

Design Studio Feedback

I am an online only student and did not get feedback from a peer team in the class. However, I sought feedback from two target consumers of the New City Schools data visualization – a user looking to get more information on an individual school and a user looking to search through all of the schools to find the best schools that met their criteria.

In both scenarios, I showed the user the current state of my visualization and asked the user to walk me through how they would use it. I also asked for any general comments that they had on the visualization. What follows is a listing of the user's statement or question on the first line, then my note of how I will address the feedback in future revisions.

From the user looking to get more information on a particular school:

- This is really slow.
 - Yes, I find the performance to be pretty bad, yet I haven't had success in pinpointing the problematic functions yet. I will be using Chrome profiling tools and spy-js to try to pinpoint the problematic function. When the functions are identified, I will refactor and optimize the code. I will also narrow down the list of metrics so less data needs to be loaded (I included a very large list to start because I wanted to explore the data in the visualization before I narrowed down what I was going to keep).
- Show me Brooklyn (no data returns). Why are there no schools in Brooklyn?
 - This was when the source data issue of Brooklyn schools being tagged the Bronx was identified. This has already been resolved.
- I just want to select my school from the list and see all of the data on that school. Make it easy for me to do that.
 - The select dropdown with the map is going to support this. It is key to keep this dropdown to support this use case. This use case is also the rationale to have metrics by school selected as the default option in the choose your criteria section.

From the user looking to search through all of the schools to find the best school that met their criteria:

- I think focusing on a set of key metrics to filter on makes sense, then let me see all the detail in the other visualizations.
 - I talked the user through how more metrics data would be available in the small multiple visualizations at right once they are implemented.
- Am I always going to see those filters? They don't make sense to me – what is the level of a borough?
 - The filters need to be hidden when metrics by borough or school district is selected. This will be implemented.
- Let me choose a bunch of schools at once and compare them.

- Several schools, school districts, or boroughs can be selected at once for comparison. They can be checked in a list (i.e. know the name of the school/district/borough), or they can be clicked on via the map (i.e. point of interest, don't know the name).
- It would be really cool if you could compare elementary schools in a district to middle schools in a district to high schools in a district.
 - This is possible by clicking on each of the items to compare them.
 - What is a really interesting use case off of this is to see how a cohort moves from elementary school, to middle school, to high school. As I only have one school year's worth of data, fulfilling this use case wouldn't be possible. However, if I had multiple year's worth of data, I think this would be really interesting to implement.

Overall, I found the feedback extremely useful for pinpointing specific areas to focus on improving. Hearing the thought process of the user helped with brainstorming what questions they would ask of the data and tailoring the visualization to their needs.