A low-angle photograph of graduates in black gowns with their arms raised in celebration against a clear blue sky. Numerous black graduation caps are seen flying through the air, scattered across the upper half of the frame.

# Factors Impacting College Enrollment Rate of Georgia High School Graduates

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## Questions We Wanted to Answer:

What variables impact college enrollment of Georgia High School Graduates?

- Does a school district's revenue & expenditure impact college enrollment?
- Does academic performance impact college enrollment?
- Does economic advantage impact college enrollment?
- Do SAT & ACT scores impact college enrollment?

What are the best ways to improve college enrollment of Georgia high school graduates?



## Data Sources:

Governor's Office of Student Achievement Downloadable Data  
(all reports used were 2018 - 2019 files)

- Post-Secondary C11 Report
- Ga Milestones EOC Assessment (by grade)
- Revenues and Expenditures
- Dropout Rate 7-12
- Graduation Rate (4-Year Cohort)
- ACT Scores (Recent)
- SAT Scores (Recent)

\*<https://gosa.georgia.gov/dashboards-data-report-card/downloadable-data>

## Exploration & Cleanup:

- Main database used to compare data to was the Post-Secondary C11 Report  
(Students graduating as well as number of students enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 16 months of graduation.)
- Comparison data used throughout analysis was the School Code, Percent of High School Graduates that entered into a Postsecondary Institute
- Remove data that's not an integer (TFS/NaN)
- Sort values based on independent variable
- Merge everything to dependent variable

# Analysis and Conclusion 1:

## Allocate More Funding on 9th Grade Instructors

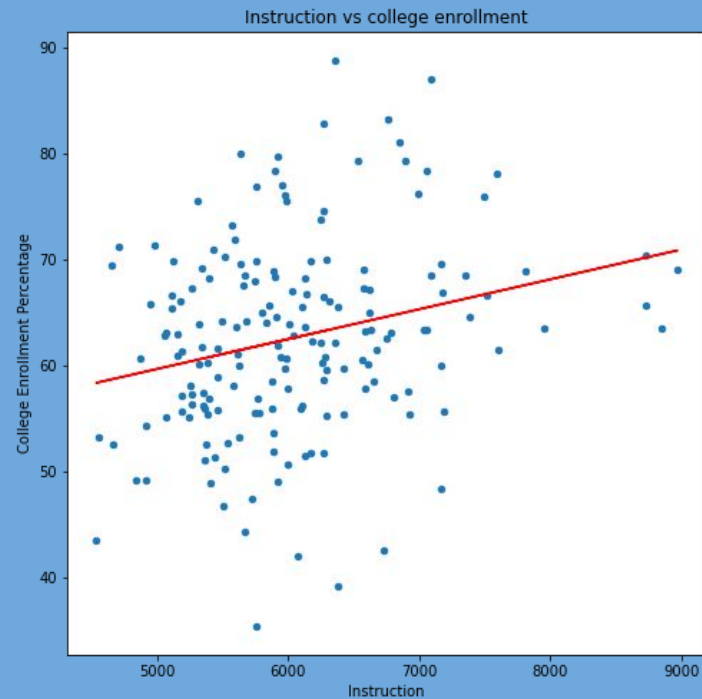
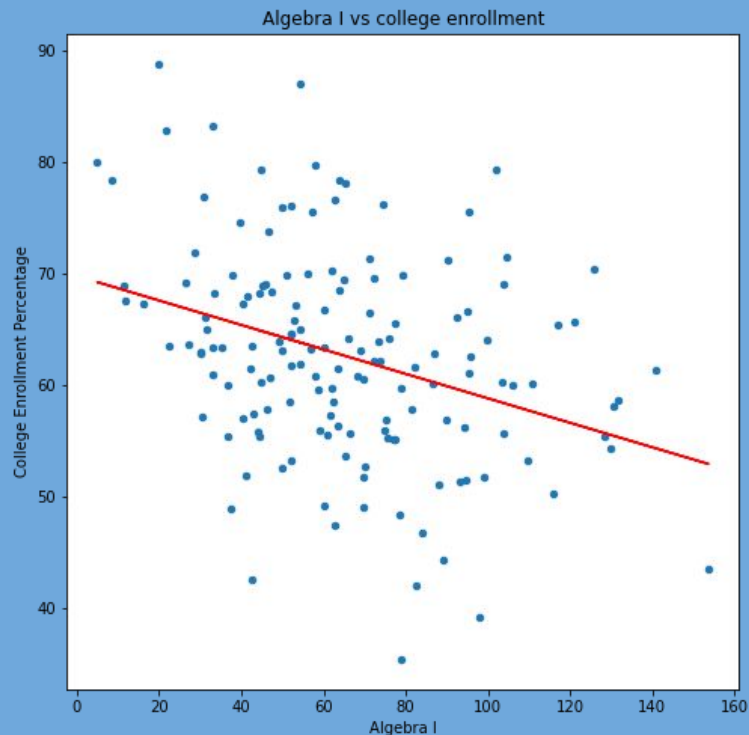
- Based on analysis on impact of college enrollment based on classes offered in high school, the most impactful, by p-value, classes were 9th grade Literature, Algebra I, Geometry. We realize those are the most common subjects for 9th grade students in high school.
- We evaluated revenue performance, specifically expenditure per student and found that increasing expenditure on teachers had a higher impact, by p-value, to college enrollment.

In conclusion, we believe spending more money on instructors teaching 9th grade classes will improve the chance of students enrollment into college after graduation most effectively. We think it's because 9th grade courses lay a foundation for expectation of students and their willingness to learn for the rest of the high school years.

\* CSV's used: Revenue & Expenditures, Ga Milestones EOC Assessment (by grade)

# Analysis and Conclusion 1 - Graphs:

## Allocate more Funding on 9th grade instructors



## Analysis and Conclusion 2:

### **Implement specific programs to aid homeless students**

- School districts with higher percent of graduated homeless students had a lower college enrollment percentage.
- Analysis also showed economically disadvantaged students did not have a negative impact in college enrollment.

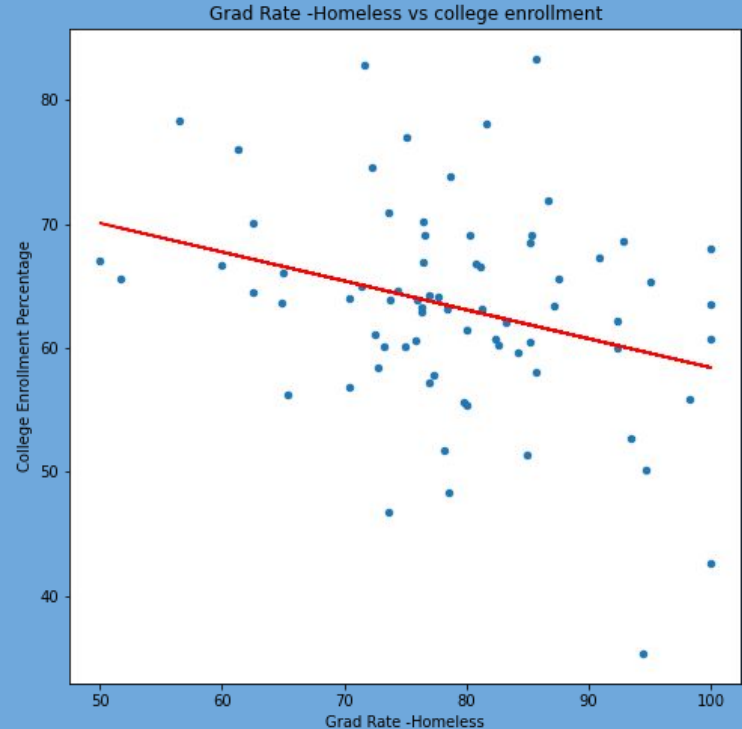
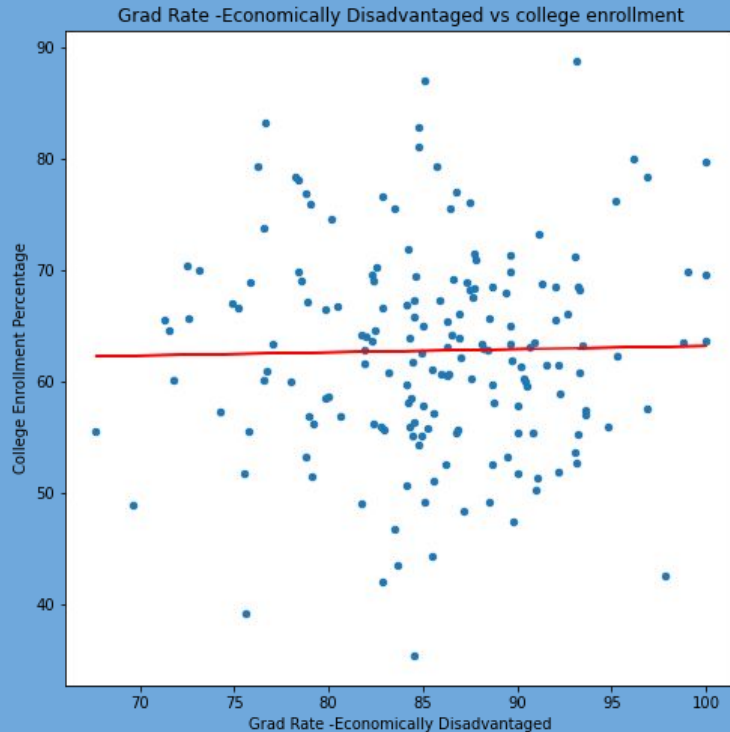
Considering the lack of significance of the economically disadvantaged students based on graduation rate, we believe the current programs are helping our low income students go to college. We should model our homeless programs to the economically disadvantaged students programs as well as implementing specific programs to aid homeless students.

\*CSV's used: Graduation Rate (4-Year Cohort)



## Analysis and conclusion 2 - Graphs:

### Implement specific programs to aid homeless students





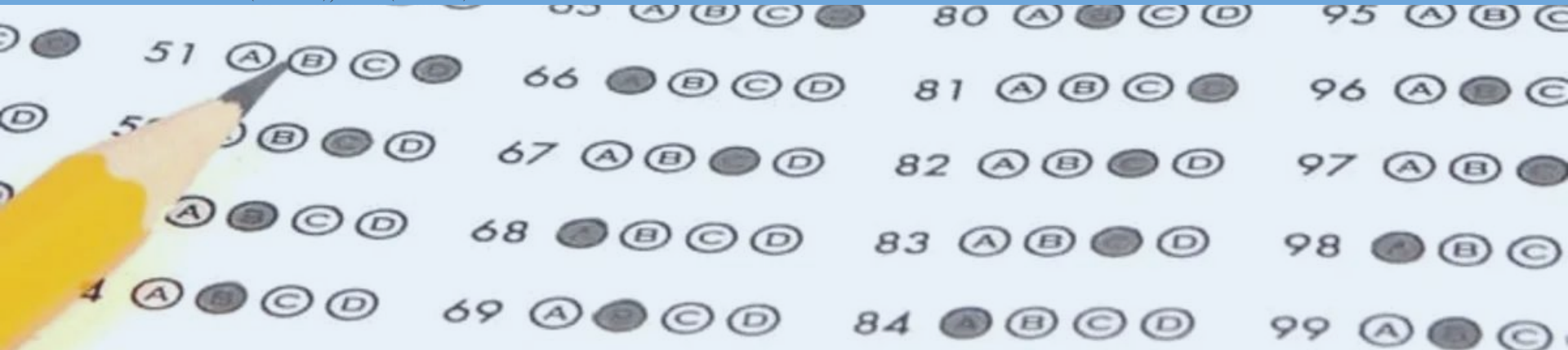
## Analysis and Conclusion 3:

### Schools should offer an SAT Prep class/ provide support to students

- As one would probably expect, a higher SAT/ACT score has a strong positive correlation with college enrollment

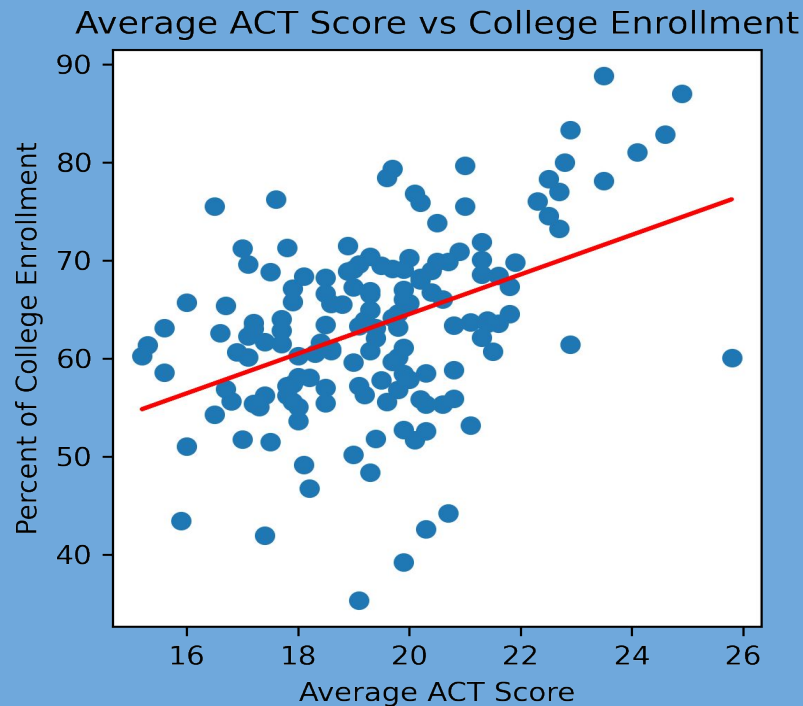
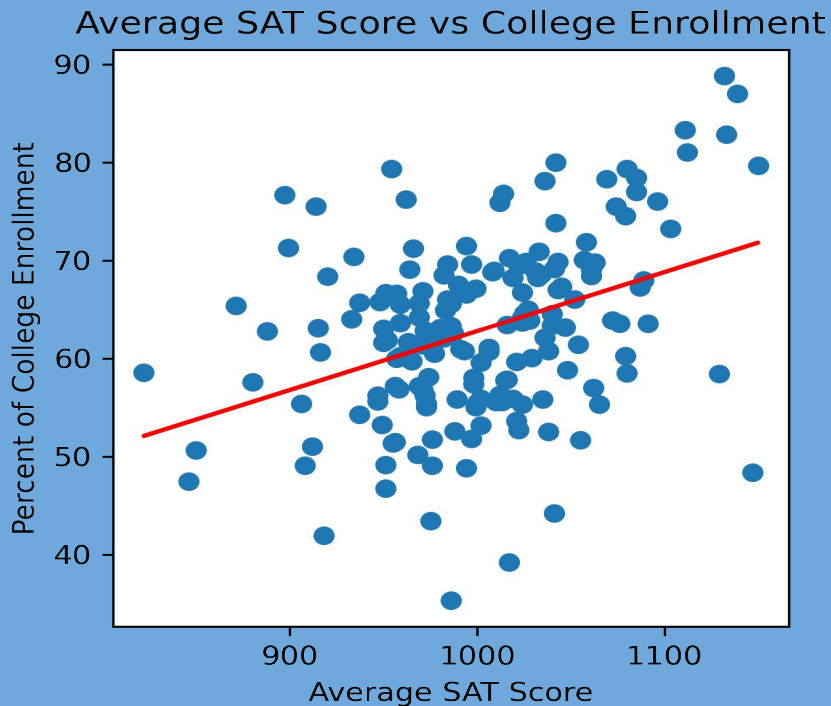
Mandating SAT prep courses to all students regardless of income/demographic status should result in an increase in college enrollment

\*CSV's used: SAT(Recent), ACT(Recent)



## Analysis and Conclusion 3:

**Schools should offer an SAT Prep class/ provide support to students**



# Implications of Our Findings:

## How Georgia School Districts can Improve College Enrollment Rates

- Spend more funds on hiring qualified 9th grade teachers
- Emphasize importance of success in 9th grade courses
- Implement specific programs to aid homeless students
- Offer SAT/ACT prep to all students in schools



## Future Research:

- Build relationship between property value & college enrollment
- Do similar analysis for middle school success- what factors contribute to middle school success?
  - Allocate funds to 8th grade teachers to ensure that students are ready for success in 9th
- Noticed a strong relationship between English speaking proficiency and college enrollment rate.



A low-angle shot of a graduation ceremony. Numerous black mortarboard caps are suspended in the air, having just been tossed by graduates. The graduates, seen from the chest up, are wearing black gowns and have their arms raised in celebration. They are looking upwards with expressions of joy and accomplishment. The background is a clear, bright blue sky.

Thank You!