

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018

Mississippi Key Findings

Performance

- The 2018 report reflects the third graduating class to participate in Mississippi statewide ACT testing among the public high schools.
- In the 2018 Mississippi graduating class, 37,654 graduates (100 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 18.6. This compares to 28,481 (100 percent) with an average of 19.0 in 2014. Nationally, 55% of 2018 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.8.
- The 2018 Mississippi graduating class average English score was 18.2. This compares to 18.2 and 18.8 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Mississippi graduating class average math score was 18.1. This compares to 18.1 and 18.3 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Mississippi graduating class average reading score was 18.9. This compares to 18.8 and 19.4 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Mississippi graduating class average science score was 18.6. This compares to 18.8 and 18.9 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- Though the percentages meeting benchmarks in each subject area are the same as last year, more students in every ACT subject area are meeting the benchmarks: 533 more graduates in English, 558 more in Math, 468 more in Reading, and 378 more in Science.
- In fact, the 2018 graduating class reflects the most number of students ever in Mississippi who have met the ACT benchmarks in each subject area: 17,637 in English, 11,062 in Reading, 7,739 in Math and 7,427 in Science.
- In 2018, 12 percent of Mississippi graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 12 and 12 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 47 percent of Mississippi graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 47 and 53 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 21 percent of Mississippi graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 20 and 21 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 29 percent of Mississippi graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 29 and 31 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 20 percent of Mississippi graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 20 and 21 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- In 2018, 7,738 (21 percent) of Mississippi graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 7,261 and 6,090 (20 and 21 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, 5 percent of Mississippi graduates took the ACT with extended time. This compares to 5 and 2 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.

STEM

- In 2018, 17,436 Mississippi graduates (46 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 Mississippi graduating class average ACT STEM score of 18.6, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM averages of 18.7 and 18.9, respectively.
- Compared to 8 percent of 2018 Mississippi graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 7 and 8, respectively.
- In 2018, 13,312 Mississippi graduates (35 percent) indicated taking physics. This compares to 36 and 46 percent for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
- 2018 graduates taking physics had an average science score of 19.5, compared to 18.3 for students not taking physics.

Career Readiness

- In 2018, 22,207 Mississippi graduates (59 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 Mississippi 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:
 - ~ 100 more students enrolling in college.
 - ~ 109 more students persisting to year two.
 - ~ 84 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - ~ 133 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - ~ 112 more students persisting to year four.
 - ~ 116 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Mississippi, 25,294 of the 2018 graduates (67.2%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 19.6, compared to an average of 16.4 for 12,360 of the 2018 graduates (32.8%) who took the ACT only once.
- 99,454 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 Mississippi ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ 70,323 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2018 Mississippi ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ For Mississippi’s 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were Mississippi State University, University of Mississippi, University Southern Mississippi, Alcorn State University, and Jackson State University.
 - ~ For Mississippi’s 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were University of Memphis, University of South Alabama, and University of Alabama.

- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 77 percent of Mississippi 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 21,479 ACT fee waivers to qualified Mississippi students. However, 5,252 students (24.5 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

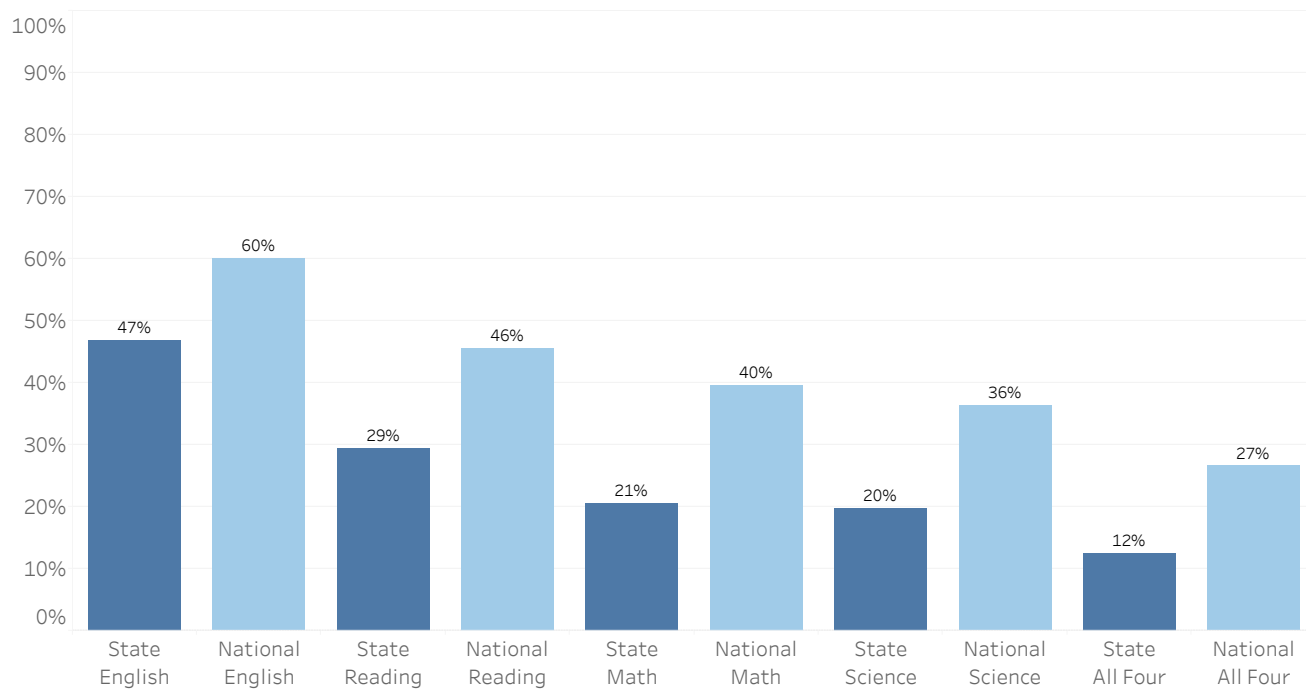
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - ~ 9,994 students (27 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 21.3.
 - ~ 14,636 students (39 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 18.5.
 - ~ 5,153 students (14 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 15.6.
- In the Mississippi graduating class of 2018, 8,760 students (23 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2018 Mississippi graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; and Mechanical Engineering.
 - ~ In the Mississippi graduating class of 2018, 4,554 students (12 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 18.8. 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 Mississippi graduating class of 2018, 1,462 (4 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 18.3.

Additional Points

- According to the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the fastest-growing careers in Mississippi requiring education beyond high school are: Occupational Therapy Assistants, Physical Therapy Assistants, Operations Research Analysts, Clergy, Nurse Practitioners and Physical Therapists.
- For the third year in a row, more Mississippi graduates are meeting the ACT score required for Mississippi's state scholarships than ever before:
 - ~ Mississippi HELP Scholarship (qualifying ACT score of 20): 13,469 qualified in 2018, 13,131 qualified in 2017, and 12,429 qualified in 2016.
 - ~ Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant (qualifying ACT score of 29): 1,800 qualified in 2018, 1,604 qualified in 2017, and 1,519 qualified in 2016).
- 25,687 Mississippi graduates met the minimum ACT score (16) required for admission into Mississippi's public universities—the most ever for a Mississippi graduating class.

MISSISSIPPI 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

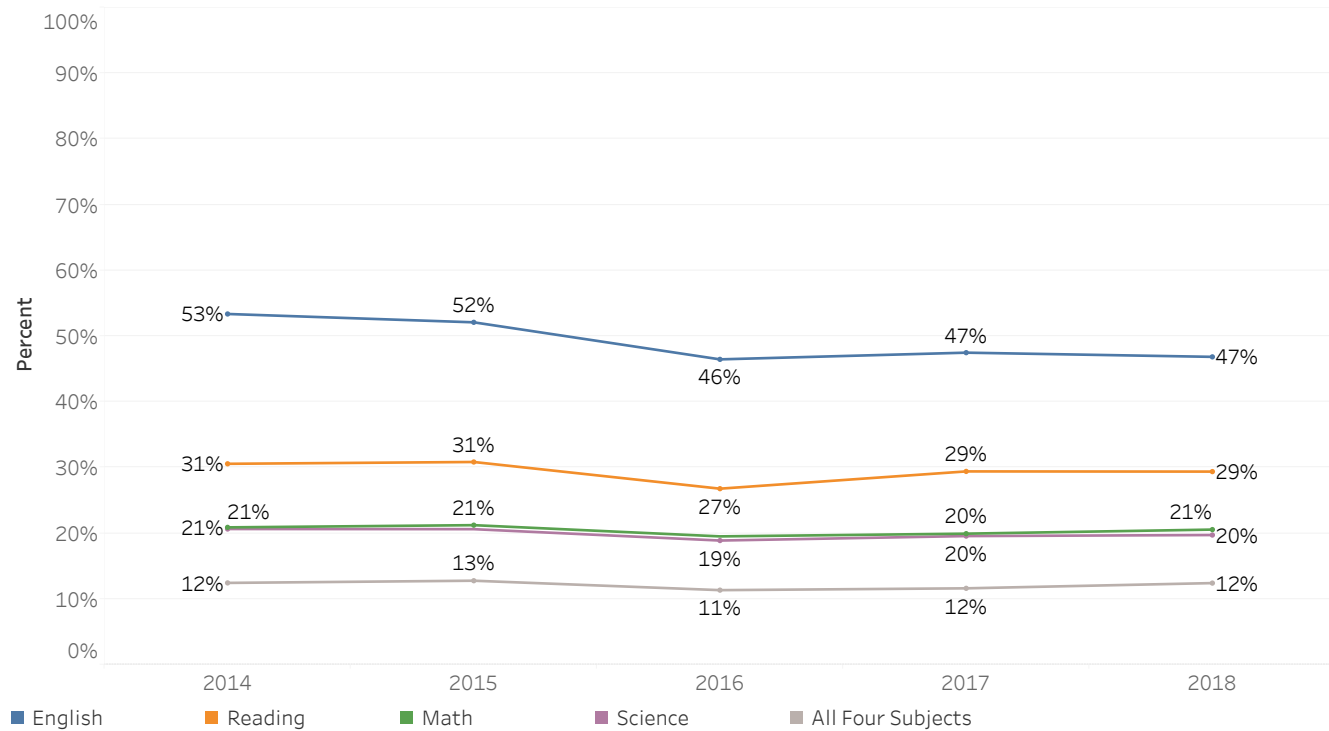
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
47%	60%	29%	46%	21%	40%	20%	36%	12%	27%

* 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.

MISSISSIPPI 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

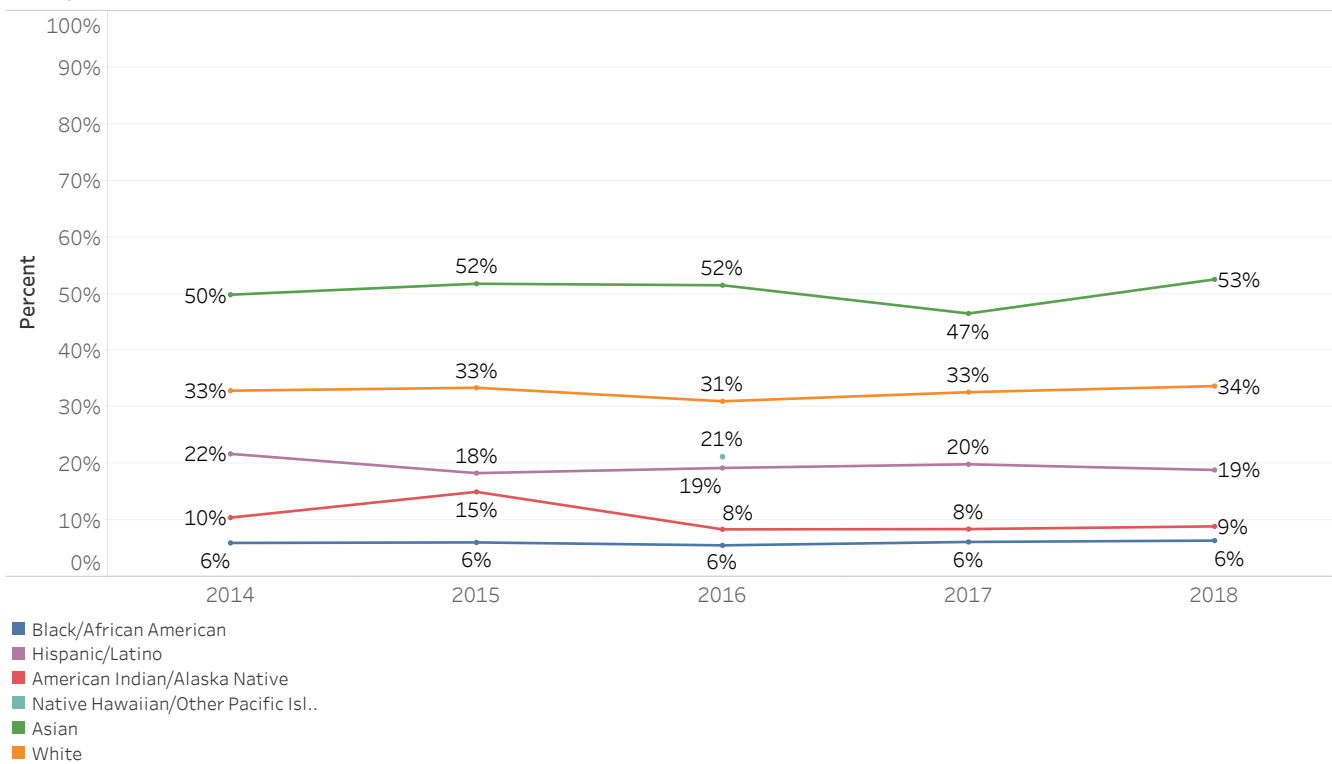
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2014	53%	31%	21%	21%	12%
2015	52%	31%	21%	21%	13%
2016	46%	27%	20%	19%	11%
2017	47%	29%	20%	20%	12%
2018	47%	29%	21%	20%	12%

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MISSISSIPPI 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



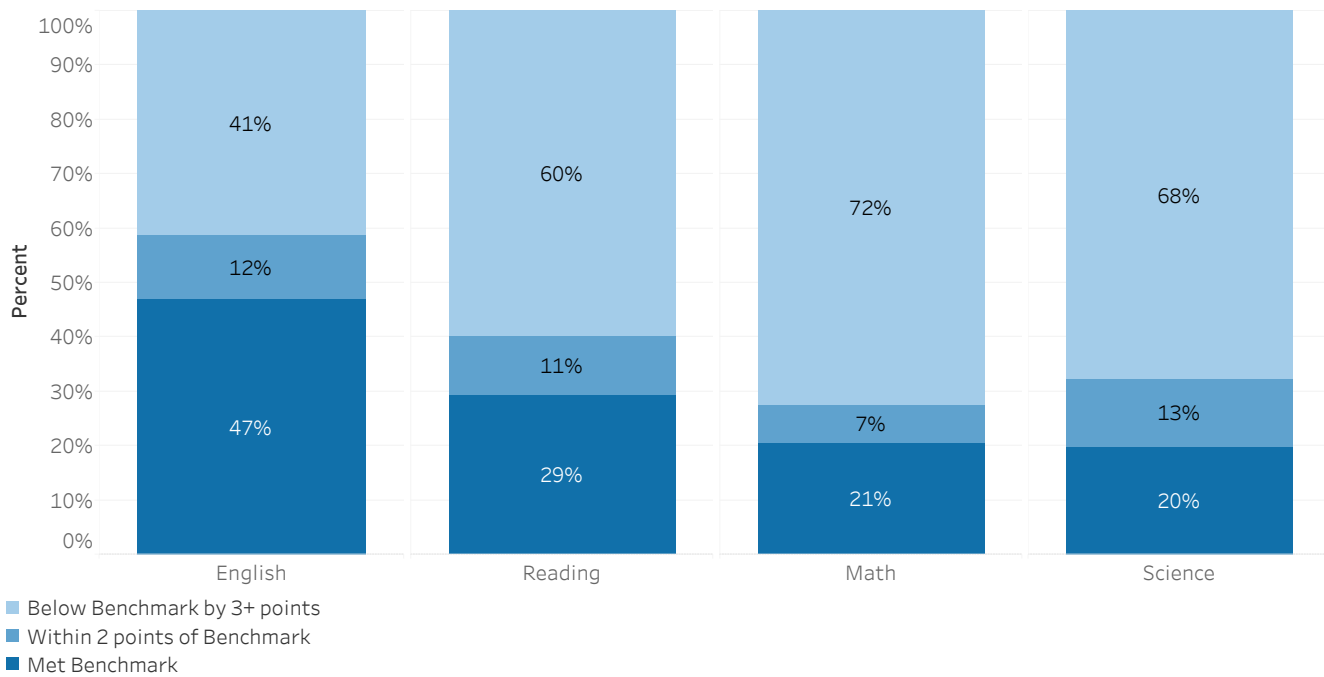
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2014	6%	22%	10%		50%	33%
2015	6%	18%	15%		52%	33%
2016	6%	19%	8%	21%	52%	31%
2017	6%	20%	8%		47%	33%
2018	6%	19%	9%		53%	34%

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MISSISSIPPI College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



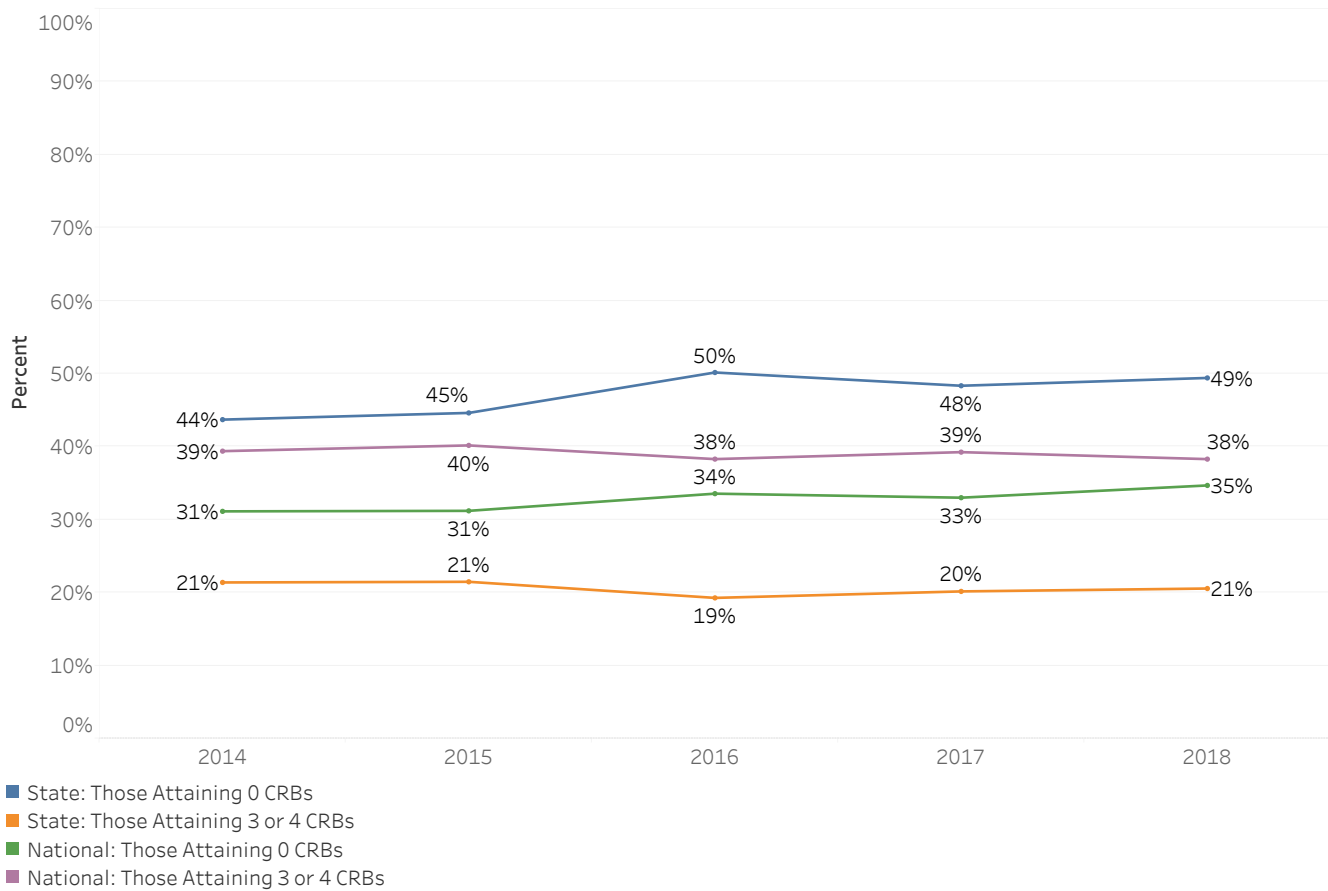
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	41%	12%	47%
Math	72%	7%	21%
Reading	60%	11%	29%
Science	68%	13%	20%

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



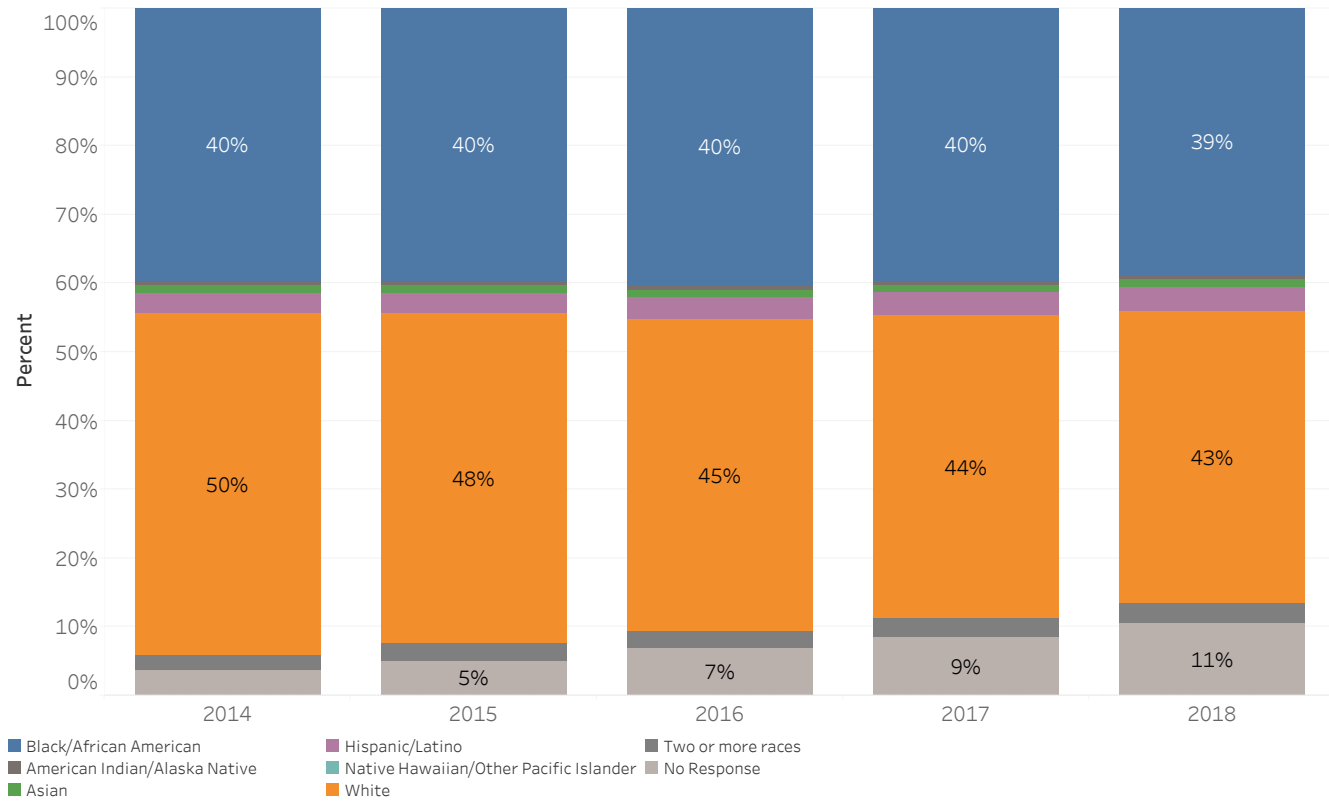
Data from Graph Above

	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	44%	21%	31%	39%
2015	45%	21%	31%	40%
2016	50%	19%	34%	38%
2017	48%	20%	33%	39%
2018	49%	21%	35%	38%

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MISSISSIPPI 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	40%	0%	1%	3%	0%	50%	2%	4%
2015	40%	1%	1%	3%	0%	48%	3%	5%
2016	40%	1%	1%	3%	0%	45%	3%	7%
2017	40%	1%	1%	3%	0%	44%	3%	9%
2018	39%	1%	1%	4%	0%	43%	3%	11%

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MISSISSIPPI College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

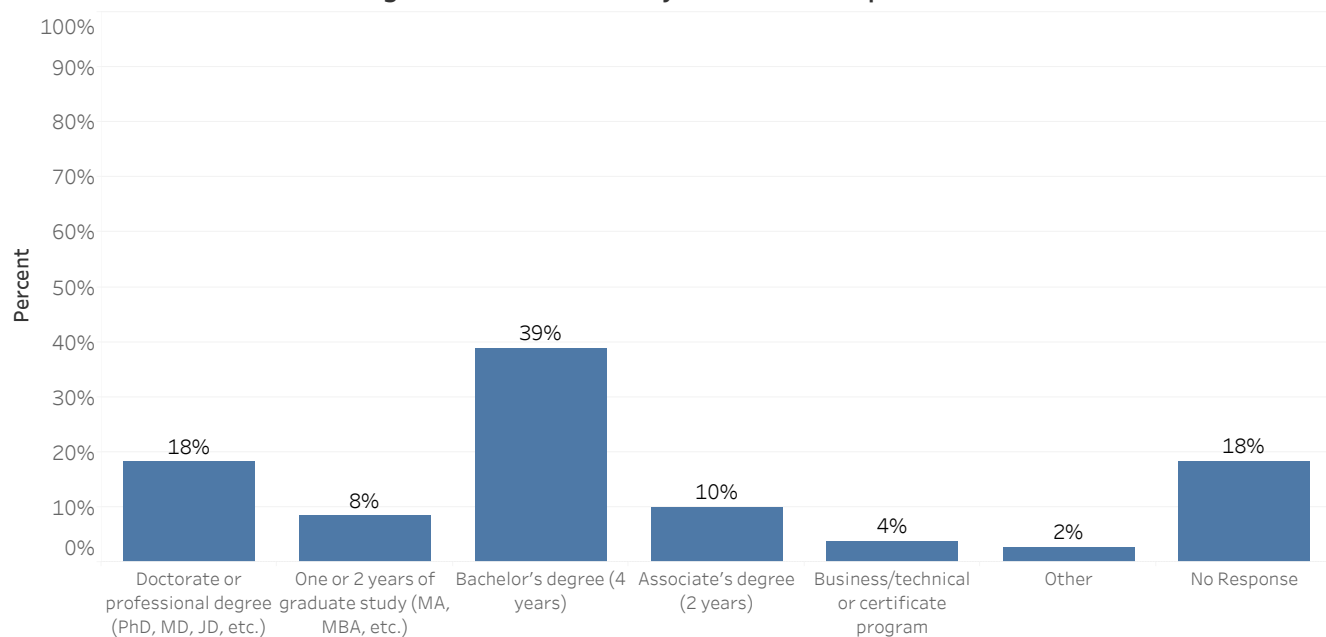
Student Data Trends: 2014-2018, State vs. Nation

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State N-count	28,481	29,345	35,678	36,026	37,654
National N-count	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817
Average ACT English Score - State	18.8	18.7	17.9	18.2	18.2
Average ACT English Score - National	20.3	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Reading Score - State	19.4	19.3	18.7	18.8	18.9
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - State	18.3	18.3	18.0	18.1	18.1
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - State	18.9	19.0	18.5	18.8	18.6
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.8	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7
Average ACT Composite Score - State	19.0	19.0	18.4	18.6	18.6
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

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MISSISSIPPI 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.)	8%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	39%
Associate's degree (2 years)	10%
Business/technical or certificate program	4%
Other	2%
No Response	18%

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