

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018

South Dakota Key Findings

Performance

- In the 2018 South Dakota graduating class, 6,730 graduates (77 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 21.9. This compares to 6,724 (78 percent) with an average of 21.9 in 2014. Nationally, 55% of 2018 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.8.
 - ~ The 2018 South Dakota graduating class average English score was 20.8. This compares to 20.7 and 21.0 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
 - ~ The 2018 South Dakota graduating class average math score was 21.6. This compares to 21.5 and 21.8 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
 - ~ The 2018 South Dakota graduating class average reading score was 22.4. This compares to 22.3 and 22.3 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
 - ~ The 2018 South Dakota graduating class average science score was 22.2. This compares to 22.0 and 22.1 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- In 2018, 32 percent of South Dakota graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 33 and 32 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 24 percent of South Dakota graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 24 and 22 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 68 percent of South Dakota graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 68 and 72 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - 2018 South Dakota graduates taking more advanced English coursework demonstrated markedly higher average English scores than those who did not. In fact, 69 percent of South Dakota 2018 graduates taking four or more years of English met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 56 percent of students taking less than four years of English meeting the benchmark.
 - ~ In 2018, 49 percent of South Dakota graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 49 and 52 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - 2018 South Dakota graduates taking more advanced math coursework demonstrated markedly higher average math scores than those who did not. In fact, 51 percent of South Dakota 2018 graduates taking three or more years of math met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 12 percent of students taking less than three years of math meeting the benchmark.
 - ~ In 2018, 54 percent of South Dakota graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 54 and 51 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - 2018 South Dakota graduates taking more advanced social studies coursework demonstrated markedly higher average reading scores than those who did not. In fact, 55 percent of South Dakota 2018 graduates taking three or more years of social studies met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 44 percent of students taking less than three years of social studies meeting the benchmark.

- ~ In 2018, 46 percent of South Dakota graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 46 and 46 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - 2018 South Dakota graduates taking more advanced science coursework demonstrated markedly higher average science scores than those who did not. In fact, 49 percent of South Dakota 2018 graduates taking three or more years of science met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 19 percent of students taking less than three years of science meeting the benchmark.
- In 2018, 3,182 (47 percent) of South Dakota graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 3,154 and 3,174 (47 and 47 percent) out of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively. For reference, the national percentage of 2018 graduates meeting three or four benchmarks was 38%.
- 54 percent of 2018 South Dakota graduates were Proficient or Above Proficient in understanding complex texts.

STEM

- In 2018, 3,654 South Dakota graduates (54 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
 - ~ Nationally, 45 percent of graduates indicated having an interest in STEM.
- Compared to 24 percent of 2018 South Dakota graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 23 and 23, respectively.
- In 2018, 3,402 South Dakota graduates (51 percent) indicated taking physics. This compares to 49 and 48 percent for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
- 2018 graduates taking physics had an average science score of 23.3, compared to 21.2 for students not taking physics.
- In 2018, 6,353 South Dakota graduates (94 percent) indicated taking three or more years of math. This compares to 94 and 96 percent for 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ 51 percent of 2018 graduates taking three or more years of math met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 12 percent for students taking less than three years of math.

Career Readiness

- In 2018, 1,958 South Dakota graduates (29 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, 5,771 South Dakota graduates (86 percent) were likely to attain the Silver ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate 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 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 South Dakota 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:
 - ~ 15 more students enrolling in college.
 - ~ 18 more students persisting to year two.
 - ~ 13 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - ~ 22 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - ~ 20 more students persisting to year four.
 - ~ 21 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In South Dakota, 3,957 of the 2018 graduates (58.8%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 22.8, compared to an average of 20.5 for 2,773 of the 2018 graduates (41.2%) 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.
- 12,324 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 South Dakota ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ 6,289 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2018 South Dakota ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ For South Dakota's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were South Dakota State University, University of South Dakota, Black Hills State University, Augustana University, and Northern State University.
 - ~ For South Dakota's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and North Dakota State University.
- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 67 percent of South Dakota 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 1,621 ACT fee waivers to qualified South Dakota students. However, 490 students (30.2 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

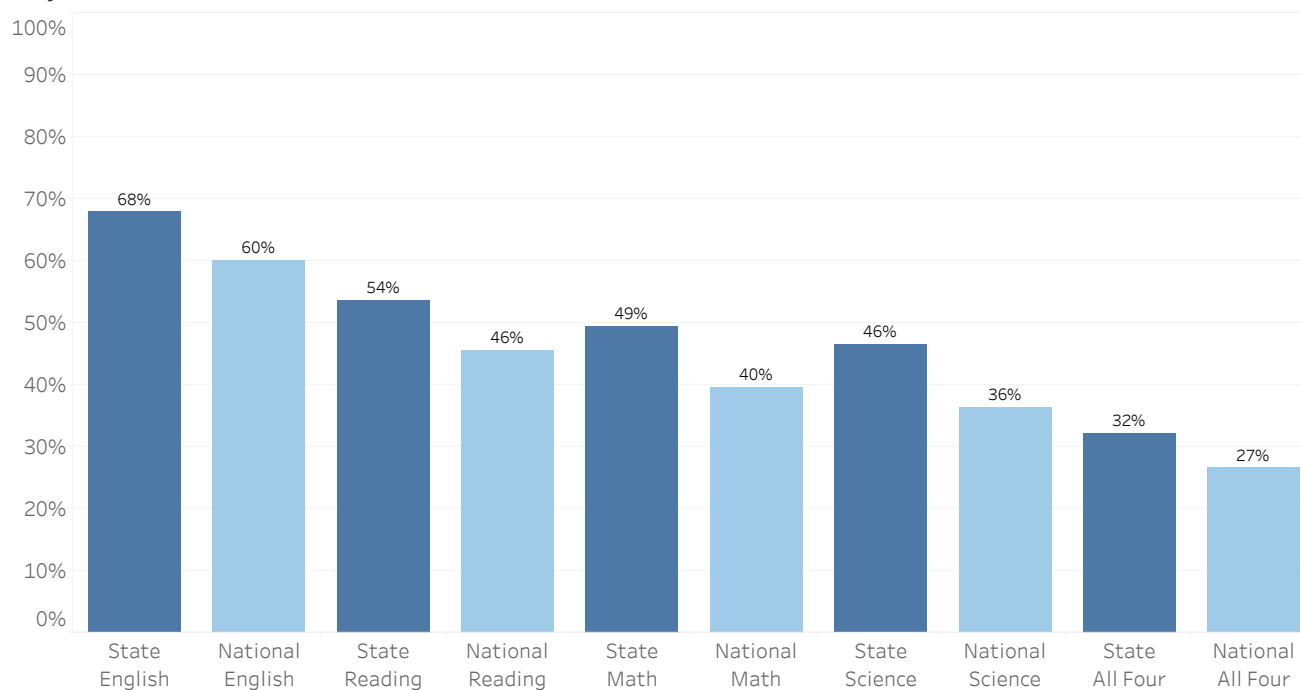
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - ~ 1,820 students (27 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 24.7.
 - ~ 3,789 students (56 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 21.5.
 - ~ 606 students (9 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 18.4.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2018 South Dakota graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Elementary Education; and Business Administration and Management, General.
 - ~ In the South Dakota graduating class of 2018, 1,342 students (20 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 21.7. 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 South Dakota graduating class of 2018, 495 (7 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 21.2.
- There is good news in that 92% of South Dakota's 2018 ACT-tested graduates aspired to postsecondary education. Interestingly enough, 93% of South Dakota's 2017 ACT-tested graduating class aspired to enroll in postsecondary education, compared to 75% who actually did enroll. If we fully closed the aspirational gap, an additional 1,177 of the 2017 ACT-tested graduates from South Dakota would have enrolled in postsecondary education.

Additional Points

- The South Dakota ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity 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 partners with the Council on College Admission in South Dakota to bring together professionals representing each of these areas, providing a unique and diverse professional development opportunity.
- According to the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the fastest-growing careers in South Dakota requiring education beyond high school are: Computer Numerically Controlled Machine Tool Programmers (Metal and Plastic), Computer Controlled Machine Tool Operators (Metal and Plastic), Cartographers and Photogrammerists, Industrial Machinery Mechanics, Forensic Science Technicians.

SOUTH DAKOTA 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

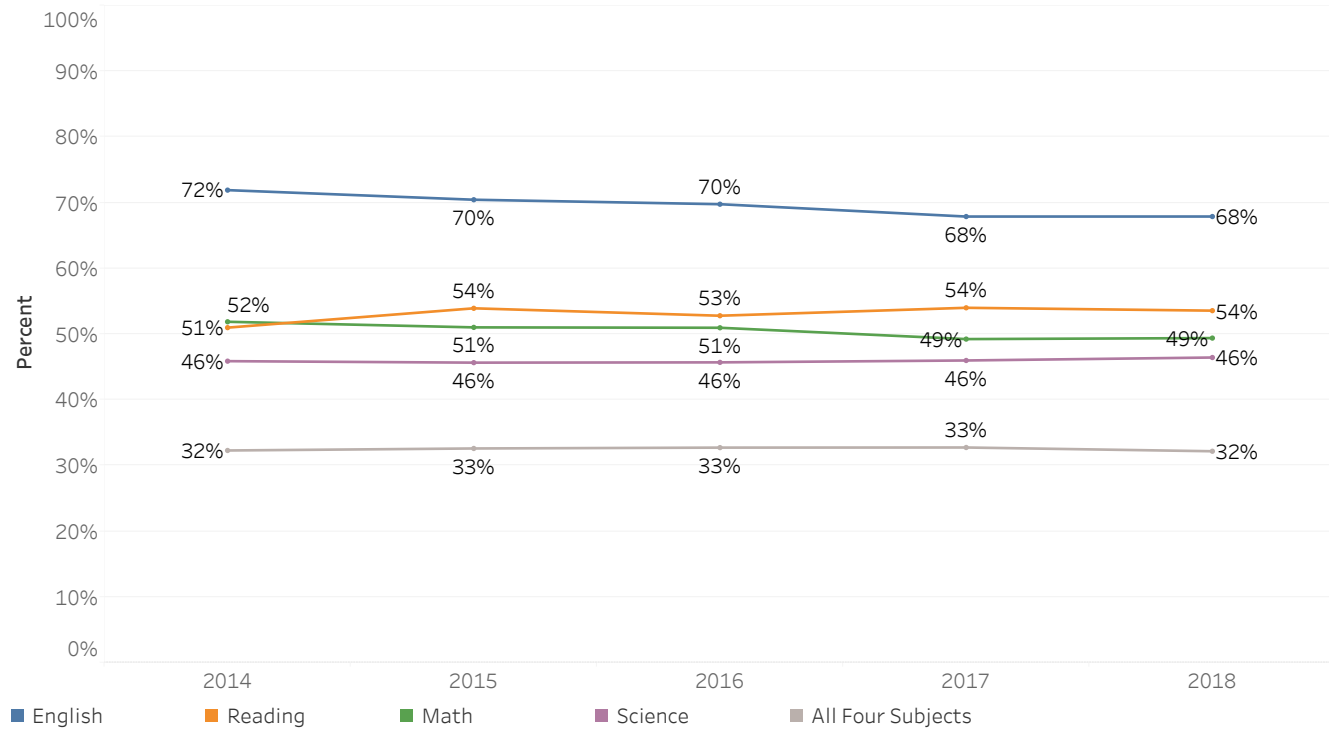
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
68%	60%	54%	46%	49%	40%	46%	36%	32%	27%

* 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.

SOUTH DAKOTA 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

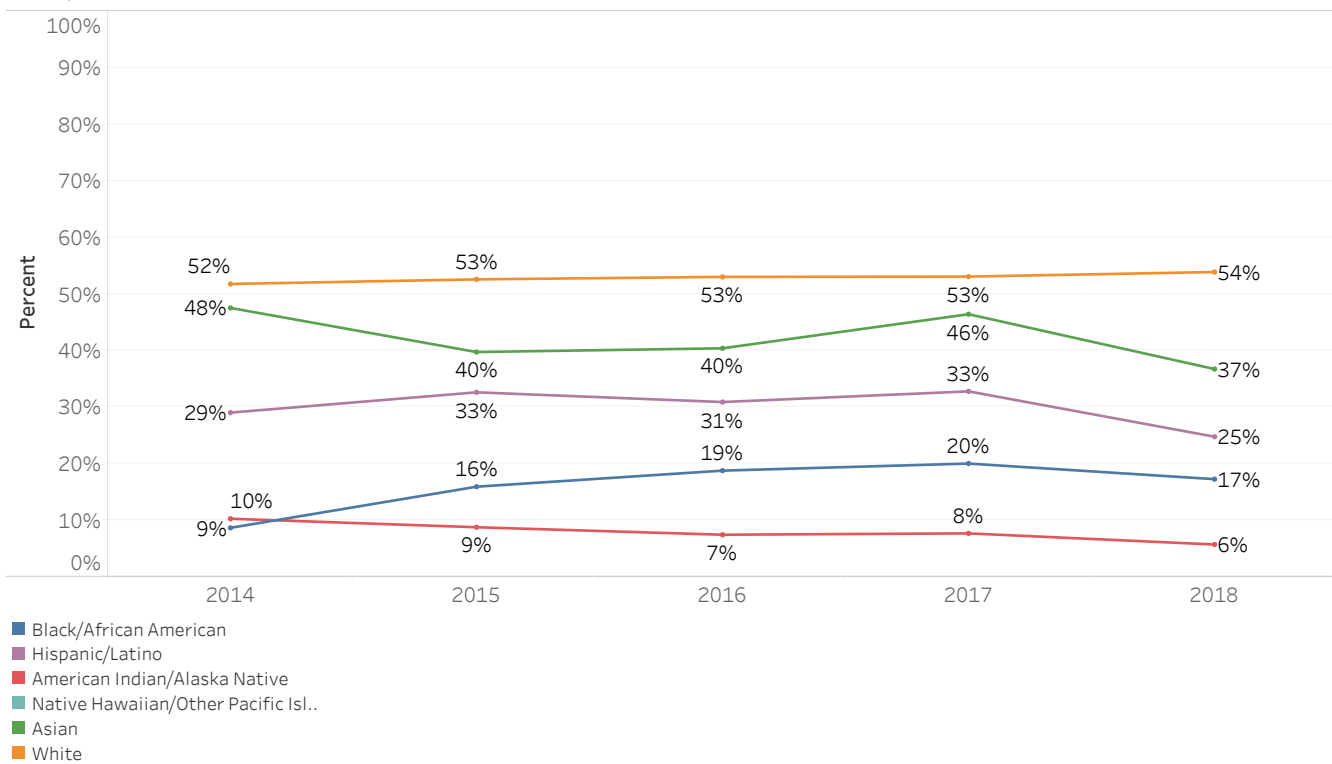
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2014	72%	51%	52%	46%	32%
2015	70%	54%	51%	46%	33%
2016	70%	53%	51%	46%	33%
2017	68%	54%	49%	46%	33%
2018	68%	54%	49%	46%	32%

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SOUTH DAKOTA 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



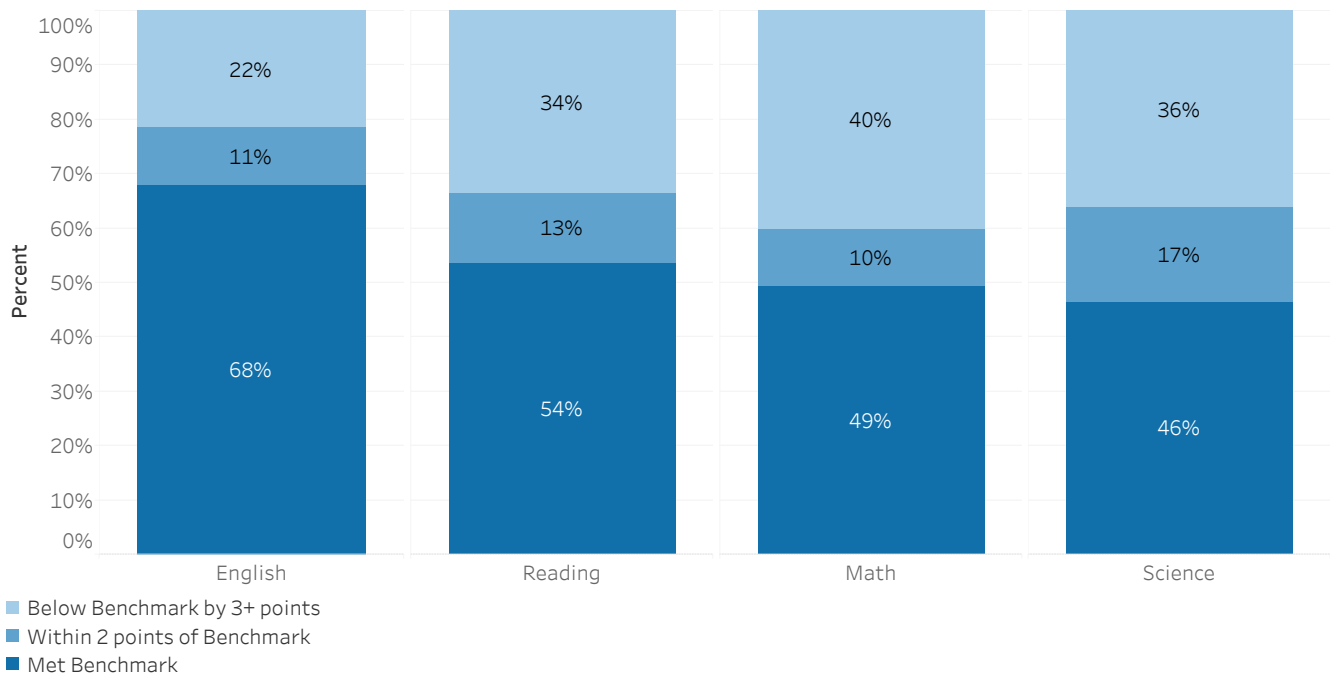
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2014	9%	29%	10%		48%	52%
2015	16%	33%	9%		40%	53%
2016	19%	31%	7%		40%	53%
2017	20%	33%	8%		46%	53%
2018	17%	25%	6%		37%	54%

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SOUTH DAKOTA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



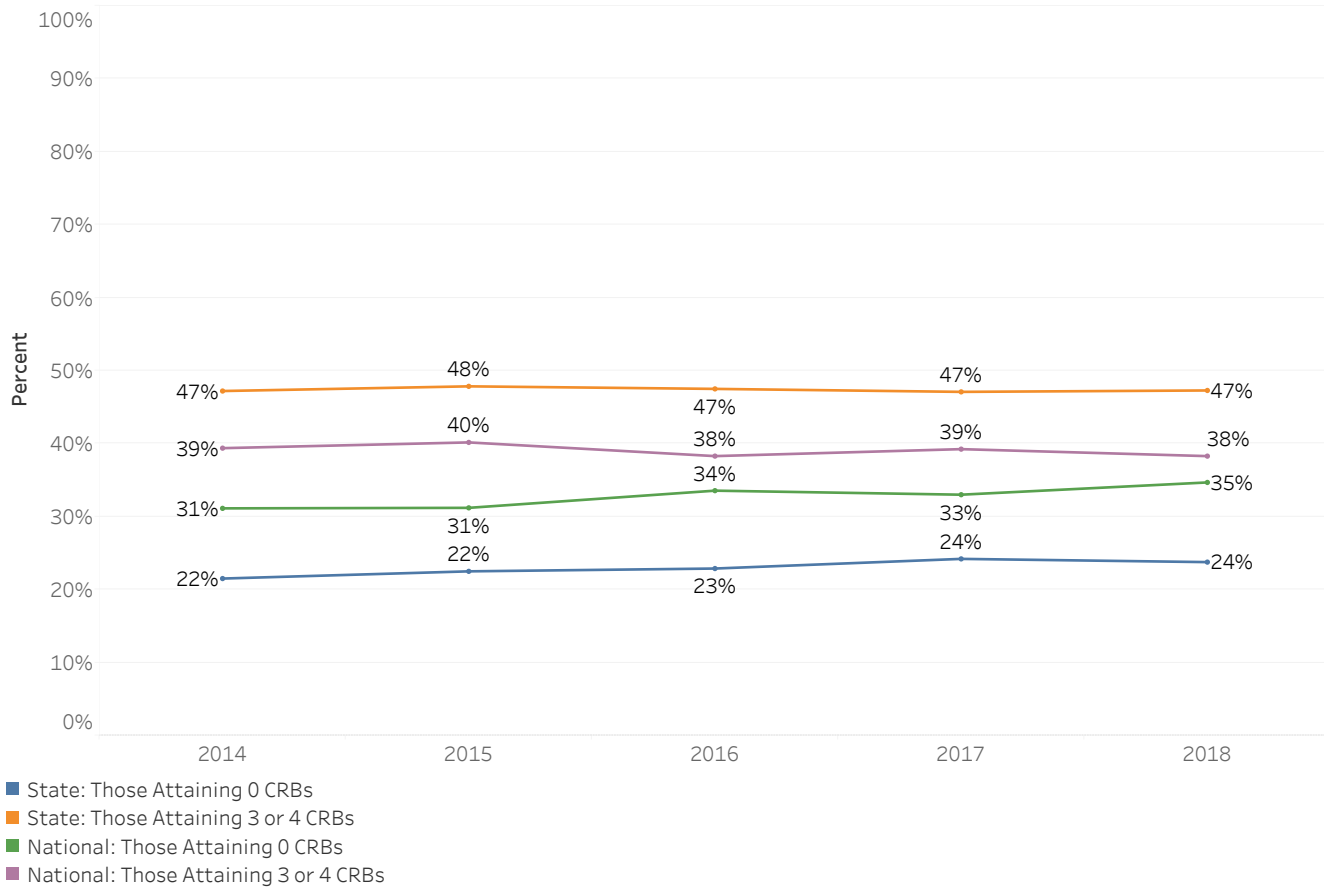
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	22%	11%	68%
Math	40%	10%	49%
Reading	34%	13%	54%
Science	36%	17%	46%

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SOUTH DAKOTA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



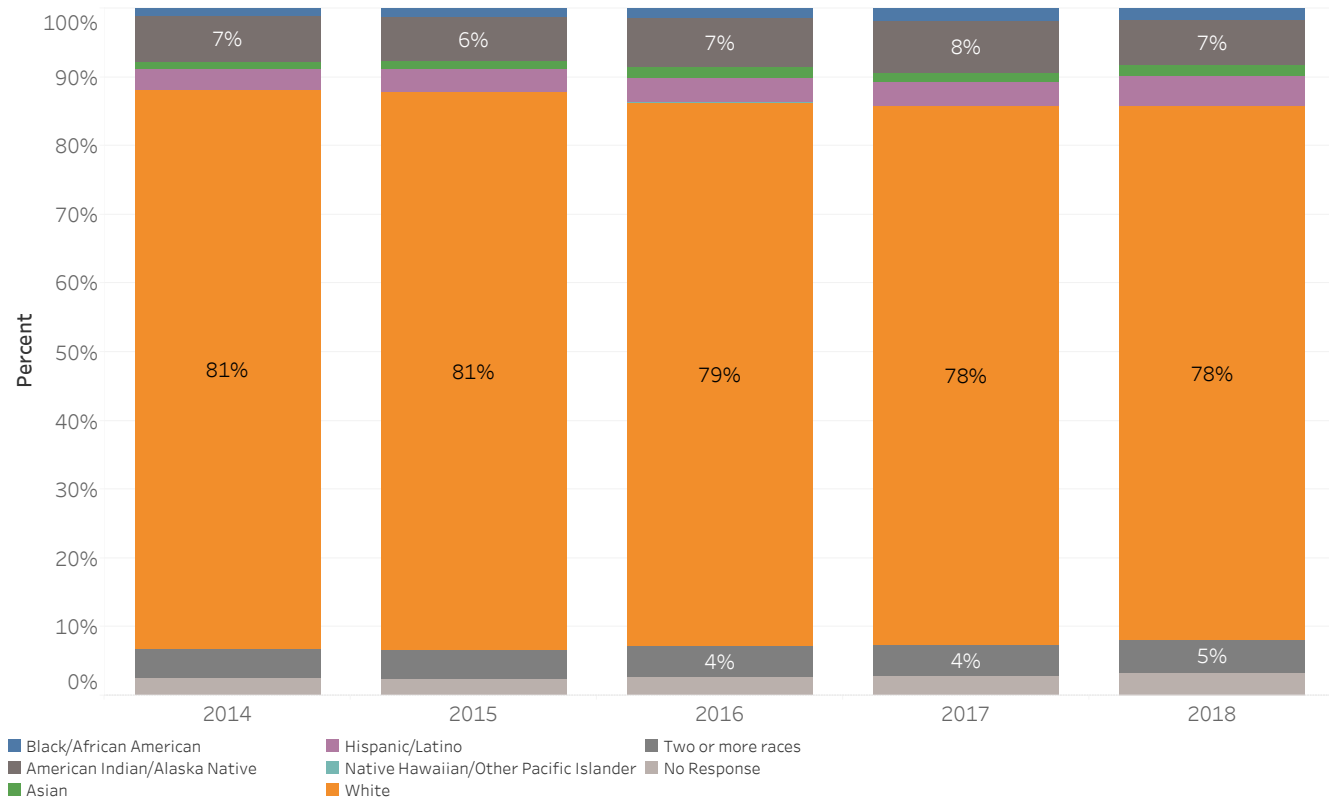
Data from Graph Above

	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	22%	47%	31%	39%
2015	22%	48%	31%	40%
2016	23%	47%	34%	38%
2017	24%	47%	33%	39%
2018	24%	47%	35%	38%

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SOUTH DAKOTA 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	1%	7%	1%	3%	0%	81%	4%	3%
2015	1%	6%	1%	3%	0%	81%	4%	2%
2016	1%	7%	2%	4%	0%	79%	4%	3%
2017	2%	8%	1%	3%	0%	78%	4%	3%
2018	2%	7%	2%	4%	0%	78%	5%	3%

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SOUTH DAKOTA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

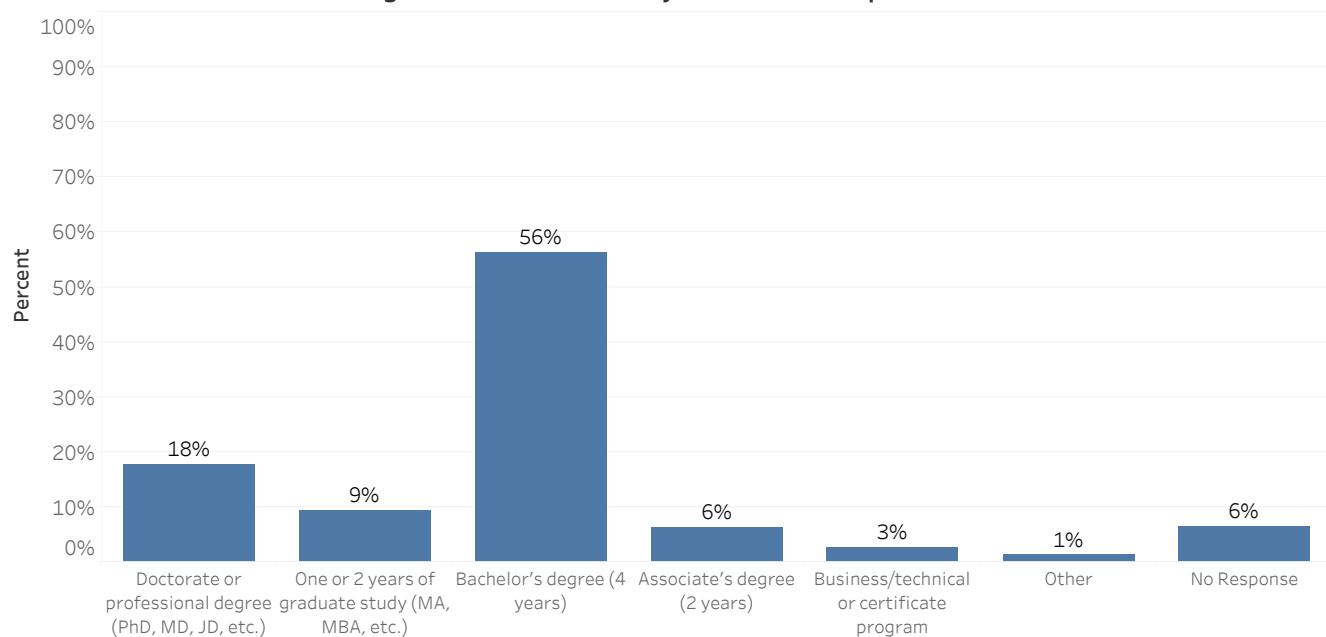
Student Data Trends: 2014-2018, State vs. Nation

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State N-count	6,724	6,615	6,552	6,698	6,730
National N-count	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817
Average ACT English Score - State	21.0	21.0	20.9	20.7	20.8
Average ACT English Score - National	20.3	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Reading Score - State	22.3	22.4	22.4	22.3	22.4
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - State	21.8	21.7	21.7	21.5	21.6
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - State	22.1	22.1	22.2	22.0	22.2
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.8	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7
Average ACT Composite Score - State	21.9	21.9	21.9	21.8	21.9
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

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SOUTH DAKOTA 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)	56%
Associate's degree (2 years)	6%
Business/technical or certificate program	3%
Other	1%
No Response	6%

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