PySchool Trends

Based on the data, Charter schools performed better than District schools despite District schools having a higher per student budget. Additionally, larger amounts of money spent per student didn’t improve the percentage of students who passed both math and reading. The lowest group of spending per student resulted in the greatest number of students with overall passing grades.

School size also had an impact on students’ grades in math and reading. Large schools (2,000-5,000 students) had the lowest number of students passing both math and reading. Small and medium-sized schools had similar numbers of students with an overall passing grade. Based solely on the outcomes, an argument could be made for keeping class sizes smaller; however, the data only looks at school size, not class size.

Finally, Charter schools are significantly smaller than District schools, so it also makes sense that from a percentage viewpoint, they have the potential to have better student outcomes. As school size increases, the percentages of students passing will invariably decrease due to the number of students involved.

What this report doesn’t include is school resources available to students that don’t have a cost associated with them. Charter schools may appear to be more cost-effective and produce students with better grades, but this report doesn’t account for other resources - volunteers in the classroom, outside tutoring, homelife, etc. – that may impact students and their grades.