

PyCitySchools Observable Trends

If we take a look at the Overall Passing Rate of each school with regard to each school's Per Student Budget, we see that the schools that spend the most amount of money per student are actually the lowest scoring schools. I found this to be a surprising trend as I would've expected that schools with a higher budget, that have more to spend on resources, would have higher scoring students overall. But we can see from the data that it is in fact the schools with lower spending ranges that scored higher.

Observing the trend in Overall Passing Rate with respect to School Size, we can see that the highest scoring schools have a population that falls primarily within the Medium-Large range (1400-3000 total students). This aligns with what I would expect since smaller schools tend to have less funding, while schools with an extremely large population have huge classroom sizes and very large teacher to student ratios, so students are in a position to receive a lot less attention from teachers, and therefore might not score as high.

The trend in Overall Passing Rate with respect to School Type is far more clear-cut than the data regarding Budget and Size. Every Charter school scored higher than the District schools. This seems to be an incredibly defining characteristic. That being said, it definitely deserves a closer look to see what about Charter schools had led to this trend. Charter schools have more flexibility in offering innovative educational approaches, perhaps this is helpful for adapting lessons to a range of students and a variety of learning styles. However, it is also important to note that Charter schools are BY CHOICE, whereas public schools are by default. Parents choose to send their kids to Charter school and often this involves a lottery and being held on a waiting list for a while before obtaining a spot for your child. Therefore, the students that end up at Charter schools already fall into a certain demographic: their parents actively pursue the best educational opportunities for their child. It is likely that these are students who value an education, behavior modeled by their parents, and have educational support at home. This could be a large factor contributing to the stark distinction between Charter and District schools with regard to Overall Passing Rate.