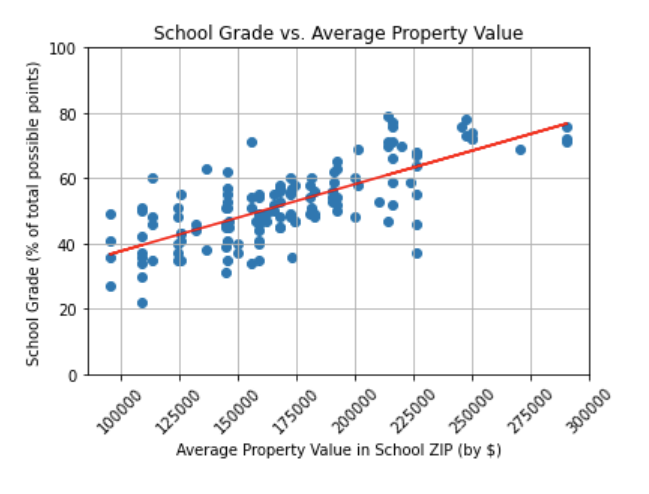
**Buying into a Good School?***The Link Between House Cost and School Ratings*

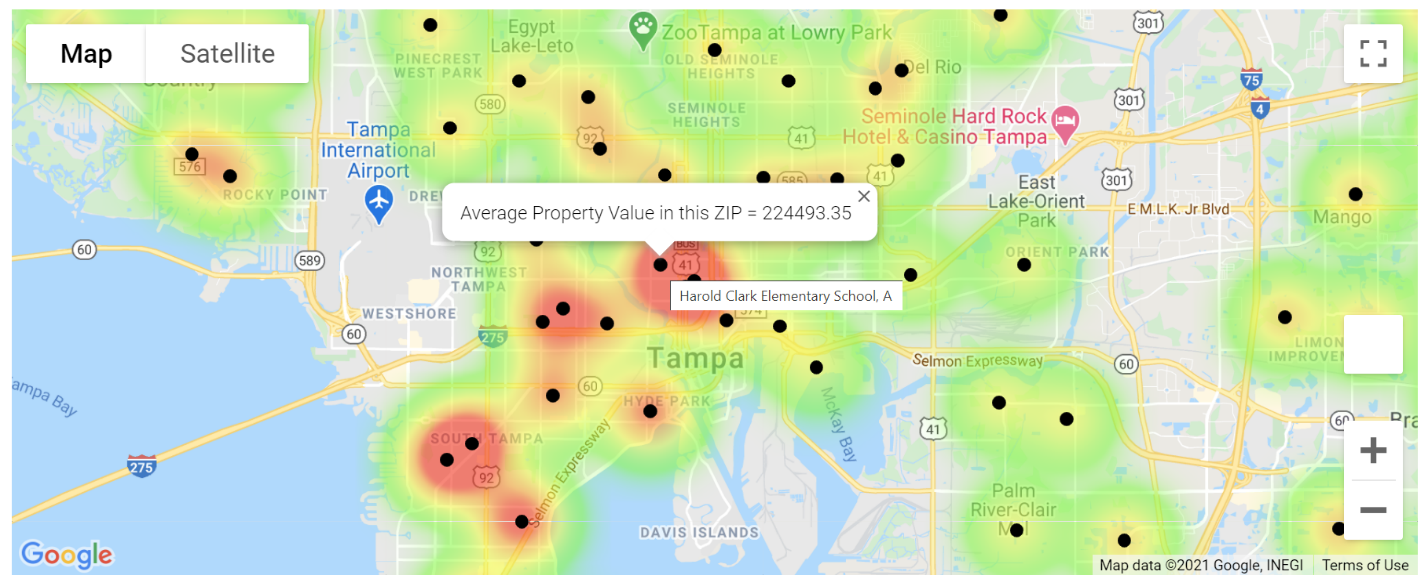
When you’re shopping for a house, you don’t just consider the four walls you’ll be purchasing. In effect, you’re buying into an entire community and everything that comes with it– including the schools.

Through personal experience, we agreed that you have to spend more money on a house if you want a place in a high-rated school zone. But could we prove that personal experience with the data? Is there actually a correlation between property value in a ZIP code and the quality of the schools in that same area?

**The Link Between Housing Values and School Rating**

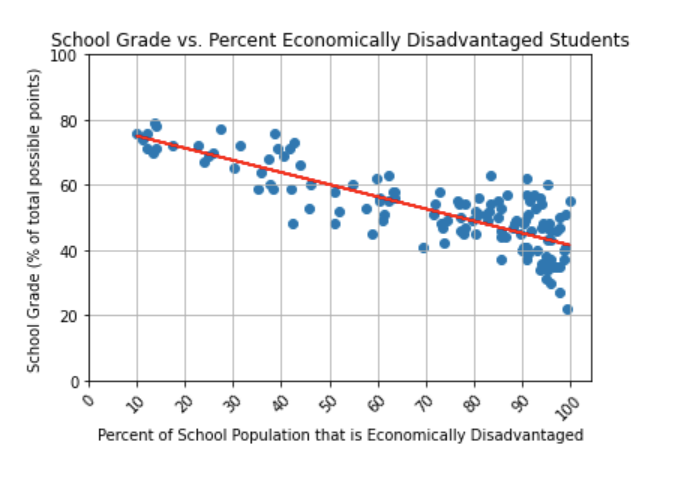
From our data set of non-charter, public elementary schools in Hillsborough County, we saw a moderate correlation of school ratings and average property values in the same geographic area (Fig 1).

The r- value for this graph is 0.54 (rounded) and is enough to reject the null hypothesis that property value and school rating bear no correlation.

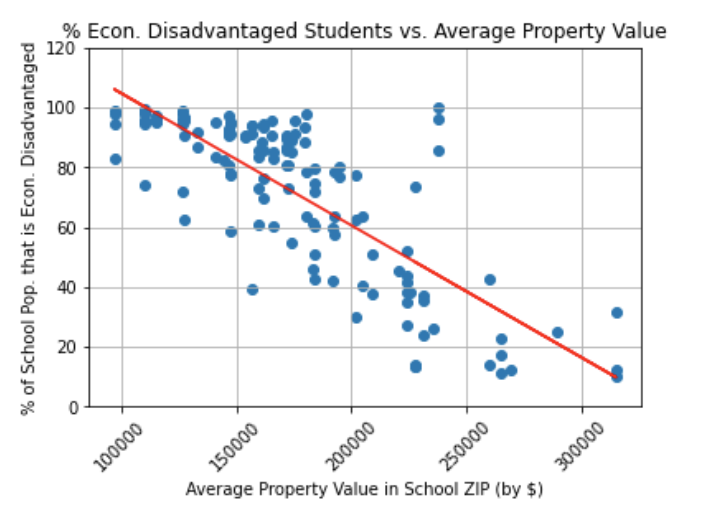
The numbers give an idea about how much money a person might need to spend on a home in order to get zoned into a school with a certain rating. For A-rated schools, the average property value of the surrounding area is $234,863 while the average for an area with F-rated schools is $116,343. That’s a $118,520 difference from the average propety value in an area with F rated schools, and a fairly significant difference to consider when budgeting for a home purchase.

**Fig 1**

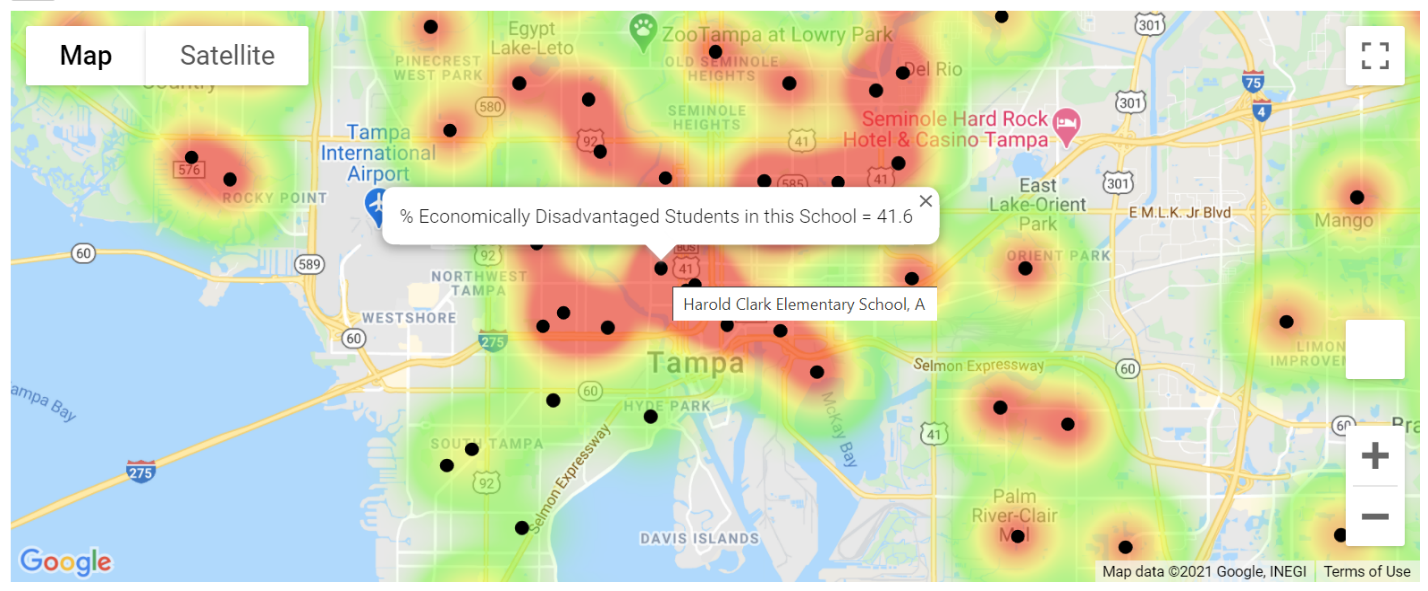
**Fig 2**: Heatmap of schools giving school rating and average property value in an area.

**Factoring in the Percentage of Economically Disadvantaged Students**

When investigating the housing value/school rating link, I noticed that the Florida Department of Education also tracks a school’s percentage of economically disadvantaged students, which is the percentage of a school’s population that is made up of students who qualify for free or reduced lunch.

The r- value for this graph (Fig 3) is 0.67 (rounded), and is enough to reject the null hypothesis that the percentage of economically disadvantaged students in a school and school rating bear no correlation.

**Fig 3**

We do not know if the economically disadvantaged students represent residents of the neighborhoods with lower average property values, but there is a correlation between the schools with higher percentage of economically disadvantaged students and the average property value in an area (Fig 4). The r- value for this graph is 0.63 (rounded).**** However, according to Figure 4, here do appear to be a few schools with very high percentages of economically disadvantaged students in areas with relatively high average property values ($200k to $250k range).

**Fig 5**: Heatmap of schools giving school rating and percentage of economically disadvantaged students per school.

**Fig 4**