



Colorado's K-12 Potential

A presentation to the
House and Senate
Education Committees
and Joint Budget
Committee

April 13, 2016

We Get One Chance!



“The next 12 months will determine what your education system looks like for the next 15 years”

Senator Lamar Alexander

Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP)

- We have some critical decisions to make
 - Low skill, low wage: Race to be the low cost provider of labor, or
 - High skill, high wage: Make Colorado the number one state in the nation for work, play, and life

One choice requires us to do nothing, the other requires a comprehensive and collaborative plan with high expectations, open minds, new approaches, humility, and a vision for the future.

Key Takeaway for Today

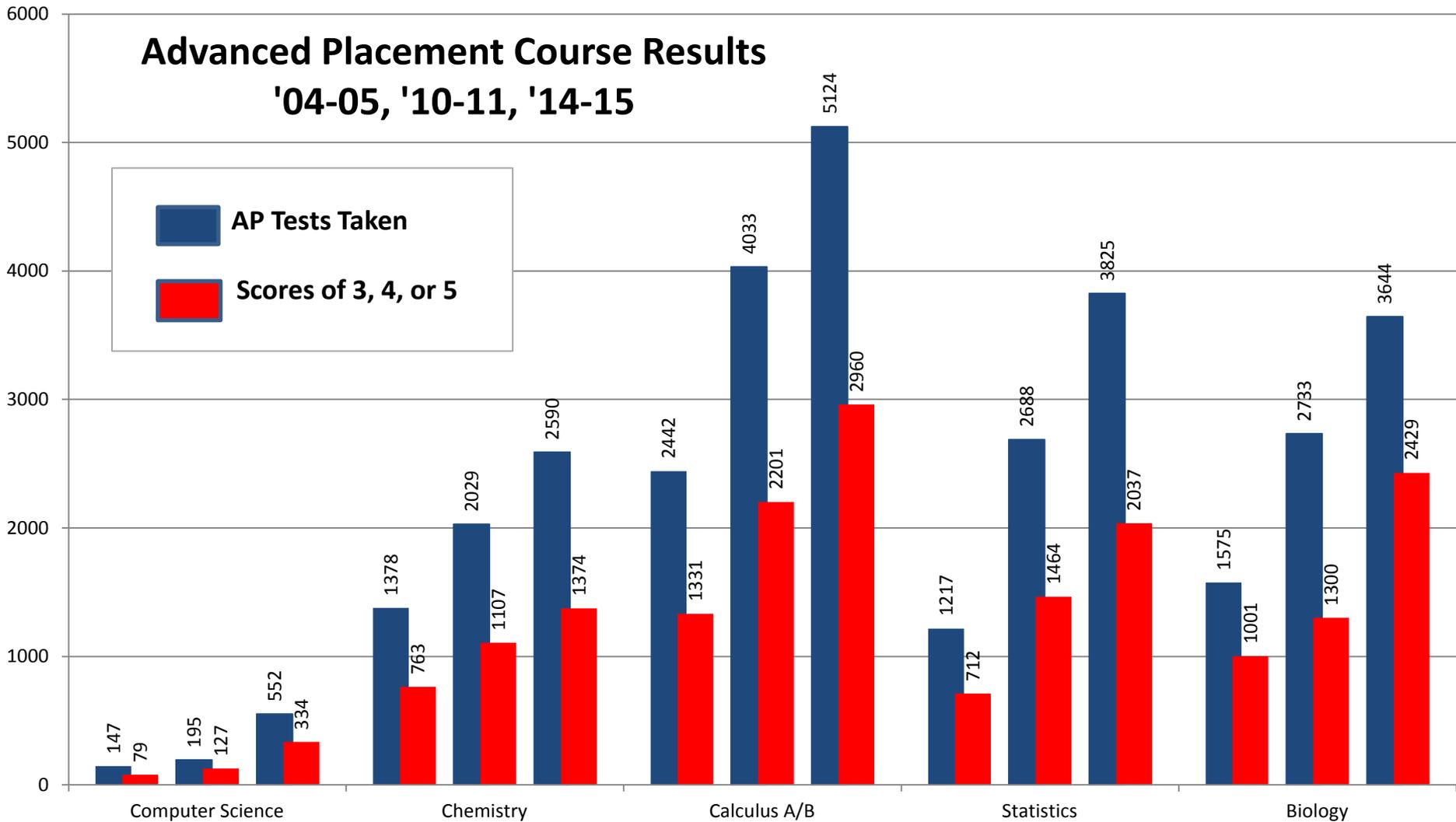
Educational gains and declines are incremental. We often do not see the results of our efforts, or lack of efforts, for several years. The most important point is that proactive actions matter. We get what we plan and work for. Success, especially in education, doesn't happen by accident.

Where do we want to be in 5-10 years?



Nice Trajectory

Advanced Placement Course Results '04-05, '10-11, '14-15



Greatest Threat to Colorado?



“The quality of an education system cannot exceed the quality of its teachers.”

McKinsey & Company

How the World’s Best School Systems Stay on Top

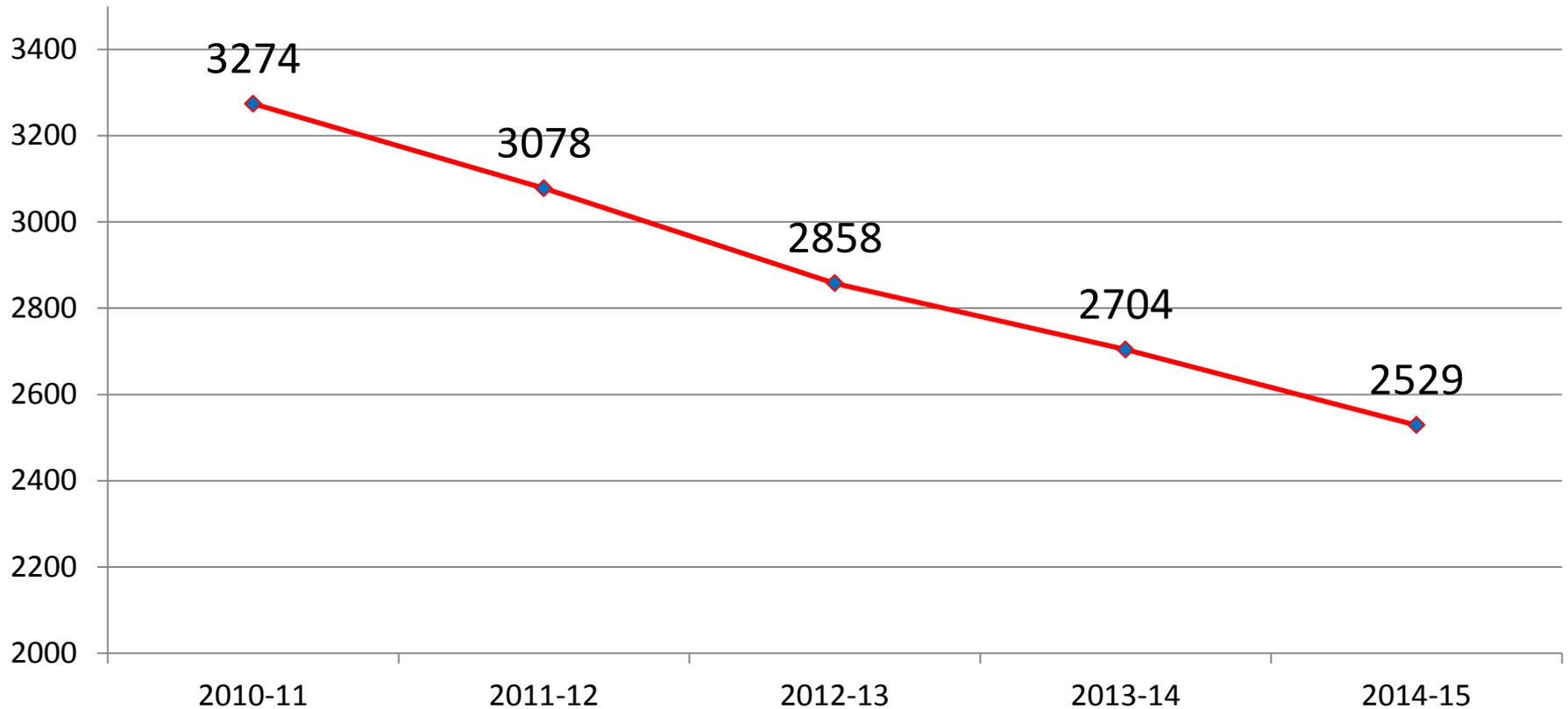
“The top-performing countries believe it will be impossible to deliver to all their students the kind and quality of education formerly reserved for their elites unless they are able to put a very highly qualified teacher in front of all their students.”

National Center for Education and the Economy

9 Building Blocks for a World Class State Education System

29% decline in 5 years

Number of Individuals Completing Educator Prep Programs in Colorado



Besides enough teachers, what else is standing in our way of being the best?

Straight A's 4.0 GPA =  = school gets \$\$\$

Straight D's 1.0 GPA =  = school gets \$\$\$ + \$

Zip Code still determines...

- Quality of teachers
- Level of funding
- Access to rigor
- Access to technology



Why Colorado is Positioned to be #1



Strong Advocacy

Parents & Students
Who Want the
Very Best

Engaged Business
Community

Generous
Philanthropy

Districts & Charters
Wanting to
Continuously
Improve

High Performing in
Many Areas
Already

Legislative
Support

Executive Office
Support

State Board
Attitude Toward
Innovation and
Waivers

What it Will Take to Be #1?



- An education system based on performance and mastery benchmarked at the highest level (NCSL work)
- A funding model that provides a base level of funding, more for specific categories, then rewards for desired outcomes
- A high quality teacher recruiting, retention, and reward system that recognizes this is the only way to be #1
- An assessment system that measures performance and mastery (ESSA Assessment Pilot State, Game of Work)
- An accountability model that incentivizes desired outcomes (Postsecondary & Workforce readiness)
- Wicked student engagement that recognizes today's students are different (Tech, Arts, Sports, CTE, Apprenticeships, Personalized Instruction, Clubs, Activities, Service, etc.)

Why not aim for the top?





Thank you for this
incredible
opportunity

Rich Crandall, Commissioner
April 13, 2016