

*School Overcrowding & Class Size Citywide  
and in District 15 schools*

Presentation to CEC 15

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Class Size Matters

April 2018

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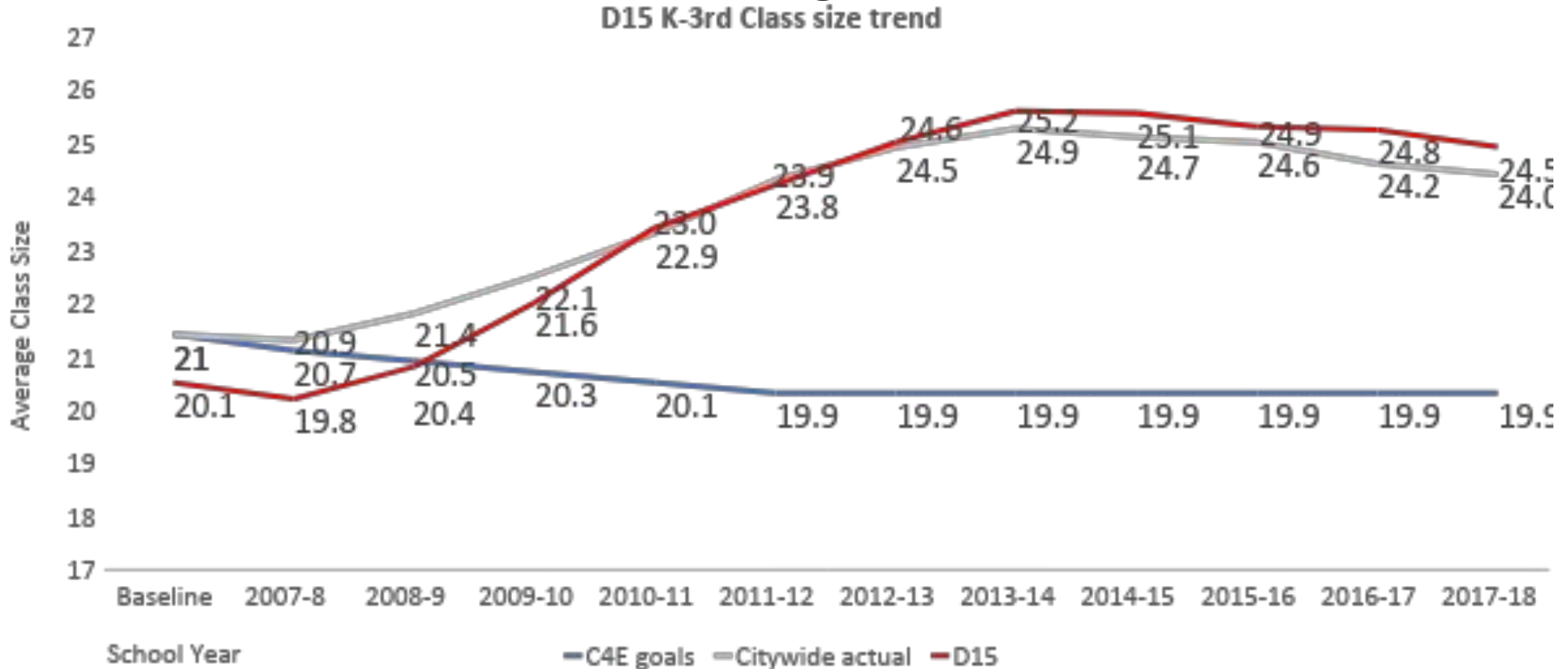
# Class Size vs Student Teacher Ratio

- Student-Teacher Ratio measures the ratio of the total number of students in a school to the total number of teaching staff
- Class size measures the number of students in a given class
- Class size better reflects the learning opportunities of students and has been linked to higher test scores, a narrowing of the achievement gap, and a host of other benefits
- The reported Student Teacher Ratio is lower than the size of classes, because it includes phys ed, music, art, and special ed teachers
- To learn more about the benefits of small class size, see our website at [www.classsizematters.org](http://www.classsizematters.org)

# Last week, we filed a lawsuit in court vs DOE

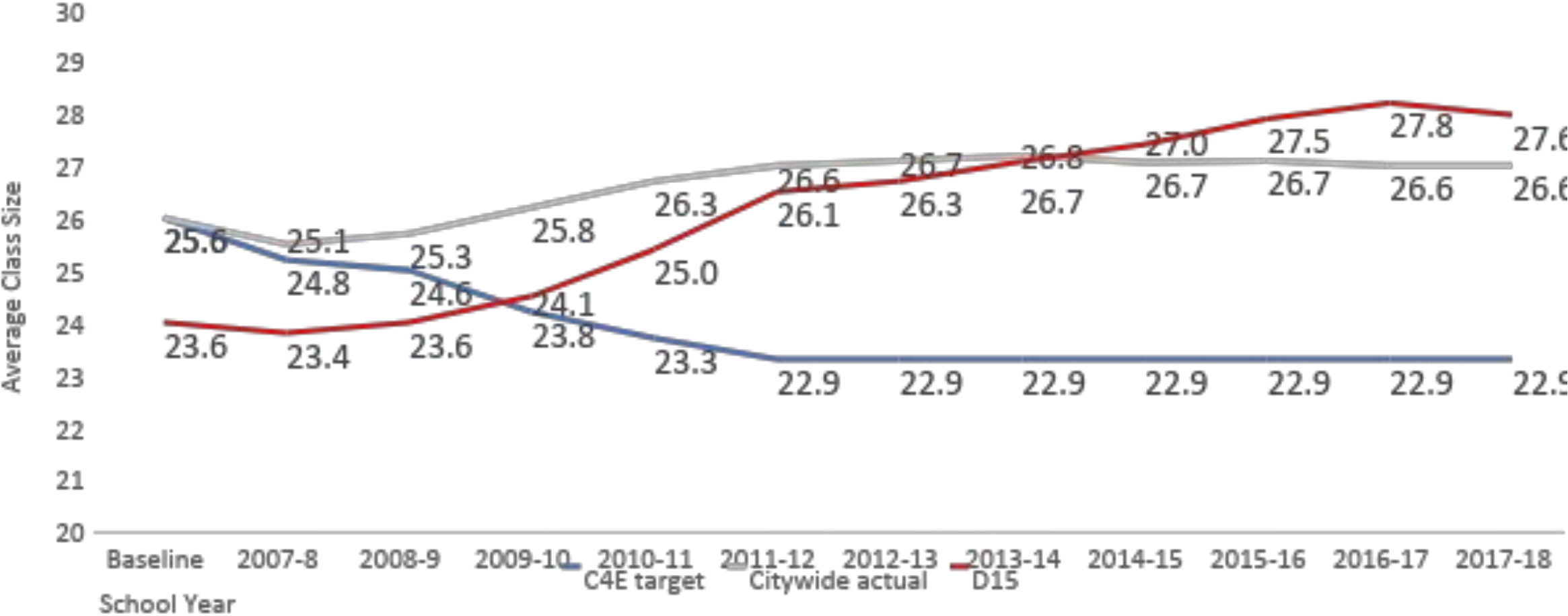
- The Contracts for Excellence (C4E) law passed in 2007 required NYC to lower class sizes in all grades – instead class sizes have increased citywide
- We first filed a legal complaint in July with the state commissioner against the DOE's refusal to reduce class size, with 9 NYC public school parents, including Naila Rosario, former CEC 15 president
- On Thursday, we appealed the commissioner's decision, which wrongly claimed the DOE's obligation to reduce class size had lapsed

This fall, District 15, average K-3 class size decreased by .3, but remains .5 students above citywide average and 4.6 students above C4E goals set in 2007.

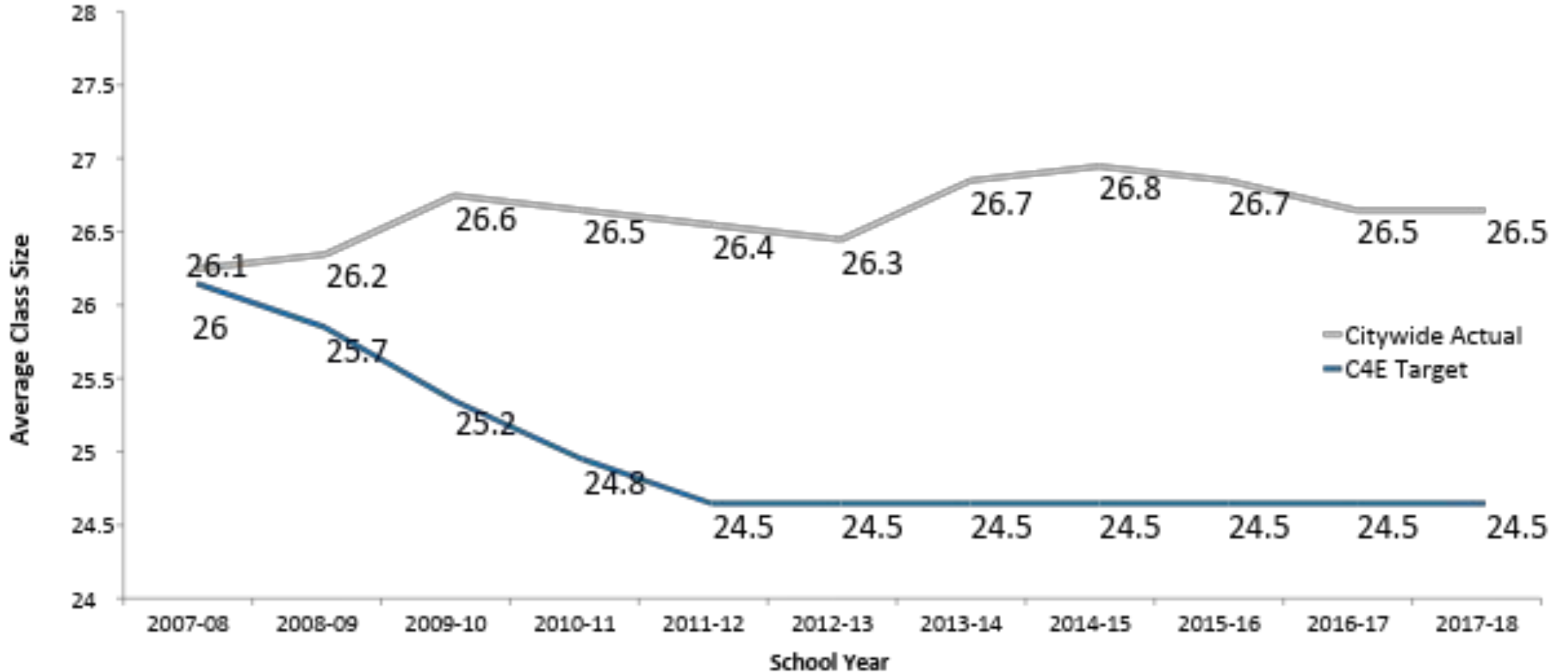


# Average class size grades 4-8 stayed fell by .2, now 1.0 above Citywide average and 4.7 students above C4E goals

D15 4-8th class size trend



Citywide average HS class sizes stayed the same per class; and remain far above C4E goals



# DOE promised State Ed in 2014 to focus on reducing class size at Renewal schools

- Yet 42% of Renewal schools did NOT reduce average class sizes from 2014-2015 to 2017-2018
- 73% continue to have maximum class sizes of 30 or more in November 2017.
- NO renewal schools capped class sizes at C4E levels
- *Source: Preliminary NYC Class Size Reports, November 2014 and November 2017*

# Scope of school overcrowding enormous

- 43% NYC schools were overcrowded last year according to DOE data
- About 575,000 students (56% of total) were enrolled in overcrowded schools
- About 350,000 (68% of total) elementary students enrolled in overcrowded schools, the same is true of 50,000 (33%) MS students and about 175,000 (49%) HS students
- *Data source: Schools at or above 100% according to SCA "Blue Book" 2016-2017*



# Why are our schools so overcrowded?

- Bloomberg claimed to have created 100,000 new seats between 2004 and 2013
- Yet only 45,000 new NET seats created if seat loss taken into account
- About 55,000 seats were lost due to lapsed leases, elimination of TCUs (trailers), annexes, and mini- buildings
- Also, enrollment grew faster than capacity especially at the elementary school level
- *The following chart is from our recent Seat Loss report, available online at [www.classsizematters.org](http://www.classsizematters.org)*

While 45,000 net seats were gained citywide, nearly all were filled by the increased number of charter school students

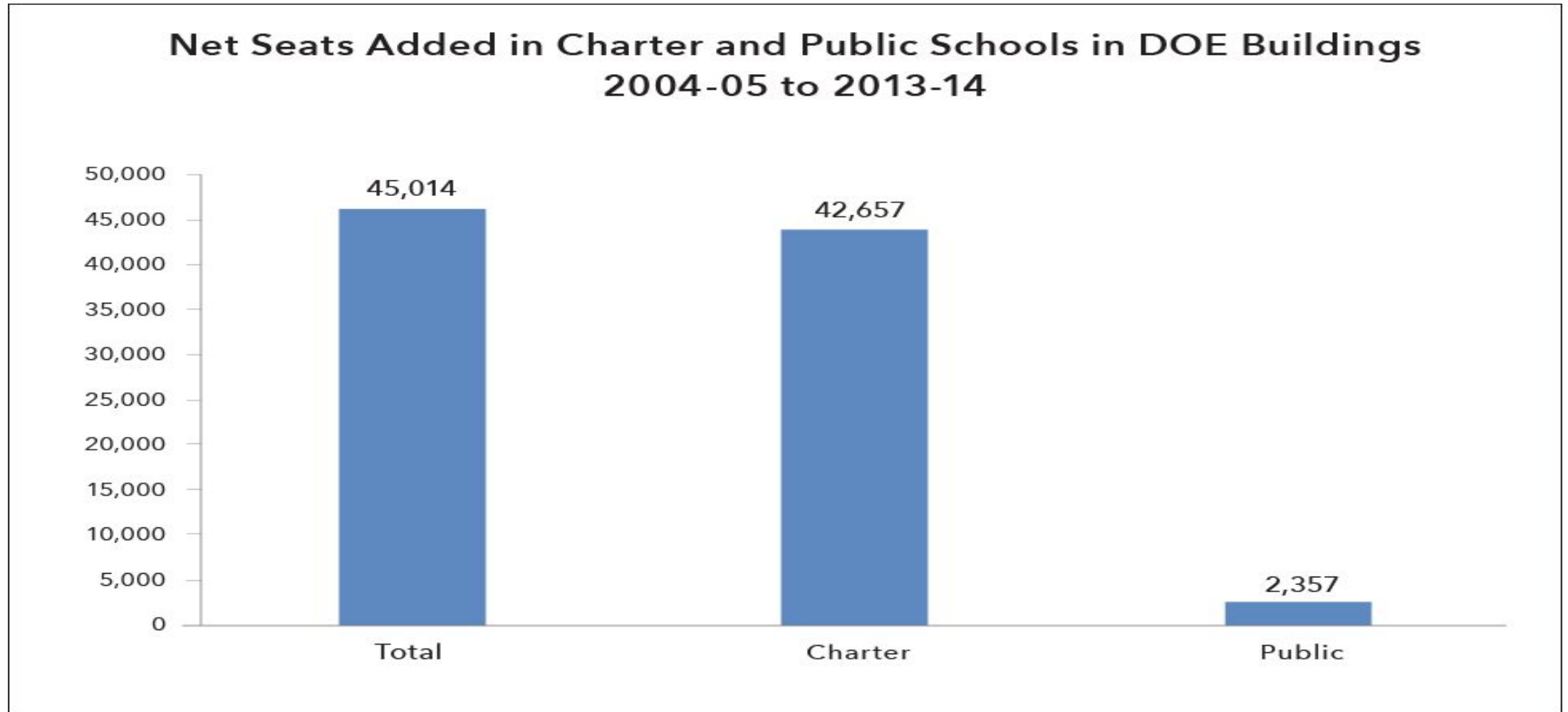
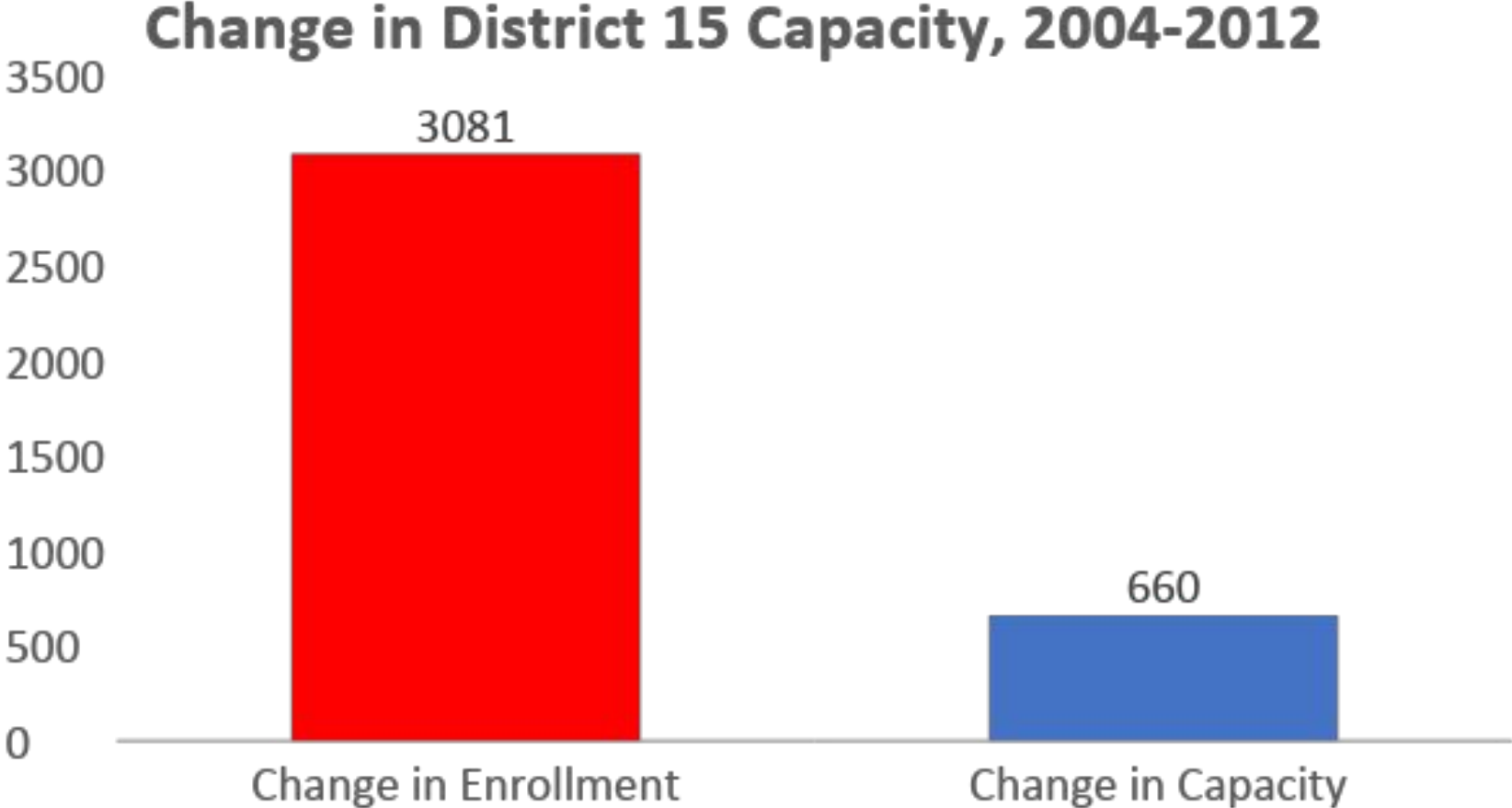


Figure 14: Net Seats Added in Charter & Public Schools between 2004-05 and 2013-14

In District 15, elementary enrollment increased by 3,081, while capacity went up by only 660



# DOE Capacity formula underestimates overcrowding by assuming overly large class sizes

- Relies on school capacity formula that assumes class sizes larger than current averages grades 4-12 (28 students in 4-8<sup>th</sup> grades; 30 in HS)
- Thus the formula would tend to force class sizes even higher
- DOE Blue Book working group urged school capacity be aligned with smaller classes
- Mayor's office rejected their recommendation in July 2015

# February 2018 DOE five-year capital plan still very underfunded

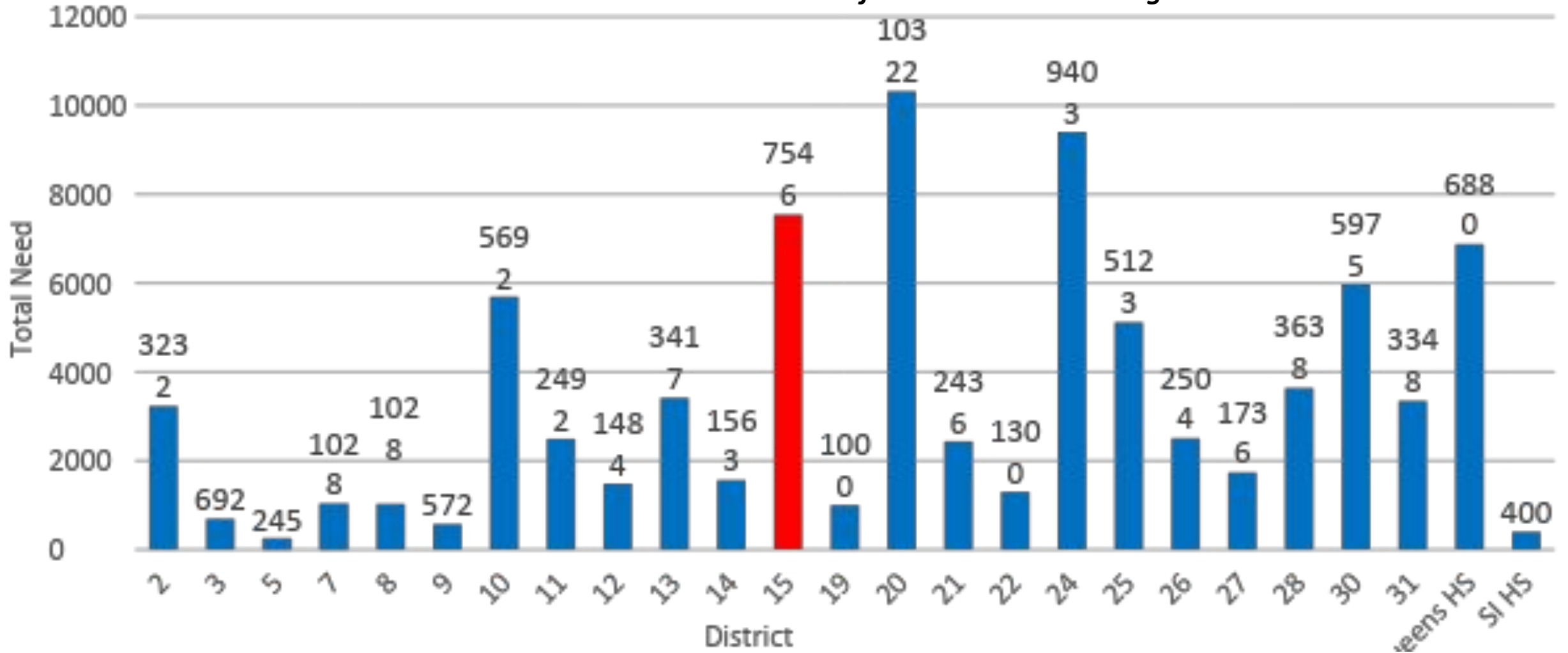
- Funds fewer than 45,000 seats citywide – about half (54%) necessary to alleviate current overcrowding and accommodate enrollment growth, according to DOE estimates.
- Only 38% of seats compared to DOE's analysis of need have sites and are in process of scope and design.
- There is a huge variation across districts in the number and percent of seats funded compared to DOE's estimate of need.
- Only 52% of seats needed in D15 are funded, according to the DOE

# DOE Identified need for 83,056 K-8 seats citywide

## 7,546 Seats in District 15

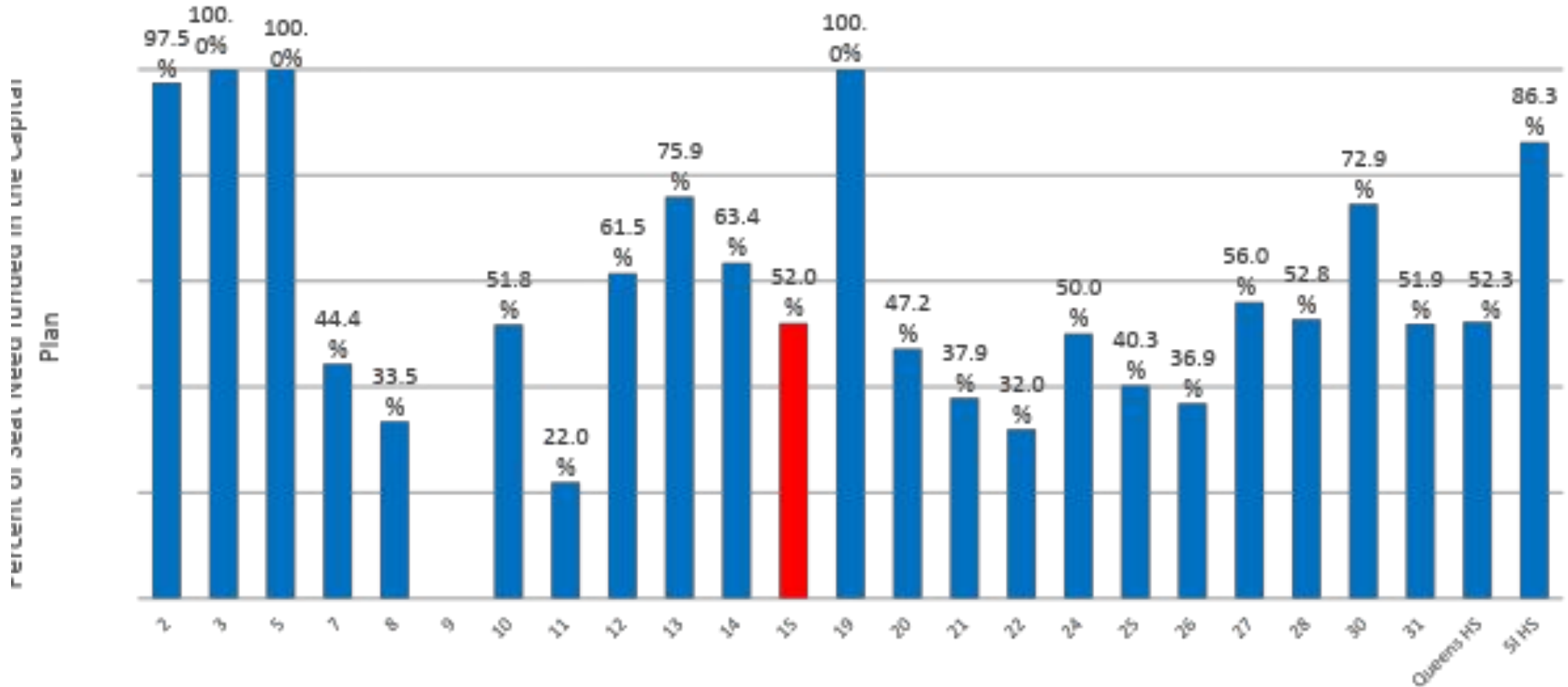
Feb. 2018 capital plan

*Districts not included below have NO need for new seats according to DOE*



# 54% K-8 seats funded citywide compared to DOE estimate of need *52.0% of seats funded in District 15*

Data: Feb. 2018 capital plan



# District 15 Overcrowding

(includes Charters in district buildings)

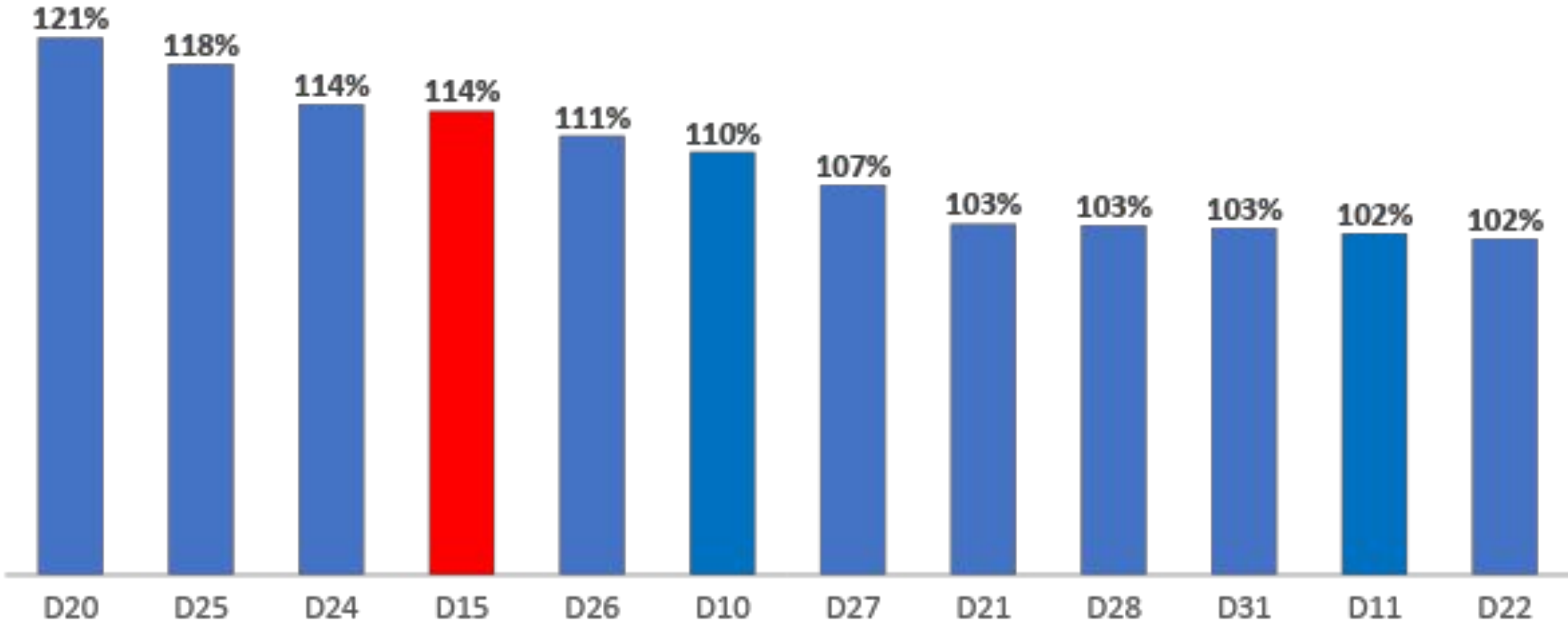
- We think the need in D15 is even greater than the DOE estimate
- 70% (28) of K-8 schools in District 15 are overcrowded (at or above 100% target utilization)
- 79% or 19,347 K-8 D15 students are in overcrowded schools
- 92 cluster rooms are missing from District 15 schools according to DOE's utilization formula
- *Data source: 2016-2017 Blue Book.*



# 12 Districts average 100% or more utilization

*Including D15 at 114%*

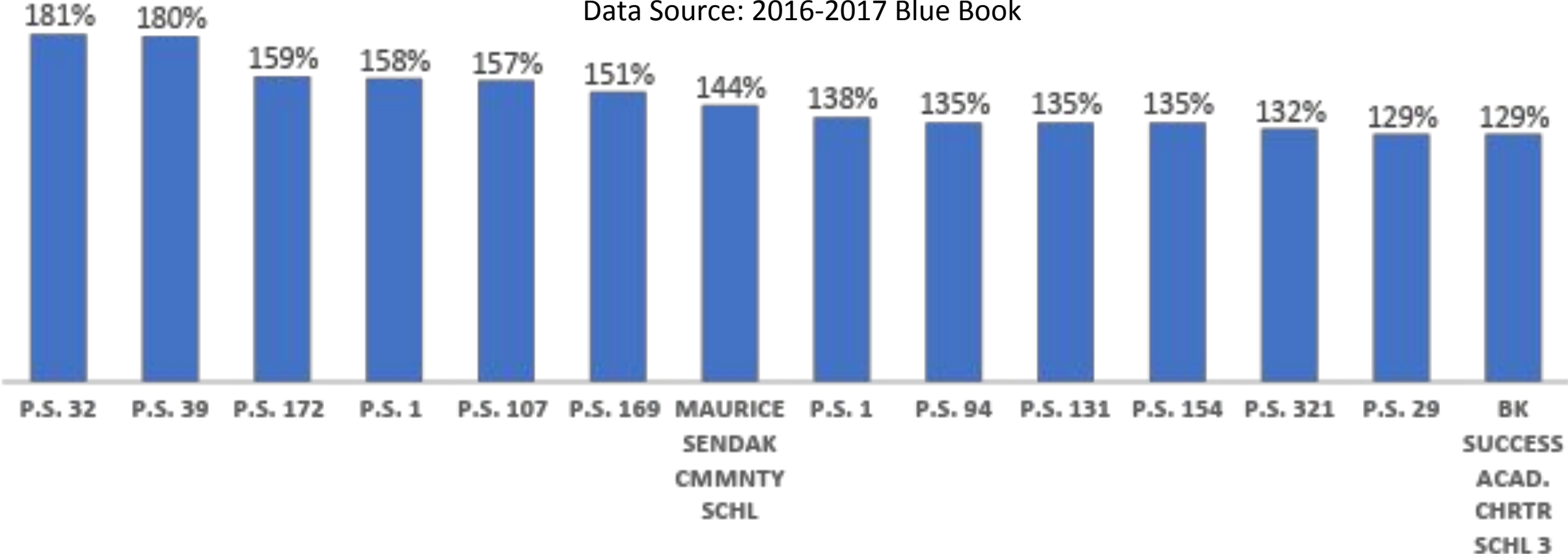
Data Source: 2016-2017 Blue Book



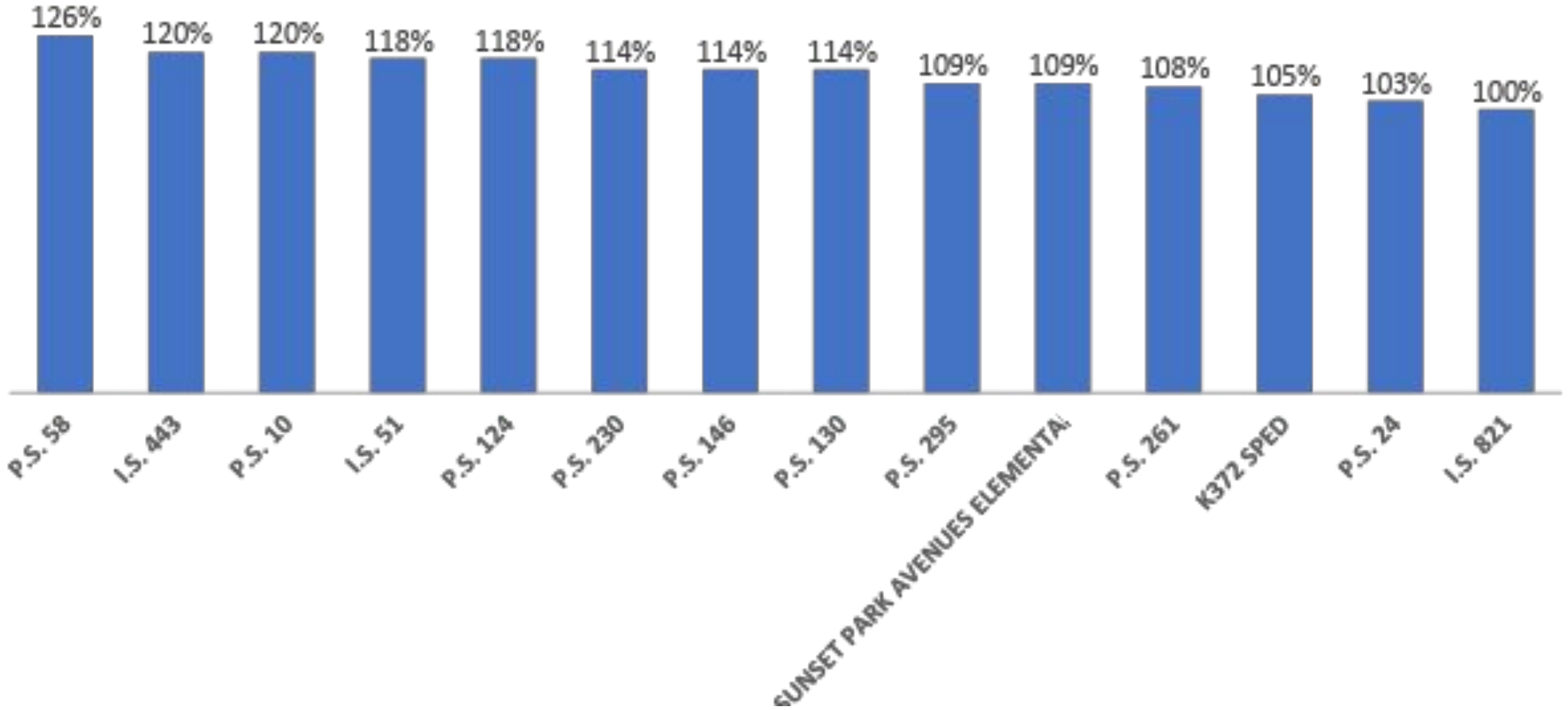
# 28 Schools in District 15 at or over 100% -

(Co-located Charters included)

Data Source: 2016-2017 Blue Book



# More D15 Overutilized Schools



# Is Pre-K expansion making overcrowding worse?

- Mayor de Blasio's Pre-K for All has rapidly expanded the number of pre-K students to approximately 70,000 students – with more than 25,000 in DOE buildings
- Mayor de Blasio is planning to add 3K for All citywide by 2021-2022, adding tens of thousands of more students
- Of the pre-K students in DOE buildings, 55% (14,032) were in schools with a utilization rate of 100% or more in 2016-2017
- In D15, 84% (898) pre-K students in D15 public school buildings were in schools at or above 100% in 2016-2017

# Overcrowding and co-located schools

- Co-location is ultimately a less efficient use of space, because of the need to duplicate certain spaces (such as offices and cluster rooms) in the same building
- There have been many instances where co-locations have led to students receiving their mandated services in hallways or closets
- It can also cause problems with the use of joint spaces like cafeterias, auditoriums, and gyms

# Problems with the housing starts & CEQR formula used to project enrollment

- The CEQR (*City Environmental Quality Review*) formula is based on outmoded census data 20 years old
- Also hasn't been updated since UPK implemented & preK expanded in DOE schools
- This flawed formula is used in conjunction with the housing starts data to project enrollment
- In D15, housing start data estimates 11,475 units built in 2015-2019
- In 20 of 32 school districts, there is NO difference between 5 yr & 10 yr housing start data w/ fewer than 2,000 new units to be built citywide 2019-2024
- Housing start data projects 0 units to be built in Brooklyn 2019-2024 and none in D15.

# Problems with school planning process

- Thresholds in city planning process very high
- A new rezoning or residential project going through ULURP has to be projected to increase school overcrowding by at least 5% through the flawed CEQR formula to even raise consideration for the need for a new school --even where schools are already overcrowded
- Planning process does not take into account cumulative residential development – only considers each proposed project separately.

# Other problems with DOE seat needs assessments

- They don't account for rapidly expanding charter school population though most of these students attend schools in public school buildings
- Claim to be neighborhood-based but define neighborhoods with extremely large areas
- Don't differentiate between the need for elementary and middle school seats
- Are infrequently updated; for example, Feb. 2017 capital plan included DOE needs assessment from Jan. 2016



# We need a new planning process for schools

- Given rapid pace of development throughout the city, school overcrowding will become even worse
- We need reforms so that schools are built along with new housing and not lagging years later & based on realistic 10-yr not 5yr projections
- In most large states and districts, developers have to pay an “impact fee” to help fund new infrastructure including schools, ***but not in NYC***

# What else is being done about this?

- In February, the City Council released “Planning to Learn,” a report on overcrowding in NYC schools
- The report found major flaws in the school planning process, and issued several recommendations to improve planning policy
- There will be hearings tomorrow Wed. April 18 on the hearing in City Hall at 10 AM , and 5 bills filed on this topic
- Please attend the hearings and/or send us your comments on the legislation
- We will have to be vigilant to ensure that these proposals are strengthened and passed into law.

# How can you help?

- Keep up to date on our advocacy and legal actions by joining our mailing list at [www.classsizematters.org](http://www.classsizematters.org)
- Read our blog at <https://nycpublicschoolparents.blogspot.com>
- Any questions? You can always ask us at [info@classsizematters.org](mailto:info@classsizematters.org)