

MEMORANDUM

TO: Salt Lake City Board of Education
Dr. Elizabeth Grant, Superintendent of Education

FROM: Leeson Taylor, Ed. D., Executive Director
School Leadership and Support

DATE: April 30, 2025

RE: Charter School Updates

Summary:

According to the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) and Utah Code § 53G-5, charter schools must maintain regular communication with their authorizer— in this case, the Board of Education for SLCS D —and update them on material changes. These include, but are not limited to:

- Changes in leadership or governance (e.g., board members, directors)
- Amendments to the charter agreement
- Academic or financial performance concerns
- Relocation of the school or changes to grade configurations
- Major policy shifts that affect operations or compliance

Additionally, Utah Admin. Code R277-552 and related charter authorizer handbooks often require strategic updates, and approval for any significant changes. In this case, we are presenting a strategic update for the Board.

Requested Board Action:

This is just informational, no action by the Board is needed at this time. Thank you for your time and efforts.

Cc: File



Charter Presentation

Open Classroom

Date May 6, 2025

Presented by: Craig Pitts, Principal



Our Charter Journey

- Authorized: Program-1977, Charter-2006
- Mission: The Open Classroom is a parent-cooperative learning community in which teachers and parents collaborate to educate the whole child and empower lifelong learners.
- Vision: The Open Classroom inspires authentic learning by engaging everyone in dynamic and evolving practices in a welcoming environment.



Academic Growth & Achievement - 2024

- Growth on RISE, 3rd Graders Reading on Grade Level
 - 59.5% 3rd Graders ROGL!
 - RISE ELA 46.5% ↑ 2.7%
 - RISE Math 36.5% ↑ 5.1%





Academic Growth & Achievement - 2024

- Grades 4-8 all higher than State average on Science RISE
- 2024 School MGP
 - Math- 58.6
 - ELA- 48
 - Science- 61
- Currently not in School Improvement Status
 - Student group trends

Achievement Points

- 2024 - SWD 12.18% increase
- 2024 – Multiracial 9.08% increase
- 2024 – Schoolwide .66% overall increase in accountability





Closing Achievement Gaps

- Improvement through PLCs and data-driven instruction
 - 75.4% MLL Met growth on WIDA
- Identified needs from past evaluations
 - Math instruction, Focus on student groups: SWD, Hispanic
- Interventions and supports implemented
 - Tier II, Tier III supports





Culture of Continuous Improvement

- Annual Comprehensive Needs Assessment
 - Student discourse and academic conversations – 50%
 - School-wide enhancement of PLCs
 - Tier II interventions and supports
 - Science curriculum
 - Attendance focus





Operational Excellence

- Financial audits, reserves, and budget stability
 - PFOE – Parent Fundraising
- Increasing enrollment and outreach
 - Fall 2023 – 262, Fall 2025 - 307
- Facility maintenance and safety
 - 2024 Risk Management – 100%





Governance and Compliance

- Full legal and regulatory compliance





Family and Community Partnerships

- Local partnerships and student opportunities
 - Wasatch Garden – OC Community Garden
 - Parent Co-oping during day
 - After-School
 - Aftercare Program
 - Ultimate Frisbee
 - Archery
 - Soccer
 - Basketball
 - Bryant Sports Teams





Future Focus

- Academic and programmatic priorities
 - Blended classroom model
 - Middle school program
 - Preschool program
 - USBE Personalized Competency Based Learning
- Enrollment increase
- Re-Charter 2026-2027 School Year
- Inclusion and equity initiatives
 - SPED support in classrooms
 - Differentiate for all students in homeroom
- Strategic improvement targets





Questions & Discussion

- Open for questions
- Thank you for your ongoing support





Salt Lake Center for Science Education (SLCSE)

May 6, 2025



Charter Renewal Presentation

Salt Lake Center for Science Education

May 6, 2025

Presented by: Britnie Powell, Principal



Our Charter Journey



Recognitions

- National recognition as a Gold Level School of Opportunity by The National Education Policy Center (2018)
- AP Honor Roll Recognition (2023, 2024)
- A Best High School recognition by US News & World Report
- Top Performing High School (SLCSD) (2022, 2024)
- High graduation rates, consistently above 97%



Our Charter Journey



Mission:

At SLCSE, we develop the character and skills necessary to "Change Reality."

We are courageous and persistent problem-solvers.

We take healthy risks.

We make mistakes and learn from our mistakes.

We care about the quality of our work.

We use professional language and kindness to develop communities.

We take care of our abundant resources and use them to serve our school community and beyond.

We use our curiosity, imagination, and adaptability to direct ourselves in our quest; as learners, critical thinkers, and ethical world citizens.



Our Charter Journey

- Vision/Tenets:

SCIENCE & MATH

- All students take Math and Science every year
- Science is taught as an extended period
- Course sequence: Integrated Science 7 - Integrated Science 8 - Physics - Chemistry - Biology - Science Elective

UNTRACKED CLASSES

- Students are scheduled in grade level bands
- All students have access to rigorous curriculum
- Inclusive classrooms within a small school community
- Recognized by AP for delivering results and broadening access for students

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

- Real-world experiences beyond the walls of the classroom
- Outdoor Learning: camping, hiking, biking, and kayaking
- Participation in the Utah legislative session
- Lab visits at the University of Utah
- Engage with the community through service learning

CHARTERED BY THE SALT LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT

THE SLCSE MODEL

TEACHER TEAMING

- Cross-curricular integration
- Project Based Learning
- Multi-Tiered Systems of Student Support

TEACHER LEADERS

- Community Partnerships and Student Internships
- Experiential Learning
- Instructional Mentorship

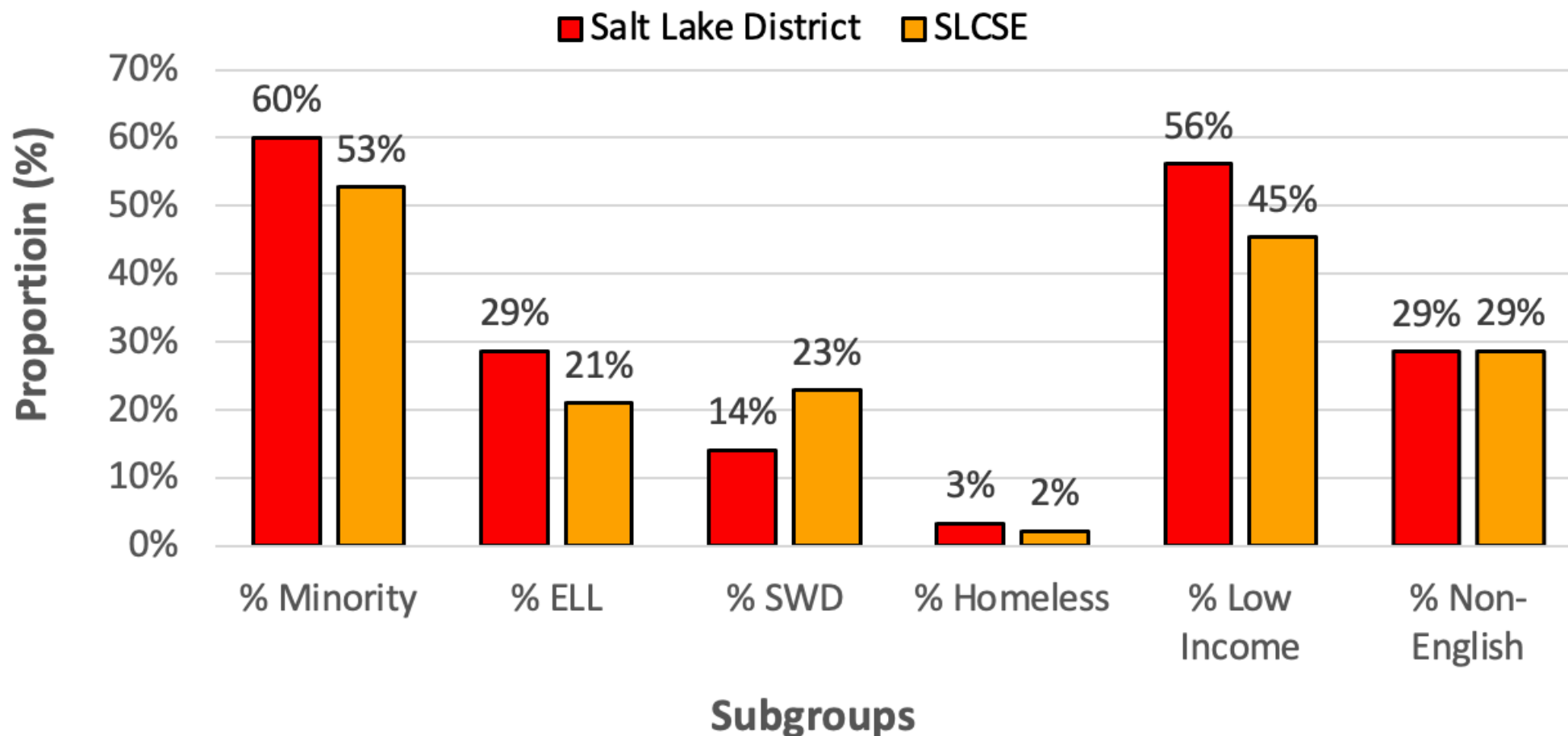
VERTICAL ALIGNMENT

- Building student academic and soft skills by aligning curriculum and instruction from 7th through 12th grade



Academic Growth & Achievement: Demographics

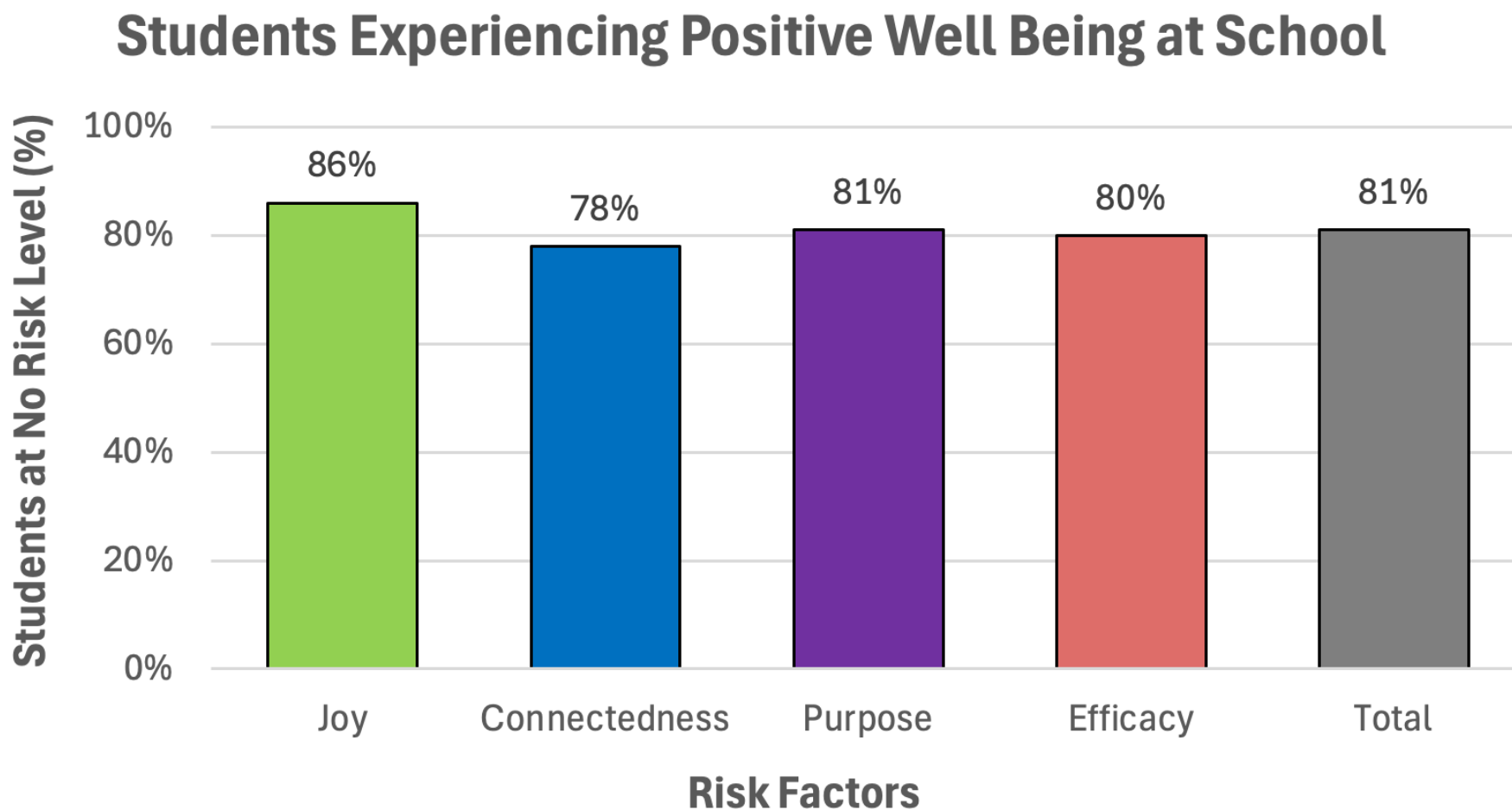
Demographics: Salt Lake School District and SLCSE





Academic Growth & Achievement: Social Emotional Learning

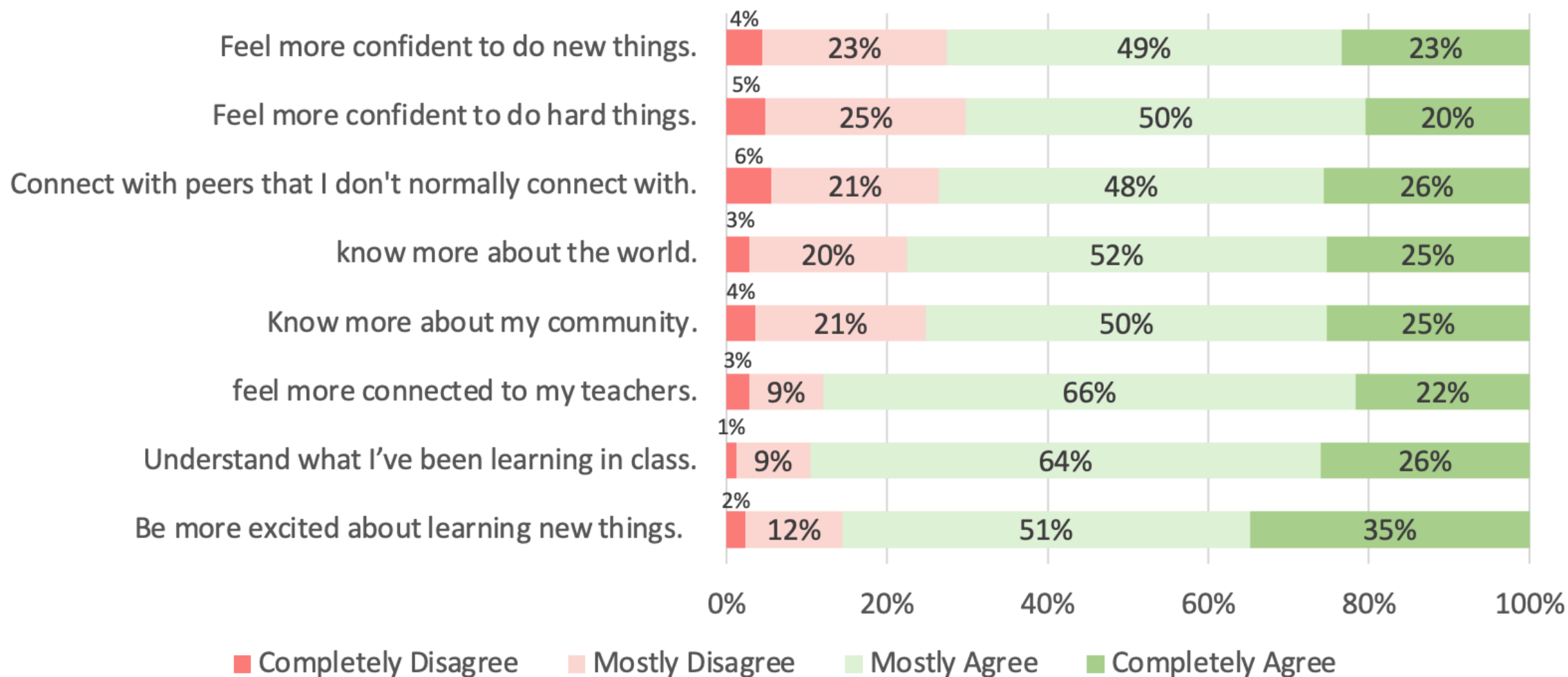
SLCSE Rose Park 2024 Social-Emotional Screening Report (University of Utah)





Academic Growth & Achievement

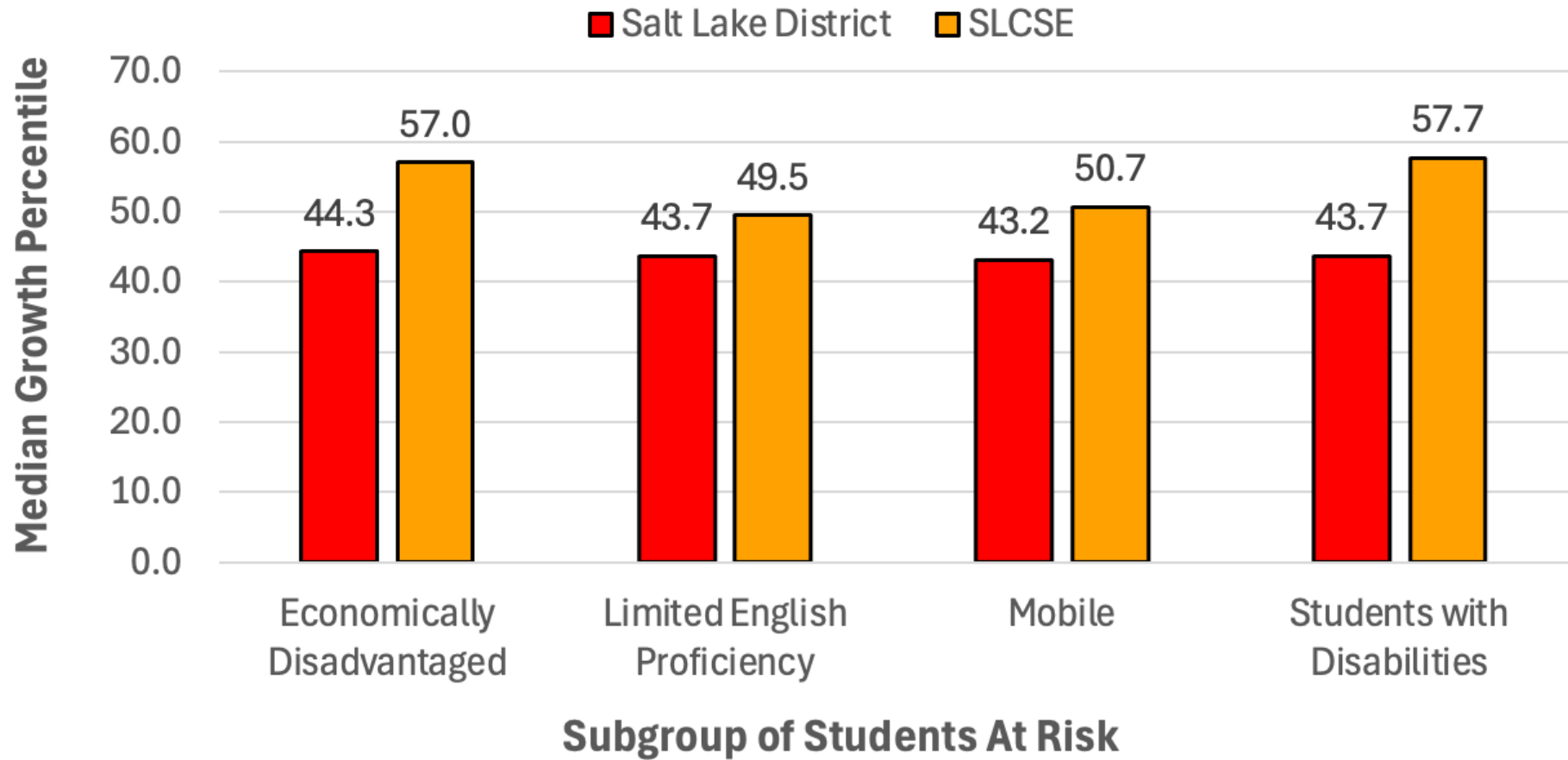
Experiential Learning Has Helped Me...





Academic Growth & Achievement

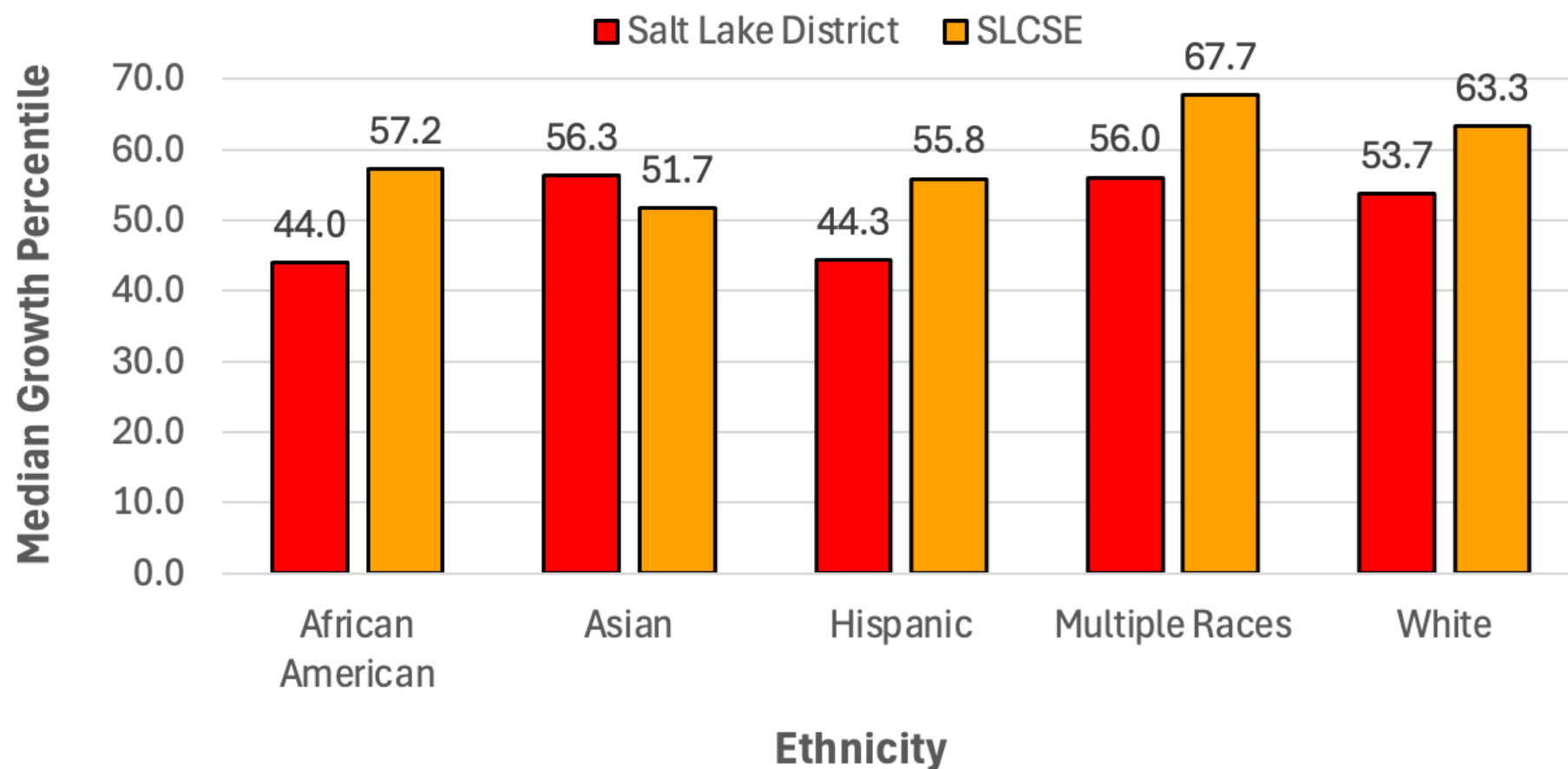
Median Growth Percentile (Aspire+): Students At Risk





Academic Growth & Achievement

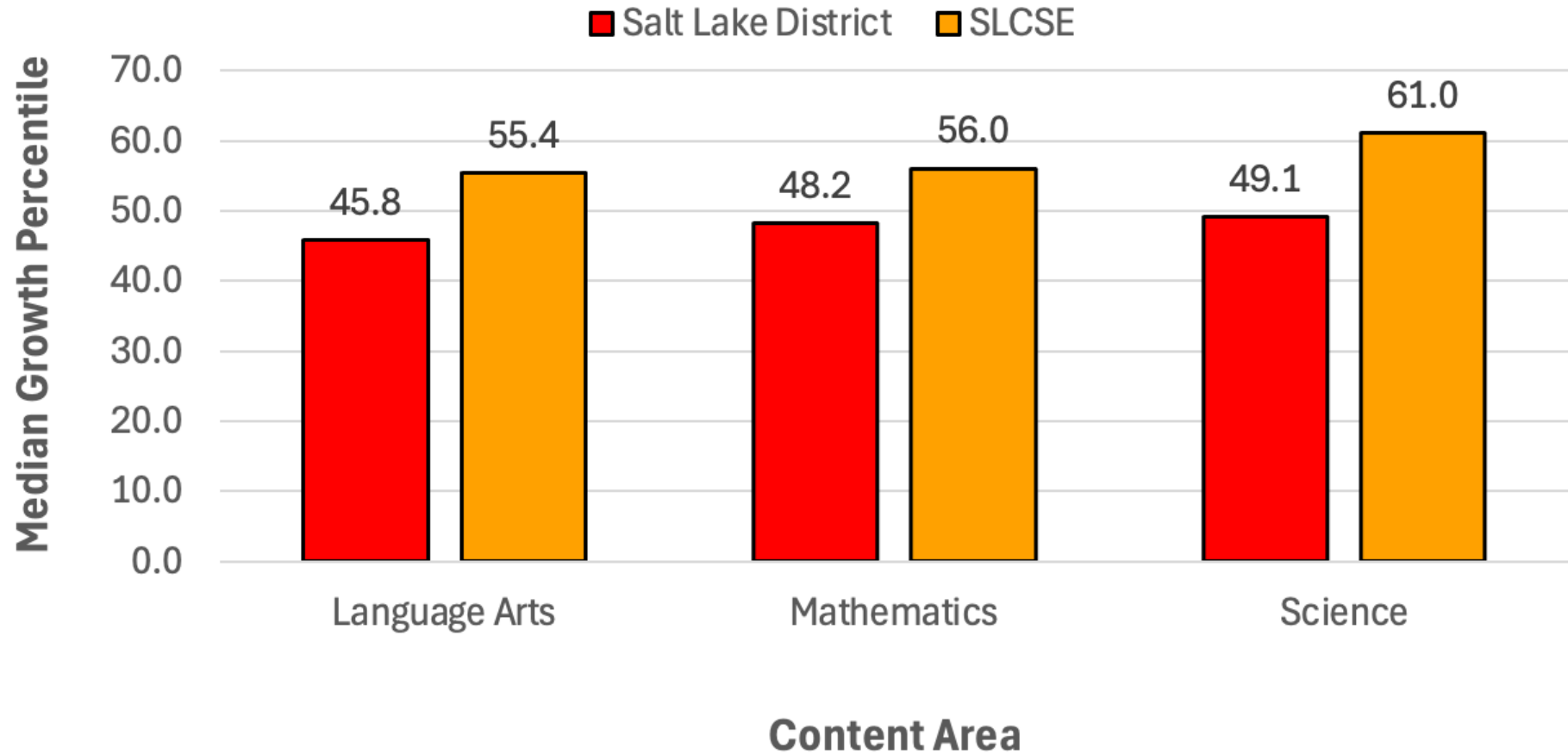
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Academic Growth & Achievement

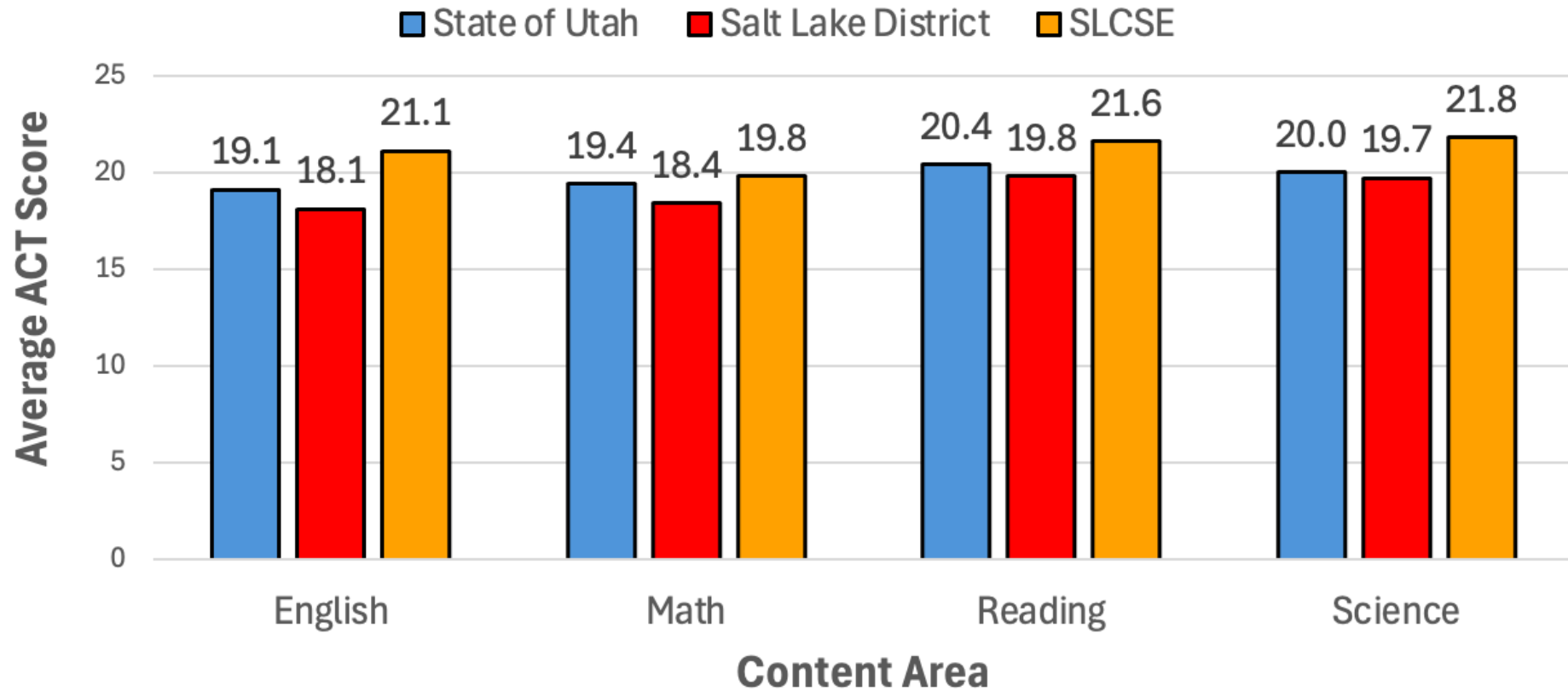
Median Growth Percentile (Aspire+): Content Area





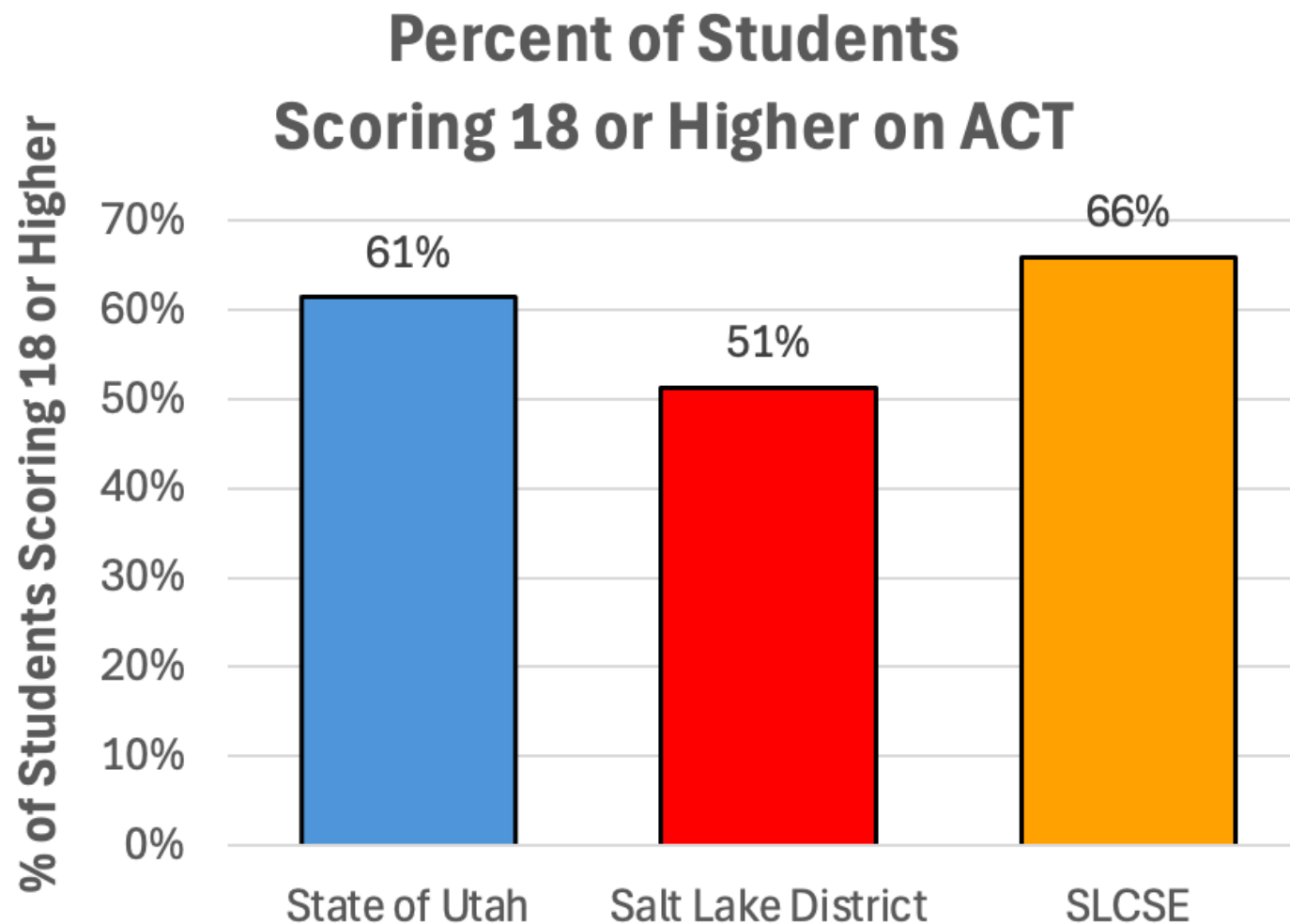
Academic Growth & Achievement

ACT Scores by Content Area: State - District - School Comparison





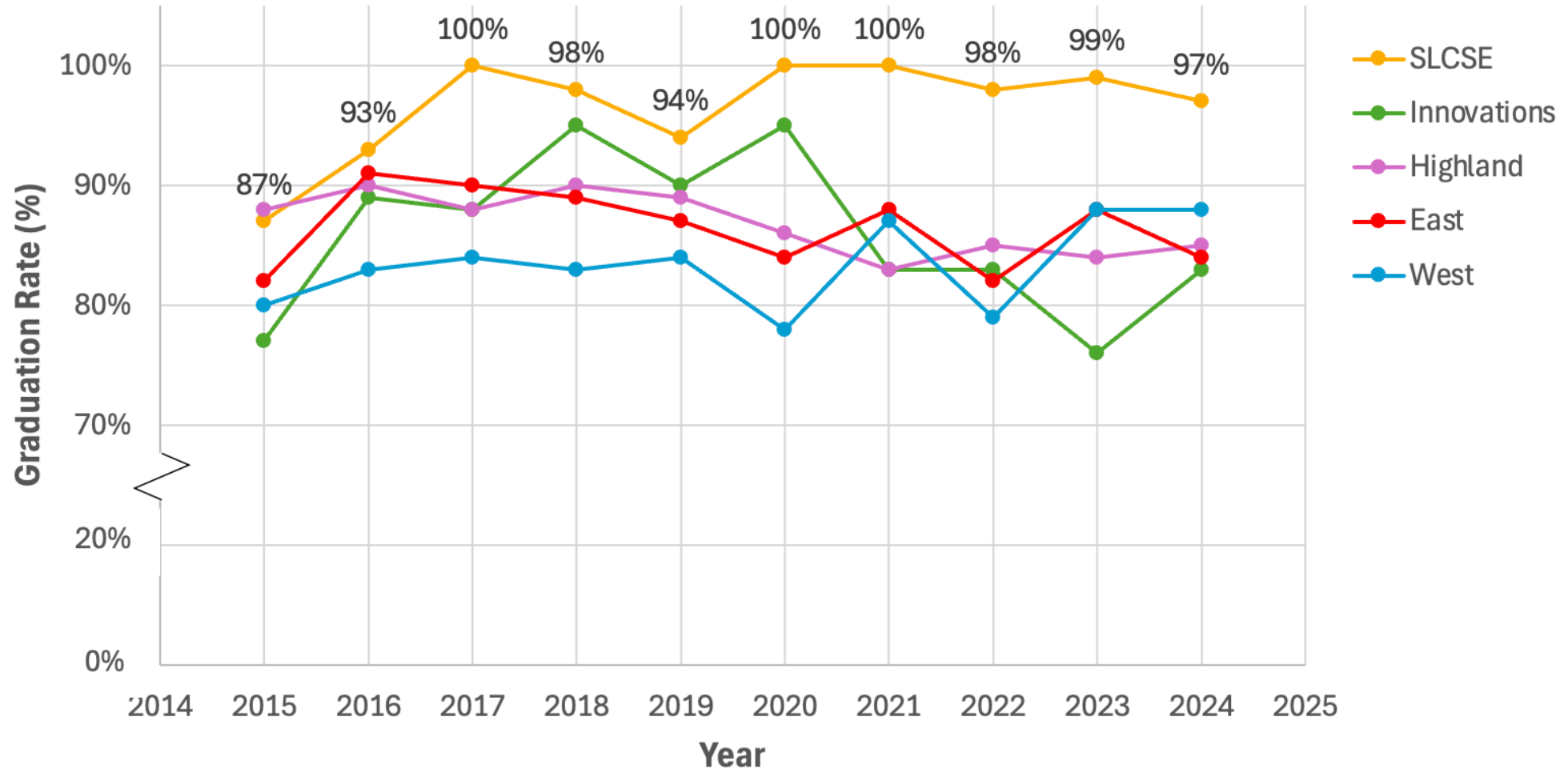
Academic Growth & Achievement





Academic Growth & Achievement

Graduation Rates for High Schools in Salt Lake District





Closing Achievement Gaps

- Inclusion model school, co-taught classrooms
- Students take classes in grade level bands with extended time in science and math classes
- Teacher teaming
- Senior Seminar, Senior Capstone
- Experiential learning/integrated project-based learning
- End of year project symposium





Culture of Continuous Improvement

Teachers

- Professional Development
- Colleague Observations
- PLCs
 - Grade Level
 - Department
 - Cross Curricular

FOCUS:

- ☐ Strong focus on effective differentiation
- ☐ Designed by teacher leaders
- ☐ Collaboration about individual students

Parents

- School Community Council

FOCUS:

- ☐ Land Trust
- ☐ School Culture & Safety

Students

- Peer Leadership
- Alumni Reception

FOCUS:

- ☐ School Culture
- ☐ Social Opportunities
- ☐ Service
- ☐ Post High School



Operational Excellence

- Financial audits, reserves, and budget stability
- Enrollment and outreach
- Facility maintenance and safety





Governance and Compliance

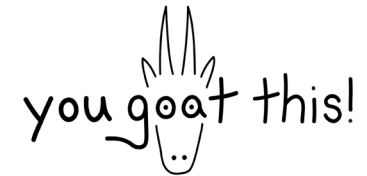
- Full legal and regulatory compliance
 - Accreditation and Certification 07/31/2023



Family and Community Partnerships



Proxima Careers





Future Focus

- Broaden access to our model while remaining committed to continuous learning and improvement
- Middle School
- Continued development of post high school pathways
 - Senior Seminar
 - Internships
 - Partnerships for credentials in cohorts





Questions & Discussion

Open for questions

Thank you for your ongoing support

