

Chronic Absenteeism - District Level Comparisons

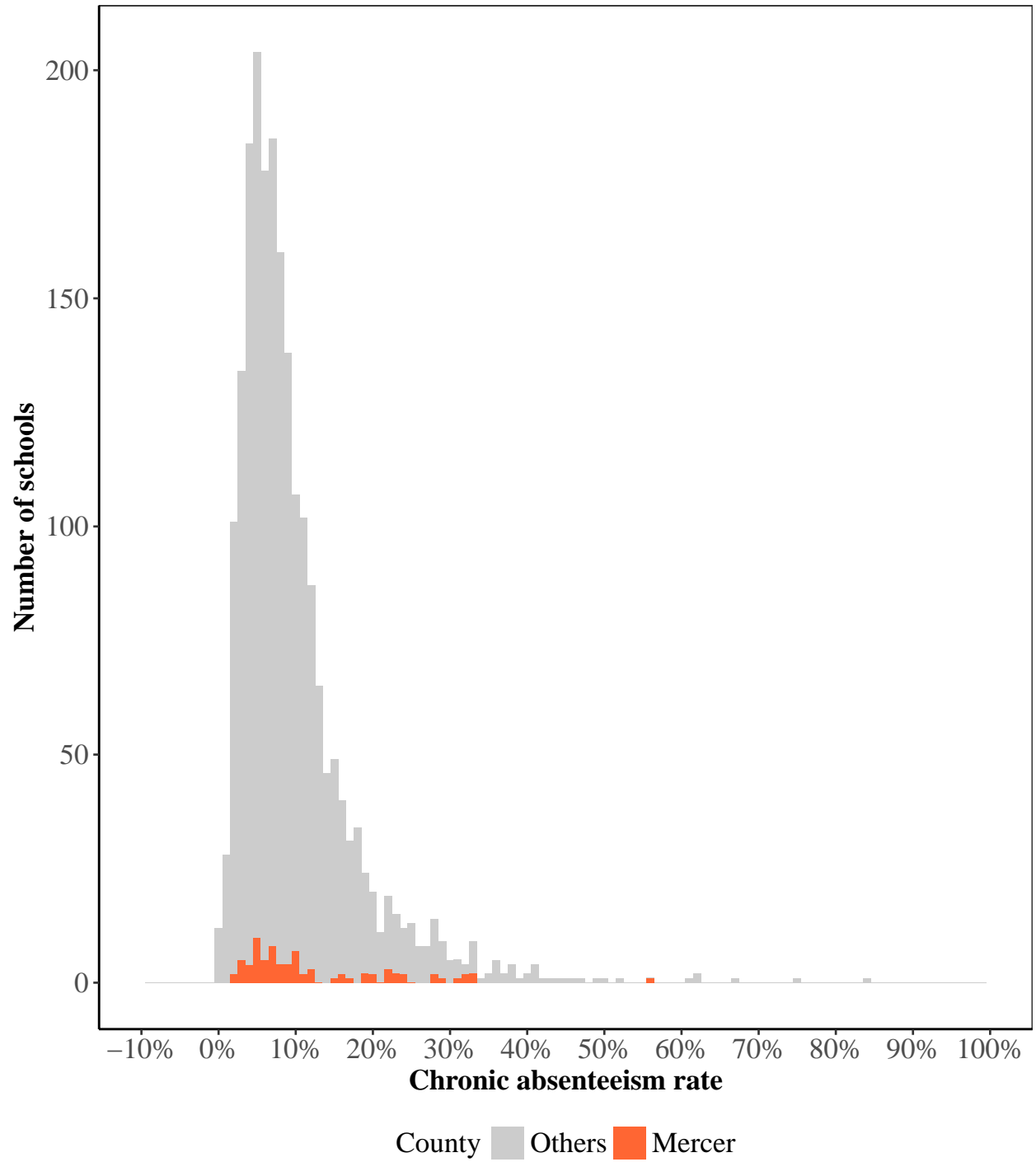
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2018-06-03

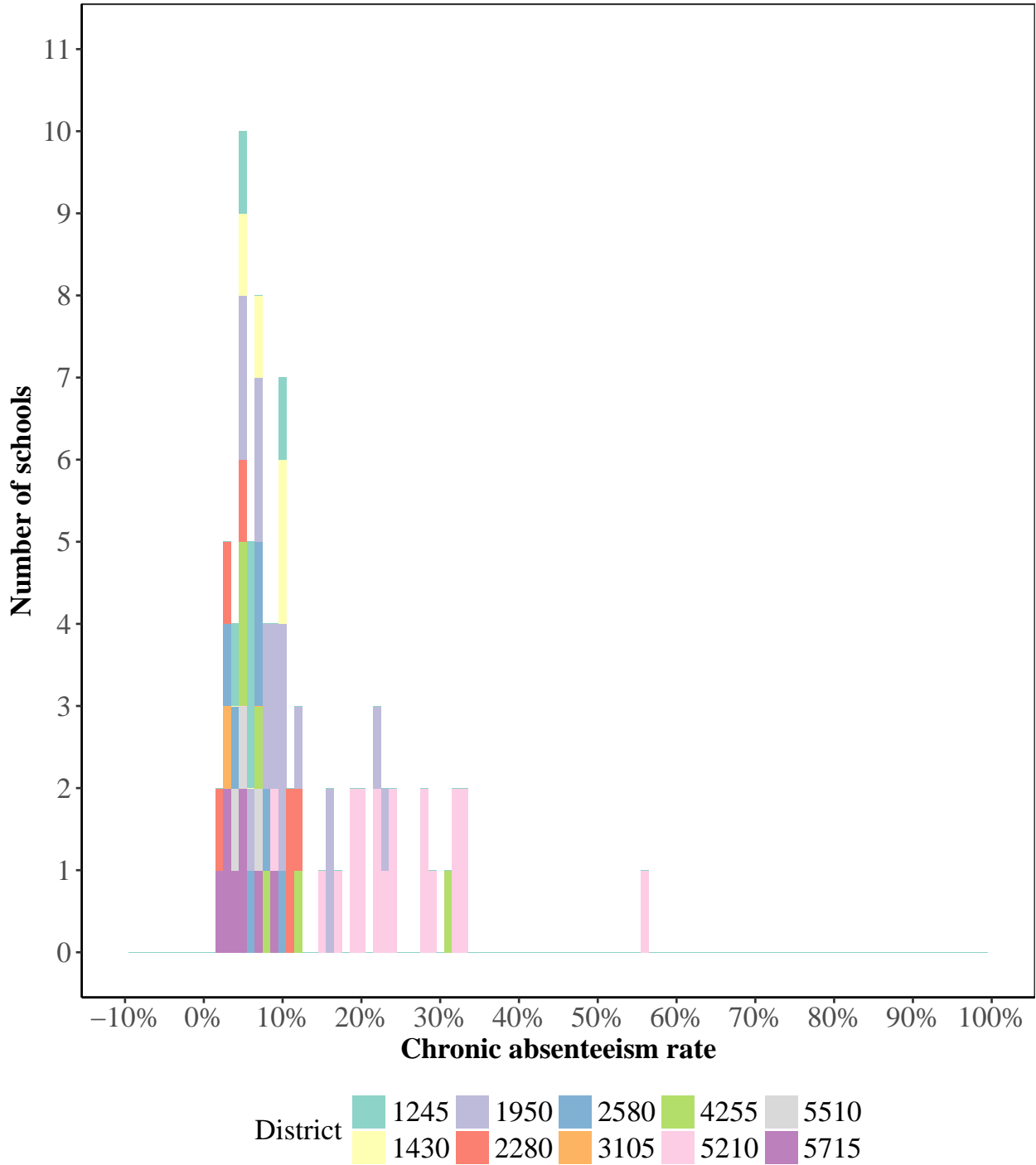
Contents

Distribution of chronic absenteeism rate in NJ	2
Distribution of chronic absenteeism rate in Mercer County	3
Distribution of chronic absenteeism rate in Mercer County by Grade	4
Focusing on the good schools in Mercer County, which districts are they in? . . .	5
District 1950 (Hamilton) has the largest number of schools w low chronic absenteeism	6
Districts 1245 (East Windsor), 2580 (Lawrence), 3105 (Mercer County Vocational), 5510 (Robbinsville), 5715 (Windsor-Plainsboro), have all of their schools categorized as low chronic absenteeism	7
Focus on the bad schools: which district are they in?	8
District 5210 (Trenton) has the largest number of schools w high chronic absenteeism	9
Districts 5210 (Trenton), 2280 (Hopewell), 1950 (Hamilton), 4255 (Princeton Regional), 1430 (Ewing) have schools that are considered high chronic absenteeism. Trenton has the highest percentage with 95%.	10
Action plan	11
What are the characteristics of district 1950 (good) and district 5210 (bad)? . . .	12
Number of students	12
Grade breakdown	13
Gender breakdown	14
Ethnicity breakdown	15
Student group breakdown	16
Languages spoken at home	17
Teacher absenteeism	18
Teacher and Admin One Year Retention	19
Student to Staff Ratio	20
ALICE report:	21
Summary:	22

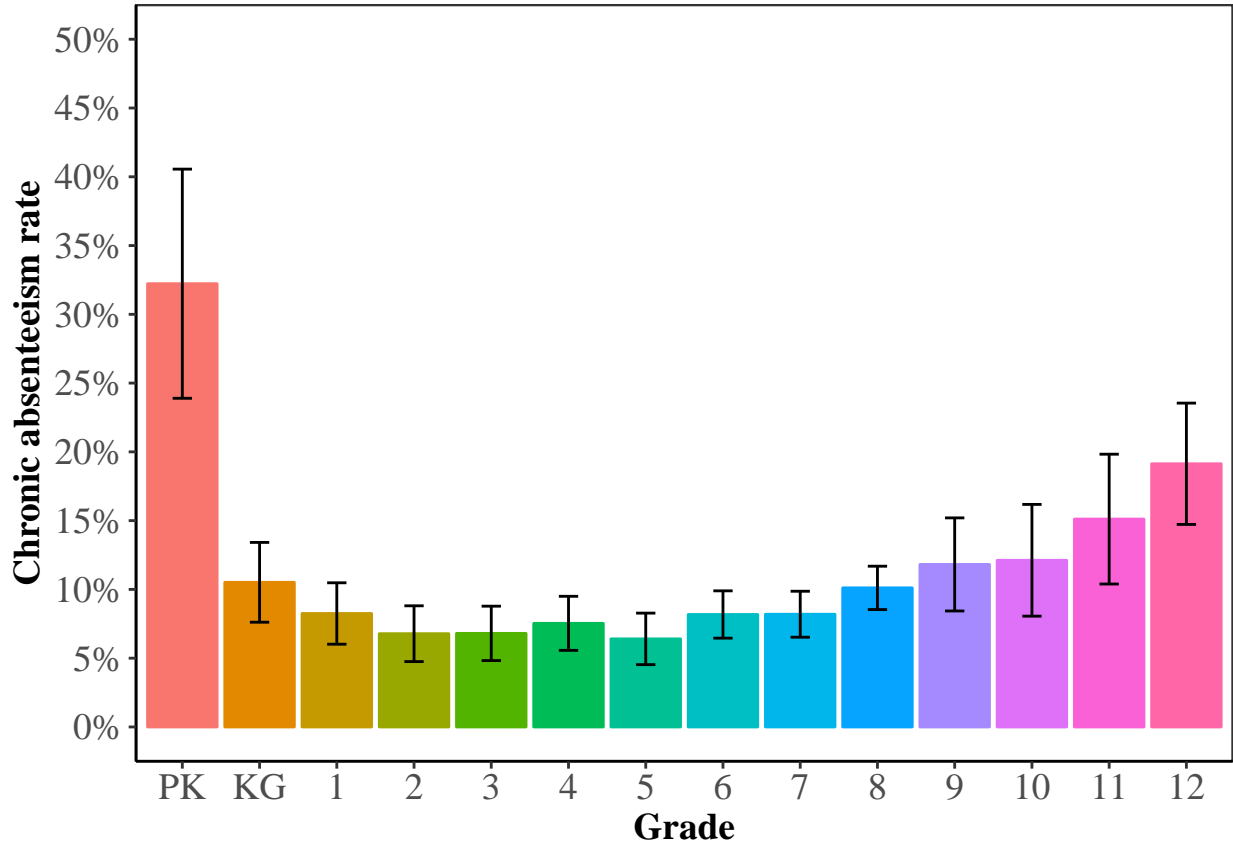
Distribution of chronic absenteeism rate in NJ



Distribution of chronic absenteeism rate in Mercer County

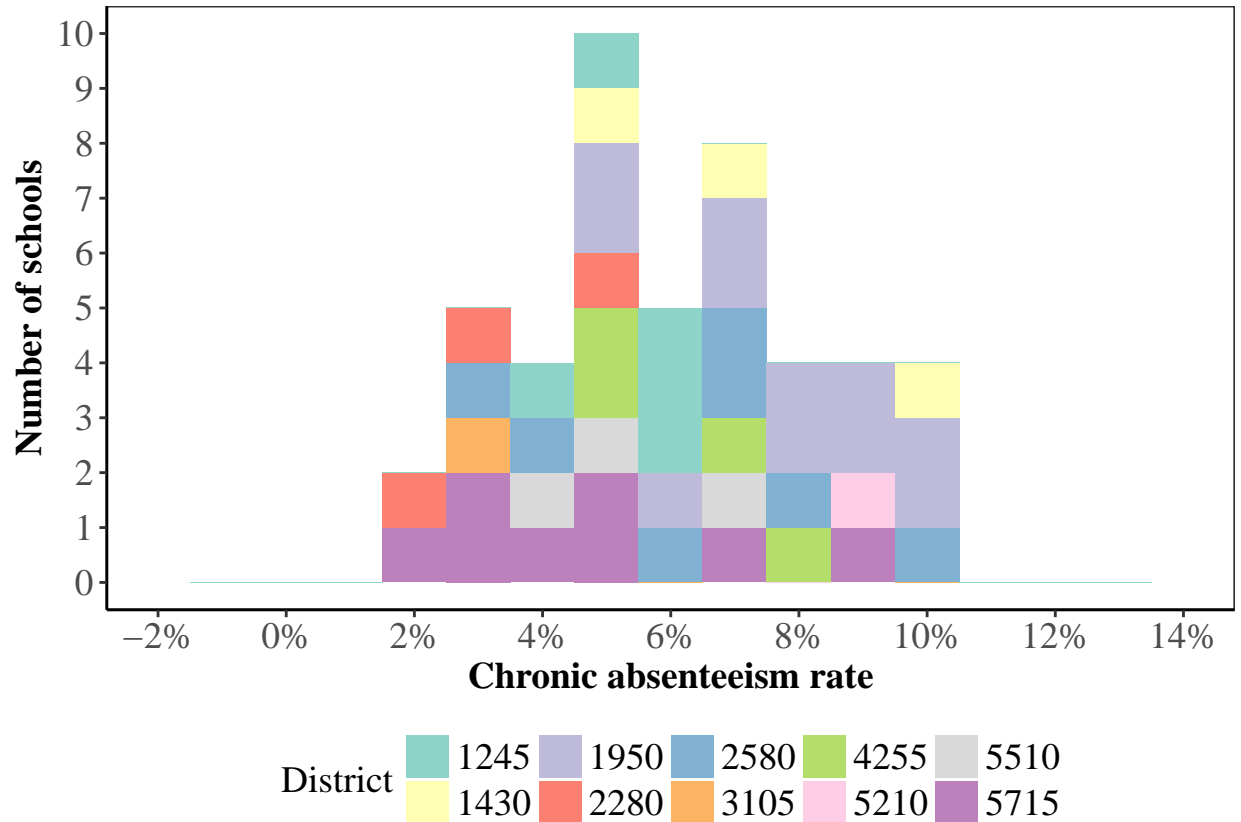


Distribution of chronic absenteeism rate in Mercer County by Grade

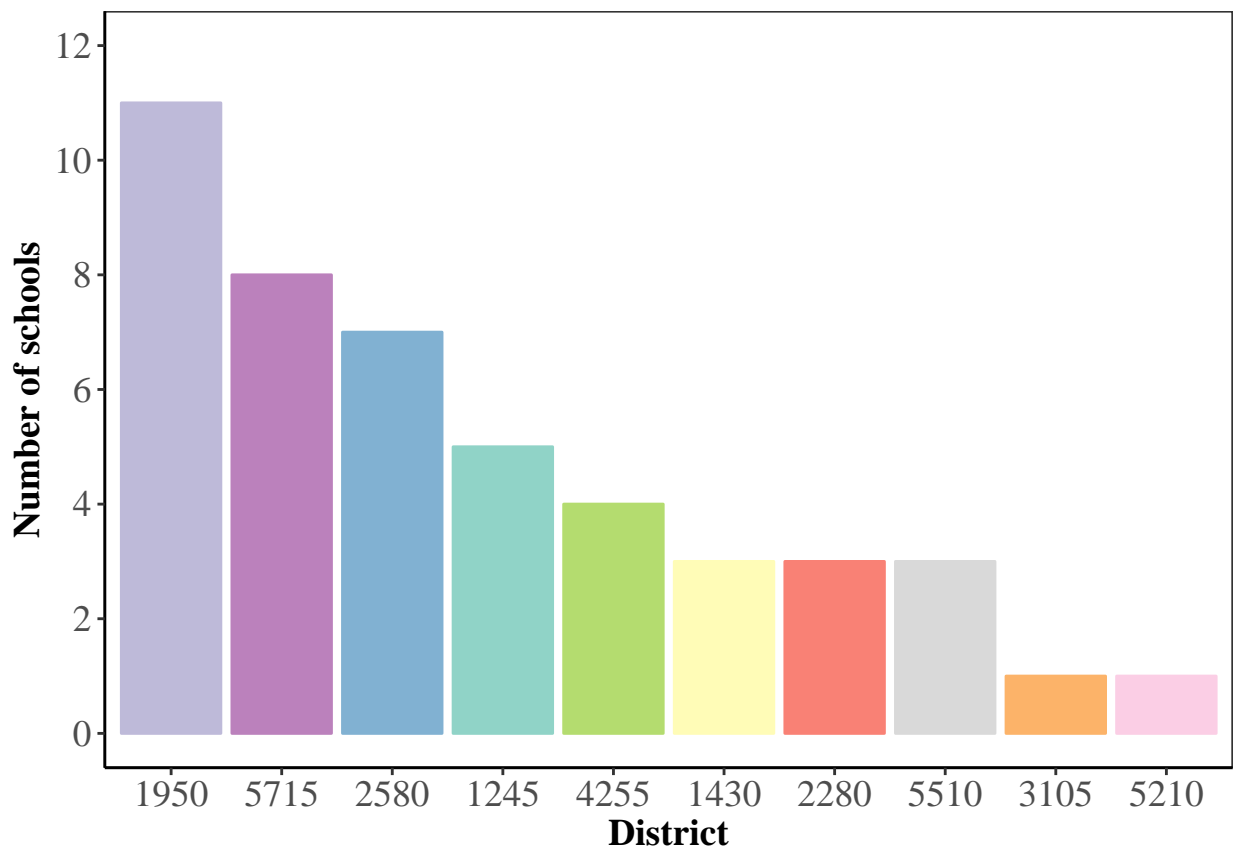


Focusing on the good schools in Mercer County, which districts are they in?

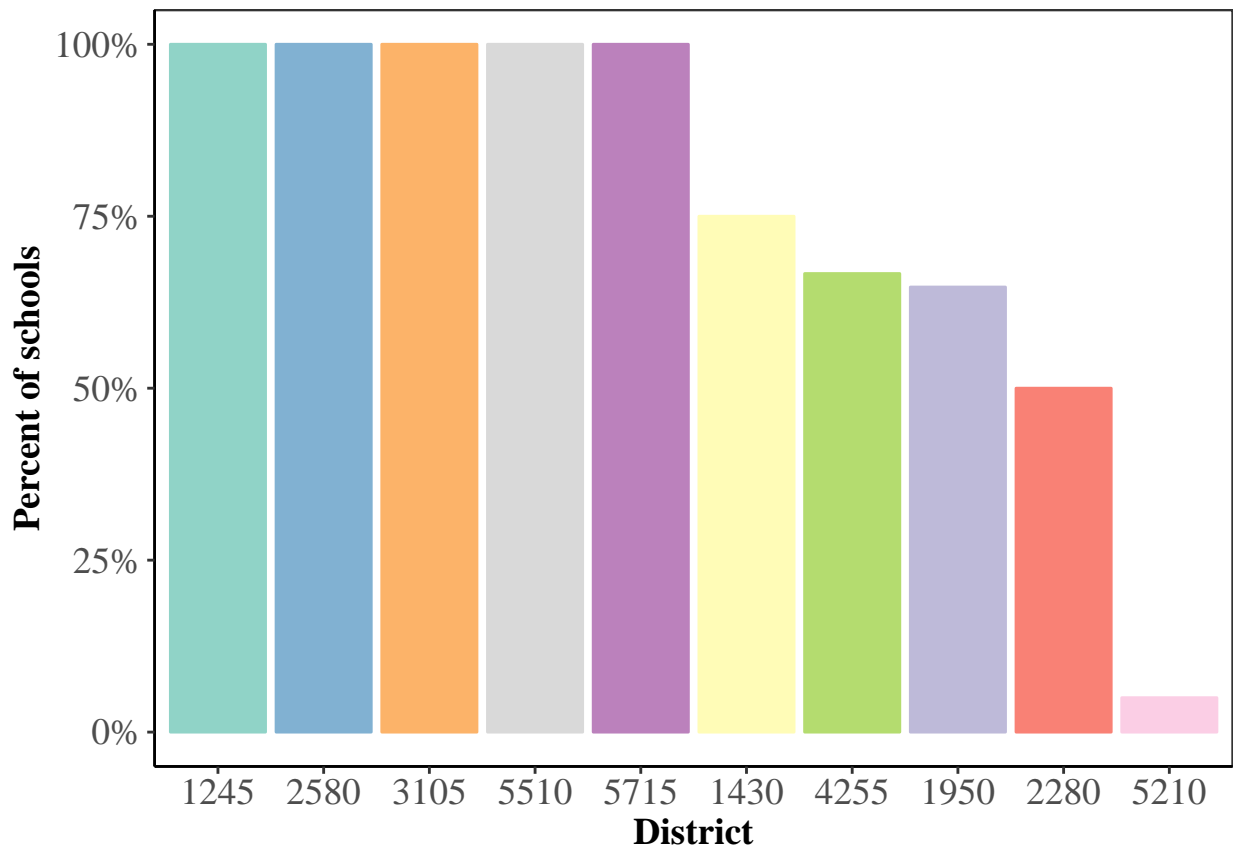
Good school is defined as a school with chronic absenteeism rate of 10% or less



District 1950 (Hamilton) has the largest number of schools w low chronic absenteeism

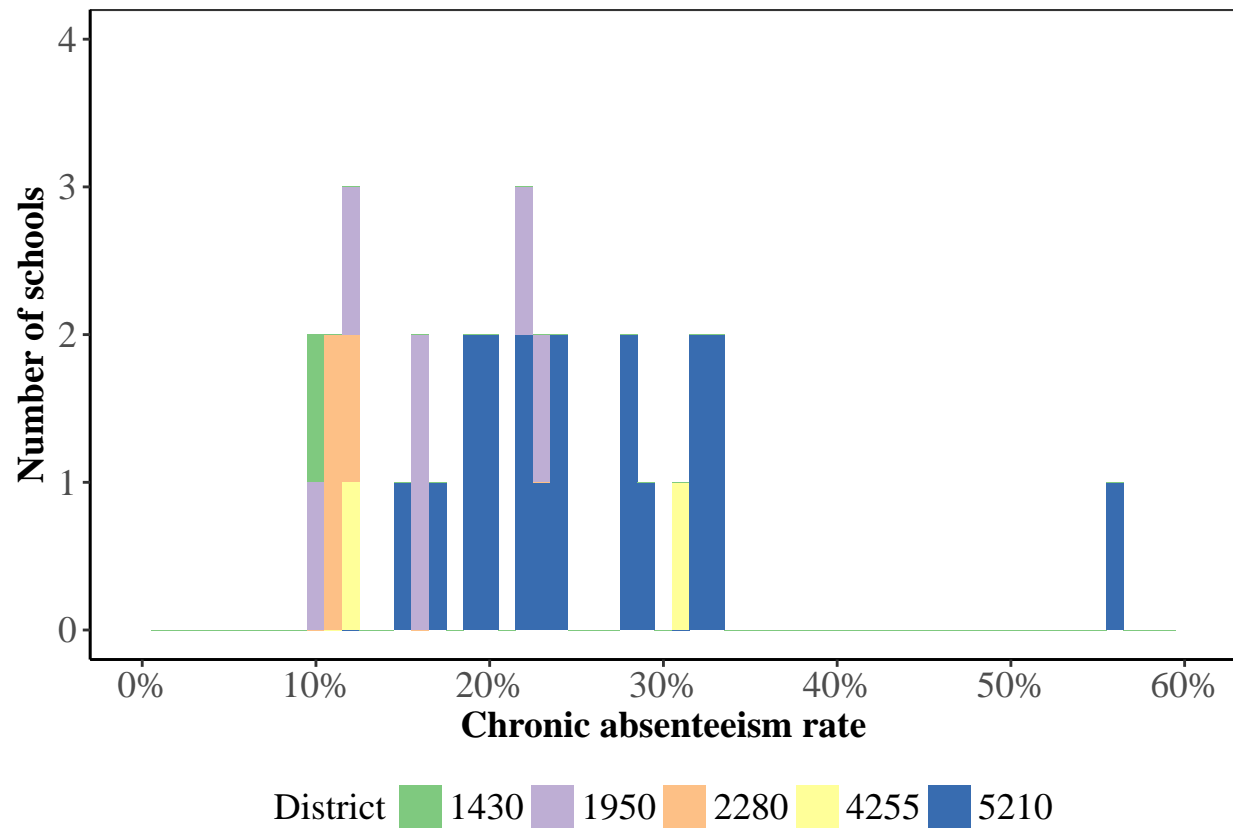


Districts 1245 (East Windsor), 2580 (Lawrence), 3105 (Mercer County Vocational), 5510 (Robbinsville), 5715 (Windsor-Plainsboro), have all of their schools categorized as low chronic absenteeism

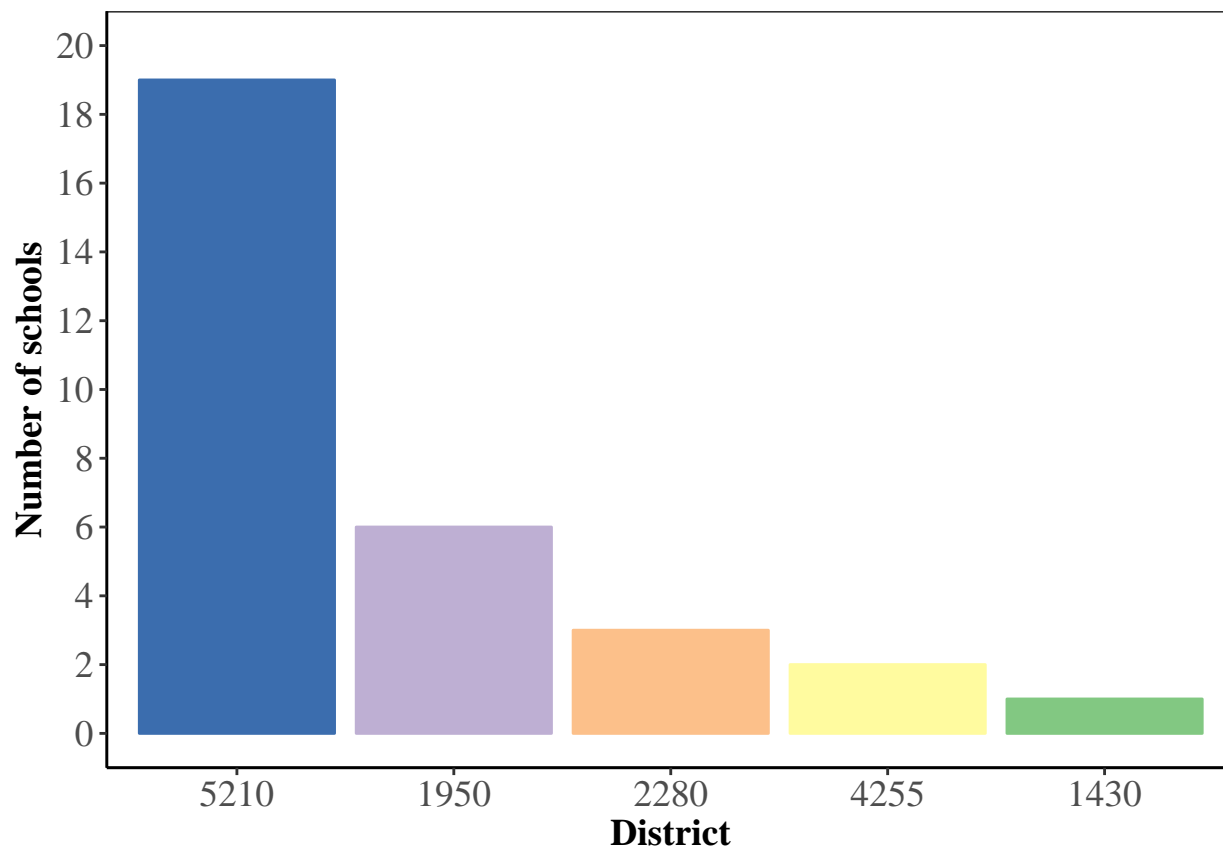


Focus on the bad schools: which district are they in?

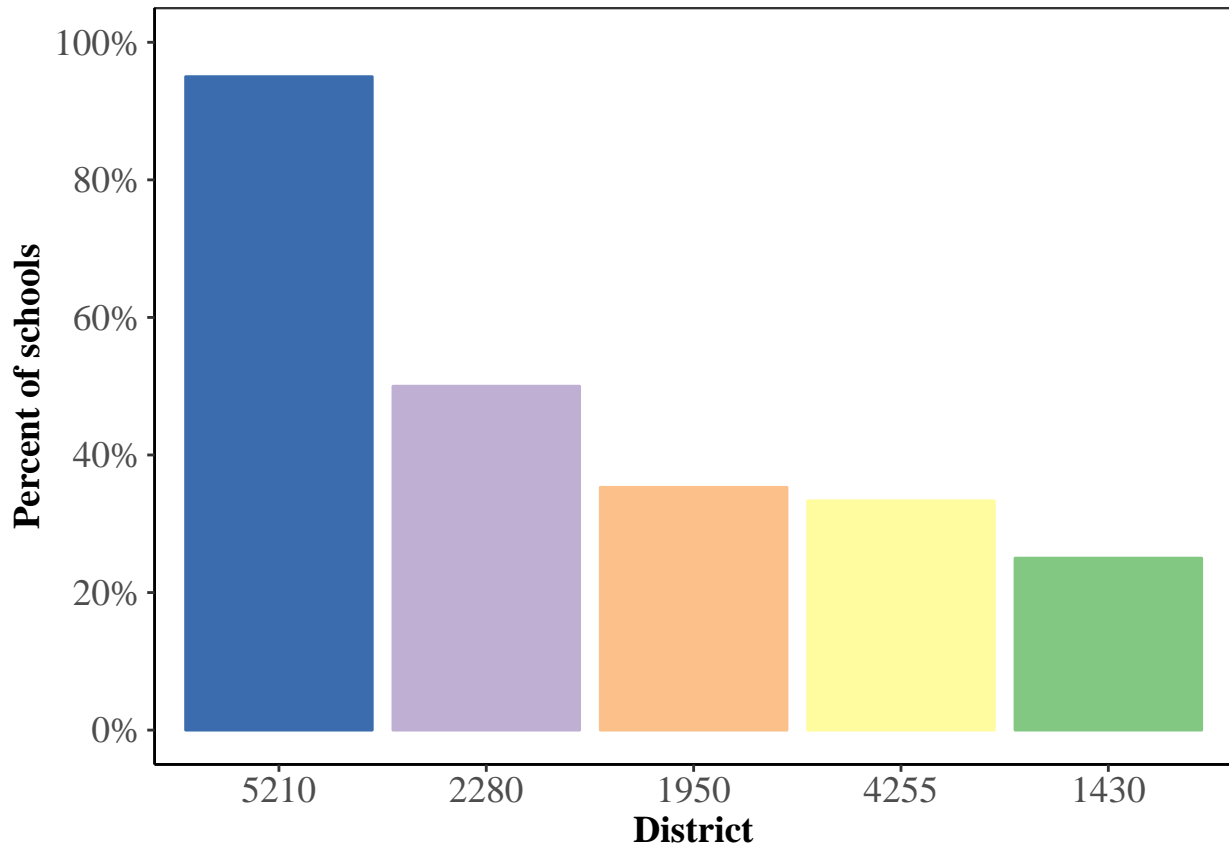
Bad school is defined as a school with chronic absenteeism rate of greater than 10%



District 5210 (Trenton) has the largest number of schools w high chronic absenteeism



Districts 5210 (Trenton), 2280 (Hopewell), 1950 (Hamilton), 4255 (Princeton Regional), 1430 (Ewing) have schools that are considered high chronic absenteeism. Trenton has the highest percentage with 95%.



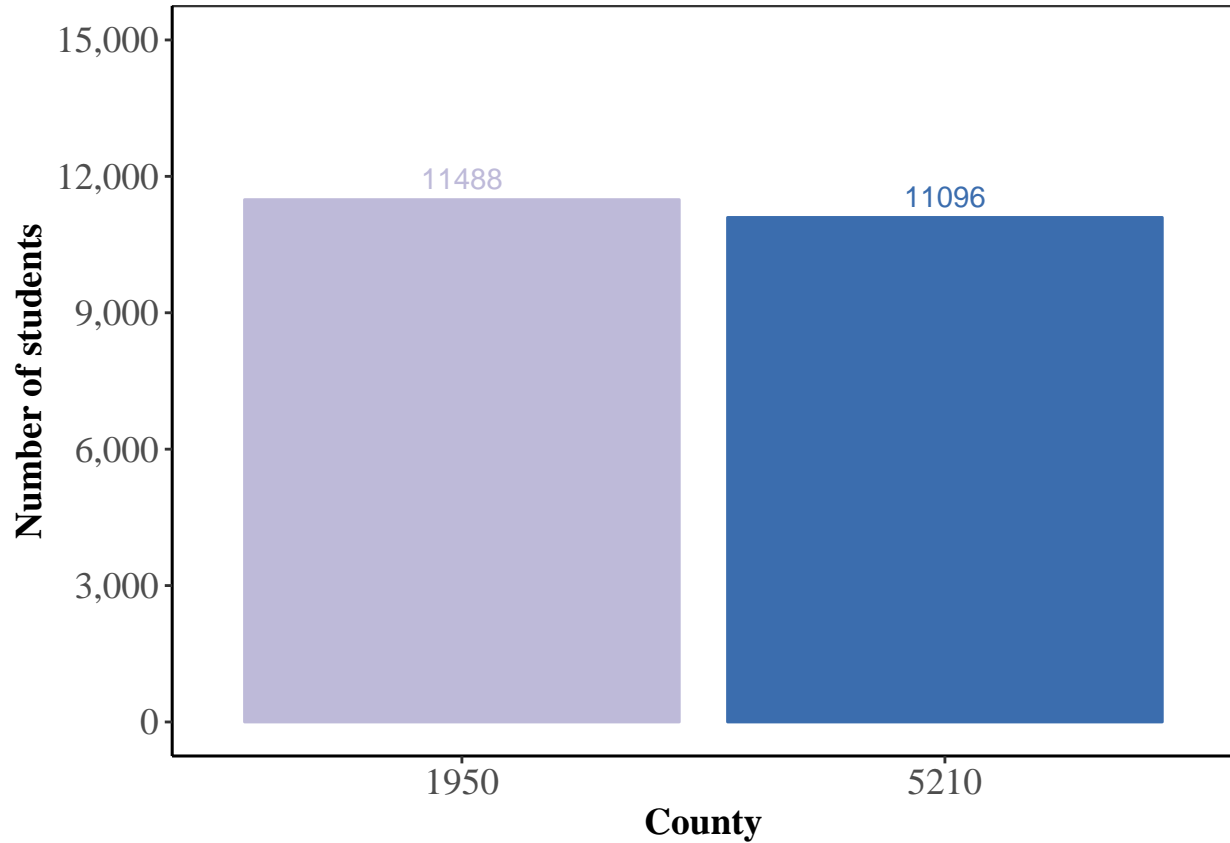
Action plan

We know District 5210 (Trenton) has the largest number of schools (19) and highest percentage of schools (95%) with chronic absenteeism.

When we look at which districts are considered good districts it gets a bit trickier. If we look at number of schools, District 1950 (Hamilton) is first with 11 schools. But if we look at percentage of schools, District 1950 (Hamilton) is at 70%, whereas Districts 1245, 2580, 3105, 5510, 5715 are at 100%.

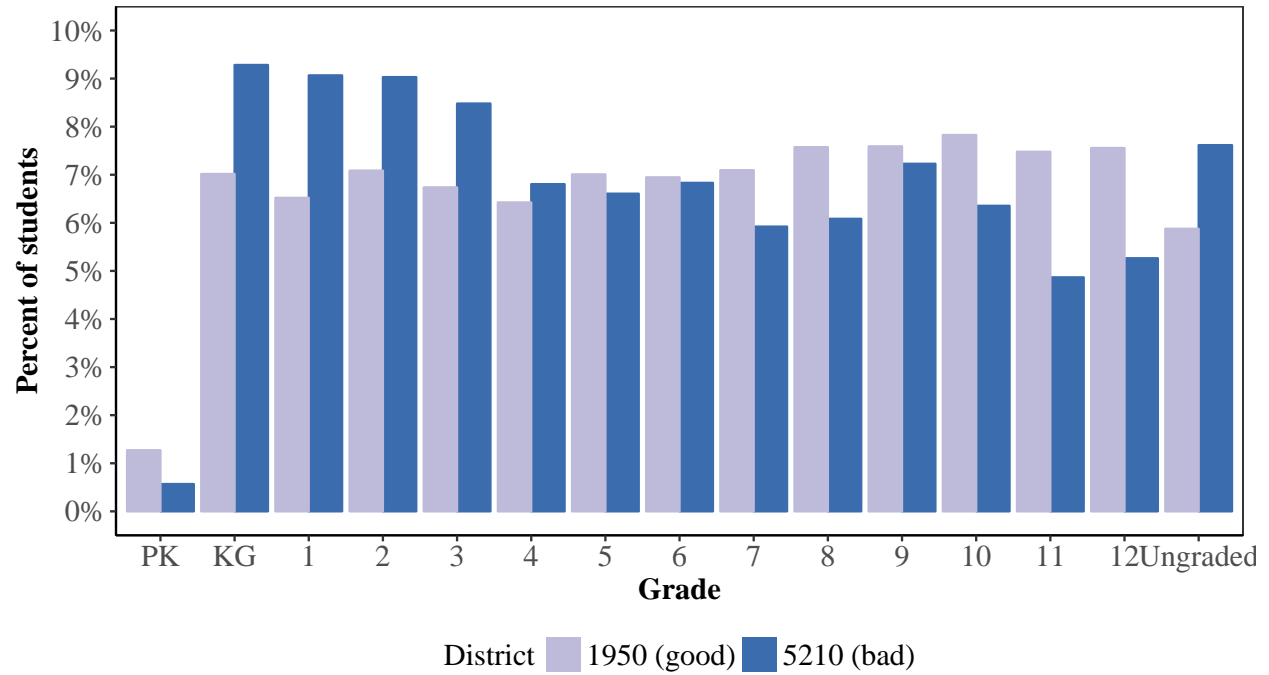
What are the characteristics of district 1950 (good) and district 5210 (bad)?

Number of students



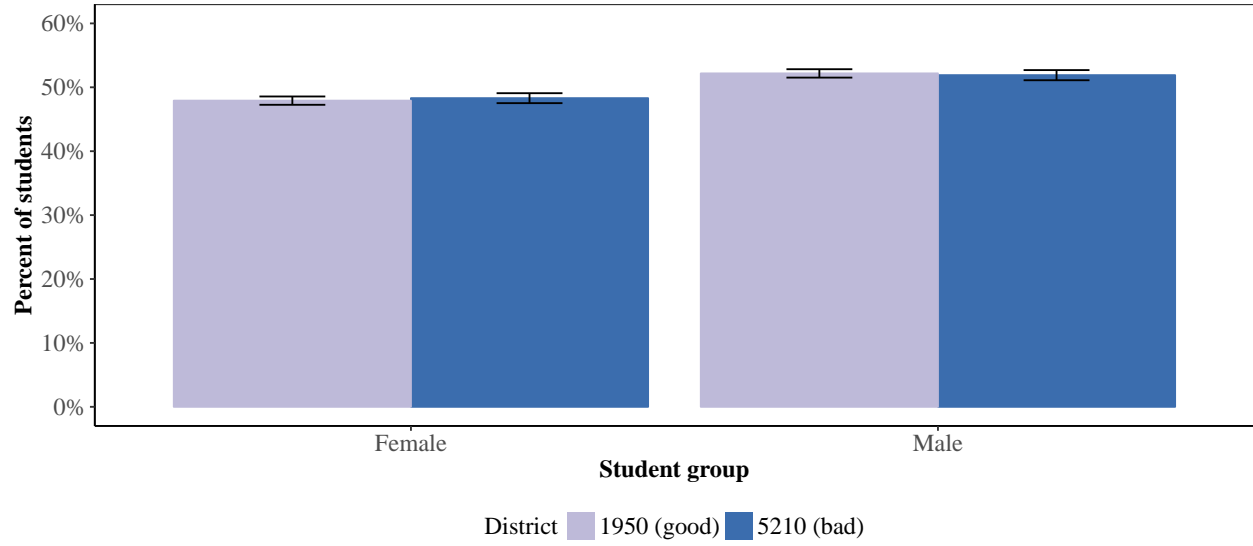
The two districts have roughly the same number of students.

Grade breakdown



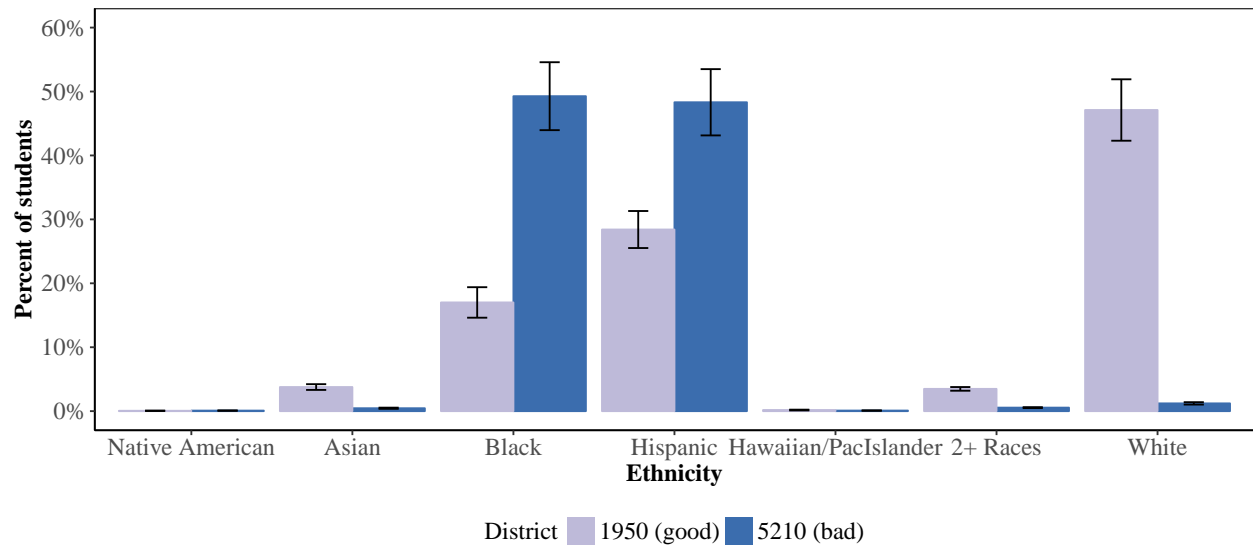
District 1950 (good) have more students in older grades (6-12), whereas District 5210 (bad) have more students in younger grades (KG-4).

Gender breakdown



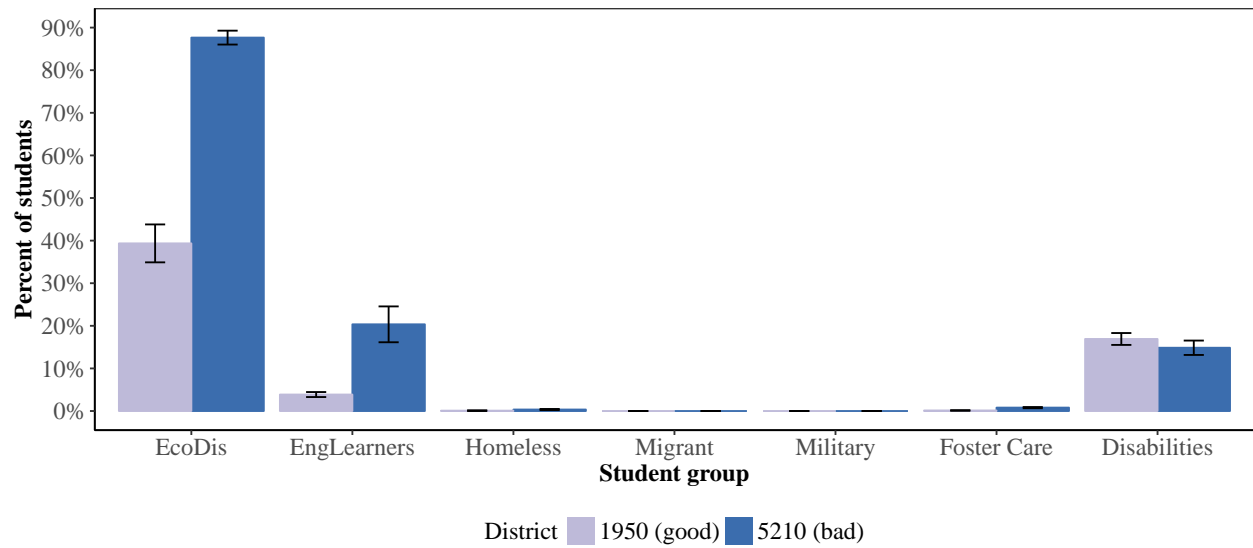
The two districts have same percentage of students that are female and male.

Ethnicity breakdown



The ethnicity composition for the two districts are very different. District 5210 (bad) have less Asian, significantly more Black, significantly more Hispanic, less mixed race and significantly less White students.

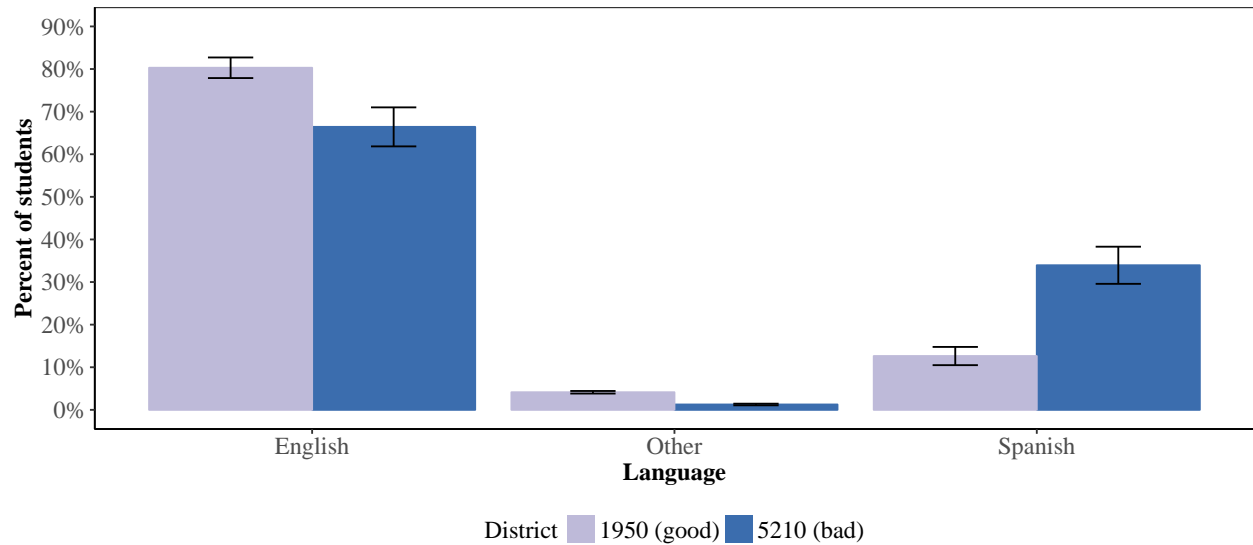
Student group breakdown



The student group composition for the two districts are very different. District 5210 (bad) have significantly more economically disadvantaged and significantly more English learners. The other student group categories are similar for the two districts.

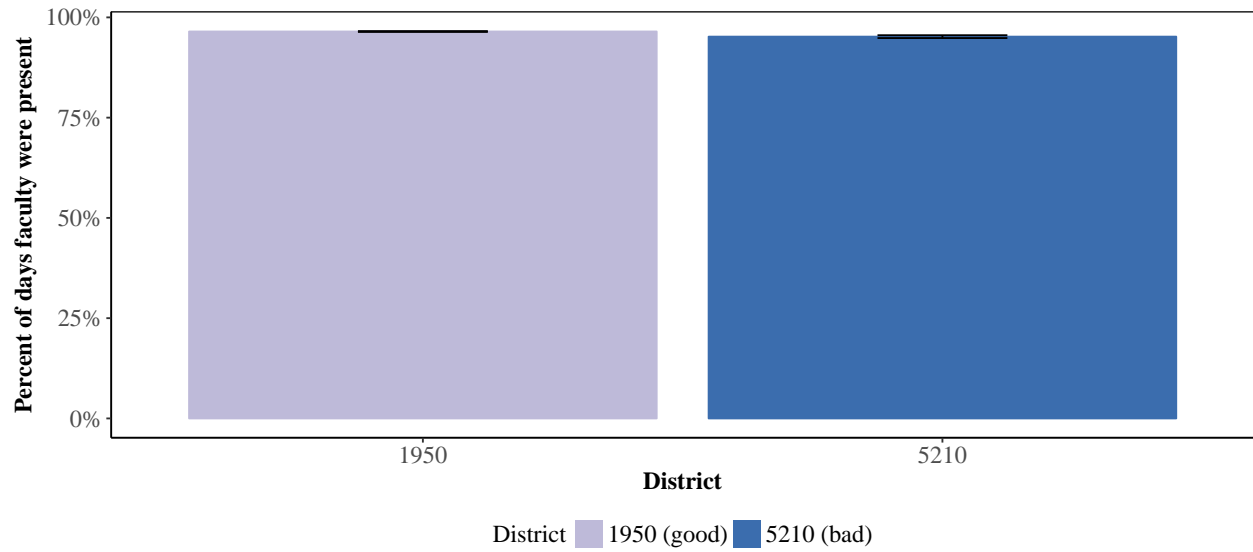
Languages spoken at home

There are 15 language categories, but after looking at the percent of students that spoke the 15 languages it turns out that majority of students were either in the English or Spanish group.



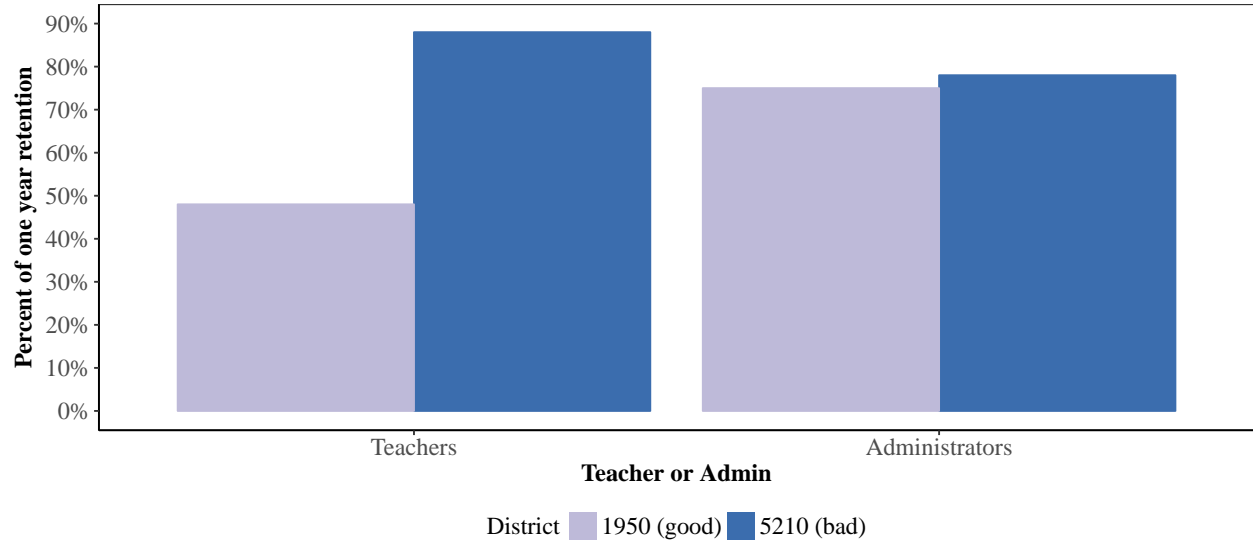
District 5210 (bad) have less English speakers, and significantly more students who speak Spanish at home.

Teacher absenteeism



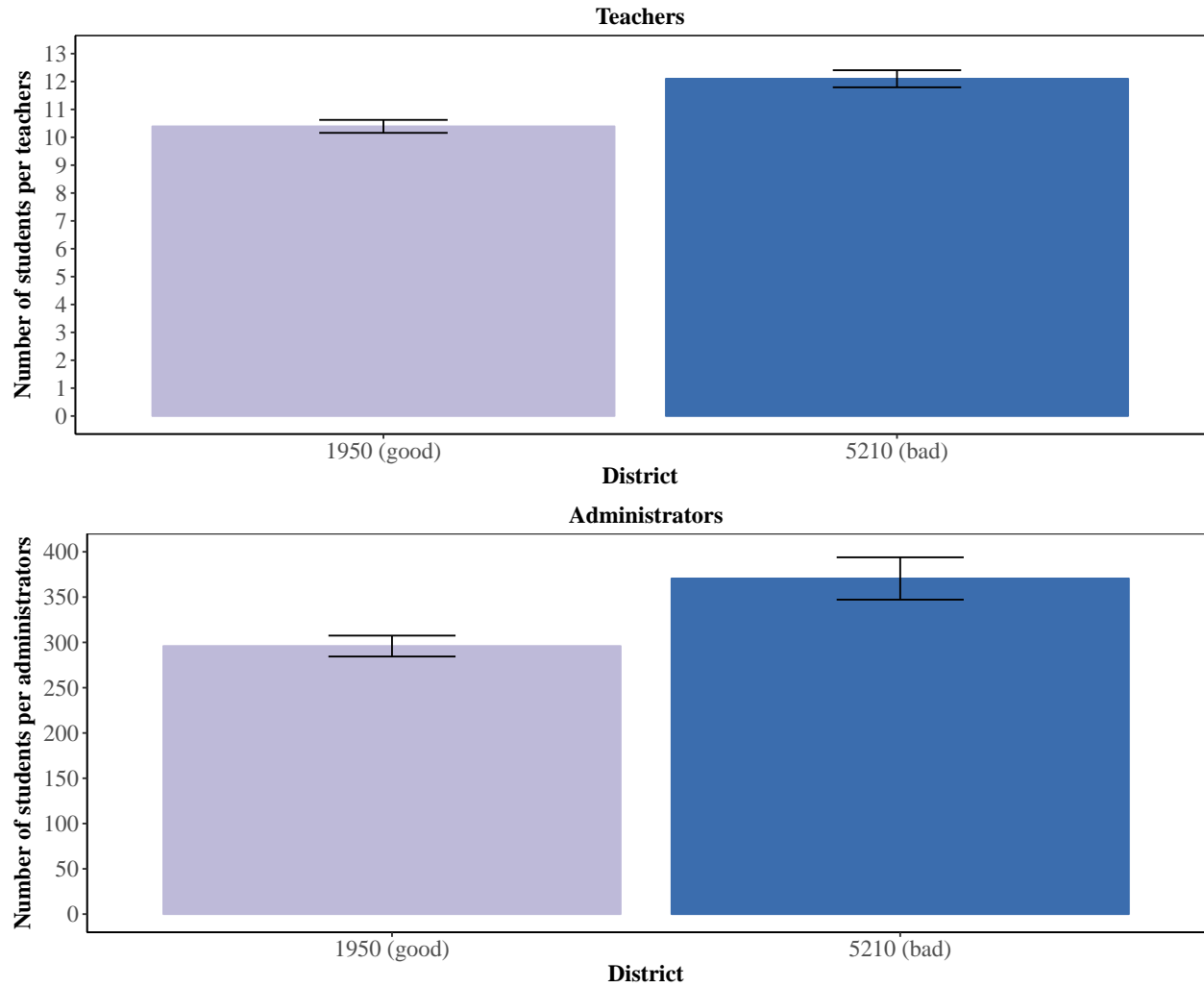
The two districts have same percentage of teacher attendance. Teachers overall don't miss a lot of school.

Teacher and Admin One Year Retention



Retention of teachers at one year is significantly less for District 1950 (good), which is surprising. The two districts have same percentage of administrator retention attendance.

Student to Staff Ratio



The student:teacher ratio, and student:administrator ratio, is much higher for District 5210 (bad).

ALICE report:

In 2014, Mercer County had 39% of its household below the ALICE threshold, meaning they live in poverty (page 13).

In 2014, Trenton had 75% of its household below the ALICE threshold (page 14). The high percentage of schools that has chronic absenteeism is likely related.

Summary:

Comparing District 1950 (good) and District 5210 (bad), it looks like the district with higher chronic absenteeism have more economically disadvantaged students, more english learners, less Asian students, less White students, more Black students and more Hispanic students.

District 5210 (bad) also tend to have more students in elementary school (esp grades 1-4) compared to other grades