

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019

Georgia Key Findings

Performance of 2019 Graduates

- Georgia students outperformed the nation on the ACT in 2019 for the fourth consecutive year and fourth time in state history.
- In the 2019 Georgia graduating class, 53,036 graduates (an estimated 49 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 21.4. This compares to 54,653 (an estimated 58 percent) with an average of 21.0 in 2015. Nationally, an estimated 52 percent of 2019 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.7.
 - The 2019 Georgia graduating class average English score was 20.9. This compares to 20.9 and 20.6 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 Georgia graduating class average math score was 20.7. This compares to 20.7 and 20.5 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 Georgia graduating class average reading score was 22.2. This compares to 22.1 and 21.6 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 Georgia graduating class average science score was 21.2. This compares to 21.2 and 20.9 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
- In 2019, 28 percent of Georgia graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 27 and 26 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 30 percent of Georgia graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 30 and 31 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 65 percent of Georgia graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 65 and 64 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 40 percent of Georgia graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 40 and 38 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 50 percent of Georgia graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 49 and 46 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 39 percent of Georgia graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 38 and 36 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 21,483 (41 percent) of Georgia graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 22,492 and 20,650 (40 and 38 percent) out of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively. For reference, the national percentage of 2019 graduates meeting three or four benchmarks was 37 percent.
- 52 percent of 2019 Georgia graduates were Proficient or Above Proficient in understanding complex texts.
- 48 percent of 2019 Georgia graduates were Below Proficient in understanding complex texts.

STEM

- In 2019, 27,849 Georgia graduates (53 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
- This continued interest in STEM surpasses the national interest in STEM (43%).
- Compared to a 2019 Georgia graduating class average ACT STEM score of 21.2, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM averages of 21.2 and 20.9, respectively.
- Compared to 21 percent of 2019 Georgia graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 20 and 19, respectively.
- In 2019, 38,129 Georgia graduates (72 percent) indicated taking physics. This compares to 73 and 72 percent for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - 44 percent of 2019 Georgia graduates taking physics met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 23 for students not taking physics.
- 2019 Georgia graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 29.2. This compares to 28.6 in 2015.
- 2019 Georgia graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 28.8. This compares to 28.5 in 2015.

Career Readiness Indicator

- In 2019, 23,513 Georgia graduates (44 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 Georgia 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:
 - 124 more students enrolling in college.
 - 141 more students persisting to year two.
 - 102 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - 171 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - 154 more students persisting to year four.
 - 165 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Georgia, 25,154 of the 2019 graduates (47.4 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 22.8, compared to an average of 20.1 for 27,882 of the 2019 graduates (52.6 percent) who took the ACT only once.
 - Nationwide, 765,568 of the 2019 graduates (42.9 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 22.7, compared to an average of 19.2 for 1,017,252 of the 2019 graduates (57.1 percent) who took the ACT only once.

- 96,384 score reports were sent to colleges by 2019 Georgia ACT-tested graduates.
 - 58,428 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2019 Georgia ACT-tested graduates.
 - For Georgia's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were the University of Georgia, Kennesaw State University, Georgia State University, Georgia Southern University - Statesboro, and the University of North Georgia.
 - For Georgia's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were Auburn University, the University of Alabama, and Clemson University.
- Compared to 66 percent of 2019 graduates nationally, 71 percent of Georgia 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.
 - Compared to 75 percent of African American students nationally, 83 percent of Georgia African American 2019 graduates opted into EOS.
- In the 2018-2019 academic year, ACT issued 25,330 ACT fee waivers to qualified Georgia students across all grades. However, 6,530 students (25.8 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.
 - While African American Georgia students represent 63 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 64 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 32 and 34 nationally.
 - While White Georgia students represent 12 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 12 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 19 and 17 nationally.
 - While Hispanic Georgia students represent 15 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 14 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 35 and 36 nationally.

Postsecondary Aspirations

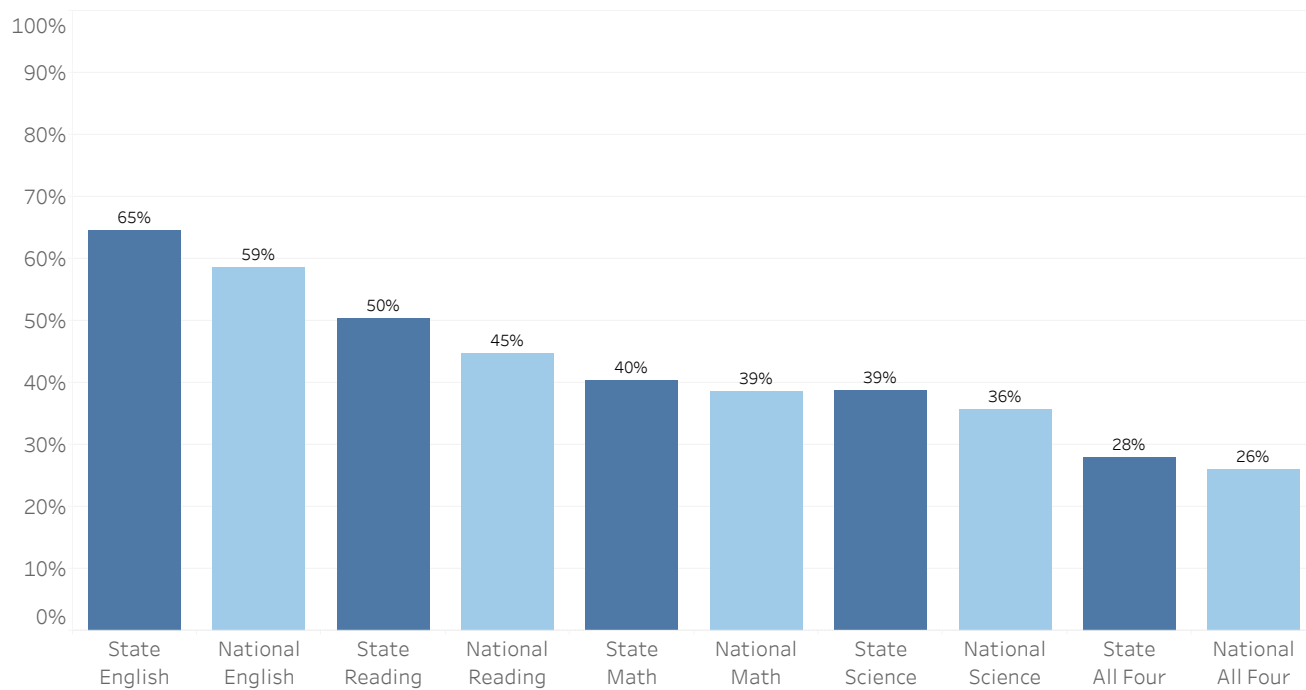
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - 21,488 students (41 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 23.5.
 - 25,346 students (48 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 20.0.
 - 1,556 students (3 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 16.6.
- In the Georgia graduating class of 2019, 7,648 students (14 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2019 Georgia graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; and Biology, General.
 - In the Georgia graduating class of 2019, 8,974 students (17 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 21.8. Decision making regarding college major can be facilitated through activities included in ACT Aspire and PreACT testing experiences. In addition, the Student Score Report is a valuable tool for conversations using the College and Career Planning and Interest-Major Fit sections.
 - In the Georgia graduating class of 2019, 2,038 (4 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 19.8.

Additional Points

- The Georgia ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with more than 530 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.
- In 2019, ACT honored College and Career Readiness Champions in most states. The Georgia honorees were:
 - High school senior: Jochebed Yeboah, Discovery High School; K-12 professional: Thaddius Brown, Colquitt County Achievement Center; postsecondary professional: Corine Ackerson-Jones, Georgia Southern University, Armstrong Campus; and workforce professional: Kathy Lindberg, Wilco Printing and Signs.

GEORGIA 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

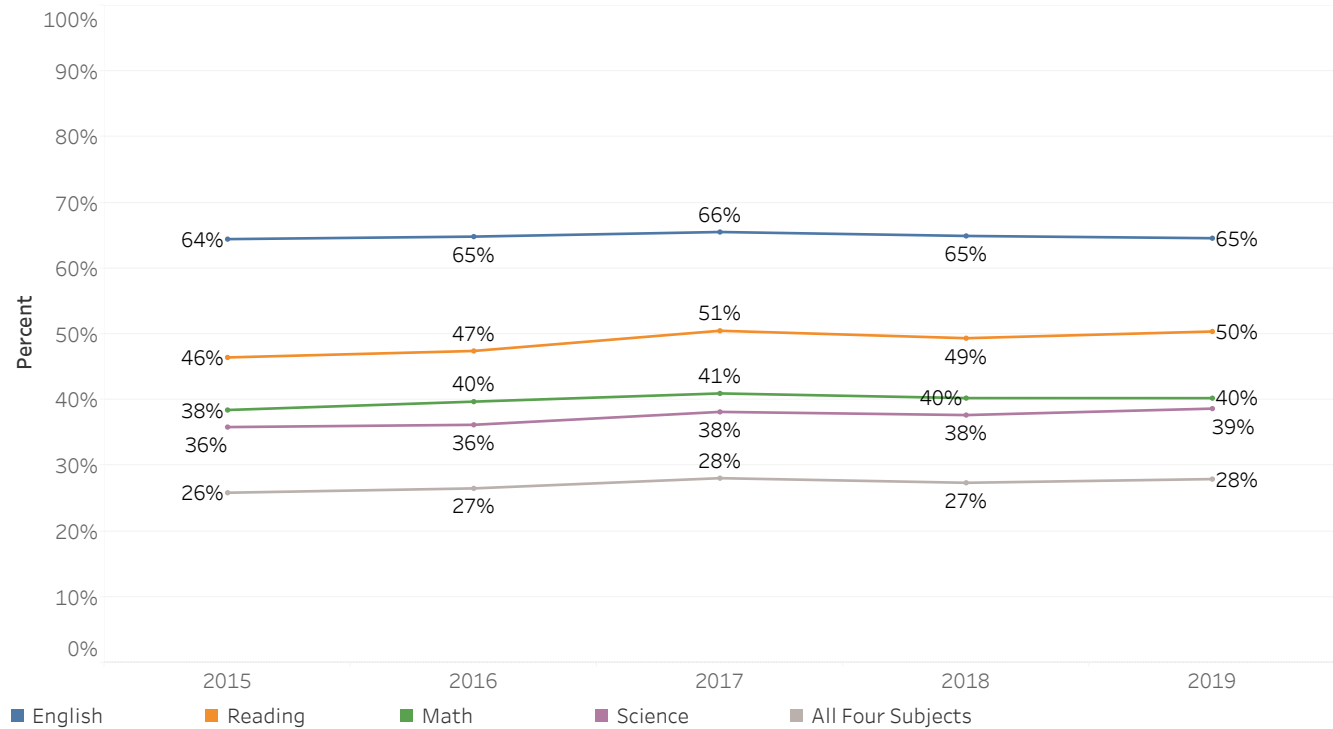
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
65%	59%	50%	45%	40%	39%	39%	36%	28%	26%

* 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.

GEORGIA 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

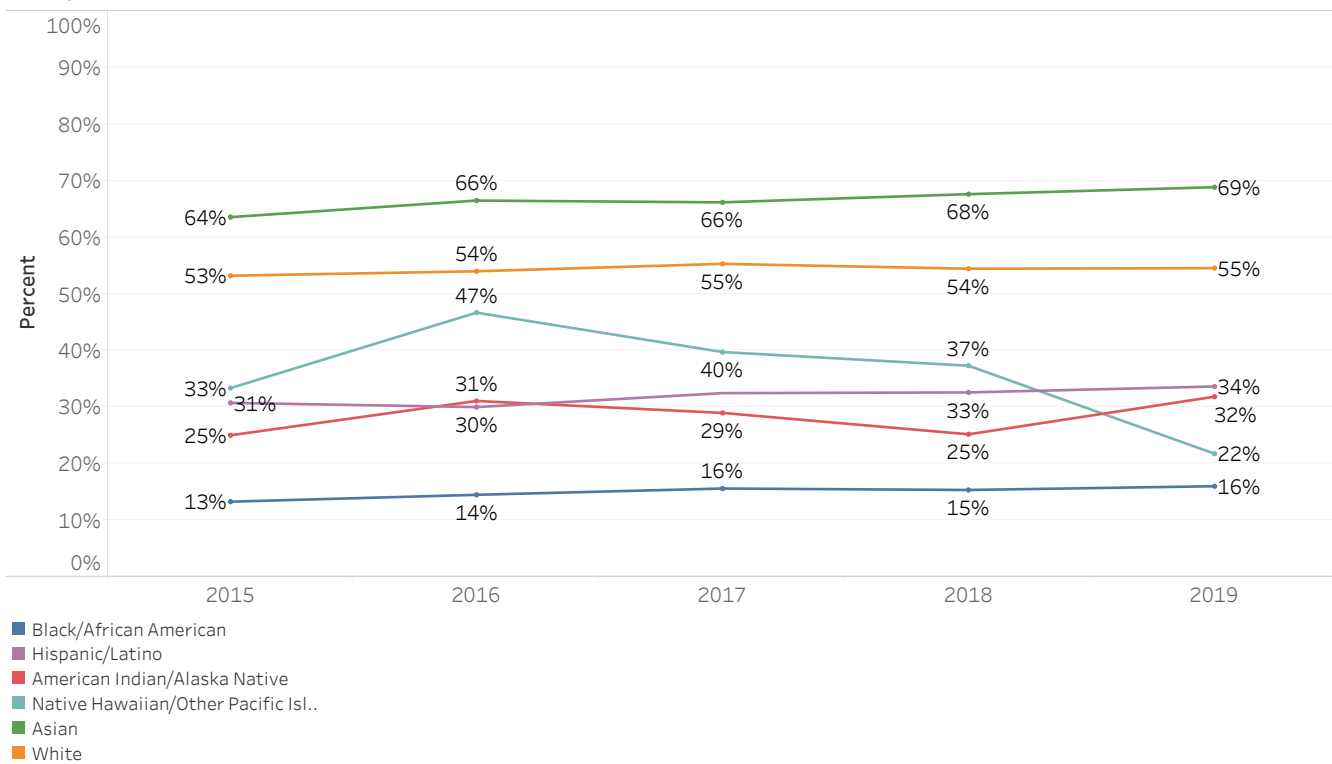
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	64%	46%	38%	36%	26%
2016	65%	47%	40%	36%	27%
2017	66%	51%	41%	38%	28%
2018	65%	49%	40%	38%	27%
2019	65%	50%	40%	39%	28%

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GEORGIA 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



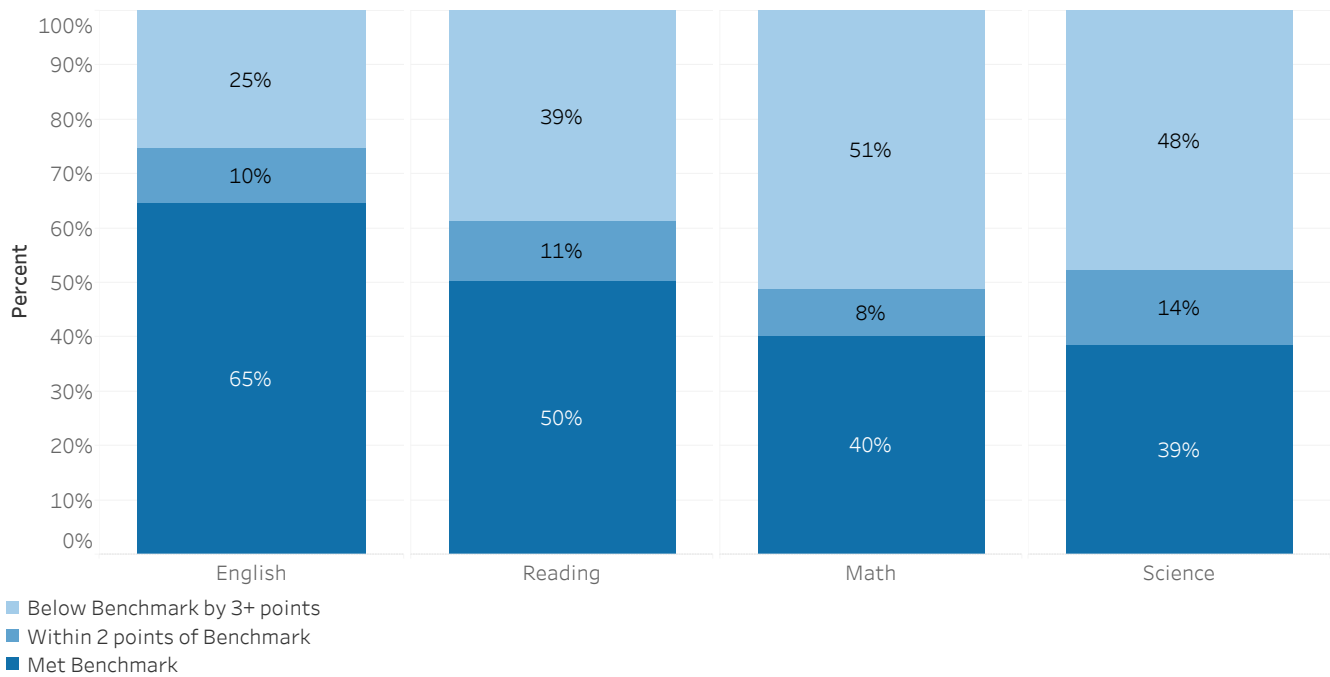
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2015	13%	31%	25%	33%	64%	53%
2016	14%	30%	31%	47%	66%	54%
2017	16%	32%	29%	40%	66%	55%
2018	15%	33%	25%	37%	68%	54%
2019	16%	34%	32%	22%	69%	55%

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GEORGIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



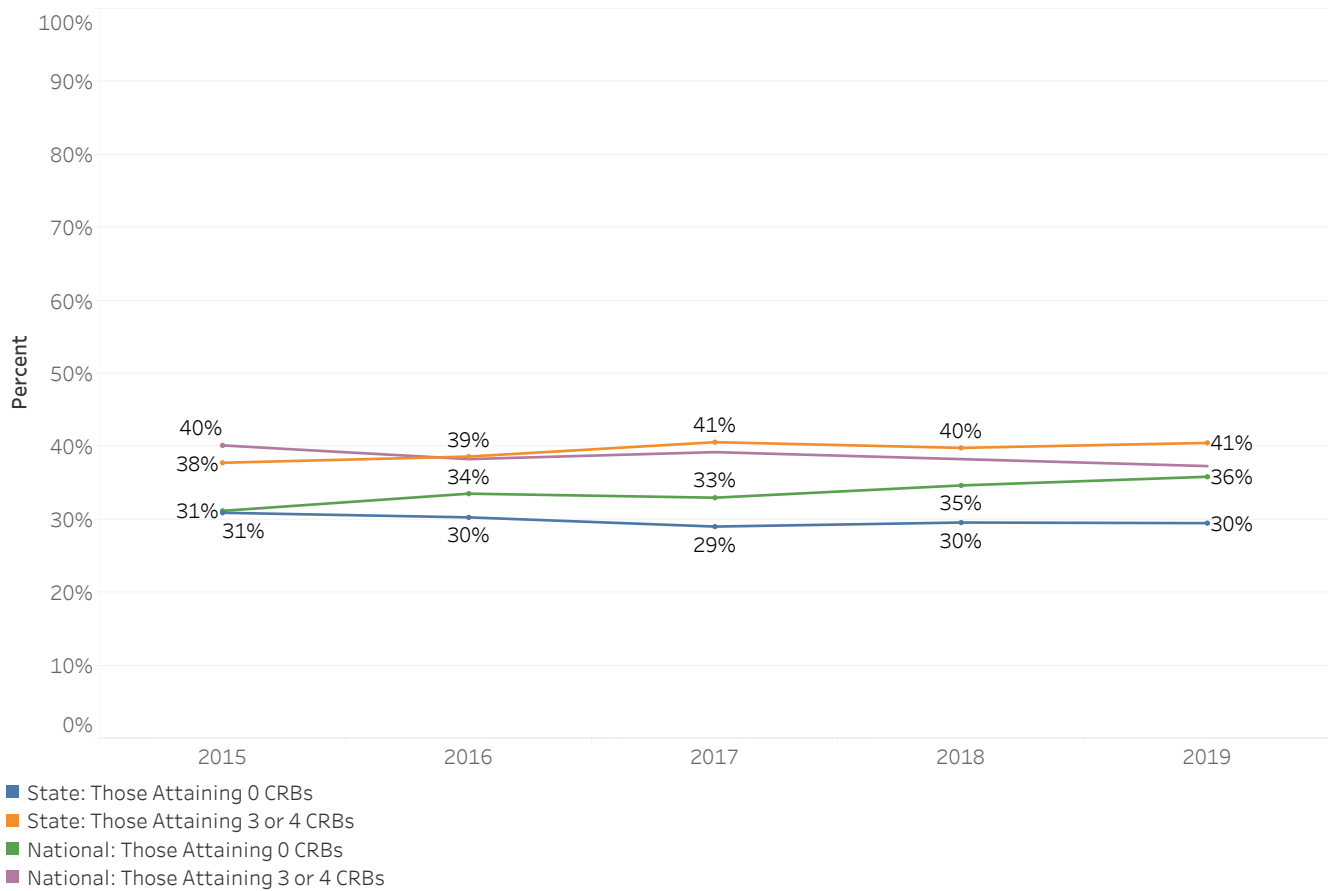
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	25%	10%	65%
Math	51%	8%	40%
Reading	39%	11%	50%
Science	48%	14%	39%

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GEORGIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



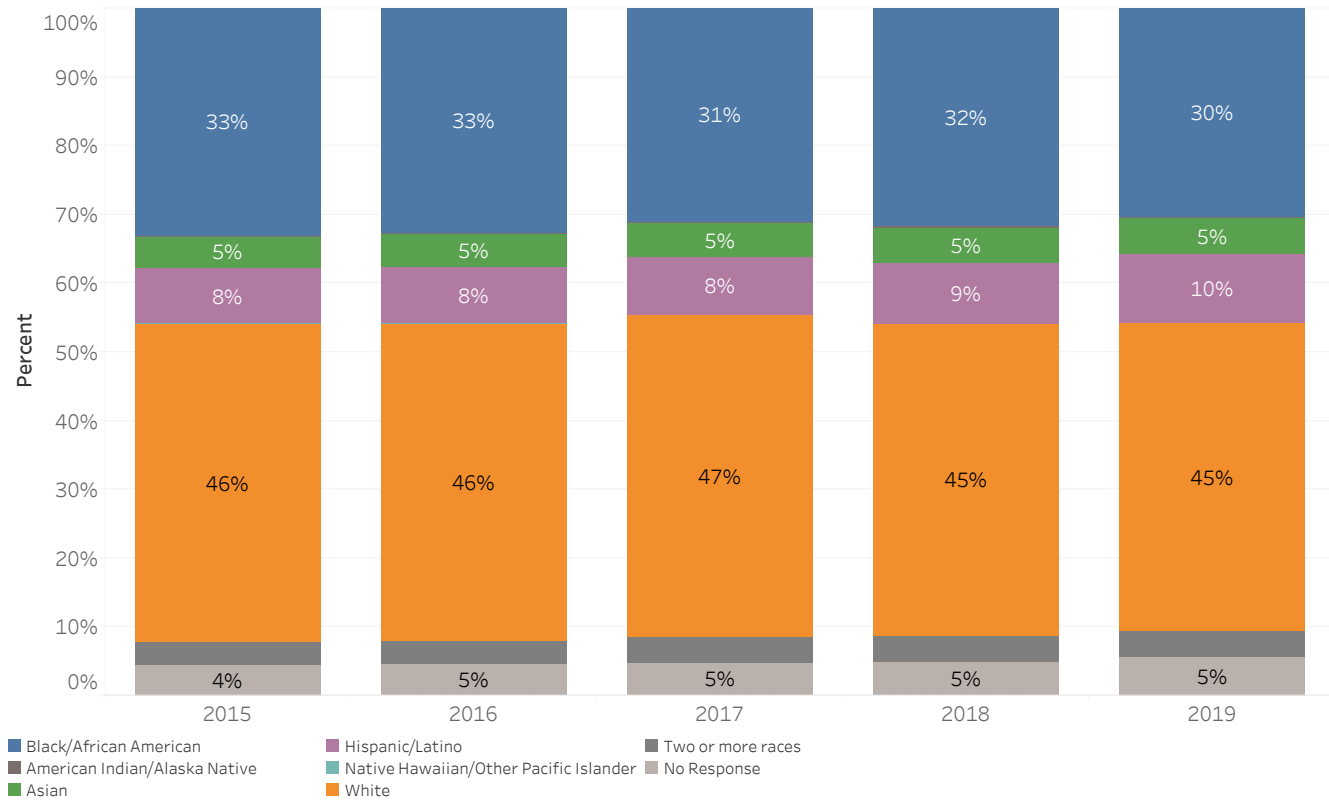
Data from Graph Above

	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	31%	38%	31%	40%
2016	30%	39%	34%	38%
2017	29%	41%	33%	39%
2018	30%	40%	35%	38%
2019	30%	41%	36%	37%

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GEORGIA 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	33%	0%	5%	8%	0%	46%	3%	4%
2016	33%	0%	5%	8%	0%	46%	3%	5%
2017	31%	0%	5%	8%	0%	47%	4%	5%
2018	32%	0%	5%	9%	0%	45%	4%	5%
2019	30%	0%	5%	10%	0%	45%	4%	5%

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GEORGIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

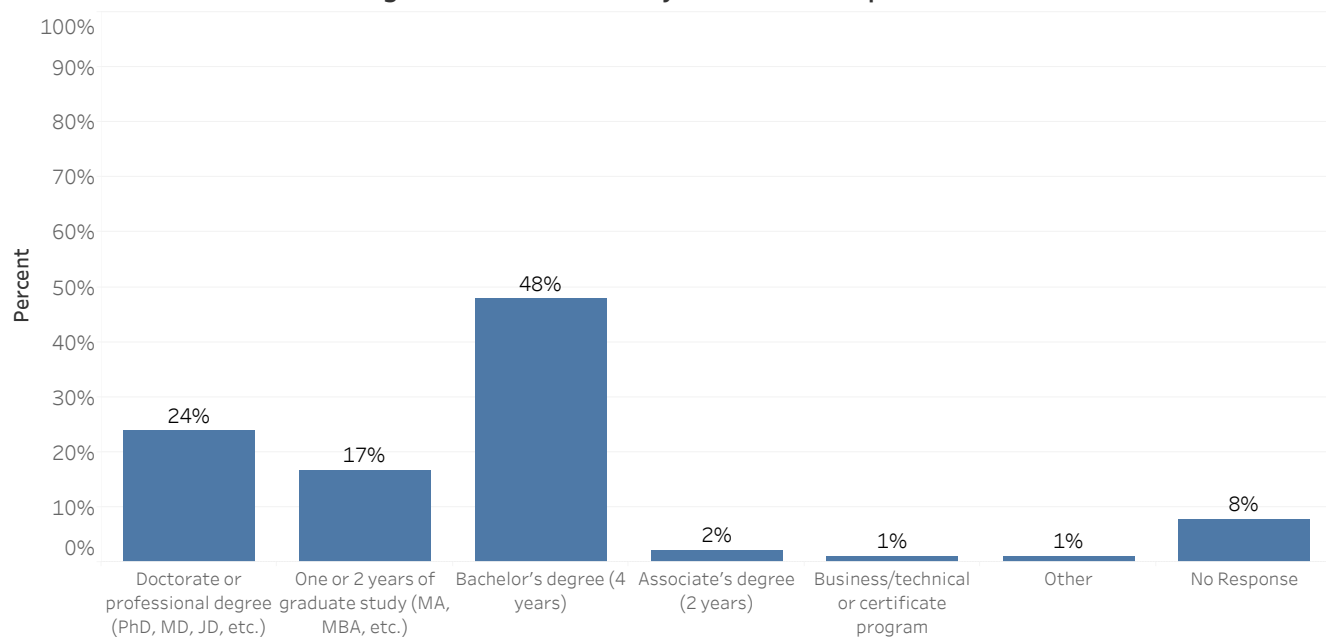
Student Data Trends: 2015-2019, State vs. Nation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	54,653	58,073	57,431	56,481	53,036
National N-count	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817	1,782,820
Average ACT English Score - State	20.6	20.7	21.0	20.9	20.9
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	21.6	21.8	22.0	22.1	22.2
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	20.5	20.6	20.9	20.7	20.7
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	20.9	21.0	21.3	21.2	21.2
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	21.0	21.1	21.4	21.4	21.4
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

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GEORGIA 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.)	17%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	48%
Associate's degree (2 years)	2%
Business/technical or certificate program	1%
Other	1%
No Response	8%

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