

The Achievement Gap in Montgomery County – A FY 2013 Update



Office of Legislative Oversight
Report Number 2013-4

March 18, 2013

The Assignment

- Update the 2008 OLO report
- Describe the current magnitude of the gap by race, ethnicity, and service group status
- Describe where MCPS has achieved progress in narrowing the gap
- Review best practices
- Describe the policy context for closing the achievement gap

What is the Achievement Gap?

Disparities in achievement between high- and low-performing student subgroups:

- By race and ethnicity (e.g. Asian/white-black gap and Asian/white-Latino gap), and
- By service group status (i.e. special education, English for speakers of other languages, or free and reduced priced meals)

Measures for FY 2013 Review

OLO reviewed 11 measures of student performance across three groups:

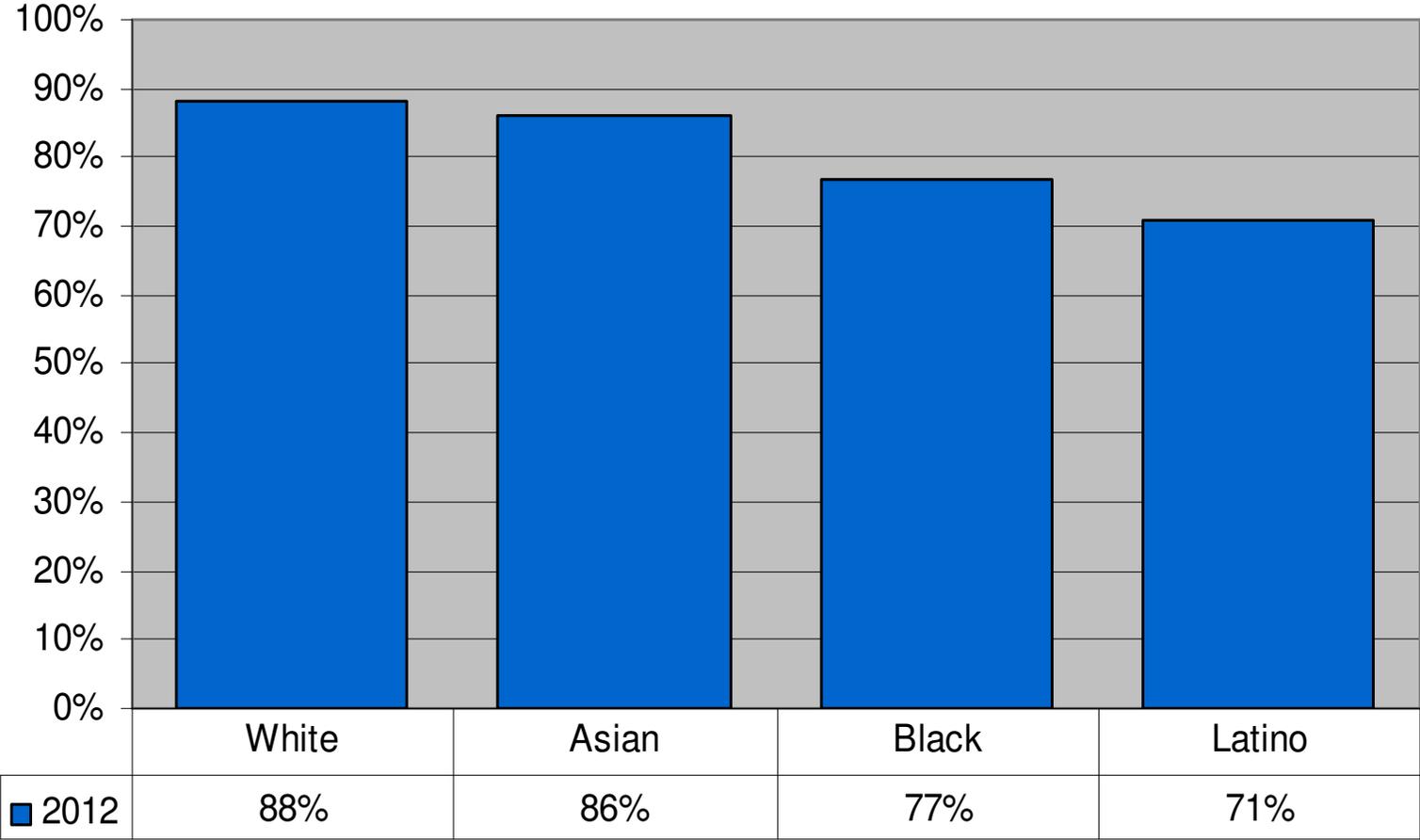
- **Grade level measures** (e.g. MSA proficiency and graduation rates)
- **Above grade level measures** (e.g. MSA advanced scores and AP/IB performance)
- **At-risk measures** (e.g. suspensions and dropout rates)

***What does the Achievement
Gap look like in
Montgomery County?***

The Achievement Gap is Narrowest among Grade Level Measures

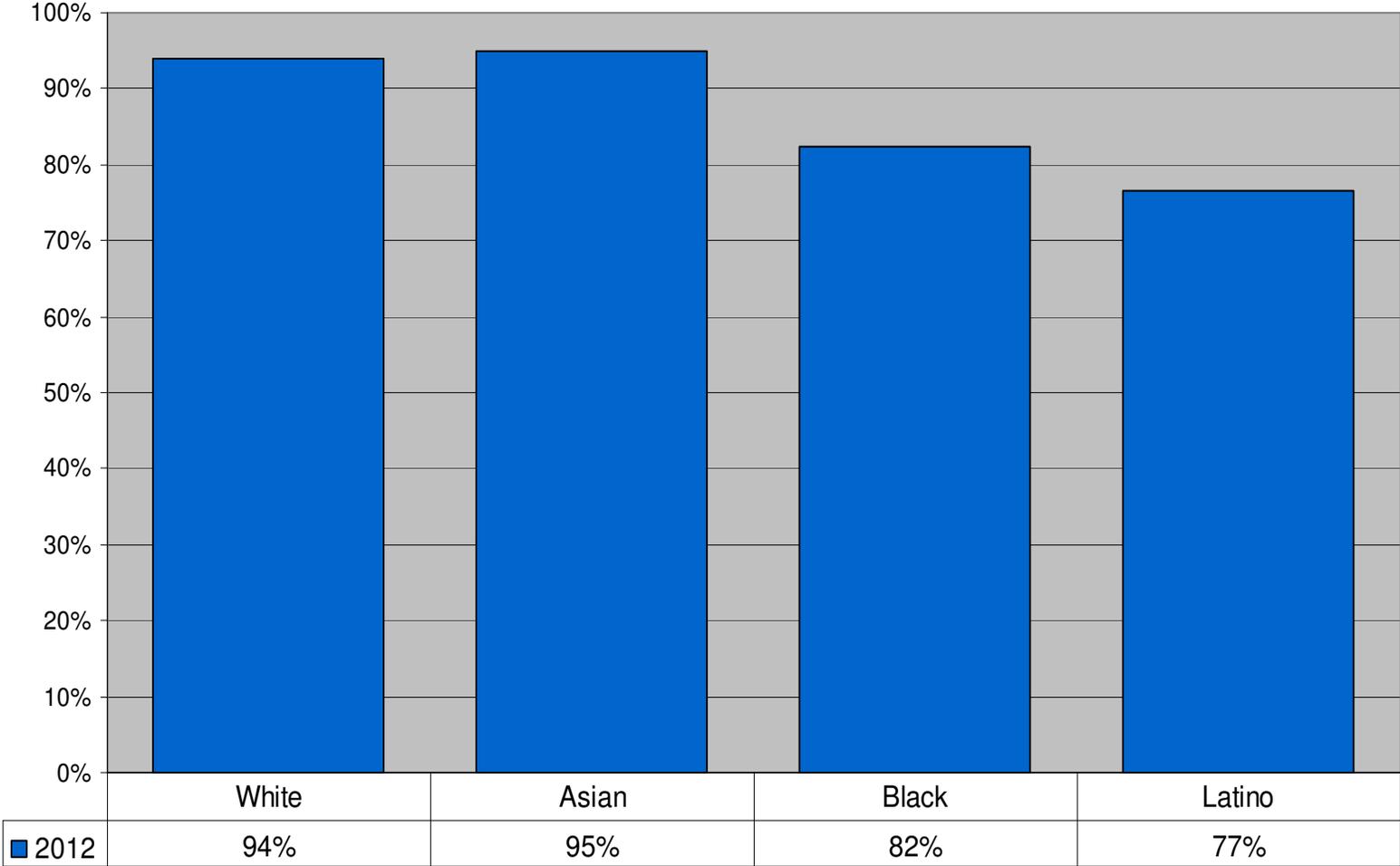
- **School Readiness**
- **MSA Proficiency in reading and math in Grades 3, 5, and 8**
- **Graduation Rates**
- **Percentage of Graduates meeting USM/CTE Program Requirements**

School Readiness Rates



Source: MSDE

On-Time Graduation Rates

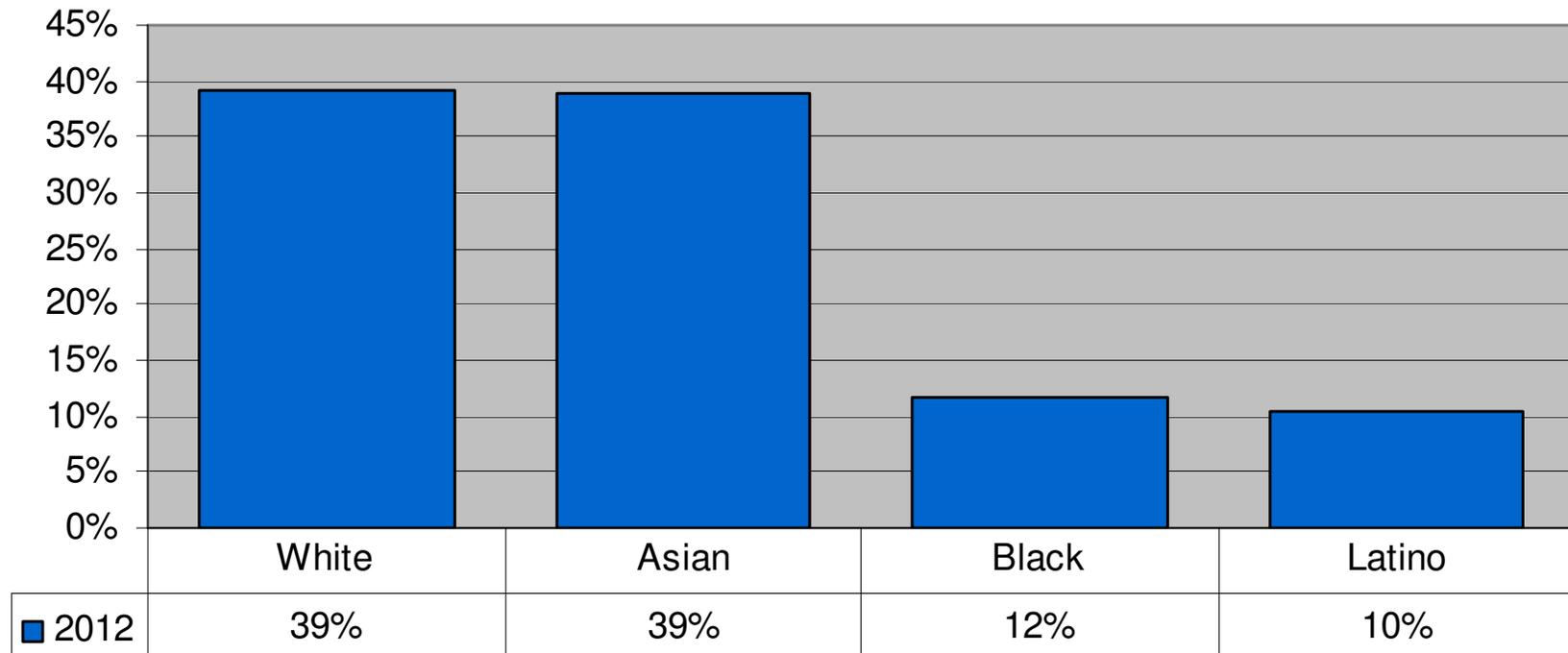


Source: MSDE

The Achievement Gap is Wider among Above Grade Level Measures

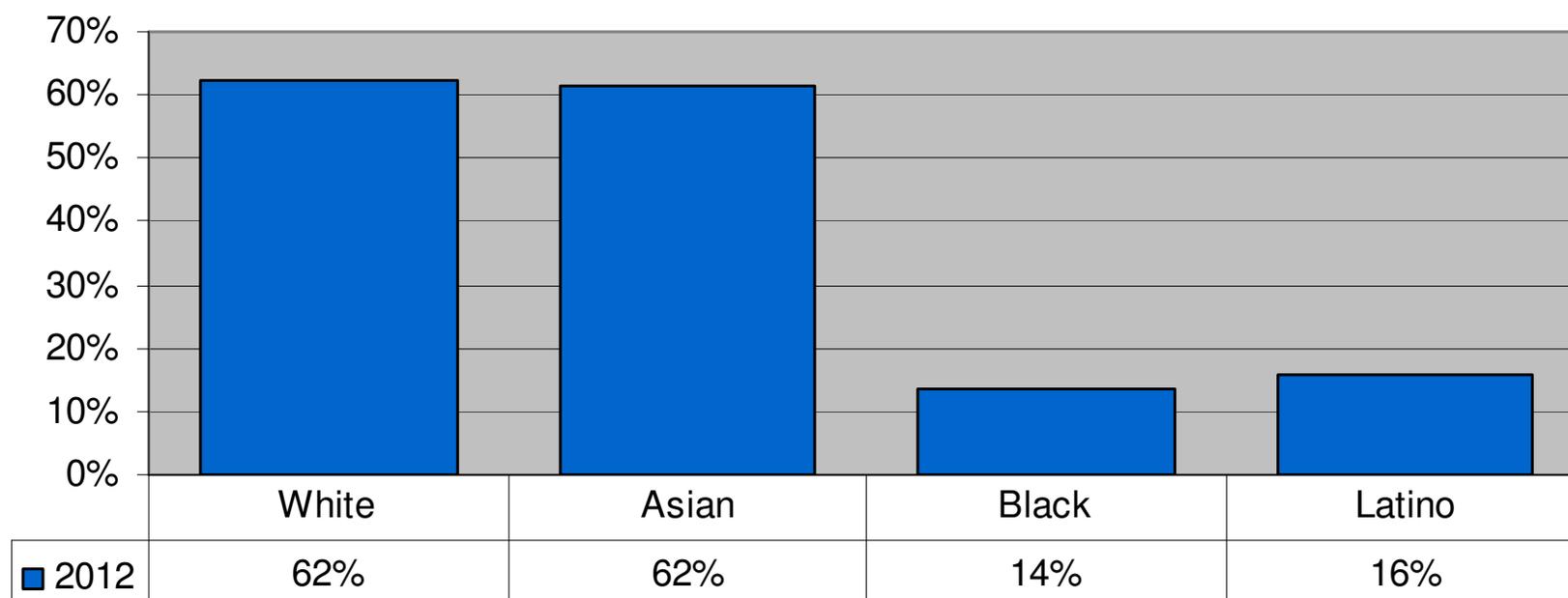
- **Advanced MSA Scores in reading and math in Grades 3, 5, and 8**
- **Algebra 1 by Grade 8 with C or Above**
- **AP/IB Performance among Graduates**
- **SAT/ACT Performance among Graduates**

Grade 3 MSA Advanced Reading Scores



SAT/ACT Performance among Graduates

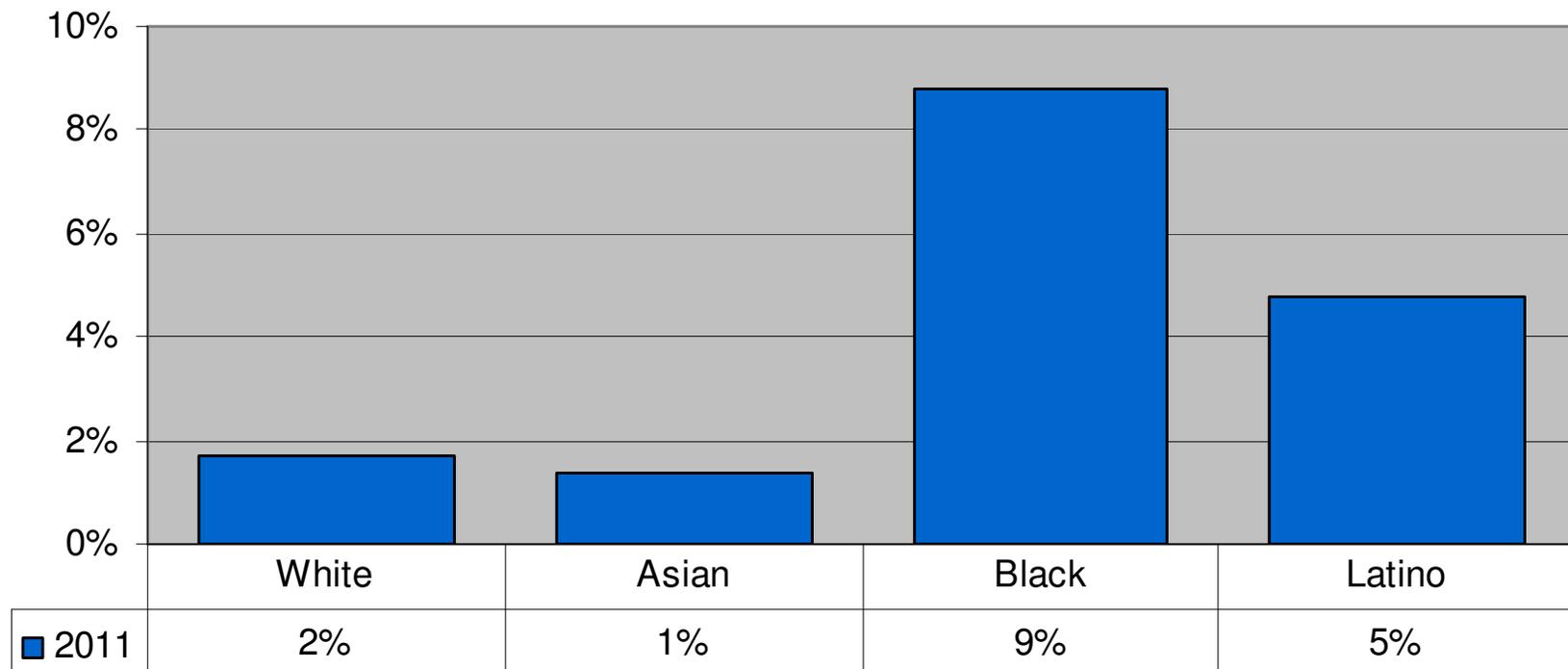
(1,650 or Above on SAT or 24 or Above on ACT)



The Achievement Gap is Widest among At-Risk Measures

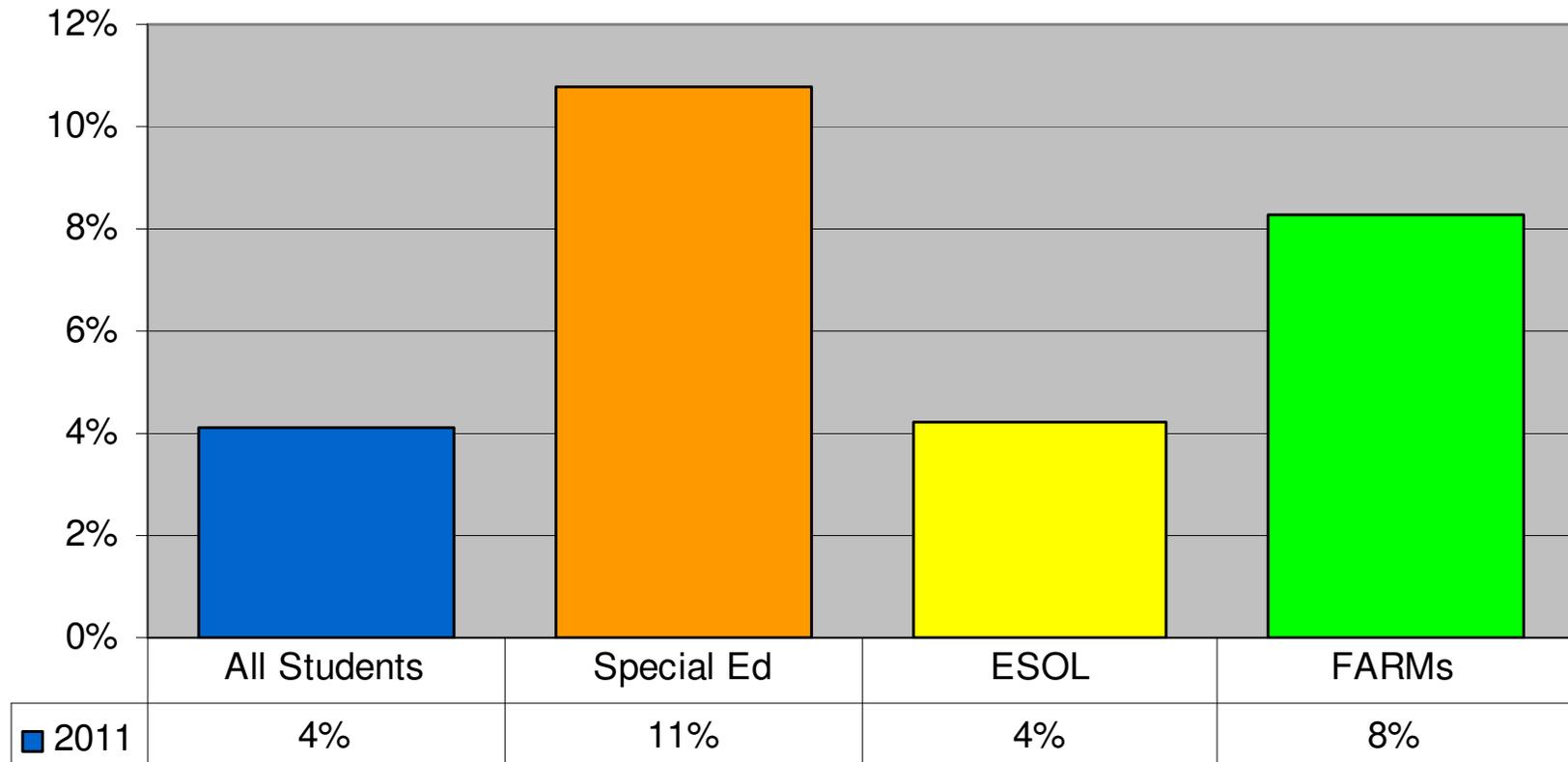
- **Out-of-School Suspensions**
(elementary, middle, and high school)
- **Academic Ineligibility** (at least 3
quarters)
- **Dropout rates**

Middle School Suspension Rates



Source: MCPS

Middle School Suspension Rates

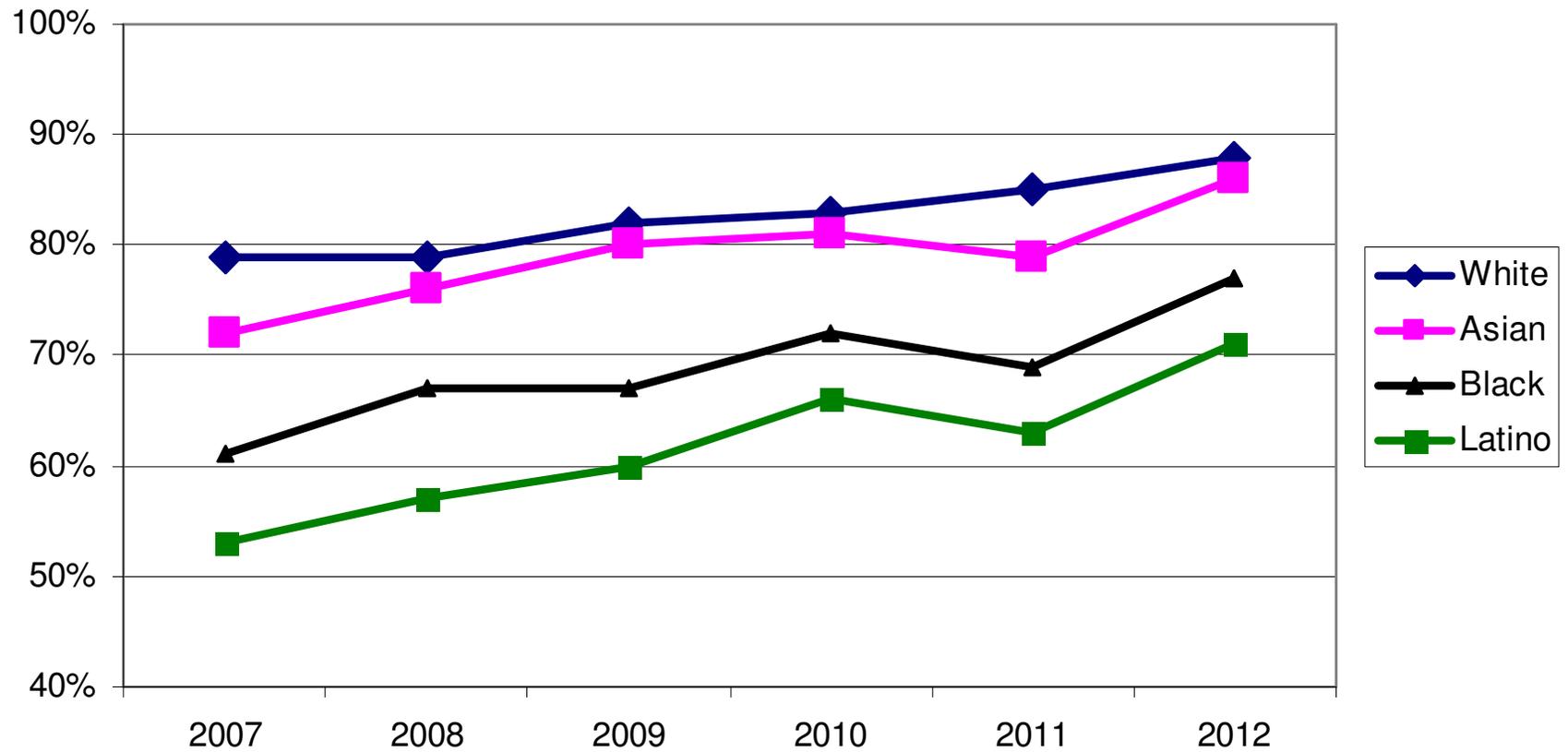


***Where has MCPS progressed
in narrowing the
Achievement Gap?***

MCPS Narrowed the Achievement Gap Across 5 of 11 Measures

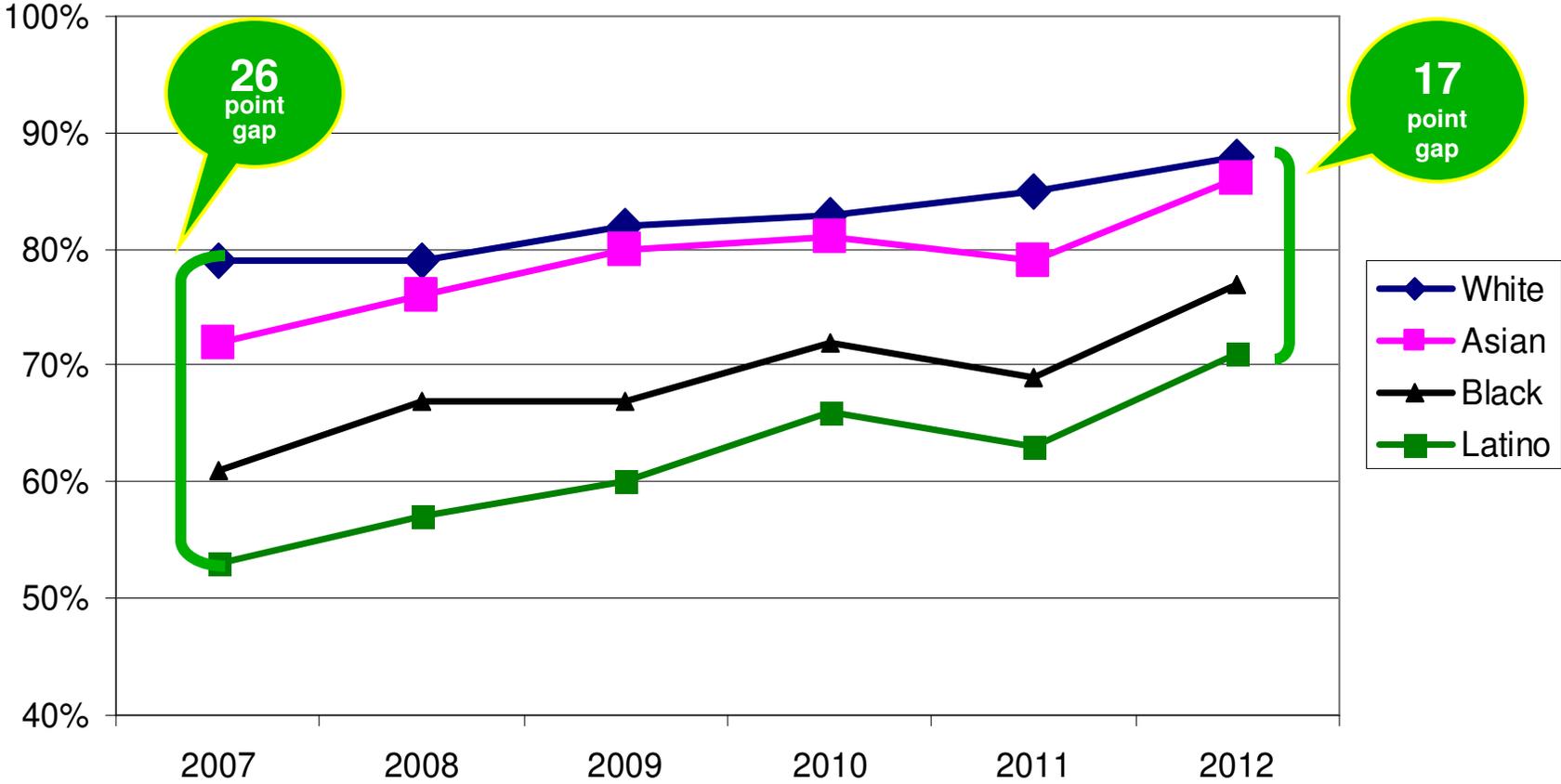
- **School Readiness**
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- **Graduation Rates**

School Readiness Rates



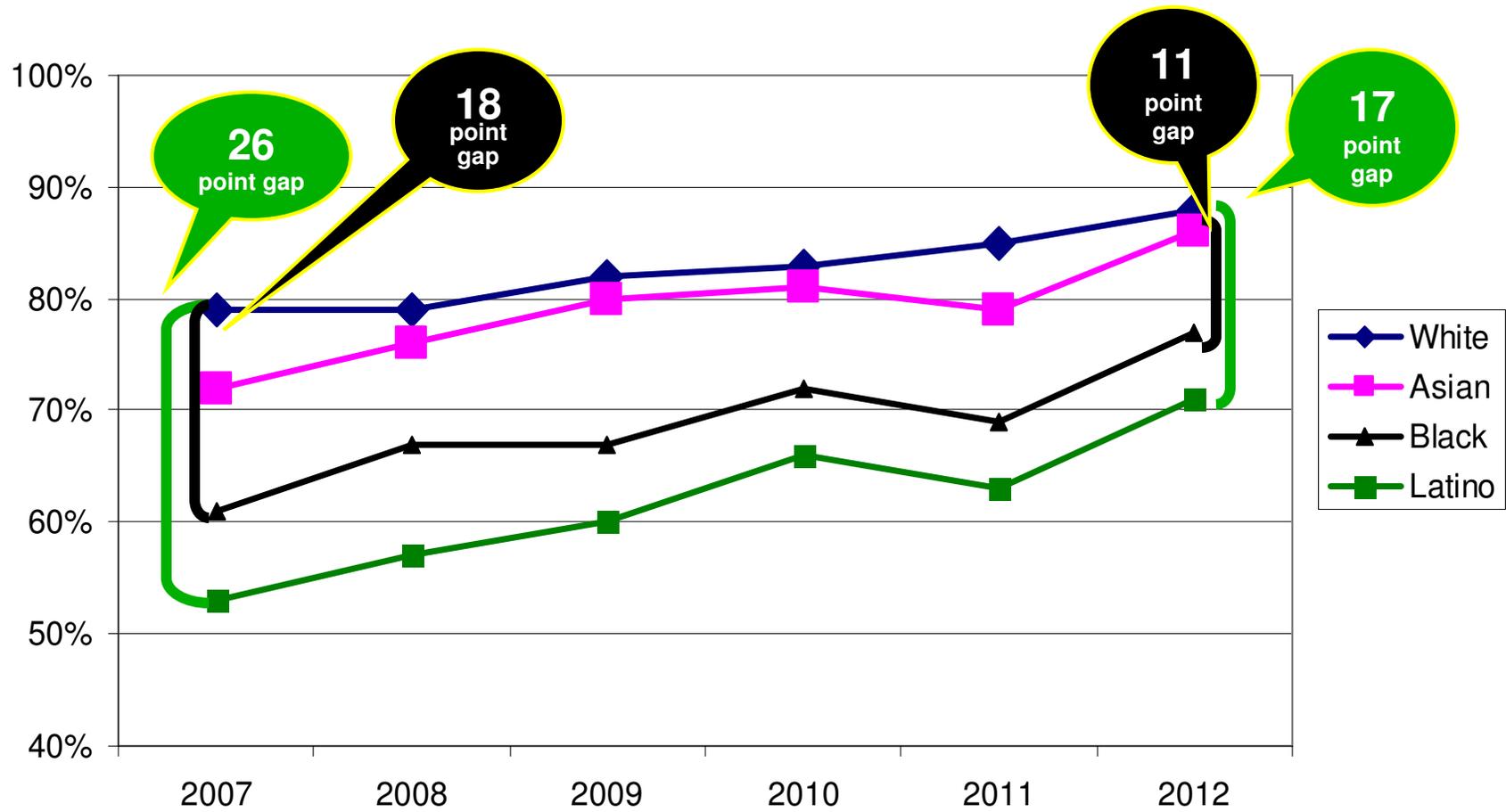
Source: MSDE

School Readiness Rates



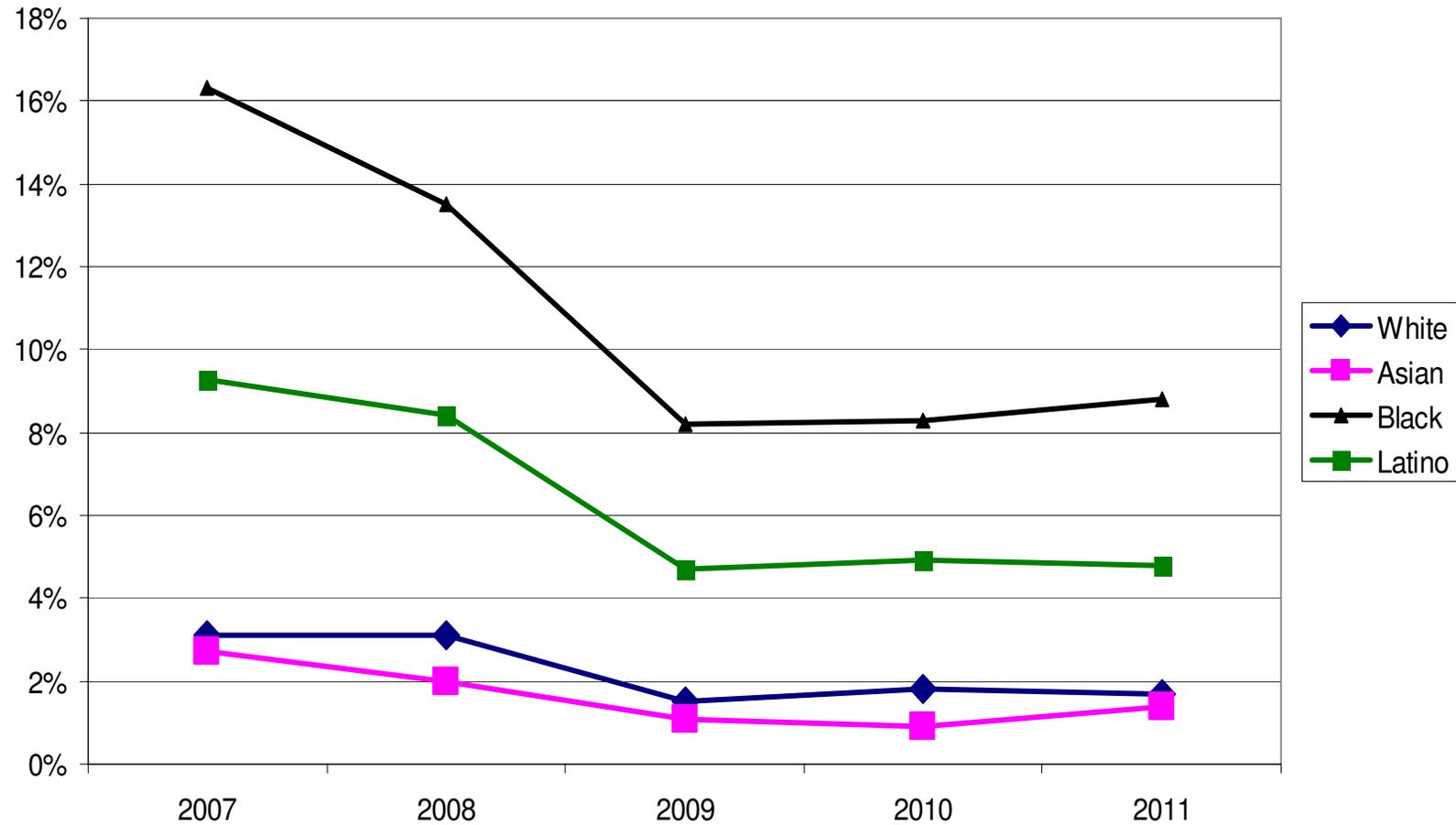
Source: MSDE

School Readiness Rates



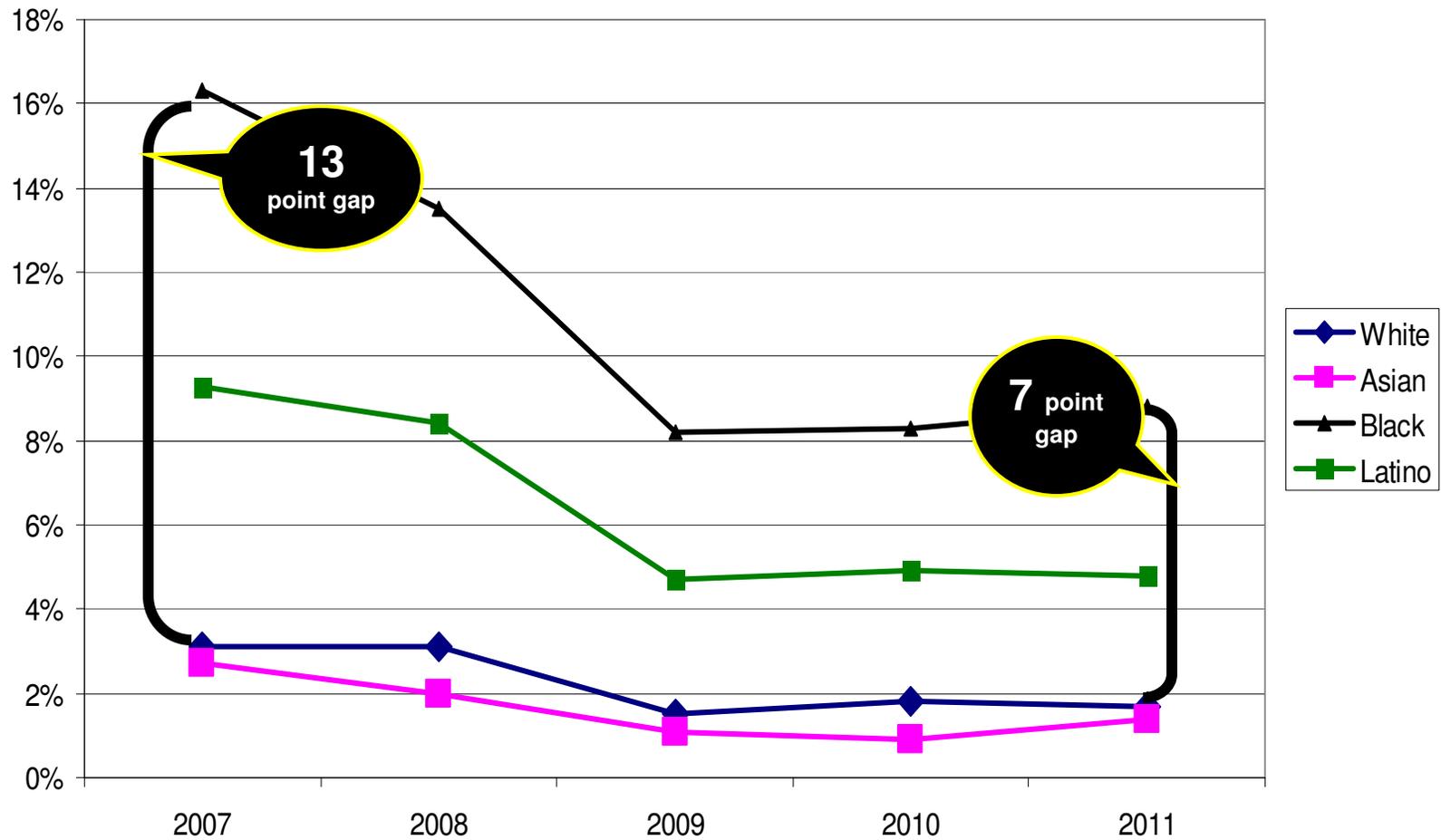
Source: MSDE

Middle School Suspension Rates



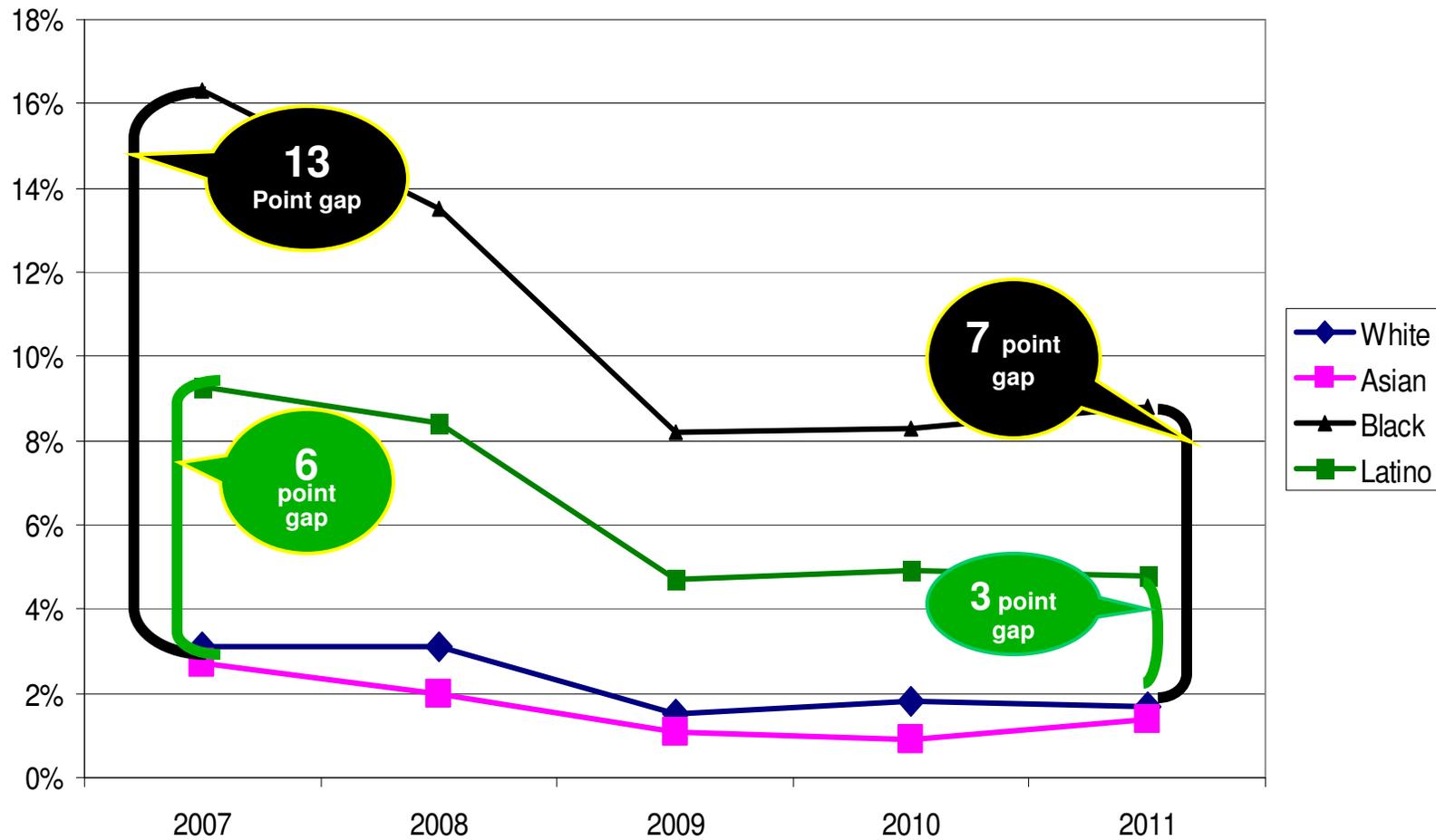
Source: MCPS

Middle School Suspension Rates



Source: MCPS

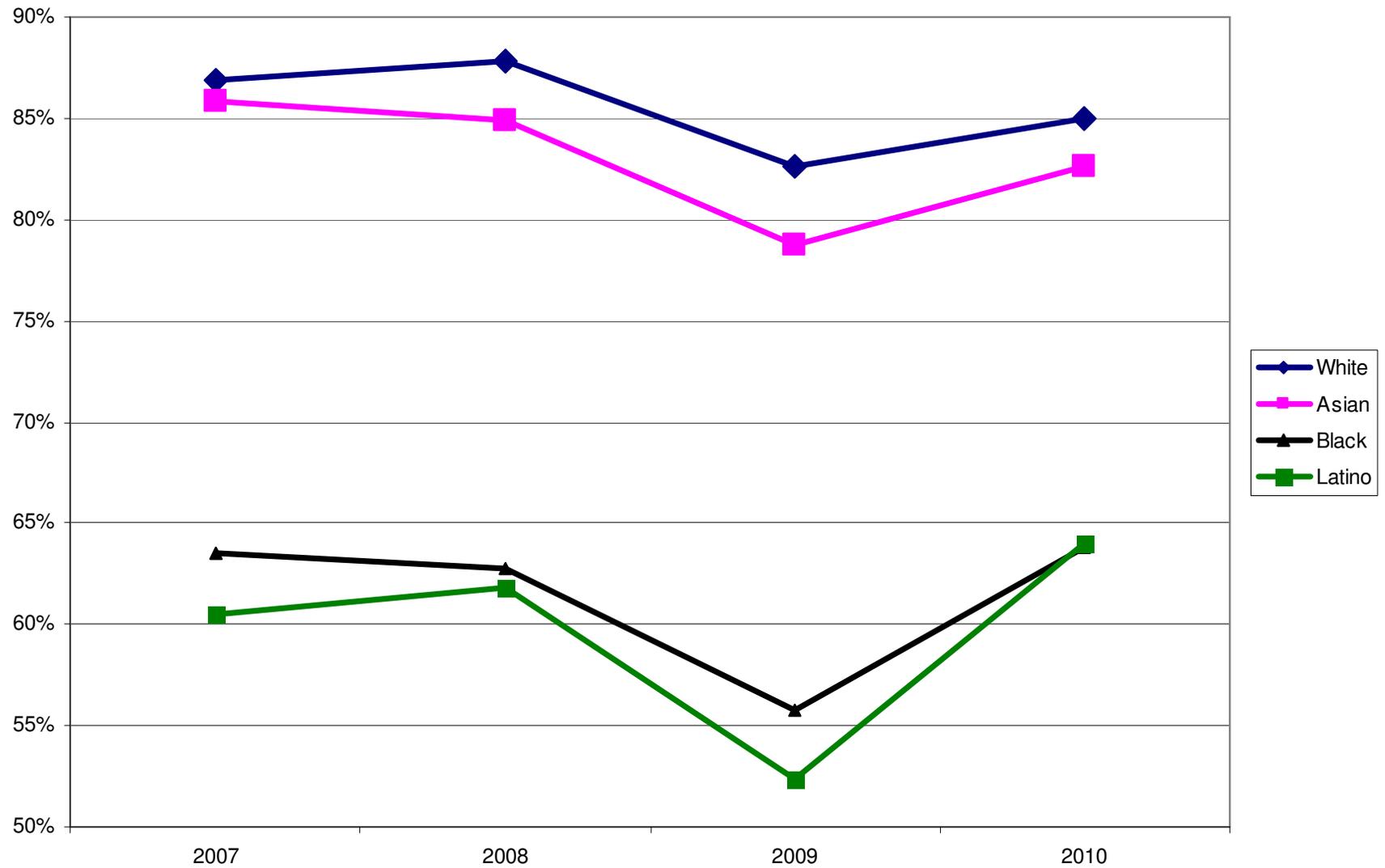
Middle School Suspension Rates



MCPS Achieved Mixed Progress Across 2 of 11 Measures

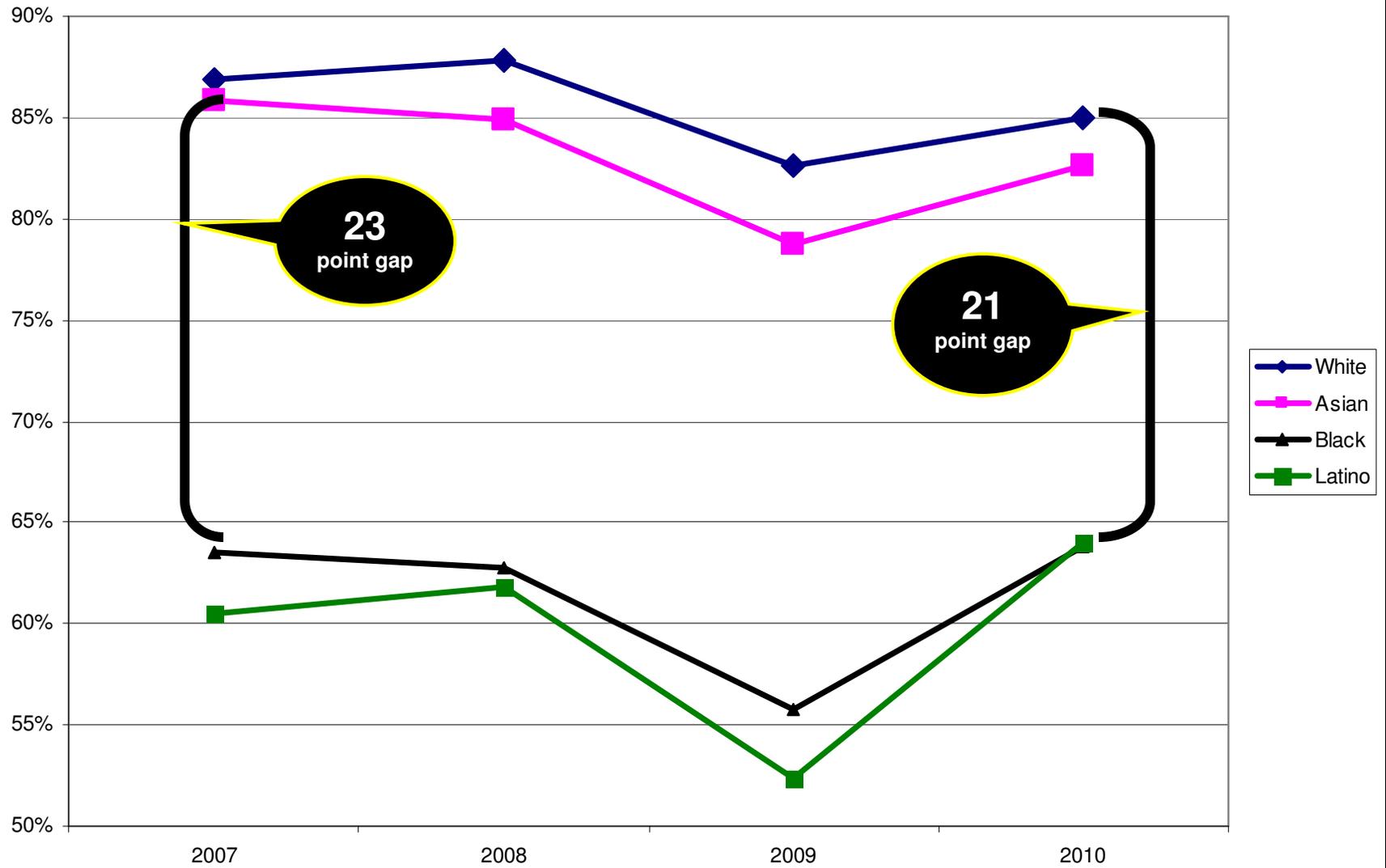
- **Dropout Rate**
- **Percentage of Graduates meeting
USM/CTE Program Requirements**

USM/CTE Program Completion Rates



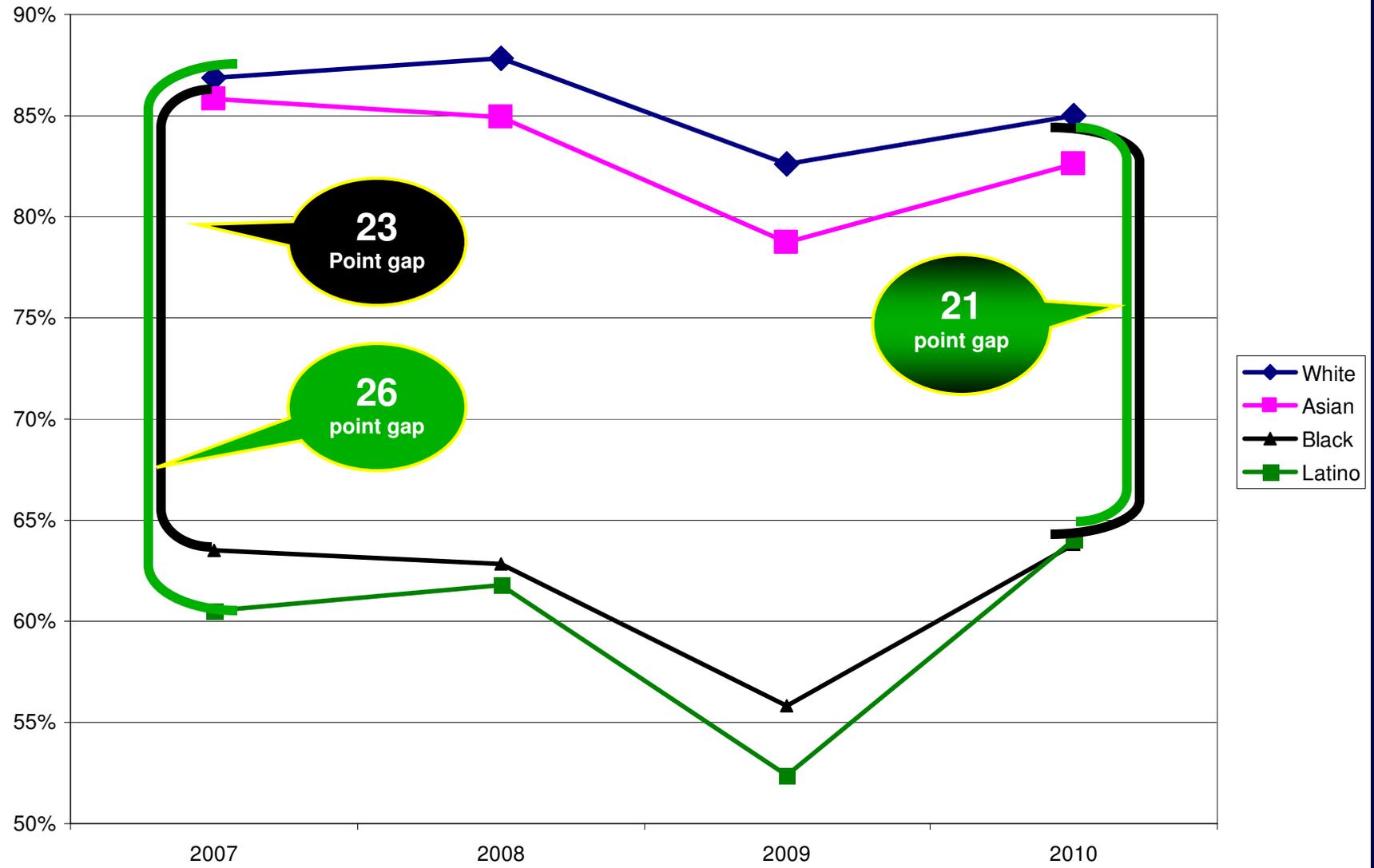
Source: MCPS

USM/CTE Program Completion Rates



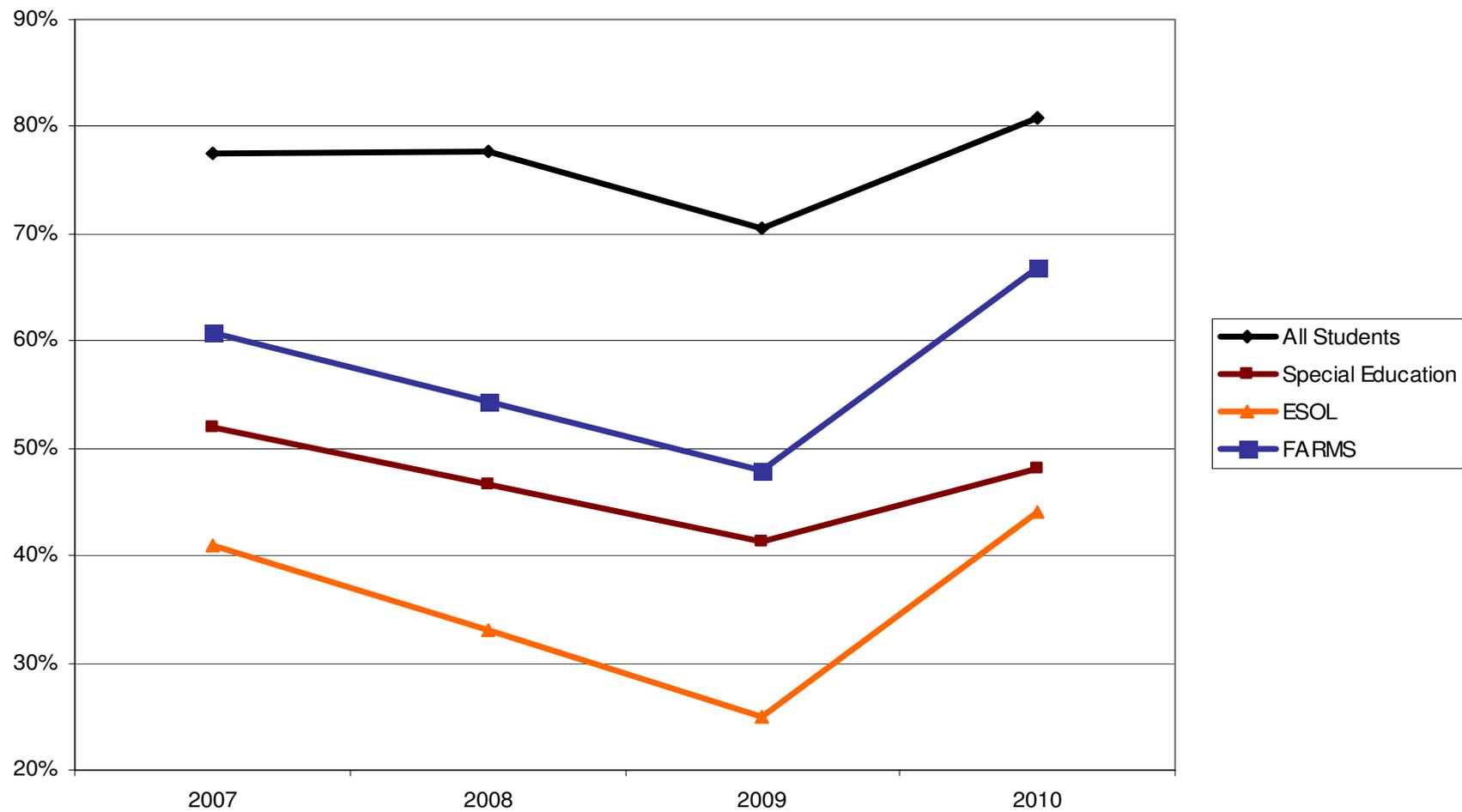
Source: MCPS

USM/CTE Program Completion Rates



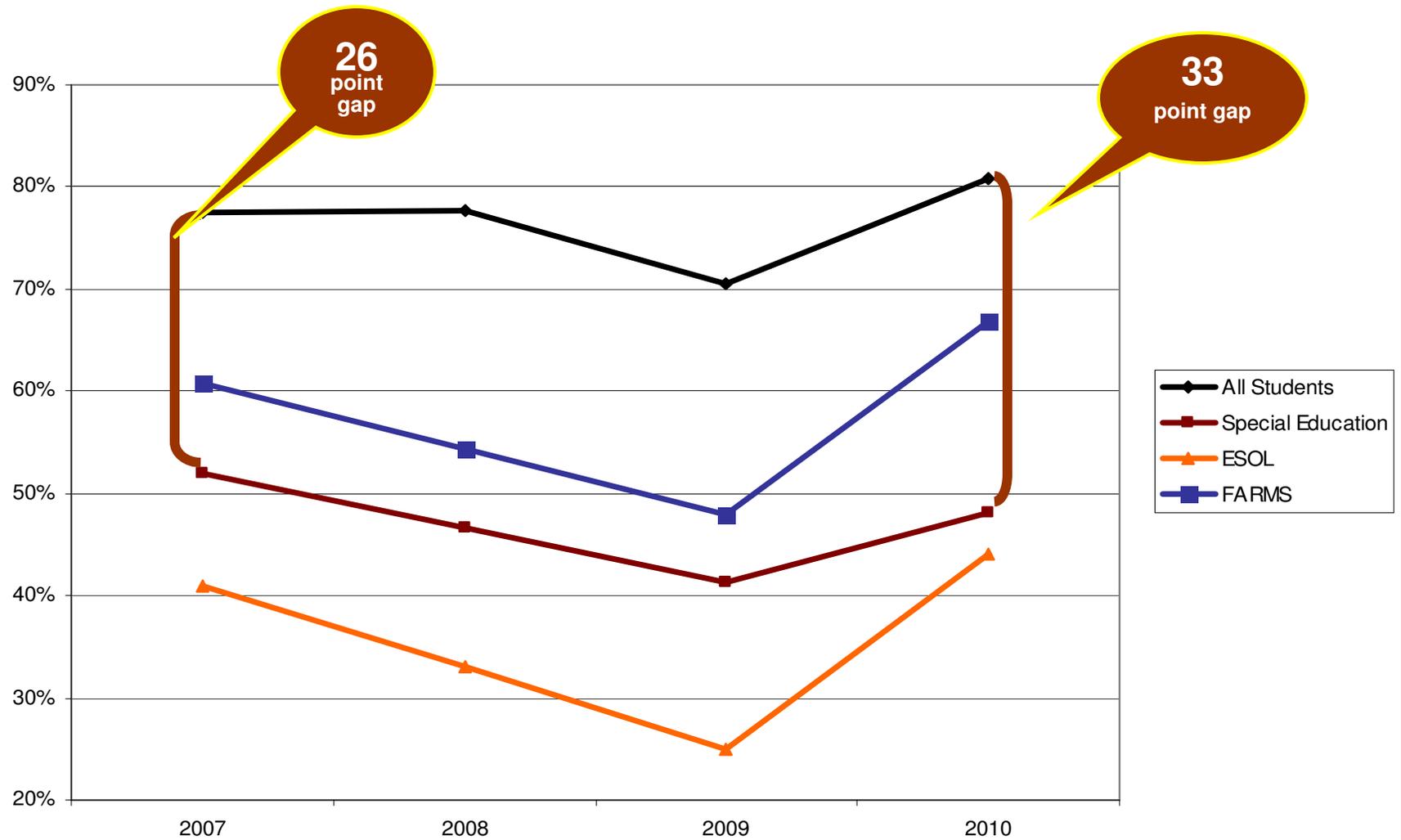
Source: MCPS

USM/CTE Program Completion Rates



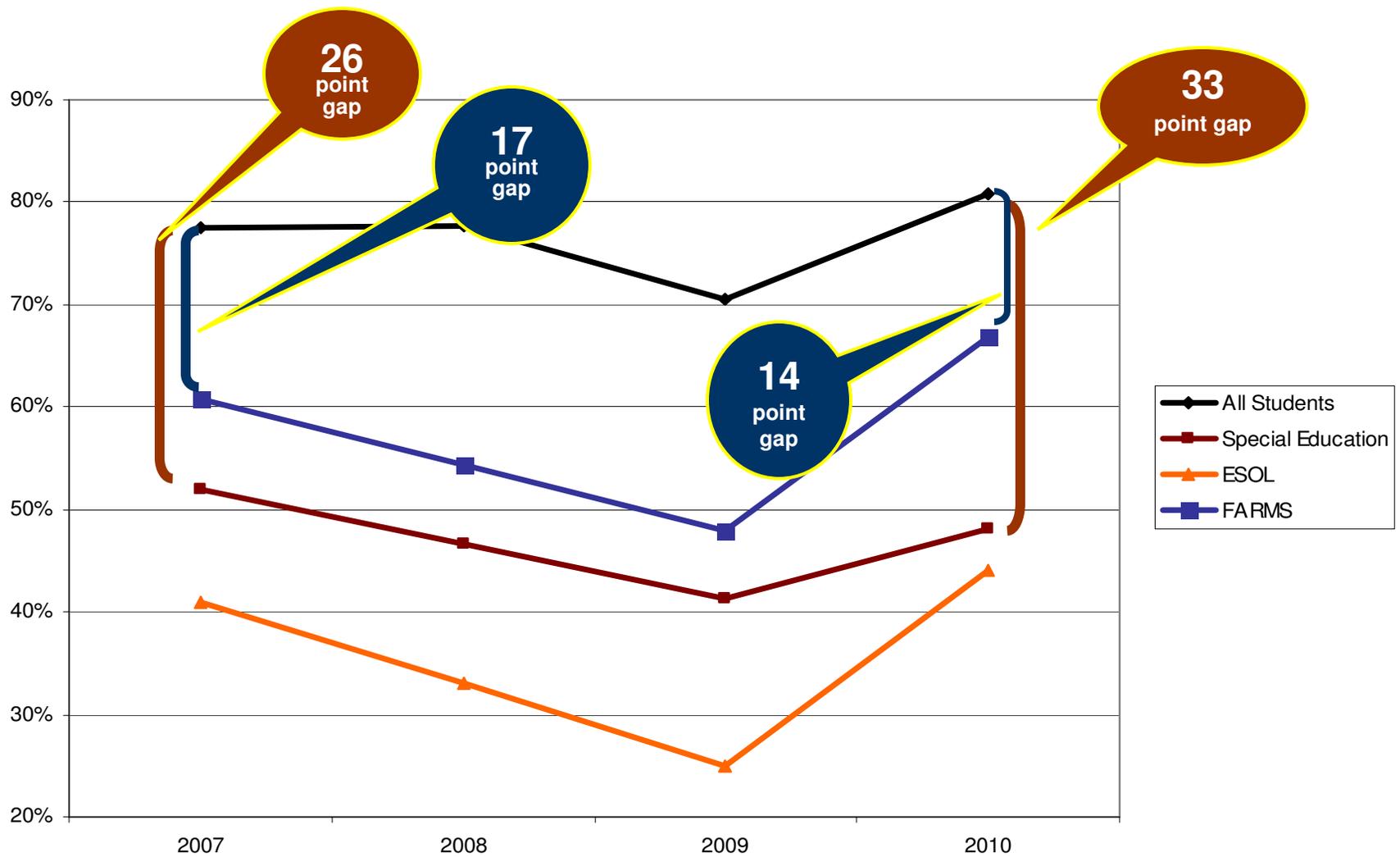
Source: MCPS

USM/CTE Program Completion Rates



Source: MCPS

USM/CTE Program Completion Rates

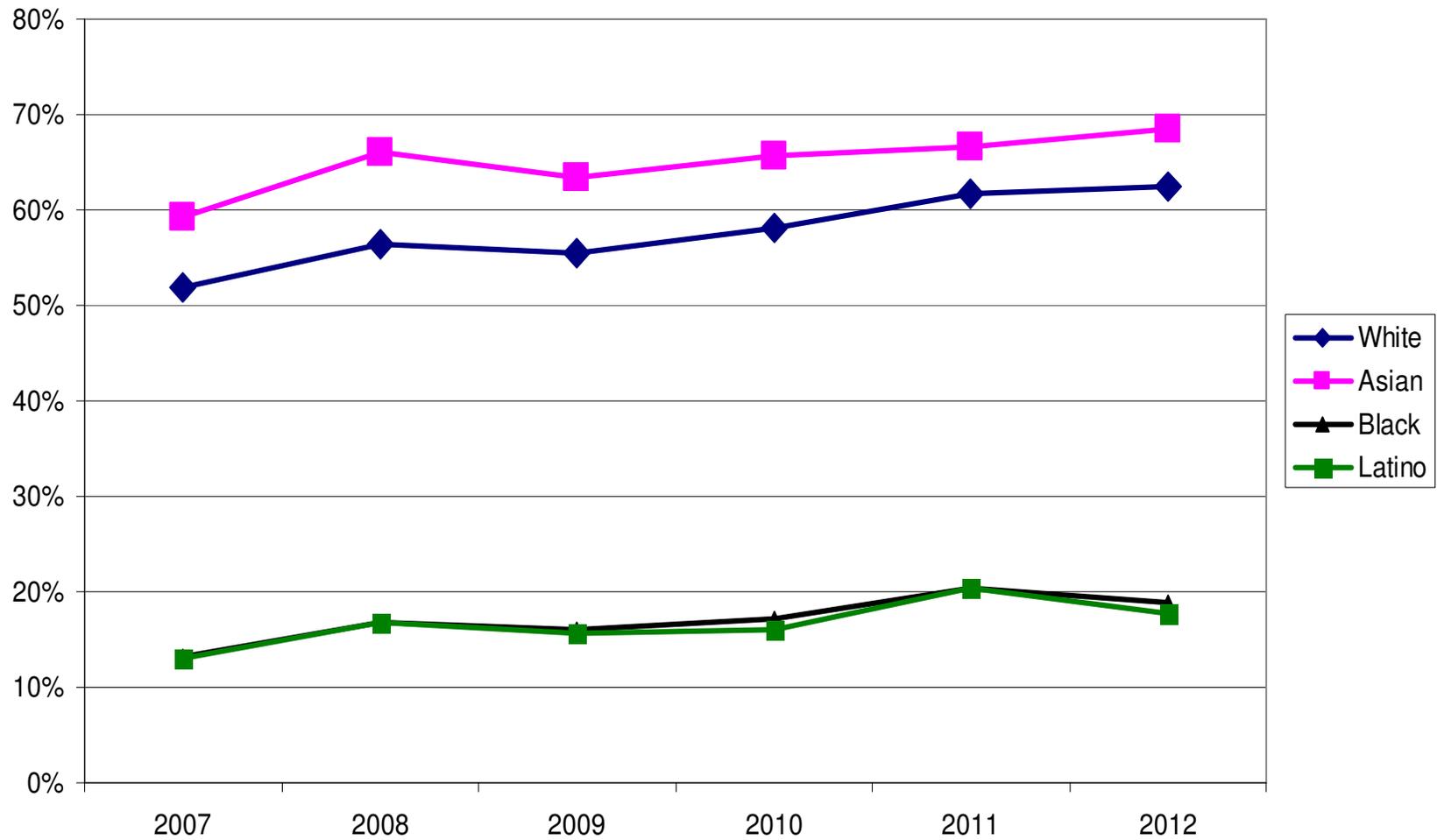


Source: MCPS

MCPS Widened the Achievement Gap Across 4 of 11 Measures

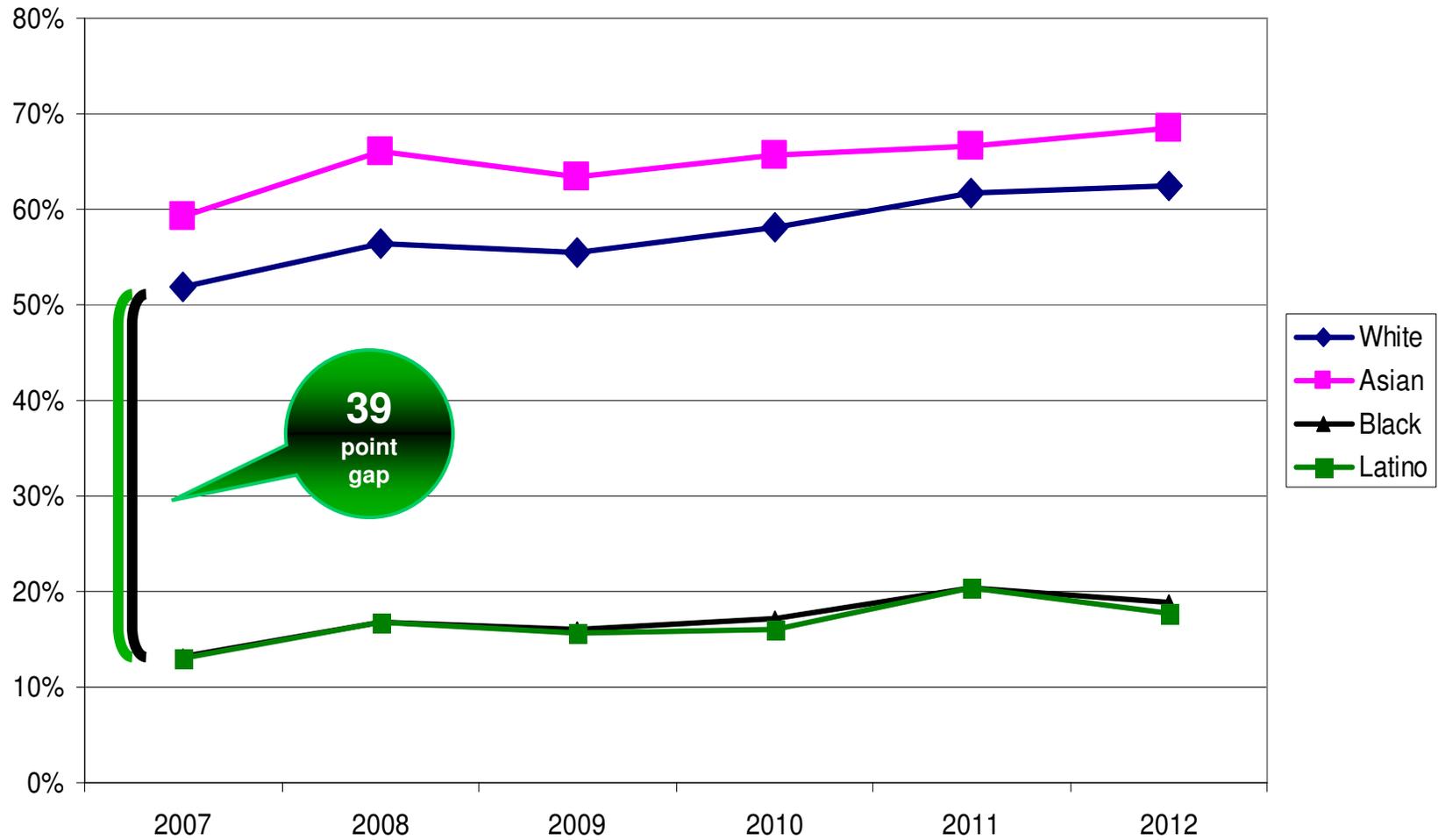
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Advanced MSA Grade 8 Math Scores



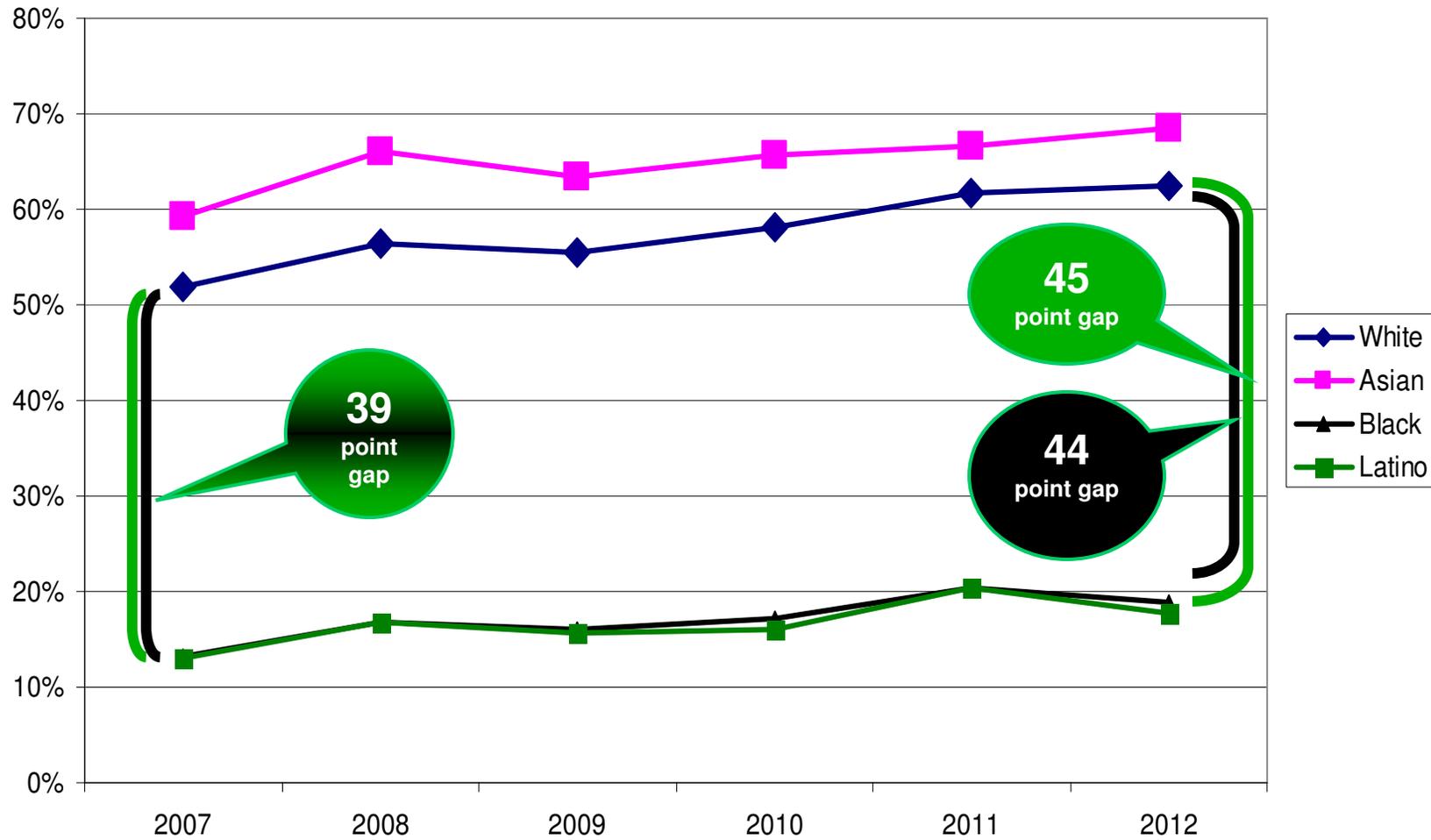
Source: MSDE

Advanced MSA Grade 8 Math Scores



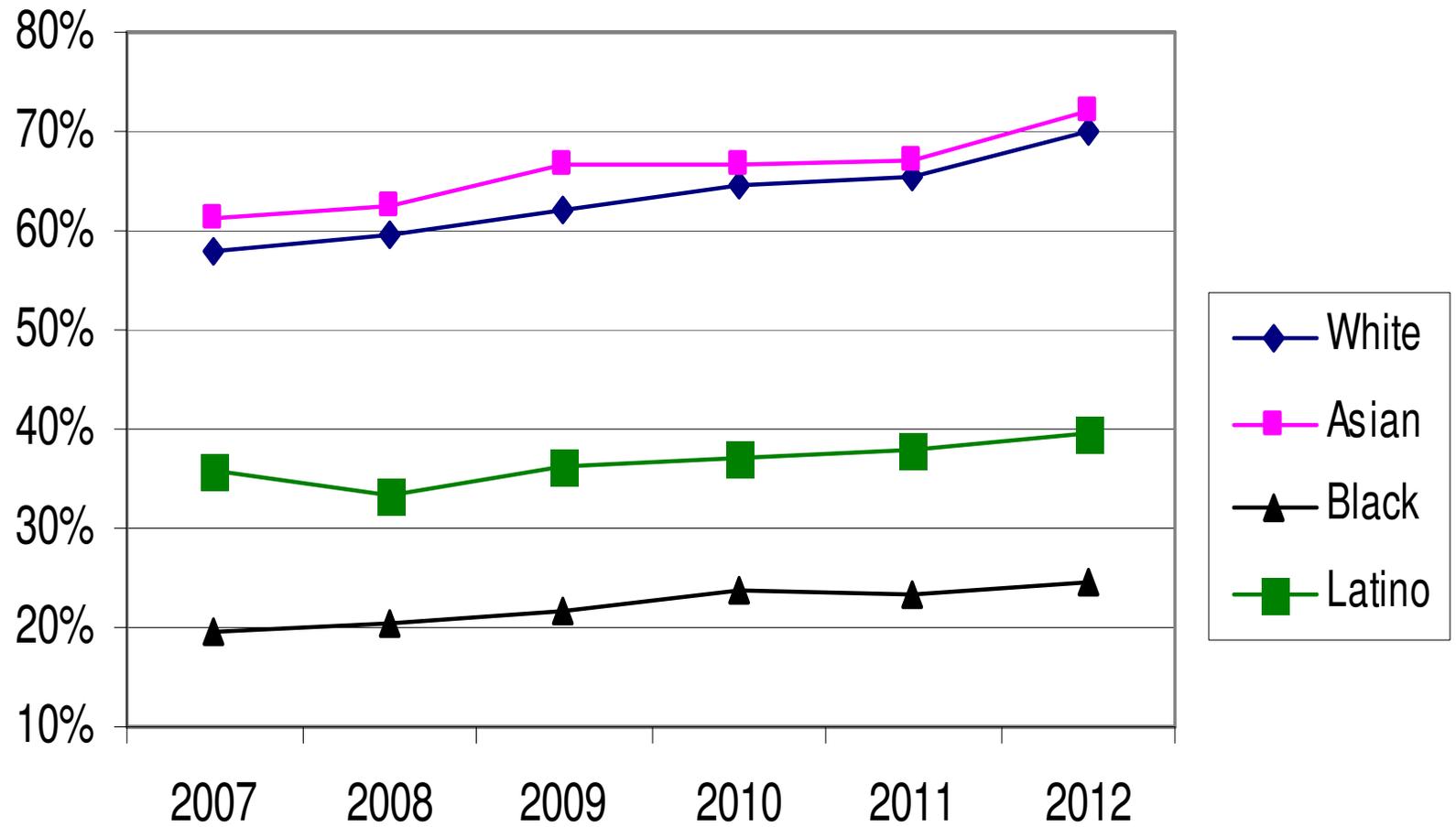
Source: MSDE

Advanced MSA Grade 8 Math Scores

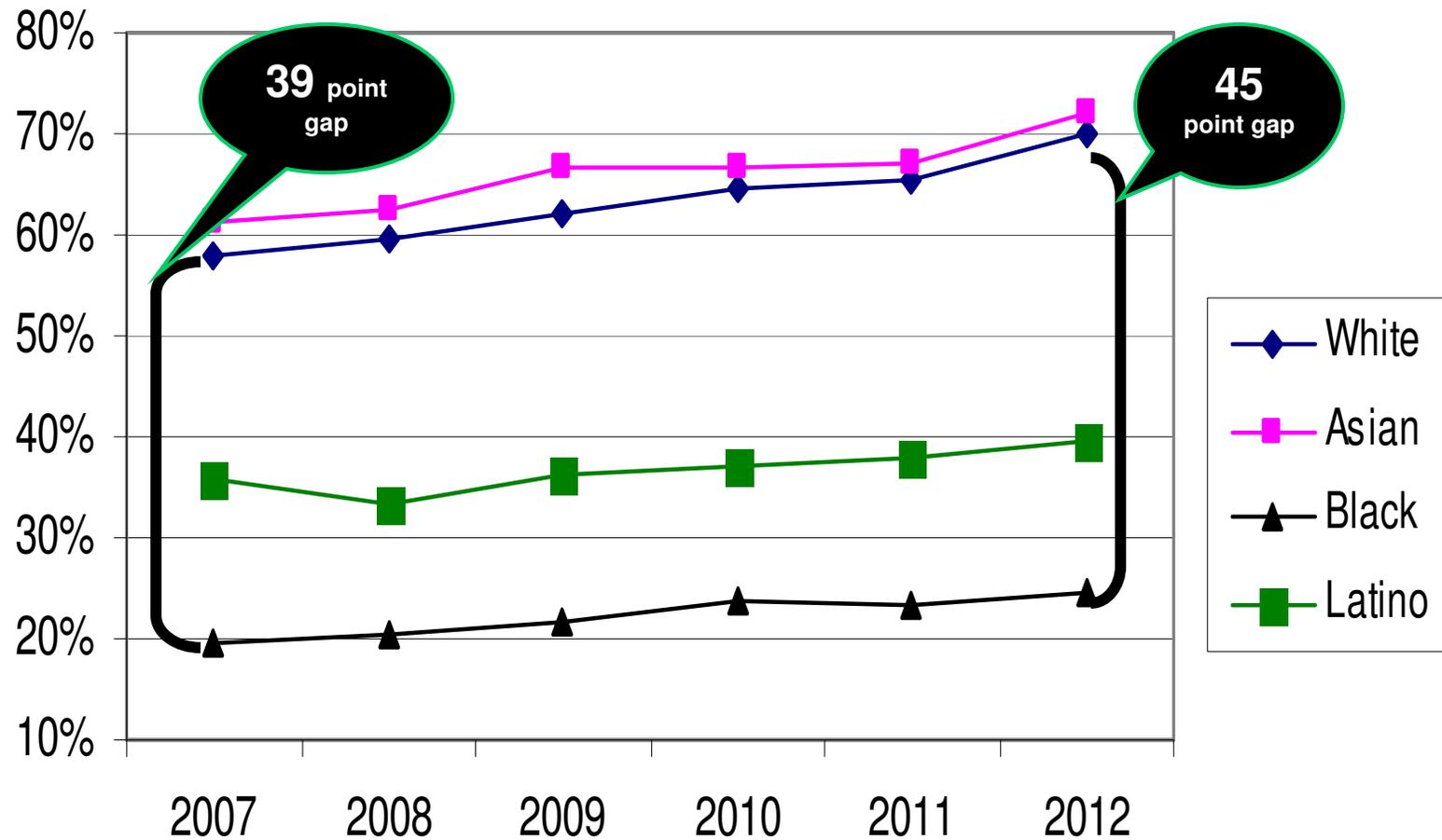


Source: MSDE

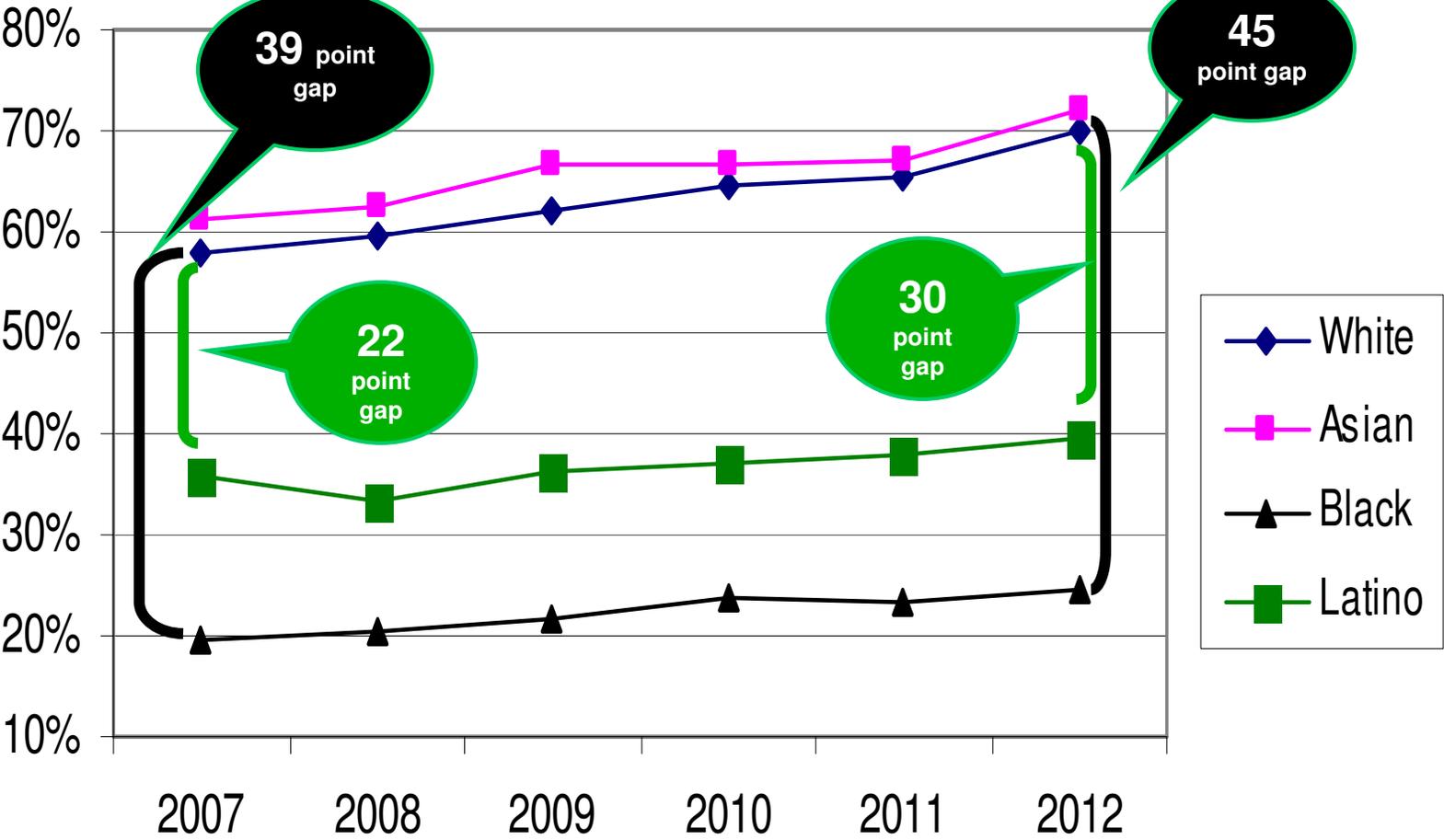
AP/IB Performance among Graduates



AP/IB Performance among Graduates



AP/IB Performance among Graduates



Source: MCPS

Additional Project Findings

- MCPS' goals for narrowing the gap exceed state and federal goals
- Challenges in narrowing the gap among above grade level measures suggests that the gap will widen with the Common Core State Standards
- More research is needed on best practices for accelerating the achievement of low performing subgroups

Recommended Discussion Issues

1. *What are MCPS' priorities for closing the gap and how does MCPS' FY14 budget request reflect these priorities?*
2. *What are MCPS' expectations for closing the achievement gap based on current and planned investments?*
3. *How does MCPS work with other agencies and organizations to narrow the gap?*