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Observations on PySchool (Pandas Homework)

1. Charter schools are higher achieving than district schools. There are a lot of different types of charter schools, but, in general this is not surprising. Charter schools allow people to opt out of “public” schools, so you’ve already narrowed the population to involved parents, sometimes parents with means as charter schools don’t tend to provide public transportation options. The existence of charter schools may also deflate what the performance of the district schools would otherwise be if high performers had stayed at their neighborhood schools.
2. The Budget per Student seems to have a negative correlation to performance. Assuming this is US data, I would guess that local socio-economic data (per capita income) would be a very interesting variable. The government spends more in poorer school districts (Title I schools, for example). The government also funds charter schools less than the neighboring district school – parents and fundraising make up the difference. So – if charter schools are high performing, it makes sense that high performance is correlated with low government funding.
3. When looking at the performance by grade and by school, we don’t see a lot of variance. It would be interesting to see if student performance year-over-year improves/declines, or if there are average improvements as students move through the various grade levels. The data as-is makes it hard to evaluate teacher performance/effectiveness. It is very possible the best teachers are doing amazing things in currently underperforming schools