

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018

Arizona Key Findings

Performance

- In the 2018 Arizona graduating class, 45,468 graduates (66 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 19.2. This compares to 33,999 (55 percent) with an average of 19.7 in 2014. Nationally, 55% of 2018 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.8.
 - ~ There were 1,521 American Indian graduates from Arizona who took the ACT (3 percent) with an average Composite score of 16.2. This compares to 1,482 (4 percent) with an average of 16.6, and 1,364 (4 percent) with an average of 16.6, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 15,011 White graduates from Arizona who took the ACT (33 percent) with an average Composite score of 22.0. This compares to 14,446 (34 percent) with an average of 22.5, and 12,906 (38 percent) with an average of 22.4, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 19,721 Hispanic graduates from Arizona who took the ACT (43 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.3. This compares to 18,177 (43 percent) with an average of 17.8, and 13,345 (39 percent) with an average of 17.5, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
- The 2018 Arizona graduating class average English score was 18.2. This compares to 18.6 and 18.8 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Arizona graduating class average math score was 19.4. This compares to 19.8 and 20.2 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Arizona graduating class average reading score was 19.5. This compares to 20.1 and 20.0 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Arizona graduating class average science score was 19.2. This compares to 19.8 and 19.5 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- In 2018, 19 percent of Arizona graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 21 and 21 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 47 percent of Arizona graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 42 and 41 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 47 percent of Arizona graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 51 and 54 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 32 percent of Arizona graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 34 and 37 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 35 percent of Arizona graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 38 and 37 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - 2018 Arizona graduates taking more advanced social studies coursework demonstrated markedly higher average reading scores than those who did not. In fact, 44 percent of Arizona 2018 graduates taking three or more years of social studies met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 17 percent of students taking less than three years of social studies meeting the benchmark.

- ~ In 2018, 27 percent of Arizona graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 29 and 29 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- In 2018, 12,918 (28 percent) of Arizona graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 13,238 and 11,039 (31 and 32 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, 2 percent of Arizona graduates took the ACT with extended time. This compares to 2 and 1 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- 37 percent of 2018 Arizona graduates were Proficient or Above Proficient in understanding complex texts.

STEM

- In 2018, 20,005 Arizona graduates (44 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
 - ~ Nationally, 45 percent of graduates indicated having an interest in STEM.
- Compared to 14 percent of 2018 Arizona graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 15 and 16, respectively.
- In 2018, 15,685 Arizona graduates (34 percent) indicated taking physics. This compares to 38 and 40 percent for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
- 2018 graduates taking physics had an average science score of 21.7, compared to 18.5 for students not taking physics.
 - ~ 44 percent of 2018 Arizona graduates taking physics met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 20 for students not taking physics.
- In 2018, 35,191 Arizona graduates (77 percent) indicated taking three or more years of math. This compares to 83 and 86 percent for 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ 37 percent of 2018 graduates taking three or more years of math met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 10 percent for students taking less than three years of math.

Career Readiness

- In 2018, 28,113 Arizona 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 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 Arizona 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:
 - ~ 116 more students enrolling in college.
 - ~ 128 more students persisting to year two.
 - ~ 95 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - ~ 146 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - ~ 133 more students persisting to year four.
 - ~ 138 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

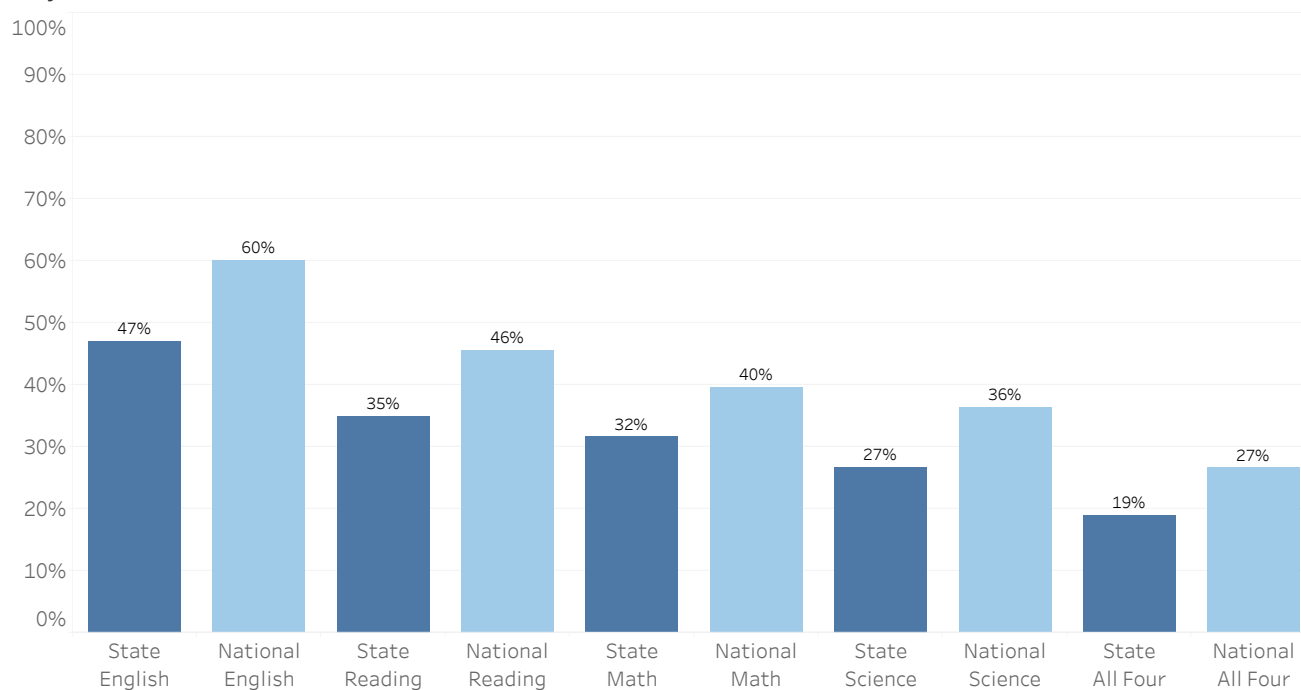
- In Arizona, 9,288 of the 2018 graduates (20.4%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 23.2, compared to an average of 18.2 for 36,180 of the 2018 graduates (79.6%) who took the ACT only once.
- 110,296 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 Arizona ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ 64,277 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2018 Arizona ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ For Arizona's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were Arizona State University, University of Arizona, Northern Arizona University, Grand Canyon University, and Glendale Community College.
 - ~ For Arizona's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were University of Southern California, Brigham Young University, and University of California-Los Angeles.
- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 76 percent of Arizona 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.
 - ~ Compared to 73 percent of American Indian students nationally, 87 percent of Arizona American Indian 2018 graduates opted into EOS.
 - ~ Compared to 66 percent of White students nationally, 71 percent of Arizona White 2018 graduates opted into EOS.
 - ~ Compared to 80 percent of Hispanic students nationally, 84 percent of Arizona Hispanic 2018 graduates opted into EOS.
- In the 2017-2018 academic year, ACT issued 7,631 ACT fee waivers to qualified Arizona students. However, 2,161 students (28.3 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.
 - ~ American Indian Arizona students represent 17 percent of fee waivers issued, and they account for 19 percent of unused fee waivers.
 - ~ Hispanic Arizona students represent 56 percent of fee waivers issued, and they account for 54 percent of unused fee waivers.

Pipeline

- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - ~ 13,501 students (30 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 22.2.
 - ~ 16,619 students (37 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 19.4.
 - ~ 2,859 students (6 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 15.4.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2018 Arizona graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; and Criminology.
 - ~ In the Arizona graduating class of 2018, 1,081 (2 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 19.1.
- There is good news in that 73% of Arizona's 2018 ACT-tested graduates aspired to postsecondary education. Interestingly enough, 77% of Arizona'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 9,023 of the 2017 ACT-tested graduates from Arizona would have enrolled in postsecondary education.

ARIZONA 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

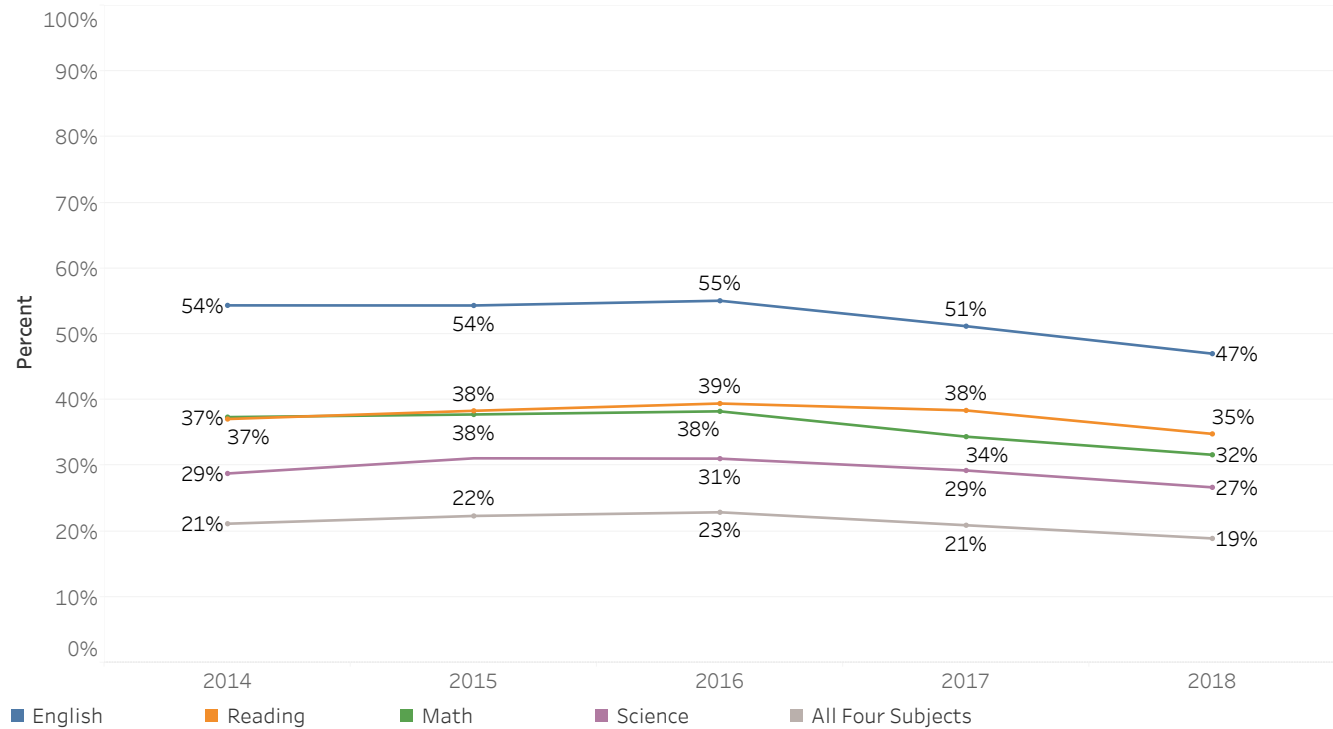
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
47%	60%	35%	46%	32%	40%	27%	36%	19%	27%

* 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.

ARIZONA 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

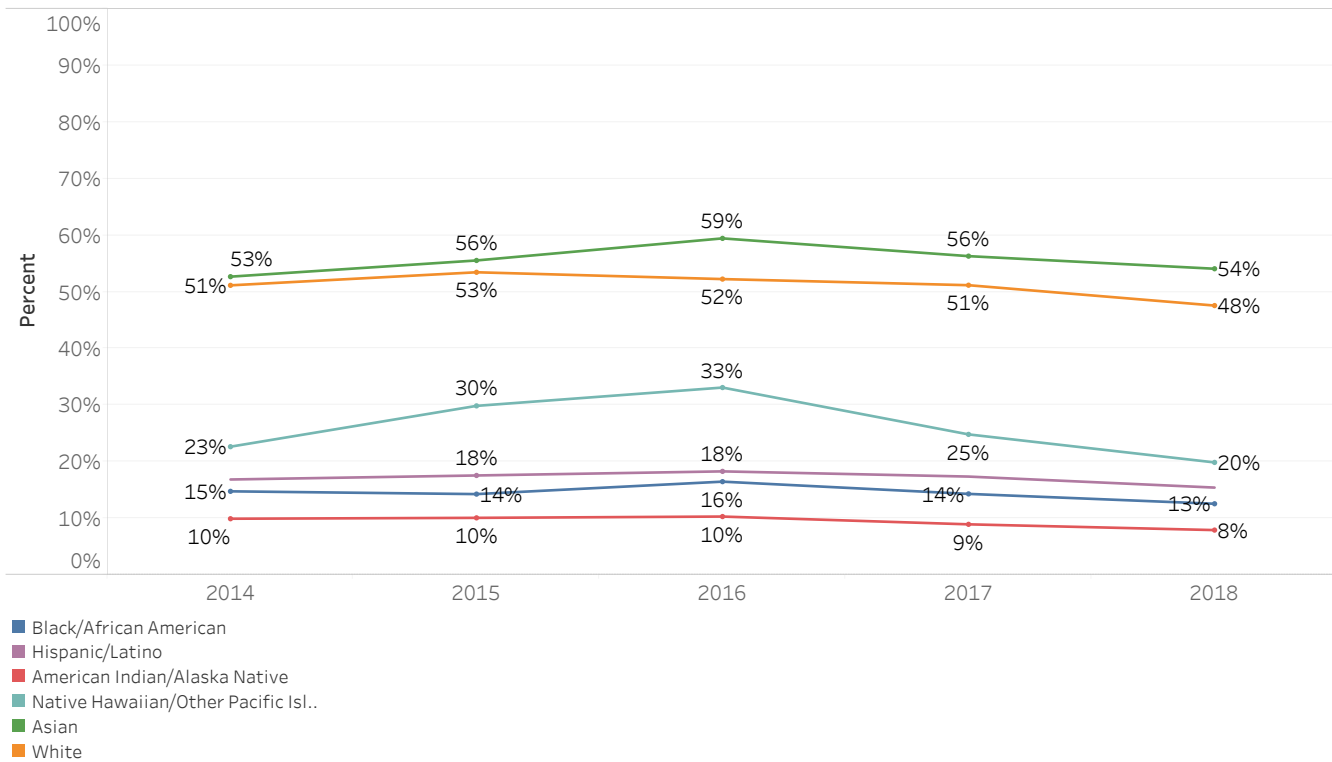
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2014	54%	37%	37%	29%	21%
2015	54%	38%	38%	31%	22%
2016	55%	39%	38%	31%	23%
2017	51%	38%	34%	29%	21%
2018	47%	35%	32%	27%	19%

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ARIZONA 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



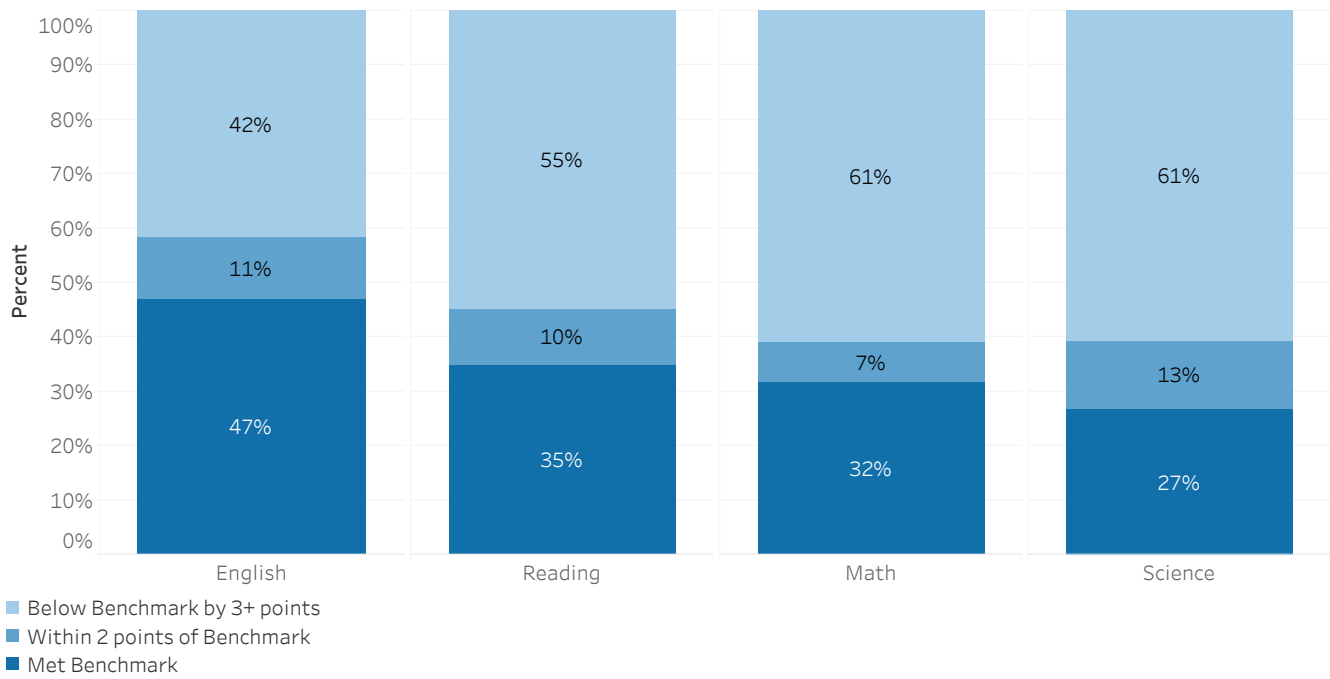
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2014	15%	17%	10%	23%	53%	51%
2015	14%	18%	10%	30%	56%	53%
2016	16%	18%	10%	33%	59%	52%
2017	14%	17%	9%	25%	56%	51%
2018	13%	15%	8%	20%	54%	48%

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ARIZONA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



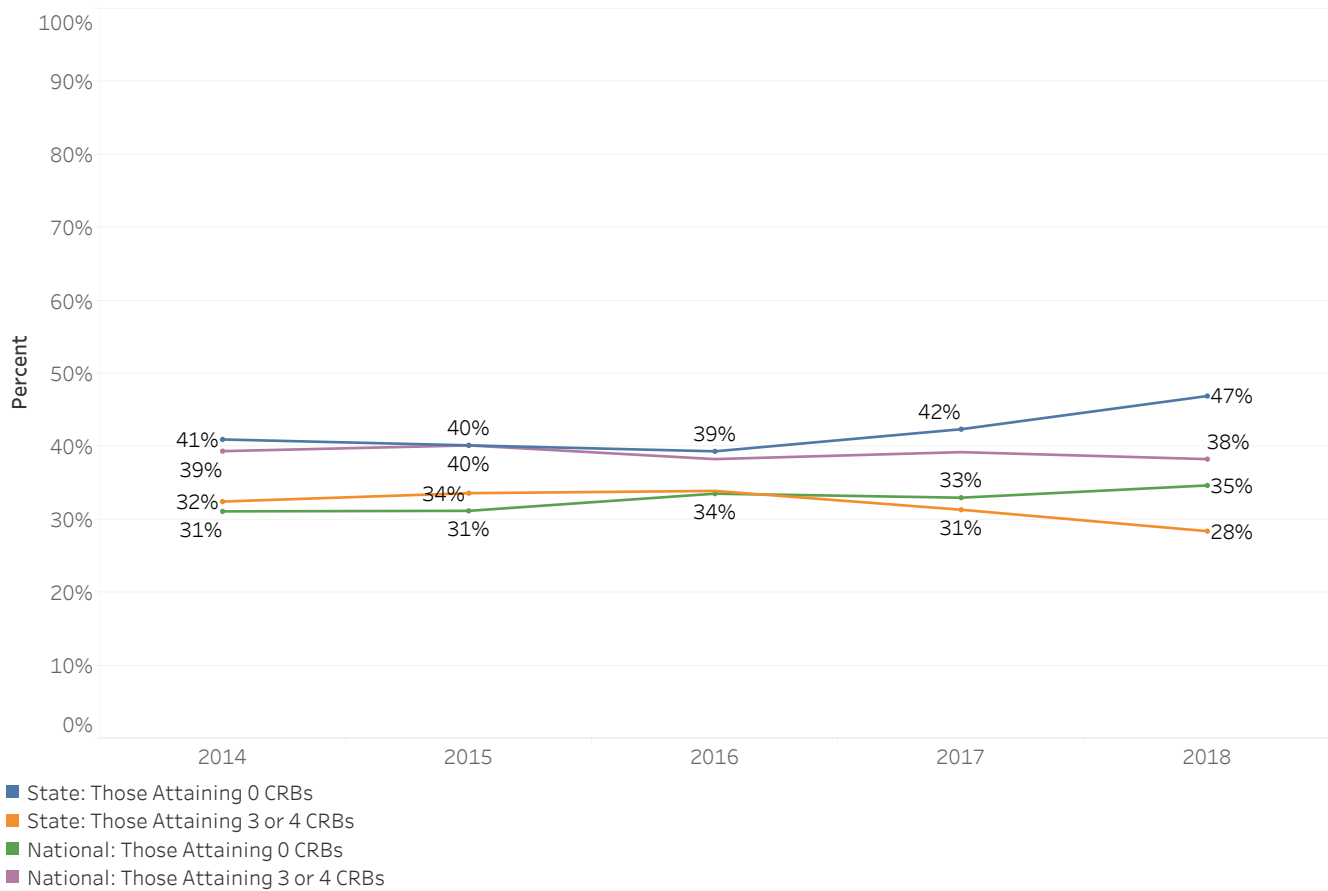
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	42%	11%	47%
Math	61%	7%	32%
Reading	55%	10%	35%
Science	61%	13%	27%

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ARIZONA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



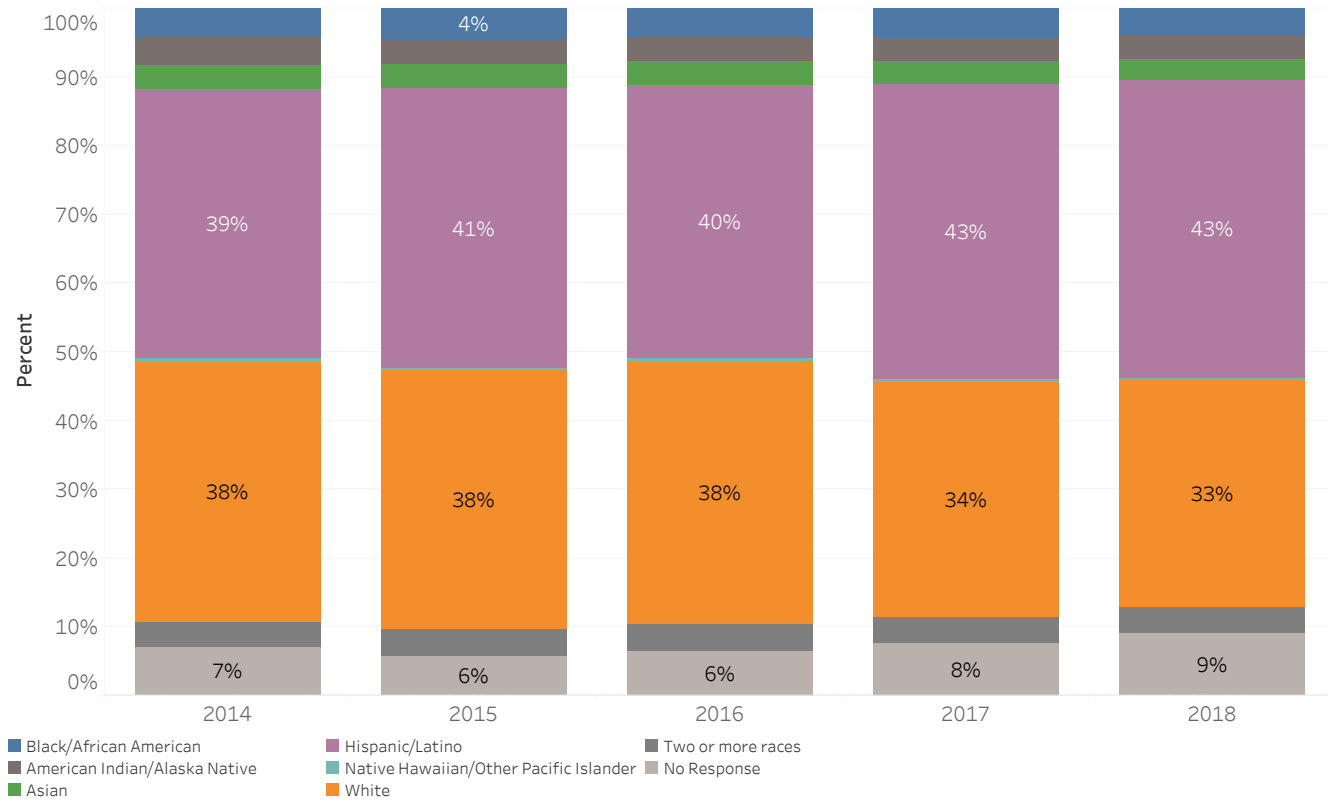
Data from Graph Above

	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	41%	32%	31%	39%
2015	40%	34%	31%	40%
2016	39%	34%	34%	38%
2017	42%	31%	33%	39%
2018	47%	28%	35%	38%

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ARIZONA 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	4%	4%	3%	39%	0%	38%	4%	7%
2015	4%	4%	3%	41%	0%	38%	4%	6%
2016	4%	4%	3%	40%	0%	38%	4%	6%
2017	4%	4%	3%	43%	0%	34%	4%	8%
2018	4%	3%	3%	43%	0%	33%	4%	9%

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ARIZONA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

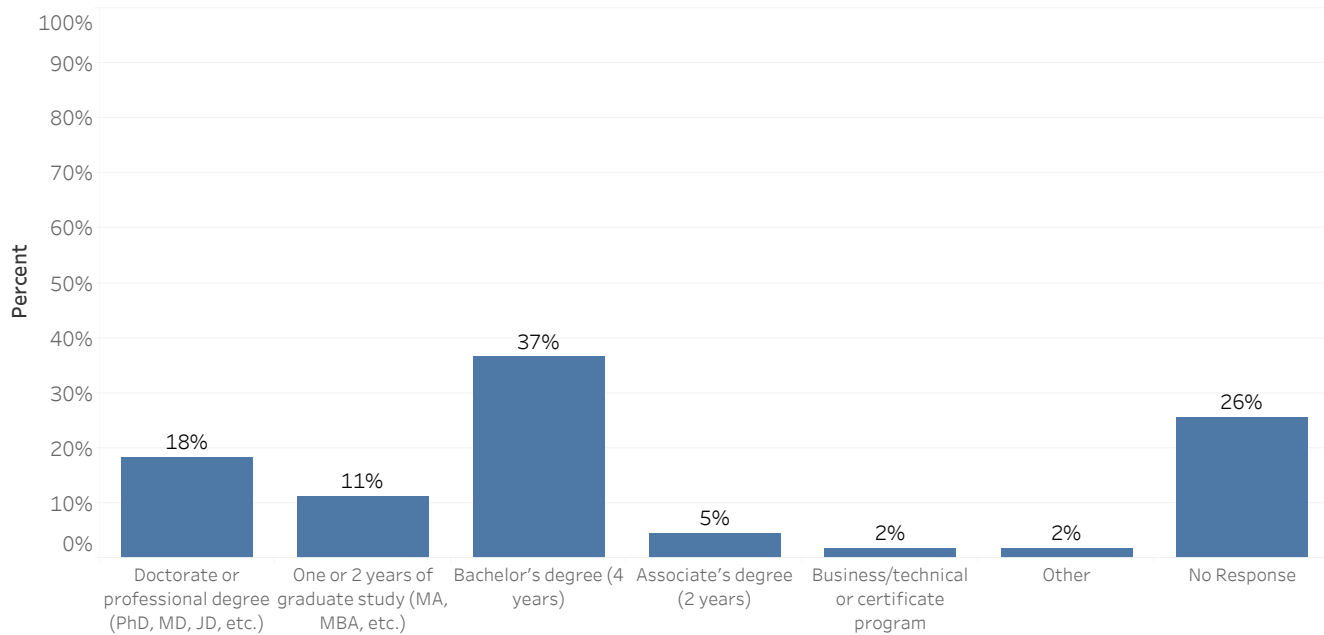
Student Data Trends: 2014-2018, State vs. Nation

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State N-count	33,999	35,248	36,285	42,232	45,468
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	18.8	19.1	18.6	18.2
Average ACT English Score - National	20.3	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Reading Score - State	20.0	20.2	20.5	20.1	19.5
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - State	20.2	20.2	20.2	19.8	19.4
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - State	19.5	19.7	20.0	19.8	19.2
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.8	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7
Average ACT Composite Score - State	19.7	19.9	20.1	19.7	19.2
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

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ARIZONA 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)	37%
Associate's degree (2 years)	5%
Business/technical or certificate program	2%
Other	2%
No Response	26%

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