

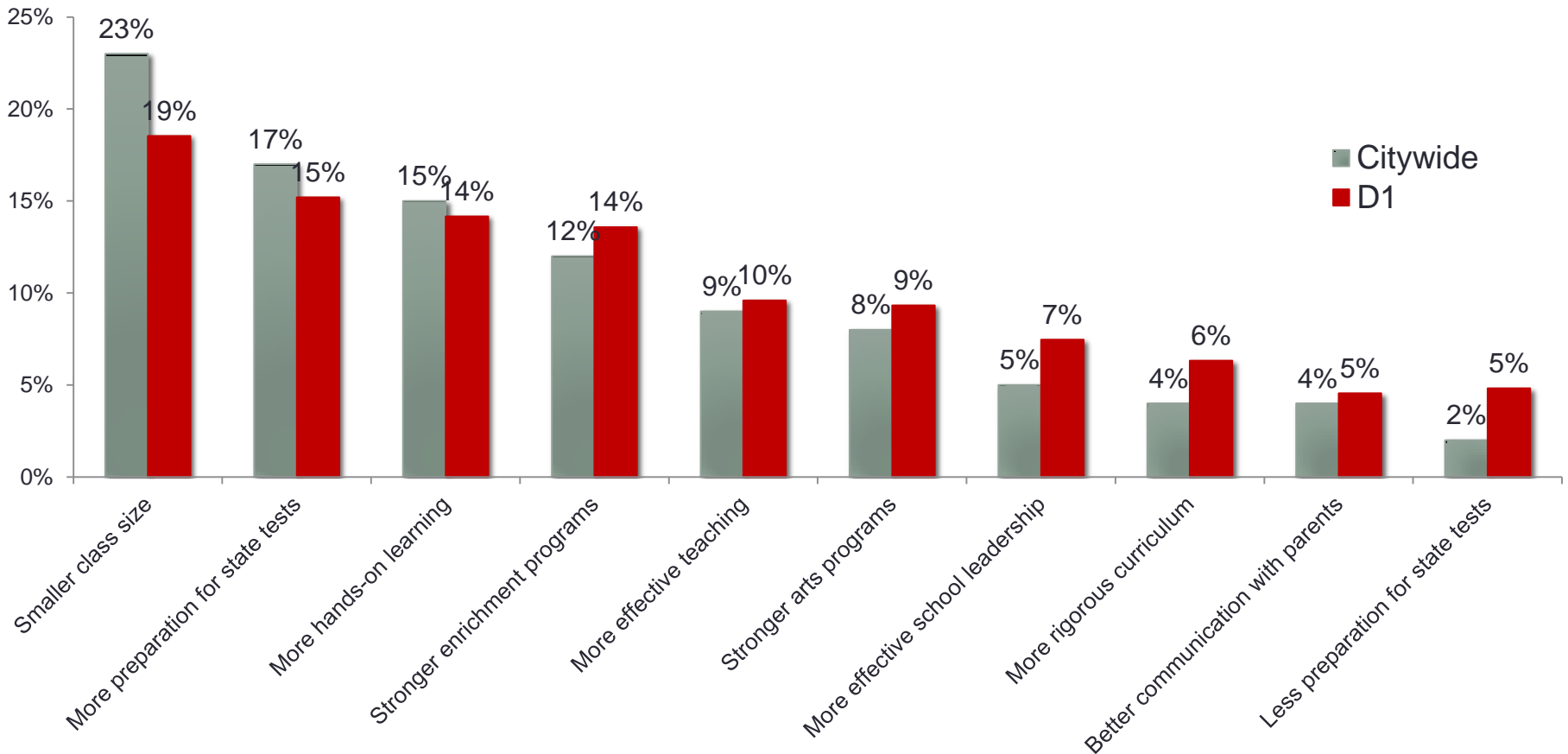
HOW DOE'S C4E PLAN DOES NOTHING TO ADDRESS CLASS SIZE OR OVERCROWDING IN D1 AND CITYWIDE

Leonie Haimson, Class Size Matters
Nov. 19, 2014

Reducing class size #1 priority of parents in D1 and citywide

Data Source: 2014 NYC School Survey Results

Top parent responses for school improvement in District 1 compared to Citywide results



CFE and C4E

- In 2003, the state's highest court concluded in the Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE) case that NYC kids were denied their fundamental constitutional right to an adequate education.
- This was primarily because NYC class sizes were much larger than NY state averages and far larger than research shows is optimal.
- In 2007, a new state law was passed, the Contracts for Excellence (C4E) that would provide NYC with extra funds on condition that the city also submit a plan to reduce class size in all grades.
- Yet every year since then, class sizes have increased, and last year in the early grades were the largest in 15 years.

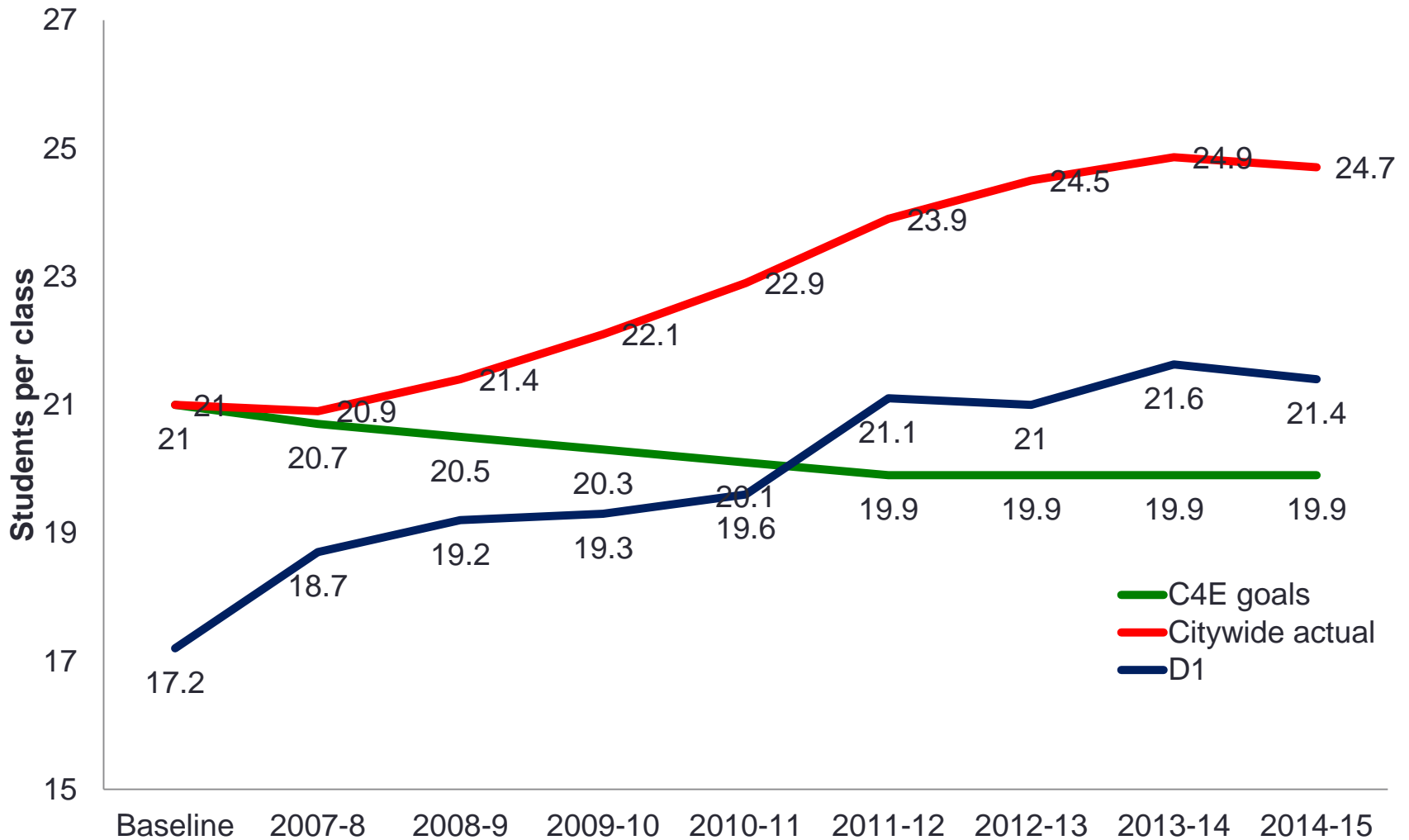
DOE's class size reduction plan

- In Nov. 2007, the DOE submitted a plan to gradually reduce average class size over five years at three different grade ranges.
- In K-3, class sizes to be reduced to no more than 20 students per class, in grades 4-8 no more than 23 and HS core classes would be no more than 25 on average
- Yet each year since 2008, class sizes have increased rather than decreased and are now largest in 15 years in early grades.

Class size trends this fall

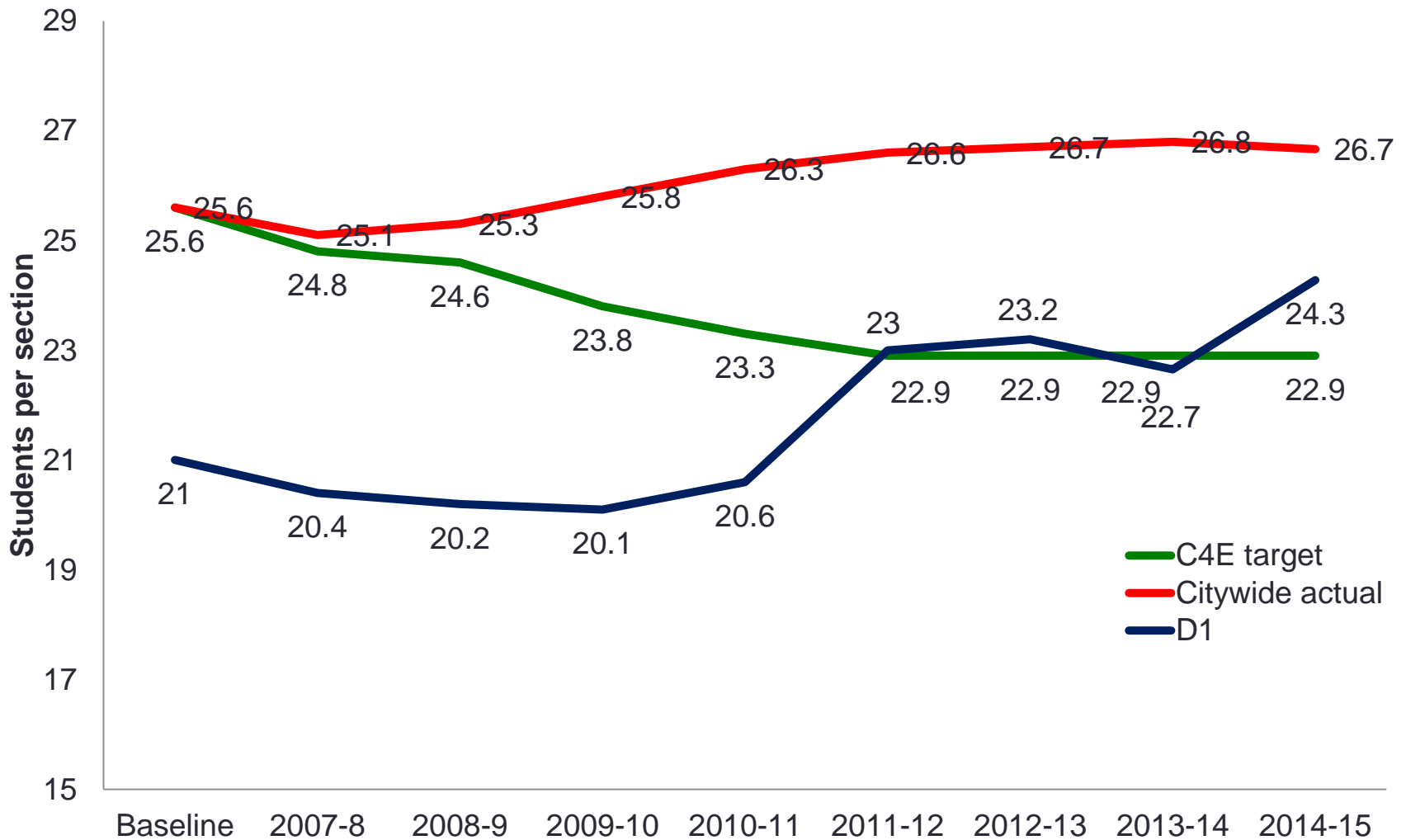
- This fall, class sizes overall increased an average .1 student per class citywide, according to the DOE.
- In K-3, our calculations show class sizes decreased slightly citywide from 24.9 to 24.7 but at this rate would take 24 years to reach C4E goals of 20 students per class.
- In 4-8th, average dropped slightly from 26.8 to 26.7 & wd take 30 years to reach C4E goals 23 students per class.
- In HS, average increased from 26.7 to 26.8 students per class.

K-3 class sizes in CSD 1 dropped slightly this fall but increased since 2006 by 24.4% from below C4E goals to above



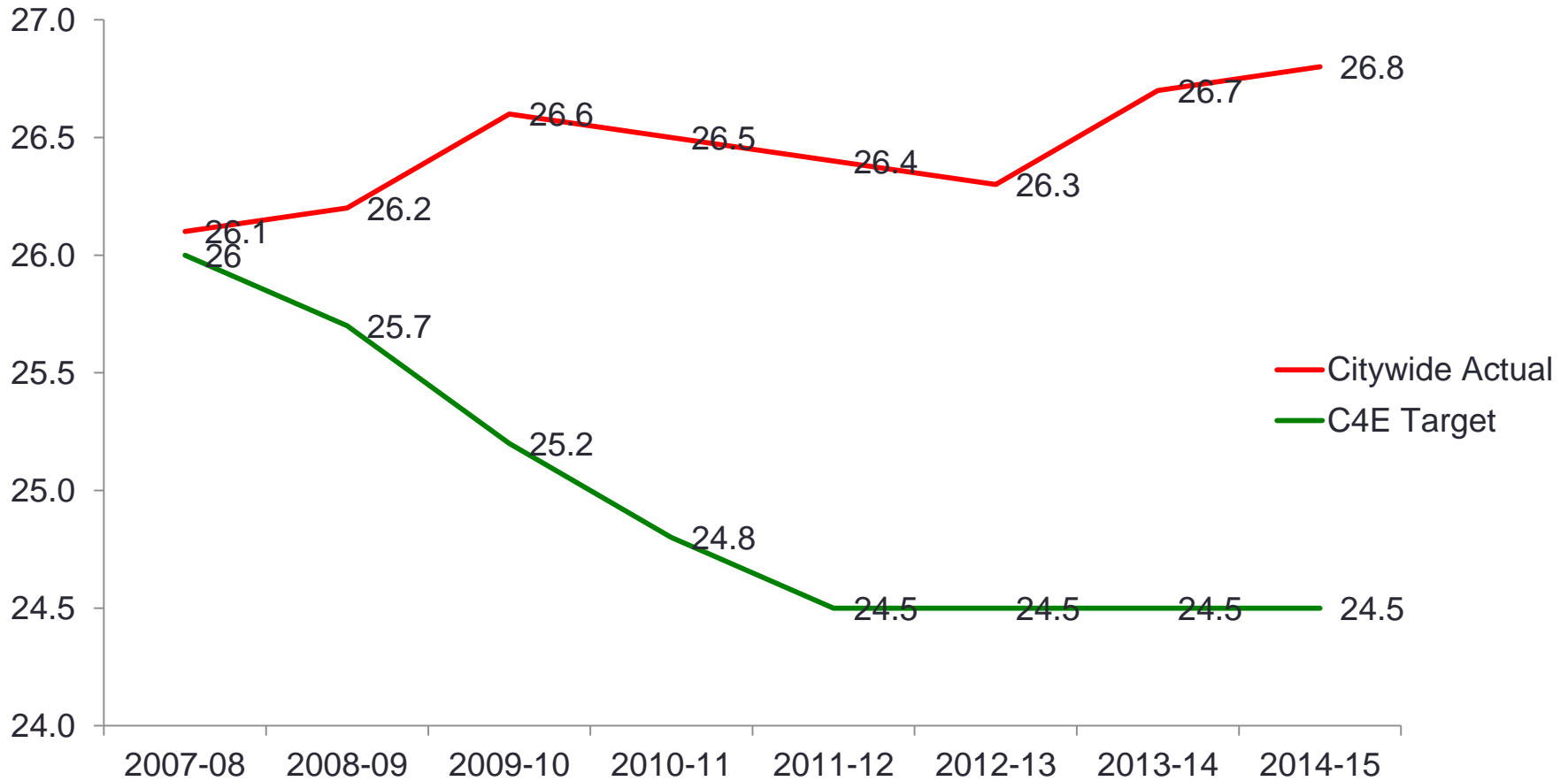
Data sources: DOE Class Size Reports 2006-2014, 2008 DOE Contracts for Excellence Approved Plan

CSD 1's class sizes in grades 4-8 up this year & increased by 20.9% since 2009 from below to above C4E goals



Data sources: DOE Class Size Reports 2006-2014, 2008 DOE Contracts for Excellence Approved Plan

Class sizes city-wide have increased in core HS classes this year and up 2.6% since 2007



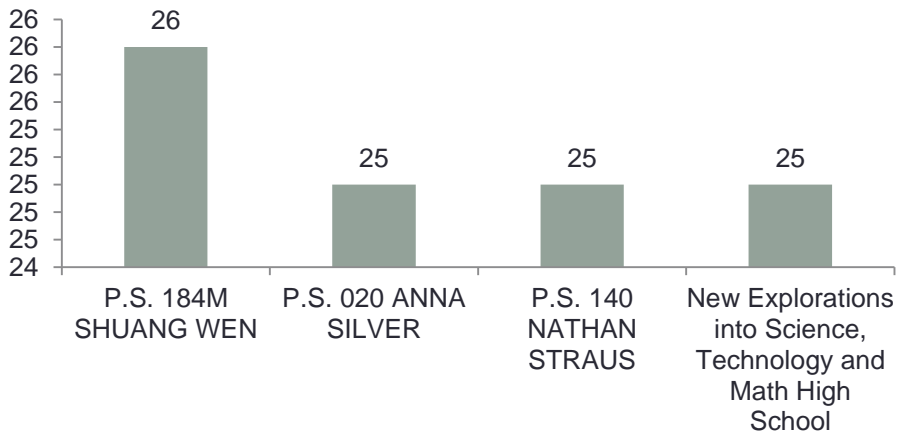
*DOE's class size data is unreliable & their methodology for calculating HS averages have changed year to year

Why? Because DOE has cut back school budgets by 14% since 2007

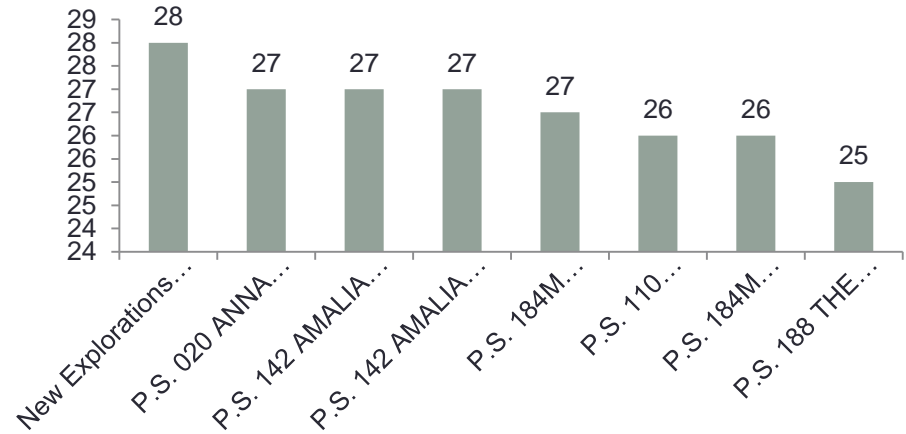
- In C4E law, says these funds must “**supplement not supplant**” city spending on schools: districts must “ensure that expenditures of the annual contract amount shall be used to supplement and not supplant funds expended by the district in the base year for such purposes;”
- This means that the DOE should not cut back its own funding to schools when the state increased its funding.
- But this is what happened, starting in 2007 and continuing, as budgets were cut and schools began using C4E fund to fill holes in their Fair Student Funding allocations.
- DOE C4E presentations admit this: *“Expenditures made using C4E funds must ‘supplement, not supplant’ funding provided by the school district; however, SED has provided guidance explaining that certain expenditures may be paid for with C4E funds even though these programs or expenditures were originally or have been typically paid for by the district or by other grants.”*

Examples of schools in D1 with large class sizes, K-3

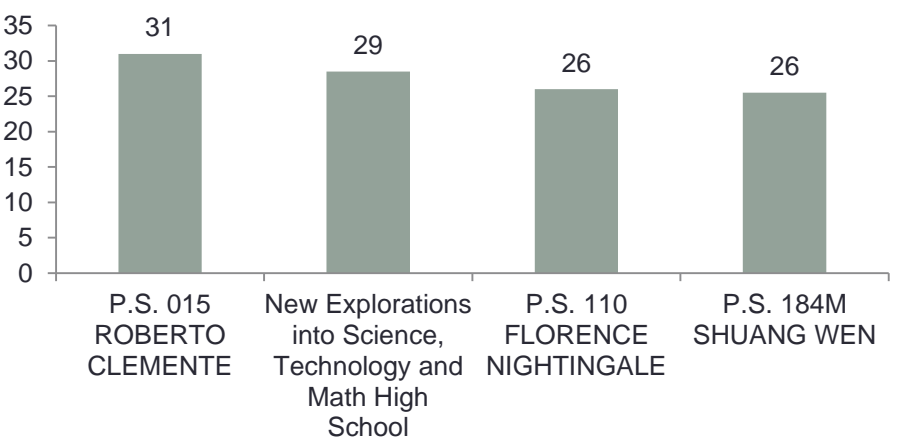
D1 Kindergarten



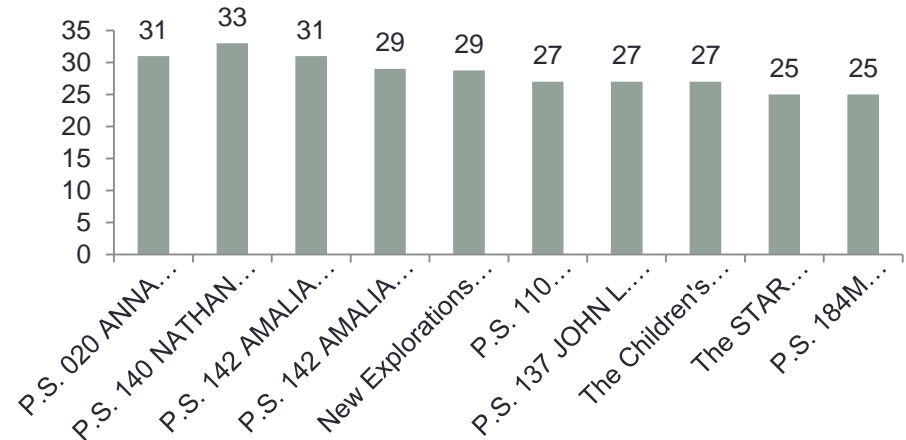
D1 1st Grade



D1 2nd Grade

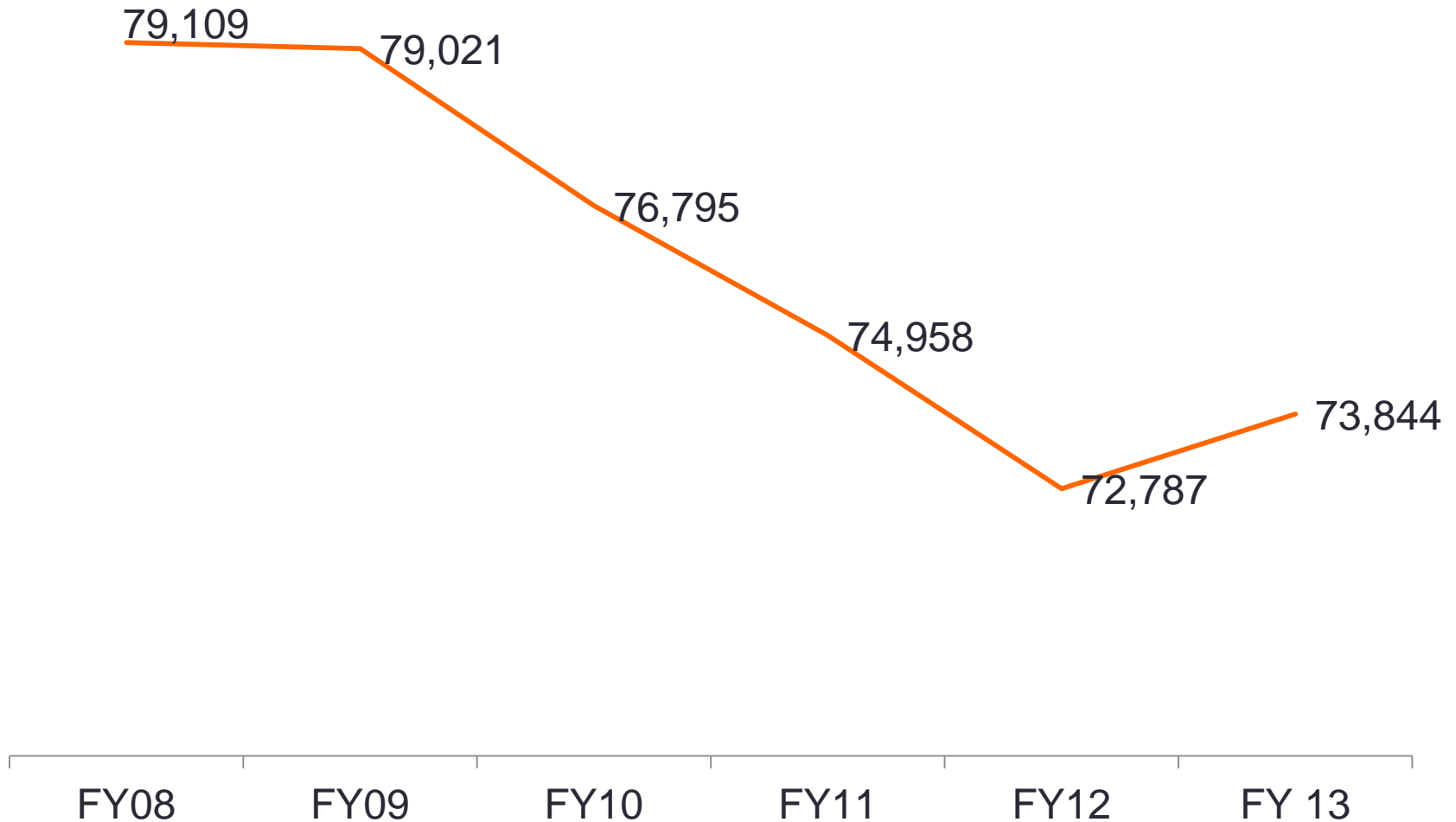


D1 3rd Grade



**Instead of hiring new teachers, the number has
dropped by more than
5,000 since 2007-8 citywide**

data source: Mayor's Management Report



Other ways city has encouraged class size increases

- In 2010, the DOE eliminated the early grade class size reduction funding for K-3, despite promising to keep it as part of its C4E plan.
- In 2011, the DOE refused to comply with a side agreement with the UFT to cap class sizes at 28 in grades 1-3, leading to sharp increases in these grades to 30 or more.
- Co-locations have made overcrowding worse, and taken space that instead could have been used to reduce class size.
- When principals try to lower class size, particularly in middle or high schools, DOE often sends them more students.

More ways DOE has worked to increase class size in its C4E plan

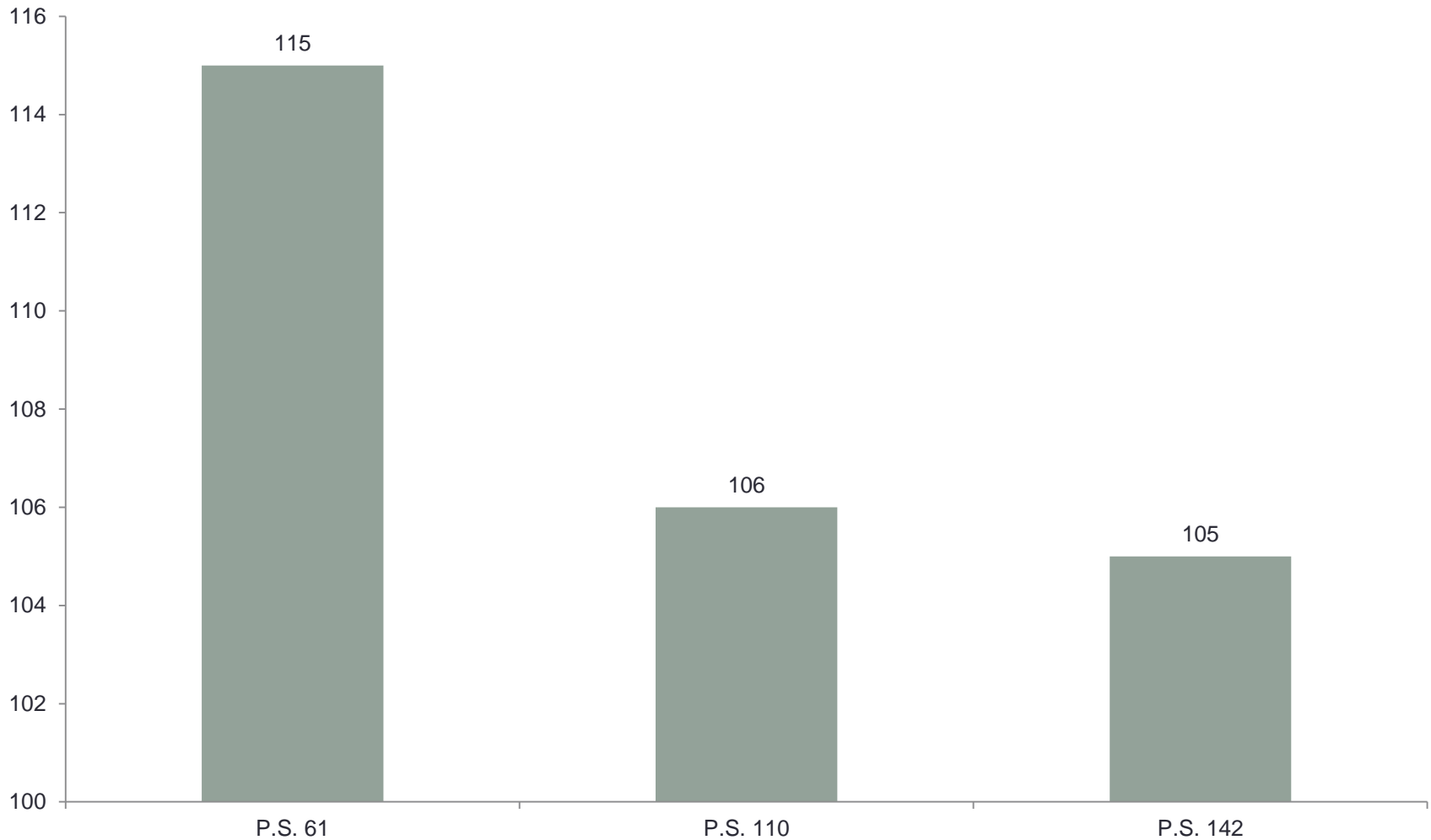
- DOE has refused to allocate ANY funds specifically towards class size reduction in its targeted or citywide C4E allocations.
- DOE allows principals to use C4E funds to “*Minimize growth of class size,*” which is not class size reduction.
- DOE has never aligned its capital plan to smaller classes, as required by C4E regs.
- The current “Blue Book” formula would tend to force class sizes higher in grades 4-12.

Overcrowding in D1 and Manhattan

- Last year there were 3 District 1 buildings with elementary and middle school students that were over 100% utilization.
- 17 Manhattan high school buildings were over-utilized with a shortage of 3,181 seats.
- Most experts believe that these figures *underestimate* the actual level of overcrowding in our schools; and so Chancellor has appointed a task force to revamp the Blue Book formula.
- DOE consultants project over 1,000 new D1 students over next 5-10 years.
- *Yet there are NO ES & MS seats for D1 in the 5 year plan, and NO Manhattan HS seats.*

3 ES Buildings are over-utilized in D1

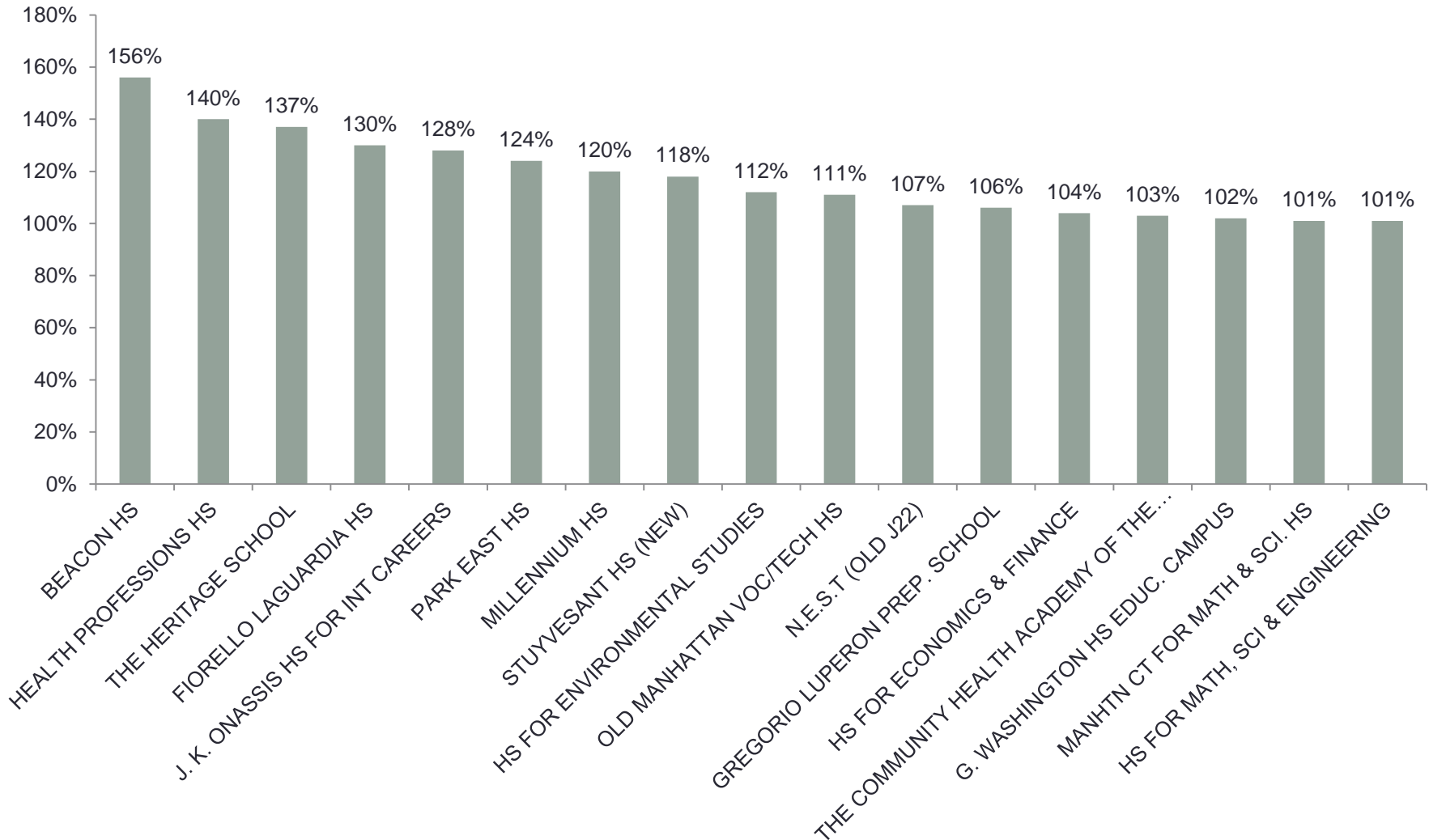
131 seats needed to reach 100% building utilization



Source: 2013-2014 DOE Blue Book

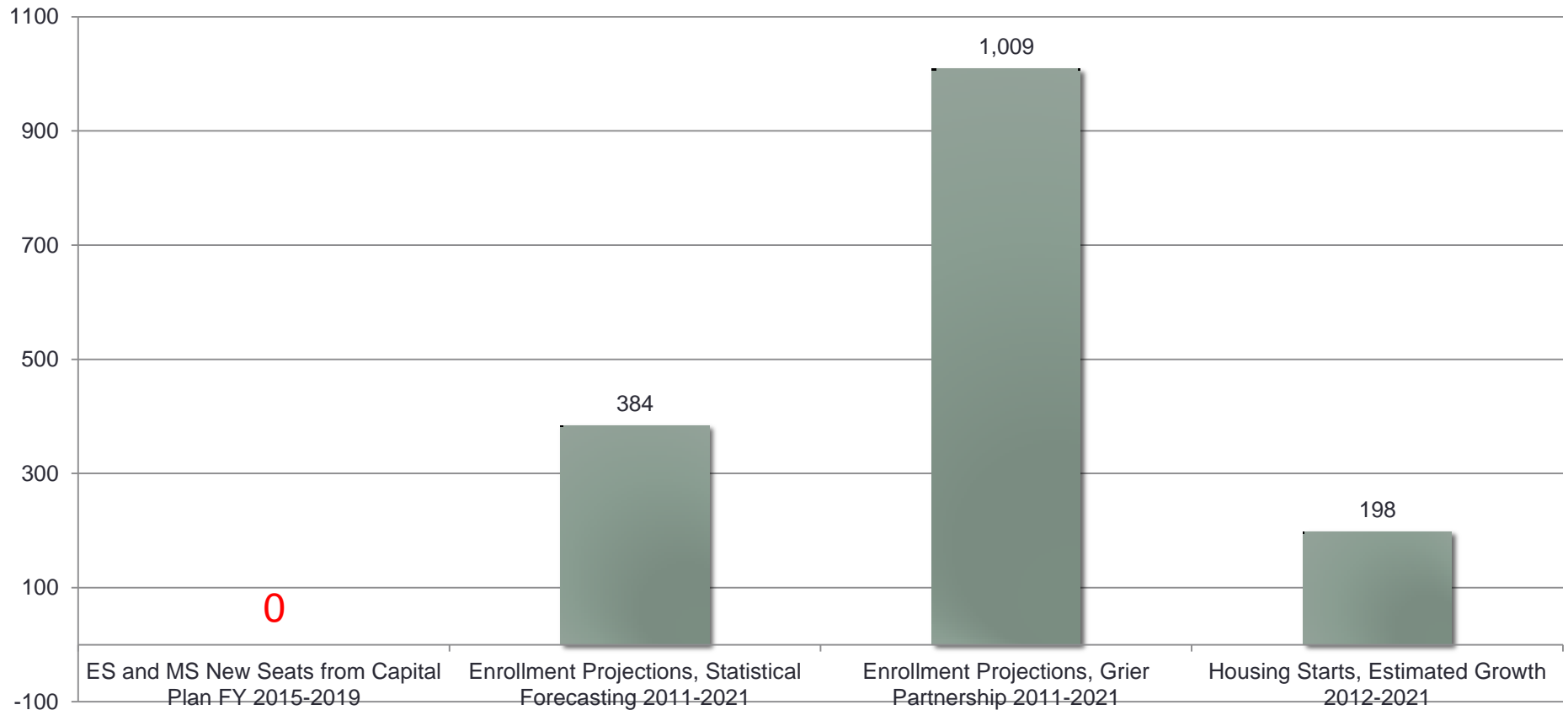
17 Manhattan High School Buildings are over-utilized

3,181 HS seats needed to reach 100% building utilization



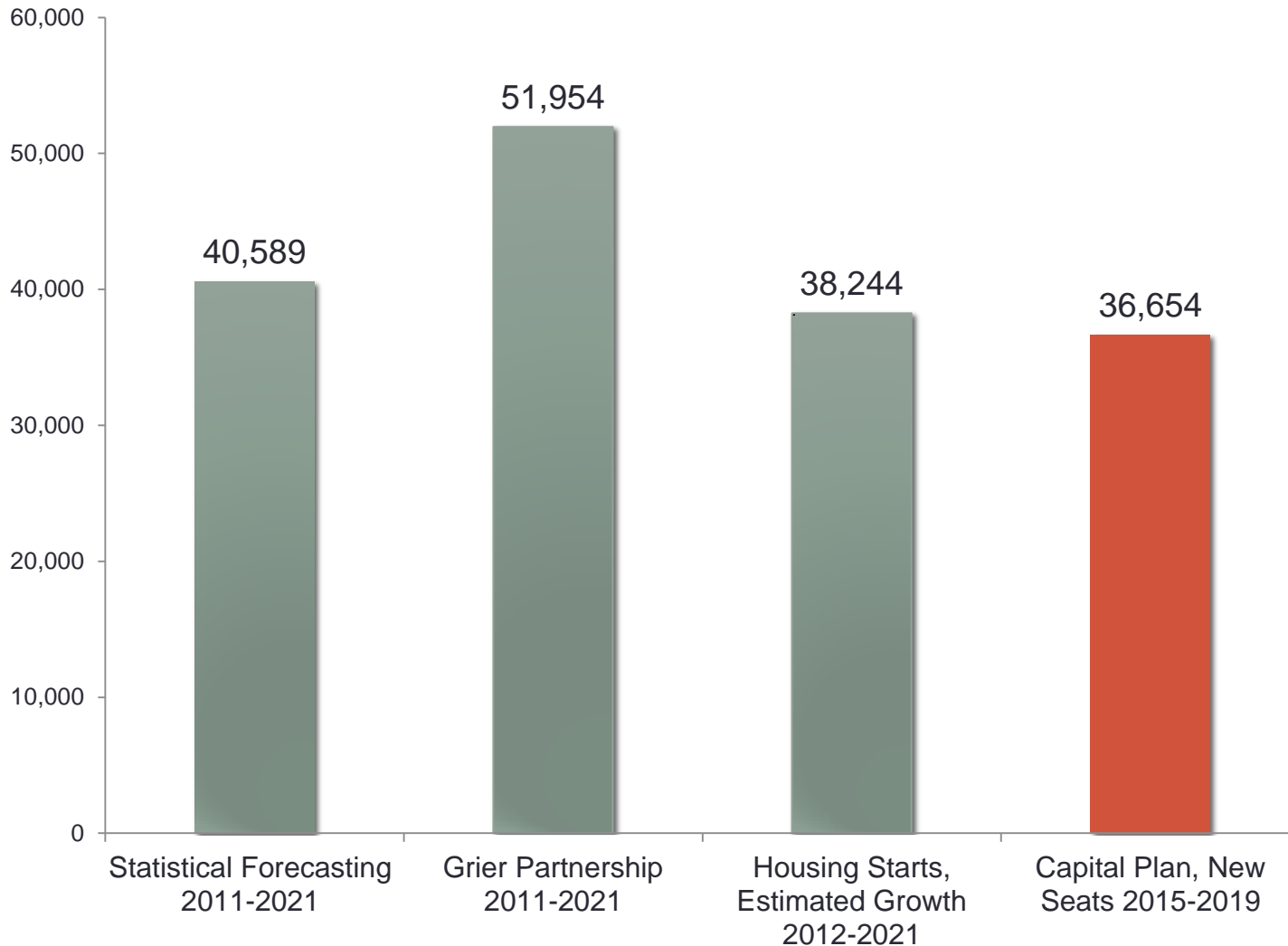
Source: 2013-2014 DOE Blue Book

DOE projections suggest about 600-1200 new students in D1 over the next 5-10 years though NO New Seats in Capital Plan



~582 to 1,207 seats needed to accommodate growth, acc. to enrollment projections

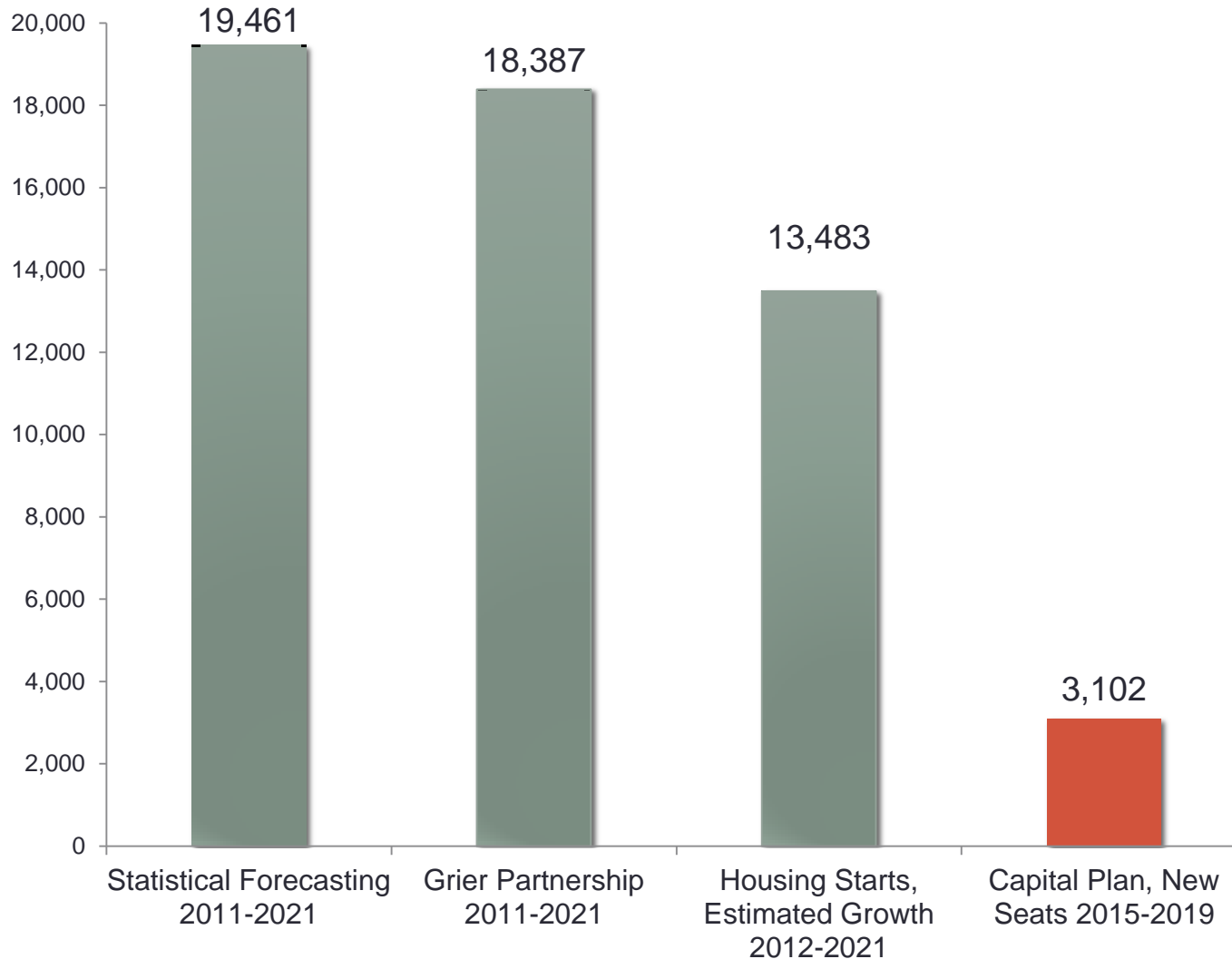
City-wide Enrollment Projections K-8 vs. New Seats in Capital Plan



*Statistical Forecasting does not include D75 students; K-8 Seats in Capital Plan are categorized as Small PS and PS/IS and includes 4,900 seats for class size reduction if Bond issue passes.

Source for Housing Starts: NYSCA Projected New Housing Starts 2012-2021, <http://www.nycsca.org/Community/CapitalPlanManagementReportsData/Housing/2012-21HousingWebChart.pdf>; Projected public school ratio, <https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Education/Projected-Public-School-Ratio/n7ta-pz8k>

City-wide Enrollment Projections HS vs. New Seats in Capital Plan



*Statistical Forecasting does not include D75 students; HS Seats in Capital Plan are categorized as IS/HS and does not include seats for class size reduction

Source for Housing Starts: NYSCA Projected New Housing Starts 2012-2021, <http://www.nycsca.org/Community/CapitalPlanManagementReportsData/Housing/2012-21HousingWebChart.pdf>; Projected public school ratio, <https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Education/Projected-Public-School-Ratio/n7ta-pz8k>

Bill de Blasio promised to reduce class size while running for Mayor

- During his campaign, Mayor de Blasio promised if elected to abide by the city's original class size plan approved by the state in 2007.
- The Mayor needs to deliver on his promise and provide what NYC parents want and their children need.
- He also needs to expand the capital plan to alleviate school overcrowding, end ALL co-locations, and build more schools!

Comparison of class sizes in Blue book compared to current averages & Contract for excellence goals

| Grade levels | UFT Contract class size limits | Target class sizes in "blue book" | Current average class sizes | C4E class Size goals | How many students allowed in 500 Sq ft classroom according to NYC building code |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Kindergarten | 25 | 20 | 23 | 19.9 | 14 |
| 1st-3rd | 32 | 20 | 25.5 | 19.9 | 25 |
| 4th-5th | 32 | 28 | 26 | 22.9 | 25 |
| 6th-8th | 30 (Title I) | 28 | 27.4 | 22.9 | 25 |
| | 33 (non-Title I) | | | | |
| HS (core classes) | 34 | 30 | 26.7* | 24.5 | 25 |

*DOE reported HS class sizes unreliable

How can you help?

- Sign up for the Class Size Matters newsletter.
- Meet with your City Councilmembers (Rosie Mendez, and Margaret Chin) to urge them to expand the capital plan AND reduce class size.
- Be pro-active about fighting for your children to receive their constitutional right to a sound basic education, by lowering class size.
- *Questions, please email us at info@classsizematters.org*