

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018

Tennessee Key Findings

Performance

- In the 2018 Tennessee graduating class, 79,170 graduates (100 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 19.6. This compares to 69,505 (100 percent) with an average of 19.8 in 2014. Nationally, 55% of 2018 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.8.
 - ~ This year's decline of 0.2 average ACT Composite score can be attributed to several factors. Because of the increase in ACT state accountability and now as a graduation requirement, there are more students testing from a wider background and those not planning on pursuing postsecondary education.
- The 2018 Tennessee graduating class average English score was 19.4. This compares to 19.5 and 19.6 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Tennessee graduating class average math score was 19.1. This compares to 19.2 and 19.2 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Tennessee graduating class average reading score was 19.9. This compares to 20.1 and 20.1 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Tennessee graduating class average science score was 19.6. This compares to 19.9 and 19.6 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- In 2018, 19 percent of Tennessee graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 19 and 19 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- In 2018, 42 percent of Tennessee graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 39 and 38 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- In 2018, 22,897 (29 percent) of Tennessee graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 22,827 and 20,395 (30 and 29 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, 28 percent of Tennessee graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 29 and 28 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- Proficiency in Understanding Complex Texts represents students' progress toward understanding complex written material often encountered in college and careers.
 - ~ 38 percent of 2018 Tennessee graduates were Proficient or Above Proficient in understanding complex texts.
 - ~ 62 percent of 2018 Tennessee graduates were Below Proficient in understanding complex texts.

STEM

- In 2018, 24,228 Tennessee graduates (31 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
 - ~ Nationally, 45 percent of graduates indicated having an interest in STEM.
- The STEM benchmark is an indicator of whether a student is well prepared for the types of first-year college courses required for a college STEM-related major. The STEM ACT College Readiness Benchmark is 26.
- 2018 Tennessee graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 29.0. This compares to 28.4 in 2014.
 - ~ 41 percent of 2018 Tennessee graduates taking physics met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 26 for students not taking physics.
- 2018 Tennessee graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 28.3. This compares to 28.2 in 2014.

Career Readiness

- In 2018, 15,456 Tennessee graduates (20 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, 51,433 Tennessee graduates (65 percent) were likely to attain the Silver NCRC® or higher based upon ACT Composite score, compared to 1,387,368 (73 percent) nationally.
- Earning a Gold certificate translates to having the skills for 93% of jobs from the ACT JobPro® database, which contains more than 21,000 profiled jobs. Earning a Silver certificate translates to having the skills for 67% of jobs from the ACT JobPro database.
- 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 Tennessee 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:
 - ~ 199 more students enrolling in college.
 - ~ 220 more students persisting to year two.
 - ~ 156 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - ~ 263 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - ~ 231 more students persisting to year four.
 - ~ 242 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Tennessee, 59,287 of the 2018 graduates (74.9%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 20.6, compared to an average of 16.8 for 19,883 of the 2018 graduates (25.1%) who took the ACT only once.
 - ~ Tennessee Department of Education and ACT will provide the Senior Retake for the ACT test for the third year, to all public school seniors. The testing dates are October 2nd, 16th or 30th, 2018.
- 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.
- 179,391 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 Tennessee ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ 100,595 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2018 Tennessee ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ For Tennessee's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Middle Tennessee State University, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, East Tennessee State University, and Tennessee Technological University.
 - ~ For Tennessee's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were Western Kentucky University, University of Alabama, and Mississippi State University.
- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 61 percent of Tennessee 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 9,274 ACT fee waivers to qualified Tennessee students. However, 3,029 students (32.7 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. 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.
- In October 2017, nearly 52,000 students in the graduating class of 2018 participated in the Senior Retake Day and almost 19,000 increased their overall score. Moreover, 2,333 seniors raised their score to a 21 or higher, making them eligible to access \$37,000,000 in HOPE Scholarship funds that provide up to \$16,000 per student.

Pipeline

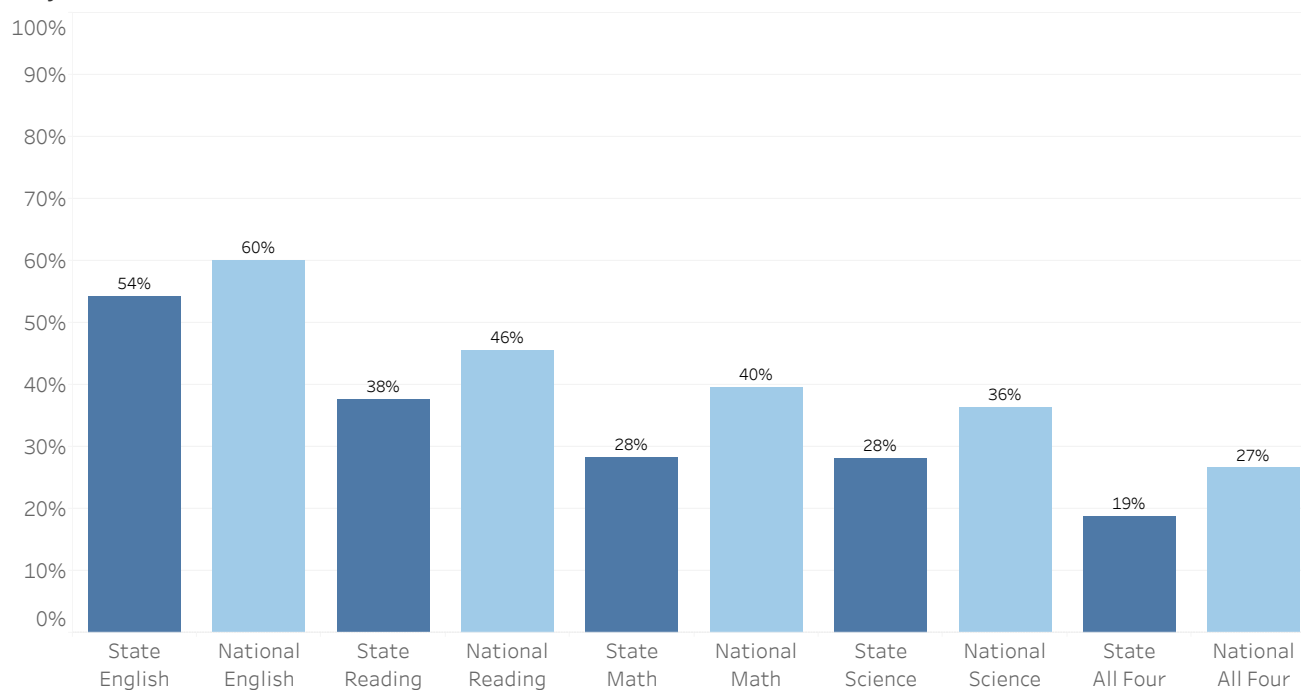
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - ~ 15,038 students (19 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 23.4.
 - ~ 21,161 students (27 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 20.0.
 - ~ 6,013 students (8 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 16.1.
- In the Tennessee graduating class of 2018, 11,859 students (15 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2018 Tennessee graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; and Mechanical Engineering.
 - ~ In the Tennessee graduating class of 2018, 5,666 students (7 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 21.0. 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 Tennessee graduating class of 2018, 1,901 (2 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 20.3.
- 35,510 students (45 percent) have indicated "No Response" on their planned educational major in the Interest Inventory on the ACT test.

Additional Points

- The Tennessee ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with more than 427 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. This year during the SCALI conference, ACT will provide additional training, providing a unique and diverse professional development opportunity.
- 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 Tennessee Champions: Ezera Henson (High School Senior), Dr. Bruce Borchers (K-12 Professional), Carlette Hardin (Postsecondary Professional), and Tony Cates (Workforce Professional).
 - ~ Student Champion: Ezera Henson, South Pittsburg High School; K-12 Champion: Dr. Bruce Borchers, Superintendent, Oak Ridge Schools; Postsecondary Champion: Carlette Hardin, Dean - Martha Dickerson Eriksson College of Education, Austin Peay State University; Workplace Success: Tony Cates, HR Director, GESTAMP.

TENNESSEE 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

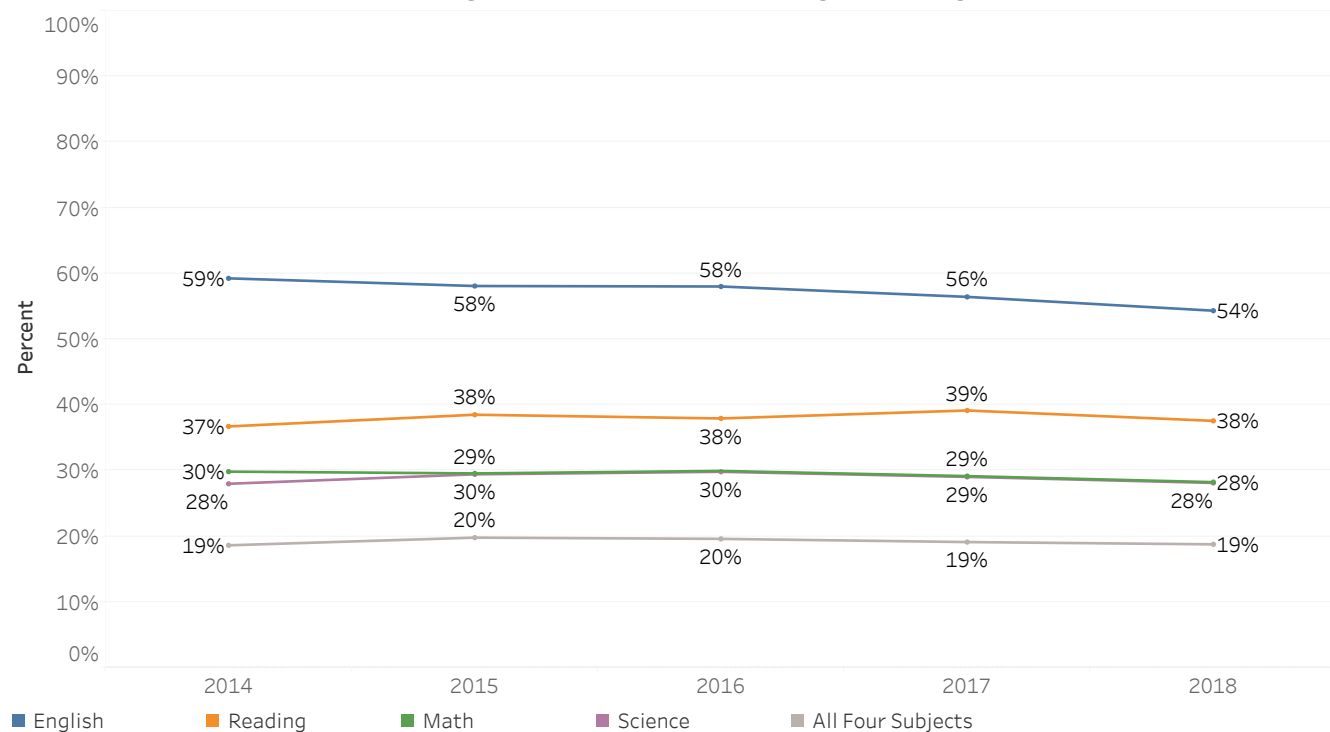
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
54%	60%	38%	46%	28%	40%	28%	36%	19%	27%

* 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.

TENNESSEE 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

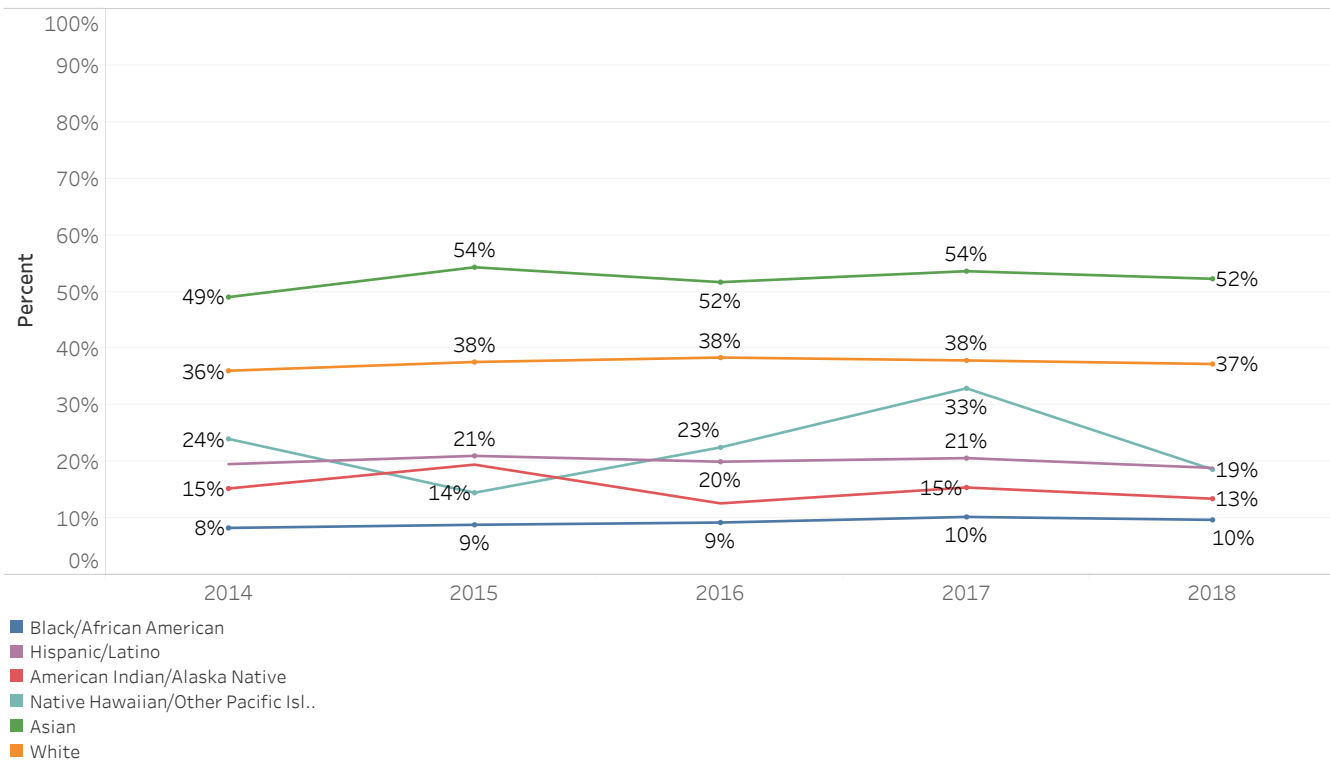
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2014	59%	37%	30%	28%	19%
2015	58%	38%	30%	29%	20%
2016	58%	38%	30%	30%	20%
2017	56%	39%	29%	29%	19%
2018	54%	38%	28%	28%	19%

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TENNESSEE 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



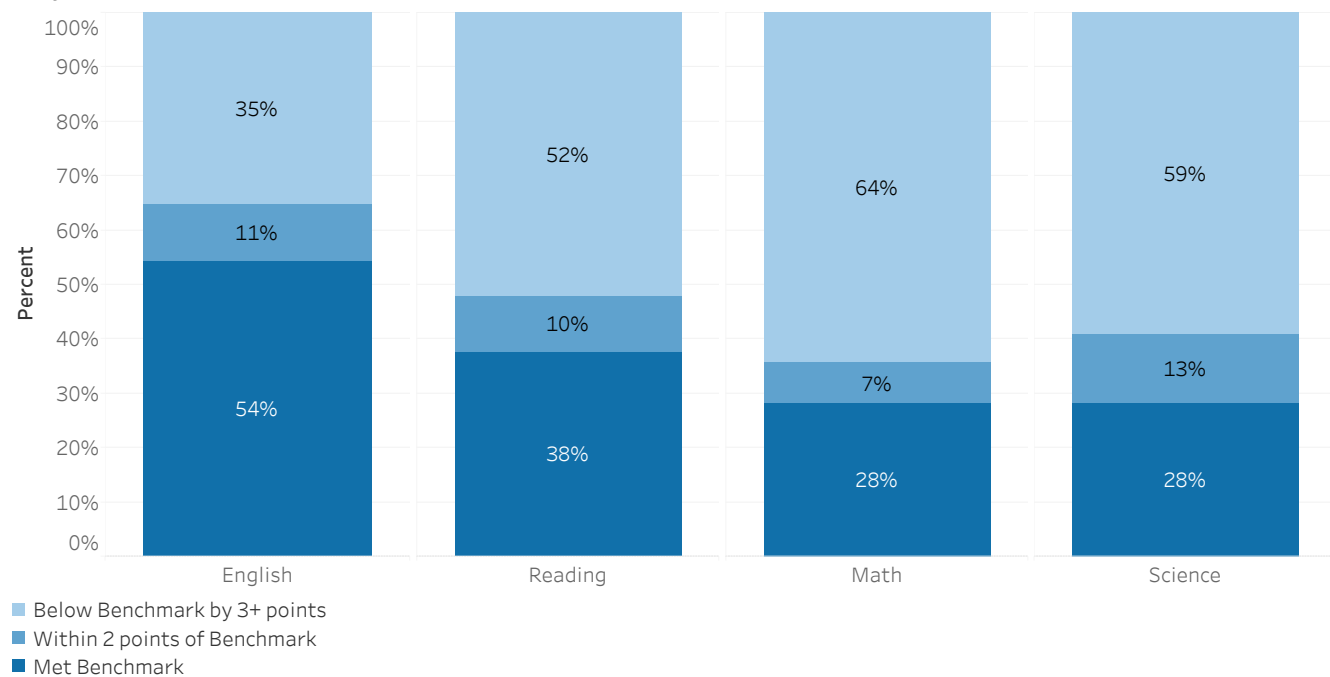
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2014	8%	20%	15%	24%	49%	36%
2015	9%	21%	19%	14%	54%	38%
2016	9%	20%	13%	23%	52%	38%
2017	10%	21%	15%	33%	54%	38%
2018	10%	19%	13%	19%	52%	37%

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TENNESSEE College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



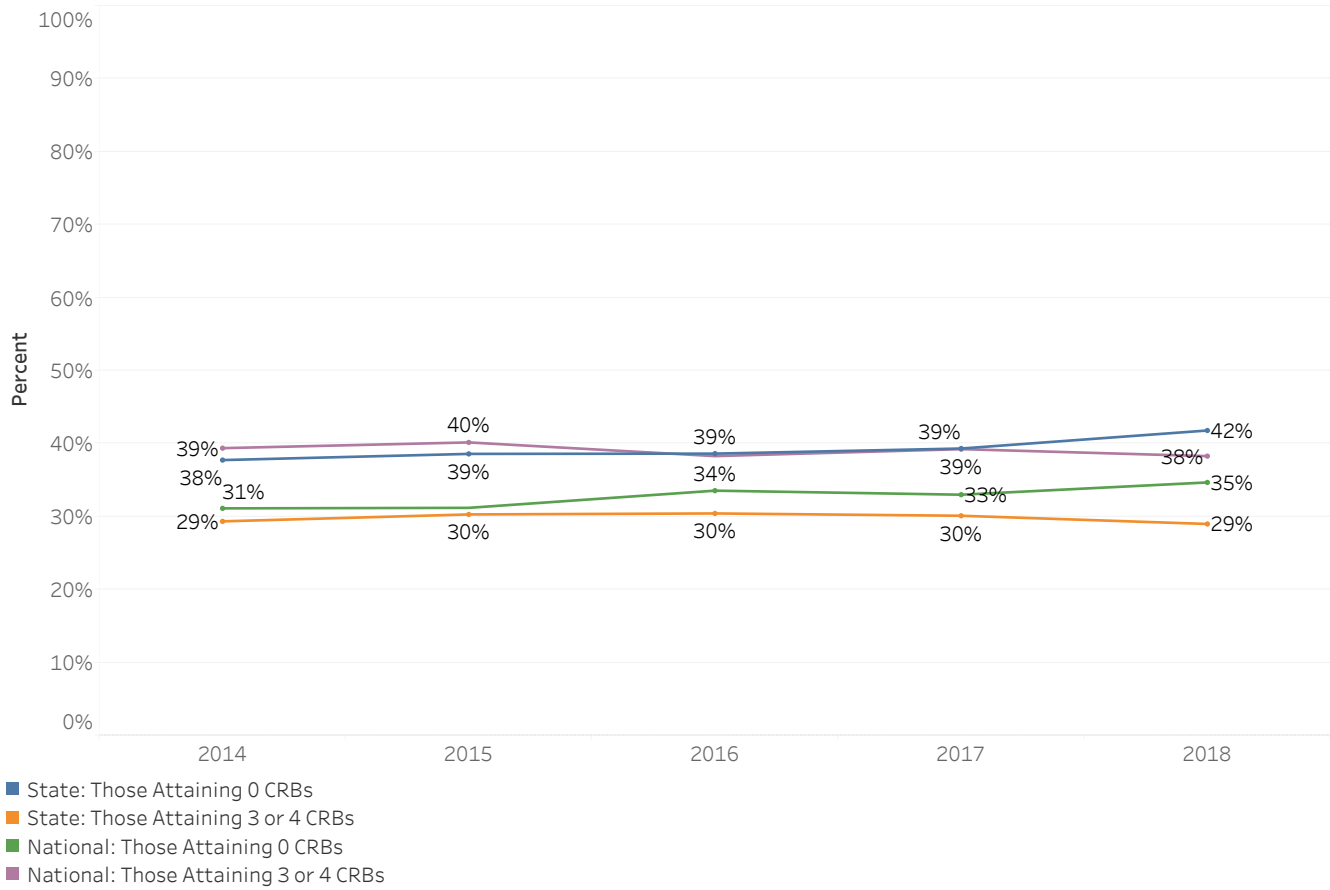
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	35%	11%	54%
Math	64%	7%	28%
Reading	52%	10%	38%
Science	59%	13%	28%

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TENNESSEE College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



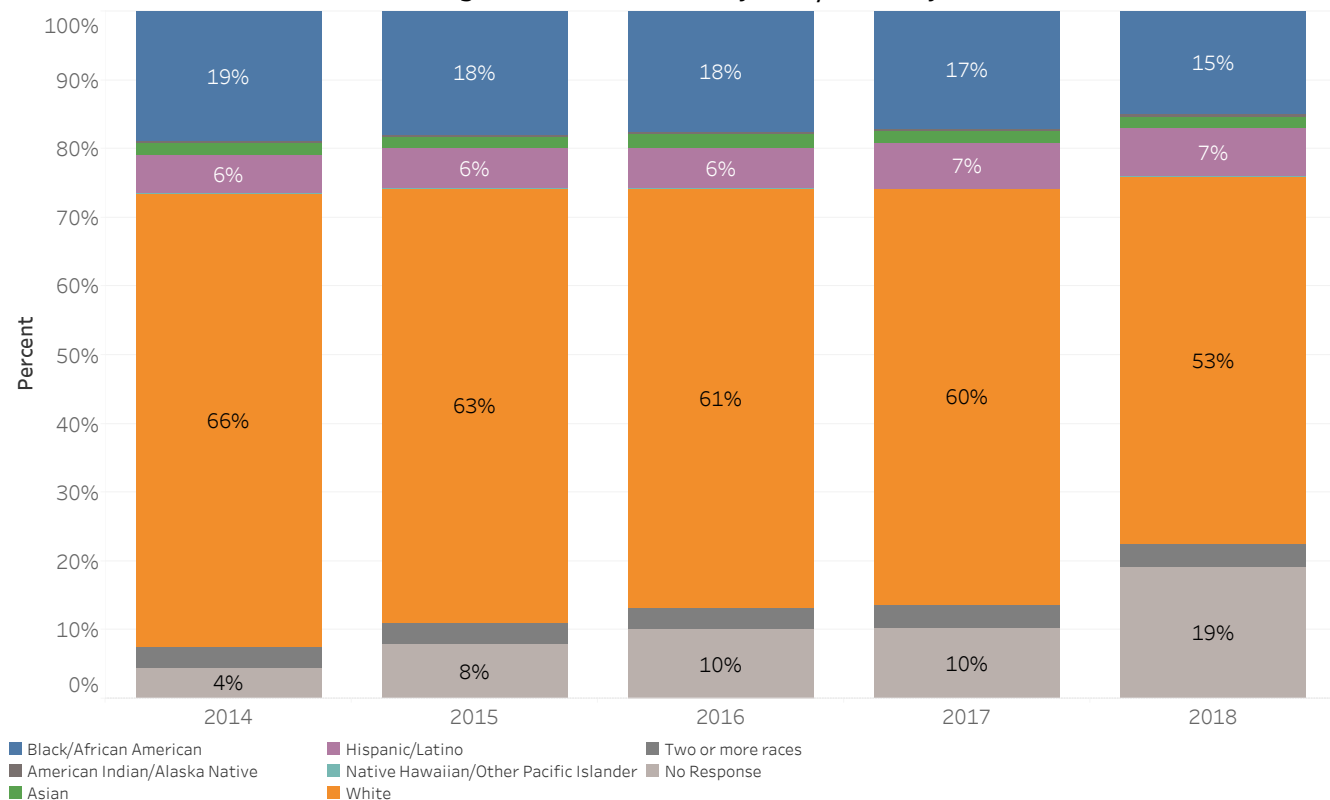
Data from Graph Above

	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	38%	29%	31%	39%
2015	39%	30%	31%	40%
2016	39%	30%	34%	38%
2017	39%	30%	33%	39%
2018	42%	29%	35%	38%

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TENNESSEE 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	19%	0%	2%	6%	0%	66%	3%	4%
2015	18%	0%	2%	6%	0%	63%	3%	8%
2016	18%	0%	2%	6%	0%	61%	3%	10%
2017	17%	0%	2%	7%	0%	60%	3%	10%
2018	15%	0%	2%	7%	0%	53%	3%	19%

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TENNESSEE College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

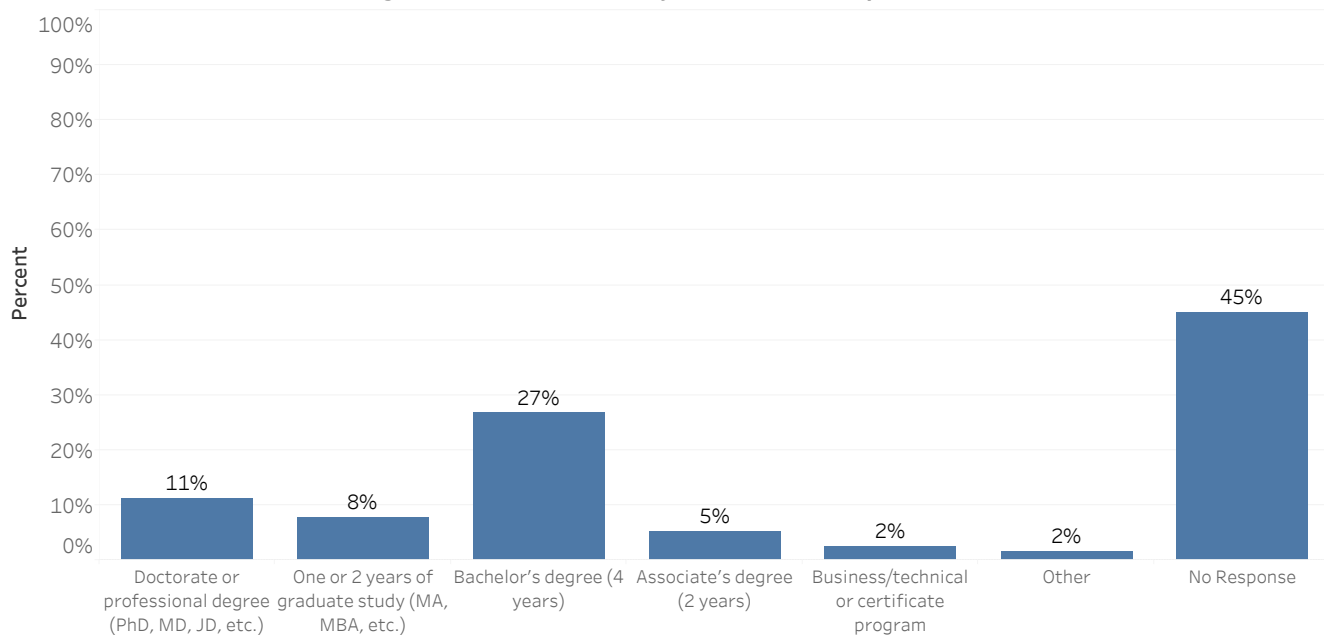
Student Data Trends: 2014-2018, State vs. Nation

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State N-count	69,505	68,737	71,880	75,808	79,170
National N-count	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817
Average ACT English Score - State	19.6	19.5	19.6	19.5	19.4
Average ACT English Score - National	20.3	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Reading Score - State	20.1	20.1	20.3	20.1	19.9
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - State	19.2	19.3	19.2	19.2	19.1
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - State	19.6	19.9	19.9	19.9	19.6
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.8	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7
Average ACT Composite Score - State	19.8	19.8	19.9	19.8	19.6
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

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TENNESSEE 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.)	11%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	8%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	27%
Associate's degree (2 years)	5%
Business/technical or certificate program	2%
Other	2%
No Response	45%

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