The data contained within this assignment provides thorough if not comprehensive information regarding thing such as the respective average test scores and budgets of a number of different schools. Provided also is information regarding each school’s ‘type’. For this specification each school is classified either as a member of a district or as an independent charter school. From this information alone we are able to draw a couple of clear conclusions regarding relationships within the data.

The student populations within charter schools performed, on average, markedly better than their peers attending district schools. This is true in all categories related to academic performance. The category in which this discrepancy is most pronounced is within that concerned with the rate at which students are passing both math and reading classes. The charter schools stand at a very respectable overall passing rate of just over ninety percent whereas district schools come in at an abysmal fifty-three percent, an over forty percent decline. This is rather astounding and seems almost impossible.

This vast difference in performance between district and charter schools becomes even more puzzling when one examines the total budget of each school in the dataset as it relates to overall student performance. From this we can see that there is no consistent relationship between a school’s budget and the performance of its students with schools possessing budgets in excess of one-million dollars appearing in both the top and bottom five schools by overall passing rate. A closer look reveals that the truth lies within each schools per-capita spending which displays and inverse relationship with its students’ overall passing rate. Schools that spent less than $585 per student outperformed those that spent between $585 and $630 by almost nine percent. Those that spent $645 dollars or more passed at a rate of just fifty-three percent.

The one thing that the highest performing schools have in common is a consistently smaller student population. From this we can only conclude that smaller class sizes and the resultant increase in individual attention from teaching staff is a more effective way of ensuring student success than is financial commitment alone.