

A study of Taipei City public high school district

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Abstract

Taiwan high school use entrance exams to select students for many years. The greatest advantage of the entrance exam is its fairness. How it has been criticized to impact the normal teaching. Therefore, the government is planning to switch to school districts system base on students' home address. However, the school district system also has its problems base on the experience from implementing the elementary school and junior high school district. This study analyzed public schools enrollment data from 1999 to 2003. The research results indicate that except a few prestige high schools, most students enroll to the nearby high school. Students in prestige junior high school performed better than other school in the entrance exam and a higher percentage of students in these prestige junior schools were actually lived outside their school district. These finds support the government's planning on a dual system for high school enrolment. Most students will be assigning to school based on their home location, or they can the entrance exam for the prestige high schools. This study also demonstrates GIS can be a powerful tool for education policy formation and more research are required for a better school enrollment policy.

Keywords: *education policy, school district, spatial analysis*