

### **School type**

Independent schools fared slightly better than Government schools in reading and maths, which resulted in a significantly higher overall pass rate - 76.97% versus 70.69%.

### **School size**

Small and medium sized schools fared significantly better than large schools in maths, reading and overall pass rate. Large schools have a 70.29% overall pass rate, whereas small and medium-size schools have an overall pass rate rate of 79.07% and 78.04% respectively. The difference in pass rate between small and medium schools is negligible. While small schools do have a higher pass rate in maths, reading and overall, the difference is less than 1% in each category.

### **Spending**

There is no clear correlation between spending ranges per student and student pass rate. Schools in the highest spending bracket (\$645-\$680 per student) have the lowest pass rate out of all categories (66.76%). The highest pass rate (79.88%) is by schools in the second lowest spending bracket (\$585-\$630).

At first glance, there seems to be no relationship between spending and performance. However, we can see that the two lowest spending brackets have the highest pass rates, and the difference in performance between these two is just over 3%. The second highest spending bracket has a pass rate of 71%, giving it the third lowest pass rate and putting it 5% behind second place. It seems counterintuitive that schools with higher budgets would have poorer performance, however without knowing how the budgets are spent we cannot use this information to make decisions. There could be a limit to how much spending can contribute to success, or there may be other factors that determine spending, such as special needs programs, schools located in low socio-economic areas or areas with a higher crime rate. Another factor could be that struggling schools have received a boost to their funding recently which may not create an immediate payoff.

### **Conclusion**

School size and school type appear to be the two determining factors in student pass rates.