The State of California: ACT & SAT Performance Analysis

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01

Purpose

Problem Statement

In 2018-2019, the state of California had 76 high school districts and 344 unified school districts.

This project aims to provide an overview of California's standardized test performance and identify the state's worst-performing counties, districts and subjects.

This will allow the state to better understand their academic performance and see where additional resources are required.

Background

- Test Subjects
  - ACT: English, Math, Reading, and Science
  - SAT: Evidence-Based Reading and Writing & Math

- Established Benchmark Scores
  - ACT (Range 1 - 36): Composite (21)
  - SAT (Range 400 - 1600): ERW (480) & Math (530)

- Student Performance Factor
  - Quality of instruction & delivery style

02
Data

Datasets

- 2019 ACT Scores in California by School
  - Contains the average scores by test section (English, Reading, Math and Science) and the percentage of test taskers whose composite scores were greater or equal to 21.

- 2019 SAT Scores in California by School
  - Contains the percent of students who met or exceeded the benchmark for Evidence-Based Reading & Writing and Math, both individually and together.

Definitions

- Overall
  - All schools with recorded test data

- Worst-Performing
  - Schools where less than 10% of students met or exceeded the benchmark score

- Benchmark Student
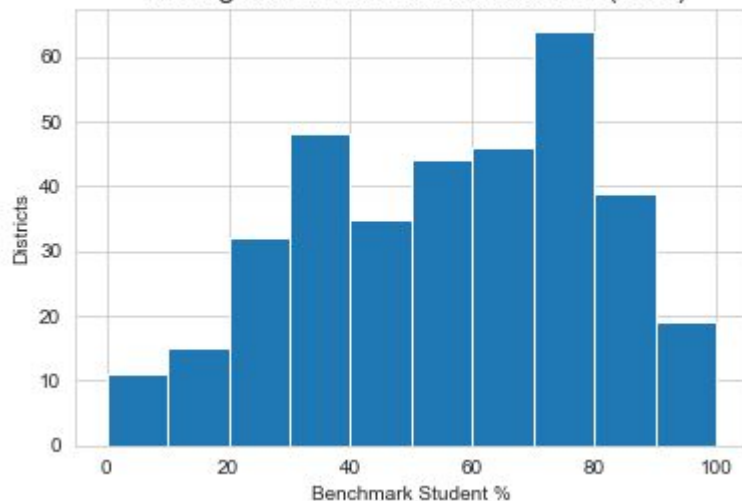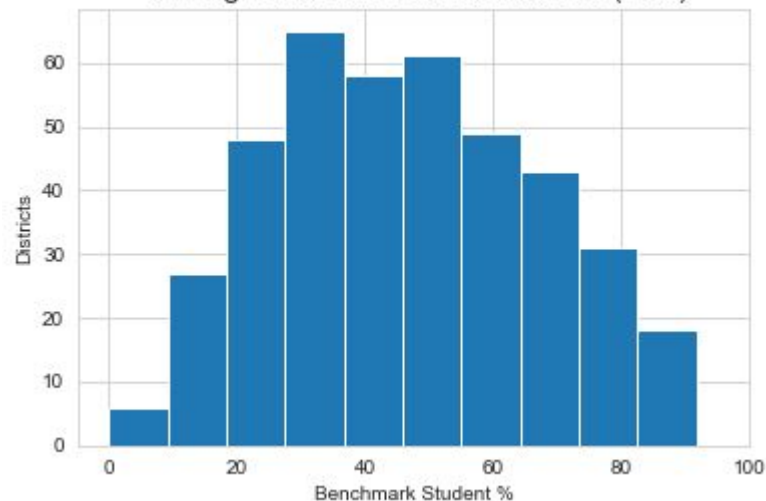 - Student who met or exceeded the benchmark score

03
Analysis

California Test Performance by District

Distribution of districts based on their average % of benchmark students (ACT)

Distribution of districts based on their average % of benchmark students (SAT)

California County, District and School Summary

ACT	Total	< 10% Benchmark Students	% with < 10% Benchmark Students
Schools	1,367	71	5.19%
Districts	353	29	8.22%
Counties	54	15	27.78%

SAT	Total	< 10% Benchmark Students	% with < 10% Benchmark Students
Schools	1,667	110	6.6%
Districts	406	38	9.36%
Counties	55	17	30.91%

California counties and their number of districts with an average of < 10% benchmark students

ACT

1. Fresno - 6
2. Los Angeles - 5
3. Alameda - 2
4. Riverside - 2
5. Sacramento - 2
6. San Bernardino - 2
7. Santa Clara - 2
8. Contra Costa - 1
9. Kern - 1
10. Kings - 1
11. Modoc - 1
12. Monterey - 1
13. San Diego - 1
14. San Francisco - 1
15. San Mateo - 1

SAT

1. Los Angeles - 10
2. Riverside - 4
3. Fresno - 4
4. San Bernardino - 3
5. Alameda - 2
6. Santa Clara - 2
7. San Diego - 2
8. Orange - 2
9. Colusa - 1
10. Monterey - 1
11. Sacramento - 1
12. Kern - 1
13. Inyo - 1
14. San Francisco - 1
15. Contra Costa - 1
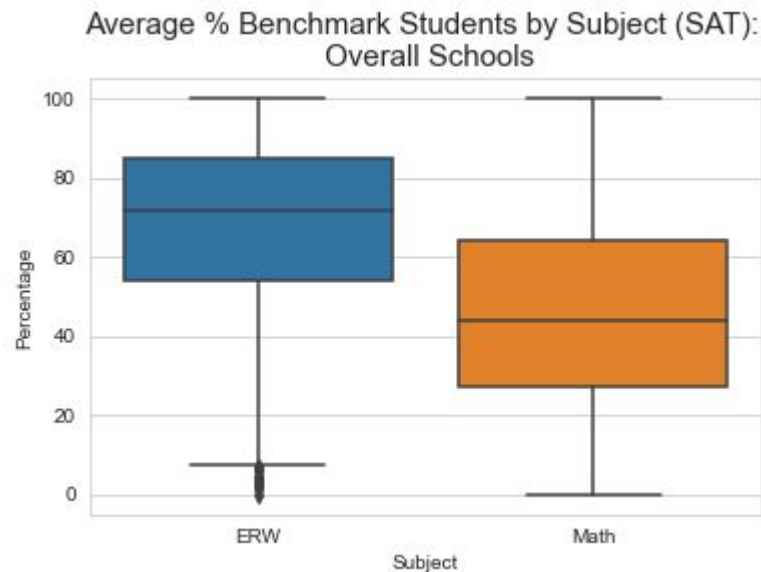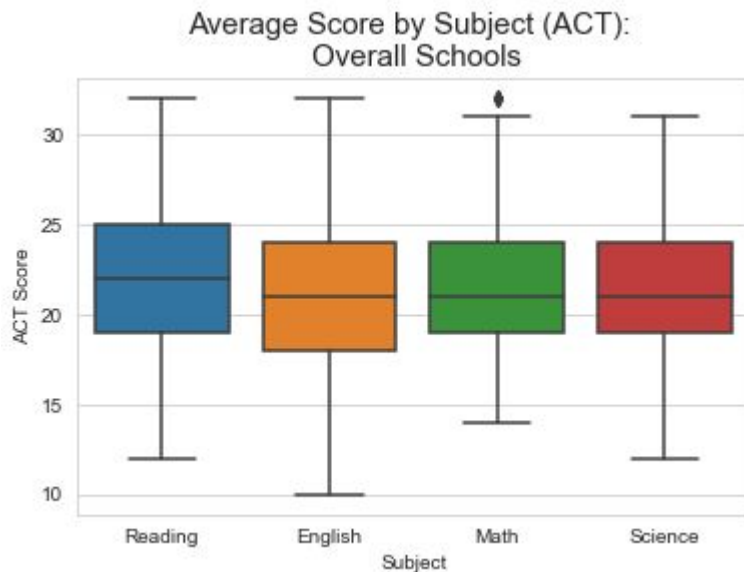16. Sonoma - 1
17. Ventura - 1

The Overlap

1. Los Angeles - 11
2. Fresno - 6
3. Riverside - 6
4. San Bernardino - 5
5. Alameda - 3
6. Sacramento - 3
7. Kern - 2
8. Orange - 2
9. San Diego - 2
10. Santa Clara - 2
11. Colusa - 1
12. Contra Costa - 1
13. Inyo - 1
14. Kings - 1
15. Modoc - 1
16. Monterey - 1
17. San Francisco - 1
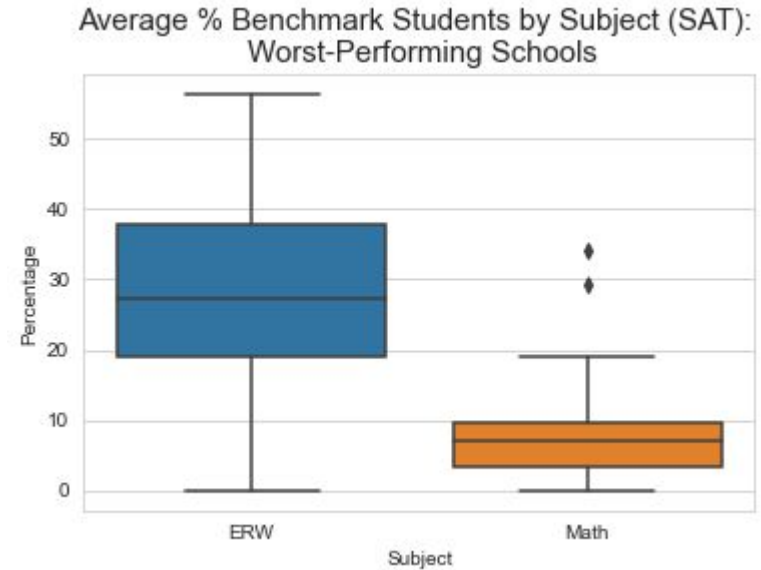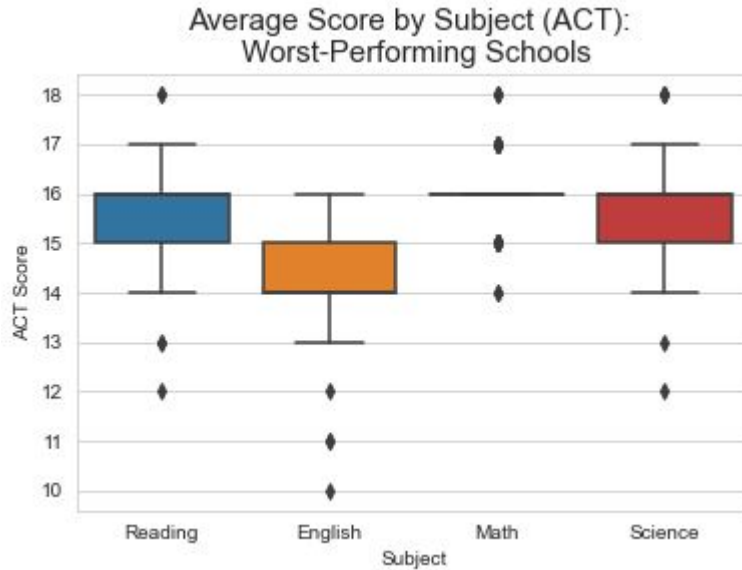18. San Mateo - 1
19. Sonoma - 1
20. Ventura - 1

Identified California counties and their districts

Los Angeles	Freso	Riverside
1. Acton-Agua Dulce Unified 2. Antelope Valley Union High 3. Compton Unified 4. Covina-Valley Unified 5. Inglewood Unified 6. Long Beach Unified 7. Los Angeles County Office of Education 8. Los Angeles Unified 9. Norwalk-La Mirada Unified 10. Paramount Unified 11. SBE - Academia Avance Charter	1. Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified 2. Fresno Unified 3. Golden Plains Unified 4. Kings Canyon Joint Unified 5. Mendota Unified 6. Washington Unified	1. California School for the Deaf-Riverside (State Special Schl) 2. Hemet Unified 3. Moreno Valley Unified 4. Palm Springs Unified 5. Riverside County Office of Education 6. Val Verde Unified

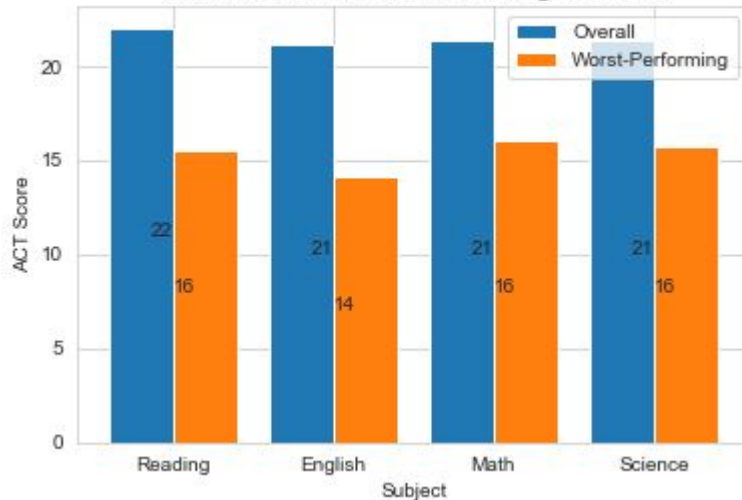# California Student Performance by Subject: Overall Average

Average Score by Subject (ACT): Overall Schools

Average % Benchmark Students by Subject (SAT): Overall Schools

California Student Performance by Subject: Worst-Performing Average

Average Score by Subject (ACT): Worst-Performing Schools

Average % Benchmark Students by Subject (SAT): Worst-Performing Schools
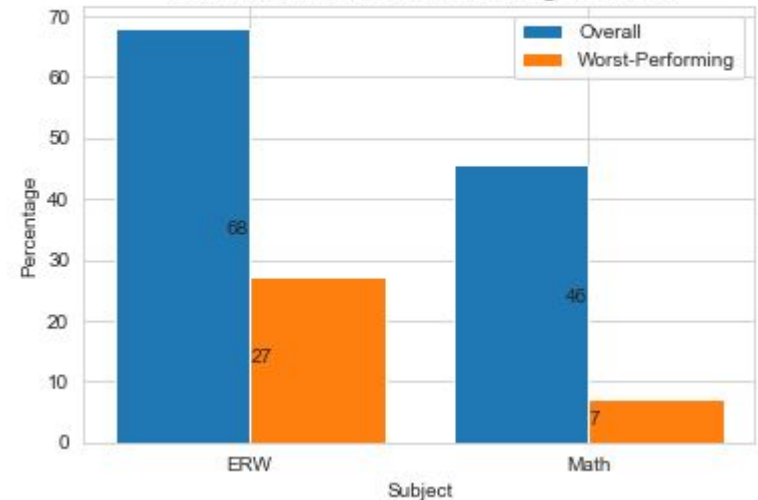
California Student Performance by Subject: Overall vs. Worst-Performing Averages

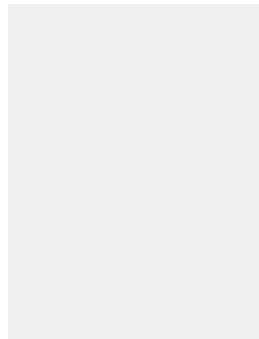Average Score by Subject (ACT): Overall vs. Worst-Performing Schools

Average % Benchmark Students by Subject (SAT): Overall vs. Worst-Performing Schools

04
Conclusion

Key Takeaways

- The State of California has 52 districts where less than 10% of students met or exceeded the benchmark score for the ACT and/or SAT. There is a heavy concentration of these districts in the Los Angeles, Fresno and Riverside counties.

- The ACT does not have a subject that can be considered worst-performing, but the SAT Math section is giving students significant difficulty.

Recommendations

- To start, focus on the districts in the top 3 counties with the most number of worst-performing districts: **Los Angeles, Fresno & Riverside.** *(see slide 13)*

- These counties/districts will require a **higher quality of instruction & delivery style on all subjects** with an **emphasis on Math.**

Next Steps

- What should be implemented/changed to achieve a higher quality of instruction & delivery style?

- Will all worst-performing districts benefit from the same implementations/changes?

Questions?

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