

Memorandum

To: Py City Schools Board of Directors & Mayor Ruiz
From: Celina Kamler, Chief Data Scientist for PCUSD
Re: Analysis of Student Performance Data

Esteemed Board members and Mayor Ruiz:

I'm pleased to share my analysis of recently released student outcome data, including some unexpected insights. Below, you will find a summary snapshot of our district. While reading proficiency is high relative to statewide averages, at 65.2% we have room for growth in percentage of students proficient in math and reading.

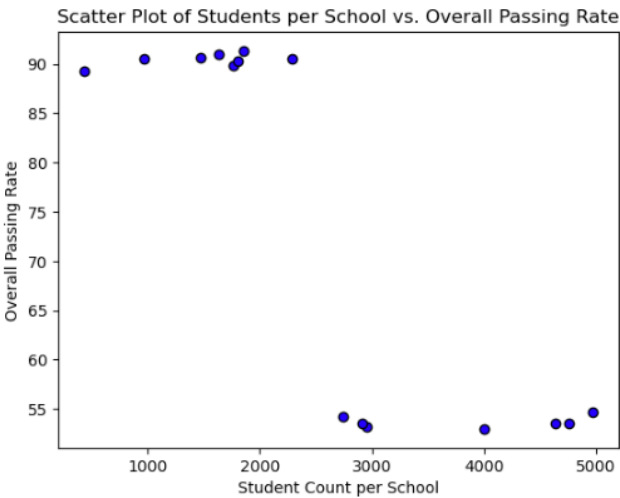
Total School Count	Total Students	Total Budget	Average Math Score	Average Reading Score	Percentage of Students Proficient in Math	Percentage of Students Proficient in Reading	Percentage of Students Meeting Proficiency in Math and Reading
15	39170	82932329558	78.985371	81.87784	74.980853	85.805463	65.172326

Perhaps most interesting, I did not find a positive correlation between per pupil spending and academic achievement.

	Average Math Score	Average Reading Score	Percent Passing Math	Percent Passing Reading	Percent Overall Passing
Spending Ranges (Per Student)					
<\$585	83.455399	83.933814	93.460096	96.610877	90.369459
\$585-630	81.899826	83.155286	87.133538	92.718205	81.418596
\$630-645	78.518855	81.624473	73.484209	84.391793	62.857656
\$645-680	76.997210	81.027843	66.164813	81.133951	53.526855

Unsurprisingly, my analysis revealed an inverse relationship between school size and overall passing rate, with our medium and small schools outperforming our largest schools.

Perhaps most interesting, given recent anti-charter legislation, is the overall performance by school type. Our charter schools outperformed our district schools on all measures of student achievement, and our top five schools are all charters.



Top Schools

school_name	School Type	Total Students	Total School Budget	Per Student Budget	Average Math Score	Average Reading Score	Percent Passing Math	Percent Passing Reading	Percent Overall Passing
Cabrera High School	Charter	1858	1081356.0	582.0	83.061895	83.975780	94.133477	97.039828	91.334769
Thomas High School	Charter	1635	1043130.0	638.0	83.418349	83.848930	93.272171	97.308869	90.948012
Griffin High School	Charter	1468	917500.0	625.0	83.351499	83.816757	93.392371	97.138965	90.599455
Wilson High School	Charter	2283	1319574.0	578.0	83.274201	83.989488	93.867718	96.539641	90.582567
Pena High School	Charter	962	585858.0	609.0	83.839917	84.044699	94.594595	95.945946	90.540541

Recommendations

In conclusion, the Data & Research team at PCUSD will need to conduct additional qualitative analyses to explore the reasons why our charters are outperforming our traditional district schools. In the meantime, the Board and Mayor may want to revisit recent limits on new charter approvals within our district.