

Planning for Failure?

How the NYC Department of Education's Bronx facilities plan undermines its goals for increased high school graduation rates.

Prepared for the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition
by the Community Involvement Program
of the Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University
December 2006

New school capacity planning is:

- Based largely on enrollment projections calculated by the Grier Partnership;
- Specified in the City's 5-year capital plan, and amended annually.

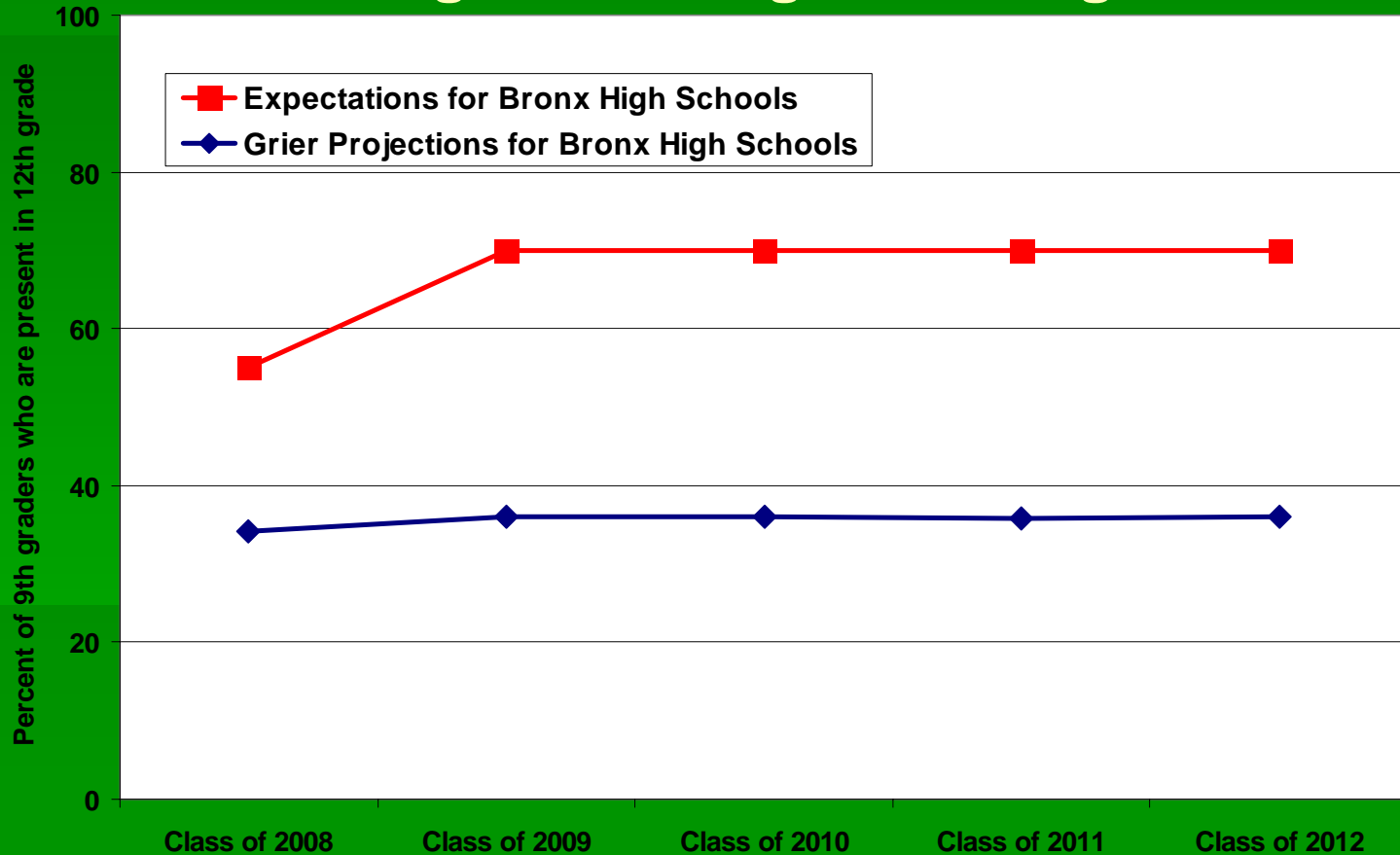
Grier Partnership
projections
are based on the
assumption that only 36%
of 9th graders will make it
to the 12th grade...

NOTE: The 36% retention rate was calculated by Grier based on an analysis of “the year by year change in high school enrollments over the past year for each high school grade, as well as changes in the “survival” rate for pupils from each grade to the next higher.”

Yet DOE's secondary reforms aim to raise the 4-year graduation rate to 70%, and the 6-year graduation rate to 80%.

NOTE: Graduation rate above includes GED and limited other IEP recipients but excludes self-contained special education. Consistent with DOE's goals for increased graduation, in June 2006, DOE reported an average graduation rate of 73% for 15 small high schools that opened in 2002.

The gap between Grier projections for high school retention rates and DOE's goals for high school graduation



NOTE: Data were calculated assuming a four year graduation rate of 70% for the class of 2009 and beyond. We phased in the graduation goals for the class of 2008 at a median rate of 55%.

DOE's capital planning does not address the demand created by the success of its high school reforms, and will not create enough seats for Bronx students.

The current plan:

	<u>2006- 07</u>	<u>2007- 08</u>	<u>2008- 09</u>	<u>2009- 10</u>
Unmet capacity needs at the start of each school year:	2099*	819	510	-2358
New seats needed, as projected by the Grier Partnership:	33	-309	-1641	-2414
New capacity as specified in <u>DOE Capital Plan Proposed 2006 Amendment</u> , based on year of predicted completion:	-1313	0	-1227	-3011
Minimum number of additional seats required to meet the need projected by the Grier Partnership 2005 report:	819	510	-2358	-7783

NOTE: Capacity needs above are indicated by a positive value; planned new capacity and capacity surplus are indicated by a negative value.

* Source: *Enrollment, Capacity, Utilization Report, 2005-06*, New York City Department of Education.

Grier assumes the Bronx will have a surplus of high school seats, beginning next year, in part because 64% of incoming freshman will not make it to 12th grade.

Meeting the DOE's
4- and 6-year goals
for high school
graduation will require
more than 10,000
additional seats.

NOTE: Estimated seats are based on applying the DOE's secondary reform goals to the class of incoming freshman in 2004-05.

Additional seats needed:

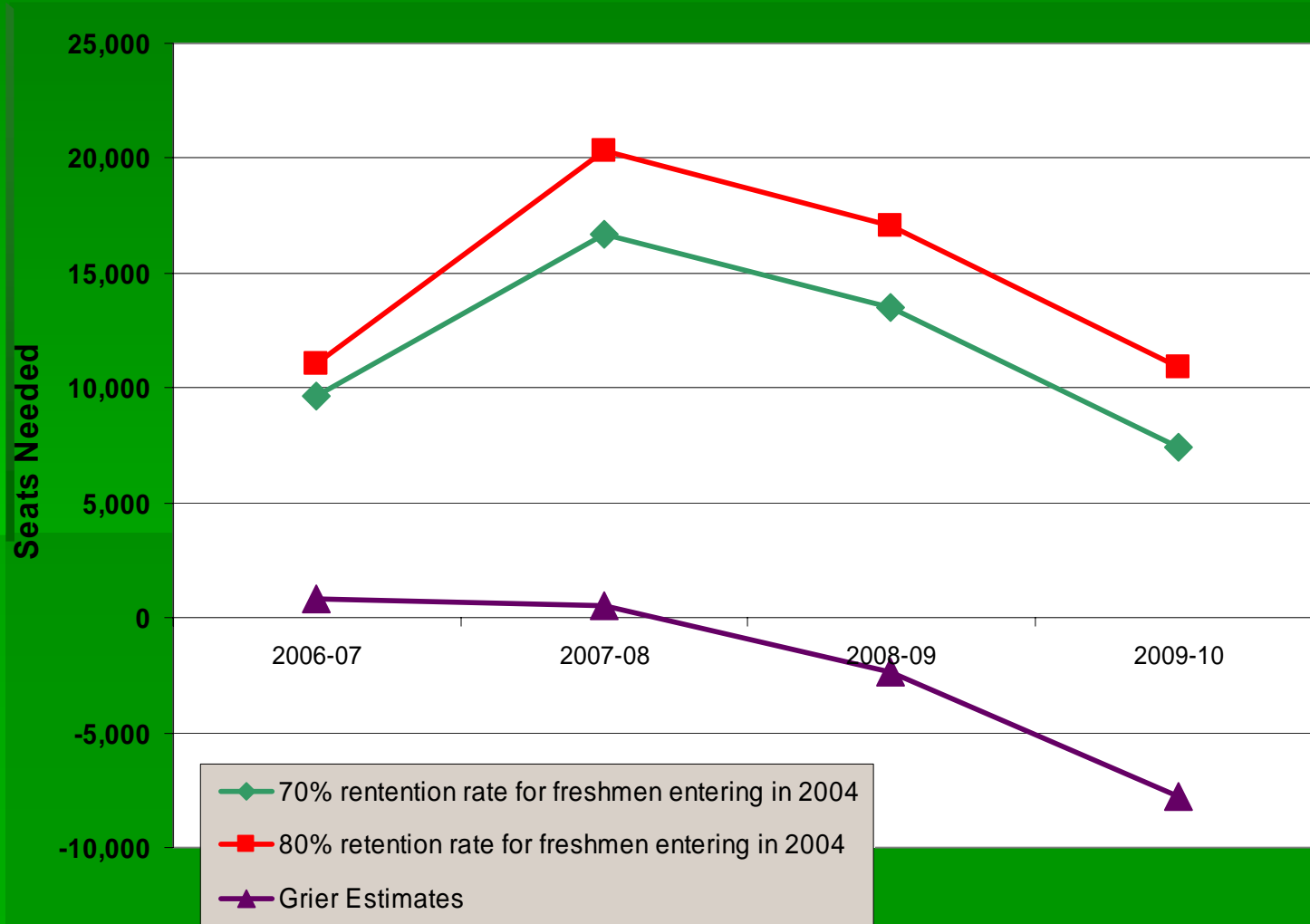
	<u>06-07</u>	<u>07-08</u>	<u>08-09</u>	<u>09-10</u>
Unmet capacity needs at the start of each school year:	2099*	11083	18470	14079
New seats needed to meet rising high school retention rates:**	10297	9252	-2018	-3172
New capacity as specified in <u>DOE Capital Plan Proposed 2006 Amendment</u> , based on year of predicted completion:	-1313	0	-1227	-3011
The number of high school seats required in the Bronx:	11083	20335	17090	10907

NOTE: Capacity needs above are indicated by a positive value; planned new capacity and capacity surplus are indicated by a negative value.

* Source: *Enrollment, Capacity, Utilization Report, 2005-06*, New York City Department of Education.

** Based on Grier projections and calculated increased retention of incoming freshman in 2004-05 to meet 80% graduation rate in 6 years. In 2008-09, the need for new seats is offset by declining enrollment.

Capacity needed to meet DOE 4- and 6-year graduation goals for Bronx high schools



Notes:

Methodology

- High school retention rates are calculated based on the secondary reform goal of 80% for the incoming freshman class of 2004-05 remaining in a Bronx educational facility four years later. Retention rates for students who entered high school prior to 2004-05 were based on the Grier Partnership's projections of a retention rate of 36%, and students entering in 2004-05 and later were calculated to match a retention rate of 80%. We applied DOE's graduation rate targets to the incoming freshman class of 04-05 because it was the first year of DOE's Multiple Pathways initiative and, by that time, the small high school reforms were well underway.
- Planned new capacity data are based on the DOE Capital Plan – Proposed 2006 Amendment, released in November 2006. We assigned this new capacity to the school year in which the seats were predicted to become available to students.
- Enrollment projections for incoming freshman high school students are based on Grier Partnership data.
- The retention rate calculated by the Grier Partnership is based on prior enrollment and retention data for the Bronx.

Data Sources

- Grier Partnership, 2005, *Enrollment Projections 2005 to 2014 New York City Public Schools*, retrieved on-line on 11/28/06 at <http://source.nycsca.org/pdf/EnrollmentProjections2005-2014.pdf>.
- New York City Department of Education, *DoED Five-Year Capital Plan - Proposed 2006 Amendment - November 2006*, retrieved on-line on 11/28/06 at <http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/SCA/Reports/5yrplan2006proposed.htm>.
- New York City Department of Education, *Enrollment, Capacity, Utilization Report School Year 2005 – 2006*, retrieved on-line on 11/28/06 at <http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/SCA/Reports/bluebook05-06.htm>
- New York City Department of Education. *Graduation rates for new small schools opening in 2002 – Preliminary*. June 29th, 2006.