

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018

Arkansas Key Findings

Performance

- In the 2018 Arkansas graduating class, 34,468 graduates (100 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 19.4. This compares to 26,821 (93 percent) with an average of 20.4 in 2014. Nationally, 55% of 2018 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.8.
 - ~ There were 5,483 African American graduates from Arkansas who took the ACT (16 percent) with an average Composite score of 16.3. This compares to 5,609 (16 percent) with an average of 16.3, and 4,452 (17 percent) with an average of 16.9, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 19,657 White graduates from Arkansas who took the ACT (57 percent) with an average Composite score of 20.7. This compares to 20,132 (58 percent) with an average of 20.6, and 17,181 (64 percent) with an average of 21.6, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 3,771 Hispanic graduates from Arkansas who took the ACT (11 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.8. This compares to 3,562 (10 percent) with an average of 18.1, and 2,179 (8 percent) with an average of 18.8, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
- In 2018, 17 percent of Arkansas graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 16 and 21 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 53 percent of Arkansas graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 53 and 63 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 27 percent of Arkansas graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 27 and 35 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 36 percent of Arkansas graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 36 and 41 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 26 percent of Arkansas graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 25 and 32 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - 2018 Arkansas graduates taking more advanced science coursework demonstrated markedly higher average science scores than those who did not. In fact, 30 percent of Arkansas 2018 graduates taking three or more years of science met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 6 percent of students taking less than three years of science meeting the benchmark.

STEM

- In 2018, 15,255 Arkansas 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 a 2018 Arkansas graduating class average ACT STEM score of 19.4, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM averages of 19.5 and 20.4, respectively.
- Compared to 11 percent of 2018 Arkansas graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 11 and 13, respectively.
 - ~ 2018 Arkansas graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.6. This compares to 28.4 in 2014.
 - ~ 2018 Arkansas graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 27.8. This compares to 27.8 in 2014.

Career Readiness

- In 2018, 5,942 Arkansas graduates (17 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.
 - ~ 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 Arkansas 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:
 - ~ 88 more students enrolling in college.
 - ~ 97 more students persisting to year two.
 - ~ 73 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - ~ 120 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - ~ 102 more students persisting to year four.
 - ~ 107 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Arkansas, 21,134 of the 2018 graduates (61.3%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 21.2, compared to an average of 16.5 for 13,334 of the 2018 graduates (38.7%) 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.
- For Arkansas's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were University of Arkansas, University of Central Arkansas, Arkansas State University, Arkansas Tech University, and University of Arkansas at Little Rock.
- For Arkansas's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were University of Memphis, University of Mississippi, and Oklahoma State University.
- 75,161 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 Arkansas ACT-tested graduates.
- 47,859 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2018 Arkansas ACT-tested graduates.
- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 78 percent of Arkansas 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.
 - ~ 80% of 2017 Arkansas graduates opted into EOS, compared to 73% nationally.
 - ~ Compared to 79 percent of African American students nationally, 87 percent of Arkansas African American 2018 graduates opted into EOS.
 - ~ Compared to 66 percent of White students nationally, 78 percent of Arkansas White 2018 graduates opted into EOS.
 - ~ Compared to 80 percent of Hispanic students nationally, 87 percent of Arkansas Hispanic 2018 graduates opted into EOS.
- In the 2017-2018 academic year, ACT issued 13,883 ACT fee waivers to qualified Arkansas students. However, 3,161 students (22.8 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.
 - ~ While African American Arkansas students represent 34 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 37 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 31 and 33 nationally.
 - ~ While White Arkansas students represent 38 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 37 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 19 and 17 nationally.
 - ~ While Hispanic Arkansas students represent 17 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 15 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 35 and 36 nationally.
 - ~ In 2016-2017, ACT issued 14,770 fee waivers to qualified Arkansas students. However, 3,451 students (23 percent) did not take advantage of this opportunity.

Pipeline

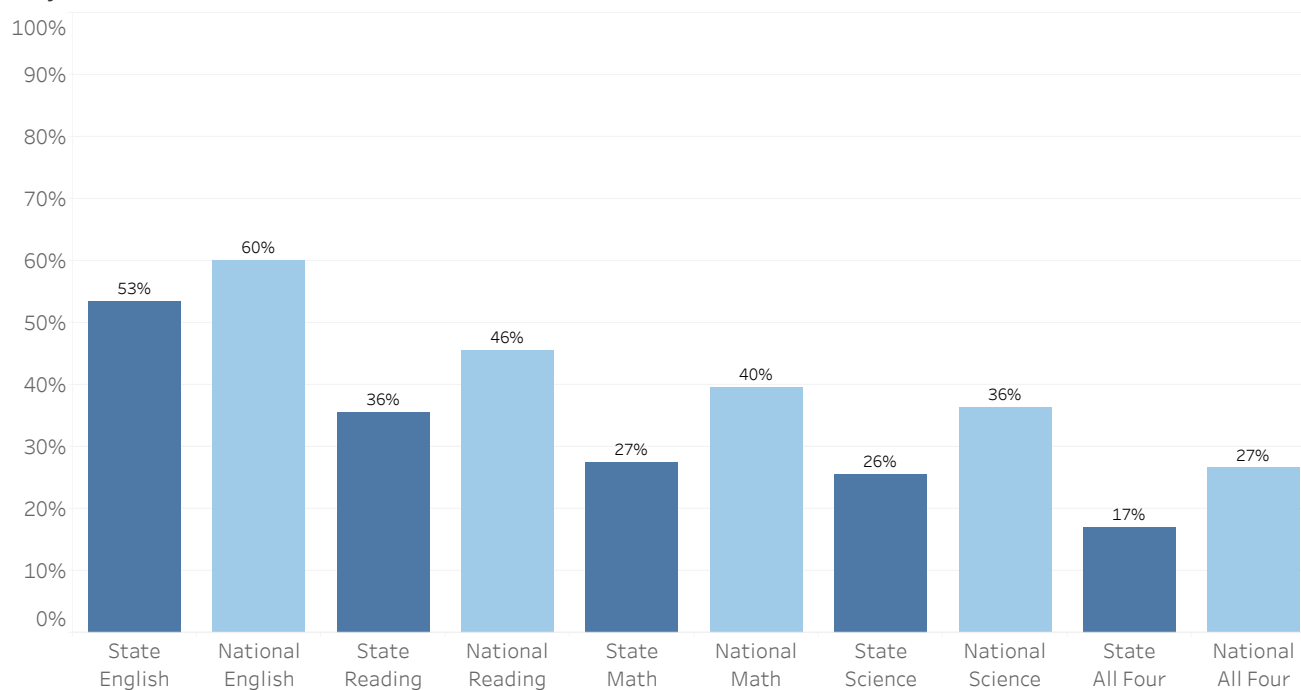
- In the Arkansas graduating class of 2018, 8,249 students (24 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2018 Arkansas graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; and Biology, General.
 - ~ In the Arkansas graduating class of 2018, 4,477 students (13 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 19.8. 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 Arkansas graduating class of 2018, 1,691 (5 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 19.7.

Additional Points

- The Arkansas ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with more than 500 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 conference that brings together professionals representing each of these areas, 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 Arkansas Champions: Madison Wood (High School Senior), Phyllis Dickey (K-12 Professional), and Ashley Buchman (Postsecondary Professional).

ARKANSAS 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

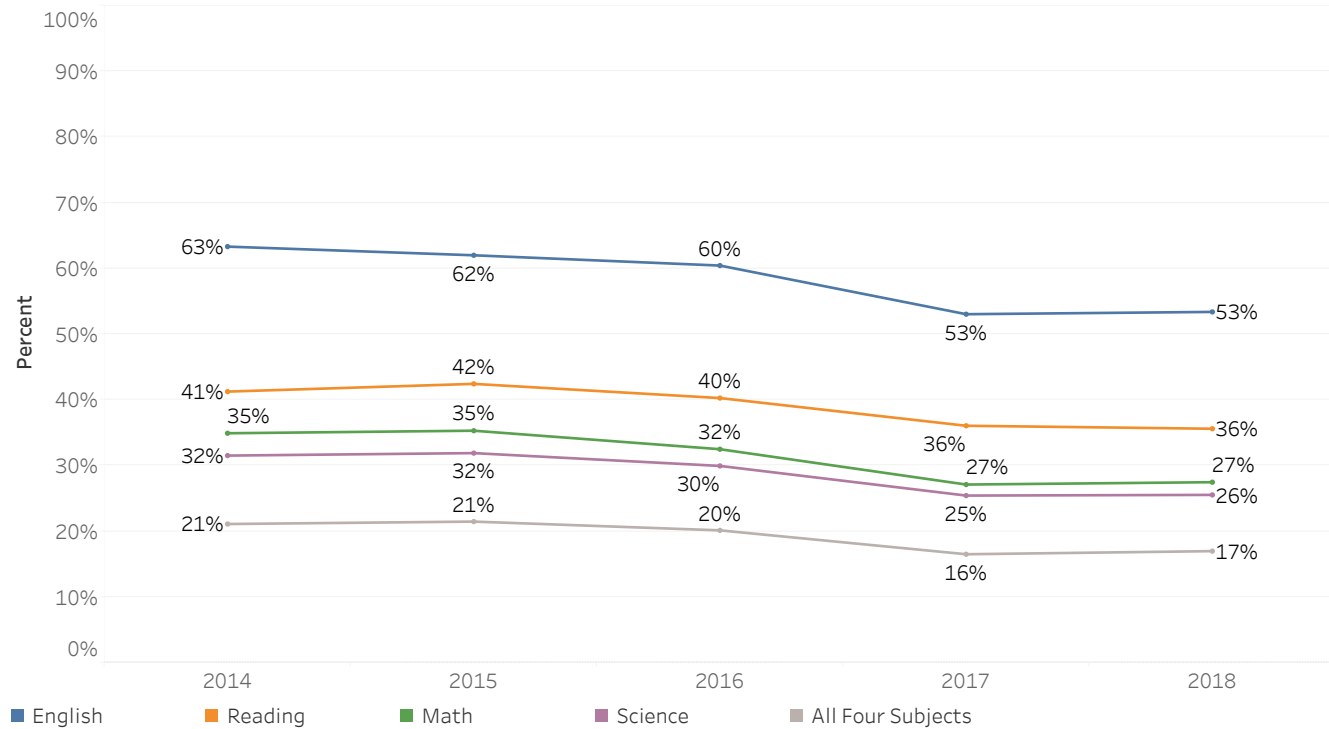
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
53%	60%	36%	46%	27%	40%	26%	36%	17%	27%

* 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.

ARKANSAS 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

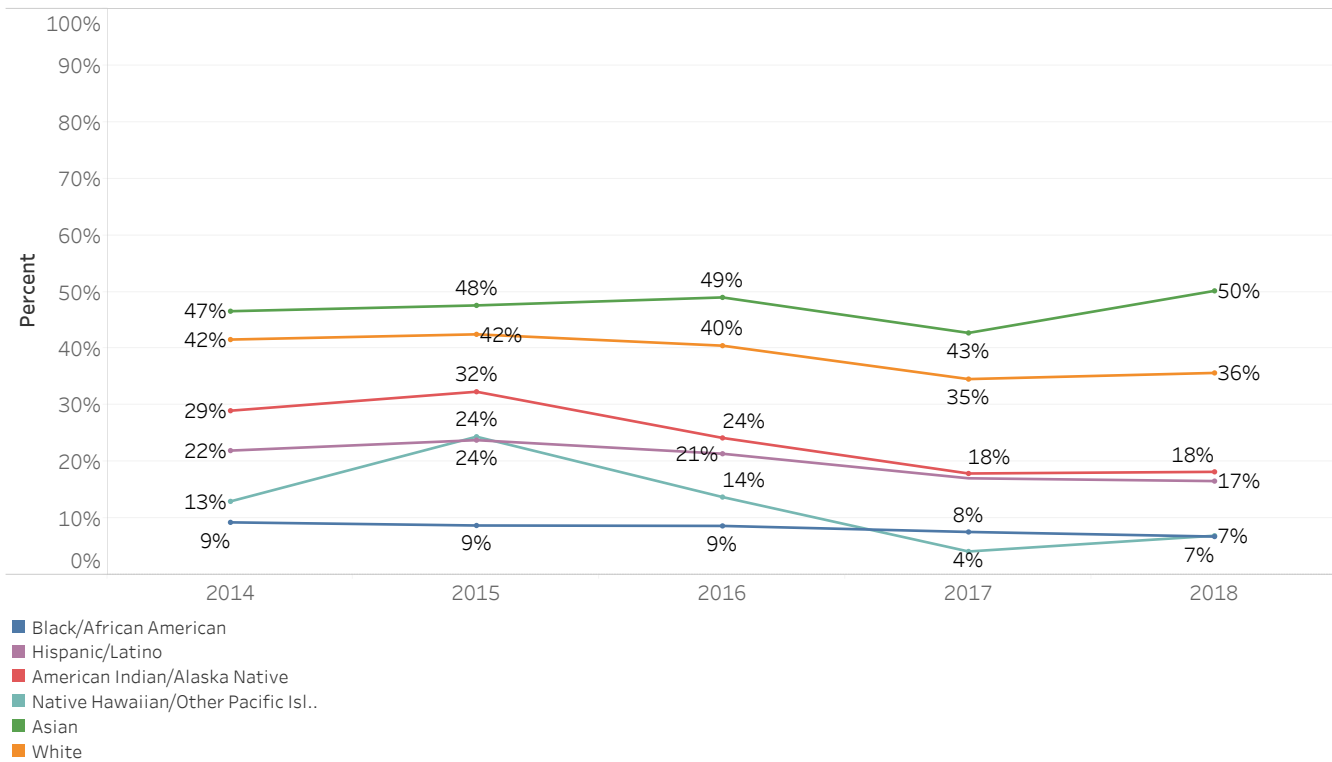
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2014	63%	41%	35%	32%	21%
2015	62%	42%	35%	32%	21%
2016	60%	40%	32%	30%	20%
2017	53%	36%	27%	25%	16%
2018	53%	36%	27%	26%	17%

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ARKANSAS 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



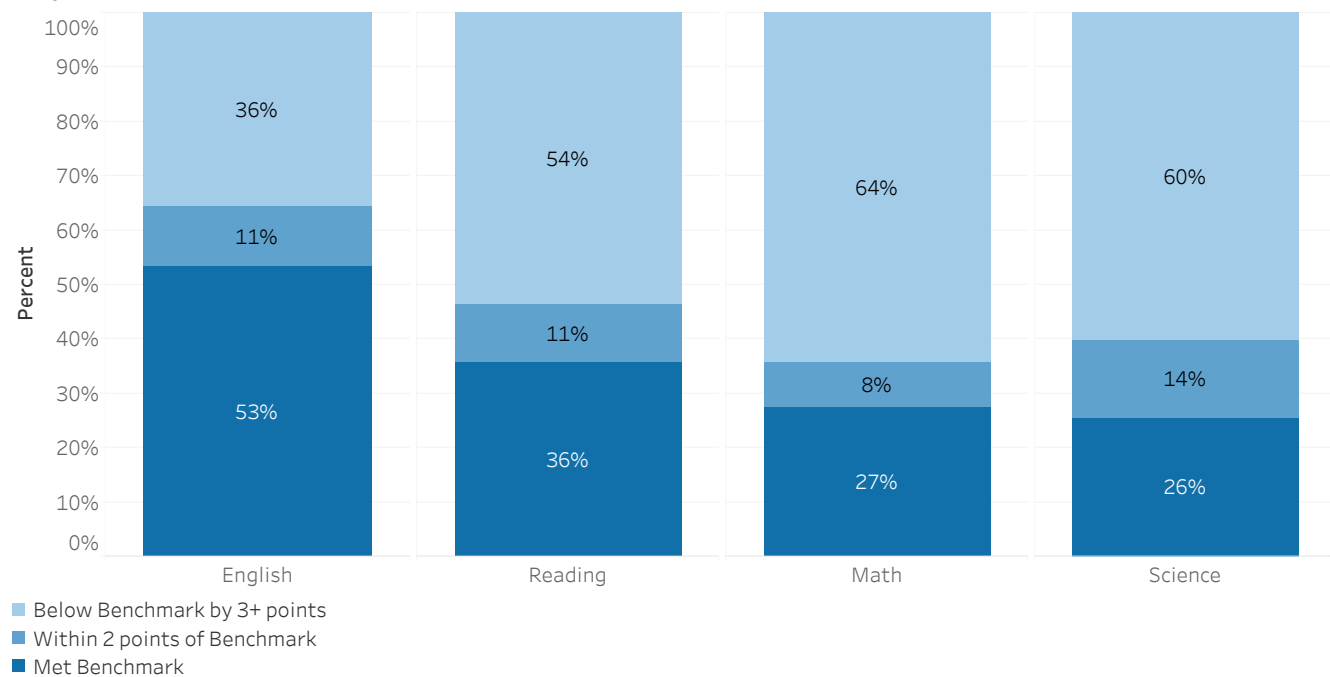
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2014	9%	22%	29%	13%	47%	42%
2015	9%	24%	32%	24%	48%	42%
2016	9%	21%	24%	14%	49%	40%
2017	8%	17%	18%	4%	43%	35%
2018	7%	17%	18%	7%	50%	36%

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ARKANSAS College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



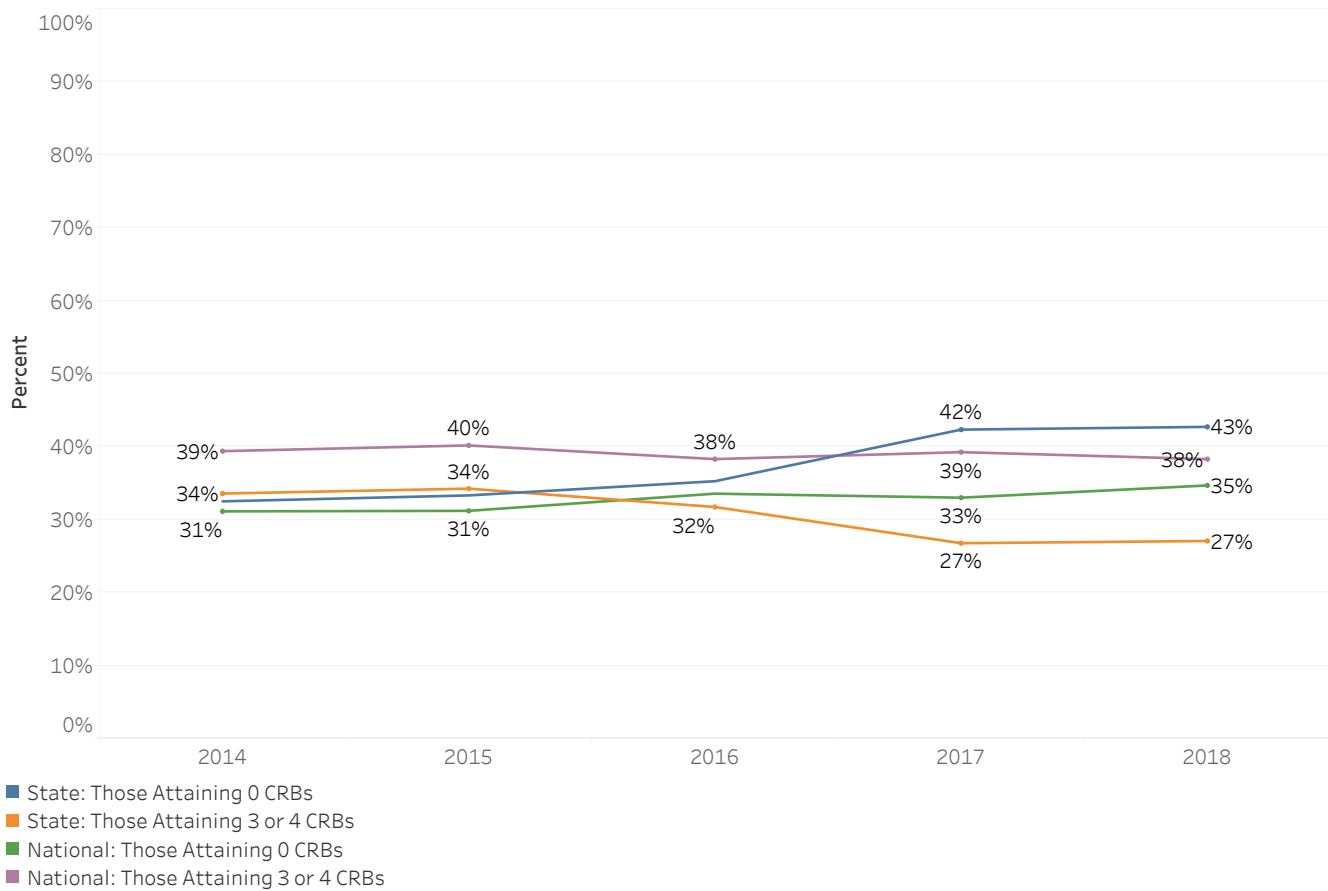
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	36%	11%	53%
Math	64%	8%	27%
Reading	54%	11%	36%
Science	60%	14%	26%

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ARKANSAS College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



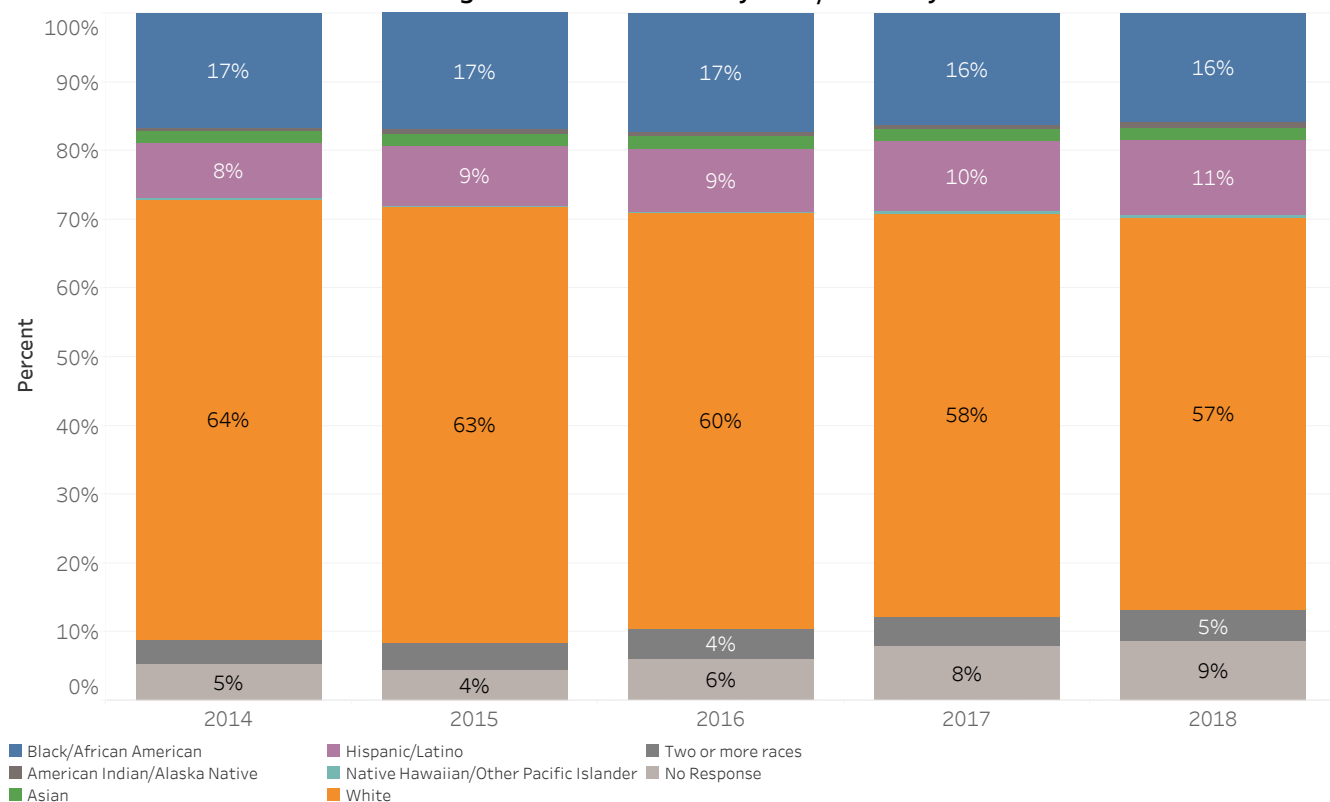
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	State: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	State: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs
2014	32%	34%	31%	39%
2015	33%	34%	31%	40%
2016	35%	32%	34%	38%
2017	42%	27%	33%	39%
2018	43%	27%	35%	38%

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ARKANSAS 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	17%	1%	2%	8%	0%	64%	4%	5%
2015	17%	1%	2%	9%	0%	63%	4%	4%
2016	17%	1%	2%	9%	0%	60%	4%	6%
2017	16%	1%	2%	10%	0%	58%	4%	8%
2018	16%	1%	2%	11%	0%	57%	5%	9%

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ARKANSAS College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

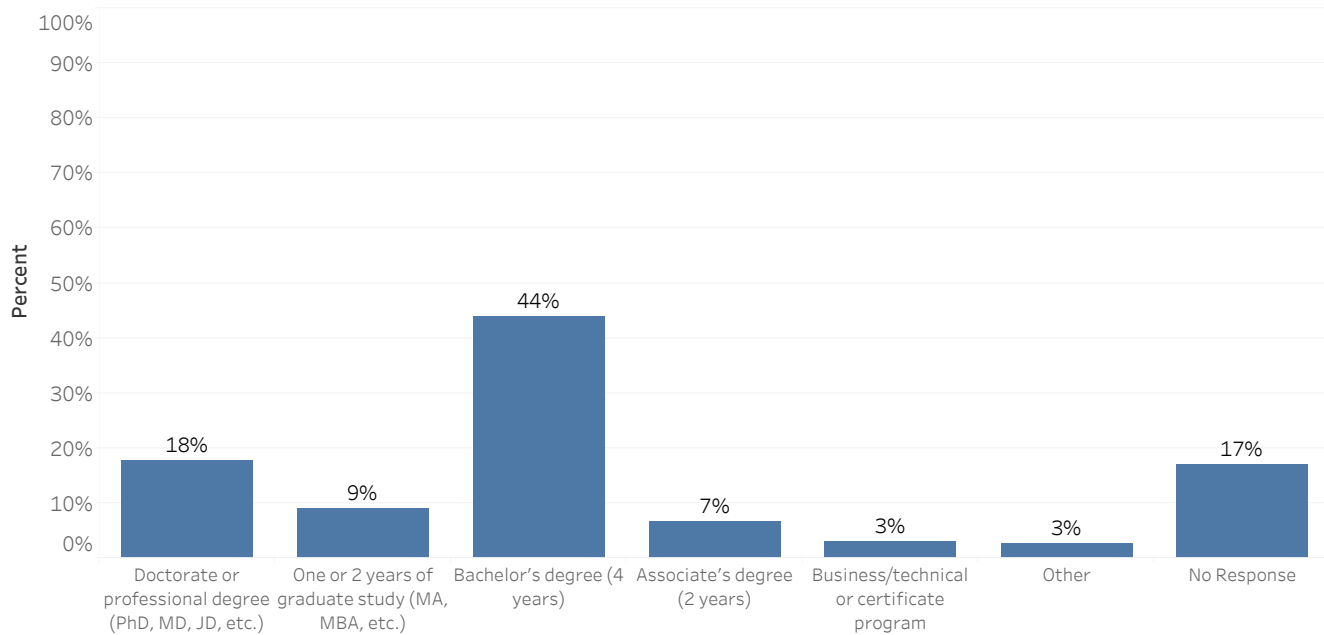
Student Data Trends: 2014-2018, State vs. Nation

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State N-count	26,821	26,955	28,120	34,451	34,468
National N-count	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817
Average ACT English Score - State	20.1	20.0	19.8	18.9	19.1
Average ACT English Score - National	20.3	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Reading Score - State	20.8	20.9	20.7	19.7	19.7
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - State	19.9	20.0	19.6	19.0	18.9
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - State	20.3	20.3	20.2	19.5	19.4
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.8	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7
Average ACT Composite Score - State	20.4	20.4	20.2	19.4	19.4
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

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ARKANSAS 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.)	9%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	44%
Associate's degree (2 years)	7%
Business/technical or certificate program	3%
Other	3%
No Response	17%

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