

# The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019

## Oregon Key Findings

### Performance of 2019 Graduates

- In the 2019 Oregon graduating class, 15,490 graduates (an estimated 42 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 21.1. This compares to 14,198 (an estimated 38 percent) with an average of 21.5 in 2015. Nationally, an estimated 52 percent of 2019 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.7.
  - There were 408 African American graduates from Oregon who took the ACT (3 percent) with an average Composite score of 16.8. This compares to 416 (3 percent) with an average of 16.4, and 407 (3 percent) with an average of 16.9, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - There were 153 American Indian graduates from Oregon who took the ACT (1 percent) with an average Composite score of 16.5. This compares to 138 (1 percent) with an average of 17.4, and 140 (1 percent) with an average of 18.8, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - There were 8,330 White graduates from Oregon who took the ACT (54 percent) with an average Composite score of 22.4. This compares to 8,536 (55 percent) with an average of 22.6, and 7,954 (56 percent) with an average of 22.9, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - There were 3,123 Hispanic graduates from Oregon who took the ACT (20 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.8. This compares to 2,898 (19 percent) with an average of 17.8, and 2,344 (17 percent) with an average of 17.9, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - There were 1,062 Asian graduates from Oregon who took the ACT (7 percent) with an average Composite score of 23.8. This compares to 1,086 (7 percent) with an average of 23.3, and 977 (7 percent) with an average of 22.6, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - There were 98 Pacific Islander graduates from Oregon who took the ACT (1 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.1. This compares to 133 (1 percent) with an average of 17.3, and 89 (1 percent) with an average of 17.3, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
- In 2019, 28 percent of Oregon graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 29 and 31 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 34 percent of Oregon graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 31 and 28 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 60 percent of Oregon graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 63 and 67 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 42 percent of Oregon graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 43 and 47 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 48 percent of Oregon graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 49 and 51 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 39 percent of Oregon graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 40 and 43 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 6,300 (41 percent) of Oregon graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 6,477 and 6,461 (42 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, 6,162 Oregon graduates (40 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
- Compared to a 2019 Oregon graduating class average ACT STEM score of 21.2, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM averages of 21.3 and 21.6, respectively.
  - 2019 Oregon graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.9. This compares to 28.5 in 2015.
  - 2019 Oregon graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 28.8. This compares to 28.6 in 2015.

## Career Readiness Indicator

- In 2019, 6,836 Oregon 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 Oregon 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:
  - 36 more students enrolling in college.
  - 41 more students persisting to year two.
  - 30 fewer students needing remedial English.
  - 48 fewer students needing remedial math.
  - 45 more students persisting to year four.
  - 48 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

## Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Oregon, 2,947 of the 2019 graduates (19.0 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 24.5, compared to an average of 20.3 for 12,543 of the 2019 graduates (81.0 percent) who took the ACT only once.
- 32,760 score reports were sent to colleges by 2019 Oregon ACT-tested graduates.
  - 15,939 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2019 Oregon ACT-tested graduates.
  - For Oregon’s 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were Oregon State University, the University of Oregon, Portland State University, Portland Community College, and Western Oregon University.
  - For Oregon’s 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were the University of Washington, Arizona State University, and Brigham Young University.

- Compared to 66 percent of 2019 graduates nationally, 68 percent of Oregon 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 2,421 ACT fee waivers to qualified Oregon students across all grades. However, 628 students (25.9 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

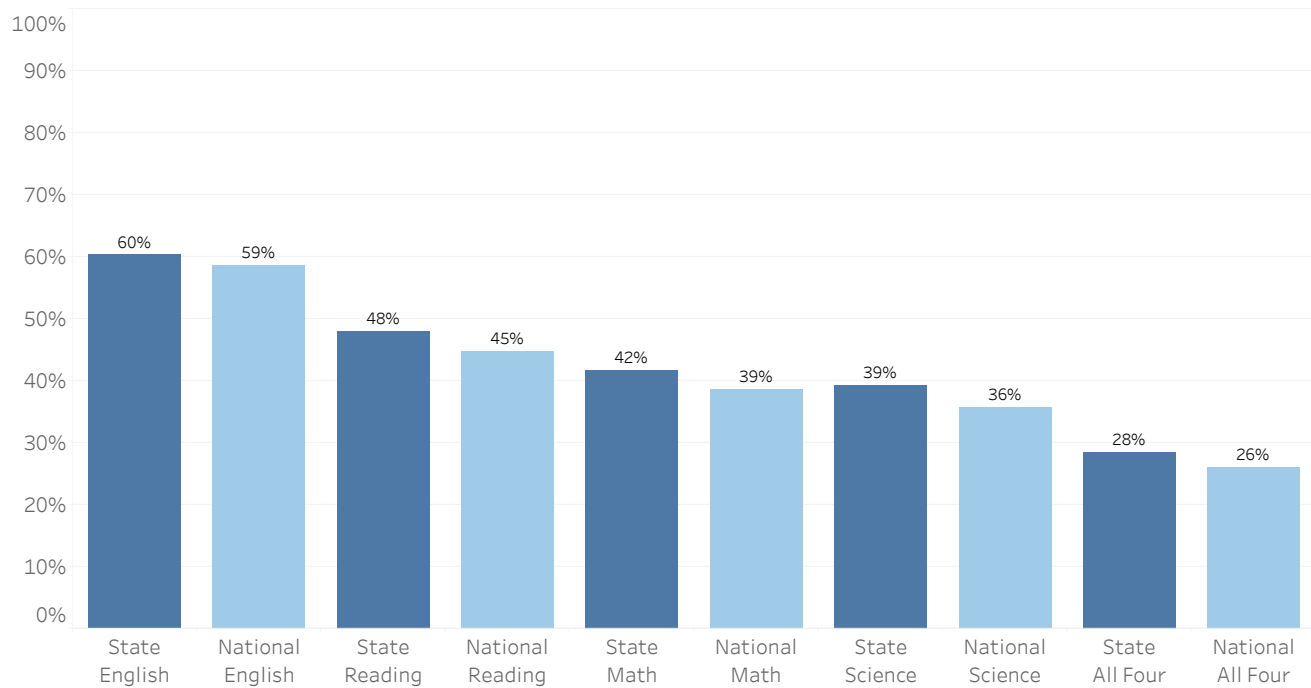
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
  - 4,403 students (28 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 24.1.
  - 5,000 students (32 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 20.7.
  - 737 students (5 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 16.6.
- In the Oregon graduating class of 2019, 2,248 students (15 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- There is good news in that 65% of Oregon's 2019 ACT-tested graduates aspired to postsecondary education. Interestingly enough, 70% of Oregon's 2018 ACT-tested graduating class aspired to enroll in postsecondary education, compared to 65% who actually did enroll. If we fully closed the aspirational gap, an additional 684 of the 2018 ACT-tested graduates from Oregon would have enrolled in postsecondary education.

## Additional Points

- The Oregon ACT State Organization consists of more than 80 members representing K-12, postsecondary education, workforce development, state agencies, and access organizations. Organized around ACT's mission of helping people achieve education and workplace success, the membership helps strengthen connections across the K-career continuum in the state.
- Each ACT State Organization recognizes individuals who make a positive impact on their communities as College and Career Readiness Champions. The 2019 Oregon ACT Champions are:
  - High school senior: Annel Amelia Leon, Corvallis High School; K-12 professional: Tim Ray, Career and Technical Education District Director, Dallas High School; postsecondary professional: Julie Rossi, Director, Adult Basic Skills and Individualized Career Training, Rogue Community College; and workforce professional: Vonnie Mikkelsen, President and CEO, Springfield Chamber of Commerce.
- Oregon is currently home to 36 participating ACT Work Ready Communities, where local stakeholders from education, workforce, economic development, and government collaborate to help close the skills gap using ACT workforce solutions and research.

# OREGON 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

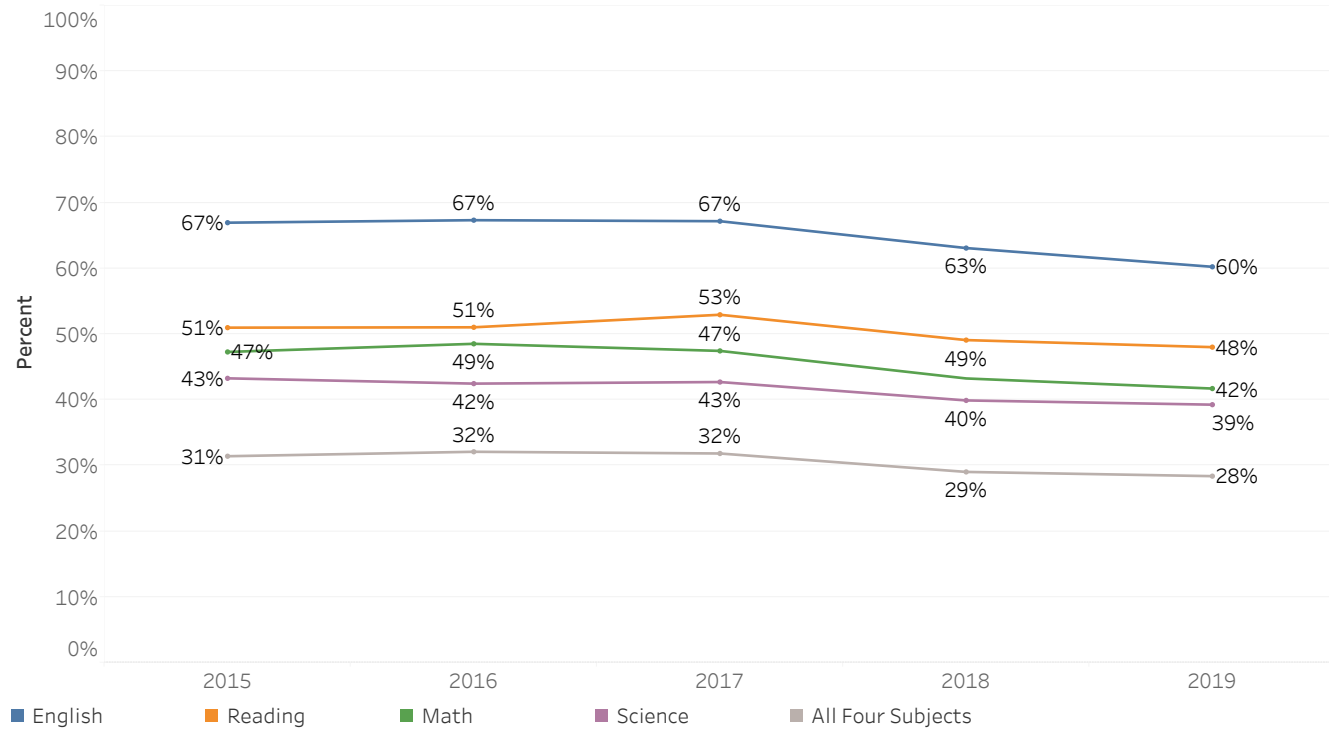
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
60%	59%	48%	45%	42%	39%	39%	36%	28%	26%

\* 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.

# OREGON 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

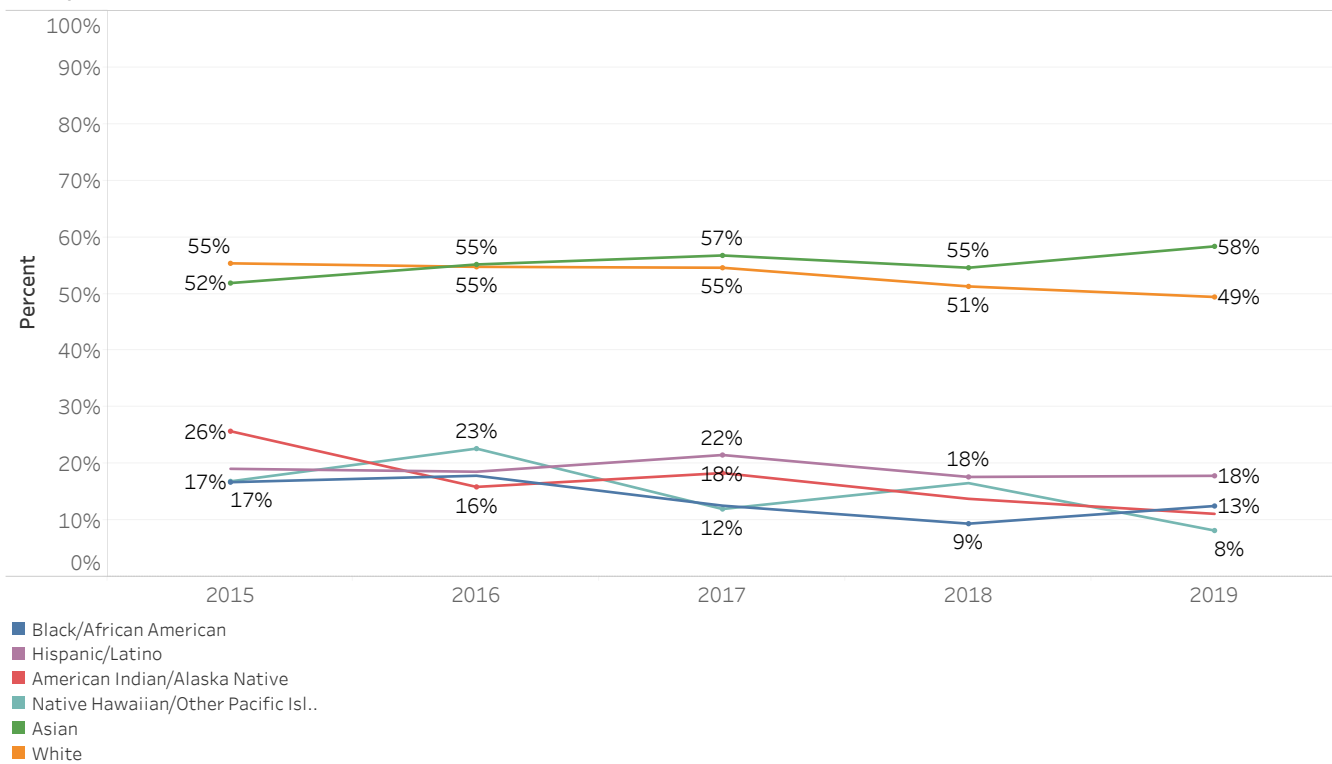
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	67%	51%	47%	43%	31%
2016	67%	51%	49%	42%	32%
2017	67%	53%	47%	43%	32%
2018	63%	49%	43%	40%	29%
2019	60%	48%	42%	39%	28%

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# OREGON 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



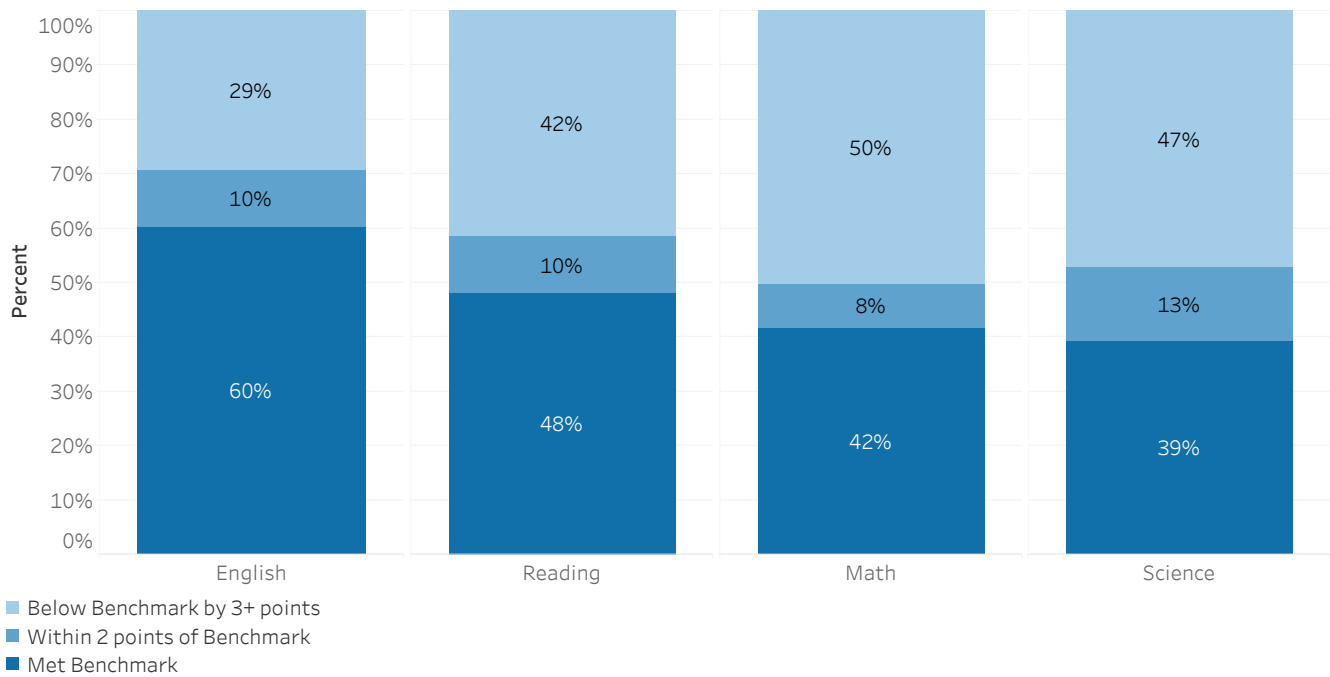
### Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2015	17%	19%	26%	17%	52%	55%
2016	18%	19%	16%	23%	55%	55%
2017	13%	22%	18%	12%	57%	55%
2018	9%	18%	14%	17%	55%	51%
2019	13%	18%	11%	8%	58%	49%

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

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



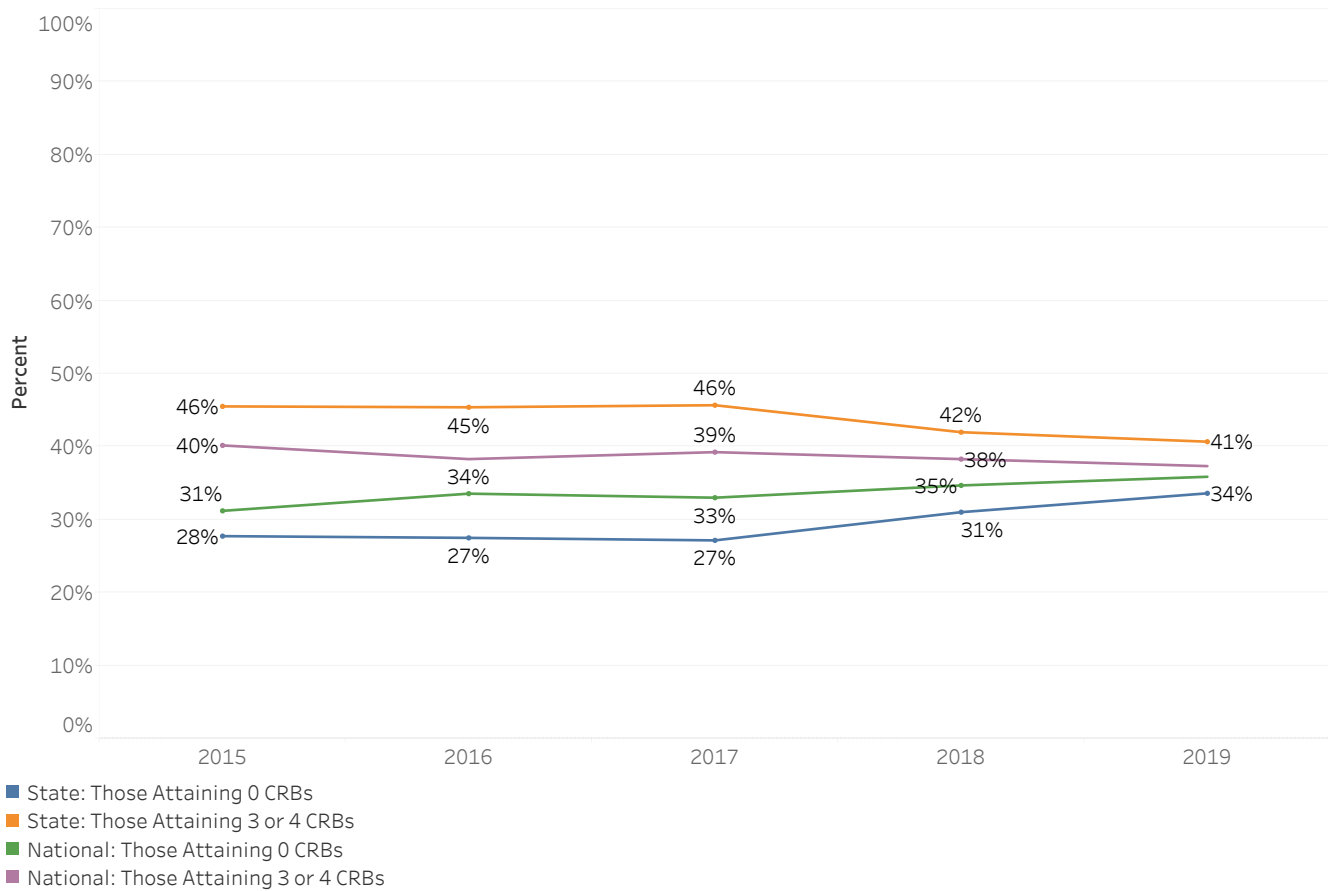
### Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	29%	10%	60%
Math	50%	8%	42%
Reading	42%	10%	48%
Science	47%	13%	39%

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



## Data from Graph Above

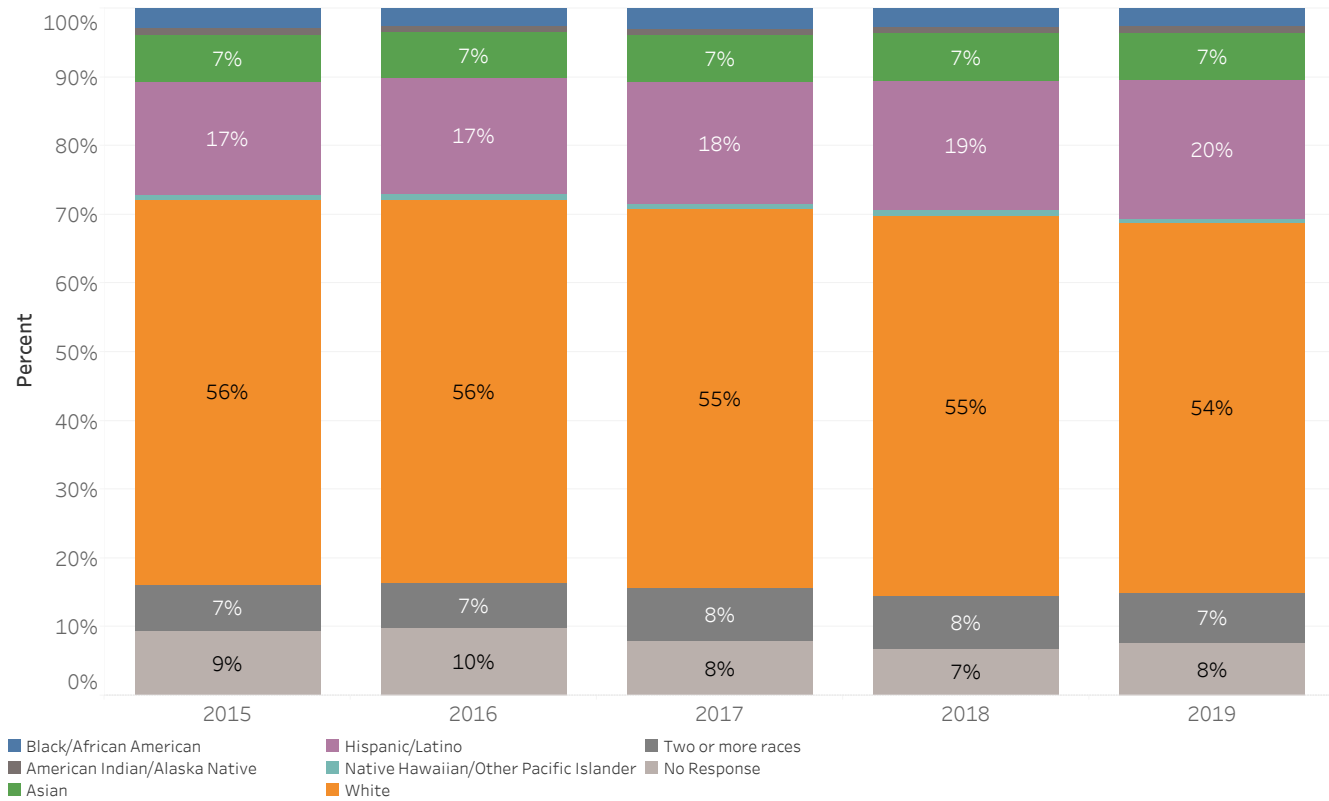
	State: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	State: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs
2015	28%	46%	31%	40%
2016	27%	45%	34%	38%
2017	27%	46%	33%	39%
2018	31%	42%	35%	38%
2019	34%	41%	36%	37%

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# OREGON 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	3%	1%	7%	17%	1%	56%	7%	9%
2016	3%	1%	7%	17%	1%	56%	7%	10%
2017	3%	1%	7%	18%	1%	55%	8%	8%
2018	3%	1%	7%	19%	1%	55%	8%	7%
2019	3%	1%	7%	20%	1%	54%	7%	8%

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

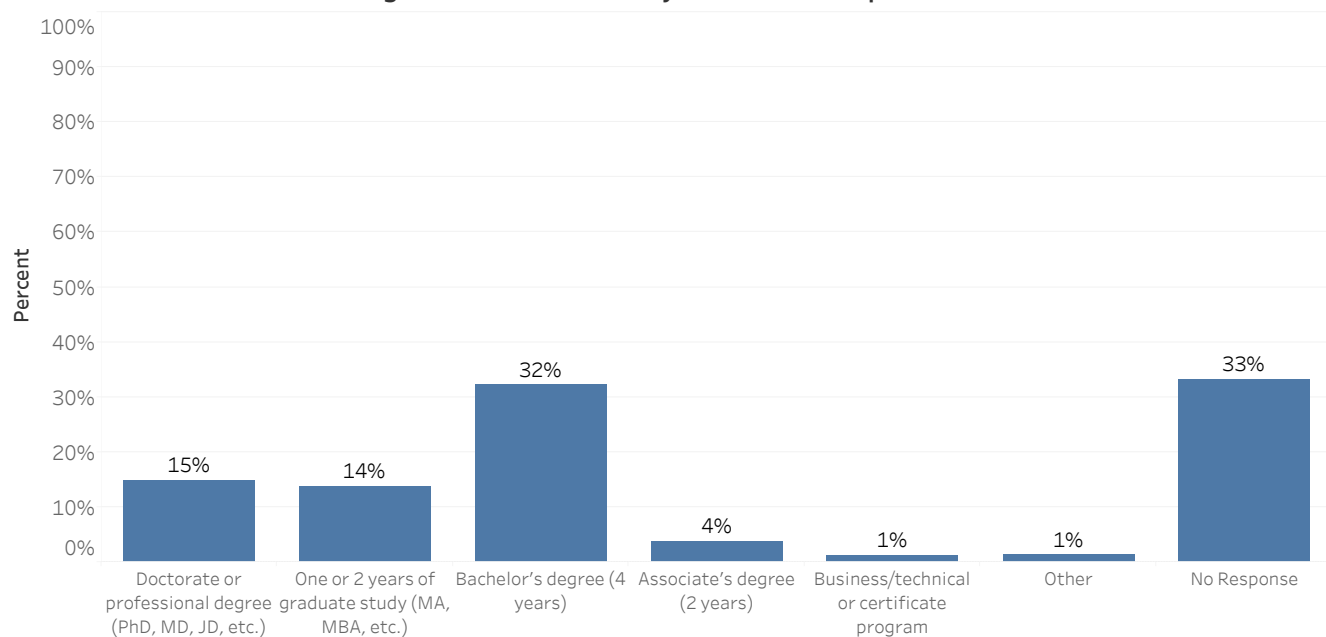
## Student Data Trends: 2015-2019, State vs. Nation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	14,198	14,724	14,631	15,432	15,490
National N-count	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817	1,782,820
Average ACT English Score - State	20.8	21.0	21.2	20.6	20.3
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	22.1	22.3	22.4	21.9	21.7
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	21.4	21.4	21.5	20.9	20.8
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	21.4	21.6	21.7	21.1	21.1
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	21.5	21.7	21.8	21.3	21.1
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

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# OREGON 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.)	15%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	14%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	32%
Associate's degree (2 years)	4%
Business/technical or certificate program	1%
Other	1%
No Response	33%

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