Final Project Proposal

I propose to examine the relationship and tensions of correlations of proficiency on state assessments to both the percent of students in poverty as well as the average magnitude of poverty in the surrounding geographic area. The specific measures and geographical unit (county, city, US census tract, etc.) will be dependent on the availability of data and how well that can be merged with educational data.

The motivation for this analysis is primarily to explore a policy question/problem within the field of education. There is a strong, and well documented, correlation between the rate of students in poverty and lower academic outcomes. However, while there has been significant discussion that schools exist within a context of the experiences of their students and the community in which they are located, little study on the impact of community on schools seems to have been done. This would be a start to rectifying that situation.

Proposed data sources:

1. School, district, and/or Intermediate School District educational data to be pulled from [www.mischooldata.org](http://www.mischooldata.org) via csv download request
2. County, city, and/or US census tract information pulled from [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) website APIs