

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018

Alabama Key Findings

Performance

- Alabama is in its fifth year of census testing all juniors.
- In the 2018 Alabama graduating class, 58,177 graduates (100 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 19.1. This compares to 37,985 (80 percent) with an average of 20.6 in 2014. Nationally, 55% of 2018 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.8.
 - ~ The 2018 Alabama graduating class average English score was 18.9. This compares to 18.9 and 20.7 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
 - ~ The 2018 Alabama graduating class average math score was 18.3. This compares to 18.4 and 19.5 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
 - ~ The 2018 Alabama graduating class average reading score was 19.6. This compares to 19.7 and 21.3 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
 - ~ The 2018 Alabama graduating class average science score was 19.0. This compares to 19.4 and 20.4 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- In 2018, 16 percent of Alabama graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 16 and 21 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 14,373 (25 percent) of Alabama graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 14,458 and 12,369 (25 and 33 percent) out of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively. For reference, the national percentage of 2018 graduates meeting three or four benchmarks was 38%.

STEM

- In 2018, 28,529 Alabama graduates (49 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 Alabama graduating class average ACT STEM score of 18.9, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM averages of 19.1 and 20.2, respectively.
- Compared to 11 percent of 2018 Alabama graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 11 and 14, respectively.
- 2018 graduates taking physics had an average science score of 20.0, compared to 18.5 for students not taking physics.
 - ~ 31 percent of 2018 Alabama graduates taking physics met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 20 for students not taking physics.
 - ~ 2018 Alabama graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.9. This compares to 28.7 in 2014.
 - ~ 2018 graduates taking three or more years of math had an average math score of 18.8, compared to 15.5 for students taking less than three years of math.

Career Readiness

- In 2018, 35,946 Alabama graduates (62 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.”
- Alabama tests all public school seniors with ACT WorkKeys which allows students to earn an ACT National Career Readiness Certificate. A total of 43,135 NCRCs were awarded to students during this testing cycle. 33% Bronze, 33% Silver, 21% Gold and 12% Platinum.

Impact

- Based on the actual test volume and ACT score distributions of 2018 ACT-tested Alabama 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:
 - ~ 150 more students enrolling in college.
 - ~ 165 more students persisting to year two.
 - ~ 121 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - ~ 189 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - ~ 171 more students persisting to year four.
 - ~ 178 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Alabama, 32,279 of the 2018 graduates (55.5%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 21.4, compared to an average of 16.2 for 25,898 of the 2018 graduates (44.5%) 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.
- 158,102 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 Alabama ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ 106,375 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2018 Alabama ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ For Alabama’s 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were Auburn University, University Of Alabama, University Of Alabama In Birmingham, Troy University-Troy, and University Of South Alabama.
 - ~ For Alabama’s 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were Mississippi State University, University Of Mississippi, and University Southern Mississippi.
- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 82 percent of Alabama 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 17,952 ACT fee waivers to qualified Alabama students. However, 4,486 students (25.0 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

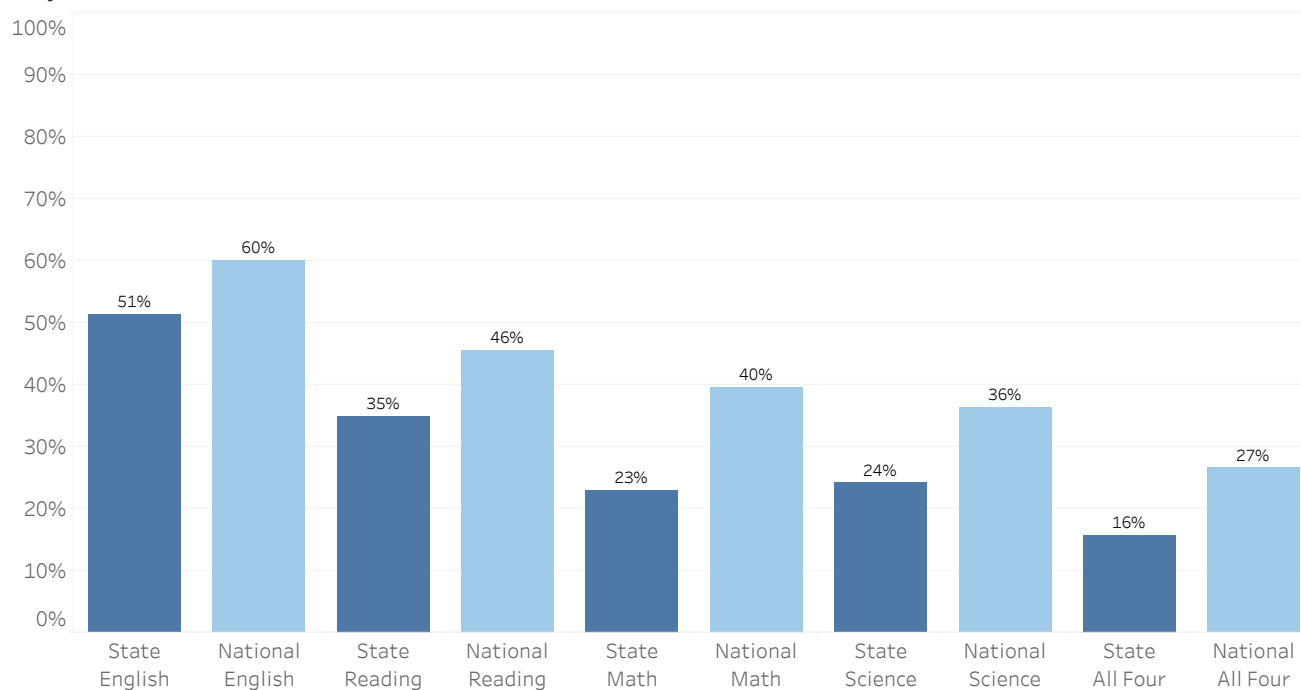
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - ~ 16,599 students (29 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 22.2.
 - ~ 25,592 students (44 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 19.1.
 - ~ 7,109 students (12 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 15.4.
- In the Alabama graduating class of 2018, 14,436 students (25 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2018 Alabama graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; and Mechanical Engineering.
 - ~ In the Alabama graduating class of 2018, 6,447 students (11 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 20.0. 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 Alabama graduating class of 2018, 2,510 (4 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 19.4.
- There is good news in that 85% of Alabama's 2018 ACT-tested graduates aspired to postsecondary education. Interestingly enough, 89% of Alabama's 2017 ACT-tested graduating class aspired to enroll in postsecondary education, compared to 56% who actually did enroll. If we fully closed the aspirational gap, an additional 19,212 of the 2017 ACT-tested graduates from Alabama would have enrolled in postsecondary education.

Additional Points

- The Alabama ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with more than 388 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. Each year, ACT hosts a state summit that brings together professionals representing each of these areas, providing a unique and diverse professional development opportunity.
- Each year in December, the Alabama ACT State Organization hosts a state summit that brings together education and workforce professionals providing a unique and diverse professional development opportunity. This year's summit is scheduled for Thursday, December 6, 2018 at the Bryant Conference Center in Tuscaloosa.

ALABAMA 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

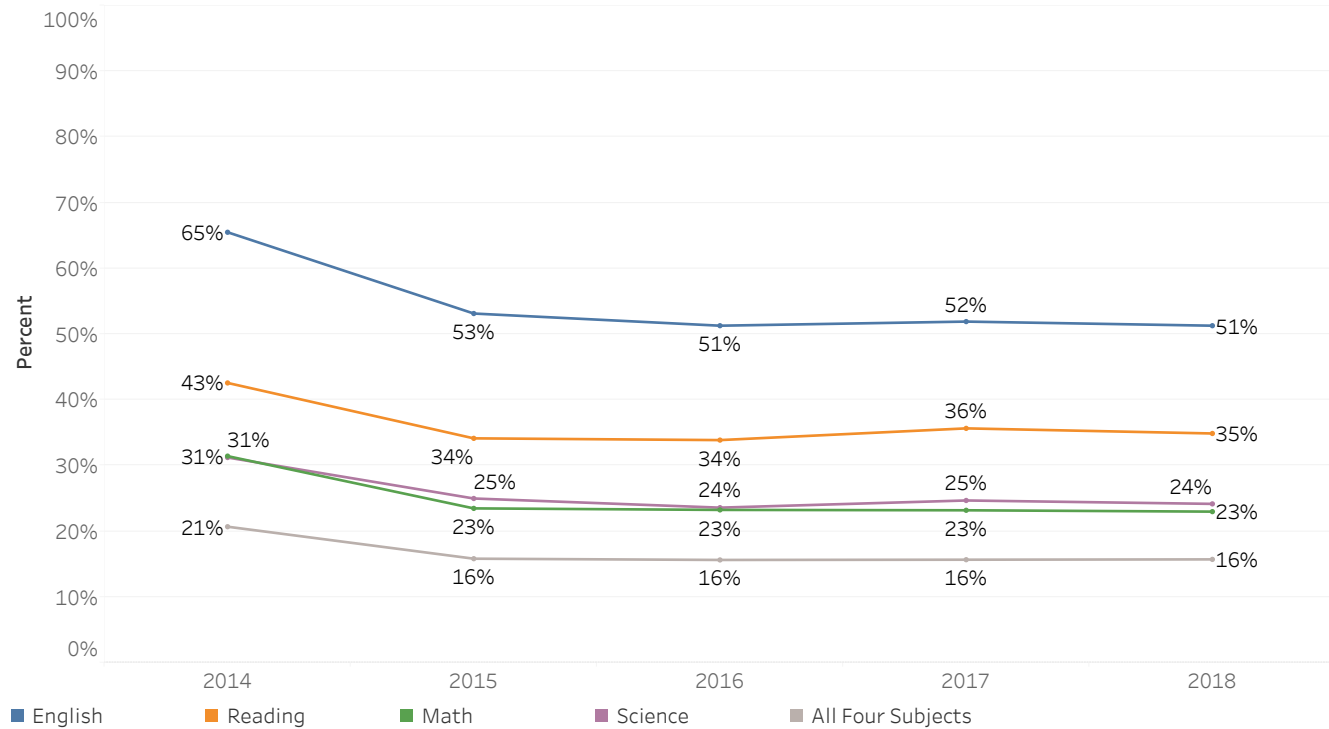
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
51%	60%	35%	46%	23%	40%	24%	36%	16%	27%

* 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.

ALABAMA 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

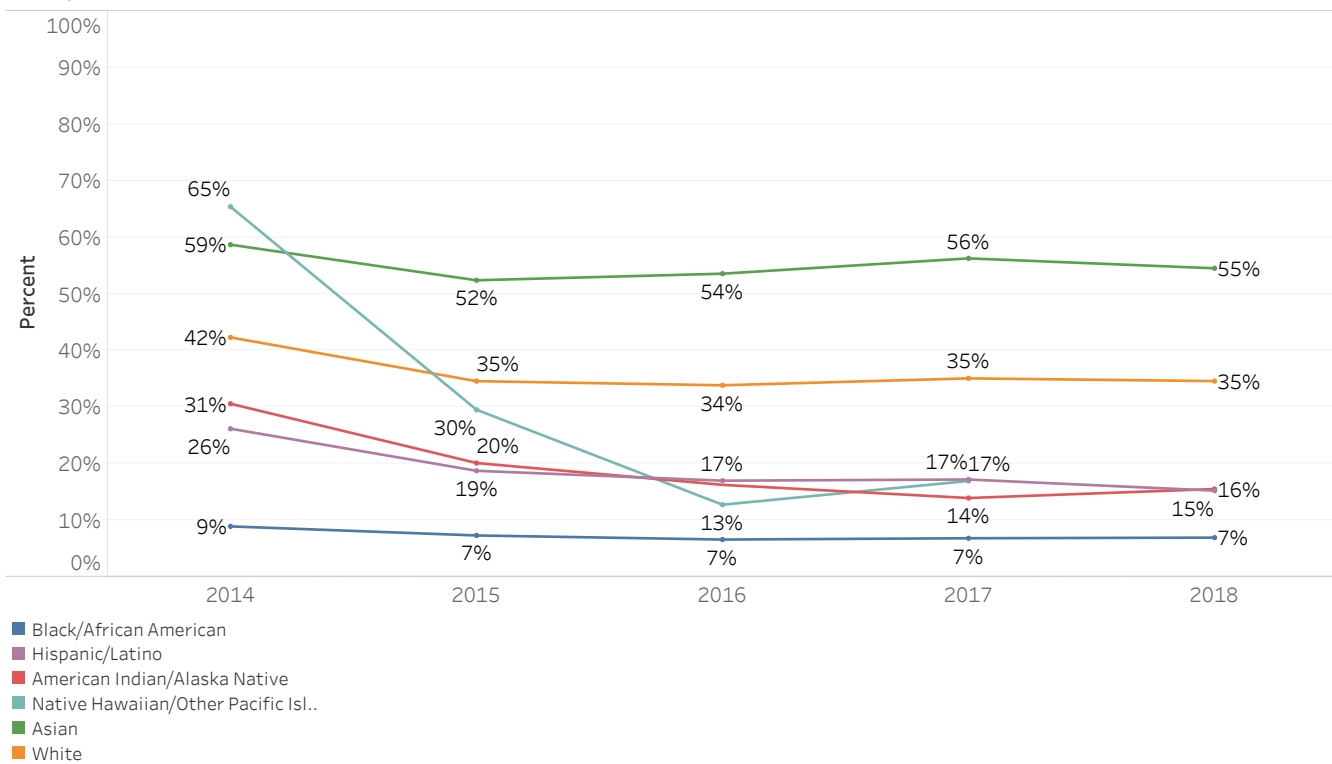
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2014	65%	43%	31%	31%	21%
2015	53%	34%	23%	25%	16%
2016	51%	34%	23%	24%	16%
2017	52%	36%	23%	25%	16%
2018	51%	35%	23%	24%	16%

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ALABAMA 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



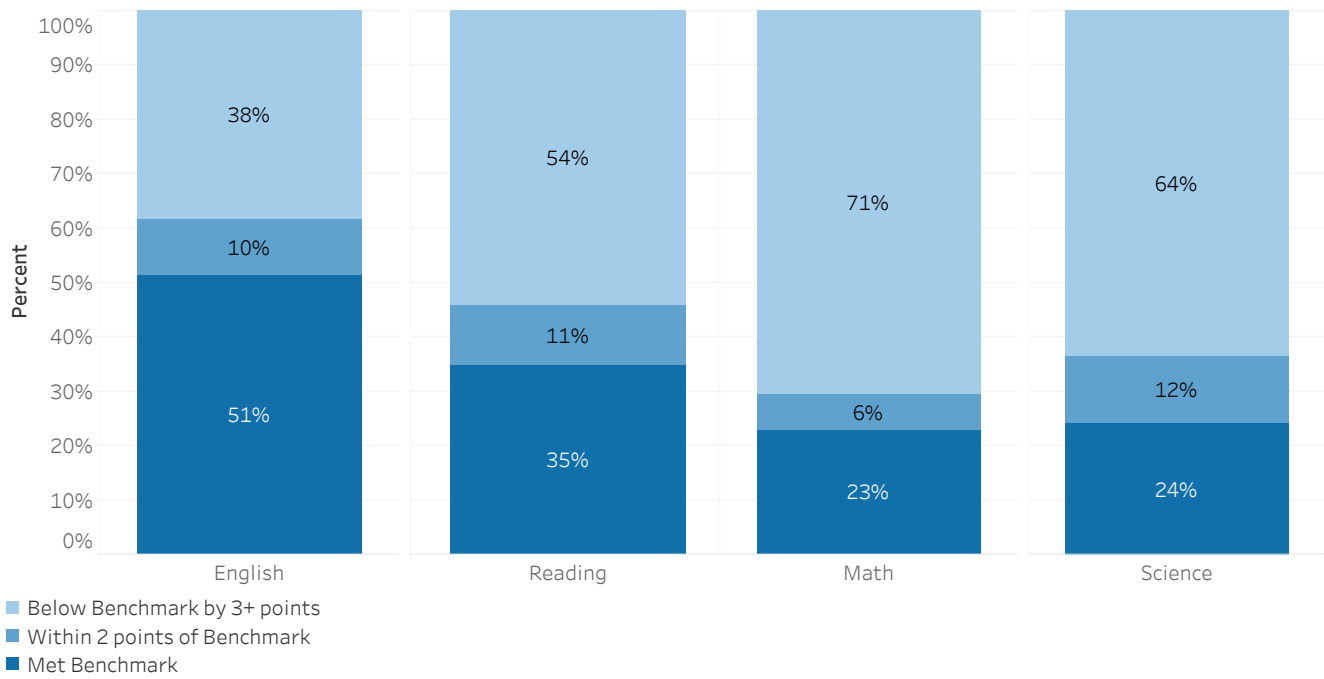
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2014	9%	26%	31%	65%	59%	42%
2015	7%	19%	20%	30%	52%	35%
2016	7%	17%	16%	13%	54%	34%
2017	7%	17%	14%	17%	56%	35%
2018	7%	15%	16%		55%	35%

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ALABAMA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



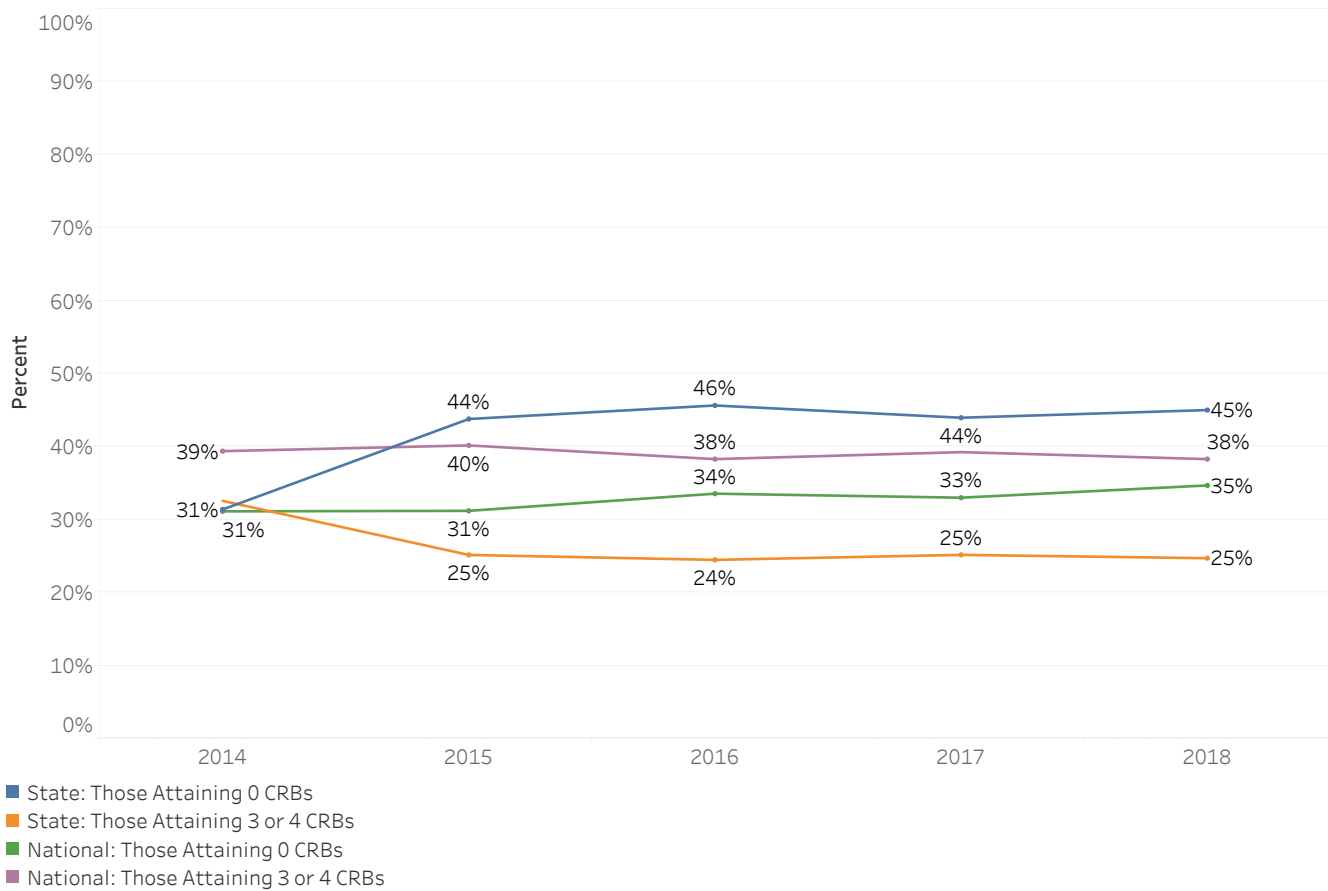
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	38%	10%	51%
Math	71%	6%	23%
Reading	54%	11%	35%
Science	64%	12%	24%

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



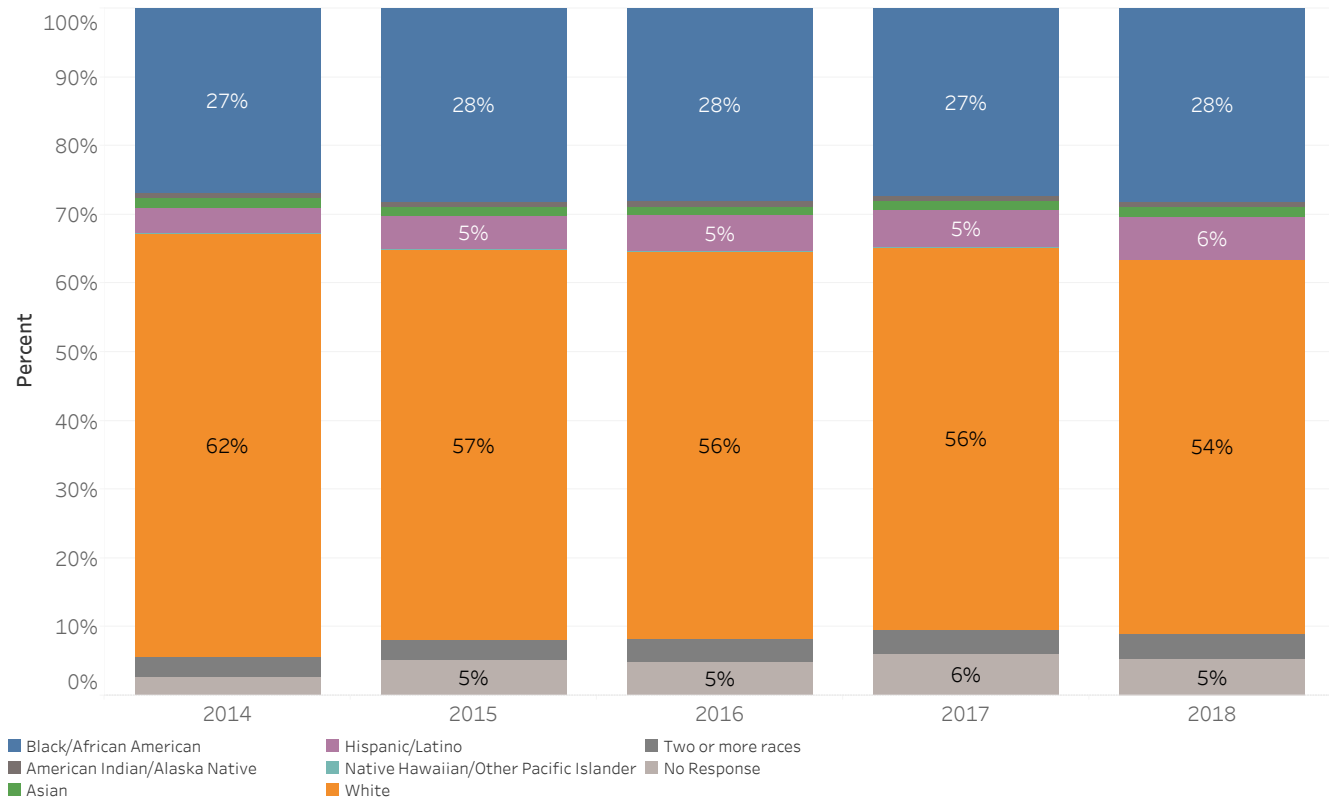
Data from Graph Above

	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	31%	33%	31%	39%
2015	44%	25%	31%	40%
2016	46%	24%	34%	38%
2017	44%	25%	33%	39%
2018	45%	25%	35%	38%

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ALABAMA 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	27%	1%	2%	4%	0%	62%	3%	3%
2015	28%	1%	1%	5%	0%	57%	3%	5%
2016	28%	1%	1%	5%	0%	56%	3%	5%
2017	27%	1%	1%	5%	0%	56%	3%	6%
2018	28%	1%	2%	6%	0%	54%	4%	5%

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ALABAMA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

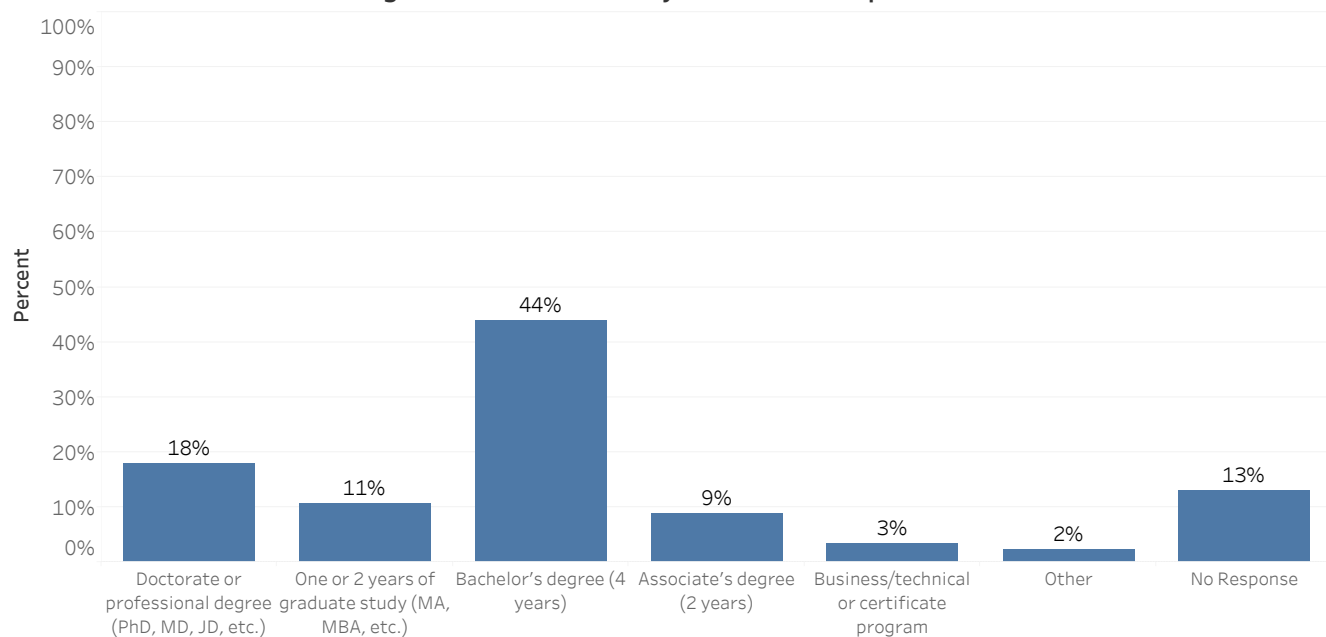
Student Data Trends: 2014-2018, State vs. Nation

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State N-count	37,985	55,427	56,178	57,457	58,177
National N-count	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817
Average ACT English Score - State	20.7	18.8	18.7	18.9	18.9
Average ACT English Score - National	20.3	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Reading Score - State	21.3	19.7	19.7	19.7	19.6
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - State	19.5	18.4	18.3	18.4	18.3
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - State	20.4	19.1	19.1	19.4	19.0
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.8	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7
Average ACT Composite Score - State	20.6	19.1	19.1	19.2	19.1
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

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ALABAMA 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.)	11%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	44%
Associate's degree (2 years)	9%
Business/technical or certificate program	3%
Other	2%
No Response	13%

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