

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019

Alaska Key Findings

Performance of 2019 Graduates

- In the 2019 Alaska graduating class, 2,933 graduates (an estimated 38 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 20.1. This compares to 2,868 (an estimated 39 percent) with an average of 21.1 in 2015. Nationally, an estimated 52 percent of 2019 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.7.
 - There were 280 American Indian graduates from Alaska who took the ACT (10 percent) with an average Composite score of 15.9. This compares to 307 (12 percent) with an average of 16.4, and 342 (12 percent) with an average of 16.1, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 1,388 White graduates from Alaska who took the ACT (47 percent) with an average Composite score of 22.0. This compares to 1,135 (44 percent) with an average of 23.3, and 1,410 (49 percent) with an average of 23.2, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 200 Hispanic graduates from Alaska who took the ACT (7 percent) with an average Composite score of 19.4. This compares to 167 (6 percent) with an average of 21.3, and 150 (5 percent) with an average of 21.2, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 39 Pacific Islander graduates from Alaska who took the ACT (1 percent) with an average Composite score of 16.8. This compares to 24 (1 percent) with an average of 18.0, and 34 (1 percent) with an average of 17.4, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
- In 2019, 38 percent of Alaska graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 33 and 30 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
- In 2019, 55 percent of Alaska graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 60 and 64 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - 2019 Alaska graduates taking more advanced English coursework demonstrated markedly higher average English scores than those who did not. In fact, 66 percent of Alaska 2019 graduates taking four or more years of English met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 34 percent of students taking less than four years of English meeting the benchmark.
- 2019 Alaska graduates taking more advanced math coursework demonstrated markedly higher average math scores than those who did not. In fact, 44 percent of Alaska 2019 graduates taking three or more years of math met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 6 percent of students taking less than three years of math meeting the benchmark.
- 2019 Alaska graduates taking more advanced social studies coursework demonstrated markedly higher average reading scores than those who did not. In fact, 52 percent of Alaska 2019 graduates taking three or more years of social studies met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 40 percent of students taking less than three years of social studies meeting the benchmark.

- 2019 Alaska graduates taking more advanced science coursework demonstrated markedly higher average science scores than those who did not. In fact, 41 percent of Alaska 2019 graduates taking three or more years of science met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 23 percent of students taking less than three years of science meeting the benchmark.
- In 2019, 993 (34 percent) of Alaska graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 1,014 and 1,203 (39 and 42 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, 1,380 Alaska graduates (47 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 Alaska graduating class average ACT STEM score of 20.3, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM averages of 20.9 and 21.2, respectively.
- Compared to 16 percent of 2019 Alaska graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 19 and 21, respectively.
 - 47 percent of 2019 Alaska graduates taking physics met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 29 for students not taking physics.
 - 2019 Alaska graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.6. This compares to 28.3 in 2015.

Career Readiness Indicator

- In 2019, 1,094 Alaska graduates (37 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.
 - 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 Alaska 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:
 - 7 more students enrolling in college.
 - 8 more students persisting to year two.
 - 6 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - 10 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - 9 more students persisting to year four.
 - 9 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Alaska, 805 of the 2019 graduates (27.4 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 21.6, compared to an average of 19.5 for 2,128 of the 2019 graduates (72.6 percent) who took the ACT only once.
- 4,462 score reports were sent to colleges by 2019 Alaska ACT-tested graduates.
 - 1,732 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2019 Alaska ACT-tested graduates.
 - For Alaska's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were the University of Alaska Anchorage, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the University of Alaska Southeast, Kuskokwim Campus UAF-CRCD, and Montana State University - Bozeman.
 - For Alaska's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were Montana State University - Bozeman, the University of Washington, and Arizona State University.
- Compared to 66 percent of 2019 graduates nationally, 65 percent of Alaska 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 453 ACT fee waivers to qualified Alaska students across all grades. However, 123 students (27.2 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.

Postsecondary Aspirations

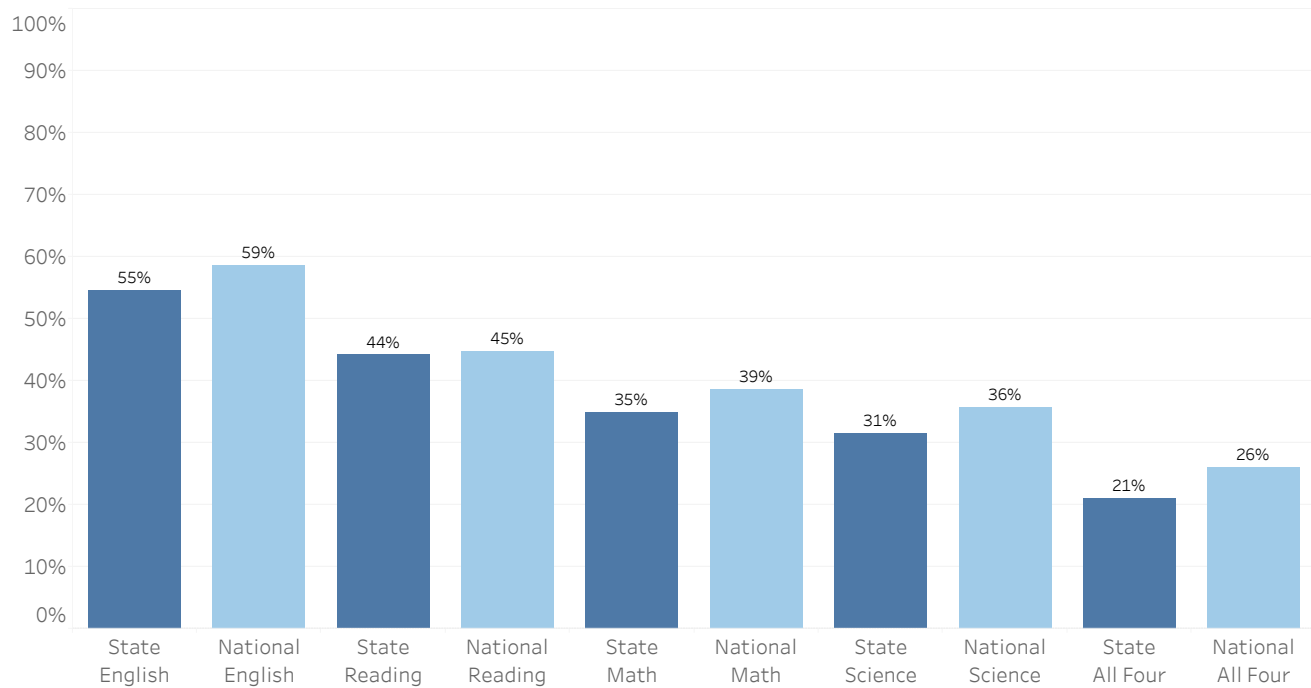
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - 781 students (27 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 23.5.
 - 1,193 students (41 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 20.4.
 - 186 students (6 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 17.0.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2019 Alaska graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Mechanical Engineering; and Biology, General.
 - In the Alaska graduating class of 2019, 393 students (13 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 20.4. 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.

Additional Points

- The Alaska ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with almost 60 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.
- According to the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the fastest-growing careers in Alaska requiring education beyond high school are: Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists, Chiropractors, and Nuclear Medicine Technologists.
- In 2019, ACT honored College and Career Readiness Champions in most states. The Alaska honorees were:
 - High school senior: Franklyn Correa, Ketchikan High School; K-12 professional: Erika Schneider, Teacher, Dillingham City School District; postsecondary professional: Kaitlin DeMarcus, Director, TRIO Upward Bound, University of Alaska Anchorage; and workforce professional: Miranda Musich, Assistant Professor of Applied Business, University of Alaska Fairbanks Northwest Campus.

ALASKA 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

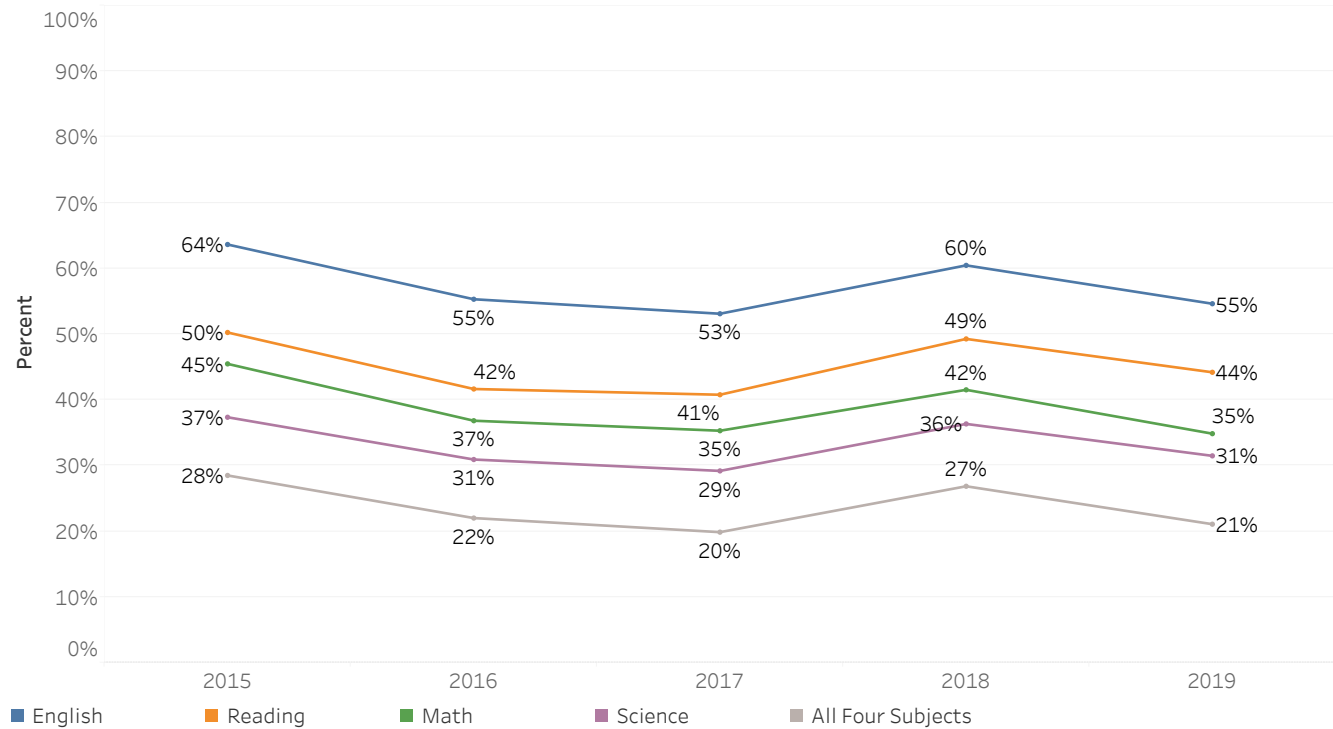
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
55%	59%	44%	45%	35%	39%	31%	36%	21%	26%

* 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.

ALASKA 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

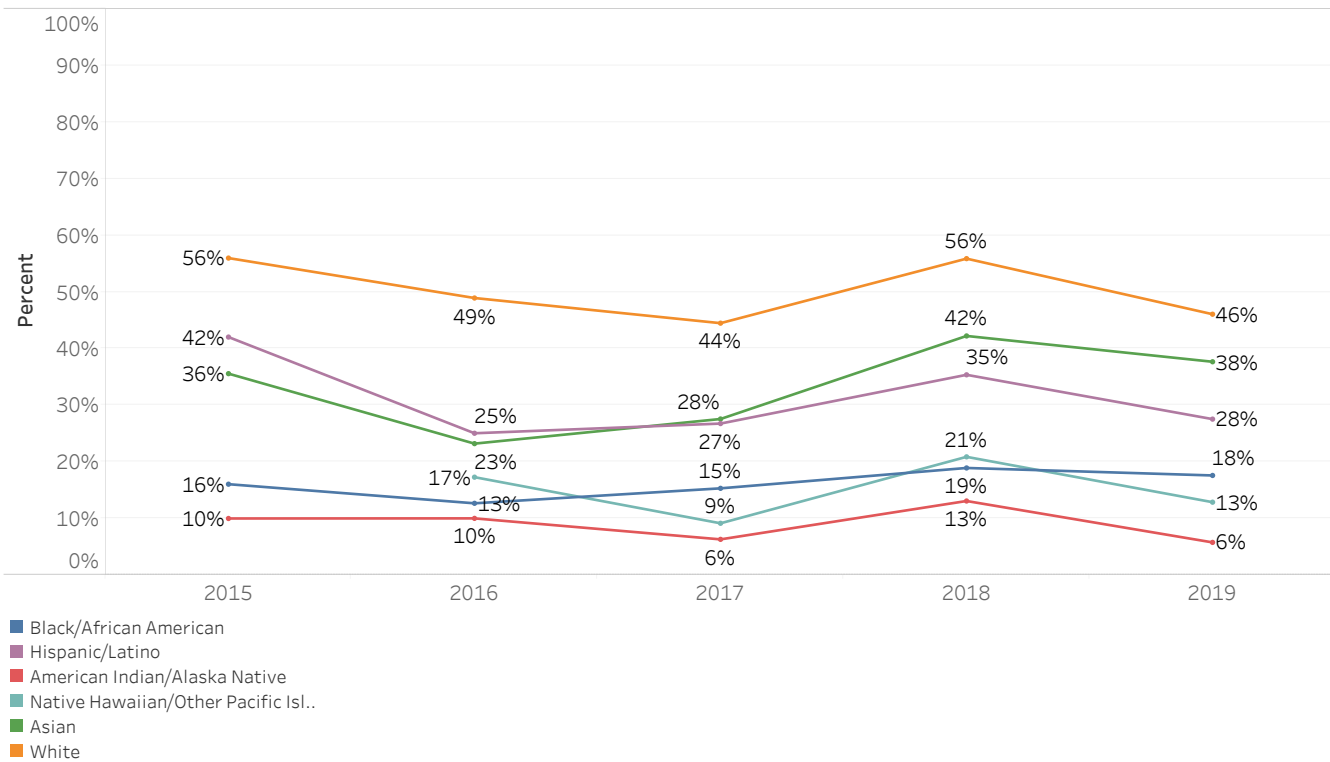
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	64%	50%	45%	37%	28%
2016	55%	42%	37%	31%	22%
2017	53%	41%	35%	29%	20%
2018	60%	49%	42%	36%	27%
2019	55%	44%	35%	31%	21%

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ALASKA 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



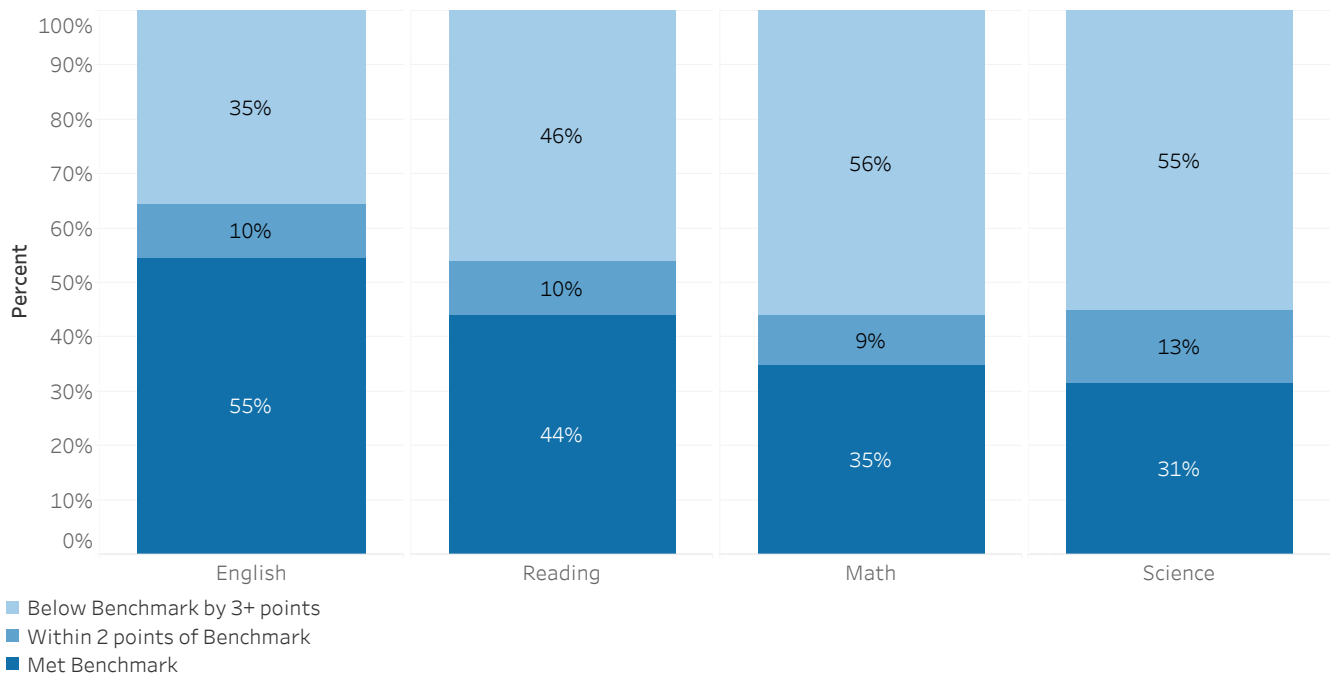
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2015	16%	42%	10%	16%	36%	56%
2016	13%	25%	10%	17%	23%	49%
2017	15%	27%	6%	9%	28%	44%
2018	19%	35%	13%	21%	42%	56%
2019	18%	28%	6%	13%	38%	46%

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ALASKA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



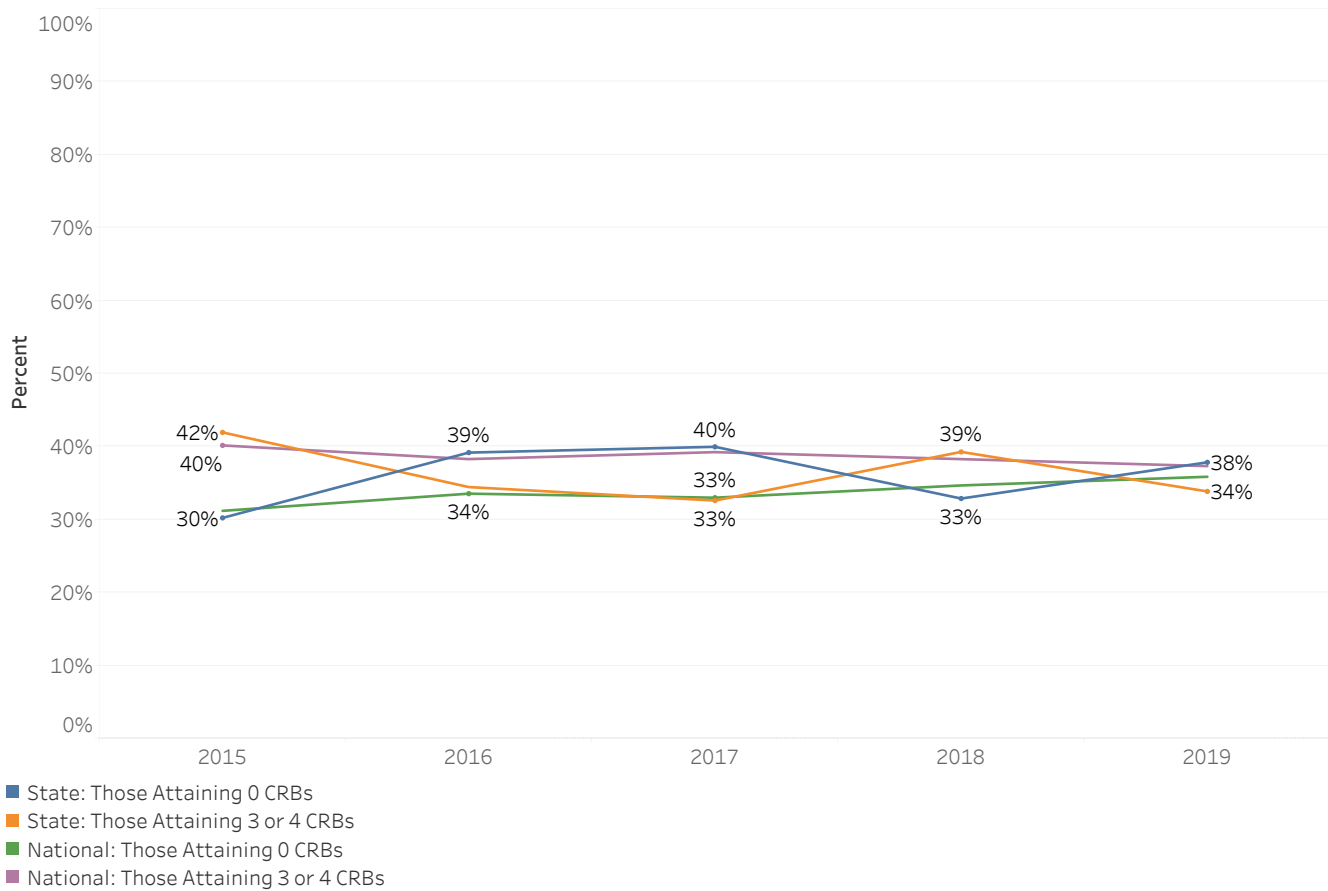
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	35%	10%	55%
Math	56%	9%	35%
Reading	46%	10%	44%
Science	55%	13%	31%

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



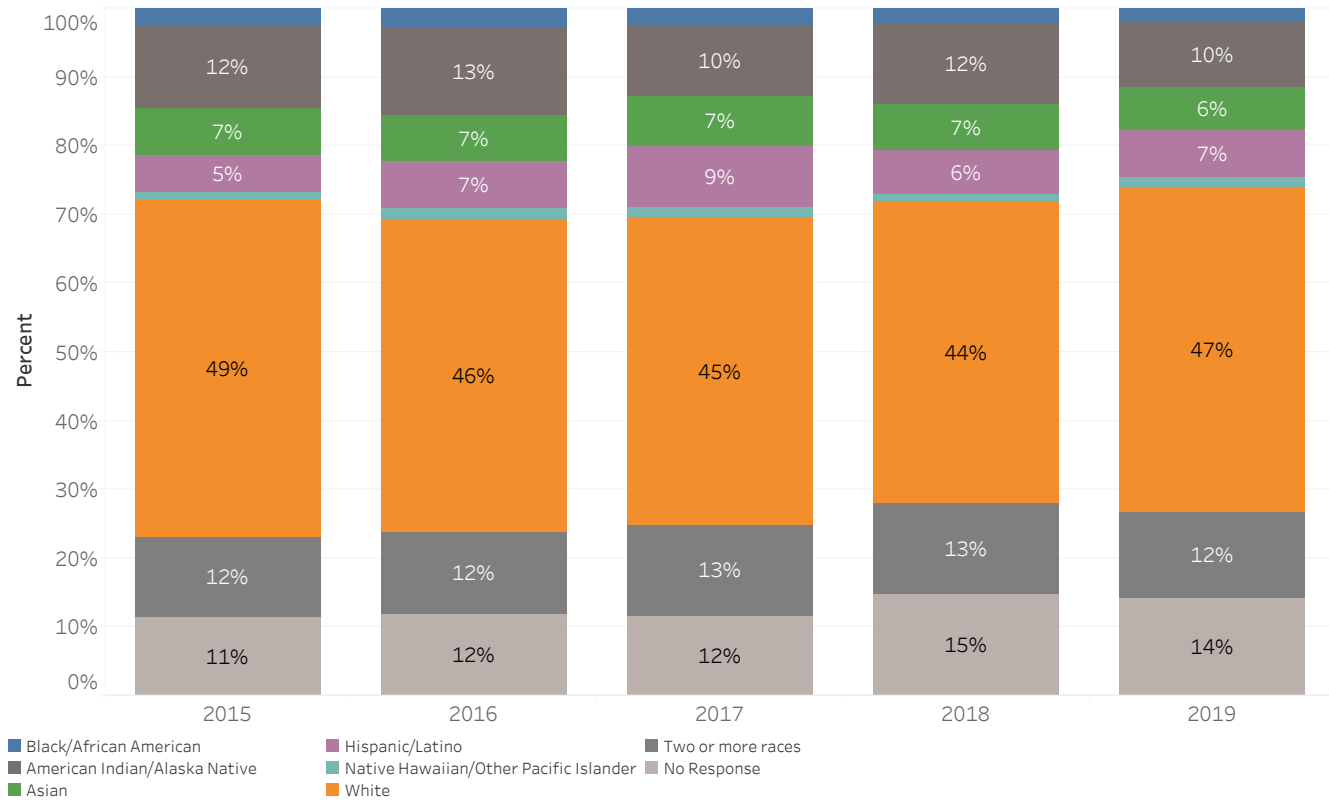
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	State: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	State: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs
2015	30%	42%	31%	40%
2016	39%	34%	34%	38%
2017	40%	33%	33%	39%
2018	33%	39%	35%	38%
2019	38%	34%	36%	37%

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ALASKA 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	3%	12%	7%	5%	1%	49%	12%	11%
2016	3%	13%	7%	7%	1%	46%	12%	12%
2017	3%	10%	7%	9%	2%	45%	13%	12%
2018	2%	12%	7%	6%	1%	44%	13%	15%
2019	2%	10%	6%	7%	1%	47%	12%	14%

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ALASKA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

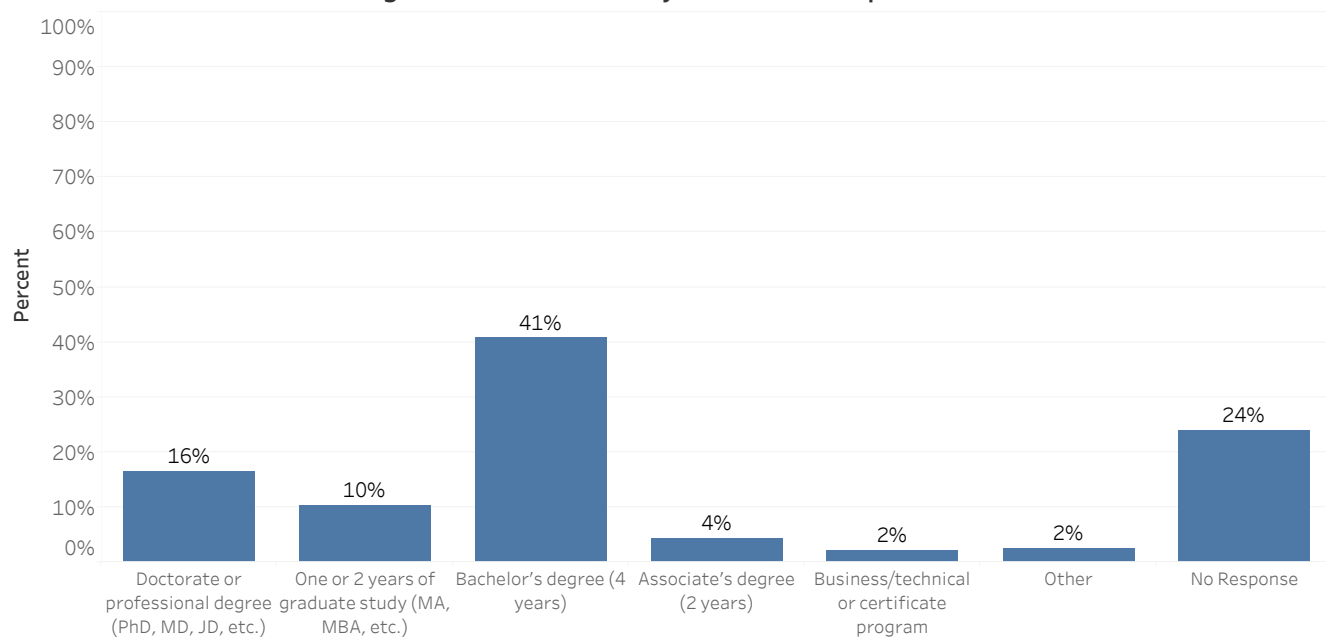
Student Data Trends: 2015-2019, State vs. Nation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	2,868	3,895	5,021	2,582	2,933
National N-count	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817	1,782,820
Average ACT English Score - State	20.1	18.9	18.7	19.8	18.9
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	21.9	20.6	20.4	21.6	20.9
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	21.1	20.0	19.8	20.6	19.9
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	20.9	19.8	19.9	20.7	20.2
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	21.1	20.0	19.8	20.8	20.1
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

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ALASKA 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.)	10%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	41%
Associate's degree (2 years)	4%
Business/technical or certificate program	2%
Other	2%
No Response	24%

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