

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018

Louisiana Key Findings

Performance

- In the 2018 Louisiana graduating class, 55,711 graduates (100 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 19.2. This compares to 49,178 (100 percent) with an average of 19.2 in 2014. Nationally, 55% of 2018 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.8.
- In 2018, 15 percent of Louisiana graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 16 and 15 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 43 percent of Louisiana graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 40 and 41 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 53 percent of Louisiana graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 57 and 56 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 24 percent of Louisiana graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 26 and 27 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 35 percent of Louisiana graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 36 and 32 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 25 percent of Louisiana graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 27 and 24 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- In 2018, 14,233 (26 percent) of Louisiana graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 13,833 and 12,442 (27 and 25 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, 26,837 Louisiana graduates (48 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
 - ~ Nationally, 45 percent of graduates indicated having an interest in STEM.
- Compared to 10 percent of 2018 Louisiana graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 10 and 9, respectively.
 - ~ 2018 Louisiana graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.7. This compares to 28.1 in 2014.
 - ~ 30 percent of 2018 graduates taking three or more years of math met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 2 percent for students taking less than three years of math.

Career Readiness

- In 2018, 8,778 Louisiana graduates (16 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 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.”

Impact

- Based on the actual test volume and ACT score distributions of 2018 ACT-tested Louisiana 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:
 - ~ 143 more students enrolling in college.
 - ~ 158 more students persisting to year two.
 - ~ 116 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - ~ 192 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - ~ 165 more students persisting to year four.
 - ~ 172 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Louisiana, 36,759 of the 2018 graduates (66.0%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 20.5, compared to an average of 16.7 for 18,952 of the 2018 graduates (34.0%) who took the ACT only once.
- 147,632 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 Louisiana ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ 101,944 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2018 Louisiana ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ For Louisiana’s 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, Louisiana St. University/A&M-Baton Rouge, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Southeastern Louisiana University, and Louisiana Tech University.
 - ~ For Louisiana’s 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were University Southern Mississippi, Mississippi State University, and University of Mississippi.
- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 76 percent of Louisiana 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, 83 percent of Louisiana African American 2018 graduates opted into EOS.
 - ~ Compared to 66 percent of White students nationally, 77 percent of Louisiana White 2018 graduates opted into EOS.
 - ~ Compared to 80 percent of Hispanic students nationally, 82 percent of Louisiana Hispanic 2018 graduates opted into EOS.

- In the 2017-2018 academic year, ACT issued 22,041 ACT fee waivers to qualified Louisiana students. However, 5,638 students (25.6 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 Louisiana students represent 61 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 66 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 31 and 33 nationally.
 - ~ While White Louisiana students represent 19 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 16 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 19 and 17 nationally.
 - ~ While Hispanic Louisiana students represent 6 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 6 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 35 and 36 nationally.

Pipeline

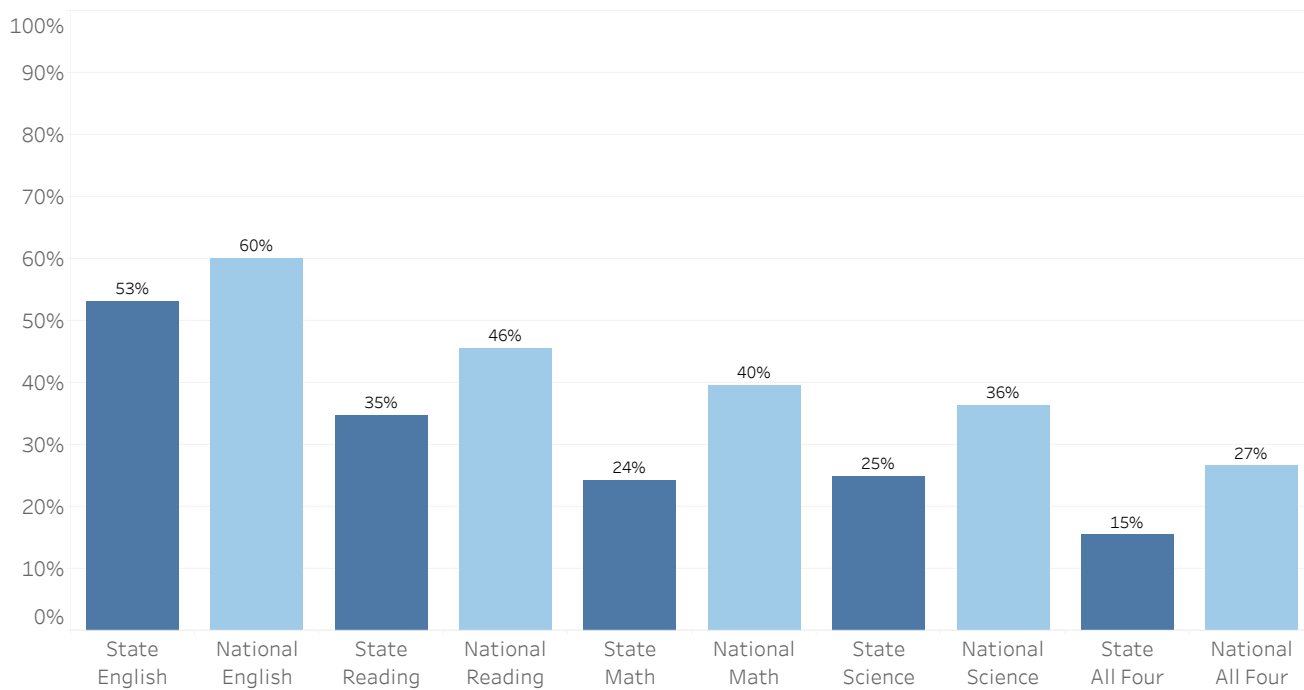
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - ~ 14,368 students (26 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 22.4.
 - ~ 22,243 students (40 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 19.3.
 - ~ 6,535 students (12 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 15.8.
- In the Louisiana graduating class of 2018, 13,249 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 Louisiana graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; and Biology, General.
 - ~ In the Louisiana graduating class of 2018, 4,934 students (9 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 20.1. 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 Louisiana graduating class of 2018, 1,659 (3 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 19.5.
- There is good news in that 77% of Louisiana's 2018 ACT-tested graduates aspired to postsecondary education. Interestingly enough, 82% of Louisiana'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 13,609 of the 2017 ACT-tested graduates from Louisiana would have enrolled in postsecondary education.

Additional Points

- The Louisiana ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with more than 345 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. This year, 218 people attended the conference.
- 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 Louisiana Champions: Ra'Janae Morris (High School Senior), Tracy Elliott Zeringue (K-12 Professional), Angie Pellegrin (Postsecondary Professional), and Felicia Young (Workforce Professional).
- ACT Work Ready Communities are prevalent in Louisiana. Ten parishes are certified ACT Work Ready Communities and 382 Louisiana businesses support job applicants with an ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate.

LOUISIANA 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

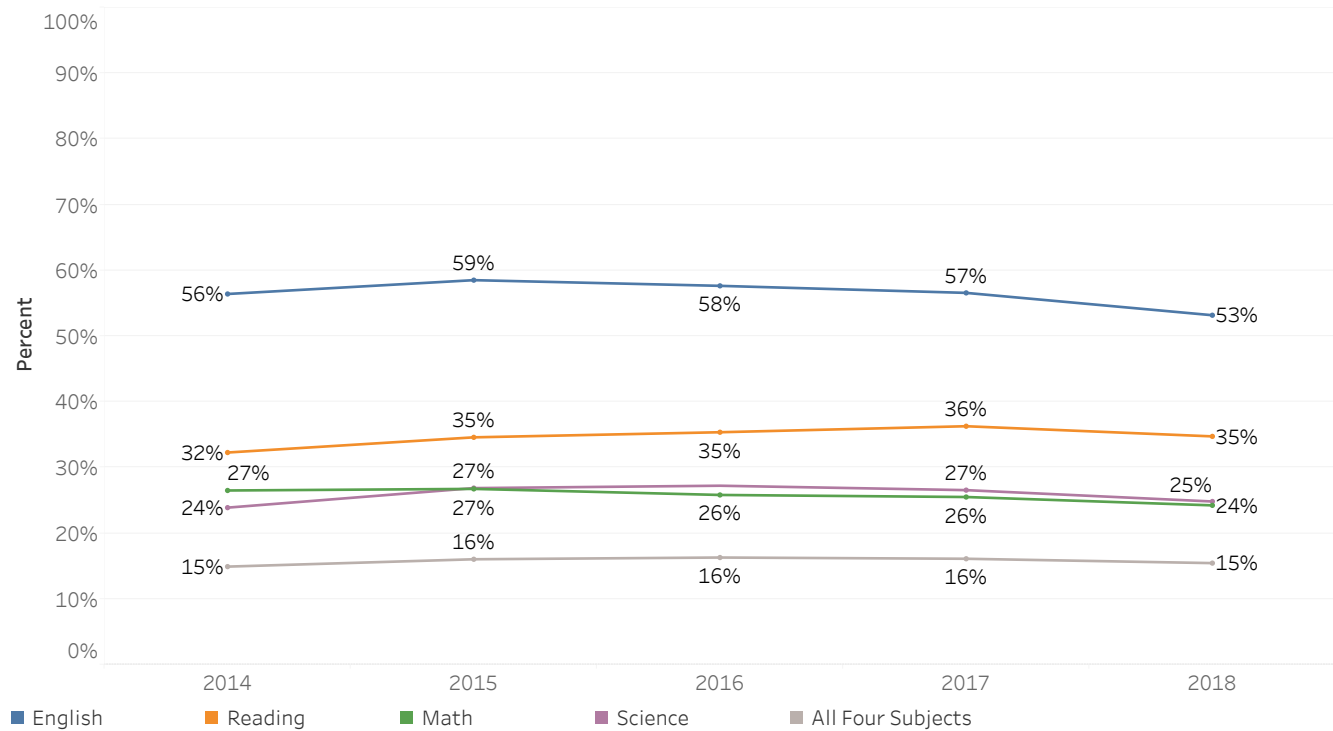
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
53%	60%	35%	46%	24%	40%	25%	36%	15%	27%

* 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.

LOUISIANA 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

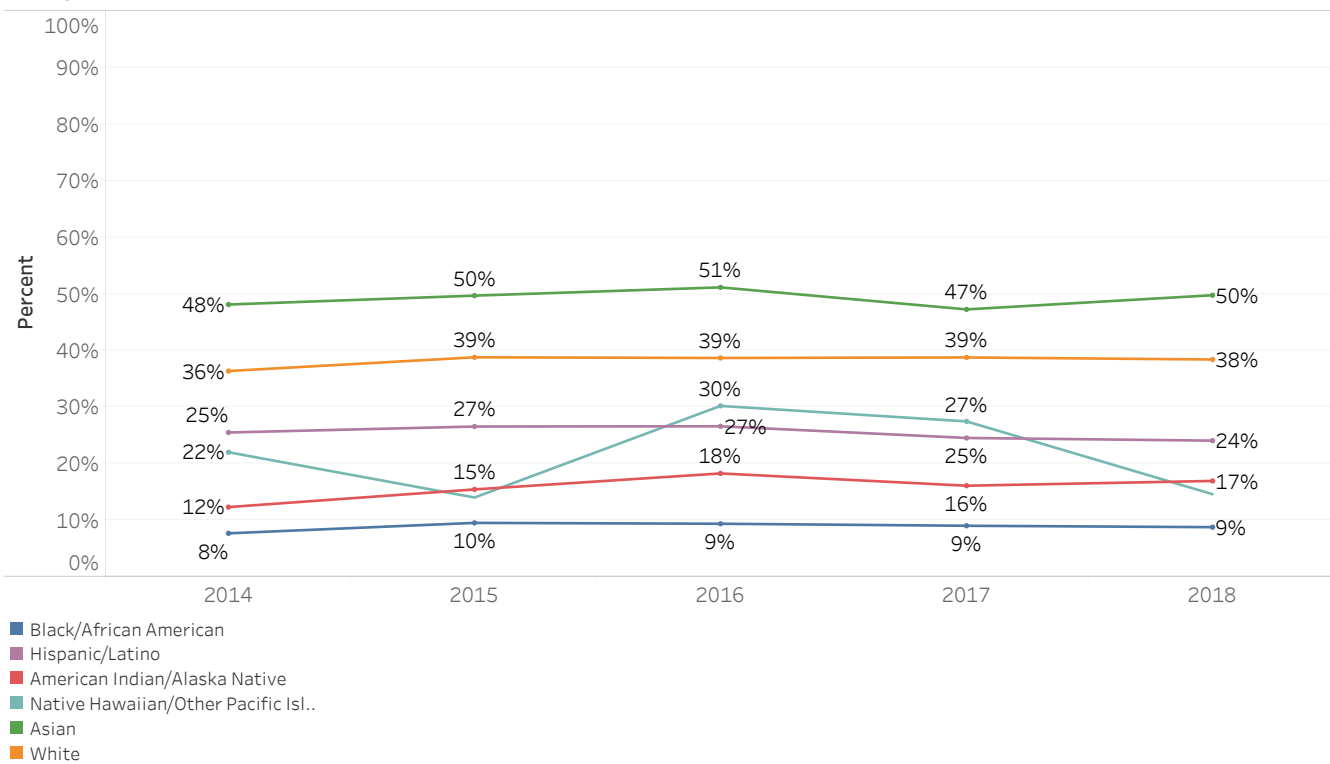
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2014	56%	32%	27%	24%	15%
2015	59%	35%	27%	27%	16%
2016	58%	35%	26%	27%	16%
2017	57%	36%	26%	27%	16%
2018	53%	35%	24%	25%	15%

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LOUISIANA 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



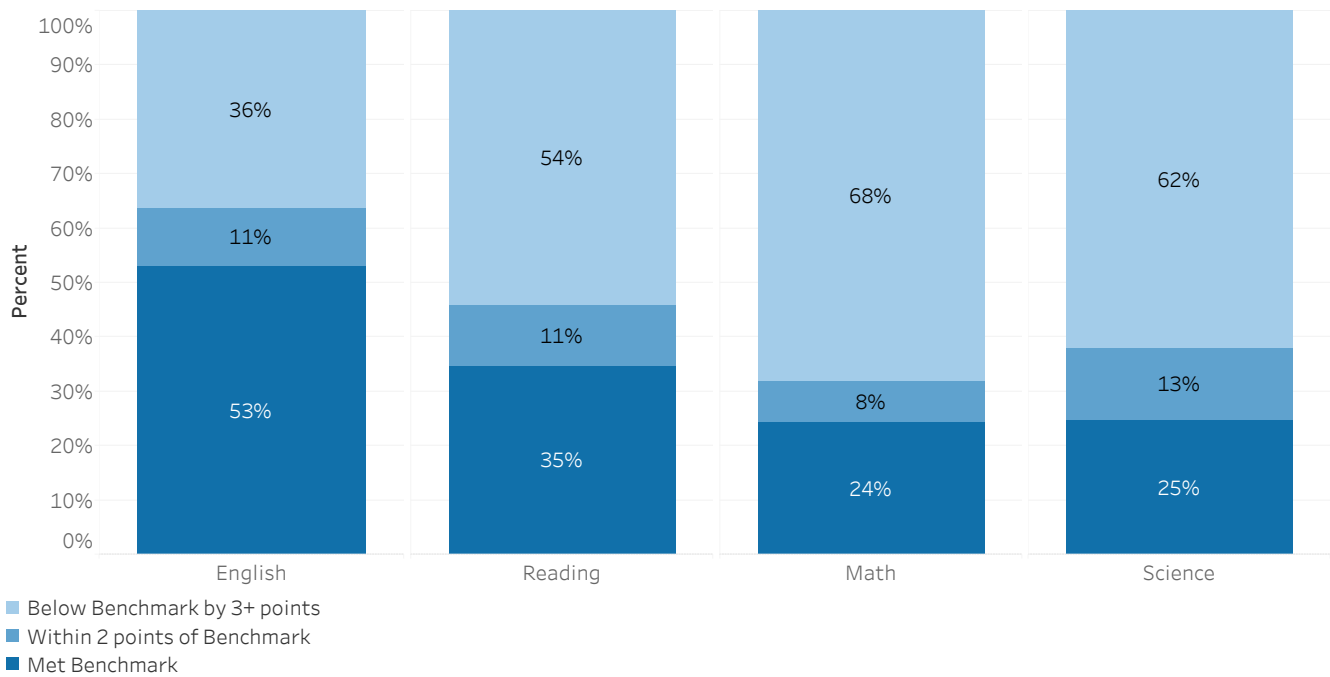
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2014	8%	25%	12%	22%	48%	36%
2015	10%	27%	15%	14%	50%	39%
2016	9%	27%	18%	30%	51%	39%
2017	9%	25%	16%	27%	47%	39%
2018	9%	24%	17%	15%	50%	38%

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LOUISIANA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



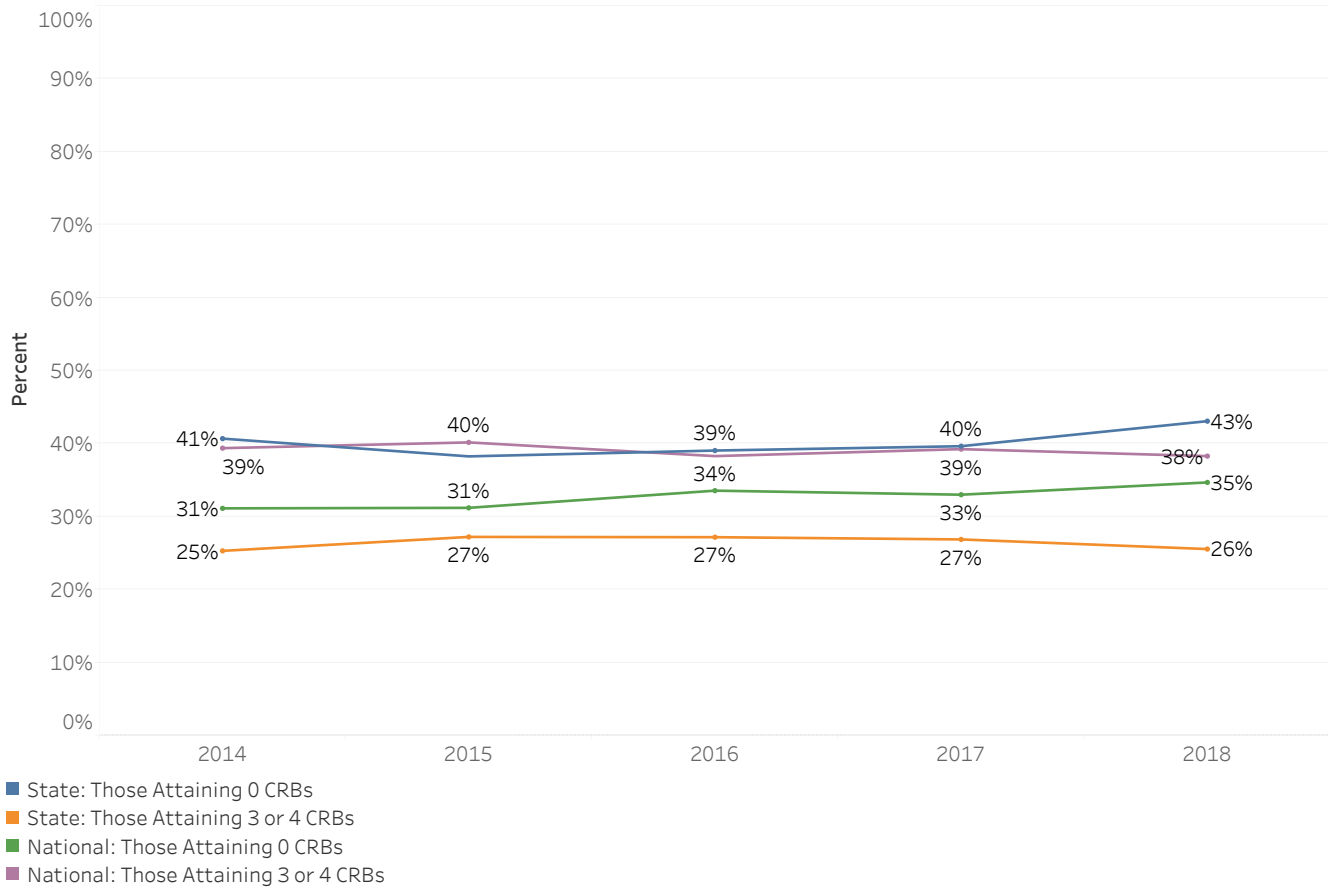
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	36%	11%	53%
Math	68%	8%	24%
Reading	54%	11%	35%
Science	62%	13%	25%

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LOUISIANA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



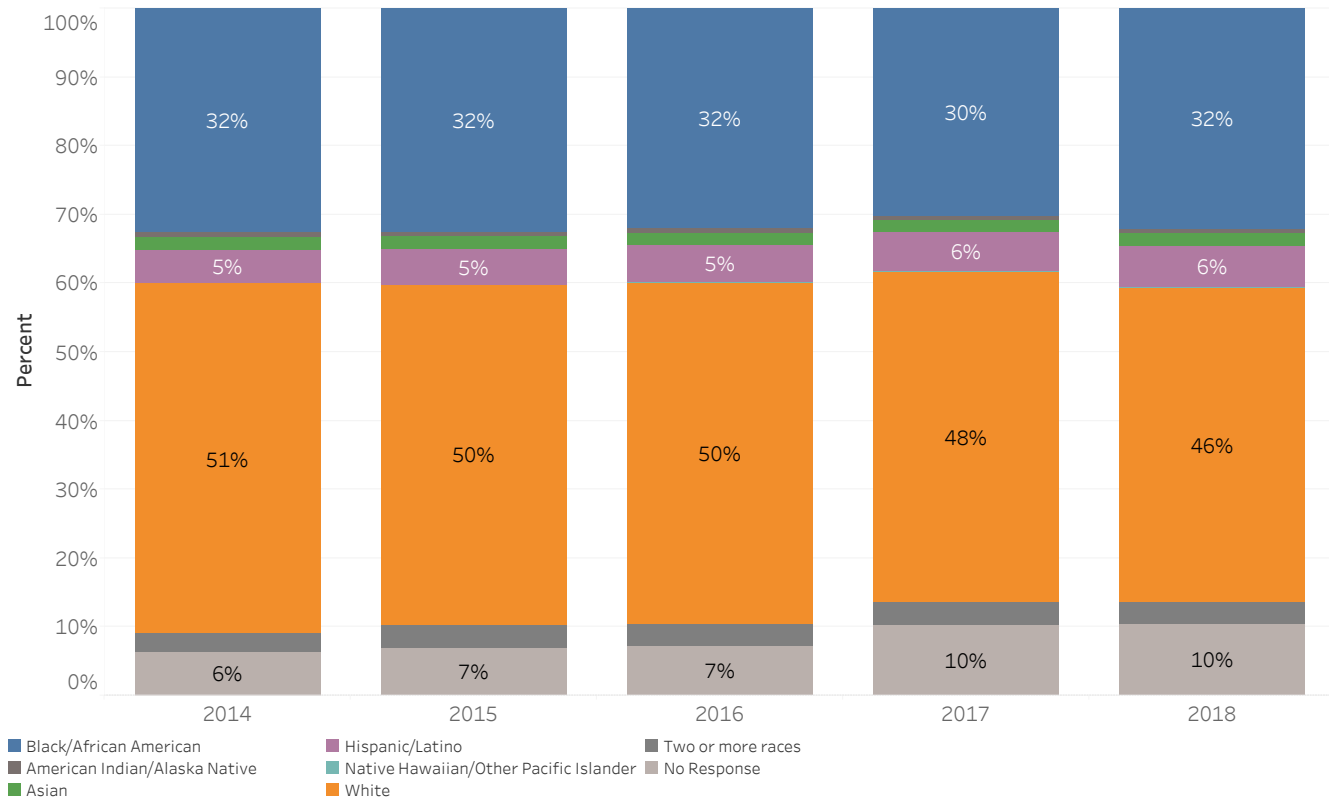
Data from Graph Above

	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%	25%	31%	39%
2015	38%	27%	31%	40%
2016	39%	27%	34%	38%
2017	40%	27%	33%	39%
2018	43%	26%	35%	38%

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LOUISIANA 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	32%	1%	2%	5%	0%	51%	3%	6%
2015	32%	1%	2%	5%	0%	50%	3%	7%
2016	32%	1%	2%	5%	0%	50%	3%	7%
2017	30%	1%	2%	6%	0%	48%	3%	10%
2018	32%	1%	2%	6%	0%	46%	3%	10%

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LOUISIANA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

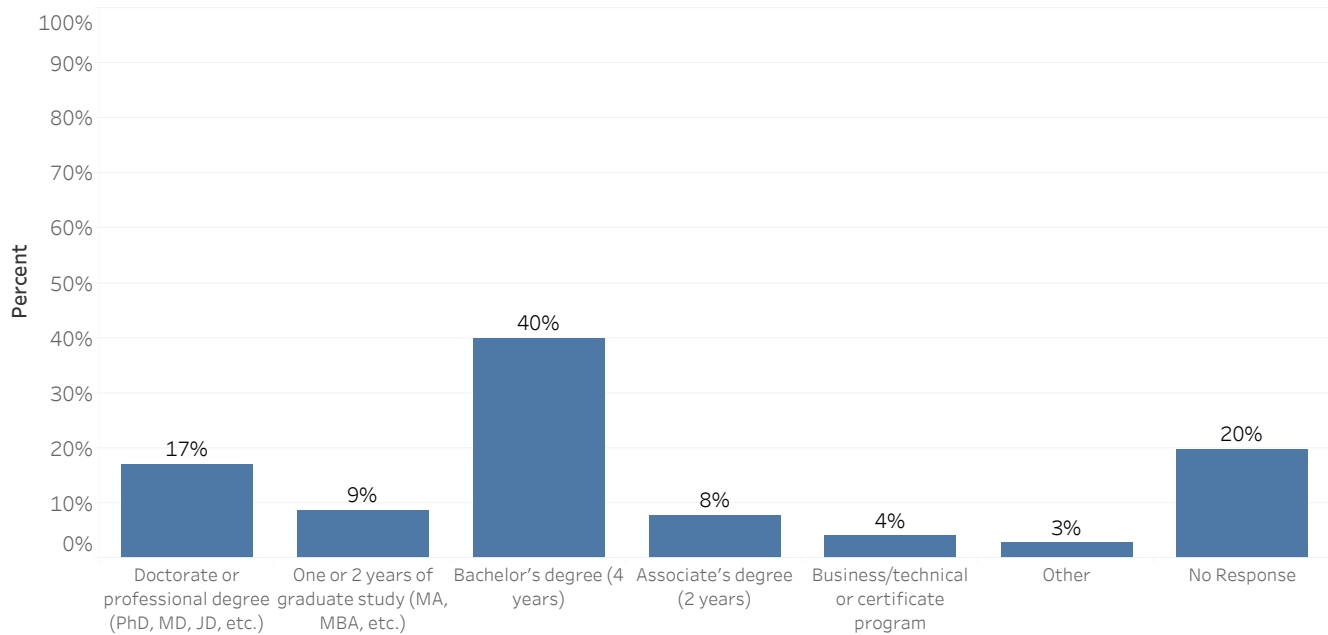
Student Data Trends: 2014-2018, State vs. Nation

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State N-count	49,178	49,082	48,692	51,486	55,711
National N-count	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817
Average ACT English Score - State	18.9	19.2	19.3	19.4	19.0
Average ACT English Score - National	20.3	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Reading Score - State	19.5	19.7	19.9	19.8	19.6
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - State	18.9	18.9	18.8	18.8	18.5
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - State	19.1	19.4	19.6	19.6	19.1
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.8	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7
Average ACT Composite Score - State	19.2	19.4	19.5	19.5	19.2
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

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LOUISIANA 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.)	17%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	9%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	40%
Associate's degree (2 years)	8%
Business/technical or certificate program	4%
Other	3%
No Response	20%

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