

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019

Arizona Key Findings

Performance of 2019 Graduates

- In the 2019 Arizona graduating class, 50,446 graduates (an estimated 73 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 19.0. This compares to 35,248 (an estimated 56 percent) with an average of 19.9 in 2015. Nationally, an estimated 52 percent of 2019 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.7.
 - There were 2,040 African American graduates from Arizona who took the ACT (4 percent) with an average Composite score of 16.7. This compares to 1,802 (4 percent) with an average of 16.9, and 1,551 (4 percent) with an average of 17.2, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 1,568 American Indian graduates from Arizona who took the ACT (3 percent) with an average Composite score of 16.0. This compares to 1,521 (3 percent) with an average of 16.2, and 1,333 (4 percent) with an average of 16.6, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 17,399 White graduates from Arizona who took the ACT (34 percent) with an average Composite score of 21.3. This compares to 15,011 (33 percent) with an average of 22.0, and 13,252 (38 percent) with an average of 22.6, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 21,073 Hispanic graduates from Arizona who took the ACT (42 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.3. This compares to 19,721 (43 percent) with an average of 17.3, and 14,389 (41 percent) with an average of 17.6, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 1,624 Asian graduates from Arizona who took the ACT (3 percent) with an average Composite score of 23.3. This compares to 1,437 (3 percent) with an average of 23.1, and 1,183 (3 percent) with an average of 23.3, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - The 2019 Arizona graduating class average English score was 17.9. This compares to 18.2 and 18.8 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 Arizona graduating class average math score was 19.2. This compares to 19.4 and 20.2 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 Arizona graduating class average reading score was 19.3. This compares to 19.5 and 20.2 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 Arizona graduating class average science score was 19.0. This compares to 19.2 and 19.7 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.

- In 2019, 18 percent of Arizona graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 19 and 22 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 48 percent of Arizona graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 47 and 40 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 45 percent of Arizona graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 47 and 54 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 31 percent of Arizona graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 32 and 38 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 34 percent of Arizona graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 35 and 38 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 25 percent of Arizona graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 27 and 31 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 13,614 (27 percent) of Arizona graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 12,918 and 11,849 (28 and 34 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, 20,829 Arizona graduates (41 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
- Compared to 13 percent of 2019 Arizona graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 14 and 16, respectively.
 - 2019 Arizona graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.4. This compares to 28.1 in 2015.
 - 2019 Arizona graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 28.6. This compares to 28.6 in 2015.

Career Readiness Indicator

- In 2019, 14,899 Arizona graduates (30 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 Arizona 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:
 - 130 more students enrolling in college.
 - 143 more students persisting to year two.
 - 109 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - 162 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - 147 more students persisting to year four.
 - 153 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Arizona, 9,068 of the 2019 graduates (18.0 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 23.1, compared to an average of 18.1 for 41,378 of the 2019 graduates (82.0 percent) who took the ACT only once.
- 123,814 score reports were sent to colleges by 2019 Arizona ACT-tested graduates.
 - 73,803 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2019 Arizona ACT-tested graduates.
 - For Arizona's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were Arizona State University, the University of Arizona, Northern Arizona University, Grand Canyon University, and Glendale Community College.
 - For Arizona's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were the University of California Los Angeles, Brigham Young University, and the University of Southern California.
- Compared to 66 percent of 2019 graduates nationally, 74 percent of Arizona 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 7,869 ACT fee waivers to qualified Arizona students across all grades. However, 2,182 students (27.7 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.

Postsecondary Aspirations

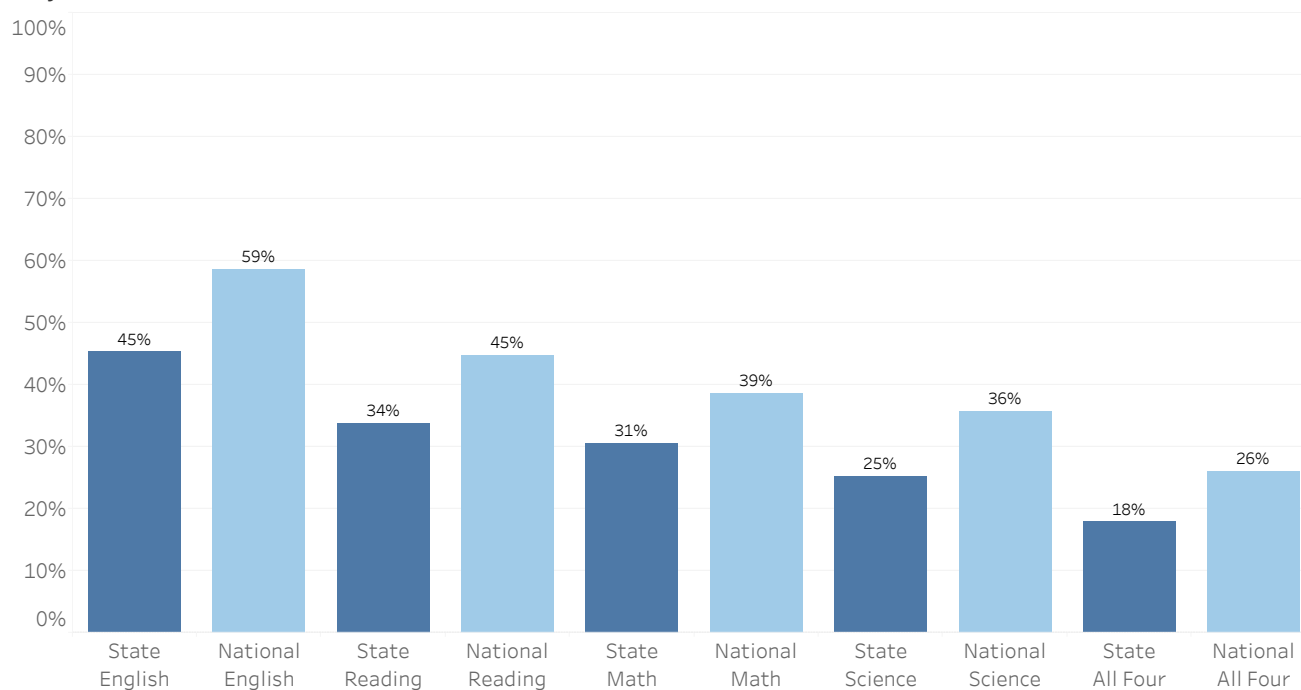
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - 13,342 students (26 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 22.1.
 - 17,925 students (36 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 19.3.
 - 3,742 students (7 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 15.5.
- In the Arizona graduating class of 2019, 10,612 students (21 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- There is good news in that 69% of Arizona's 2019 ACT-tested graduates aspired to postsecondary education. Interestingly enough, 73% of Arizona's 2018 ACT-tested graduating class aspired to enroll in postsecondary education, compared to 53% who actually did enroll. If we fully closed the aspirational gap, an additional 8,819 of the 2018 ACT-tested graduates from Arizona would have enrolled in postsecondary education.

Additional Points

- The Arizona ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with approximately 550 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 the Arizona ACT Summit that brings together professionals representing each of these areas, providing a unique and diverse professional development opportunity.
- Each ACT State Organization recognizes individuals who make a positive impact on their communities as College and Career Readiness Champions. The 2019 Arizona ACT Champions are:
 - High school senior: Mac McGraw, Paradise Valley High School; K-12 professional: Rocio Ruiz, Teacher/AVID Coordinator, Yuma High School; postsecondary professional: Marcela Lopez, Director of School Partnerships, Arizona State University; and workforce professional: Richard Branam, CVS Health, Senior Training Consultant.

ARIZONA 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

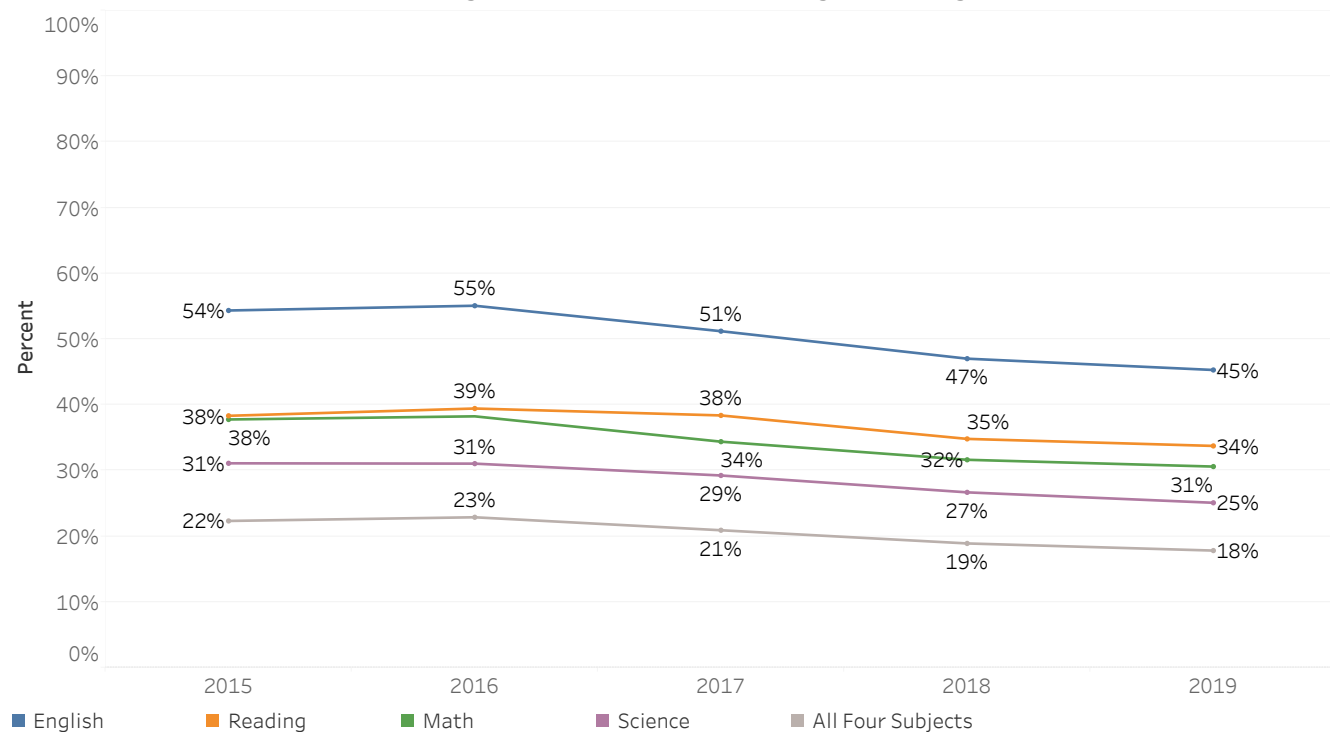
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
45%	59%	34%	45%	31%	39%	25%	36%	18%	26%

* 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.

ARIZONA 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

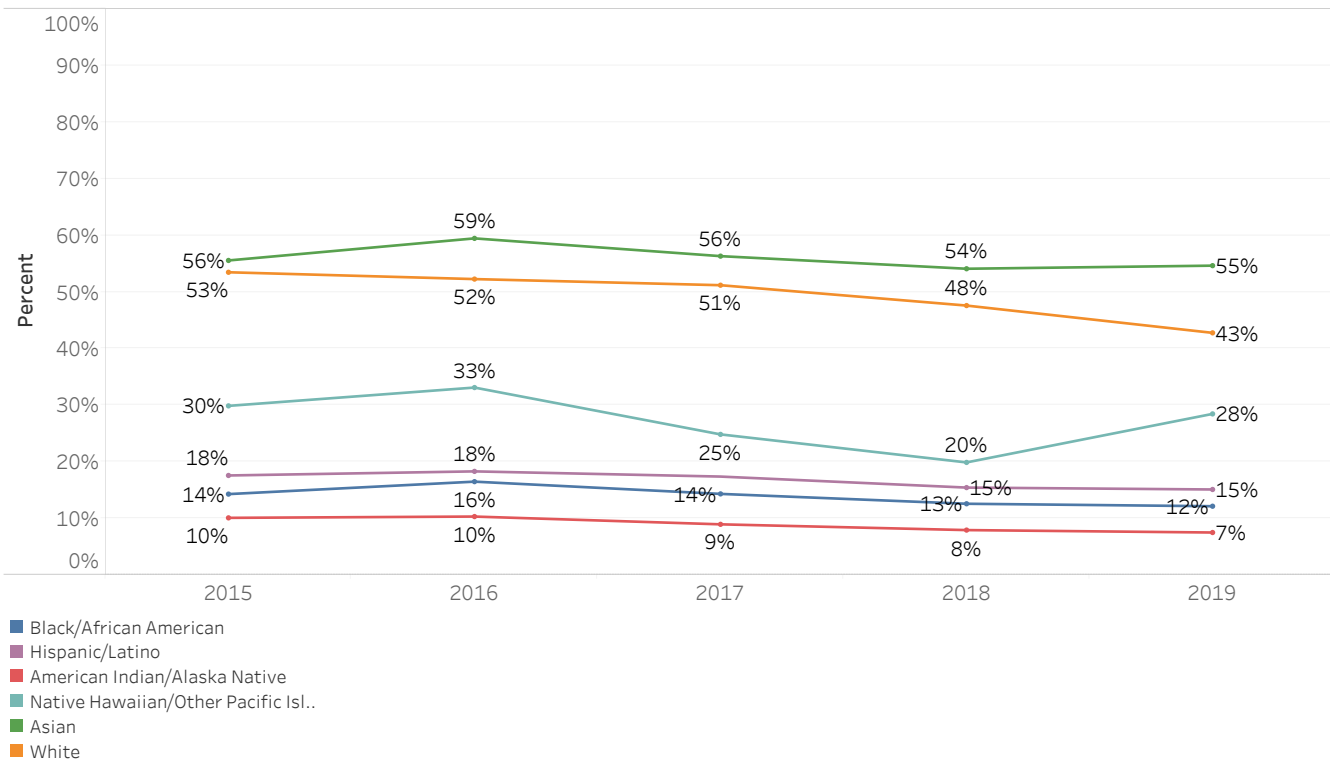
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	54%	38%	38%	31%	22%
2016	55%	39%	38%	31%	23%
2017	51%	38%	34%	29%	21%
2018	47%	35%	32%	27%	19%
2019	45%	34%	31%	25%	18%

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ARIZONA 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



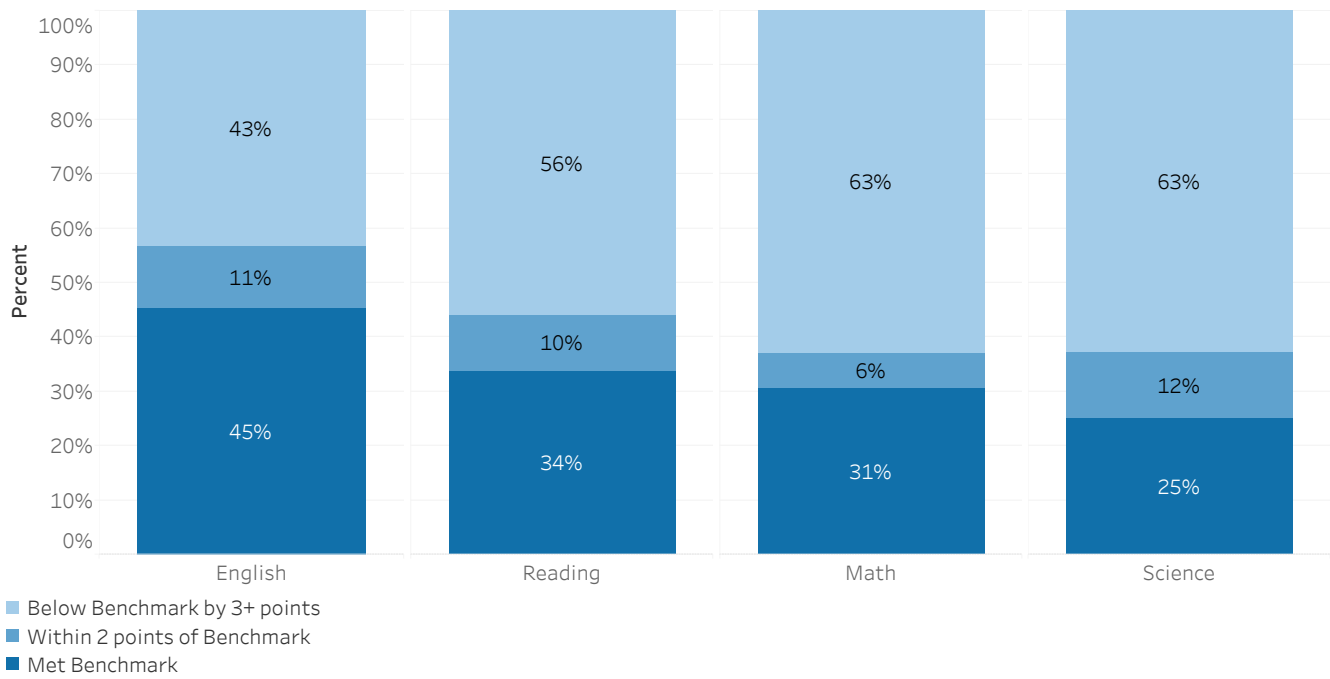
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2015	14%	18%	10%	30%	56%	53%
2016	16%	18%	10%	33%	59%	52%
2017	14%	17%	9%	25%	56%	51%
2018	13%	15%	8%	20%	54%	48%
2019	12%	15%	7%	28%	55%	43%

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ARIZONA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



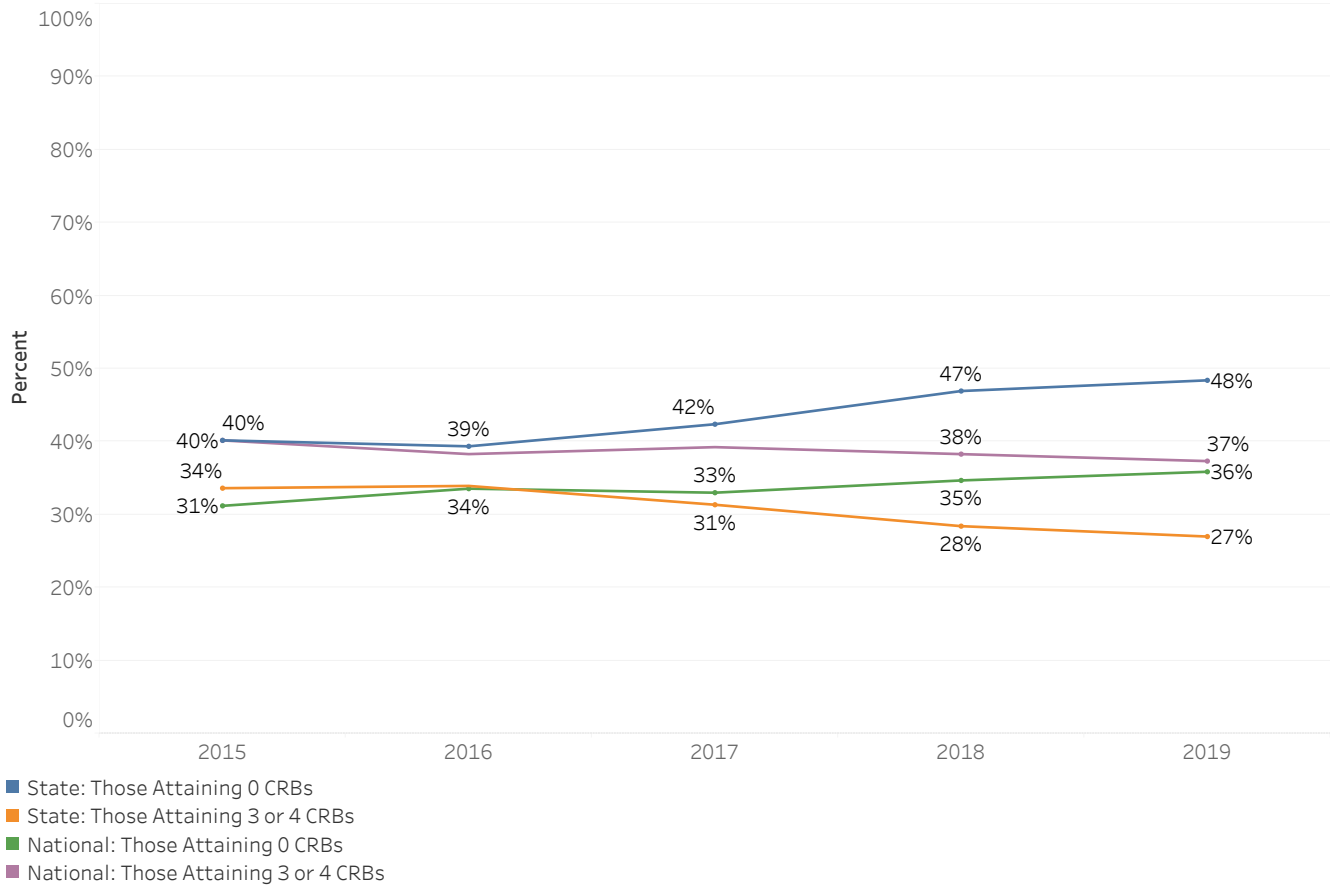
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	43%	11%	45%
Math	63%	6%	31%
Reading	56%	10%	34%
Science	63%	12%	25%

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



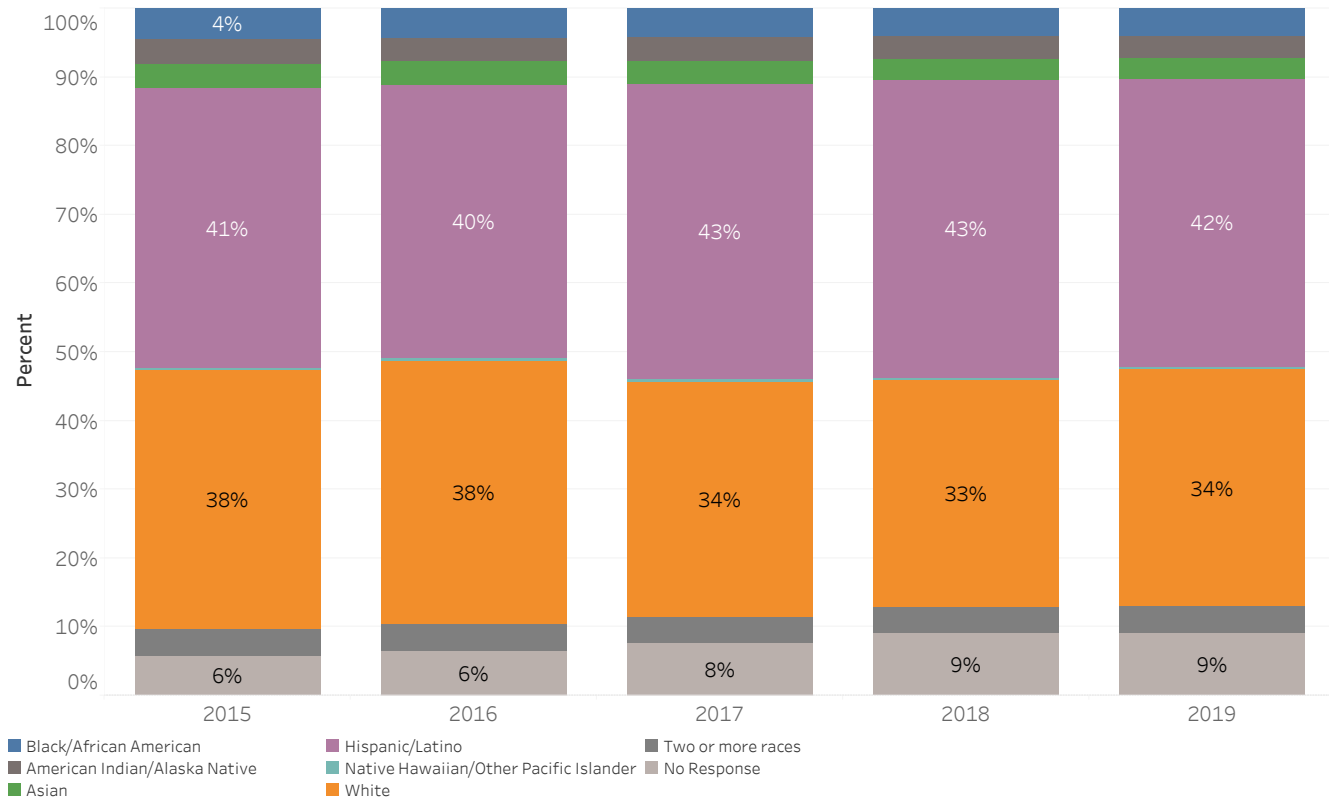
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	State: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	State: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs
2015	40%	34%	31%	40%
2016	39%	34%	34%	38%
2017	42%	31%	33%	39%
2018	47%	28%	35%	38%
2019	48%	27%	36%	37%

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ARIZONA 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	4%	4%	3%	41%	0%	38%	4%	6%
2016	4%	4%	3%	40%	0%	38%	4%	6%
2017	4%	4%	3%	43%	0%	34%	4%	8%
2018	4%	3%	3%	43%	0%	33%	4%	9%
2019	4%	3%	3%	42%	0%	34%	4%	9%

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ARIZONA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

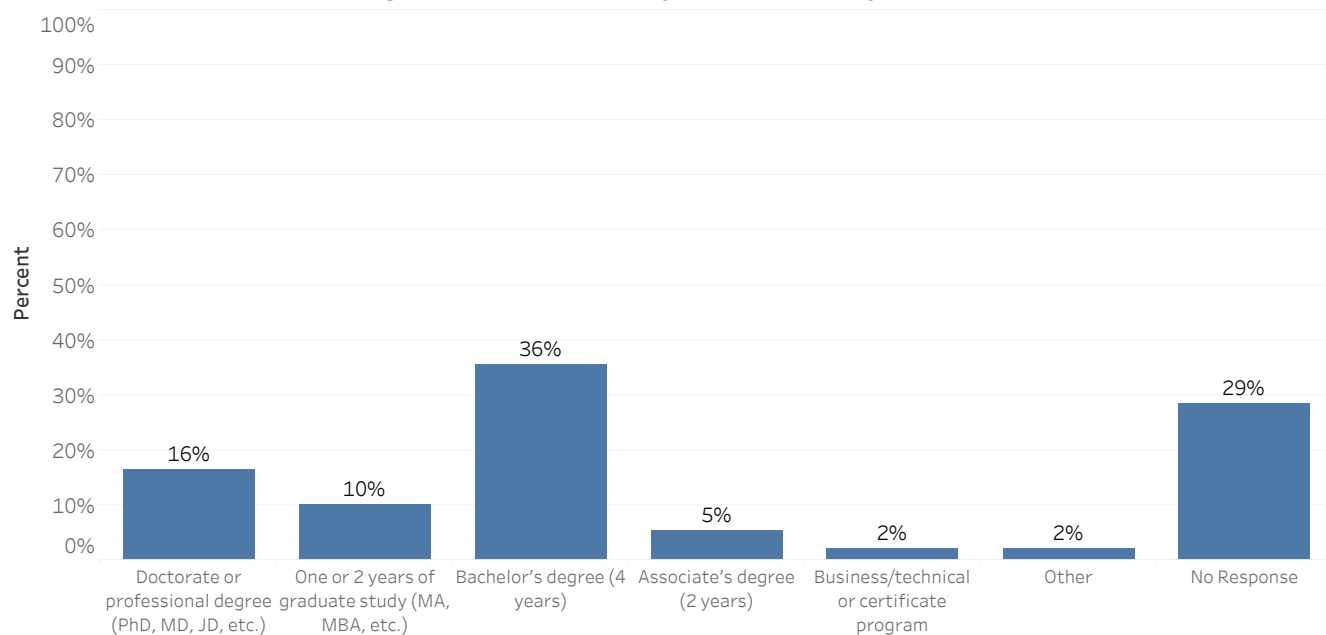
Student Data Trends: 2015-2019, State vs. Nation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	35,248	36,285	42,232	45,468	50,446
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	19.1	18.6	18.2	17.9
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	20.2	20.5	20.1	19.5	19.3
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	20.2	20.2	19.8	19.4	19.2
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	19.7	20.0	19.8	19.2	19.0
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	19.9	20.1	19.7	19.2	19.0
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

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ARIZONA 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)	36%
Associate's degree (2 years)	5%
Business/technical or certificate program	2%
Other	2%
No Response	29%

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