

2016 UPDATE ON CLASS SIZE, OVERCROWDING, AND CAPITAL PLAN: P.S. 39, DISTRICT 15 AND CITYWIDE

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Class Size Matters
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Class Size reduction: a proven reform

- Lowering class size is only of only four K-12 reforms cited by Institute of Education Sciences as increasing student learning shown thru “rigorous evidence.”
- Students in smaller classes get better test scores, higher grades, are more engaged & less likely to “act out”, more likely to graduate from HS and from college with a STEM degree, own their own home and have a 401K years later.
- Disadvantaged students & students in color gain twice the benefits
- That’s why lowering class size is one of very few reforms shown to narrow the achievement gap.
- Yet NYC students have class sizes much larger than those in the rest of NYS, where average is 20-22 students per class in all grades.

** Other three K-12 evidence-based reforms include 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.*

CFE decision and C4E law in 2007 required smaller classes

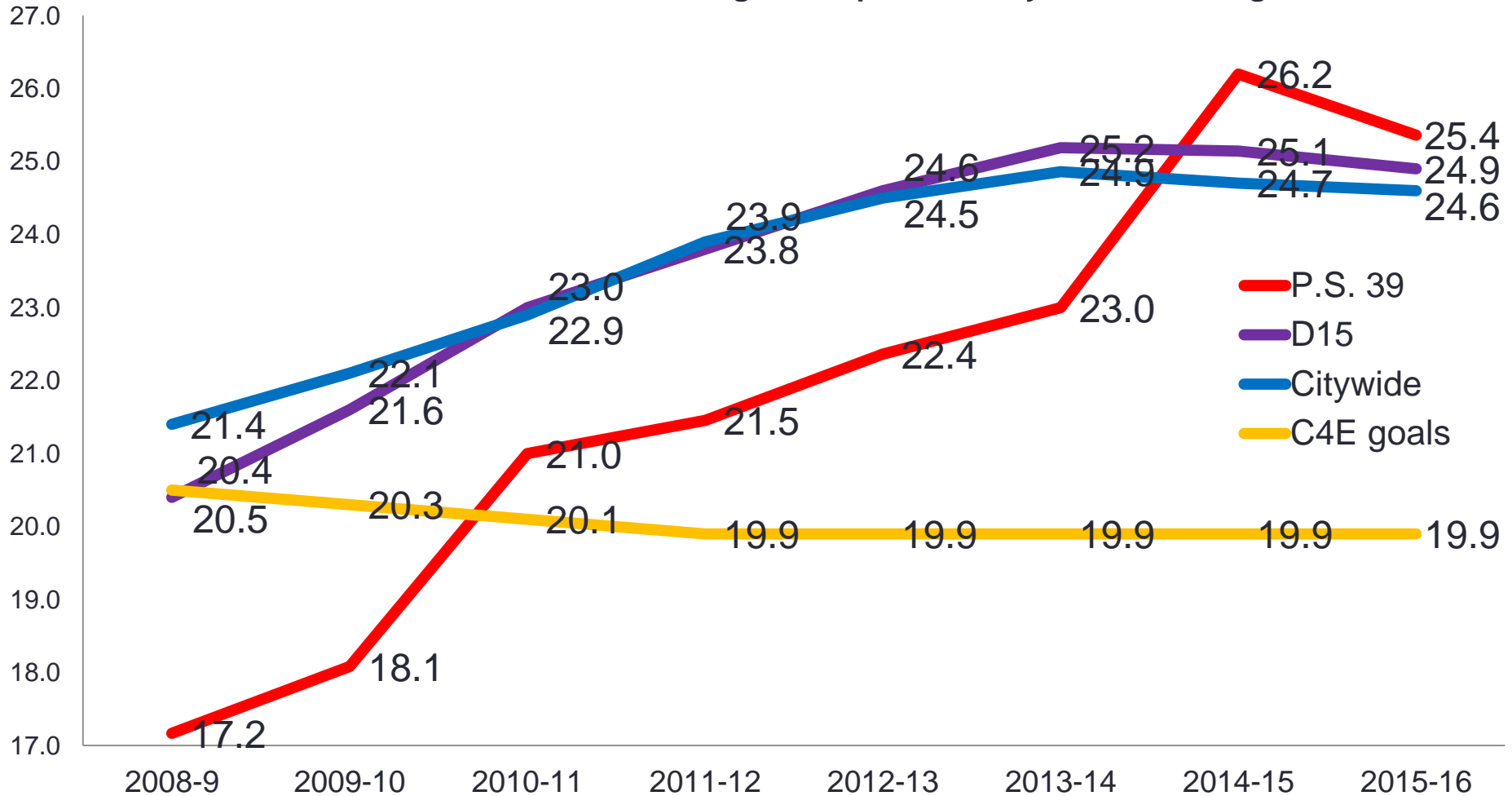
- State's NY's highest court in Campaign for Fiscal Excellence case: NYC students deprived of constitutional right to an adequate education because of excessive class sizes
- In 2007, the state Contracts for Excellence law passed, requiring NYC schools to reduce class size in all grades.
- The state-approved DOE plan called for lowering class size reduction to an average of no more than 20 students per class in grades K-3, 23 in 4-8th grades and 25 in HS.

What happened instead?

- Yet class sizes increased sharply instead of declining since 2008 –result of city and state budget cuts
- More than 350,000 NYC school kids are crammed into classes of 30 or more this year
- Also, UFT and DOE also dropped a 20-yr agreement to cap class sizes at 28 in grades 1-3 in 2011.
- Number of children in classes of 30 in grades K-3 have doubled over the past five years
- Yet Chancellor Farina has said that she is concerned that class sizes can be “too small.”

Class sizes in P.S. 39 have increased in grades K-3 by 47.7% since 2008 and are now far above C4E goals

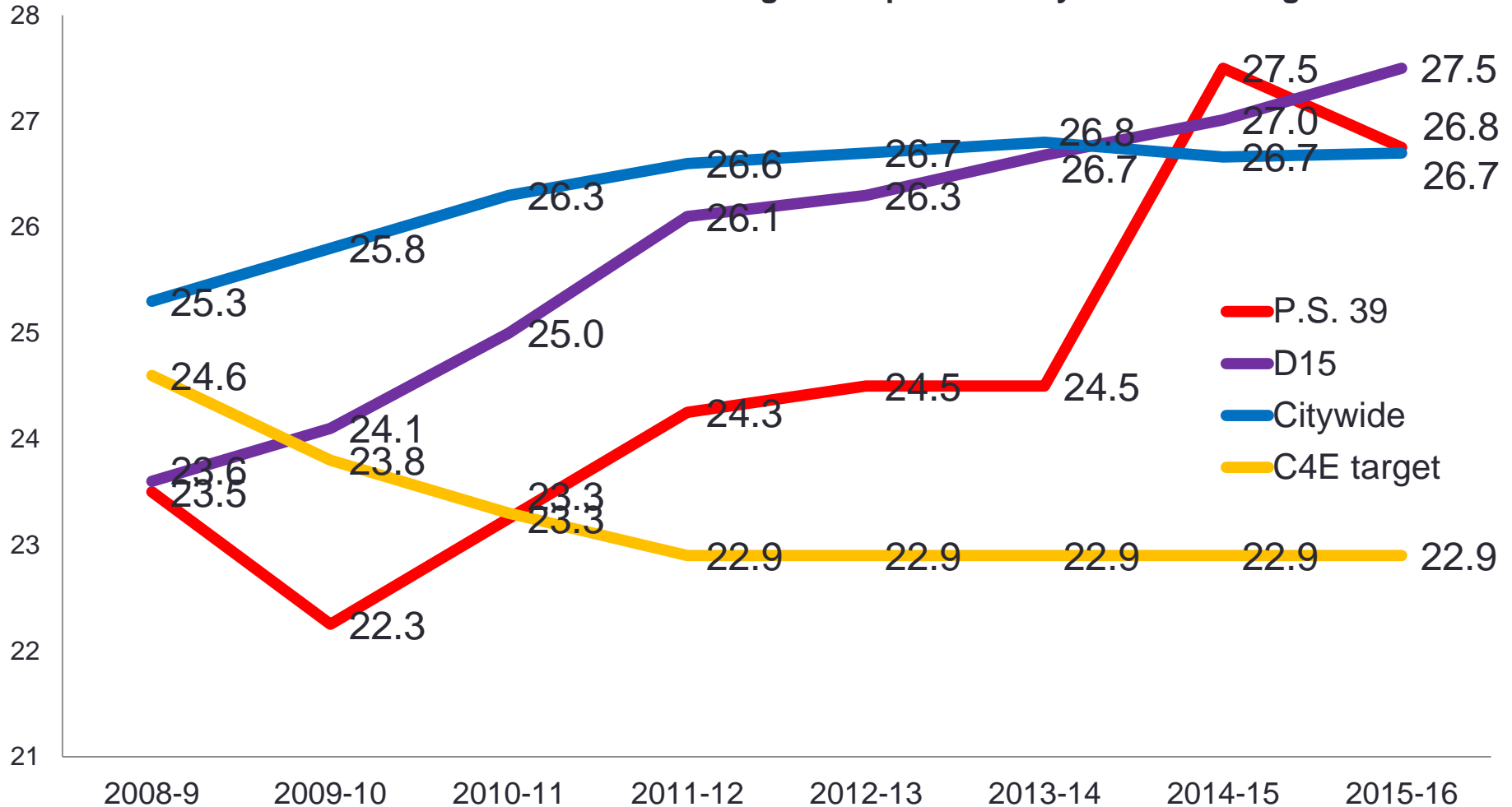
P.S. 39 and D15 K-3 Class Size Averages compared to Citywide and C4E goals



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

Class sizes in PS 39 have increased in grades 4-5 by 20% since 2009 and are now far above C4E goals

P.S. 39 and D15 K-8* Class Size Averages compared to Citywide and C4E goals

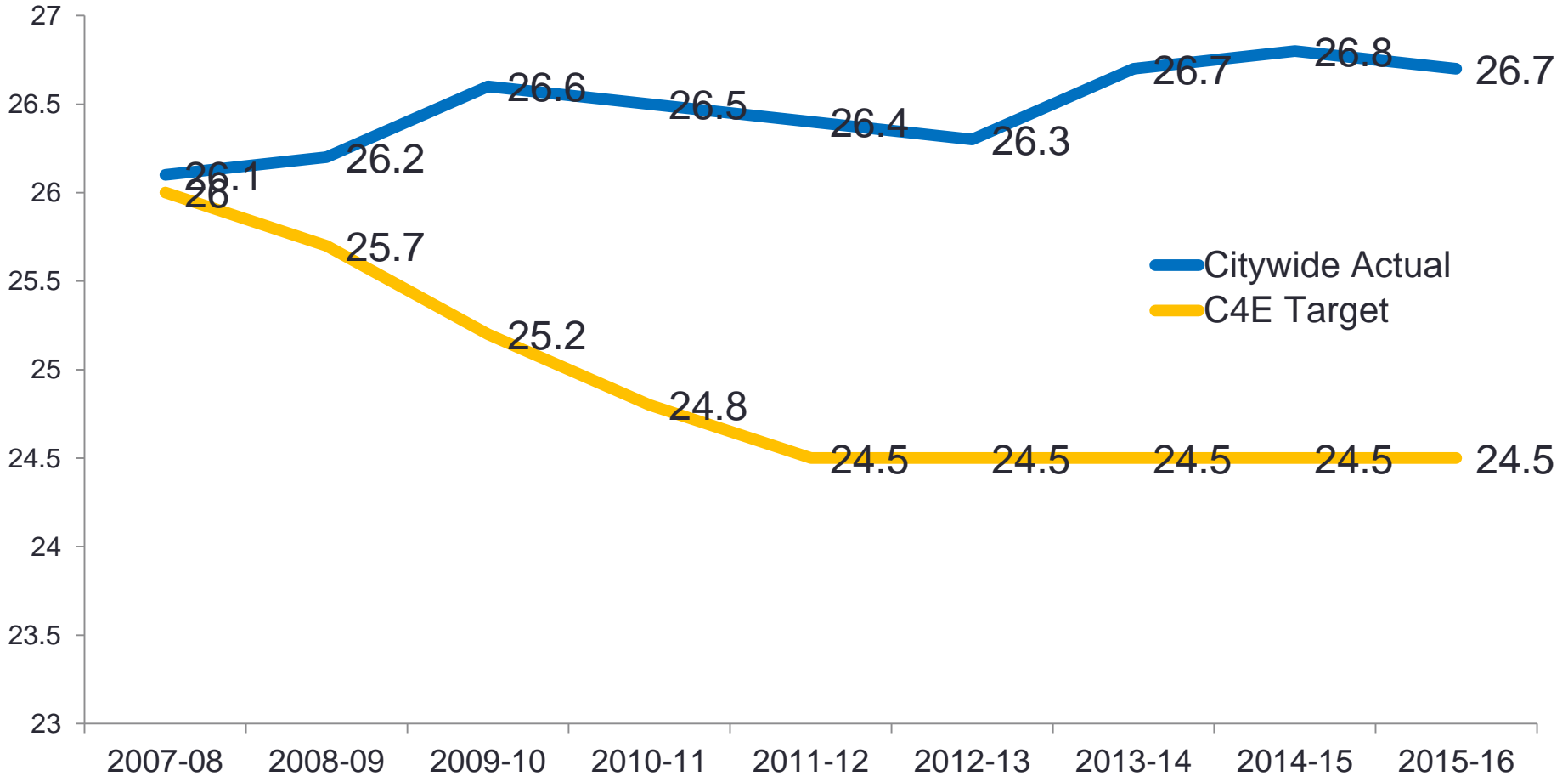


*P.S. 39 only serves grades 4-5

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

Class sizes citywide have increased in High School since 2007 and are now far above C4E goals

Citywide HS class size trend compared to C4E goals

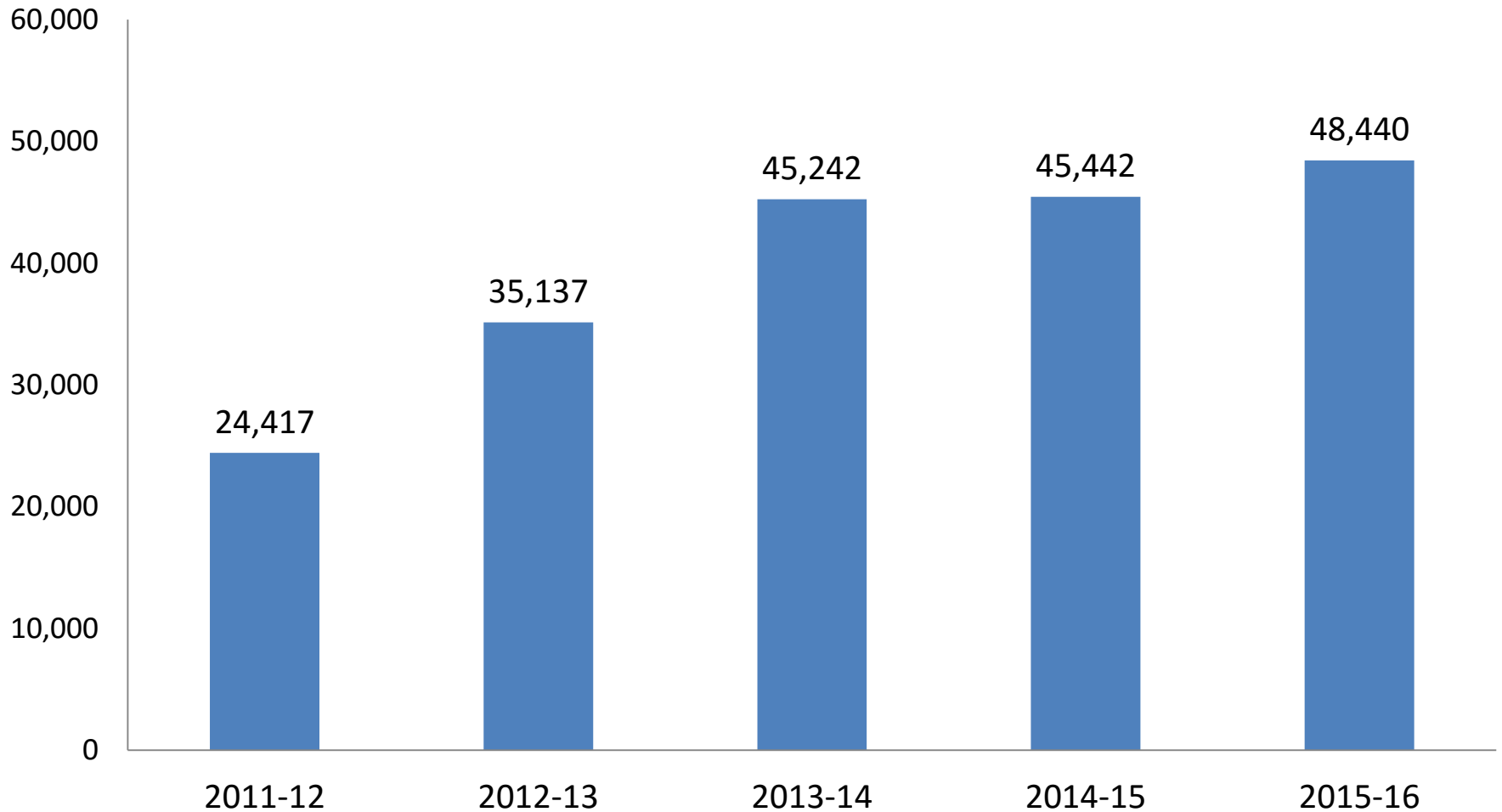


*DOE's methodology for calculating HS averages has changed year to year

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

Trend of K-3 Students in classes of 30 or more

The number has nearly doubled in the past five years

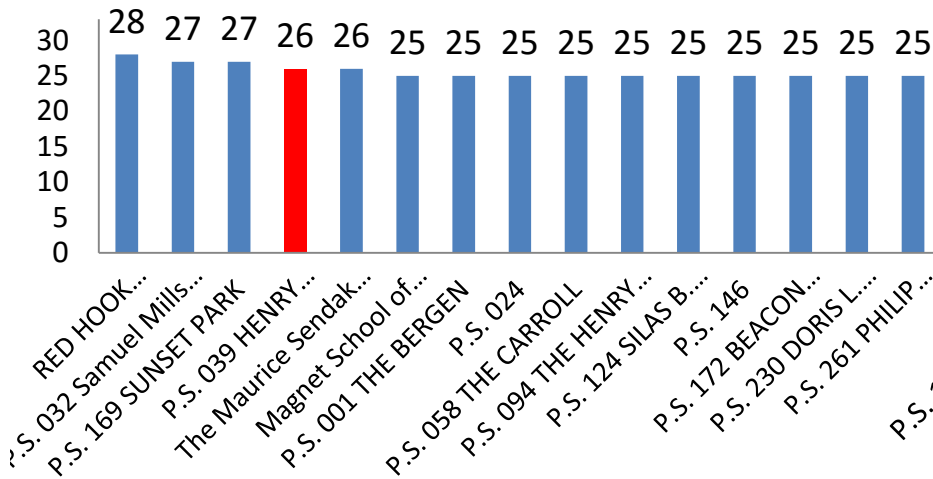


Data Source: DOE Citywide Class Size Distribution data, 2011-15

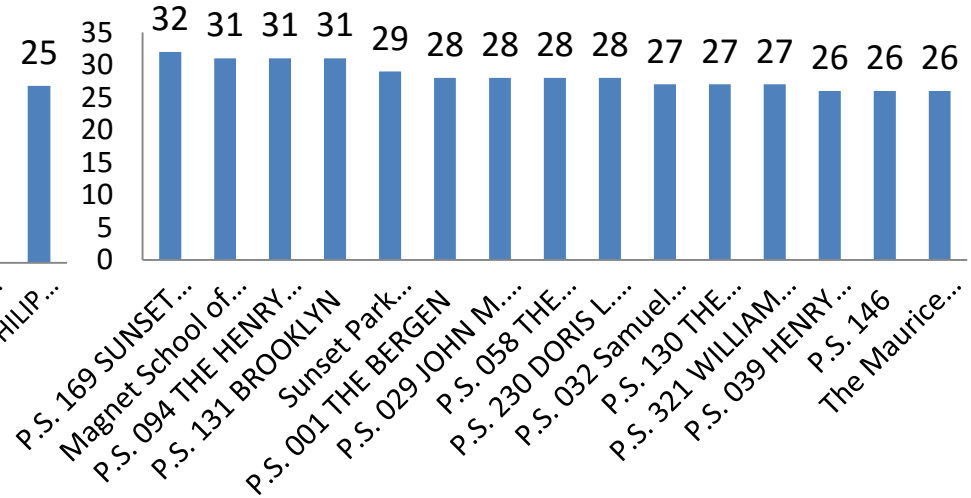
Examples of large elementary school class sizes in District 15

* P.S. 39 in red

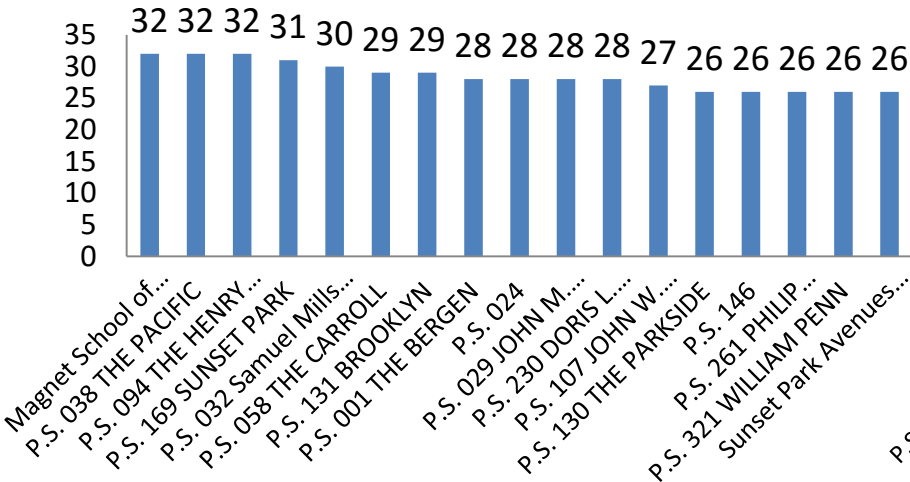
D15 Kindergarten



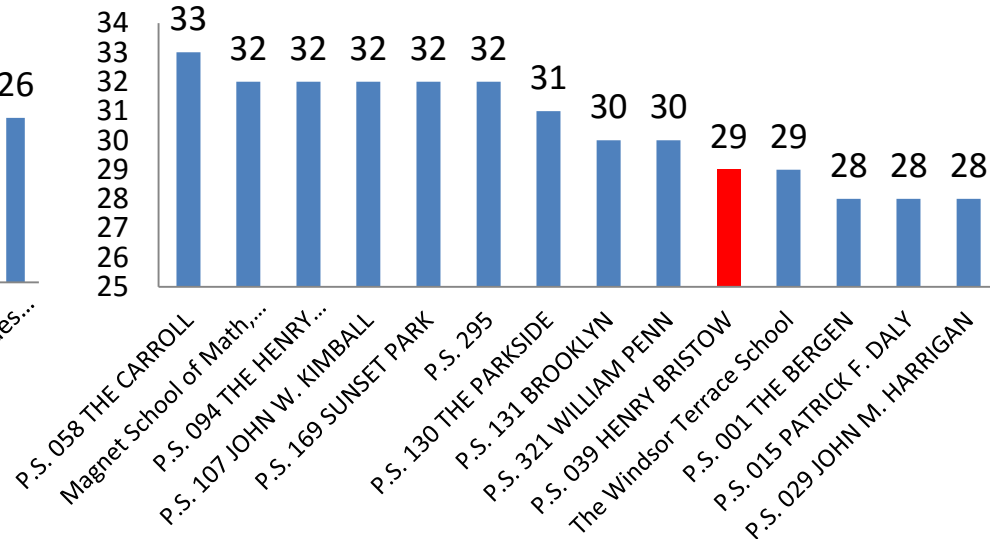
D15 First Grade



D15 Second Grade



D15 Third Grade

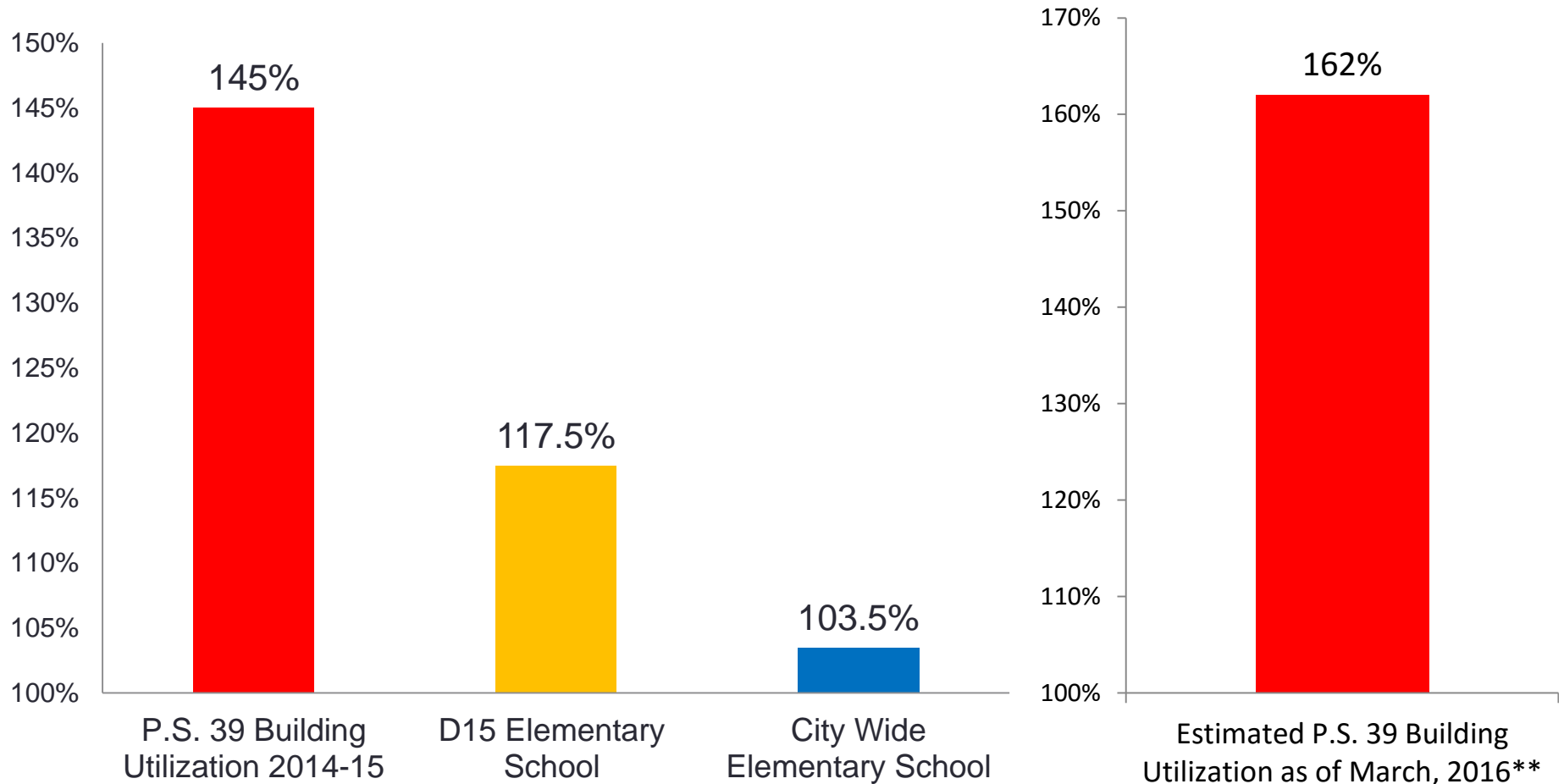


School overcrowding also increasing at PS 39, in D15 and citywide

- Citywide, schools have become more overcrowded over last six years.
- More than 556,000 students citywide (53% of NYC's student population) were in overcrowded buildings last year.
- Elementary schools average building utilization rate citywide is 103.5% (mean) and 107% (median) as of 2014-2015 school year.
- D15 elementary schools were at 117.5%.
- PS 39 was at 145%.

P.S. 39 and District 15 Utilization figures*

D15 buildings and P.S. 39 utilizations were higher than citywide averages last year



*Calculated by dividing building enrollment by the target capacity

**assuming same building capacity is in 2014-15

Source: 2014-2015 DOE Blue Book and Registration Information from ATS found here;

<http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/15/K039/AboutUs/Statistics/register.htm>

Proposed new capital plan vs. needs for seats

- New proposed capital plan has about 49,000 K12 seats (compared to 33,000 in May plan) – at an additional total cost of nearly \$1 billion.
- DOE now admits real need of approximately 83,000 seats (compared to DOE estimate in May of 49,245).
- Thus DOE is only funding 59% of need for seats according to its own projected need.
- Many of those seats remain unsited even as to borough and district.
- CSM estimates real need is over 100,000 seats, based on enrollment projections and existing overcrowding –
- About 40,000 seats needed in just those districts with utilization averages over 100%, plus 60K-70K more for projected enrollment growth.

Overcrowding in District 15 and Brooklyn HS's

- 25 ES and MS school buildings in CSD 15 are over-utilized according to DOE data.
- About 4,622 seats are needed for these buildings to reach 100% utilization.
- In Brooklyn, 16 high school buildings are overcrowded
- 9,303 additional seats needed in these HS schools to reach 100%.

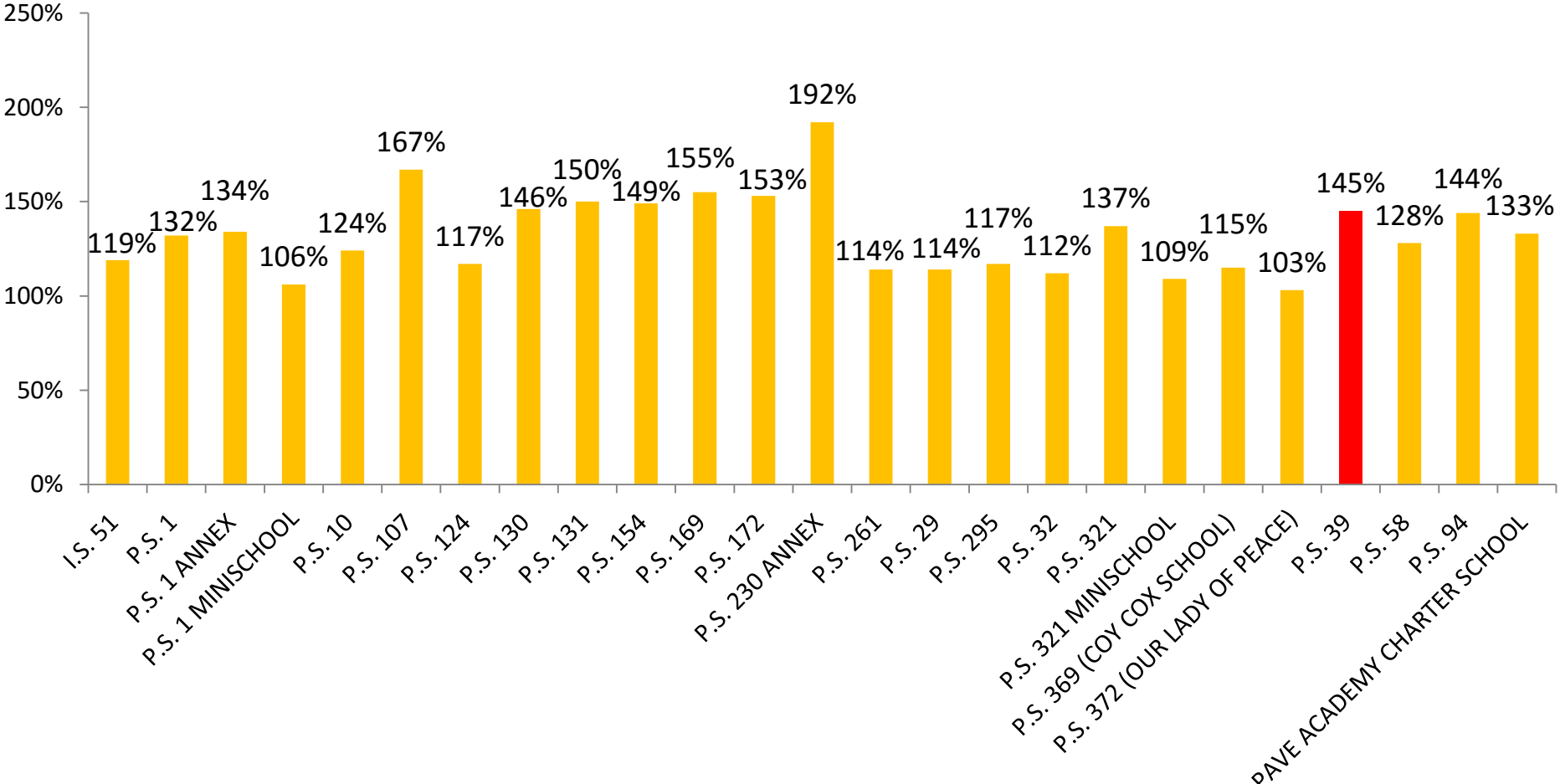
*IS/PS Schools are counted as Elementary Schools, and Secondary Schools are counted as Middle Schools

Sources: 2014-2015 DOE Blue Book and Registration Information from ATS found here;

<http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/15/K039/AboutUs/Statistics/register.htm>

25 D15 ES & MS school buildings are above 100% Utilization

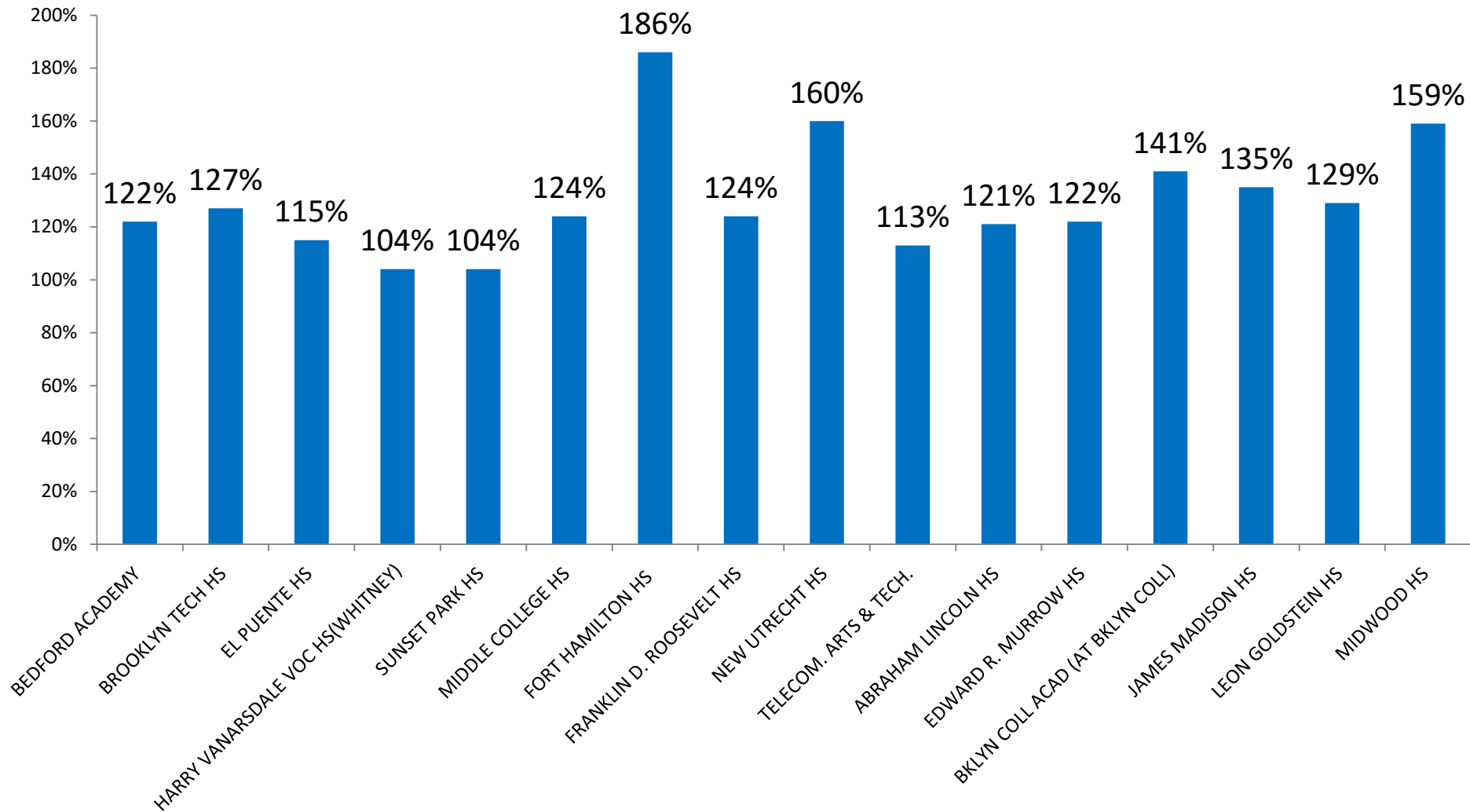
**4,622 seats needed to reduce these buildings to 100% - not counting enrollment projections but only 3,840 in cap plan*



*IS/PS Schools are counted as Elementary Schools, and Secondary Schools are counted as Middle Schools
Source: 2014-2015 DOE Blue Book

16 Brooklyn HS buildings above 100% Utilization

**9,303 seats needed but NO HS to be built in Brooklyn in cap plan*

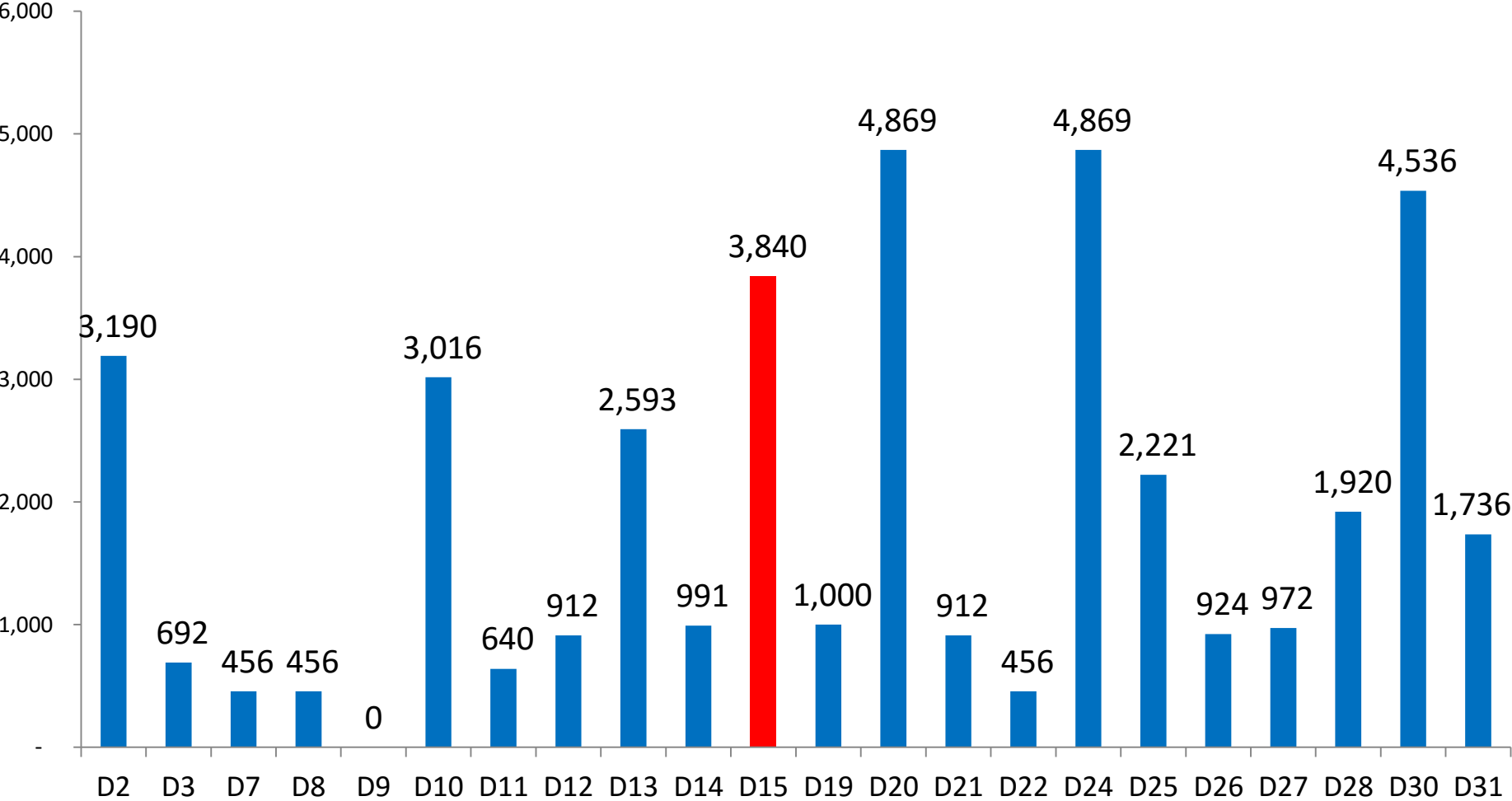


*IS/PS Schools are counted as Elementary Schools, and Secondary Schools are counted as Middle Schools

Source: 2014-2015 DOE Blue Book

Total Funded K-8 Seats In January 2016 Capital Plan by District

3,840 seats in D15

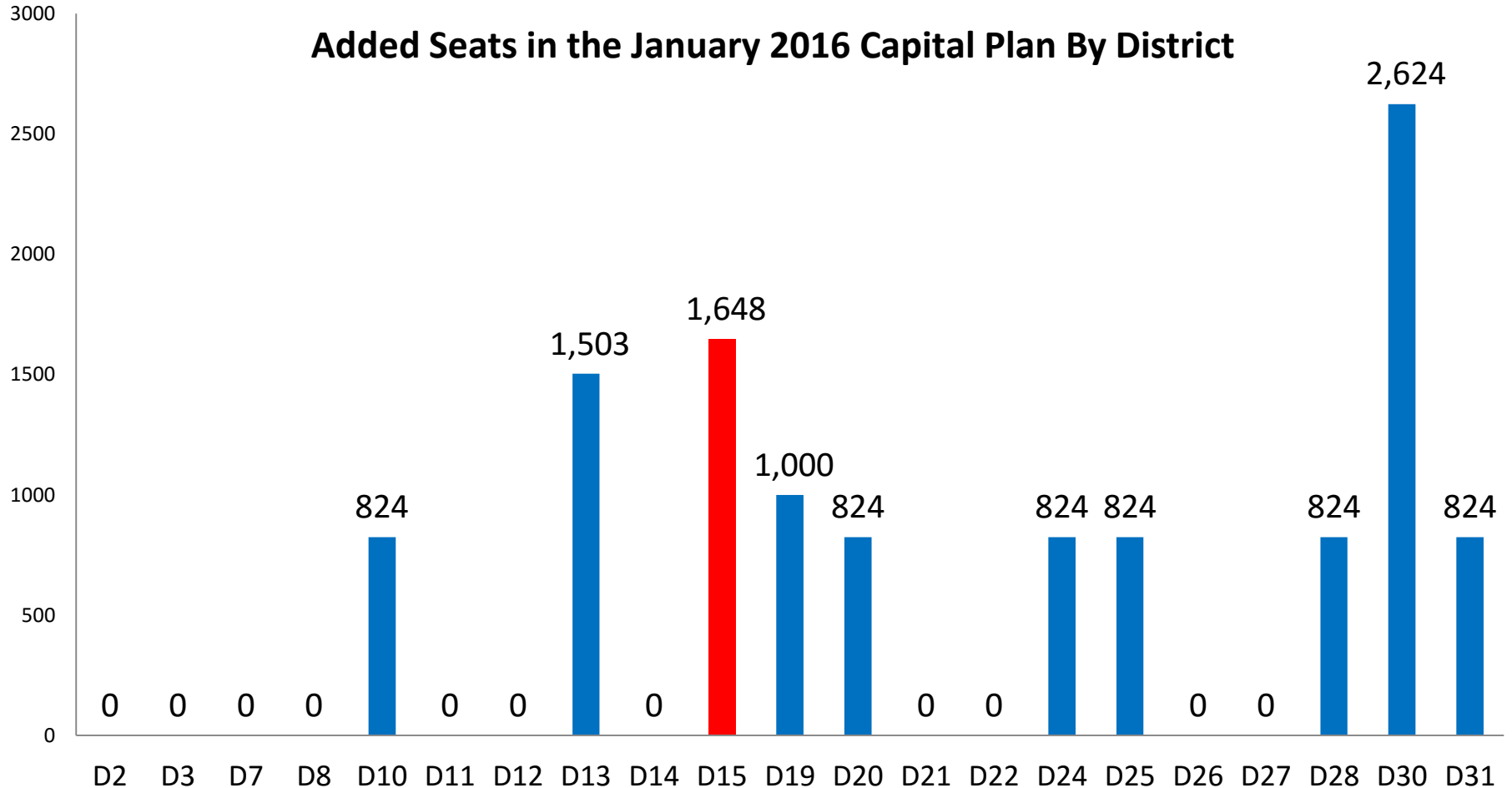


Data sources: Capital Plan updated January 2016

Number of seats added in the January Capital Plan

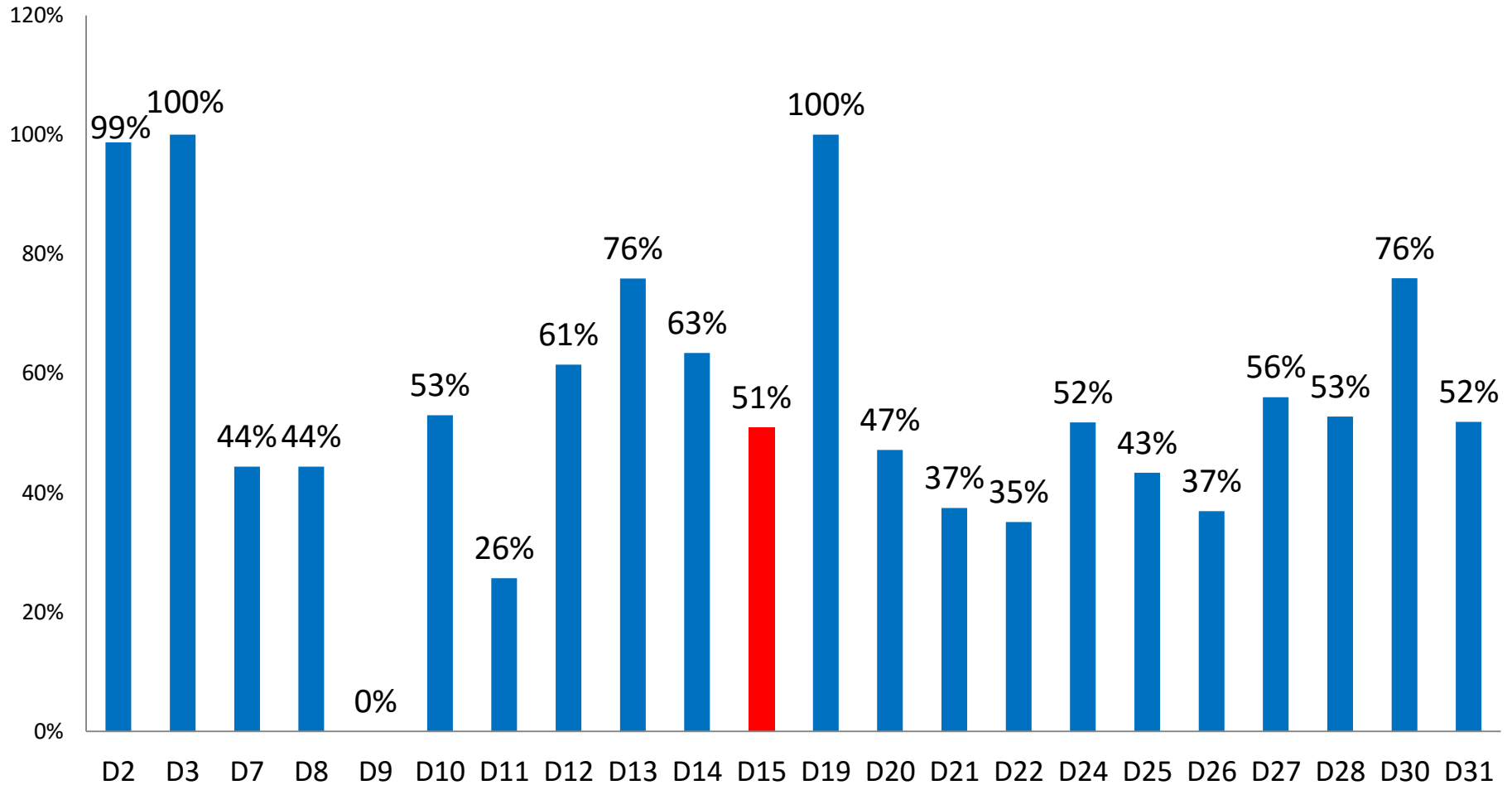
1,648 seats were added in D15

Added Seats in the January 2016 Capital Plan By District



Data sources: Capital Plan updated January 2016

Funded Seats in Jan. 2016 Capital Plan compared to DOE's Identified Need by District (K-8 Only) – *Only 51% of D15's seat need is funded*



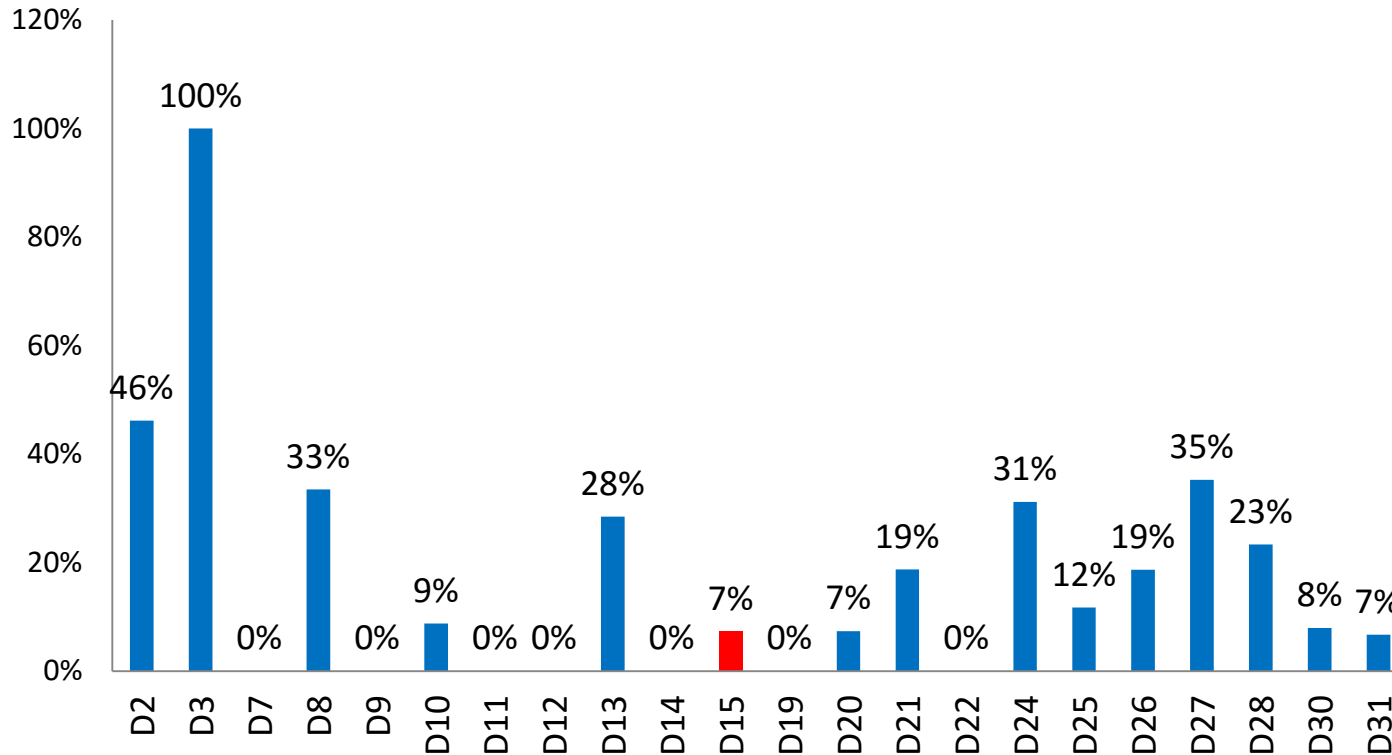
Data sources: Capital Plan updated January 2016

Percent of Seats in Scope/Design* compared to DOE Identified Need

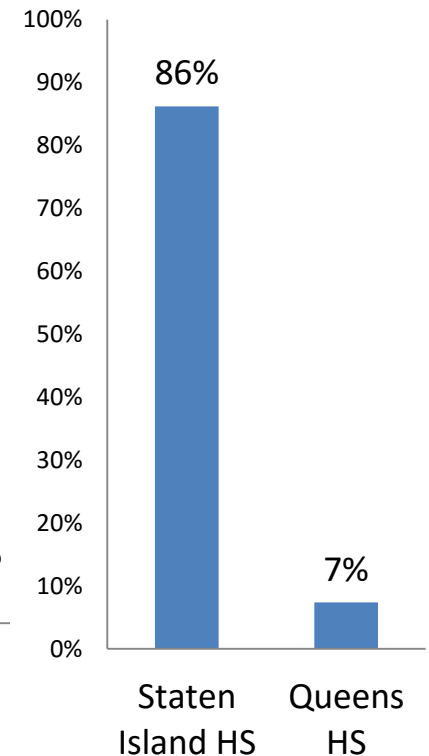
Only 15% of DOE's Identified need are in Scope and Design

Only 7% of seats in D15

K-8 Seats in Scope/Design versus DOE Identified Need by District



HS Seats in Scope/Design versus DOE Identified Need by Borough



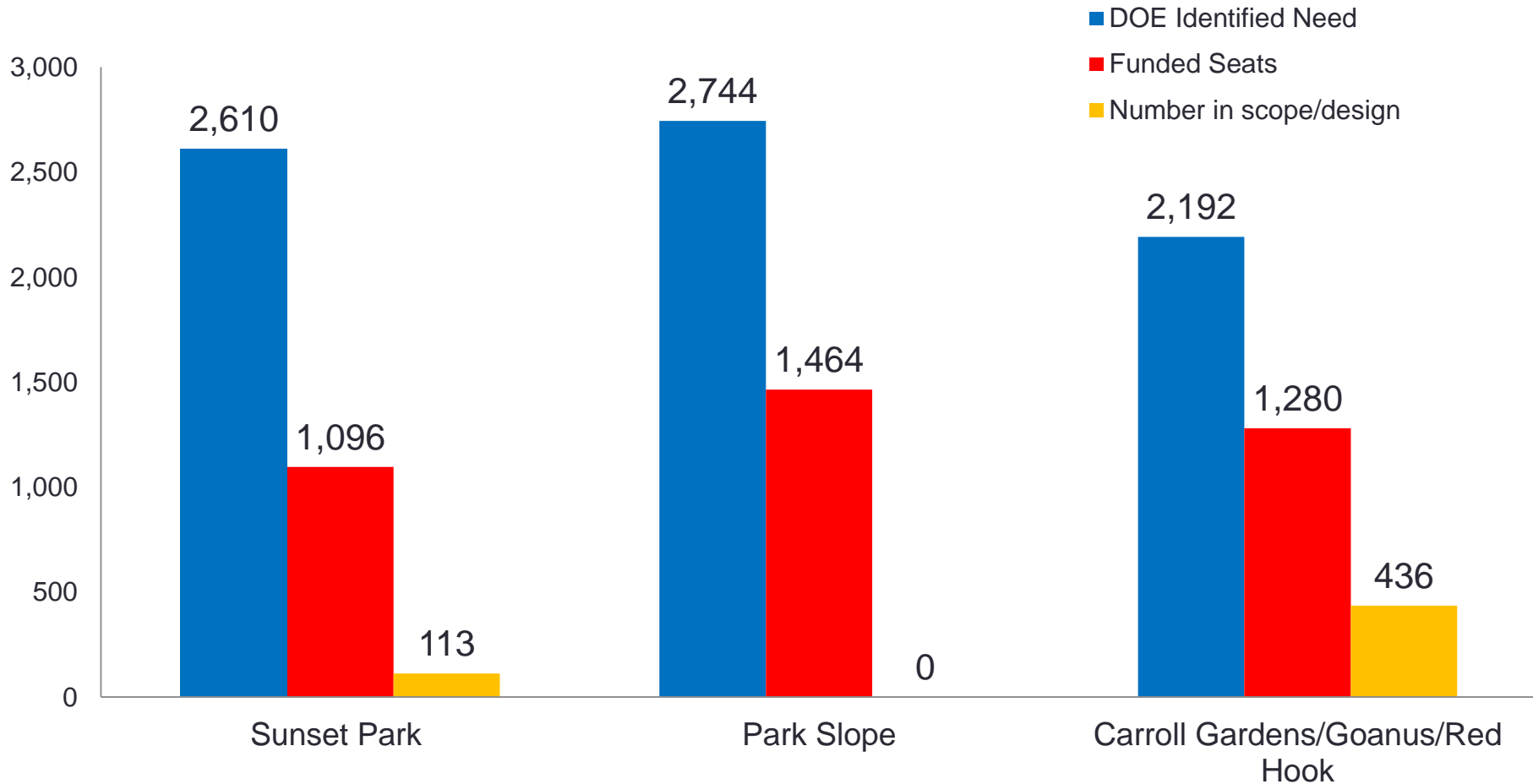
*Scope/Design means that the seats are in the process of getting sited and constructed, as opposed to only being budgeted for

Data sources: Capital Plan updated January 2016

Capital Plan in D15 Sub-districts

DOE identified a seat need of 2,744 in Park Slope, but only 1,464 seats are funded— about 53%, and there are no seats sited and in scope/design

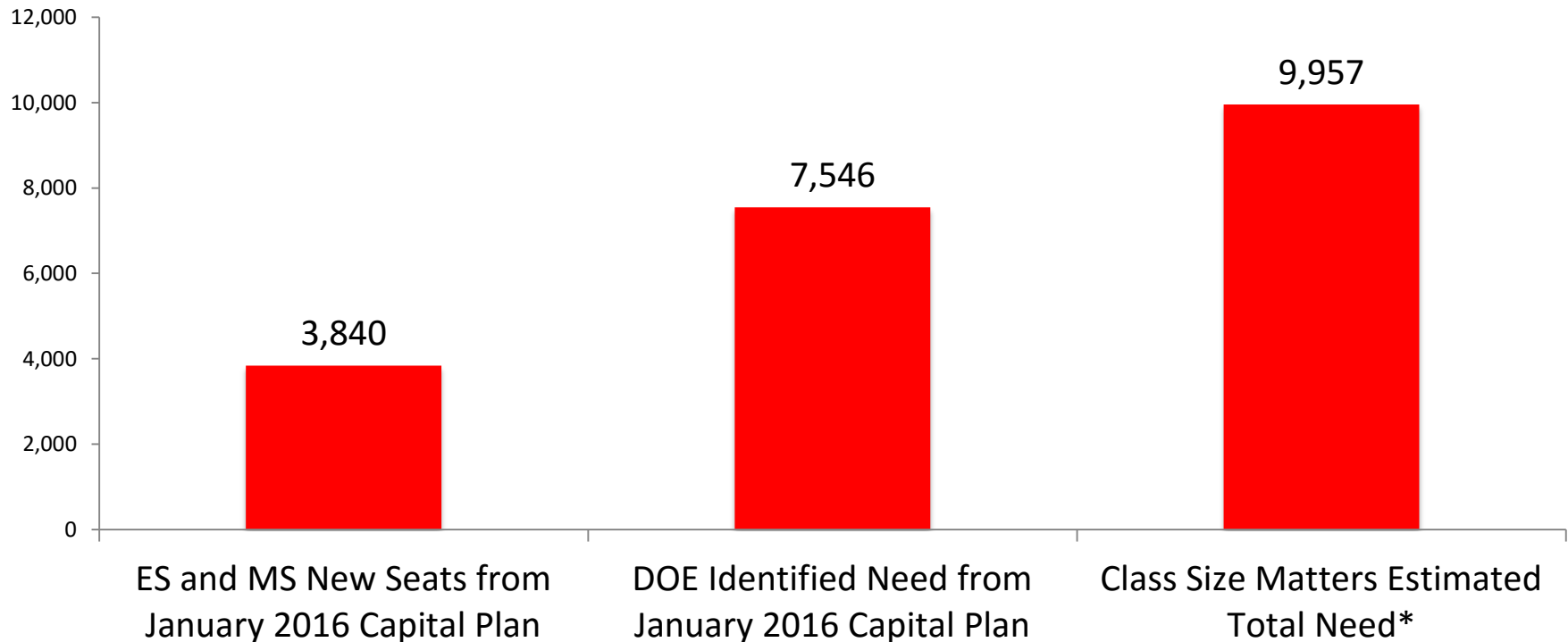
DOE Identified Need, Funded Seats, and Scope/design seats by sub district



Data sources: Capital Plan updated January 2016
*project in area funded for design only

New Capital Plan Seats and DOE Seat Need vs Class Size Matters Estimated Need for D15

New Capital Plan and DOE Seat Need vs Class Size Matters Estimated Need for District 15, Grades K-8



*Class Size Matters Estimated Total Need derived from seats needed to bring district average down to 100% utilization plus Estimated Enrollment based on Housing Starts 2012-2021 and the average of consultant projections (Grier Partnership 2011-2021 and Statistical Forecasting 2011-2021.) Additional data sources: Capital Plan updated January 2016, Blue Book 2014-2015.

Problems with DOE & SCA capacity to site and build schools

- No school Seats in Park Slope are in scope/design, and only 53% of the DOE's identified need for the subdistrict are sited.
- After 2 years DOE still has not determined in which borough or district most of 4900 seats in “class size reduction” category will be built.
- Several overcrowded neighborhoods have had schools funded in the capital plan for over a decade without DOE siting or building a single school
- SCA/DOE has real capacity problems in terms of efficient and accurate school siting and planning
- ***Overcrowding will grow worse if Mayor's rezoning plan to accelerate residential development is adopted***
- NYC needs to come up with a better process to ensure schools are built along with new housing – instead of always playing catch up

NYC Council should create a Commission to improve efficiency and accuracy of school planning and siting

- Among issues Commission could consider: do we need reforms to the zoning process to lower the threshold for building new schools?
- Should the formula used to estimate impact of new housing on schools be updated & enrollment projections be carried out more frequently?
- Should the DOE needs assessment be made transparent and include lost seats as well as seats gained?
- Should NYC require impact fees from developers and/or use eminent domain to site schools more frequently?
- Without reforms to the planning process, overcrowding is likely to worsen, with school construction lagging years behind other development.

How you can help

- Sign our petition at www.classsizematters.org - urging Mayor & City Council to expand the capital plan & form a Commission to improve school planning
- Contact Council Member Lander on the need to build more schools and create this commission.
- Sign up for our Class Size Matters newsletter for updates on this and other issues.