

Literacy in New Mexico

Peter Winograd

Center for Teacher Education

<http://teachered.unm.edu>



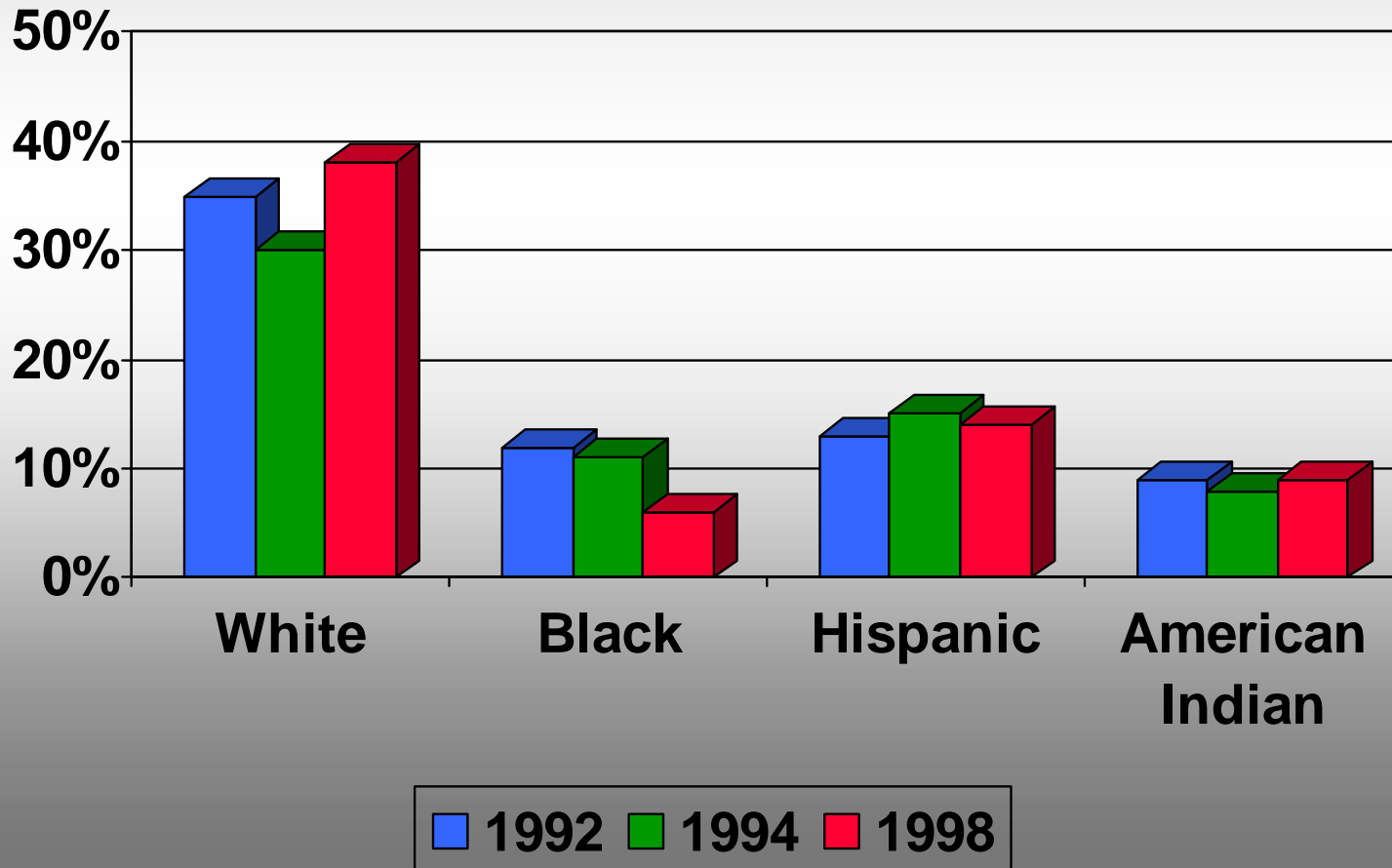
The Power of Reading, The Power of Teachers

- Reading is important for personal, social, economic, and political reasons.
- Good teachers make the difference.

Reading Achievement, Teacher Quality, Educational Excellence and Equity

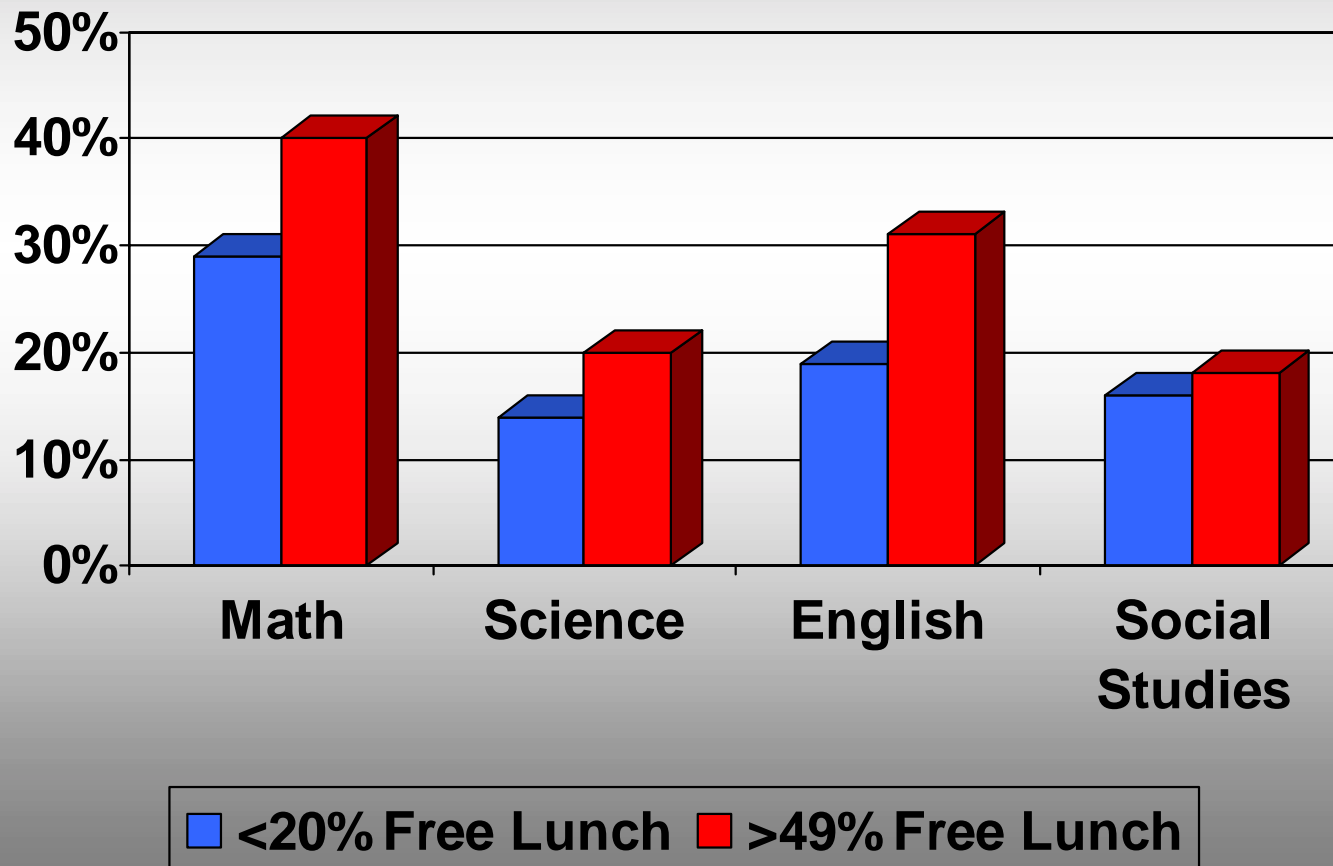
- All students can do better, particularly poor students and minority students.
- The least prepared teachers often teach poor and minority students.
- Teachers in poor schools often lack the instructional materials they need.
- Poor and minority students are less likely to be enrolled in rigorous courses.

Percentages of New Mexico's 4th Grade Students At Or Above Proficient on NAEP Reading Assessments By Race/Ethnicity: 1992 to 1998

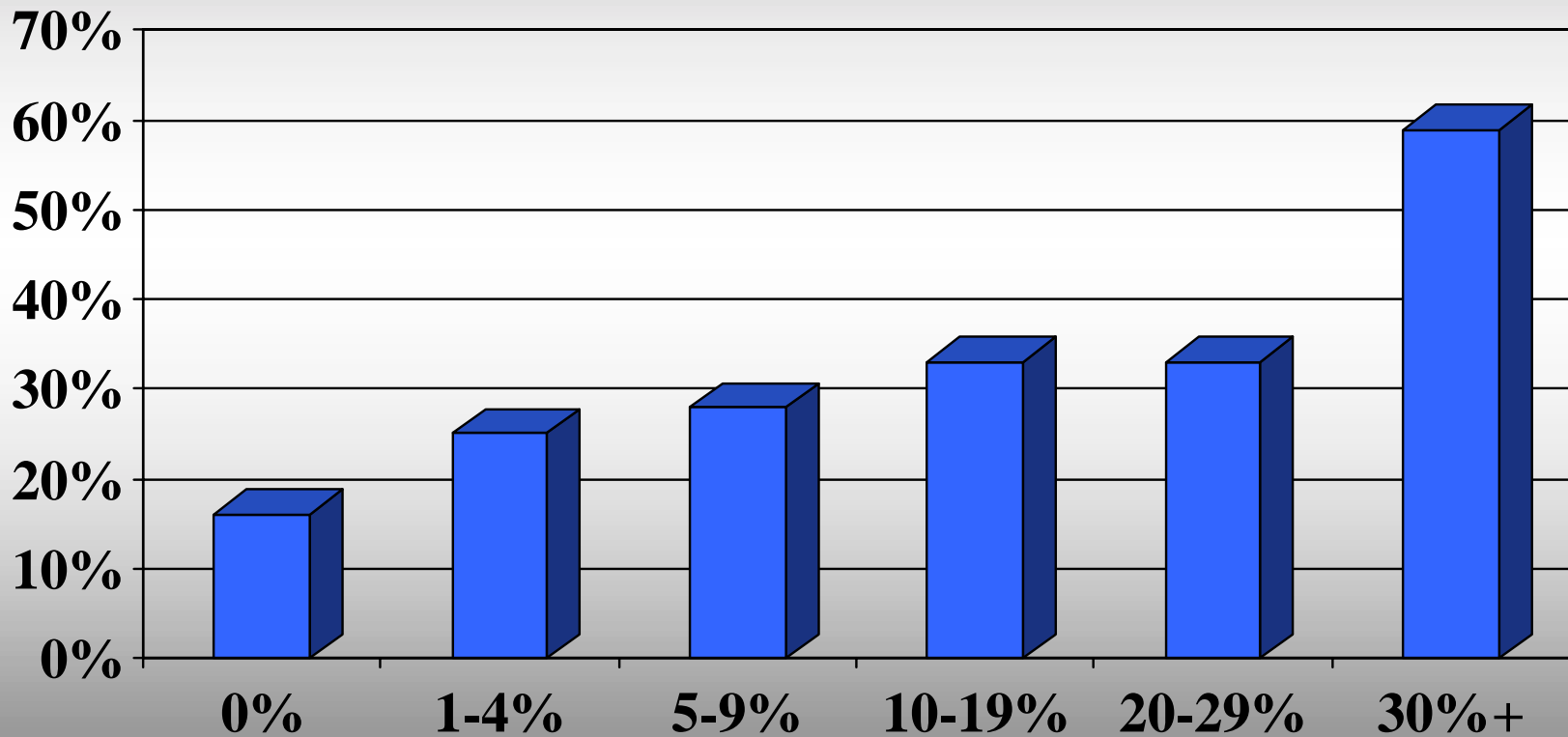


Classes in High Poverty High Schools More Often Taught by Underqualified Teachers (Teachers who lack even a minor in their field)

National Data



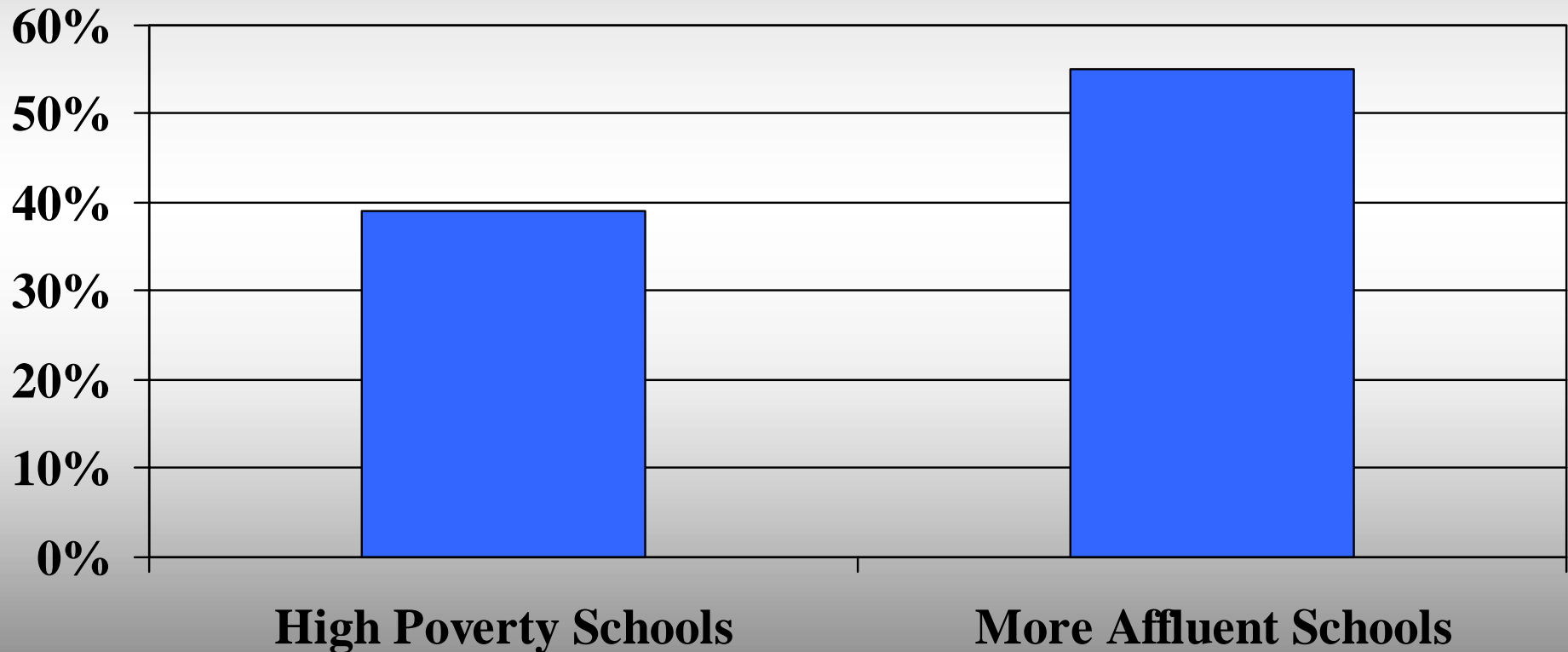
Teachers in Poor School Districts Who Lack Reading Resources National Data



■ School Poverty Level (in percentages)

Teachers in High Poverty Schools Spend Less Time Developing Reasoning Skills

National Data



■ % Teachers Who Spend a Lot of Time on Reasoning Skills

Current Efforts To Improve Literacy In New Mexico

- The State Department Efforts (e.g. Competencies, Standards and Benchmarks)
 - State Wide Efforts (e.g., LESC, K-16 Partnership; Business Partnerships)
 - School District Efforts
 - University Efforts
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What We Don't Know About Reading In New Mexico

- We don't know how to ensure that all children become readers.
- We don't know how to ensure that all new teachers are prepared to teach reading.
- We don't know how to ensure that all teachers are supported as they teach reading.

What We Don't Know About Reading In New Mexico

- We don't know about New Mexico's success stories and how to take them to scale.
- We don't know how to pull all of our efforts together in an effective way.
- We don't have a systematic plan for improving reading in New Mexico.

What New Mexico Needs

- We need an systematic action plan for improving reading based on evidence, not ideology.
- We need teachers who can participate in the critical discussions across the state.
- We need teachers who will fight to ensure that all of New Mexico's children become literate.

Why Are We Here?

We Are What We Do,
Especially What We Do To
Change What We Are -
Eduardo Galeano

