

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019

South Dakota Key Findings

Performance of 2019 Graduates

- In the 2019 South Dakota graduating class, 6,374 graduates (an estimated 75 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 21.6. This compares to 6,615 (an estimated 76 percent) with an average of 21.9 in 2015. Nationally, an estimated 52 percent of 2019 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.7.
 - There were 125 African American graduates from South Dakota who took the ACT (2 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.7. This compares to 116 (2 percent) with an average of 18.0, and 88 (1 percent) with an average of 18.1, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 4,827 White graduates from South Dakota who took the ACT (76 percent) with an average Composite score of 22.5. This compares to 5,226 (78 percent) with an average of 22.7, and 5,376 (81 percent) with an average of 22.5, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 240 Hispanic graduates from South Dakota who took the ACT (4 percent) with an average Composite score of 20.0. This compares to 291 (4 percent) with an average of 19.7, and 224 (3 percent) with an average of 20.2, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - The 2019 South Dakota graduating class average English score was 20.7. This compares to 20.8 and 21.0 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 South Dakota graduating class average math score was 21.3. This compares to 21.6 and 21.7 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 South Dakota graduating class average reading score was 22.2. This compares to 22.4 and 22.4 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 South Dakota graduating class average science score was 21.9. This compares to 22.2 and 22.1 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
- In 2019, 30 percent of South Dakota graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 32 and 33 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 26 percent of South Dakota graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 24 and 22 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 66 percent of South Dakota graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 68 and 70 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 47 percent of South Dakota graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 49 and 51 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 52 percent of South Dakota graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 54 and 54 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.

- In 2019, 45 percent of South Dakota graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 46 and 46 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
- In 2019, 2,880 (45 percent) of South Dakota graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 3,182 and 3,165 (47 and 48 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, 2 percent of South Dakota graduates took the ACT with extended time. This compares to 3 and 2 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
- 47 percent of 2019 South Dakota graduates were Below Proficient in understanding complex texts.

STEM

- In 2019, 3,492 South Dakota graduates (55 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
- Compared to a 2019 South Dakota graduating class average ACT STEM score of 21.8, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM averages of 22.1 and 22.2, respectively.
- Compared to 22 percent of 2019 South Dakota graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 24 and 23, respectively.
 - 2019 South Dakota graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.5. This compares to 28.1 in 2015.
 - 2019 South Dakota graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 28.1. This compares to 28.0 in 2015.

Career Readiness Indicator

- In 2019, 3,041 South Dakota graduates (48 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.
- In 2019, 5,328 South Dakota graduates (84 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 South 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:
 - 15 more students enrolling in college.
 - 17 more students persisting to year two.
 - 13 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - 20 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - 19 more students persisting to year four.
 - 20 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

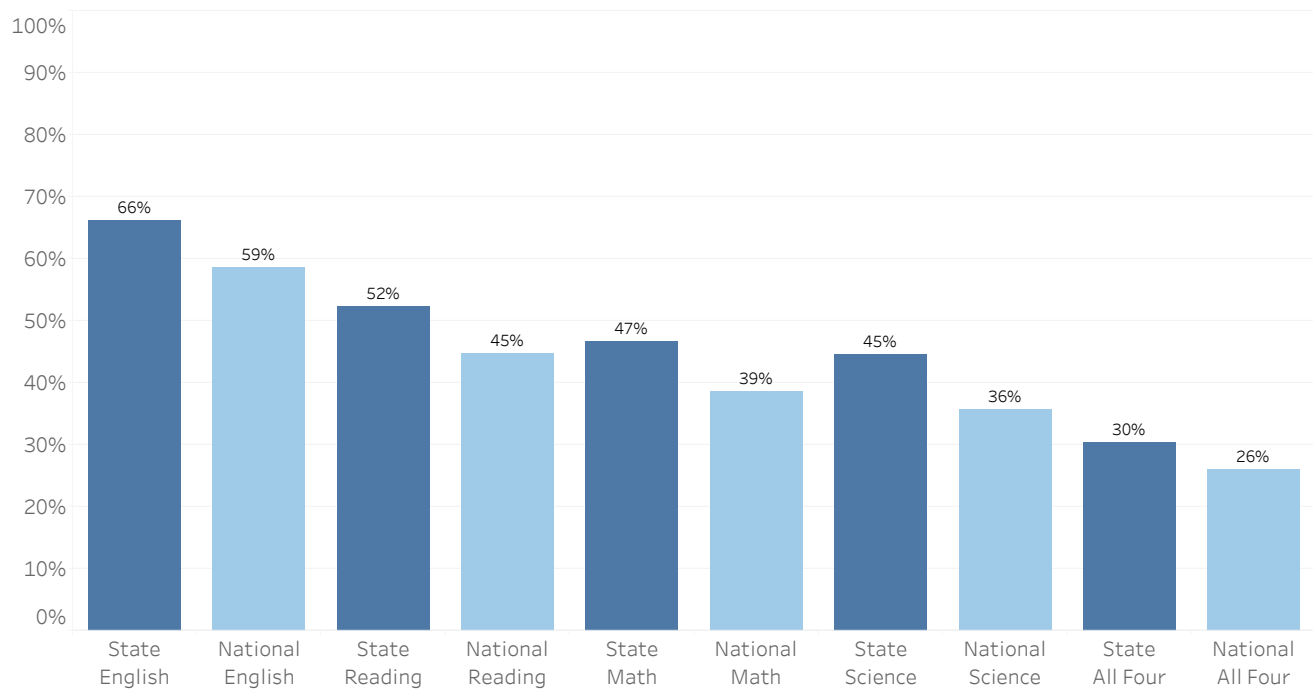
- In South Dakota, 3,783 of the 2019 graduates (59.4 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 22.6, compared to an average of 20.3 for 2,591 of the 2019 graduates (40.6 percent) who took the ACT only once.
 - Nationwide, 765,568 of the 2019 graduates (42.9 percent) 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.
- 12,148 score reports were sent to colleges by 2019 South Dakota ACT-tested graduates.
 - 6,215 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2019 South Dakota ACT-tested graduates.
 - For South Dakota's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were South Dakota State University, the University of South Dakota, Black Hills State University, Augustana University, and the University of Sioux Falls.
 - For South Dakota's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and Minnesota State University Mankato.
- Compared to 66 percent of 2019 graduates nationally, 67 percent of South 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.
 - Compared to 75 percent of African American students nationally, 82 percent of South Dakota African American 2019 graduates opted into EOS.
 - Compared to 64 percent of White students nationally, 66 percent of South Dakota White 2019 graduates opted into EOS.
 - Compared to 76 percent of Hispanic students nationally, 81 percent of South Dakota Hispanic 2019 graduates opted into EOS.
- In the 2018-2019 academic year, ACT issued 1,599 ACT fee waivers to qualified South Dakota students across all grades. However, 491 students (30.7 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 South Dakota students represent 6 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 4 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 32 and 34 nationally.
 - While Hispanic South Dakota students represent 9 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 9 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.
 - 1,713 students (27 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 24.6.
 - 3,570 students (56 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 21.2.
- In the South Dakota graduating class of 2019, 733 students (11 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2019 South Dakota graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Biology, General; and Business Administration and Management, General.
 - In the South Dakota graduating class of 2019, 414 (6 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 21.2.

SOUTH 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

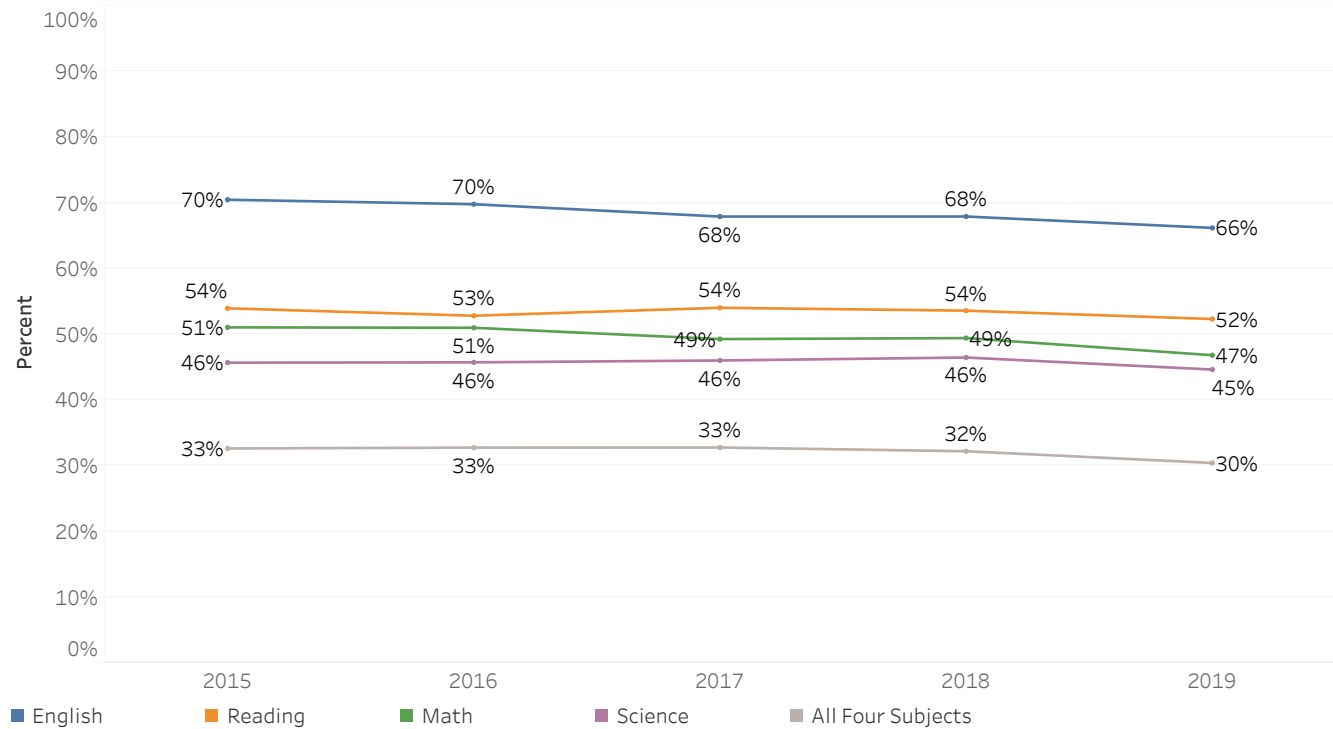
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
66%	59%	52%	45%	47%	39%	45%	36%	30%	26%

* 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.

SOUTH 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

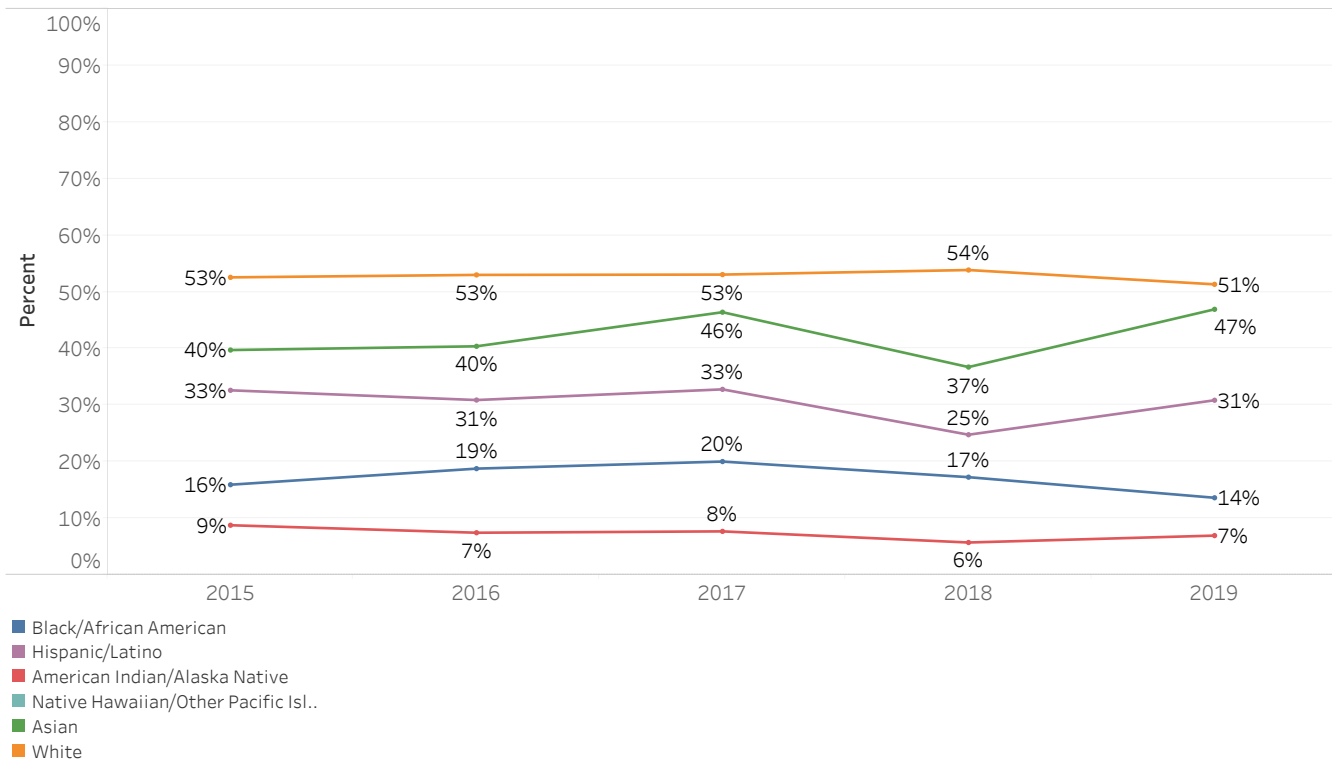
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	70%	54%	51%	46%	33%
2016	70%	53%	51%	46%	33%
2017	68%	54%	49%	46%	33%
2018	68%	54%	49%	46%	32%
2019	66%	52%	47%	45%	30%

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SOUTH 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



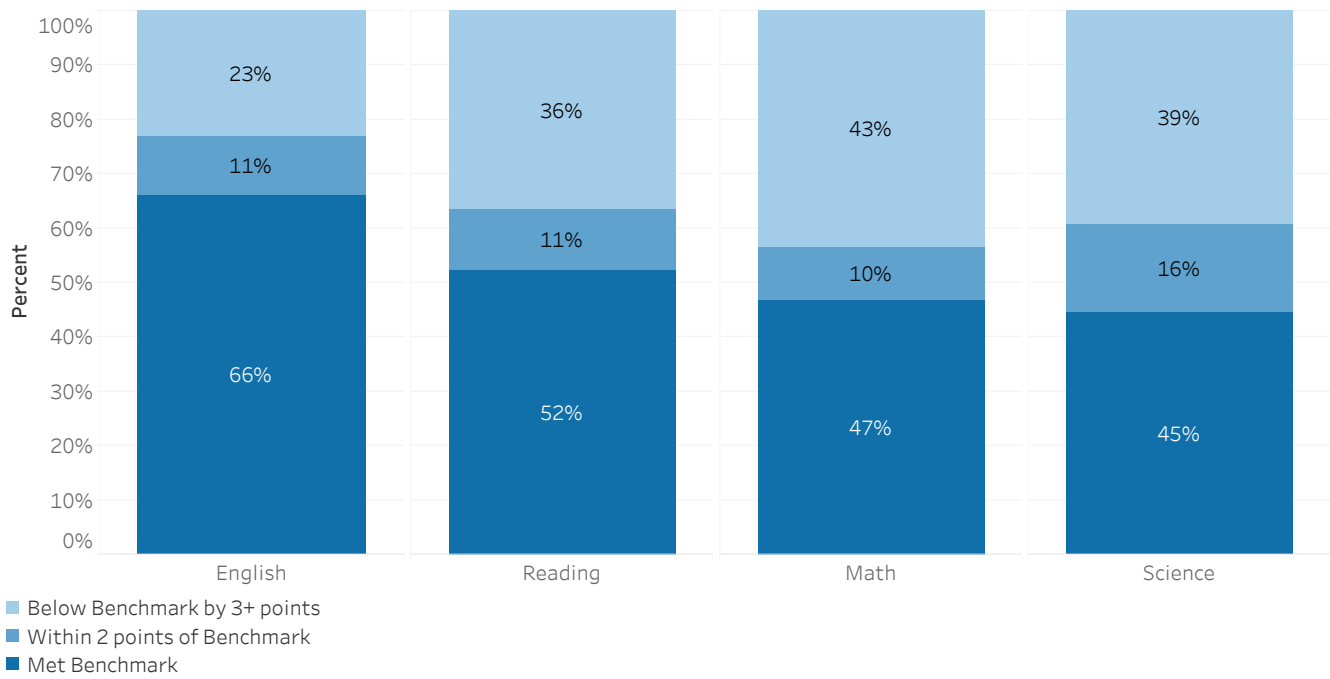
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2015	16%	33%	9%		40%	53%
2016	19%	31%	7%		40%	53%
2017	20%	33%	8%		46%	53%
2018	17%	25%	6%		37%	54%
2019	14%	31%	7%		47%	51%

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SOUTH 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



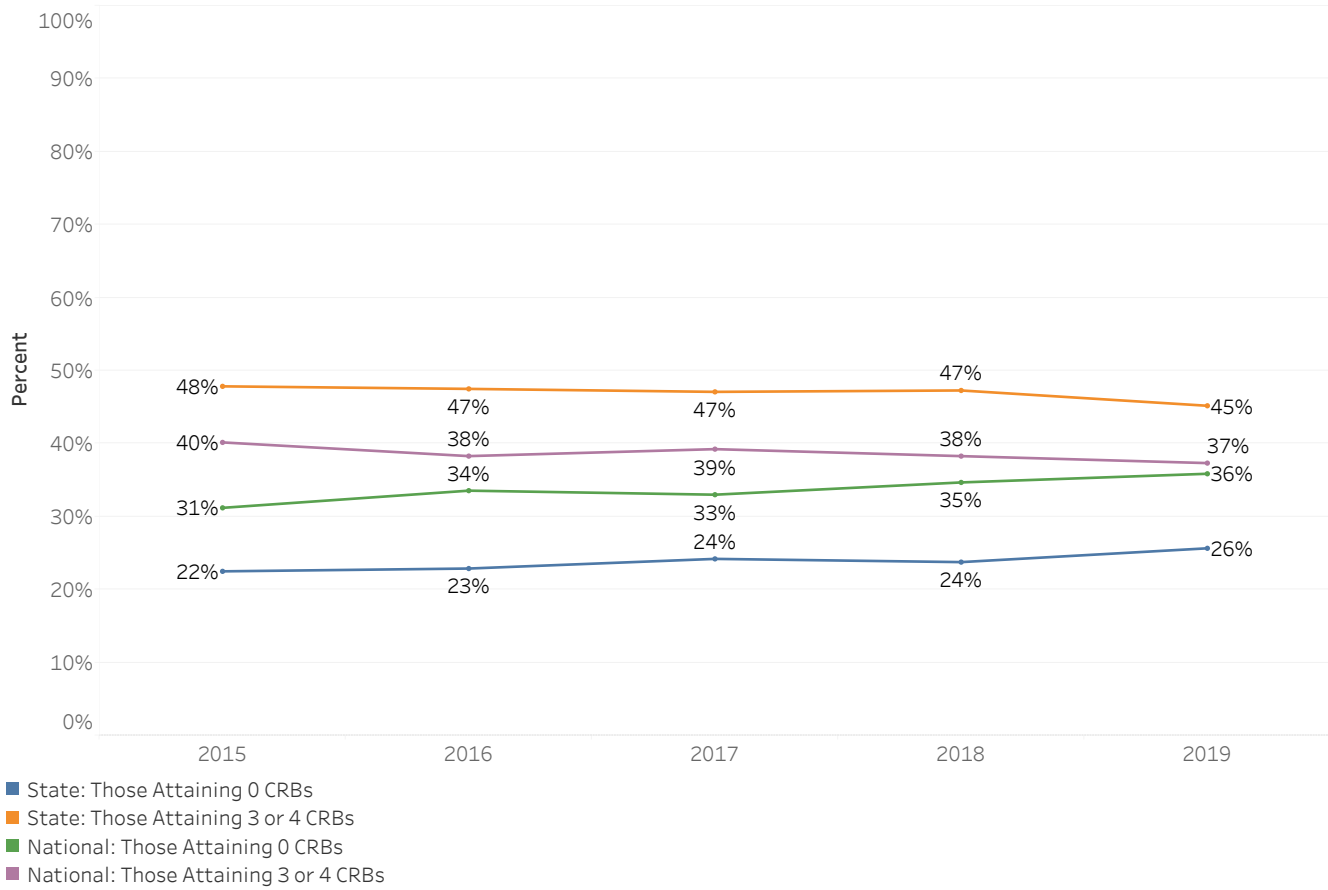
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	23%	11%	66%
Math	43%	10%	47%
Reading	36%	11%	52%
Science	39%	16%	45%

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

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



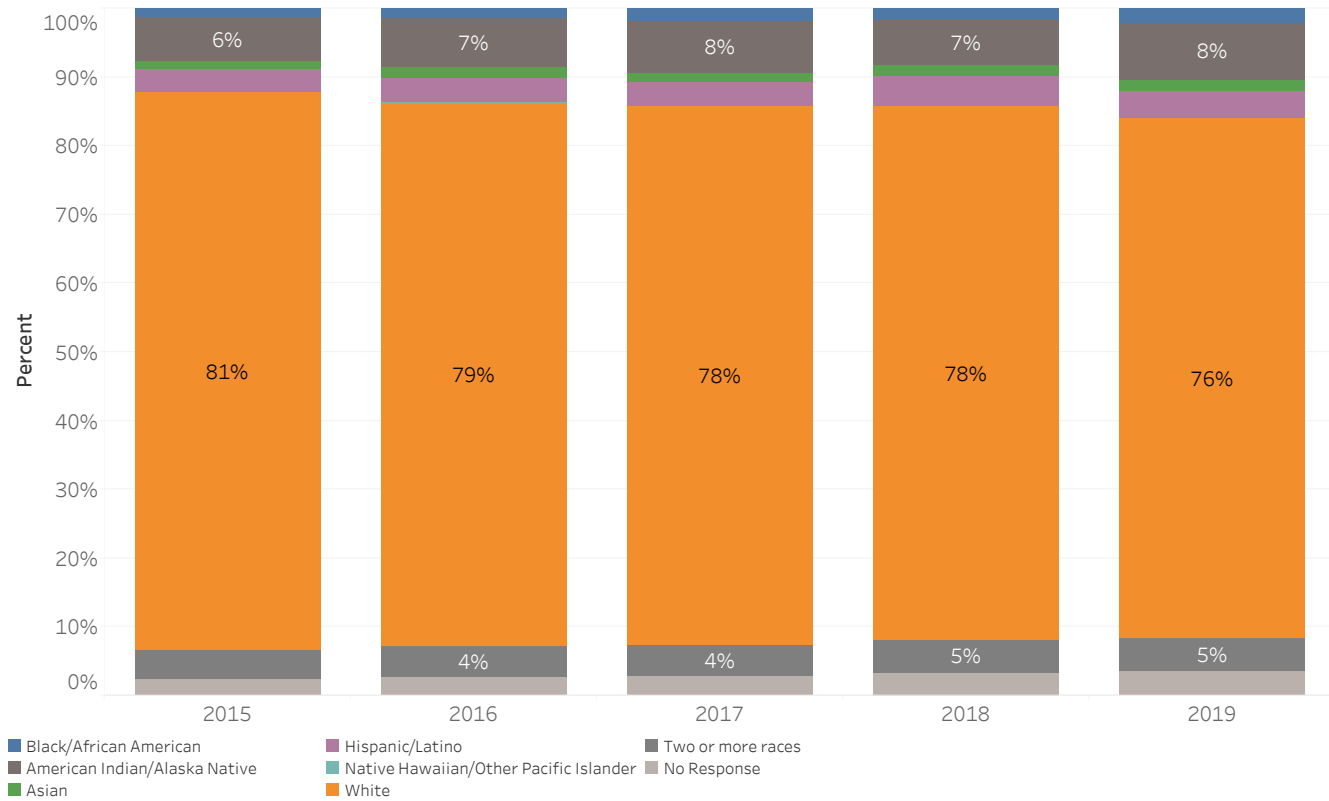
Data from Graph Above

	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	22%	48%	31%	40%
2016	23%	47%	34%	38%
2017	24%	47%	33%	39%
2018	24%	47%	35%	38%
2019	26%	45%	36%	37%

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SOUTH 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	1%	6%	1%	3%	0%	81%	4%	2%
2016	1%	7%	2%	4%	0%	79%	4%	3%
2017	2%	8%	1%	3%	0%	78%	4%	3%
2018	2%	7%	2%	4%	0%	78%	5%	3%
2019	2%	8%	2%	4%	0%	76%	5%	3%

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

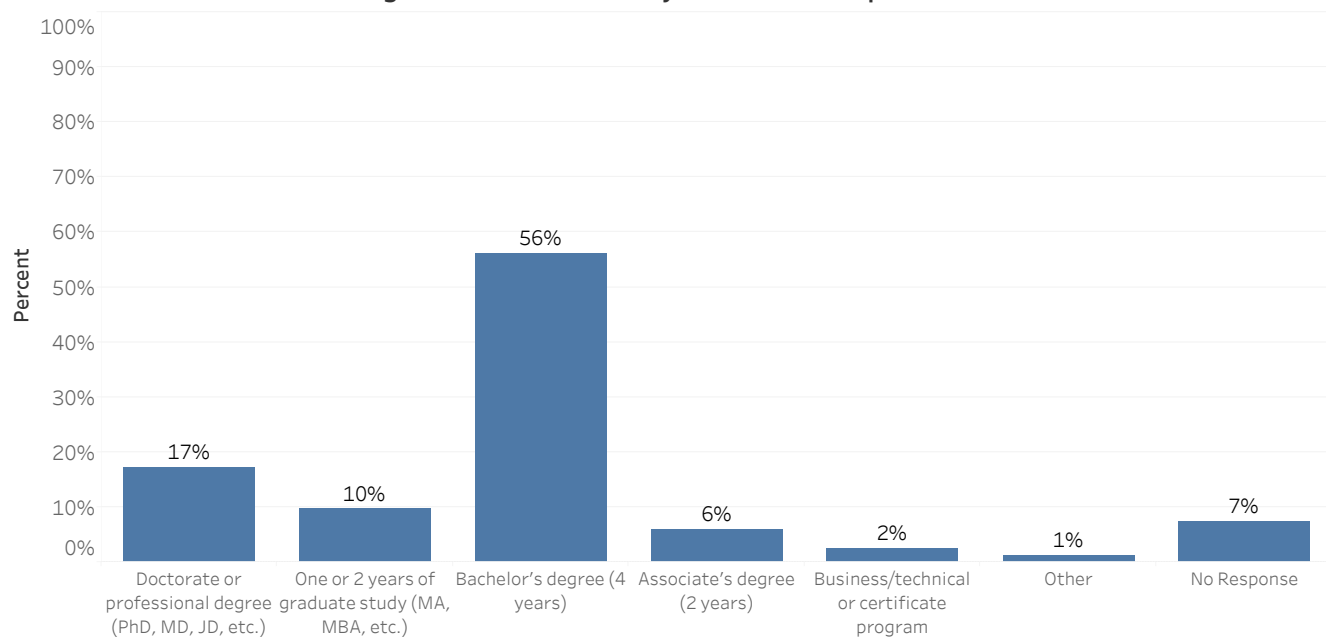
Student Data Trends: 2015-2019, State vs. Nation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	6,615	6,552	6,698	6,730	6,374
National N-count	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817	1,782,820
Average ACT English Score - State	21.0	20.9	20.7	20.8	20.7
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	22.4	22.4	22.3	22.4	22.2
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	21.7	21.7	21.5	21.6	21.3
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	22.1	22.2	22.0	22.2	21.9
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	21.9	21.9	21.8	21.9	21.6
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

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SOUTH 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.)	17%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	10%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	56%
Associate's degree (2 years)	6%
Business/technical or certificate program	2%
Other	1%
No Response	7%

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