



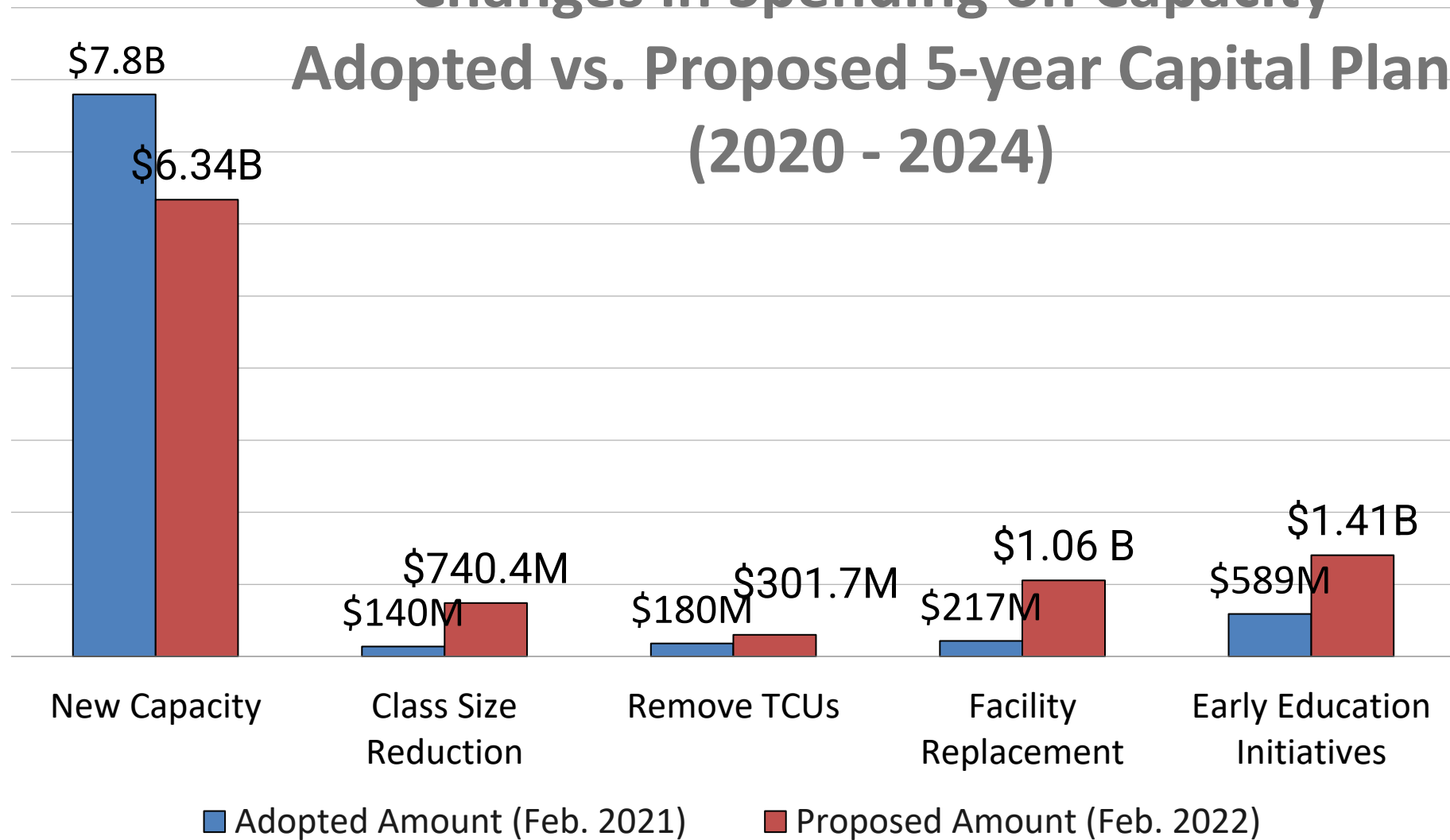
Briefing on Feb. 2022 proposed amendment to Five-year Capital Plan (2020 – 2024)

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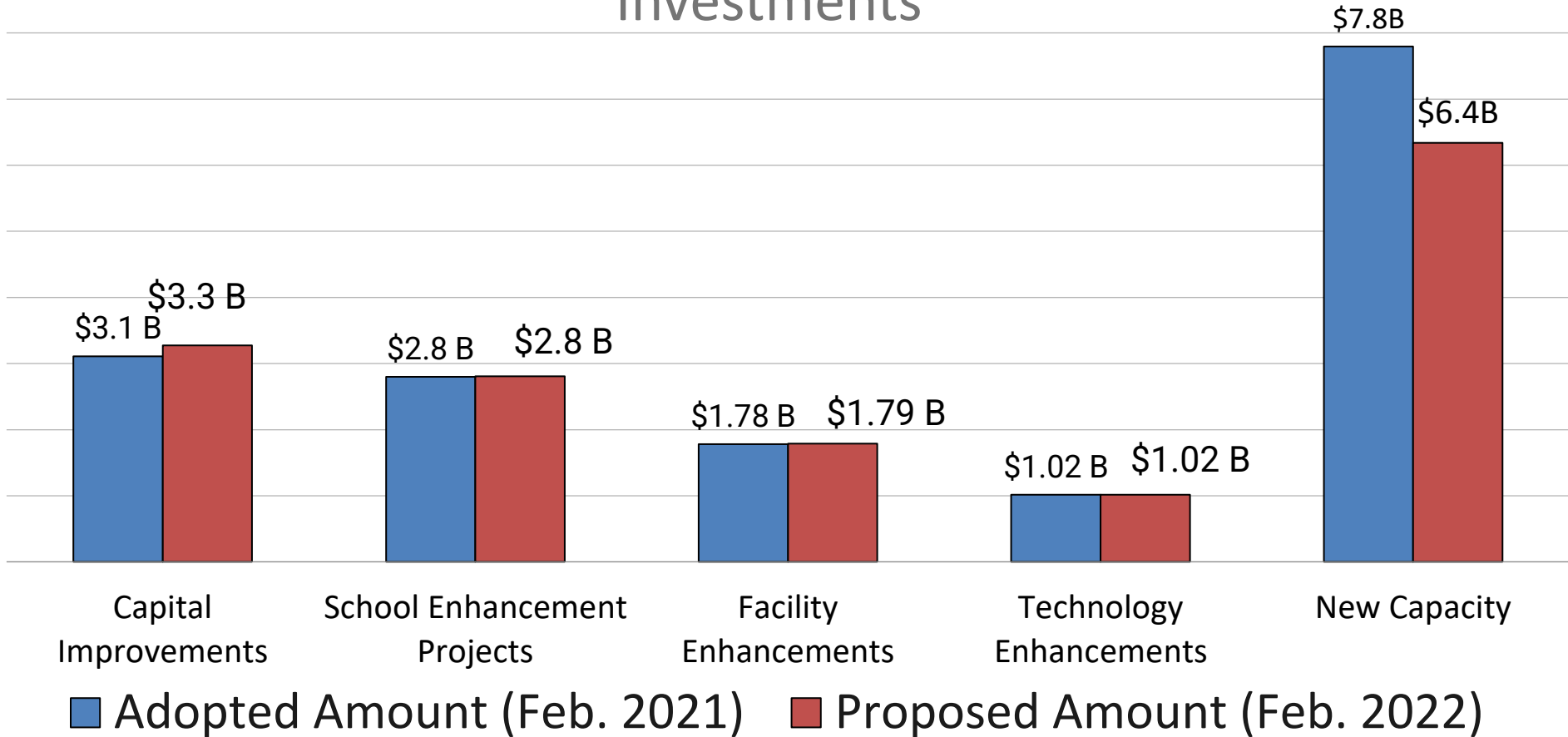
New proposed capital plan would cut \$1.5 billion in new capacity compared to plan adopted in June

- Amount to be spent on new capacity would decrease from \$7.8B to \$6.3B in the adopted plan
- Number of new school seats cut from 57,498 to 45, 883 – a cut of 20%
- Net cuts of more than 11,000 new seats, with more than 6,000 cut from Queens and nearly that many from the Bronx.

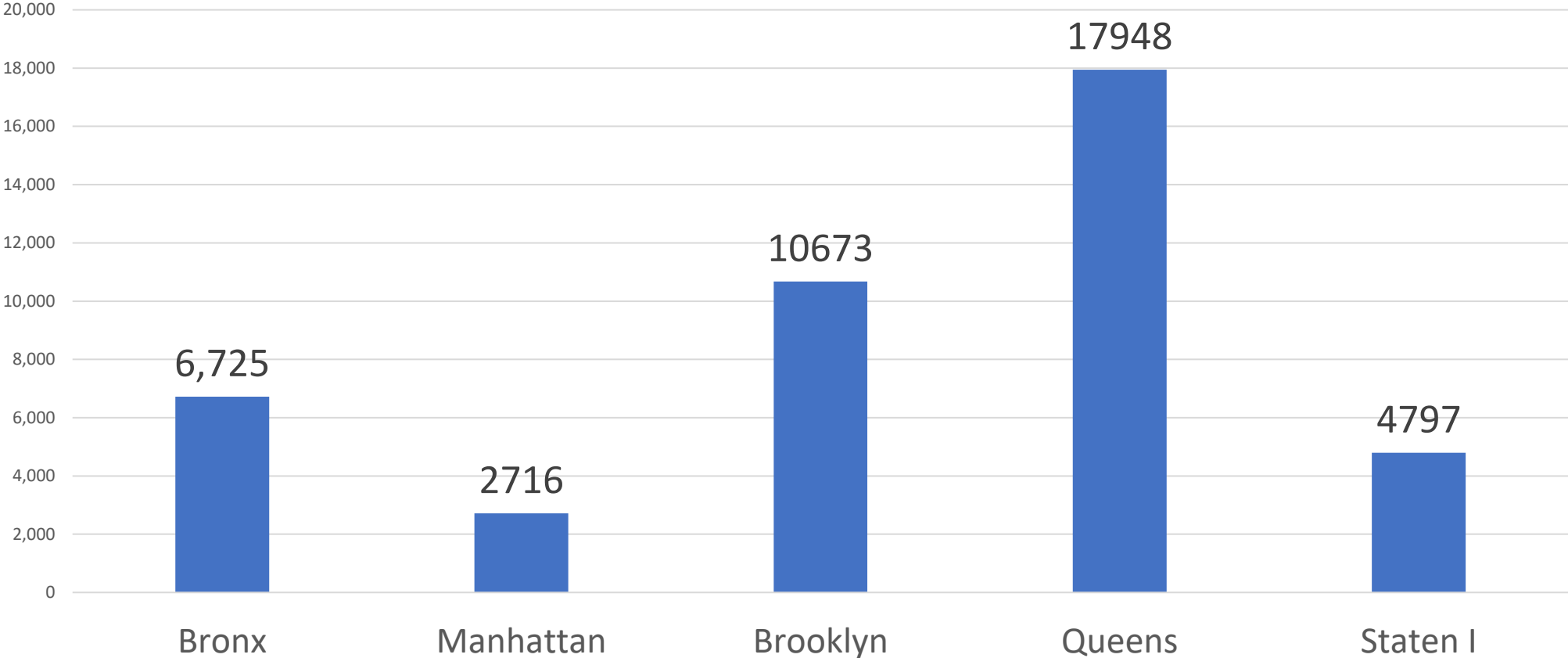
Changes in Spending on Capacity Adopted vs. Proposed 5-year Capital Plan (2020 - 2024)



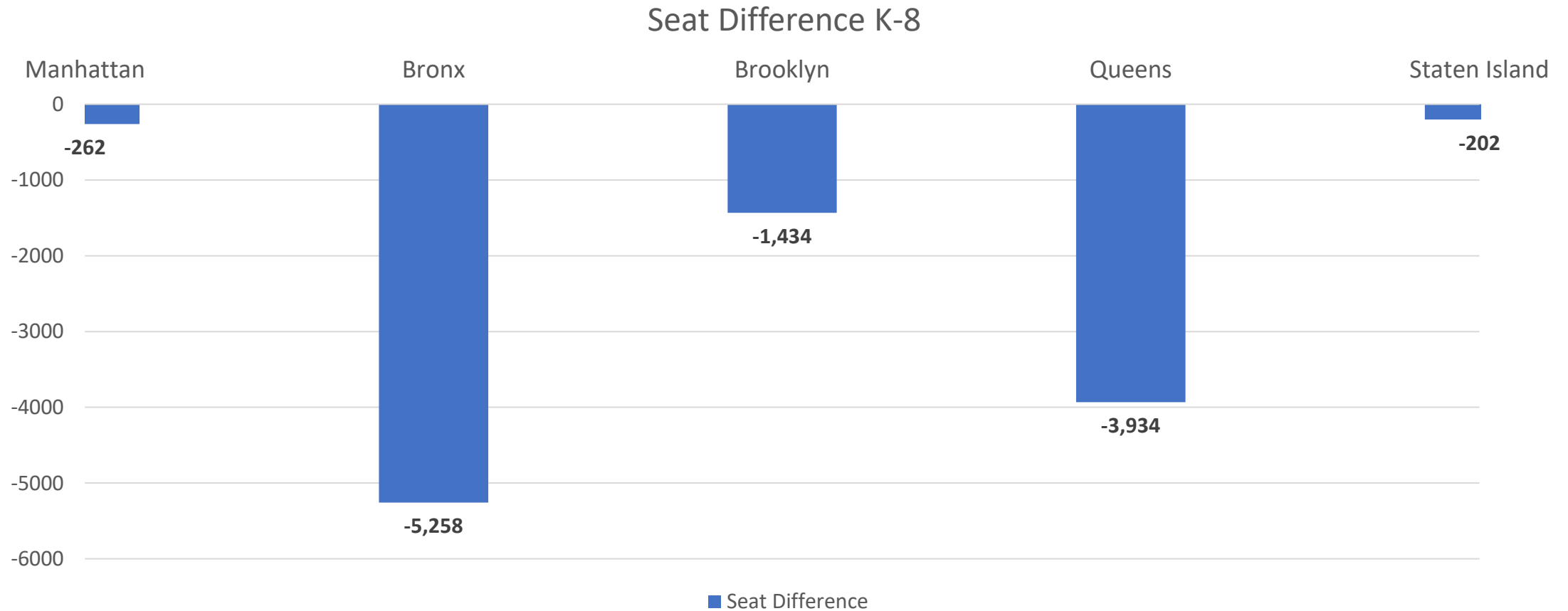
Changes in Capital Plan Spending on Capital Investments



New seats funded by borough in proposed Feb. 2022 Capital plan

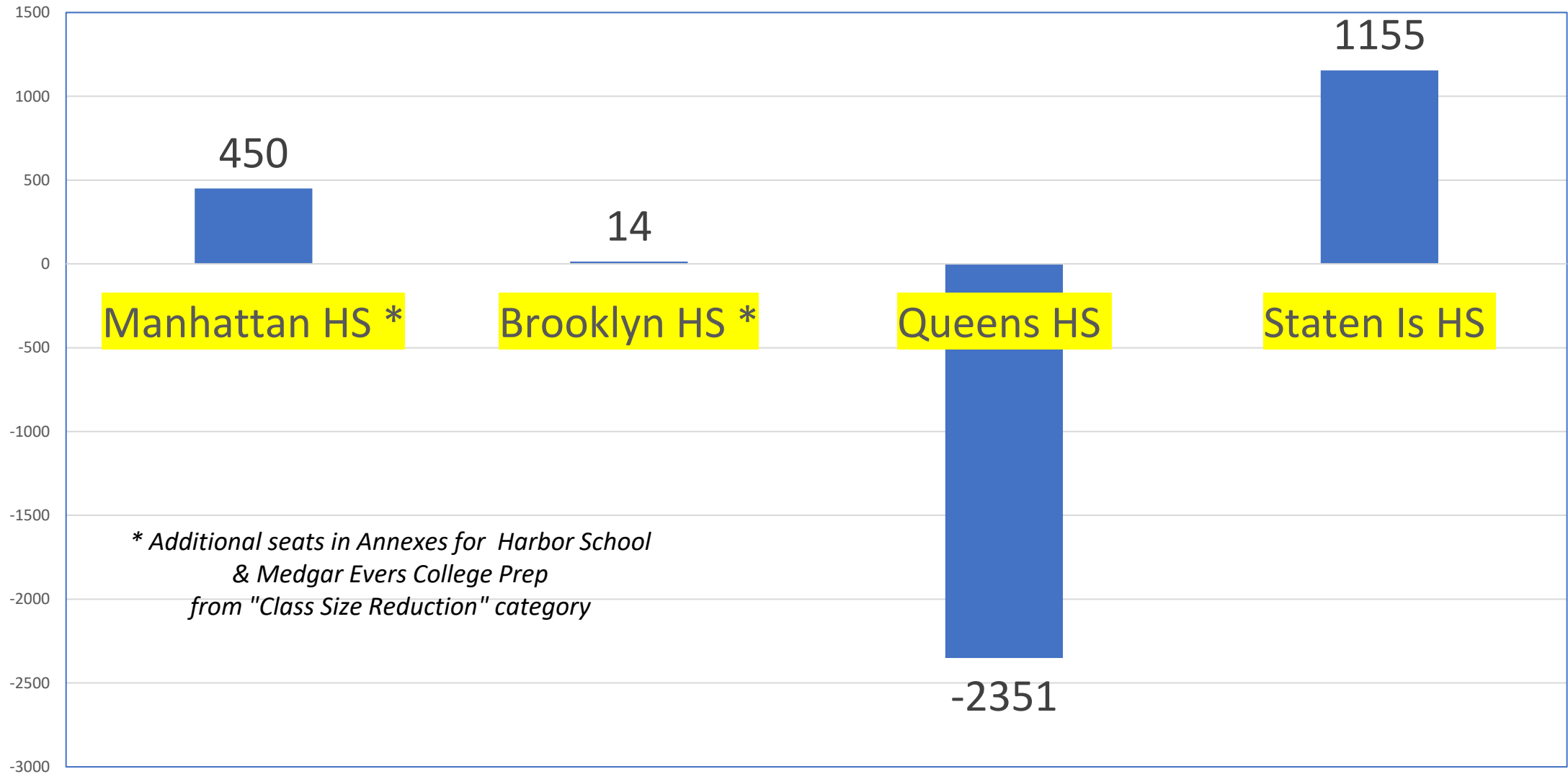


K-8 Seat changes by borough Proposed vs adopted cap plan



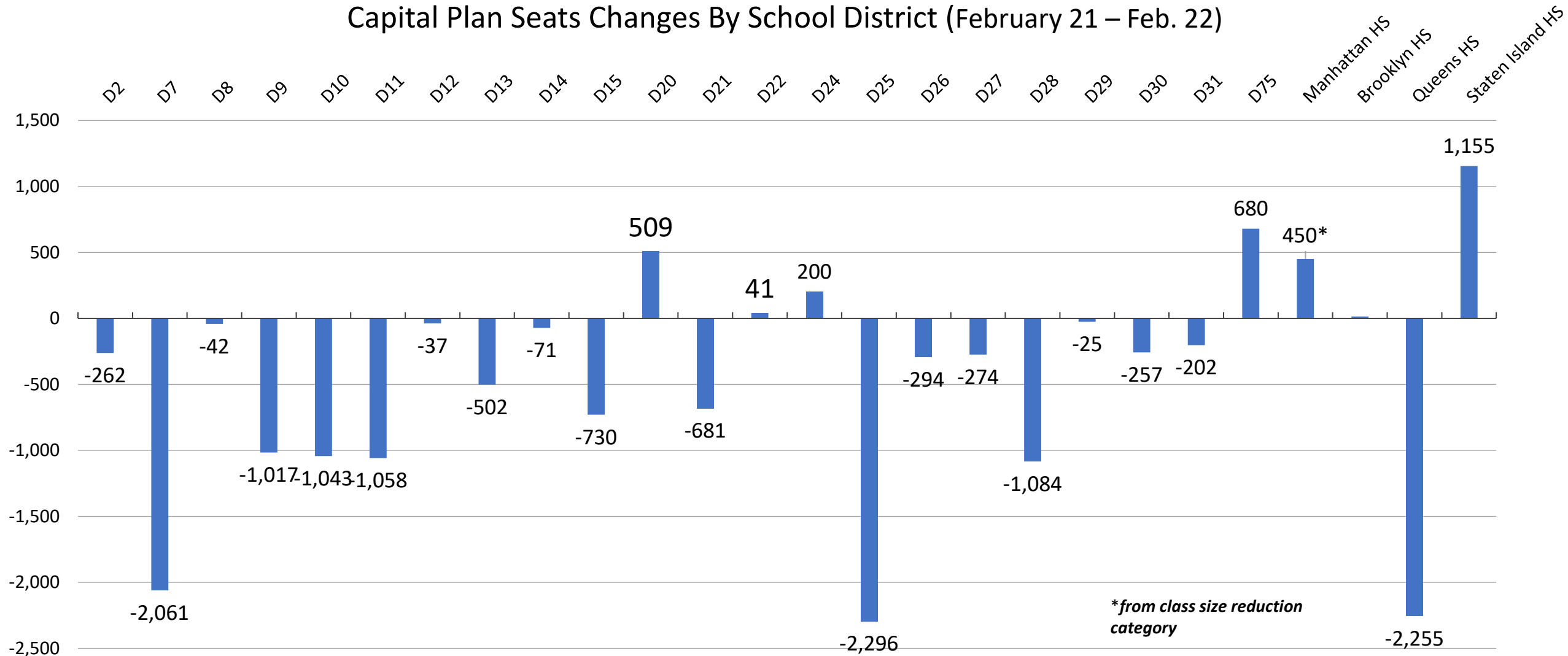
HS seat changes by borough

Proposed vs adopted capital plan



Proposed capital plan would cut funded school seats citywide by over 11,000 seats compared to the adopted plan.

Capital Plan Seats Changes By School District (February 21 – Feb. 22)



What's perplexing about these cuts...

- In latest Blue Book (DOE annual school capacity/utilization report) maximum classroom capacity lowered to 23 students per classroom in grades 4-8, and 25 students per class in high school
- Previously these capacity figures were at 28 for grades 4-8 and 30 for HS classes. (Max capacity per classroom was already 20 students per class in grades K-3.)
- One would think that would create need for MORE space, not less.

However, they made another change to the capacity formula

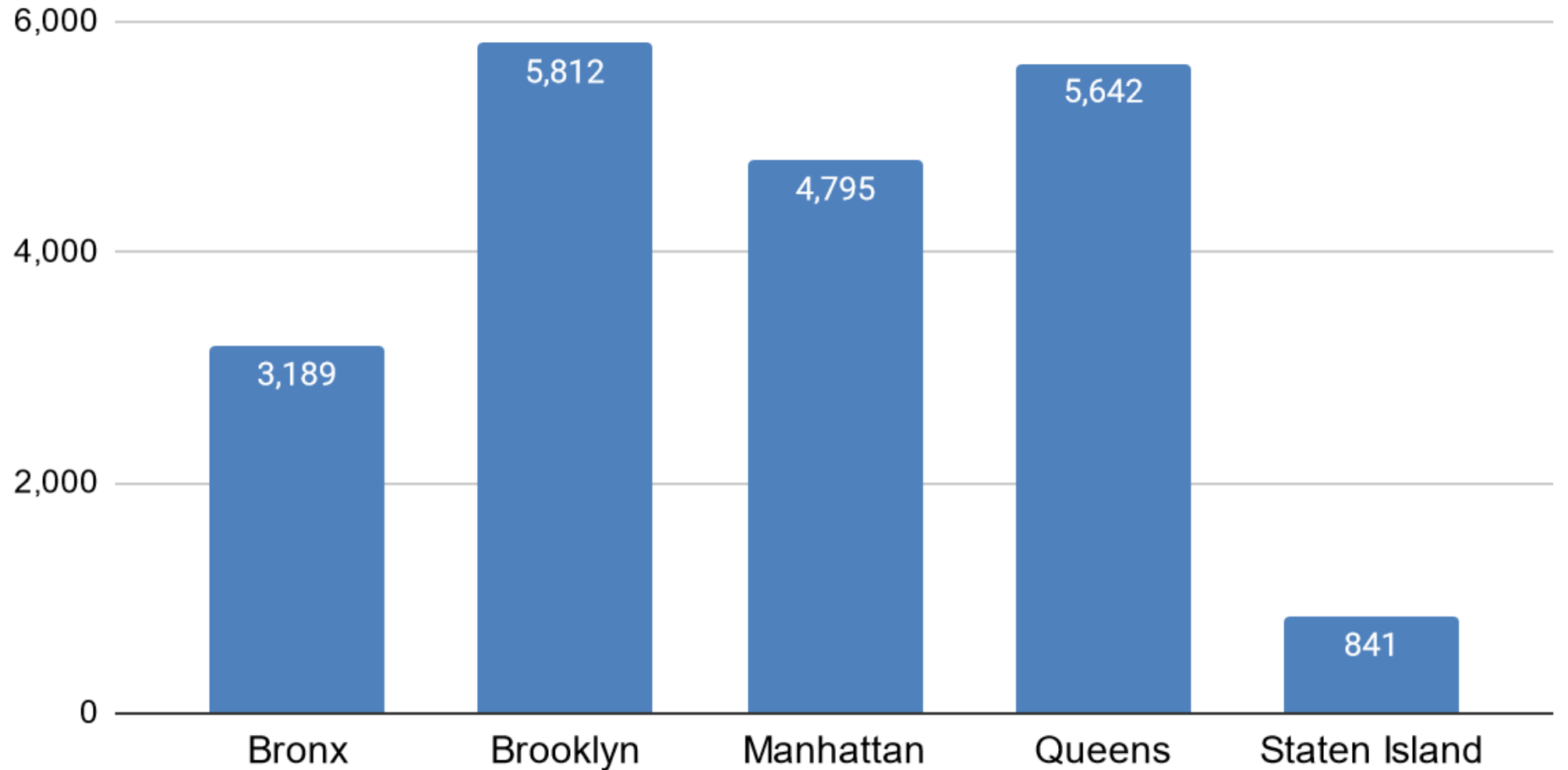
- In previous Blue Books, they included an “efficiency ratio” that set out how many periods a day they expected classrooms to be occupied.
- Typical classrooms were expected to be in use 7 of 8 periods a day. Specialty rooms – science labs, music classrooms, etc. –in use 5 of 8 periods a day
- In the latest BB they write, *“we are dropping the program efficiency ratios in capacity calculation for middle and high schools. The program efficiency ratios were used to partially account for lower classroom capacity but are no longer needed.”*
- That means they assume that ALL classrooms are filled during ALL periods, impossible in most schools.

Scheduling all classrooms 100% of time impossible in most schools

- In elementary schools, classrooms will be empty during lunch period for the class, during gym, and whenever the teacher has her prep period
- In most middle and high schools, impossible to schedule specialty rooms like art rooms, dance rooms or science labs when the art, dance or science teacher having prep period or lunch.
- A dance room cannot be used as regular classroom without desks etc.

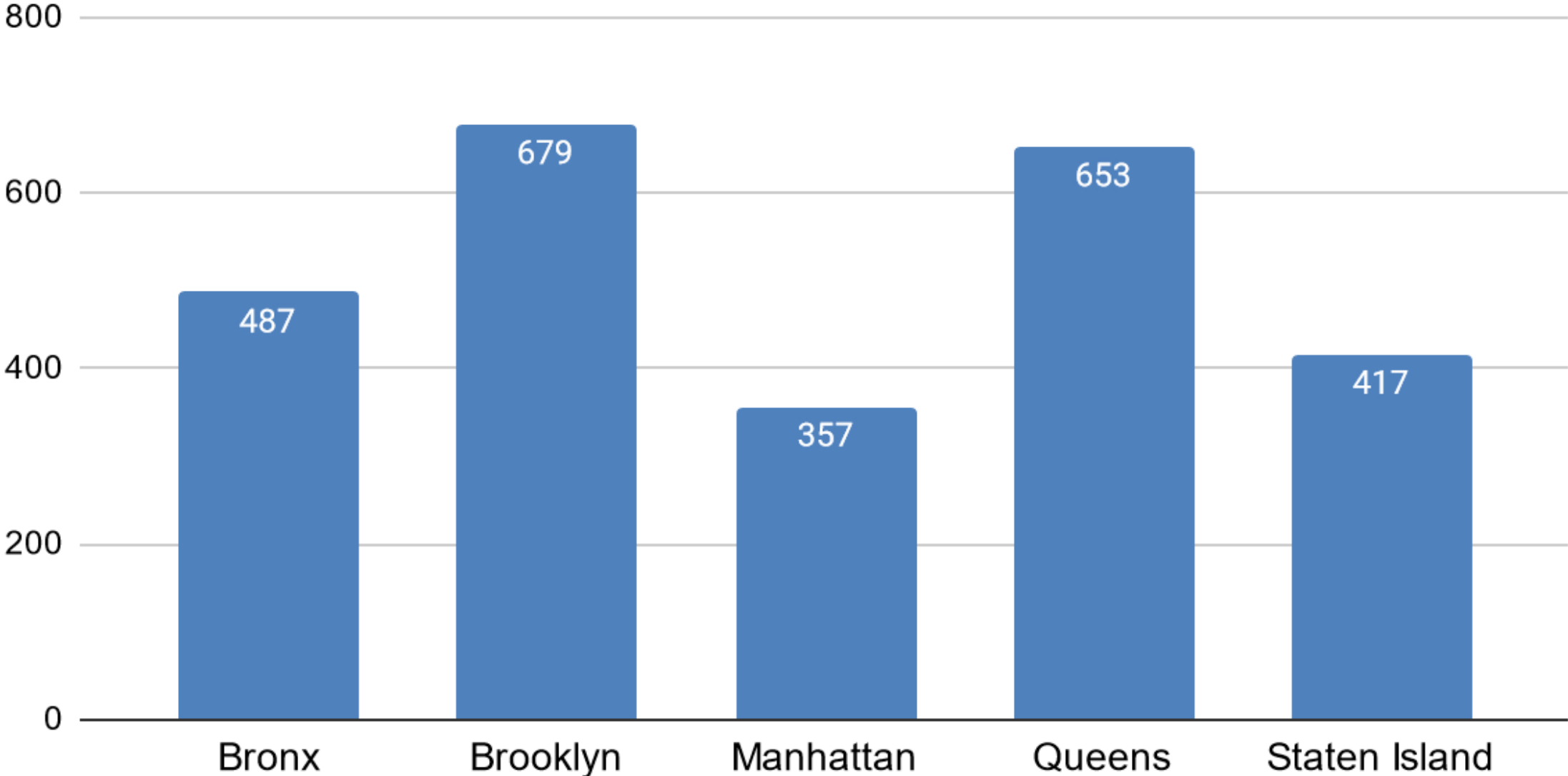
20,279 Seats Added to High Schools due to Revision

Sources: Blue Book 2019-2020 versions 1 and 2



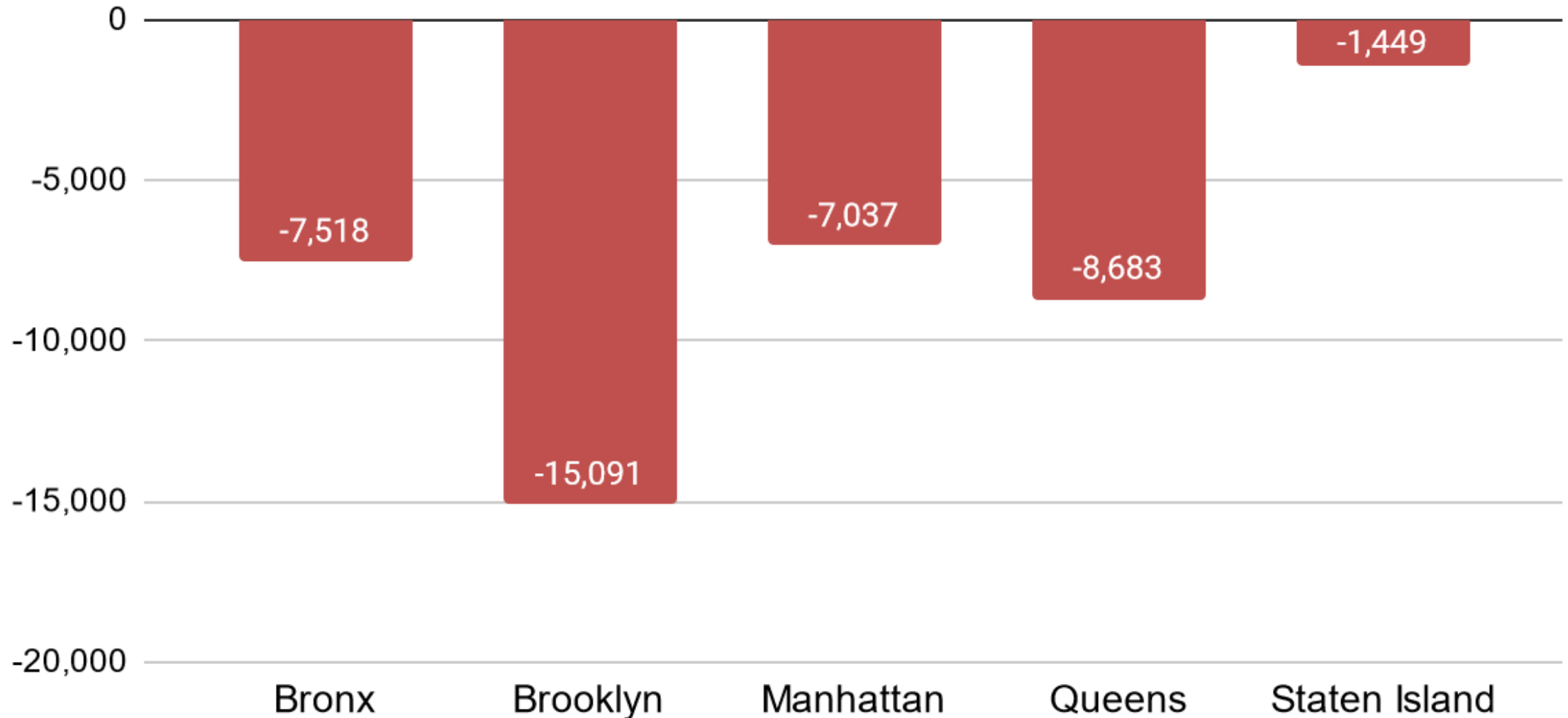
2,593 Seats Added in Middle Schools due to revision

Sources: Blue Book 2019-2020 versions 1 and 2



39,778 Seats Subtracted in Elementary Schools due to Revision

Sources: Blue Book School Utilization Report, & Restated BlueBook Target Calculation



SCA/DOE claims they're building sufficient seats but haven't abided by 2 laws passed in 2018 to improve transparency and efficiency in school planning

[Local Law 167](#) (2018) requires DOE to make methodology for new school seat needs projection transparent and present need estimates by grade level . Unclear if expansion of 3K & charter co-locations are included.



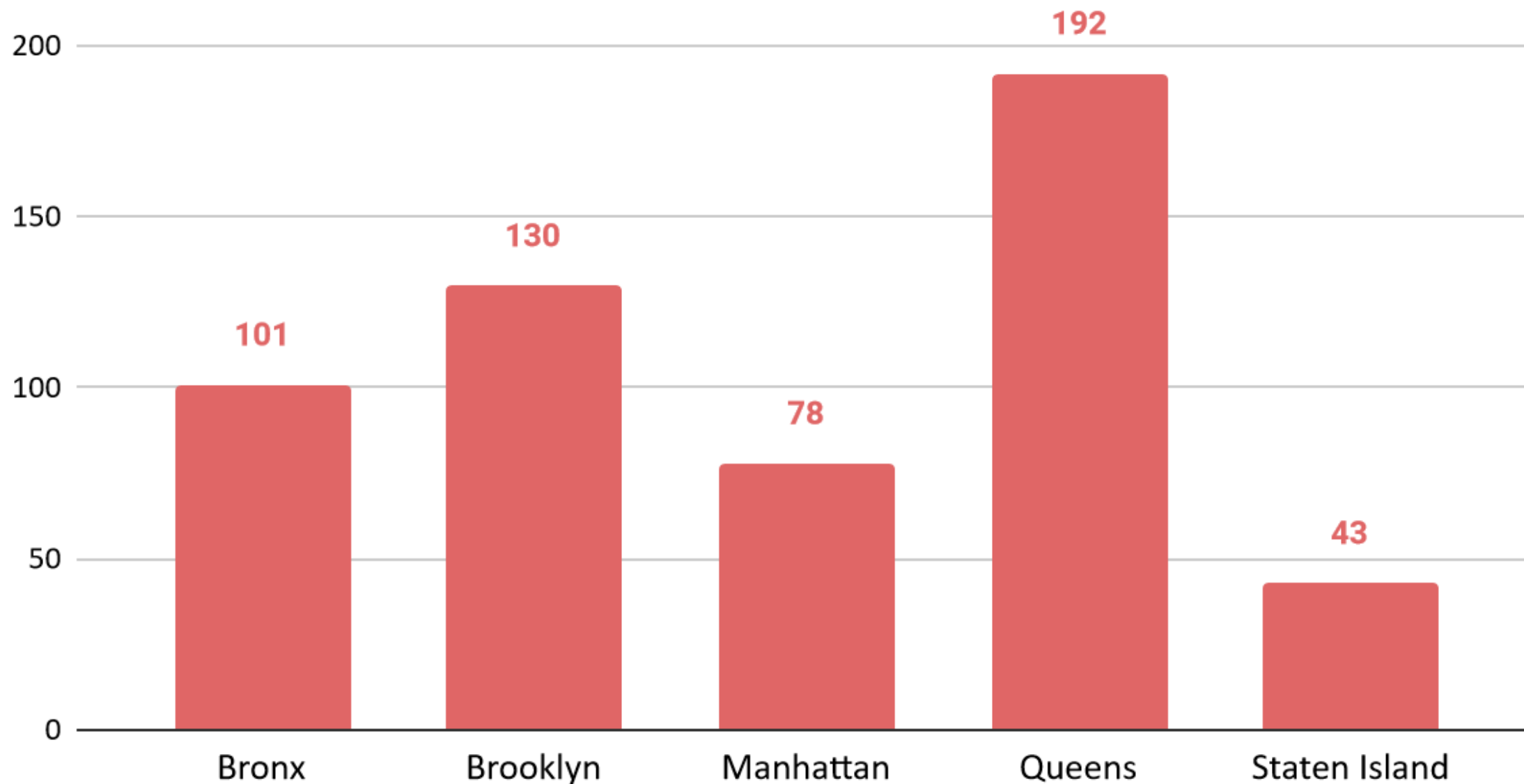
[Local Law 168](#) (2018) created a Task Force for School Siting to identify sites where new schools could be built, including all empty lots owned privately and by the city.



The Task Force met twice, released a 2-pg report & a spreadsheet that ruled out hundreds of city-owned sites for unclear reasons, and never reported on suitability of thousands of privately-owned sites.

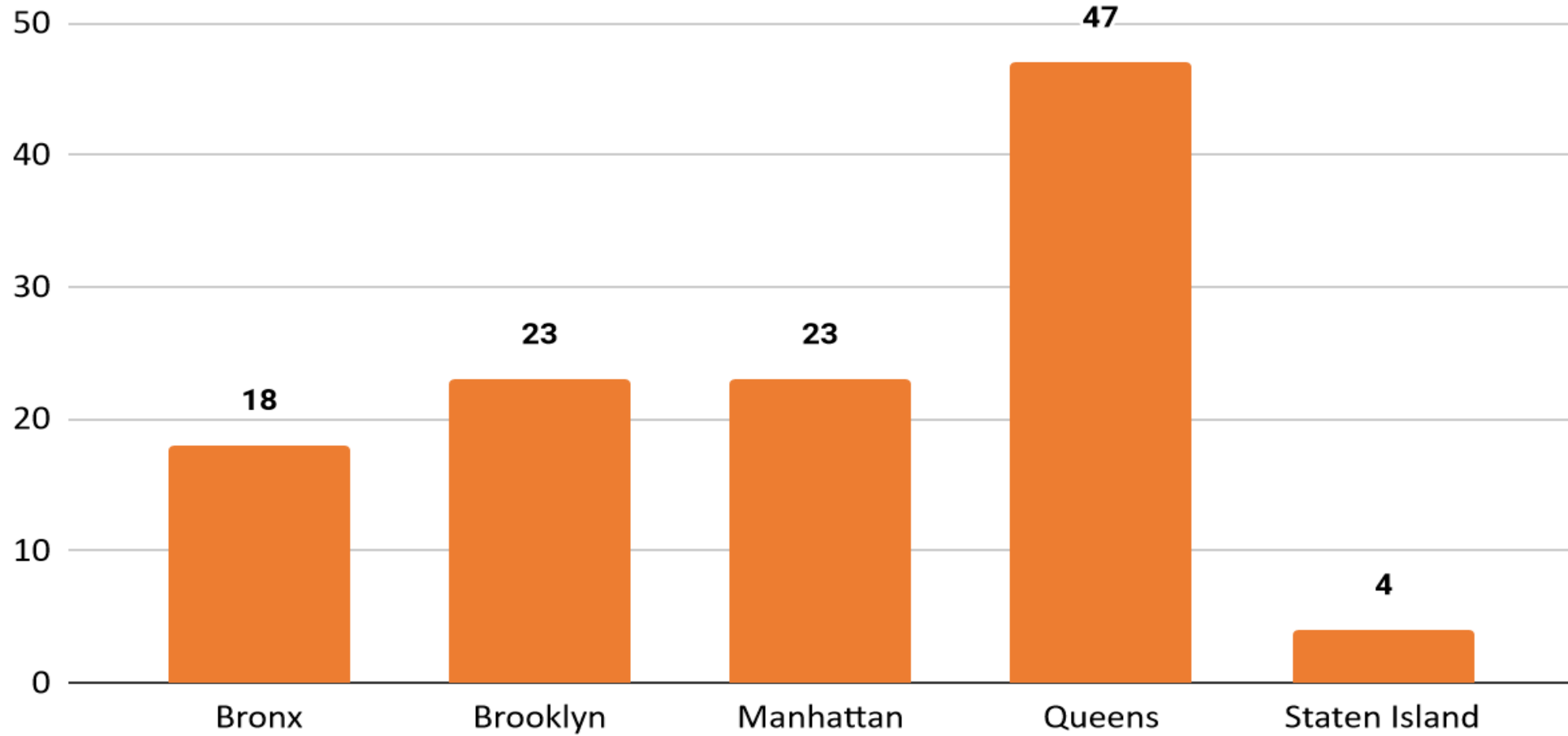
Total Number of Overutilized Schools (554)

Source: Blue Book School Util Data (2019-20)



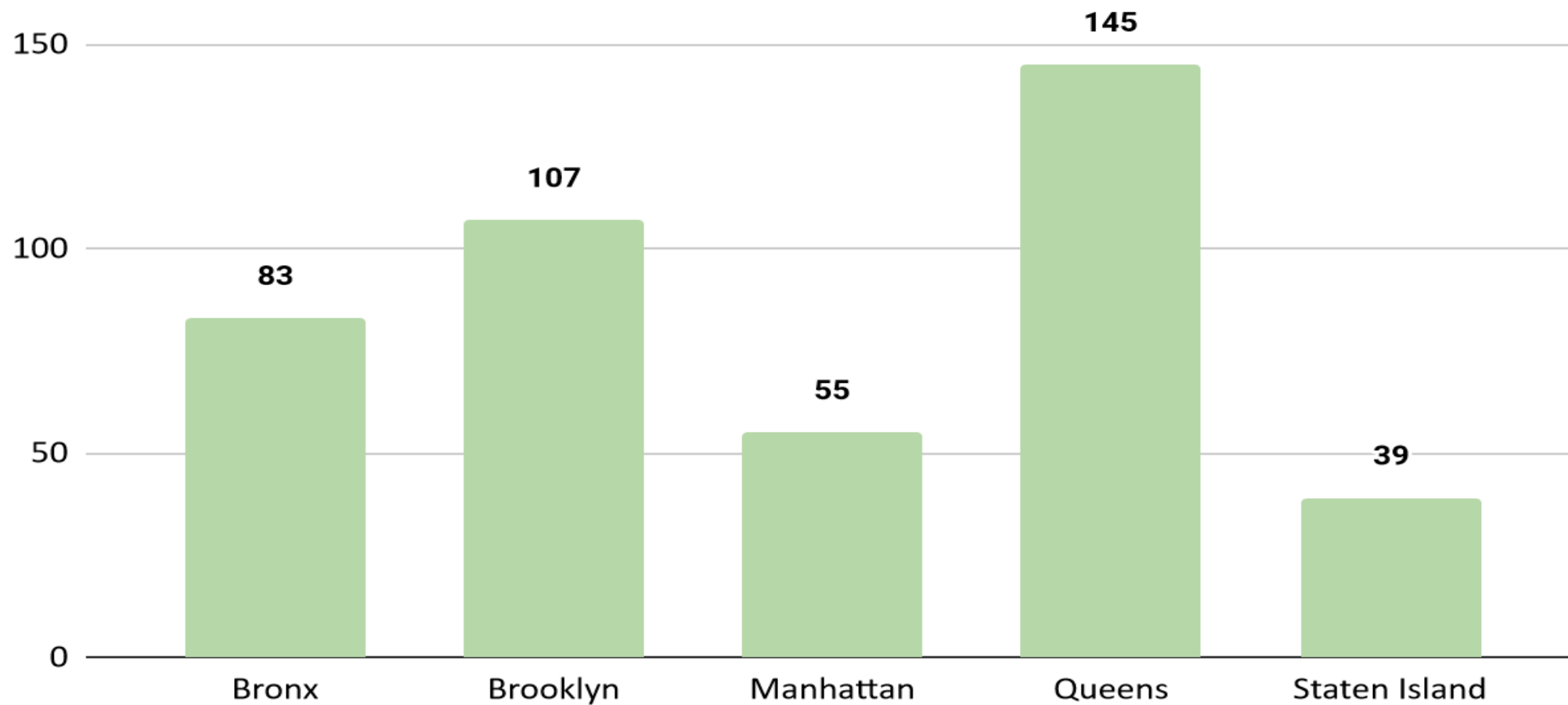
115 Overutilized High Schools Citywide

Source: Blue Book School Util Data (2019-20)



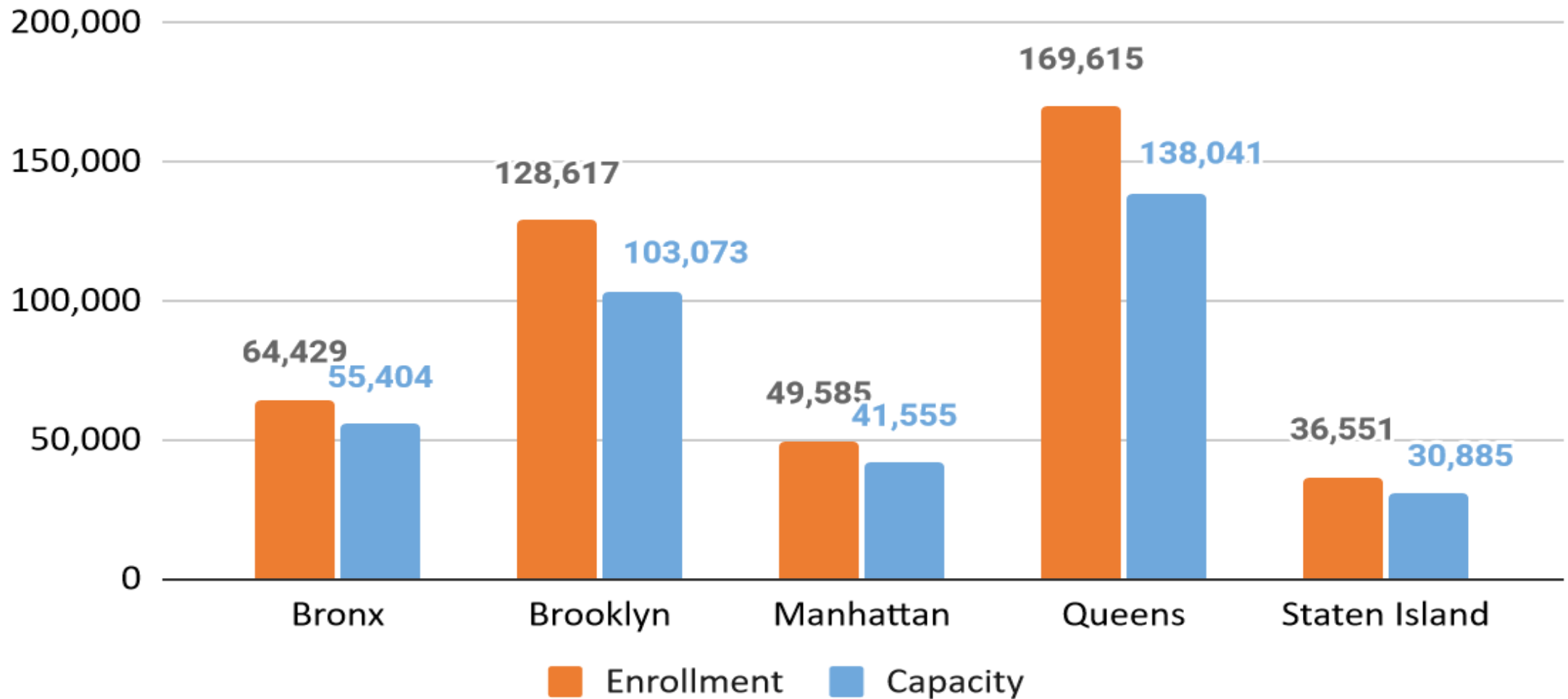
429 Overutilized K-8 Schools Citywide

Source: Blue Book School Util Data (2019-20)



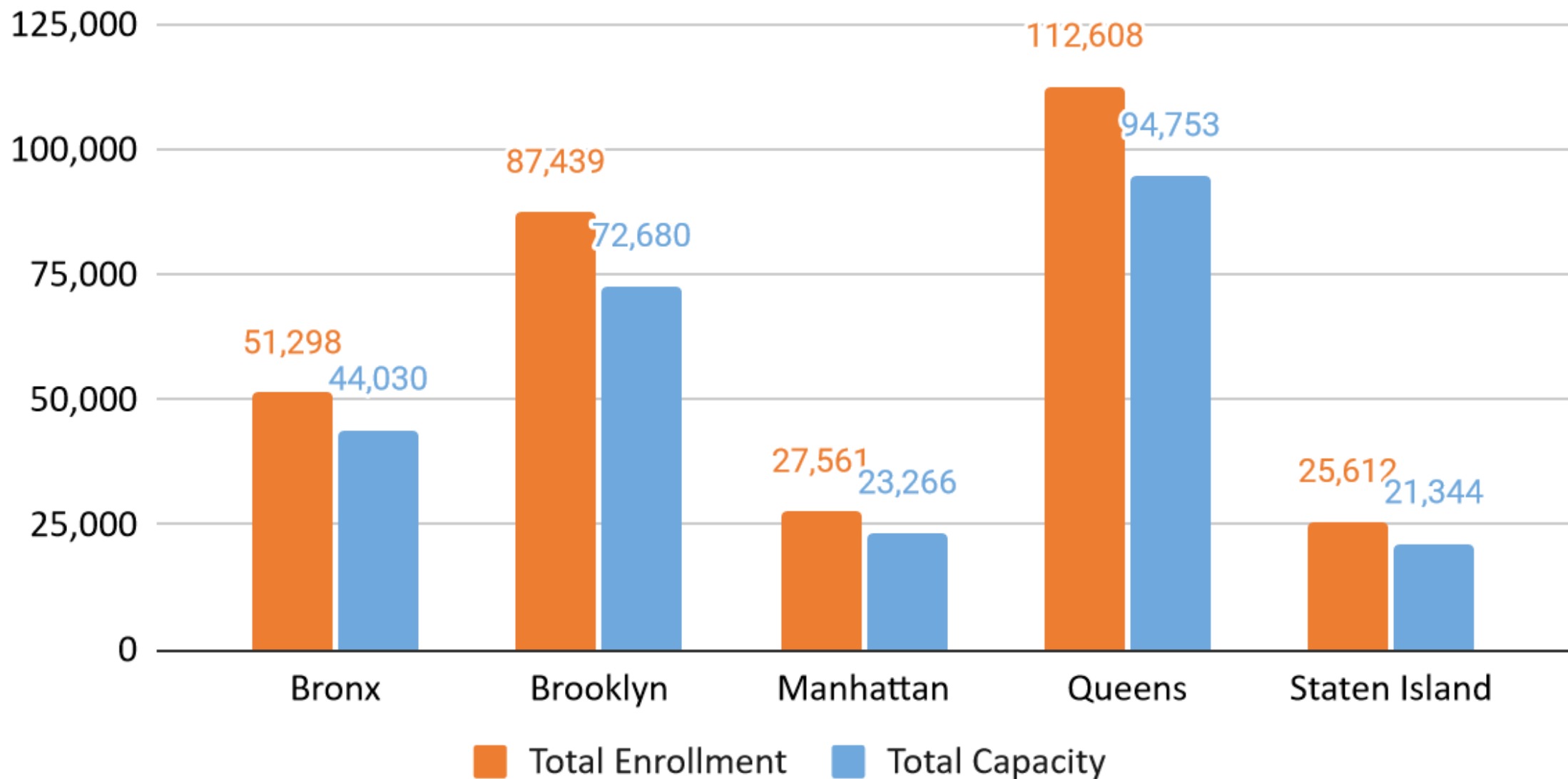
More than 448,000 Students in Overutilized Schools

Source: Blue Book School Util Data (2019-20)



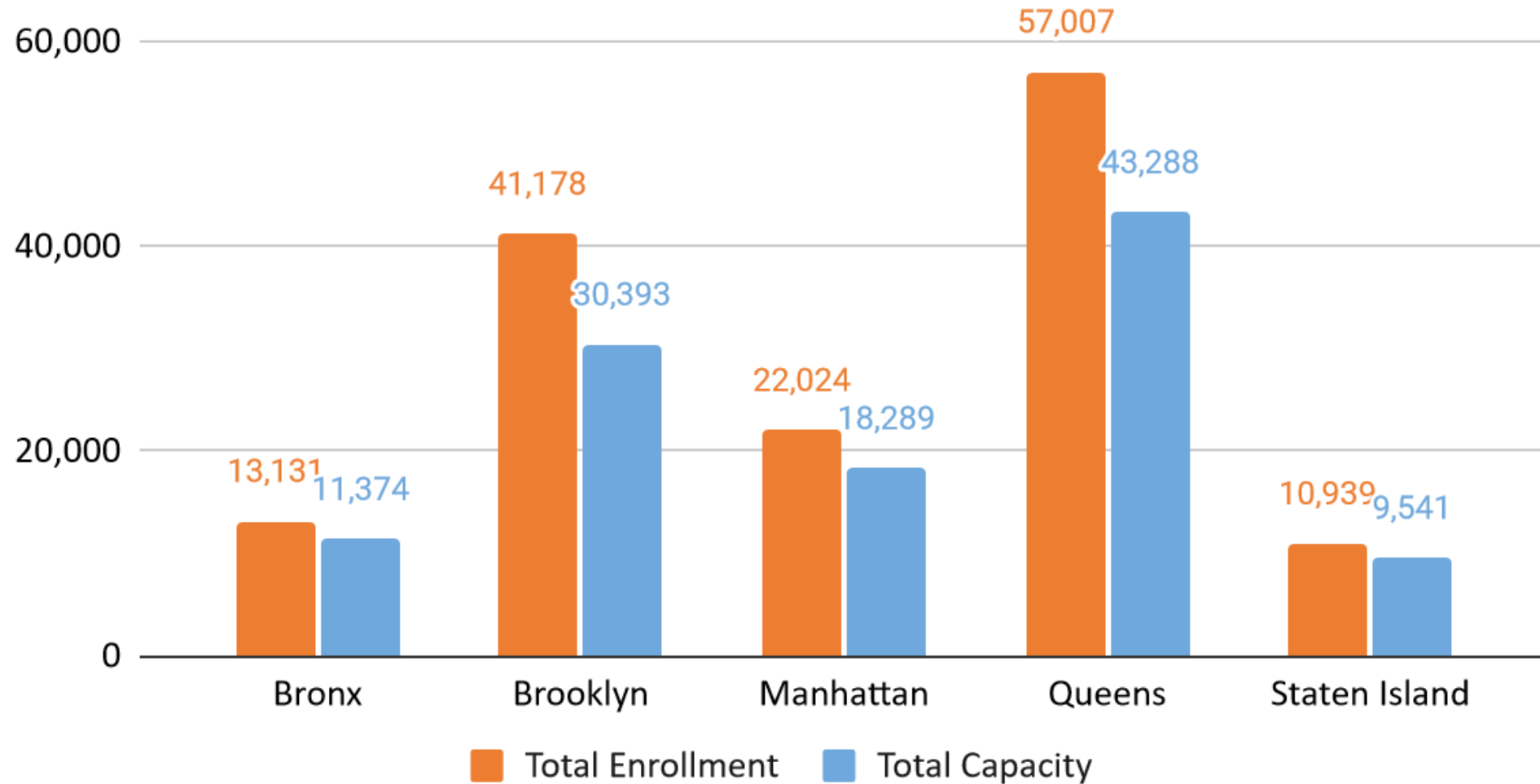
304,518 K-8 Students in Overutilized Schools

Source: Blue Book School Util Data (2019-20)



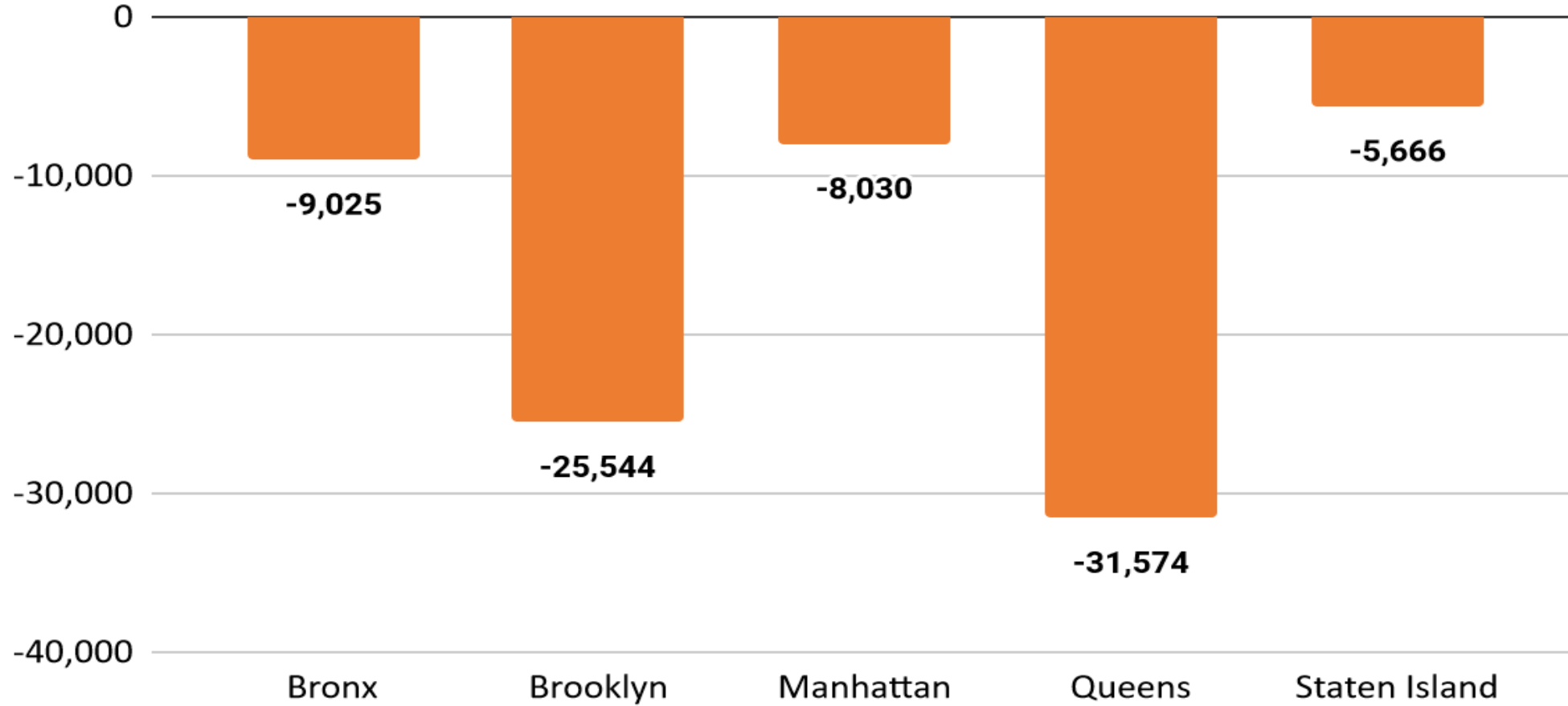
144,279 High School Students in Overutilized Schools

Source: Blue Book School Util Data (2019-20)

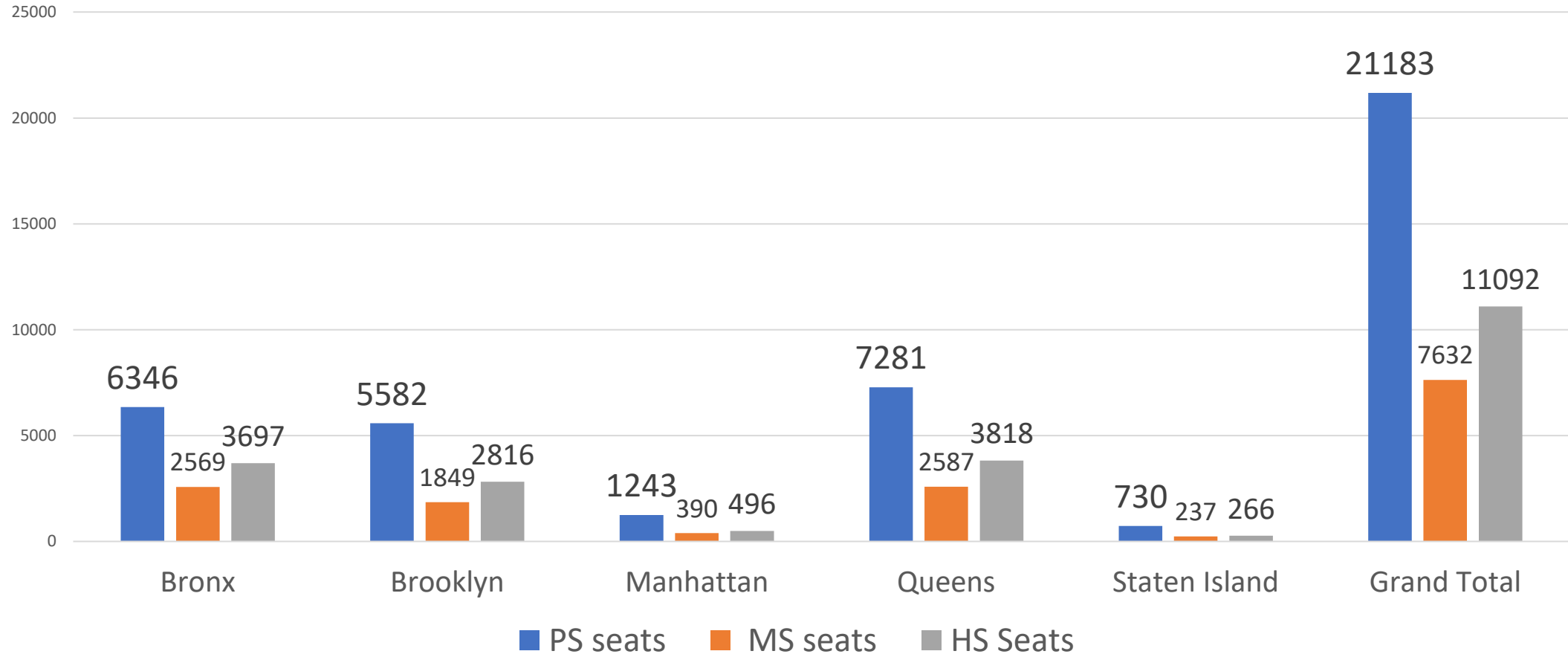


79,839 Additional Seats Needed in Overutilized Schools

Source: Blue Book School Util Data (2019-20)



Estimated 40,000 additional seats needed due to housing starts alone



data sources: [Projected New Housing Starts as Used in 2020-2029 Enrollment Projection](#)
[Combined with Projected Public School Ratio](#)

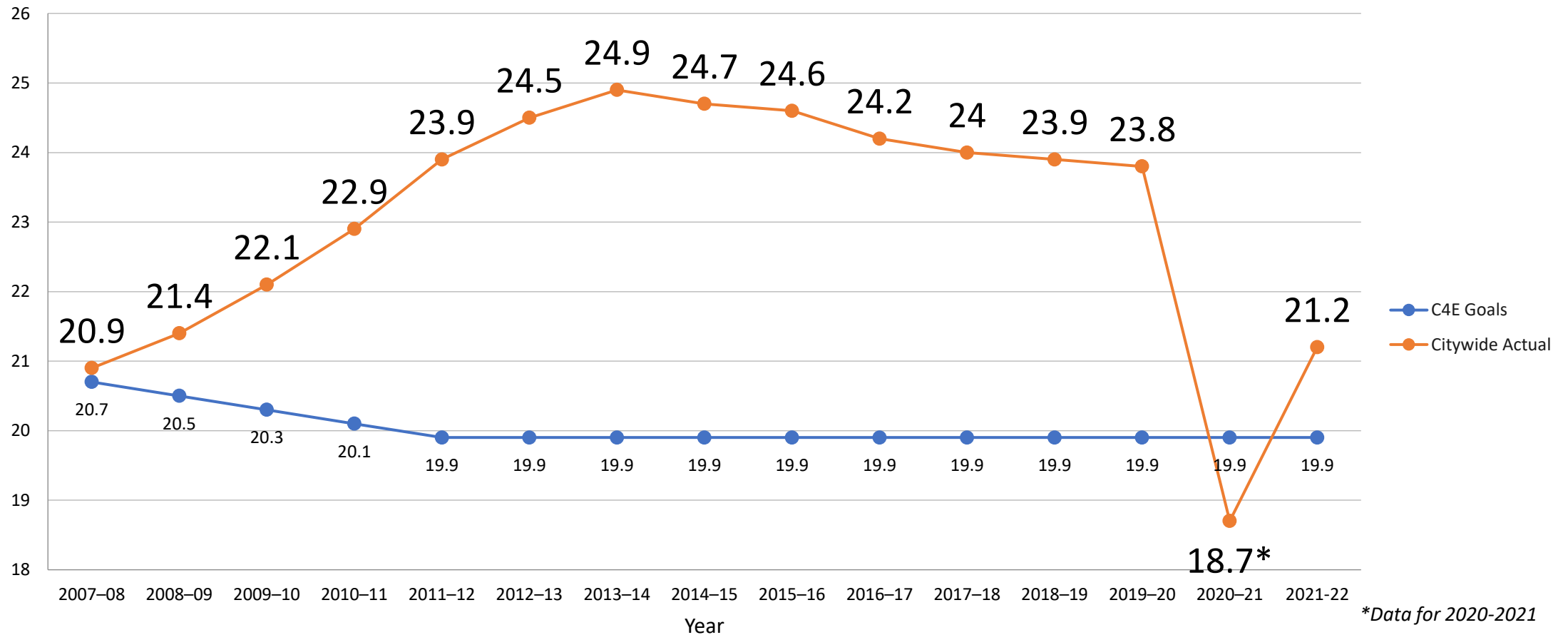
*Given the
pandemic
and its
aftereffects:*

- Smaller classes are more critical than ever to provide safety & in-person emotional and academic support NYC kids need after more than a year and a half of remote or blended learning.
- *Students will need to make closer connections with their teachers and peers more than ever before – connections that only smaller classes can provide.*



Citywide class sizes have decreased significantly on average THIS YEAR in K-3 due to enrollment decline (fewer gen-ed, ICT, gifted classes in these grades)

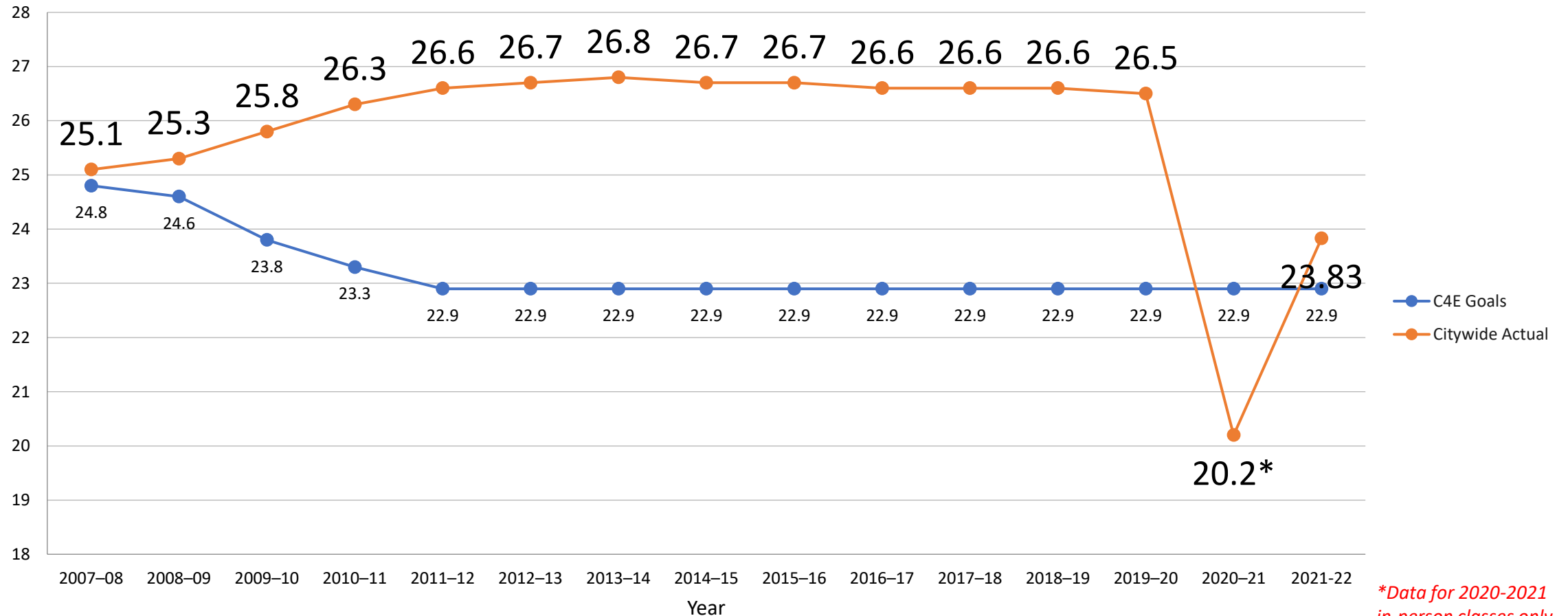
Average Citywide K-3rd Class Sizes



*Data for 2020-2021

Citywide class sizes have also fallen in grades 4-8 on average due to enrollment decline

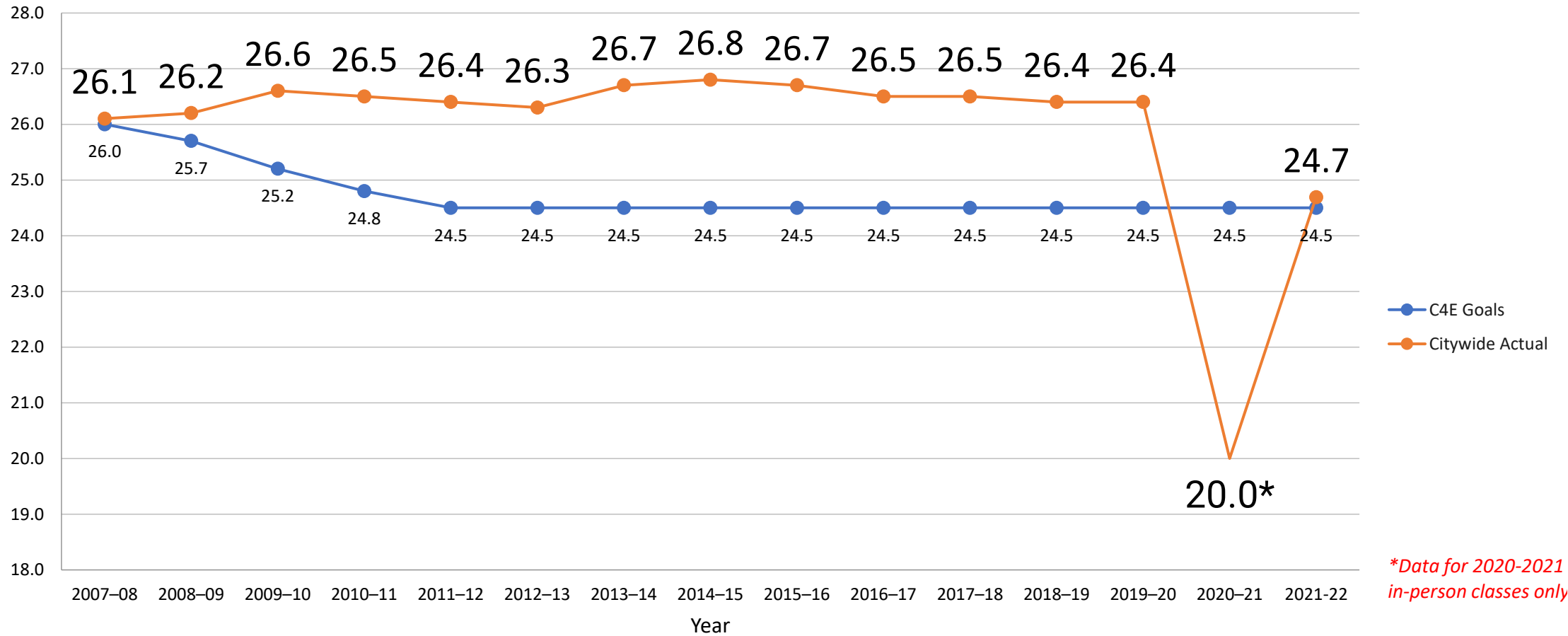
Average Citywide 4th-8th Class Sizes



**Data for 2020-2021 in-person classes only*

And in high schools...

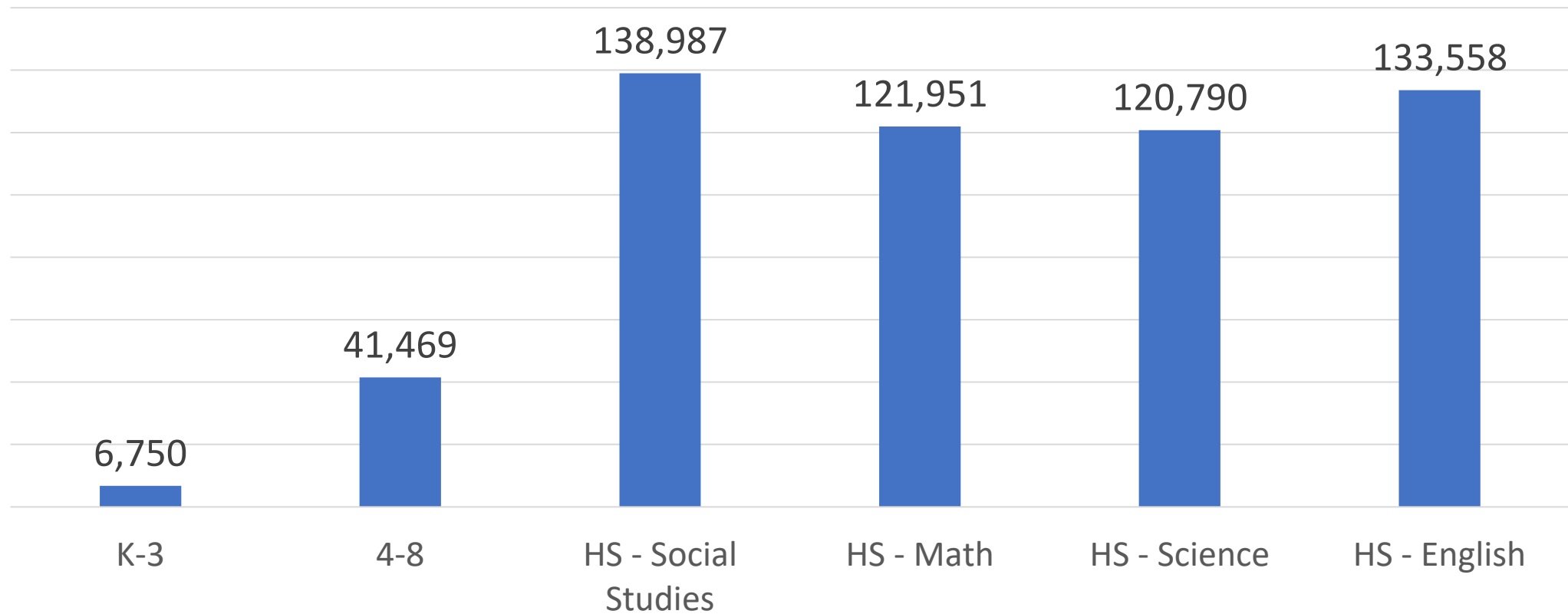
Average Citywide HS Class Sizes



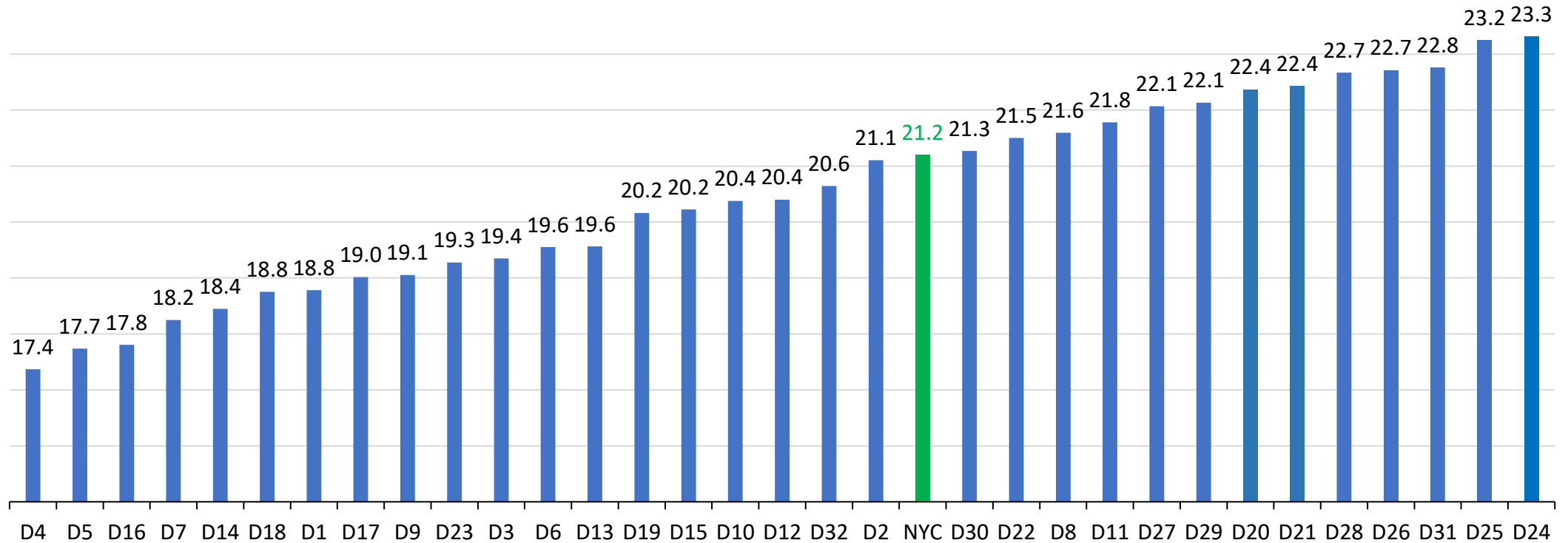
**Data for 2020-2021
in-person classes only*

But more than 187,000 NYC students are STILL in classes of 30 or larger

(only HS social studies classes in total, so as not to double count)

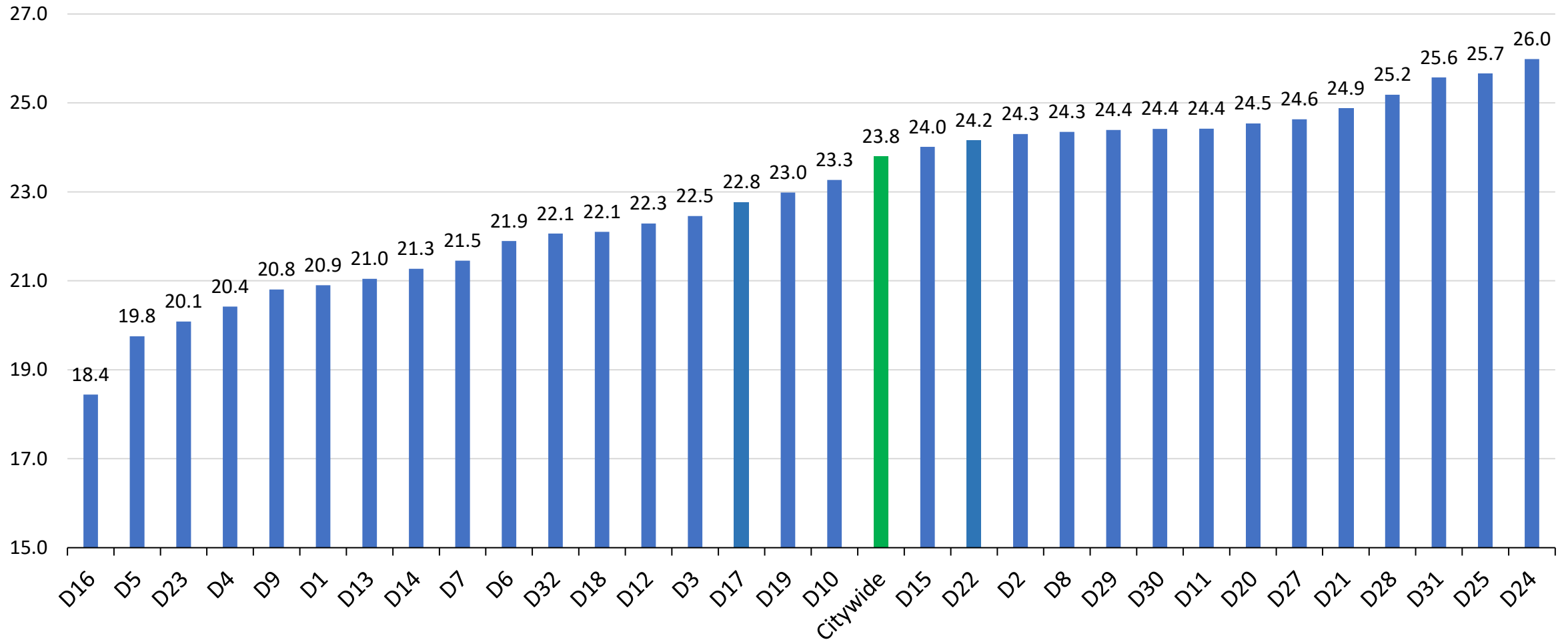


K-3 class sizes across NYC school districts remain very unequal



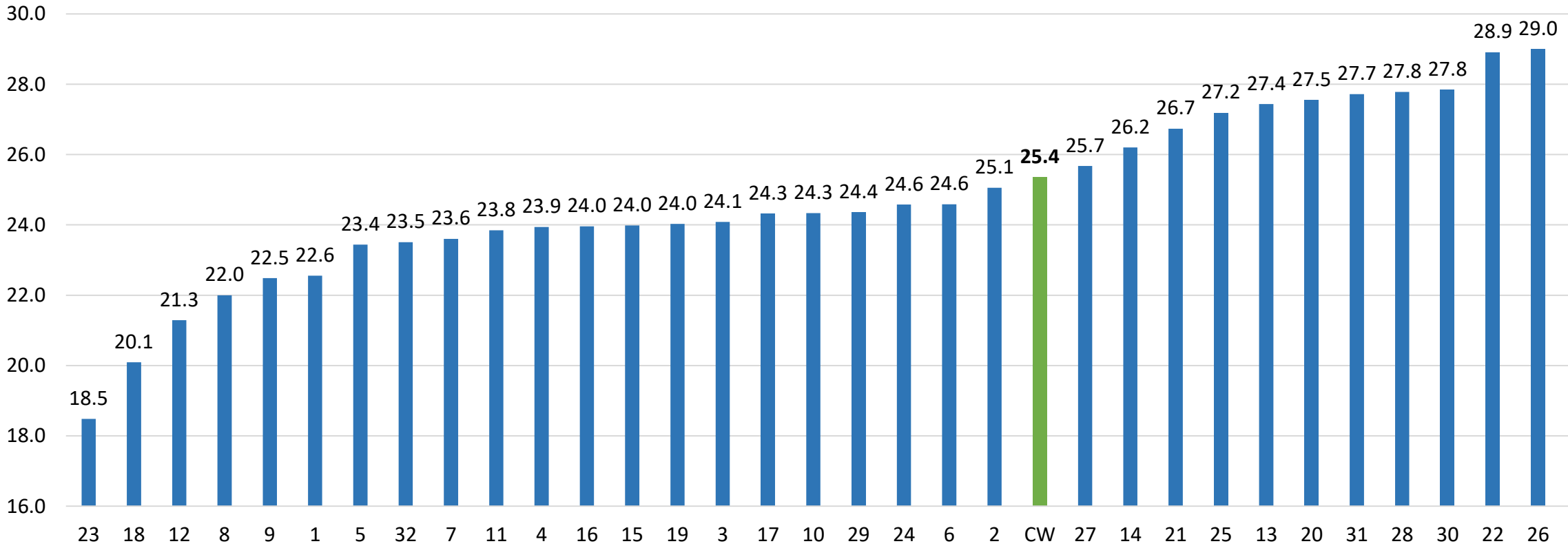
And unequal in grades 4-8...

Average class sizes 4th-8th by district Nov. 2021



Also in HS, large inequities remain.

Avg. Class Sizes in HS by District



All NYC students should be able to attend uncrowded schools with reasonable class sizes no matter where they live or go to school – especially given the disruption due to the pandemic.

- These capital plan cuts are incomprehensible, especially as enrollment may increase once again.
- Also, the Mayor proposes to cut school budgets by \$215 million next year, increasing to \$375 million over the next three years, causing projected loss of more than 3,000 teachers.
- This would cause class sizes to sharply increase once more.
- ***Our kids face bigger challenges post-Covid; they shouldn't face bigger class sizes & more overcrowding, too.***