

**Presentation to**  
**Controlled Choice Sub-Committee**  
**of the Whole Cambridge School Committee**



**March 19, 2013**

# Issues & Concerns

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- **Balanced Schools**
  - Balance ratios for JK-5<sup>th</sup> grade and 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade
- **Balanced grade-level cohorts**
  - +/- 10% band
  - K and JK
    - ✦ Separate allotment of spaces
    - ✦ JK/K assignment and enrollment inequities
- **Seat Capacities and Availability for Jan Lottery**
  - Proximity
  - East/West enrollment vs. choices
  - Mandatory Assignments
- **Stability**
  - Early Transfer End Date
- **Special Populations**
  - English Language Learners and Special Education students in separate classrooms
    - ✦ Room for partial and full inclusion
      - Priority for transfers and/or reserved spaces
- **Programs for students under JK eligibility age**
  - Assignment inequities
- **Hardships and Sabbaticals**
- **School/Program change**
- **Families with siblings entering the district**
- **Comprehensive revision of policy**
  - Policy Language
    - ✦ Effect of terms such as “Lottery” and “Mandatory”

# Goal of Controlled Choice

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- The original goal in 1981: “To ensure that all segments of the elementary school population would have equal access, in a desegregated setting, to all schools and programs offered” (Larnders & Willis, 1987, p. 41).
- Revised in 1989 and reaffirmed in 2001: **To provide students with the opportunity to excel academically and to grow and accept others as their peers in an integrated and balanced learning environment** (adapted from Revised Controlled Choice Plan, 1989).

# Controlled Choice Timeline

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## Pre-2001

- **1981:** Cambridge was the first district in the Nation to adopt a *voluntary* “Controlled Choice” method of student assignment to desegregate its schools by **race**.
- **1989:** Concept of flexibility introduced by creating the racial balance definition of  $\pm 5\%$  of District racial balance average.
- **1997:** Expanded the definition of race balance from 2 to 3 racial categories. Allowable balance increased to  $\pm 10\%$  of District racial balance average.

## Post-2001

- **2001:** The Plan was revised, in a preemptive legal maneuver, to balance schools by **SES**, instead of by race.
- **Since 2001:** Numerous amendments have been adopted to address the various concerns surrounding the implementation of the Plan.

# Comparison of Racial Balance: 2001 – 2011

## Grades K - 8

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| Year          | White      | Black/African American | Asian      | Native American | Nat. Hawaiian /Pacific Islander | Multi-race, non-Hispanic | Hispanic   |
|---------------|------------|------------------------|------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| +10%          | 49%        | 45%                    | 22%        | 11%             | 10%                             | 10%                      | 24%        |
| <b>SY2001</b> | <b>39%</b> | <b>35%</b>             | <b>12%</b> | <b>1%</b>       | <b>0%</b>                       | <b>0%</b>                | <b>14%</b> |
| -10%          | 29%        | 25%                    | 2%         | 0%              | 0%                              | 0%                       | 4%         |
| +10%          | 49%        | 40%                    | 21%        | 11%             | 10%                             | 16%                      | 23%        |
| <b>SY2011</b> | <b>39%</b> | <b>30%</b>             | <b>11%</b> | <b>1%</b>       | <b>0%</b>                       | <b>6%</b>                | <b>13%</b> |
| -10%          | 29%        | 20%                    | 1%         | 0%              | 0%                              | 0%                       | 3%         |

# Racial Balance Comparison

## Grades JK - 8

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### **SY2001-02**

#### **Following Racial Balance Policy**

- Using  $\pm 10\%$  criteria to meet racial balance:
  - 8 out of 14 (57%) schools were in compliance.
  - 2,970 out of 4,524 (66%) students attended a balanced school

### **SY2011-12**

#### **Following SES Balance Policy**

- Using  $\pm 10\%$  criteria to meet racial balance:
  - 8 out of 11 (73%) schools were in compliance.
  - 3,358 out of 3,980 (84%) students attended a balanced schools

Note: Amigos balanced by language and is not counted in the figures above.

# SES Balance Comparison

## Grades JK - 8

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### **SY2001-02**

#### **Following Racial Balance Policy**

- Using  $\pm 10\%$  criteria to meet SES balance:
  - 5 out of 14 (36%) schools were in compliance with balance definition
  - 1,779 out of 4,539 (39%) students attended a balanced school.

### **SY2011-12**

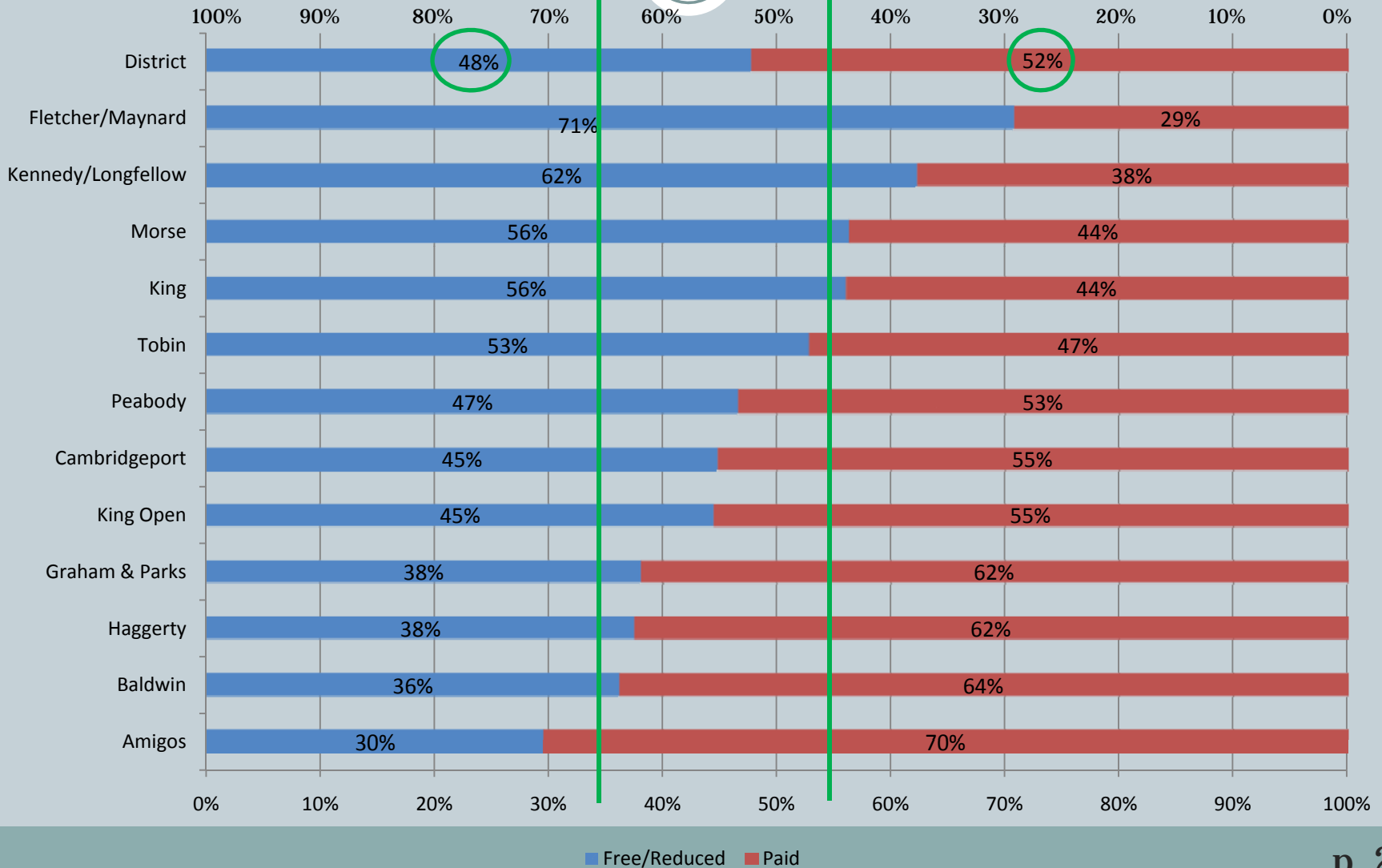
#### **Following SES Balance Policy**

- Using  $\pm 10\%$  criteria to meet SES balance:
  - 7 out of 11 (64%) schools were in compliance with balance definition
  - 2,730 out of 4,102 (67%) students attended a balanced school.

Note: Amigos balanced by language and is not counted in the figures above.

# JK-8th Grade Schools Free/Reduced and Paid Meals Oct 1, 2011

8



Assignment based on 44% F/R & 56% Paid +/-10 band



# School Balance: SY2006-2012

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## **SY2006-07 to SY2011-12 Balanced at least 5 out of 6 years**

- Cambridgeport (5 of 6)
- Haggerty (5 of 6)
- King Open (6 of 6)
- Morse (5 of 6)
- Peabody (6 of 6)
- Tobin (5 of 6)

## **SY2006-07 to SY2011-12 Unbalanced at least 5 out of 6 years**

- Fletcher-Maynard Academy (6 of 6)
- Graham & Parks (5 of 6)
- Kennedy-Longfellow (6 of 6)

Note: Baldwin and King were both  
balanced 3 out of 6 years  
\*Amigos was balanced by language  
during these years\*

# 5-Year Average of Schools-not-in-Balance School Enrollment Breakdown

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## 5-Year Average Enrollment

| <b>School</b>               | <b>F/R</b>     | <b>Pd</b>      |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>FMA</b>                  | <b>68.0%</b>   | <b>32.0%</b>   |
| <b>G&amp;P</b>              | <b>32.4%</b>   | <b>67.6%</b>   |
| <b>K-Lo</b>                 | <b>61.4%</b>   | <b>38.6%</b>   |
| <b>District<br/>Average</b> | <b>45%</b>     | <b>55%</b>     |
| <b>Range</b>                | <b>35%-55%</b> | <b>45%-65%</b> |

# Enrollment over Time

## Fletcher-Maynard Academy

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**SY2006-07 - K Cohort**

- **72% F/R Enrollment**
- **28% Pd Enrollment**

**SY2011-12 - 5<sup>th</sup> grade,  
same cohort**

- **90% F/R Enrollment**
- **10% Pd Enrollment**

# Enrollment over Time

## Graham & Parks

12

**SY2006-07 - K Cohort**

**SY2011-12 - 5<sup>th</sup> grade,  
same cohort**

- 31% F/R Enrollment
- 69% Pd Enrollment

- 19% F/R Enrollment
- 81% Pd Enrollment

# Enrollment over Time

## Kennedy-Longfellow

13

**SY2006-07 - K Cohort**

**SY2011-12 - 5<sup>th</sup> grade,  
same cohort**

- **61% F/R Enrollment**
- **39% Pd Enrollment**

- **78% F/R Enrollment**
- **22% Pd Enrollment**

# Enrollment over Time

## King Open

14

**SY2006-07 - K Cohort**

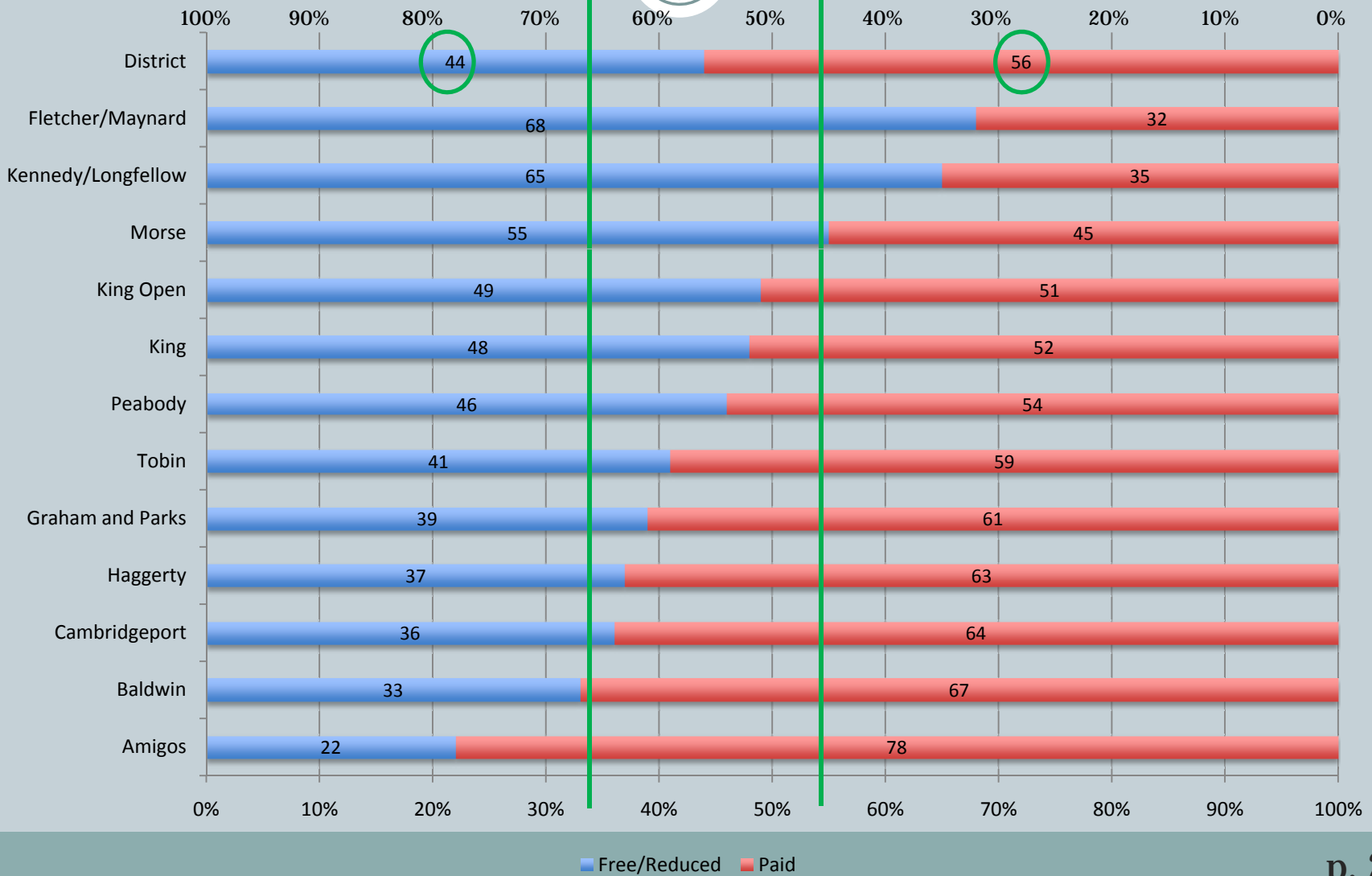
**SY2011-12 - 5<sup>th</sup> grade,  
same cohort**

- **35% F/R Enrollment**
- **65% Pd Enrollment**

- **32% F/R Enrollment**
- **68% Pd Enrollment**

# JK-5th Grade Schools and Amigos JK-8th Grade Free/Reduced and Paid Meals Oct 1, 2012

15



# January Lottery 2012

## Mandatory Assignments

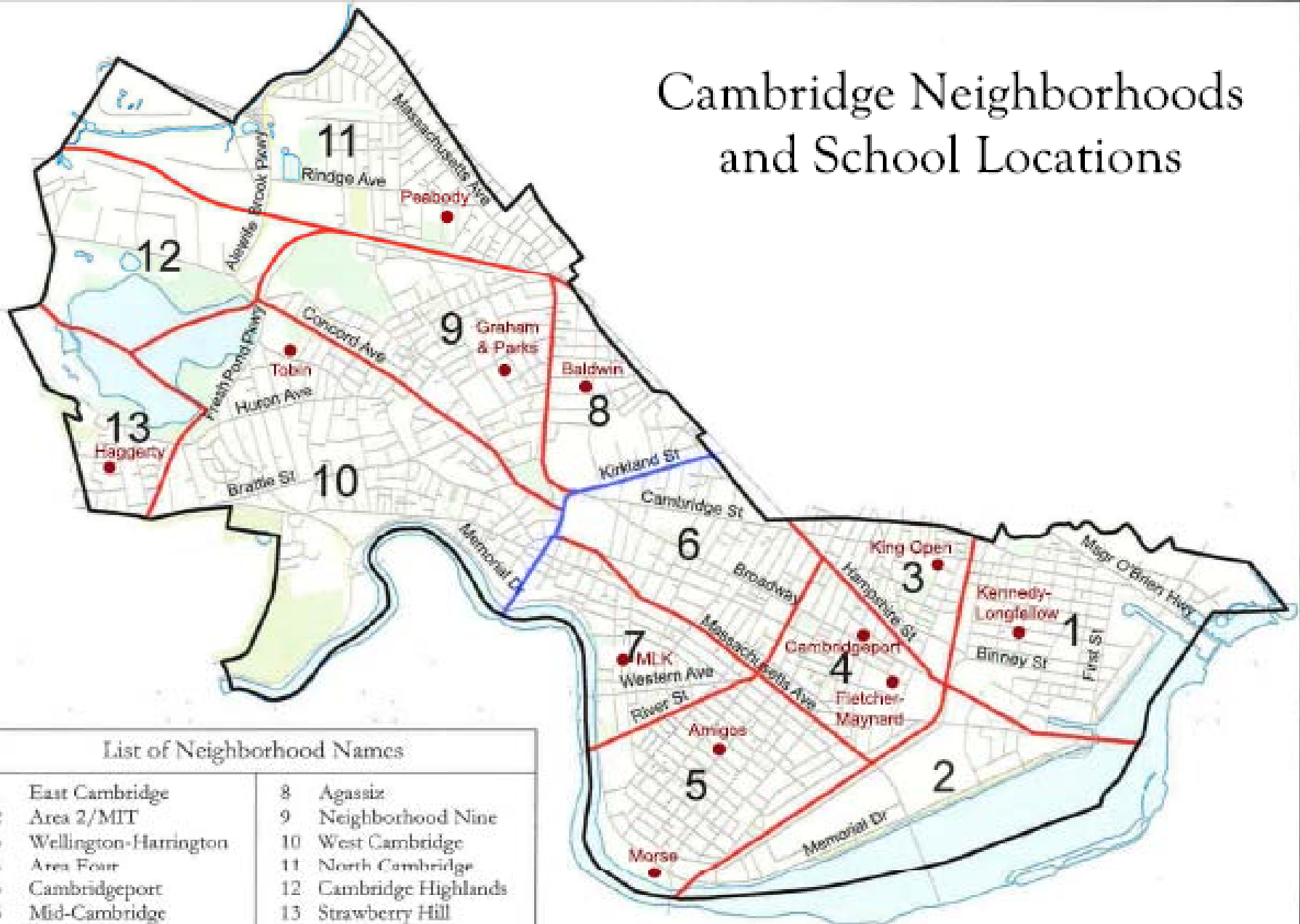
16

| Actual 2012<br>Lottery | Total<br>Mandatories | Lottery Simulation with All Schools<br>Following SES Balance Policy |         |         |
|------------------------|----------------------|---|---------|---------|
|                        |                      | Band $\pm 10\%$   | Band 5% | No Band |
| 80                     |                      | 114   | 127     | 137     |

Note: When the actual lottery was run in 2012, the Immersion Programs were not balanced by SES.



# Cambridge Neighborhoods and School Locations



|   |                       |    |                     |
|---|-----------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1 | East Cambridge        | 8  | Agassiz             |
| 2 | Area 2/MIT            | 9  | Neighborhood Nine   |
| 3 | Wellington-Harrington | 10 | West Cambridge      |
| 4 | Area Four             | 11 | North Cambridge     |
| 5 | Cambridgeport         | 12 | Cambridge Highlands |
| 6 | Mid-Cambridge         | 13 | Strawberry Hill     |
| 7 | Riverside             |    |                     |

# 2010 US Census Breakdown

## Ages: 5 – 17

18

- **EAST:**      **3809 (51%)** school-aged children
- **WEST:**      **3693 (49%)** school-aged children

# JK/K Seat Capacities

19

| School Year | East | West | Difference |
|-------------|------|------|------------|
| 2006-07     | 420  | 320  | 100        |
| 2007-08     | 440  | 348  | 92         |
| 2008-09     | 460  | 328  | 132        |
| 2009-10     | 520  | 344  | 176        |
| 2010-11     | 530  | 344  | 186        |
| 2011-12     | 540  | 324  | 216        |
| 2012-13     | 560  | 344  | 216        |
| Net Gain    | +140 | +24  |            |

# Jan Lottery Applicants by Student Residence

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| <b>School Year</b> | <b>Applicants Residing East</b> | <b>Applicants Residing West</b> |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2010-11            | 278 (53%)                       | 248 (47%)                       |
| 2011-12            | 297 (59%)                       | 206 (41%)                       |

# OPEN SEATS FOR JK/K AFTER JANUARY LOTTERY

21

| School Year | East | West |
|-------------|------|------|
| 2006-07     | 79   | 48   |
| 2007-08     | 100  | 28   |
| 2008-09     | 105  | 35   |
| 2009-10     | 114  | 7    |
| 2010-11     | 98   | 4    |
| 2011-12     | 77   | 8    |
| 2012-13     | 69   | 6    |

# 1<sup>st</sup> Choice in Jan Lottery By School Location

22

| School Year  | School Located East | Schools Located West |
|--------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 2010-11      | 237 (45%)           | 289 (55%)            |
| 2011-12      | 246 (49%)           | 257 (51%)            |
| 2012-13      | 295 (53%)           | 261 (47%)            |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>778 (49%)</b>    | <b>807 (51%)</b>     |

Seat capacities

**62%**

**38%**

# 1<sup>st</sup> choice in Jan lottery by Residence: East/West

23

| SY2010-11 | <i>School Choice</i> | East Residence | West Residence |
|-----------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
|           | Schools East         | 199 (72%)      | 38 (15%)       |
|           | Schools West         | 79 (28%)       | 210 (85%)      |
|           | subtotal             | 278            | 248            |

| SY2011-12 | <i>School Choice</i> | East Residence | West Residence |
|-----------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
|           | Schools East         | 202 (68%)      | 44 (21%)       |
|           | Schools West         | 95 (32%)       | 162 (79%)      |
|           | subtotal             | 297            | 206            |

# 1<sup>st</sup> choice in Jan lottery breakdown by SES and by Residence: East/West

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## F/R

## Paid

SY2010-11

| <i>School Choice</i> | East Residence | West Residence | subtotal |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| Schools East         | 79             | 11             | 90       |
| Schools West         | 21             | 50             | 71       |
| subtotal             | 100            | 61             | 161      |

| <i>School Choice</i> | East Residence | West Residence | subtotal |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| Schools East         | 120            | 27             | 147      |
| Schools West         | 58             | 160            | 218      |
| subtotal             | 178            | 187            | 365      |

SY2011-12

| <i>School Choice</i> | East Residence | West Residence | subtotal |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| Schools East         | 76             | 15             | 91       |
| Schools West         | 26             | 49             | 75       |
| subtotal             | 102            | 64             | 166      |

| <i>School Choice</i> | East Residence | West Residence | subtotal |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| Schools East         | 126            | 29             | 155      |
| Schools West         | 69             | 113            | 182      |
| subtotal             | 195            | 142            | 337      |



# Enrolled JK/K Students

| SY2010-11 | Schools      | East Residence | West Residence | Subtotal  |
|-----------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|
|           | Schools East | 390            | 117            | 507 (60%) |
|           | Schools West | 75             | 267            | 342 (40%) |
|           | subtotal     | 465 (55%)      | 384 (45%)      | 849       |

| SY2011-12 | Schools      | East Residence | West Residence | Subtotal  |
|-----------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|
|           | Schools East | 400            | 112            | 512 (62%) |
|           | Schools West | 81             | 238            | 319 (38%) |
|           | subtotal     | 481 (58%)      | 350 (42%)      | 831       |

# Mandatorily Assigned Students

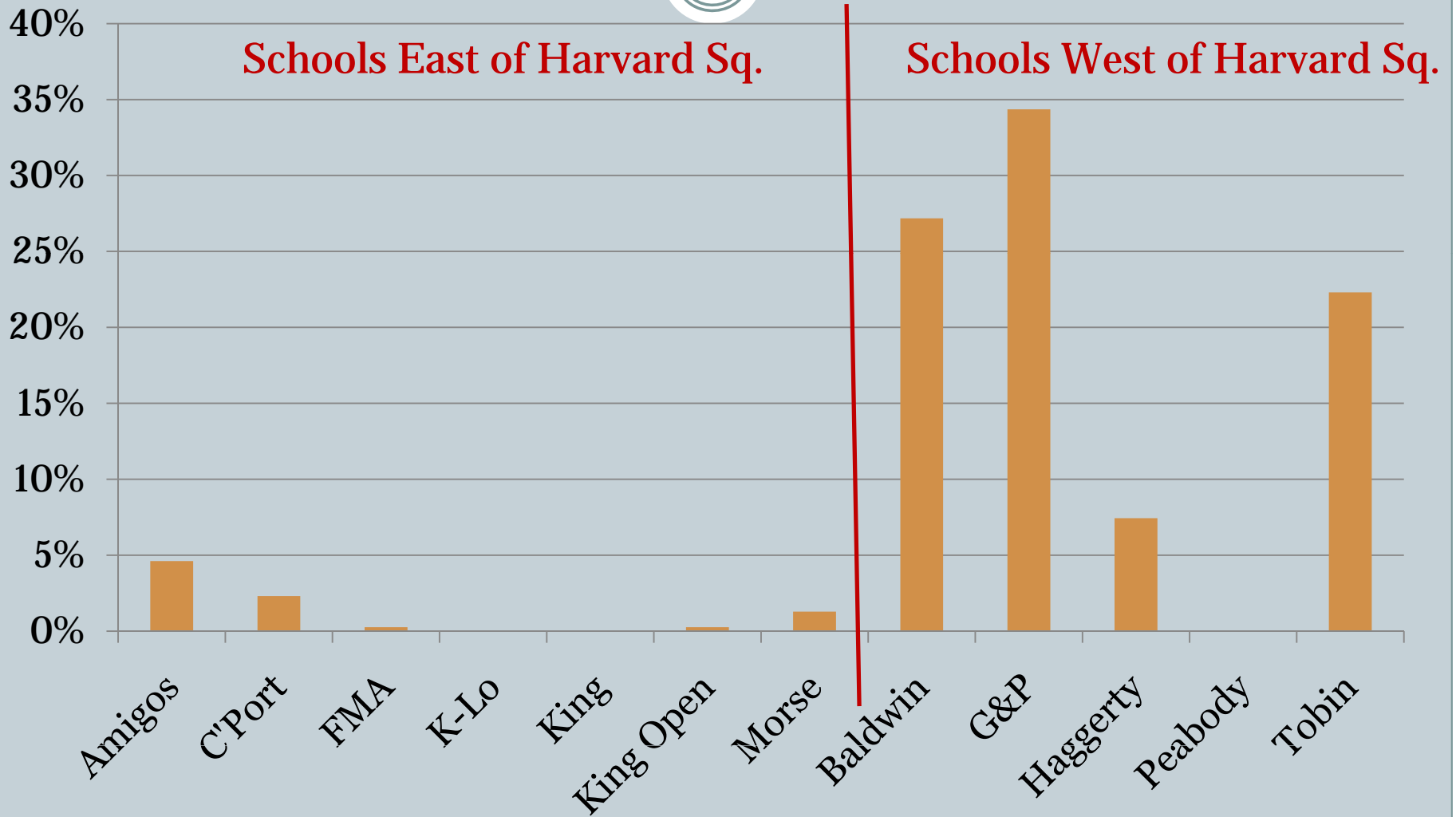
## January lottery Breakdown

26

| School Year | F/R | F/R% | Pd | Pd%  | Total |
|-------------|-----|------|----|------|-------|
| 2006-07     | 0   | 0%   | 34 | 100% | 34    |
| 2007-08     | 2   | 5%   | 35 | 95%  | 37    |
| 2008-09     | 2   | 3%   | 69 | 97%  | 71    |
| 2009-10     | 4   | 4%   | 91 | 96%  | 95    |
| 2010-11     | 5   | 6%   | 74 | 94%  | 79    |
| 2011-12     | 3   | 5%   | 61 | 95%  | 64    |

# 1<sup>st</sup> Choice Schools of Mandatorily Assigned Students: SY2006-12 Average

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# Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> enrollment

## January Lottery Breakdown by Choice

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### Averages of School Years 2006-2012

| Assignment | Enrolled |
|------------|----------|
| 1st        | 90%      |
| 2nd        | 75%      |
| 3rd        | 76%      |
| Mandatory  | 62%      |

# Advisory Group

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- **Parent Stakeholders**

- Jennifer Campbell – K-Lo
- Emily Dexter – CRLS
- Esmé Green – Haggerty
- Tina Kapur – Morse
- Neely Kelley – King Open
- Toni Kim – FMA
- John Little – Tobin
- Kimberly Mancino – Morse
- Trish Marti – Baldwin
- Mary-Ann Matyas – G&P
- Michelle Sprengnether – Amigos/CRLS
- Richard Younger – Amigos
- Zina Gomez-Liss – SPED Parent  
Advisory Committee Co-Chair
- Michelle Duval – Pre-school
- Ron Phelan – Pre-school

- **CPS Stakeholders**

- Chris Colbath-Hess – Cambridge  
Education Association President
- Robin Harris – FMA Principal
- Claire Koen – King Family Liaison

- **Community Stakeholders**

- Bonita Cox – Cambridge Human  
Rights Commission
- Laura Fisher – Harvard University
- Charles Glenn – Boston University
- Ruby Pierce – NAACP/retired CRLS  
Administrator

- **Outreach**

- The entire 2010 Controlled Choice Task  
Force Team was invited
- Human Service and Head Start Preschool  
Programs

THANK YOU!

# Advisory Group

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- **Presentations to the Advisory:**
  - 1/31 - History and Motivations for Cambridge's Controlled Choice Policy by Michael Alves
  - 1/31 - Background Data
  - 1/31 - Entrance Age
  - 2/2 - Process of Controlled Choice
  - 2/2 - Availability of seats/classrooms, choice and non-choice assignments
  - 2/2 - Algorithm and the effects of '+/- 10%' band
- **Mini-group breakouts to discuss each presentation**
- **Group questions:**
  - Do you think this issue/process
    - ✦ helps diversify our schools?
    - ✦ is fair to individual families?
    - ✦ helps student achievement?
    - ✦ is transparent and understandable?
    - ✦ leads to increased or decreased district enrollment?
- **Individual questions:**
  - What qualities should be evident in the School Department's Controlled Choice Plan?
  - What would you like parents/guardians to feel/think as they approach and go through the process of registering their children to attend the Cambridge Public Schools?

Answers to these questions can be found in the back-up data

## Parent Surveys

**969** surveys were sent to parents with children 2-5 years old

- 218 Responses
  - 72 with CPS sibs enrolled
  - 39 with sibs enrolled in non-CPS schools

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  - 142 – income over \$65,001
  - 44 – income under \$65,000
  - 30 – no income response

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  - 98 – West of Harvard Sq.
  - 2 – in Harvard Sq.
  - 97 – East of Harvard Sq.
  - 21 – No area response
- **84%** - Agree/Strongly Agree with the goal of Controlled Choice
  - **42%** - Agree/Strongly Agree that Controlled Choice is fair
    - **38%** - need more information
  - **46%** - Confident/Very Confident with getting an assigned to an acceptable school
    - **26%** - need more information
  - **94%** - Likely/Definitely would enroll child if receives 1<sup>st</sup> choice
  - **35%** - will Likely/Definitely enroll if child receives Mandatory assignment

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- 2 – in Harvard Sq.
- 97 – East of Harvard Sq.
- 21 – No area response

- Schools and Programs that families would be  to have their child(ren) attend:
  - 3 schools/programs were indicated by more than 50% of parent respondents.
    - All of these schools/programs are located West of Harvard Square
  - Only 1 school/program was chosen by more than 40% of respondents by both income groups.

### East Residents

3 of the 6 schools/programs-- as indicated by more than 40% of respondents--are located West of Harvard Sq.

### West Residents

No school/program that is located East of Harvard Sq. was chosen by more than 40% of respondents.



## Parent Surveys


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  - 98 – West of Harvard Sq.
  - 2 – in Harvard Sq.
  - 97 – East of Harvard Sq.
  - 21 – No area response
- Schools and Programs that families would be  to have their child(ren) attend:
  - 31% of parent respondents did not indicate a school/program.
  - 4 schools/programs were indicated by more than 30% of parent respondents
    - All 4 schools/programs are located East of Harvard Square
    - 1 of these schools/programs was indicated by more than 30% of families from every subgroup (by income and by residence).

# Parent Surveys –

94% - prefer to send child near home

34

## East

45% of parent surveys

## West

44% of parent surveys

**% of parents who indicated each type of program that would motivate them to send their child to a school not near their home:**

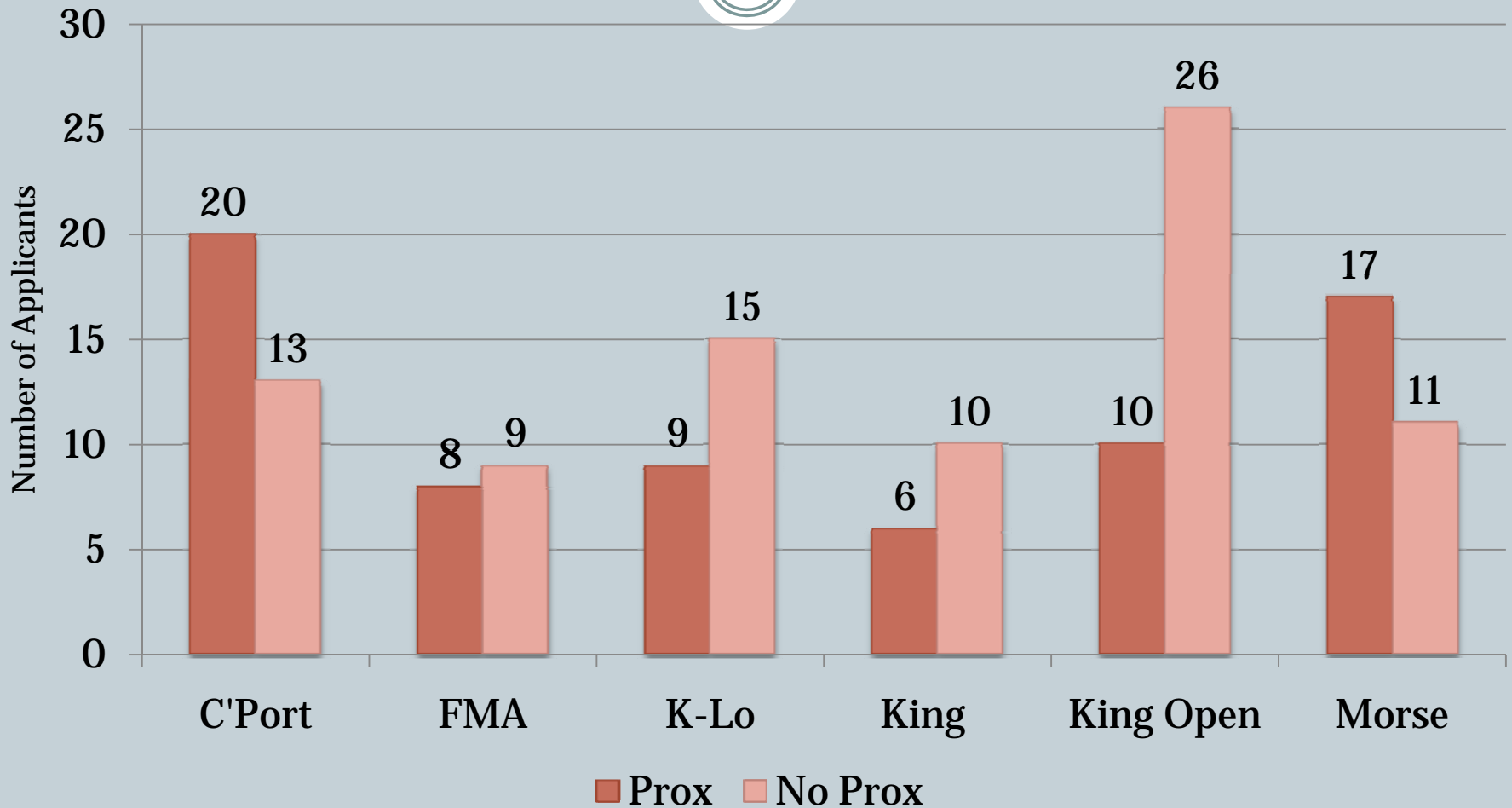
- 59% Science Technology Engineering & Math
- 41% Montessori
- 27% Visual/Performing Arts
- 25% International Baccalaureate
- 25% Intensive Music
- 22% French Immersion
- 14% Standard Elementary
  
- 18% Write-in program/school
- 8% No Response

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- 34% Montessori
- 27% International Baccalaureate
- 26% Intensive Music
- 21% French Immersion
- 21% Visual/Performing Arts
- 14% Standard Elementary
  
- 19% Write-in program/school
- 24% No Response

# 1<sup>st</sup> Choice for Schools Located East

## Jan Lottery SY2011-12

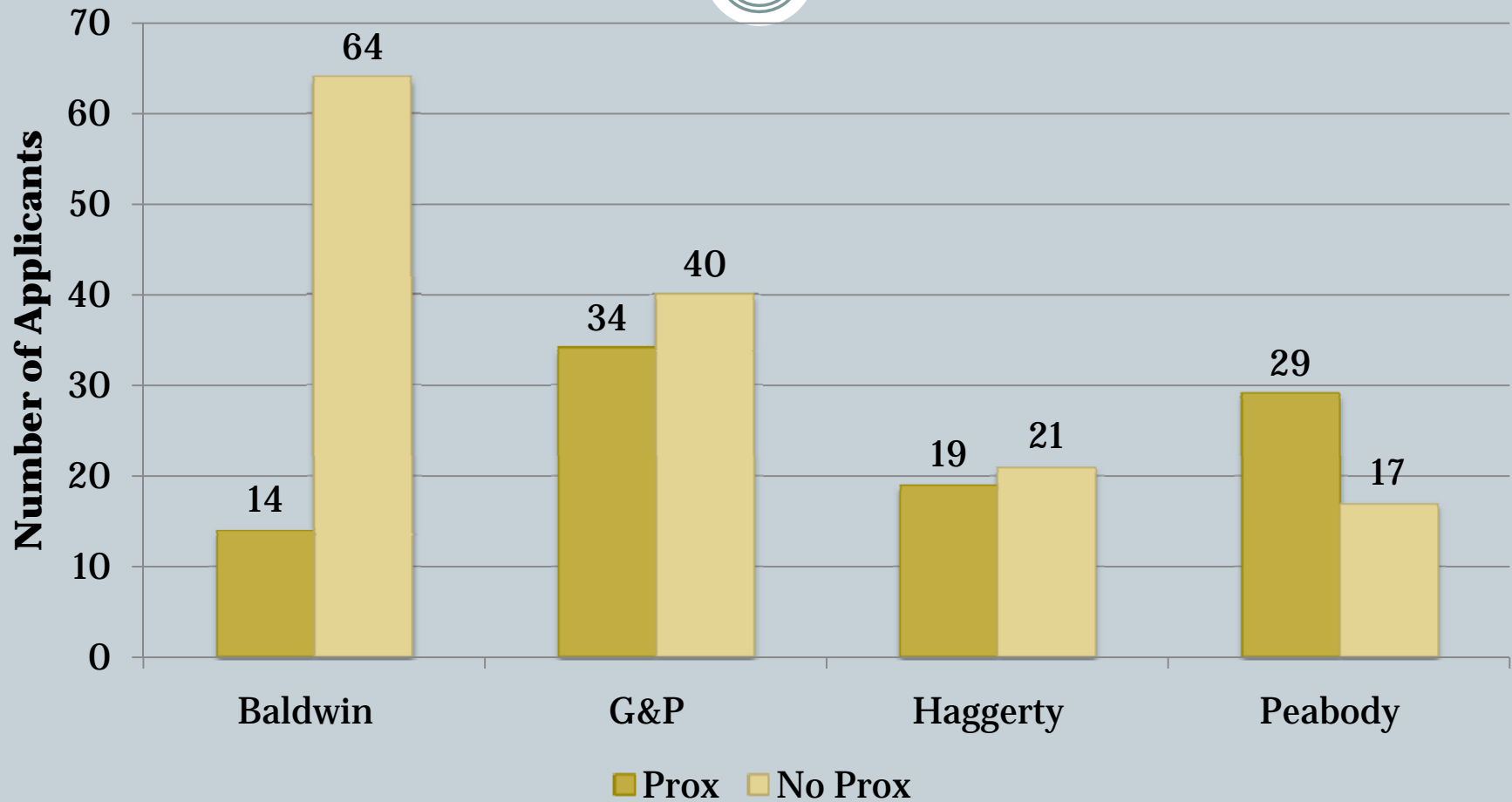
35



# 1<sup>st</sup> Choice for Schools Located West

## Jan Lottery SY2011-12

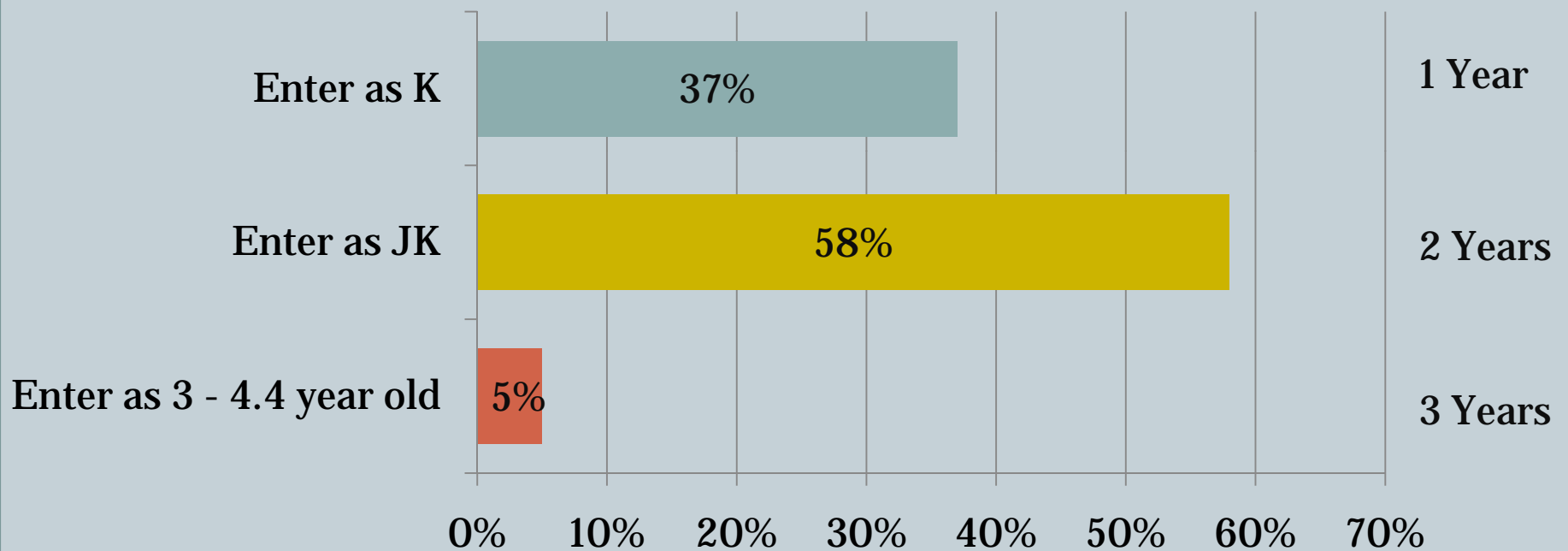
36



# Opportunity for 1, 2 or 3 years of Free Public Education Before 1<sup>st</sup> grade

37

## % of Students with access to:



# Thank you



**QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?**