Schools Analysis Summary Narrative

The school district in this analysis has a total of 15 high schools, 7 of which are “District” schools and 8 “Charter” schools.

Observations:

1. here was no obvious relationship between spending per student and performance on the reading or math testing.
2. Mean scores were generally lower on the math tests, particularly in the District schools. The difference in math scores would likely be statistically significant, though of unclear practical significance.
3. The percentage of students passing was markedly different for each test and both tests.
4. The Charter schools performed much better on the metric of % of students passing, and all of the top 5 schools in terms of passing rate were Charter, while all of the bottom 5 in terms of passing rate were District schools.

Taken together these observations suggest that the standard deviations would be closer to the mean for the Charter schools than for the District schools. One could argue that this would suggest that resources should be focused on the underperformers at the District schools to reduce failure rates. However, there are numerous unmeasured variables in this analysis that could be confounding the observations (selection bias, social issues, etc). More spending is not the primary answer to solving challenges in test performance in this school district, though perhaps greater adoption of Charter school procedures would result in better educational outcomes