

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018

North Dakota Key Findings

Performance

- In the 2018 North Dakota graduating class, 7,282 graduates (98 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 20.3. This compares to 7,227 (100 percent) with an average of 20.6 in 2014. Nationally, 55% of 2018 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.8.
 - ~ There were 243 African American graduates from North Dakota who took the ACT (3 percent) with an average Composite score of 16.8. This compares to 169 (2 percent) with an average of 16.0, and 124 (2 percent) with an average of 16.3, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 353 American Indian graduates from North Dakota who took the ACT (5 percent) with an average Composite score of 16.3. This compares to 315 (4 percent) with an average of 16.0, and 319 (4 percent) with an average of 16.3, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 5,306 White graduates from North Dakota who took the ACT (73 percent) with an average Composite score of 21.0. This compares to 5,511 (74 percent) with an average of 20.9, and 5,882 (81 percent) with an average of 21.1, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 337 Hispanic graduates from North Dakota who took the ACT (5 percent) with an average Composite score of 18.2. This compares to 294 (4 percent) with an average of 18.2, and 229 (3 percent) with an average of 18.0, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
- In 2018, 35 percent of North Dakota graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 36 and 32 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- In 2018, 2,598 (36 percent) of North Dakota graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 2,528 and 2,603 (34 and 36 percent) out of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively. For reference, the national percentage of 2018 graduates meeting three or four benchmarks was 38%.
- 56 percent of 2018 North Dakota graduates were Below Proficient in understanding complex texts.

STEM

- In 2018, 3,279 North Dakota graduates (45 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 North Dakota graduating class average ACT STEM score of 20.6, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM averages of 20.8 and 20.9, respectively.
- Compared to 15 percent of 2018 North Dakota graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 16 and 16, respectively.
- In 2018, 1,878 North Dakota graduates (26 percent) indicated taking physics. This compares to 28 and 28 percent for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
- 2018 North Dakota graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 27.9. This compares to 27.5 in 2014.
 - ~ 2018 graduates taking physics had an average science score of 22.7, compared to 20.0 for students not taking physics.
 - ~ 53 percent of 2018 North Dakota graduates taking physics met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 29 for students not taking physics.
- 2018 North Dakota graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 28.1. This compares to 28.2 in 2014.
 - ~ In 2018, 5,187 North Dakota graduates (71 percent) indicated taking three or more years of math. This compares to 74 and 76 percent for 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ 2018 graduates taking three or more years of math had an average math score of 21.3, compared to 16.1 for students taking less than three years of math.
 - ~ 48 percent of 2018 graduates taking three or more years of math met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 4 percent for students taking less than three years of math.

Career Readiness

- In 2018, 1,459 North Dakota graduates (20 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 North Dakota 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:
 - ~ 18 more students enrolling in college.
 - ~ 20 more students persisting to year two.
 - ~ 16 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - ~ 24 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - ~ 22 more students persisting to year four.
 - ~ 23 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In North Dakota, 2,595 of the 2018 graduates (35.6%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 22.4, compared to an average of 19.1 for 4,687 of the 2018 graduates (64.4%) who took the ACT only once.
 - ~ 59.8% of White students, 82.1% of Hispanic students, and 63.6% of Black students only tested once. This compares to 55.5%, 66.3%, and 57.2% nationally.
 - ~ For Hispanic students who tested at least twice, 93.3 % first tested in their junior year, increased their score by 0.8 points, and scored 3.7 points higher than 11th-grade Hispanic students who tested only once.
 - ~ For African American students who tested at least twice, 88.5 first tested in their junior year, increased their score by 0.7 points, and scored 3.1 points higher than 11th-grade African American students who tested only once.
- 19,555 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 North Dakota ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ 10,435 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2018 North Dakota ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ For North Dakota's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were North Dakota State University, University of North Dakota, Bismarck State College, North Dakota State College of Science, and Minot State University.
 - ~ For North Dakota's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were Minnesota State University Moorhead, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, and Concordia College-Moorhead.
- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 72 percent of North Dakota 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 325 ACT fee waivers to qualified North Dakota students. However, 99 students (30.5 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 North Dakota students represent 22 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 20 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 31 and 33 nationally.
 - ~ While American Indian North Dakota students represent 37 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 39 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 1 and 2 nationally.
 - ~ While White North Dakota students represent 23 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 21 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 19 and 17 nationally.
 - ~ While Hispanic North Dakota students represent 9 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 11 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 35 and 36 nationally.

Pipeline

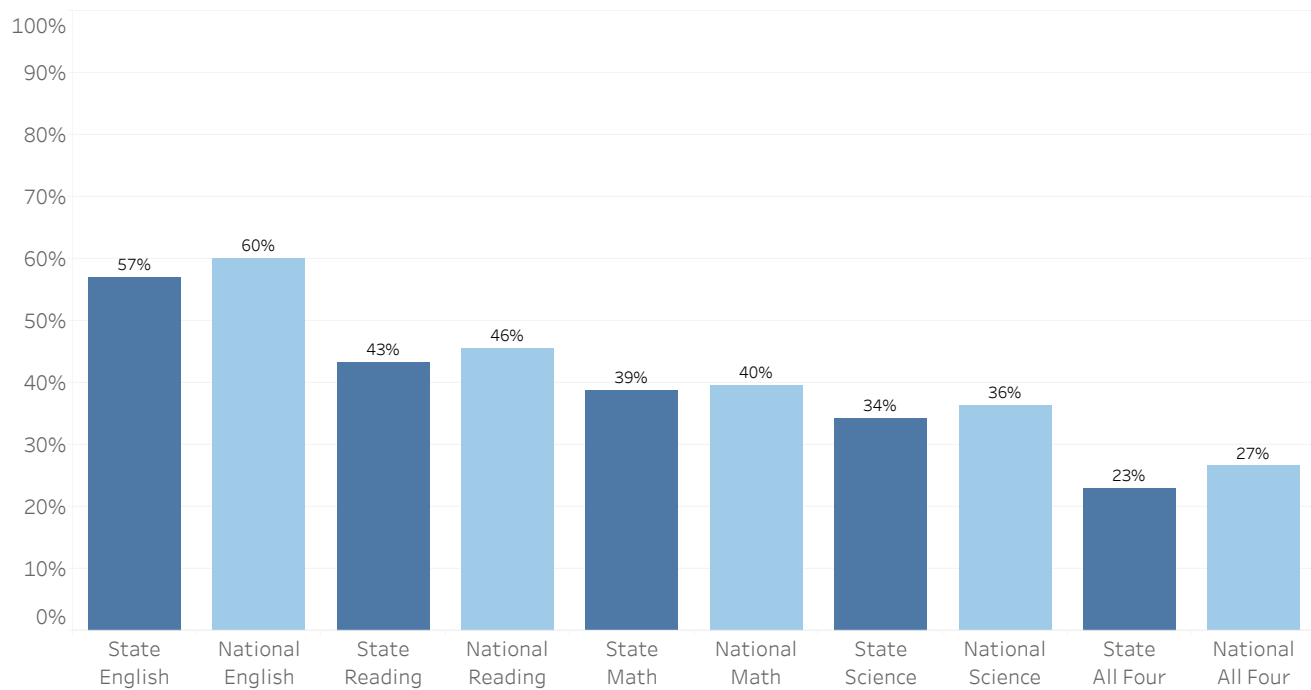
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - ~ 1,564 students (21 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 23.1.
 - ~ 3,009 students (41 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 20.6.
 - ~ 988 students (14 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 17.7.
- In the North Dakota graduating class of 2018, 949 students (13 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2018 North Dakota graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; and Engineering (Pre-Engineering), General.
 - ~ In the North Dakota graduating class of 2018, 852 students (12 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 20.4. 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 76% of North Dakota's 2018 ACT-tested graduates aspired to postsecondary education. Interestingly enough, 81% of North Dakota's 2017 ACT-tested graduating class aspired to enroll in postsecondary education, compared to 59% who actually did enroll. If we fully closed the aspirational gap, an additional 1,585 of the 2017 ACT-tested graduates from North Dakota would have enrolled in postsecondary education.

Additional Points

- According to the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the fastest-growing careers in North Dakota requiring education beyond high school are: Nurse Practitioners, Operations Research analysts, and Film and Video Editors, and Personal Finance Advisors.
- ACT will be conducting College and Career Readiness Workshops in Fargo-Moorhead and Bismarck.

NORTH DAKOTA 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

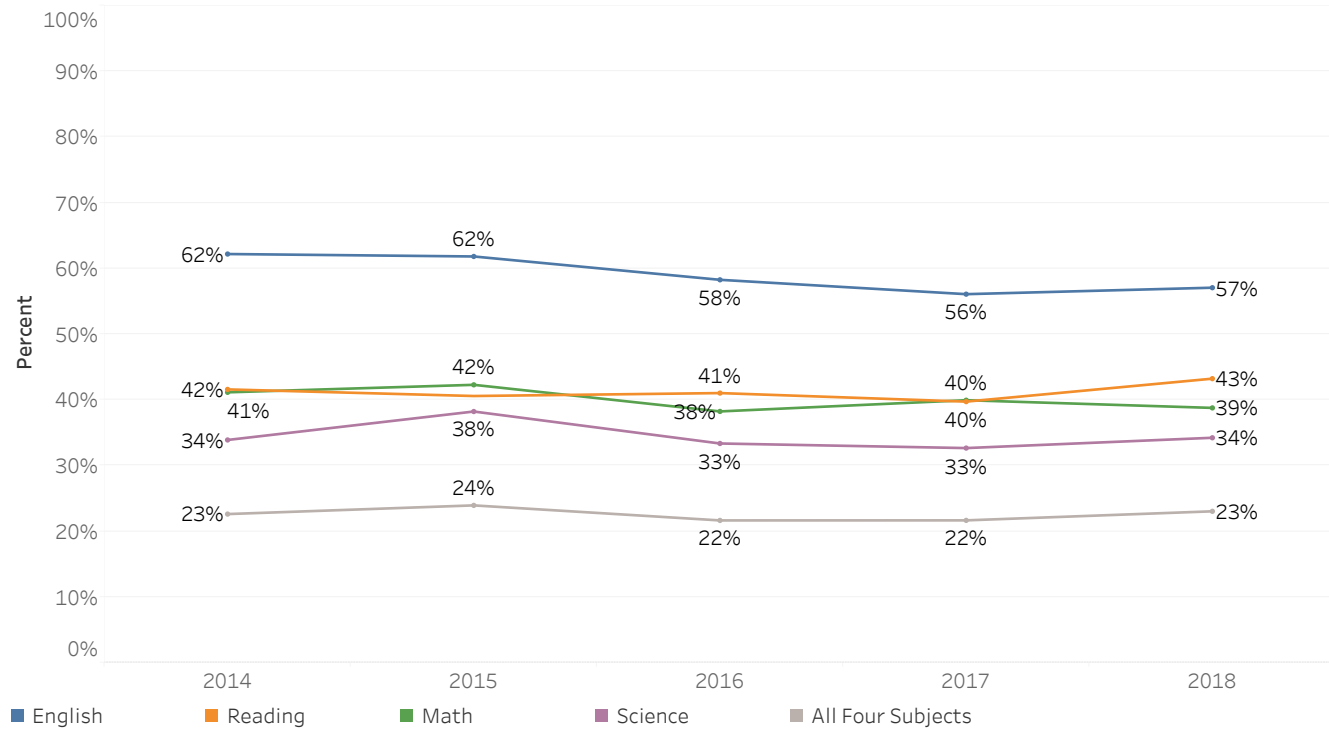
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
57%	60%	43%	46%	39%	40%	34%	36%	23%	27%

* 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.

NORTH DAKOTA 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

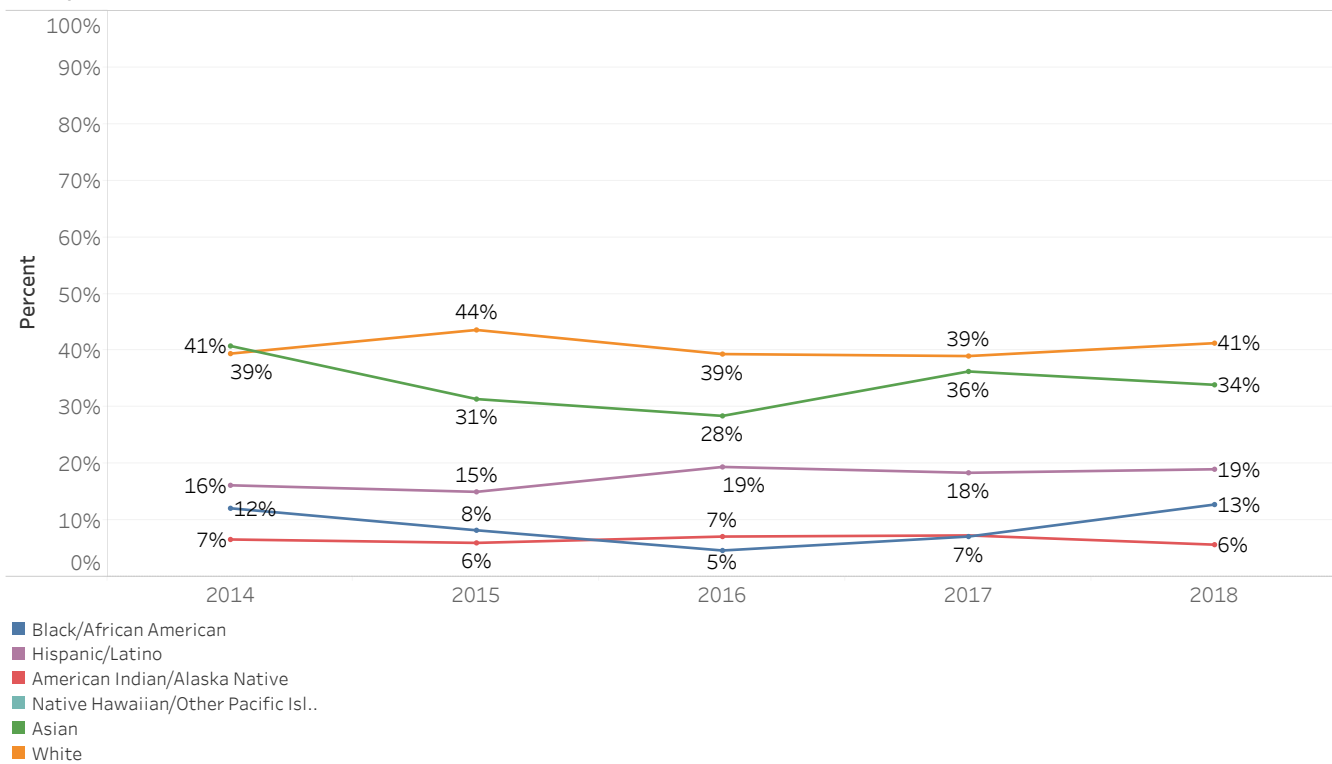
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2014	62%	42%	41%	34%	23%
2015	62%	41%	42%	38%	24%
2016	58%	41%	38%	33%	22%
2017	56%	40%	40%	33%	22%
2018	57%	43%	39%	34%	23%

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NORTH DAKOTA 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



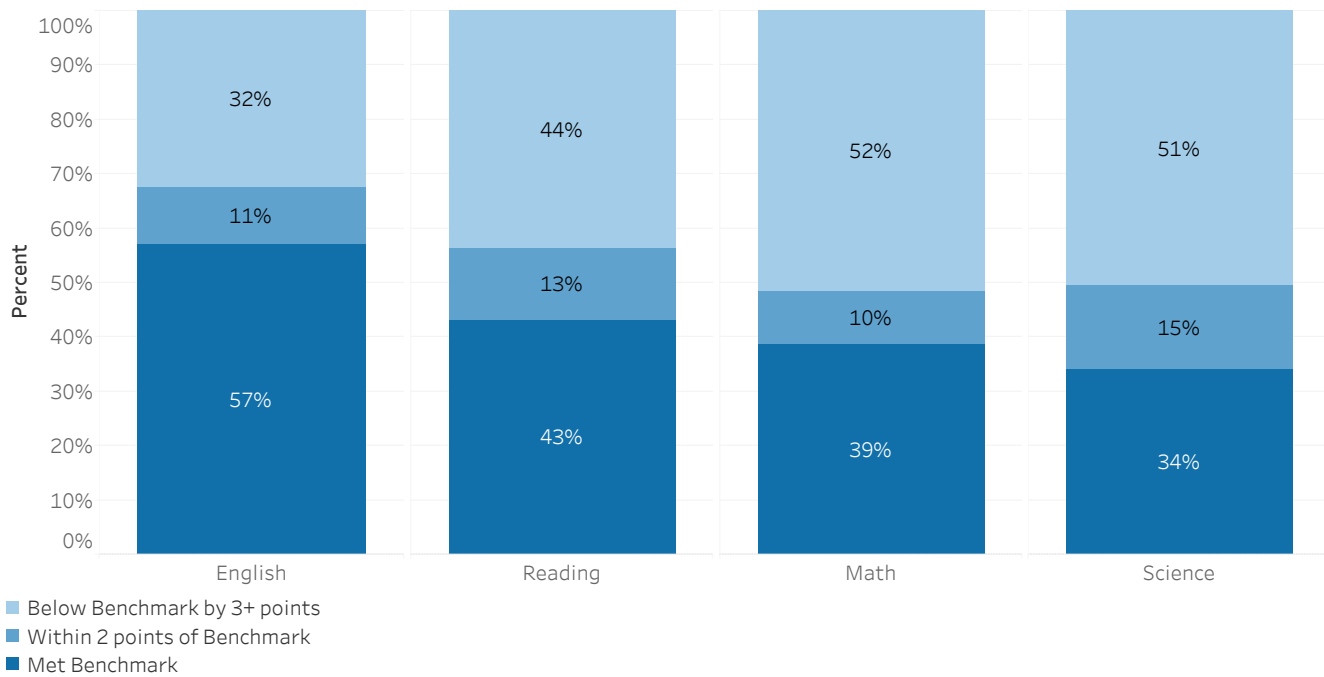
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2014	12%	16%	7%		41%	39%
2015	8%	15%	6%		31%	44%
2016	5%	19%	7%		28%	39%
2017	7%	18%	7%		36%	39%
2018	13%	19%	6%		34%	41%

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NORTH DAKOTA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



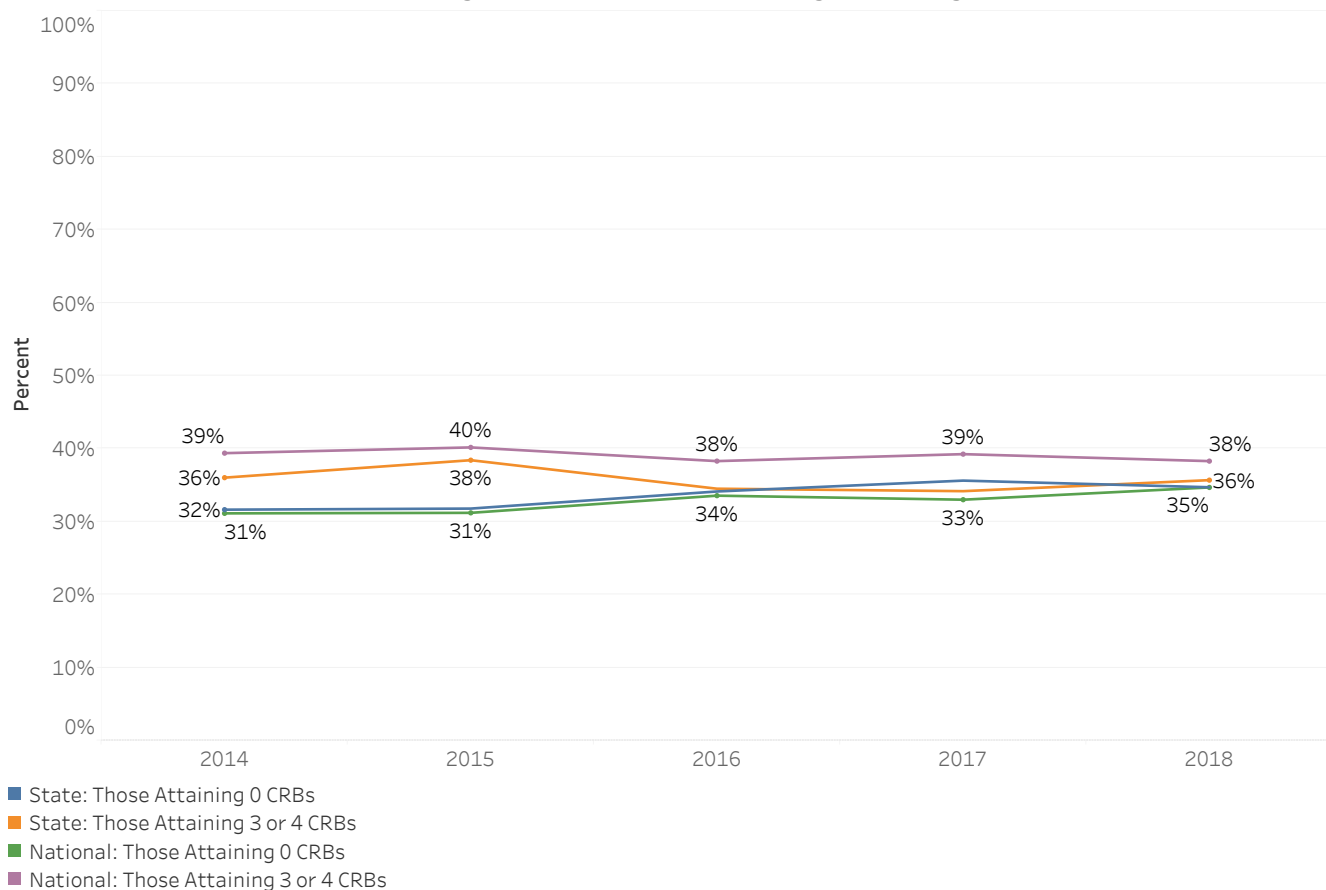
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	32%	11%	57%
Math	52%	10%	39%
Reading	44%	13%	43%
Science	51%	15%	34%

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NORTH DAKOTA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



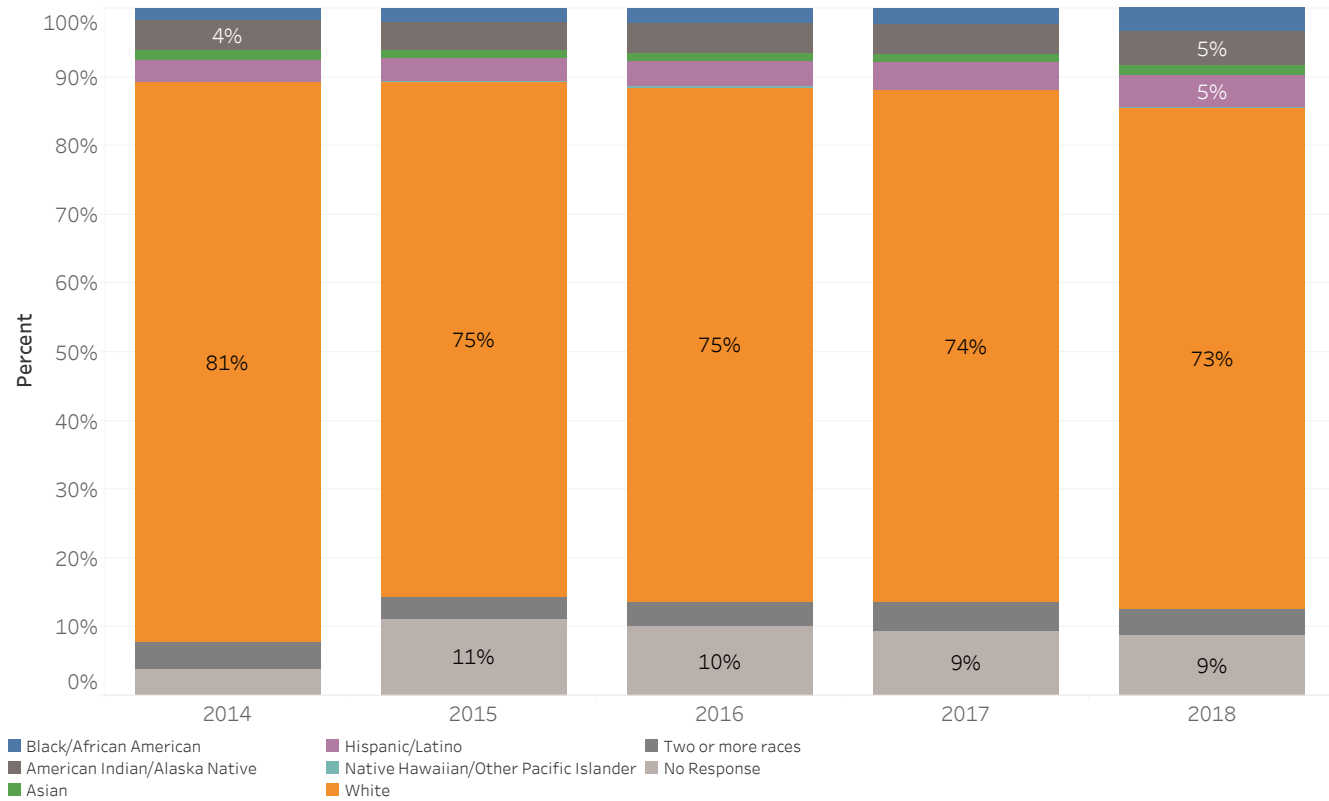
Data from Graph Above

	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	32%	36%	31%	39%
2015	32%	38%	31%	40%
2016	34%	35%	34%	38%
2017	36%	34%	33%	39%
2018	35%	36%	35%	38%

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NORTH DAKOTA 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%	4%	1%	3%	0%	81%	4%	4%
2015	2%	4%	1%	3%	0%	75%	3%	11%
2016	2%	4%	1%	4%	0%	75%	4%	10%
2017	2%	4%	1%	4%	0%	74%	4%	9%
2018	3%	5%	2%	5%	0%	73%	4%	9%

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NORTH DAKOTA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

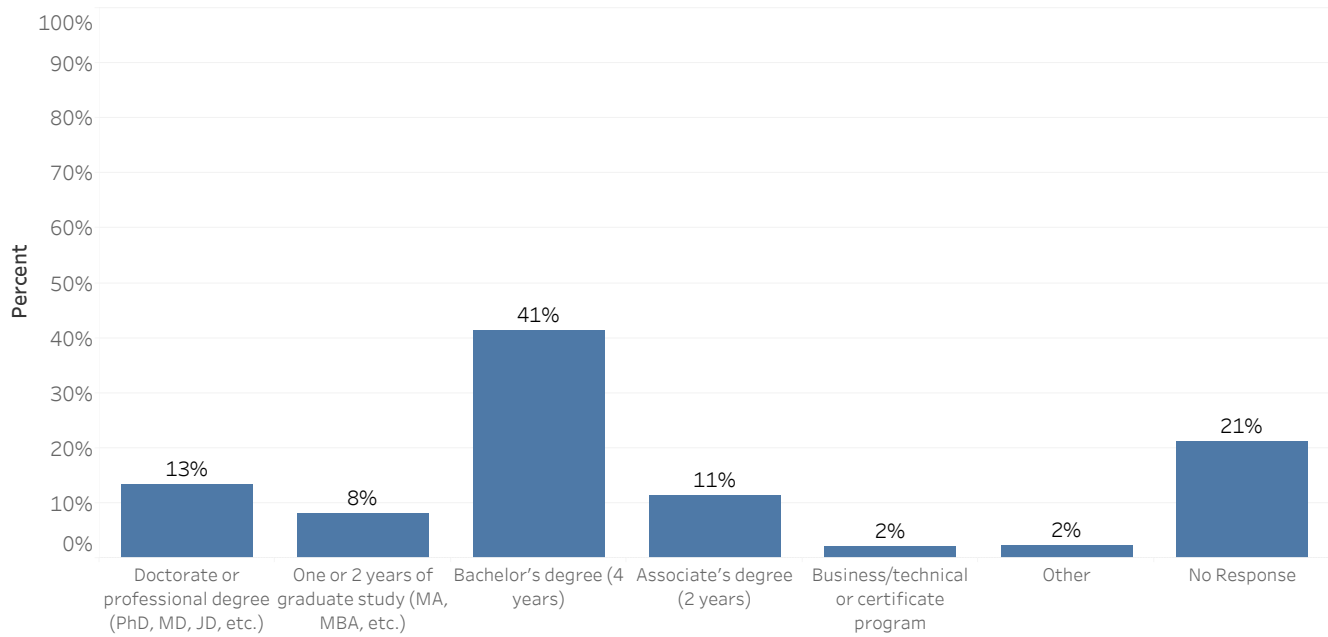
Student Data Trends: 2014-2018, State vs. Nation

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State N-count	7,227	7,162	7,379	7,399	7,282
National N-count	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817
Average ACT English Score - State	19.6	19.6	19.1	19.0	19.1
Average ACT English Score - National	20.3	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Reading Score - State	20.8	20.7	20.7	20.5	20.7
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - State	20.7	20.6	20.3	20.4	20.3
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - State	20.6	20.8	20.7	20.6	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.8	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7
Average ACT Composite Score - State	20.6	20.6	20.3	20.3	20.3
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

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NORTH DAKOTA 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.)	8%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	41%
Associate's degree (2 years)	11%
Business/technical or certificate program	2%
Other	2%
No Response	21%

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