



**Real Deal Budget Forum:**  
***budget cuts and class size in NYC & District 6***

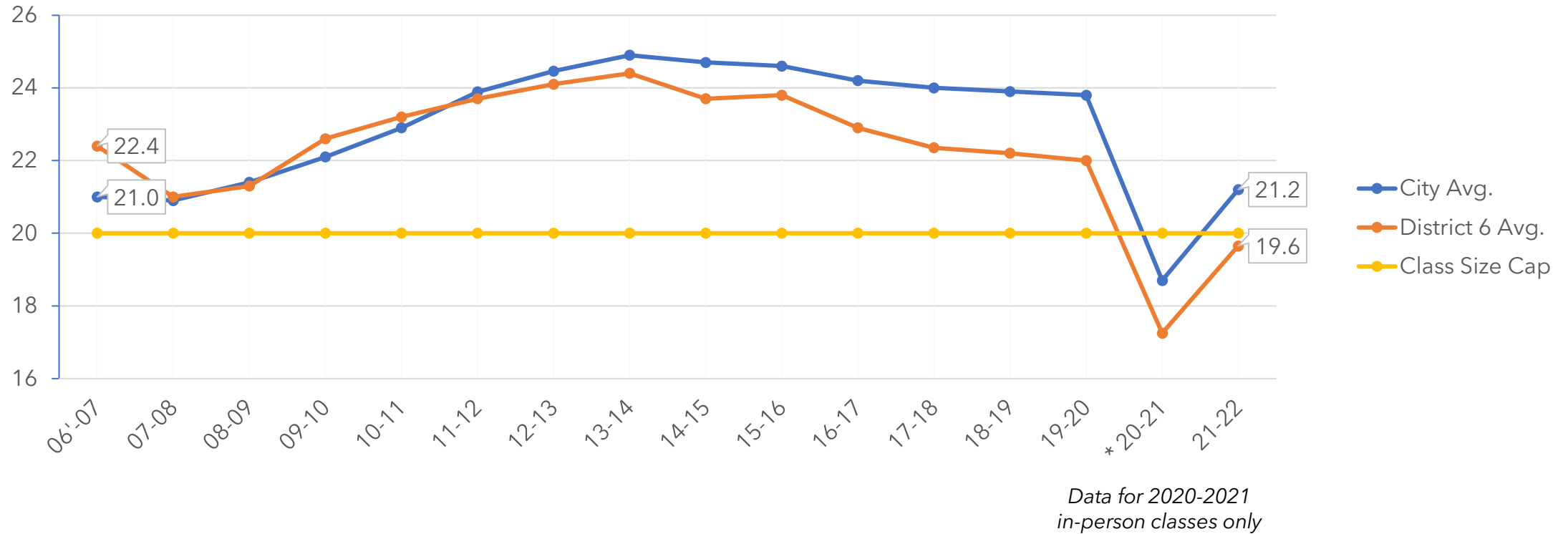
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# Last year class sizes decreased significantly citywide and in most districts; why?

- Enrollment fell sharply
- School budgets were not tied to enrollment for first time
- There was additional federal funding for Covid relief
- Many parents/teachers said class sizes ideal to meet learning & emotional needs of students, still recovering from disruptions & trauma of pandemic

# Class sizes in K-3<sup>rd</sup> grades decreased last year to 21.2 on average D6 schools to 19.6 students/class

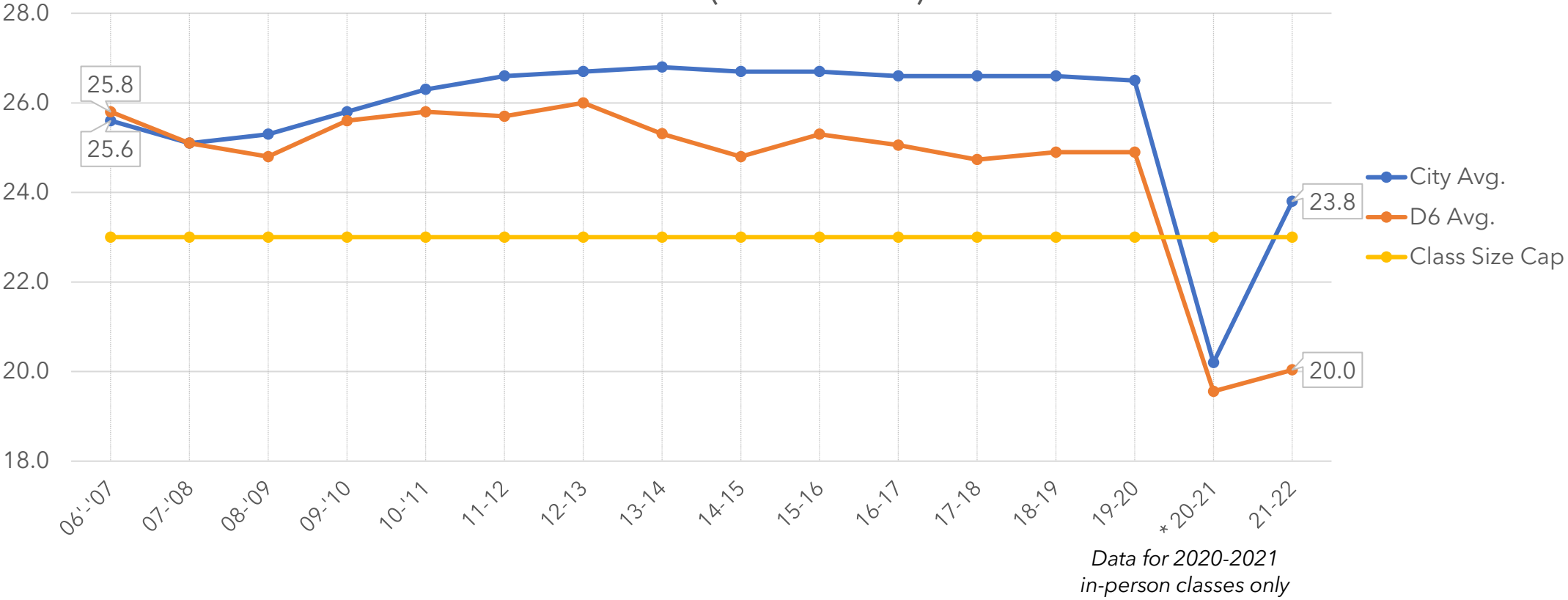
Grades K-3 Citywide Class Size Trend  
(1998-2022)



# Class sizes also fell in grades 4-8 to 23.8

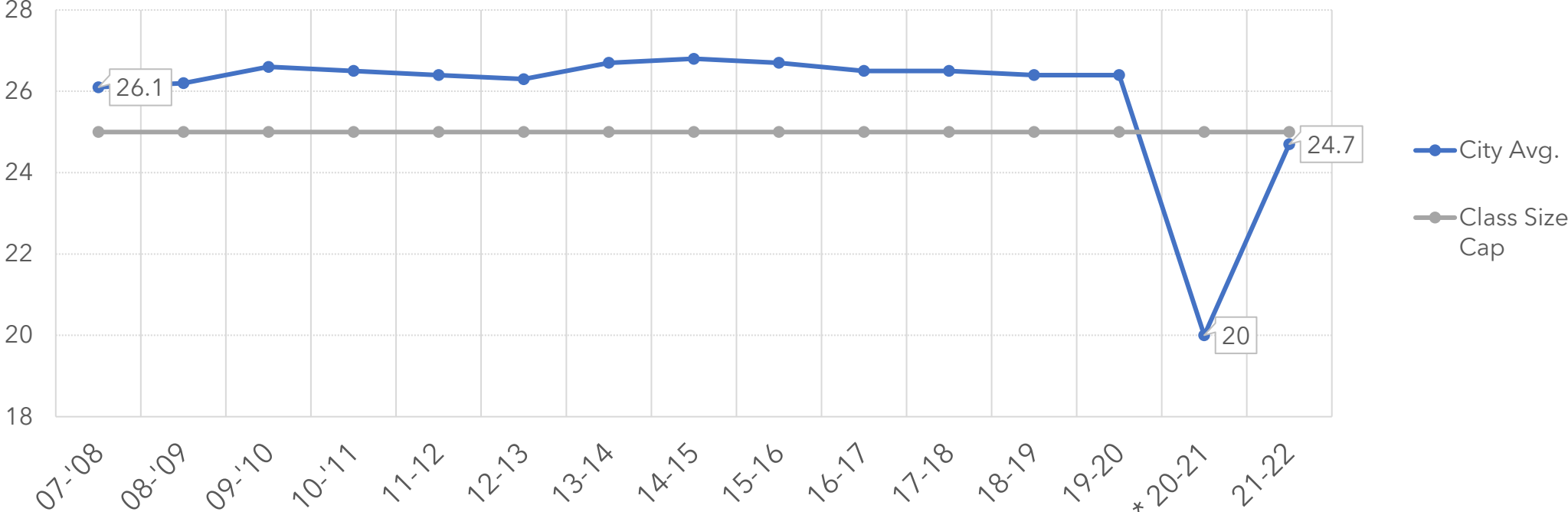
## - D6 at 20 students per class

Grades 4-8 Citywide Class Size Trend  
(1998-2022)



# Citywide high schools averaged 24.7 students per class

HS Citywide Class Size Trend  
(2007-2022)

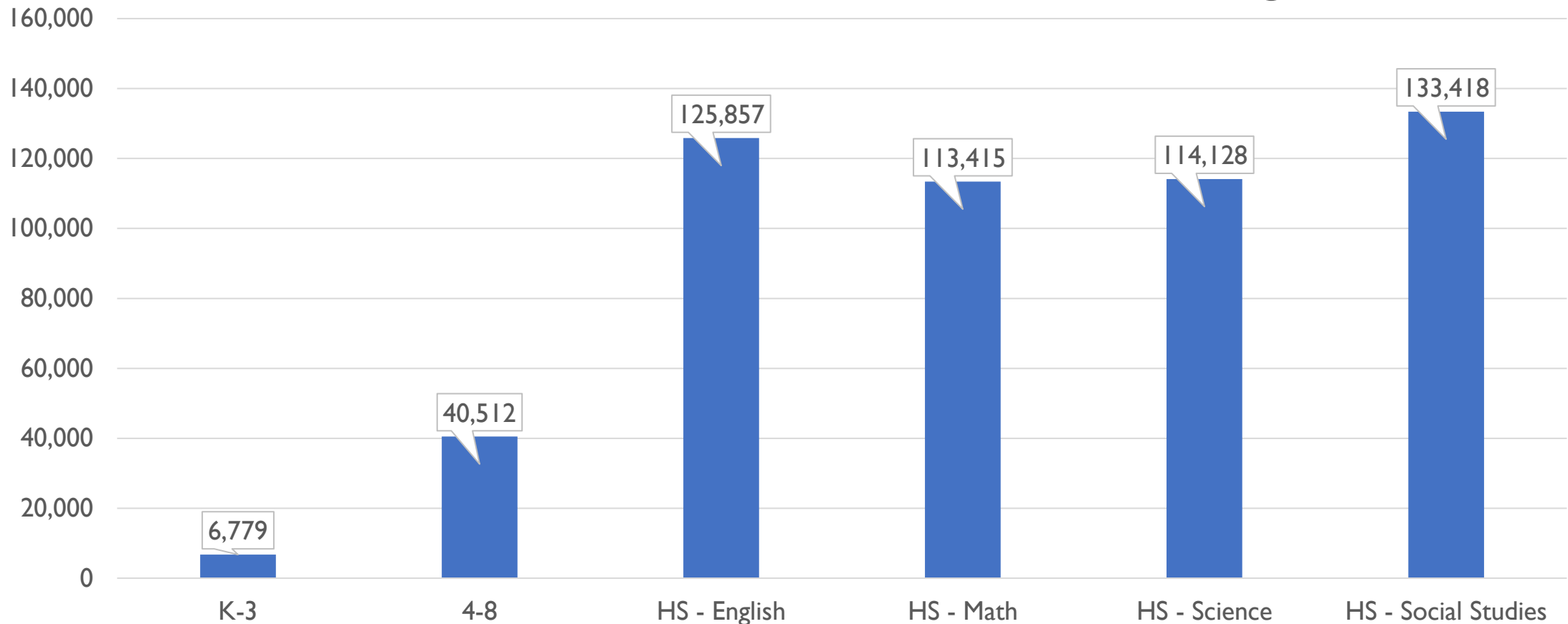


*Data for 2020-2021  
in-person classes only*

But more than 180,000 students citywide still crammed into classes of 30 or more

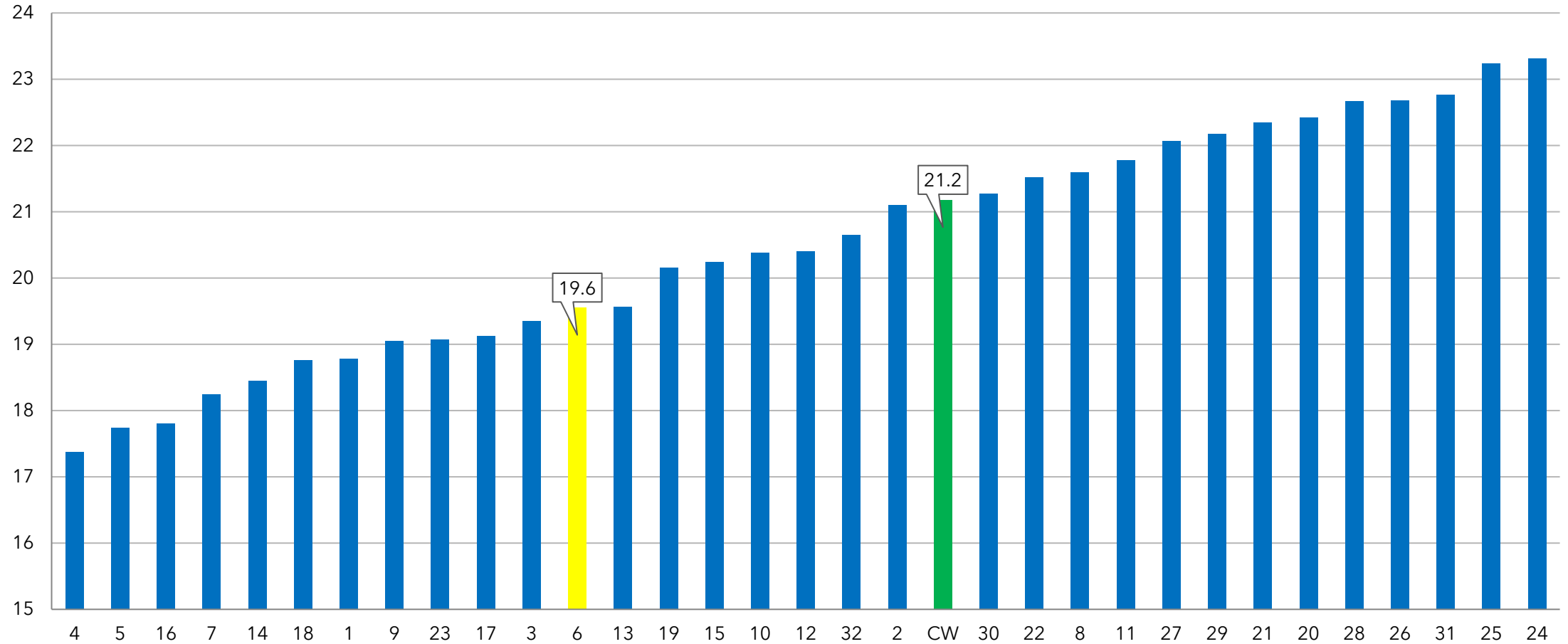
*(only HS social studies classes included, so not to double count)*

### Number of Students in Classes of 30 or larger



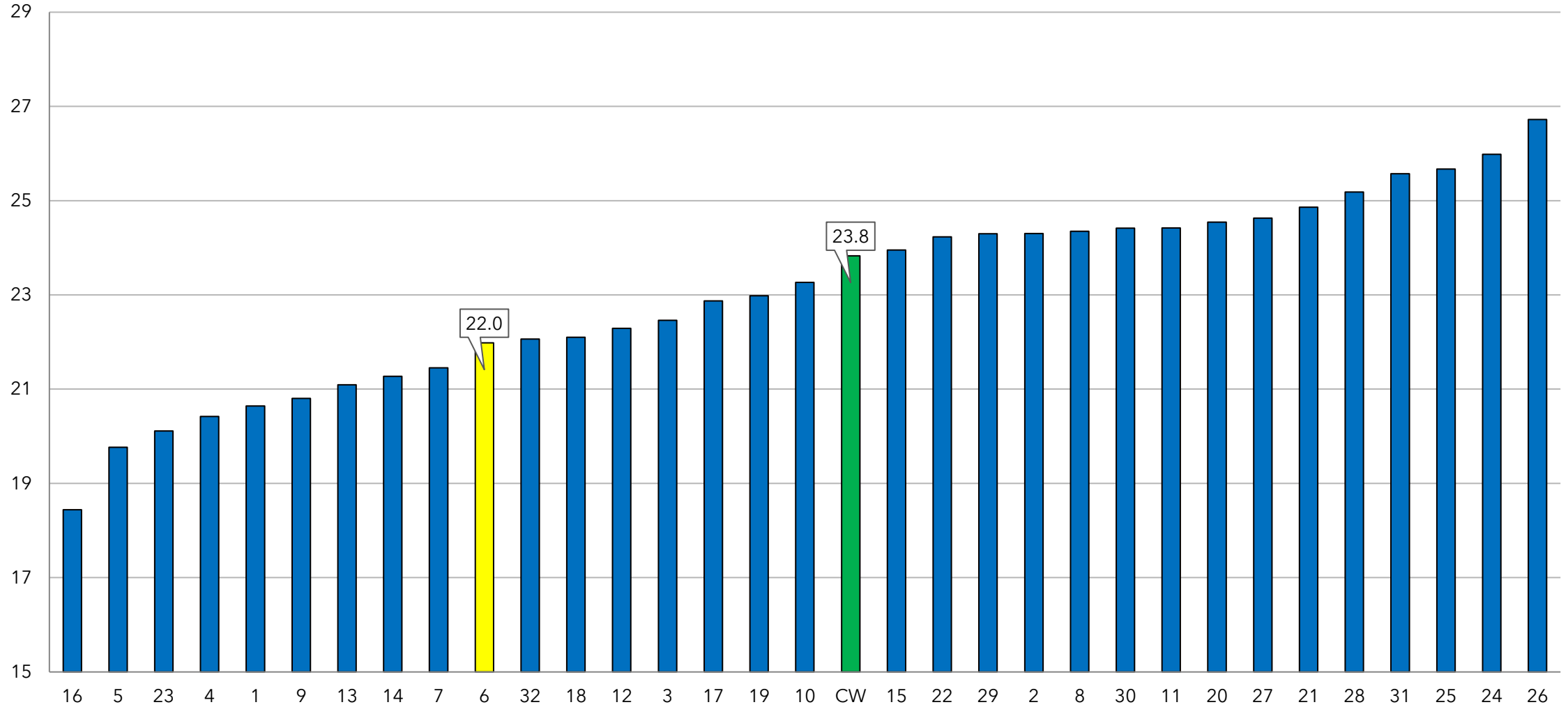
*Class sizes were very unequal across districts in grades K-3*

**At 19.6, District 6 had the 12<sup>th</sup> lowest average class sizes for K-3**



# ALSO unequal in grades 4-8

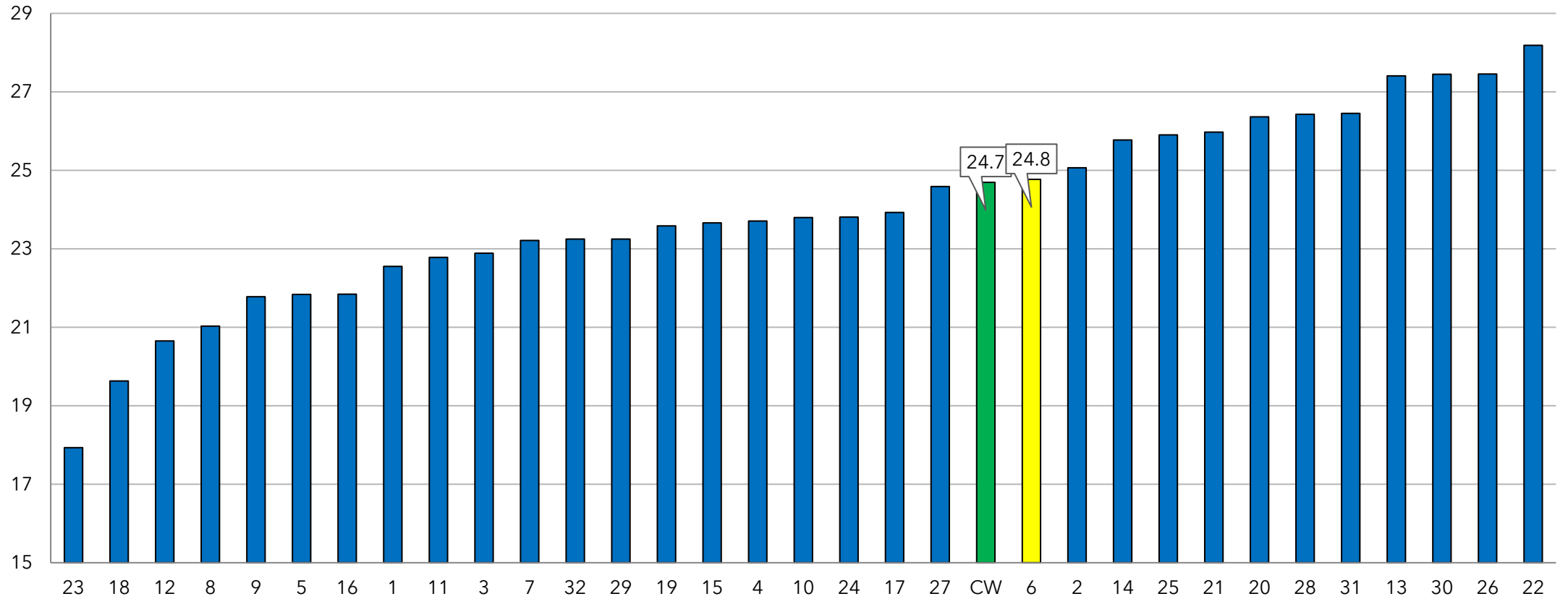
At 22 students, District 6 had 10<sup>th</sup> lowest average class sizes





# ALSO Unequal in High School

## District 6 had average HS class sizes at 24.8

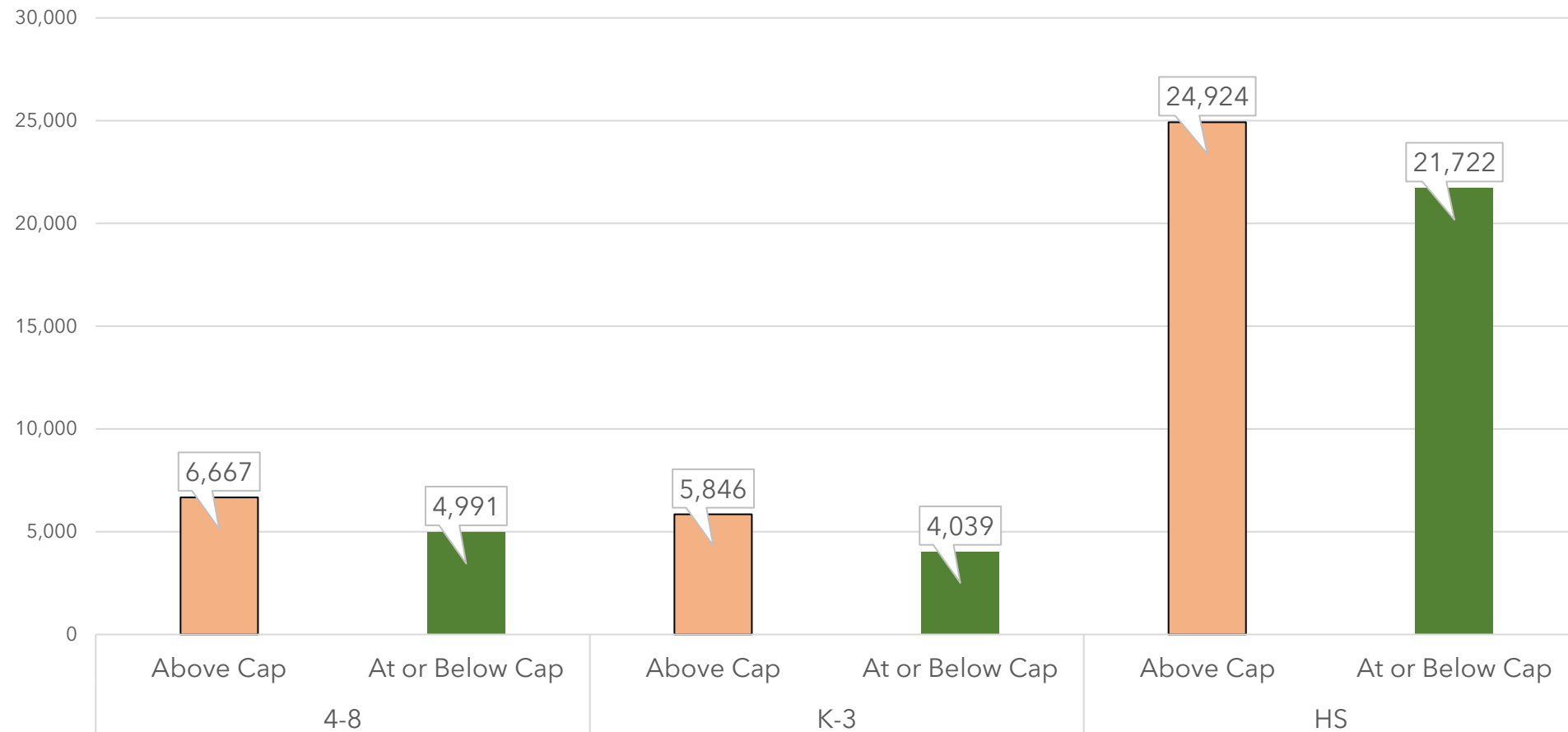


# New class size law passed last spring in legislature & signed by Gov. this Sept.

- [S9460/ A10498](#) required NYC to implement a 5-year class size reduction plan beginning in fall of 2022.
- Gov. Kathy Hochul signed the bill into law this fall, based upon [agreement](#) that the phase-in will begin Sept. 2023 instead.
- Law requires NYC to cap class size at 20 students per class in grades K-3, 23 students in grades 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, and 25 students in HS classes in core academic subjects. Phys education and performing art classes capped at 40 students per class.
- Each year starting in September 2023, 20% of all classes must achieve these caps, with an additional 20% each year, until all schools make these caps by the end of the 2027-2028 school year.
- The city must prioritize schools with high levels of poverty to reduce class size in first.

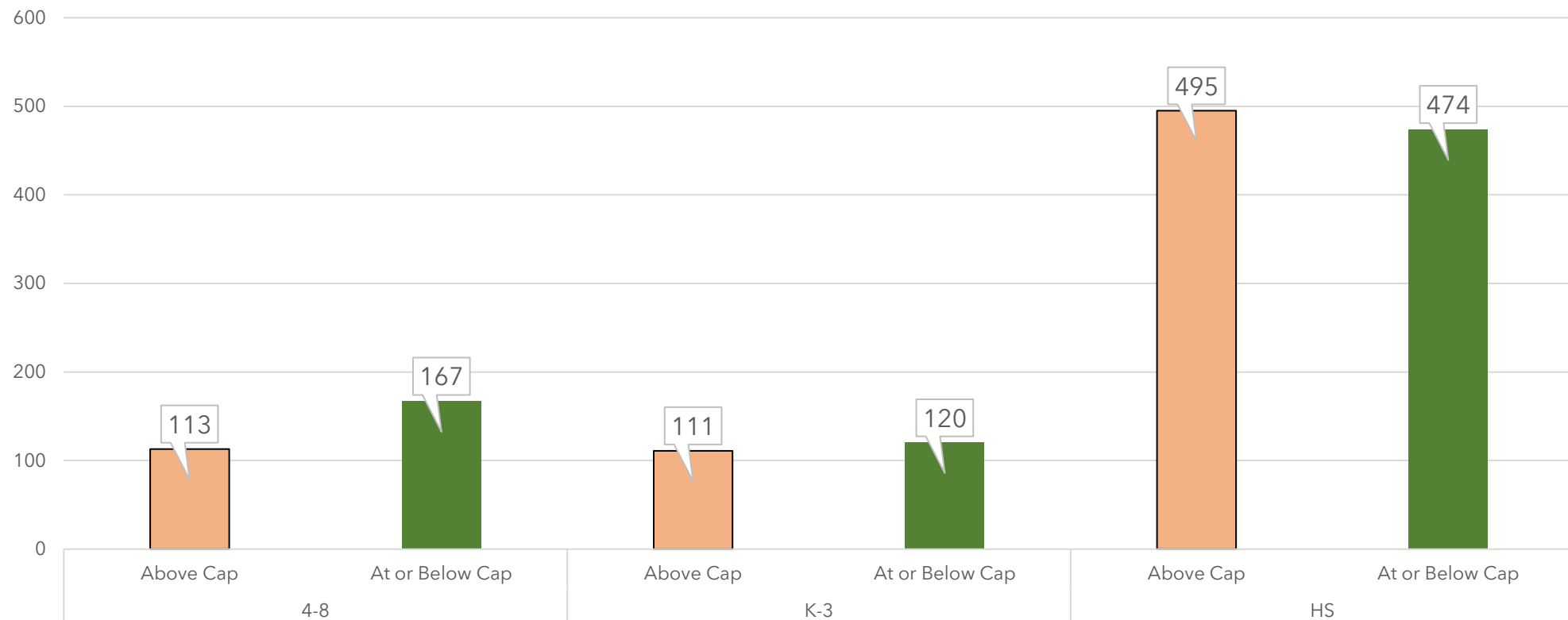
# Citywide, last year 41% of classes were at or below their target class size caps.

Total Number of Classes at or below the Class Size Cap



# In District 6, 53.5% of classes were at or below their target class size cap

Total Number of Classes at or below the Class Size Cap,  
District 6



# But this year there were big budget cuts to schools

- Budgets cut drastically in most every schools, tied to continued projected enrollment decline through Fair Student Funding formula
- Federal funds also cut sharply - about \$1B, even though NYC still had more than \$4B in federal Covid funds unspent as of late August
- These cuts have led to class size increases in many schools as teachers were let go or retiring teachers not replaced, and critical programs & service eliminated.

# How much were schools cut?

- City Comptroller estimated that 77% of schools had their Fair Student Funding cut by a total of \$469 million
- ***In District 6 schools, Fair Student Funding was cut by \$11 Million , 6.7% compared to a 7% cut citywide.***
- Our analysis of schools' entire Galaxy budgets shows that as of Sept. 28, 2022, citywide budgets were cut by more than \$1 Billion -a 13% cut
- ***D6 Galaxy school cuts were cut by \$26 Million as of Sept. 28 - a 12% cut.***
- Parents & teachers filed a lawsuit in July to have these cuts restored; in August they won at Supreme Court (lowest) level but then City appealed & Appellate Court not yet ruled on case.

# More cuts planned !

- Many schools facing mid-year budget cuts due to even lower enrollment than projected
- DOE was already planning to make additional cuts to schools of \$80M next school year
- Mayor has also ordered ALL agencies to make mid-year cuts of 3%, & 4.75% each of the following three years.
- Class size reduction will be impossible to achieve with cuts this large.

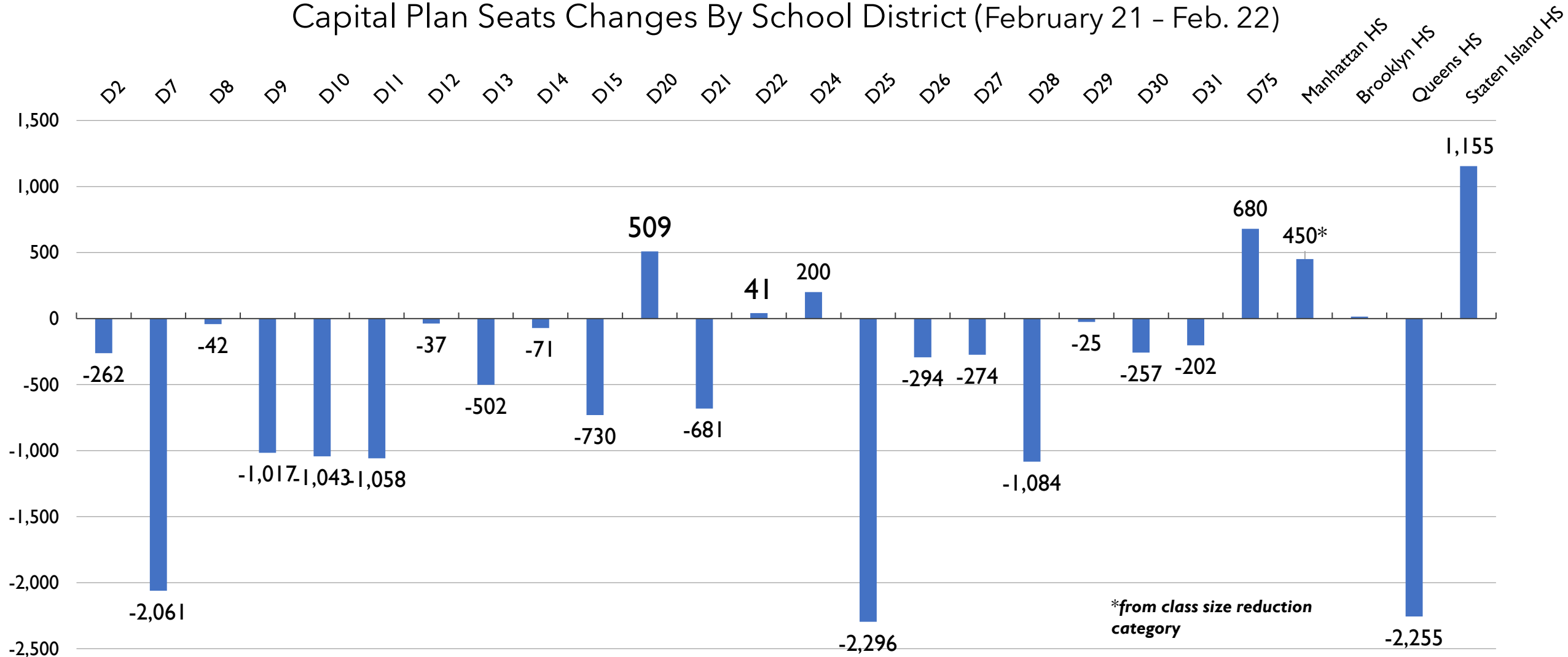
# Adopted school capital plan also cut \$1.5B in new capacity vs. plan adopted in 2021

- Amount to be spent on new capacity plunged from \$7.8B to \$6.3B in the adopted plan
- More than 11,000 new seats cut (57,498 cut to 45,883)
- Yet 38% of students citywide were in schools over 100% last year, according to Blue Book.
- Likely there will not be enough space to lower class size in many overcrowded communities without a more transparent, better funded capital plan & changes in admissions policy.



# Net 11,000 seats cut in capital plan adopted in June 2022

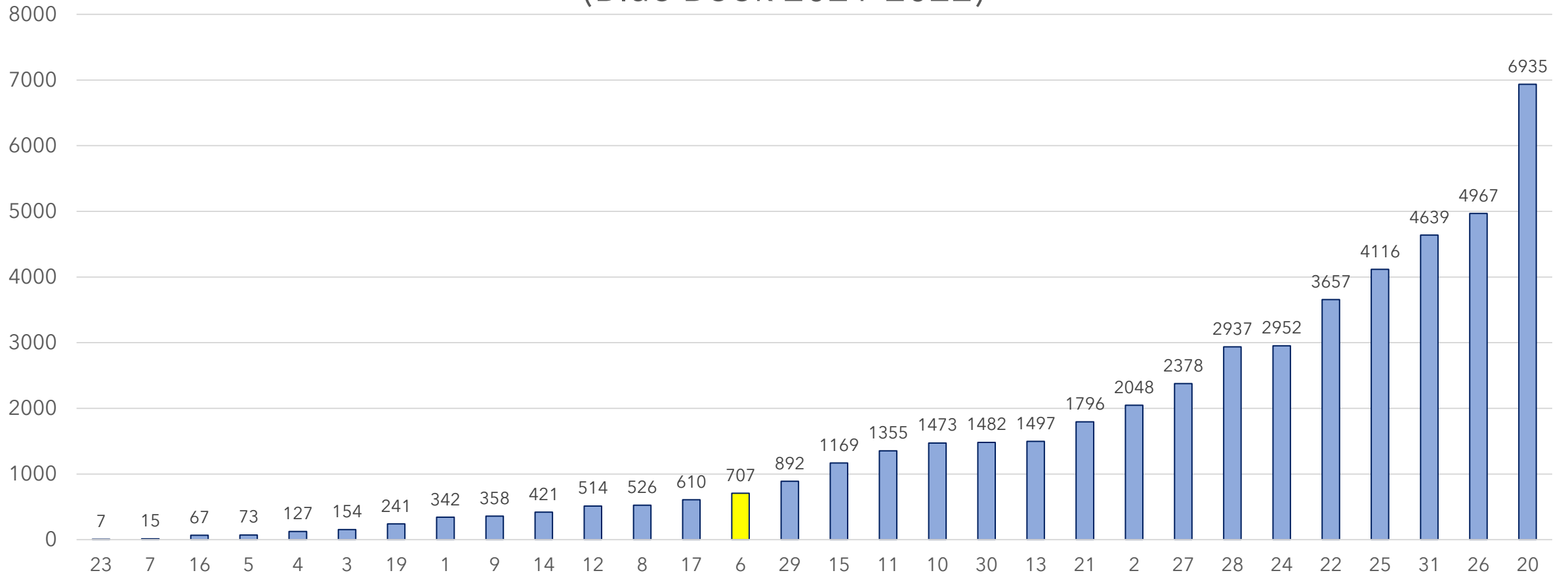
Capital Plan Seats Changes By School District (February 21 - Feb. 22)



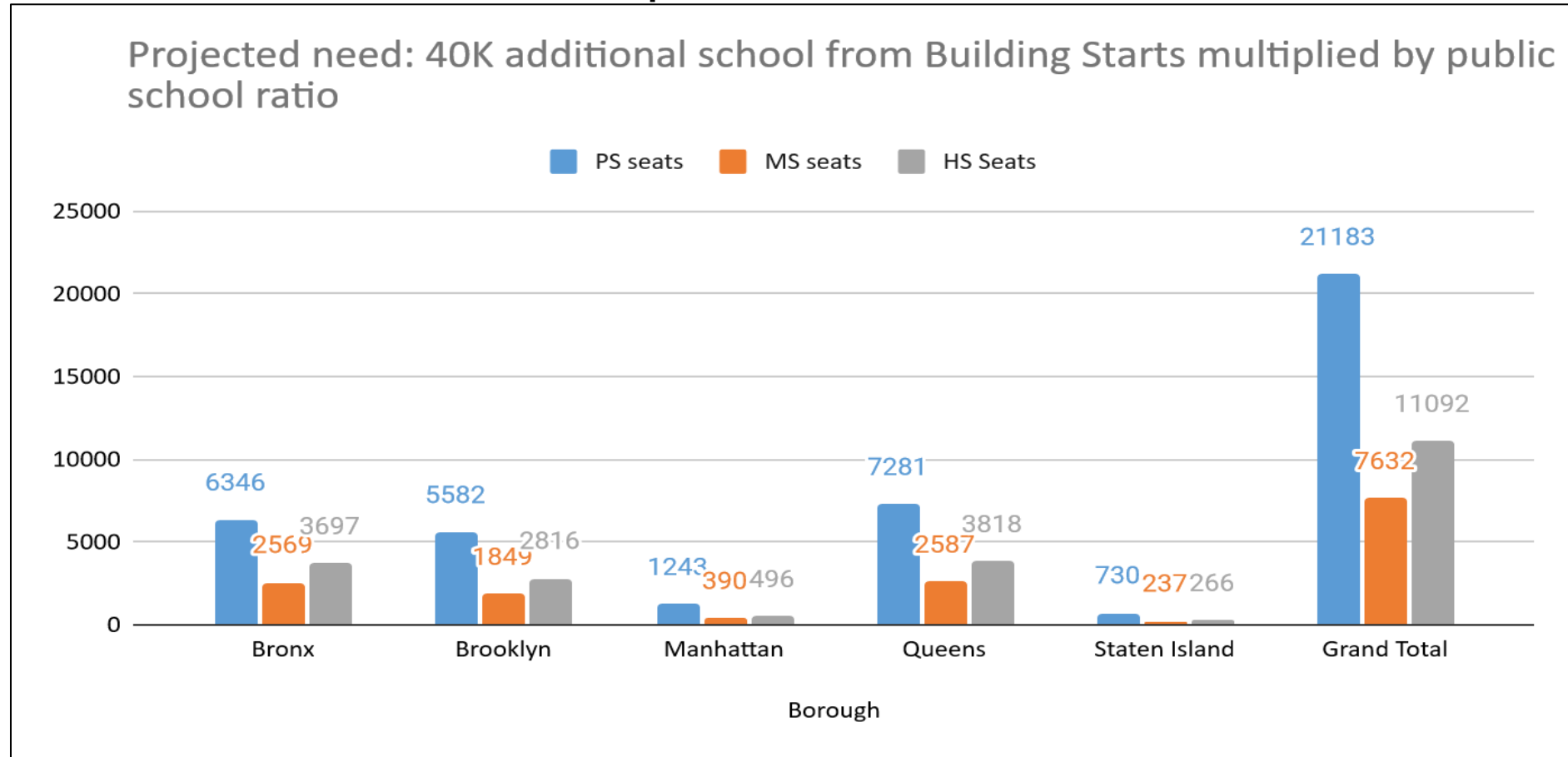
# Cuts in capital plan not explained but presumably for 2 reasons

- Enrollment decline which DOE is projecting to continue
- SCA also changed "efficiency ratio" in utilization formula, that assumes how many periods a day a MS or HS classroom will be scheduled.
- Previously regular classrooms were expected to be in use 7 of 8 periods a day. Specialty rooms 5 of 8 periods a day; but now all MS and HS rooms expected to be scheduled 100% of time - difficult if not impossible to achieve.
- This single change artificially added 2593 seats to existing MS & 20,279 Seats to HS without building any additional space

48,455 Seats needed in Overutilized Schools  
with 707 seats needed in District 6  
(Blue Book 2021-2022)



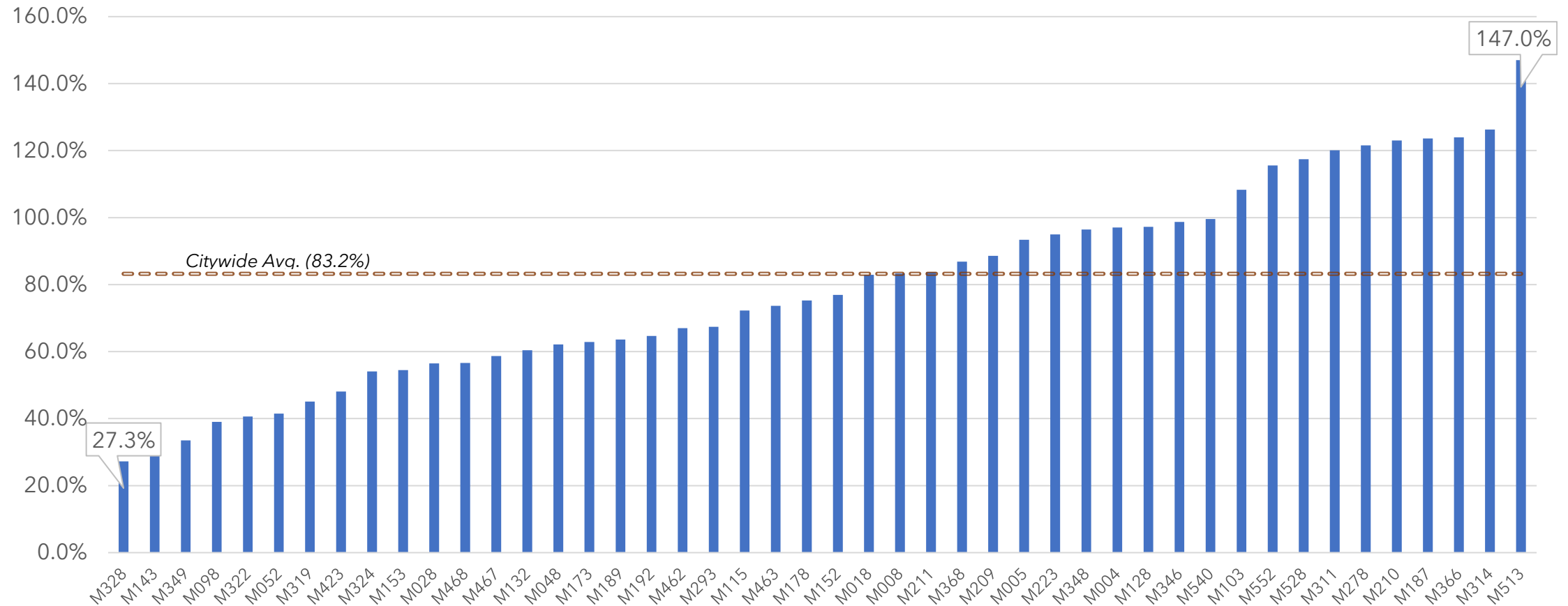
# Another ~40K seats needed from new residential development 2020-2029



Data: Projected Housing Starts 2020-2029 as used in 2020-29 Enrollment Projections multiplied by Public School ratio. See <http://www.nycsca.org/Community/Capital-Plan-Reports-Data#Housing-Projections-70>

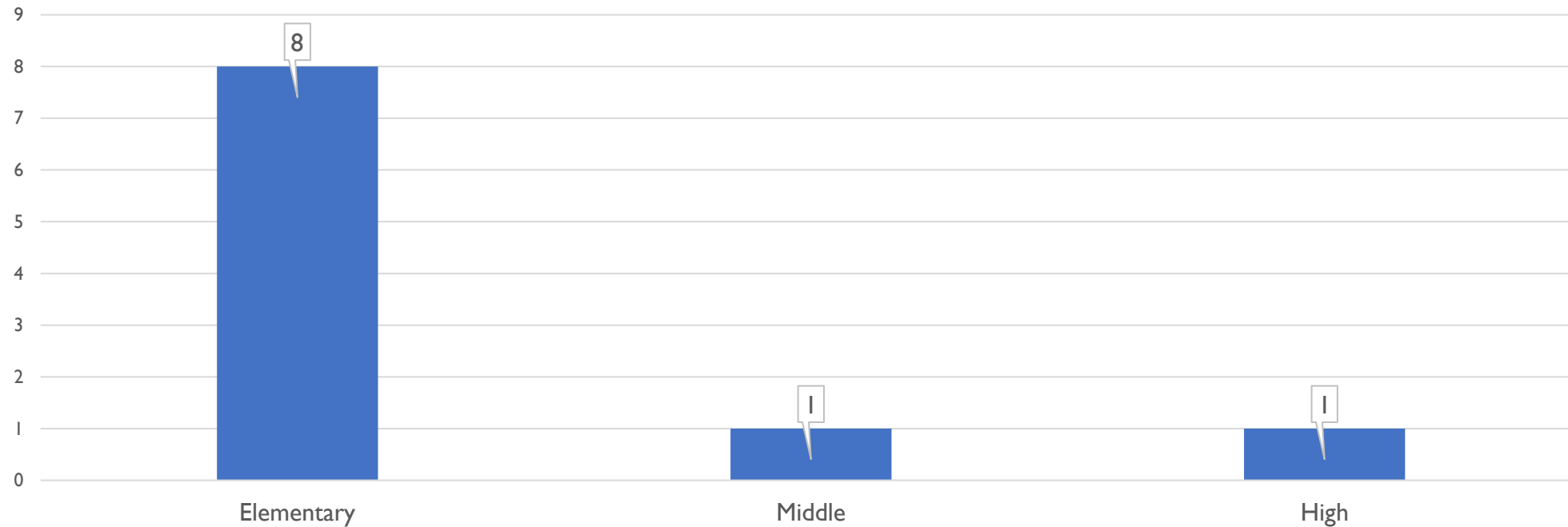
# In District 6, school utilization rates ranged widely from 27% to 147%.

Range of School Utilization Rates, District 6



In D6, 10 of 46 schools are over 100% , enrolling 4,083 students (29% of total).  
8 are elementary schools.

Number of Overutilized Schools, District 6



# Need for task force to start planning for class size reduction NOW

- There needs to be planning now to ensure sufficient funding for staffing; and a capital plan & admissions policies that will ensure that all schools can achieve class size targets over next 5 years.
- Law currently says class size plan to be developed by DOE in collaboration with UFT and CSA
- But we need parents, advocates, students & local elected officials to be included as well!
- CPAC and several CECs have passed resolutions calling for Task Force to be formed as soon as possible.



# Action steps

- Survey for parents/teachers to let us know impact of budget cuts on your school; in English: [tinyurl.com/NYCBudgetcutSurvey](https://tinyurl.com/NYCBudgetcutSurvey) and Spanish: [tinyurl.com/budgetsurveyespanol](https://tinyurl.com/budgetsurveyespanol)
- Sign on letter at [tinyurl/classsizetaskforce](https://tinyurl.com/classsizetaskforce) on calling for Class size task force and reso: <https://tinyurl.com/classsizetaskforcereso>
- City Council pledge to restore school funding & promise not cut school budgets in the future
- Any questions? Please email us at [info@classsizematters.org](mailto:info@classsizematters.org)