This analysis provides insight for the school district’s high school passing rates for math, reading, and overall (combined math and reading). The district’s overall passing rate is 80.40 percent, with a 85.81 percent passing rate in reading and 74.98 percent passing rate in math (see District Summary). Across the presented analyses, the passing rate for math was lower than the passing rate for reading, which is an area of improvement for the district.

A finer-grain analysis of the data revealed a rather large disparity between district schools and charter schools. Charter schools had significantly higher overall passing rates (90.56 percent) compared to district schools (53.70 percent) (see Scores by School Type Summary). This disparity is further validated by noting that the top five performing schools are all charter schools: Cabrera High School, Thomas High School, Griffin High School, Wilson High School, and Pena High School (see Top Performing Schools Summary & Analysis). By contrast, the bottom five performing schools are district schools: Rodriguez High School, Figueroa High School, Huang High School, Hernandez High School, and Johnson High School (see Bottom Performing Schools Summary & Analysis).

Another follow-up analysis explores how school size relates to passing rate. The results suggest that students in small (less than 1,000 students) and medium-sized (1,000-1,999 students), have better passing rates (about 90 percent) compared to students at large schools (2,000-5,000 students) (see Scores By School Spending Summary).

An additional analysis of school spending as it relates to the passing rates shows an inverse relation: the higher the per student budget, the lower the overall passing rate (see Scores By School Spending Summary). Despite this trend, I strongly caution the Board against decreasing funding for these schools. These analyses are purely descriptive in nature, and more insight would be needed before making budgetary decisions. For example, it was noted that larger schools, overall, had lower passing rates than smaller schools. The bottom five performing schools mentioned previously all have student populations of over 2,000. Therefore, it is possible that larger class sizes are detracting from the effectiveness of student learning. It could also be likely that funding that is currently available to schools could be reallocated to better support classroom learning (e.g. better learning materials, more after school assistance).

It is my hope that this analysis assists the Mayor and Board with preliminary discussions about the upcoming budget, and it would be my pleasure to present more analyses to help support their decision-making.