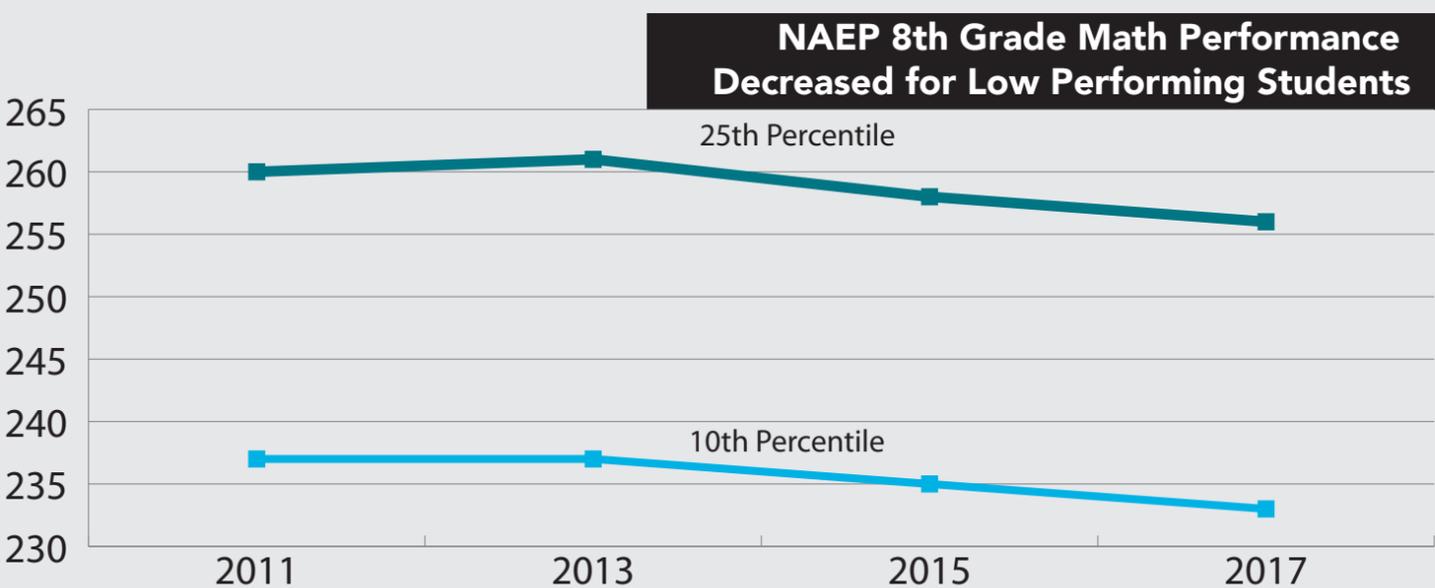
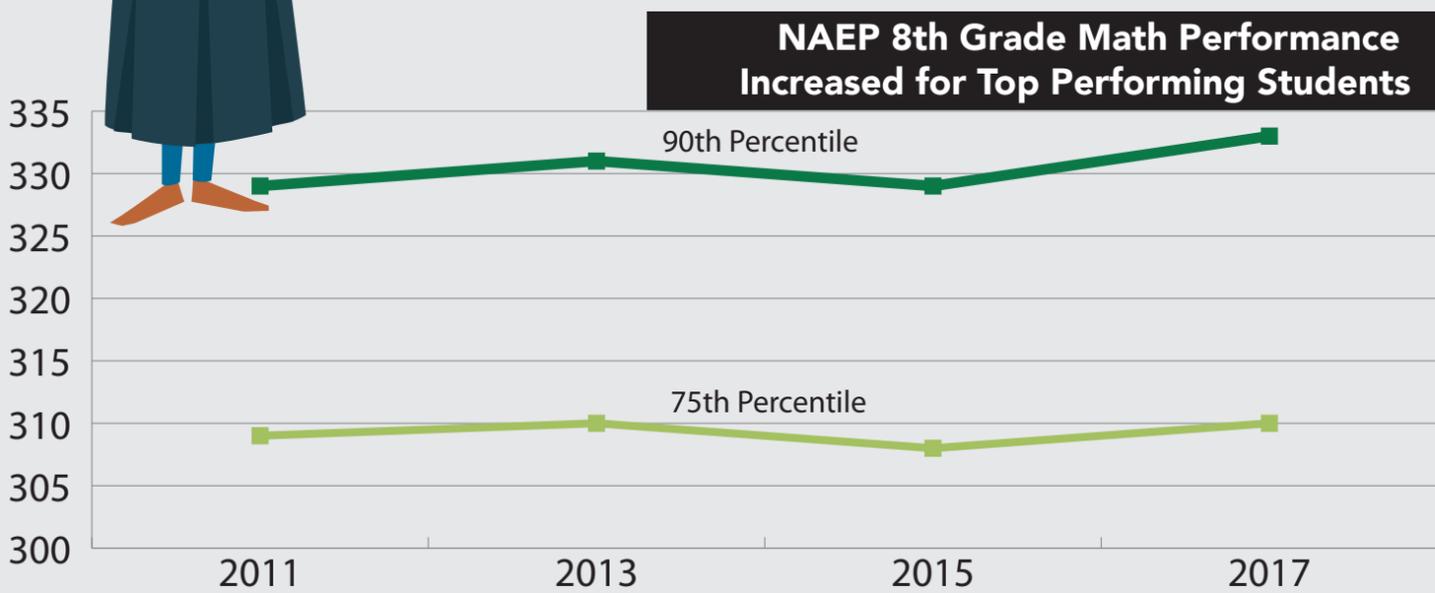


Bootstraps

Mobility in Education Attainment in the United States and Top Performers



One of the most striking findings of the latest National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in the United States is the fact that while top-performing U.S. students are scoring higher, low-performing students' scores have declined in both math and reading since in 2015.

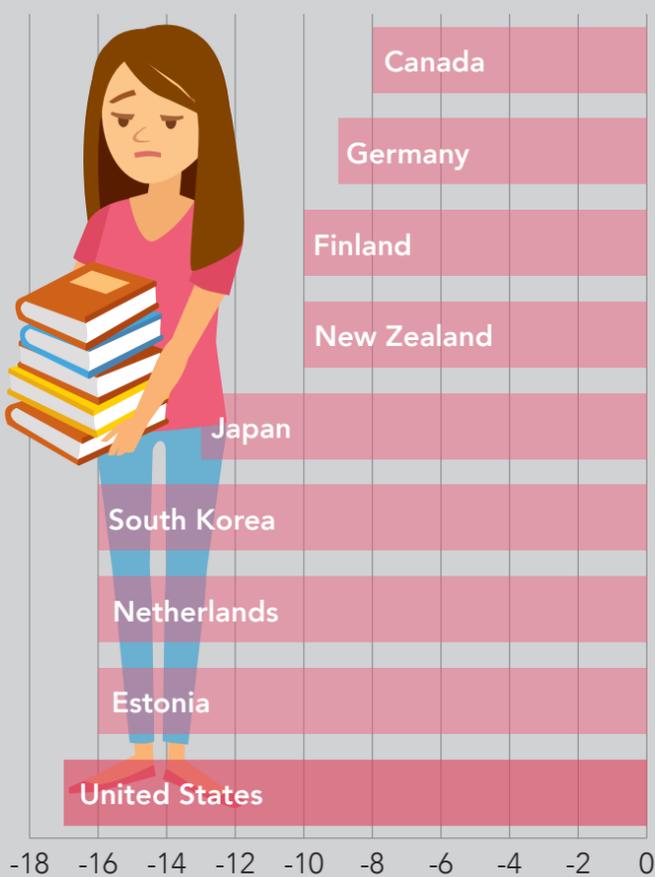


This growing gap between those at the top and bottom of the achievement spectrum does not bode well for the next generation in the United States, because OECD data shows that the United States also lags in mobility of educational attainment, meaning whether or not students are able to attain more education than their parents did.

The data show that the impact of parents' level of education on a student's likelihood for success is much higher in the United States than in our international competitors.

Students with Poorly Educated Parents

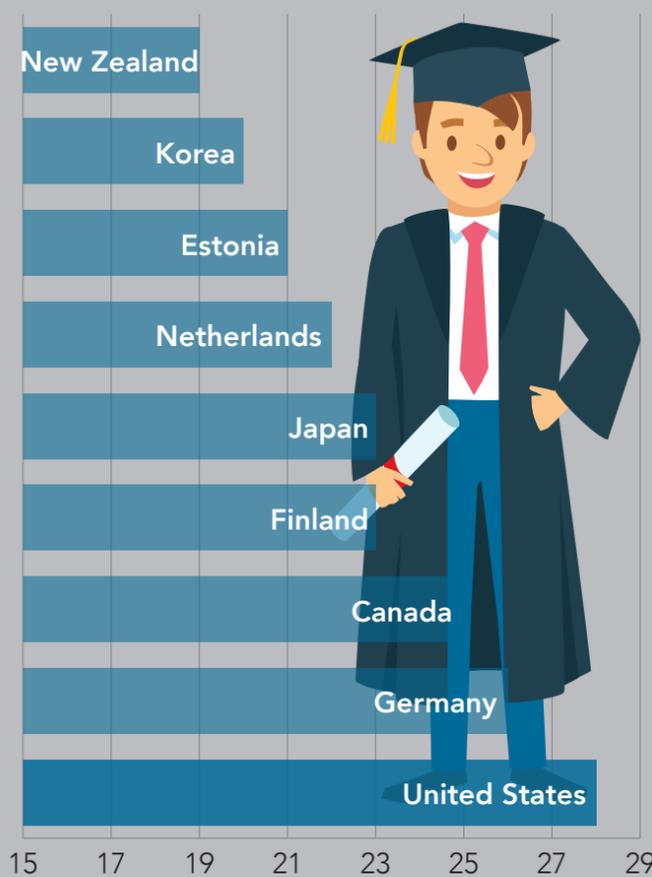
Decrease in Likelihood of Attaining a College Degree when Parents Have Below Secondary Education



Those students who have less-educated parents are less likely to earn a college degree.

Students with Well Educated Parents

Increase in Likelihood of Attaining a College Degree when Parents Have A College Degree



Those students who have college-educated parents are more likely to earn a college degree themselves.

In fact, pulling oneself up by the bootstraps is much harder in the United States than in top-performing education systems. In top-performing education systems, an excellent education for all students allows greater mobility in education attainment, regardless of social background.

For more on equity within the United States and the need to improve it, see Marc's blog "Inequality and Education."