

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018

Washington Key Findings

Performance

- In the 2018 Washington graduating class, 17,010 graduates (24 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 22.2. This compares to 14,667 (22 percent) with an average of 23.0 in 2014. Nationally, 55% of 2018 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.8.
 - ~ There were 780 African American graduates from Washington who took the ACT (5 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.2. This compares to 897 (5 percent) with an average of 16.7, and 625 (4 percent) with an average of 17.3, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 139 American Indian graduates from Washington who took the ACT (1 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.2. This compares to 161 (1 percent) with an average of 17.1, and 122 (1 percent) with an average of 19.0, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 8,331 White graduates from Washington who took the ACT (49 percent) with an average Composite score of 23.9. This compares to 9,744 (50 percent) with an average of 23.7, and 8,322 (57 percent) with an average of 24.3, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 2,902 Hispanic graduates from Washington who took the ACT (17 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.7. This compares to 3,554 (18 percent) with an average of 17.1, and 1,938 (13 percent) with an average of 18.7, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 2,082 Asian graduates from Washington who took the ACT (12 percent) with an average Composite score of 23.8. This compares to 2,217 (11 percent) with an average of 23.7, and 1,588 (11 percent) with an average of 23.8, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 189 Pacific Islander graduates from Washington who took the ACT (1 percent) with an average Composite score of 16.3. This compares to 271 (1 percent) with an average of 16.5, and 127 (1 percent) with an average of 18.6, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
- The 2018 Washington graduating class average English score was 21.4. This compares to 20.9 and 22.3 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Washington graduating class average math score was 22.2. This compares to 21.9 and 23.3 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Washington graduating class average reading score was 22.7. This compares to 22.1 and 23.4 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Washington graduating class average science score was 22.0. This compares to 22.0 and 22.7 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- In 2018, 37 percent of Washington graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 36 and 41 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 29 percent of Washington graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 32 and 20 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.

- ~ In 2018, 65 percent of Washington graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 62 and 74 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- ~ In 2018, 52 percent of Washington graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 51 and 62 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - 2018 Washington graduates taking more advanced math coursework demonstrated markedly higher average math scores than those who did not. In fact, 55 percent of Washington 2018 graduates taking three or more years of math met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 8 percent of students taking less than three years of math meeting the benchmark.
- ~ In 2018, 54 percent of Washington graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 52 and 58 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- ~ In 2018, 47 percent of Washington graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 44 and 52 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - 2018 Washington graduates taking more advanced science coursework demonstrated markedly higher average science scores than those who did not. In fact, 54 percent of Washington 2018 graduates taking three or more years of science met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 20 percent of students taking less than three years of science meeting the benchmark.
- In 2018, 8,447 (50 percent) of Washington graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 9,315 and 8,268 (48 and 56 percent) out of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively. For reference, the national percentage of 2018 graduates meeting three or four benchmarks was 38%.
- 55 percent of 2018 Washington graduates were Proficient or Above Proficient in understanding complex texts.

STEM

- In 2018, 8,552 Washington graduates (50 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 Washington graduating class average ACT STEM score of 22.3, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM averages of 22.2 and 23.2, respectively.
- Compared to 31 percent of 2018 Washington graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 30 and 34, respectively.
- In 2018, 9,456 Washington graduates (56 percent) indicated taking physics. This compares to 55 and 61 percent for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ 59 percent of 2018 Washington graduates taking physics met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 32 for students not taking physics.
 - ~ 55 percent of 2018 graduates taking three or more years of math met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 8 percent for students taking less than three years of math.

Career Readiness

- In 2018, 12,977 Washington graduates (76 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 Washington 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:
 - ~ 38 more students enrolling in college.
 - ~ 43 more students persisting to year two.
 - ~ 26 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - ~ 43 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - ~ 48 more students persisting to year four.
 - ~ 51 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Washington, 5,035 of the 2018 graduates (29.6%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 24.5, compared to an average of 21.2 for 11,975 of the 2018 graduates (70.4%) who took the ACT only once.
- 24,368 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 Washington ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ 10,863 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2018 Washington ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ For Washington's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were University of Washington, Washington State University, Central Washington University, Western Washington University, and Eastern Washington University.
 - ~ For Washington's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were Brigham Young University, Brigham Young University-Idaho, and Stanford University.
- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 64 percent of Washington 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 5,331 ACT fee waivers to qualified Washington students. However, 1,681 students (31.5 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

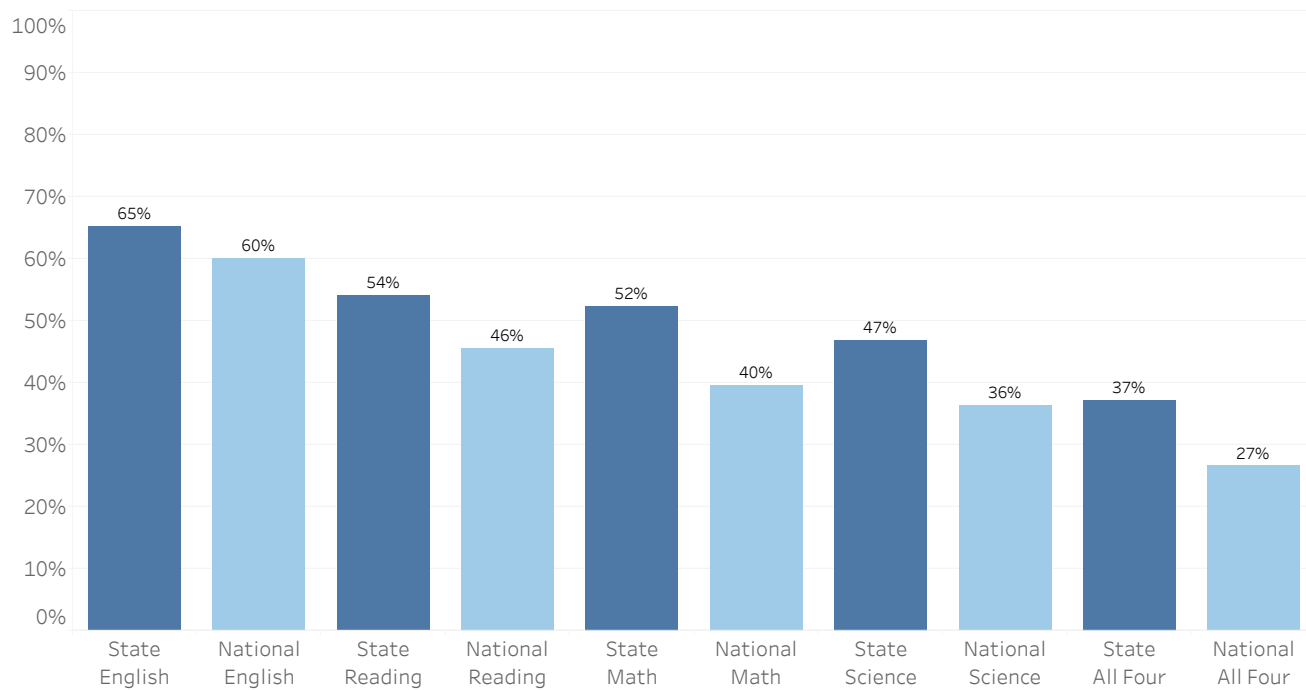
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - ~ 6,419 students (38 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 25.4.
 - ~ 6,680 students (39 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 21.5.
 - ~ 745 students (4 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 15.2.
- In the Washington graduating class of 2018, 2,494 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 Washington graduates were: Undecided; Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Business Administration and Management, General; and Computer Science and Programming.
 - ~ In the Washington graduating class of 2018, 3,315 students (19 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 21.5. 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 Washington graduating class of 2018, 617 (4 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 20.1.

Additional Points

- According to the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the fastest-growing careers in Washington requiring education beyond high school are: Wind Turbine Service Technicians, Web Developers, Chiropractors, Exercise Physiologists, Computer Hardware Engineers.
- 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 Washington Champions: Estefany Herrera (High School Senior), Katherine Playford (K-12 Professional), and Sebastian Myrick (Postsecondary Professional).

WASHINGTON 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

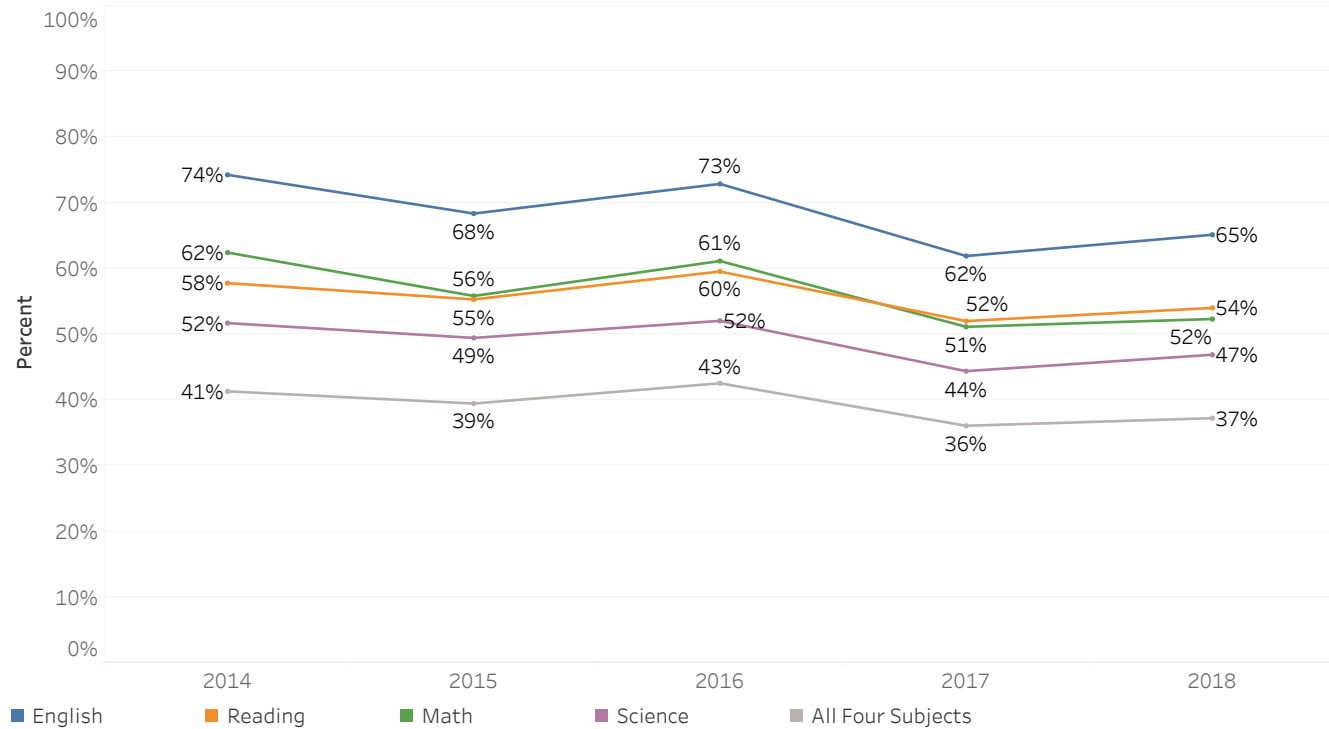
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
65%	60%	54%	46%	52%	40%	47%	36%	37%	27%

* 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.

WASHINGTON 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

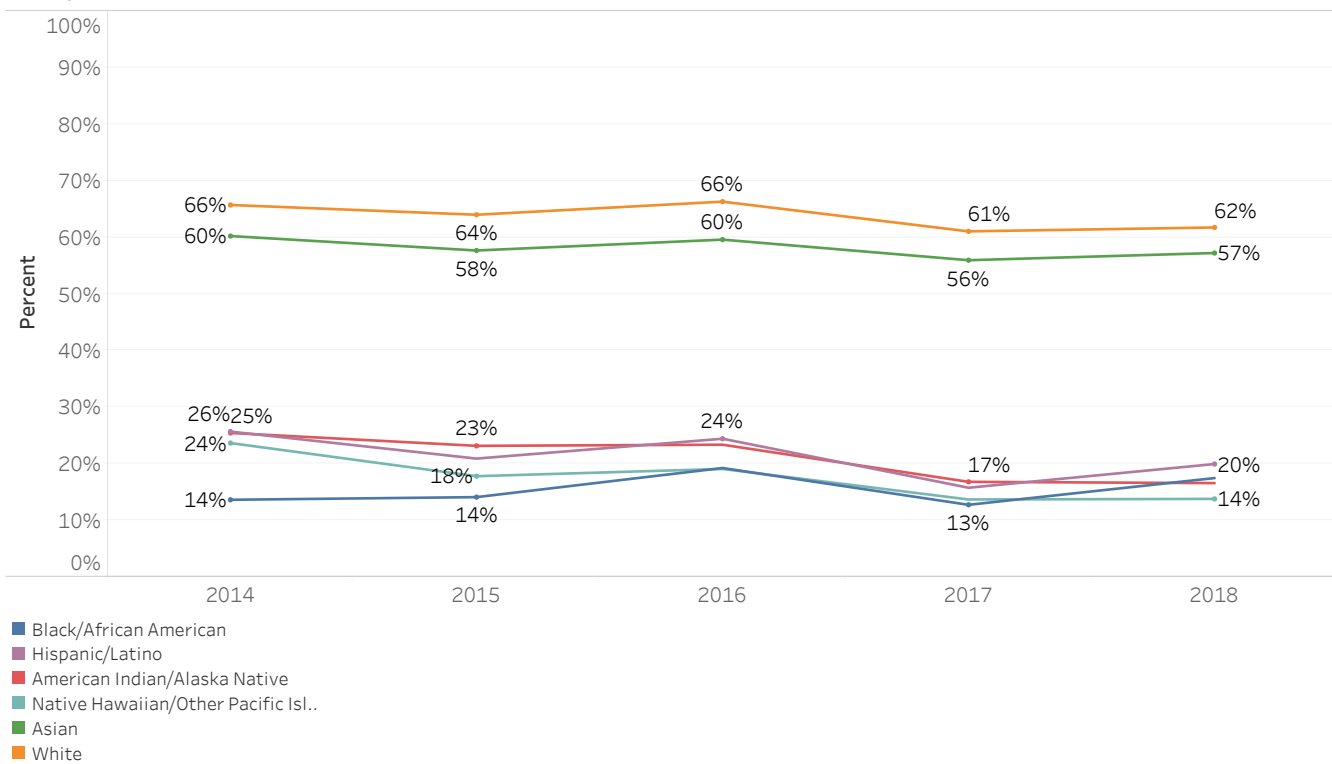
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2014	74%	58%	62%	52%	41%
2015	68%	55%	56%	49%	39%
2016	73%	60%	61%	52%	43%
2017	62%	52%	51%	44%	36%
2018	65%	54%	52%	47%	37%

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WASHINGTON 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



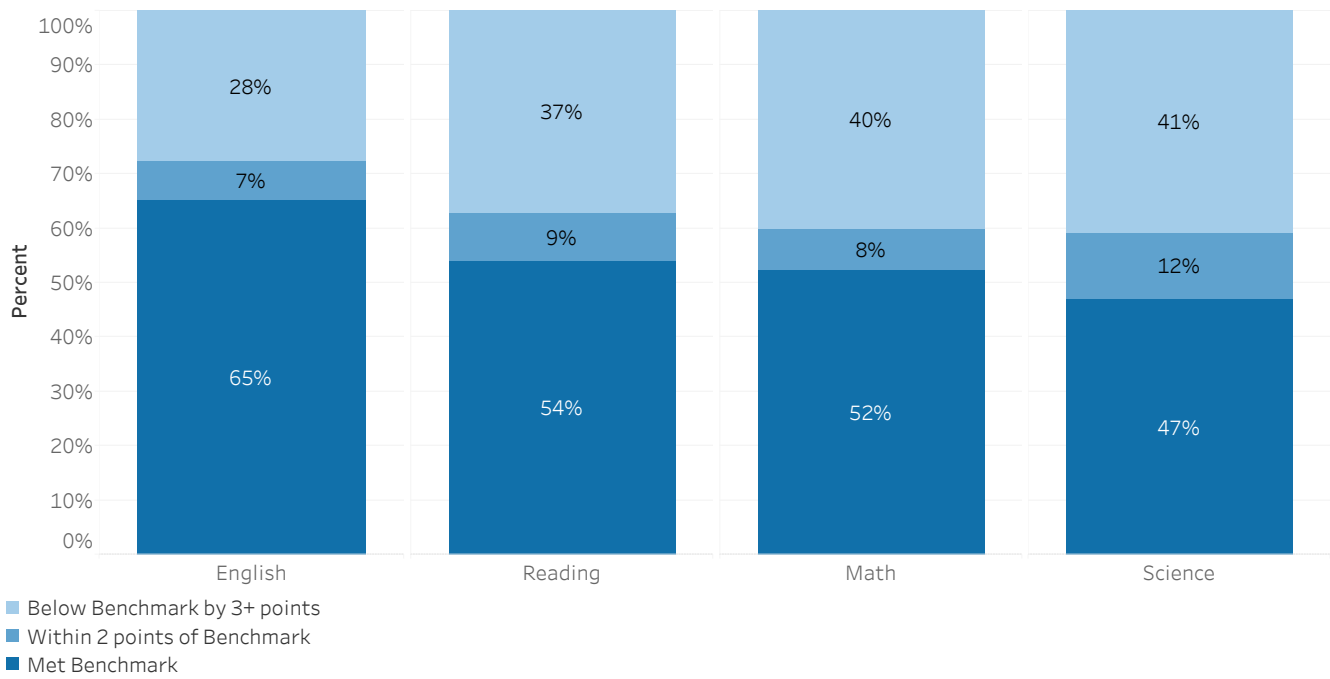
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2014	14%	26%	25%	24%	60%	66%
2015	14%	21%	23%	18%	58%	64%
2016	19%	24%	23%	19%	60%	66%
2017	13%	16%	17%	14%	56%	61%
2018	17%	20%	17%	14%	57%	62%

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WASHINGTON College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



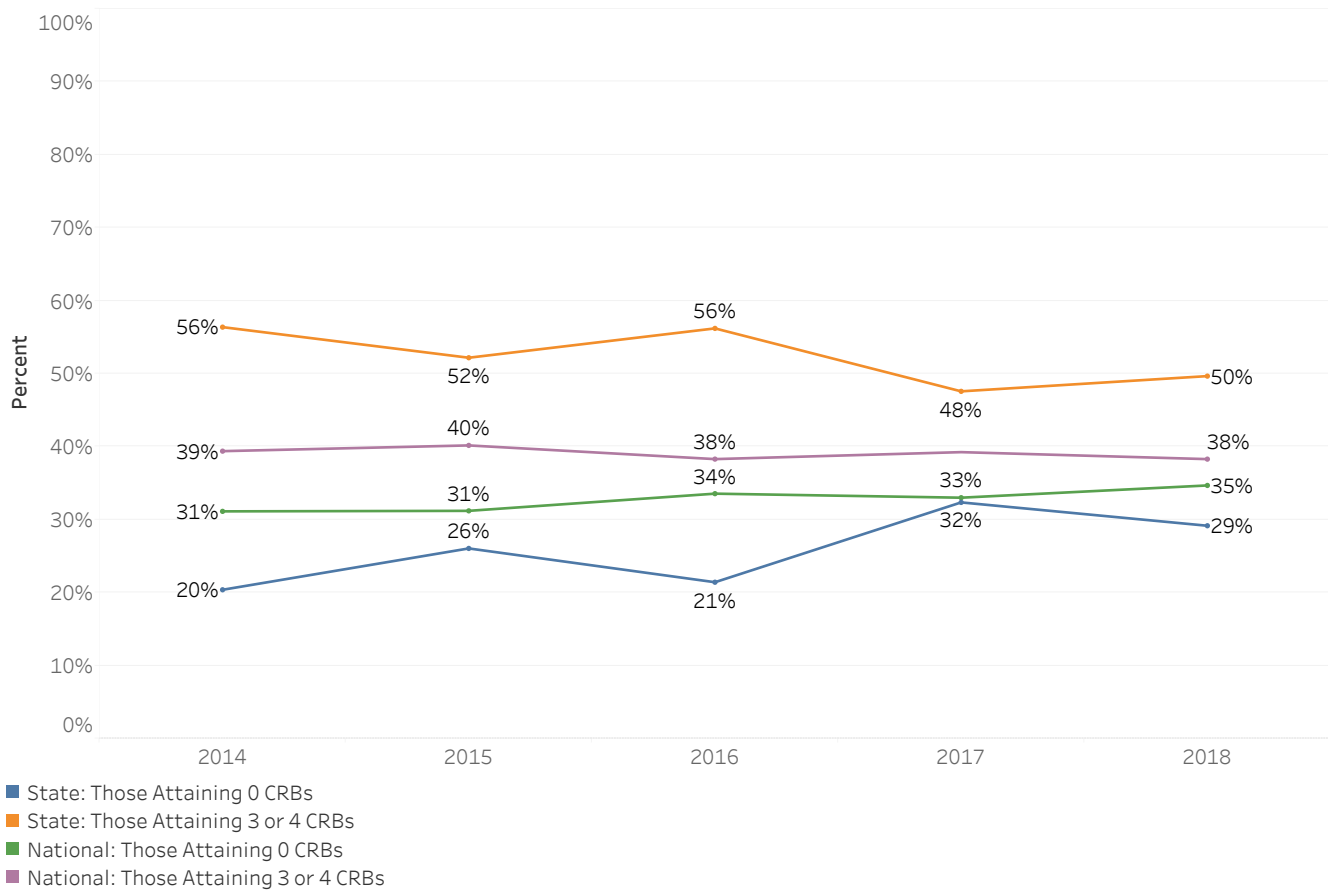
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	28%	7%	65%
Math	40%	8%	52%
Reading	37%	9%	54%
Science	41%	12%	47%

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WASHINGTON College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



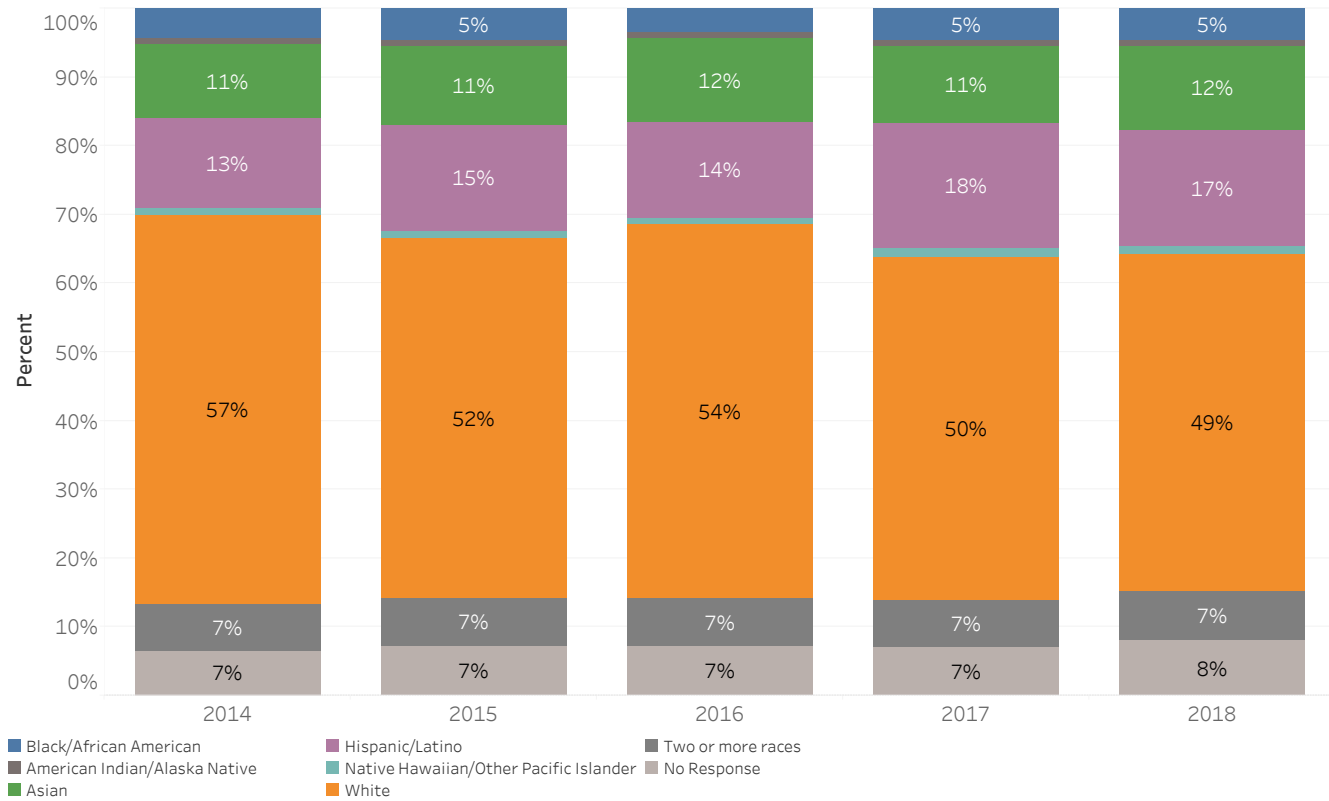
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	State: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	State: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs
2014	20%	56%	31%	39%
2015	26%	52%	31%	40%
2016	21%	56%	34%	38%
2017	32%	48%	33%	39%
2018	29%	50%	35%	38%

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WASHINGTON 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%	11%	13%	1%	57%	7%	7%
2015	5%	1%	11%	15%	1%	52%	7%	7%
2016	4%	1%	12%	14%	1%	54%	7%	7%
2017	5%	1%	11%	18%	1%	50%	7%	7%
2018	5%	1%	12%	17%	1%	49%	7%	8%

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WASHINGTON College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

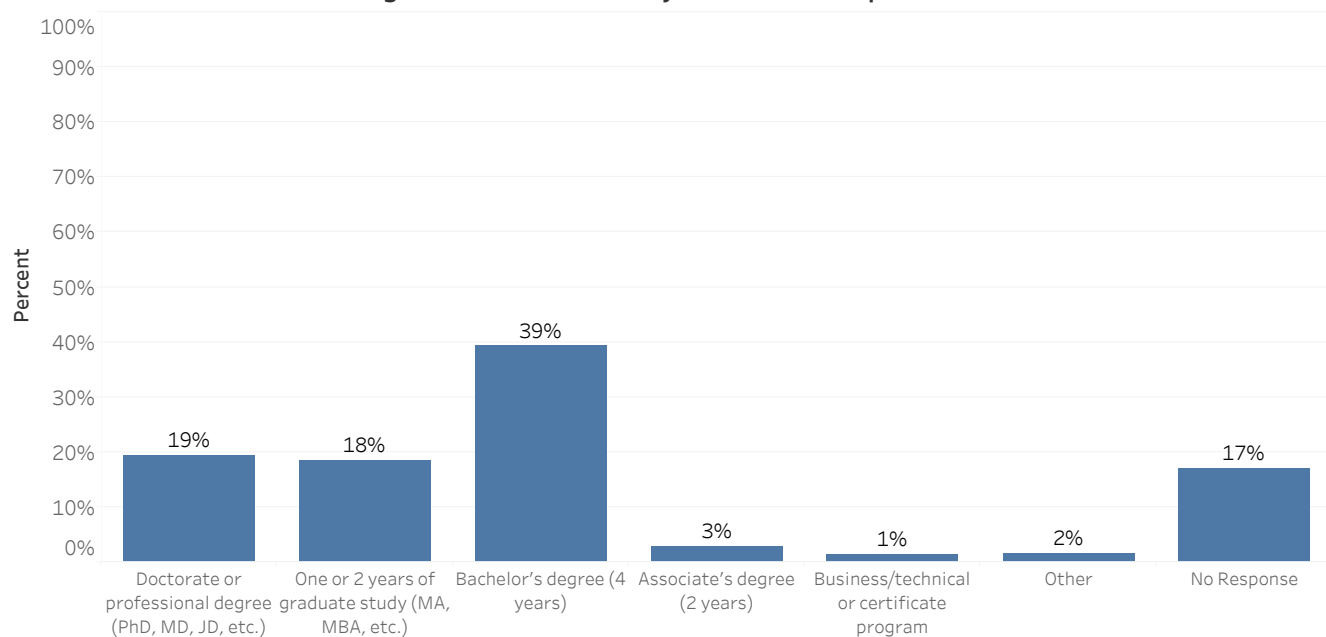
Student Data Trends: 2014-2018, State vs. Nation

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State N-count	14,667	16,944	16,652	19,581	17,010
National N-count	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817
Average ACT English Score - State	22.3	21.5	22.3	20.9	21.4
Average ACT English Score - National	20.3	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Reading Score - State	23.4	22.7	23.6	22.1	22.7
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - State	23.3	22.4	23.2	21.9	22.2
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - State	22.7	22.4	22.9	22.0	22.0
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.8	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7
Average ACT Composite Score - State	23.0	22.4	23.1	21.9	22.2
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

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WASHINGTON 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.)	19%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	18%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	39%
Associate's degree (2 years)	3%
Business/technical or certificate program	1%
Other	2%
No Response	17%

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