

# The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018

## Utah Key Findings

### Performance

- In the 2018 Utah graduating class, 43,791 graduates (100 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 20.4. This compares to 35,074 (100 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 29,460 White graduates from Utah who took the ACT (67 percent) with an average Composite score of 21.4. This compares to 28,741 (67 percent) with an average of 21.4, and 25,091 (72 percent) with an average of 21.6, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
  - ~ There were 6,702 Hispanic graduates from Utah who took the ACT (15 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.4. This compares to 6,563 (15 percent) with an average of 17.4, and 4,737 (14 percent) with an average of 17.7, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
  - ~ There were 881 Asian graduates from Utah who took the ACT (2 percent) with an average Composite score of 21.5. This compares to 836 (2 percent) with an average of 21.0, and 735 (2 percent) with an average of 21.4, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
- The 2018 Utah graduating class average English score was 19.7. This compares to 19.5 and 20.0 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Utah graduating class average math score was 19.9. This compares to 19.9 and 20.3 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Utah graduating class average reading score was 20.9. This compares to 20.8 and 21.3 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Utah graduating class average science score was 20.5. This compares to 20.6 and 20.9 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- In 2018, 24 percent of Utah graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 23 and 25 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
  - ~ In 2018, 58 percent of Utah graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 58 and 63 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
  - ~ In 2018, 36 percent of Utah graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 35 and 39 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
  - ~ In 2018, 43 percent of Utah graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 43 and 43 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
  - ~ In 2018, 34 percent of Utah graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 34 and 36 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- In 2018, 7 percent of Utah graduates took the ACT with extended time. This compares to 6 and 4 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- 44 percent of 2018 Utah graduates were Proficient or Above Proficient in understanding complex texts.
- 56 percent of 2018 Utah graduates were Below Proficient in understanding complex texts.

## STEM

- In 2018, 18,172 Utah graduates (41 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 Utah graduating class average ACT STEM score of 20.5, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM averages of 20.5 and 20.8, respectively.
- Compared to 17 percent of 2018 Utah graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 17 and 17, respectively.
  - ~ 48 percent of 2018 Utah graduates taking physics met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 21 for students not taking physics.
- 2018 Utah graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 28.0. This compares to 28.1 in 2014.

## Career Readiness

- In 2018, 31,479 Utah graduates (72 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 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 Utah 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:
  - ~ 107 more students enrolling in college.
  - ~ 120 more students persisting to year two.
  - ~ 89 fewer students needing remedial English.
  - ~ 140 fewer students needing remedial math.
  - ~ 128 more students persisting to year four.
  - ~ 136 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

## Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Utah, 18,024 of the 2018 graduates (41.2%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 23.6, compared to an average of 18.2 for 25,767 of the 2018 graduates (58.8%) who took the ACT only once.
- 117,161 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 Utah ACT-tested graduates.
  - ~ 78,079 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2018 Utah ACT-tested graduates.
  - ~ For Utah's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were University of Utah, Utah Valley University, Utah State University, Brigham Young University, and Weber State University.
  - ~ For Utah's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were Brigham Young University-Idaho, Brigham Young University-Hawaii Campus, and Stanford University.
- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 68 percent of Utah 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 2,591 ACT fee waivers to qualified Utah students. However, 693 students (26.7 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. 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 White Utah students represent 30 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 19 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 19 and 17 nationally.
  - ~ While Hispanic Utah students represent 45 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 55 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 35 and 36 nationally.

## Pipeline

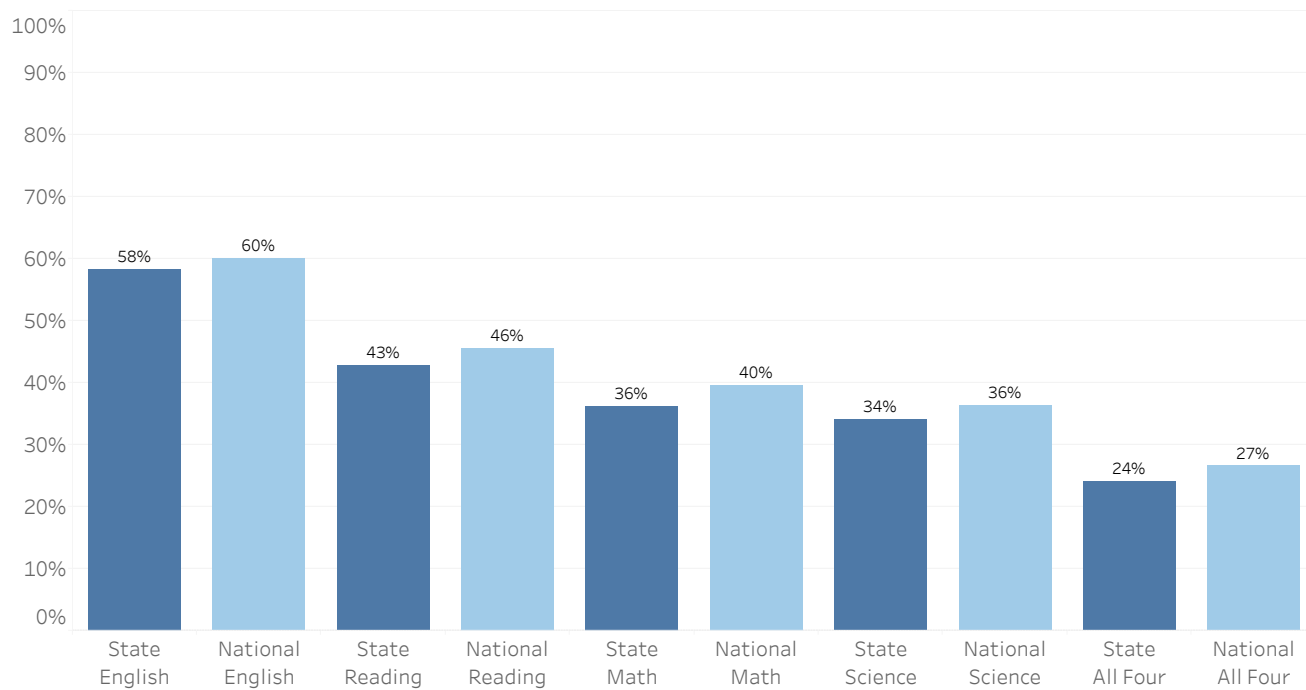
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
  - ~ 12,716 students (29 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 23.3.
  - ~ 15,893 students (36 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 20.7.
  - ~ 3,277 students (7 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 16.8.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2018 Utah graduates were: Undecided; Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Business Administration and Management, General; and Computer Science and Programming.
  - ~ In the Utah graduating class of 2018, 4,731 students (11 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 21.6. 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 Utah graduating class of 2018, 1,423 (3 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 21.2.

## Additional Points

- The Utah ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity. The membership includes educators from state agencies, K-12, access, and postsecondary institutions, as well as members involved in workforce development. Each year, the Utah ACT State Council provides a forum for professionals representing each of these areas, providing a unique and diverse professional development opportunity and to help drive state educational and workforce initiatives across Utah.
- 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 Utah Champions: Jakob Barrus (High School Senior) and Melanie Moffat (K-12 Professional).

# UTAH 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

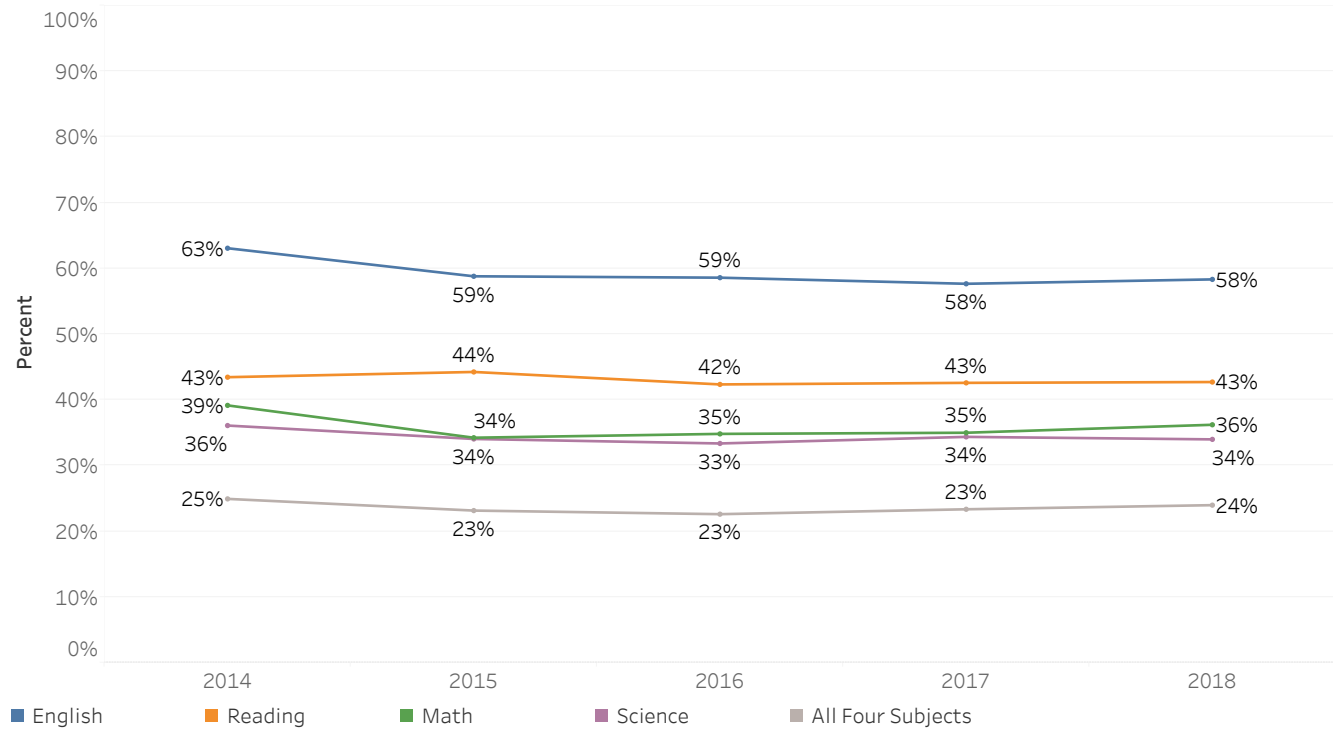
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
58%	60%	43%	46%	36%	40%	34%	36%	24%	27%

\* 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.

# UTAH 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

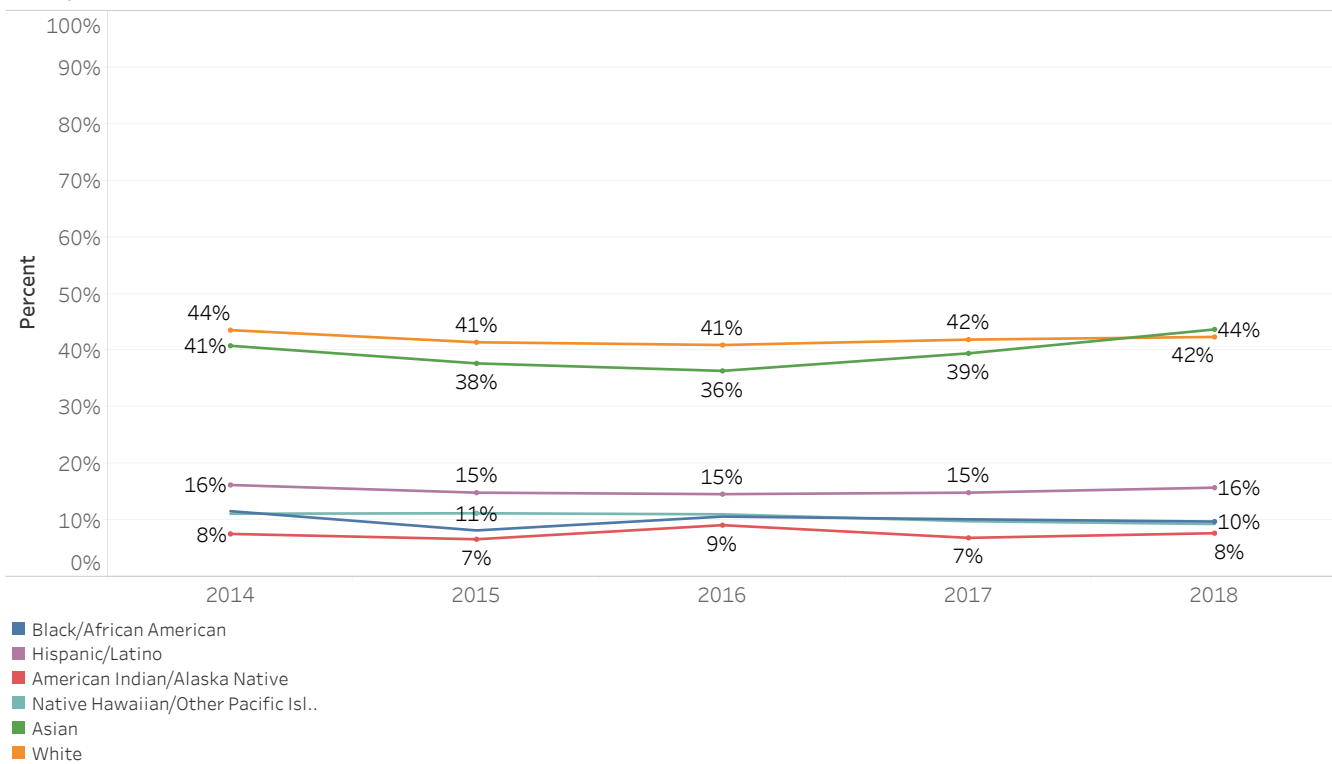
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2014	63%	43%	39%	36%	25%
2015	59%	44%	34%	34%	23%
2016	59%	42%	35%	33%	23%
2017	58%	43%	35%	34%	23%
2018	58%	43%	36%	34%	24%

\* 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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# UTAH 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



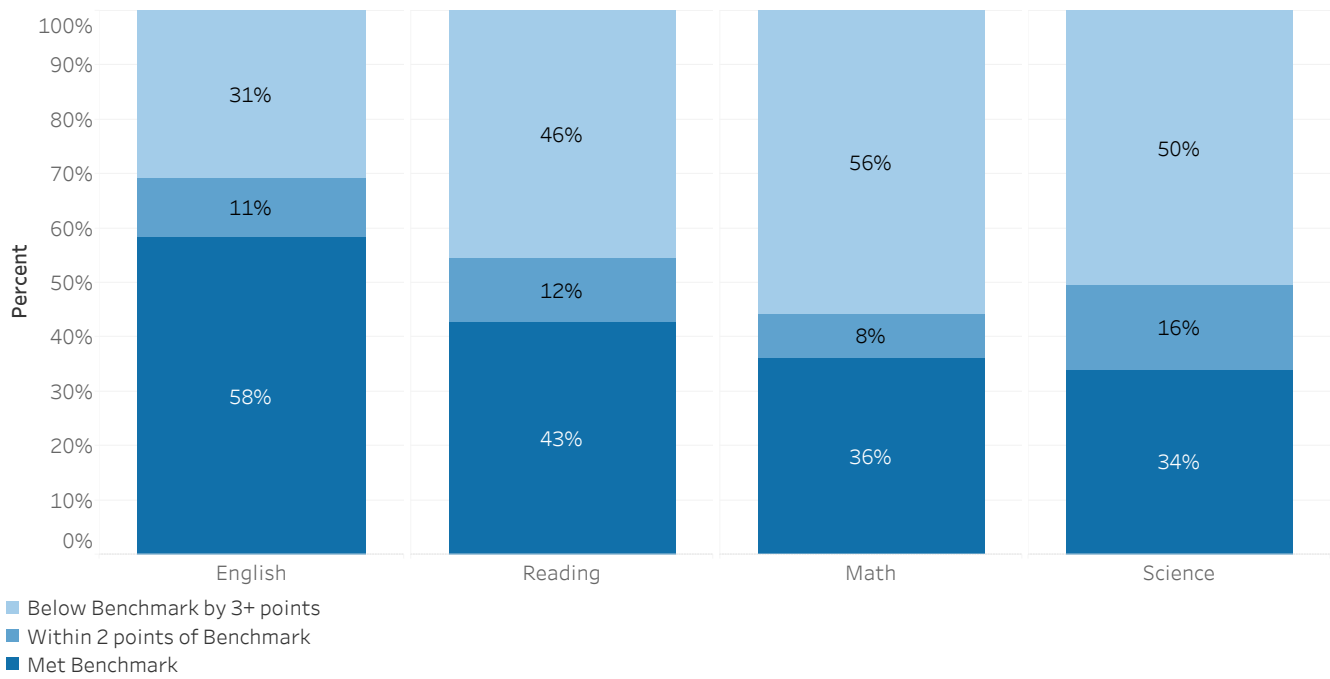
### Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2014	12%	16%	8%	11%	41%	44%
2015	8%	15%	7%	11%	38%	41%
2016	11%	15%	9%	11%	36%	41%
2017	10%	15%	7%	10%	39%	42%
2018	10%	16%	8%	9%	44%	42%

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# UTAH 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

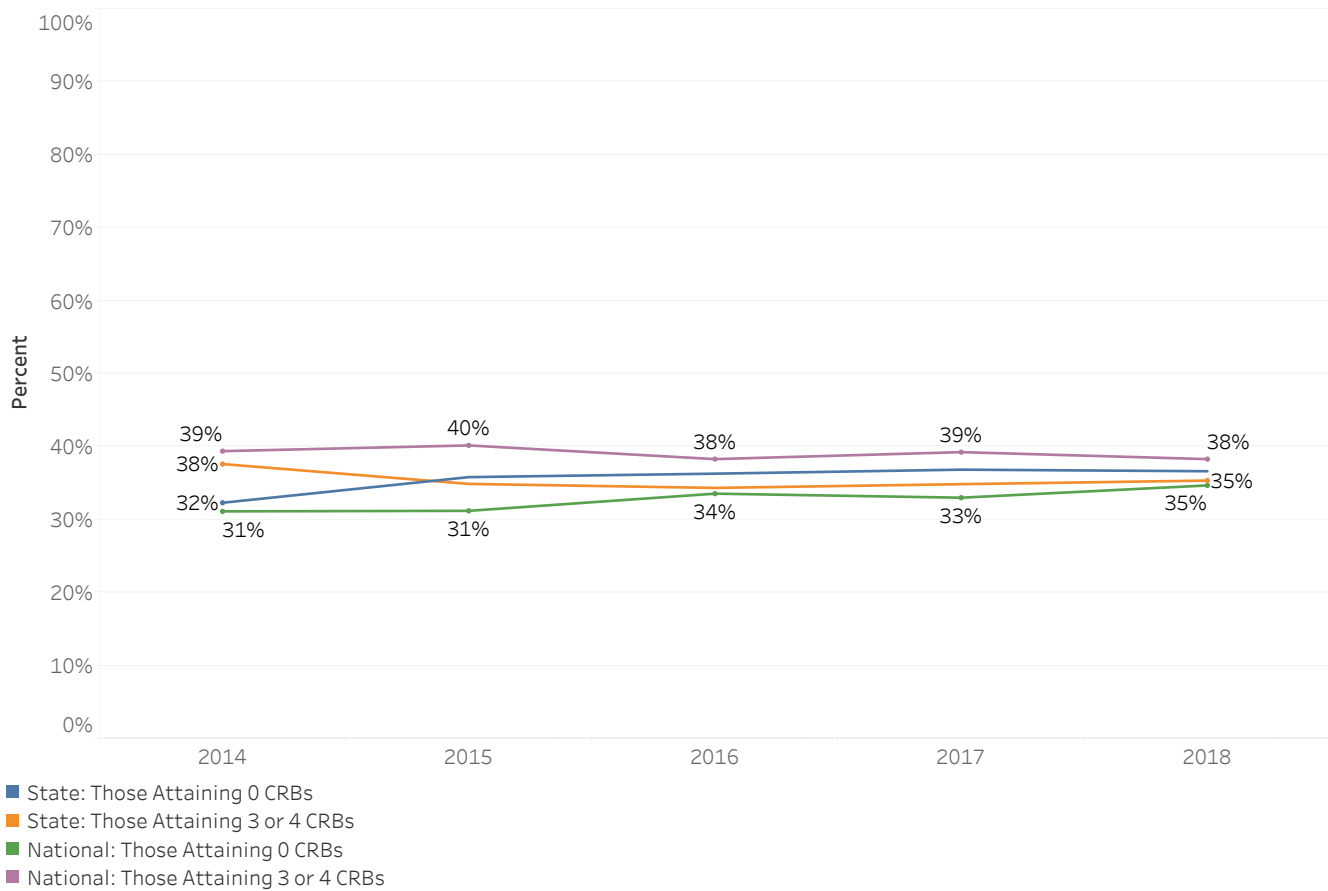
	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	31%	11%	58%
Math	56%	8%	36%
Reading	46%	12%	43%
Science	50%	16%	34%

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

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



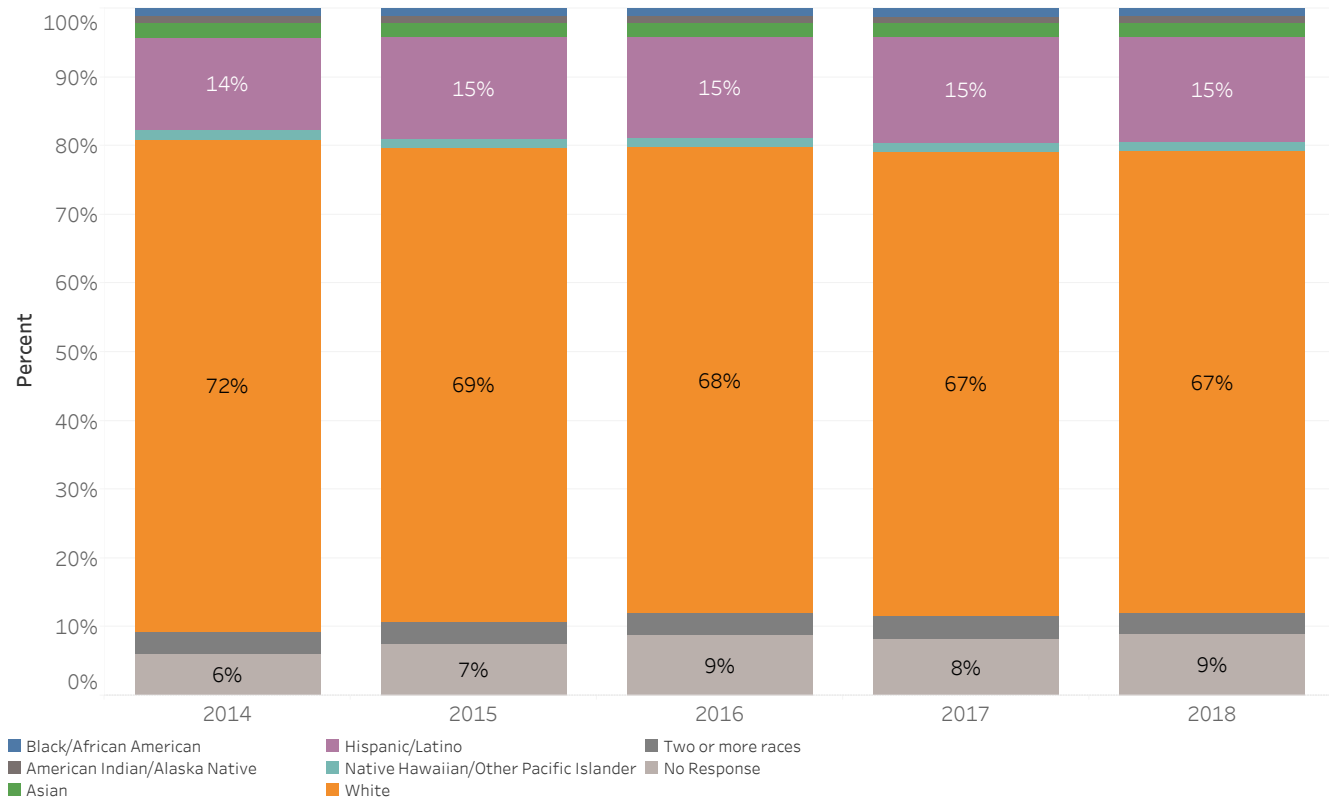
## Data from Graph Above

	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%	38%	31%	39%
2015	36%	35%	31%	40%
2016	36%	34%	34%	38%
2017	37%	35%	33%	39%
2018	37%	35%	35%	38%

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# UTAH 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%	1%	2%	14%	1%	72%	3%	6%
2015	1%	1%	2%	15%	1%	69%	3%	7%
2016	1%	1%	2%	15%	1%	68%	3%	9%
2017	1%	1%	2%	15%	1%	67%	3%	8%
2018	1%	1%	2%	15%	1%	67%	3%	9%

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

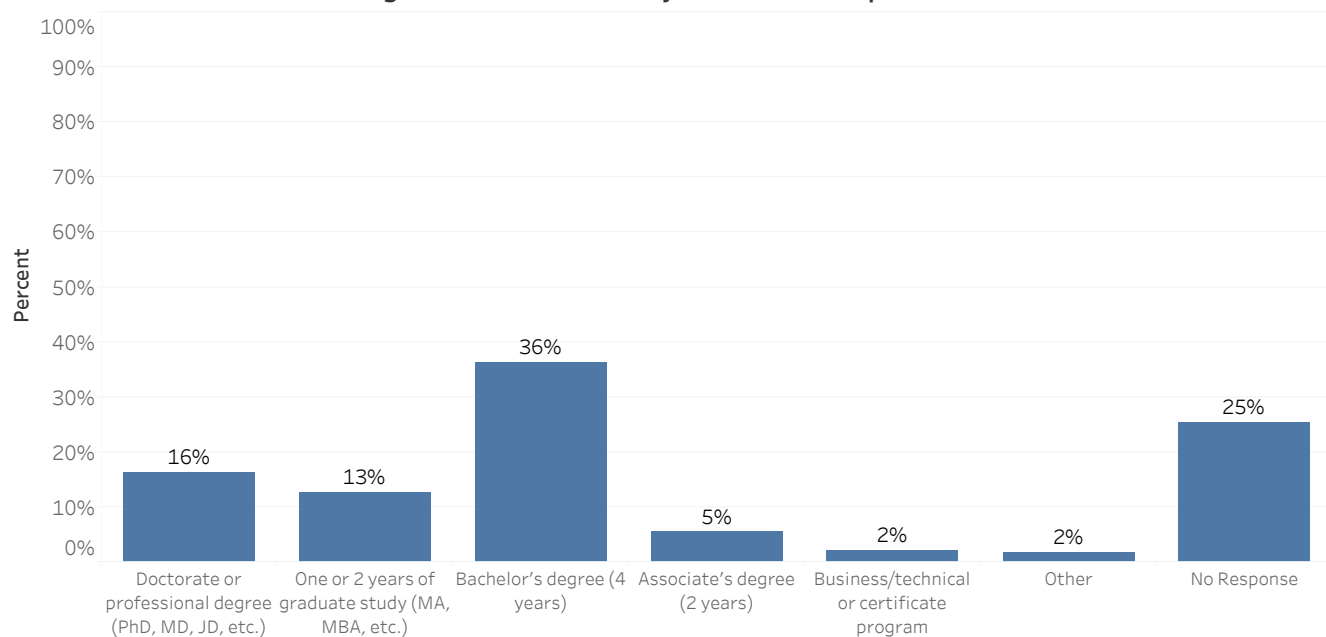
## Student Data Trends: 2014-2018, State vs. Nation

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State N-count	35,074	40,629	41,446	42,580	43,791
National N-count	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817
Average ACT English Score - State	20.0	19.4	19.5	19.5	19.7
Average ACT English Score - National	20.3	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Reading Score - State	21.3	20.9	20.9	20.8	20.9
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - State	20.3	19.8	19.7	19.9	19.9
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - State	20.9	20.4	20.3	20.6	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.8	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7
Average ACT Composite Score - State	20.8	20.2	20.2	20.3	20.4
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.

# UTAH 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.)	16%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	13%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	36%
Associate's degree (2 years)	5%
Business/technical or certificate program	2%
Other	2%
No Response	25%

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