

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 remediation¹

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.²

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.³

Remedial courses cost money

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

Students don't finish college

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

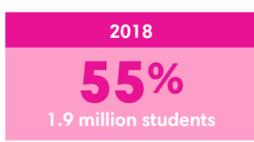
The ACT as a college readiness exam

Four core subjects are tested



Over 1.9 million high school graduates—55% of the class—took the ACT in 2018⁸

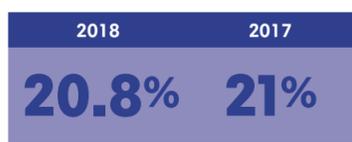
Percentage of 2018 graduates who took the ACT



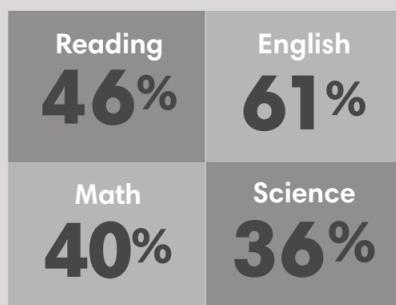
Percentage of graduating seniors meeting at least 3 of the 4 college readiness benchmarks



Composite score: average of the four scores



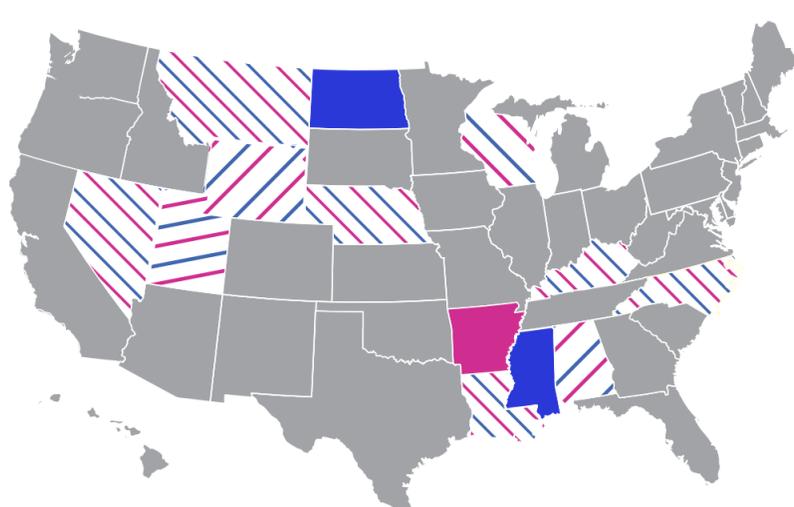
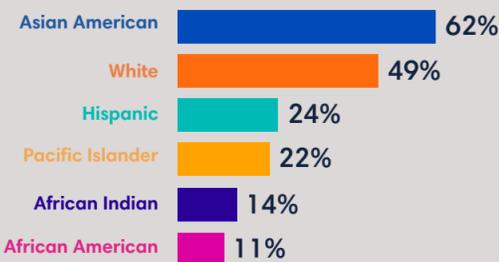
Percentage of students taking the ACT in 2018 who met each benchmark⁹



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 year¹⁰

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|------------|
| 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.](#)

¹ <https://completecollege.org/data-dashboard/>
² <https://www.ed.gov/k-12/standards>
³ <https://edreformnow.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/EdReformNow-O-O-P-Embargoed-Final.pdf>
⁴ <https://all4ed.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/SavingNowSavingLaterRemediation.pdf>
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⁸ <https://edreformnow.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/EdReformNow-O-O-P-Embargoed-Final.pdf>
⁹ <https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/ccr2018/National-CCCR-2018.pdf>
¹⁰ <https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/ccr2018/National-CCCR-2018.pdf>
¹¹ <https://essa.the7million.org/>