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Information Brief

ACT College Readiness Benchmark Attainment by Annual Family Income Level 2013

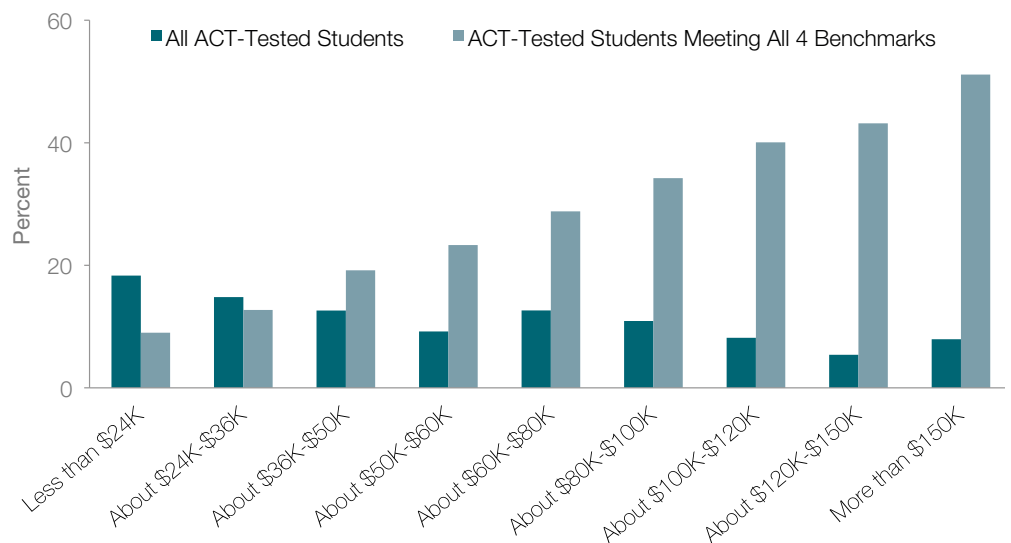
August 2013

Attainment of ACT College Readiness Benchmarks is related to family income:

- About 23% of students with family incomes between \$50,000 and \$60,000 met all 4 Benchmarks. 9% of students with family incomes less than \$24,000 did so.
- The Benchmark attainment level for students in the \$120,000-\$150,000 range is almost twice that for students in the \$50,000 to \$60,000 range.

Academic success and socioeconomic status are known to be strongly related. Consistent with prior findings,¹ the following chart shows the distribution of students' self-reported family income as well as their attainment of the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks in all four subject areas (English, mathematics, reading and science) by annual family income level. Over 45% of ACT-tested 2013 high school graduates have annual family incomes less than \$50,000.

ACT College Readiness Benchmark Attainment by Annual Family Income Level



Note: Based on data from 1,293,203 ACT-tested 2013 high school graduates who reported family income. This count reflects a nonresponse rate of 28% and may not be representative of the underlying population of ACT-tested high school graduates.

¹ See ACT Information Briefs 2012-1 and 2012-32.

This ACT Information Brief was written by Tracy Wilkinson. Please contact infobrief@act.org for more information or to suggest ideas for future ACT Information Briefs.

