

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019

Rhode Island Key Findings

Performance of 2019 Graduates

- In the 2019 Rhode Island graduating class, 1,324 graduates (an estimated 12 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 24.7. This compares to 2,015 (an estimated 19 percent) with an average of 23.1 in 2015. Nationally, an estimated 52 percent of 2019 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.7.
 - There were 22 African American graduates from Rhode Island who took the ACT (2 percent) with an average Composite score of 18.2. This compares to 59 (4 percent) with an average of 20.7, and 90 (4 percent) with an average of 18.6, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 923 White graduates from Rhode Island who took the ACT (70 percent) with an average Composite score of 25.1. This compares to 1,063 (68 percent) with an average of 25.0, and 1,353 (67 percent) with an average of 24.1, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 111 Hispanic graduates from Rhode Island who took the ACT (8 percent) with an average Composite score of 21.1. This compares to 149 (10 percent) with an average of 19.9, and 222 (11 percent) with an average of 18.3, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 72 Asian graduates from Rhode Island who took the ACT (5 percent) with an average Composite score of 26.2. This compares to 97 (6 percent) with an average of 25.0, and 103 (5 percent) with an average of 24.6, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
- In 2019, 49 percent of Rhode Island graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 47 and 42 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 11 percent of Rhode Island graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 12 and 18 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 87 percent of Rhode Island graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 85 and 78 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 64 percent of Rhode Island graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 64 and 58 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 74 percent of Rhode Island graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 69 and 63 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 59 percent of Rhode Island graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 58 and 52 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 862 (65 percent) of Rhode Island graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 992 and 1,154 (64 and 57 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, 10 percent of Rhode Island graduates took the ACT with extended time. This compares to 8 and 6 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.

STEM

- In 2019, 734 Rhode Island graduates (55 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
- Compared to a 2019 Rhode Island graduating class average ACT STEM score of 24.2, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM averages of 23.8 and 22.8, respectively.
- Compared to 40 percent of 2019 Rhode Island graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 38 and 31, respectively.
- In 2019, 1,021 Rhode Island graduates (77 percent) indicated taking physics. This compares to 77 and 77 percent for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - 2019 graduates taking physics had an average science score of 24.7, compared to 21.7 for students not taking physics.
- 2019 Rhode Island graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 29.1. This compares to 28.3 in 2015.
- 2019 Rhode Island graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 29.3. This compares to 28.6 in 2015.

Career Readiness Indicator

- In 2019, 951 Rhode Island graduates (72 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 Rhode Island 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:
 - 3 more students enrolling in college.
 - 3 more students persisting to year two.
 - 2 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - 3 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - 4 more students persisting to year four.
 - 4 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Rhode Island, 481 of the 2019 graduates (36.3 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 26.3, compared to an average of 23.8 for 843 of the 2019 graduates (63.7 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.
- 1,272 score reports were sent to colleges by 2019 Rhode Island ACT-tested graduates.
 - 201 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2019 Rhode Island ACT-tested graduates.
 - For Rhode Island's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were the University of Rhode Island, Boston University, the University of Connecticut, Rhode Island College, and Northeastern University.
 - For Rhode Island's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were Boston University, the University of Connecticut, and Northeastern University.
- Compared to 66 percent of 2019 graduates nationally, 57 percent of Rhode Island 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 207 ACT fee waivers to qualified Rhode Island students across all grades. However, 64 students (30.9 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

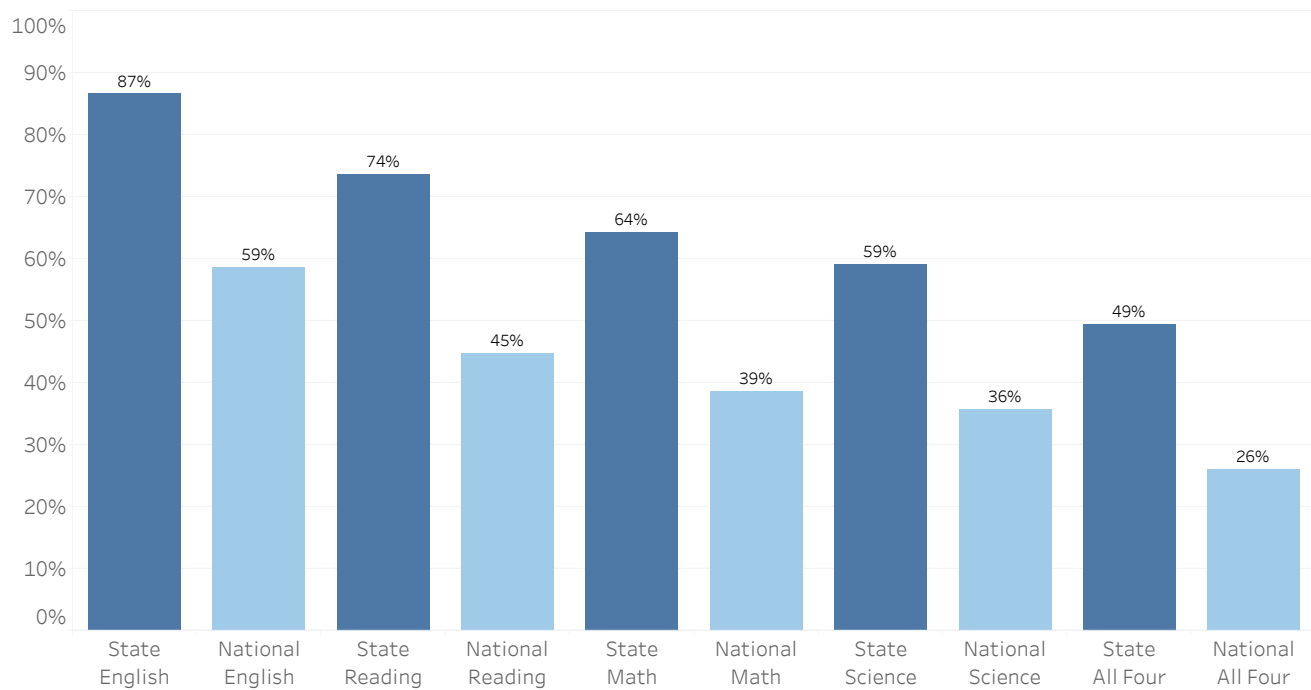
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - 715 students (54 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 26.0.
 - 365 students (28 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 22.9.
- In the Rhode Island graduating class of 2019, 61 students (5 percent) had parents who did not attend college.

Additional Points

- The Rhode Island ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with educators from state agencies, K-12, access, and postsecondary institutions, as well as members involved in workforce development.
- In 2019, ACT honored College and Career Readiness Champions in most states. The Rhode Island honorees were:
 - High school senior: Nathan Katzman, Providence Country Day; and K-12 professional: Lisa Ventetuolo, Guidance Counselor, Cranston High School East.

RHODE ISLAND 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

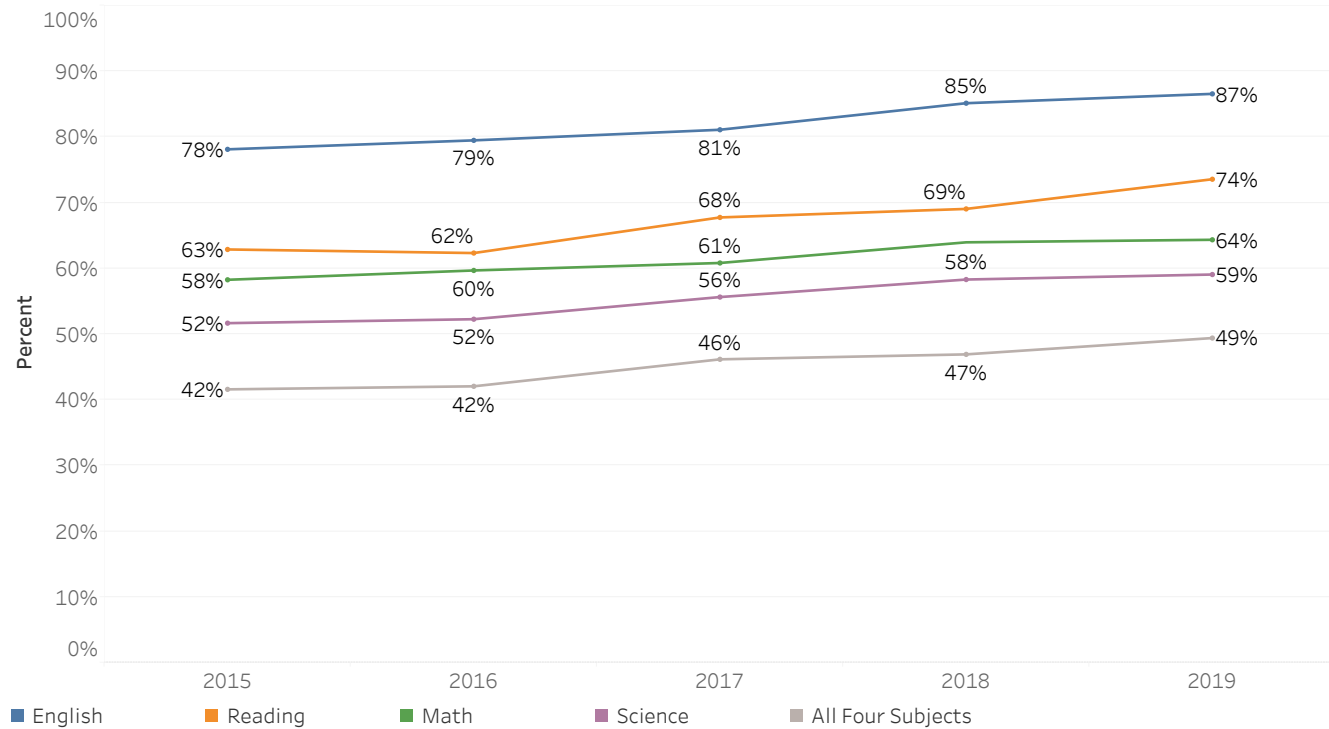
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
87%	59%	74%	45%	64%	39%	59%	36%	49%	26%

* 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.

RHODE ISLAND 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

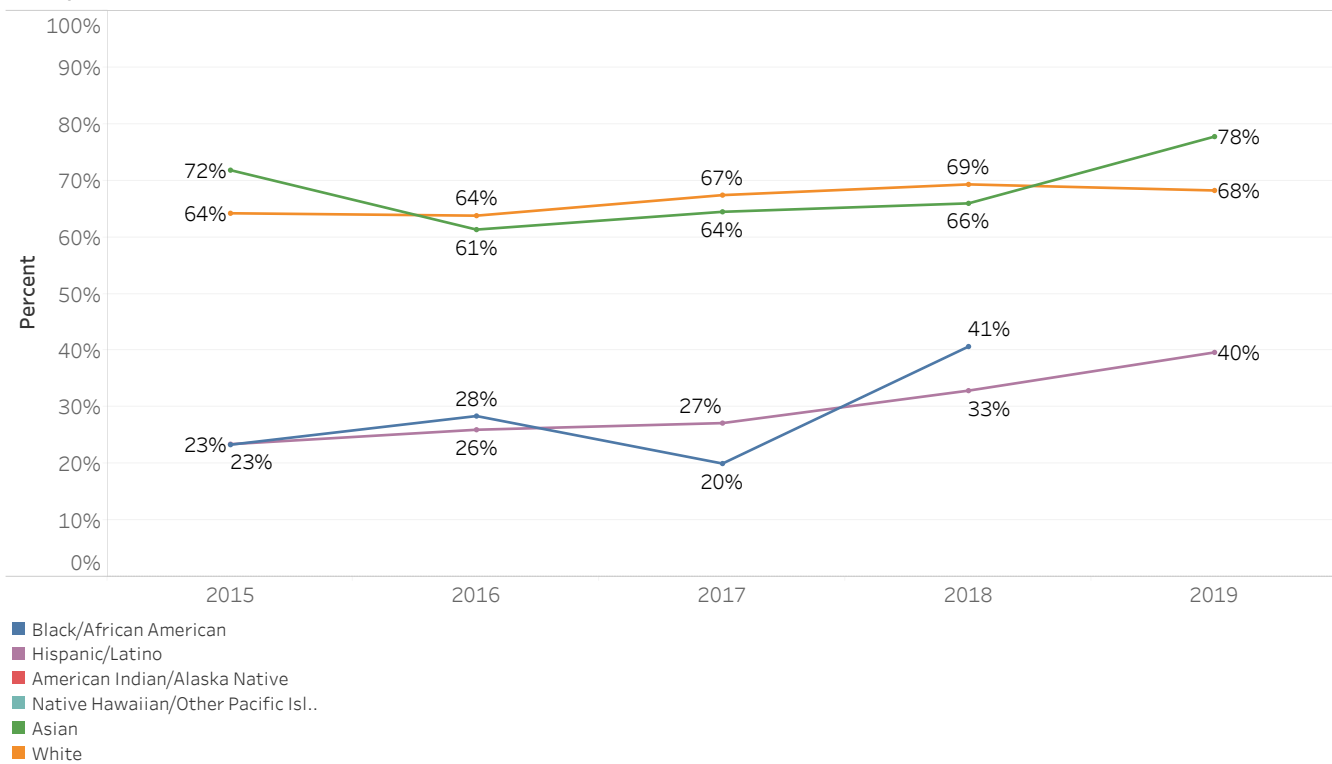
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	78%	63%	58%	52%	42%
2016	79%	62%	60%	52%	42%
2017	81%	68%	61%	56%	46%
2018	85%	69%	64%	58%	47%
2019	87%	74%	64%	59%	49%

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RHODE ISLAND 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



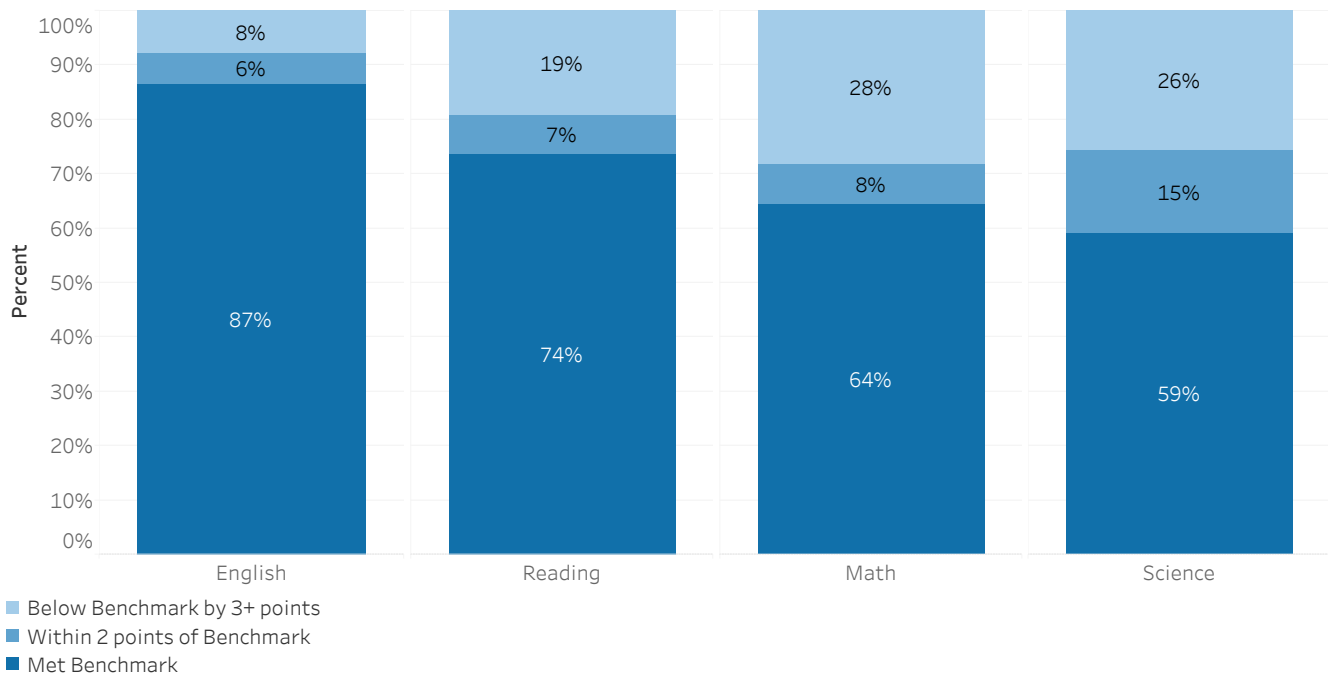
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2015	23%	23%			72%	64%
2016	28%	26%			61%	64%
2017	20%	27%			64%	67%
2018	41%	33%			66%	69%
2019		40%			78%	68%

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RHODE ISLAND College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



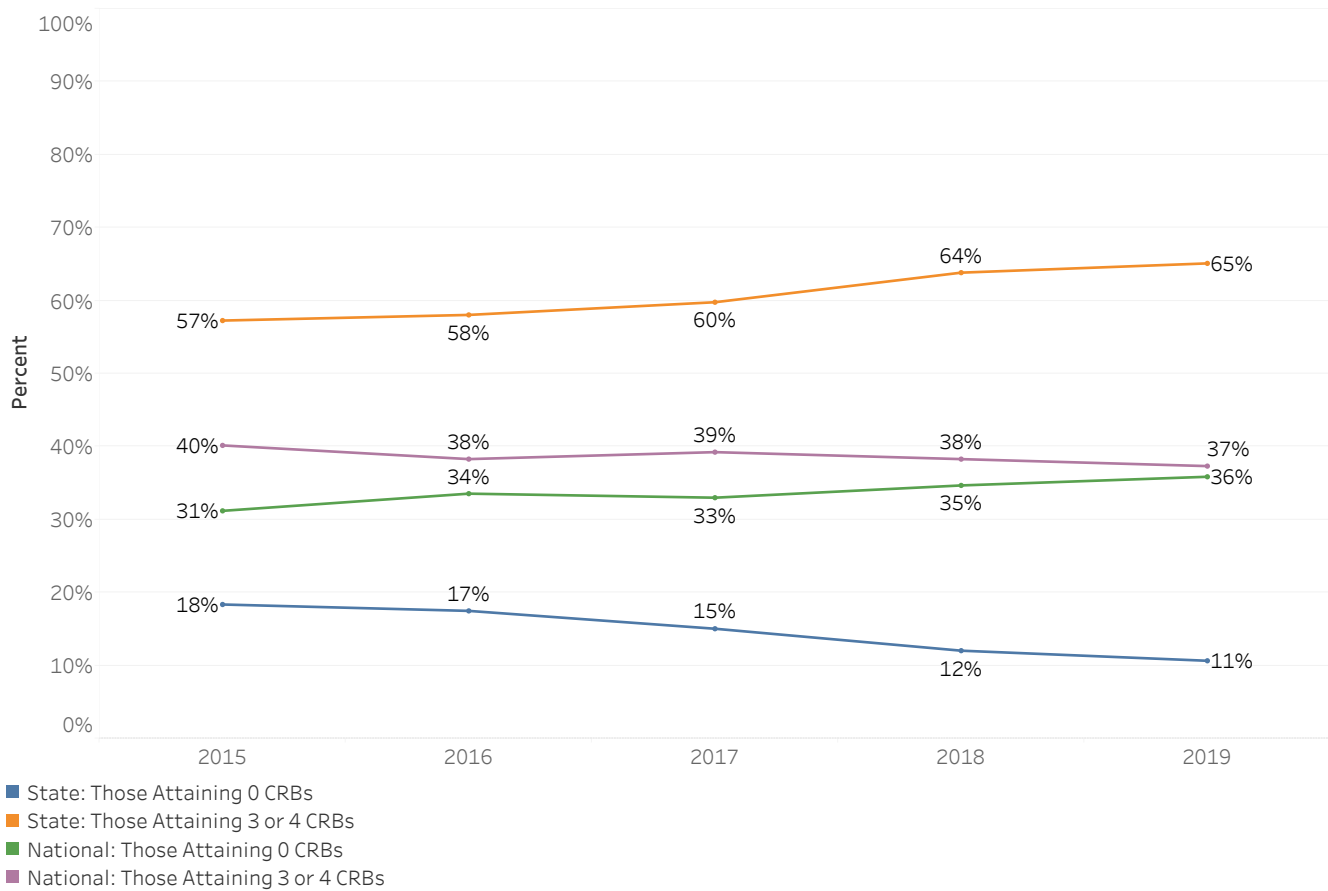
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	8%	6%	87%
Math	28%	8%	64%
Reading	19%	7%	74%
Science	26%	15%	59%

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



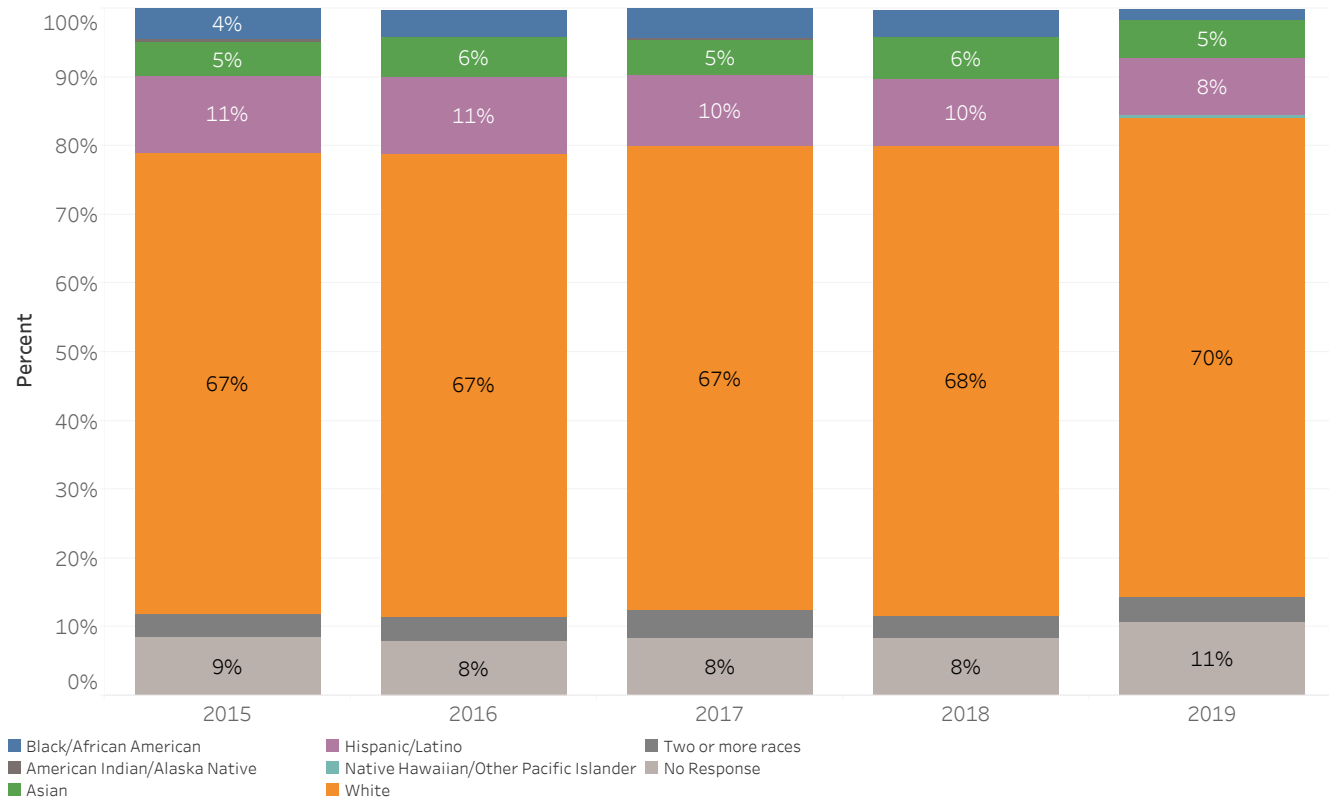
Data from Graph Above

	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	18%	57%	31%	40%
2016	17%	58%	34%	38%
2017	15%	60%	33%	39%
2018	12%	64%	35%	38%
2019	11%	65%	36%	37%

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RHODE ISLAND 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	4%	0%	5%	11%	0%	67%	3%	9%
2016	4%	0%	6%	11%	0%	67%	4%	8%
2017	4%	0%	5%	10%	0%	67%	4%	8%
2018	4%	0%	6%	10%	0%	68%	3%	8%
2019	2%	0%	5%	8%	0%	70%	4%	11%

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RHODE ISLAND College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

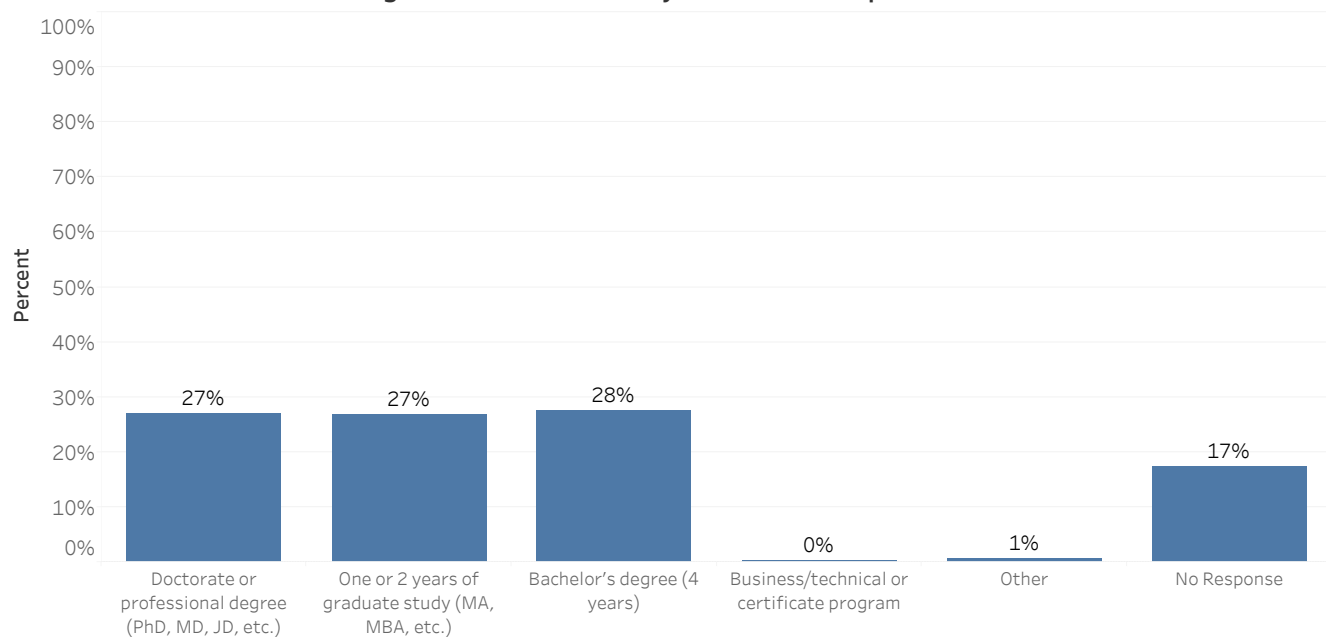
Student Data Trends: 2015-2019, State vs. Nation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	2,015	2,076	2,121	1,554	1,324
National N-count	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817	1,782,820
Average ACT English Score - State	23.0	23.1	24.0	24.4	25.0
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	23.8	24.0	24.7	25.0	25.5
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	22.6	22.9	23.3	23.6	23.9
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	22.5	22.8	23.4	23.5	24.0
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	23.1	23.3	24.0	24.2	24.7
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

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RHODE ISLAND 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.)	27%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	28%
Business/technical or certificate program	0%
Other	1%
No Response	17%

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