

# The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018

## Nebraska Key Findings

### Performance

- 2018 marks Nebraska's first year in which 100% of graduates (24,516) took the ACT as part of a statewide census test. Graduates received an average Composite score of 20.1. Composite score shifts are expected with adjustments to participation percentages. Nationally, 55% of 2018 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.8.
  - ~ In 2017, 18,993 (84.3%) Nebraska graduates were tested with a Composite average score of 21.4 and 33.5% meeting three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks.
  - ~ There were 1,264 African American graduates from Nebraska who took the ACT (5 percent) with an average Composite score of 15.9. This compares to 752 (4 percent) with an average of 17.6, and 755 (4 percent) with an average of 17.3, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
  - ~ There were 224 American Indian graduates from Nebraska who took the ACT (1 percent) with an average Composite score of 15.6. This compares to 156 (1 percent) with an average of 17.9, and 116 (1 percent) with an average of 18.2, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
  - ~ There were 16,024 White graduates from Nebraska who took the ACT (65 percent) with an average Composite score of 21.4. This compares to 13,337 (70 percent) with an average of 22.4, and 13,220 (74 percent) with an average of 22.5, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
  - ~ There were 3,699 Hispanic graduates from Nebraska who took the ACT (15 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.4. This compares to 2,514 (13 percent) with an average of 18.4, and 2,020 (11 percent) with an average of 18.6, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
  - ~ There were 602 Asian graduates from Nebraska who took the ACT (2 percent) with an average Composite score of 21.0. This compares to 549 (3 percent) with an average of 21.6, and 458 (3 percent) with an average of 21.3, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.

### Performance - Subject Areas

- The 2018 Nebraska graduating class average English score was 19.4. This compares to 20.9 and 21.3 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Nebraska graduating class average math score was 19.8. This compares to 20.9 and 21.1 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Nebraska graduating class average reading score was 20.4. This compares to 21.9 and 22.0 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Nebraska graduating class average science score was 20.1. This compares to 21.5 and 21.7 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.

## Performance - College Readiness Benchmarks

- In 2018, 22 percent of Nebraska graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 28 and 29 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- In 2018, 8,227 (34 percent) of Nebraska graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 7,989 and 7,717 (42 and 43 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, 40 percent of Nebraska graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 50 and 48 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
    - 2018 Nebraska graduates taking more advanced social studies coursework demonstrated markedly higher average reading scores than those who did not. In fact, 45 percent of Nebraska 2018 graduates taking three or more years of social studies met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 19 percent of students taking less than three years of social studies meeting the benchmark.
  - ~ In 2018, 33 percent of Nebraska graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 41 and 42 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
    - 2018 Nebraska graduates taking more advanced science coursework demonstrated markedly higher average science scores than those who did not. In fact, 41 percent of Nebraska 2018 graduates taking three or more years of science met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 12 percent of students taking less than three years of science meeting the benchmark.

## Additional Performance Notes

- In 2018, 9 percent of Nebraska graduates took the ACT with extended time. This compares to 4 and 3 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
  - ~ 42 percent of 2018 Nebraska graduates were Proficient or Above Proficient in understanding complete texts. Nationally, 48% of graduates were Proficient or Above Proficient.

## STEM

- ~ In 2018, 10,837 Nebraska graduates (44 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers. Nationally, 45 percent of graduates indicated an interest in STEM.
- Compared to a 2018 Nebraska graduating class average ACT STEM score of 20.2, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM averages of 21.5 and 21.6, respectively.
- Compared to 16 percent of 2018 Nebraska graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 21 and 21, respectively.
- 2018 Nebraska graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.6. This compares to 28.4 in 2014.
  - ~ 49 percent of 2018 Nebraska graduates taking physics met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 24 for students not taking physics.
- 2018 Nebraska graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 28.3. This compares to 28.2 in 2014.
  - ~ In 2018, 19,727 Nebraska graduates (80 percent) indicated taking three or more years of math. This compares to 91 and 93 percent for 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.

## Career Readiness

- In 2018, 5,255 Nebraska 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.
- In 2018, 17,059 Nebraska graduates (70 percent) were likely to attain the Silver NCRC® 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 Nebraska 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:
  - ~ 61 more students enrolling in college.
  - ~ 67 more students persisting to year two.
  - ~ 49 fewer students needing remedial English.
  - ~ 80 fewer students needing remedial math.
  - ~ 72 more students persisting to year four.
  - ~ 76 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

## Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Nebraska, 12,704 of the 2018 graduates (51.8%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 22.7, compared to an average of 17.2 for 11,812 of the 2018 graduates (48.2%) who took the ACT only once.
- 65,879 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 Nebraska ACT-tested graduates.
  - ~ 34,569 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2018 Nebraska ACT-tested graduates.
  - ~ For Nebraska’s 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were University of Nebraska at Lincoln, University of Nebraska at Omaha, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Wayne State College, and Metropolitan Community College.
  - ~ For Nebraska’s 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were University of Kansas, Northwest Missouri State University, and Iowa State University.
- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 71 percent of Nebraska 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 3,700 ACT fee waivers to qualified Nebraska students. However, 889 students (24.0 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.

## Pipeline

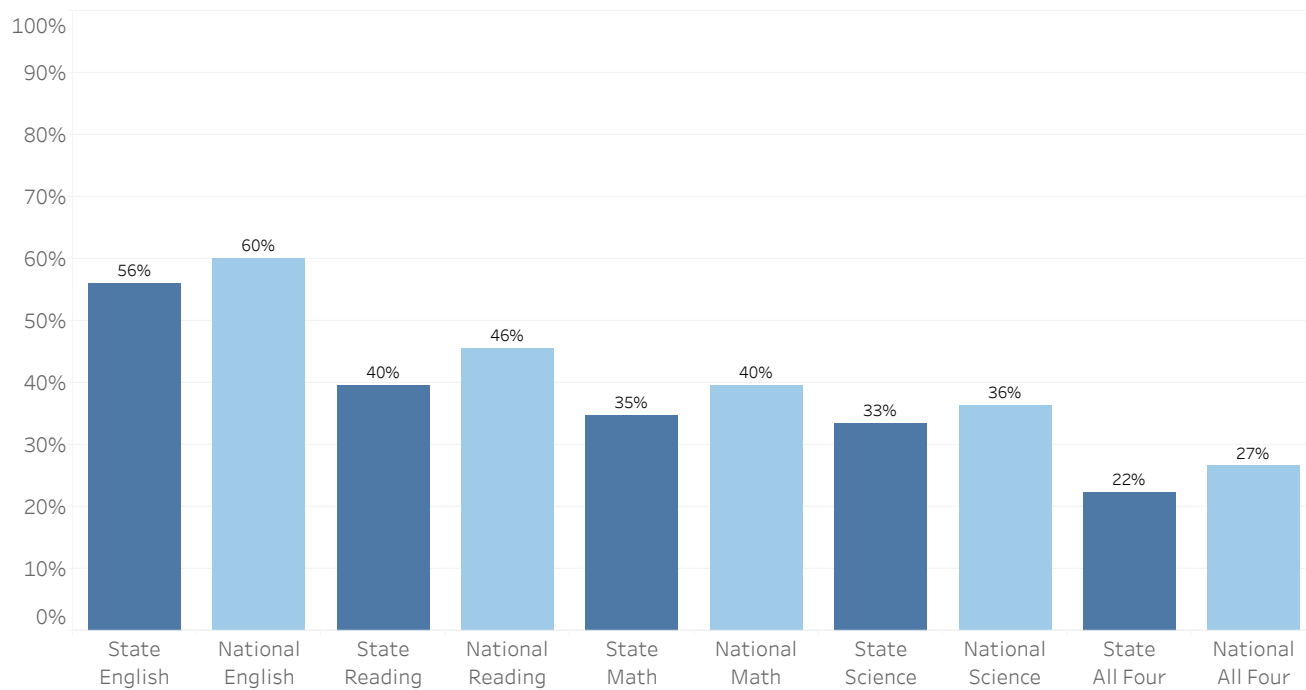
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
  - ~ 6,150 students (25 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 23.6.
  - ~ 10,825 students (44 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 20.5.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2018 Nebraska graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; and Elementary Education.
  - ~ In the Nebraska graduating class of 2018, 1,597 (7 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 20.4.
- There is good news in that 81% of Nebraska's 2018 ACT-tested graduates aspired to postsecondary education. Interestingly enough, 90% of Nebraska's 2017 ACT-tested graduating class aspired to enroll in postsecondary education, compared to 73% who actually did enroll. If we fully closed the aspirational gap, an additional 3,354 of the 2017 ACT-tested graduates from Nebraska would have enrolled in postsecondary education.

## Additional Points

- The Nebraska ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with more than 167 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 conferences that bring together professionals representing each of these areas, providing a unique and diverse professional development opportunity.

# NEBRASKA 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

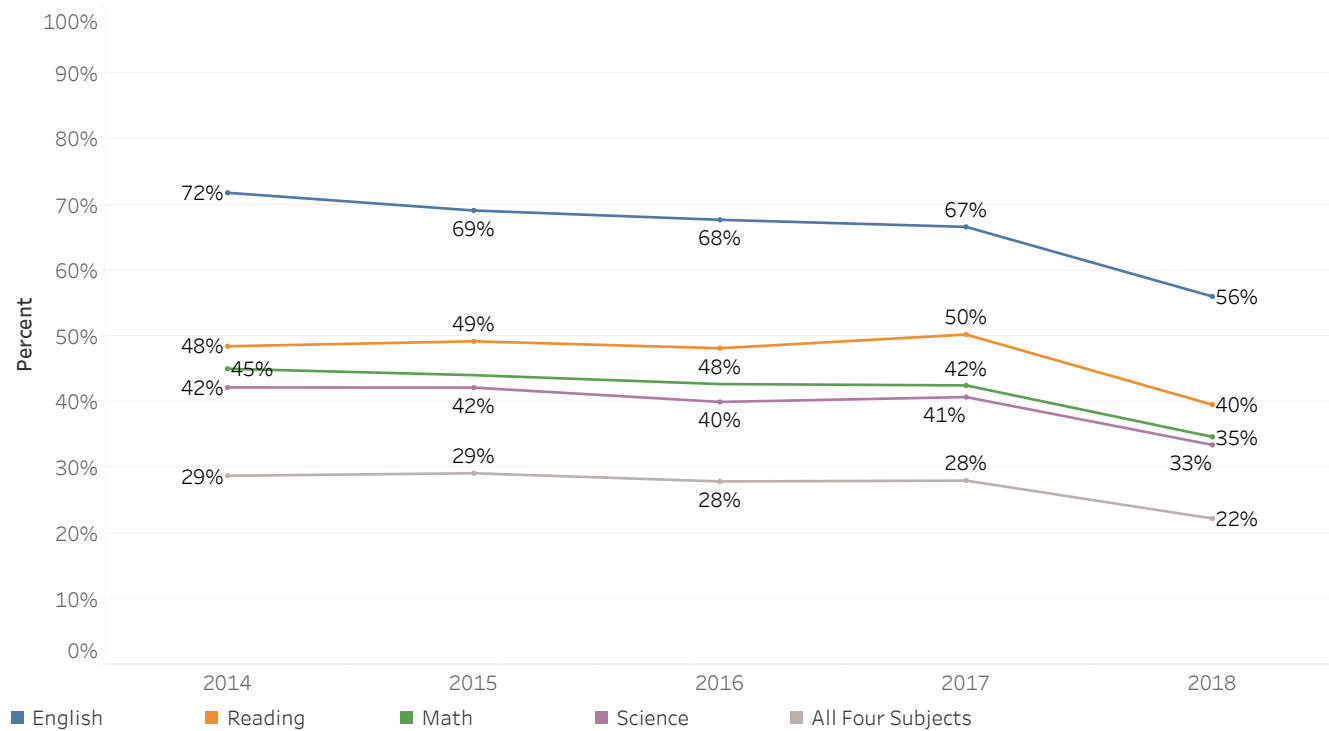
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
56%	60%	40%	46%	35%	40%	33%	36%	22%	27%

\* 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.

# NEBRASKA 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

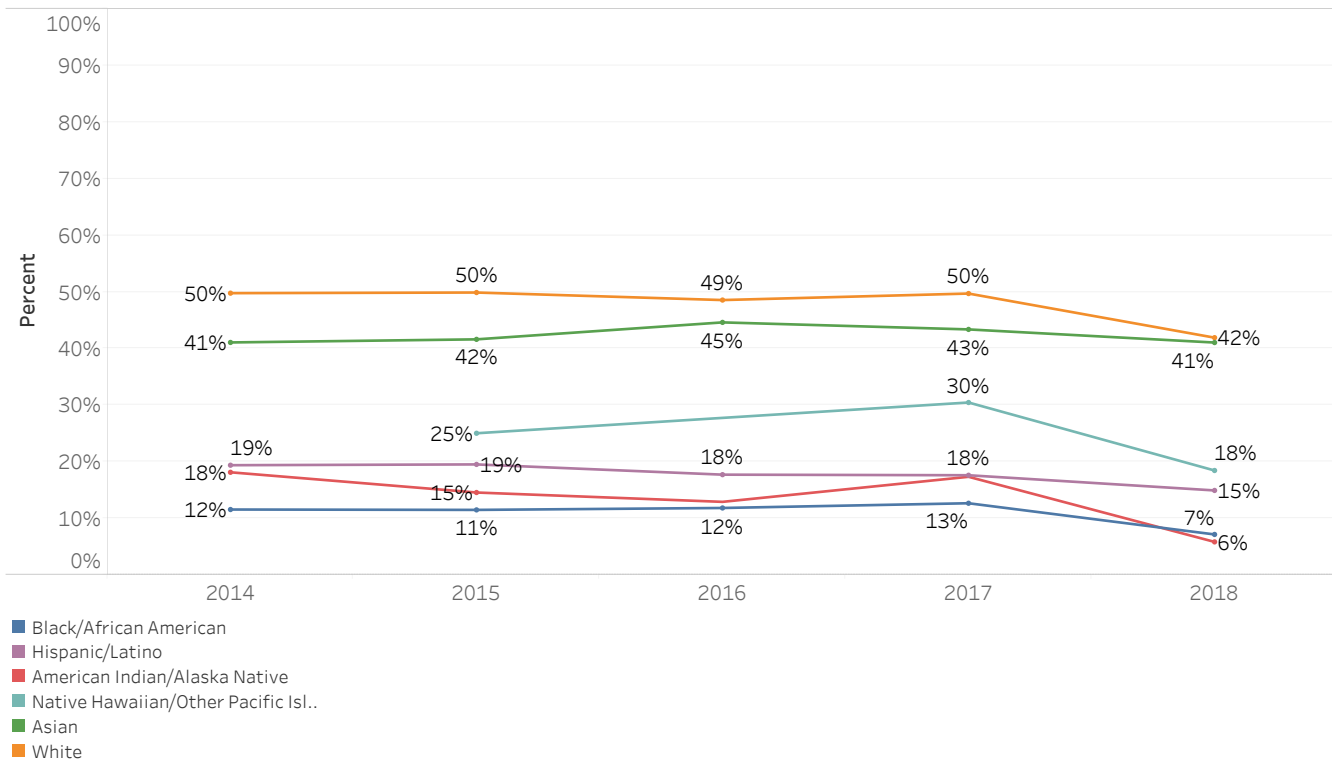
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2014	72%	48%	45%	42%	29%
2015	69%	49%	44%	42%	29%
2016	68%	48%	43%	40%	28%
2017	67%	50%	42%	41%	28%
2018	56%	40%	35%	33%	22%

\* 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.

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# NEBRASKA 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



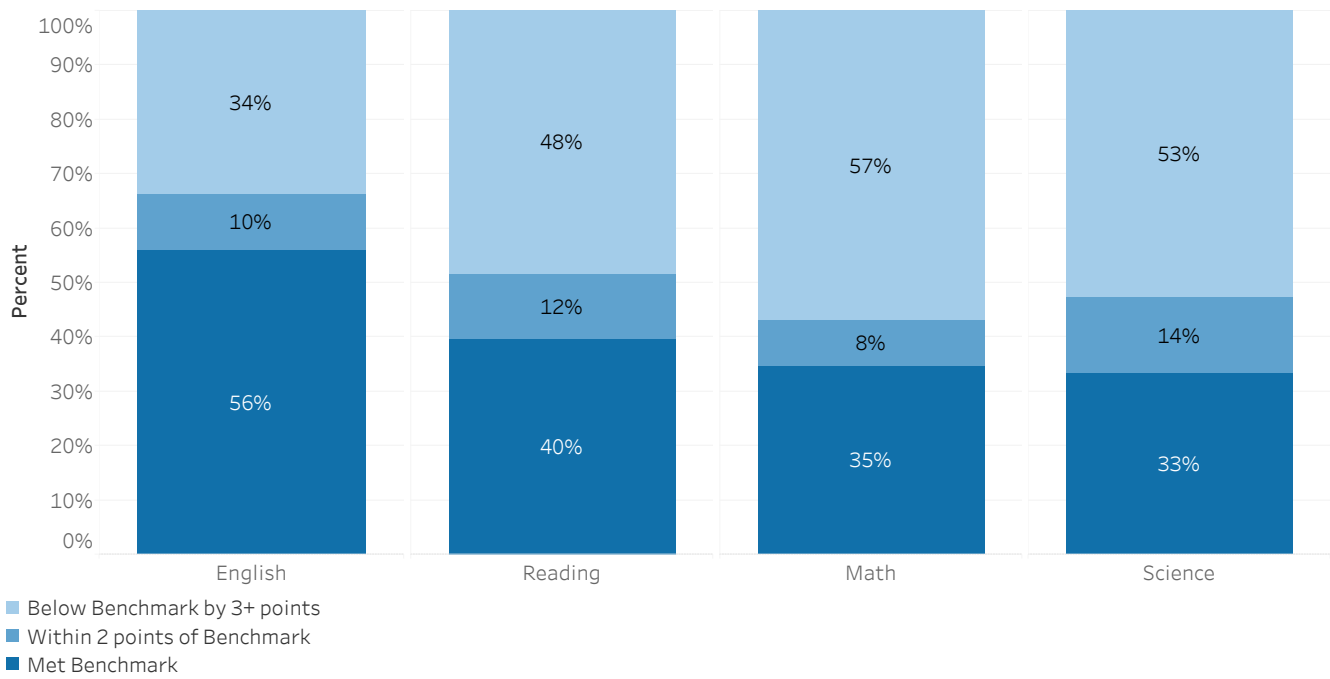
### Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2014	12%	19%	18%		41%	50%
2015	11%	19%	15%	25%	42%	50%
2016	12%	18%	13%		45%	49%
2017	13%	18%	17%	30%	43%	50%
2018	7%	15%	6%	18%	41%	42%

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# NEBRASKA 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

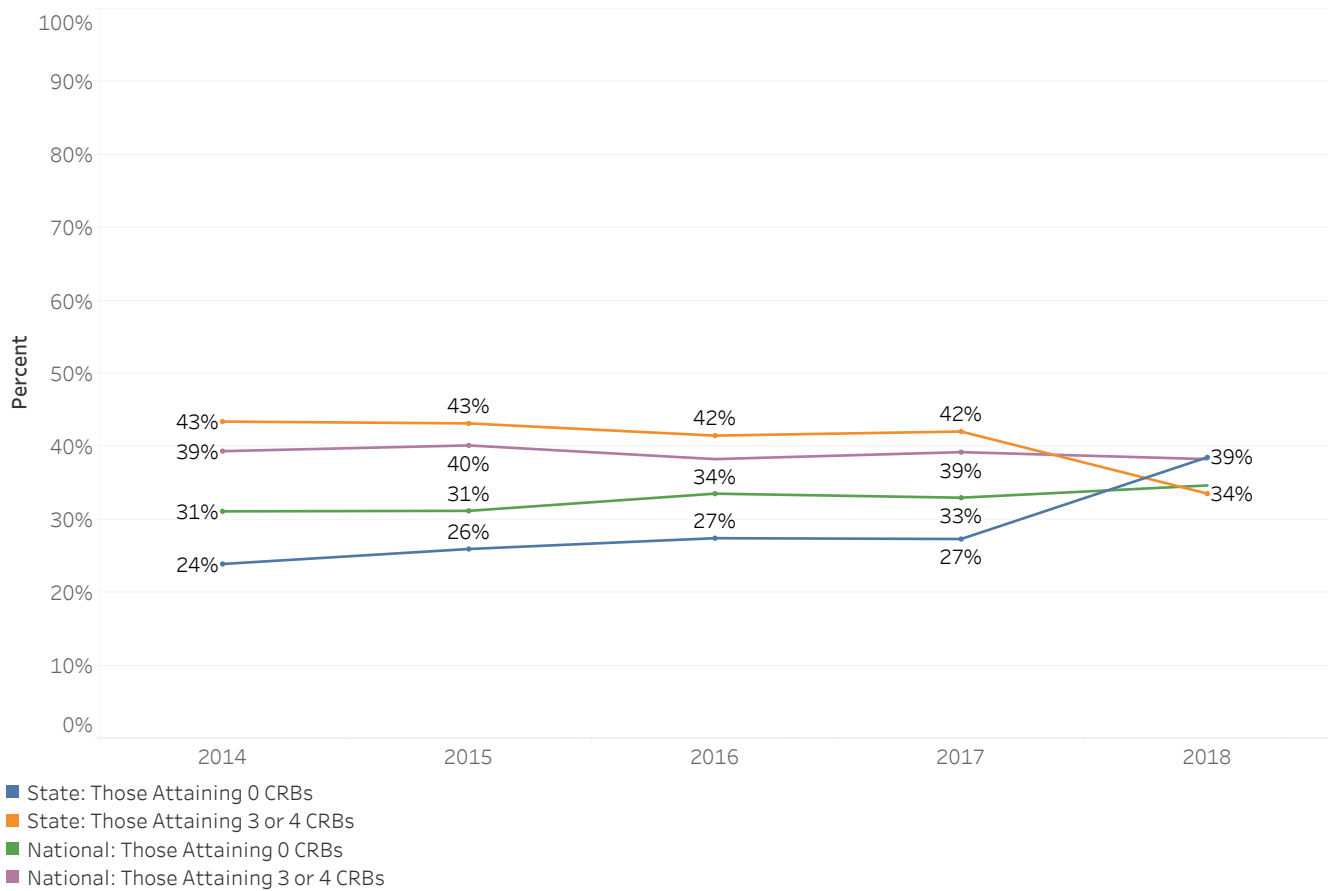
	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	34%	10%	56%
Math	57%	8%	35%
Reading	48%	12%	40%
Science	53%	14%	33%

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# NEBRASKA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



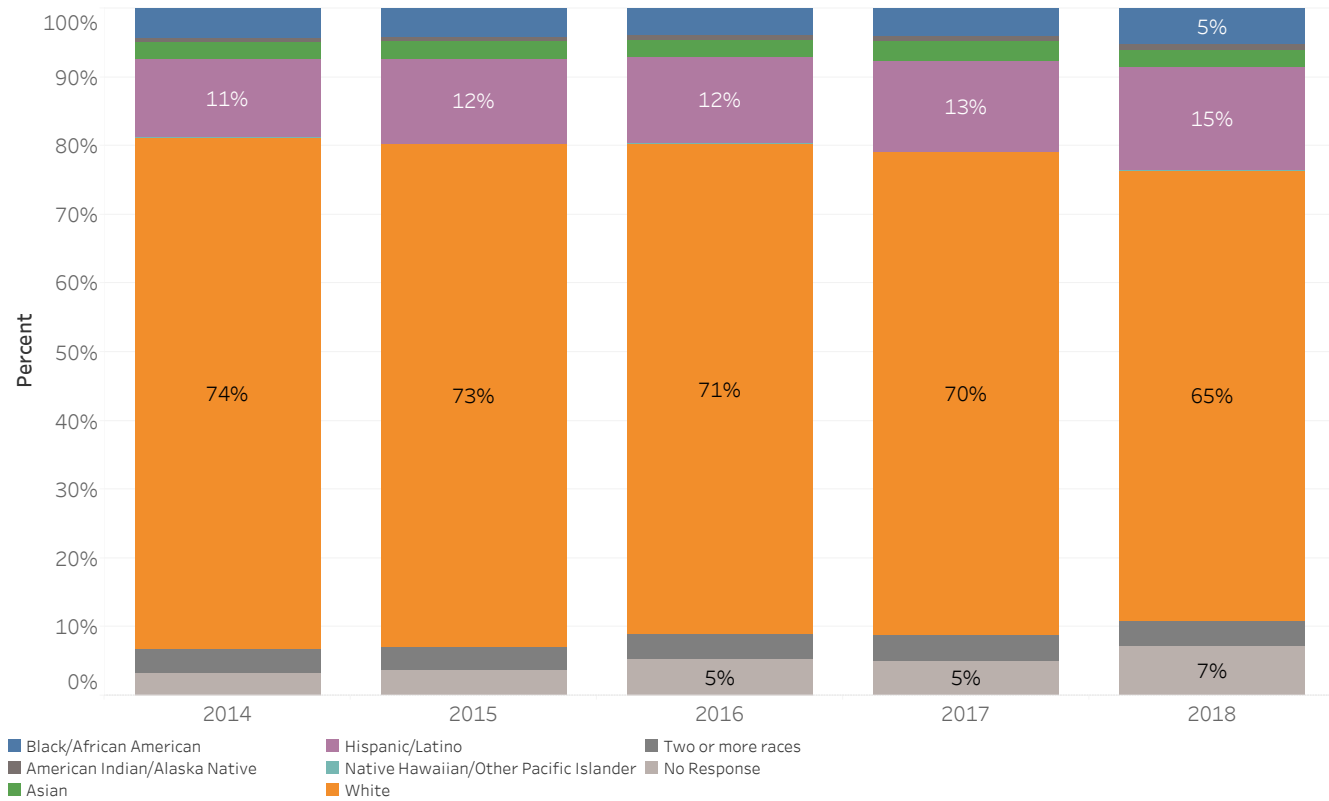
## Data from Graph Above

	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	24%	43%	31%	39%
2015	26%	43%	31%	40%
2016	27%	42%	34%	38%
2017	27%	42%	33%	39%
2018	39%	34%	35%	38%

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# NEBRASKA 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%	1%	3%	11%	0%	74%	3%	3%
2015	4%	1%	3%	12%	0%	73%	3%	4%
2016	4%	1%	2%	12%	0%	71%	4%	5%
2017	4%	1%	3%	13%	0%	70%	4%	5%
2018	5%	1%	2%	15%	0%	65%	4%	7%

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# NEBRASKA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

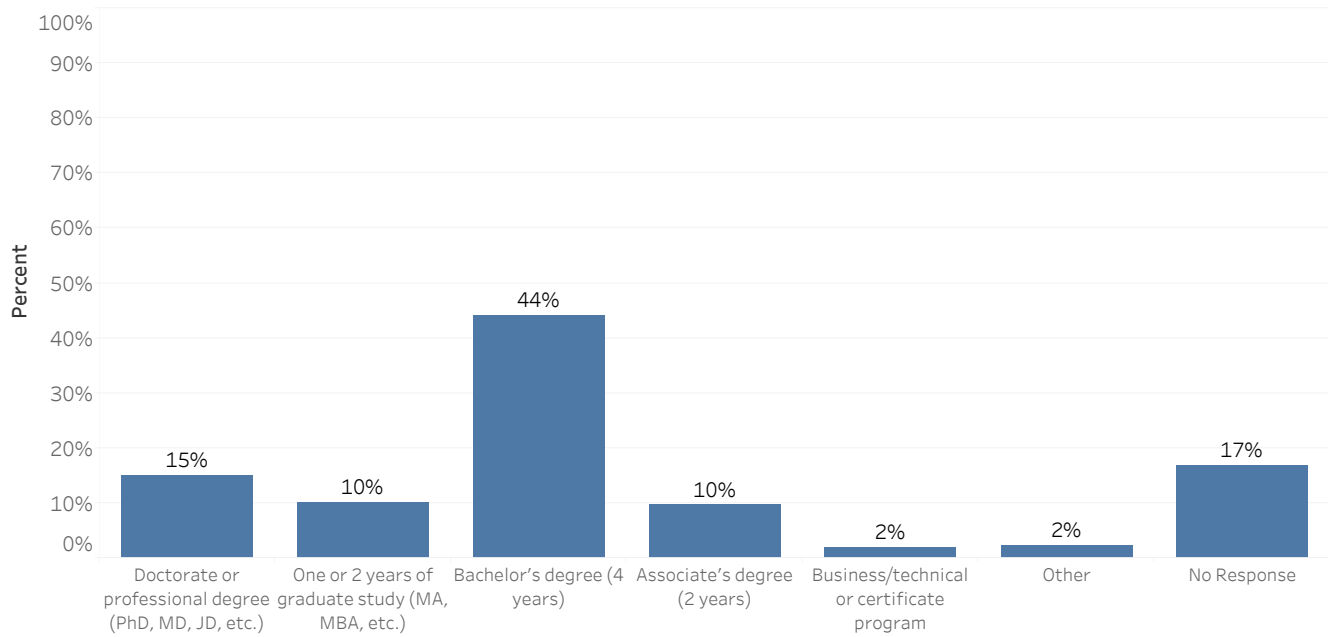
## Student Data Trends: 2014-2018, State vs. Nation

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State N-count	17,768	18,347	18,598	18,993	24,516
National N-count	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817
Average ACT English Score - State	21.3	21.1	20.9	20.9	19.4
Average ACT English Score - National	20.3	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Reading Score - State	22.0	21.9	21.8	21.9	20.4
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - State	21.1	21.0	20.8	20.9	19.8
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - State	21.7	21.6	21.5	21.5	20.1
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.8	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7
Average ACT Composite Score - State	21.7	21.5	21.4	21.4	20.1
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

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# NEBRASKA 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.)	15%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	10%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	44%
Associate's degree (2 years)	10%
Business/technical or certificate program	2%
Other	2%
No Response	17%

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