

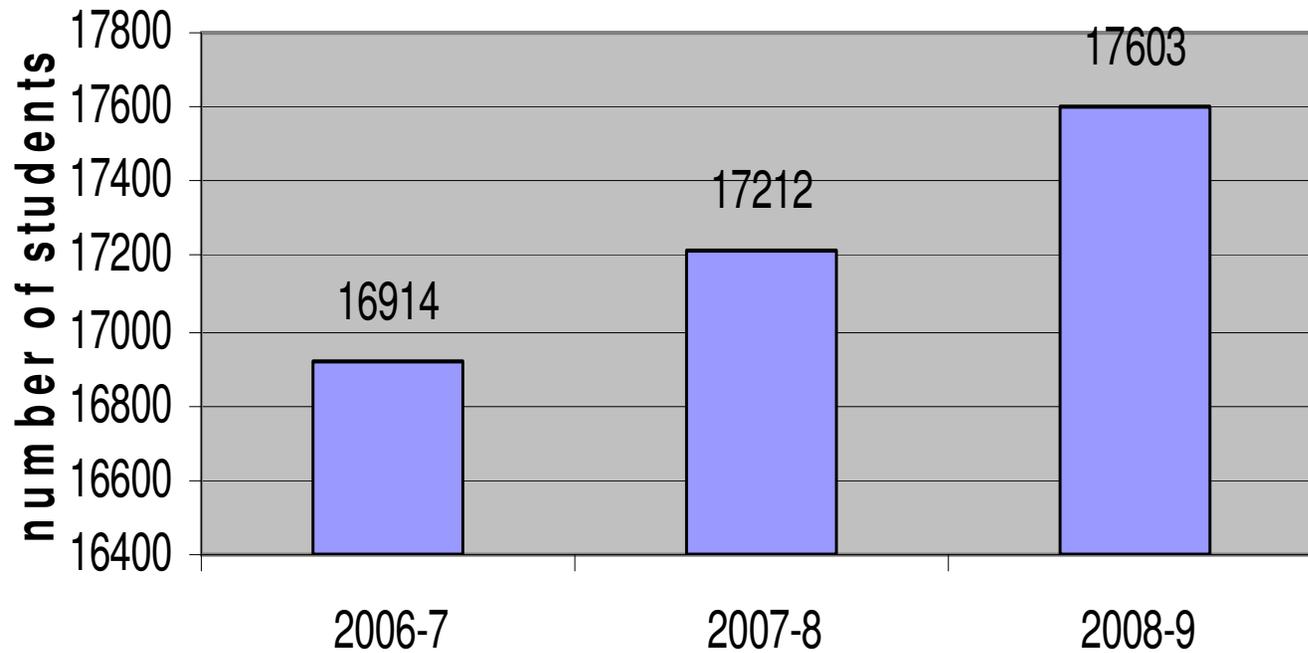
Presentation for Community Board 2 on school overcrowding

Leonie Haimson, Class Size
Matters

November 2010

Enrollment in District 2 elementary school buildings

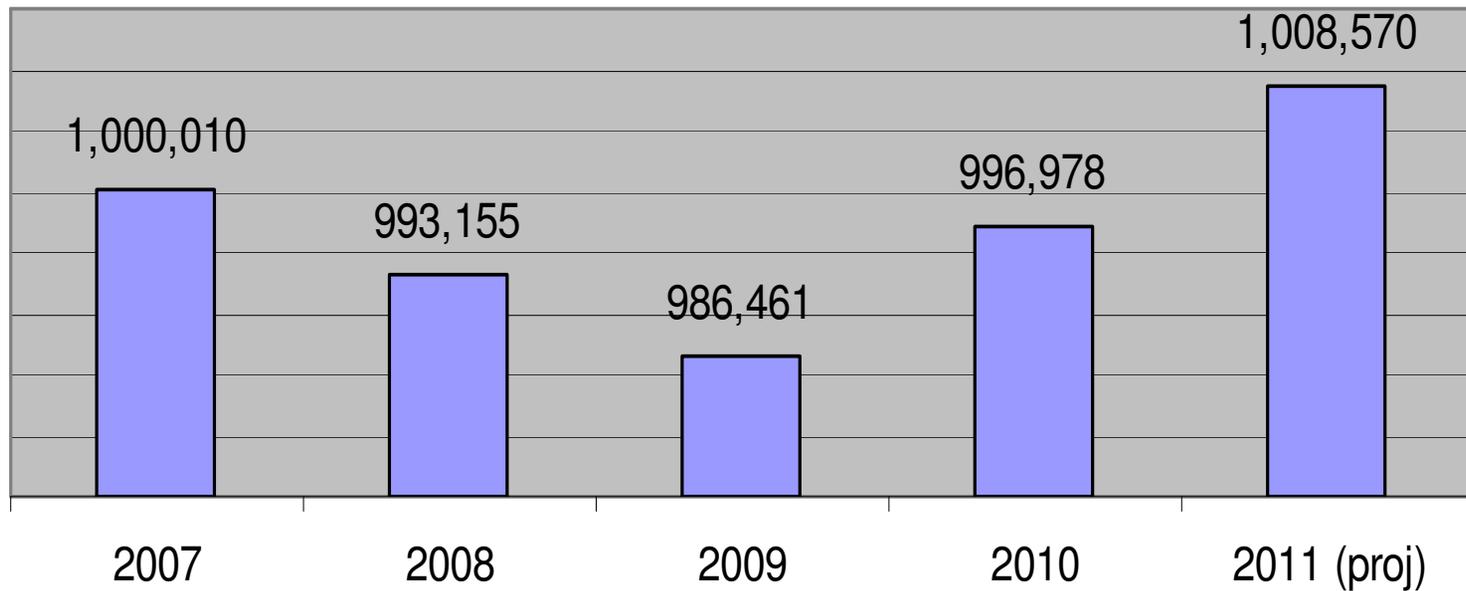
-- up 4% in two years
(source: DOE "Blue books")



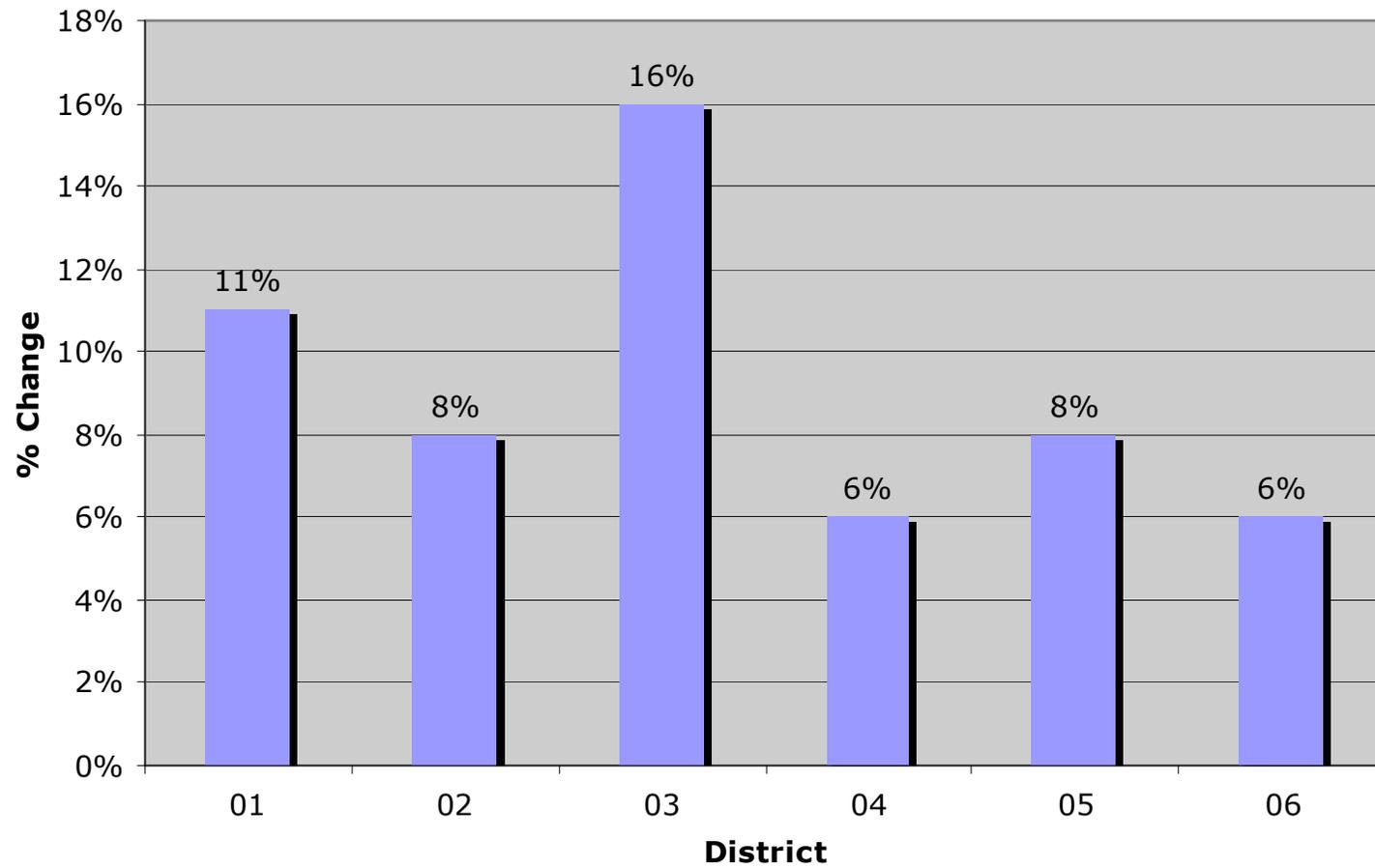
**Citywide, total K-12 enrollment increased sharply last year
for first time since Bloomberg in office**

This year projected to be higher than in 2007....

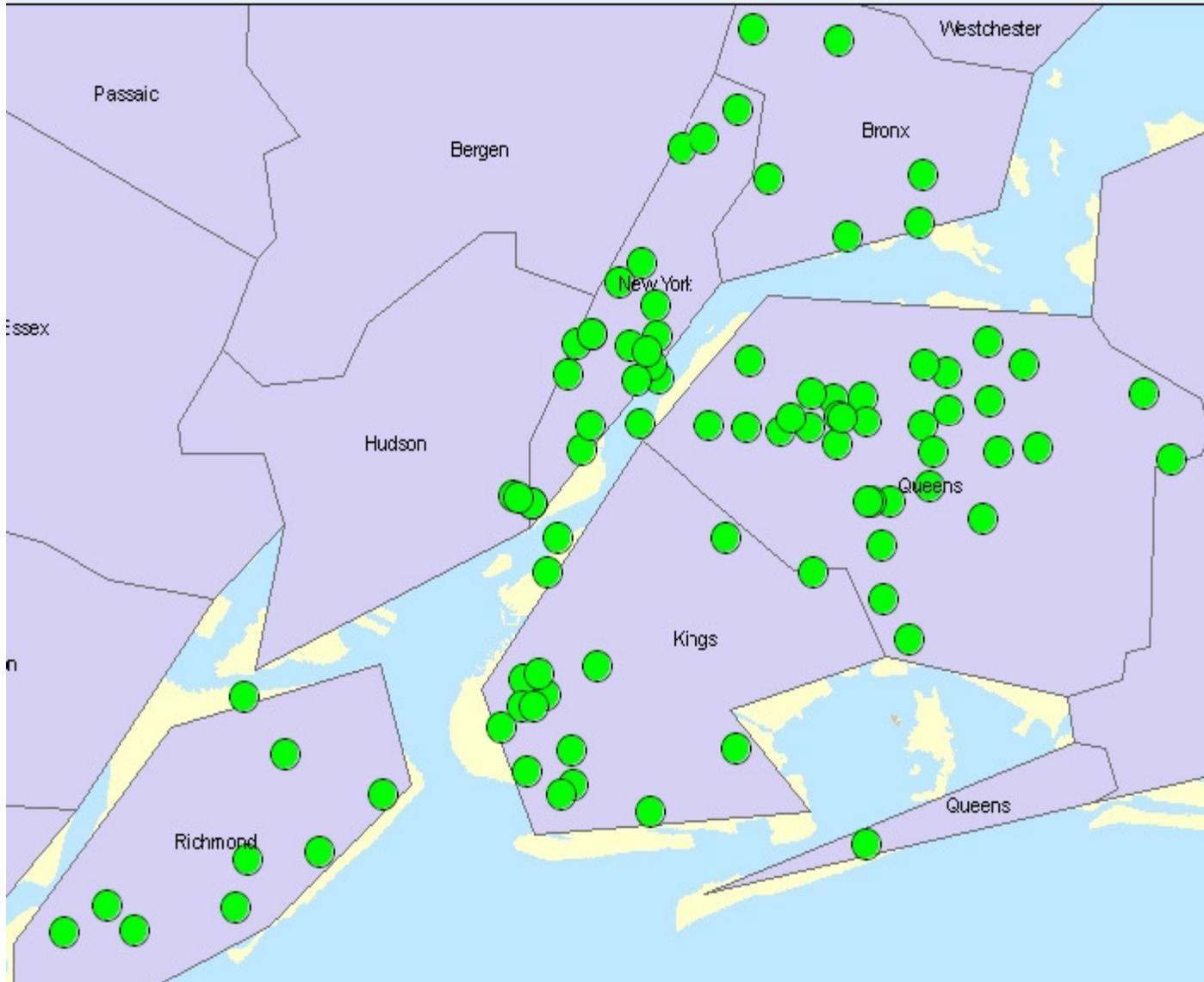
**total enrollment in DOE facilities
(not including charter schools)
source: OMB**



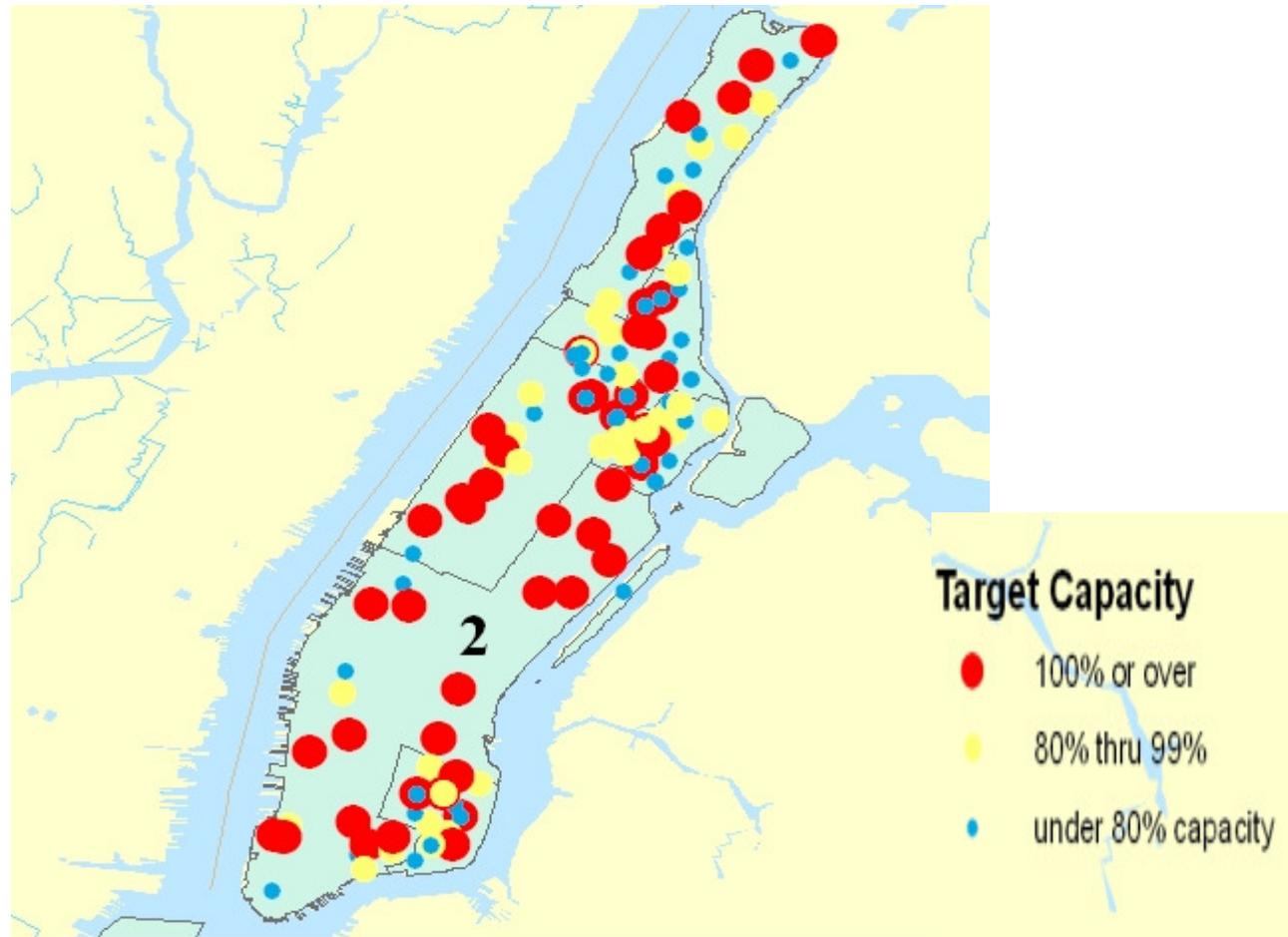
% Increase in Kindergarten Enrollment by District: Manhattan 2009-2010

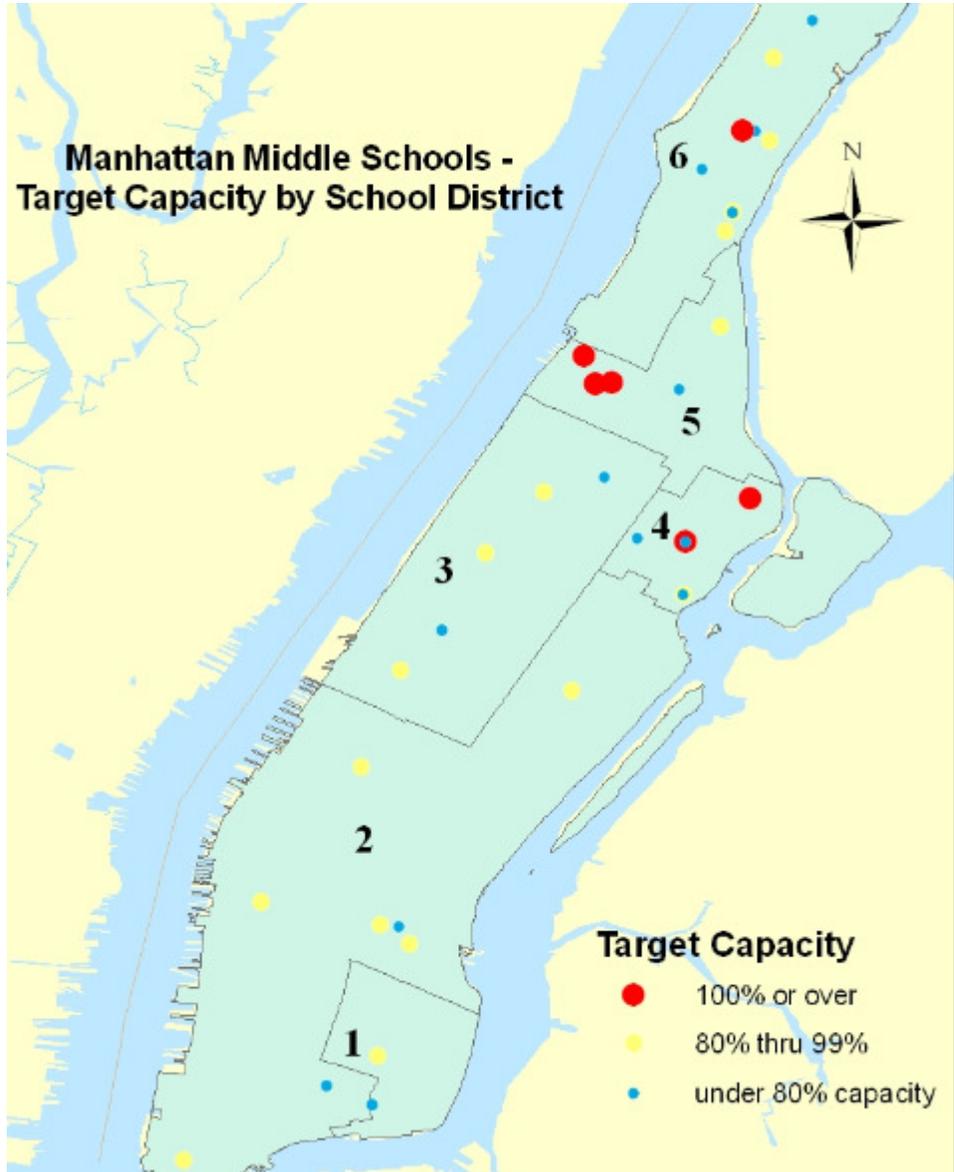


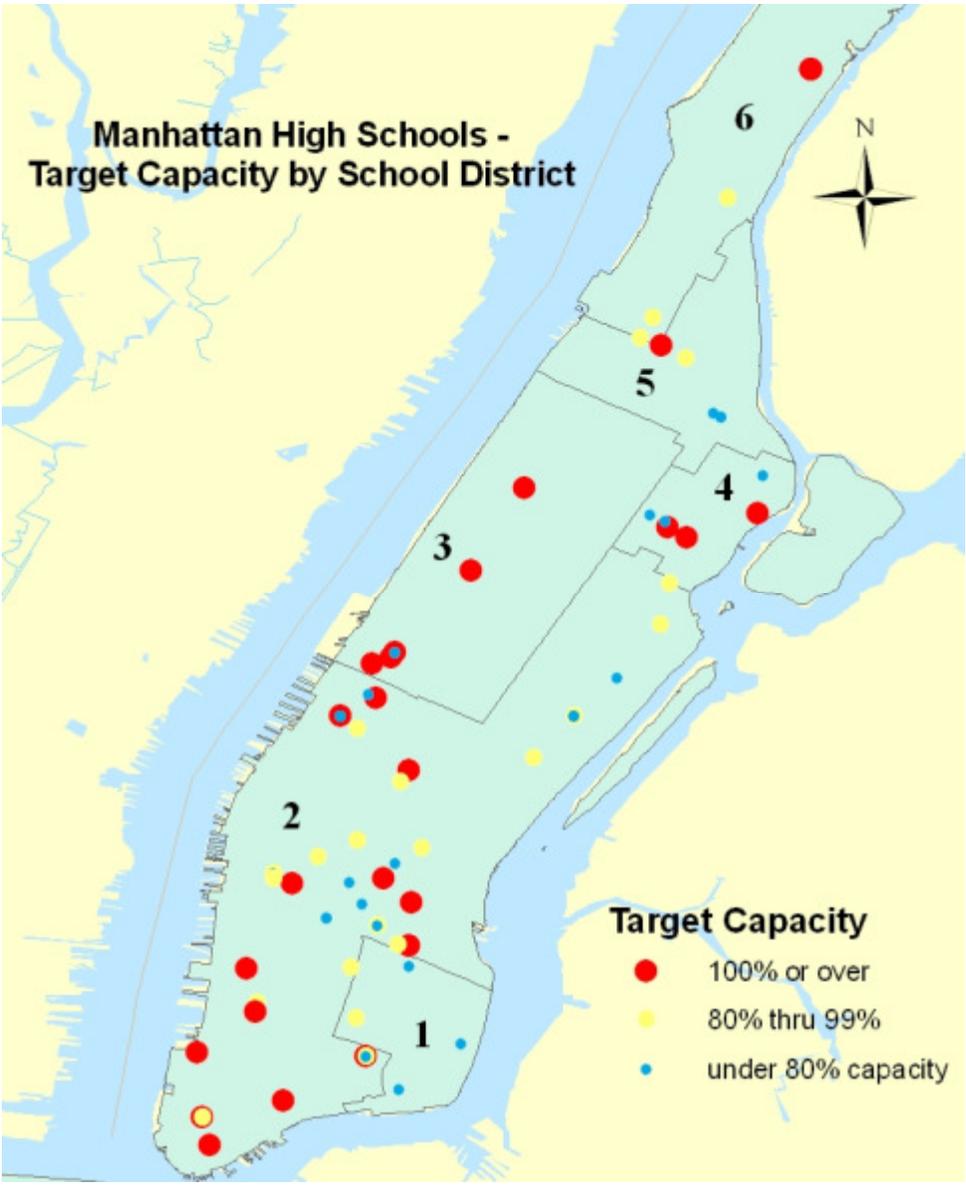
Kindergarten waiting lists for zoned elementary schools (April 2010)



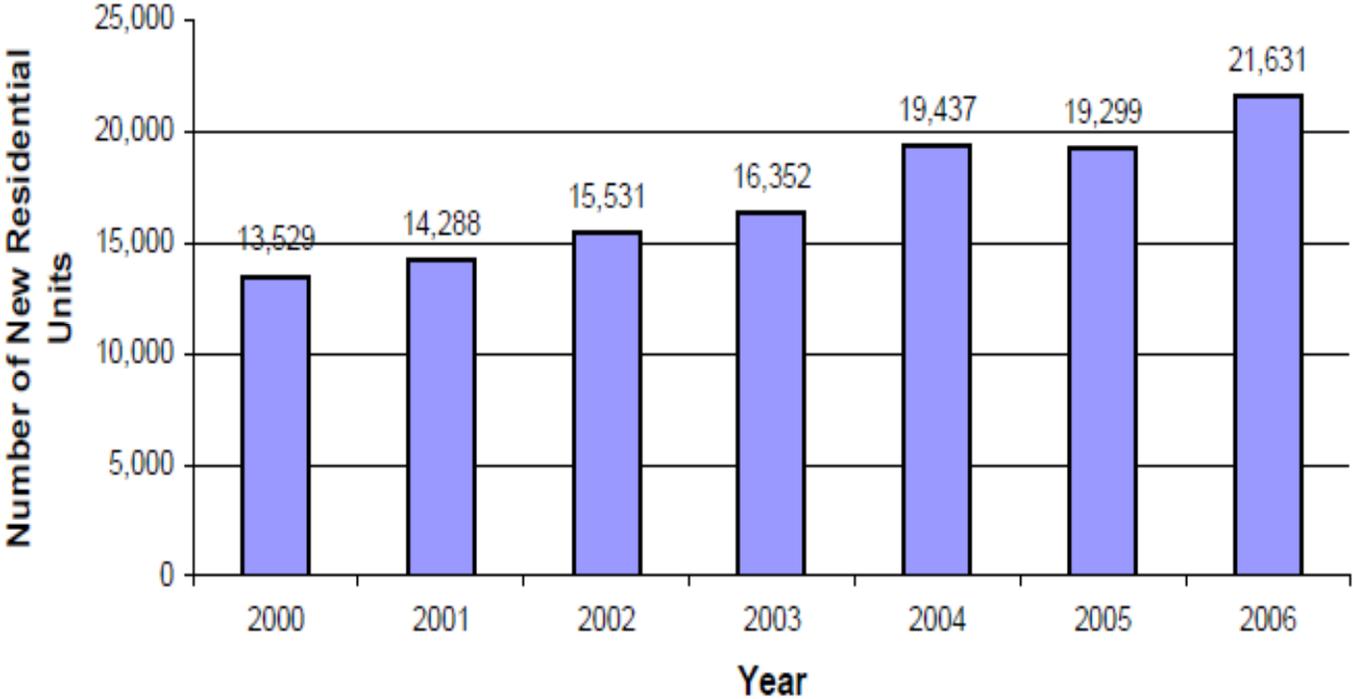
**Not “pocket overcrowding” but systemwide
Manhattan elementary schools
2008-9**







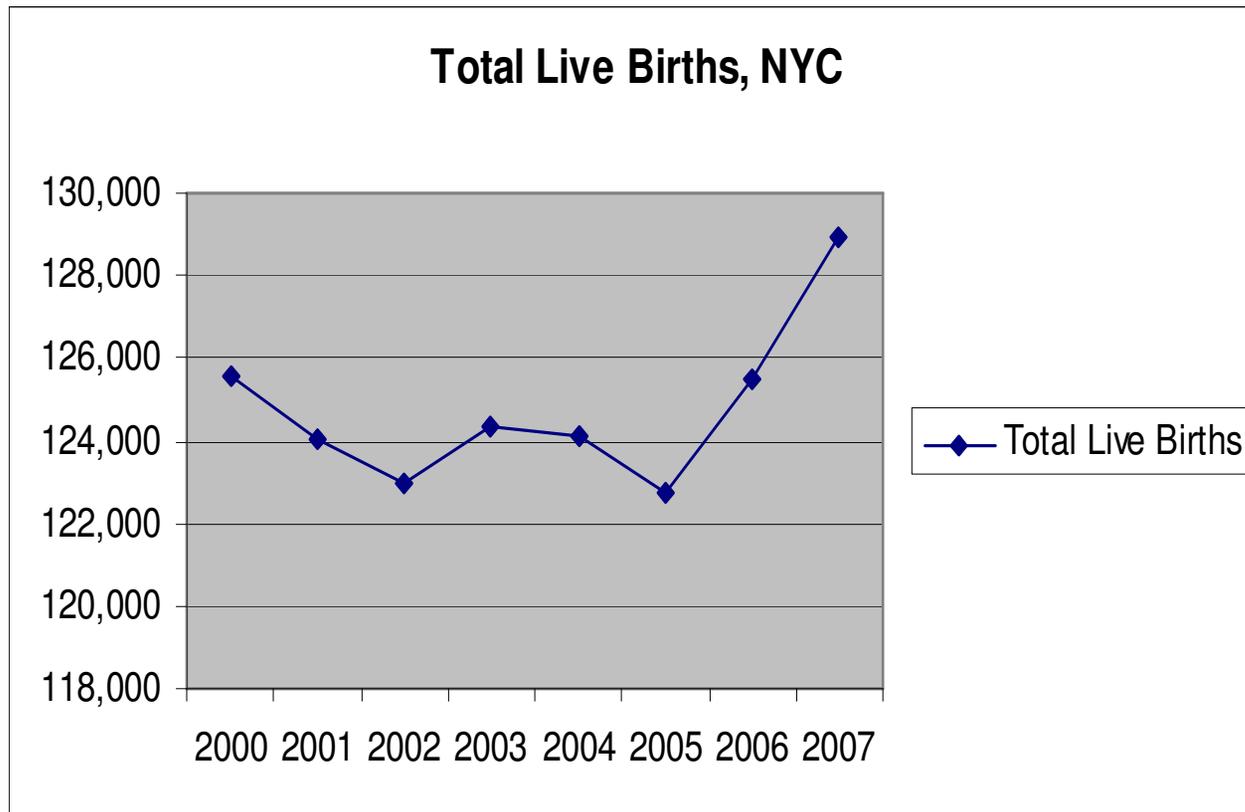
New Residential Units In New Buildings in New York City from 2000 to 2006



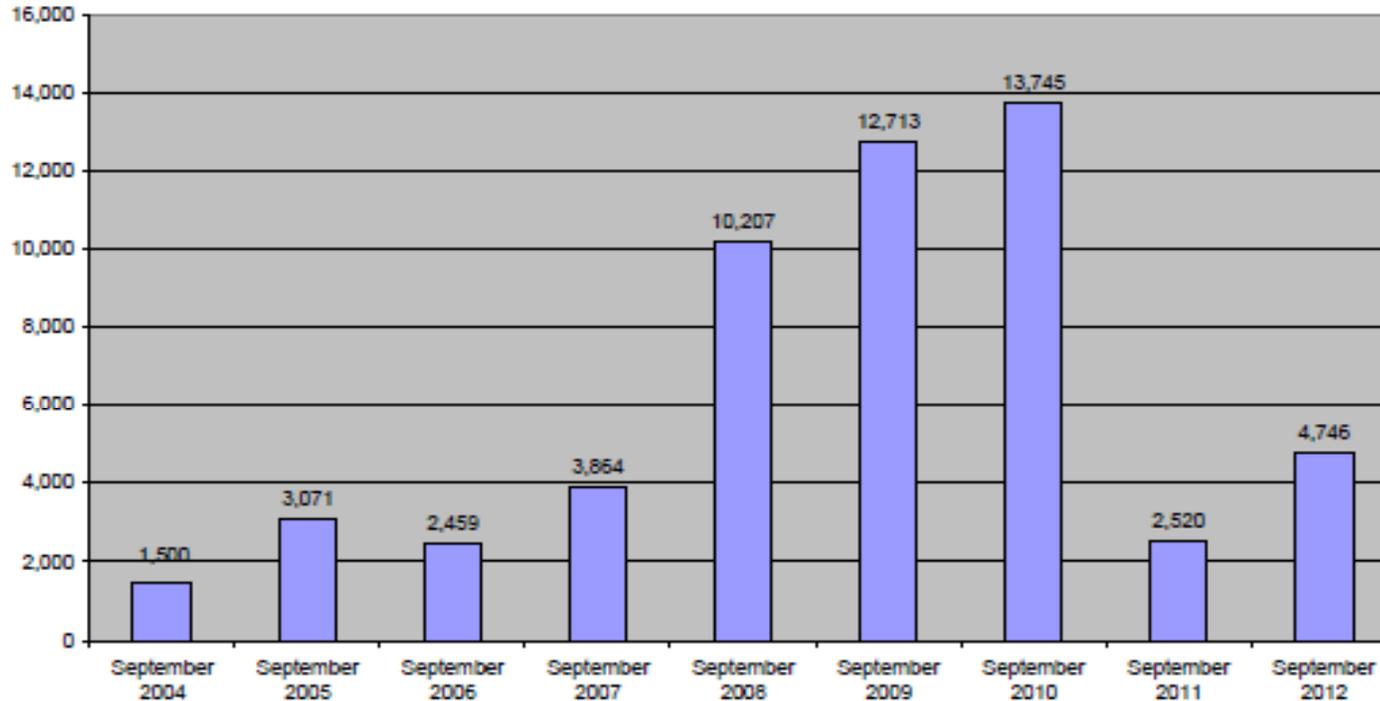
Source: Statistical Forecasting, "ENROLLMENT PROJECTIOS FOR 2007-2016 FOR THE NYC PUBLIC SCHOOLS," Prepared for the NYC School Construction Authority, November 2007, from Census figures.

And the number of births citywide is still increasing...

data source: NYC Dept. of Health



FY2005 - 2009 Capital Plan
Capacity Completion
Data as of June 30, 2009



While the number of new seats will be sharply dropping....

Source: School Construction Authority,
2010-2014 five year Capital plan; Feb. 2010 amendment

- When DOE/SCA calculates how many seats added, this is not a “net” gain;
- We have lost about one thousand leased HS seats in Manhattan in last year alone – not counted in DOE’s calculations.
- Decisions on building/leasing sites by DOE not “transparent”
- DOE never releases their own enrollment projections, even to CEC’s when rezoning.

We need a new more transparent, more reliable process to determine enrollment projections for capital planning

The Grier partnership, consultants to DOE, have produced projections increasingly off-target. In each of the past five years, the Grier projections for ES/MS enrollment have been off-target by at least 25,000 to 30,000 students.

- The Griers predicted continued enrollment decline citywide until at least 2016, and yet already last fall, enrollment increased.
- Yet our analyses showed substantial **citywide increases occurred starting in 2008-9** at the elementary and middle school level, also in three out of the five boroughs (Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island) .

The Grier projections also do not take into account changes in birth rates, charter school populations in DOE buildings, building starts, or the increases in D75/special ed population – the latter two with substantial impacts on space.

Sen. Squadron has proposed legislation to strengthen capital planning which is a start...but elements should be added:

- City Planning separate from DOE should produce annual enrollment projections, including how many students are expected over the next five years, per borough, per district and per school enrollment zone.
- These projections, created through an open review process, should take into account current enrollment trends, recent birth data geocoded by residence, census data, residential development planned and surveys of preschool and daycare centers..
- To be as accurate as possible, projections should include all students expected to be housed in DOE buildings, including D75 and charter school students.
- City Planning should be required to produce a preliminary assessment each fall, before the proposed capital plan amendment is released, providing clear and transparent accounts of their assumptions, the models used, and all data on which based projections.
- A period of public feedback should occur, so that independent demographers, advocates, CECs, and others can provide comments, to be posted online, in a process similar to other agency reviews, such as occurs with Environmental Impact Statements.

We also need “blue book reform”

- What is the “blue book”?
- The annual report from SCA on utilization/capacity of schools;
- Many experts and about half of principals say these figures are inaccurate for their own schools.

Speaker Quinn and Council has proposed legislation to revise “blue book”

- ***The target class sizes in the Blue Book, the number of students that each classroom is supposed to hold, should be revised.***
- The formula used by the Blue Book in grades K-3 should assume class sizes of 20, and 23 students in grades 4-8, and 25 students per class in core HS classes, in alignment with the city’s Contract for Excellence class size goals.
- The latest “blue book” assumes class sizes of 28 in 4-8th grade, and 30 in HS.
- The latest “instructional footprint” eliminates any class size guidelines at all.

Also... the Size of Classrooms & Specialty Rooms Should Be at NY State reimbursable standards

- The new “instructional footprint” counts any room 500 Sq. feet as a full classroom, though according to building code, this space can hold only 25 students maximum (20 sq. ft. per student)
- Special ed students require more space; between 51 and 75 sq. ft. per student, acc. to state regulations; (not mentioned in instructional footprint)
- The formula should allot sufficient space so that special education and intervention services can be provided in actual rooms (i.e. not in closets, hallways, or storage spaces.)
- The Blue Book should also indicate whether the space for mandated special services is sufficient ***based on the actual number of students requiring these services enrolled at the school***; rather than using an assumed number of special education students.

Sufficient numbers of Art, Music & Science Rooms Should Be Included in the Formula

The current capacity formula allots only an extremely limited number of cluster or specialty rooms per capita.

- . For example, an **elementary school with 1,950 students is allowed only four cluster rooms**

This under-estimates the need for each school, no matter what its size, to have cluster and/or specialty rooms in a range of subjects and areas.

Analyze Cafeterias/Hallways/Gyms & Common Spaces in Buildings Shared by Multiple Schools

- The growth in new schools and charters sharing space with existing schools has exacerbated the level of overcrowding, and the utilization formula needs to better capture this fact.
- It should be noted as to whether the lunchroom is able to legally accommodate the total enrollment during reasonable hours for lunch; and if not, the Blue Book should indicate this deficiency.
- There should be also be a record of whether there is a gym and/or library, and if they are adequate to provide access, according to the state minimum standards.
- Right now, according to DOE, they do not even know how many schools lack libraries or gyms.

Include Trailers and/or TCUs

- Right now, a school can bus hundreds of students to annex and/or house them in trailers and still be reported as underutilized.
- ***Students in annexes and TCU's should be integrated into school's population (as if the students at all these multiple sites were assigned to the main building) to better capture the actual level of overcrowding.***
- Only when the entire student population attributed to the main building can one see strain on shared spaces, such as gyms, cafeterias, and auditoriums.
- If city's goal to eventually eliminate all TCU's and trailers; the substandard and temporary nature of these facilities need to be captured in the utilization estimates.

We need a new capacity survey signed off by the principal AND the SLT prepared after a walkthrough of the team and survey results for EACH school should be posted on the DOE website

New walkthroughs should focus on whether classrooms and facilities are adequate to achieve class size goals, provision of special services, arts activities, science labs, gyms etc.

Members of the District's Community Education Council should be eligible to participate and notified in advance & floor plans should be available to all participants in advance.

Resulting survey and inventory should be signed off by at minimum, the principal, UFT chapter chair and PTA president, and shared with the CEC.

The completed inventory in its entirety should be posted on each school's webpage, like the BCAS, and incorporated into a spreadsheet.

A compilation for all schools should be made available by district, and a citywide summary posted on the DOE website.

We need to solve this overcrowding crisis; or else charter schools will take advantage, though their placement in district school buildings makes problem worse.

There are not enough seats in great public schools in our neighborhood.

The Upper West Success Academy offers a solution.

[Learn More About Upper West Success Academy](#)

