

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019

Minnesota Key Findings

Performance of 2019 Graduates

- In the 2019 Minnesota graduating class, 59,186 graduates (an estimated 95 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 21.4. This compares to 46,862 (an estimated 78 percent) with an average of 22.7 in 2015. Nationally, an estimated 52 percent of 2019 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.7.
 - There were 4,284 African American graduates from Minnesota who took the ACT (7 percent) with an average Composite score of 16.8. This compares to 4,109 (7 percent) with an average of 16.9, and 2,744 (6 percent) with an average of 17.6, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 419 American Indian graduates from Minnesota who took the ACT (1 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.4. This compares to 425 (1 percent) with an average of 17.2, and 220 (0 percent) with an average of 19.3, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 36,739 White graduates from Minnesota who took the ACT (62 percent) with an average Composite score of 22.7. This compares to 38,665 (63 percent) with an average of 22.5, and 33,796 (72 percent) with an average of 23.7, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 4,505 Hispanic graduates from Minnesota who took the ACT (8 percent) with an average Composite score of 18.3. This compares to 4,207 (7 percent) with an average of 18.5, and 2,562 (5 percent) with an average of 19.8, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
- In 2019, 30 percent of Minnesota graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 30 and 39 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 31 percent of Minnesota graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 32 and 20 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - 2019 Minnesota graduates taking more advanced English coursework demonstrated markedly higher average English scores than those who did not. In fact, 68 percent of Minnesota 2019 graduates taking four or more years of English met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 37 percent of students taking less than four years of English meeting the benchmark.
 - 2019 Minnesota graduates taking more advanced math coursework demonstrated markedly higher average math scores than those who did not. In fact, 53 percent of Minnesota 2019 graduates taking three or more years of math met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 15 percent of students taking less than three years of math meeting the benchmark.
 - 2019 Minnesota graduates taking more advanced social studies coursework demonstrated markedly higher average reading scores than those who did not. In fact, 53 percent of Minnesota 2019 graduates taking three or more years of social studies met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 32 percent of students taking less than three years of social studies meeting the benchmark.
 - 2019 Minnesota graduates taking more advanced science coursework demonstrated markedly higher average science scores than those who did not. In fact, 47 percent of Minnesota 2019 graduates taking three or more years of science met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 19 percent of students taking less than three years of science meeting the benchmark.
 - In 2019, 25,574 (43 percent) of Minnesota graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 26,390 and 25,513 (43 and 54 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

- Compared to a 2019 Minnesota graduating class average ACT STEM score of 21.7, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM averages of 21.6 and 23.0, respectively.
- Compared to 24 percent of 2019 Minnesota graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 24 and 30, respectively.
 - 2019 Minnesota graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.8. This compares to 28.3 in 2015.
 - 2019 graduates taking three or more years of math had an average math score of 22.1, compared to 17.1 for students taking less than three years of math.

Career Readiness Indicator

- In 2019, 27,322 Minnesota graduates (46 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 Minnesota 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:
 - 138 more students enrolling in college.
 - 156 more students persisting to year two.
 - 116 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - 174 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - 172 more students persisting to year four.
 - 183 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Minnesota, 25,891 of the 2019 graduates (43.7 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 23.7, compared to an average of 19.5 for 33,295 of the 2019 graduates (56.3 percent) who took the ACT only once.
- 134,368 score reports were sent to colleges by 2019 Minnesota ACT-tested graduates.
 - For Minnesota’s 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, the University of Minnesota - Duluth, Minnesota State University Mankato, St. Cloud State University, and North Dakota State University.
 - For Minnesota’s 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were North Dakota State University, the University of Wisconsin - Madison, and the University of North Dakota.

- Compared to 66 percent of 2019 graduates nationally, 61 percent of Minnesota 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 6,983 ACT fee waivers to qualified Minnesota students across all grades. However, 1,835 students (26.3 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. Fee waivers represent a great opportunity for students of low socioeconomic status to retake without incurring any fees.

Postsecondary Aspirations

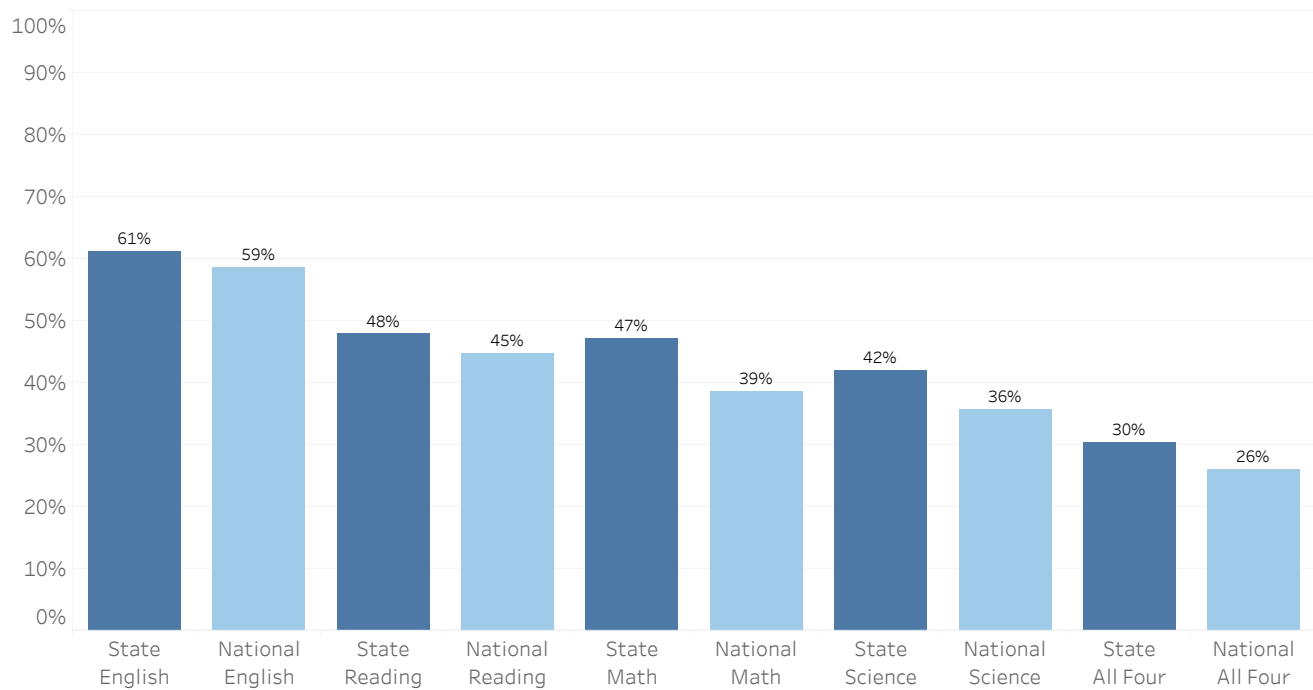
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - 13,980 students (24 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 24.7.
 - 23,004 students (39 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 21.5.
 - 3,978 students (7 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 17.2.
- In the Minnesota graduating class of 2019, 6,073 students (10 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2019 Minnesota graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; and Biology, General.
 - In the Minnesota graduating class of 2019, 7,443 students (13 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 22.2. 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 Minnesota graduating class of 2019, 2,259 (4 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 21.3.

Additional Points

- The Minnesota ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with roughly 300 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. Each year, ACT hosts a state summit that brings together professionals representing each of these areas, providing a unique and diverse professional development opportunity.
- According to the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the fastest-growing careers in Minnesota requiring education beyond high school are: Wind Turbine Service Technicians, Statisticians, and Physician Assistants.
- In 2019, ACT honored College and Career Readiness Champions in most states. The Minnesota honorees were:
 - High school senior: Khadar Abdi, St. Cloud Technical High School; K-12 professional: Carly Norman, 7-12 Math Teacher, Kelliher School; and workforce professional: Tom Hoff, Career and Technical Project Coordinator, SWWC Service Cooperative.

MINNESOTA 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

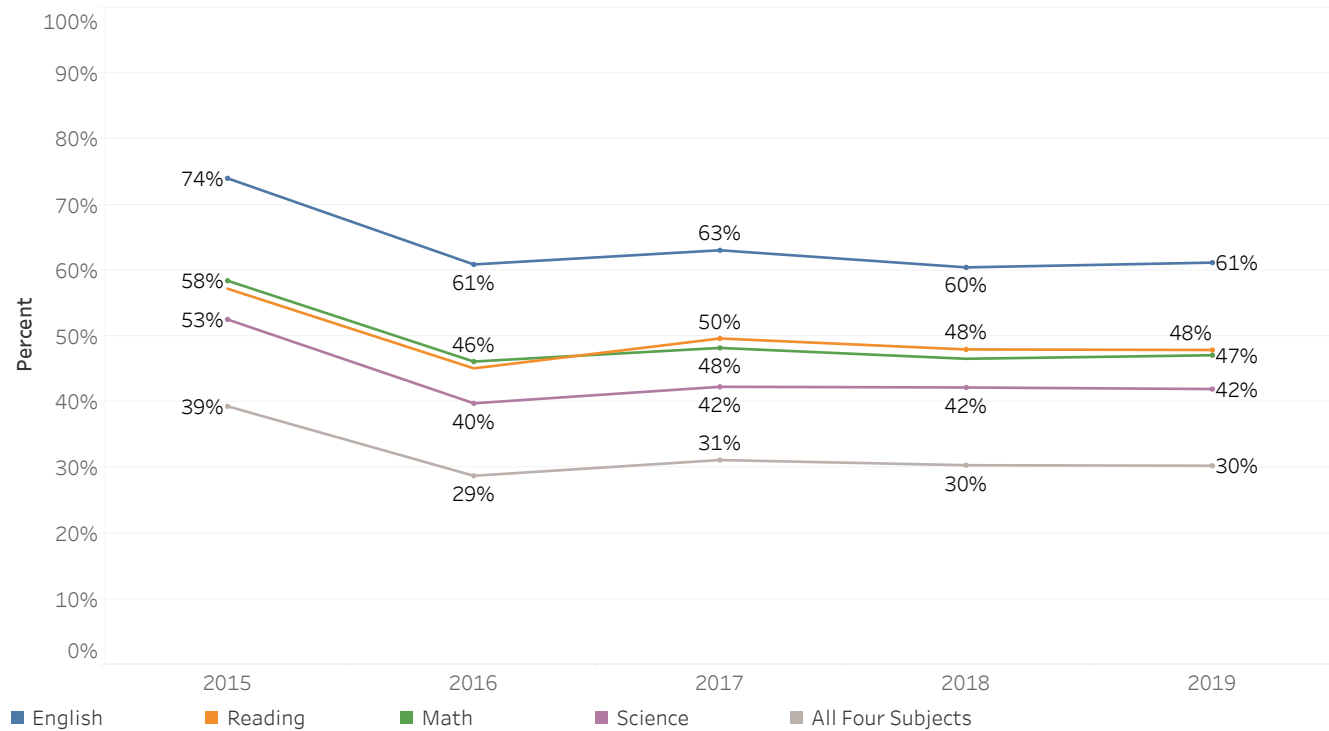
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
61%	59%	48%	45%	47%	39%	42%	36%	30%	26%

* 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.

MINNESOTA 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

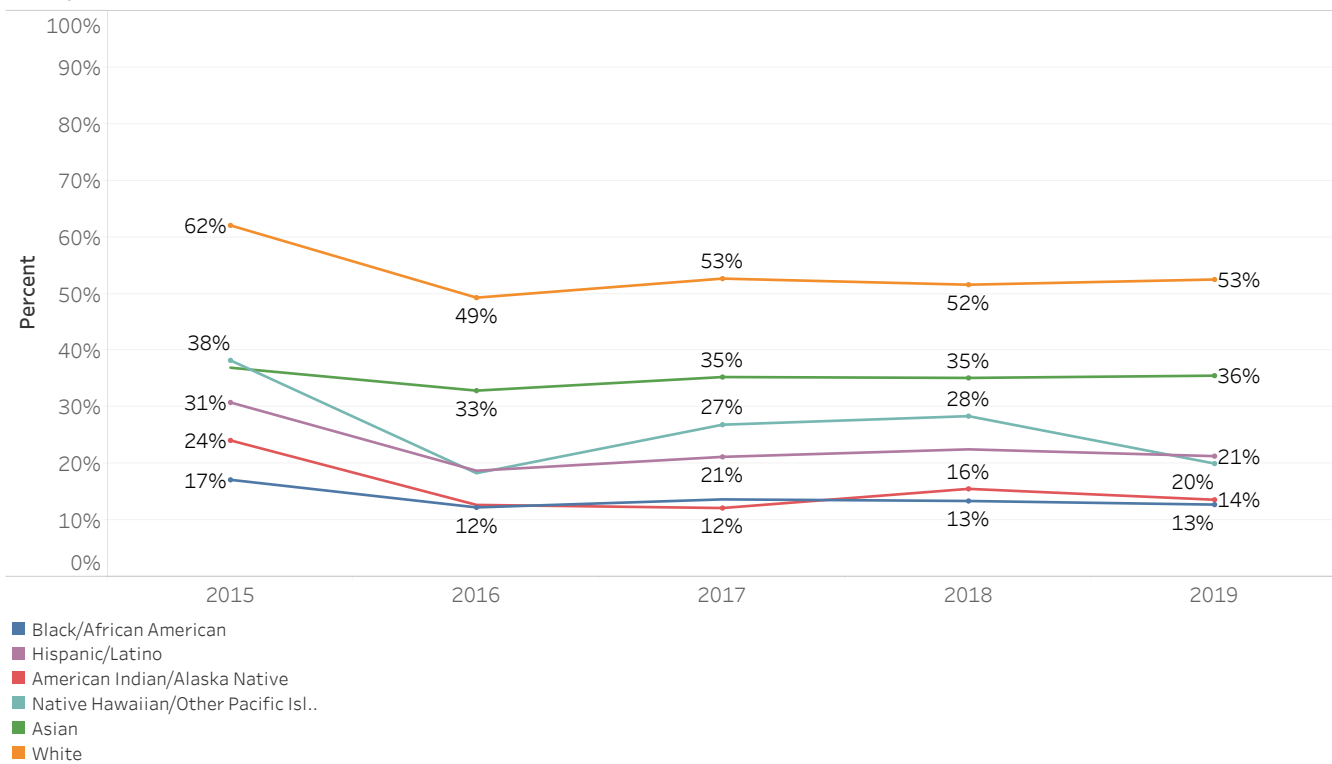
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	74%	57%	58%	53%	39%
2016	61%	45%	46%	40%	29%
2017	63%	50%	48%	42%	31%
2018	60%	48%	47%	42%	30%
2019	61%	48%	47%	42%	30%

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MINNESOTA 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



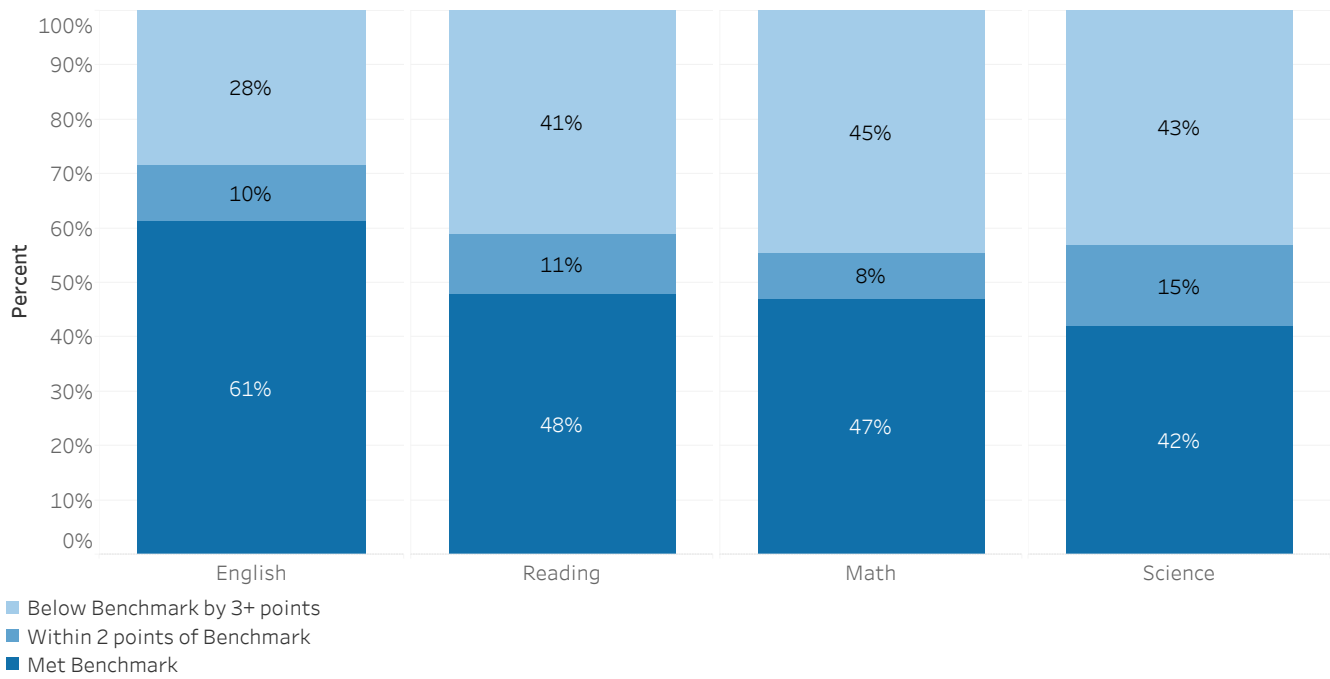
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2015	17%	31%	24%	38%	37%	62%
2016	12%	19%	13%	18%	33%	49%
2017	14%	21%	12%	27%	35%	53%
2018	13%	23%	16%	28%	35%	52%
2019	13%	21%	14%	20%	36%	53%

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MINNESOTA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



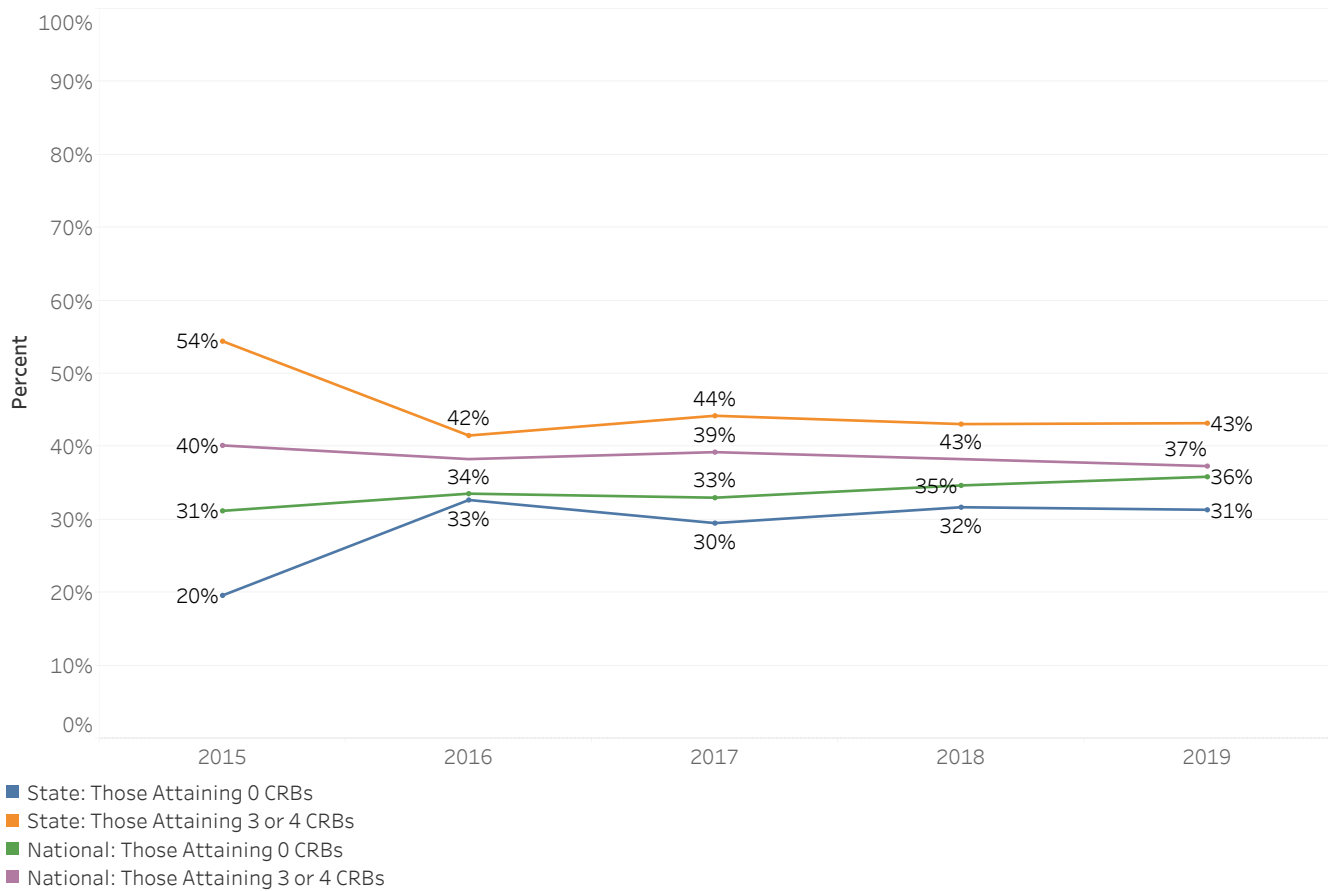
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	28%	10%	61%
Math	45%	8%	47%
Reading	41%	11%	48%
Science	43%	15%	42%

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



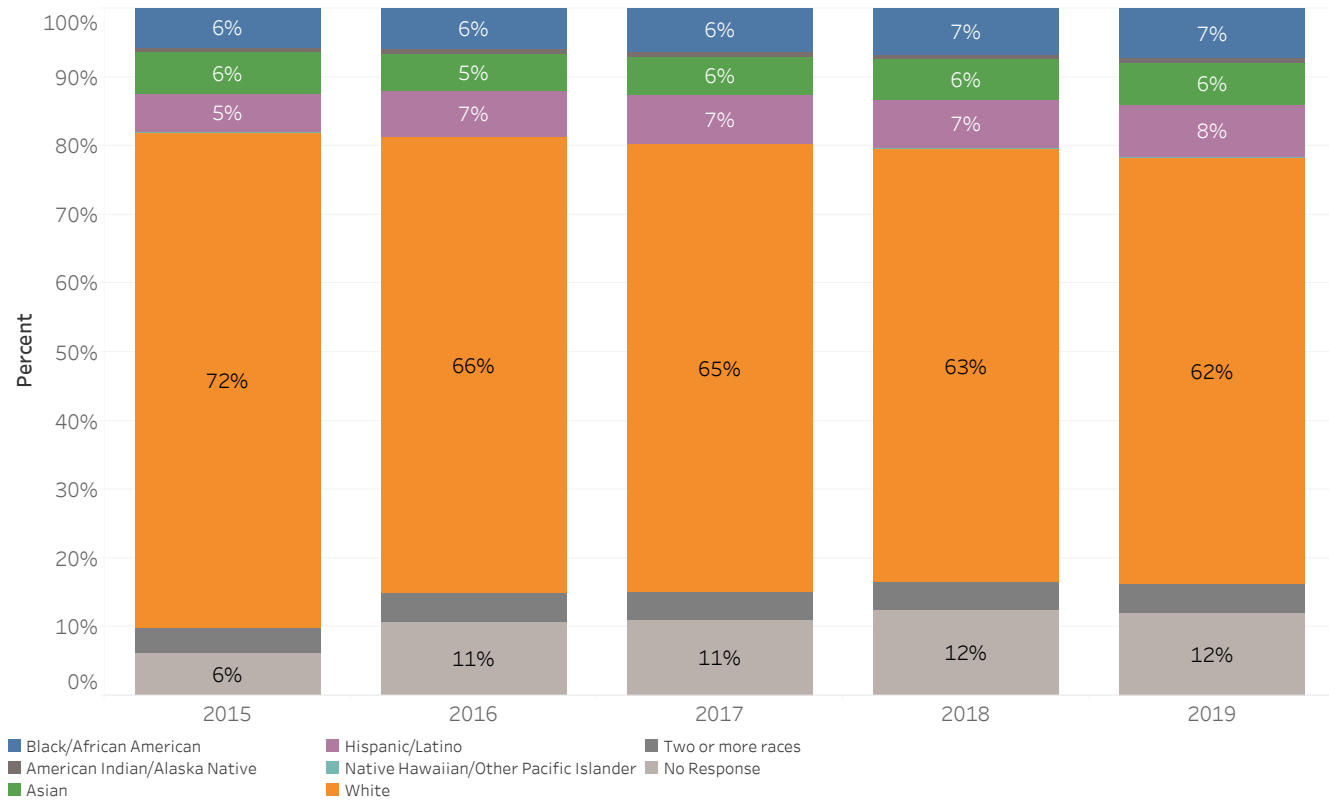
Data from Graph Above

	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	20%	54%	31%	40%
2016	33%	42%	34%	38%
2017	30%	44%	33%	39%
2018	32%	43%	35%	38%
2019	31%	43%	36%	37%

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MINNESOTA 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	6%	0%	6%	5%	0%	72%	4%	6%
2016	6%	1%	5%	7%	0%	66%	4%	11%
2017	6%	1%	6%	7%	0%	65%	4%	11%
2018	7%	1%	6%	7%	0%	63%	4%	12%
2019	7%	1%	6%	8%	0%	62%	4%	12%

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MINNESOTA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

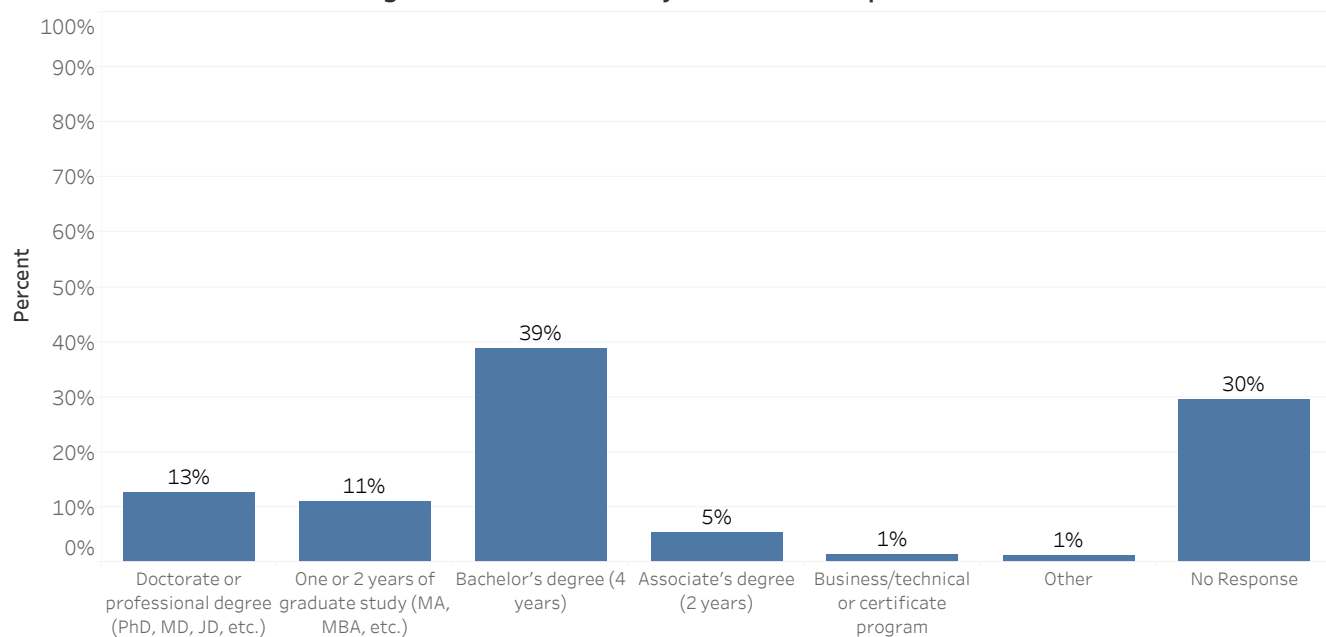
Student Data Trends: 2015-2019, State vs. Nation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	46,862	64,145	61,101	61,253	59,186
National N-count	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817	1,782,820
Average ACT English Score - State	21.8	20.0	20.4	20.2	20.3
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	23.0	21.3	21.8	21.7	21.7
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	22.8	21.2	21.5	21.4	21.4
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	22.7	21.3	21.6	21.4	21.6
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	22.7	21.1	21.5	21.3	21.4
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

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MINNESOTA 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.)	13%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	11%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	39%
Associate's degree (2 years)	5%
Business/technical or certificate program	1%
Other	1%
No Response	30%

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