

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018

Vermont Key Findings

Performance

- The data in this report represent all ACT-tested students in Vermont's 2018 graduating class.
- In the 2018 Vermont graduating class, 1,633 graduates (24 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 24.1. This compares to 2,105 (29 percent) with an average of 23.2 in 2014. Nationally, 55% of 2018 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.8.
 - ~ There were 42 African American graduates from Vermont who took the ACT (3 percent) with an average Composite score of 19.4. This compares to 27 (1 percent) with an average of 18.0, and 35 (2 percent) with an average of 16.9, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 1,306 White graduates from Vermont who took the ACT (80 percent) with an average Composite score of 24.3. This compares to 1,587 (75 percent) with an average of 23.9, and 1,721 (82 percent) with an average of 23.3, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 52 Hispanic graduates from Vermont who took the ACT (3 percent) with an average Composite score of 23.4. This compares to 48 (2 percent) with an average of 21.9, and 42 (2 percent) with an average of 23.2, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 67 Asian graduates from Vermont who took the ACT (4 percent) with an average Composite score of 24.0. This compares to 89 (4 percent) with an average of 23.7, and 122 (6 percent) with an average of 22.7, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
- The 2018 Vermont graduating class average English score was 23.9. This compares to 23.3 and 22.8 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Vermont graduating class average math score was 23.4. This compares to 23.1 and 23.0 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Vermont graduating class average reading score was 24.9. This compares to 24.4 and 23.7 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Vermont graduating class average science score was 23.8. This compares to 23.2 and 22.8 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- In 2018, 47 percent of Vermont graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 44 and 40 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 83 percent of Vermont graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 80 and 78 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 63 percent of Vermont graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 61 and 60 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 69 percent of Vermont graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 66 and 58 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 60 percent of Vermont graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 55 and 52 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.

- In 2018, 1,026 (63 percent) of Vermont graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 1,248 and 1,180 (59 and 56 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, 6 percent of Vermont graduates took the ACT with extended time. This compares to 6 and 4 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- 69 percent of 2018 Vermont graduates were Proficient or Above Proficient in understanding complex texts.

STEM

- The ACT is the only college admissions exam with a dedicated Science assessment. The ACT is a great fit for the Vermont's Mathematics and Science Partnership.
- In 2018, 820 Vermont graduates (50 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 Vermont graduating class average ACT STEM score of 23.9, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM averages of 23.4 and 23.2, respectively.
- Compared to 37 percent of 2018 Vermont graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 35 and 32, respectively.
- 2018 graduates taking physics had an average science score of 24.6, compared to 22.1 for students not taking physics.
 - ~ 2018 Vermont graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.8. This compares to 28.5 in 2014.
- 2018 Vermont graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 28.6. This compares to 28.7 in 2014.

Career Readiness

- In 2018, 1,507 Vermont graduates (92 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 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."

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Vermont, 510 of the 2018 graduates (31.2%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 26.0, compared to an average of 23.3 for 1,123 of the 2018 graduates (68.8%) who took the ACT only once.
- 1,435 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 Vermont ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ 297 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2018 Vermont ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ 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.
 - ~ For Vermont's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were University of Vermont, Castleton University, Champlain College, Northeastern University, and Vermont Technical College.

- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 56 percent of Vermont 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 217 ACT fee waivers to qualified Vermont students. However, 62 students (28.6 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

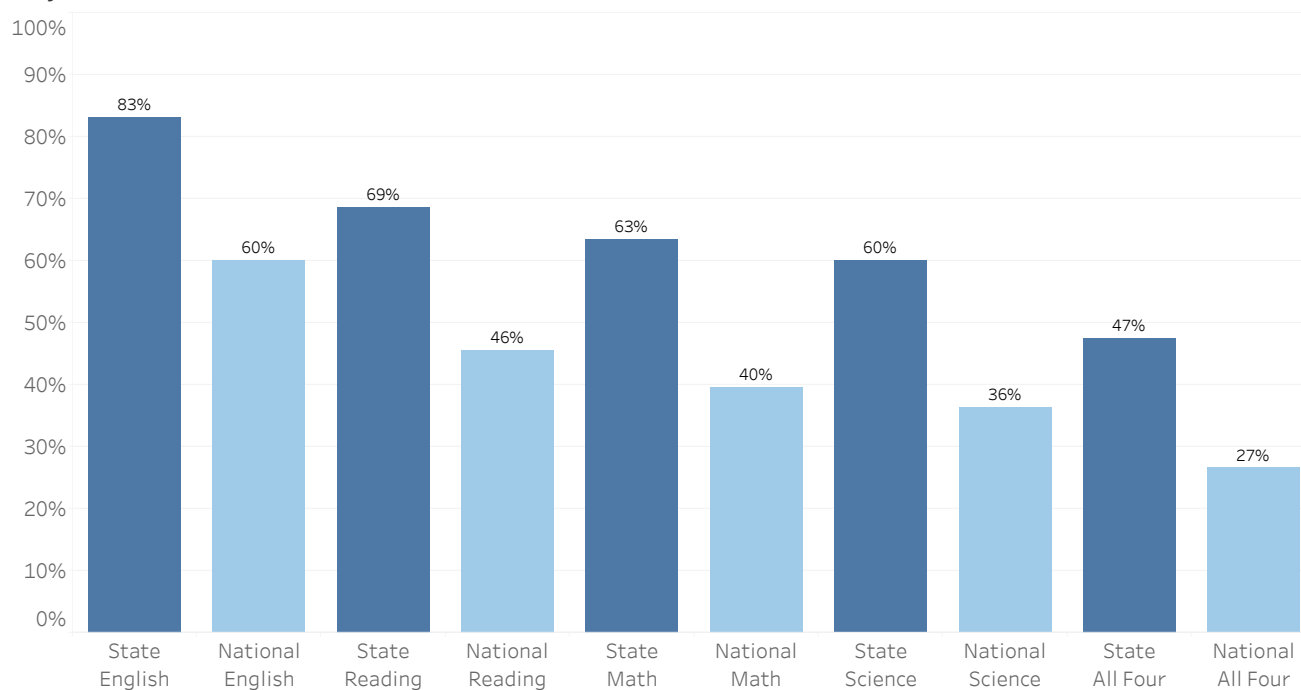
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - ~ 640 students (39 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 26.1.
 - ~ 574 students (35 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 22.8.
 - ~ 10 students (1 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 18.4.
- In the Vermont graduating class of 2018, 94 students (6 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2018 Vermont graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Biology, General; and Business Administration and Management, General.
 - ~ In the Vermont graduating class of 2018, 319 students (20 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 24.5. 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 Vermont graduating class of 2018, 39 (2 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 23.0.
- There is good news in that 75% of Vermont's 2018 ACT-tested graduates aspired to postsecondary education. Interestingly enough, 71% of Vermont's 2017 ACT-tested graduating class aspired to enroll in postsecondary education, compared to 74% who actually did enroll. A positive note is that more 2017 Vermont ACT-tested graduates enrolled in postsecondary education than initially aspired to do so.

Additional Points

- The Vermont ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with more than 31 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.

VERMONT 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

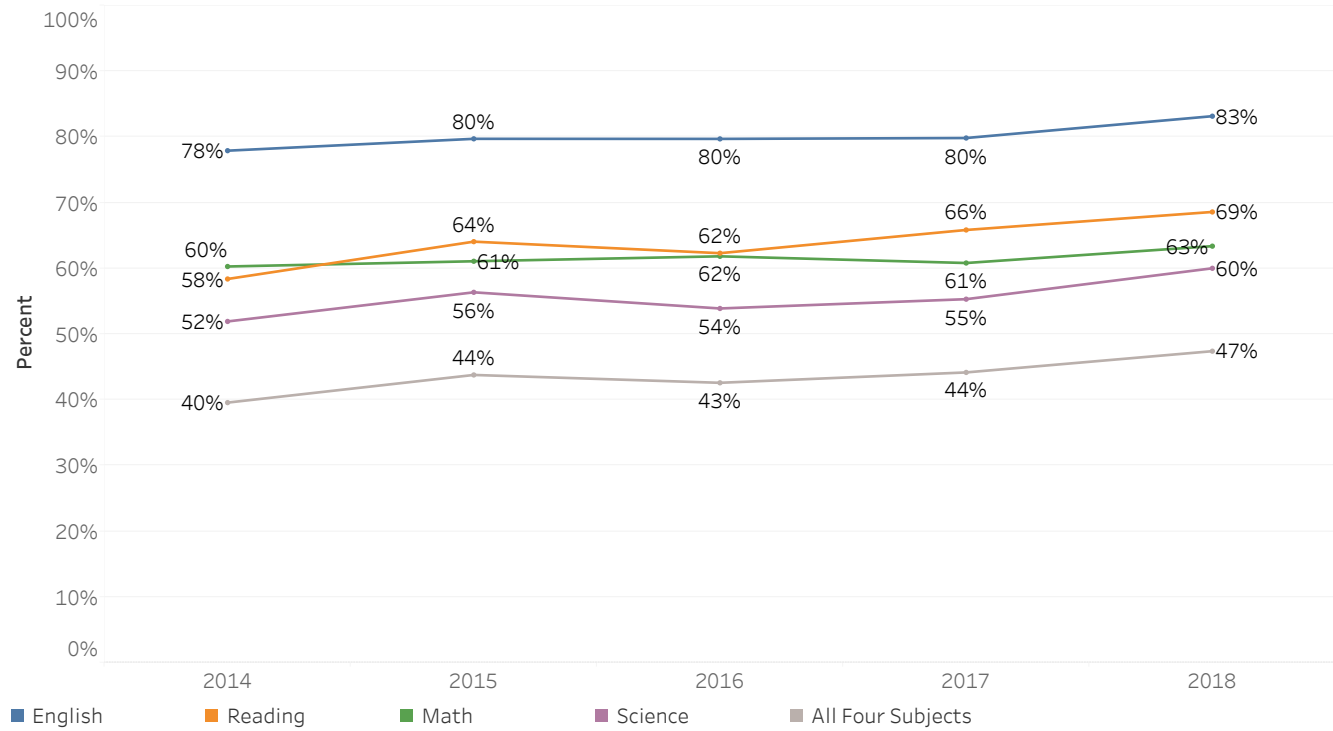
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
83%	60%	69%	46%	63%	40%	60%	36%	47%	27%

* 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.

VERMONT 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

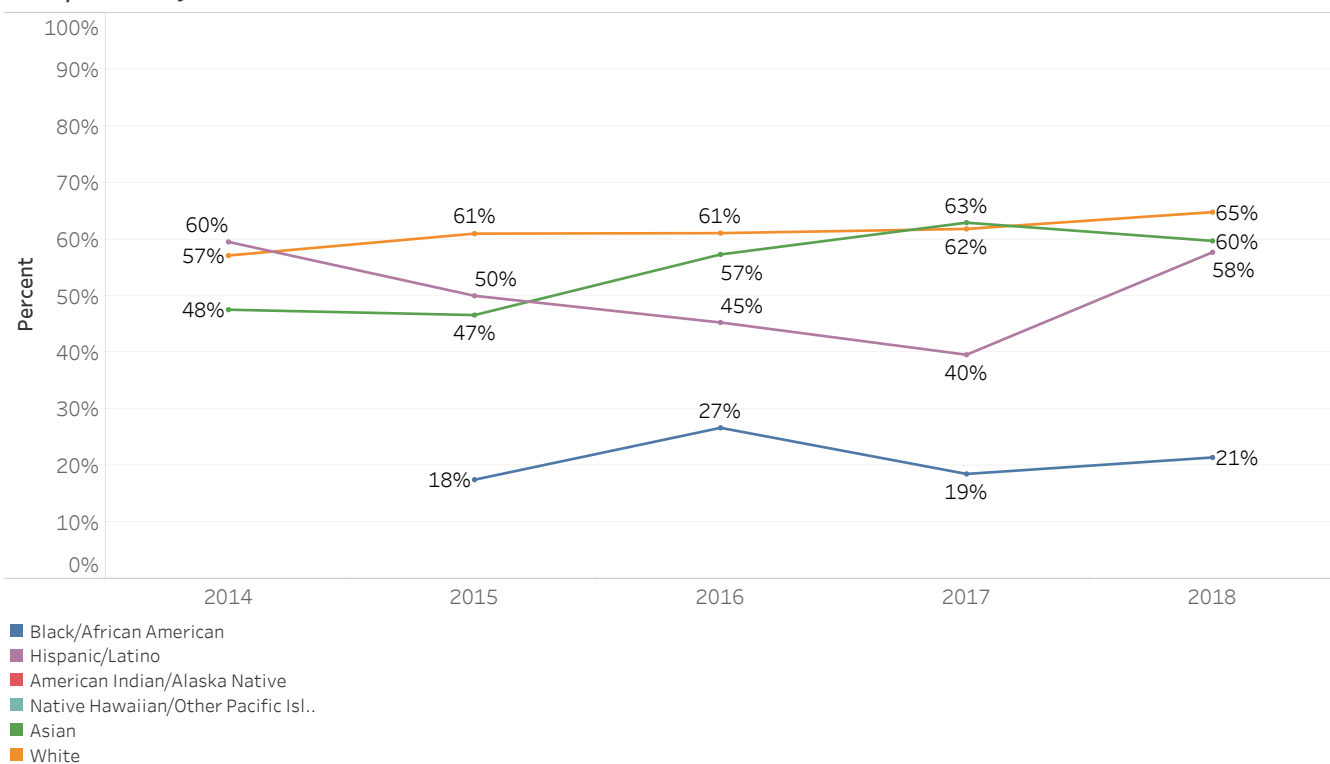
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2014	78%	58%	60%	52%	40%
2015	80%	64%	61%	56%	44%
2016	80%	62%	62%	54%	43%
2017	80%	66%	61%	55%	44%
2018	83%	69%	63%	60%	47%

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VERMONT 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



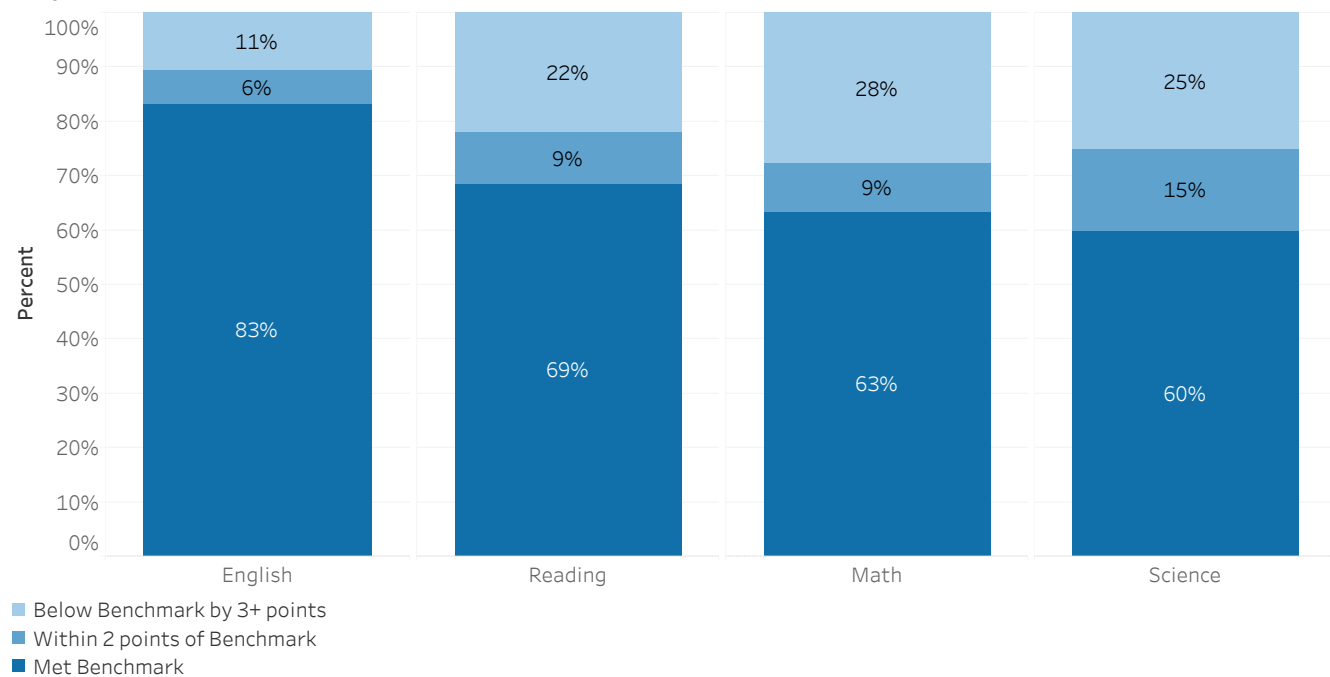
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2014		60%			48%	57%
2015	18%	50%			47%	61%
2016	27%	45%			57%	61%
2017	19%	40%			63%	62%
2018	21%	58%			60%	65%

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VERMONT College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



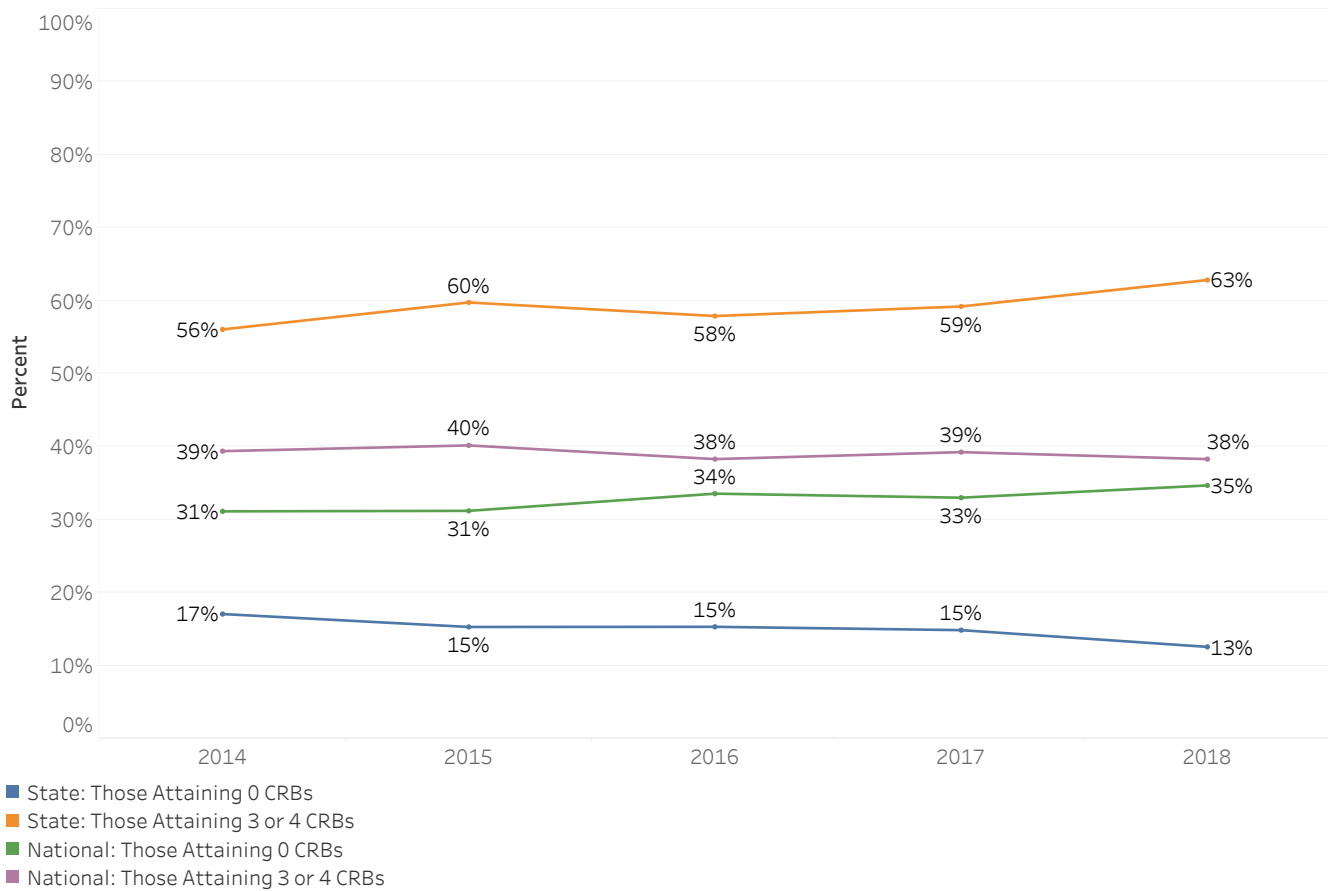
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	11%	6%	83%
Math	28%	9%	63%
Reading	22%	9%	69%
Science	25%	15%	60%

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VERMONT College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



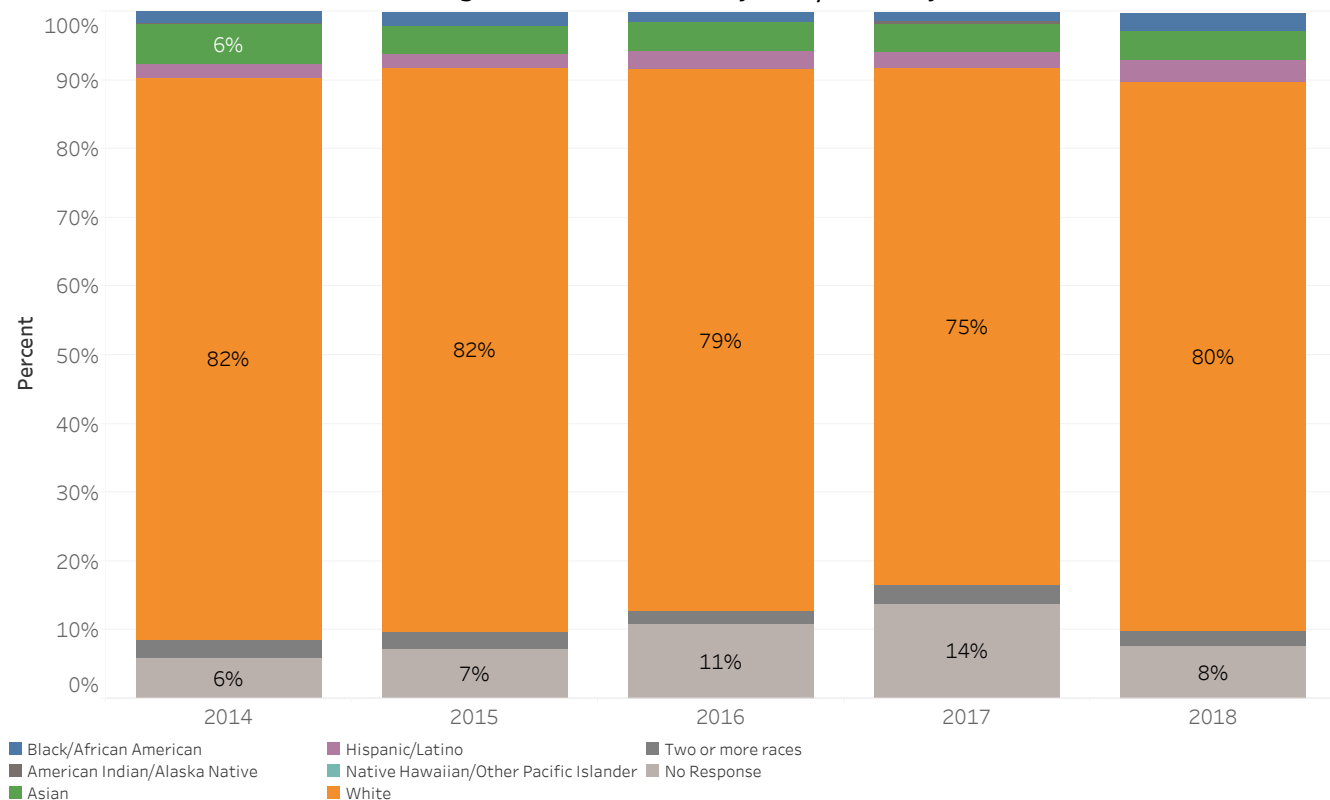
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	State: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	State: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs
2014	17%	56%	31%	39%
2015	15%	60%	31%	40%
2016	15%	58%	34%	38%
2017	15%	59%	33%	39%
2018	13%	63%	35%	38%

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VERMONT 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	2%	0%	6%	2%		82%	3%	6%
2015	2%		4%	2%		82%	2%	7%
2016	1%		4%	3%		79%	2%	11%
2017	1%	0%	4%	2%		75%	3%	14%
2018	3%		4%	3%		80%	2%	8%

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VERMONT College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

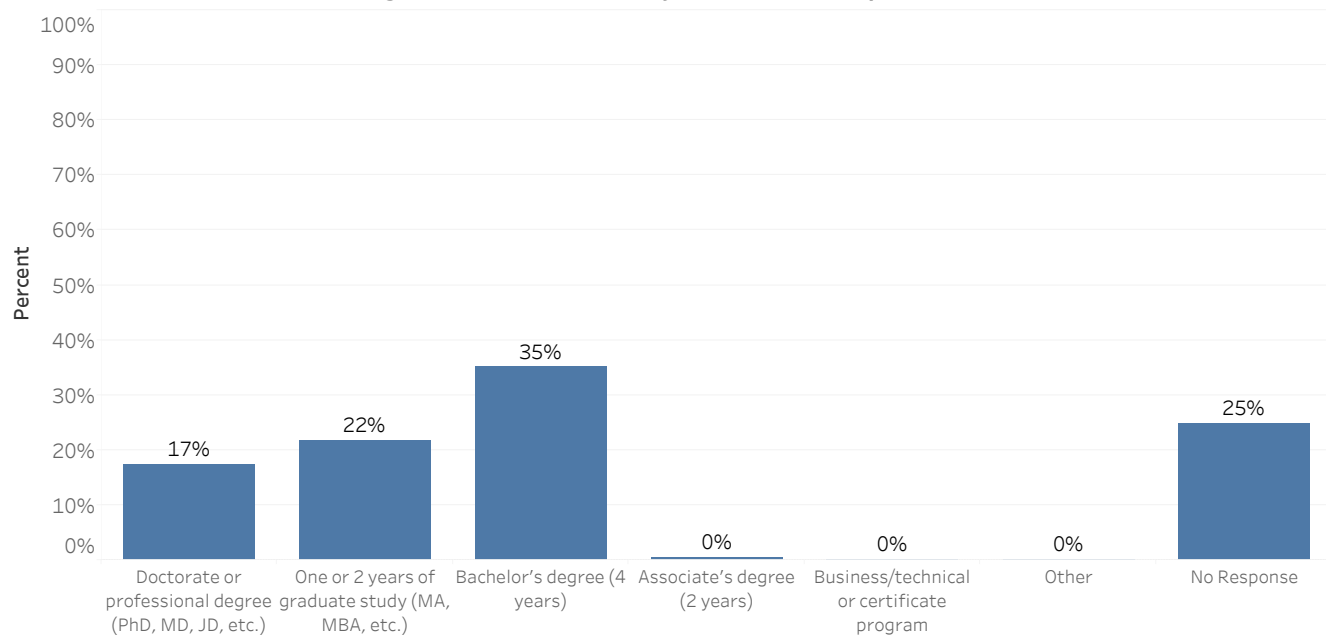
Student Data Trends: 2014-2018, State vs. Nation

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State N-count	2,105	2,179	2,104	2,108	1,633
National N-count	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817
Average ACT English Score - State	22.8	23.2	22.9	23.3	23.9
Average ACT English Score - National	20.3	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Reading Score - State	23.7	24.1	24.1	24.4	24.9
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - State	23.0	23.0	22.9	23.1	23.4
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - State	22.8	23.2	23.2	23.2	23.8
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.8	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7
Average ACT Composite Score - State	23.2	23.5	23.4	23.6	24.1
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

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VERMONT 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.)	17%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	22%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	35%
Associate's degree (2 years)	0%
Business/technical or certificate program	0%
Other	0%
No Response	25%

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