

The crisis in NYC schools; where are we now?
Class size, school closings, privatization,
testing, and student privacy

NW Bronx for Change

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Stagnant achievement in NYC schools under Bloomberg

- NYC students have fallen further behind their peers in other large cities, according to national assessments (NAEPs), coming in 2nd to last of 10 cities in progress since 2003 when racial and economic subgroups are compared;
- NYC also only large district where non-poor students have lower NAEP average scores than in 2003.
- Only 21% of NYC HS grads are considered “college ready”; 13 – 15% of Black and Hispanic students;
- Number of students needing triple remediation* at CUNY have doubled in last 5 years.
- There has been no significant narrowing of the achievement gap between any racial or ethnic group.

* Triple remediation means make-up classes in reading, writing & math.

Why is class size important?

- Class size reduction one of 4 reforms proven to work through rigorous evidence, acc. to Inst. Education Sciences, research arm of US Ed Dept. *
- Benefits especially large for disadvantaged & minority students, very effective at narrowing the achievement gap.
- NYC schools have largest class sizes in state.
- 86% of NYC principals say cannot provide a quality education because of excessive class sizes.
- Smaller classes are top priority of parents on DOE's learning environment surveys every year.

** Other K-12 evidence-based reforms: one-on-one tutoring by qualified tutors for at-risk readers in grades 1-3, Life-Skills training for junior high students, and instruction for early readers in phonemic awareness and phonics.*

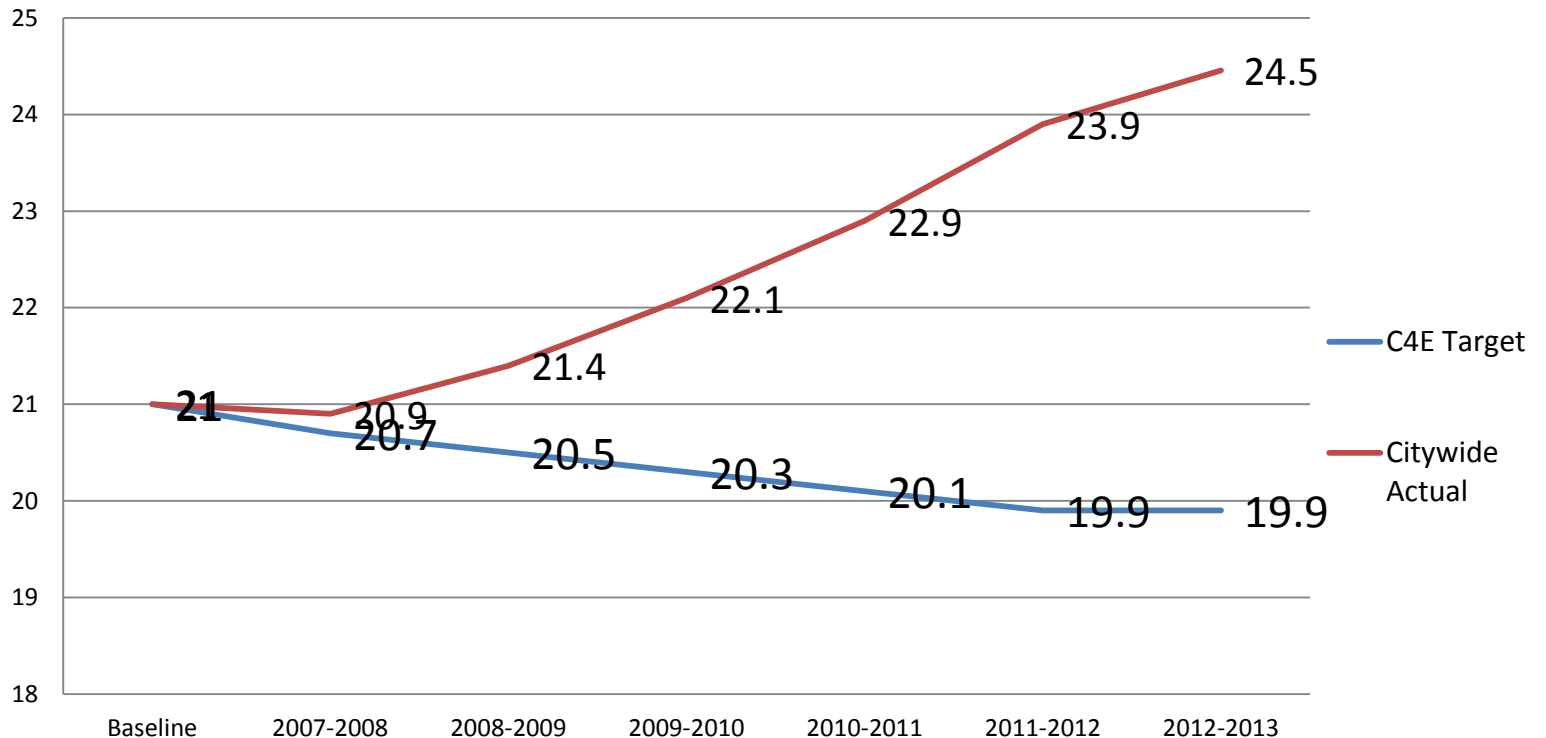
Contracts for Excellence

- In 2003, the State's highest court said class sizes in NYC too large to provide students with the constitutional right to a sound basic education.
- April 2007, NY State settled the Campaign for Fiscal lawsuit by passing the Contracts for Excellence (C4E) law.
- State agreed to send billions in additional aid to NYC & other high needs school districts; which they would have to spend in six approved areas, including class size reduction.*
- In return, NYC had to submit a plan to reduce class size in all grades.
- In fall of 2007, the state approved DOE plan to lower class sizes to average of 20 students per class in K-3; 23 in grades 4-8 and 25 in core HS classes.
- In return, NYS sent more than \$2.4 billion in C4E funds cumulatively to NYC since 2007, though funding has never reached its full level..

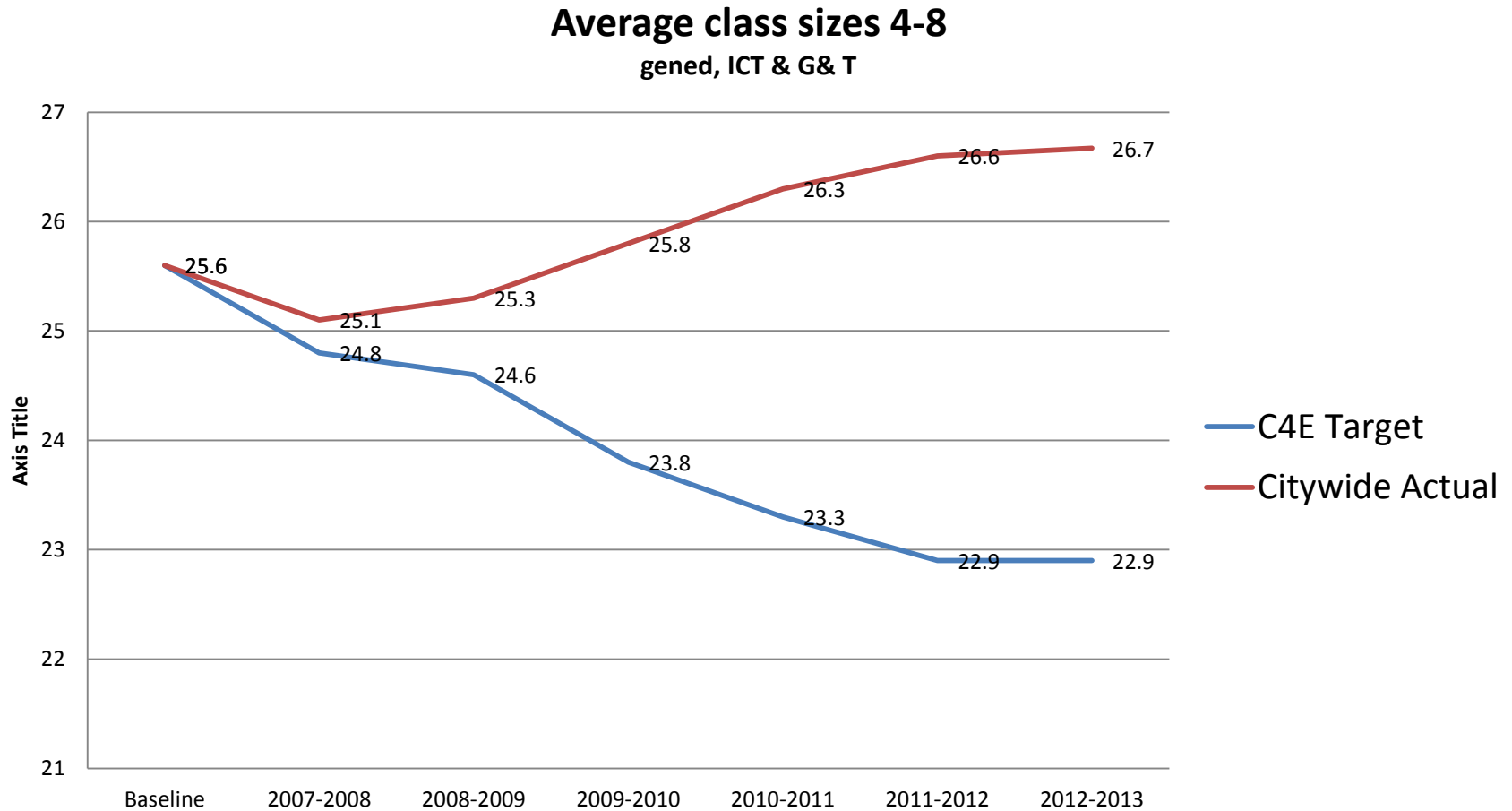
other allowed programs include Time on Task; Teacher & Principal Quality; Middle & HS Restructuring; Full-Day Pre-K; & Model Programs for English Language Learners

Yet class sizes have increased sharply in grades K-3 for 5 years in a row

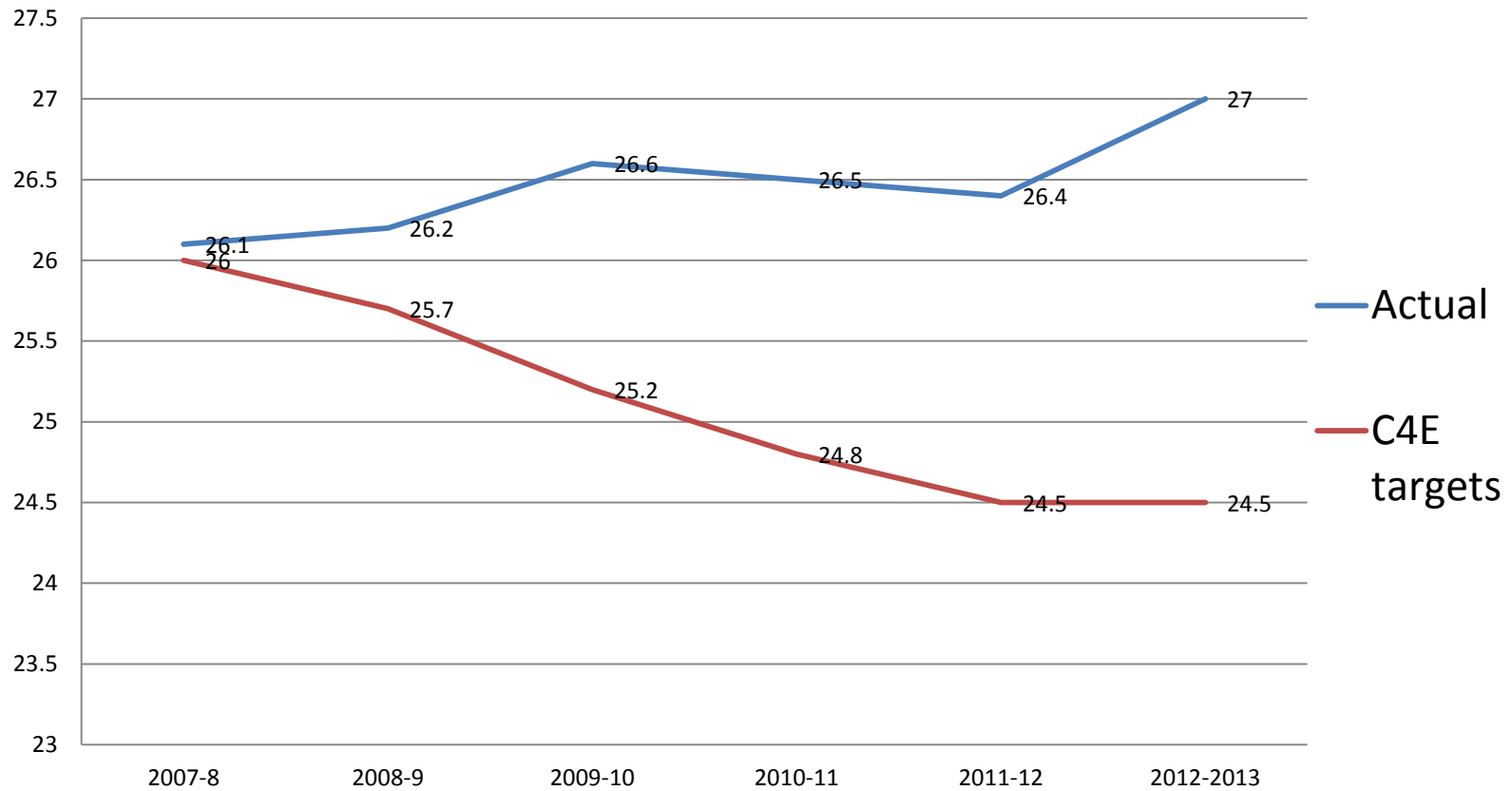
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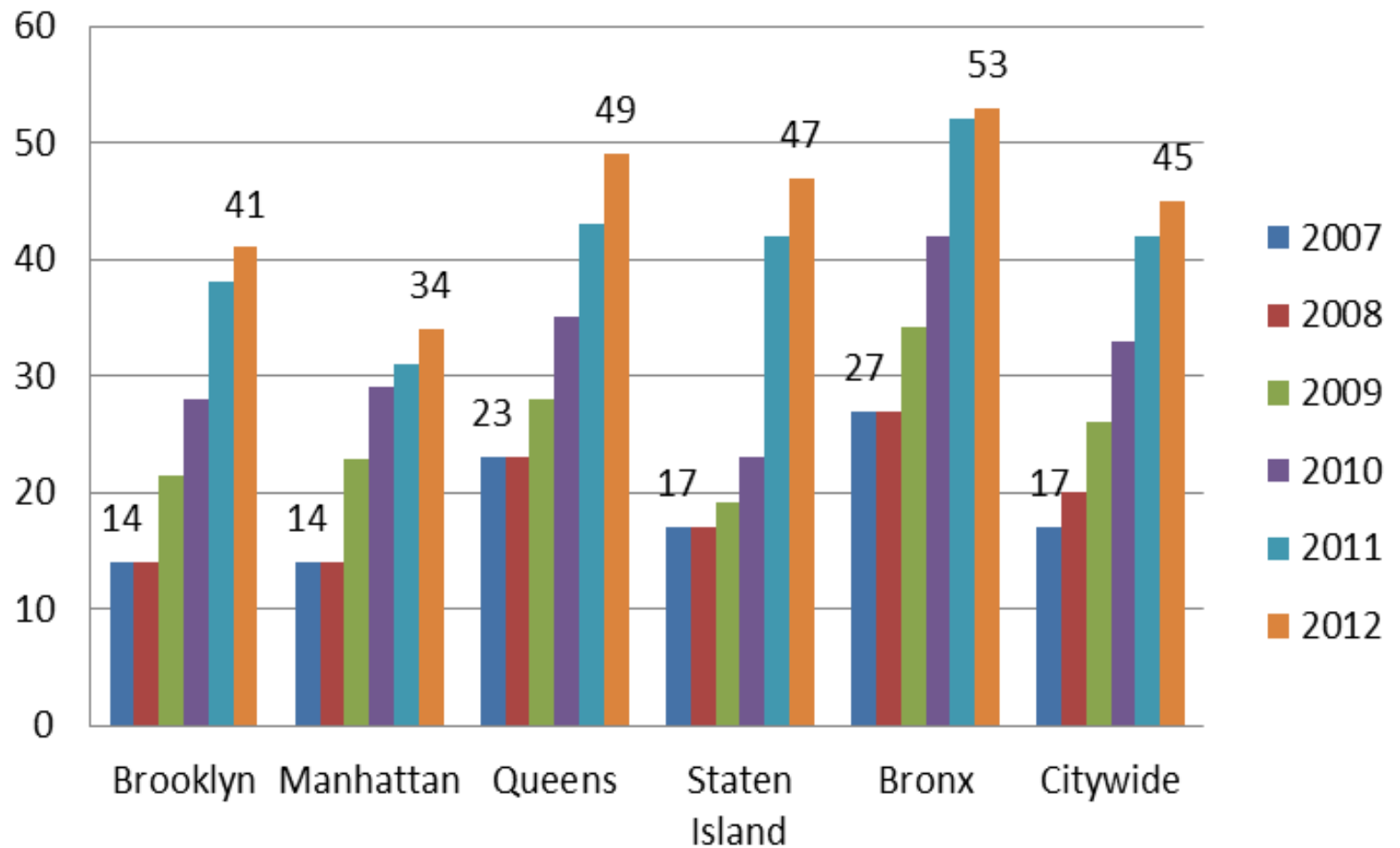
Class sizes in Grades 4-8 also increased for 5 years in a row



Class sizes increased this year sharply in core HS classes as well, far above C4E levels

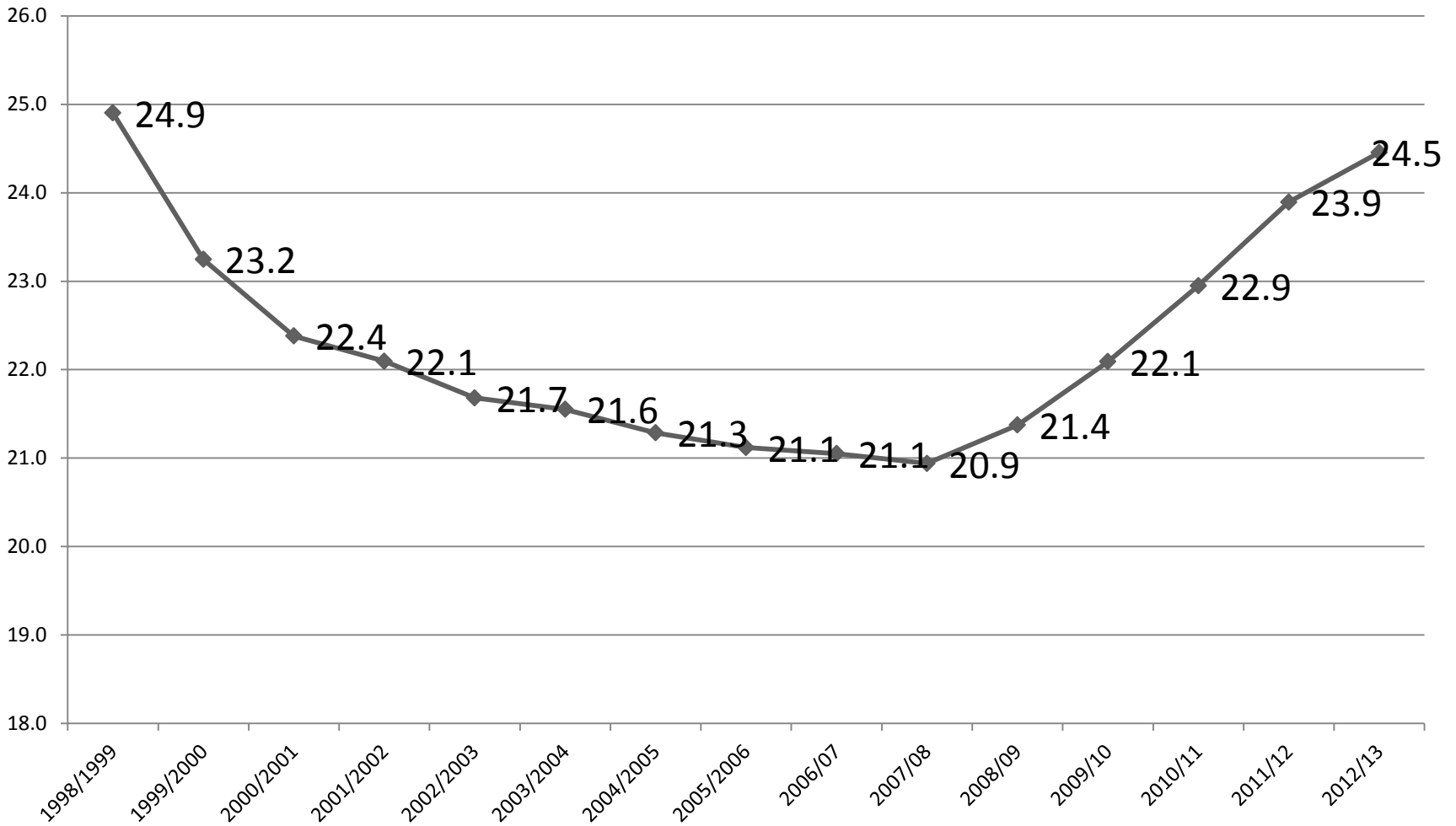


% of Kindergarten students in classes of 25 or more



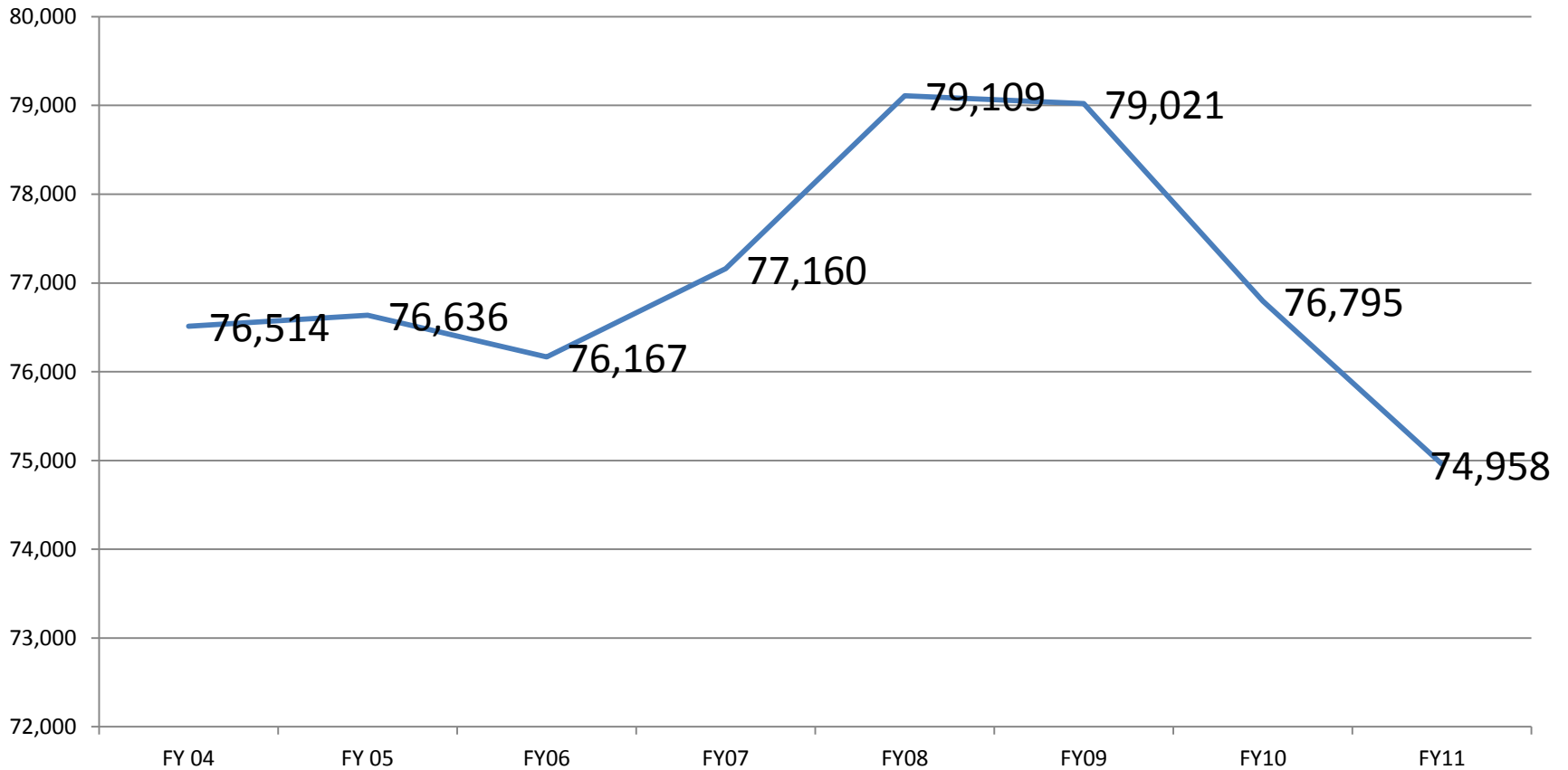
K-3 Class Sizes now largest since 1998

(data sources: IBO 1998-2005; DOE 2006-12)



The total number of teachers declined by about 4000 between 2007 -2010

source: Mayor's Management Reports



Ways in which DOE has worked AGAINST reducing class size

- Since 2007, school budgets have been cut by 14%– contradicting C4E prohibition against supplanting
- In 2010, DOE eliminated Early grade class size funding in K-3 – despite promise in C4E plan to keep it.
- In 2011, DOE decided to stop capping class sizes in 1st-3rd grades at 28, leading to tripling of class sizes of 30 or more in these grades.
- In 2012, DOE told principals to accommodate special needs students in classes up to contractual class size maximum (32 in grades 1-5).
- DOE refuses to align its school construction plan to goals in class size plan, as required by C4E regulations.

School closings

- More than 150 schools have closed during Bloomberg administration; with high concentrations of poor children of color and those with special needs.
- Many of these schools had very large class sizes & were not given a real chance to succeed.
- As schools phased out, dropout and discharge rates soar.
- At risk students, especially those with disabilities, overage for grade and ELLs diverted to nearby large schools, overcrowding them & undermining their success.
- Many Bronx schools closed or severely damaged in process including Lehman, DeWitt Clinton, and Jane Addams.

Testing and its ill effects

- High-stakes testing has been overemphasized, with kids held back, schools closed & teachers denied tenure on basis of test scores.
- School progress report grades primarily based on scores, (as much as 85%) and highly erratic & unreliable from year to year.
- Overemphasis on test scores has caused excessive time spent on test prep, narrowing of curriculum, loss of art, music, science & project-based learning.

Fewer children of color accepted in elite HS & gifted programs

- NYC ONLY city where admissions to elite HS based on single test, & Bloomberg expanded the number of these schools.
- At Brooklyn Tech, 10% black students were enrolled at Brooklyn Tech last year compared to 24% in 2000; Bronx Science, fell from 9% to 3.5% and Stuyvesant HS fell from 4% to 1%.
- In 2006, Joel Klein imposed admission to gifted programs based on high-stakes exams number of black and Hispanic students fell from 53% to 33%.
- Last year, in some large areas of the Bronx, too few children tested “gifted” for a single gifted class to be offered.

Charters divert resources & space from public schools

- More than 100 privately managed charters established under Bloomberg; costing nearly \$1B in public funds.
- About two thirds of NYC charters get space & services in public school buildings for free; worth about \$100 M.
- Often charters squeeze public school students out of classrooms, libraries, labs, & intervention rooms for mandated services.
- Many charters offer remodeled facilities, better equipment & smaller classes causing tensions and sense of “separate but unequal”.
- Further inequities as charter enroll fewer special needs, ELLs & poor children than co-located schools. In the Bronx, they enroll half as many ELLs and children with disabilities as the neighborhood public schools.

More school overcrowding

- In 2005, Bloomberg promised to alleviate school overcrowding & eliminate need for trailers.
- Yet there are now more students in severely overcrowded buildings (more than 180,000) & as many housed in trailers (more than 9,000) as in 2005.
- Overcrowding has been exacerbated by rampant co-locations, enrollment growth & inadequate school construction.

NYS & NYC also violating student privacy

- NY State and NYC have **agreed to share confidential student and teacher data** with a corporation called inBloom Inc., funded by the Gates Corporation.
- This personally identifiable data will include student names, grades, test scores, disciplinary & attendance records; race /ethnicity, free lunch & special education status as well.
- Operating system by Wireless Generation, run by Joel Klein & owned by Rupert Murdoch 's News Corporation.
- News Corp illegally spied on people and/or violated privacy in UK and US.

What about security?

- This highly sensitive data will be stored on a “cloud” run by Amazon.com
- Last month, the personal information of 50 million LivingSocial customers was released when an Amazon.com cloud was hacked.
- In a recent survey, 86% of technology experts say they do not trust clouds to hold their organization’s “more sensitive” data.*
- inBloom’s security policy states they “***cannot guarantee the security of the information stored in inBloom or that the information will not be intercepted when it is being transmitted.***”

What is inBloom doing with the data?

- inBloom, Inc. plans to provide this sensitive data, with state and district authorization, to for-profit vendors to help them develop and market their “learning products.”
- ***All this is being done without parental notification or consent.***
- We have a bill in Legislature to protect student privacy; A.6059/S.4284.
- ***Please call your legislators now and urge the to co-sponsor the Student Privacy bill!***
- *For more information, contact Class Size Matters at info@classsizematters.org or call us at 212-674-7320.*

Mayor's policies very unpopular

- Only 22% of voters trust Bloomberg more than teachers union on education policies, vs. 69% for union.*
- Only 18% want mayoral control to continue in present form, 63% say no.*
- Yet no mayoral candidate has come out strongly for changing law to provide real checks and balances.

**Quinnipiac poll, January 17, 2013*