



CRITICAL ISSUES IN SOCIAL STUDIES ASSESSMENT

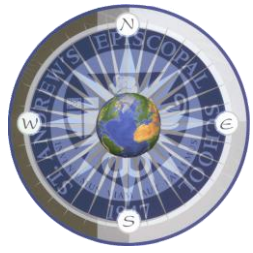
**Assessment Community Panel Discussion
NCSS Annual Conference, Houston, TX
November 15, 2008**

Chris Harth, Ph.D.

St. Andrew's Episcopal School

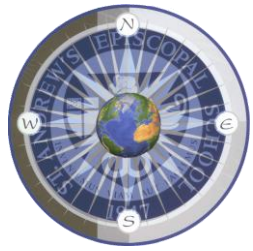
Global Studies Foundation





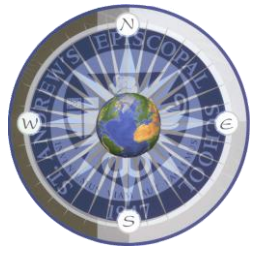
Working Assumptions about Assessment

- 1. Importance** – Unsurpassed in education today, especially with NCLB
- 2. Pervasiveness** – at all levels and all subjects, as well as geographically
- 3. Involvement** – everyone who works in education has some experience and stake, which can/should be tapped



A Strategic Perspective: The 3 C's

- 1. Changes** – in domestic and international contexts (political, educational, economic, etc.) and in our students
- 2. Challenges** – international and domestic, as well as in keeping up with the changes
- 3. Choices** – to recognize these changes and challenges and decide if/how to respond

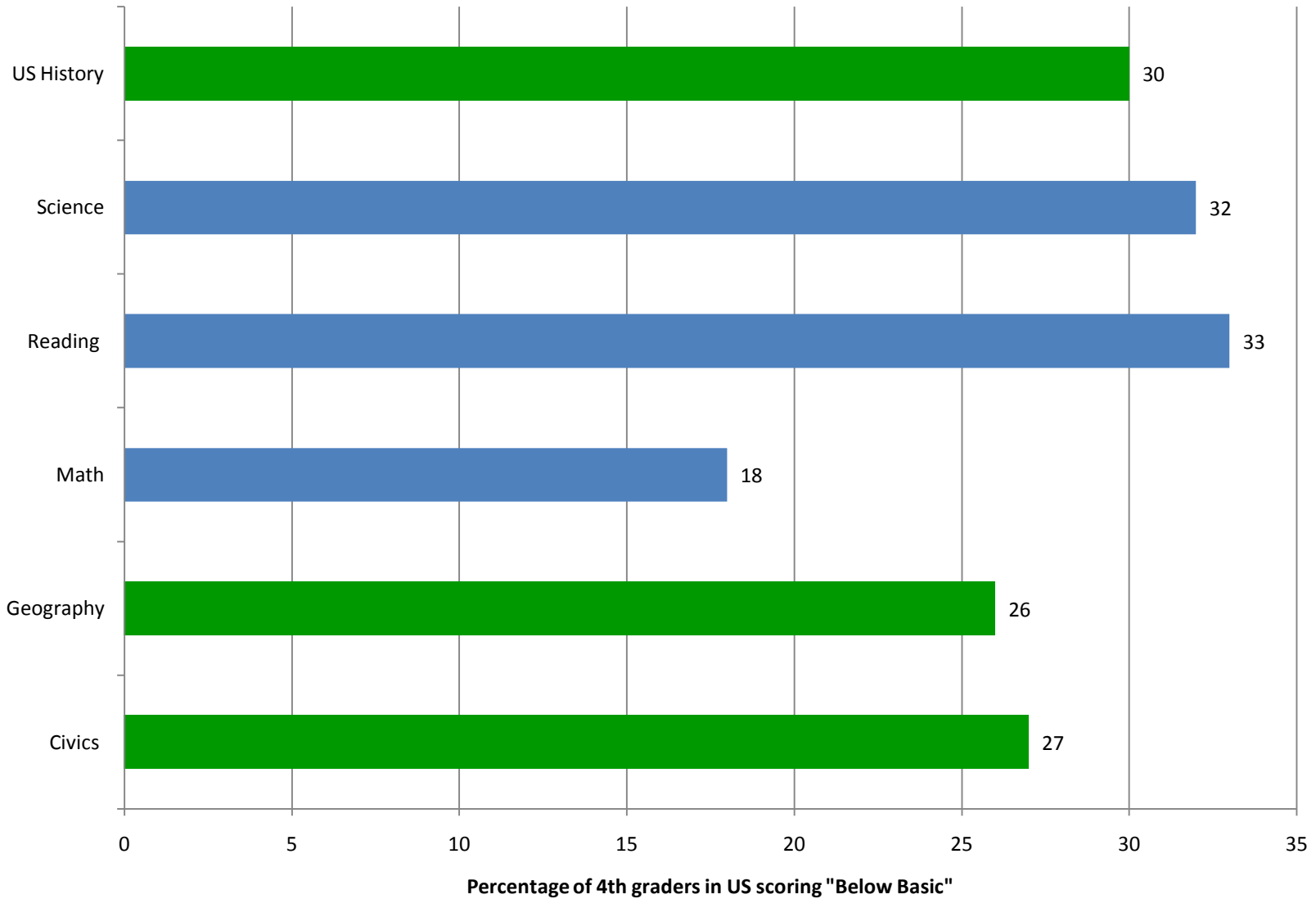


Key Questions about Assessment

1. Who gets tested?
2. By whom?
3. In what areas?
4. With what kinds of instrument(s)?
5. How often?
6. For what purpose(s)?



US 4th Grade Students with Failing Grades on NAEP Tests

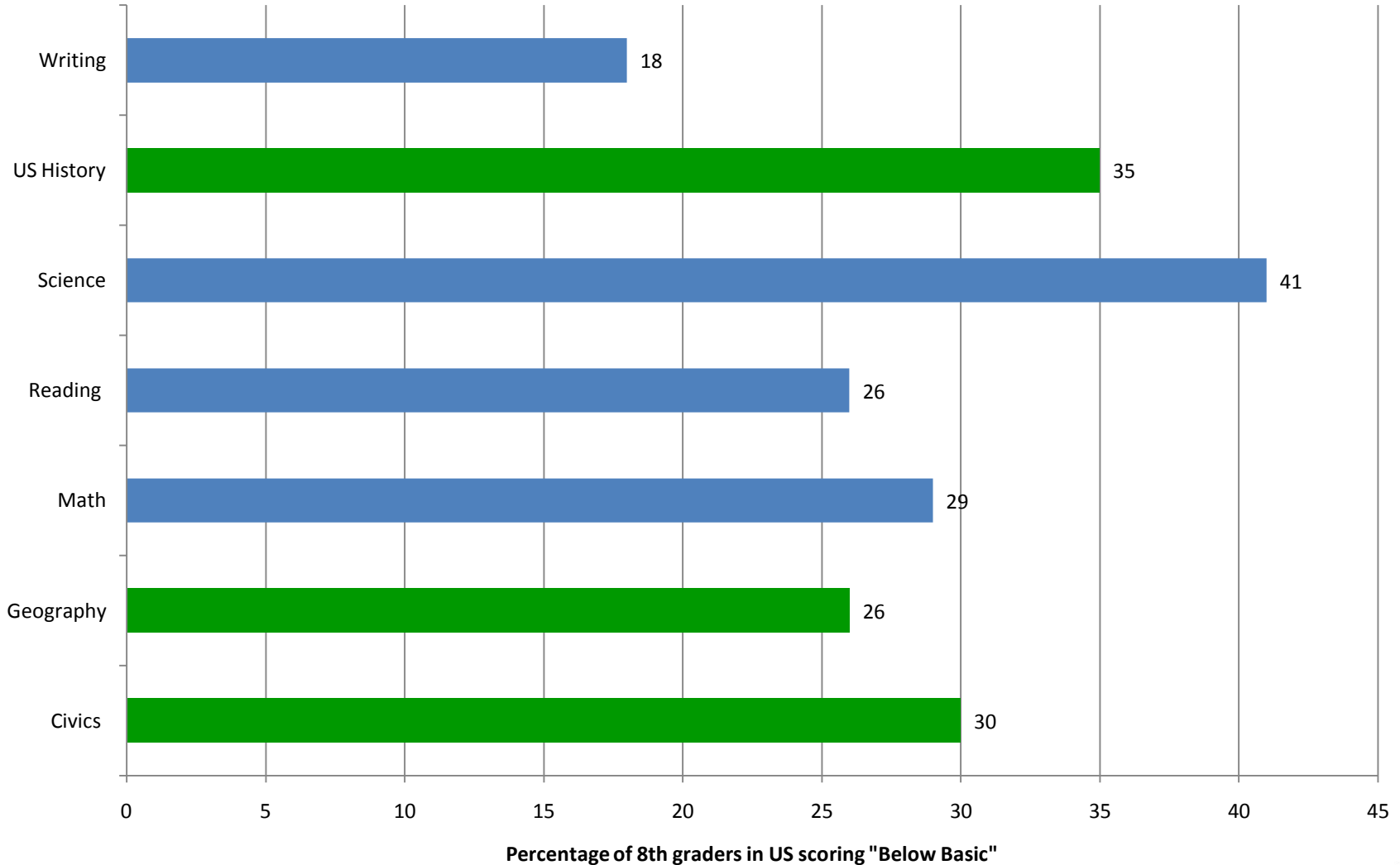


Source: US Department of Education (nces.ed.gov)





US 8th Grade Students with Failing Grades on NAEP Tests

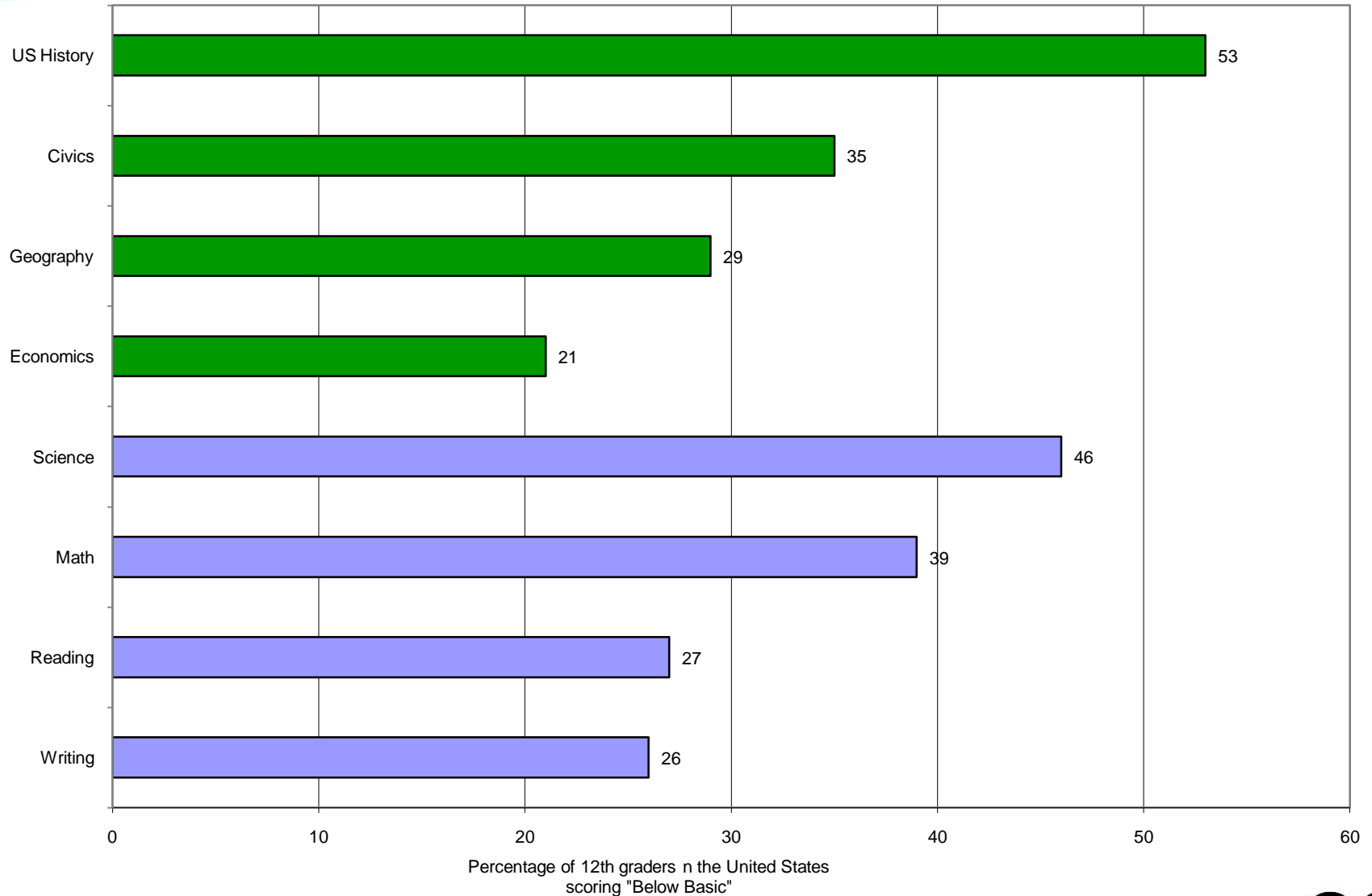


Source: US Department of Education (nces.ed.gov)





US 12th Grade Students with Failing Grades on NAEP Tests

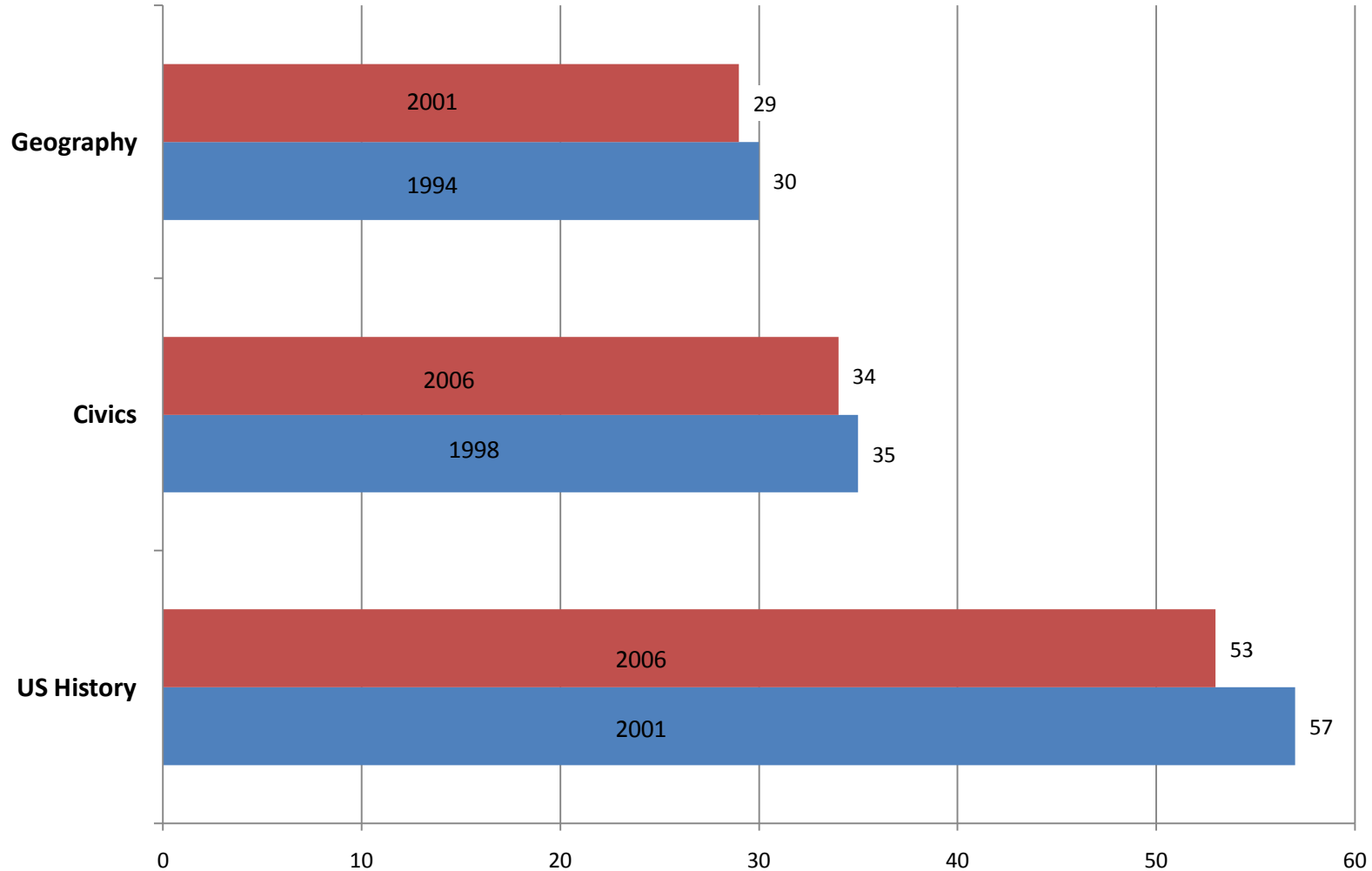


Source: US Department of Education (nces.ed.gov)





US 12th Grade Students Scoring Below Basic on Most Recent NAEP Tests (%)

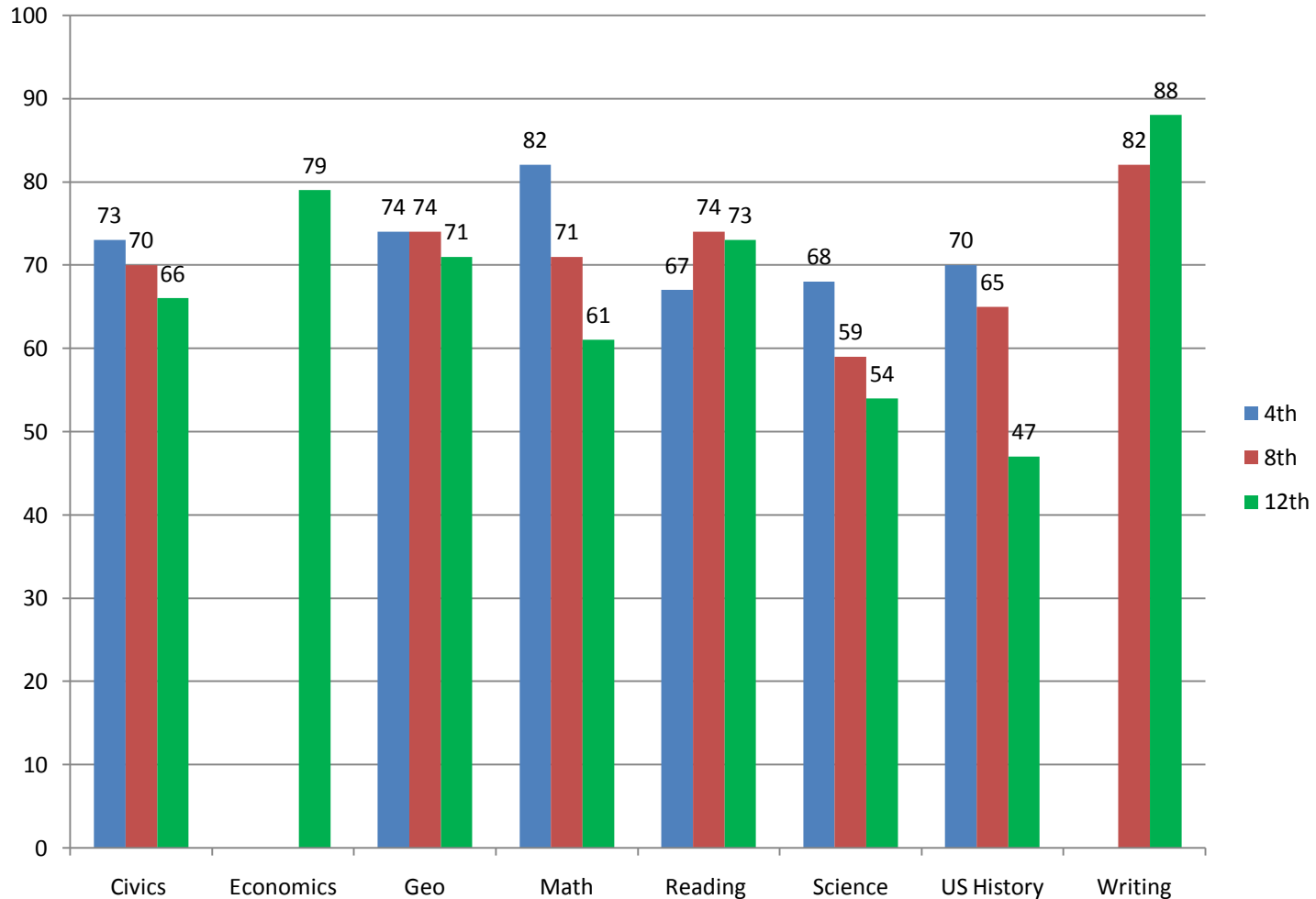


Source: US Department of Education (nces.ed.gov)



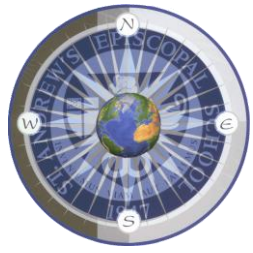


US Students (Grades 4, 8, and 12) at Basic Level or Above on Most Recent NAEP Tests (2001-07)



Source: US Department of Education (nces.ed.gov)

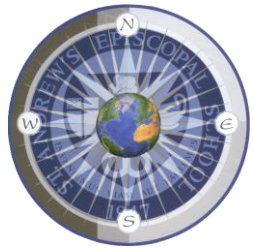




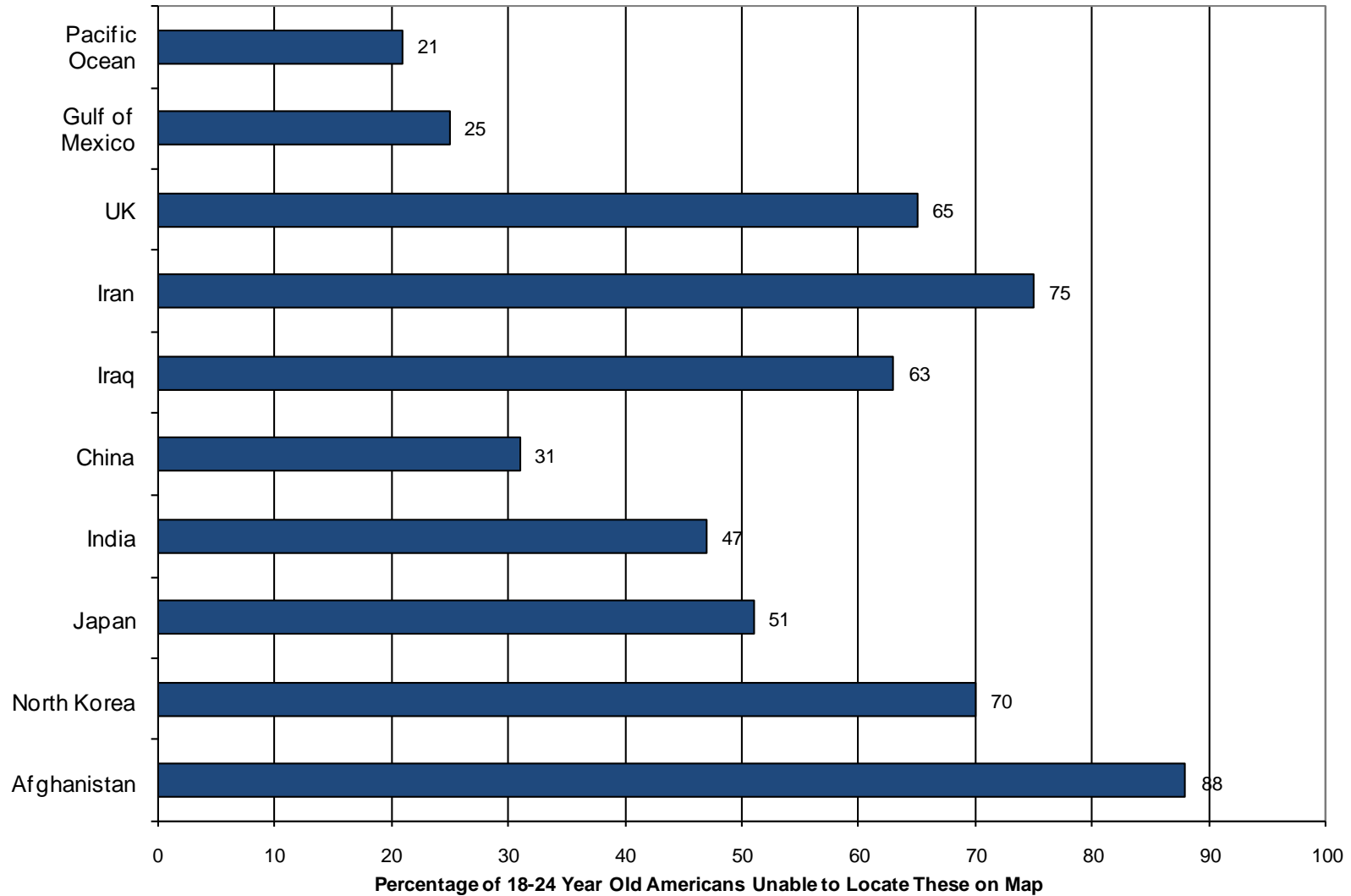
US Student Performance in International Comparisons

Nat'l Geographic/Roper Survey of Geographic Literacy

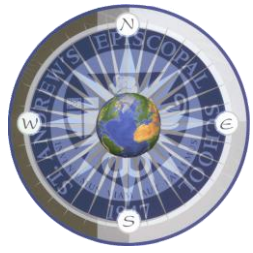
- Assess 18-24 year-olds in 9 countries in 2002
- Young adults in US finish 8 of 9, answering 23 of 56 questions correctly
- 30% in three cannot locate Pacific Ocean
- 50% cannot find India
- 10% cannot find US
- 30% estimate US population as 1-2 billion



Geographic Ignorance of Young Americans

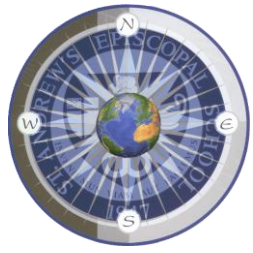


Source: National Geographic/Roper Survey, 2006



One in Three Young Americans (18-24 years old)

1. Cannot find China on a map of the world
2. Thinks the US fought against Russia in World War II
3. Believes Darfur is in Asia
4. Estimates the US population as 1-2 billion
5. Would miss a conference call in a different time zone
6. Would travel in the wrong direction in an evacuation
7. Requires remedial work in college
8. Graduates from college
9. Reads a paper
10. Tends to vote

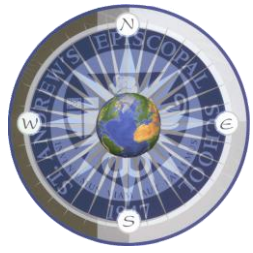


US Student Performance in International Comparisons

PISA – Program for International Student Assessment

- Assess 15 year-olds in OECD countries
- Most recent tests in 2003 and 2006
- US students finish 12 of 29 in reading literacy
- US students finish 24 of 29 in problem solving
- US students finish 21 of 30 in science literacy
- US students finish 25 of 30 in mathematical literacy

Source: US Department of Education (<http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pisa/index.asp>)

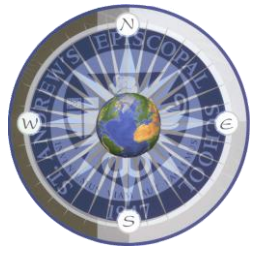


US Student Performance in International Comparisons

TIMSS – Trends in International Math and Science Study

- Assess 4th and 8th graders in 25 and 45 jurisdictions, respectively
- Most recent tests in 2003 and 2007 (with 2007 data due out 12/9/08)
- US 4th graders finish 12 of 25 in math
- US 4th graders finish 6 of 25 in science
- US 8th graders finish 15 of 45 in math
- US 8th graders finish 9 of 45 in science

Source: US Department of Education (<http://nces.ed.gov/timss/>)

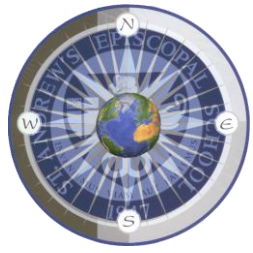


US Student Performance in International Comparisons

PIRLS – Progress in International Reading Literacy Study

- Assess 4th graders in 35 and 45 jurisdictions in 2001 and 2006, respectively
- No measurable difference in performance of US students between 2001 and 2006
- In 2001, US students finish 9 of 28
- In 2006, US students finish 18 of 45

Source: US Department of Education (<http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pirls/>)

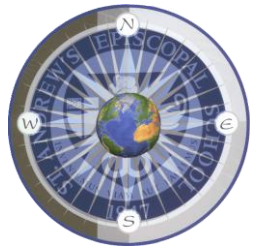


US Student Performance in International Comparisons

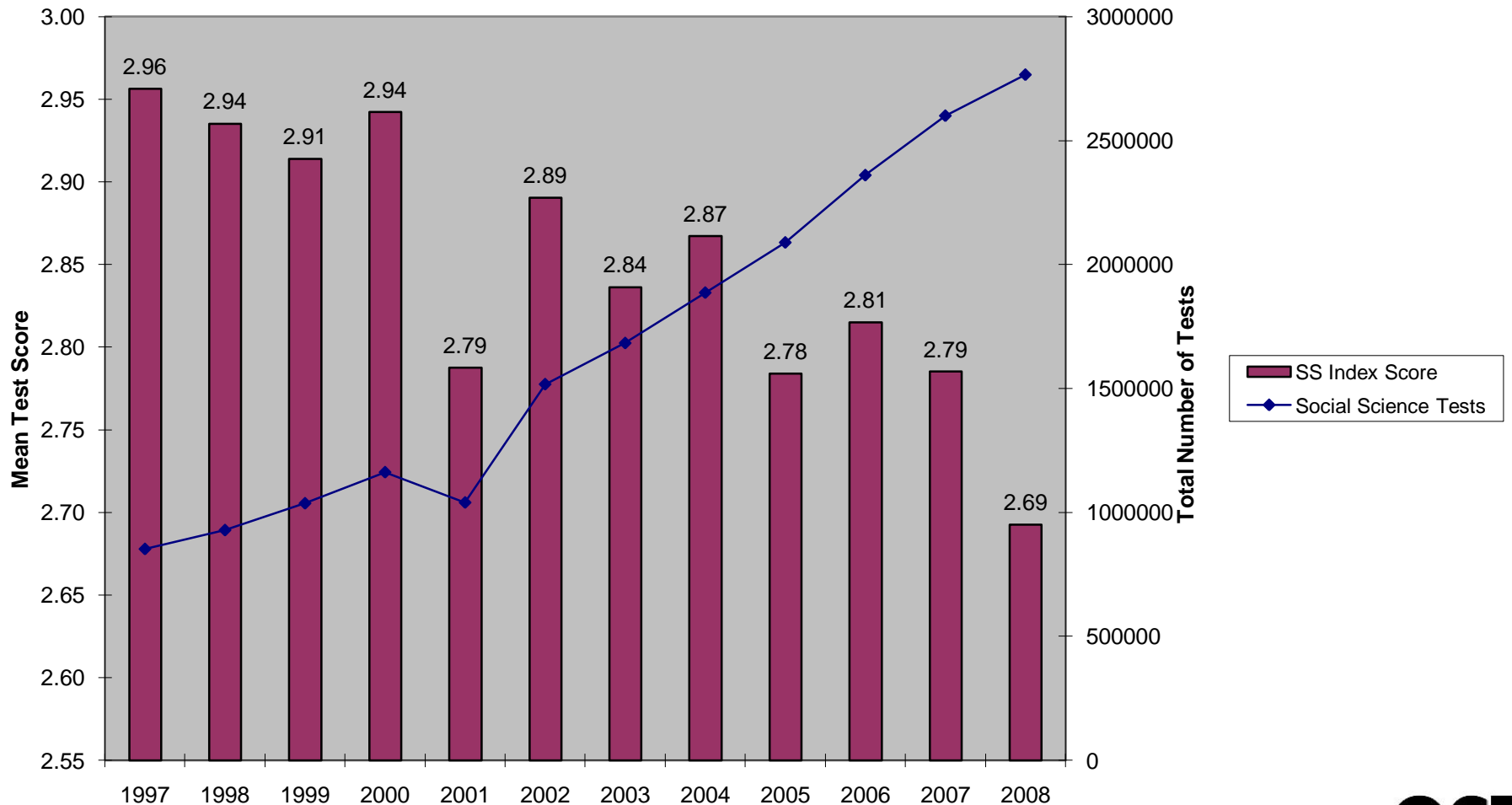
International IEA Civic Education Study

- Assess 9th graders in 28 countries in 1999
- US students finish 6 of 28 overall
- US students finish 1 of 28 in civic skills
- US students finish 10 of 28 in civic content
- Relative bright spot

Source: US Department of Education (<http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/CivEd/>)



AP Tests in History and Social Sciences (1997-2008)



Source: The College Board, Summary Reports 1997-2008