

# ACT and SAT tests:

Does a State requirement to take one test or the other affect the scores for those tests in the corresponding States?

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\*Based on Data from 2019

# The Following States Require that either the SAT or the ACT be taken by eligible students:

## THESE STATES REQUIRE THE ACT

- Alabama
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Utah
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

## THESE REQUIRE THE SAT

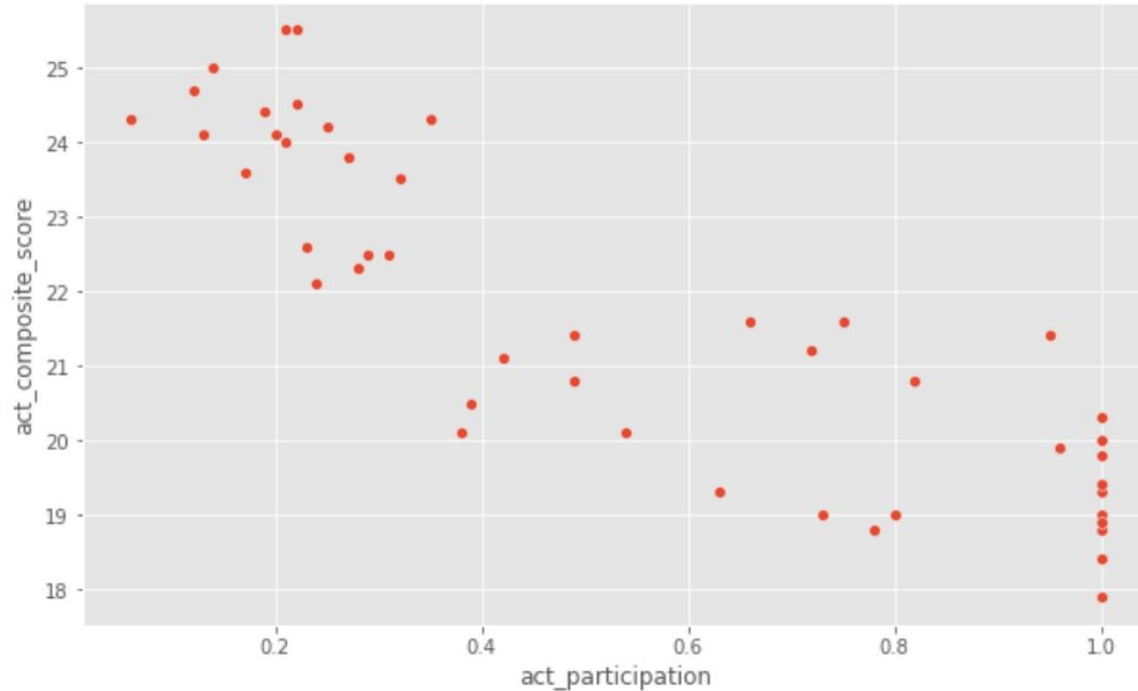
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Maine
- Michigan
- New Hampshire
- Ohio
- Tennessee

\*From Testive.com



# ACT: Overall vs. Required and Not

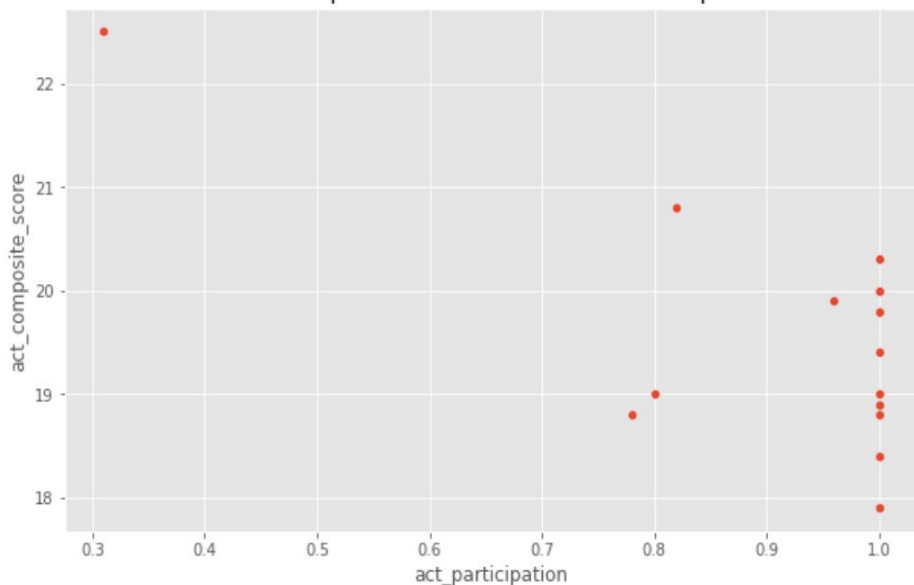
ACT Scores and Participation Overall



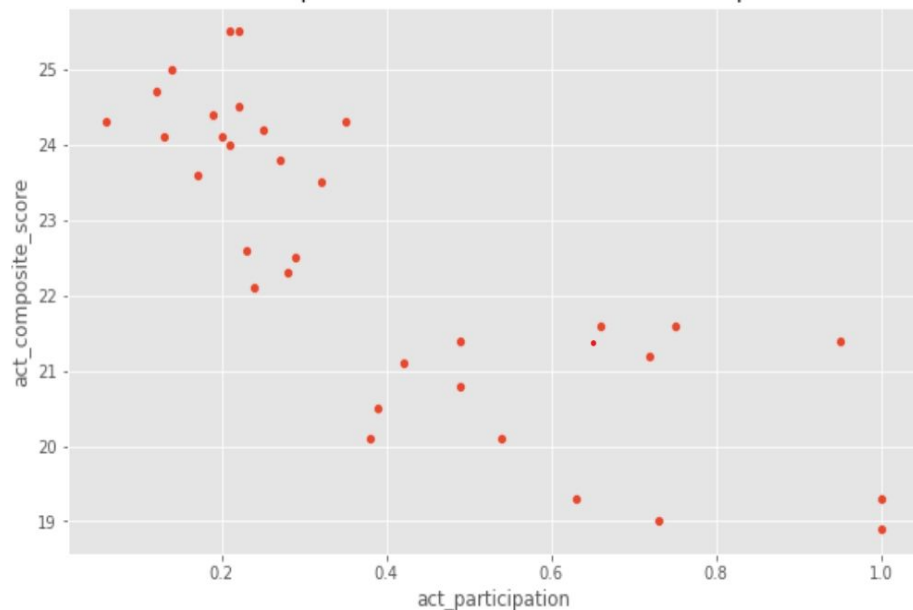
As you can see from this scatter plot, ACT participation and the composite scores appear to show that the higher scores seem to be when there is a lesser participation rate.

As shown by these two scatterplots, states where the ACT is required definitely(/naturally) get the highest participation rates but by no means does that equate to having higher scores.

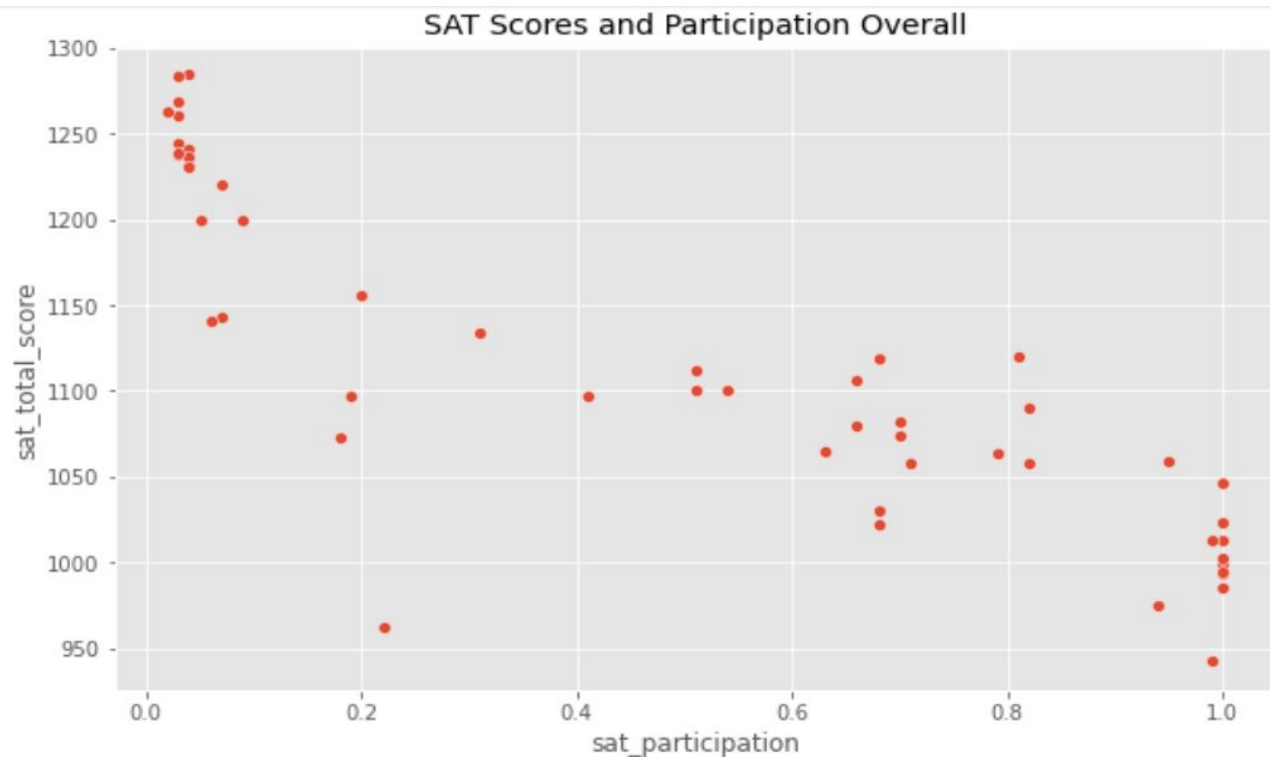
ACT Participation & Scores in states that Require it



ACT Participation & Scores in states that Don't Require it



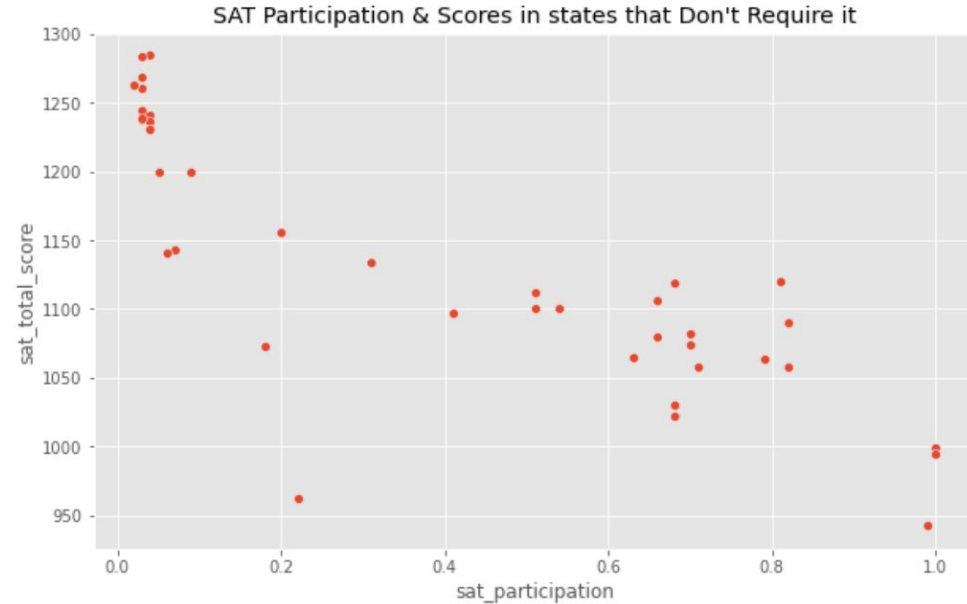
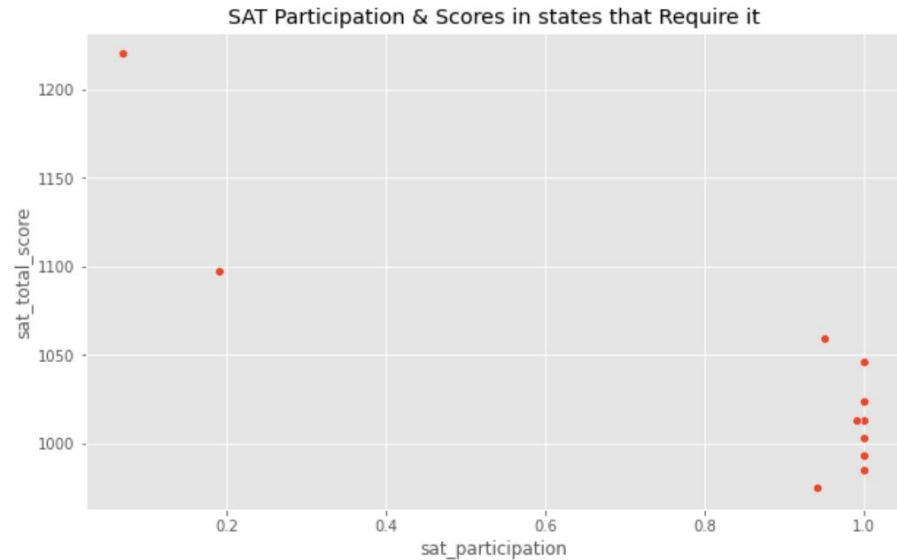
# SAT: (Overall vs. States that Do & Don't require it.)



With the SATs, the scores appear to be similarly scattered throughout, but do appear to be a little more clustered on either end; does this mean that the SATs share the trend of the ACTs; meaning that the areas with a lower participation rate actually turn out the better scores?

Let's take a look to be sure

As it turns out, the exact same trend follows SATs as the ACTs: the States that require the SAT certainly do not have the highest scores; those tend to come from areas with the lowest participation rates.



# Conclusion and Possible Reasoning for the results

It really is a shame that the states that Require certain tests do not get the best scores. This just goes to show you that you can't force anything on a group of people, especially teenagers going into college.

The reason that I find most likely for the low participation rates equating to the highest of scores is that the people that are taking these tests Truly want to take that test, specifically -- usually to get into a specific University that takes SATs over ACTs and vice-versa. Therefore, we may need to look into why certain students are taking either test and apply funds to ensure that they can meet the requirements for the school that they want to attend vs. the State they are currently in.

Next: Maybe there shouldn't be two different tests, after all...

**What do you think? Any Questions?**



# Sources:

Does your state require the SAT or ACT?

<https://www.testive.com/state-sat-act/>

