

# The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019

## District of Columbia Key Findings

### Performance of 2019 Graduates

- In the 2019 District of Columbia graduating class, 1,680 graduates (an estimated 32 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 23.5. This compares to 1,602 (an estimated 42 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 581 African American graduates from the District of Columbia who took the ACT (35 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.8. This compares to 553 (32 percent) with an average of 18.3, and 733 (46 percent) with an average of 16.7, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - There were 518 White graduates from the District of Columbia who took the ACT (31 percent) with an average Composite score of 29.3. This compares to 541 (31 percent) with an average of 29.2, and 405 (25 percent) with an average of 27.9, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - There were 130 Hispanic graduates from the District of Columbia who took the ACT (8 percent) with an average Composite score of 24.4. This compares to 154 (9 percent) with an average of 22.9, and 154 (10 percent) with an average of 21.5, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - There were 36 Asian graduates from the District of Columbia who took the ACT (2 percent) with an average Composite score of 28.7. This compares to 40 (2 percent) with an average of 27.1, and 39 (2 percent) with an average of 25.3, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
- In 2019, 45 percent of District of Columbia graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 45 and 33 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 29 percent of District of Columbia graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 27 and 40 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 68 percent of District of Columbia graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 70 and 57 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 54 percent of District of Columbia graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 54 and 44 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 60 percent of District of Columbia graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 60 and 46 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 52 percent of District of Columbia graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 51 and 39 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 911 (54 percent) of District of Columbia graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 943 and 677 (54 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, 564 District of Columbia graduates (34 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
- Compared to a 2019 District of Columbia graduating class average ACT STEM score of 23.1, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM averages of 23.1 and 21.2, respectively.
  - Compared to 39 percent of 2019 District of Columbia graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 39 and 27, respectively.
  - 2019 District of Columbia graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 30.3. This compares to 29.4 in 2015.
  - 2019 District of Columbia graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 30.0. This compares to 29.7 in 2015.

## Career Readiness Indicator

- In 2019, 974 District of Columbia graduates (58 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 District of Columbia 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:
  - 3 more students enrolling in college.
  - 4 more students persisting to year two.
  - 2 fewer students needing remedial English.
  - 3 fewer students needing remedial math.
  - 4 more students persisting to year four.
  - 5 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

## Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In the District of Columbia, 774 of the 2019 graduates (46.1 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 25.3, compared to an average of 22.0 for 906 of the 2019 graduates (53.9 percent) who took the ACT only once.
- 1,245 score reports were sent to colleges by 2019 District of Columbia ACT-tested graduates.
  - 42 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2019 District of Columbia ACT-tested graduates.
  - For the District of Columbia’s 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were the University of Maryland College Park, the University of the District of Columbia, Morgan State University, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, and Gallaudet University.
  - For the District of Columbia’s 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were the University of Maryland College Park, Morgan State University, and North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University.

- Compared to 66 percent of 2019 graduates nationally, 48 percent of District of Columbia 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 1,146 ACT fee waivers to qualified District of Columbia students across all grades. However, 523 students (45.6 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

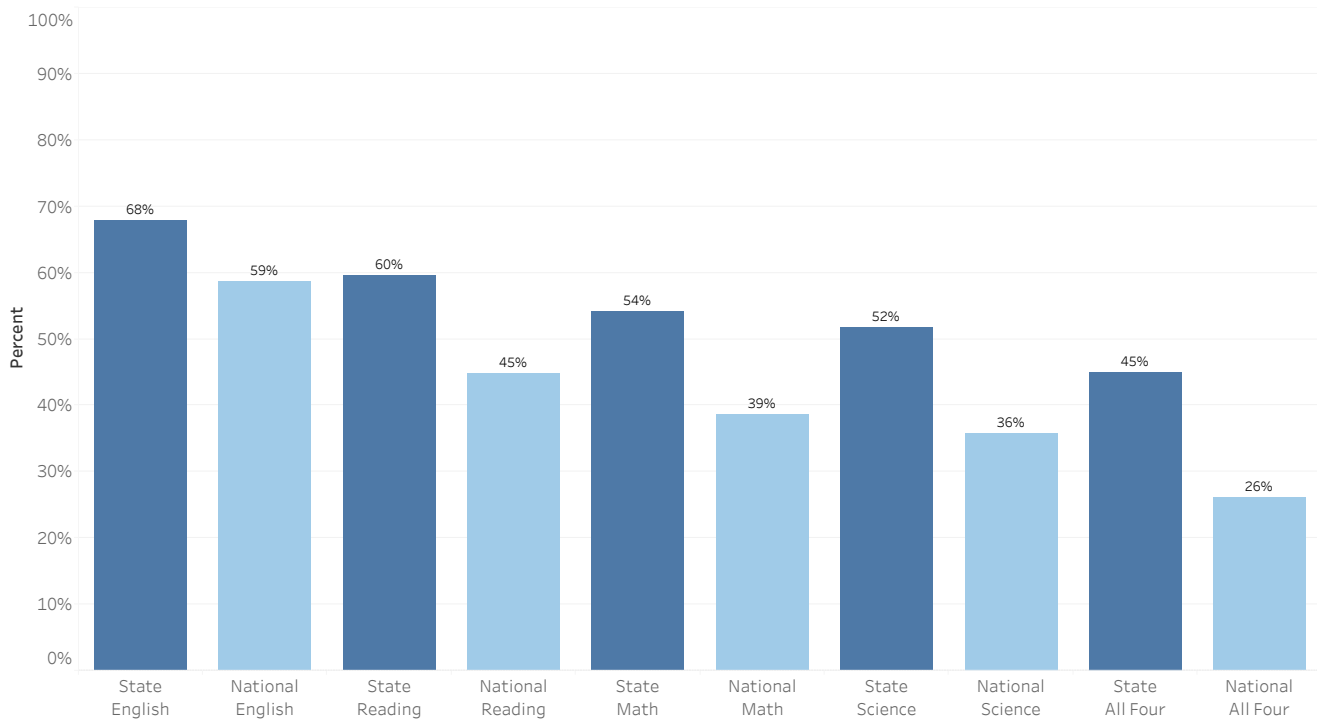
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
  - 668 students (40 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 27.0.
  - 345 students (21 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 20.9.
- In the District of Columbia graduating class of 2019, 105 students (6 percent) had parents who did not attend college.

## Additional Points

- The District of Columbia ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, and includes educators from state agencies, K-12, access, and postsecondary institutions, as well as members involved in workforce development.
- In 2019, ACT honored College and Career Readiness Champions in most states. The District of Columbia honorees were:
  - High school senior: Ella Gantman, Woodrow Wilson High School; and K-12 professional: Raymond Briscoe, Assistant Headmaster, The Woods Academy.

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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

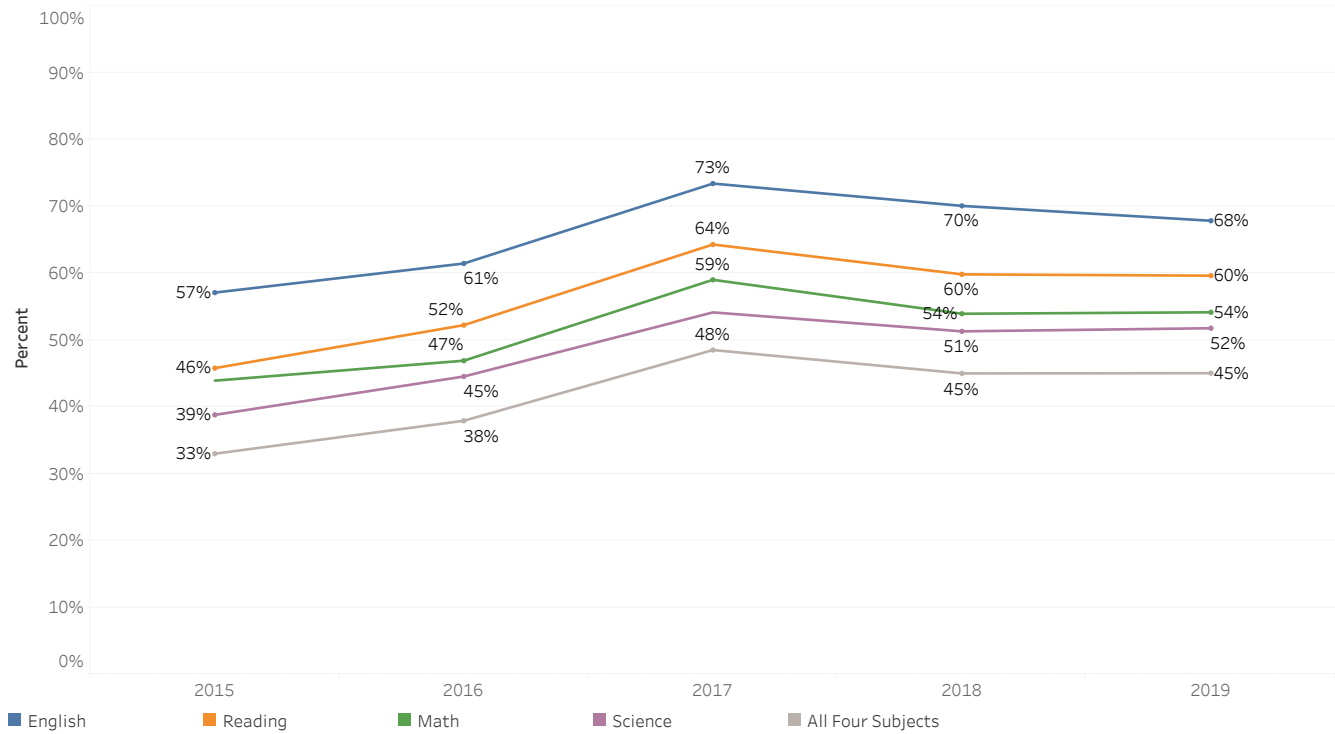
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
68%	59%	60%	45%	54%	39%	52%	36%	45%	26%

\*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.

# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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

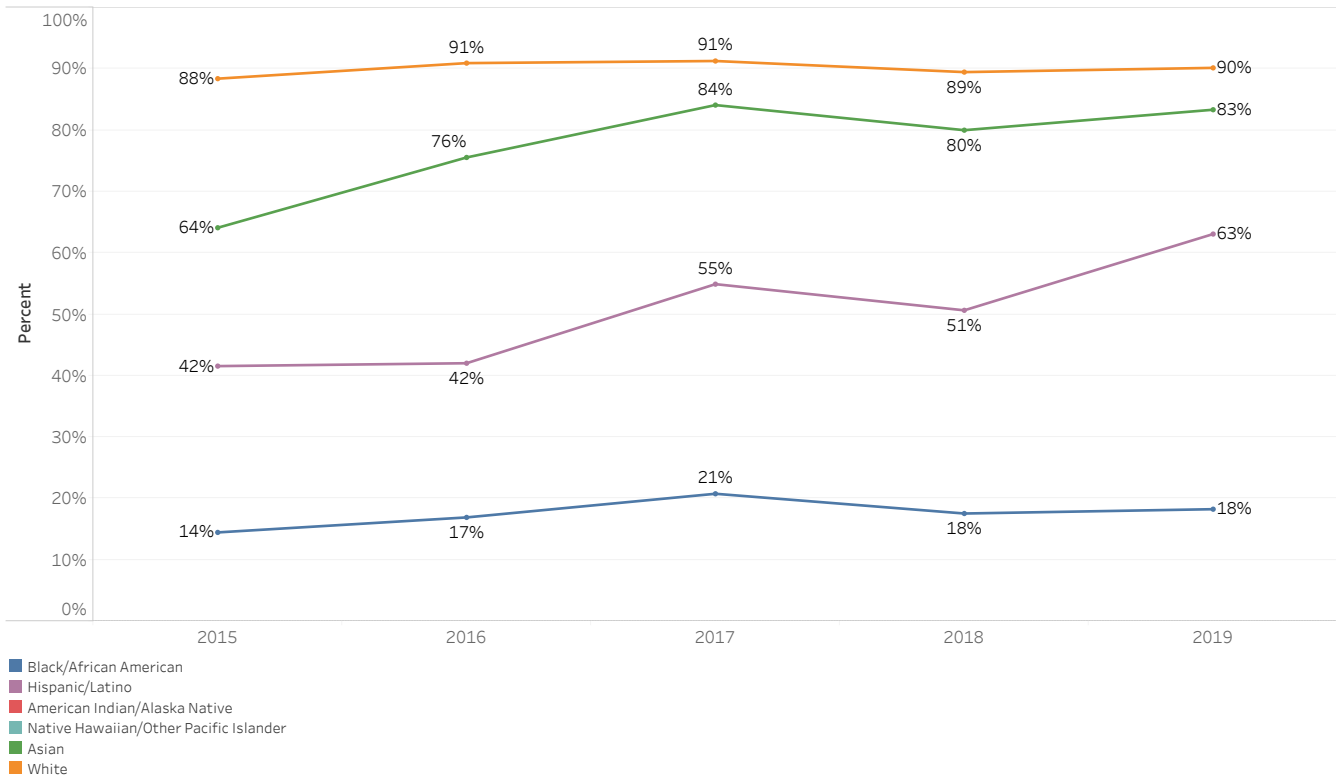
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	57%	46%	44%	39%	33%
2016	61%	52%	47%	45%	38%
2017	73%	64%	59%	54%	48%
2018	70%	60%	54%	51%	45%
2019	68%	60%	54%	52%	45%

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# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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



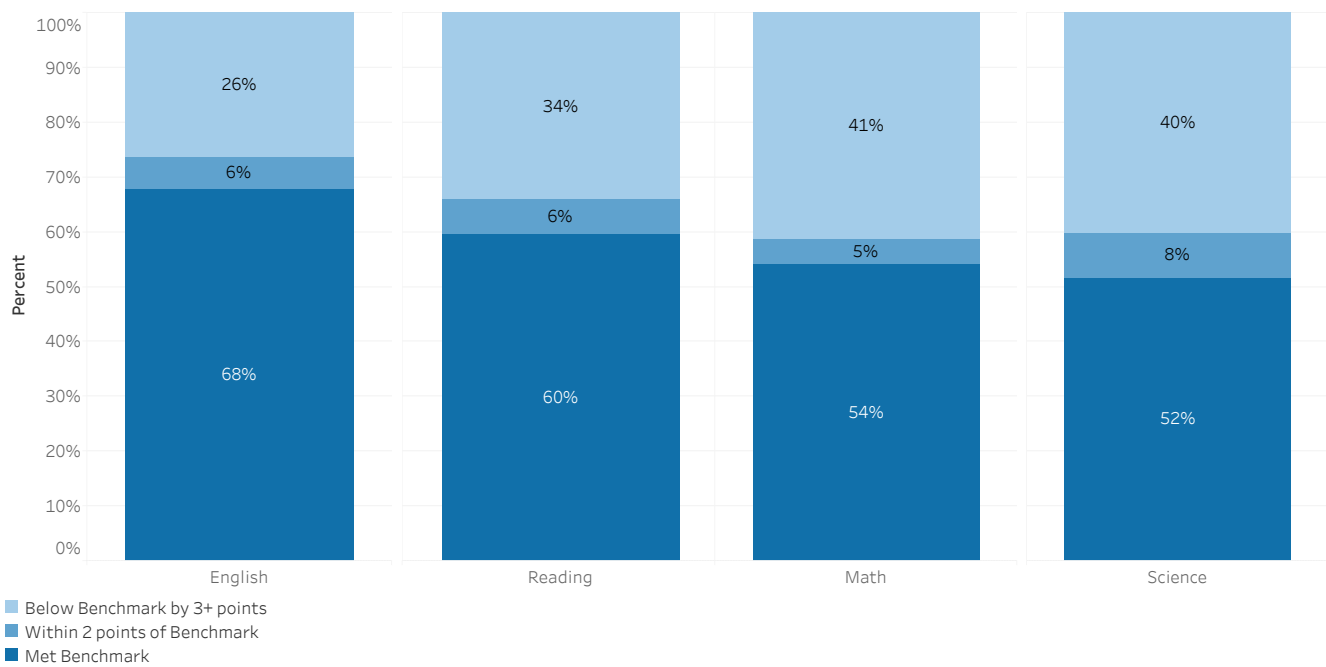
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2015	14%	42%			64%	88%
2016	17%	42%			76%	91%
2017	21%	55%			84%	91%
2018	18%	51%			80%	89%
2019	18%	63%			83%	90%

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# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



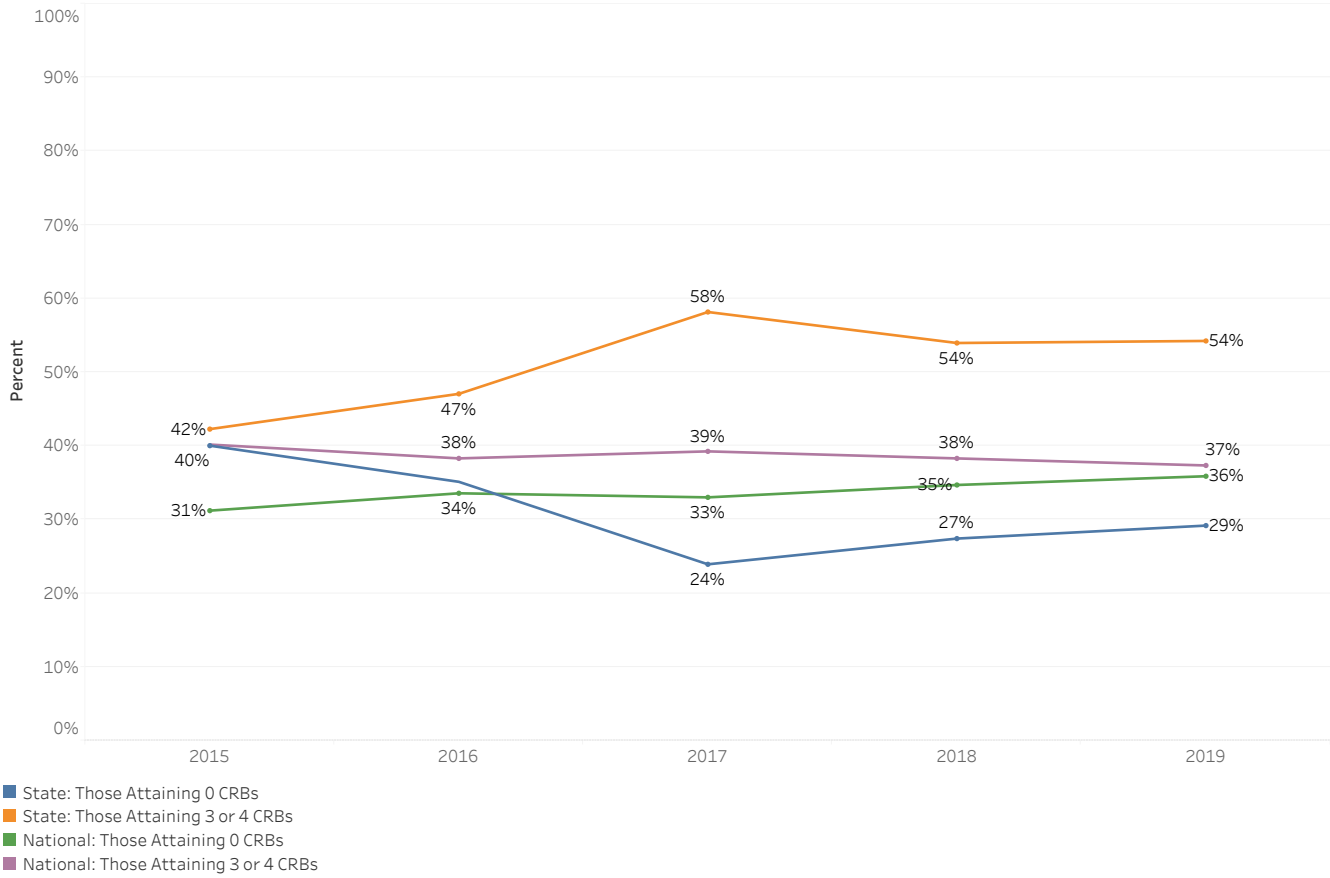
## Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	26%	6%	68%
Math	41%	5%	54%
Reading	34%	6%	60%
Science	40%	8%	52%

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



## Data from Graph Above

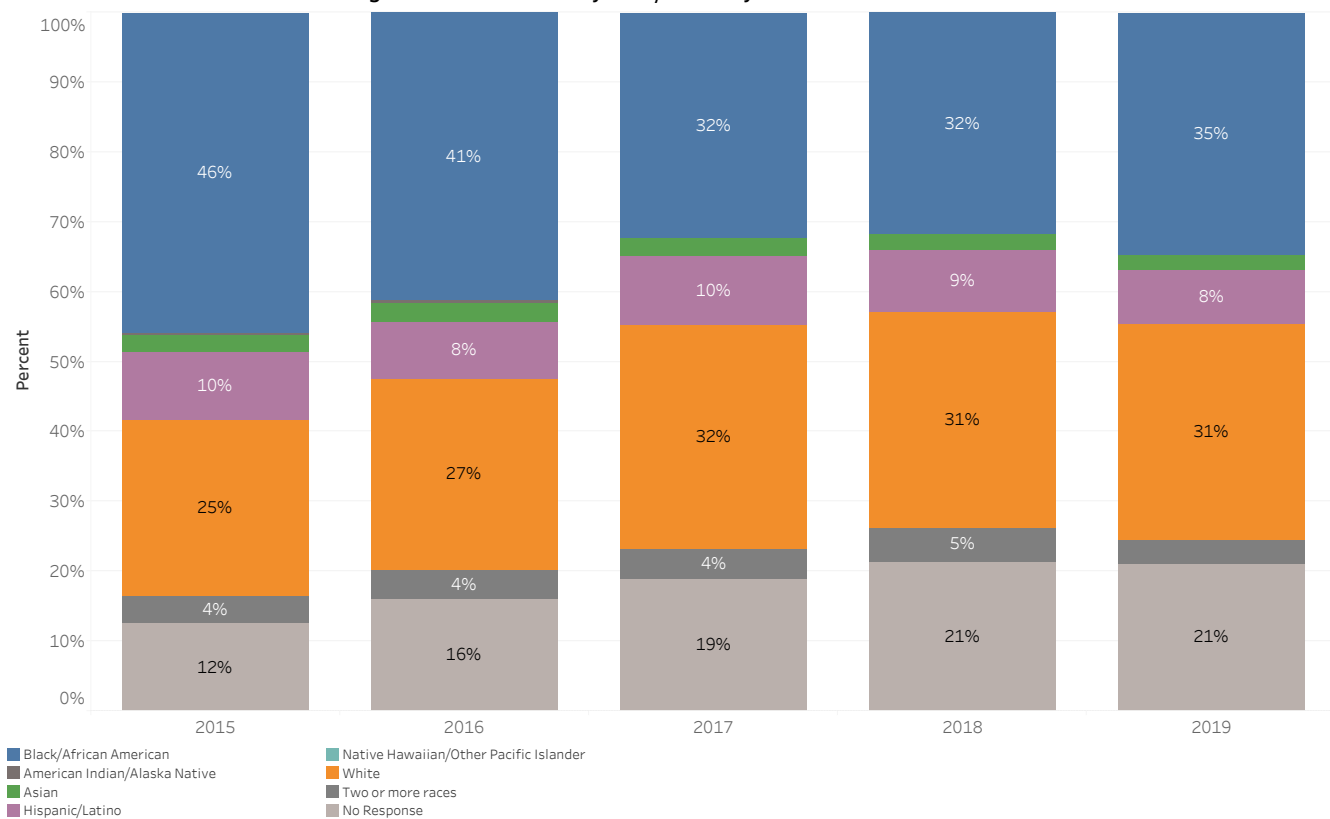
	State: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	State: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs
2015	40%	42%	31%	40%
2016	35%	47%	34%	38%
2017	24%	58%	33%	39%
2018	27%	54%	35%	38%
2019	29%	54%	36%	37%

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# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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	46%	0%	2%	10%	0%	25%	4%	12%
2016	41%	0%	3%	8%	0%	27%	4%	16%
2017	32%	0%	3%	10%	0%	32%	4%	19%
2018	32%	0%	2%	9%	0%	31%	5%	21%
2019	35%	0%	2%	8%	0%	31%	4%	21%

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## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

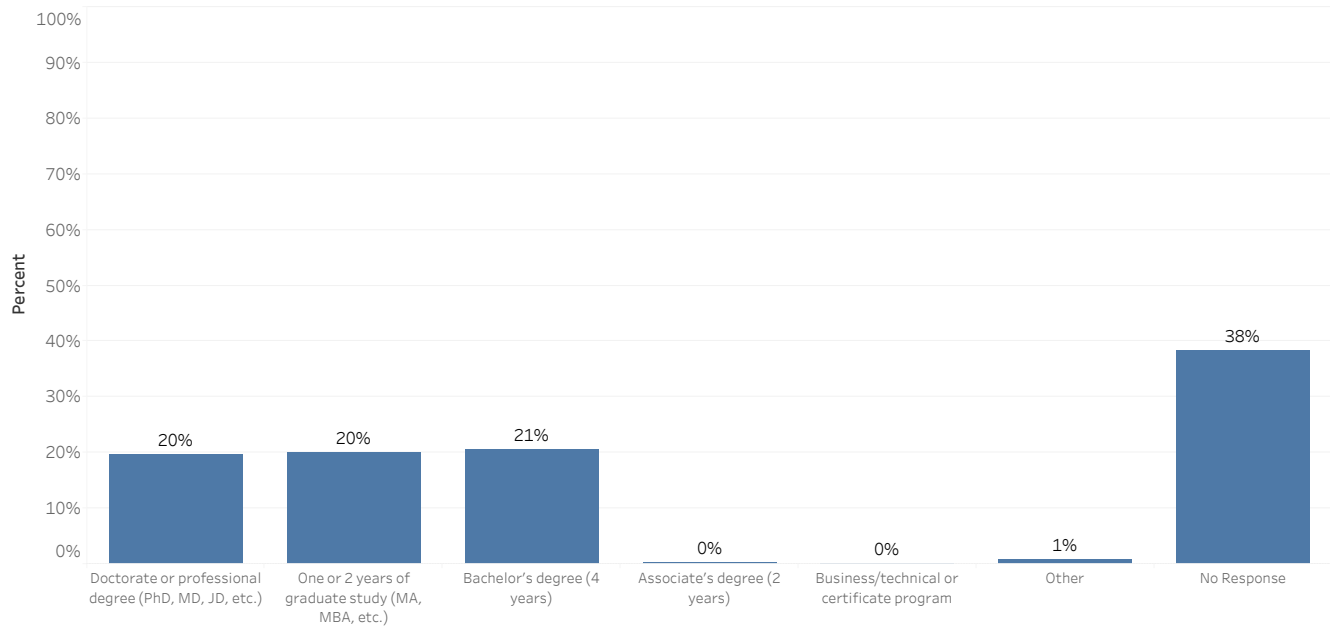
### Student Data Trends: 2015-2019, State vs. Nation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	1,602	1,692	1,723	1,748	1,680
National N-count	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817	1,782,820
Average ACT English Score - State	20.5	21.8	24.4	23.7	23.6
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	21.5	22.8	24.9	24.4	24.4
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	21.1	21.8	23.5	22.7	22.7
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	20.7	21.7	23.5	23.0	22.9
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	21.1	22.2	24.2	23.6	23.5
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

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## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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.)	20%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	20%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	21%
Associate's degree (2 years)	0%
Business/technical or certificate program	0%
Other	1%
No Response	38%

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