

# new york minute

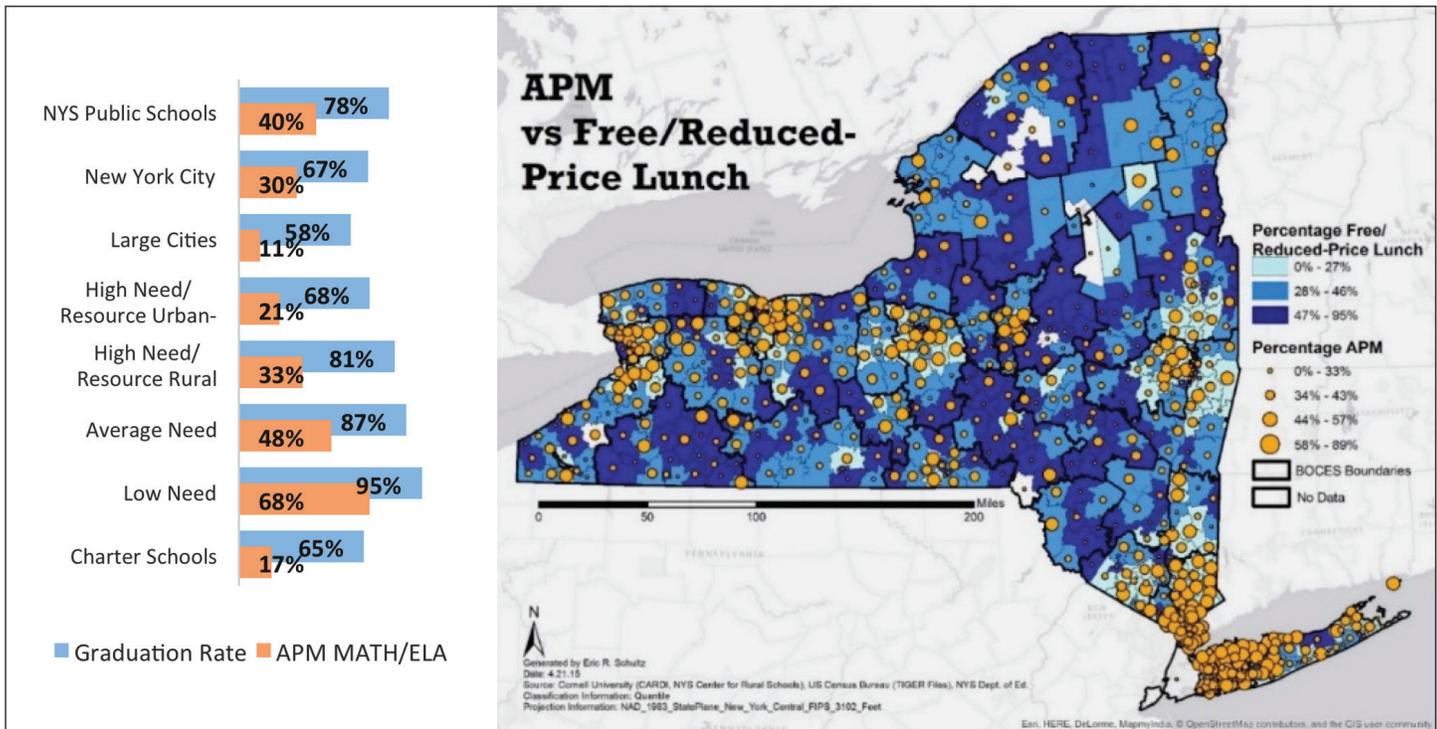
ISSUE NUMBER 71/JANUARY 2016

## Are NYS high school graduates “college & career ready”?: Geographical patterns by school district type and resources

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In the November 2015 NY Minute, we compared Aspirational Performance Measures (APM) by various student characteristics in New York State (NYS). The use of APM is intended to assess college and career readiness – a measure that includes but supercedes achievement of a high school diploma. Not only do outcomes differ by ethnicity, disability status, English proficiency, and economic status, but APM success differs by geography and relative district “need” as well. Districts considered to be low need (wealthy districts better able to meet the needs of students with local resources) had a 95% graduation- and a 68% APM-rate in 2015. However, high need districts (poor districts less able to meet students’ needs with local resources) had lower scores on both measures, particularly those districts in large urban and small-city settings. In fact, students in large city school districts (Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Yonkers) had only a 58% high school graduation rate in 2015 and a shockingly low 11% APM.

The map (below) shows NYS public school districts by the percentage of free/reduced lunch students (often used as a proxy for low income and poverty), along with the percentage of students meeting the APM standard. A pattern between lower APM scores (smaller dots) and districts with lower income (darker blue) is clearly visible in the map below, though some variation exists.



Source: NYSSED: <http://data.nysed.gov/gradrate.php?year=2015&state=yes>

### Additional Resources (click on title for link)

- Cornell Program on Applied Demographics
- NYS Center for Rural Schools
- NYSSED, Public School High School Graduation Rate (2014-15)



Cornell University

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