Summary of the Analysis

After analysing data on 15 schools which included 39,170 students, various tables summarising the overall data were produced comparing the student math and reading scores against each of the schools, the student year groups 9 to 12, the amount spent on the students, the size of the schools, and if the schools are government or independent.

Comparing the schools by the average scores for reading and math and the number of students that passed for reading and math individually and combined. All the schools in the data had over 80% of the students passing one subject and none of the schools had less than 66% of students passing both subjects.

The average passing scores for each of the subjects are within 3 points on either side of 70 for all schools. The scores were similar across all year levels and schools, the amount spent, school size and type of school.

Conclusions or Comparisons

1. Top-performing schools are more likely to have fewer students and are independent schools with spending in the $585-$630. This is supported by the comparisons of scores by spending, the schools by size and schools by type. Three of the five top schools either have these characteristics or are very close.
2. There is a significant number of students that are good at either reading or maths. All the summary tables that include the percentage passing math, reading or overall have a 7% or more difference between the overall and both reading and maths. The bottom-performing schools have more extreme differences with the top schools having a smaller gap. This is not ameliorated by spending more per student which seems to have the largest difference. The number of students at the school also seems to affect this difference.