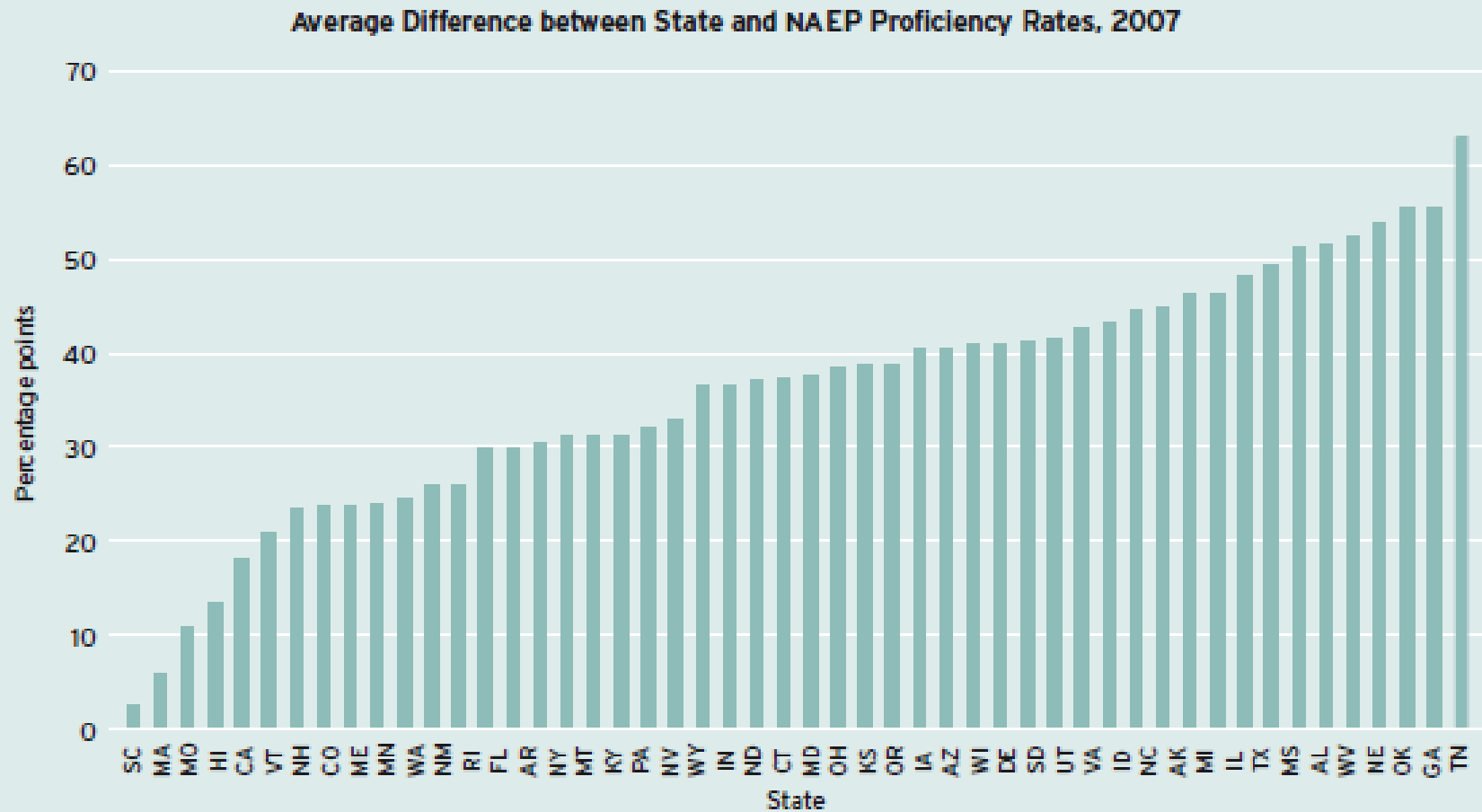


All Over the Map (Figure 1)

Standards for proficiency in Massachusetts and South Carolina are nearly as rigorous as those established for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), while Tennessee and Georgia, for example, set the bar much lower for their students.



Note: The chart shows the difference between the percentage of students (4th and 8th grade) deemed proficient on the 2007 state tests (math and reading) and the percentage of students in those grades deemed proficient on the 2007 NAEP tests. The closer the value is to 0, the more similar were the results on the two sets of tests and the more rigorous the state's standards.

SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics; Individual state web sites and departments of education