

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018

Rhode Island Key Findings

Performance

- In the 2018 Rhode Island graduating class, 1,554 graduates (15 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 24.2. This compares to 1,790 (16 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.
 - ~ There were 59 African American graduates from Rhode Island who took the ACT (4 percent) with an average Composite score of 20.7. This compares to 90 (4 percent) with an average of 19.1, and 73 (4 percent) with an average of 18.0, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 1,063 White graduates from Rhode Island who took the ACT (68 percent) with an average Composite score of 25.0. This compares to 1,431 (67 percent) with an average of 25.0, and 1,213 (68 percent) with an average of 24.1, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 149 Hispanic graduates from Rhode Island who took the ACT (10 percent) with an average Composite score of 19.9. This compares to 221 (10 percent) with an average of 19.0, and 202 (11 percent) with an average of 18.1, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 97 Asian graduates from Rhode Island who took the ACT (6 percent) with an average Composite score of 25.0. This compares to 107 (5 percent) with an average of 25.8, and 87 (5 percent) with an average of 23.3, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
- The 2018 Rhode Island graduating class average English score was 24.4. This compares to 24.0 and 22.7 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Rhode Island graduating class average math score was 23.6. This compares to 23.3 and 22.8 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Rhode Island graduating class average reading score was 25.0. This compares to 24.7 and 23.6 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Rhode Island graduating class average science score was 23.5. This compares to 23.4 and 22.0 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- In 2018, 47 percent of Rhode Island graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 46 and 39 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 85 percent of Rhode Island graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 81 and 77 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 64 percent of Rhode Island graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 61 and 59 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 69 percent of Rhode Island graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 68 and 60 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 58 percent of Rhode Island graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 56 and 48 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- In 2018, 8 percent of Rhode Island graduates took the ACT with extended time. This compares to 7 and 7 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- 70 percent of 2018 Rhode Island graduates were Proficient or Above Proficient in understanding complex texts.

STEM

- The ACT is the only college admissions exam with a dedicated Science assessment. The ACT is a great fit for the Rhode Island STEM Pathway Program.
- In 2018, 793 Rhode Island graduates (51 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 Rhode Island graduating class average ACT STEM score of 23.8, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM averages of 23.6 and 22.7, respectively.
- Compared to 38 percent of 2018 Rhode Island graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 38 and 31, respectively.
- 2018 graduates taking physics had an average science score of 24.2, compared to 21.3 for students not taking physics.
 - ~ 2018 Rhode Island graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.8. This compares to 27.8 in 2014.
- 2018 Rhode Island graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 28.9. This compares to 29.1 in 2014.

Career Readiness

- In 2018, 1,417 Rhode Island graduates (91 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 ACT WorkKeys 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 Rhode Island, 561 of the 2018 graduates (36.1%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 26.2, compared to an average of 23.1 for 993 of the 2018 graduates (63.9%) who took the ACT only once.
- 1,434 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 Rhode Island ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ 292 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2018 Rhode Island ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ Nationwide, 847,940 of the 2018 graduates (44.3%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 22.7, compared to an average of 19.3 for 1,066,877 of the 2018 graduates (55.7%) who took the ACT only once.
 - ~ For Rhode Island’s 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, Brown University, Northeastern University, and Boston University.
- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 60 percent of Rhode Island 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 268 ACT fee waivers to qualified Rhode Island students. However, 76 students (28.4 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

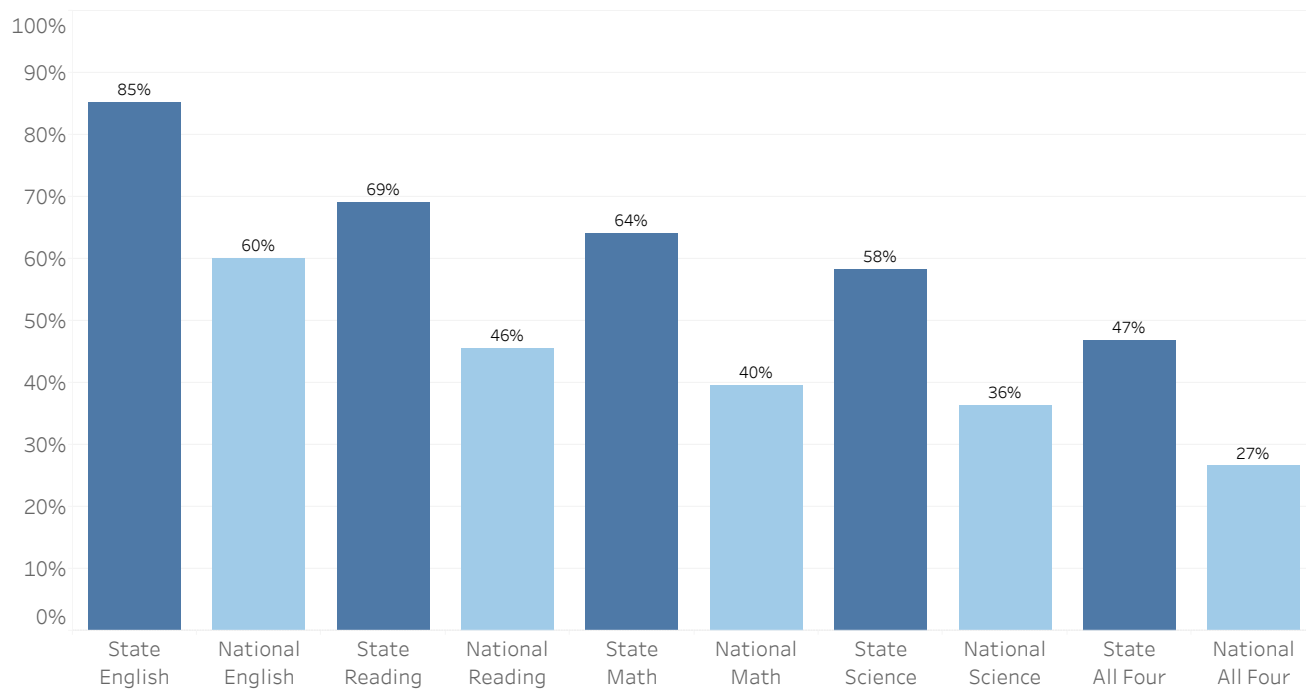
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - ~ 835 students (54 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 25.4.
 - ~ 442 students (28 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 22.7.
- In the Rhode Island graduating class of 2018, 66 students (4 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2018 Rhode Island graduates were: Undecided; Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Biology, General; Business Administration and Management, General; and Nursing, Registered (BS/RN).
 - ~ In the Rhode Island graduating class of 2018, 336 students (22 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 24.9. 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 Rhode Island graduating class of 2018, 35 (2 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 20.2.
- There is good news in that 82% of Rhode Island's 2018 ACT-tested graduates aspired to postsecondary education. Interestingly enough, 84% of Rhode Island's 2017 ACT-tested graduating class aspired to enroll in postsecondary education, compared to 82% who actually did enroll. If we fully closed the aspirational gap, an additional 48 of the 2017 ACT-tested graduates from Rhode Island would have enrolled in postsecondary education.

Additional Points

- The Rhode Island ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with more than 20 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.
- 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 Rhode Island Champion: Noam Makover (High School Senior).

RHODE ISLAND 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

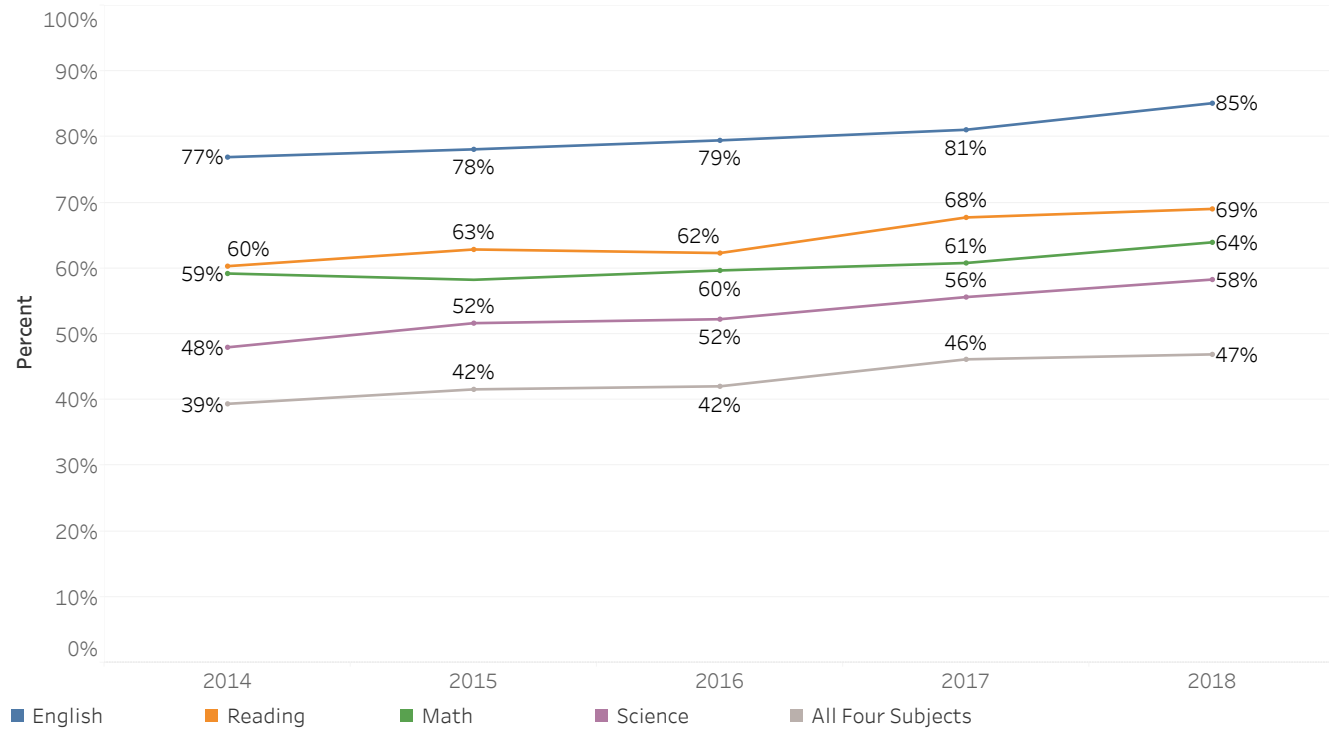
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
85%	60%	69%	46%	64%	40%	58%	36%	47%	27%

* 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.

RHODE ISLAND 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

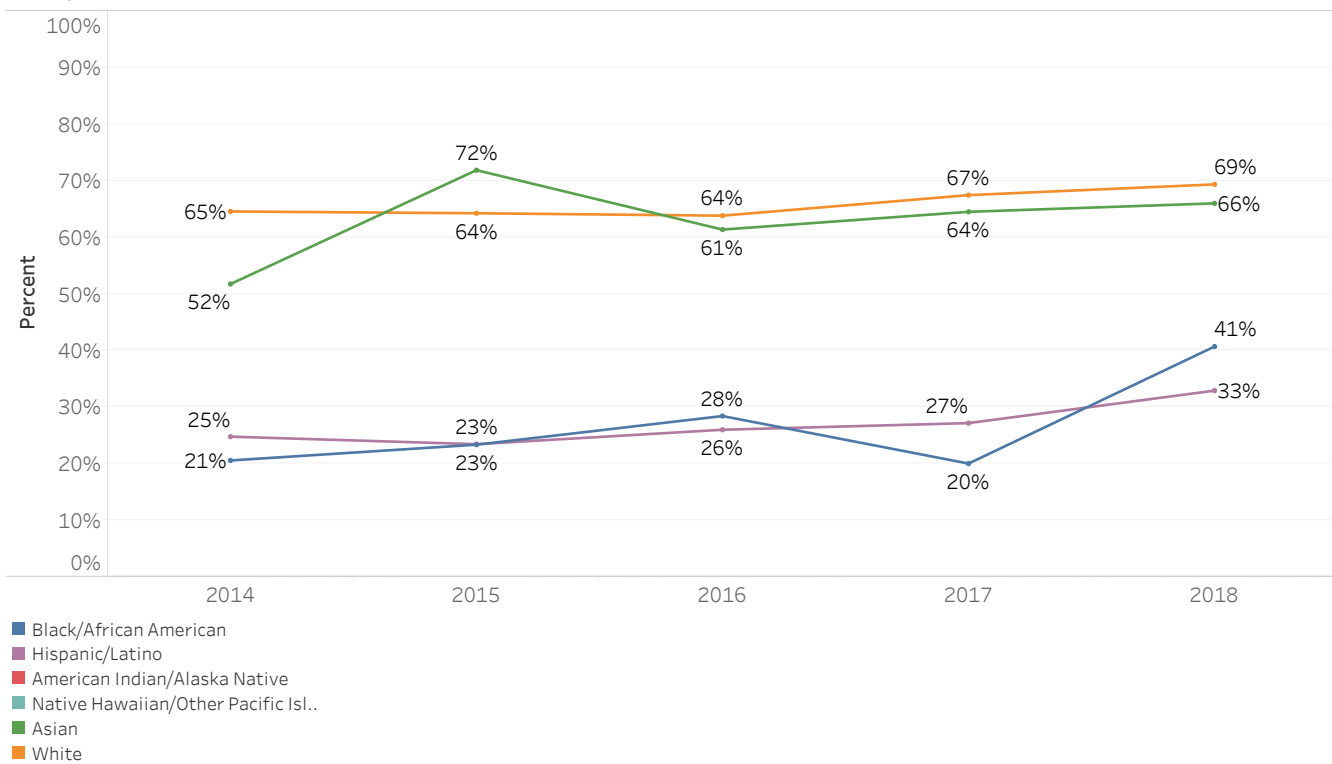
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2014	77%	60%	59%	48%	39%
2015	78%	63%	58%	52%	42%
2016	79%	62%	60%	52%	42%
2017	81%	68%	61%	56%	46%
2018	85%	69%	64%	58%	47%

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RHODE ISLAND 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



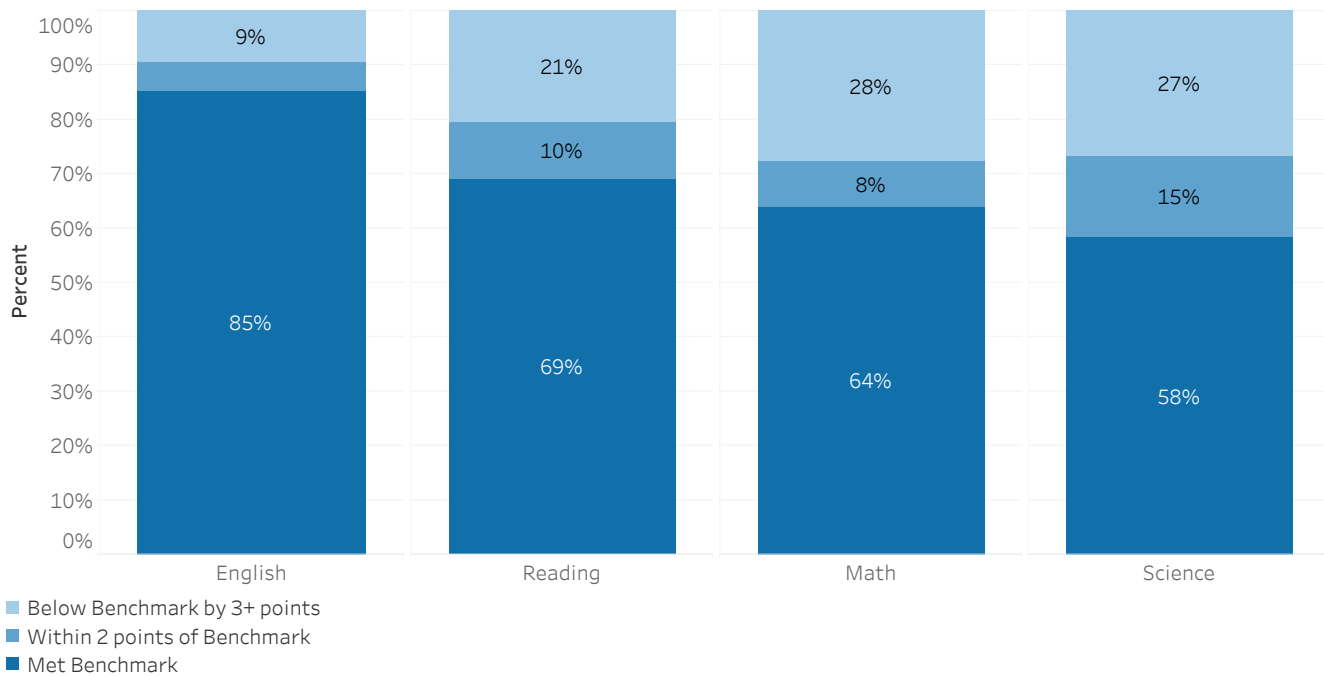
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2014	21%	25%			52%	65%
2015	23%	23%			72%	64%
2016	28%	26%			61%	64%
2017	20%	27%			64%	67%
2018	41%	33%			66%	69%

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RHODE ISLAND College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



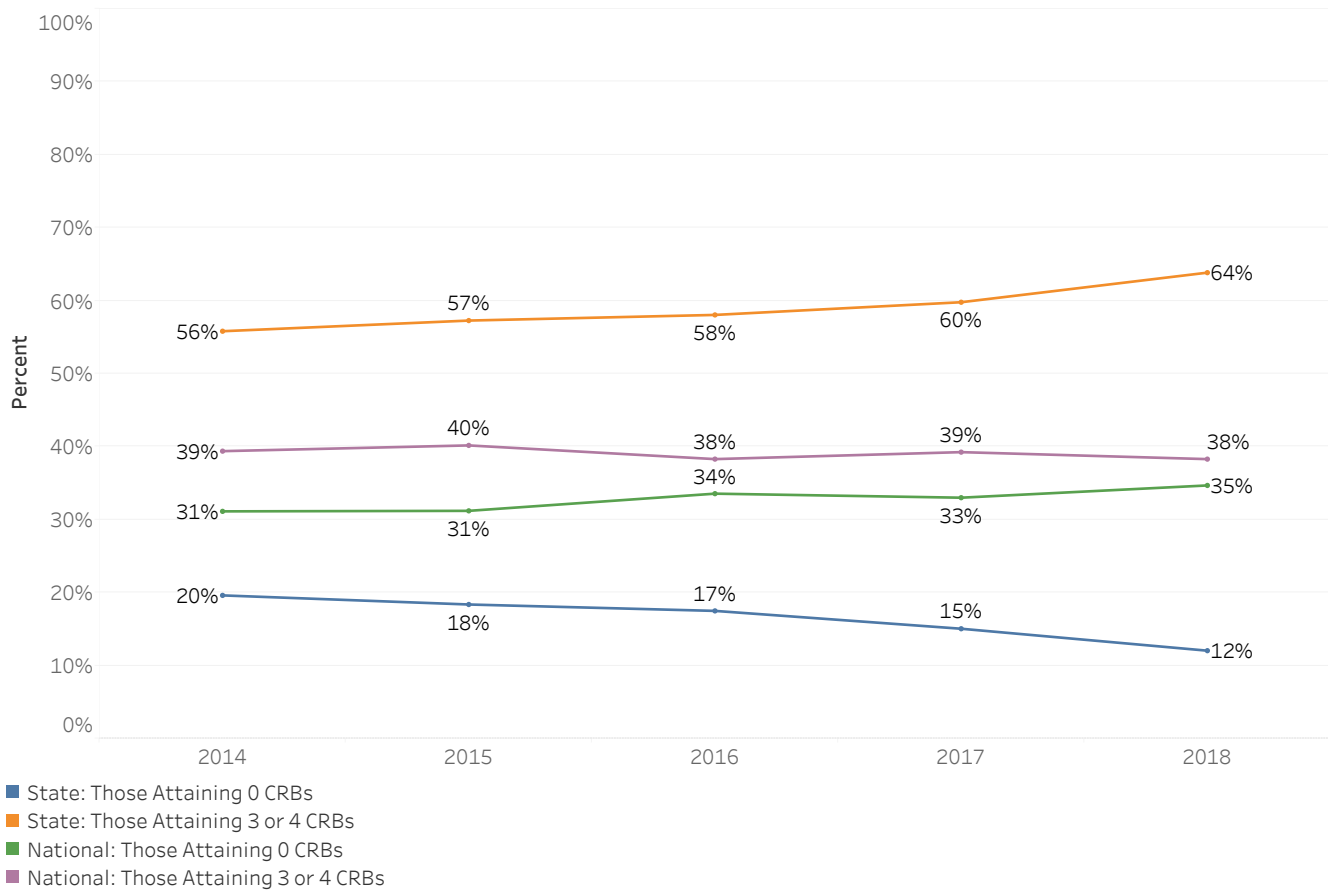
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	9%	5%	85%
Math	28%	8%	64%
Reading	21%	10%	69%
Science	27%	15%	58%

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RHODE ISLAND College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



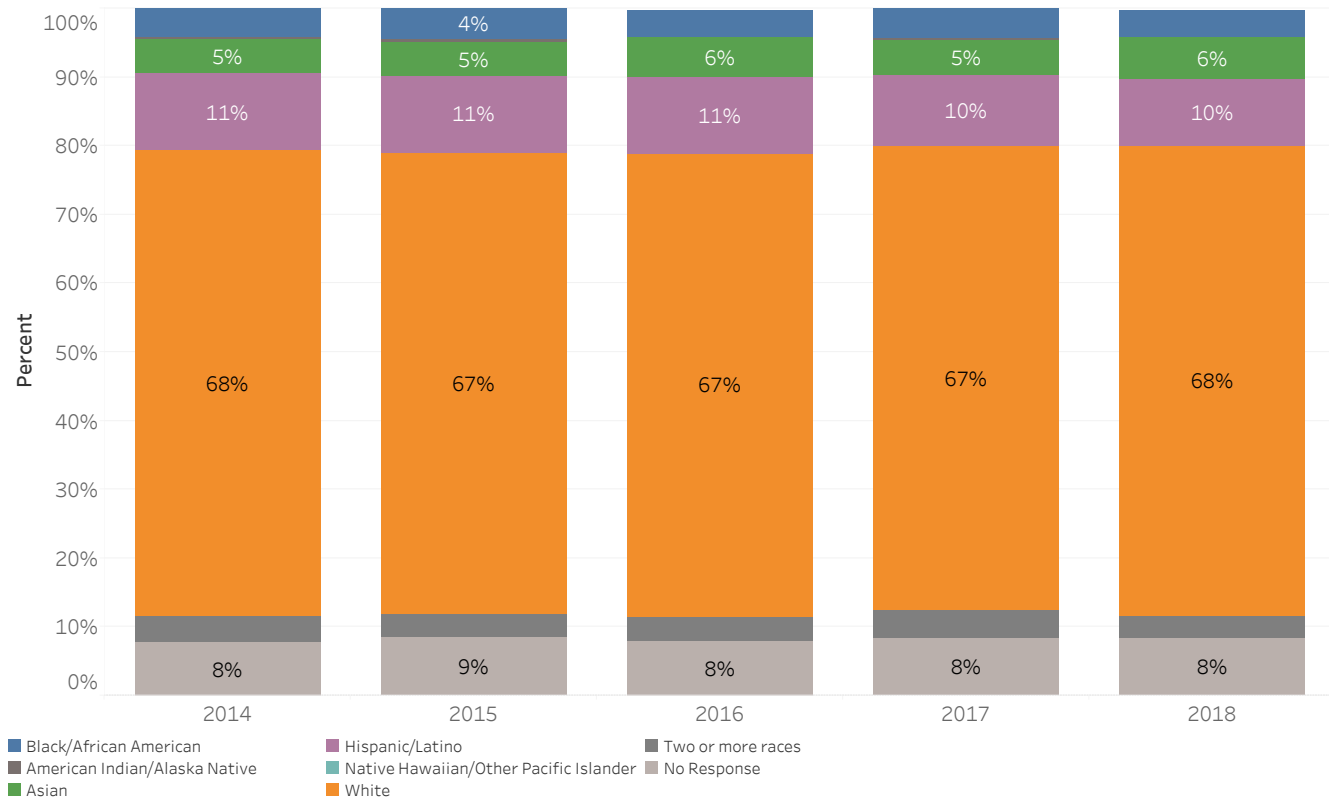
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	State: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	State: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs
2014	20%	56%	31%	39%
2015	18%	57%	31%	40%
2016	17%	58%	34%	38%
2017	15%	60%	33%	39%
2018	12%	64%	35%	38%

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RHODE ISLAND 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	4%	0%	5%	11%	0%	68%	4%	8%
2015	4%	0%	5%	11%	0%	67%	3%	9%
2016	4%	0%	6%	11%	0%	67%	4%	8%
2017	4%	0%	5%	10%	0%	67%	4%	8%
2018	4%	0%	6%	10%	0%	68%	3%	8%

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RHODE ISLAND College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

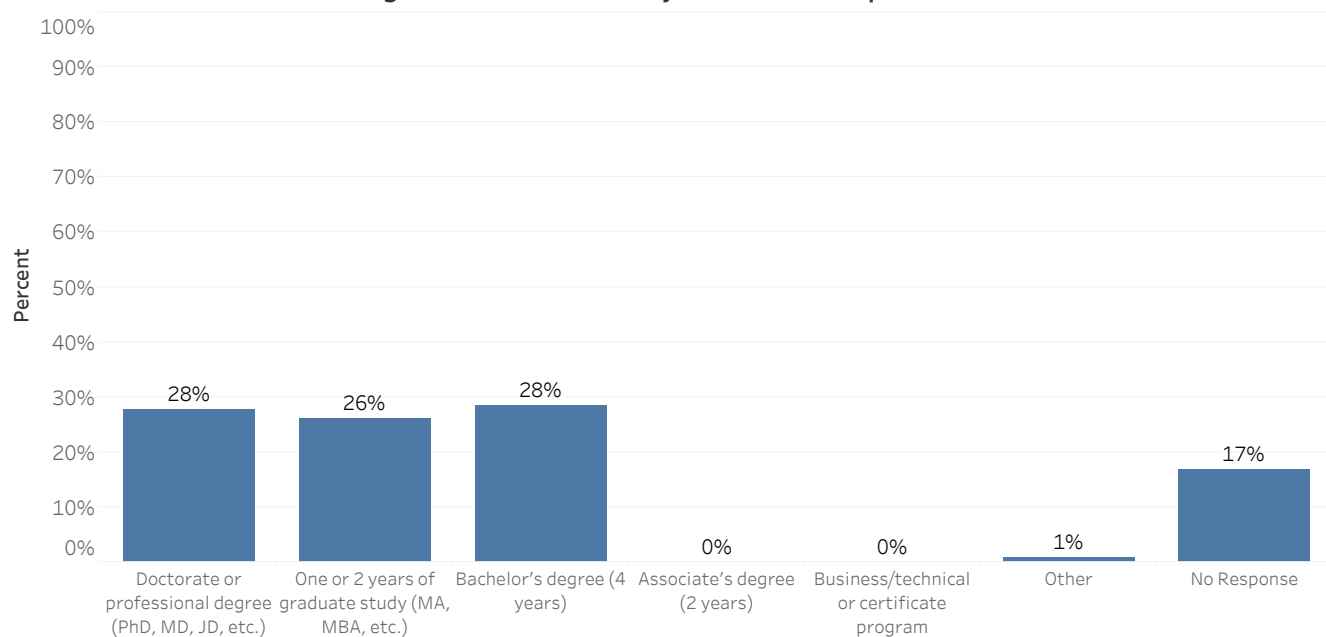
Student Data Trends: 2014-2018, State vs. Nation

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State N-count	1,790	2,015	2,076	2,121	1,554
National N-count	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817
Average ACT English Score - State	22.7	23.0	23.1	24.0	24.4
Average ACT English Score - National	20.3	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Reading Score - State	23.6	23.8	24.0	24.7	25.0
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - State	22.8	22.6	22.9	23.3	23.6
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - State	22.0	22.5	22.8	23.4	23.5
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.8	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7
Average ACT Composite Score - State	22.9	23.1	23.3	24.0	24.2
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

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RHODE ISLAND 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.)	28%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	26%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	28%
Associate's degree (2 years)	0%
Business/technical or certificate program	0%
Other	1%
No Response	17%

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