

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018

California Key Findings

Performance

- In the 2018 California graduating class, 118,521 graduates (27 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 22.7. This compares to 113,732 (29 percent) with an average of 22.3 in 2014. Nationally, 55% of 2018 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.8.
 - ~ There were 4,728 African American graduates from California who took the ACT (4 percent) with an average Composite score of 19.0. This compares to 5,288 (4 percent) with an average of 19.2, and 5,513 (5 percent) with an average of 18.6, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 262 American Indian graduates from California who took the ACT (0 percent) with an average Composite score of 19.6. This compares to 339 (0 percent) with an average of 20.2, and 311 (0 percent) with an average of 20.4, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 30,597 White graduates from California who took the ACT (26 percent) with an average Composite score of 25.5. This compares to 35,756 (27 percent) with an average of 25.4, and 32,060 (28 percent) with an average of 25.0, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 45,606 Hispanic graduates from California who took the ACT (38 percent) with an average Composite score of 19.7. This compares to 51,192 (39 percent) with an average of 19.7, and 43,974 (39 percent) with an average of 19.4, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 18,203 Asian graduates from California who took the ACT (15 percent) with an average Composite score of 26.1. This compares to 19,802 (15 percent) with an average of 25.7, and 16,953 (15 percent) with an average of 24.6, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 834 Pacific Islander graduates from California who took the ACT (1 percent) with an average Composite score of 21.9. This compares to 1,048 (1 percent) with an average of 22.1, and 1,005 (1 percent) with an average of 21.2, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
- The 2018 California graduating class average English score was 22.5. This compares to 22.5 and 21.8 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 California graduating class average math score was 22.5. This compares to 22.7 and 22.8 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 California graduating class average reading score was 23.0. This compares to 23.1 and 22.3 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 California graduating class average science score was 22.1. This compares to 22.2 and 21.7 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- In 2018, 37 percent of California graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 38 and 34 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 24 percent of California graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 23 and 24 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.

- ~ In 2018, 72 percent of California graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 73 and 71 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- ~ In 2018, 53 percent of California graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 55 and 57 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- ~ In 2018, 56 percent of California graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 57 and 51 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- ~ In 2018, 46 percent of California graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 46 and 43 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- In 2018, 59,136 (50 percent) of California graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 66,637 and 55,217 (51 and 49 percent) out of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively. For reference, the national percentage of 2018 graduates meeting three or four benchmarks was 38%.
- 57 percent of 2018 California graduates were Proficient or Above Proficient in understanding complex texts.

STEM

- In 2018, 61,967 California graduates (52 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
 - ~ Nationally, 45 percent of graduates indicated having an interest in STEM.
- Compared to 30 percent of 2018 California graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 31 and 29, respectively.
- In 2018, 70,650 California graduates (60 percent) indicated taking physics. This compares to 62 and 63 percent for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ 54 percent of 2018 California graduates taking physics met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 34 for students not taking physics.
 - ~ 56 percent of 2018 graduates taking three or more years of math met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 16 percent for students taking less than three years of math.

Career Readiness

- In 2018, 43,926 California graduates (37 percent) were likely to attain the Gold ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate® or higher based upon ACT Composite score, compared to 499,653 (26 percent) nationally.
 - ~ The ACT Composite scores associated with a 50% chance of earning each 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.”

Impact

- Based on the actual test volume and ACT score distributions of 2018 ACT-tested California high school graduates, ACT research estimates that an increase of 0.1 in state average ACT Composite score for the 2018 graduating class would result in:
 - ~ 259 more students enrolling in college.
 - ~ 297 more students persisting to year two.
 - ~ 196 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - ~ 320 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - ~ 334 more students persisting to year four.
 - ~ 360 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In California, 49,245 of the 2018 graduates (41.5%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 24.3, compared to an average of 21.5 for 69,276 of the 2018 graduates (58.5%) who took the ACT only once.
- 171,533 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 California ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ 106,065 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2018 California ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ For California's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were University of California-Los Angeles, University of California-Irvine, University of California-Davis, San Diego State University, and University of California-Berkeley.
- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 72 percent of California 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 68,029 ACT fee waivers to qualified California students. However, 18,355 students (27.0 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

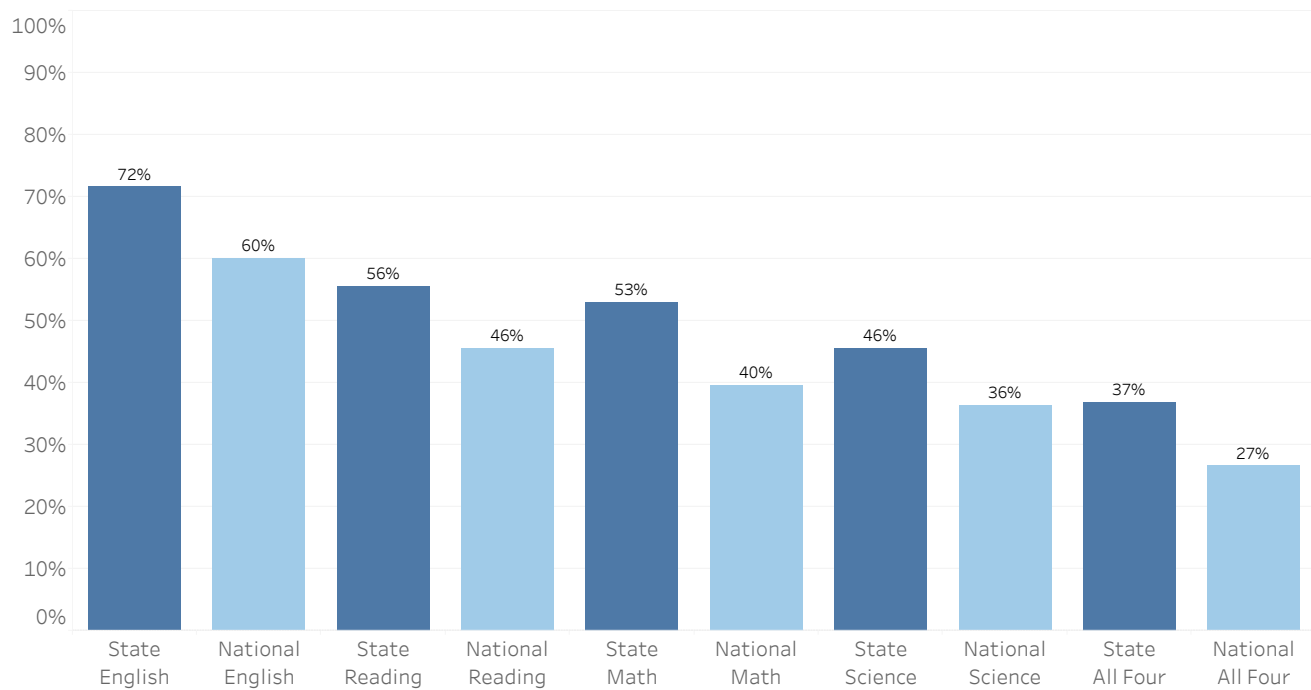
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - ~ 53,604 students (45 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 24.7.
 - ~ 45,364 students (38 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 21.2.
 - ~ 1,529 students (1 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 16.5.
- In the California graduating class of 2018, 27,101 students (23 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2018 California graduates were: Undecided; Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; Biology, General; and Nursing, Registered (BS/RN).
 - ~ In the California graduating class of 2018, 3,368 (3 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 20.3.

Additional Points

- According to the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the fastest-growing careers in California requiring education beyond high school are: Wind Turbine Service Technicians, Web Developers, Statisticians, Cartographers and Photogrammetrists, Operations Research Analysts.
- 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 California Champions: Leslie Sepulveda Ochoa (High School Senior), Carlos Hernandez (K-12 Professional), and Ruby Morgan (Workforce Professional).

CALIFORNIA 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

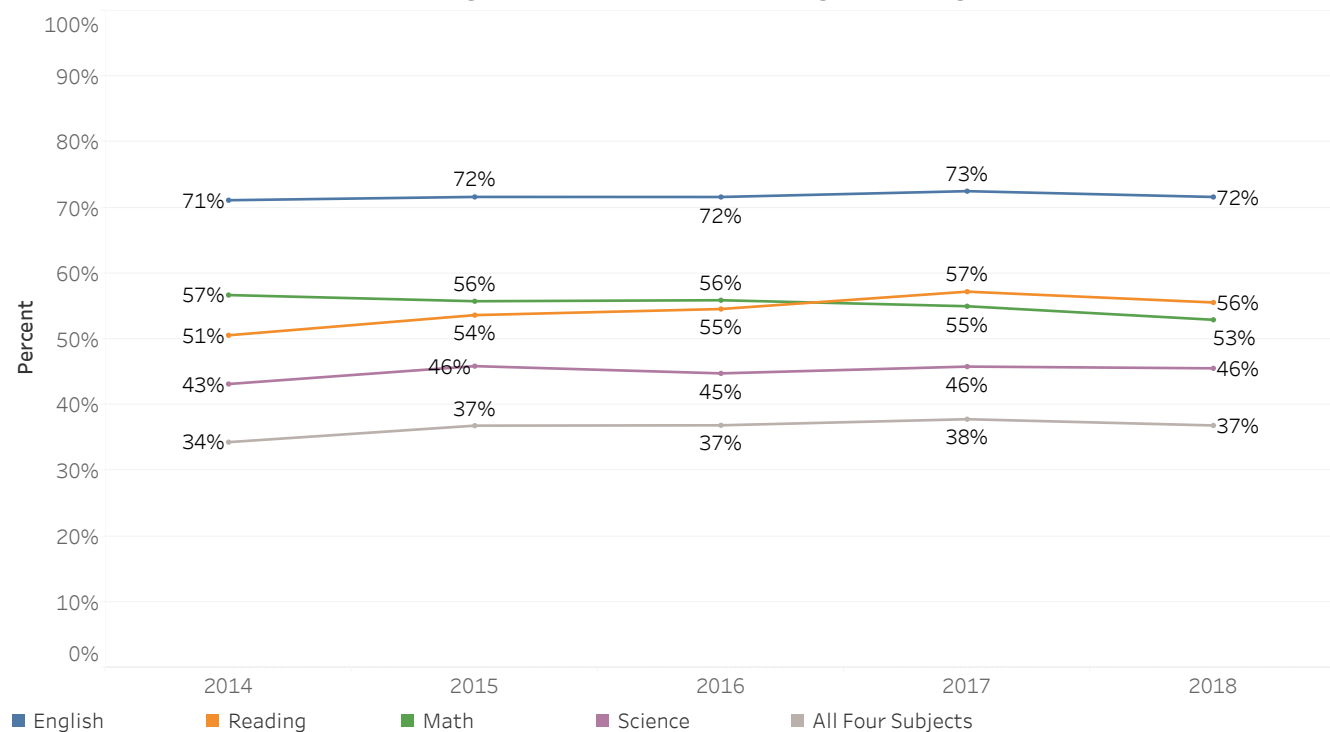
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
72%	60%	56%	46%	53%	40%	46%	36%	37%	27%

* 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.

CALIFORNIA 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

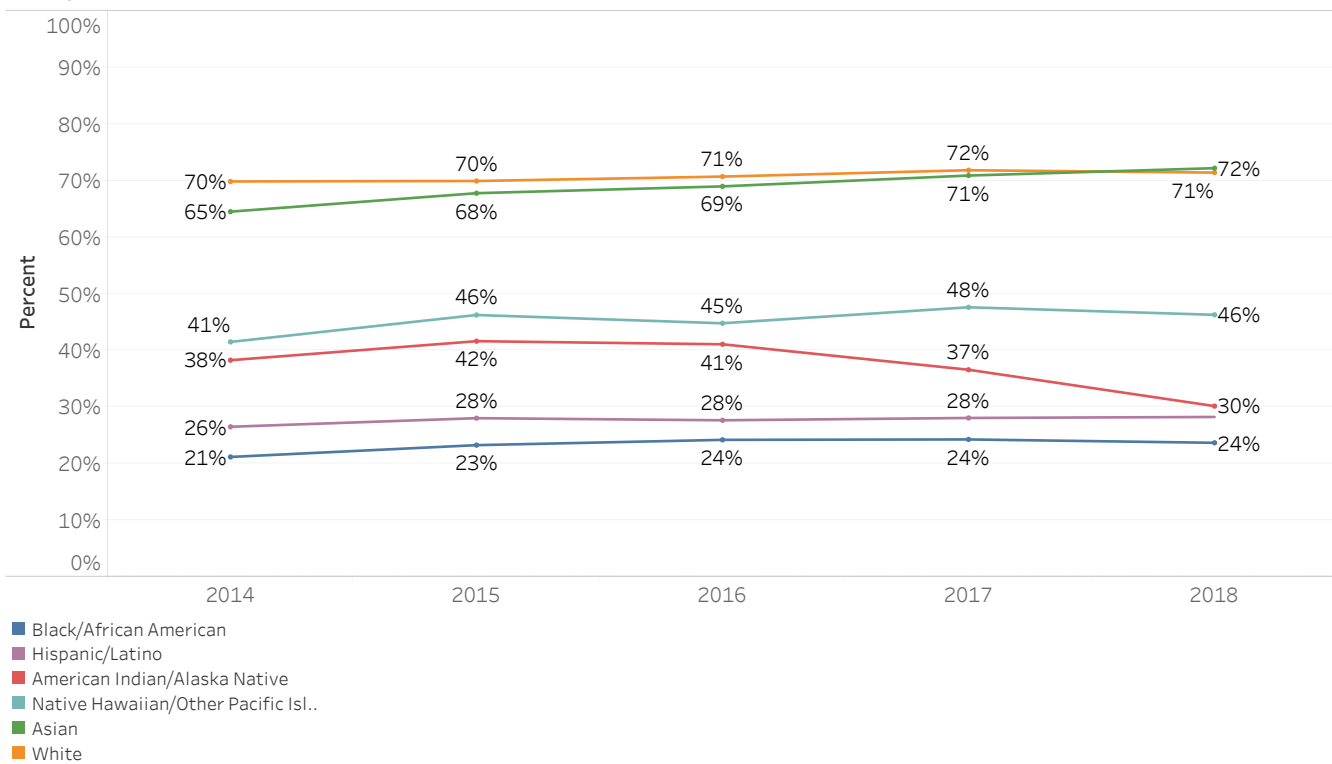
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2014	71%	51%	57%	43%	34%
2015	72%	54%	56%	46%	37%
2016	72%	55%	56%	45%	37%
2017	73%	57%	55%	46%	38%
2018	72%	56%	53%	46%	37%

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CALIFORNIA 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



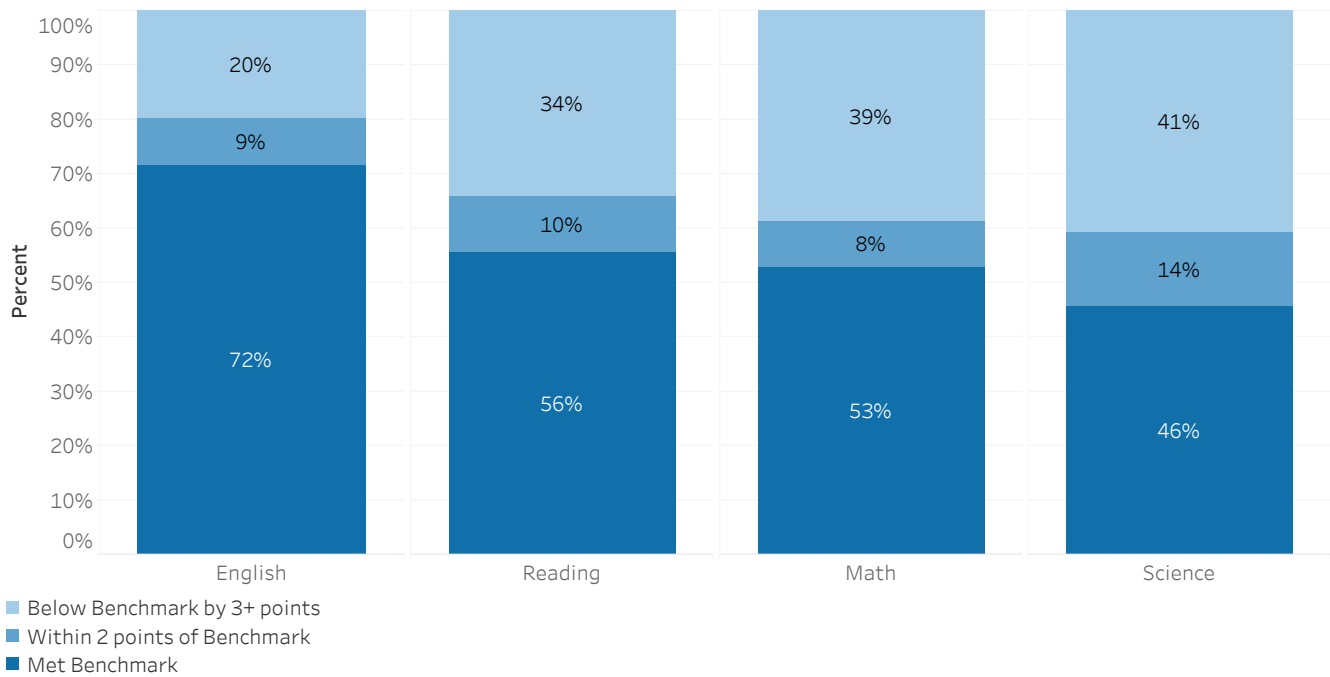
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2014	21%	26%	38%	41%	65%	70%
2015	23%	28%	42%	46%	68%	70%
2016	24%	28%	41%	45%	69%	71%
2017	24%	28%	37%	48%	71%	72%
2018	24%	28%	30%	46%	72%	71%

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CALIFORNIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



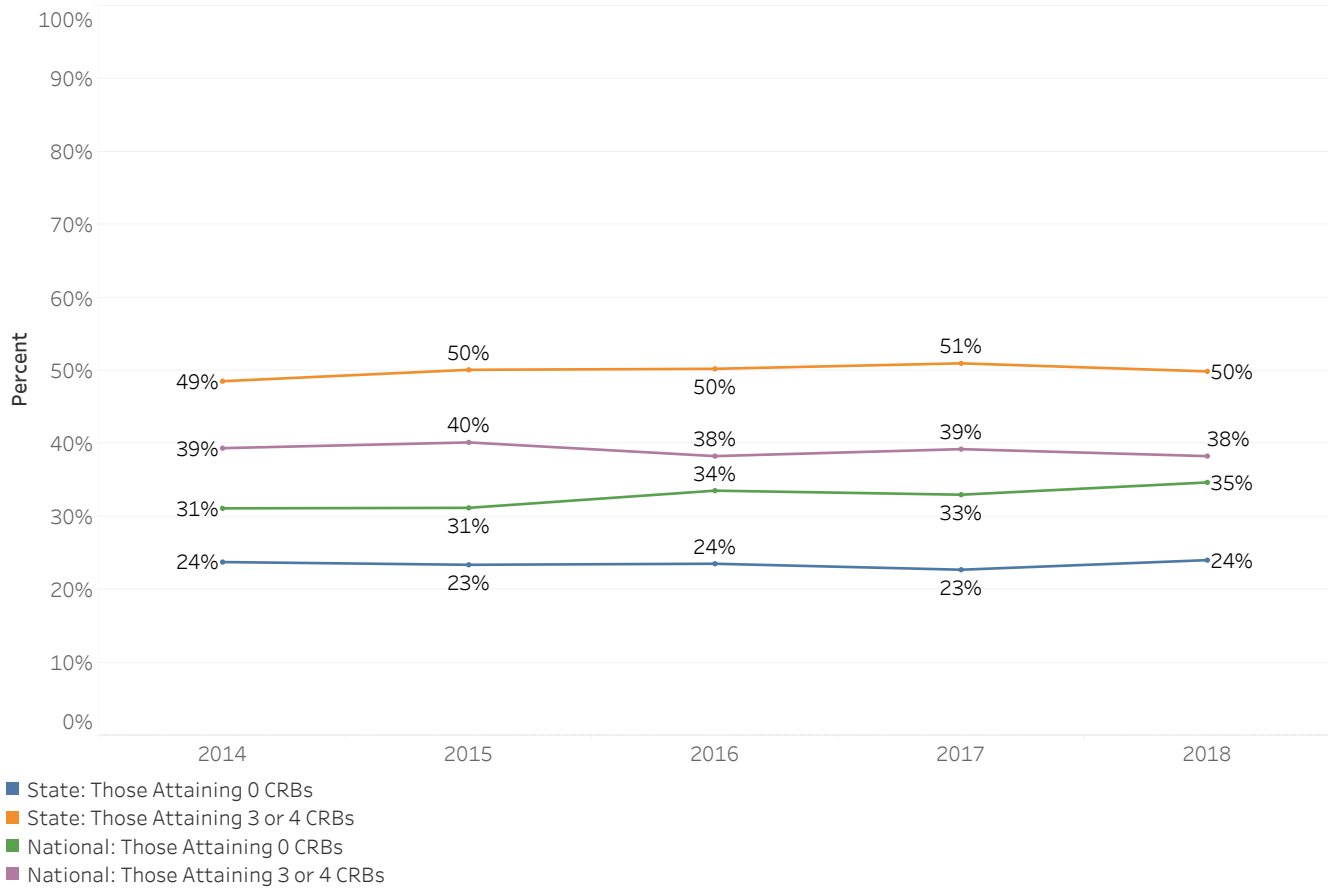
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	20%	9%	72%
Math	39%	8%	53%
Reading	34%	10%	56%
Science	41%	14%	46%

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CALIFORNIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



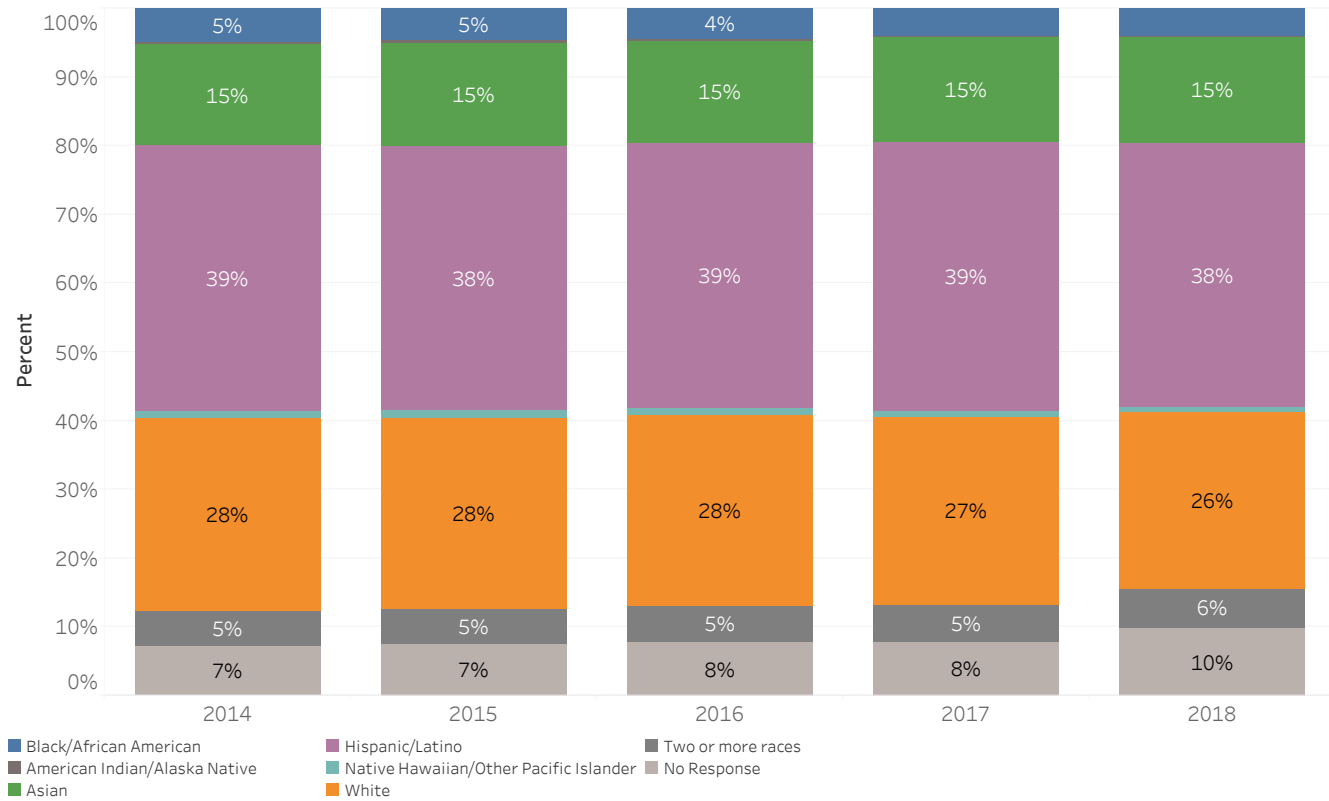
Data from Graph Above

	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	24%	49%	31%	39%
2015	23%	50%	31%	40%
2016	24%	50%	34%	38%
2017	23%	51%	33%	39%
2018	24%	50%	35%	38%

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CALIFORNIA 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	5%	0%	15%	39%	1%	28%	5%	7%
2015	5%	0%	15%	38%	1%	28%	5%	7%
2016	4%	0%	15%	39%	1%	28%	5%	8%
2017	4%	0%	15%	39%	1%	27%	5%	8%
2018	4%	0%	15%	38%	1%	26%	6%	10%

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CALIFORNIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

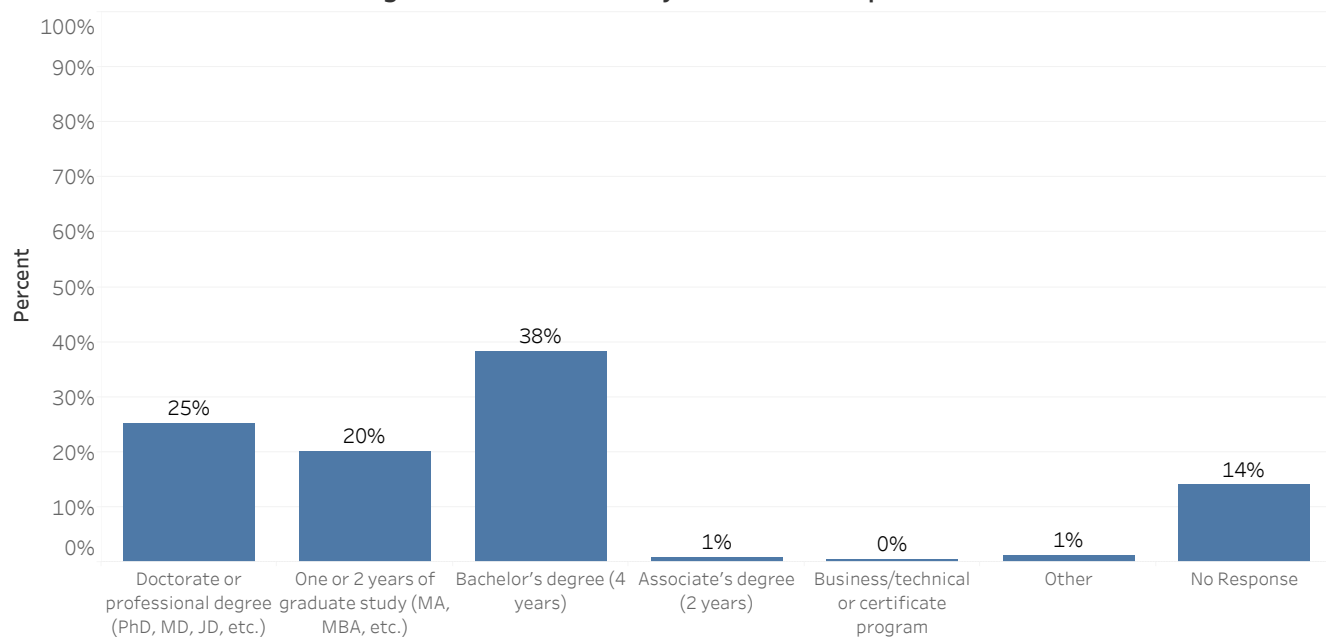
Student Data Trends: 2014-2018, State vs. Nation

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State N-count	113,732	121,815	127,225	130,665	118,521
National N-count	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817
Average ACT English Score - State	21.8	22.1	22.1	22.5	22.5
Average ACT English Score - National	20.3	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Reading Score - State	22.3	22.6	22.9	23.1	23.0
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - State	22.8	22.7	22.7	22.7	22.5
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - State	21.7	22.0	22.1	22.2	22.1
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.8	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7
Average ACT Composite Score - State	22.3	22.5	22.6	22.8	22.7
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

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CALIFORNIA 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.)	25%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	20%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	38%
Associate's degree (2 years)	1%
Business/technical or certificate program	0%
Other	1%
No Response	14%

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