#PHLed 101

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GOALS

1. Philadelphia is a large complicated school system – what's important to know as a Gear UP Coach?

2. Understand some of the challenges that impact Philadelphia Schools.

3. Explore the strengths of Philadelphia schools – how can we support creating positive and transformational learning communities?

School District of Philadelphia by the numbers....

Student demographics

- 134,241 students

- 84% free/reduced lunch

- White (13.95%)
- Black (52.52%)
- Hispanic (19.2%)
- Asian/Pacific Islander (7.99%)
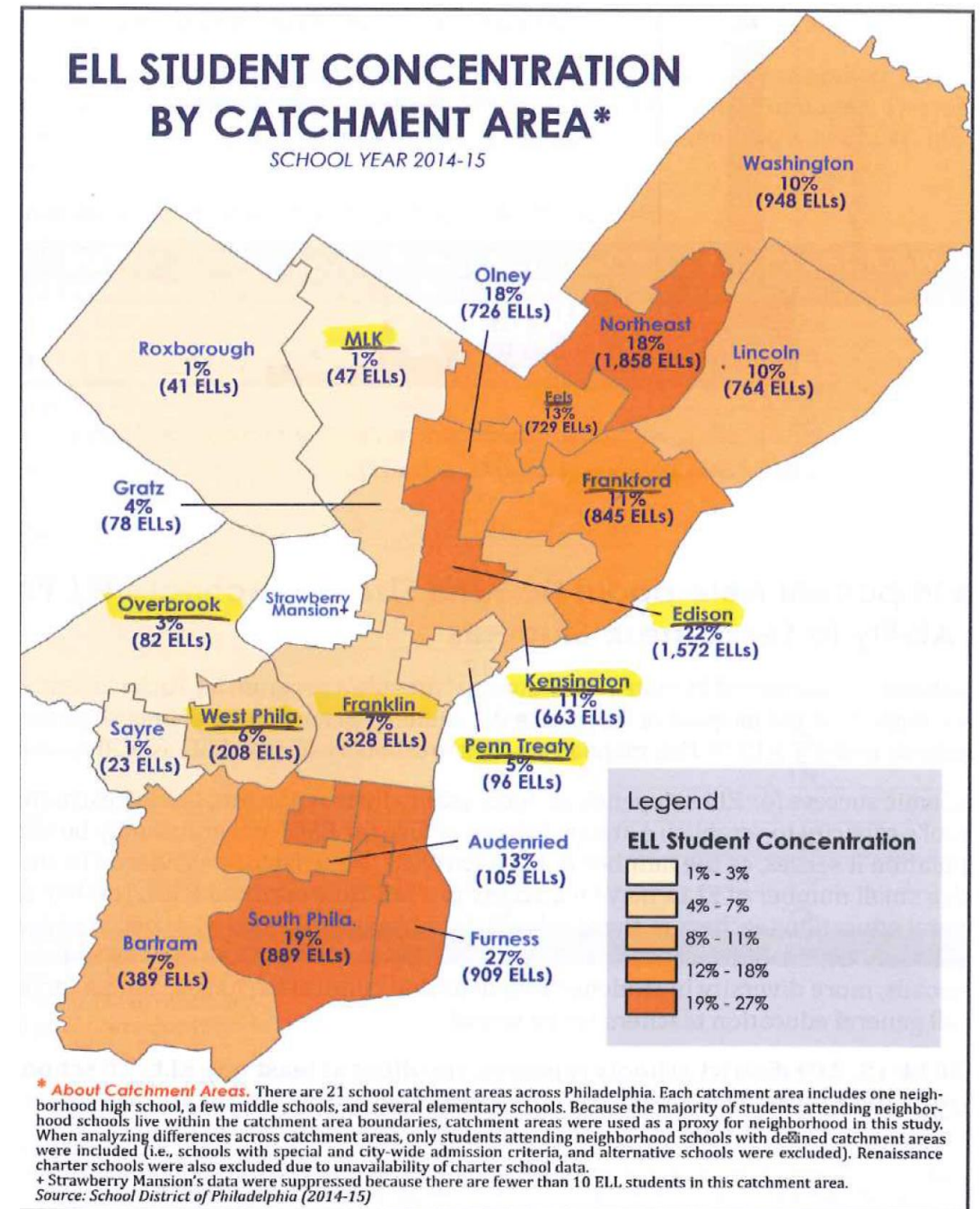- American Indian/Alaska Native (0.19%)
- Other (6.16%)

School district teacher count, enrollment, and demographic data is from the 2014-2015 school year sourced from the National Center for Education Statistics. Due to data issues, teacher count for districts in six states (HI, MT, NE, OH, UT, and WI) is from 2013-2014.

A multicultural district

LANGUAGE (in order of 2014-15 population size)	2014-15 NUMBER OF SPEAKERS	% OF ALL ELLs DISTRICT-WIDE (n=12,129)
Spanish	6,260	52%
Chinese (Mandarin)	736	6%
Arabic	697	6%
English	463	4%
Vietnamese	443	4%
Khmer	384	3%
Creoles and Pidgins (English and French-based)	359	3%
Russian	254	2%
French	221	2%
Portuguese	218	2%
Nepali	211	2%
Chinese (Cantonese)	188	2%
Pashto	134	1%
Malayalam	124	1%
Ukrainian	111	1%
Albanian	105	1%
Bengali	104	1%
Other[5] (82 languages)	1,124	9%
Total Languages Spoken in Philadelphia Public Schools		**107***

* This number is approximate and does not separate out all unique creoles and pidgins.
Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
Source: School District of Philadelphia (2014-2015).

ELL STUDENT CONCENTRATION BY CATCHMENT AREA*
SCHOOL YEAR 2014-15

Washington 10% (948 ELLs)
Olney 18% (726 ELLs)
Roxborough 1% (41 ELLs)
MLK 1% (47 ELLs)
Northeast 18% (1,858 ELLs)
Lincoln 10% (764 ELLs)
Fels 13% (729 ELLs)
Gratz 4% (78 ELLs)
Frankford 11% (845 ELLs)
Overbrook 3% (82 ELLs)
Strawberry Mansion+
Edison 22% (1,572 ELLs)
Kensington 11% (663 ELLs)
Sayre 1% (23 ELLs)
West Phila. 6% (208 ELLs)
Franklin 7% (328 ELLs)
Penn Treaty 5% (96 ELLs)
Audenried 13% (105 ELLs)
Bartram 7% (389 ELLs)
South Phila. 19% (889 ELLs)
Furness 27% (909 ELLs)

Legend
ELL Student Concentration
1% - 3%
4% - 7%
8% - 11%
12% - 18%
19% - 27%

* **About Catchment Areas.** There are 21 school catchment areas across Philadelphia. Each catchment area includes one neighborhood high school, a few middle schools, and several elementary schools. Because the majority of students attending neighborhood schools live within the catchment area boundaries, catchment areas were used as a proxy for neighborhood in this study. When analyzing differences across catchment areas, only students attending neighborhood schools with defined catchment areas were included (i.e., schools with special and city-wide admission criteria, and alternative schools were excluded). Renaissance charter schools were also excluded due to unavailability of charter school data.
+ Strawberry Mansion's data were suppressed because there are fewer than 10 ELL students in this catchment area.
Source: School District of Philadelphia (2014-15)

TYPES OF SCHOOLS

Neighborhood
- Anyone living within the catchment area can attend
- Edison High School

City-wide Admission
- Open to any student throughout the city; usually has a special focus
- High School of the Future

Special Admission (Magnet)
- Requires top grades, attendance, and behavior records. May also require artistic portfo
- Masterman, Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)

Special Admit programs
- Special program within an existing neighborhood or citywide high school, often technical
- Benjamin Franklin Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Technology

Charter Schools
- Privately run but publicly funded schools. Admission by lottery system
- KIPP, Mastery

Private
- Parochial
- Non-religious/Independent

Networks

 Neighborhood Network - schools group by geography
Turnaround Network - Low performing schools targeted for improvement plans.
The selected schools have been low performing for multiple years and rank among the lowest performing schools.

GEAR UP Schools in the Turnaround Network:
    King
    West Philadelphia
    Edison

FAIR FUNDING

PA relies heavily on local property taxes to fund school districts

Wealthier towns with more homeowners and more expensive real estate have more funds for schools.

Spending per student in 2000

- Philadelphia: $6,969 per year

- Jenkintown: $12,076 per year

- Radnor: $13,288 per year

- Upper Merion: $13,139 per year

70% of Philadelphia's students are at or near the poverty line

Philadelphia School District receives 48.8% of its annual revenue from the state. In 2015 that totaled $984,000,794

Old funding formula relied on political will, and often cronyism

New funding formula – money follows the individual student and gives more money to students with additional needs (ESL, IEP). It also gives more money to districts that have difficulty raising enough money on their own. This applies only to funding increases

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eTSfbdZVrPc&feature=youtu.be

School Closings

The SRC voted to close 23 schools in 2013. Buildings often sold to private owners or made into public-private partnerships
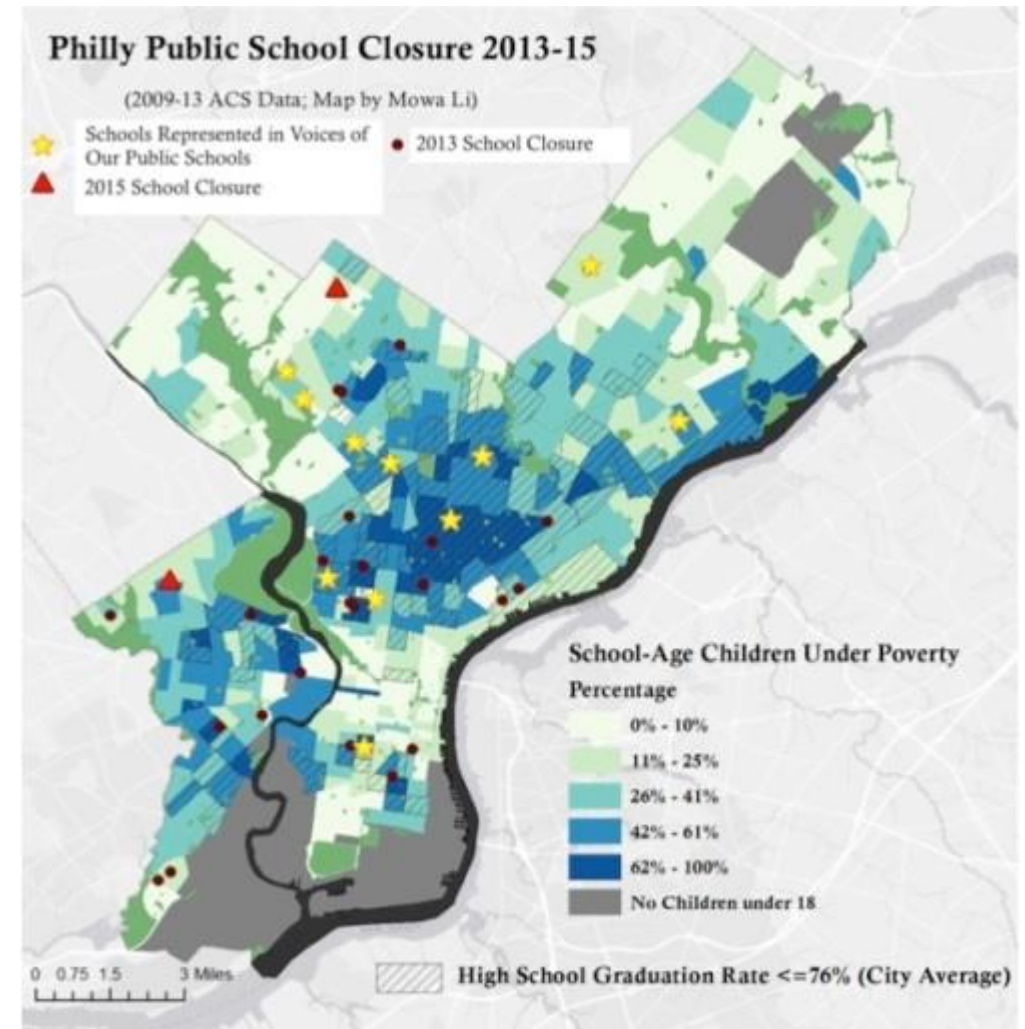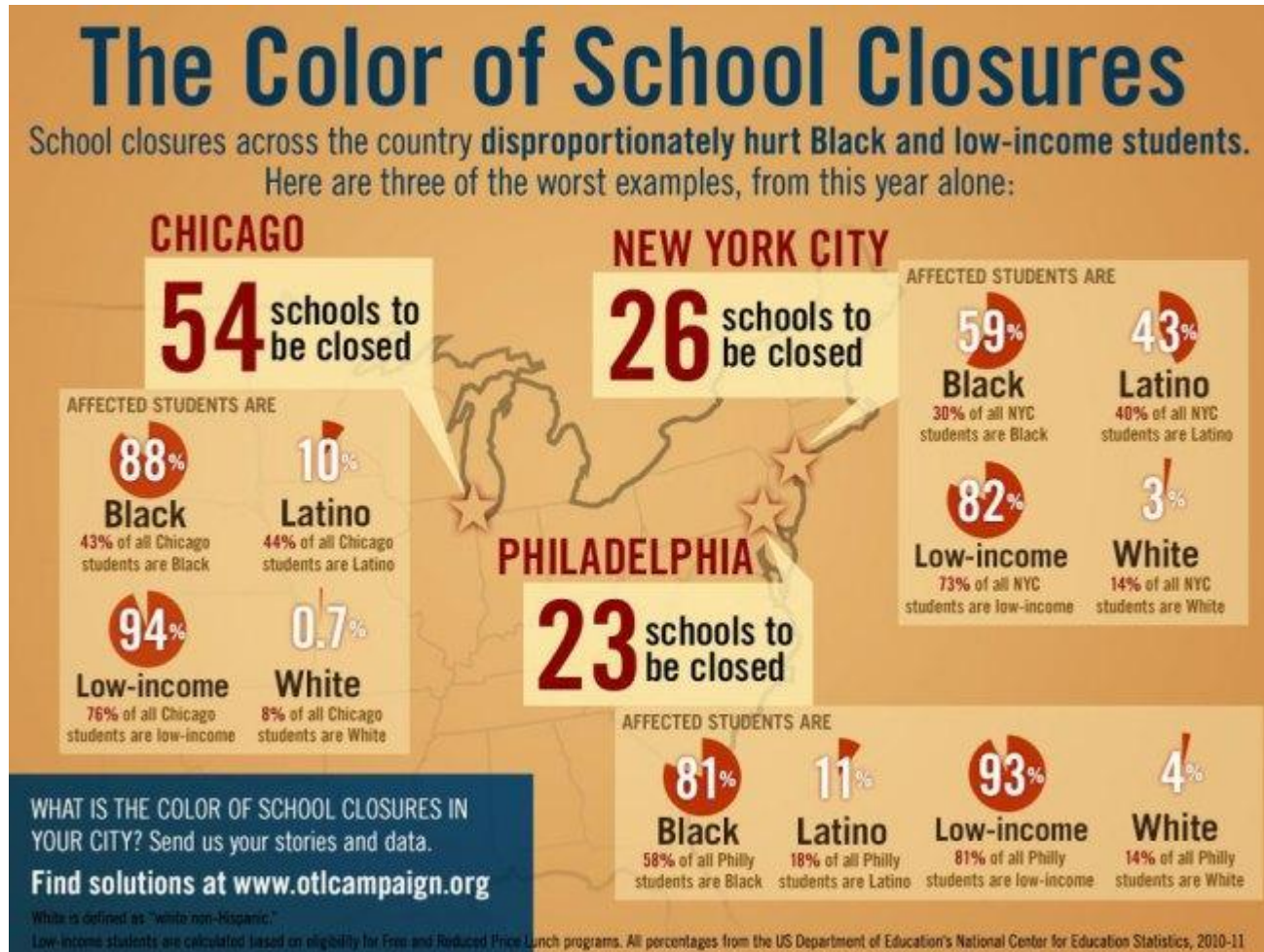
Planned School Closings – 3 schools each year over the next 5 years

Research for Action shows study - drawing funds from district schools to fund charter schools does have a negative economic effect for those students who remain at district schools.

Although many critics see the fair funding formula as a big improvement, it only applies to new money, so many districts still are not receiving the cash that the state says they are entitled to.

School Closure Inequities

Philly Public School Closure 2013-15

(2009-13 ACS Data; Map by Mowa Li)

★ Schools Represented in Voices of Our Public Schools
● 2013 School Closure
▲ 2015 School Closure

School-Age Children Under Poverty Percentage
- 0% - 10%
- 11% - 25%
- 26% - 41%
- 42% - 61%
- 62% - 100%
- No Children under 18

0 0.75 1.5   3 Miles

///// High School Graduation Rate <=76% (City Average)

The Color of School Closures

School closures across the country **disproportionately hurt Black and low-income students.**
Here are three of the worst examples, from this year alone:

CHICAGO

54 schools to be closed

AFFECTED STUDENTS ARE

88% Black
43% of all Chicago students are Black

10% Latino
44% of all Chicago students are Latino

94% Low-income
76% of all Chicago students are low-income

0.7% White
8% of all Chicago students are White

NEW YORK CITY

26 schools to be closed

AFFECTED STUDENTS ARE

59% Black
30% of all NYC students are Black

43% Latino
40% of all NYC students are Latino

82% Low-income
73% of all NYC students are low-income

3% White
14% of all NYC students are White

PHILADELPHIA

23 schools to be closed

AFFECTED STUDENTS ARE

81% Black
58% of all Philly students are Black

11% Latino
18% of all Philly students are Latino

93% Low-income
81% of all Philly students are low-income

4% White
14% of all Philly students are White

WHAT IS THE COLOR OF SCHOOL CLOSURES IN YOUR CITY? Send us your stories and data.
Find solutions at www.otlcampaign.org

White is defined as "white non-Hispanic."
Low-income students are calculated based on eligibility for Free and Reduced Price Lunch programs. All percentages from the US Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics, 2010-11
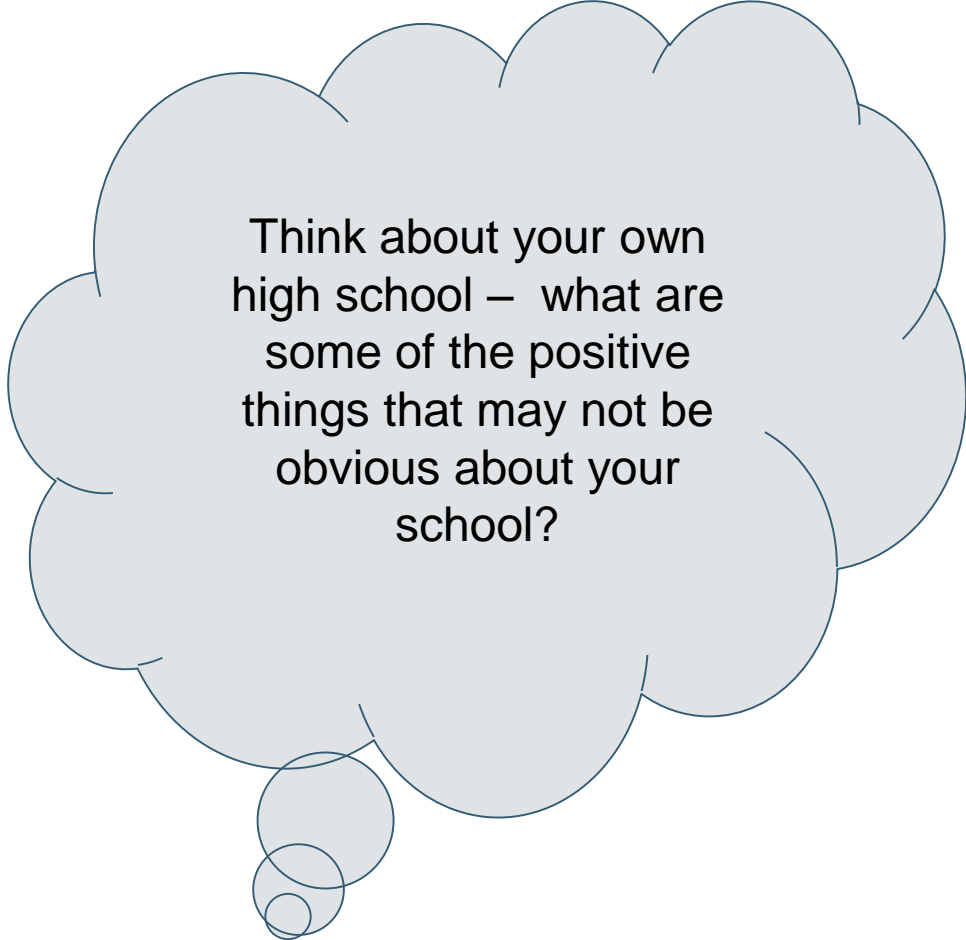
What can you do?

Avoid **deficit thinking**

An **asset approach** relies on a core belief that good things exist in communities and that those things can be highlighted and encouraged

- An asset mapping allows us to look at information about the strengths and resources of a community and can help uncover solutions.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z3mQeAhOcW8

Think about your own high school – what are some of the positive things that may not be obvious about your school?

Case Studies

In small groups read through a school-based case study

What are the strengths of this school community?

How can your university work to build off of these strengths to continue to partner in creating positive school communities?

What can you do?

Stay informed
- Follow #PHLed on Twitter
- Read the Philadelphia School Notebook

Support youth in their leadership and organizing
- Philadelphia Student Union, Youth United for Change

Attend and Participate
- TAG: Teacher Action Group
- Caucus of WE

PHENND GEAR UP Resource Page

What did you learn?

add to our chart!

SOURCES

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