

# The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019

## Missouri Key Findings

### Performance of 2019 Graduates

- In the 2019 Missouri graduating class, 56,238 graduates (an estimated 82 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 20.8. This compares to 49,640 (an estimated 77 percent) with an average of 21.7 in 2015. Nationally, an estimated 52 percent of 2019 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.7.
  - There were 6,504 African American graduates from Missouri who took the ACT (12 percent) with an average Composite score of 16.7. This compares to 7,638 (11 percent) with an average of 16.5, and 6,146 (12 percent) with an average of 17.3, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - There were 257 American Indian graduates from Missouri who took the ACT (0 percent) with an average Composite score of 18.6. This compares to 330 (0 percent) with an average of 17.3, and 151 (0 percent) with an average of 19.5, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - There were 36,227 White graduates from Missouri who took the ACT (64 percent) with an average Composite score of 21.8. This compares to 45,261 (66 percent) with an average of 20.9, and 35,429 (71 percent) with an average of 22.6, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - There were 3,410 Hispanic graduates from Missouri who took the ACT (6 percent) with an average Composite score of 19.2. This compares to 4,150 (6 percent) with an average of 18.7, and 2,392 (5 percent) with an average of 20.1, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
- In 2019, 25 percent of Missouri graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 22 and 30 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
- In 2019, 33 percent of Missouri graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 39 and 25 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
- In 2019, 62 percent of Missouri graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 56 and 71 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - 2019 Missouri graduates taking more advanced English coursework demonstrated markedly higher average English scores than those who did not. In fact, 68 percent of Missouri 2019 graduates taking four or more years of English met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 42 percent of students taking less than four years of English meeting the benchmark.
- 2019 Missouri graduates taking more advanced math coursework demonstrated markedly higher average math scores than those who did not. In fact, 43 percent of Missouri 2019 graduates taking three or more years of math met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 5 percent of students taking less than three years of math meeting the benchmark.
- 2019 Missouri graduates taking more advanced social studies coursework demonstrated markedly higher average reading scores than those who did not. In fact, 49 percent of Missouri 2019 graduates taking three or more years of social studies met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 38 percent of students taking less than three years of social studies meeting the benchmark.
- 2019 Missouri graduates taking more advanced science coursework demonstrated markedly higher average science scores than those who did not. In fact, 43 percent of Missouri 2019 graduates taking three or more years of science met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 22 percent of students taking less than three years of science meeting the benchmark.

## STEM

- In 2019, 23,441 Missouri graduates (42 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
- Compared to a 2019 Missouri graduating class average ACT STEM score of 20.7, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM averages of 20.1 and 21.6, respectively.
  - 2019 graduates taking three or more years of math had an average math score of 20.9, compared to 16.0 for students taking less than three years of math.

## Career Readiness Indicator

- In 2019, 23,021 Missouri graduates (41 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 Missouri 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:
  - 135 more students enrolling in college.
  - 152 more students persisting to year two.
  - 112 fewer students needing remedial English.
  - 182 fewer students needing remedial math.
  - 165 more students persisting to year four.
  - 175 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

## Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Missouri, 32,280 of the 2019 graduates (57.4 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 22.6, compared to an average of 18.4 for 23,958 of the 2019 graduates (42.6 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.
  - For Missouri’s 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were Missouri State University, the University of Missouri - Columbia, the University of Central Missouri, the University of Missouri - Kansas City, and Southeast Missouri State University.
  - For Missouri’s 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were the University of Kansas, the University of Arkansas, and Kansas State University.

- Compared to 66 percent of 2019 graduates nationally, 63 percent of Missouri 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 16,316 ACT fee waivers to qualified Missouri students across all grades. However, 4,375 students (26.8 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.

## Postsecondary Aspirations

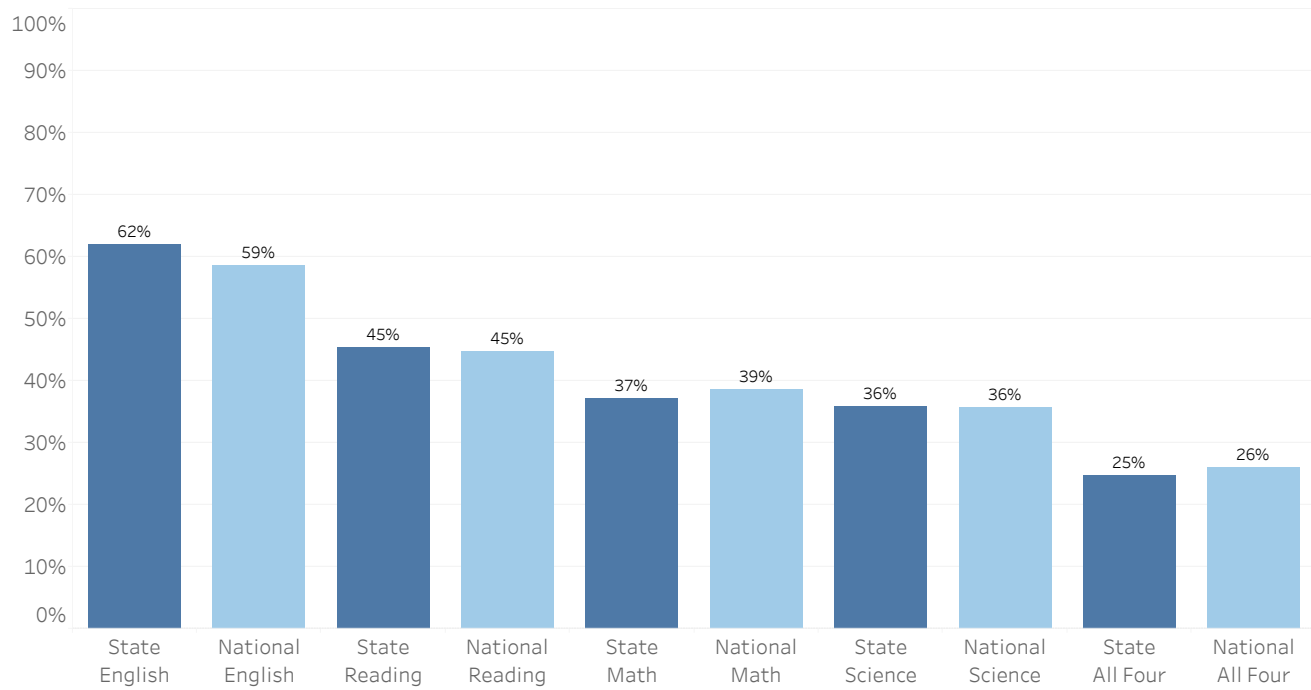
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
  - 14,708 students (26 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 24.0.
  - 23,131 students (41 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 20.7.
  - 3,716 students (7 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 17.0.
- In the Missouri graduating class of 2019, 8,252 students (15 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2019 Missouri graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; and Computer Science and Programming.
  - In the Missouri graduating class of 2019, 7,727 students (14 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 21.3. 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 Missouri graduating class of 2019, 2,826 (5 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 20.4.

## Additional Points

- The Missouri ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with more than five hundred 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 Missouri requiring education beyond high school are: Information Security Analysts; Software Developers, Applications; and Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary.
- In 2019, ACT honored College and Career Readiness Champions in most states. The Missouri honorees were:
  - High school senior: Madelyn Johnson, East Prairie High School; K-12 professional: Amy Brown, High School Counselor, Charleston R-1; postsecondary professional: Tameka Randle, Assistant Director of Outreach and Retention Programs, Southeast Missouri State University; and workforce professional: Bryan Herrick, Director - Business & Workforce Development, Jefferson College.

# MISSOURI 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

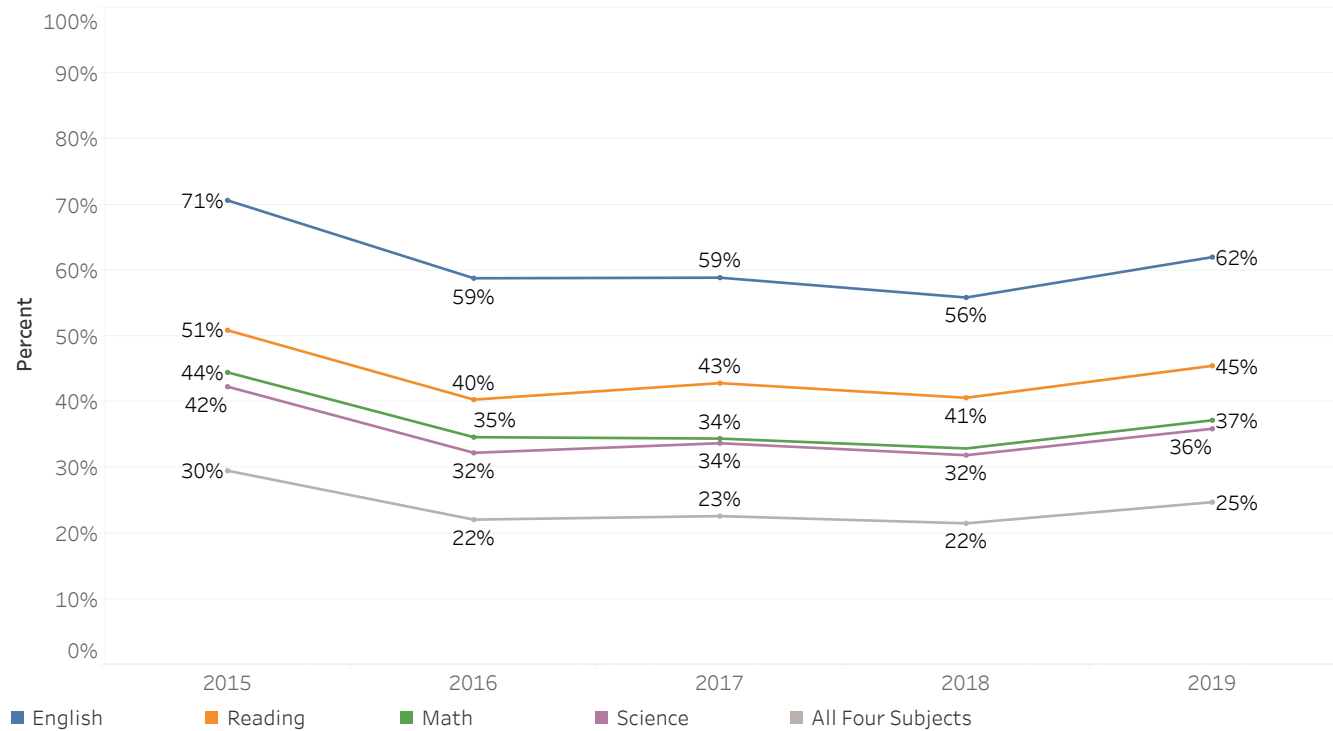
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
62%	59%	45%	45%	37%	39%	36%	36%	25%	26%

\* 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.

# MISSOURI 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

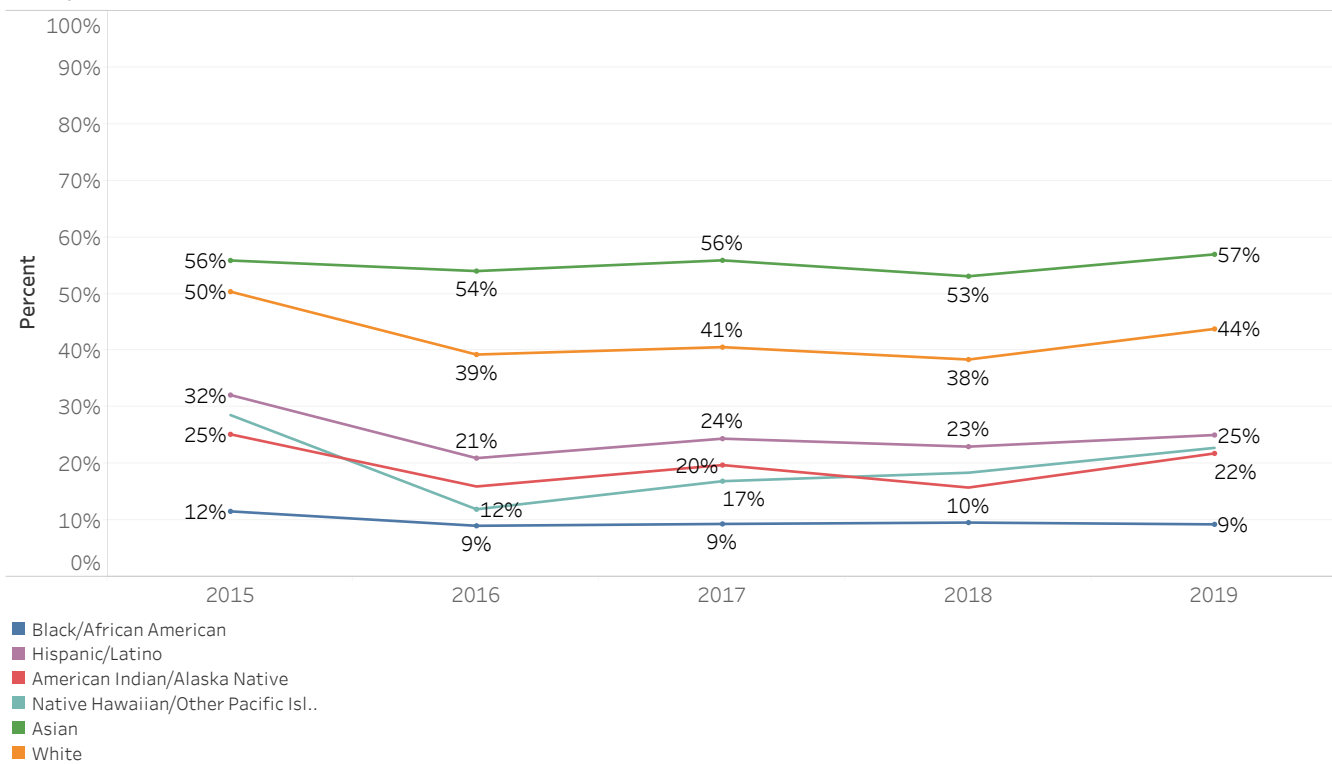
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	71%	51%	44%	42%	30%
2016	59%	40%	35%	32%	22%
2017	59%	43%	34%	34%	23%
2018	56%	41%	33%	32%	22%
2019	62%	45%	37%	36%	25%

\* 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.

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# MISSOURI 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



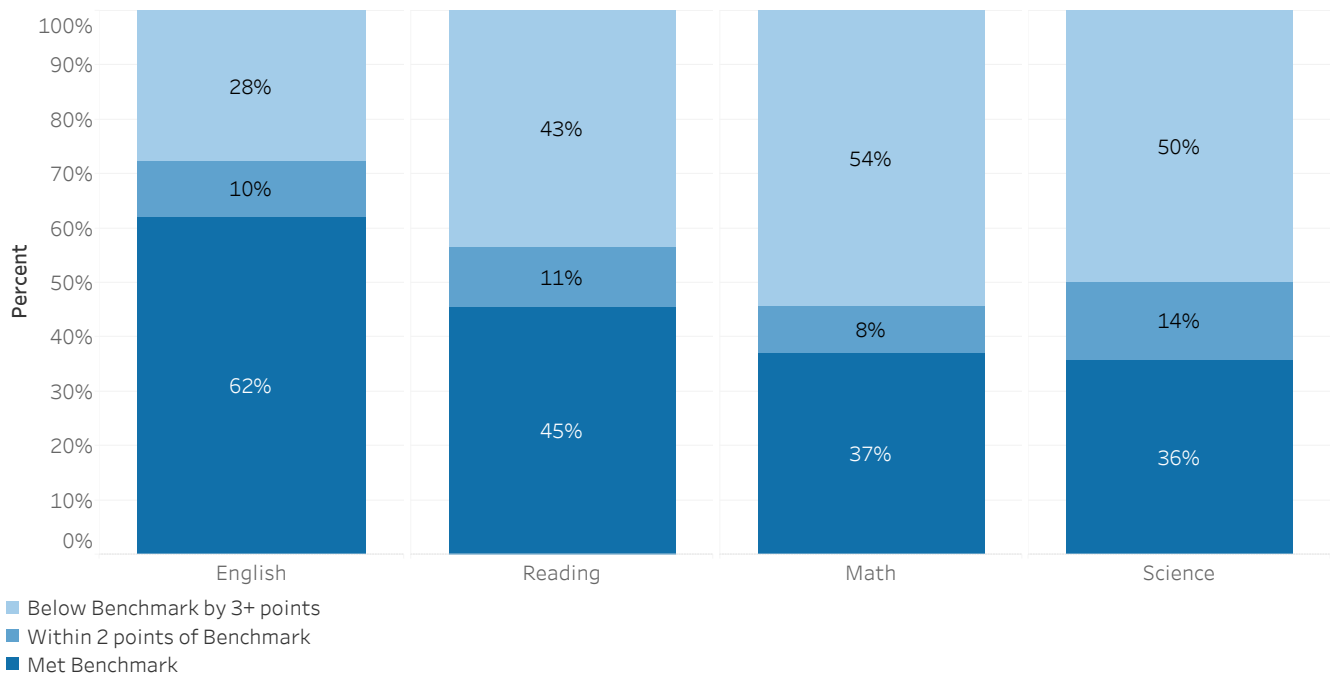
### Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2015	12%	32%	25%	29%	56%	50%
2016	9%	21%	16%	12%	54%	39%
2017	9%	24%	20%	17%	56%	41%
2018	10%	23%	16%	18%	53%	38%
2019	9%	25%	22%	23%	57%	44%

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# MISSOURI College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



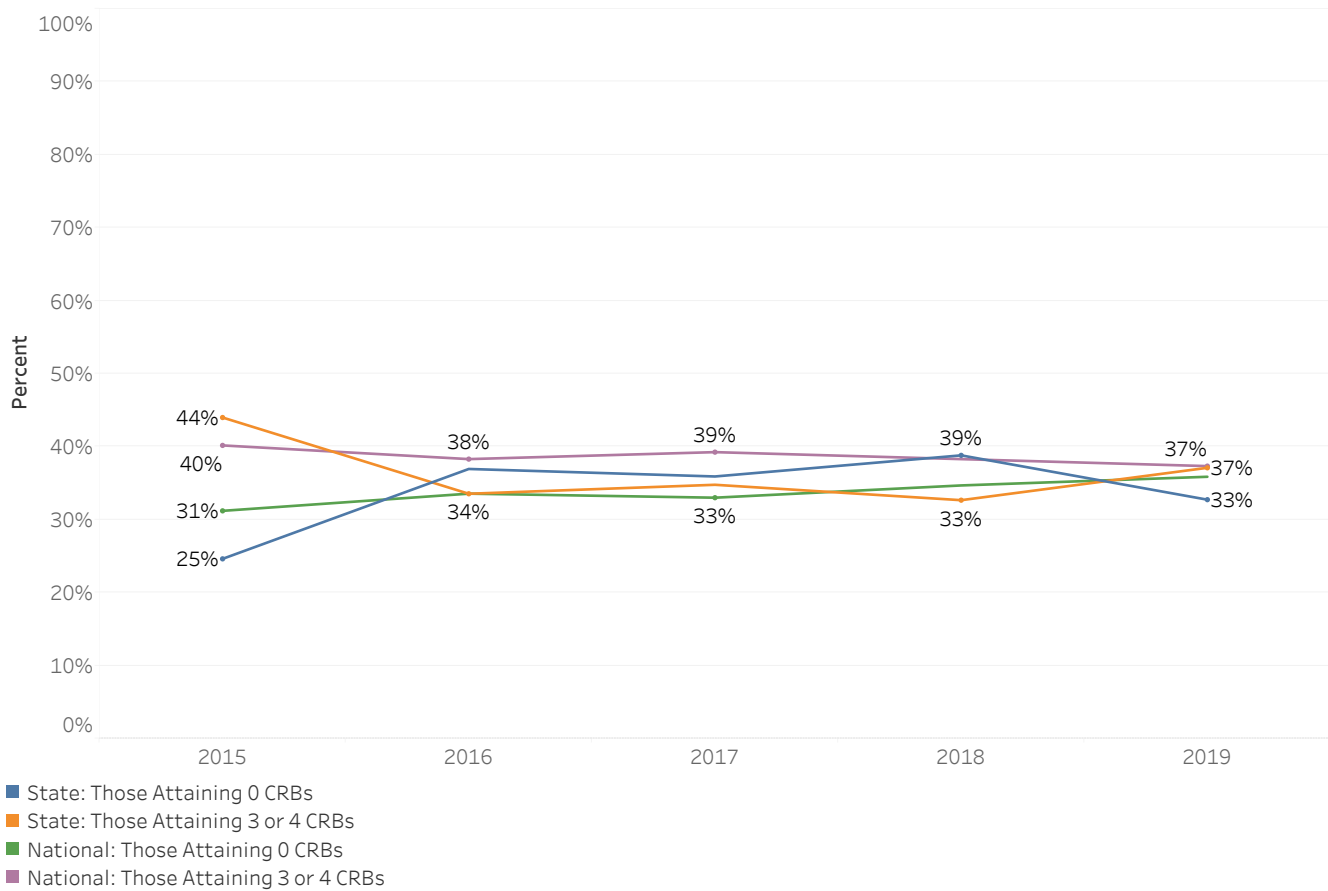
## Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	28%	10%	62%
Math	54%	8%	37%
Reading	43%	11%	45%
Science	50%	14%	36%

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



## Data from Graph Above

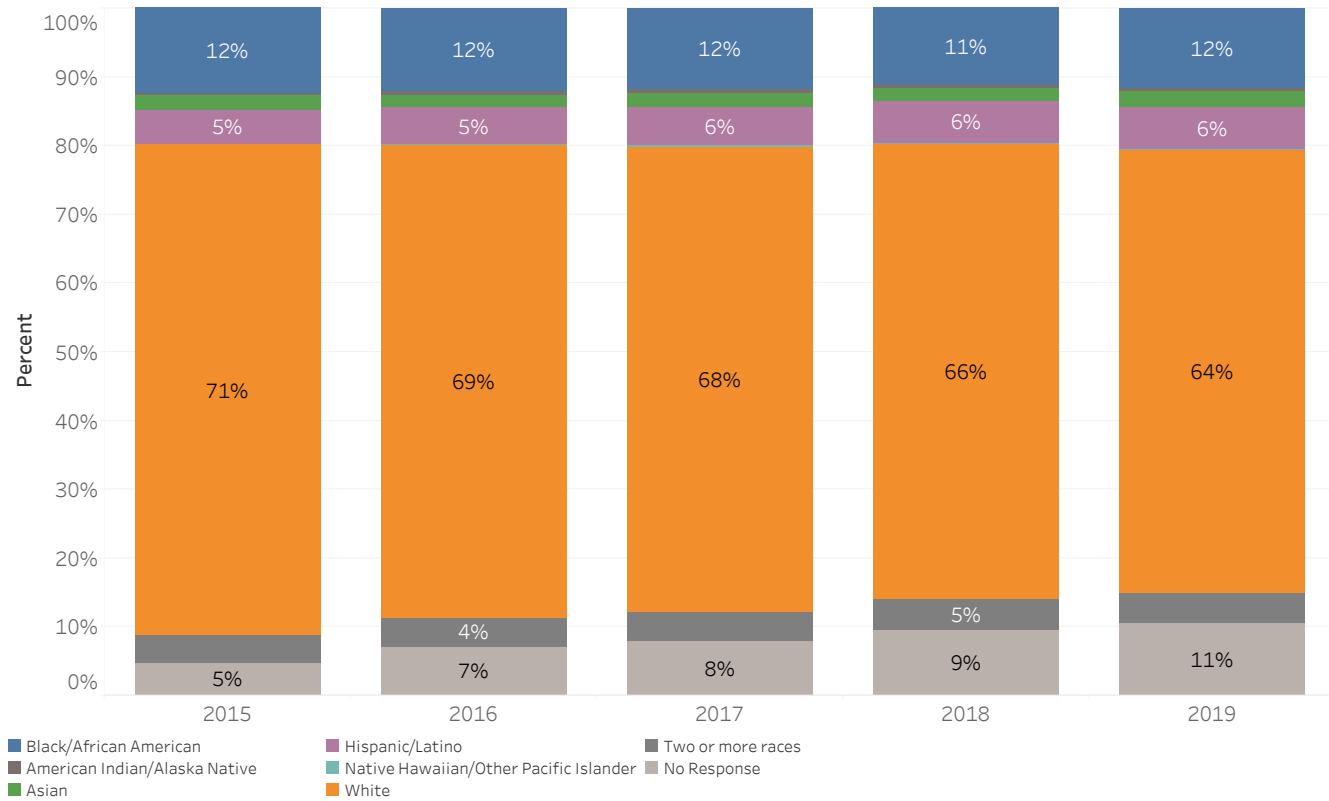
	State: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	State: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs
2015	25%	44%	31%	40%
2016	37%	34%	34%	38%
2017	36%	35%	33%	39%
2018	39%	33%	35%	38%
2019	33%	37%	36%	37%

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# MISSOURI 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	12%	0%	2%	5%	0%	71%	4%	5%
2016	12%	1%	2%	5%	0%	69%	4%	7%
2017	12%	1%	2%	6%	0%	68%	4%	8%
2018	11%	0%	2%	6%	0%	66%	5%	9%
2019	12%	0%	2%	6%	0%	64%	4%	11%

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# MISSOURI College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

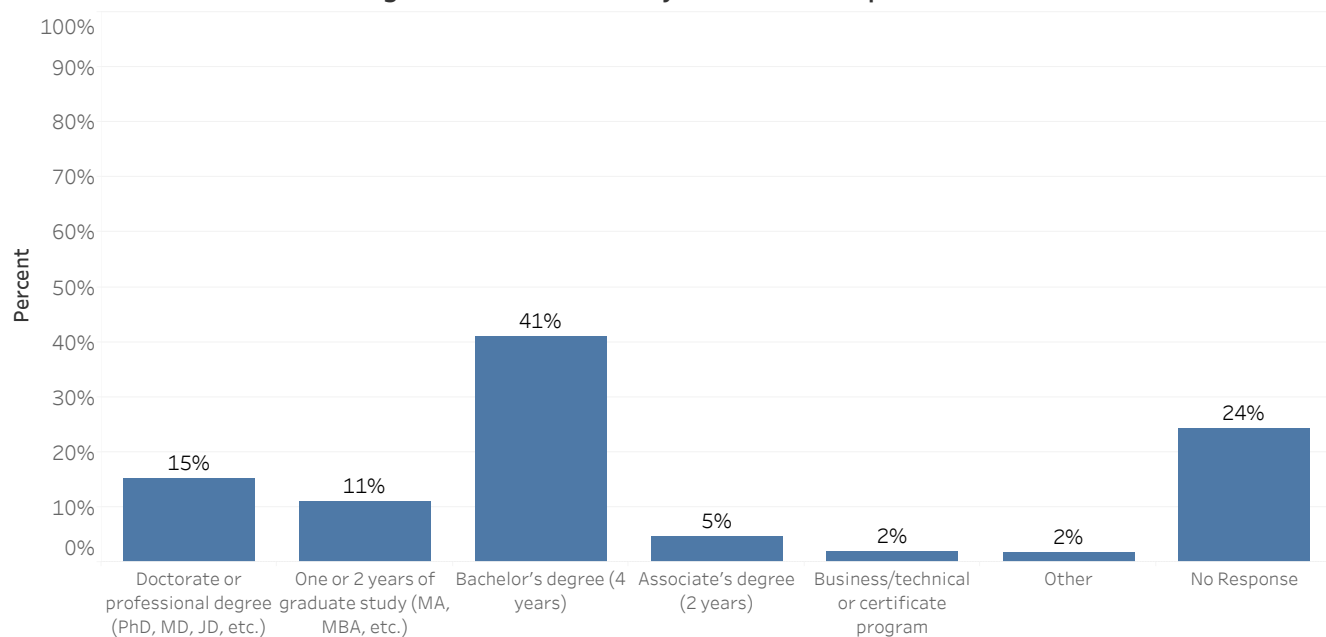
## Student Data Trends: 2015-2019, State vs. Nation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	49,640	68,446	68,480	68,424	56,238
National N-count	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817	1,782,820
Average ACT English Score - State	21.4	19.7	19.8	19.5	20.3
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	22.2	20.6	20.8	20.5	21.3
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	21.0	19.8	19.9	19.7	20.2
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	21.7	20.4	20.5	20.0	20.8
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	21.7	20.2	20.4	20.0	20.8
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

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# MISSOURI 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.)	15%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	11%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	41%
Associate's degree (2 years)	5%
Business/technical or certificate program	2%
Other	2%
No Response	24%

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