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1. One particular trend that I found fascinating is when I scoped down to look at the average math and reading scores, average math and reading percentages, and overall passing % based on the grouping of the schools by “Spending Range per student”. The data reflects that those schools in the lowest quartile of “Spending Range per student” in fact had the highest value for each of the previously listed 5 statistics. This may sound puzzling at first glance because one may generally assume that the greater the amount of spending per student, the higher the output in grades. However, the initial “Total Budget” value for each school (what I used to then calculate “Spending Range per student”) did not provide us with any context surrounding what each school prioritizes in terms of what aspects of their school they devote their budget to. For instance, a school with a higher “Spending Range per student” may not be investing it’s budget towards resources to yield higher output in grades and may instead be pumping money into the renovation of bathrooms/cafateria, etc. or into athletic programs.
2. A second trend in the data that I found interesting but not surprising was the result for the grouping of schools by student population size and what was reflected in terms of average math and reading scores, average math and reading percentages, and overall passing %. The schools with the largest student population size when grouped together reflected the lowest scores on average in each category. This immediately brought up lingering questions such as: What is the teacher to student ratio at these schools? What is the extent/breadth of tutoring services available at these schools? These would be interesting bits of knowledge to understand regarding the schools in this study to further give more meaning to the data, thus helping us to understand it better.