Activity #4: Data Analysis Will Smalley

In my analysis of the school data that includes student count, budget info, and student performance in Math and Reading, I was able to uncover a few interesting conclusions. The most striking conclusion was that Charter schools have categorically better performance than district schools. This was concluded by looking at overall passing rates by school types where the Charter schools range from an 89%-91% passing rate for their students. Contrasting this with the district school equivalent of52%-54% provides striking evidence of a student’s likelihood to pass based on what school type they attend.

The next thing I looked for was any sort of correlation between school spending and student performance. I assumed that there would be a positive correlation between per capita spending and student performance, however, the results were mixed and inconclusive, which was surprising. For example, the school with the highest per capita spending, Huang High School was middle of the pack in terms of student performance.

The final result of my analysis was the inverse correlation between student body population and success rates. The smaller the school, the higher the average overall passing rate was, with a sharp drop off in success rates for larger schools (2000-5000 students.)

The conclusion I came to in this activity is that in order to give a child the best chance at success in this school area, the parents should try to send their child to a small, charter school.