

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018

Florida Key Findings

Performance

- In the 2018 Florida graduating class, 119,543 graduates (66 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 19.9. This compares to 129,676 (81 percent) with an average of 19.6 in 2014. Nationally, 55% of 2018 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.8.
- The 2018 Florida graduating class average English score was 19.2. This compares to 19.0 and 18.7 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Florida graduating class average math score was 19.3. This compares to 19.4 and 19.5 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Florida graduating class average reading score was 21.1. This compares to 21.0 and 20.7 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Florida graduating class average science score was 19.5. This compares to 19.4 and 19.1 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- In 2018, 21 percent of Florida graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 21 and 19 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 40 percent of Florida graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 41 and 41 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 53 percent of Florida graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 52 and 53 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 32 percent of Florida graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 32 and 33 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 43 percent of Florida graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 43 and 38 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 29 percent of Florida graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 29 and 27 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- In 2018, 38,196 (32 percent) of Florida graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 40,616 and 38,656 (31 and 30 percent) out of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively. For reference, the national percentage of 2018 graduates meeting three or four benchmarks was 38%.
- 46 percent of 2018 Florida graduates were Proficient or Above Proficient in understanding complex texts.

STEM

- In 2018, 53,819 Florida graduates (45 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 Florida graduating class average ACT STEM score of 19.7, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM averages of 19.7 and 19.5, respectively.
- Compared to 15 percent of 2018 Florida graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 15 and 13, respectively.

- In 2018, 58,852 Florida graduates (49 percent) indicated taking physics. This compares to 52 and 51 percent for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
- 2018 graduates taking physics had an average science score of 20.5, compared to 18.8 for students not taking physics.
 - ~ 36 percent of 2018 Florida graduates taking physics met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 24 for students not taking physics.
 - ~ 2018 Florida graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.7. This compares to 28.0 in 2014.
- 2018 Florida graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 28.2. This compares to 28.3 in 2014.

Career Readiness

- In 2018, 25,341 Florida graduates (21 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 Florida 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:
 - ~ 298 more students enrolling in college.
 - ~ 331 more students persisting to year two.
 - ~ 239 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - ~ 373 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - ~ 350 more students persisting to year four.
 - ~ 368 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Florida, 51,110 of the 2018 graduates (42.8%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 21.0, compared to an average of 19.0 for 68,433 of the 2018 graduates (57.2%) who took the ACT only once.
- 160,163 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 Florida ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ 101,310 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2018 Florida ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ For Florida’s 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were University of Central Florida, University of Florida, Florida State University, University of South Florida, and Florida International University.
 - ~ For Florida’s 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were University of Alabama, New York University, and Auburn University.
- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 72 percent of Florida 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 72,363 ACT fee waivers to qualified Florida students. However, 21,484 students (29.7 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

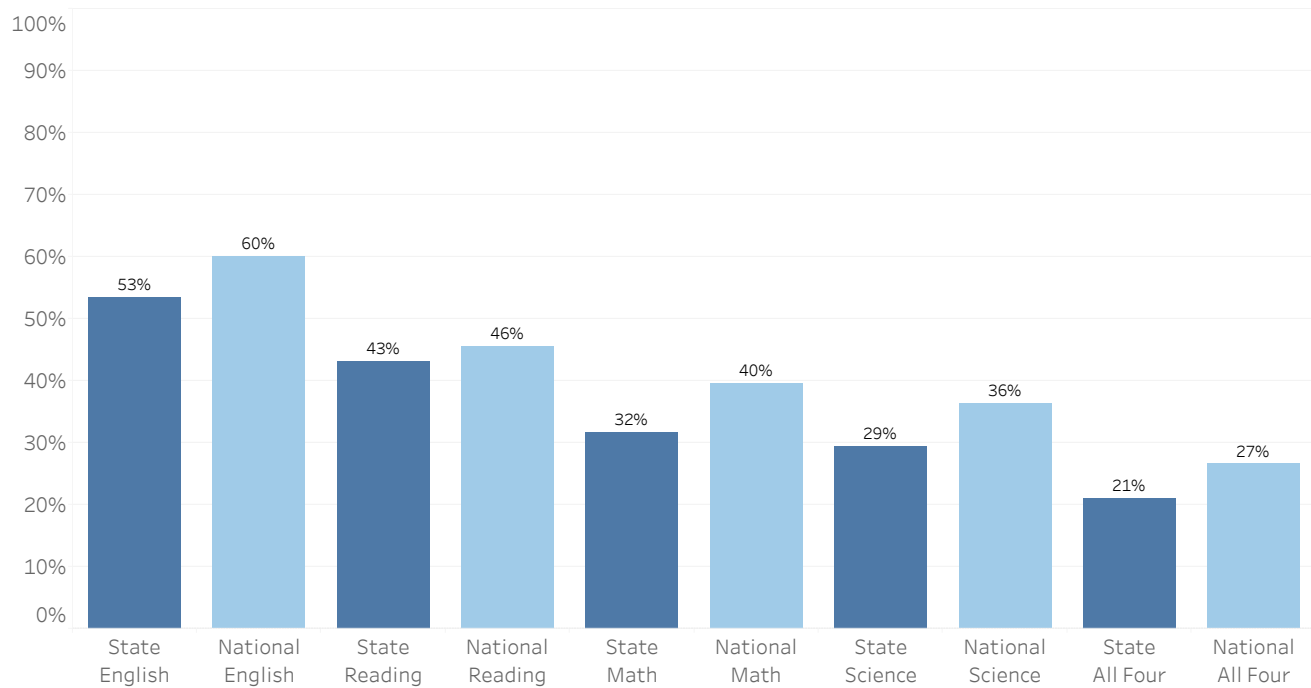
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - ~ 43,388 students (36 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 22.7.
 - ~ 43,196 students (36 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 19.3.
 - ~ 5,881 students (5 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 15.6.
- In the Florida graduating class of 2018, 22,236 students (19 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2018 Florida graduates were: Undecided; Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); and Biology, General.
 - ~ In the Florida graduating class of 2018, 21,415 students (18 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 19.2. 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 Florida graduating class of 2018, 2,920 (2 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 18.8.

Additional Points

- According to the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the fastest-growing careers in Florida requiring education beyond high school are: Statisticians, Cartographers and Photogrammetrists, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants and Genetic Counselors.
- 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 Florida Champions: Ghyslain Velazquez (High School Senior), David Cochrane (K-12 Professional), Adam Porro (Postsecondary Professional), and Carlos A. Manrique (Workforce Professional).
- An estimated 190 schools and 17,200 students will participate in the fall ACT District Testing administration on October 2, 2018. This ACT weekday test experience provides students with the opportunity to test in a familiar environment without transportation or work-related issues.
- When considering graduating class records, only those with valid Composite scores make it into the selection pool. In Florida's case, this means that students taking only Reading will not have a valid Composite score and such records will not make it into the graduating class. For a student to be said to have "taken" a test (for instance, Reading), he/she must respond to at least one item (even if incorrect). For a student to receive a valid Composite score, he/she must respond to at least one item each in English, reading, math, and science.

FLORIDA 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

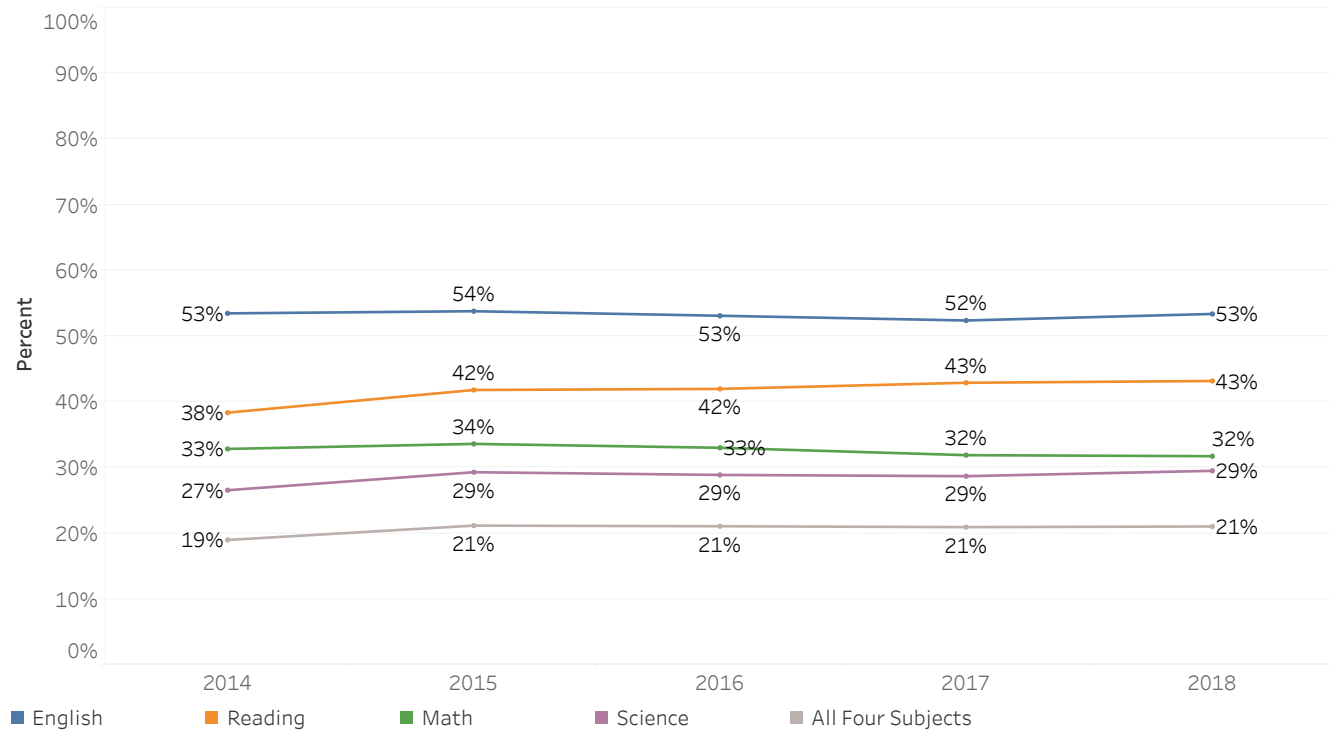
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
53%	60%	43%	46%	32%	40%	29%	36%	21%	27%

* 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.

FLORIDA 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

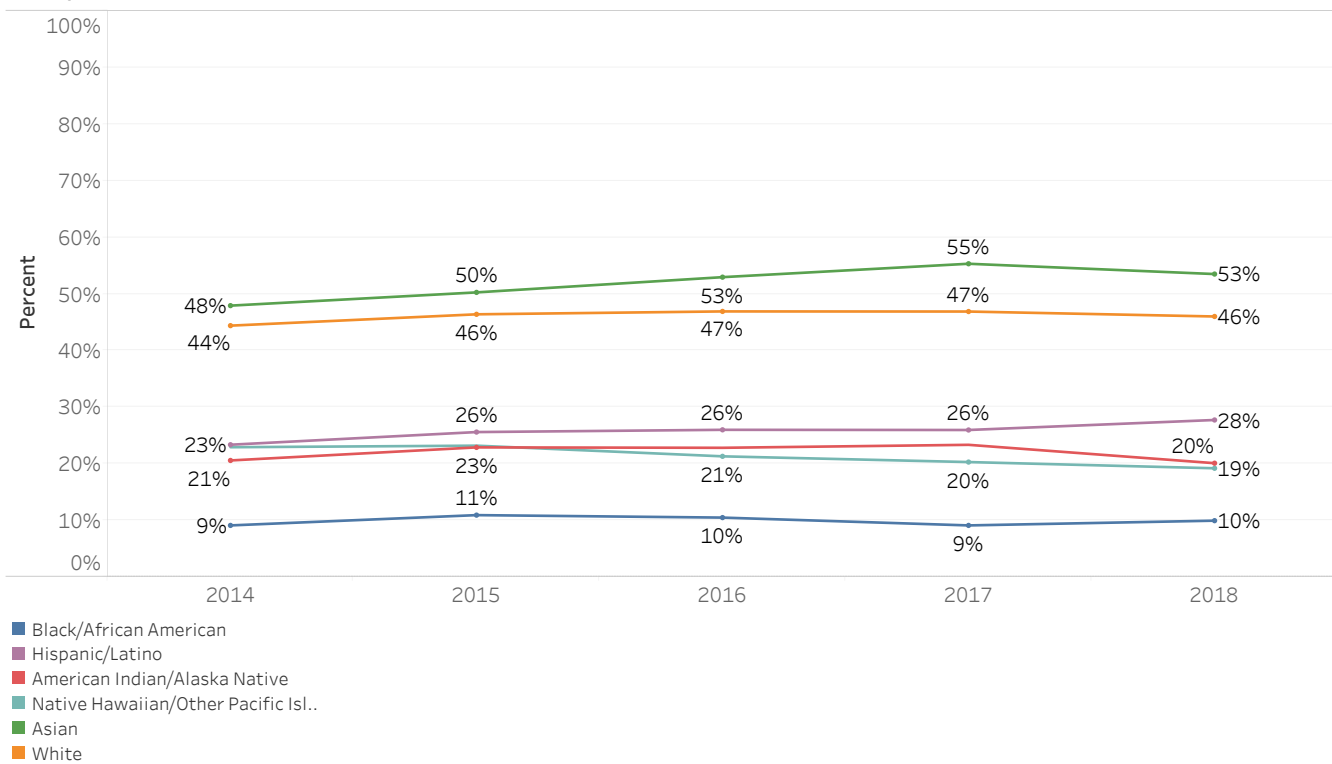
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2014	53%	38%	33%	27%	19%
2015	54%	42%	34%	29%	21%
2016	53%	42%	33%	29%	21%
2017	52%	43%	32%	29%	21%
2018	53%	43%	32%	29%	21%

* 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.

FLORIDA 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



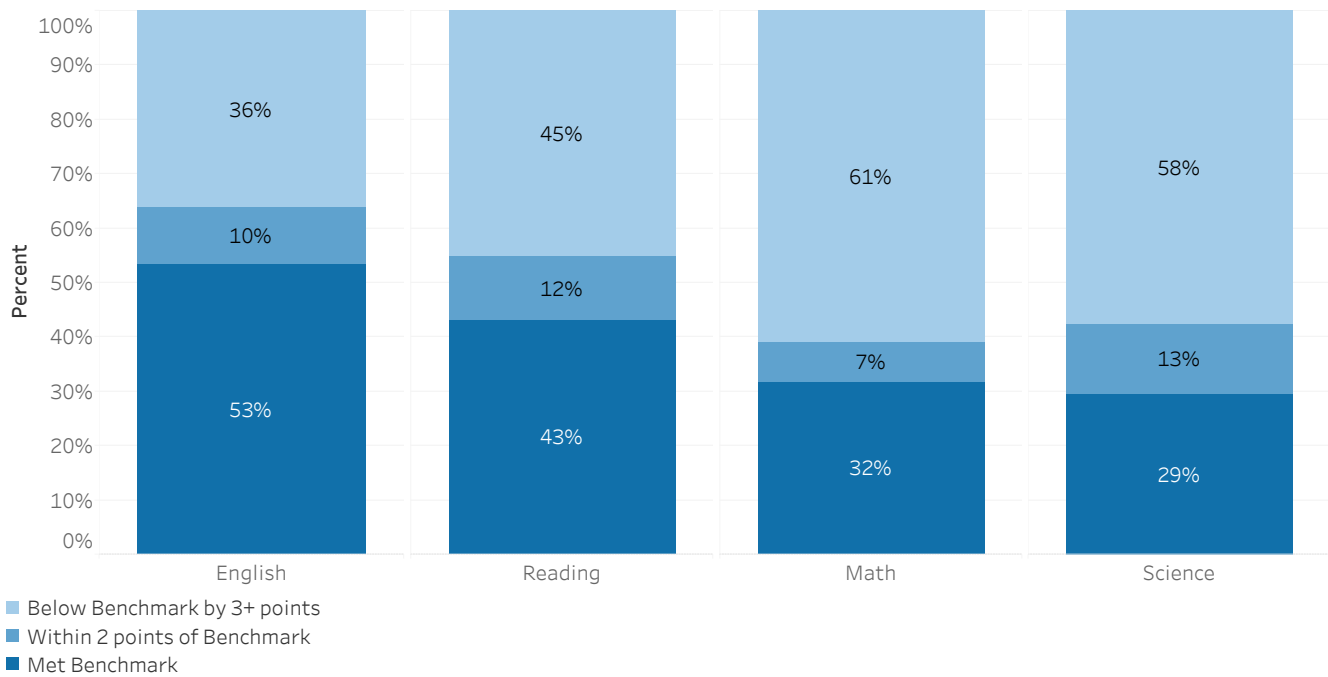
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2014	9%	23%	21%	23%	48%	44%
2015	11%	26%	23%	23%	50%	46%
2016	10%	26%	23%	21%	53%	47%
2017	9%	26%	23%	20%	55%	47%
2018	10%	28%	20%	19%	53%	46%

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

FLORIDA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



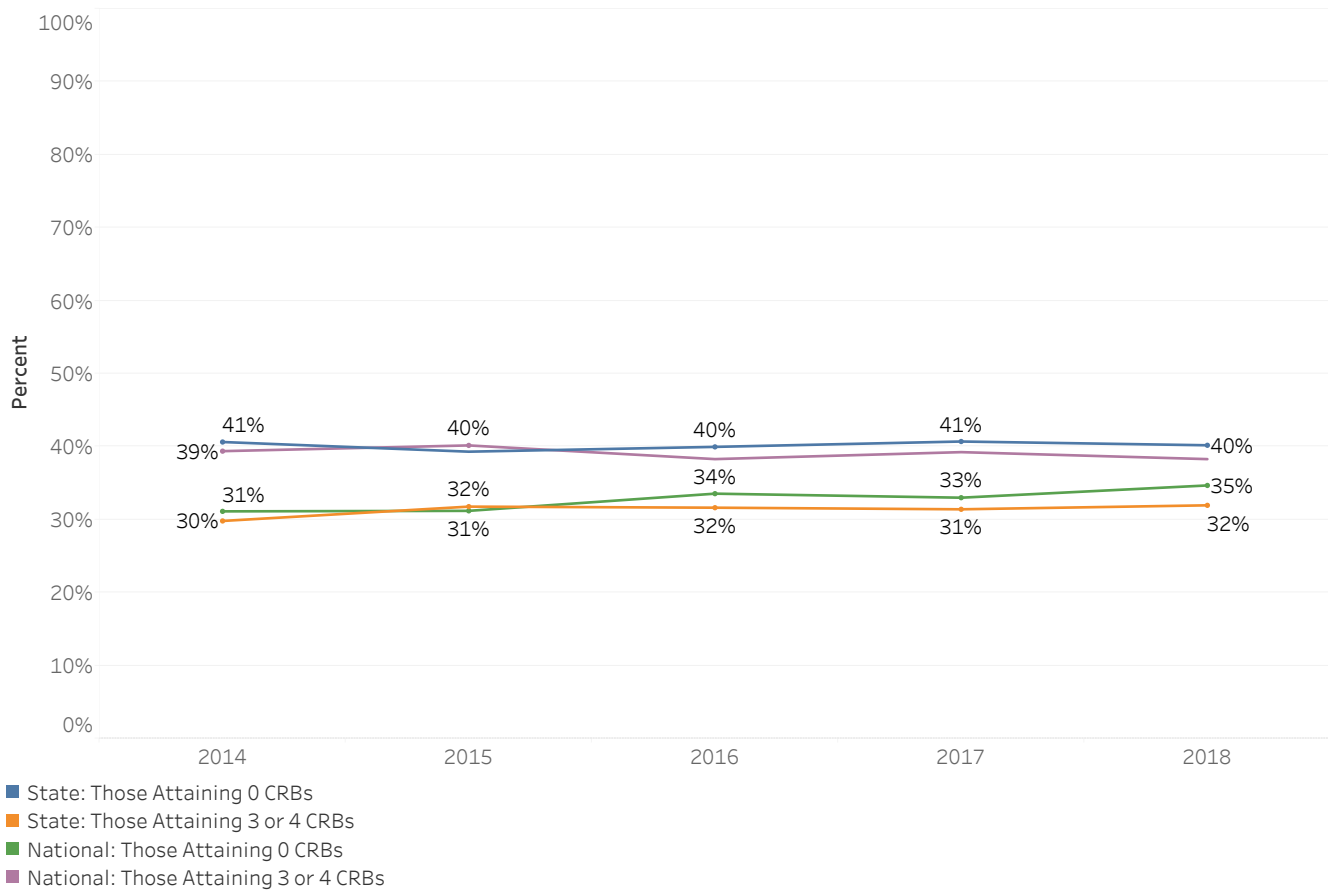
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	36%	10%	53%
Math	61%	7%	32%
Reading	45%	12%	43%
Science	58%	13%	29%

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

FLORIDA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



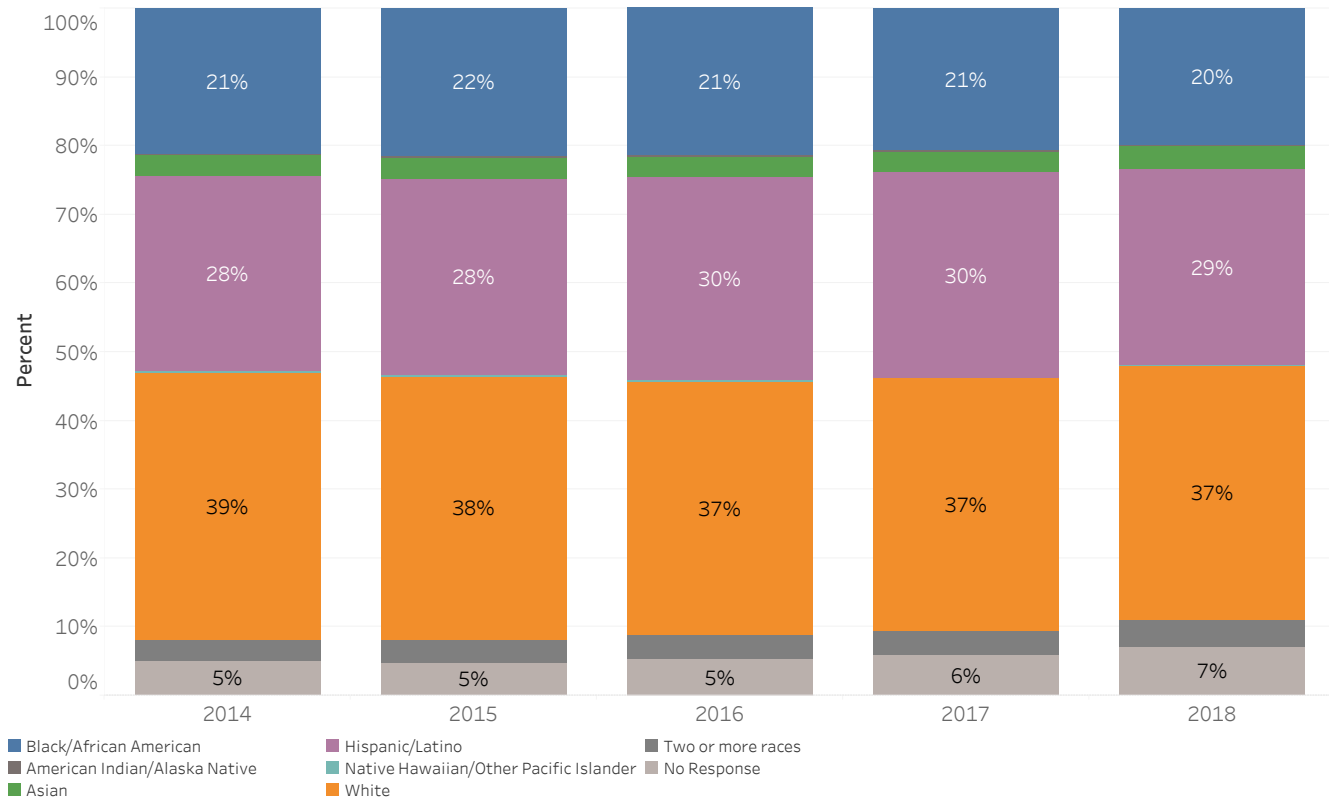
Data from Graph Above

	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%	30%	31%	39%
2015	39%	32%	31%	40%
2016	40%	32%	34%	38%
2017	41%	31%	33%	39%
2018	40%	32%	35%	38%

*Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

FLORIDA 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	21%	0%	3%	28%	0%	39%	3%	5%
2015	22%	0%	3%	28%	0%	38%	3%	5%
2016	21%	0%	3%	30%	0%	37%	3%	5%
2017	21%	0%	3%	30%	0%	37%	4%	6%
2018	20%	0%	3%	29%	0%	37%	4%	7%

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

FLORIDA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

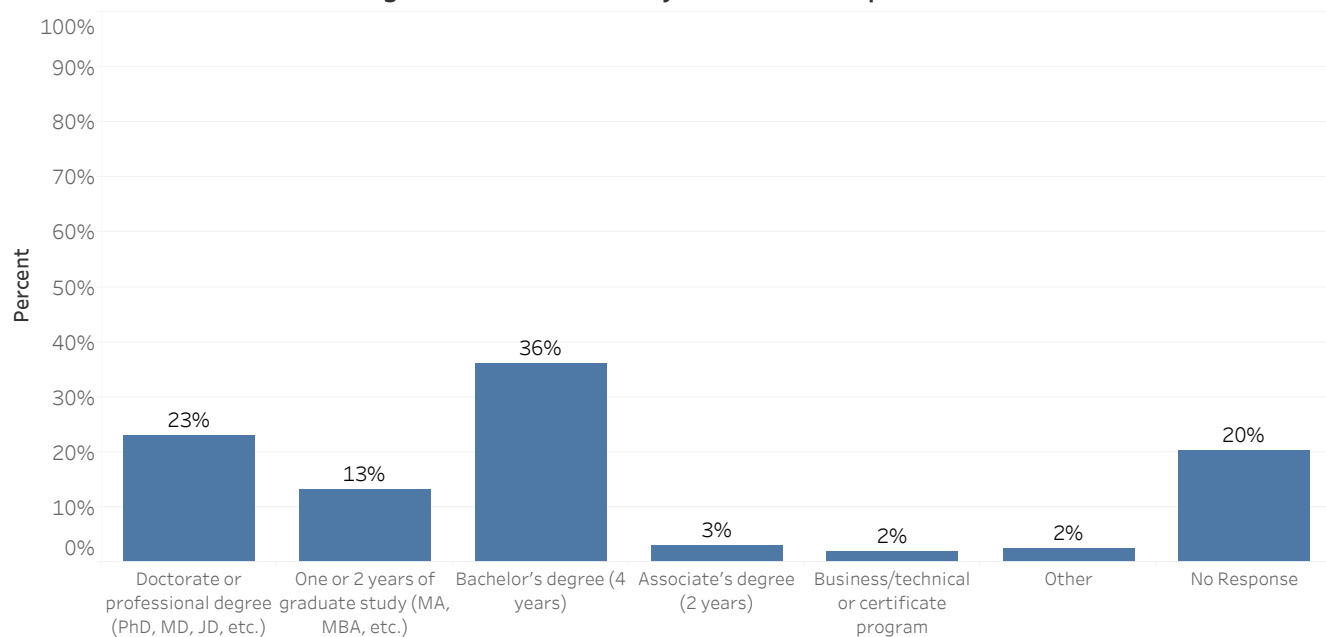
Student Data Trends: 2014-2018, State vs. Nation

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State N-count	129,676	130,798	131,621	129,320	119,543
National N-count	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817
Average ACT English Score - State	18.7	18.9	18.9	19.0	19.2
Average ACT English Score - National	20.3	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Reading Score - State	20.7	21.0	21.1	21.0	21.1
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - State	19.5	19.6	19.5	19.4	19.3
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - State	19.1	19.5	19.5	19.4	19.5
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.8	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7
Average ACT Composite Score - State	19.6	19.9	19.9	19.8	19.9
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

FLORIDA 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.)	23%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	13%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	36%
Associate's degree (2 years)	3%
Business/technical or certificate program	2%
Other	2%
No Response	20%

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

ACT[®]