

**Boston Housing Authority  
and  
Boston Public Schools:  
Exploring Academic Collaboration**

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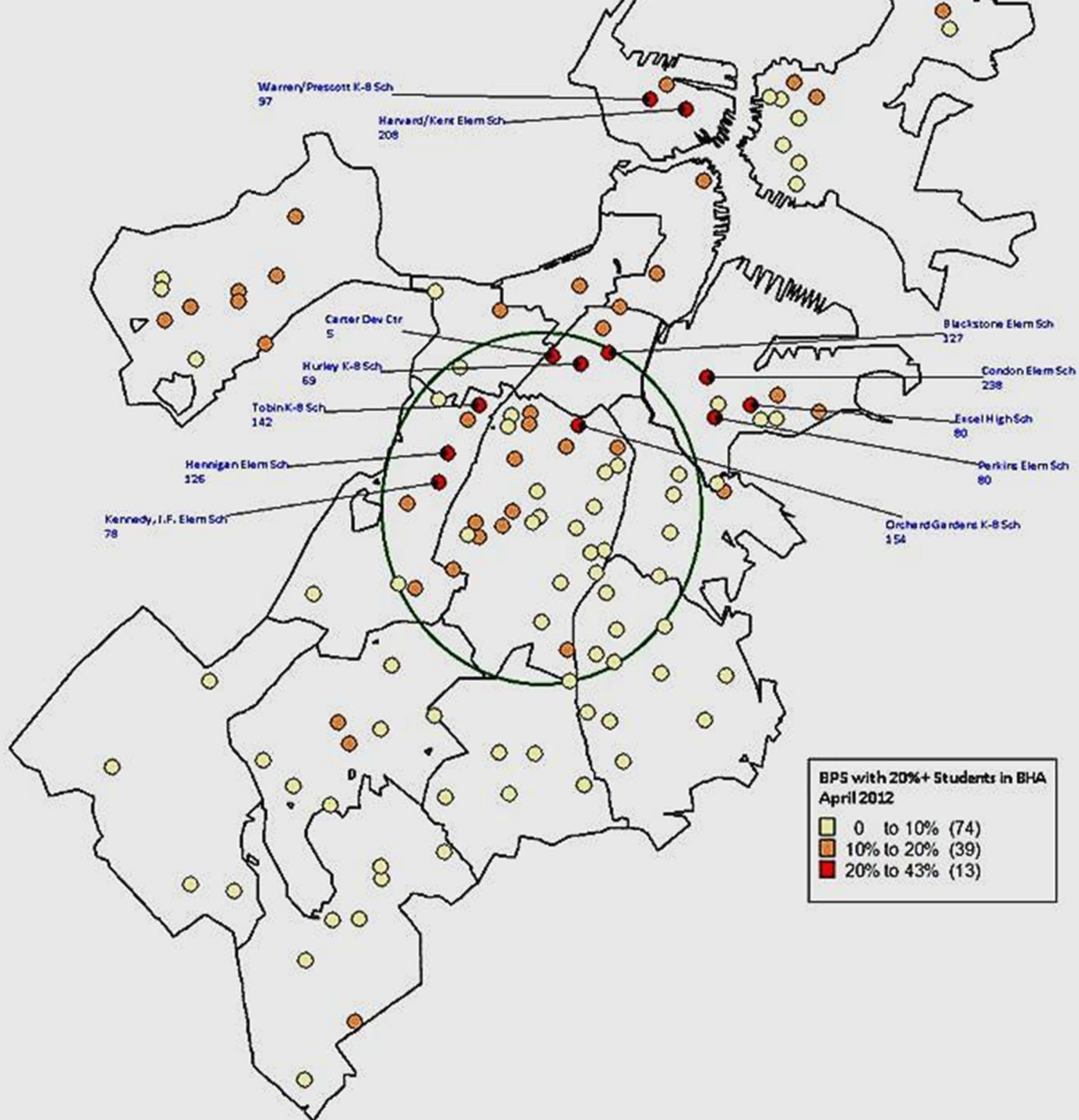
## Purpose of study

“...to explore how Boston Public Schools with relatively high numbers and proportions of students living in Boston Public Housing can be better linked in terms of communication or collaboration on behalf of the academic well-being of youth”

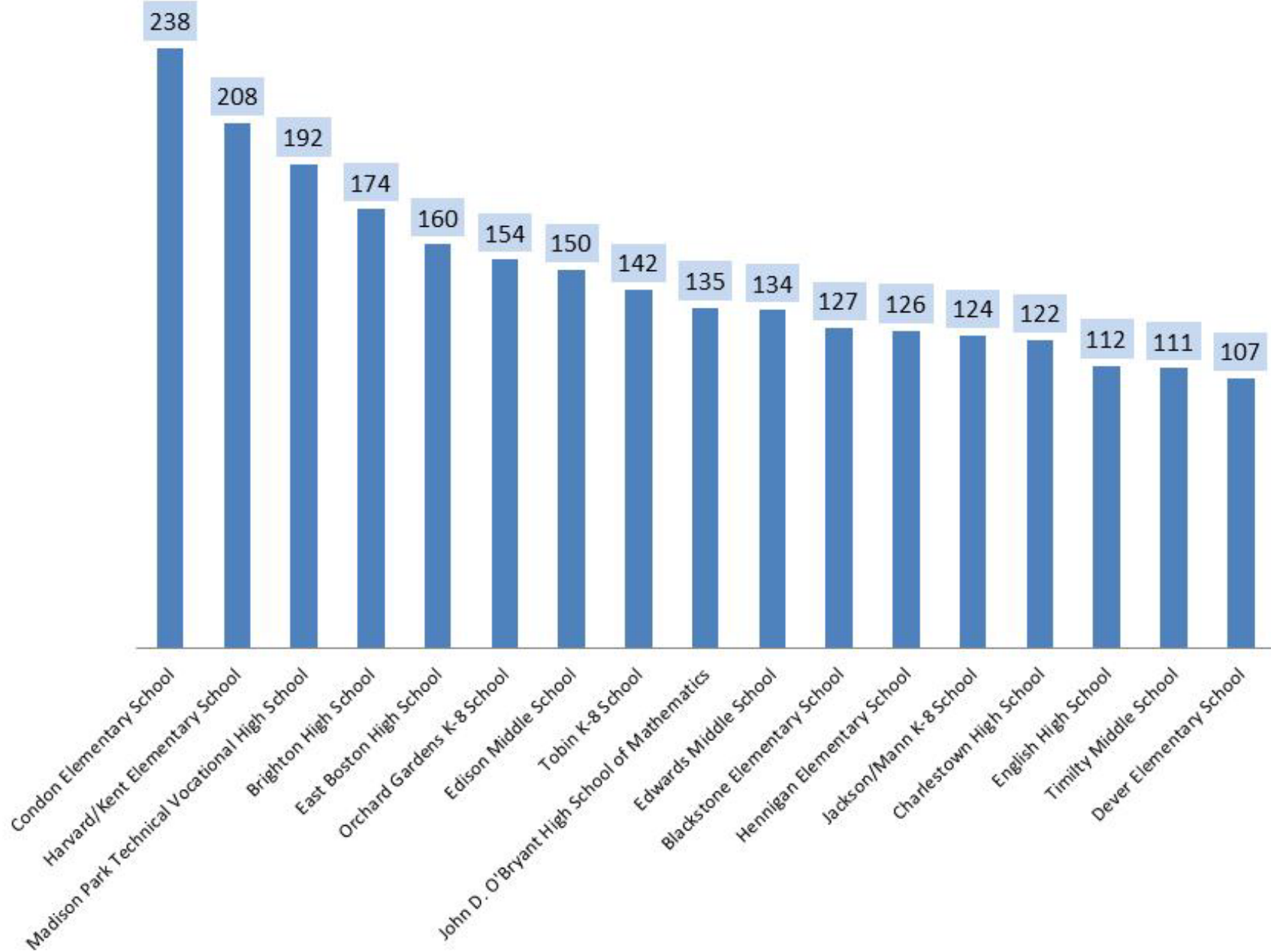
**5,264** students attending BPS schools live in BHA public housing

**10%** of entire BPS student population live in BHA housing

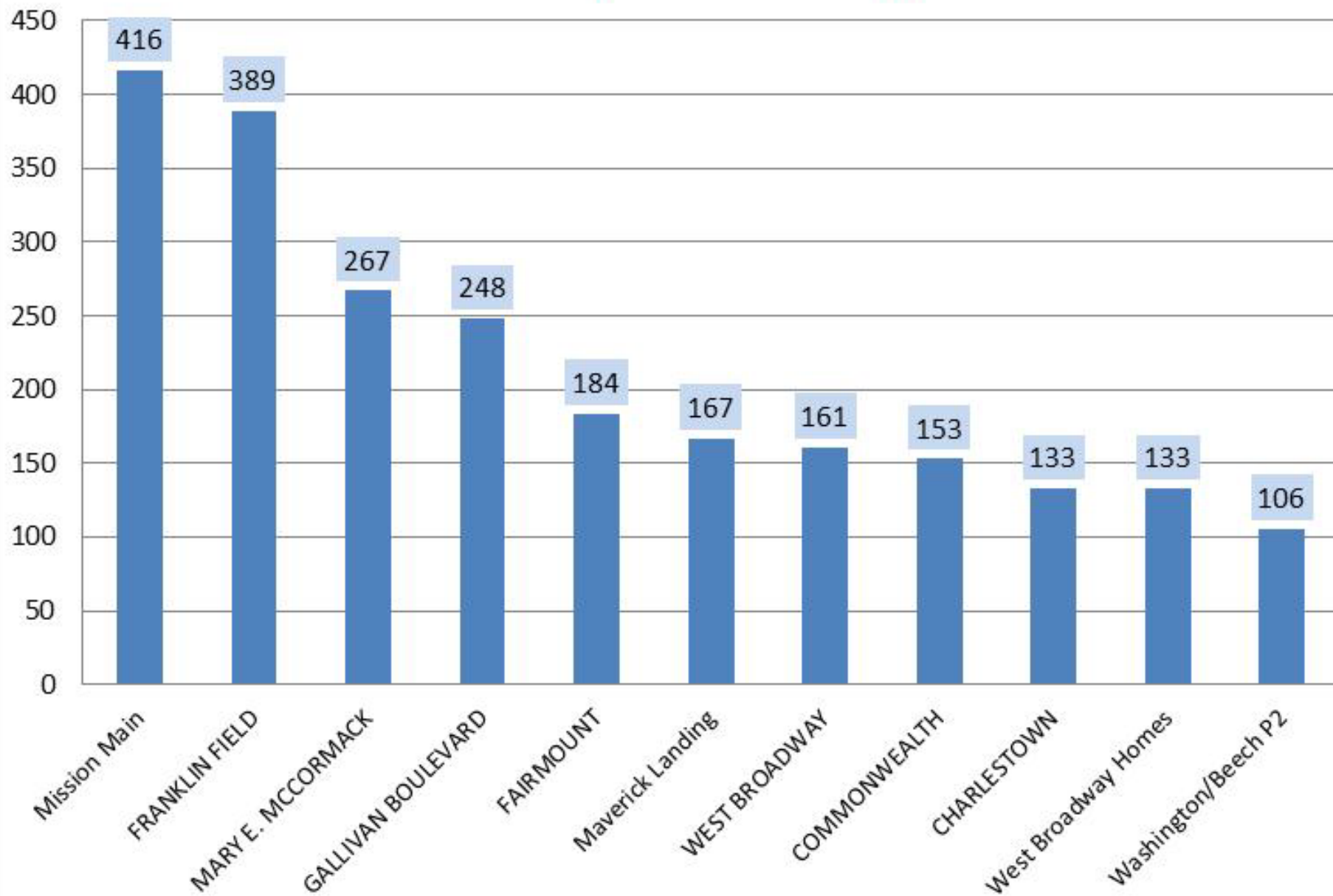
**19** BHA housing developments within the BPS Circle of Promise



## Boston Public Schools with 100+ Students Who Are BHA Residents



## BPS Students by Select BHA Housing Sites



## Interviews

BHA housing sites representatives and Principals and representatives of selected public schools were interviewed to assess ideas and commentary about collaboration aimed at improving academic performance

## **Findings: why an important and timely discussion?**

- Greater collaboration will be beneficial to youth's academic well-being
- Collaboration can facilitate sharing information about youth for more effective servicing
- Collaboration can enhance youth participation
- Need for professional development in learning and sustaining collaboration

## Recommendations



- *BHA representatives should be encouraged to participate in **school governance and parent councils**. School-site councils could appoint BHA representatives as Associate Members;*
- *BHA and BPS representatives should **coordinate tutoring programs** at BHA housing sites;*
- ***Data** about students living in BHA housing sites should be collected by schools; and similarly, BHA housing sites should collect education data of youth residents, including enrollment and academic progress in ways which protect confidentiality;*
- ***Parent workshops** should be expanded considerably at BHA housing sites, as well as in school sites;*
- ***BHA community centers** should integrate school-based educational objectives into recreational programming;*
- *BHA and BPS should explore ways to better utilize **technology** to bridge information gaps between home and school. Some housing sites already have “technology centers” which should be included in efforts to map student progress and strategies for encouraging greater academic achievement.*

- *Planning meetings between BPS and BHA representatives and leadership should continue to identify the information and data that would benefit both sectors, and that could be shared;*
- *Organization of focus groups with stakeholders and residents at one or two sites to further assist with the design of this kind of initiative.*
- *Both agencies should consider appointing a **contact person** at a public school and at a housing site with responsibility for maintaining communication about students and youth residents.*