The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018
District of Columbia Key Findings

Performance

- In the 2018 District of Columbia graduating class, 1,748 graduates (32 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 23.6. This compares to 1,492 (37 percent) with an average of 21.6 in 2014. Nationally, 55% of 2018 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.8.

  - There were 553 African American graduates from District of Columbia who took the ACT (32 percent) with an average Composite score of 18.3. This compares to 554 (32 percent) with an average of 18.4, and 645 (43 percent) with an average of 16.9, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.

  - There were 541 White graduates from District of Columbia who took the ACT (31 percent) with an average Composite score of 29.2. This compares to 550 (32 percent) with an average of 29.1, and 386 (26 percent) with an average of 27.6, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.

  - There were 154 Hispanic graduates from District of Columbia who took the ACT (9 percent) with an average Composite score of 22.9. This compares to 173 (10 percent) with an average of 23.6, and 128 (9 percent) with an average of 22.7, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.

- The 2018 District of Columbia graduating class average English score was 23.7. This compares to 24.4 and 21.2 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.

- The 2018 District of Columbia graduating class average math score was 22.7. This compares to 23.5 and 21.5 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.

- The 2018 District of Columbia graduating class average reading score was 24.4. This compares to 24.9 and 22.0 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.

- The 2018 District of Columbia graduating class average science score was 23.0. This compares to 23.5 and 21.1 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.

- In 2018, 45 percent of District of Columbia graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 48 and 35 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.

  - In 2018, 70 percent of District of Columbia graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 73 and 61 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.

  - In 2018, 54 percent of District of Columbia graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 59 and 47 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.

  - In 2018, 60 percent of District of Columbia graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 64 and 47 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.

  - In 2018, 51 percent of District of Columbia graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 54 and 41 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.

- In 2018, 943 (54 percent) of District of Columbia graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 1,002 and 660 (58 and 44 percent) out of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively. For reference, the national percentage of 2018 graduates meeting three or four benchmarks was 38%.

- 61 percent of 2018 District of Columbia graduates were Proficient or Above Proficient in understanding complex texts.

- Of the 1,725 students who took the ACT Test, 635 attended public schools and had an average Composite score of 19.5 with 19% meeting all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks.

STEM

- In 2018, 551 District of Columbia graduates (32 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 District of Columbia graduating class average ACT STEM score of 23.1, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM averages of 23.7 and 21.5, respectively.

- Compared to 39 percent of 2018 District of Columbia graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 41 and 29, respectively.

- 2018 graduates taking physics had an average science score of 23.2, compared to 21.5 for students not taking physics.

  - 2018 District of Columbia graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 30.2. This compares to 29.5 in 2014.

- In 2018, 1,505 District of Columbia graduates (86 percent) indicated taking three or more years of math. This compares to 87 and 89 percent for 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.

  - 2018 graduates taking three or more years of math had an average math score of 22.9, compared to 17.2 for students taking less than three years of math.

  - 56 percent of 2018 graduates taking three or more years of math met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 11 percent for students taking less than three years of math.

- 2018 District of Columbia graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 29.6. This compares to 29.8 in 2014.

Career Readiness

- In 2018, 809 District of Columbia graduates (46 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."

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In District of Columbia, 846 of the 2018 graduates (48.4%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 25.4, compared to an average of 21.8 for 902 of the 2018 graduates (51.6%) who took the ACT only once.

- 1,283 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 District of Columbia ACT-tested graduates.

  - For District of Columbia's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were University of Maryland College Park, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, Gallaudet University, Florida A&M University, and University of Virginia.

  - For District of Columbia's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were University of Maryland College Park, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, and Florida A&M University.

- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 48 percent of District of Columbia 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 734 ACT fee waivers to qualified District of Columbia students. However, 226 students (30.8 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.
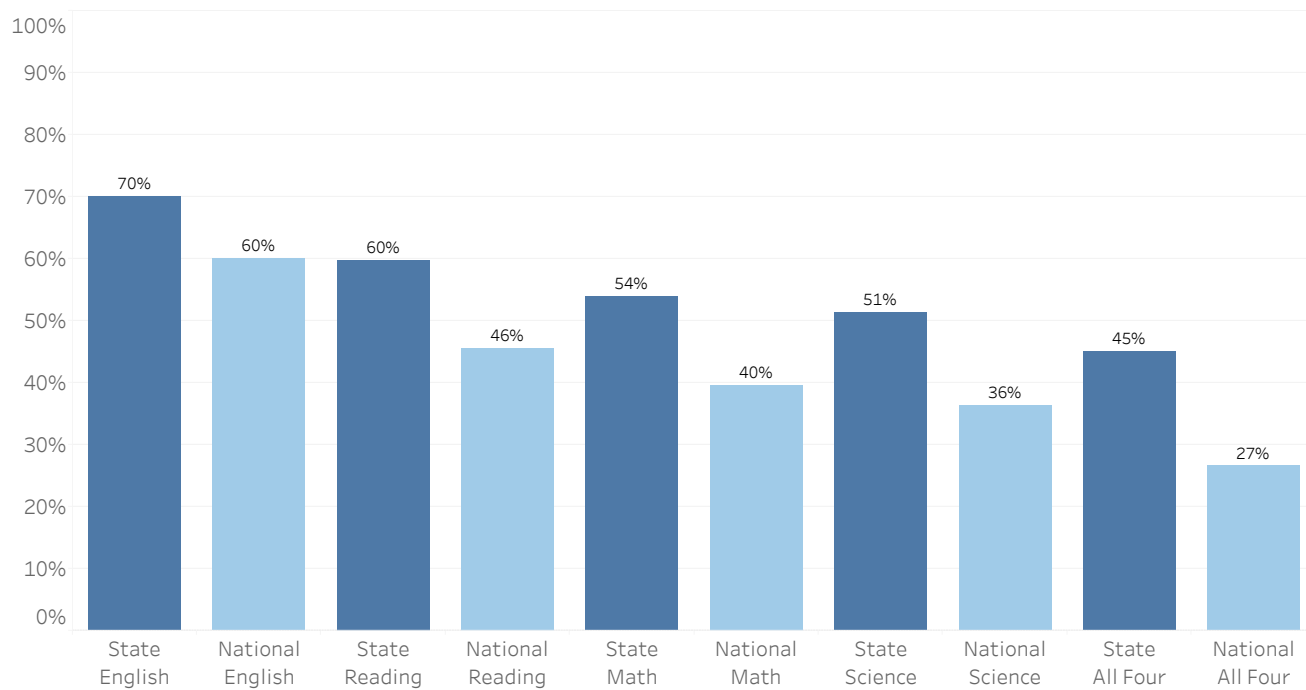
Pipeline

- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.

  - ~ 727 students (42 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 26.8.

  - ~ 370 students (21 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 21.1.

- In the District of Columbia graduating class of 2018, 116 students (7 percent) had parents who did not attend college.

- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2018 District of Columbia graduates were: Undecided; Business Administration and Management, General; Biology, General; Medicine (Pre-Medicine); and Computer Science and Programming.

  - ~ In the District of Columbia graduating class of 2018, 15 (1 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 20.1.

Additional Points

- According to the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the fastest-growing careers in the District of Columbia requiring education beyond high school are: Home Health and Personal Care Aides, Computer Systems Analysts, and Web Developers.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

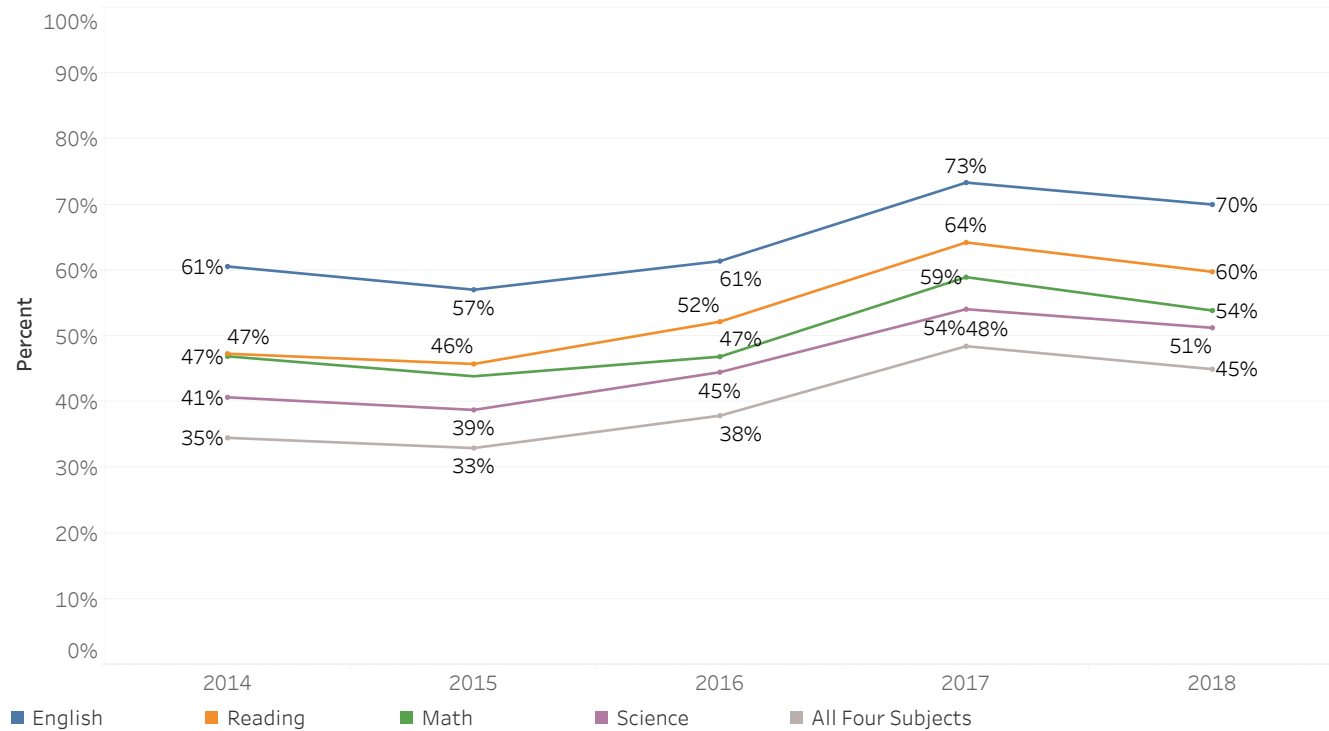**Percent of 2018 ACT-Tested High School Graduates Meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmarks* by Subject**

	State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
Percent	70%	60%	60%	46%	54%	40%	51%	36%	45%	27%

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
70%	60%	60%	46%	54%	40%	51%	36%	45%	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.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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

Legend: ■ English ■ Reading ■ Math ■ Science ■ All Four Subjects

Data From Graph Above

	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2014	61%	47%	47%	41%	35%
2015	57%	46%	44%	39%	33%
2016	61%	52%	47%	45%	38%
2017	73%	64%	59%	54%	48%
2018	70%	60%	54%	51%	45%

* 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.

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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
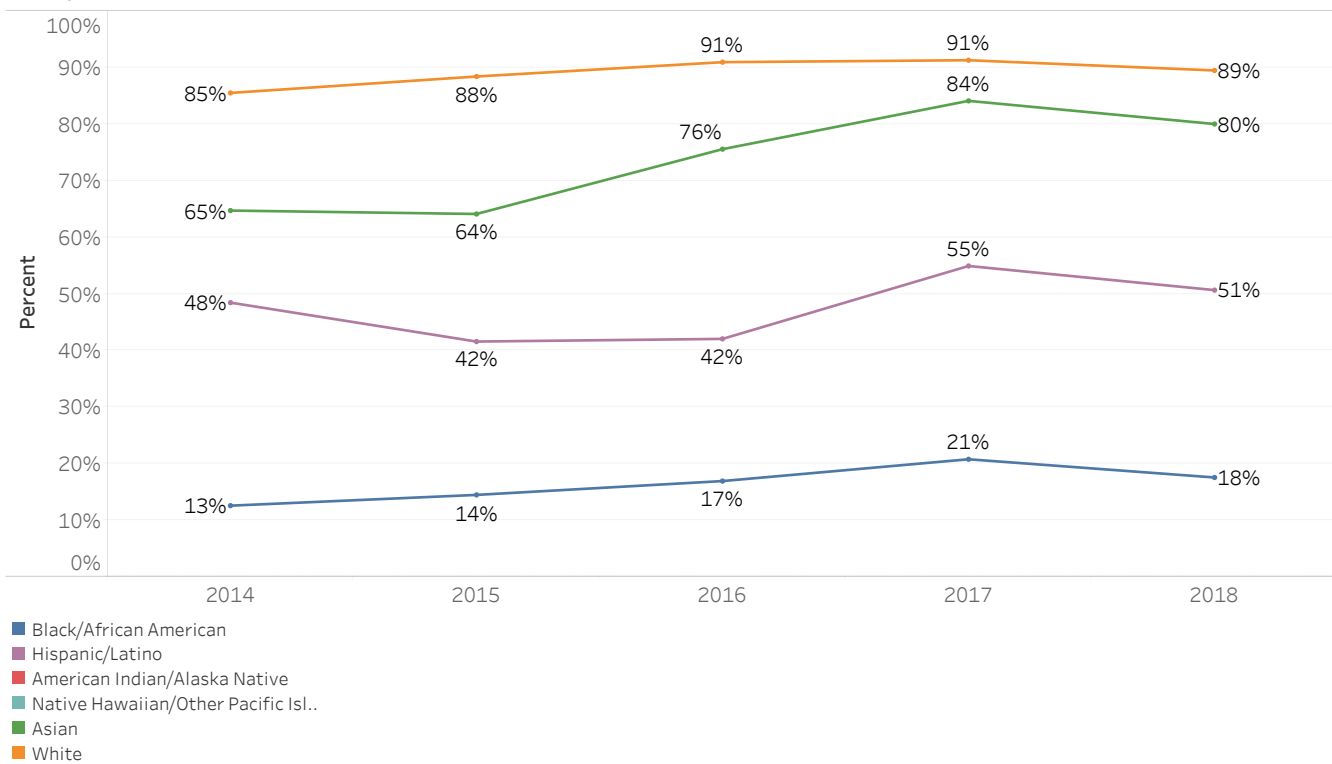
Legend:
- Black/African American
- Hispanic/Latino
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Isl..
- Asian
- White

Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2014	13%	48%			65%	85%
2015	14%	42%			64%	88%
2016	17%	42%			76%	91%
2017	21%	55%			84%	91%
2018	18%	51%			80%	89%

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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

- Below Benchmark by 3+ points
- Within 2 points of Benchmark
- Met Benchmark
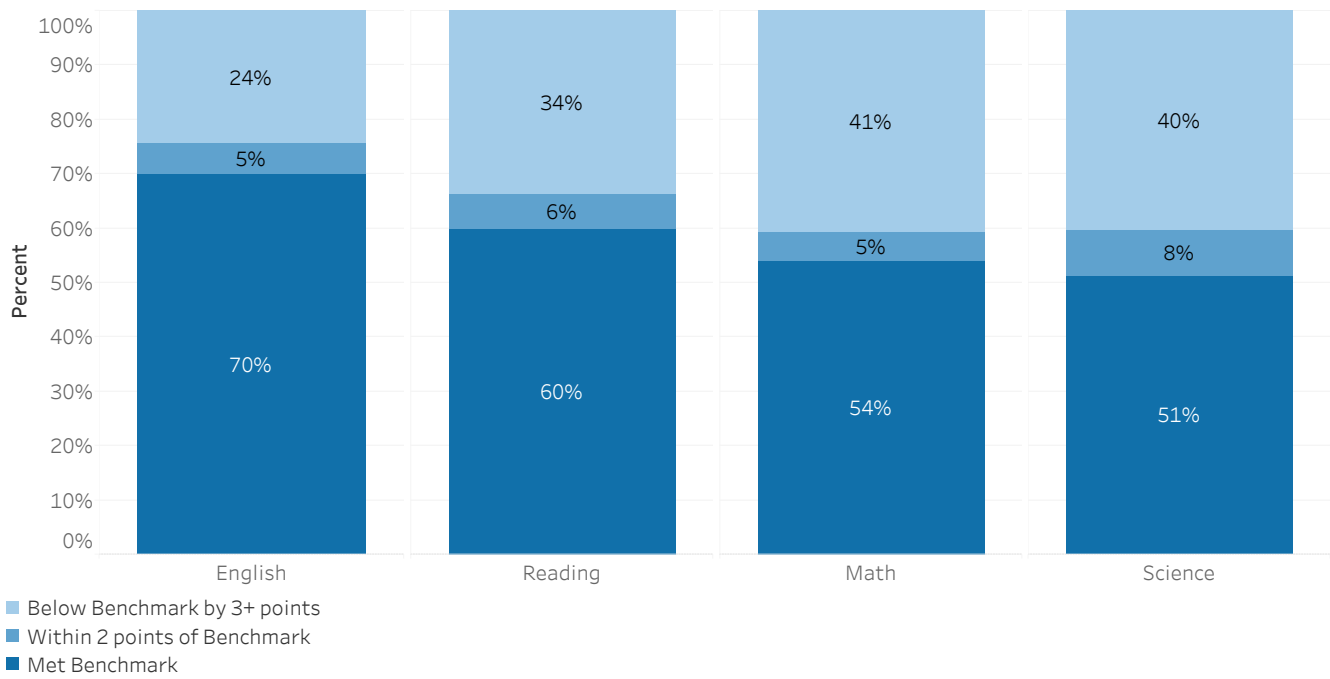
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	24%	5%	70%
Math	41%	5%	54%
Reading	34%	6%	60%
Science	40%	8%	51%

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

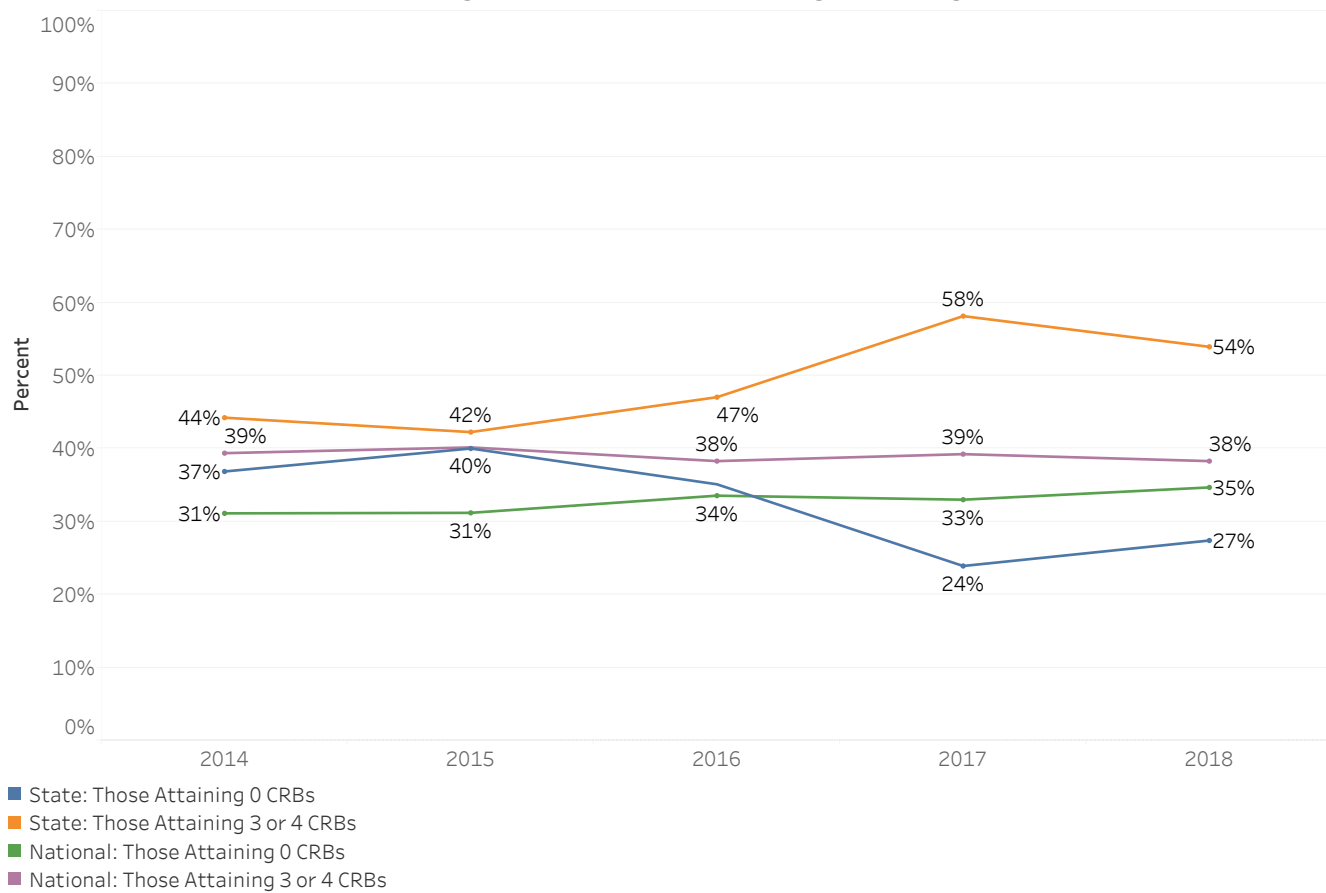## Percent of 2014–2018 ACT-Tested High School Graduates Meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmarks*

- ■ State: Those Attaining 0 CRBs
- ■ State: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs
- ■ National: Those Attaining 0 CRBs
- ■ National: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs

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	37%	44%	31%	39%
2015	40%	42%	31%	40%
2016	35%	47%	34%	38%
2017	24%	58%	33%	39%
2018	27%	54%	35%	38%

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

Percent of 2014-2018 ACT-Tested High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity
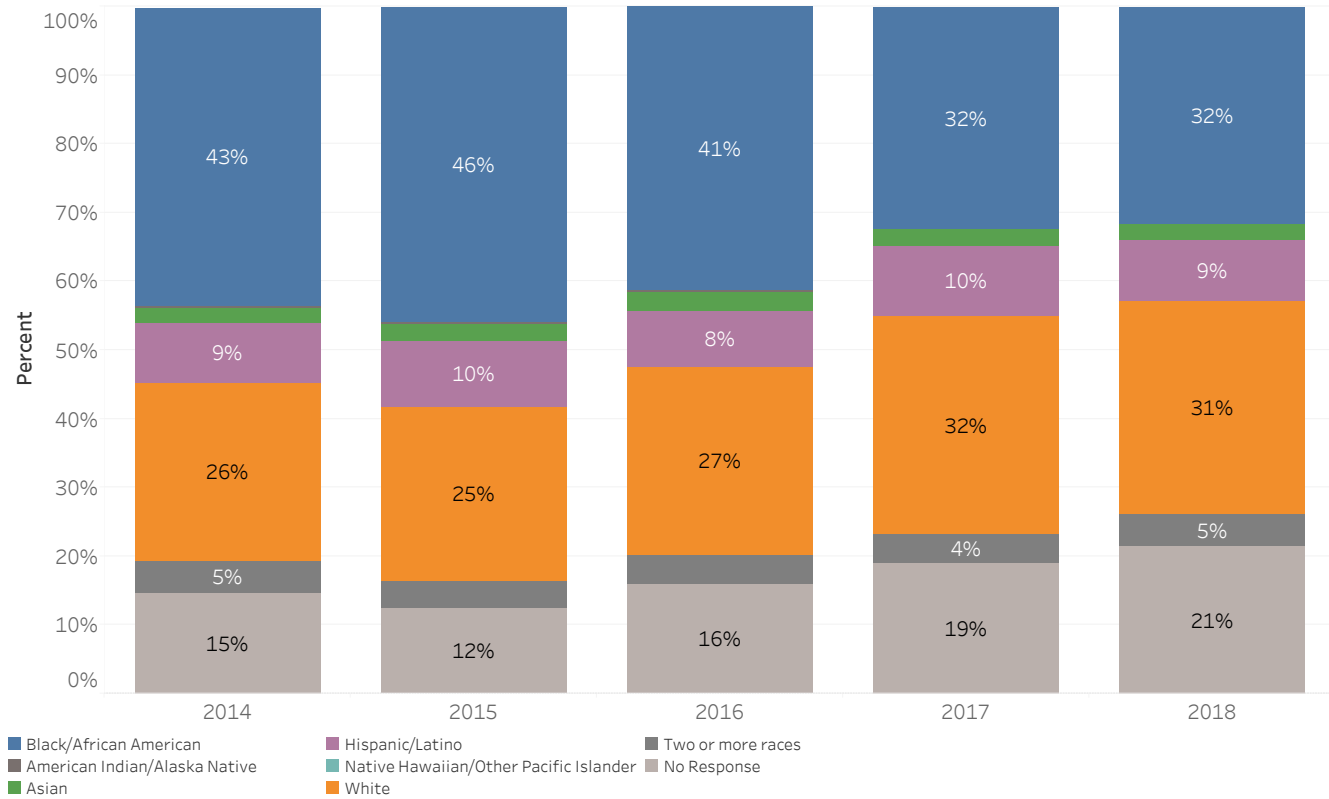
Legend:
- Black/African American
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Asian
- Hispanic/Latino
- Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Two or more races
- No Response

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	43%	0%	2%	9%		26%	5%	15%
2015	46%	0%	2%	10%		25%	4%	12%
2016	41%	0%	3%	8%		27%	4%	16%
2017	32%		3%	10%		32%	4%	19%
2018	32%		2%	9%		31%	5%	21%

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State N-count	1,492	1,602	1,692	1,723	1,748
National N-count	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817
Average ACT English Score - State	21.2	20.5	21.8	24.4	23.7
Average ACT English Score - National	20.3	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Reading Score - State	22.0	21.5	22.8	24.9	24.4
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - State	21.5	21.1	21.8	23.5	22.7
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - State	21.1	20.7	21.7	23.5	23.0
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.8	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7
Average ACT Composite Score - State	21.6	21.1	22.2	24.2	23.6
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2018 ACT-Tested High School Graduates by Educational Aspirations
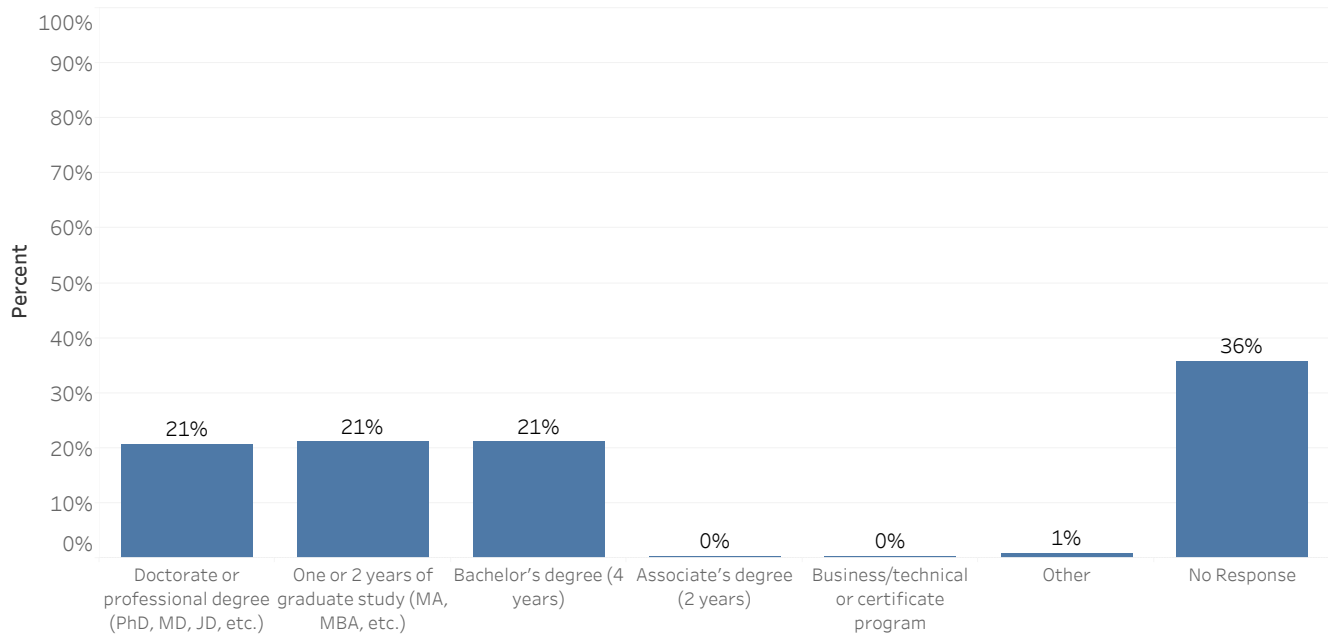
Data From Graph Above

	% of Graduates
Doctorate or professional degree (PhD, MD, JD, etc.)	21%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	21%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	21%
Associate's degree (2 years)	0%
Business/technical or certificate program	0%
Other	1%
No Response	36%

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