

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018

Virginia Key Findings

Performance

- What follows in this report specifically covers ACT-tested Virginia graduates only.
- In the 2018 Virginia graduating class, 21,645 graduates (24 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 23.9. This compares to 22,977 (28 percent) with an average of 22.8 in 2014. Nationally, 55% of 2018 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.8.
 - ~ There were 3,238 African American graduates from Virginia who took the ACT (15 percent) with an average Composite score of 18.9. This compares to 3,626 (14 percent) with an average of 19.0, and 3,969 (17 percent) with an average of 17.9, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 11,946 White graduates from Virginia who took the ACT (55 percent) with an average Composite score of 24.9. This compares to 14,207 (56 percent) with an average of 24.9, and 13,202 (57 percent) with an average of 24.0, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 1,760 Hispanic graduates from Virginia who took the ACT (8 percent) with an average Composite score of 22.6. This compares to 2,087 (8 percent) with an average of 22.4, and 1,652 (7 percent) with an average of 21.9, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 1,965 Asian graduates from Virginia who took the ACT (9 percent) with an average Composite score of 26.7. This compares to 2,189 (9 percent) with an average of 26.7, and 1,515 (7 percent) with an average of 25.0, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
- In 2018, 45 percent of Virginia graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 45 and 38 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 80 percent of Virginia graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 80 and 76 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 60 percent of Virginia graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 60 and 57 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 66 percent of Virginia graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 67 and 58 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 57 percent of Virginia graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 56 and 49 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- 67 percent of 2018 Virginia graduates were Proficient or Above Proficient in understanding complex texts.
- 33 percent of 2018 Virginia graduates were Below Proficient in understanding complex texts.

STEM

- In 2018, 11,993 Virginia graduates (55 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 Virginia graduating class average ACT STEM score of 23.7, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM averages of 23.6 and 22.8, respectively.
- Compared to 36 percent of 2018 Virginia graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 36 and 30, respectively.
 - ~ 2018 Virginia graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 29.1. This compares to 28.9 in 2014.
 - ~ 2018 Virginia graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 29.2. This compares to 28.4 in 2014.

Career Readiness

- In 2018, 9,867 Virginia graduates (46 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, 19,351 Virginia graduates (89 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.”

Impact

- Based on the actual test volume and ACT score distributions of 2018 ACT-tested Virginia 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:
 - ~ 44 more students enrolling in college.
 - ~ 52 more students persisting to year two.
 - ~ 32 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - ~ 55 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - ~ 60 more students persisting to year four.
 - ~ 66 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Virginia, 6,964 of the 2018 graduates (32.2%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 25.8, compared to an average of 23.1 for 14,681 of the 2018 graduates (67.8%) who took the ACT only once.
- 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.
- 30,373 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 Virginia ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ 15,604 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2018 Virginia ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ For Virginia’s 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were Virginia Tech, James Madison University, University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, and George Mason University.

- ~ For Virginia's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of South Carolina-Columbia, and North Carolina State University at Raleigh.
- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 65 percent of Virginia 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 4,735 ACT fee waivers to qualified Virginia students. However, 1,740 students (36.7 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

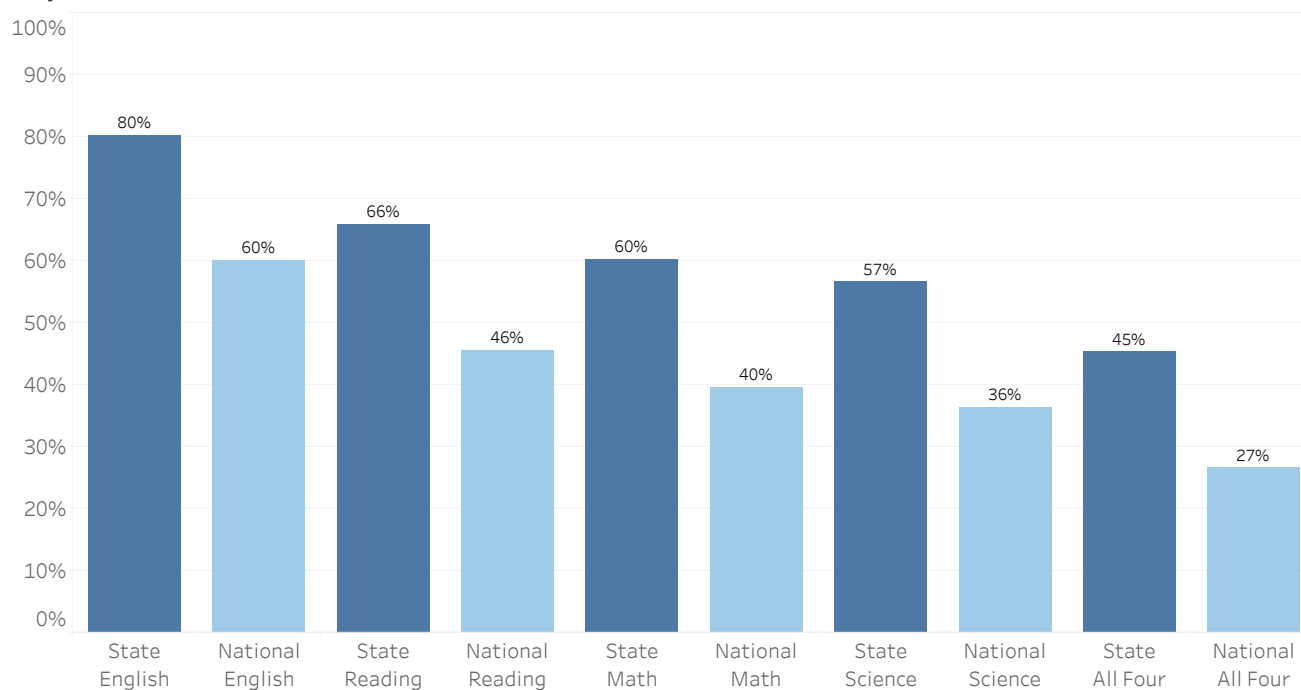
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - ~ 11,554 students (53 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 25.5.
 - ~ 7,785 students (36 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 21.9.
 - ~ 186 students (1 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 17.9.
- In the Virginia graduating class of 2018, 1,608 students (7 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2018 Virginia graduates were: Undecided; Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Biology, General; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); and Business Administration and Management, General.
 - ~ In the Virginia graduating class of 2018, 3,796 students (18 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 24.1. 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 Virginia graduating class of 2018, 701 (3 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 21.5.
- There is good news in that 90% of Virginia's 2018 ACT-tested graduates aspired to postsecondary education. Interestingly enough, 89% of Virginia's 2017 ACT-tested graduating class aspired to enroll in postsecondary education, compared to 86% who actually did enroll. If we fully closed the aspirational gap, an additional 806 of the 2017 ACT-tested graduates from Virginia would have enrolled in postsecondary education.

Additional Points

- The Virginia ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with more than 182 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. Special training is being planned for 2019 which will bring together professionals representing each of these areas, providing a unique and diverse professional development opportunity.
- According to the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the fastest-growing careers in Virginia requiring education beyond high school are: Occupational Therapy Assistants, Personal Finance Advisors, Nurse Practitioners.
- 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 Virginia Champions: Kathleen Dang (High School Senior), Christopher Lennon (K-12 Professional), and Miles Hunter (Postsecondary Professional).

VIRGINIA 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

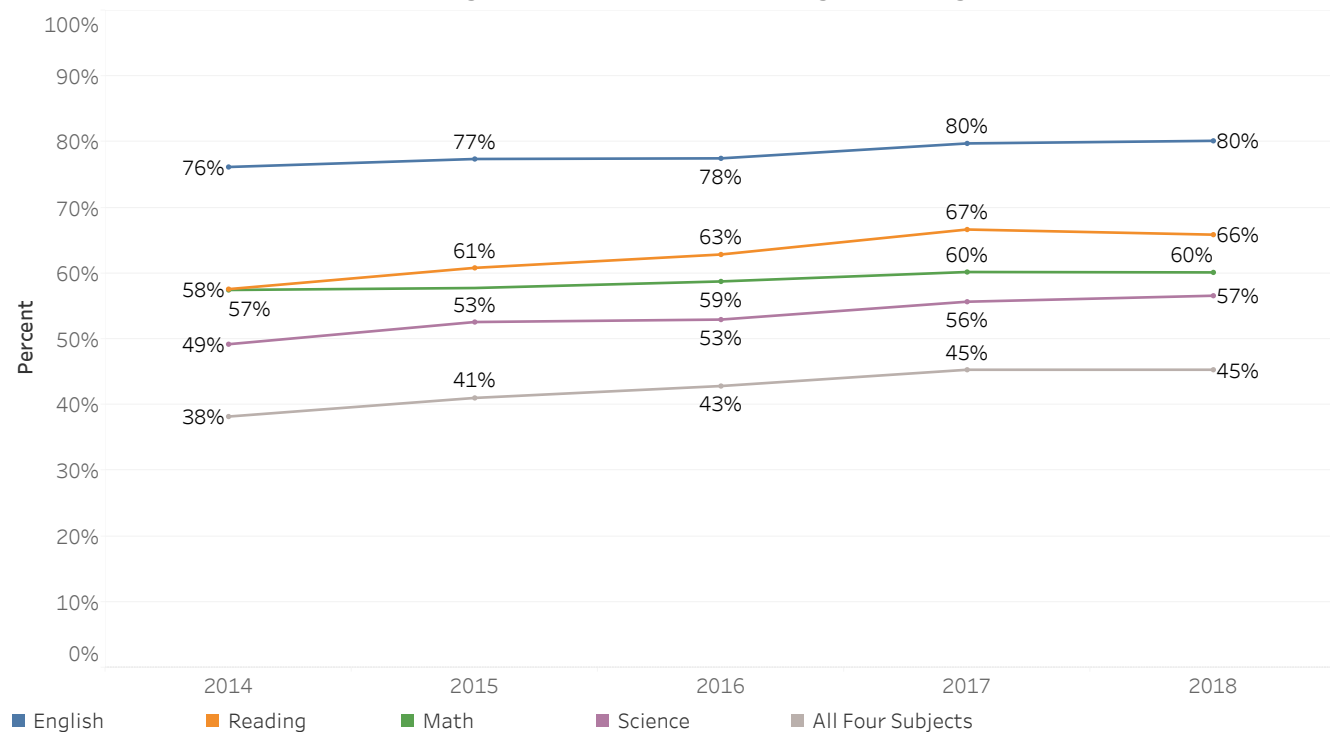
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
80%	60%	66%	46%	60%	40%	57%	36%	45%	27%

* 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.

VIRGINIA 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

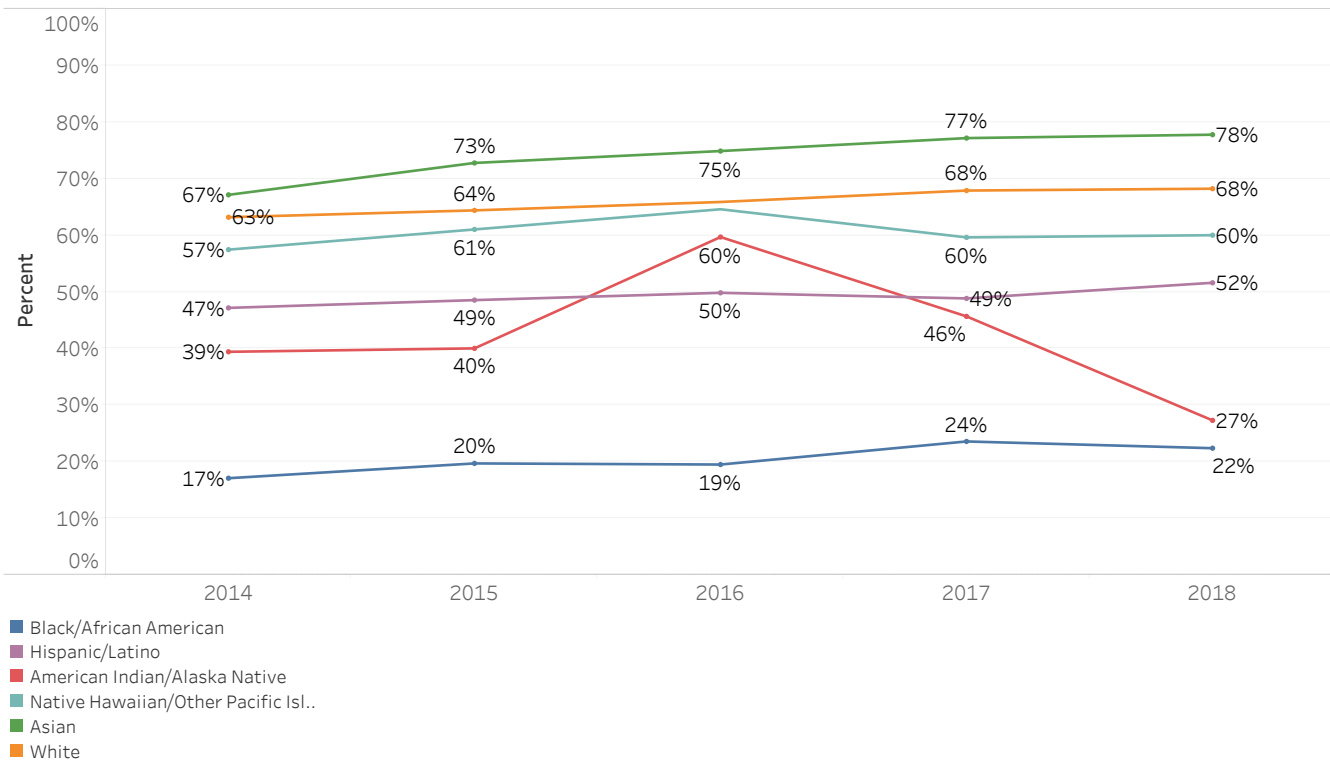
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2014	76%	58%	57%	49%	38%
2015	77%	61%	58%	53%	41%
2016	78%	63%	59%	53%	43%
2017	80%	67%	60%	56%	45%
2018	80%	66%	60%	57%	45%

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VIRGINIA 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



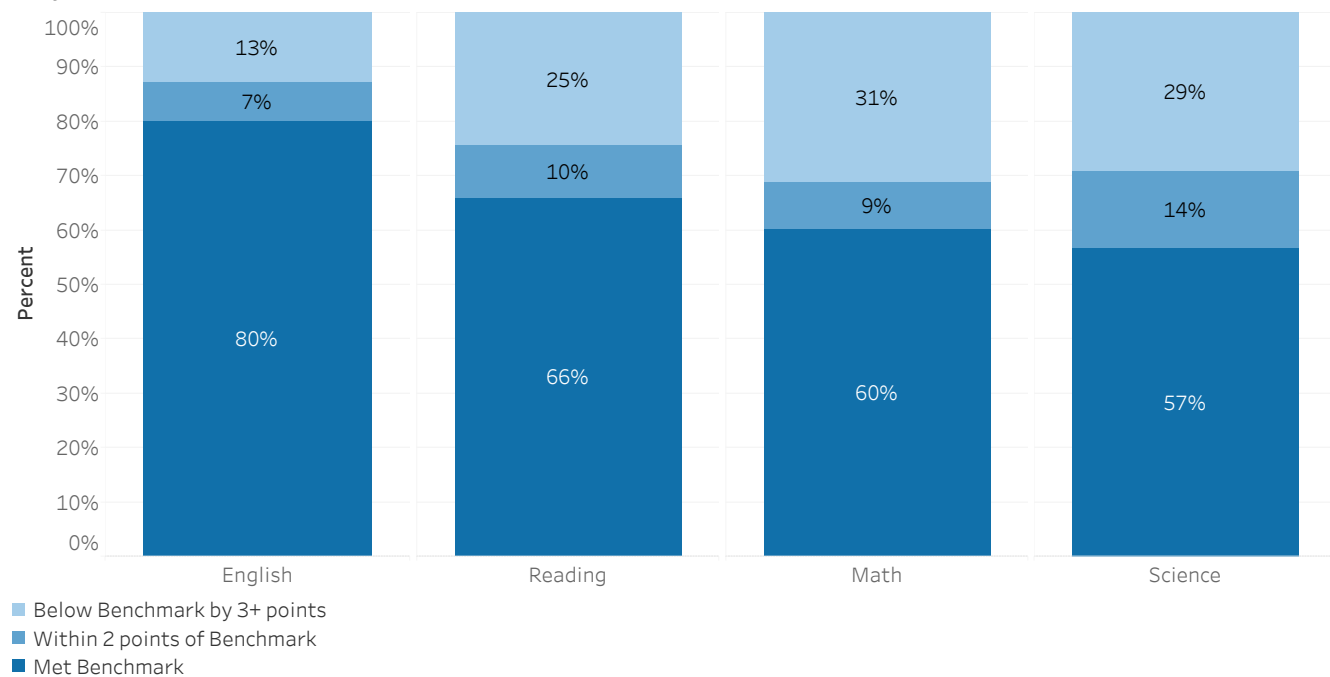
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2014	17%	47%	39%	57%	67%	63%
2015	20%	49%	40%	61%	73%	64%
2016	19%	50%	60%	65%	75%	66%
2017	24%	49%	46%	60%	77%	68%
2018	22%	52%	27%	60%	78%	68%

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VIRGINIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



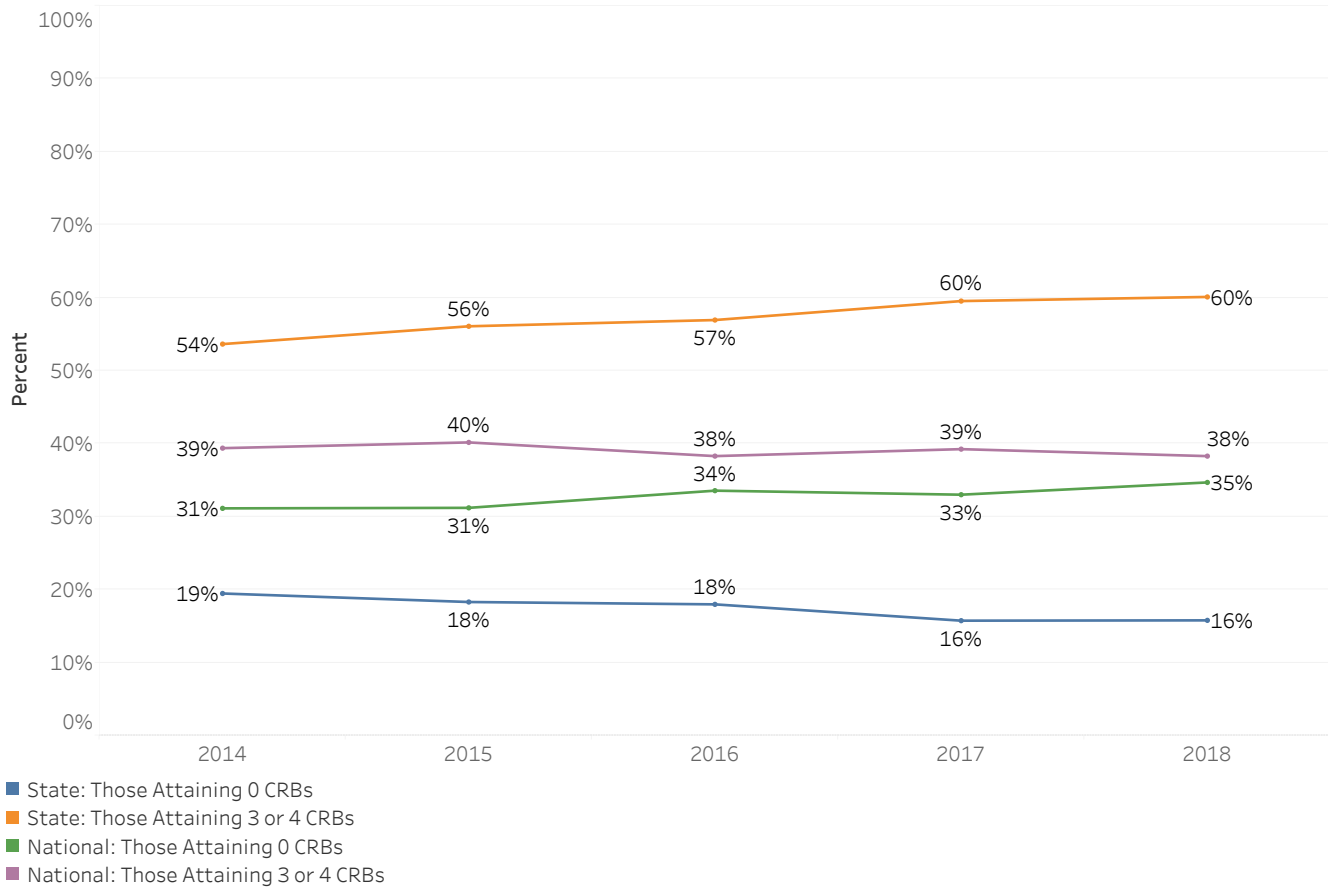
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	13%	7%	80%
Math	31%	9%	60%
Reading	25%	10%	66%
Science	29%	14%	57%

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VIRGINIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



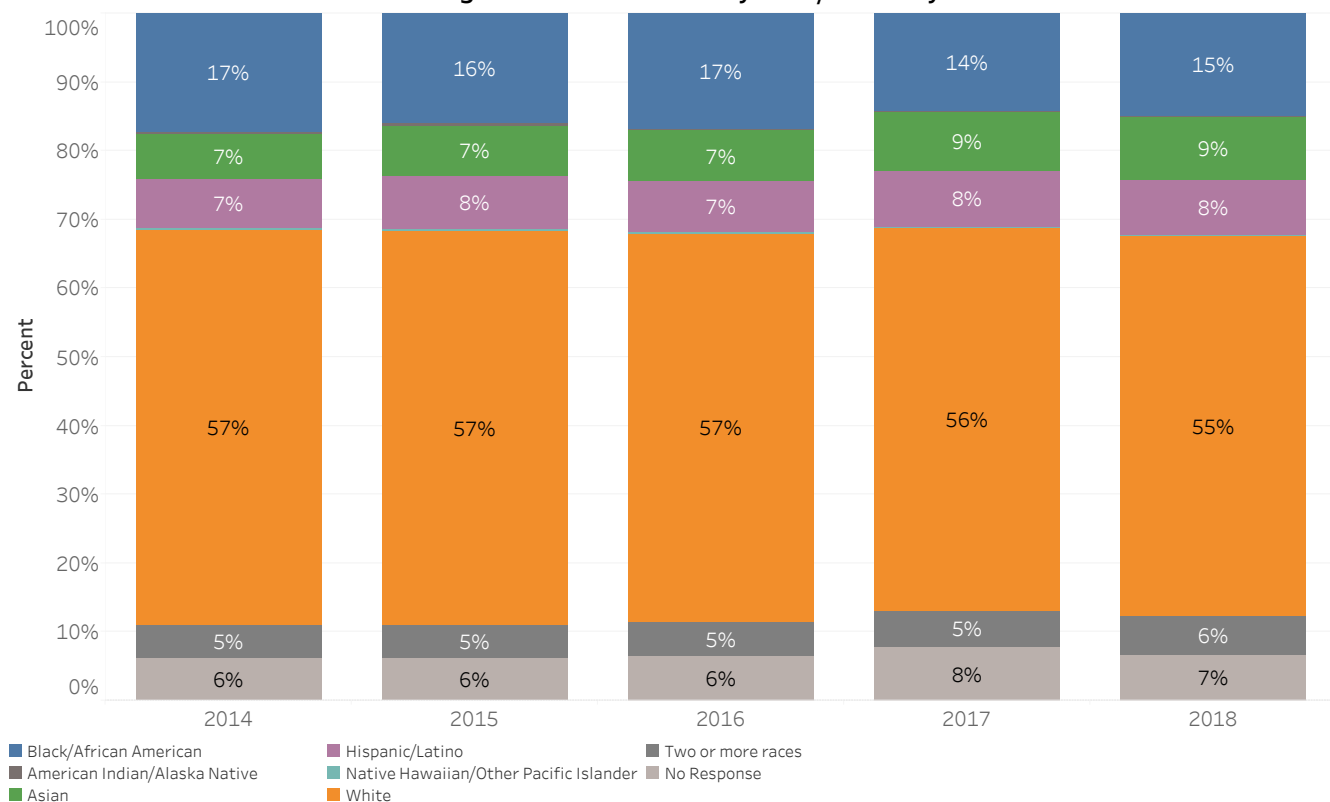
Data from Graph Above

	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	19%	54%	31%	39%
2015	18%	56%	31%	40%
2016	18%	57%	34%	38%
2017	16%	60%	33%	39%
2018	16%	60%	35%	38%

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VIRGINIA 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	17%	0%	7%	7%	0%	57%	5%	6%
2015	16%	0%	7%	8%	0%	57%	5%	6%
2016	17%	0%	7%	7%	0%	57%	5%	6%
2017	14%	0%	9%	8%	0%	56%	5%	8%
2018	15%	0%	9%	8%	0%	55%	6%	7%

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VIRGINIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

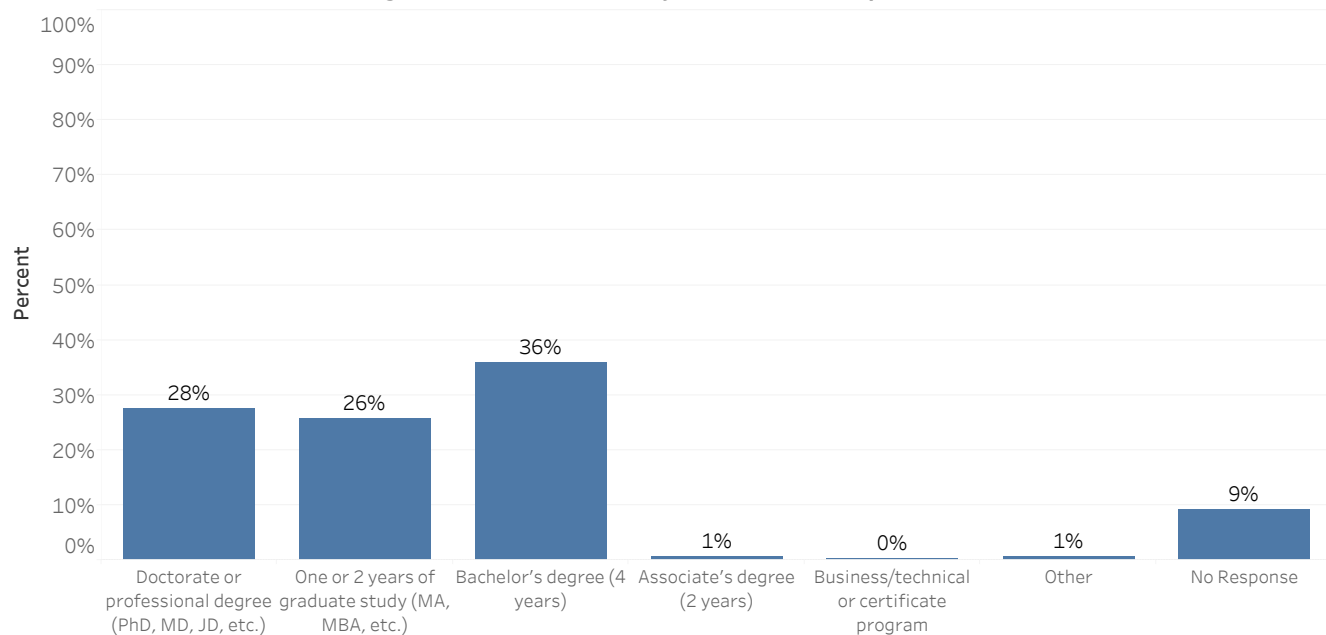
Student Data Trends: 2014-2018, State vs. Nation

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State N-count	22,977	25,038	25,866	25,518	21,645
National N-count	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817
Average ACT English Score - State	22.4	22.8	22.9	23.5	23.8
Average ACT English Score - National	20.3	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Reading Score - State	23.4	23.6	24.0	24.6	24.7
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - State	22.7	22.8	22.9	23.3	23.3
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - State	22.4	22.8	23.1	23.5	23.5
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.8	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7
Average ACT Composite Score - State	22.8	23.1	23.3	23.8	23.9
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

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VIRGINIA 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)	36%
Associate's degree (2 years)	1%
Business/technical or certificate program	0%
Other	1%
No Response	9%

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