



The Condition of College and Career Readiness 2018: African American Students

From 2014 to 2018, the number of ACT test taking African American graduates has **only increased by 1%**.

Despite a small gain from 2016 and 2017, the percentage of African American graduates meeting college benchmarks is very low compared to other graduates. In fact, compared to all graduates, **African American graduates are nearly twice as likely to meet zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks.**

64% of ACT-tested African American high school graduates met **zero benchmarks...**

compared to for **all graduates 35%**

Source: ACT

For the past four years, African American graduates have been **least likely to meet ACT college readiness benchmarks in STEM-related subjects such as math and science, among all racial groups.**

White students are **4x more likely to meet science benchmarks than African American graduates**

6%

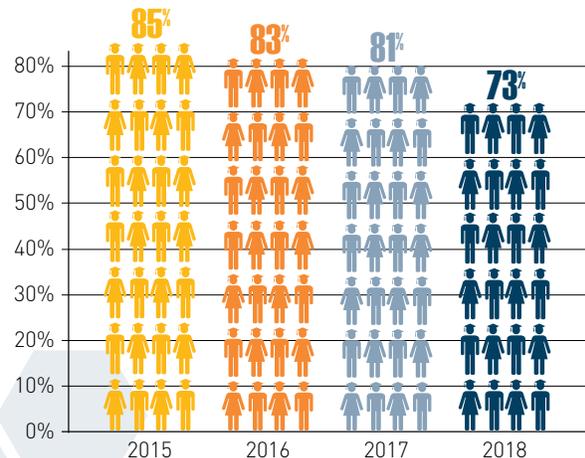
As in 2015, 2016 and 2017 **only 6% of African American graduates** who took the 2018 ACT met college readiness benchmarks in all four subjects.

Source: ACT.

While the percentage of all ACT- tested graduates aspiring to a post-secondary degree has decreased since 2015, **the majority of students still want to go to college.**

Source: ACT

Percentage of ACT-Tested African American Graduates Aspiring to Attend College



UNCF'S MANIFESTO—WHAT WE BELIEVE IN

We believe that if students are academically prepared for college, **we can radically change the story of what's possible**—not just for African American students but for the African American community as a whole. UNCF is passionately invested in **transforming dreams of college into reality and we will continue to push until all students who want to go to college are afforded that opportunity.**

For our students to be college ready, **we need to ensure that their K-12 educational experience is preparing them to excel in college and beyond.** As a result, we believe **students must:**

- **Attend a quality school** that offers a rigorous college preparatory curriculum and enables them to graduate at a college-ready level. We believe that free, safe, high-quality school options should be available and accessible to all students in every neighborhood.
- **Have effective teachers** in each of their classes who guide them through challenging course work, building the academic and social skills needed to ensure they are successful in college, career and life.
- **Understand how to navigate critical decisions along their K-16 journey**, such as selecting quality schools, understanding their full breadth of choices, learning how to secure financial support for college, and positioning themselves for college and career success.
- **Receive guidance and mentoring** from an adult who can help them navigate the complex college-going process and provide them with the support along the way.
- Understand how, along with their parents and communities, to **hold their school and teachers accountable** for providing a high-quality education.
- **Be immersed in a college-going culture**, where college is not an exception, but an expectation coupled with the belief that all students have the aptitude to reach this goal.

