School District Performance Report

1. Data

The dataset provided includes data on math and reading scores of over 32,000 students across 15 high schools. Within the 15-school dataset provided, the top performing schools are Cabrera High School, Thomas High School, Griffin High School, Wilson High School, and Pena High School. The Lowest performing schools are Rodriguez High School, Figueroa High School, Huang High School, Hernandez High School, and Johnson High School. These performances are based purely off Math and Reading Test scores. This does not account for any extra-curricular activities that the students may be involved in.

1. Spending and Performance

If we look at the correlation between spending per student and student performance on math and reading, surprisingly, an inverse relationship is found, such that with increased spending, students’ passing rates drop.



Table 1 Spending per Student and Overall Passing Rates

The table above shows how the passing rate drops with increased spending. There are a couple of possible explanations for this behavior. Because we don’t have data on how the funds allocated to the school are used, it can’t be said decisively that the increased spending directly impacts the quality of education. The funds may be getting used for extra-curricular activities as they tend to be expensive. Another possible reason can be increased unnecessary administrative spending. A significant portion of the increased funding could be absorbed by administrative overhead, leaving fewer resources available for direct classroom instruction and student support services. This bureaucratic inefficiency could hinder efforts to improve academic outcomes despite the apparent increase in spending per student.

1. Size and Performance

There is an interesting correlation between the size of the school and overall passing rates. Small and Medium sized schools have great passing rates of around 90%. However, the large schools with over 2000 students have extremely low passing rates, barely touching 60%.



Table 2 School Size and Overall Passing Rates

The obvious possible reason for this is lower personalized attention for every student and administrative challenges. Smaller and medium-sized schools often have lower student-to-teacher ratios, allowing for more personalized attention and support for individual students. In such environments, teachers may have more opportunities to identify and address the unique learning needs of each student, leading to higher overall passing rates. Whereas large schools often have more complex administrative structures, which can lead to bureaucratic inefficiencies and communication barriers between administrators, teachers, and students. These challenges may hinder the implementation of effective educational strategies and support systems, ultimately impacting passing rates. A solution to this would be to build more schools in areas where the current school is categorized as a large one. This would take the pressure off from the large schools and create more small or medium sized schools where the abovementioned hurdles can be tackled more effectively.

1. Type and Performance

The clear correlation between the type of school and overall passing rates say that Charter schools perform much better than District Schools. There are multitude of reasons why that may be true, but here are some of the most prevalent ones:



Table 3 School Type and Overall Passing Rates

Firstly, charter schools often have greater flexibility in curriculum design and instructional methods. This allows them to tailor their educational programs to the specific needs and interests of their student population. This tailored approach fosters higher levels of engagement among students, as they are more likely to be actively involved in learning activities that resonate with their individual learning styles and interests. Secondly, charter schools tend to embrace innovative teaching methods and educational approaches. By experimenting with alternative pedagogical strategies such as project-based learning, personalized instruction, and experiential learning opportunities, charter schools create dynamic and stimulating learning environments. These innovative approaches have been shown to enhance student outcomes in terms of academic performance. Furthermore, charter schools exhibit a culture of continuous improvement, characterized by agility and responsiveness to evolving educational needs and student demographics. This culture fosters ongoing reflection, evaluation, and refinement of instructional practices and school policies. As a result, charter schools are better equipped to adapt to changing circumstances and implement effective strategies that lead to sustained gains in student performance over time.

1. Recommendations

To increase passing rates, the school board should consider reallocating funds towards instructional support rather than extracurricular activities or administrative overhead. Additionally, they could explore initiatives to reduce school size through the construction of smaller schools, facilitating more personalized attention and effective administrative management. Moreover, fostering a culture of innovation and continuous improvement, akin to successful charter schools, could enhance teaching methods and curriculum design, ultimately leading to improved student outcomes.