



GROWING PRESENCE, EMERGING VOICES

Pacific Islanders and Academic Achievement In Washington

Prepared by

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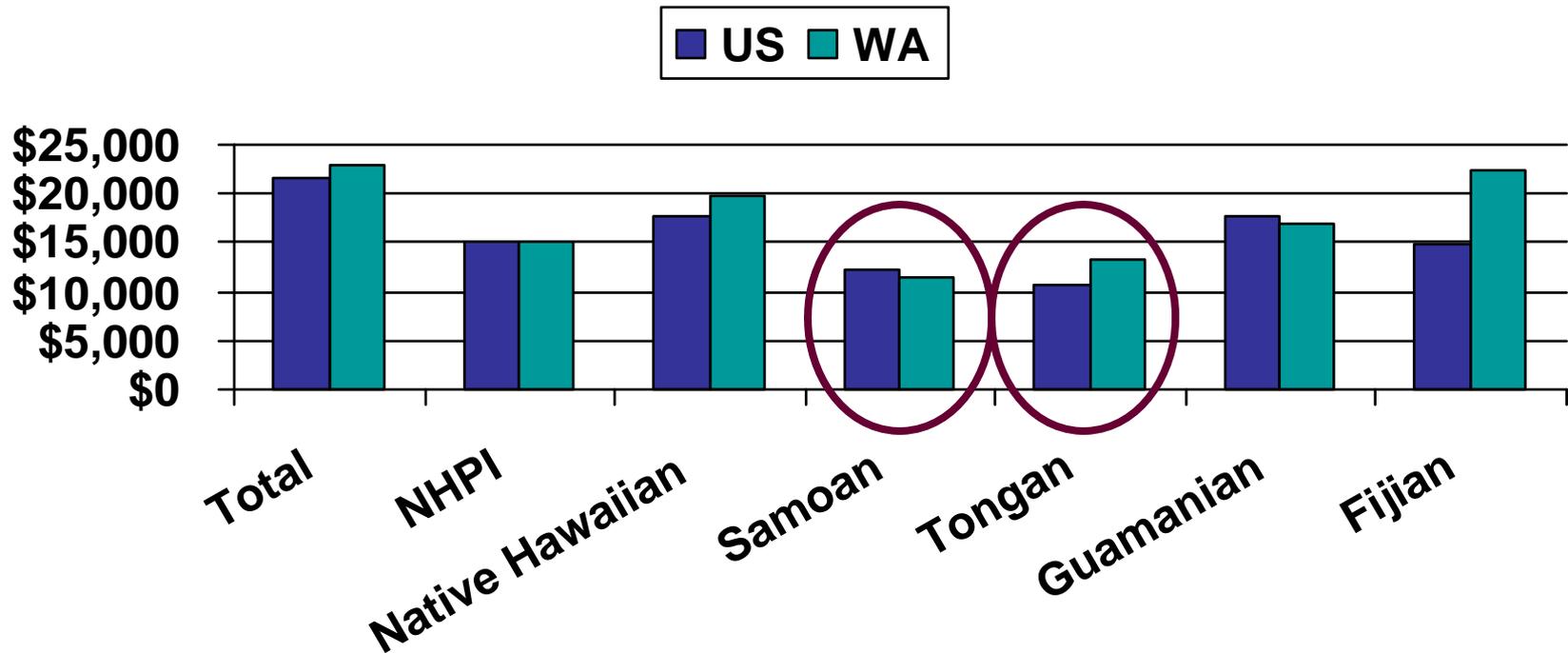


Pacific Islanders in WA

- ❑ Pacific Islanders comprised 0.4% (27,654) of the State's population in 2007
- ❑ Washington is the 3rd largest in number and the 5th largest in percentage of Pacific Islanders across the nation in 2007
- ❑ More than two thirds (69%) of Pacific Islanders live in King (37%), Pierce (24%), and Snohomish (8%) counties in 2003.
- ❑ Samoans are the largest PI group in Washington (31%), followed by Guamanians (23%), Native Hawaiians (13%), and Fijians (4%).

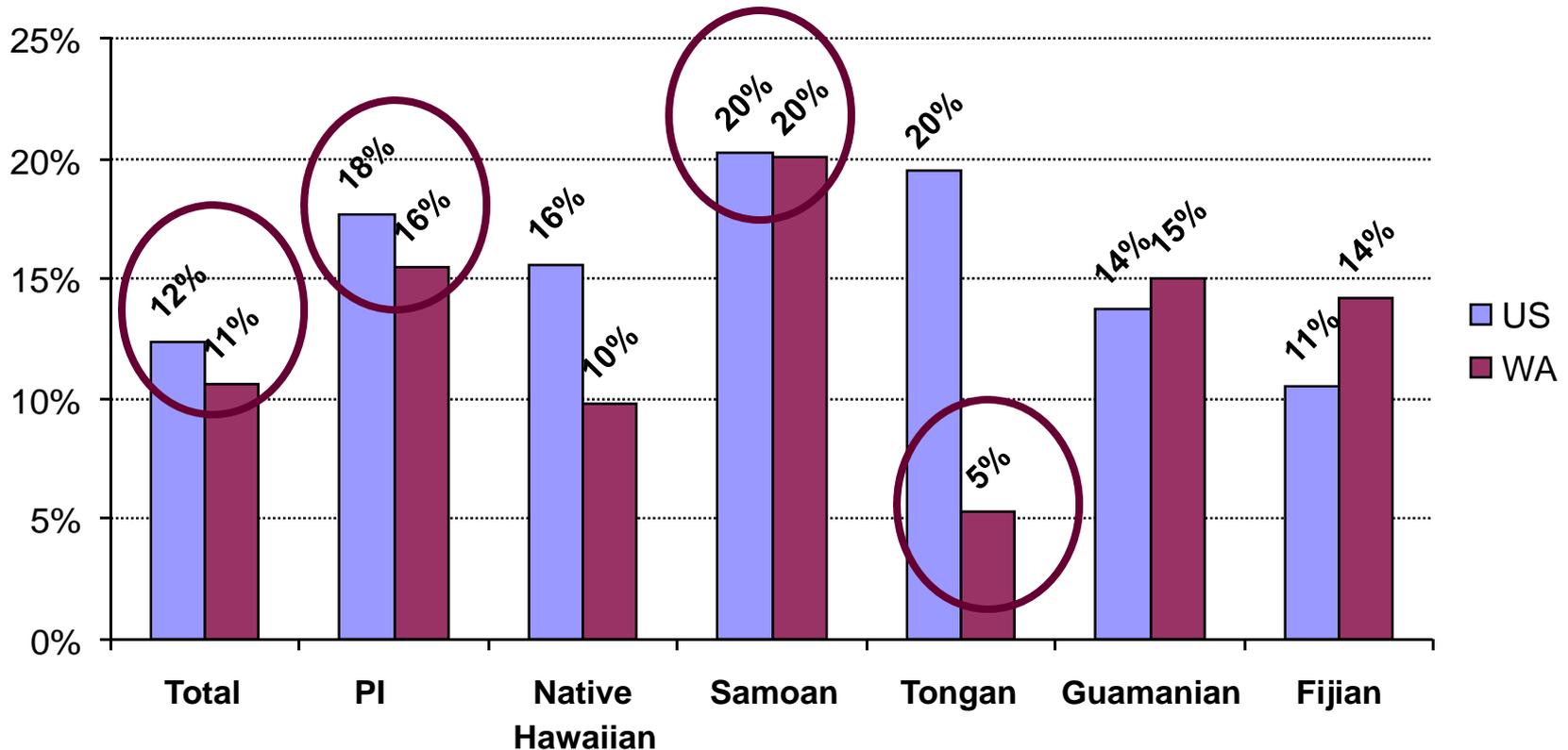
Pacific Islanders Economic Profile

Per Capita Income in 1999



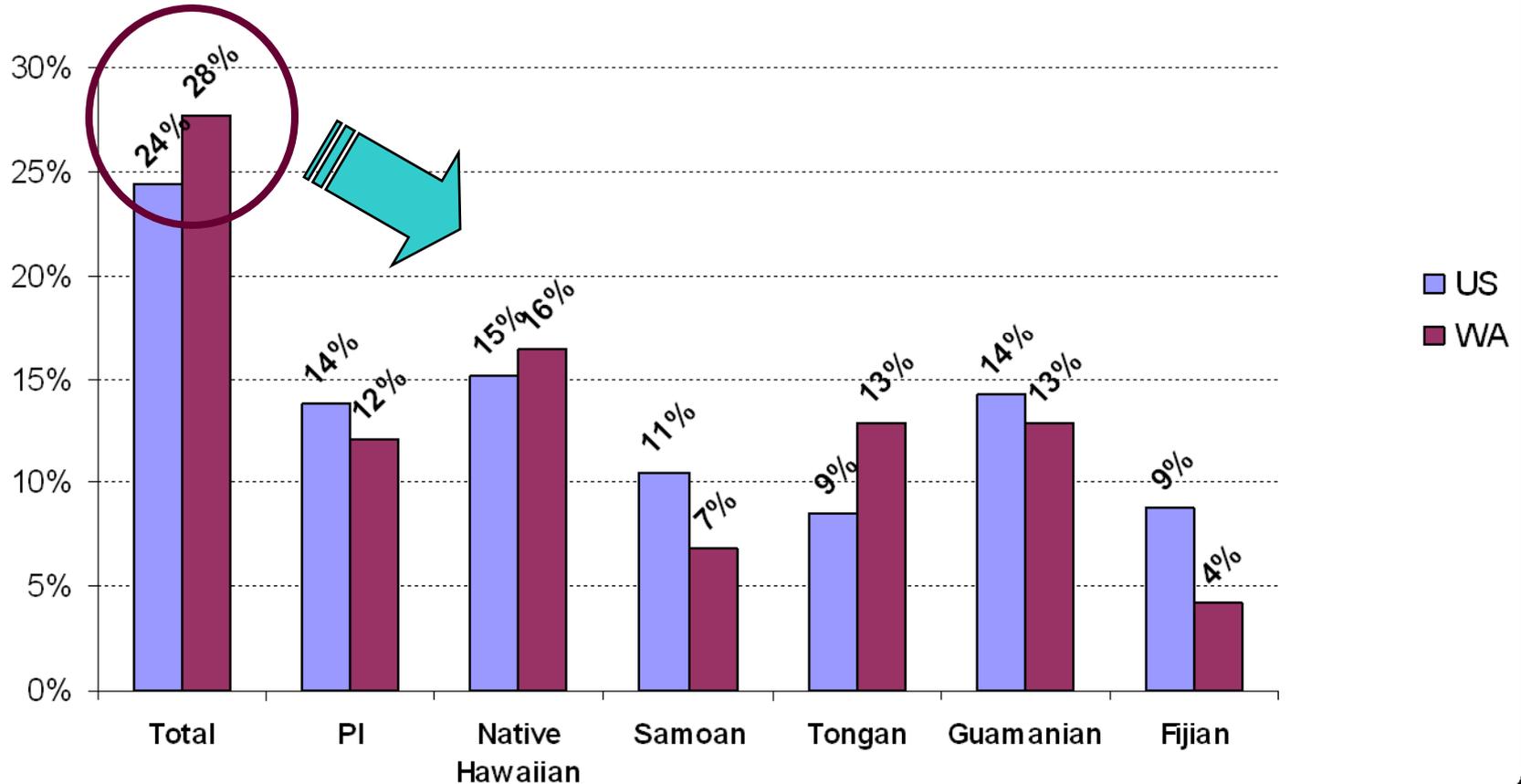
Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Tables DP-3. Profiles of Selected Economic Characteristics: 2000.
Data set: Census 2000 Summary File 4 (SF 4) Sample data (1-in-6 households).

Percentages of Individuals Below Poverty Level by PI Ethnic Groups in the United States and Washington State, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Tables DP-3. Profiles of Selected Economic Characteristics: 2000.
 Data set: Census 2000 Summary File 4 (SF 4) Sample data (1-in-6 households).

Figure II-E. Percentages of Bachelor's Degree or Higher by PI Ethnic Groups in the United States and Washington State, 2000



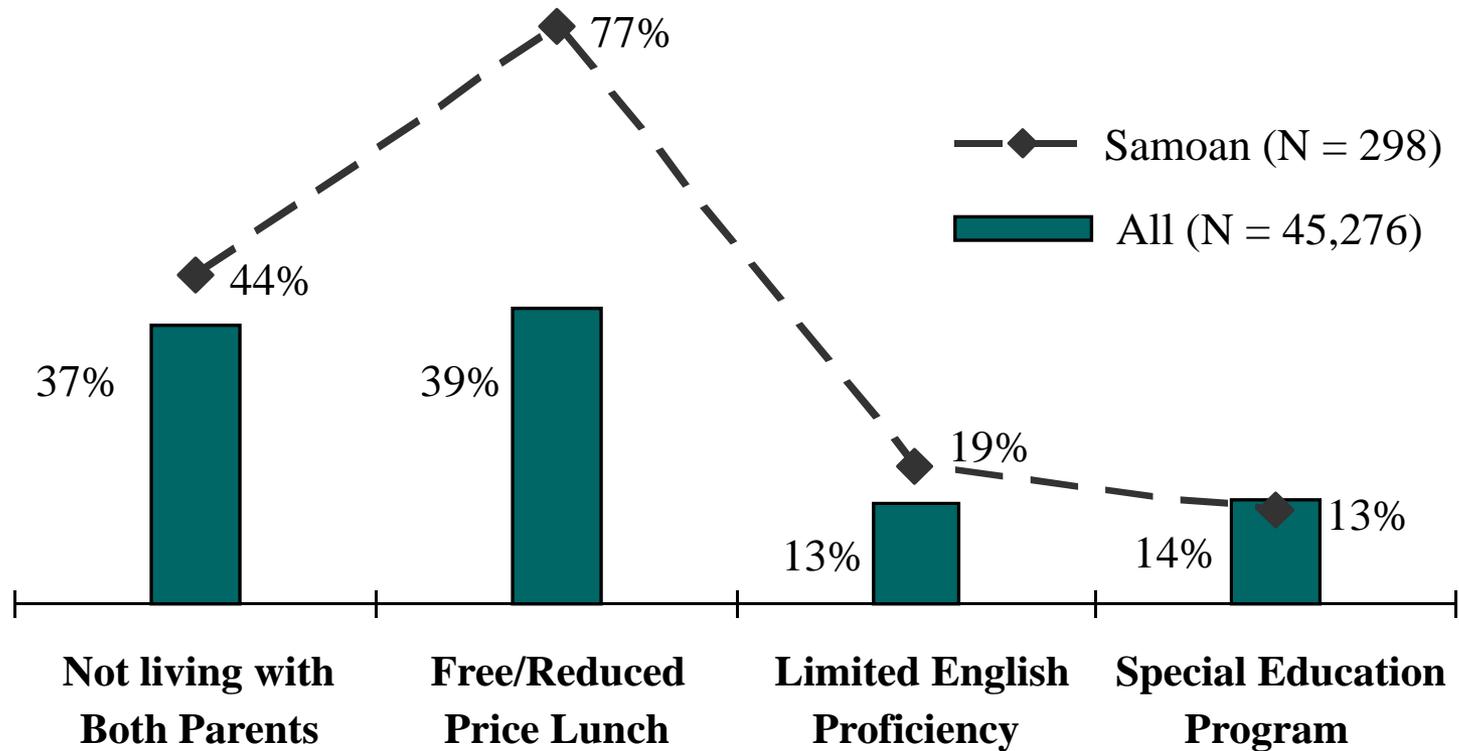
Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Table DP-2. Profile of Selected Social Characteristics: 2000.
 Data Set: Census 2000 Summary File 4 (SF 4) Sample data (1-in-6 households).



Pacific Islander Student Characteristics

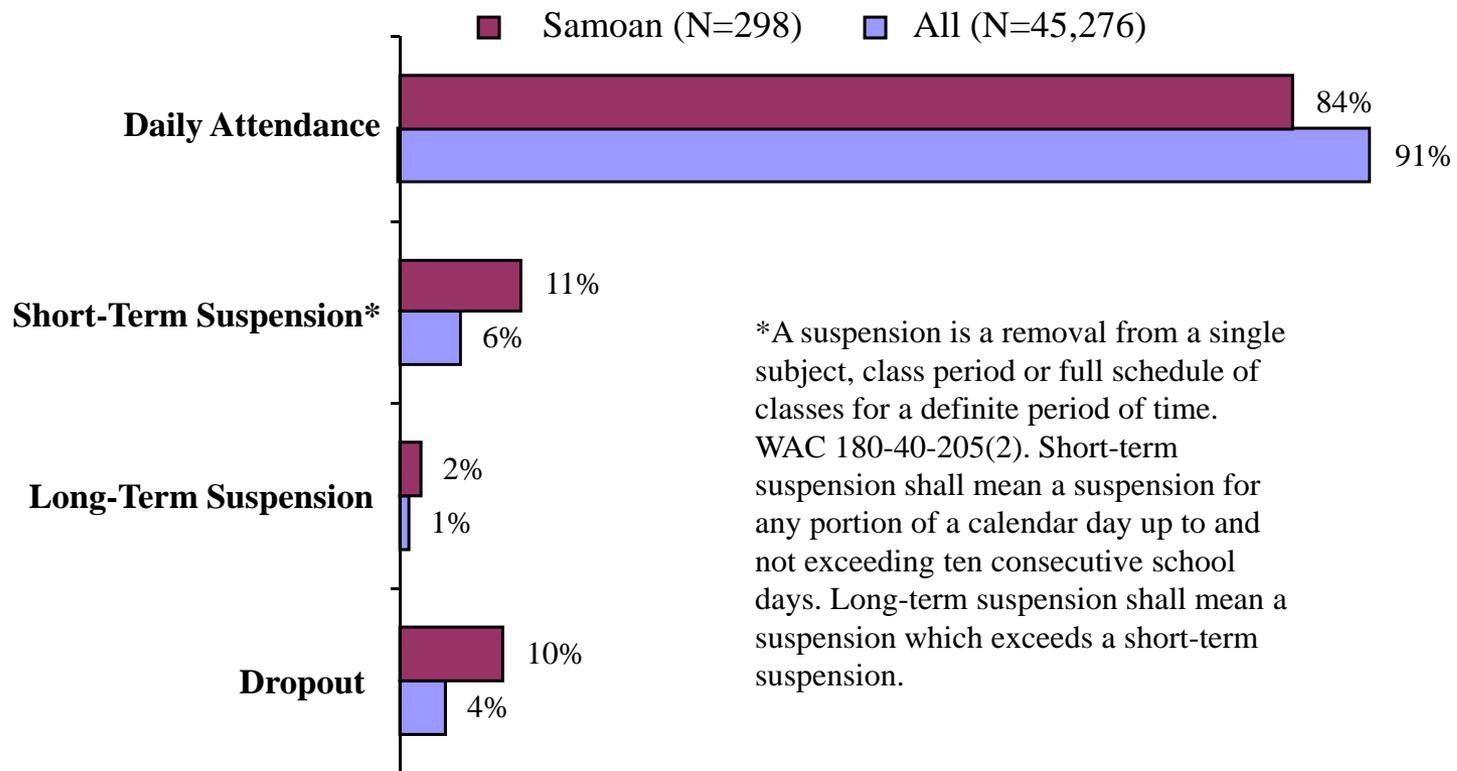
- ❑ PIs are 0.6% of all students in Washington public schools (2007), with a larger number in the younger grades (Grade K2-2).
- ❑ 75% are enrolled in 16 school districts around Puget Sounds and the Clark County area, largely concentrated in the Kent and Federal Way school districts, followed by Tacoma, Franklin Pierce, and Central Kitsap.
- ❑ Majority of PIs speak English (75%).
- ❑ Samoan is the largest non-English language group.

Figure III-A. Samoan Demographic Profile in Seattle Public Schools, 2007-2008



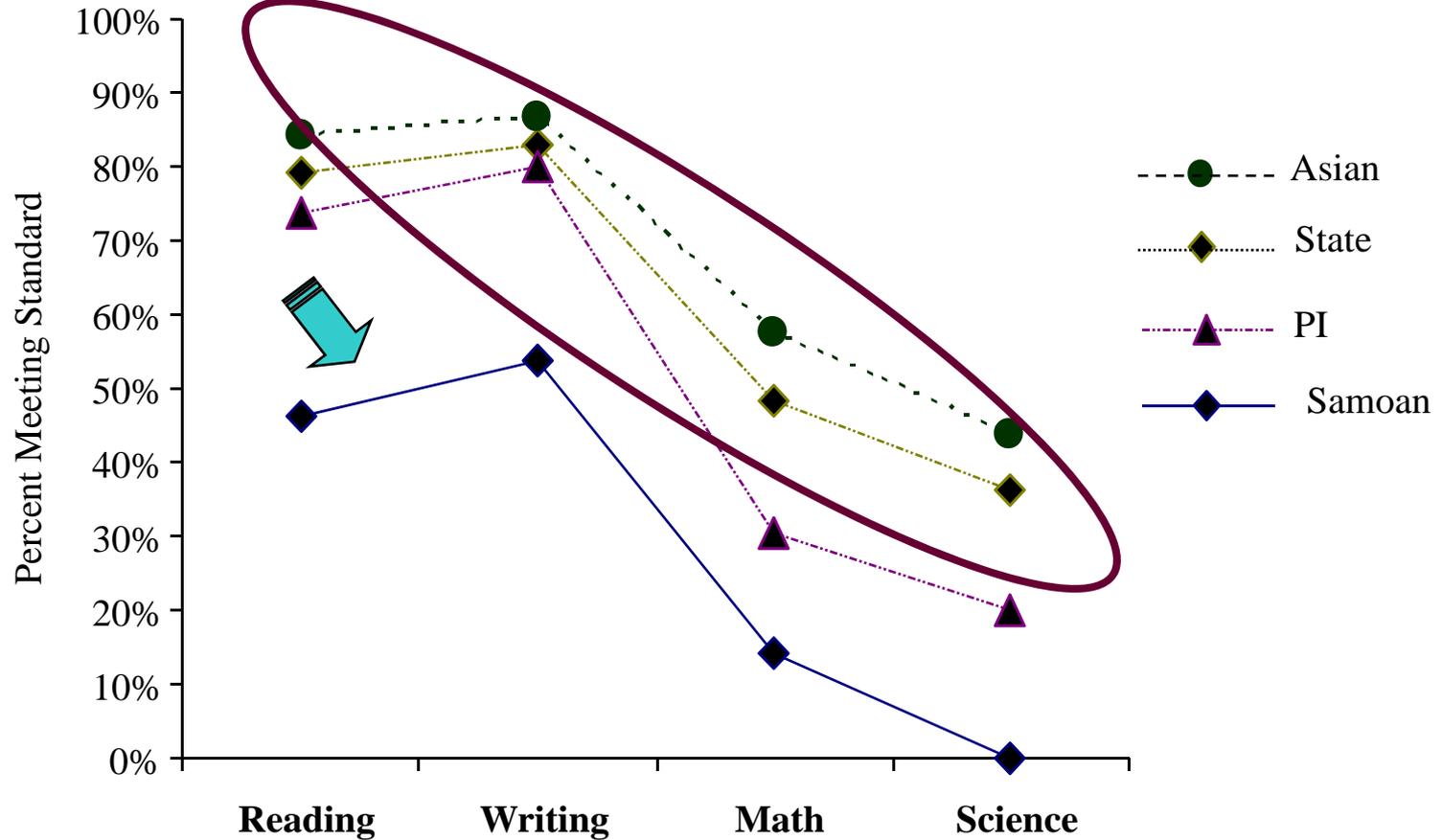
Source: 2007/08 District Report, Seattle Public Schools.

Figure III-B. Samoan Educational Status by Attendance, Suspension, and Dropout, Seattle Public Schools, 2007-2008



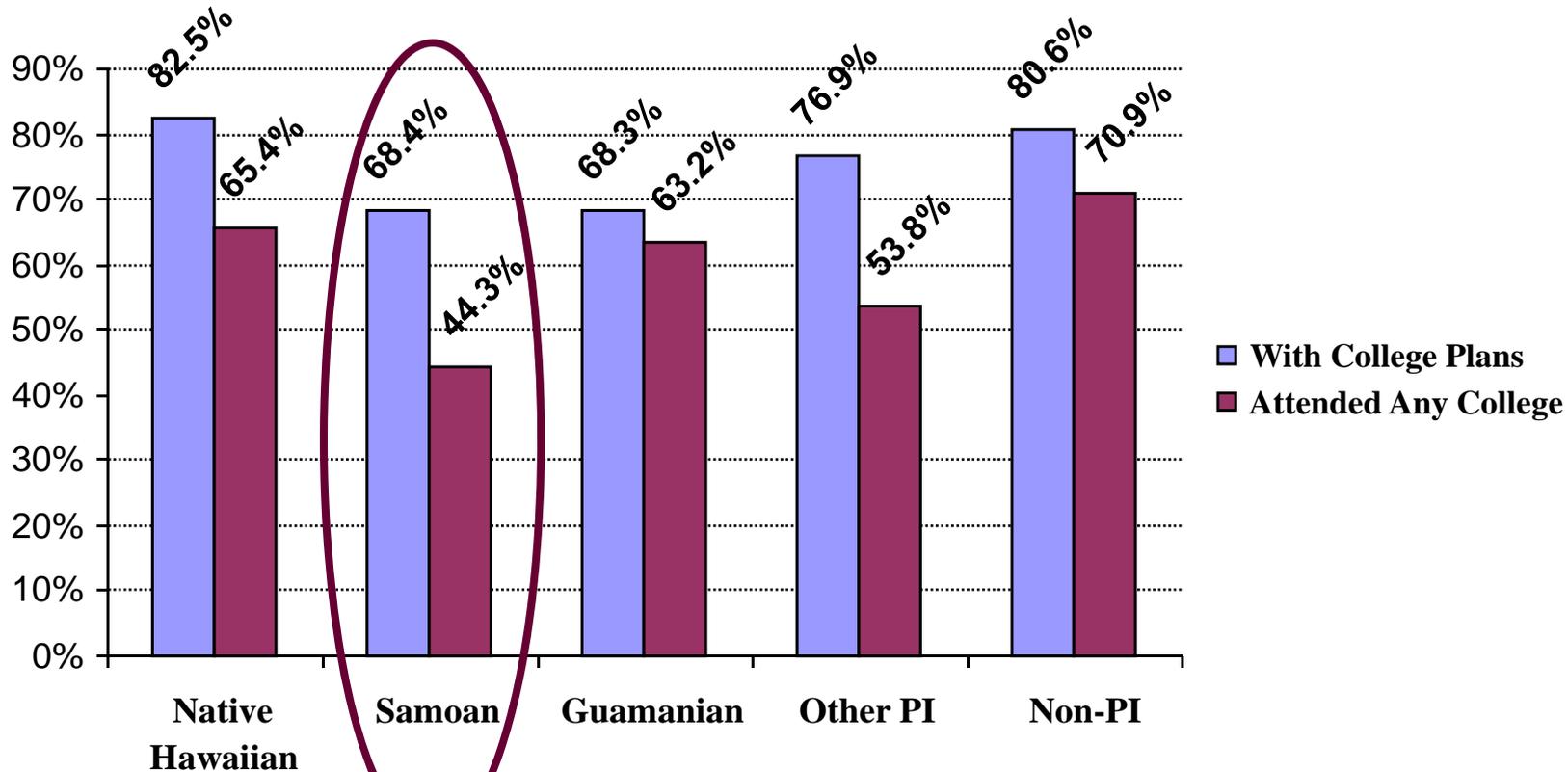
Source: 2007/08 District Report, Seattle Public Schools.

Figure III-C. WASL 10th-Grade Performance by Race and Ethnicity, 2007-2008



Note: Samoans in this table only refers to those who enrolled in Seattle Public Schools.
Source: OSPI WASL Data and Seattle District Report, 2007/08.

Figure IV-A. Comparison of Plans to Attend College With Accomplishment of Attending College



Source: Beyond High School project data.



Parental Educational Involvement

Pacific Islander parents report:

- ❑ High aspirations for their children to achieve a college degree (92%).
- ❑ But substantially lower expectations for their children to receive a college degree (78%).

Pacific Islander students report:

- ❑ About half report their parents seldom help with homework, except Samoans.
- ❑ Samoan parents are more engaged than any other PI groups in their children's school activities, such as homework and school nights.



Recommendations

- ❑ Develop and implement a strategic plan that fosters the cultural responsiveness of the school system.
- ❑ Initiate more extensive partnerships with Pacific Islander community groups.
- ❑ Ensure Pacific Islanders are included in all academic and co-curricular programs, from early education (such as Thrive by Five) through K–16.
- ❑ Develop and implement a research and evaluation plan that assesses achievement gap reduction over time.