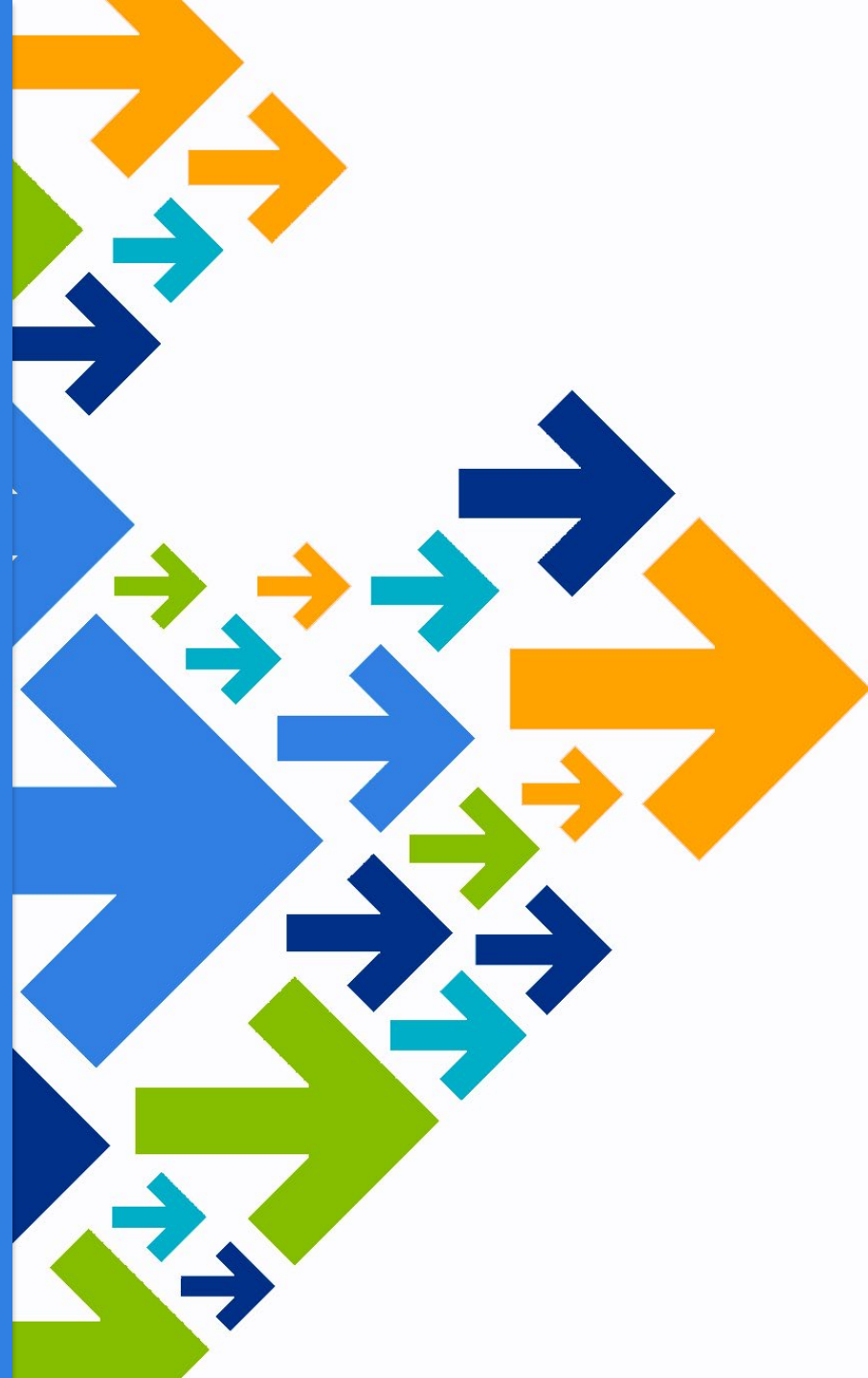


SREB

Charting a Path Forward: State Progress Reports

Presented by:

Natalee Jones and Creed Dunn



What is the State Progress Report

Tracks progress toward the 2030 Challenge to Excel Goals for Education through comparable state-level and regional data

- 1** Goal 1: Social and Economic Vitality
The prosperity and potential of the region's residents of all ages will increase through education

What is the State Progress Report

Tracks progress toward the 2030 Challenge to Excel Goals for Education through comparable state-level and regional data

2 Goal 2: Postsecondary

The percentage of state residents who earn a meaningful certificate or degree to ensure they are prepared for employment over the next decade will increase

What is the State Progress Report

Tracks progress toward the 2030 Challenge to Excel Goals for Education through comparable state-level and regional data

3 Goal 3: High School

Greater percentage of high school students will graduate on time, prepared to pursue a postsecondary certificate or degree

What is the State Progress Report

Tracks progress toward the 2030 Challenge to Excel Goals for Education through comparable state-level and regional data

4 Goal 4: Middle Grades

Building on success in the early grades, more middle grade students will be prepared for success in rigorous high school paths

What is the State Progress Report

Tracks progress toward the 2030 Challenge to Excel Goals for Education through comparable state-level and regional data

5 Goal 5: Birth through Elementary

All children will be equipped with the foundational skills needed for success in high school

What is the State Progress Report

Tracks progress toward the 2030 Challenge to Excel Goals for Education through comparable state-level and regional data through:

- 16 customized state and regional reports
- Cover all goal topics
 - PreK, elementary and the middle grades
 - High school, postsecondary and workforce
 - K-12 and postsecondary educator workforce
 - Demographics

What is NAEP and the Nation's Report Card

- The **National Assessment of Educational Progress** measures student achievement with two sets of data released every other year.
- Most SREB states struggled to overcome education loss amongst students at or above the **Basic** level.
- Helping students rise from **Basic** to **Proficient/Advanced** on NAEP is critical, but it often requires helping them improve from **below Basic** to **Basic**.
- The 2030 Challenge to Excel goals emphasize the need for SREB states to close NAEP performance gaps. Policies that help all students meet standards and reach higher academic levels are crucial.
- Not enough students in SREB states are meeting benchmarks that put them on track for successful academic careers.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Academic Common Market >

Crisis Recovery Network

Doctoral Scholars Program >

Educational Technology >

Cooperating

High School,
Postsecondary
& Workforce

Regional Contract Program >

School Improvement

State Authorization | SARA >

State Progress

The Goals for Education and the Southern Regional Education Board provide a framework for states to chart their progress and share best practices with one another on their progress.

Over the last two decades, the Southern Regional Education Board has helped states overcome challenges and achieve their goals.

states. They provide a framework for the SREB to report back to all states.

work together to

SREB GOALS FOR EDUCATION

on a year below to ensure that all students meet or exceed these goals.

Achieving the Challenge

PreK,
Elementary,
Middle Grades &
Demographics

2026

2025

2024

2022
2023

2020 Goals for Education

2012
2020



PROGRAMS & SERVICES

- Academic Common Market >
- Crisis Recovery Network
- Doctoral Scholars Program >
- Educational Technology Cooperative >
- Fact Book & Ed Data >
- Goals and State Progress Reports >
- 2026 State Progress Reports >
- 2025 State Progress Reports >
- 2030 Goals for Education
- 2020 Goals for Education
- SREB Journal of Ed Practices & Trends >
- Legislative Actions on Education >
- Making Schools Work Summer Conference >
- Purchasing Agreements
- Regional Contract Program >
- School Improvement
- State Authorization | SARA >

2025 State Progress Reports

CHARTING A PATH FORWARD

Charting a Path Forward is the 2025 progress report for the South's progress toward the 2030 Challenge to Excel Goals for Education. This report covers data and policies for the 16-state Southern region for PreK, elementary and the middle grades, along with demographics data.

The 2025 State Progress Report uses an online web-based format. Please use the links below to access each of the 16 states' reports.

STATES

In each state report, click to find comparable data on PreK, elementary and the middle grades, along with demographics data.

- Alabama
- Arkansas
- Delaware
- Florida
- Georgia
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maryland
- Mississippi
- North Carolina
- Oklahoma
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Virginia
- West Virginia
- SREB Region

Click on
Individual State
Button or
Region to
access reports

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Academic Common Market >

Crisis Recovery Network

Doctoral Scholars Program >

Educational Technology
Cooperative >

Fact Book & Ed Data >

Goals and State Progress
Reports

2026 State Progress
Reports >

2025 State Progress
Reports >

2030 Goals for Education

2020 Goals for Education

SREB Journal of Ed
Practices & Trends >

Legislative Actions on
Education >

Making Schools Work
Summer Conference >

Purchasing Agreements

Regional Contract Program >

School Improvement

State Authorization | SARA >

SREB Region

SREB REGION

2026 State Progress Report

WORKFORCE

POSTSECONDARY

HIGH SCHOOL

Workforce

SUMMARY OF WORKFORCE PREP

- Helping adults earn a postsecondary certificate or degree is vital to preparing the SREB region's workforce for the future.
- The percentage of working-age adults with at least some postsecondary education increased over the last decade.
- The overall employment rate increased across most SREB states at all education levels.
- By 2030, every SREB state will have more dependent-age individuals than working age adults.
- Adults with higher credentials are less likely than their peers with less than a high school education to earn wages below the poverty threshold.

✓ Educational Attainment

✓ Job Share by Education Level

✓ Employment Rates by Education Level

✓ Working-Age Adults vs. Dependent Population

✓ Percentage of Adults in Poverty by Attainment

✓ Earnings by Education Level

SUMMARY OF WORKFORCE K-12

K-12 teacher shortages have plagued our region and nation for years, limiting districts and states from making crucial educational

Click on Tabs
and Accordions
to access data
by topic

Where Does the Data Come From?

- All data in the State Progress Report is comparable across all 16 states in the region
 - National datasets from sources including: NCES, IPEDS, ELSI, Census, NIEER

Workforce

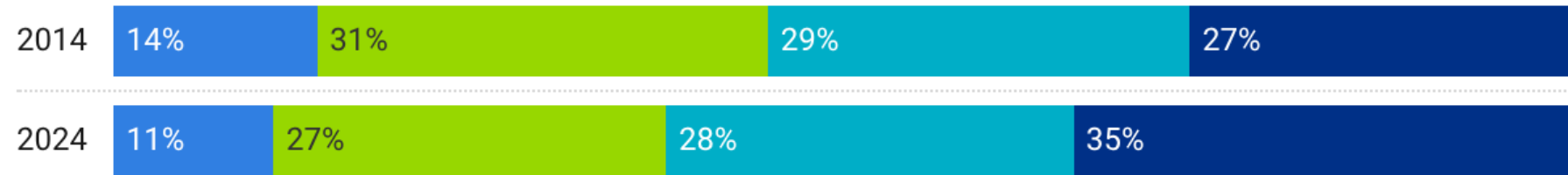
Includes data on:

- Educational Attainment
- Job Share and Employment Rates
- Earnings and Poverty by Education Attainment Level
- K-12 Workforce
 - Quantity and Quality of Teachers
 - Current and Future Teacher Shortages
 - Salaries
- Postsecondary Workforce
 - Shortages in In-Demand Career Fields
 - Faculty Quantity and Quality
 - Salaries

Educational Attainment

Adults 25-64 in SREB Region

■ Less than high school ■ High school or equivalency ■ Some college or associate degree ■ Bachelor's degree or higher

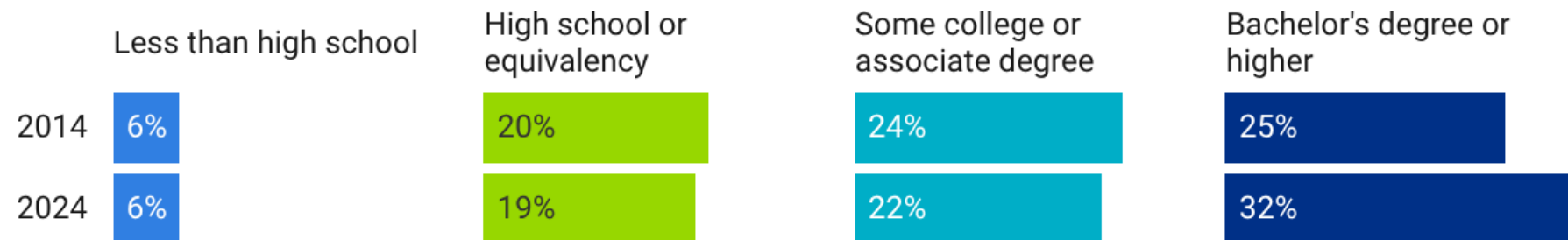


Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census • Created with Datawrapper

Job Share by Education Level

Percentage of All Adults 25-64 in SREB Region

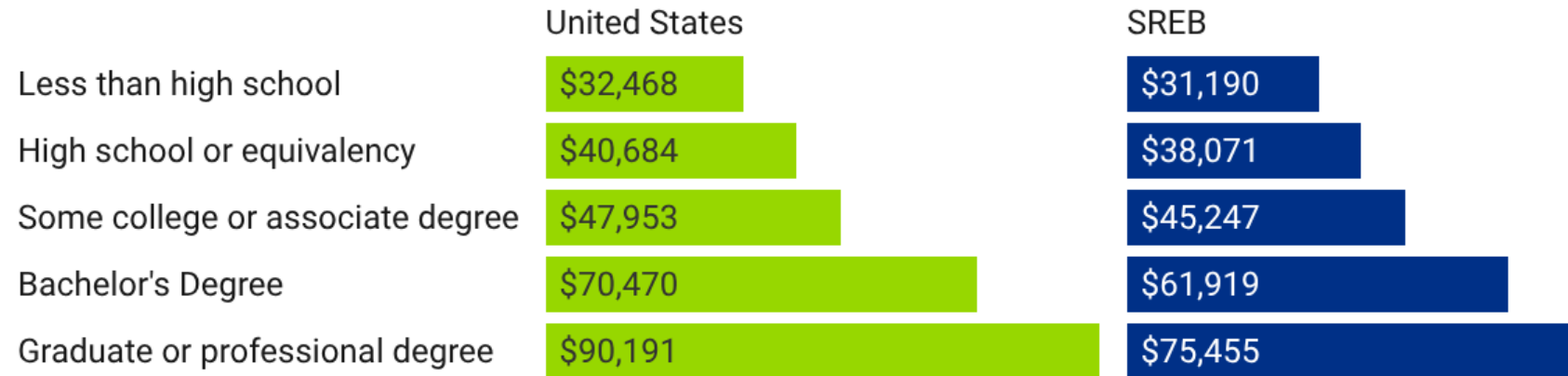


Percentages will not equal 100% as adults not in the workforce are not included.

Source: U.S. Census • Created with Datawrapper

Earnings by Education Level

For the population 25 and older in SREB Region, 2024



Source: U.S. Census Bureau • Created with Datawrapper

Postsecondary

Includes data on:

- Need-based aid
- Pell Grants and Student Loan Debt
- First-Year Persistence
- Postsecondary Graduation Rates
- Progression Rates
- Postsecondary Educational Attainment

TOPICS

- [AI in Education](#) >
- [Career & Technical Education](#) >
- [Career Pathways](#) >
- [College Affordability](#) >
- [College and Career Readiness](#)** v
- [Policies for High School Graduation and Postsecondary Readiness](#) >
- [Dual Enrollment](#) >
- [Educator Workforce Policy](#) >
- [HBCUs & MSIs](#) >
- [Induction for New Teachers & Leaders](#) >
- [Longitudinal Literacy](#) >
- [Mathematics Instruction](#) >
- [Open Educational Resources](#) >
- [Postsecondary Success](#) >
- [Science Education](#) >
- [Workforce & Education](#) >

College and Career Readiness

By 2025, two out of every three jobs will require postsecondary education beyond high school. Yet far too many students graduate from high school without the knowledge and skills to earn a postsecondary credential or degree. SREB offers policymakers and educators information on policies and how states are using them to improve postsecondary readiness. We serve districts and schools with career pathway information and professional learning to help educators prepare students for what comes next in their lives.

[Read more »](#)

READINESS REQUIREMENTS IN SREB STATES

Click on the image above to explore and compare SREB-state policies for postsecondary readiness that affect students as they make their way from middle grades to high school graduation and into college and careers.

Click on Image
or “Readiness
Requirements in
SREB States” to
access the report

TOPICS

- All in Education >
- Career & Technical Education >
- Career Pathways >
- College Affordability >
- College and Career Readiness >
- Policies for High School Graduation and Postsecondary Readiness >
- Find by State >
- Regional Trends >
- Definitions >
- Planning >
- Diploma Requirements >
- Accelerated Learning >
- Postsecondary Admission >
- Postsecondary Placement >
- State Financial Aid >
- Feedback Reports >
- Dual Enrollment >
- Educator Workforce Policy >
- HBCUs & MSIs >
- Induction for New Teachers & Leaders >
- Longitudinal Literacy >
- Mathematics Instruction >
- Open Educational Resources >
- Postsecondary Success >
- Science Education >
- Workforce & Education >

Navigating State Policies for High School and Postsecondary

POLICIES BY TOPIC AND BY STATE

These profiles look at policies that affect students as they make their way from middle grades to high school graduation and into college and careers.

[Read analysis of regional trends >](#)

Explore and compare SREB-state policies for postsecondary readiness with the tools below.

2026 update currently in process.

FIND POLICIES BY TOPIC

[Definitions](#)

[Planning](#)

[Diploma Requirements](#)

[Accelerated Learning](#)

[Postsecondary Admission](#)

[Postsecondary Placement](#)

[State Financial Aid](#)

[Feedback Reports](#)



Find Policies by State

for high school success, college readiness and postsecondary completion

Browse by state

My State

Can look at policies by topic across all 16 states or all 8 topics by state

Table Talk

Reviewing Navigating State Policies for High School and Postsecondary

Spend 3-5 minutes looking through the report either by topic or state

Discuss other topics you would like to see included in the report at your table



PK-12 Enrollment in State Progress Reports

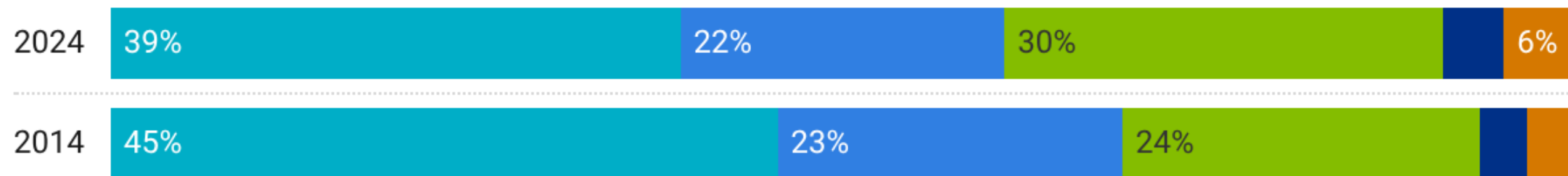
- Efforts to shrink achievement gaps must address falling student enrollment and dynamic population changes: fewer students in public schools, more families struggling economically and more children whose primary language is not English.
- English learners often enter school with little to no exposure and struggle in U.S. classrooms, especially in subjects that are reading dependent. This group is projected to account for an increasing proportion of enrollments in SREB states in the immediate future.
- The overall population in SREB states rose **4%** from 2018 to 2024, so it is **surprising** that public elementary and secondary school enrollment fell. Enrollment in SREB states decreased by almost **0.2%** over this period, but enrollment fell nationwide by almost **3%**.

- **40%** of all PK-12 students lived in the SREB Region in 2025

Public Elementary and Secondary Enrollment

Racial/Ethnic Composition in the SREB Region

White Black Hispanic Asian Other



Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: SREB Factbook • Created with Datawrapper

High School

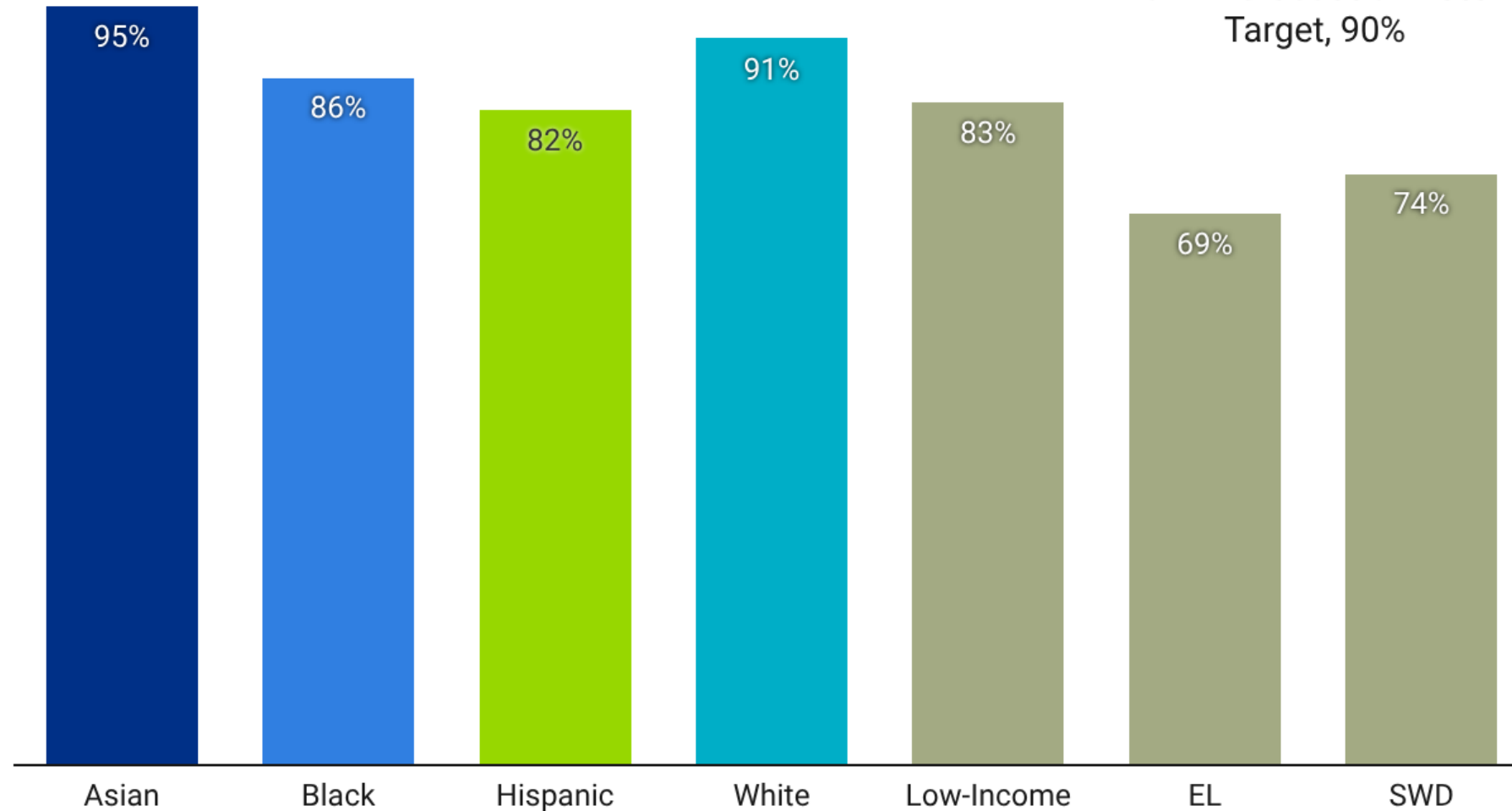
Includes data on:

- Grade-Level Progression
- High School Graduation Rate
- Advanced Placement
- ACT and SAT Participation and Benchmarks
- Career and College Readiness

Median High School Graduation Rates in SREB Region

Class of 2023

SREB Graduation Rate
Target, 90%

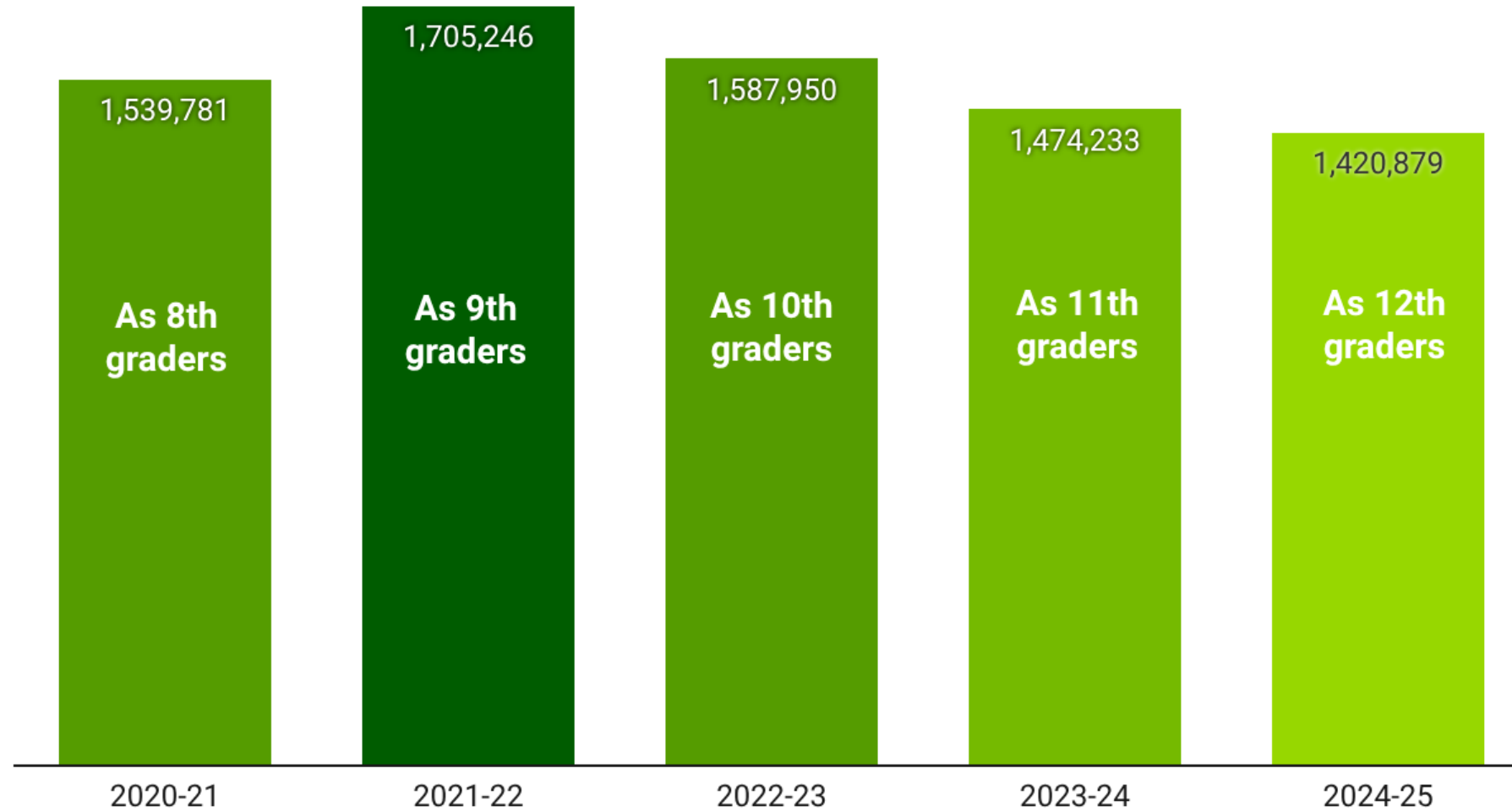


EL stands for English learners. SWD stands for students with disabilities

Source: US Department of Education • Created with Datawrapper

Grade-Level Progression in SREB Region

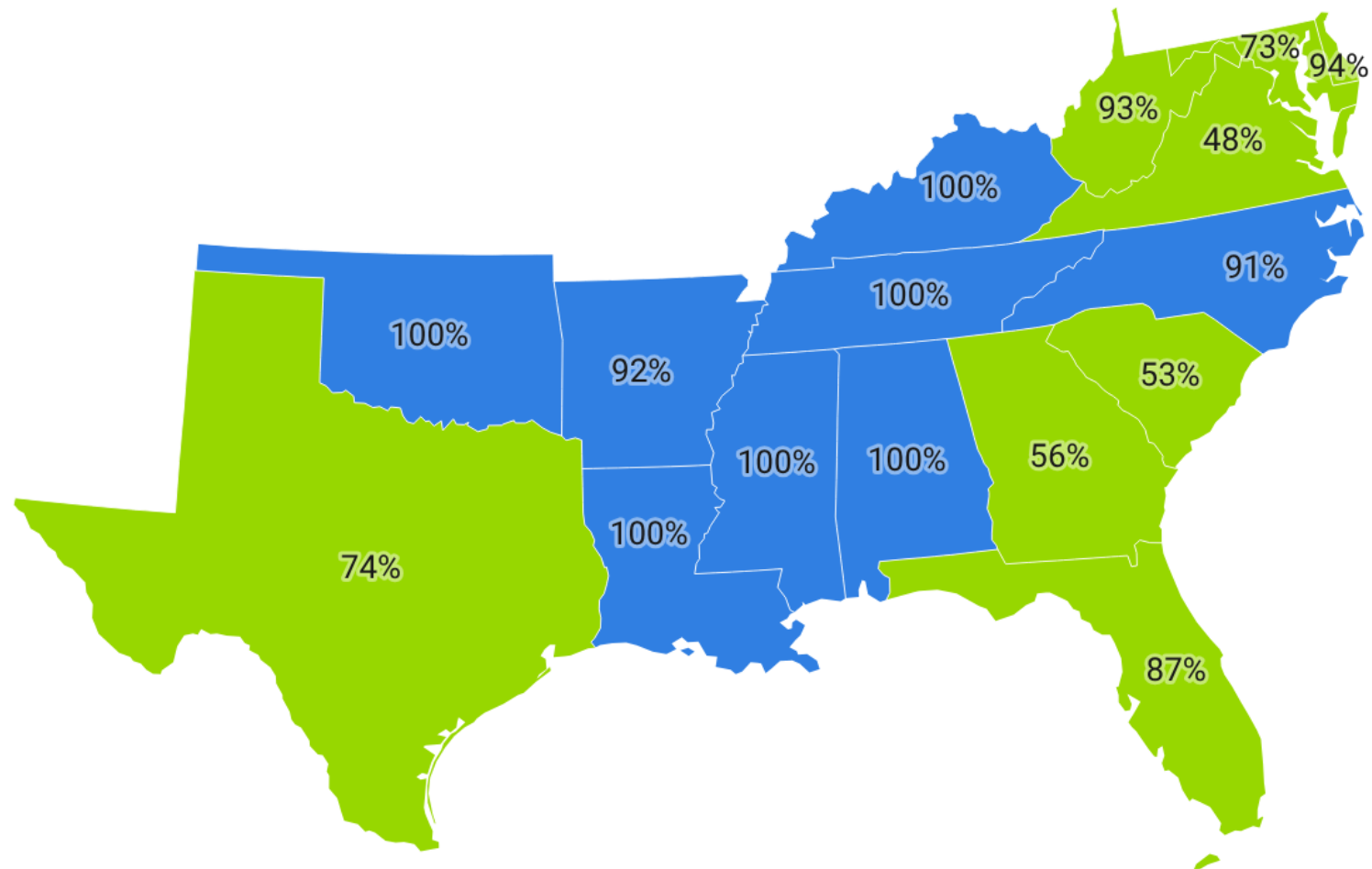
Enrollment for the Class of 2025



Source: National Center for Education Statistics • Created with Datawrapper

ACT and SAT Participation Rates of the Class of 2025

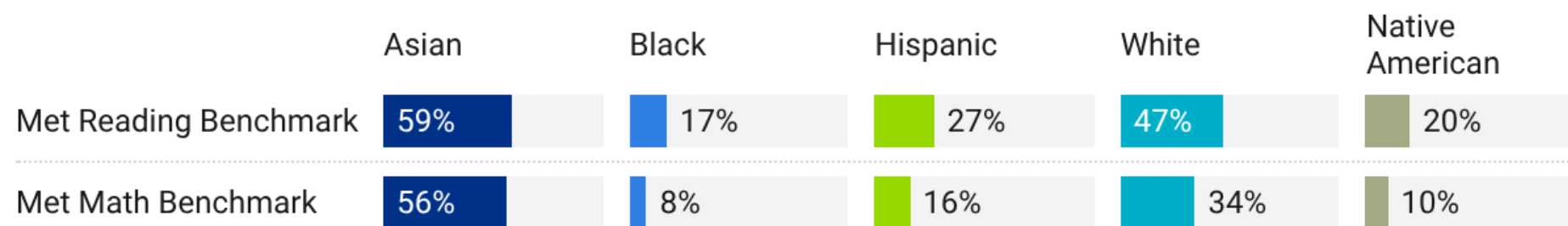
■ Higher percentage of students took the ACT ■ Higher percentage of students took the SAT



Source: ACT, Inc. and College Board • Created with Datawrapper

Percentage Meeting ACT Benchmarks in SREB Region

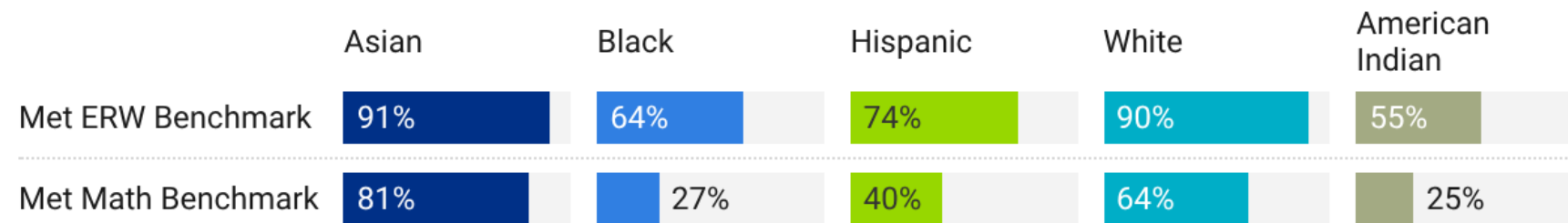
Class of 2025, Students by Subgroup



Source: ACT, Inc. • Created with Datawrapper

Percentage Meeting SAT Benchmarks in SREB Region

Class of 2025, Students by Subgroup

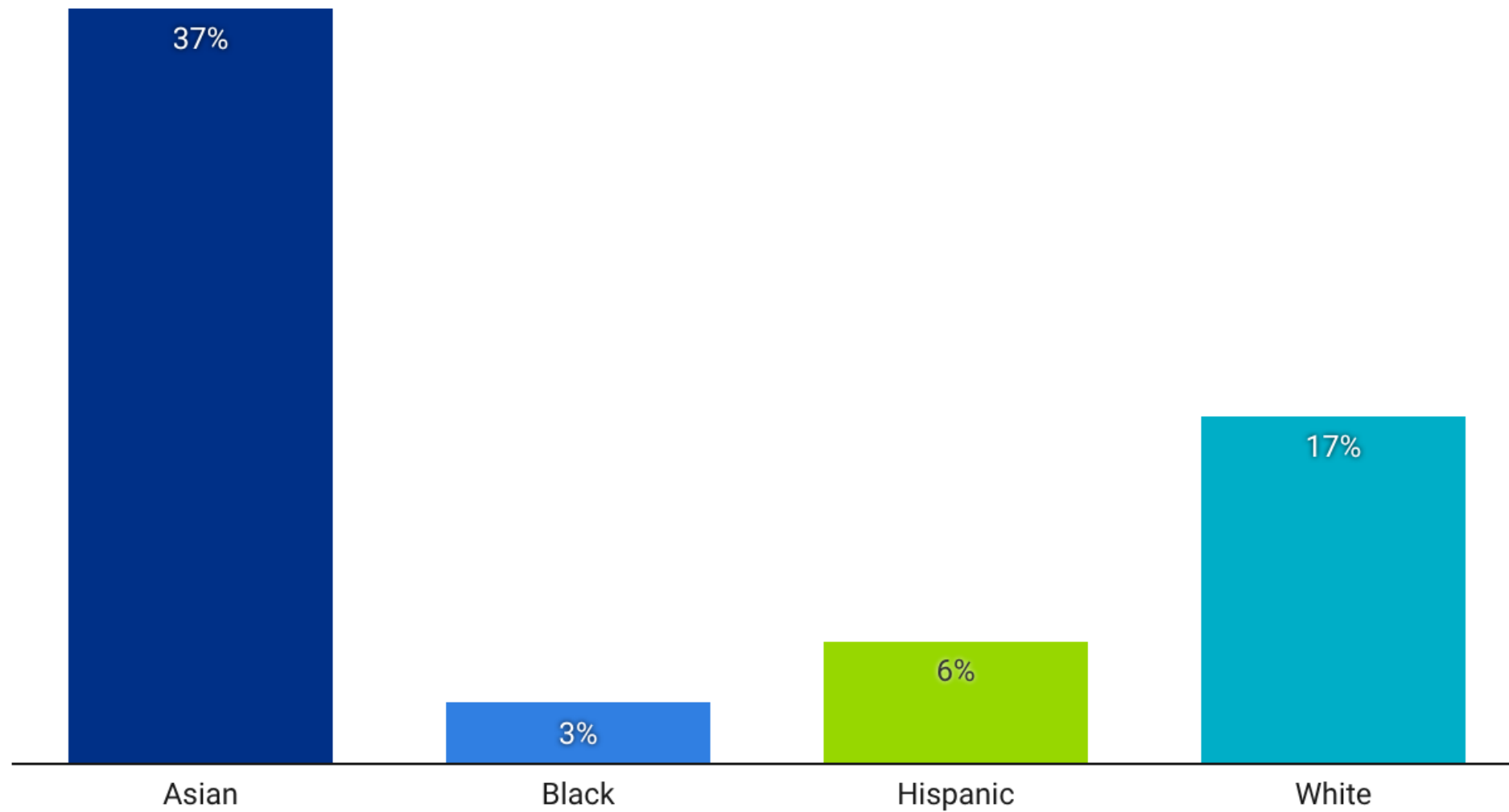


Note: ERW means Evidence-Based Reading and Writing

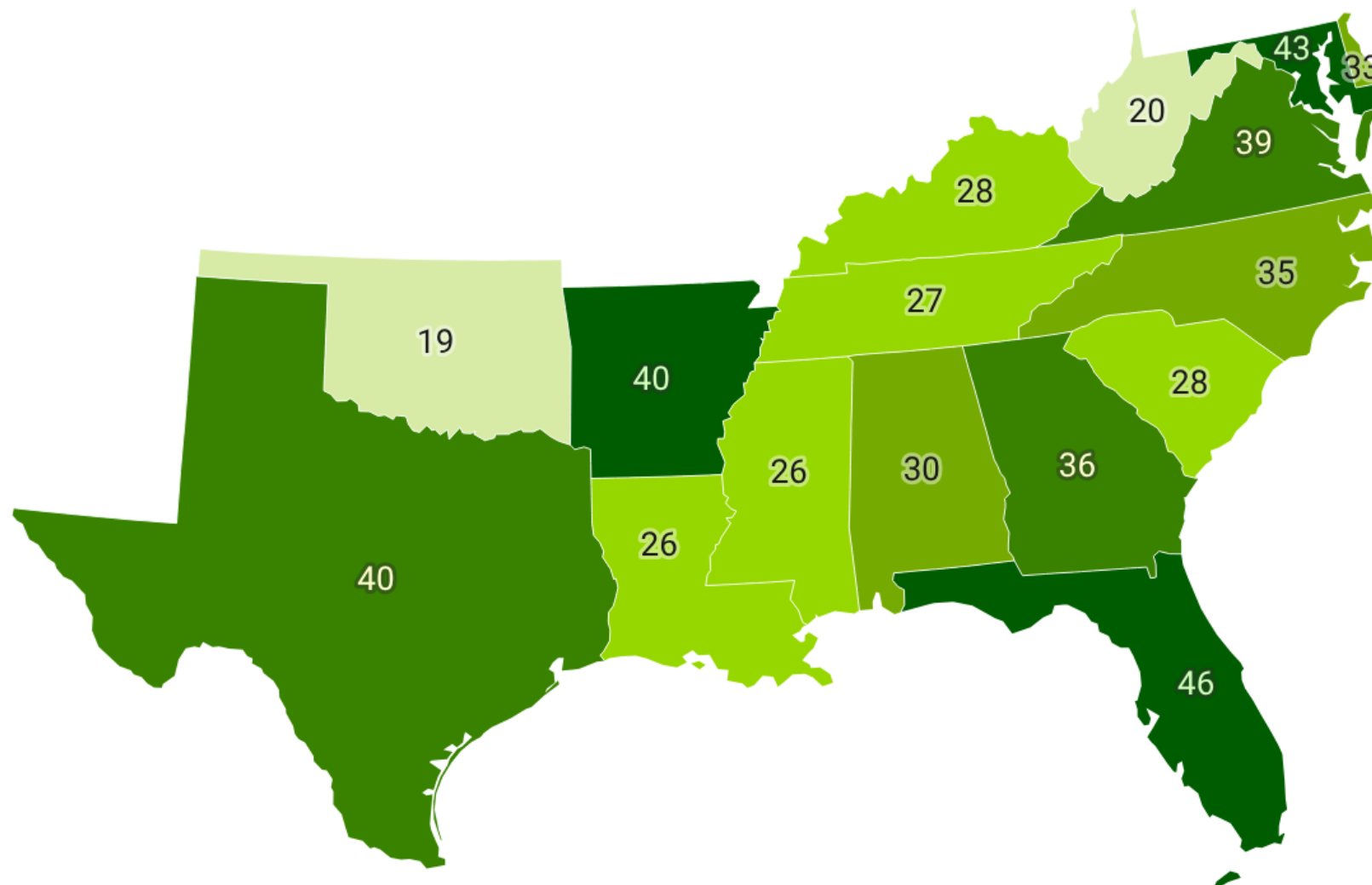
Source: College Board, Inc. • Created with Datawrapper

Percentage Meeting ACT STEM Benchmarks in SREB Region

Graduating Class, 2025



Percentage of the Class of 2024 Who Took an AP Exam



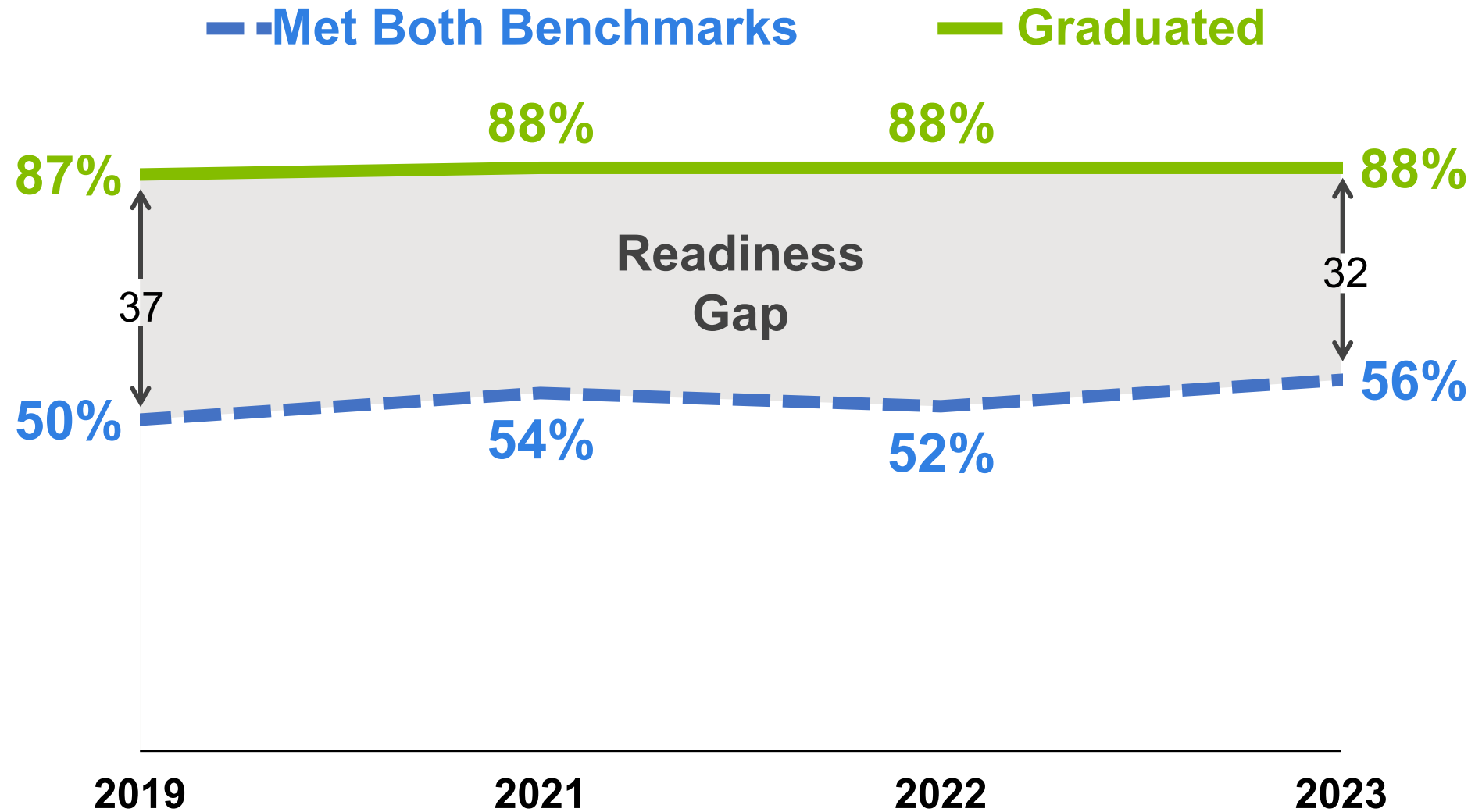
Advanced Placement in SREB Region

Student group	Number of tests taken		Percentage of tests with scores 3+	
	2014	2024	2014	2024
Asian Students	170,365	316,598	64%	74%
Black Students	172,044	205,409	25%	34%
Hispanic Students	294,562	553,260	38%	42%
White Students	794,679	806,774	56%	62%

Source: College Board, Inc. • Created with Datawrapper

Graduation Rates vs. College Readiness in SREB Region

Graduating Seniors Meeting Both SAT Benchmarks

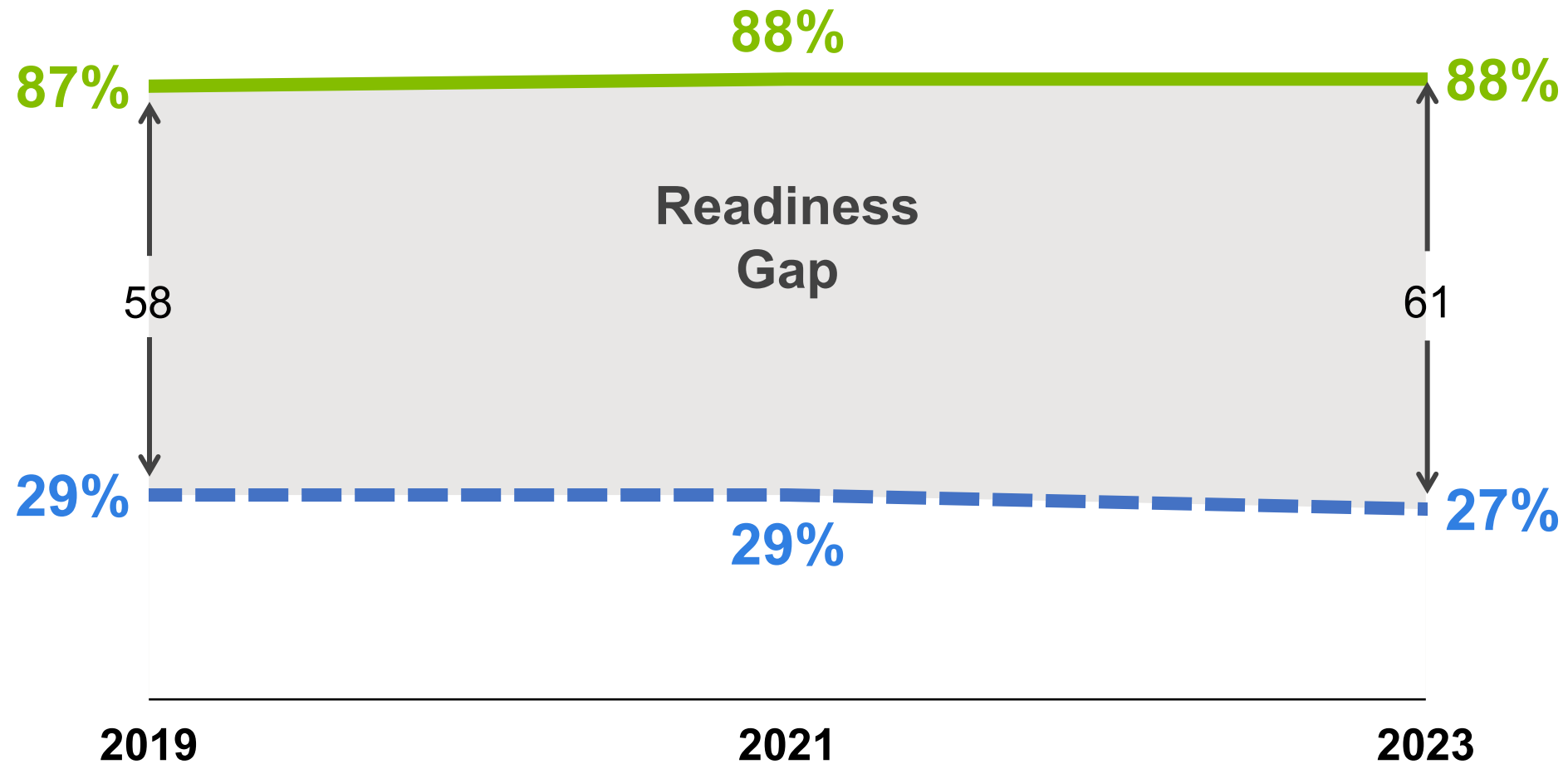


Graduation Rates vs. College Readiness in SREB Region

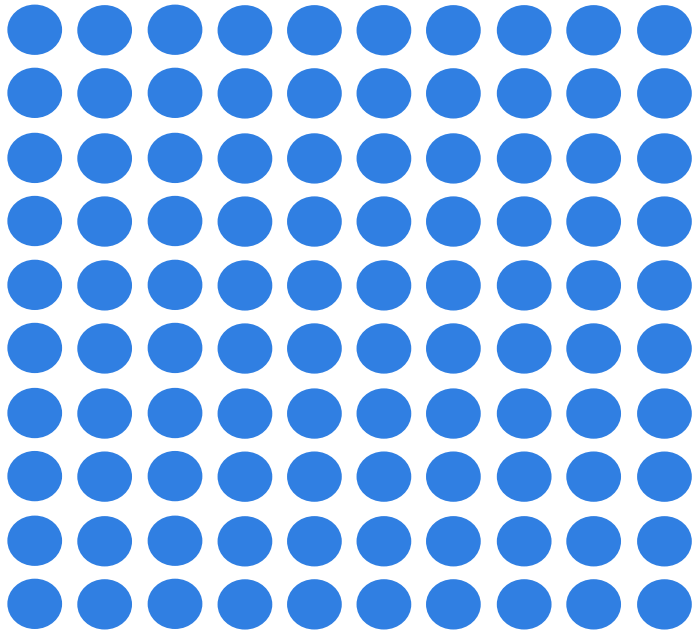
Graduating Seniors Meeting ACT Benchmarks

— Met Three or Four Benchmarks

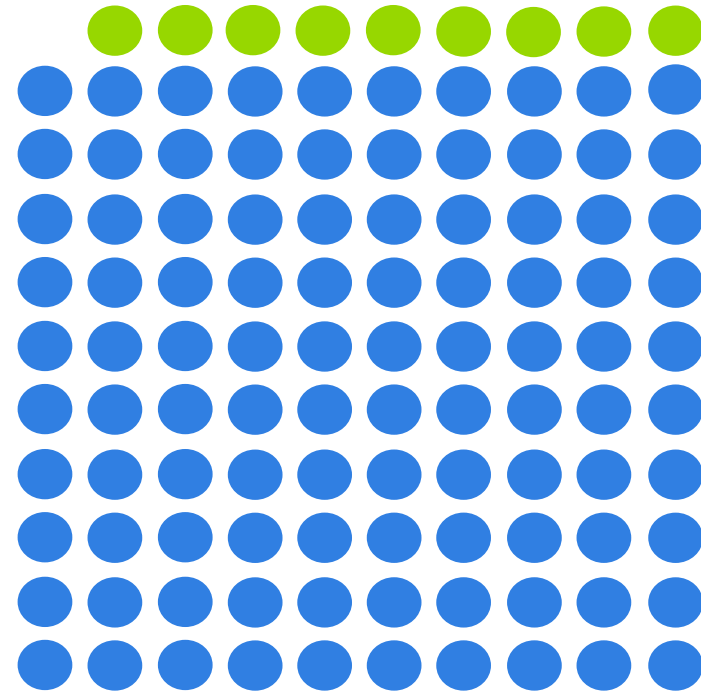
— Graduated



2024



2025



Thank You!

SREB

CHARTING A PATH FORWARD

State Progress Reports

16 customized state and regional reports toward achieving the 2030 Challenge to Excel goals

Scan the QR code to find comparable data on:

- PreK, elementary and the middle grades
- High school, postsecondary and workforce
- K-12 and postsecondary educator workforce
- Demographics

SREB | Southern Regional
Education Board

www.sreb.org/StateProgress



Navigating State Policies for High School and Postsecondary

Find policies in this report that affect students as they make their way from the middle grades to high school graduation and into college and careers.

Scan the QR code to learn more about:

- College and career planning in K-12
- Accelerated learning options
- Postsecondary feedback to high schools
- Graduation requirements
- Readiness definitions
- State financial aid for undergrads
- Admission requirements
- Placement policies



Southern
Regional
Education
Board

SREB.org

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