

# The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018

## Minnesota Key Findings

### Performance

- In the 2018 Minnesota graduating class, 61,253 graduates (99 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 21.3. This compares to 45,305 (76 percent) with an average of 22.9 in 2014. Nationally, 55% of 2018 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.8.
  - ~ While the overall Composite score is down 0.2 points, Minnesota students still equalled or outperformed national percentages in all subjects, in all but one reporting category, and earned the highest Composite score of those states who test 90% or more of their graduates.
  - ~ There were 4,109 African American graduates from Minnesota who took the ACT (7 percent) with an average Composite score of 16.9. This compares to 3,863 (6 percent) with an average of 17.0, and 2,412 (5 percent) with an average of 17.9, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
  - ~ There were 425 American Indian graduates from Minnesota who took the ACT (1 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.2. This compares to 453 (1 percent) with an average of 17.0, and 208 (0 percent) with an average of 19.9, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
  - ~ There were 38,665 White graduates from Minnesota who took the ACT (63 percent) with an average Composite score of 22.5. This compares to 39,798 (65 percent) with an average of 22.6, and 33,895 (75 percent) with an average of 23.7, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
  - ~ There were 4,207 Hispanic graduates from Minnesota who took the ACT (7 percent) with an average Composite score of 18.5. This compares to 4,301 (7 percent) with an average of 18.4, and 2,204 (5 percent) with an average of 19.8, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
  - ~ There were 3,706 Asian graduates from Minnesota who took the ACT (6 percent) with an average Composite score of 20.5. This compares to 3,412 (6 percent) with an average of 20.6, and 2,790 (6 percent) with an average of 20.7, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
- In 2018, 30 percent of Minnesota graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 31 and 39 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
  - ~ In 2018, 32 percent of Minnesota graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 30 and 17 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
  - ~ In 2018, 26,390 (43 percent) of Minnesota graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 27,022 and 25,010 (44 and 55 percent) out of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively. For reference, the national percentage of 2018 graduates meeting three or four benchmarks was 38%.
- 50 percent of 2018 Minnesota graduates were Proficient or Above Proficient in understanding complex texts.

## STEM

- In 2018, 26,102 Minnesota graduates (43 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
  - ~ Nationally, 45 percent of graduates indicated having an interest in STEM.
- Compared to 24 percent of 2018 Minnesota graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 24 and 31, respectively.
- 2018 Minnesota graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.5. This compares to 28.3 in 2014.
  - ~ In 2018, 30,882 Minnesota graduates (50 percent) indicated taking physics. This compares to 53 and 66 percent for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
  - ~ 2018 graduates taking physics had an average science score of 22.8, compared to 20.5 for students not taking physics.
  - ~ 52 percent of 2018 Minnesota graduates taking physics met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 34 for students not taking physics.
- 52 percent of 2018 graduates taking three or more years of math met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 13 percent for students taking less than three years of math.
  - ~ In 2018, 45,796 Minnesota graduates (75 percent) indicated taking three or more years of math. This compares to 80 and 96 percent for 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
  - ~ 2018 graduates taking three or more years of math had an average math score of 22.1, compared to 17.2 for students taking less than three years of math.

## Career Readiness

- In 2018, 17,339 Minnesota graduates (28 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 Minnesota 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:
  - ~ 144 more students enrolling in college.
  - ~ 162 more students persisting to year two.
  - ~ 120 fewer students needing remedial English.
  - ~ 184 fewer students needing remedial math.
  - ~ 178 more students persisting to year four.
  - ~ 190 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

## Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Minnesota, 27,188 of the 2018 graduates (44.4%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 23.7, compared to an average of 19.3 for 34,065 of the 2018 graduates (55.6%) who took the ACT only once.
  - ~ 51.3% of White students, 64.4% of Hispanic students, and 57.9% of African American students took the test only once.
  - ~ For Hispanic students who tested at least twice, 95.2% first tested in their junior year, increased their score by 1 point, and scored 4.2 points higher than 11th grade Hispanic students who tested only once.
  - ~ For African American students who tested at least twice, 95.8 first tested in their junior year, increased their score by 0.9 points, and scored 3.4 points higher than 11th-grade African American students who tested only once.
- 143,072 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 Minnesota ACT-tested graduates.
  - ~ 62,280 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2018 Minnesota ACT-tested graduates.
  - ~ For Minnesota's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, University of Minnesota-Duluth, Minnesota State University Mankato, St. Cloud State University, and North Dakota State University.
  - ~ For Minnesota's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were North Dakota State University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and University of North Dakota.
- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 64 percent of Minnesota 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 7,560 ACT fee waivers to qualified Minnesota students. However, 2,066 students (27.3 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. Fee waivers represent a great opportunity for students of low socioeconomic status to retest without incurring any fees. Note: this is the number of fee waivers issued for the state, not specific to this graduating class.
  - ~ While African American Minnesota students represent 32 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 39 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 31 and 33 nationally.
  - ~ While White Minnesota students represent 12 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 11 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 19 and 17 nationally.
  - ~ While Hispanic Minnesota students represent 17 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 16 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 35 and 36 nationally.
  - ~ While Asian Minnesota students represent 26 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 18 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 5 and 3 nationally.

## Pipeline

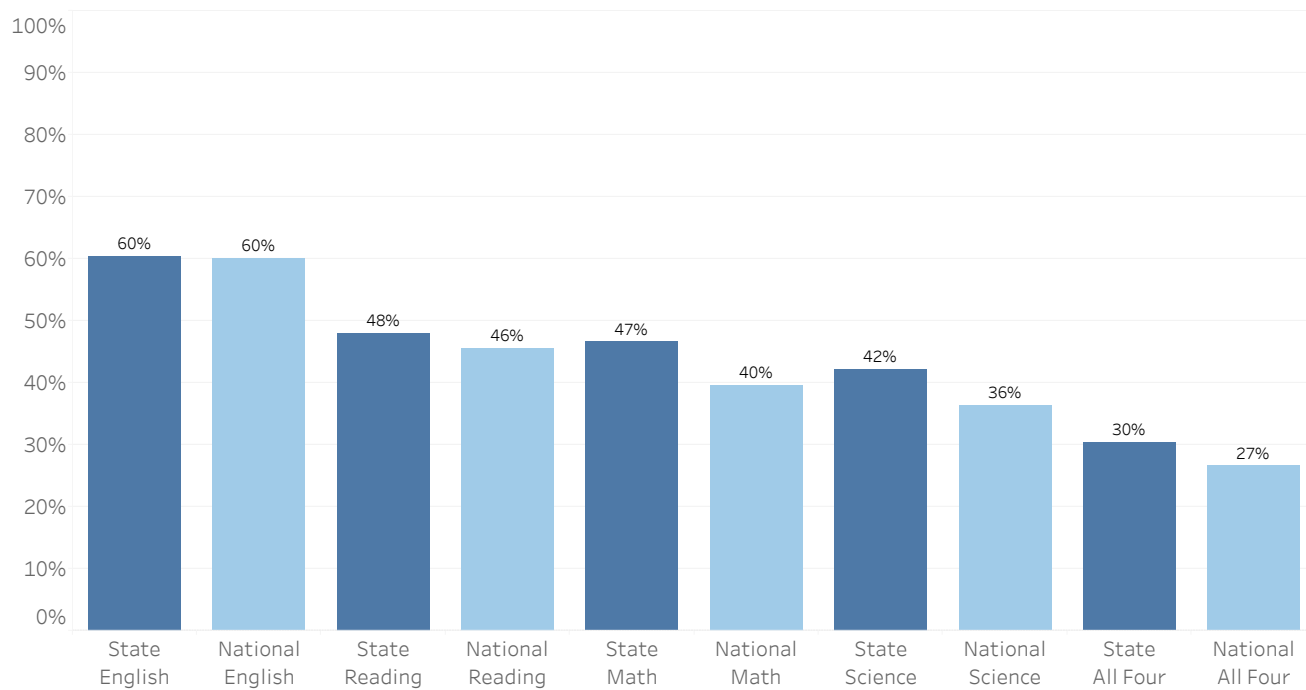
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
  - ~ 24,204 students (40 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 21.5.
  - ~ 4,541 students (7 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 17.1.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2018 Minnesota graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; and Biology, General.
  - ~ In the Minnesota graduating class of 2018, 7,552 students (12 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 22.4. 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.
- There is good news in that 72% of Minnesota's 2018 ACT-tested graduates aspired to postsecondary education. Interestingly enough, 76% of Minnesota's 2017 ACT-tested graduating class aspired to enroll in postsecondary education, compared to 64% who actually did enroll. If we fully closed the aspirational gap, an additional 7,250 of the 2017 ACT-tested graduates from Minnesota would have enrolled in postsecondary education.

## Additional Points

- The Minnesota ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with more than 280 members from across the state. The membership includes educators from state agencies, K-12, access, and postsecondary institutions, as well as members involved in workforce development. Each year, ACT hosts a state conference that brings together more than 200 professionals representing each of these areas, providing a unique and diverse professional development opportunity.
- According to the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the fastest-growing careers in Minnesota requiring education beyond high school are: Statisticians, Operations Research Analysts, Occupational Therapy Assistants, and Cartographers and Photogrammetrists.
- Six College and Career Readiness Workshops will be conducted in Minnesota this fall.
- 123 students earned a 36 Composite score on the ACT, compared to 79 in 2017.

# MINNESOTA 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

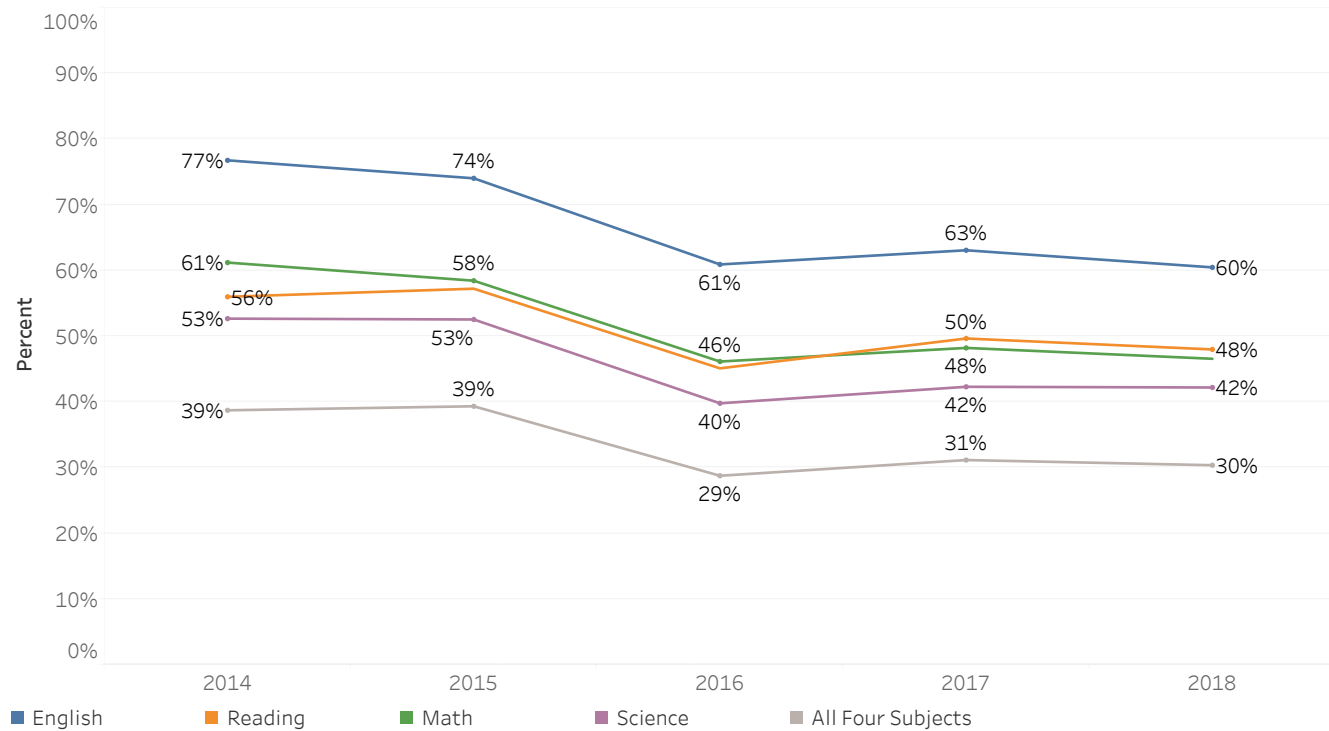
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
60%	60%	48%	46%	47%	40%	42%	36%	30%	27%

\* 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.

# MINNESOTA 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

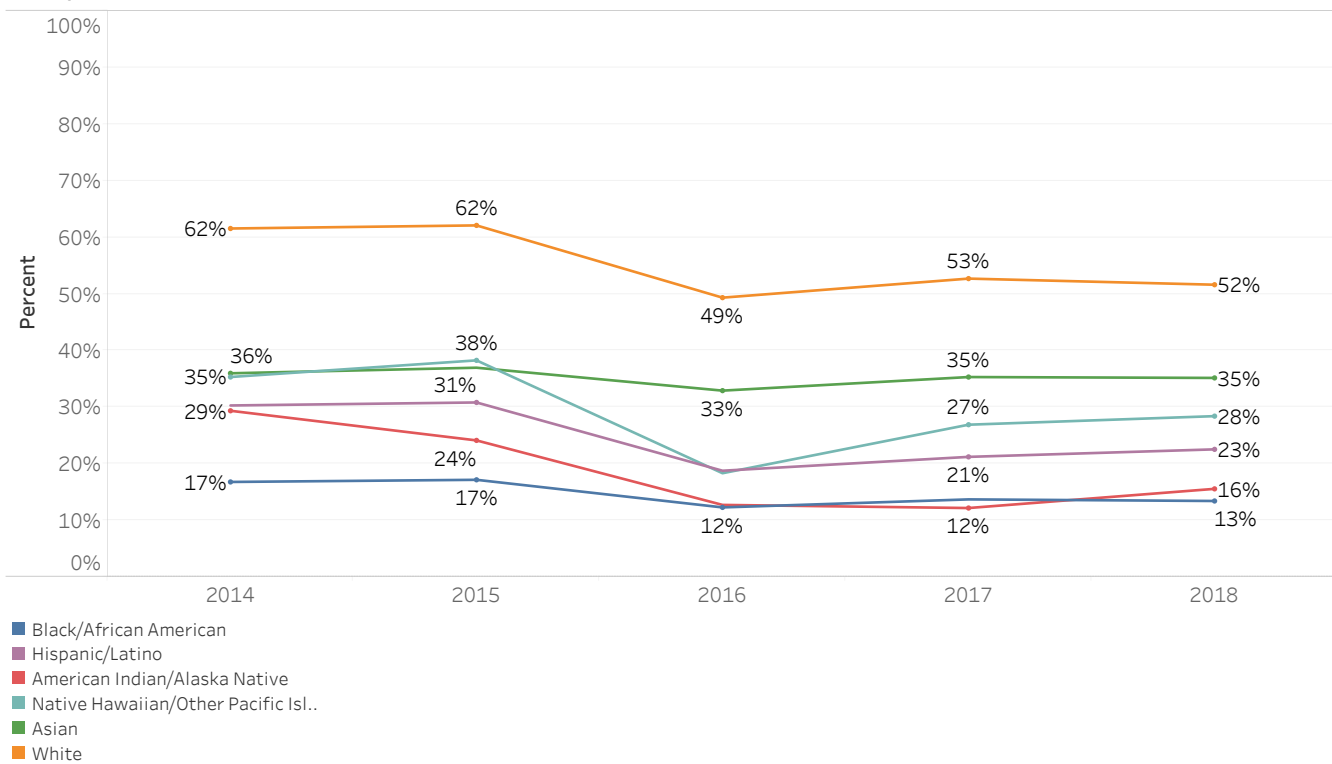
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2014	77%	56%	61%	53%	39%
2015	74%	57%	58%	53%	39%
2016	61%	45%	46%	40%	29%
2017	63%	50%	48%	42%	31%
2018	60%	48%	47%	42%	30%

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# MINNESOTA 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



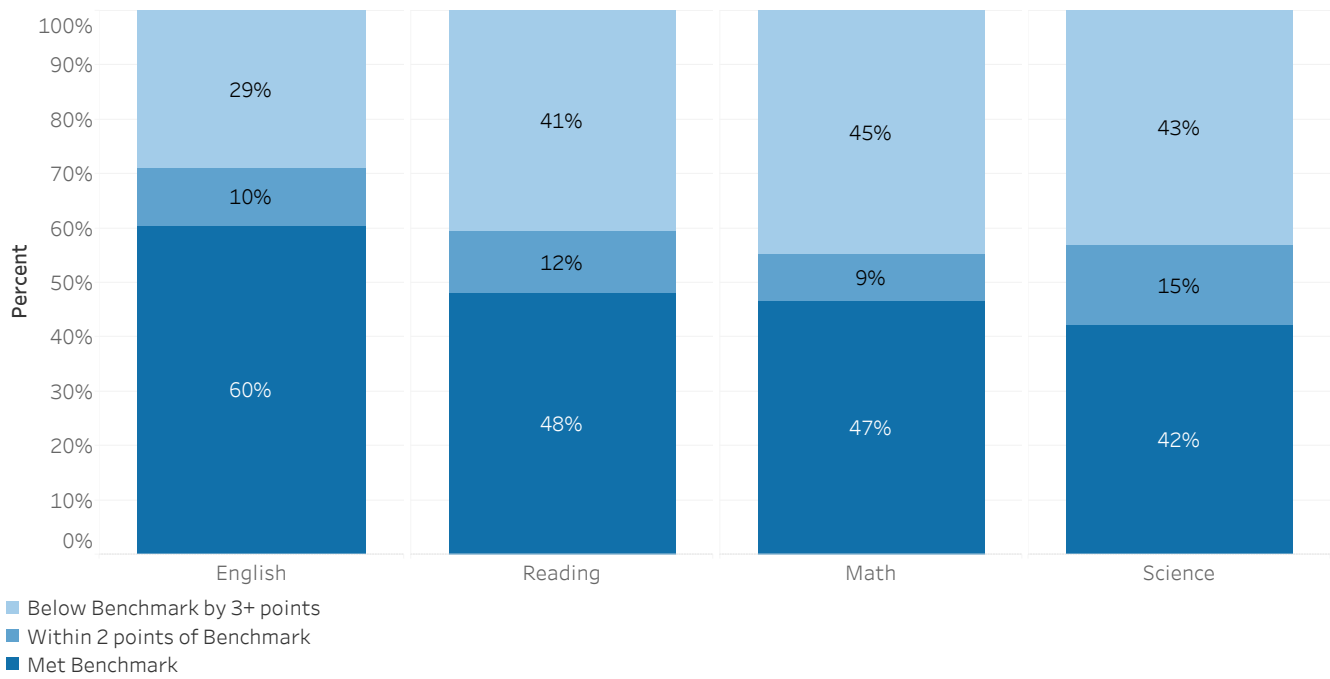
### Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2014	17%	30%	29%	35%	36%	62%
2015	17%	31%	24%	38%	37%	62%
2016	12%	19%	13%	18%	33%	49%
2017	14%	21%	12%	27%	35%	53%
2018	13%	23%	16%	28%	35%	52%

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# MINNESOTA 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

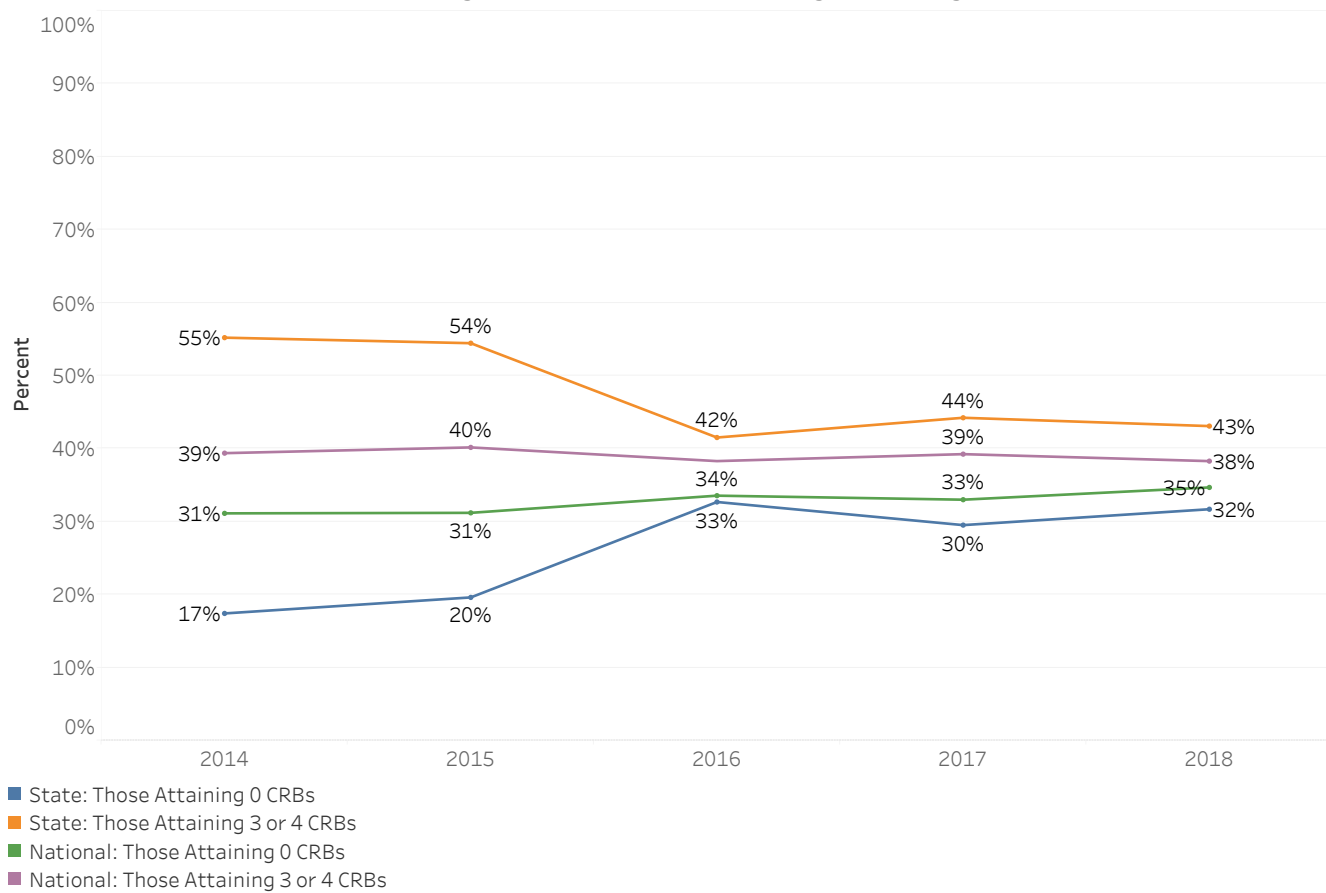
	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	29%	10%	60%
Math	45%	9%	47%
Reading	41%	12%	48%
Science	43%	15%	42%

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# MINNESOTA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



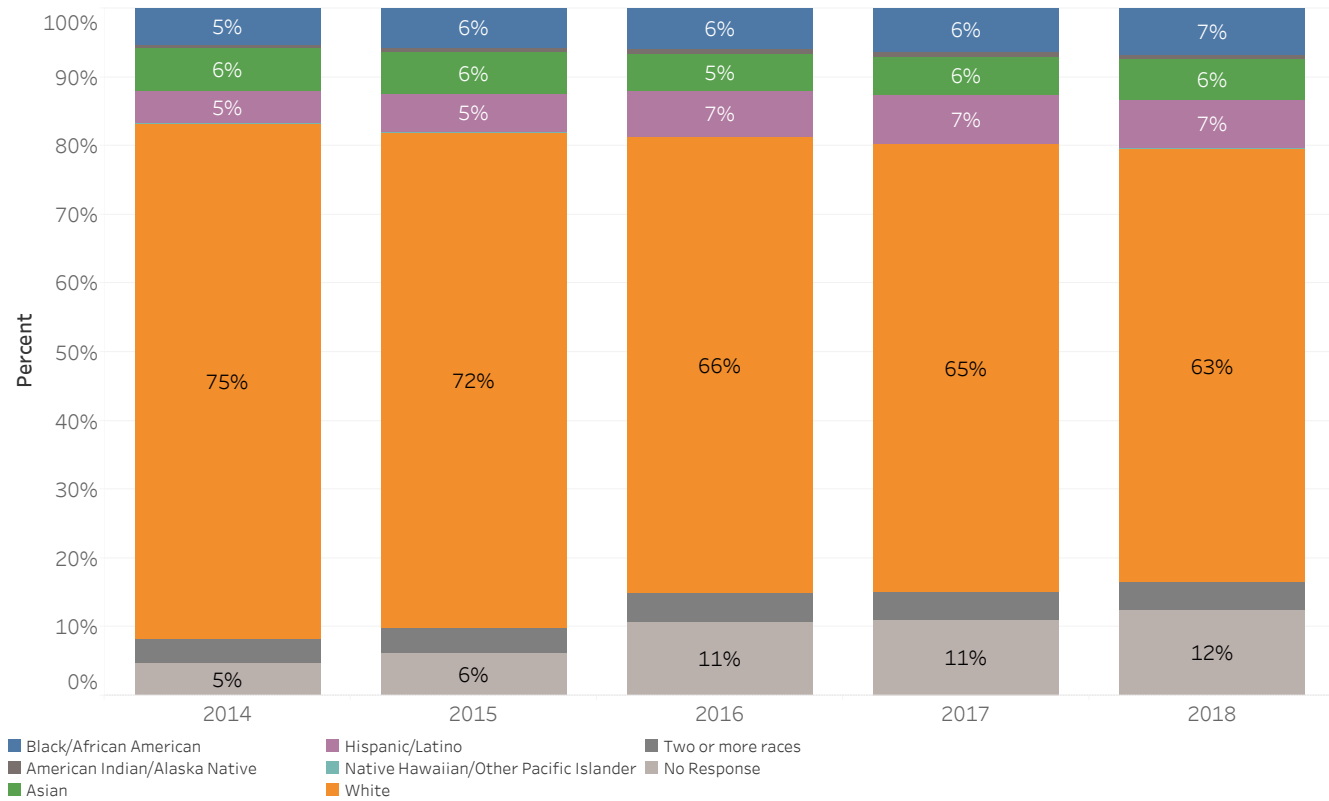
## Data from Graph Above

	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	17%	55%	31%	39%
2015	20%	54%	31%	40%
2016	33%	42%	34%	38%
2017	30%	44%	33%	39%
2018	32%	43%	35%	38%

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# MINNESOTA 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%	6%	5%	0%	75%	4%	5%
2015	6%	0%	6%	5%	0%	72%	4%	6%
2016	6%	1%	5%	7%	0%	66%	4%	11%
2017	6%	1%	6%	7%	0%	65%	4%	11%
2018	7%	1%	6%	7%	0%	63%	4%	12%

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# MINNESOTA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

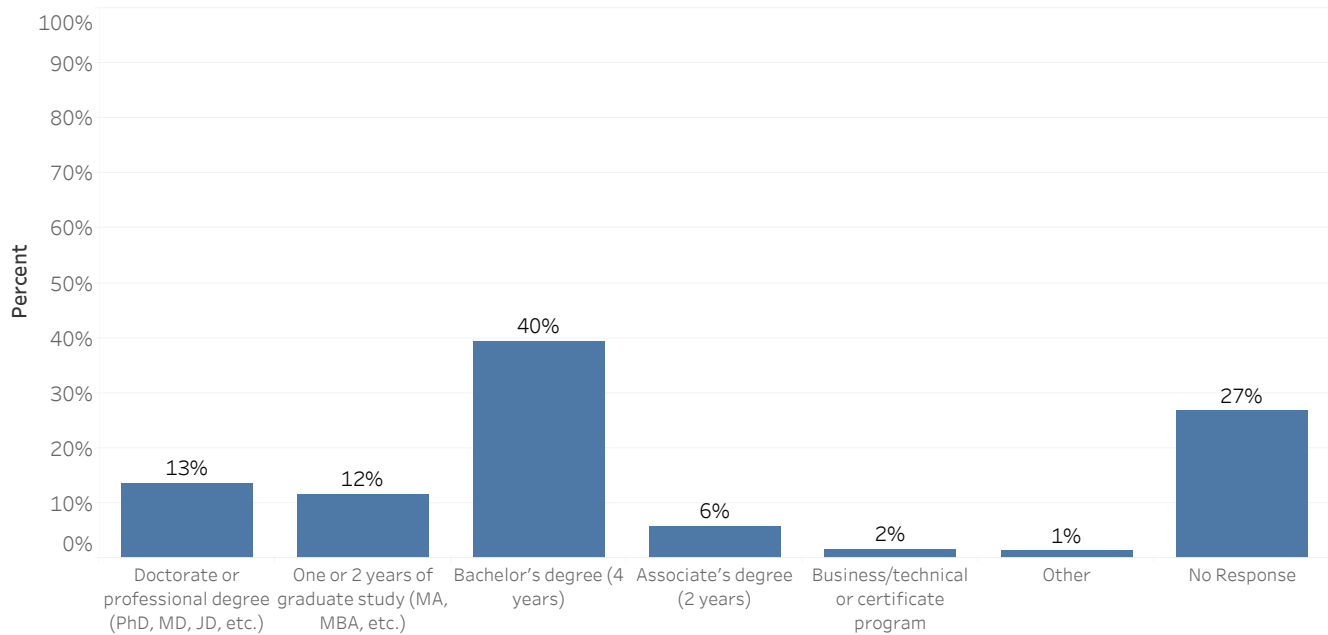
## Student Data Trends: 2014-2018, State vs. Nation

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State N-count	45,305	46,862	64,145	61,101	61,253
National N-count	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817
Average ACT English Score - State	22.1	21.8	20.0	20.4	20.2
Average ACT English Score - National	20.3	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Reading Score - State	23.1	23.0	21.3	21.8	21.7
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - State	23.0	22.8	21.2	21.5	21.4
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - State	22.9	22.7	21.3	21.6	21.4
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.8	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7
Average ACT Composite Score - State	22.9	22.7	21.1	21.5	21.3
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

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# MINNESOTA 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.)	13%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	12%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	40%
Associate's degree (2 years)	6%
Business/technical or certificate program	2%
Other	1%
No Response	27%

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