

***School District Organization in
South Carolina:
Evaluating Performance and Fiscal
Efficiency***

Prepared for
The Education Oversight Committee
Miley and Associates January 2003

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Boards Association June 9, 2003***

Plaintiff Exhibit 6454

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Number of Districts by Size

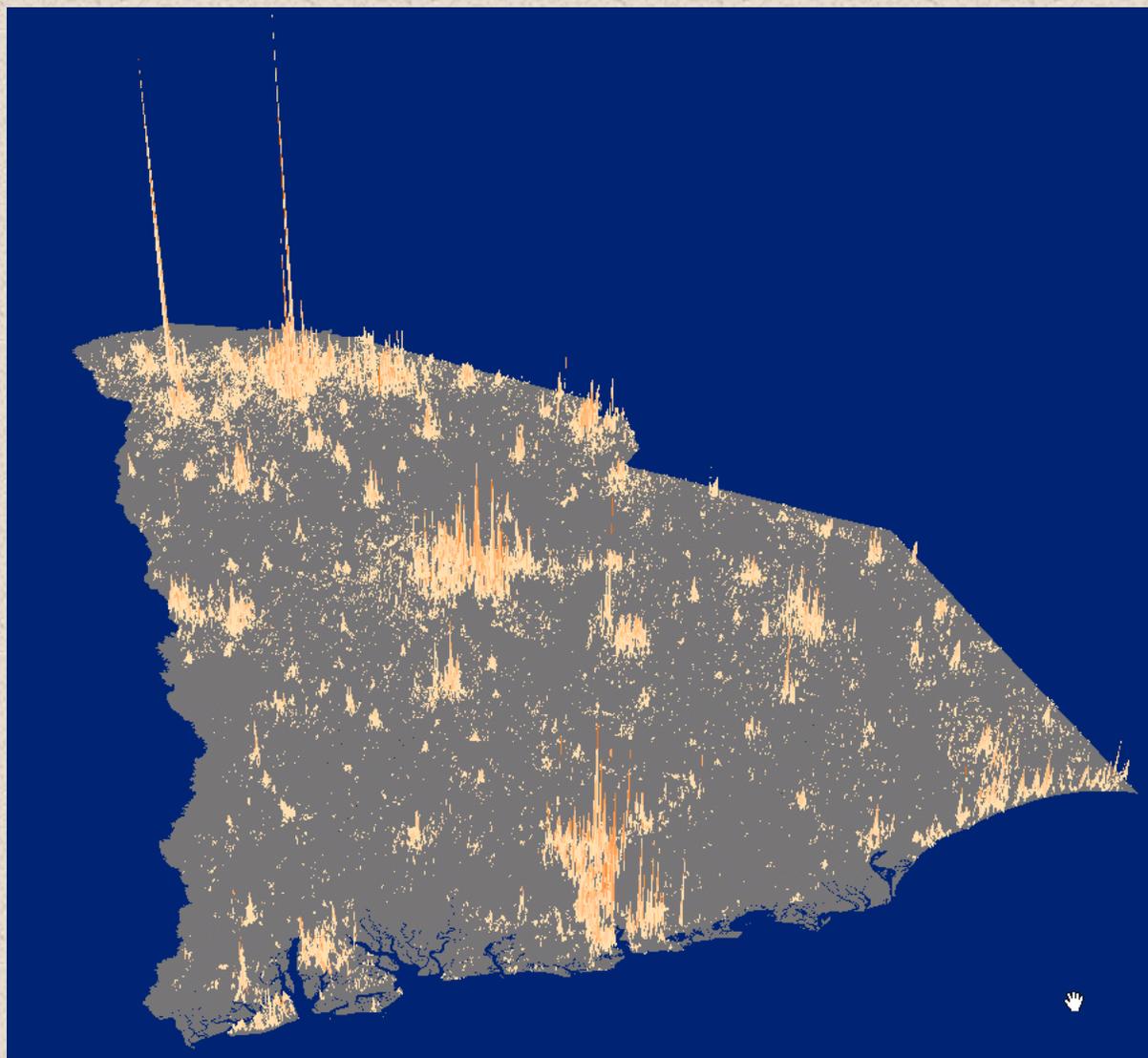
Table 2

Number of Districts by Size Range and Population in Range

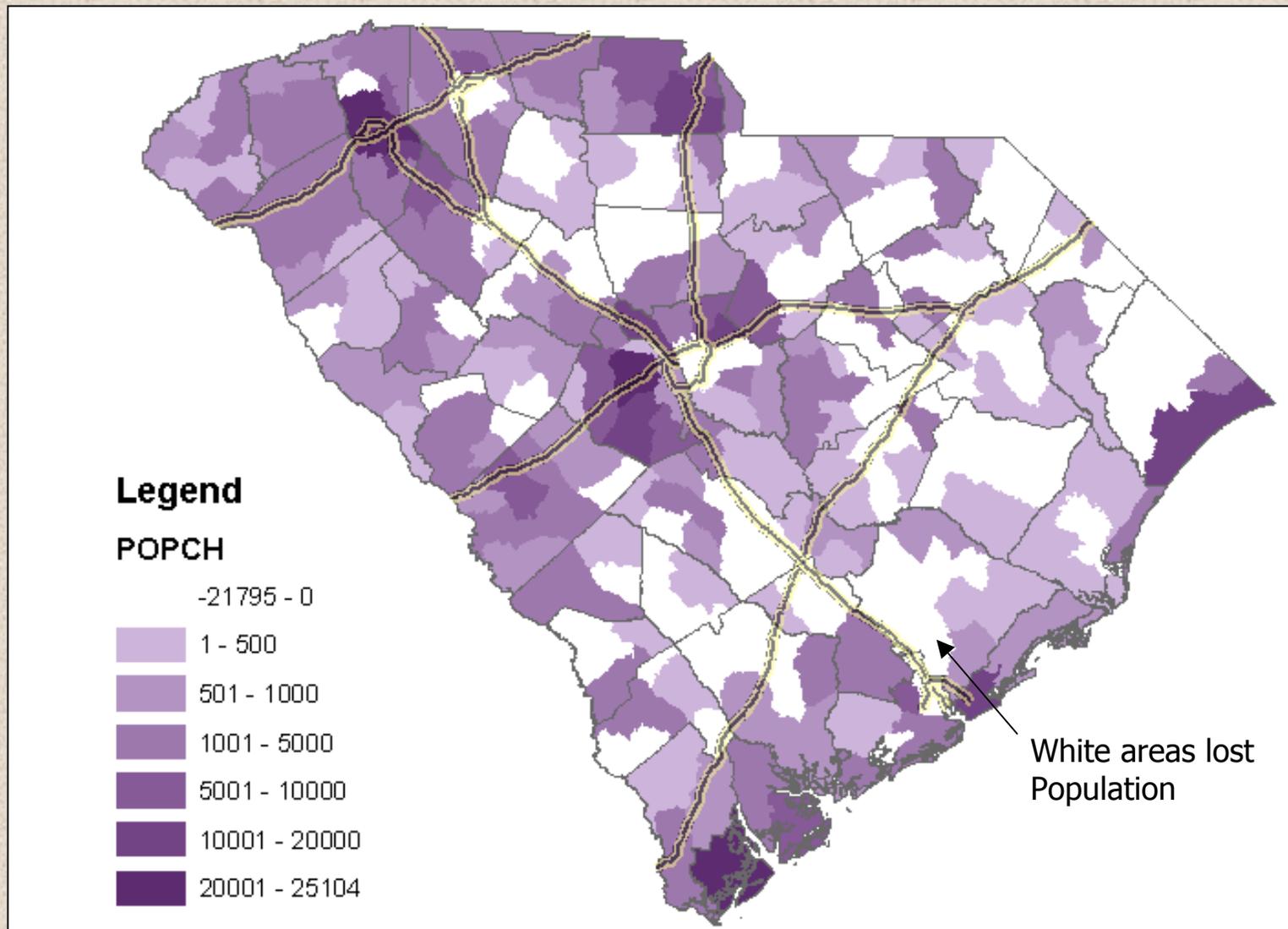
District size	Number districts	Percent Of districts	Percent of students
State	85	100.0	100.0
25,000 or more	5	5.9	27.8
10,000 – 24,999	13	15.3	29.4
7,500 - 9,999	12	14.1	16.2
5,000 – 7,499	9	10.6	8.3
2,500 – 4,999	23	27.0	12.8
1,500 – 2,499	9	10.6	2.9
1 – 1,499	14	16.5	2.6

Source: Rankings, South Carolina State Department of Education, 1999-2000.

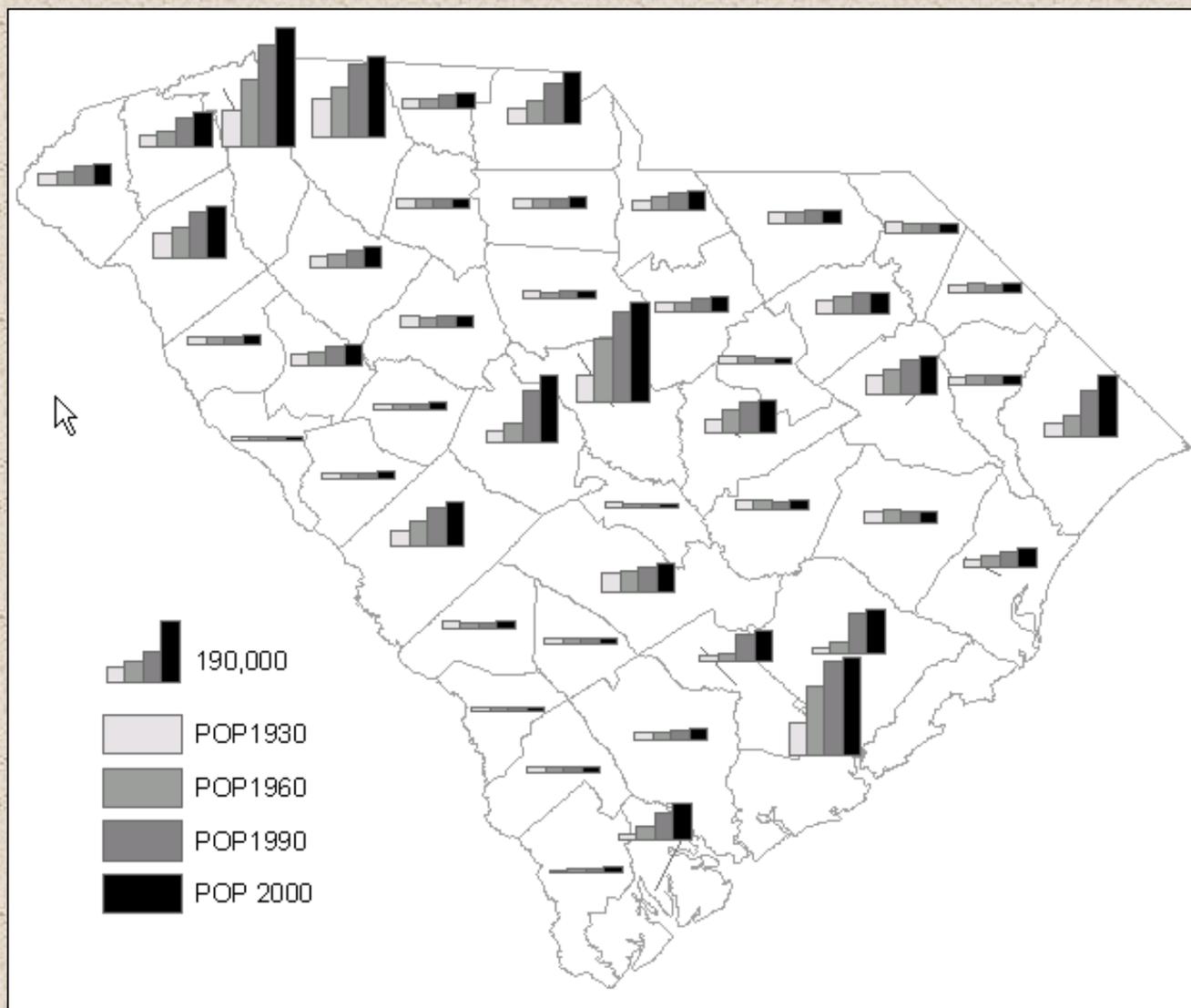
Where do people live?



Census County Divisions Population Change

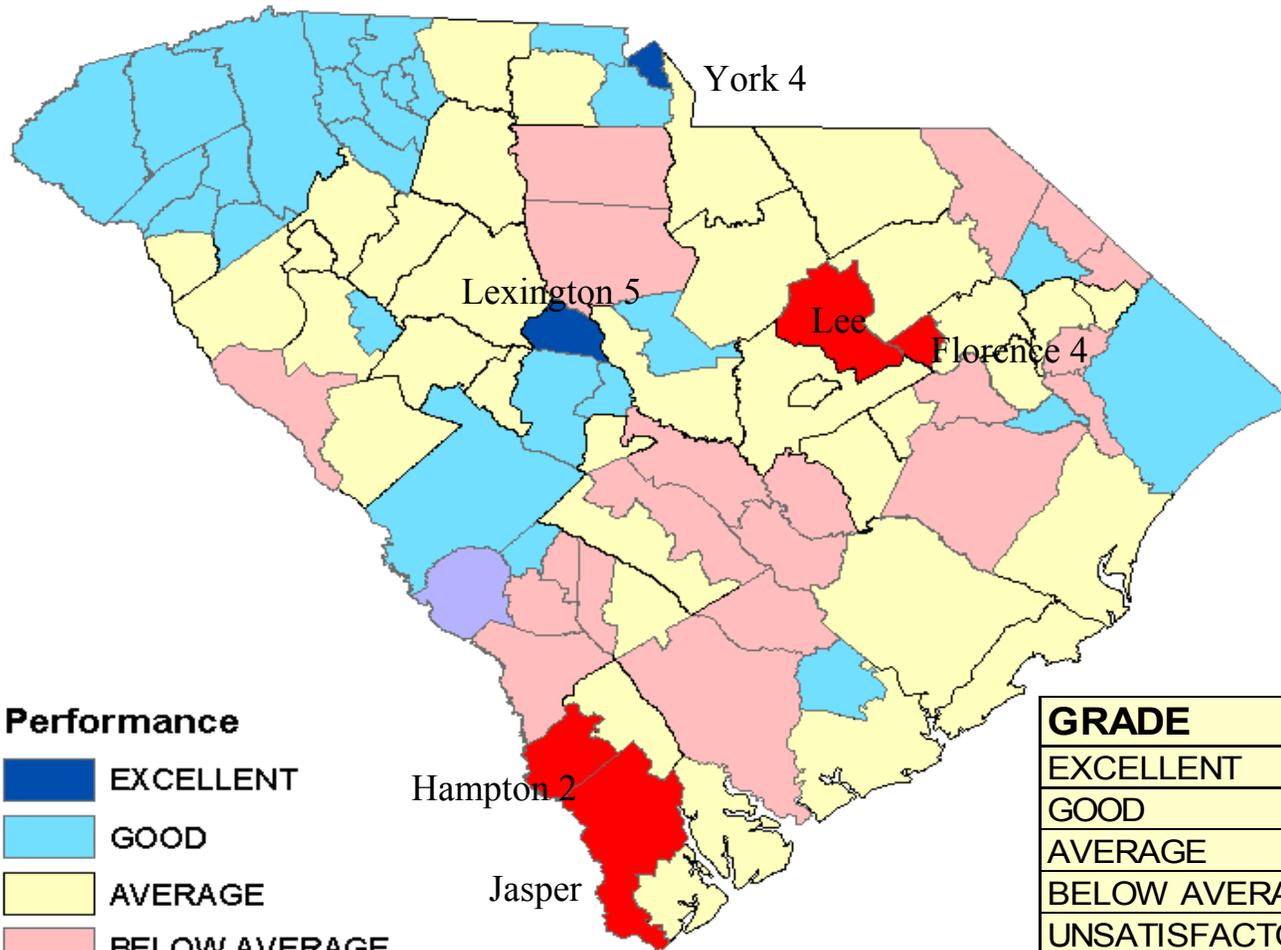


Population Change since 1930



Report Cards

2001 School District Report Card



Performance

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- AVERAGE
- BELOW AVERAGE
- UNSATISFACTORY

GRADE	NUMBER
EXCELLENT	2
GOOD	26
AVERAGE	34
BELOW AVERAGE	20
UNSATISFACTORY	4



Enrollments

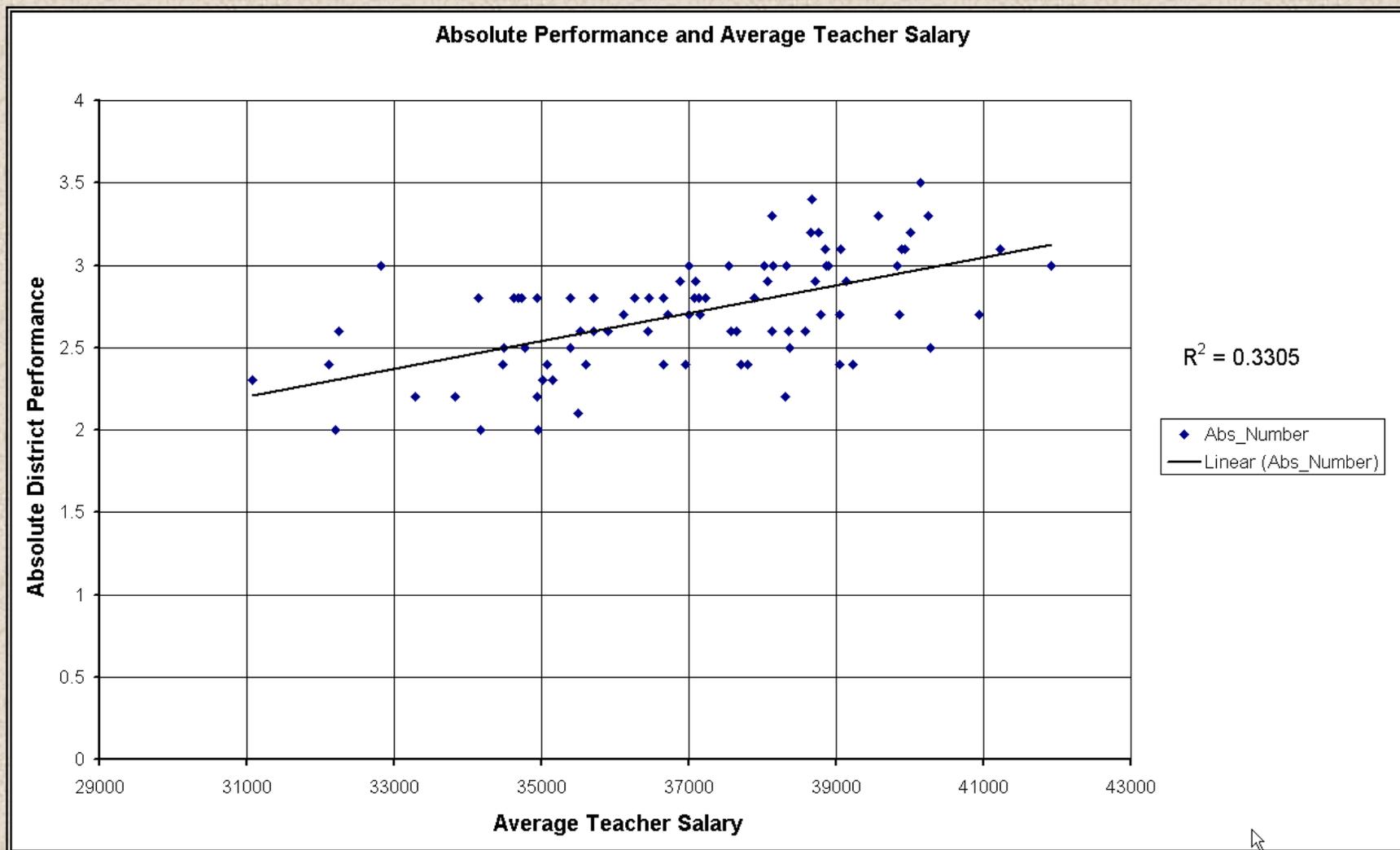
DISTRICT GRADE	Enrollment	ELEMENTARY ENROLLMENT	MIDDLE SCHOOL ENROLLMENT	HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT	NUMBER OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	NUMBER OF MIDDLE SCHOOLS	NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOLS
EXCELLENT	9955.0	626.0	783.0	1470.5	6.5	3.0	2.0
GOOD	11065.3	562.5	663.3	1113.7	9.3	3.9	2.8
AVERAGE	8061.4	507.7	590.7	881.1	8.0	3.6	2.6
BELOW AVERAGE	3183.4	468.1	448.5	658.7	3.6	2.0	1.5
UNSATISFACTORY	2108.0	552.8	455.3	609.8	2.3	1.5	1.0

Good to excellent districts average about 10,000 students

There is a big drop from 8000 to 3100 between average and below average school districts

The worst performing districts have only one high school

Does Teacher Salary Matter?

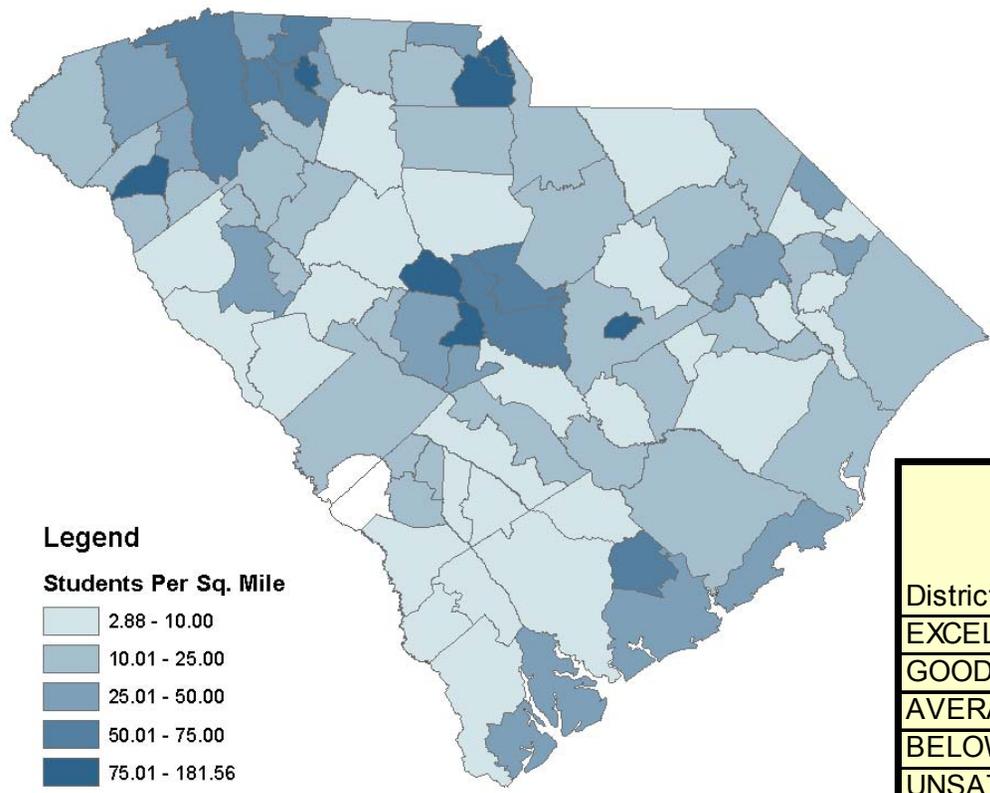


Salaries and Qualifications Matter

District Grade	% Parent Attending Conferences	Drop Out Rate	Student Teacher Ratio	% Masters	Ave Teacher Salary
EXCELLENT	76.80%	1.9000	21.8500	50.3500	\$39,408
GOOD	80.24%	2.4846	20.7615	40.6615	\$38,786
AVERAGE	80.12%	3.1324	19.3235	36.7441	\$36,503
BELOW AVERAGE	72.33%	3.9150	18.3250	31.9550	\$36,008
UNSATISFACTORY	60.45%	3.0500	18.4000	27.6750	\$34,210

Density Matters

Density of Students Number of Students per Square Mile



Legend

Students Per Sq. Mile

2.88 - 10.00
10.01 - 25.00
25.01 - 50.00
50.01 - 75.00
75.01 - 181.56

District Grade	Enrollment	Student Density Students/ Sq. Mile
EXCELLENT	9955.0000	93.2300
GOOD	11065.2692	47.0615
AVERAGE	8061.3529	22.6526
BELOW AVERAGE	3183.4000	9.6350
UNSATISFACTORY	2108.0000	7.7175

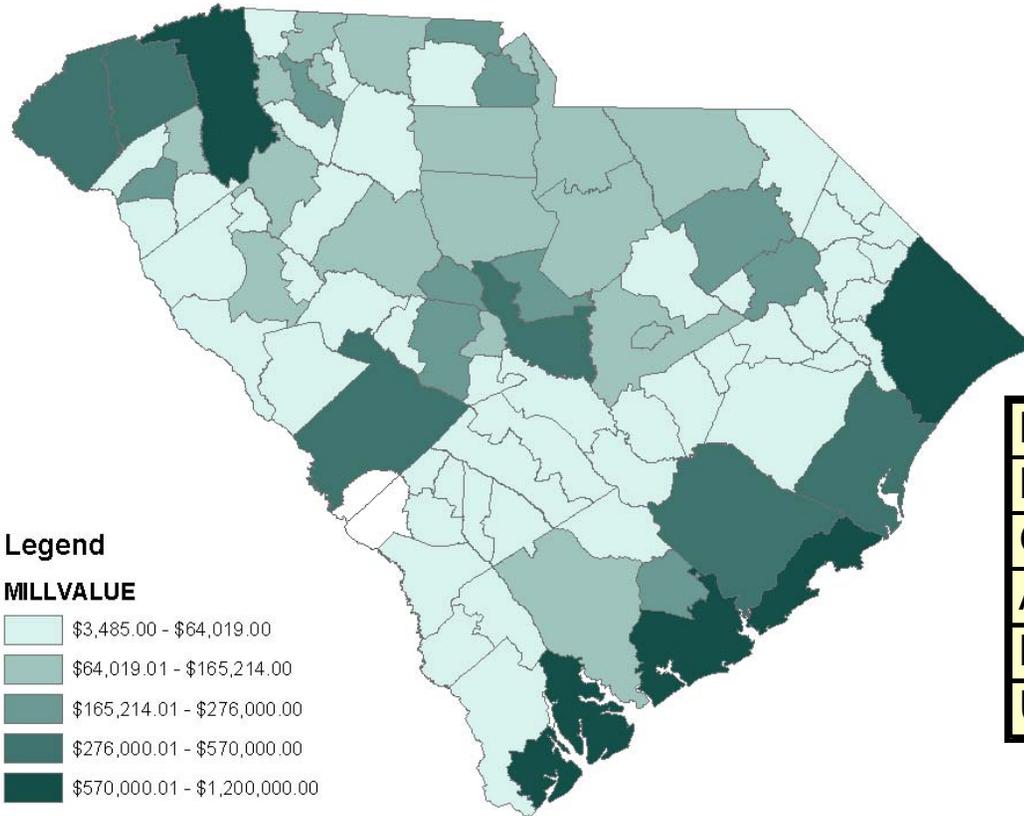
The Impact of Density

District Grade	Student Density Students/ Sq. Mile	Square Miles	Transportation Per Student	Net Change in Enrollment 1990 - 2000	% Change in Enrollment
EXCELLENT	93.2300	107.1	\$138	2501.0000	45.22%
GOOD	47.0615	281.0	\$147	1379.8846	13.11%
AVERAGE	22.6526	420.1	\$148	-148.7647	-1.56%
BELOW AVERAGE	9.6350	369.8	\$181	-338.0500	-9.91%
UNSATISFACTORY	7.7175	354.0	\$185	-254.2500	-10.76%

Huge differences in densities = huge differences in transportation costs

What is the local Tax Base?

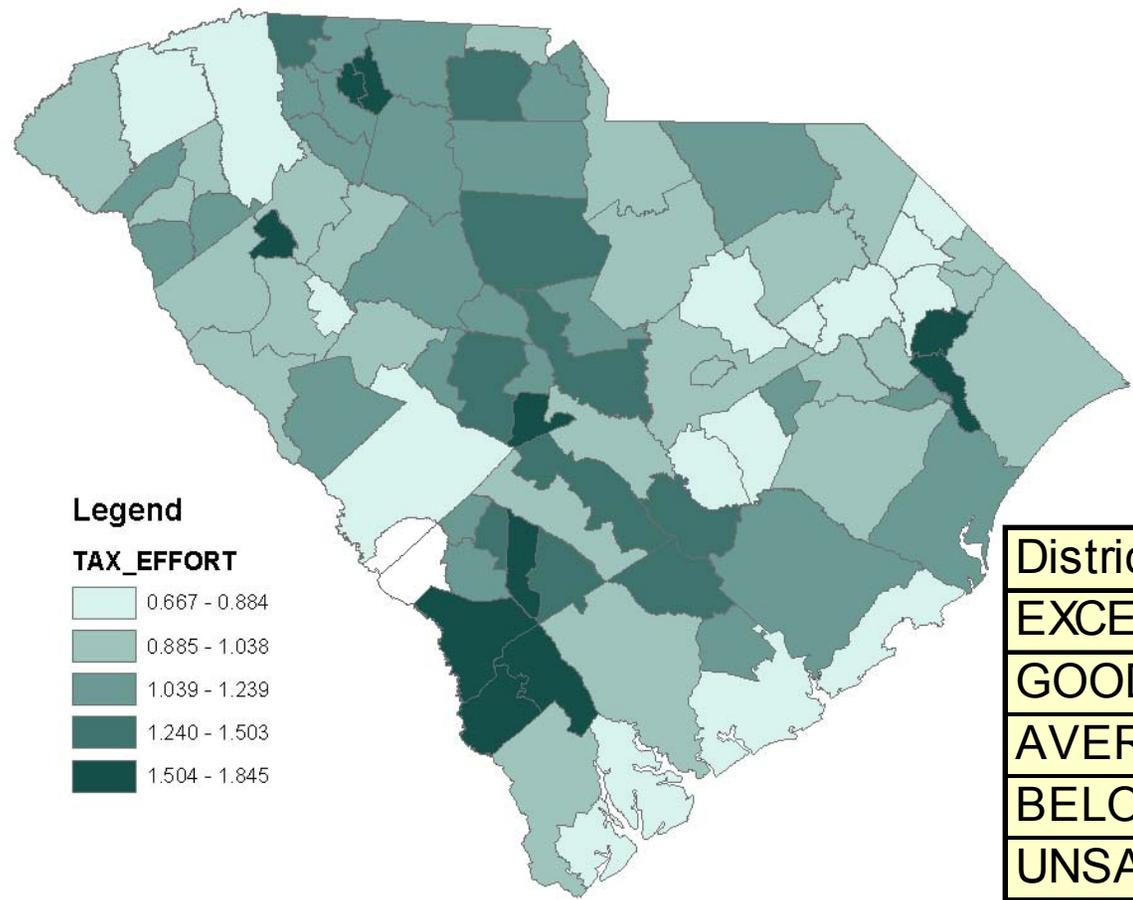
Revenue Generated Per Mill of Property Tax



District Grade	Mill Value
EXCELLENT	\$175,244
GOOD	\$215,857
AVERAGE	\$151,743
BELOW AVERAGE	\$43,106
UNSATISFACTORY	\$22,677

Its not the effort

Local Tax Effort



Legend

TAX_EFFORT

0.667 - 0.884
0.885 - 1.038
1.039 - 1.239
1.240 - 1.503
1.504 - 1.845

District Grade	Tax Effort
EXCELLENT	1.1495
GOOD	1.1198
AVERAGE	1.0949
BELOW AVERAGE	1.2119
UNSATISFACTORY	1.0522

Local Financial Resources

District Grade	Mill Value	Ability to Pay	Tax Effort	% Local Budget
EXCELLENT	\$175,244	0.0137	1.1495	41.00%
GOOD	\$215,857	0.0179	1.1198	39.62%
AVERAGE	\$151,743	0.0125	1.0949	30.76%
BELOW AVERAGE	\$43,106	0.0038	1.2119	31.25%
UNSATISFACTORY	\$22,677	0.0019	1.0522	25.00%

Excellent districts having **mileage values eight times** that of the unsatisfactory districts. The biggest factors are the economic base or property values within the district. It is not the effort. In fact, the greatest effort is found in the districts with below average schools. They just don't have the assets to support the schools and hire good teachers.

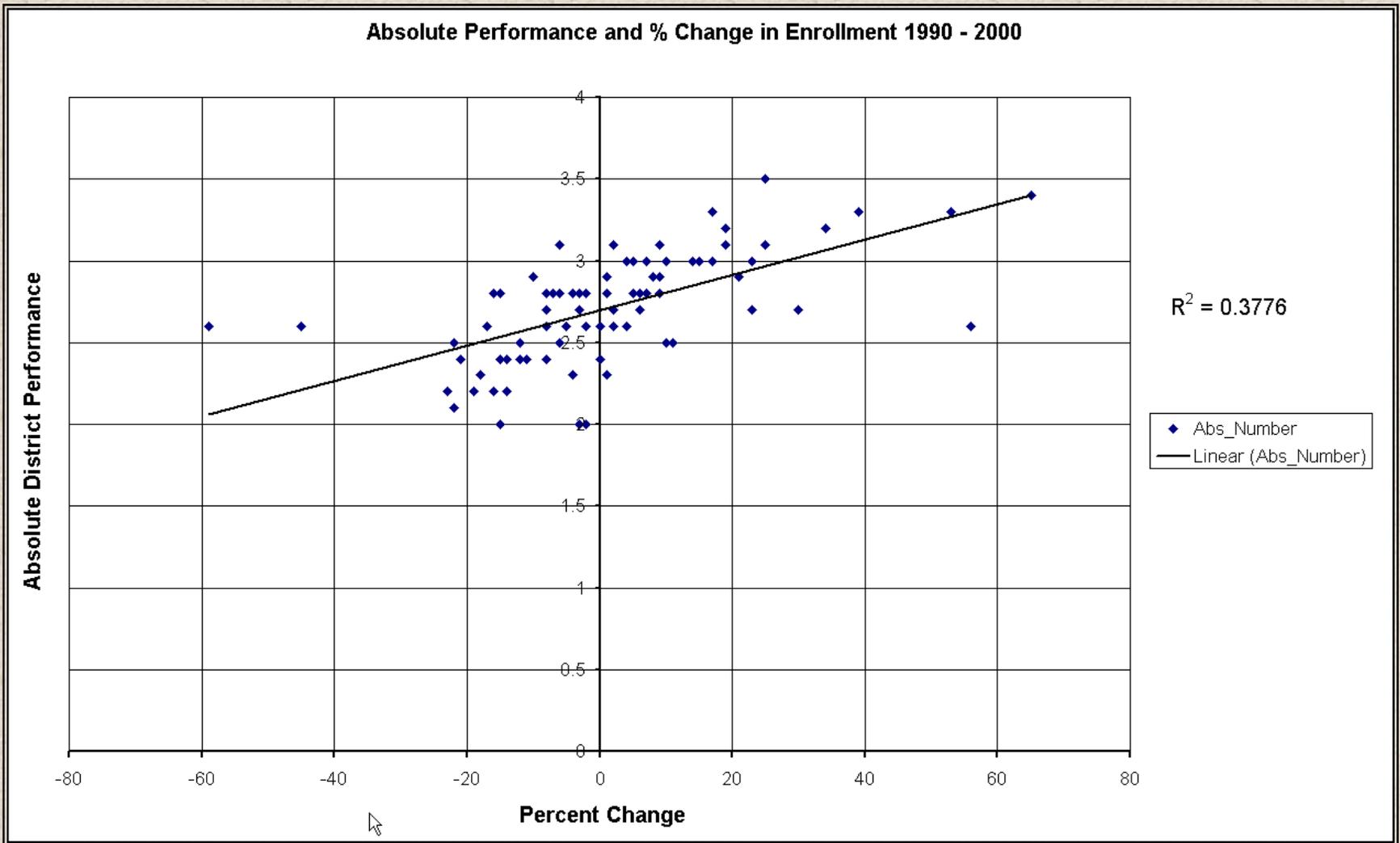
Expenditures

Percentage of District Expenditures

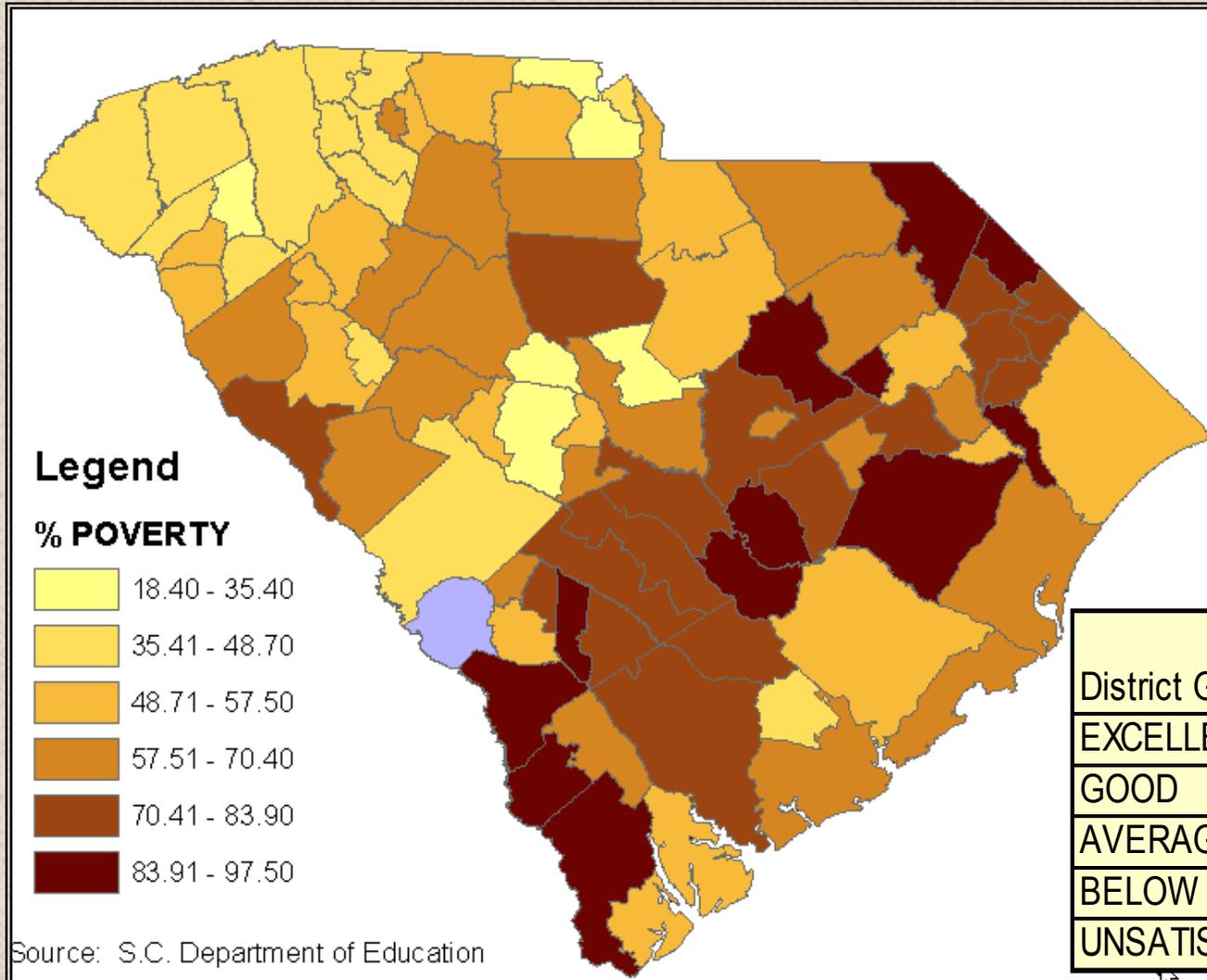
RATING	INSTRUCTIONAL	TEACHERS	LEADERSHIP	OPERATIONAL	INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT
Excellent	60.26%	54.20%	6.98%	19.50%	13.26%
Good	59.17%	52.35%	8.37%	19.49%	12.90%
Average	58.36%	50.24%	9.26%	19.39%	12.92%
Below Avg	55.38%	48.32%	10.73%	21.21%	12.67%
Unsatisfactory	54.38%	34.88%	10.36%	21.71%	13.54%

Better performing districts can spend a greater proportion of budget on instruction and teachers

Does performance impact Enrollment ?



Percent at Poverty Level



District Grade	Number	% Poverty
EXCELLENT	2	30.10%
GOOD	26	45.97%
AVERAGE	34	62.80%
BELOW AVERAGE	20	82.46%
UNSATISFACTORY	4	88.73%

The Quality of Schools Affects Enrollment by Race

White Student Participation Rates

District Grade	Kindergarden	Grades 1-8	Grades 9-12
EXCELLENT	80.28	92.01	96.50
GOOD	80.32	90.87	93.26
AVERAGE	77.44	85.87	88.45
BELOW AVERAGE	60.66	74.25	77.64
UNSATISFACTORY	52.36	49.26	54.60

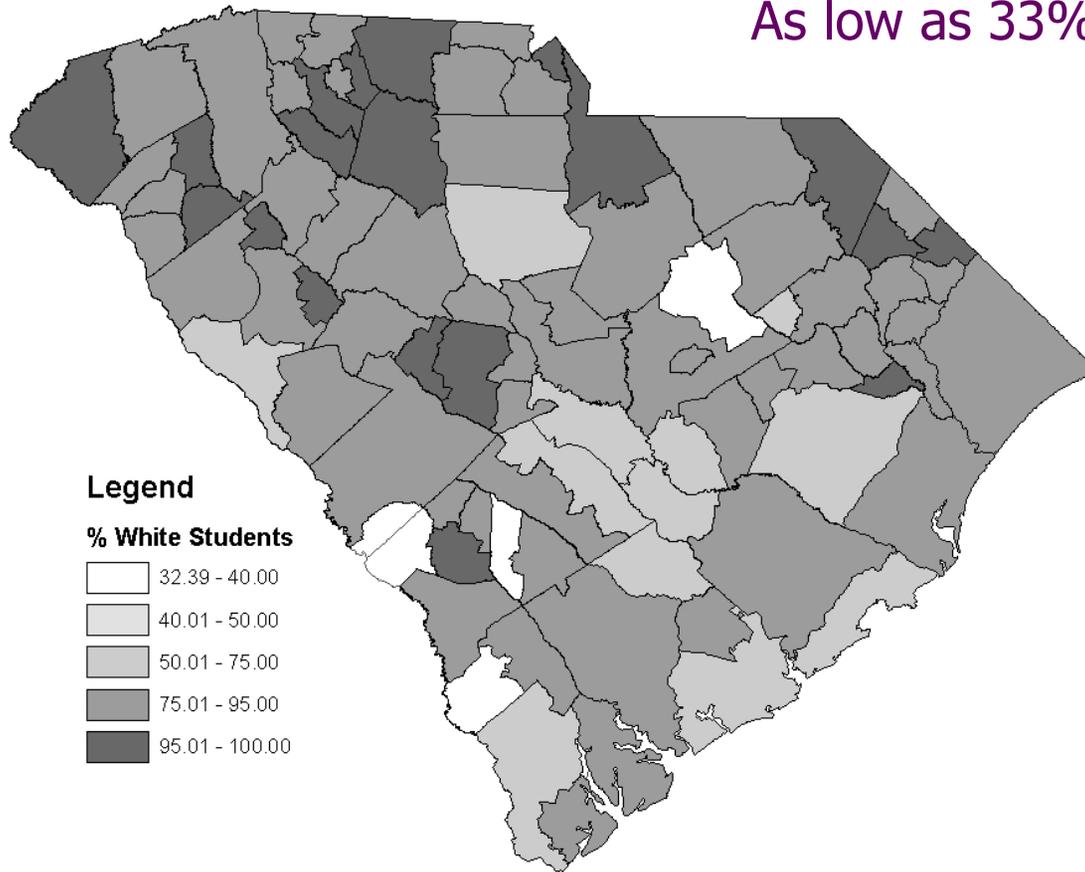
Black Student Participation Rates

District Grade	Kindergarden	Grades 1-8	Grades 9-12
EXCELLENT	94.82	98.29	97.82
GOOD	94.67	98.18	98.03
AVERAGE	95.45	98.59	97.39
BELOW AVERAGE	97.94	98.46	98.10
UNSATISFACTORY	96.11	97.54	92.76

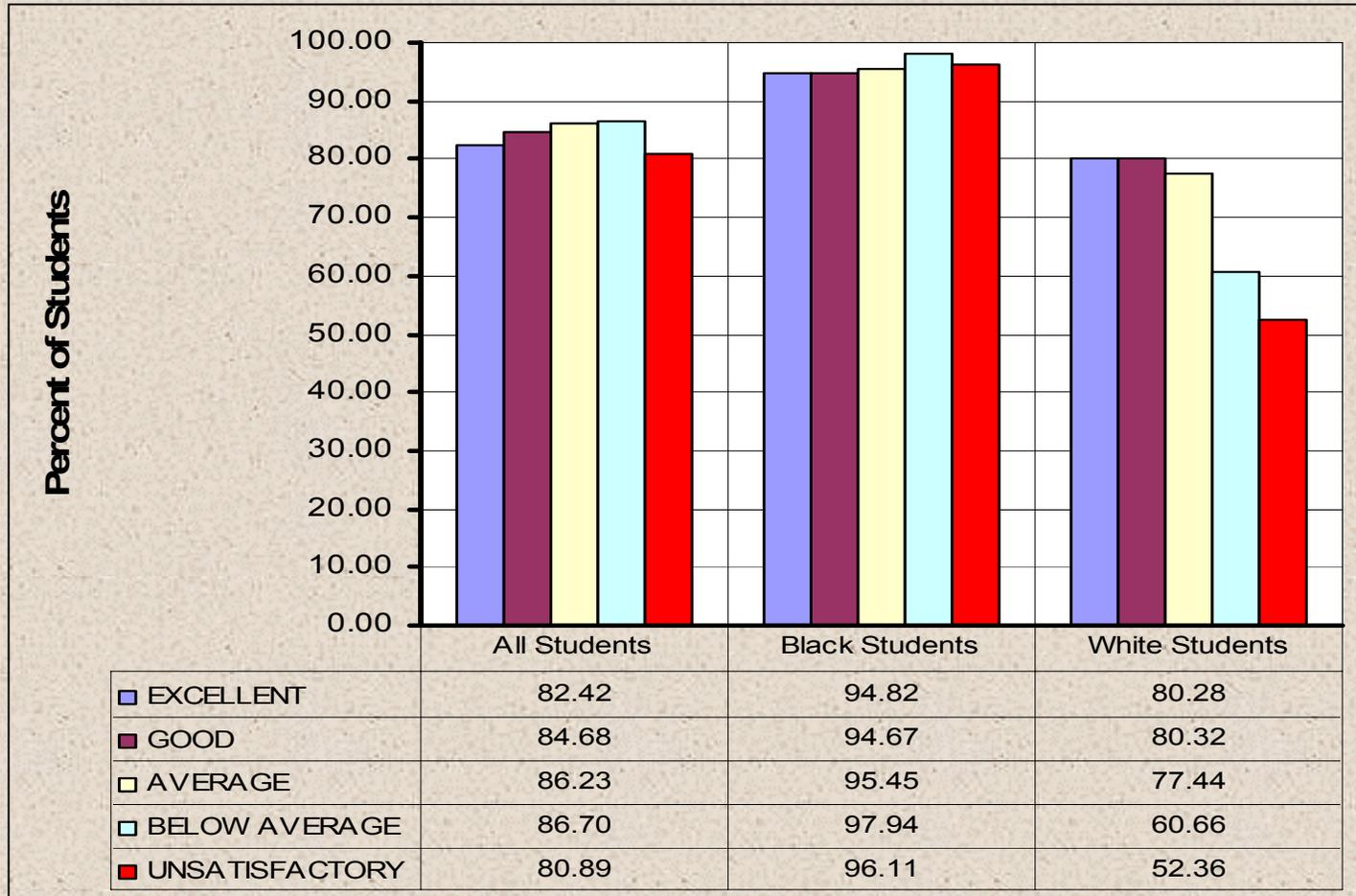
White Participation Rate

White Student Participation Rate

As low as 33%



Public School Kindergarten % by Race



Size and Performance High Schools

**Expanded analysis: District size does affect
Performance**

For High Schools:

“...for South Carolina high schools, smaller school districts are more conducive to student achievement for schools containing low socioeconomic students or high poverty index values, while larger districts generate higher achievement levels for schools with low poverty levels.”

For Middle Schools

“...small schools in poor districts and large schools in more well to do districts tend to have a positive impact of school performance.” and

“...poor schools tend to do better in small districts while schools with less poverty do better in larger school districts.

It is thus apparent that for South Carolina middle schools, the impact of school or district size on student performance depends upon the socioeconomic status of the student being served.”

For Elementary Schools

“... that the relationship between size, socioeconomic status, and student performance is operative only at the middle and high school level.”