

The SAT logo is rendered in a dark brown, serif typeface. The letters are tall and narrow, with a classic academic feel. A registered trademark symbol (®) is positioned at the top right of the 'T'.

# SAT<sup>®</sup>

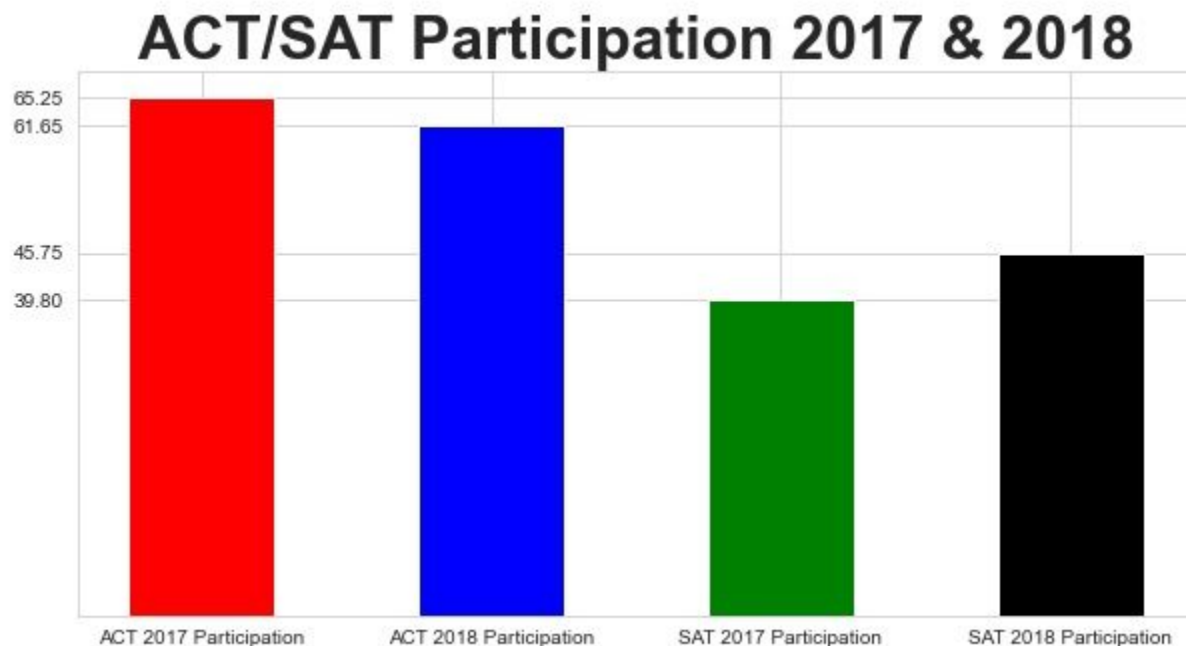
The ACT logo is in a dark blue, serif font. A distinctive red swoosh underline is placed beneath the 'A'. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located at the top right of the 'T'.

# ACT<sup>®</sup>

Causes of change in participation for SAT and ACT exams from 2017 to 2018

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# Let's look at the participation between 2017 and 2018



ACT Participation Dropped from 2017 to 2018

SAT Participation Increased from 2017 to 2018



# At a glance, what does it tell us?

- At a national level, there is an increasing shift in SAT as compared to ACT
  - Policy change ?
  - SAT assessment change?
  - Admission requirement change?
- There might be a correlation between the change in one as compared to the other (inversely correlated)

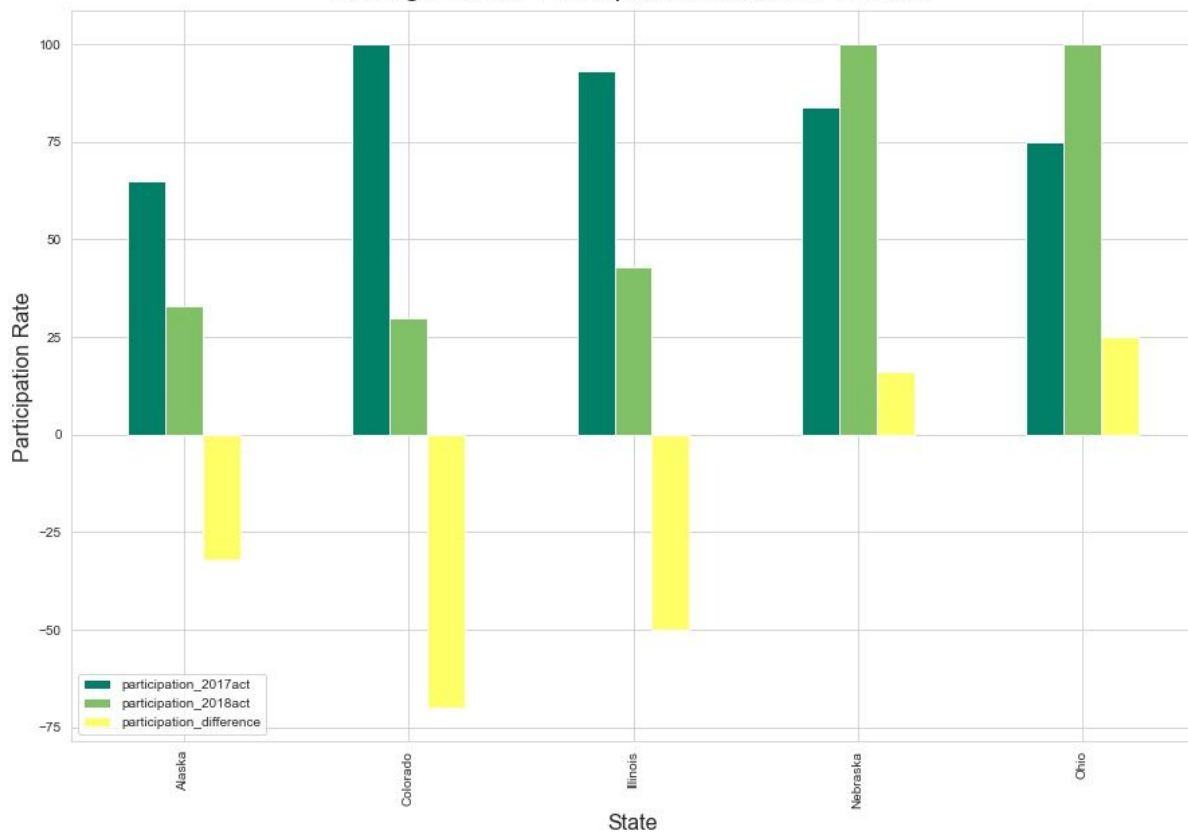


## **In order to understand at a deeper level...**

- Looking at a more micro aggregation of the data (state level)
- Identify trends that had a significant change in participation rate (>10%)
- Identify state of interest. Highest and lowest as comparison

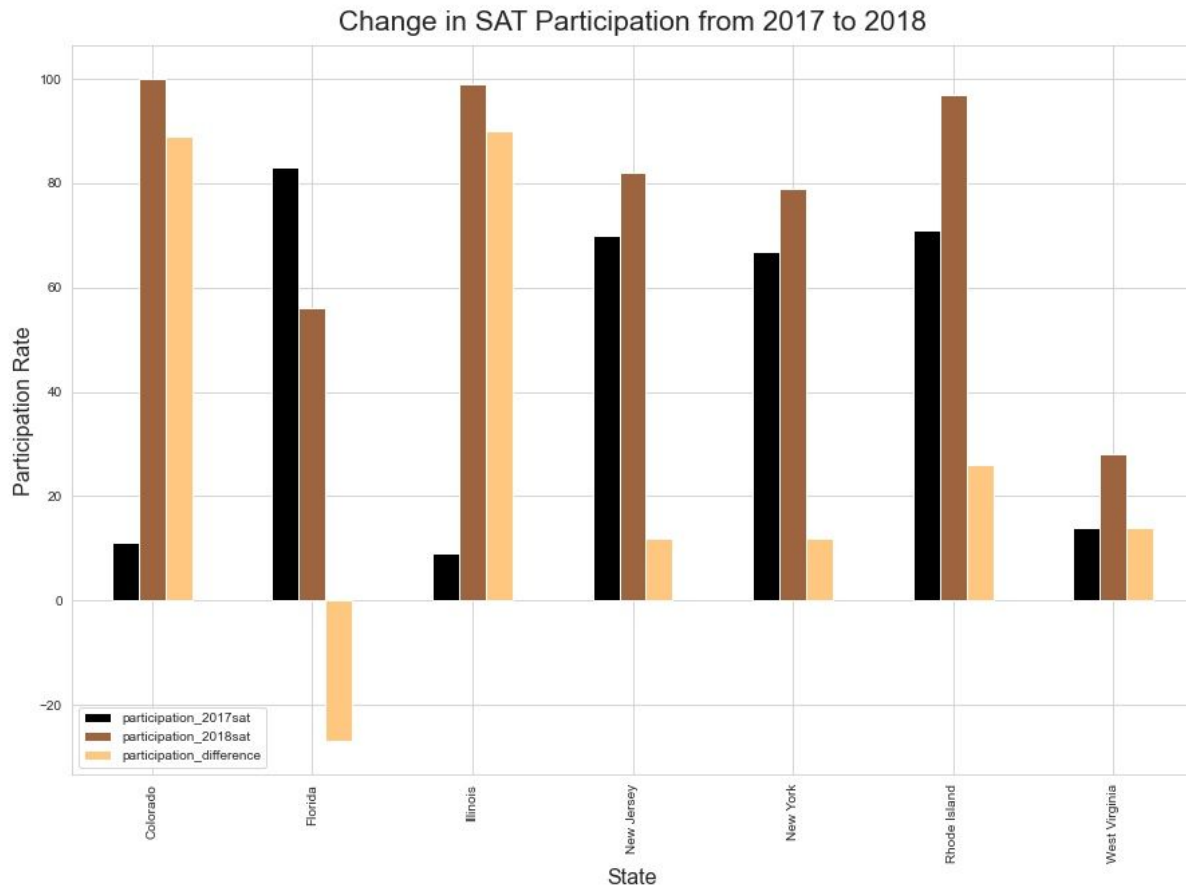
# States with at least 10% difference

Change in ACT Participation from 2017 to 2018



- Colorado and Illinois have the biggest change, 70% and 50% respectively.
- Ohio increased by 25%

# States with at least 10% difference



- Again, Colorado and Illinois produced the biggest change of 89% and 90% respectively.



# What changed in Colorado & Illinois?

Policy change, making it mandatory for all students to sit for SAT in 2017.

- Accounted for the drastic shift from the more popular ACT to SAT.
- Students were not made to choose between the two tests.
- Sit for ACT as an additional test (only for those who are confident of doing well)



# What about Ohio?

Introduced funding for tests, making it free for students to sit for either ACT or SAT.

- Accounted for the change to full participation for ACT.
- Increase in SAT participation as well
- Incentive for students to sit for either or both tests
- Further increase in ACT participation due to familiarity





# What lessons can be drawn from these examples?

- State policies will go a long way to increase participation of exams
- Incentivise students to participate (making it free)
- Mandating the students to participate



# Can we replicate it to other states?

As you can see, crafting policies to boost participation works!

Many ivy league universities use standardised test for their admission process which gives further incentive to move towards having these tests accessible to students.

Having more students participate for standardised tests also allows you to gauge the quality of the students amongst their peers.

Ultimately, we want education to flourish!



# Noteworthy Considerations.

As the coronavirus continues to hit us, many colleges have waived ACT and SAT requirements in their admission process. As the trend continues to occur, it is noteworthy to also consider the implications on whether the recommendations made will be effective in the future.

A common ground should be made instead with also the consultations of colleges and their plans for the admission process. As much as policies may affect the participation, the outcome with the most utility should always take precedence.