

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018

West Virginia Key Findings

Performance

- In the 2018 West Virginia graduating class, 11,601 graduates (65 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 20.3. This compares to 11,191 (65 percent) with an average of 20.6 in 2014. Nationally, 55% of 2018 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.8.
 - ~ There were 383 African American graduates from West Virginia who took the ACT (3 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.0. This compares to 433 (4 percent) with an average of 17.5, and 397 (4 percent) with an average of 17.1, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
 - ~ There were 9,870 White graduates from West Virginia who took the ACT (85 percent) with an average Composite score of 20.5. This compares to 10,305 (86 percent) with an average of 20.6, and 9,792 (87 percent) with an average of 20.7, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
- The 2018 West Virginia graduating class average English score was 19.8. This compares to 20.0 and 20.4 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 West Virginia graduating class average math score was 19.4. This compares to 19.4 and 19.5 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 West Virginia graduating class average reading score was 21.3. This compares to 21.2 and 21.4 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 West Virginia graduating class average science score was 20.4. This compares to 20.5 and 20.6 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- In 2018, 19 percent of West Virginia graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 19 and 19 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 33 percent of West Virginia graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 31 and 28 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - ~ In 2018, 61 percent of West Virginia graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 64 and 68 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - 2018 West Virginia graduates taking more advanced English coursework demonstrated markedly higher average English scores than those who did not. In fact, 63 percent of West Virginia 2018 graduates taking four or more years of English met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 41 percent of students taking less than four years of English meeting the benchmark.
 - ~ In 2018, 30 percent of West Virginia graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 30 and 31 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - 2018 West Virginia graduates taking more advanced math coursework demonstrated markedly higher average math scores than those who did not. In fact, 33 percent of West Virginia 2018 graduates taking three or more years of math met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 10 percent of students taking less than three years of math meeting the benchmark.

- ~ In 2018, 46 percent of West Virginia graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 47 and 45 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - 2018 West Virginia graduates taking more advanced social studies coursework demonstrated markedly higher average reading scores than those who did not. In fact, 47 percent of West Virginia 2018 graduates taking three or more years of social studies met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 30 percent of students taking less than three years of social studies meeting the benchmark.
- ~ In 2018, 32 percent of West Virginia graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 32 and 32 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
 - 2018 West Virginia graduates taking more advanced science coursework demonstrated markedly higher average science scores than those who did not. In fact, 35 percent of West Virginia 2018 graduates taking three or more years of science met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 17 percent of students taking less than three years of science meeting the benchmark.
- In 2018, 3,815 (33 percent) of West Virginia graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 3,920 and 3,813 (33 and 34 percent) out of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively. For reference, the national percentage of 2018 graduates meeting three or four benchmarks was 38%.
- 47 percent of 2018 West Virginia graduates were Proficient or Above Proficient in understanding complex texts.

STEM

- In 2018, 6,686 West Virginia graduates (58 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
 - ~ Nationally, 45 percent of graduates indicated having an interest in STEM.
- Compared to 12 percent of 2018 West Virginia graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 11 and 12, respectively.
- 2018 West Virginia graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.4. This compares to 28.3 in 2014.
 - ~ 2018 graduates taking physics had an average science score of 21.3, compared to 19.9 for students not taking physics.
- 33 percent of 2018 graduates taking three or more years of math met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 10 percent for students taking less than three years of math.

Career Readiness

- In 2018, 8,941 West Virginia graduates (77 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 West Virginia 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:
 - ~ 29 more students enrolling in college.
 - ~ 32 more students persisting to year two.
 - ~ 26 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - ~ 43 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - ~ 35 more students persisting to year four.
 - ~ 37 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In West Virginia, 6,957 of the 2018 graduates (60.0%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 21.4, compared to an average of 18.7 for 4,644 of the 2018 graduates (40.0%) who took the ACT only once.
- 22,140 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 West Virginia ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ 14,623 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2018 West Virginia ACT-tested graduates.
 - ~ For West Virginia's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were West Virginia University, Marshall University, Fairmont State University, Concord University, and West Liberty University.
 - ~ For West Virginia's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were The Ohio State University, University of Kentucky, and Virginia Tech.
- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 79 percent of West Virginia 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 6,000 ACT fee waivers to qualified West Virginia students. However, 1,361 students (22.7 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. 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

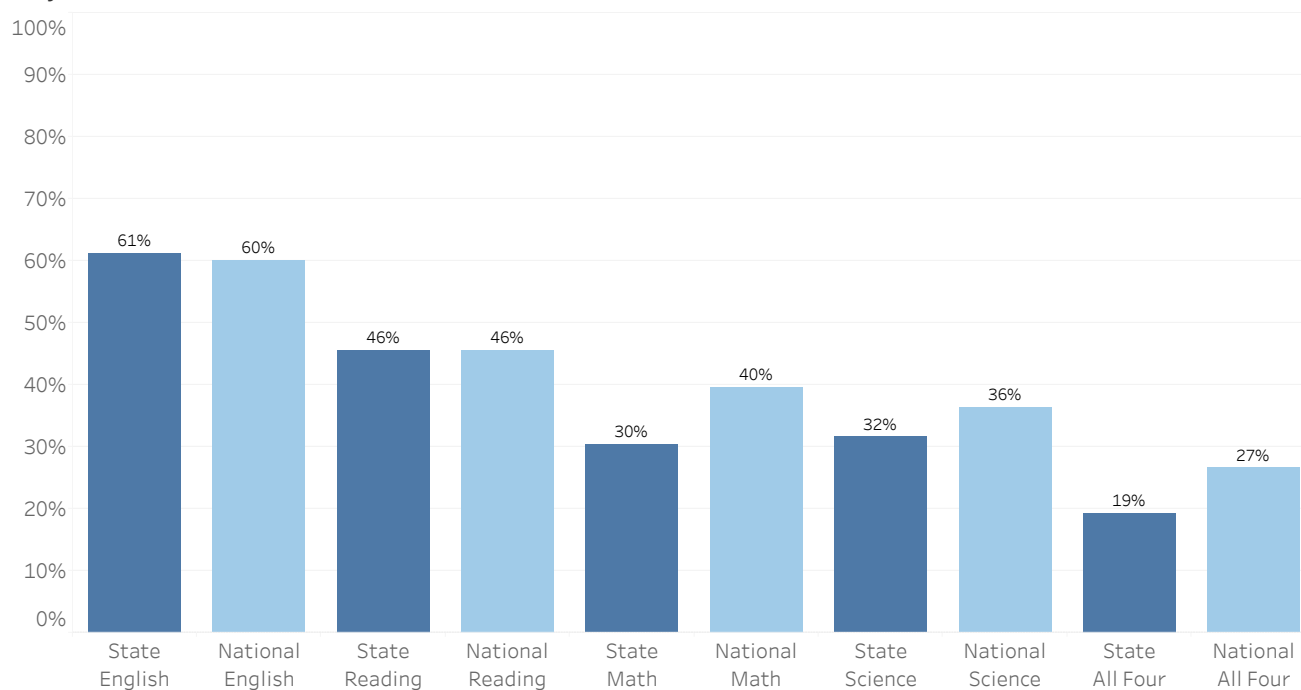
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - ~ 3,875 students (33 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 22.7.
 - ~ 6,198 students (53 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 19.6.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2018 West Virginia graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Criminology; and Business Administration and Management, General.
 - ~ In the West Virginia graduating class of 2018, 1,942 students (17 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 20.2. 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 West Virginia graduating class of 2018, 743 (6 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 19.3.

Additional Points

- 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 West Virginia Champions: Benjamin Kennett (High School Senior) and Matthew Tolliver (K-12 Professional).

WEST VIRGINIA 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

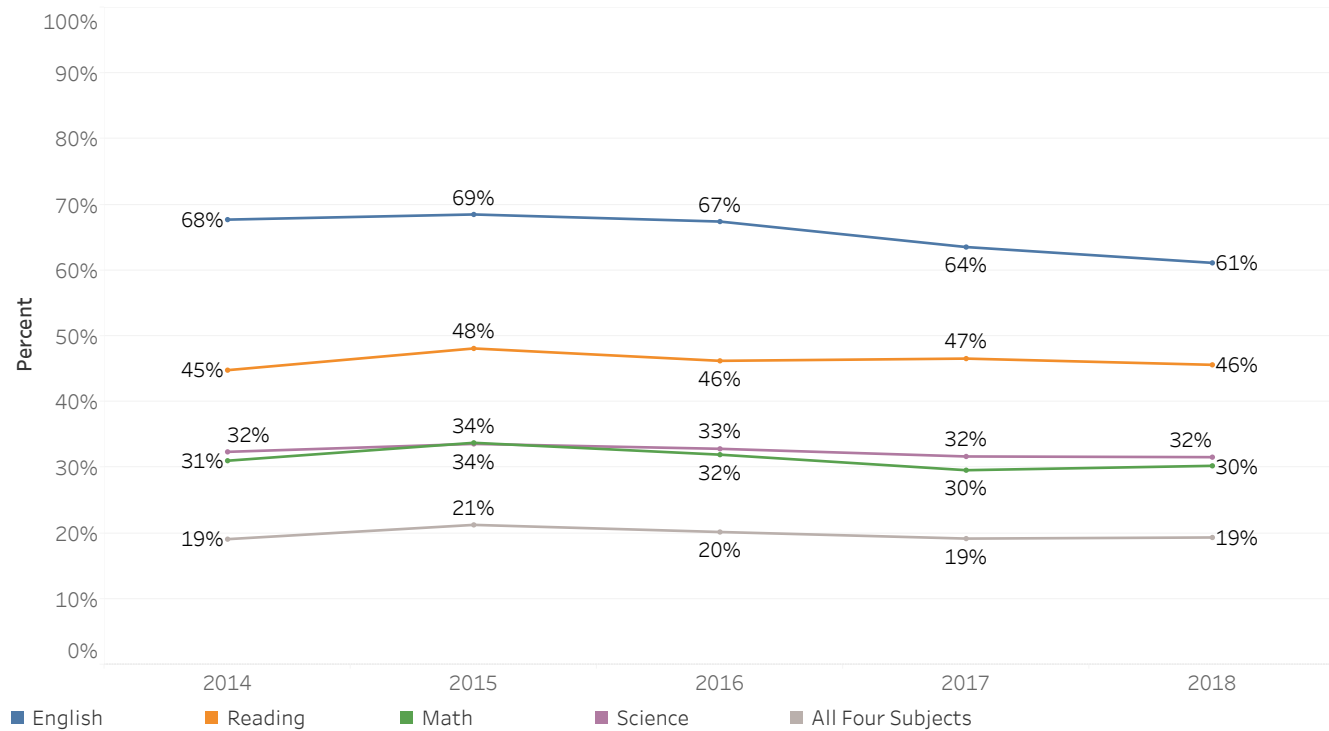
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
61%	60%	46%	46%	30%	40%	32%	36%	19%	27%

* 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.

WEST VIRGINIA 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

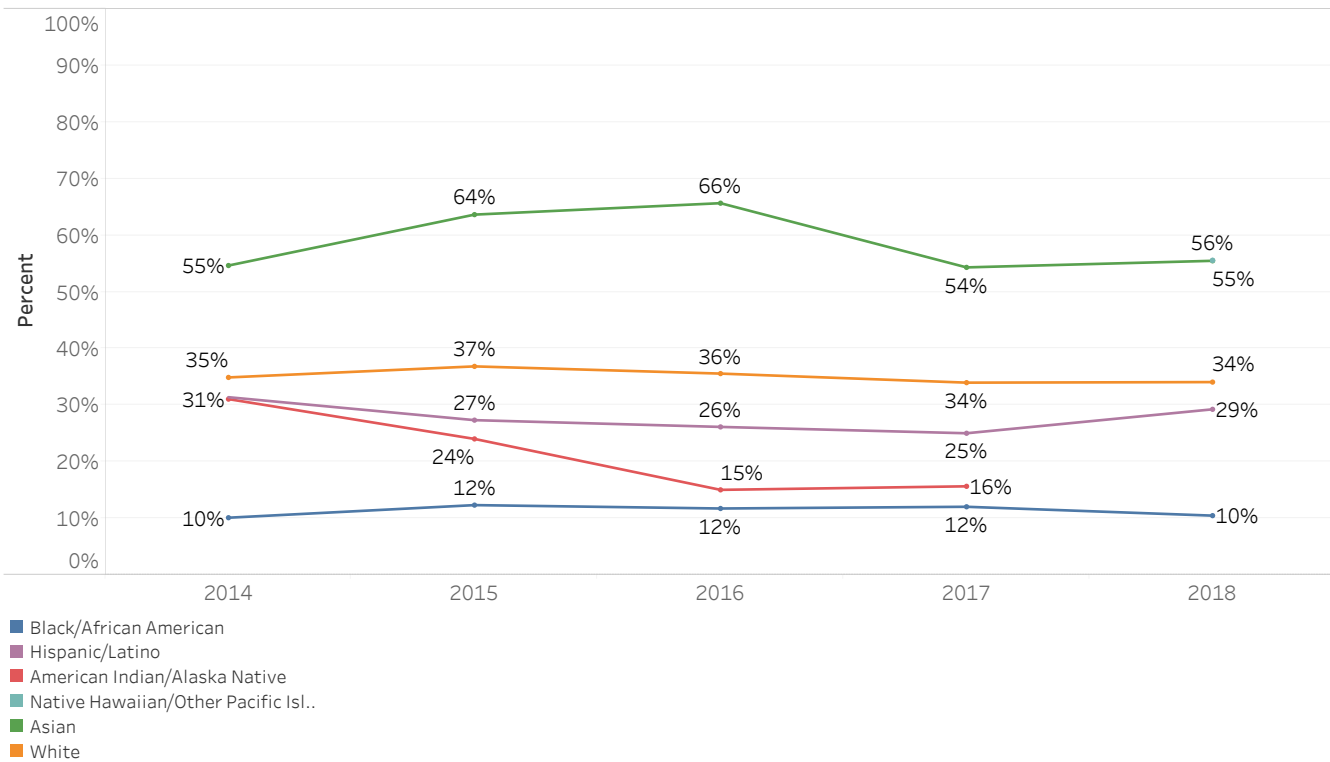
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2014	68%	45%	31%	32%	19%
2015	69%	48%	34%	34%	21%
2016	67%	46%	32%	33%	20%
2017	64%	47%	30%	32%	19%
2018	61%	46%	30%	32%	19%

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WEST VIRGINIA 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



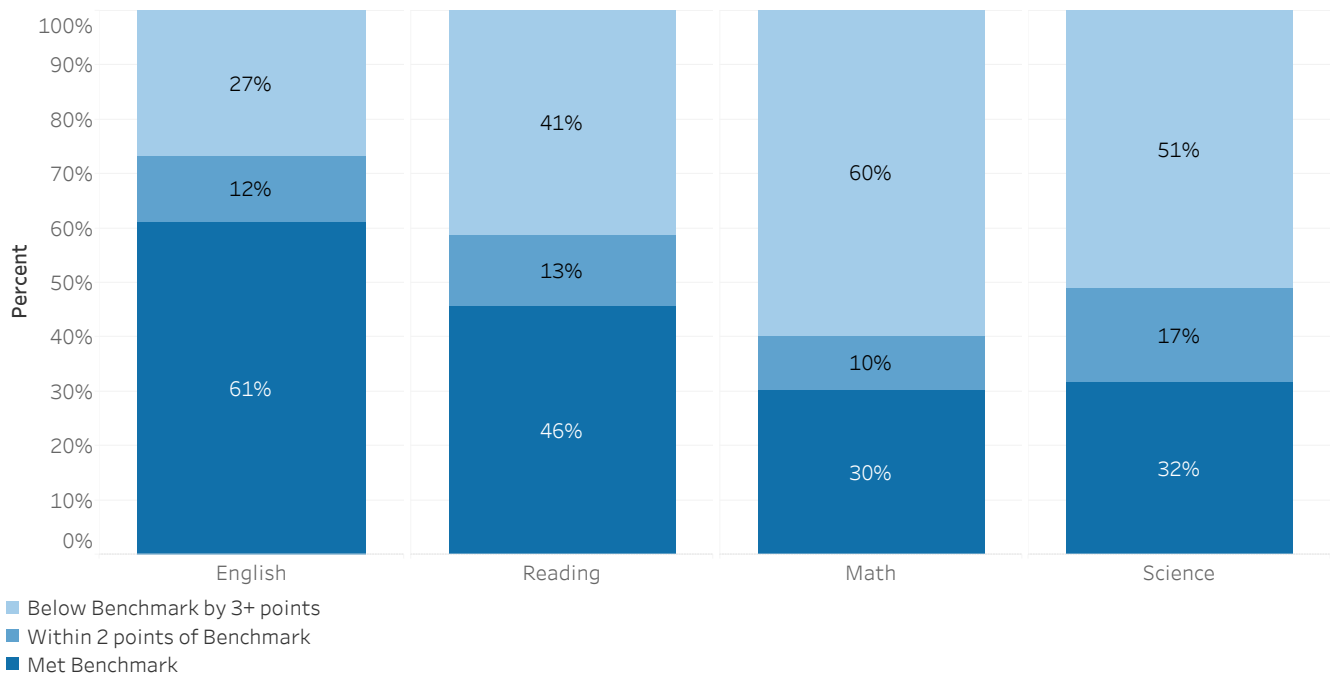
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2014	10%	31%	31%		55%	35%
2015	12%	27%	24%		64%	37%
2016	12%	26%	15%		66%	36%
2017	12%	25%	16%		54%	34%
2018	10%	29%		56%	55%	34%

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WEST VIRGINIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



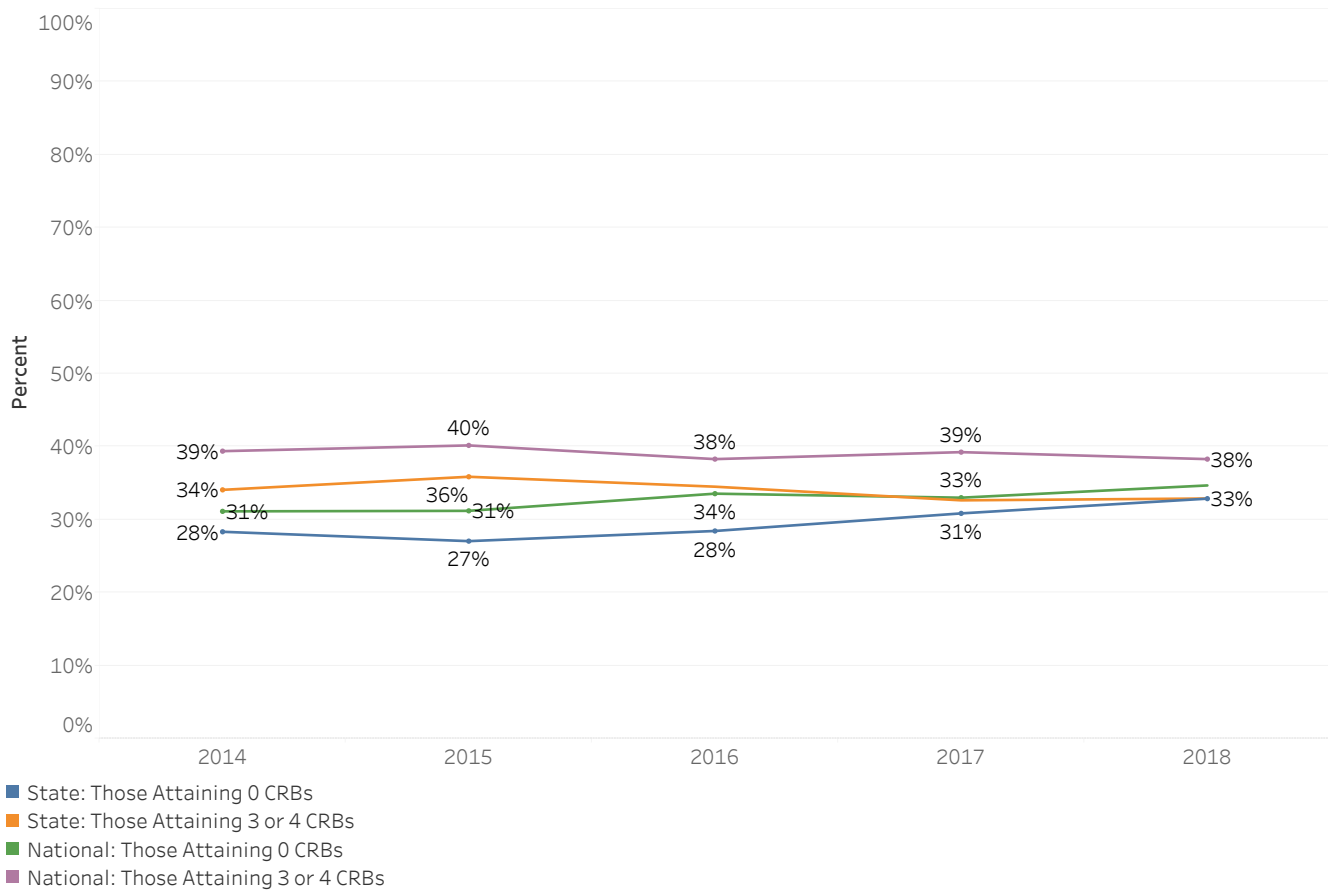
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	27%	12%	61%
Math	60%	10%	30%
Reading	41%	13%	46%
Science	51%	17%	32%

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



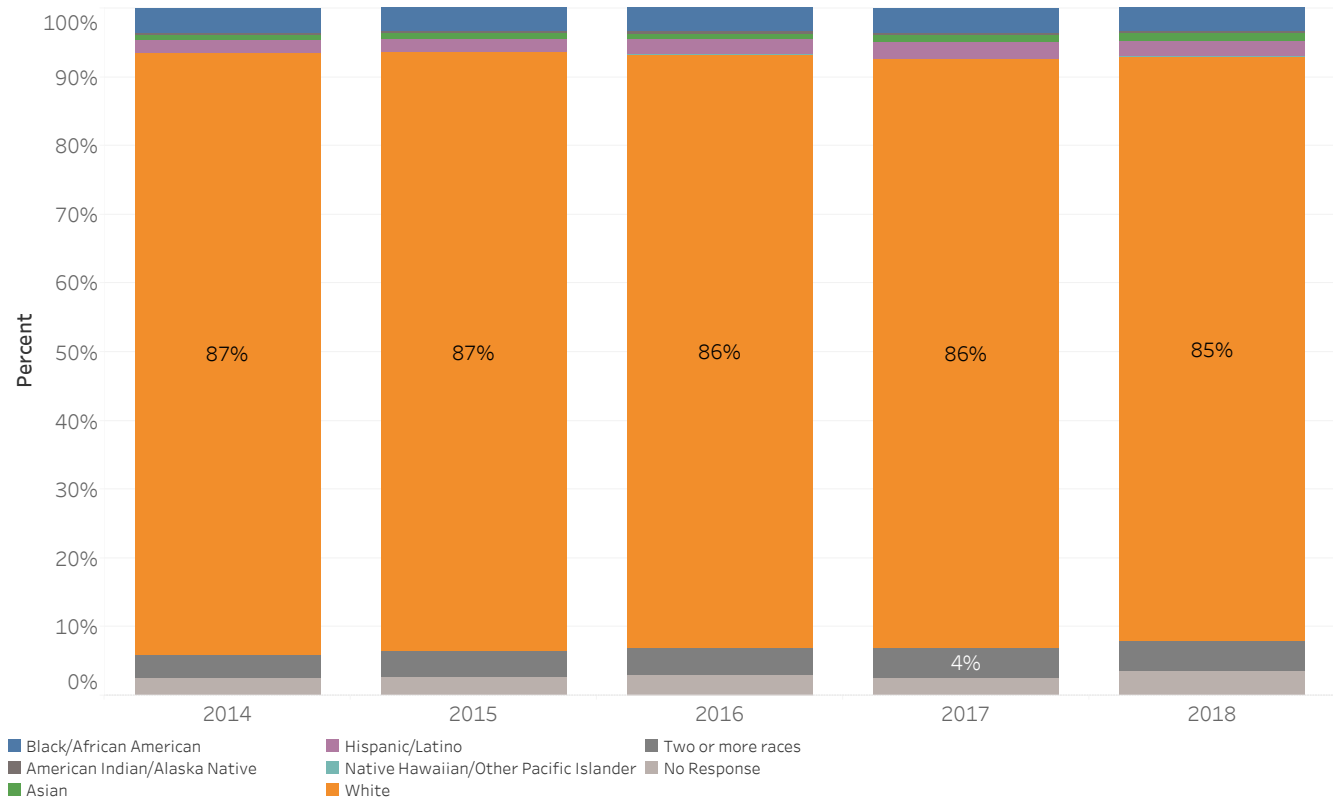
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	State: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	State: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs
2014	28%	34%	31%	39%
2015	27%	36%	31%	40%
2016	28%	35%	34%	38%
2017	31%	33%	33%	39%
2018	33%	33%	35%	38%

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WEST VIRGINIA 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%	0%	1%	2%	0%	87%	3%	3%
2015	3%	0%	1%	2%	0%	87%	4%	3%
2016	3%	0%	1%	2%	0%	86%	4%	3%
2017	4%	0%	1%	2%	0%	86%	4%	3%
2018	3%	0%	1%	2%	0%	85%	4%	4%

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WEST VIRGINIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

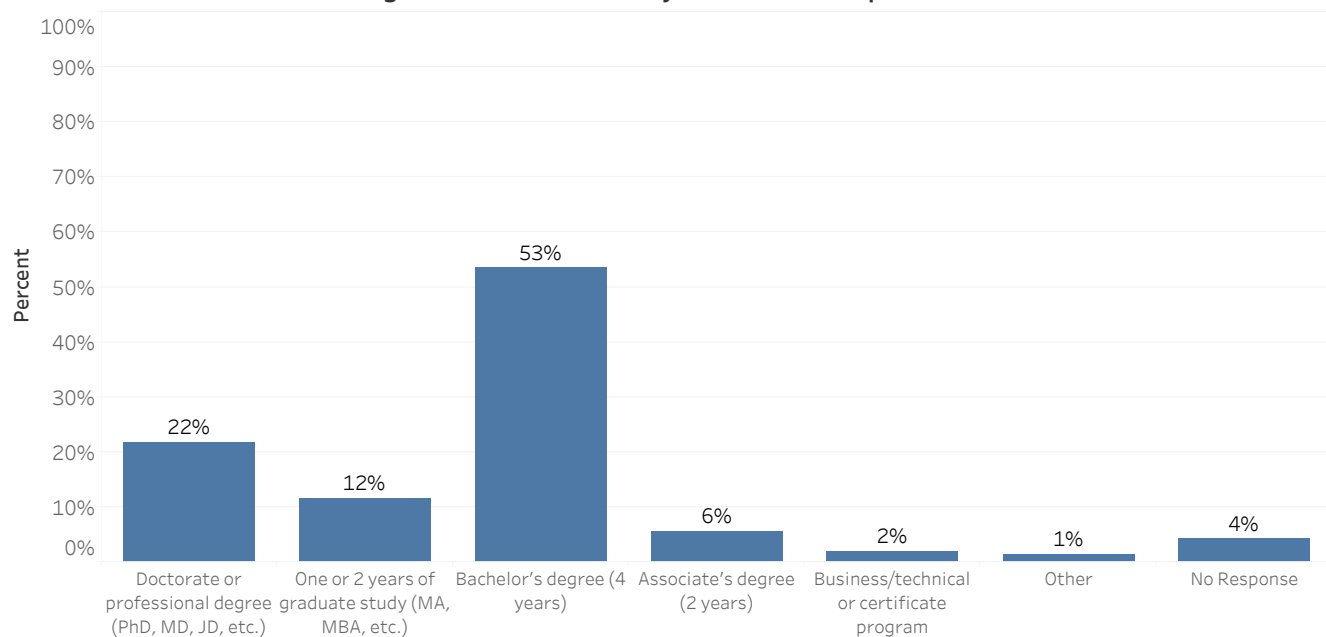
Student Data Trends: 2014-2018, State vs. Nation

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State N-count	11,191	11,289	11,682	12,011	11,601
National N-count	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817
Average ACT English Score - State	20.4	20.6	20.5	20.0	19.8
Average ACT English Score - National	20.3	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Reading Score - State	21.4	21.5	21.5	21.2	21.3
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - State	19.5	19.7	19.6	19.4	19.4
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - State	20.6	20.7	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.8	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7
Average ACT Composite Score - State	20.6	20.8	20.7	20.4	20.3
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

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WEST VIRGINIA 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.)	22%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	12%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	53%
Associate's degree (2 years)	6%
Business/technical or certificate program	2%
Other	1%
No Response	4%

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