

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018

South Carolina Key Findings

Performance

- In the 2018 South Carolina graduating class, 53,743 graduates (100 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 18.3. This compares to 23,232 (58 percent) with an average of 20.4 in 2014. Nationally, 55% of 2018 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.8.
 - ~ There were 15,384 African American graduates from South Carolina who took the ACT (29 percent) with an average Composite score of 15.3. This compares to 14,146 (28 percent) with an average of 15.6, and 6,623 (29 percent) with an average of 16.6, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 26,686 White graduates from South Carolina who took the ACT (50 percent) with an average Composite score of 20.1. This compares to 25,615 (50 percent) with an average of 20.5, and 13,340 (57 percent) with an average of 22.3, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 4,204 Hispanic graduates from South Carolina who took the ACT (8 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.4. This compares to 3,728 (7 percent) with an average of 17.6, and 1,087 (5 percent) with an average of 19.8, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
- The 2018 South Carolina graduating class average English score was 17.3. This compares to 17.5 and 19.7 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 South Carolina graduating class average math score was 18.2. This compares to 18.6 and 20.3 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 South Carolina graduating class average reading score was 18.6. This compares to 19.1 and 20.9 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 South Carolina graduating class average science score was 18.5. This compares to 18.9 and 20.4 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- In 2018, 14 percent of South Carolina graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 15 and 23 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 53 percent of South Carolina graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 50 and 34 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 42 percent of South Carolina graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 44 and 61 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 24 percent of South Carolina graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 25 and 39 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 30 percent of South Carolina graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 33 and 41 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 20 percent of South Carolina graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 23 and 33 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- In 2018, 11,895 (22 percent) of South Carolina graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 12,489 and 8,239 (25 and 35 percent) out of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively. For reference, the national percentage of 2018 graduates meeting three or four benchmarks was 38%.

STEM

- In 2018, 23,133 South Carolina 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 a 2018 South Carolina graduating class average ACT STEM score of 18.6, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM averages of 19.0 and 20.6, respectively.
 - ~ 2018 South Carolina graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.6. This compares to 28.1 in 2014.
- 2018 South Carolina graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 28.0. This compares to 28.1 in 2014.

Career Readiness

- In 2018, 7,154 South Carolina graduates (13 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.
- In 2018, 29,692 South Carolina graduates (55 percent) were likely to attain the Silver NCRC® 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 South Carolina 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:
 - ~ 142 more students enrolling in college.
 - ~ 154 more students persisting to year two.
 - ~ 112 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - ~ 168 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - ~ 157 more students persisting to year four.
 - ~ 162 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In South Carolina, 14,179 of the 2018 graduates (26.4%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 21.1, compared to an average of 17.2 for 39,564 of the 2018 graduates (73.6%) who took the ACT only once.
- 109,176 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 South Carolina ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ 56,989 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2018 South Carolina ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ For South Carolina’s 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were Clemson University, University of South Carolina-Columbia, Coastal Carolina University, College of Charleston, and Winthrop University.
 - ~ For South Carolina’s 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were Duke University, University of Georgia, and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 80 percent of South Carolina 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.
 - ~ Compared to 79 percent of African American students nationally, 87 percent of South Carolina African American 2018 graduates opted into EOS.
 - ~ Compared to 73 percent of American Indian students nationally, 78 percent of South Carolina American Indian 2018 graduates opted into EOS.
 - ~ Compared to 66 percent of White students nationally, 78 percent of South Carolina White 2018 graduates opted into EOS.
 - ~ Compared to 80 percent of Hispanic students nationally, 86 percent of South Carolina Hispanic 2018 graduates opted into EOS.
- In the 2017-2018 academic year, ACT issued 6,995 ACT fee waivers to qualified South Carolina students. However, 1,933 students (27.6 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

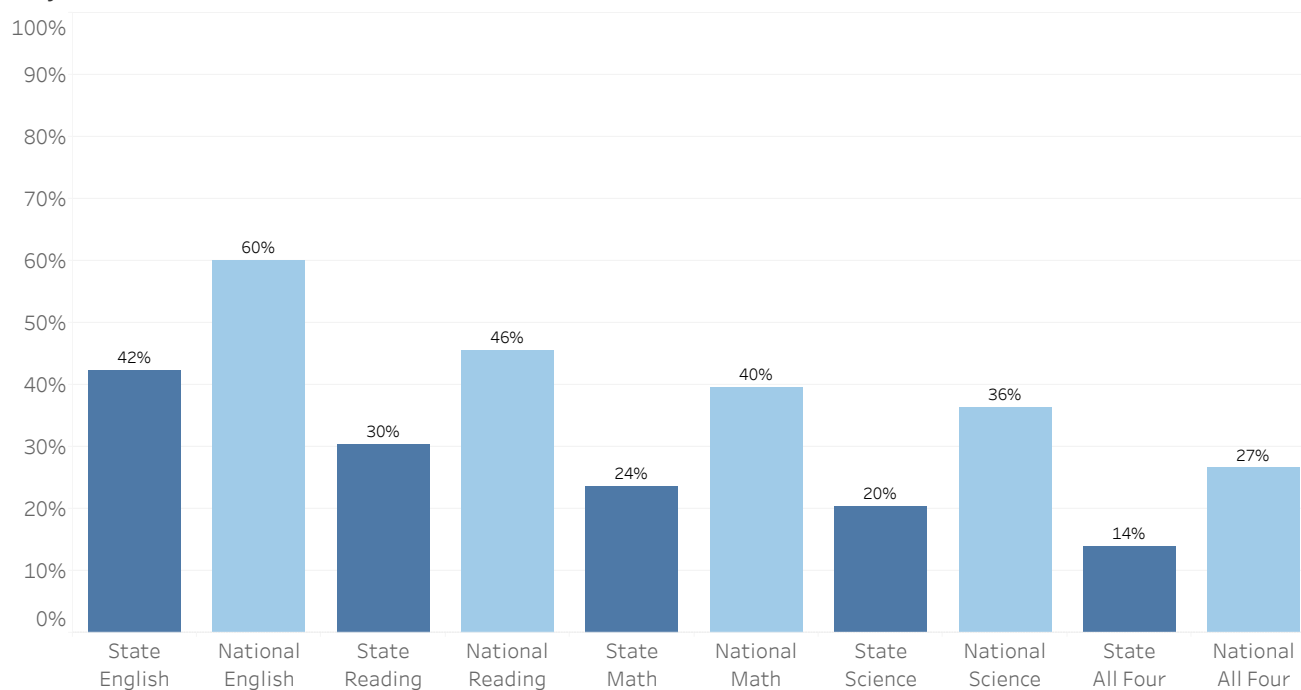
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - ~ 13,560 students (25 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 21.4.
 - ~ 20,461 students (38 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 18.4.
 - ~ 5,416 students (10 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 15.0.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2018 South Carolina graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Business Administration and Management, General; Medicine (Pre-Medicine); and Mechanical Engineering.
 - ~ In the South Carolina graduating class of 2018, 3,496 students (7 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 19.5. 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 South Carolina graduating class of 2018, 2,168 (4 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 18.7.
- There is good news in that 73% of South Carolina's 2018 ACT-tested graduates aspired to postsecondary education. Interestingly enough, 77% of South Carolina's 2017 ACT-tested graduating class aspired to enroll in postsecondary education, compared to 57% who actually did enroll. If we fully closed the aspirational gap, an additional 10,199 of the 2017 ACT-tested graduates from South Carolina would have enrolled in postsecondary education.

Additional Points

- The ACT College and Career Readiness Champions are individuals across the country who support ACT's mission of helping people achieve 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 South Carolina Champions: Justis Daniels-Bezout (High School Senior) and Vertoria Anderson (K-12 Professional).

SOUTH CAROLINA 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

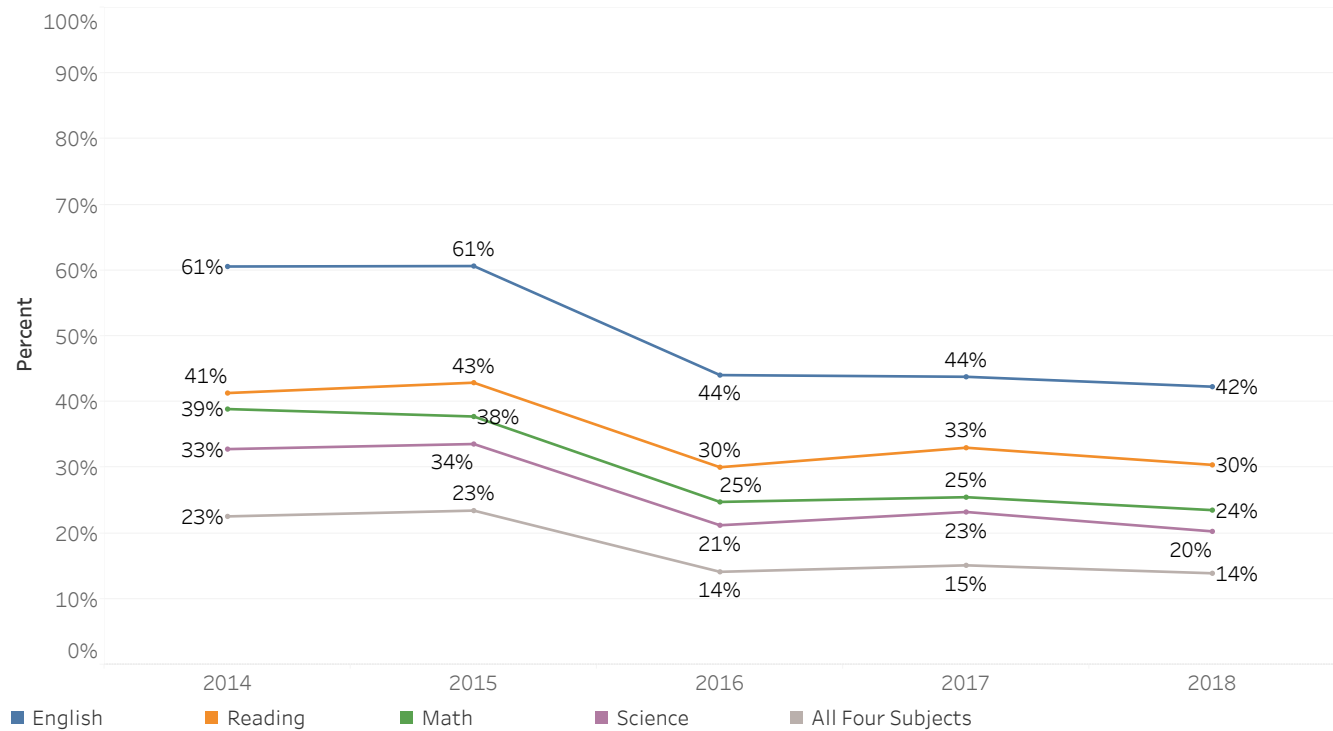
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
42%	60%	30%	46%	24%	40%	20%	36%	14%	27%

* 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.

SOUTH CAROLINA 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

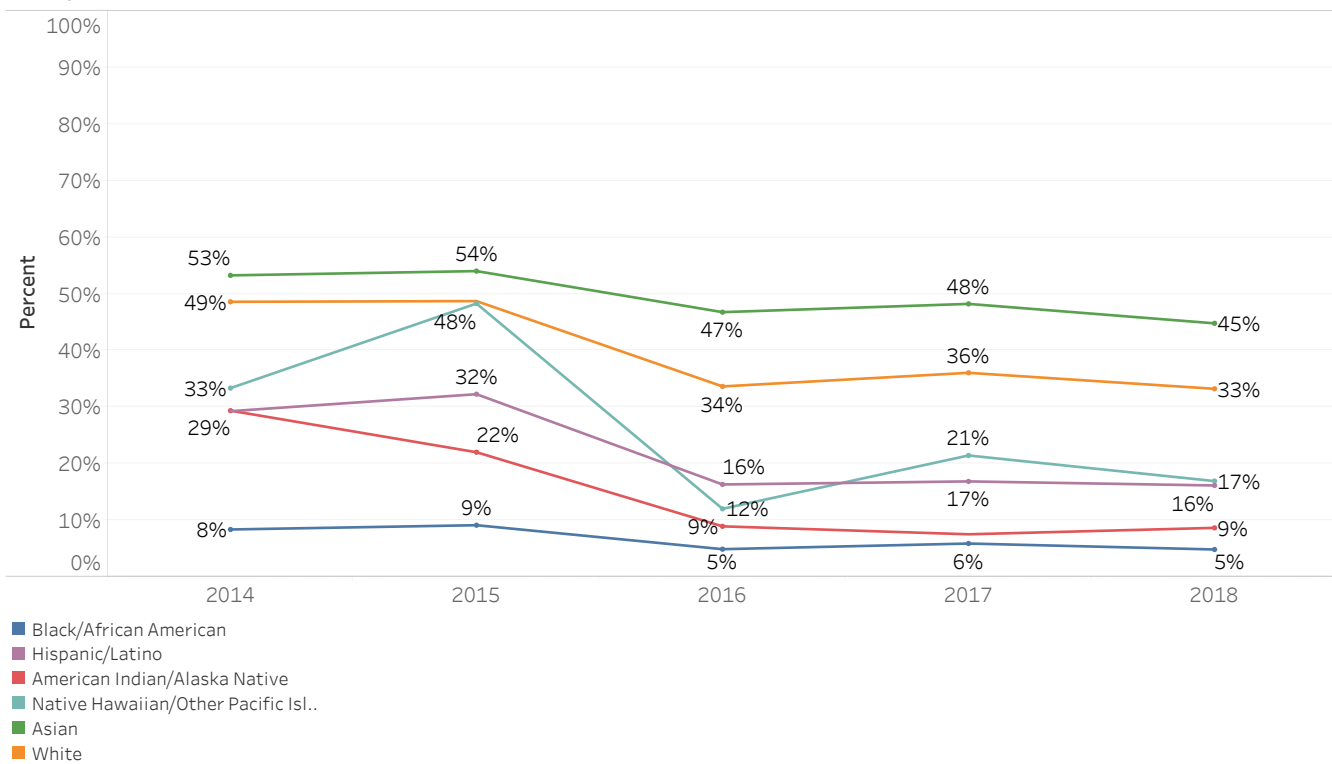
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2014	61%	41%	39%	33%	23%
2015	61%	43%	38%	34%	23%
2016	44%	30%	25%	21%	14%
2017	44%	33%	25%	23%	15%
2018	42%	30%	24%	20%	14%

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SOUTH CAROLINA 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



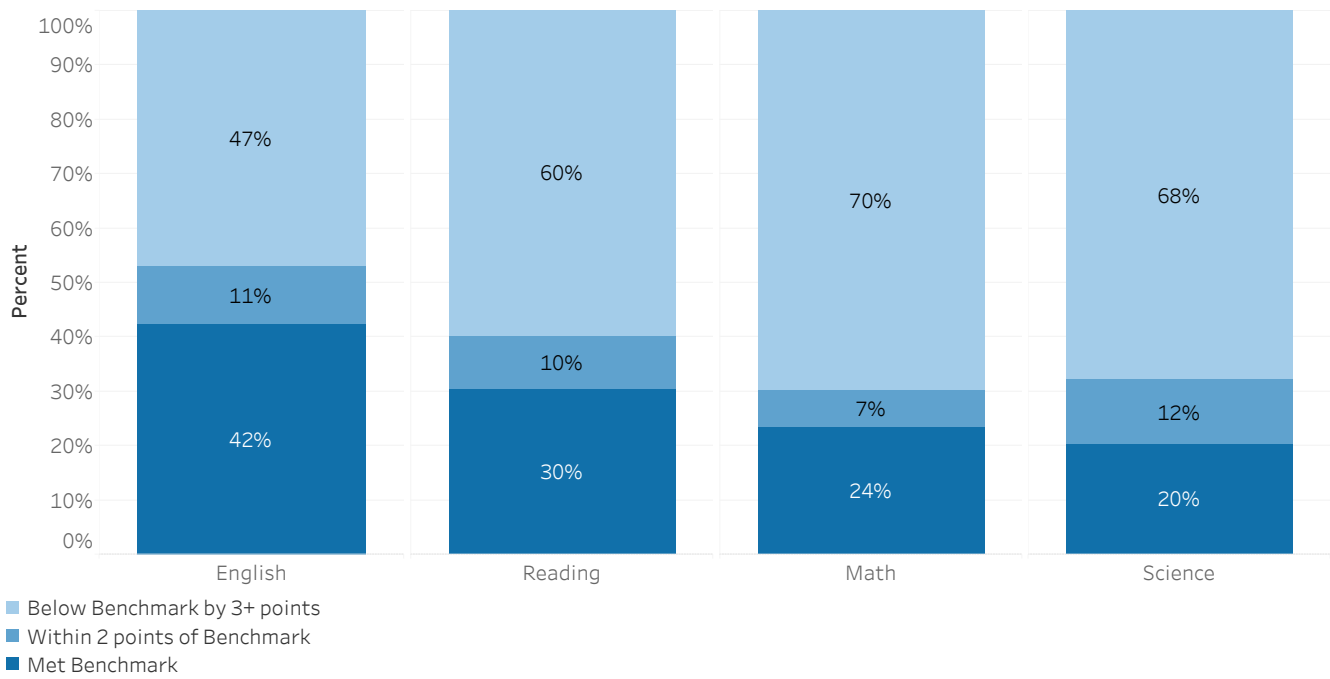
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2014	8%	29%	29%	33%	53%	49%
2015	9%	32%	22%	48%	54%	49%
2016	5%	16%	9%	12%	47%	34%
2017	6%	17%	8%	21%	48%	36%
2018	5%	16%	9%	17%	45%	33%

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SOUTH CAROLINA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



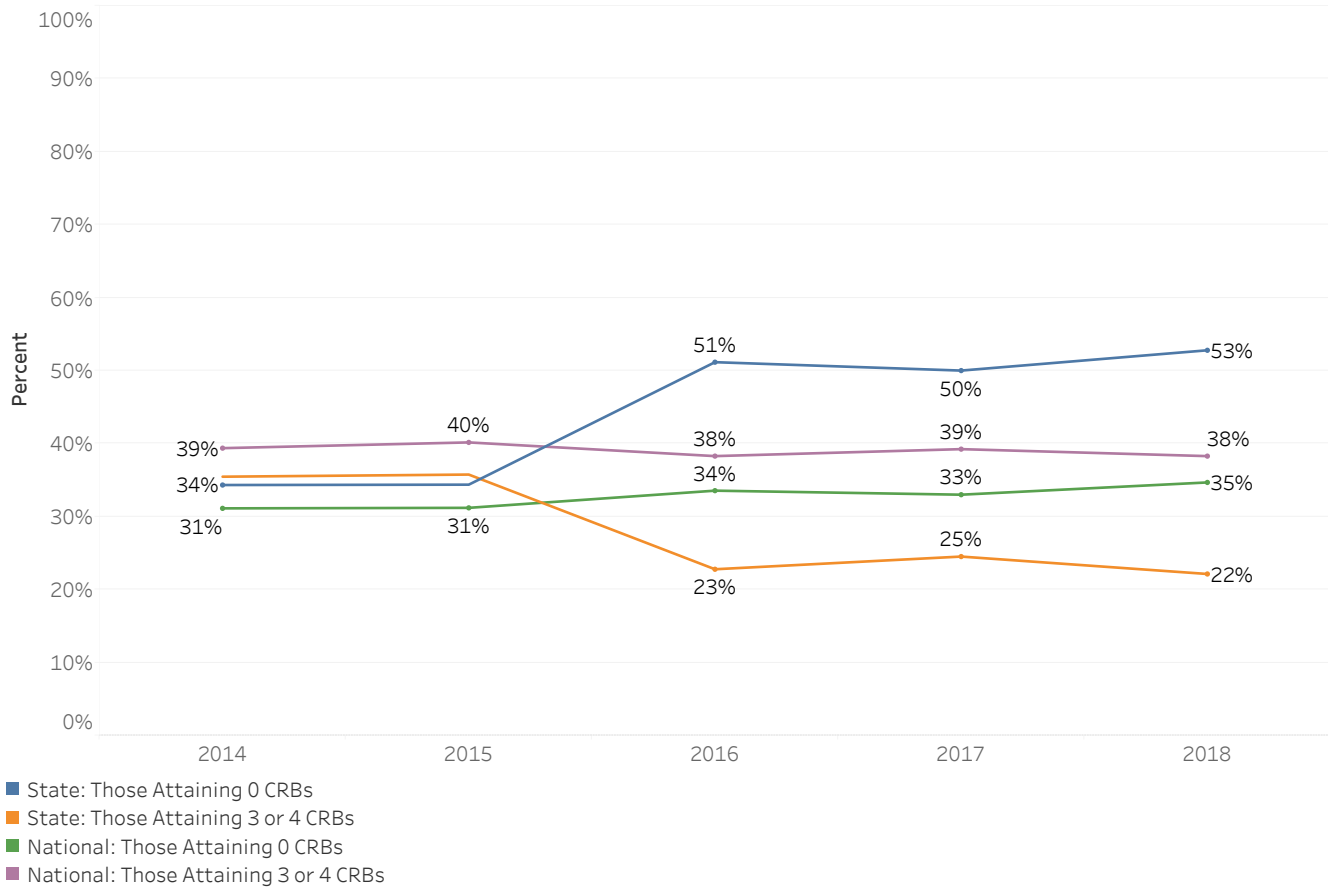
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	47%	11%	42%
Math	70%	7%	24%
Reading	60%	10%	30%
Science	68%	12%	20%

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SOUTH CAROLINA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



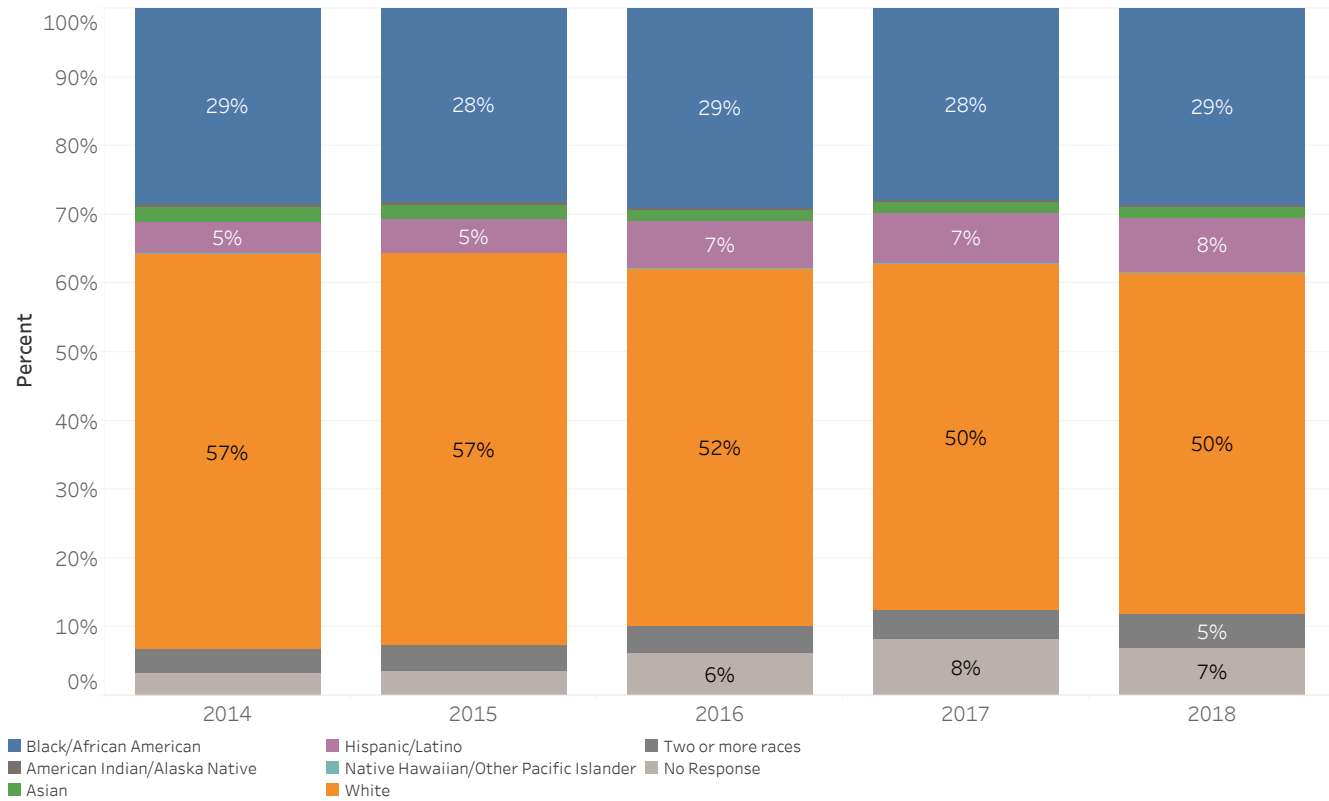
Data from Graph Above

	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	34%	35%	31%	39%
2015	34%	36%	31%	40%
2016	51%	23%	34%	38%
2017	50%	25%	33%	39%
2018	53%	22%	35%	38%

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SOUTH CAROLINA 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	29%	0%	2%	5%	0%	57%	3%	3%
2015	28%	0%	2%	5%	0%	57%	4%	4%
2016	29%	0%	1%	7%	0%	52%	4%	6%
2017	28%	0%	2%	7%	0%	50%	4%	8%
2018	29%	0%	2%	8%	0%	50%	5%	7%

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SOUTH CAROLINA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

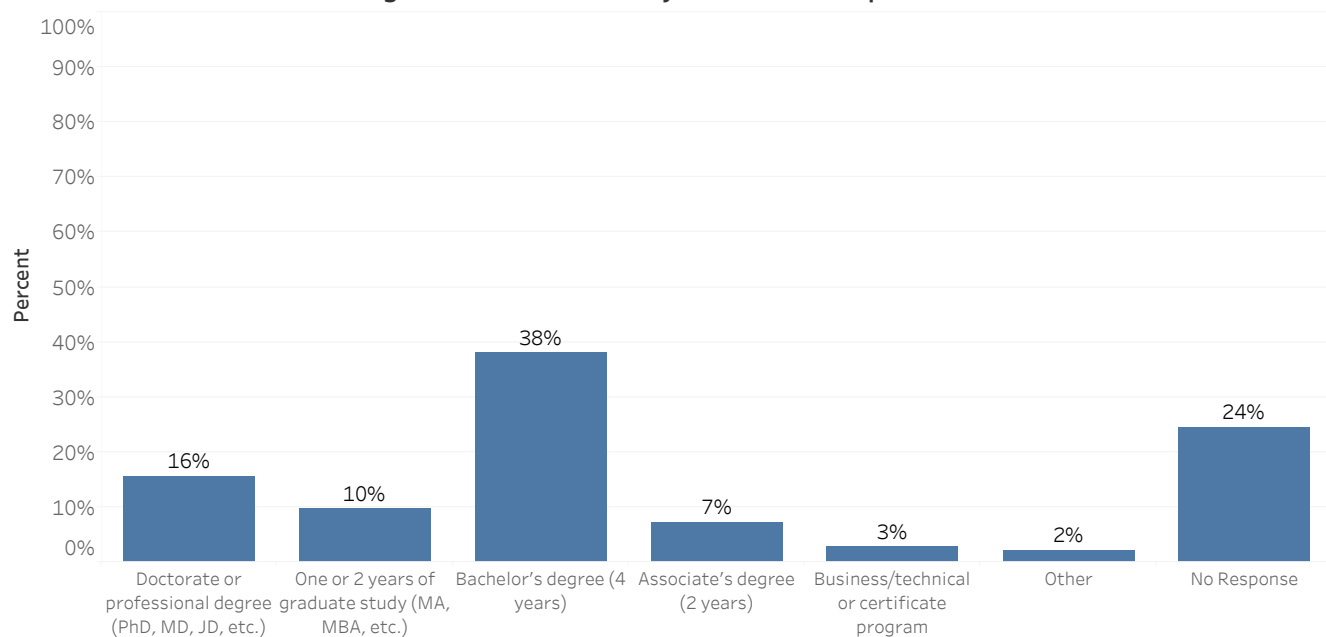
Student Data Trends: 2014-2018, State vs. Nation

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State N-count	23,232	25,151	51,098	50,936	53,743
National N-count	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817
Average ACT English Score - State	19.7	19.8	17.3	17.5	17.3
Average ACT English Score - National	20.3	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Reading Score - State	20.9	20.9	19.0	19.1	18.6
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - State	20.3	20.2	18.5	18.6	18.2
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - State	20.4	20.4	18.6	18.9	18.5
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.8	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7
Average ACT Composite Score - State	20.4	20.4	18.5	18.7	18.3
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

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SOUTH CAROLINA 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.)	16%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	10%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	38%
Associate's degree (2 years)	7%
Business/technical or certificate program	3%
Other	2%
No Response	24%

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