

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018

Georgia Key Findings

Performance

- In the 2018 Georgia graduating class, 56,481 graduates (53 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 21.4. This compares to 50,697 (53 percent) with an average of 20.8 in 2014. Nationally, 55% of 2018 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.8.
 - ~ There were 17,905 African American graduates from Georgia who took the ACT (32 percent) with an average Composite score of 18.0. This compares to 17,871 (31 percent) with an average of 18.1, and 16,699 (33 percent) with an average of 17.6, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 25,656 White graduates from Georgia who took the ACT (45 percent) with an average Composite score of 23.3. This compares to 26,874 (47 percent) with an average of 23.3, and 23,838 (47 percent) with an average of 22.9, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 4,916 Hispanic graduates from Georgia who took the ACT (9 percent) with an average Composite score of 20.4. This compares to 4,830 (8 percent) with an average of 20.5, and 3,854 (8 percent) with an average of 19.9, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 2,911 Asian graduates from Georgia who took the ACT (5 percent) with an average Composite score of 25.4. This compares to 2,825 (5 percent) with an average of 25.0, and 2,216 (4 percent) with an average of 24.0, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
- In 2018, 27 percent of Georgia graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 28 and 24 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 40% of Georgia graduates met three out of four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 41% of 2017 and 39% of 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 38 percent of Georgia graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 38 and 34 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - 2018 Georgia graduates taking more advanced science coursework demonstrated markedly higher average science scores than those who did not. In fact, 40 percent of Georgia 2018 graduates taking three or more years of science met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 10 percent of students taking less than three years of science meeting the benchmark.

STEM

- In 2018, 29,653 Georgia graduates (53 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 Georgia graduating class average ACT STEM score of 21.2, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM averages of 21.3 and 20.8, respectively.
- Compared to 20 percent of 2018 Georgia graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 21 and 18, respectively.
- 2018 Georgia graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 29.0. This compares to 28.5 in 2014.
 - ~ 2018 graduates taking physics had an average science score of 21.9, compared to 19.3 for students not taking physics.
 - ~ 43 percent of 2018 Georgia graduates taking physics met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 22 for students not taking physics.
- 41 percent of 2018 graduates taking three or more years of math met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 24 percent for students taking less than three years of math.
 - ~ In 2018, 53,645 Georgia graduates (95 percent) indicated taking three or more years of math. This compares to 96 and 94 percent for 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.

Career Readiness

- In 2018, 15,518 Georgia graduates (27 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 Georgia 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:
 - ~ 133 more students enrolling in college.
 - ~ 150 more students persisting to year two.
 - ~ 110 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - ~ 185 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - ~ 165 more students persisting to year four.
 - ~ 177 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Georgia, 26,749 of the 2018 graduates (47.4%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 22.7, compared to an average of 20.1 for 29,732 of the 2018 graduates (52.6%) who took the ACT only once.
 - ~ Of the Georgia 2018 graduating class, 53 percent of students tested only once.
 - ~ 29 percent of Georgia's 2018 graduating class tested twice.
 - ~ 12 percent of Georgia's 2018 graduating class tested three times.
- 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.
- 102,348 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 Georgia ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ 62,050 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2018 Georgia ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ For Georgia's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were University of Georgia, Kennesaw State University, Georgia State University, Georgia Southern University-Statesboro, and University of North Georgia.
 - ~ For Georgia's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were Auburn University, University of Alabama, and Clemson University.
- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 75 percent of Georgia 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 79 percent of African American students nationally, 89 percent of Georgia African American 2018 graduates opted into EOS.
 - ~ Compared to 66 percent of White students nationally, 65 percent of Georgia White 2018 graduates opted into EOS.
 - ~ Compared to 80 percent of Hispanic students nationally, 85 percent of Georgia Hispanic 2018 graduates opted into EOS.
 - ~ Compared to 74 percent of Asian students nationally, 77 percent of Georgia Asian 2018 graduates opted into EOS.
- In the 2017-2018 academic year, ACT issued 28,160 ACT fee waivers to qualified Georgia students. However, 7,470 students (26.5 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

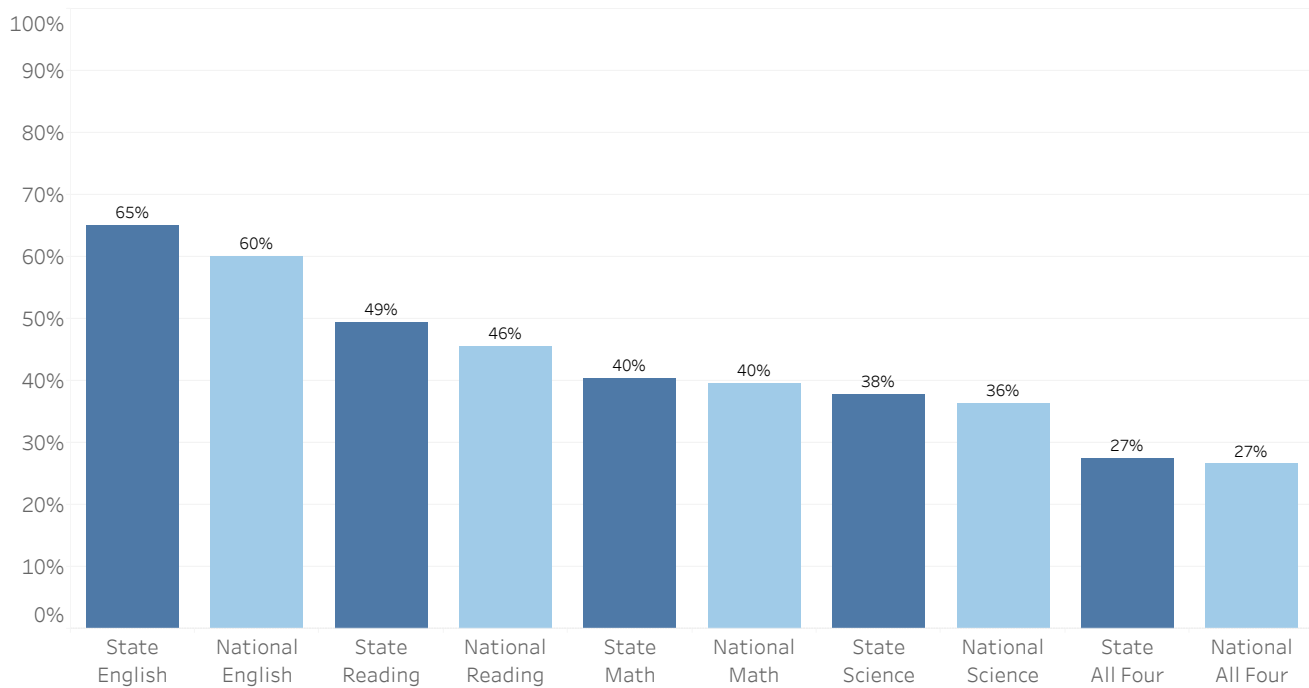
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - ~ 23,040 students (41 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 23.4.
 - ~ 27,407 students (49 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 20.0.
 - ~ 1,583 students (3 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 16.6.
- In the Georgia graduating class of 2018, 8,276 students (15 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2018 Georgia graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; and Biology, General.
 - ~ In the Georgia graduating class of 2018, 9,270 students (16 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 21.8. 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 Georgia graduating class of 2018, 2,438 (4 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 19.7.
- There is good news in that 92% of Georgia's 2018 ACT-tested graduates aspired to postsecondary education. Interestingly enough, 93% of Georgia's 2017 ACT-tested graduating class aspired to enroll in postsecondary education, compared to 79% who actually did enroll. If we fully closed the aspirational gap, an additional 7,873 of the 2017 ACT-tested graduates from Georgia would have enrolled in postsecondary education.

Additional Points

- According to the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the fastest-growing careers in Georgia requiring education beyond high school are: Film and Video Editors, Interpreters and Translators, Personal Financial Advisors, Operations Research Analysts, and Education Administrators.
- There will be five ACT College and Career Readiness Workshops offered throughout the state in fall 2018 in Atlanta (Oglethorpe University), Macon (Middle Georgia State University-Cochran), Marietta (Kennesaw State University-Marietta), Morrow (Clayton State University), and Savannah (Georgia Southern University Armstrong).

GEORGIA 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

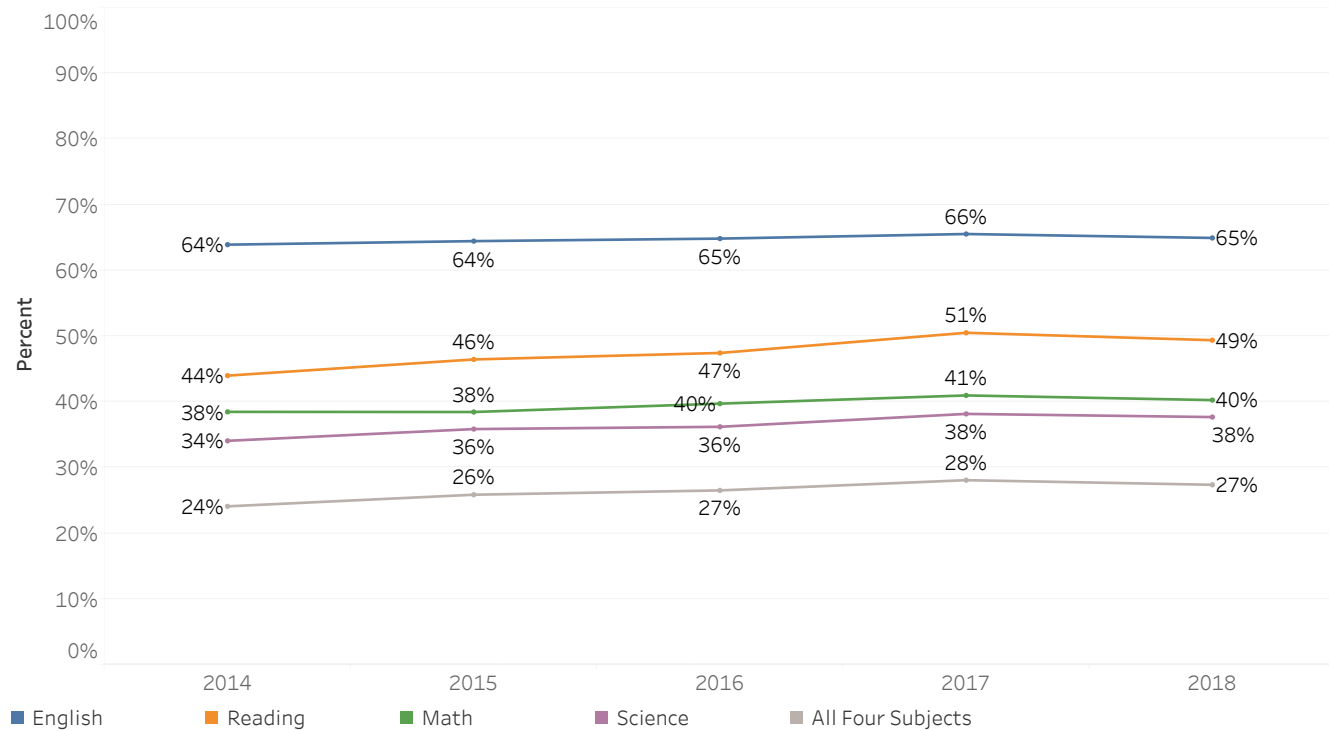
| State English | National English | State Reading | National Reading | State Math | National Math | State Science | National Science | State All Four | National All Four |
|---------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 65% | 60% | 49% | 46% | 40% | 40% | 38% | 36% | 27% | 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.

GEORGIA 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

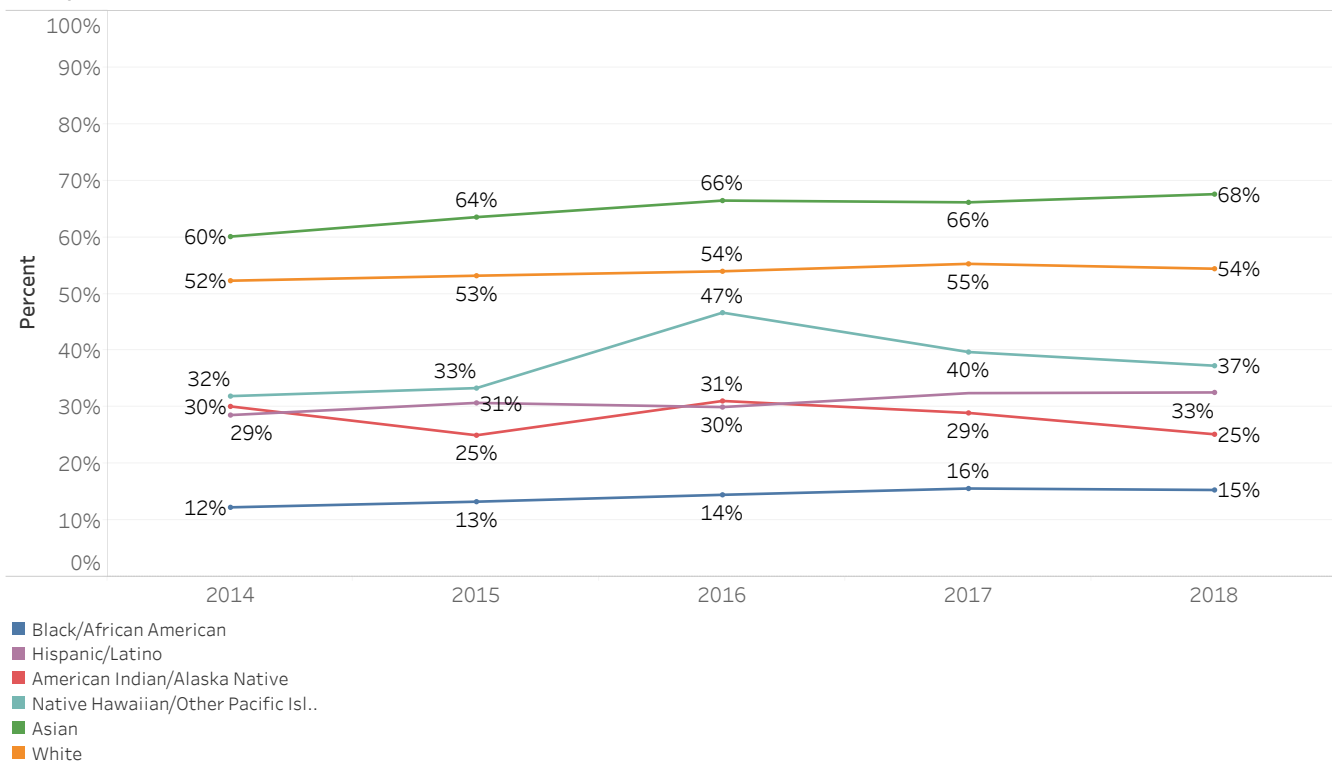
| | English | Reading | Math | Science | All Four Subjects |
|------|---------|---------|------|---------|-------------------|
| 2014 | 64% | 44% | 38% | 34% | 24% |
| 2015 | 64% | 46% | 38% | 36% | 26% |
| 2016 | 65% | 47% | 40% | 36% | 27% |
| 2017 | 66% | 51% | 41% | 38% | 28% |
| 2018 | 65% | 49% | 40% | 38% | 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.

GEORGIA 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



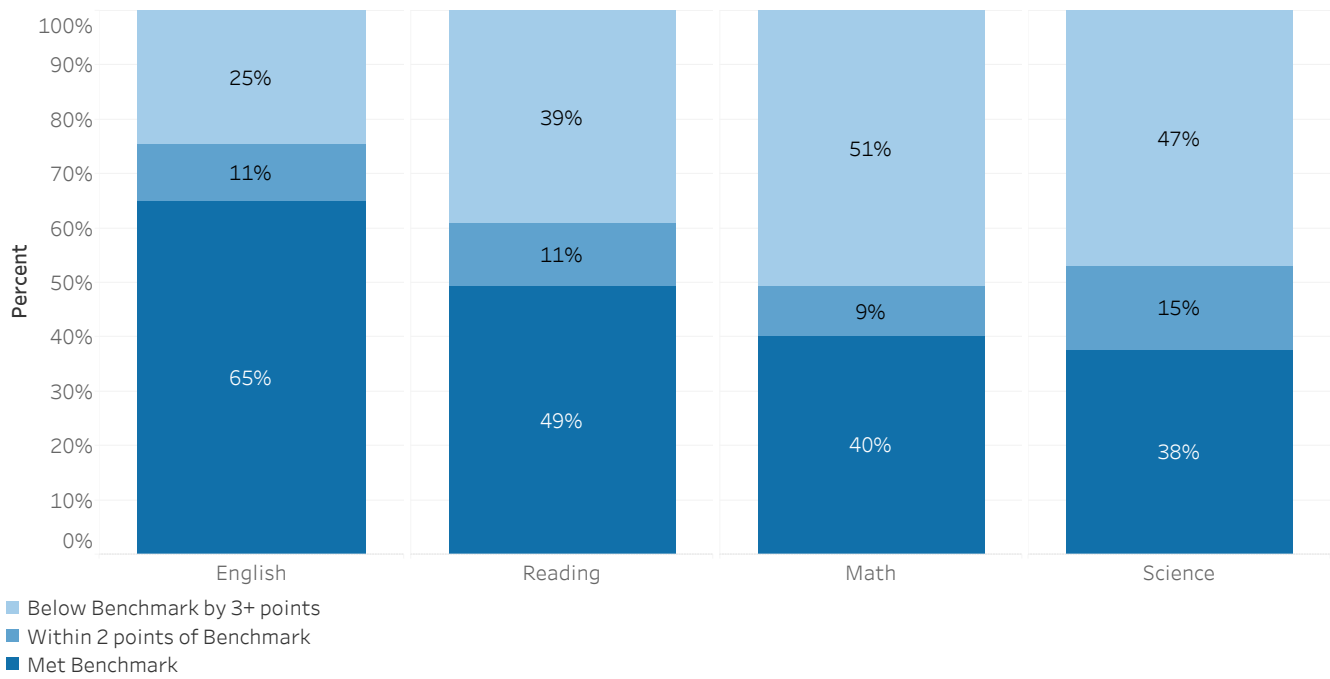
Data From Graph Above

| | Black/African American | Hispanic/Latino | American Indian/Alaska Native | Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander | Asian | White |
|------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|--|-------|-------|
| 2014 | 12% | 29% | 30% | 32% | 60% | 52% |
| 2015 | 13% | 31% | 25% | 33% | 64% | 53% |
| 2016 | 14% | 30% | 31% | 47% | 66% | 54% |
| 2017 | 16% | 32% | 29% | 40% | 66% | 55% |
| 2018 | 15% | 33% | 25% | 37% | 68% | 54% |

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

GEORGIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



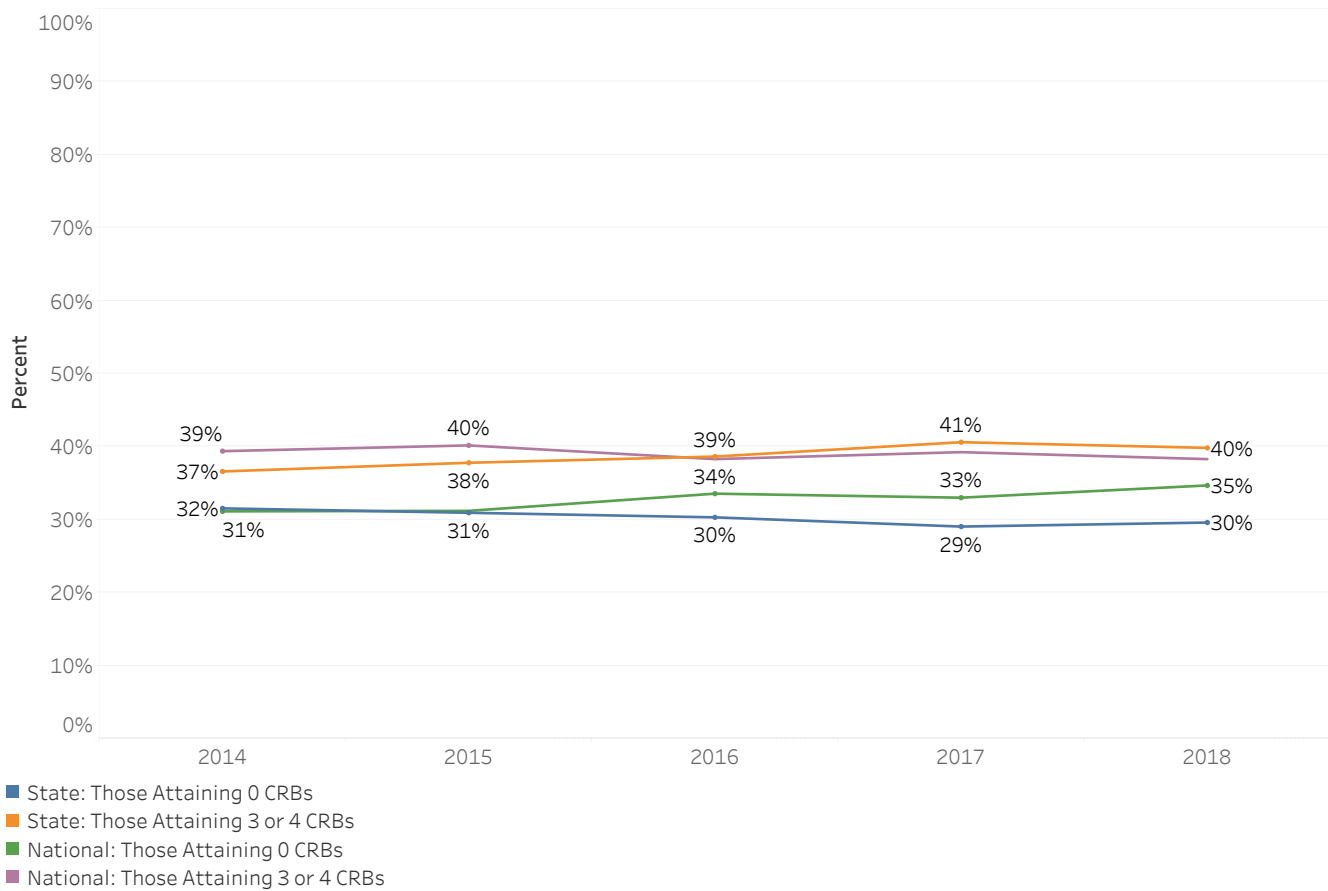
Data From Graph Above

| | Below Benchmark by 3+ points | Within 2 points of Benchmark | Met Benchmark |
|---------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| English | 25% | 11% | 65% |
| Math | 51% | 9% | 40% |
| Reading | 39% | 11% | 49% |
| Science | 47% | 15% | 38% |

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

GEORGIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



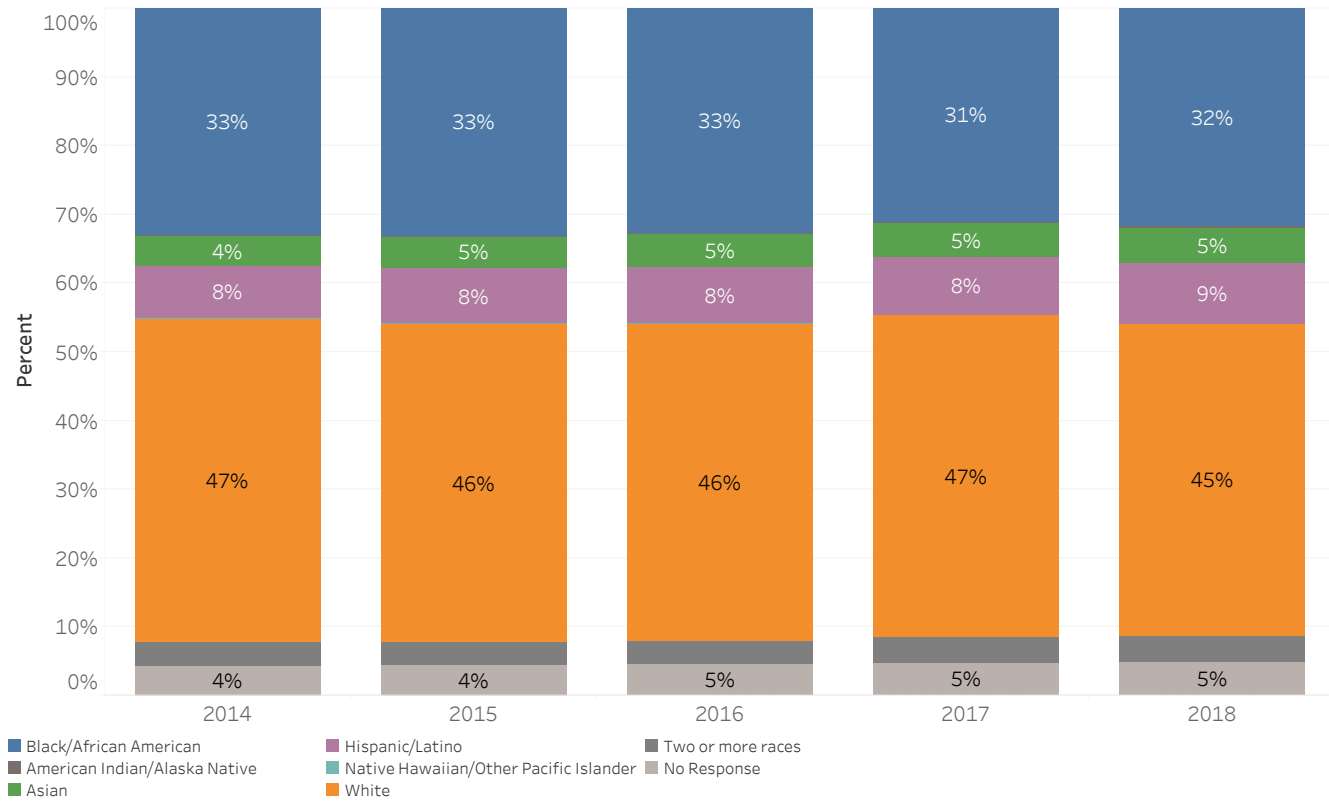
Data from Graph Above

| | 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 | 32% | 37% | 31% | 39% |
| 2015 | 31% | 38% | 31% | 40% |
| 2016 | 30% | 39% | 34% | 38% |
| 2017 | 29% | 41% | 33% | 39% |
| 2018 | 30% | 40% | 35% | 38% |

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

GEORGIA 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 | 33% | 0% | 4% | 8% | 0% | 47% | 4% | 4% |
| 2015 | 33% | 0% | 5% | 8% | 0% | 46% | 3% | 4% |
| 2016 | 33% | 0% | 5% | 8% | 0% | 46% | 3% | 5% |
| 2017 | 31% | 0% | 5% | 8% | 0% | 47% | 4% | 5% |
| 2018 | 32% | 0% | 5% | 9% | 0% | 45% | 4% | 5% |

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

GEORGIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

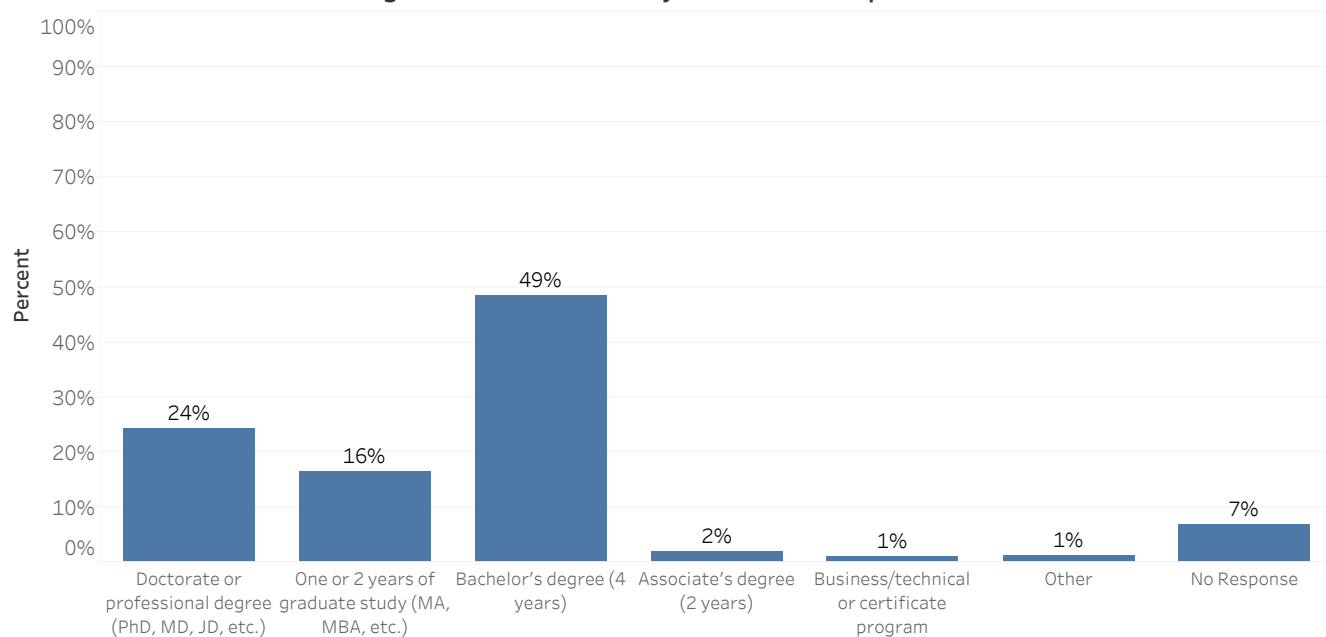
Student Data Trends: 2014-2018, State vs. Nation

| | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| State N-count | 50,697 | 54,653 | 58,073 | 57,431 | 56,481 |
| National N-count | 1,845,787 | 1,924,436 | 2,090,342 | 2,030,038 | 1,914,817 |
| Average ACT English Score - State | 20.3 | 20.6 | 20.7 | 21.0 | 20.9 |
| Average ACT English Score - National | 20.3 | 20.4 | 20.1 | 20.3 | 20.2 |
| Average ACT Reading Score - State | 21.4 | 21.6 | 21.8 | 22.0 | 22.1 |
| Average ACT Reading Score - National | 21.3 | 21.4 | 21.3 | 21.4 | 21.3 |
| Average ACT Math Score - State | 20.5 | 20.5 | 20.6 | 20.9 | 20.7 |
| Average ACT Math Score - National | 20.9 | 20.8 | 20.6 | 20.7 | 20.5 |
| Average ACT Science Score - State | 20.7 | 20.9 | 21.0 | 21.3 | 21.2 |
| Average ACT Science Score - National | 20.8 | 20.9 | 20.8 | 21.0 | 20.7 |
| Average ACT Composite Score - State | 20.8 | 21.0 | 21.1 | 21.4 | 21.4 |
| 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.

GEORGIA 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.) | 24% |
| One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.) | 16% |
| Bachelor's degree (4 years) | 49% |
| Associate's degree (2 years) | 2% |
| Business/technical or certificate program | 1% |
| Other | 1% |
| No Response | 7% |

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