

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018

Connecticut Key Findings

Performance

- In the 2018 Connecticut graduating class, 10,534 graduates (26 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 25.6. This compares to 12,044 (29 percent) with an average of 24.2 in 2014. Nationally, 55% of 2018 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.8.
 - ~ There were 458 African American graduates from Connecticut who took the ACT (4 percent) with an average Composite score of 20.6. This compares to 599 (5 percent) with an average of 20.0, and 614 (5 percent) with an average of 19.1, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 7,061 White graduates from Connecticut who took the ACT (67 percent) with an average Composite score of 25.9. This compares to 8,728 (68 percent) with an average of 25.6, and 8,496 (71 percent) with an average of 24.6, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 856 Hispanic graduates from Connecticut who took the ACT (8 percent) with an average Composite score of 23.0. This compares to 1,087 (8 percent) with an average of 23.0, and 937 (8 percent) with an average of 22.1, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 758 Asian graduates from Connecticut who took the ACT (7 percent) with an average Composite score of 27.8. This compares to 893 (7 percent) with an average of 27.0, and 694 (6 percent) with an average of 25.6, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
- The 2018 Connecticut graduating class average English score was 26.0. This compares to 25.5 and 24.2 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Connecticut graduating class average math score was 24.8. This compares to 24.6 and 24.1 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Connecticut graduating class average reading score was 26.1. This compares to 25.6 and 24.5 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Connecticut graduating class average science score was 24.9. This compares to 24.6 and 23.6 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- In 2018, 56 percent of Connecticut graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 54 and 48 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 8 percent of Connecticut graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 9 and 11 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 90 percent of Connecticut graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 88 and 86 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 71 percent of Connecticut graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 70 and 69 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 75 percent of Connecticut graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 74 and 65 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.

- ~ In 2018, 67 percent of Connecticut graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 64 and 59 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- In 2018, 7,471 (71 percent) of Connecticut graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 8,864 and 7,755 (69 and 64 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, 9 percent of Connecticut graduates took the ACT with extended time. This compares to 7 and 4 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- 75 percent of 2018 Connecticut graduates were Proficient or Above Proficient in understanding complex texts.
- With Connecticut adopting the SAT® test as its state assessment, there has been a decrease in the number of students testing with the ACT.

STEM

- In 2018, 5,044 Connecticut graduates (48 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 Connecticut graduating class average ACT STEM score of 25.1, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM averages of 24.9 and 24.1, respectively.
- Compared to 47 percent of 2018 Connecticut graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 46 and 40, respectively.
 - ~ 2018 Connecticut graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 29.4. This compares to 28.6 in 2014.
- 2018 Connecticut graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 29.5. This compares to 29.2 in 2014.

Career Readiness

- In 2018, 9,975 Connecticut graduates (95 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 Connecticut 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:
 - ~ 19 more students enrolling in college.
 - ~ 23 more students persisting to year two.
 - ~ 11 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - ~ 22 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - ~ 28 more students persisting to year four.
 - ~ 31 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Connecticut, 4,273 of the 2018 graduates (40.6%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 27.6, compared to an average of 24.2 for 6,261 of the 2018 graduates (59.4%) who took the ACT only once.
- 7,189 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 Connecticut ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ 1,376 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2018 Connecticut ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ For Connecticut's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were University of Connecticut, Central Connecticut State University, Northeastern University, Southern Connecticut State University, and Quinnipiac University.
- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 54 percent of Connecticut 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 892 ACT fee waivers to qualified Connecticut students. However, 273 students (30.6 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

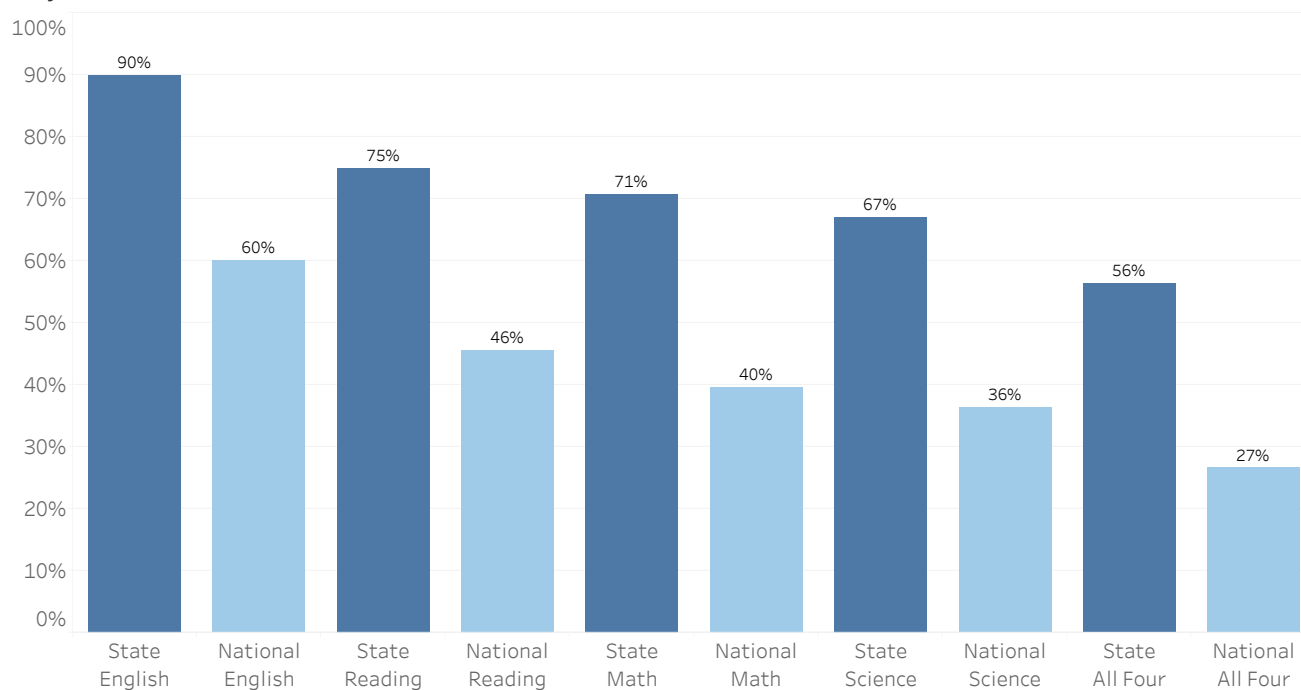
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - ~ 5,531 students (53 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 26.6.
 - ~ 3,287 students (31 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 23.8.
 - ~ 50 students (0 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 21.7.
- In the Connecticut graduating class of 2018, 478 students (5 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2018 Connecticut graduates were: Undecided; Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; Biology, General; and Nursing, Registered (BS/RN).
 - ~ In the Connecticut graduating class of 2018, 268 (3 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 22.6.
- There is good news in that 84% of Connecticut's 2018 ACT-tested graduates aspired to postsecondary education. Interestingly enough, 83% of Connecticut's 2017 ACT-tested graduating class aspired to enroll in postsecondary education, compared to 85% who actually did enroll. A positive note is that more 2017 Connecticut ACT-tested graduates enrolled in postsecondary education than initially aspired to do so.

Additional Points

- The Connecticut ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with more than 38 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.
- ACT will host two College and Career Readiness Workshops in Connecticut on September 24th, at the University of Hartford and October 29th at Quinnipiac University. This year's workshop theme is "Every Student, Every Step," preparing students for next steps in their education journey.
- 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 Connecticut Champions: Lisa Enaye (High School Senior), Elizabeth Lewtan (K-12 Professional), and Jesse Ray (Workforce Professional).

CONNECTICUT 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

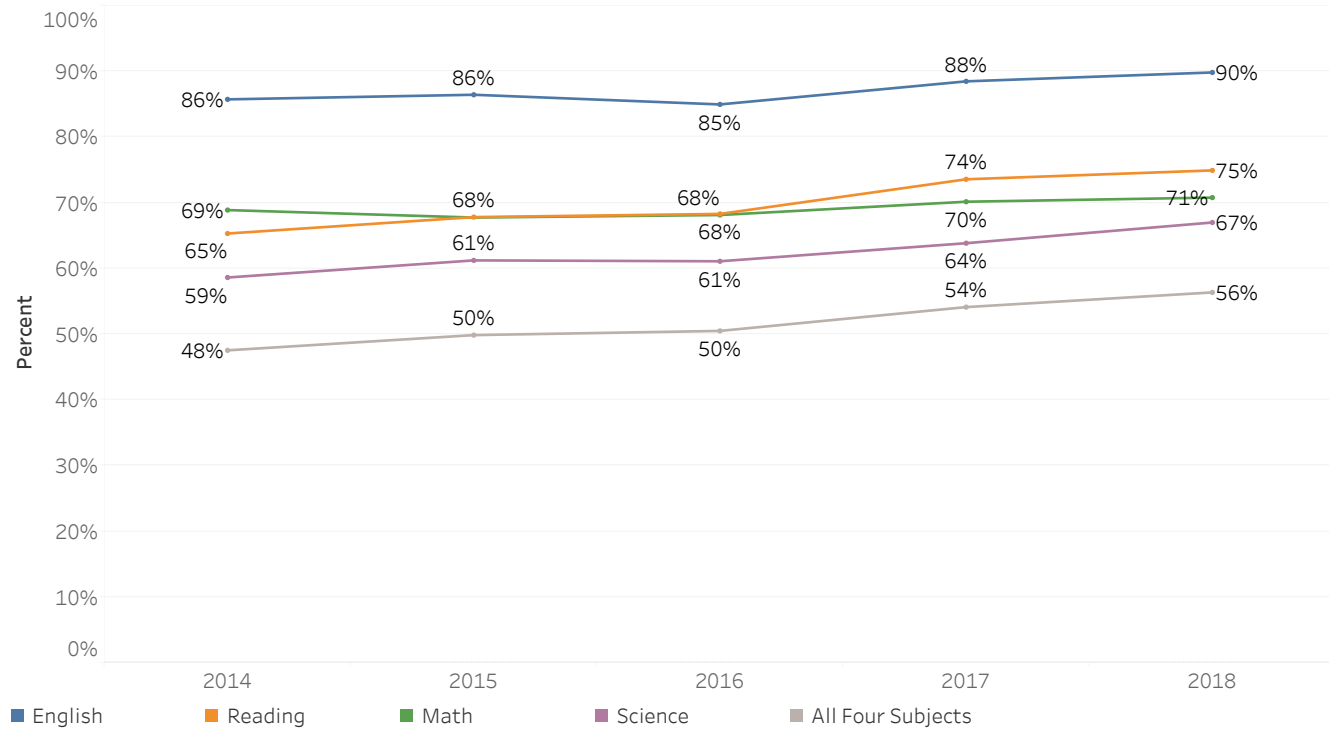
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
90%	60%	75%	46%	71%	40%	67%	36%	56%	27%

* 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.

CONNECTICUT 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

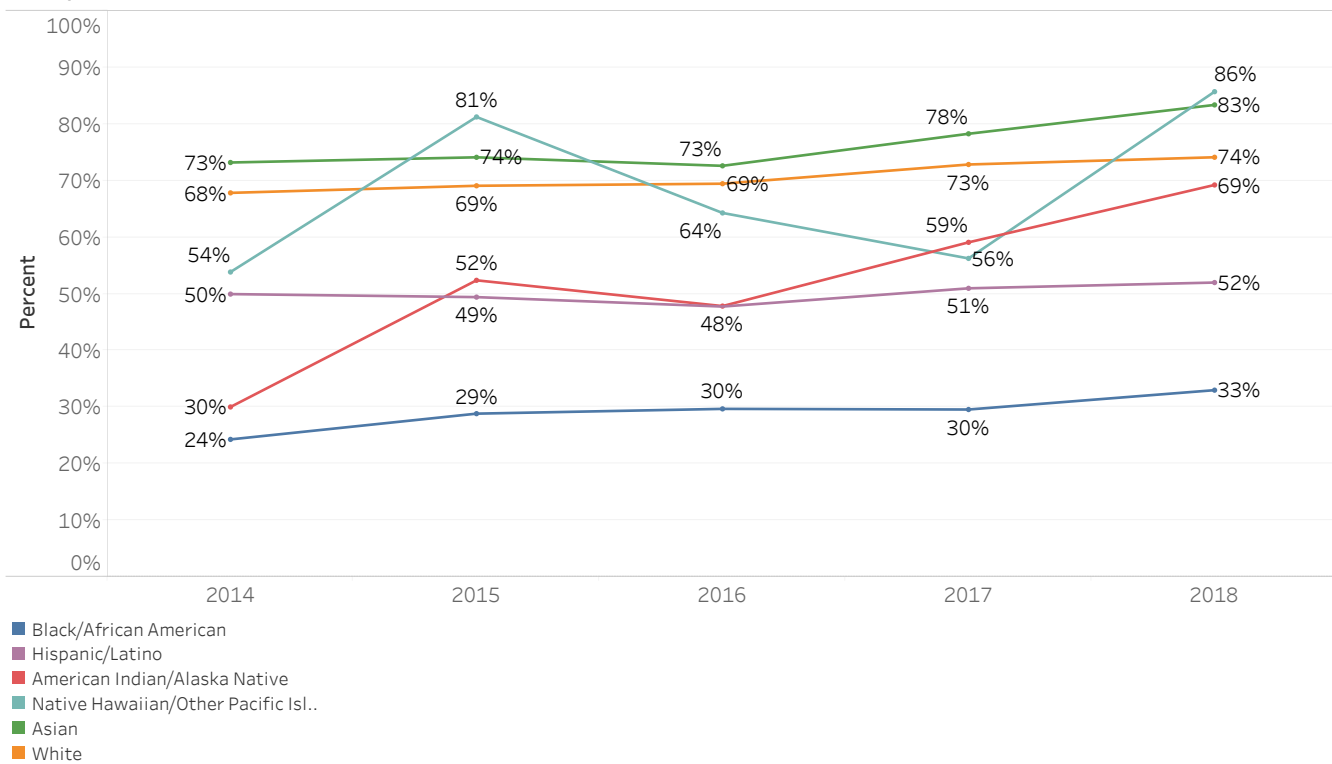
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2014	86%	65%	69%	59%	48%
2015	86%	68%	68%	61%	50%
2016	85%	68%	68%	61%	50%
2017	88%	74%	70%	64%	54%
2018	90%	75%	71%	67%	56%

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CONNECTICUT 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



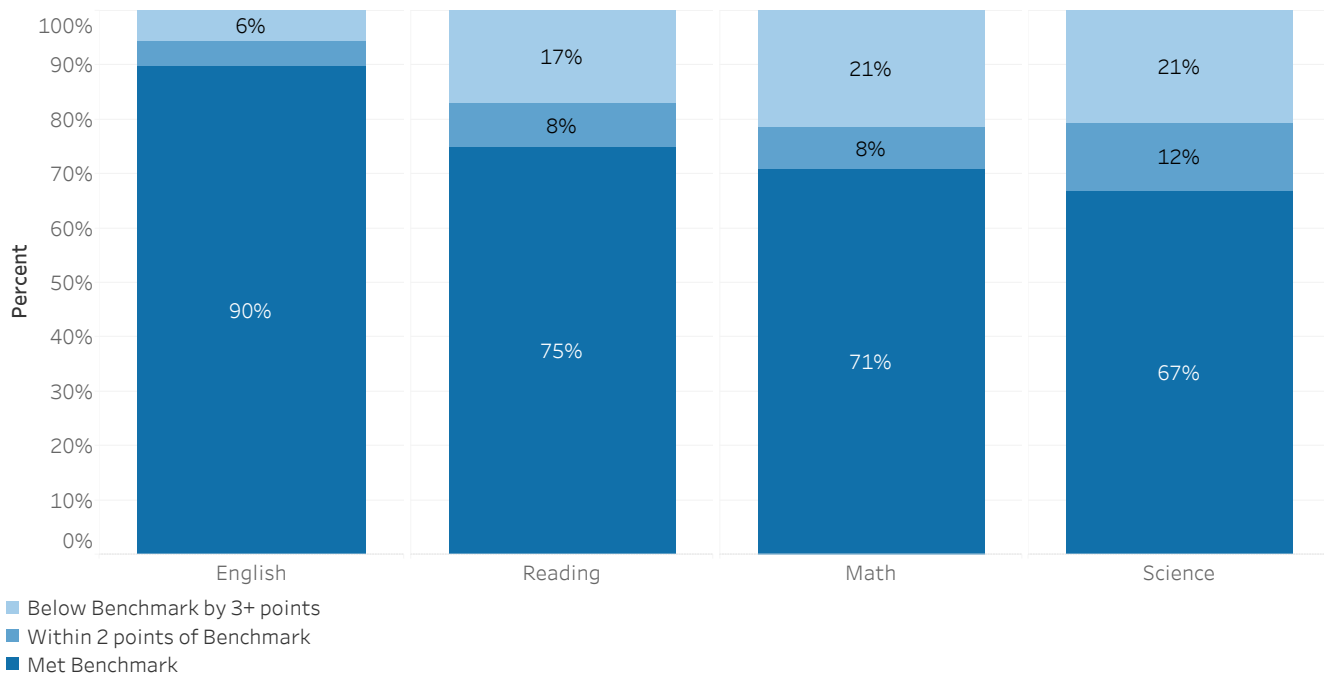
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2014	24%	50%	30%	54%	73%	68%
2015	29%	49%	52%	81%	74%	69%
2016	30%	48%	48%	64%	73%	69%
2017	30%	51%	59%	56%	78%	73%
2018	33%	52%	69%	86%	83%	74%

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CONNECTICUT College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



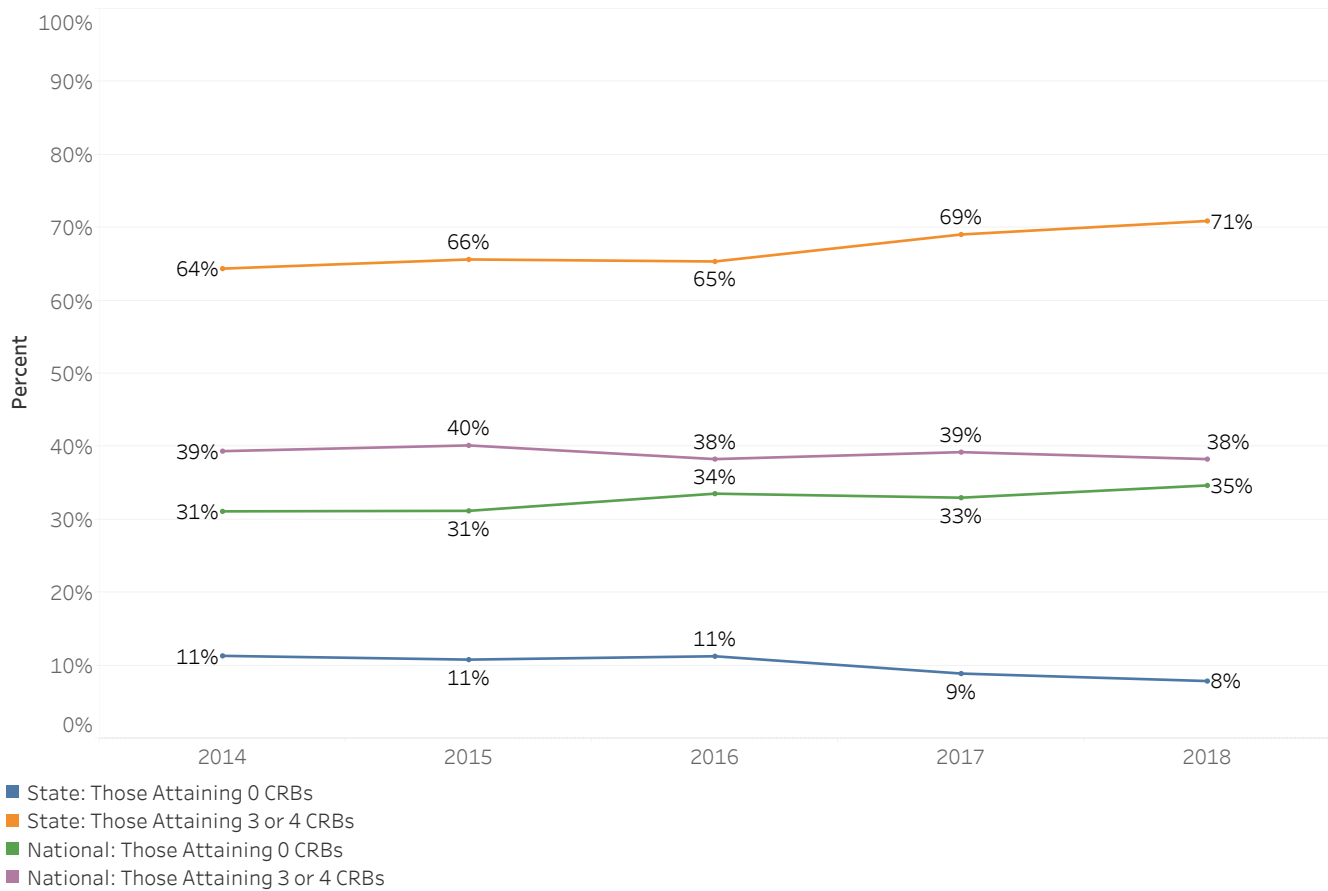
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	6%	4%	90%
Math	21%	8%	71%
Reading	17%	8%	75%
Science	21%	12%	67%

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CONNECTICUT College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



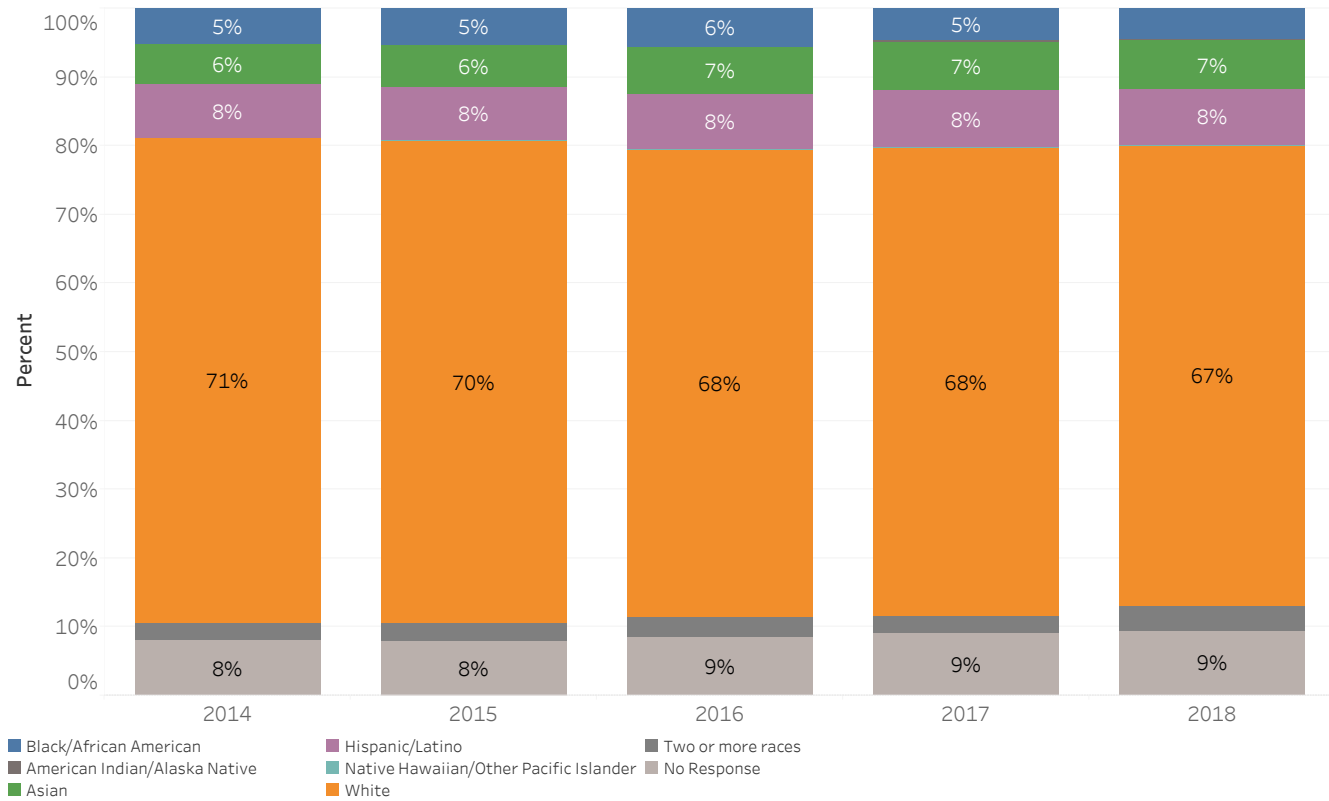
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	State: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	State: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs
2014	11%	64%	31%	39%
2015	11%	66%	31%	40%
2016	11%	65%	34%	38%
2017	9%	69%	33%	39%
2018	8%	71%	35%	38%

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CONNECTICUT 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	5%	0%	6%	8%	0%	71%	3%	8%
2015	5%	0%	6%	8%	0%	70%	3%	8%
2016	6%	0%	7%	8%	0%	68%	3%	9%
2017	5%	0%	7%	8%	0%	68%	3%	9%
2018	4%	0%	7%	8%	0%	67%	4%	9%

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CONNECTICUT College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

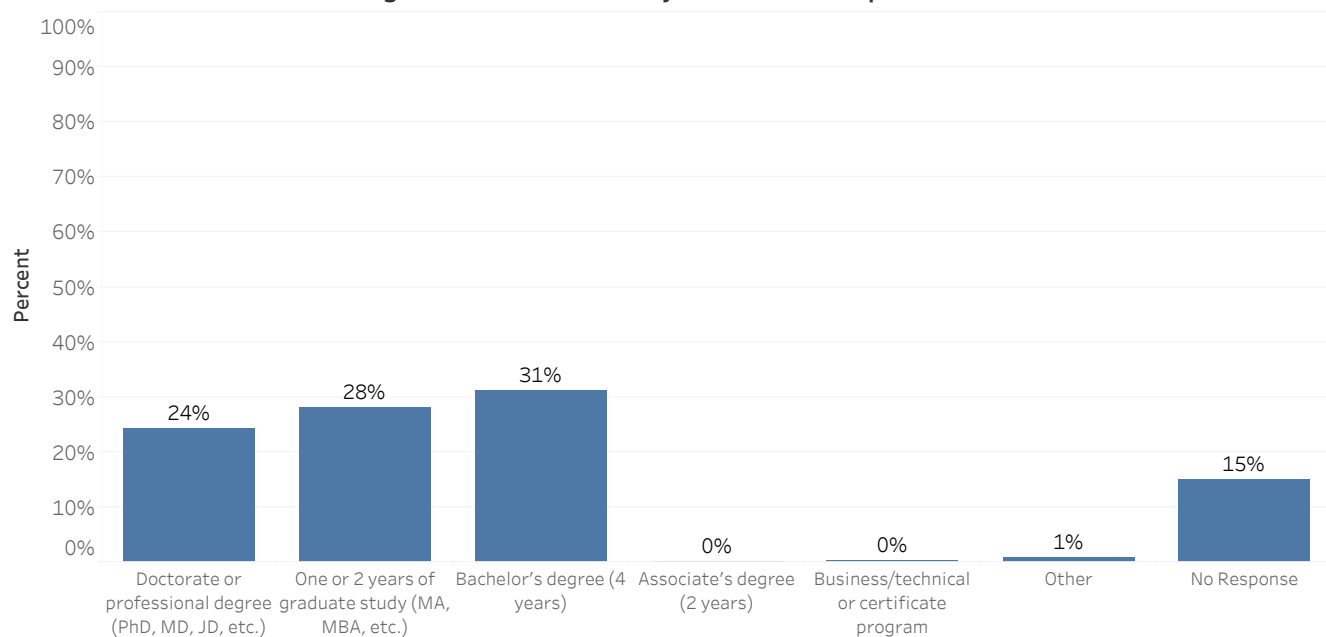
Student Data Trends: 2014-2018, State vs. Nation

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State N-count	12,044	13,175	13,880	12,834	10,534
National N-count	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817
Average ACT English Score - State	24.2	24.5	24.4	25.5	26.0
Average ACT English Score - National	20.3	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Reading Score - State	24.5	24.7	25.0	25.6	26.1
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - State	24.1	24.1	24.1	24.6	24.8
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - State	23.6	23.8	24.1	24.6	24.9
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.8	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7
Average ACT Composite Score - State	24.2	24.4	24.5	25.2	25.6
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

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CONNECTICUT 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.)	24%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	28%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	31%
Associate's degree (2 years)	0%
Business/technical or certificate program	0%
Other	1%
No Response	15%

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