

# National ACT/SAT Participation Analysis

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## PROBLEM STATEMENT

We look at collective participation rates between ACT and SAT testing results between individual states.

Our goal is to identify patterns in participation rates and identify possible influences a College Board can leverage to increase High School senior participation.

# Executive Summary

States found heavy preferential treatment between **SAT** and **ACT** scores:  
Participation rates are consistently skewed in favor of one or the other.

Further investigation after identifying a large swing in Colorado from **ACT's** to **SAT's** in 2018, we find that State School Boards coordinate directly with owners of **SAT/ACT** tests.

Additionally: we found States can and do directly influence participation by setting high-school requirements to take the test statewide, provide funding to schools to take the test

## Participation Considerations - The Colorado Switch

### Initial Participation Findings

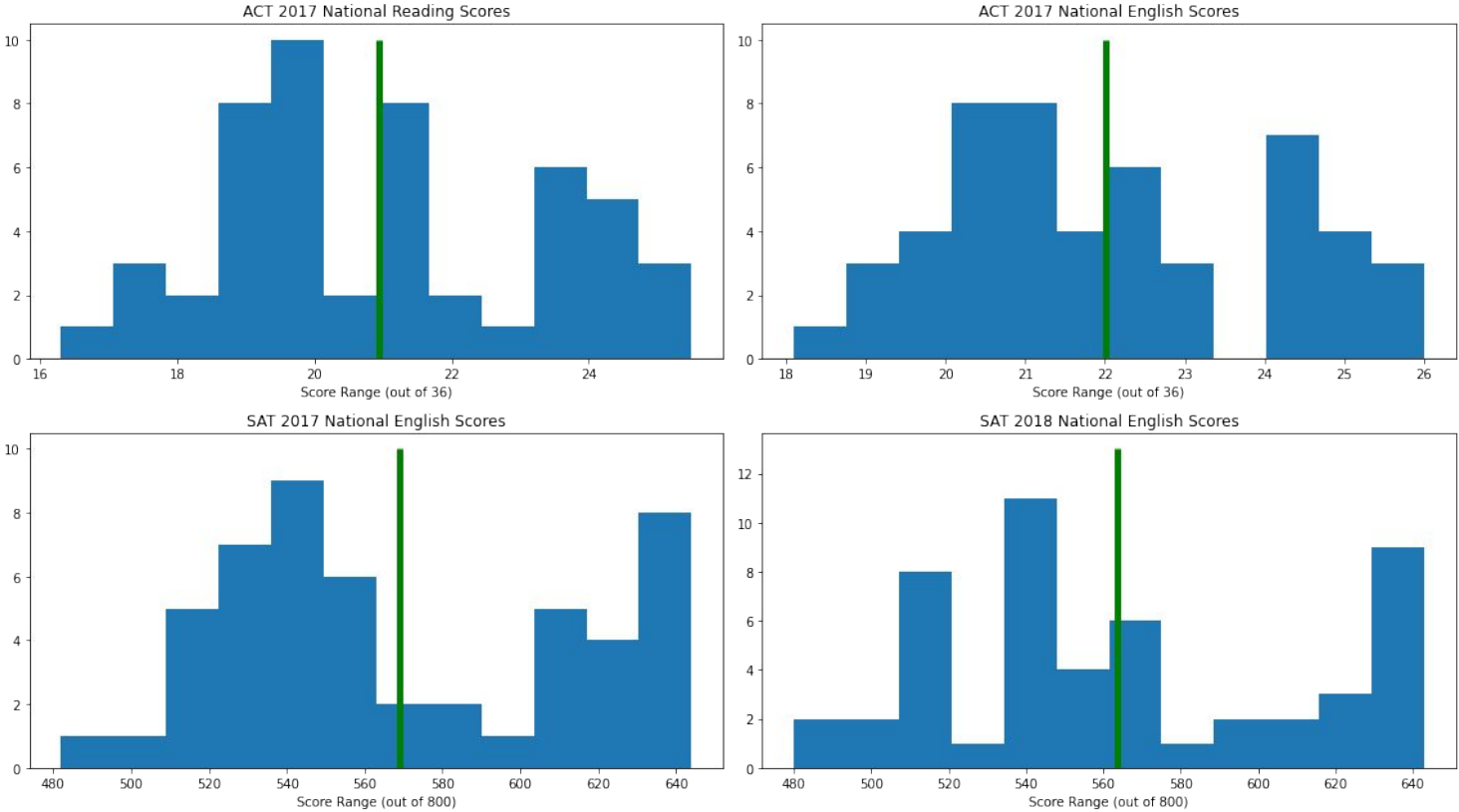
- Initially, we found high State Participation rates for ACT's, with our top 20 participation States showing 100% Participation
- Unlike ACT's, the SAT's show a larger imbalance of participation rates.
- With the exception of 5 states, ACT 2017/2018 states with over 50% participation rate both years fail to break 50% participation for SAT's respectively.

### Colorado

- Colorado is the only state that indicated a heavy change in SAT/ACT participations between 2017-2018
  - 100% / 30% >> 11% / 100%
- State School Board and ACT Board of Supervisors
- State-wide level requirements at the High School Level

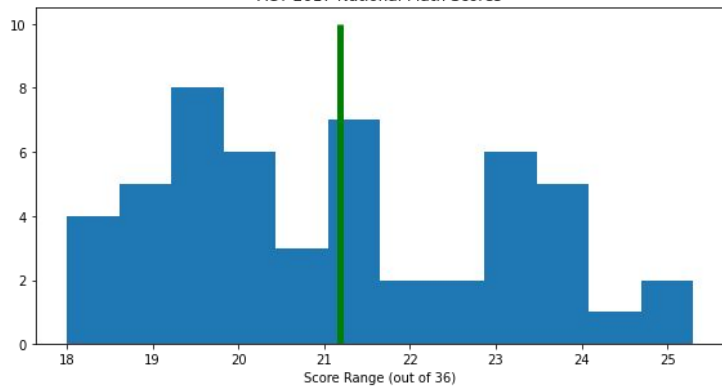
	act_2017_participation	act_2018_participation	sat_2017_participation	sat_2018_participation
state				
colorado	1.00	0.30	0.11	1.00
district of columbia	0.32	0.32	1.00	0.92
minnesota	1.00	0.99	0.03	0.04

# Additional Highlights and Takeaways - Categorical Test Scores

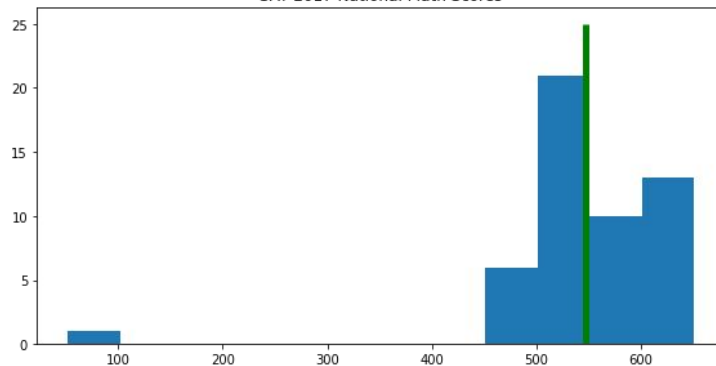


## Additional Highlights and Takeaways - Categorical Test Scores

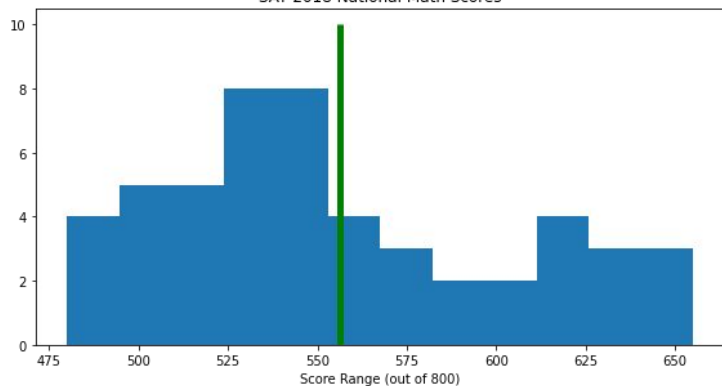
ACT 2017 National Math Scores



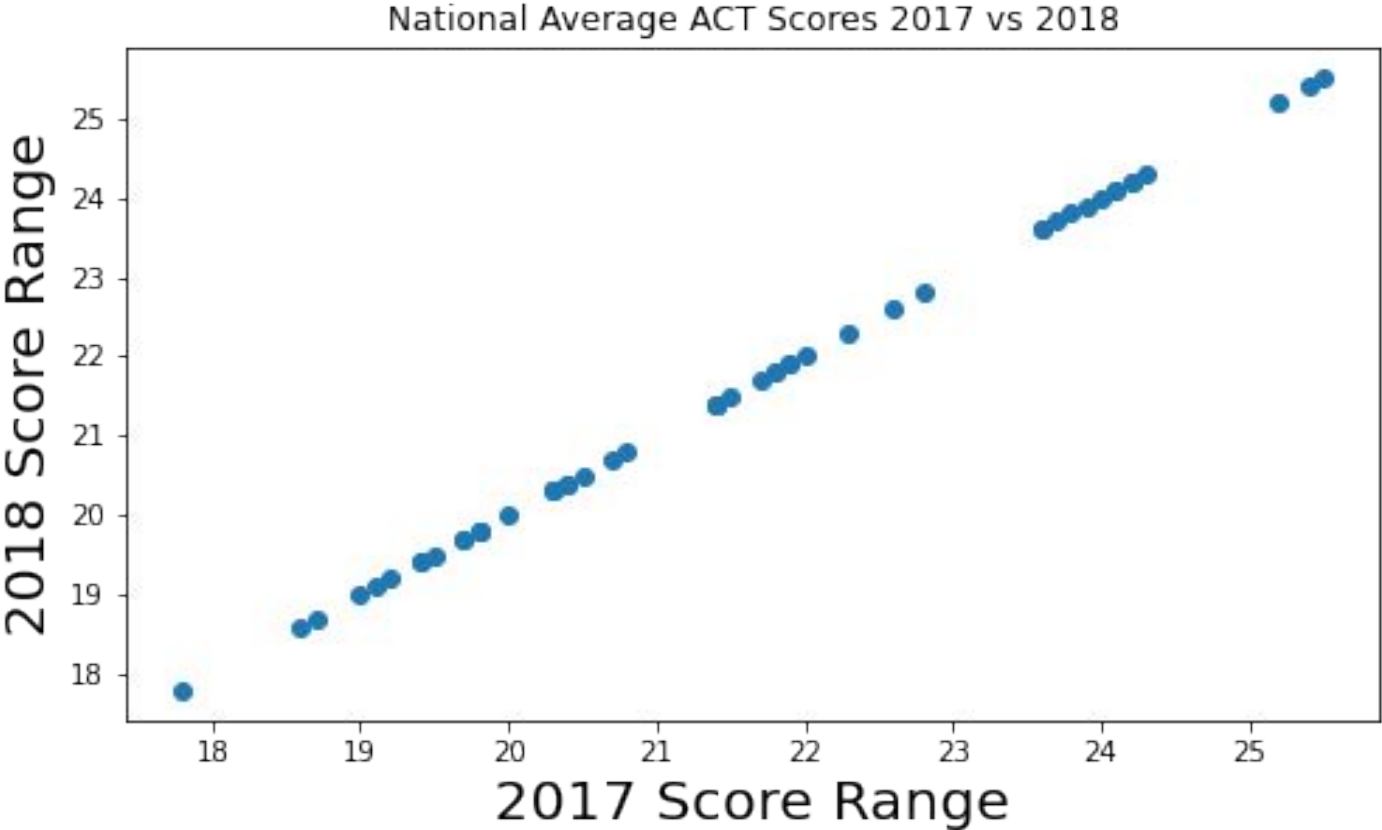
SAT 2017 National Math Scores



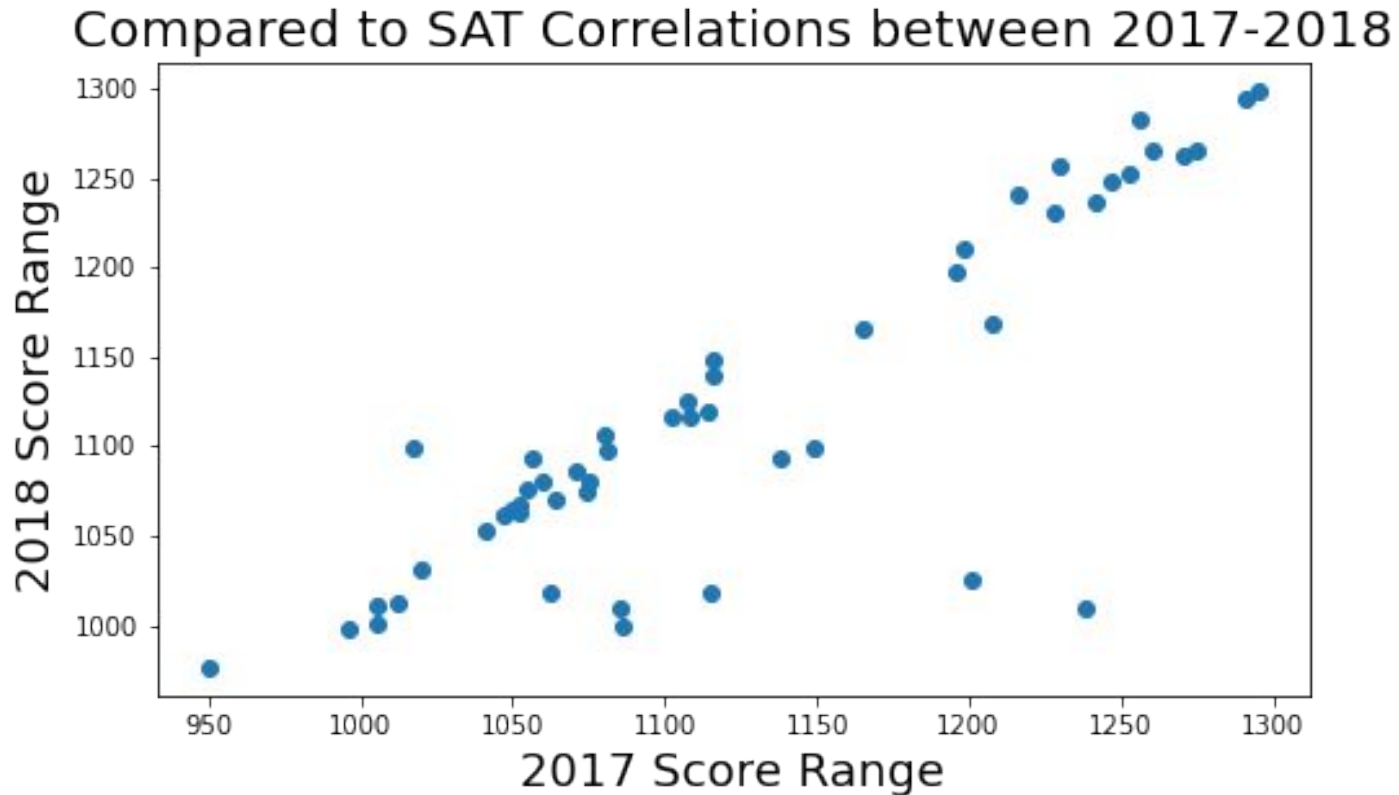
SAT 2018 National Math Scores



# Additional Highlights and Takeaways



## Additional Highlights and Takeaways (cont...)



# Conclusions

- Observe and Coordinate with State School Boards
- Colleges Entry Requirement vs High School Graduation
- Improving from Here