

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018

Alaska Key Findings

Performance

- In the 2018 Alaska graduating class, 2,582 graduates (33 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 20.8. This compares to 2,659 (37 percent) with an average of 21.0 in 2014. Nationally, 55% of 2018 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.8.
 - ~ There were 53 African American graduates from Alaska who took the ACT (2 percent) with an average Composite score of 18.4. This compares to 131 (3 percent) with an average of 17.2, and 59 (2 percent) with an average of 17.3, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 307 American Indian graduates from Alaska who took the ACT (12 percent) with an average Composite score of 16.4. This compares to 512 (10 percent) with an average of 15.3, and 306 (12 percent) with an average of 15.9, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 1,135 White graduates from Alaska who took the ACT (44 percent) with an average Composite score of 23.3. This compares to 2,236 (45 percent) with an average of 21.7, and 1,372 (52 percent) with an average of 23.1, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 167 Hispanic graduates from Alaska who took the ACT (6 percent) with an average Composite score of 21.3. This compares to 438 (9 percent) with an average of 19.2, and 159 (6 percent) with an average of 20.3, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 173 Asian graduates from Alaska who took the ACT (7 percent) with an average Composite score of 21.5. This compares to 367 (7 percent) with an average of 18.9, and 165 (6 percent) with an average of 19.8, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 24 Pacific Islander graduates from Alaska who took the ACT (1 percent) with an average Composite score of 18.0. This compares to 88 (2 percent) with an average of 16.5, and 27 (1 percent) with an average of 16.2, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
- The 2018 Alaska graduating class average English score was 19.8. This compares to 18.7 and 19.9 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Alaska graduating class average math score was 20.6. This compares to 19.8 and 21.1 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Alaska graduating class average reading score was 21.6. This compares to 20.4 and 21.6 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Alaska graduating class average science score was 20.7. This compares to 19.9 and 20.8 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- In 2018, 27 percent of Alaska graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 20 and 28 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 33 percent of Alaska graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 40 and 31 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.

- ~ In 2018, 60 percent of Alaska graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 53 and 63 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - 2018 Alaska graduates taking more advanced English coursework demonstrated markedly higher average English scores than those who did not. In fact, 70 percent of Alaska 2018 graduates taking four or more years of English met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 63 percent of students taking less than four years of English meeting the benchmark.
- ~ In 2018, 42 percent of Alaska graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 35 and 45 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - 2018 Alaska graduates taking more advanced math coursework demonstrated markedly higher average math scores than those who did not. In fact, 51 percent of Alaska 2018 graduates taking three or more years of math met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 8 percent of students taking less than three years of math meeting the benchmark.
- ~ In 2018, 49 percent of Alaska graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 41 and 48 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - 2018 Alaska graduates taking more advanced social studies coursework demonstrated markedly higher average reading scores than those who did not. In fact, 58 percent of Alaska 2018 graduates taking three or more years of social studies met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 48 percent of students taking less than three years of social studies meeting the benchmark.
- ~ In 2018, 36 percent of Alaska graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 29 and 36 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - 2018 Alaska graduates taking more advanced science coursework demonstrated markedly higher average science scores than those who did not. In fact, 47 percent of Alaska 2018 graduates taking three or more years of science met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 27 percent of students taking less than three years of science meeting the benchmark.
- In 2018, 1,014 (39 percent) of Alaska graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 1,637 and 1,069 (33 and 40 percent) out of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively. For reference, the national percentage of 2018 graduates meeting three or four benchmarks was 38%.

STEM

- In 2018, 1,390 Alaska graduates (54 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
 - ~ Nationally, 45 percent of graduates indicated having an interest in STEM.
- Compared to a 2018 Alaska graduating class average ACT STEM score of 20.9, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM averages of 20.1 and 21.2, respectively.
 - ~ 54 percent of 2018 Alaska graduates taking physics met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 33 for students not taking physics.
 - ~ 2018 Alaska graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.7. This compares to 27.9 in 2014.
 - ~ 51 percent of 2018 graduates taking three or more years of math met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 8 percent for students taking less than three years of math.
- 2018 Alaska graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 28.3. This compares to 28.2 in 2014.

Career Readiness

- In 2018, 1,910 Alaska graduates (74 percent) were likely to attain the Silver ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate or higher based upon ACT Composite score, compared to 1,393,517 (73 percent) nationally.
 - ~ The ACT Composite scores associated with a 50% chance of earning each ACT WorkKeys NCRC level or higher are: 13 for Bronze, 17 for Silver, 25 for Gold, and 35 for Platinum. Based on those cut scores, students who earned an ACT Composite score of less than 13 would be classified as “Needs Improvement,” 13 to 16 as “Bronze,” 17 to 24 as “Silver,” and 25 or above as “Gold or Higher.”

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Alaska, 789 of the 2018 graduates (30.6%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 21.9, compared to an average of 20.4 for 1,793 of the 2018 graduates (69.4%) who took the ACT only once.
- 3,934 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 Alaska ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ 1,572 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2018 Alaska ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ For Alaska’s 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were University of Alaska Anchorage, University of Alaska Fairbanks, University of Alaska Southeast, Kuskokwim Campus UAF-CRCD, and Montana State University-Bozeman.
- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 66 percent of Alaska graduates opted into the ACT Educational Opportunity Service (EOS). EOS is a free service that allows students to gain exposure to recruitment, scholarship agencies, colleges, and universities that students may not have accessed on their own. The ACT Get Your Name in the Game initiative encourages colleges and universities to recruit underserved EOS participants to increase access and opportunity for all.
- In the 2017-2018 academic year, ACT issued 535 ACT fee waivers to qualified Alaska students. However, 122 students (22.8 percent) did not take advantage of this opportunity to test for free. This compares to 542,506 waivers issued nationally, of which 152,227 (28.1 percent) students did not take advantage. This represents a great opportunity for high schools within the state to increase the socioeconomic diversity of its students tested. Note: this is the number of fee waivers issued for the state, not specific to this graduating class.

Pipeline

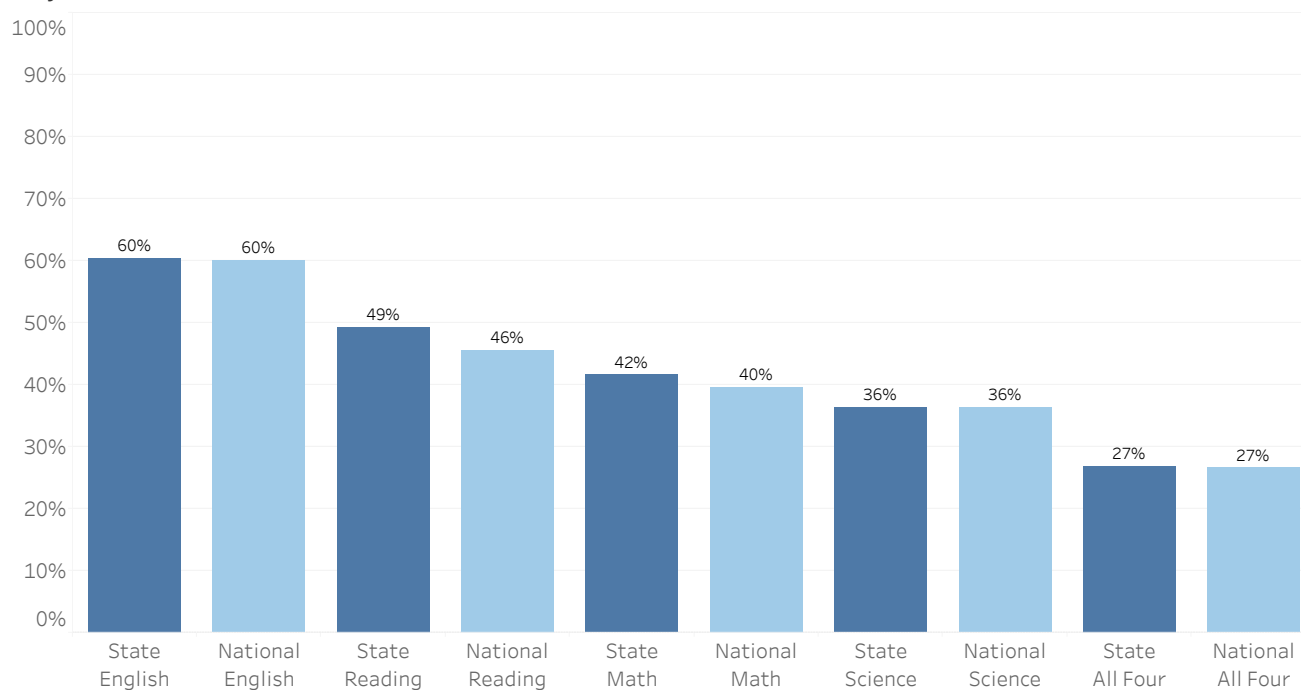
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - ~ 779 students (30 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 24.3.
 - ~ 1,240 students (48 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor’s degree. They had an average Composite score of 20.5.
 - ~ 141 students (5 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate’s degree. They had an average Composite score of 17.0.
- In the Alaska graduating class of 2018, 400 students (15 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2018 Alaska graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Mechanical Engineering; Medicine (Pre-Medicine); and Biology, General.
 - ~ In the Alaska graduating class of 2018, 434 students (17 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 21.1. Decision making regarding college major can be facilitated through activities included in ACT Aspire and PreACT testing experiences. In addition, the Student Score Report is a valuable tool for conversations using the College and Career Planning and Interest-Major Fit sections.
 - ~ In the Alaska graduating class of 2018, 118 (5 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 19.2.

Additional Points

- According to the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the fastest-growing careers in Alaska requiring education beyond high school are: Optometrists, Dental Hygienists, Dental Assistants, Nurse Midwives, Chiropractors.
- The ACT College and Career Readiness Champions are individuals across the country who support ACT's mission of education and workplace success. They are high school seniors, K-12, postsecondary, and workforce professionals, who have demonstrated exemplary behavior and contributions in support of college and career readiness in their respective communities. Congratulations to the Alaska Champions: Halie Shangin (High School Senior), Kathy Moffitt (K-12 Professional), Lynda Hernandez (Postsecondary Professional), and Meg Day (Workforce Professional).

ALASKA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2018 ACT-Tested High School Graduates Meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmarks* by Subject



Data From Graph Above

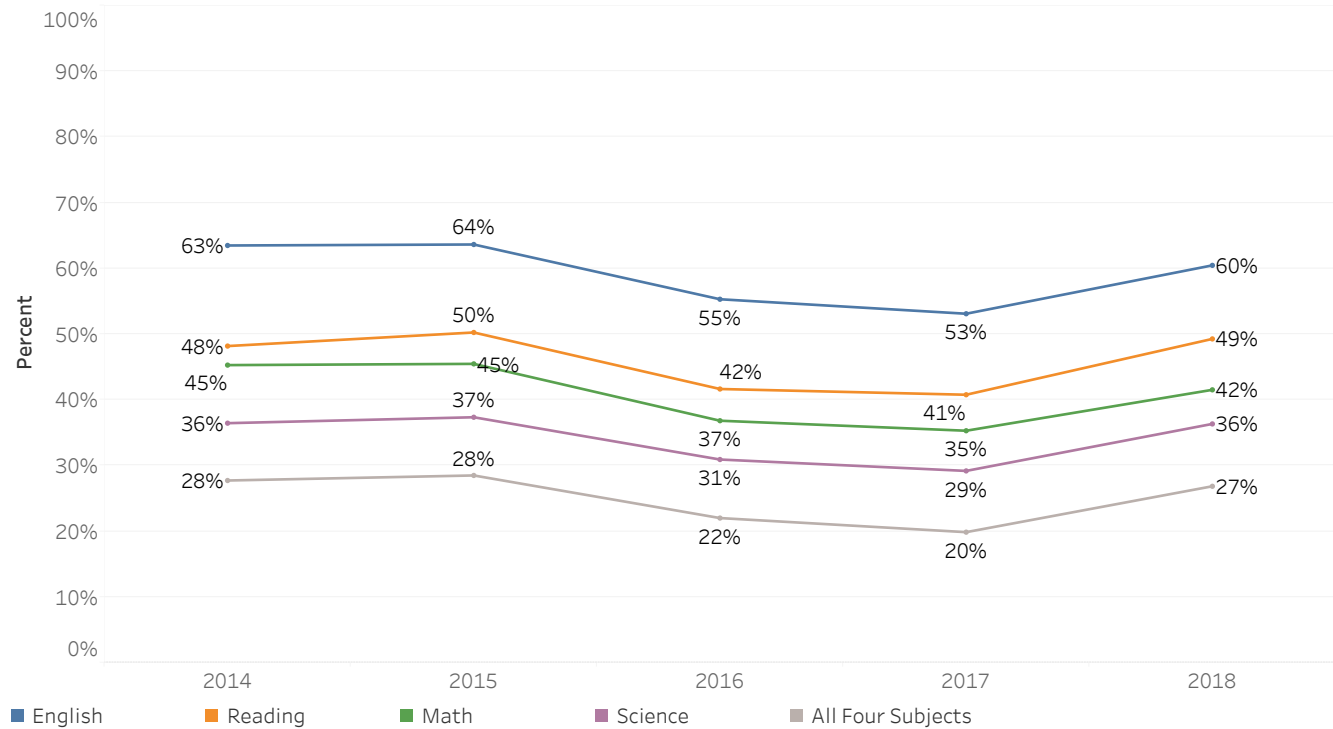
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
60%	60%	49%	46%	42%	40%	36%	36%	27%	27%

* The ACT College Readiness Benchmarks are scores on the ACT subject area tests that represent the level of achievement required for students to have a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in corresponding credit-bearing first-year college courses. Throughout this report, benchmark attainment corresponds with students meeting or exceeding 18 in English, 22 in Reading, 22 in Math and 23 in Science.

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

ALASKA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2014–2018 ACT-Tested High School Graduates Meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmarks*



Data From Graph Above

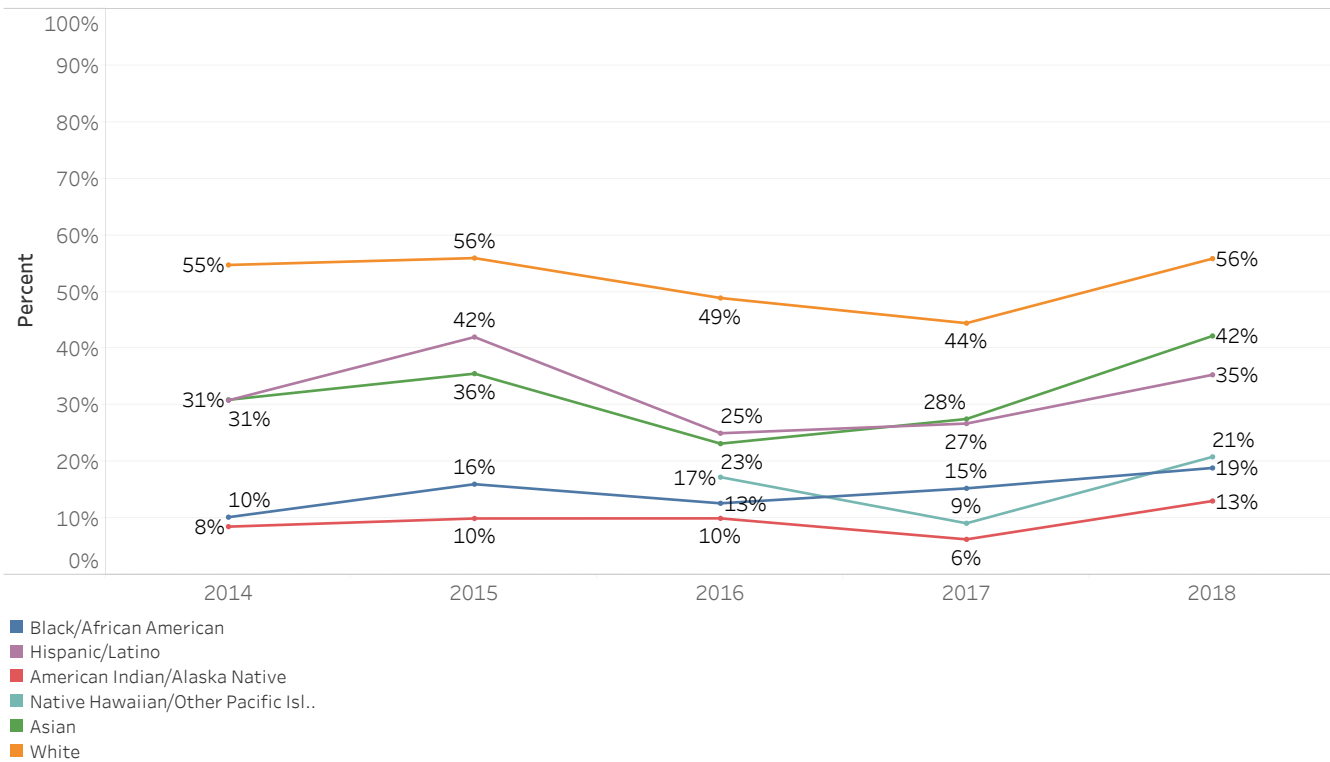
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2014	63%	48%	45%	36%	28%
2015	64%	50%	45%	37%	28%
2016	55%	42%	37%	31%	22%
2017	53%	41%	35%	29%	20%
2018	60%	49%	42%	36%	27%

* The ACT College Readiness Benchmarks are scores on the ACT subject area tests that represent the level of achievement required for students to have a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in corresponding credit-bearing first-year college courses. Throughout this report, benchmark attainment corresponds with students meeting or exceeding 18 in English, 22 in Reading, 22 in Math and 23 in Science.

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

ALASKA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2014-2018 ACT-Tested High School Graduates Meeting Three or More Benchmarks by Race/Ethnicity



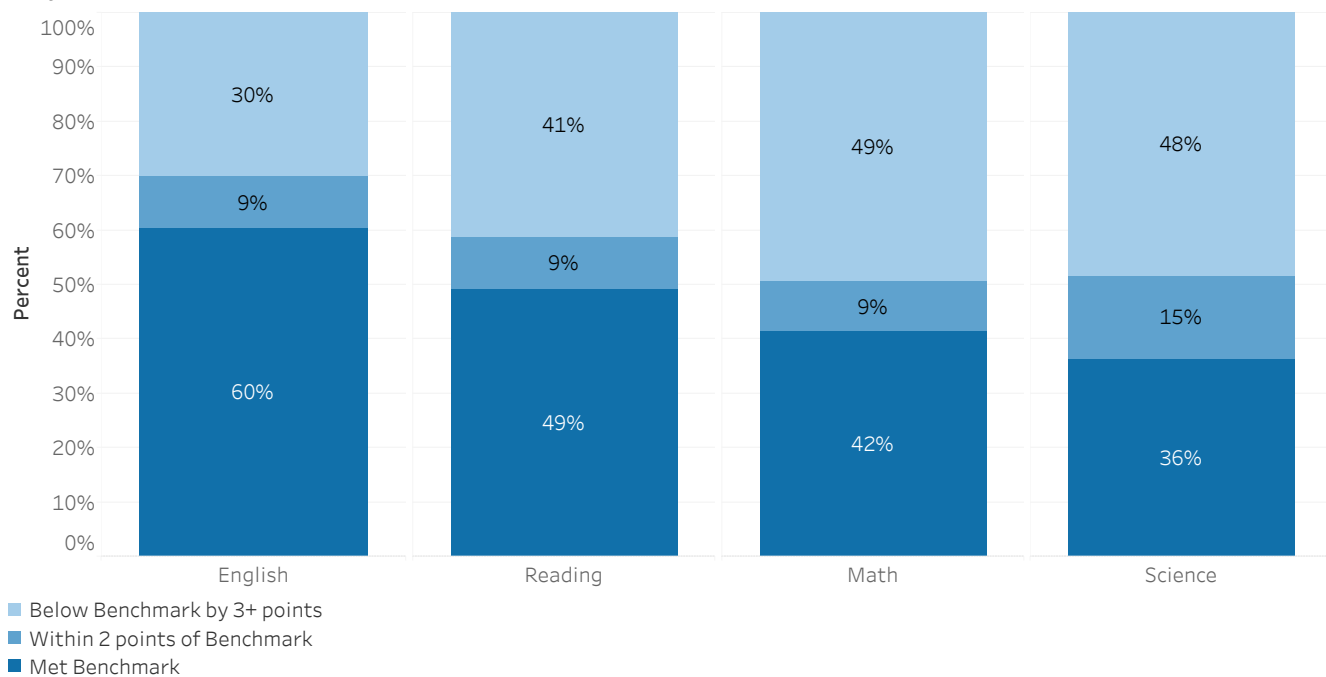
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2014	10%	31%	8%	31%	31%	55%
2015	16%	42%	10%	36%	36%	56%
2016	13%	25%	10%	17%	23%	49%
2017	15%	27%	6%	9%	28%	44%
2018	19%	35%	13%	21%	42%	56%

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

ALASKA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2018 ACT-Tested High School Graduates by ACT College Readiness Benchmark Attainment and Subject



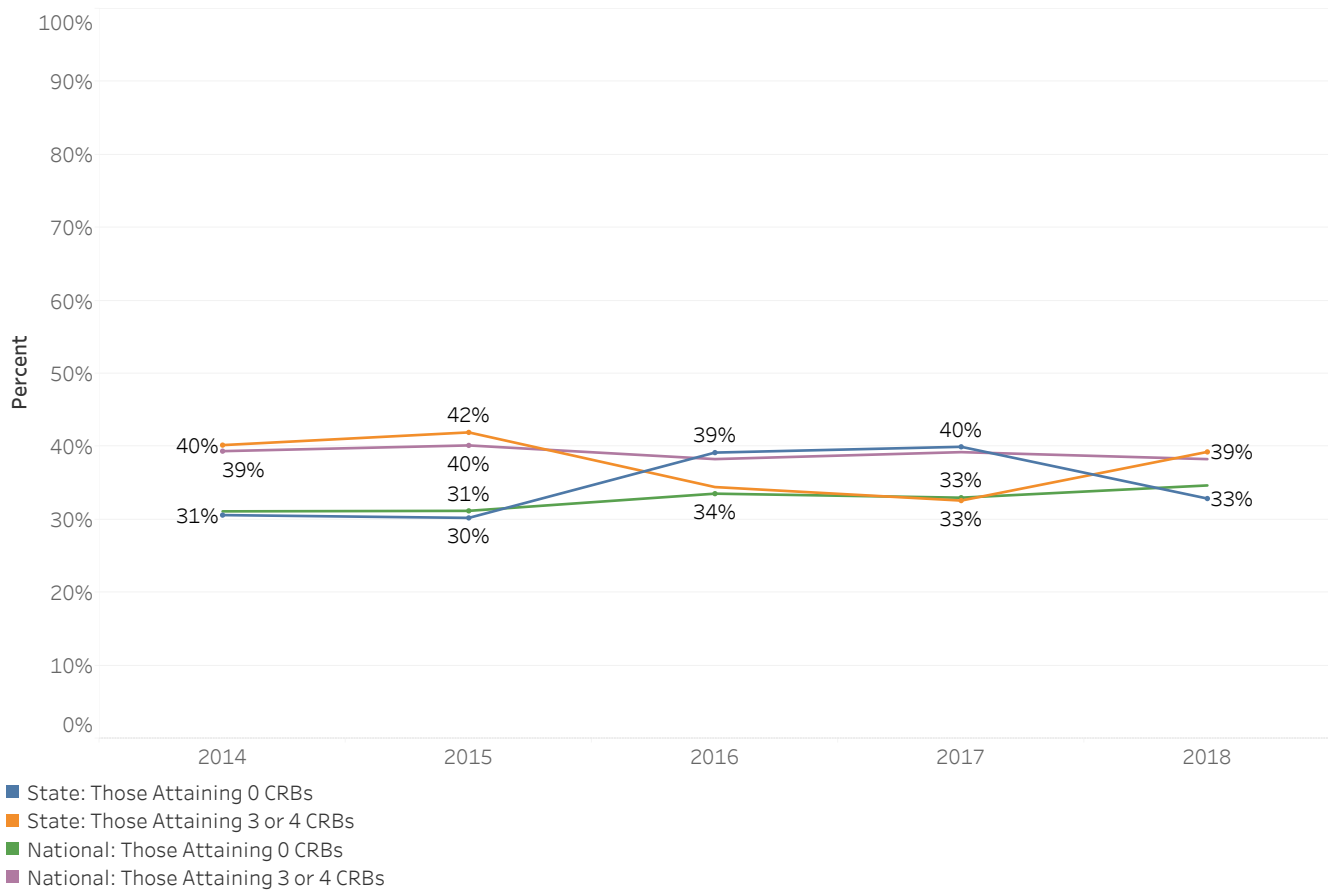
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	30%	9%	60%
Math	49%	9%	42%
Reading	41%	9%	49%
Science	48%	15%	36%

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

ALASKA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2014–2018 ACT-Tested High School Graduates Meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmarks*



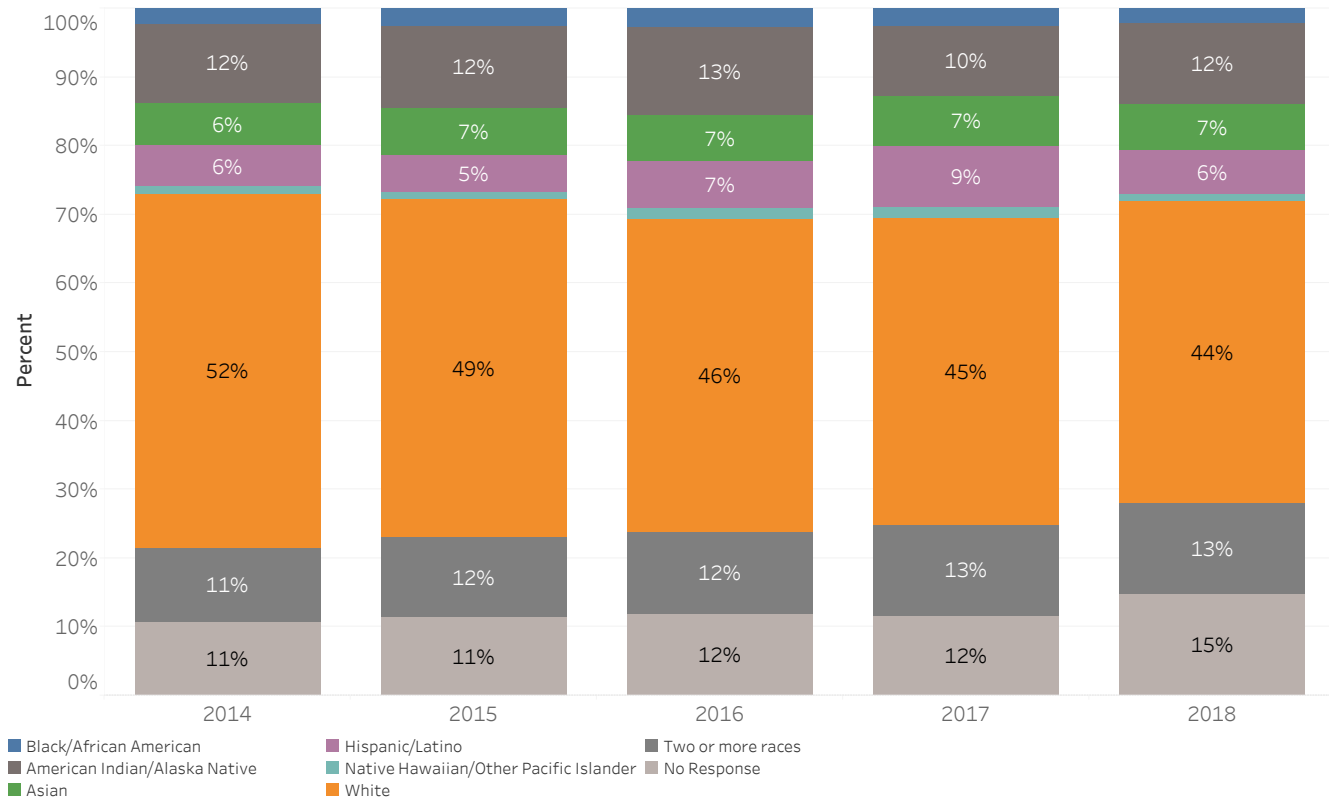
Data from Graph Above

	State: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	State: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs
2014	31%	40%	31%	39%
2015	30%	42%	31%	40%
2016	39%	34%	34%	38%
2017	40%	33%	33%	39%
2018	33%	39%	35%	38%

*Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

ALASKA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2014-2018 ACT-Tested High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity



Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	American Indian/Alaska Native	Asian	Hispanic/Latino	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	White	Two or more races	No Response
2014	2%	12%	6%	6%	1%	52%	11%	11%
2015	3%	12%	7%	5%	1%	49%	12%	11%
2016	3%	13%	7%	7%	1%	46%	12%	12%
2017	3%	10%	7%	9%	2%	45%	13%	12%
2018	2%	12%	7%	6%	1%	44%	13%	15%

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

ALASKA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

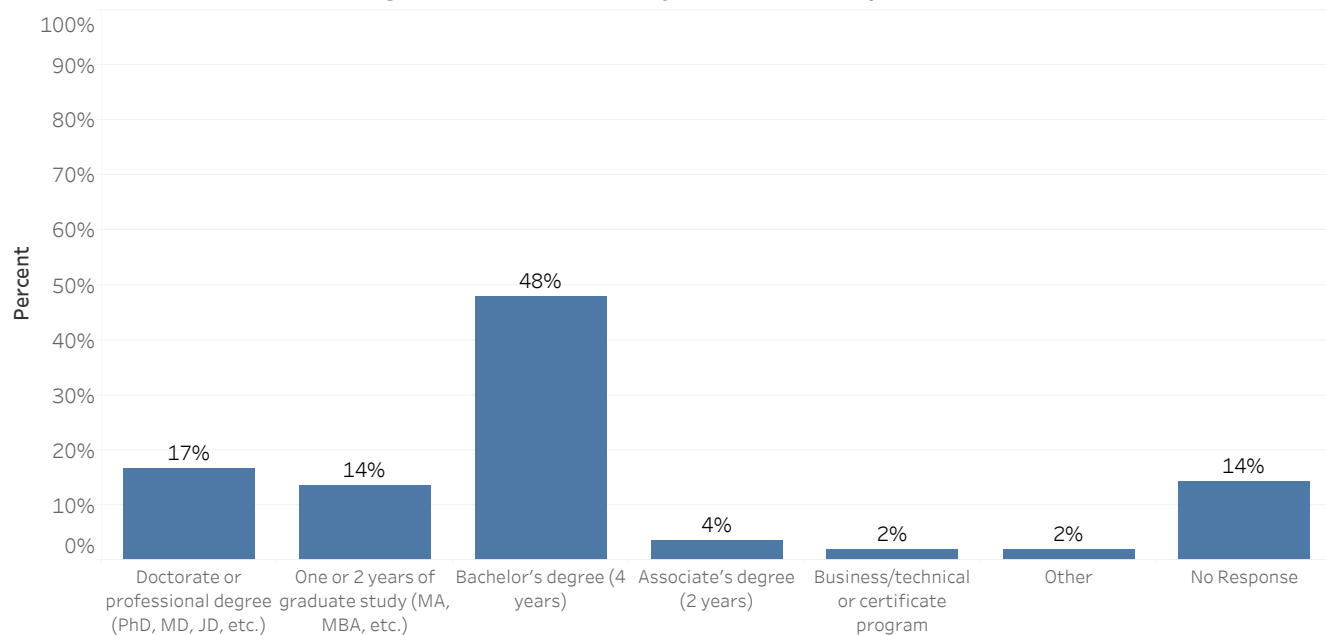
Student Data Trends: 2014-2018, State vs. Nation

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State N-count	2,659	2,868	3,895	5,021	2,582
National N-count	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817
Average ACT English Score - State	19.9	20.1	18.9	18.7	19.8
Average ACT English Score - National	20.3	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Reading Score - State	21.6	21.9	20.6	20.4	21.6
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - State	21.1	21.1	20.0	19.8	20.6
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - State	20.8	20.9	19.8	19.9	20.7
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.8	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7
Average ACT Composite Score - State	21.0	21.1	20.0	19.8	20.8
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

ALASKA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2018 ACT-Tested High School Graduates by Educational Aspirations



Data From Graph Above

	% of Graduates
Doctorate or professional degree (PhD, MD, JD, etc.)	17%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	14%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	48%
Associate's degree (2 years)	4%
Business/technical or certificate program	2%
Other	2%
No Response	14%

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.