

The Theory and Practice of School Choice

*2nd Annual
Policy Orientation
For the
Texas Legislature*

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Major Public Voucher Pilot Programs

Location	Sponsor	School Yr Begin (Sept.)
*Milwaukee	State of Wisconsin	1990
*Cleveland	State of Ohio	1996
Milwaukee II	State of Wisconsin	1998
Florida	State of Florida	1999
Colorado	State of Colorado	in litigation
District of Columbia	U.S. Government	2004

* Evaluation by The Program on Education Policy and Governance, Harvard University

Major Private Voucher Pilot Programs

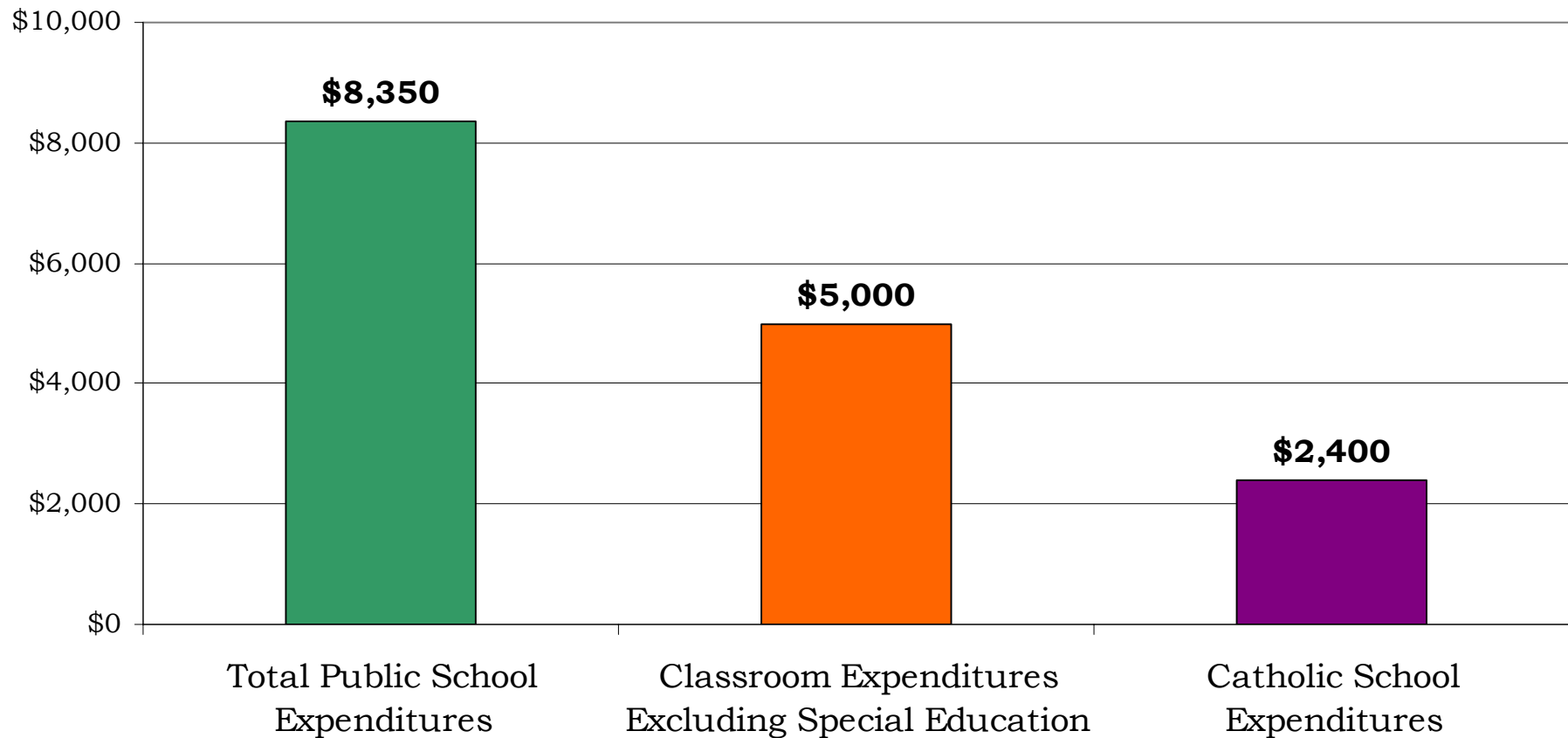
<u>Location</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>School Yr Begin (Sept.)</u>
*New York City	School Choice Scholarships Foundation	1997
*Washington D.C.	Washington Scholarship Fund	1998
*Dayton	Parents Advancing Choice in Education	1998
*San Antonio (Edgewood)	Children's Education Opportunity Foundation	1998
*Nationwide	Children's Scholarship Fund	1999

* Evaluation by The Program on Education Policy and Governance, Harvard University

Research Protocol

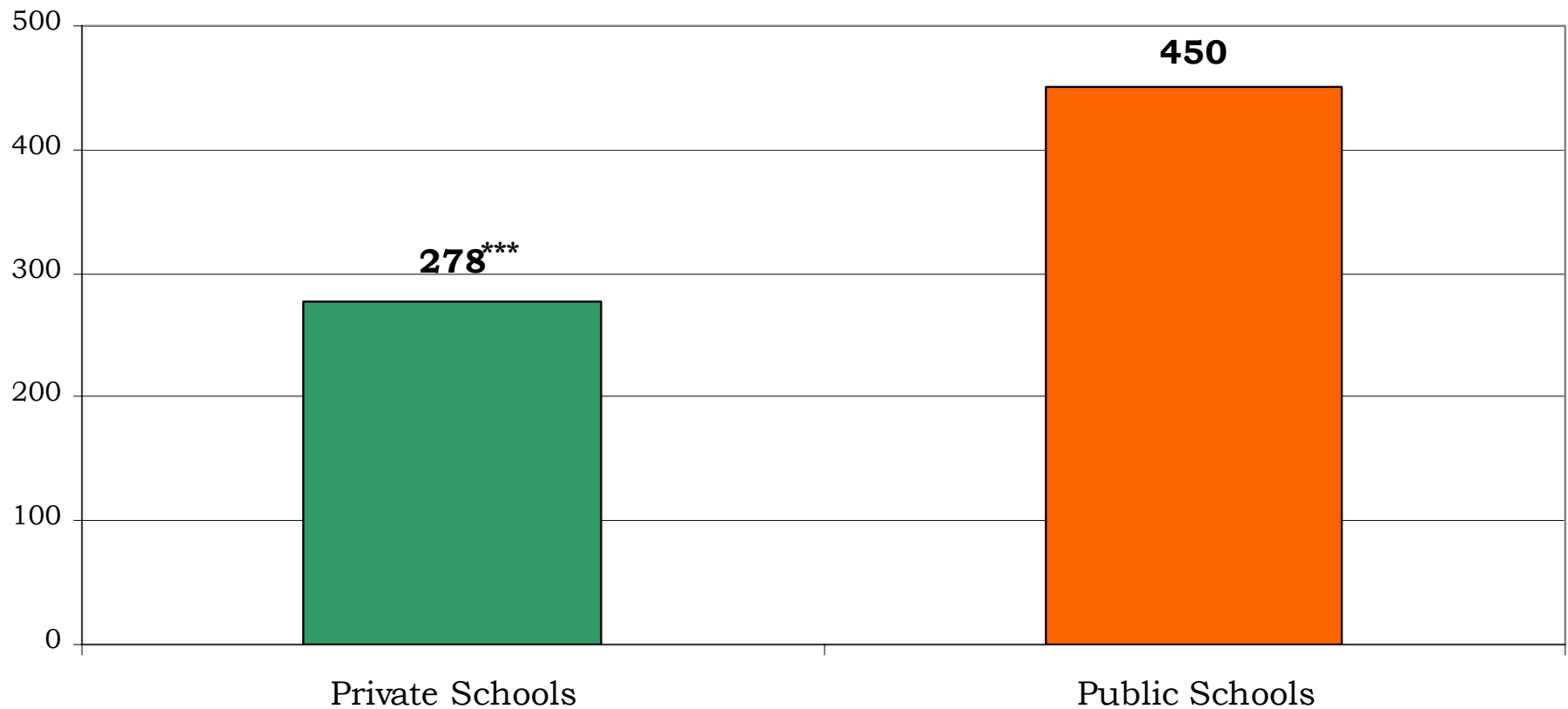
- **Baseline testing and surveys conducted**
- **Scholarship recipients selected by lottery**
- **Follow-up surveys and tests administered after one, two, and three years**
- **Permit Randomized Field Trial**

Public and Private School Expenditures in New York City (Manhattan, Bronx and Brooklyn)



What Happens?

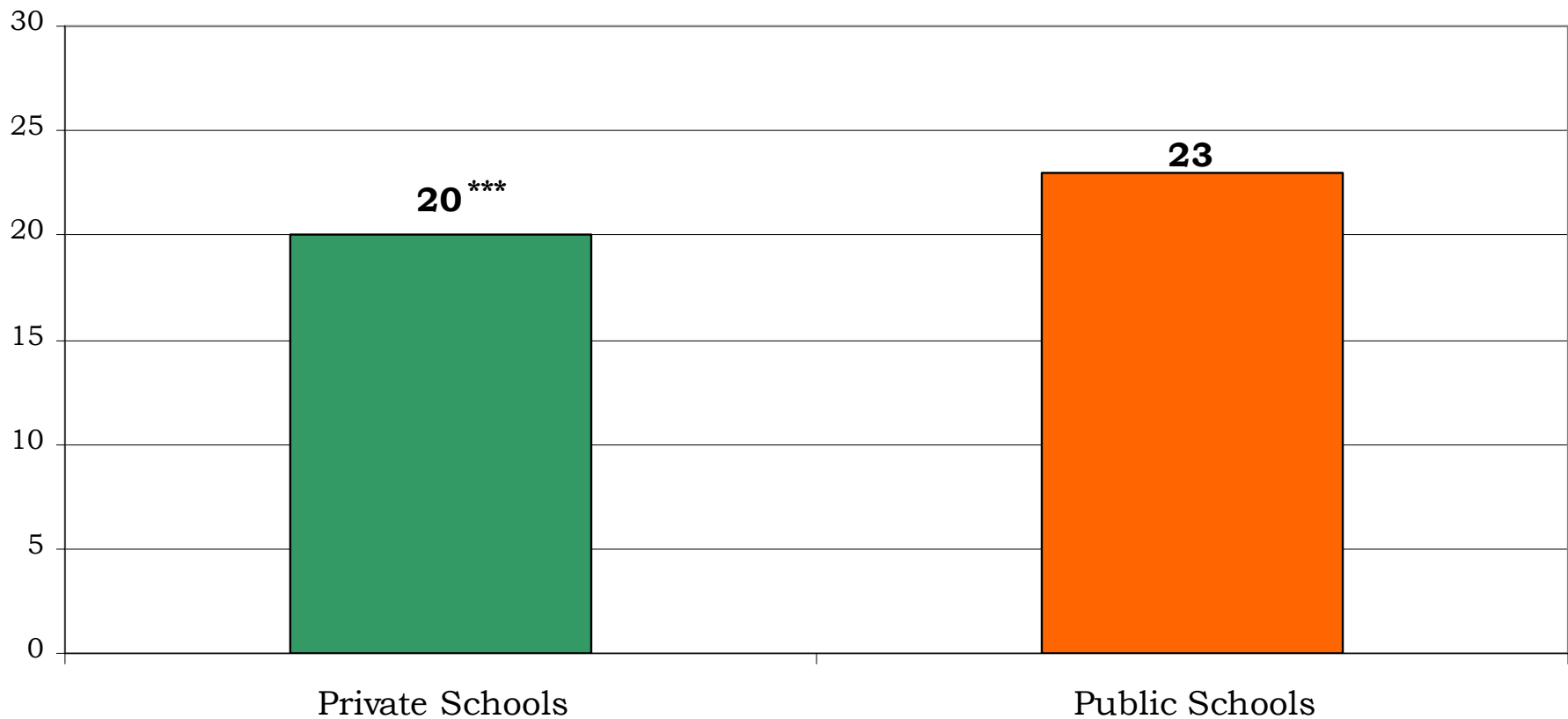
School Size



* $p < .10$, two-tailed test; ** $p < .05$; *** $p < .01$.

What Happens?

Class Size

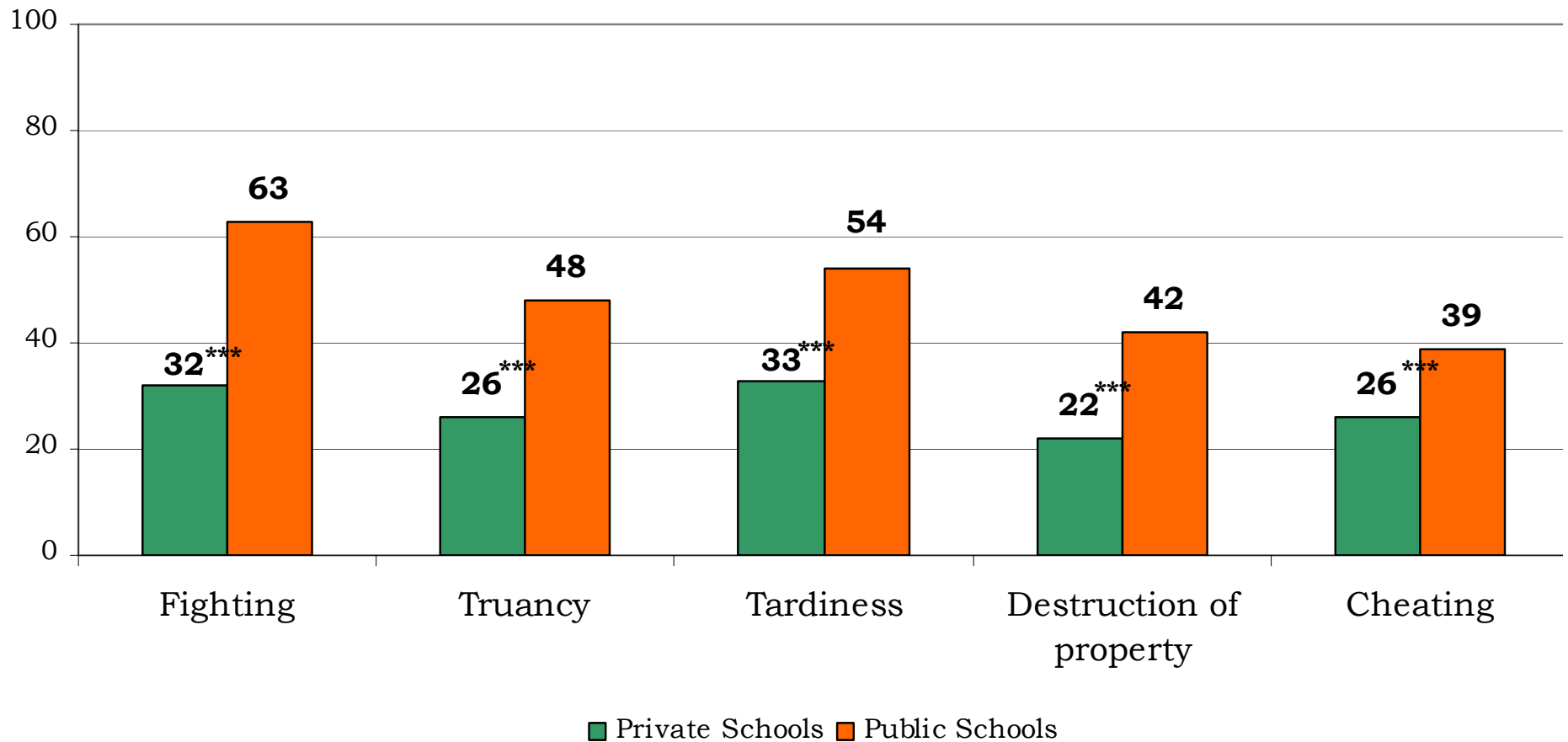


* $p < .10$, two-tailed test; ** $p < .05$; *** $p < .01$.

What Happens?

Social Problems

Percentage of parents who say that problem at their child's school is "very serious"



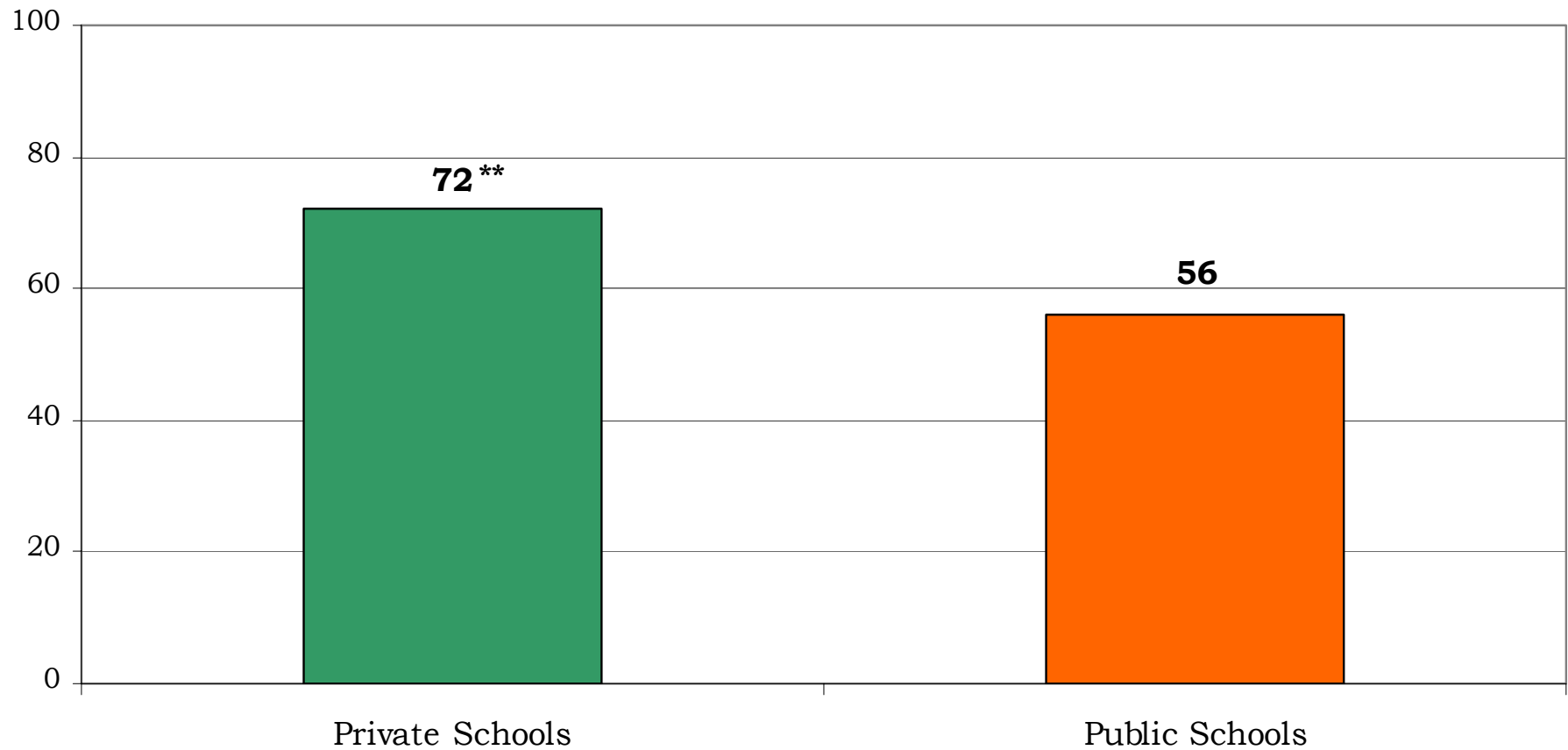
* $p < .10$, two-tailed test; ** $p < .05$; *** $p < .01$.

Three-city average, Year I

What Happens?

Amount of Homework

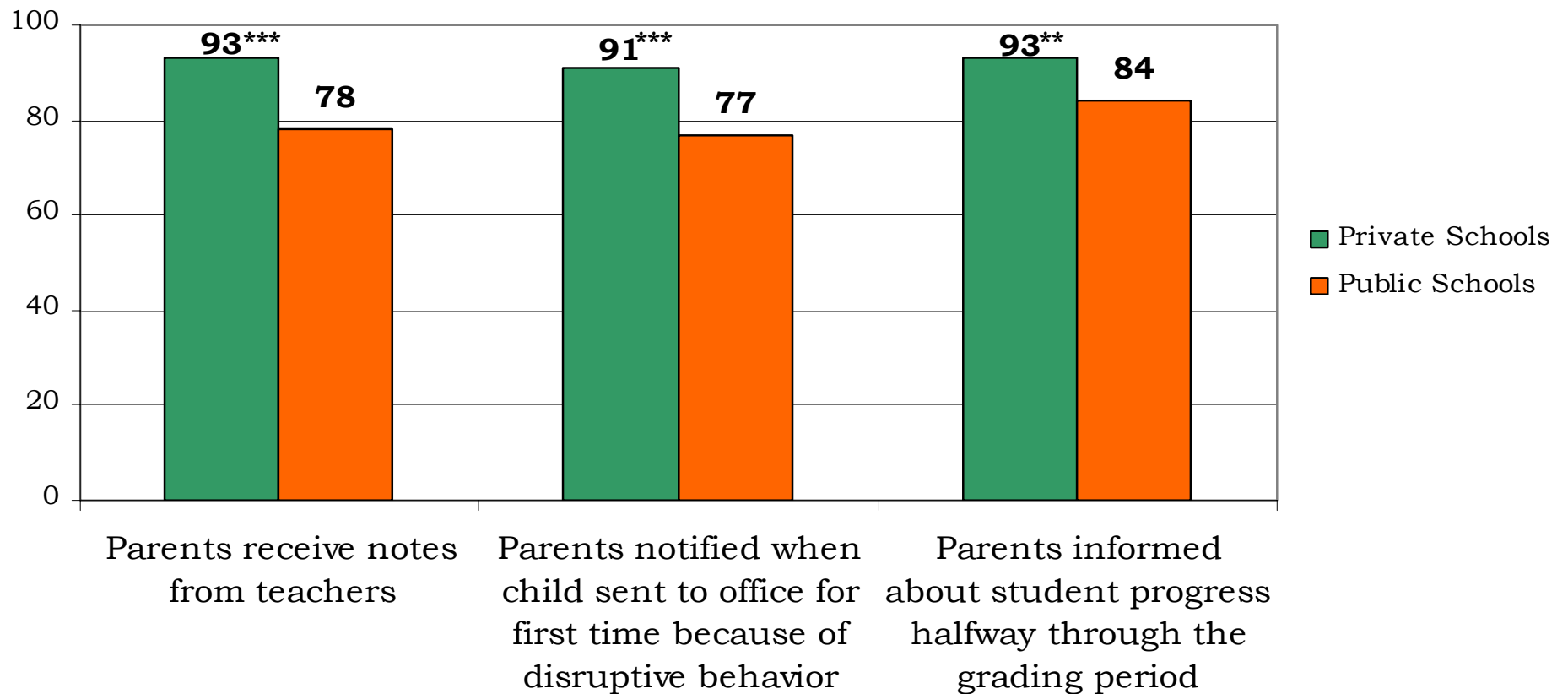
Percentage of parents who observed that their children did at least an hour of homework every night



What Happens?

Communication Practices

Percentage



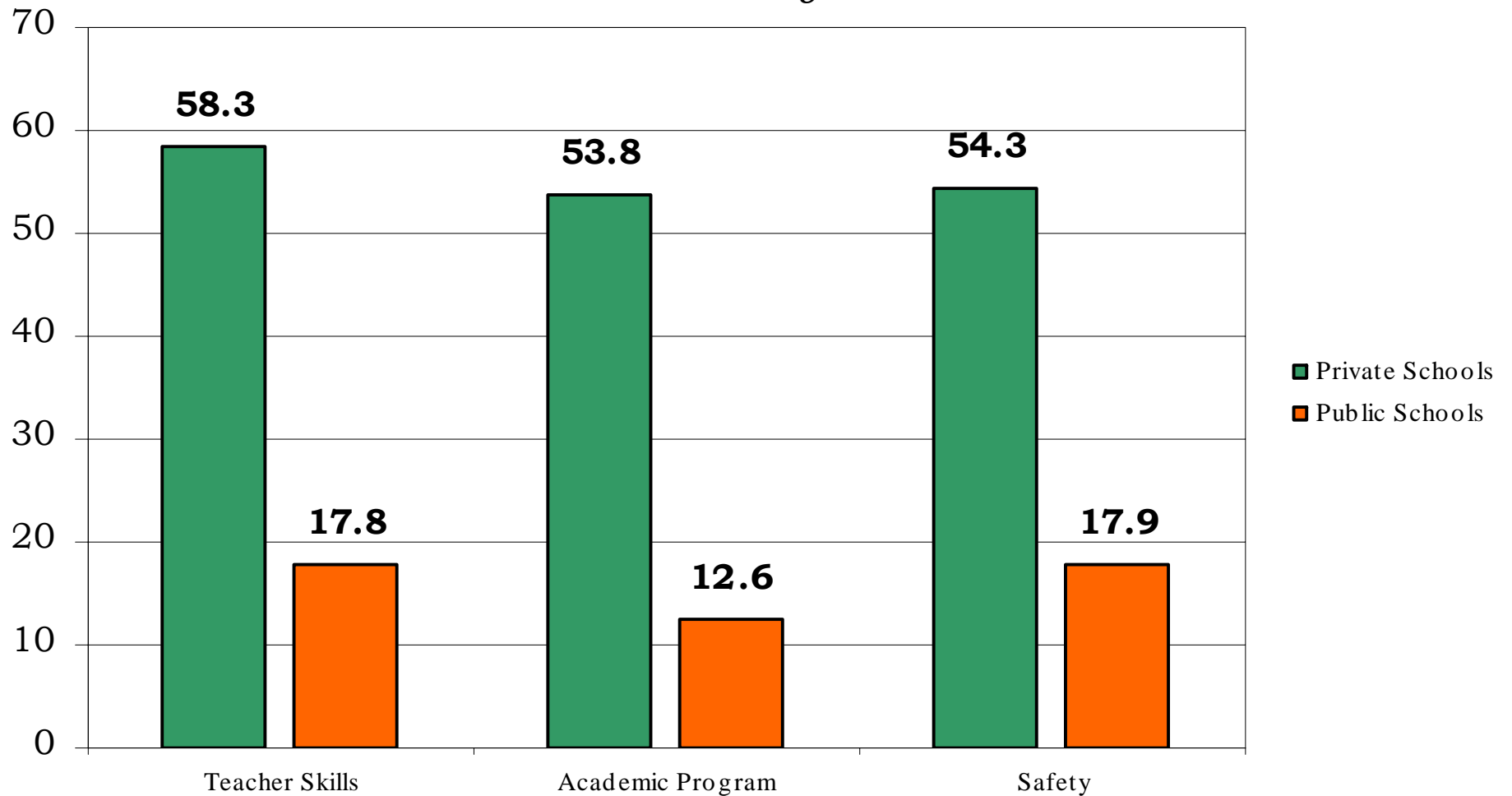
* $p < .10$, two-tailed test; ** $p < .05$; *** $p < .01$.

Three-city average, Year I

What Happens?

Parental Satisfaction

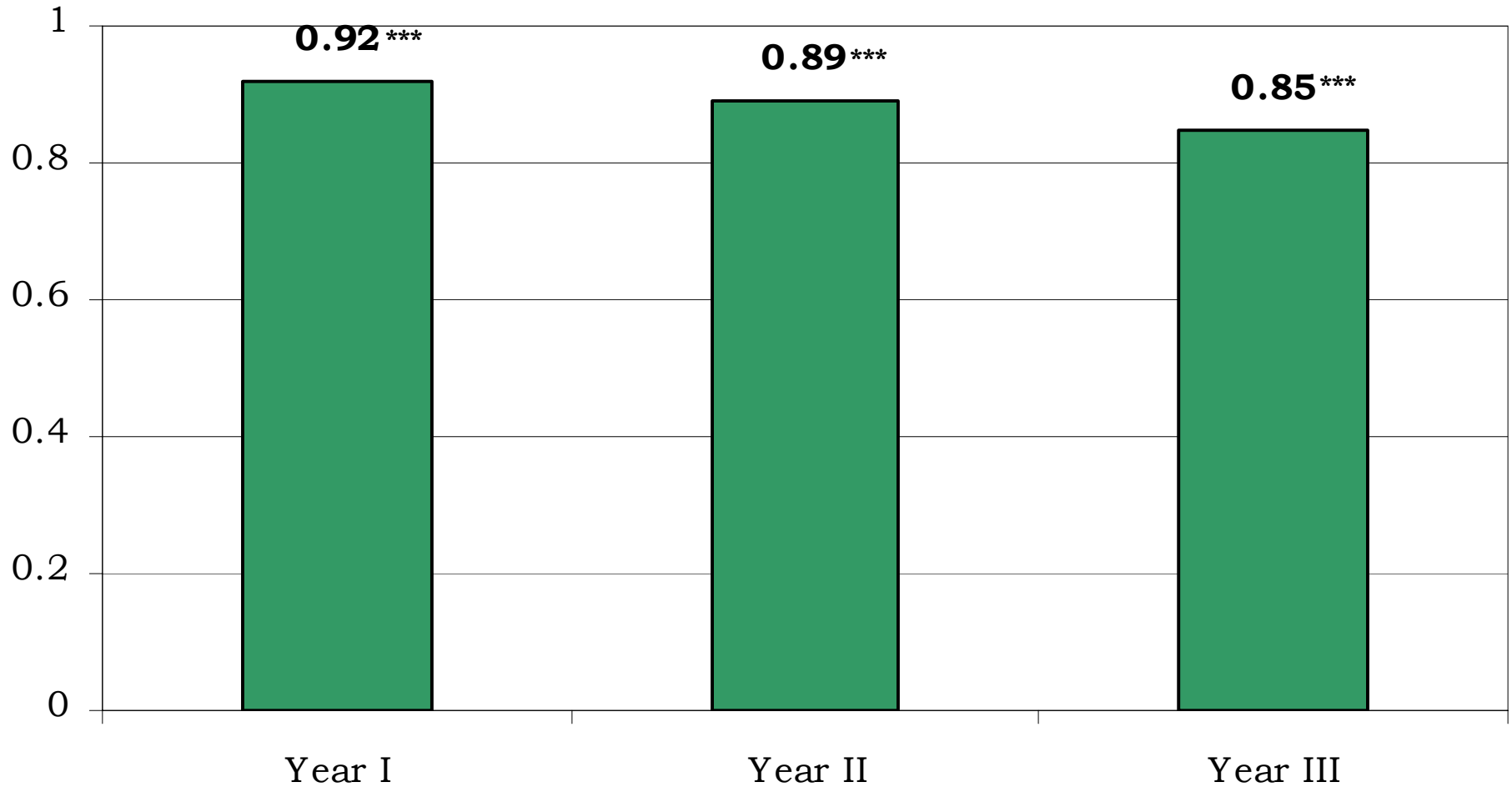
Percentage



What Happens?

Impact of Private Schools on Parental Satisfaction

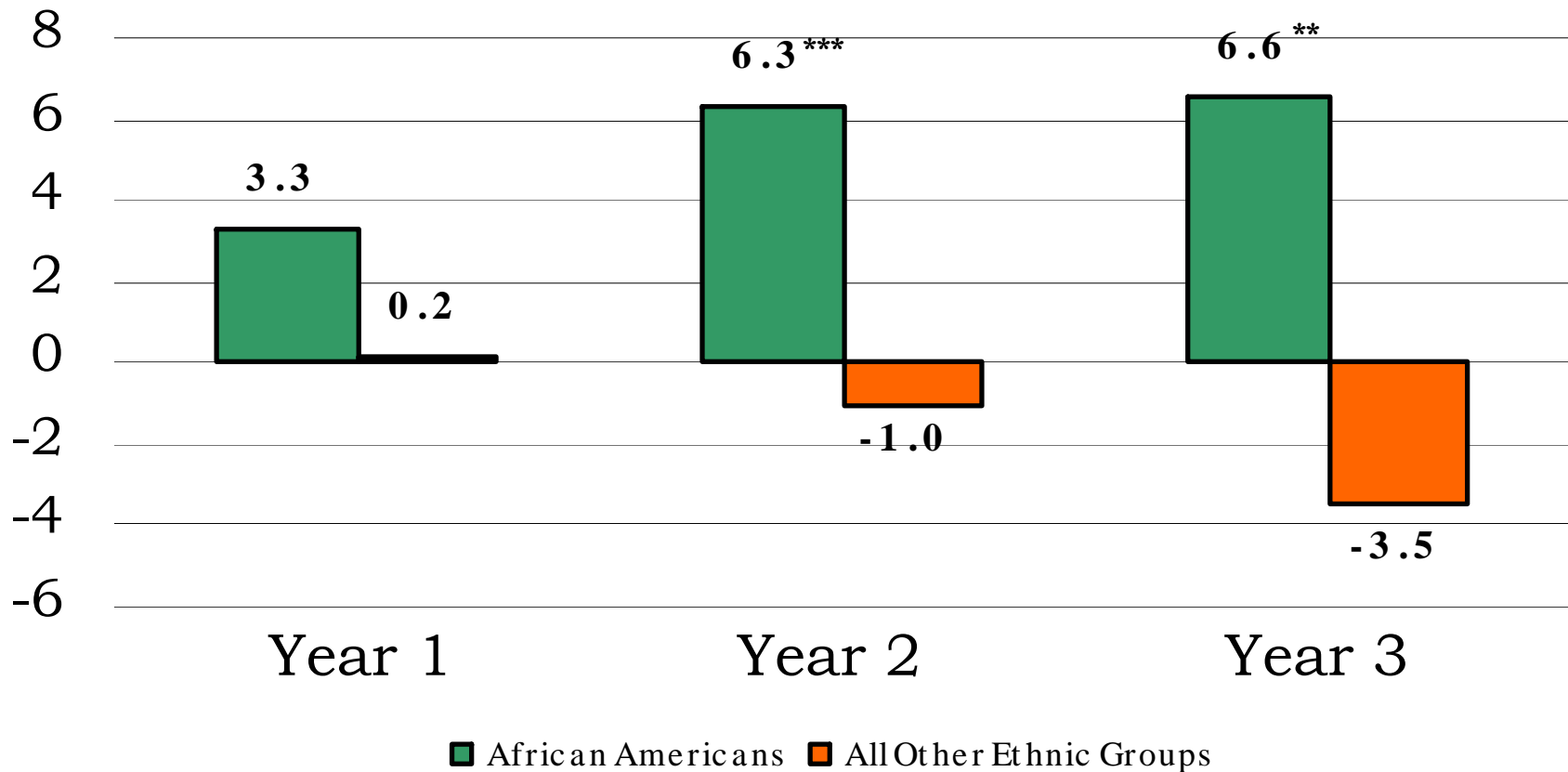
Standard Deviations



What Happens?

Academic Achievement

National Percentile Ranking



“Positive effects on math scores for children who applied to the program from. . . schools with average test scores below the citywide median [are observed]. Among these children, the effects are stronger. . . for African American children.”

Barnard, Hill, and Ruben (2003) – the first secondary analysis of the New York experimental data

“Urban minorities in Catholic schools fare much better than similar students in public schools” while the effects for urban whites and suburban students generally are “at best mixed”.

-Derek Neal, University of Chicago economist

“The impact of private schools [on the test scores of all students taken together] is mixed, [but] . . . Catholic schools generate higher test scores for African Americans.”

-Cecilia Rouse, Princeton economist

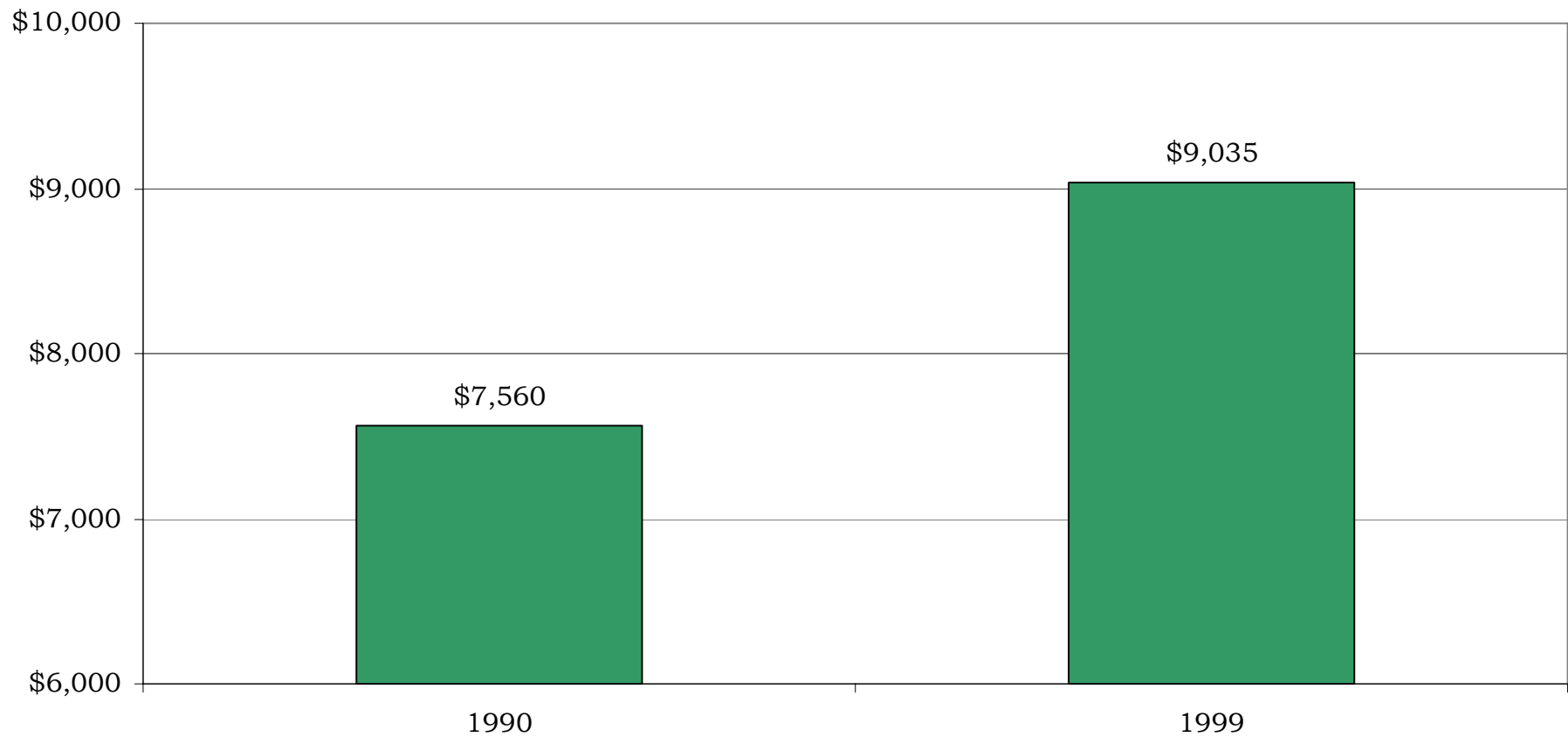
Of Those Eligible for Vouchers, Who Applies?

Percent African American



Source: Nationwide Children's Scholarship Program

Per Pupil Public Expenditures in Milwaukee

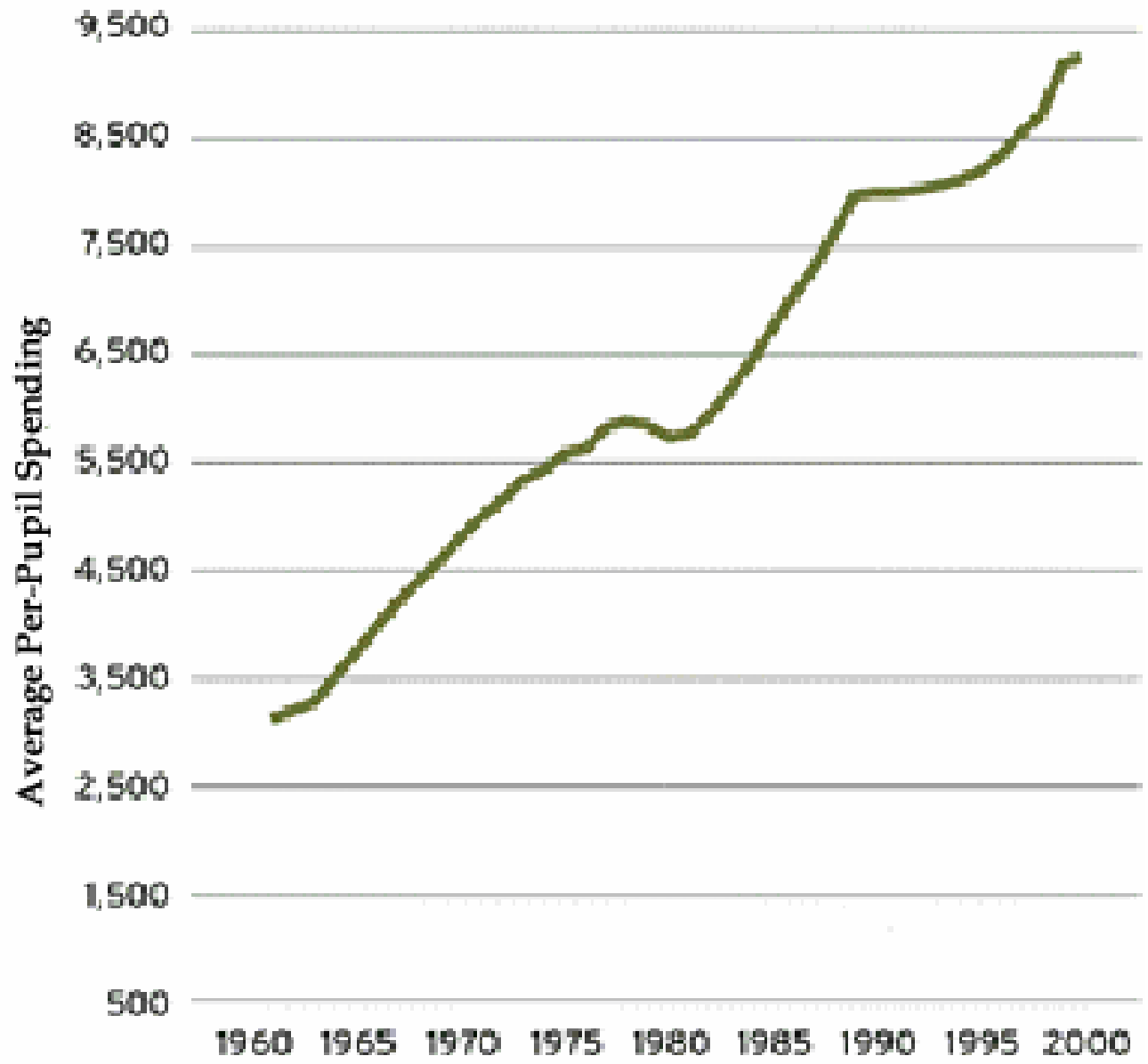


Recommendations

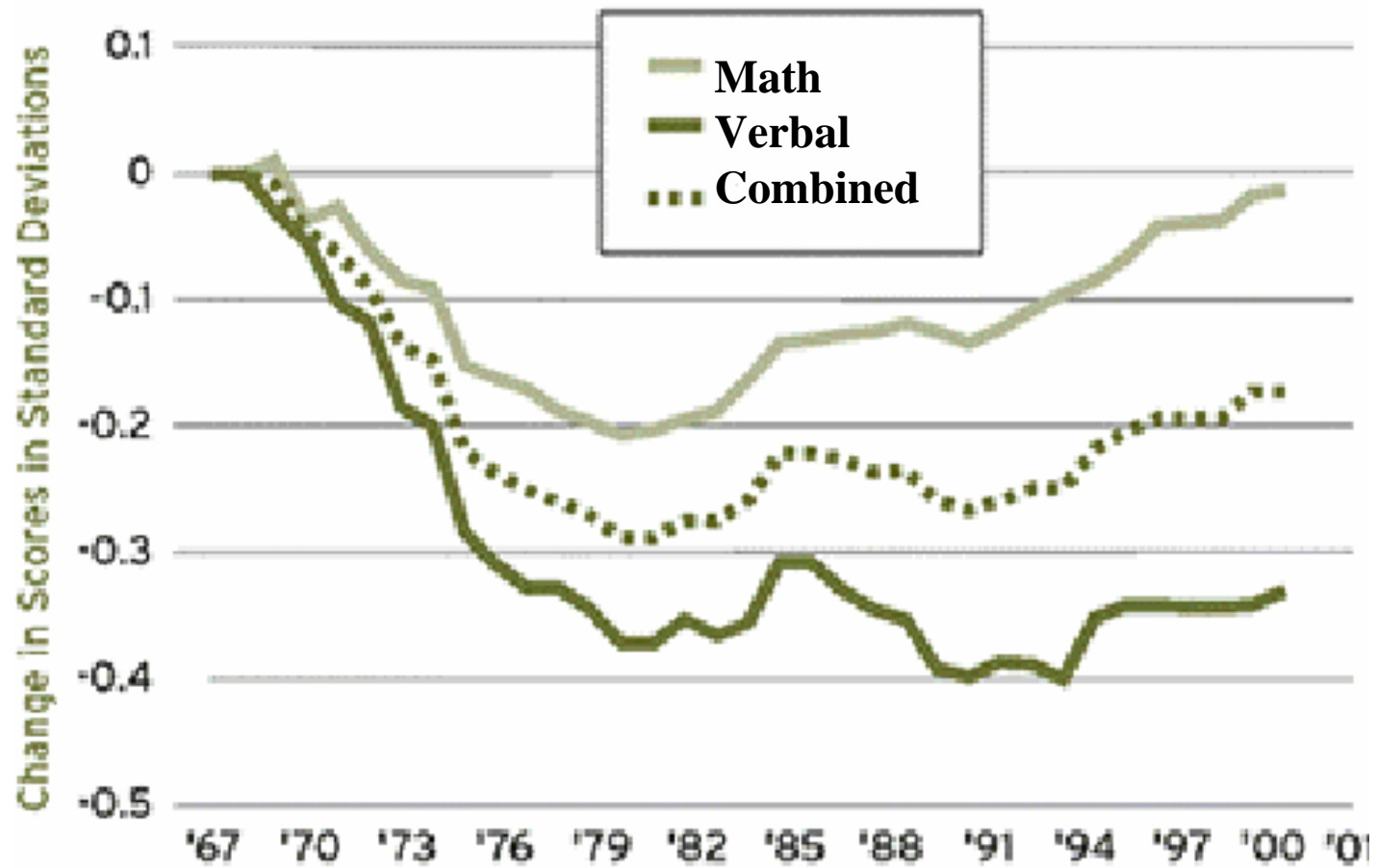
- **Locate pilot programs in districts with substantial minority populations.**
- **Vouchers should be available to all students in district (avoid re segregation).**
- **Vouchers should be comparable to current district per-pupil funding.**
- **Once admitted to a program, student eligibility should be indefinite.**



Per-Pupil Spending in the U.S. (Real 2002 Dollars)

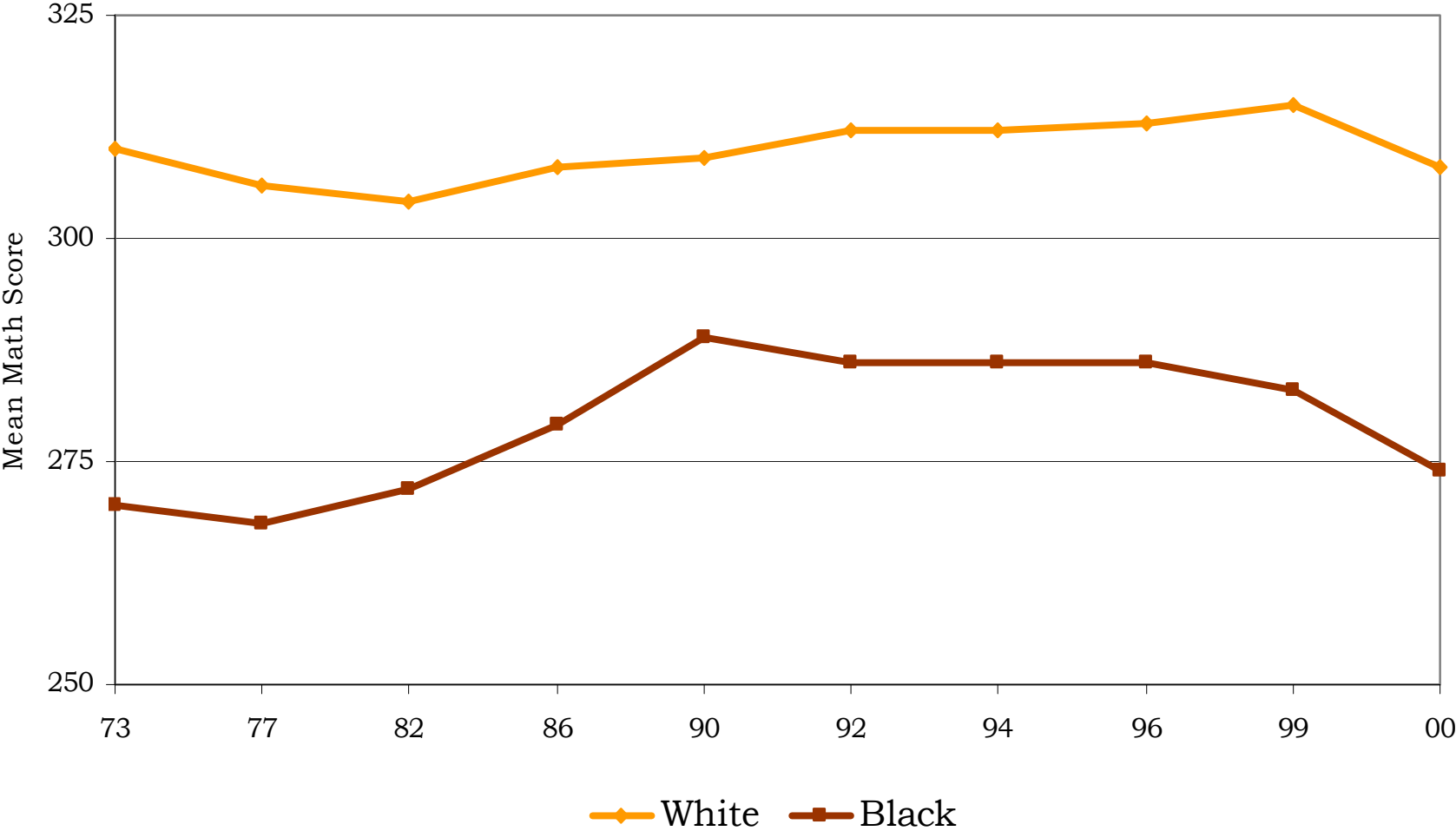


Verbal, Math, and Combined SAT Scores, 1967-2001

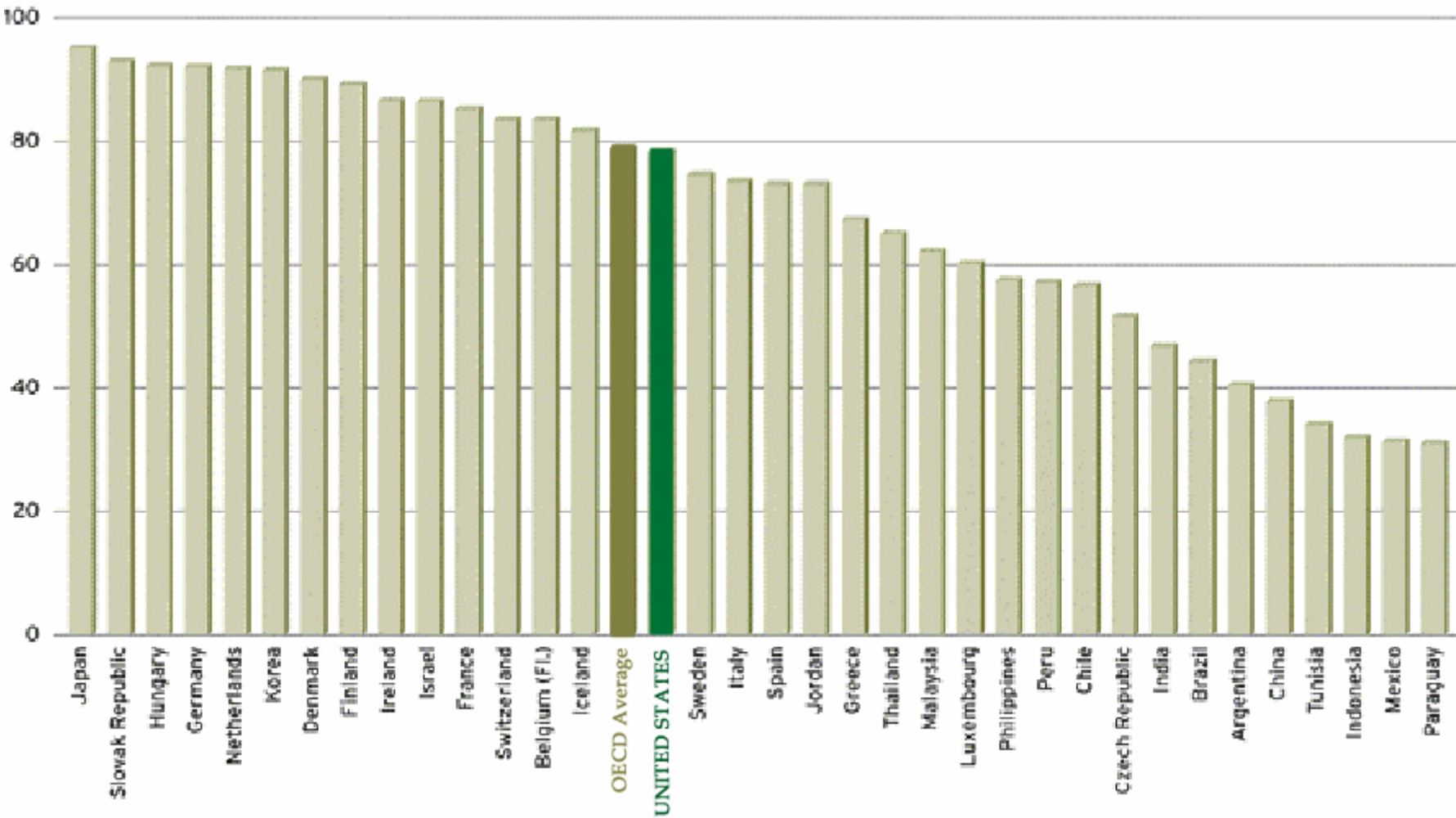


Average NAEP Mathematics Scores

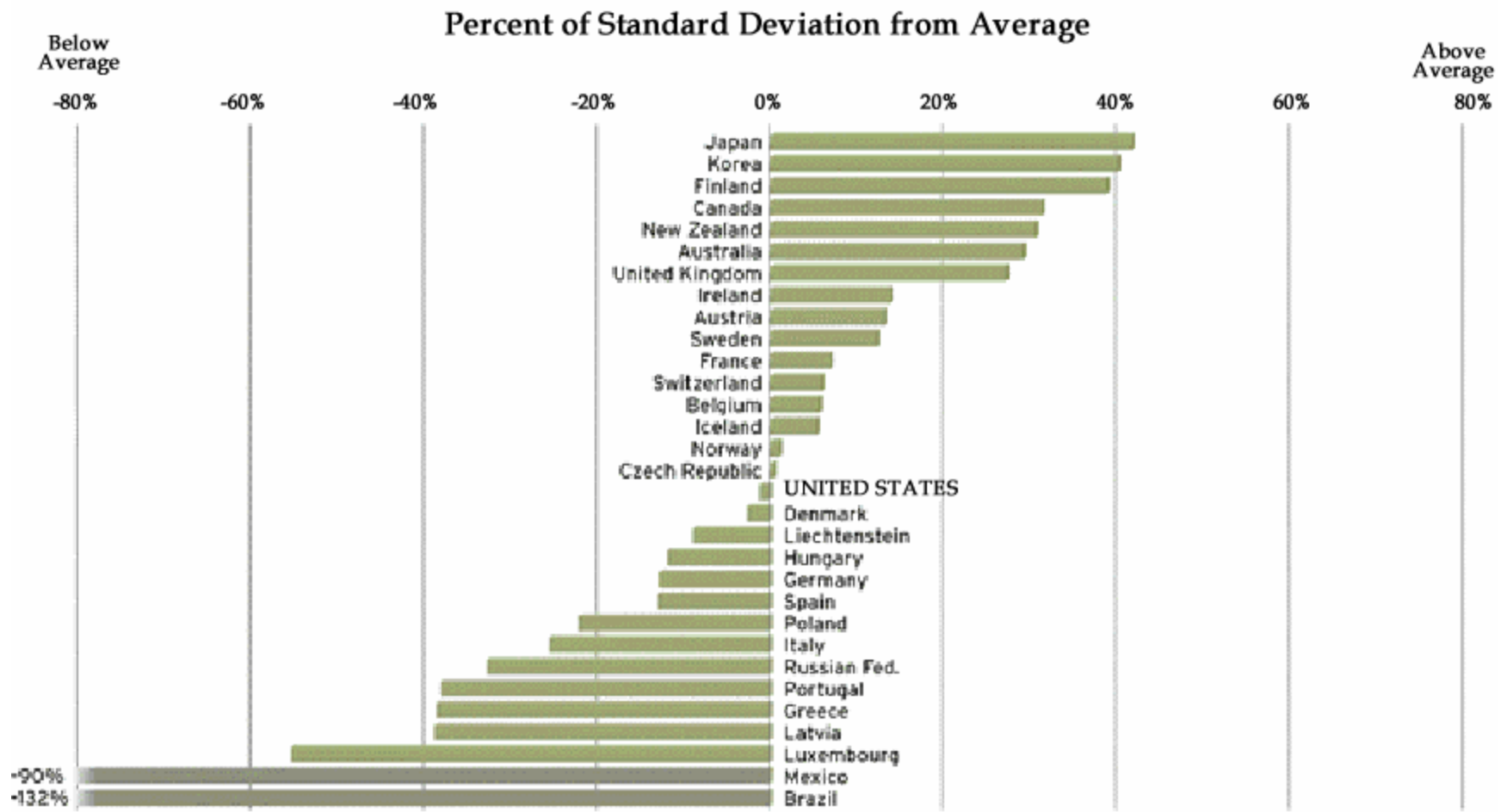
17 Year Olds



International Secondary-School Completion Rates



Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) Combined Scores in Reading, Math, and Sciences For 15-Year-Olds



The Agricultural Schedule

