

Problems with school overcrowding, school planning and school siting in NYC

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Class Size Matters

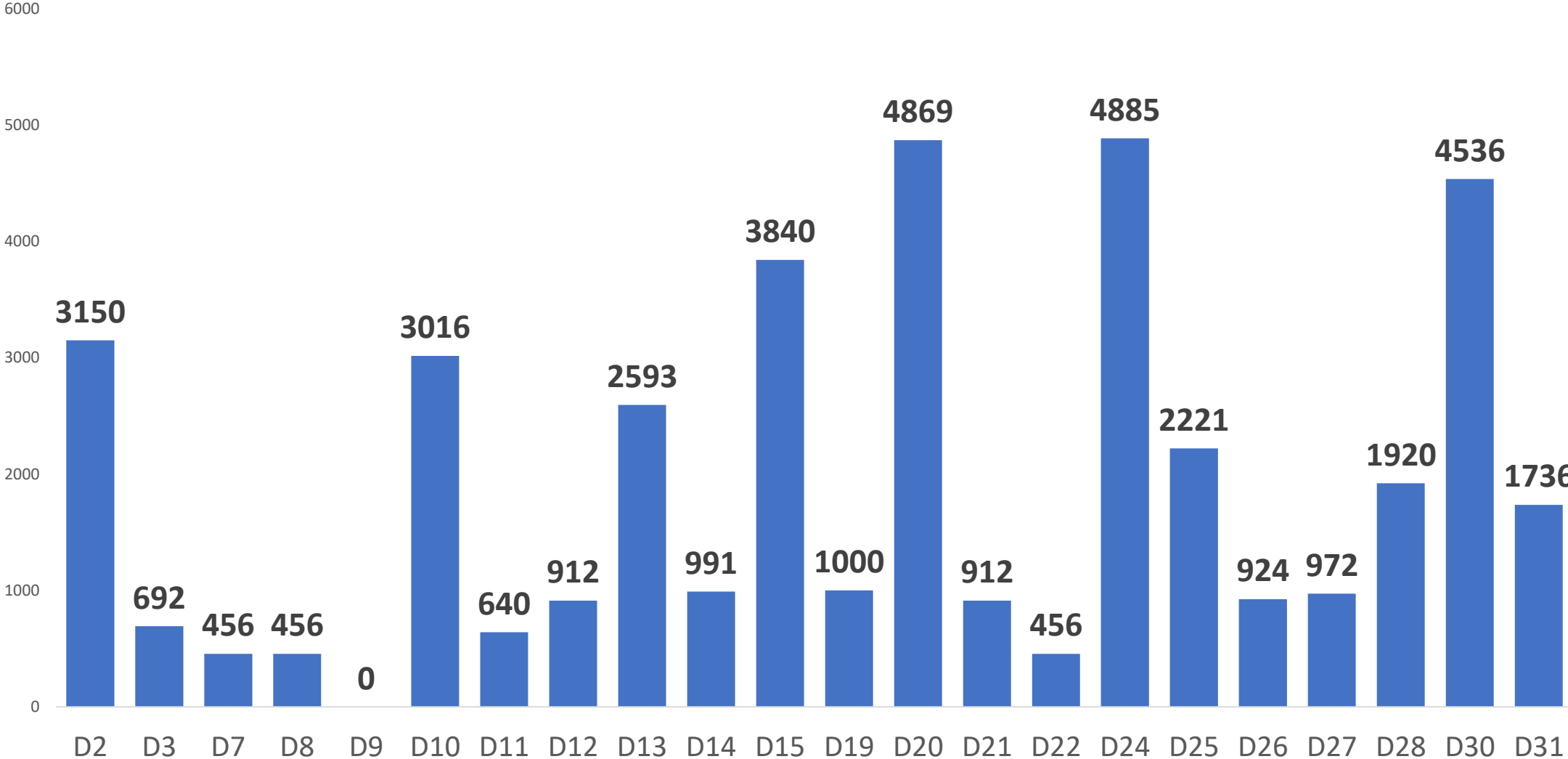
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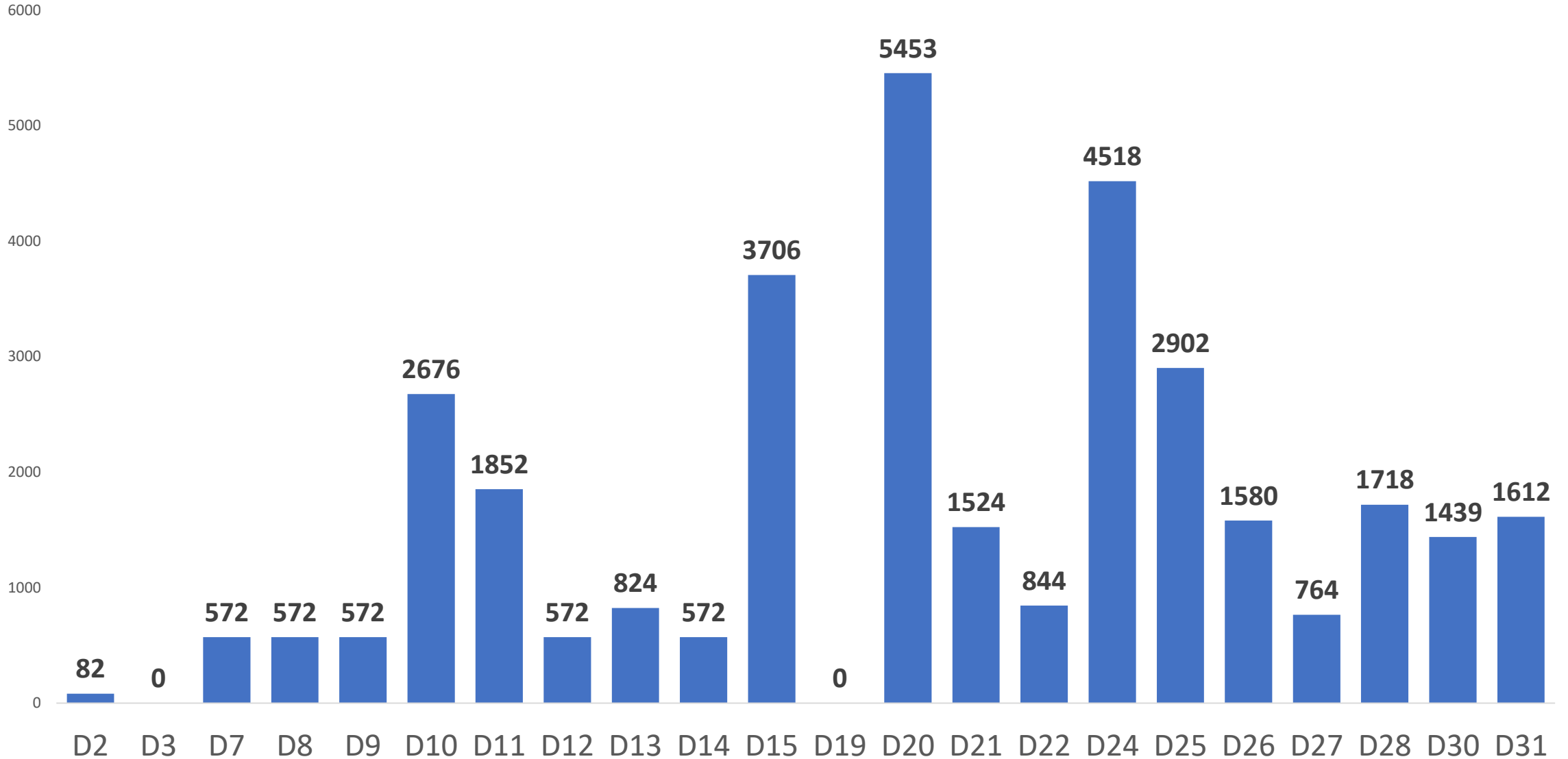
New November 2016 capital plan still underfunded

- Plan funds less than 45,000 seats –
- This is only about half (54%) of school seats necessary to alleviate current overcrowding and accommodate enrollment growth, according to DOE estimates
- Only about one fourth of seats needed according to DOE have actual sites and are in process of scope and design.

Seats funded by district in latest (Nov. 2016) capital plan

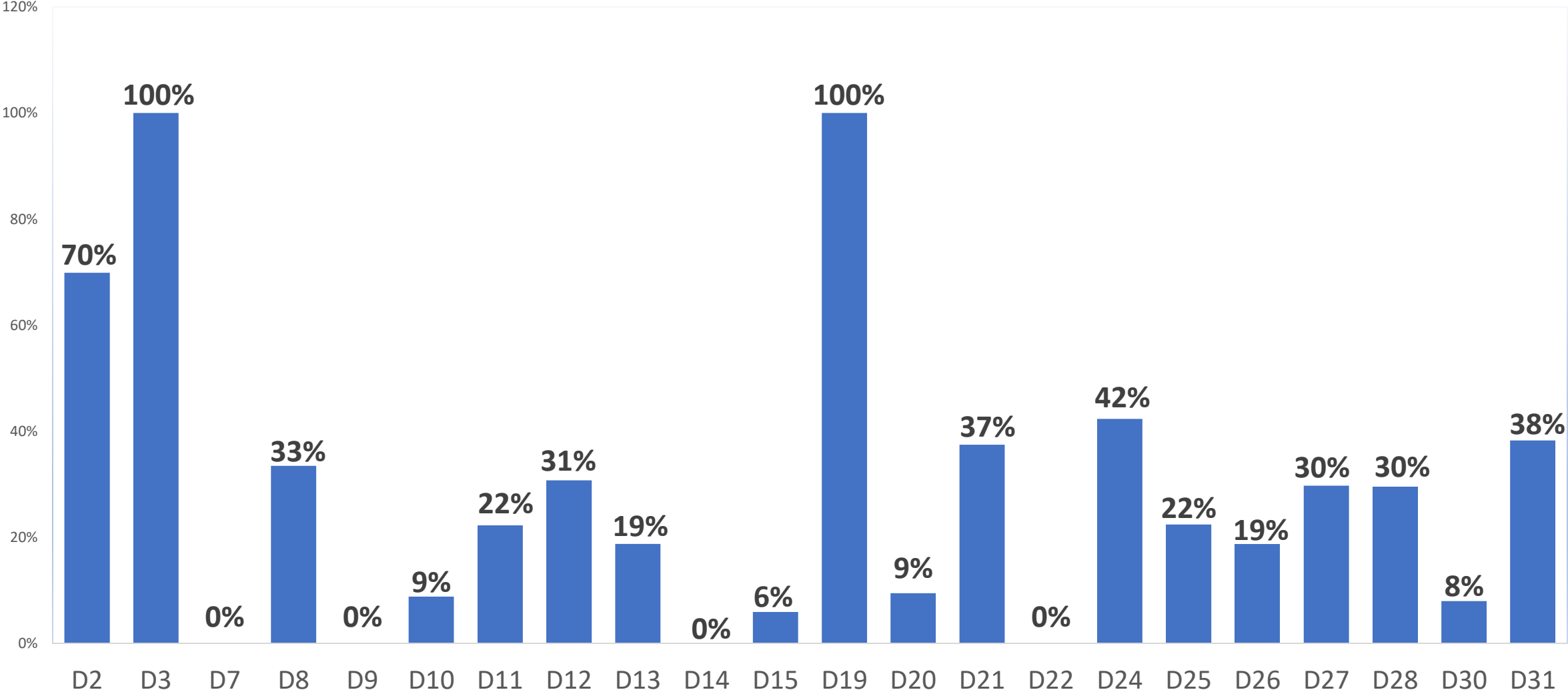


More than 38,000 unfunded seats compared to DOE's analysis of need

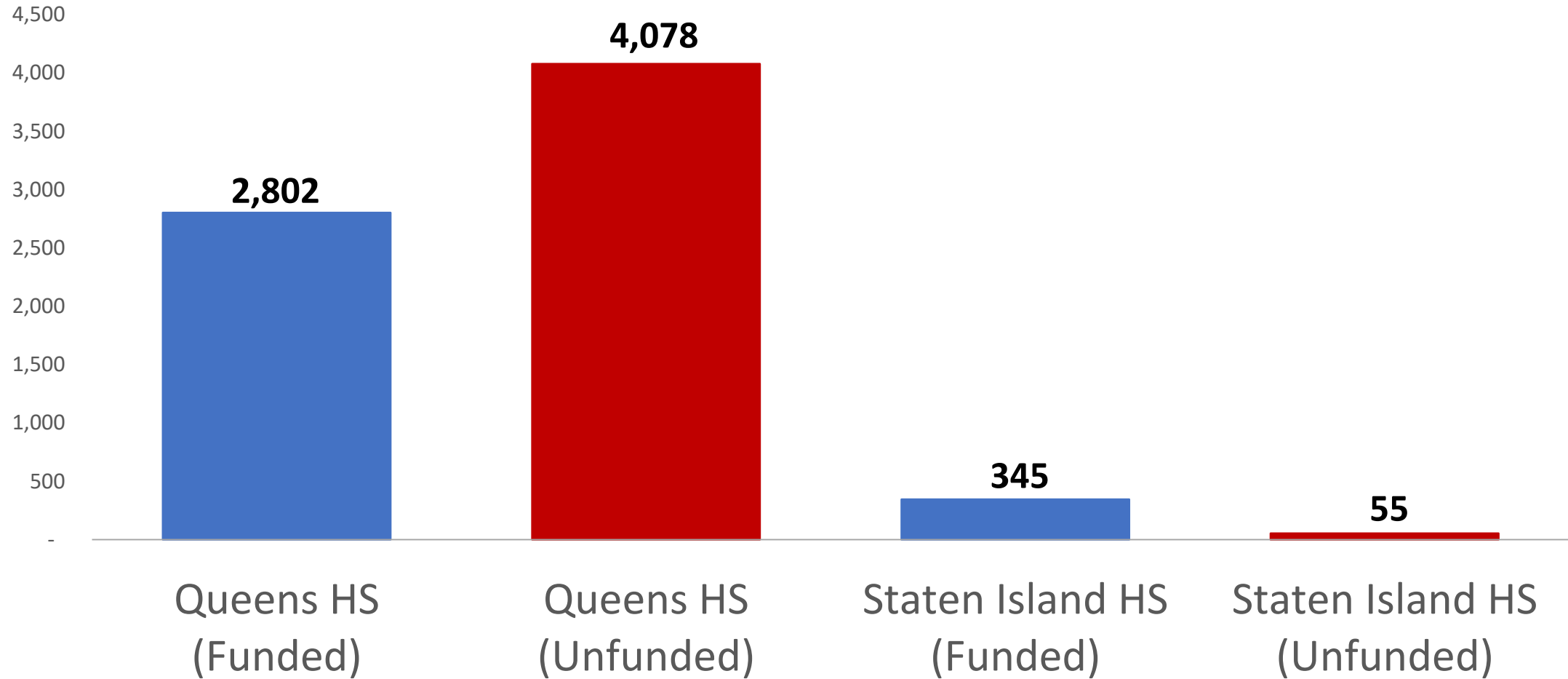


Only about one fourth of of needed K-8 seats have sites and are in process of design according to DOE –

4 districts there are none: D7, D9, D14 & D22



Funded vs. unfunded high school seats by borough Capital Plan 2016



DOE claims no more HS seats needed in Manhattan, Bronx or Brooklyn

Our estimates suggest that the actual unfunded need is much higher

- Over 500,000 students are currently in overcrowded schools according to DOE data
- DOE school capacity formula is based on average class sizes larger than currently exist in NYC schools (28 students per class in 4-8th grades; 30 in HS)
- Even using DOE's own formula and data, DOE estimates of need are less than would follow from rapid growth in many districts
- Their enrollment projections have proven faulty many times and their projections using housing starts are based on Census data more than 16 years old.

School siting dysfunctional

- There are districts where schools have been funded *for more than ten years without a single school sited or built* ;
- School Construction Authority only has one person on staff per borough looking for sites for schools;
- The SCA never uses eminent domain to acquire sites unless the property has recently been on the market;
- They never “cold call” to try to identify potentially available sites before they go on the market;
- There have been more than 4,000 seats funded for 3 years in the “class size reduction” category with only three small projects identified

We need a new planning process for schools

-- So that schools are built efficiently along with new housing and not years afterwards

--Developers should have to pay into a fund for new schools or provide space for a new school in their development

---In most large states and districts, developers have to pay an “impact fee” to help fund new infrastructure including schools, but not in NYC

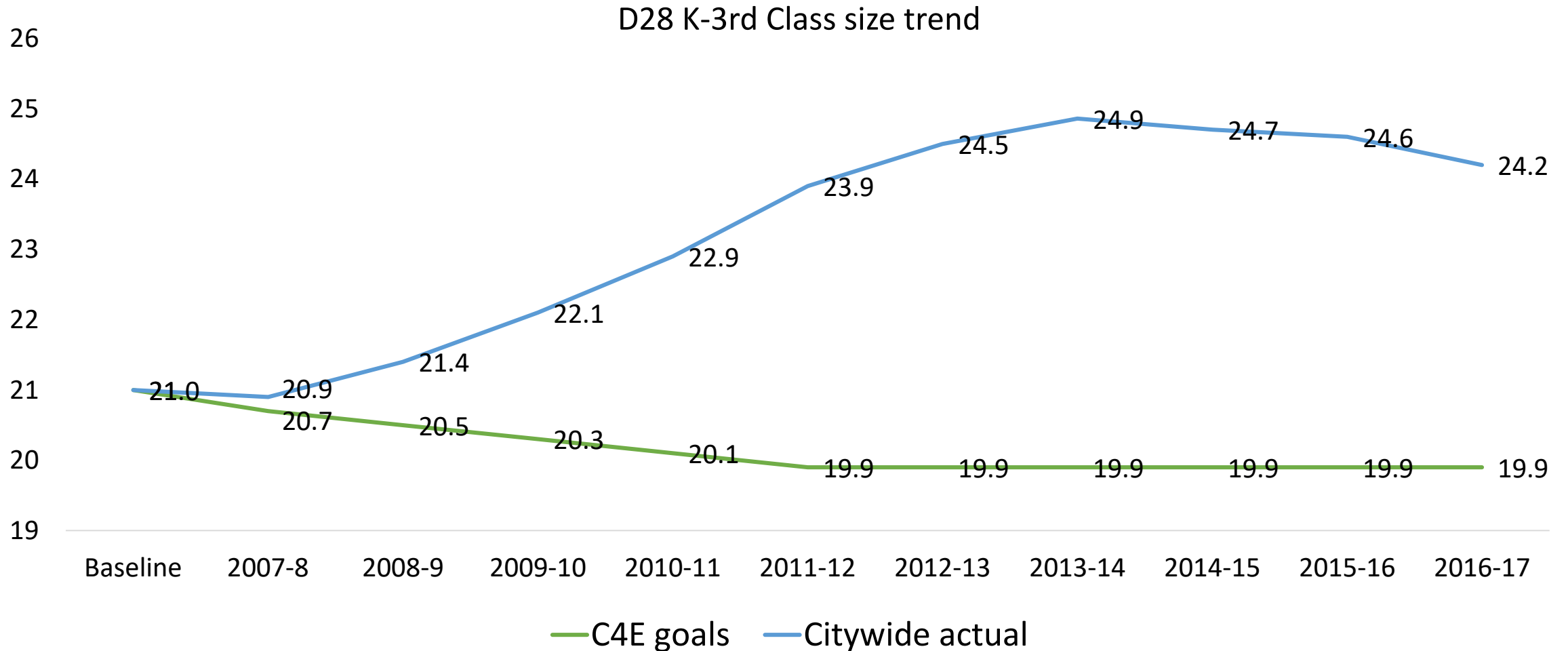
---In NYC planning process, a new residential development has to increase overcrowding by a large percent to even consider the need for a new school – even in neighborhoods where the schools are ALREADY very overcrowded.

----That’s why we need a Commission to come up with proposals to improve the school planning and siting process.

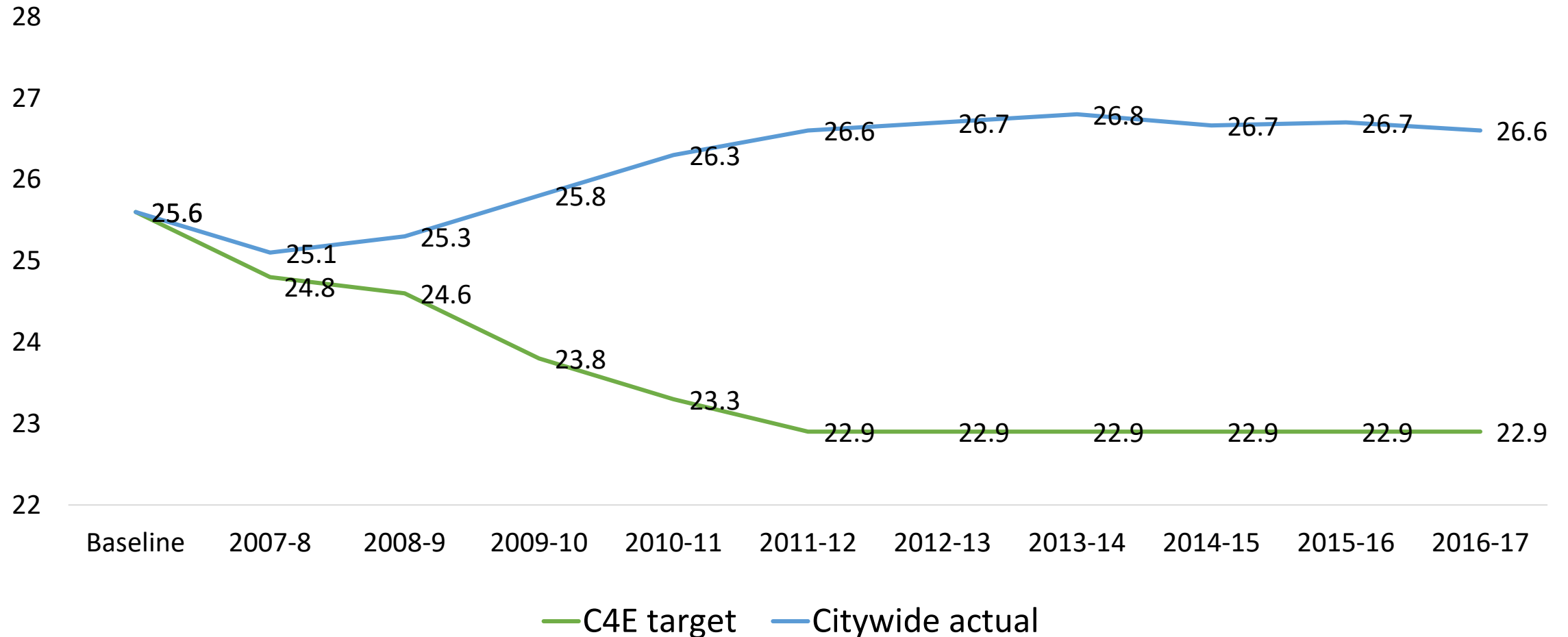
And what's happening with class size?

- The following are average citywide class sizes according to the Nov. 2016 DOE data
- Many schools and districts have much larger classes than indicated by these averages.
- DOE promised the NYS Education Department to reduce class sizes in all grades starting in 2007 according to the new Contracts for Excellence law, but never followed through.

Average K-3 class sizes fell slightly this fall; yet remain *more than 4 students per class above the C4E goals* DOE originally promised to achieve.



Average class size for 4-8th grades stayed at about the same as last year;
nearly 4 students over original C4E goals.



What can you do?

--Come to the Feb. 28, 2017 City Council hearings at City Hall to support our call for a improved process of school planning & siting

---Come and testify or just come at 10:00 AM to show your support; bring signs!

---Public testimony will begin about 1 PM. If you can't attend, email Council staff the day before with your testimony to jatwell@council.nyc.gov

---Or email us at info@classsizematters.org with your comments so we can put them into our written testimony

---Sign up for our newsletter at www.classsizematters.org for updates on the latest developments