

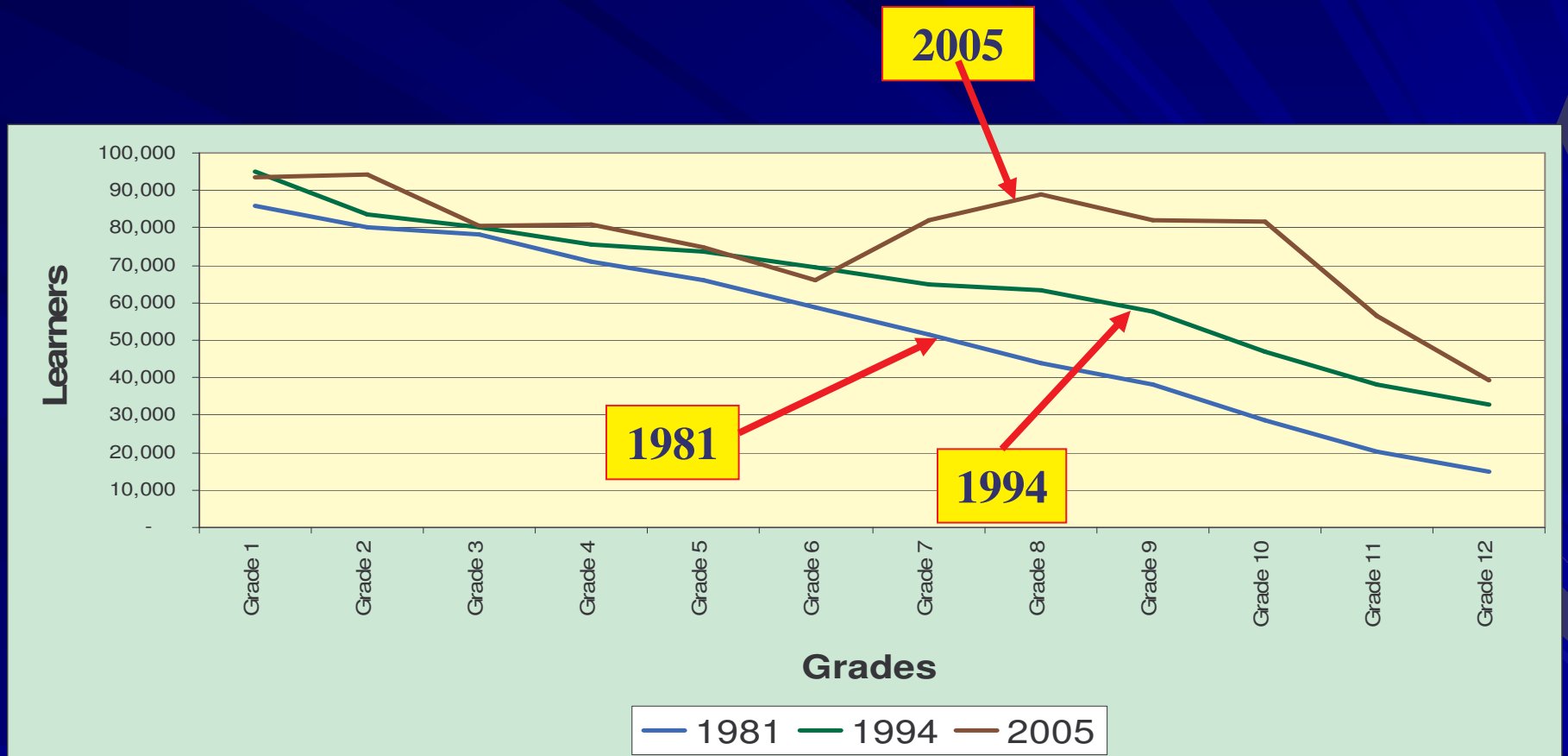
Improving Literacy and Mathematics in the Primary School: The country's most important priority

WCED Literacy and Numeracy Strategy

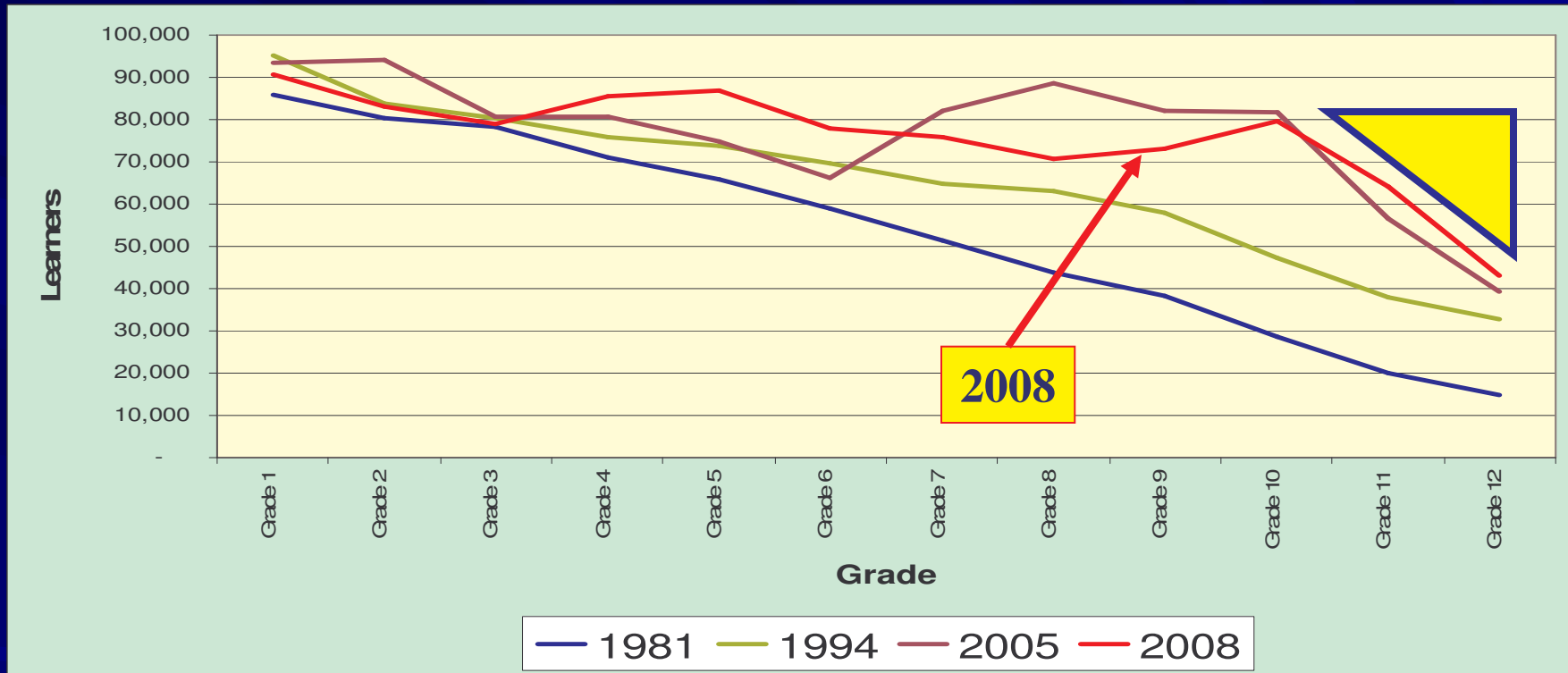
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DDG, WCED

27 February 2008

LEARNERS BY GRADE: 1981-2005



LEARNERS BY GRADE: 1981-2008



High repeater and drop-out rate in high schools:

- Unacceptably low Literacy and Numeracy levels of primary school leavers $\Rightarrow \Rightarrow \Rightarrow$
- Cannot read, write, comprehend. \Rightarrow Can't learn
- Cannot think systematically, analytically, critically. \Rightarrow Can't learn
- Inability to learn: \Rightarrow jokers, behavioral problems, drugs and gangsterism
- \Rightarrow drop-outs

Background and Context

- Indications for years that Literacy and Numeracy levels are not good enough
 - Anecdotal
 - GTZ
 - National Systemic Evaluation
 - International comparative studies
 - WCED Gr 3 & 6 testing

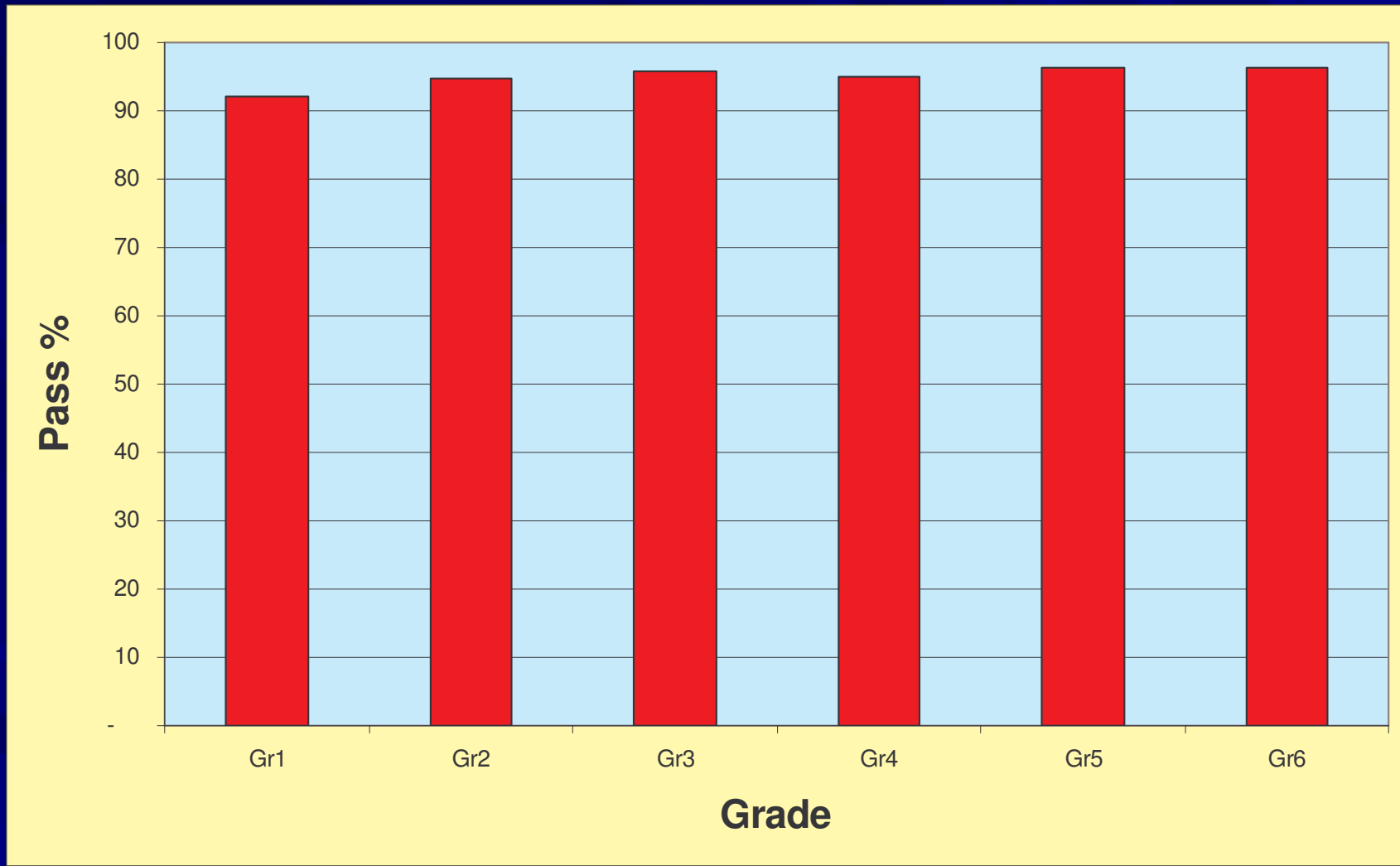
Initial Results of diagnostic testing

- WCED pass rate: 50%

Initial Diagnostic Test Results from 2002/3

Numeracy				
	Grade 3		Grade 6	
	2002	2004	2003	2005
Pass %	37.1		15.6	
Literacy				
	Grade 3		Grade 6	
	2002	2004	2003	2005
Pass %	36.6		35.0	

WCED FOUNDATION PHASE AND INTERMEDIATE PHASE PASS %



WCED Response

**A STRENGTHENED,
CO-ORDINATED**

**WCED
LITERACY AND NUMERACY
STRATEGY**

2006 - 2016

(Focus: Foundation & Intermediate Phase)

Underpinning the Strategy

- Understanding that teachers need training
- The theoretical underpinning
- The role of Mother-tongue
- Assumptions about literacy acquisition
- Assumptions about numeracy acquisition

Eight Key Programmes

- 1. A pre-school programme
- 2. Strengthening of and Changes to classroom practice
- 3. Teacher Training and Development
- 4. Learning and Teaching Support Material
- 5. Research
- 6. Monitoring and Support
- 7. Co-ordination and sustainability
- 8. Advocacy, community and public awareness and family literacy

1. Pre-school programme

- Access of ALL 5 year-olds to Gr R by 2010
- Quality programmes
 - training
 - materials
- Integrated Strategy (DSS, DoH, WCED)
 - Learnerships

2. Strengthened Classroom Practice

- Measures to ensure and support effective classroom teaching and learning
 - Teaching methodologies
 - **Classroom visitation and support**
 - Availability and appropriate use of all required materials
 - Sound planning and preparation, diversity and differentiation
 - **Teaching Assistants project**
- **Reduce learner-teachers ratio (class size) over time**

3. Teacher Development

- Possibly the No 1 priority
- Audit of teachers qualification, and skills needs
- Appropriate (re) training in content knowledge, learners' learning strategies and teaching methodologies
- Extended courses (CTI and others)
- Linking to national teacher strategy

4. Learning and Teaching Support Material

- Teachers' books, curricula, guidelines, files, etc. (Note my comment re Mathematics guide later in presentation)
- Learners having and using BOOKS
- Sufficient kits and apparatus (and using them appropriately)
- Library facilities
- Appropriate use of ICT materials where applicable

5. Research

- Research international and sub-Saharan African successes and best practice
- Factors impacting on school performance
- Factors impacting on learner progress
- Teaching assistants pilot project
- Effective classroom practice

6. Monitoring and Support

- Group of 100 dedicated advisers across all districts
- Monitoring and support in the classroom
- Baseline instruments/checklists
- Assistance with appropriate and realistic target-setting and concomitant development/improvement plans
- Role of HODs and School management, instructional leaders, etc

7. Co-ordination and Sustainability

- Co-ordinating structures at all levels
- Regular monitoring of the system, reporting and accountability measures
- MECs, SG and Topco Priority no 1
- Regular and repetitive advocacy and publicity
- Alignment across system
- Personal engagements with schools and communities

8. Advocacy, awareness and community/family/role-model involvement

- Ongoing publicity strategy
- Radio, newspapers, role-models, champions
- Posters, leaflets
- Materials for clinics, parents
- Role of schools and community organisations
- 5 to 10 year strategy

Impact so far...

Grade 3						
	Numeracy			Literacy		
	2002	2004	2006	2002	2004	2006
Provincial Mean %						
Provincial Pass %	37.1	37.3	31.0	35.7	39.5	47.7
Grade 6						
	Numeracy			Literacy		
	2003	2005	2007	2003	2005	2007
Province Mean %						
Province Pass %	15.6	17.2		35.0	42.1	

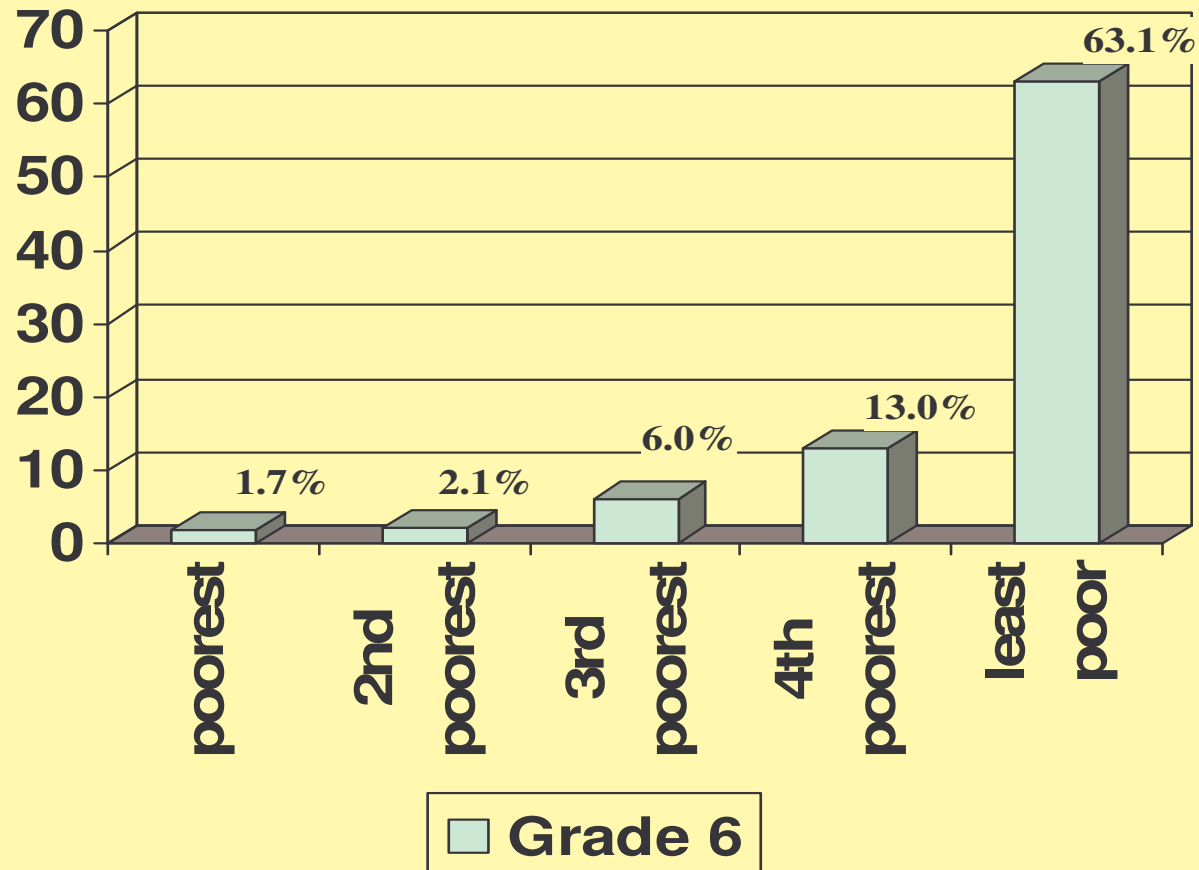
Impact so far...

Grade 3						
	Numeracy			Literacy		
	2002	2004	2006	2002	2004	2006
Provincial Mean %	38.1	39.3	36.8	36.6	39.6	46.4
Provincial Pass %	37.1	37.3	31.0	35.7	39.5	47.7
Grade 6						
	Numeracy			Literacy		
	2003	2005	2007	2003	2005	2007
Province Mean %	27.5	29.0		36.8	40.6	
Province Pass %	15.6	17.2		35.0	42.1	

Other info...

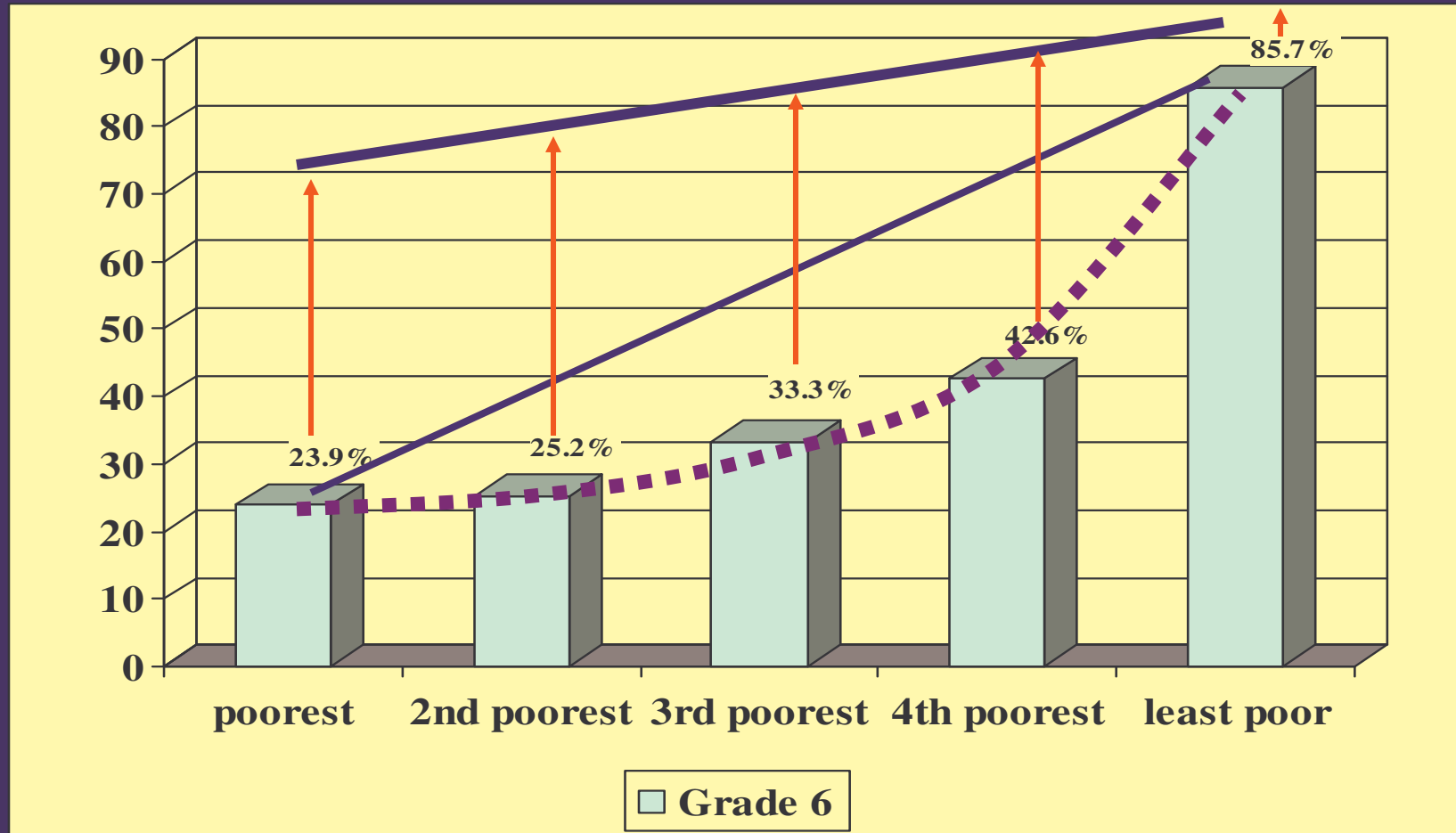
Results by Poverty Indicators - Province

- Numeracy pass rates (%) per grade by Poverty Quintile



Results by Poverty Indicators - Province

- **Literacy** pass rates (%) per grade by Poverty Quintile



Additional Actions...

- Reducing primary school class sizes
- Developing lesson-by-lesson instruction guides in mathematics for teachers for grades 1-6(7)
- Extended teacher training at Cape teaching Institute (CTI)
- Improve English language ability of teachers in schools where medium is English, but home language is not

... and some Questions

- Should we focus on weakest schools or on middle group? (“dysfunctional” vs basic capacity, but performing poorly?)
- Should whole staff at a continuously poorly-performing school be removed and replaced with a hand-picked integrated staff?

Effects of reading frequency at home (JET Analysis of WCED research data)

- children who read once a week at home have an advantage of **5%** in the literacy test
- 3 times a week the advantage is increased to **10%**
- more than 3 times a week the advantage is increased to **12%**

Conclusion

Lets get Literacy and Mathematics teaching and learning right in **Primary Schools**, and we will get ...

- learning right throughout the system
- improve high school success rates and quality of learning outcomes
- decrease dropouts
- have a more efficient education system
- increase quality of school leavers
- do our country and people the greatest of services

Thank you

WCED website:
<http://wced.wcape.gov.za>