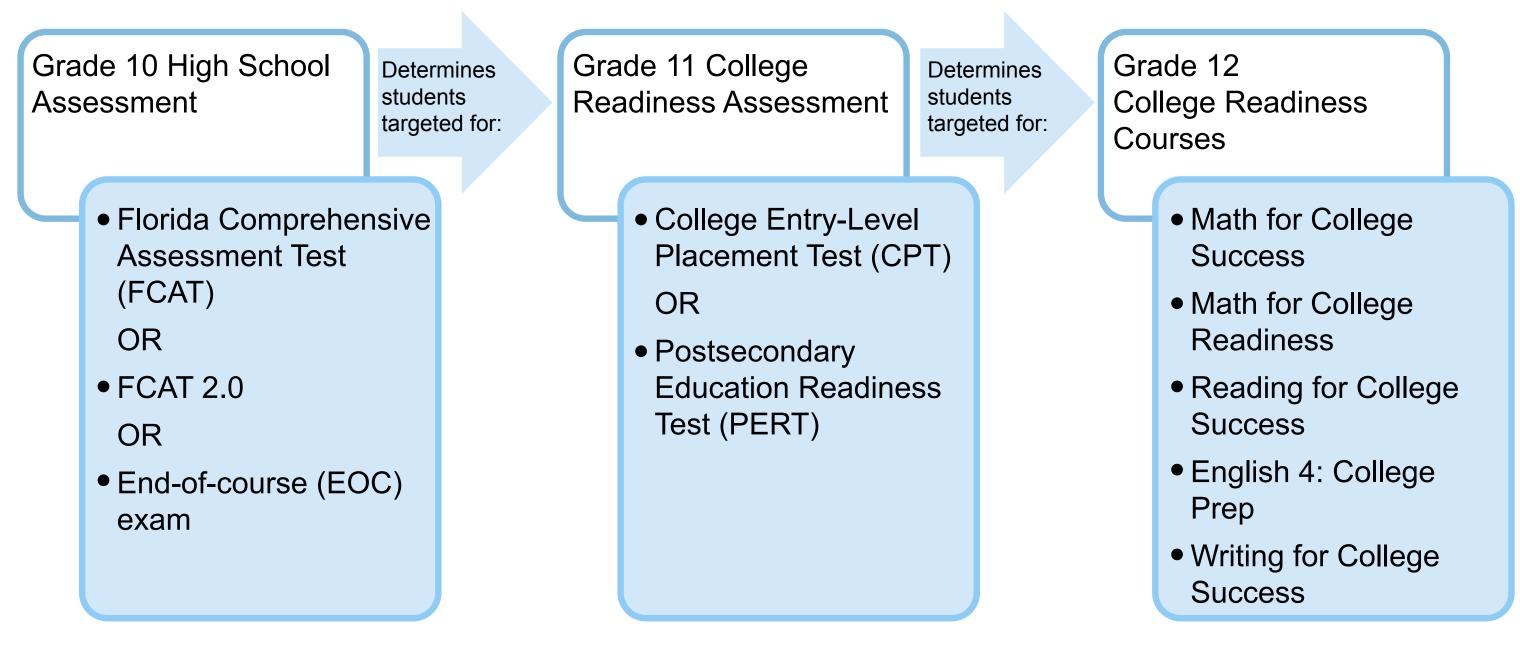


# Changes in High School Course-Taking Patterns under the Florida College & Career Readiness Initiative (FCCRI)

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#### Background

- FCCRI began in school year 2008/09 schools required to offer testing and college readiness courses, but student participation was voluntary
- Starting with the 2011/12 grade 11 cohort, testing and participation in college readiness courses became mandatory for targeted students



#### Research Questions

- 1. How have course offerings changed at the school level?
- 2. How have targeted students' high school course-taking patterns changed?
- 3. How have non-targeted students' high school course-taking patterns changed?
- 4. How have students performed in college readiness courses?
- 5. How have students performed on the PERT if they retake it in grade 12?

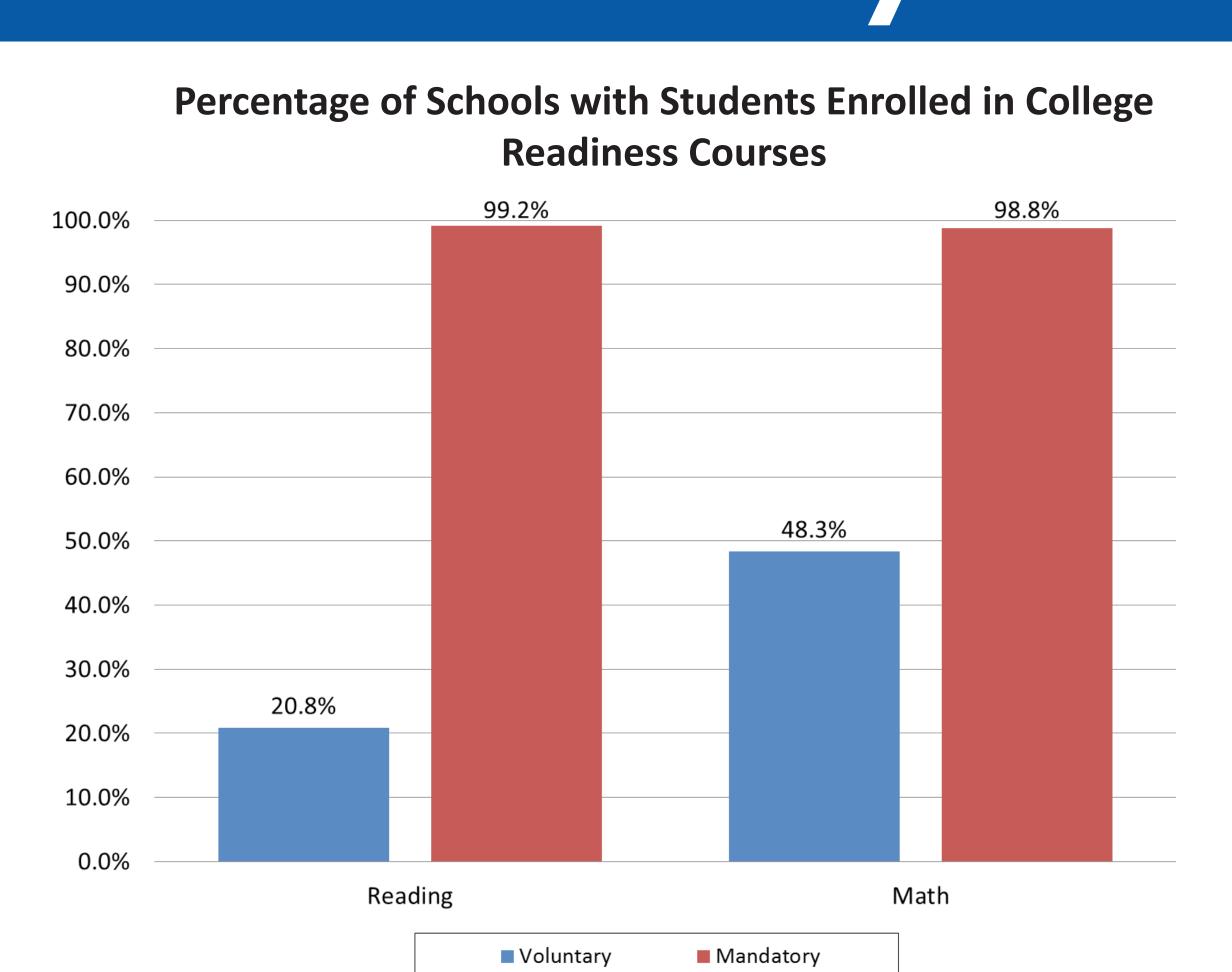
#### Data and Definitions

- Data source: FL Department of Education's Education Data Warehouse
- Analysis compares two cohorts:
- ♦ 2008/09 grade 11 first voluntary cohort (Voluntary)
- ♦ 2011/12 grade 11 first mandatory cohort (Mandatory)
- Definition of student groups:
- ♦ Targeted (scored 2 to 4 on FCAT Math, 2 to 3 on FCAT Reading)
  - Lowest performing (scored 2 on FCAT Math or FCAT Reading)
  - Highest performing (scored 4 on FCAT Math or 3 on FCAT Reading)
- Non-targeted
  - At-risk (scored 1 on FCAT Math or FCAT Reading)
  - College-ready (scored 5 on FCAT Math, 4 to 5 on FCAT Reading)

#### 1. Course Availability

Comparing Voluntary vs. Mandatory cohorts:

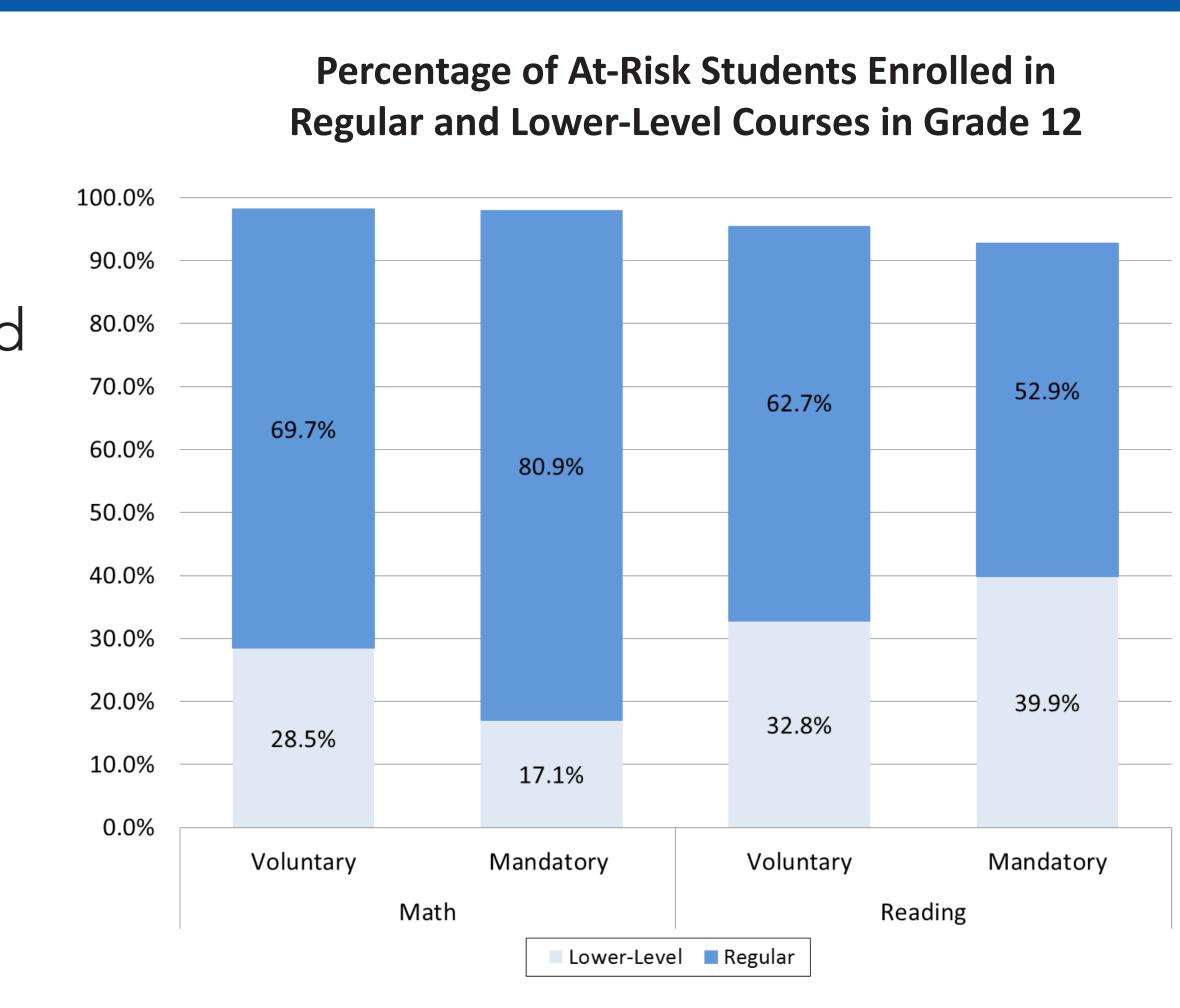
- Percentage of schools offering college readiness courses increased significantly
- While college readiness course offerings increased, the availability of other types of courses did not seem to be negatively impacted
- Average number of regular courses decreased slightly: math (10.4 to 9.9 courses), reading (16.5 to 15.4 courses)



## 3. Course Taking: At-Risk Students

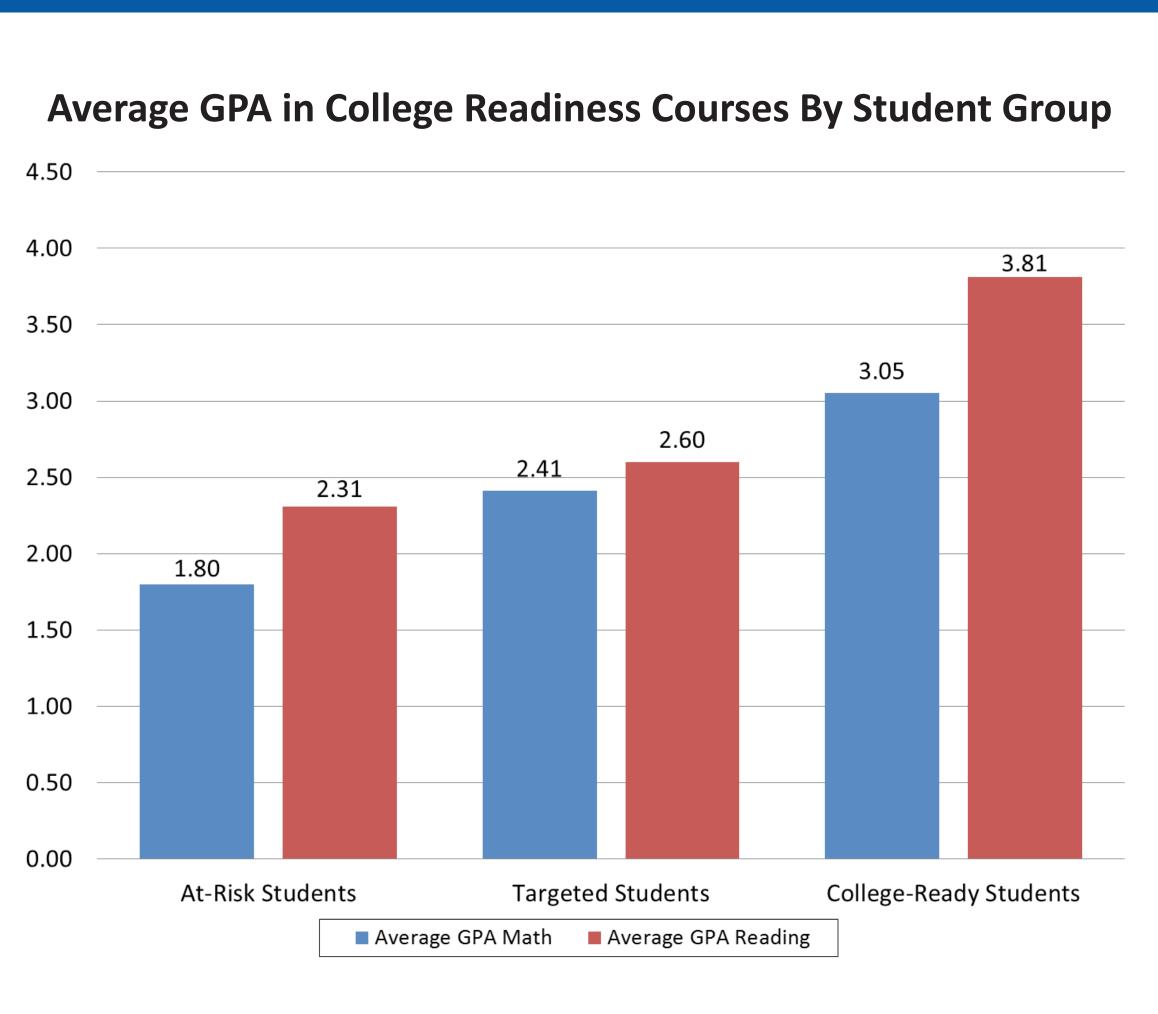
Comparing Voluntary vs. Mandatory cohorts:

 Course rigor for at-risk students increased in math and decreased in reading



#### 4. Course Performance

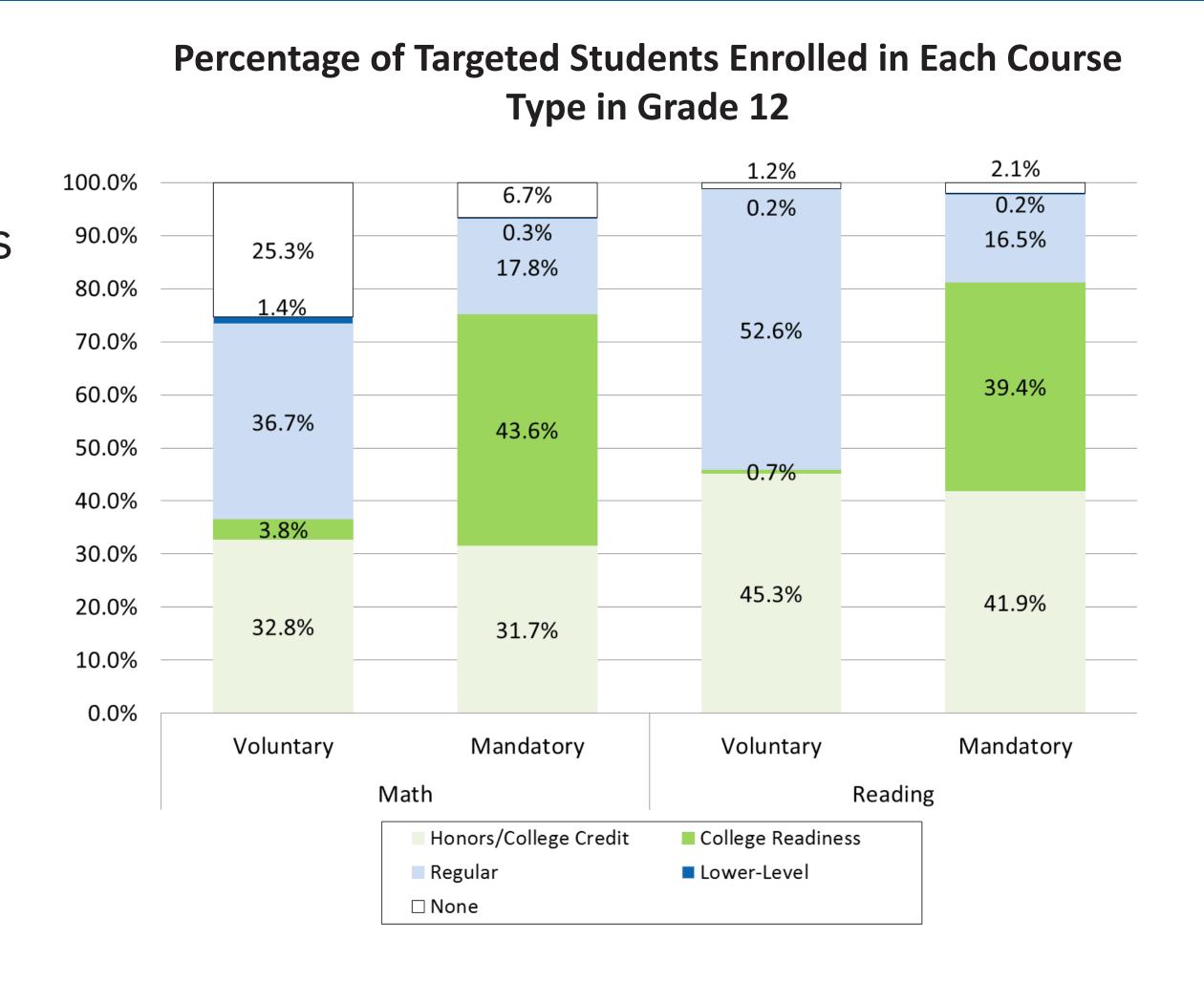
- Less than 4% of students failed a math or reading college readiness course
- College readiness course grades were lowest for at-risk students, particularly in math



## 2. Course Taking: Targeted Students

Comparing Voluntary vs. Mandatory cohorts:

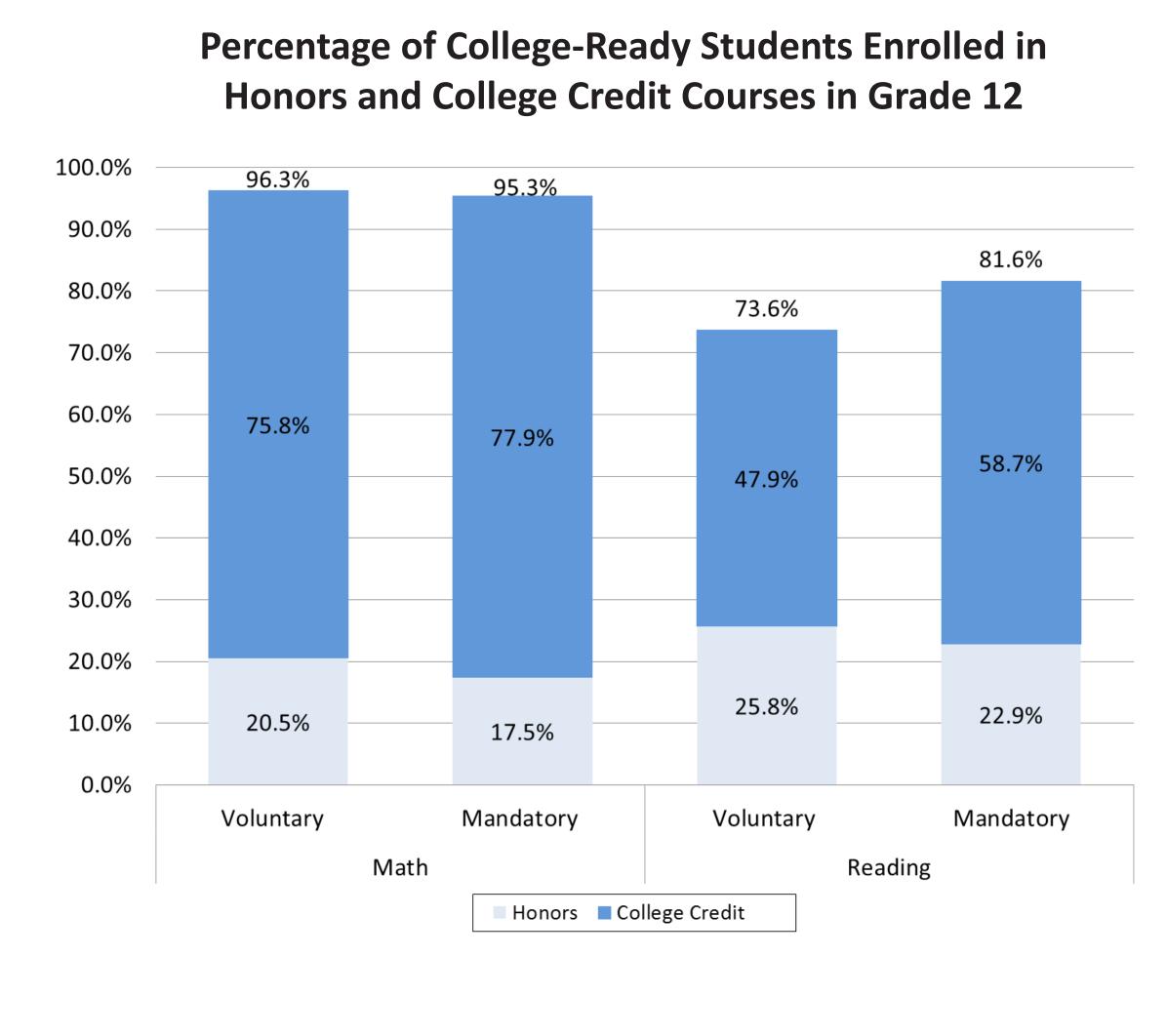
- Percentage of targeted students
   not taking a math class their
   senior year decreased from
   25.3% to 6.7%
- As expected, targeted students took more college readiness courses and fewer regular courses in both math and reading



### 3. Course Taking: College-Ready Students

Comparing Voluntary vs. Mandatory cohorts:

- In both cohorts, more than 95%
  of students who are college ready in math took an honors
  course or college credit
- In reading, there was an 8
   percentage point increase in
   students taking honors courses
   or college credit. Cannot
   say with certainty if this is
   attributable to FCCRI or another
   policy change

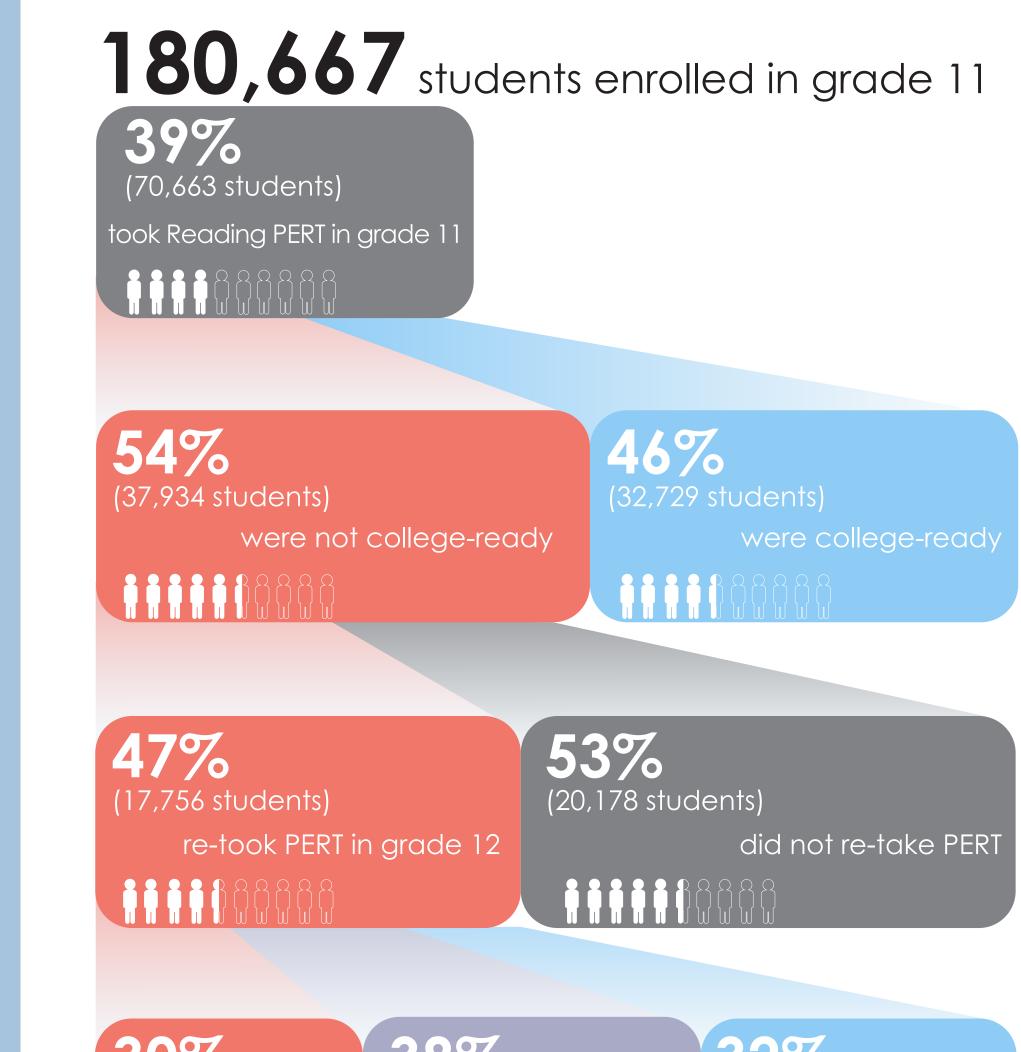


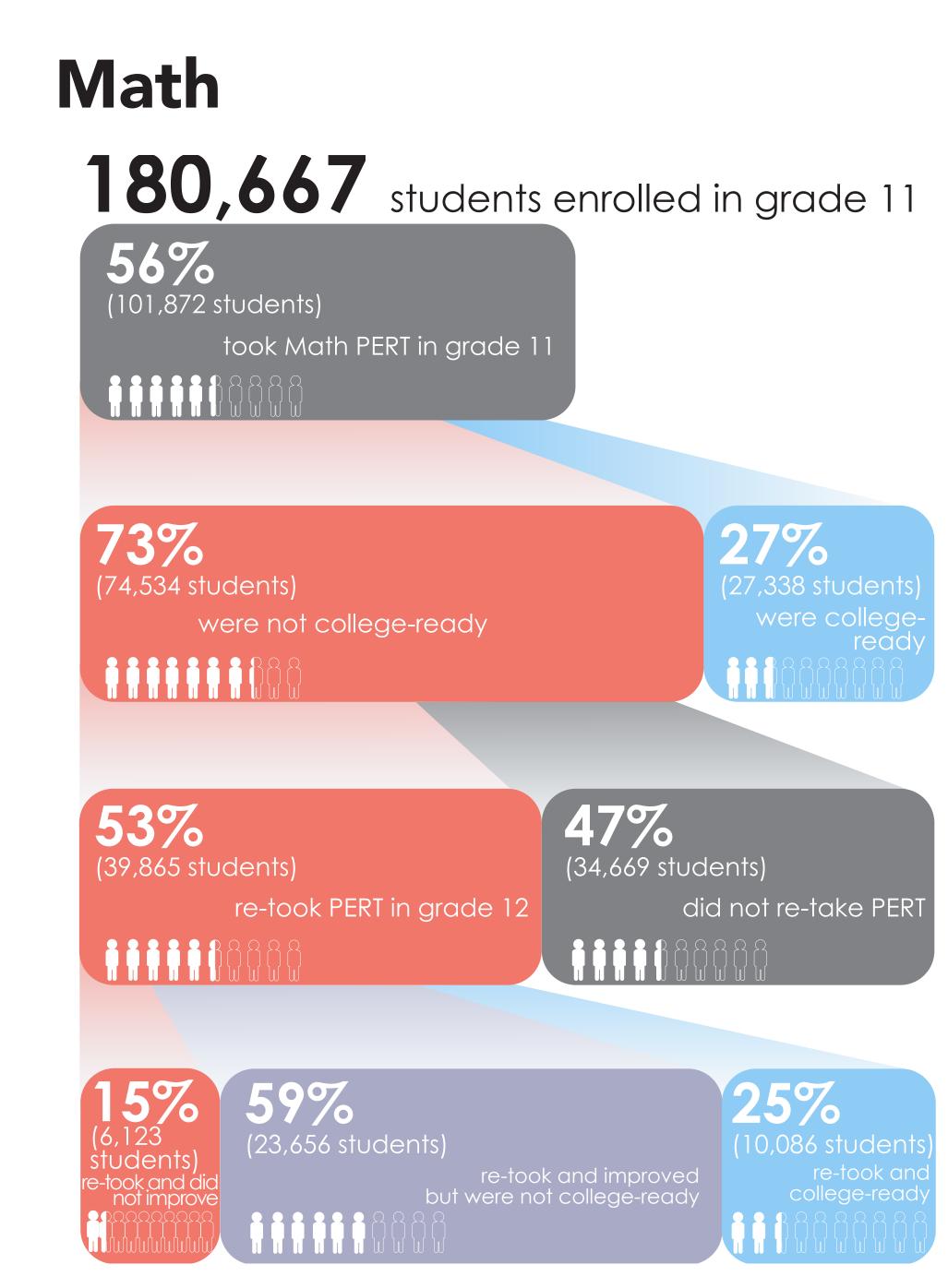
#### 5. PERT Performance

Looking at the 2011/12 Mandatory cohort:

- Most students improve their scores when re-taking the PERT in either subject
- The percentage of students who re-test college-ready is 25% in math and 32% in reading

#### Reading





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