

Benchmarks for School Improvement: Resources and Performance in Haverhill and Comparison Cities

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Prepared by Thomas Grannemann

Tom@BenchmarkHaverhillSchools.com

Reach Higher: A Haverhill Community Discussion on School Success

April 26, 2017

Comparison Cities

► **26 Gateway Cities**

- Attleboro, Barnstable, Brockton, Chelsea, Chicopee, Everett, Fall River, Fitchburg, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Leominster, Lowell, Lynn, Malden, Methuen, New Bedford, Peabody, Pittsfield, Quincy, Revere, Salem, Springfield, Taunton, Westfield, Worcester

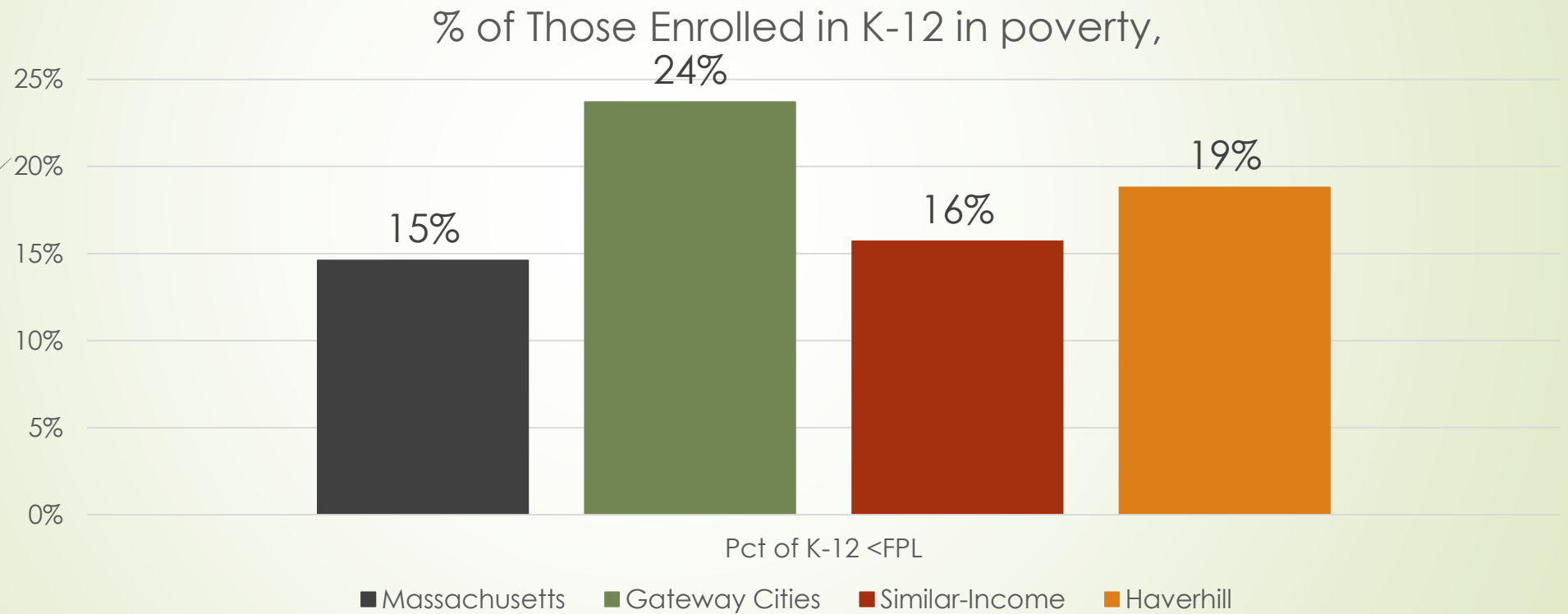
► **6 similar-income Gateway Cities** with median household income within \$5,000 of Haverhill's

- Leominster, Barnstable, Peabody, Salem, Westfield, Quincy

► **10 DESE-Selected Comparable School Districts** with similar student populations

- Boston, Chicopee, Fall River, Fitchburg, Leominster, Pittsfield, Salem, Somerville, Taunton, West Springfield

Poverty Among School-age Children in Massachusetts Comparison Cities

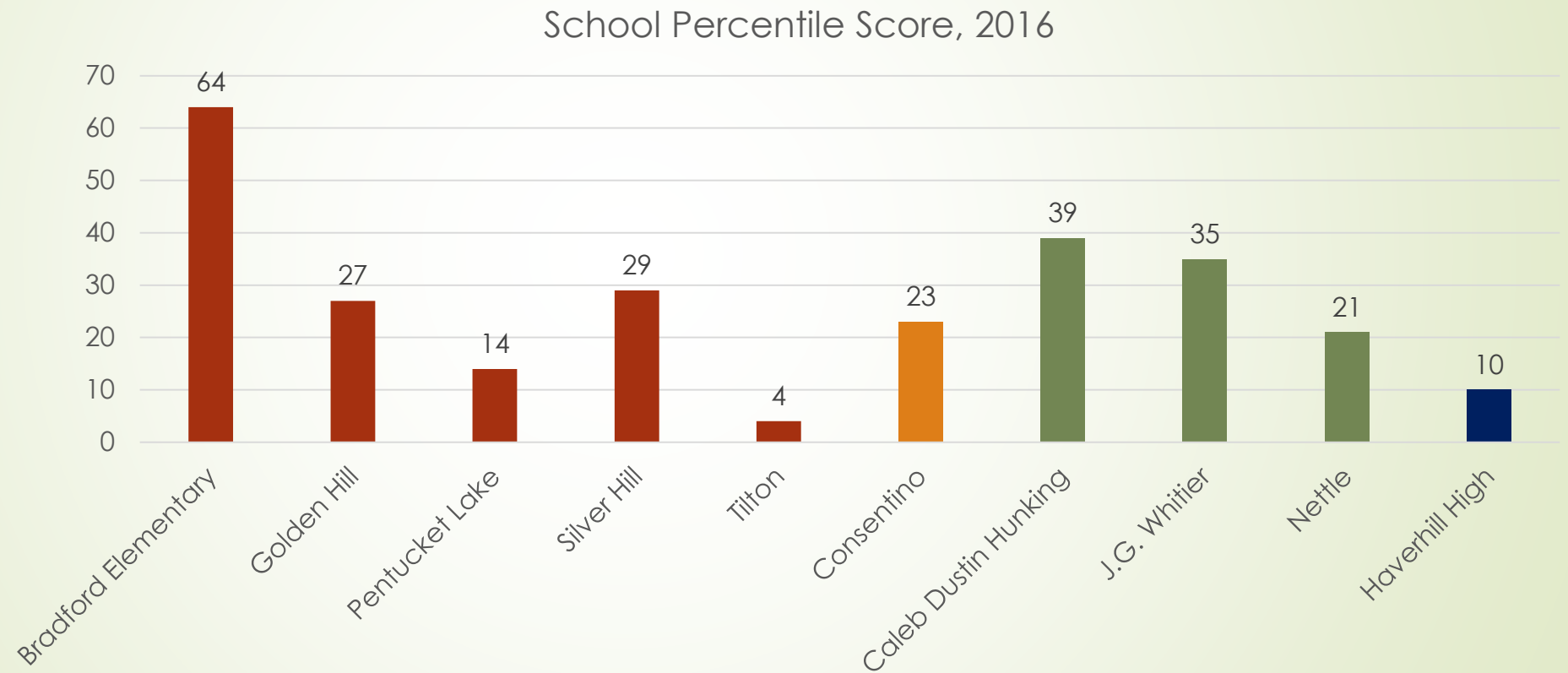


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Measures of School Performance

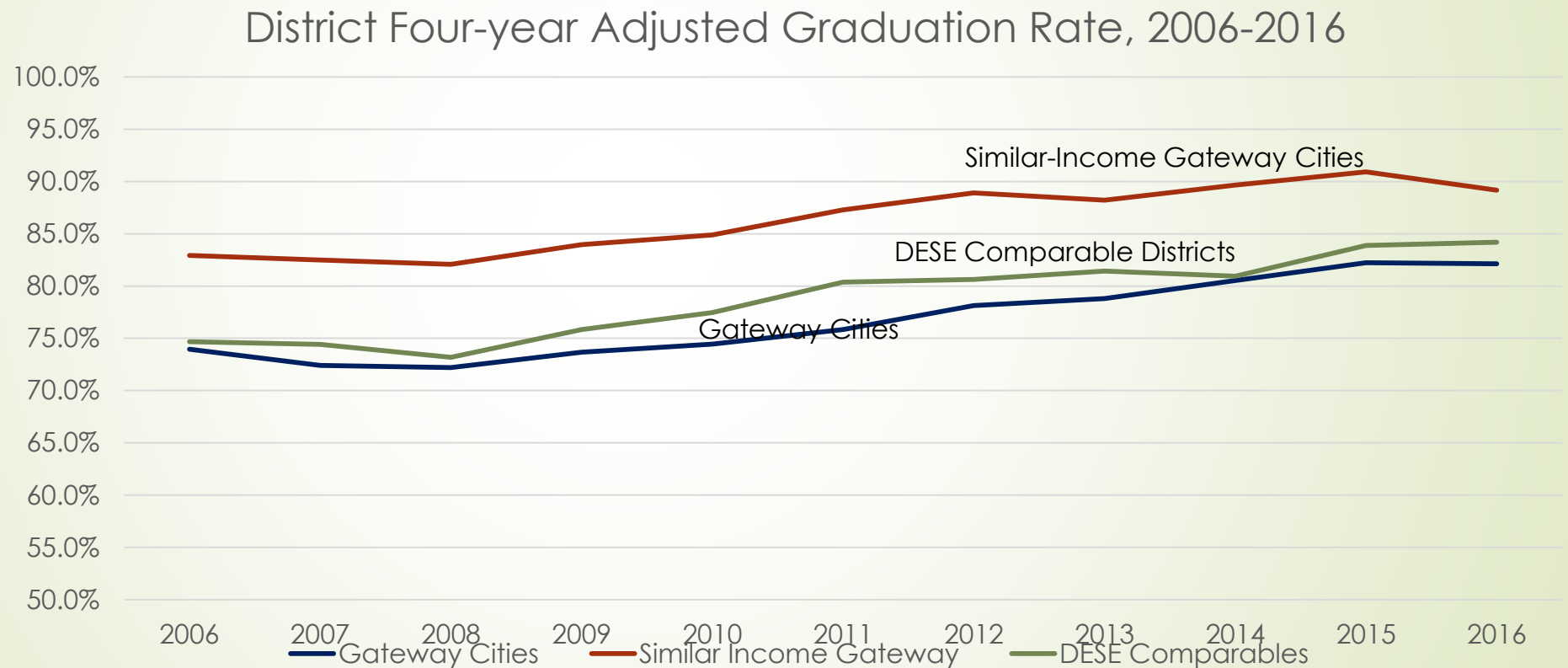
For Haverhill and other Gateway Cities from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)

Haverhill School Percentile Scores



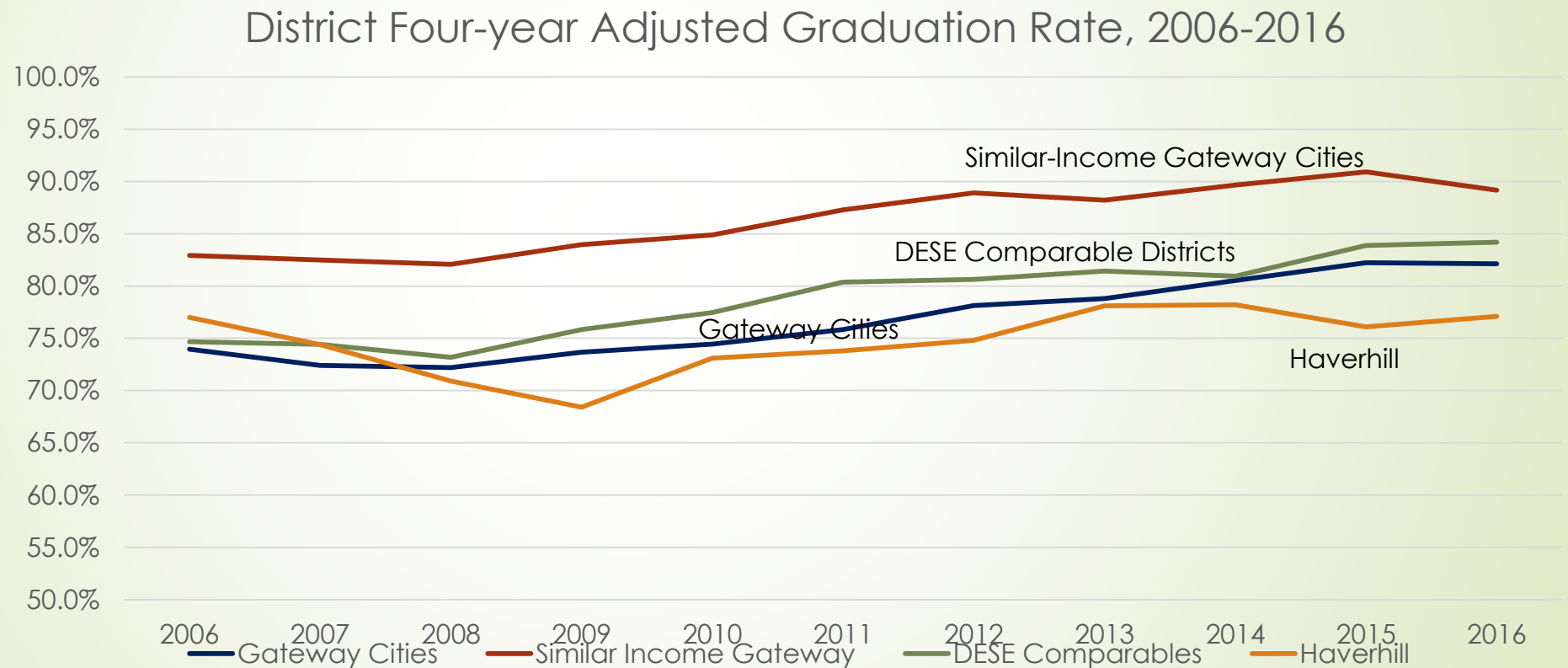
Source: DESE School and District Profiles, Accountability Report.

Since 2009 Graduation Rate have improved in Comparison Cities



Source: Massachusetts DESE School and District Profiles

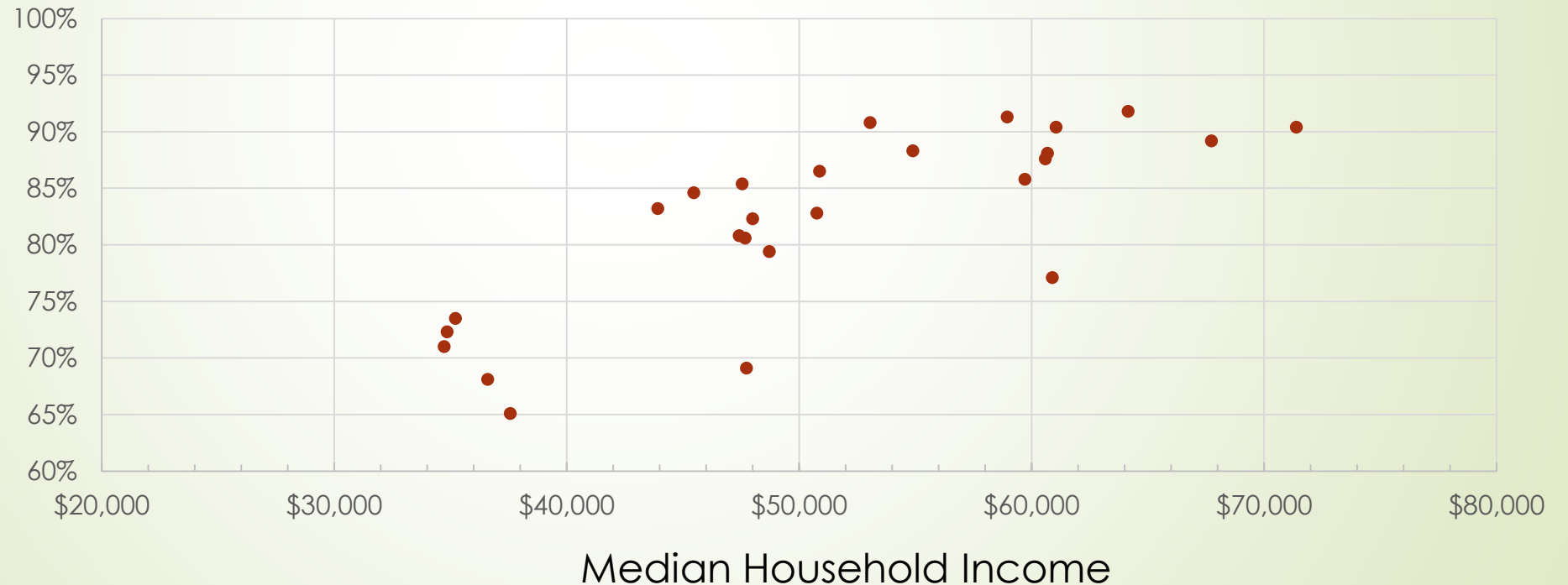
Since 2009 Haverhill's Graduation Rate has remained Below Benchmark Cities and is 12 Percentage Points Below Similar-Income Gateway Cities



Source: Massachusetts DESE School and District Profiles

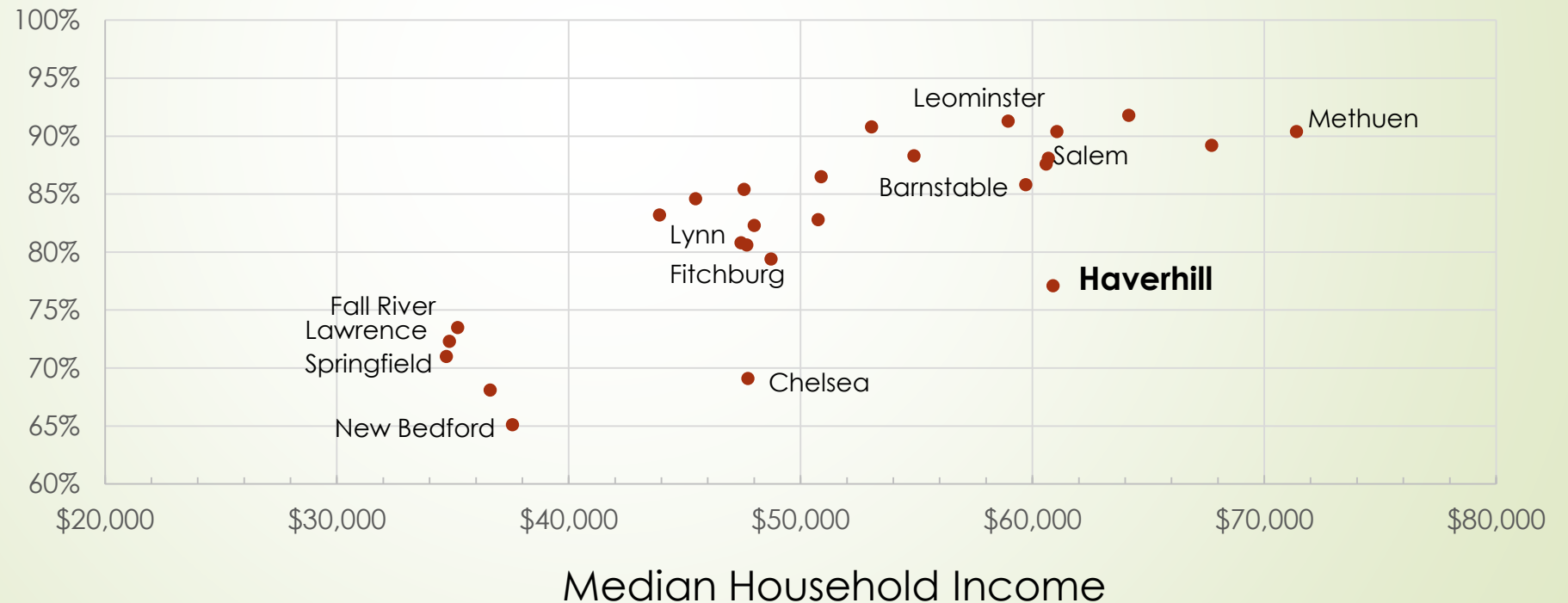
Graduation Rates Tend to be Higher in Higher Income Cities

Four-year Adjusted District Graduation Rates
by Median Household Income, Gateway Cities, 2016



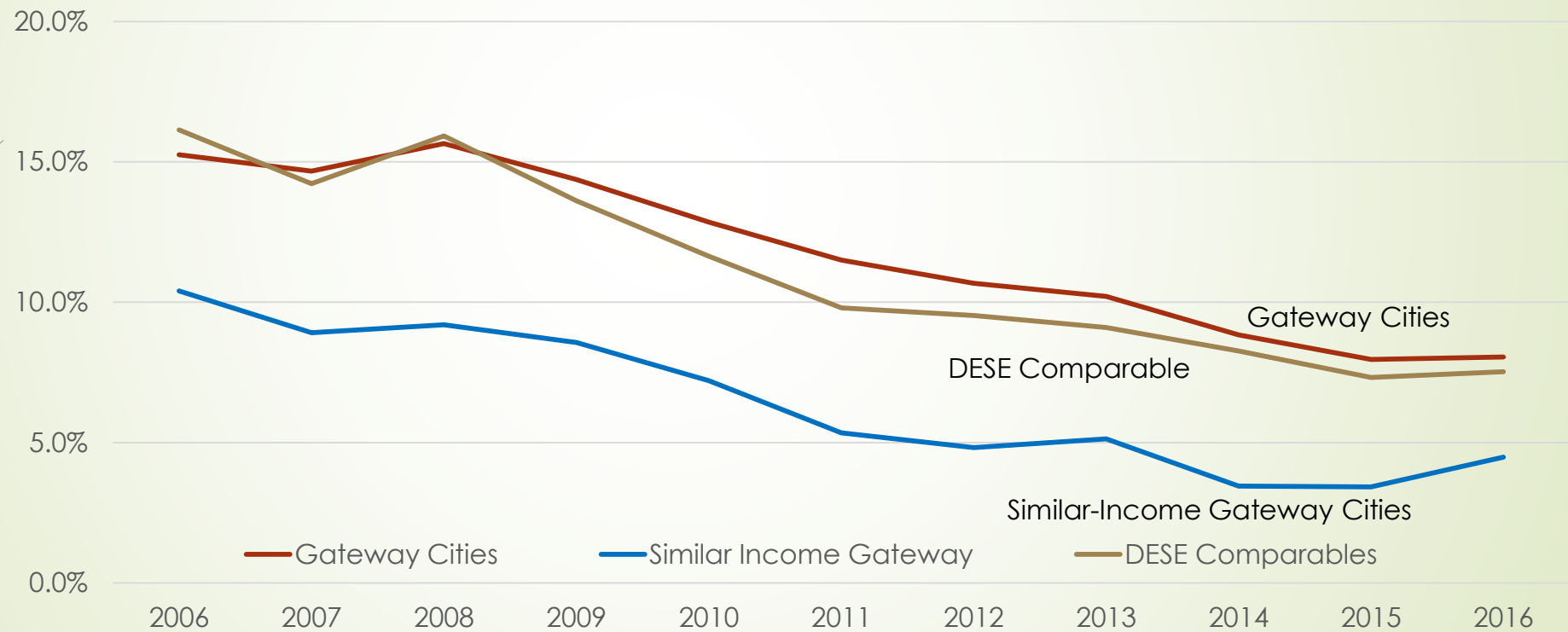
Haverhill's is an Outlier in Graduation Rates for its Income Level

Four-year Adjusted District Graduation Rates
by Median Household Income, Gateway Cities, 2016



Dropout Rates Have Declined In Comparison Cities

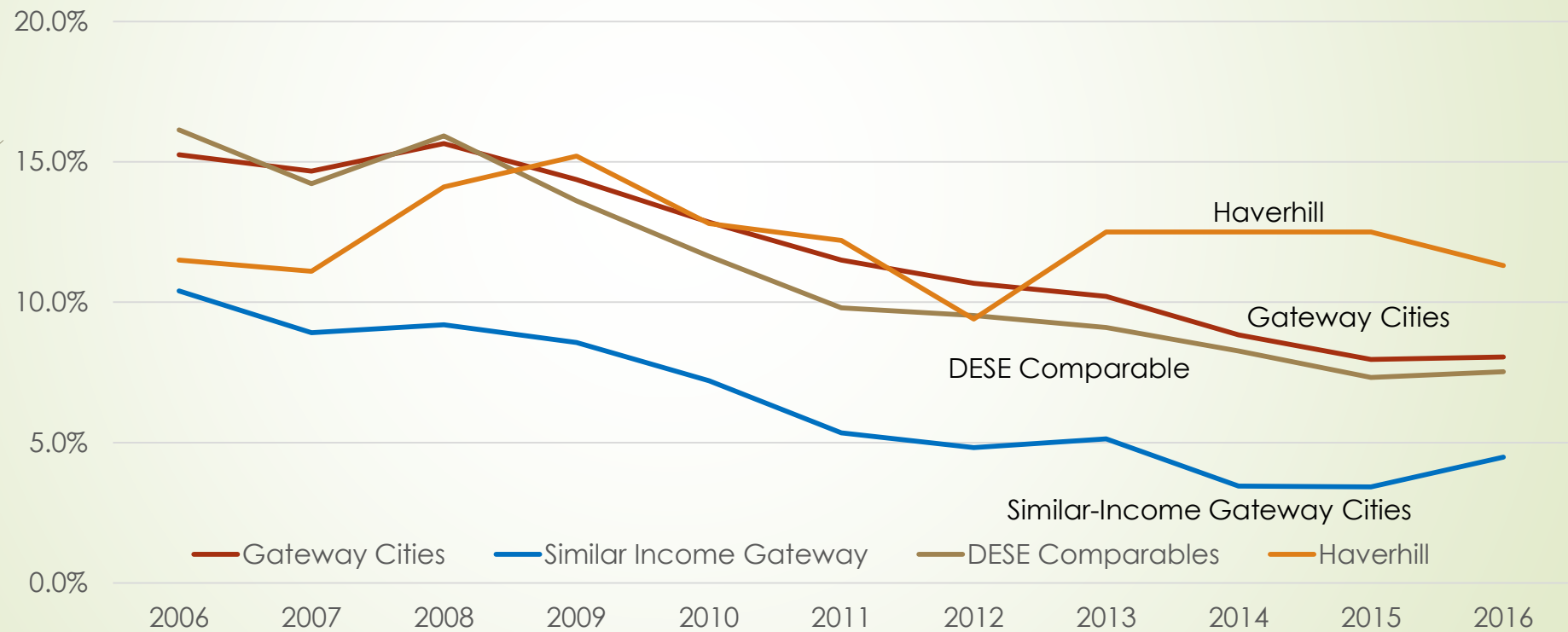
Four-year Cohort Adjusted Dropout Rate, 2006-2016



Source: Massachusetts DESE School and District Profiles,
Cohort Graduation Rate Report

Haverhill's Dropout Rate Remains High

Four-year Cohort Adjusted Dropout Rate, 2006-2016



Source: Massachusetts DESE School and District Profiles, Cohort Graduation Rate Report

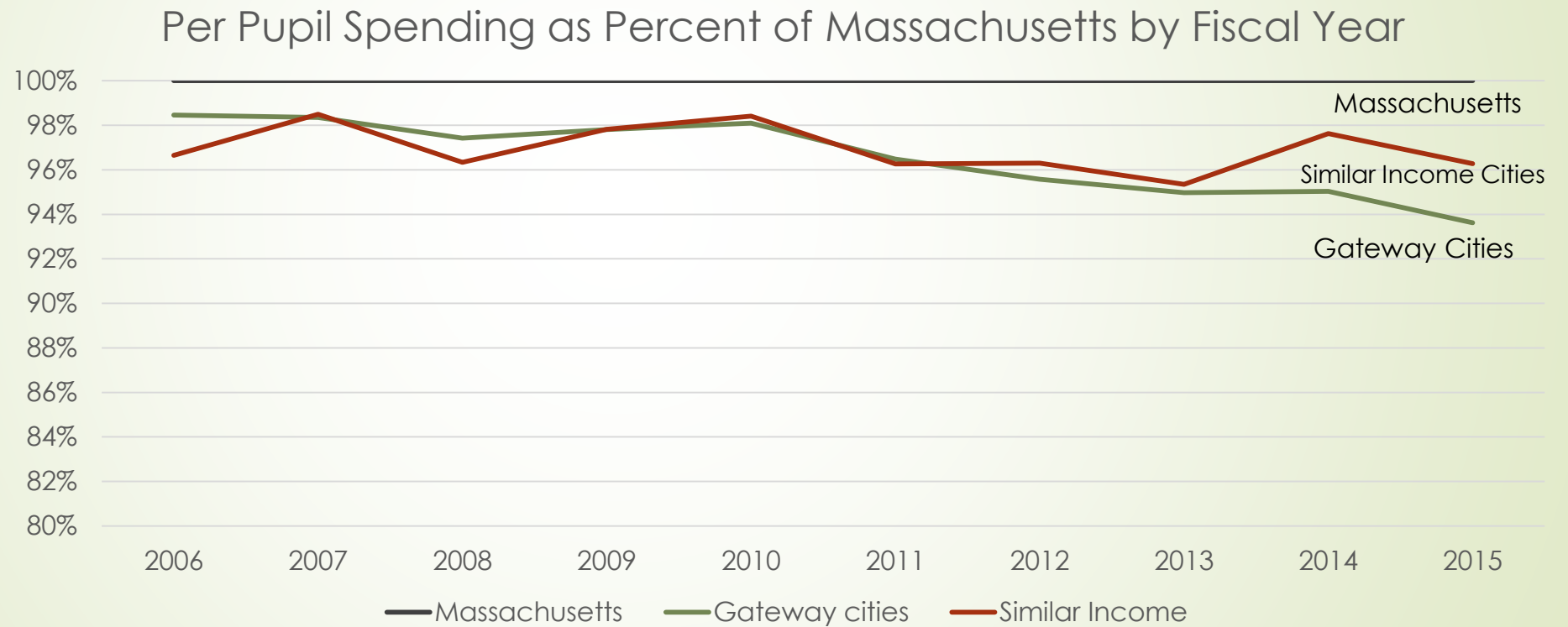


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School Resources

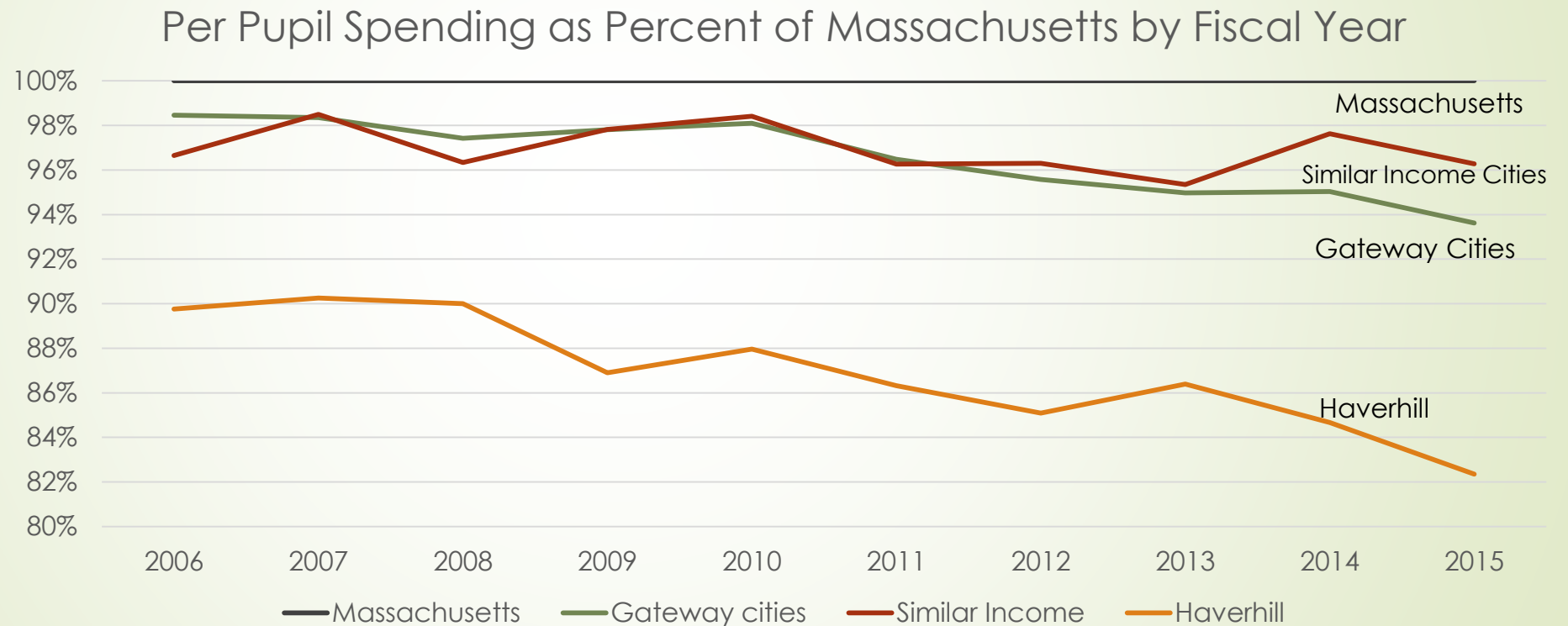
Spending per pupil trends compared with similar cities

Per-Pupil Spending in Gateway Cities is Typically 94 to 98% of the State Average



Source: Computed from Massachusetts DESE School and District Profiles

Haverhill Per-Pupil Spending is Lower and Has Fallen further Below Comparison Cities



Source: Computed from Massachusetts DESE School and District Profiles

Choices for Haverhill Schools

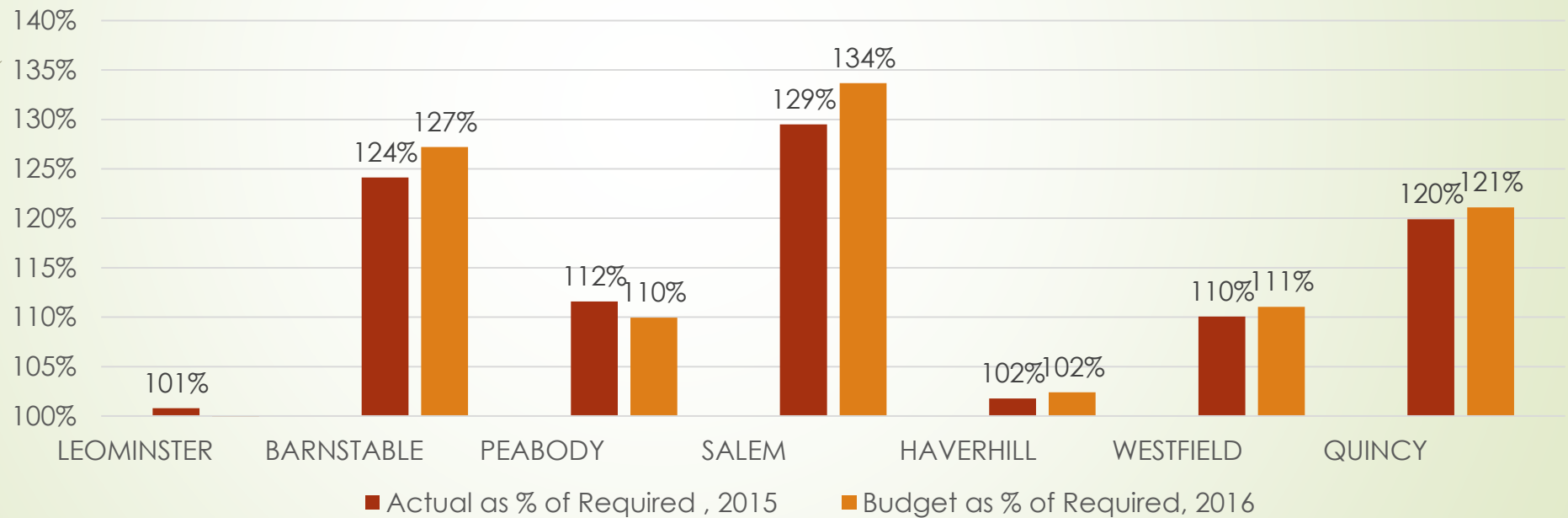
Can Haverhill afford to spend more on schools?

What might be expected from moving school spending closer to that of other cities?

School Spending Relative to Minimum

Many Similar-Income Gateway Cities Spend Substantially More than the State-Required Minimum

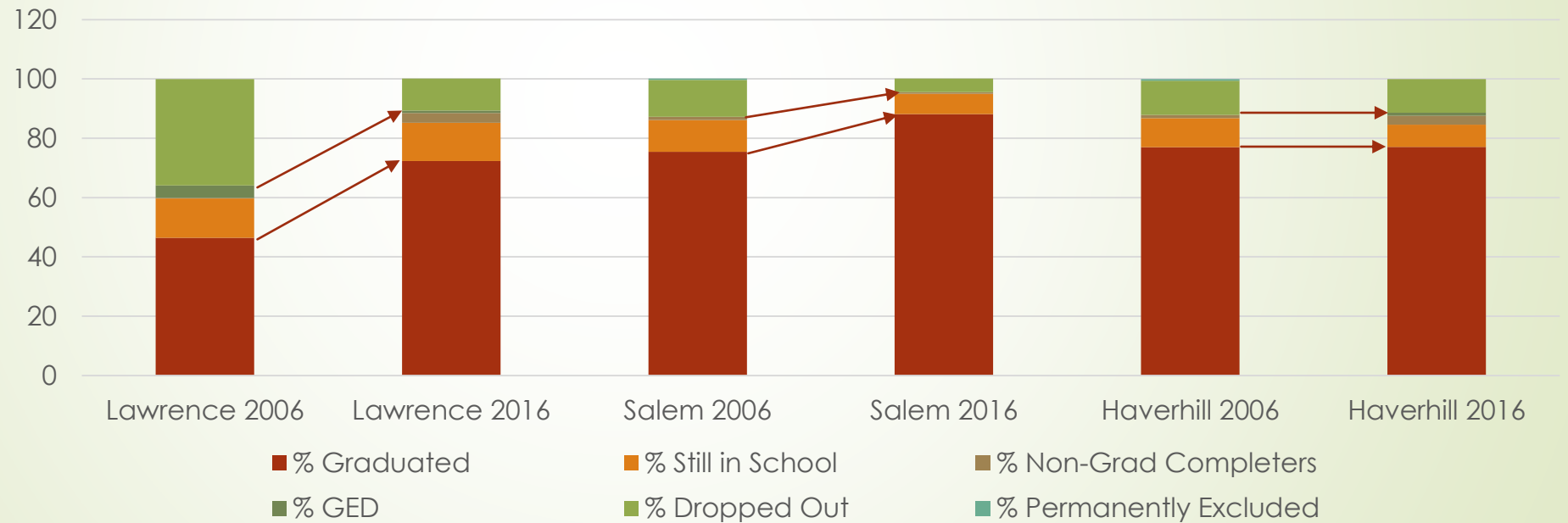
School Spending as % of Minimum State Requirement
FY 2015 and 2016



Source: DESE Net School Spending and Foundation Budget Report

Improvement in Graduation Rates is Possible – Look to Lawrence and Salem

Adjusted Four-Year Cohort District Graduation Status
2006 & 2016



Three Paths Forward

Annual school budget increases required to achieve per-pupil spending targets in five years

Objective	2015 Per-Pupil Spend Equivalent	Estimated Annual Budget Growth Rate Required* FY 2017-2022
Maintain Current Service Level	\$12,301	4.4%
Match Gateway Cities	\$13,983	7.4%
Match similar-income Gateway cities	\$14,726	8.5%

* Estimate computed by T. Grannemann based on DESE data and U.S. CBO economic projections allows for enrollment growth at 1.5% annually and projected inflation.

The Perspective of City Leaders Matters

Can Haverhill change the way it looks at public services and spending?

Culture of Scarcity

- ▶ Reflects the view that we cannot afford to add resources to our public programs.

Culture of Civic Responsibility

- ▶ Reflects the view that we have a responsibility to find means to meet important public needs.

Summary

- ▶ DESE school performance indicators show Haverhill behind comparison cities and not keeping up with improvements in other cities over the past ten years.
- ▶ Haverhill school spending is very near the minimum required by the state, while many similar cities spend substantially more than the minimum.
- ▶ While school spending increases every year Haverhill school spending per pupil has not kept up with other cities, falling from 10% below the state average in 2006 to 18% below the state average in 2016.
- ▶ To provide resources comparable to similar cities within five years would require school budget increases of over 7% every year for the next few years.
- ▶ Haverhill must choose whether it wants its schools to reflect a “culture of scarcity” or a “culture of civic responsibility.”

Data Sources

- ▶ U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2011-2015 five-year estimates
- ▶ Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, School and District profiles 2016, <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/>
 - ▶ Accountability Reports, 2016 and earlier
 - ▶ 2015 Graduation Rates
 - ▶ FY 2015 (2014-2015 school year Per Pupil Expenditure
 - ▶ FY 2015 (2014-2015 school year)Teacher Salaries
 - ▶ Chapter 70 Aid, FY 2017
- ▶ Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Approved Tax Rates for FY 2016
- ▶ City Budgets: Haverhill Adopted Budget FY 2016) and Salem (FY 2017 Budget, Recap Sheet for 2016)

For more Information

- See: www.BenchmarkHaverhillSchools.com
- Contact: Thomas Grannemann: Tom@BenchmarkHaverhillSchools.com