

## Halifax Regional School Board

### Focus on Learning: Provincial Assessment Results for Grades 8 and 10

#### Purpose

To provide the Governing Board members with an analysis of grade 8 and 10 2015-2016 provincial assessment results in Mathematics and Literacy.

#### Background

Nova Scotia Assessments are administered to grade 8 students in the spring of each school year. Nova Scotia Examinations (NSE) at grade 10 are administered at the end of the semester or at the end of the school year, depending on the examination.

Program assessments are developed and administered to determine the effectiveness of curriculum delivery and to assist students in achieving the outcomes. They provide government and school boards with student achievement information for education decision making and, at the same time help teachers to understand assessment principles and practices.

Nova Scotia teachers worked with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to build these assessments and to set the assessment expectations, which is what students should know and be able to do on their own at key stages.

#### Content

The following provincial assessments will be shared:

- Reading, Writing and Mathematics in Grade 8
- NSE English 10
- NSE Mathematics 10 and Mathematics at Work 10

Overall results in reading, writing and mathematics for students in grade 8 indicate that HRSB performed above the provincial result on all areas assessed. In relation to trends over time, both the reading and writing results for HRSB in grade 8 have remained quite consistent with 76 percent of students scoring at or above the expectation in reading and 91 percent and 80 percent scoring at or above the expectation for the writing categories of ideas and organization respectively. Overall results for mathematics show that 63 percent of students scored at or above the expectation which represents a 5 percent improvement from the previous year.

When examining the data by Ancestry, there remains a significant gap in results for students of African Ancestry compared to the board overall result. However, the 2015-2016 results do show improvement in all assessments at the grade 8 level. Compared to last year, there is a slight improvement in the reading result which shows 60 percent of students scored at or above the expectation. Results for the writing categories of ideas and organization shows 84 percent and 67 percent of students at or above the expectation which represents an 11 and 3 percent improvement respectively from the last time writing was assessed at the grade 8 level. Mathematics results for students of African Ancestry show a notable improvement of 9 percent more students scoring at or above the expectation compared to the previous year (40 percent as compared to 31 percent previously). When examining the percentage of students of African Ancestry scoring in the lowest category (below expectation) in the mathematics assessment, we see a 14 percent drop. These results show a closing of the gap in achievement for our students of African Ancestry.

Results for grade 8 students of Aboriginal Identity also show a gap compared to the board overall result. The number of students who self-identified as Aboriginal Identity over the last three years has varied substantially. It is important to note that the smaller the number of students, the greater the fluctuation in the percentage year to year. In reading, 66 percent of students scored at or above the expectation which represents a 14 percent decrease compared to the previous year. Results for the writing categories of ideas and organization shows 85 percent and 70 percent of students at or above the expectation which represents a 2 percent increase and 9 percent decrease respectively compared to the last time writing was assessed at the grade 8 level. Mathematics results for students of Aboriginal Identity show a slight decrease of 3 percent with 46 percent of students scoring at or above the expectation. When examining the percentage of students of Aboriginal Identity scoring in the lowest category (below expectation) we see a 6 percent drop which also illustrates a closing of the gap in achievement for our students of Aboriginal Identity in this assessment.

HRSB grade 10 students performed above the provincial result in English 10 and Mathematics 10, however performed slightly lower than the provincial result in Mathematics at Work 10. Compared to the previous year, results in reading and writing are quite similar with 78 percent of students scoring at or above the expectation in reading and 69 percent

and 65 percent scoring at or above the expectation in the writing categories of ideas and organization respectively. Improvement is noted in both mathematics assessments for HRSB grade 10 students overall. In Mathematics 10, 72 percent of students scored at or above the expectation which represents a 4 percent improvement and 54 percent of students scored at or above the expectation in Mathematics at Work 10 which represents an improvement of 3 percent.

When examining the grade 10 data by Ancestry, the results for students of African Ancestry indicate that 64 percent of students scored at or above the expectation in reading which represents a 4 percent improvement compared to the previous year. In the writing categories of ideas and organization there were decreases in the percentage of students scoring at or above the expectation with 53 percent and 47 percent respectively scoring at or above the expectation. As demonstrated in the grade 8 results, there is improvement in mathematics for students of African Ancestry. In Mathematics 10, 54 percent of students scored at or above the expectation which demonstrates a notable improvement of 9 percent compared to the previous year. When looking at the percentage of students who scored in the lowest category (below expectation) there is a similar closing of the gap in achievement by 8 percent. Results in Mathematics at Work 10 show a modest improvement of one percent in the number of students scoring at or above the expectation.

Results in reading for students of Aboriginal Identity is similar to the HRSB board overall result with 77 percent of students scoring at or above the expectation. When compared to the previous year, the results for the writing categories of ideas and organization remained consistent with 62 and 57 percent respectively of students scoring at or above the expectation. Both mathematics assessments show improvement for students of Aboriginal Identity. In Mathematics 10, 71 percent of students scored at or above the expectation which represents an 11 percent increase. This result is different from the HRSB overall result by one percent. When looking at the percentage of students who scored in the lowest category (below expectation) there was also a decrease of 5 percent demonstrating a closing of the gap in achievement. In Mathematics at Work 10, students of Aboriginal Identity outperformed the HRSB overall result by 9 percent.

### **Funding Details**

N/A

### **Timeline**

N/A

### **Appendices**

N/A

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Governing Board members receive the report for information.

### **Communications**

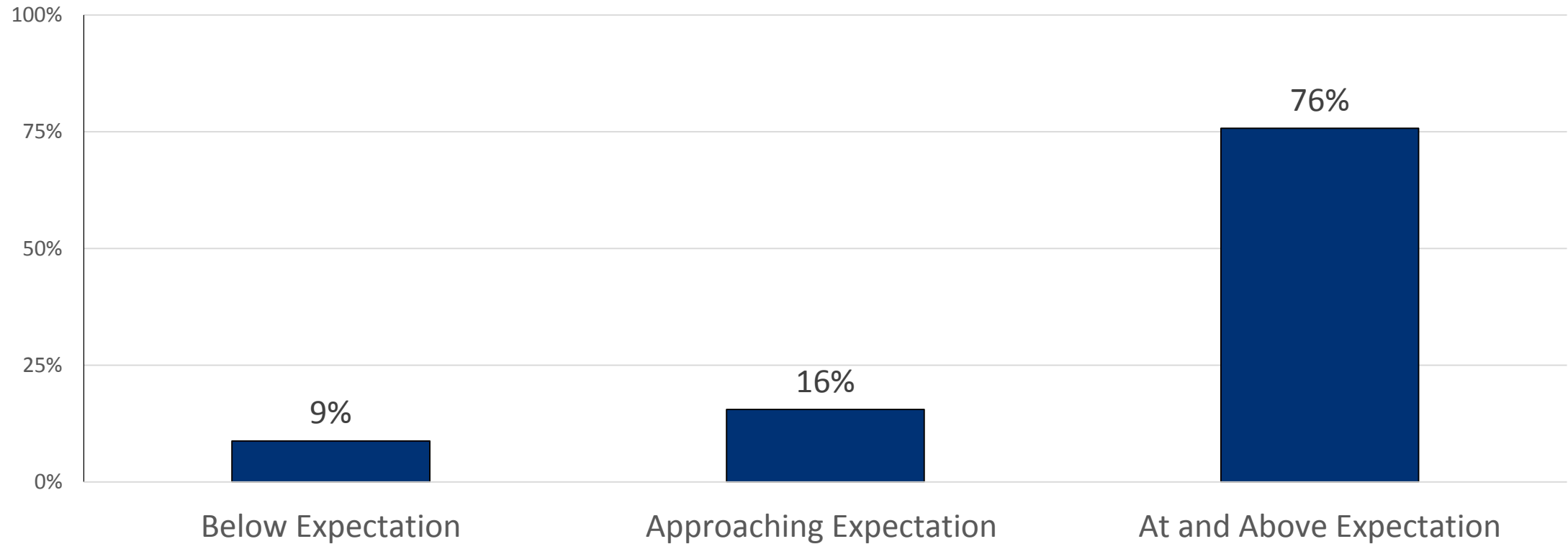
<b>AUDIENCE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
<b>Committee of the Whole</b>	<b>Report tabled by Alison King</b>	<b>December 14, 2016</b>

### **Contact**

For further information, please contact Alison King, Director of Program and Student Services [aking@hrsb.ca](mailto:aking@hrsb.ca) 902-464-2000 ext. 2567

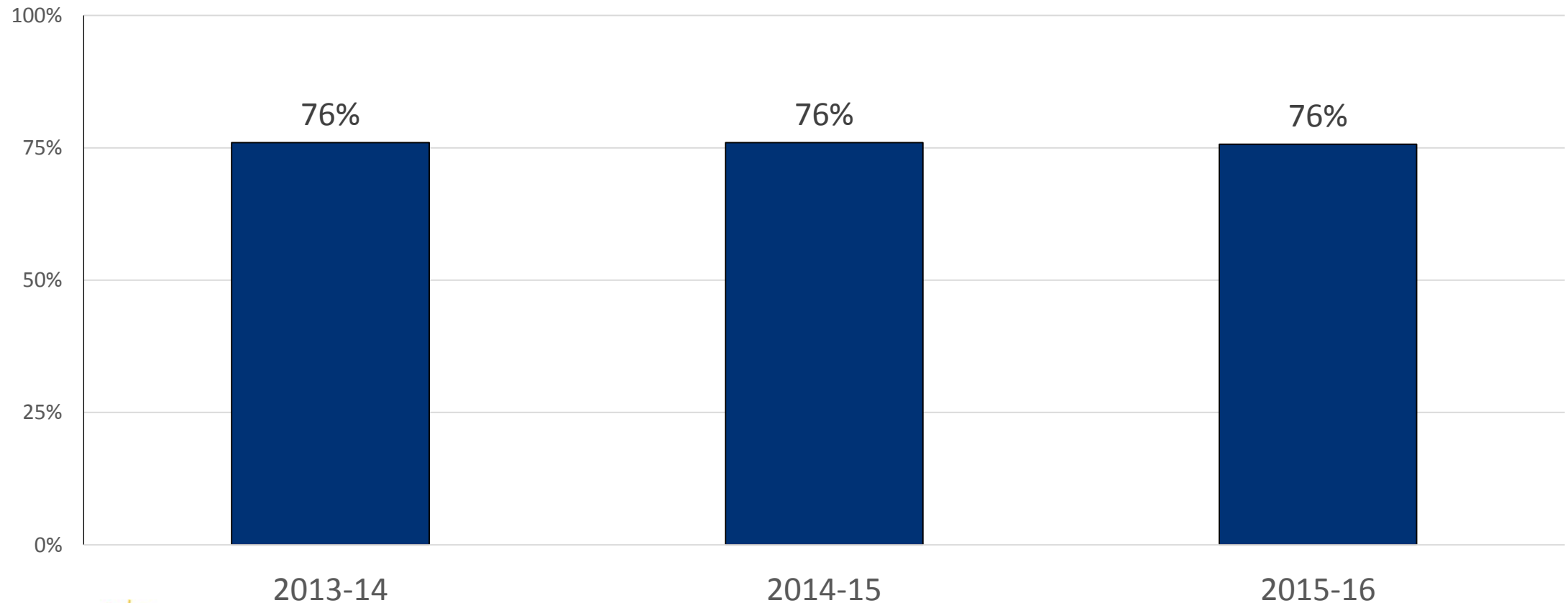
# Provincial Assessment Results in Literacy and Mathematics for Grades 8 and 10

# Gr. 8 Reading Comprehension 2015-16



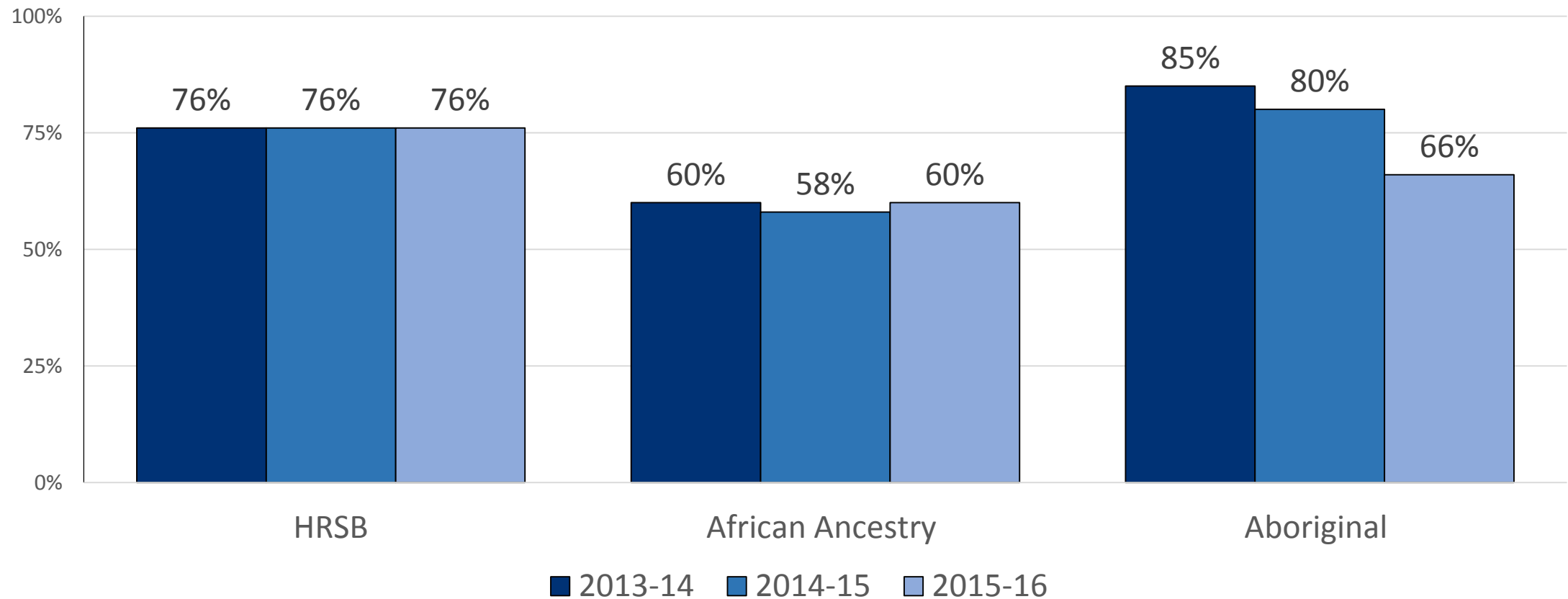
# Gr. 8 Reading Comprehension

Students At + Above Grade-Level Expectation Over Three Years



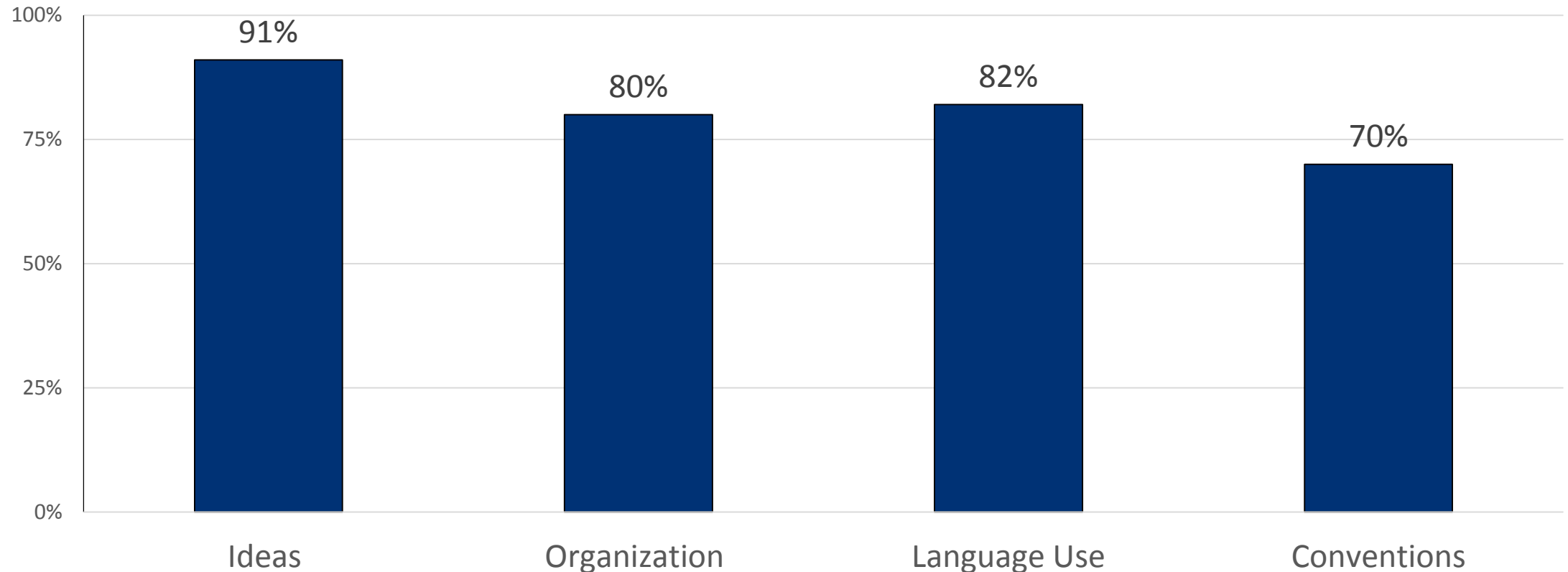
# Gr. 8 Reading Comprehension

## Students At + Above Grade-Level Expectation

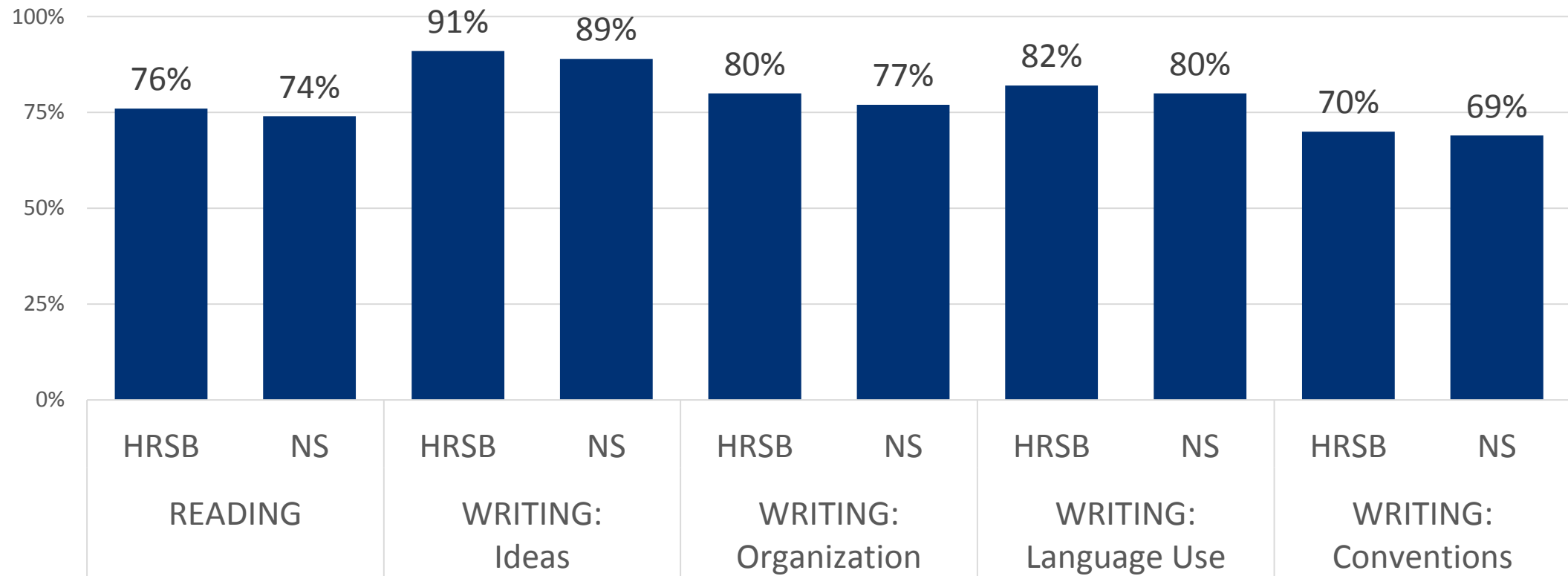


# Gr. 8 Writing 2015-16

## Students At+ Above Grade-Level Expectation



# Gr. 8 Reading & Writing

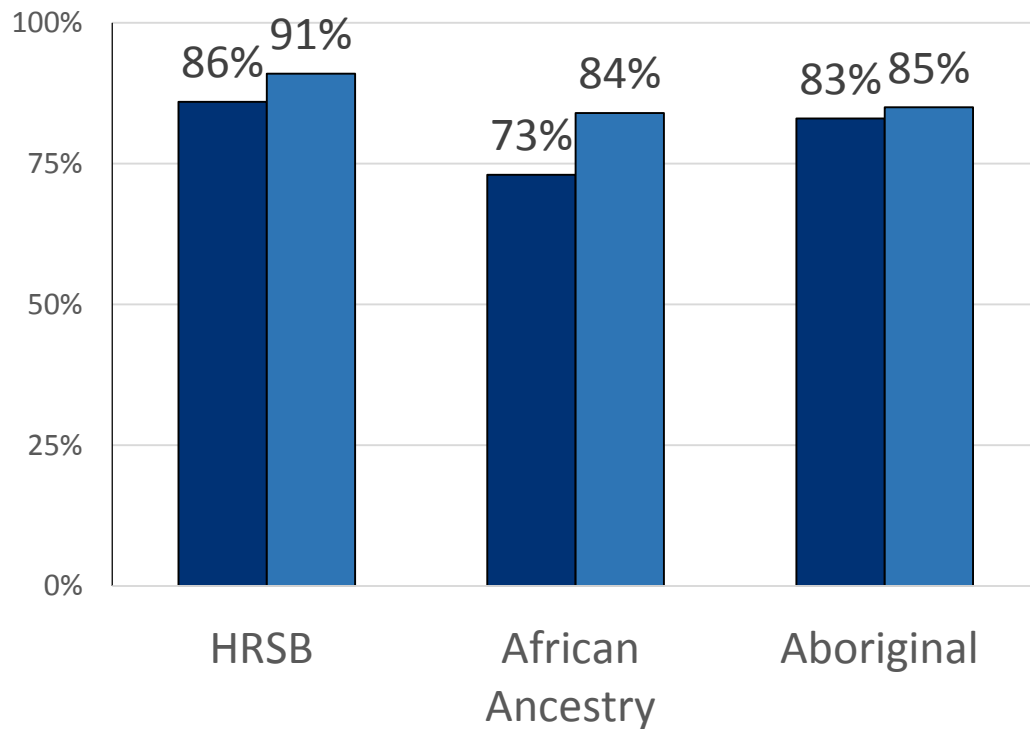




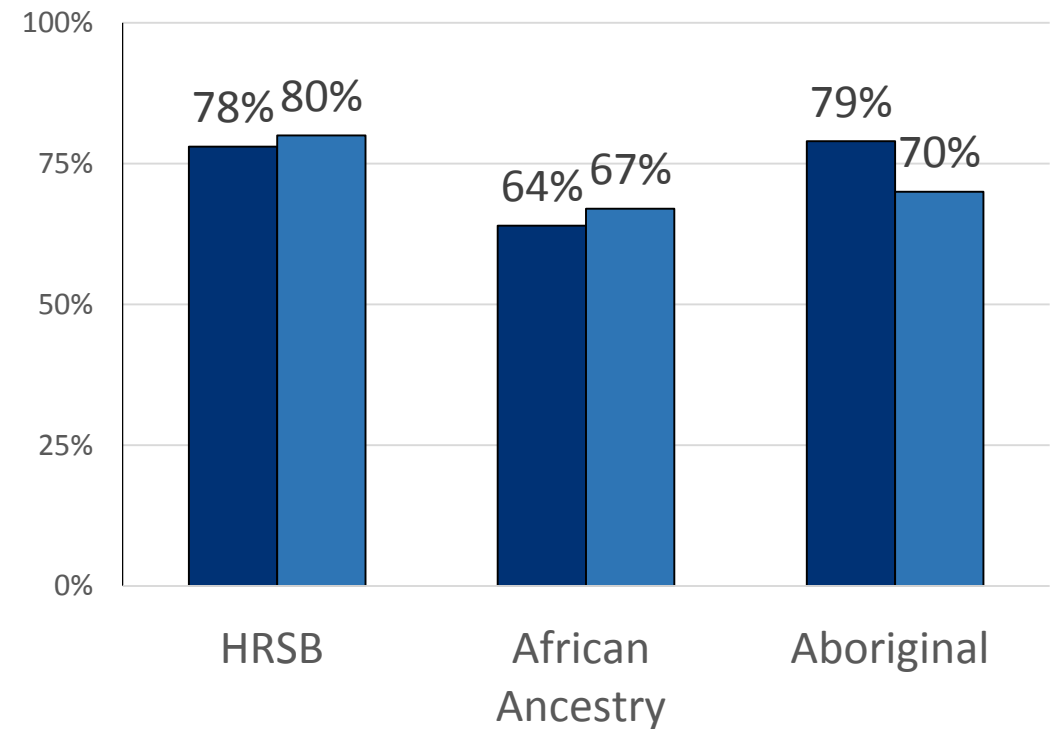
# Gr.8 Writing

## Students At + Above Grade-Level Expectation

Writing: IDEAS



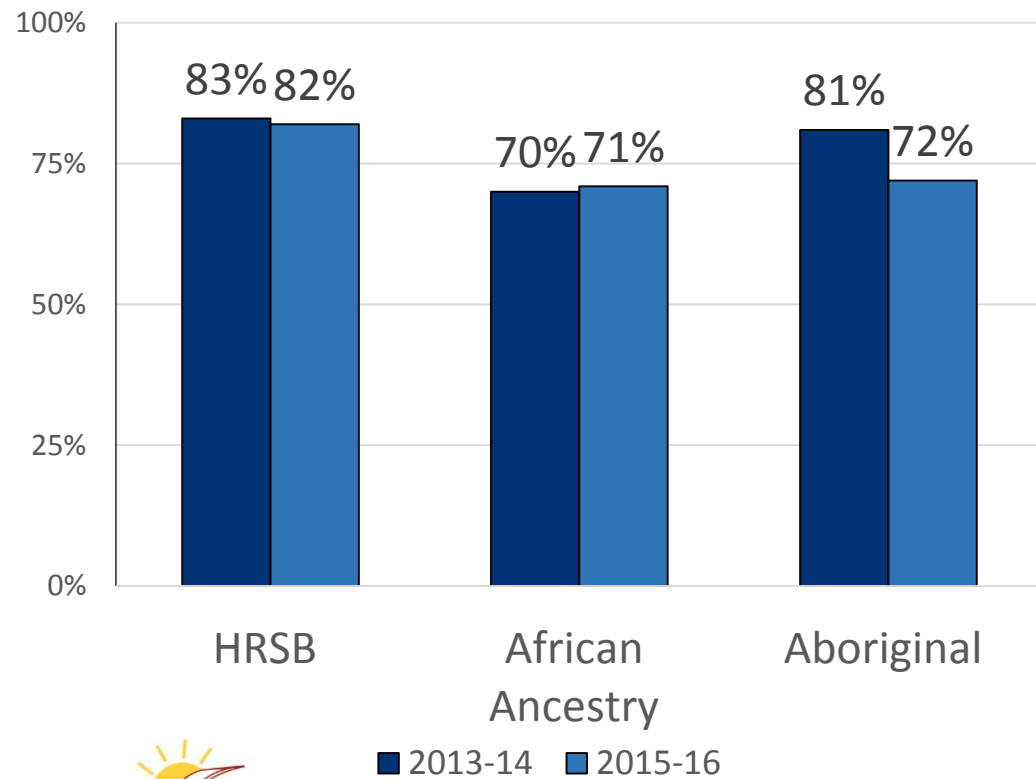
Writing: ORGANIZATION



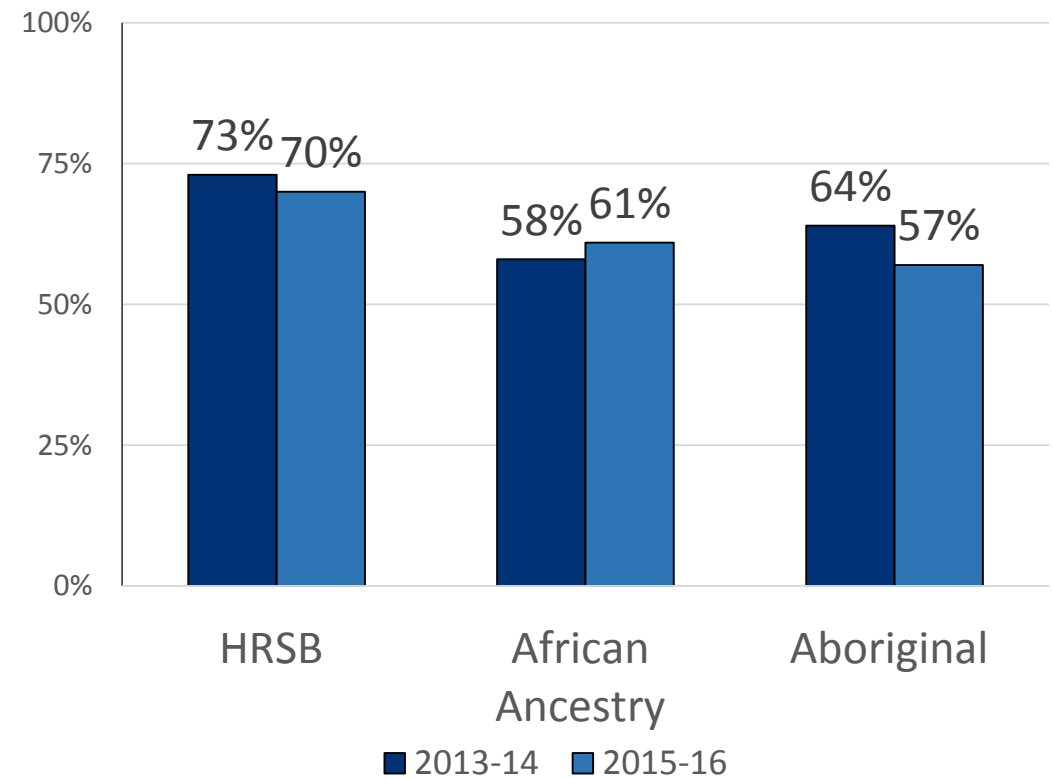
# Gr. 8 Writing

## Students At + Above Grade-Level Expectation

Writing: LANGUAGE USE

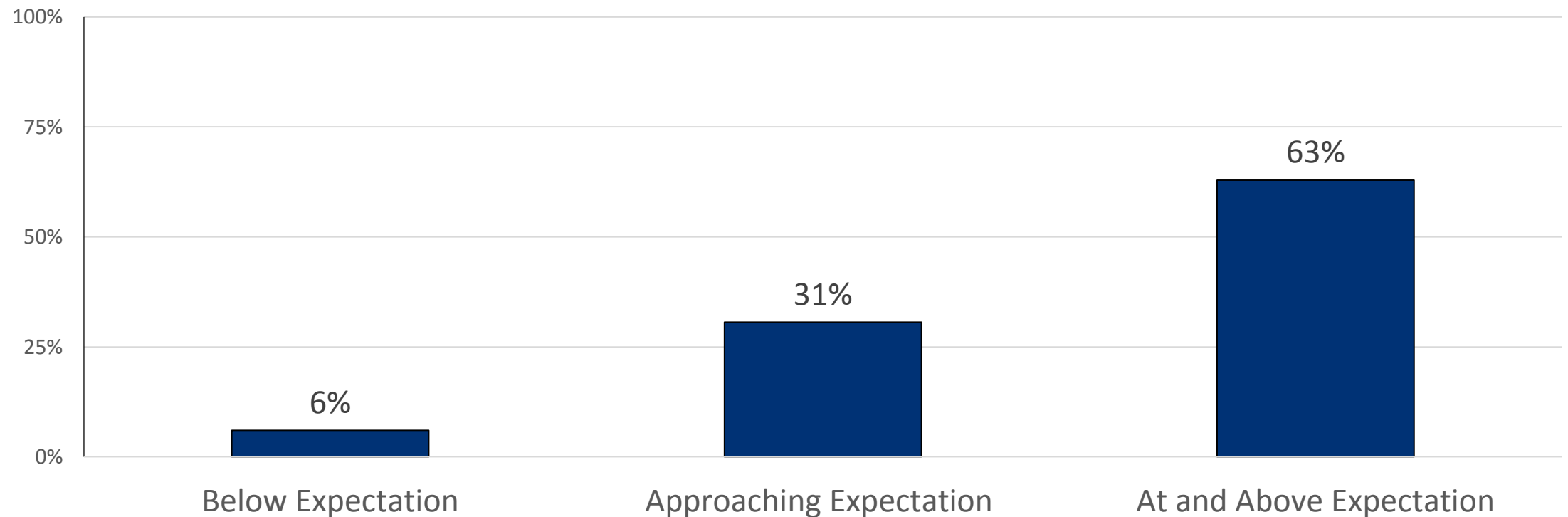


Writing: CONVENTIONS



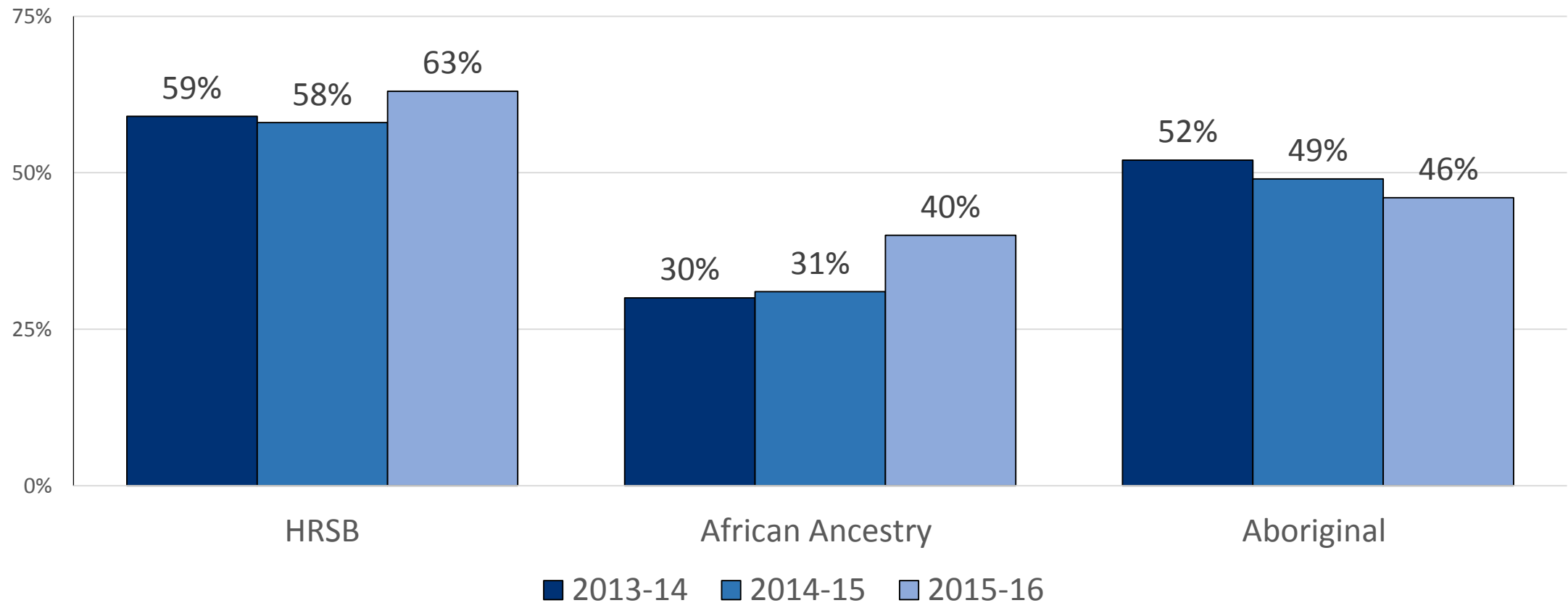
# Gr. 8 Mathematics 2015-16

## Students At + Above Grade-Level Expectation



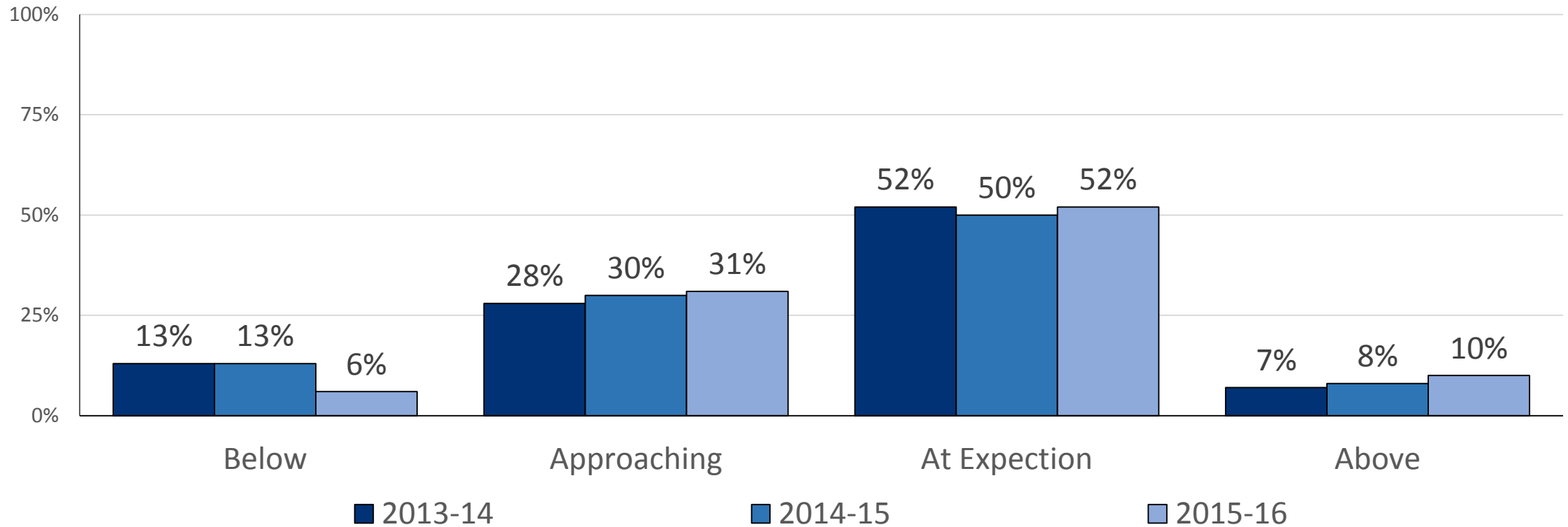
# Gr. 8 Mathematics

## Students At + Above Grade-Level Expectation



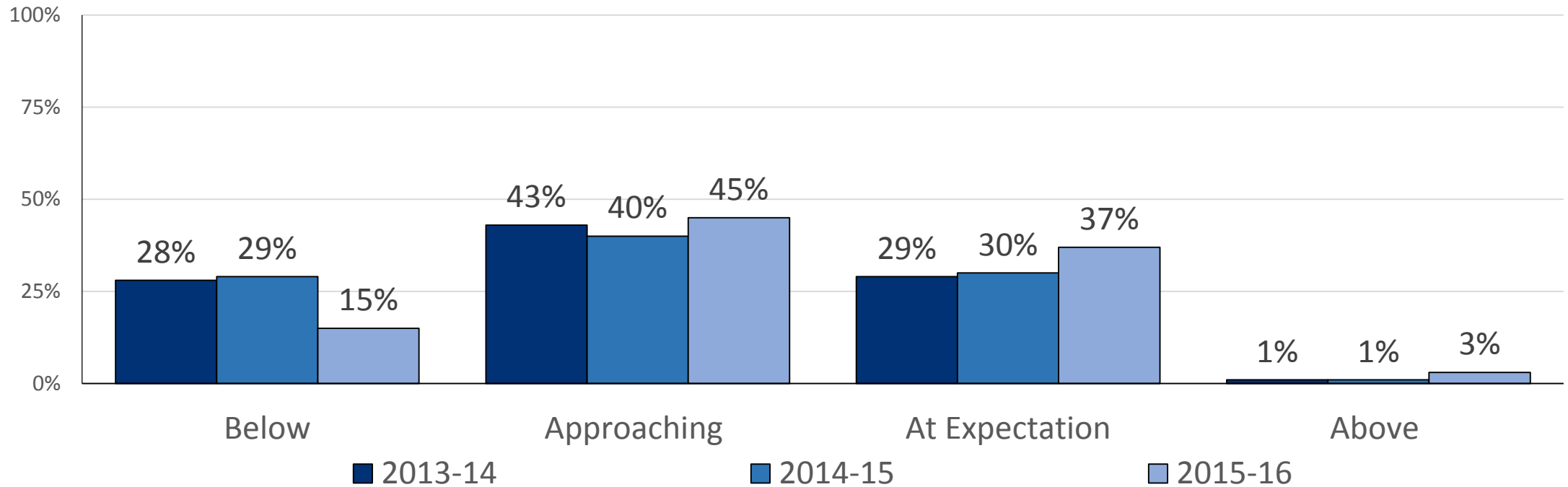
# Gr. 8 Mathematics

Percentage of All HRSB Students



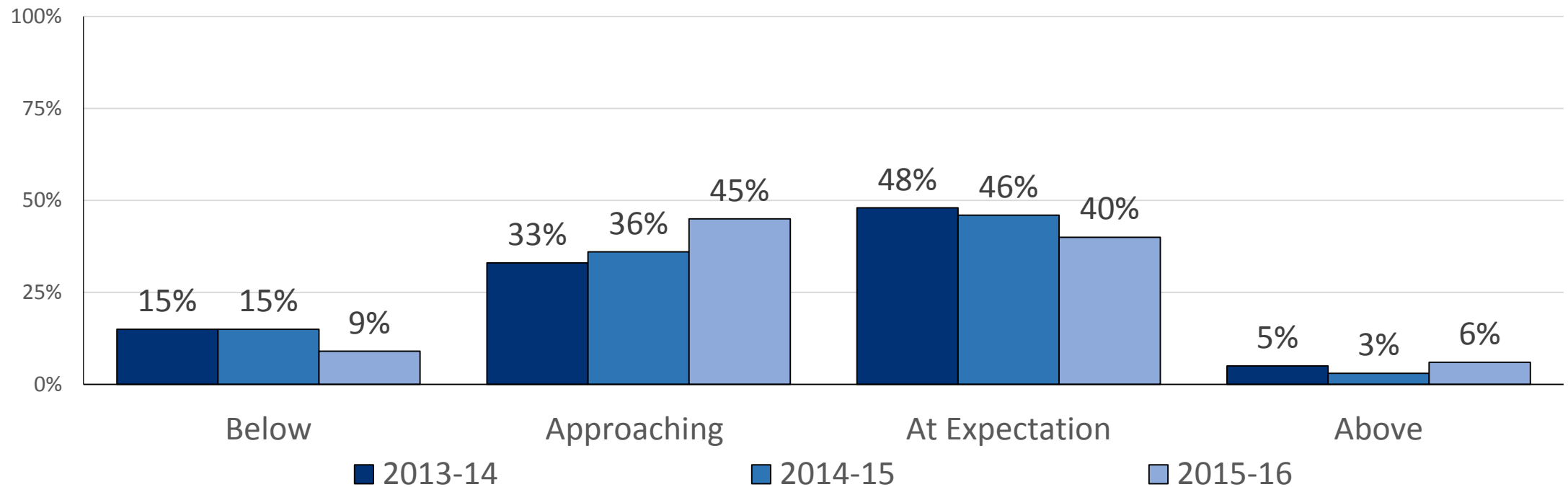
# Gr. 8 Mathematics

## Percentage of Students of African Ancestry



# Gr. 8 Mathematics

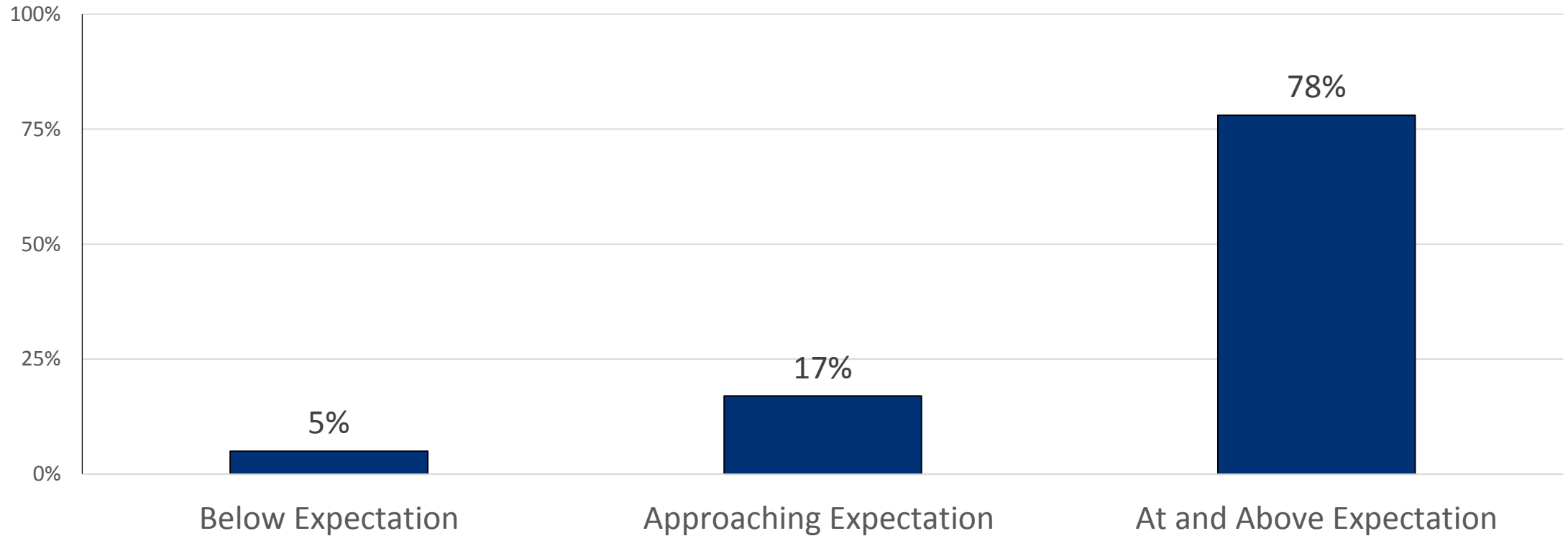
## Percentage of Students of Aboriginal Identity



# NSE Gr. 10 Reading, Writing and Mathematics

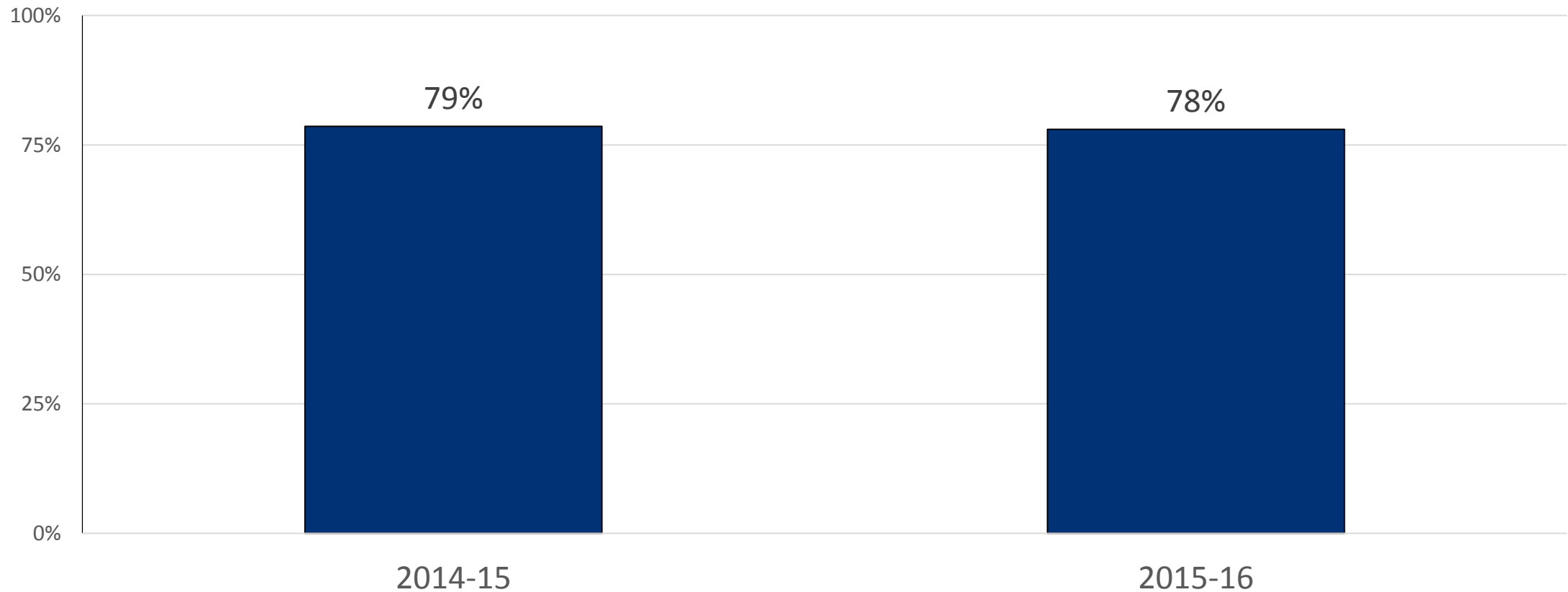


# NSE 10 Reading Comprehension 2015-16



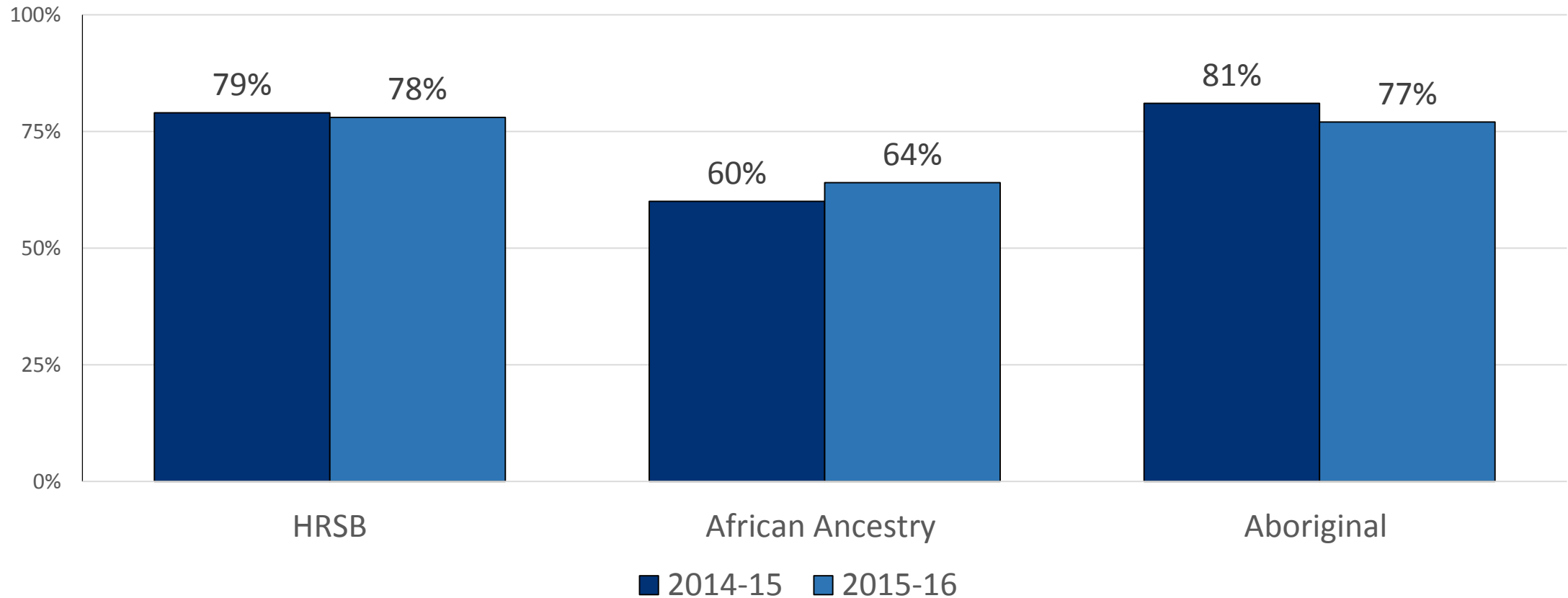
# NSE 10 Reading Comprehension

Students At + Above Grade-Level Expectation Over Two Years



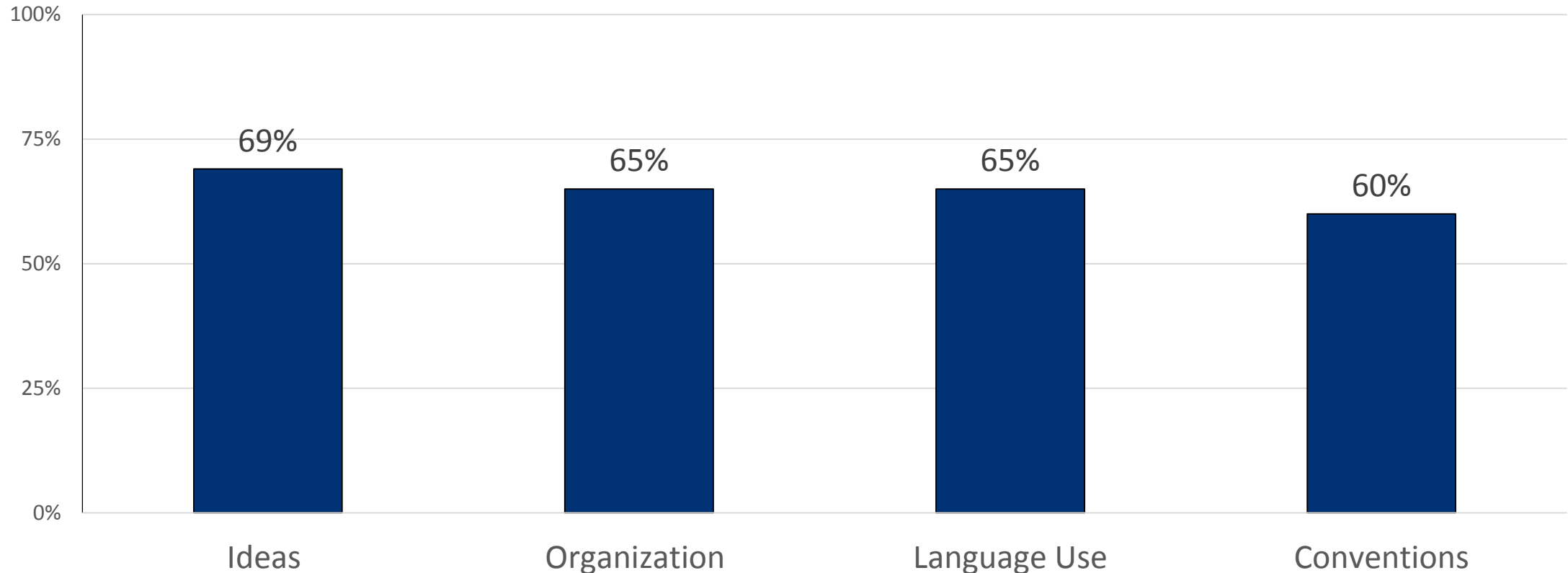
# NSE 10 Reading Comprehension

Students At + Above Grade-Level Expectation



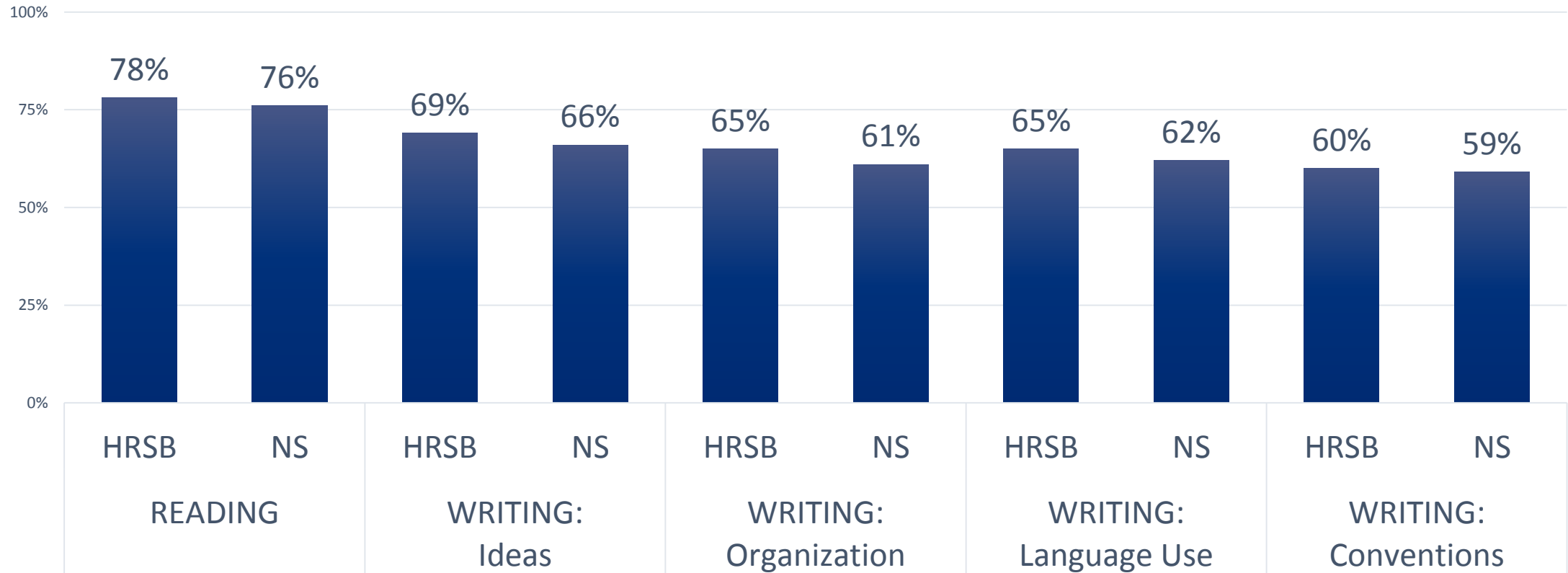
# NSE 10 Writing 2015-16

Students At+ Above Grade-Level Expectation



# NSE 10 Reading & Writing 2015-16

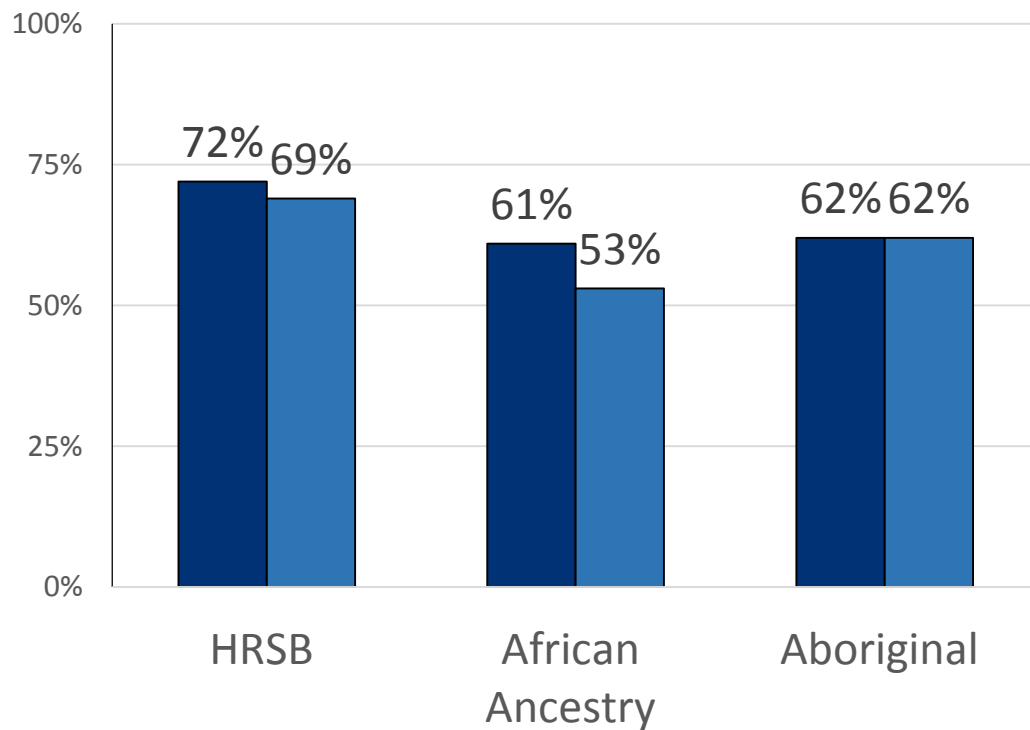
## Students At+ Above Grade-Level Expectation



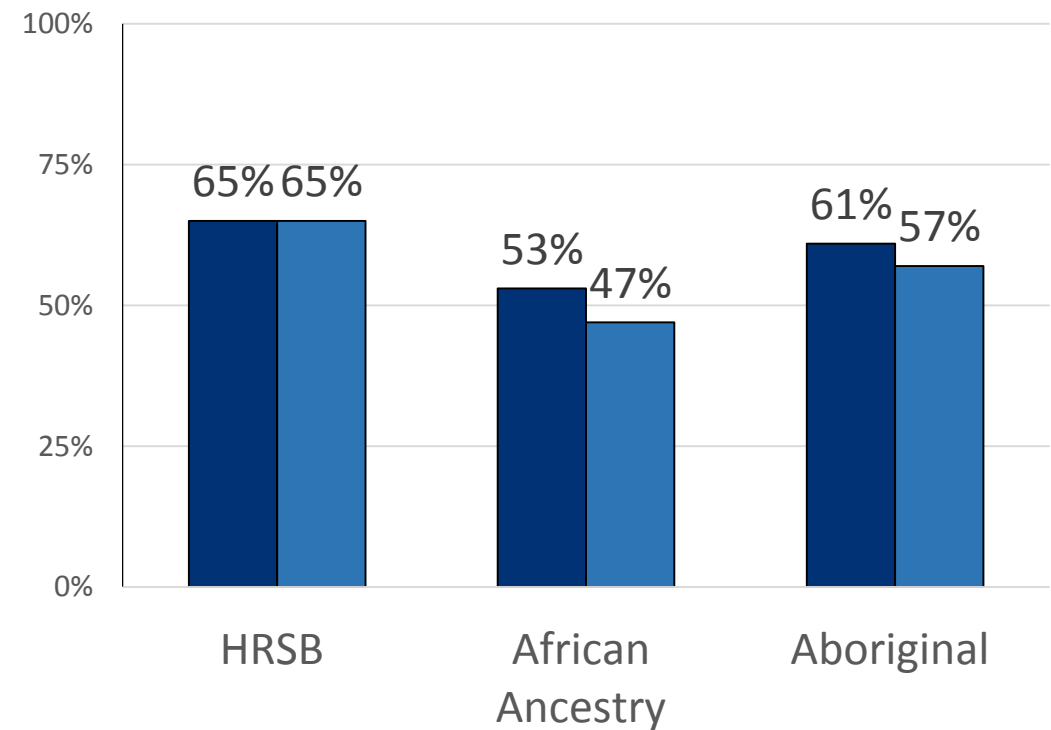
# NSE 10 Writing

## Students At + Above Grade-Level Expectation

Writing: IDEAS



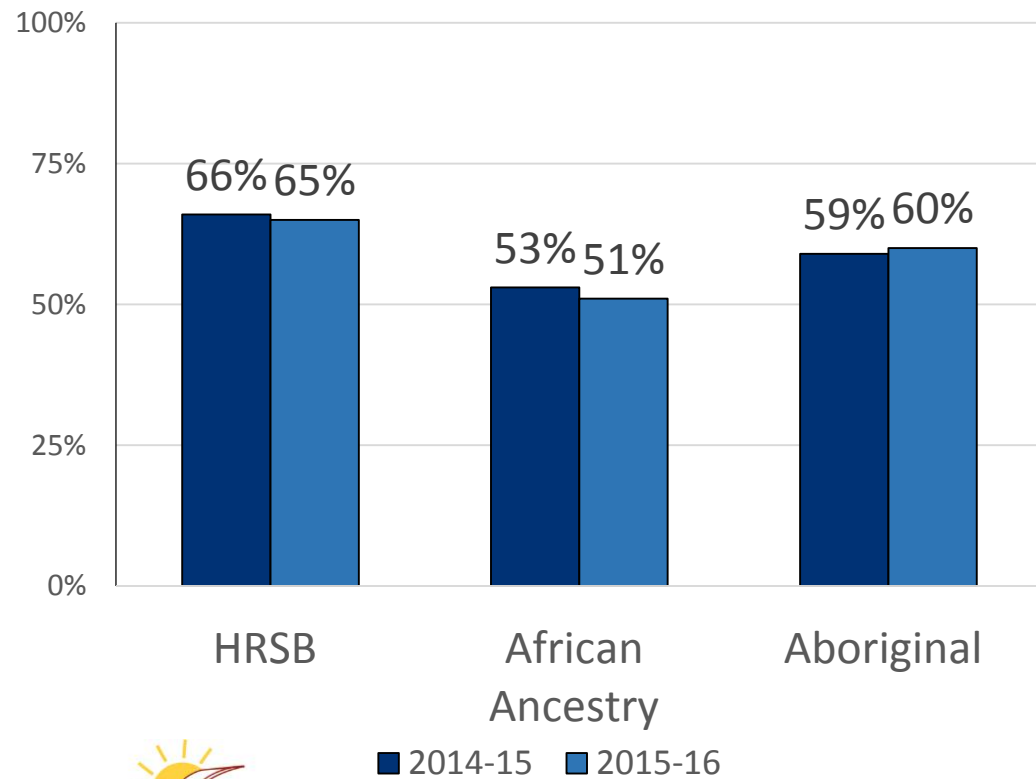
Writing: ORGANIZATION



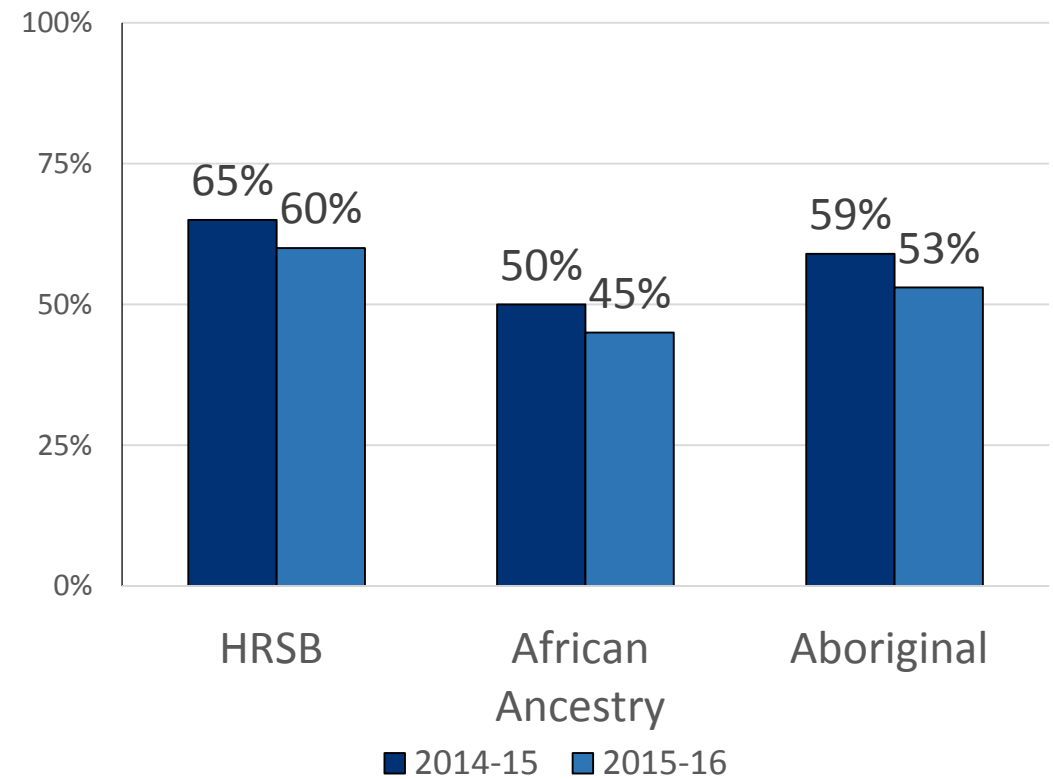
# NSE 10 Writing

## Students At + Above Grade-Level Expectation

Writing: LANGUAGE USE

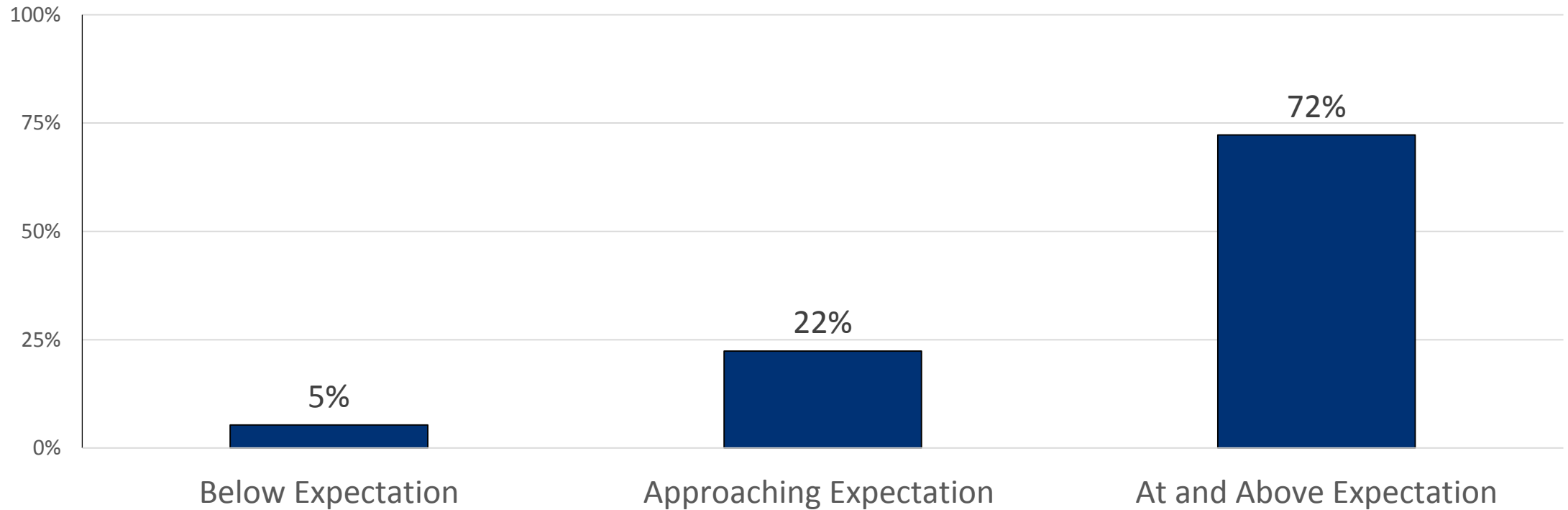


Writing: CONVENTIONS



# NSE 10 Mathematics 2015-16

## Students At + Above Grade-Level Expectation





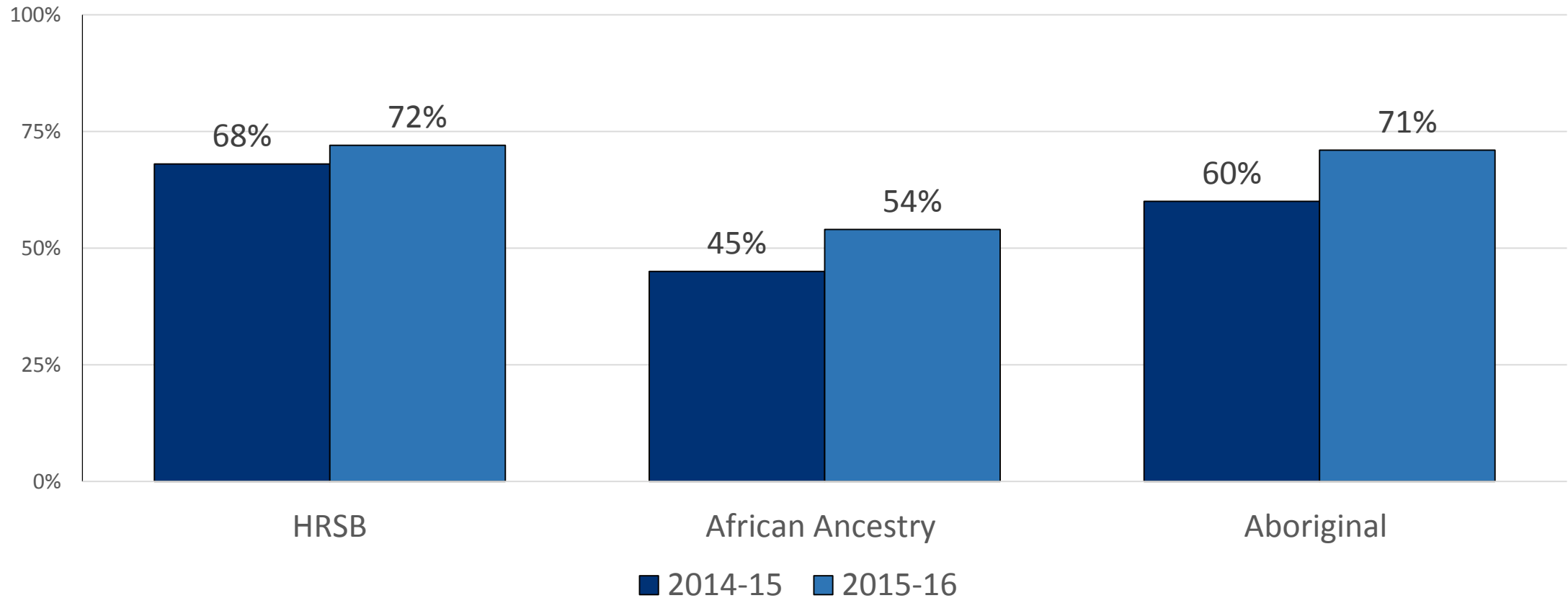
# NSE 10 Mathematics 2015-16

## Students At + Above Grade-Level Expectation



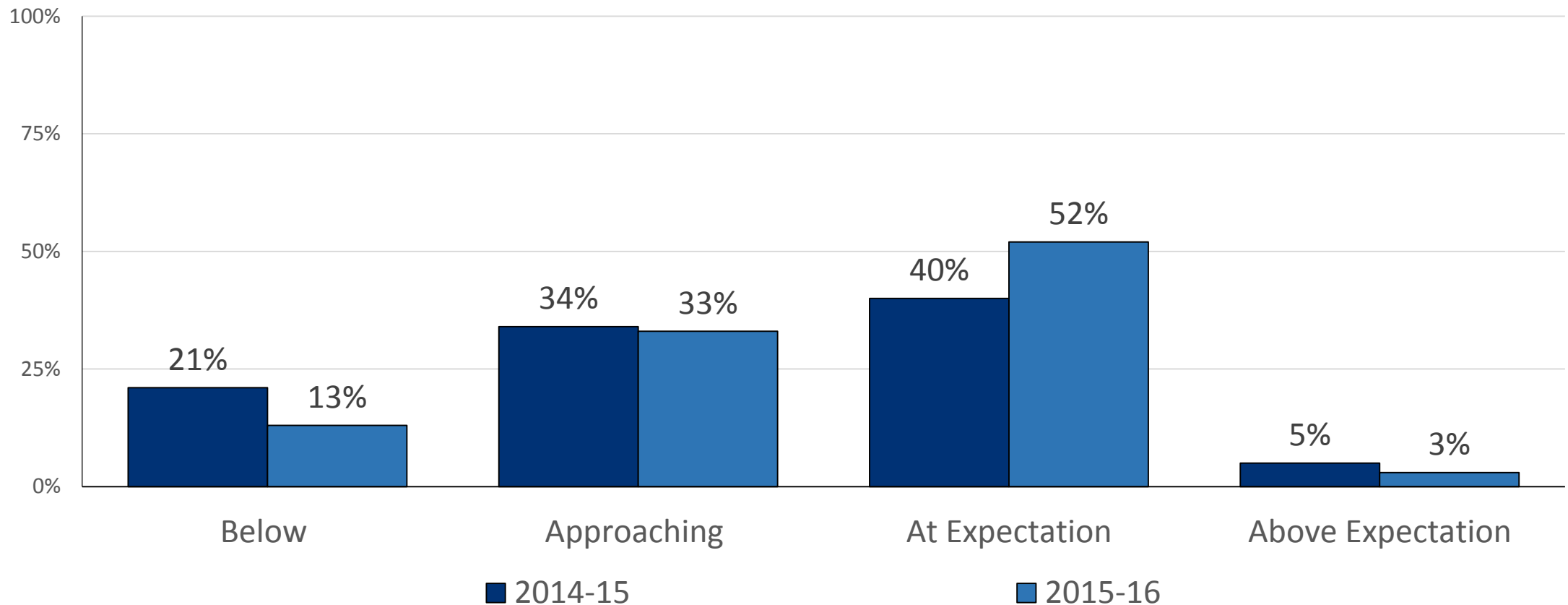
# NSE 10 Mathematics

## Students At + Above Grade-Level Expectation



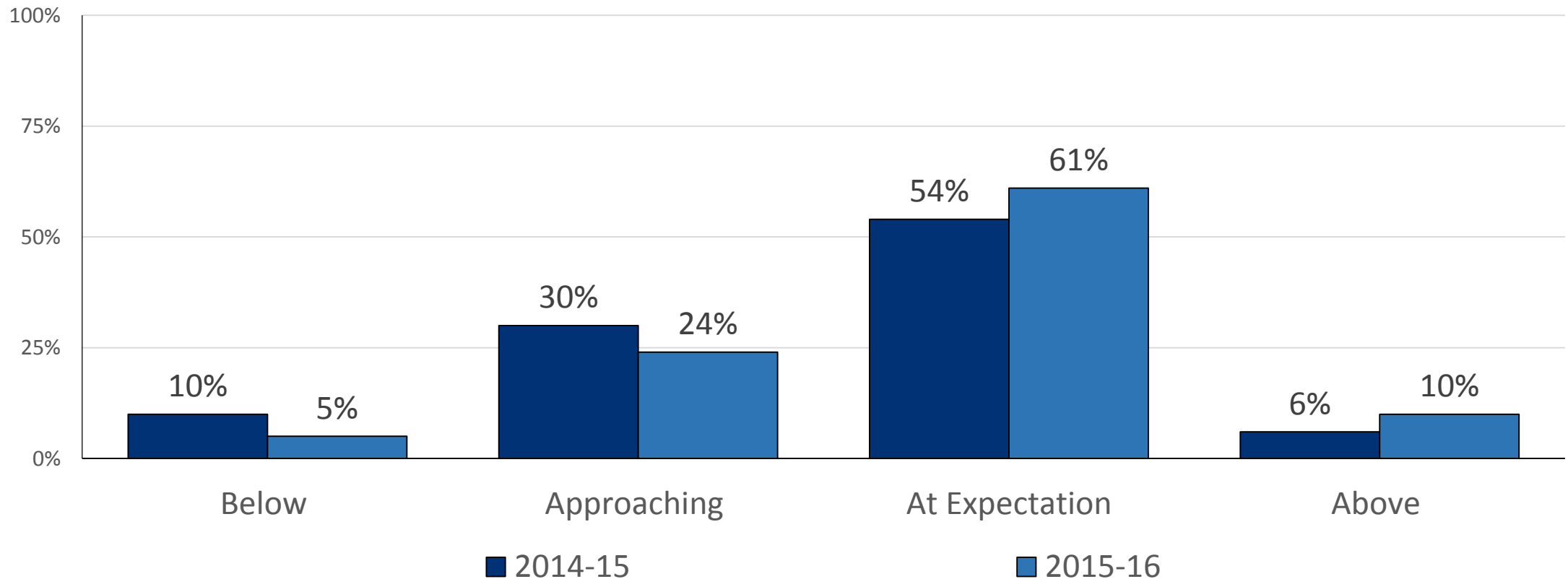
# NSE 10 Mathematics

## Percentage of Students of African Ancestry



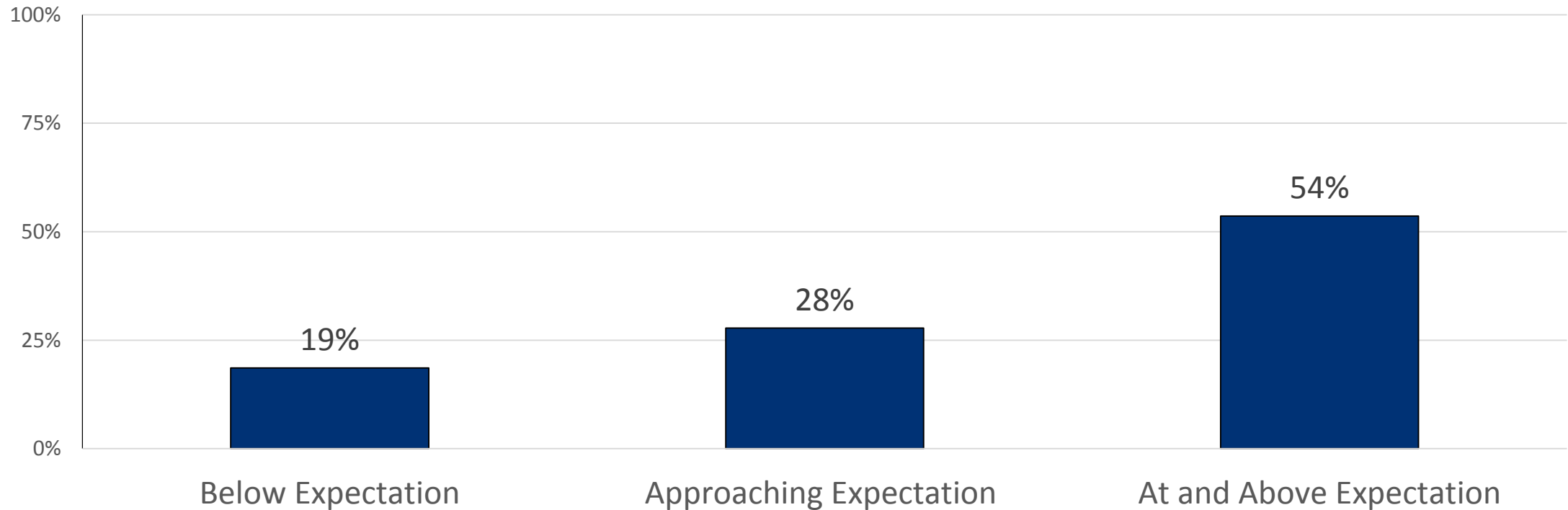
# NSE 10 Mathematics

## Percentage of Students of Aboriginal Identity



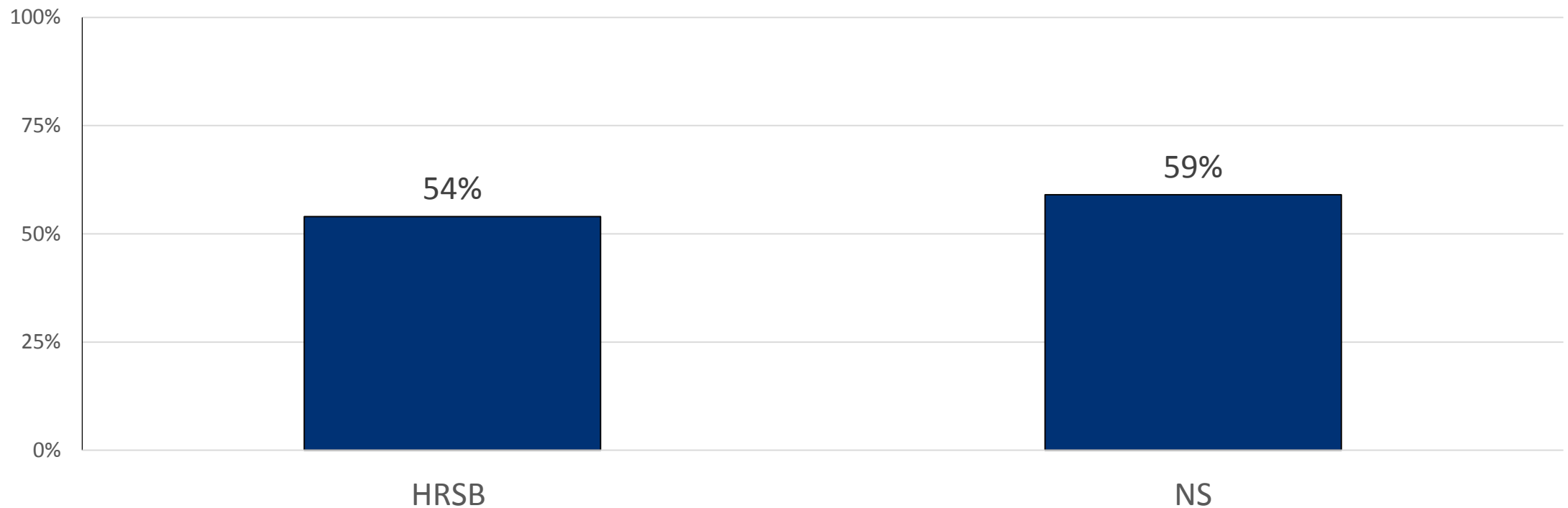
# NSE 10 Mathematics At Work 2015-16

## Students At + Above Grade-Level Expectation



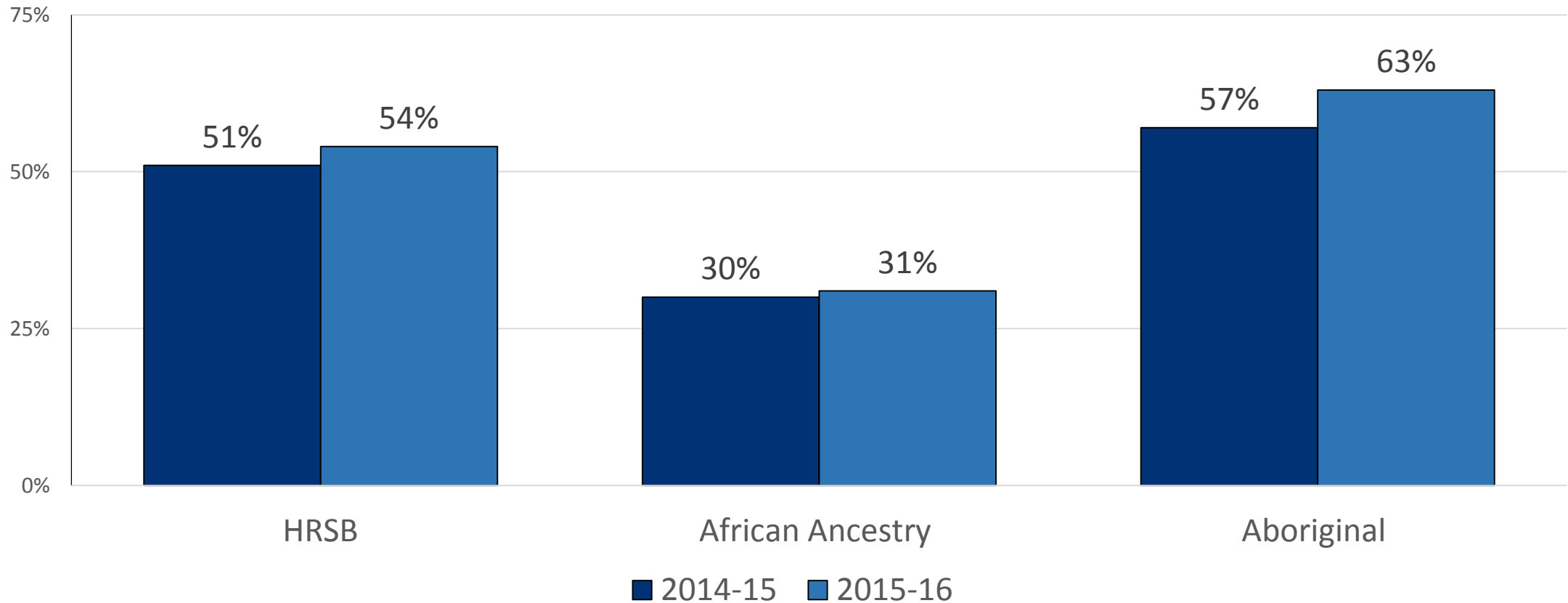
# NSE 10 Mathematics At Work 2015-16

Students At + Above Grade-Level Expectation



# NSE 10 Mathematics At Work

Students At + Above Grade-Level Expectation



# Conclusions and Next Steps

- Overall similar performance in literacy, improvement in mathematics for HRSB students compared to previous year
- Grade 8 and 10 mathematics results show a closing of the gap in achievement for students of African Ancestry and Aboriginal Identity
- Continued commitment to HRSB system priority- to improve the academic achievement of African Nova Scotian and Aboriginal students
- Implementation of new Provincial Literacy Strategy to address literacy results in Nova Scotia