

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019

California Key Findings

Performance of 2019 Graduates

- In the 2019 California graduating class, 98,032 graduates (an estimated 23 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 22.6. This compares to 121,815 (an estimated 30 percent) with an average of 22.5 in 2015. Nationally, an estimated 52 percent of 2019 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.7.
 - There were 3,956 African American graduates from California who took the ACT (4 percent) with an average Composite score of 19.1. This compares to 4,728 (4 percent) with an average of 19.0, and 5,724 (5 percent) with an average of 18.8, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 25,042 White graduates from California who took the ACT (26 percent) with an average Composite score of 25.6. This compares to 30,597 (26 percent) with an average of 25.5, and 34,033 (28 percent) with an average of 25.0, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 38,615 Hispanic graduates from California who took the ACT (39 percent) with an average Composite score of 19.4. This compares to 45,606 (38 percent) with an average of 19.7, and 46,767 (38 percent) with an average of 19.5, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 14,453 Asian graduates from California who took the ACT (15 percent) with an average Composite score of 26.4. This compares to 18,203 (15 percent) with an average of 26.1, and 18,439 (15 percent) with an average of 25.1, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 578 Pacific Islander graduates from California who took the ACT (1 percent) with an average Composite score of 21.9. This compares to 834 (1 percent) with an average of 21.9, and 1,148 (1 percent) with an average of 21.8, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - The 2019 California graduating class average English score was 22.4. This compares to 22.5 and 22.1 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 California graduating class average math score was 22.3. This compares to 22.5 and 22.7 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 California graduating class average reading score was 23.0. This compares to 23.0 and 22.6 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 California graduating class average science score was 22.2. This compares to 22.1 and 22.0 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.

- In 2019, 37 percent of California graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 37 and 37 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 26 percent of California graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 24 and 23 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 70 percent of California graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 72 and 72 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 52 percent of California graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 53 and 56 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 55 percent of California graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 56 and 54 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 46 percent of California graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 46 and 46 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 48,175 (49 percent) of California graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 59,136 and 61,044 (50 and 50 percent) out of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively. For reference, the national percentage of 2019 graduates meeting three or four benchmarks was 37 percent.

STEM

- In 2019, 50,769 California graduates (52 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
- 2019 California graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 29.4. This compares to 28.5 in 2015.
- 2019 California graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 29.8. This compares to 29.6 in 2015.

Career Readiness Indicator

- In 2019, 51,802 California graduates (53 percent) were likely to attain the Gold ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate or higher based upon ACT Composite score, compared to 726,923 (41 percent) nationally.
 - The ACT Composite scores associated with a 50% chance of earning each ACT WorkKeys NCRC level or higher are: 13 for Bronze, 17 for Silver, 22 for Gold, and 27 for Platinum. Based on those cut scores, students who earned an ACT Composite score of less than 13 would be classified as “Needs Improvement,” 13 to 16 as “Bronze,” 17 to 21 as “Silver,” and 22 or above as “Gold or Higher.”

Impact

- Based on the actual test volume and ACT score distributions of 2019 ACT-tested California high school graduates, ACT research estimates that an increase of 0.1 in state average ACT Composite score for the 2019 graduating class would result in:
 - 215 more students enrolling in college.
 - 245 more students persisting to year two.
 - 163 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - 261 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - 275 more students persisting to year four.
 - 295 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In California, 37,786 of the 2019 graduates (38.5 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 24.4, compared to an average of 21.5 for 60,246 of the 2019 graduates (61.5 percent) who took the ACT only once.
- 145,076 score reports were sent to colleges by 2019 California ACT-tested graduates.
 - 89,658 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2019 California ACT-tested graduates.
 - For California's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were the University of California - Los Angeles, the University of California - Irvine, the University of California - Davis, San Diego State University, and California State University - Long Beach.
 - For California's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were Arizona State University, the University of Oregon, and New York University.
- Compared to 66 percent of 2019 graduates nationally, 71 percent of California graduates opted into the ACT Educational Opportunity Service (EOS). EOS is a free service that allows students to gain exposure to recruitment, scholarship agencies, colleges, and universities that students may not have accessed on their own. The ACT Get Your Name in the Game initiative encourages colleges and universities to recruit underserved EOS participants to increase access and opportunity for all.
- In the 2018-2019 academic year, ACT issued 54,650 ACT fee waivers to qualified California students across all grades. However, 14,865 students (27.2 percent) did not take advantage of this opportunity to test for free. This compares to 487,749 waivers issued nationally, of which 135,569 (27.8 percent) students did not take advantage. This represents a great opportunity for high schools within the state to increase the socioeconomic diversity of its students tested.

Postsecondary Aspirations

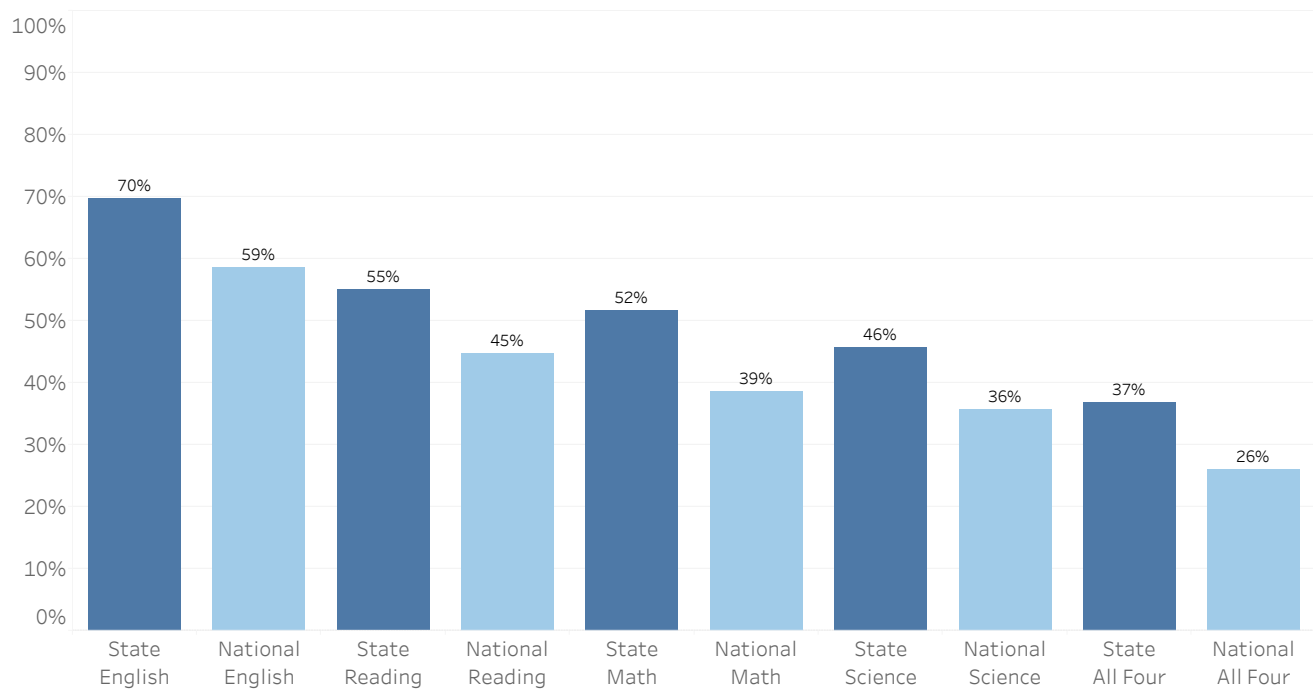
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - 43,390 students (44 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 24.8.
 - 36,403 students (37 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 21.2.
 - 1,194 students (1 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 16.7.
- In the California graduating class of 2019, 21,672 students (22 percent) had parents who did not attend college.

Additional Points

- The California ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with more than 830 members from across the state. The membership includes educators from state agencies, K-12, access, and postsecondary institutions, as well as members involved in workforce development. This year, ACT hosted three regional ACT Teacher Prep Workshops in California to help teachers and other educators prepare students to take the ACT assessment.
- Each ACT State Organization recognizes individuals who make a positive impact on their communities as College and Career Readiness Champions. The 2019 California ACT Champions are:
 - High school senior: Angel Emodi, Haethorne Math and Science Academy; K-12 professional: Janet Haun, Director of Student Programs, Contra Costa County Office of Education; postsecondary professional: Victor Rojas, Director of TRiO Programs, Mt. San Antonio College; and workforce professional: Alma Salazar, Senior Vice President, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.

CALIFORNIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates Meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmarks* by Subject



Data From Graph Above

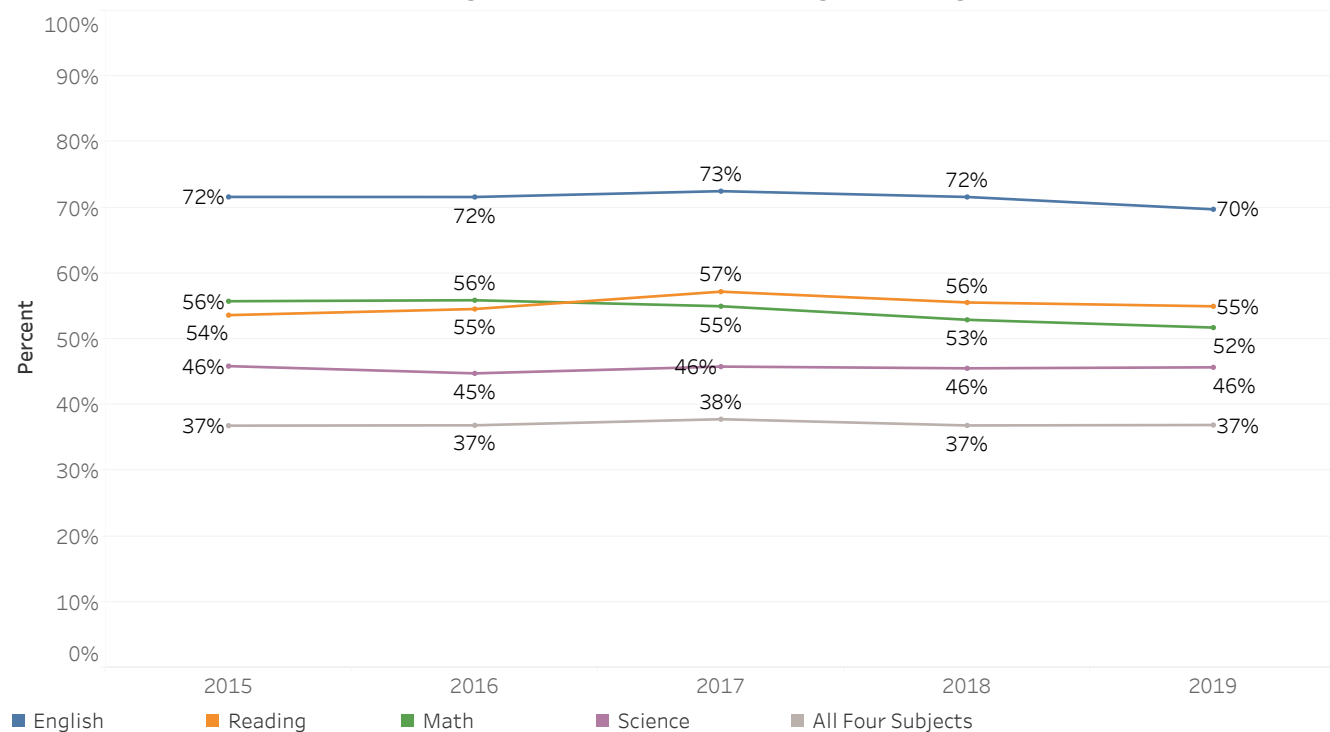
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
70%	59%	55%	45%	52%	39%	46%	36%	37%	26%

* The ACT College Readiness Benchmarks are scores on the ACT subject area tests that represent the level of achievement required for students to have a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in corresponding credit-bearing first-year college courses. Throughout this report, benchmark attainment corresponds with students meeting or exceeding 18 in English, 22 in Reading, 22 in Math and 23 in Science.

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

CALIFORNIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2015–2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates Meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmarks*



Data From Graph Above

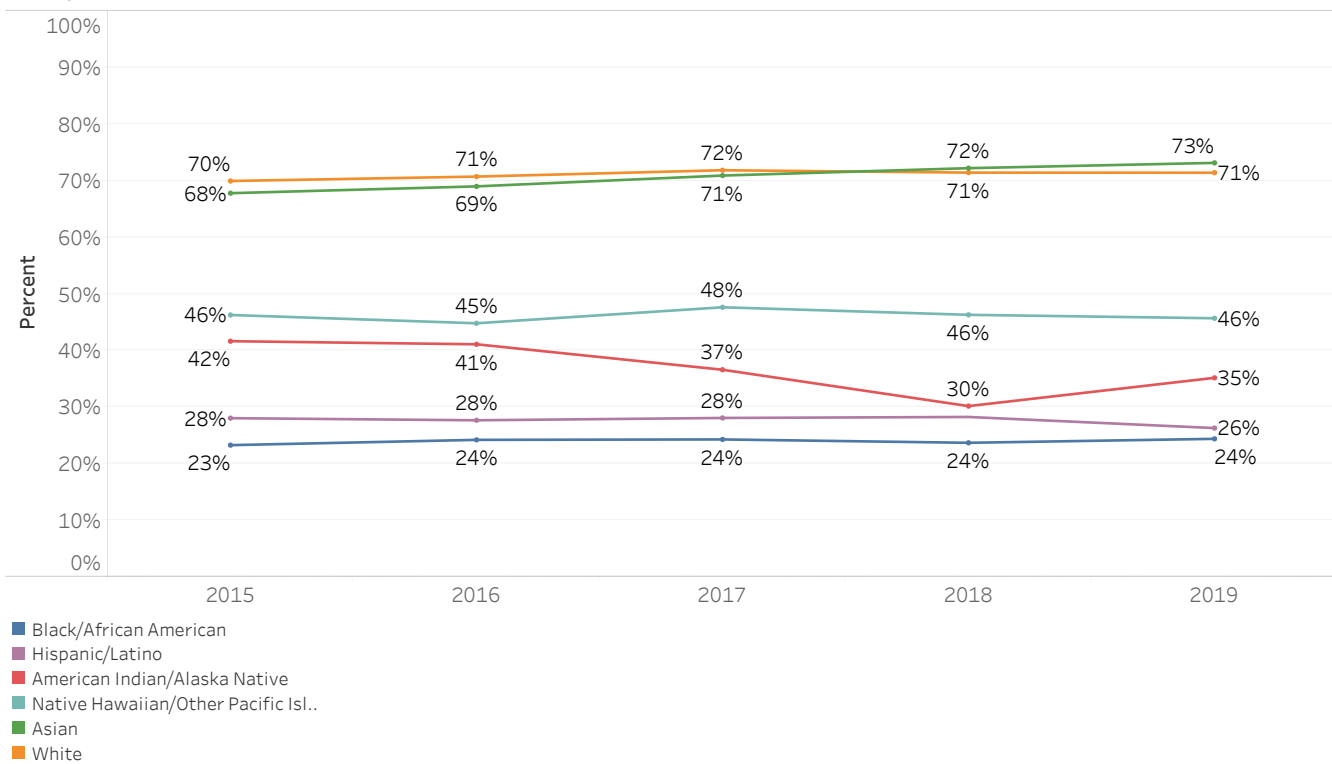
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	72%	54%	56%	46%	37%
2016	72%	55%	56%	45%	37%
2017	73%	57%	55%	46%	38%
2018	72%	56%	53%	46%	37%
2019	70%	55%	52%	46%	37%

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CALIFORNIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2015-2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates Meeting Three or More Benchmarks by Race/Ethnicity



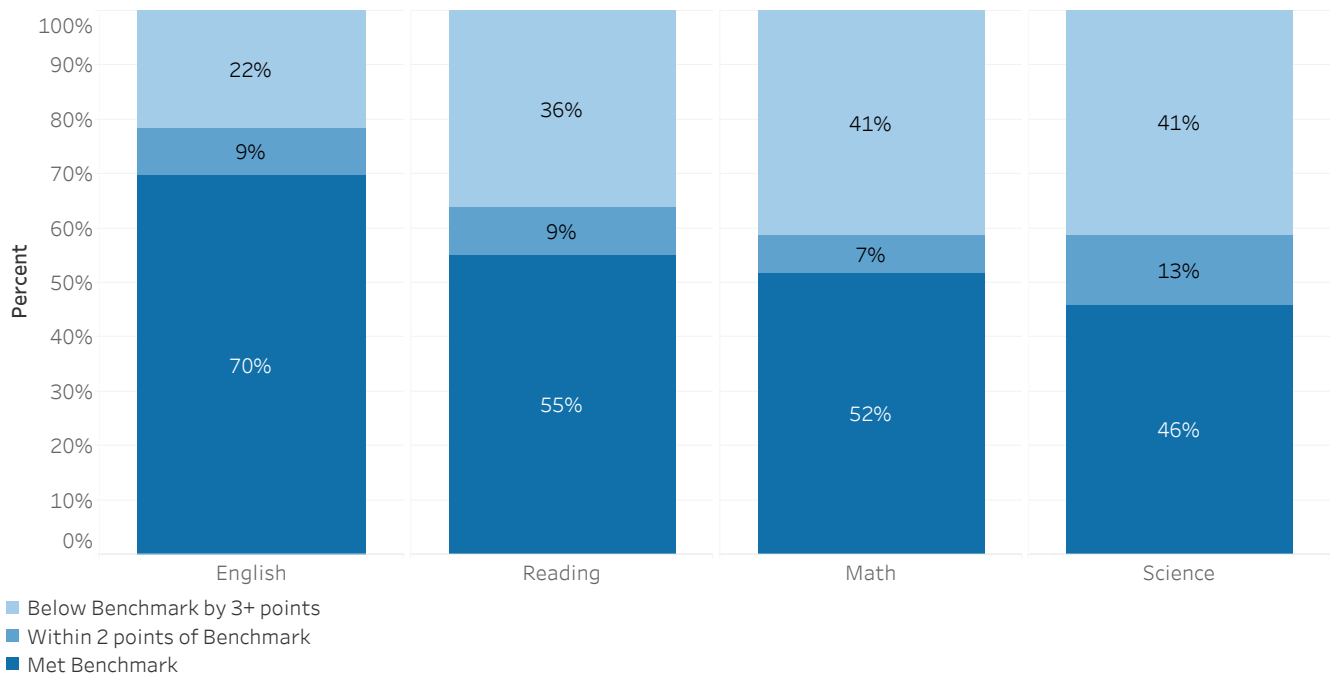
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2015	23%	28%	42%	46%	68%	70%
2016	24%	28%	41%	45%	69%	71%
2017	24%	28%	37%	48%	71%	72%
2018	24%	28%	30%	46%	72%	71%
2019	24%	26%	35%	46%	73%	71%

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CALIFORNIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates by ACT College Readiness Benchmark Attainment and Subject



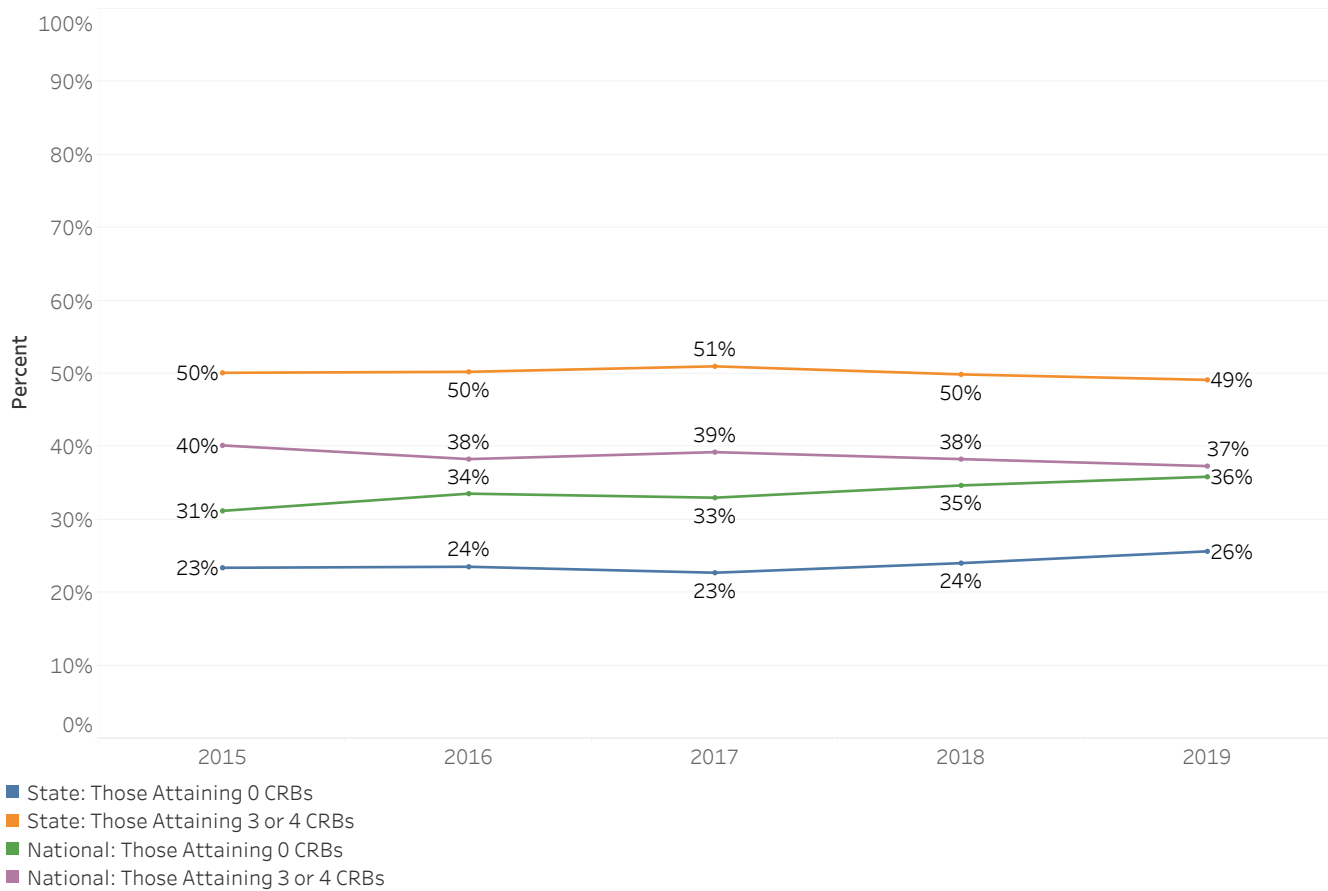
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	22%	9%	70%
Math	41%	7%	52%
Reading	36%	9%	55%
Science	41%	13%	46%

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CALIFORNIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2015–2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates Meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmarks*



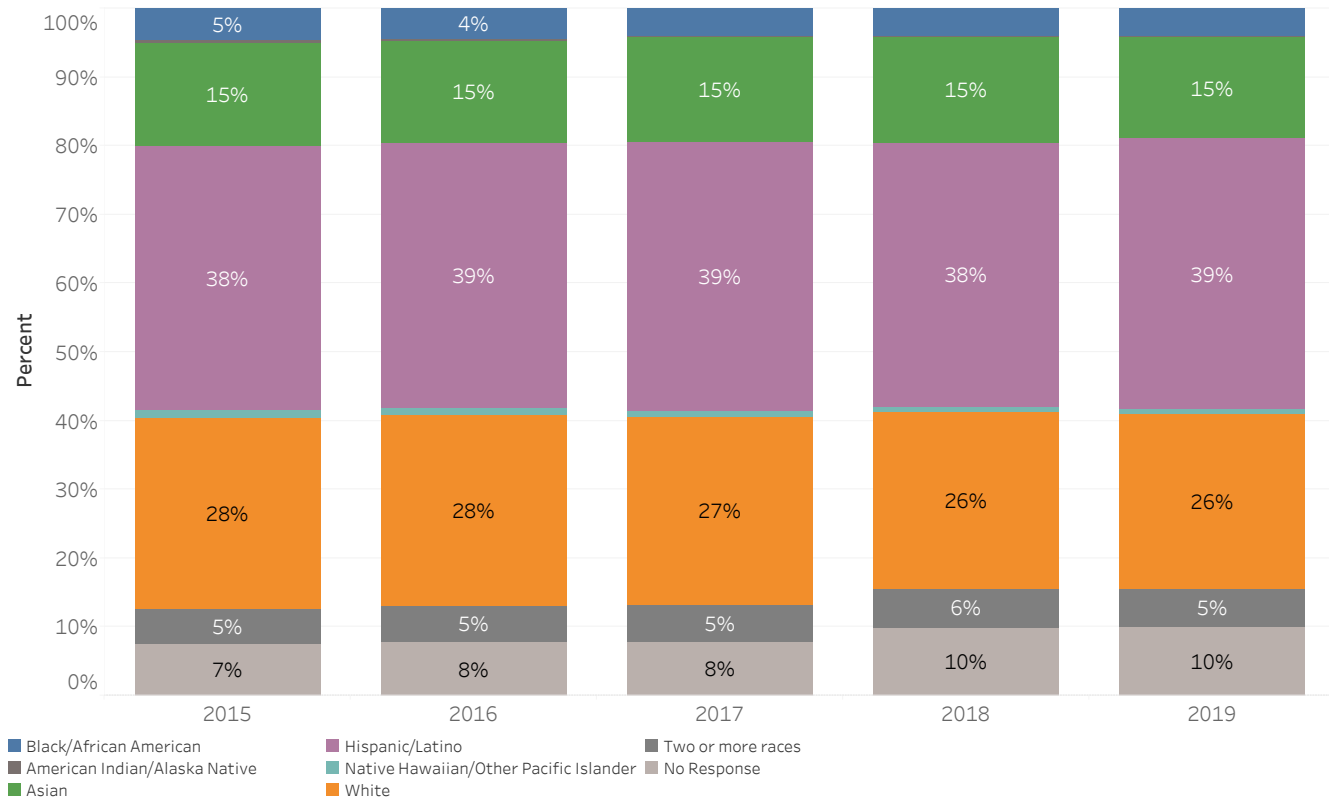
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	State: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	State: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs
2015	23%	50%	31%	40%
2016	24%	50%	34%	38%
2017	23%	51%	33%	39%
2018	24%	50%	35%	38%
2019	26%	49%	36%	37%

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CALIFORNIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2015-2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity



Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	American Indian/Alaska Native	Asian	Hispanic/Latino	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	White	Two or more races	No Response
2015	5%	0%	15%	38%	1%	28%	5%	7%
2016	4%	0%	15%	39%	1%	28%	5%	8%
2017	4%	0%	15%	39%	1%	27%	5%	8%
2018	4%	0%	15%	38%	1%	26%	6%	10%
2019	4%	0%	15%	39%	1%	26%	5%	10%

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CALIFORNIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

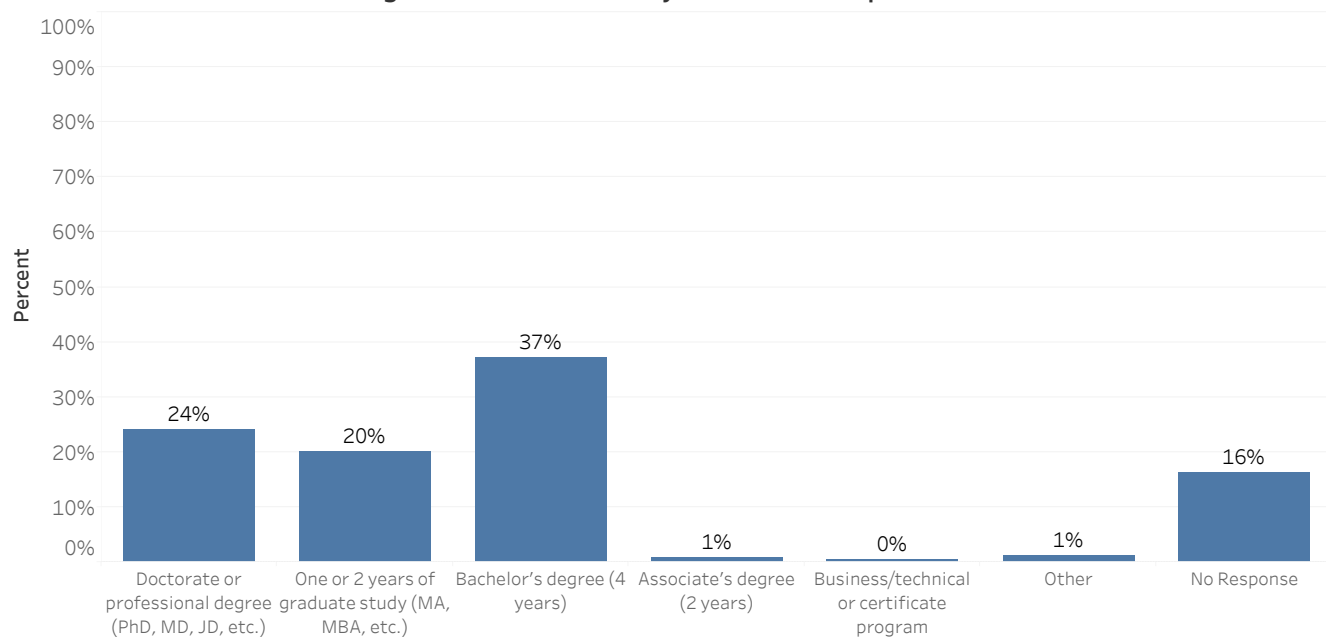
Student Data Trends: 2015-2019, State vs. Nation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	121,815	127,225	130,665	118,521	98,032
National N-count	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817	1,782,820
Average ACT English Score - State	22.1	22.1	22.5	22.5	22.4
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	22.6	22.9	23.1	23.0	23.0
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	22.7	22.7	22.7	22.5	22.3
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	22.0	22.1	22.2	22.1	22.2
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	22.5	22.6	22.8	22.7	22.6
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

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CALIFORNIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates by Educational Aspirations



Data From Graph Above

	% of Graduates
Doctorate or professional degree (PhD, MD, JD, etc.)	24%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	20%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	37%
Associate's degree (2 years)	1%
Business/technical or certificate program	0%
Other	1%
No Response	16%

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