

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019

North Dakota Key Findings

Performance of 2019 Graduates

- In the 2019 North Dakota graduating class, 7,451 graduates (an estimated 96 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 19.9. This compares to 7,162 (an estimated 100 percent) with an average of 20.6 in 2015. Nationally, an estimated 52 percent of 2019 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.7.
 - The 2019 North Dakota graduating class average English score was 18.6. This compares to 19.1 and 19.6 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 North Dakota graduating class average math score was 19.9. This compares to 20.3 and 20.6 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 North Dakota graduating class average reading score was 20.3. This compares to 20.7 and 20.7 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 North Dakota graduating class average science score was 20.2. This compares to 20.5 and 20.8 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
- In 2019, 20 percent of North Dakota graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 23 and 24 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 40 percent of North Dakota graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 35 and 32 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 52 percent of North Dakota graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 57 and 62 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 34 percent of North Dakota graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 39 and 42 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 38 percent of North Dakota graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 43 and 41 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 32 percent of North Dakota graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 34 and 38 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 2,355 (32 percent) of North Dakota graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 2,598 and 2,751 (36 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.
- In 2019, 10 percent of North Dakota graduates took the ACT with extended time. This compares to 8 and 6 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
- 40 percent of 2019 North Dakota graduates were Proficient or Above Proficient in understanding complex texts.
- 60 percent of 2019 North Dakota graduates were Below Proficient in understanding complex texts.

STEM

- In 2019, 3,322 North Dakota graduates (45 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
 - Nationally, 43 percent of graduates indicated having an interest in STEM.
- Compared to a 2019 North Dakota graduating class average ACT STEM score of 20.3, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM averages of 20.6 and 21.0, respectively.
 - Compared to 14 percent of 2019 North Dakota graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 15 and 16, respectively.
 - 2019 graduates taking physics had an average science score of 22.4, compared to 19.7 for students not taking physics.
 - 2019 North Dakota graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.1. This compares to 27.9 in 2015.
 - 2019 graduates taking three or more years of math had an average math score of 21.0, compared to 15.9 for students taking less than three years of math.
 - 2019 North Dakota graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 28.1. This compares to 28.1 in 2015.

Career Readiness Indicator

- In 2019, 5,364 North Dakota graduates (72 percent) were likely to attain the Silver ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate or higher based upon ACT Composite score, compared to 1,273,362 (71 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 North Dakota 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:
 - 19 more students enrolling in college.
 - 21 more students persisting to year two.
 - 17 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - 26 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - 22 more students persisting to year four.
 - 24 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In North Dakota, 2,482 of the 2019 graduates (33.3 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 22.4, compared to an average of 18.6 for 4,969 of the 2019 graduates (66.7 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.
- 19,684 score reports were sent to colleges by 2019 North Dakota ACT-tested graduates.
 - 10,935 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2019 North Dakota ACT-tested graduates.
 - For North Dakota's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were North Dakota State University, the University of North Dakota, Bismarck State College, Minot State University, and North Dakota State College of Science.
 - For North Dakota's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were Minnesota State University Moorhead, the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, and Concordia College - Moorhead.
- Compared to 66 percent of 2019 graduates nationally, 71 percent of North Dakota 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 329 ACT fee waivers to qualified North Dakota students across all grades. However, 113 students (34.3 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 retest without incurring any fees.

Postsecondary Aspirations

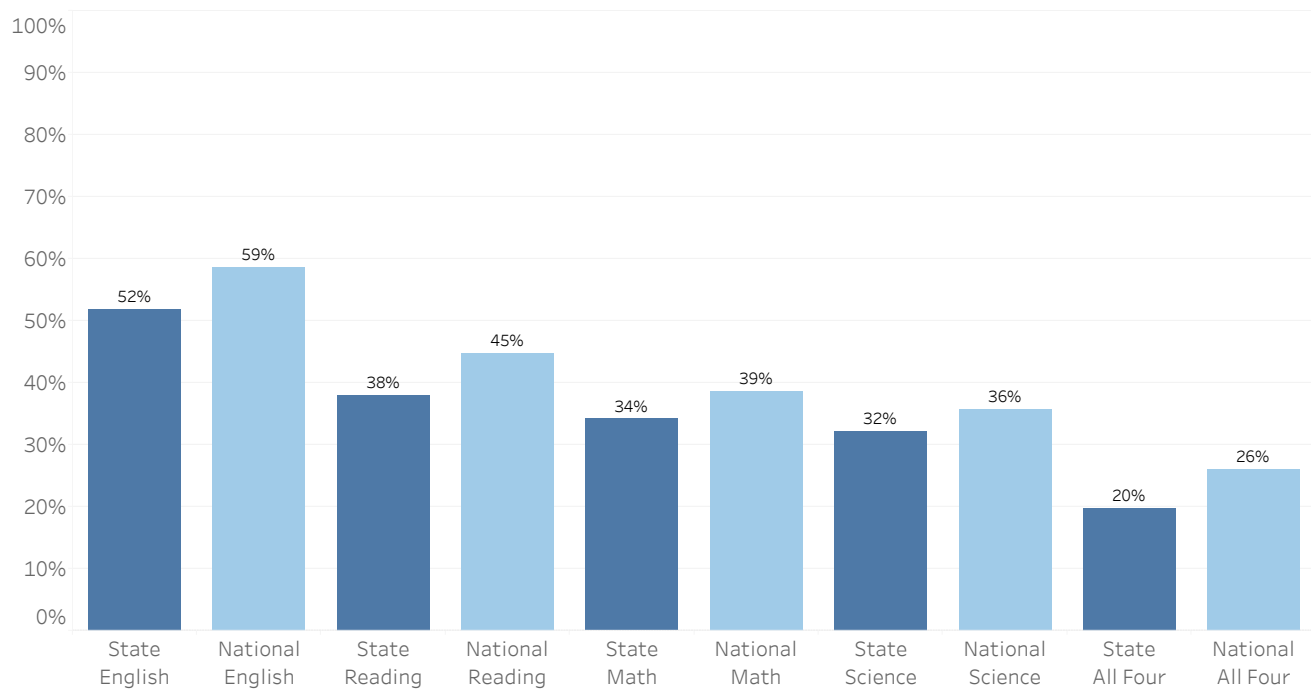
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - 1,716 students (23 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 22.6.
 - 3,066 students (41 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 20.3.
 - 1,058 students (14 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 17.2.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2019 North Dakota graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; and Biology, General.
 - In the North Dakota graduating class of 2019, 782 students (10 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 19.7. 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 North Dakota graduating class of 2019, 403 (5 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 20.0.

Additional Points

- The North Dakota ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with more than 80 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.
- In 2019, ACT honored College and Career Readiness Champions in most states. The North Dakota honorees were:
 - High school senior: Elizabeth Fish, Ray Public School; and K-12 professional: Joyce Larson, Career Coordinator, Red River High School.
- There is good news in that 78% of North Dakota's 2019 ACT-tested graduates aspired to postsecondary education. Interestingly enough, 76% of North Dakota's 2018 ACT-tested graduating class aspired to enroll in postsecondary education, compared to 62% who actually did enroll. If we fully closed the aspirational gap, an additional 1,065 of the 2018 ACT-tested graduates from North Dakota would have enrolled in postsecondary education.

NORTH DAKOTA 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

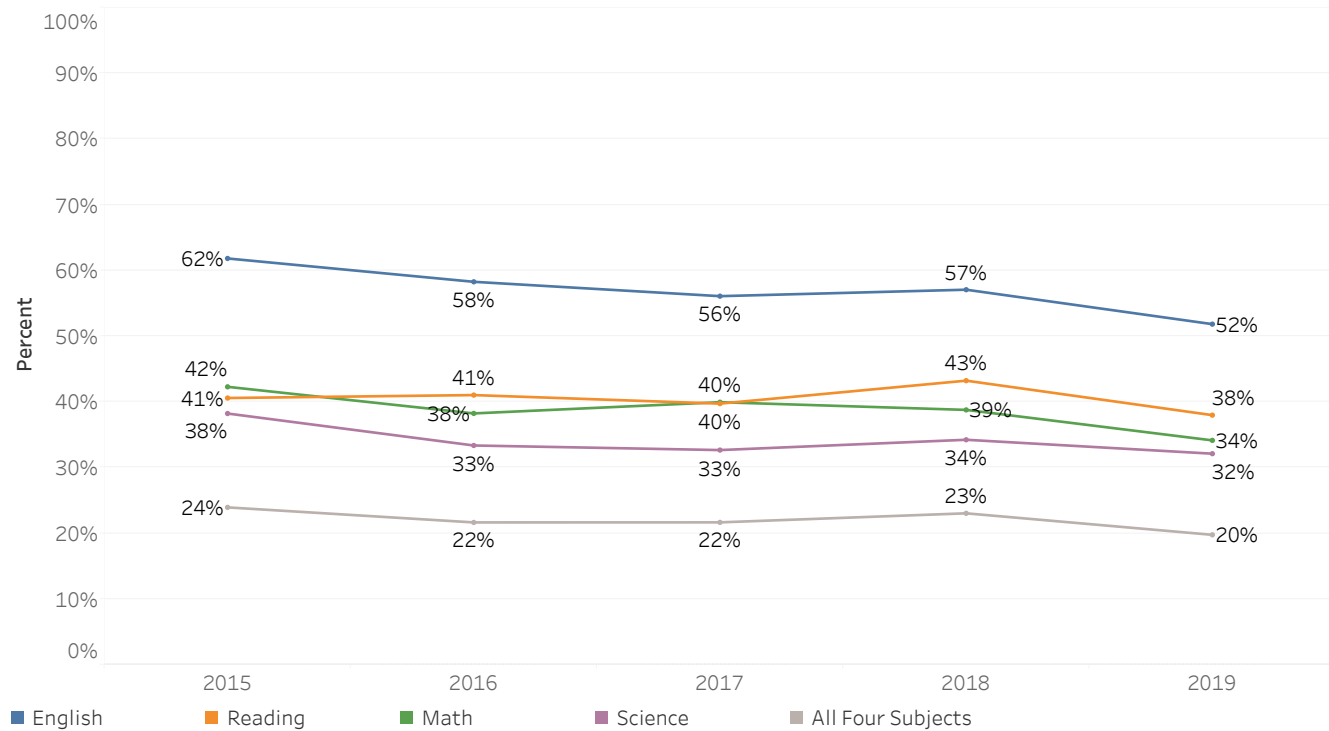
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
52%	59%	38%	45%	34%	39%	32%	36%	20%	26%

* 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.

NORTH DAKOTA 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

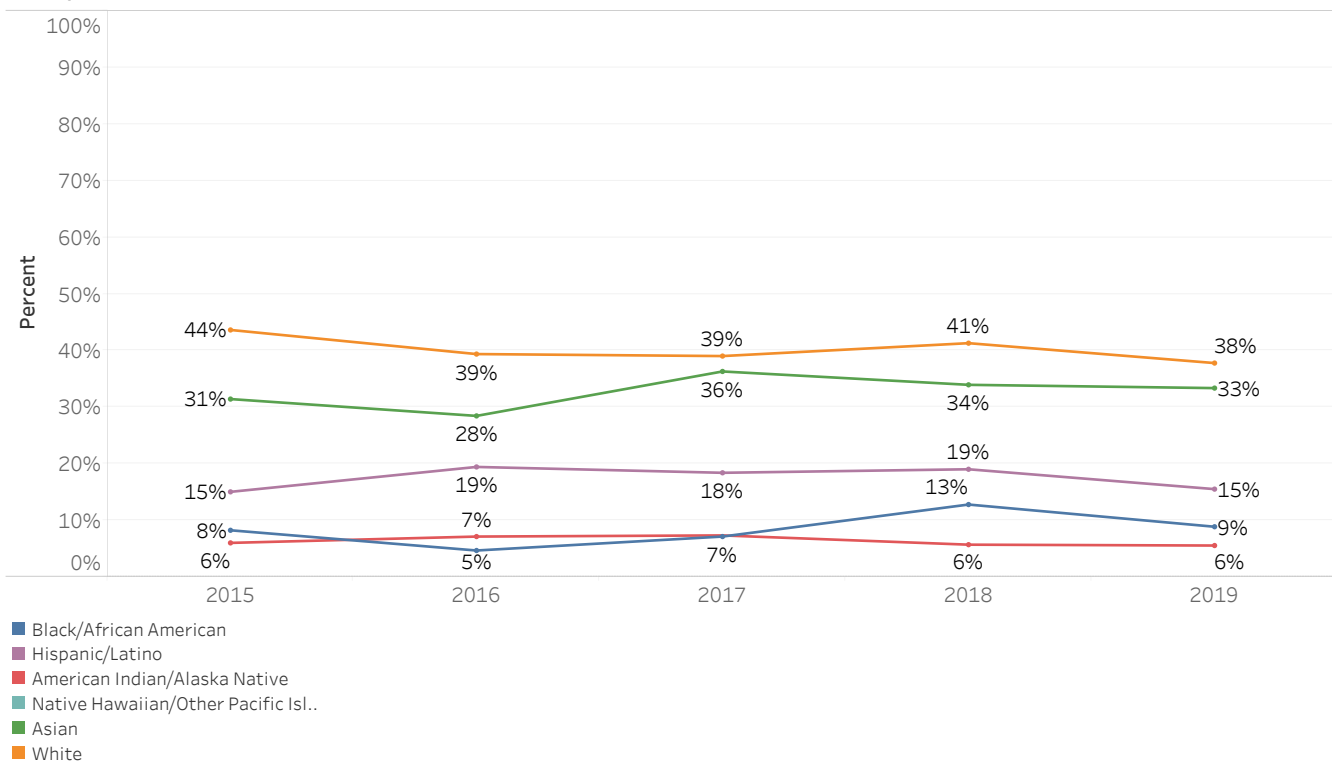
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	62%	41%	42%	38%	24%
2016	58%	41%	38%	33%	22%
2017	56%	40%	40%	33%	22%
2018	57%	43%	39%	34%	23%
2019	52%	38%	34%	32%	20%

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NORTH DAKOTA 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



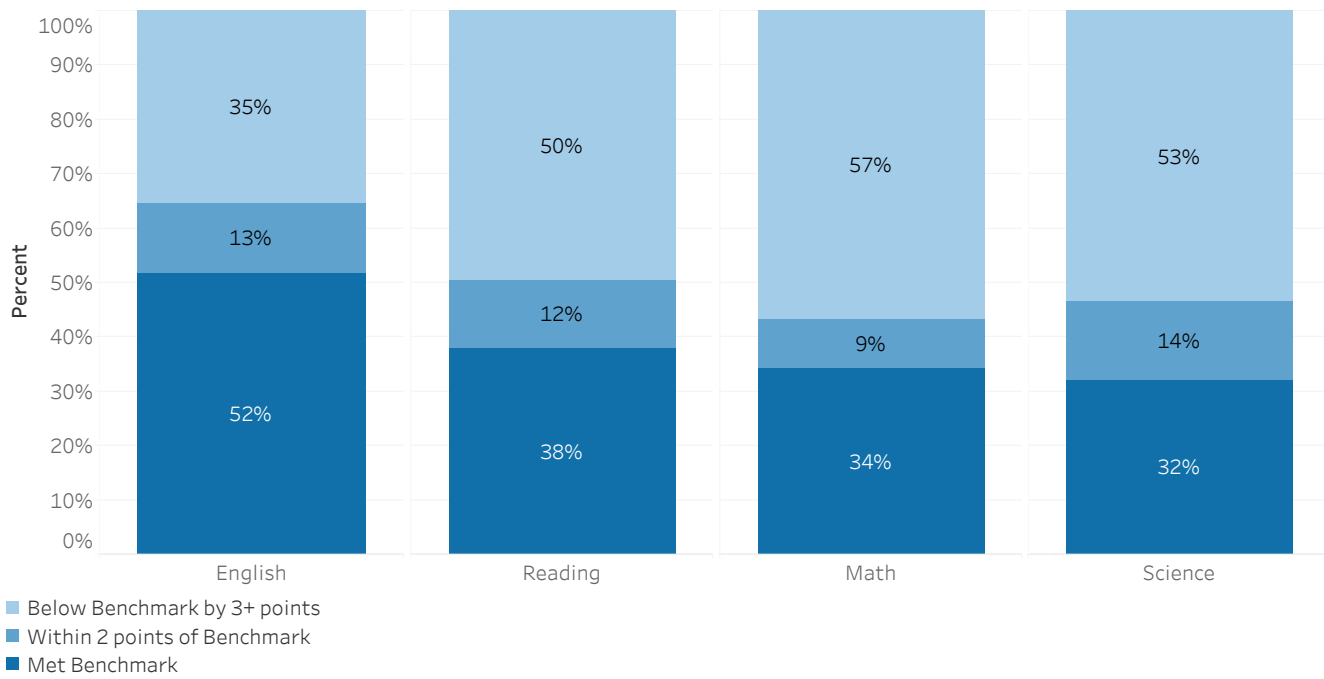
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2015	8%	15%	6%		31%	44%
2016	5%	19%	7%		28%	39%
2017	7%	18%	7%		36%	39%
2018	13%	19%	6%		34%	41%
2019	9%	15%	6%		33%	38%

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NORTH DAKOTA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



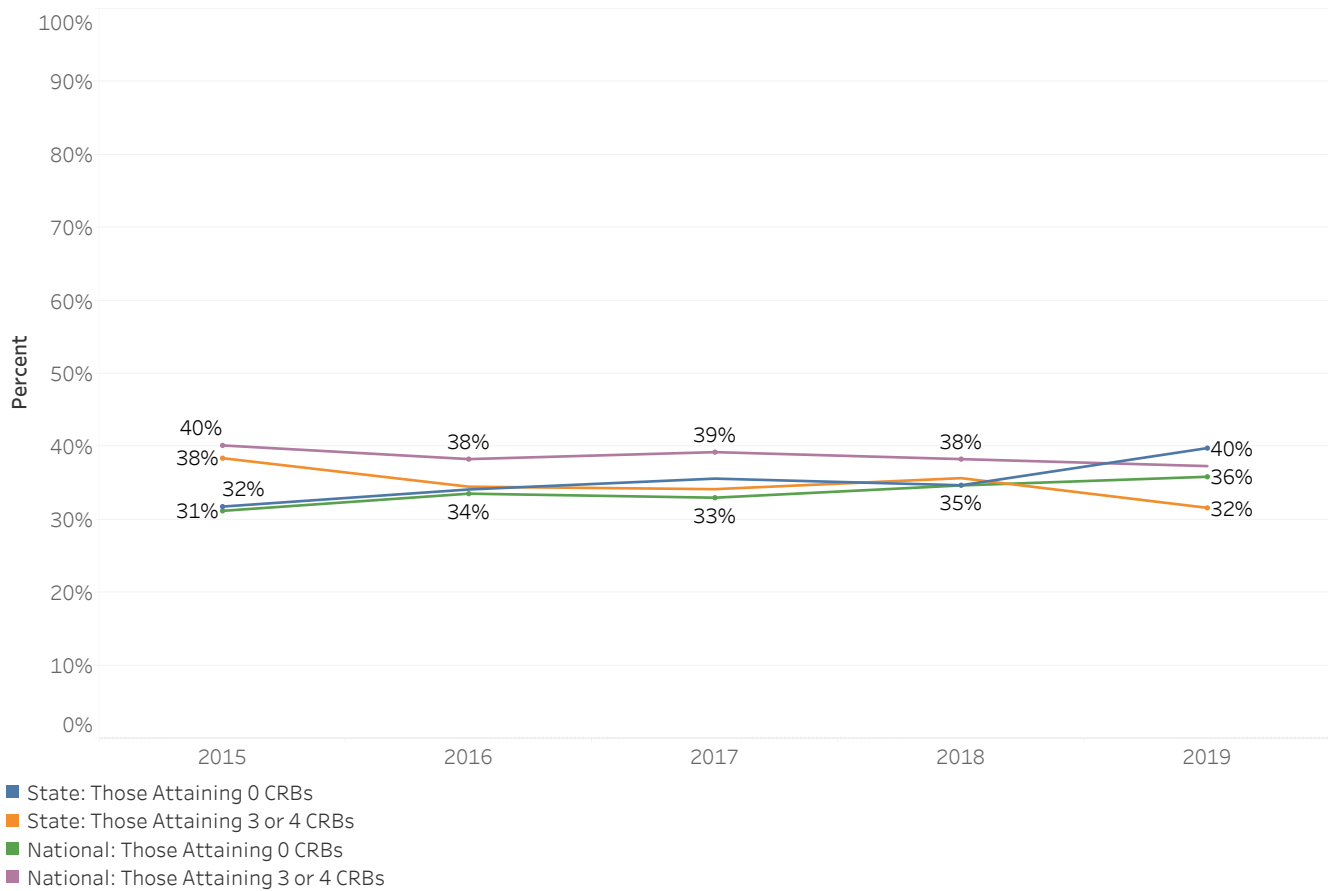
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	35%	13%	52%
Math	57%	9%	34%
Reading	50%	12%	38%
Science	53%	14%	32%

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NORTH DAKOTA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



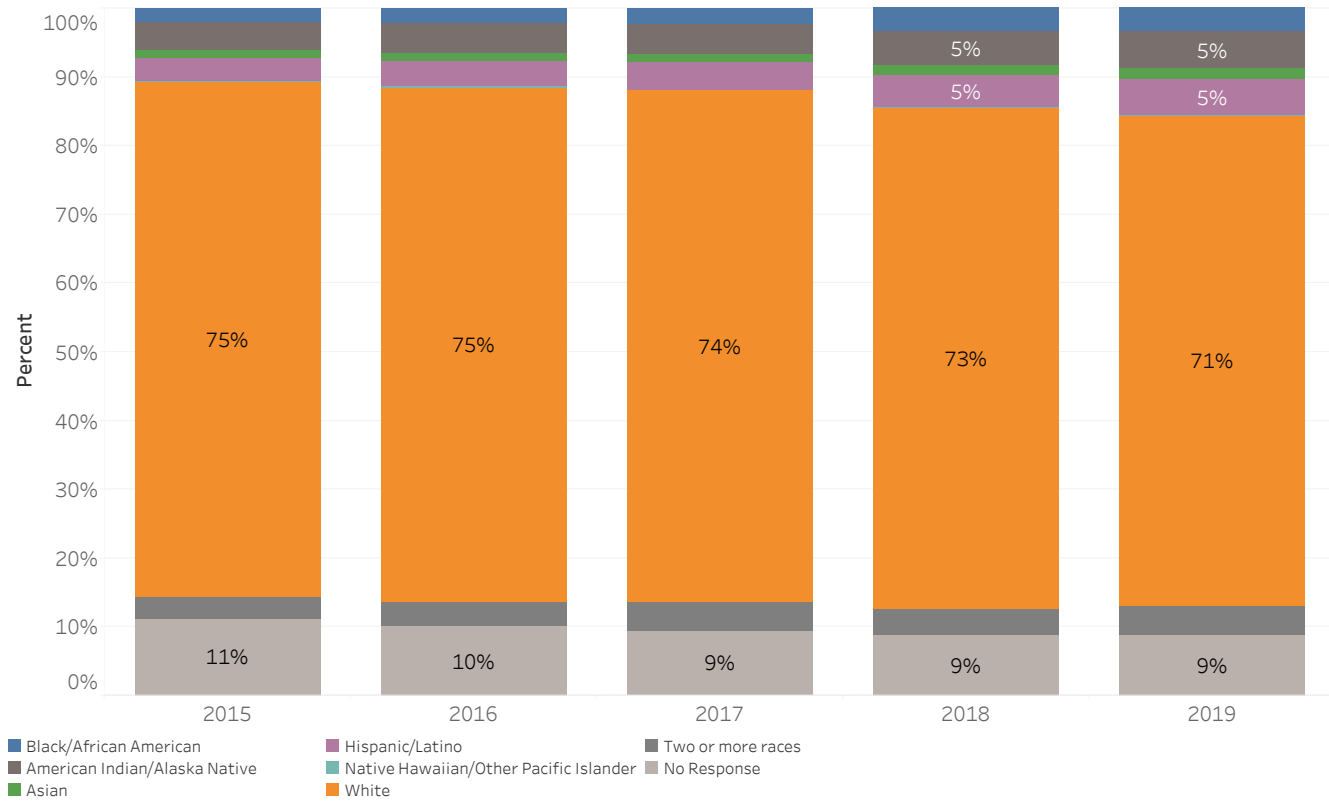
Data from Graph Above

	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	32%	38%	31%	40%
2016	34%	35%	34%	38%
2017	36%	34%	33%	39%
2018	35%	36%	35%	38%
2019	40%	32%	36%	37%

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NORTH DAKOTA 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	2%	4%	1%	3%	0%	75%	3%	11%
2016	2%	4%	1%	4%	0%	75%	4%	10%
2017	2%	4%	1%	4%	0%	74%	4%	9%
2018	3%	5%	2%	5%	0%	73%	4%	9%
2019	3%	5%	2%	5%	0%	71%	4%	9%

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NORTH DAKOTA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

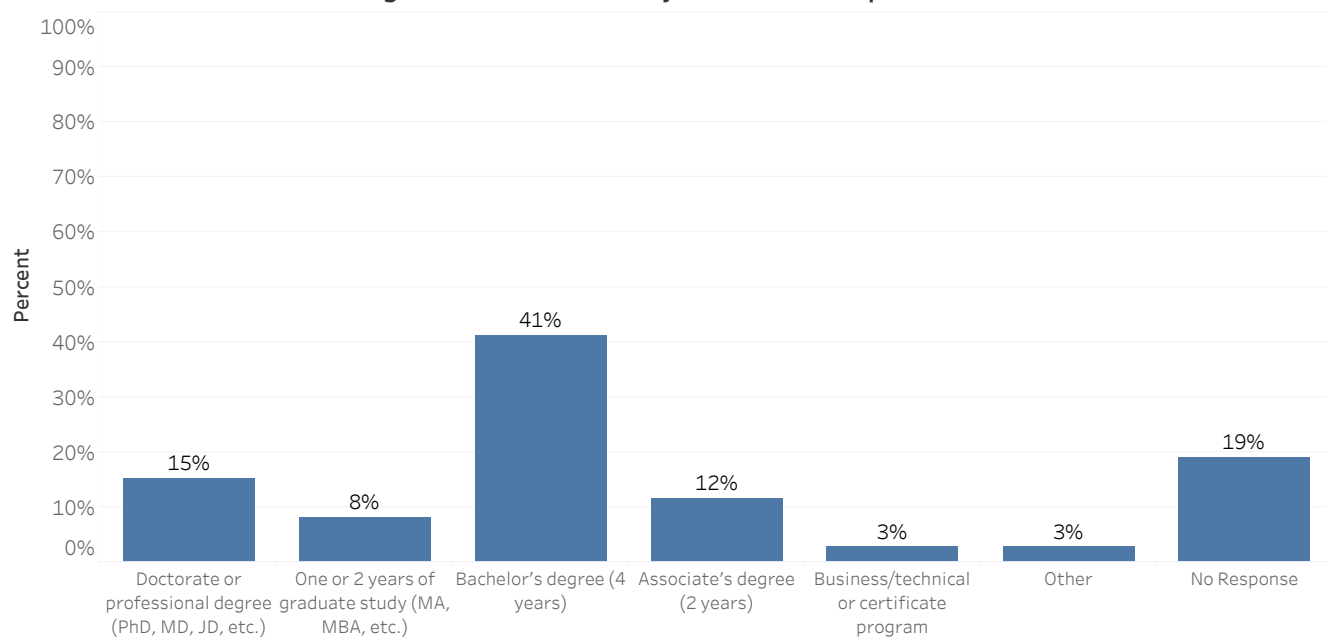
Student Data Trends: 2015-2019, State vs. Nation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	7,162	7,379	7,399	7,282	7,451
National N-count	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817	1,782,820
Average ACT English Score - State	19.6	19.1	19.0	19.1	18.6
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	20.7	20.7	20.5	20.7	20.3
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	20.6	20.3	20.4	20.3	19.9
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	20.8	20.7	20.6	20.5	20.2
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	20.6	20.3	20.3	20.3	19.9
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

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NORTH DAKOTA 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.)	8%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	41%
Associate's degree (2 years)	12%
Business/technical or certificate program	3%
Other	3%
No Response	19%

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