

SREB

# The Courage to Learn

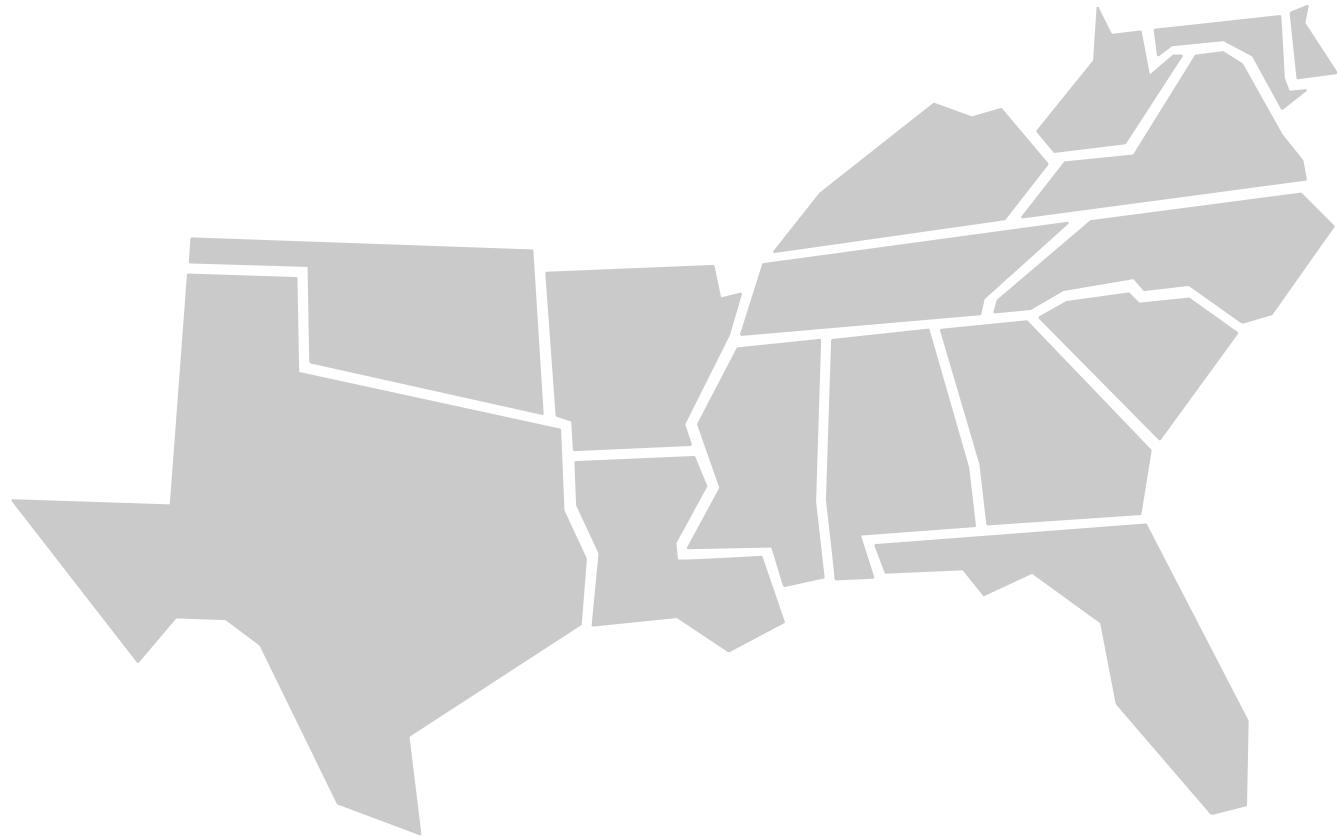
*The Challenges and Solutions to COVID in the South*

Stephen L. Pruitt, Ph.D.

President

75<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary

# *Southern Regional Education Board*

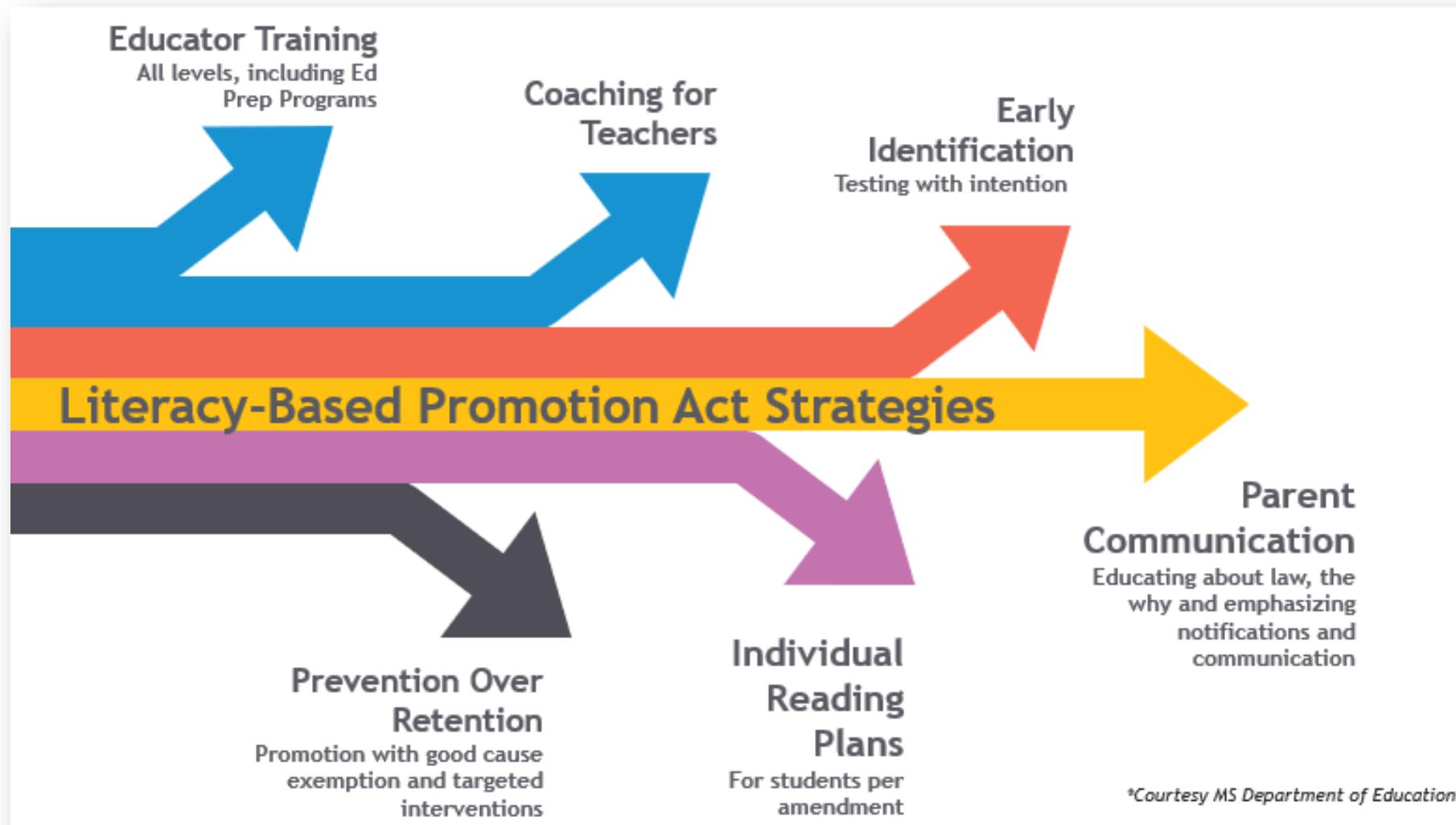


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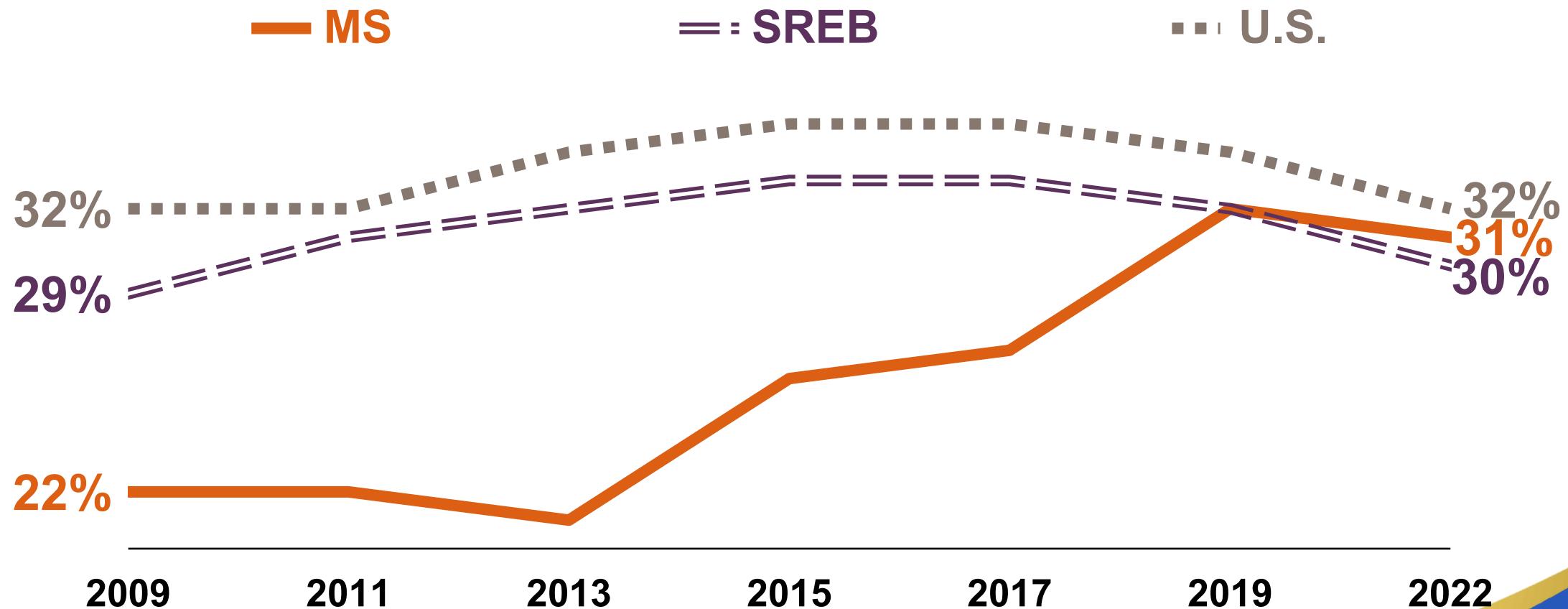
# “The Mississippi Miracle”

# No Magic, No Miracle



# *4<sup>th</sup> Grade NAEP Reading*

Percentage Scoring At or Above Proficient in Mississippi



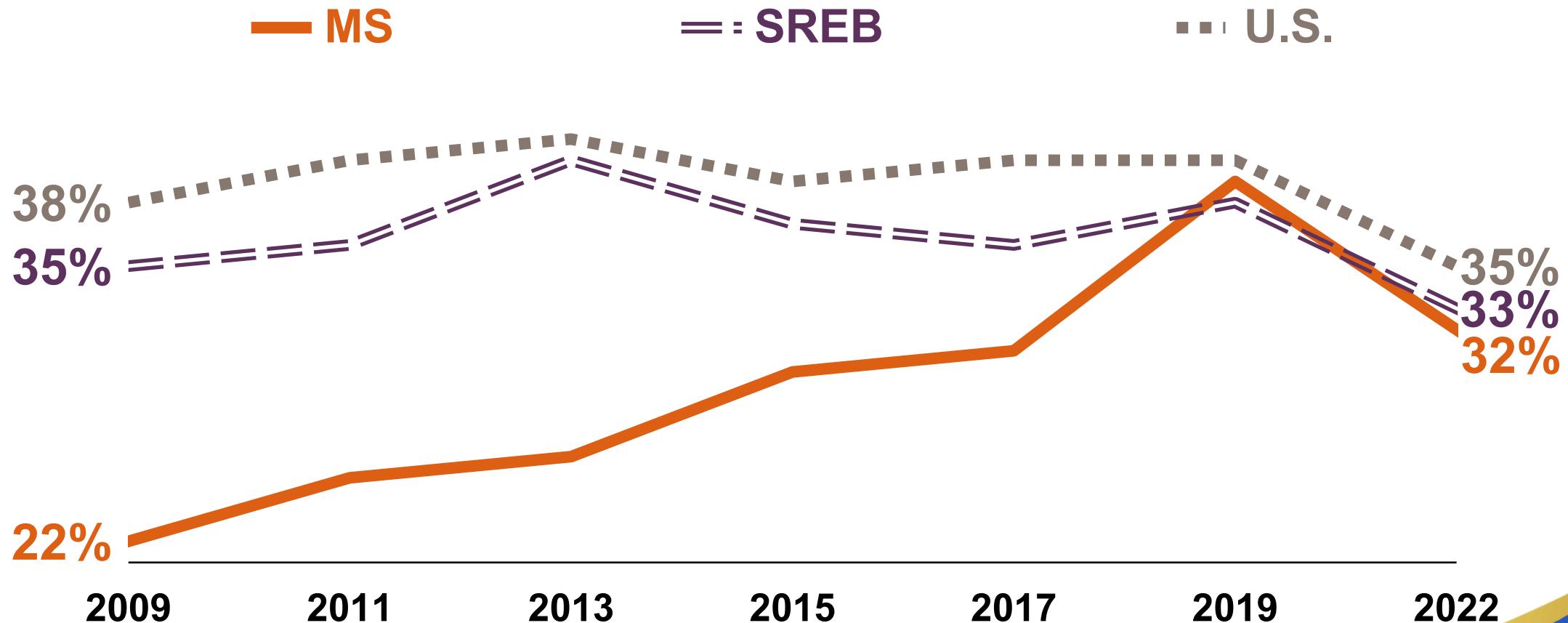
Source: National Center for Education Statistics

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# *4<sup>th</sup> Grade NAEP Math*

Percentage Scoring At or Above Proficient in Mississippi



Source: National Center for Education Statistics

# *Addressing NAEP and COVID*

- Alabama
  - Aligning ESSA, Perkins, and WIOA
  - Building a data system allowing sharing among agencies
  - FASFA Completion
- Tennessee
  - Large investments in summer and in-school tutoring
  - From 2009-2015, the proportion of Black students scoring at or above NAEP Proficient increased by 13 percent
- Texas
  - Large investments in summer school and tutoring

# Education Economics

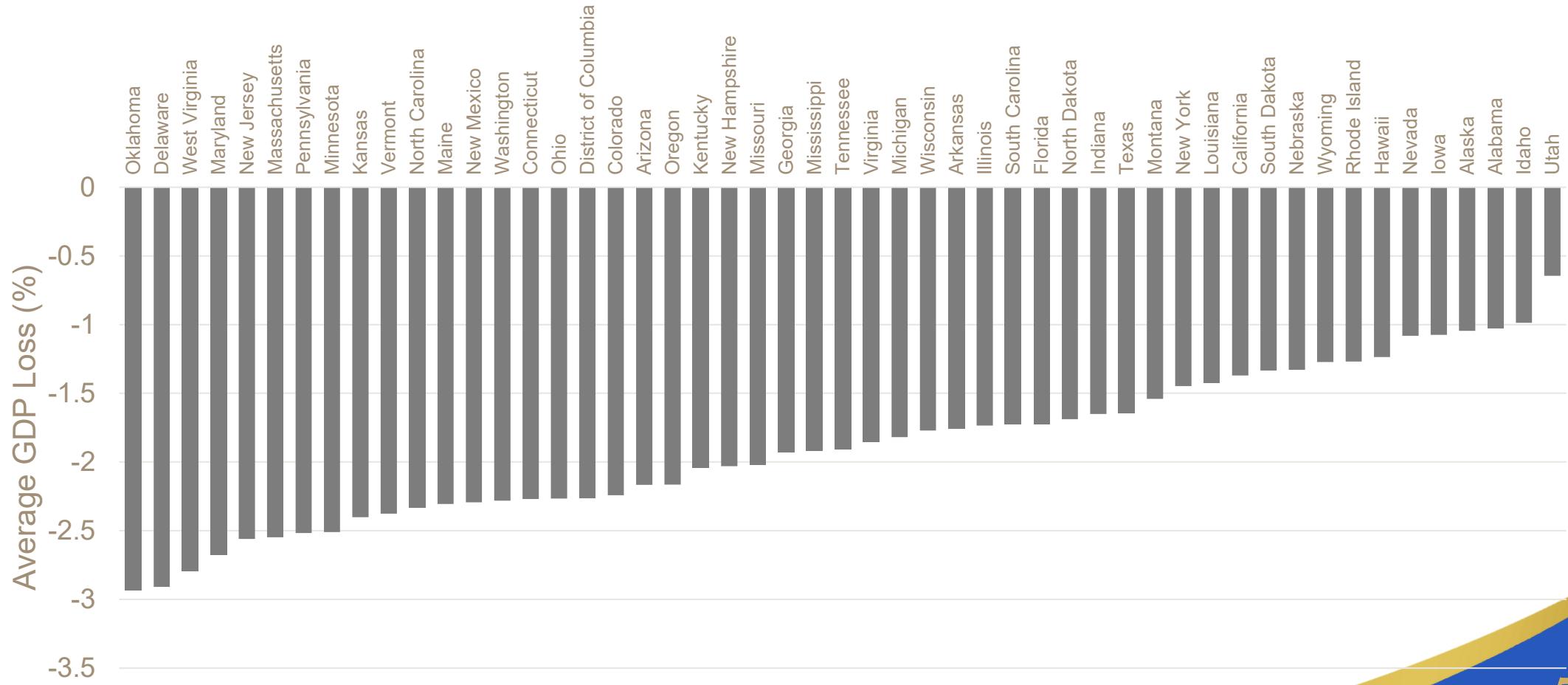
*Why NAEP Matters and the Courage to Act*

# ***COVID Economic Impacts***

- 6% Lifetime “COVID Tax”
- Potential National Loss of \$28 trillion

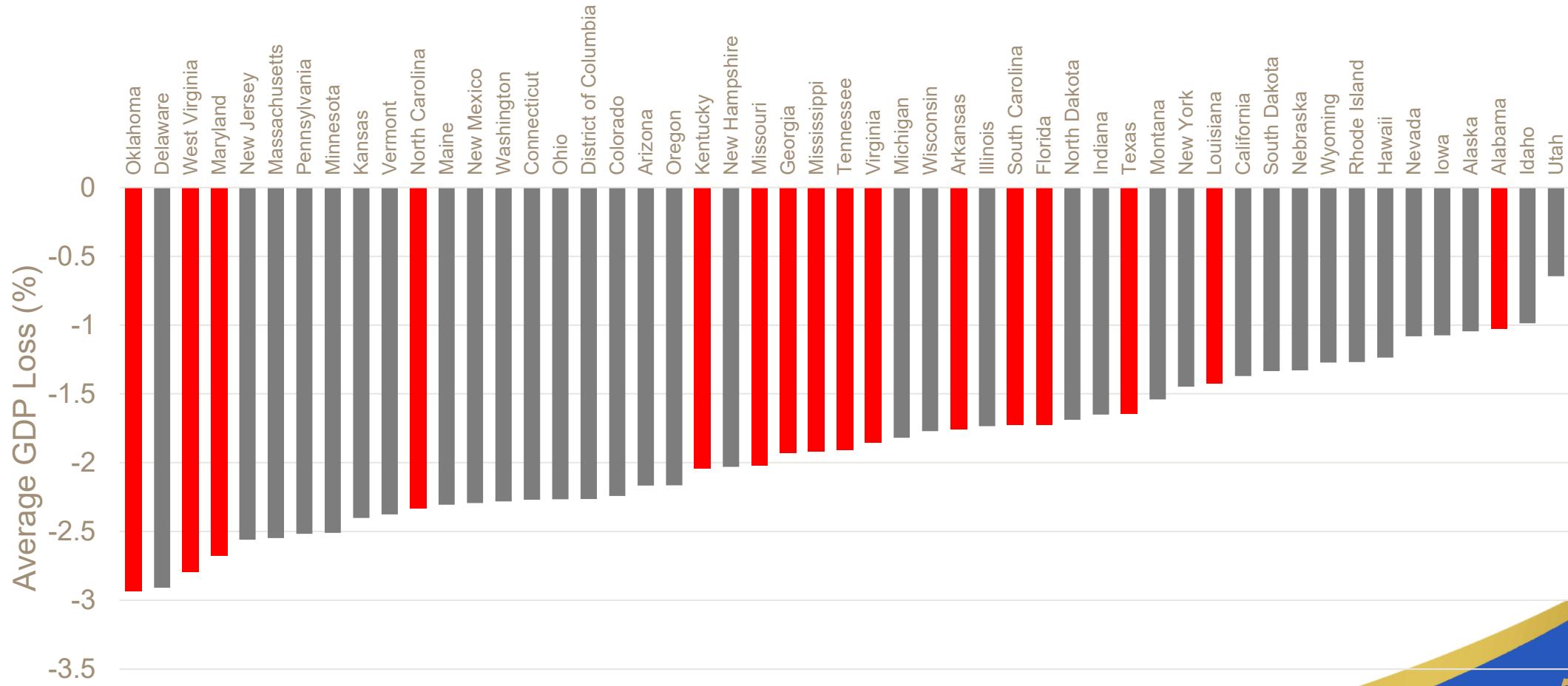
(Eric A. Hanushek, Stanford University)

# Potential GDP Impact of COVID-Cohort



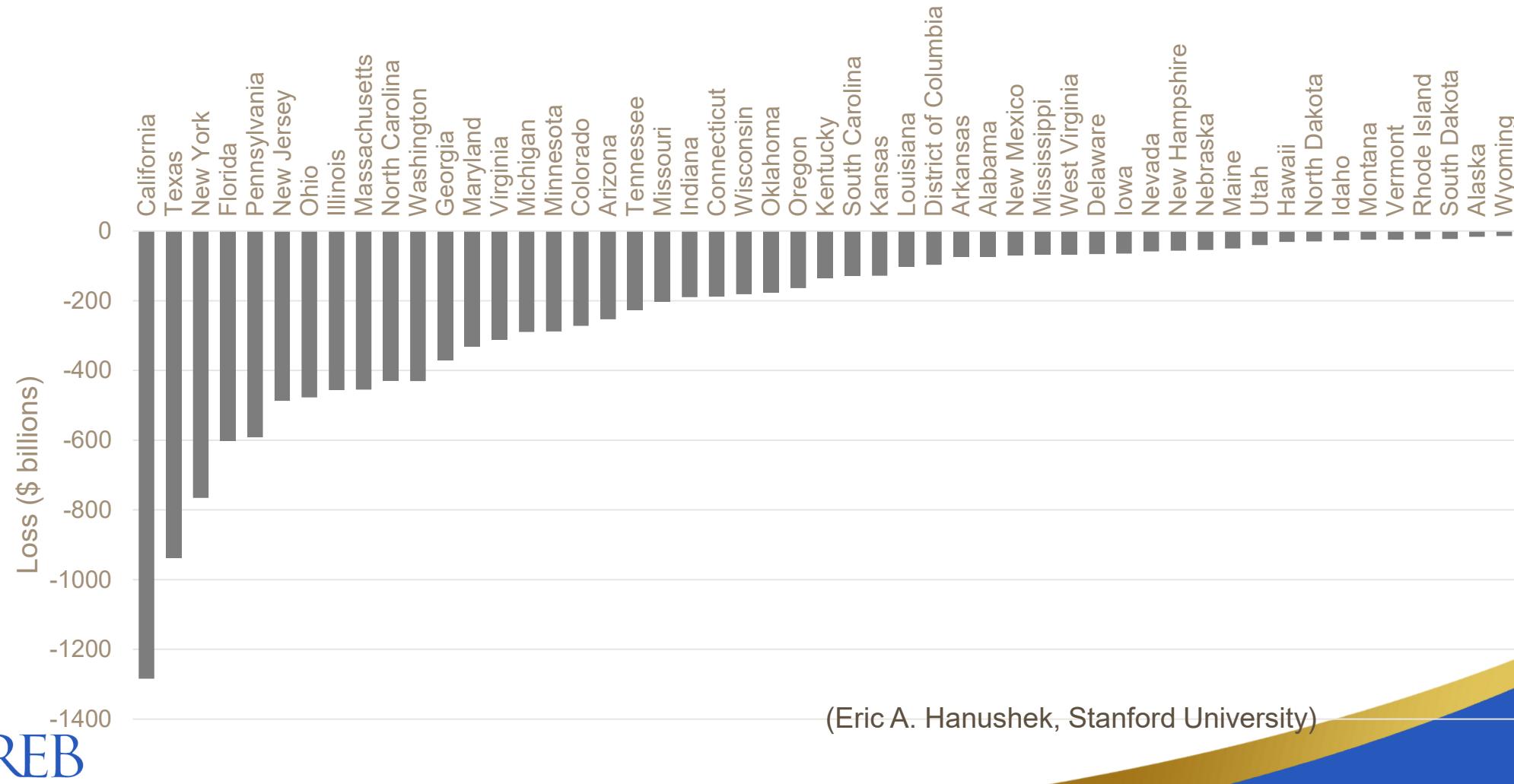
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# Potential GDP Impact of COVID-Cohort



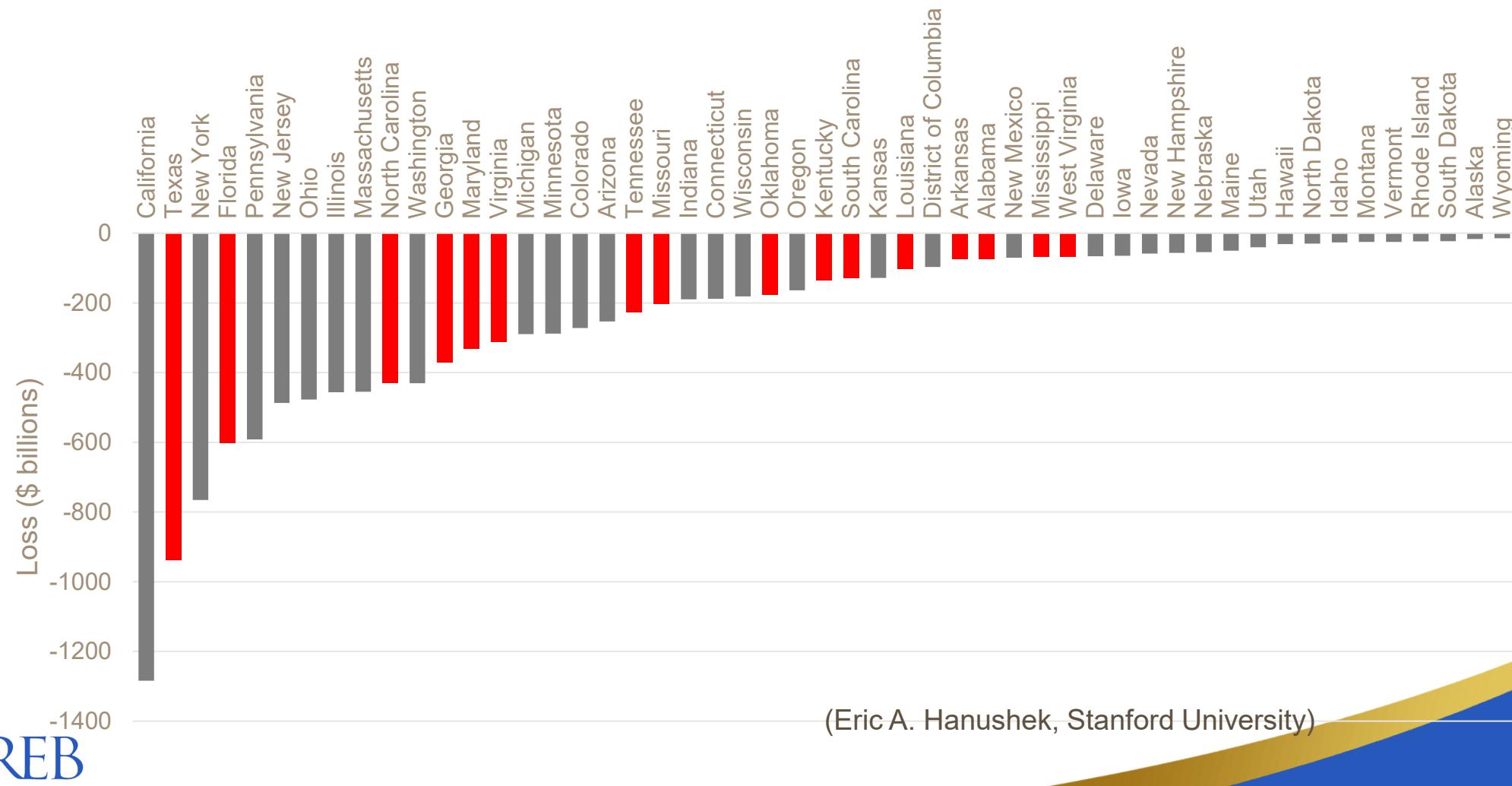
(Eric A. Hanushek, Stanford University)

# Potential Economic Impact of COVID-Cohort



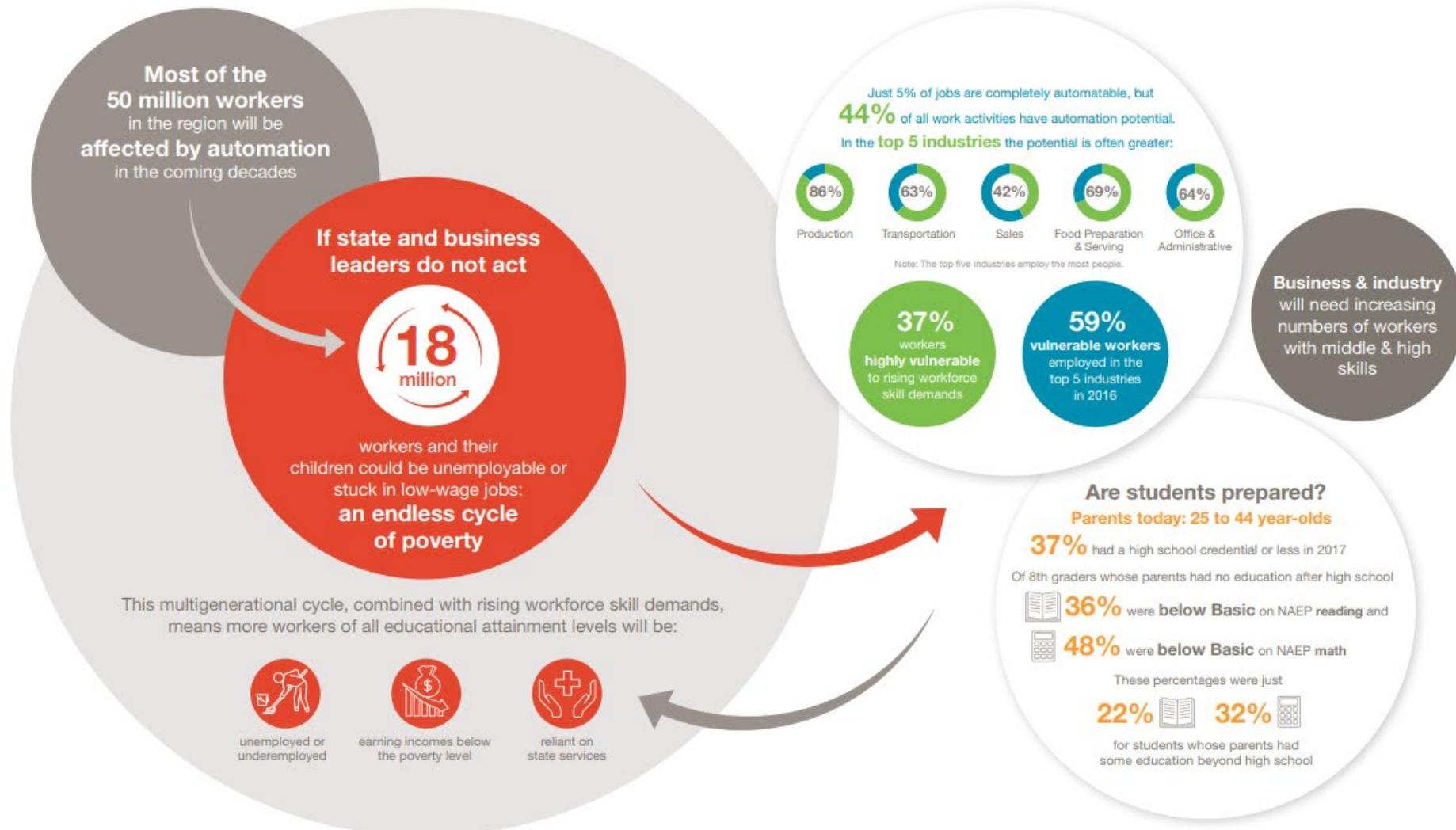
(Eric A. Hanushek, Stanford University)

# Potential Economic Impact of COVID-Cohort



(Eric A. Hanushek, Stanford University)

## The SREB Region's Economic Outlook



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# A Few Final Thoughts

- Set ambitious goals for improvement at state using NAEP
- Focus on instruction
- Have the courage to embrace NAEP results
- Do not look for silver bullets
- Evaluate levels of funding and other elements that are required to reach your goals
- Seek solutions and constantly assess progress
- Have the courage to change direction when the data indicates
- Do not ignore other areas to just focus on literacy; other areas support literacy performance

## Contact me:

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