

# The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018

## Texas Key Findings

### Performance

- In the 2018 Texas graduating class, 141,253 graduates (41 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 20.6. This compares to 116,547 (40 percent) with an average of 20.9 in 2014. Nationally, 55% of 2018 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.8.
  - ~ There were 14,493 African American graduates from Texas who took the ACT (10 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.6. This compares to 15,021 (10 percent) with an average of 17.8, and 12,947 (11 percent) with an average of 17.7, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
  - ~ There were 47,902 White graduates from Texas who took the ACT (34 percent) with an average Composite score of 23.2. This compares to 50,119 (34 percent) with an average of 23.2, and 44,418 (38 percent) with an average of 23.4, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
  - ~ There were 55,072 Hispanic graduates from Texas who took the ACT (39 percent) with an average Composite score of 18.7. This compares to 60,142 (41 percent) with an average of 18.6, and 45,717 (39 percent) with an average of 18.8, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
- The 2018 Texas graduating class average English score was 19.6. This compares to 19.5 and 19.8 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Texas graduating class average math score was 20.6. This compares to 20.7 and 21.4 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Texas graduating class average reading score was 21.1. This compares to 21.1 and 21.1 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Texas graduating class average science score was 20.8. This compares to 20.9 and 21.0 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- In 2018, 25 percent of Texas graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 26 and 26 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
  - ~ In 2018, 56 percent of Texas graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 57 and 60 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
  - ~ In 2018, 39 percent of Texas graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 40 and 47 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
  - ~ In 2018, 44 percent of Texas graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 45 and 42 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
  - ~ In 2018, 35 percent of Texas graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 35 and 36 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- In 2018, 52,148 (37 percent) of Texas graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 54,595 and 45,847 (37 and 39 percent) out of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively. For reference, the national percentage of 2018 graduates meeting three or four benchmarks was 38%.
- In 2018, 3 percent of Texas graduates took the ACT with extended time. This compares to 2 and 1 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.

## STEM

- In 2018, 69,737 Texas graduates (49 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
  - ~ Nationally, 45 percent of graduates indicated having an interest in STEM.
- Compared to 19 percent of 2018 Texas graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 19 and 20, respectively.
- 2018 Texas graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.8. This compares to 28.2 in 2014.
  - ~ In 2018, 115,257 Texas graduates (82 percent) indicated taking physics. This compares to 90 and 97 percent for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
- 2018 Texas graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 28.8. This compares to 28.9 in 2014.
  - ~ 2018 graduates taking three or more years of math had an average math score of 21.0, compared to 16.3 for students taking less than three years of math.

## Career Readiness

- In 2018, 103,346 Texas graduates (73 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 Texas 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:
  - ~ 341 more students enrolling in college.
  - ~ 382 more students persisting to year two.
  - ~ 285 fewer students needing remedial English.
  - ~ 456 fewer students needing remedial math.
  - ~ 412 more students persisting to year four.
  - ~ 437 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

## Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Texas, 51,482 of the 2018 graduates (36.4%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 22.6, compared to an average of 19.5 for 89,771 of the 2018 graduates (63.6%) who took the ACT only once.
- 297,701 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 Texas ACT-tested graduates.
  - ~ 192,432 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2018 Texas ACT-tested graduates.
  - ~ For Texas's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were Texas A&M University-Main Campus, University of Texas at Austin, Texas Tech University, Texas State University, and University of Texas at San Antonio.
  - ~ For Texas's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were University of Arkansas, University of Oklahoma, and Oklahoma State University.
- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 76 percent of Texas 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, 86 percent of Texas African American 2018 graduates opted into EOS.
  - ~ Compared to 66 percent of White students nationally, 67 percent of Texas White 2018 graduates opted into EOS.
  - ~ Compared to 80 percent of Hispanic students nationally, 87 percent of Texas Hispanic 2018 graduates opted into EOS.
- In the 2017-2018 academic year, ACT issued 68,364 ACT fee waivers to qualified Texas students. However, 21,220 students (31.0 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.
  - ~ African American Texas students represent 15 percent of fee waivers issued and they account for 15 percent of unused fee waivers.
  - ~ White Texas students represent 9 percent of fee waivers issued and they account for 8 percent of unused fee waivers.
  - ~ Hispanic Texas students represent 69 percent of fee waivers issued and they account for 70 percent of unused fee waivers.

## Pipeline

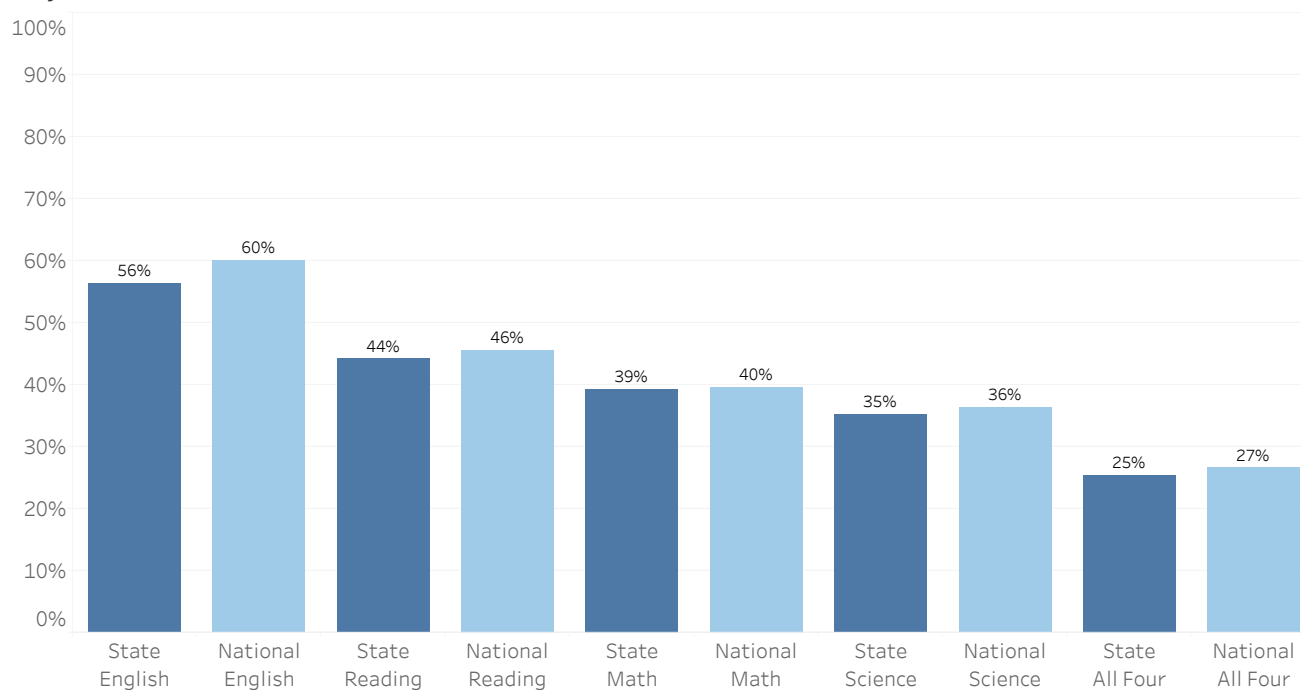
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
  - ~ 48,608 students (34 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 23.5.
  - ~ 57,848 students (41 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 20.0.
  - ~ 4,419 students (3 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 Texas graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; and Mechanical Engineering.
  - ~ In the Texas graduating class of 2018, 15,068 students (11 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 21.4. 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.
  - ~ In the Texas graduating class of 2018, 5,656 (4 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 19.2.
- There is good news in that 78% of Texas's 2018 ACT-tested graduates aspired to postsecondary education. Interestingly enough, 82% of Texas's 2017 ACT-tested graduating class aspired to enroll in postsecondary education, compared to 72% who actually did enroll. If we fully closed the aspirational gap, an additional 14,661 of the 2017 ACT-tested graduates from Texas 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 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 Texas Champions: Yewon Yang (High School Senior), Alma Guadalupe Luna (K-12 Professional), and Jael Garcia (Postsecondary Professional).
- In 2017, ACT conducted 18 College and Career Readiness Workshops attended by 1,100 educators from across Texas.
- 364 schools participated in ACT's district testing program in 2017-18. 66,159 Texas students were provided with access and opportunities to postsecondary education and scholarships through the ACT district testing program.

# TEXAS 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

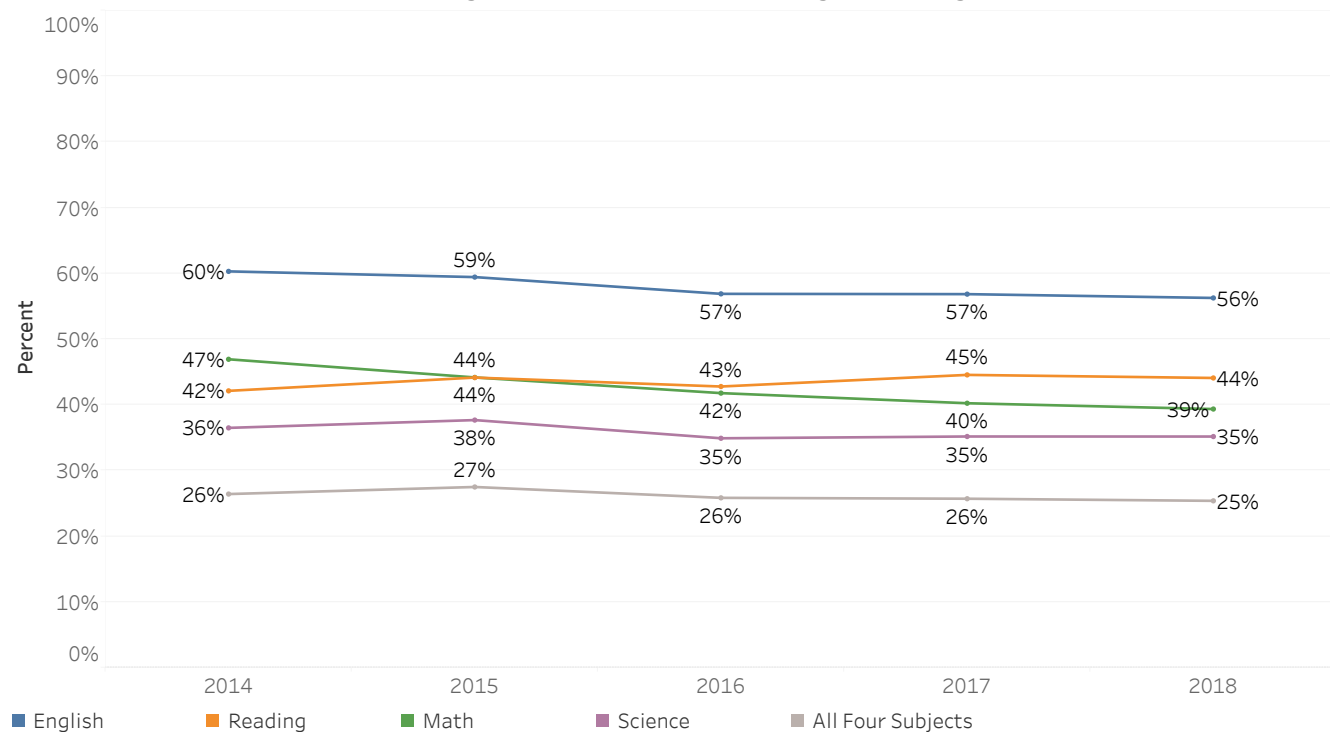
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
56%	60%	44%	46%	39%	40%	35%	36%	25%	27%

\* 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.

# TEXAS 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

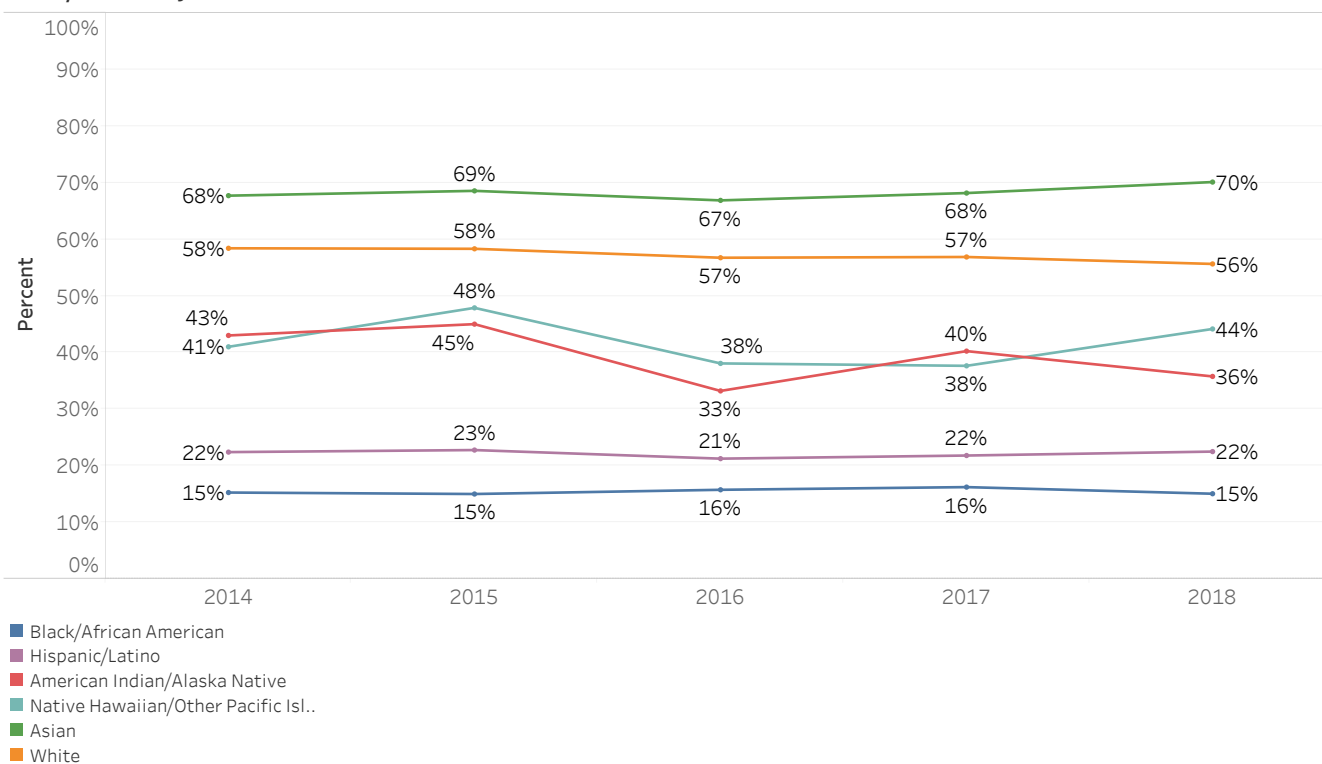
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2014	60%	42%	47%	36%	26%
2015	59%	44%	44%	38%	27%
2016	57%	43%	42%	35%	26%
2017	57%	45%	40%	35%	26%
2018	56%	44%	39%	35%	25%

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# TEXAS 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



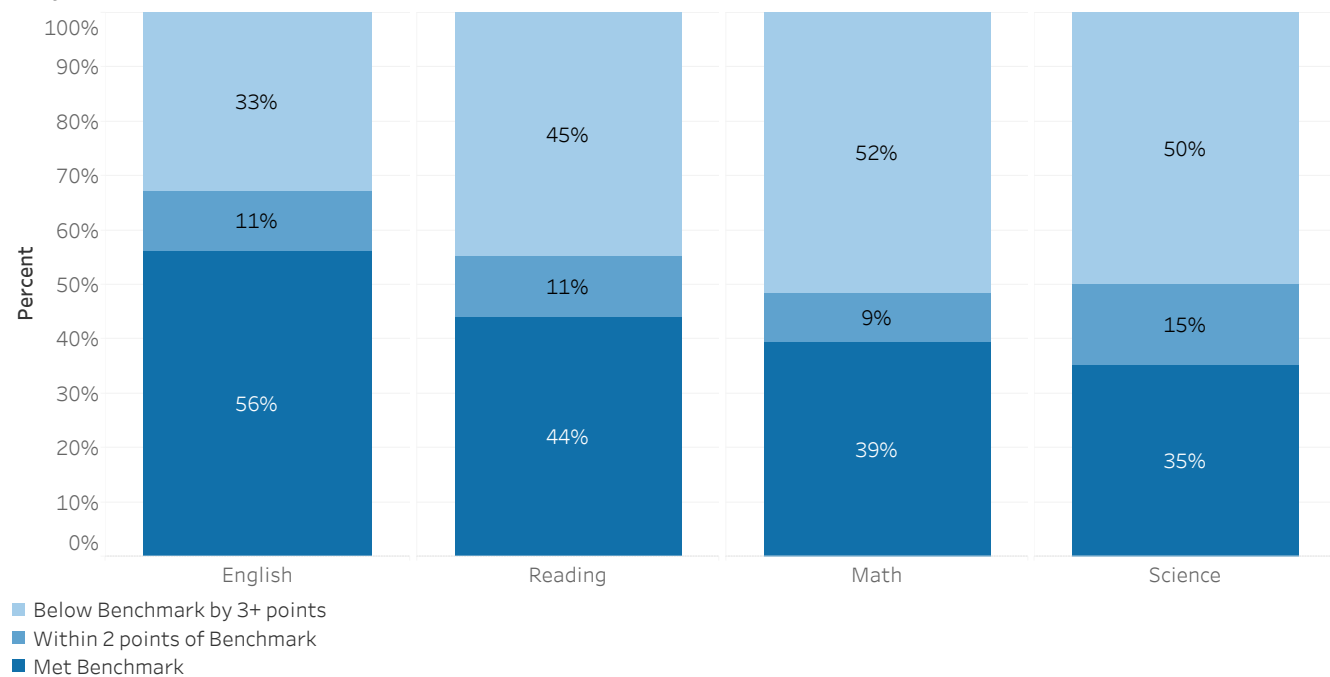
### Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2014	15%	22%	43%	41%	68%	58%
2015	15%	23%	45%	48%	69%	58%
2016	16%	21%	33%	38%	67%	57%
2017	16%	22%	40%	38%	68%	57%
2018	15%	22%	36%	44%	70%	56%

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# TEXAS 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

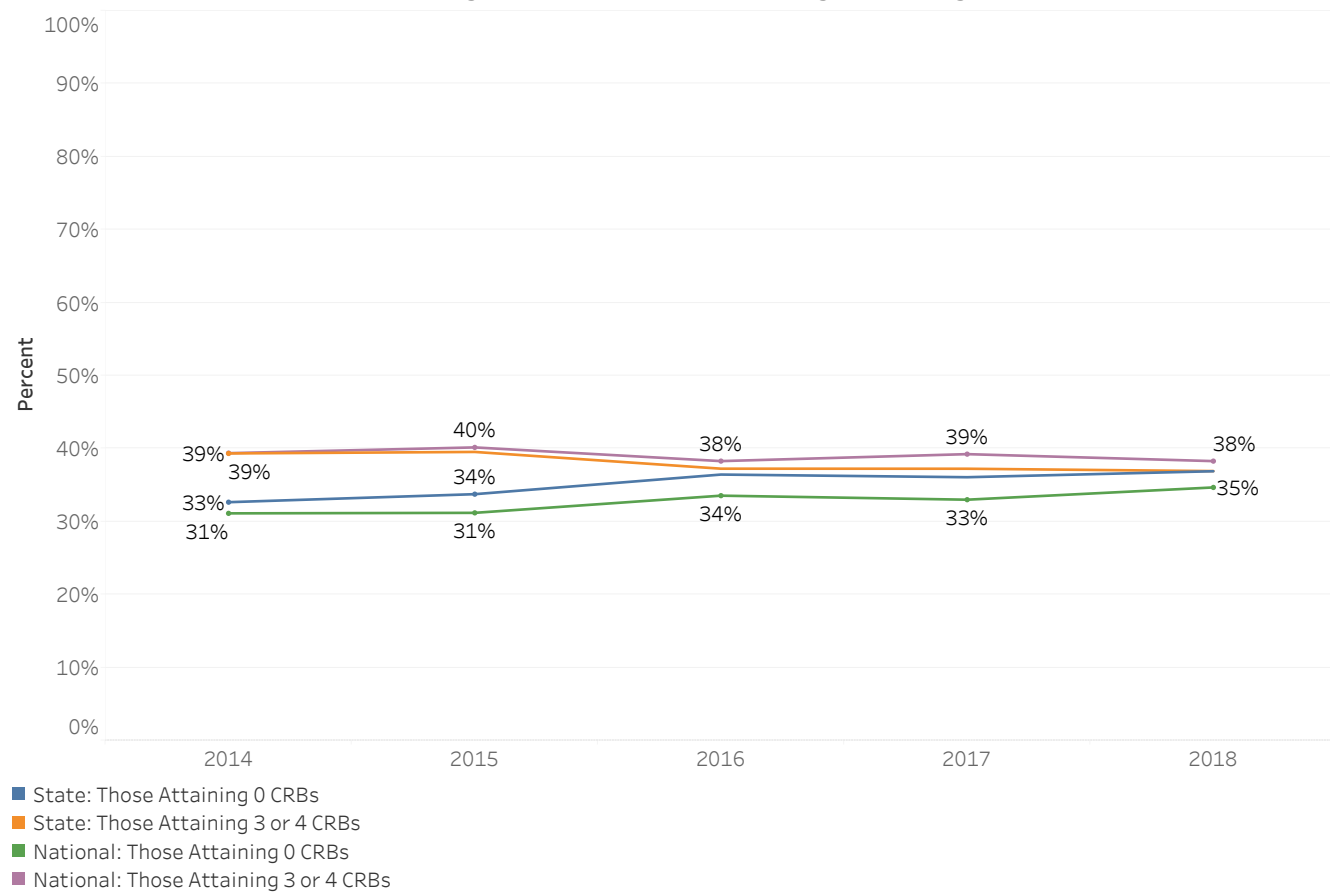
	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	33%	11%	56%
Math	52%	9%	39%
Reading	45%	11%	44%
Science	50%	15%	35%

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

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



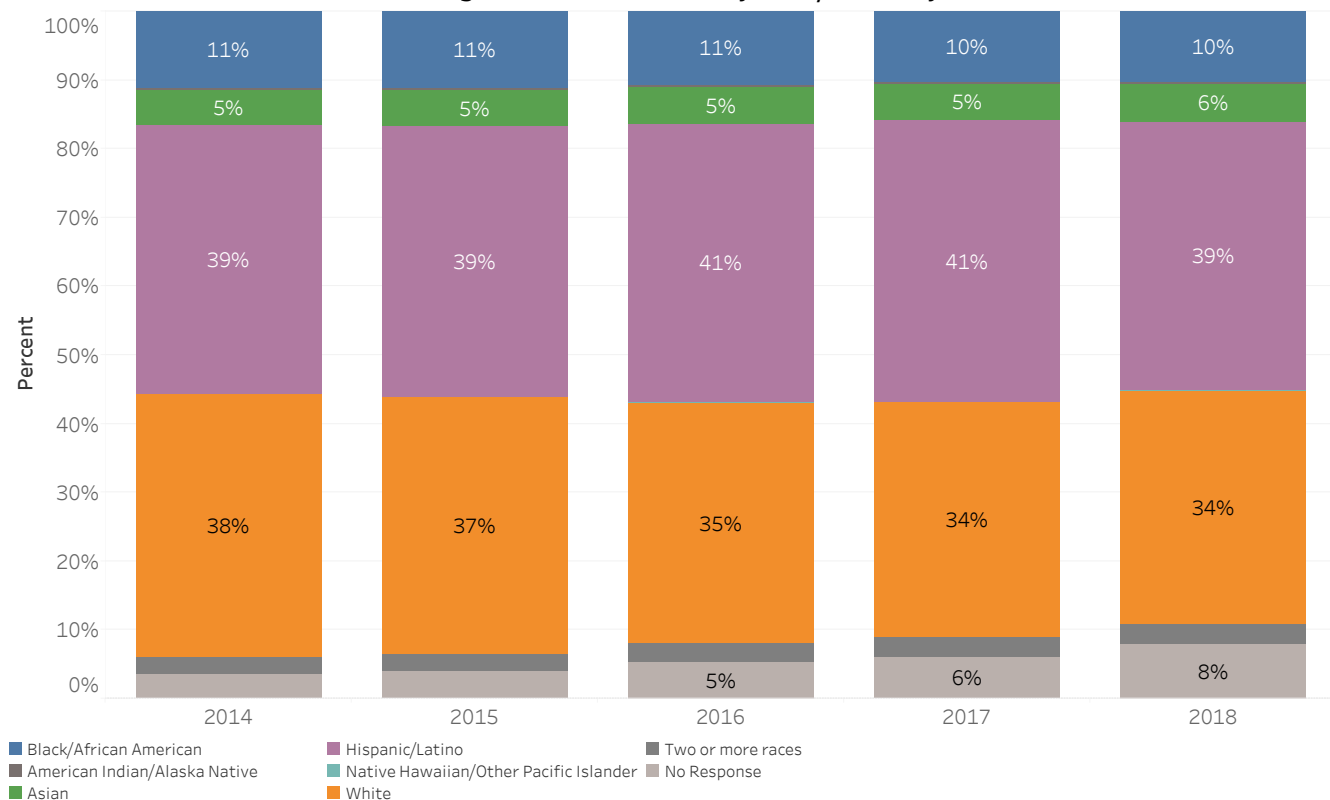
## Data from Graph Above

	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	33%	39%	31%	39%
2015	34%	40%	31%	40%
2016	36%	37%	34%	38%
2017	36%	37%	33%	39%
2018	37%	37%	35%	38%

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# TEXAS 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	11%	0%	5%	39%	0%	38%	3%	4%
2015	11%	0%	5%	39%	0%	37%	3%	4%
2016	11%	0%	5%	41%	0%	35%	3%	5%
2017	10%	0%	5%	41%	0%	34%	3%	6%
2018	10%	0%	6%	39%	0%	34%	3%	8%

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

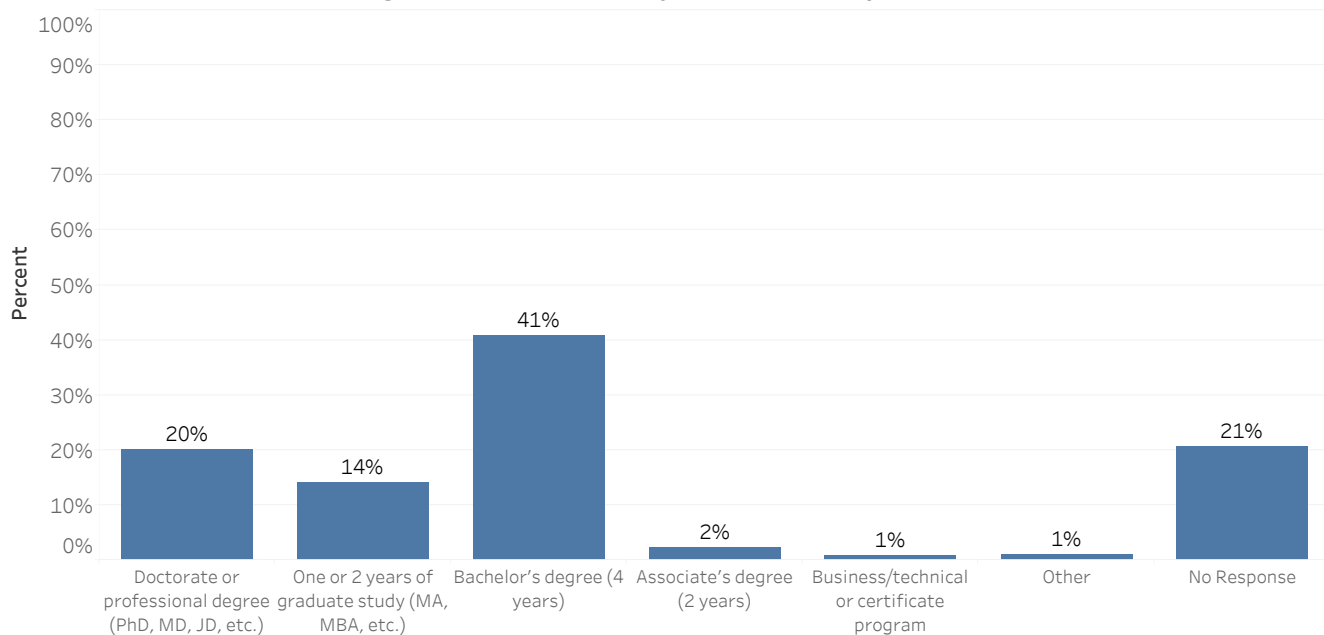
## Student Data Trends: 2014-2018, State vs. Nation

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State N-count	116,547	124,764	142,877	146,608	141,253
National N-count	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817
Average ACT English Score - State	19.8	19.8	19.4	19.5	19.6
Average ACT English Score - National	20.3	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Reading Score - State	21.1	21.1	21.0	21.1	21.1
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - State	21.4	21.1	20.7	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - State	21.0	21.0	20.7	20.9	20.8
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.8	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7
Average ACT Composite Score - State	20.9	20.9	20.6	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

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# TEXAS 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.)	20%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	14%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	41%
Associate's degree (2 years)	2%
Business/technical or certificate program	1%
Other	1%
No Response	21%

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