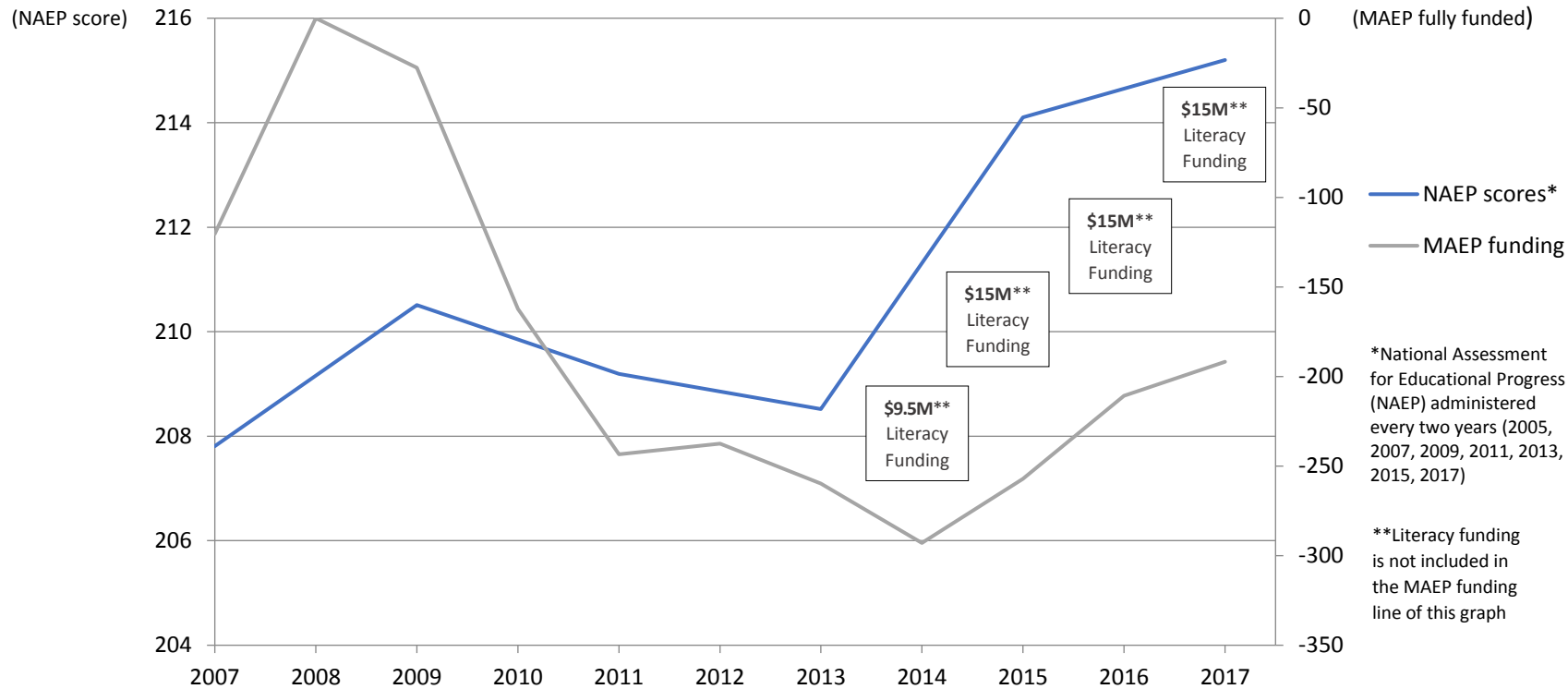


## Reading scores correlate to funding levels



The Parents' Campaign Research and Education Fund looked at the correlation between Mississippi's fourth-grade reading scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and school funding through the Mississippi Adequate Education Program from 2007 through 2015, the last time that the NAEP was administered. The study found that scores track closely with the adequacy of funding. Students performed better following years in which schools received adequate or near adequate funding. As funding dropped further below the "adequate" level, test scores fell.

After passage of the Literacy-based Promotion Act in 2013, public education received an additional infusion of funds focused on literacy. Statewide literacy funding was \$9.5-million in 2013-2014 and \$15-million in each of 2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017. Reading scores improved significantly following this additional investment in public schools.