PyCitySchools Analysis

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Module 4

**According to this data: math is hard, money isn’t everything, and charter schools are a step (or two) ahead.**

Math scores were lower than reading scores across all categories.

The largest schools enrolled the least successful students. Moreover, while large schools were less successful, they were generally better funded. Thus, the budget per student was surprisingly inversely proportional to students’ overall passing rate.

The students’ success was more correlated with the size and type of school rather than the per student budget. That said, most of the charter schools were in the small school bin. In turn, it is hard to determine whether it was the size of the school or the school type that truly led to higher scores. Nonetheless, the most drastic difference in scores was between school types with charter school grossly outperforming district schools.

In fact, the only school in the large school bin with overall passing grades, Wilson High School, is a charter school. Wilson High School also had the smallest budget per student. While this is just one school in the array, it does suggest school type is more important than size in determining the students’ test scores.

While this data suggests charter schools are more successful at producing better scores, it does not explain why. Thus, this data may not be telling the entire story. More data is needed to prove causation in at least two ways. First, it would be helpful to know what the students’ scores were prior to being accepted by the charter schools and whether the students started at a higher level beforehand. Second, more investigation is needed into the inverse relationship between higher scores and the per capita budget. Data on the services each school type provides is necessary to completely determine this relationship. For instance, district schools may spend more on required special education services or other programming that charter schools do not offer.