

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019

Vermont Key Findings

Performance of 2019 Graduates

- In the 2019 Vermont graduating class, 1,330 graduates (an estimated 20 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 24.1. This compares to 2,179 (an estimated 29 percent) with an average of 23.5 in 2015. Nationally, an estimated 52 percent of 2019 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.7.
 - There were 23 African American graduates from Vermont who took the ACT (2 percent) with an average Composite score of 20.7. This compares to 42 (3 percent) with an average of 19.4, and 40 (2 percent) with an average of 18.0, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 1,059 White graduates from Vermont who took the ACT (80 percent) with an average Composite score of 24.3. This compares to 1,306 (80 percent) with an average of 24.3, and 1,789 (82 percent) with an average of 23.7, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 43 Hispanic graduates from Vermont who took the ACT (3 percent) with an average Composite score of 24.1. This compares to 52 (3 percent) with an average of 23.4, and 44 (2 percent) with an average of 22.8, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 45 Asian graduates from Vermont who took the ACT (3 percent) with an average Composite score of 25.3. This compares to 67 (4 percent) with an average of 24.0, and 88 (4 percent) with an average of 21.6, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
- In 2019, 47 percent of Vermont graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 47 and 44 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 12 percent of Vermont graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 13 and 15 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 83 percent of Vermont graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 83 and 80 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 62 percent of Vermont graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 63 and 61 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 70 percent of Vermont graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 69 and 64 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 59 percent of Vermont graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 60 and 56 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 845 (64 percent) of Vermont graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 1,026 and 1,302 (63 and 60 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, 8 percent of Vermont graduates took the ACT with extended time. This compares to 6 and 5 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.

STEM

- In 2019, 714 Vermont graduates (54 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 Vermont graduating class average ACT STEM score of 23.8, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM averages of 23.9 and 23.4, respectively.
 - In 2019, 933 Vermont graduates (70 percent) indicated taking physics. This compares to 64 and 70 percent for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - 2019 graduates taking physics had an average science score of 24.7, compared to 22.1 for students not taking physics.

Career Readiness Indicator

- In 2019, 900 Vermont graduates (68 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 Vermont 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 Vermont, 373 of the 2019 graduates (28.0 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 25.9, compared to an average of 23.4 for 957 of the 2019 graduates (72.0 percent) who took the ACT only once.
- 1,182 score reports were sent to colleges by 2019 Vermont ACT-tested graduates.
 - For Vermont’s 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were University of Vermont, Castleton University, Vermont Technical College, Boston University, and Champlain College.
 - For Vermont’s 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were Boston University, Dartmouth College, and Northeastern University.

- Compared to 66 percent of 2019 graduates nationally, 55 percent of Vermont 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 140 ACT fee waivers to qualified Vermont students across all grades. However, 47 students (33.6 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

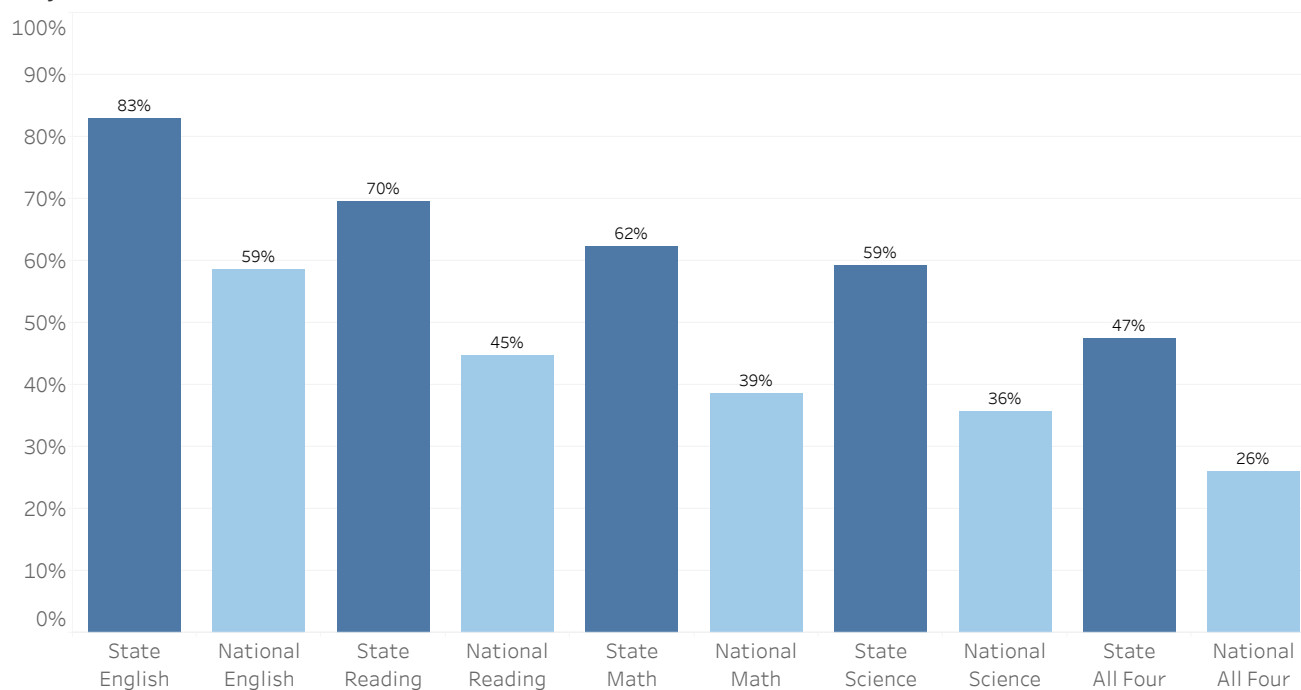
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - 542 students (41 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 26.1.
 - 536 students (40 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 22.8.
- In the Vermont graduating class of 2019, 74 students (6 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2019 Vermont graduates were: Undecided; Biology, General; Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); and Business Administration and Management, General.
 - In the Vermont graduating class of 2019, 275 students (21 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 24.8. 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 Vermont graduating class of 2019, 54 (4 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 21.6.

Additional Points

- The Northern New England ACT State Organization consists of members across 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 region.
- In 2019, ACT State Organizations honored College and Career Readiness Champions across the country. In Vermont, Bellows Falls Union High School senior Ian Wallace was selected as the state's student champion.
- Over 2,900 ACT National Career Readiness Certificates have been awarded in Vermont. The certificates range from Bronze to Platinum levels and display individuals' career readiness strengths to employers.
- According to the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the fastest-growing careers in Vermont requiring education beyond high school are: physician assistants, statisticians, respiratory therapists, software developers, and nurse practitioners.

VERMONT 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

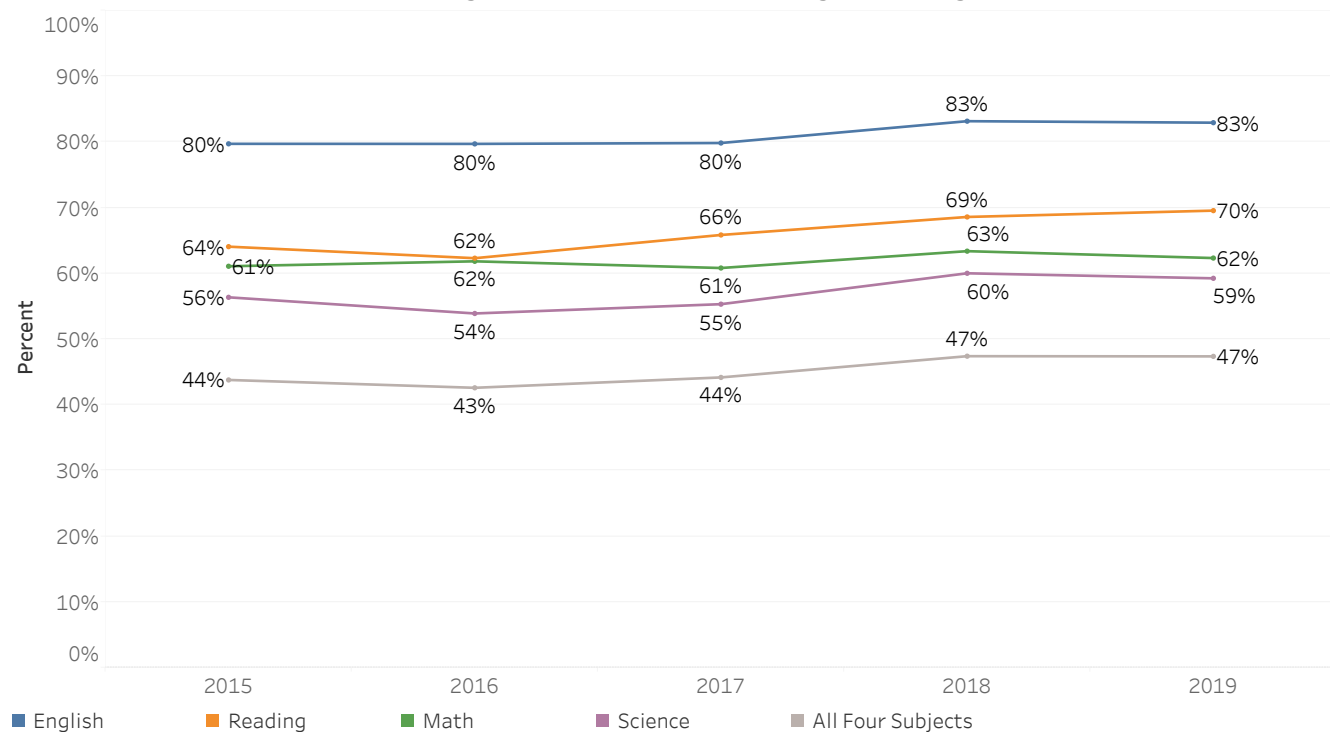
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
83%	59%	70%	45%	62%	39%	59%	36%	47%	26%

* 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.

VERMONT 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

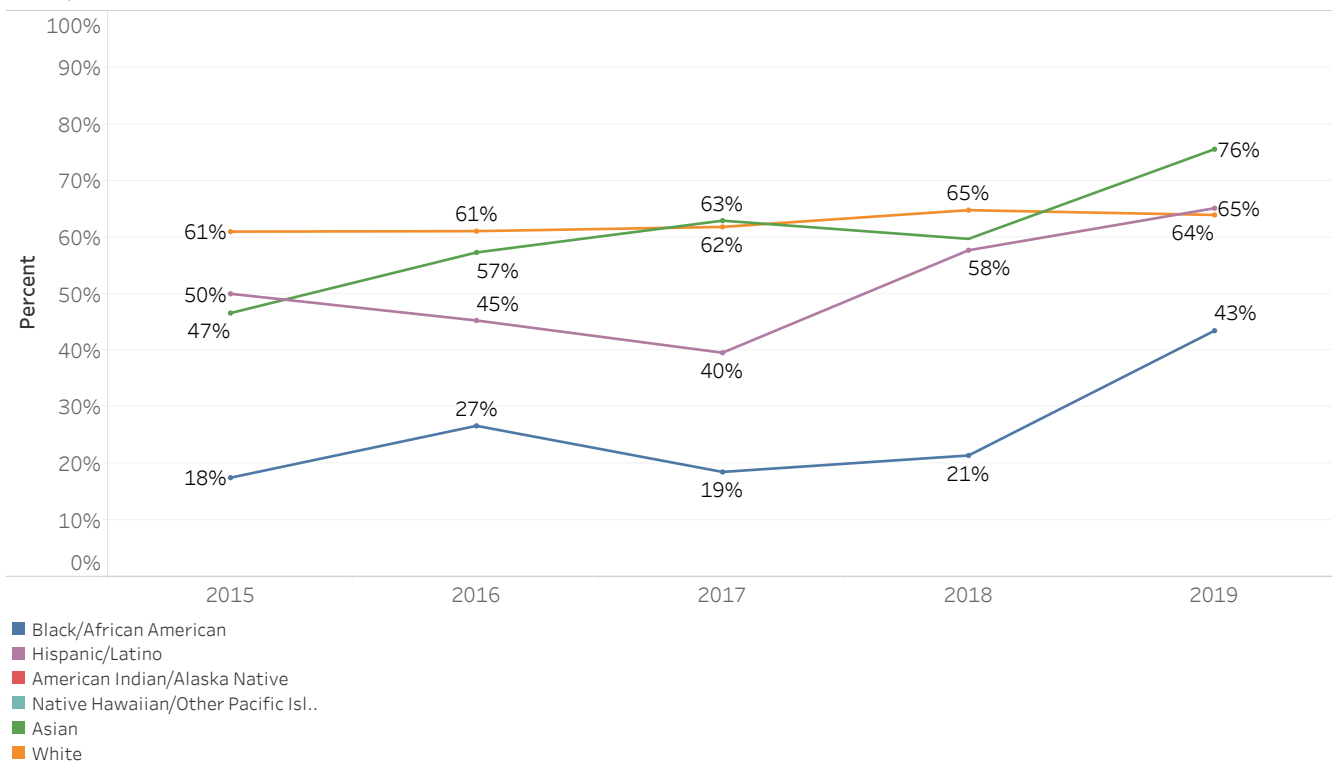
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	80%	64%	61%	56%	44%
2016	80%	62%	62%	54%	43%
2017	80%	66%	61%	55%	44%
2018	83%	69%	63%	60%	47%
2019	83%	70%	62%	59%	47%

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VERMONT 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



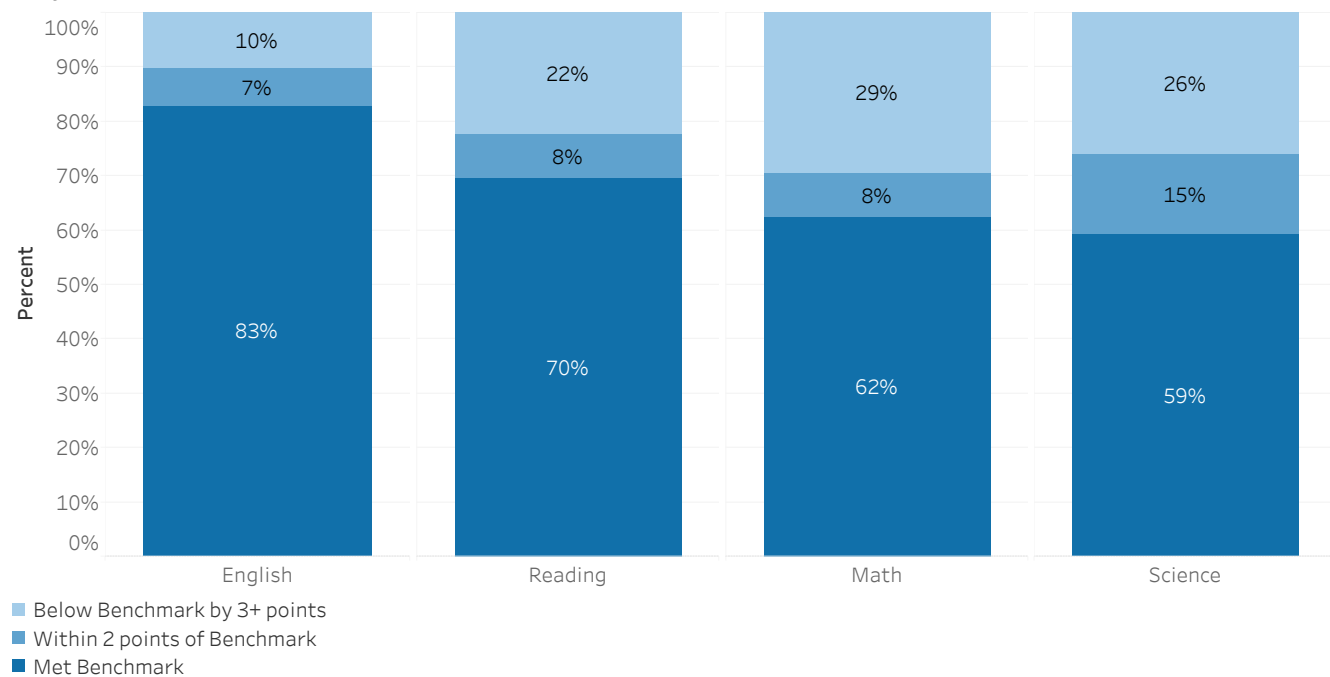
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2015	18%	50%	-	-	47%	61%
2016	27%	45%	-	-	57%	61%
2017	19%	40%	-	-	63%	62%
2018	21%	58%	-	-	60%	65%
2019	43%	65%	-	-	76%	64%

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VERMONT College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



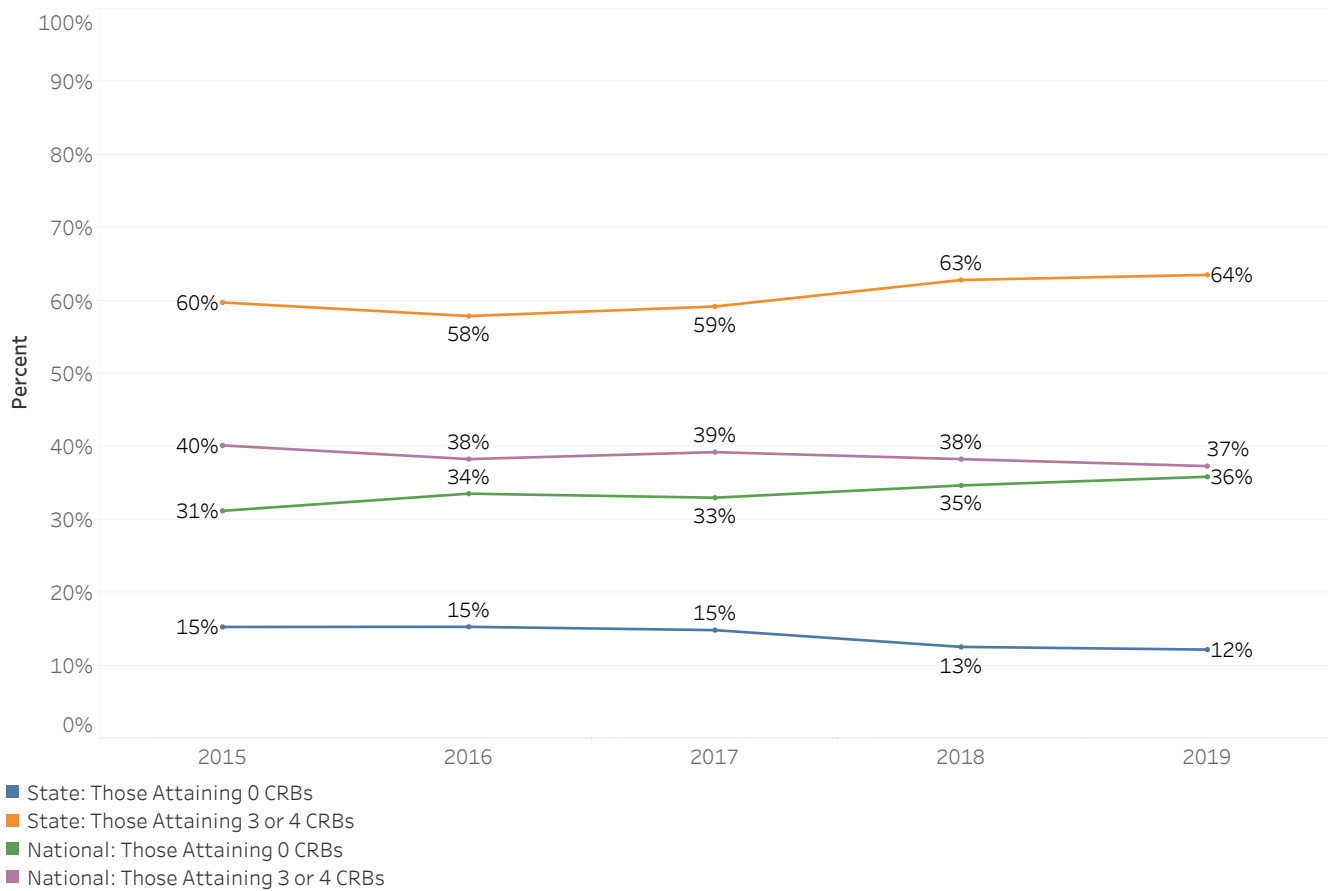
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	10%	7%	83%
Math	29%	8%	62%
Reading	22%	8%	70%
Science	26%	15%	59%

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



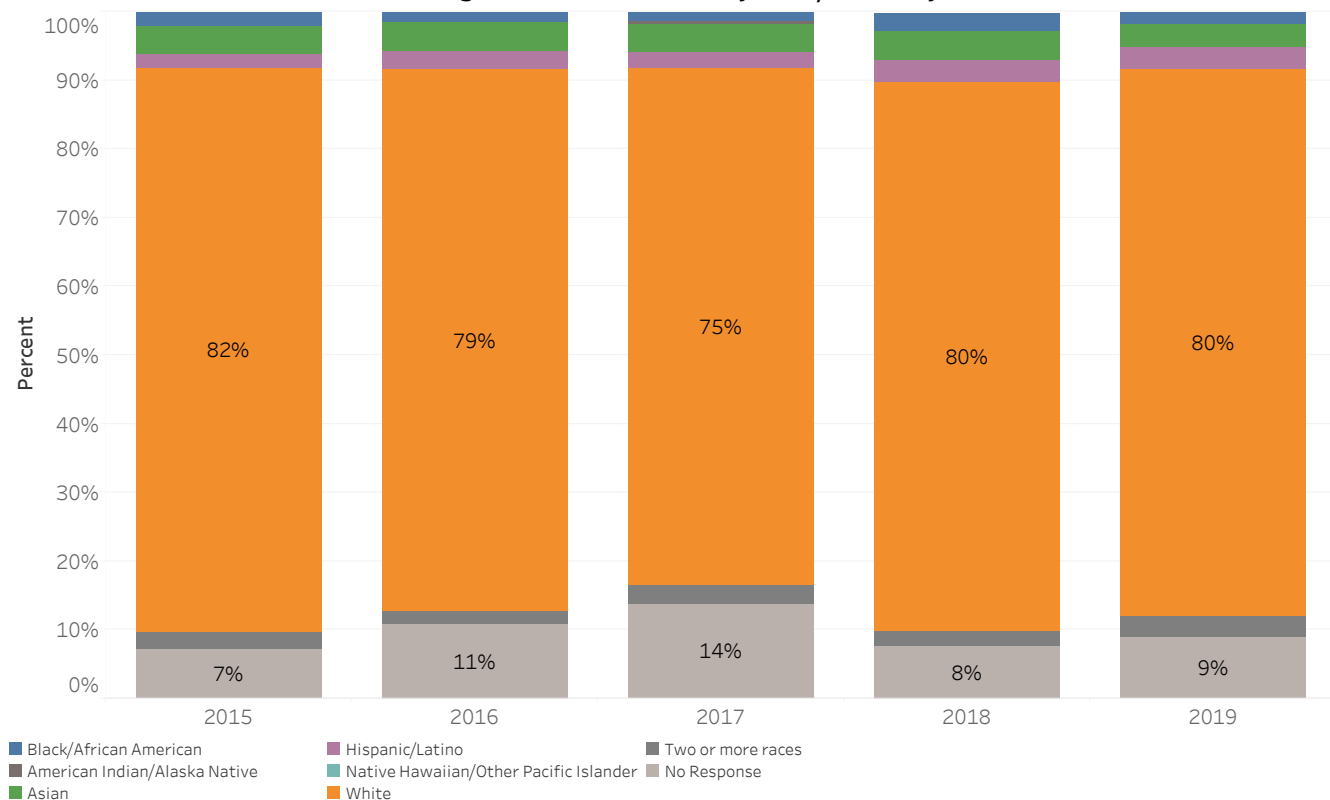
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	State: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	State: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs
2015	15%	60%	31%	40%
2016	15%	58%	34%	38%
2017	15%	59%	33%	39%
2018	13%	63%	35%	38%
2019	12%	64%	36%	37%

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VERMONT 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	2%		4%	2%		82%	2%	7%
2016	1%		4%	3%		79%	2%	11%
2017	1%	0%	4%	2%		75%	3%	14%
2018	3%		4%	3%		80%	2%	8%
2019	2%		3%	3%		80%	3%	9%

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VERMONT College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

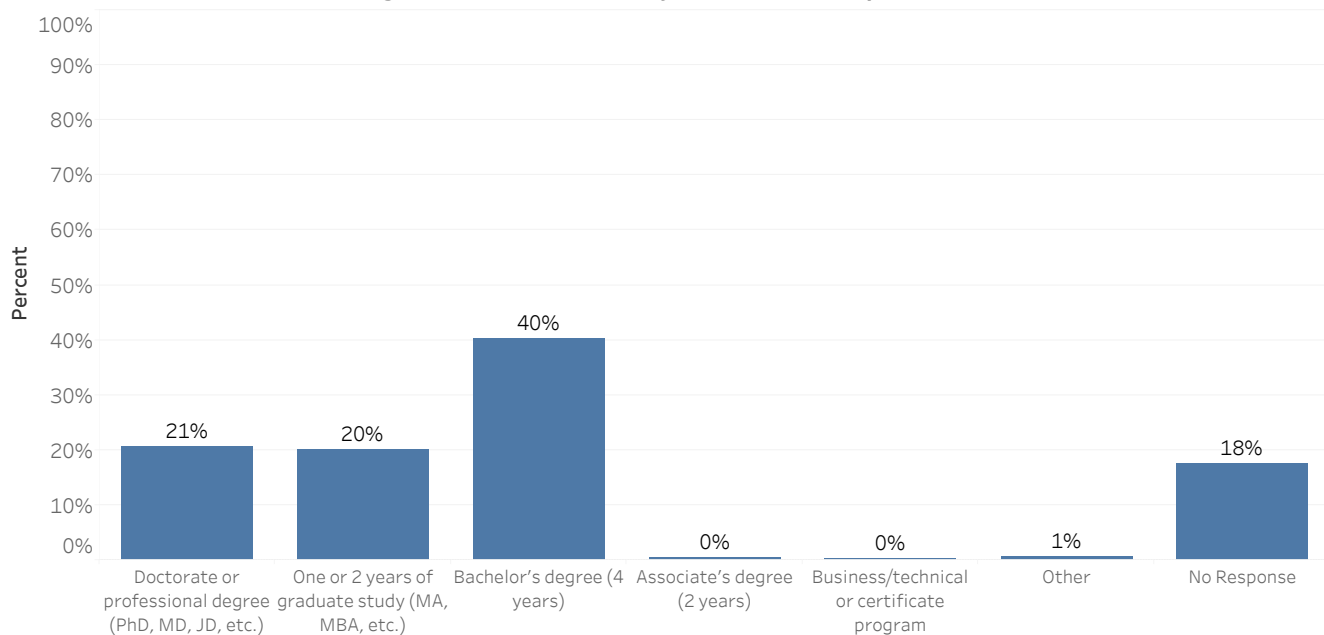
Student Data Trends: 2015-2019, State vs. Nation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	2,179	2,104	2,108	1,633	1,330
National N-count	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817	1,782,820
Average ACT English Score - State	23.2	22.9	23.3	23.9	23.9
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	24.1	24.1	24.4	24.9	25.0
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	23.0	22.9	23.1	23.4	23.3
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	23.2	23.2	23.2	23.8	23.9
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	23.5	23.4	23.6	24.1	24.1
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

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VERMONT 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.)	21%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	20%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	40%
Associate's degree (2 years)	0%
Business/technical or certificate program	0%
Other	1%
No Response	18%

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