

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019

Kansas Key Findings

Performance of 2019 Graduates

- In the 2019 Kansas graduating class, 25,684 graduates (an estimated 72 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 21.2. This compares to 23,708 (an estimated 74 percent) with an average of 21.9 in 2015. Nationally, an estimated 52 percent of 2019 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.7.
 - There were 1,271 African American graduates from Kansas who took the ACT (5 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.0. This compares to 1,216 (5 percent) with an average of 17.7, and 1,249 (5 percent) with an average of 17.6, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 149 American Indian graduates from Kansas who took the ACT (1 percent) with an average Composite score of 18.6. This compares to 144 (1 percent) with an average of 19.7, and 168 (1 percent) with an average of 19.3, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 16,663 White graduates from Kansas who took the ACT (65 percent) with an average Composite score of 22.2. This compares to 16,645 (66 percent) with an average of 22.5, and 16,408 (69 percent) with an average of 22.8, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 3,808 Hispanic graduates from Kansas who took the ACT (15 percent) with an average Composite score of 18.5. This compares to 3,612 (14 percent) with an average of 19.0, and 2,965 (13 percent) with an average of 19.2, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 37 Pacific Islander graduates from Kansas who took the ACT (0 percent) with an average Composite score of 19.0. This compares to 20 (0 percent) with an average of 21.4, and 30 (0 percent) with an average of 20.2, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
- In 2019, 27 percent of Kansas graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 29 and 32 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - 2019 Kansas graduates taking more advanced English coursework demonstrated markedly higher average English scores than those who did not. In fact, 69 percent of Kansas 2019 graduates taking four or more years of English met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 38 percent of students taking less than four years of English meeting the benchmark.
- In 2019, 42 percent of Kansas graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 44 and 49 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - 2019 Kansas graduates taking more advanced math coursework demonstrated markedly higher average math scores than those who did not. In fact, 47 percent of Kansas 2019 graduates taking three or more years of math met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 9 percent of students taking less than three years of math meeting the benchmark.

- In 2019, 49 percent of Kansas graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 52 and 53 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - 2019 Kansas graduates taking more advanced social studies coursework demonstrated markedly higher average reading scores than those who did not. In fact, 53 percent of Kansas 2019 graduates taking three or more years of social studies met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 36 percent of students taking less than three years of social studies meeting the benchmark.
- In 2019, 39 percent of Kansas graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 41 and 44 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - 2019 Kansas graduates taking more advanced science coursework demonstrated markedly higher average science scores than those who did not. In fact, 45 percent of Kansas 2019 graduates taking three or more years of science met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 18 percent of students taking less than three years of science meeting the benchmark.
- In 2019, 10,423 (41 percent) of Kansas graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 10,913 and 10,941 (43 and 46 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, 11,546 Kansas graduates (45 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
- Compared to a 2019 Kansas graduating class average ACT STEM score of 21.2, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM averages of 21.6 and 21.9, respectively.

Career Readiness Indicator

- In 2019, 11,400 Kansas graduates (44 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 Kansas 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:
 - 61 more students enrolling in college.
 - 69 more students persisting to year two.
 - 50 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - 83 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - 75 more students persisting to year four.
 - 81 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Kansas, 14,879 of the 2019 graduates (57.9 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 23.0, compared to an average of 18.7 for 10,805 of the 2019 graduates (42.1 percent) who took the ACT only once.
 - Nationwide, 765,568 of the 2019 graduates (42.9 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 22.7, compared to an average of 19.2 for 1,017,252 of the 2019 graduates (57.1 percent) who took the ACT only once.
 - For Kansas's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were Kansas State University, the University of Kansas, Wichita State University, Emporia State University, and Fort Hays State University.
 - For Kansas's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were the University of Missouri - Kansas City, the University of Arkansas, and Oklahoma State University.
- Compared to 66 percent of 2019 graduates nationally, 70 percent of Kansas 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 4,771 ACT fee waivers to qualified Kansas students across all grades. However, 1,259 students (26.4 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 retest without incurring any fees.

Postsecondary Aspirations

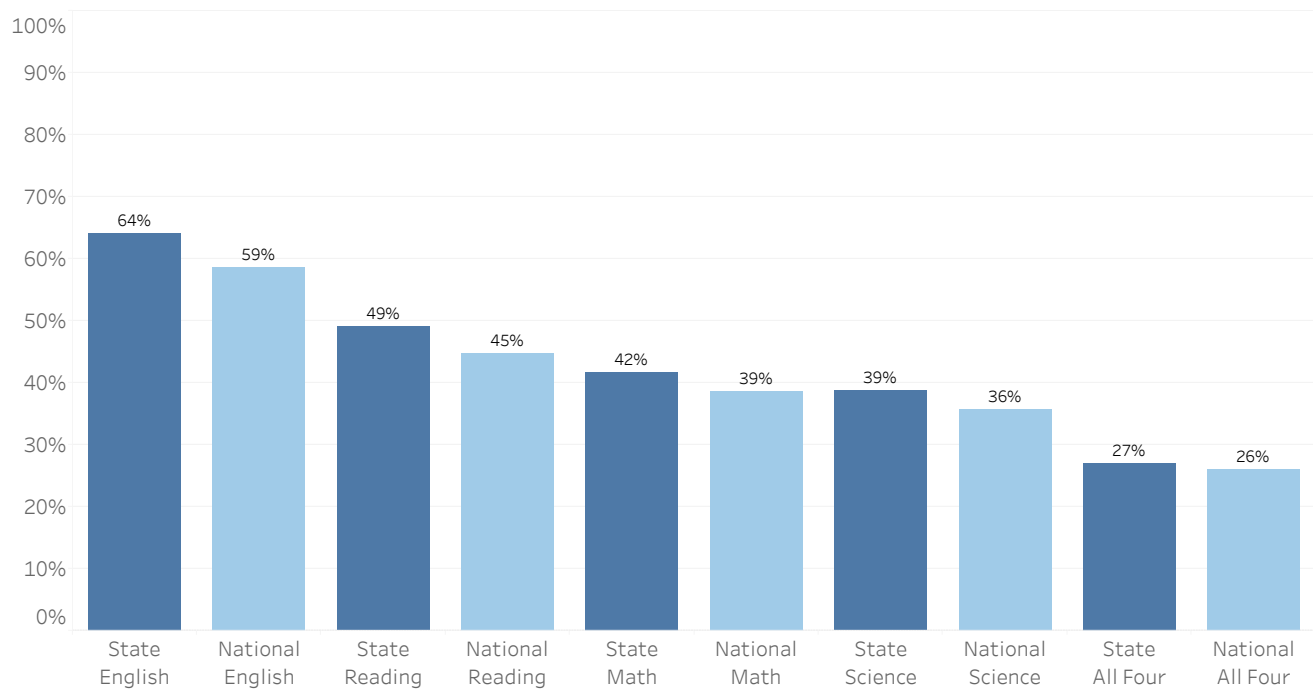
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - 6,943 students (27 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 24.1.
 - 12,461 students (49 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 21.0.
 - 1,549 students (6 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 17.2.
- In the Kansas graduating class of 2019, 3,510 students (14 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2019 Kansas graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; and Computer Science and Programming.
 - In the Kansas graduating class of 2019, 4,193 students (16 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 22.1. 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 Kansas graduating class of 2019, 1,298 (5 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 20.5.

Additional Points

- The Kansas ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with more than 250 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.

KANSAS 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

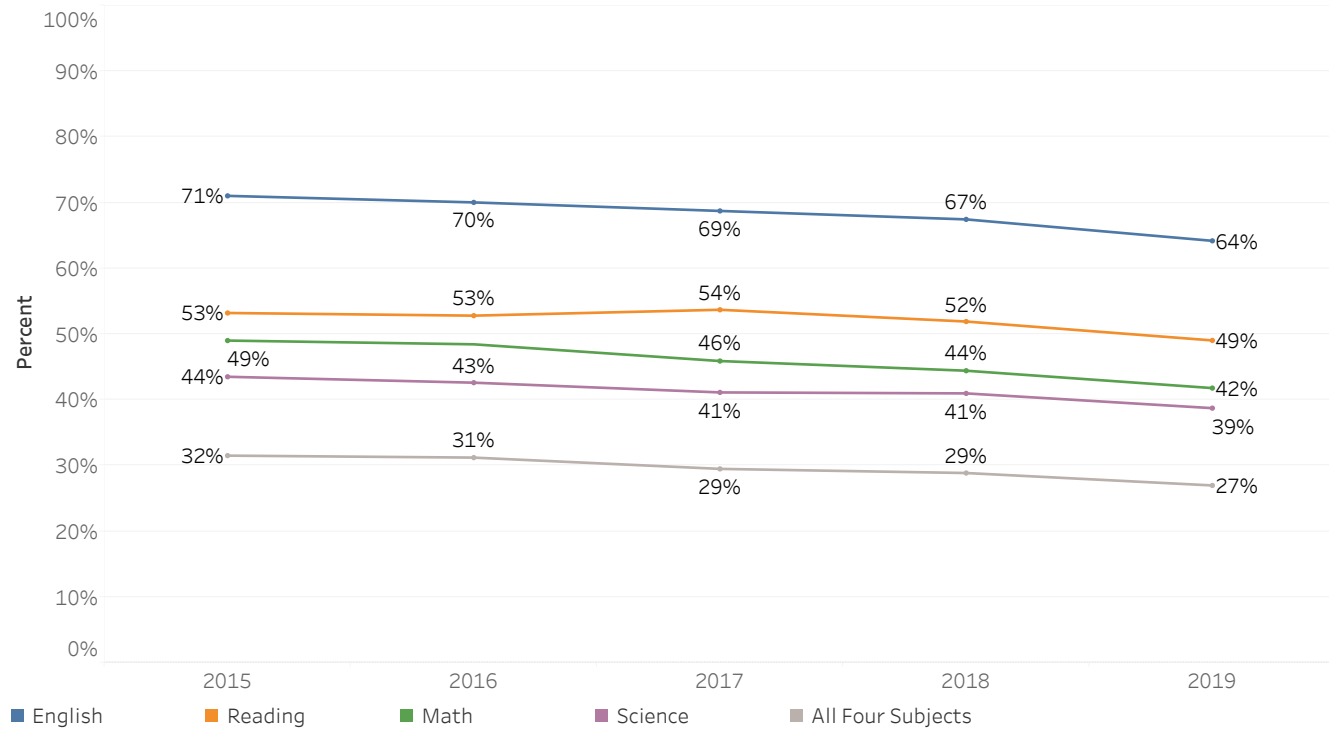
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
64%	59%	49%	45%	42%	39%	39%	36%	27%	26%

* 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.

KANSAS 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

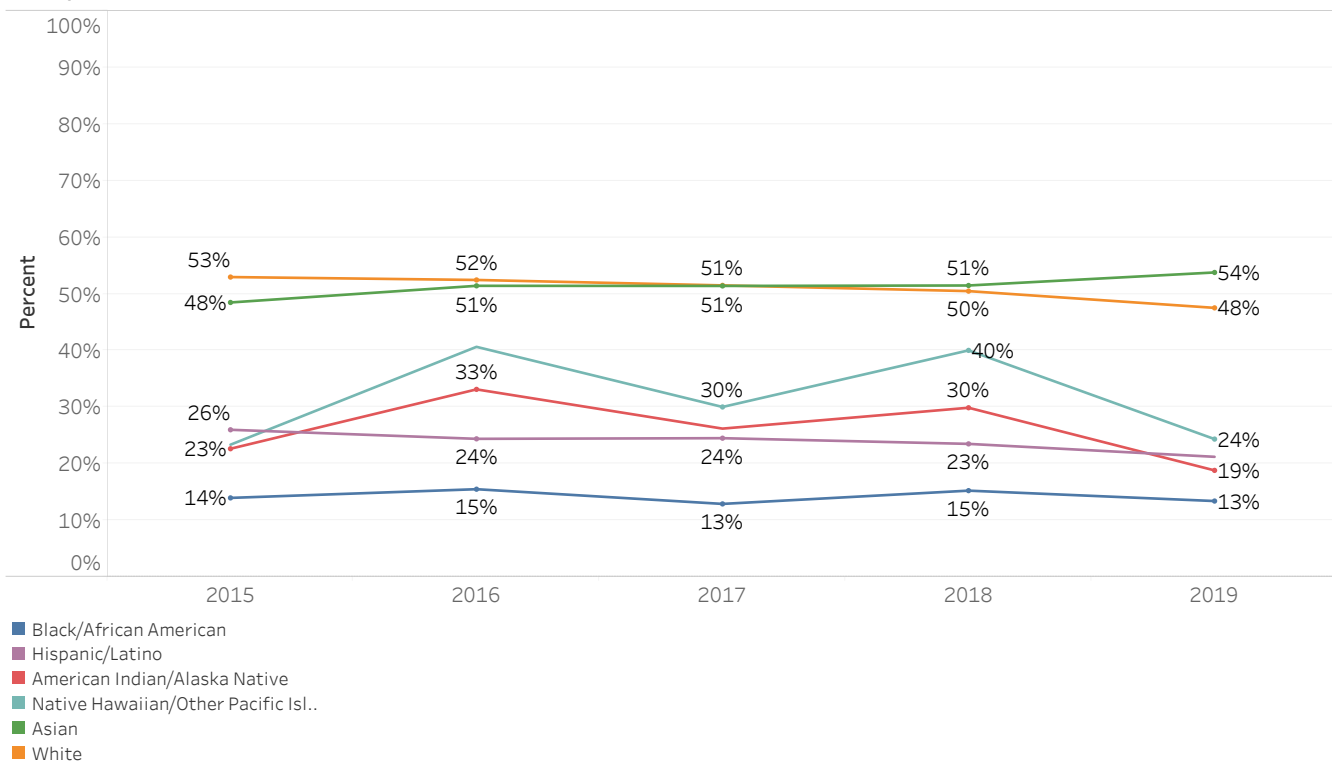
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	71%	53%	49%	44%	32%
2016	70%	53%	48%	43%	31%
2017	69%	54%	46%	41%	29%
2018	67%	52%	44%	41%	29%
2019	64%	49%	42%	39%	27%

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KANSAS 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



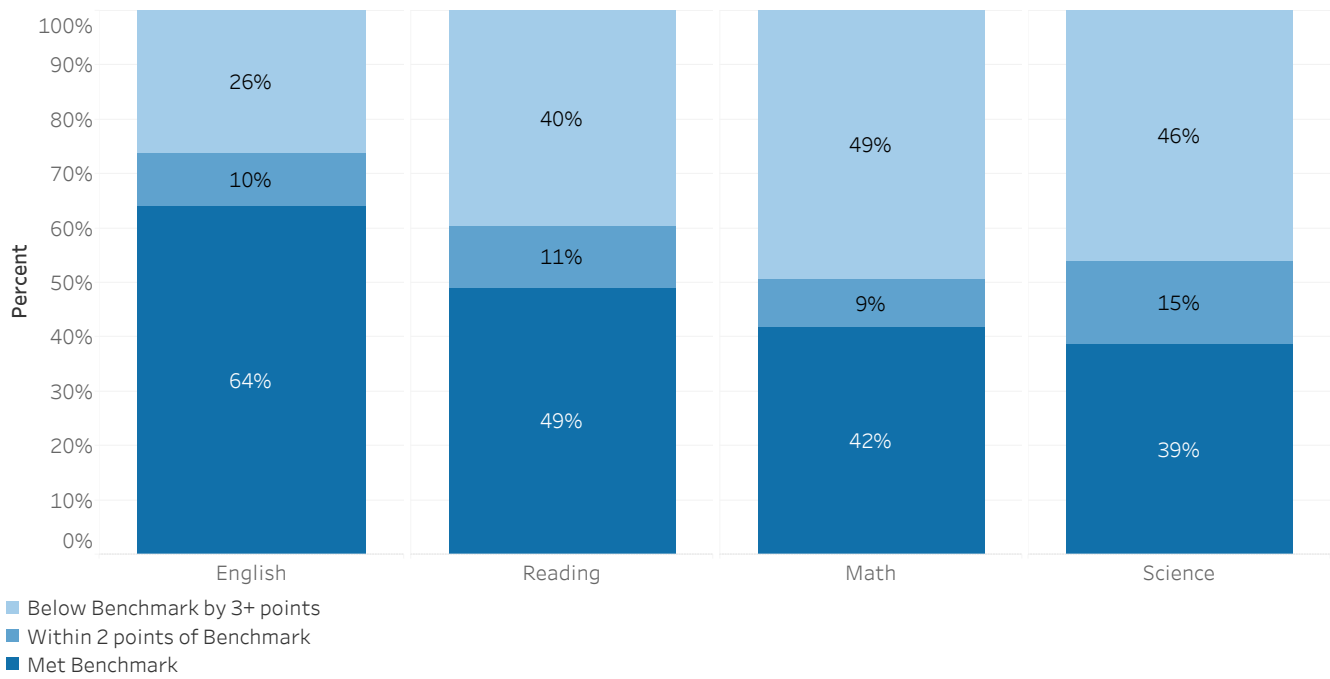
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2015	14%	26%	23%	23%	48%	53%
2016	15%	24%	33%	41%	51%	52%
2017	13%	24%	26%	30%	51%	51%
2018	15%	23%	30%	40%	51%	50%
2019	13%	21%	19%	24%	54%	48%

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KANSAS College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



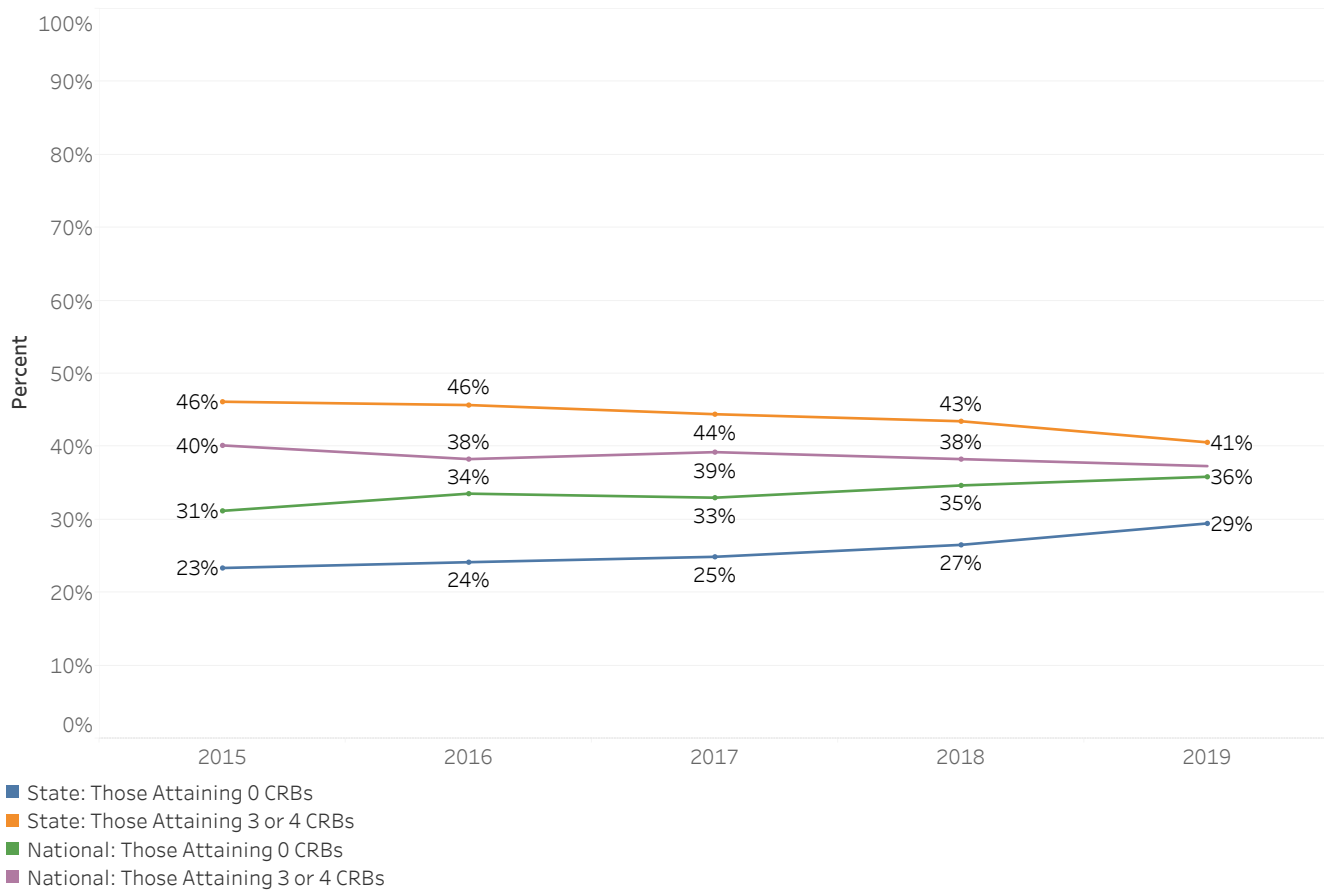
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	26%	10%	64%
Math	49%	9%	42%
Reading	40%	11%	49%
Science	46%	15%	39%

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KANSAS College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



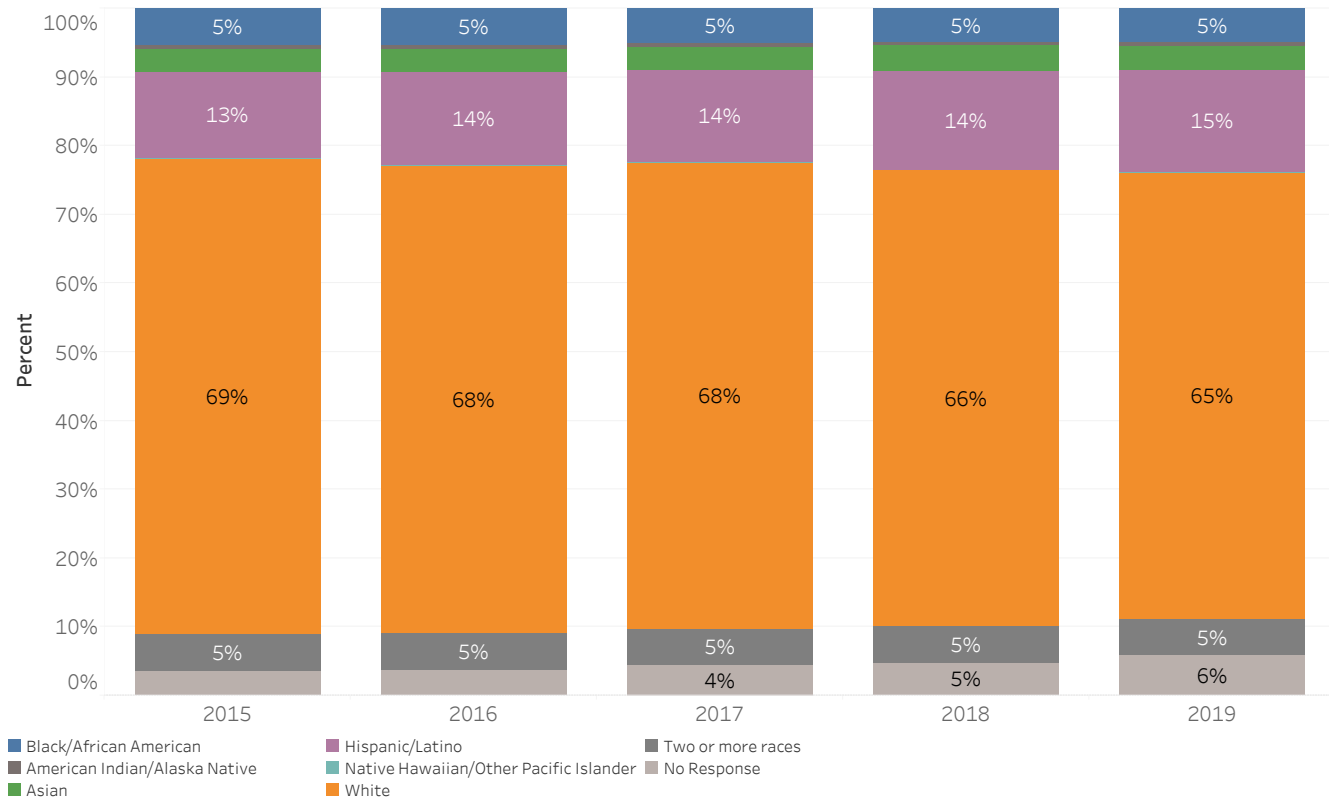
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	State: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	State: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs
2015	23%	46%	31%	40%
2016	24%	46%	34%	38%
2017	25%	44%	33%	39%
2018	27%	43%	35%	38%
2019	29%	41%	36%	37%

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KANSAS 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	5%	1%	3%	13%	0%	69%	5%	4%
2016	5%	1%	3%	14%	0%	68%	5%	4%
2017	5%	1%	3%	14%	0%	68%	5%	4%
2018	5%	1%	4%	14%	0%	66%	5%	5%
2019	5%	1%	4%	15%	0%	65%	5%	6%

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KANSAS College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

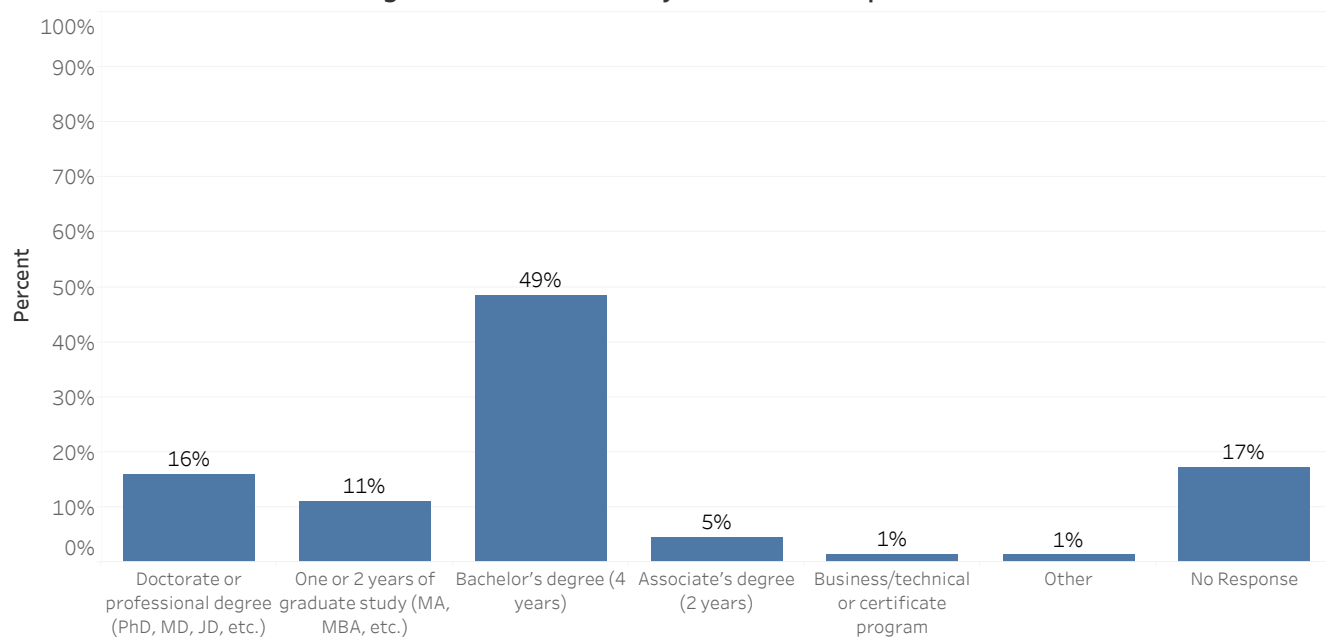
Student Data Trends: 2015-2019, State vs. Nation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	23,708	24,488	24,741	25,103	25,684
National N-count	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817	1,782,820
Average ACT English Score - State	21.3	21.3	21.1	21.0	20.5
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	22.4	22.5	22.3	22.3	21.8
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	21.6	21.5	21.3	21.1	20.7
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	21.8	21.8	21.7	21.5	21.1
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	21.9	21.9	21.7	21.6	21.2
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

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KANSAS 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.)	11%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	49%
Associate's degree (2 years)	5%
Business/technical or certificate program	1%
Other	1%
No Response	17%

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