

The overcrowding crisis in NYC
schools and the need to expand the
capital plan

Class Size Matters

May 2011

Already 440,000 students are in overcrowded school buildings (44% of total)

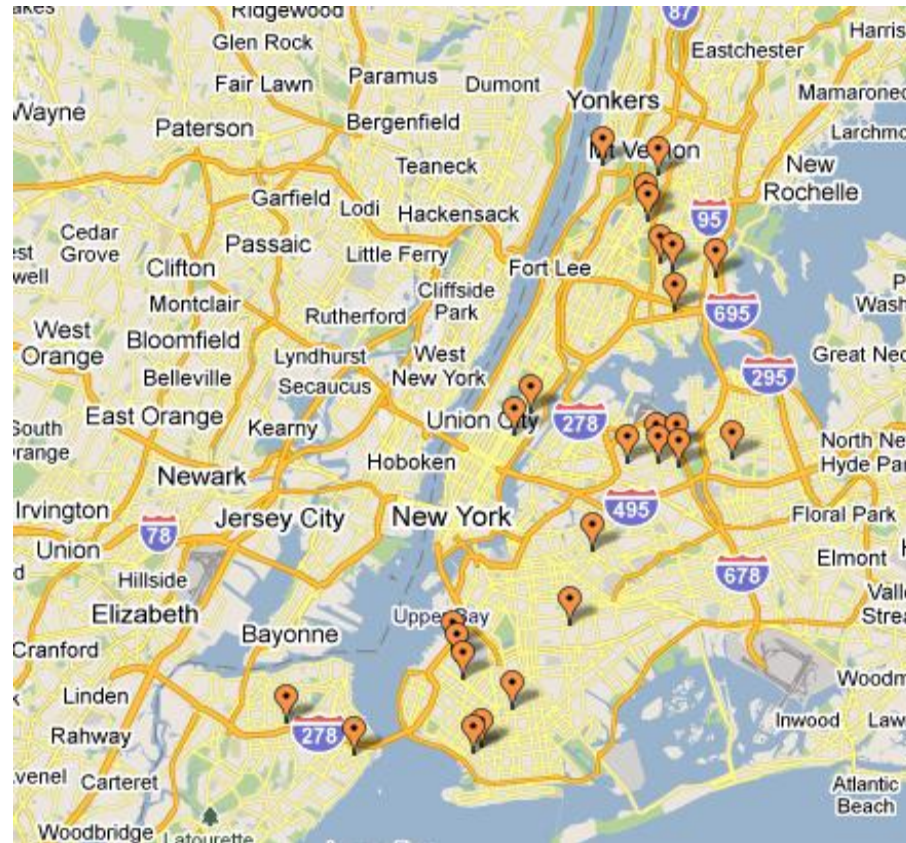
(detailed data by district and borough available upon request)

BLDGS 2008-2009					
Utilization Rate (Target)	PS`	MS^`	HS`**	D75***	Total
# buildings 100% or over	446	29	88	9	572
% buildings 100% or over	49.12%	14.22%	41.90%	18.00%	
# students	243,035	27286	166,963	2,019	439,303
% students	48.87%	14.02%	56.90%	19.44%	
# buildings under 100%	462	175	122	41	800
% buildings 100% or under	50.88%	85.78%	58.10%	82.00%	
# students	254,300	167286	126,445	8,366	556,397
% students	51.13%	85.98%	43.10%	80.56%	
total buildings	908	204	210	50	1372
total students	497,335	194572	293,408	10,385	995,700
centage total students in buildings 100% or over					44.12%
includes PS/IS & IS/HS	MMS #s	14%	40%		
excludes D75 schools					
*includes ALT & D78 schools					

Huge disparity in every grade between need and seats provided

- Example: there are more than 160,000 students in overcrowded high schools, and yet DOE only plans to build fewer than 3,000 new HS seats.
- In Nov. plan, DOE admitted that there was a future need for at least 58,000 new seats from housing starts alone.
- This did not take into account existing overcrowding, rising birth rate, or closing of parochial schools.
- Yet new plan has only 28,000 seats; why?
- No change in fiscal situation, state reimbursement levels, or need since Nov. ***Only change is now we have waiting lists at one quarter of all elementary schools.***

***And overcrowding is getting worse:
2009 Kindergarten Waitlist (as of July):
28 schools, 474 children
clickable maps at <http://tinyurl.com/5vmnr95>***



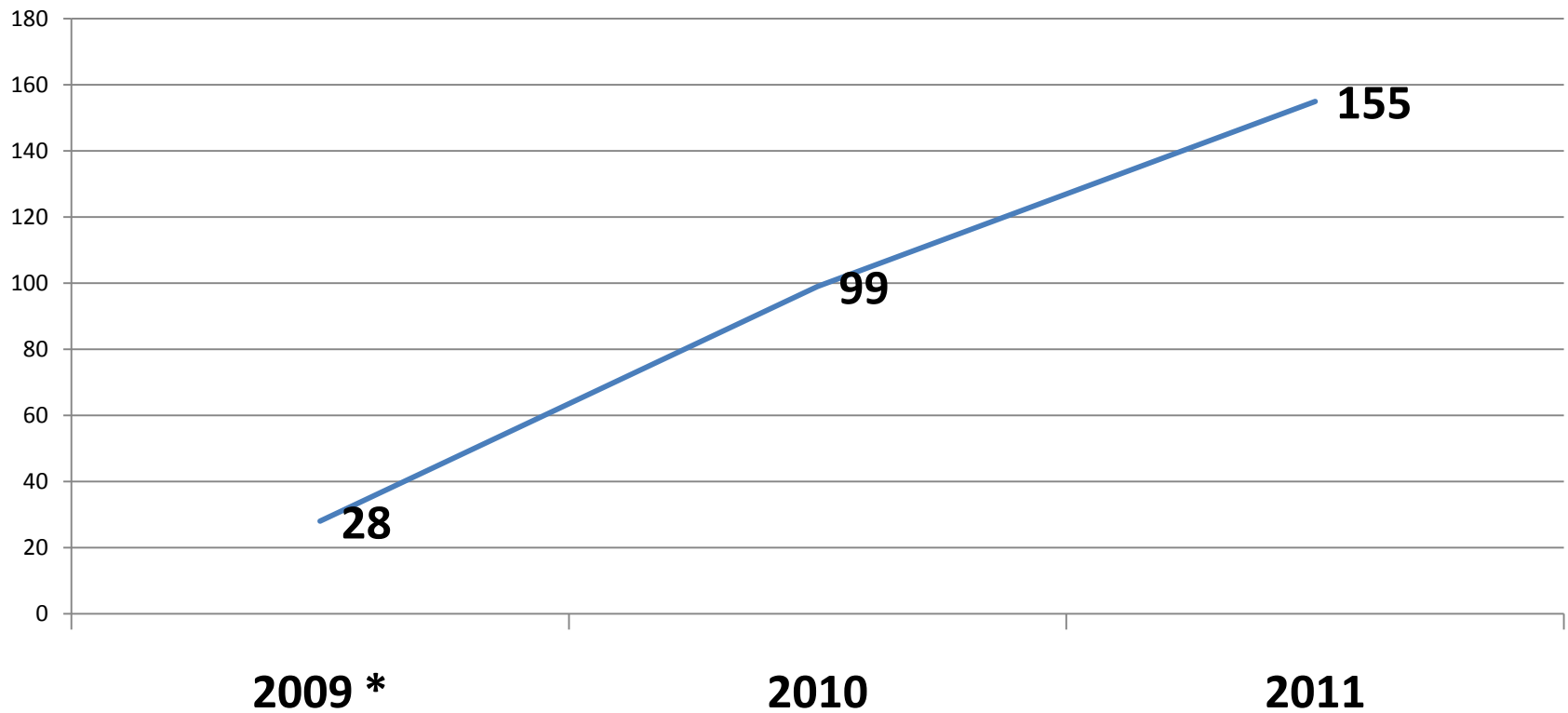
***2010 Kindergarten waitlist (as of March):
99 schools, 2217 children
clickable maps at <http://tinyurl.com/5vmnr95>***



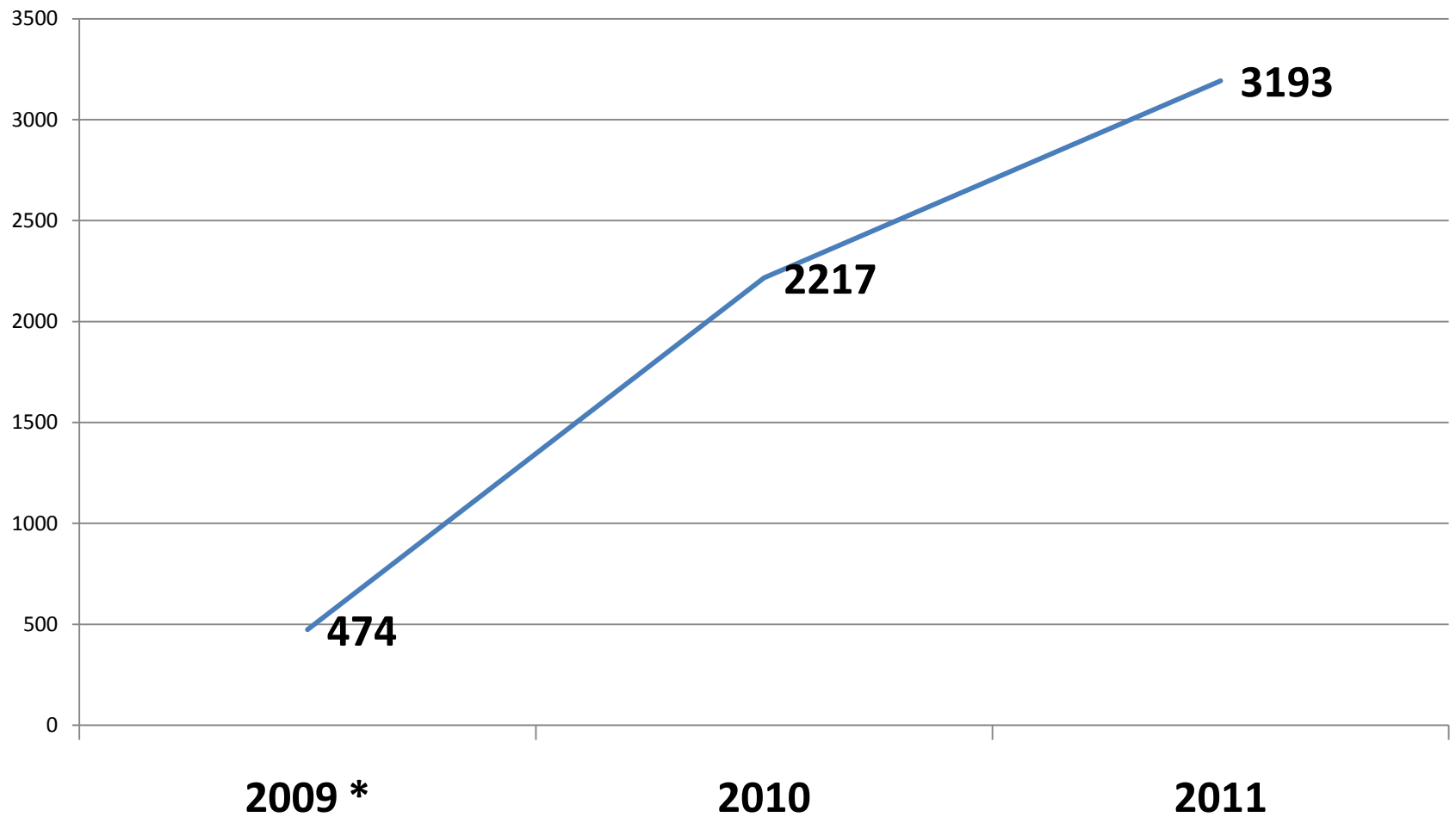
***2011 Kindergarten waitlist (as of March):
155 schools, 3193 children
clickable maps at <http://tinyurl.com/5vmnr95>***



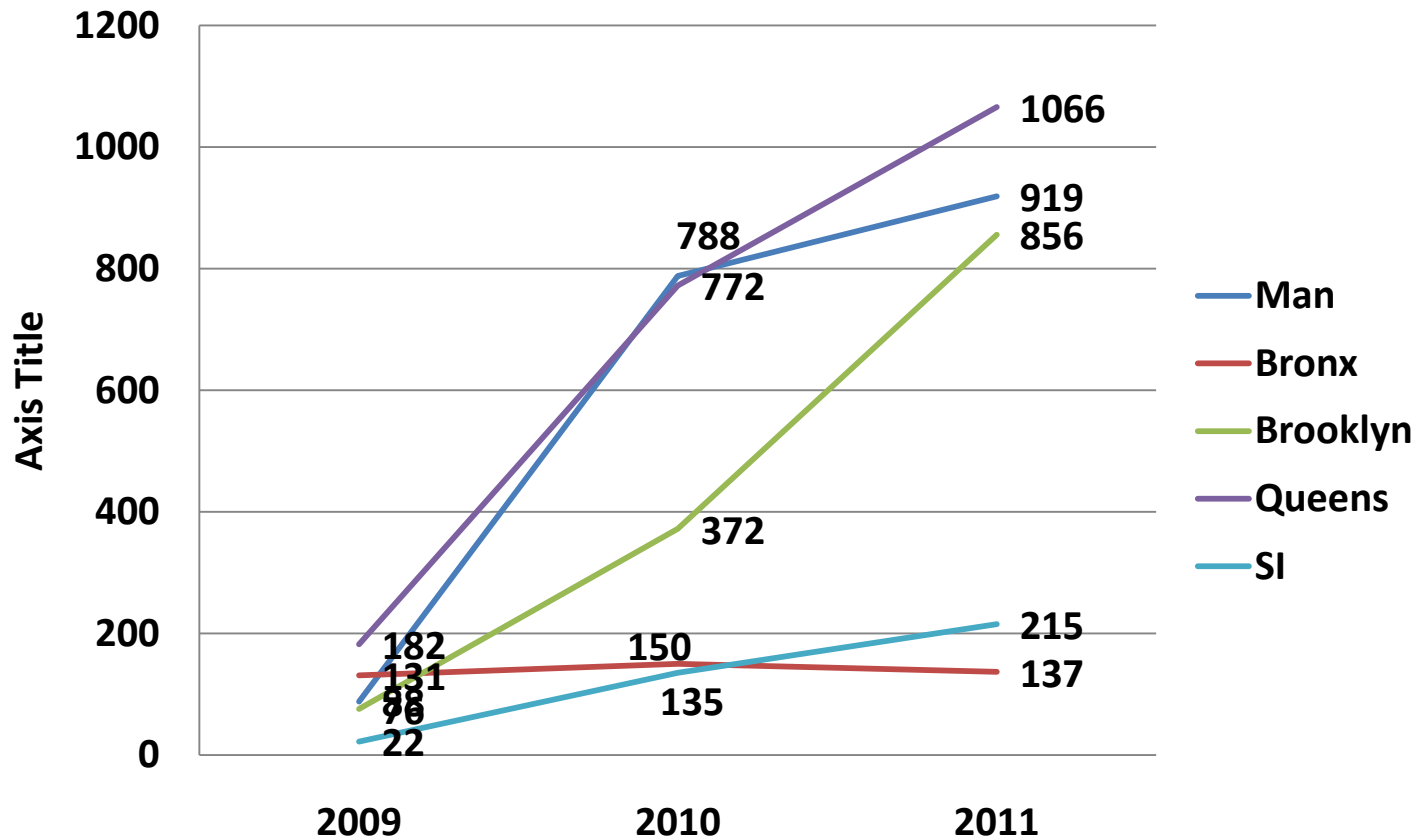
No. of schools with waiting lists for Kindergarten 2009-2011



No. of Kindergarten children on waiting lists 2009-2011



No. of K waiting list kids by borough

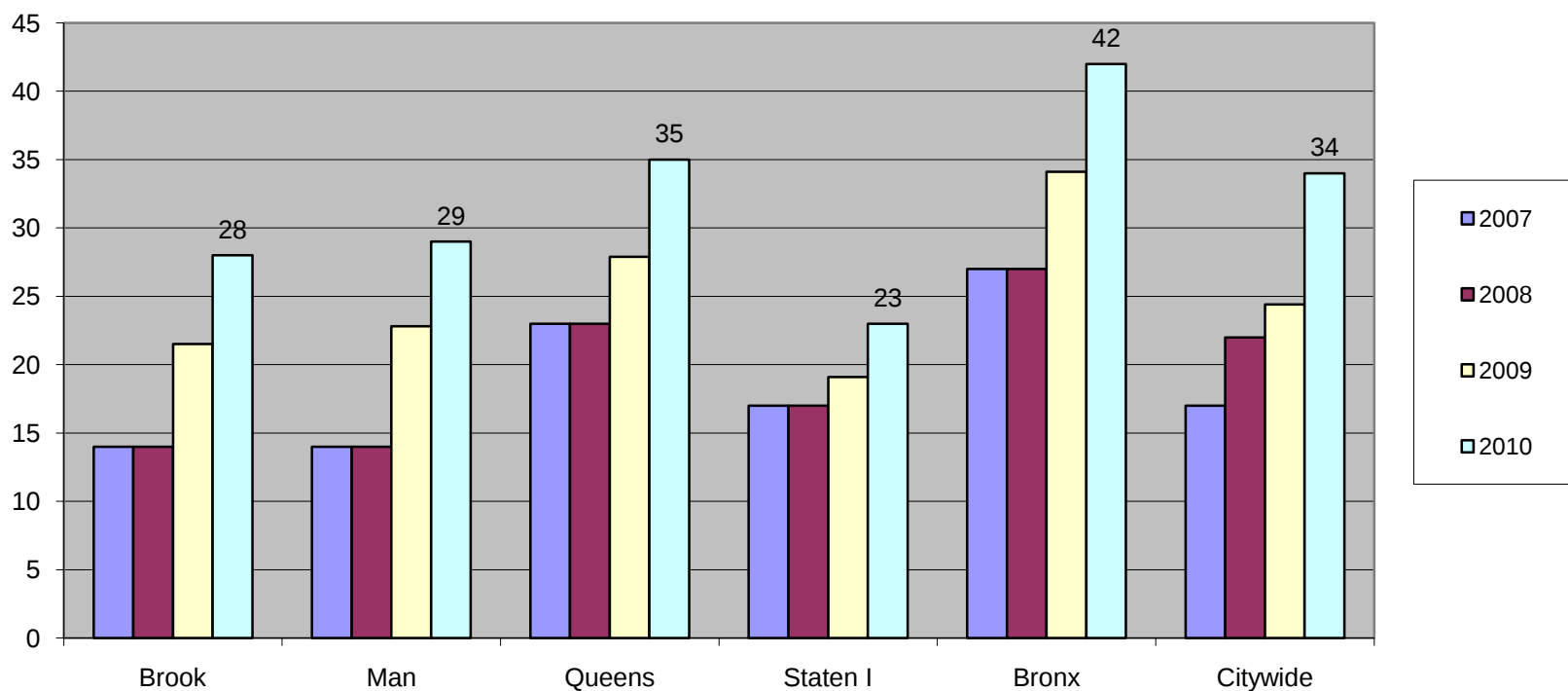


What happens to these children?

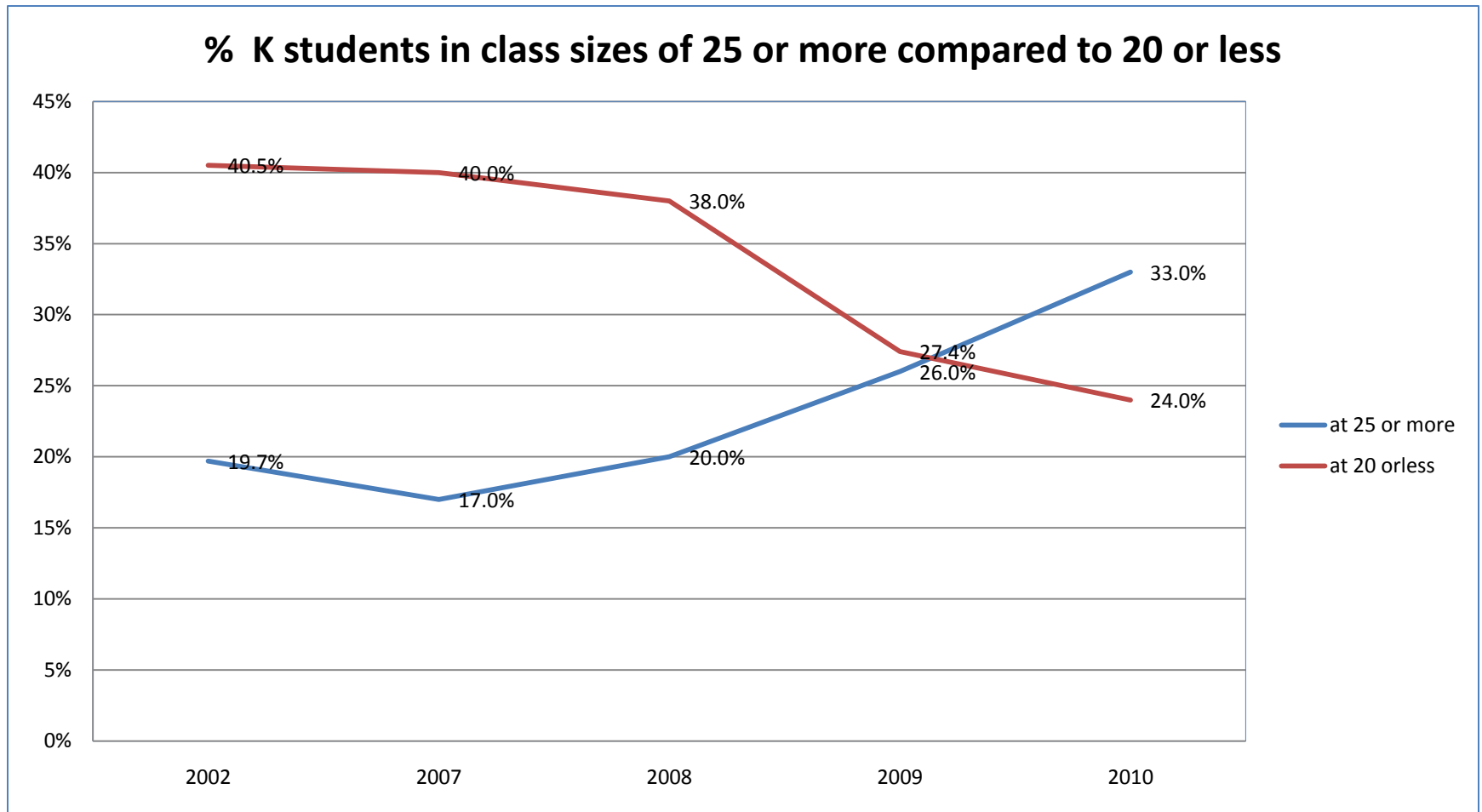
- Some may attend Gifted and Talented programs or other programs in schools outside their zone;
- Some of these families will move out of the city;
- Many schools will increase class size to maximum levels and/or lose art, music, and science rooms to accommodate the overflow.
- Few parents would “choose” this for their children.

Already, class sizes are increasing sharply, especially in Kindergarten

% of Kindergarteners in classes of 25 or more

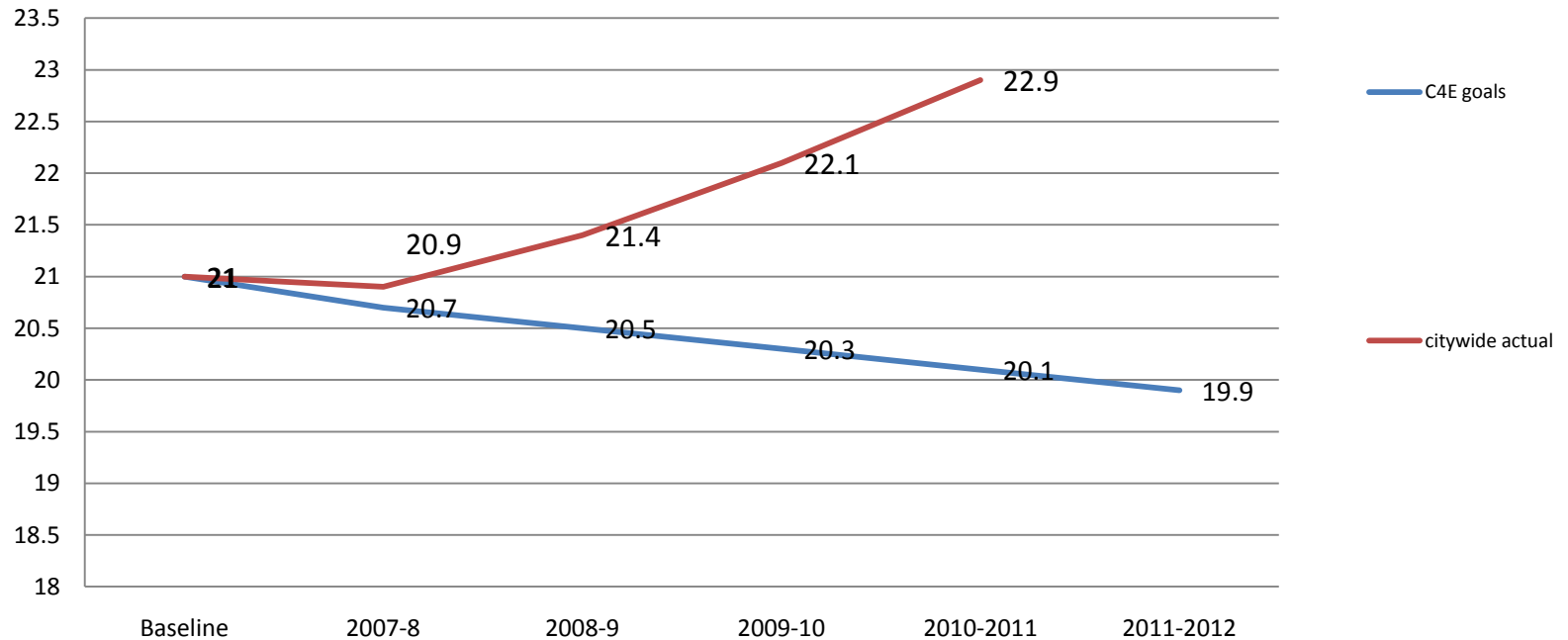


This year first time since at least 2002 that Kindergarten students in classes of 25 or more exceeded those in classes of 20 or less

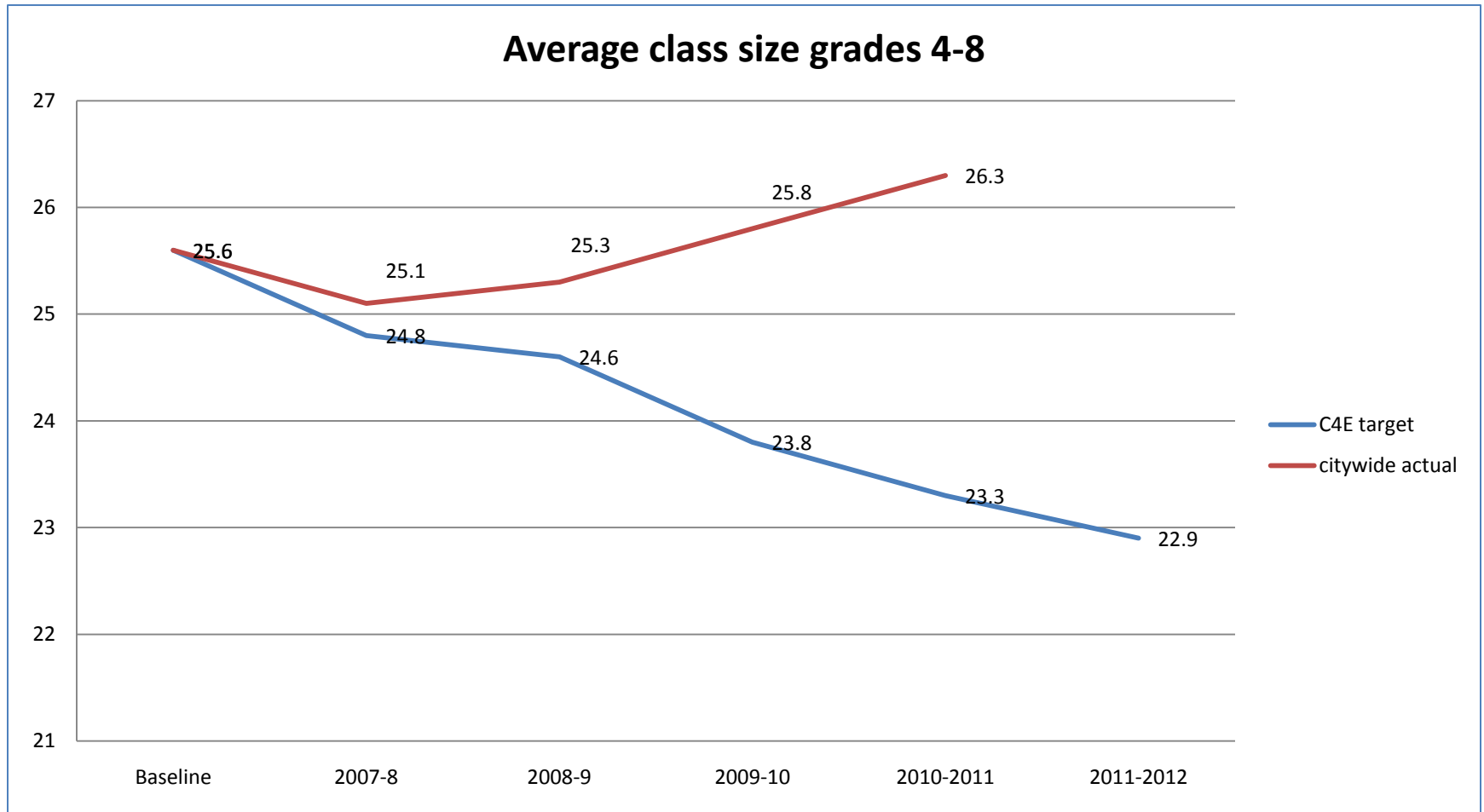


But class sizes have risen sharply in all the early grades since 2007...

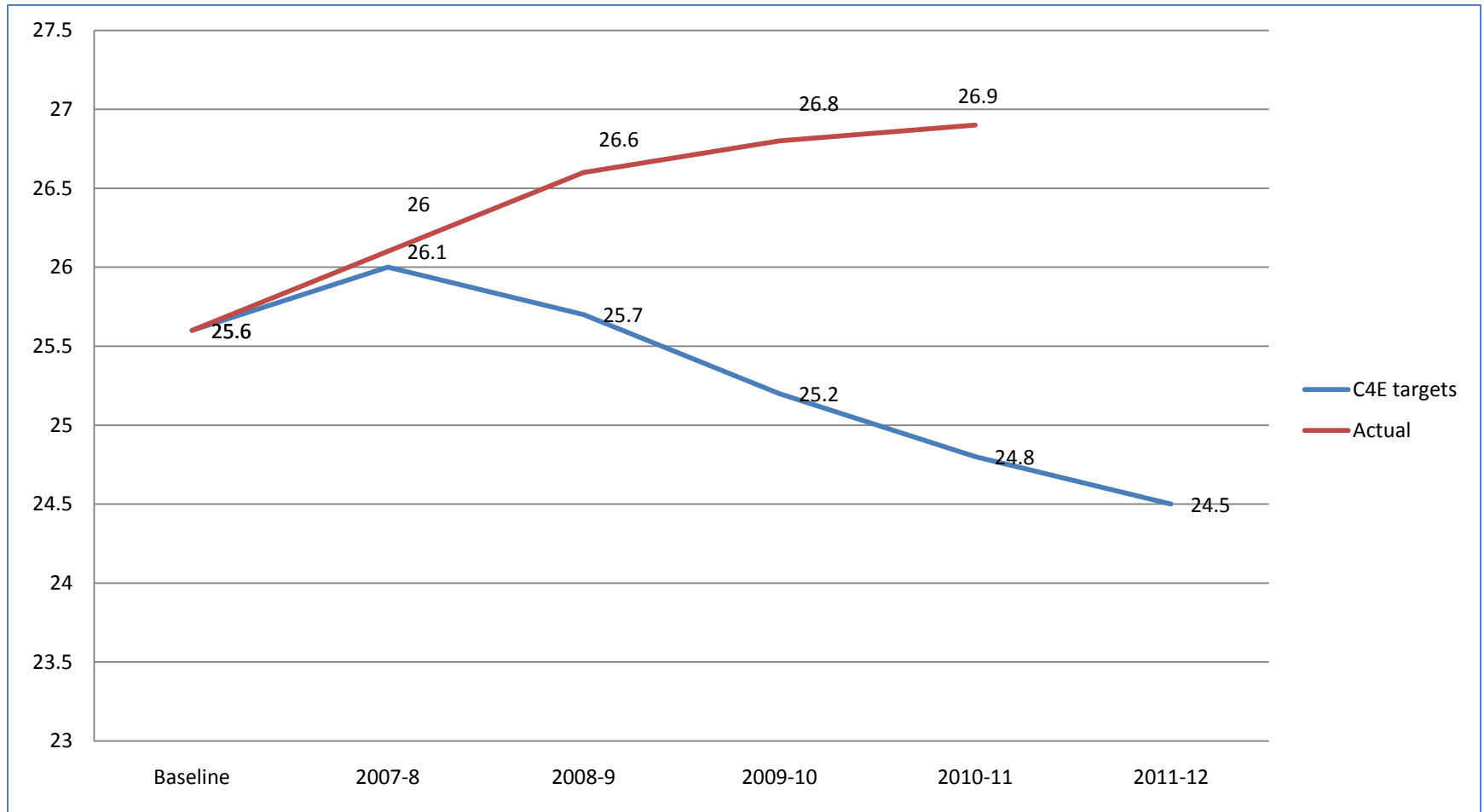
Average class size K-3 Actual vs. goals



Also in grades 4-8, class sizes have risen sharply

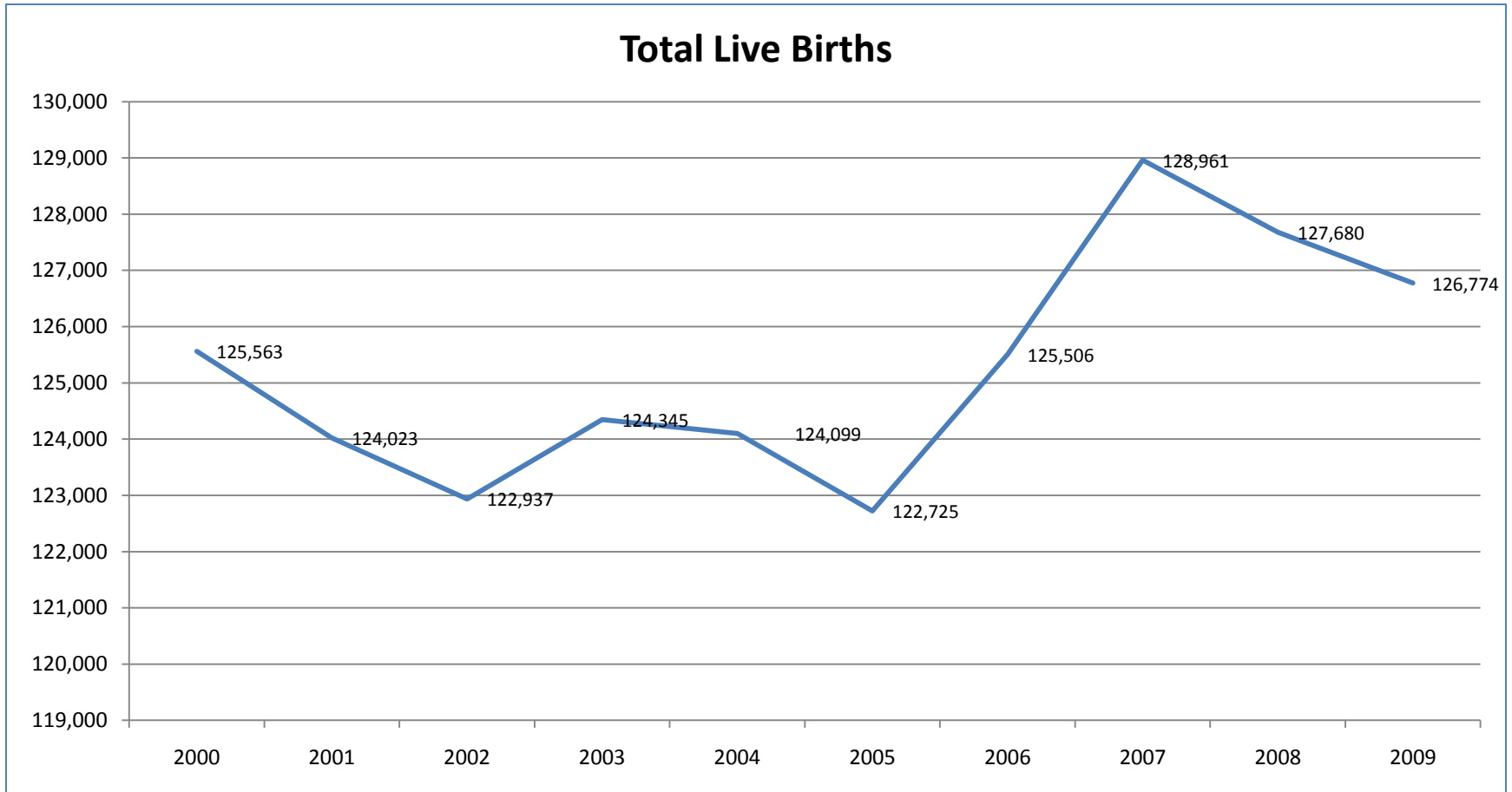


Also in HS: actuals vs. goals



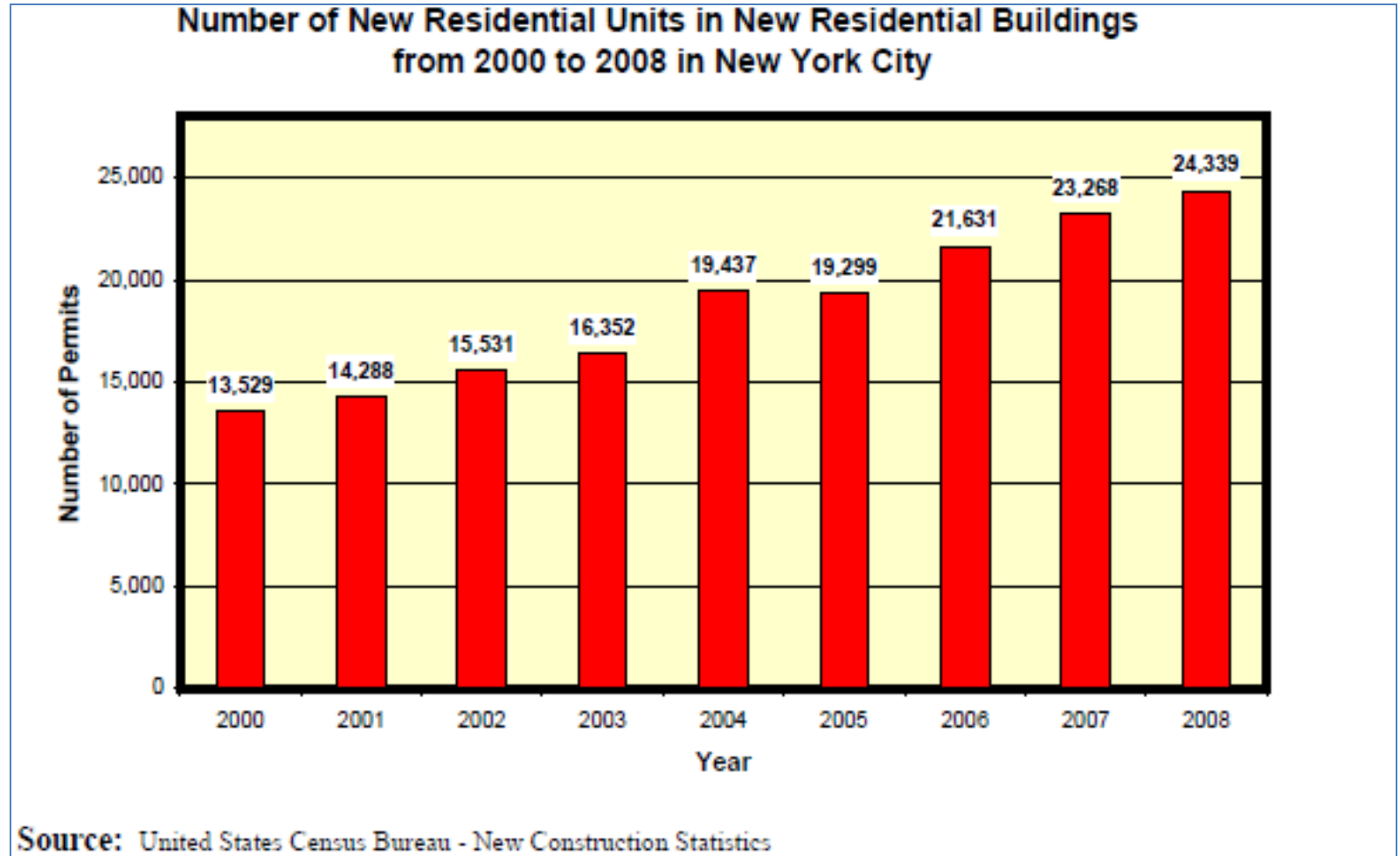
NYC births 2000-2009

(suggesting Kindergarten numbers have not yet peaked)



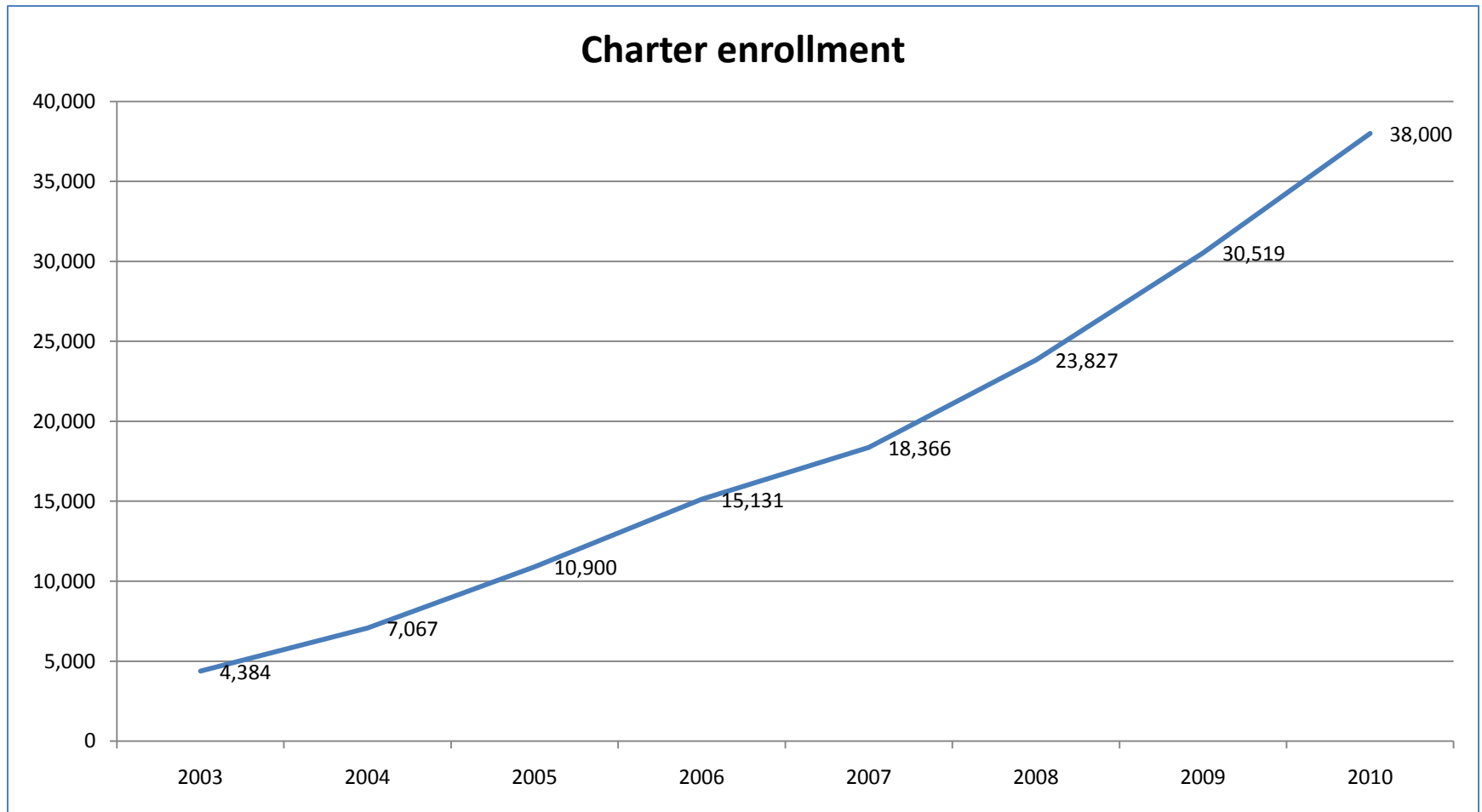
Source: NYC Dept. Of Health

Housing starts up...



As cited in Statistical Forecasting, NYC Enrollment Projections 2009 to 2018

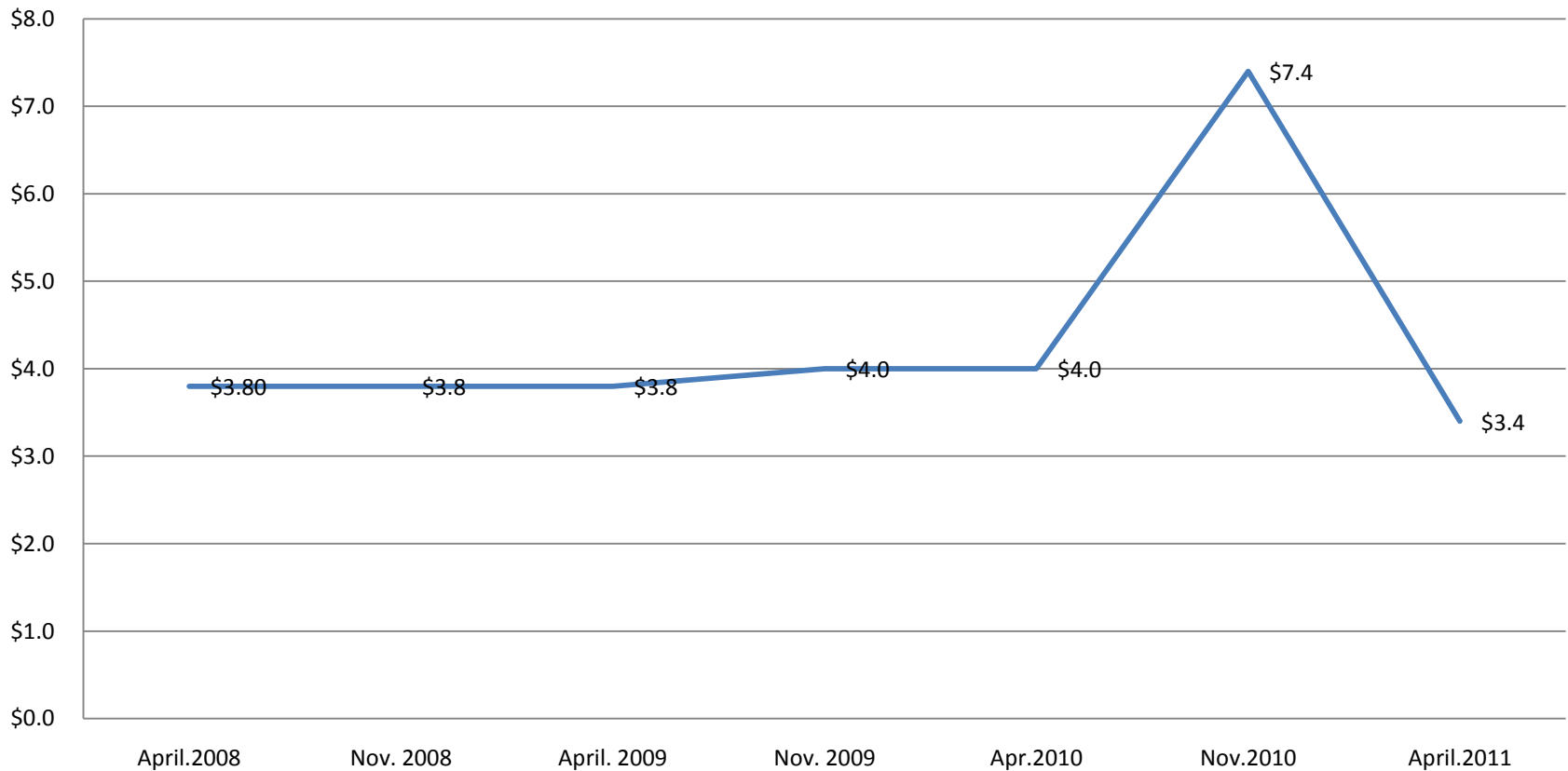
Charter enrollment not included in projections though two thirds are housed in DOE buildings



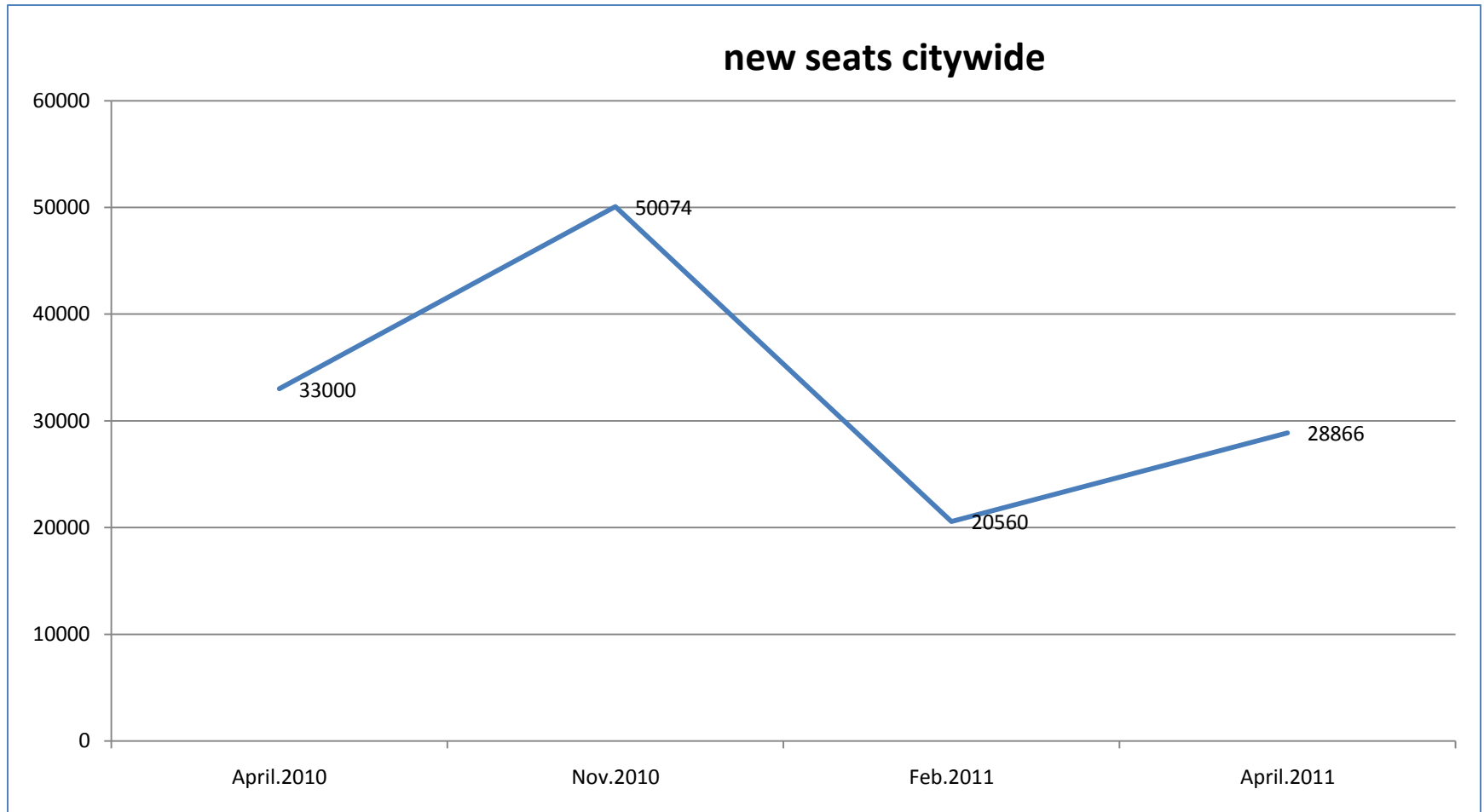
sources: Statistical Forecasting and IBO

And yet amount spent on new capacity radically cut, despite the huge need...

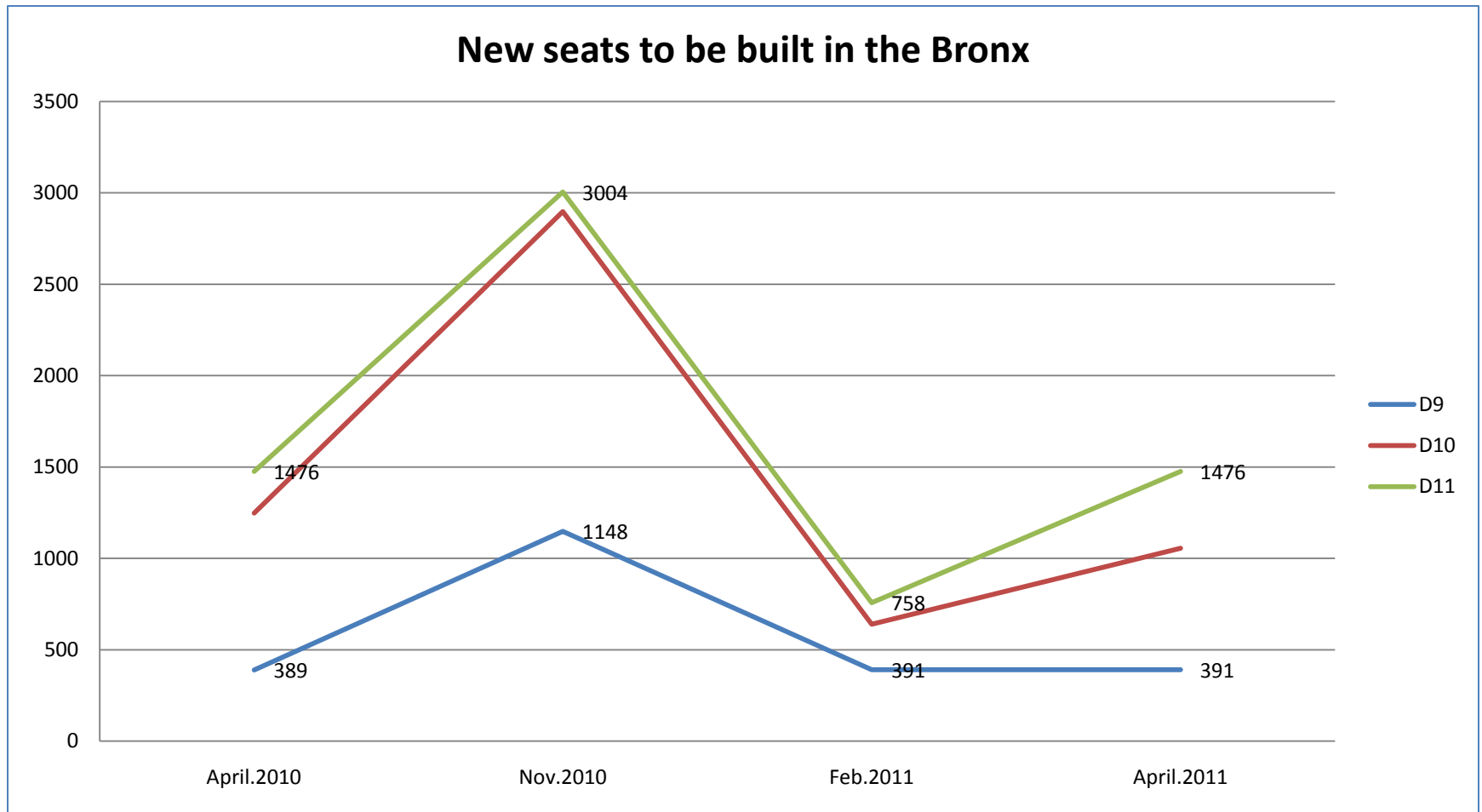
Dollars to be spent on new capacity (in billions)



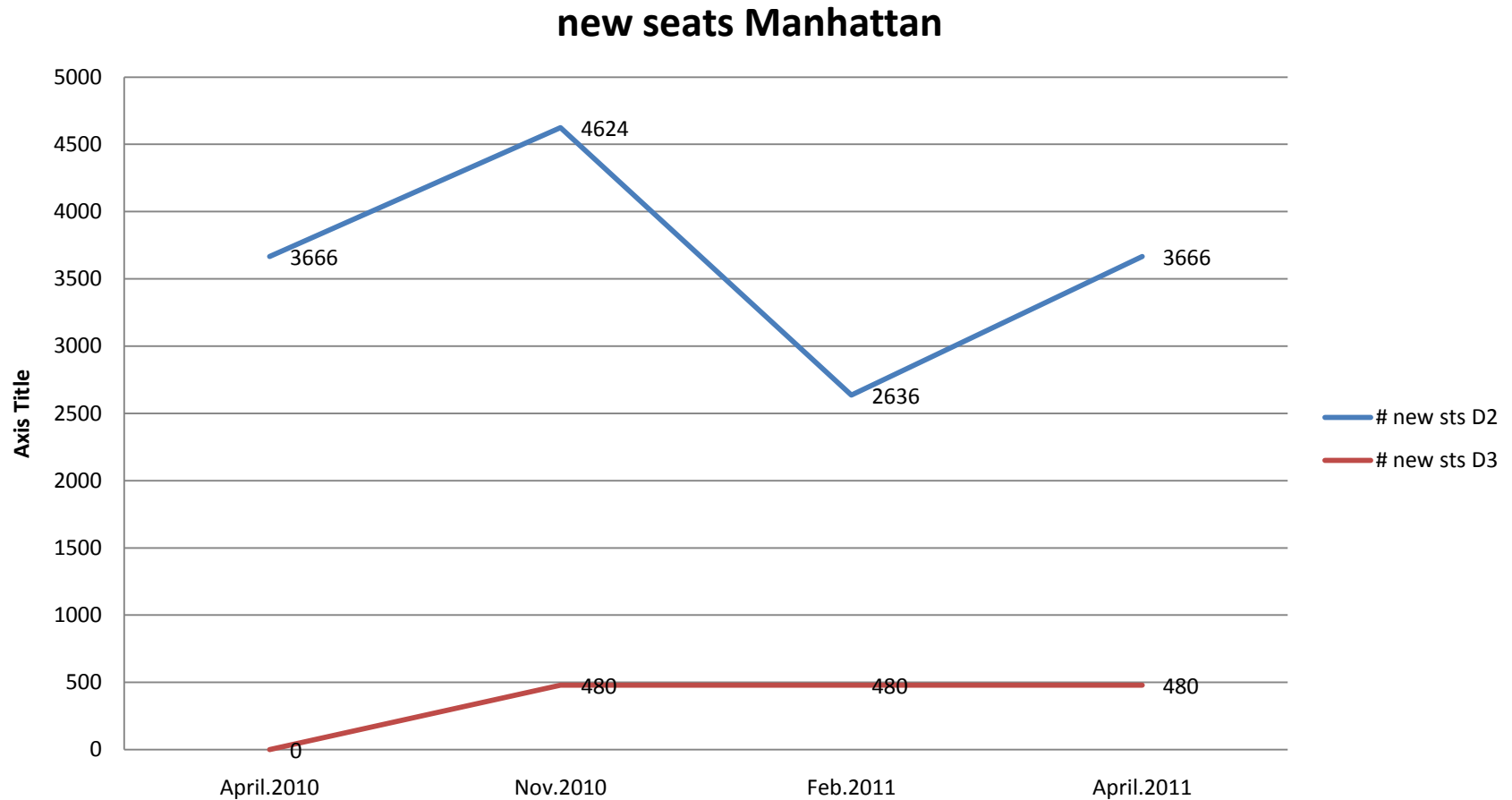
What do these cuts mean for school capacity citywide?



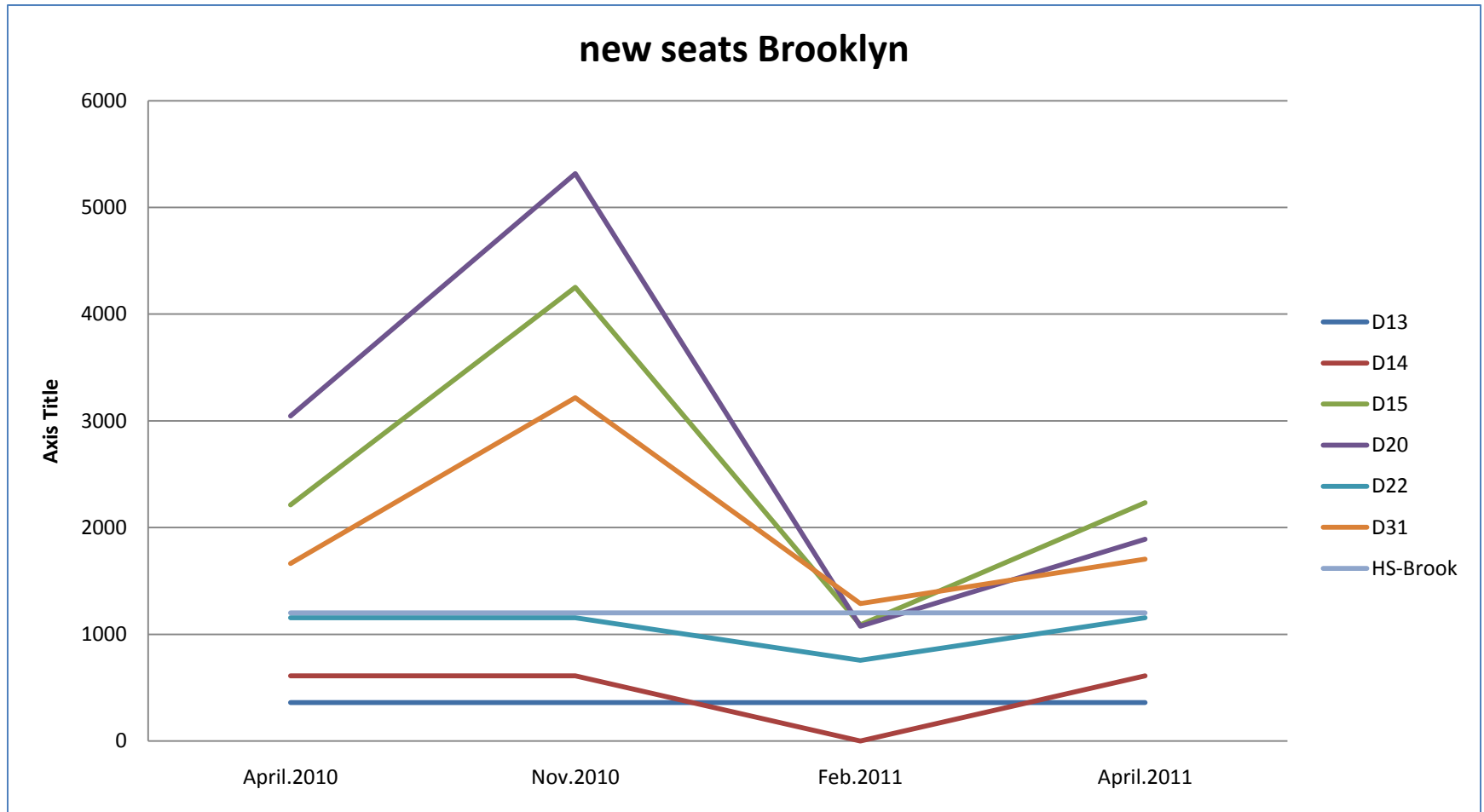
What do the cuts mean for school capacity in the Bronx ?



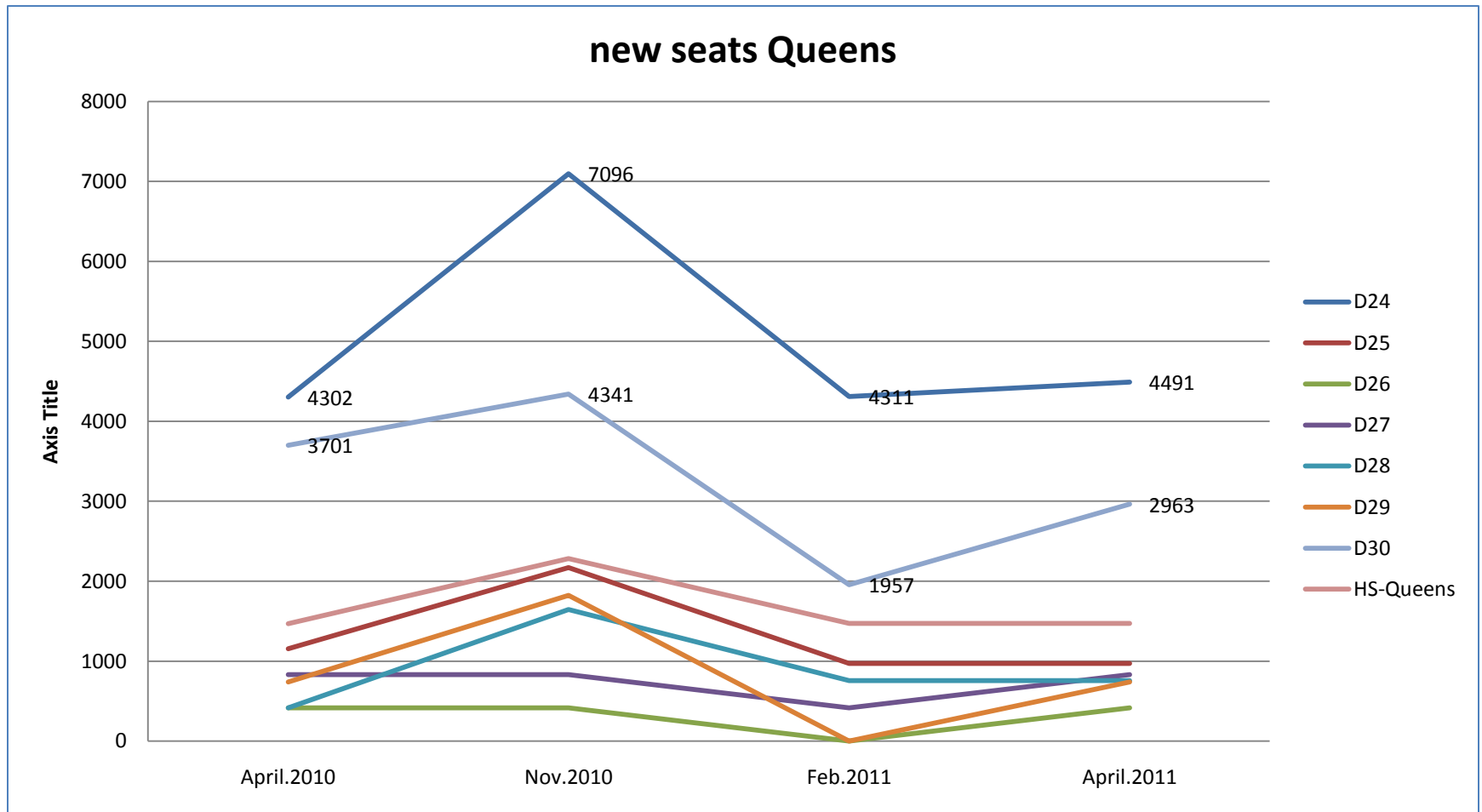
What do the cuts mean for school capacity in Manhattan?



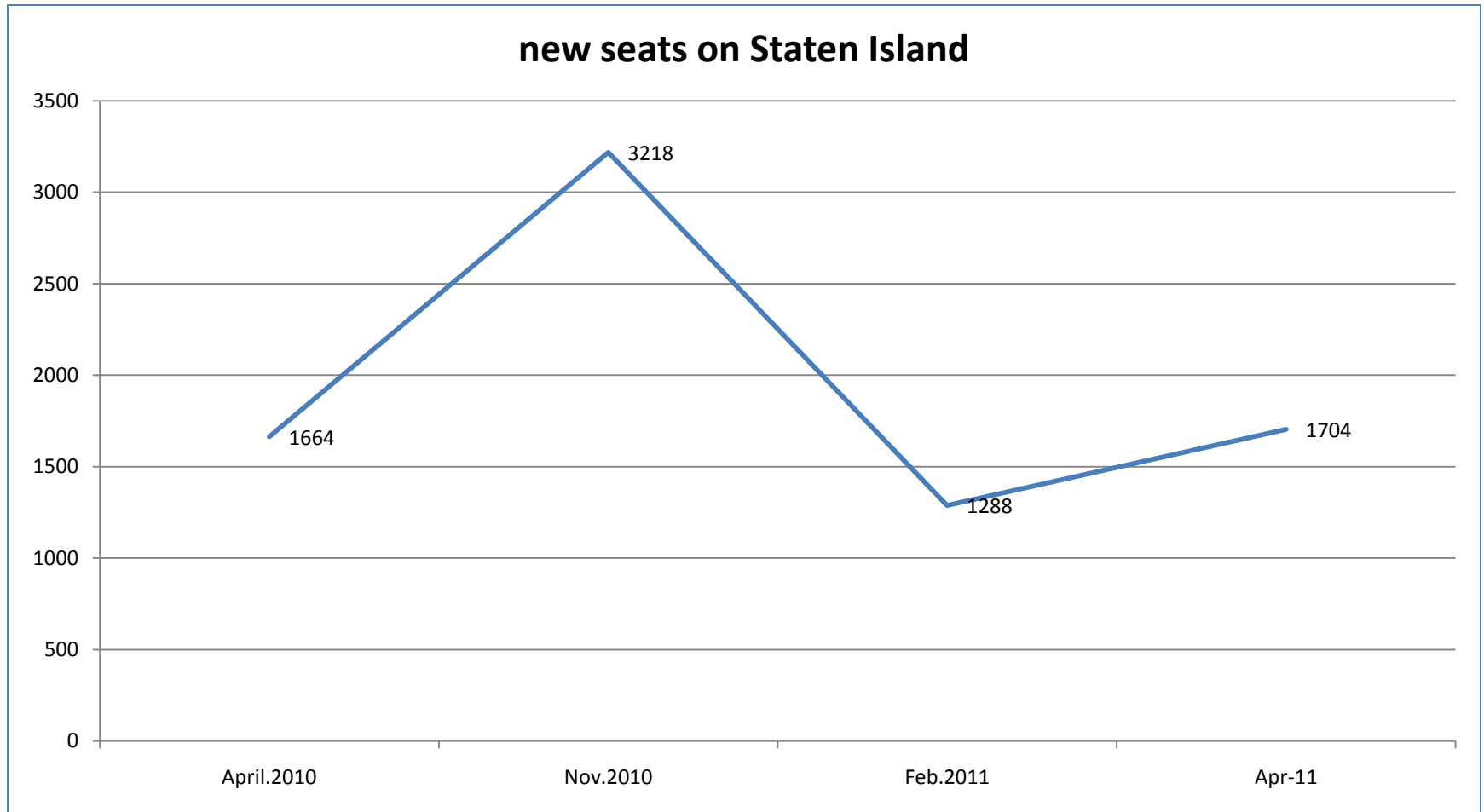
What do the cuts mean for school capacity in Brooklyn?



What do the cuts mean for school capacity in Queens?

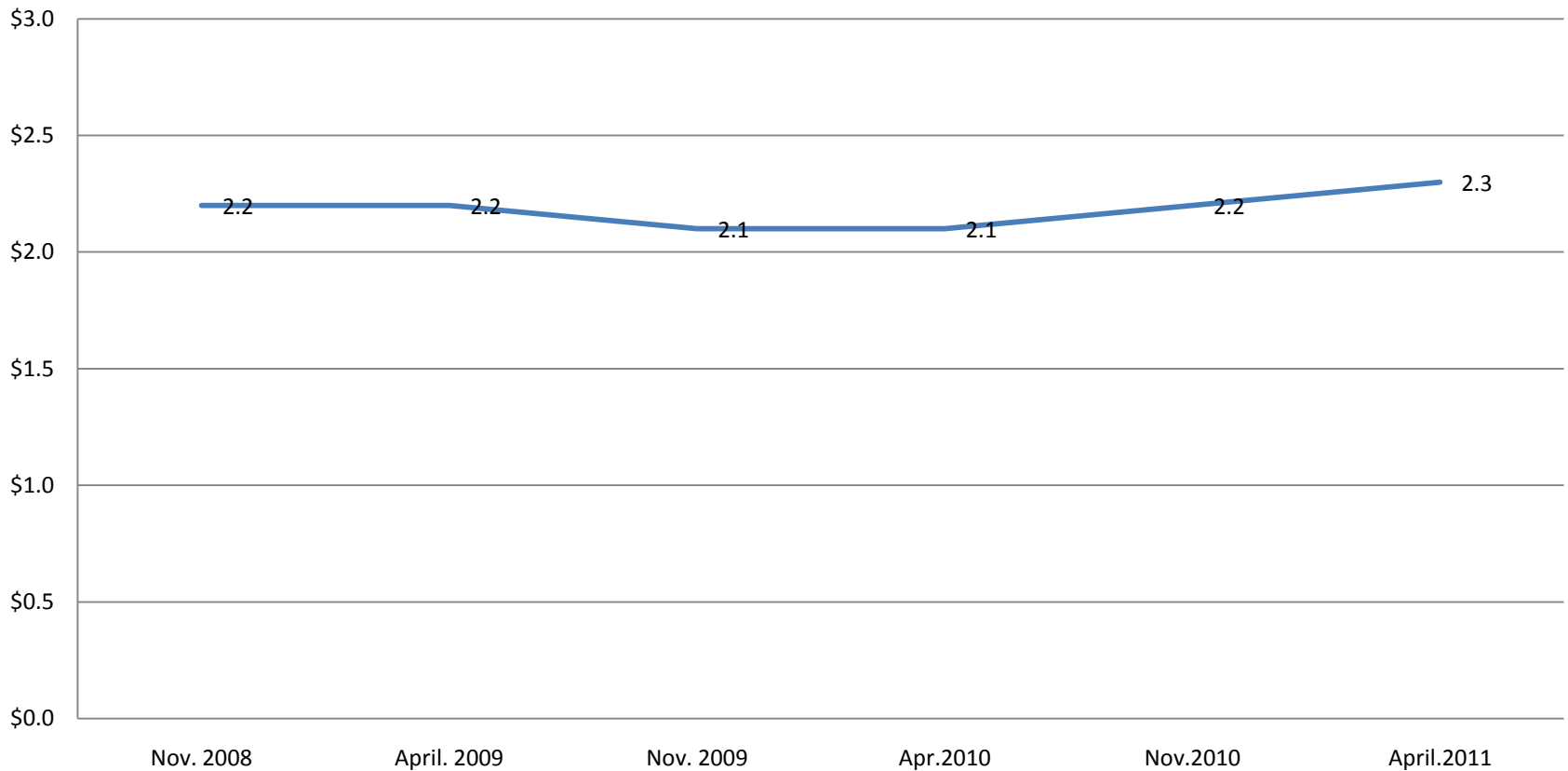


What do the cuts mean for school capacity in Staten Island?



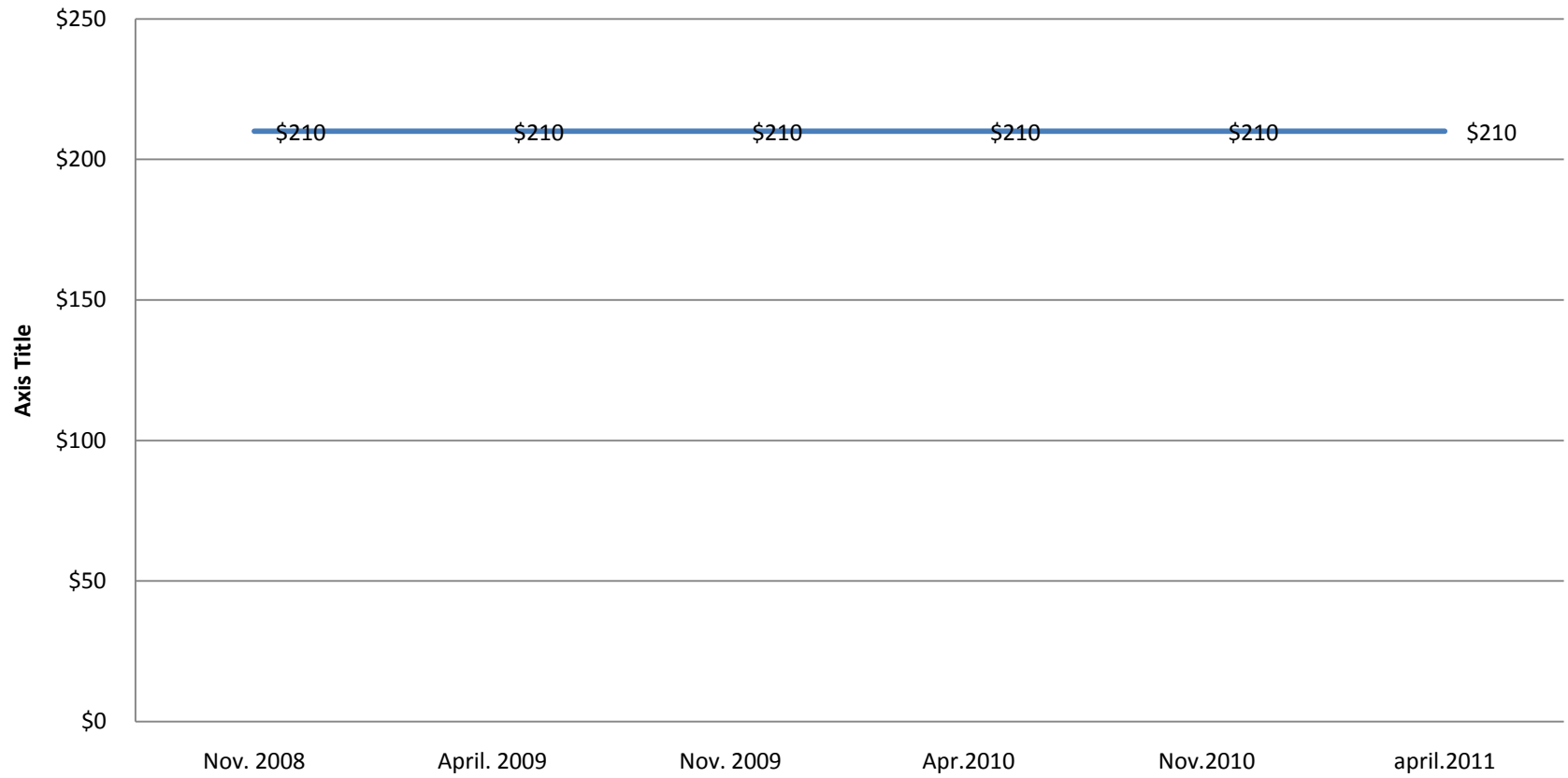
In no other category is there such a radical cut....

Capital improvements (in billions)

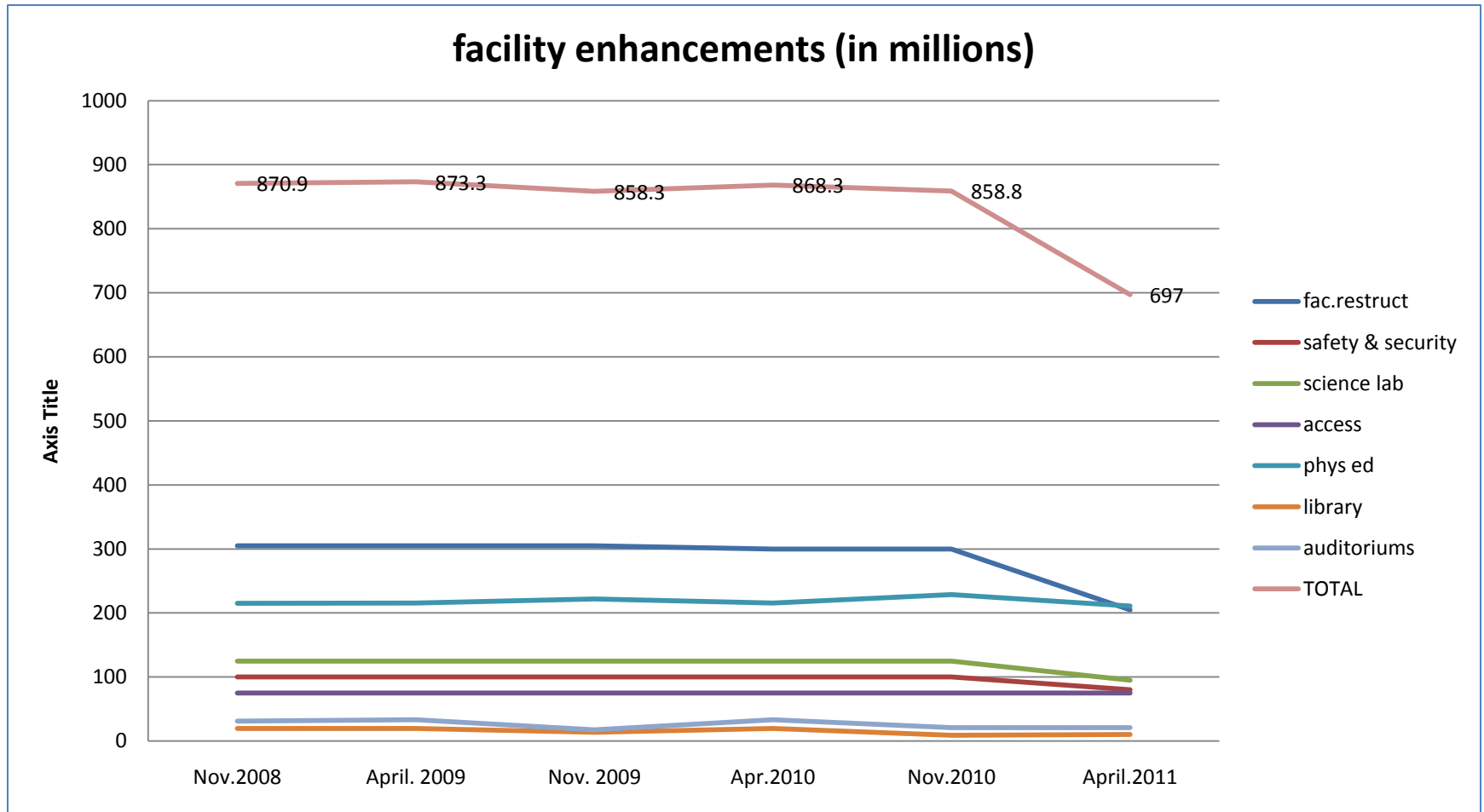


Charters unchanged

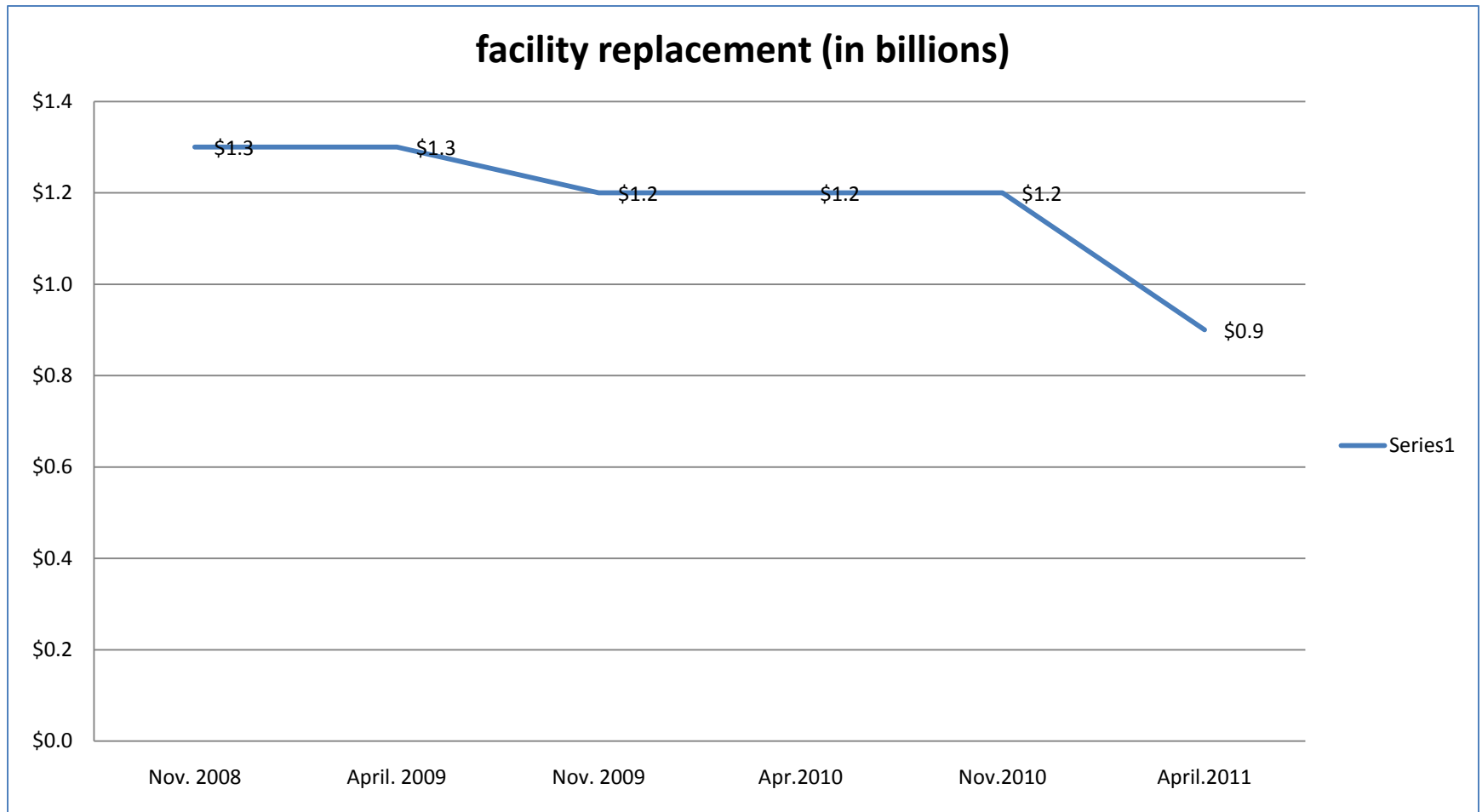
\$ to be spent on charter school construction (in millions)



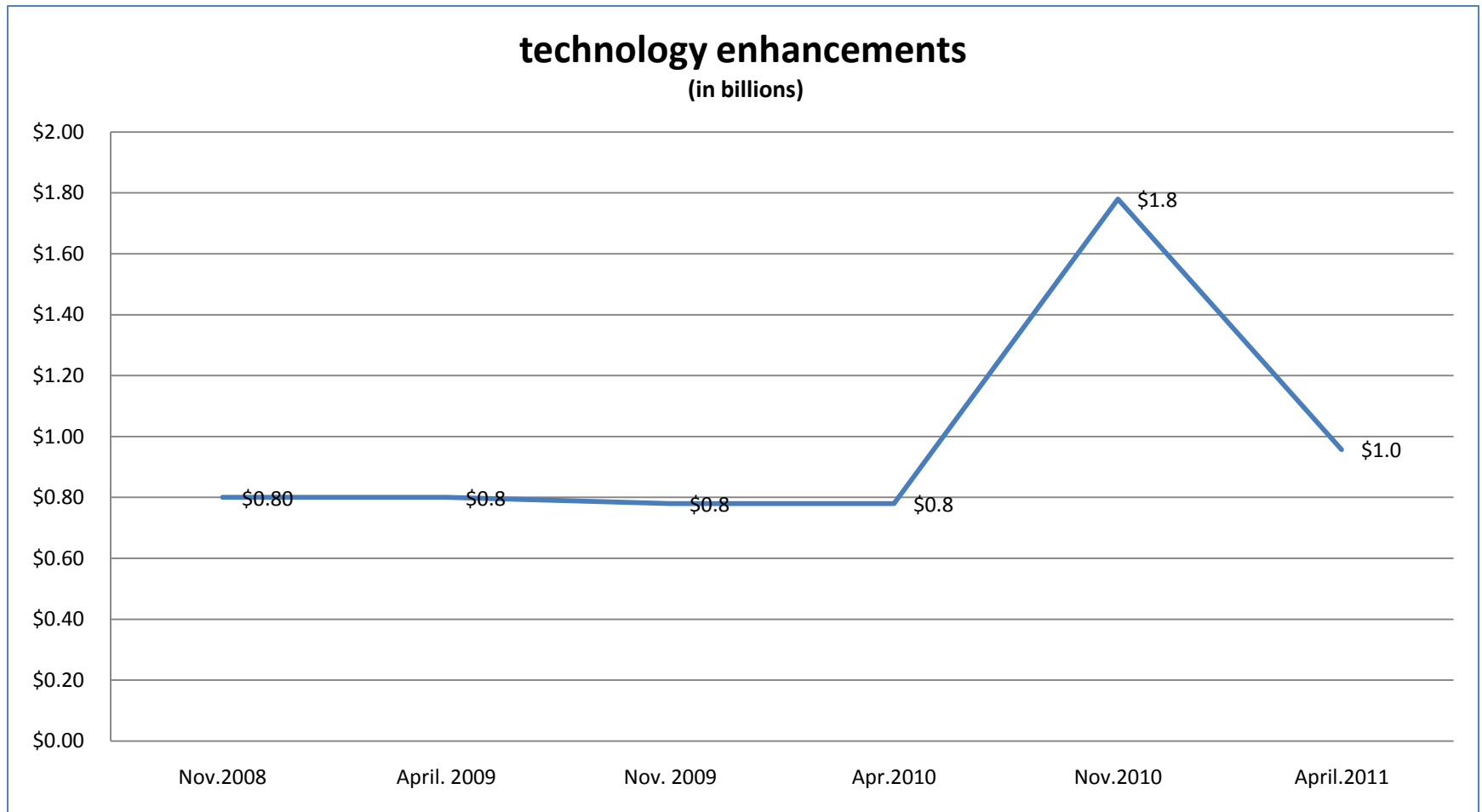
Slight decline in facility enhancements



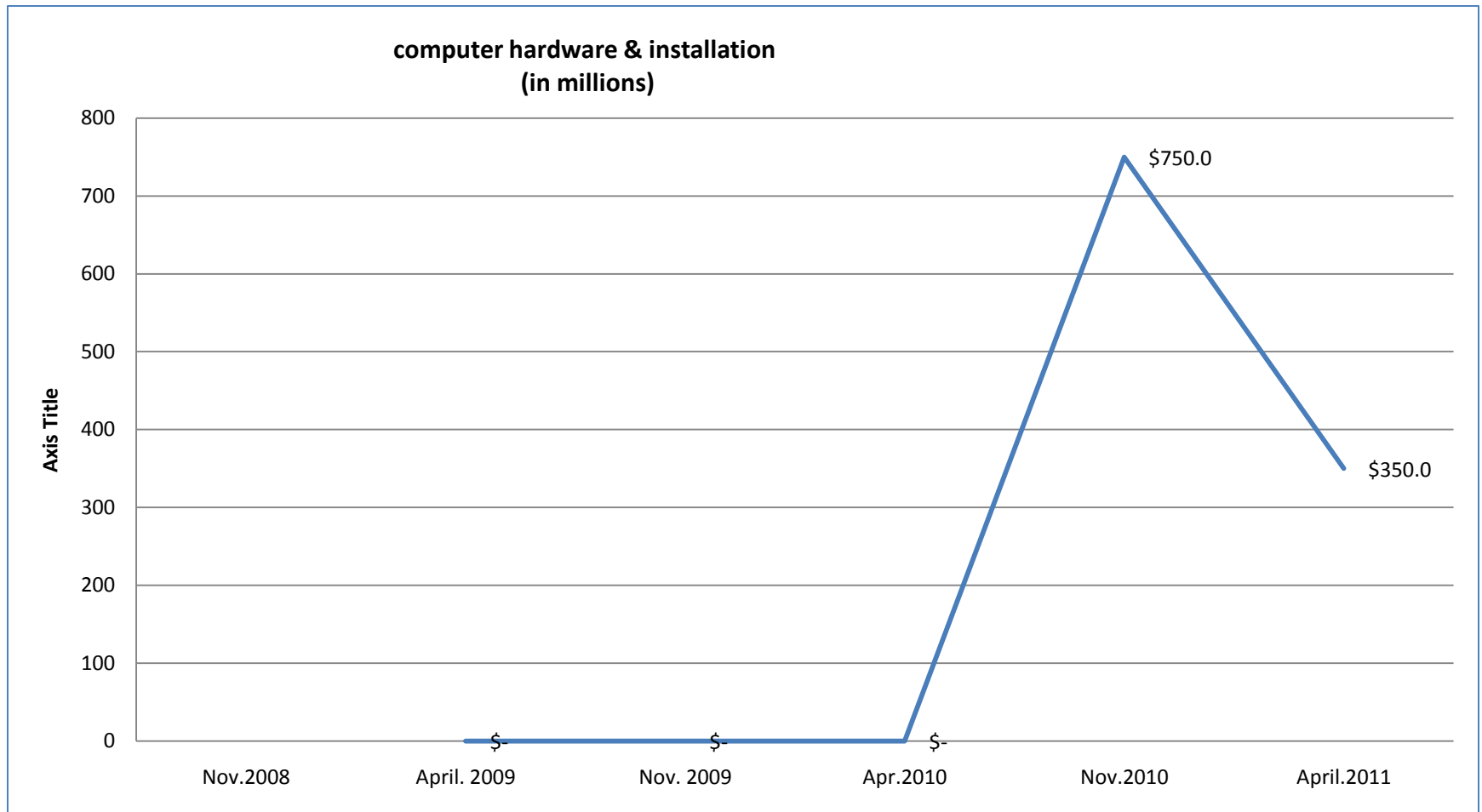
Facility replacement --slight decrease



And a big increase in technology “enhancements”



Especially computer hardware and installation...for online learning & testing



No evidence that online learning works:

- US DOE released a report saying there are “*no experimental or controlled quasi-experimental studies* that compare learning effectiveness of online and face-to-face instruction for K–12 students.”
- Five of the seven largest online schools in Ohio have graduation rates lower than the state’s worst traditional public school district.
- An annual report of for-profit education management organizations concluded that only 30 percent of virtual schools met AYP as compared to 55 percent of “bricks and mortar schools.
- The Pentagon refuses to accept recruits into the military who have graduated from online schools, since their academic standards are so low.
- A recent report from the Center for Reinventing Public Education warns against the DOE rapid expansion of online learning:
- ***NYC school district leaders are taking risks with the iZone, implementing new models.... moving to scale very quickly. How and when they will know if they got the big bet right is a question district leaders will have to ask so that students are not subjected for too long to programs and schools that don’t work. ...At some point, the district may get pushback from parents about the idea of having their children participate in unproven programs and may need to consider catch-up academic plans if certain programs are not effective.***