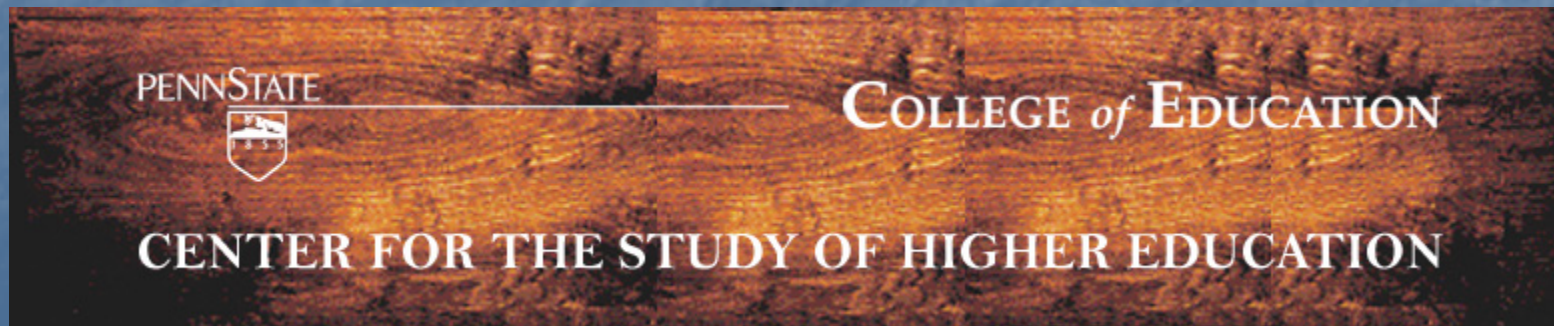


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# State Curricular Framework Tests and Merit Scholarships in Massachusetts

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# John and Abigail Adams Scholarship

- First announced by Governor Mitt Romney in 2004, and first available for graduating high school class of 2005
- Based on scores from the 10<sup>th</sup> grade MCAS assessment
- Public school students qualify by:
  - Scoring in the Advanced category on either the math or English section of the MCAS and in the Advanced or Proficient category on the other section; and
  - Having a combined score on the MCAS that puts them in the top 25% of their school district
- Provides a tuition waiver for eight semesters to any student accepted at a public state university, college, or community college
- Students must achieve a 3.0 GPA in college to continue to receive the award

# Adams Scholarship

- In the high school class of 2005, about 13,000 students qualified and nearly 4,000 students used the Adams scholarship
- Nearly 14,000 Massachusetts public high school qualified for the scholarship in 2006
- 2005-2006 tuition at UMass-Amherst was \$1,714, while mandatory fees totaled \$7,564 (the Adams Scholarship only covers tuition)

# Methodology

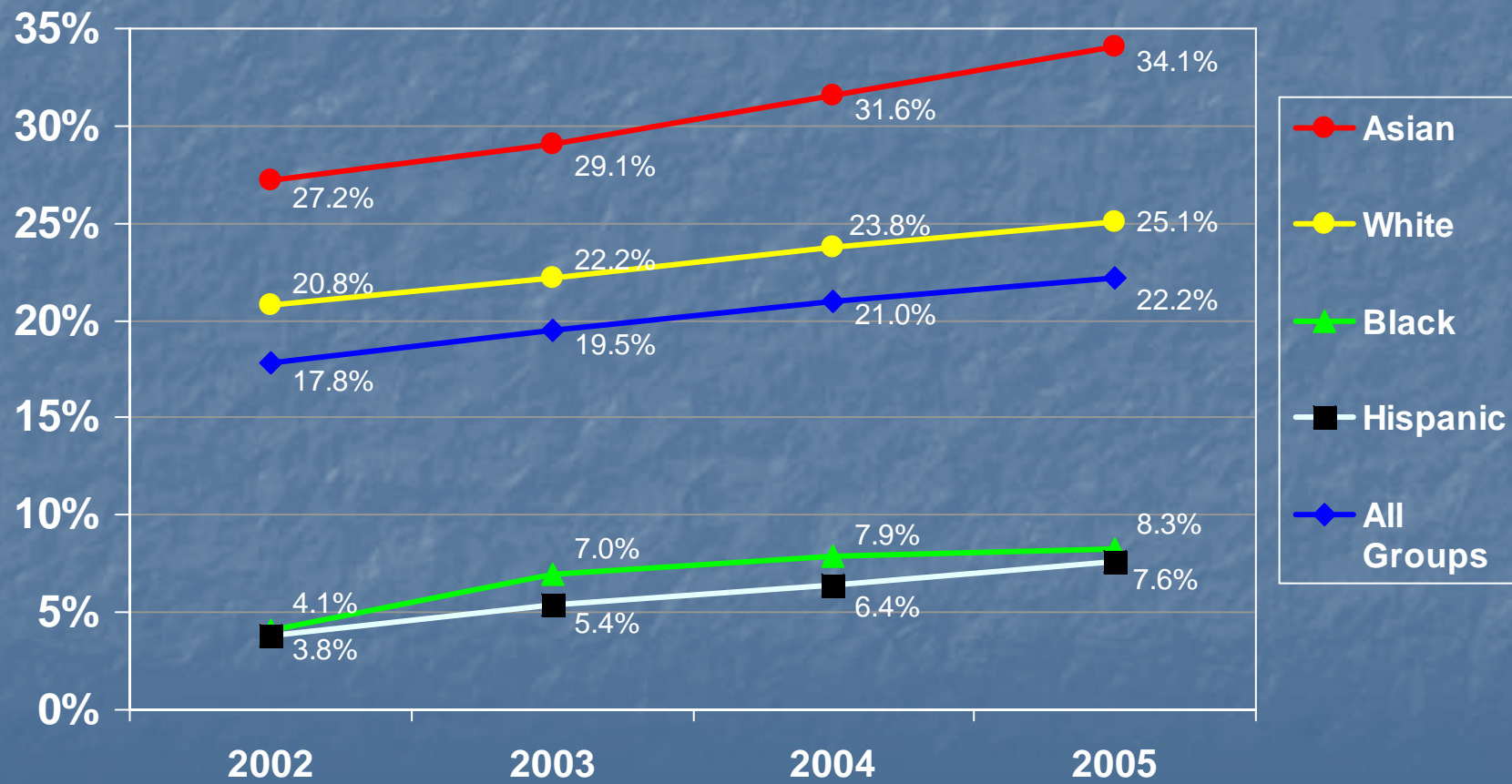
- Data from four cohorts of MA 10<sup>th</sup> graders analyzed – 2002 to 2005
- Both cross-sectional and time-series analyses were used
- Analysis focused on examining differences in qualification rates across groups as well as over time within groups
- Student's scale scores on math and English sections were combined and ranked within their district to determine eligibility (top 25% with requisite scores were deemed eligible)

# Overall Findings

- There are large gaps in the scholarship qualification rates across groups with
  - *Racial minority;*
  - *Special education;*
  - *Second language learner; and*
  - *Poorer students*much *less* likely to qualify
- Qualification rates increased for all groups over time, but the gaps increased

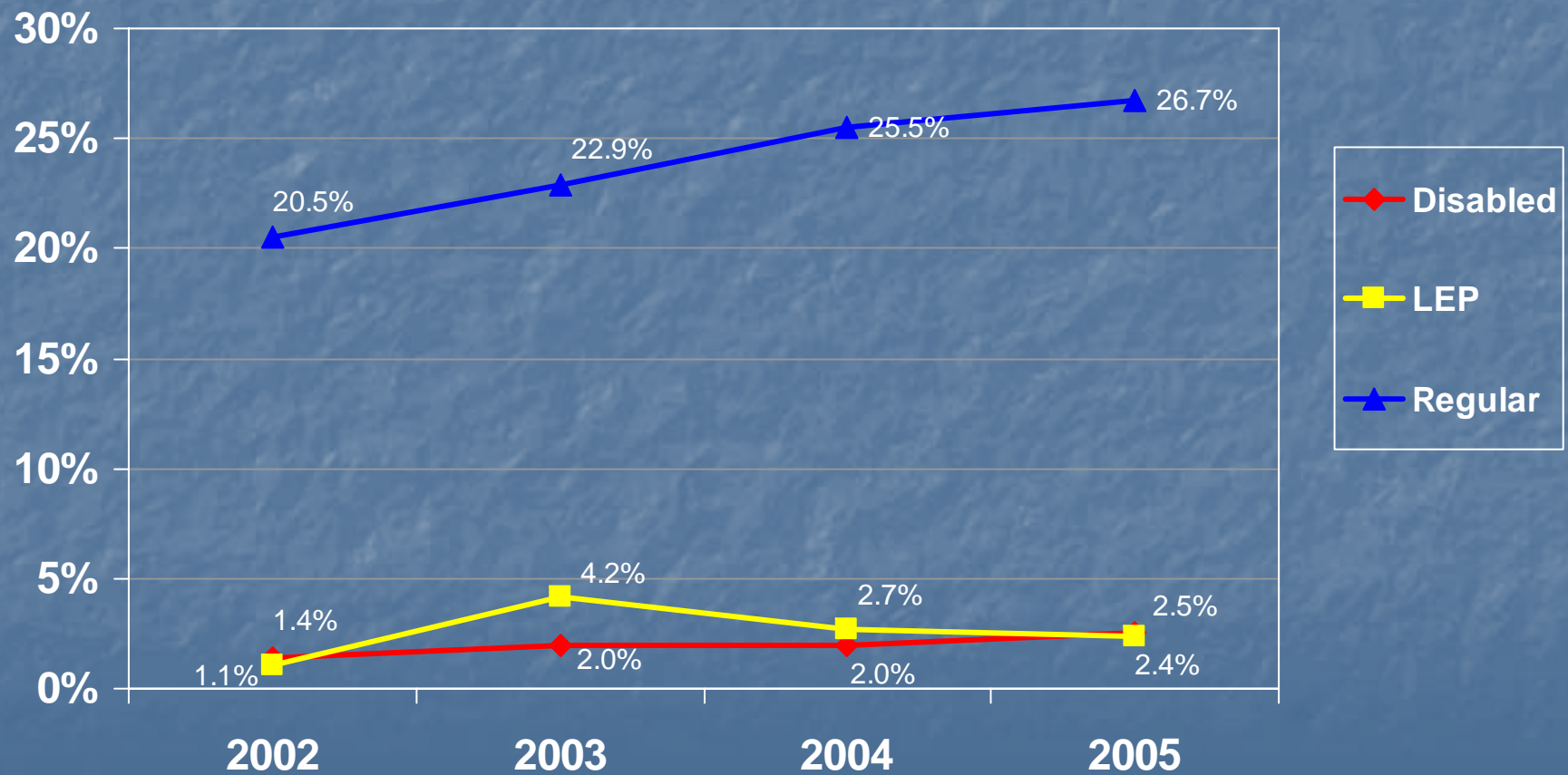
# Results By Race

Proportion of each group qualifying for Adams Scholarship



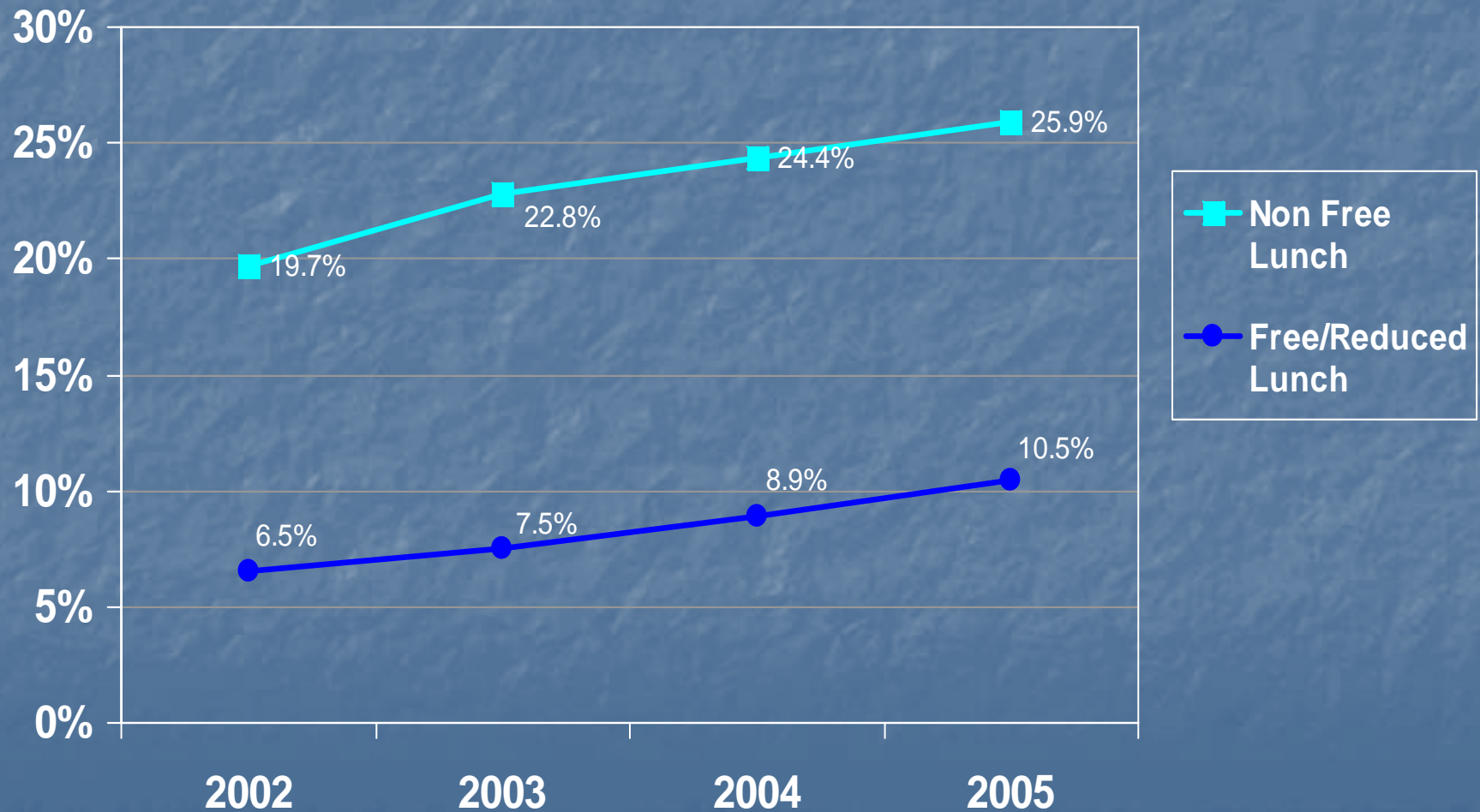
# Results by Student Status

Proportion of each group qualifying for Adams Scholarship



# Results by Free Lunch Status

Proportion of each group qualifying for Adams Scholarship



# Qualification Results Over Time – % Point Change 2002 to 2005

## ■ By Race:

- Asian = 6.9%
- White = 4.3%
- Black = 4.3%
- Hispanic = 3.8%
- Total = 4.5%

## ■ By Status:

- Regular = 6.2%
- Disabled = 1.1%
- LEP = 1.3%
- Non Free Lunch = 6.2%
- Free/Reduced Lunch = 4.0%

# Implications

- Those most likely to need the scholarships are less likely to receive them
- 2000 Census found that white families in MA had incomes 69% greater than their African American counterparts and more than twice that of Hispanic families
- African American and Hispanic students are much less likely to qualify for and receive an Adams Scholarship