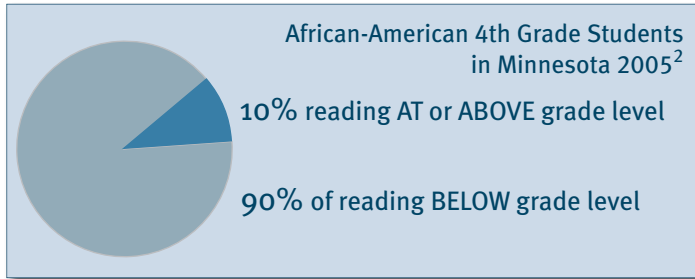


## Raising Expectations: The Opportunity Gap

### What if every Minnesota student had great teachers and a great school?

#### What if Minnesota's education system helped every student achieve at high levels?

Minnesota has the 2nd largest gap in the nation between African-American and white students on the 4th grade reading score.<sup>1</sup>



Minnesota students measuring proficient or above on the 11th grade math test in 2008<sup>3</sup>:

White	38%
African American	8%
Latino	14%
American Indian	11%
Asian/Pacific Islander	31%

**Minnesota has some of the nation's deepest disparities in achievement between students of color and white students.**

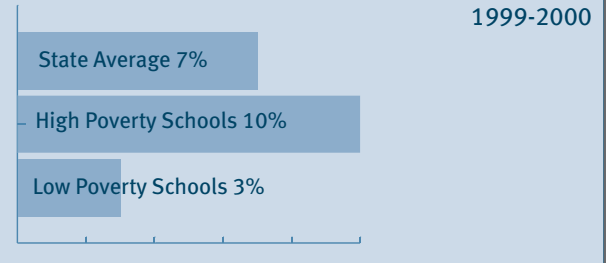
#### What if all Minnesota students had great learning opportunities?

Test scores go up for all students when they take the minimum core high schools courses recommended by the ACT.<sup>3</sup>

Minnesota's ACT test takers in 2008<sup>3</sup>:

White	79%
African American	3%
Latino	2%
Asian American	4%
American Indian	1%

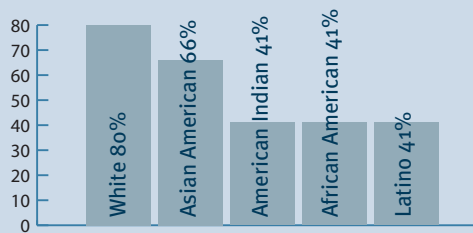
Percentage of Minnesota Secondary Classes Taught by Teachers Lacking a Major or Minor in Field<sup>1</sup> 1999-2000



“Research is very clear: Good teachers make good schools. Students who get several effective teachers in a row will soar no matter what their family backgrounds, while students who have even two ineffective teachers in a row rarely recover.”<sup>1</sup>

#### What if all Minnesota students were prepared for college and work?

2006-07 High School Graduation Rates in Minnesota<sup>3</sup>



- “38% of Minnesota public high school graduates who attend state colleges and universities are insufficiently prepared – requiring remedial coursework before they are ready to learn at the college level.”<sup>4</sup>
- “Low-income students in Minnesota are becoming less likely to make it to college. In 1993, Minnesota ranked first in the percentage of low-income students enrolling in college, at 48 percent. However, the state fell to 11th in 2003-04, with just 33 percent participation.”<sup>5</sup>
- “Only 22% of Minnesota businesses express satisfaction with the level of workforce preparedness apparent in high school graduates.”<sup>4</sup>

1) Education Trust's *Education Watch Minnesota* Fall 2006; 2) Children's Defense Fund Minnesota 3) Minnesota Minority Education Partnership's *2009 State of Students of Color and American Indian Students* 4) Minnesota Business Partnership & Itasca Project *Minnesota's Future World-class Schools, World-class Jobs 2009* 5) Minnesota Private College Council *NEWS February 2006*, Data analysis from *Postsecondary Education Opportunity*