

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019

Washington Key Findings

Performance of 2019 Graduates

- In the 2019 Washington graduating class, 16,728 graduates (an estimated 24 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 22.1. This compares to 16,944 (an estimated 25 percent) with an average of 22.4 in 2015. Nationally, an estimated 52 percent of 2019 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.7.
 - There were 673 African American graduates from Washington who took the ACT (4 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.3. This compares to 780 (5 percent) with an average of 17.2, and 782 (5 percent) with an average of 17.1, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 128 American Indian graduates from Washington who took the ACT (1 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.6. This compares to 139 (1 percent) with an average of 17.2, and 147 (1 percent) with an average of 18.1, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 8,251 White graduates from Washington who took the ACT (49 percent) with an average Composite score of 23.5. This compares to 8,331 (49 percent) with an average of 23.9, and 8,875 (52 percent) with an average of 24.0, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 2,836 Hispanic graduates from Washington who took the ACT (17 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.6. This compares to 2,902 (17 percent) with an average of 17.7, and 2,601 (15 percent) with an average of 17.9, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 2,045 Asian graduates from Washington who took the ACT (12 percent) with an average Composite score of 24.4. This compares to 2,082 (12 percent) with an average of 23.8, and 1,948 (11 percent) with an average of 23.4, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 161 Pacific Islander graduates from Washington who took the ACT (1 percent) with an average Composite score of 16.9. This compares to 189 (1 percent) with an average of 16.3, and 197 (1 percent) with an average of 17.7, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.

- In 2019, 36 percent of Washington graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 37 and 39 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 31 percent of Washington graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 29 and 26 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 63 percent of Washington graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 65 and 68 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 51 percent of Washington graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 52 and 56 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 54 percent of Washington graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 54 and 55 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 45 percent of Washington graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 47 and 49 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 8,022 (48 percent) of Washington graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 8,447 and 8,841 (50 and 52 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, 8,326 Washington graduates (50 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
- Compared to a 2019 Washington graduating class average ACT STEM score of 22.2, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM averages of 22.3 and 22.7, respectively.
- Compared to 31 percent of 2019 Washington graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 31 and 31, respectively.
 - 2019 Washington graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 29.2. This compares to 28.6 in 2015.
 - 2019 Washington graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 29.5. This compares to 28.9 in 2015.

Career Readiness Indicator

- In 2019, 12,643 Washington graduates (76 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 Washington 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:
 - 37 more students enrolling in college.
 - 42 more students persisting to year two.
 - 27 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - 42 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - 47 more students persisting to year four.
 - 50 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Washington, 4,738 of the 2019 graduates (28.3 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 25.1, compared to an average of 20.9 for 11,990 of the 2019 graduates (71.7 percent) who took the ACT only once.
- 24,068 score reports were sent to colleges by 2019 Washington ACT-tested graduates.
 - 11,135 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2019 Washington ACT-tested graduates.
 - For Washington's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were the University of Washington, Washington State University, Central Washington University, Western Washington University, and Eastern Washington University.
 - For Washington's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were Brigham Young University, Brigham Young University - Idaho, and Stanford University.
- Compared to 66 percent of 2019 graduates nationally, 60 percent of Washington 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 5,555 ACT fee waivers to qualified Washington students across all grades. However, 2,016 students (36.3 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.
 - 6,149 students (37 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 25.5.
 - 6,433 students (38 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 21.4.
 - 777 students (5 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 15.6.

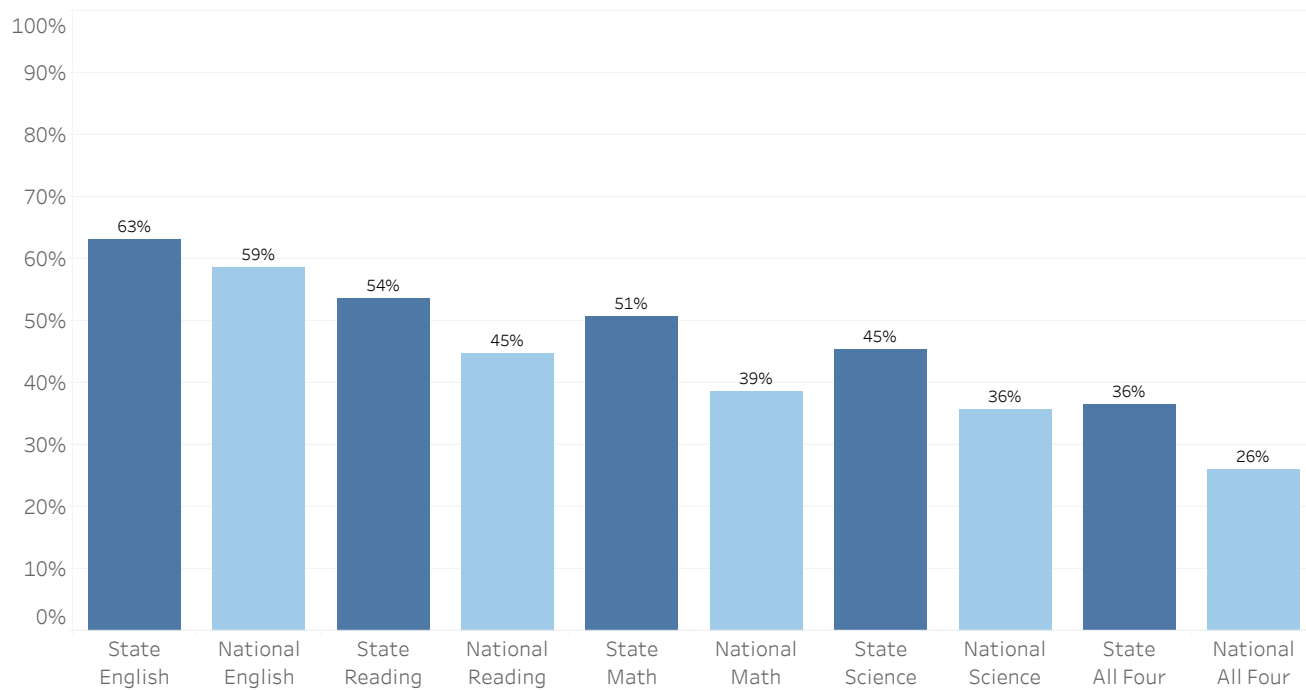
- In the Washington graduating class of 2019, 2,482 students (15 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2019 Washington graduates were: Undecided; Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Computer Science and Programming; Business Administration and Management, General; and Nursing, Registered (BS/RN).
- There is good news in that 80% of Washington's 2019 ACT-tested graduates aspired to postsecondary education. Interestingly enough, 81% of Washington's 2018 ACT-tested graduating class aspired to enroll in postsecondary education, compared to 68% who actually did enroll. If we fully closed the aspirational gap, an additional 2,310 of the 2018 ACT-tested graduates from Washington would have enrolled in postsecondary education.

Additional Points

- The Washington ACT State Organization consists of more than 100 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 Washington ACT Champions are:
 - High school senior: Katie Liu, Charles A. Lindbergh High School; K-12 professional: Cathy Kerr, Graduation Specialist, Eatonville High School; and postsecondary professional: Michelle Platt, Outreach Manager, Edmonds Community College.

WASHINGTON 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

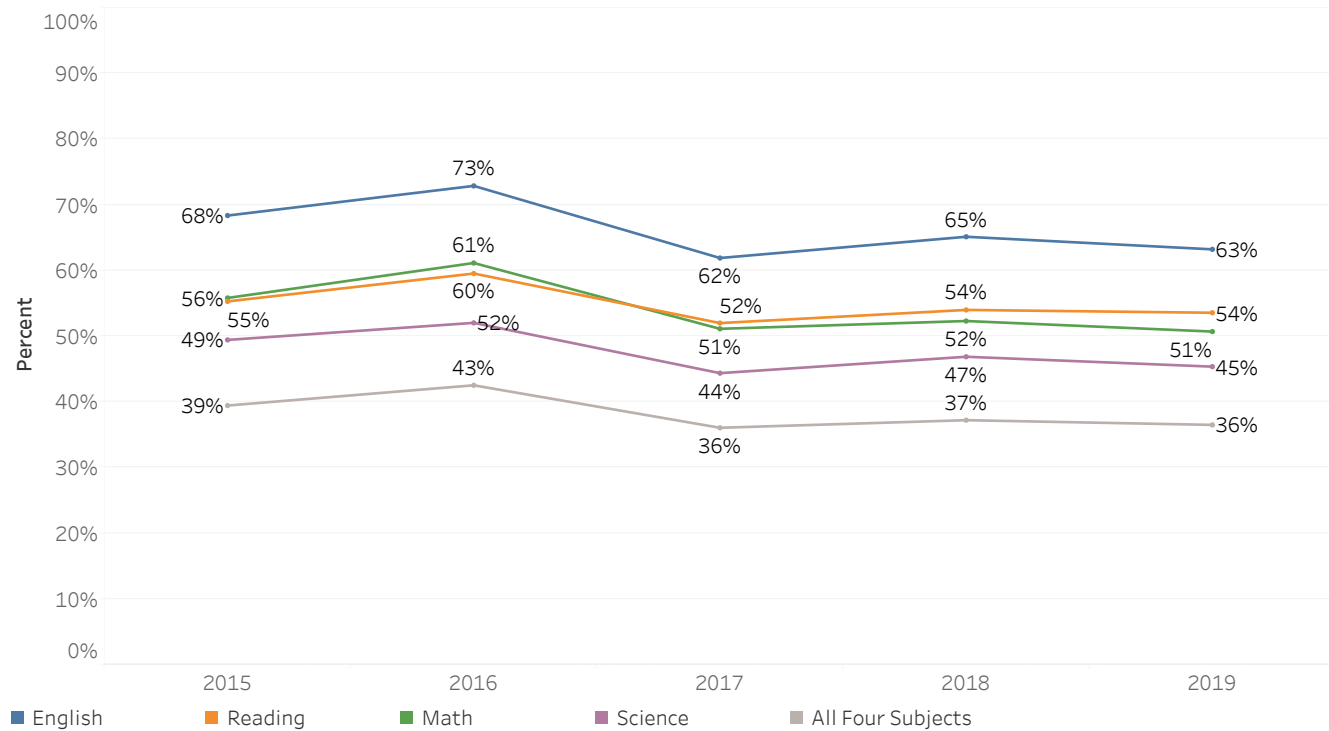
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
63%	59%	54%	45%	51%	39%	45%	36%	36%	26%

* 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.

WASHINGTON 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

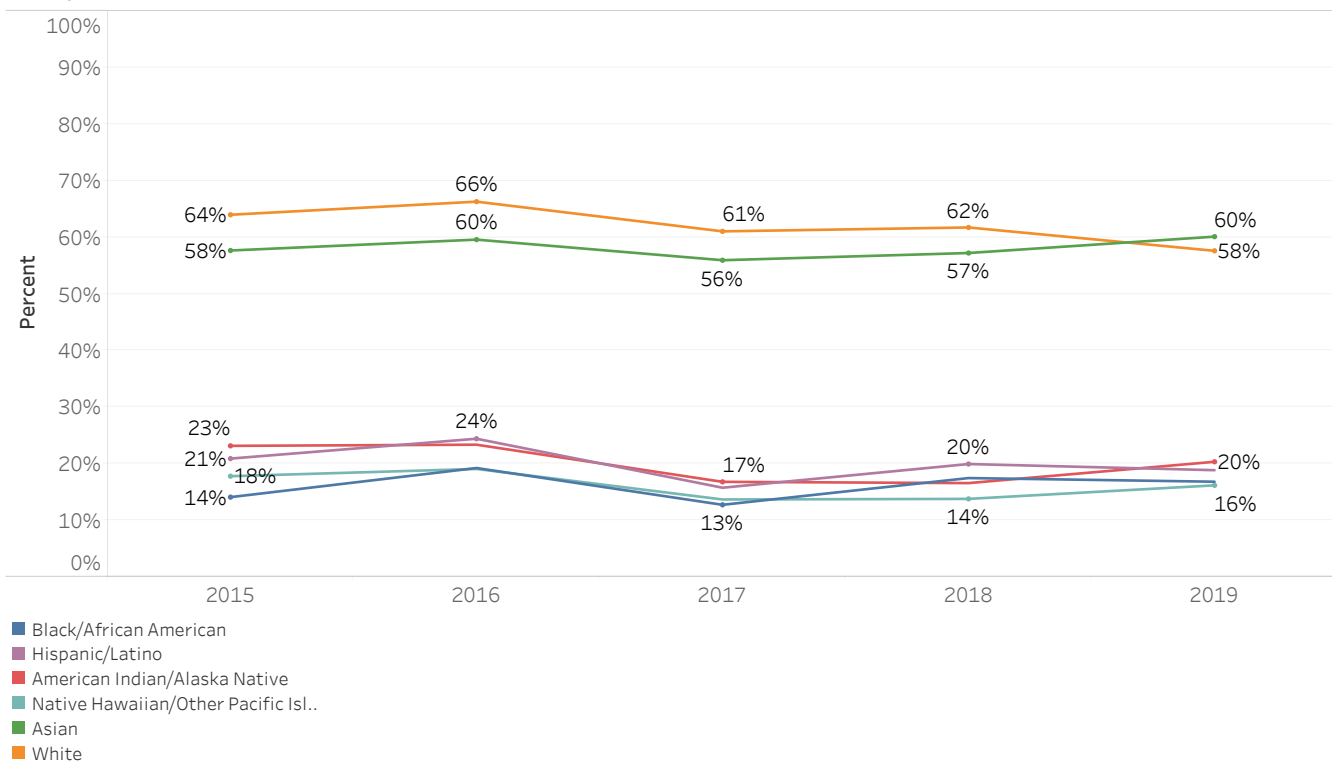
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	68%	55%	56%	49%	39%
2016	73%	60%	61%	52%	43%
2017	62%	52%	51%	44%	36%
2018	65%	54%	52%	47%	37%
2019	63%	54%	51%	45%	36%

* 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.

WASHINGTON 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



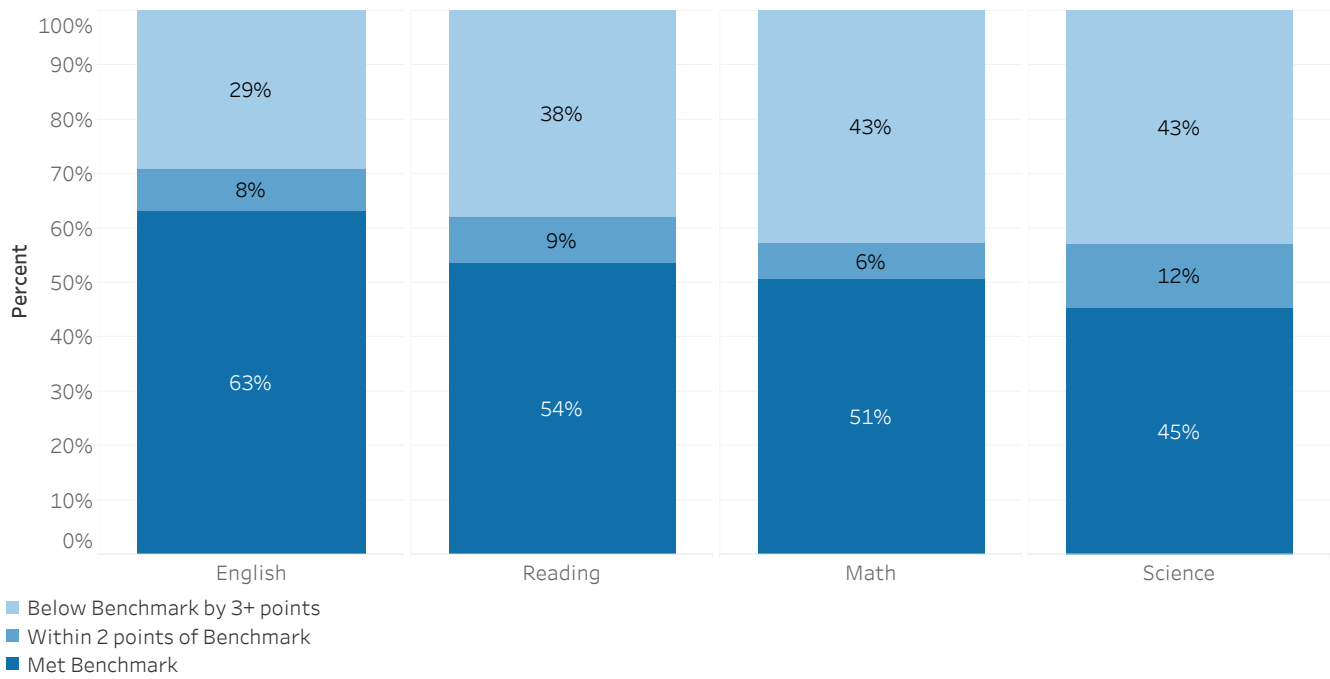
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2015	14%	21%	23%	18%	58%	64%
2016	19%	24%	23%	19%	60%	66%
2017	13%	16%	17%	14%	56%	61%
2018	17%	20%	17%	14%	57%	62%
2019	17%	19%	20%	16%	60%	58%

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

WASHINGTON College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



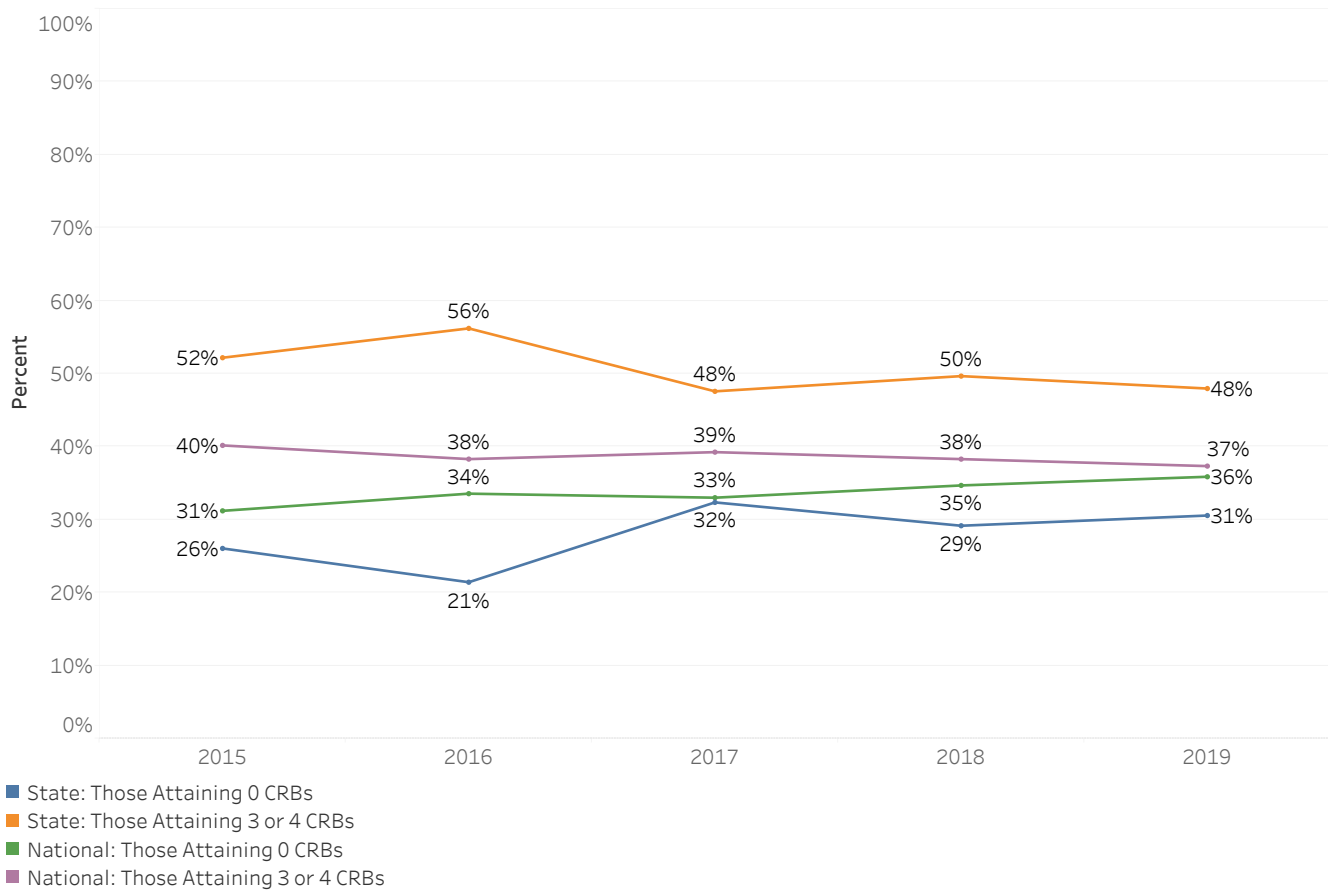
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	29%	8%	63%
Math	43%	6%	51%
Reading	38%	9%	54%
Science	43%	12%	45%

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

WASHINGTON College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



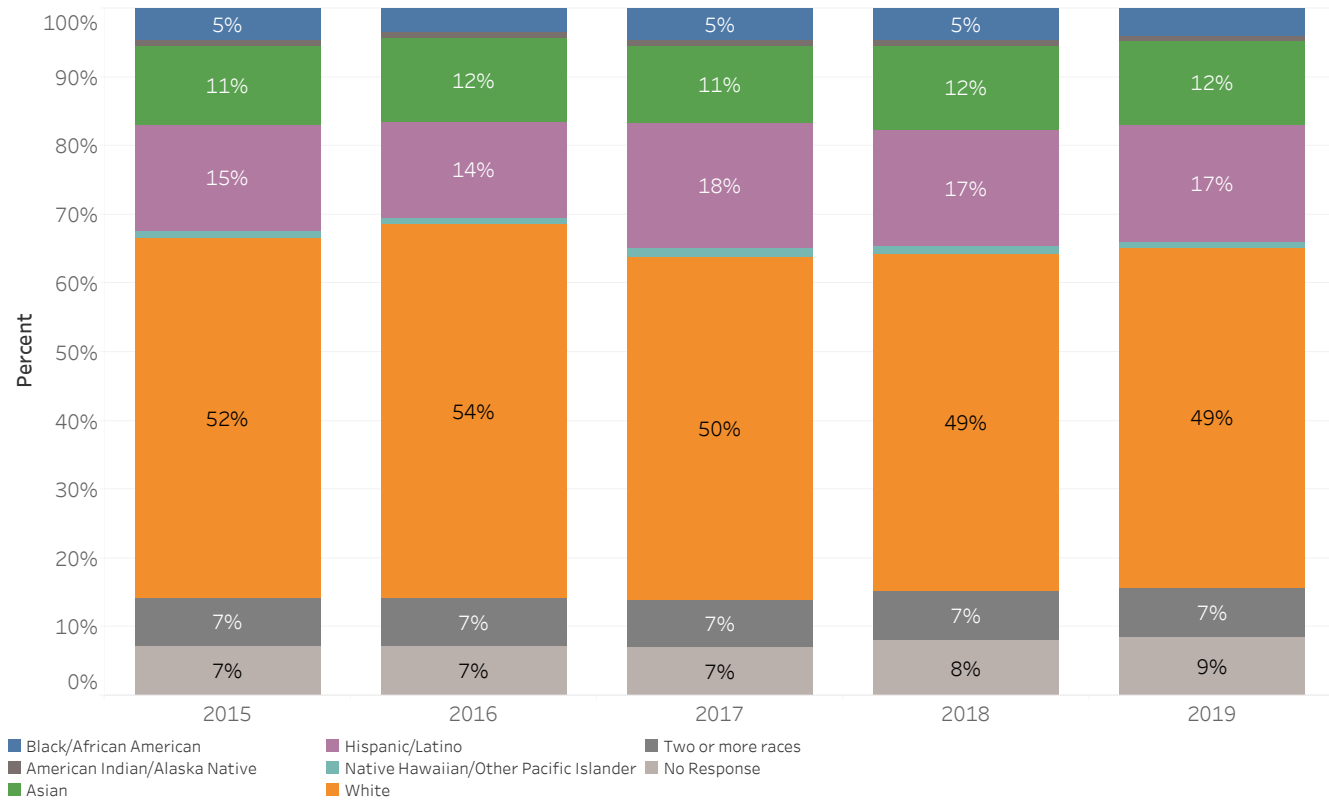
Data from Graph Above

	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	26%	52%	31%	40%
2016	21%	56%	34%	38%
2017	32%	48%	33%	39%
2018	29%	50%	35%	38%
2019	31%	48%	36%	37%

*Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

WASHINGTON 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	5%	1%	11%	15%	1%	52%	7%	7%
2016	4%	1%	12%	14%	1%	54%	7%	7%
2017	5%	1%	11%	18%	1%	50%	7%	7%
2018	5%	1%	12%	17%	1%	49%	7%	8%
2019	4%	1%	12%	17%	1%	49%	7%	9%

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

WASHINGTON College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

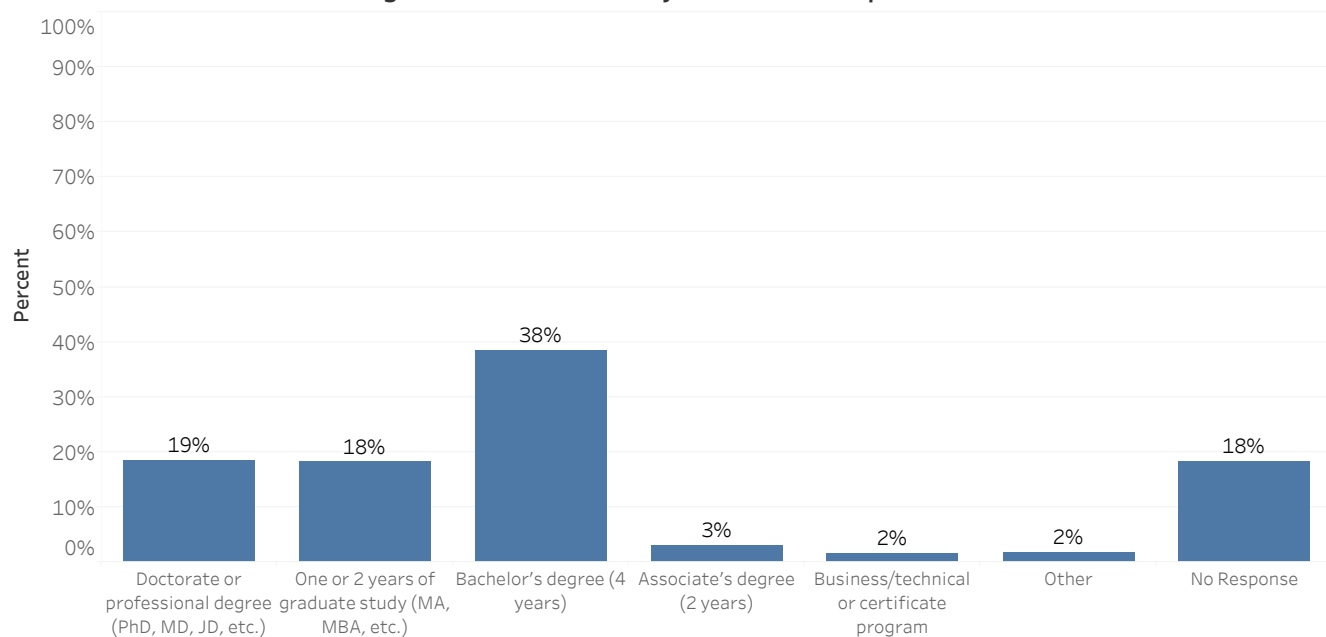
Student Data Trends: 2015-2019, State vs. Nation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	16,944	16,652	19,581	17,010	16,728
National N-count	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817	1,782,820
Average ACT English Score - State	21.5	22.3	20.9	21.4	21.3
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	22.7	23.6	22.1	22.7	22.7
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	22.4	23.2	21.9	22.2	22.1
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	22.4	22.9	22.0	22.0	21.9
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	22.4	23.1	21.9	22.2	22.1
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

WASHINGTON 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.)	19%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	18%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	38%
Associate's degree (2 years)	3%
Business/technical or certificate program	2%
Other	2%
No Response	18%

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.