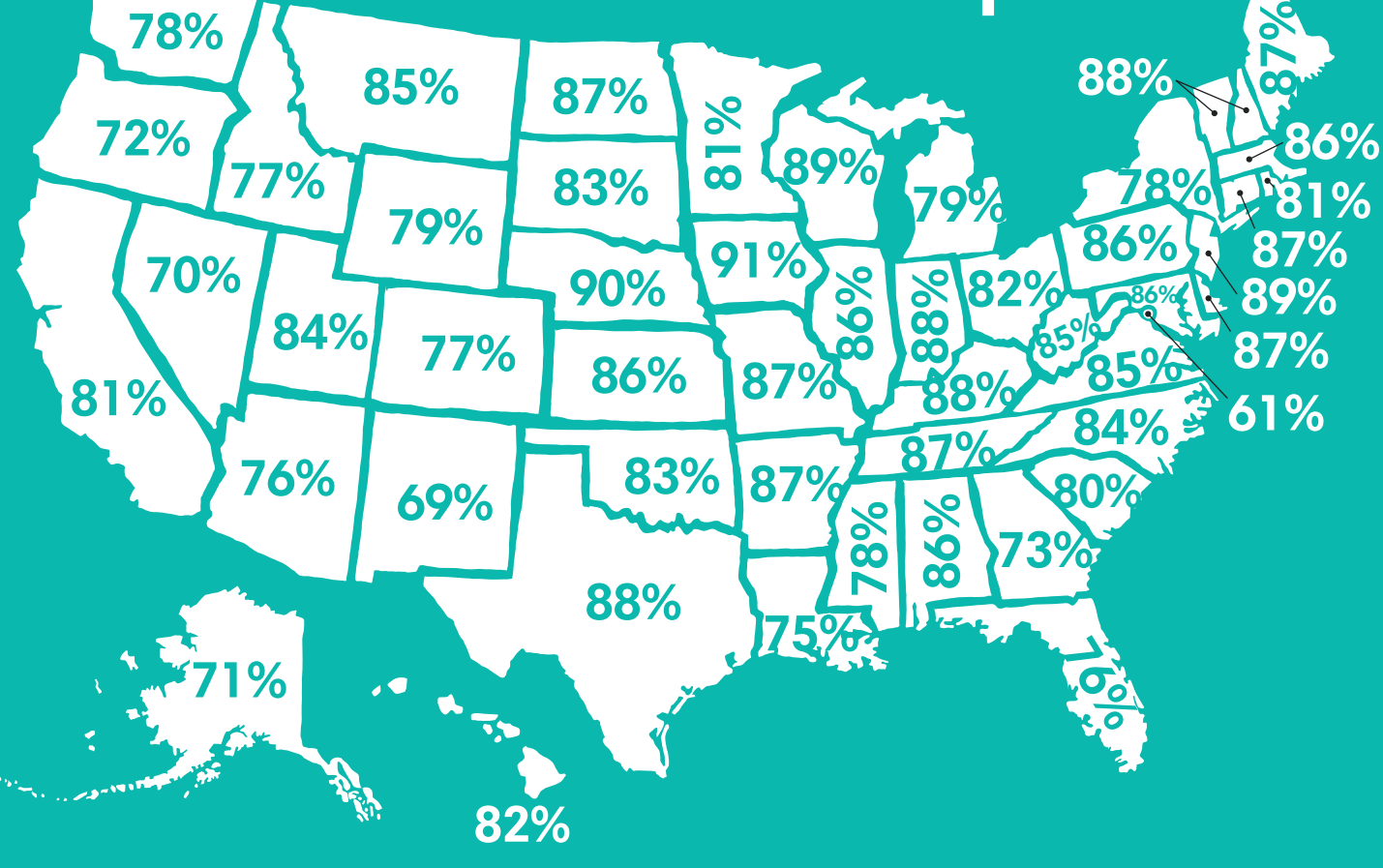


# What Does That Graduation Rate Really Mean?

As you continue to work to improve your graduation rate, let's also make sure that diploma means your students are *really ready* for college, work, and life.

## How does your 2015 GRADUATION RATE Compare?



Source: <http://www.edweek.org/ew/dc/2016/map-graduation-rates-by-state-demographics.html>

## How Ready Are Your Students?

As you graduate more students, make sure every one of them is prepared for what comes next.



**FOR MANY STUDENTS, A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA IS NOT A PASSPORT TO OPPORTUNITY**

2015 had **lowest** scores in 10 years

Only **41.9%** of graduates were ready for college

### SAT SCORES ARE DOWN

In 2015, high school graduates had the lowest performance on the SAT in the 10 years since the 2,400-point scale was developed.<sup>3</sup>

According to the SAT results, only 41.9% of 2015 high school graduates were ready for college.<sup>4</sup> In 2014, that number was 42.6%.<sup>5</sup>

The percentage of students who pass the SAT's college-readiness benchmark has been declining for five or more years, and the 2015 drop was slightly larger.

**Note:** We can't compare 2016 results to those of earlier years because both the test and the way data is collected have changed.<sup>6</sup>

### ACT SCORES ARE DOWN

Percentage of graduating seniors who took the exam in 2016 and hit the college-ready benchmark in at least three of the subjects:

2015 = **40%**  
2016 = **38%**

Percentage who demonstrated college readiness based on the composite score, which is an average of the four scores on the ACT, a number used by many colleges as part of the admissions process:

2015 = **21%**  
2016 = **20.8%**

## How Do You Ensure Your Graduation Rate Means Something?

You prepare your students for what comes next when you close the learning gap with quality digital curriculum. When choosing digital curriculum, research shows the most important factors are:



Consistent high quality

Highly engaging and motivating

Supports all students

Results in increased achievement

## Why does digital curriculum have such an impact?

**Because it enables personalized learning, which is proven to improve college and career readiness:**

In an ongoing study of 62 schools using digital curriculum for personalized learning, students went from performing below national medians to performing significantly above those medians in just two years.



**Deeper learning and better outcomes happen when students use effective digital curriculum such as Apex Learning Courses and Tutorials.**

Visit our website to learn more about our digital curriculum.  
[ApexLearning.com](http://ApexLearning.com)

@Apex\_Learning

<sup>1</sup> Other sources say 82% and 81%.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2016/10/17/498246451/the-high-school-graduation-reaches-a-record-high-again>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.nysasbo.org/uploads-firstread/1441373150\\_2015-09-04-EW-Latest.pdf](http://www.nysasbo.org/uploads-firstread/1441373150_2015-09-04-EW-Latest.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.nysasbo.org/uploads-firstread/1441373150\\_2015-09-04-EW-Latest.pdf](http://www.nysasbo.org/uploads-firstread/1441373150_2015-09-04-EW-Latest.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2014/10/07/average-sat-scores-show-little-change>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.collegeboard.org/program-results/overview-sat-suite-assessments/class-2016-sat-results>

<sup>7</sup> In a survey of colleges conducted by MDR, an education-industry research firm, the most important factors when evaluating digital curriculum were clarified. MDR. (2014). Purchase Criteria, Product Requirements and Emerging Trends.

<sup>8</sup> From a study of schools using personalized learning approaches commissioned by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and conducted by the RAND Corporation. The 62 schools included in the study all received funding from three Gates Foundation initiatives focused on improving student outcomes, particularly college and career readiness. A look at student achievement data found that students who initially performed below national medians in math and reading performed significantly above national medians after two years in personalized learning environments. Pane, J. F., Steiner, E. D., Baird, M. D., & Hamilton, L. S. (November, 2015). Continued Progress: Promising Evidence on Personalized Learning. RAND Corporation.