Site Selection in School District Research:

A Measure of Effectiveness Using Hierarchical Longitudinal Growth Models of Performance

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Purpose & Background

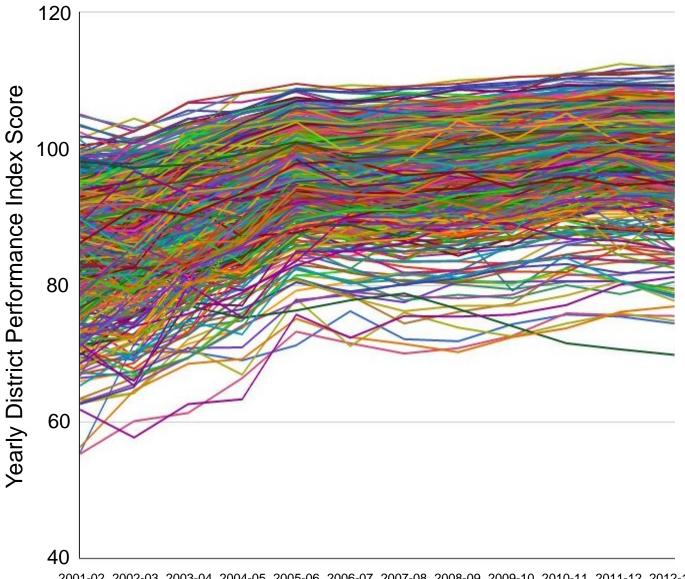
Purpose:

The purpose of this study is to test a method for identification of effective districts from all districts in a state (Ohio) for in-depth qualitative case study site selection

Background:

- School districts matter:
 - Leadership through coherent instructional systems
 - Sustained and focused professional development for teachers and school leaders
 - Intentional fiscal and human resource management
 - Instructional capacity building
 - Effective data use
 - Bowers 2008, Elmore & Burney 1999, Firestone et al. 2005, Honig 2012, Honig & Coburn 2008, Honig & Venkateswaran 2012, Leithwood 2010, Skrla et al. 2011, Trujillo 2013
- Studying districts is a complex and resource intensive endeavor, since U.S. school districts are themselves complex organizations, embedded within their local contexts
- Can district research findings be generalized?
 - Leithwood 2010, Purkey & Smith 1985; Rorrer, Skrla, Scheurich 2008, Thompson, Skyes & Skrla 2008
- Recent research has referred to the School Effectiveness Literature (SER) for recommendations: Bowers 2010, Trujillo 2013

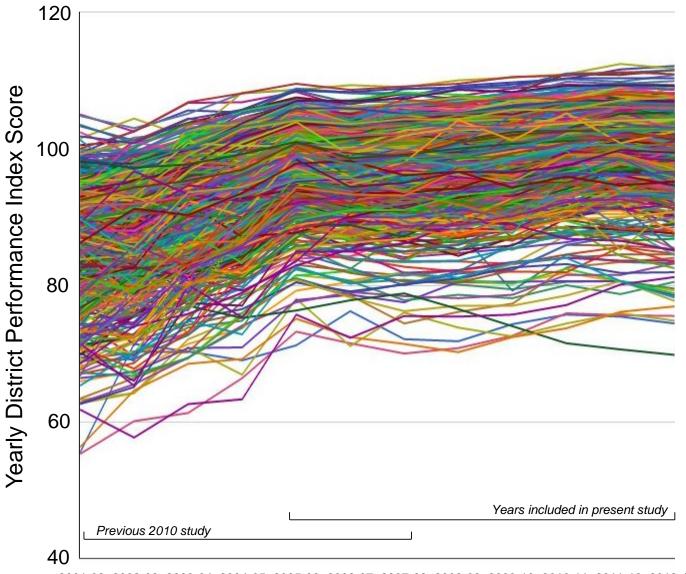
Twelve Years of Performance Index (PI) Scores for Every District in Ohio



2001-02 2002-03 2003-04 2004-05 2005-06 2006-07 2007-08 2008-09 2009-10 2010-11 2011-12 2012-13

Academic Year

Twelve Years of Performance Index (PI) Scores for Every District in Ohio



2001-02 2002-03 2003-04 2004-05 2005-06 2006-07 2007-08 2008-09 2009-10 2010-11 2011-12 2012-13

Past Issues with School & District Effectiveness Research (SER/DER)

- Sites selected based on:
 - Researcher proximity
 - Consulting relationships
 - Recommendations from the state of who is "the best"
 - A focus on only mathematics or reading scores
 - Single year regressions ignoring year-to-year variation and growth-over-time
 - Ignoring school-level variance
 - Few comparisons as single case studies or "best-to-best" comparisons
 - Bowers 2010, Trujillo 2013
- Critiquing and unpacking the idea of "The District" to instead focus on the daily lived experiences of the work of central office staff.
 - Daly & Finnigan 2011, 2012; Honig 2003, 2008, 2009
- Leithwood (2010) "Future research should include efforts to collect evidence from large samples of districts that represent the full range of district performance (high to low), however defined" p.284

Research Question

To what extent can school districts be identified from all of the districts in a state (Ohio) that significantly outperform or underperform long-term performance trends across multiple indicators?

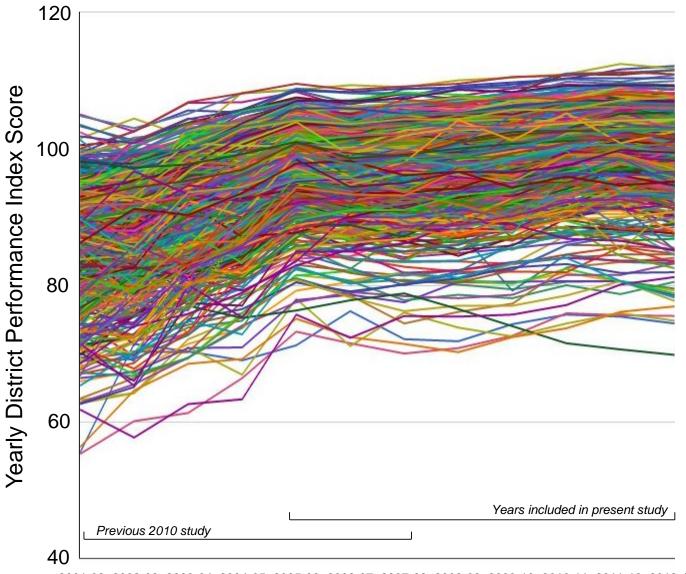
Sample & Method

- All school districts in the state of Ohio *n*=610
- Publically available data from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) & NCES Common Core of Data (CCD).
 - Similar to the types of data available for every state
- Eight years 2005-06 2012-13
- District Performance Index (PI) Score
 - District standardized test performance in mathematics, reading, writing, science and social studies in grades 3, 8 and 10
- Control variables:
 - Student demographics, socioeconomic status, and attendance
 - Teacher experience, salary and class size
 - District locale (Urban, Suburban, Small Town, Rural)
 - District enrollment
 - Small Enrollment 1-1,299 (33%)
 - Medium Enrollment 1,300-2,399 (34%)
 - Large Enrollment 2,400-9,999 (31%)
 - Extra Large Enroll 10,000+ (2%)
- Two-level Hierarchical Growth Modeling

Method – A 2-Level Hierarchical Growth Model

- Two level hierarchical model that nests time (level 1) in districts (level 2)
 - Heck, Thomas & Tabata (2013); Hox (2010); Raudenbush & Bryk (2002)
- Provides a district effect through time as estimates on the slopes (eight year change in PI score) controlling for the intercept at timepoint 1 (2005-06)
 - Superior to Value-Added Models since "growth" through time is model appropriately, controlling for the prior achievement in the first year
 - Hallinger, Heck & Murphy (2014), Heck, Lam & Thomas (2014), Bowers & White (2014)
- The model controls for demographic and background variables, enrollment, urbancity, attendance, teacher experience and salary and average district class size.
- The model also includes a proxy of school-level performance index score variance
- Subtract the model predicted PI score for each year from the actual PI score and examine which districts outperform or underperform the model or are at the norm (Bowers, 2010)

Twelve Years of Performance Index (PI) Scores for Every District in Ohio



2001-02 2002-03 2003-04 2004-05 2005-06 2006-07 2007-08 2008-09 2009-10 2010-11 2011-12 2012-13

Intercepts

Year 2005-06 PI Score

Slopes

Growth over 8 years in PI score

Variable	Coeff.	Stand. Coeff.	
Intercept	96.726***		
Year	0.492***	0.179	
Intercepts	0.472	0.17	
% Disadvantaged students	-0.864***	-0.13	
% Asian students ^a	0.668***	0.10	
% African American students ^a	-0.849***	-0.13	
% Hispanic students ^a	0.268*	0.04	
% High mobility students	-0.122	0.04	
% Disabled students	-0.617***	-0.09	
Small enrollment	-0.595	0.07	
Large enrollment	0.562		
Extra Large enrollment	-1.511		
Urban	-7.380***	-0.21	
Small Town	-2.133***	-0.21	
Rural	-1.031*	-0.08	
% Student attendance	0.825***	0.13	
School-level PI score variance	-0.004	0.13	
Avg. teacher years experience	0.405***	0.06	
Student-Teacher ratio	-0.186**	-0.03	
Avg. teacher salary	-0.041	-0.03	
Slopes	0.011		
% Disadvantaged	0.152***	0.10	
% Asian students	-0.057*	-0.04	
% African American students	-0.082***	-0.05	
% Hispanic students	-0.037*	-0.02	
% High mobility students	0.004	0.02	
% Disabled students	0.032		
Small enrollment	-0.031		
Large enrollment	-0.140**	-0.04	
Extra Large enrollment	-0.081	0.01	
Urban	0.092		
Small Town	0.055		
Rural	0.128**	0.04	
% Student attendance	0.024	0.0.	
School-level PI score variance	-0.023***	-0.04	
Avg. teacher years experience	-0.089***	-0.06	
Student-Teacher ratio	0.014	0.00	
Avg. teacher salary	0.141***	0.09	
Amount of variance between			
districts (ICC) (%)	58.869		
Variance Explained			
Level 1: Within districts (%)	84.325		
Level 2: Between districts (%)	44.137		

Intercepts

Year 2005-06 PI Score

Enrollment

Slopes

Growth over 8 years in PI score

Variable	Coeff.	Stand. Coeff.	
_			
Intercept	96.726***		
Year	0.492***	0.179	
Intercepts	0.04444		
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Intercepts

Year 2005-06 PI Score

Locale

Slopes

Growth over 8 years in PI score

Variable	Coeff.	Stand Coeff	
Intercept	96.726***		
Year	0.492***	0.17	
Intercepts	0, <u>-</u>	0.17	
% Disadvantaged students	-0.864***	-0.13	
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Variance Explained			
Level 1: Within districts (%)	84.325		
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Intercepts

Year 2005-06 PI Score

% Student Attendance

Slopes

Growth over 8 years in PI score

Variable	Coeff.	Stand. Coeff.
	33	33
Intercept	96.726***	
Year	0.492***	0.179
Intercepts		
% Disadvantaged students	-0.864***	-0.137
% Asian students ^a	0.668***	0.106
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% High mobility students	0.004	
% Disabled students	0.032	
Small enrollment	-0.031	
Large enrollment	-0.140**	-0.046
Extra Large enrollment	-0.081	
Urban	0.092	
Small Town	0.055	
Rural	0.128**	0.048
% Student attendance	0.024	
School-level PI score variance	-0.023***	-0.047
Avg. teacher years experience	-0.089***	-0.060
Student-Teacher ratio	0.014	
Avg. teacher salary	0.141***	0.097
Amount of variance between	50.0 60	
districts (ICC) (%)	58.869	
Variance Explained	04.225	
Level 1: Within districts (%)	84.325	
Level 2: Between districts (%)	44.137	

Intercepts

Year 2005-06 PI Score

Teacher Experience

Slopes

Growth over 8 years in PI score

Variable	Coeff.	Stand. Coeff.	
	00	00	
Intercept	96.726***		
Year	0.492***	0.179	
Intercepts			
% Disadvantaged students	-0.864***	-0.137	
% Asian students ^a	0.668***	0.106	
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Small enrollment	-0.031		
Large enrollment	-0.140**	-0.046	
Extra Large enrollment	-0.081		
Urban	0.092		
Small Town	0.055		
Rural	0.128**	0.048	
% Student attendance	0.024		
School-level PI score variance	-0.023***	-0.047	
Avg. teacher years experience	-0.089***	-0.060	
Student-Teacher ratio	0.014		
Avg. teacher salary	0.141***	0.097	
A			
Amount of variance between	5 0.070		
districts (ICC) (%)	58.869		
Variance Explained	04.225		
Level 1: Within districts (%)	84.325		
Level 2: Between districts (%)	44.137		

Intercepts

Year 2005-06 PI Score

Student-Teacher ratio

Slopes

Growth over 8 years in PI score

Variable	Coeff.	Stand. Coeff.	
	JJ -		
Intercept	96.726***		
Year	0.492***	0.179	
Intercepts			
% Disadvantaged students	-0.864***	-0.137	
% Asian students ^a	0.668***	0.106	
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Variance Explained			
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Intercepts

Year 2005-06 PI Score

Slopes

Growth over 8 years in PI score

Enrollment

Variable	Coeff.	Stand. Coeff.	
Intercent	96.726***		
Intercept Year	0.492***	0.179	
Intercepts	0.472	0.177	
% Disadvantaged students	-0.864***	-0.137	
% Asian students ^a	0.668***	0.106	
% African American students ^a	-0.849***	-0.135	
% Hispanic students ^a	0.268*	0.043	
% High mobility students	-0.122	0.015	
% Disabled students	-0.617***	-0.098	
Small enrollment	-0.595	0.070	
Large enrollment	0.562		
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Urban	-7.380***	-0.219	
Small Town	-2.133***	-0.111	
Rural	-1.031*	-0.082	
% Student attendance	0.825***	0.131	
School-level PI score variance	-0.004	0.151	
Avg. teacher years experience	0.405***	0.064	
Student-Teacher ratio	-0.186**	-0.030	
Avg. teacher salary	-0.041	0.050	
Slopes	0.011		
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% African American students	-0.082***	-0.054	
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% High mobility students	0.004	0.020	
% Disabled students	0.032		
Small enrollment	-0.031		
Large enrollment	-0.140**	-0.046	
Extra Large enrollment	-0.081	0.010	
Urban	0.092		
Small Town	0.055		
Rural	0.128**	0.048	
% Student attendance	0.024	0.010	
School-level PI score variance	-0.023***	-0.047	
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Level 1: Within districts (%)	84.325		
Level 2: Between districts (%)	44.137		

Intercepts

Year 2005-06 PI Score

Slopes

Growth over 8 years in PI score

Locale

Variable	Coeff.	Stand. Coeff.
Intercent	06 726***	
Intercept	96.726*** 0.492***	0.170
Year	0.492***	0.179
Intercepts	0.064***	0.127
% Disadvantaged students	-0.864***	-0.137
% Asian students ^a	0.668***	0.106
% African American students ^a	-0.849***	-0.135
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Small enrollment	-0.595	
Large enrollment	0.562	
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Student-Teacher ratio	-0.186**	-0.030
Avg. teacher salary	-0.041	
Slopes		
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% Asian students	-0.057*	-0.040
% African American students	-0.082***	-0.054
% Hispanic students	-0.037*	-0.026
% High mobility students	0.004	
% Disabled students	0.032	
Small enrollment	-0.031	
Large enrollment	-0.140**	-0.046
Extra Large enrollment	-0.081	
Urban	0.092	
Small Town	0.055	
Rural	0.128**	0.048
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districts (ICC) (%)	58.869	
Variance Explained		
Level 1: Within districts (%)	84.325	
Level 2: Between districts (%)	44.137	

Intercepts

Year 2005-06 PI Score

Slopes

Growth over 8 years in PI score

Teacher experience & Salary

Variable	Coeff.	Stand. Coeff.	
Intercept	96.726***		
Year	0.492***	0.179	
Intercepts			
% Disadvantaged students	-0.864***	-0.137	
% Asian students ^a	0.668***	0.106	
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% Disabled students	0.004		
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Intercepts

Year 2005-06 PI Score

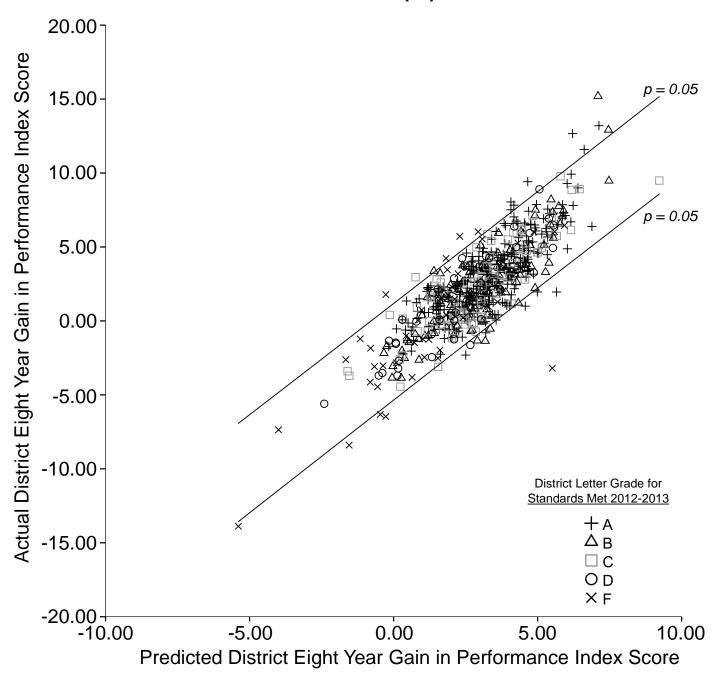
Slopes

Growth over 8 years in PI score

School-level Variance

Variable	Coeff.	Stand. Coeff.
	33	
Intercept	96.726***	
Year	0.492***	0.179
Intercepts		
% Disadvantaged students	-0.864***	-0.137
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% Student attendance School-level PI score variance	-0.024 -0.023***	0.047
Avg. teacher years experience	-0.023***	-0.047 -0.060
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Predicted vs. Actual 8 Year Performance Index (PI) Score Gain in Ohio 2005-06–2012-13



Descriptive Data for 15 Model-Identified Districts above the 95% Confidence Interval

District	PI Score 2012-13	Actual 8- year PI Score gain	Model Predicted 8-year PI Score Gain	Ohio Letter Grade of Standards Met 2012-13	Enrollment	Locale	% Disadvant. Students	Number of Schools	School PI Score Var.
Southeastern	98.7	15.2	7.10	В	1247	Rural	51%	3	5.58
East Knox	99.6	12.7	6.21	Ā	1104	Rural	42%	3	3.06
Jackson Center	103.2	13.2	7.13	A	541	Rural	35%	2	0.20
Southern	97.0	12.9	7.46	В	663	Rural	65%	2	2.04
Jackson	100.4	11.6	6.62	A	2489	Small Town	53%	5	3.01
Madison	98.3	9.41	4.66	A	3009	Suburban	62%	5	1.32
Newton Falls	98.2	8.04	4.07	A	1286	Suburban	54%	4	4.72
Groveport Madison	91.8	8.90	5.06	D	5587	Suburban	62%	10	3.69
Swanton	100.1	7.83	4.18	A	1311	Suburban	42%	4	2.68
Nordonia Hills	104.5	7.52	4.07	A	3720	Suburban	17%	6	1.65
Springfield	83.2	5.72	2.30	F	7245	Urban	80%	15	9.10
Ridgedale	92.0	6.03	2.93	F	784	Rural	49%	3	2.22
East Liverpool	88.9	4.23	1.82	F	2161	Small Town	74%	5	4.74
West Carrollton	94.7	2.96	0.76	C	3636	Suburban	47%	8	2.54
Youngstown	76.9	1.78	-0.27	F	5239	Urban	93%	16	14.23
State Averages	98.8	2.37	2.95	52.6% A	2612	47% Rural	41%	5	3.47

Conclusions and Future Directions

Conclusions:

- Significantly "unusual" districts can be identified from all districts and years in a state
- A longitudinal distribution of outperforming or underperforming state averages identifies three types of districts for site selection
- Recommendation to identify where a district is currently in the distribution for potential sites for in-depth qualitative analysis

Future directions:

- Conduct in-depth qualitative case studies of outperforming districts in comparison to those at the norm
- Test non-linear growth models
- Follow-up on the school-level variance effect
- Replicate the method in other states

Thank you!

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