PyCitySchools Observations:

Reviewing the characteristics of the Top and Bottom Performing Schools (By % Overall Passing), the Top Performing Schools have a lower number of Students than the Bottom Performing Schools. In most cases, the Top Performing Schools have less than half of the Students as the Bottom. What I would like to see as a follow up to this observation would be “Number of Teachers” to calculate average classroom size to review the Student to Teacher ratio.

Another observation I made is the correlation between money spent per student and performance. In the observed District, the schools with the highest Spend per Student appear to have the lowest Math, Reading and Overall Passing Scores, while the schools with the lowest Spend per Student appear to have the highest scores. I’d also like to explore this further as well…  I’d start by looking at this statistic over time, reviewing the last decade or two to see if this has always been the case.  Was there a recent influx of funding to the bottom performing schools and their numbers have been increasing due to that? I think a trend analysis is needed here to understand the correlation of Spend and Performance.

Last is the School Type. Charter Schools appear to have higher rates of Passing in Math, Reading and Overall to District. They also have smaller Student populations. I think this deserves a deeper dive as well to truly understand why – and to see if this was always the case.  I think we need to understand information around staffing, more student details such as – how many are employed part-time (or full-time) and trends over time.