Today we were given two separate files for analysis. One file consisted of school data while the other consisted of student data. One criterion that both files had in common was the school names. We combined the two files into one DataFrame using the school name column as the common identifier.

Here is a summary of what we saw. There are a total of 15 schools; eight of them are Charter schools while the other seven are District schools. Even though the number of Charter schools and District schools only differs by one, the Charter schools only receive 30% of the total budget of $24,649,428, while District schools 70%; Charter schools’ total budget is $7,301,505, and District schools’ total budget is $17,347,923. Additionally, the number of students attending Charter schools is 31% of the total students with the remaining 69% of the students attending District schools. Based on these numbers it appears that the percentage of each of the two types of schools’ budgets roughly matches their student population percentage.

However, as we looked at their performances in math, reading, and overall, we saw that the Charter schools far outperformed the District schools. The percentage of student passing math and reading were in the 90’s as was the case with the overall passing percentage except for two Charter schools who both had an overall passing rate of 89%. The District schools had much lower percentages in all three categories; their passing math rate was in the mid 60% range, their passing reading was in the low 80% range, and their overall passing rate was in the low-to-mid 50% range. Clearly, there is a big difference between Charter and District schools when comparing these numbers.

Another category that we examined was the school sizes. All the District schools were in the large group which has between 2,000-5,000 students. The Charter schools were mostly in the medium group which consists of 1,000-2,000 students; there were also two Charter schools in the small group that is less than 1,000 students, and one in the large group. This could possibly explain why there is such a big difference in their scores and passing percentages.

In conclusion, we have examined the budgets, school sizes, and passing rate percentages, however, one thing missing from our data is the school faculty numbers. Without these numbers, we cannot see the true picture. If we knew the total number of teachers, then we could see what the teacher to student ration was. Currently, we can only guess that the Charter schools have smaller class sizes while the District schools have larger classes. Other studies have shown that students do better on average when they are in a smaller classroom environment and therefore the teachers can better meet the needs of their students. In a larger classroom environment, teachers can be overwhelmed with the large number of students requiring help.