CHALLENGE 4 REPORT

* There is a clear performance difference between the two school types. There are many potential reasons for this to be. There is no data on class size, which in my experience as a teacher plays the biggest role in classroom success; this outweighs nearly every other factor. Perhaps the charter schools have class sizes below 35-40 kids (which is an absurd amount). Perhaps the charter schools allow teachers to vary the content and teaching style more than typical public schools do. This isn’t saying that the ‘district’ schools don’t allow this, more that there is a wider variation in student ability (from what I have seen) in these types of schools which force teachers to ‘generalize’ their content instruction to try to reach the largest number of students possible. Differentiating instruction is incredibly difficult when there is such a wide range of student abilities and such a large classroom (35-40).
* The data supports my above conclusion (in a limited way). The largest schools that were determined in the bins have the lowest average scores. This is likely guided by the above logic, but is not necessarily limited by it either. These schools could be in areas which are economically depressed, which would certainly affect students’ ability to focus on school. There is a whole host of issues surrounding this that there is no data on, so I will not go into it.
* Figueroa and Ford High Schools have the highest tier of funding and have scores near the bottom of the list. Tellingly, they are also in the ‘large’ bracket of school size. \*cough cough classroom size ruins it..
* Charter schools are also typically created in response to poor performance of public schools. It draws in those whose families have the inclination, time, and finances to take their children to them (sometimes literally, there aren’t usually bus routes to charter schools from what I’ve seen and heard). In a way, it’s like a self fulfilling prophecy; or you can think of it as opposing gravitational effects (visualizing the trends).