



SAT Participation: Insights & Recommendations

Agenda



Context Setting


- Introduction and background
- ACT/SAT preferences and their reasons

Findings from the Data

- Identification of states with low SAT participation rates
- Narrowing down our target state
- Insights on target state

Proposal

- Recommendations and highlights

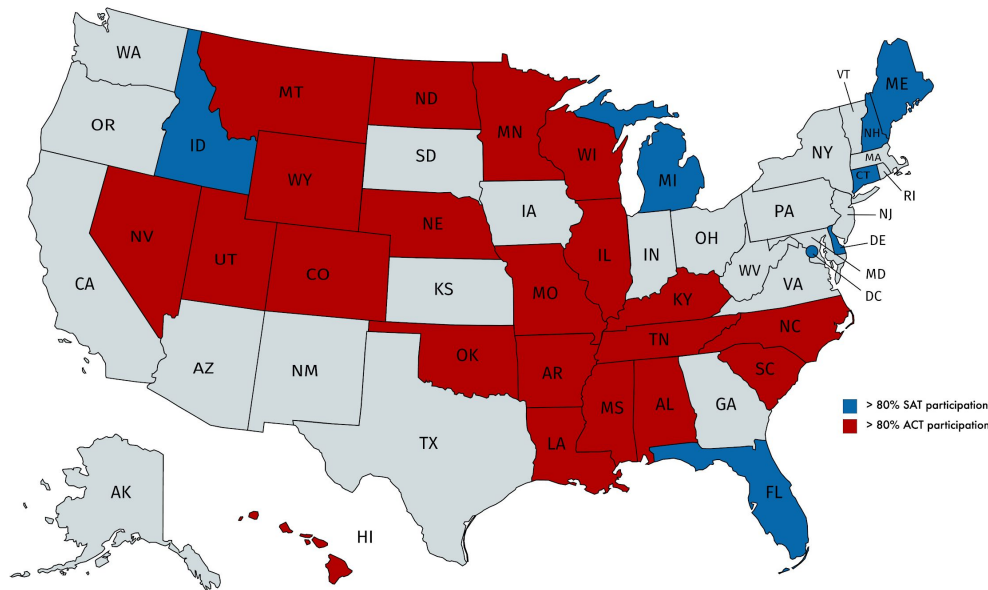


In 2017, the **SAT** had an average participation rate of **40%** compared to **ACT** of **65%**.

This subsequently changed to **46%** and **62%** respectively in 2018.

Despite SAT becoming increasingly popular, ACT still remains the majority choice of states.

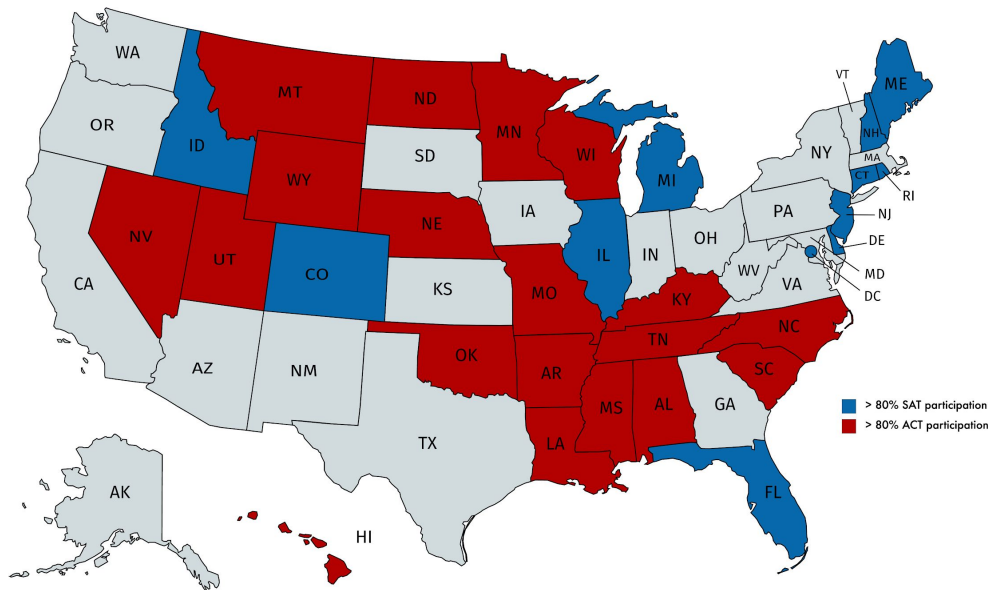
2017 State Preferences



**8 states with
greater than 80%
participation in
the SAT.**

**21 states with
greater than 80%
participation in
the ACT.**

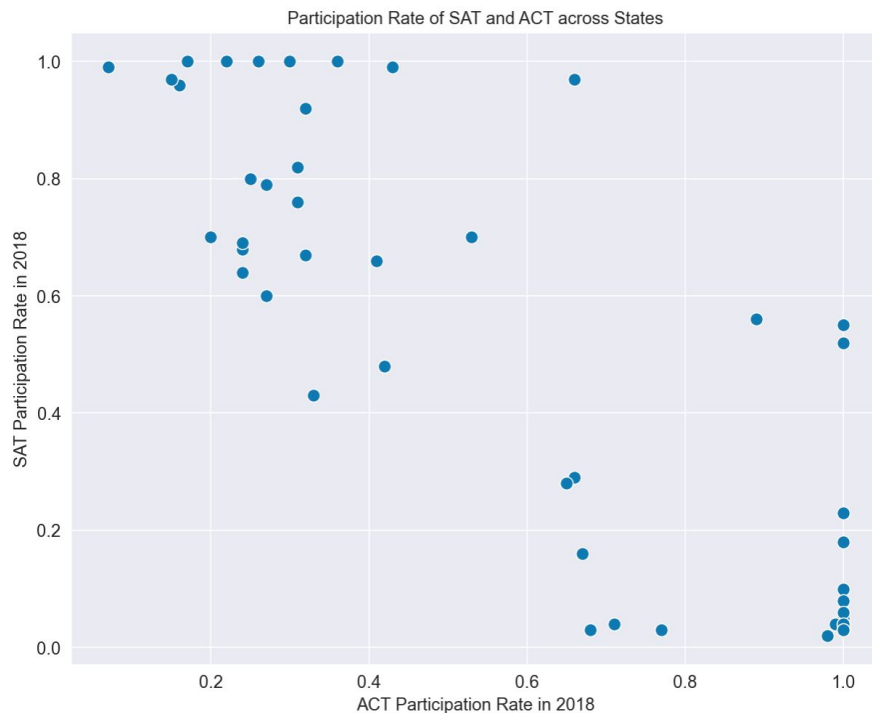
2018 State Preferences



12 (+4) states with greater than 80% participation in the SAT.

20(-1) states with greater than 80% participation in the ACT.

Reason for State Preferences

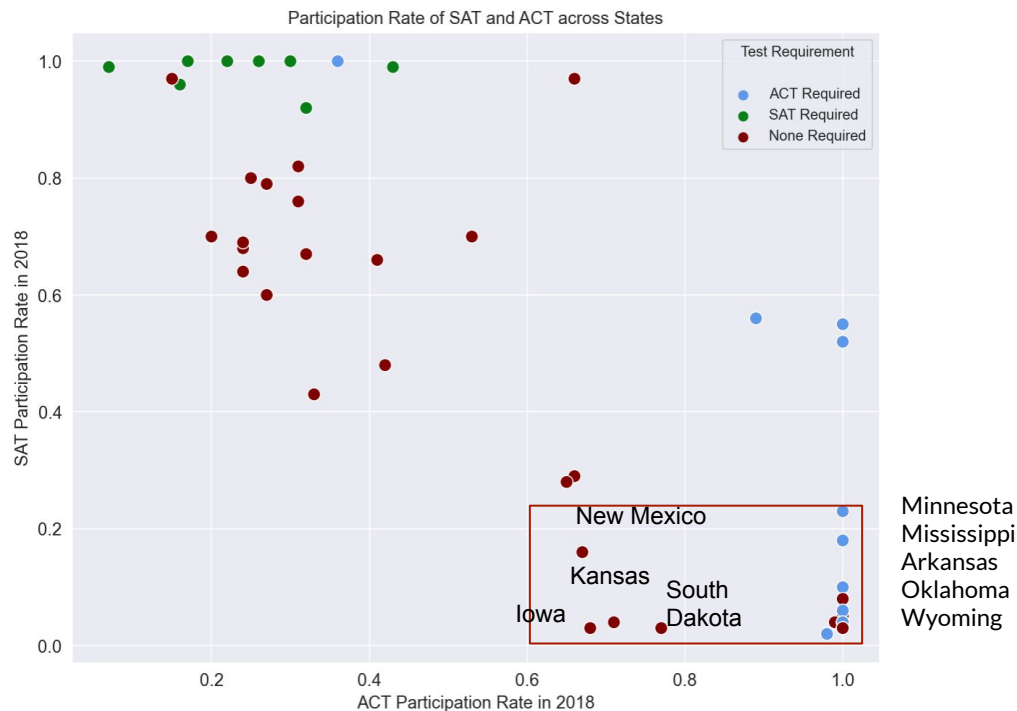


- Reasons for participation rates in either tests are heavily influenced by state policies²
- Colleges do not have preferences for SAT or ACT but some states do¹
- Students are mostly likely to take 1 or the other test, and not both

¹[Preference of the ACT or SAT by state](#)

²[State requirements of the ACT/SAT](#)

States with low SAT participation (<20%)

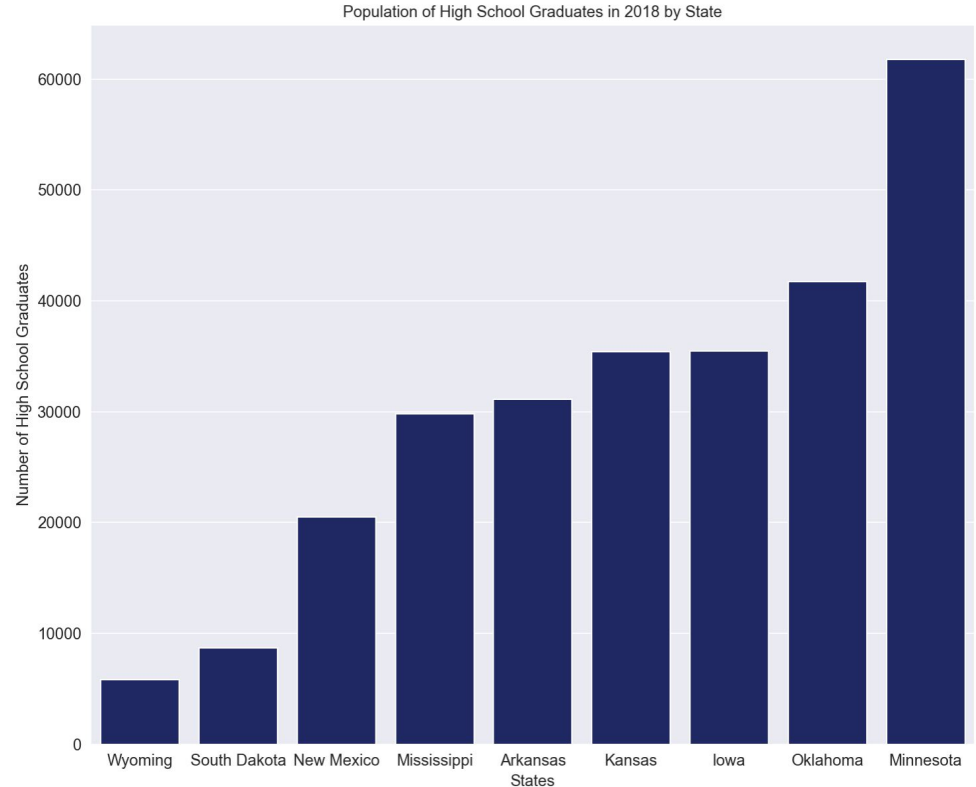


- Some states have policies that require one of the tests, SAT or ACT, to be taken while others do not.
- Focus on states with lower participation rate (<20%) that do not make it mandatory for a particular test to be taken.

States with larger population

- Minnesota has the largest population of high school graduates among the rest of the states with <20% participation rate
- Good start to encourage more participation through high schools in Minnesota

**Target State:
Minnesota**



State: Minnesota



Legislation was passed in 2013 to make ACT compulsory at state's expense

Participation Rates	Minnesota	Illinois	Colorado
SAT 2017	3%	9%	11%
SAT 2018	4% (+1%)	99% (+90%)	100% (+89%)
ACT 2017	100%	93%	100%
ACT 2018	99% (-1%)	43% (-50%)	3% (-97%)

¹<http://www.ohs.state.mn.us/dPg.cfm?pageID=1067>

<https://www.twincities.com/2014/09/29/minnesotas-new-act-requirement-has-some-educators-worried/>

Proposal



Stakeholder	Recommendation	Rationale
State	Establish relationship and encourage state administration of SAT	Participation rates driven largely by state policies
Students	Increase awareness of SAT School Day	Allow increase accessibility of tests
Colleges	Consider offering free college programs and encourage colleges to engage in more outreach programs with high schools	Standardise assessment of college readiness on common metric