**Executive Summary**

This project is intended to look at the differences in quality among Tennessee public schools in different neighborhoods. The project will touch on issues such as race, socioeconomic status, and gerrymandering. There is a lot of data already out there which is great from data collection standpoint, but will also provide a challenge in trying to come up with answers that have not already been found. My end goal is to attempt to figure out how aggressive the issue is, why it is happening, and what solutions policy-makers could attempt.

**Motivation**

I have been working in public schools for the past decade and have seen firsthand the extreme disparity among schools in different areas of town. I know this is something people are generally aware of, but having been in the past only able to observe and unable to help, I would like to use this opportunity to take a look at what the data is saying.

**Data Question(s)**

1. What is the extent of the differences between schools in different neighborhoods?
2. What role do gerrymandering and other change-able factors play? Can these factors help create a solution?

**Schedule (through 6/25/2020)**

1. Get the Data (5/26/2020)
2. Clean & Explore the Data (6/12/2020)
3. Create Presentation (6/18/2020)
4. Internal Demos (6/19/2020)
5. Demo Day (6/25/2020)

**Data Sources**

Not all necessarily data, but where I am beginning my research:

1. <https://www.edweek.org/topics/states/tennessee/index.html>
2. <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/researchcenter/>
3. <https://www.unifi-ed.org/>
4. <https://www.tn.gov/education/data/report-card.html>
5. Additional data may be found here: [https://www.tn.gov/education/data.html](https://slack-redir.net/link?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.tn.gov%2Feducation%2Fdata.html)  
   And census data ([https://data.census.gov/cedsci/](https://slack-redir.net/link?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdata.census.gov%2Fcedsci%2F)) or income data ([https://www.irs.gov/statistics/soi-tax-stats-irs-data-book](https://slack-redir.net/link?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.irs.gov%2Fstatistics%2Fsoi-tax-stats-irs-data-book)) might also be useful.
6. Princeton nationwide gerrymandering (school districts?)
7. <https://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/catalog/k-12-students-schools.html>
8. **www2.ed.gov**
9. [**K-12 Students/Schools - Data and Statistics**](https://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/catalog/k-12-students-schools.html)
10. Describes data and statistics that are available on Department of Education sites.

**Known Issues and Challenges**

This is something that has been researched extensively, so finding something new will be a challenge. I have my preliminary questions, but I’m sure those will change as I explore the data. I might narrow the scope down to just Nashville, but I was really hoping to be able to look at Chattanooga as well, since that is where my teaching experience comes from. Most of the data I will be needing I don’t see as very challenging to acquire, but this may change as my thought process develops.