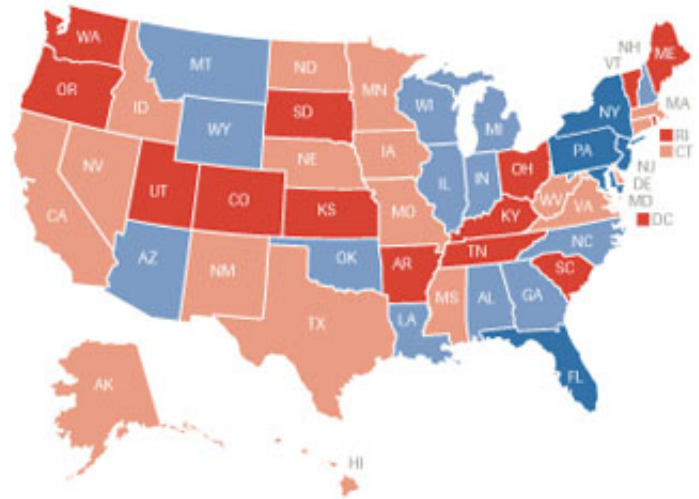


GAP-CLOSING REMAINS A CHALLENGE

Despite notable strides in raising overall student achievement scores in the past decade, most states have struggled to improve performance in an equitable manner for students of all socioeconomic levels. In fact, between 2003 and 2013, the combined achievement gap for 4th grade reading and 8th grade math on the National Assessment of Educational Progress increased in nearly two-thirds of the states, where gains for poor students fell short of their more affluent peers. In the most extreme case, the combined poverty gap for the District of Columbia expanded by 44 scale-score points, indicating that its poor students are now much further behind their more affluent peers than they were a decade ago. The aggregate poverty gap narrowed in 18 states during this period. In 16 states, the gaps for 4th grade reading and 8th grade math moved in opposite directions.



Changes in Poverty Gap

- Gap narrowed by 5 percentage points or more (5 states)
- Gap narrowed by less than 5 points (13)
- Gap widened by less than 5 points (18)
- Gap widened by 5 points or more (15 states, including the District of Columbia)

SOURCE: Education Week Research Center, 2014