1. Introduction
   1. Description and Discussion of the Background

While choosing a public school for a child’s education, there are many aspects that parents will consider. A key aspect is the rating of the school and the quality of the education it provides. But is the surrounding area and venues an important factor and an influence on a child’s educational development? Could they be a distraction or a positive influence on the student? Could having more cafés or a movie theatre be a distraction? Some parents may give due consideration to the neighborhood where the school is located, and may relocate to a place where there are more parks than cafes and restaurants. The project seeks to evaluate and ascertain whether the venues surrounding the school have an effect on the students, influential in their ability to perform well in studies.

In order to ascertain this, the project considers a small sample set of schools in and around Toronto. As a proxy for the quality of education in a school, the percentage of students passing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test in the first attempt is considered. The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) measures whether students are meeting the minimum standard for literacy across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9. Successful completion of the literacy test is one of the requirements to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. All students across the province write this test on the same date, usually in late March each year.