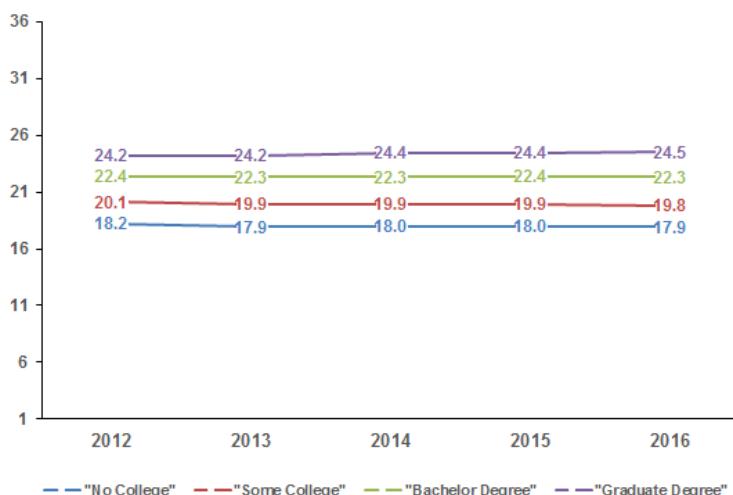


ACT® Composite Score by Parental Education Level, 2012–2016

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This data byte provides insights into college readiness levels of ACT-tested high school graduates from 2012 through 2016 by providing five-year trend data on average ACT Composite score by parental education level.¹

Average ACT Composite Score of 2012–2016 ACT-Tested High School Graduates by Parental Education



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Key Takeaways

- In 2012, students who reported that neither of their parents went to college earned an average ACT Composite score of 18.2 as compared to 20.1, 22.4, and 24.2 for students who reported that at least one parent had some college, a bachelor's degree, or a graduate degree, respectively.
- In 2016, average ACT Composite scores began at 17.9 for students whose parents did not go to college and increased to 19.8, 22.3, and 24.5 as parental education level increased.
- Since 2013, average ACT Composite scores for students with at least one parent who attained a graduate degree have increased slightly over the last five years, while decreased slightly or remained flat for other groups of students.²
- In our efforts to facilitate college readiness for all students, special attention should be paid to improving readiness levels for students who have parents with lower educational attainment levels. ■

¹ Note that the ACT-tested population increased by 25% between 2012 through 2016 and that the increase in the number of graduates tested in 2016 is pronounced among underserved minority groups, particularly Hispanic students and African American students. Therefore, the makeup of the student population over the last five years may differ in meaningful ways that are related to parental education.

² Beginning in 2013, such data includes students taking the ACT under extended-time conditions.