

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018

Kentucky Key Findings

Performance

- In the 2018 Kentucky graduating class, 51,814 graduates (100 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 20.2. This compares to 48,845 (100 percent) with an average of 19.9 in 2014. Nationally, 55% of 2018 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.8.
 - ~ There were 4,195 African American graduates from Kentucky who took the ACT (8 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.0. This compares to 4,061 (8 percent) with an average of 17.0, and 3,896 (8 percent) with an average of 16.8, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 36,367 White graduates from Kentucky who took the ACT (70 percent) with an average Composite score of 20.9. This compares to 36,320 (71 percent) with an average of 20.7, and 36,156 (74 percent) with an average of 20.5, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 2,522 Hispanic graduates from Kentucky who took the ACT (5 percent) with an average Composite score of 18.7. This compares to 2,380 (5 percent) with an average of 18.9, and 1,788 (4 percent) with an average of 18.7, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 905 Asian graduates from Kentucky who took the ACT (2 percent) with an average Composite score of 22.9. This compares to 719 (1 percent) with an average of 22.2, and 620 (1 percent) with an average of 23.0, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
- The 2018 Kentucky graduating class average English score was 19.9. This compares to 19.6 and 19.4 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Kentucky graduating class average math score was 19.7. This compares to 19.4 and 19.4 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Kentucky graduating class average reading score was 20.8. This compares to 20.5 and 20.3 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Kentucky graduating class average science score was 20.1. This compares to 20.1 and 20.0 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- In 2018, 22 percent of Kentucky graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 20 and 19 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 36 percent of Kentucky graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 37 and 37 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 59 percent of Kentucky graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 58 and 59 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - 2018 Kentucky graduates taking more advanced English coursework demonstrated markedly higher average English scores than those who did not. In fact, 64 percent of Kentucky 2018 graduates taking four or more years of English met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 33 percent of students taking less than four years of English meeting the benchmark.
- In 2018, 17,358 (34 percent) of Kentucky graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 16,120 and 14,710 (31 and 30 percent) out of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively. For reference, the national percentage of 2018 graduates meeting three or four benchmarks was 38%.
- 44 percent of 2018 Kentucky graduates were Proficient or Above Proficient in understanding complex texts.

STEM

- In 2018, 24,311 Kentucky graduates (47 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
 - ~ Nationally, 45 percent of graduates indicated having an interest in STEM.
- 2018 Kentucky graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.6. This compares to 28.4 in 2014.
- Compared to a 2018 Kentucky graduating class average ACT STEM score of 20.1, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM averages of 20.0 and 19.9, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 20,991 Kentucky graduates (41 percent) indicated taking physics. This compares to 42 and 42 percent for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ 2018 graduates taking physics had an average science score of 21.4, compared to 19.5 for students not taking physics.
 - ~ 41 percent of 2018 Kentucky graduates taking physics met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 27 for students not taking physics.
- 2018 Kentucky graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 28.2. This compares to 28.0 in 2014.
 - ~ In 2018, 45,438 Kentucky graduates (88 percent) indicated taking three or more years of math. This compares to 90 and 93 percent for 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ 2018 graduates taking three or more years of math had an average math score of 20.0, compared to 16.2 for students taking less than three years of math.

Career Readiness

- In 2018, 10,983 Kentucky graduates (21 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, 37,057 Kentucky graduates (72 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 Kentucky 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:
 - ~ 128 more students enrolling in college.
 - ~ 143 more students persisting to year two.
 - ~ 104 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - ~ 180 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - ~ 153 more students persisting to year four.
 - ~ 162 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Kentucky, 27,744 of the 2018 graduates (53.5%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 22.4, compared to an average of 17.8 for 24,070 of the 2018 graduates (46.5%) 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.
- 138,360 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 Kentucky ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ 85,312 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2018 Kentucky ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ For Kentucky's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were University of Kentucky, University of Louisville, Western Kentucky University, Eastern Kentucky University, and Morehead State University.
 - ~ For Kentucky's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were University of Cincinnati, The Ohio State University, and Vanderbilt University.
- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 75 percent of Kentucky 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 14,699 ACT fee waivers to qualified Kentucky students. However, 4,255 students (28.9 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. Fee waivers represent a great opportunity for students of low socioeconomic status to retest without incurring any fees. Note: this is the number of fee waivers issued for the state, not specific to this graduating class.

Pipeline

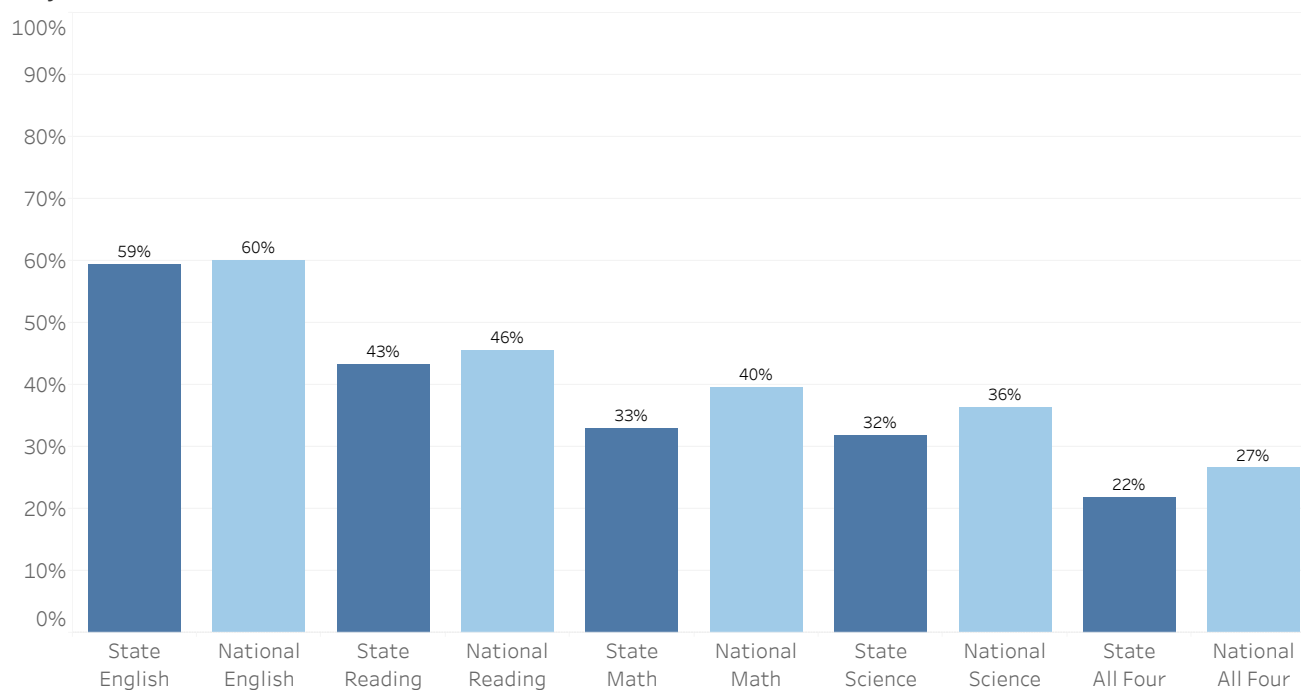
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - ~ 14,658 students (28 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 23.4.
 - ~ 21,495 students (41 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 20.3.
 - ~ 5,956 students (11 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 16.7.
- In the Kentucky graduating class of 2018, 12,437 students (24 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2018 Kentucky graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; and Biology, General.
 - ~ In the Kentucky graduating class of 2018, 2,472 (5 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 20.6.
- There is good news in that 81% of Kentucky's 2018 ACT-tested graduates aspired to postsecondary education. Interestingly enough, 84% of Kentucky's 2017 ACT-tested graduating class aspired to enroll in postsecondary education, compared to 53% who actually did enroll. If we fully closed the aspirational gap, an additional 16,221 of the 2017 ACT-tested graduates from Kentucky would have enrolled in postsecondary education.

Additional Points

- The Kentucky ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with more than 400 Kentucky 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.
- 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 Kentucky Champions: Jared Christian (High School Senior), Toni Danita Ellis (K-12 Professional), and Greater Owensboro FAME Chapter (Workforce Professional).

KENTUCKY 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

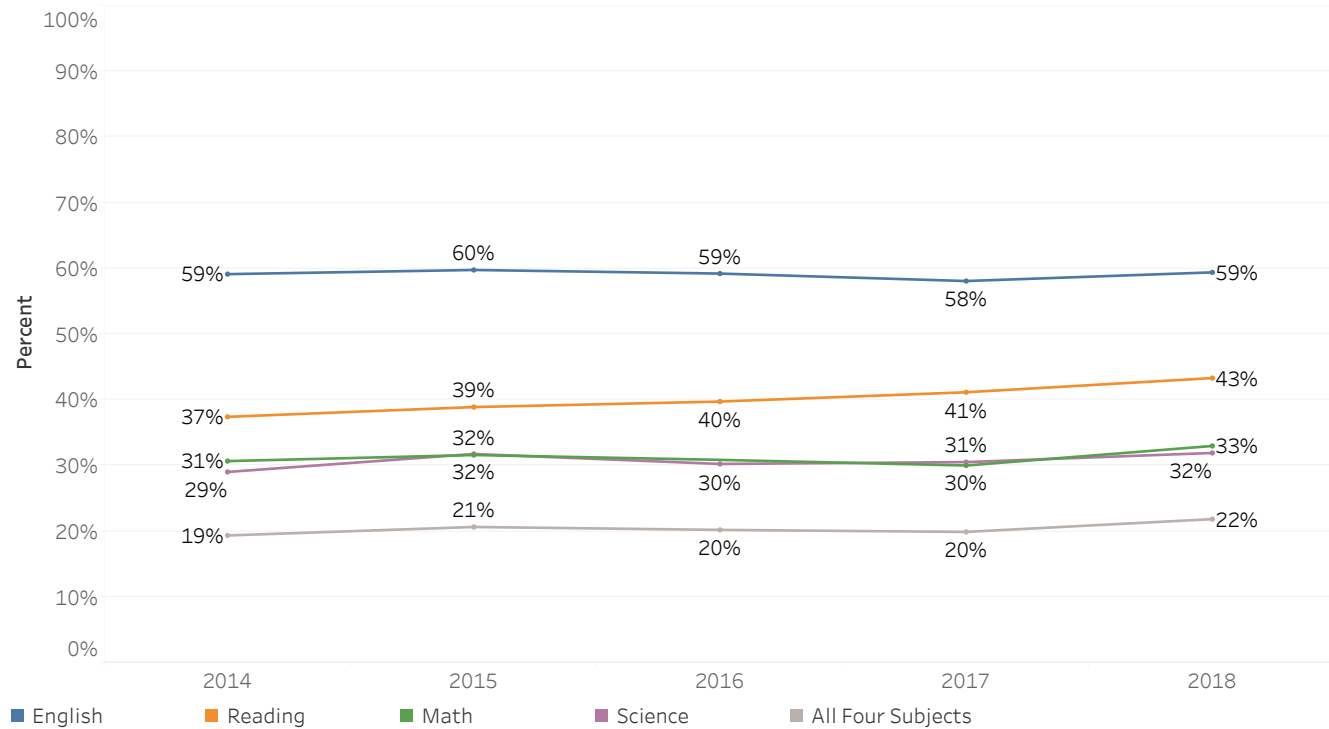
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
59%	60%	43%	46%	33%	40%	32%	36%	22%	27%

* 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.

KENTUCKY 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

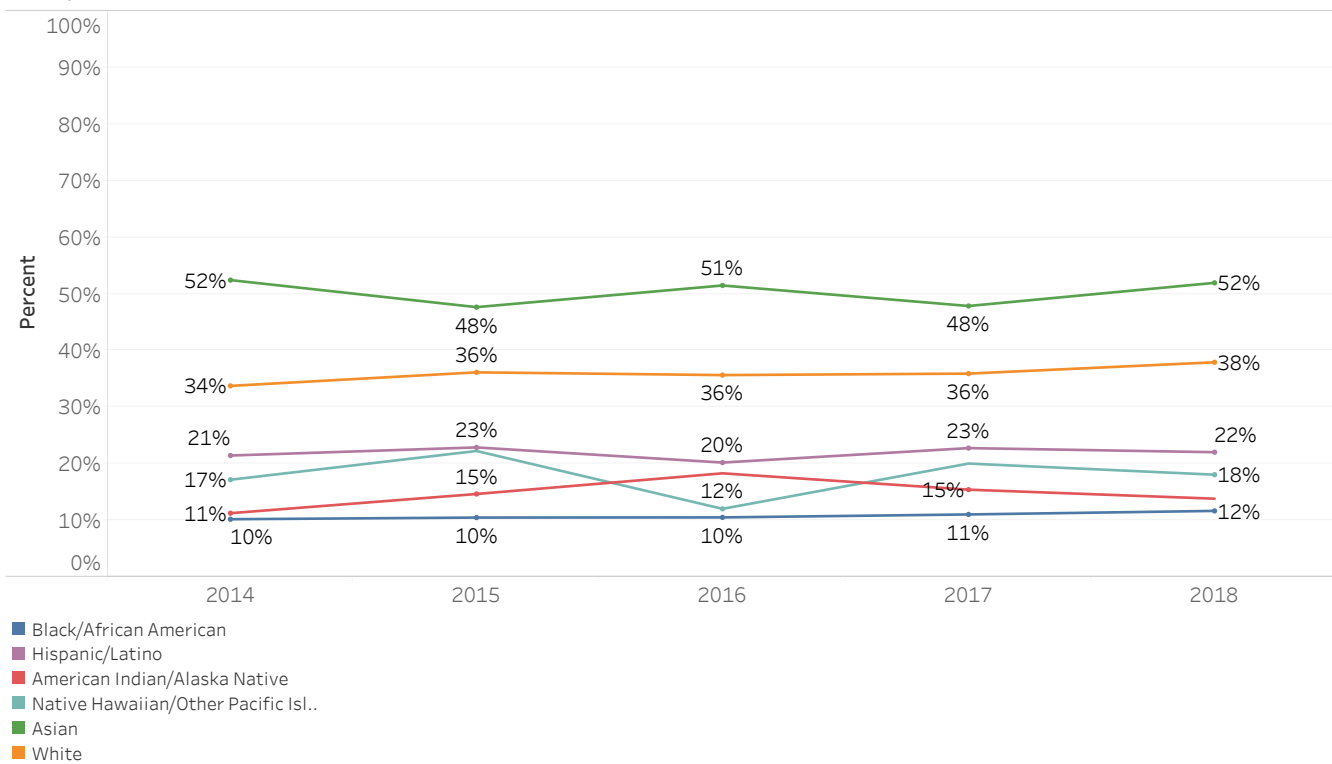
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2014	59%	37%	31%	29%	19%
2015	60%	39%	32%	32%	21%
2016	59%	40%	31%	30%	20%
2017	58%	41%	30%	31%	20%
2018	59%	43%	33%	32%	22%

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KENTUCKY 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



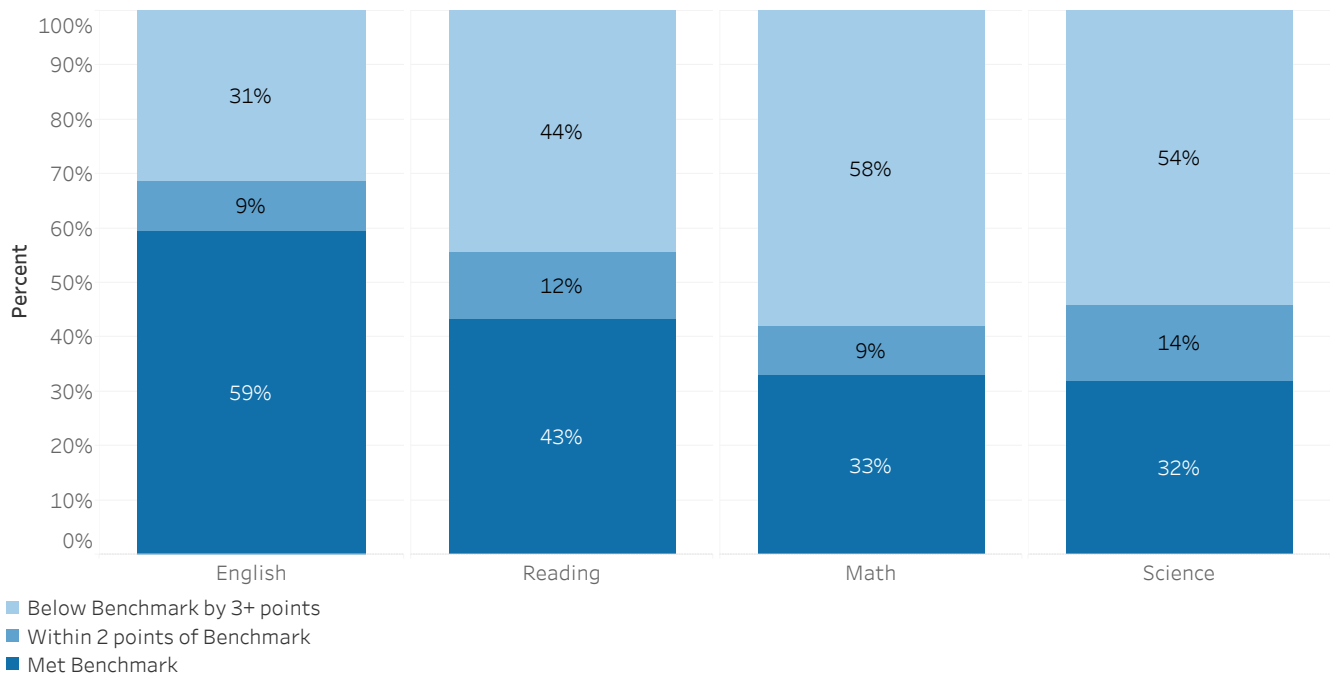
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2014	10%	21%	11%	17%	52%	34%
2015	10%	23%	15%	22%	48%	36%
2016	10%	20%	18%	12%	51%	36%
2017	11%	23%	15%	20%	48%	36%
2018	12%	22%	14%	18%	52%	38%

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KENTUCKY College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



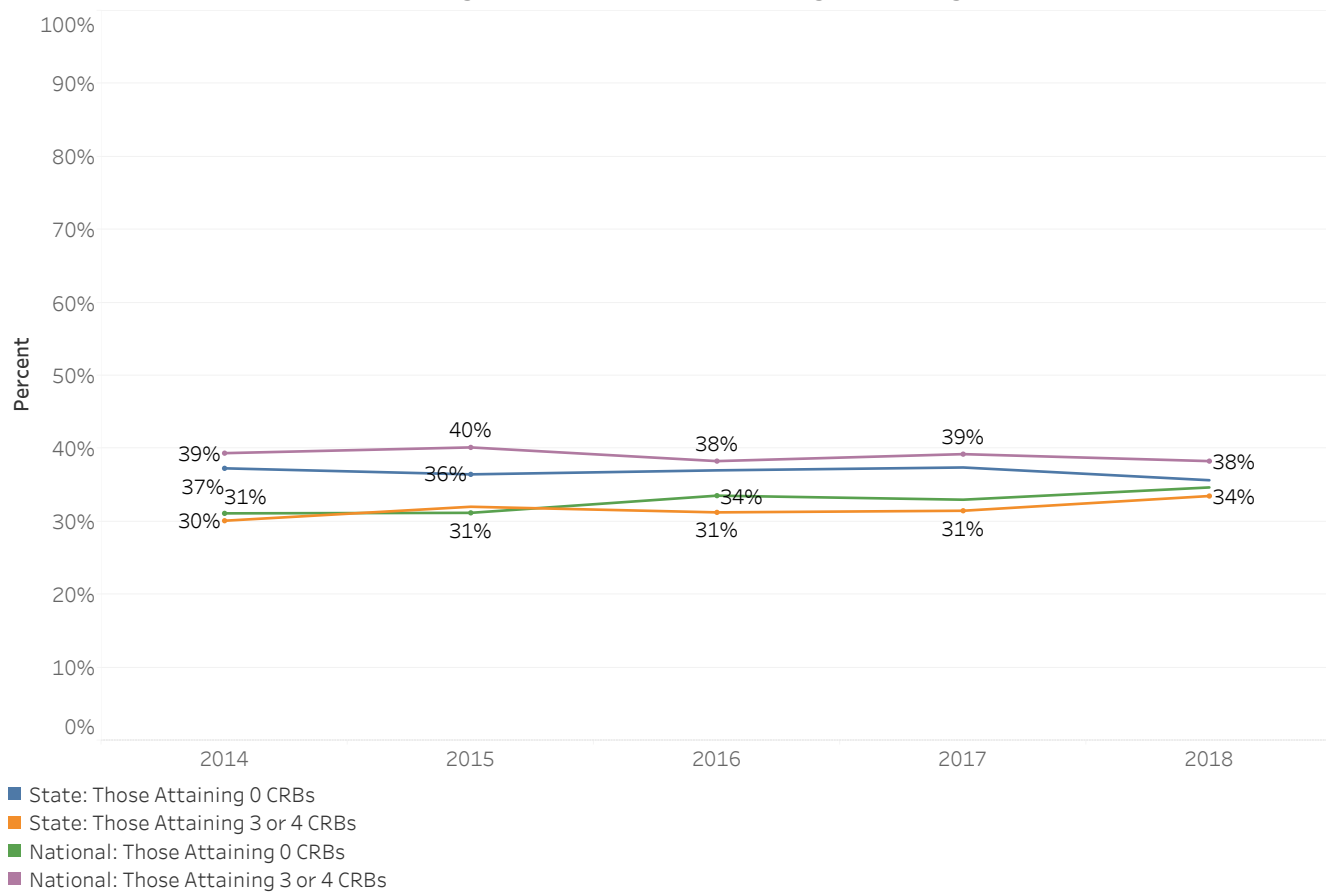
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	31%	9%	59%
Math	58%	9%	33%
Reading	44%	12%	43%
Science	54%	14%	32%

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KENTUCKY College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



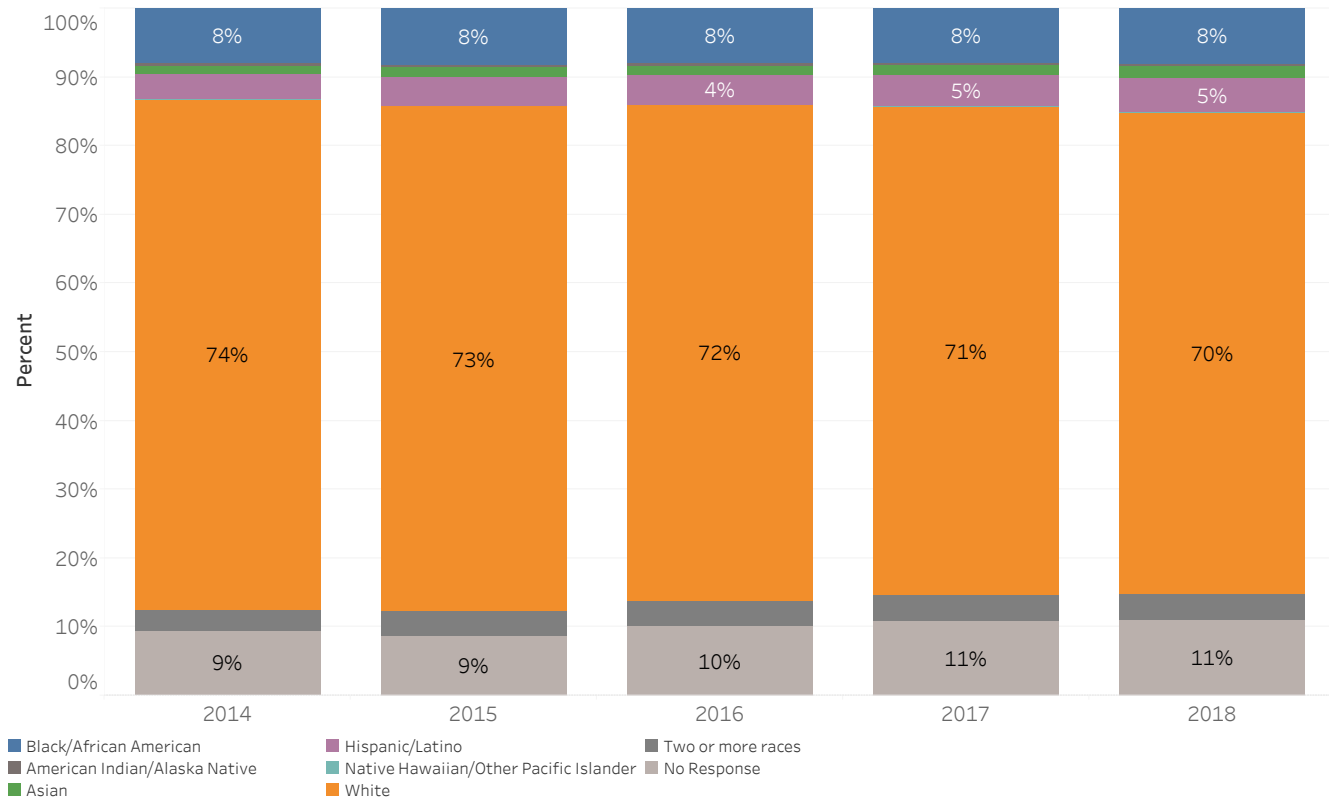
Data from Graph Above

	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	37%	30%	31%	39%
2015	36%	32%	31%	40%
2016	37%	31%	34%	38%
2017	37%	31%	33%	39%
2018	36%	34%	35%	38%

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KENTUCKY 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	8%	0%	1%	4%	0%	74%	3%	9%
2015	8%	0%	1%	4%	0%	73%	4%	9%
2016	8%	0%	1%	4%	0%	72%	4%	10%
2017	8%	0%	1%	5%	0%	71%	4%	11%
2018	8%	0%	2%	5%	0%	70%	4%	11%

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KENTUCKY College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

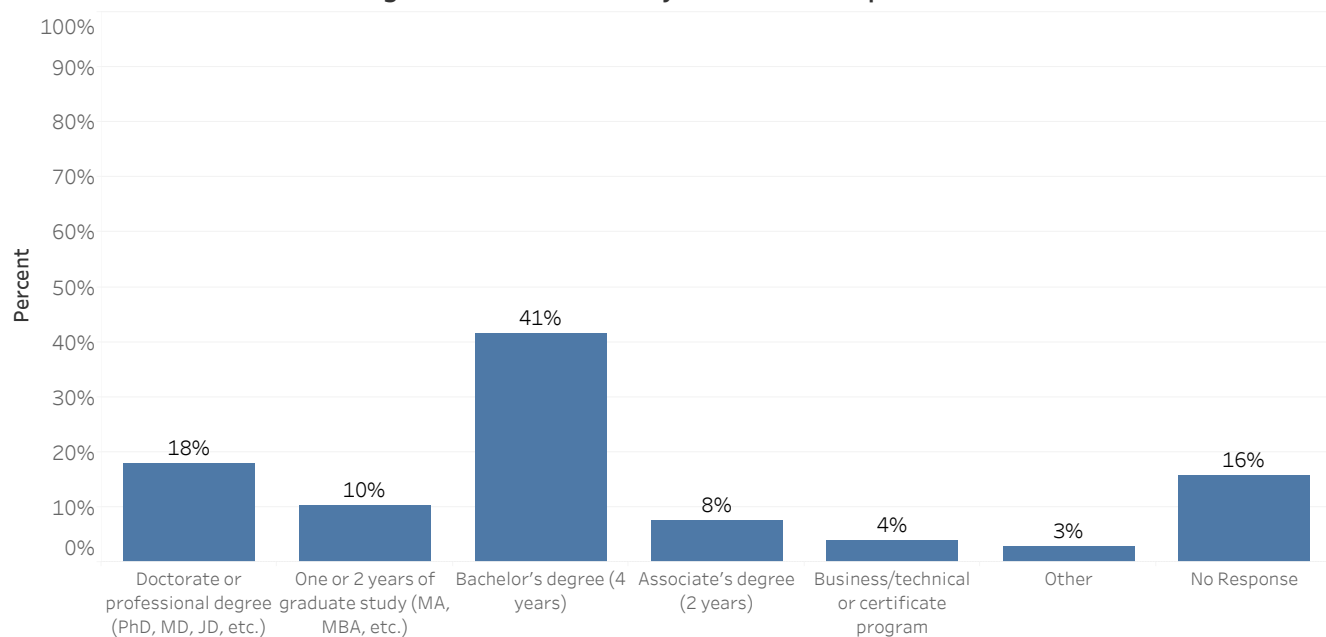
Student Data Trends: 2014-2018, State vs. Nation

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State N-count	48,845	49,538	50,809	51,203	51,814
National N-count	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817
Average ACT English Score - State	19.4	19.5	19.7	19.6	19.9
Average ACT English Score - National	20.3	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Reading Score - State	20.3	20.3	20.6	20.5	20.8
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - State	19.4	19.5	19.3	19.4	19.7
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - State	20.0	20.1	19.9	20.1	20.1
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.8	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7
Average ACT Composite Score - State	19.9	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.2
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

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KENTUCKY 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.)	18%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	10%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	41%
Associate's degree (2 years)	8%
Business/technical or certificate program	4%
Other	3%
No Response	16%

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