



Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama®

Alabama High School Graduation and College and Career Readiness Rates Reached Record Levels in 2024

By Thomas Spencer - June 12th, 2025

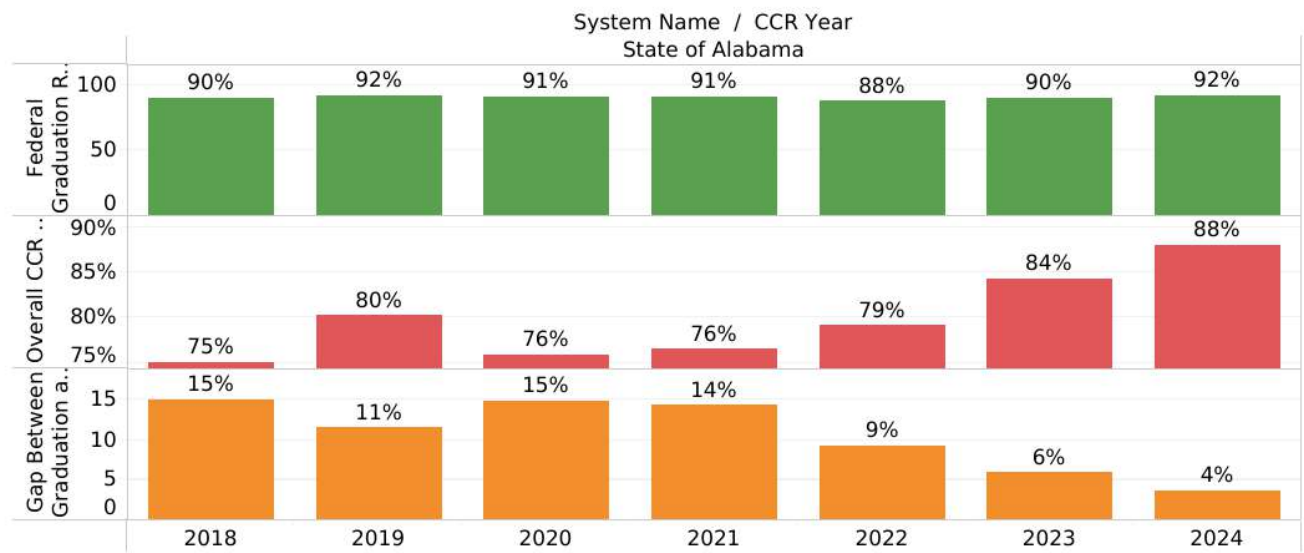
Alabama’s public high school graduation rate tied its all-time high in 2024, while the Class of 2024 also set a new record for the percentage of graduates designated ready for college and career, according to new data released by the Alabama Department of Education.

Alabama Graduation and College and Career Readiness, Class of 2024

Federal Graduation and CCR Rates and Gap	Individual School or System Trend	Trends in CCR	Comparing CCR and Graduation Rates	Federal Graduation Rate and CCR Rate, by System	Federal Grad and CCR Rate, by School	Gap Between Grad..
--	-----------------------------------	---------------	------------------------------------	---	--------------------------------------	--------------------

System Name
State of Alabama

Graduation and College and Career Ready Rates

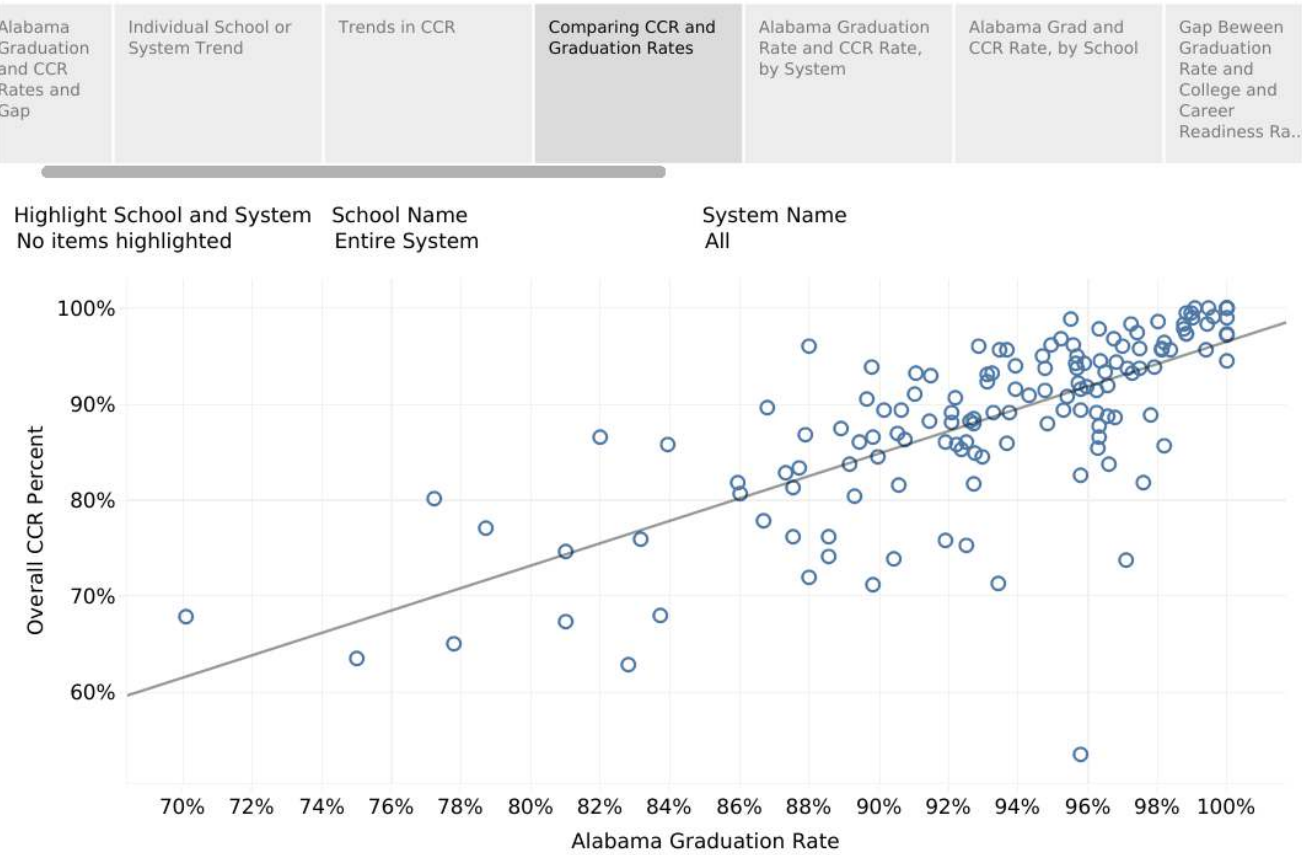


Among 2024’s senior class, 88% had earned a college and career-ready (CCR) designation, a jump of 4 percentage points over the rate for the Class of 2023. That progress also narrows the gap between the graduation and CCR rates to 4 percentage points, the smallest gap ever.

Alabama’s high school graduation rate has been rising since 2012, when the state set a goal that 90% of ninth graders would persist and graduate four years later. As the state’s public schools made progress toward and ultimately achieved that goal, policymakers focused on the gap between the graduation and CCR rates. Though more students were graduating, many weren’t leaving with the credentials to prove they were ready to enter college or the workforce.

In 2023, the Alabama Legislature passed a law requiring that by Spring of 2026, all graduates will have to have earned a CCR designation in order to receive a diploma. Schools have been moving toward that goal. In 2024, over 50 high schools reported a 100% graduation rate, and more than 40 reported a 100% college and career readiness rate.

Alabama Graduation and College and Career Readiness, Class of 2024



Multiple Ways to Demonstrate College and Career Readiness

The Class of 2024 produced a jump in the on-time graduation rate and in multiple categories of college and career readiness.

School systems and high schools have different approaches to providing students with pathways to the CCR designation. Academic magnet schools and affluent suburban systems have higher percentages of students scoring college-ready on the ACT or by earning a qualifying score (3 or above) on an Advanced Placement test. Advanced Placement (AP) courses are college-level courses taught by high school faculty. International Baccalaureate (IB) courses are similar and also count toward CCR. Other schools, usually cooperating with the local community college, may give most students access to college courses. Many schools encourage enrollment in career technical education courses and reach over 90 percent of students through such offerings. Successful entry into the military and completing an approved youth apprenticeship is also an option.

Alabama Graduation and College and Career Readiness, Class of 2024

Gap Between Graduation and CCR	Graduation and CCR by Subgroup	CCR Rates by Measure	CCR Numbers by Measure	Sortable list of CCR Measures	U.S. Comparative Grad Rates Over Time	U.S. Rankings
--------------------------------	--------------------------------	----------------------	------------------------	-------------------------------	---------------------------------------	---------------

System Name
All

School Name
All

Sortable CCR Measures, Percentage of Seniors, 2024

School and System	ACT CCR Pct.	ACT WKs Pct.	AP CCR Pct.	CTE CCR Pct.	College Credit CCR Pct.	IB CCR Pct.	Military Attainment CCR ..	Youth Apprenticeship A..
Lexington High School, Lauderdale County	46%	71%	2%	49%	93%	0%	0%	0%
Fairview High Sch, Cullman County	36%	61%	1%	27%	93%	0%	1%	0%
Hanceville High Sch, Cullman County	40%	68%	3%	11%	92%	0%	1%	0%
McKenzie High Sch, Butler County	41%	78%	0%	69%	91%	0%	6%	0%
Cleveland High Sch, Blount County	62%	72%	0%	36%	90%	0%	0%	0%
Univ Charter Sch - Secondary, University Charter Scho..	43%	54%	11%	27%	86%	0%	3%	0%
Entire System, University Charter School	43%	54%	11%	27%	86%	0%	3%	0%
Brilliant Sch, Marion County	17%	56%	0%	0%	83%	0%	6%	0%
Holly Pond High Sch, Cullman County	47%	47%	9%	49%	82%	0%	4%	0%
Cherokee High Sch, Colbert County	34%	50%	0%	42%	82%	0%	0%	0%
Fruitdale High Sch, Washington County	52%	78%	0%	96%	81%	0%	0%	0%
Skyline High Sch, Jackson County	40%	80%	2%	4%	80%	0%	0%	0%
Wilson High Sch, Lauderdale County	36%	48%	2%	13%	79%	0%	1%	0%
Saraland High Sch, Saraland City	64%	5%	5%	68%	79%	0%	3%	0%
Entire System, Saraland City	64%	5%	5%	68%	79%	0%	3%	0%

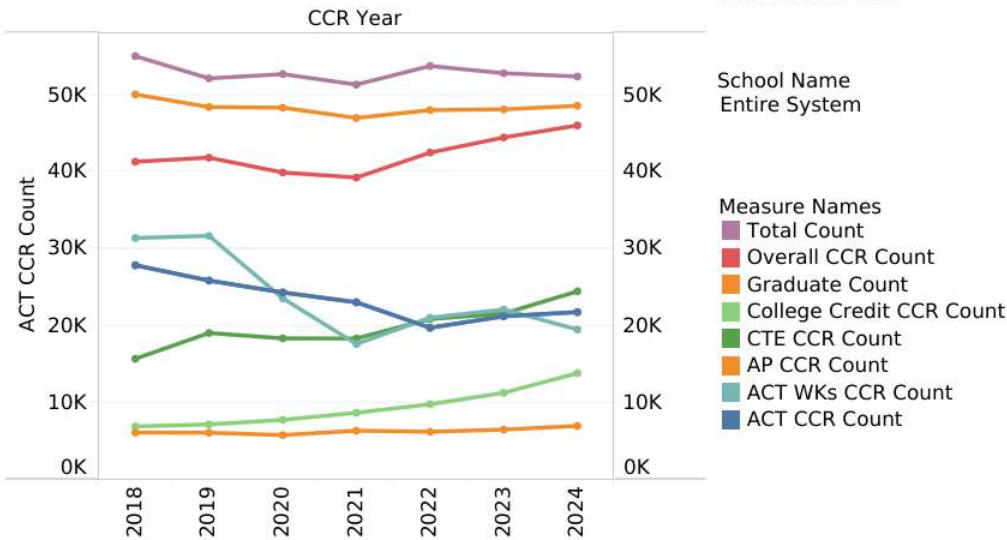
Career Technical Education

More students are participating in career technical education courses, high school courses linked to career skills and training. The number and percentage of students demonstrating college and career readiness through completing a course in career technical education and earning an industry-recognized credential rose to 24,535, up from 21,640 in 2023. In the class of 2024, 47% of students earned a credential that should be recognized as valuable to a prospective employer, a 6-percentage point increase.

Alabama Graduation and College and Career Readiness, Class of 2024

Alabama Graduation and CCR Rates and Gap	Individual School or System Trend	Trends in CCR	Comparing CCR and Graduation Rates	Alabama Graduation Rate and CCR Rate, by System	Alabama Grad and CCR Rate, by School	Gap Between Grad..
--	-----------------------------------	---------------	------------------------------------	---	--------------------------------------	--------------------

Trends in College and Career Readiness



CCR Trend By Year, By Type, By System

	System Name / CCR Year						
	State of Alabama						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Count	55,151	52,256	52,809	51,440	53,869	52,928	52,500
Graduate Count	50,167	48,529	48,441	47,105	48,124	48,225	48,678
Overall CCR Count	41,408	41,936	40,006	39,340	42,592	44,563	46,136
CTE CCR Count	15,753	19,115	18,415	18,398	20,925	21,640	24,535
ACT CCR Count	27,929	25,934	24,391	23,110	19,796	21,293	21,829
ACT WKs CCR Count	31,478	31,760	23,636	17,676	21,106	22,175	19,570
College Credit CCR Count	6,956	7,220	7,798	8,732	9,836	11,324	13,891
AP CCR Count	6,153	6,132	5,825	6,398	6,265	6,538	7,012
Military Attainment CCR Count	1,129	900	797	519	590	558	530
IB CCR Count	308	302	204	2	48	131	93

Dual Enrollment

The number and percentage of students earning college credit, mostly through dual enrollment at a community college, also rose substantially from 21% of students in 2023 to 26% for the Class of 2024. Statewide, 13,891 students had earned credit through successfully completing a college course during high school, an increase of over 2,500 from the Class of 2023.

Alabama Graduation and College and Career Readiness, Class of 2024

Gap Between Graduation Rate and College and Career Re..

Graduation and CCR by Subgroup

CCR Rates by Measure

CCR Numbers by Measure

Sortable list of CCR Measures

U.S. Comparative Grad Rates Over Time

U.S. Rankings

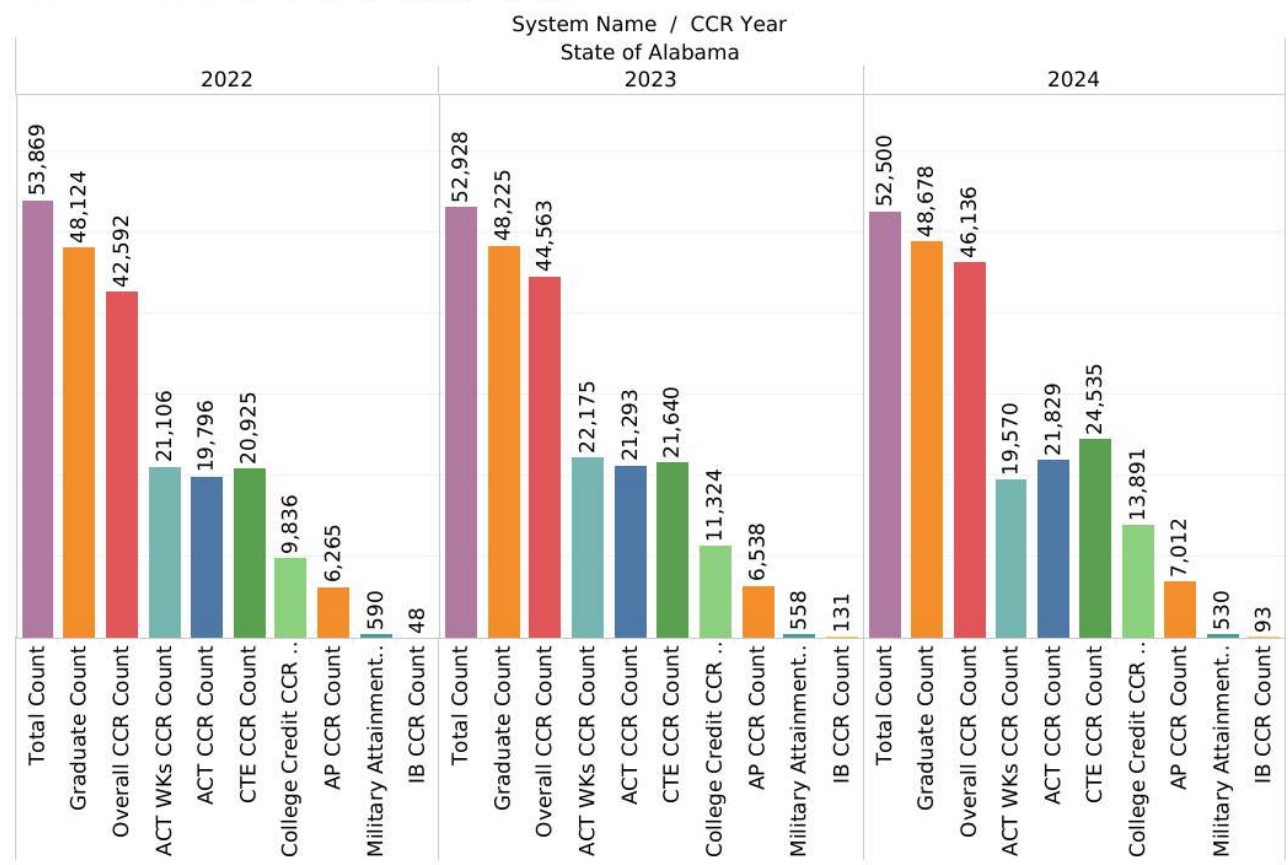
System Name

State of Alabama

School Name

Entire System

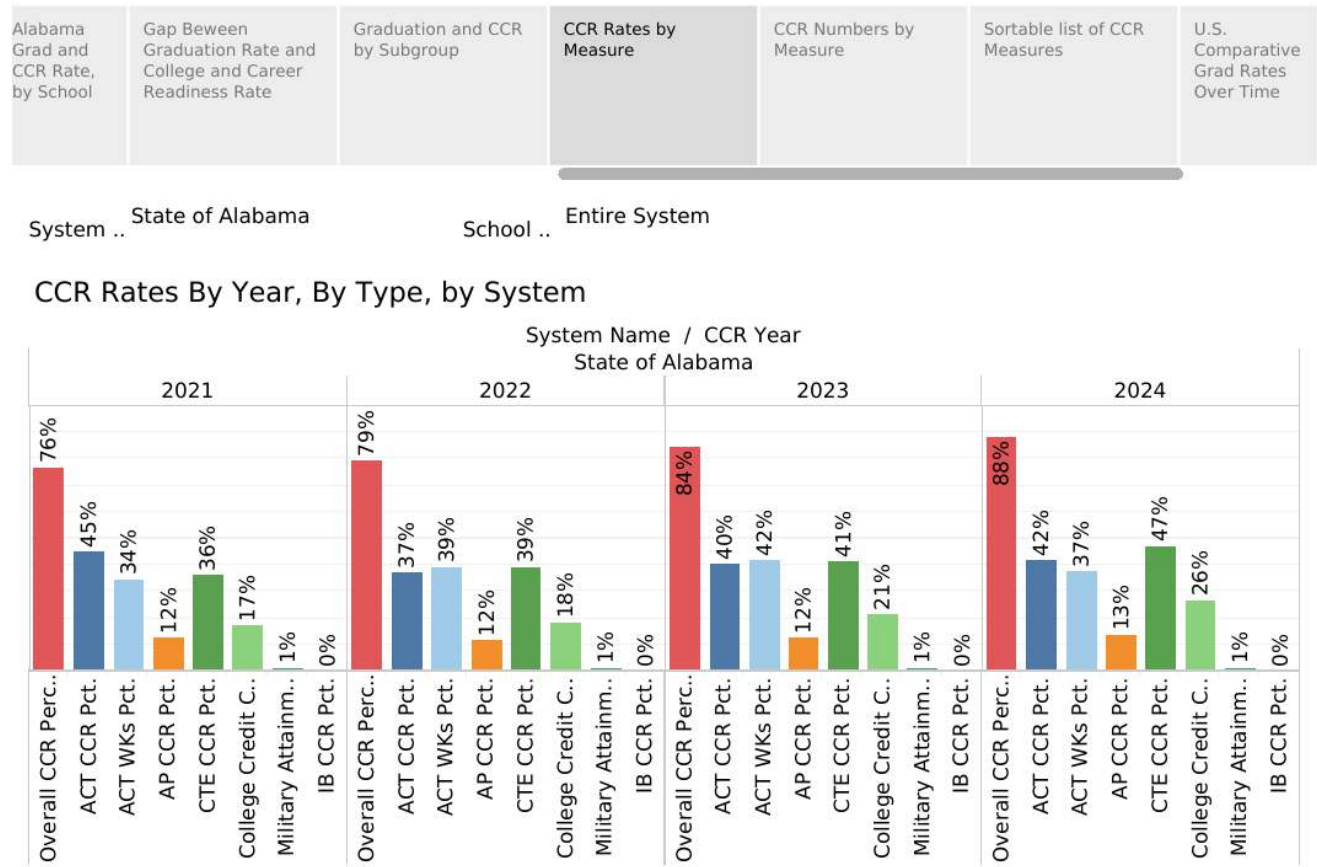
CCR Numbers By Year, By Type, By System



ACT

The percentage of Alabama public high school graduates earning a benchmark score on the ACT rose to 42%, up from 40% in 2023. ACT, the standardized test that predicts student readiness for college-level coursework, is given to all high school juniors. Scores in Alabama and nationwide dropped during and following the pandemic. In Alabama, performance is improving, though still below pre-pandemic highs. A full exploration of the Alabama ACT scores can be accessed in PARCA’s previous post, [Alabama High School Class of 2024 Improves on ACT](#).

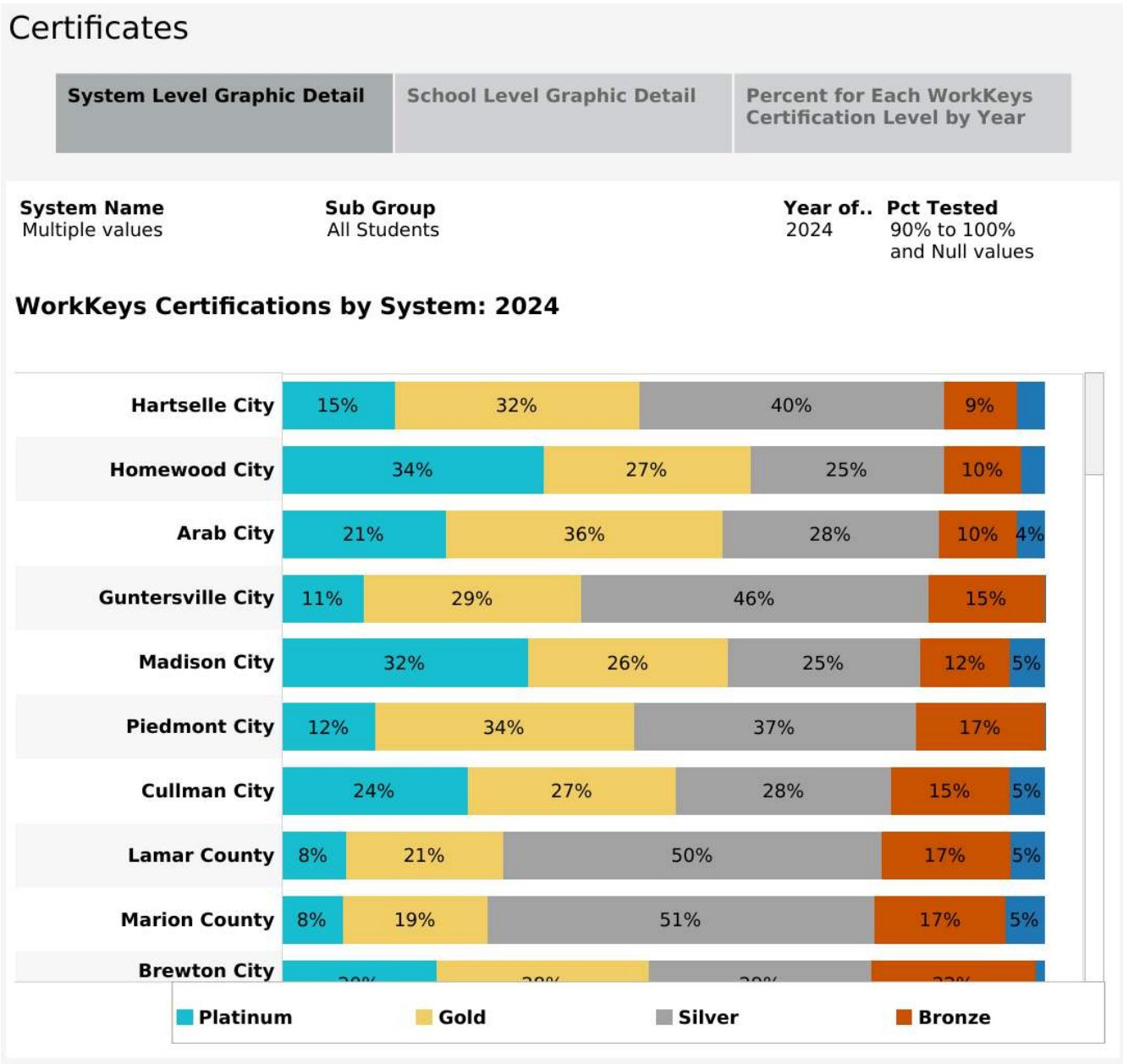
Alabama Graduation and College and Career Readiness, Class of 2024



WorkKeys

ACT also produces a second standardized test, WorkKeys, through which students can demonstrate college and career readiness. WorkKeys is designed to test reading and math skills as they are applied in the workplace. WorkKeys is given to seniors and is optional. Students who score high enough on WorkKeys to earn a silver, gold, or platinum certification are considered adequately prepared to enter the workforce.

Some employers use WorkKeys as a factor in hiring decisions. The visualization below allows you to explore WorkKeys results in terms of certificates earned and [trends in the number of students tested](#). However, bear in mind that different schools use the test differently and give it selectively, so comparisons between schools and systems can be misleading.



Explore Further

Using the tabs and menus in the visualization tools, you can explore results for your local system or school. For best results, use the full screen option to display the visualization. That button can be found on the bottom right of the visualization, next to the share button.

Bear in mind that some schools may have college—and career-ready rates that exceed graduation rates. This occurs when more seniors achieve one of the measures of college and career readiness than earn a diploma.

Alabama Graduation and College and Career Readiness, Class of 2024

Trends in CCR

Comparing CCR and Graduation Rates

Alabama Graduation Rate and CCR Rate, by System

Alabama Grad and CCR Rate, by School

Gap Between Graduation Rate and College and Career Readiness Rate

Graduation and CCR by Subgroup

CCR Rates by Measure

Select System

All

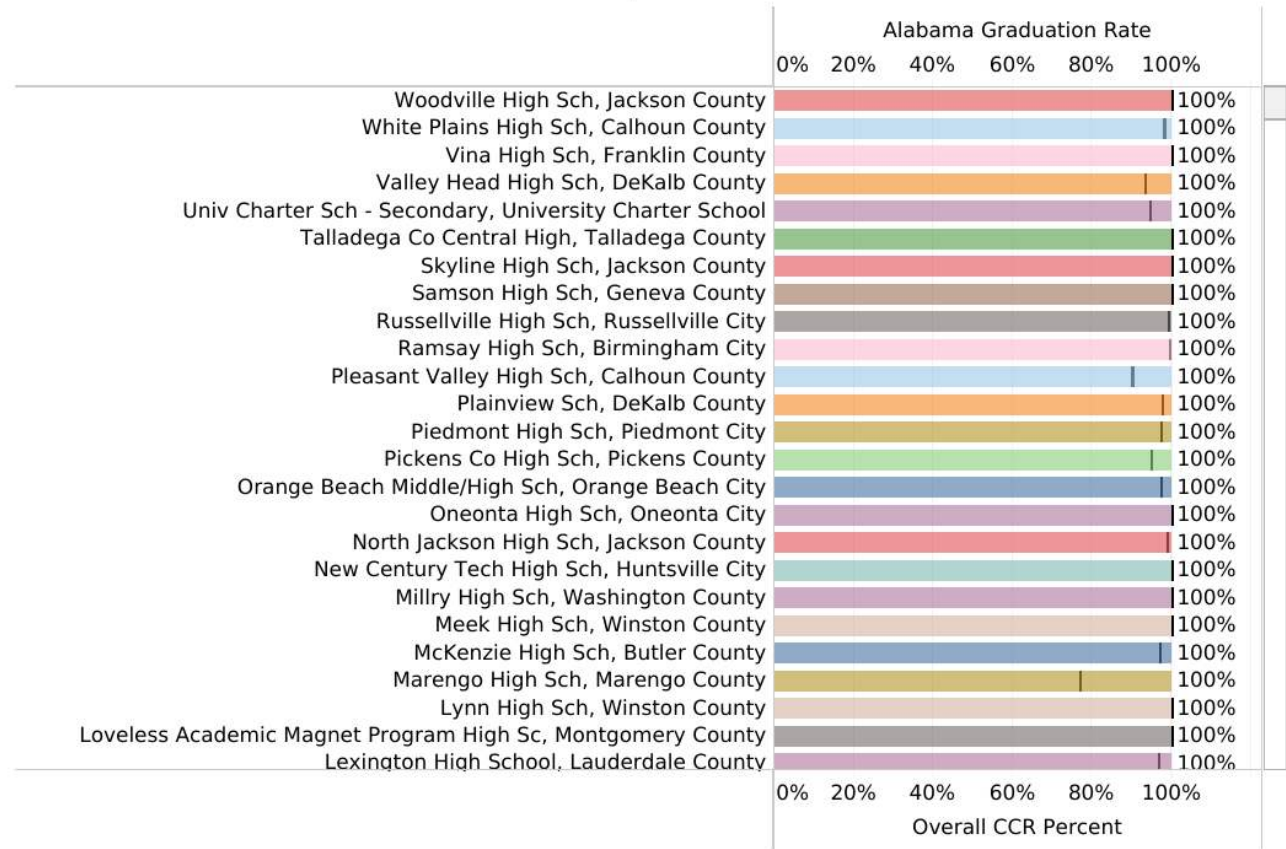
School Name

All

Combined Subgroups

All Students

Alabama Graduation Rates and CCR Rate, by School, 2024



For more information about this and other PARCA research, visit parcalabama.org.