The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019
Maryland Key Findings

Performance of 2019 Graduates

- In the 2019 Maryland graduating class, 17,617 graduates (an estimated 28 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 22.3. This compares to 15,753 (an estimated 25 percent) with an average of 22.7 in 2015. Nationally, an estimated 52 percent of 2019 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.7.

  - There were 3,978 African American graduates from Maryland who took the ACT (23 percent) with an average Composite score of 18.4. This compares to 4,373 (23 percent) with an average of 18.4, and 4,051 (26 percent) with an average of 18.5, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.

  - There were 8,047 White graduates from Maryland who took the ACT (46 percent) with an average Composite score of 24.0. This compares to 8,882 (46 percent) with an average of 24.3, and 7,350 (47 percent) with an average of 24.7, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.

  - There were 1,646 Hispanic graduates from Maryland who took the ACT (9 percent) with an average Composite score of 20.4. This compares to 1,801 (9 percent) with an average of 20.6, and 1,214 (8 percent) with an average of 21.6, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.

  - There were 1,205 Asian graduates from Maryland who took the ACT (7 percent) with an average Composite score of 25.9. This compares to 1,296 (7 percent) with an average of 26.1, and 1,092 (7 percent) with an average of 25.8, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.

- In 2019, 36 percent of Maryland graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 37 and 39 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.

  - In 2019, 27 percent of Maryland graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 26 and 22 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.

  - In 2019, 68 percent of Maryland graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 69 and 73 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.

  - In 2019, 48 percent of Maryland graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 50 and 55 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.

  - In 2019, 56 percent of Maryland graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 57 and 57 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.

  - In 2019, 47 percent of Maryland graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 47 and 50 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.

  - In 2019, 8,556 (49 percent) of Maryland graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 9,691 and 8,295 (50 and 53 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, 7,525 Maryland graduates (43 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.

- Compared to a 2019 Maryland graduating class average ACT STEM score of 22.1, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM averages of 22.4 and 22.7, respectively.

- In 2019, 8,952 Maryland graduates (51 percent) indicated taking physics. This compares to 55 and 64 percent for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.

Career Readiness Indicator

- In 2019, 9,189 Maryland graduates (52 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 Maryland 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:

  - 39 more students enrolling in college.

  - 44 more students persisting to year two.

  - 30 fewer students needing remedial English.

  - 48 fewer students needing remedial math.

  - 50 more students persisting to year four.

  - 53 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Maryland, 5,375 of the 2019 graduates (30.5 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 25.0, compared to an average of 21.1 for 12,242 of the 2019 graduates (69.5 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.

- 24,792 score reports were sent to colleges by 2019 Maryland ACT-tested graduates.

  - 10,158 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2019 Maryland ACT-tested graduates.

  - For Maryland's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were the University of Maryland College Park, Towson University, the University of Maryland Baltimore County, Anne Arundel Community College, and Salisbury University.

  - For Maryland's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were Penn State - University Park Campus, Howard University, and Virginia Tech.

- Compared to 66 percent of 2019 graduates nationally, 61 percent of Maryland 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 2,916 ACT fee waivers to qualified Maryland students across all grades. However, 806 students (27.6 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.

  - 7,065 students (40 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 24.8.

  - 4,991 students (28 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 21.0.

  - 227 students (1 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 16.7.

- In the Maryland graduating class of 2019, 1,268 students (7 percent) had parents who did not attend college.

- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2019 Maryland graduates were: Undecided; Biology, General; Medicine (Pre-Medicine); Business Administration and Management, General; and Computer Science and Programming.

  - In the Maryland graduating class of 2019, 2,316 students (13 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 24.0. 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 Maryland graduating class of 2019, 386 (2 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 20.6.

Additional Points

- In 2019, ACT honored College and Career Readiness Champions in most states. The Maryland honorees were:

  - High school senior: Zy'Kearra Miller, North County High School; K-12 professional: Natalie Gaudette, Professional School Counselor, Chesapeake Math and IT Academy North; and postsecondary professional: Althea Green, Director of Recruitment and Outreach, Uniformed Services University.

MARYLAND College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates Meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmarks* by Subject
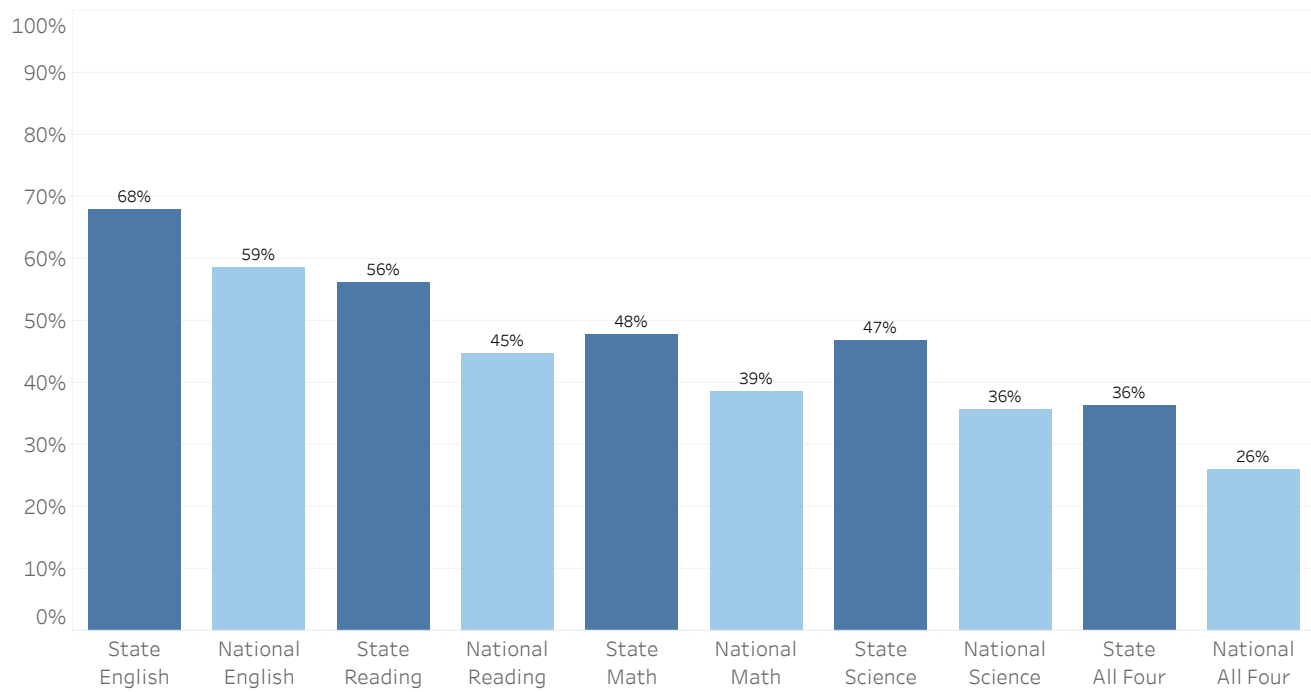
Data From Graph Above

State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
68%	59%	56%	45%	48%	39%	47%	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.

MARYLAND College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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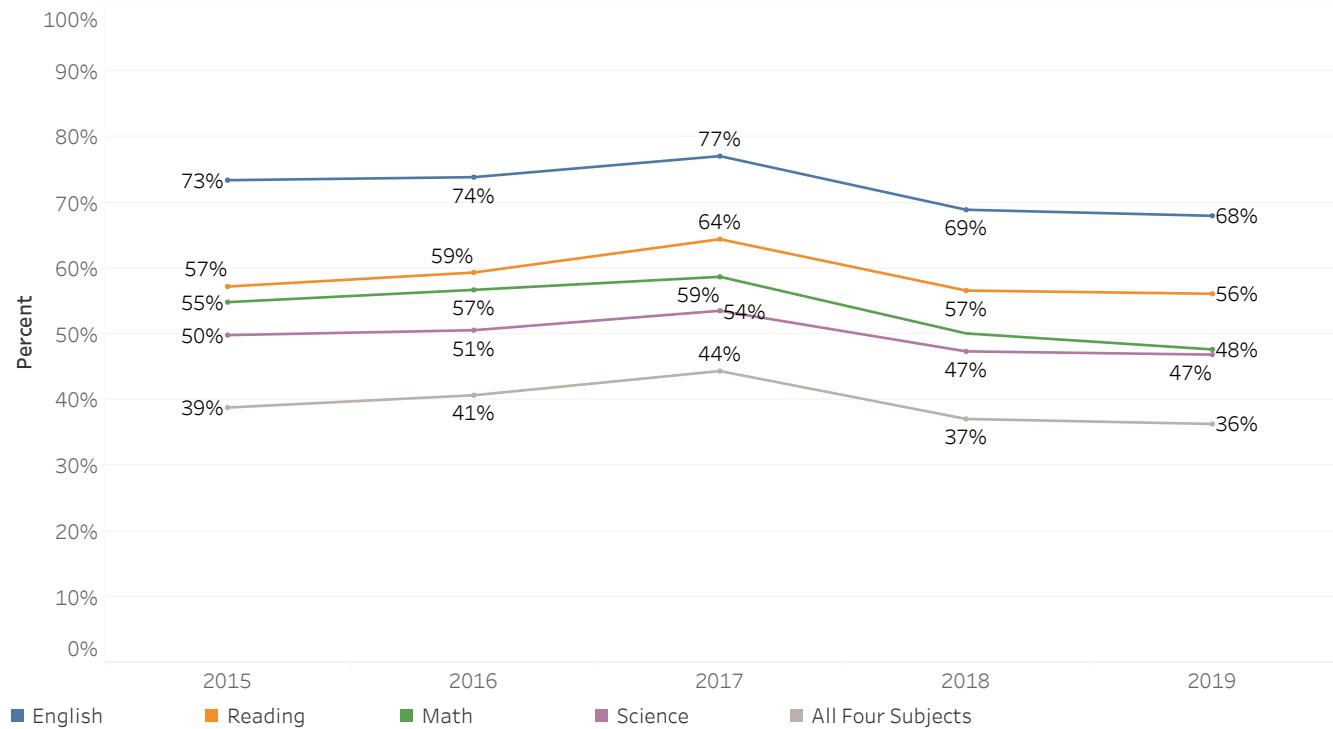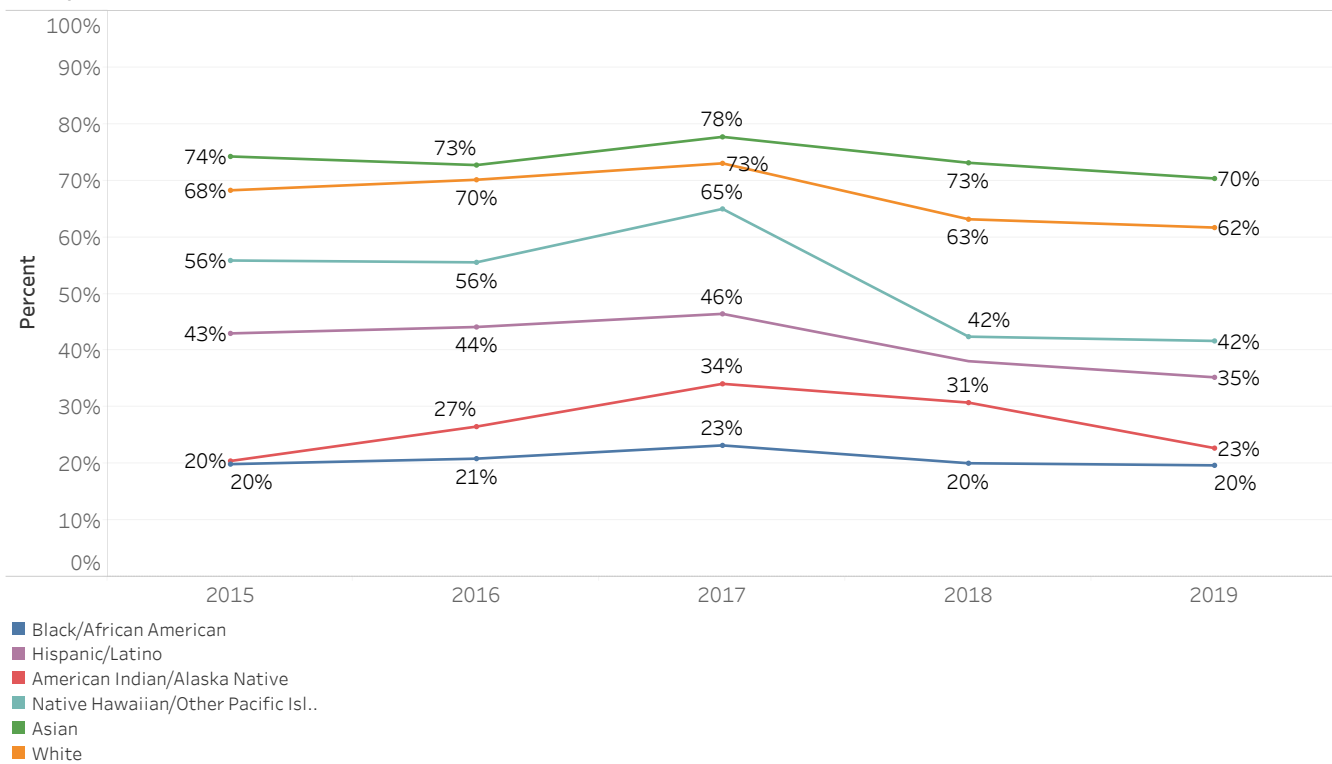

Data From Graph Above

	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	73%	57%	55%	50%	39%
2016	74%	59%	57%	51%	41%
2017	77%	64%	59%	54%	44%
2018	69%	57%	50%	47%	37%
2019	68%	56%	48%	47%	36%

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MARYLAND 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	20%	43%	20%	56%	74%	68%
2016	21%	44%	27%	56%	73%	70%
2017	23%	46%	34%	65%	78%	73%
2018	20%	38%	31%	42%	73%	63%
2019	20%	35%	23%	42%	70%	62%

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MARYLAND College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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

- Below Benchmark by 3+ points
- Within 2 points of Benchmark
- Met Benchmark
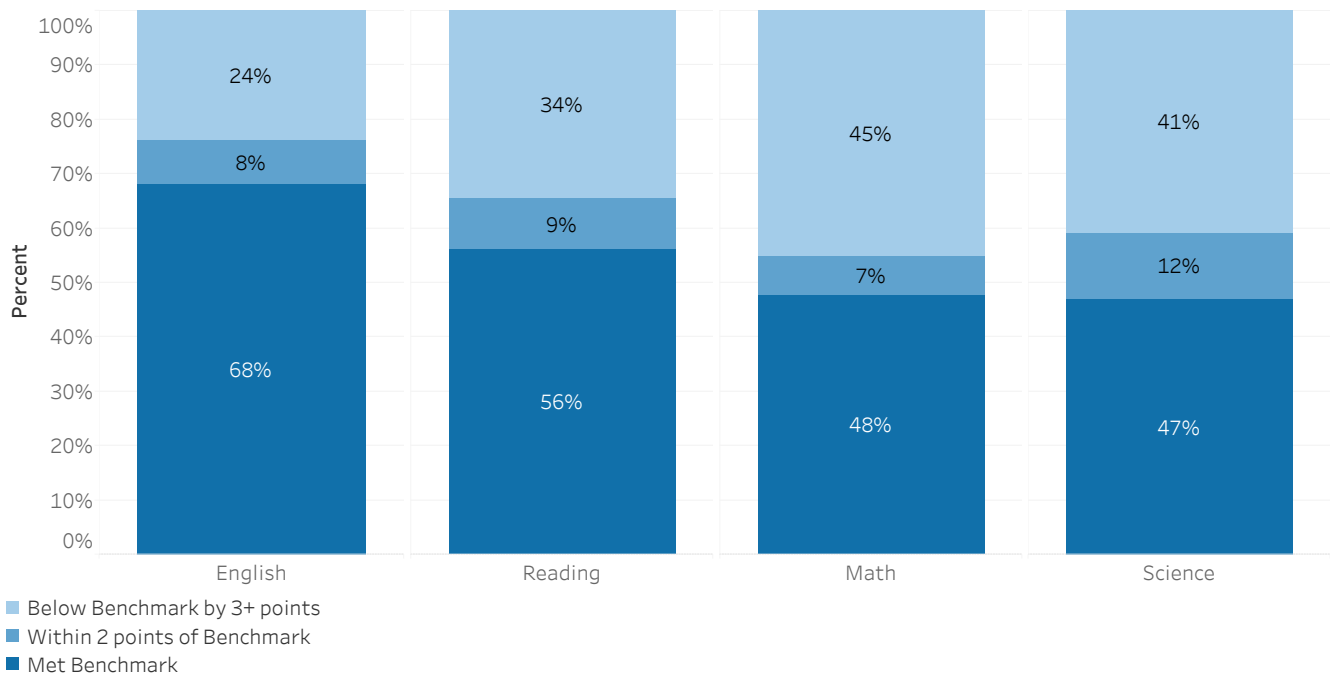
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	24%	8%	68%
Math	45%	7%	48%
Reading	34%	9%	56%
Science	41%	12%	47%

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MARYLAND College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

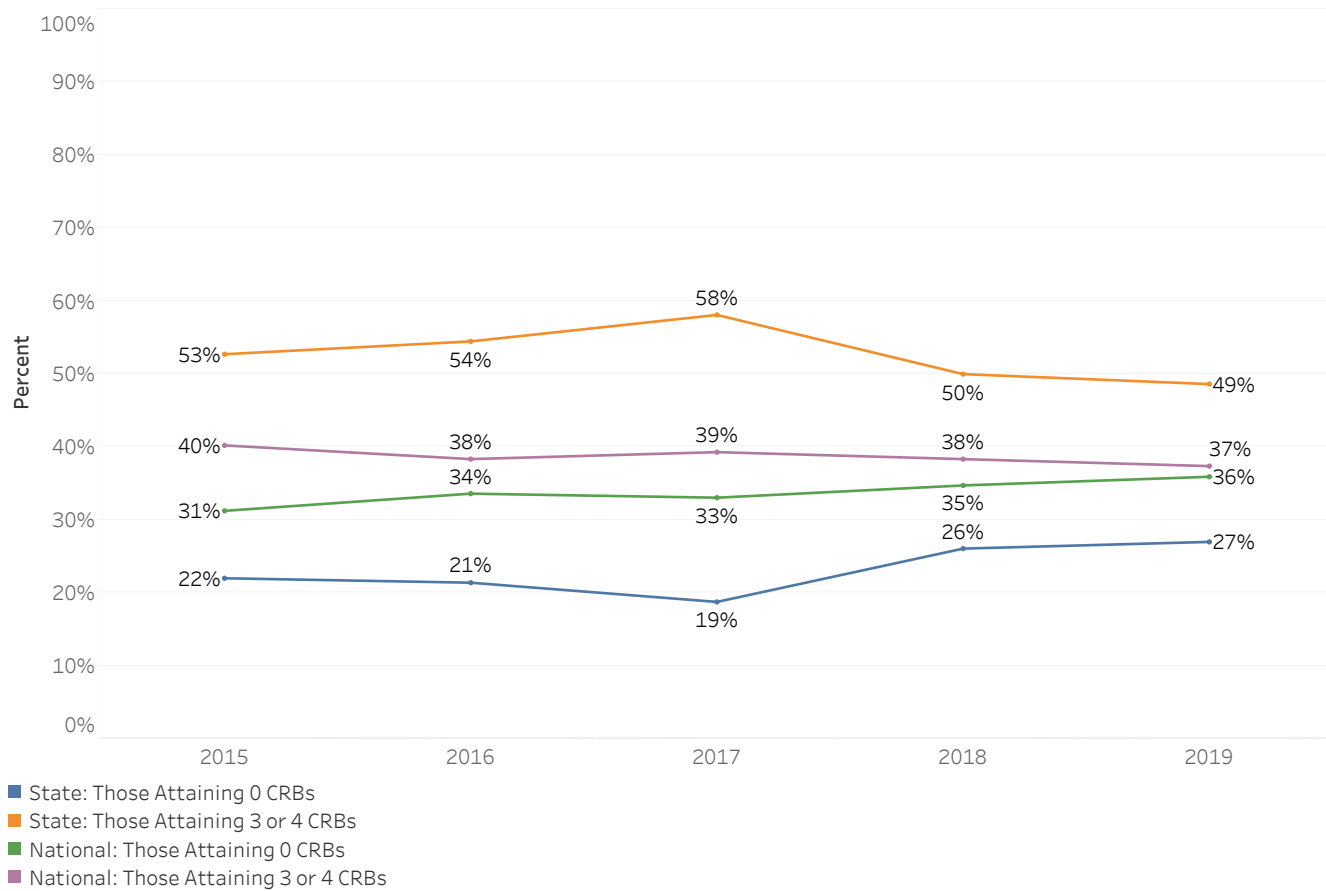### Percent of 2015–2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates Meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmarks*


- ■ State: Those Attaining 0 CRBs
- ■ State: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs
- ■ National: Those Attaining 0 CRBs
- ■ National: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs

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	22%	53%	31%	40%
2016	21%	54%	34%	38%
2017	19%	58%	33%	39%
2018	26%	50%	35%	38%
2019	27%	49%	36%	37%

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Percent of 2015-2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity
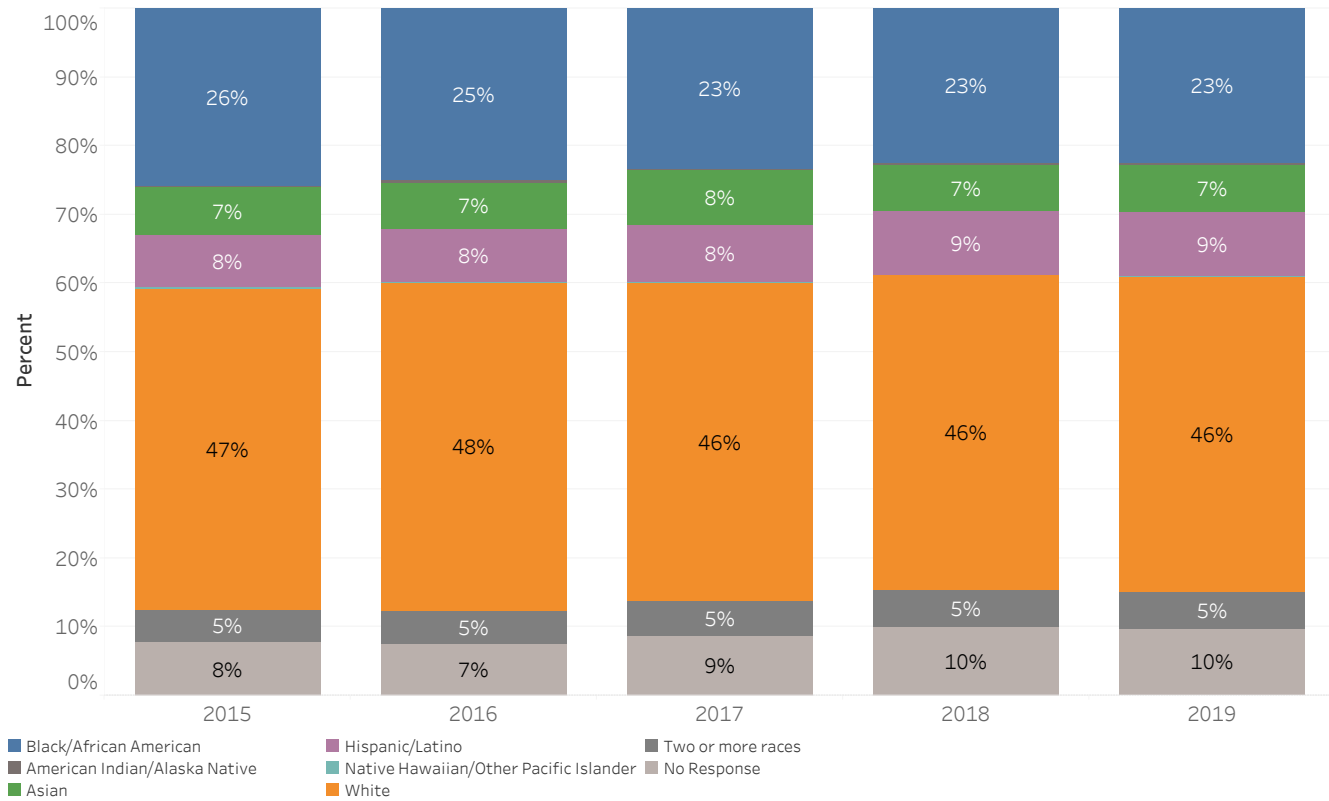
Legend:
- Black/African American
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Asian
- Hispanic/Latino
- Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Two or more races
- No Response

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	26%	0%	7%	8%	0%	47%	5%	8%
2016	25%	0%	7%	8%	0%	48%	5%	7%
2017	23%	0%	8%	8%	0%	46%	5%	9%
2018	23%	0%	7%	9%	0%	46%	5%	10%
2019	23%	0%	7%	9%	0%	46%	5%	10%

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# MARYLAND College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	15,753	16,769	17,179	19,408	17,617
National N-count	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817	1,782,820
Average ACT English Score - State	22.3	22.6	23.3	22.1	22.0
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	23.2	23.6	24.2	23.1	23.1
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	22.5	22.7	23.1	22.0	21.7
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	22.5	22.8	23.2	22.2	22.1
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	22.7	23.0	23.6	22.5	22.3
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

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MARYLAND College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates by Educational Aspirations
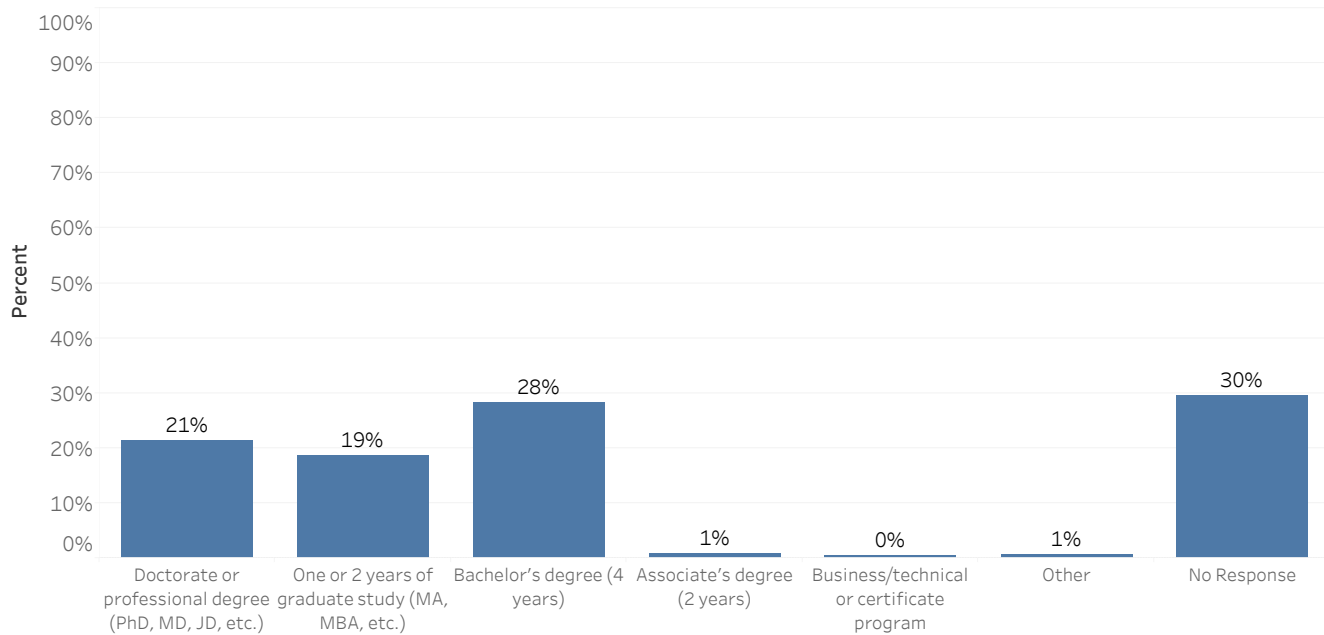
Data From Graph Above

	% of Graduates
Doctorate or professional degree (PhD, MD, JD, etc.)	21%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	19%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	28%
Associate's degree (2 years)	1%
Business/technical or certificate program	0%
Other	1%
No Response	30%

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