



**Briefing for CM Rita Joseph on new class size
law & need for Council oversight**

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

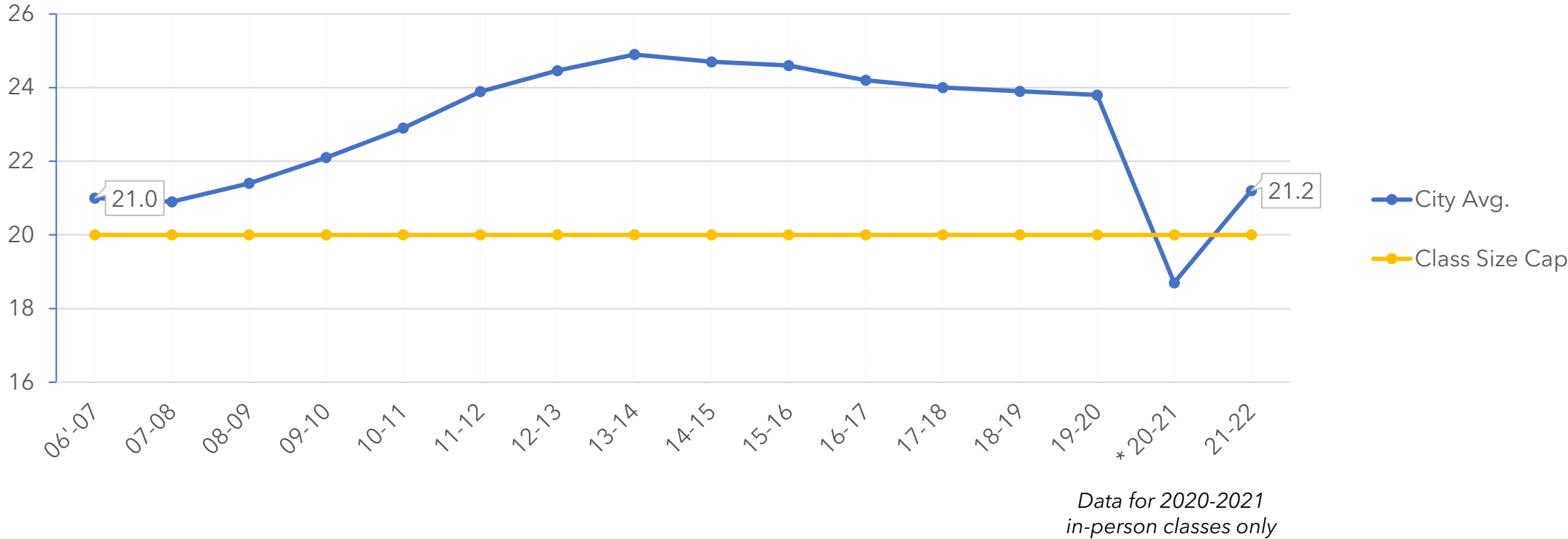
- [S9460/ A10498](#) required NYC to implement a 5-year class size reduction plan beginning in fall of 2022.
- Gov. Kathy Hochul signed the bill into law this fall, based upon [agreement](#) that the phase-in will begin Sept. 2023 instead.
- Law requires NYC to cap class size at 20 students per class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

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

- Enrollment fell sharply
- School budgets were not closely 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

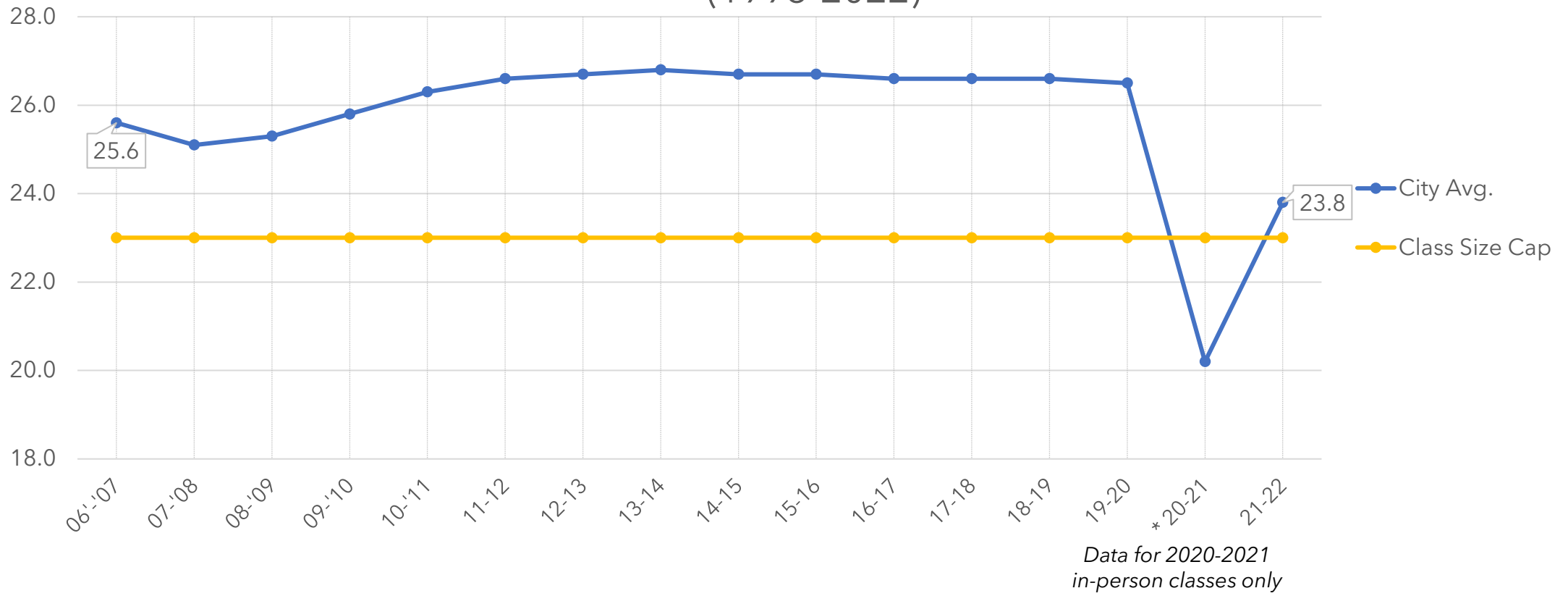
Class sizes in K-3rd grades decreased last year to 21.2 on average - slightly above cap of 20

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



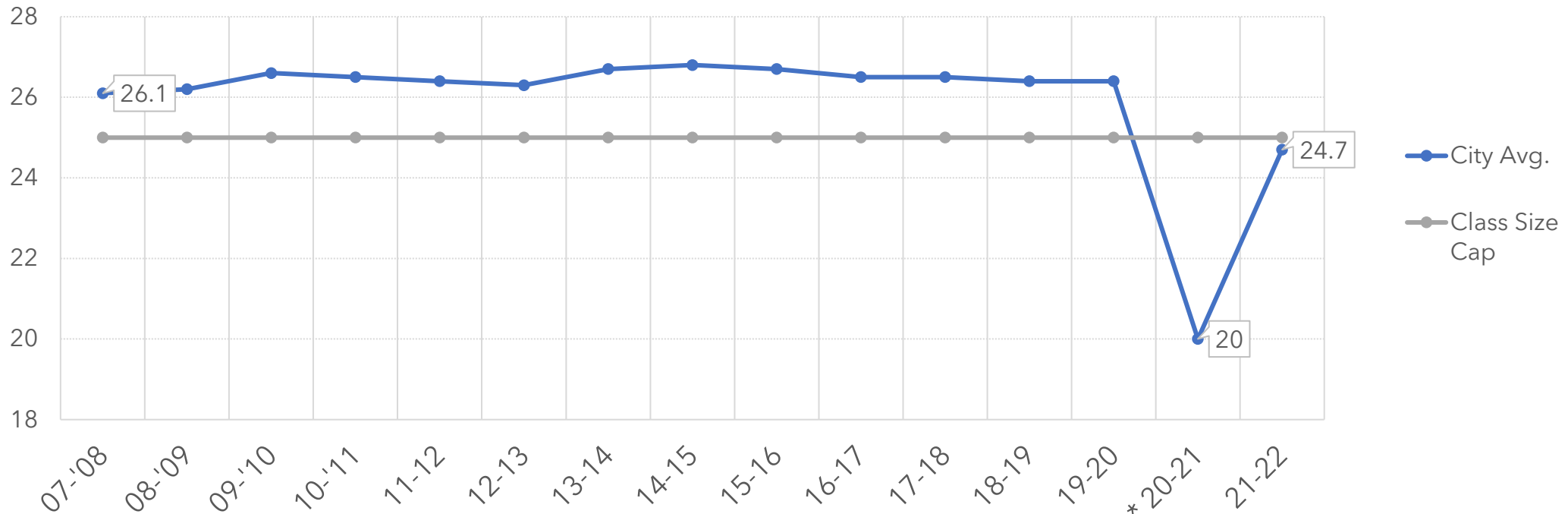
Class sizes also fell in grades 4-8 to 23.8 students per class slightly above cap of 23

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



Citywide high schools averaged 24.7 students per class slightly below cap of 25

HS Citywide Class Size Trend
(2007-2022)

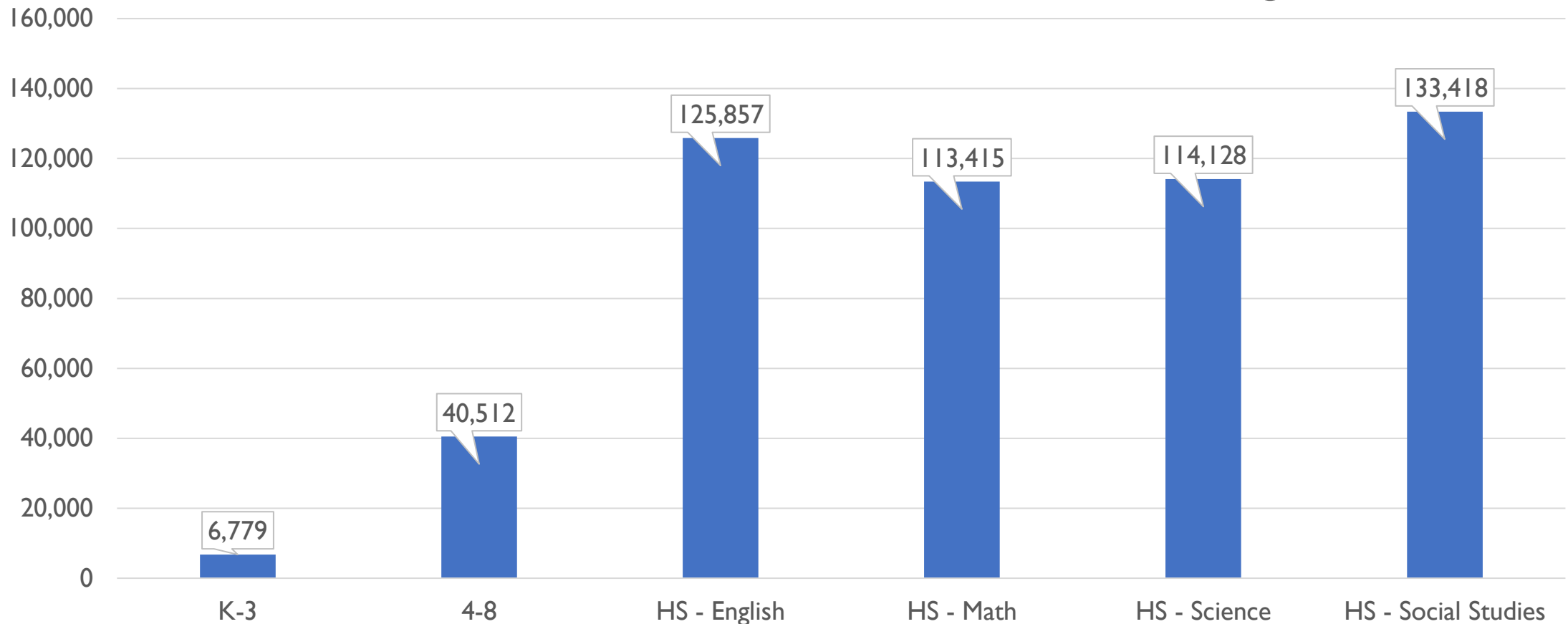


*Data for 2020-2021
in-person classes only*

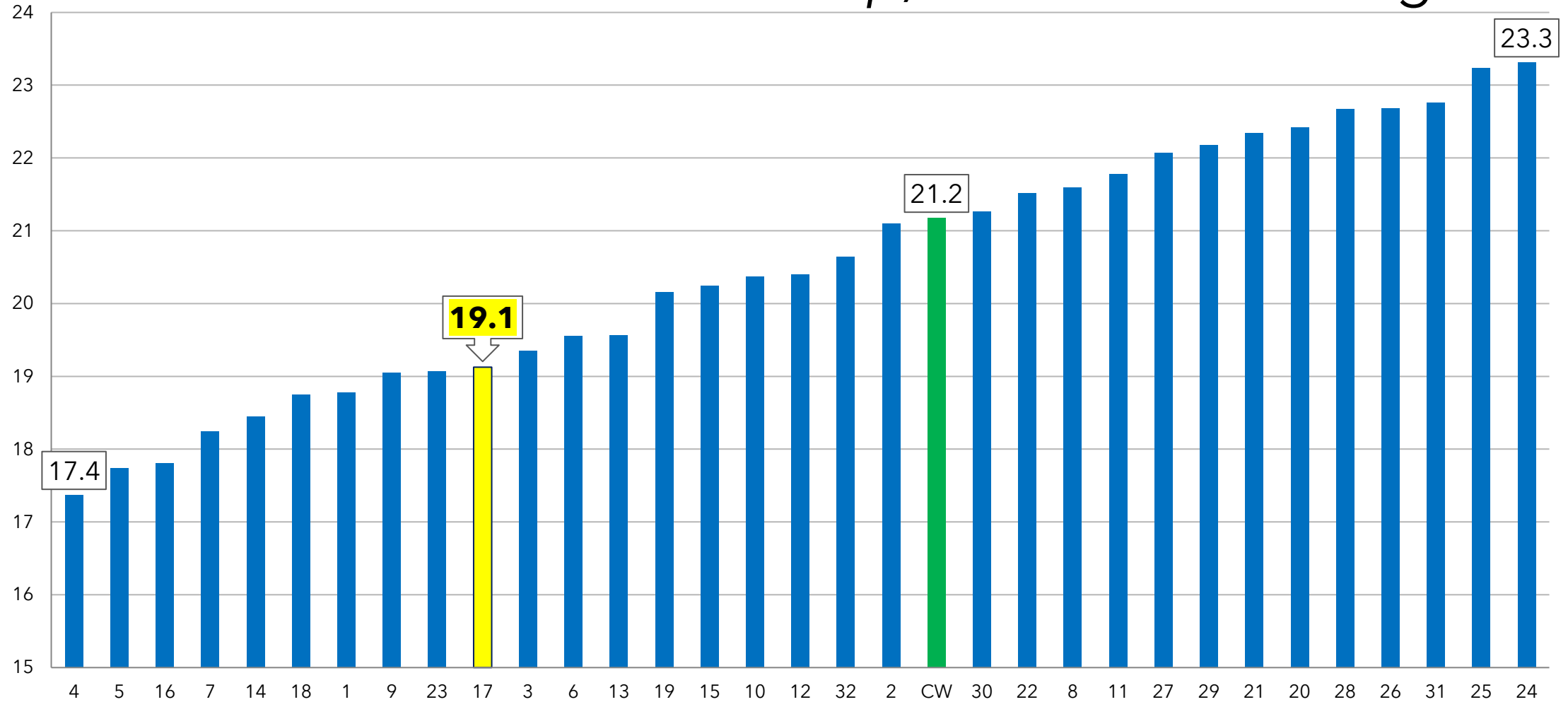
But more than 180,000 students citywide still crammed into classes of 30 or more

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

Number of Students in Classes of 30 or larger

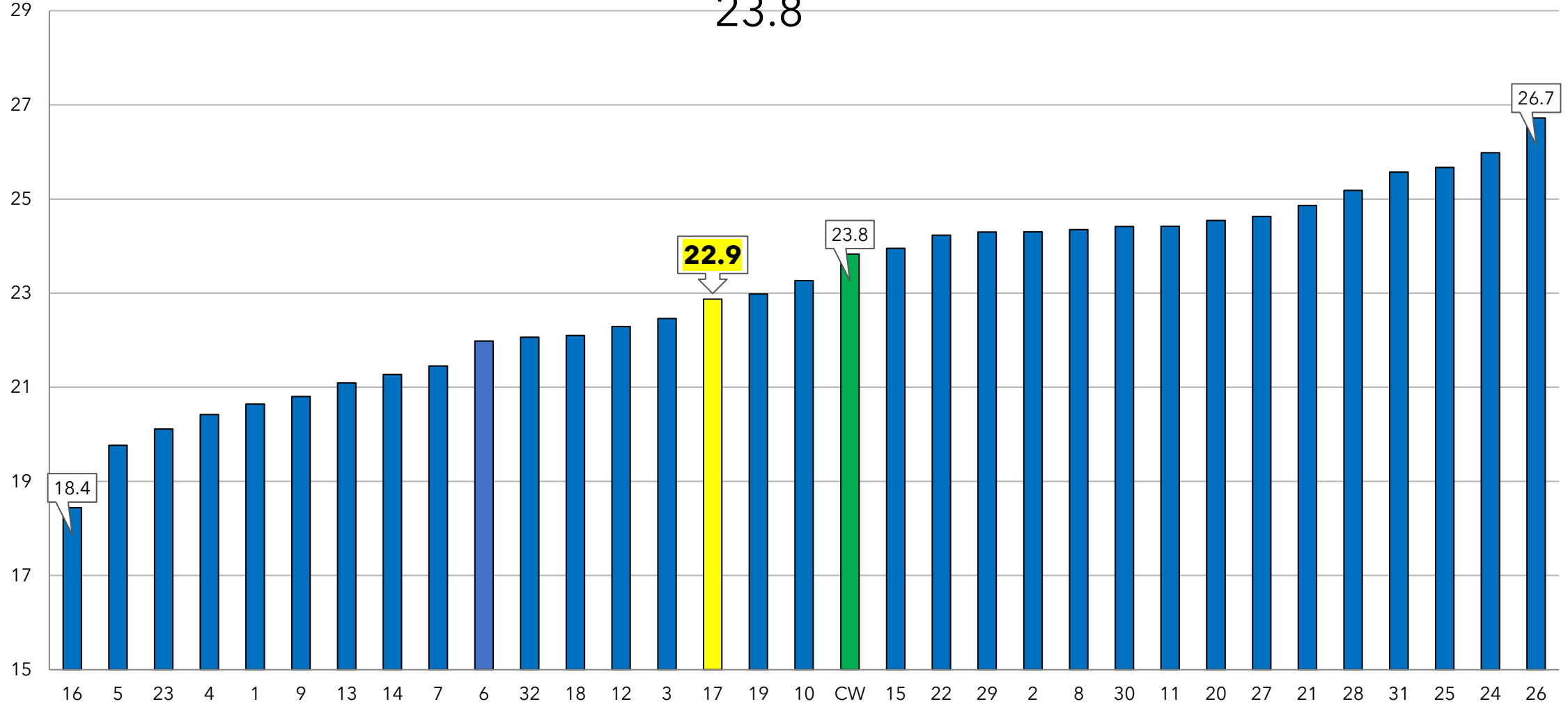


Class sizes were very unequal across districts in grades K-3 – with 20 of 32 districts above cap; D17 below average



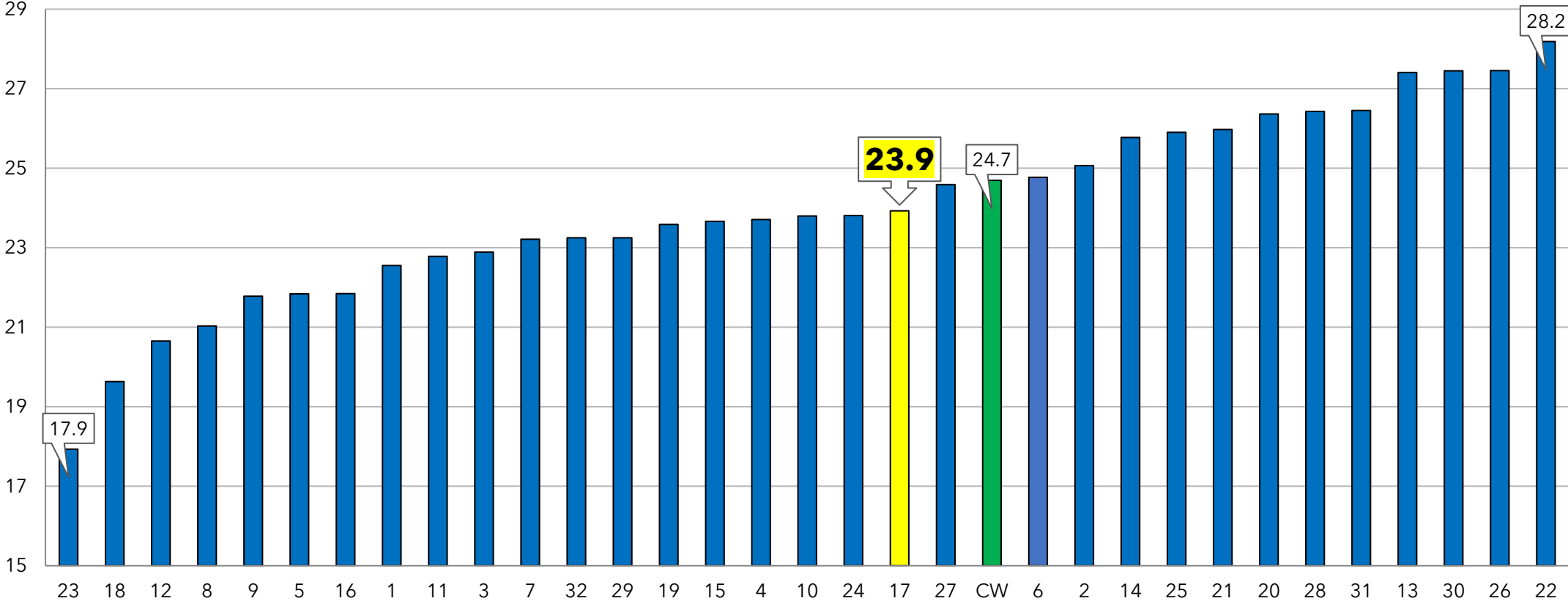
ALSO unequal in grades 4-8

At 22.9 students, District 17 slightly below citywide average of 23.8



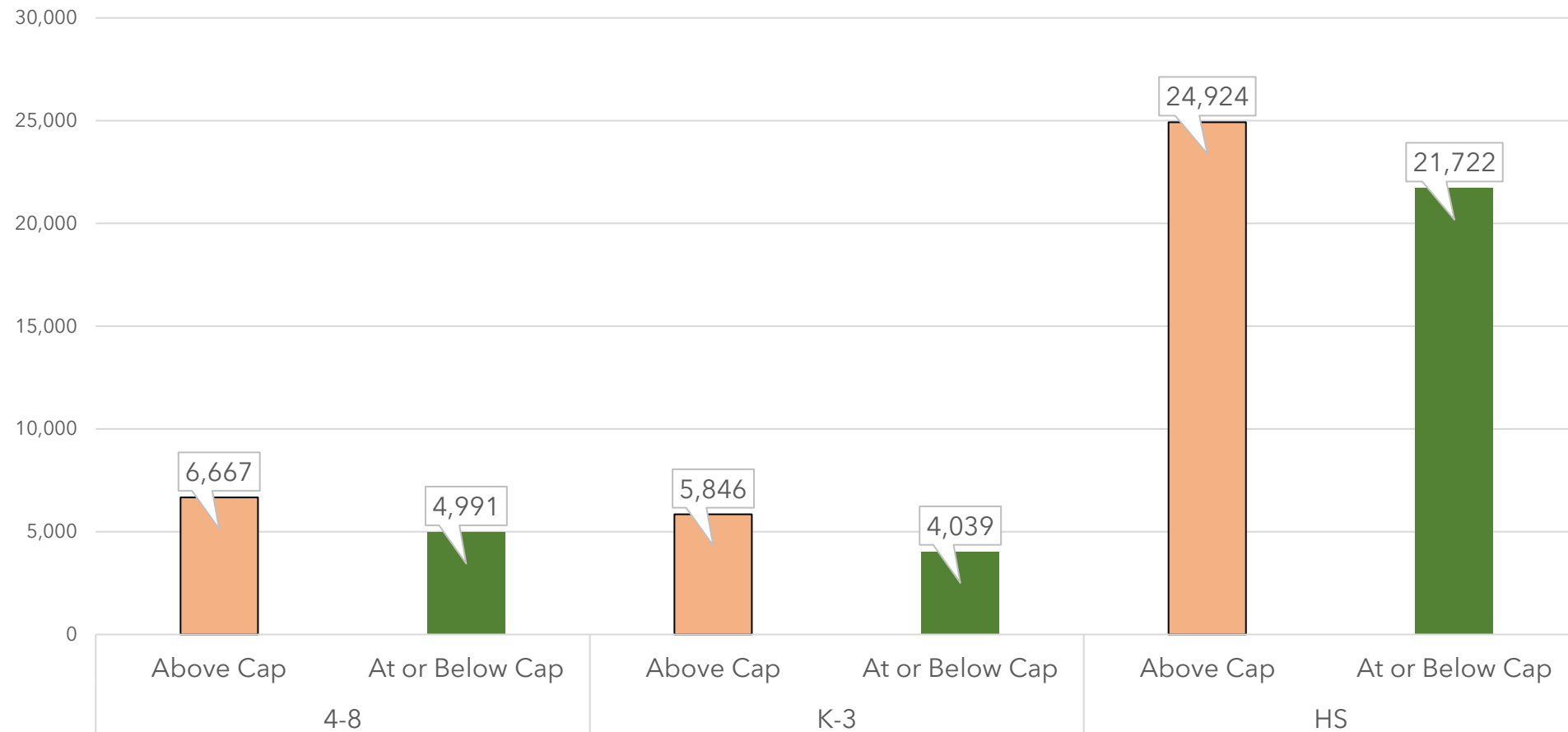
ALSO Unequal in High School

District 17 slightly below citywide average of 24.7



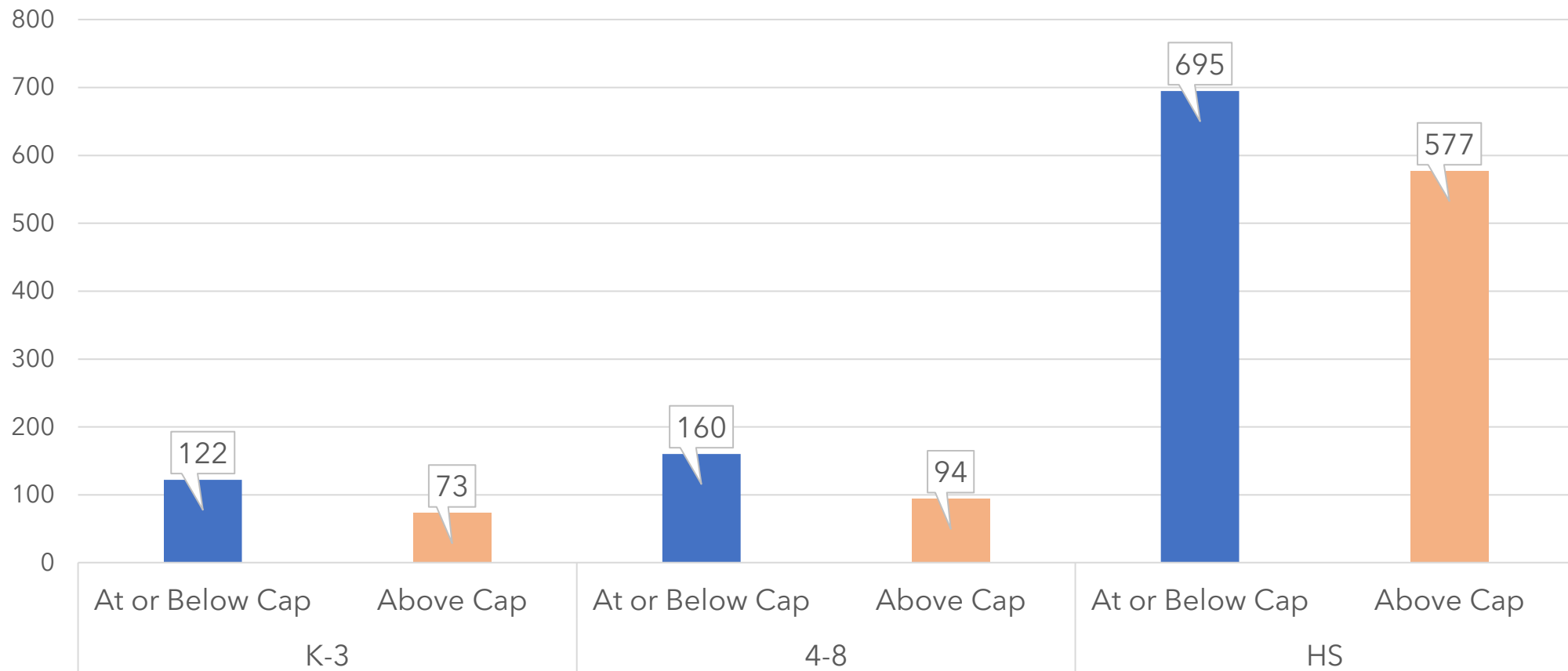
Citywide, last year 41% of classes were at or below their target class size caps.

Total Number of Classes at or below the Class Size Cap



In District 17, 60% of classes were at or below their target class size cap

Total Number of Classes at or below the Class Size Cap,
District 17



But this year class sizes likely significantly increased

- 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.
- We won't know how much class sizes increased until Nov. 15 - 1st class size report due

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 17 schools, Fair Student Funding was cut by \$7.7 Million , 5% 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
- ***D17 Galaxy school cuts were cut by \$29.8 Million as of Sept. 28 - a 10.2% 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.

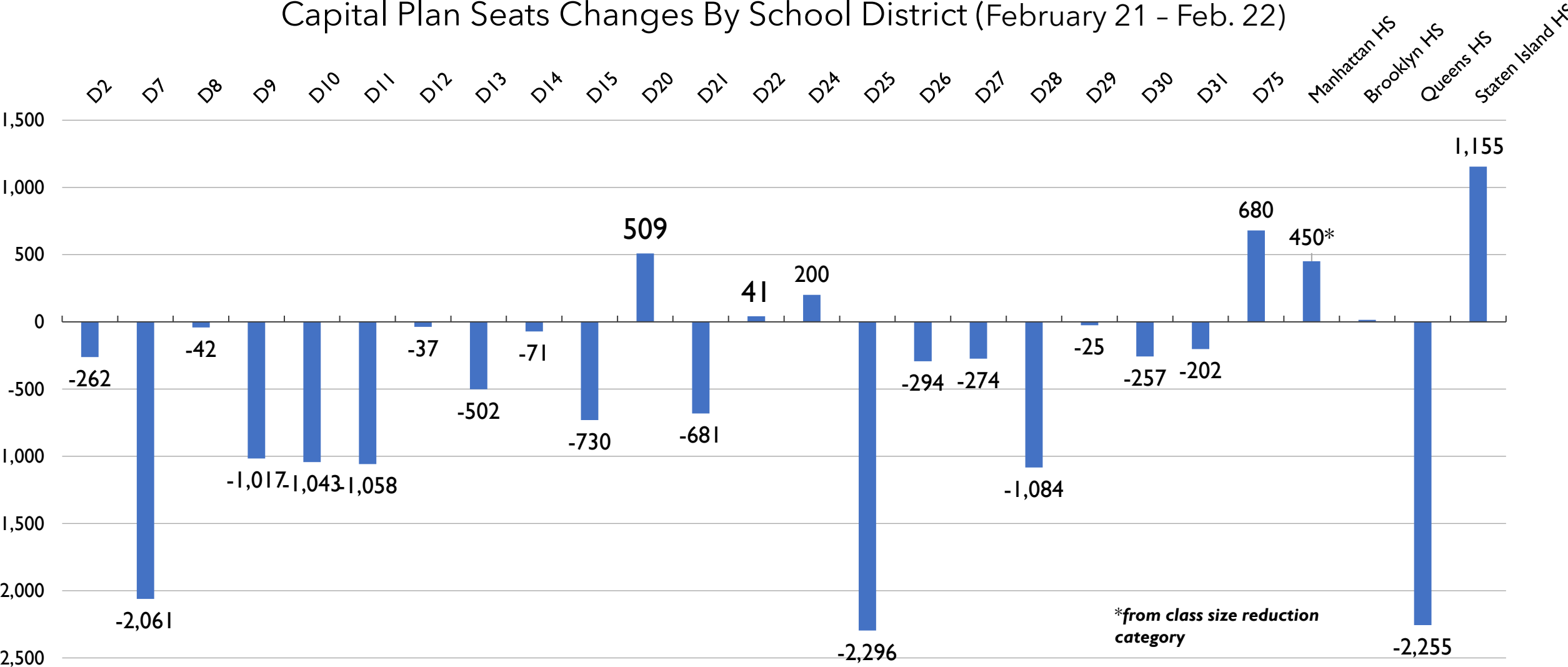
Adopted school capital plan also cut \$1.5B in new capacity vs. plan adopted in 2021

- 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 [347,017] 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

(no seats ever planned for D17)

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

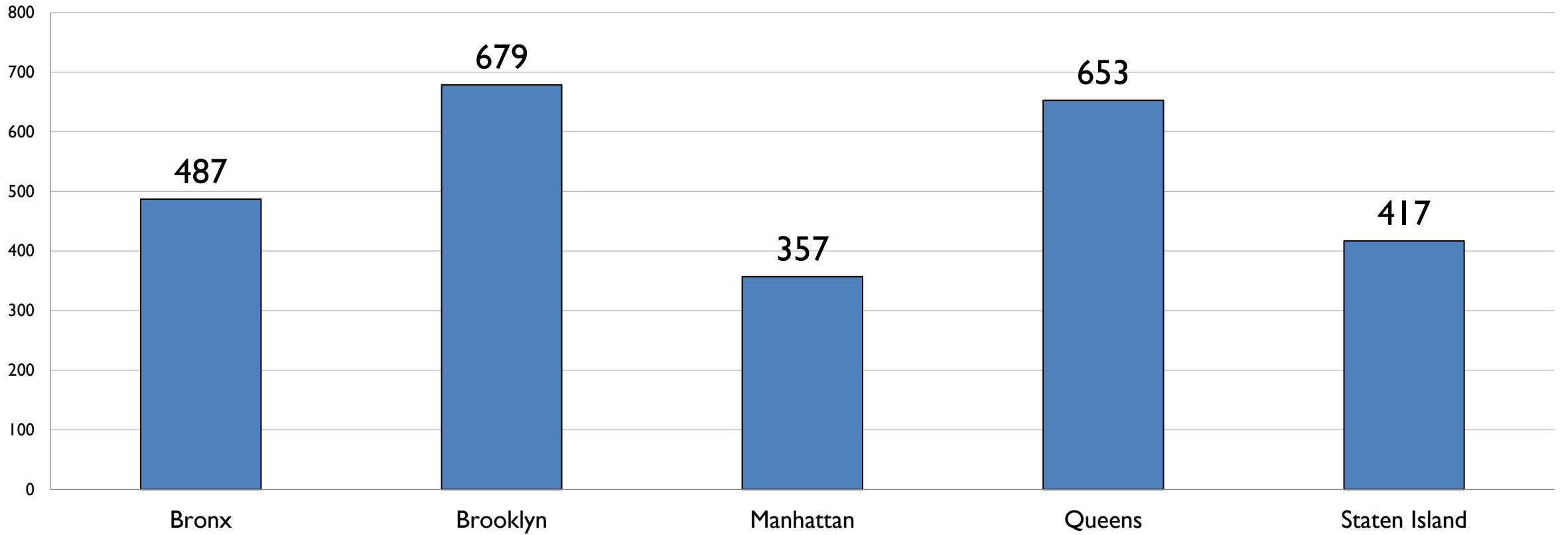


*from class size reduction category

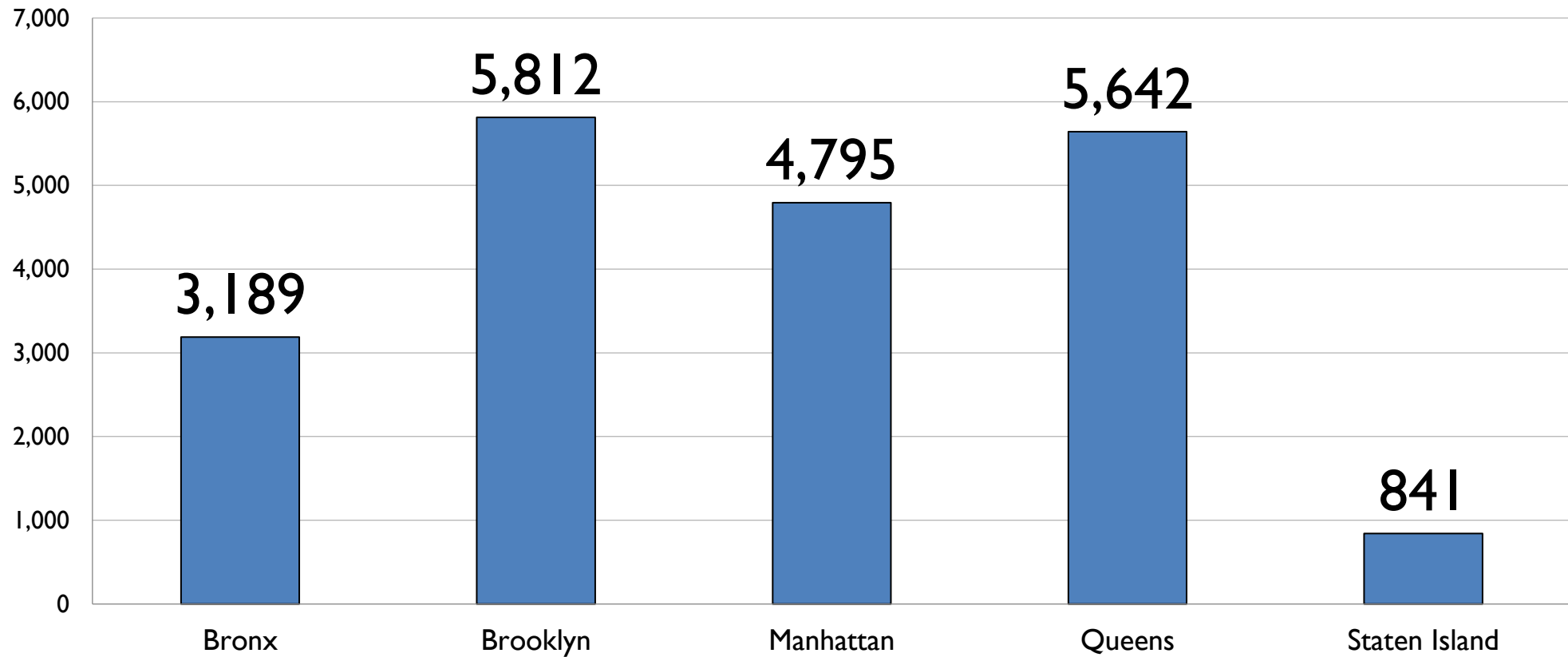
Cuts in capital plan not explained but presumably for 2 reasons

- 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 all regular classrooms were expected to be used 7 of 8 periods a day; specialty rooms 5 of 8 periods a day.
- Now every regular classroom & specialty room in MS & HS expected to be scheduled 100% of time - difficult if not impossible to achieve.
- This single change artificially added 2593 middle school seats & 20,279 HS seats without building any additional space

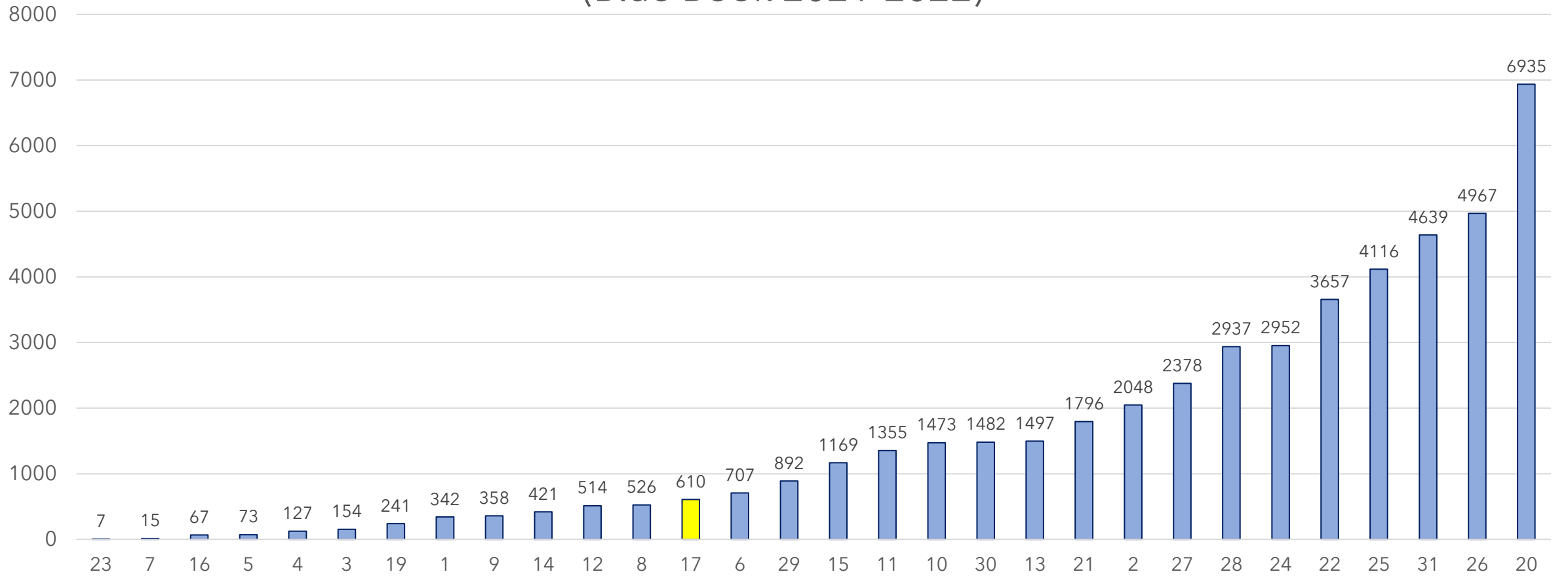
2,593 Seats Added in Middle Schools due to revised efficiency ratio



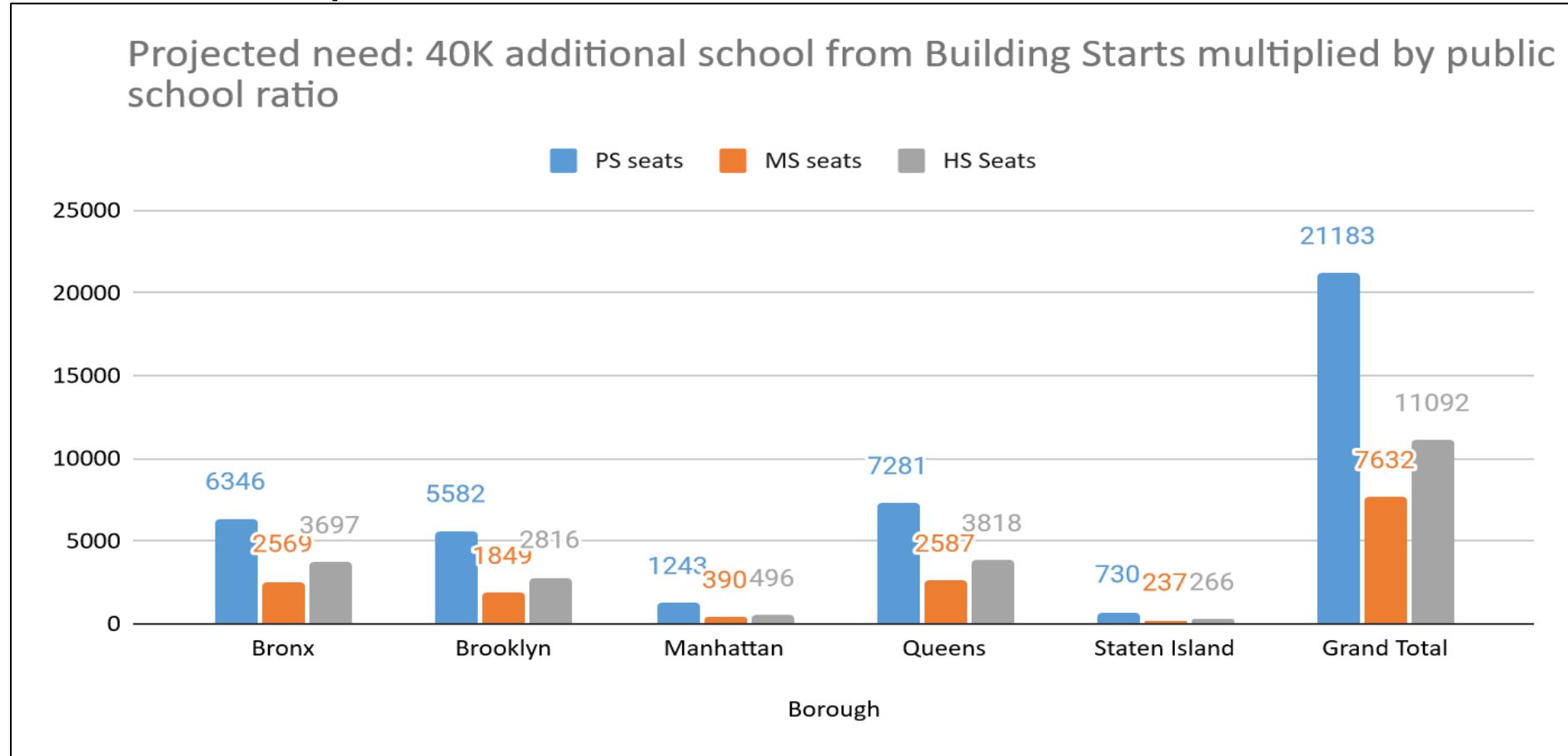
20,279 Seats Added to High Schools due to Revised Efficiency Ratio



48,455 Seats needed in Overutilized Schools
with 610 seats needed in District 17
(Blue Book 2021-2022)



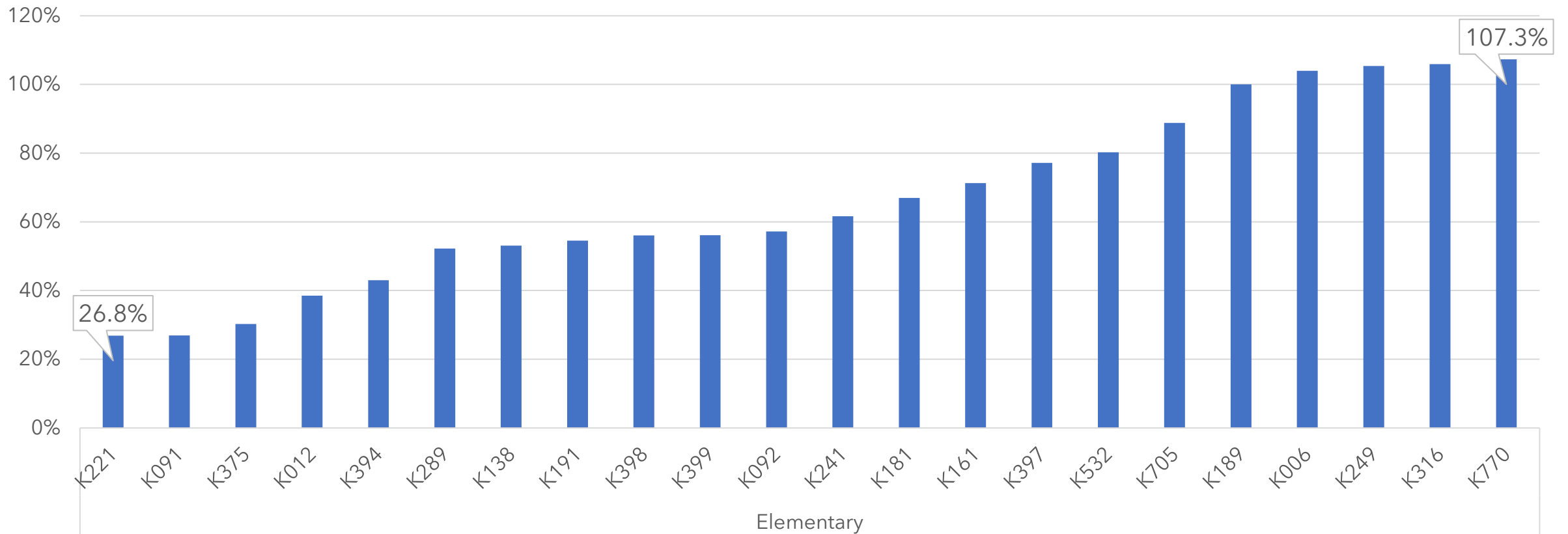
Another ~40K seats likely needed from new residential development 2020-2029 acc to SCA formula



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>

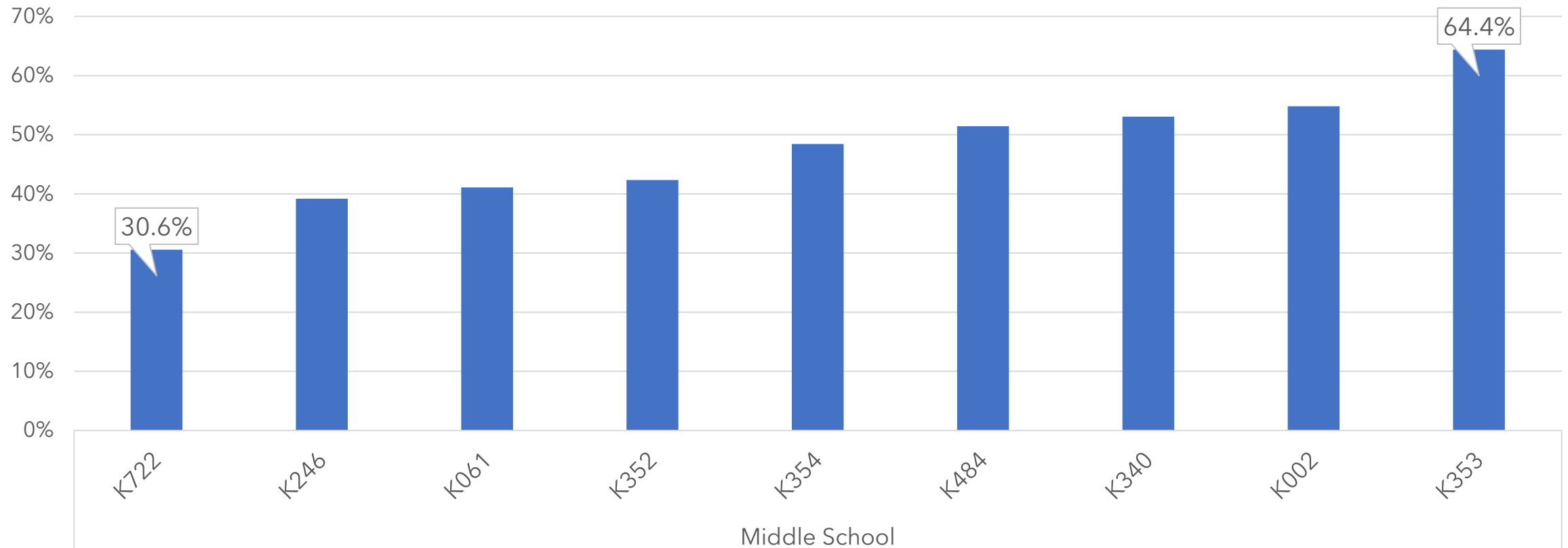
In District 17, elementary school utilization rates ranged widely from 26.8% to 107.3%.

Elementary School Utilization Rates, District 17, (2021-2022)



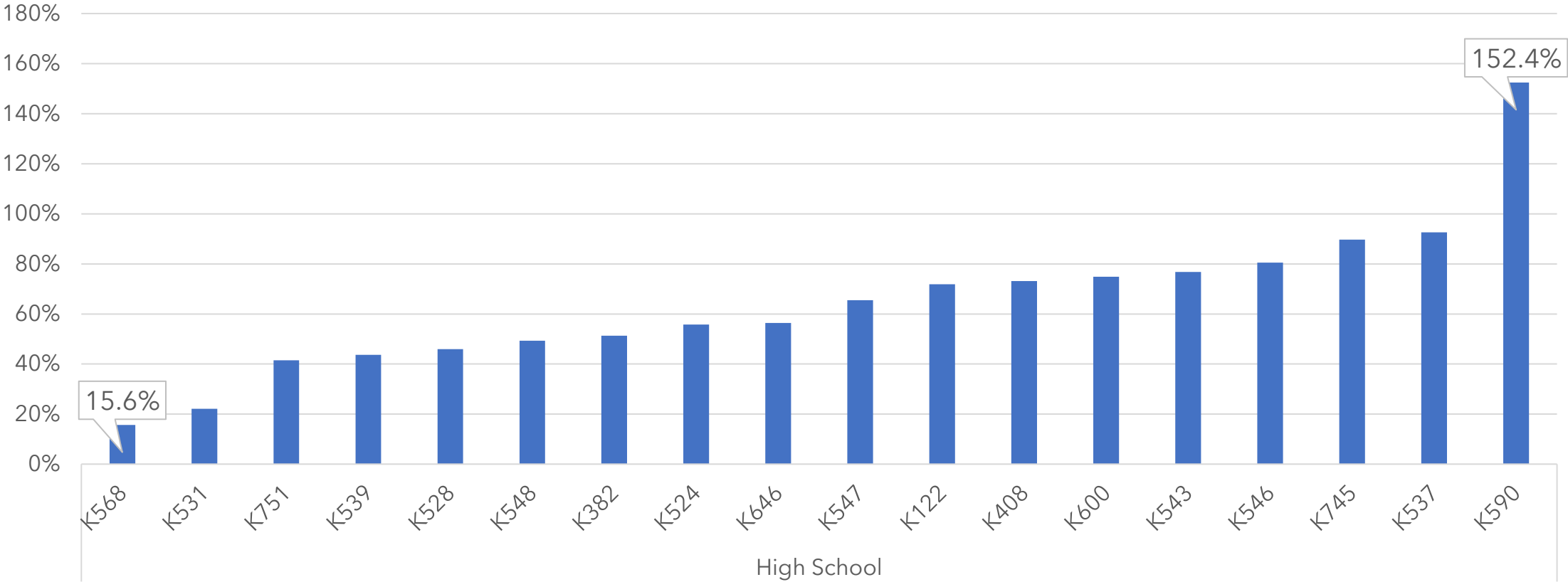
In District 17, middle school utilization rates ranged from 31% to 64%.

Middle School Utilization Rates, District 17, (2021-2022)



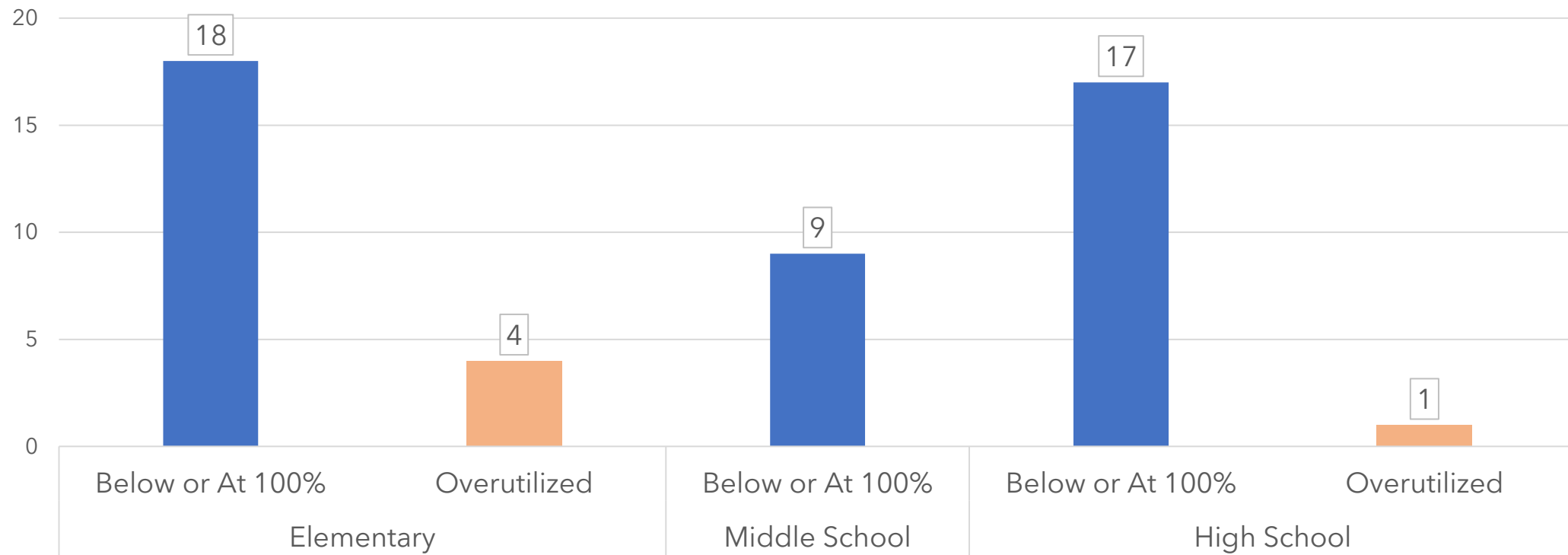
Utilization rates in D17 High Schools ranged from 15.6% to 152.4%

High School Utilization Rates, District 17
(2021-2022)



In D17, 5 of 49 schools were over 100%, enrolling 3,367 students (20% of total).

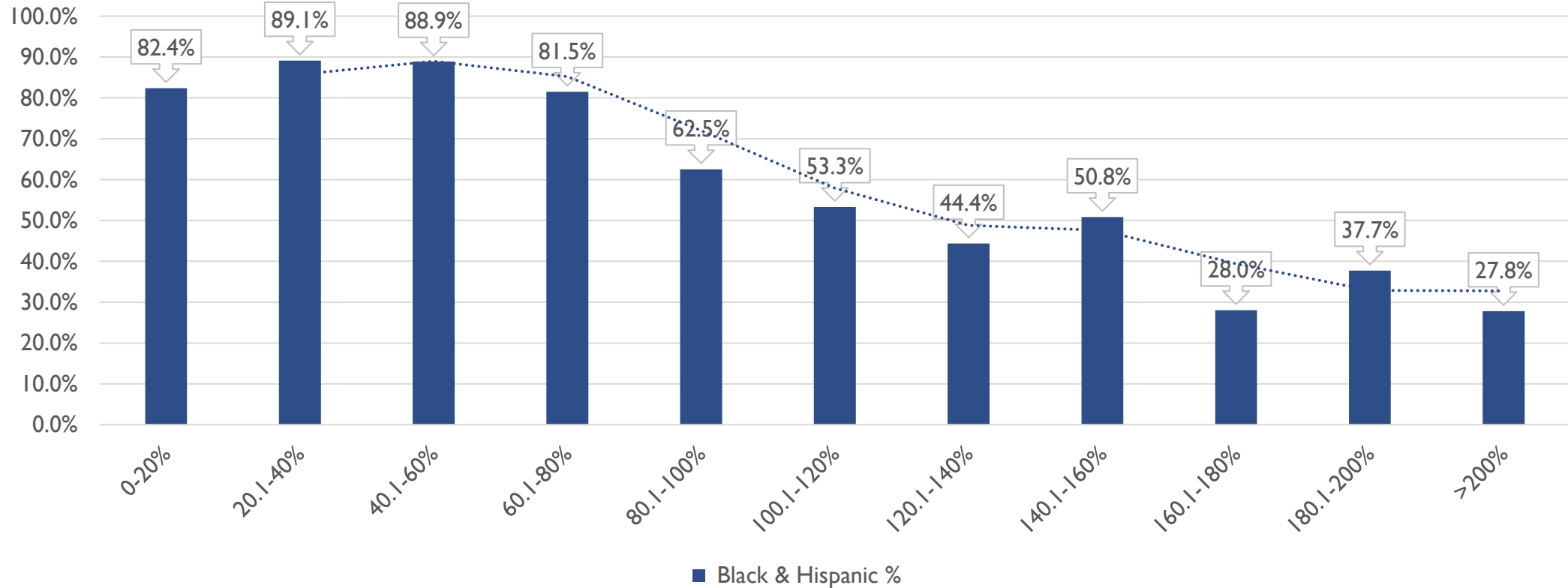
Number of Overutilized Schools vs. Underutilized Schools, District 17



Reforms also need to be considered to admissions/zoning policies

- SCA in general does not plan to build any schools where district AVERAGE utilization is under 100% except in rare occasions
- Yet many schools in same district may be at 50% utilization or less while others over 150%
- DOE needs to consider accelerating rezoning of elementary schools and reforming MS & HS admissions to more equitably allocate enrollment across all schools.
- This would also likely create more diversity across system.

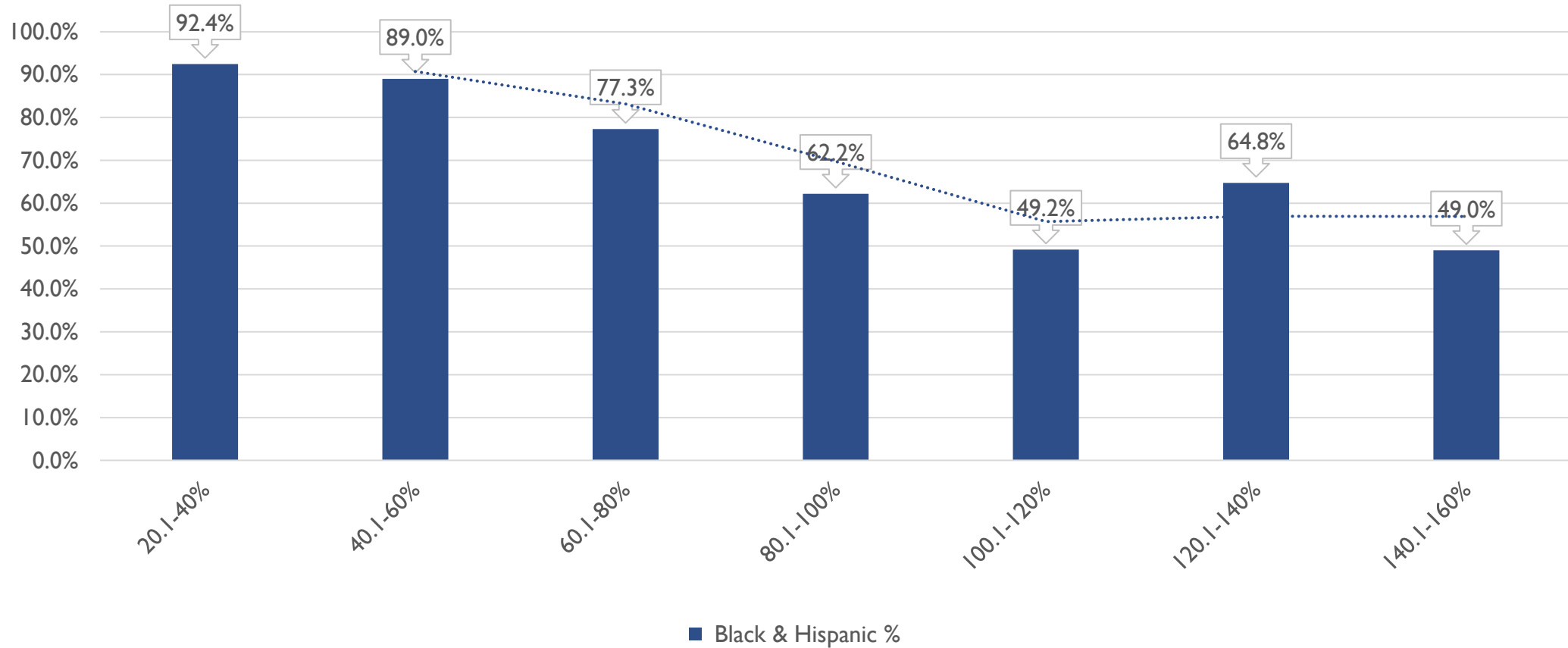
Elementary School Racial Breakdown by School Utilization, Citywide* (2021-2022)



*- Data includes K8 Schools

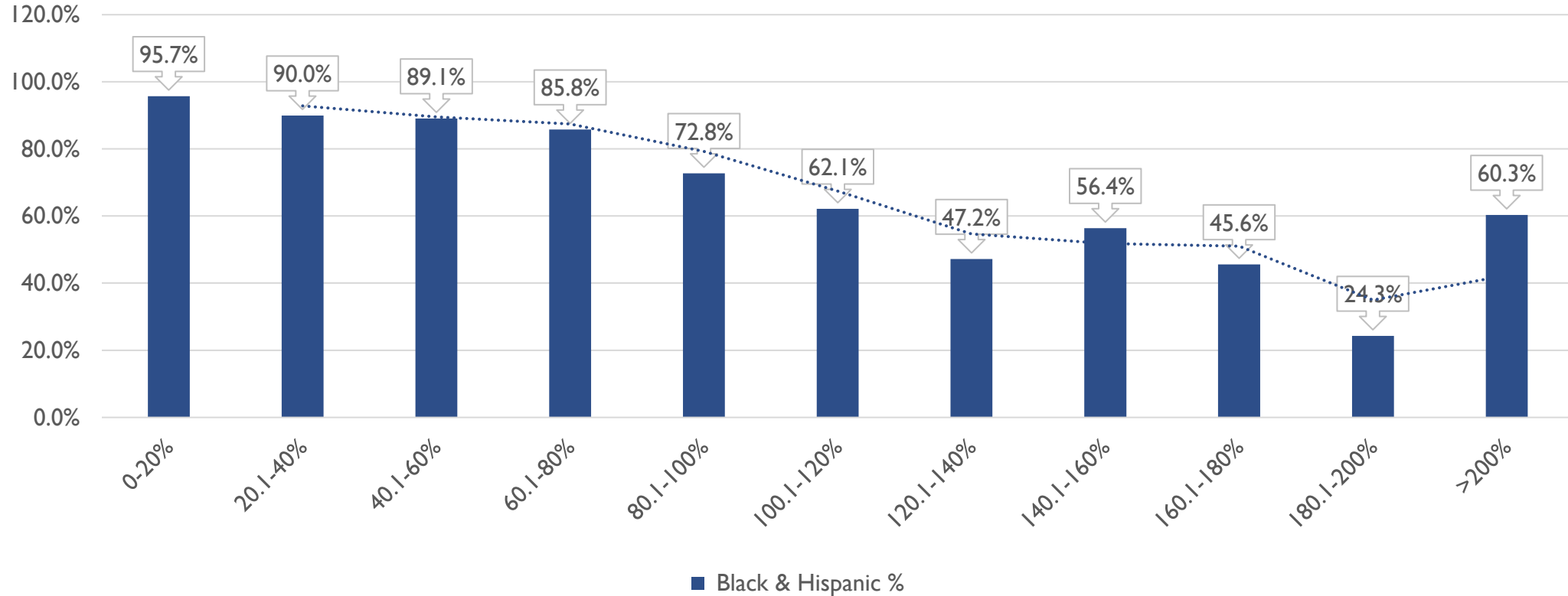
Data Sources: 2021-2022 Enrollment, Capacity, & Utilization Report. 2017-2022 Demographic Snapshot.

Middle School Racial Breakdown by School Utilization, Citywide (2021-2022)



Data Sources: 2021-2022 Enrollment, Capacity, & Utilization Report. 2017-2022 Demographic Snapshot.

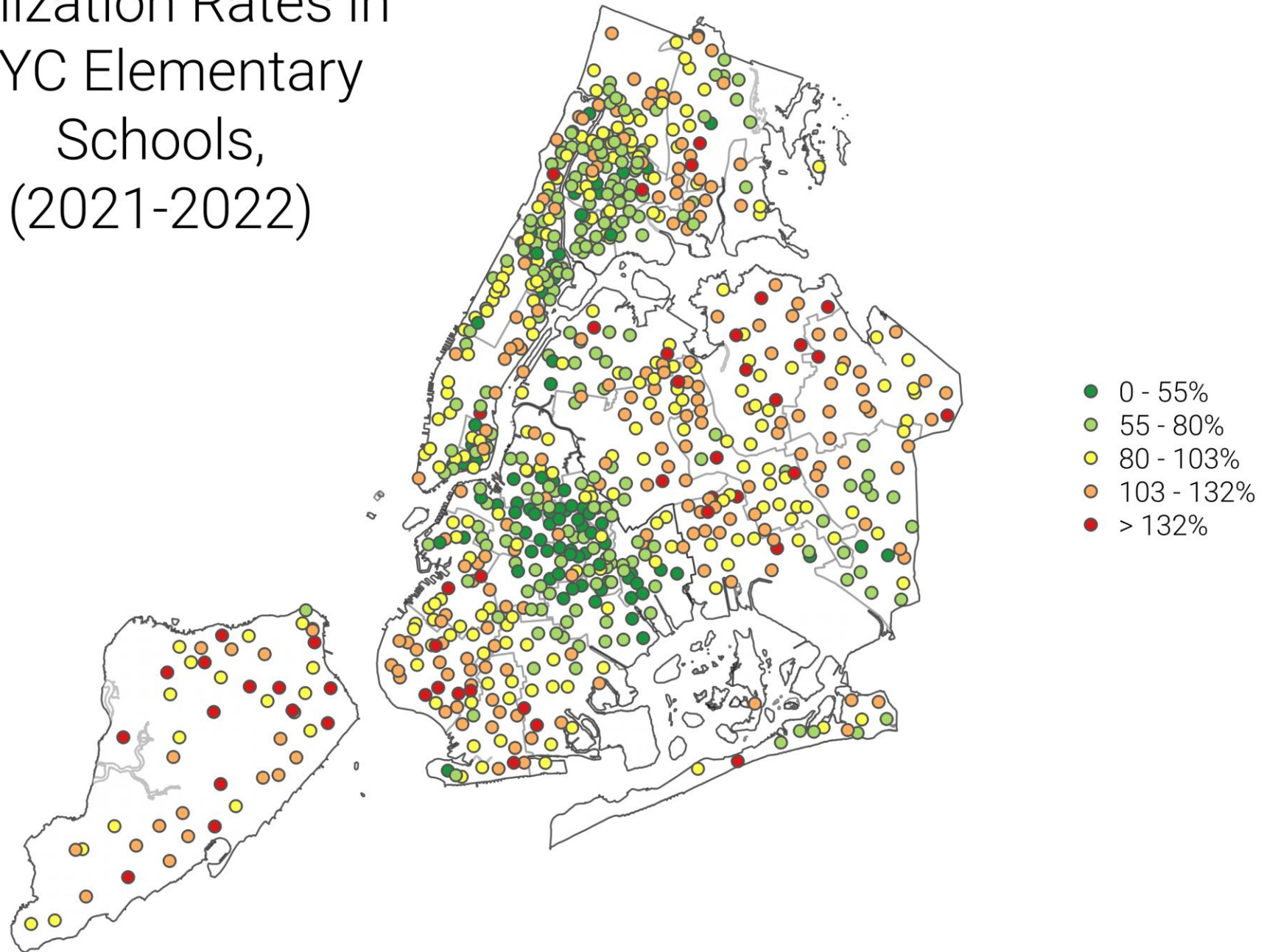
High School Racial Breakdown by School Utilization, Citywide* (2021-2022)



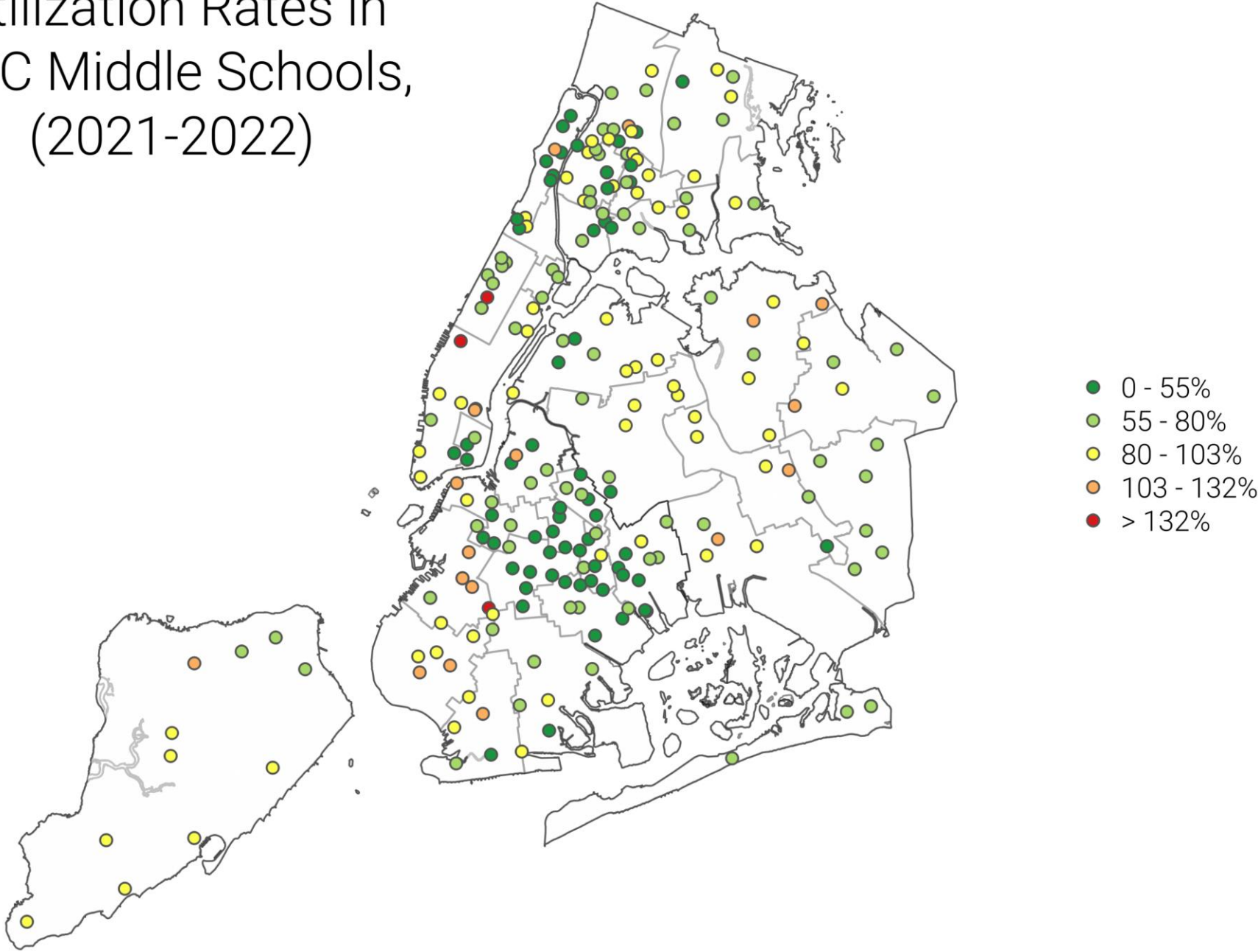
*- Data includes 6-12 Schools

Data Sources: 2021-2022 Enrollment, Capacity, & Utilization Report. 2017-2022 Demographic Snapshot.

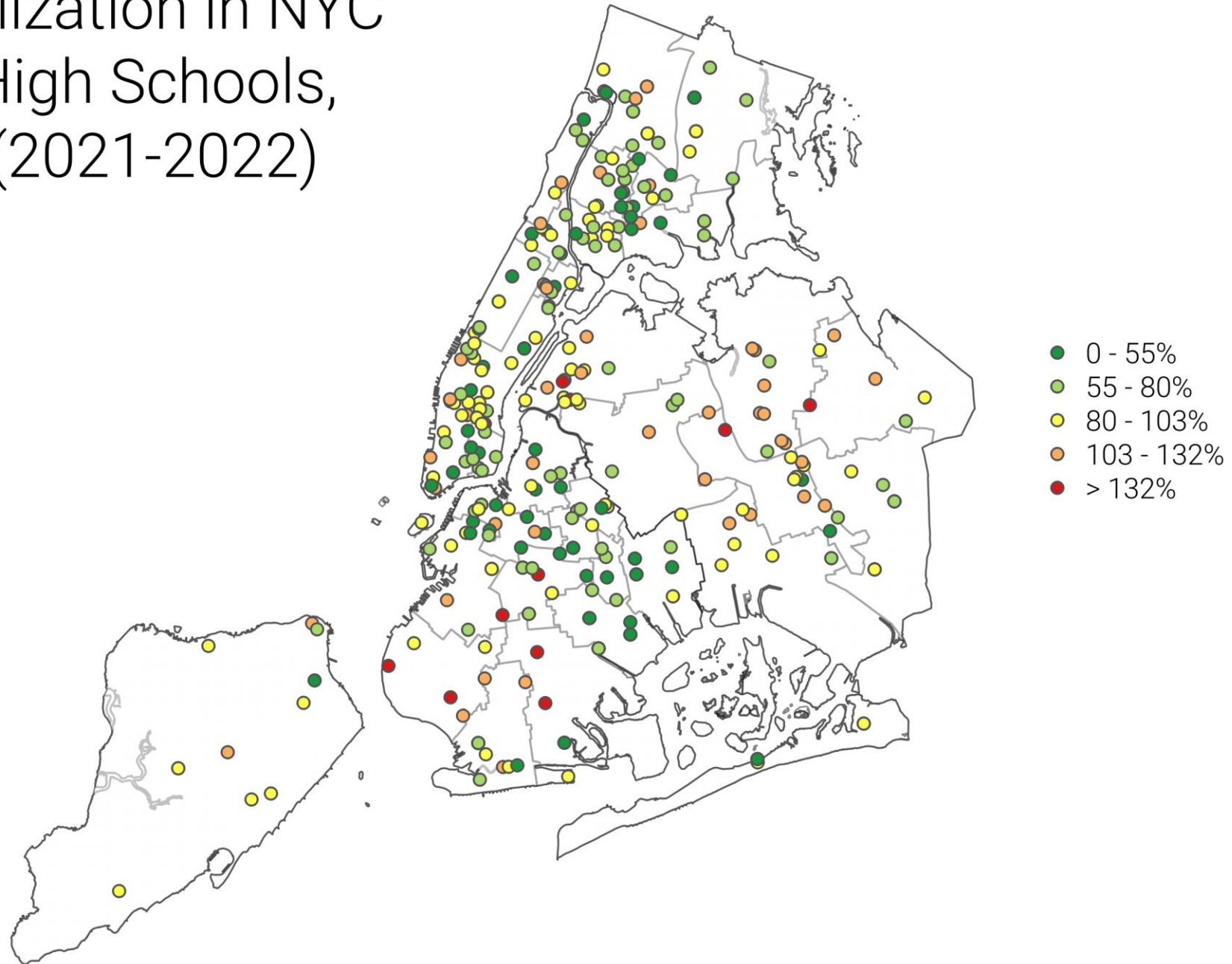
Utilization Rates in NYC Elementary Schools, (2021-2022)



Utilization Rates in NYC Middle Schools, (2021-2022)



Utilization in NYC High Schools, (2021-2022)



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

- Planning needs to start now to ensure sufficient funding for staffing; and a capital plan & admissions policies to 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!
- Many advocacy/parent groups & some electeds so far have signed letter asking DOE to create this Taskforce; CPAC and several CECs have passed resolutions on this as well.
- Sign on letter at [tinyurl/classsizetaskforce](https://tinyurl.com/classsizetaskforce)

Steps City Council could take to help

- Hold hearings to ask DOE about the progress of their planning for class size reduction.
- Pass a reso in favor of a task force that includes stakeholder groups to help develop plan, after analyzing potentially necessary changes to capital plan, admissions policy, and funding.
- Amend class size reporting law passed in 2005, [Local Law 125](#).
- Law should require reporting by school of each size of class to confirm how many classes in each school are compliant with cap
- Currently school-specific class size data only includes only averages and range of sizes by type of class and grade level
- Also, require that second round of reporting in Feb. each year reflects 2nd semester class sizes as originally intended (rather than audited version of Oct. 31 class sizes).

City Council re Budget changes

- Council should consider requiring a new unit of allocation --a subset of General Education and Special Education U of As -- to reflect school-level funding, or else it will be impossible to know in advance what cuts are being made to schools.
- Council could refuse to cut future school-level budgets and to try to ensure that whatever funding for additional staffing is provided meet benchmarks in the class size law.
- Require DOE to comply with two laws passed in 2018, to require better and more transparent capital planning and more timely school siting.

SCA/DOE claims they're building sufficient seats but haven't provided data to support this

- [Local Law 167](#) (2018) required DOE to provide transparent methodology and data on which seats needs estimates made. Neither has happened.
- Enrollment projections do not include 3K, D75, D79 or co-located charter school students, and no sub-district trends are available.
- Housing start data is from 6/2020; with multiplier based on 2010 census data
- Seat needs in capital plan STILL do not differentiate elementary vs MS needs
- Rezoning/changes in school utilization info provided only to 2021
- Methodology isn't provided in enough detail, instead vaguely describes using "*qualitative analysis*" and "*various strategies to address need*" without specifying.
- Data source <http://www.nycsca.org/community/capital-plan-reports-data> as of 5.22.22

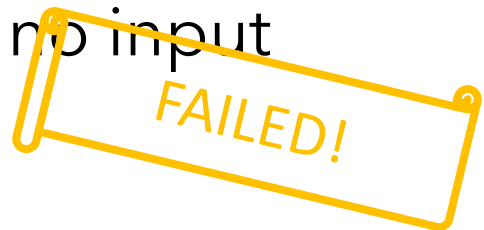


FAILED!

DOE also in non-compliance with Local Law 168

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

The Task Force met only twice, released a 2-pg report with no input from City Council & parent members



Through FOIL we received a spreadsheet that ruled out hundreds of city-owned sites for unclear reasons, and never reported on suitability of 22,065 privately-owned sites.