

Recommendations to Improve SAT Participation Rates in Tennessee

Nicholas Lim



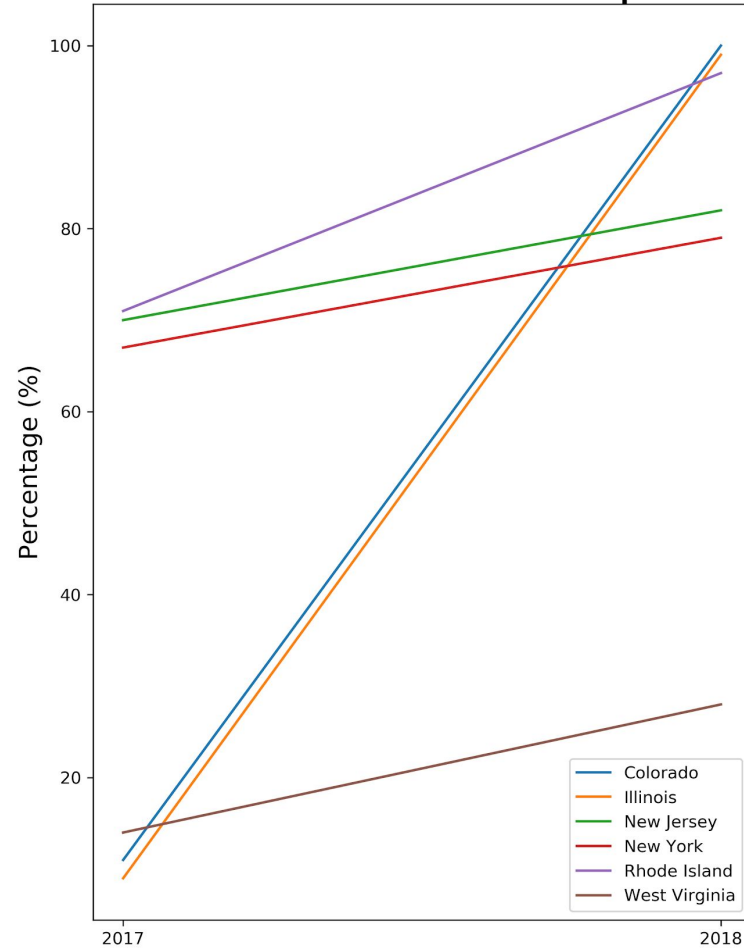
Outline

- Background
- Recommendations
- Conclusion
- Q&A

Background

- Tennessee is the 16th largest state based on population in the US
- One of the lowest participation rates for SAT (5-6%)
- Participation rates for ACT at 100% even though both SAT and ACT are administered in schools

A look at how other states increase participation for SAT



How did Colorado and Illinois do it??

- In 2015, Colorado announced that they are shifting their college prep exams from the ACT to the SAT. 2016 was the final year that ACT was the main exam, and 2017 became the first year for SAT.
- In 2016, in Illinois, College Board outbid ACT to be awarded the contract that gives SAT to all public high school juniors to be taken as part of their college exams. Similar to Colorado, SAT kicks in as the main exam in 2017

Why was ACT more popular than SAT in Tennessee?

- TNReady, part of the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) that is used in the education system in Tennessee, is greatly aligned with how ACT is tested
- College students will be more inclined to take the ACT since TNReady prepares them better for ACT as compared to SAT

So what should College Board do?

1. Work with Tennessee's Department of Education on aligning SAT's scope with what TNReady provides
2. Call for greater push to make SAT the more preferred test within Tennessee

Conclusion

- Recommendations on improving participation rate in Tennessee is greatly dependent on cooperation with the Education Department
- Follow-up will need to be done should they be willing to work together to enforce implementation of SAT state-wide
- More insights could be gathered if we can drill down our information to the schools within the state to understand the dynamics and the performance of the students from the various schools

Questions?