

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019

Maine Key Findings

Performance of 2019 Graduates

- In the 2019 Maine graduating class, 865 graduates (an estimated 6 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 24.3. This compares to 1,434 (an estimated 10 percent) with an average of 24.2 in 2015. Nationally, an estimated 52 percent of 2019 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.7.
 - There were 17 African American graduates from Maine who took the ACT (2 percent) with an average Composite score of 19.5. This compares to 21 (2 percent) with an average of 18.1, and 31 (2 percent) with an average of 20.4, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 667 White graduates from Maine who took the ACT (77 percent) with an average Composite score of 24.4. This compares to 824 (79 percent) with an average of 24.0, and 1,162 (81 percent) with an average of 24.3, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 27 Hispanic graduates from Maine who took the ACT (3 percent) with an average Composite score of 23.1. This compares to 23 (2 percent) with an average of 25.3, and 29 (2 percent) with an average of 21.4, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - The 2019 Maine graduating class average English score was 24.2. This compares to 23.8 and 24.2 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 Maine graduating class average math score was 23.8. This compares to 23.6 and 23.9 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 Maine graduating class average reading score was 25.1. This compares to 24.7 and 24.6 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 Maine graduating class average science score was 23.7. This compares to 23.4 and 23.6 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
- In 2019, 47 percent of Maine graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 44 and 47 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
- In 2019, 85 percent of Maine graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 84 and 85 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
- In 2019, 66 percent of Maine graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 64 and 66 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
- In 2019, 70 percent of Maine graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 69 and 68 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
- In 2019, 57 percent of Maine graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 56 and 59 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
- In 2019, 553 (64 percent) of Maine graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 640 and 916 (61 and 64 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, 481 Maine graduates (56 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 Maine graduating class average ACT STEM score of 24.0, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM averages of 23.8 and 24.0, respectively.
- Compared to 37 percent of 2019 Maine graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 36 and 38, respectively.
- In 2019, 657 Maine graduates (76 percent) indicated taking physics. This compares to 77 and 75 percent for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - 2019 graduates taking physics had an average science score of 24.3, compared to 21.6 for students not taking physics.
 - 62 percent of 2019 Maine graduates taking physics met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 43 for students not taking physics.

Career Readiness Indicator

- In 2019, 601 Maine graduates (69 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 Maine 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:
 - 2 more students enrolling in college.
 - 2 more students persisting to year two.
 - 1 fewer student needing remedial English.
 - 2 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - 2 more students persisting to year four.
 - 3 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Maine, 207 of the 2019 graduates (23.9 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 26.2, compared to an average of 23.7 for 658 of the 2019 graduates (76.1 percent) who took the ACT only once.
- 968 score reports were sent to colleges by 2019 Maine ACT-tested graduates.
 - 152 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2019 Maine ACT-tested graduates.
 - For Maine’s 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were the University of Maine, Husson University, the University of Southern Maine, the University of New England, and Boston University.
 - For Maine’s 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were Boston University, the University of New Hampshire, and the University of Vermont.

- Compared to 66 percent of 2019 graduates nationally, 58 percent of Maine 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, 65 percent of Maine African American 2019 graduates opted into EOS.
 - Compared to 64 percent of White students nationally, 57 percent of Maine White 2019 graduates opted into EOS.
 - Compared to 76 percent of Hispanic students nationally, 70 percent of Maine Hispanic 2019 graduates opted into EOS.
- In the 2018-2019 academic year, ACT issued 84 ACT fee waivers to qualified Maine students across all grades. However, 24 students (28.6 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

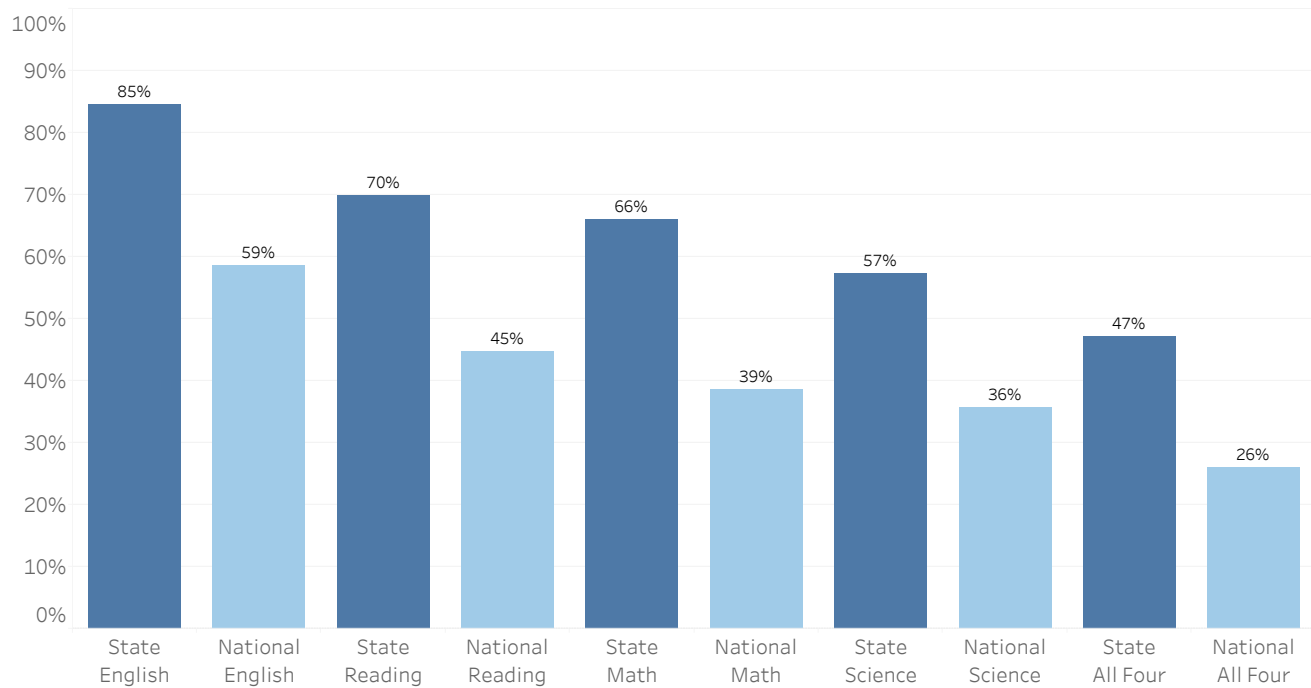
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - 428 students (49 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 25.9.
 - 317 students (37 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 22.4.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2019 Maine graduates were: Undecided; Biology, General; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); and Mechanical Engineering.
 - In the Maine graduating class of 2019, 176 students (20 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 24.4. 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.
 - In the Maine graduating class of 2019, 25 students (3 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 21.4.

Additional Points

- The Maine ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with more than 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.
- In 2019, ACT honored College and Career Readiness Champions in most states. The Maine honorees were:
 - High school senior: Daniel Wortman, Ashland District School; postsecondary professional: Scott Voisine, Dean of Community Education, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

MAINE 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

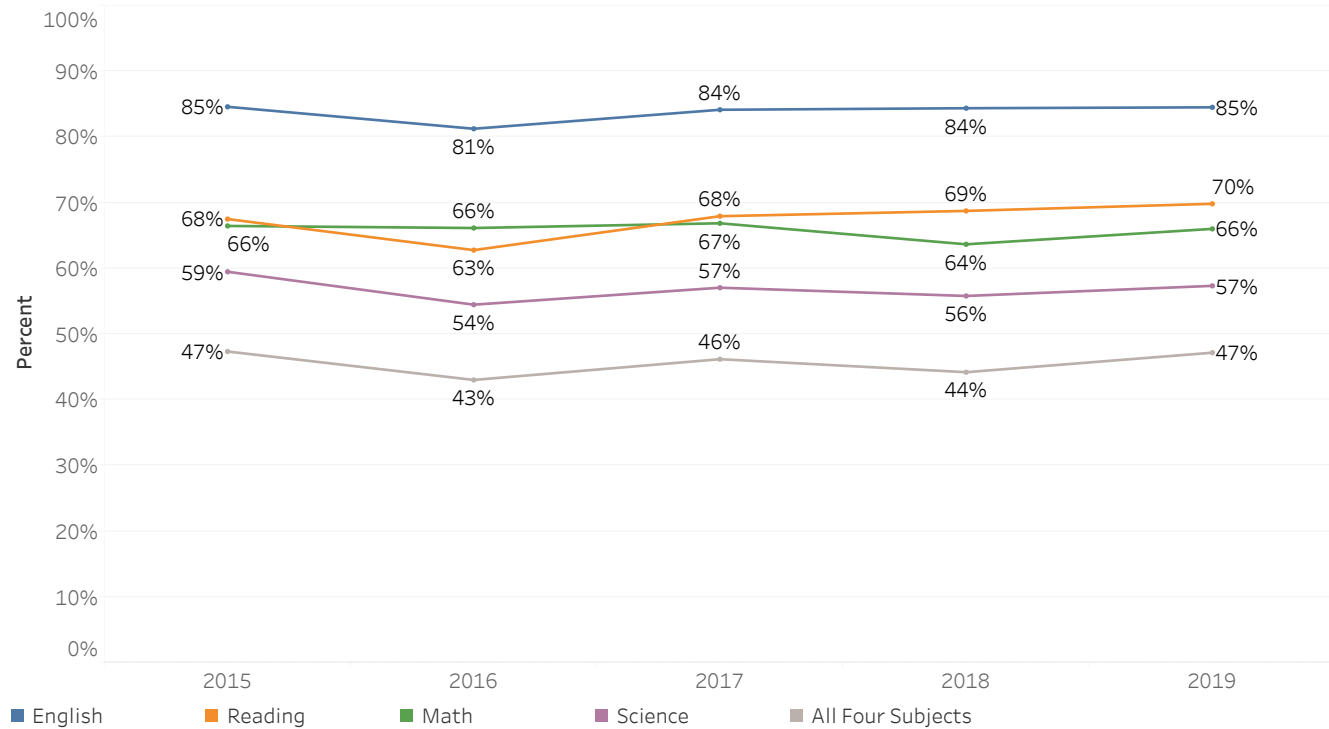
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
85%	59%	70%	45%	66%	39%	57%	36%	47%	26%

* 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.

MAINE 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

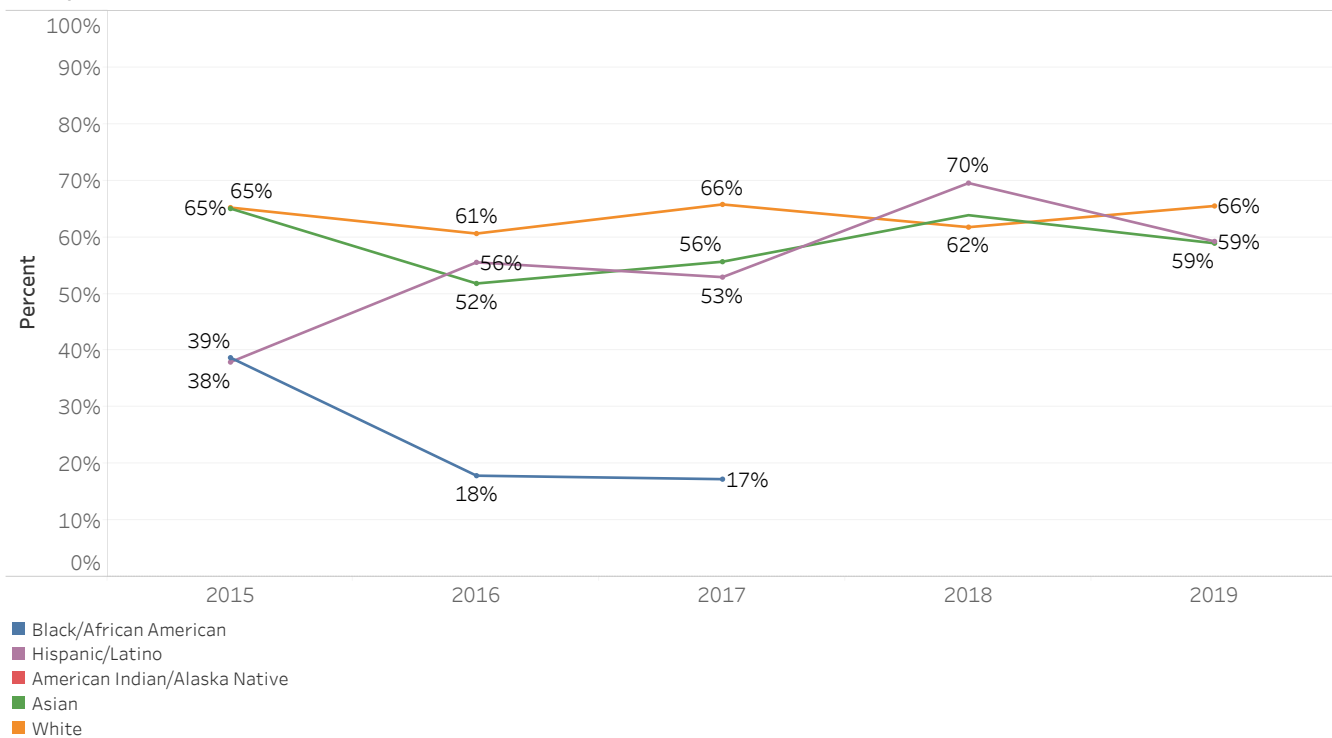
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	85%	68%	66%	59%	47%
2016	81%	63%	66%	54%	43%
2017	84%	68%	67%	57%	46%
2018	84%	69%	64%	56%	44%
2019	85%	70%	66%	57%	47%

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MAINE 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



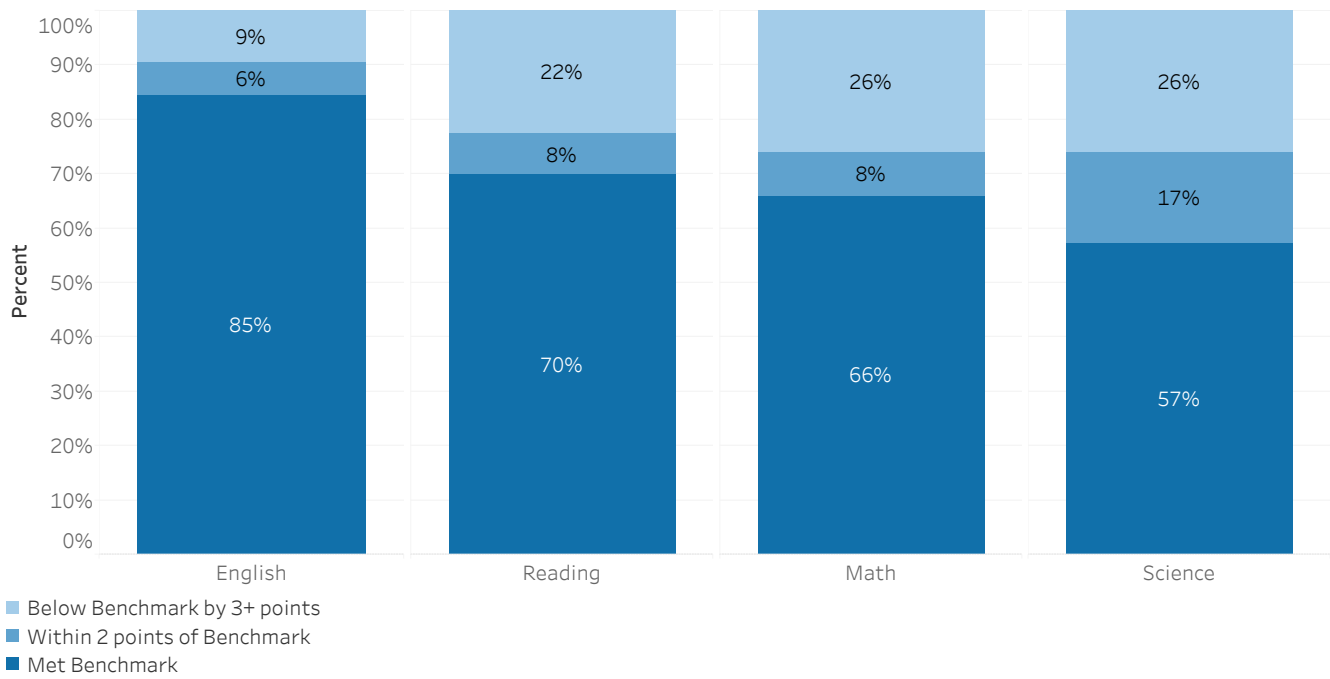
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Asian	White
2015	39%	38%		65%	65%
2016	18%	56%		52%	61%
2017	17%	53%		56%	66%
2018		70%		64%	62%
2019		59%		59%	66%

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MAINE College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



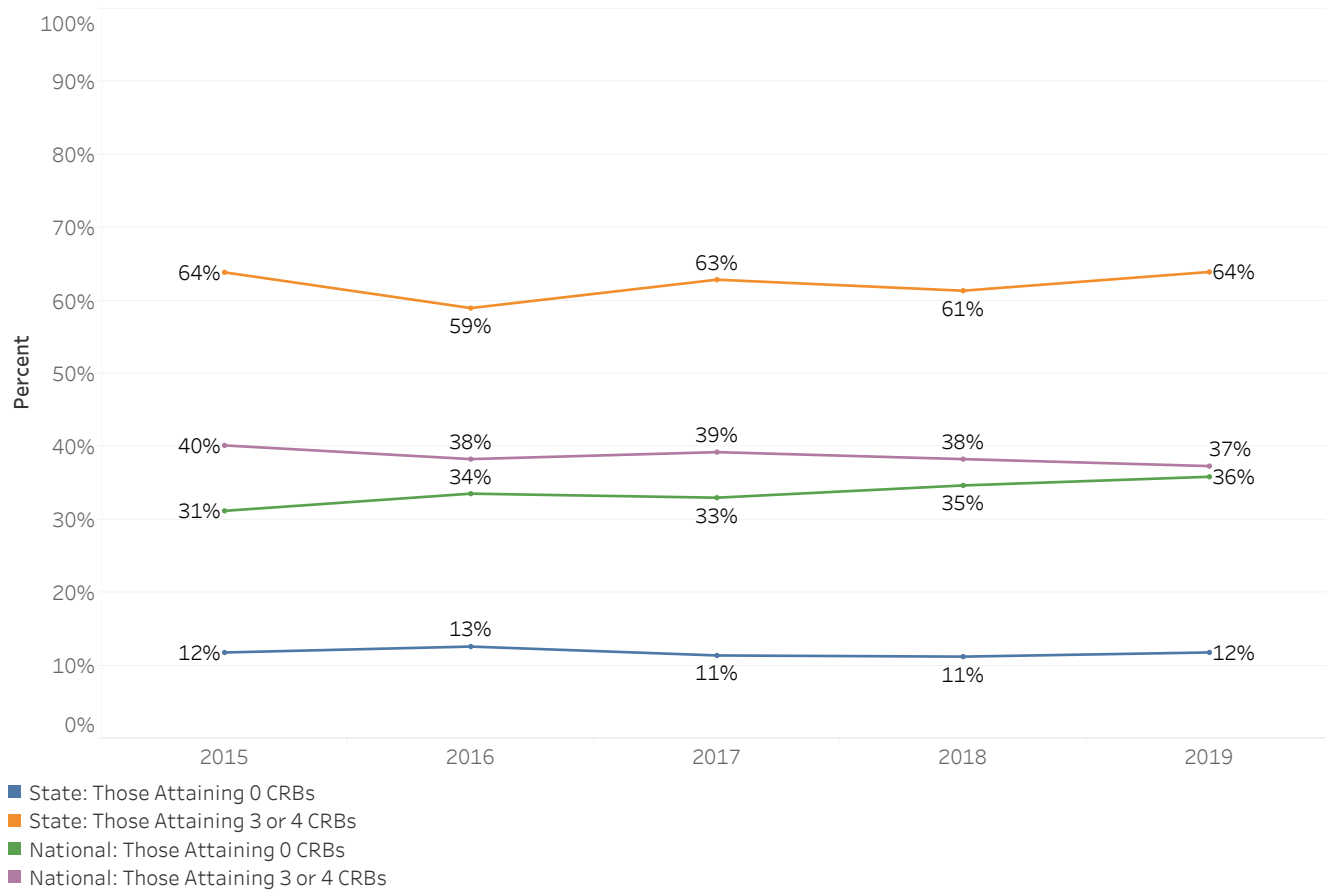
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	9%	6%	85%
Math	26%	8%	66%
Reading	22%	8%	70%
Science	26%	17%	57%

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



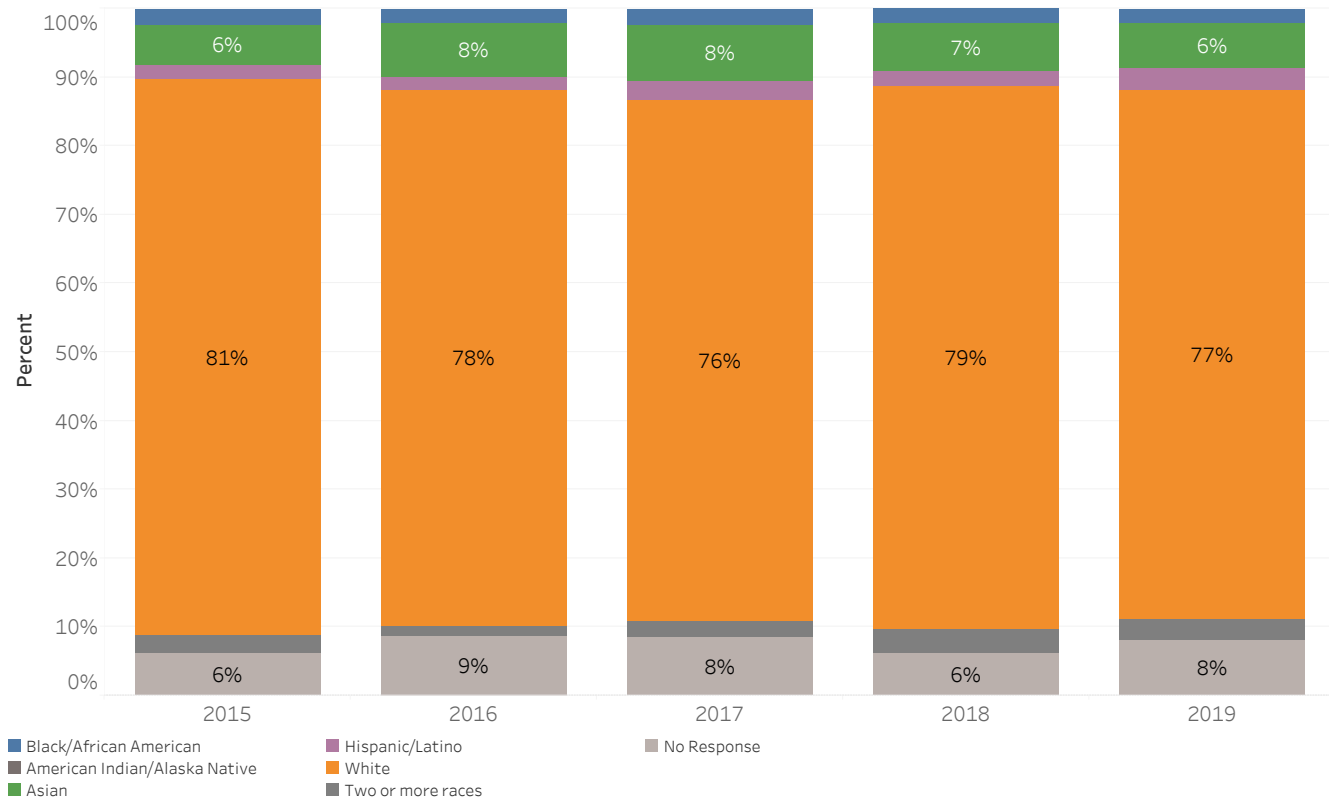
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	State: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	State: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs
2015	12%	64%	31%	40%
2016	13%	59%	34%	38%
2017	11%	63%	33%	39%
2018	11%	61%	35%	38%
2019	12%	64%	36%	37%

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MAINE 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	White	Two or more races	No Response
2015	2%	2%	6%	2%	81%	3%	6%
2016	2%	2%	8%	2%	78%	2%	9%
2017	2%	2%	8%	3%	76%	2%	8%
2018	2%	2%	7%	2%	79%	4%	6%
2019	2%	2%	6%	3%	77%	3%	8%

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MAINE College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

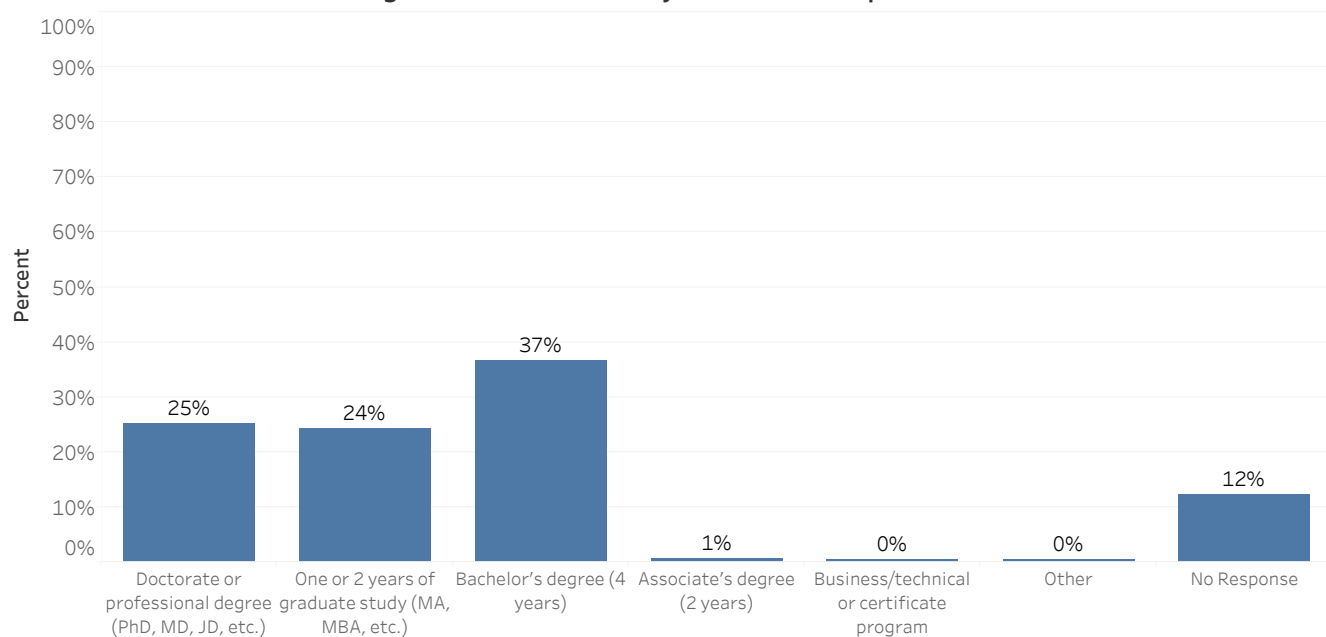
Student Data Trends: 2015-2019, State vs. Nation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	1,434	1,397	1,204	1,043	865
National N-count	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817	1,782,820
Average ACT English Score - State	24.2	23.3	24.2	23.8	24.2
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	24.6	23.9	24.8	24.7	25.1
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	23.9	23.8	24.0	23.6	23.8
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	23.6	23.1	23.7	23.4	23.7
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	24.2	23.6	24.3	24.0	24.3
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

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MAINE 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.)	25%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	24%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	37%
Associate's degree (2 years)	1%
Business/technical or certificate program	0%
Other	0%
No Response	12%

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