





SAT<sup>®</sup>

**Analysis & Recommendations**

# PROBLEM:

How can we increase SAT participation?

SAT	
2017	1,715,481
2018	2,136,539
% Change	24.5% 

ACT	
2017	2,030,038
2018	1,914,817
% Change	-5.7% 

- How does SAT participation vary by state?
- How does SAT participation compare to ACT participation?
- What are possible factors of student participation?

# DATA:

## What data is available?

- Official SAT Report & ACT Reports for 2017 and 2018
  - *State-by-state averages for total scores*
  - *State-by-state individual test section averages*
    - \*NOTE: Not available for ACT 2018
  - *State-by-state participation rates*
- SAT/ACT Requirements by State (Education Commission of the States)

# ASSUMPTIONS:

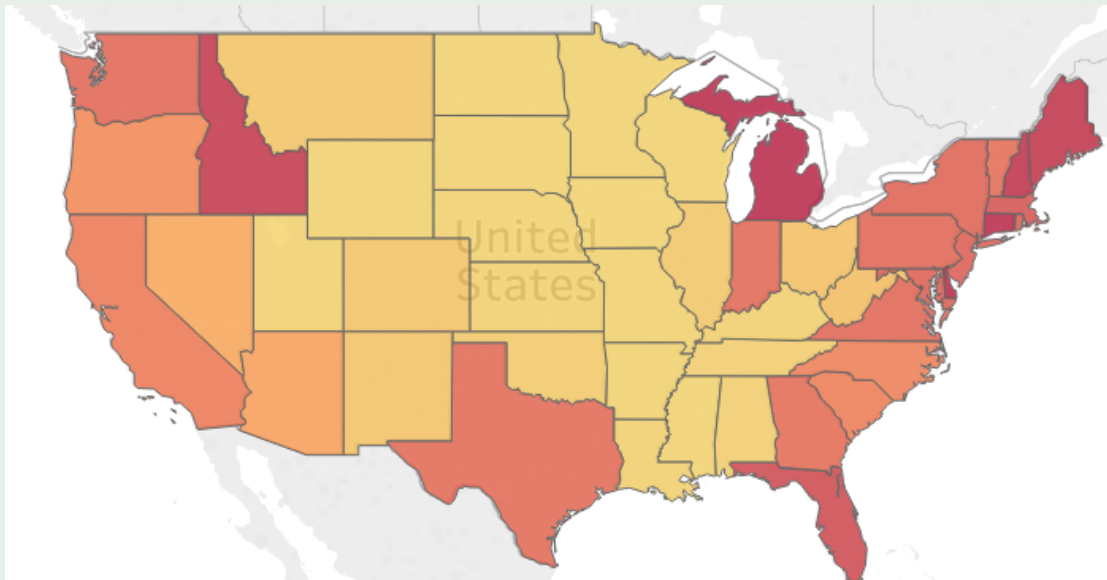
## What assumptions are we making?

- Test data is taken from students who graduated in the designated test year
  - *E.g. 2018 numbers could be from students who took the test in Spring 2017, but graduated in Spring 2018*
- If a student took either of the test more than once, the most recent score is used
- Students can take both tests
- Students pay for the test out-of-pocket (\$45-\$50) unless otherwise noted
- Both 2017 and 2018 represent the new version of SAT
- The list provided by the ECS contains accurate information regarding state testing requirements (as of 2018)

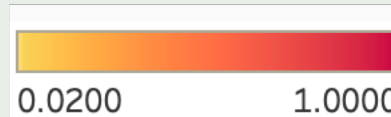
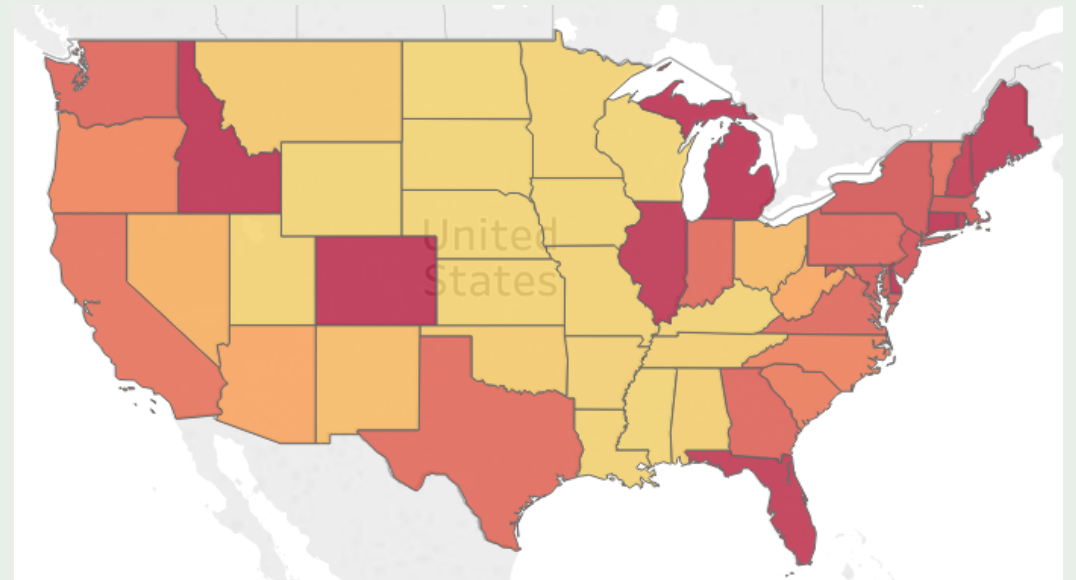
# 2017 vs. 2018 SAT PARTICIPATION:

## How do participation rates vary by state?

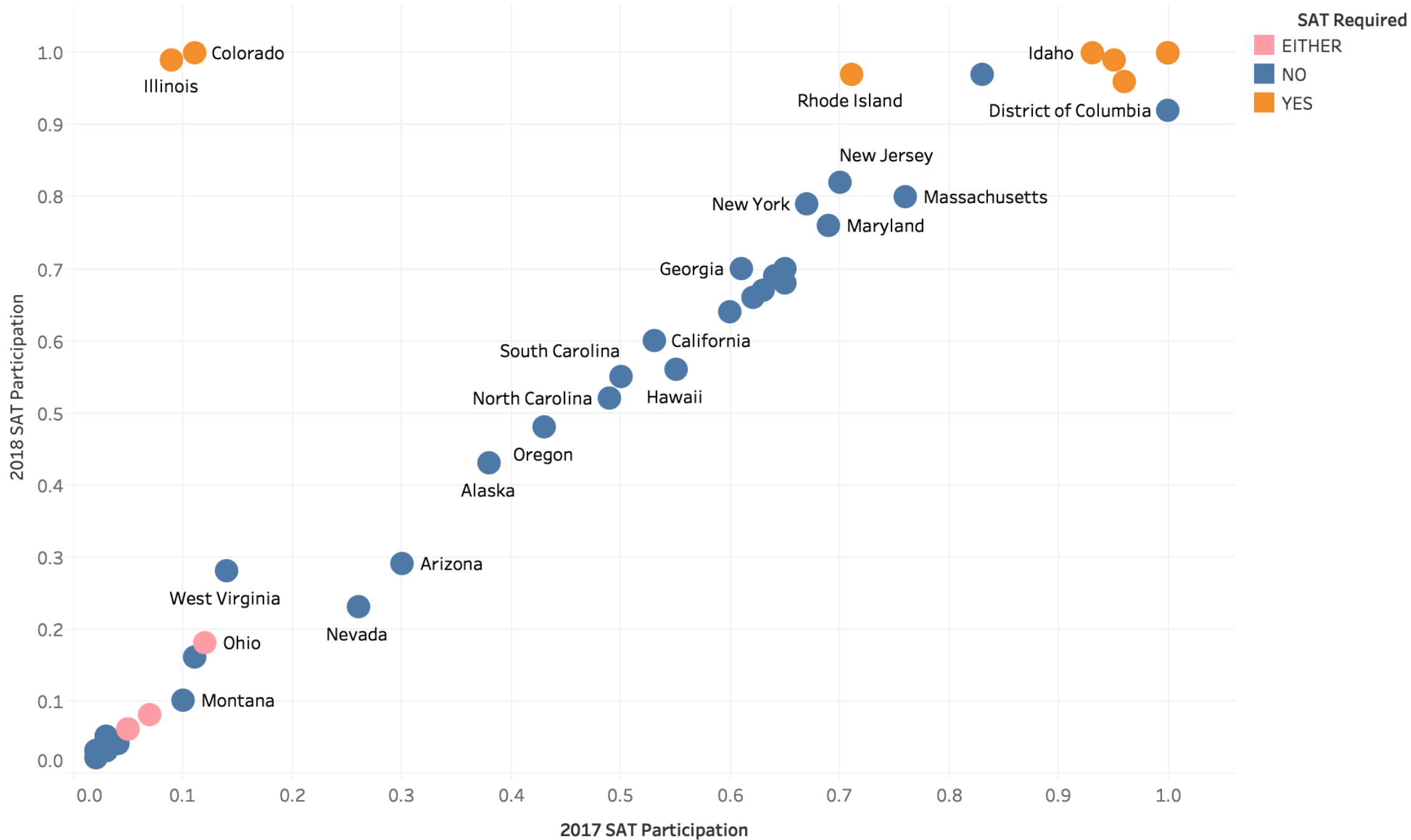
**2017**



**2018**



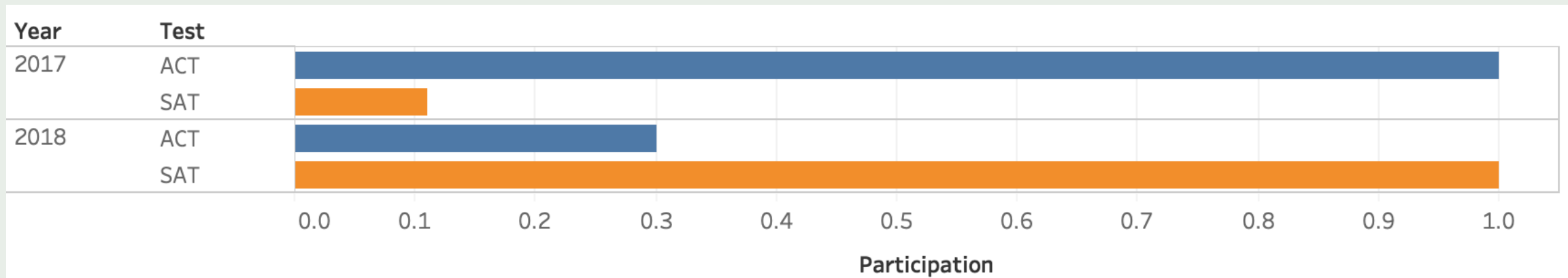
# SAT Participation 2017 vs. 2018



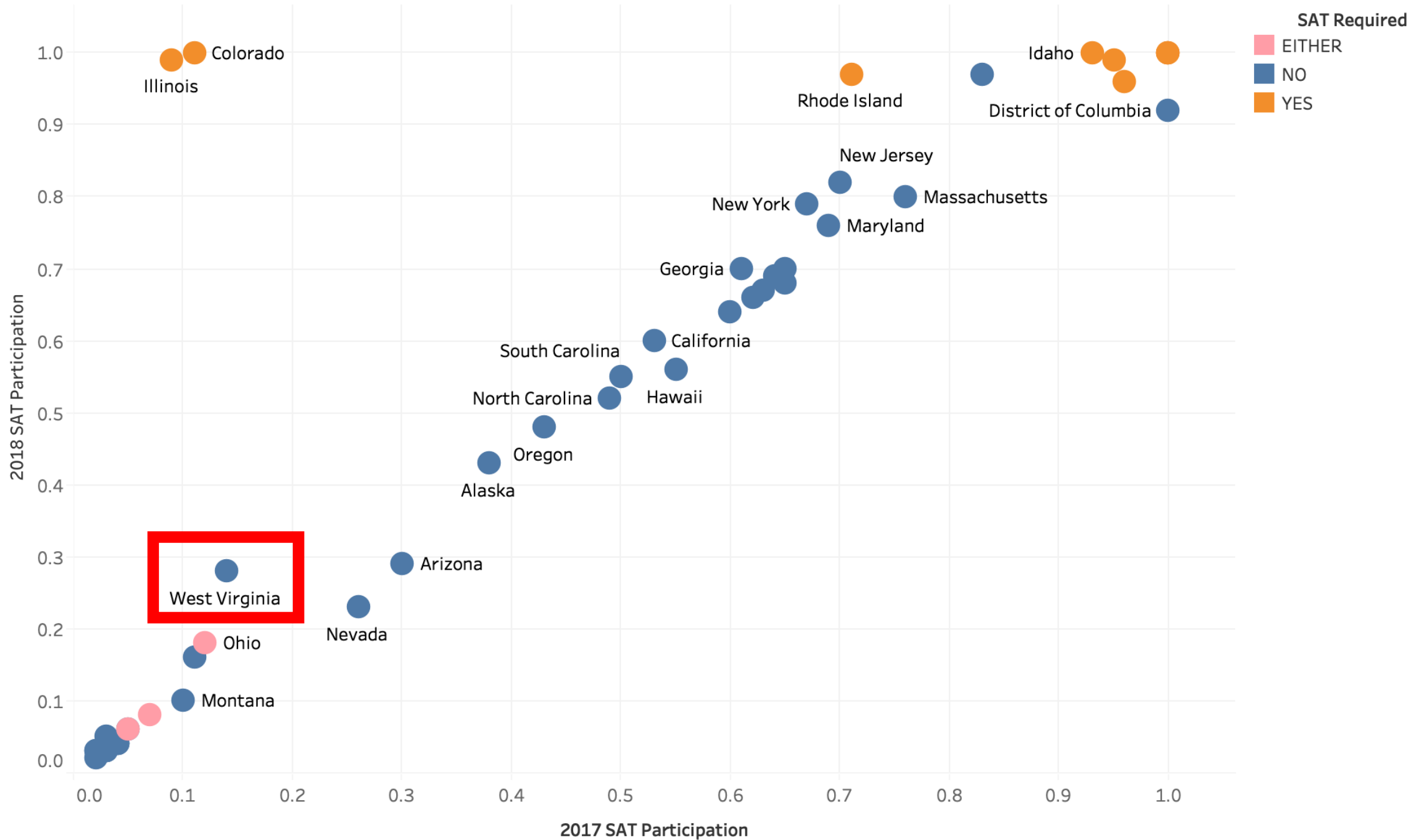
# COLORADO:

## Drastic increase in participation

- Legislation:
  - *Public School 11th graders began taking the SAT in spring 2017 (class of 2018)*
  - *Colorado Juniors are now required to take the test each Spring*
  - *Test is paid for by the state of Colorado*
- Why Colorado picked the SAT over the ACT?
  - *“aligned better with the high school Colorado Academic Standards, a requirement of 2015 legislation” – Will Morton (director of assessment administration for the CDE)*



# SAT Participation 2017 vs. 2018





# WEST VIRGINIA:

## Doubled low participation

**SAT: 14% to 28%**

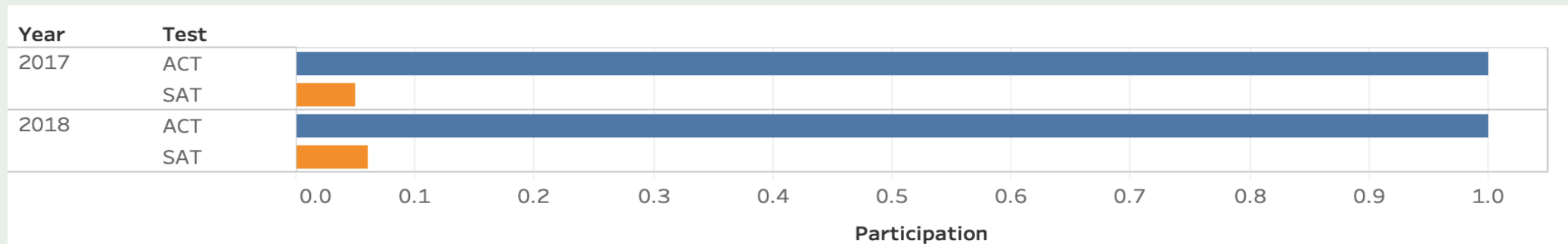
**ACT: 69% to 65%**

- For the class of 2017 and 2018 the SAT was not required
- It was announced in September 2017 that the SAT would be the statewide assessment
  - *Possible that this announcement encouraged students in the class of 2018 to participate in the SAT*
- Spring 2018 & forward: The test will be offered as part of College Board's "SAT School Day"
  - *Students take the SAT in their own school on a weekday at no cost to the student*

# TENNESSEE:

## A state to target

- Districts can choose to administer either the ACT or SAT to students, or leave the choice up to the students
  - *At no cost to students*
  - *Includes the option for SAT School Day*
- All students must participate in one of the two exams
- Work with districts to show advantages of SAT vs. ACT
  - *Legislation and money are not an issues*



# RECOMMENDATION:

## How to increase participation?

- Competitive and compelling bids to states considering state-mandated college-entrance exams & assessments
  - *Advantages and unique value of SAT*
  - *SAT Math & ACT Math show a weak negative relationship indicating possible differences (same for Reading)*
- Continue to offer and promote SAT School Day
  - *Reduces obstacles (time and money) to student participation*
  - *Can offer to individual districts (not just at the state level)*
- Target states and districts that currently offer both tests at no cost to their students
  - *Require One Test (Choice): Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee,*
  - *Offer Optional Tests: DC, Hawaii, Minnesota, South Carolina*

# THANK YOU!:

## Sources

- 2018 ACT:  
[https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/cccr2018/P\\_99\\_999999\\_N\\_S\\_N00\\_ACT-GCPR\\_National.pdf](https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/cccr2018/P_99_999999_N_S_N00_ACT-GCPR_National.pdf)
- 2017 ACT:  
[https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/cccr2018/P\\_99\\_999999\\_N\\_S\\_N00\\_ACT-GCPR\\_National.pdf](https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/cccr2018/P_99_999999_N_S_N00_ACT-GCPR_National.pdf)
- 2018 SAT: <https://reports.collegeboard.org/pdf/2018-total-group-sat-suite-assessments-annual-report.pdf>
- 2017 SAT: <https://reports.collegeboard.org/pdf/2017-total-group-sat-suite-assessments-annual-report.pdf>
- SAT/ACT Requirements by State (Education Commission of the States): [https://www.ecs.org/wp-content/uploads/State-Information-Request\\_Use-of-ACT-SAT-and-PSAT-for-High-School-Testing-as-Required-by-ESSA.pdf](https://www.ecs.org/wp-content/uploads/State-Information-Request_Use-of-ACT-SAT-and-PSAT-for-High-School-Testing-as-Required-by-ESSA.pdf)
- <https://www.denverpost.com/2017/03/06/colorado-juniors-sat-college-exam/>
- <https://www.wsaz.com/content/news/All-WVa-high-school-juniors-to-begin-taking-SAT-exam-beginning-Spring-2018-444248263.html>
- <https://www.collegesimply.com/colleges/tennessee/the-university-of-tennessee/admission/>