

# The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019

## New Mexico Key Findings

### Performance of 2019 Graduates

- In the 2019 New Mexico graduating class, 13,196 graduates (an estimated 63 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 19.3. This compares to 13,393 (an estimated 71 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 164 African American graduates from New Mexico who took the ACT (1 percent) with an average Composite score of 19.1. This compares to 200 (1 percent) with an average of 18.4, and 180 (1 percent) with an average of 19.2, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - There were 1,310 American Indian graduates from New Mexico who took the ACT (10 percent) with an average Composite score of 16.2. This compares to 1,345 (10 percent) with an average of 16.3, and 1,223 (9 percent) with an average of 16.8, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - There were 3,091 White graduates from New Mexico who took the ACT (23 percent) with an average Composite score of 22.1. This compares to 3,223 (23 percent) with an average of 22.4, and 3,615 (27 percent) with an average of 22.6, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - There were 7,111 Hispanic graduates from New Mexico who took the ACT (54 percent) with an average Composite score of 18.5. This compares to 7,471 (54 percent) with an average of 18.6, and 7,062 (53 percent) with an average of 19.1, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - There were 275 Asian graduates from New Mexico who took the ACT (2 percent) with an average Composite score of 22.2. This compares to 257 (2 percent) with an average of 22.7, and 280 (2 percent) with an average of 23.0, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - The 2019 New Mexico graduating class average English score was 18.1. This compares to 18.3 and 19.1 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
  - The 2019 New Mexico graduating class average math score was 18.9. This compares to 19.1 and 19.8 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
  - The 2019 New Mexico graduating class average reading score was 20.0. This compares to 20.1 and 20.6 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
  - The 2019 New Mexico graduating class average science score was 19.6. This compares to 19.7 and 20.3 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.

- In 2019, 16 percent of New Mexico graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 17 and 20 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 45 percent of New Mexico graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 45 and 38 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 47 percent of New Mexico graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 48 and 55 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 27 percent of New Mexico graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 28 and 33 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 37 percent of New Mexico graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 37 and 40 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 26 percent of New Mexico graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 27 and 30 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 3,461 (26 percent) of New Mexico graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 3,763 and 4,220 (27 and 32 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, 3 percent of New Mexico graduates took the ACT with extended time. This compares to 2 and 1 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.

## STEM

- In 2019, 7,329 New Mexico graduates (56 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
- Compared to a 2019 New Mexico graduating class average ACT STEM score of 19.5, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM averages of 19.7 and 20.3, respectively.
- Compared to 11 percent of 2019 New Mexico graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 11 and 13, respectively.
  - 2019 New Mexico graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.7. This compares to 28.4 in 2015.
  - 2019 New Mexico graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 28.2. This compares to 28.1 in 2015.

## Career Readiness Indicator

- In 2019, 8,697 New Mexico graduates (66 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 New Mexico 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:
  - 34 more students enrolling in college.
  - 38 more students persisting to year two.
  - 30 fewer students needing remedial English.
  - 47 fewer students needing remedial math.
  - 39 more students persisting to year four.
  - 41 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

## Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In New Mexico, 6,799 of the 2019 graduates (51.5 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 20.3, compared to an average of 18.1 for 6,397 of the 2019 graduates (48.5 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.
- 27,407 score reports were sent to colleges by 2019 New Mexico ACT-tested graduates.
  - 14,303 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2019 New Mexico ACT-tested graduates.
  - For New Mexico's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were the University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University, Central New Mexico Community College, Eastern New Mexico University, and Arizona State University.
  - For New Mexico's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were Arizona State University, Texas Tech University, and Northern Arizona University.
- Compared to 66 percent of 2019 graduates nationally, 78 percent of New Mexico 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 10,557 ACT fee waivers to qualified New Mexico students across all grades. However, 2,379 students (22.5 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

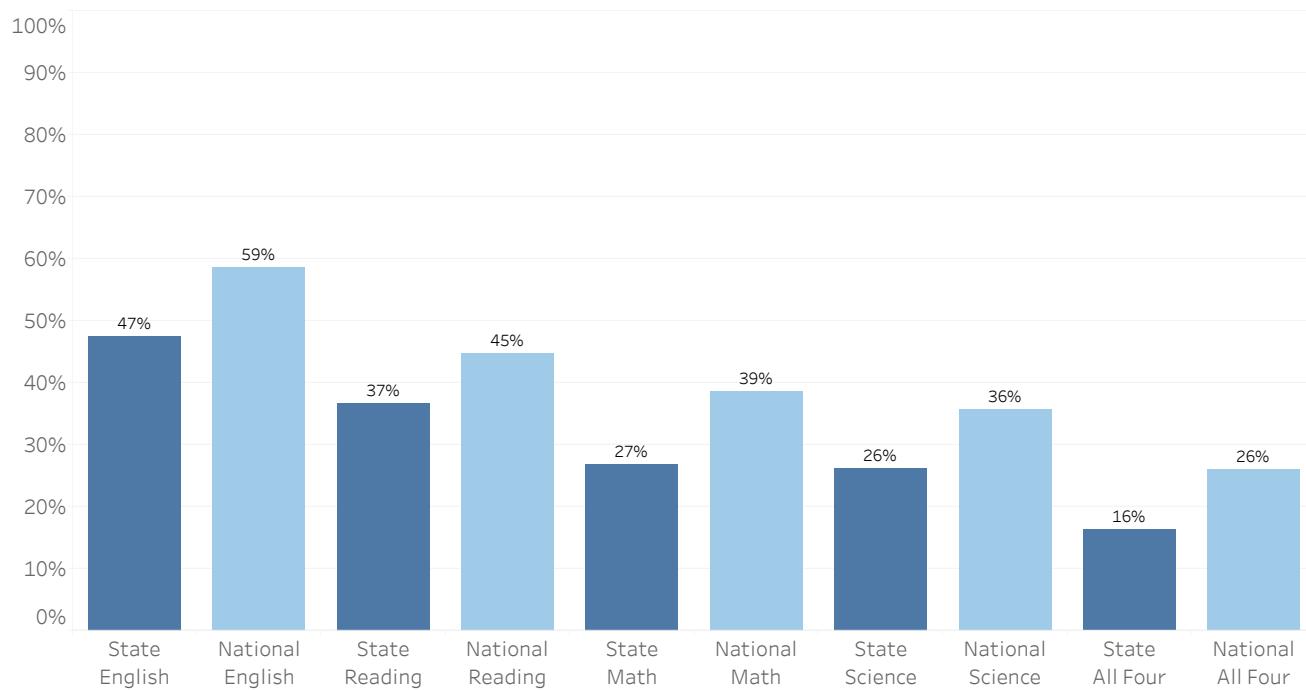
- 4,446 students (34 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 21.7.
- 6,251 students (47 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 18.6.
- 765 students (6 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 15.8.
- In the New Mexico graduating class of 2019, 3,252 students (25 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2019 New Mexico graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Mechanical Engineering; and Criminology.

## Additional Points

- The New Mexico ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with roughly 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.
- There is good news in that 87% of New Mexico's 2019 ACT-tested graduates aspired to postsecondary education. Interestingly enough, 90% of New Mexico's 2018 ACT-tested graduating class aspired to enroll in postsecondary education, compared to 67% who actually did enroll. If we fully closed the aspirational gap, an additional 3,106 of the 2018 ACT-tested graduates from New Mexico would have enrolled in postsecondary education.

# NEW MEXICO 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

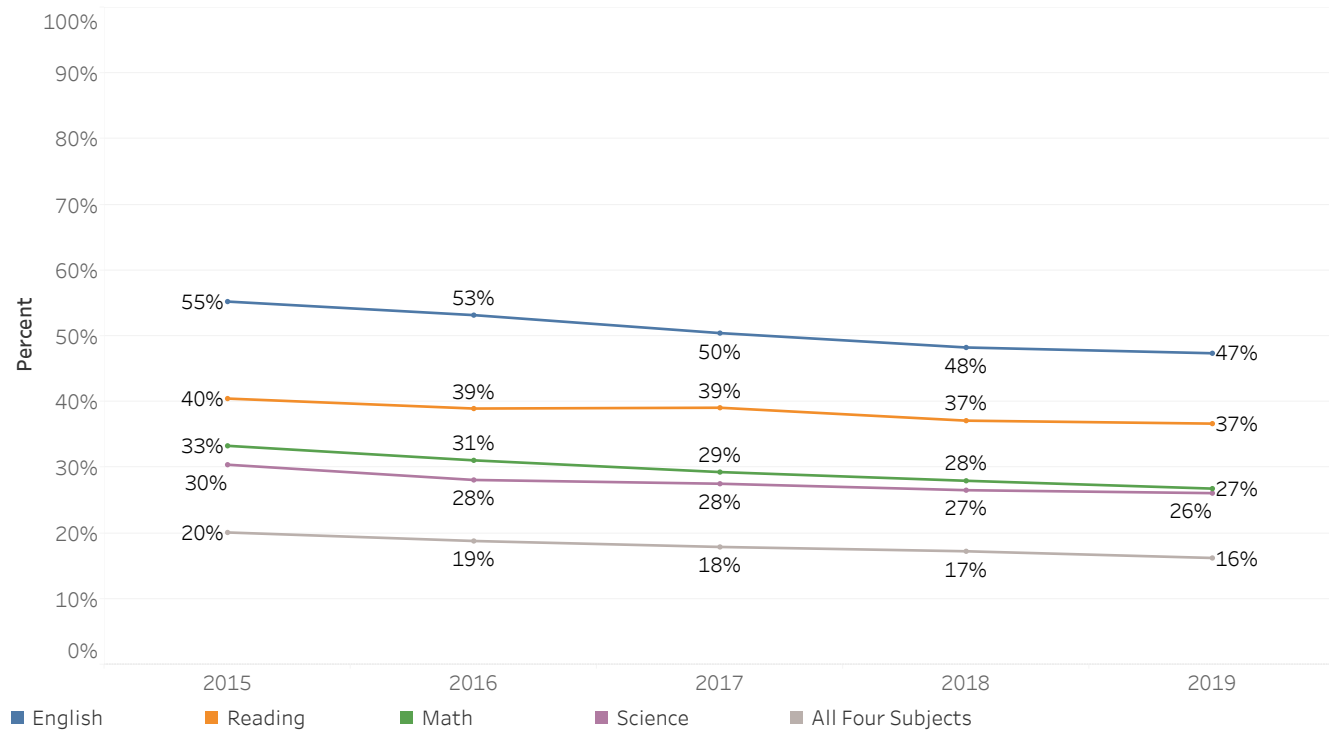
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
47%	59%	37%	45%	27%	39%	26%	36%	16%	26%

\* 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.

# NEW MEXICO 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

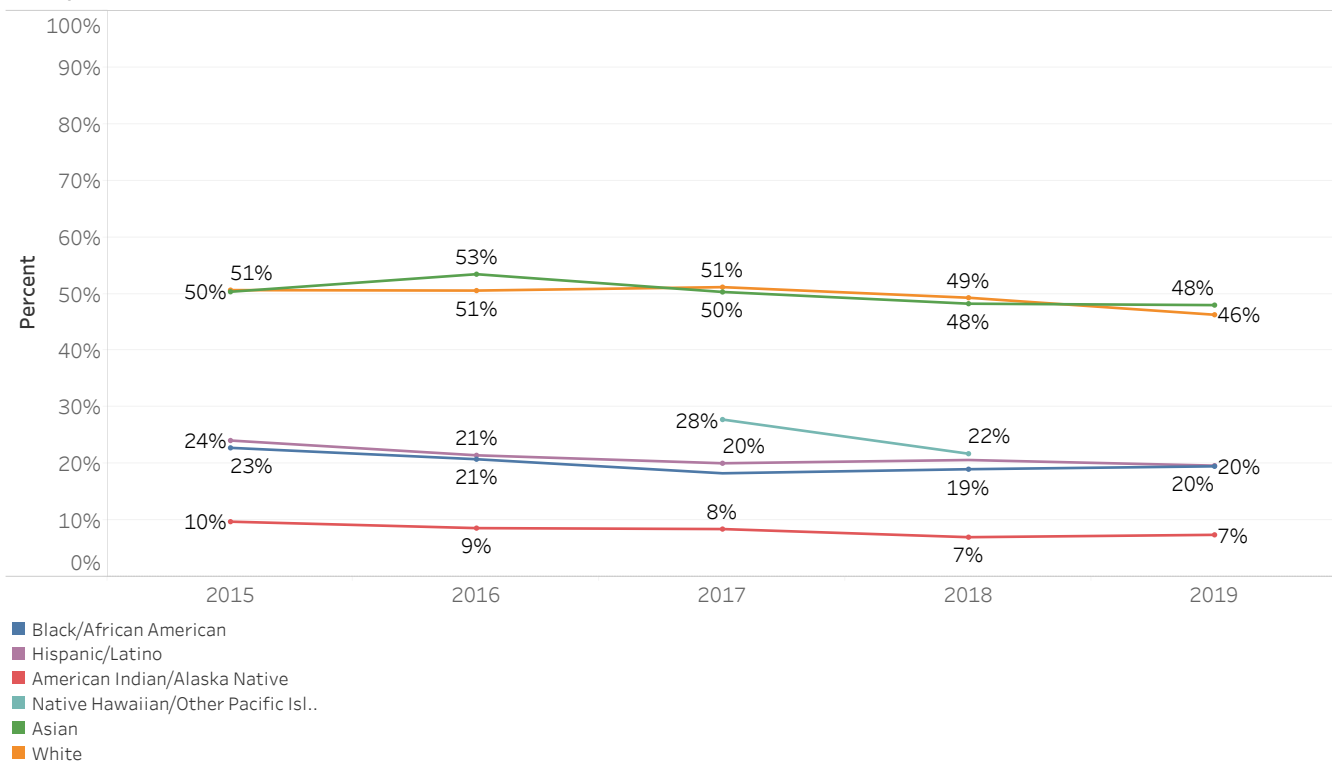
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	55%	40%	33%	30%	20%
2016	53%	39%	31%	28%	19%
2017	50%	39%	29%	28%	18%
2018	48%	37%	28%	27%	17%
2019	47%	37%	27%	26%	16%

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# NEW MEXICO 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



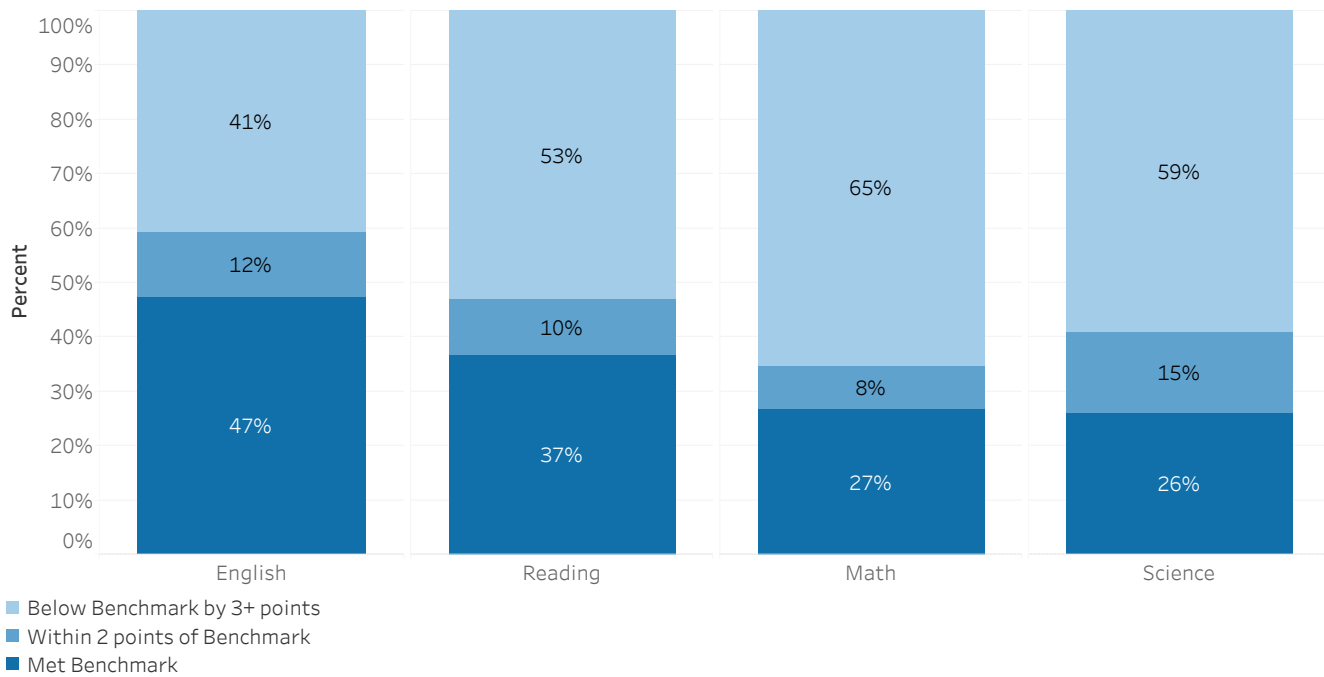
### Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2015	23%	24%	10%		50%	51%
2016	21%	21%	9%		53%	51%
2017	18%	20%	8%	28%	50%	51%
2018	19%	21%	7%	22%	48%	49%
2019	20%	20%	7%		48%	46%

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# NEW MEXICO 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

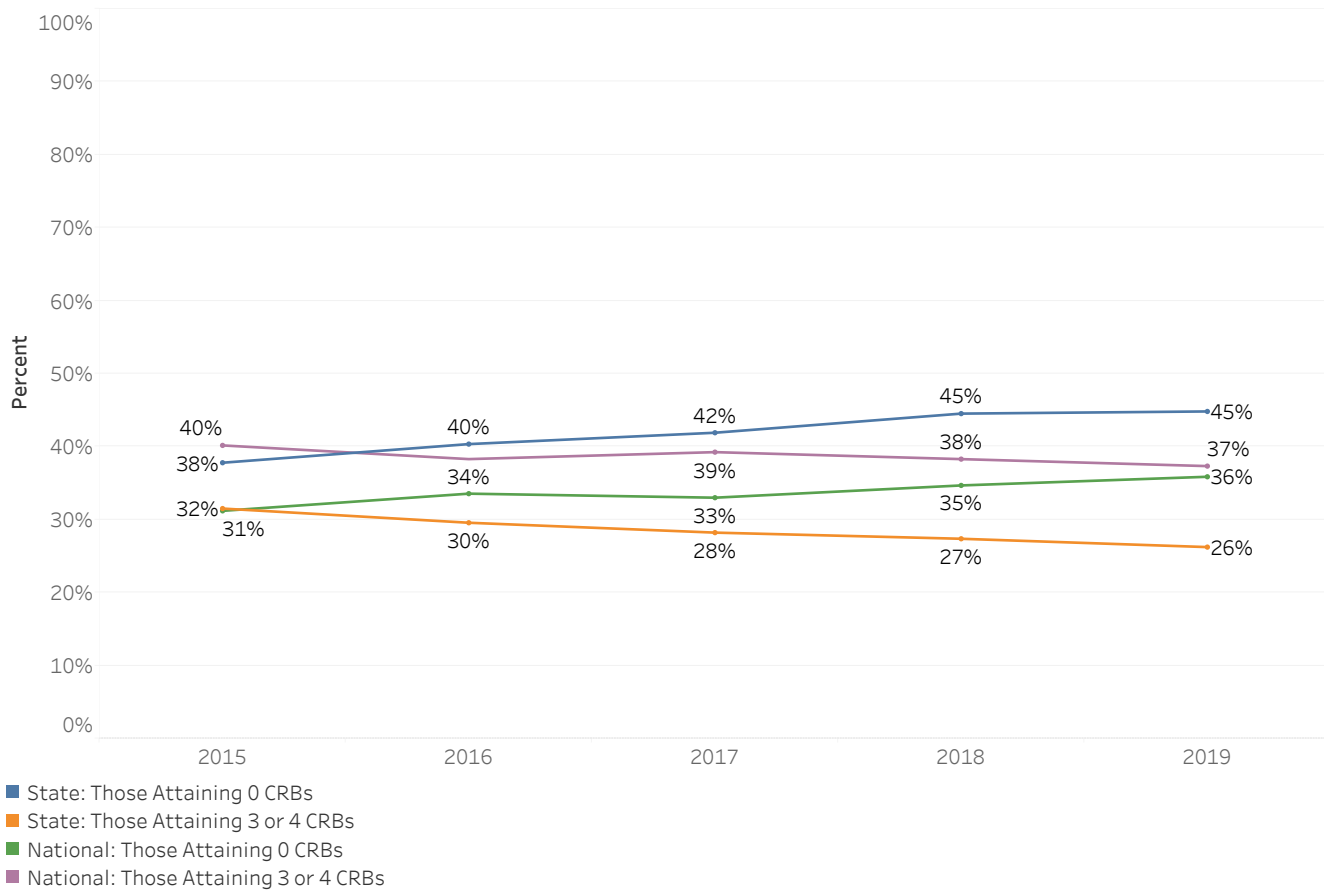
	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	41%	12%	47%
Math	65%	8%	27%
Reading	53%	10%	37%
Science	59%	15%	26%

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



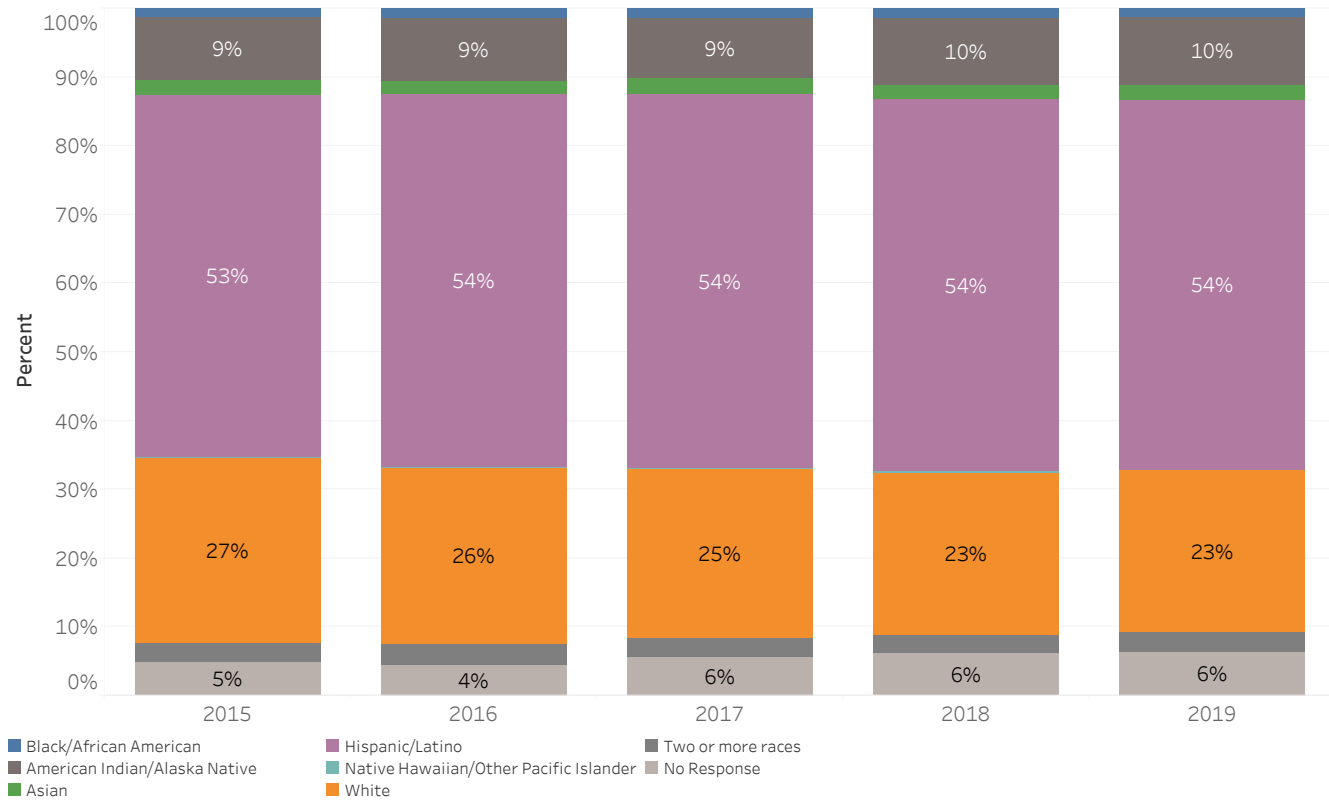
## Data from Graph Above

	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	38%	32%	31%	40%
2016	40%	30%	34%	38%
2017	42%	28%	33%	39%
2018	45%	27%	35%	38%
2019	45%	26%	36%	37%

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# NEW MEXICO 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	1%	9%	2%	53%	0%	27%	3%	5%
2016	1%	9%	2%	54%	0%	26%	3%	4%
2017	1%	9%	2%	54%	0%	25%	3%	6%
2018	1%	10%	2%	54%	0%	23%	3%	6%
2019	1%	10%	2%	54%	0%	23%	3%	6%

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# NEW MEXICO College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

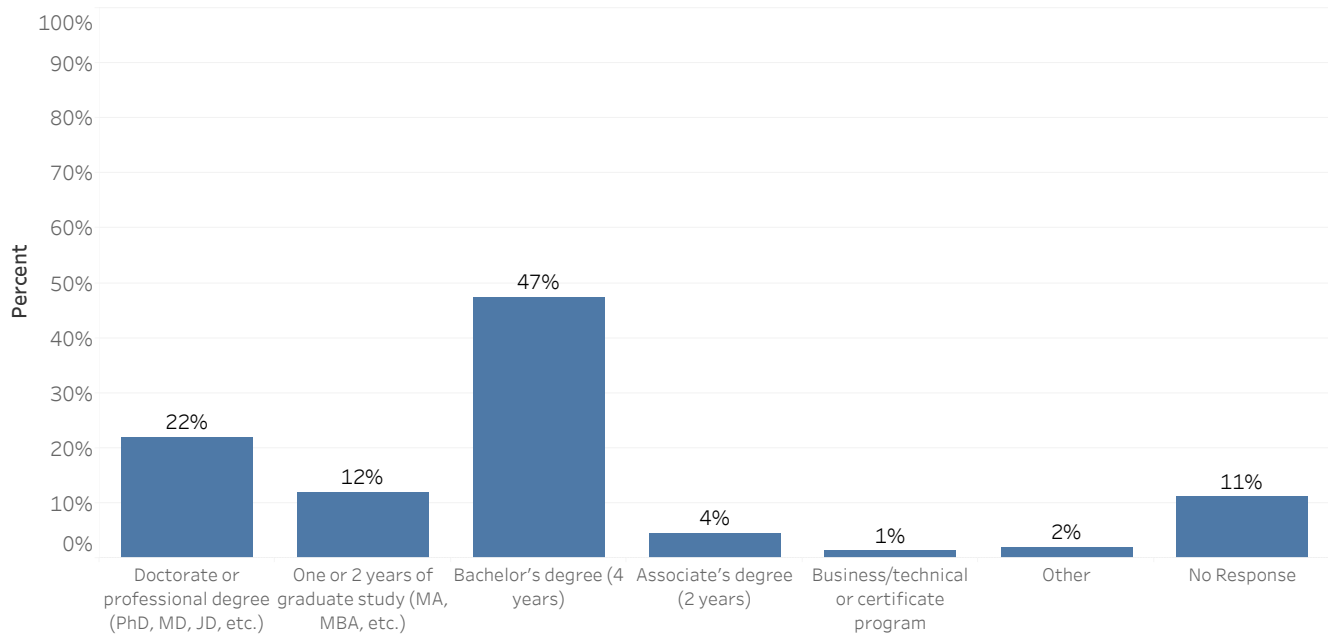
## Student Data Trends: 2015-2019, State vs. Nation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	13,393	13,435	13,523	13,749	13,196
National N-count	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817	1,782,820
Average ACT English Score - State	19.1	18.9	18.6	18.3	18.1
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	20.6	20.5	20.4	20.1	20.0
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	19.8	19.5	19.4	19.1	18.9
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	20.3	20.1	20.0	19.7	19.6
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	20.1	19.9	19.7	19.4	19.3
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

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# NEW MEXICO 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.)	22%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	12%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	47%
Associate's degree (2 years)	4%
Business/technical or certificate program	1%
Other	2%
No Response	11%

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