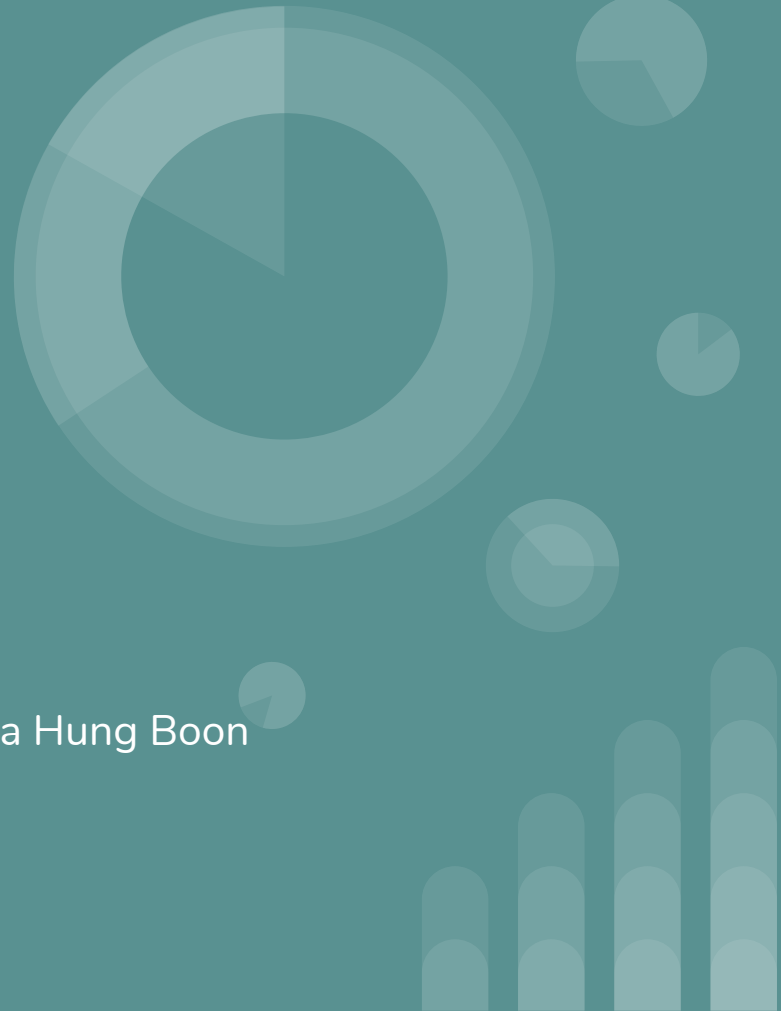


An analysis of 2017/2018 SAT/ACT Participation Rates and Tests scores

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2020 May 29





Content

- Problem Statement
- Methodology
- Type of Data Reviewed
- SAT a viable replacement for ACT?
- Observations
- Recommendation and Conclusion



Problem Statement

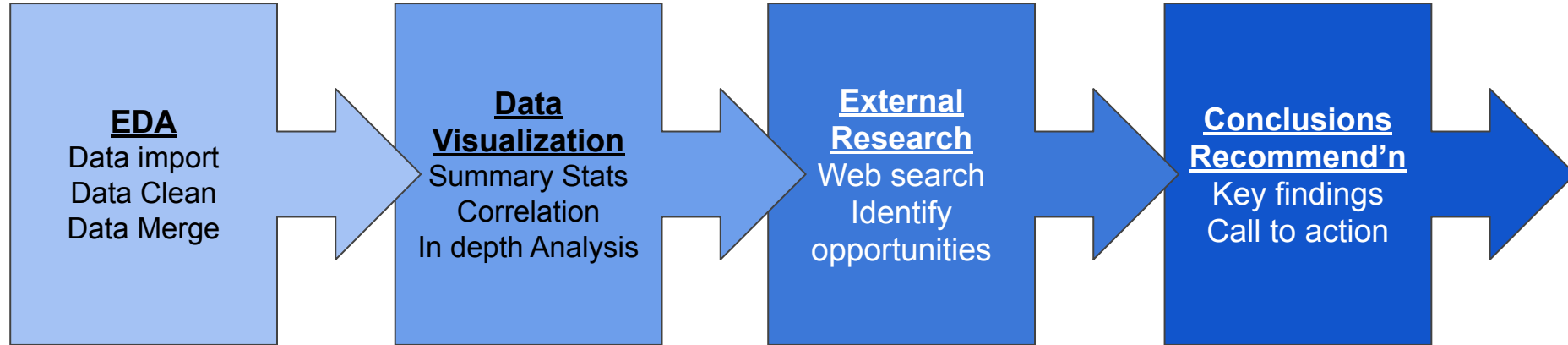
Since the release of the new SAT format in March 2016, the national participation numbers has steadily increased from 1.63M test takers in 2016 (old format) to 1.72M in 2017 to 2.14M in 2018. However SAT adoption continue to fall below ACT participation rates.

This study was designed to analyze 2017 and 2018 SAT & ACT tests participation rates and test scores among the 51 different states in America.

Success factor contributing to increased adoption rate will be identified and recommendations for future actions.



Methodology





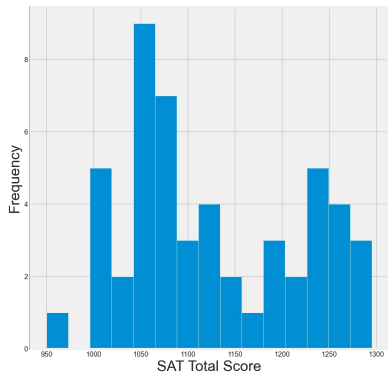
Data Reviewed

- **SAT:** Participation Rate, Evidence-based Reading & Writing Scores, Math Scores, Total Scores
- **ACT:** Participation Rate, English Score, Math Score, Reading Score, Science Score, Composite Score
- For years: 2017 and 2018

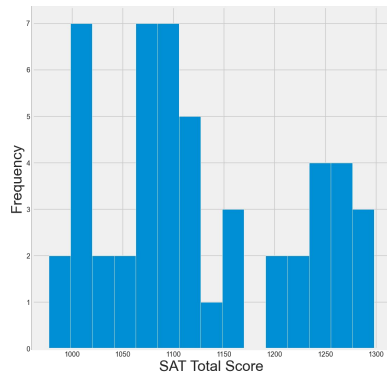


Can SAT be a viable substitution for the ACT

2017 SAT Total Score

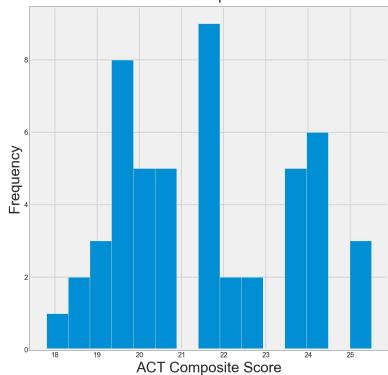


2018 SAT Total Score

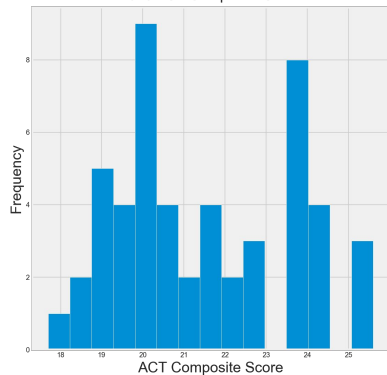


- Both SAT and ACT scores show similar distributions and variance
- State of Colorado surpassed National averages on it first year of full adoption

2017 ACT Composite Score



2018 ACT Composite Score

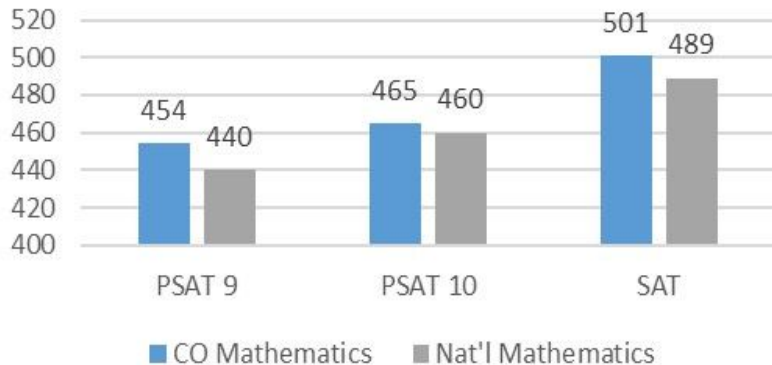




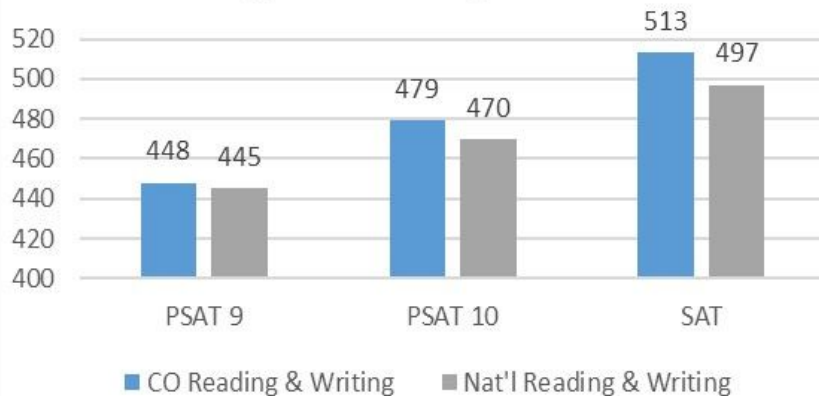
Can SAT be a viable substitution for the ACT

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Mathematics Mean Score



Reading and Writing Mean Scores



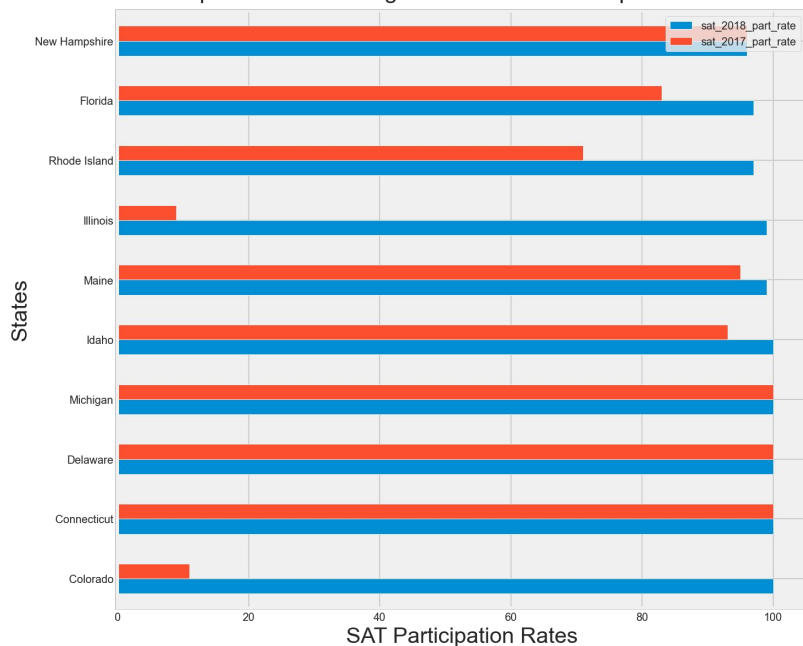


OBSERVATIONS

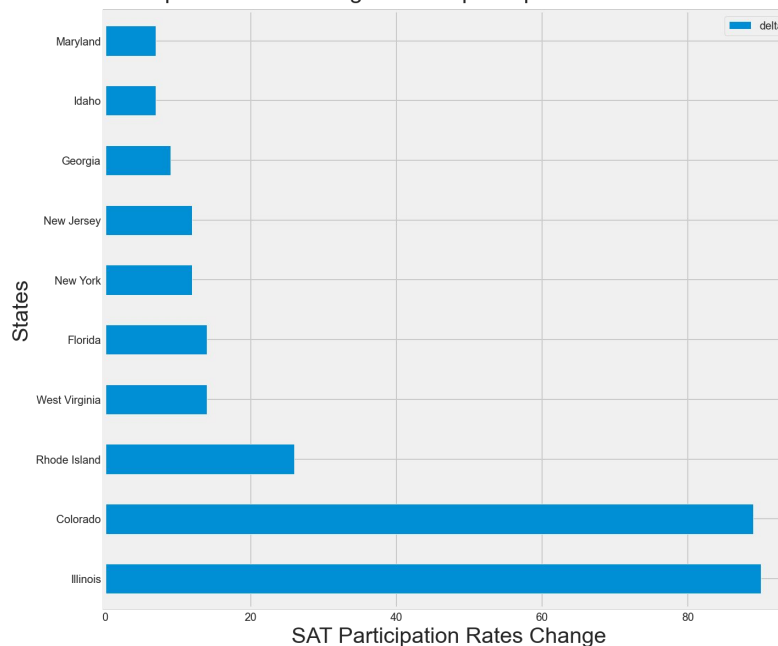


SAT Participation Rate Change 2017-2018

Top 10 states with highest SAT 2018 Participation Rates



Top 10 states with highest SAT participation rate INCREASE





Focus: Top 5 Increases

SAT Participation Rates Top 5 Increases in 2017/2018			
State	2017	2018	Percentage Point Change
Illinois	9%	90%	+90%
Colorado	11%	100%	+89%
Rhode Island	71%	97%	+26%
West Virginia	14%	28%	+14%
New Jersey	70%	82%	+12%



Success Factor (1) - Legislation

- State legislated tests
- Smart reductions in testing and a switch to more relevant assessment in high school
- Switching from the PARCC test to the Pre-SAT, ninth grade participation increased from 76 percent to 94 percent, demonstrating increased value for students



Success Factor (2) - Free Tests & Resources

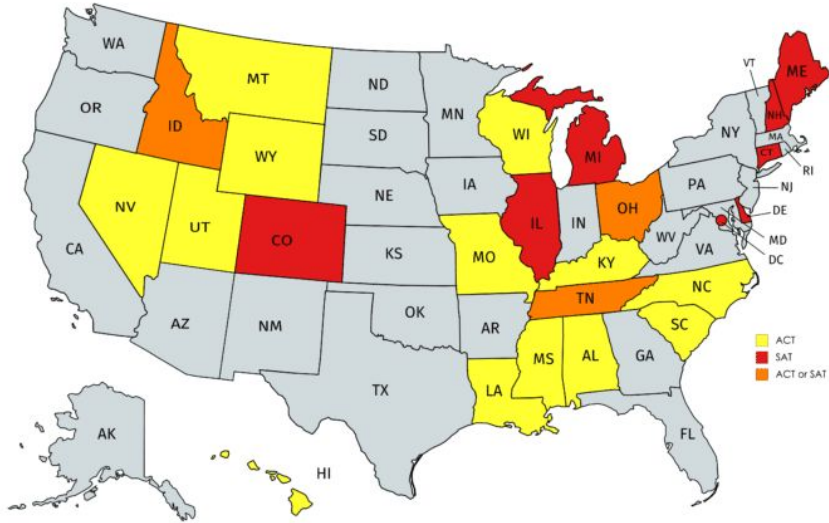
- Fundings from State Governments and Non Profit Organizations
- Peripheral benefits such as free personalized online test practice through Khan Academy and college application fee waivers have also shown to promote SAT adoptions



Success Factor (3) - SAT School Day

- SAT test administered on a regular school day
- Eliminates barriers associated with weekend test administrations (e.g. weekend job, family responsibilities)
- Access to groups that are under represented on college campuses (e.g. students who attend high-poverty public schools, identified as underrepresented minority)

State adoption of Mandatory SAT/ACT



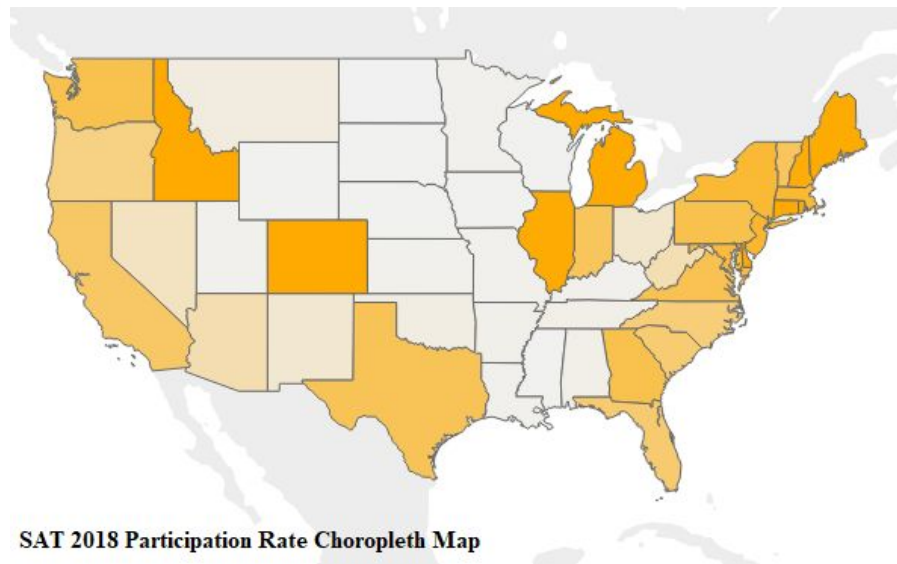
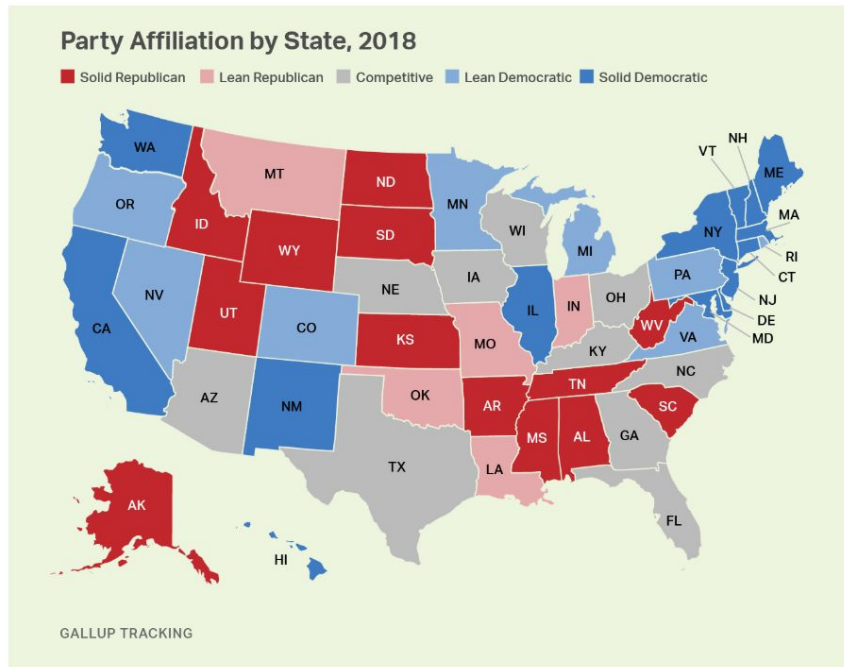
- 9 states mandates SAT
- 12 states mandates ACT
- 3 states mandates either ACT or SAT
- 27 states remaining states presents

OPPORTUNITIES



Political Leaning

Higher SAT adoption rates among Democrat leaning States





RECOMMENDATIONS



Short-Listed States

States that offers great opportunity for wider SAT adoption

- Non existing legislation that mandate SAT or ACT tests
- Expiring contract for ACT administration
- Democrat leaning or politically neutral states

State	Non-Mandatory Tests	Democrat Leaning States	SAT Participation Rate (2018)
New Mexico	✓	✓	16%
Oregon	✓	✓	48%
Nebraska	✓	neutral	3%
Iowa	✓	neutral	3%



Conclusion

- Despite Test scores being negative correlated to participation rates, SAT and ACT scores distribution are similar.
- SAT can be a viable replacement for ACT in any states. Colorado has surpassed National Averages even during it's first year of full implementation.
- States that show remarkable SAT adoption rate increase in 2018 have the following success factors
 - State department of education making SAT test mandatory even from Pre-SAT levels
 - Fundings from state coffers, schools and non-profit organizations to make SAT test free
 - Democrat leaning states also show better inclination for SAT adoption



Recommendation: Call to Action

- Identify states that offers more opportunity for higher SAT adoption
 - Non-existing or expire ACT mandatory test
 - Democrat leaning or neutral
- Engage state's department of education and work towards mandatory SAT and Pre-SAT adoption.
- Actively promote factors that favors SAT adoption
 - Smart reductions in testing and a switch to more relevant assessments in high school.
 - Switching from the PARCC test to the Pre-SAT, ninth grade participation
 - SAT school days
- Work with state, schools, non-profit organization to gather funding for free SAT test, college application fees waiver or other financial assistance



QUESTIONS?