

Analysis of California Postsecondary Preparation

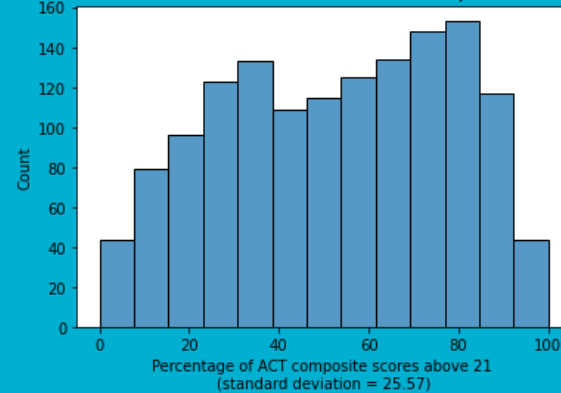
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Problem Statement

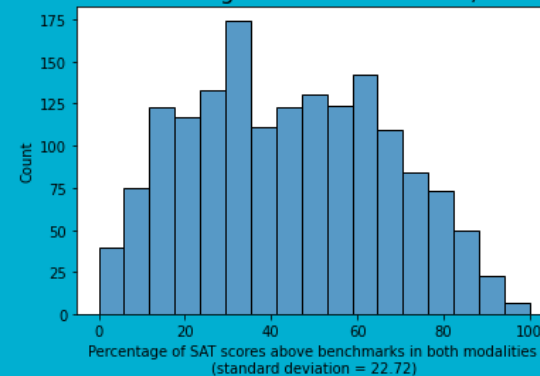
This project aims to identify the best- and worst-performing California school districts on the ACT and SAT for 2019.

The insights gleaned from this project will enable the California Department of Education to not only identify possible reasons for the disparities in performance, but also direct resources to the districts in need.

Distribution of the rate of ACT composite scores above 21 in California, 2019



Distribution of the rate of SAT scores in California above College Board benchmarks, 2019



Relative Correlations

Our analysis found no significant correlations between any of the data and performance on the SAT or ACT, except for median household income.

The relationship isn't great, but it is the strongest link in the dataset.



District Rankings

These are the worst-performing school districts in California for postsecondary preparation

District	County	Median Household Income	Pct ACT Scores Above 21
Golden Plains Unified	Fresno	\$45,201	0.00%
Reef-Sunset Unified	Kings	\$47,341	3.57%
Tulelake Basin Joint Unified	Modoc	\$38,560	6.67%

District	County	Median Household Income	Pct SAT Scores Above Benchmark
Golden Plains Unified	Fresno	\$45,201	0.00%
Williams Unified	Colusa	\$50,503	0.00%
Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified	Fresno	\$45,201	5.95%

District Rankings

These are the best-performing school districts in California for postsecondary preparation.

Worst Districts - \$45,334.50

Best Districts - \$72,869.83

~62% increase

District	County	Median Household Income	Pct ACT Scores Above 21
Lakeside Union Elementary	San Diego	\$63,996	100.00%
Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High	Santa Clara	\$93,854	96.17%
Piedmont City Unified	Alameda	\$73,775	96.06%

District	County	Median Household Income	Pct SAT Scores Above Benchmark
La Canada Unified	Los Angeles	\$55,870	91.76%
San Marino Unified	Los Angeles	\$55,870	91.67%
Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High	Santa Clara	\$93,854	91.43%

Conclusions

Our analysis has indicated that the only meaningful correlation with SAT/ACT success is median household income, a correlation of ~34%.

Our recommendation to close the gap in performance is to close the gap in education spending.