

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019

West Virginia Key Findings

Performance of 2019 Graduates

- West Virginia students outperformed the nation on the ACT in 2019.
- In the 2019 West Virginia graduating class, 8,525 graduates (an estimated 49 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 20.8. This compares to 11,289 (an estimated 66 percent) with an average of 20.8 in 2015. Nationally, an estimated 52 percent of 2019 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.7.
 - The 2019 West Virginia graduating class average English score was 20.6. This compares to 19.8 and 20.6 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 West Virginia graduating class average math score was 19.7. This compares to 19.4 and 19.7 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 West Virginia graduating class average reading score was 21.7. This compares to 21.3 and 21.5 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 West Virginia graduating class average science score was 20.7. This compares to 20.4 and 20.7 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
- In 2019, 21 percent of West Virginia graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 19 and 21 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 28 percent of West Virginia graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 33 and 27 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 67 percent of West Virginia graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 61 and 69 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 33 percent of West Virginia graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 30 and 34 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 49 percent of West Virginia graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 46 and 48 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 34 percent of West Virginia graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 32 and 34 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 3,051 (36 percent) of West Virginia graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 3,815 and 4,049 (33 and 36 percent) out of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively. For reference, the national percentage of 2019 graduates meeting three or four benchmarks was 37 percent.
- 51 percent of 2019 West Virginia graduates were Proficient or Above Proficient in understanding complex texts.
- 49 percent of 2019 West Virginia graduates were Below Proficient in understanding complex texts.

STEM

- In 2019, 5,079 West Virginia graduates (60 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 West Virginia graduating class average ACT STEM score of 20.5, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM averages of 20.2 and 20.5, respectively.
- Compared to 14 percent of 2019 West Virginia graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 12 and 12, respectively.
 - 41 percent of 2019 West Virginia graduates taking physics met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 28 for students not taking physics.
 - 2019 West Virginia graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.5. This compares to 28.3 in 2015.
 - 35 percent of 2019 graduates taking three or more years of math met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 12 percent for students taking less than three years of math.
 - 2019 West Virginia graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 27.8. This compares to 27.6 in 2015.

Career Readiness Indicator

- In 2019, 3,552 West Virginia graduates (42 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."
- In 2019, 6,713 West Virginia graduates (81 percent) were likely to attain the Silver ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate or higher based upon ACT Composite score, compared to 1,267,654 (71 percent) nationally.

Impact

- Based on the actual test volume and ACT score distributions of 2019 ACT-tested West Virginia 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:
 - 21 more students enrolling in college.
 - 23 more students persisting to year two.
 - 18 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - 30 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - 26 more students persisting to year four.
 - 27 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In West Virginia, 5,062 of the 2019 graduates (59.4 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 21.8, compared to an average of 19.3 for 3,463 of the 2019 graduates (40.6 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.
- 18,086 score reports were sent to colleges by 2019 West Virginia ACT-tested graduates.
 - 11,817 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2019 West Virginia ACT-tested graduates.
 - For West Virginia's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were West Virginia University, Marshall University, Fairmont State University, Concord University, and West Liberty University.
 - For West Virginia's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were The Ohio State University, the University of Kentucky, and Virginia Tech University.
- Compared to 66 percent of 2019 graduates nationally, 74 percent of West Virginia 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 4,254 ACT fee waivers to qualified West Virginia students across all grades. However, 928 students (21.8 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

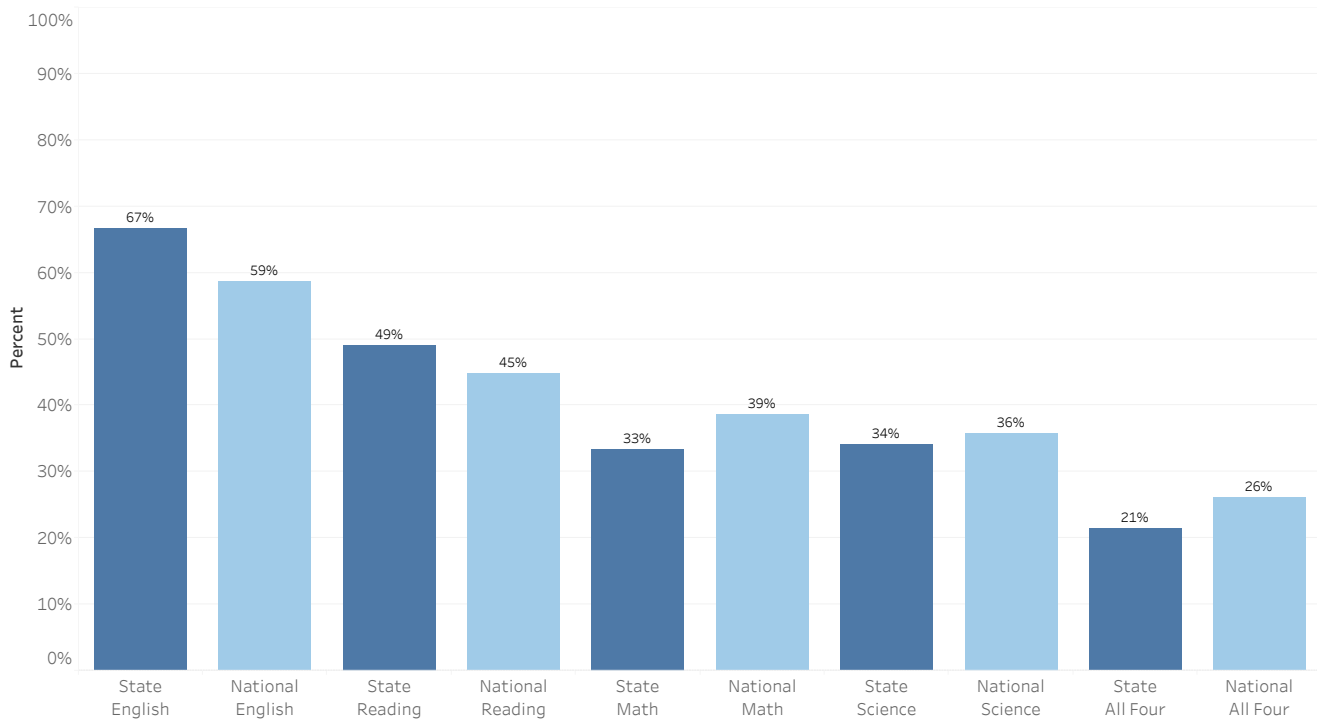
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - 3,208 students (38 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 23.0.
 - 4,491 students (53 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 19.7.
- In the West Virginia graduating class of 2019, 1,489 students (17 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2019 West Virginia graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Biology, General; and Criminology.
 - In the West Virginia graduating class of 2019, 1,446 students (17 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 20.3. 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 West Virginia graduating class of 2019, 514 (6 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 19.6.

Additional Points

- The West Virginia ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with more than a hundred 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.
- According to the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the fastest-growing careers in West Virginia requiring education beyond high school are: Nurse Practitioner, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Statistician, and Physician Assistant.

WEST VIRGINIA 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

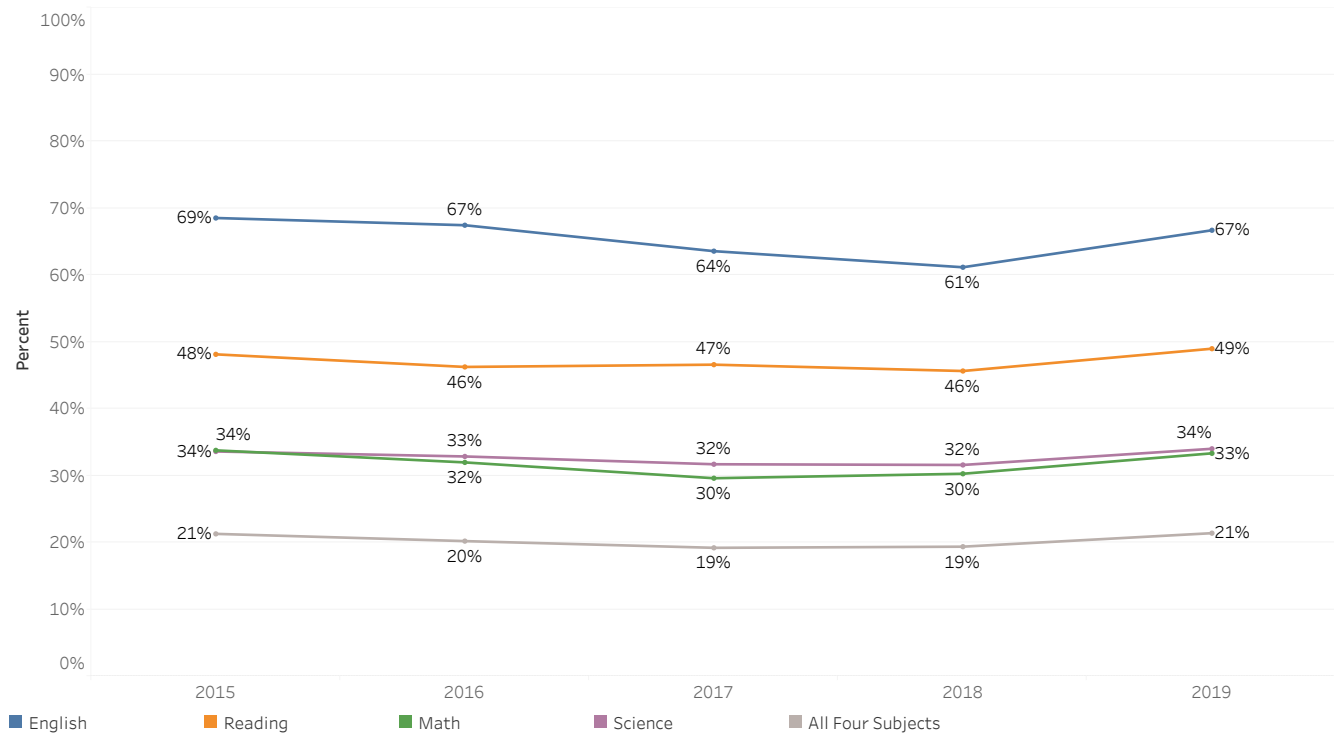
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
67%	59%	49%	45%	33%	39%	34%	36%	21%	26%

*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.

WEST VIRGINIA 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

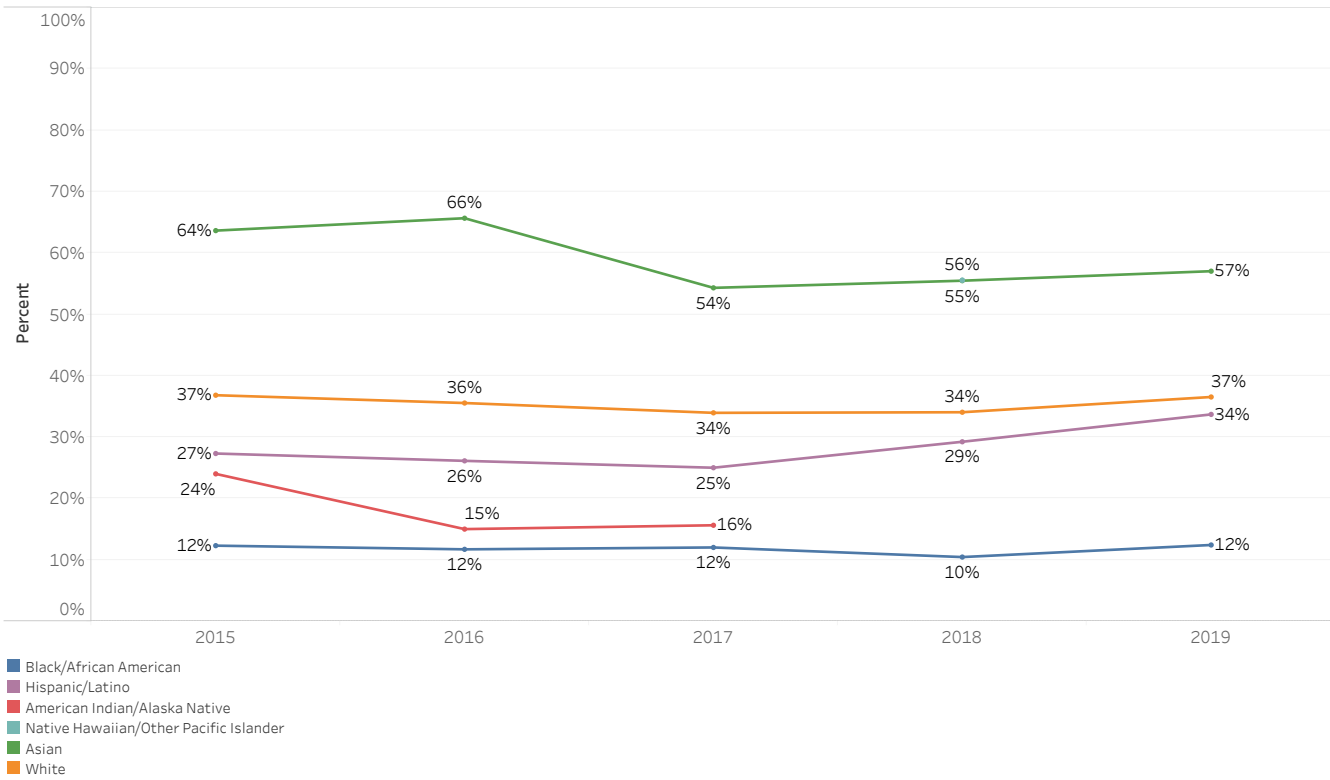
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	69%	48%	34%	34%	21%
2016	67%	46%	32%	33%	20%
2017	64%	47%	30%	32%	19%
2018	61%	46%	30%	32%	19%
2019	67%	49%	33%	34%	21%

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WEST VIRGINIA 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



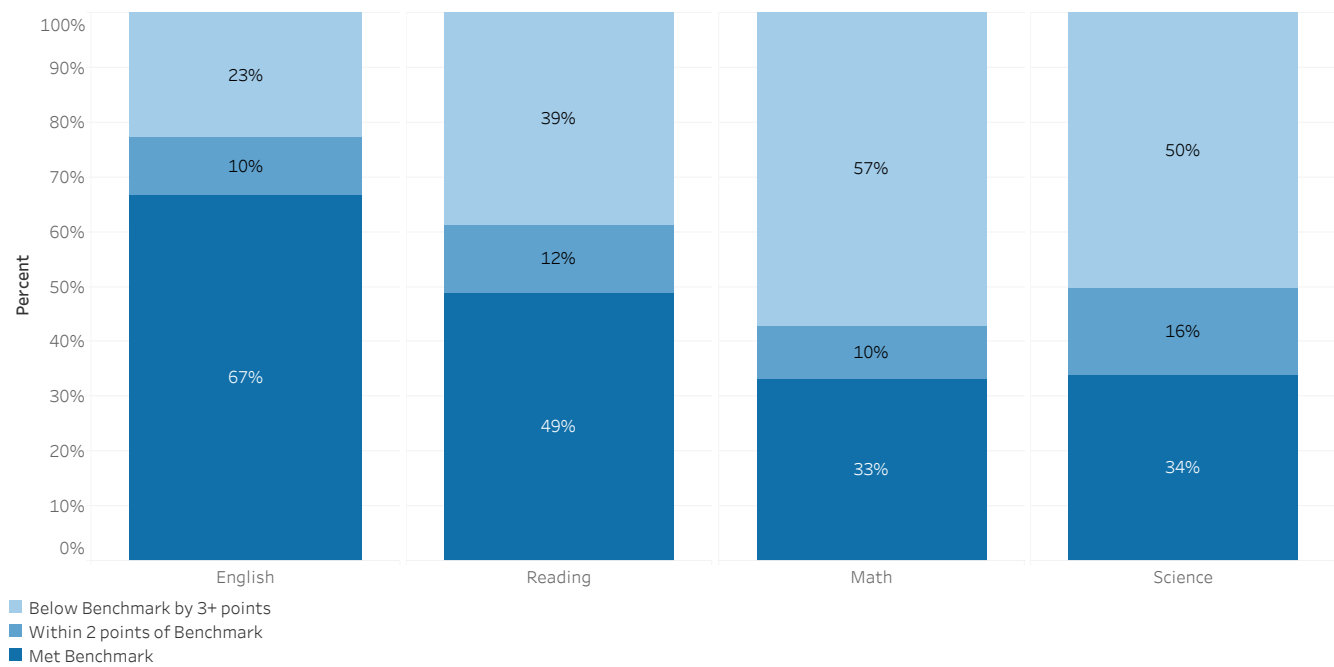
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2015	12%	27%	24%		64%	37%
2016	12%	26%	15%		66%	36%
2017	12%	25%	16%		54%	34%
2018	10%	29%			56%	34%
2019	12%	34%			57%	37%

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WEST VIRGINIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



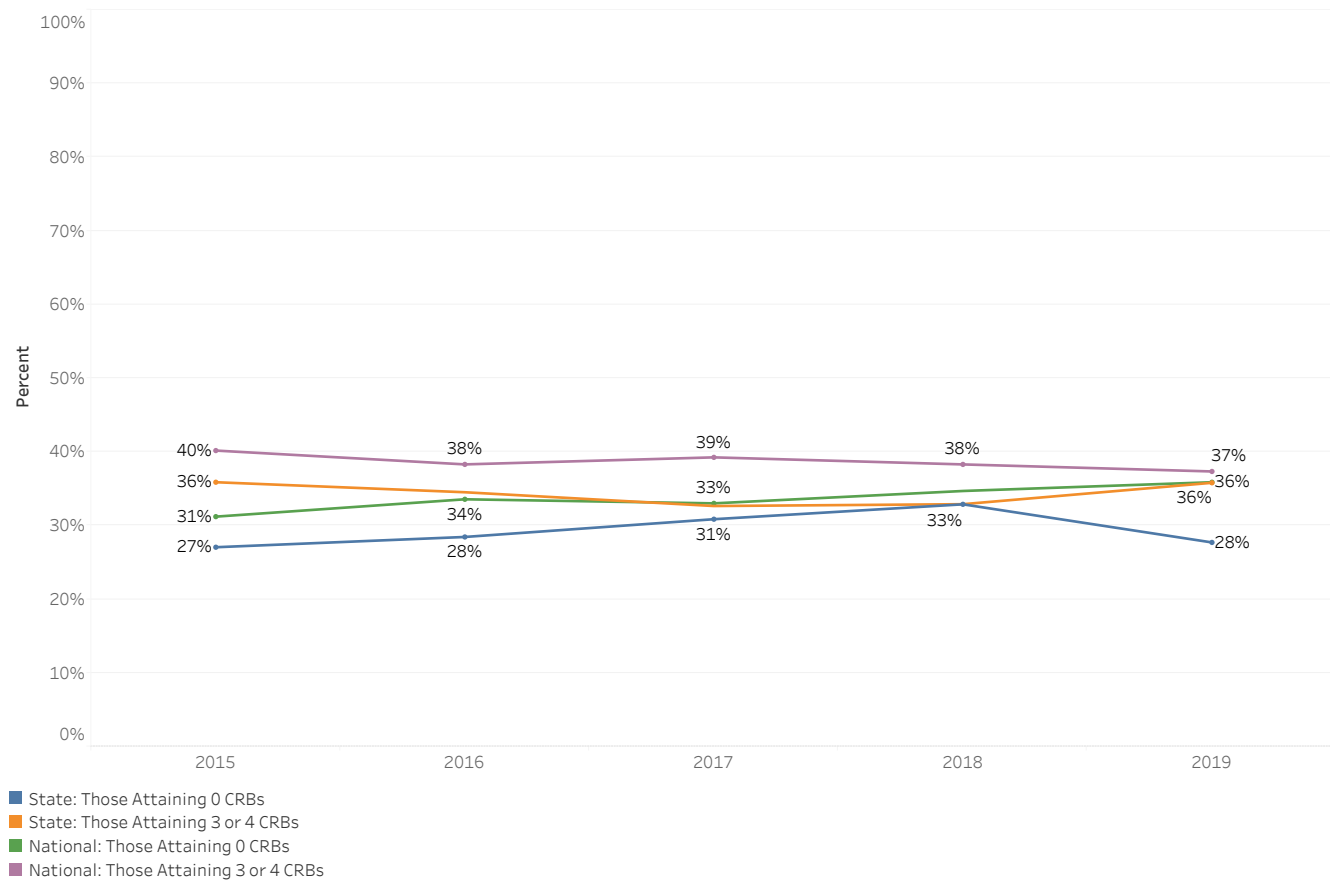
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	23%	10%	67%
Math	57%	10%	33%
Reading	39%	12%	49%
Science	50%	16%	34%

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



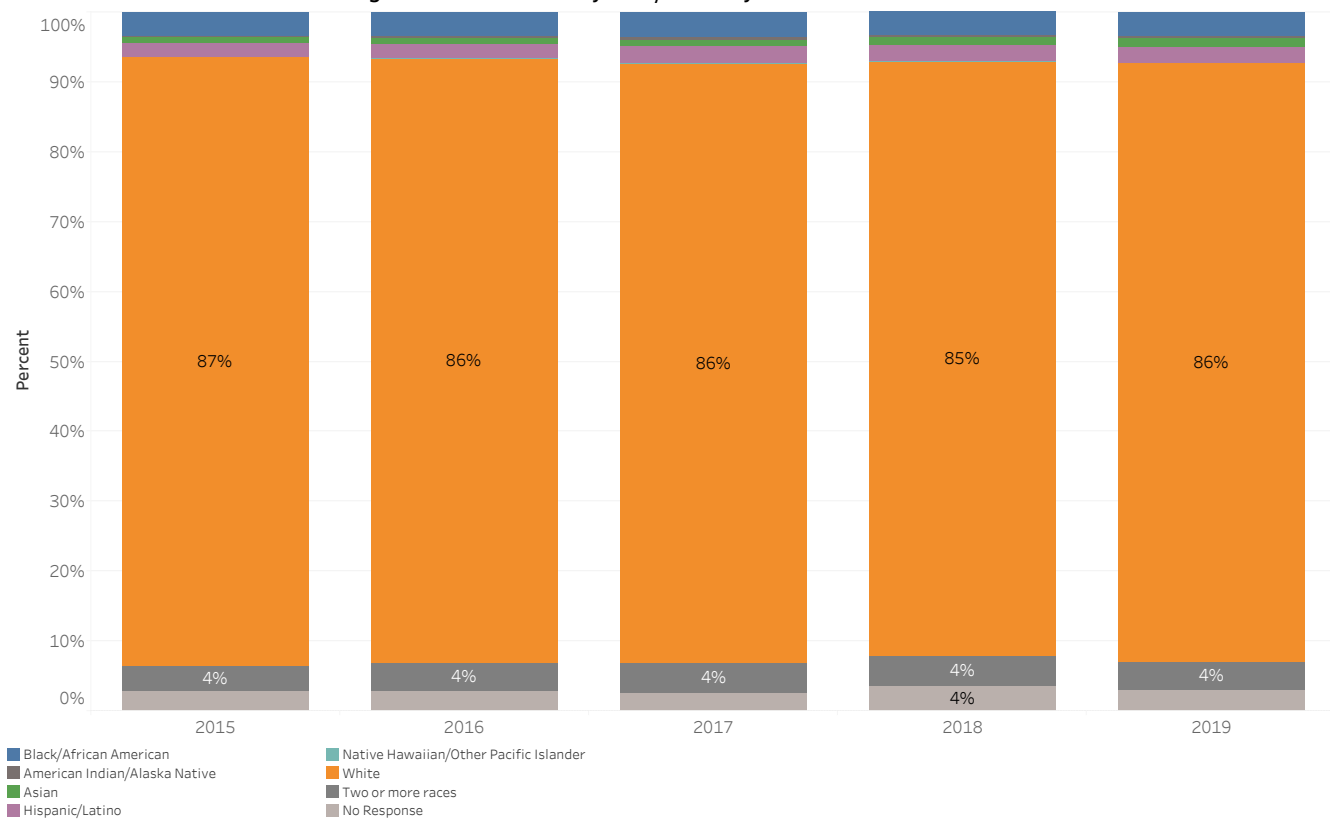
Data from Graph Above

	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	27%	36%	31%	40%
2016	28%	35%	34%	38%
2017	31%	33%	33%	39%
2018	33%	33%	35%	38%
2019	28%	36%	36%	37%

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WEST VIRGINIA 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%	0%	1%	2%	0%	87%	4%	3%
2016	3%	0%	1%	2%	0%	86%	4%	3%
2017	4%	0%	1%	2%	0%	86%	4%	3%
2018	3%	0%	1%	2%	0%	85%	4%	4%
2019	3%	0%	1%	2%	0%	86%	4%	3%

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WEST VIRGINIA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

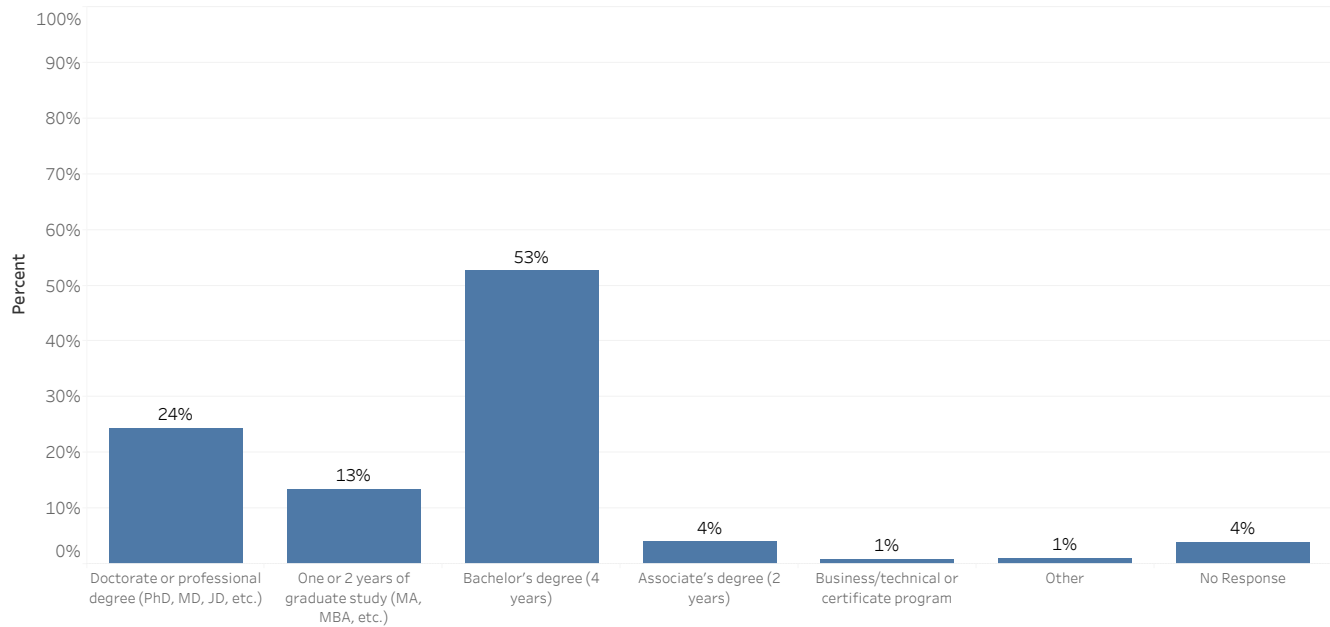
Student Data Trends: 2015-2019, State vs. Nation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	11,289	11,682	12,011	11,601	8,525
National N-count	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817	1,782,820
Average ACT English Score - State	20.6	20.5	20.0	19.8	20.6
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	21.5	21.5	21.2	21.3	21.7
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	19.7	19.6	19.4	19.4	19.7
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	20.7	20.7	20.5	20.4	20.7
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	20.8	20.7	20.4	20.3	20.8
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

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WEST VIRGINIA 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.)	24%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	13%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	53%
Associate's degree (2 years)	4%
Business/technical or certificate program	1%
Other	1%
No Response	4%

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