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TO: Members of the Maryland State Board of Education

FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.

DATE: January 30, 2018

SUBJECT: Maryland 4-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation and Dropout Rates

The 2017 4-year Cohort Graduation and Dropout Rate results will be provided to you at the State Board meeting on January 30, 2017. This memorandum provides you with information and highlights of the 2017 graduation and dropout rates.

The Cohort Graduation Rate

The 4-year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate (ACGR) provides a measure of the percent of students that successfully complete high school in 4 years with a regular high school diploma. A 4-year ACGR is defined as the number of students who graduate in 4 years with a regular high school diploma divided by the number of students who form the adjusted cohort for that graduating class. The term “adjusted cohort” means the students who enter grade 9 plus any students who transfer into the cohort in grades 9-12 minus any students who are removed from the cohort because they transferred out, moved out of the country, or were deceased.

In Maryland the 2017 4-year cohort includes students that were first time ninth graders in 2013-2014 and graduated by and including the summer of 2017. The 4-year cohort graduation rate was first calculated for the class of 2010.

The Cohort Dropout Rate

With the capacity to calculate the cohort graduation rate we also have the ability to calculate a dropout rate for each cohort. This rate includes as dropouts those students who did not graduate after four years but did not return for a fifth year. The 4-year adjusted cohort dropout rate is defined as the number of students who leave school, for any reason other than death, within the four year period divided by the number of students in the adjusted cohort. The 4-year cohort dropout rate was first calculated for the class of 2010.

Results

An increasing percentage of Maryland students are graduating on-time each year. The 4-year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate for the Class of 2017 was 87.67 percent, which amounts to a 0.06 percentage point increase from the 2016 rate of 87.61 percent. Since 2010 the percentage of students graduating has increased 5.7%. The Class of 2017 4-year Cohort Dropout Rate has increased 0.24 percentage points from 2016 to 8.21 percent.

Below in Table 1 is Cohort Graduation Rate information for the Class of 2016 and 2017 by student group populations. For the class of 2016 both the 4-Year and a 5-year Cohort Graduation Rates are provided. The 5-year Cohort Graduation Rate for 2017 will be calculated fall 2018.

Table 1. Cohort Graduation Rate information for the Class of 2016 and 2017 by student group populations

	Class of 2016		Class of 2017
	4 Year Rate	5-Year Rate	4-Year Rate
All Students	87.61	89.47	87.67
Hispanic	76.55	80.15	73.98
American Indian	81.97	87.36	86.00
Asian	95.25	96.41	96.28
African American	84.06	86.77	85.44
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	89.29	92.86	89.23
White	92.41	93.15	92.66
Two or More Races	90.85	92.36	90.75
Special Education	66.86	72.02	67.48
FARMS	79.2	83.15	79.30
ELL	47.54	56.06	45.31

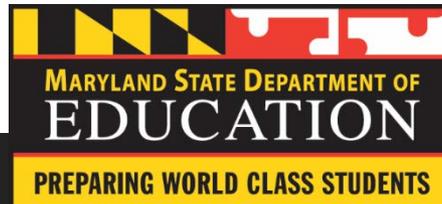
CONCLUSION:

Data will be reported on the Maryland Report Card website at 12:00 p.m. on January 30, 2017. School and central office staff will review, analyze, and interpret this information, share it with their school communities, and use it as a planning tool to guide actions to improve the learning of all students.

ACTION:

For information only. No action required.

Cohort Graduation and Dropout Rates



STATE BOARD MEETING

January 30, 2018

What is a “Cohort”?

Graduation Cohort

- A group of students who begin as first-time ninth graders in a particular school year
 - Adjusted by student transfers or death

Drop-out Cohort

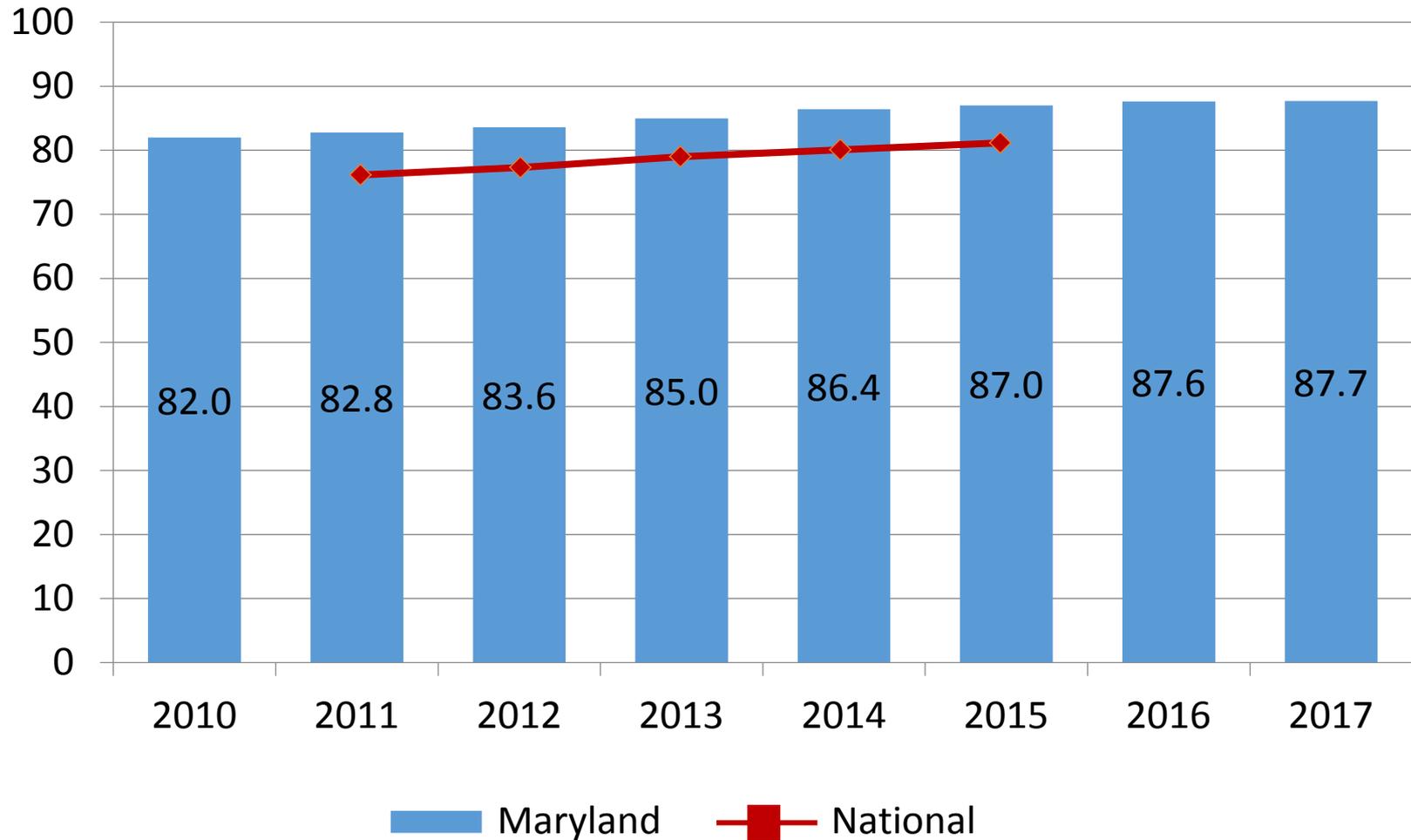
- Students who terminate formal education during high school

Class of 2017 Cohort

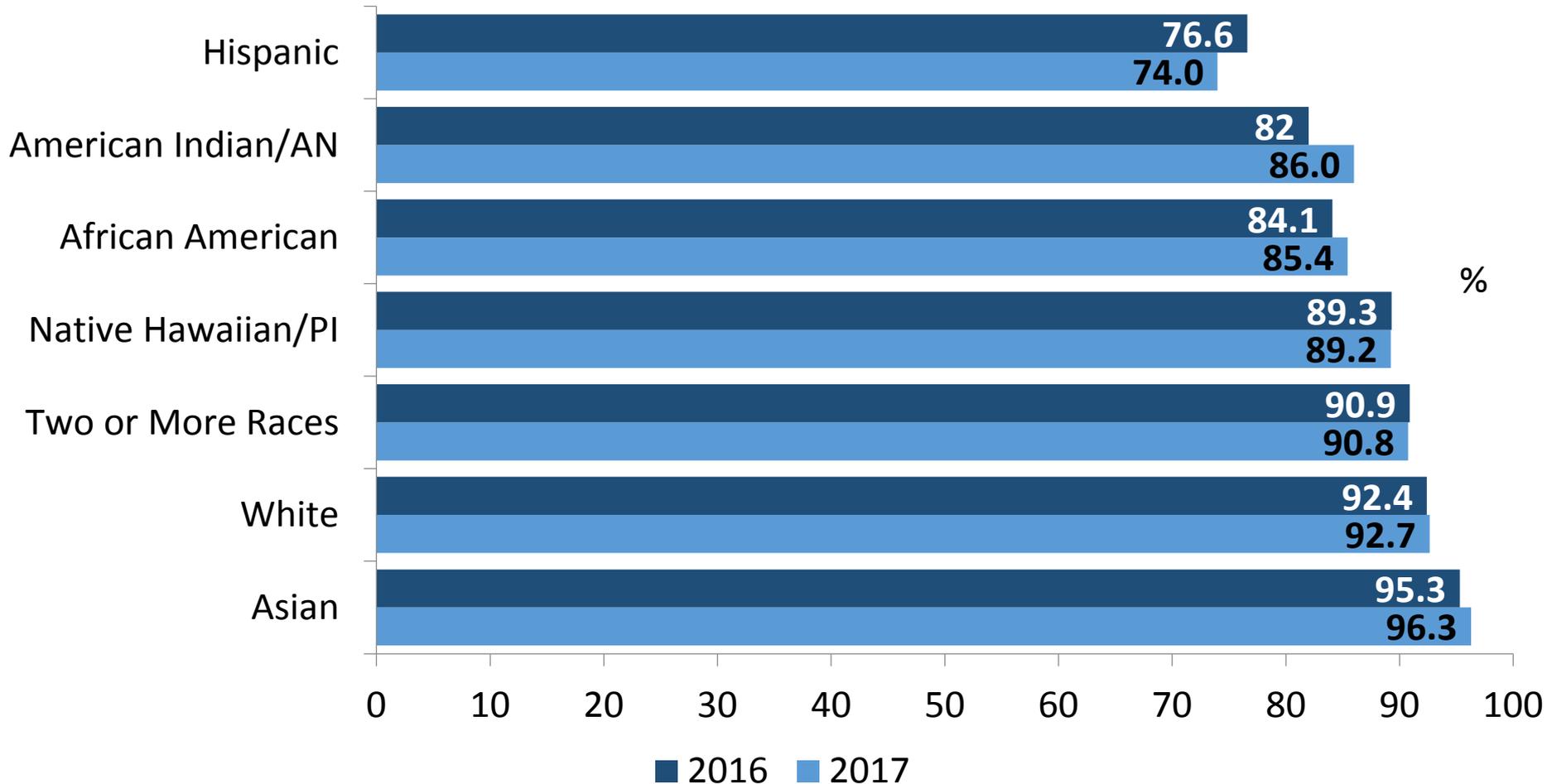
- First-time 9th graders in 2013 - 2014



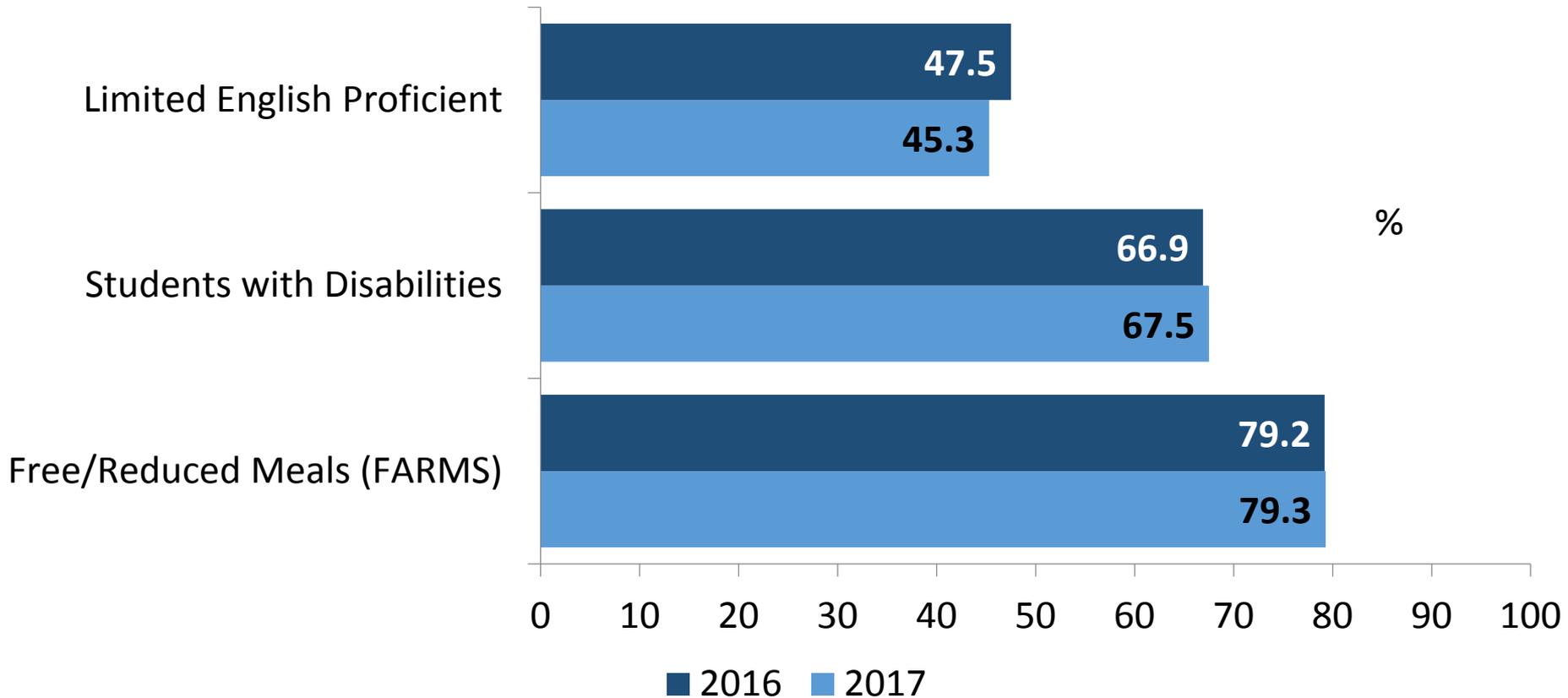
An Increasing Percentage of Students Graduate on Time Each Year



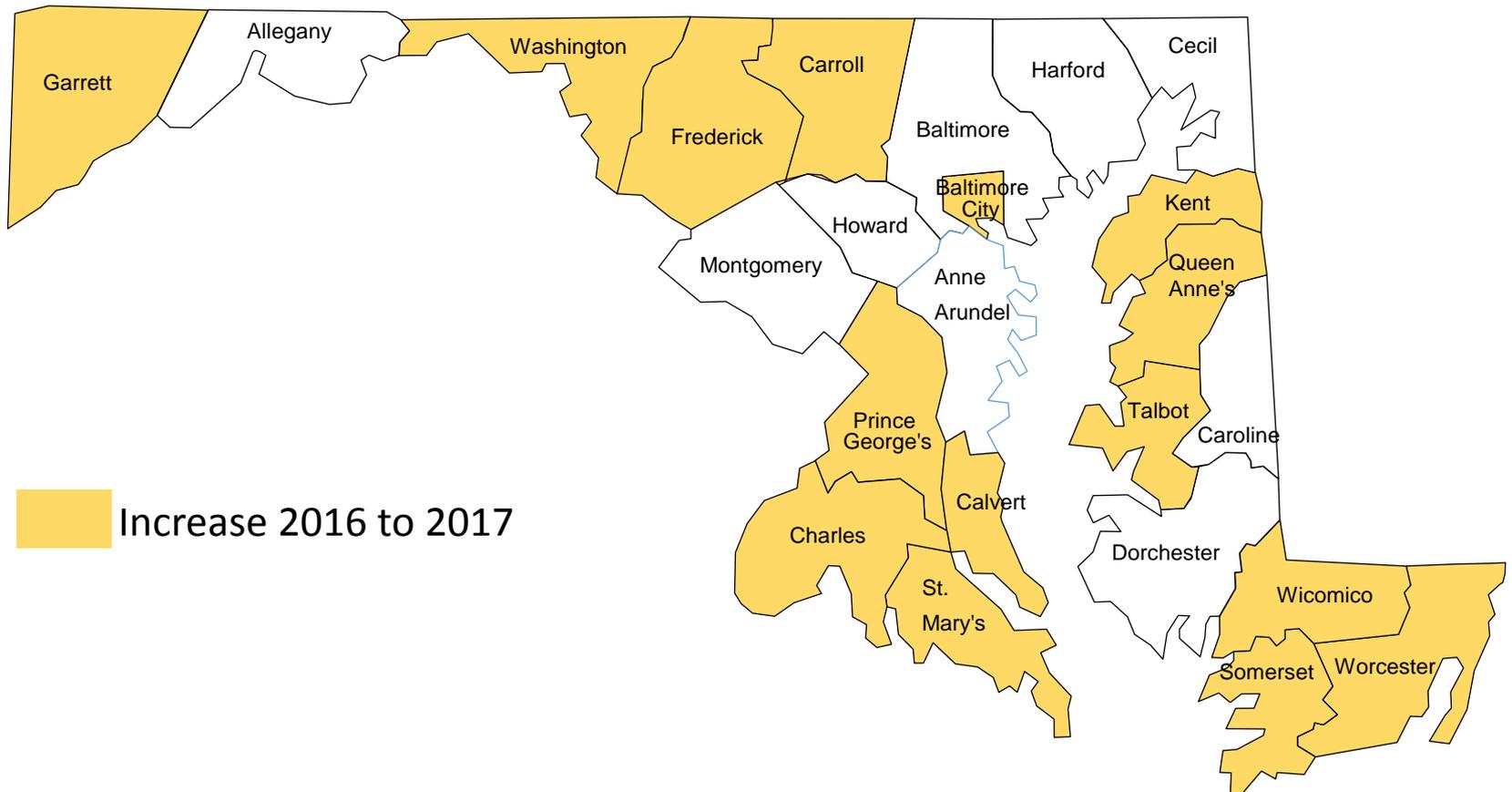
Cohort Graduation Rate Improved in 4 of 7 Racial Categories



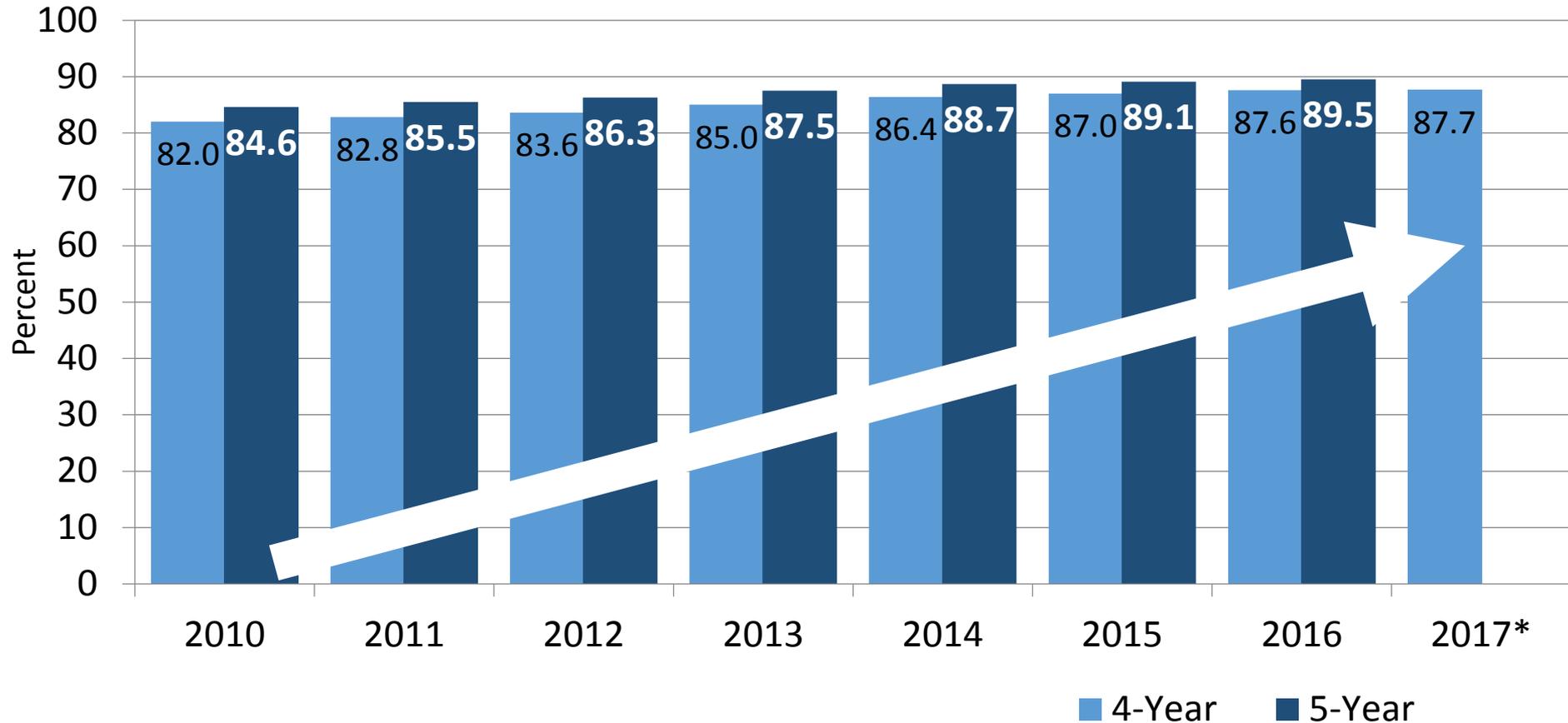
Cohort Graduation Rate Improved for Free and Reduced Meal and Students with Disabilities



The 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate Increased In 15 LEAs



4-Year vs. 5-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates



*2017 5-Year Cohort Graduation Rate Available Fall of 2018

Maryland's Dropout Rate Slightly Increased in 2017 however the overall trend shows an improving dropout rate.

