Looking at school/student performance based upon strictly numerical factors is a good way to get a quick idea of some trends in schools. One issue I would argue with this data set is that by comparing Charter and District/Public schools you are not only addressing different types of schools, but generally different socioeconomic brackets. This doesn’t necessarily come into play in the budget columns, however parental involvement in a child’s schoolwork is likely to be higher in a situation where they have opted to take their children out of the default schooling option for a more experimental one. It’s not as jarringly different as public vs private schools, but it’s not irrelevant either.

Putting that aside to just analyze the data that we look at in the tables, it’s obvious that Charter schools appear to be much more successful. The Overall Passing Rate is roughly 35-40% higher on average at Charter schools than District. I find it interesting that the Math Passing Rate is so jarringly different between the two. There’s definitely a noticeable jump in Reading for Charter vs District, but not nearly as much as in Math.

The conclusion I would draw is class sizes. The Per Capita Budget column is generally slightly in favor of District schools, but the size of individual District schools nearly doubles Charter schools on average. There are some outliers in Charters that may make the average District school soundly over double, frankly I didn’t check the exact answer, but just an eye test can get you that information. Even if you didn’t look into the research behind it, I feel as if it makes sense that teachers with smaller classes or less students are more likely to have the bandwidth to help students who are struggling.

I think it’s easy to jump to a school’s money as an indicator of success, but I would argue this data shows a more valuable school resource: teachers’ time and energy.