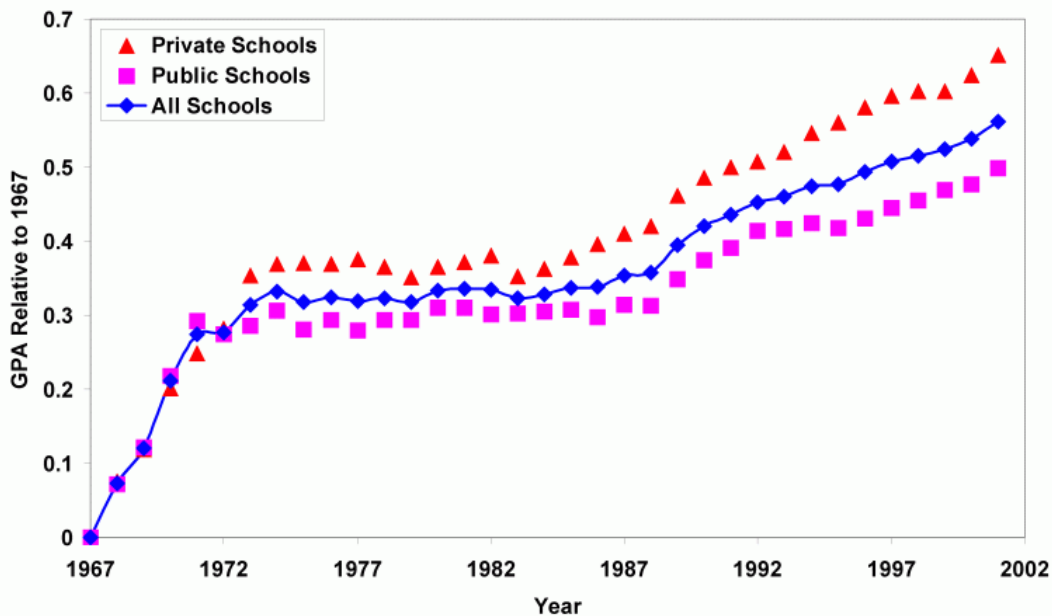


DEFLATING GRADY Part II – Midnight Thoughts

Somehow Grady Rizeng couldn't get to sleep. He had just ripped off the e-mail to the dean to vent his frustration. He kept thinking about his 8 AM meeting with Dr. Marks. He felt blindsided by the insinuation that the grades he gave his students were too high. He had never looked at his grades over time or in comparison with grades given by his faculty colleagues. Never had he thought he was being easy on the students and their course evaluations suggested they had worked hard in his courses. "What evidence does she have that the increase in grades in the department is due to my courses or a decrease in my standards? Couldn't it simply be that our students are getting better? There are all sorts of reason that grades might be rising." At 1 AM he got out of bed and logged on to the Internet to see what he could find out that would help him later in the morning.

Meanwhile, Lois Marks was having second thoughts. "Did I come down too hard? I assumed Grady's high teaching ratings reflected easy grading standards. Did I jump to an incorrect conclusion? I need to check into this a bit more." And she logged on to the Internet as well.

Within a few minutes of googling "grade inflation" both Prof. Rizeng and Chair Marks found the following graph. The data show the average grades received by college students at US public and private schools over the past 30 years.



This graph comes from www.gradeinflation.com.

1. What conclusions can you make by examining these data?
2. Make a list of questions (learning issues) you have about these data.



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