

# The ACT® and College Readiness

## Preparing Students for the Test and What Comes After

**Too many students graduate from high school unprepared for the rigors of college-level courses.**

Many new college students need math remediation<sup>1</sup>

**24%**

are enrolled in math remediation at four-year colleges

**52%**

are enrolled in math remediation at two-year colleges

### The lack of college readiness has a high cost

#### Workforce needs aren't met

Current college attainment rates are not keeping pace with the projected workforce needs of the U.S.<sup>2</sup>

#### Credit-bearing courses are postponed

**Over 500,000 college students** must enroll in some type of remedial course after graduating high school before they can take credit-bearing classes.<sup>3</sup>

#### Remedial courses cost money

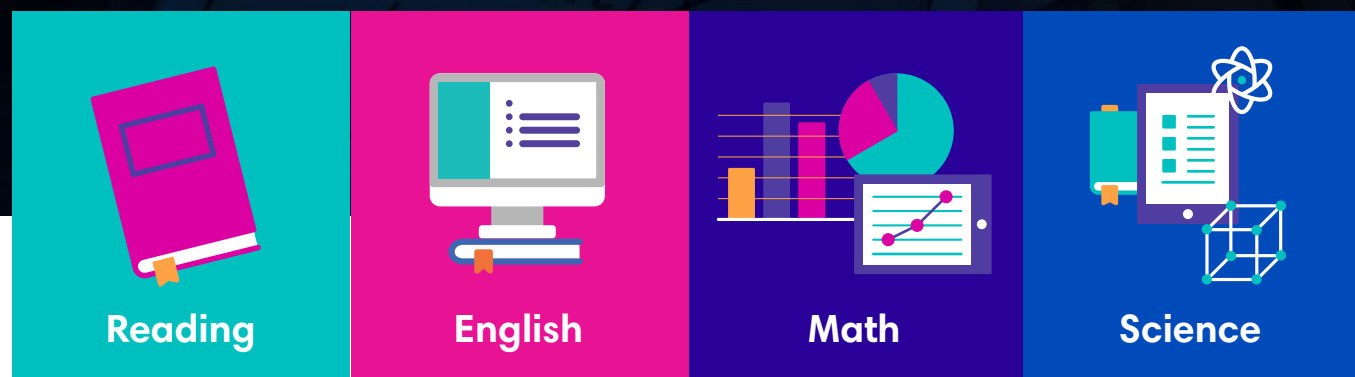
Remedial courses are estimated to have a national cost of **\$6.7 billion** per year.<sup>4</sup>

#### Students don't finish college

- **64.7%** of students in four-year public institutions earned degrees.<sup>5</sup>
- **37.5%** of students in two-year public institutions earned degrees.
- **1 in 3 freshmen** don't complete the first year of college.<sup>6</sup>
- The dropout risk for students who need remediation while seeking four-year degrees is **74% higher**.<sup>7</sup>

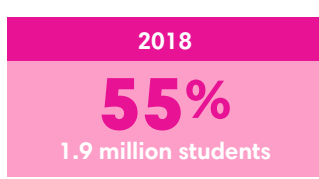
## The ACT as a college readiness exam

Four core subjects are tested

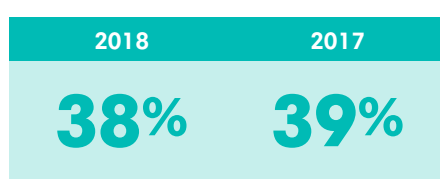


Over 1.9 million high school graduates—55% of the class—took the ACT in 2018<sup>8</sup>

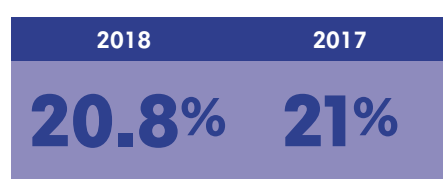
Percentage of 2018 graduates who took the ACT



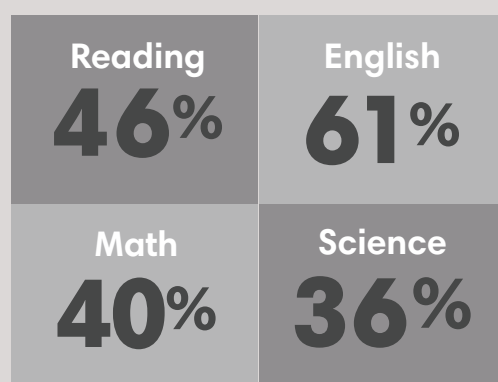
Percentage of graduating seniors meeting at least 3 of the 4 college readiness benchmarks



Composite score: average of the four scores



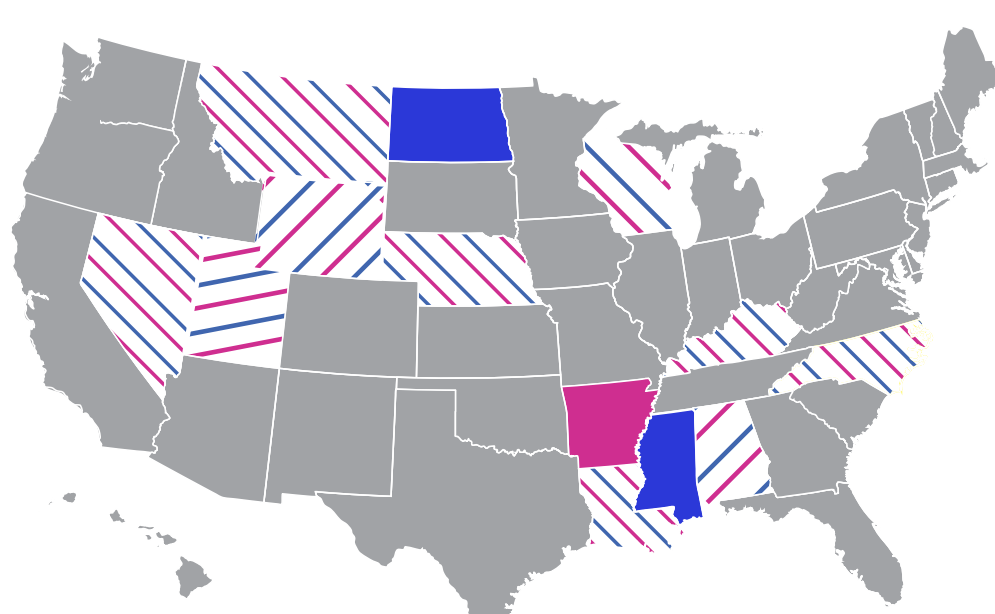
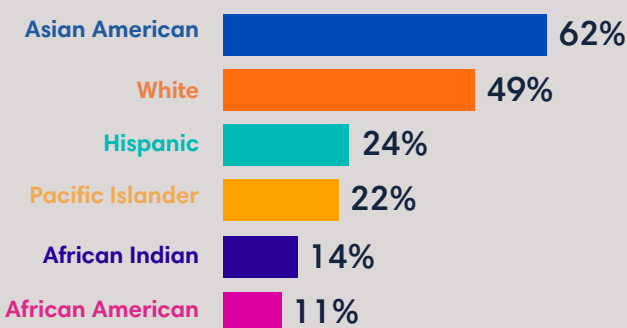
Percentage of students taking the ACT in 2018 who met each benchmark<sup>9</sup>



35% did not meet any of the four benchmarks

Only 27% met all four benchmarks

Percentage of students by race who met 3 or more benchmarks



**12 states require all juniors to take the ACT during the 2018-2019 school year<sup>10</sup>**

- |             |                 |            |
|-------------|-----------------|------------|
| Alabama*    | Nebraska        | Wisconsin* |
| Kentucky    | Nevada*         | Wyoming    |
| Louisiana   | North Carolina* |            |
| Mississippi | North Dakota*   |            |
| Montana*    | Utah*           |            |

\*ACT with Writing

**11 states use the ACT for federal accountability as required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**

- |           |                |           |
|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| Alabama   | Nebraska       | Utah      |
| Arkansas  | Nevada         | Wisconsin |
| Kentucky  | North Carolina | Wyoming   |
| Louisiana | Montana        |           |

**Digital curriculum offers flexible, engaging, personalized learning experiences for all students, resulting in better—prepared students, higher exam scores, and improved overall readiness for college, work, and life.**

## Preparing students for the ACT

Failing to prepare = Preparing to fail

### Studying for the test vs. knowing the material

The ACT tends to be more about content than process. Students need to increase content knowledge (not test-taking strategies) to prepare for the test.

#### Effective ACT preparation should offer:

- Standards-based curriculum that includes concepts covered on the test.
- Targeted instruction that identifies and fills learning gaps.
- Personalized learning for each student's academic needs and learning style.
- Scaffolds and supports to make content accessible.
- Real-time data on student progress and performance.
- Student-centered active learning.

ACT Tutorials are proven to increase student achievement.

[Read the efficacy study to learn more.](#)

<sup>1</sup> <https://completecollege.org/data-dashboard/>  
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ed.gov/k-12/standards>  
<sup>3</sup> <https://edreformnow.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/EdReformNow-O-O-P-Embargoed-Final.pdf>  
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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/ccr2018/National-CCCR-2018.pdf>  
<sup>10</sup> <https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/ccr2018/National-CCCR-2018.pdf>  
<sup>11</sup> <https://essa.the7million.org/>