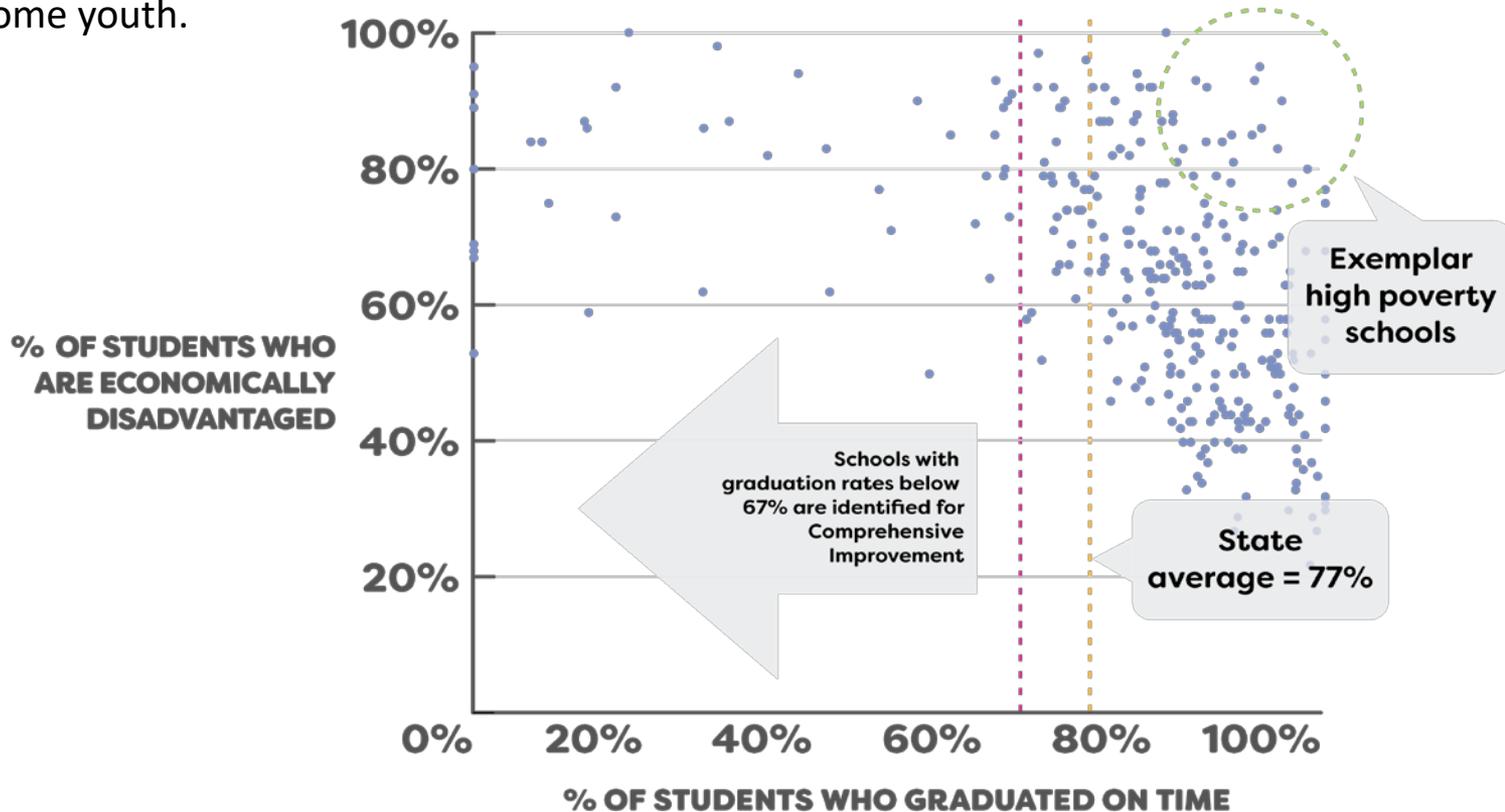
## CURRENT FAFSA SUBMISSION RATES FOR LOUISIANA



# Class of 2016: Students Not Graduating on Time

While the number of students graduating with a credentialed diploma is increasing, more than 11,000 students in the Class of 2016 did not graduate on time.

This phenomenon is particularly evident in high schools serving the highest concentrations of low-income youth.



# Increasing Education Levels through ESSA

Louisiana's plan for carrying out the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, or ESSA, addresses both statewide ambitions to increase education levels and the targeted challenges of the most struggling schools and communities. The plan:

- re-defines A-level performance as including a 90 percent graduation rate and a 21 ACT;
- identifies schools that are persistently rated “D” or “F” and those with graduation rates below 67 percent as in need of comprehensive support, requiring state-approved improvement plans and making them eligible for grants to partner with nationally-recognized school improvement partner organizations;
- identifies schools demonstrating persistent “F” level achievement with historically disadvantaged groups as requiring urgent intervention, requiring state-approved improvement plans and making them eligible for grants to implement research-based practices;
- uses other federal funds, including Title I Direct Student Services and Title IV, to expand courses not otherwise available in high schools, with a focus on early college coursework and career and technical education.

# Appendix

# Defining Graduation Cohorts and Rates

## ***How are students assigned to a graduation cohort?***

- A graduation cohort includes all students who entered 9th grade for the first time in the state of Louisiana in a given academic year.
- Students are counted as part of the cohort unless they transfer out of Louisiana high schools into a school elsewhere.

## ***How is the graduation rate determined?***

- The cohort graduation rate represents the number of students in a graduation cohort that graduate within four years, divided by the total number of students in the cohort.

## ***What processes are used to ensure the accuracy of cohort graduation data?***

- The Department, school systems, and schools regularly review course and test results to ensure that all graduating students have met all requirements.
- The Department audits further the records of students who are exited from the cohort, to make sure that they have left the state and have been enrolled in a school elsewhere.