

# The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019

## Michigan Key Findings

### Performance of 2019 Graduates

- In the 2019 Michigan graduating class, 19,727 graduates (an estimated 19 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 24.4. This compares to 118,555 (an estimated 100 percent) with an average of 20.1 in 2015. Nationally, an estimated 52 percent of 2019 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.7.
  - There were 1,633 African American graduates from Michigan who took the ACT (8 percent) with an average Composite score of 18.9. This compares to 2,034 (9 percent) with an average of 18.9, and 15,608 (13 percent) with an average of 16.3, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - There were 13,232 White graduates from Michigan who took the ACT (67 percent) with an average Composite score of 24.8. This compares to 15,408 (68 percent) with an average of 24.8, and 76,536 (65 percent) with an average of 21.0, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - There were 949 Hispanic graduates from Michigan who took the ACT (5 percent) with an average Composite score of 22.9. This compares to 1,105 (5 percent) with an average of 22.6, and 7,808 (7 percent) with an average of 18.4, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - There were 1,552 Asian graduates from Michigan who took the ACT (8 percent) with an average Composite score of 28.1. This compares to 1,731 (8 percent) with an average of 27.5, and 3,475 (3 percent) with an average of 23.5, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
- In 2019, 48 percent of Michigan graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 48 and 22 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 12 percent of Michigan graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 12 and 37 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 84 percent of Michigan graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 84 and 59 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 65 percent of Michigan graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 65 and 34 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 68 percent of Michigan graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 67 and 40 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 60 percent of Michigan graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 60 and 34 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 12,553 (64 percent) of Michigan graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 14,599 and 40,252 (64 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.
- In 2019, 5 percent of Michigan graduates took the ACT with extended time. This compares to 4 and 8 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.

## STEM

- In 2019, 10,959 Michigan 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 Michigan graduating class average ACT STEM score of 24.2, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM averages of 24.2 and 20.4, respectively.
- In 2019, 13,858 Michigan graduates (70 percent) indicated taking physics. This compares to 71 and 55 percent for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - 2019 graduates taking physics had an average science score of 24.7, compared to 22.2 for students not taking physics.
  - 65 percent of 2019 Michigan graduates taking physics met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 47 for students not taking physics.

## Career Readiness Indicator

- In 2019, 18,142 Michigan graduates (92 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 Michigan 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:
  - 39 more students enrolling in college.
  - 46 more students persisting to year two.
  - 27 fewer students needing remedial English.
  - 45 fewer students needing remedial math.
  - 55 more students persisting to year four.
  - 60 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

## Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Michigan, 9,840 of the 2019 graduates (49.9 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 25.7, compared to an average of 23.2 for 9,887 of the 2019 graduates (50.1 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.

- 40,773 score reports were sent to colleges by 2019 Michigan ACT-tested graduates.
  - 24,620 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2019 Michigan ACT-tested graduates.
  - For Michigan's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, Grand Valley State University, Western Michigan University, and Central Michigan University.
  - For Michigan's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were Purdue University, the University of Notre Dame, and the University of Toledo.
- Compared to 66 percent of 2019 graduates nationally, 64 percent of Michigan 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 2,320 ACT fee waivers to qualified Michigan students across all grades. However, 641 students (27.6 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

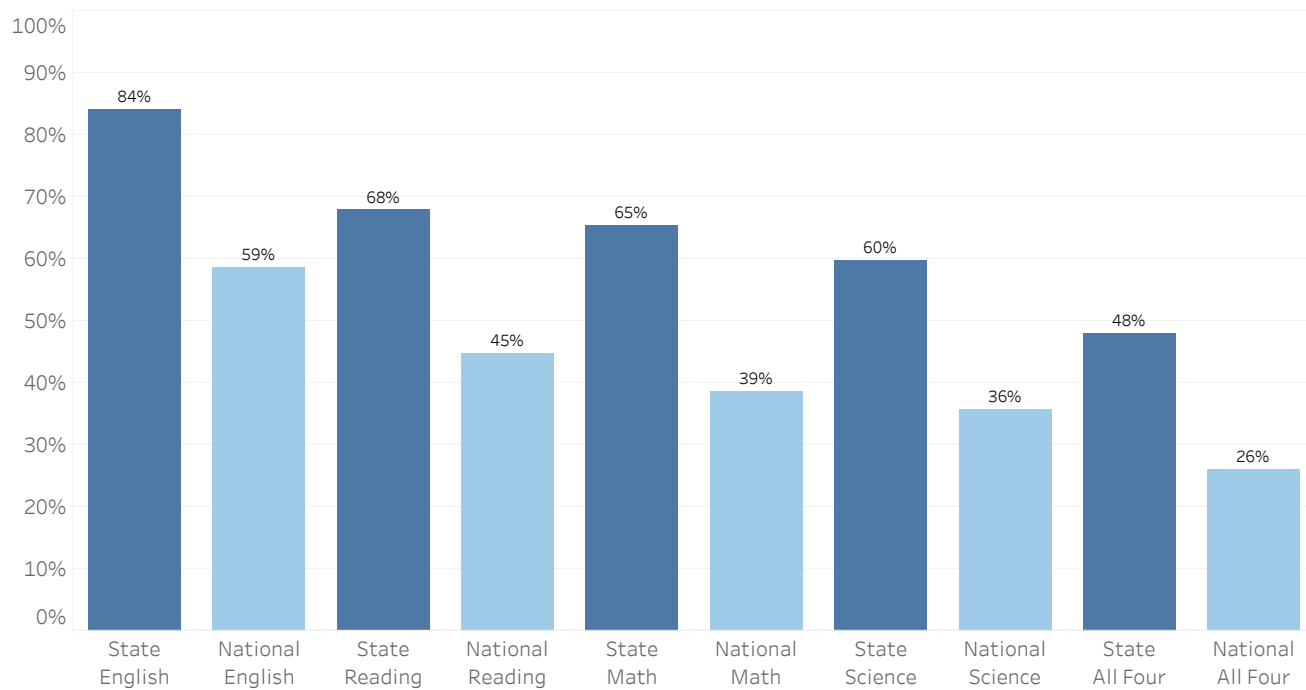
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
  - 9,980 students (51 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 26.0.
  - 7,899 students (40 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 22.7.
- In the Michigan graduating class of 2019, 1,055 students (5 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2019 Michigan graduates were: Undecided; Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Business Administration and Management, General; and Mechanical Engineering.
  - In the Michigan graduating class of 2019, 3,651 students (19 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 24.6. 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 Michigan graduating class of 2019, 597 (3 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 22.7.

## Additional Points

- The Michigan ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with more than 470 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.
- In 2019, ACT State Organizations honored College and Career Readiness Champions across the country. The Michigan honorees were:
  - Niral Patel, high school senior, Mona Shores High School; Kayla Nichols, instructional coach, Hillman Community Schools; and Anita Lopez Schlabach, early middle college director, Glen Oaks Community College.
- According to the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the fastest-growing careers in Michigan requiring education beyond high school are: physician assistants, information security analysts, nurse practitioners, statisticians, and physical therapy assistants.
- Over 638,000 ACT National Career Readiness Certificates have been awarded in Michigan. These credentials range from bronze to platinum levels and demonstrate individuals' career readiness strengths to employers. 13 counties in Michigan participate as ACT Work Ready Communities and use ACT research and data to assess and close their local skills gaps.

# MICHIGAN 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

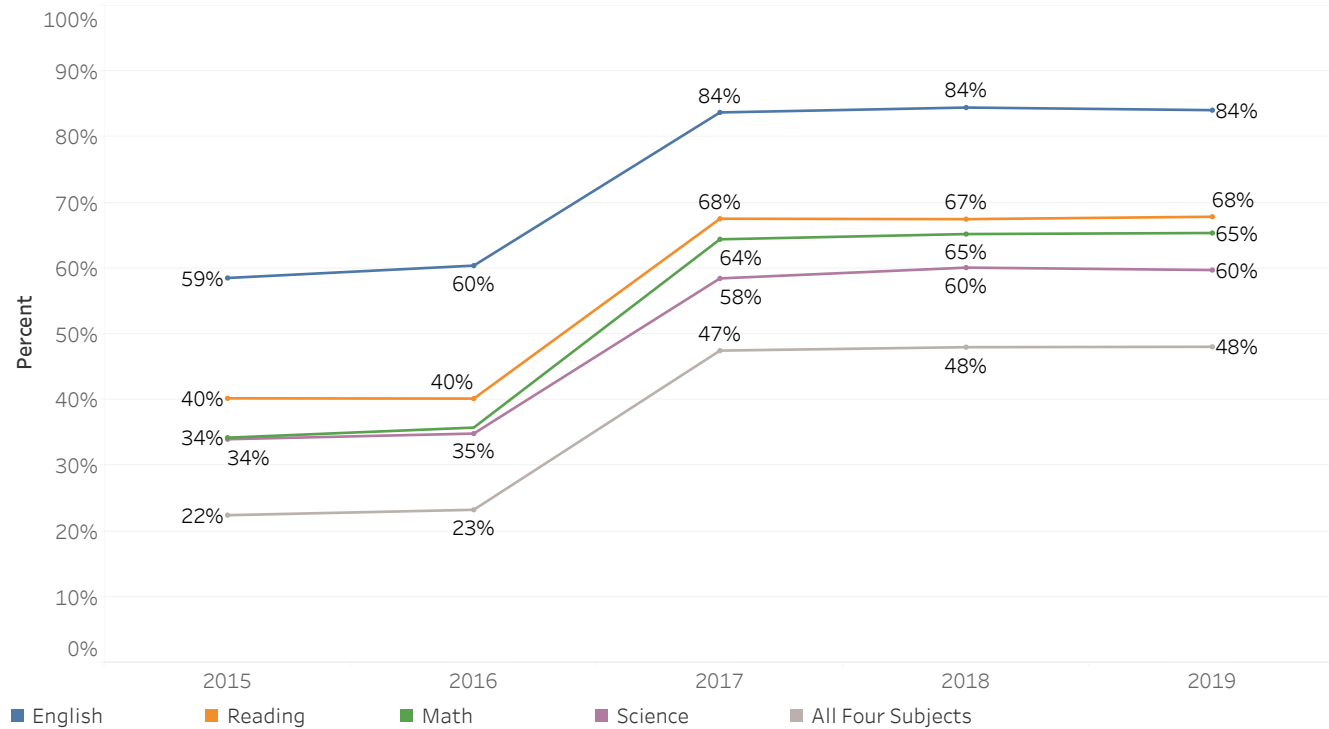
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
84%	59%	68%	45%	65%	39%	60%	36%	48%	26%

\* 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.

# MICHIGAN 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

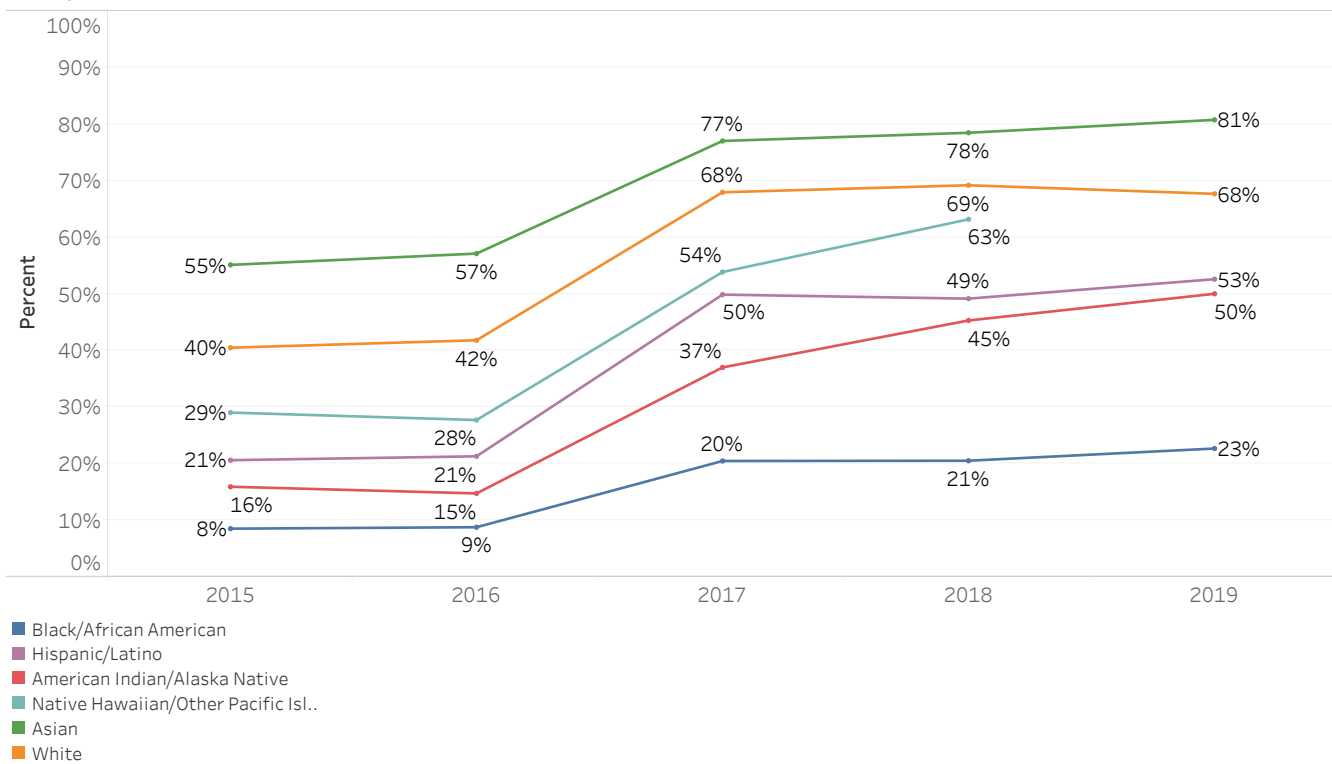
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	59%	40%	34%	34%	22%
2016	60%	40%	36%	35%	23%
2017	84%	68%	64%	58%	47%
2018	84%	67%	65%	60%	48%
2019	84%	68%	65%	60%	48%

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# MICHIGAN 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



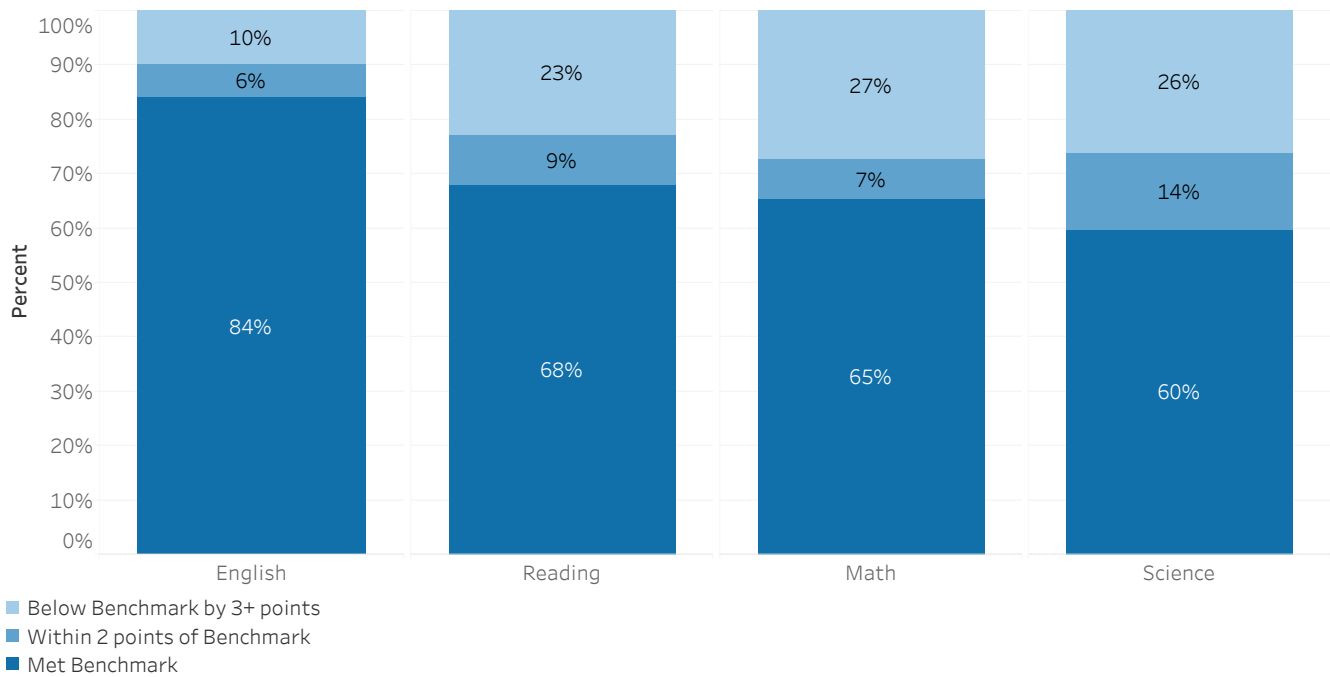
### Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2015	8%	21%	16%	29%	55%	40%
2016	9%	21%	15%	28%	57%	42%
2017	20%	50%	37%	54%	77%	68%
2018	21%	49%	45%	63%	78%	69%
2019	23%	53%	50%	68%	81%	68%

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# MICHIGAN 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

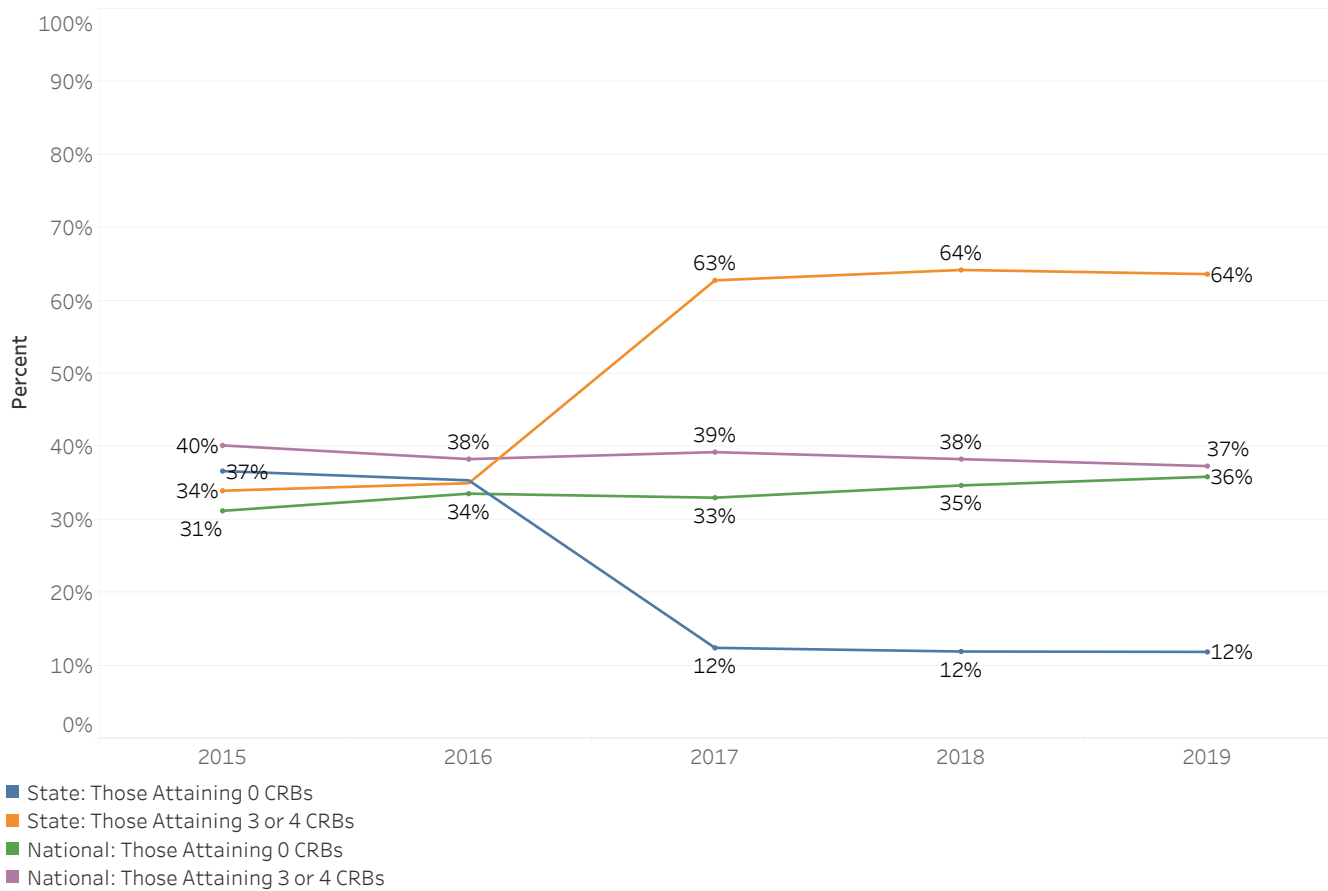
	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	10%	6%	84%
Math	27%	7%	65%
Reading	23%	9%	68%
Science	26%	14%	60%

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



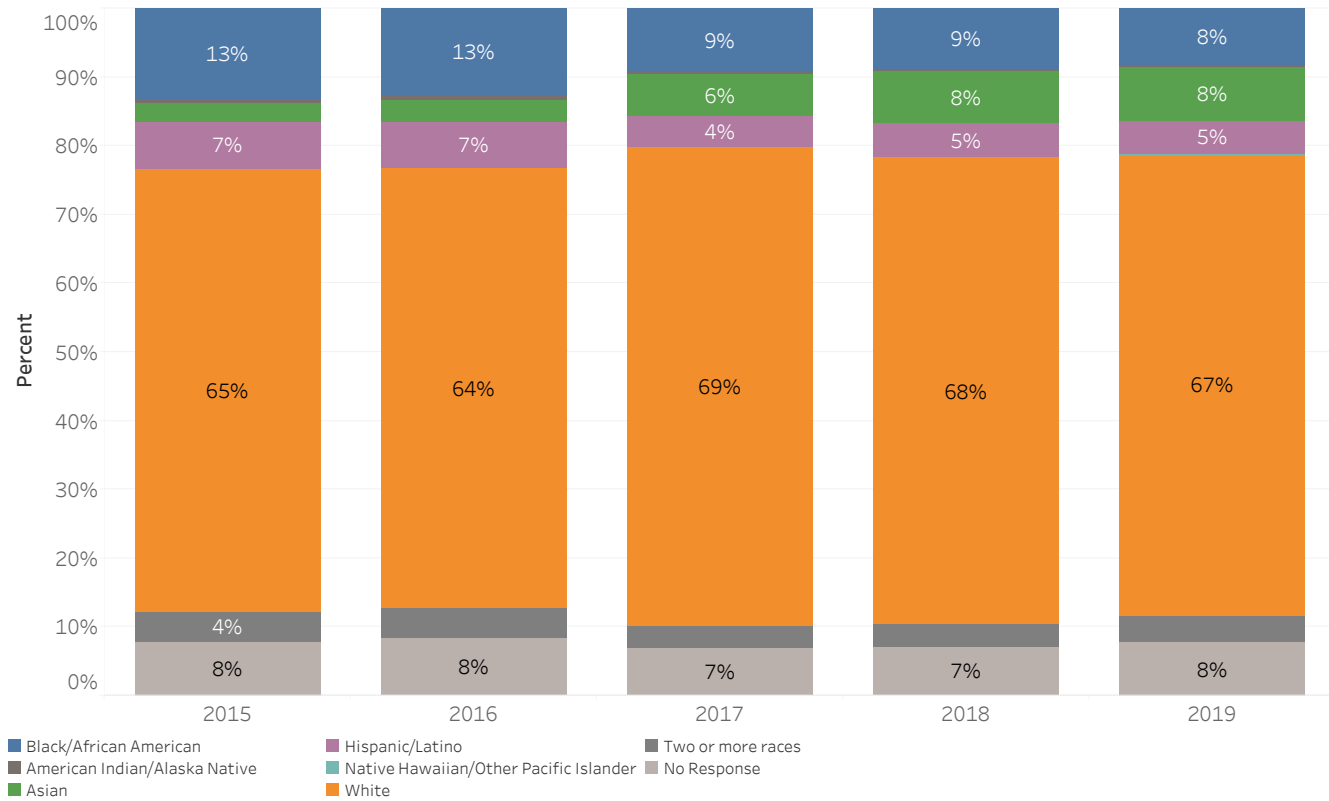
## Data from Graph Above

	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	37%	34%	31%	40%
2016	35%	35%	34%	38%
2017	12%	63%	33%	39%
2018	12%	64%	35%	38%
2019	12%	64%	36%	37%

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# MICHIGAN 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	13%	1%	3%	7%	0%	65%	4%	8%
2016	13%	1%	3%	7%	0%	64%	4%	8%
2017	9%	0%	6%	4%	0%	69%	3%	7%
2018	9%	0%	8%	5%	0%	68%	3%	7%
2019	8%	0%	8%	5%	0%	67%	4%	8%

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# MICHIGAN College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

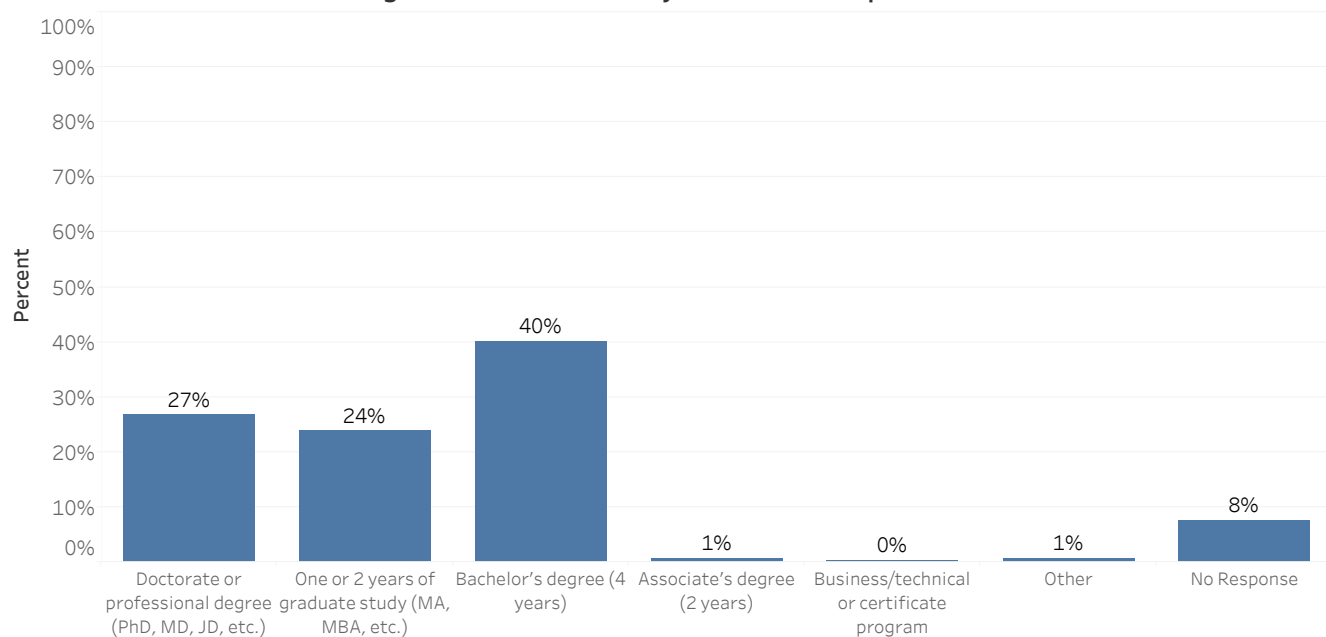
## Student Data Trends: 2015-2019, State vs. Nation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	118,555	115,454	29,944	22,738	19,727
National N-count	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817	1,782,820
Average ACT English Score - State	19.4	19.9	24.1	24.5	24.5
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	20.3	20.7	24.5	24.7	24.8
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	19.9	19.9	23.7	23.9	24.0
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	20.4	20.5	23.8	23.9	24.0
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	20.1	20.3	24.1	24.4	24.4
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

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# MICHIGAN 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.)	27%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	24%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	40%
Associate's degree (2 years)	1%
Business/technical or certificate program	0%
Other	1%
No Response	8%

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