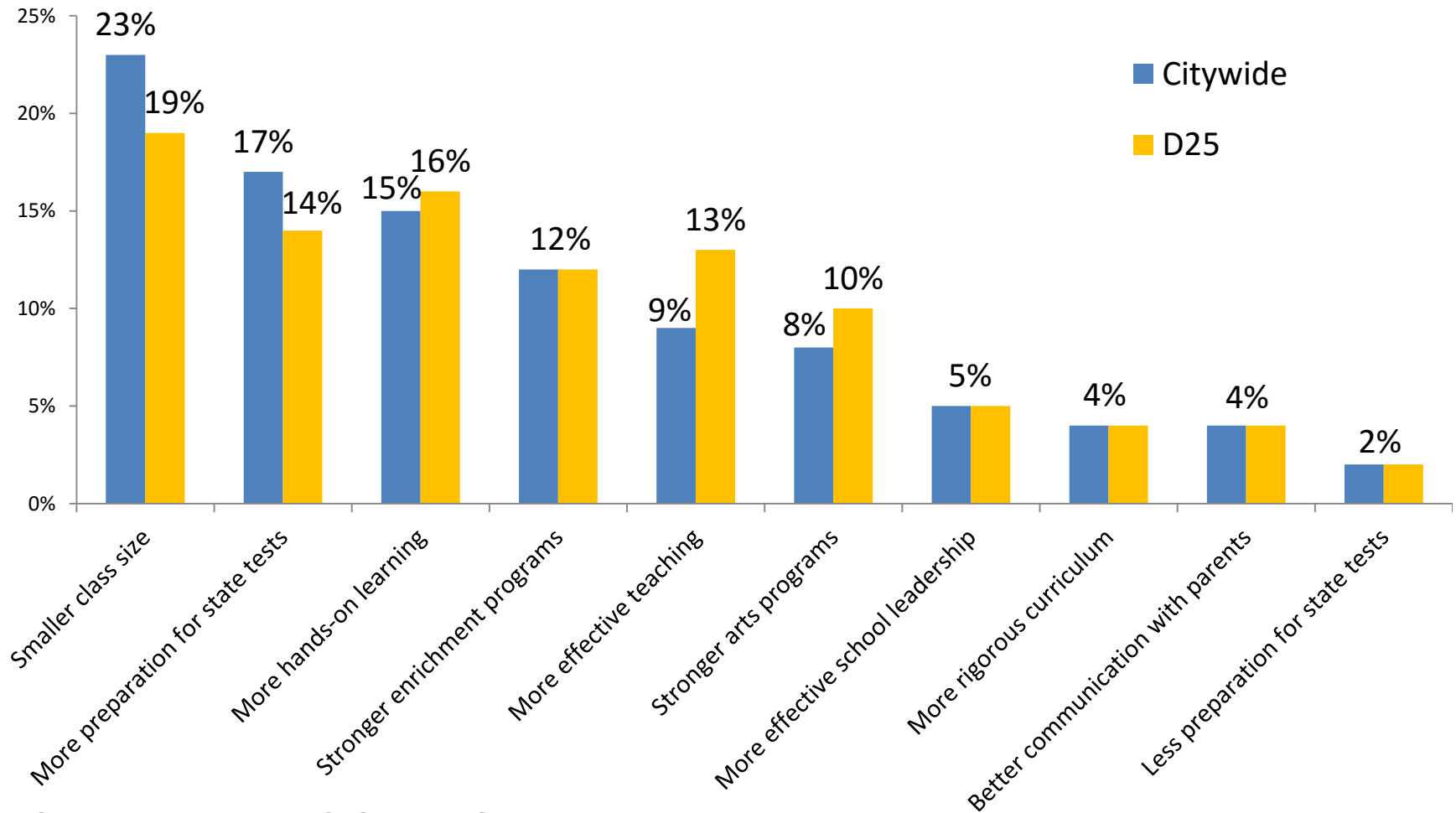


# **HOW DOE'S C4E PLAN DOES NOTHING TO ADDRESS CLASS SIZE OR OVERCROWDING IN D25 AND CITYWIDE**

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Data Presentation for Community Education Council 25  
Prepared by Class Size Matters  
December, 2015

# Reducing class size top priority of parents citywide and of parents from D25



Data Source: 2014\* NYC School Survey Results

*\*this question was eliminated from the 2015 NYC School Survey*

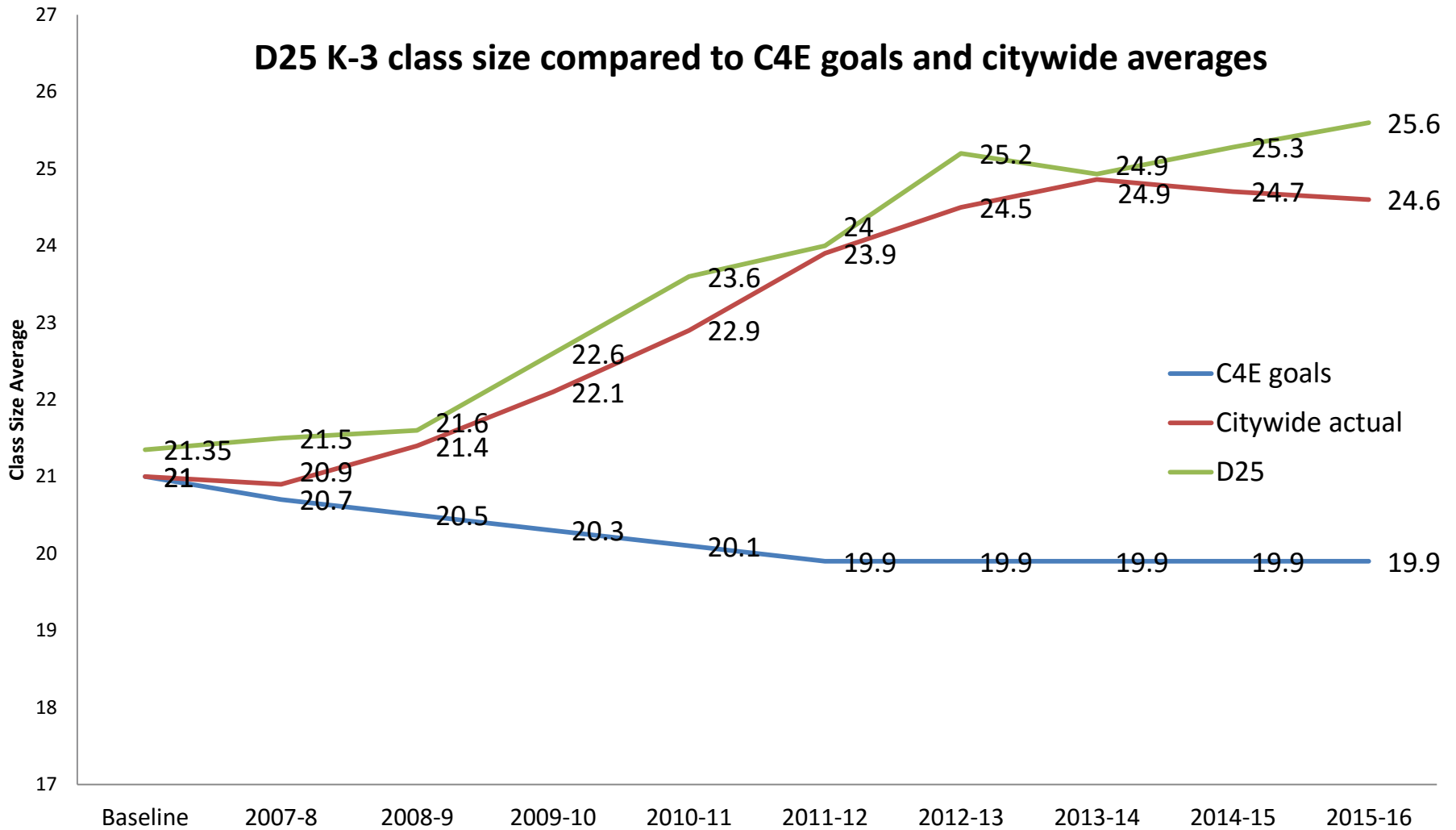
# CFE and C4E

- In 2003, NYS Court of Appeals concluded (in the Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE) case) that NYC kids were denied their fundamental constitutional right to an adequate education. A key issue in the case was class size.
- “[T]ens of thousands of students are placed in overcrowded classrooms, taught by unqualified teachers, and provided with inadequate facilities and equipment. The number of children in these straits is large enough to represent a systemic failure.” - (Campaign for Fiscal Equity, Inc., et al. v. State of New York, et al., 100 N.Y.2d 893, 911-12 (2003) (“CFE II”).
- In 2007, a new state law was passed: the Contracts for Excellence (C4E) that provided NYC with extra funds on condition that the city also submit a plan to reduce class size in all grades.

# DOE's class size reduction plan

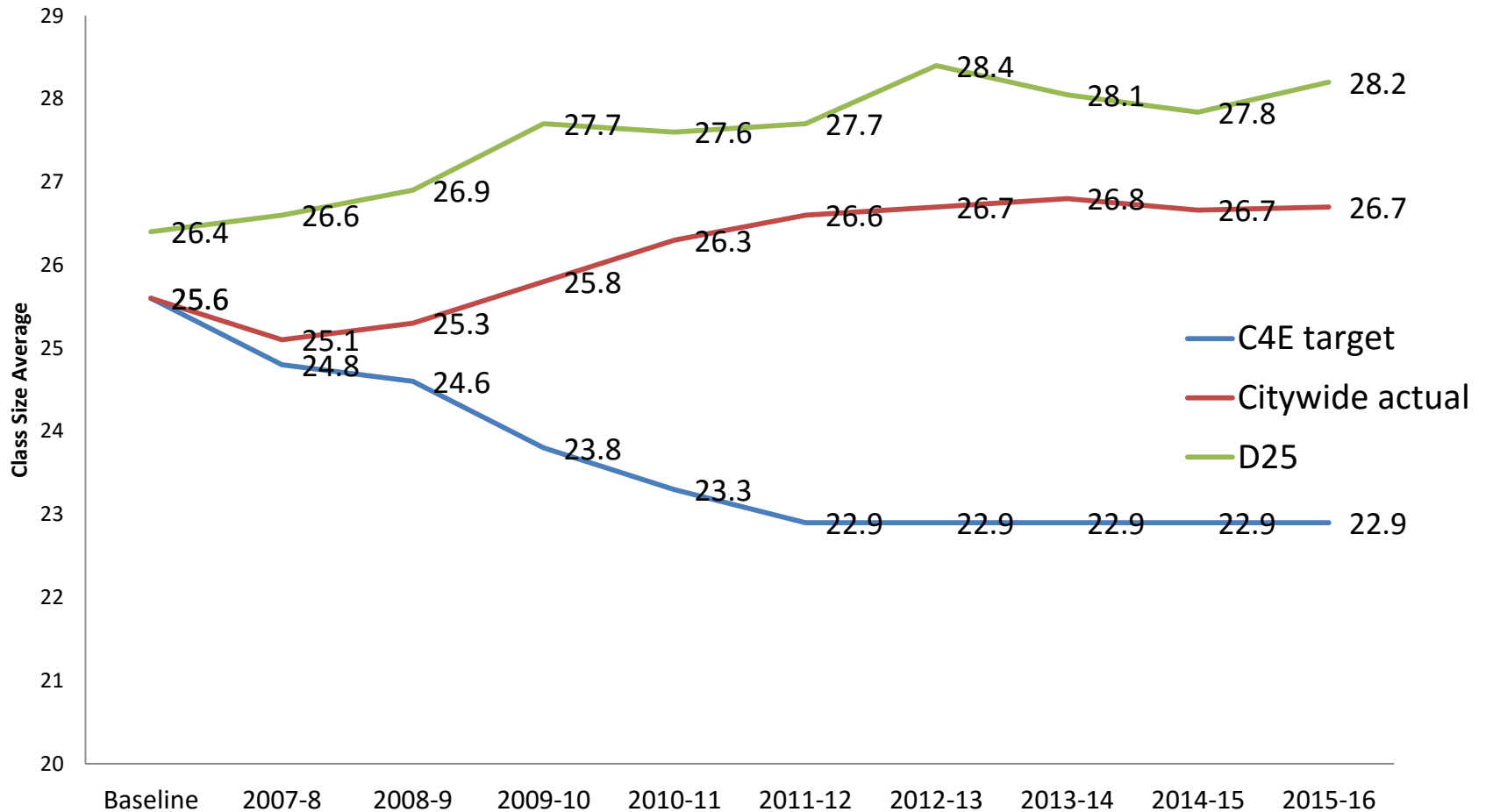
- In Nov. 2007, the DOE submitted a plan to gradually reduce average class size over five years at three different grade ranges.
- In K-3, class sizes to be reduced to no more than 20 students per class, in grades 4-8 no more than 23 and HS core classes would be no more than 25 on average
- Yet each year since 2008, class sizes have ***increased*** rather than decreased and are remain at very high levels especially in early grades.

***Class sizes in D25 have increased in grades K-3 by 20% since 2007 and are now far above C4E goals***



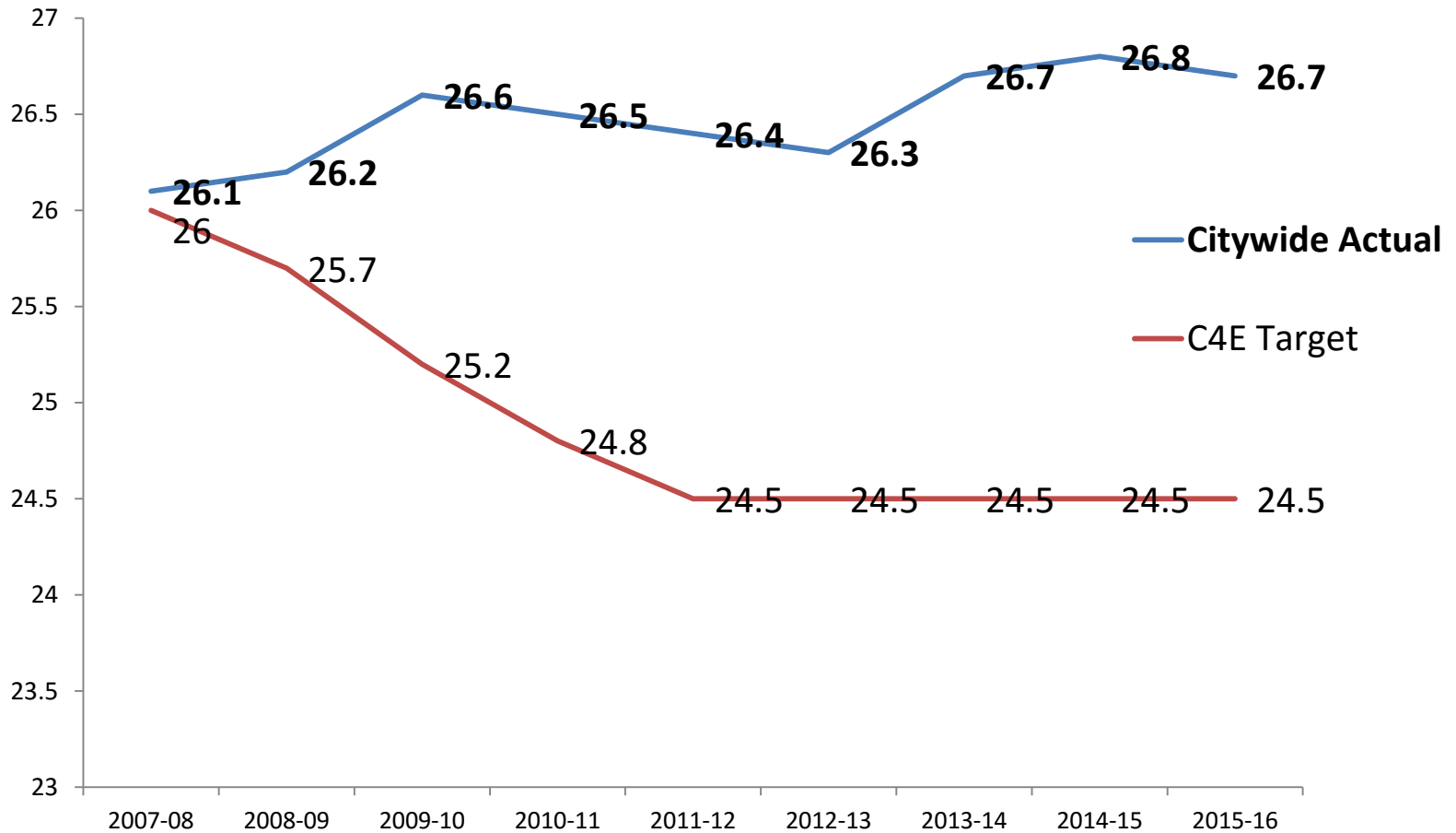
***D25's class sizes in grades 4-8 have increased by 6.8% since 2007 and are now far above C4E goals***

**D25 4-8 class size compared to C4E goals and citywide averages**



Data sources: DOE Class Size Reports 2006-Fall 2015, 2008 DOE Contracts for Excellence Approved Plan

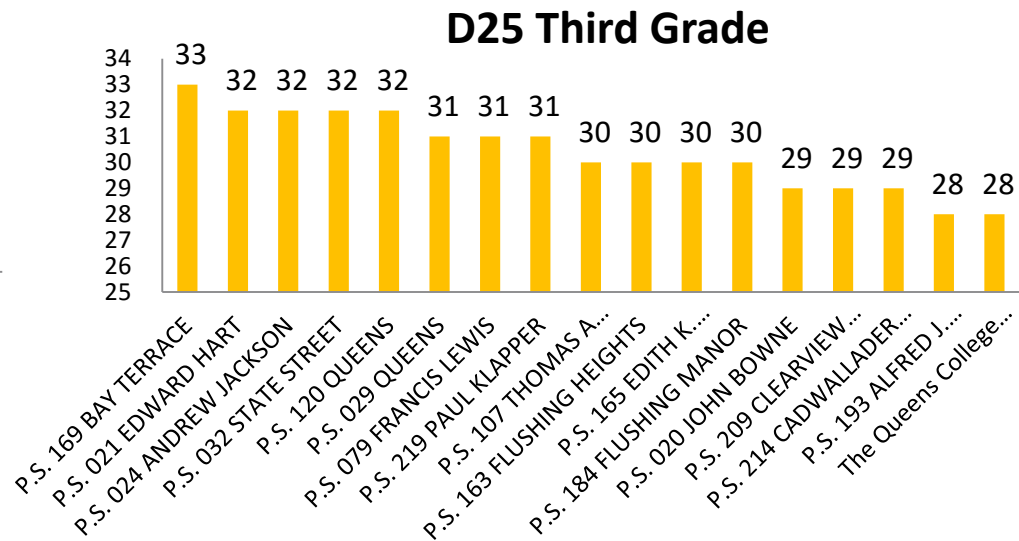
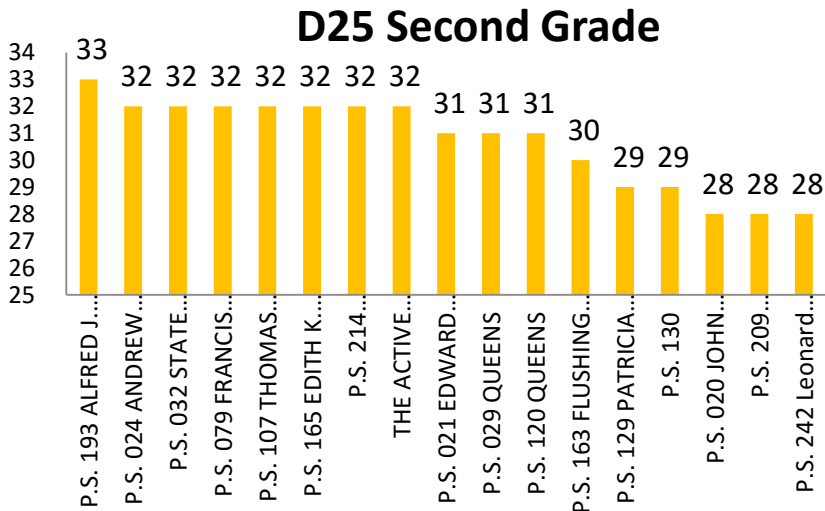
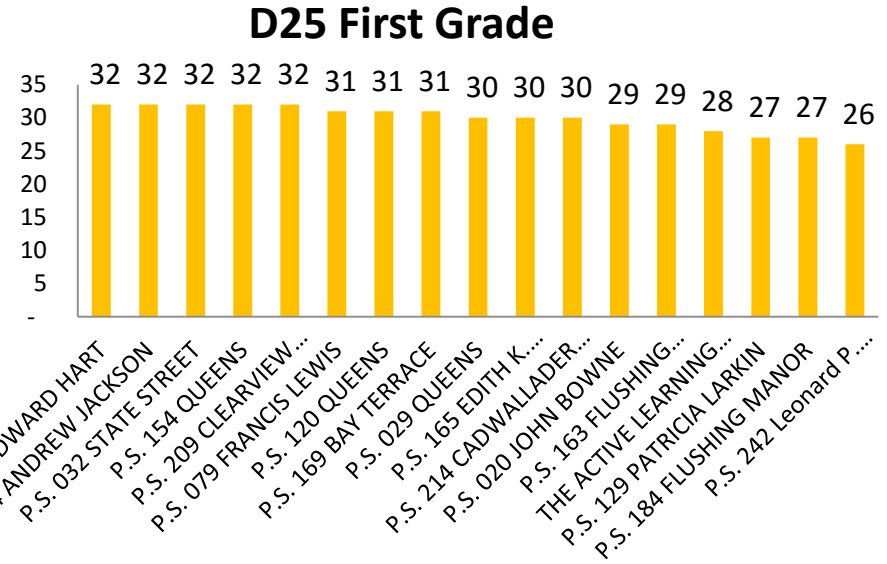
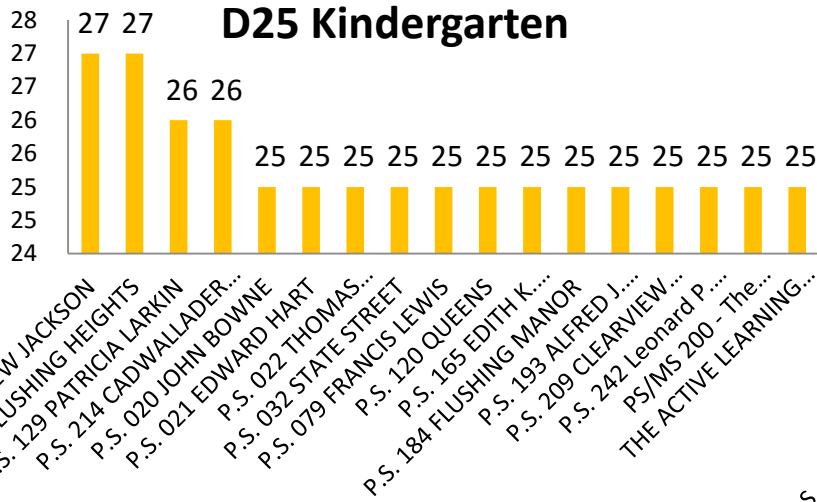
**HS Class sizes city-wide have increased in core HS classes as well, by 2.3% since 2007, though the DOE data is unreliable\***



\*DOE's class size data is unreliable & their methodology for calculating HS averages have changed year to year

Data sources: DOE Class Size Reports 2007-Fall 2015, 2008 DOE Contracts for Excellence Approved Plan

# Examples of schools in D25 with large class sizes, K-3 in 2015-16





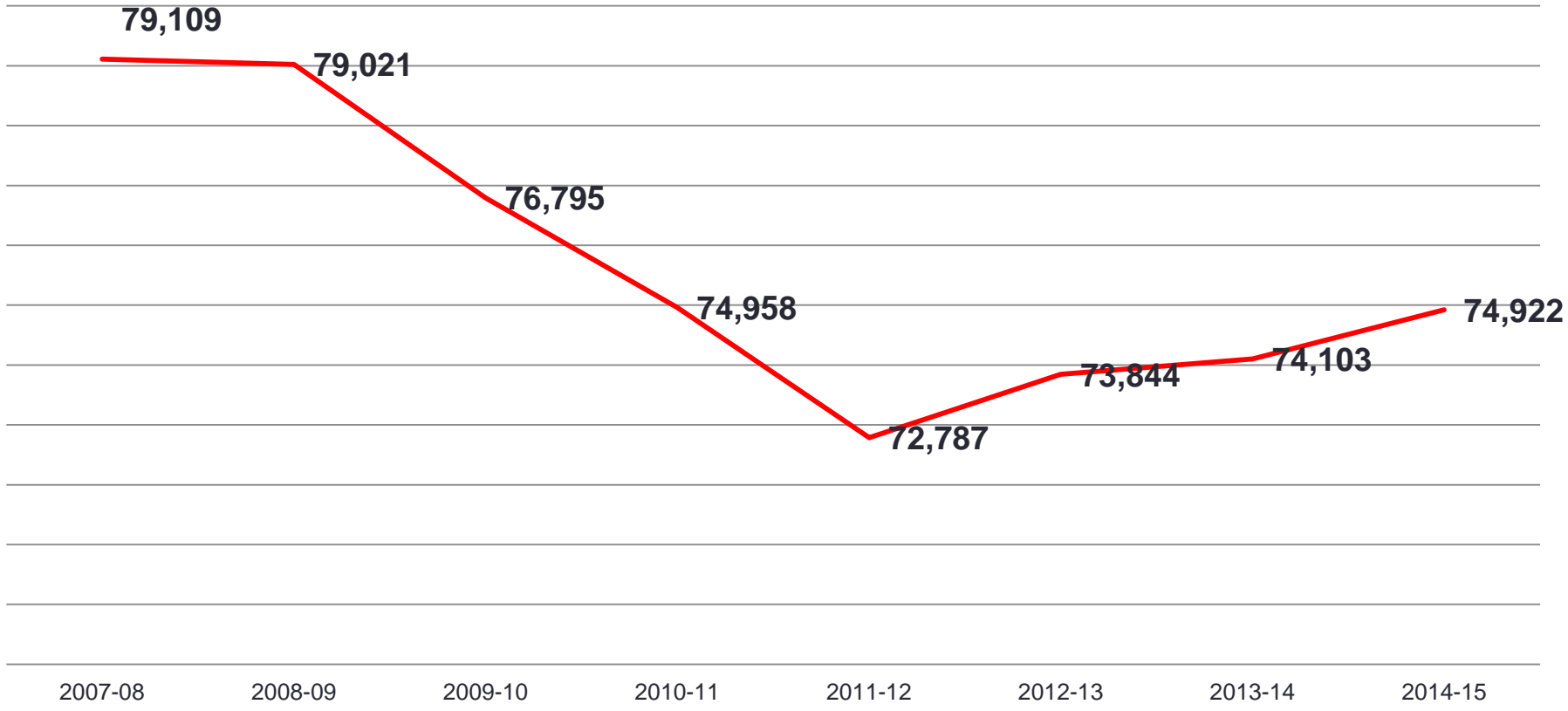
# Why have class sizes increased? DOE cut school budgets by 14% since 2007

- In the C4E law, says these state funds must “**supplement not supplant**” city funds, meaning DOE could not cut back its own funding for staffing in schools when the state increased its funding.
- INSTEAD, starting in 2007, budgets were cut and schools began using C4E funds to fill holes in their Fair Student Funding allocations.
- This year, in its C4E plan, for the first time DOE admits allowing supplanting – but also claims that they have permission for this to occur:

*“Expenditures made using C4E funds must ‘supplement, not supplant’” funding provided by the school district; however, SED has provided guidance explaining that certain expenditures may be paid for with C4E funds even though these programs or expenditures were originally or have been typically paid for by the district or by other grants.”*

# Loss of more than 4,000 Teachers since 2007

Total no. of teachers  
(data source: Mayor's Management report)



# Other ways city has encouraged class size increases

- In 2010, the DOE eliminated the early grade class size reduction funding for K-3, despite promising to keep it as part of its C4E plan.
- In 2011, the DOE refused to comply with a side agreement with the UFT to cap class sizes at 28 in grades 1-3, leading to sharp increases in these grades to 30 or more.
- Co-locations have made overcrowding worse, and taken space that instead could have been used to reduce class size.
- When principals try to lower class size, particularly in middle or high schools, DOE often sends them more students.

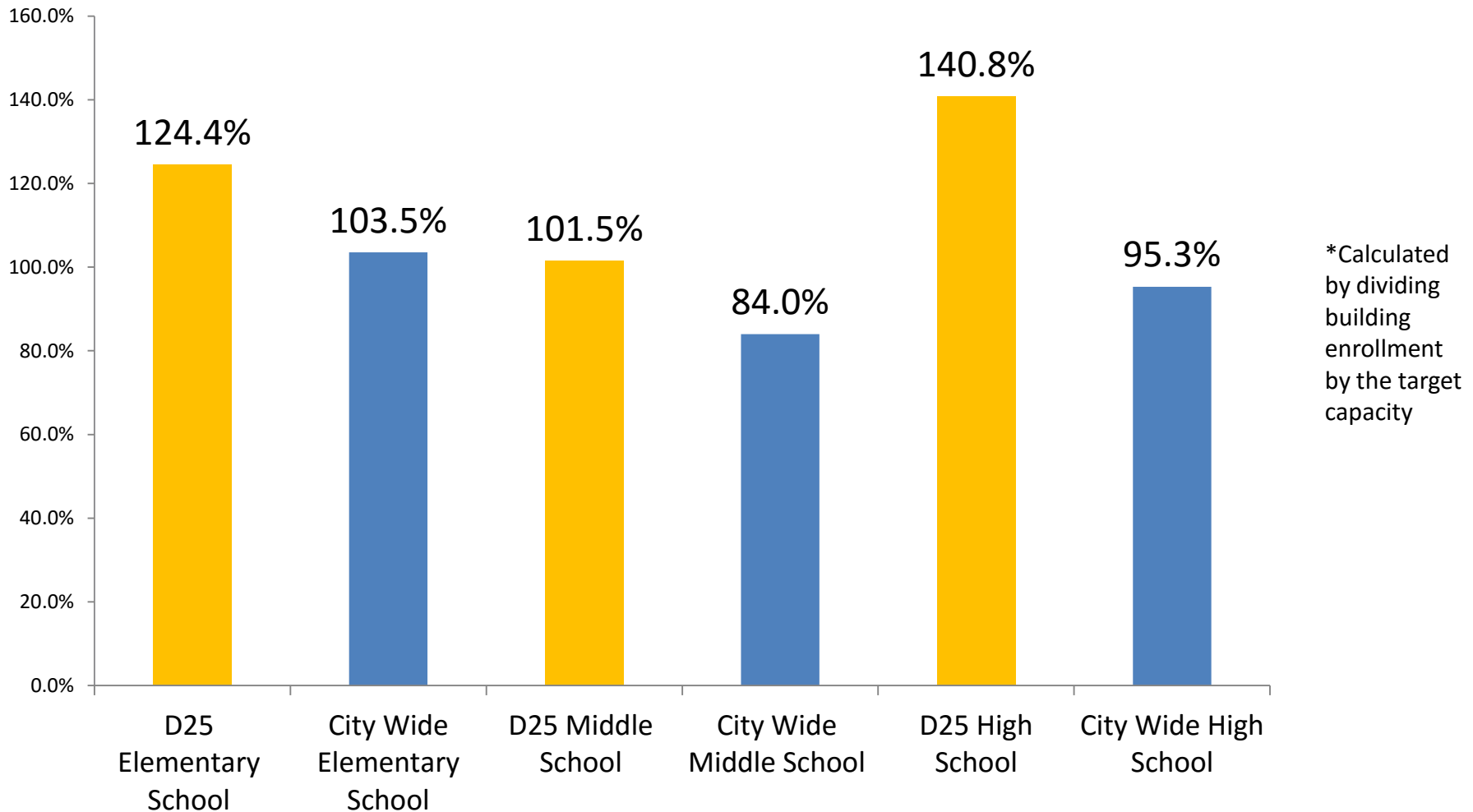
# More ways DOE has worked to increase class size in its C4E plan

- DOE refuses to allocate any funds specifically towards class size reduction in its targeted allocations.
- DOE allows principals to use C4E funds to “*Minimize growth of class size,*” which is not class size reduction.
- DOE has never aligned its capital plan or the school utilization formula to smaller classes, contrary to the C4E law.

# Overcrowding in D25 and Queens schools

- District 25 Elementary schools averaged 124.4% utilization, D25 Middle schools averages 101.5% utilization, and D25 High schools averages 140.8% utilization.
- 3,799 seats are needed to bring D25 district elementary school utilization average to 100% 2,309 seats are needed to bring D25 district High school utilization average to 100%.
- 27 Queens High schools are over utilized. Four of these high schools are located in D25.
- Elementary schools would register even more overcrowded if DOE formula aligned to smaller classes & sufficient cluster rooms and dedicated spaces for special education services.
- Most experts believe that these figures *underestimate* the actual level of overcrowding in our schools; and so Chancellor has appointed a task force to revamp the Blue Book formula.

## Average Utilization Rates in D25 compared to City-Wide 2014-15

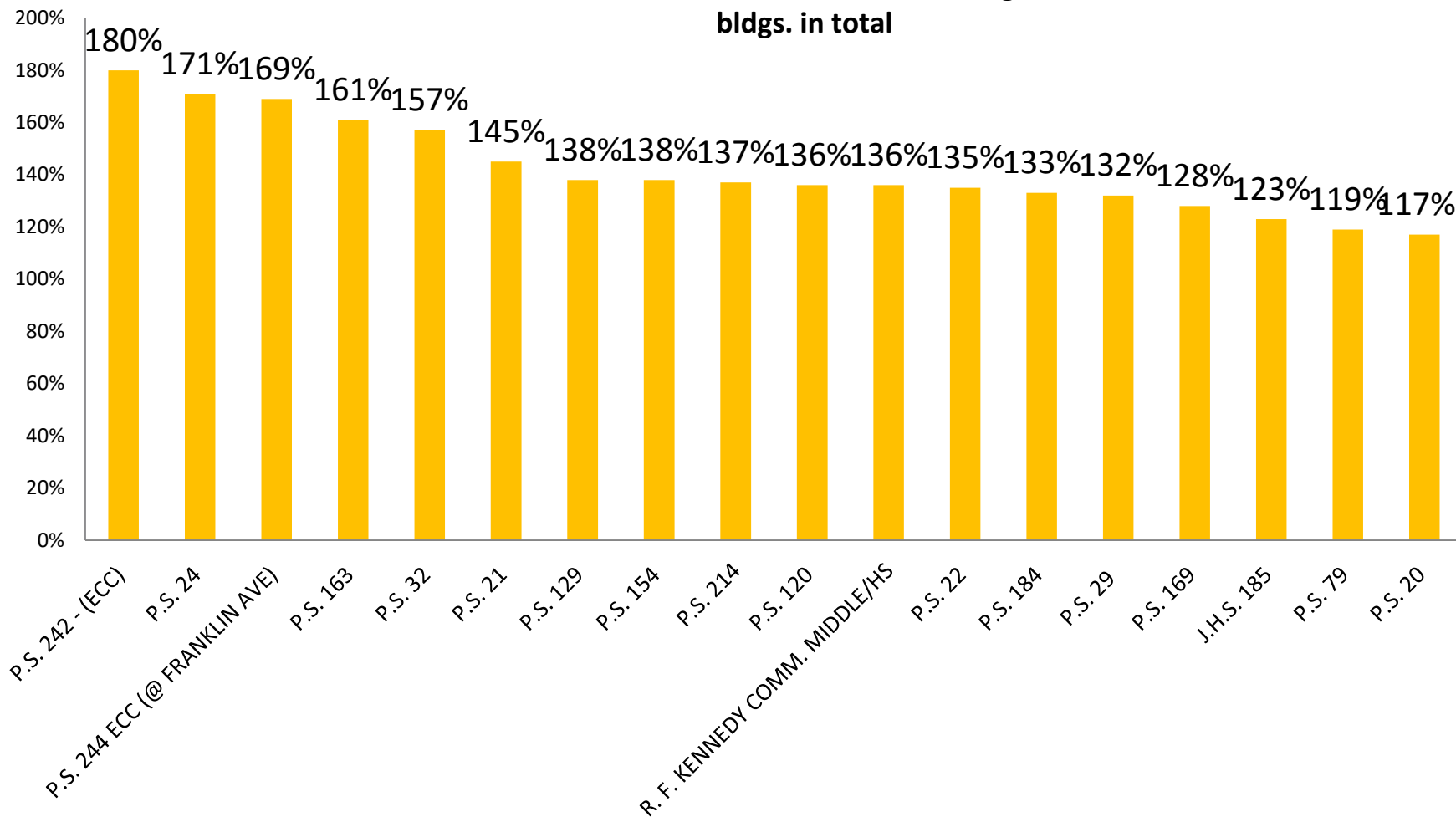


Source: 2014-2015 DOE Blue Book

# 26 ES and MS Buildings in D25 are over-utilized

4,786 ES and MS Seats needed to reach 100% building utilization

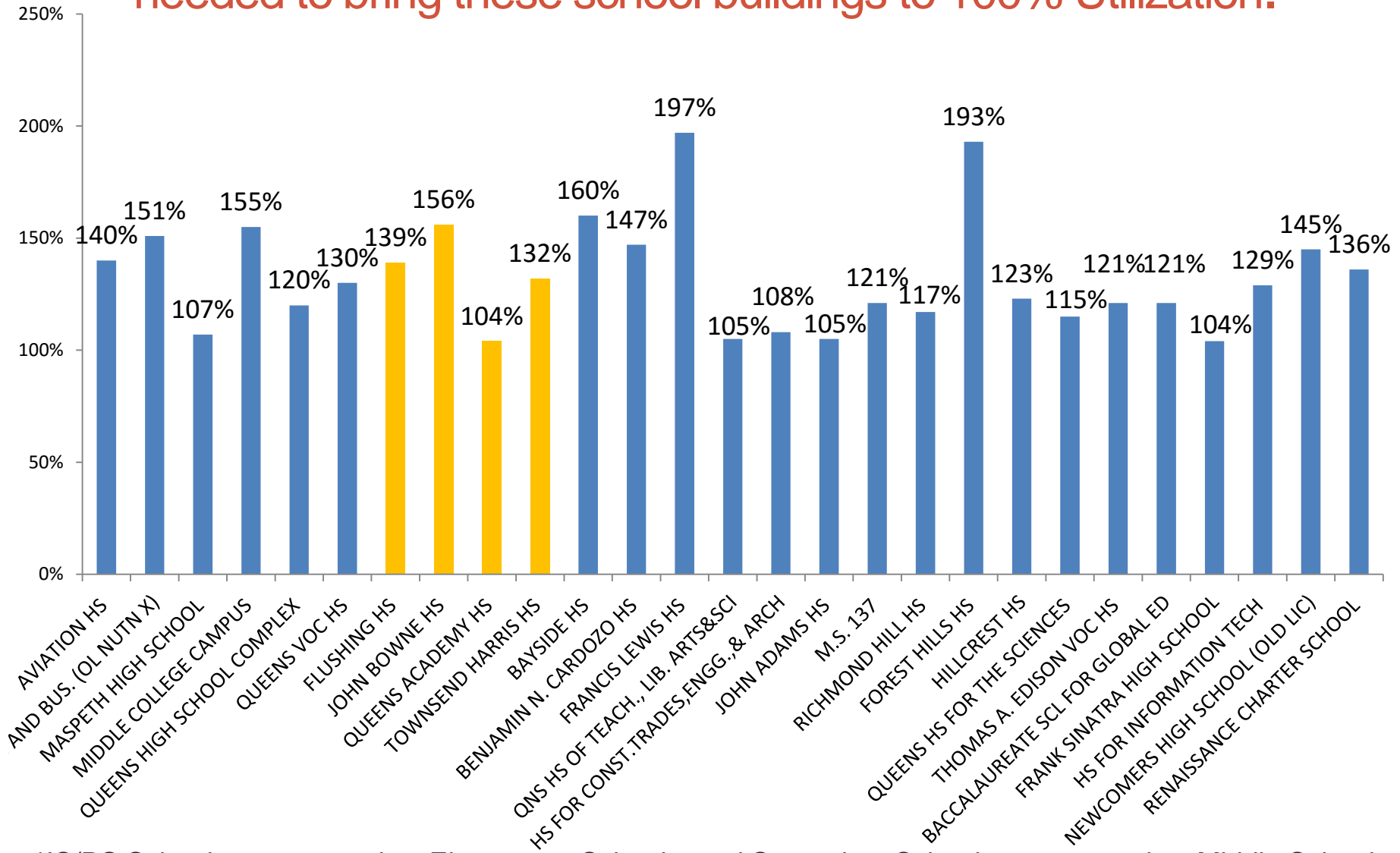
18 of the most overcrowded D25 ES and MS school buildings-there are 26 over utilized bldgs. in total



\*IS/PS Schools are counted as Elementary Schools, and Secondary Schools are counted as Middle Schools

Source: 2014-2015 DOE Blue Book

# 27 Queens HS buildings are over-utilized. About 13,632 new seats needed to bring these school buildings to 100% Utilization.



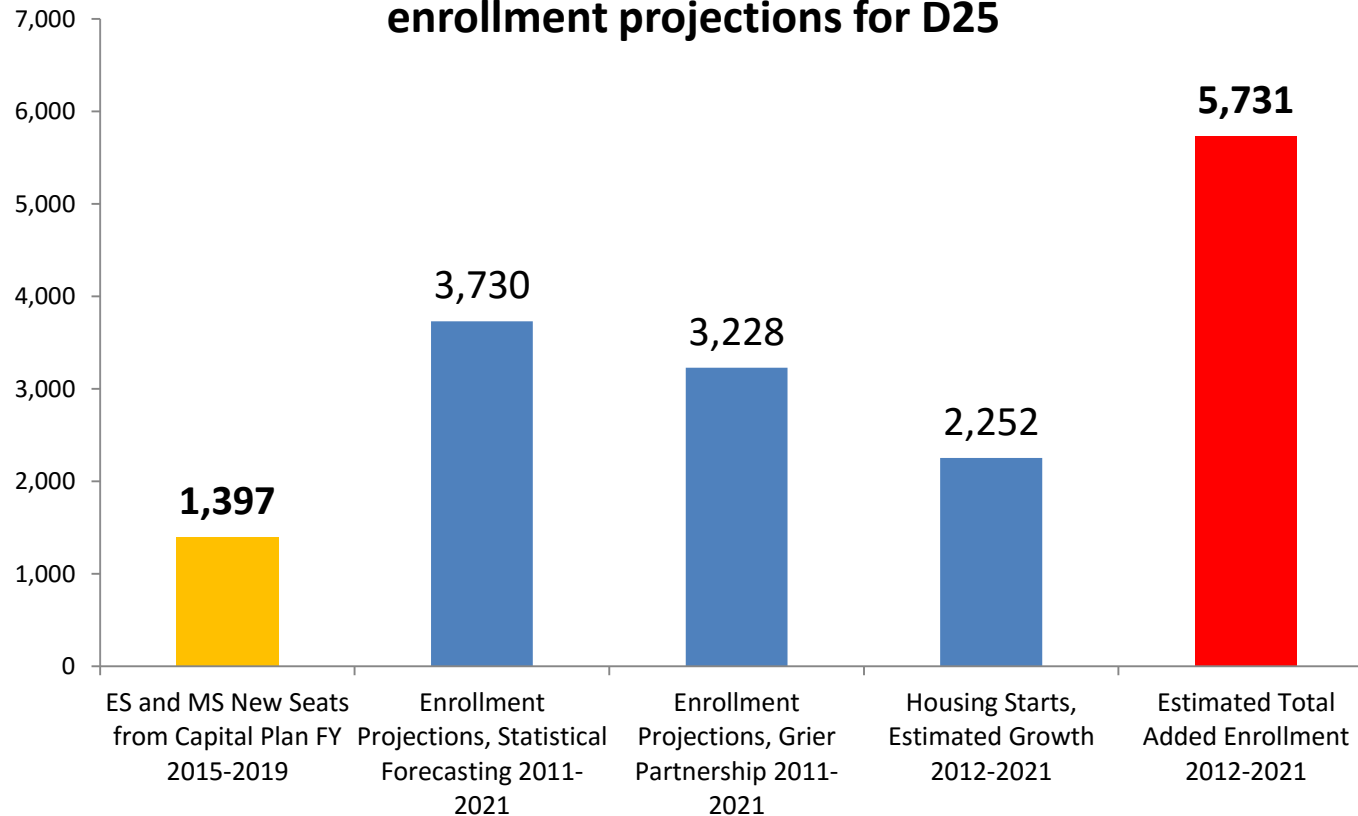
\*IS/PS Schools are counted as Elementary Schools, and Secondary Schools are counted as Middle Schools

Source: 2014-2015 DOE Blue Book



# New MS and ES Seats in Capital Plan and DOE Enrollment Projections for CSD 25

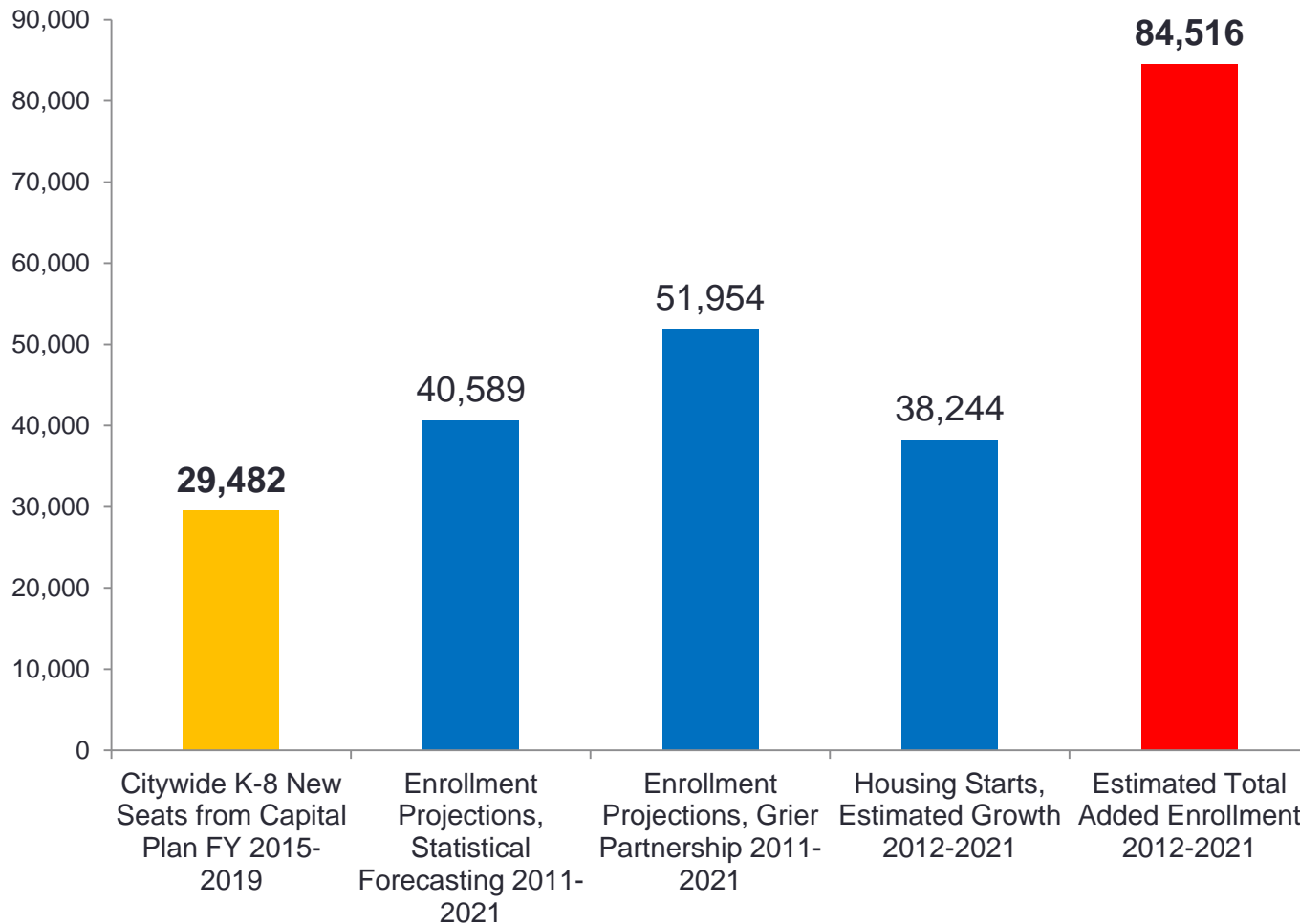
## Big gap between New Seats in capital plan and DOE enrollment projections for D25



Source for Housing Starts: NYSCA Projected New Housing Starts 2012-2021, <http://www.nycsca.org/Community/CapitalPlanManagementReportsData/Housing/2012-21HousingWebChart.pdf>; Projected public school ratio, <https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Education/Projected-Public-School-Ratio/n7ta-pz8k>

\*Seats in plan does not include 4,900 seats as yet undetermined as to district and grade level. Includes seats planned for PS and PS/IS . Total added enrolment = housing starts estimation + average of both consultant projections . Statistical Forecasting does not include D75 students.

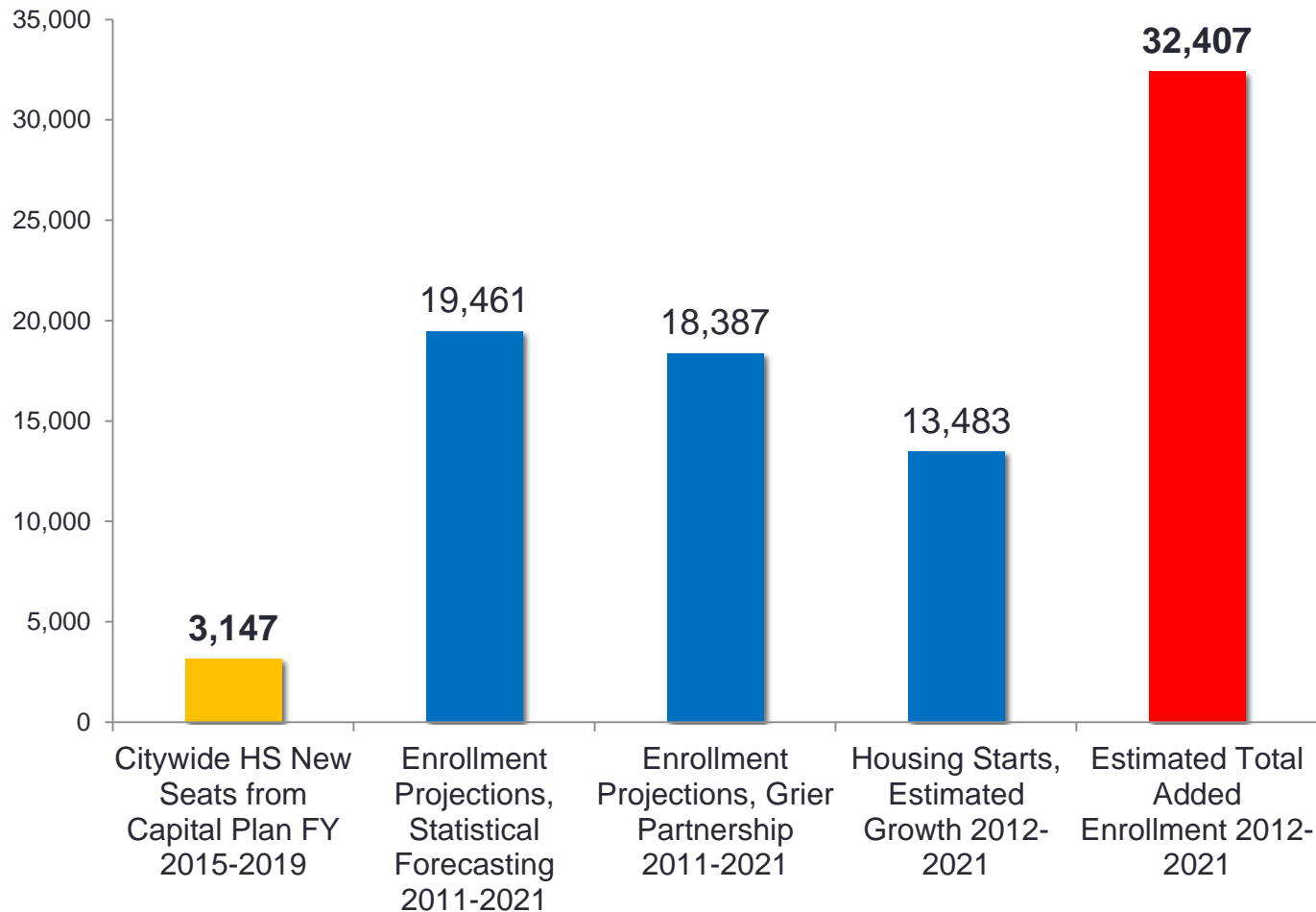
# City-wide Enrollment Projections K-8 vs. New Seats in May 2015 Capital Plan



Source for Housing Starts: NYSCA Projected New Housing Starts 2012-2021, <http://www.nycsca.org/Community/CapitalPlanManagementReportsData/Housing/2012-21HousingWebChart.pdf>; Projected public school ratio, <https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Education/Projected-Public-School-Ratio/n7ta-pz8k>

\*Seats in plan does not include 4,900 seats as yet undetermined as to district and grade level. Includes seats planned for PS and PS/IS . Total added enrolment = housing starts estimation + average of both consultant projections . Statistical Forecasting does not include D75 students.

# City-wide Enrollment Projections HS vs. New Seats in Capital Plan



Source for Housing Starts: NYSCA  
 Projected New Housing Starts 2012-2021,  
<http://www.nycsca.org/Community/CapitalPlanManagementReports/Data/Housing/2012-21HousingWebChart.pdf>; Projected public school ratio,  
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\*Seats in plan does not include 4,900 seats as yet undetermined as to district and grade level. Includes seats planned for IS/HS; Total added enrollment = housing starts estimation + average of both consultant projections . Statistical Forecasting does not include D75 students.

# What should be done?

- During his campaign, Mayor de Blasio promised if elected to abide by the city's original C4E class size plan approved by the state in 2007 and to expand the capital plan to make this possible.
- He now denies he made these promises.
- We must hold him to these promises and continue advocating for NYC children to receive their constitutional right to a sound basic education.

# How You Can Help

- Join our campaign for doubling of the seats in the capital plan and a Commission to improve the efficiency of school planning.
- The Public Advocate and 22 Councilmembers signed onto a letter last spring, urging this as well.
- Sign up for the Class Size Matters newsletter, like our Facebook Page ([www.facebook.com/classsizematters](http://www.facebook.com/classsizematters)), and follow our Tweets (@ClassSizeMatter) to stay informed.
- Visit our Website, <http://www.classsizematters.org> to learn more about the issue.
- Meet with your City Councilmembers (Julissa Ferreras, Costa Constantinides, Daniel Dromm, and James G. Van Bramer) to continue advocating on this issue.
- Any questions, concerns, or stories of large class sizes or overcrowded schools? Please email us at [info@classsizematters.org](mailto:info@classsizematters.org)

# UFT class size caps vs. Blue book vs current averages vs Contract for excellence goals

Grade levels	UFT Contract class size limits	Target class sizes in "blue book"	Current average class sizes	C4E class Size goals	Square footage per student required in classroom according to the NYC building code
Kindergarten	25	20	23	19.9	35
1st-3rd	32	20	25.4	19.9	20
4th-5th	32	28	26.1	22.9	20
6th-8th	30 (Title I) 33 (non-Title I)	28	27.1	22.9	20
HS (core classes)	34	30	26.8	24.5	20