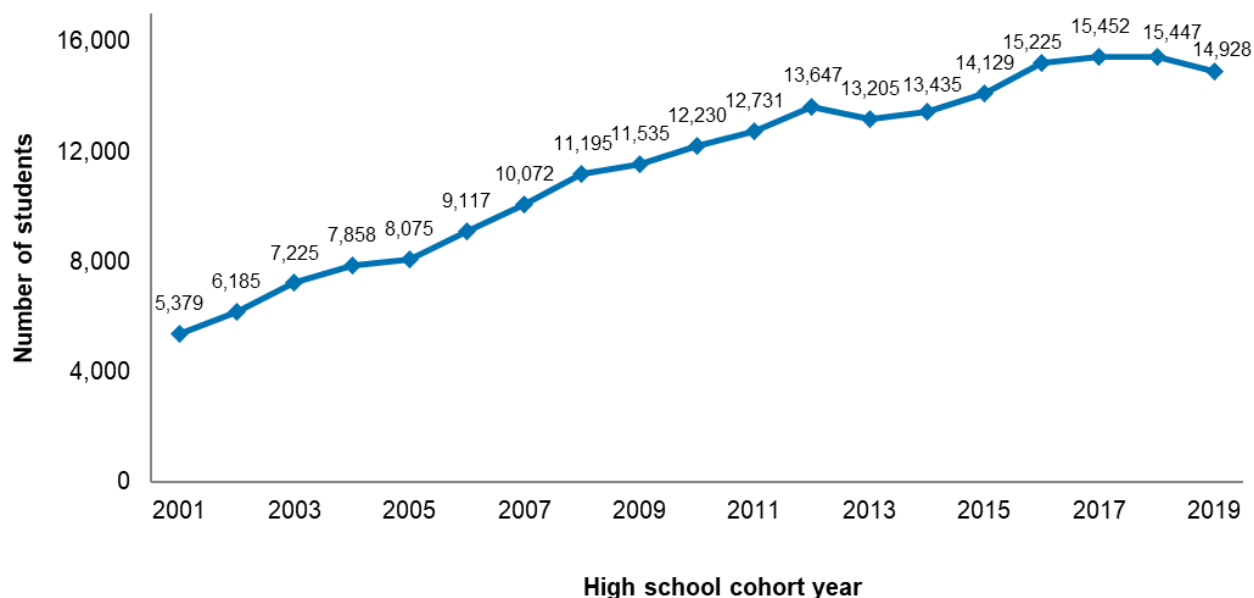


Homeschooled Students Now Account for 0.8% of all ACT Test-Takers

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The purpose of the brief is to explore trends in ACT® participation among homeschooled students from 2001 to 2019. Among the ACT-tested high school cohort of 2019, slightly more than 8 of every 1,000 students were classified as homeschooled.¹ The number of homeschooled students who took the ACT steadily increased from 5,379 in 2001 to a high of 15,452 in 2017. From 2017 to 2018, there was little change in the number of homeschooled test-takers, and there was a 3% decline from 2018 to 2019. After a relative peak of 13,647 students in 2012, there was a small decline for 2013, followed by relatively large gains in the number of homeschooled students taking the ACT for 2015 (5%) and 2016 (8%). Between 2001 and 2019, the number of homeschooled students who took the ACT increased 178%.

Figure 1. Number of ACT-Tested Homeschooled Students Increased Substantially from 2001 to 2019



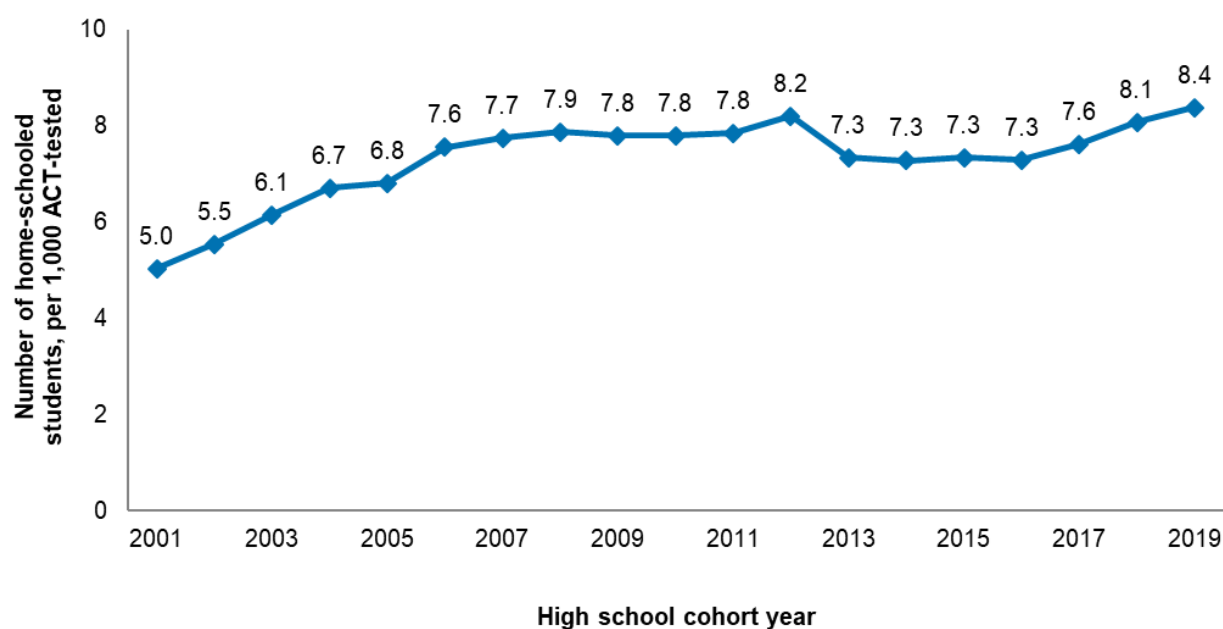
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The increase in the number of ACT-tested homeschooled students coincides with nationwide increases in the number of students taking the ACT.² Between the 2001 and 2016 cohorts, the total number of students taking the ACT increased 95%. Furthermore, among all students taking the ACT, the share of homeschooled students increased steadily between 2001 (5.0 per 1,000 ACT-tested) and 2012 (8.2 per 1,000 ACT-tested; see Figure 2). While the share of homeschooled students taking the ACT declined to 7.3 per 1,000 ACT-tested from 2013 through 2016, it began increasing in 2017 and hit an all-time high of 8.4 (per 1,000 ACT-tested) in 2019. The increase in share of homeschooled students taking the ACT from 2017 to 2019 occurred while the number of homeschooled ACT-tested students declined.

Figure 2. Share of Homeschooled Students Taking the ACT Increased by 40% from 2001 to 2019



The increase in ACT-tested homeschooled students is consistent with national trends: In 1999, 1.7% of all students in grades 9-12 were homeschooled. This percentage increased to 3.3% by 2016.³

Note: This data byte updates an earlier data byte published in 2015, together with ACT Composite Scores Among Homeschooled Students Trended Up from 2001 to 2019.

Notes

1. A student was classified as homeschooled according to their high school code from their last ACT test. Because some students are only homeschooled for a portion of their K-12 education, the statistics presented here reflect students who were homeschooled during grade 11 or 12.
2. One of the reasons for the increase in students taking the ACT is ACT statewide testing, which began in 2001 and has generally increased since.
3. National data on the percentage of students homeschooled was obtained from Table 206.10 of the 2018 Digest of Education Statistics published by the National Center for Education Statistics: NCES (2018). *List of 2018 digest tables*. Washington, DC: NCES. Retrieved from https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/2018menu_tables.asp.

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