The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018
New Mexico Key Findings

Performance

- In the 2018 New Mexico graduating class, 13,749 graduates (67 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 19.4. This compares to 12,945 (69 percent) with an average of 19.9 in 2014. Nationally, 55% of 2018 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.8.

  ~ There were 1,345 American Indian graduates from New Mexico who took the ACT (10 percent) with an average Composite score of 16.3. This compares to 1,187 (9 percent) with an average of 16.6, and 1,146 (9 percent) with an average of 16.7, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.

  ~ There were 3,223 White graduates from New Mexico who took the ACT (23 percent) with an average Composite score of 22.4. This compares to 3,318 (25 percent) with an average of 22.7, and 3,543 (27 percent) with an average of 22.6, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.

  ~ There were 7,471 Hispanic graduates from New Mexico who took the ACT (54 percent) with an average Composite score of 18.6. This compares to 7,366 (54 percent) with an average of 18.8, and 6,839 (53 percent) with an average of 18.8, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.

- The 2018 New Mexico graduating class average English score was 18.3. This compares to 18.6 and 18.9 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.

- The 2018 New Mexico graduating class average math score was 19.1. This compares to 19.4 and 19.7 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.

- The 2018 New Mexico graduating class average reading score was 20.1. This compares to 20.4 and 20.5 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.

- The 2018 New Mexico graduating class average science score was 19.7. This compares to 20.0 and 20.1 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.

- In 2018, 17 percent of New Mexico graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 18 and 18 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.

  ~ In 2018, 48 percent of New Mexico graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 50 and 55 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.

  ~ In 2018, 28 percent of New Mexico graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 29 and 33 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.

  ~ In 2018, 37 percent of New Mexico graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 39 and 37 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.

  ~ In 2018, 27 percent of New Mexico graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 28 and 29 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.

- 39 percent of 2018 New Mexico graduates were Proficient or Above Proficient in understanding complex texts.

- 61 percent of 2018 New Mexico graduates were Below Proficient in understanding complex texts.

STEM

- In 2018, 7,932 New Mexico graduates (58 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 New Mexico graduating class average ACT STEM score of 19.7, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM averages of 20.0 and 20.2, respectively.

- Compared to 11 percent of 2018 New Mexico graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 12 and 13, respectively.

  ~ 2018 New Mexico graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.7. This compares to 28.2 in 2014.

- 2018 New Mexico graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 28.2. This compares to 28.1 in 2014.

Career Readiness

- In 2018, 9,215 New Mexico graduates (67 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 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 New Mexico 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:

  ~ 35 more students enrolling in college.

  ~ 39 more students persisting to year two.

  ~ 31 fewer students needing remedial English.

  ~ 49 fewer students needing remedial math.

  ~ 41 more students persisting to year four.

  ~ 43 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In New Mexico, 7,101 of the 2018 graduates (51.6%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 20.6, compared to an average of 18.2 for 6,648 of the 2018 graduates (48.4%) who took the ACT only once.

- 26,877 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 New Mexico ACT-tested graduates.

  ~ 14,419 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2018 New Mexico ACT-tested graduates.

  ~ For New Mexico's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University, Eastern New Mexico University, Central New Mexico Community College, and Arizona State University.

  ~ For New Mexico's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were Arizona State University, Texas Tech University, and Fort Lewis College.

- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 82 percent of New Mexico 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 11,458 ACT fee waivers to qualified New Mexico students. However, 2,447 students (21.4 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.
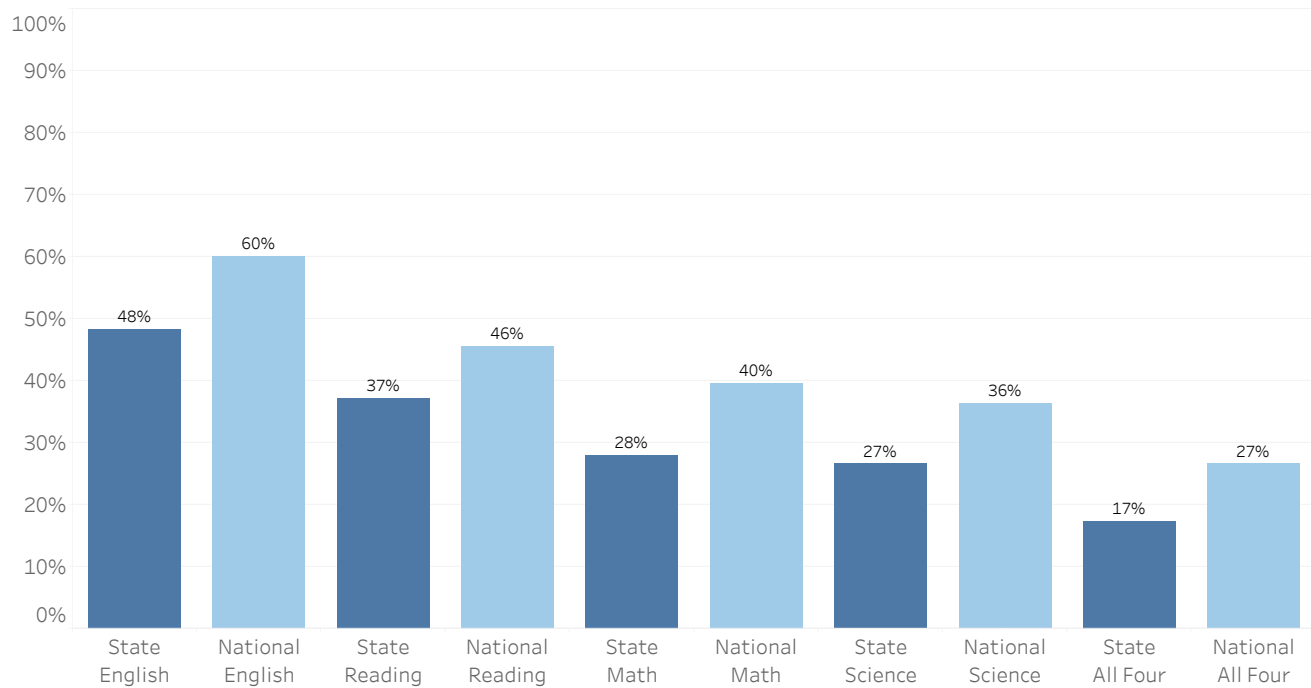
Pipeline

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

  ~ 4,931 students (36 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 21.8.

  ~ 6,611 students (48 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 18.5.

  ~ 814 students (6 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 15.8.

- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2018 New Mexico graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Mechanical Engineering; and Criminology.

  ~ In the New Mexico graduating class of 2018, 1,956 students (14 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 19.7. 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 New Mexico graduating class of 2018, 426 (3 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 18.8.

- There is good news in that 90% of New Mexico's 2018 ACT-tested graduates aspired to postsecondary education. Interestingly enough, 91% of New Mexico's 2017 ACT-tested graduating class aspired to enroll in postsecondary education, compared to 69% who actually did enroll. If we fully closed the aspirational gap, an additional 3,034 of the 2017 ACT-tested graduates from New Mexico would have enrolled in postsecondary education.

Additional Points

- The New Mexico ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity. The membership includes educators from state agencies, K-12, access, and postsecondary institutions, as well as members involved in workforce development. Each year, the New Mexico ACT State Council and Organization brings together professionals representing each of these areas, providing a unique and diverse professional development opportunity as well as providing an open forum to help drive educational and workforce success in New Mexico.

- 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 New Mexico Champions: Natalia Baca (High School Senior), Sandra Aaron (K-12 Professional), Rose Pena (Postsecondary Professional), and Marcos Martinez (Workforce Professional).

- ACT conducted an ACT College and Career Readiness Workshop for New Mexico educators in fall 2017. The workshop was held at Albuquerque Public Schools and was attended by 60 educators from across the state. On October 3, 2018, ACT will once again host a fall educator workshop at Albuquerque Public Schools.

NEW MEXICO 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
48%	60%	37%	46%	28%	40%	27%	36%	17%	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.

NEW MEXICO College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

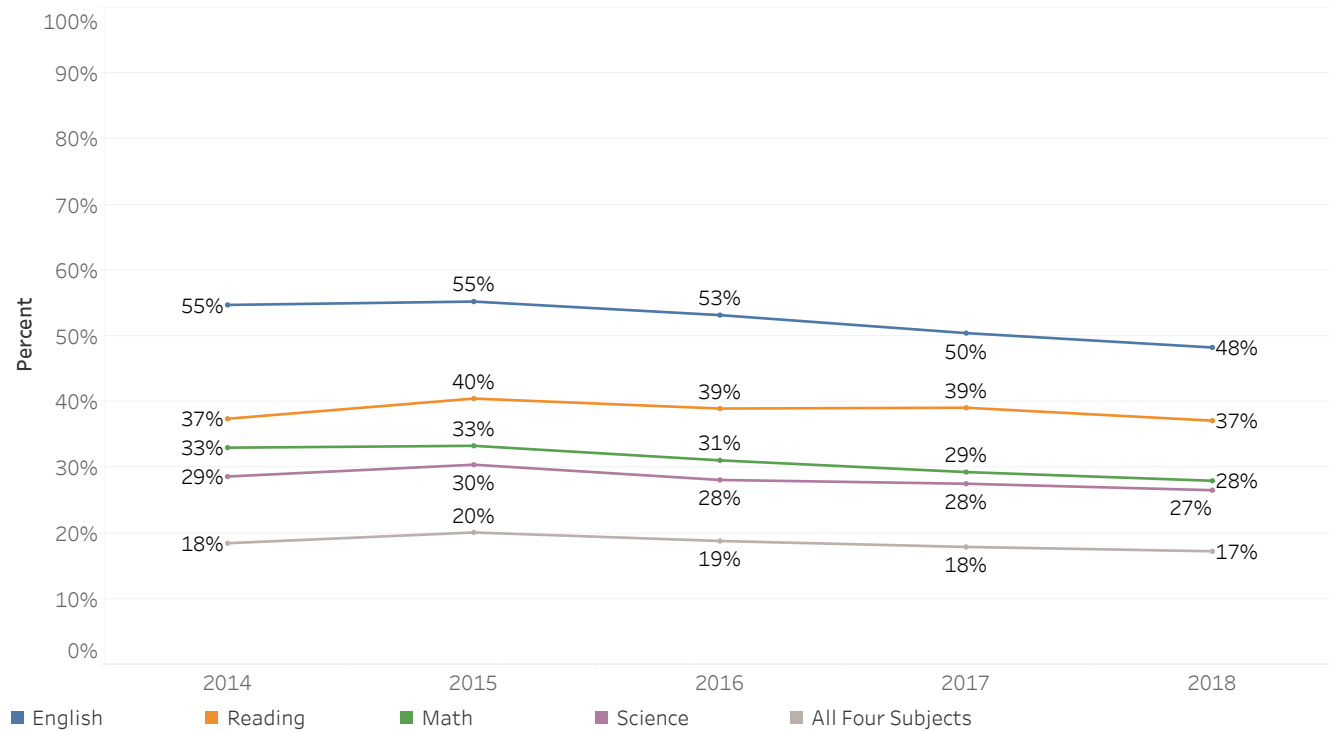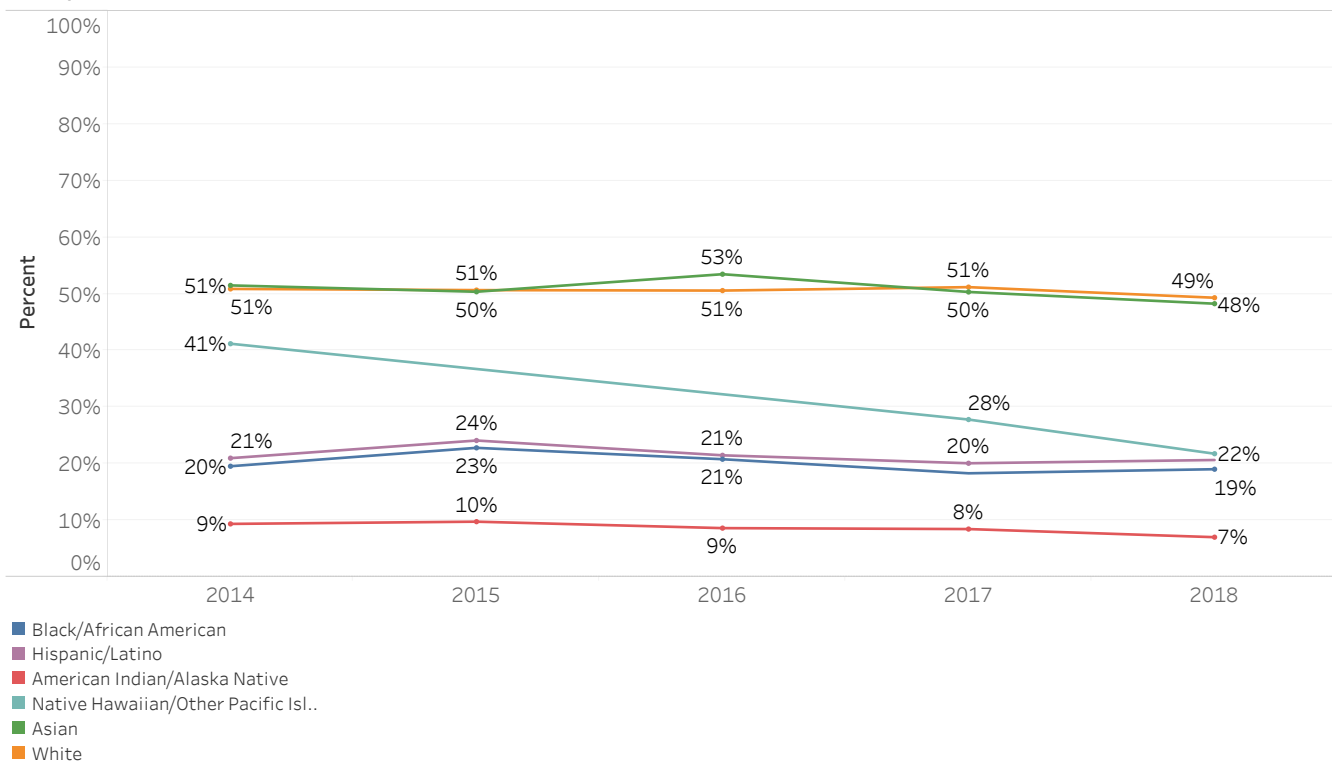## Percent of 2014–2018 ACT-Tested High School Graduates Meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmarks*

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

Data From Graph Above

	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2014	55%	37%	33%	29%	18%
2015	55%	40%	33%	30%	20%
2016	53%	39%	31%	28%	19%
2017	50%	39%	29%	28%	18%
2018	48%	37%	28%	27%	17%

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NEW MEXICO College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

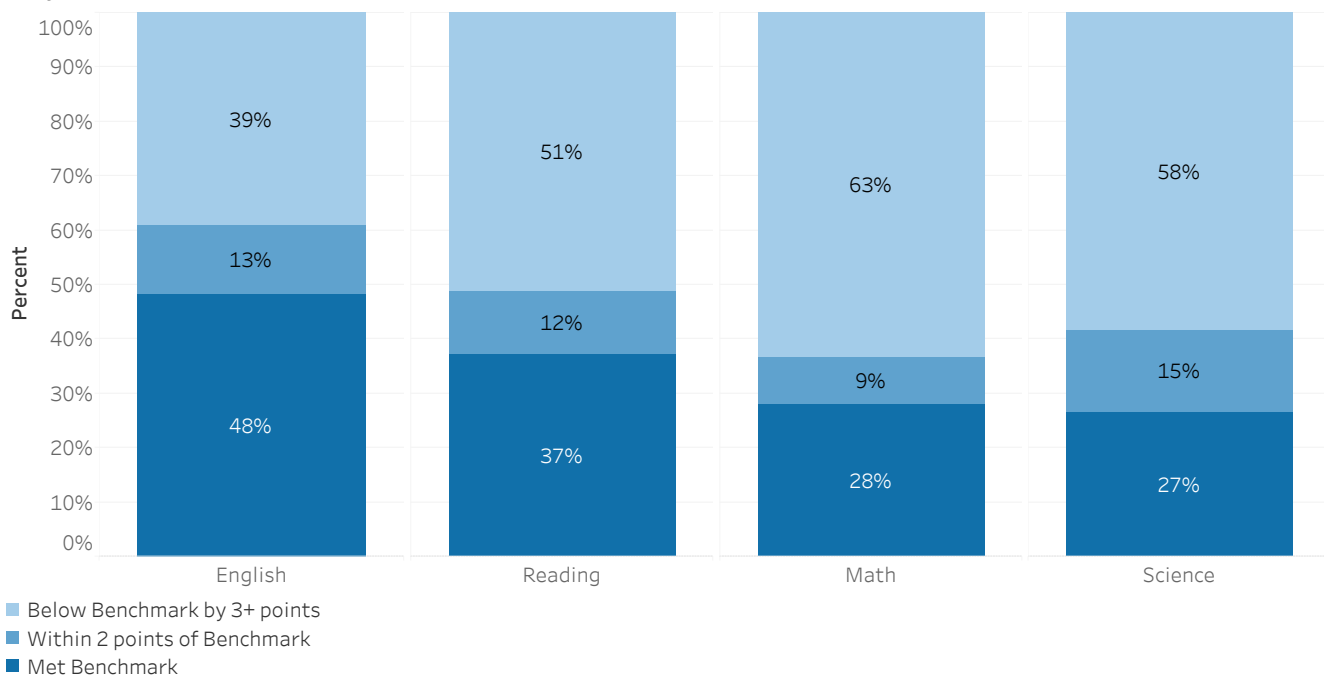Percent of 2014-2018 ACT-Tested High School Graduates Meeting Three or More Benchmarks by Race/Ethnicity

- 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	20%	21%	9%	41%	51%	51%
2015	23%	24%	10%		50%	51%
2016	21%	21%	9%		53%	51%
2017	18%	20%	8%	28%	50%	51%
2018	19%	21%	7%	22%	48%	49%

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NEW MEXICO College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

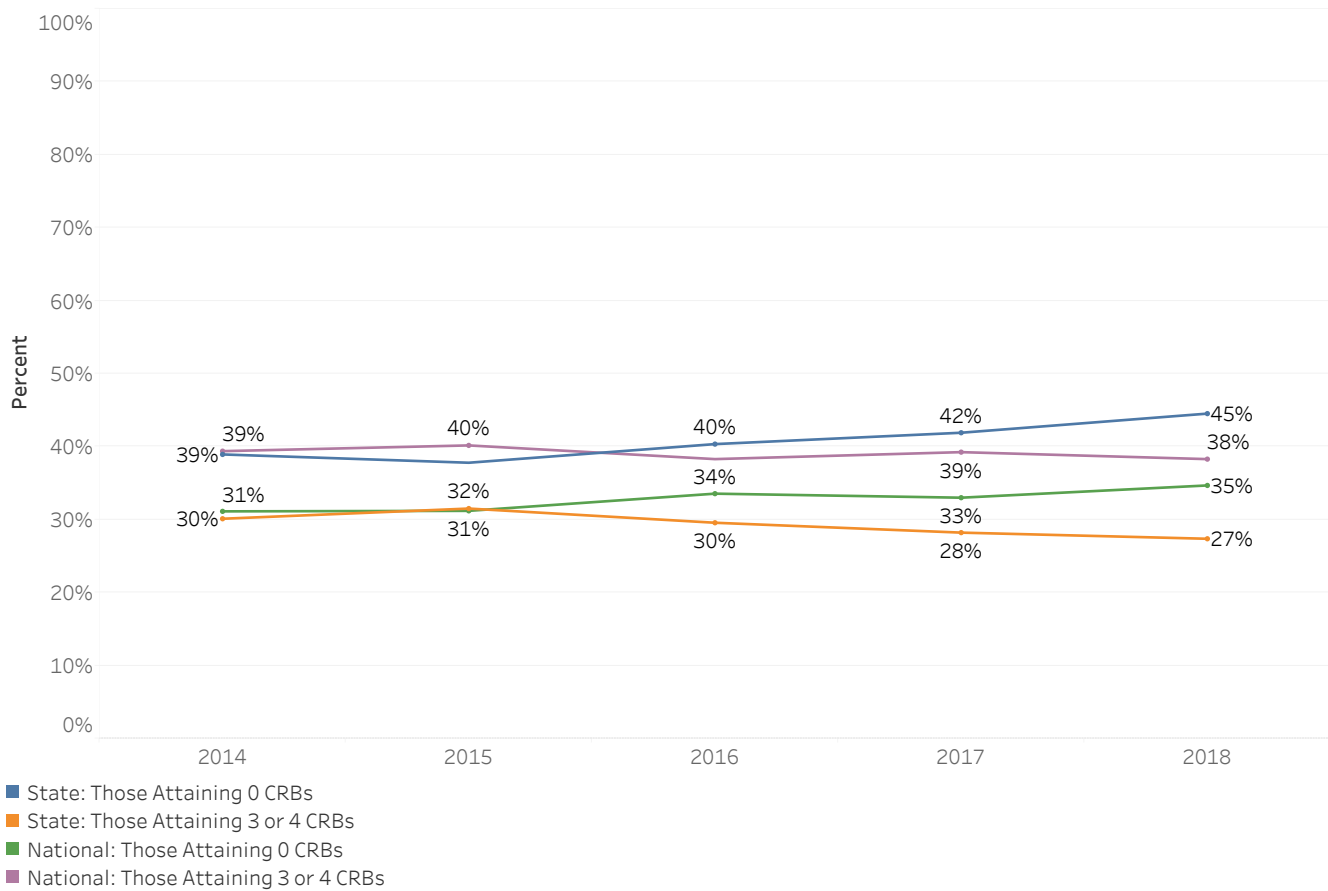**Percent of 2018 ACT-Tested High School Graduates by ACT College Readiness Benchmark Attainment and Subject**

Legend:
- 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	39%	13%	48%
Math	63%	9%	28%
Reading	51%	12%	37%
Science	58%	15%	27%

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NEW MEXICO College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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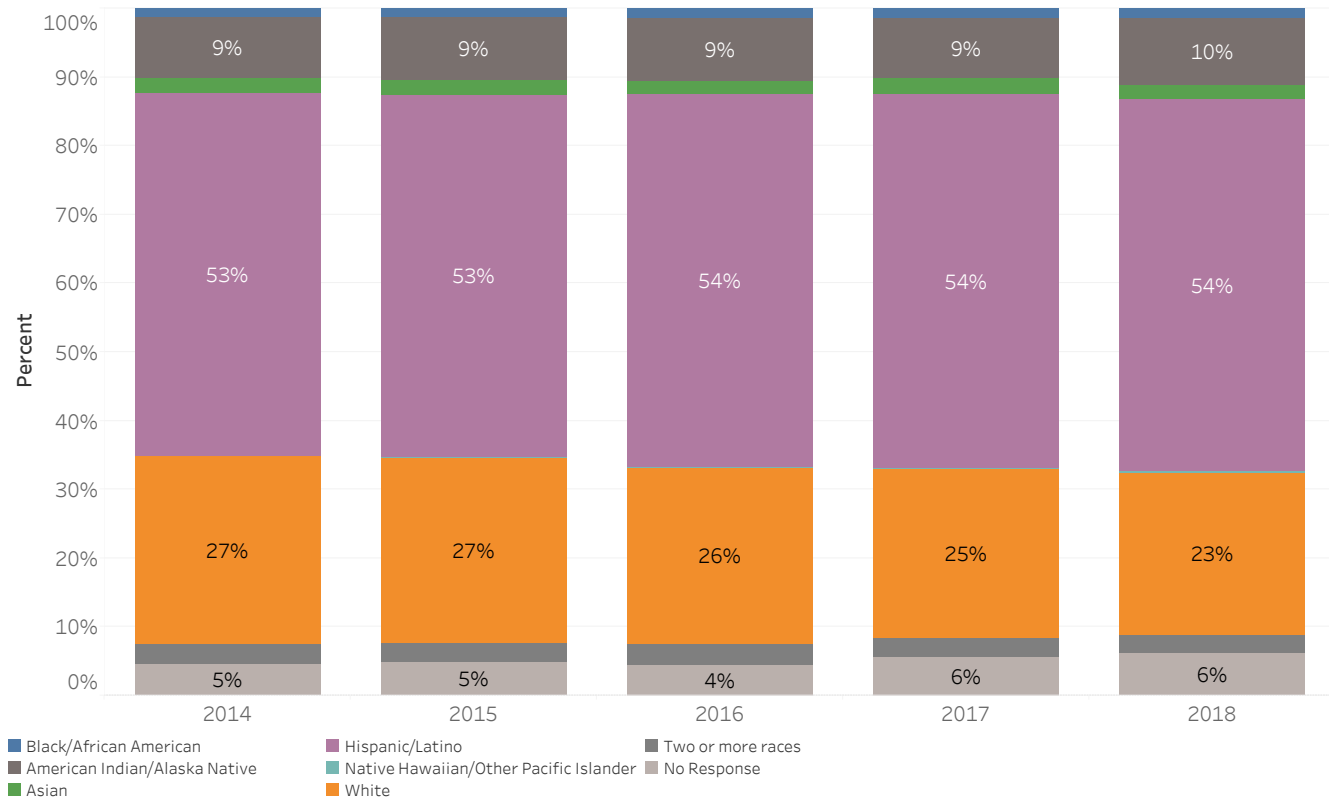

- State: Those Attaining 0 CRBs
- State: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs
- National: Those Attaining 0 CRBs
- National: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs

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	39%	30%	31%	39%
2015	38%	32%	31%	40%
2016	40%	30%	34%	38%
2017	42%	28%	33%	39%
2018	45%	27%	35%	38%

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NEW MEXICO College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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	1%	9%	2%	53%	0%	27%	3%	5%
2015	1%	9%	2%	53%	0%	27%	3%	5%
2016	1%	9%	2%	54%	0%	26%	3%	4%
2017	1%	9%	2%	54%	0%	25%	3%	6%
2018	1%	10%	2%	54%	0%	23%	3%	6%

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NEW MEXICO College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity
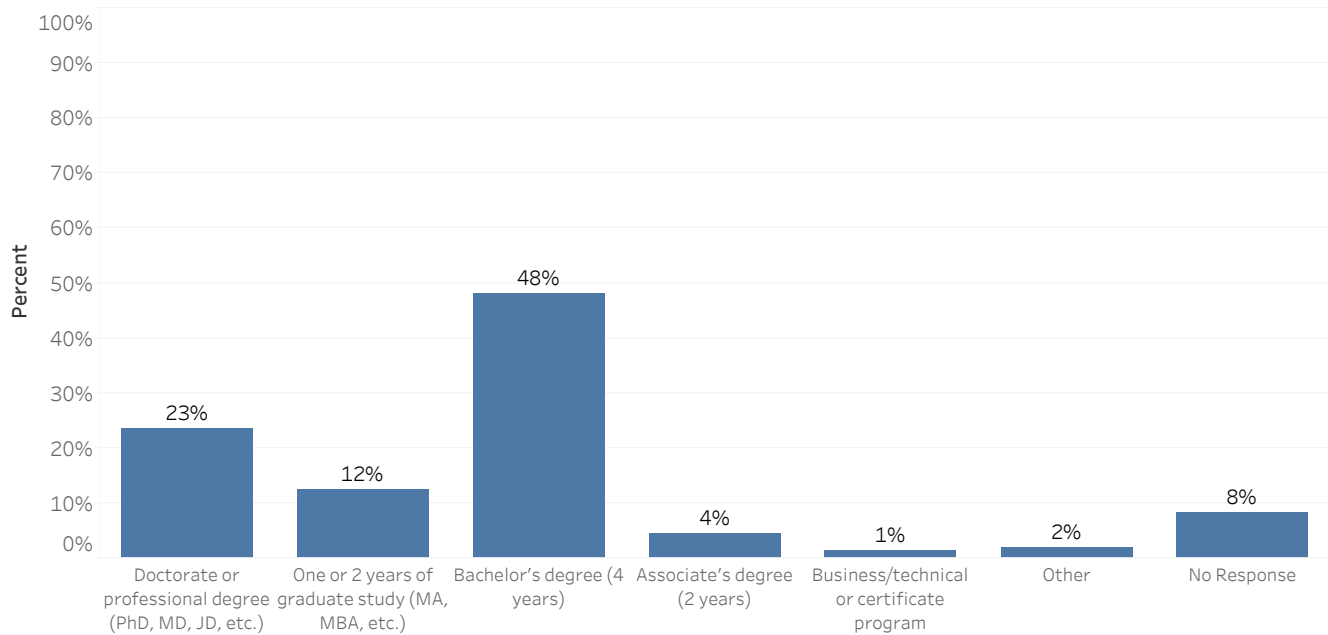
Student Data Trends: 2014-2018, State vs. Nation

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State N-count	12,945	13,393	13,435	13,523	13,749
National N-count	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817
Average ACT English Score - State	18.9	19.1	18.9	18.6	18.3
Average ACT English Score - National	20.3	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Reading Score - State	20.5	20.6	20.5	20.4	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - State	19.7	19.8	19.5	19.4	19.1
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - State	20.1	20.3	20.1	20.0	19.7
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.8	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7
Average ACT Composite Score - State	19.9	20.1	19.9	19.7	19.4
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

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NEW MEXICO 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.)	23%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	12%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	48%
Associate's degree (2 years)	4%
Business/technical or certificate program	1%
Other	2%
No Response	8%

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