Educational/Career Aspirations & Economic Development

Educational Aspirations by Race/Ethnicity

At least 88% of all 2009 ACT-tested high school graduates aspired to attain at least a 2-year postsecondary degree, regardless of race/ethnicity.

About 89% of Asian American/Pacific Islander graduates aspired to earn at least a bachelor's degree, with almost 62% aspiring to continue their formal education beyond a 4-year degree. American Indian/Alaska Native graduates were the least likely to aspire to a graduate or professional degree (39%). A greater percentage of African American (45%), Hispanic (46%), and White (43%) graduates aspired to a graduate or professional degree.

Graph reads: In 2009, 45% of ACT-tested African American high school graduates aspired to a graduate or professional degree, 34% to a Bachelor's degree, 7% to an Associate's or Voc-tech degree, and 14% to another degree type (or provided no response).

Percent of ACT-tested High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity and Educational Aspirations, 2009

