

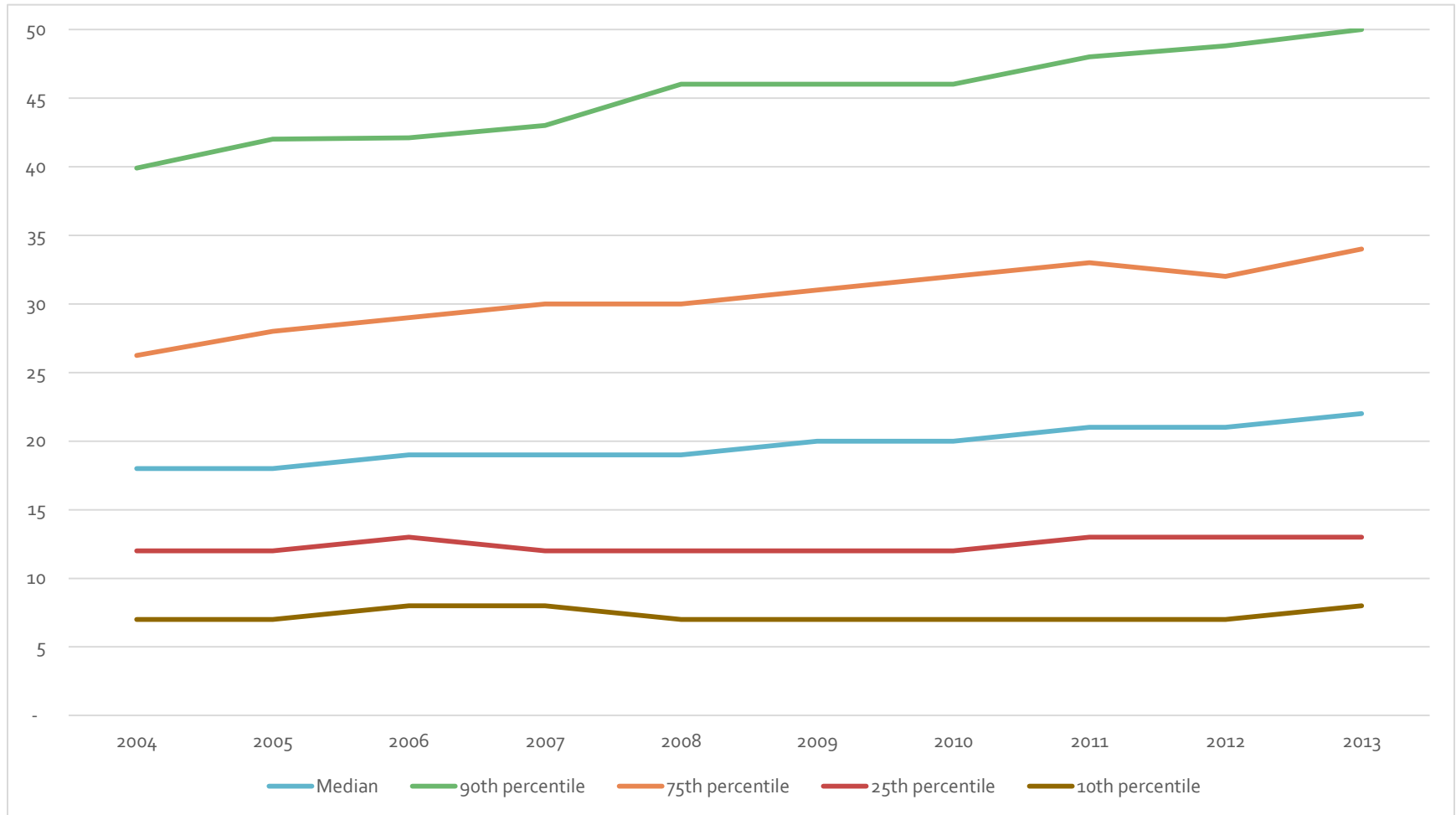
Alternative Approaches to Quality Assurance in U.S. Higher Education

Problems

- Quality isn't assured
- Consumers are harmed
- Barrier
 - To innovation
 - To entry
- Different types of institutions but one (or two) type of accreditation
- Binary nature of accreditation

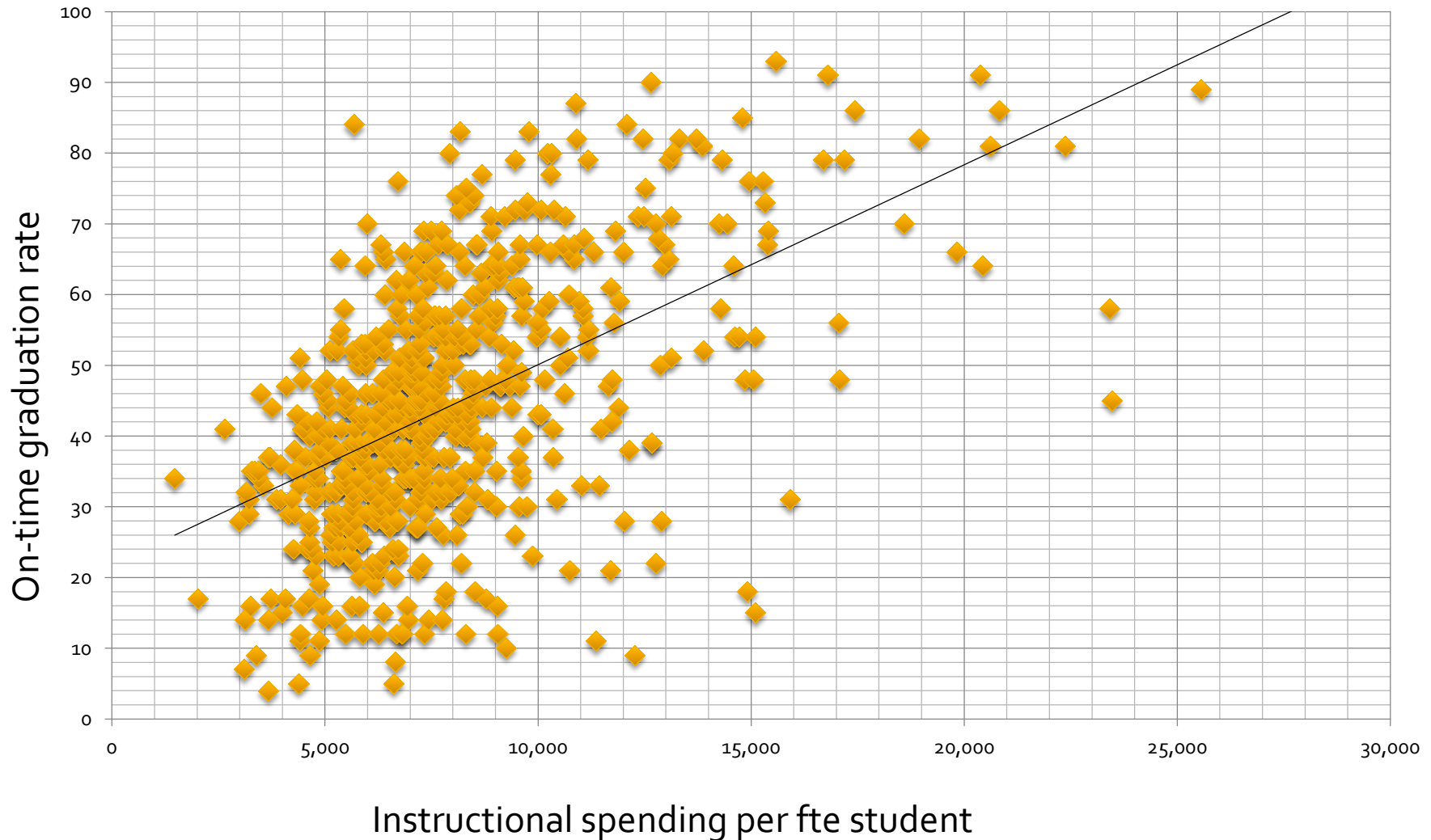
Problem: Outcomes aren't improving

On-time graduation rates at public 4-year colleges



Resources matter but not enough

On-time graduation rate at public 4-year colleges & instructional spending per student



Alternatives

- Be more explicit in law and regulations about what accreditors must do
- Encourage the development of an alternative accreditor that focuses on outcomes
- Permit institutions to receive aid while bypassing accreditation:
 - New entrants
 - Existing providers
- Use a rating system like mechanism to determine institutional eligibility and decouple
- Require adequate skin in the game

What Does Value Look Like in Higher Education?

Base institutional eligibility on performance using a rating system that considers:

- access,
- affordability,
- retention & graduation, and
- employment outcomes.



Illustrative Example