

# The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019

## Wyoming Key Findings

### Performance of 2019 Graduates

- In the 2019 Wyoming graduating class, 6,361 graduates (an estimated 100 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 19.8. This compares to 6,042 (an estimated 100 percent) with an average of 20.2 in 2015. Nationally, an estimated 52 percent of 2019 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.7.
  - There were 64 African American graduates from Wyoming who took the ACT (1 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.0. This compares to 56 (1 percent) with an average of 16.8, and 38 (1 percent) with an average of 17.3, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - There were 142 American Indian graduates from Wyoming who took the ACT (2 percent) with an average Composite score of 15.6. This compares to 146 (2 percent) with an average of 16.2, and 128 (2 percent) with an average of 16.2, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - There were 4,573 White graduates from Wyoming who took the ACT (72 percent) with an average Composite score of 20.4. This compares to 4,638 (73 percent) with an average of 20.6, and 4,311 (71 percent) with an average of 20.8, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - There were 871 Hispanic graduates from Wyoming who took the ACT (14 percent) with an average Composite score of 18.0. This compares to 844 (13 percent) with an average of 18.1, and 673 (11 percent) with an average of 18.2, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - There were 51 Asian graduates from Wyoming who took the ACT (1 percent) with an average Composite score of 22.2. This compares to 32 (1 percent) with an average of 20.9, and 41 (1 percent) with an average of 22.0, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
- In 2019, 19 percent of Wyoming graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 21 and 22 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 41 percent of Wyoming graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 38 and 34 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 53 percent of Wyoming graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 55 and 60 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 31 percent of Wyoming graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 33 and 36 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 39 percent of Wyoming graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 41 and 40 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 30 percent of Wyoming graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 33 and 34 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 1,924 (30 percent) of Wyoming graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 2,078 and 2,092 (33 and 35 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

- In 2019, 2,911 Wyoming graduates (46 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
- Compared to a 2019 Wyoming graduating class average ACT STEM score of 20.0, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM averages of 20.2 and 20.4, respectively.
- Compared to 13 percent of 2019 Wyoming graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 14 and 14, respectively.
  - 2019 Wyoming graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.2. This compares to 28.1 in 2015.
  - 2019 Wyoming graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 28.0. This compares to 27.7 in 2015.

## Career Readiness Indicator

- In 2019, 4,502 Wyoming graduates (71 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 Wyoming 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:
  - 16 more students enrolling in college.
  - 18 more students persisting to year two.
  - 14 fewer students needing remedial English.
  - 23 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 Wyoming, 2,372 of the 2019 graduates (37.3 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 21.9, compared to an average of 18.5 for 3,989 of the 2019 graduates (62.7 percent) who took the ACT only once.
- 13,070 score reports were sent to colleges by 2019 Wyoming ACT-tested graduates.
  - 6,159 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2019 Wyoming ACT-tested graduates.
  - For Wyoming’s 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were the University of Wyoming, Casper College, Laramie County Community College, Sheridan College, and Western Wyoming Community College.
  - For Wyoming’s 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were Colorado State University, Black Hills State University, and the University of Utah.

- Compared to 66 percent of 2019 graduates nationally, 70 percent of Wyoming 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 562 ACT fee waivers to qualified Wyoming students across all grades. However, 133 students (23.7 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. Fee waivers represent a great opportunity for students of low socioeconomic status to retest without incurring any fees.

## Postsecondary Aspirations

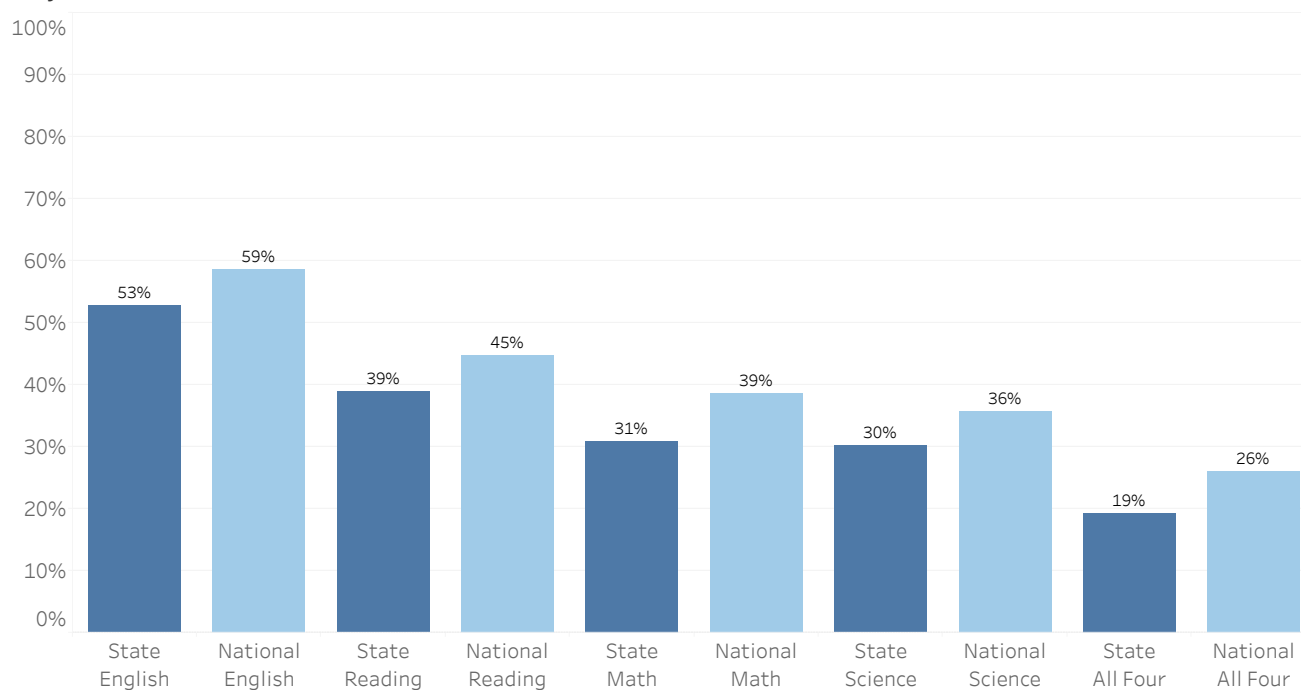
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
  - 1,670 students (26 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 22.5.
  - 2,436 students (38 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 20.0.
  - 841 students (13 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 16.9.
- In the Wyoming graduating class of 2019, 1,346 students (21 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2019 Wyoming graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; and Engineering (Pre-Engineering), General.
  - In the Wyoming graduating class of 2019, 781 students (12 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 20.1. 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 Wyoming graduating class of 2019, 363 (6 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 19.8.
- There is good news in that 78% of Wyoming's 2019 ACT-tested graduates aspired to postsecondary education. Interestingly enough, 81% of Wyoming's 2018 ACT-tested graduating class aspired to enroll in postsecondary education, compared to 49% who actually did enroll. If we fully closed the aspirational gap, an additional 2,060 of the 2018 ACT-tested graduates from Wyoming would have enrolled in postsecondary education.

## Additional Points

- The Wyoming ACT State Organization consists of more than 140 members representing K-12, postsecondary education, workforce development, state agencies, and access organizations. Organized around ACT's mission of helping people achieve education and workplace success, the membership helps strengthen connections across the K-career continuum in the state.
- Each ACT State Organization recognizes individuals who make a positive impact on their communities as College and Career Readiness Champions. The 2019 Wyoming ACT Champions are:
  - High school senior: Sage Dobby, Kelly Walsh High School; and K-12 professional: Mary Kerns, Secondary ELA teacher, Kelly Walsh High School.

# WYOMING 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

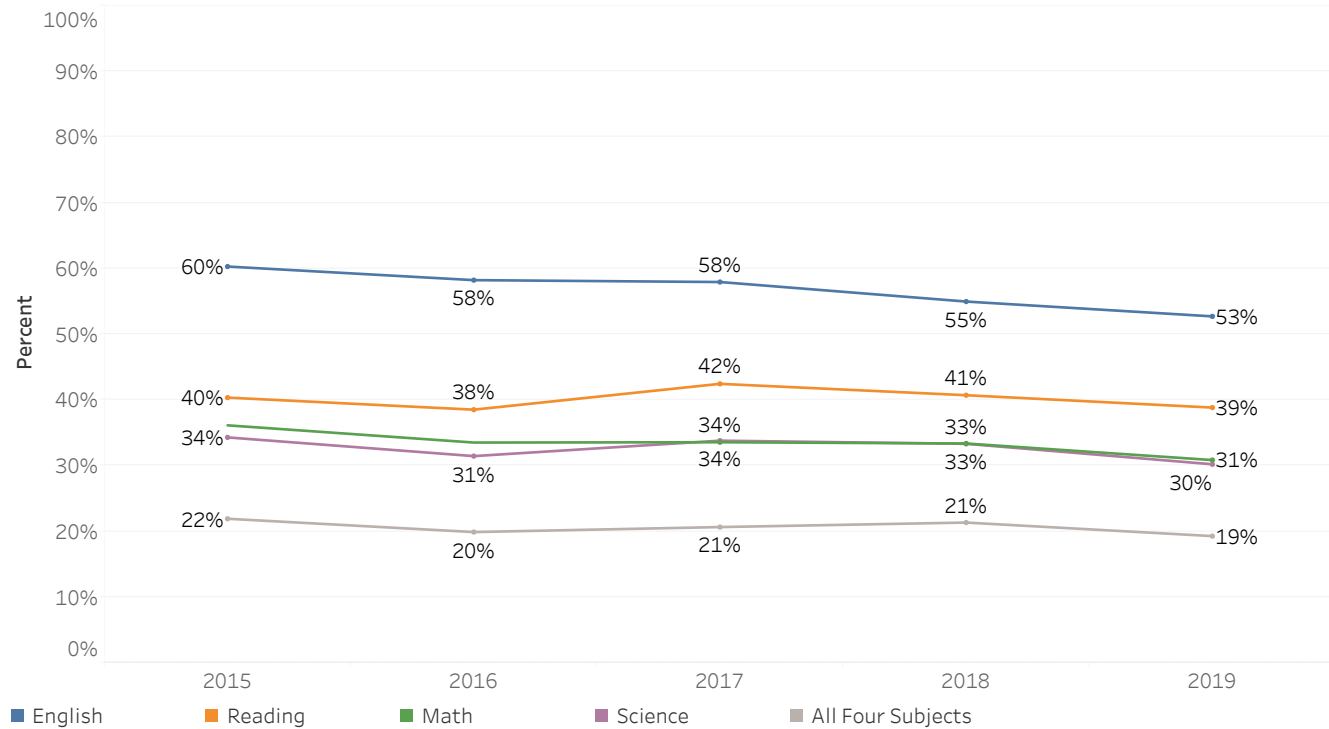
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
53%	59%	39%	45%	31%	39%	30%	36%	19%	26%

\* 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.

# WYOMING 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

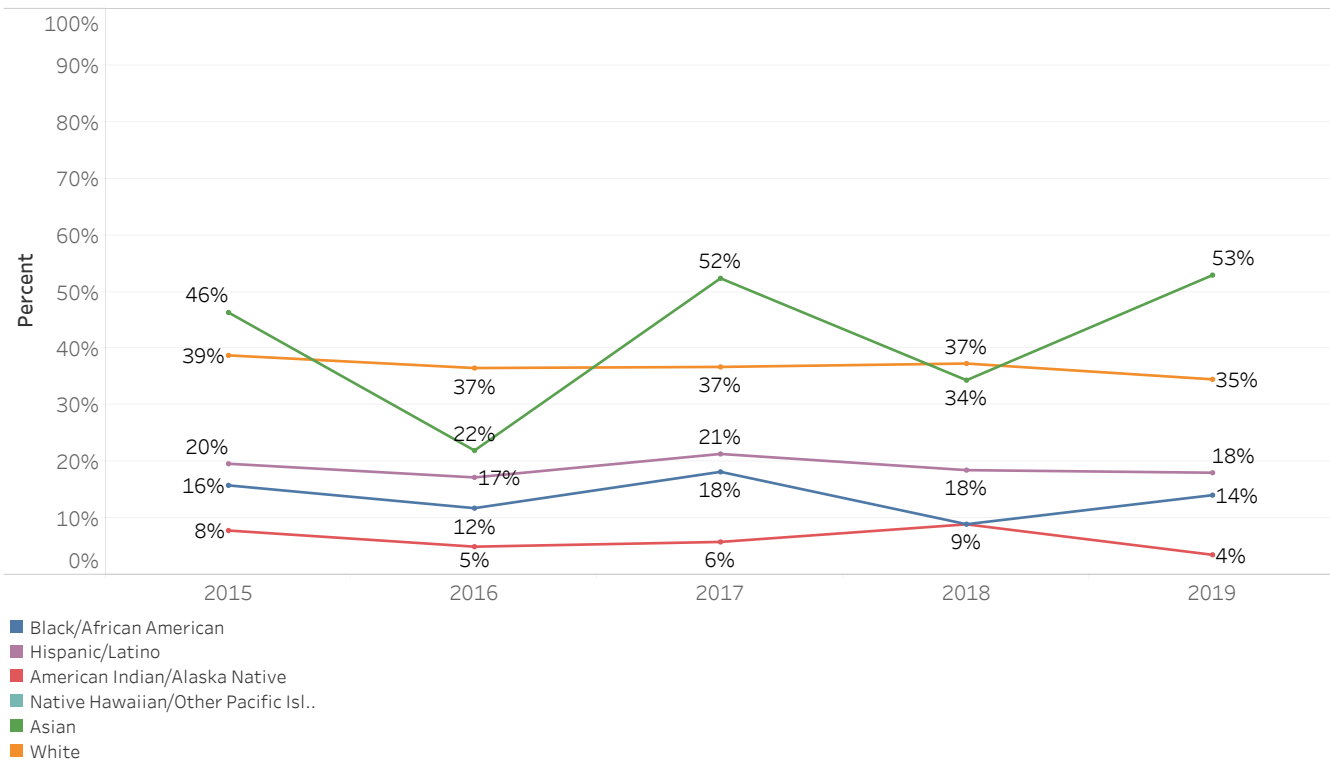
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	60%	40%	36%	34%	22%
2016	58%	38%	33%	31%	20%
2017	58%	42%	34%	34%	21%
2018	55%	41%	33%	33%	21%
2019	53%	39%	31%	30%	19%

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# WYOMING 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



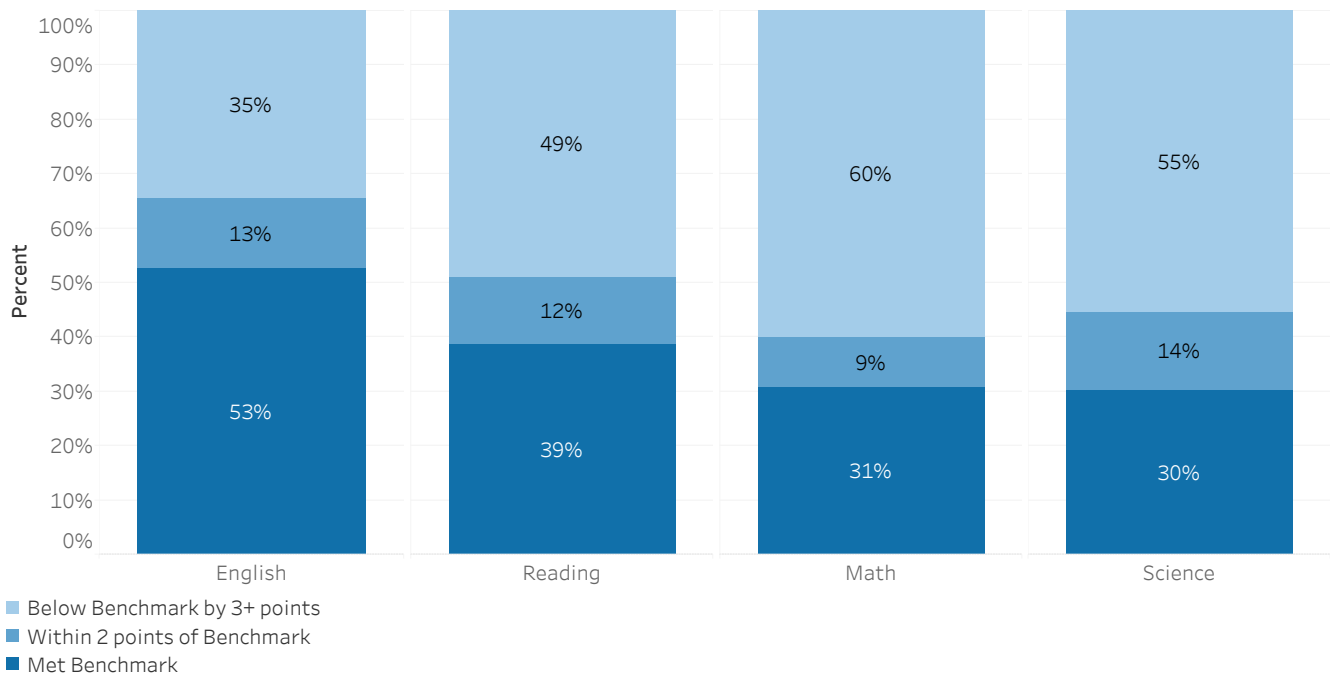
### Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2015	16%	20%	8%		46%	39%
2016	12%	17%	5%		22%	37%
2017	18%	21%	6%		52%	37%
2018	9%	18%	9%		34%	37%
2019	14%	18%	4%		53%	35%

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

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



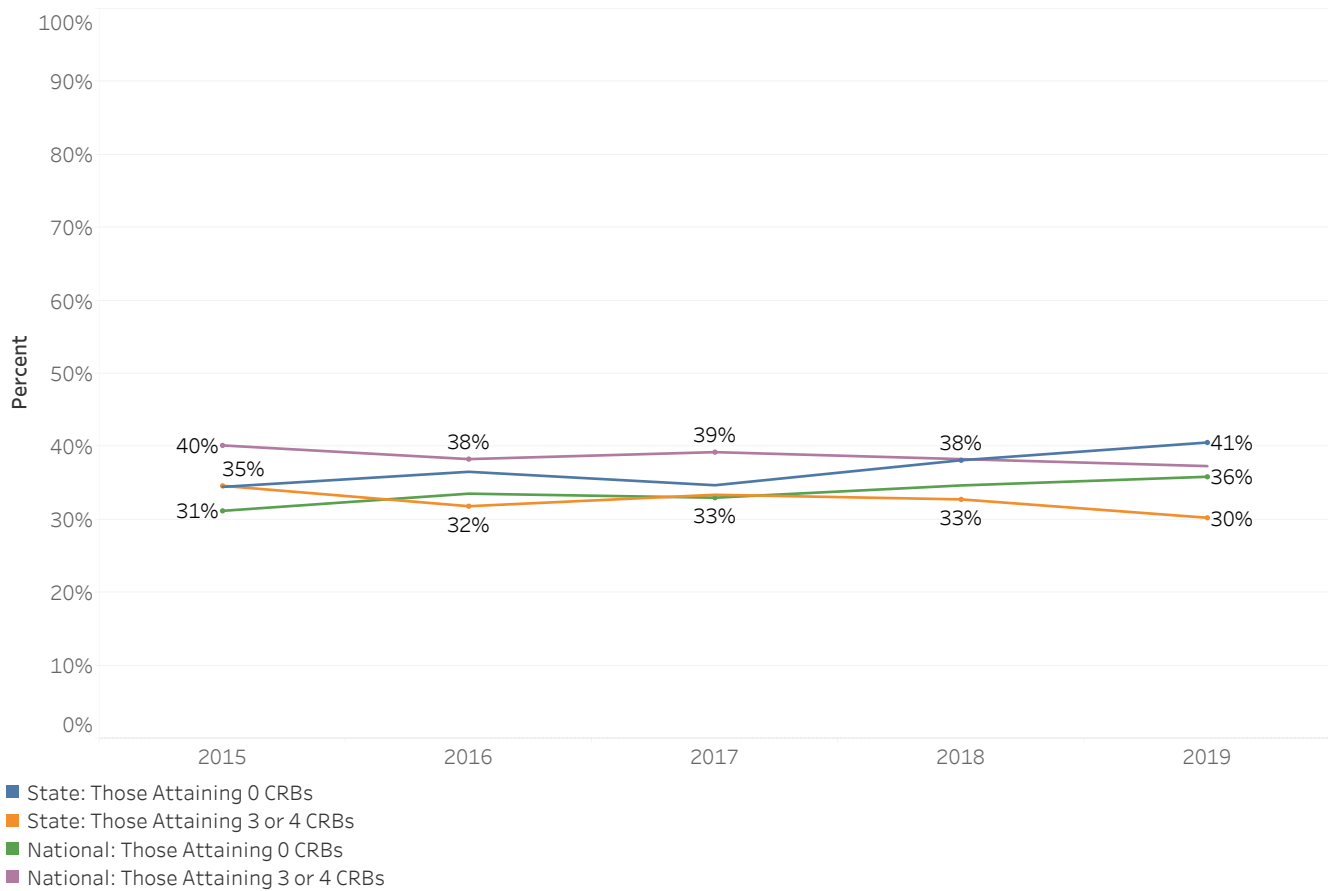
## Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	35%	13%	53%
Math	60%	9%	31%
Reading	49%	12%	39%
Science	55%	14%	30%

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# WYOMING 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

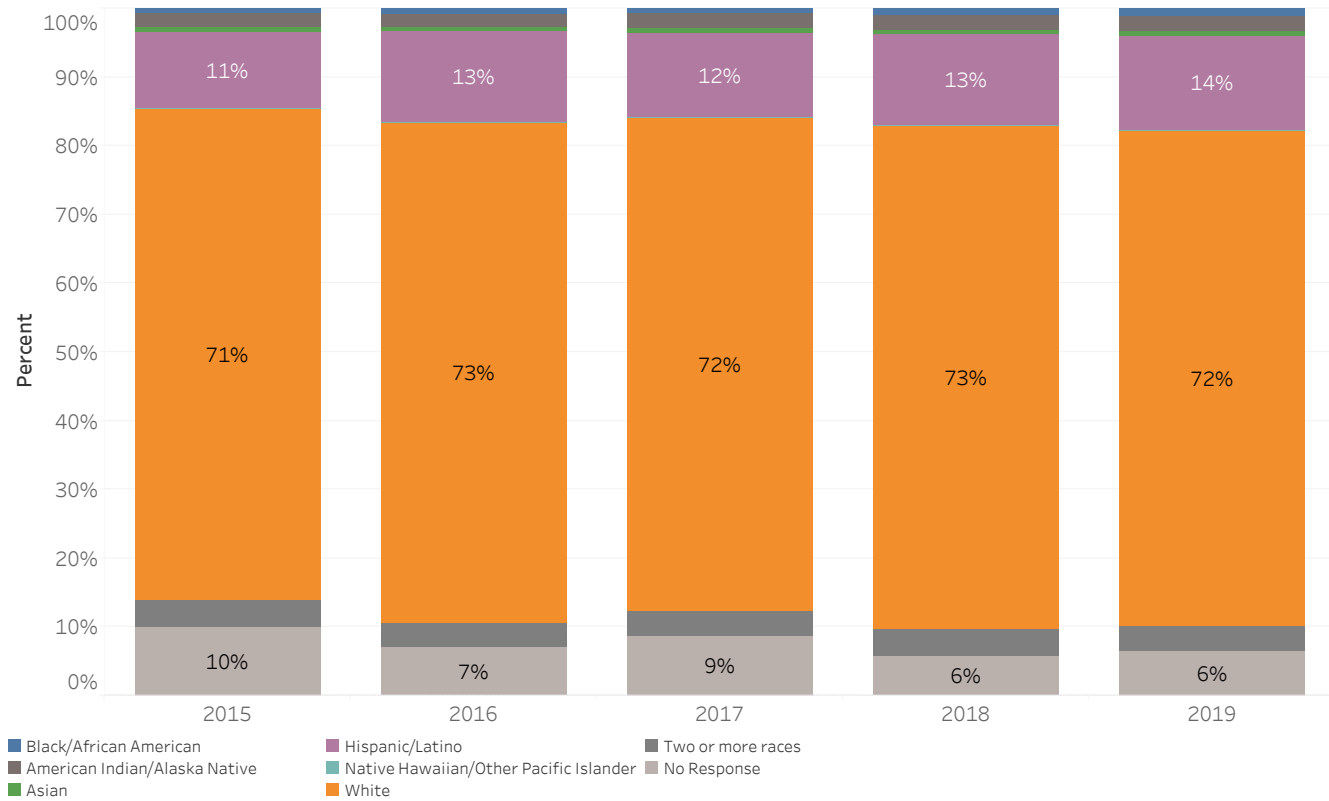
	State: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	State: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs
2015	34%	35%	31%	40%
2016	37%	32%	34%	38%
2017	35%	33%	33%	39%
2018	38%	33%	35%	38%
2019	41%	30%	36%	37%

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# WYOMING 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%	2%	1%	11%	0%	71%	4%	10%
2016	1%	2%	1%	13%	0%	73%	4%	7%
2017	1%	2%	1%	12%	0%	72%	4%	9%
2018	1%	2%	1%	13%	0%	73%	4%	6%
2019	1%	2%	1%	14%	0%	72%	4%	6%

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

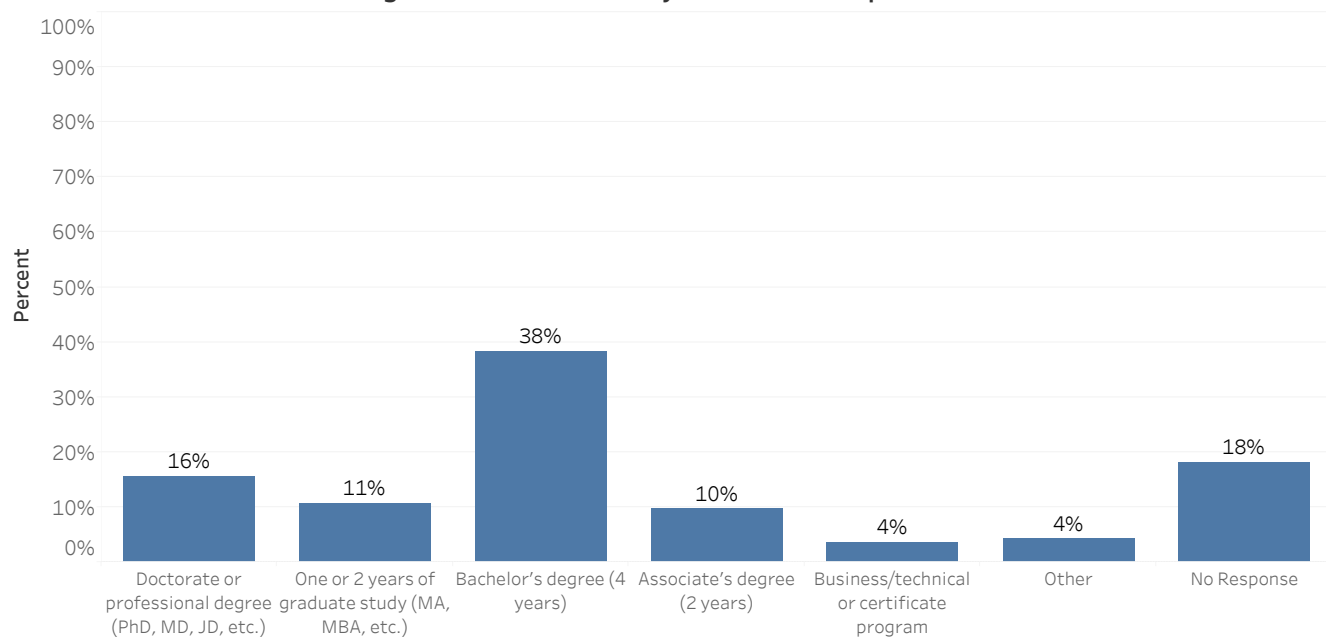
## Student Data Trends: 2015-2019, State vs. Nation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	6,042	6,255	6,267	6,342	6,361
National N-count	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817	1,782,820
Average ACT English Score - State	19.4	19.2	19.4	19.0	18.8
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	20.6	20.4	20.8	20.6	20.4
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	19.9	19.6	19.8	19.7	19.4
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	20.4	20.4	20.6	20.3	20.0
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	20.2	20.0	20.2	20.0	19.8
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

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# WYOMING 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.)	16%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	11%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	38%
Associate's degree (2 years)	10%
Business/technical or certificate program	4%
Other	4%
No Response	18%

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