

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019

Florida Key Findings

Performance of 2019 Graduates

- In the 2019 Florida graduating class, 97,915 graduates (an estimated 54 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 20.1. This compares to 130,798 (an estimated 79 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 18,347 African American graduates from Florida who took the ACT (19 percent) with an average Composite score of 16.7. This compares to 23,728 (20 percent) with an average of 16.7, and 28,151 (22 percent) with an average of 17.0, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 35,748 White graduates from Florida who took the ACT (37 percent) with an average Composite score of 22.2. This compares to 44,186 (37 percent) with an average of 21.9, and 50,064 (38 percent) with an average of 21.9, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 29,313 Hispanic graduates from Florida who took the ACT (30 percent) with an average Composite score of 19.3. This compares to 34,131 (29 percent) with an average of 19.3, and 37,227 (28 percent) with an average of 19.0, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - The 2019 Florida graduating class average English score was 19.5. This compares to 19.2 and 18.9 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 Florida graduating class average math score was 19.5. This compares to 19.3 and 19.6 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 Florida graduating class average reading score was 21.2. This compares to 21.1 and 21.0 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 Florida graduating class average science score was 19.7. This compares to 19.5 and 19.5 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
- In 2019, 22 percent of Florida graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 21 and 21 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 56 percent of Florida graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 53 and 54 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 33 percent of Florida graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 32 and 34 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 45 percent of Florida graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 43 and 42 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 31 percent of Florida graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 29 and 29 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.

STEM

- In 2019, 44,427 Florida graduates (45 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 Florida graduating class average ACT STEM score of 19.8, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM averages of 19.7 and 19.8, respectively.
- Compared to 16 percent of 2019 Florida graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 15 and 14, respectively.
- In 2019, 47,443 Florida graduates (48 percent) indicated taking physics. This compares to 49 and 53 percent for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - 2019 graduates taking physics had an average science score of 20.8, compared to 19.0 for students not taking physics.
 - 39 percent of 2019 Florida graduates taking physics met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 26 for students not taking physics.

Career Readiness Indicator

- In 2019, 65,605 Florida graduates (67 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 Florida 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:
 - 241 more students enrolling in college.
 - 268 more students persisting to year two.
 - 191 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - 294 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - 285 more students persisting to year four.
 - 300 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Florida, 38,955 of the 2019 graduates (39.8 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 21.6, compared to an average of 19.1 for 58,960 of the 2019 graduates (60.2 percent) who took the ACT only once.
- 128,328 score reports were sent to colleges by 2019 Florida ACT-tested graduates.
 - 83,191 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2019 Florida ACT-tested graduates.
 - For Florida’s 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were the University of Central Florida, the University of Florida, Florida State University, the University of South Florida, and Florida International University.
 - For Florida’s 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were New York University, the University of Alabama, and Valdosta State University.

- Compared to 66 percent of 2019 graduates nationally, 68 percent of Florida 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, 76 percent of Florida African American 2019 graduates opted into EOS.
 - Compared to 64 percent of White students nationally, 63 percent of Florida White 2019 graduates opted into EOS.
 - Compared to 76 percent of Hispanic students nationally, 76 percent of Florida Hispanic 2019 graduates opted into EOS.
- In the 2018-2019 academic year, ACT issued 63,551 ACT fee waivers to qualified Florida students across all grades. However, 19,125 students (30.1 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

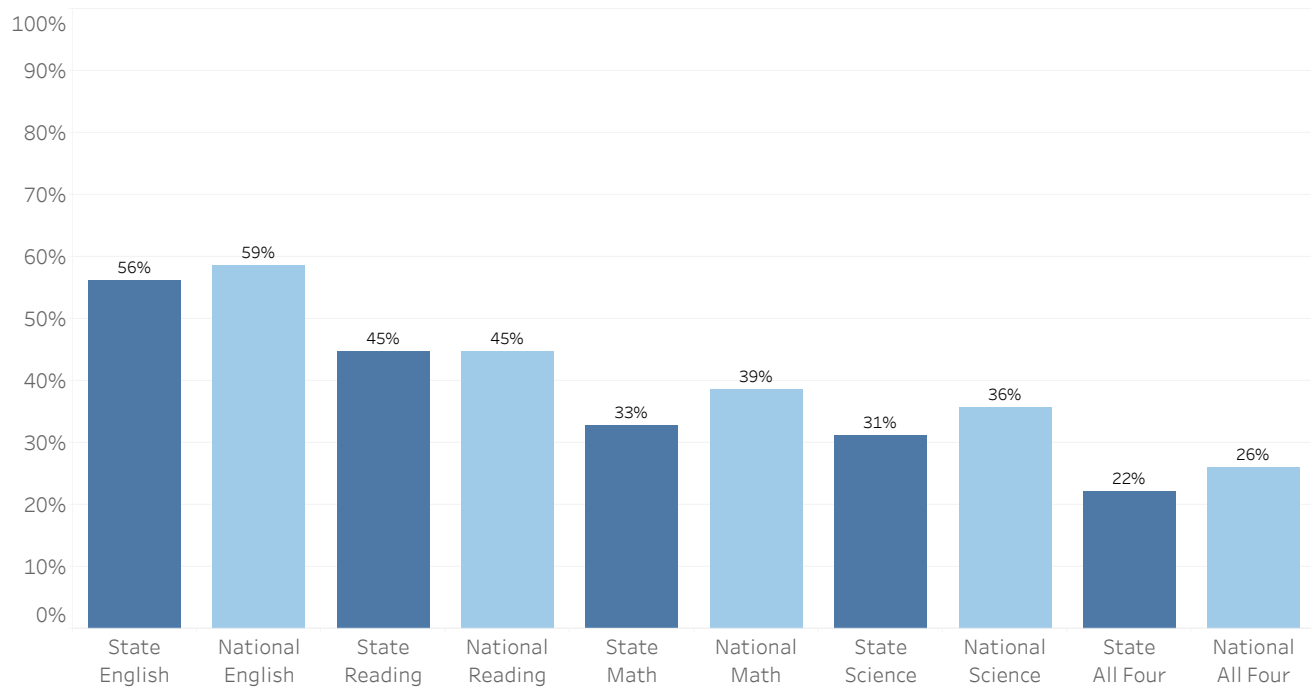
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - 36,443 students (37 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 23.0.
 - 35,024 students (36 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 19.6.
 - 4,301 students (4 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 Florida graduates were: Undecided; Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); and Biology, General.
 - In the Florida graduating class of 2019, 18,779 students (19 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 19.1. 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 Florida graduating class of 2019, 2,239 (2 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 19.0.

Additional Points

- The Florida ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with more than 700 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 Florida honorees were:
 - High school senior: Hannah Faughnan, Leesburg High School; K-12 professional: Ugur Baslanti, Math Teacher, North Marion High School; postsecondary professional: Barika Barboza, Learning and Program Evaluation, Miami Dade College; and workforce professional: Larre Davis, Director of ESE, Manatee School of the Arts.

FLORIDA 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

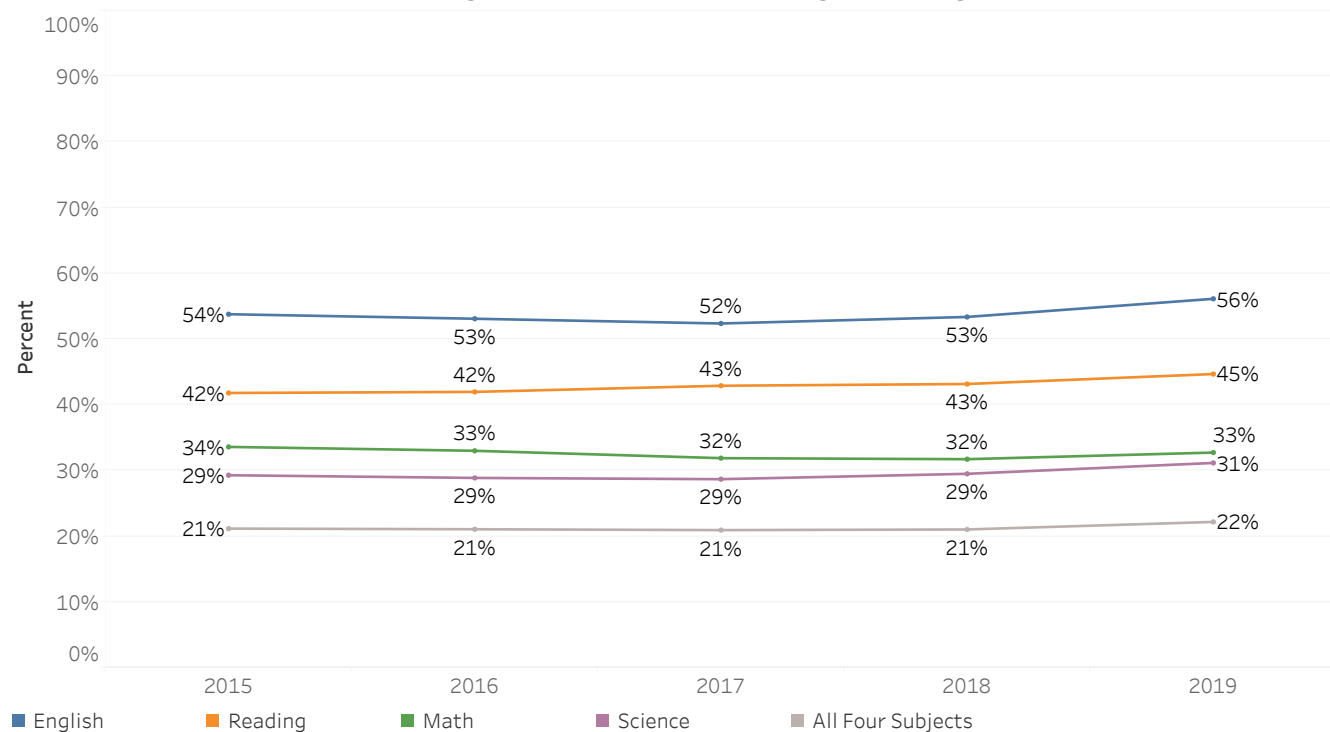
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
56%	59%	45%	45%	33%	39%	31%	36%	22%	26%

* 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.

FLORIDA 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

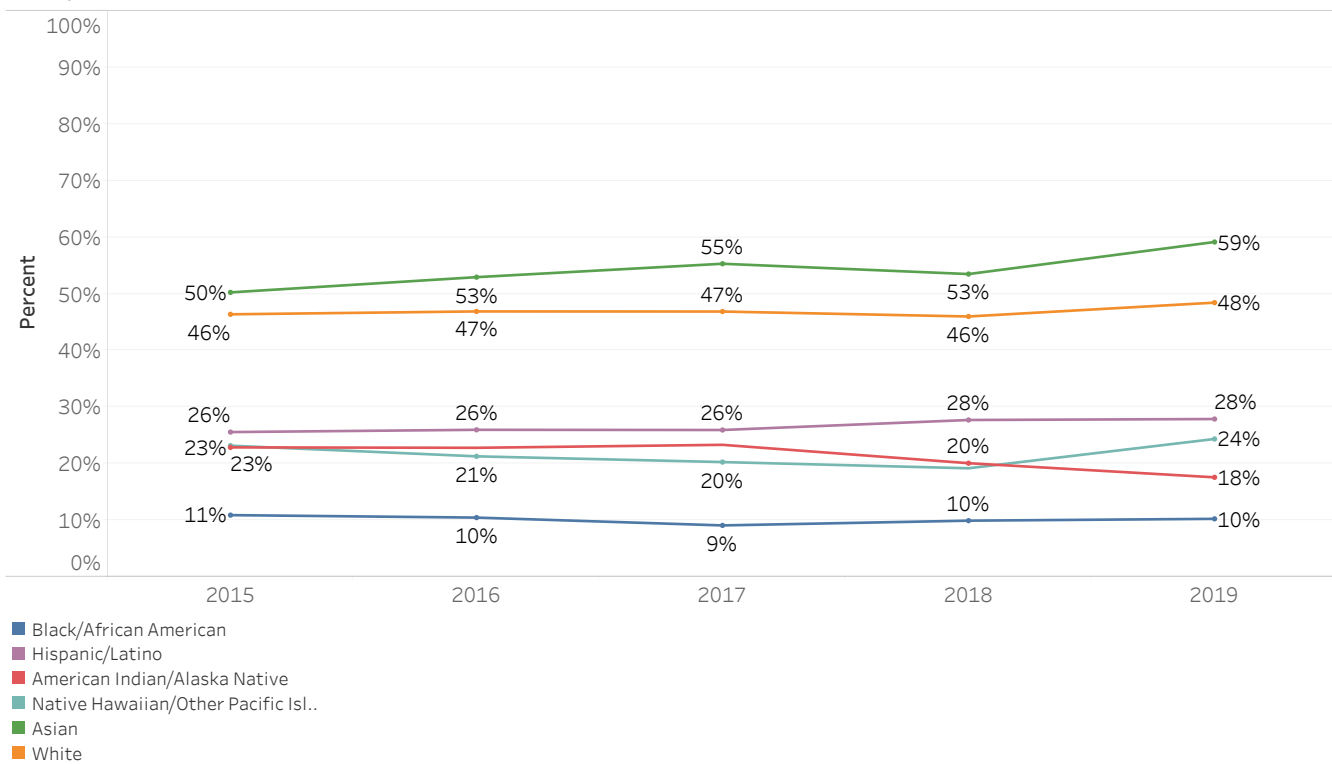
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	54%	42%	34%	29%	21%
2016	53%	42%	33%	29%	21%
2017	52%	43%	32%	29%	21%
2018	53%	43%	32%	29%	21%
2019	56%	45%	33%	31%	22%

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FLORIDA 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



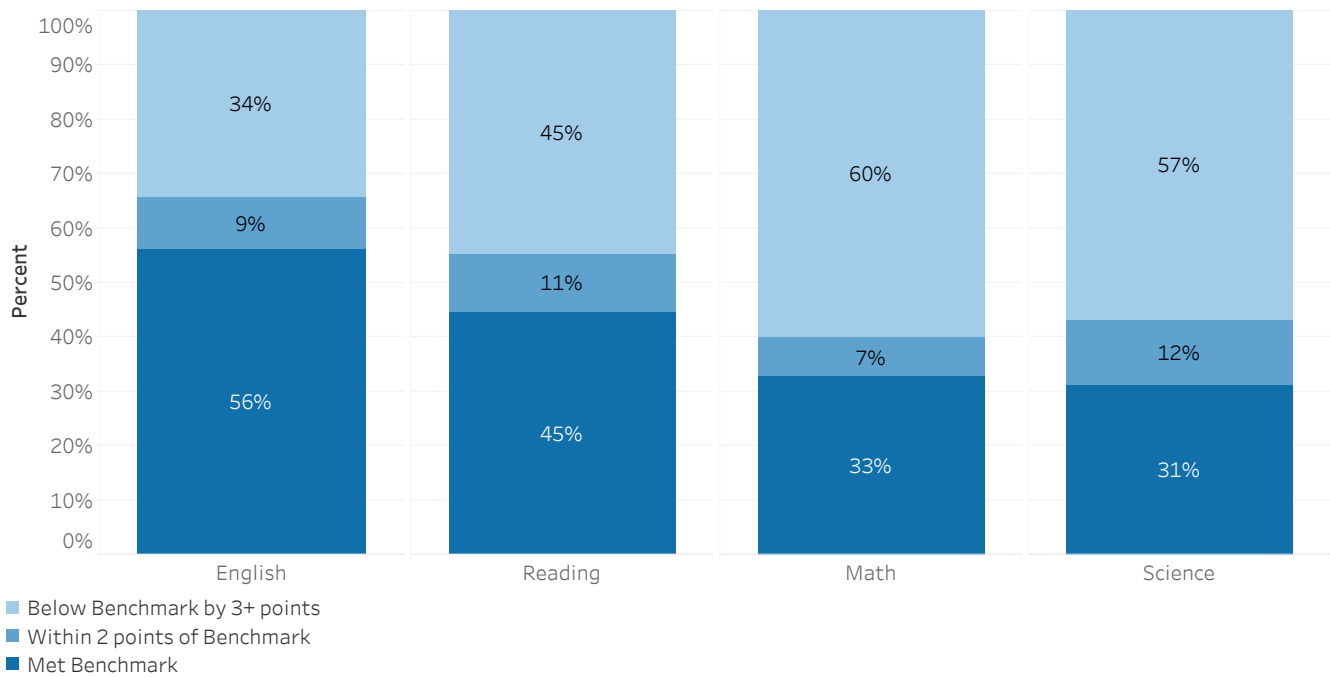
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2015	11%	26%	23%	23%	50%	46%
2016	10%	26%	23%	21%	53%	47%
2017	9%	26%	23%	20%	55%	47%
2018	10%	28%	20%	19%	53%	46%
2019	10%	28%	18%	24%	59%	48%

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FLORIDA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



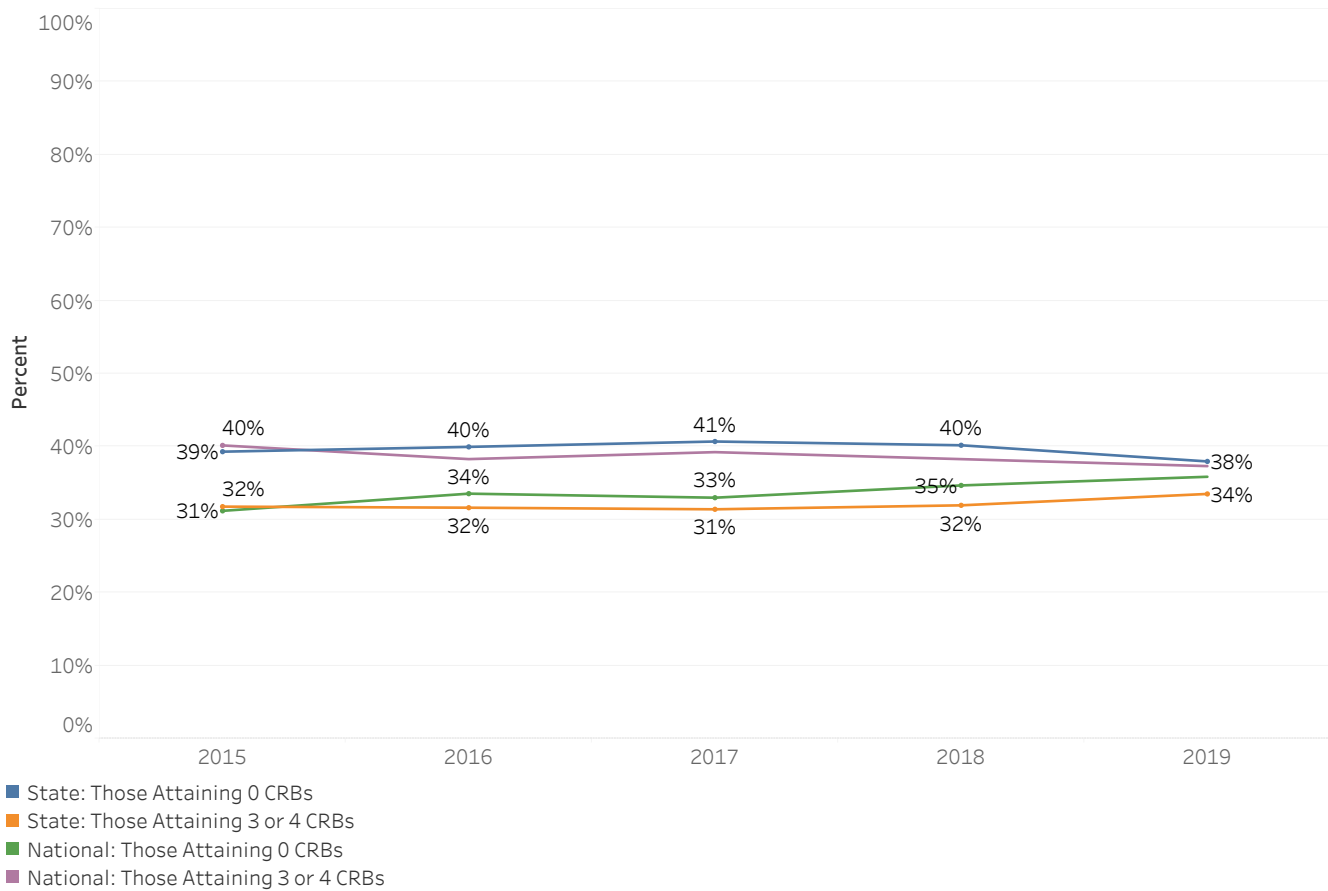
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	34%	9%	56%
Math	60%	7%	33%
Reading	45%	11%	45%
Science	57%	12%	31%

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



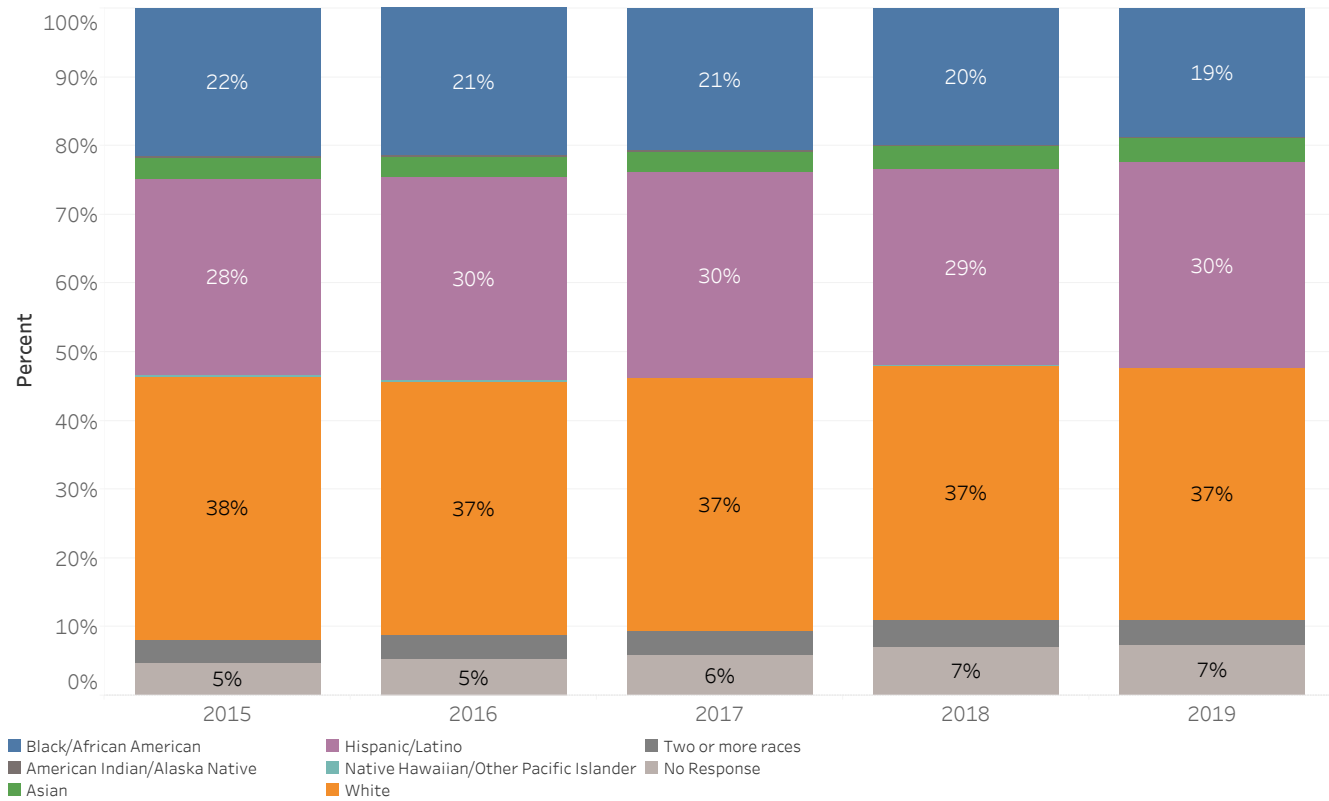
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	State: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	State: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs
2015	39%	32%	31%	40%
2016	40%	32%	34%	38%
2017	41%	31%	33%	39%
2018	40%	32%	35%	38%
2019	38%	34%	36%	37%

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FLORIDA 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	22%	0%	3%	28%	0%	38%	3%	5%
2016	21%	0%	3%	30%	0%	37%	3%	5%
2017	21%	0%	3%	30%	0%	37%	4%	6%
2018	20%	0%	3%	29%	0%	37%	4%	7%
2019	19%	0%	3%	30%	0%	37%	4%	7%

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FLORIDA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

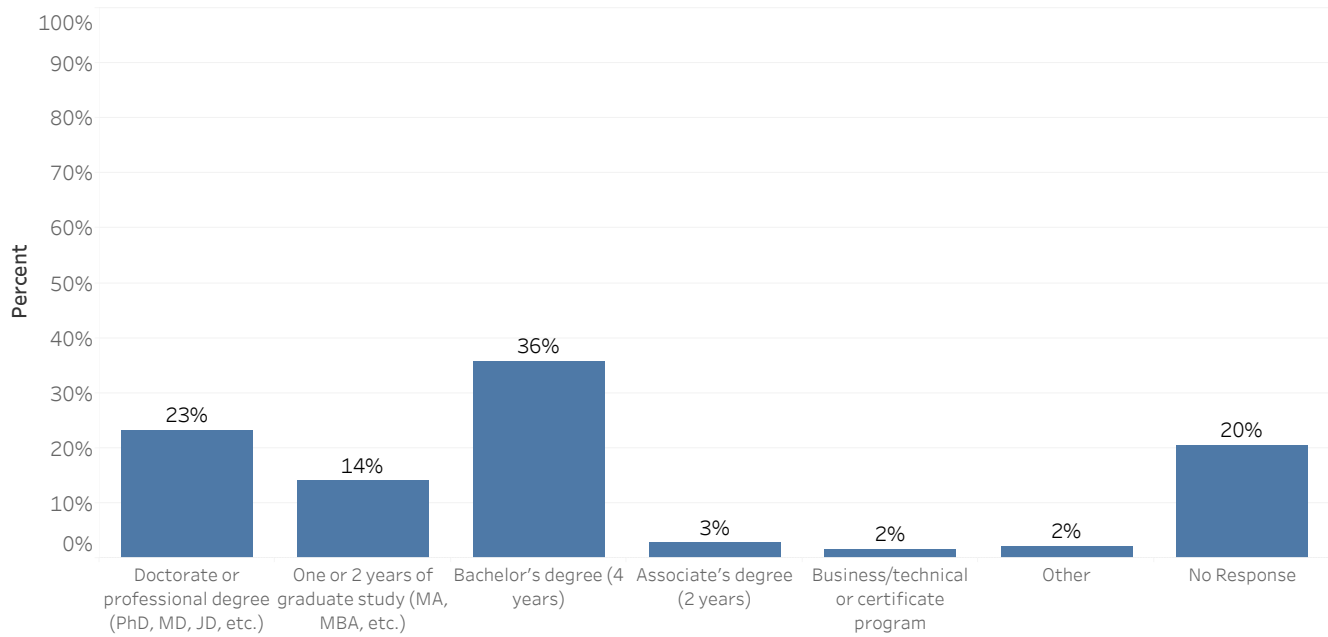
Student Data Trends: 2015-2019, State vs. Nation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	130,798	131,621	129,320	119,543	97,915
National N-count	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817	1,782,820
Average ACT English Score - State	18.9	18.9	19.0	19.2	19.5
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	21.0	21.1	21.0	21.1	21.2
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	19.6	19.5	19.4	19.3	19.5
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	19.5	19.5	19.4	19.5	19.7
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	19.9	19.9	19.8	19.9	20.1
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

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FLORIDA 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.)	23%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	14%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	36%
Associate's degree (2 years)	3%
Business/technical or certificate program	2%
Other	2%
No Response	20%

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