

# The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019

## New Hampshire Key Findings

### Performance of 2019 Graduates

- In the 2019 New Hampshire graduating class, 2,106 graduates (an estimated 14 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 25.0. This compares to 3,487 (an estimated 23 percent) with an average of 24.3 in 2015. Nationally, an estimated 52 percent of 2019 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.7.
  - There were 43 African American graduates from New Hampshire who took the ACT (2 percent) with an average Composite score of 23.4. This compares to 40 (2 percent) with an average of 22.8, and 67 (2 percent) with an average of 22.5, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - There were 1,508 White graduates from New Hampshire who took the ACT (72 percent) with an average Composite score of 24.9. This compares to 1,799 (74 percent) with an average of 24.9, and 2,736 (78 percent) with an average of 24.2, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - There were 95 Hispanic graduates from New Hampshire who took the ACT (5 percent) with an average Composite score of 24.5. This compares to 106 (4 percent) with an average of 25.1, and 96 (3 percent) with an average of 23.3, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - There were 162 Asian graduates from New Hampshire who took the ACT (8 percent) with an average Composite score of 27.0. This compares to 179 (7 percent) with an average of 26.1, and 196 (6 percent) with an average of 24.9, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
- In 2019, 53 percent of New Hampshire graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 52 and 49 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 9 percent of New Hampshire graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 8 and 10 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 87 percent of New Hampshire graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 88 and 86 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 70 percent of New Hampshire graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 72 and 68 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 72 percent of New Hampshire graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 73 and 68 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 64 percent of New Hampshire graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 64 and 62 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
  - In 2019, 1,442 (68 percent) of New Hampshire graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 1,692 and 2,265 (69 and 65 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, 9 percent of New Hampshire graduates took the ACT with extended time. This compares to 7 and 4 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.

## STEM

- In 2019, 1,124 New Hampshire graduates (53 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 New Hampshire graduating class average ACT STEM score of 24.8, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM averages of 24.8 and 24.2, respectively.
  - In 2019, 1,615 New Hampshire graduates (77 percent) indicated taking physics. This compares to 77 and 74 percent for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
  - 70 percent of 2019 New Hampshire graduates taking physics met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark, compared to 46 for students not taking physics.
  - 2019 New Hampshire graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 29.2. This compares to 28.5 in 2015.

## Career Readiness Indicator

- In 2019, 1,524 New Hampshire graduates (72 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 New Hampshire 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:
  - 4 more students enrolling in college.
  - 5 more students persisting to year two.
  - 3 fewer students needing remedial English.
  - 4 fewer students needing remedial math.
  - 6 more students persisting to year four.
  - 6 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

## Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In New Hampshire, 637 of the 2019 graduates (30.2 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 26.5, compared to an average of 24.4 for 1,469 of the 2019 graduates (69.8 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.
- 1,967 score reports were sent to colleges by 2019 New Hampshire ACT-tested graduates.
  - 213 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2019 New Hampshire ACT-tested graduates.
  - For New Hampshire’s 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were the University of New Hampshire, the University of Vermont, Northeastern University, University of Massachusetts - Amherst, and the University of Connecticut.

- Compared to 66 percent of 2019 graduates nationally, 49 percent of New Hampshire 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 100 ACT fee waivers to qualified New Hampshire students across all grades. However, 18 students (18.0 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. This represents a great opportunity for high schools within the state to increase the socioeconomic diversity of its students tested.

## Postsecondary Aspirations

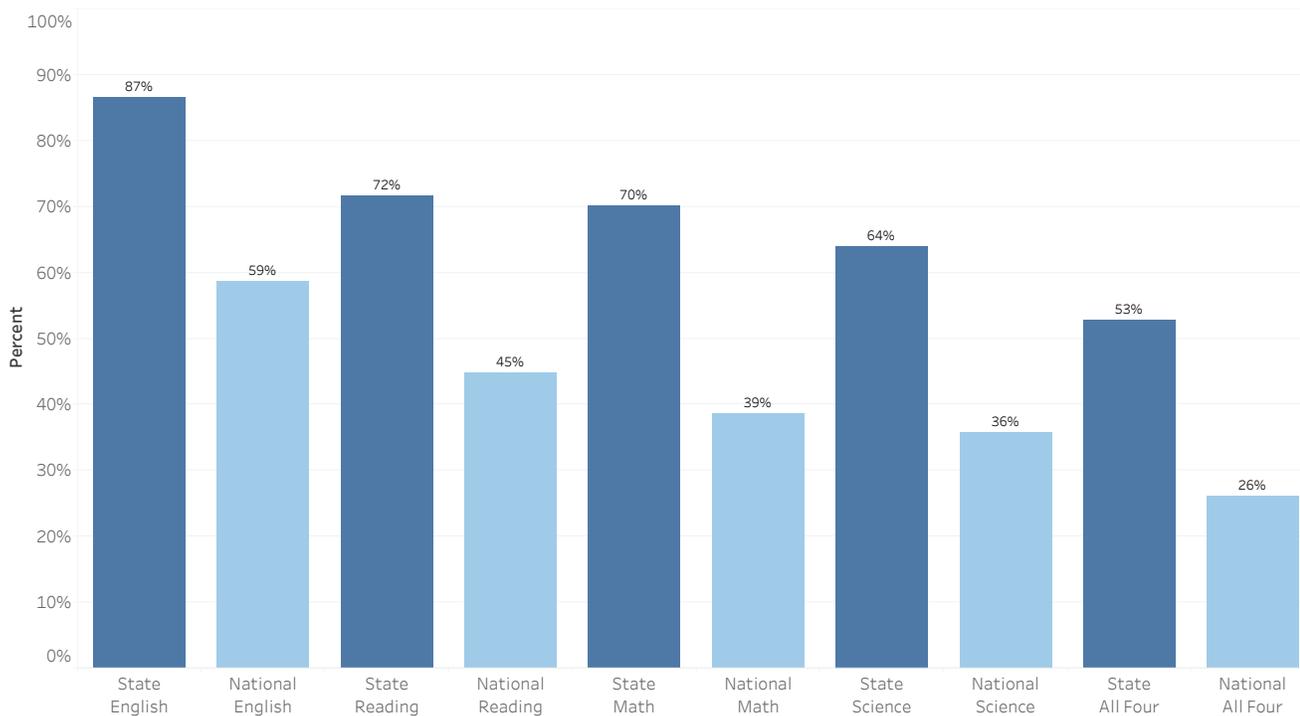
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
  - 1,070 students (51 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 26.5.
  - 595 students (28 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 23.3.
  - 13 students (1 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 18.5.
- In the New Hampshire graduating class of 2019, 70 students (3 percent) had parents who did not attend college.
- In order of prevalence, the five most commonly indicated college majors of interest for 2019 New Hampshire graduates were: Undecided; Biology, General; Nursing, Registered (BS/RN); Medicine (Pre-Medicine); and Business Administration and Management, General.
  - In the New Hampshire graduating class of 2019, 453 students (22 percent) indicated being undecided about their college major. They had an average Composite score of 25.1. 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 New Hampshire graduating class of 2019, 31 (1 percent) indicated planning on majoring in education. They had an average Composite score of 21.8.

## Additional Points

- The Northern New England ACT State Organization consists of members across 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 region.
- In 2019, ACT honored College and Career Readiness Champions in most states. The New Hampshire honorees were:
  - Catherine Boles, high school senior, Newport High School and William Dodge, math educator, Bow High School.
- Over 7,100 ACT National Career Readiness Certificates have been awarded in New Hampshire. The certificates range from Bronze to Platinum levels and display individuals' career readiness strengths to employers.
- According to the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the fastest-growing careers in New Hampshire requiring education beyond high school are: wind turbine service technicians, physicians' assistants, nurse practitioners, statisticians, and software developers.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE 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

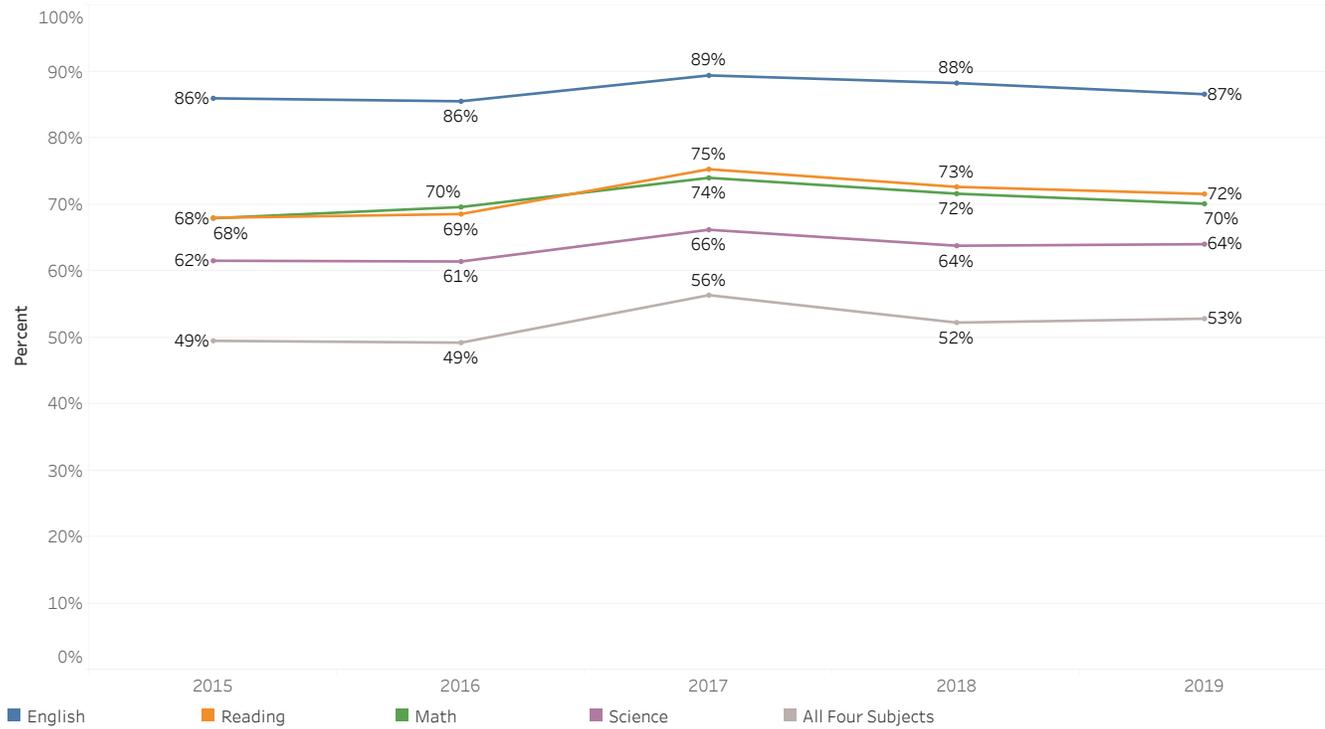
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
87%	59%	72%	45%	70%	39%	64%	36%	53%	26%

\*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.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE 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

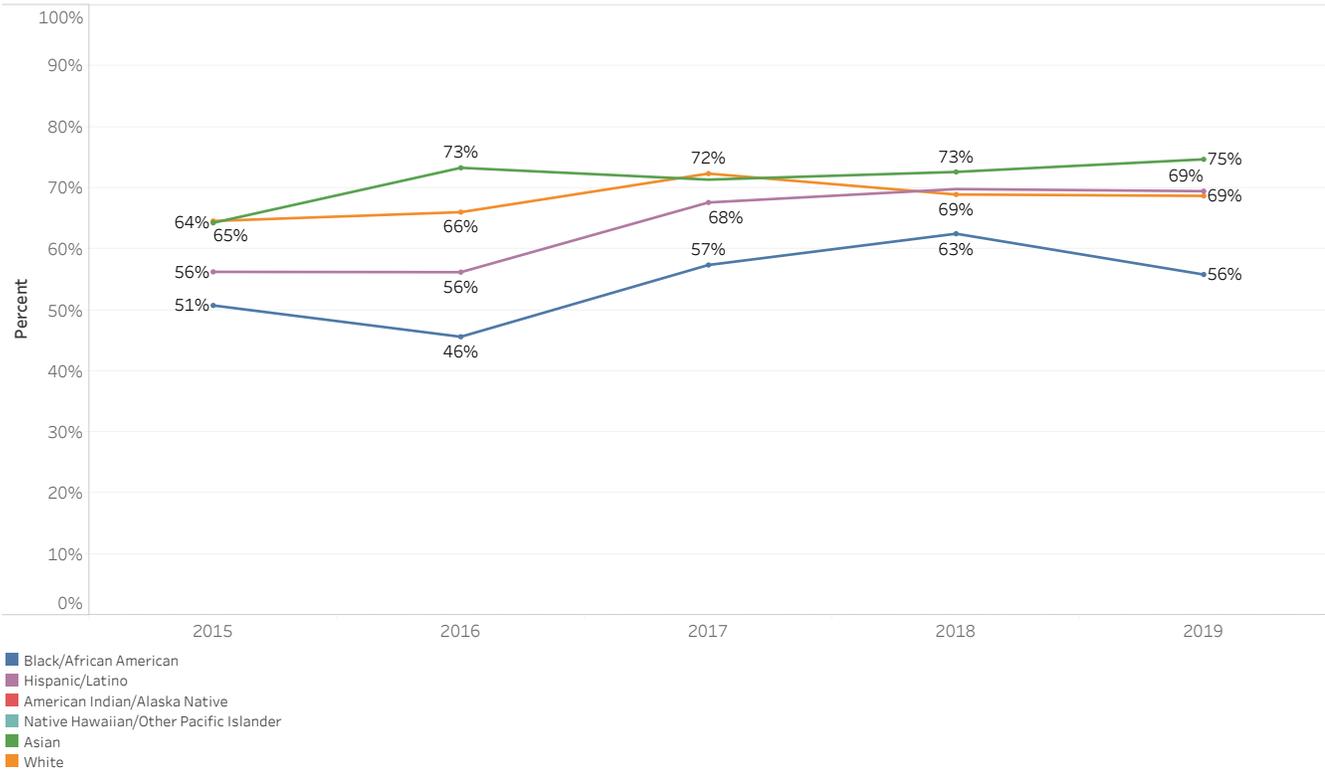
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	86%	68%	68%	62%	49%
2016	86%	69%	70%	61%	49%
2017	89%	75%	74%	66%	56%
2018	88%	73%	72%	64%	52%
2019	87%	72%	70%	64%	53%

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# NEW HAMPSHIRE 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



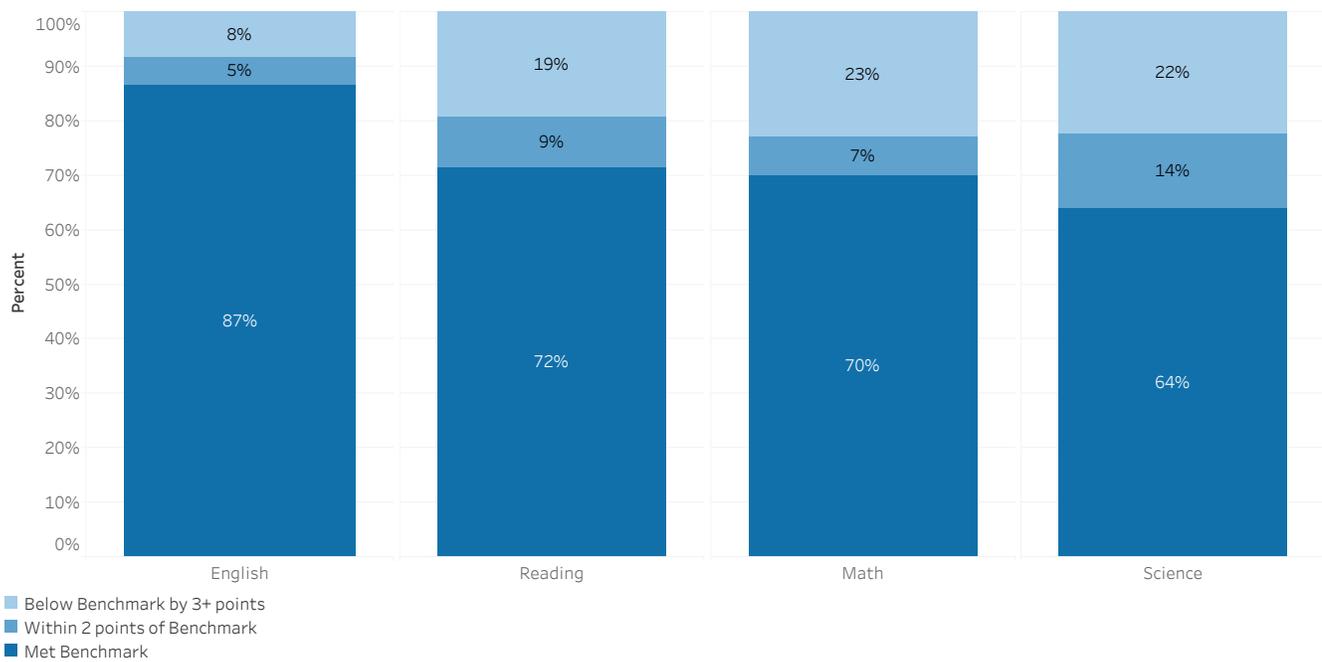
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2015	51%	56%			64%	65%
2016	46%	56%			73%	66%
2017	57%	68%			71%	72%
2018	63%	70%			73%	69%
2019	56%	69%			75%	69%

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# NEW HAMPSHIRE College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



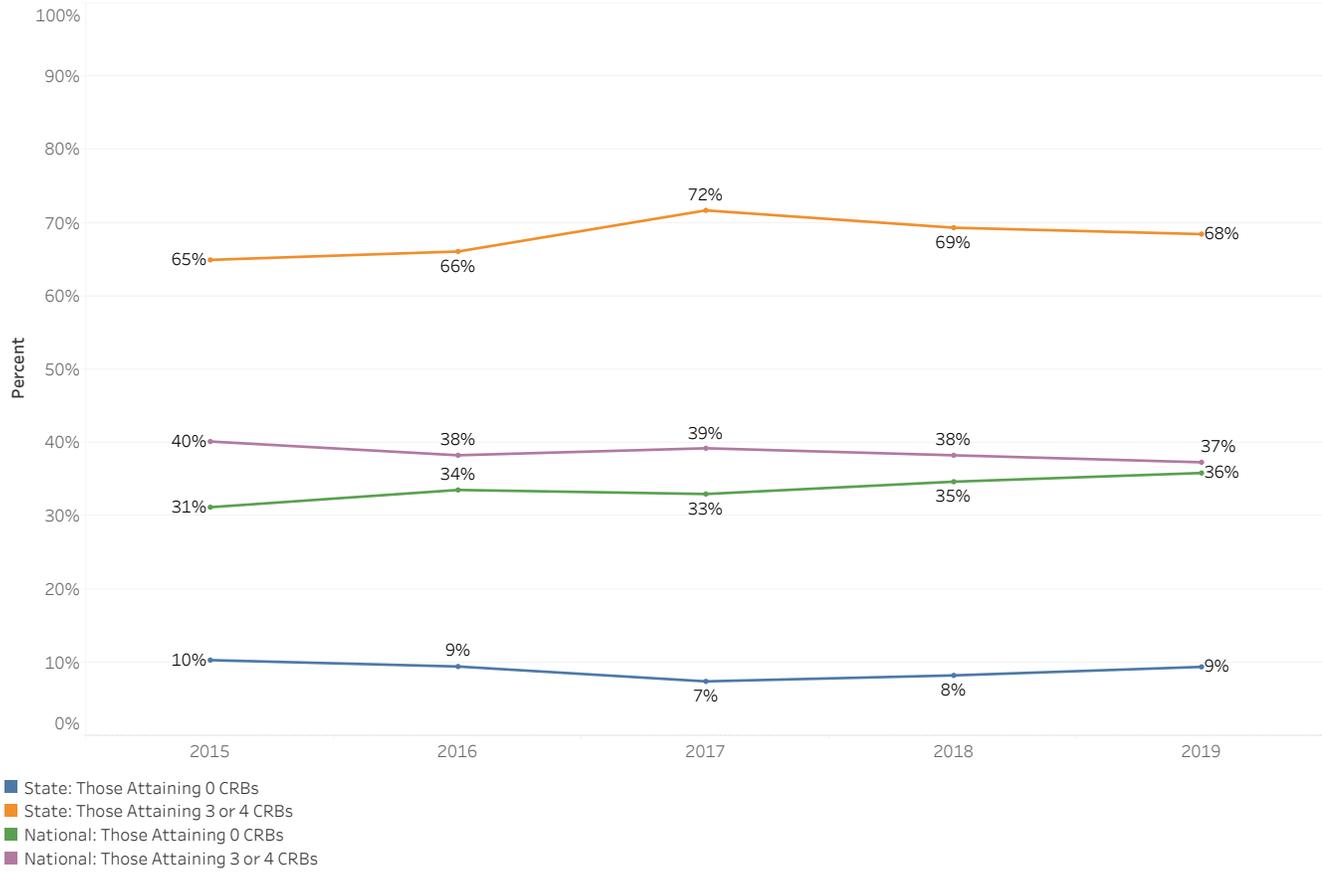
## Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	8%	5%	87%
Math	23%	7%	70%
Reading	19%	9%	72%
Science	22%	14%	64%

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## NEW HAMPSHIRE College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

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



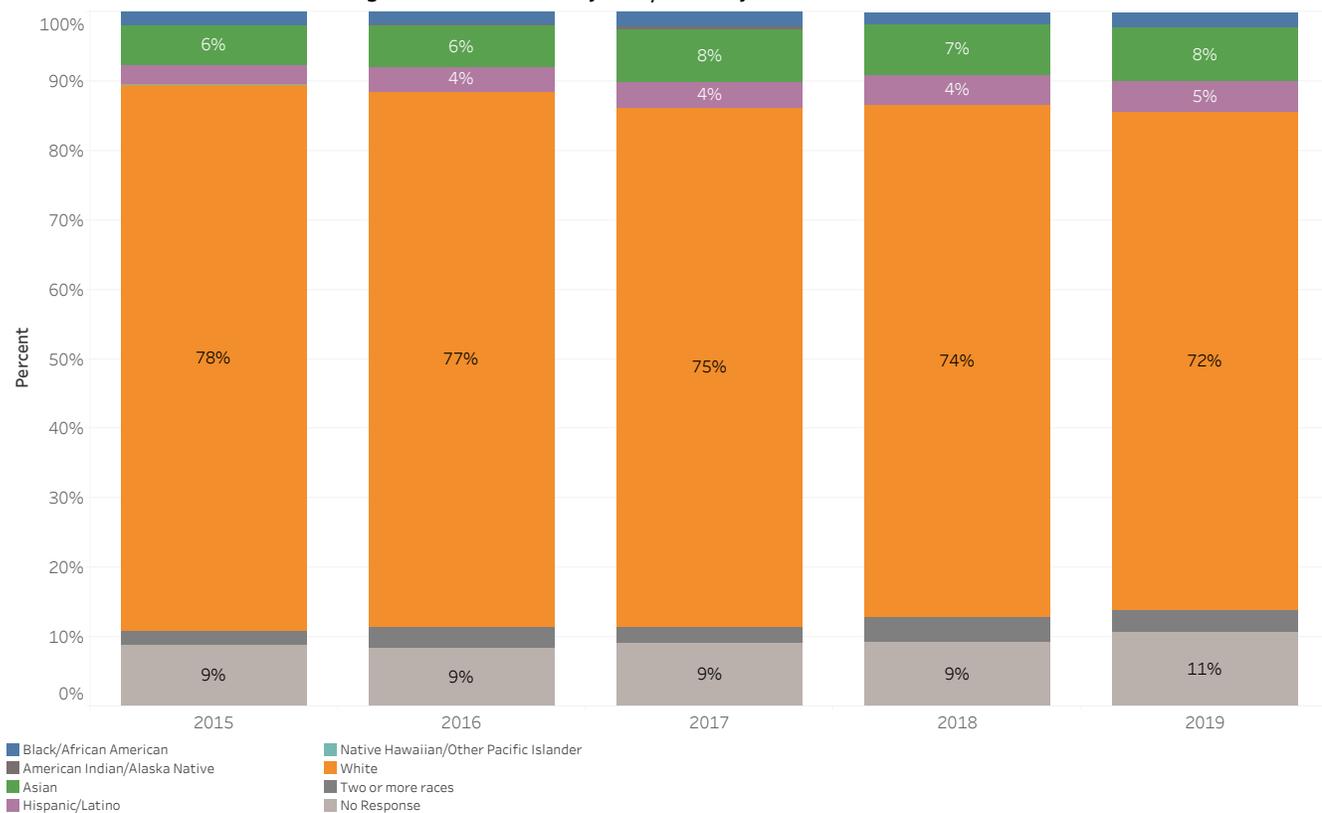
### Data from Graph Above

	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	10%	65%	31%	40%
2016	9%	66%	34%	38%
2017	7%	72%	33%	39%
2018	8%	69%	35%	38%
2019	9%	68%	36%	37%

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# NEW HAMPSHIRE 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	2%	0%	6%	3%	0%	78%	2%	9%
2016	2%	0%	6%	4%	0%	77%	3%	9%
2017	2%	0%	8%	4%	0%	75%	2%	9%
2018	2%	0%	7%	4%	0%	74%	4%	9%
2019	2%	0%	8%	5%	0%	72%	3%	11%

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## NEW HAMPSHIRE College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

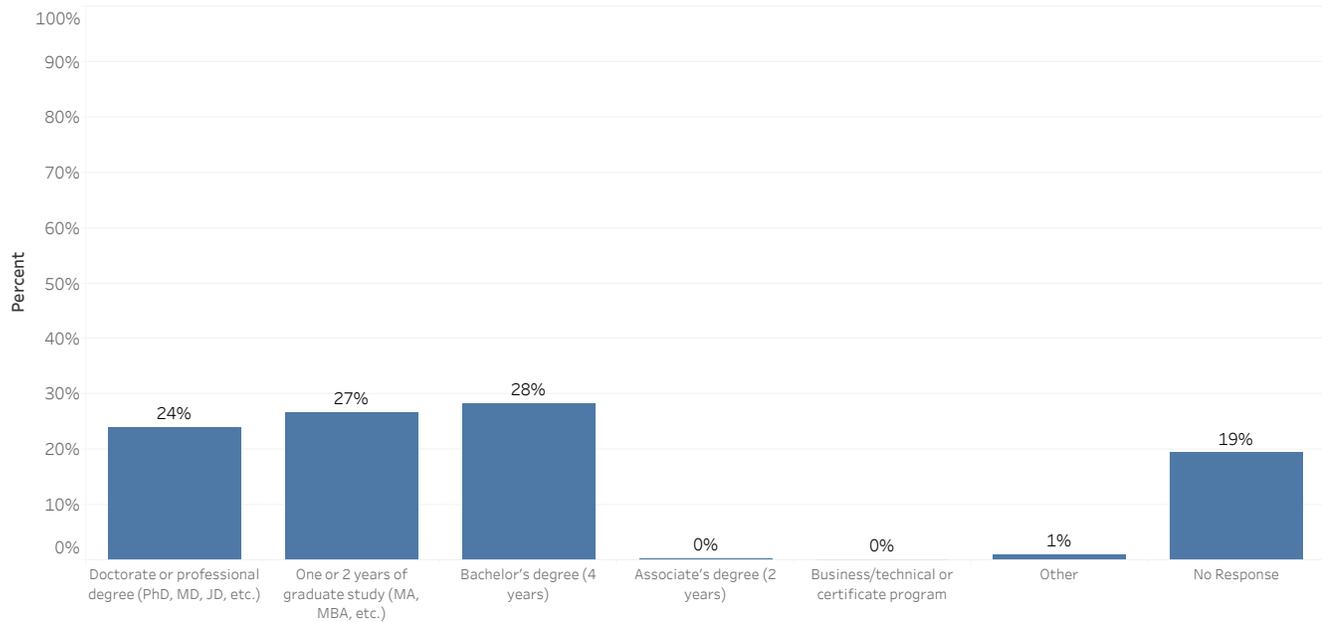
### Student Data Trends: 2015-2019, State vs. Nation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	3,487	3,407	2,856	2,440	2,106
National N-count	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817	1,782,820
Average ACT English Score - State	24.1	24.0	25.4	25.1	24.9
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	24.7	25.1	26.0	25.6	25.6
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	24.1	24.4	25.1	24.7	24.7
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	23.9	24.1	24.9	24.4	24.5
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	24.3	24.5	25.5	25.1	25.0
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

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## NEW HAMPSHIRE 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.)	27%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	28%
Associate's degree (2 years)	0%
Business/technical or certificate program	0%
Other	1%
No Response	19%

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