Funding Levels and Educational Outcomes in New York State

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We looked at the district level funding and how it was allocated by federal, State, and local governments for the New York State (NYS) public school system and sought to understand educational outcomes based on its allocation. We examined data from the NYS Department of Education, NYS government open budget, the US Census Bureau, and the National Center for Education Statistics websites. From there, we hope to answer the following questions:

1. What districts have the most funding per student?
2. How is funding distributed? Is it by population… ethnicity?
3. What are the percentages of districts that get federal funding vs ones that do not? Why?
4. How do the districts that received federal funding compare to the ones that did not, and what are their graduation rates and drop-out rates?
5. Is there a correlation between educational funding and median income per household, graduation rate, or dropout rate?
6. Are there any discrepancies between ethnic groups in comparison to funding?
7. Are districts that have a higher percentage of African American, Hispanic, or Asian student enrollments receiving less funding?

We hope to predict the graduation rate of NYS students based on funding, income, and ethnicity with a supervised regression model.