Analysis of City Schools Data

With this project, we have two sets of data to compare and analyze. The first is a set of broad school data showing the budget and student size of each school in the set as well as the type of schools. The second is a set of student data indicating the grade level, test scores for reading and math, and school for each student. We are tasked with combining the data as necessary to draw meaningful comparisons between each school.

While combining these data sets, we are able to identify some notable trends. In general, while District schools are provided higher budgets per student than Charter schools, the budgets do not correlate with an increase in test scores. In fact, the Charter schools have a significantly higher overall passing rate for their students when compared to District schools.

One may think that the above factor would be influenced by school size, as a District school tends to have a larger student body when compared to Charter schools, however there is not a clear trend here. There are many Charter schools with smaller sizes than the District schools, but there is a large Charter school with a low budget per student that is still managing to maintain a high overall passing rate for their students.

These observations open up questions that may need further data to provide explanations for. For instance, why would a larger budget for the District schools not coincide with a higher student passing rate? Is the larger budget being used in other programs and not being allocated to programs and staff to promote the academic success of the students? Without additional data, we can only speculate as to the questions above.