

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019

Mississippi Key Findings

Performance of 2019 Graduates

- In the 2019 Mississippi graduating class, 36,438 graduates (an estimated 100 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 18.4. This compares to 29,345 (an estimated 100 percent) with an average of 19.0 in 2015. Nationally, an estimated 52 percent of 2019 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.7.
 - There were 14,098 African American graduates from Mississippi who took the ACT (39 percent) with an average Composite score of 16.1. This compares to 14,610 (39 percent) with an average of 16.3, and 11,658 (40 percent) with an average of 16.6, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 15,464 White graduates from Mississippi who took the ACT (42 percent) with an average Composite score of 20.6. This compares to 16,003 (43 percent) with an average of 20.7, and 14,091 (48 percent) with an average of 20.8, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 1,535 Hispanic graduates from Mississippi who took the ACT (4 percent) with an average Composite score of 18.3. This compares to 1,341 (4 percent) with an average of 18.5, and 863 (3 percent) with an average of 18.8, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - The 2019 Mississippi graduating class average English score was 18.1. This compares to 18.2 and 18.7 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 Mississippi graduating class average math score was 17.9. This compares to 18.1 and 18.3 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 Mississippi graduating class average reading score was 18.9. This compares to 18.9 and 19.3 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 Mississippi graduating class average science score was 18.4. This compares to 18.6 and 19.0 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
- In 2019, 12 percent of Mississippi graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 12 and 13 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 46 percent of Mississippi graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 47 and 52 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 20 percent of Mississippi graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 21 and 21 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 29 percent of Mississippi graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 29 and 31 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 19 percent of Mississippi graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 20 and 21 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 7,177 (20 percent) of Mississippi graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 7,738 and 6,301 (21 and 21 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, 16,335 Mississippi 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 Mississippi graduating class average ACT STEM score of 18.4, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM averages of 18.6 and 18.9, respectively.
- Compared to 7 percent of 2019 Mississippi graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 8 and 8, respectively.
- In 2019, 12,758 Mississippi graduates (35 percent) indicated taking physics. This compares to 35 and 46 percent for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
- 2019 graduates taking physics had an average science score of 19.4, compared to 18.1 for students not taking physics.
 - 26 percent of 2019 Mississippi graduates taking physics met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 15 for students not taking physics.

Career Readiness Indicator

- In 2019, 20,995 Mississippi graduates (58 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 Mississippi 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:
 - 97 more students enrolling in college.
 - 105 more students persisting to year two.
 - 81 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - 124 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - 108 more students persisting to year four.
 - 112 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Mississippi, 24,408 of the 2019 graduates (67.0 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 19.5, compared to an average of 16.2 for 12,030 of the 2019 graduates (33.0 percent) who took the ACT only once.
- 99,046 score reports were sent to colleges by 2019 Mississippi ACT-tested graduates.
 - 69,531 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2019 Mississippi ACT-tested graduates.
 - For Mississippi’s 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were Mississippi State University, the University of Southern Mississippi, the University of Mississippi, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, and Jackson State University.
 - For Mississippi’s 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were the University of Alabama, the University of South Alabama, and the University of Memphis.

- Compared to 66 percent of 2019 graduates nationally, 76 percent of Mississippi 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, 84 percent of Mississippi African American 2019 graduates opted into EOS.
 - Compared to 64 percent of White students nationally, 76 percent of Mississippi White 2019 graduates opted into EOS.
 - Compared to 76 percent of Hispanic students nationally, 81 percent of Mississippi Hispanic 2019 graduates opted into EOS.
- In the 2018-2019 academic year, ACT issued 21,948 ACT fee waivers to qualified Mississippi students across all grades. However, 5,178 students (23.6 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. Fee waivers represent a great opportunity for students of low socioeconomic status to retake without incurring any fees.

Postsecondary Aspirations

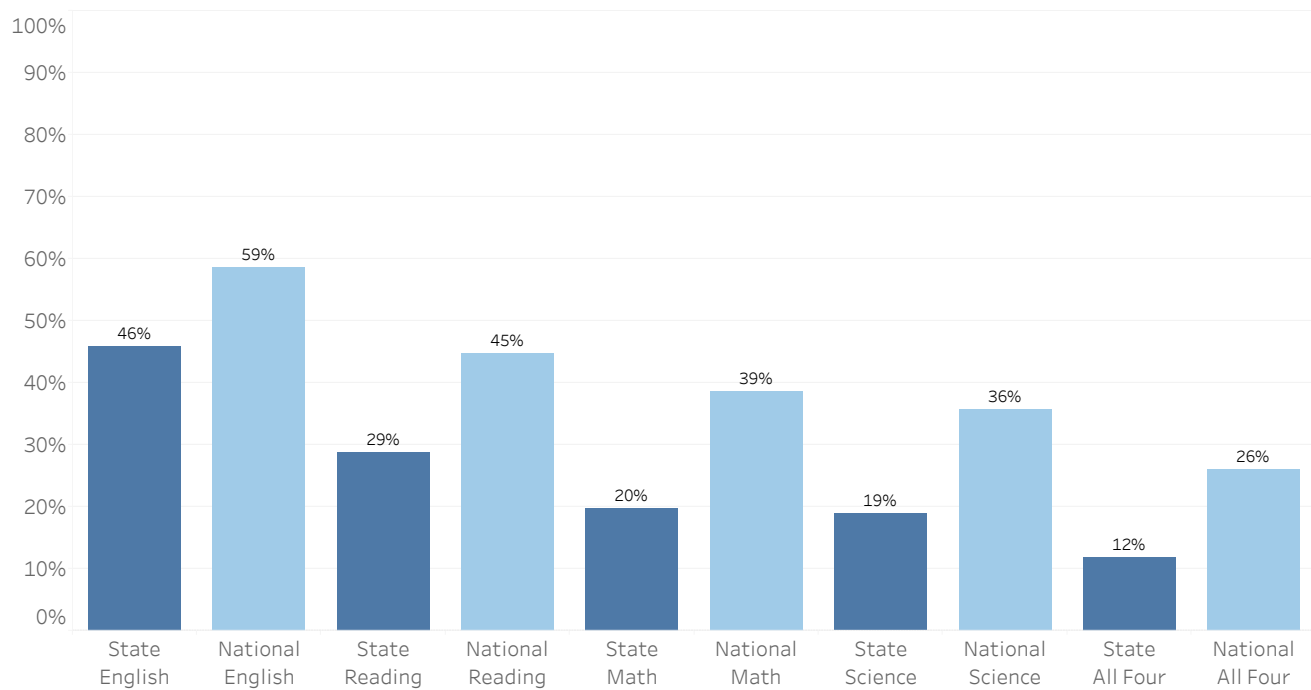
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - 9,116 students (25 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 21.2.
 - 13,752 students (38 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 18.6.
 - 5,055 students (14 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 Mississippi graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; and Mechanical Engineering.
 - In the Mississippi graduating class of 2019, 1,395 (4 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 18.1.

Additional Points

- The Mississippi ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with more than 20 council members and hundreds of organization 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 Mississippi honorees were:
 - High school senior: Lindsey Hill, Sacred Heart Catholic School; K-12 professional: Montgomery Hinton, College and Career Ready Preparation Specialist, Rankin County School District; postsecondary professional: Jim Miles, Electrical Technology Program Coordinator, Meridian Community College; workforce professional: Ryan Ashley, Plant Manager, USG Interiors.

MISSISSIPPI 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

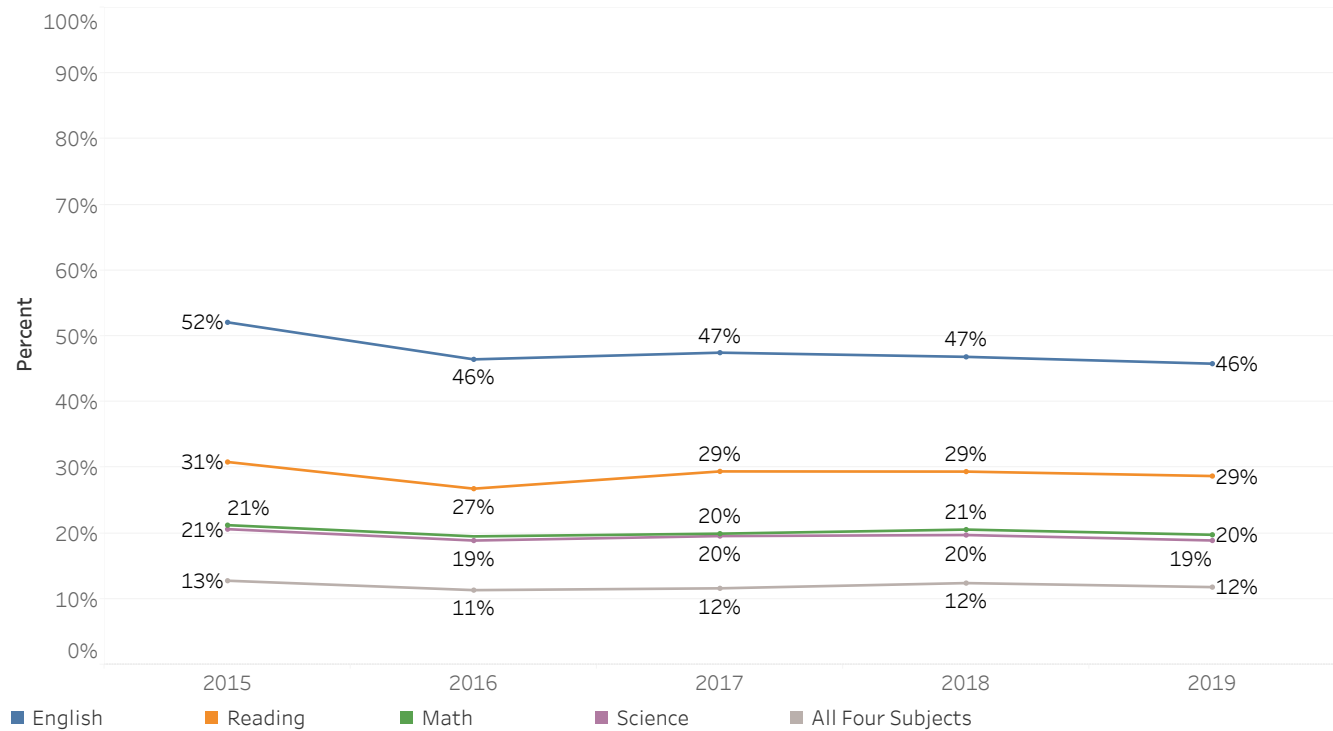
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
46%	59%	29%	45%	20%	39%	19%	36%	12%	26%

* 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.

MISSISSIPPI 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

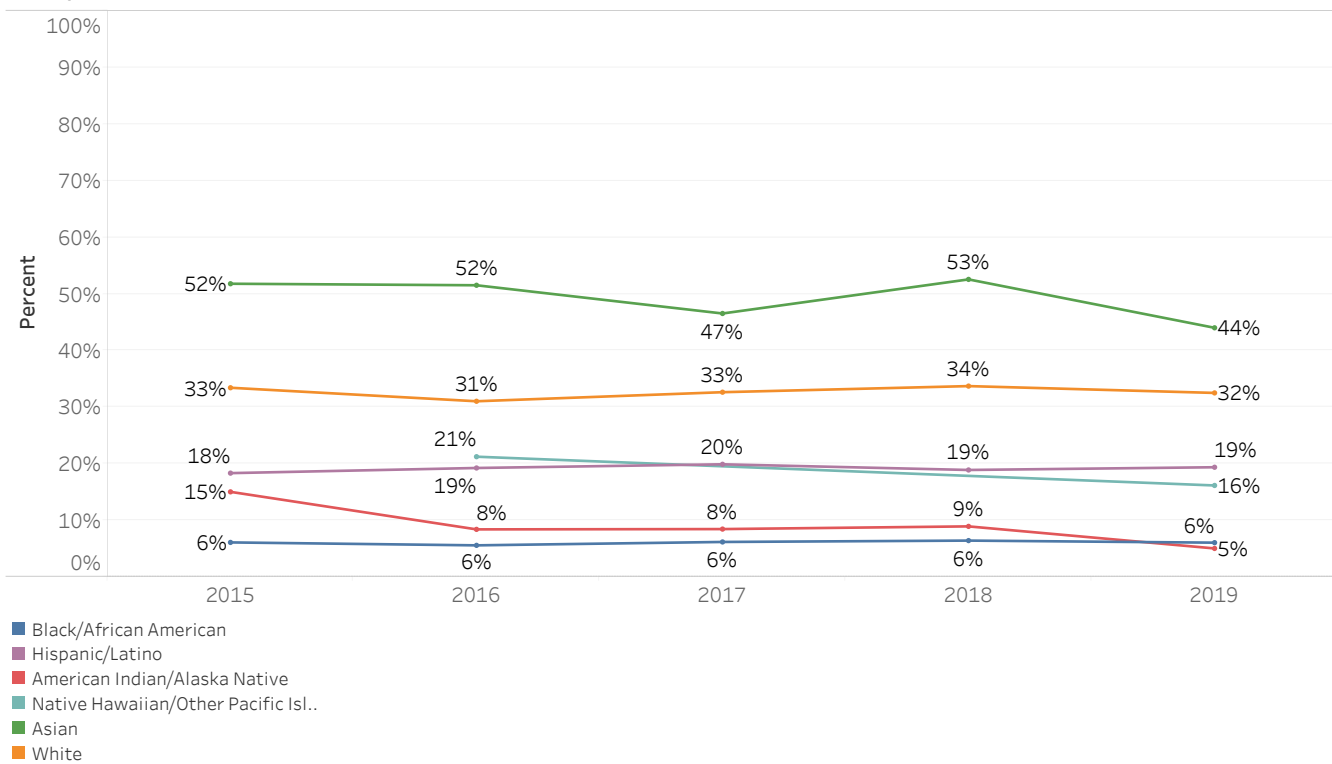
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	52%	31%	21%	21%	13%
2016	46%	27%	20%	19%	11%
2017	47%	29%	20%	20%	12%
2018	47%	29%	21%	20%	12%
2019	46%	29%	20%	19%	12%

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MISSISSIPPI 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



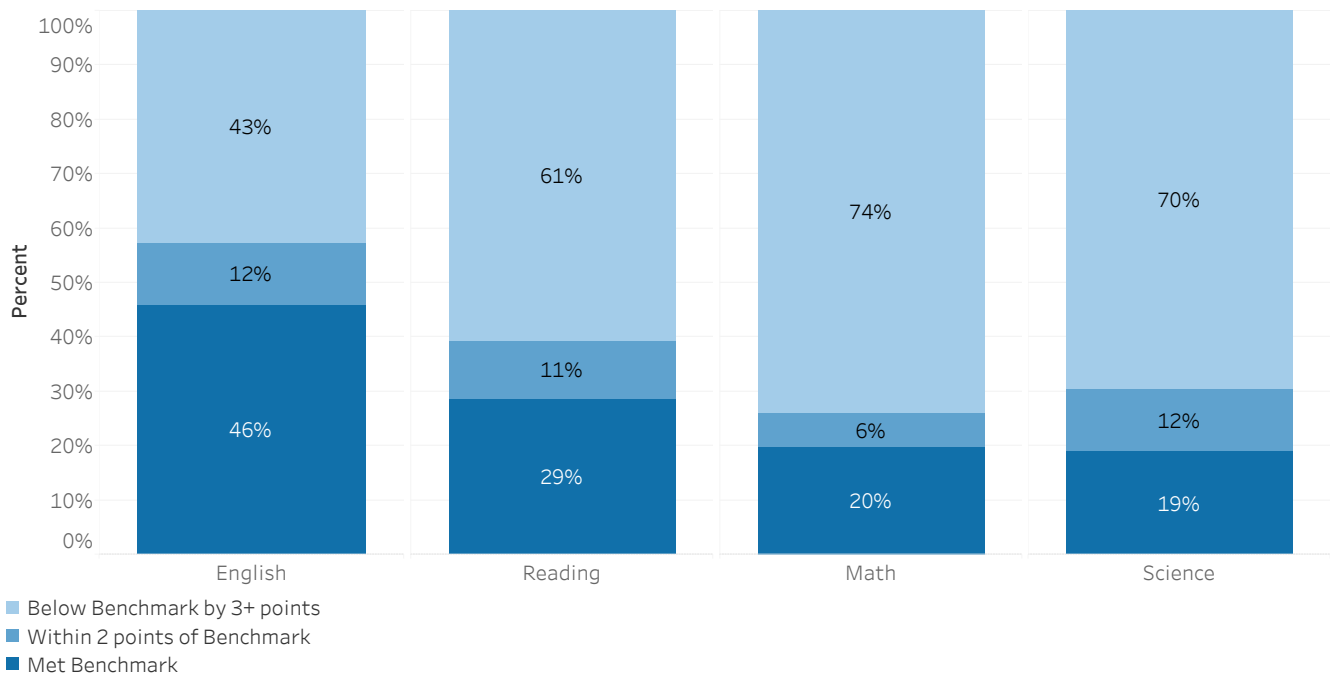
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2015	6%	18%	15%	18%	52%	33%
2016	6%	19%	8%	21%	52%	31%
2017	6%	20%	8%	20%	47%	33%
2018	6%	19%	9%	19%	53%	34%
2019	6%	19%	5%	16%	44%	32%

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MISSISSIPPI College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



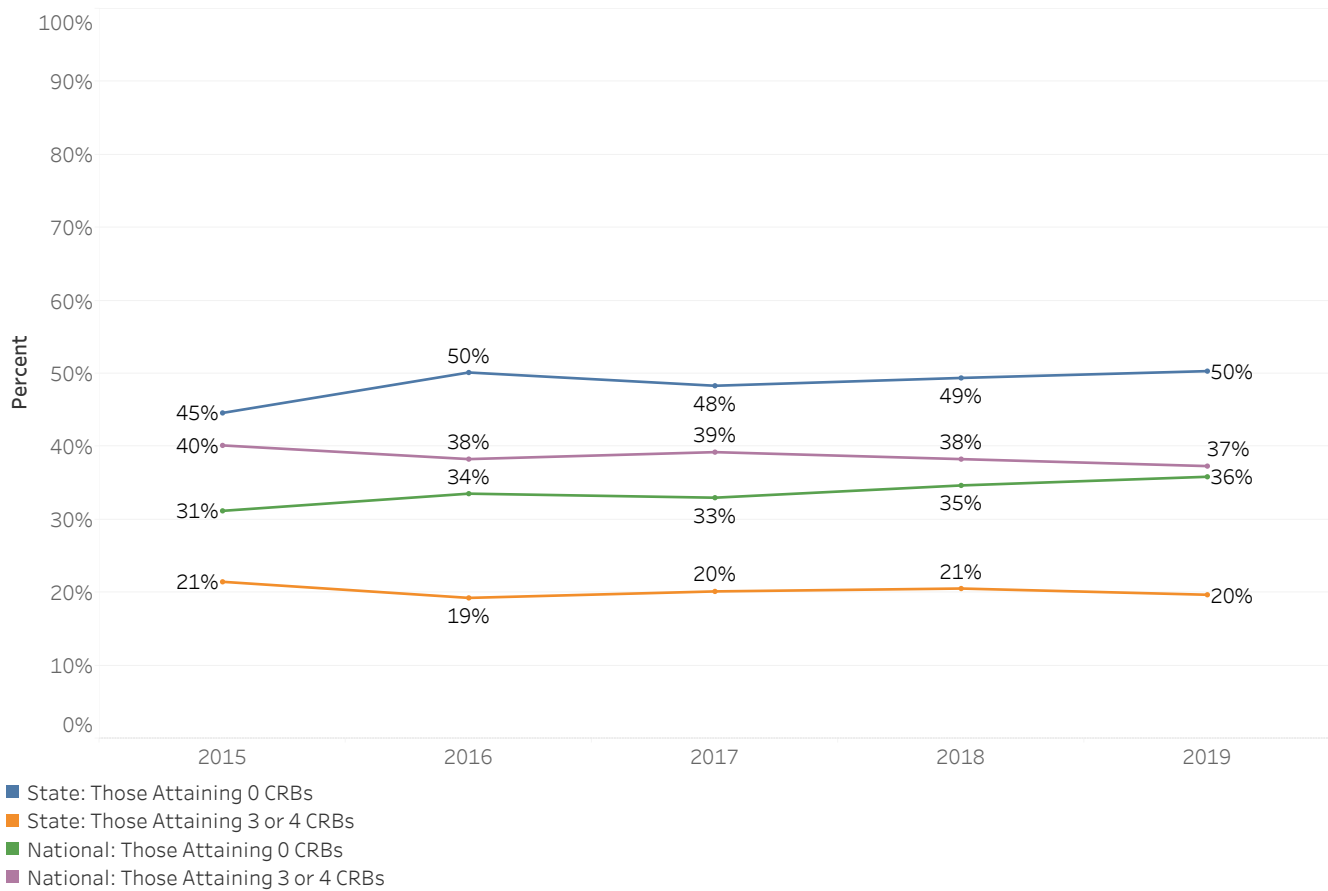
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	43%	12%	46%
Math	74%	6%	20%
Reading	61%	11%	29%
Science	70%	12%	19%

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



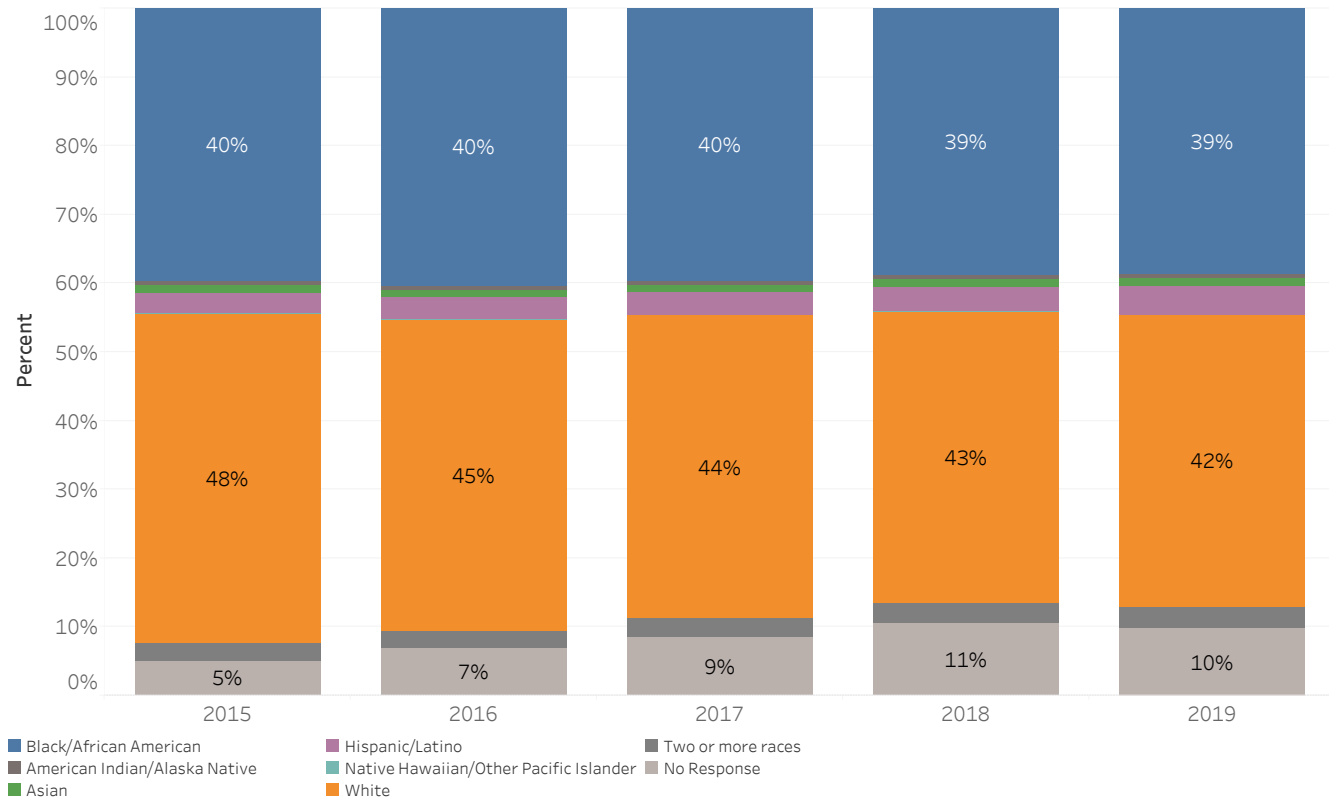
Data from Graph Above

	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	45%	21%	31%	40%
2016	50%	19%	34%	38%
2017	48%	20%	33%	39%
2018	49%	21%	35%	38%
2019	50%	20%	36%	37%

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MISSISSIPPI 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	40%	1%	1%	3%	0%	48%	3%	5%
2016	40%	1%	1%	3%	0%	45%	3%	7%
2017	40%	1%	1%	3%	0%	44%	3%	9%
2018	39%	1%	1%	4%	0%	43%	3%	11%
2019	39%	1%	1%	4%	0%	42%	3%	10%

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MISSISSIPPI College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

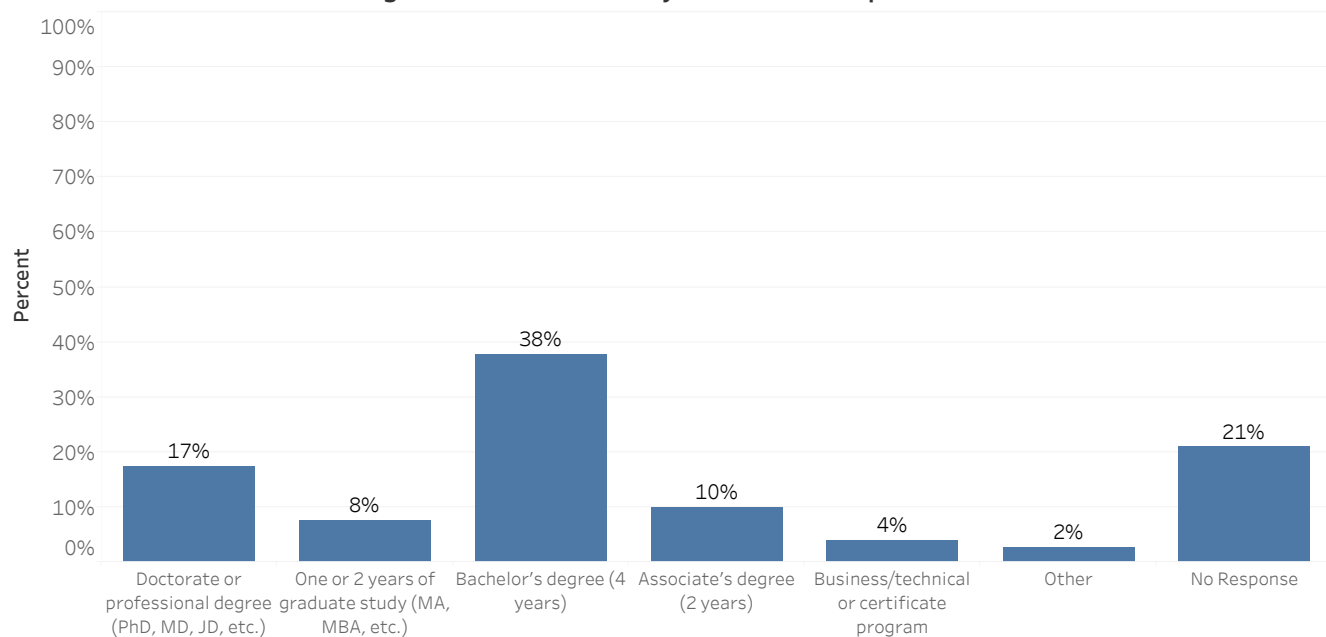
Student Data Trends: 2015-2019, State vs. Nation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	29,345	35,678	36,026	37,654	36,438
National N-count	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817	1,782,820
Average ACT English Score - State	18.7	17.9	18.2	18.2	18.1
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	19.3	18.7	18.8	18.9	18.9
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	18.3	18.0	18.1	18.1	17.9
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	19.0	18.5	18.8	18.6	18.4
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	19.0	18.4	18.6	18.6	18.4
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

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MISSISSIPPI 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.)	17%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	8%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	38%
Associate's degree (2 years)	10%
Business/technical or certificate program	4%
Other	2%
No Response	21%

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