

# The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2018

## Wisconsin Key Findings

### Performance

- In the 2018 Wisconsin graduating class, 68,000 graduates (100 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 20.5. This compares to 46,870 (73 percent) with an average of 22.2 in 2014. Nationally, 55% of 2018 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.8.
  - ~ There were 4,510 African American graduates from Wisconsin who took the ACT (7 percent) with an average Composite score of 15.8. This compares to 4,294 (6 percent) with an average of 16.1, and 3,221 (7 percent) with an average of 16.2, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
  - ~ There were 46,371 White graduates from Wisconsin who took the ACT (68 percent) with an average Composite score of 21.6. This compares to 46,497 (70 percent) with an average of 21.5, and 34,611 (74 percent) with an average of 23.2, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
  - ~ There were 6,613 Hispanic graduates from Wisconsin who took the ACT (10 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.8. This compares to 6,502 (10 percent) with an average of 18.0, and 3,429 (7 percent) with an average of 19.2, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
  - ~ There were 2,423 Asian graduates from Wisconsin who took the ACT (4 percent) with an average Composite score of 20.7. This compares to 2,355 (4 percent) with an average of 20.5, and 1,886 (4 percent) with an average of 20.8, for the 2017 and 2014 graduating classes, respectively.
- The 2018 Wisconsin graduating class average English score was 19.8. This compares to 19.7 and 21.6 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Wisconsin graduating class average math score was 20.3. This compares to 20.4 and 22.0 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Wisconsin graduating class average reading score was 20.6. This compares to 20.6 and 22.4 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- The 2018 Wisconsin graduating class average science score was 20.8. This compares to 20.9 and 22.3 in 2017 and 2014, respectively.
- In 2018, 25 percent of Wisconsin graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 25 and 34 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
  - ~ For reference, the national percentage of 2018 graduates meeting all four benchmarks was 27 percent.
  - ~ In 2018, 36 percent of Wisconsin graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 35 and 20 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
  - ~ In 2018, 59 percent of Wisconsin graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 59 and 75 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
  - ~ In 2018, 40 percent of Wisconsin graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 39 and 54 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.

- ~ In 2018, 42 percent of Wisconsin graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 42 and 51 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- ~ In 2018, 36 percent of Wisconsin graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 37 and 49 percent of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively.
- In 2018, 25,318 (37 percent) of Wisconsin graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 24,848 and 23,590 (37 and 50 percent) out of 2017 and 2014 graduates, respectively. For reference, the national percentage of 2018 graduates meeting three or four benchmarks was 38%.

## STEM

- In 2018, 29,255 Wisconsin graduates (43 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 Wisconsin graduating class average ACT STEM score of 20.8, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM averages of 20.9 and 22.4, respectively.
- Compared to 19 percent of 2018 Wisconsin graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2017 and 2014 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 19 and 26, respectively.
  - ~ 2018 graduates taking three or more years of math had an average math score of 21.4, compared to 16.1 for students taking less than three years of math.

## Career Readiness

- Wisconsin tests all 11th-grade students with ACT WorkKeys®, which allows students to earn the ACT WorkKeys® National Career Readiness Certificate®. 87% of the Wisconsin tested population (56,548 students) in the 2018 graduating class earned an NCRC®. Bronze: 9,122. Silver: 32,149. Gold: 15,027. Platinum: 195. 5,492 students did not qualify for a certificate.

## Impact

- Based on the actual test volume and ACT score distributions of 2018 ACT-tested Wisconsin 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:
  - ~ 165 more students enrolling in college.
  - ~ 185 more students persisting to year two.
  - ~ 137 fewer students needing remedial English.
  - ~ 209 fewer students needing remedial math.
  - ~ 199 more students persisting to year four.
  - ~ 211 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

## Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Wisconsin, 23,647 of the 2018 graduates (34.8%) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 23.2, compared to an average of 19.1 for 44,353 of the 2018 graduates (65.2%) who took the ACT only once.
  - ~ White students tested at least twice (first tested junior year) scored 3.7 points higher than White single test takers junior year only.
  - ~ Black students tested at least twice (first tested junior year) scored 2.9 points higher than Black single test takers junior year only.
  - ~ Hispanic students tested at least twice (first tested junior year) scored 3.5 points higher than Hispanic single test takers junior year only.
- 181,772 score reports were sent to colleges by 2018 Wisconsin ACT-tested graduates.
  - ~ 104,906 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2018 Wisconsin ACT-tested graduates.
  - ~ For Wisconsin's 2018 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, and University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.
- Compared to 68 percent of 2018 graduates nationally, 69 percent of Wisconsin 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 5,495 ACT fee waivers to qualified Wisconsin students. However, 1,614 students (29.4 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

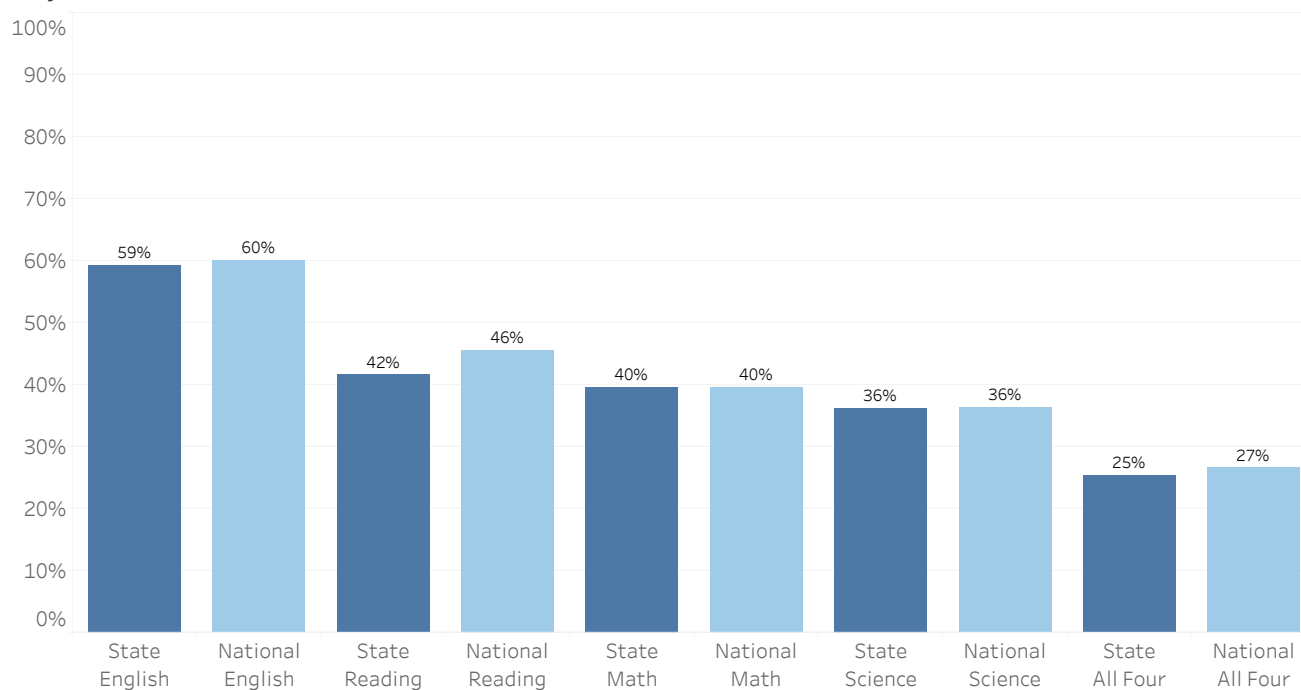
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
  - ~ 15,842 students (23 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 24.0.
  - ~ 26,949 students (40 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 21.1.
  - ~ 8,123 students (12 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 17.0.
- In the Wisconsin graduating class of 2018, 10,733 students (16 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2018 Wisconsin graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; and Biology, General.
  - ~ In the Wisconsin graduating class of 2018, 6,912 students (10 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 21.4. 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 Wisconsin graduating class of 2018, 2,746 (4 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 20.8.
- There is good news in that 75% of Wisconsin's 2018 ACT-tested graduates aspired to postsecondary education. Interestingly enough, 79% of Wisconsin's 2017 ACT-tested graduating class aspired to enroll in postsecondary education, compared to 59% who actually did enroll. If we fully closed the aspirational gap, an additional 13,242 of the 2017 ACT-tested graduates from Wisconsin would have enrolled in postsecondary education.

## Additional Points

- Although optional for ACT national testing, Wisconsin requires the ACT writing test when students take the ACT through statewide testing. Of 2018 graduates who took the writing test, which is scored on a 2-12 scale, the average writing score was 6.1. Nationally, students scored 6.5.
- The Wisconsin ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with more than 440 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 the Wisconsin State Organization Conference that brings together professionals representing each of these areas, providing a unique and diverse professional development opportunity. Last February, there were nearly 300 attendees.
- 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 Wisconsin Champions: Yuanqi Cai (High School Senior), Sara Greenwood (K-12 Professional), and Karen Nichols (Workforce Professional).

# WISCONSIN 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

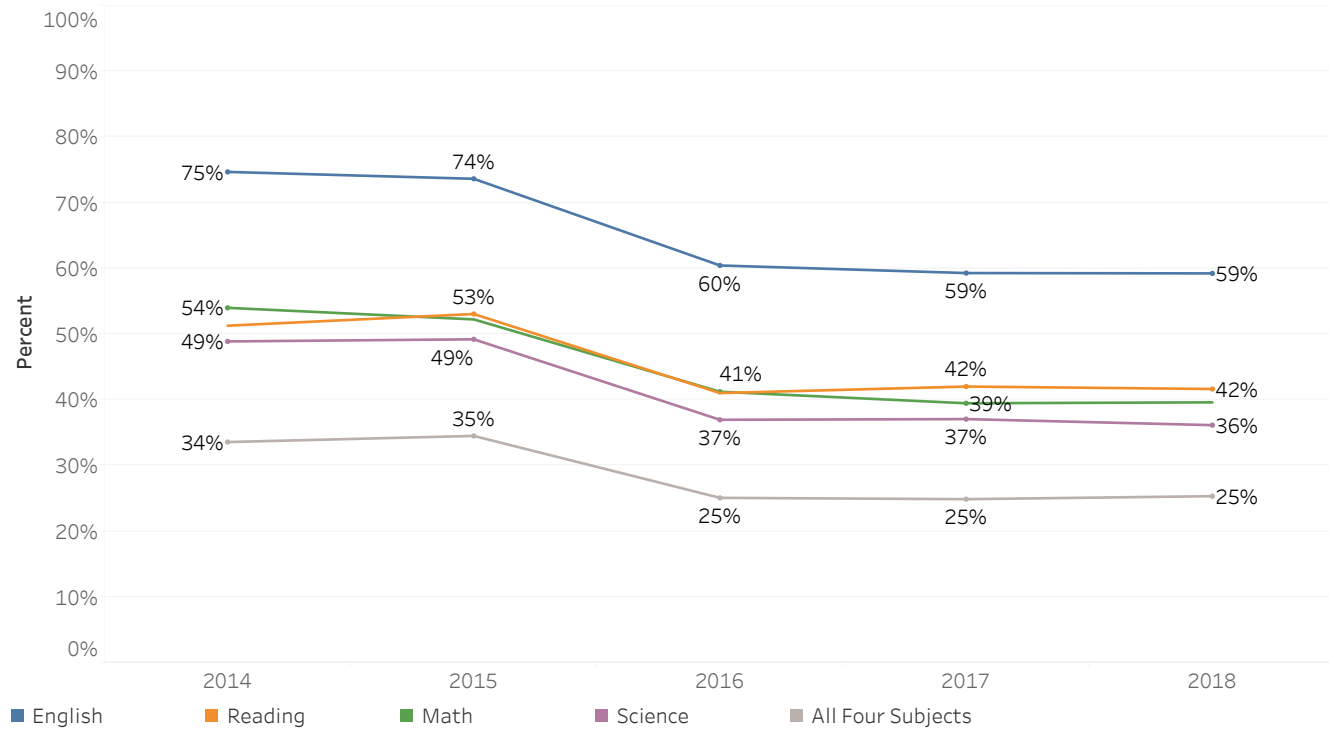
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
59%	60%	42%	46%	40%	40%	36%	36%	25%	27%

\* 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.

# WISCONSIN 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

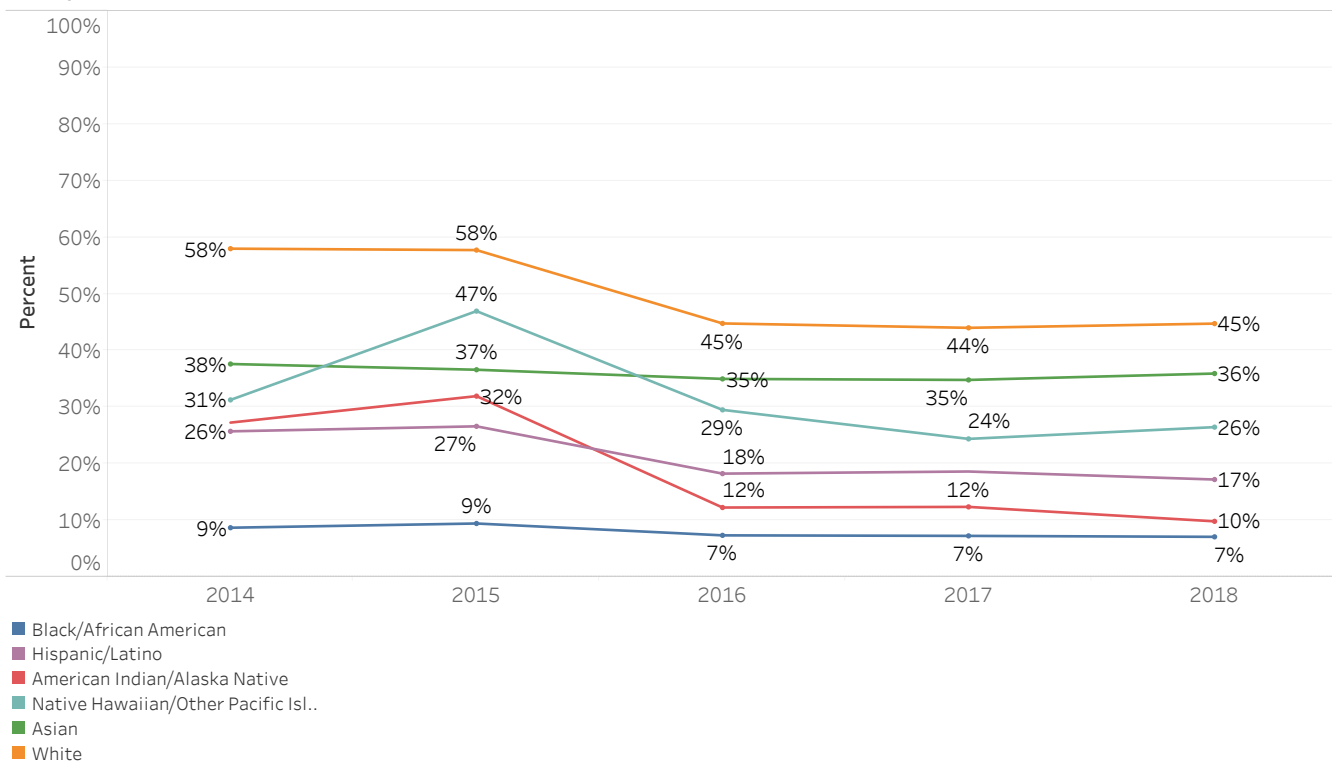
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2014	75%	51%	54%	49%	34%
2015	74%	53%	52%	49%	35%
2016	60%	41%	41%	37%	25%
2017	59%	42%	39%	37%	25%
2018	59%	42%	40%	36%	25%

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# WISCONSIN 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



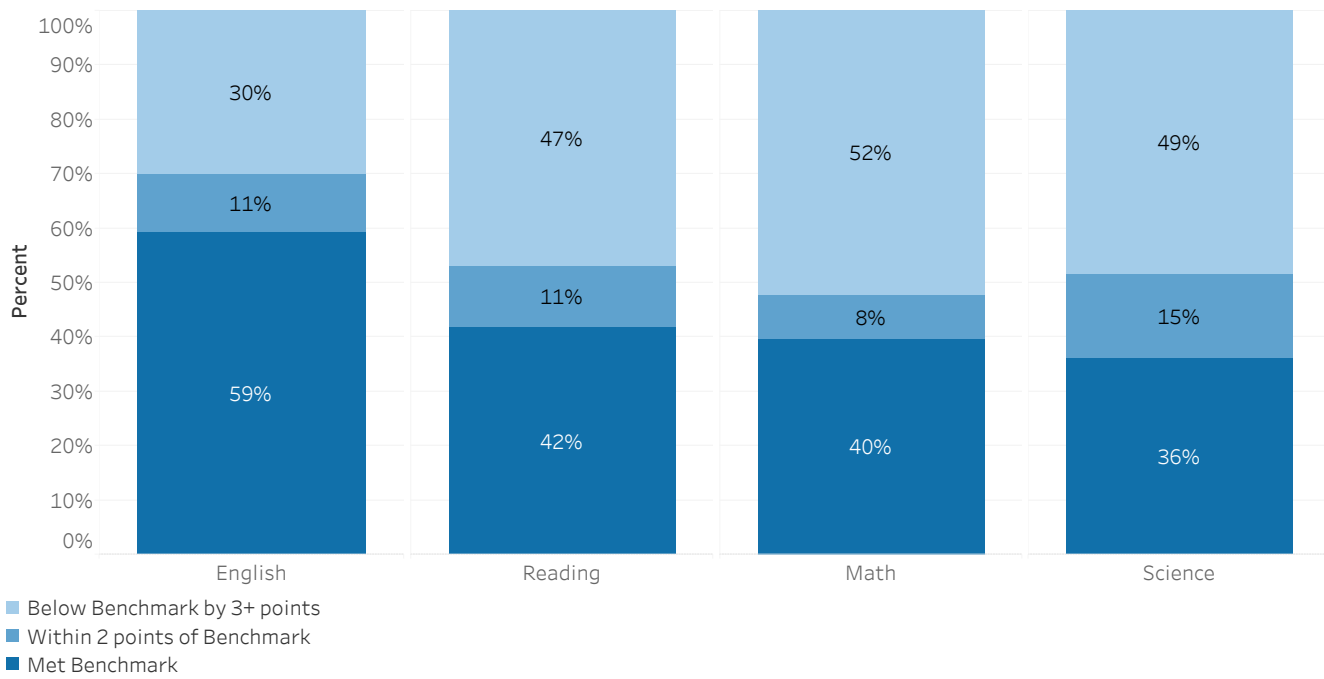
### Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2014	9%	26%	27%	31%	38%	58%
2015	9%	27%	32%	47%	37%	58%
2016	7%	18%	12%	29%	35%	45%
2017	7%	19%	12%	24%	35%	44%
2018	7%	17%	10%	26%	36%	45%

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# WISCONSIN 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

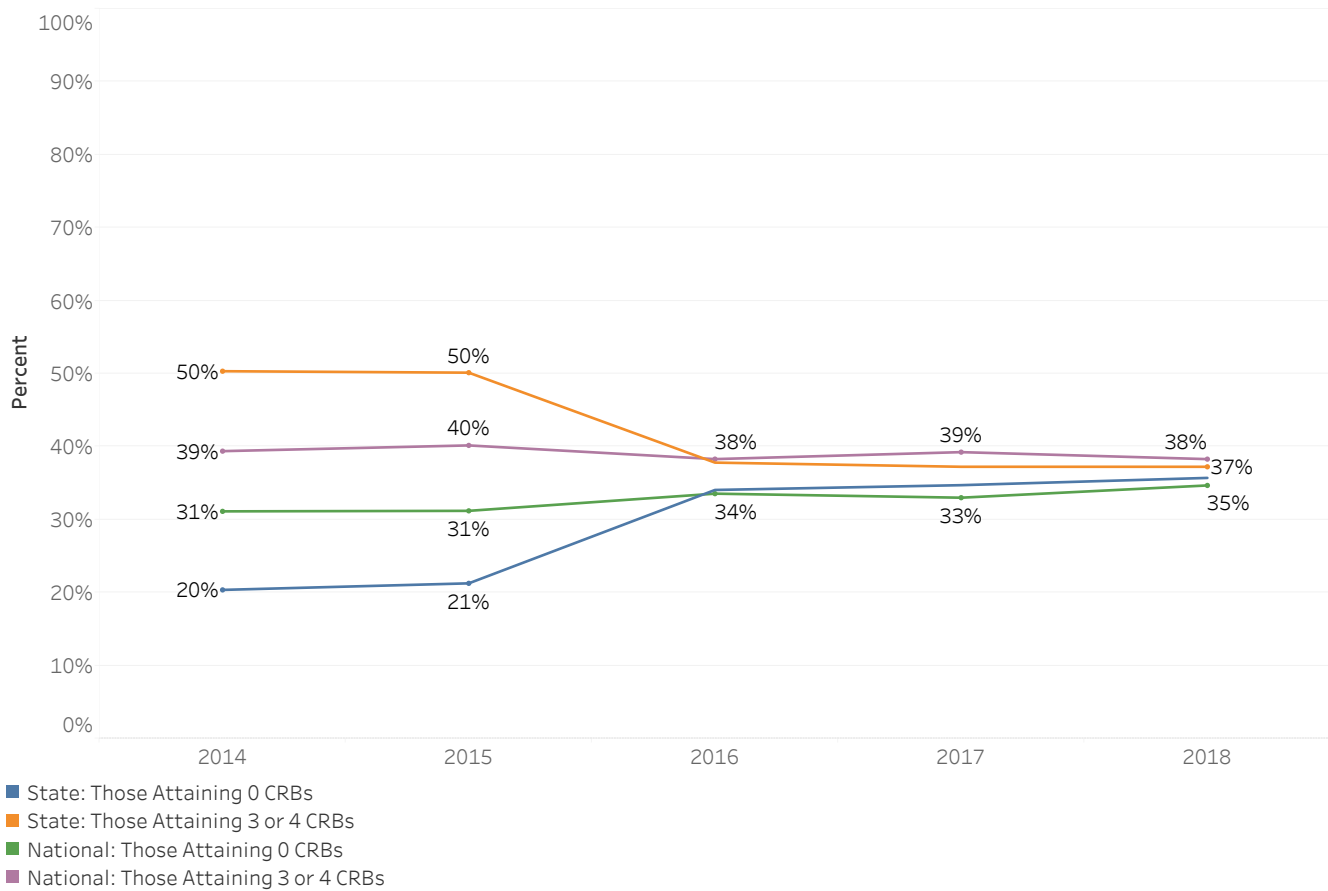
	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	30%	11%	59%
Math	52%	8%	40%
Reading	47%	11%	42%
Science	49%	15%	36%

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



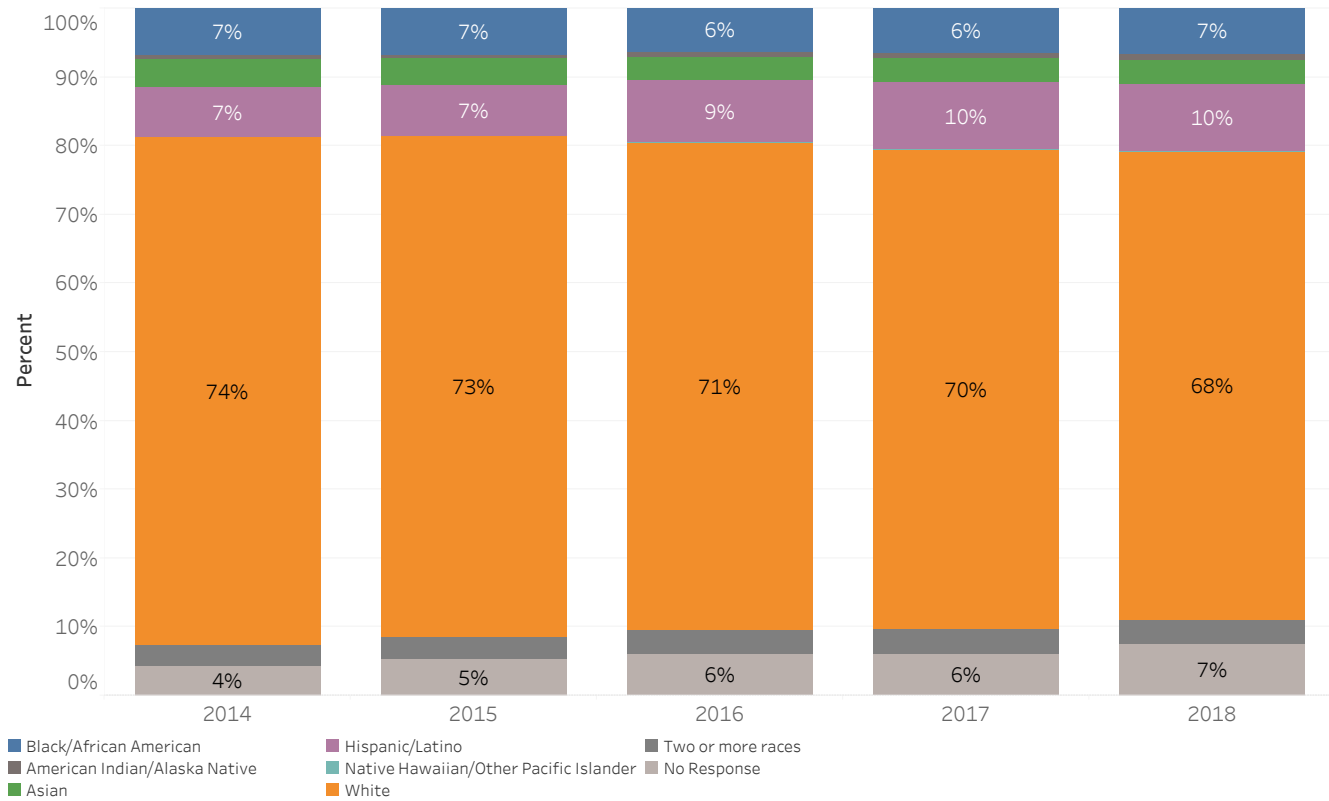
## Data from Graph Above

	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	20%	50%	31%	39%
2015	21%	50%	31%	40%
2016	34%	38%	34%	38%
2017	35%	37%	33%	39%
2018	36%	37%	35%	38%

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# WISCONSIN 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	7%	1%	4%	7%	0%	74%	3%	4%
2015	7%	1%	4%	7%	0%	73%	3%	5%
2016	6%	1%	3%	9%	0%	71%	4%	6%
2017	6%	1%	4%	10%	0%	70%	4%	6%
2018	7%	1%	4%	10%	0%	68%	4%	7%

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

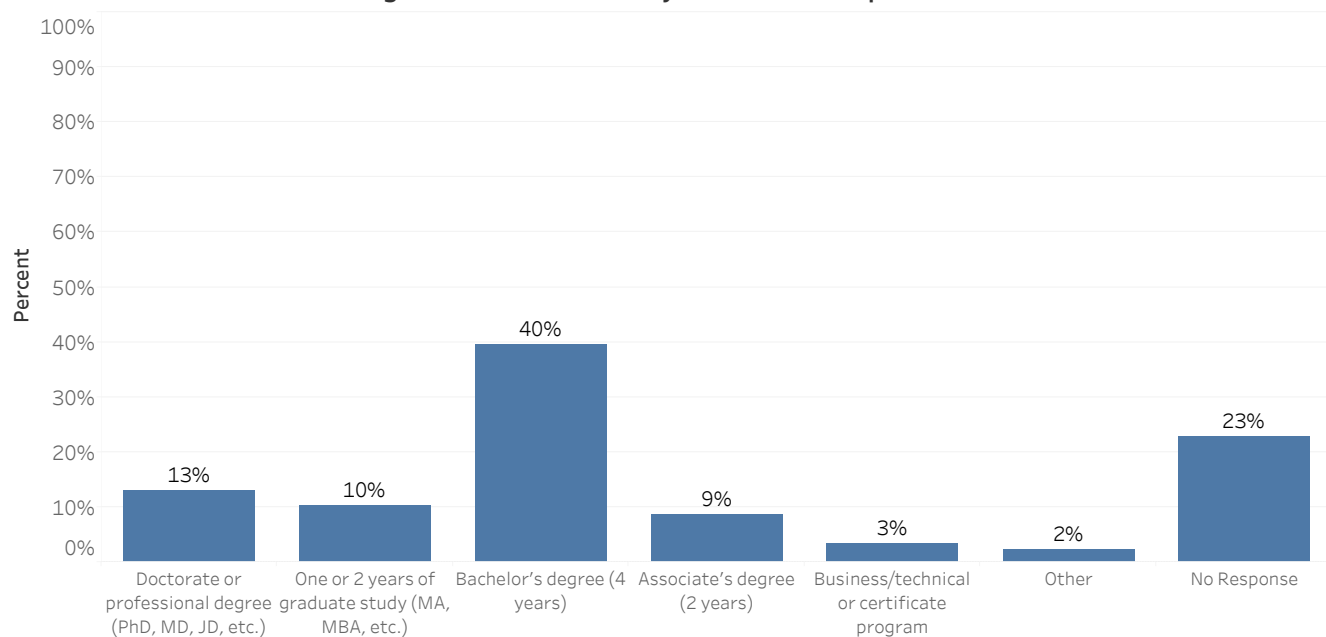
## Student Data Trends: 2014-2018, State vs. Nation

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
State N-count	46,870	46,738	66,564	66,734	68,000
National N-count	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817
Average ACT English Score - State	21.6	21.6	19.7	19.7	19.8
Average ACT English Score - National	20.3	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2
Average ACT Reading Score - State	22.4	22.5	20.7	20.6	20.6
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - State	22.0	22.0	20.4	20.4	20.3
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5
Average ACT Science Score - State	22.3	22.3	20.7	20.9	20.8
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.8	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7
Average ACT Composite Score - State	22.2	22.2	20.5	20.5	20.5
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8

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# WISCONSIN 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.)	13%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	10%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	40%
Associate's degree (2 years)	9%
Business/technical or certificate program	3%
Other	2%
No Response	23%

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