

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019

Louisiana Key Findings

Performance of 2019 Graduates

- In the 2019 Louisiana graduating class, 54,302 graduates (an estimated 100 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 18.8. This compares to 49,082 (an estimated 100 percent) with an average of 19.4 in 2015. Nationally, an estimated 52 percent of 2019 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.7.
 - There were 17,532 African American graduates from Louisiana who took the ACT (32 percent) with an average Composite score of 16.3. This compares to 17,887 (32 percent) with an average of 16.6, and 15,908 (32 percent) with an average of 16.9, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 24,416 White graduates from Louisiana who took the ACT (45 percent) with an average Composite score of 20.9. This compares to 25,403 (46 percent) with an average of 21.2, and 24,303 (50 percent) with an average of 21.1, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - There were 3,576 Hispanic graduates from Louisiana who took the ACT (7 percent) with an average Composite score of 18.3. This compares to 3,364 (6 percent) with an average of 18.8, and 2,528 (5 percent) with an average of 19.4, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
 - The 2019 Louisiana graduating class average English score was 18.7. This compares to 19.0 and 19.2 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 Louisiana graduating class average math score was 18.2. This compares to 18.5 and 18.9 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 Louisiana graduating class average reading score was 19.2. This compares to 19.6 and 19.7 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
 - The 2019 Louisiana graduating class average science score was 18.8. This compares to 19.1 and 19.4 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.

- In 2019, 14 percent of Louisiana graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 15 and 16 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 46 percent of Louisiana graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 43 and 38 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 51 percent of Louisiana graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 53 and 59 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 22 percent of Louisiana graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 24 and 27 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 32 percent of Louisiana graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 35 and 35 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 24 percent of Louisiana graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 25 and 27 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 12,886 (24 percent) of Louisiana graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 14,233 and 13,356 (26 and 27 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, 12 percent of Louisiana graduates took the ACT with extended time. This compares to 10 and 7 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
- 66 percent of 2019 Louisiana graduates were Below Proficient in understanding complex texts.

STEM

- In 2019, 23,855 Louisiana graduates (44 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
- Compared to a 2019 Louisiana graduating class average ACT STEM score of 18.7, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM averages of 19.1 and 19.4, respectively.
- Compared to 9 percent of 2019 Louisiana graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 10 and 10, respectively.
 - 2019 Louisiana graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.8. This compares to 28.3 in 2015.
 - 2019 Louisiana graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 27.9. This compares to 27.8 in 2015.

Career Readiness Indicator

- In 2019, 15,068 Louisiana graduates (28 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.
- In 2019, 32,485 Louisiana graduates (60 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 Louisiana 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:
 - 141 more students enrolling in college.
 - 155 more students persisting to year two.
 - 112 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - 177 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - 159 more students persisting to year four.
 - 166 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Louisiana, 35,838 of the 2019 graduates (66.0 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 20.3, compared to an average of 16.1 for 18,464 of the 2019 graduates (34.0 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.
- 142,046 score reports were sent to colleges by 2019 Louisiana ACT-tested graduates.
 - 98,566 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2019 Louisiana ACT-tested graduates.
 - For Louisiana's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top four schools to which scores were sent were Louisiana State University/A&M - Baton Rouge, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Southeastern Louisiana University, and Louisiana Tech University.
 - For Louisiana's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were the University of Southern Mississippi, Mississippi State University, and the University of Alabama.
- Compared to 66 percent of 2019 graduates nationally, 74 percent of Louisiana 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.
 - Compared to 75 percent of African American students nationally, 81 percent of Louisiana African American 2019 graduates opted into EOS.
 - Compared to 64 percent of White students nationally, 76 percent of Louisiana White 2019 graduates opted into EOS.
 - Compared to 76 percent of Hispanic students nationally, 82 percent of Louisiana Hispanic 2019 graduates opted into EOS.

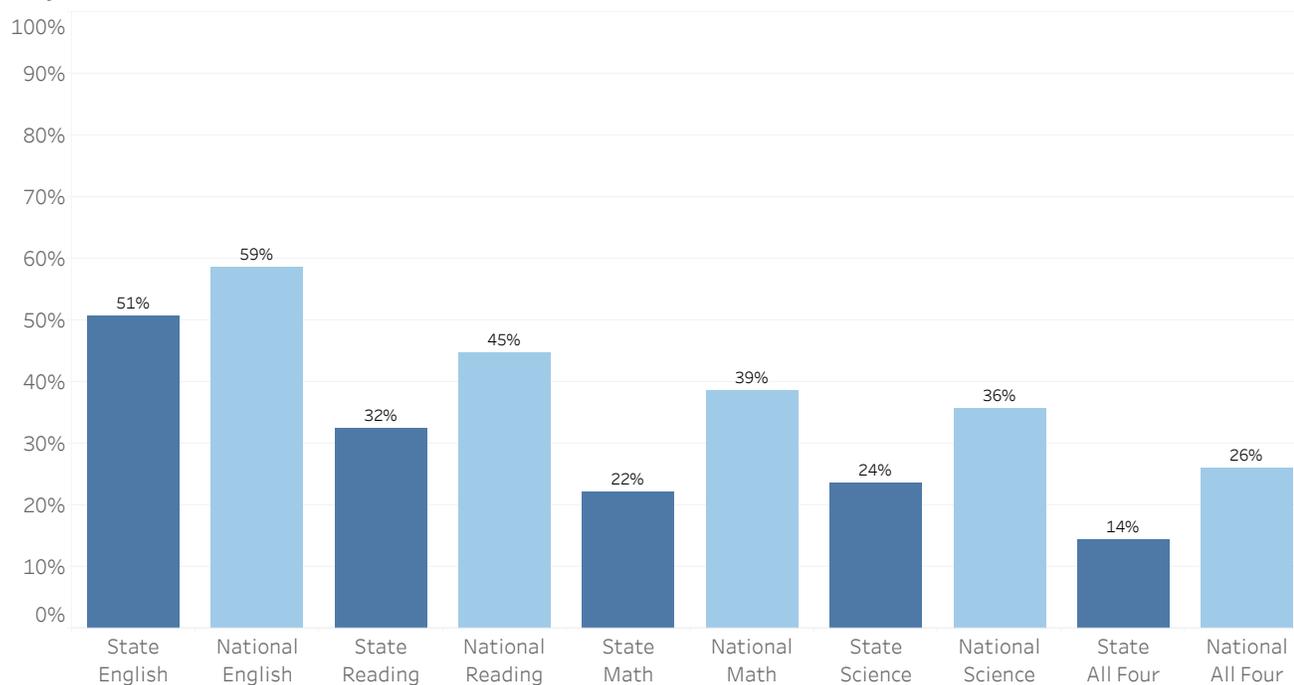
- In the 2018-2019 academic year, ACT issued 20,465 ACT fee waivers to qualified Louisiana students across all grades. However, 4,510 students (22.0 percent) did not take advantage of this opportunity to test for free. This compares to 487,749 waivers issued nationally, of which 135,569 (27.8 percent) students did not take advantage. Fee waivers represent a great opportunity for students of low socioeconomic status to retake without incurring any fees.
 - While African American Louisiana students represent 60 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 63 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 32 and 34 nationally.
 - While White Louisiana students represent 21 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 18 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 19 and 17 nationally.
 - While Hispanic Louisiana students represent 6 percent of fee waivers issued, they account for 6 percent of unused fee waivers. This compares to 35 and 36 nationally.

Postsecondary Aspirations

- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - 12,792 students (24 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 22.3.
 - 20,048 students (37 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 19.2.
- In the Louisiana graduating class of 2019, 12,123 students (22 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2019 Louisiana graduates were: Undecided; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; and Biology, General.
 - In the Louisiana graduating class of 2019, 1,337 (2 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 19.4.

LOUISIANA 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

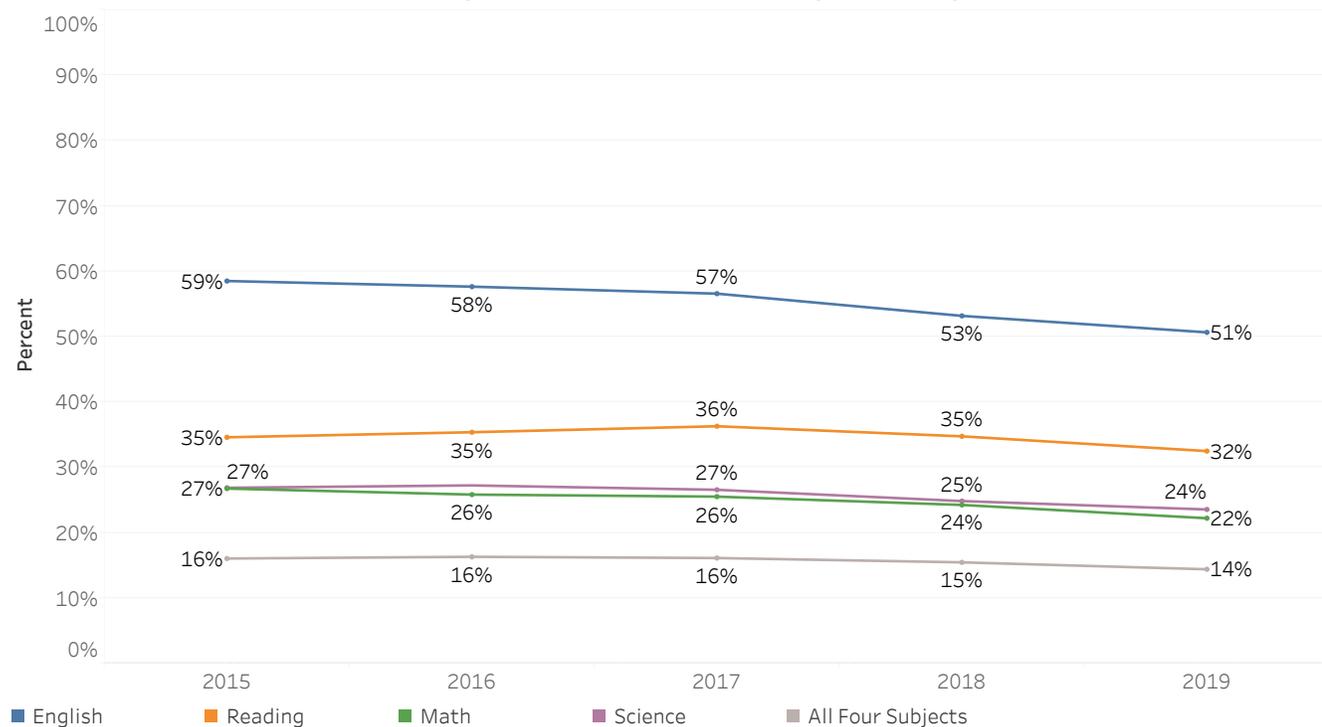
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
51%	59%	32%	45%	22%	39%	24%	36%	14%	26%

* 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.

LOUISIANA 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

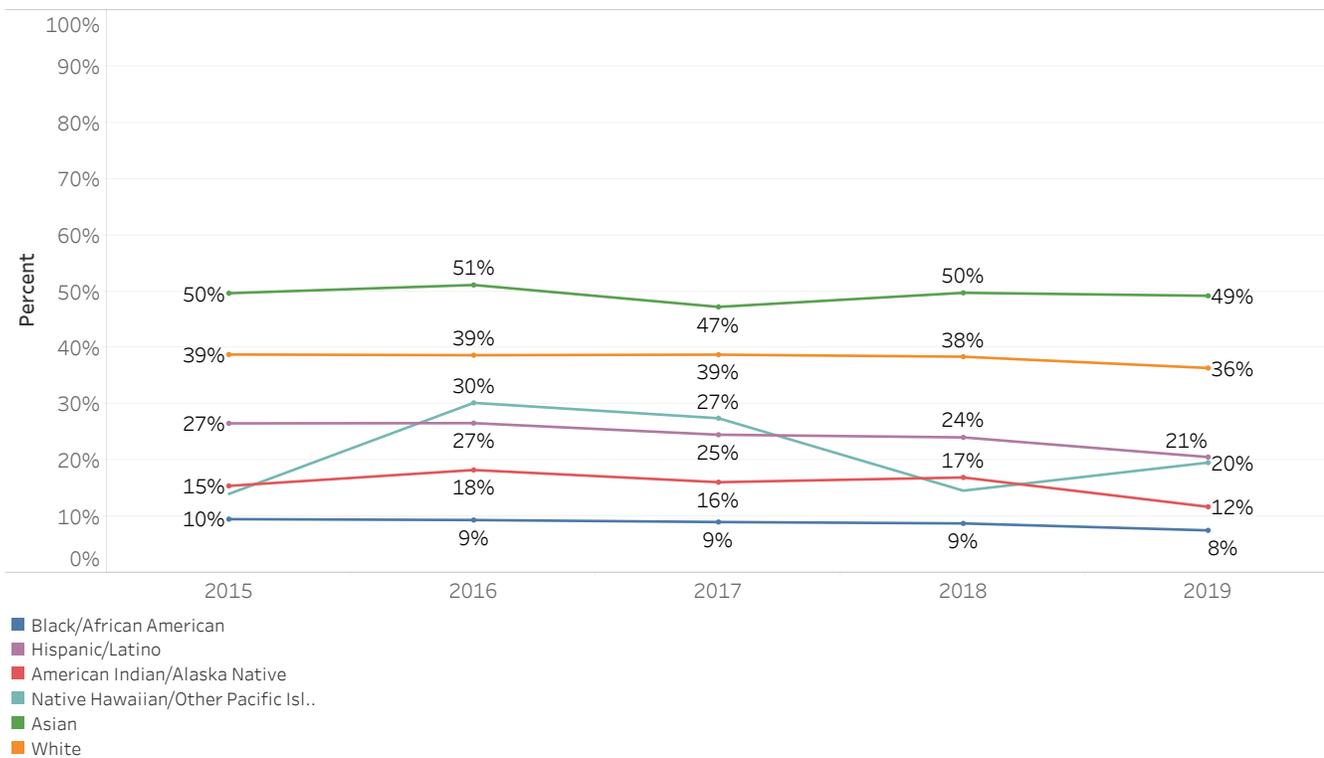
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	59%	35%	27%	27%	16%
2016	58%	35%	26%	27%	16%
2017	57%	36%	26%	27%	16%
2018	53%	35%	24%	25%	15%
2019	51%	32%	22%	24%	14%

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LOUISIANA 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



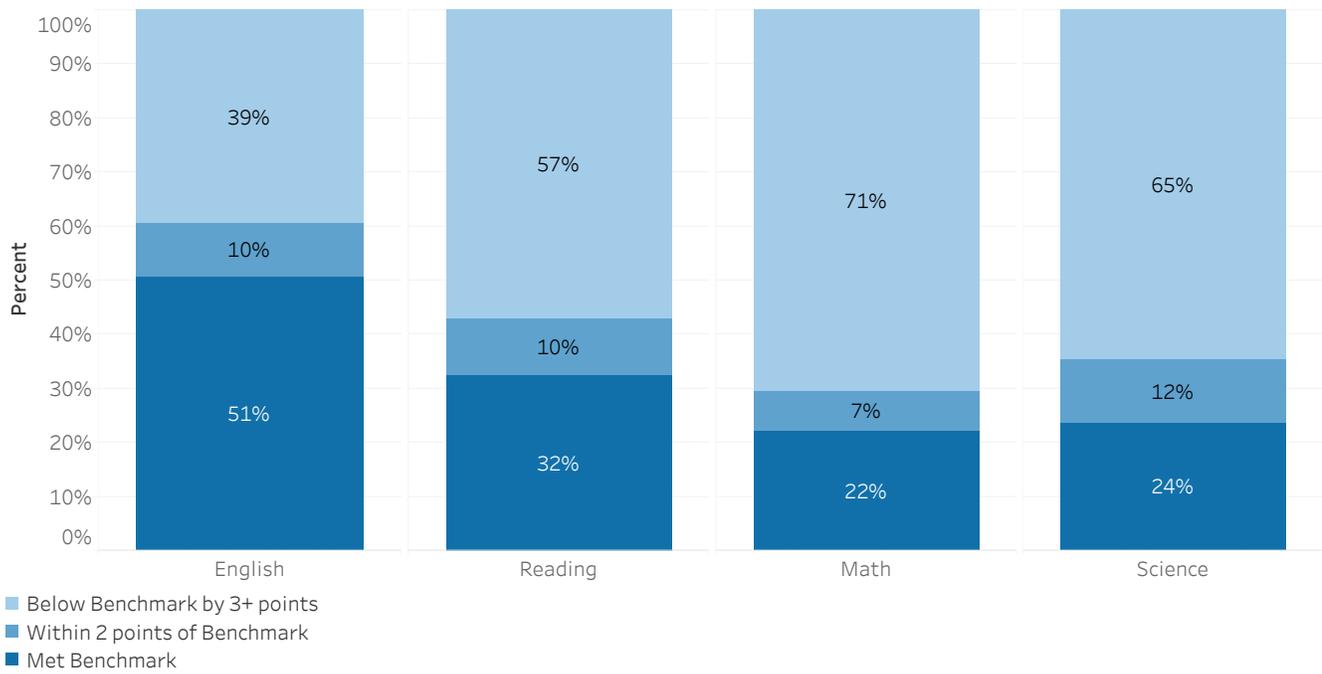
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2015	10%	27%	15%	14%	50%	39%
2016	9%	27%	18%	30%	51%	39%
2017	9%	25%	16%	27%	47%	39%
2018	9%	24%	17%	15%	50%	38%
2019	8%	21%	12%	20%	49%	36%

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LOUISIANA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



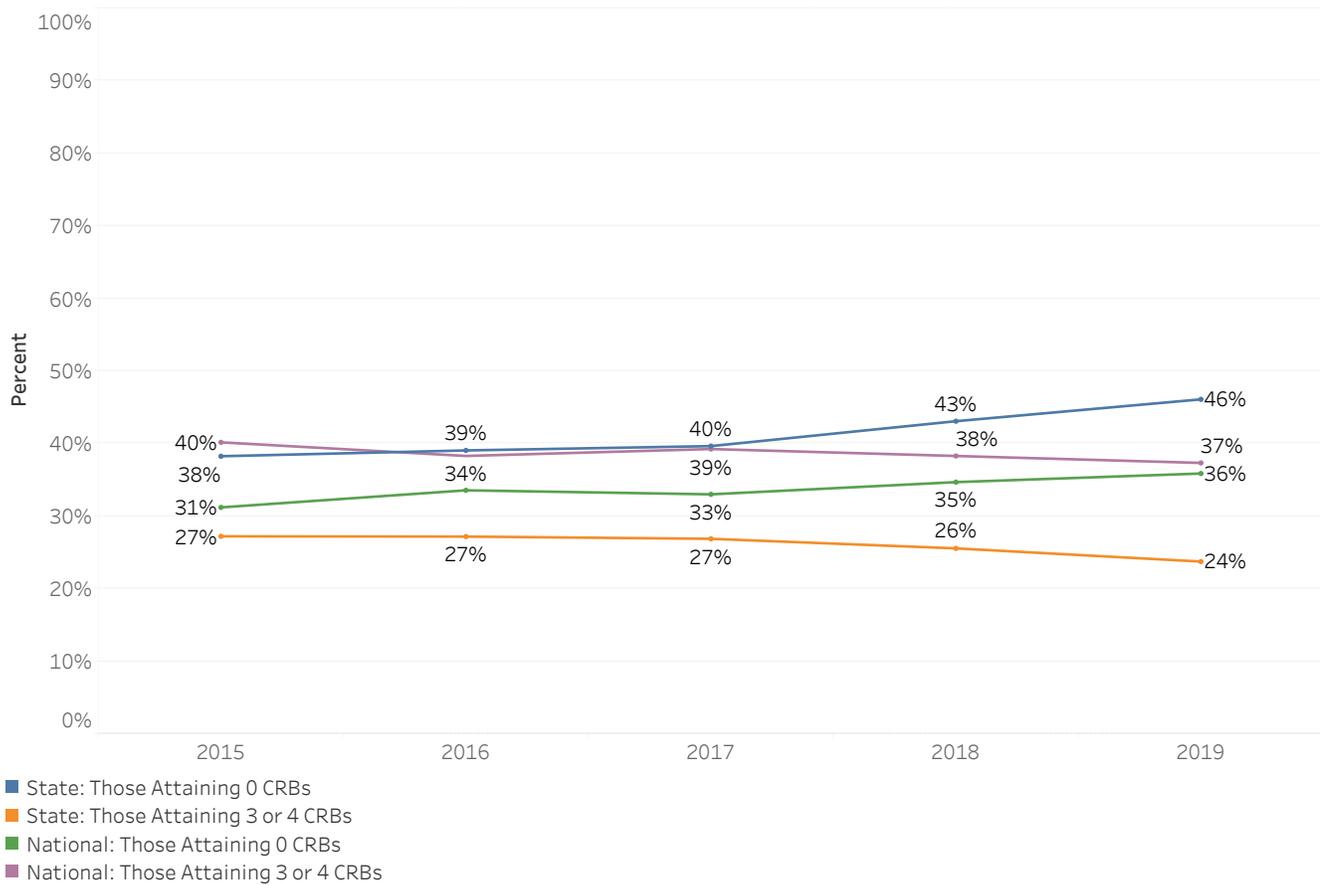
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	39%	10%	51%
Math	71%	7%	22%
Reading	57%	10%	32%
Science	65%	12%	24%

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LOUISIANA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



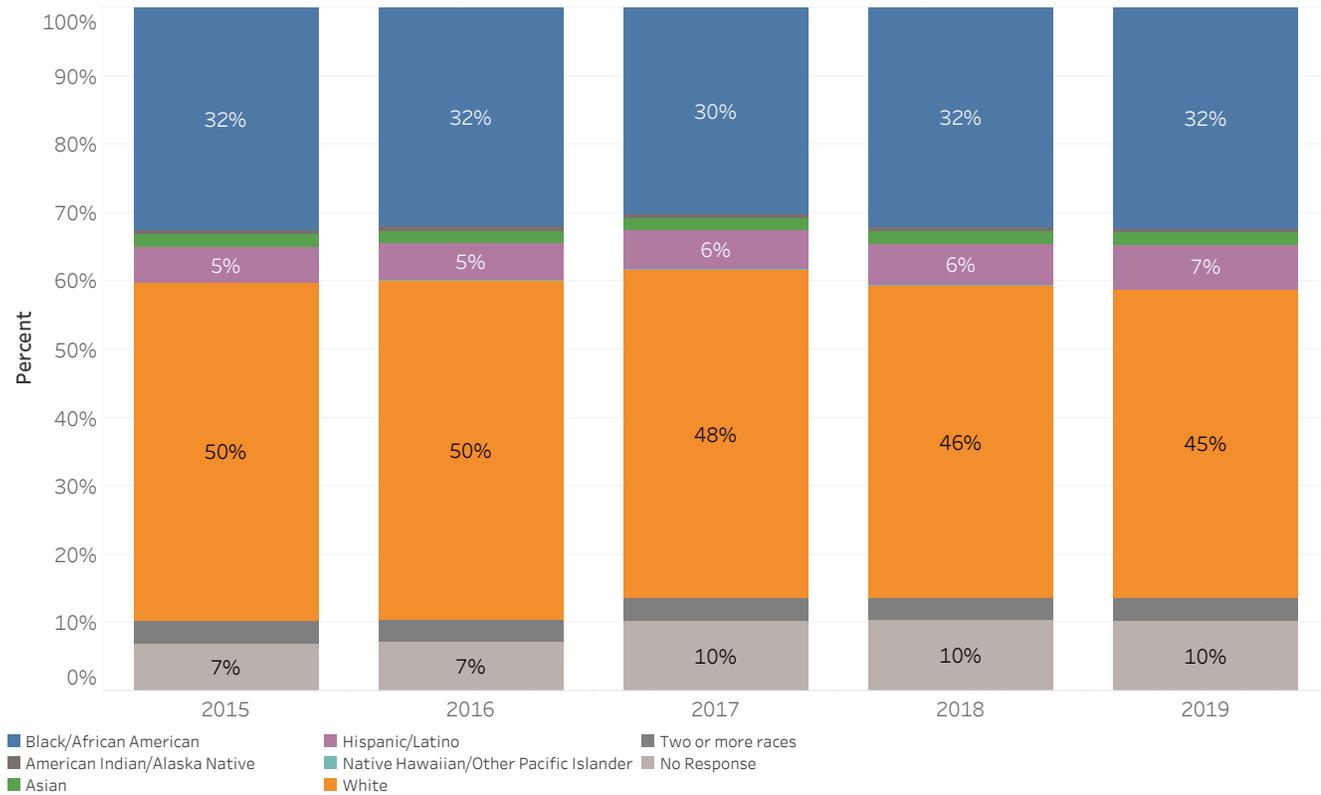
Data from Graph Above

	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	38%	27%	31%	40%
2016	39%	27%	34%	38%
2017	40%	27%	33%	39%
2018	43%	26%	35%	38%
2019	46%	24%	36%	37%

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LOUISIANA 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	32%	1%	2%	5%	0%	50%	3%	7%
2016	32%	1%	2%	5%	0%	50%	3%	7%
2017	30%	1%	2%	6%	0%	48%	3%	10%
2018	32%	1%	2%	6%	0%	46%	3%	10%
2019	32%	1%	2%	7%	0%	45%	4%	10%

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LOUISIANA College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

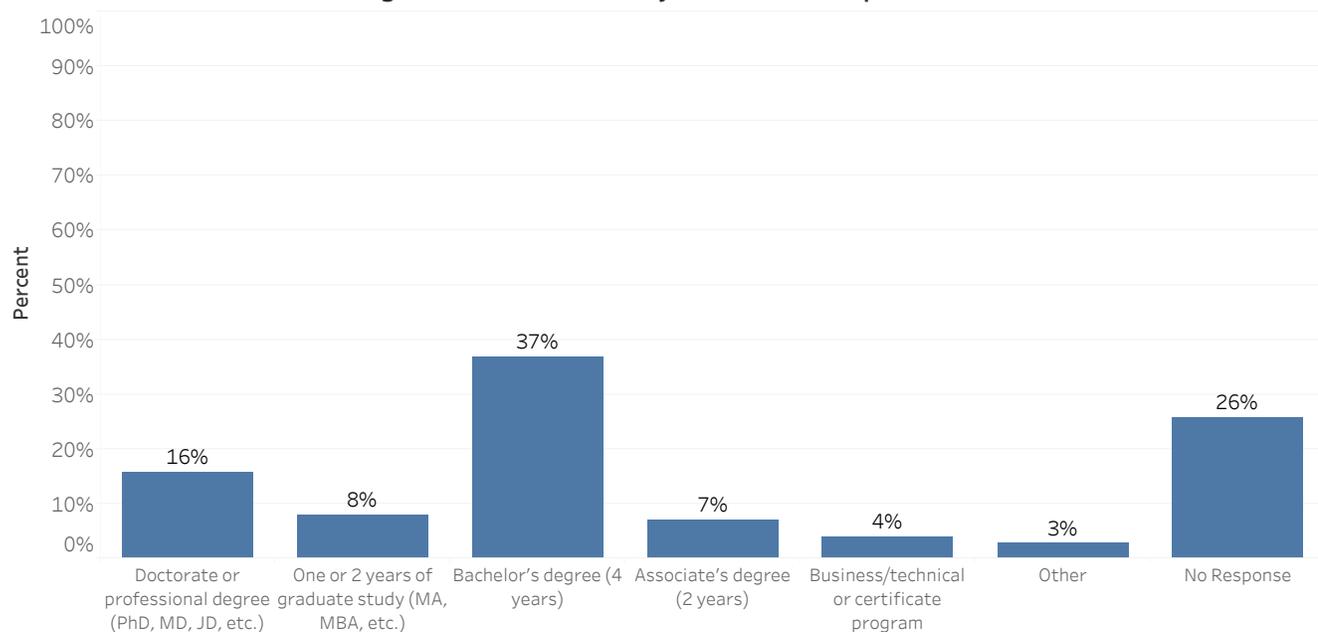
Student Data Trends: 2015-2019, State vs. Nation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	49,082	48,692	51,486	55,711	54,302
National N-count	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817	1,782,820
Average ACT English Score - State	19.2	19.3	19.4	19.0	18.7
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	19.7	19.9	19.8	19.6	19.2
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	18.9	18.8	18.8	18.5	18.2
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	19.4	19.6	19.6	19.1	18.8
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	19.4	19.5	19.5	19.2	18.8
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

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LOUISIANA 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.)	16%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	8%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	37%
Associate's degree (2 years)	7%
Business/technical or certificate program	4%
Other	3%
No Response	26%

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