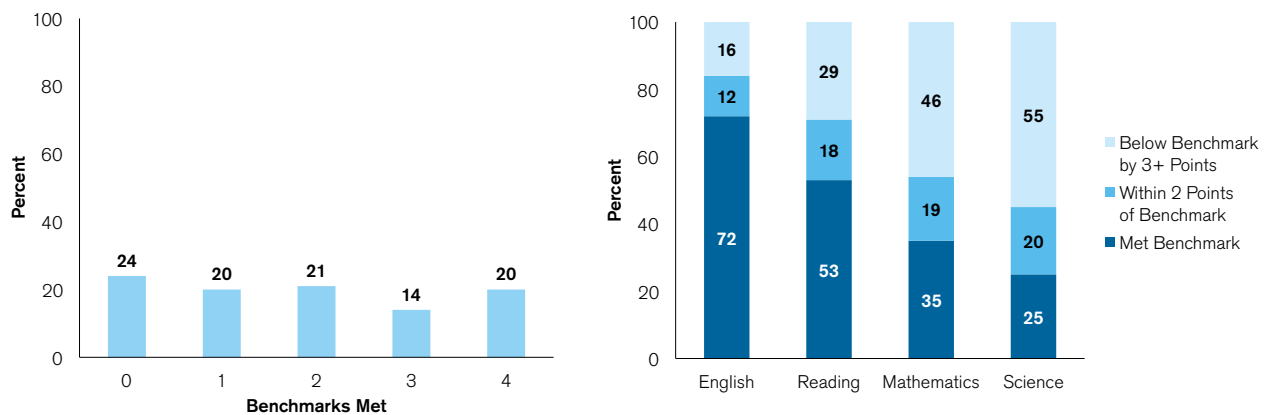


## Early Preparation

ACT research shows that younger students who take rigorous curricula are more prepared to graduate from high school ready for college or career. Moreover, our research (*The Forgotten Middle*, 2008) found that “the level of academic achievement that students attain by 8th grade has a larger impact on their college and career readiness by the time they graduate from high school than anything that happens academically in high school.”

**Percent of 2013–2014 ACT Plan®–Tested 10th Graders Meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmarks (N = 1,282,350)**



**Percent of 2013–2014 ACT Explore®–Tested 8th Graders Meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmarks (N = 1,011,462)**

