



Planning for class size reduction:
Citywide & in Council District 25
(including class size/overcrowding data from School Districts 24 & 30)

Presentation to CM Shekar Krishnan
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11.18.22

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.

This year, class sizes increased citywide

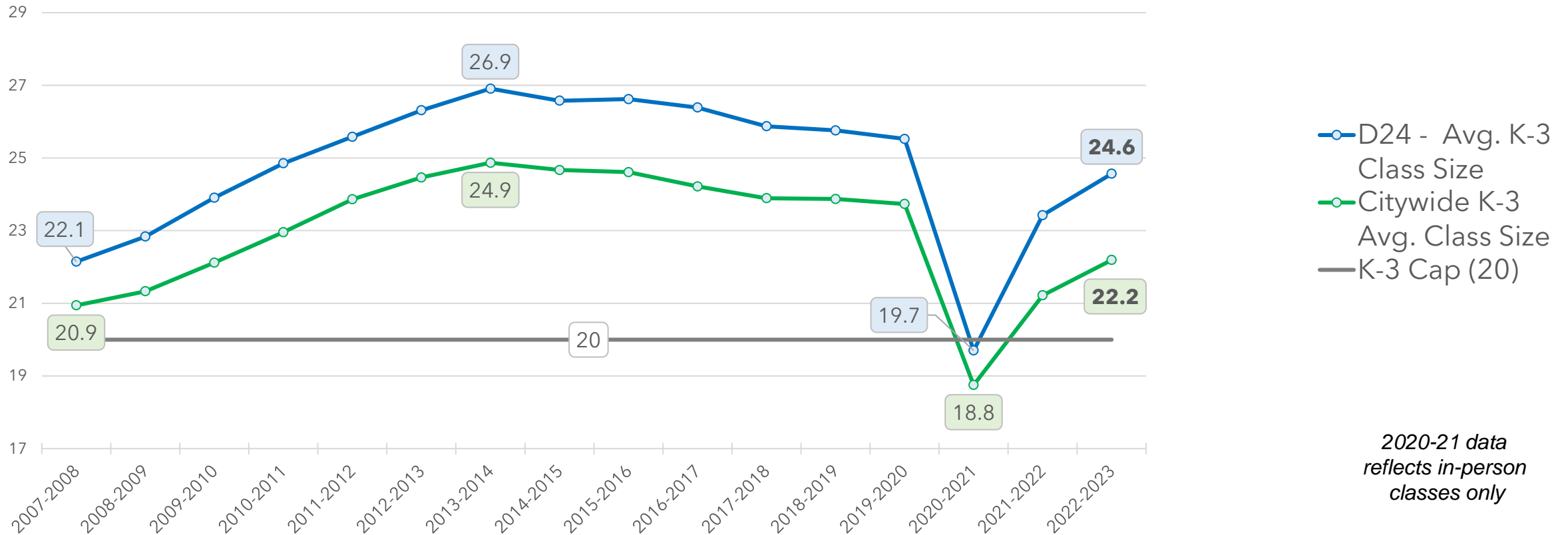
- Budgets were cut drastically in most every schools, tied to continued projected enrollment decline through Fair Student Funding formula
- Federal funds also reduced sharply - about \$1B, even though NYC still had more than \$4B in federal Covid funds unspent as of late August
- These cuts have led 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 Council District 25 schools, Fair Student Funding was cut by \$3.875 Million , 2.9% 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
- ***Council District 25 Galaxy school budgets were cut by \$19.1 Million as of Sept. 28 - a 8.1% 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.

Class sizes in K-3rd grades increased sharply this year - D24 schools larger than citywide average at 24.6

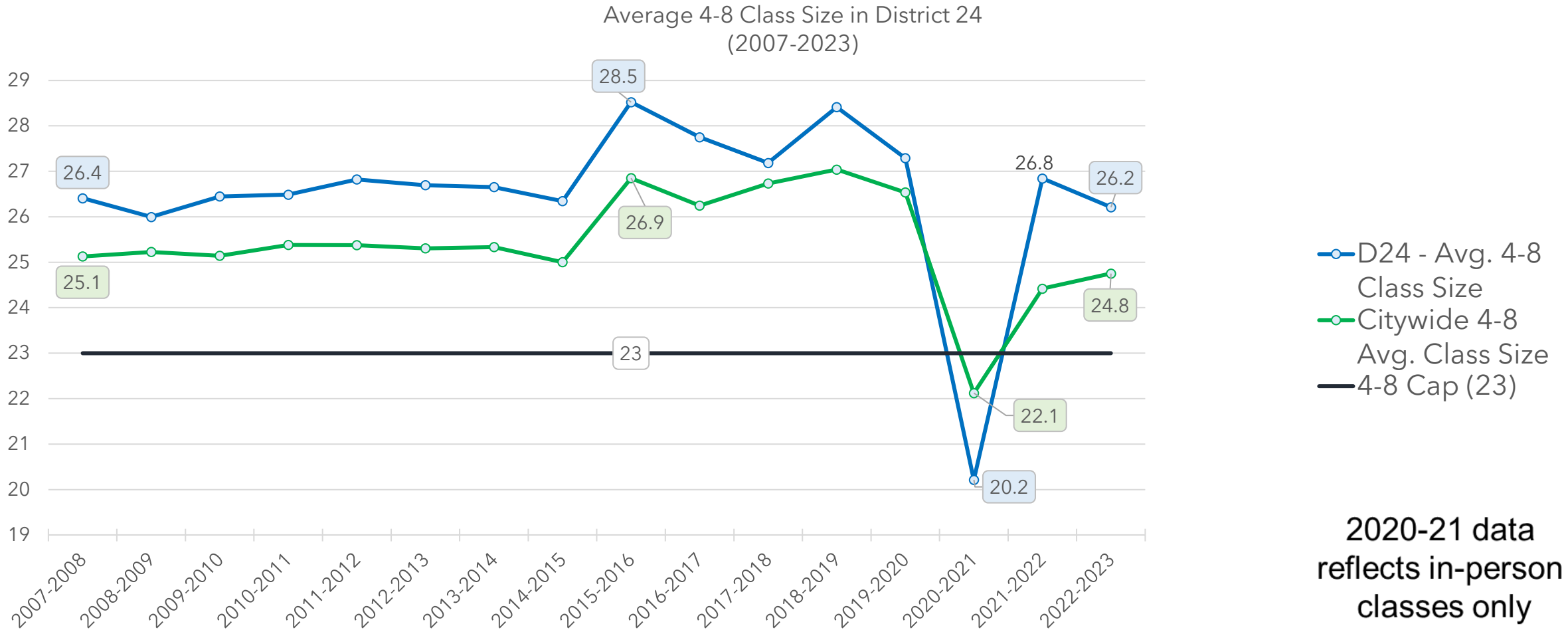
Average K-3 Class Size in District 24 (2007-2023)



2020-21 data reflects in-person classes only

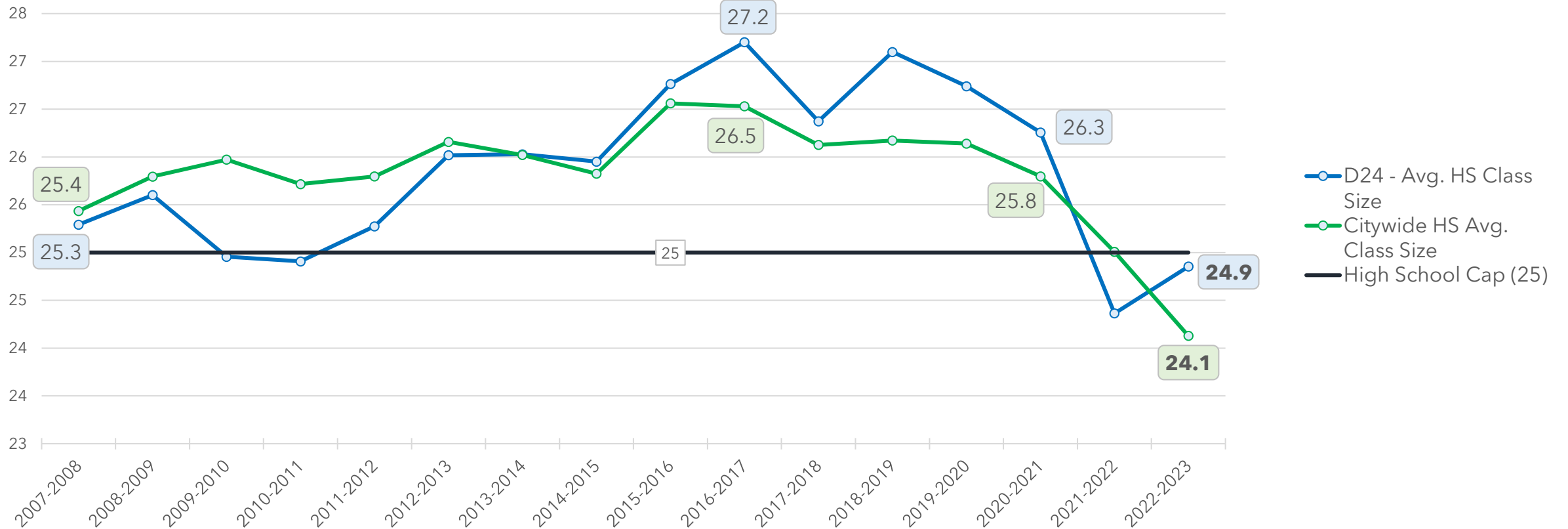
Class sizes also increased this year in grades 4-8 to 24.7

D24 fell slightly but still larger than citywide at 26.2 students per class



Citywide, average class sizes in High Schools have fallen - but in D24 they slightly increased this year to 24.9 students per class.

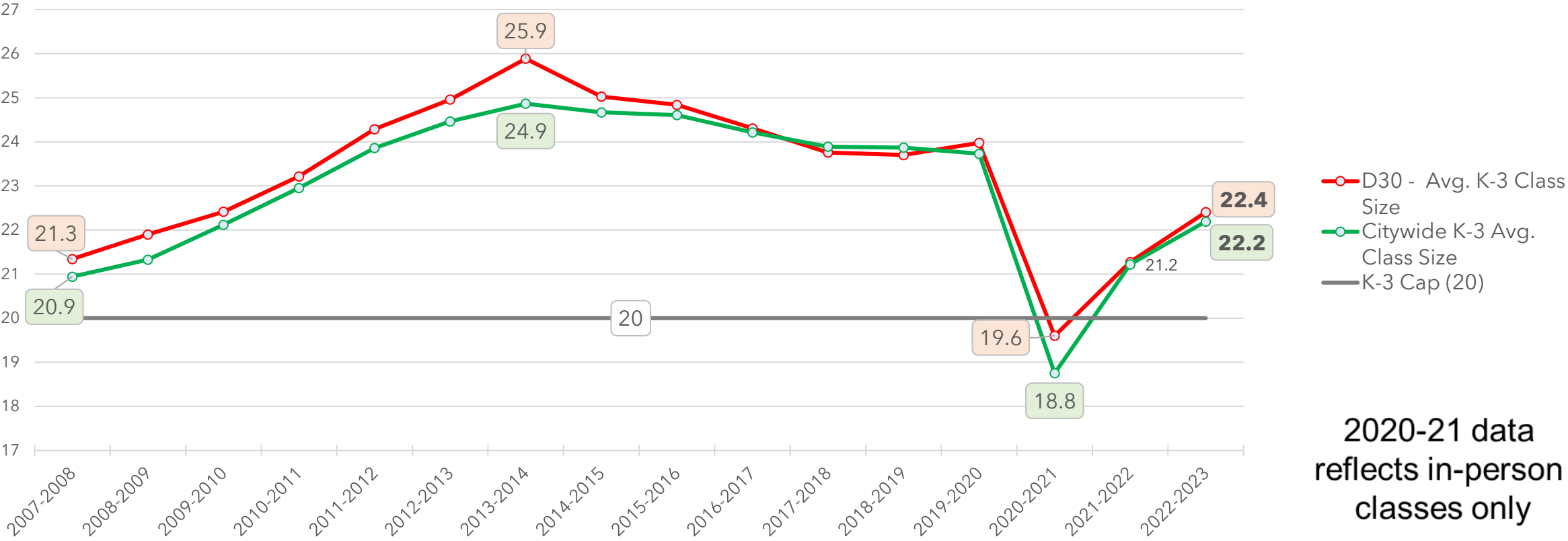
Average HS Class Size in District 24
(2007-2023)



Citywide average class sizes in K-3rd increased to 22.2 students compared to last year.

D30 class sizes higher at 22.4.

Average K-3 Class Size in District 30 (2007-2023)

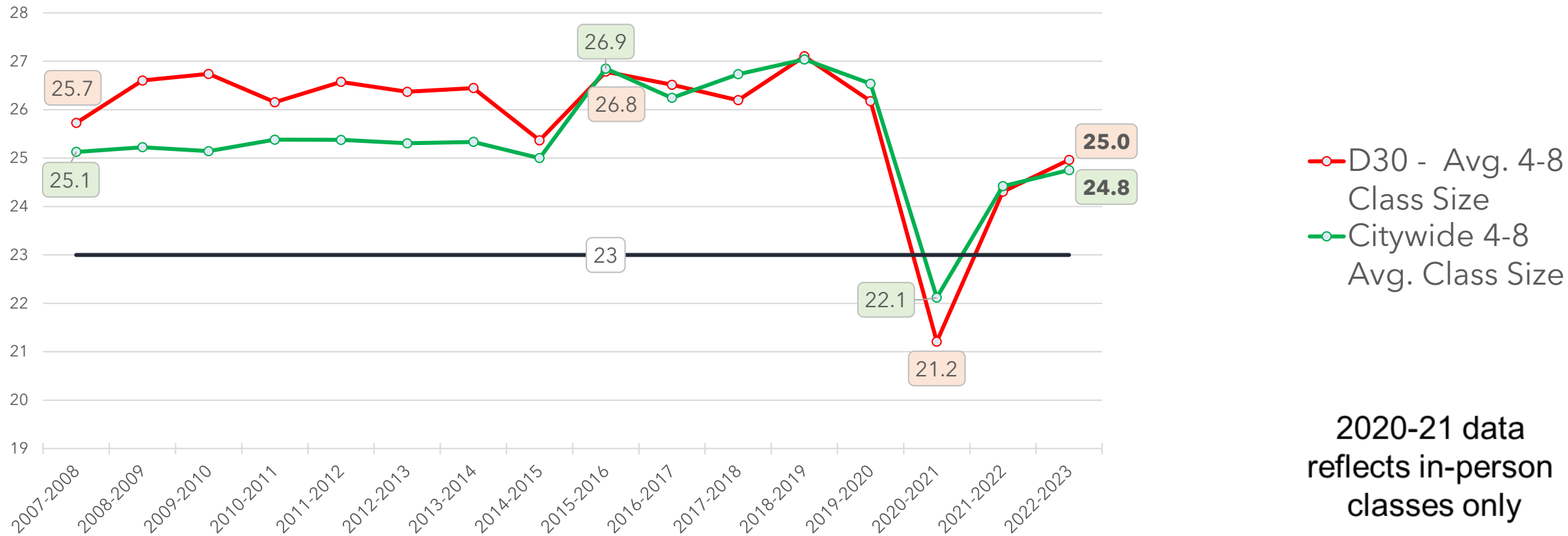


2020-21 data reflects in-person classes only

Citywide average class sizes in 4th-8th increased to 24.8 students per class since last year.

D30 higher at 25.0

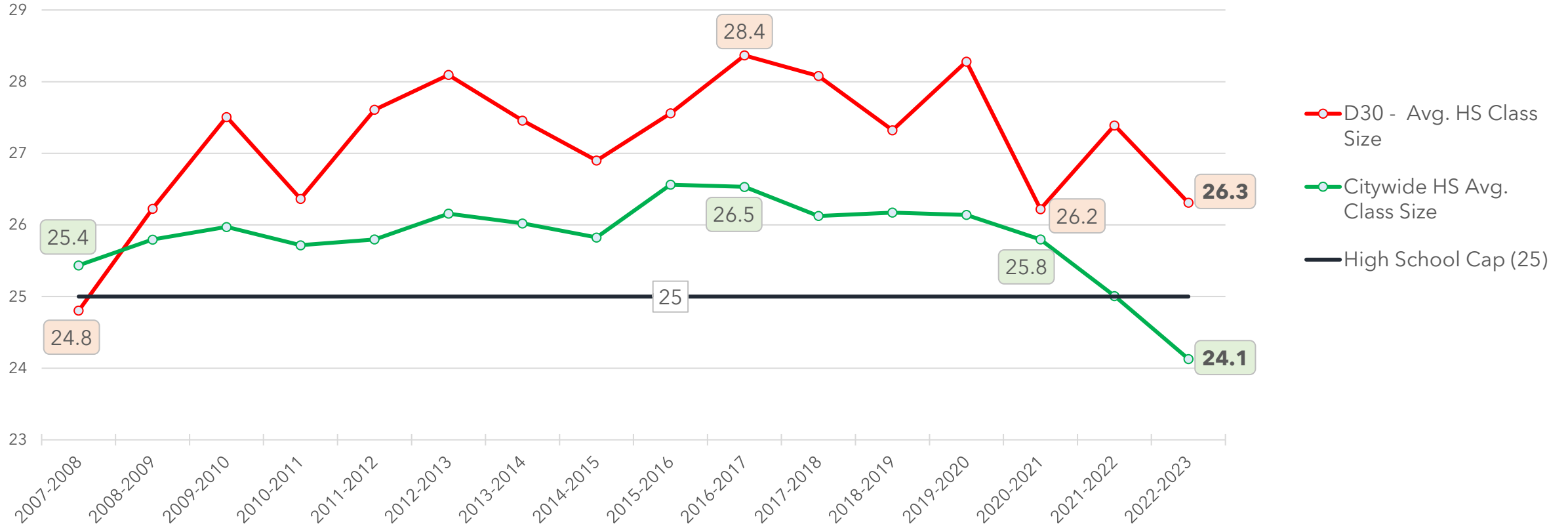
Average 4-8 Class Size in District 30
(2007-2023)



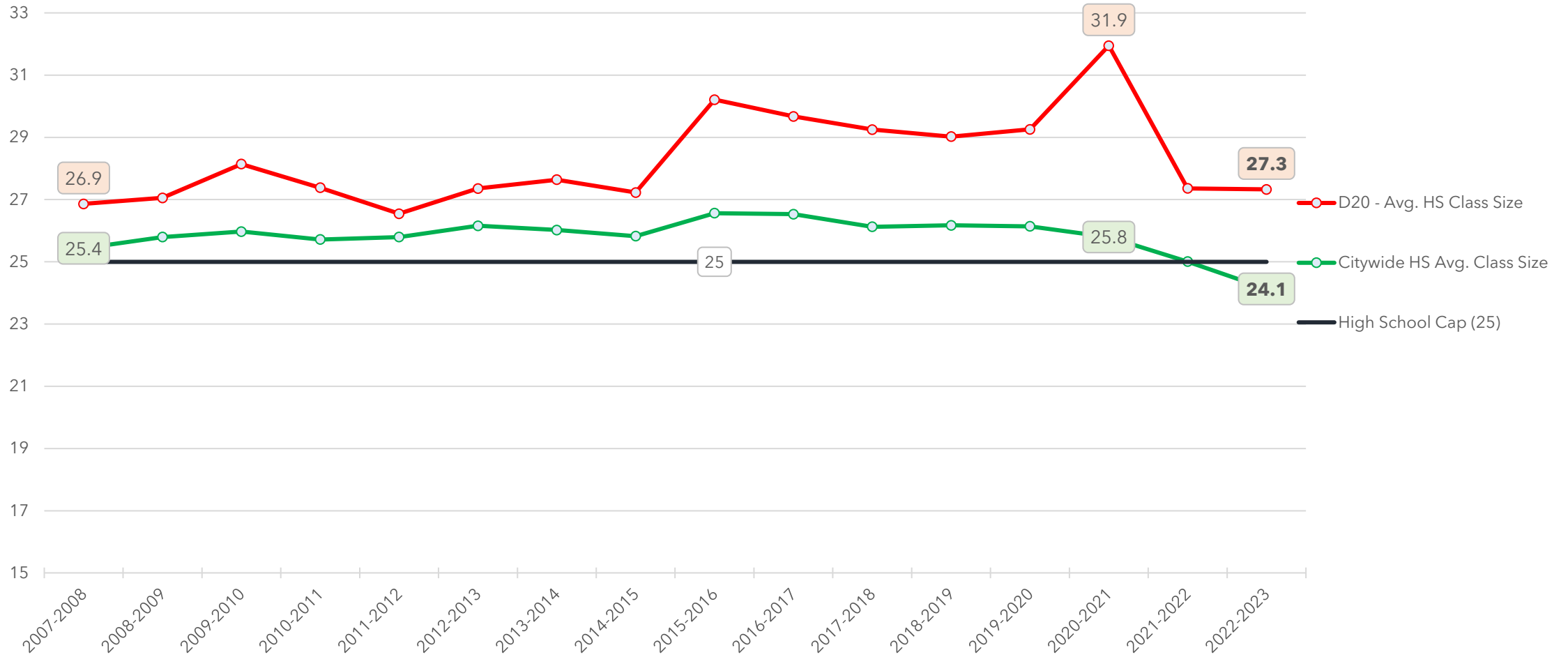
2020-21 data
reflects in-person
classes only

Citywide high schools decreased & in D30
but district average at 26.3 is large & above cap.

Average HS Class Size in District 30
(2007-2023)



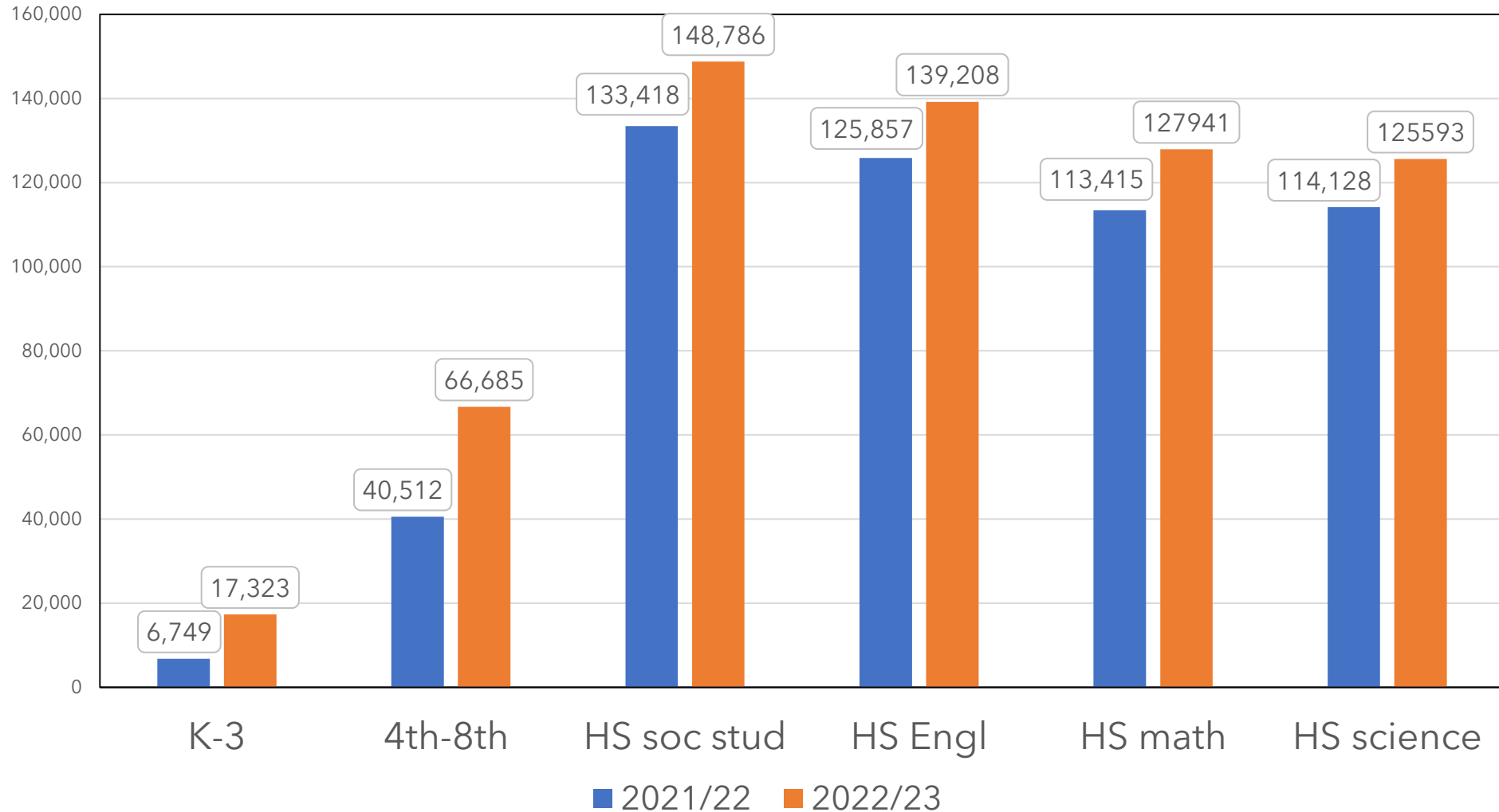
Average HS Class Sizes in District 20 (2007-2023)



In fall of 2022, more than 232,794* students were in classes of 30 or more
Number increased at all grade spans including HS

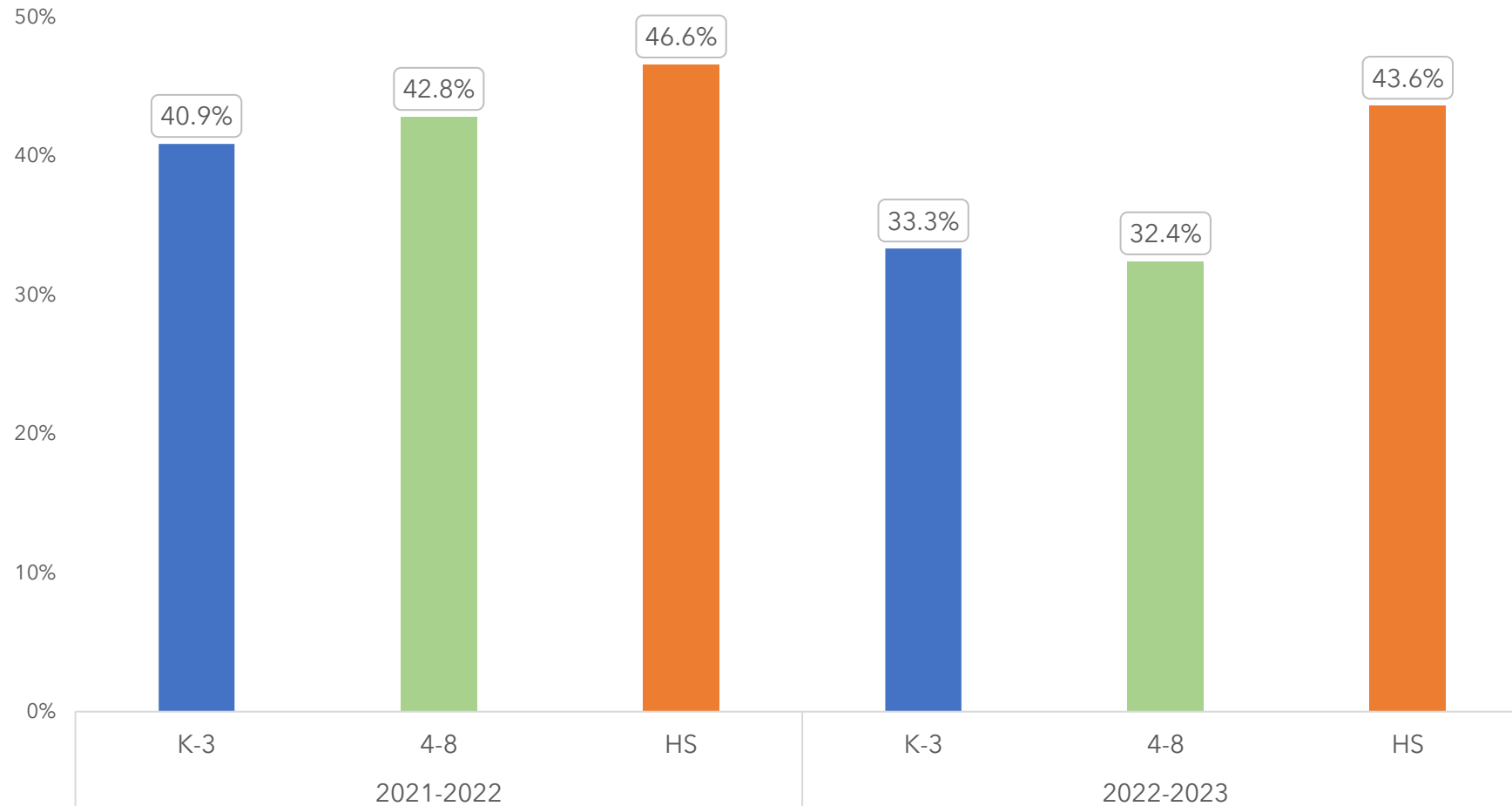
Number of Students in Classes 30 or Larger

***Only HS
Social
Studies
students
included in
total
In order not
to double
count HS
students.**



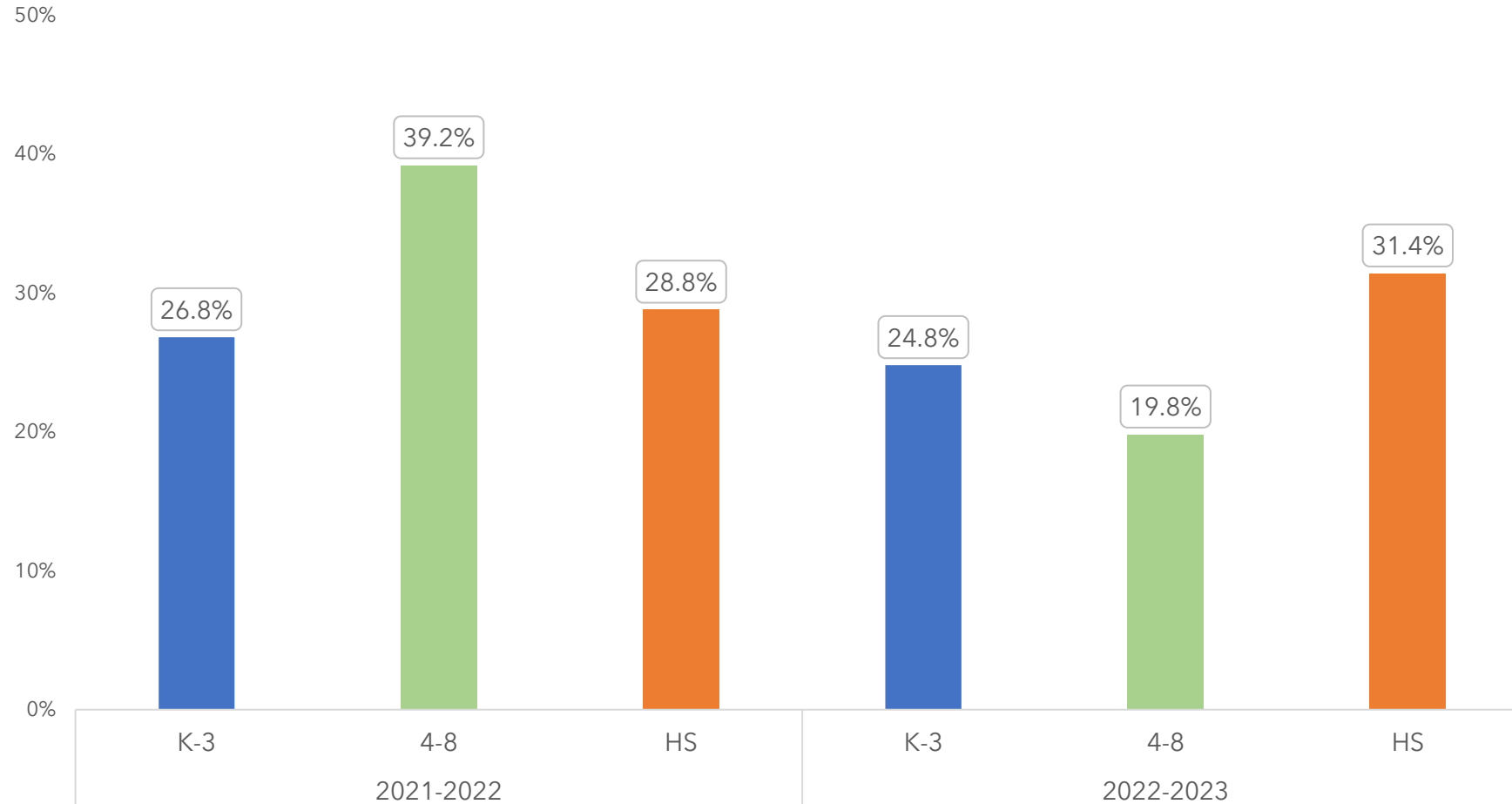
Percentage of Classes At or Below Class Size Caps, Citywide - (2021-2023)

38% of all classes citywide met the 5-yr cap compared to 41% last year



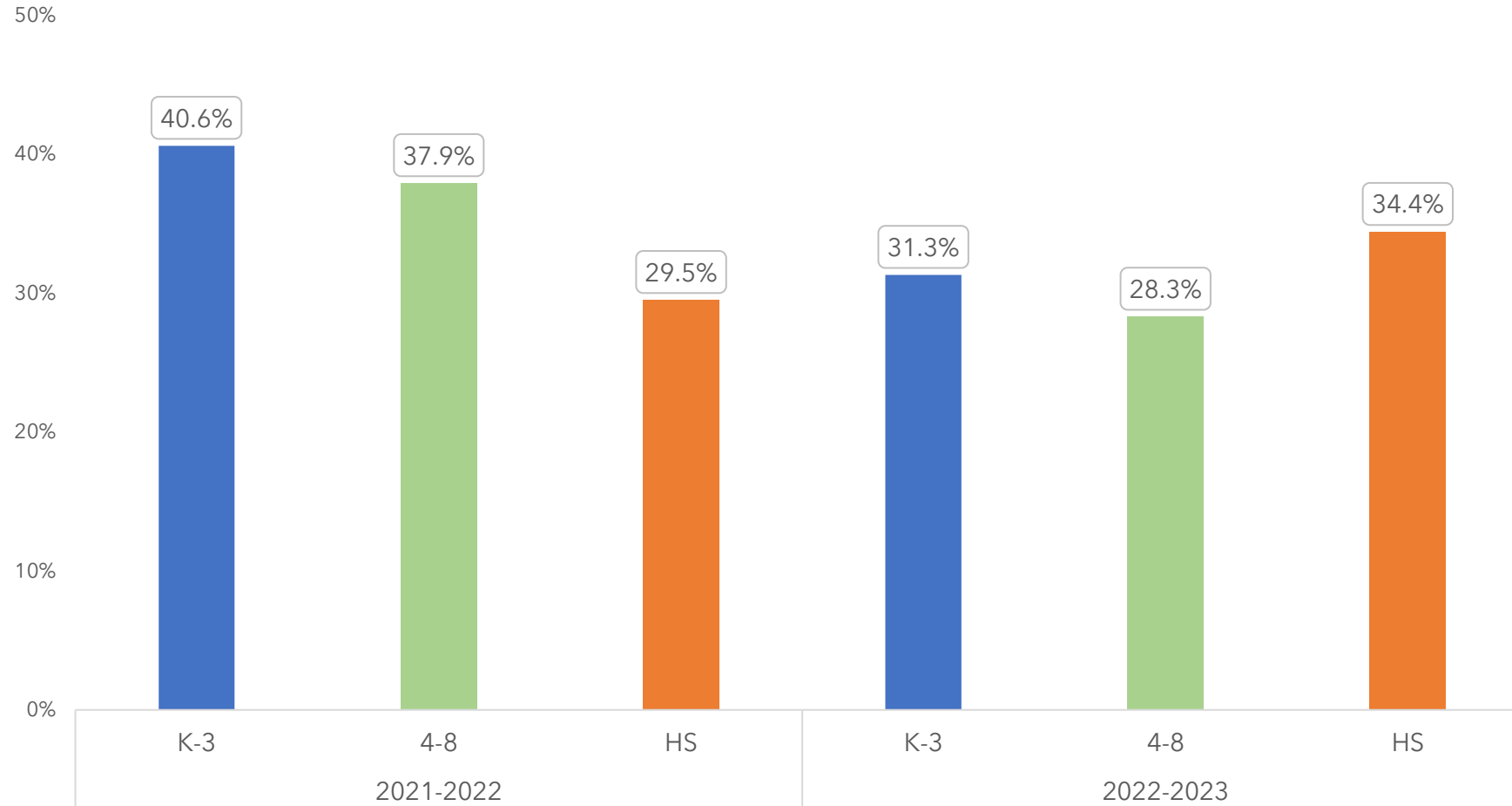
Percentage of Classes At or Below Class Size Caps, fewer in District 24 - (2021-2023)

28% of all classes in District 24 met 5-yr cap



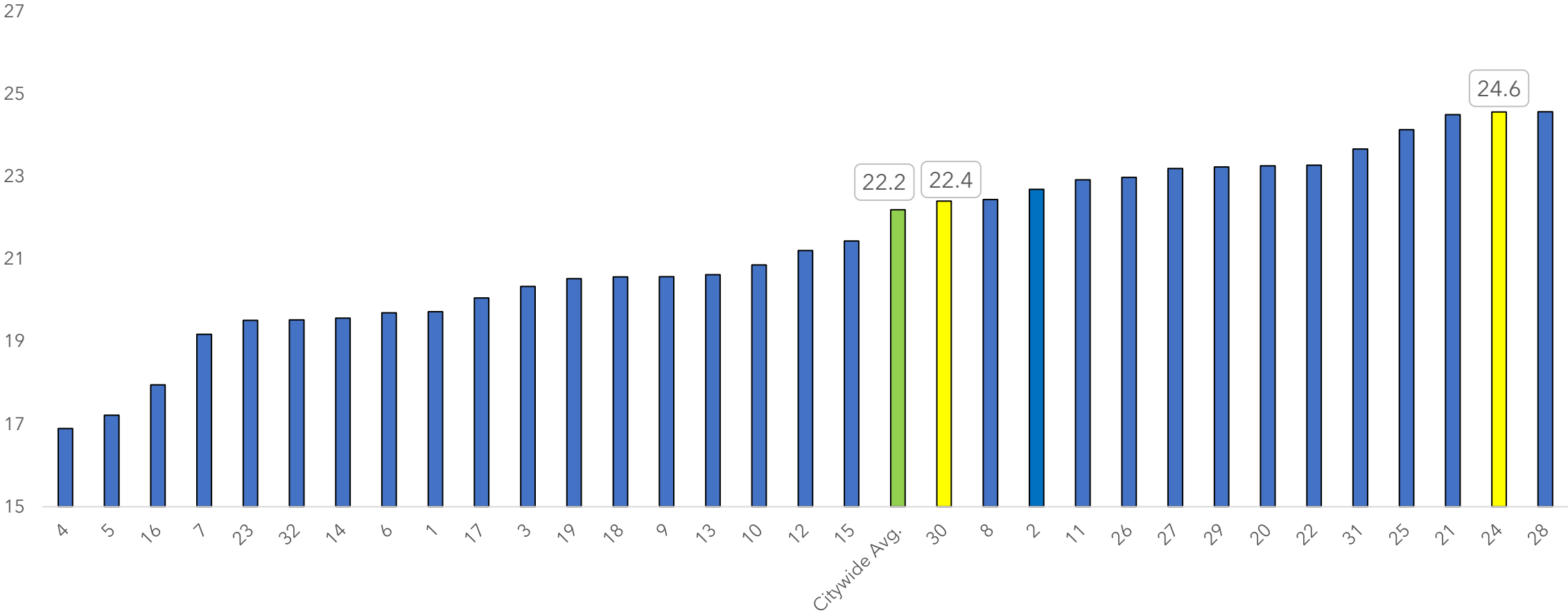
Percentage of Classes At or Below Class Size Caps, District 30 - (2021-2023)

31% of all classes in District 30 met the 5-yr cap



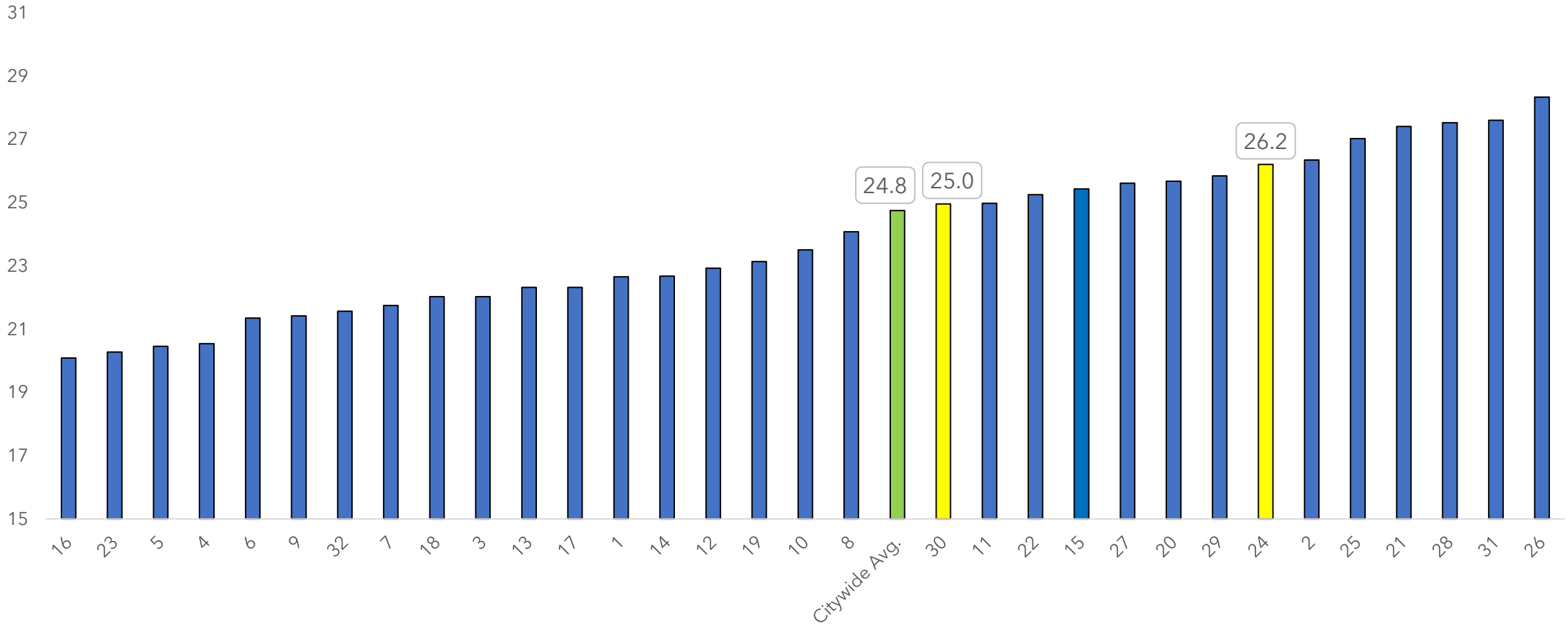
Average K-3 Class Sizes by District (2022-2023)

District 24 average is 2nd highest in city after D28



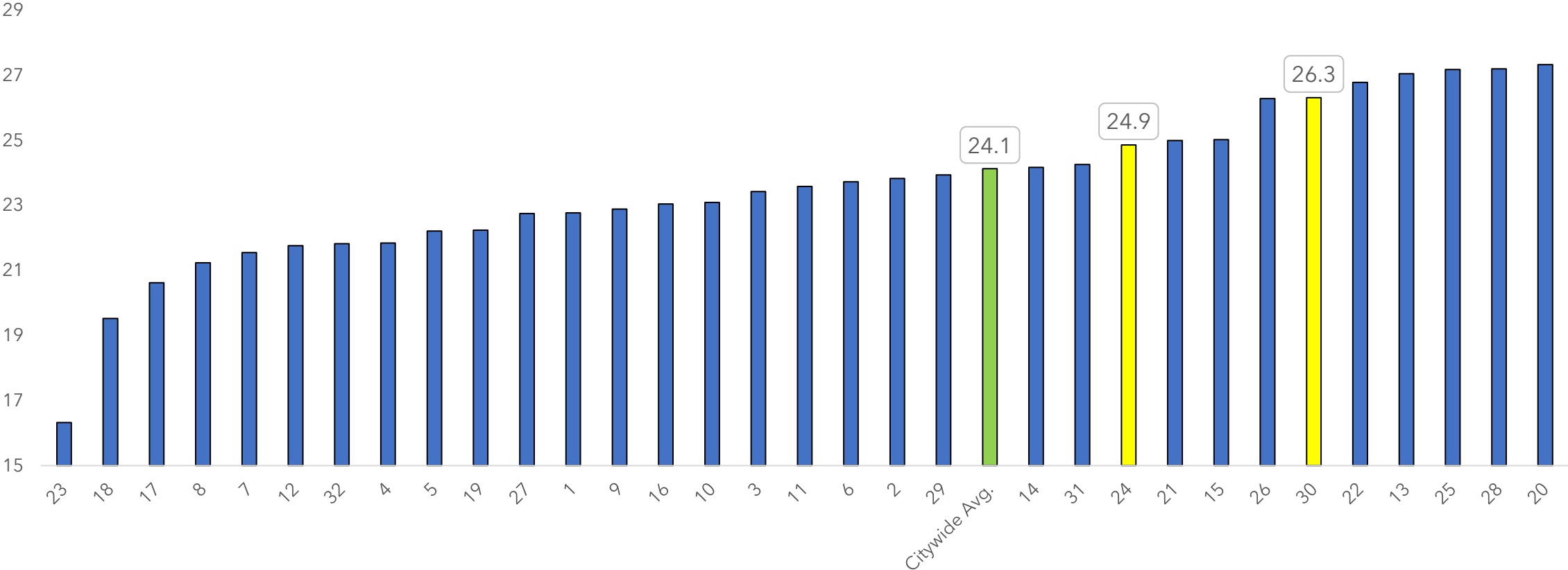
Average 4-8 Class Sizes by District (2022-2023)

District 24 7th highest in city



Average High School Class Sizes by District (2022-2023)

District 24 & 30 have above average HS class sizes

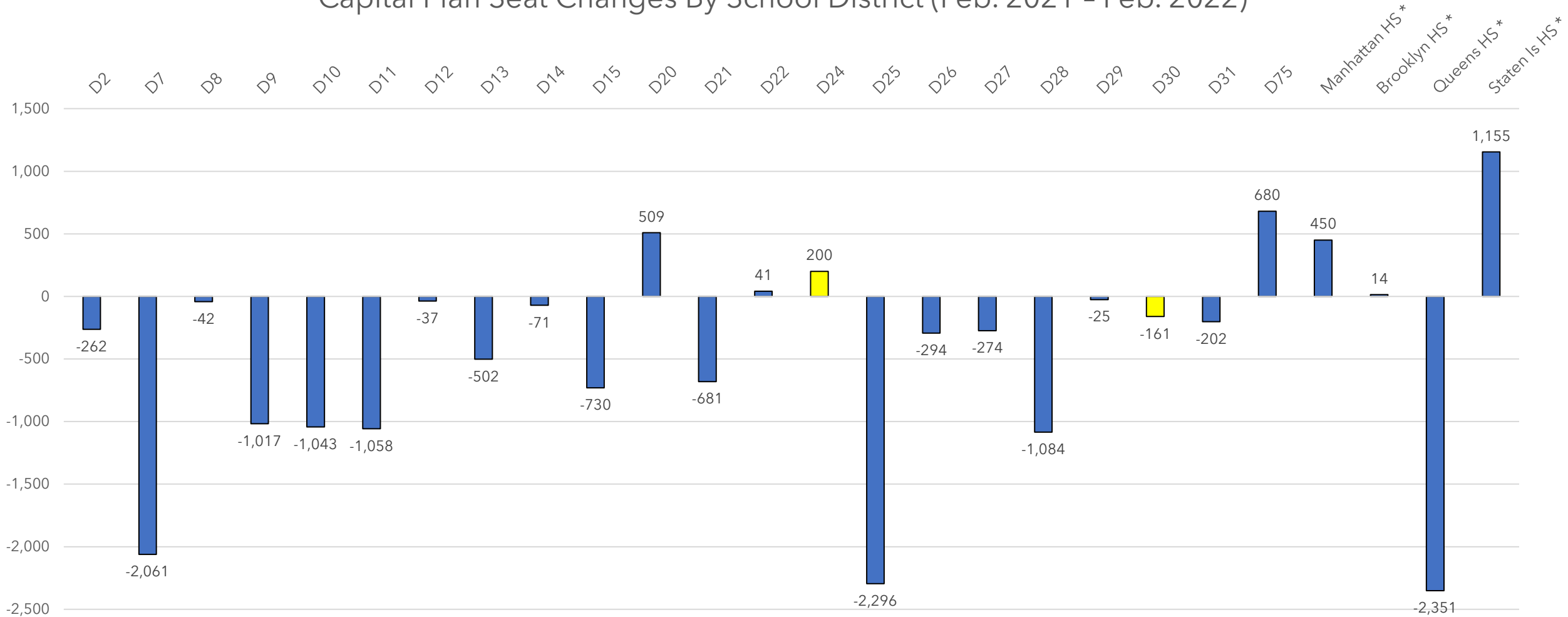


Adopted school capital plan also cut \$1.5B in new capacity vs. plan adopted in 2021

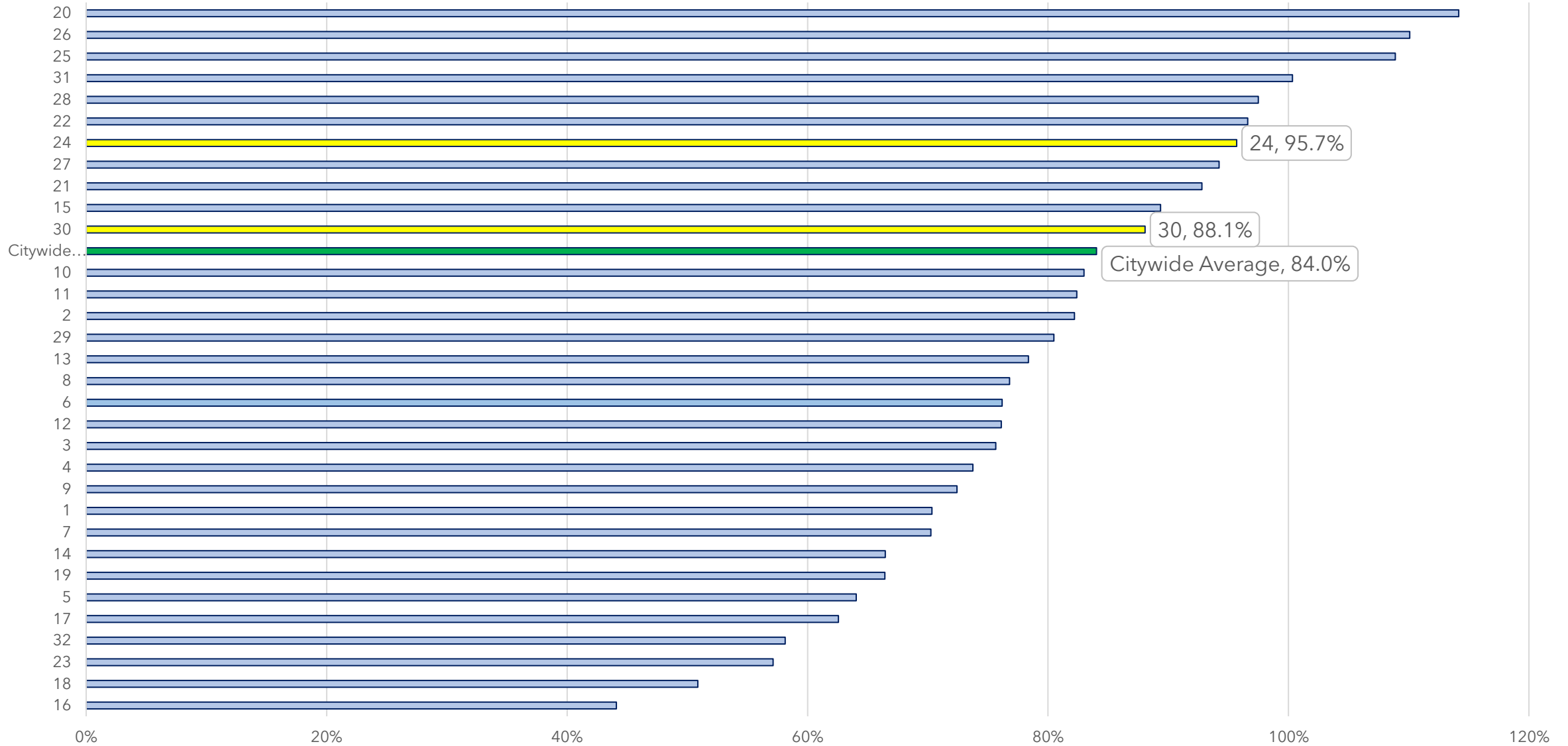
- Amount to be spent on new capacity plunged from \$7.8B to \$6.3B in the adopted plan
- More than 11,000 net seats cut (57,489 cut to 45,883)
- Yet 347,000 (38%) of students citywide were in schools over 100% last year, according to Blue Book.
- 57% (15,577) of Elementary students were in 18 overcrowded D24 elementary schools last year, and 22% (3,936) of Elementary students were in 8 overcrowded D30 elementary schools last year.
- 200 seats added to D24, but still only planning 1,316 seats.
- 161 seats cut from D30; planning 2,899 seats.

Net 11,000 seats cut in capital plan adopted in June 2022, with 200 added in District 24 and 257 cut in District 30.

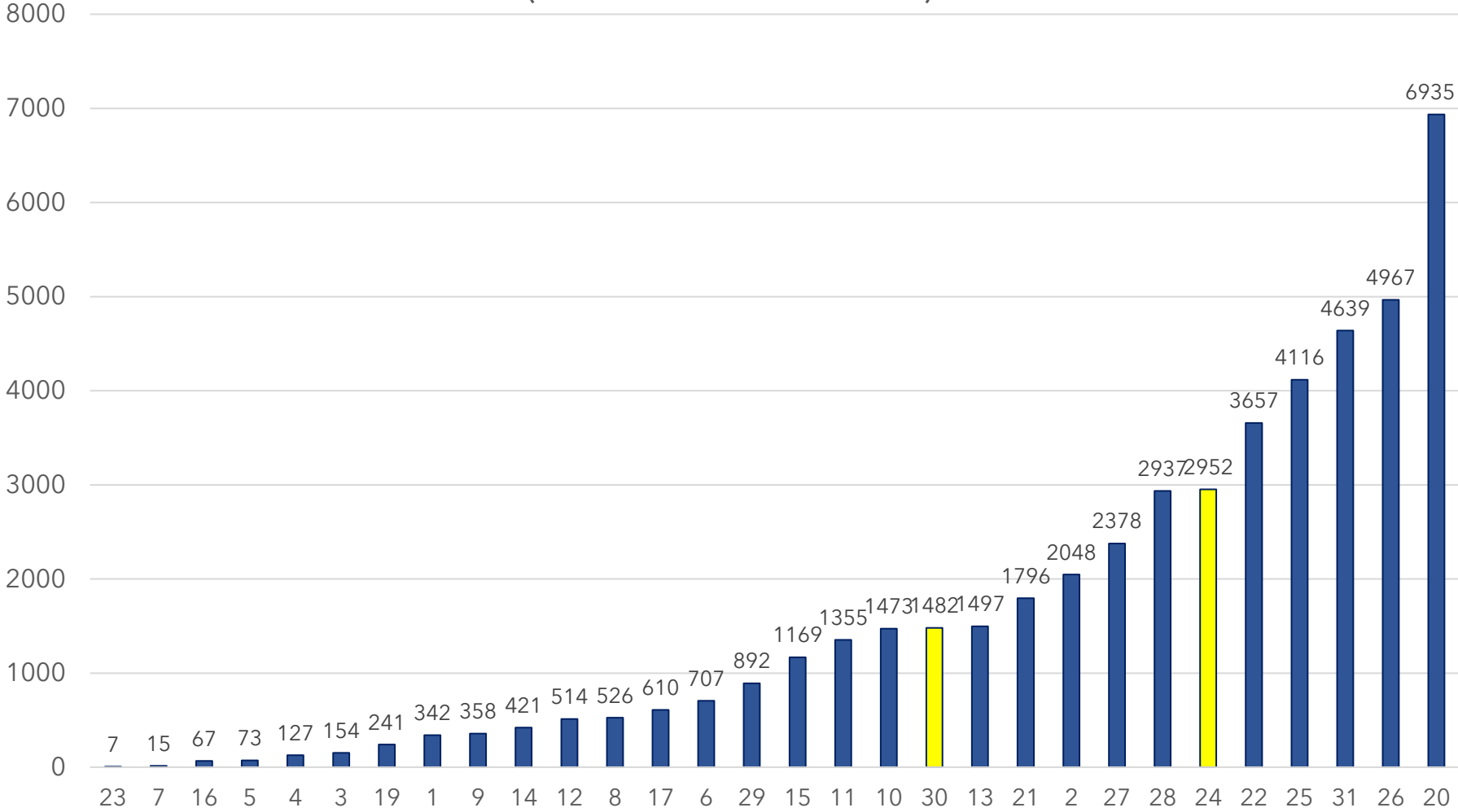
Capital Plan Seat Changes By School District (Feb. 2021 - Feb. 2022)



Average Utilization by School District (Blue Book 2021-2022)



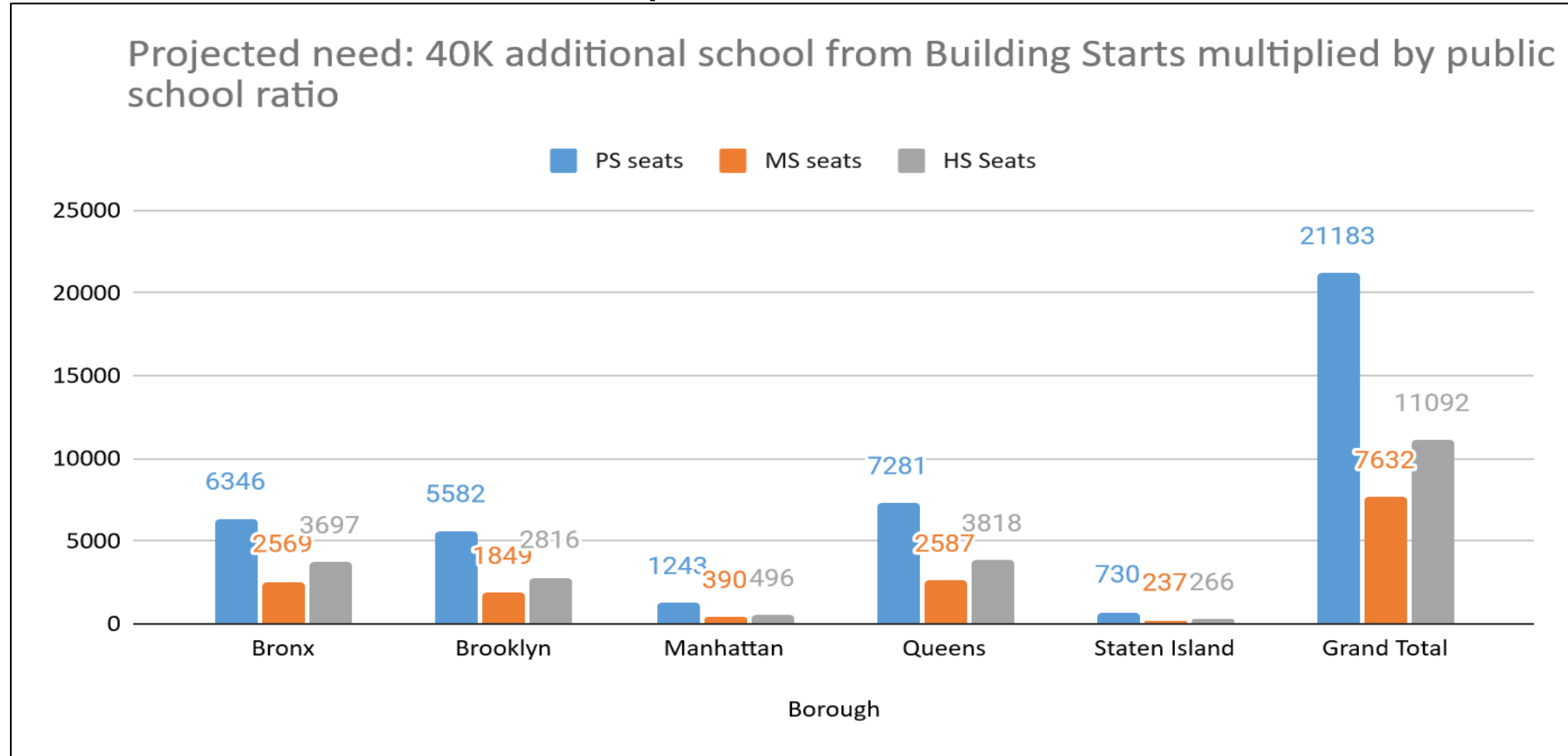
48,455 Seats needed in Overutilized Schools (incl HS) to
 get to 100% without changes in zoning/enrollment
 2,952 in D24 & 1,482 in D30
 (Blue Book 2021-2022)



Cuts in capital plan not explained but presumably for 2 reasons

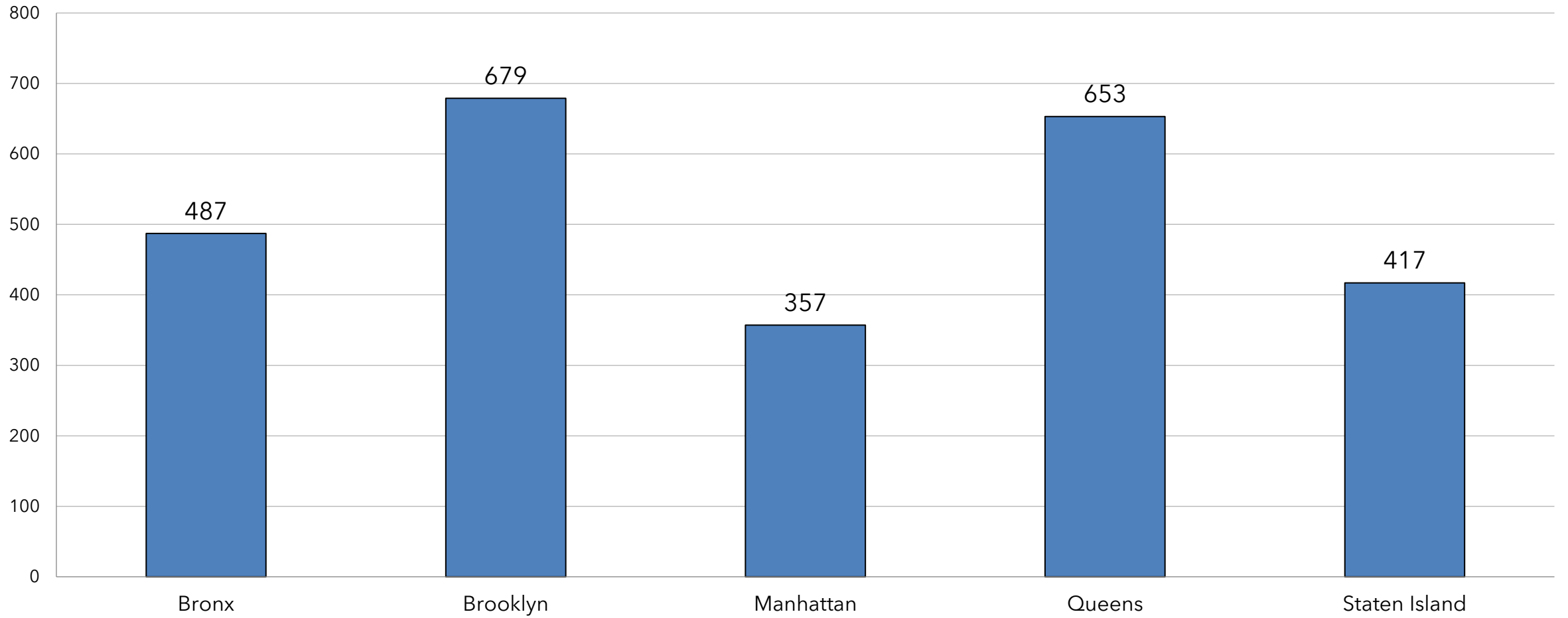
- Enrollment decline which DOE is projecting to continue
- SCA also changed "efficiency ratio" in utilization formula, that assumes how many periods a day a MS or HS classroom will be scheduled.
- Previously regular classrooms were expected to be in use 7 of 8 periods a day. Specialty rooms 5 of 8 periods 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

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

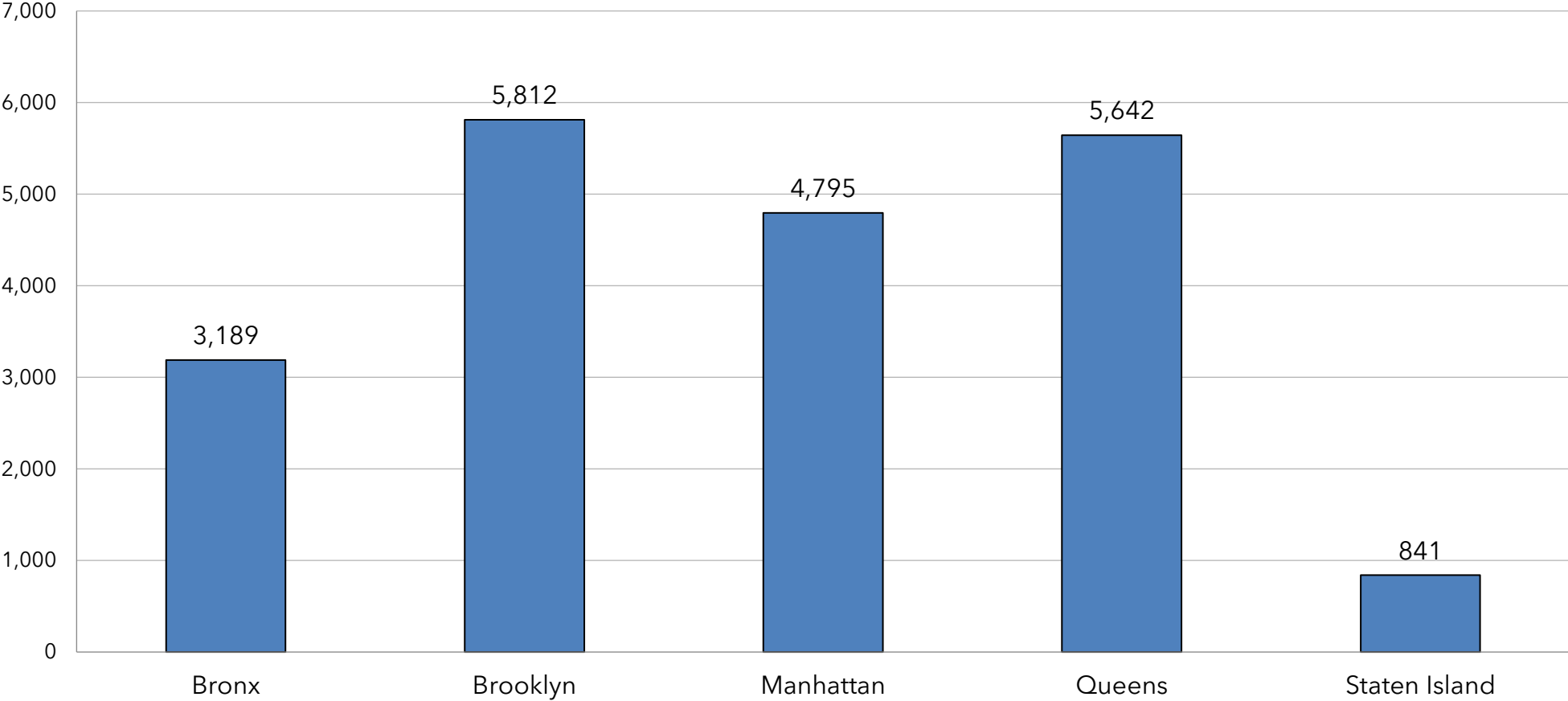


Data: Projected Housing Starts 2020-2029 as used in 2020-29 Enrollment Projections multiplied by Public School ratio. See <http://www.nycsca.org/Community/Capital-Plan-Reports-Data#Housing-Projections-70>

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



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

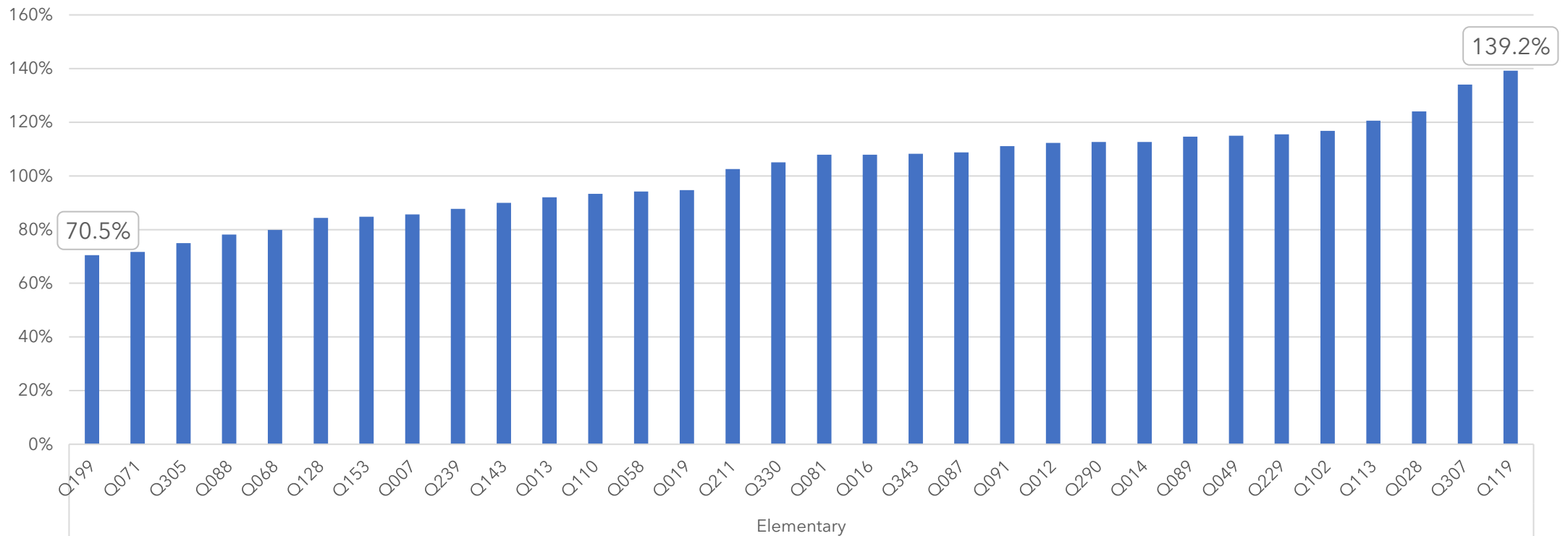


Distributing enrollment more equitably across schools would provide several important benefits

- It would make it easier to achieve the mandated class size caps in all schools
- It would ensure more sustainable budgets to principals who currently struggle to fund staffing and critical services and programs in under-enrolled schools
- It would alleviate the overcrowding in overutilized schools that often leads to large classes, students attending school in double or triple shifts and/or forced to eat lunch early in the morning or late in afternoon.
- It would likely create more diversity within schools, as the most underutilized schools tend to have the highest % Black and Hispanic students, and the most overutilized the highest % of White and Asian students .

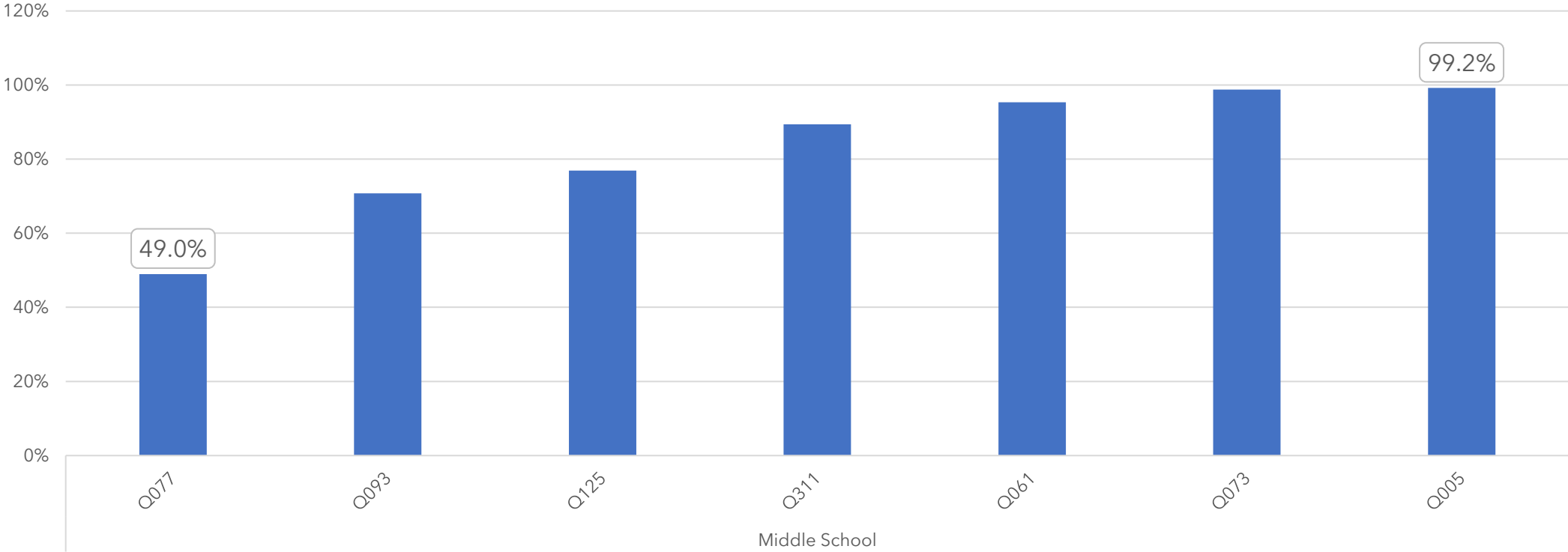
In District 24, Elementary school utilization rates ranged widely from 70.5% to 139%, with an average of 101.6%.

Elementary School Utilization Rates, School District 24
(2021-2022)



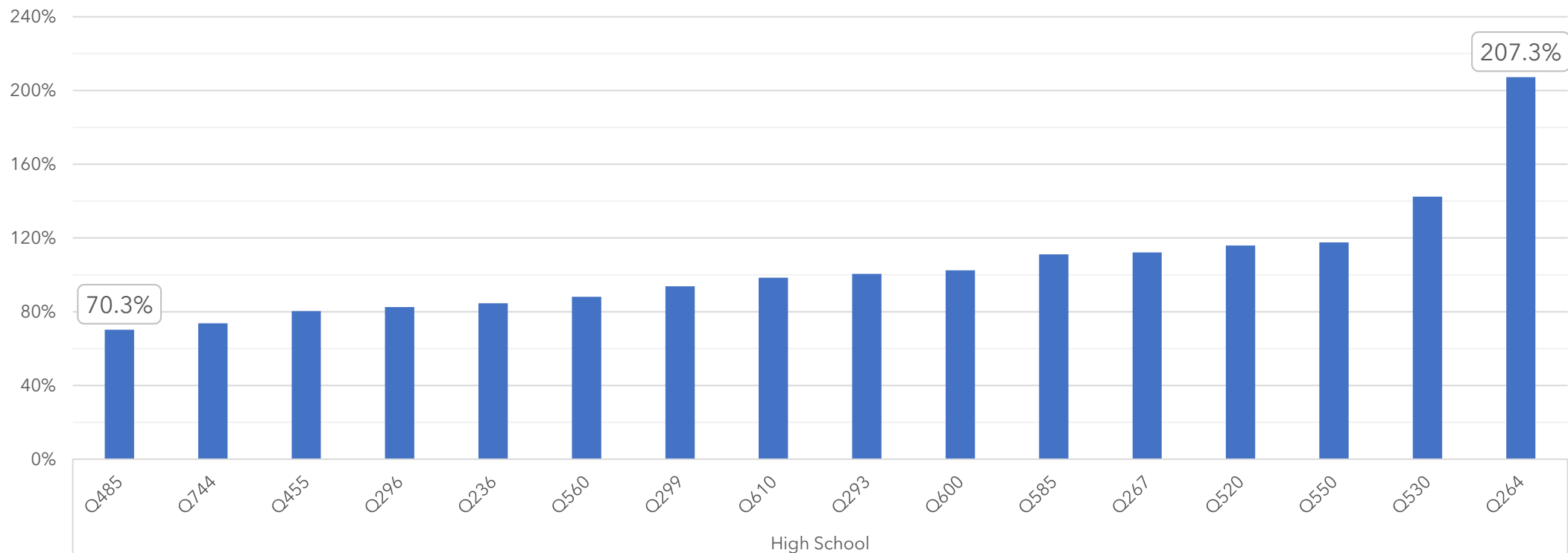
In District 24, Middle school utilization rates ranged from 49% to 99%, with an average of 82.7%.

Middle School Utilization Rates, School District 24
(2021-2022)



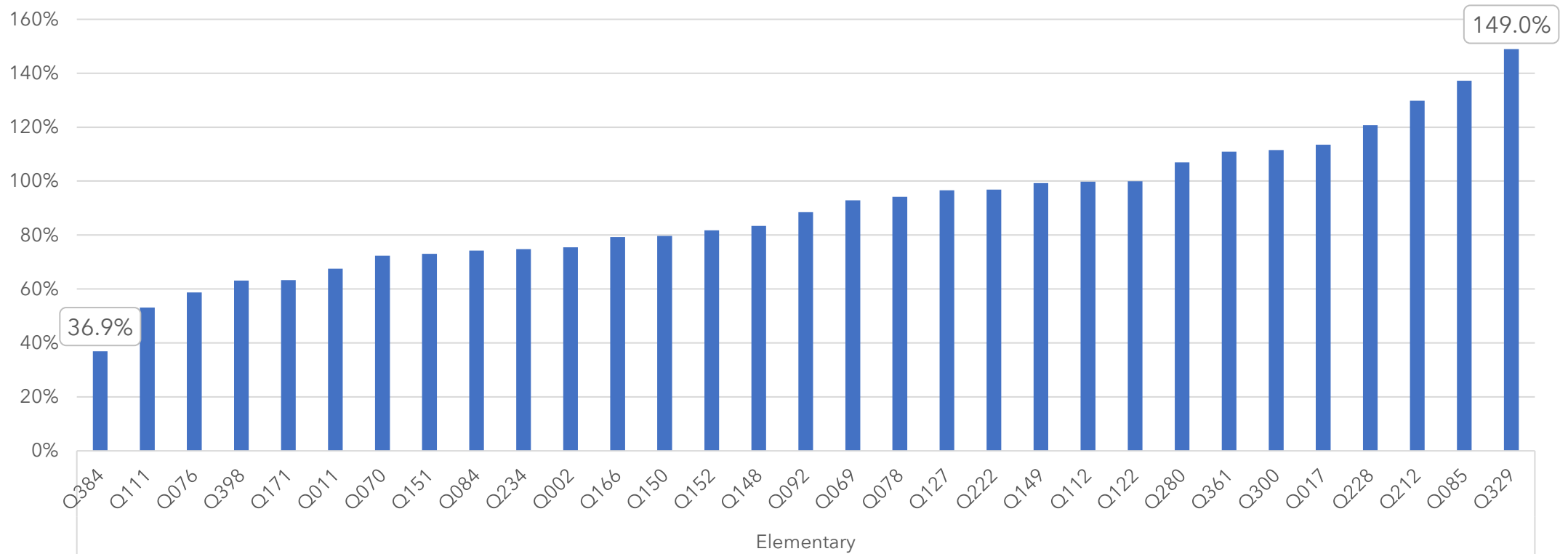
In District 24 High Schools, utilization rates ranged widely from 70% to 207%, with an average of 105.1%.

High School Utilization Rates, School District 24
(2021-2022)



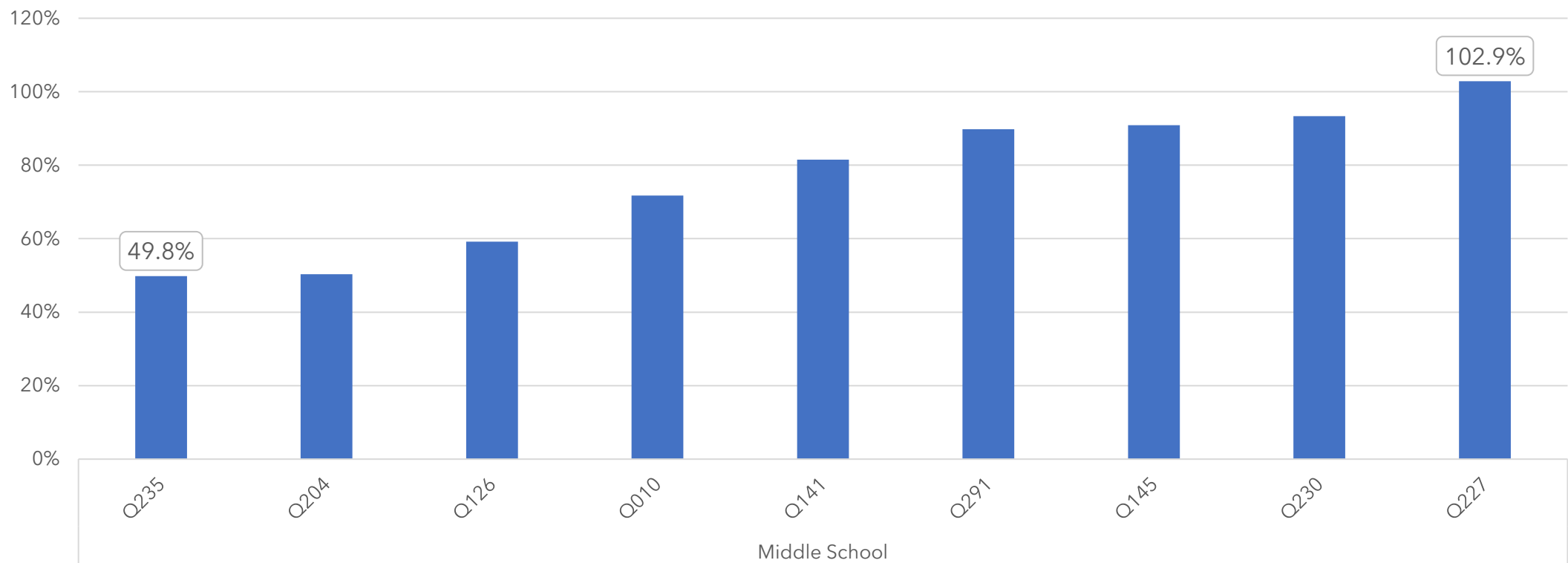
In District 30, Elementary school utilization rates ranged widely from 36.9% to 149%, with an average rate of 89.8%.

Elementary School Utilization Rates, School District 30
(2021-2022)



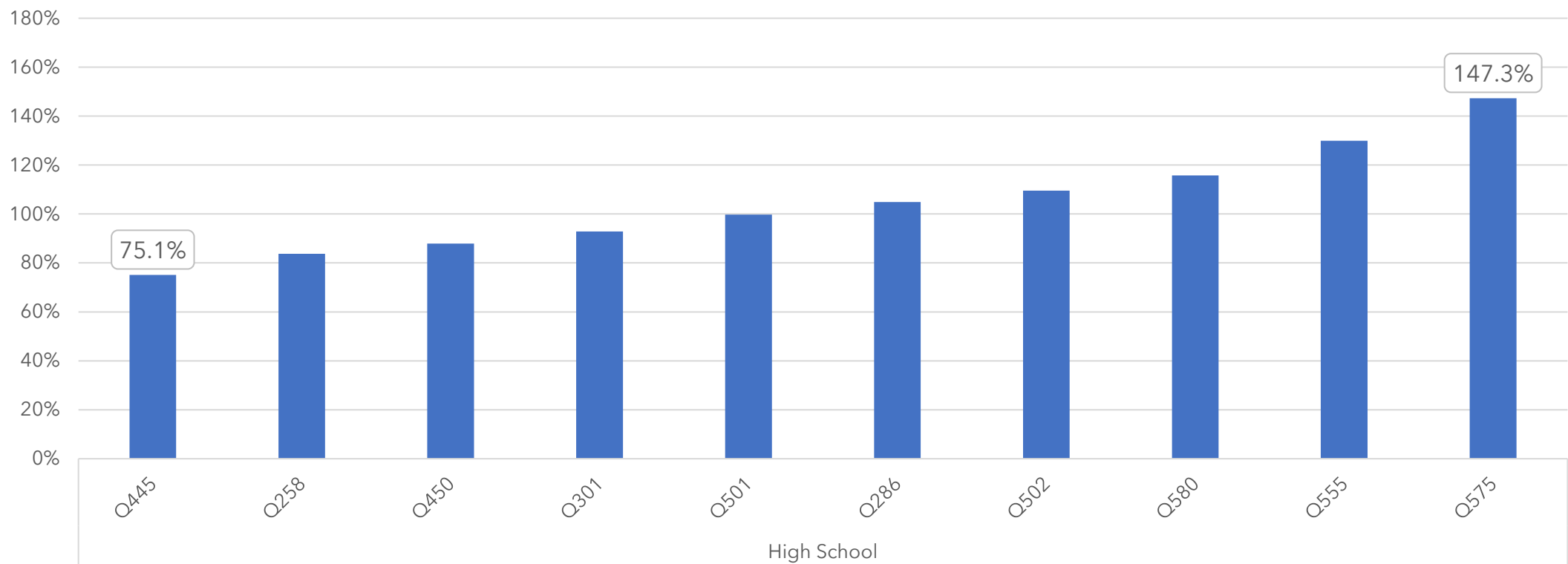
In District 30, Middle school utilization rates ranged widely at 49.8% to 102.9%, with an average of 76.6%.

Middle School Utilization Rates, School District 30
(2021-2022)

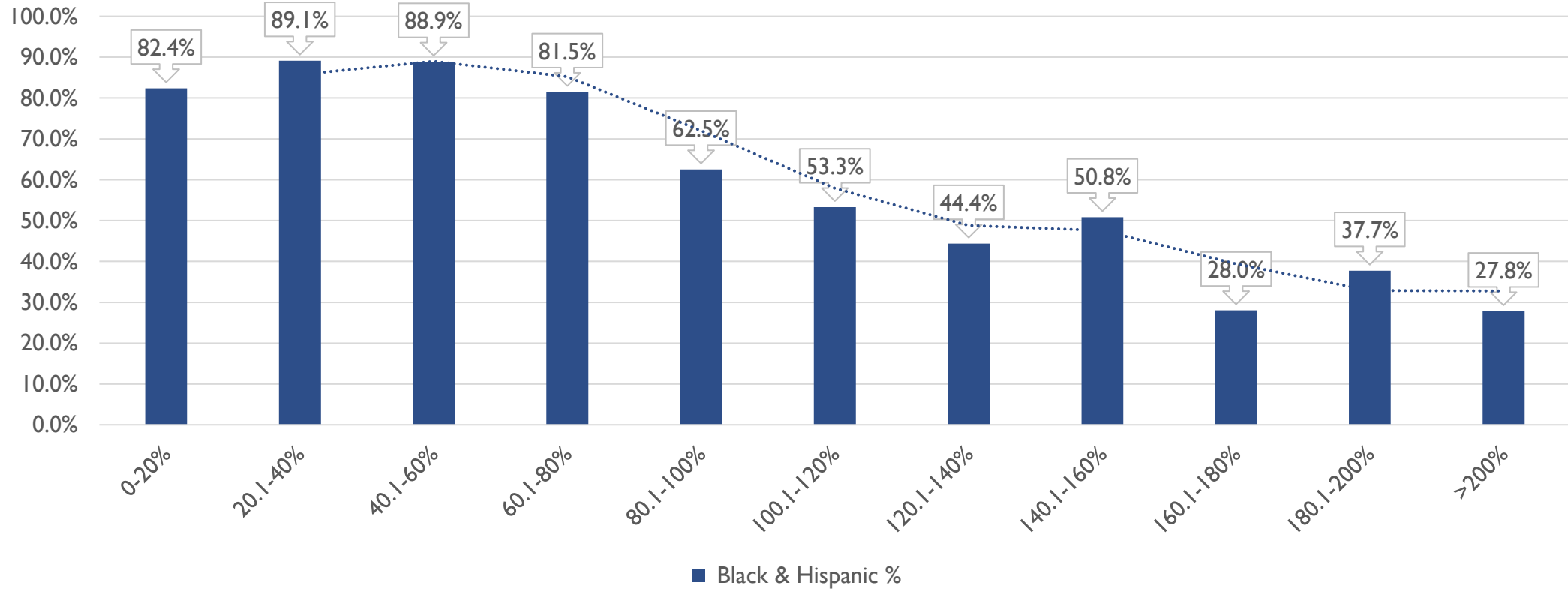


In District 30 High Schools, utilization rates ranged widely from 75.2% to 147.3%, with an average of 104.7%.

High School Utilization Rates, School District 30
(2021-2022)



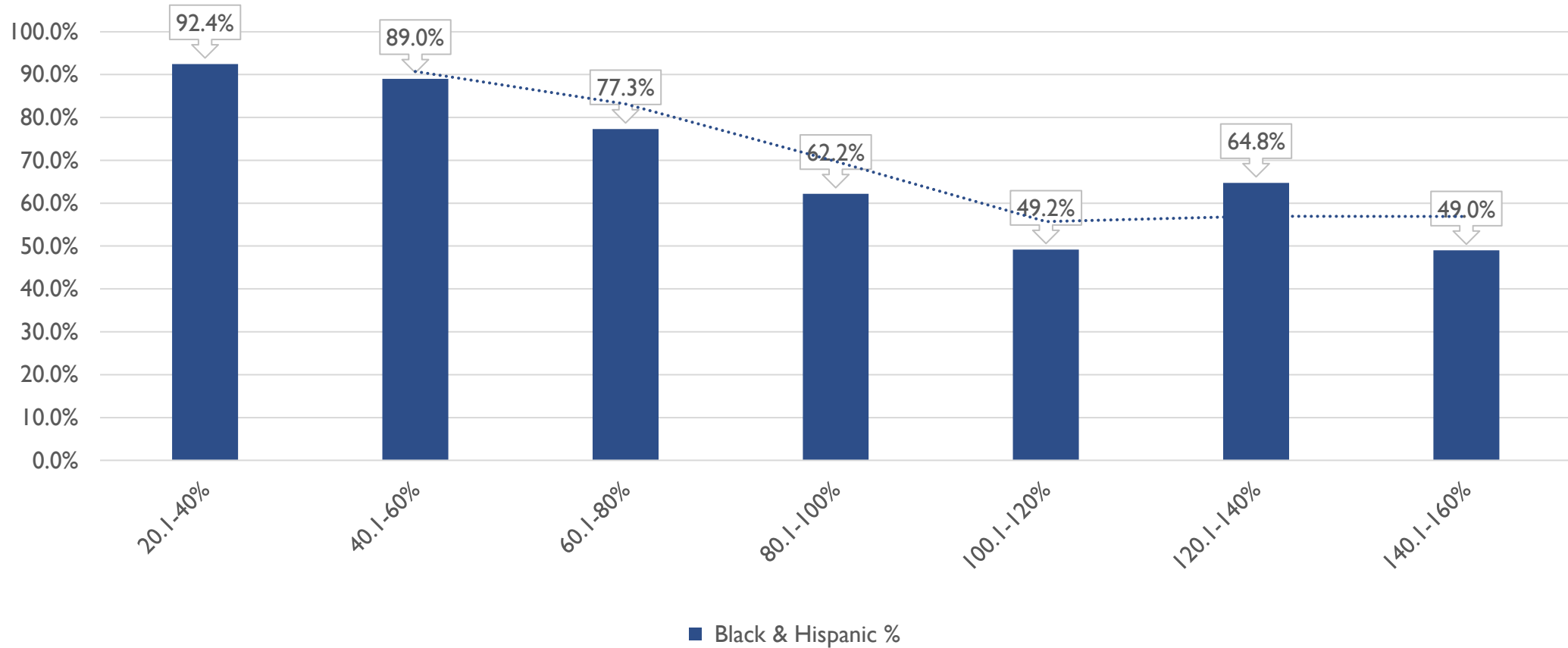
Elementary School Racial Breakdown by School Utilization, Citywide* (2021-2022)



*- Data includes K8 Schools

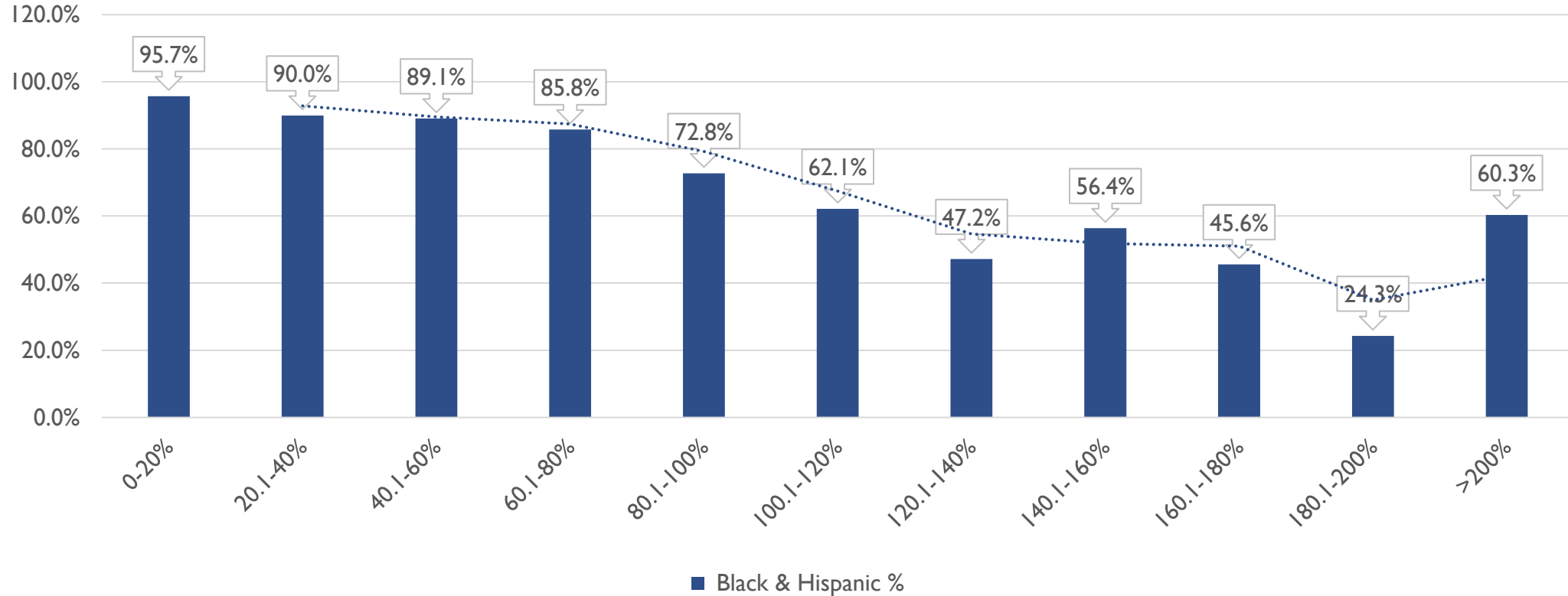
Data Sources: 2021-2022 Enrollment, Capacity, & Utilization Report. 2017-2022 Demographic Snapshot.

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



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

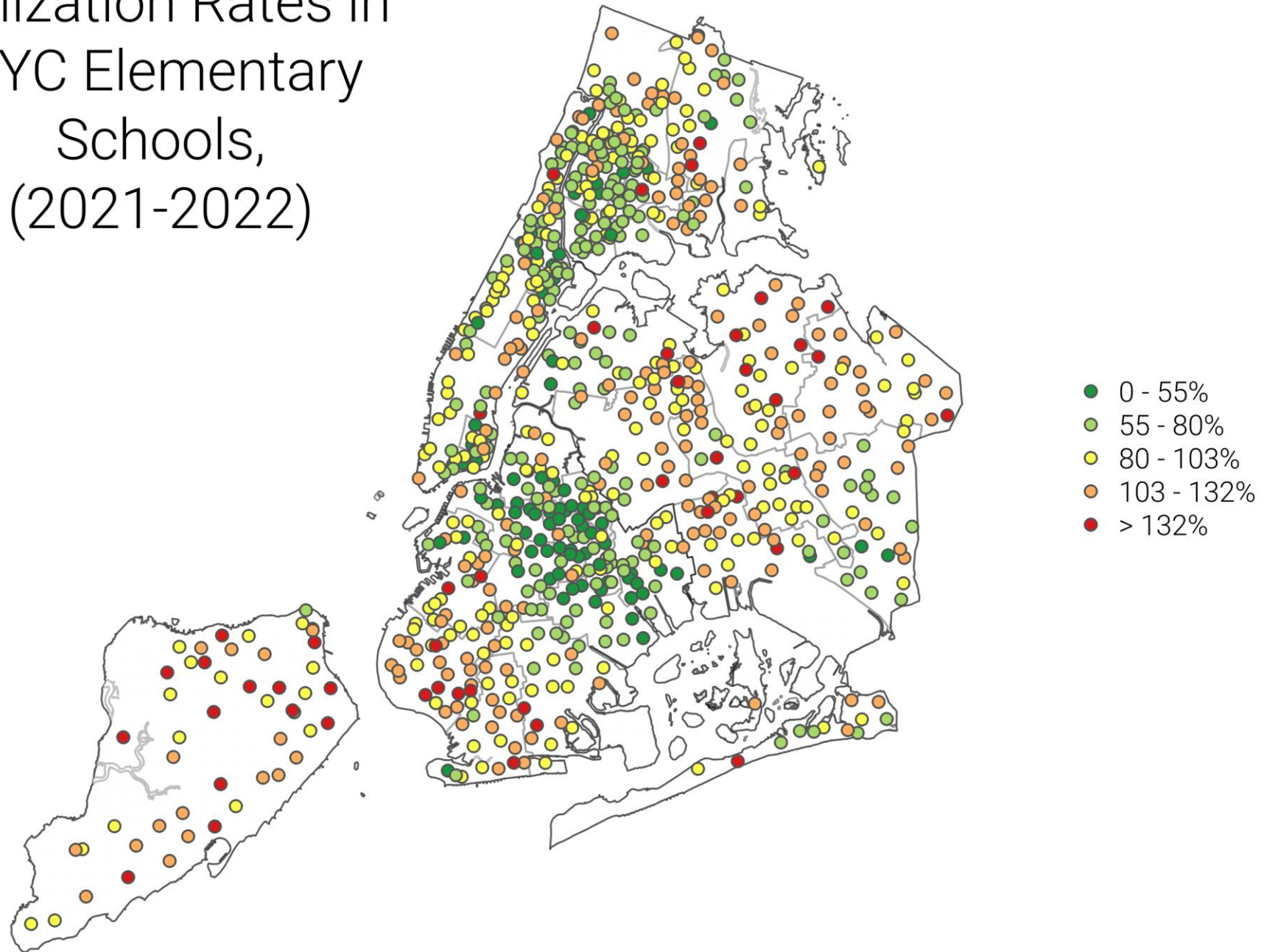
High School Racial Breakdown by School Utilization, Citywide* (2021-2022)



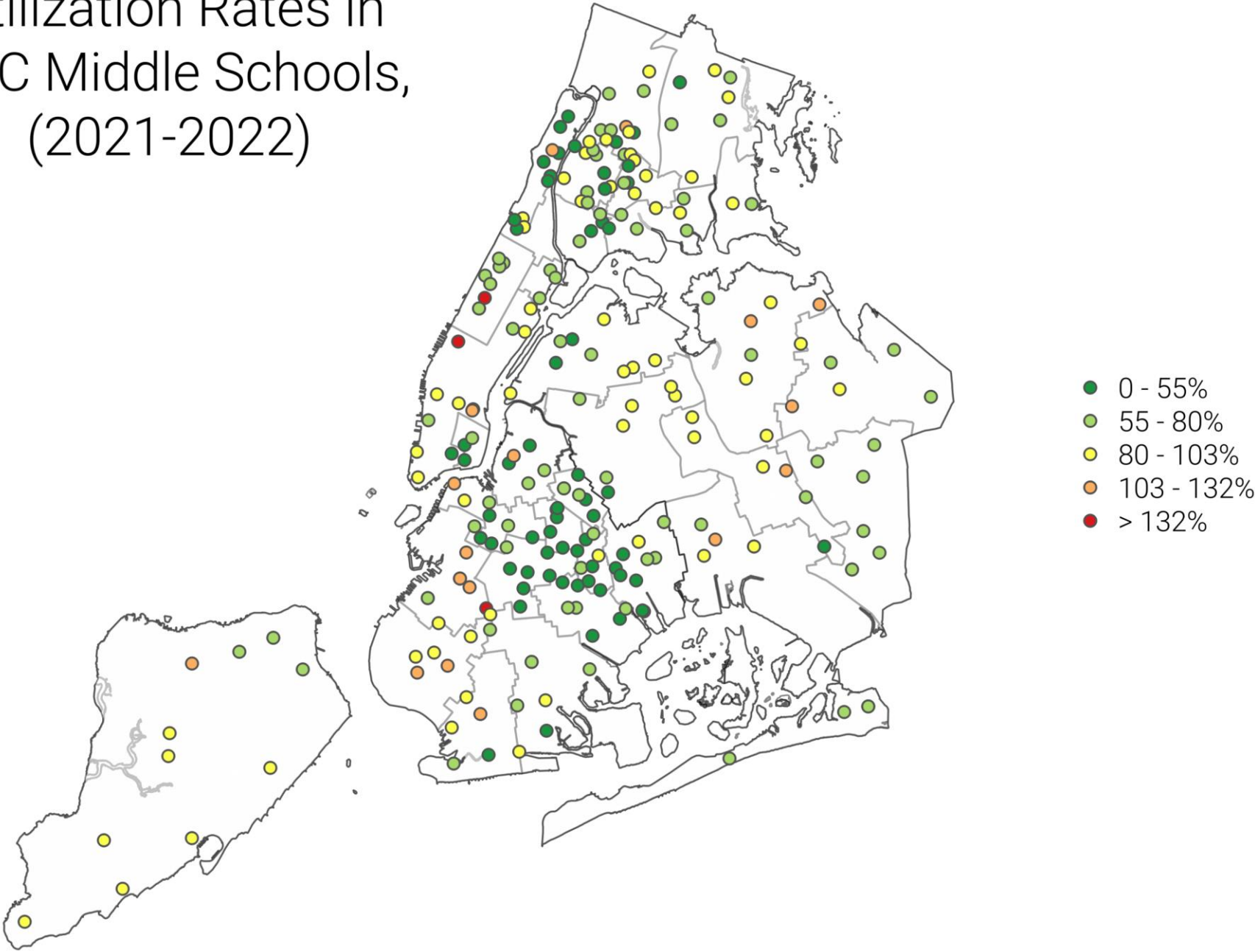
*- Data includes 6-12 Schools

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

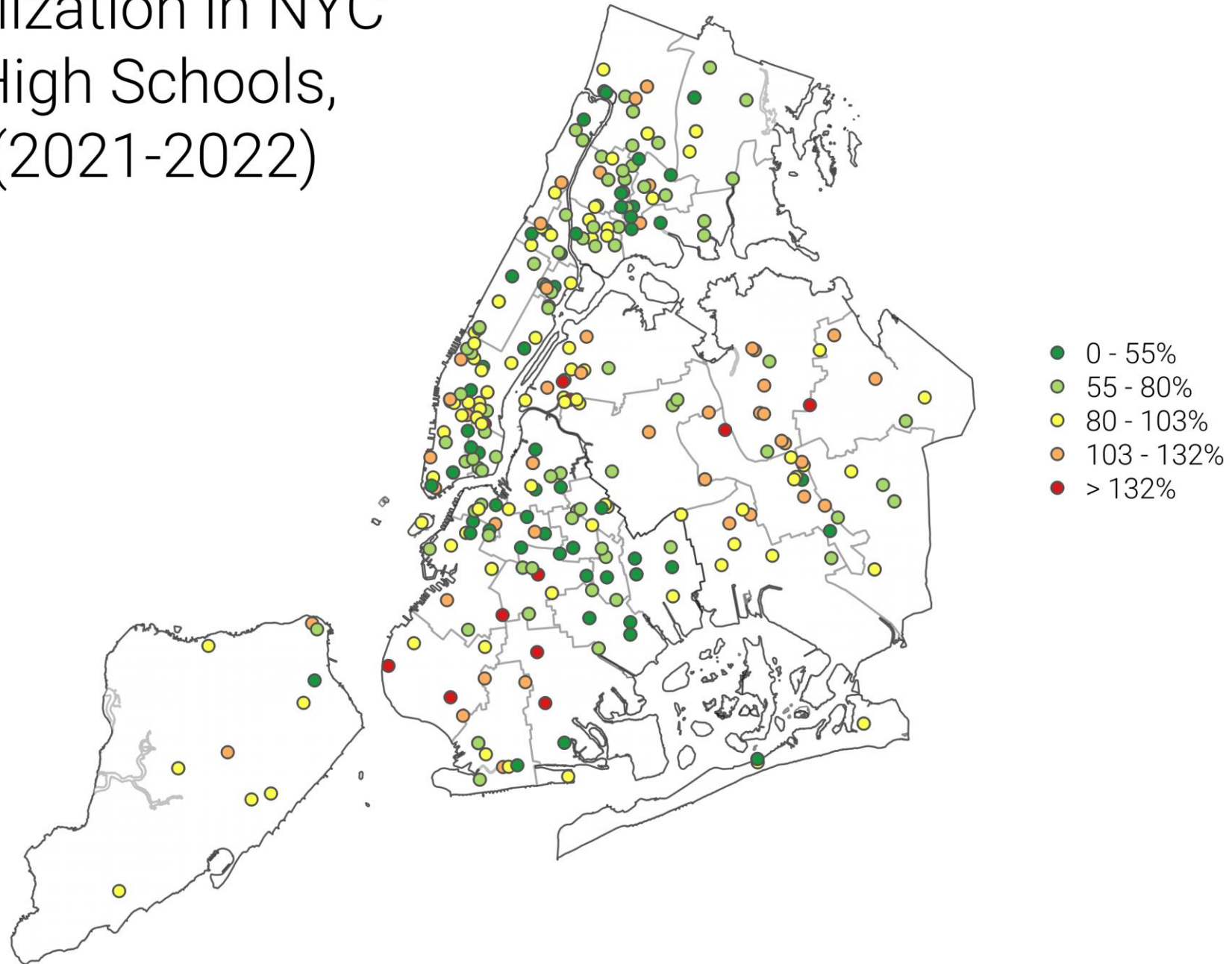
Utilization Rates in NYC Elementary Schools, (2021-2022)



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



Utilization in NYC High Schools, (2021-2022)



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.
- Seat needs in capital plan STILL do not differentiate elementary vs MS needs
- Housing start data is from 6/2020; with multiplier based on 2010 census data; rezonings/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

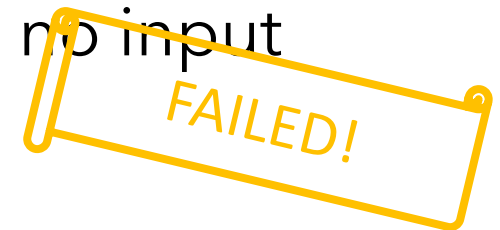


FAILED!

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.

DOE appears to have no plan to meet benchmarks in the law

- DOE district planning documents dated Aug. 2022, subtitled "*2023-2024 Strategic Planning Data Considerations*" omit any mention of need to lower class size, only if a particular district's average class sizes were below UFT contractual levels set over 50 years ago (25 in K, 32 in grades 1st-5th, 30-31 in MS, and 34 in HS).
- Sarah Kleinhandler, Chief Enrollment Officer at DOE, was asked on Nov. 10 at CPAC meeting what changes were being considered to equalize enrollment across schools to better enable class size goals in the law to be met.
- She responded: "*we will work with schools and make sure that we're adhering to this class size law if and when it's when it actually is coming down. and we hear and I hear from leadership here, you know, in terms of like the larger picture of what we have to do....*"

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 including in D24 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.

More cuts planned !

- Though schools will NOT have to suffer mid-year budget cuts due to lower enrollment than projected, additional future cuts projected
- DOE was already planning to make additional cuts to schools of \$80M next school year
- Mayor has also ordered ALL agencies to make cuts of 4.75% each of the following three years.
- Class size reduction will be impossible to achieve with cuts this large.

City Council re Budget

- 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.

Other steps Council could take on class size

- Hold hearings to ask DOE about the progress of their planning for class size reduction.
- Pass resolution 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, [Local Law 125](#) to now require reporting by school of each size of class; currently school-specific data only includes only averages and range by type of class but not how many made caps
- Also, require that second round of reporting in Feb. each year to reflect 2nd semester class sizes as originally intended (rather than audited version of Oct. 31 class sizes).
- Report on 6-8th grade class sizes one way, vs as currently two different ways with different data