City Schools Analysis

My objective in this analysis was to take students' standardized test scores and information about the schools they attend to provide insight into any trends within the data. We used average test scores and sorted our data by the schools in our city. Using the budget data and population for each school, we were able to calculate the budget per student. We established that a passing score for each category of testing is 70 points or higher.

Students are performing at consistent levels at their respective schools across all grades, 9 through 12. Overall, the budget for each school has little to no effect on students’ performance. In fact, students attending schools with a higher "budget per student" had lower average test scores across all categories. The two key factors impacting student performance are whether they attend a District or Charter school, and the number of students attending that school. Schools with fewer than 2,000 students have an overall passing rate of at least 89%, whereas large schools (with 2,000 to 5,000 students) have an overall passing rate of 58%.

The top five schools in the city based on overall passing rate are all Charter schools, and only one of them qualifies as a large school (2,000 students or more). The bottom five schools for overall passing rates are District schools with large student populations.

Based on these results, I recommend the opening of more Charter schools throughout the city. More schools with smaller populations of students will increase test scores across all categories. Since there is no correlation between higher spending per student and better performance, some funding can be diverted to smaller schools or the opening of new schools without negatively affecting performance.