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Module 4: Report

By observing the data for each school, there are multiple conclusions that we can draw regarding school budgets and priorities. The most notable information that the data tells us is that students in general perform better at reading than math, charter schools perform better than district schools, and charter schools spend more than district schools both overall and per student.

The first conclusion we can draw from the data is that charter schools perform better than district schools. The data shows us that charter schools have a 90.43% overall passing rate, while district schools have 53.67%. When sorting the schools by % Overall Passing, the top five are all charter schools, while the bottom five are all district schools. While one could point to school size being a factor, the Size Summary shows us that the charter school Wilson High School is in the largest size category and still has one of the highest Overall Passing rates.

Another conclusion is that the budget does not seem to have an impact on student performance. When observing the Spending Ranges (Per Student), all schools in the highest budget range ($645-680) are district schools while the lowest budget range (<$585) are all charter schools. The charter school Thomas High School has almost the exact same Per Student Budget as district schools Rodriquez High School and Figueroa High School, but Thomas's Overall Passing rate is 90.94% while the two district schools are 52.99% and 53.2%.

Based on these conclusions, we can determine that more spending is not the solution for fixing poor student performance. Charter schools require less of a Total School Budget and Per Student Budget, and yet always out perform district schools. The solution is not to focus the budgets on students, but perhaps the teachers and student support. Given that math scores are aggressively low in district schools, it seems like the best use of the budget would be to hire extra math tutors or invest in better math textbooks or equipment, such as calculators.