



Round 1 Results and the Home Based Assignment System

Presentation to School Committee
April 30, 2014

Summary

- We successfully completed Round 1 using the Home Based assignment system
- The average distance that students are traveling to school decreased significantly, with a 24% decrease for K2 and a 23% decrease for K1
- Families chose schools across all MCAS tiers as their top choice
- Approximately the same number of families received one of their top choices as in recent years: 73% of families received one of their top 3 choices for K2, and 64% of families received one of their top 3 choices for K1.
- Nearly the same number of families participated in the registration process as last year, and 86% of families said they understood their school choices very or fairly well before registering.
- We continue to reflect on both the quantitative results of Round 1 implementation and our experiences during the registration process, and we will present additional analysis in the coming months.

Agenda

- Background on Enrollment Outreach
- Overview of Round 1 Registration
- Round 1 Results
- Comments on Home Based Assignment System and Future Considerations

Background on Enrollment Outreach

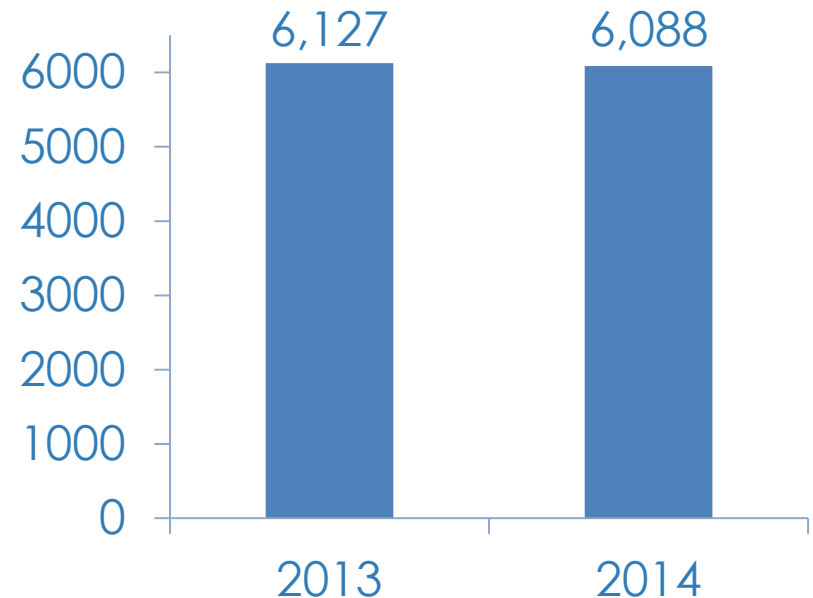
- School Choice season kicked off on November 1, 2013
- We conducted an extensive outreach campaign
 - New billboards
 - 24 expanded, multilingual information sessions for families
 - Posters, flyers, newspaper ads, multilingual PSAs, listservs, and more
- Parents could explore school options through DiscoverBPS, Showcase IN our Schools, High School Showcase, and school preview days



Round	Grades	Dates	Notices Sent
Round 1	K0, K1, K2, 6, 9	January 6 – January 31	Mid-March
Round 2	All grades	February 5 – March 28	Mid-May
Round 3	All grades	March 24 – May 9	Mid-June
Round 4	All grades	May 12 – June 13	Mid-July

Round 1 Registration by the Numbers

- **6,088** new registration cases in 2014
- **7,610** total cases during Round 1 (including transfers, changes of address, and changes to student information)
- **1,076** students sent to Newcomers Assessment and Counseling Center for testing
- **3,415** calls received by the Hotline

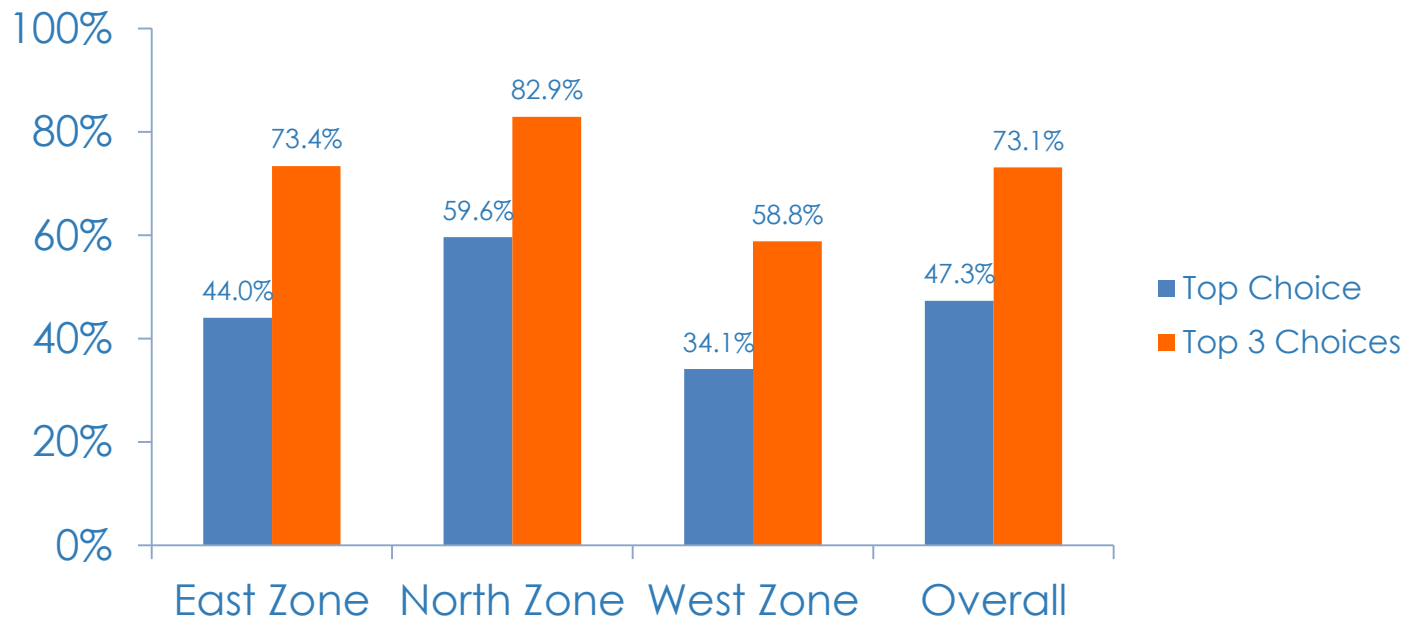


Most parents felt well-prepared to make school choices

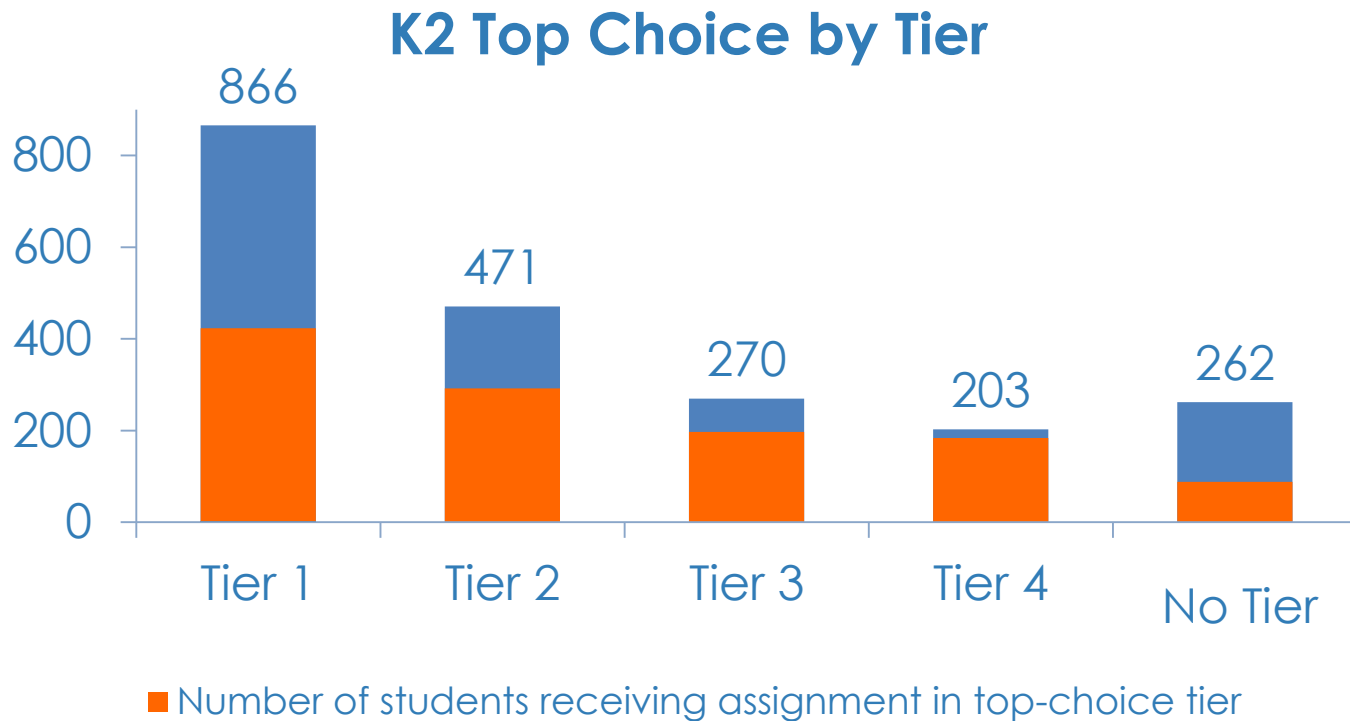
- According to our survey of 1,150 parents:
 - 76% of respondents used the new DiscoverBPS tool
 - More than 83% said they had enough time to make informed choices
 - **86% understood their school choices very well or fairly well** before visiting a Welcome Center to register for school
- **12,688 searches** were conducted on DiscoverBPS from November 1st to January 31st
- Feedback we heard from parents during registration:
 - Why are there so many schools on my list?
 - Where do my middle school choices come from?

Approximately 73% of families received one of their top three choices for K2

- 73.1% of families received one of their top three choices for K2 this year, with 47.3% receiving their top choice
- This is comparable to the historic average of 72% of families receiving a top-three choice for K2 under the zone-based plan
 - 66% received a top-three choice in 2012-13 and 75.5% in 2013-14



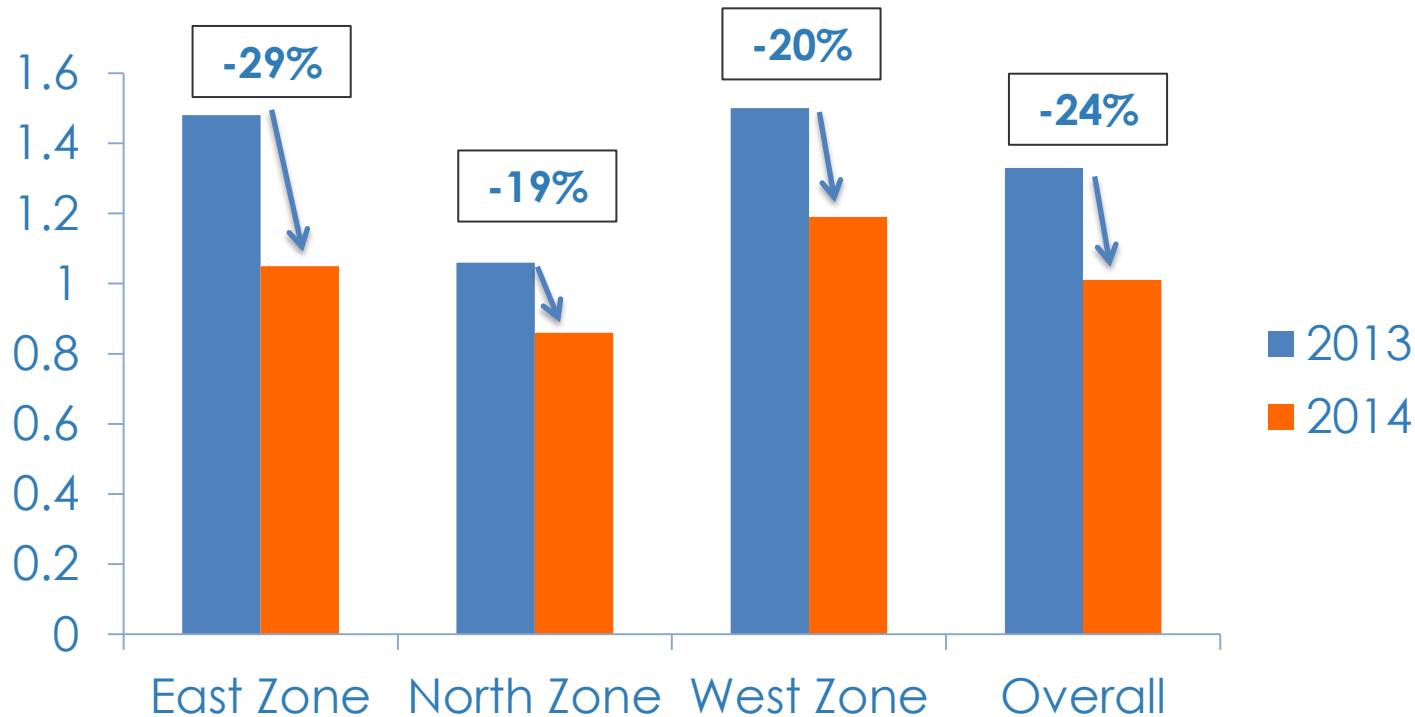
Parents chose schools from all MCAS tiers



- **57.1%** of families received a school in the same MCAS tier as their first-choice school, although this percentage varied by tier

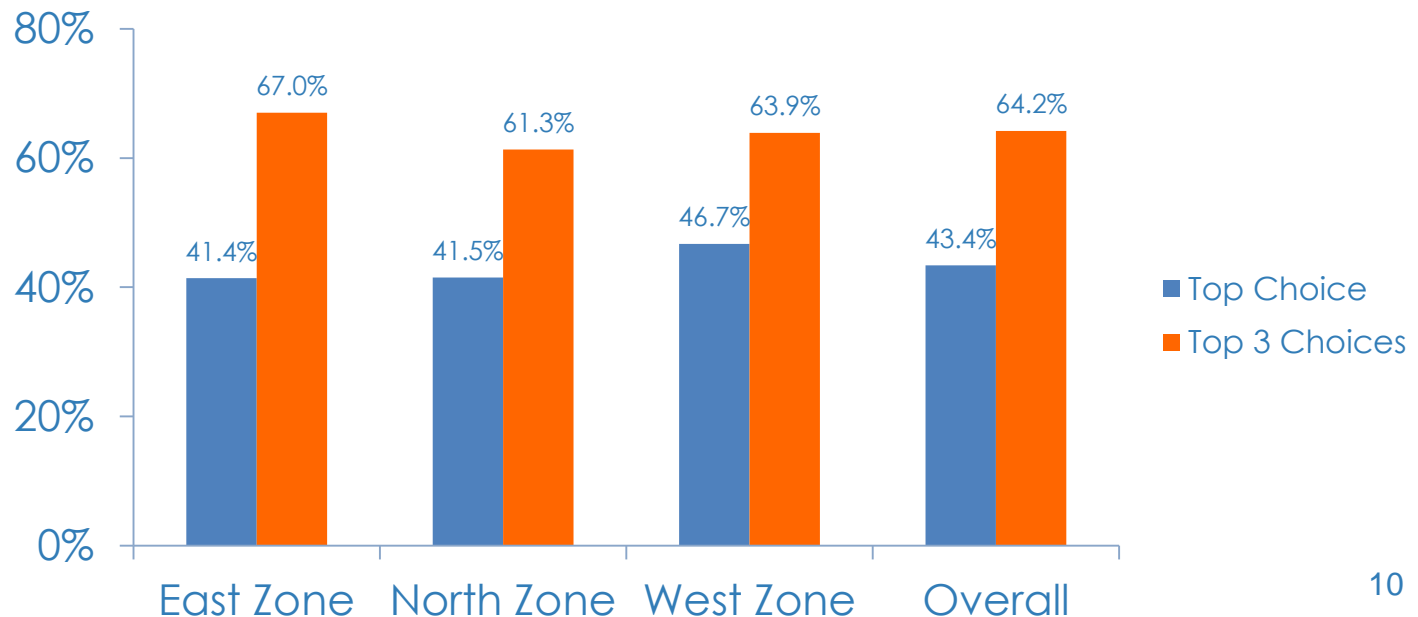
Incoming K2 students will attend schools closer to home

- Average distance to school decreased from 1.33 miles to 1.01 miles, a **24% decrease overall**



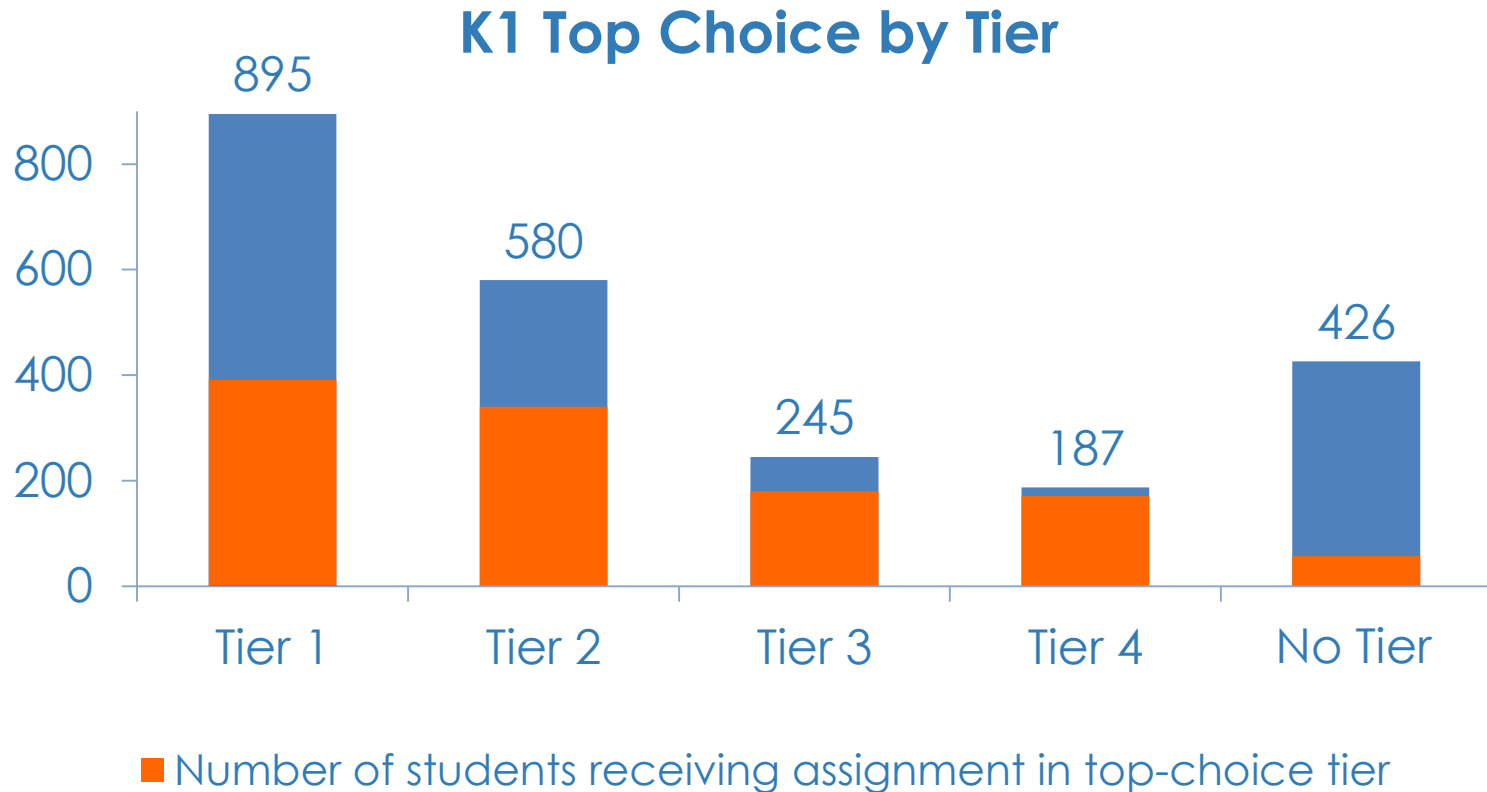
More families received one of their top choices for K1 than in 2013

- We added more than 100 new K1 seats at schools across the city, despite our budget challenge
- 64.2% of families received one of their top three choices for K1 this year, with 43.4% of families receiving their top choice*
- This is a higher percentage than last year, when 58.5% of families received one of their top 3 choices (and 41.8% received their top choice)



* Note: BPS does not guarantee a placement for a K1 seat

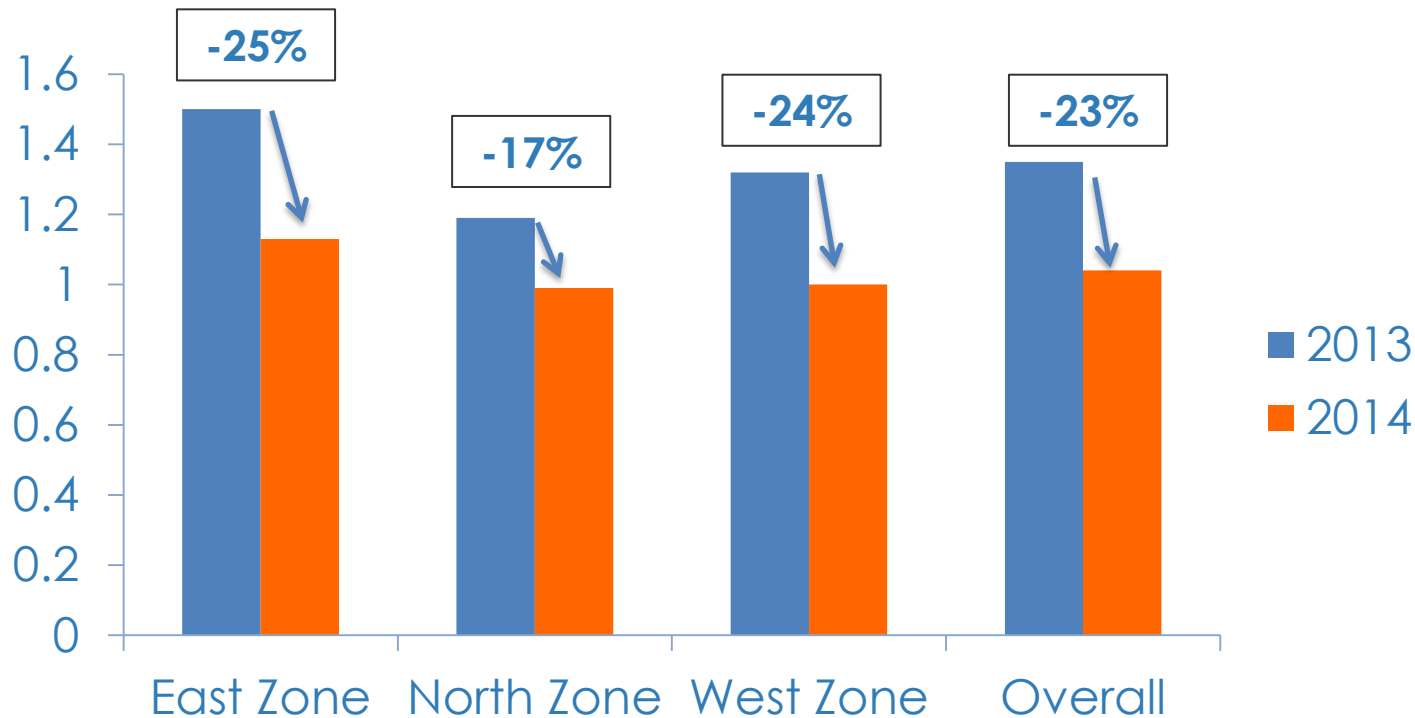
K1 choices reflected a range of MCAS tiers



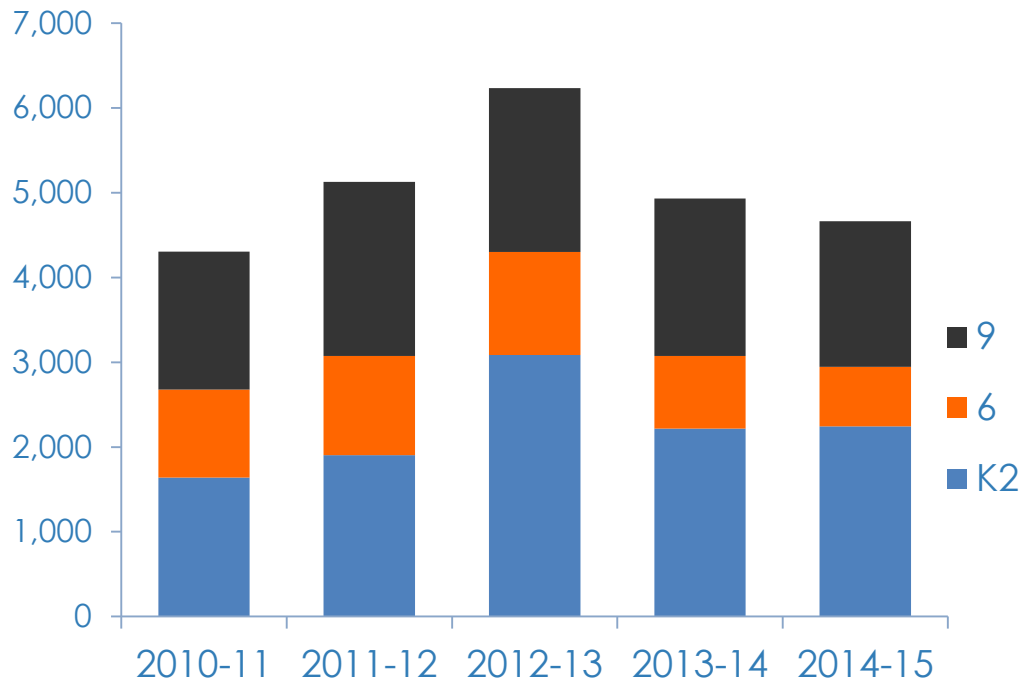
- 48.8% of families received a K1 school in the same MCAS tier as their first choice, although this percentage varied by tier

K1 students will also attend schools closer to home

- Average distance to school decreased from 1.35 miles to 1.04 miles for K1 students, a **23% decrease overall**



Fewer students are on waitlists this year compared to the past three years



*Notes: Grades K2, 6, and 9 only;
Students may be counted more than once if they appear on several waitlists

- 4,663 students are on waitlists for grades K2, 6, and 9 this year, compared to 4,933 students last year
- In particular, the number of grade 6 students on waitlists is down this year (701 students, compared to 856 last year)

Home Based Plan: Specific Components

1. Middle School Overlays

- Choice data indicates that rising 6th grade students in non-K-8 schools are choosing a variety of options for middle school
 - 25.4% made no choices, so they were assigned to their pathway schools
 - 46.9% selected their pathway schools as a choice, either alone or in combination with other schools
 - 24.9% did not select their pathway schools as a choice
- We have an opportunity to improve connections between elementary school families and their pathway schools
 - This year, the list of Middle School feeders was not finalized until fall
 - Elementary schools did not have the chance to work with families and prepare them for the transition to a particular feeder school

2. SPED and ELL Overlays

- The SPED and ELL Overlays are designed to offer **programmatic options closer to home** for students with disabilities and English Language Learners
- We are considering various implementation issues, including:
 - What do we do with high-quality programs that are located farther away from students who could use them?
 - How do we best serve English Language Learners speaking lower-incidence languages when SEI programs are located outside their home clusters?

3. Parent Compacting

- We did not have any parent groups participate in parent compacting in Round 2
- We will examine this model in the future to determine how we can strengthen and re-launch a parent compacting pilot

4. East Boston Guarantee

- We had heard some concerns before Round 1 that this guarantee would reduce access to high-quality schools outside East Boston
- Based on available seats after Round 1, East Boston students would have access to tier 1 seats outside East Boston
 - Only 9 East Boston students (out of 483) chose tier 1 non-EB schools as their top choice, and 3 of these students received their top-choice school

We will continue to analyze assignment data over the coming months

- We are working with the School Effectiveness and Inequality Initiative (SEII) team at MIT to provide a comprehensive report in late spring or early summer
- This report is expected to include access to quality and equity metrics as well as an analysis by neighborhood
- The Boston Area Research Initiative will work with BPS to engage external partners to analyze effects of Home-Based.

We are examining the broader outcomes of the Home Based Plan

- Our analysis will help us examine the overall impacts of the system and develop recommendations to address any concerns
- Among other areas, we will look into:
 - Impact of student mobility on school choices and transportation
 - Access to high-quality schools and seats, including access to K2 classes at schools with K1 classes
 - Effect of school location on demand data and seat availability

Future Discussions

- Assignment Rule Book
- Impact of the School Quality Working Group framework and new system of school tiers
- Potential improvements to the waitlist policy
- High school enrollment
- Ongoing discussions with the Boston Compact on enrollment