

What *really* affects graduation rates in New York City Public High schools?

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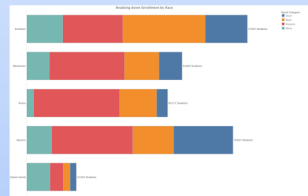


Highlights

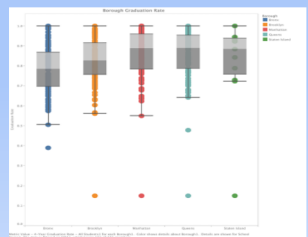
- Graduation Rate is negatively correlated with Economic Needs Index
- Total funding is distributed based on Total Enrolment, not ENI
- Possible interventions to increase graduate rate involve working with school to address the social disparities as illustrated by the ENI

Background

New York City is the largest public school district in the United States with **250,000 high school students**. Our project investigates the factors that influence high performance in New York City public high schools.

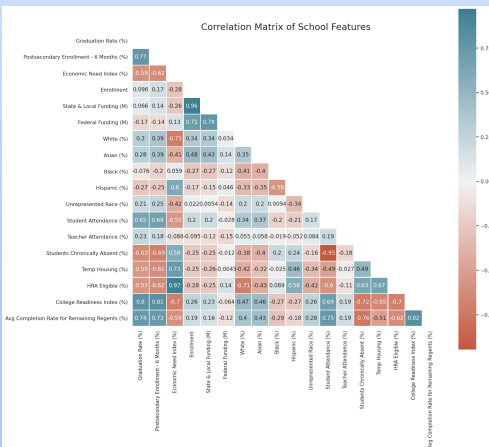


486 High Schools
20% Failure Rate *approx*



Economic Need Index (ENI)

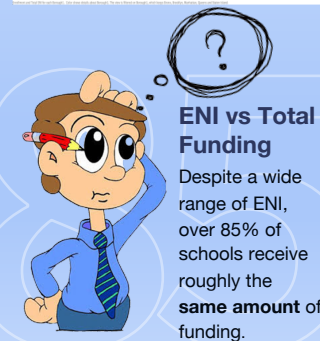
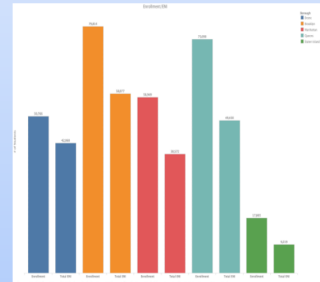
ENI measures one's economic need by considering eligibility for public assistance, English Language Learner, first time enrollment in the NYC Dept of Edu., and has lived in temporary housing within the last four years.



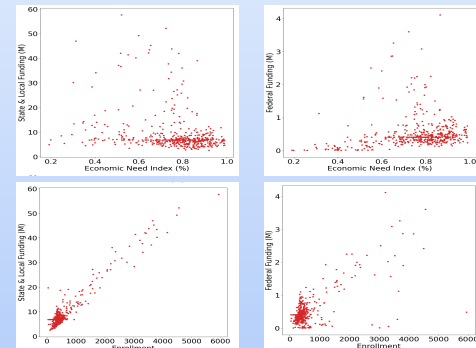
Graduation rate is negatively affected by a high ENI.
It is also negatively correlated to **College Readiness Index** and **Student Achievement**.

Who is in Need?

There is a higher number of students with Economic Need in the Bronx, Queens, and Brooklyn.



Funding and ENI



Findings

While data shows a negative correlation between graduation rate and ENI, State & Local Funding maintain a focus on Total Enrollment. This focus negatively affects areas populated with students with higher economic needs.

Closing Notes

Distributing funding solely based on Total Enrollment disregards the various economic needs of the schools and students. A high ENI rate is correlated to a high percentage of students in a school community in temporary housing, thus influencing a school's attendance rating. While Federal Funding looks to account for schools with higher economic needs, there is a need for more consistent policies across the State, Local, and Federal construct that align with the needs of those most negatively affected. Distributing funding that accounts for higher ENI rates may allow funding to be allocated to supplement areas that directly affect Graduation Rate: experienced teachers, transportation (*attendance*), etc.