

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019

Alabama Key Findings

Performance of 2019 Graduates

- In the 2019 Alabama graduating class, 57,276 graduates (an estimated 100 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 18.9. This compares to 55,427 (an estimated 100 percent) with an average of 19.1 in 2015. Nationally, an estimated 52 percent of 2019 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.7.
 - There were 15,761 African American graduates from Alabama who took the ACT (28 percent) with an average Composite score of 16.1. This compares to 16,336 (28 percent) with an average of 16.2, and 15,615 (28 percent) with an average of 16.4, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 30,778 White graduates from Alabama who took the ACT (54 percent) with an average Composite score of 20.5. This compares to 31,665 (54 percent) with an average of 20.7, and 31,433 (57 percent) with an average of 20.6, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 3,783 Hispanic graduates from Alabama who took the ACT (7 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.5. This compares to 3,596 (6 percent) with an average of 17.5, and 2,644 (5 percent) with an average of 18.0, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - The 2019 Alabama graduating class average English score was 18.7. This compares to 18.9 and 18.8 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 Alabama graduating class average math score was 18.1. This compares to 18.3 and 18.4 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 Alabama graduating class average reading score was 19.5. This compares to 19.6 and 19.7 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 Alabama graduating class average science score was 18.8. This compares to 19.0 and 19.1 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
- In 2019, 15 percent of Alabama graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 16 and 16 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 50 percent of Alabama graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 51 and 53 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 22 percent of Alabama graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 23 and 23 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 34 percent of Alabama graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 35 and 34 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 24 percent of Alabama graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 24 and 25 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.

STEM

- In 2019, 27,724 Alabama graduates (48 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 Alabama graduating class average ACT STEM score of 18.7, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM averages of 18.9 and 19.0, respectively.
- Compared to 11 percent of 2019 Alabama graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 11 and 10, respectively.
- 2019 graduates taking physics had an average science score of 19.8, compared to 18.3 for students not taking physics.
 - 30 percent of 2019 Alabama graduates taking physics met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 20 for students not taking physics.

Impact

- Based on the actual test volume and ACT score distributions of 2019 ACT-tested Alabama 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:
 - 148 more students enrolling in college.
 - 163 more students persisting to year two.
 - 119 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - 182 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - 167 more students persisting to year four.
 - 174 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Alabama, 30,859 of the 2019 graduates (53.9 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 21.4, compared to an average of 16.0 for 26,417 of the 2019 graduates (46.1 percent) who took the ACT only once.
- 157,366 score reports were sent to colleges by 2019 Alabama ACT-tested graduates.
 - 109,133 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2019 Alabama ACT-tested graduates.
 - For Alabama's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were Auburn University, the University of Alabama, the University of Alabama in Birmingham, Troy University - Troy, and the University of South Alabama.
 - For Alabama's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were Mississippi State University, the University of Georgia, and the University of Mississippi.
- Compared to 66 percent of 2019 graduates nationally, 80 percent of Alabama 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, 86 percent of Alabama African American 2019 graduates opted into EOS.

- In the 2018-2019 academic year, ACT issued 16,522 ACT fee waivers to qualified Alabama students across all grades. However, 3,640 students (22.0 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 retake without incurring any fees.
 - While African American Alabama students represent 59 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 62 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 32 and 34 nationally.

Postsecondary Aspirations

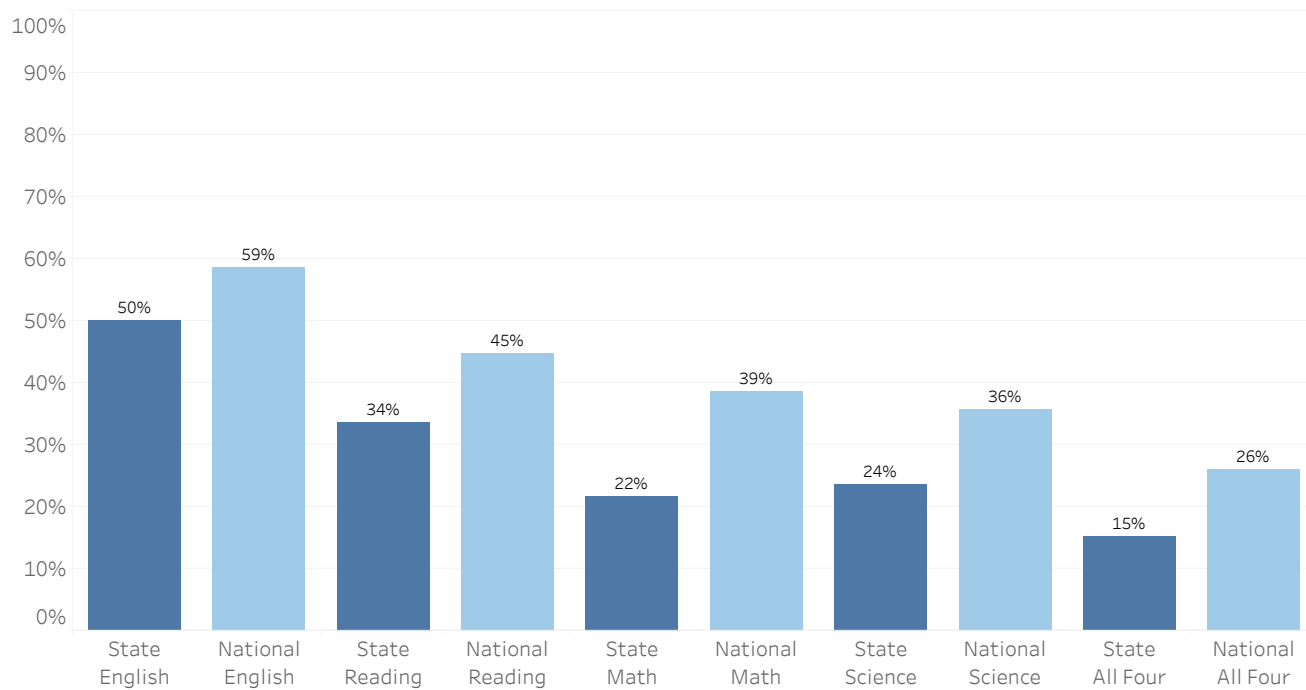
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - 15,418 students (27 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 22.2.
 - 24,961 students (44 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 19.0.
 - 7,165 students (13 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 15.4.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2019 Alabama graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; and Mechanical Engineering.
 - In the Alabama graduating class of 2019, 2,391 (4 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 19.2.

Additional Points

- The Alabama ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with more than 20 council members and hundreds of additional 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 Alabama honorees were:
 - High school senior: Katherine Grubbs, Virgil I. Grissom High School; K-12 professional: Ina Harbison, Teacher, Cordova High School; postsecondary professional: Lisa Smith, Director of Student Resource Center, Wallace State Community College; workforce professional: Jeremy Hodge, Director of Career Services, Alabama State University.

ALABAMA 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

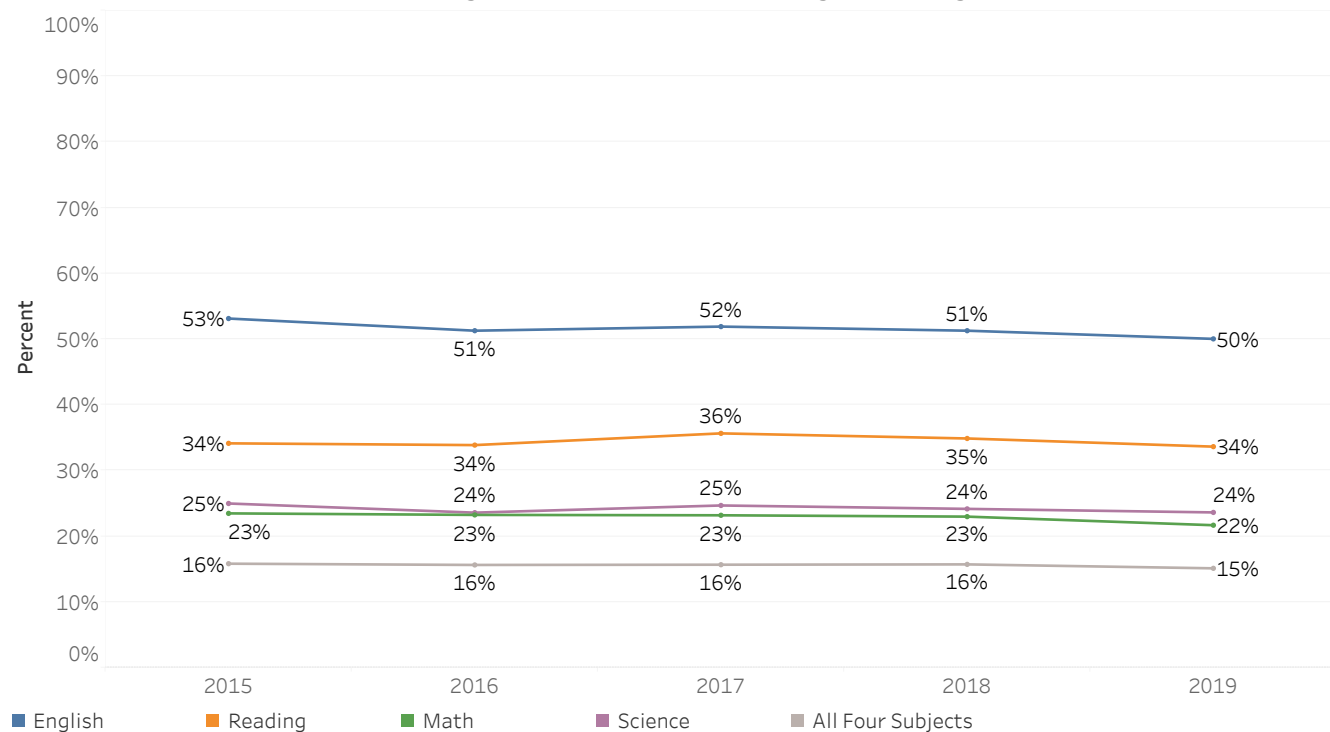
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
50%	59%	34%	45%	22%	39%	24%	36%	15%	26%

* 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.

ALABAMA 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

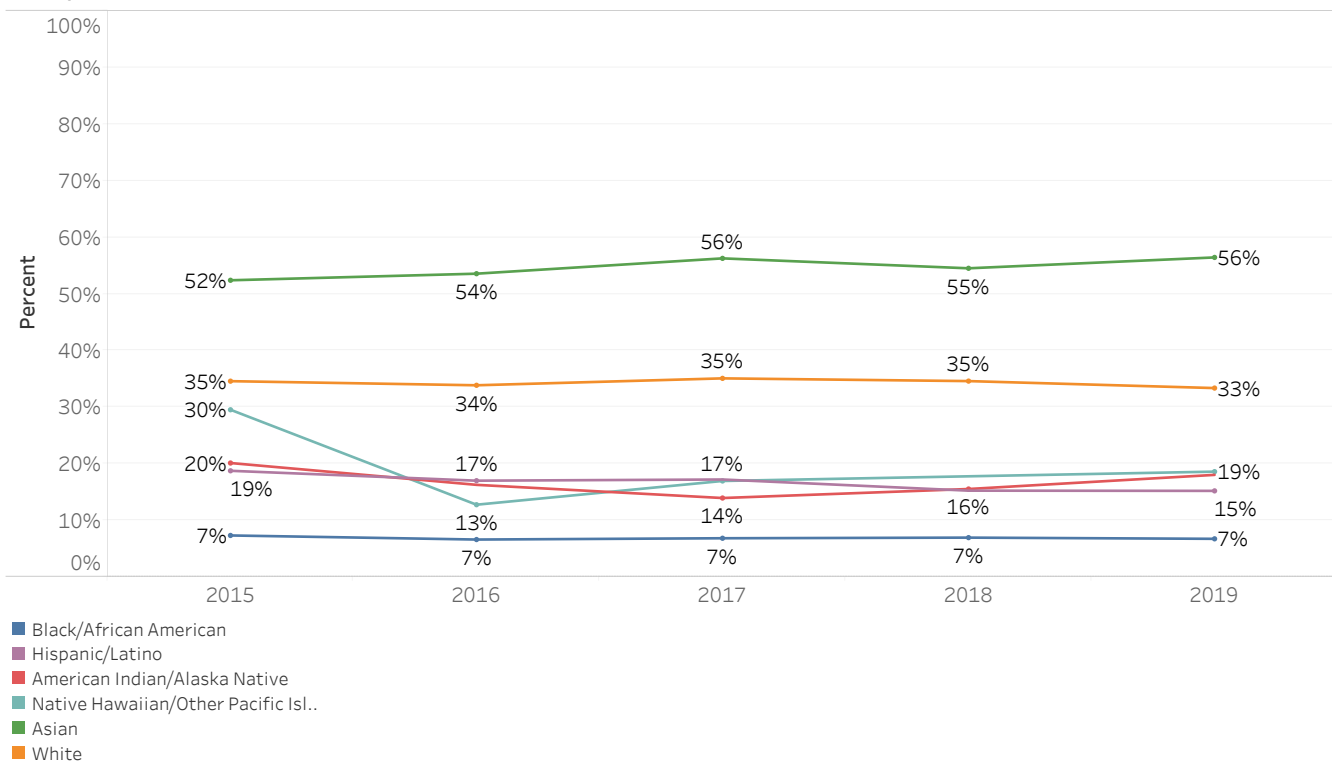
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	53%	34%	23%	25%	16%
2016	51%	34%	23%	24%	16%
2017	52%	36%	23%	25%	16%
2018	51%	35%	23%	24%	16%
2019	50%	34%	22%	24%	15%

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ALABAMA 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



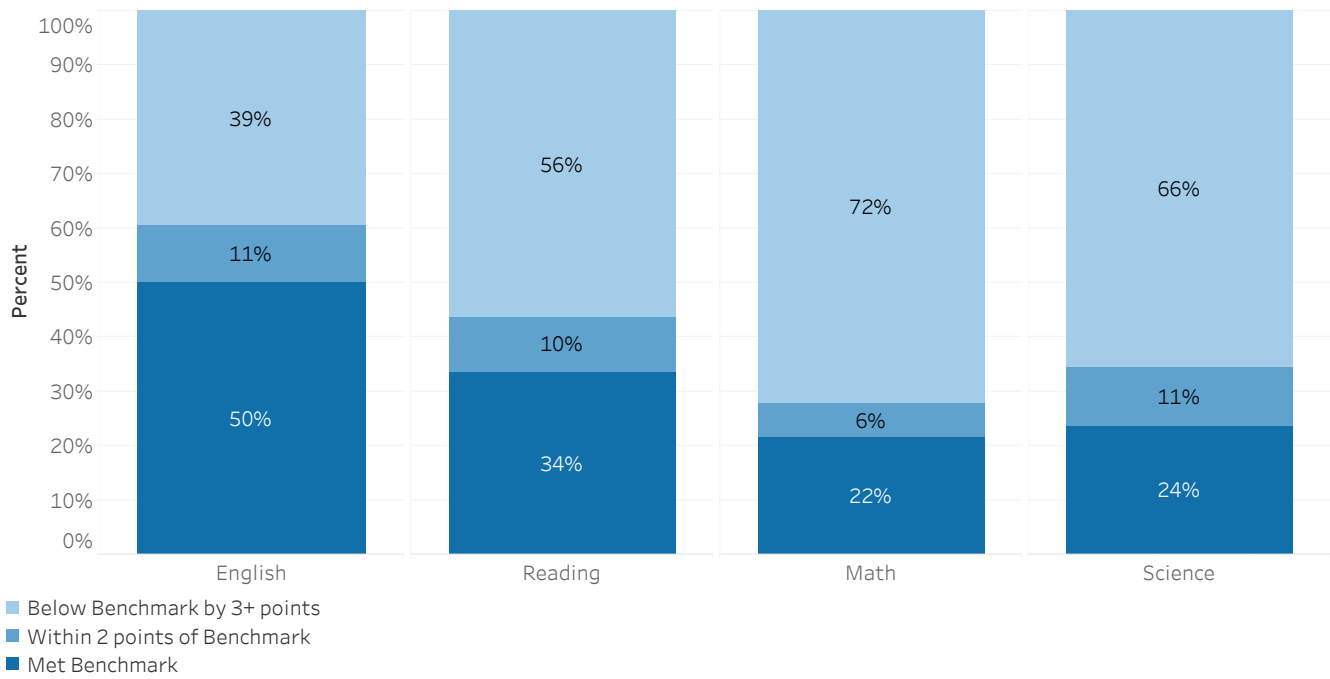
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2015	7%	19%	20%	30%	52%	35%
2016	7%	17%	16%	13%	54%	34%
2017	7%	17%	14%	17%	56%	35%
2018	7%	15%	16%		55%	35%
2019	7%	15%	18%	19%	56%	33%

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ALABAMA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



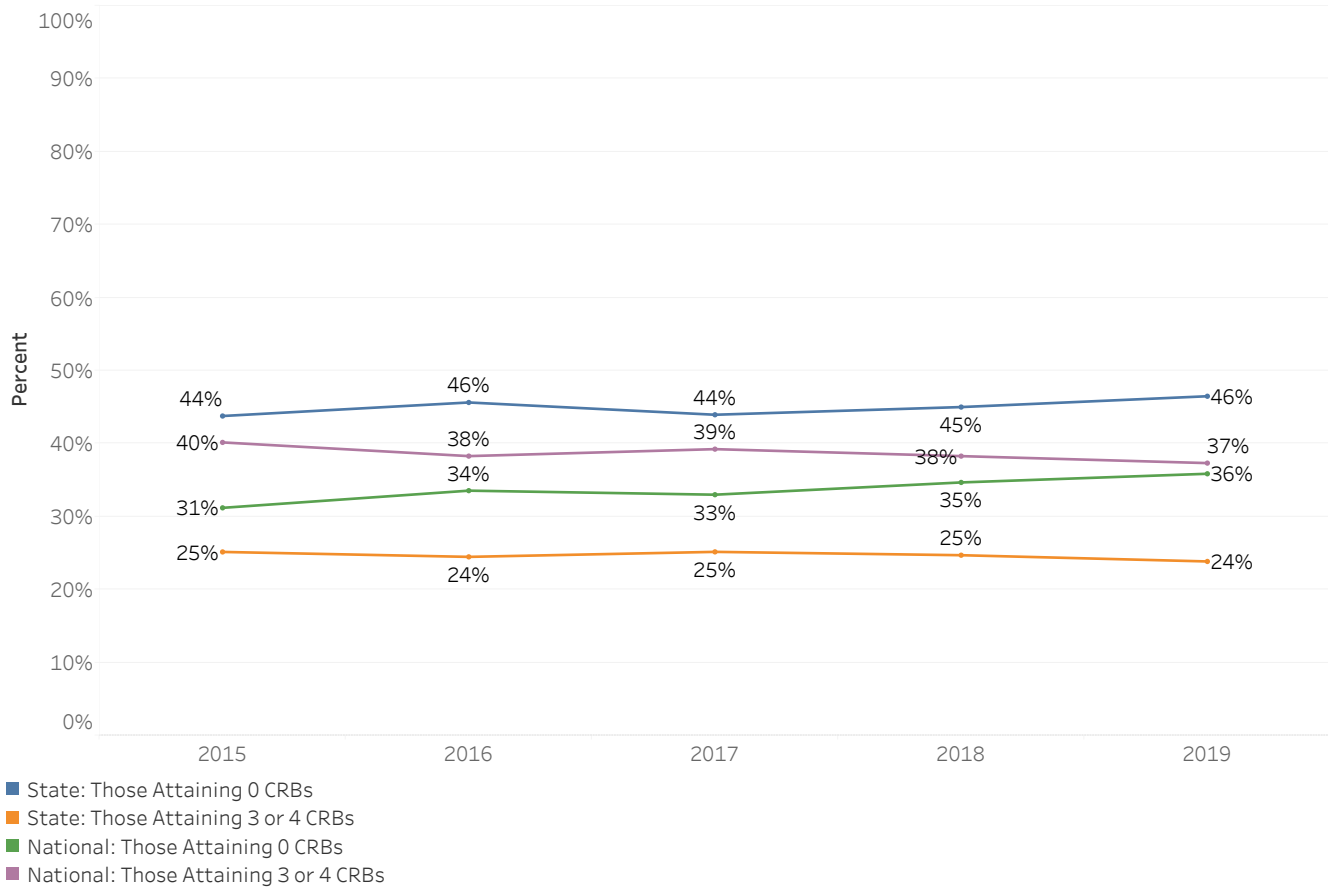
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	39%	11%	50%
Math	72%	6%	22%
Reading	56%	10%	34%
Science	66%	11%	24%

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



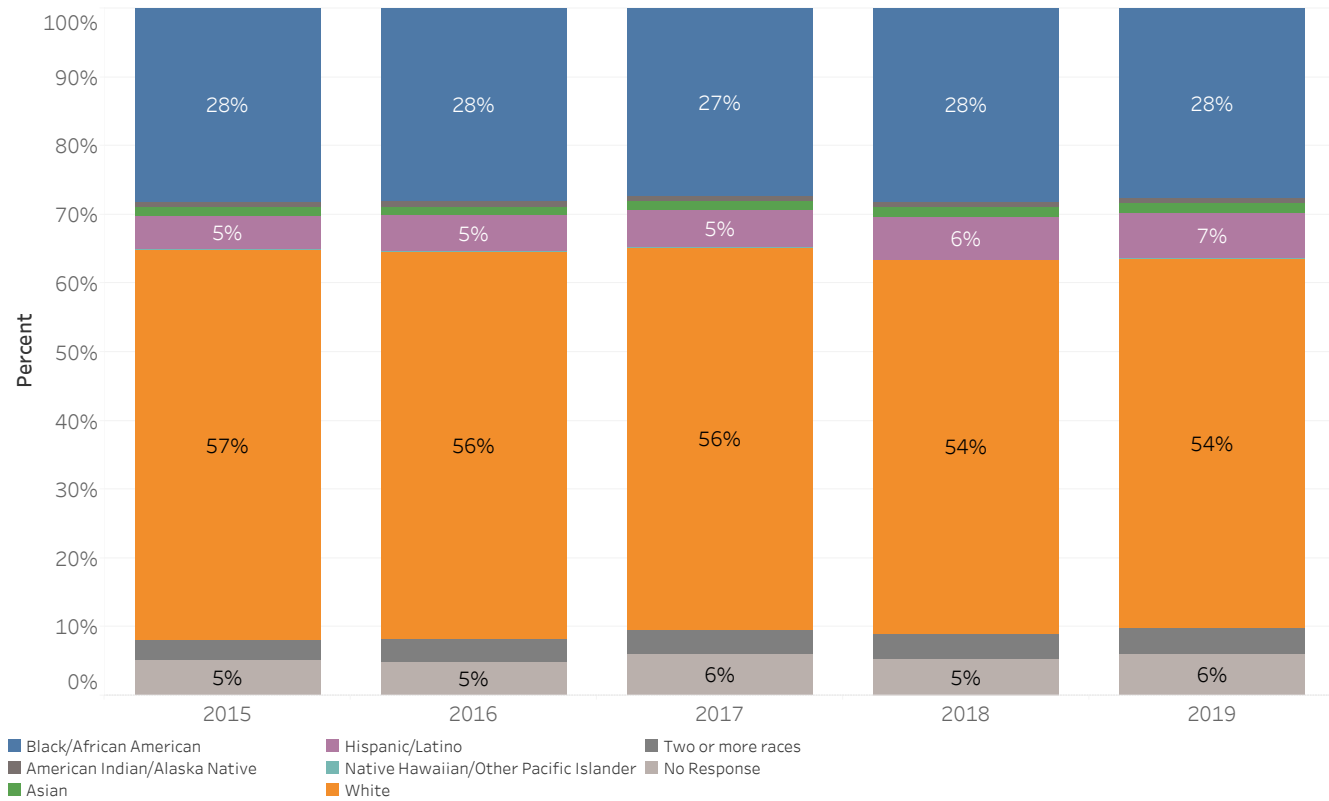
Data from Graph Above

	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	44%	25%	31%	40%
2016	46%	24%	34%	38%
2017	44%	25%	33%	39%
2018	45%	25%	35%	38%
2019	46%	24%	36%	37%

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ALABAMA 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	28%	1%	1%	5%	0%	57%	3%	5%
2016	28%	1%	1%	5%	0%	56%	3%	5%
2017	27%	1%	1%	5%	0%	56%	3%	6%
2018	28%	1%	2%	6%	0%	54%	4%	5%
2019	28%	1%	1%	7%	0%	54%	4%	6%

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ALABAMA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

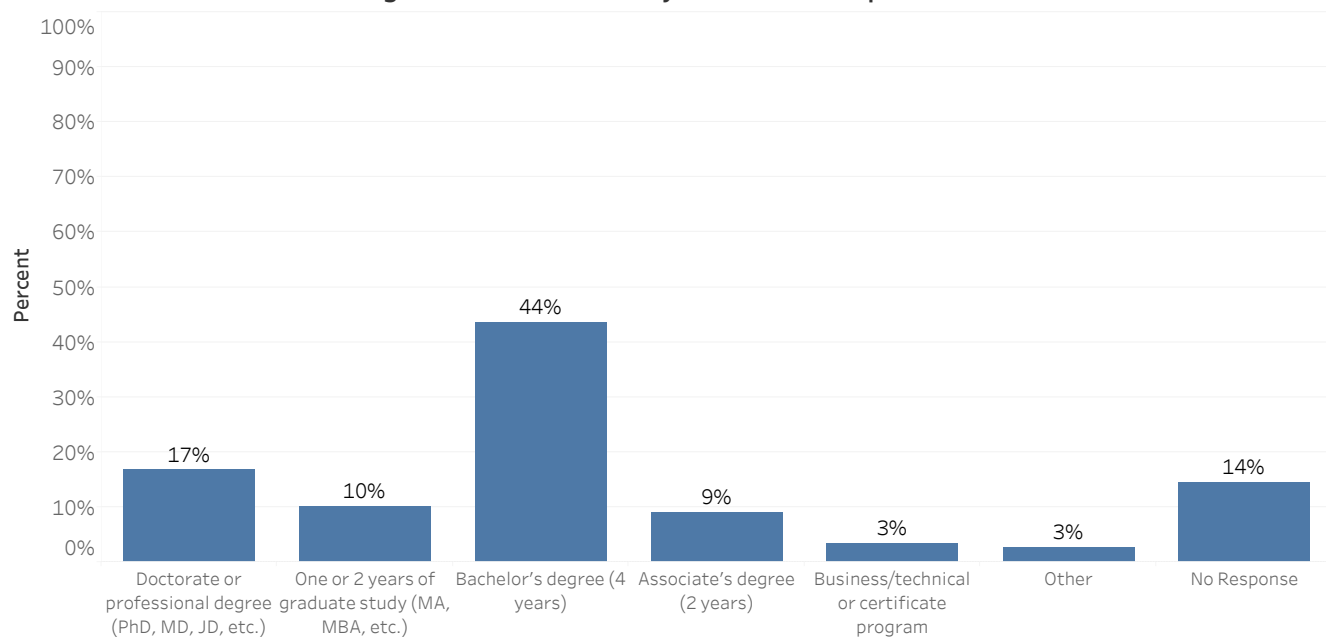
Student Data Trends: 2015-2019, State vs. Nation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	55,427	56,178	57,457	58,177	57,276
National N-count	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817	1,782,820
Average ACT English Score - State	18.8	18.7	18.9	18.9	18.7
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	19.7	19.7	19.7	19.6	19.5
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	18.4	18.3	18.4	18.3	18.1
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	19.1	19.1	19.4	19.0	18.8
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	19.1	19.1	19.2	19.1	18.9
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

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ALABAMA 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)	44%
Associate's degree (2 years)	9%
Business/technical or certificate program	3%
Other	3%
No Response	14%

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