

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019

Texas Key Findings

Performance of 2019 Graduates

- In the 2019 Texas graduating class, 136,061 graduates (an estimated 39 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 20.5. This compares to 124,764 (an estimated 41 percent) with an average of 20.9 in 2015. Nationally, an estimated 52 percent of 2019 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.7.
 - There were 13,787 African American graduates from Texas who took the ACT (10 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.6. This compares to 14,493 (10 percent) with an average of 17.6, and 13,792 (11 percent) with an average of 17.6, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 44,145 White graduates from Texas who took the ACT (32 percent) with an average Composite score of 23.1. This compares to 47,902 (34 percent) with an average of 23.2, and 46,564 (37 percent) with an average of 23.3, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 54,089 Hispanic graduates from Texas who took the ACT (40 percent) with an average Composite score of 18.5. This compares to 55,072 (39 percent) with an average of 18.7, and 48,934 (39 percent) with an average of 18.7, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - The 2019 Texas graduating class average English score was 19.5. This compares to 19.6 and 19.8 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 Texas graduating class average math score was 20.4. This compares to 20.6 and 21.1 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 Texas graduating class average reading score was 21.1. This compares to 21.1 and 21.1 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 Texas graduating class average science score was 20.6. This compares to 20.8 and 21.0 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.

- In 2019, 25 percent of Texas graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 25 and 27 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 37 percent of Texas graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 37 and 34 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 55 percent of Texas graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 56 and 59 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 38 percent of Texas graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 39 and 44 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 44 percent of Texas graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 44 and 44 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 35 percent of Texas graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 35 and 38 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 49,481 (36 percent) of Texas graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 52,148 and 49,335 (37 and 40 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, 4 percent of Texas graduates took the ACT with extended time. This compares to 3 and 2 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.

STEM

- In 2019, 65,051 Texas graduates (48 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
- Compared to a 2019 Texas graduating class average ACT STEM score of 20.8, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM averages of 20.9 and 21.3, respectively.
- Compared to 19 percent of 2019 Texas graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 19 and 21, respectively.
 - 2019 Texas graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.9. This compares to 28.4 in 2015.
 - 2019 Texas graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 28.9. This compares to 28.8 in 2015.

Career Readiness Indicator

- In 2019, 53,352 Texas graduates (39 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, 98,040 Texas 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 Texas 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:
 - 329 more students enrolling in college.
 - 368 more students persisting to year two.
 - 273 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - 433 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - 395 more students persisting to year four.
 - 419 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Texas, 47,322 of the 2019 graduates (34.8 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 22.7, compared to an average of 19.4 for 88,739 of the 2019 graduates (65.2 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.
- 291,147 score reports were sent to colleges by 2019 Texas ACT-tested graduates.
 - 188,774 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2019 Texas ACT-tested graduates.
 - For Texas's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were Texas A&M University - Main Campus, the University of Texas at Austin, Texas Tech University, Texas State University, and the University of Houston - Main Campus.
 - For Texas's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, and the University of Arkansas.
- Compared to 66 percent of 2019 graduates nationally, 74 percent of Texas 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 Texas African American 2019 graduates opted into EOS.
 - Compared to 64 percent of White students nationally, 67 percent of Texas White 2019 graduates opted into EOS.
 - Compared to 76 percent of Hispanic students nationally, 84 percent of Texas Hispanic 2019 graduates opted into EOS.

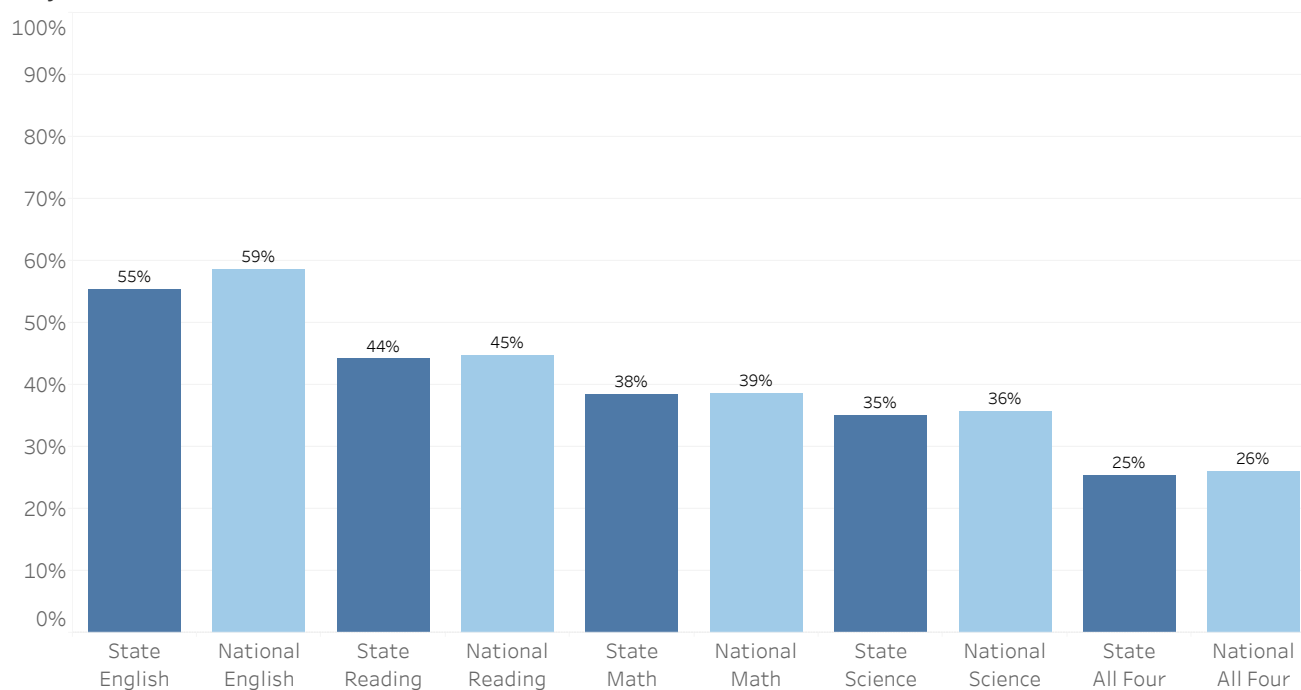
- In the 2018-2019 academic year, ACT issued 61,013 ACT fee waivers to qualified Texas students across all grades. However, 19,161 students (31.4 percent) did not take advantage of this opportunity to test for free. This compares to 487,749 waivers issued nationally, of which 135,569 (27.8 percent) students 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 Texas students represent 15 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 15 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 32 and 34 nationally.
 - While White Texas students represent 8 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 8 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 19 and 17 nationally.
 - While Hispanic Texas students represent 70 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 70 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.
 - 45,223 students (33 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 23.6.
 - 54,482 students (40 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 19.9.
- In the Texas graduating class of 2019, 24,933 students (18 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2019 Texas graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; and Biology, General.
 - In the Texas graduating class of 2019, 5,167 (4 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 19.2.

TEXAS 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

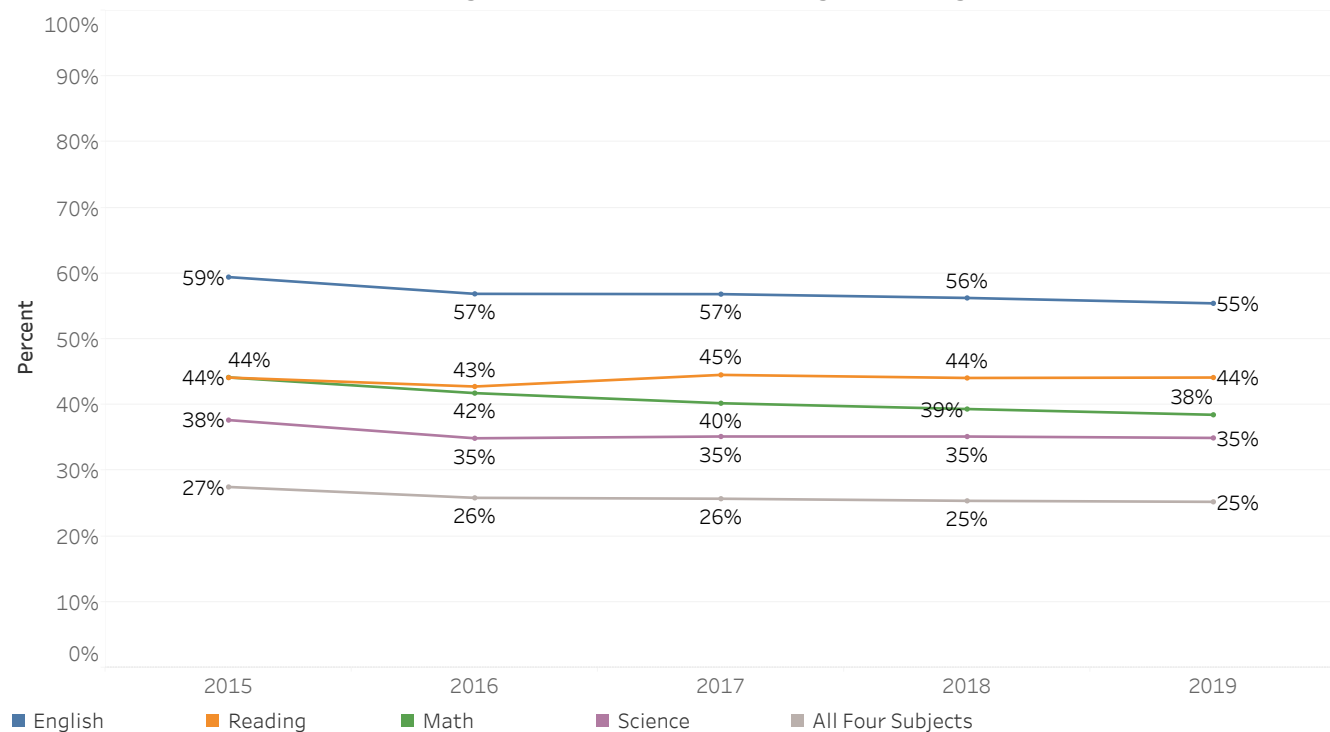
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
55%	59%	44%	45%	38%	39%	35%	36%	25%	26%

* 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.

TEXAS 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

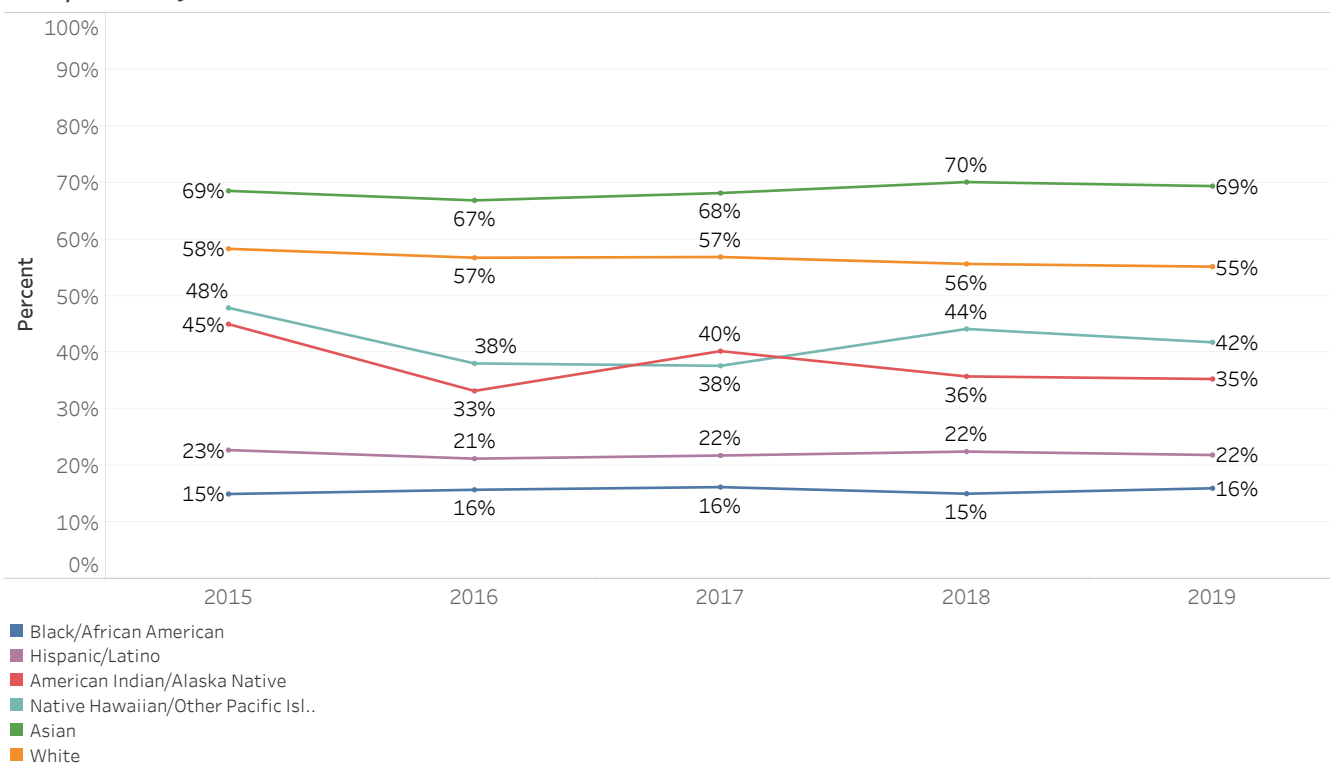
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	59%	44%	44%	38%	27%
2016	57%	43%	42%	35%	26%
2017	57%	45%	40%	35%	26%
2018	56%	44%	39%	35%	25%
2019	55%	44%	38%	35%	25%

* 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.

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

TEXAS 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



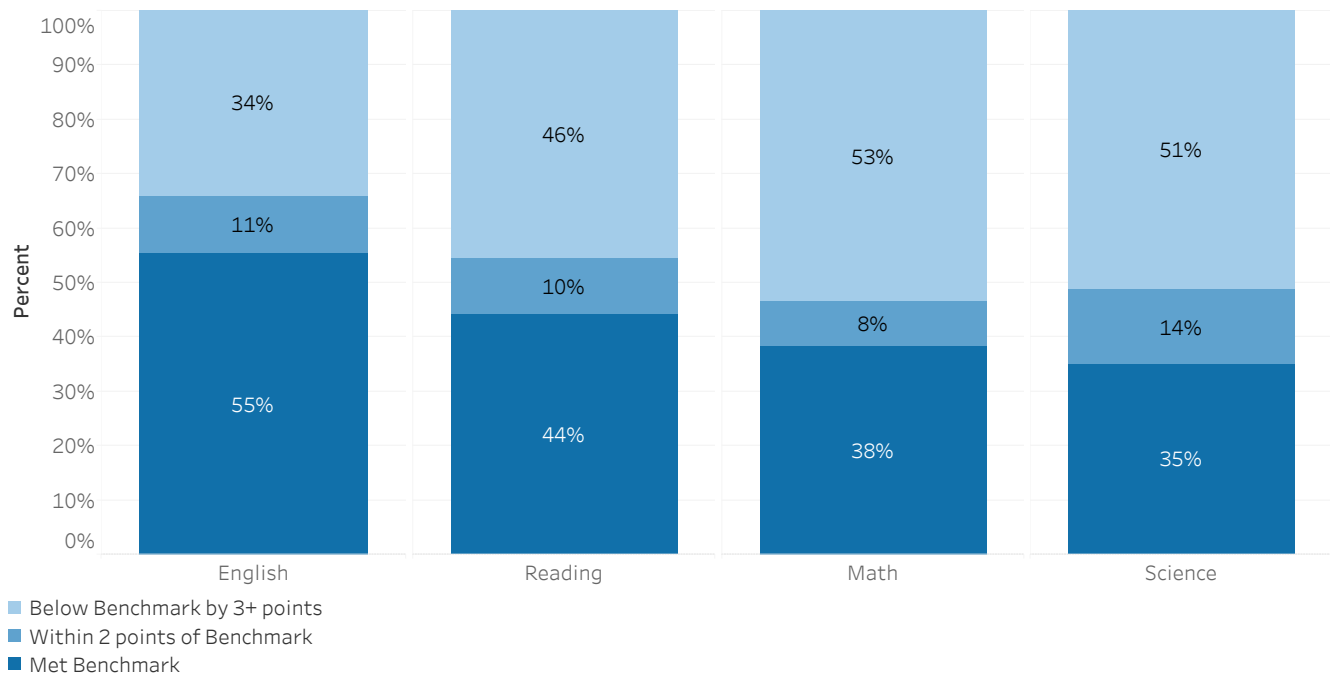
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2015	15%	23%	45%	48%	69%	58%
2016	16%	21%	33%	38%	67%	57%
2017	16%	22%	40%	38%	68%	57%
2018	15%	22%	36%	44%	70%	56%
2019	16%	22%	35%	42%	69%	55%

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

TEXAS College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



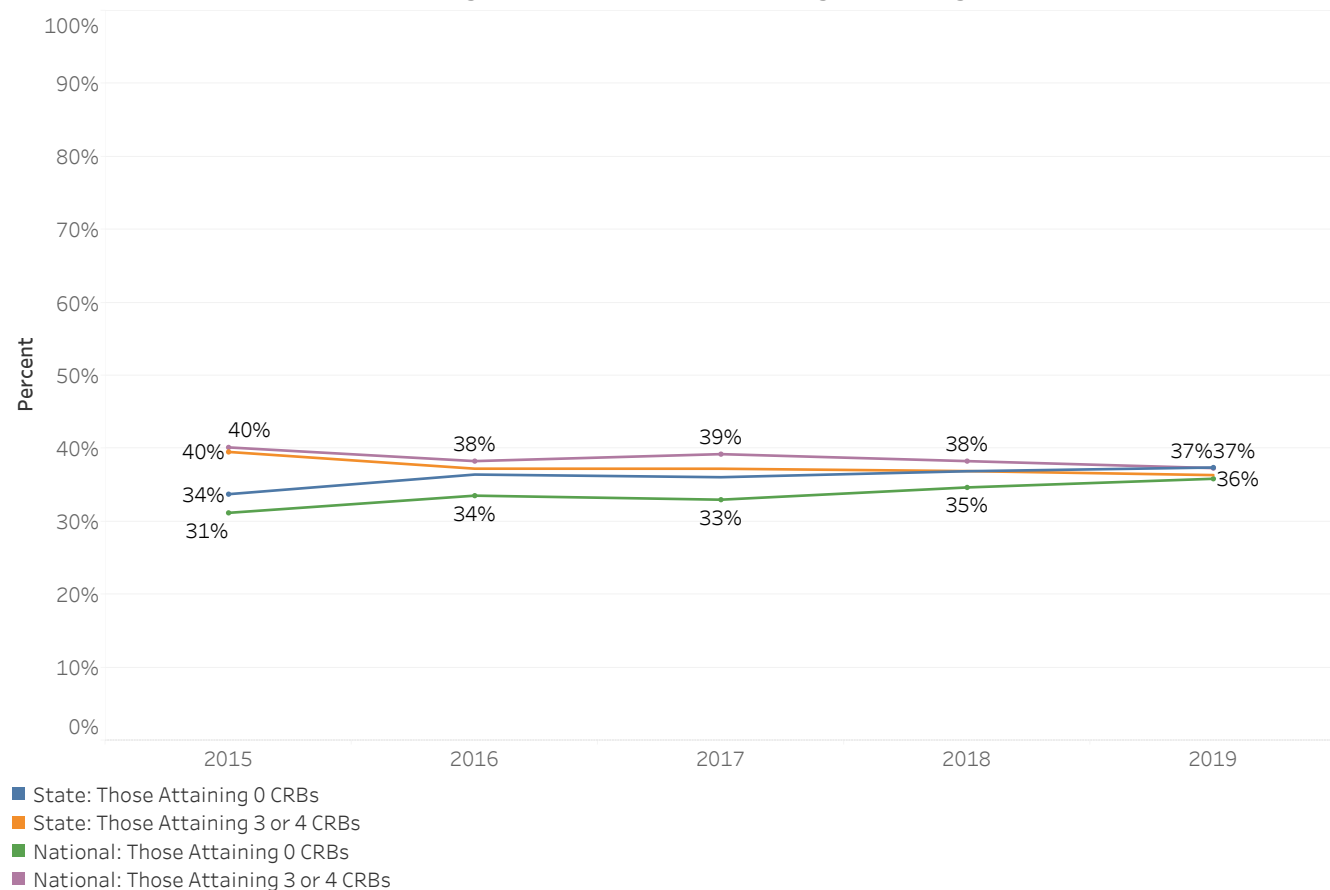
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	34%	11%	55%
Math	53%	8%	38%
Reading	46%	10%	44%
Science	51%	14%	35%

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

TEXAS College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



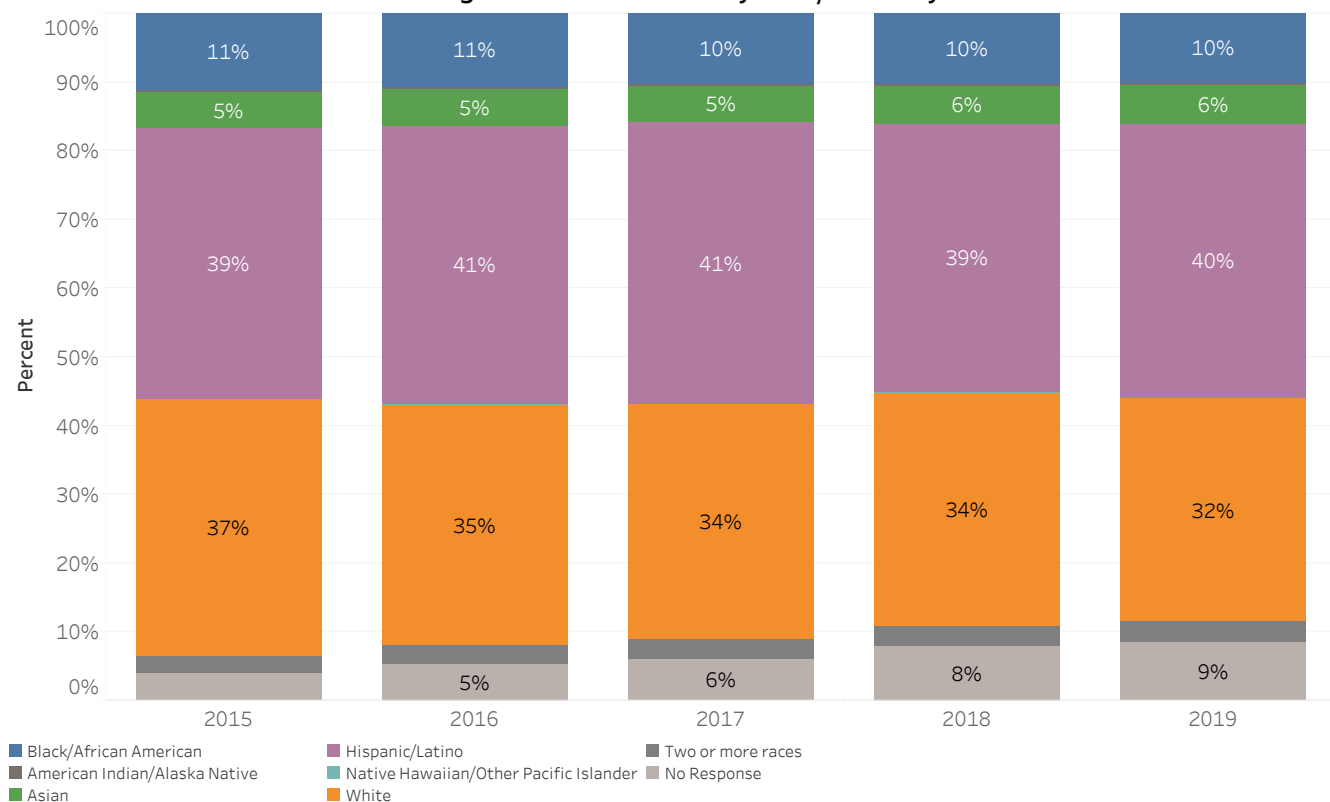
Data from Graph Above

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

*Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

TEXAS 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	11%	0%	5%	39%	0%	37%	3%	4%
2016	11%	0%	5%	41%	0%	35%	3%	5%
2017	10%	0%	5%	41%	0%	34%	3%	6%
2018	10%	0%	6%	39%	0%	34%	3%	8%
2019	10%	0%	6%	40%	0%	32%	3%	9%

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

TEXAS College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

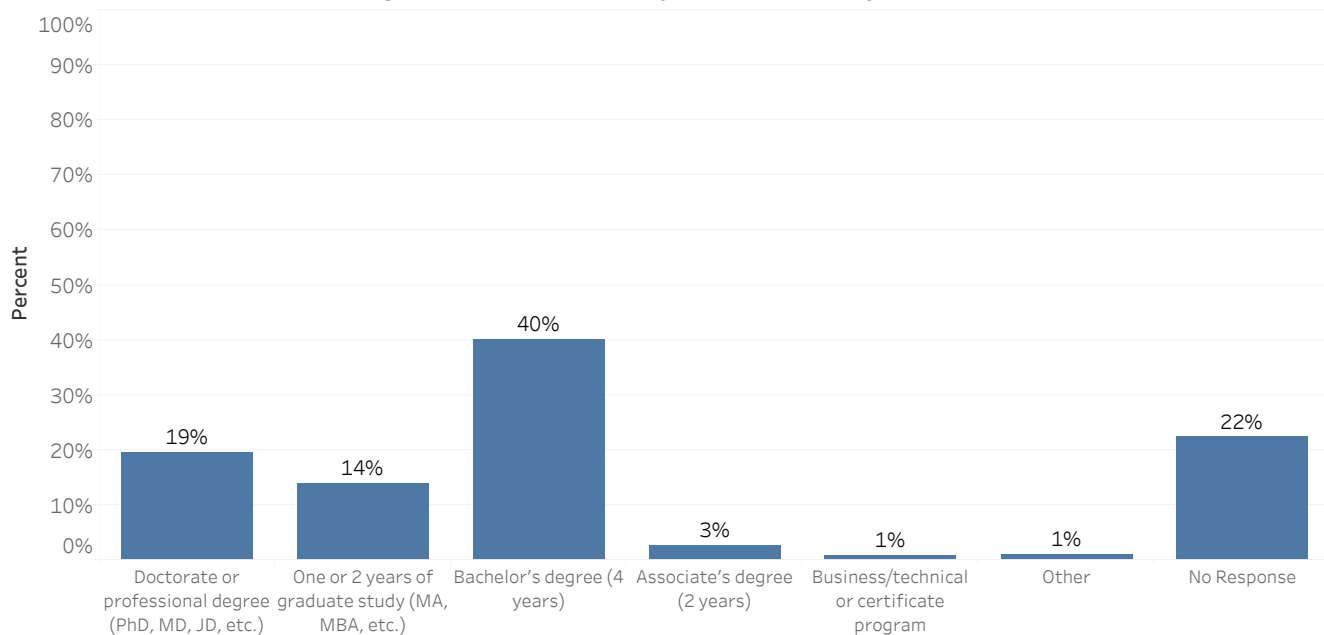
Student Data Trends: 2015-2019, State vs. Nation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	124,764	142,877	146,608	141,253	136,061
National N-count	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817	1,782,820
Average ACT English Score - State	19.8	19.4	19.5	19.6	19.5
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	21.1	21.0	21.1	21.1	21.1
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	21.1	20.7	20.7	20.6	20.4
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	21.0	20.7	20.9	20.8	20.6
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	20.9	20.6	20.7	20.6	20.5
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

TEXAS 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.)	19%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	14%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	40%
Associate's degree (2 years)	3%
Business/technical or certificate program	1%
Other	1%
No Response	22%

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.