

# The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018

## Iowa Key Findings

### Performance

- In the 2018 Iowa graduating class, 24,028 graduates (68 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 21.8. This compares to 22,931 (68 percent) with an average of 22.0 in 2014. Nationally, 55% of 2018 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.8.
  - ~ There were 734 African American graduates from Iowa who took the ACT (3 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.4. This compares to 787 (3 percent) with an average of 17.4, and 600 (3 percent) with an average of 17.4, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
  - ~ There were 18,565 White graduates from Iowa who took the ACT (77 percent) with an average Composite score of 22.4. This compares to 18,538 (80 percent) with an average of 22.4, and 18,475 (81 percent) with an average of 22.6, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
  - ~ There were 1,684 Hispanic graduates from Iowa who took the ACT (7 percent) with an average Composite score of 19.2. This compares to 1,652 (7 percent) with an average of 19.1, and 1,264 (6 percent) with an average of 19.5, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
  - ~ There were 708 Asian graduates from Iowa who took the ACT (3 percent) with an average Composite score of 22.5. This compares to 675 (3 percent) with an average of 22.0, and 567 (2 percent) with an average of 22.3, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
- In 2018, 30 percent of Iowa graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 31 and 31 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
  - ~ In 2018, 24 percent of Iowa graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 22 and 20 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
  - ~ In 2018, 10,926 (45 percent) of Iowa graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 10,730 and 10,892 (46 and 47 percent) out of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively. For reference, the national percentage of 2018 graduates meeting three or four benchmarks was 38%.
- 45 percent of 2018 Iowa graduates were Below Proficient in understanding complex texts.

## STEM

- In 2018, 11,670 Iowa graduates (49 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
  - ~ Nationally, 45 percent of graduates indicated having an interest in STEM.
- 2018 Iowa graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.6. This compares to 28.4 in 2014.
  - ~ In 2018, 12,568 Iowa graduates (52 percent) indicated taking physics. This compares to 53 and 51 percent for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
  - ~ 2018 graduates taking physics had an average science score of 23.5, compared to 21.0 for students not taking physics.
- 2018 Iowa graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 28.1. This compares to 28.1 in 2014.
  - ~ In 2018, 21,119 Iowa graduates (88 percent) indicated taking three or more years of math. This compares to 89 and 91 percent for 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
  - ~ 2018 graduates taking three or more years of math had an average math score of 21.7, compared to 16.6 for students taking less than three years of math.
  - ~ 49 percent of 2018 graduates taking three or more years of math met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 7 percent for students taking less than three years of math.

## Career Readiness

- In 2018, 6,794 Iowa graduates (28 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.
  - ~ 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 Iowa 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:
  - ~ 55 more students enrolling in college.
  - ~ 63 more students persisting to year two.
  - ~ 48 fewer students needing remedial English.
  - ~ 79 fewer students needing remedial math.
  - ~ 71 more students persisting to year four.
  - ~ 77 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

## Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Iowa, 12,843 of the 2018 graduates (53.5%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 23.3, compared to an average of 20.1 for 11,185 of the 2018 graduates (46.5%) who took the ACT only once.
  - ~ 14.5% of White students, 24.4% of Hispanic students, and 27.5% of African American students took their first and only test as a senior.
  - ~ For Hispanic students who tested at least twice, 78.6% first tested in their junior year and increased their score by 1.1 points and scored 3.2 points higher than 11th-grade Hispanic students who tested only once.
  - ~ For African American students who tested at least twice, 73.6 first tested in their junior year and increased their score by 0.8 points and scored 3.4 points higher than 11th-grade African American students who tested only once.
- 47,620 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 Iowa ACT-tested graduates.
  - ~ 25,705 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2018 Iowa ACT-tested graduates.
  - ~ For Iowa's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were Iowa State University, University of Iowa, University of Northern Iowa, Kirkwood Community College, and Des Moines Area Community College-Ankeny.
  - ~ For Iowa's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were South Dakota State University, University of South Dakota, and Northwest Missouri State University.
- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 67 percent of Iowa 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 3,892 ACT fee waivers to qualified Iowa students. However, 832 students (21.4 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.
  - ~ While African American Iowa students represent 14 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 18 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 31 and 33 nationally.
  - ~ While White Iowa students represent 47 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 42 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 19 and 17 nationally.
  - ~ While Hispanic Iowa students represent 24 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 25 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 35 and 36 nationally.

## Pipeline

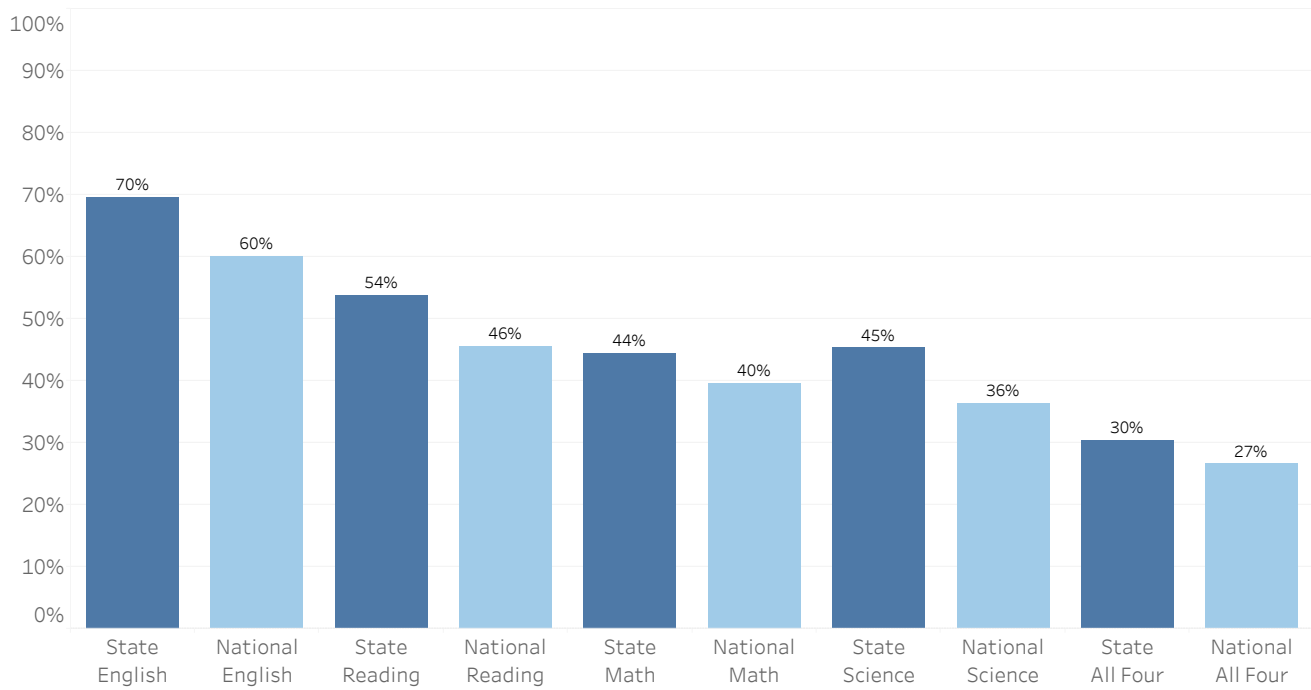
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
  - ~ 6,459 students (27 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 24.5.
  - ~ 13,368 students (56 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 21.5.
  - ~ 1,226 students (5 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 18.5.
- In the Iowa graduating class of 2018, 2,663 students (11 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2018 Iowa graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; and Elementary Education.
  - ~ In the Iowa graduating class of 2018, 4,528 students (19 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 22.4. 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.
- There is good news in that 88% of Iowa's 2018 ACT-tested graduates aspired to postsecondary education. Interestingly enough, 88% of Iowa's 2017 ACT-tested graduating class aspired to enroll in postsecondary education, compared to 78% who actually did enroll. If we fully closed the aspirational gap, an additional 2,322 of the 2017 ACT-tested graduates from Iowa would have enrolled in postsecondary education.

## Additional Points

- The Iowa ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with more than 320 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. Each year, ACT hosts a state conference that brings 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 Iowa requiring education beyond high school are: Occupational Therapy Assistants, Operations Research Analysts, and Information Security Analysts.

# IOWA 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

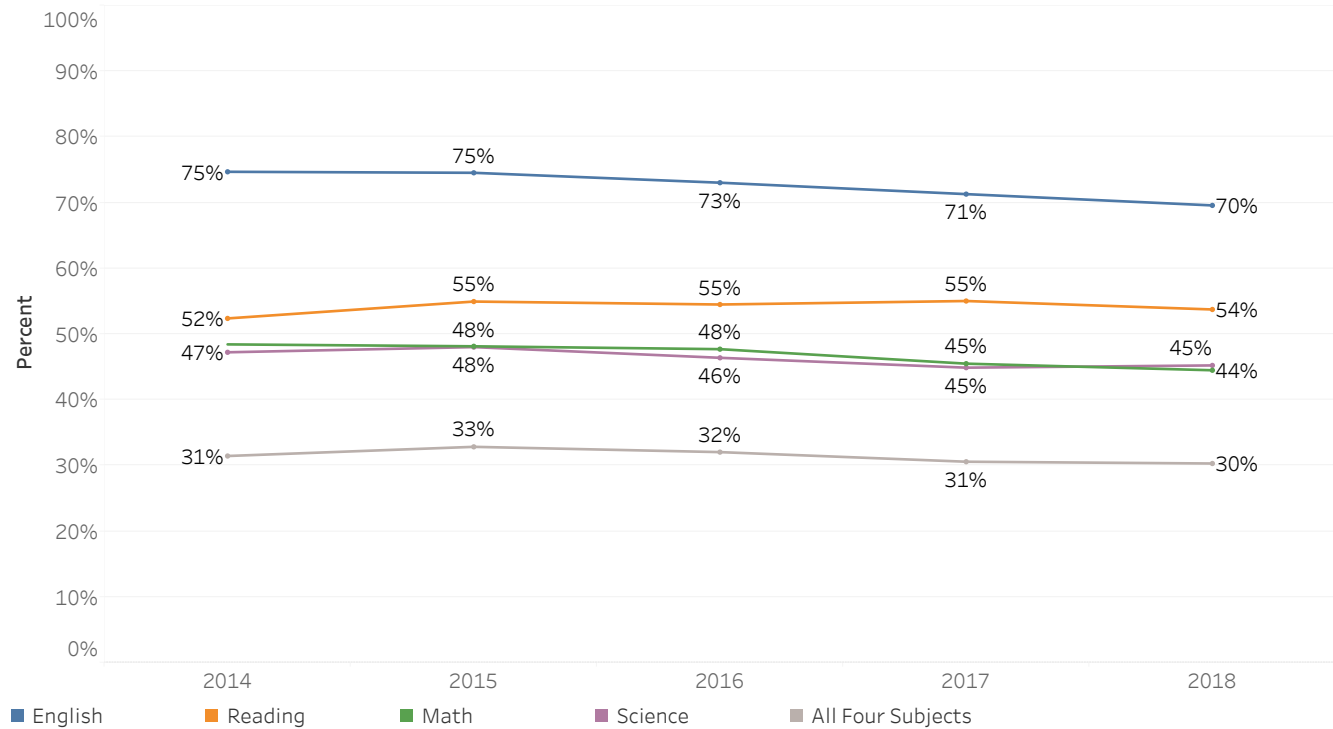
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
70%	60%	54%	46%	44%	40%	45%	36%	30%	27%

\* 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.

# IOWA 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

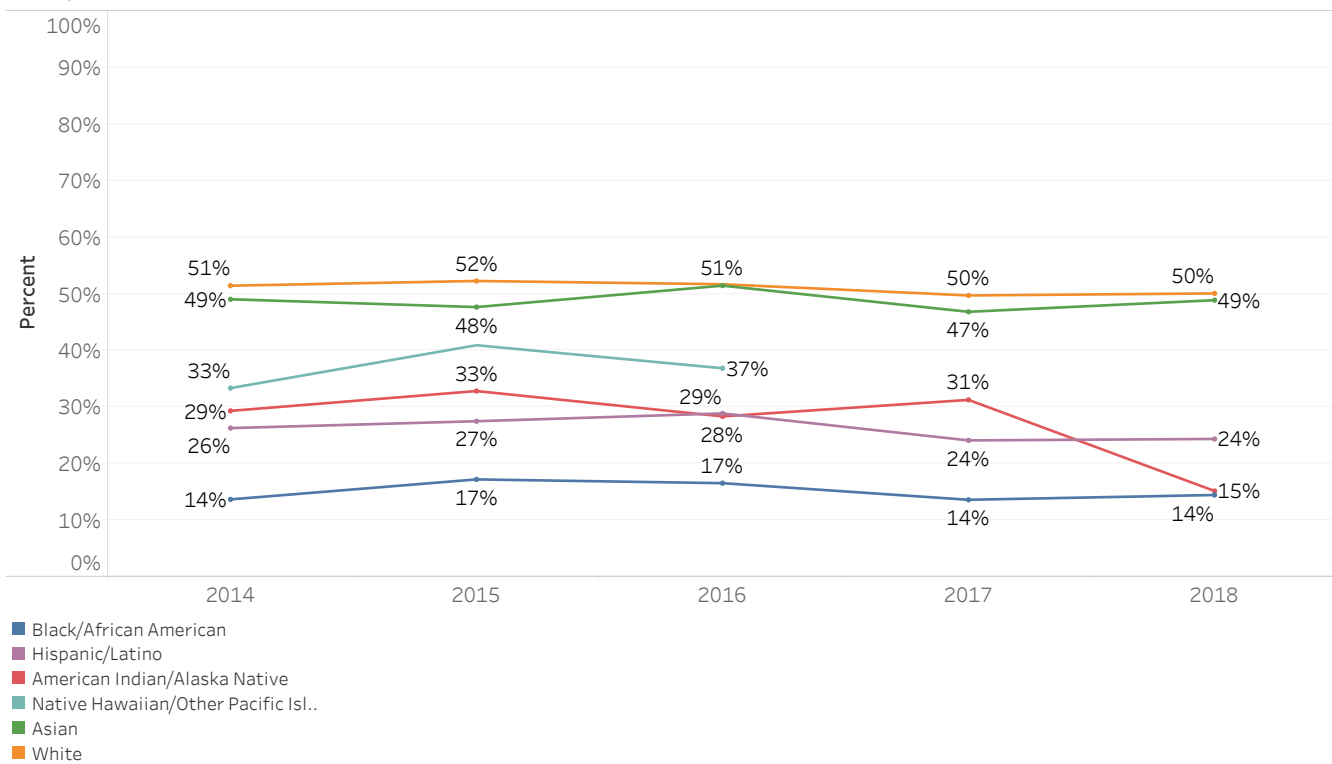
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2014	75%	52%	48%	47%	31%
2015	75%	55%	48%	48%	33%
2016	73%	55%	48%	46%	32%
2017	71%	55%	45%	45%	31%
2018	70%	54%	44%	45%	30%

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# IOWA 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



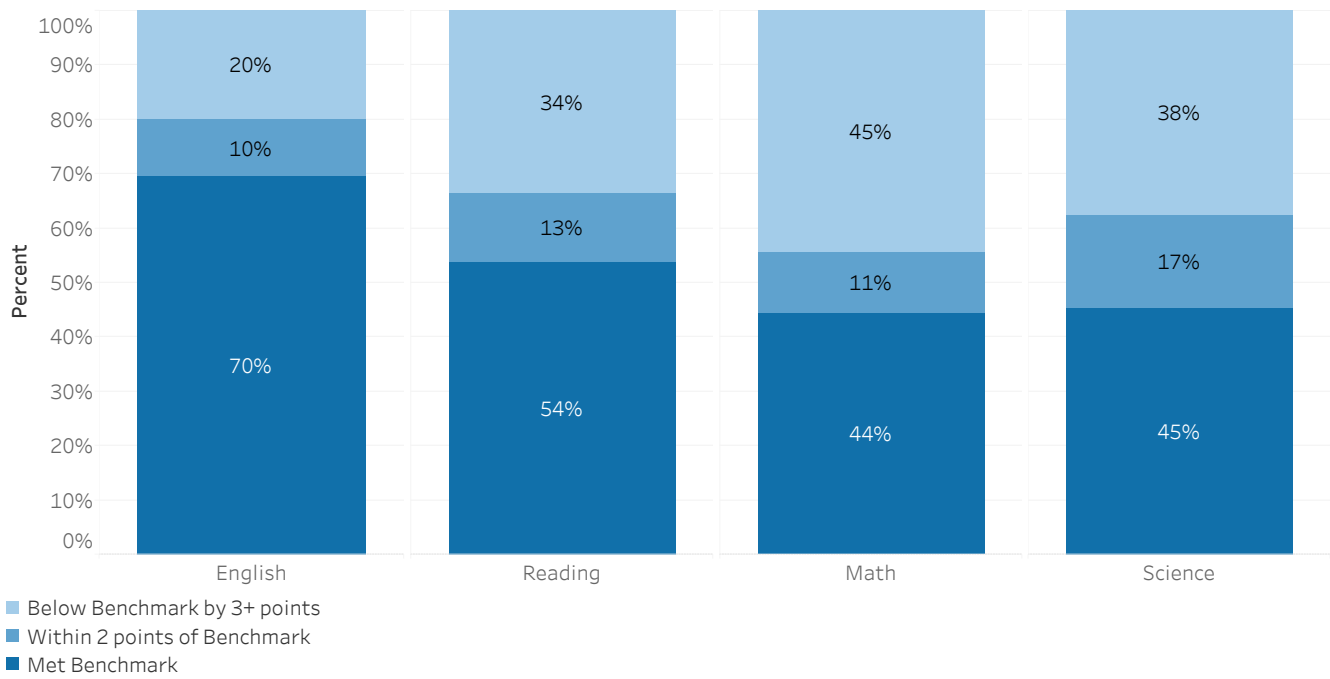
### Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2014	14%	26%	29%	33%	49%	51%
2015	17%	27%	33%	41%	48%	52%
2016	17%	29%	28%	37%	51%	52%
2017	14%	24%	31%	37%	47%	50%
2018	14%	24%	15%	37%	49%	50%

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# IOWA 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

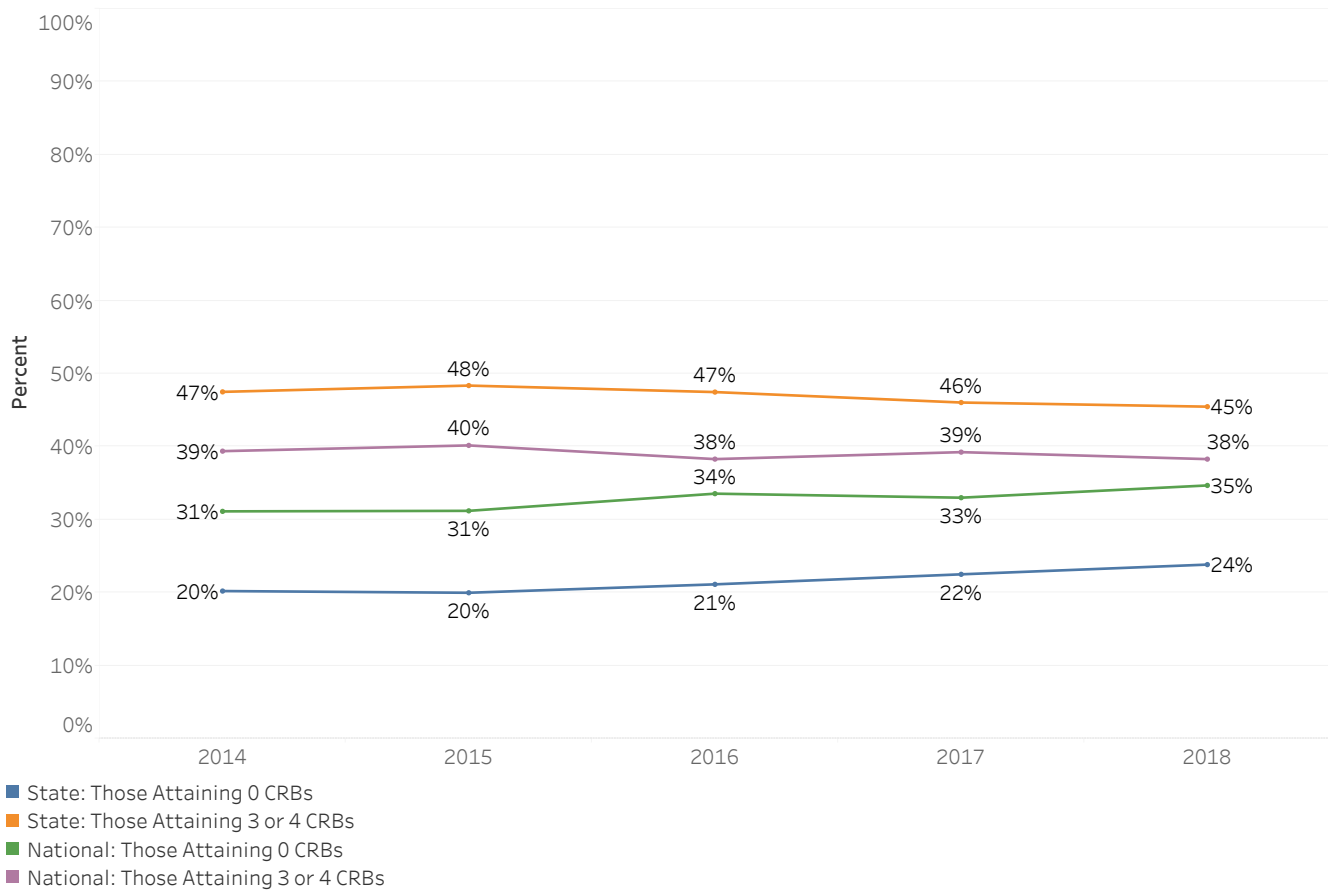
	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	20%	10%	70%
Math	45%	11%	44%
Reading	34%	13%	54%
Science	38%	17%	45%

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

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



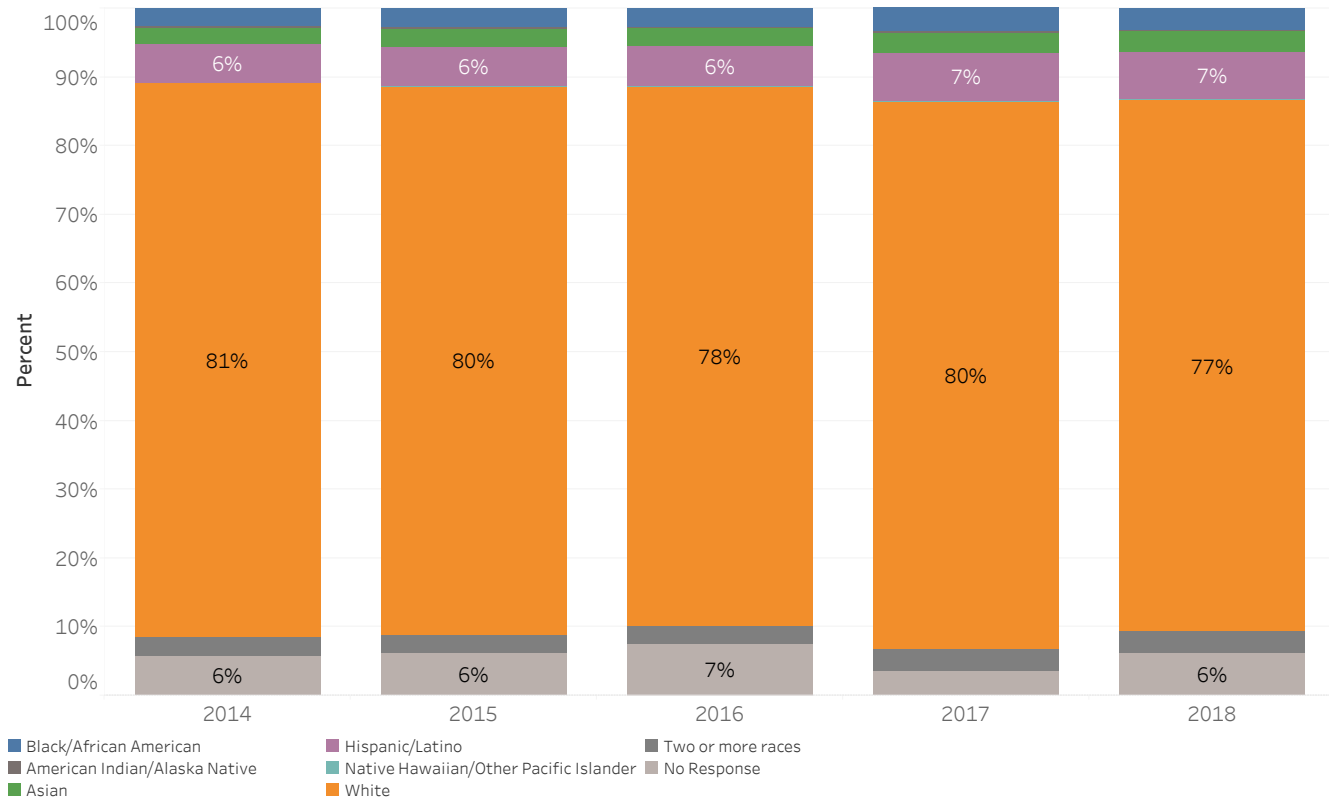
## Data from Graph Above

	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	20%	47%	31%	39%
2015	20%	48%	31%	40%
2016	21%	47%	34%	38%
2017	22%	46%	33%	39%
2018	24%	45%	35%	38%

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# IOWA 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	3%	0%	2%	6%	0%	81%	3%	6%
2015	3%	0%	3%	6%	0%	80%	3%	6%
2016	3%	0%	3%	6%	0%	78%	3%	7%
2017	3%	0%	3%	7%	0%	80%	3%	4%
2018	3%	0%	3%	7%	0%	77%	3%	6%

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

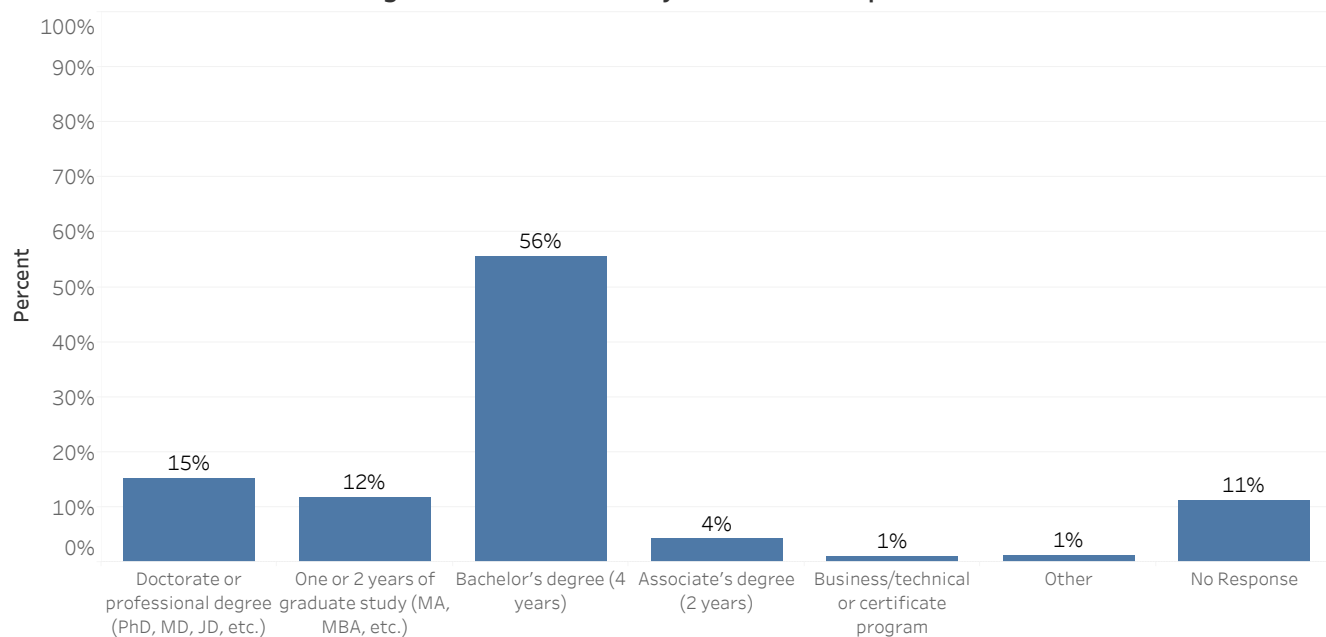
## Student Data Trends: 2014-2018, State vs. Nation

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State N-count	22,931	22,675	23,132	23,306	24,028
National N-count	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817
Average ACT English Score - State	21.5	21.6	21.4	21.2	21.0
Average ACT English Score - National	20.3	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Reading Score - State	22.5	22.7	22.7	22.6	22.5
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - State	21.4	21.5	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - State	22.2	22.3	22.3	22.1	22.0
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.8	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7
Average ACT Composite Score - State	22.0	22.2	22.1	21.9	21.8
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

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# IOWA 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.)	15%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	12%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	56%
Associate's degree (2 years)	4%
Business/technical or certificate program	1%
Other	1%
No Response	11%

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