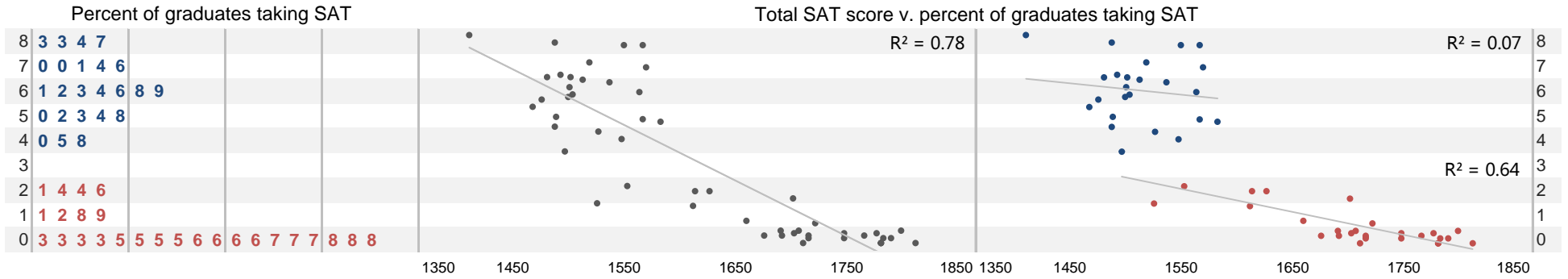


Ranking states on SAT scores, 2007-08

The SAT participation rate varies by state from .03 to .87 and correlates strongly with total SAT score (r -squared = .78). To rank states on SAT without taking into account participation rate would essentially amount ranking them on the latter variable. A more meaningful rank would compare schools with similar participation rates. I split the population where participation rate = .40, separating the clear bimodal distribution. Among the 26 states with < .40 participation rate the correlation remains strong (r -squared = .64), where is greatly diminished with the 24 states with participation rates > .40 (r -squared = .07). Hence, the ranking will be limited to the latter population. Source data and notes: <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d08/tables/dt08_144.asp>.



Rank	State	Participation rate	Reading	Math	Writing	Total
1	Washington	.52	526	533	509	1568
2	New Hampshire	.74	521	523	511	1555
3	Oregon	.53	523	527	502	1552
4	Massachusetts	.83	514	525	513	1552
5	Vermont	.64	519	523	507	1549
6	Connecticut	.83	509	513	513	1535
7	Alaska	.45	520	520	493	1533
8	Virginia	.68	511	512	499	1522
9	California	.48	499	515	498	1512
10	New Jersey	.76	495	513	496	1504
11	Maryland	.69	499	502	497	1498
12	North Carolina	.63	496	511	482	1489
13	Delaware	.70	499	498	490	1487
14	Rhode Island	.66	495	498	493	1486
15	Indiana	.62	496	508	481	1485
16	Nevada	.40	498	506	478	1482
17	Pennsylvania	.71	494	501	483	1478
18	Florida	.54	496	497	481	1474
19	Texas	.50	488	505	480	1473
20	New York	.84	488	504	481	1473
21	Georgia	.70	491	493	482	1466
22	South Carolina	.61	488	497	476	1461
23	Hawaii	.58	481	502	470	1453
24	Maine	.87	469	466	461	1396