

2023 DC Advisory Committee on Student Assignment

February 2024

Background Materials for
Draft Recommendation 20



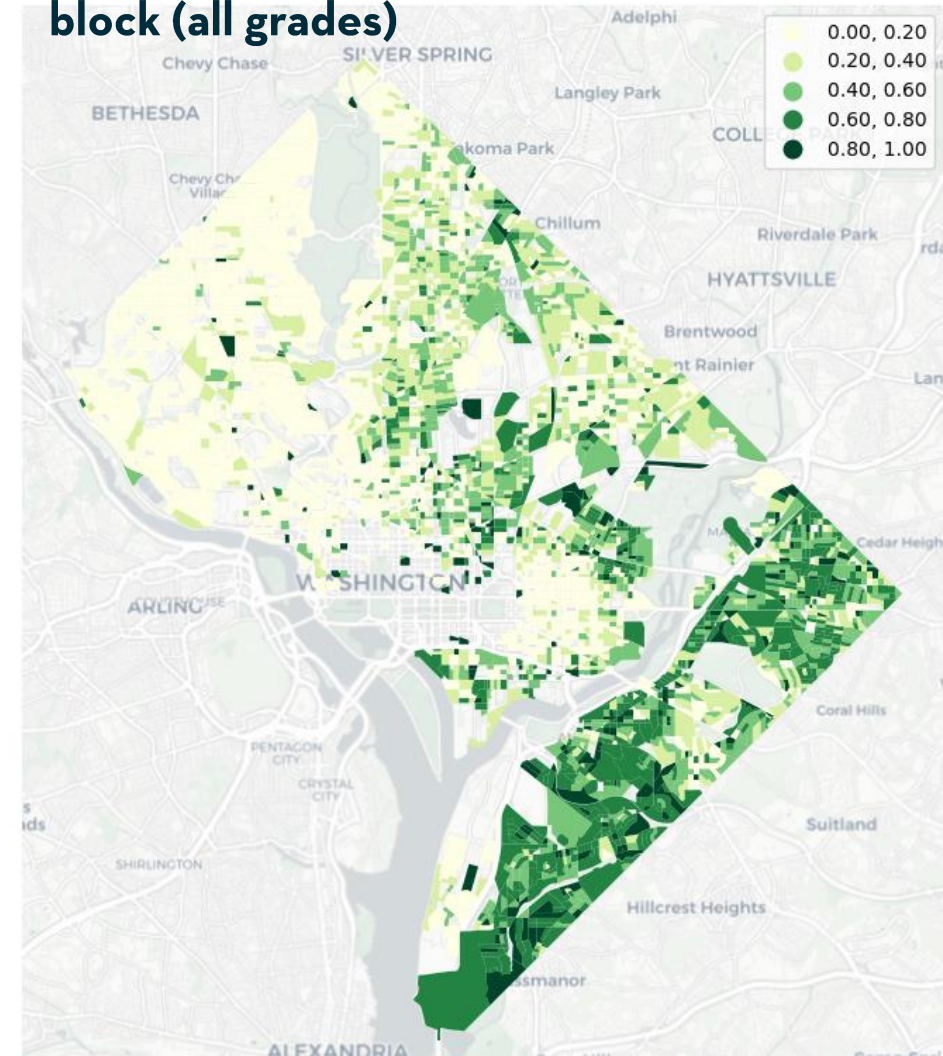
Values

- Foundational to this study is a strong system of by-right neighborhood DCPS schools
- Also foundational is the District's system of enrollment choice – that families can access schools that they think are the best fit for their children.
- We hold a shared value that students furthest from opportunity should not be shut out of options should they want to exercise them.

Distribution of at-risk students by planning block

- 52% of public school students are designated as at risk
- Approx. 46,000 students in grades PK3-12 are designated at-risk (SY22/23)
- More than half of students designated at-risk reside in Wards 7 and 8 (~26,400).
- More than 19,000 students designated as at-risk live in Wards 1-6.

Percent of at-risk students by planning block (all grades)



History of Washington, DC's steps toward more equitable access

Before 1954: residence and race criteria

- DCPS student assignment was based on residence and race.

After 1955: residence and out of boundary options for DCPS

- After removal of race in 1954 as official factor, DCPS student assignment was based on residence.
- DCPS also offered out-of-boundary placement and special-admissions schools and programs run separately by each DCPS school with considerable principal discretion.
- D.C. Board of Education moves to a centrally managed lottery system for DCPS in 2003.

1996: Public charter schools

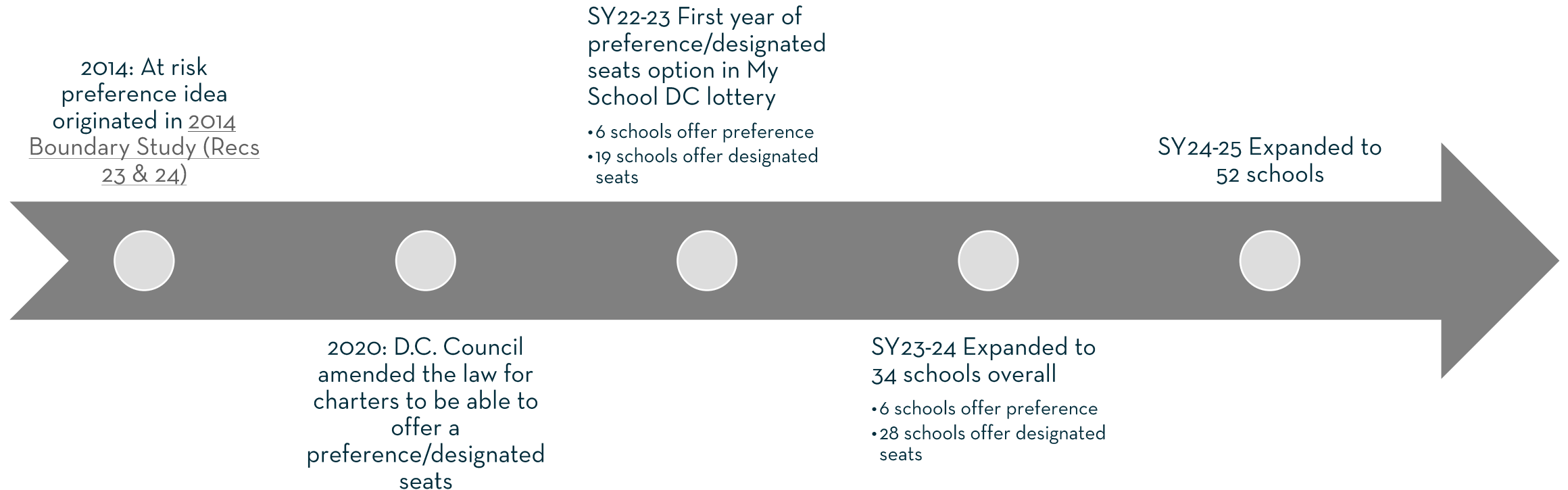
- Public charters ran separate lotteries with separate applications on separate timelines until 2012.
- Public charter schools voluntarily held their separate lotteries on the same date in 2013.

2014-15 onward: Launch of common lottery (My School DC)

- One shared application for DCPS and public charter schools on the same timeline with a unified waitlist that does not allow families to hold multiple seats.

Equitable Access Lottery Set Aside: History

- Where did this come from?



Family choices today

Enrollment Choice Exercised Today

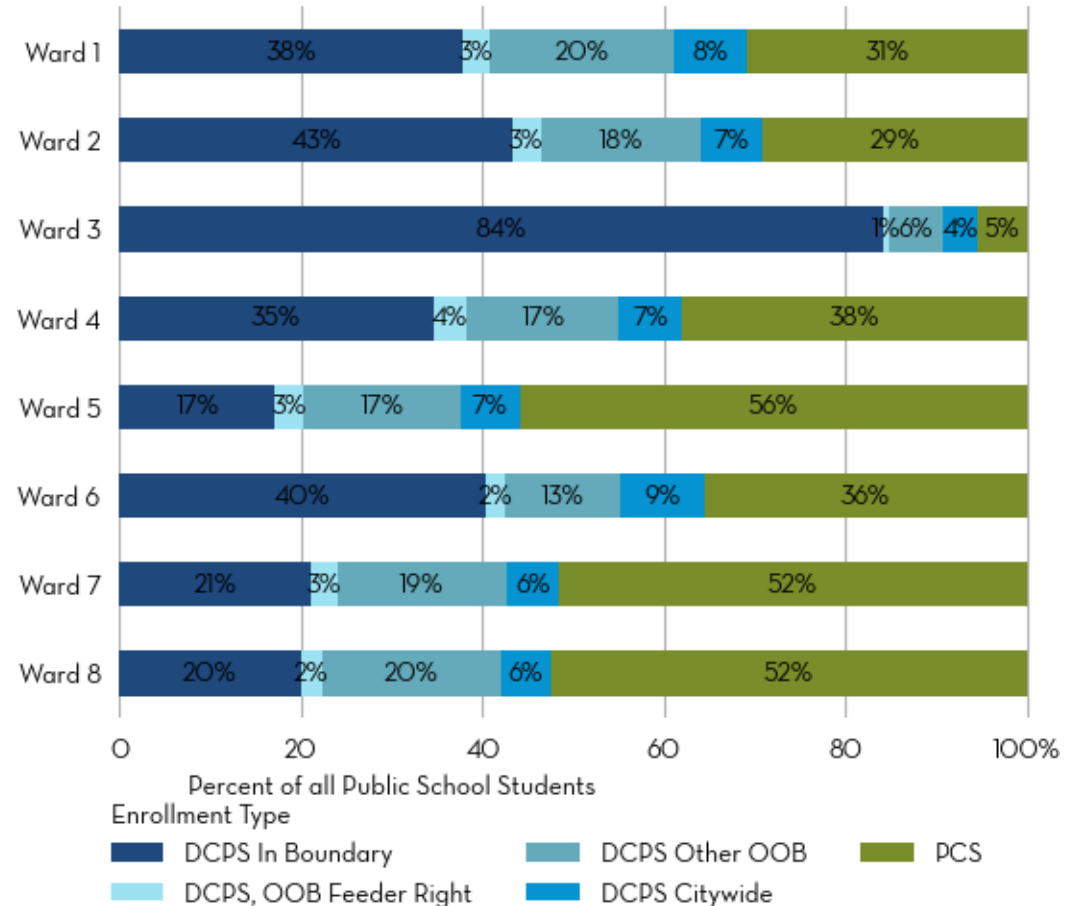
26% of all public school students attend their in boundary school

By ward

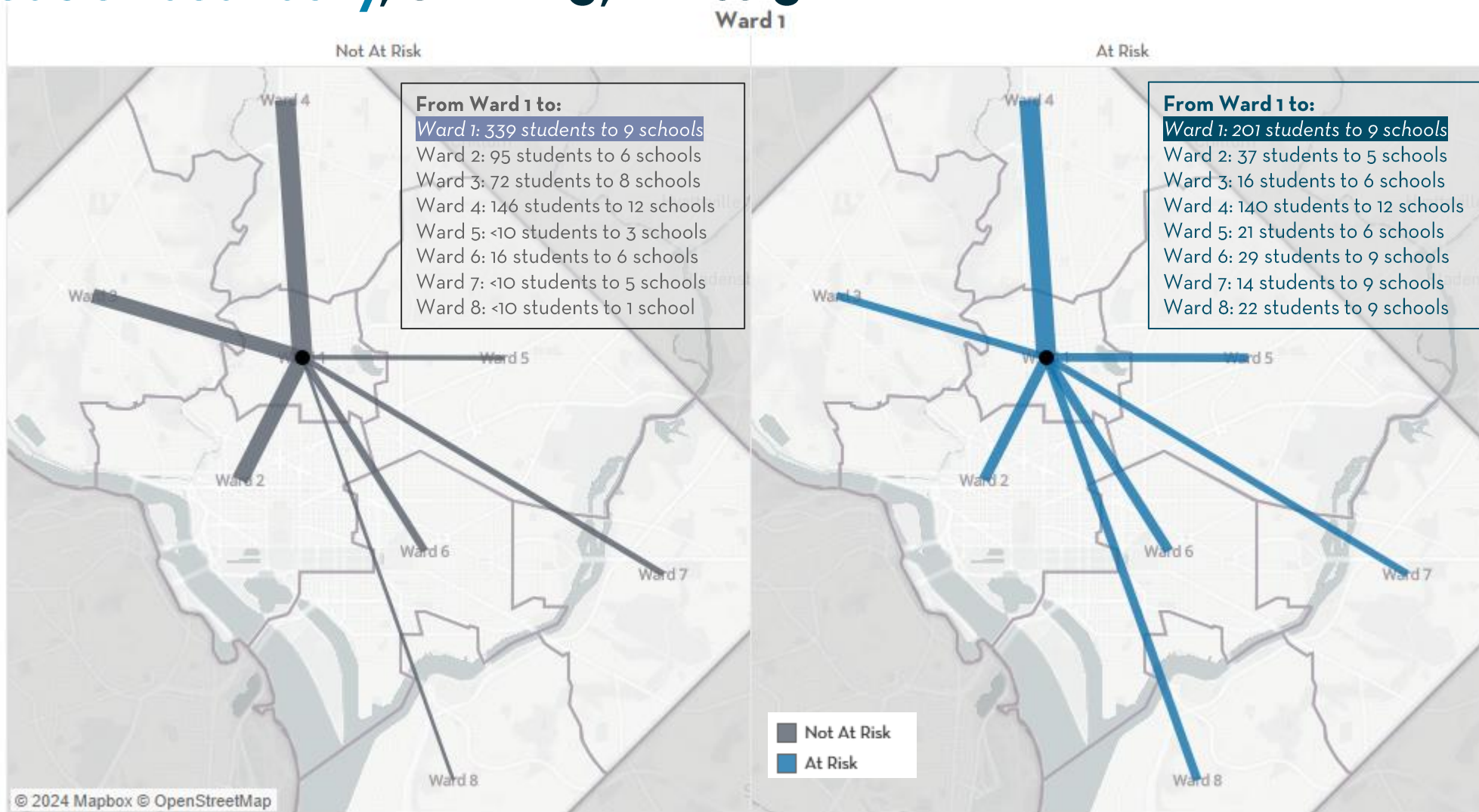
- 21% of Ward 7 families and 20% of Ward 8 students enroll in their in boundary school
- 84% of Ward 3 students do the same

While there is a lot of choice – does not necessary mean students are leaving their ward

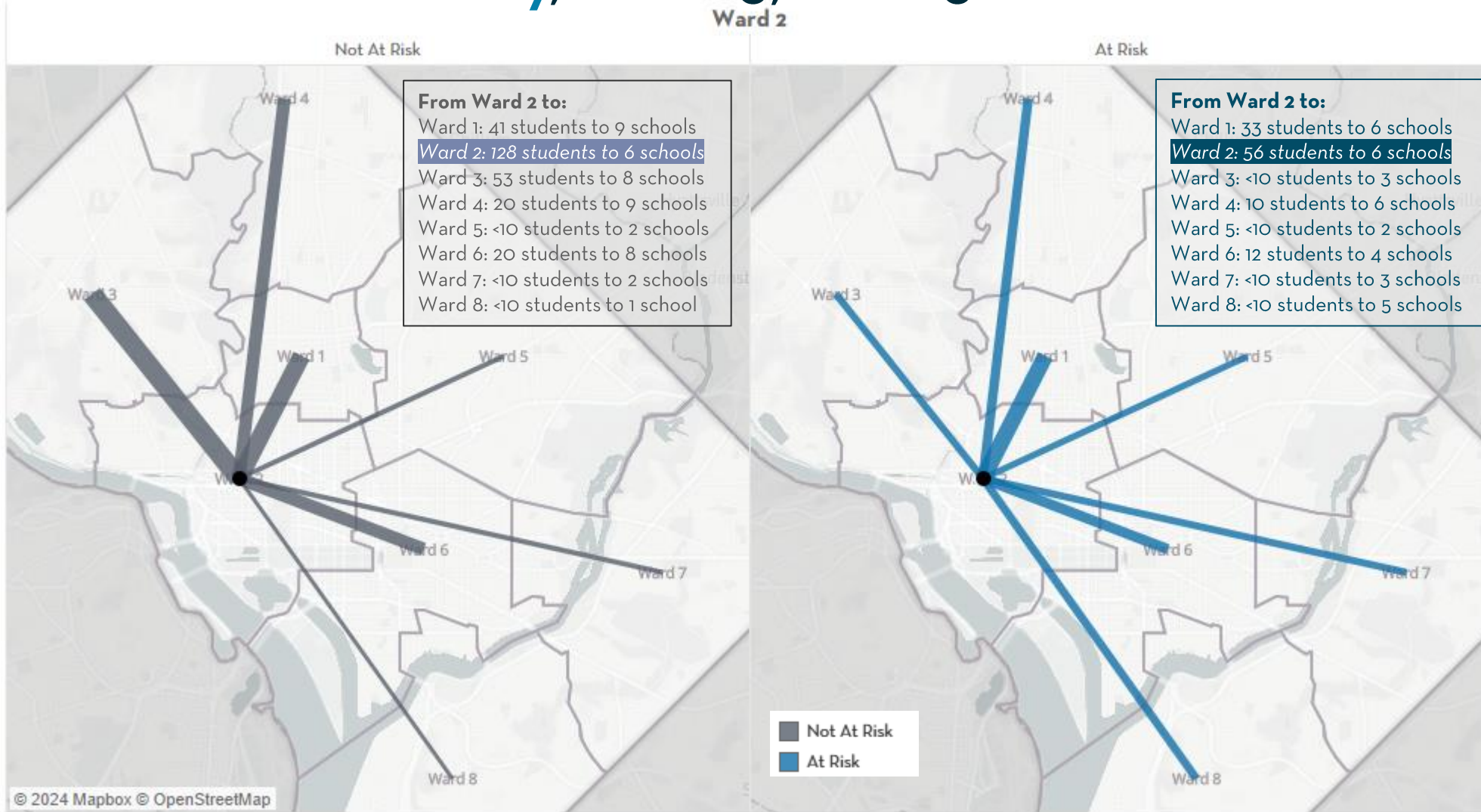
Enrollment Type by Student Ward, SY22/23
Grades PreK-12



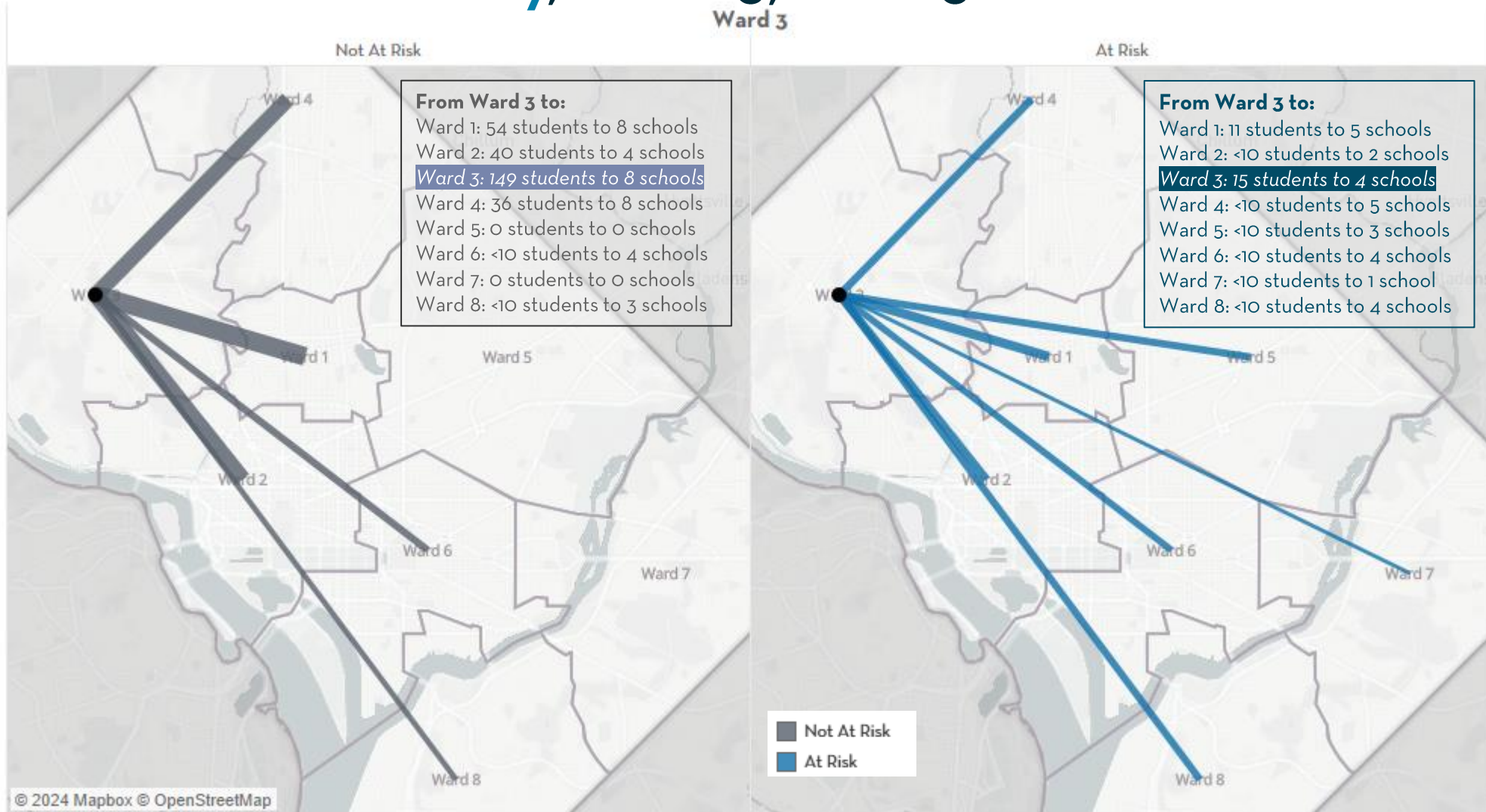
Commute Patterns: Ward 1 students attending a DCPS school out of boundary, SY22-23, PK to 5



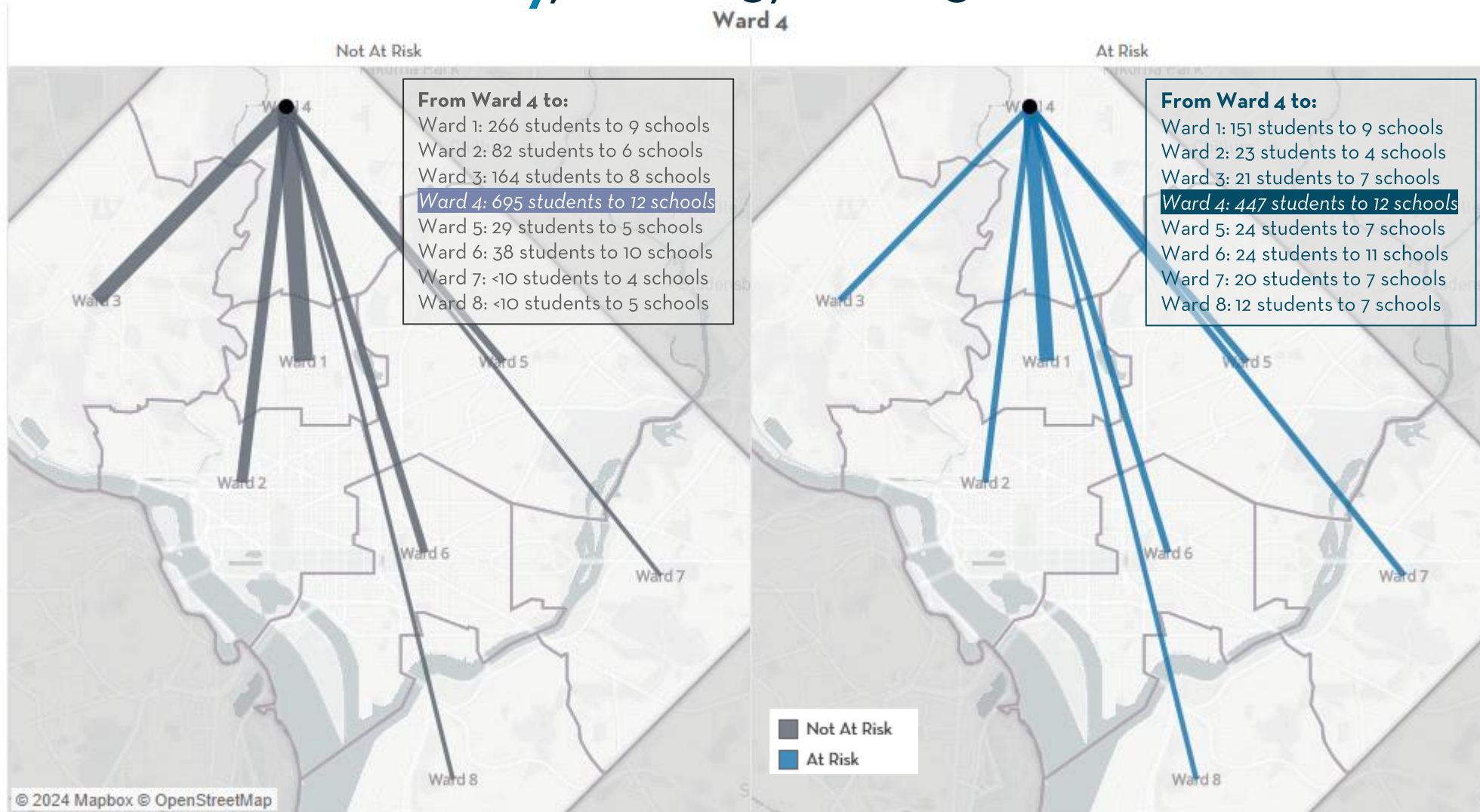
Commute Patterns: Ward 2 students attending a DCPS school out of boundary, SY22-23, PK to 5



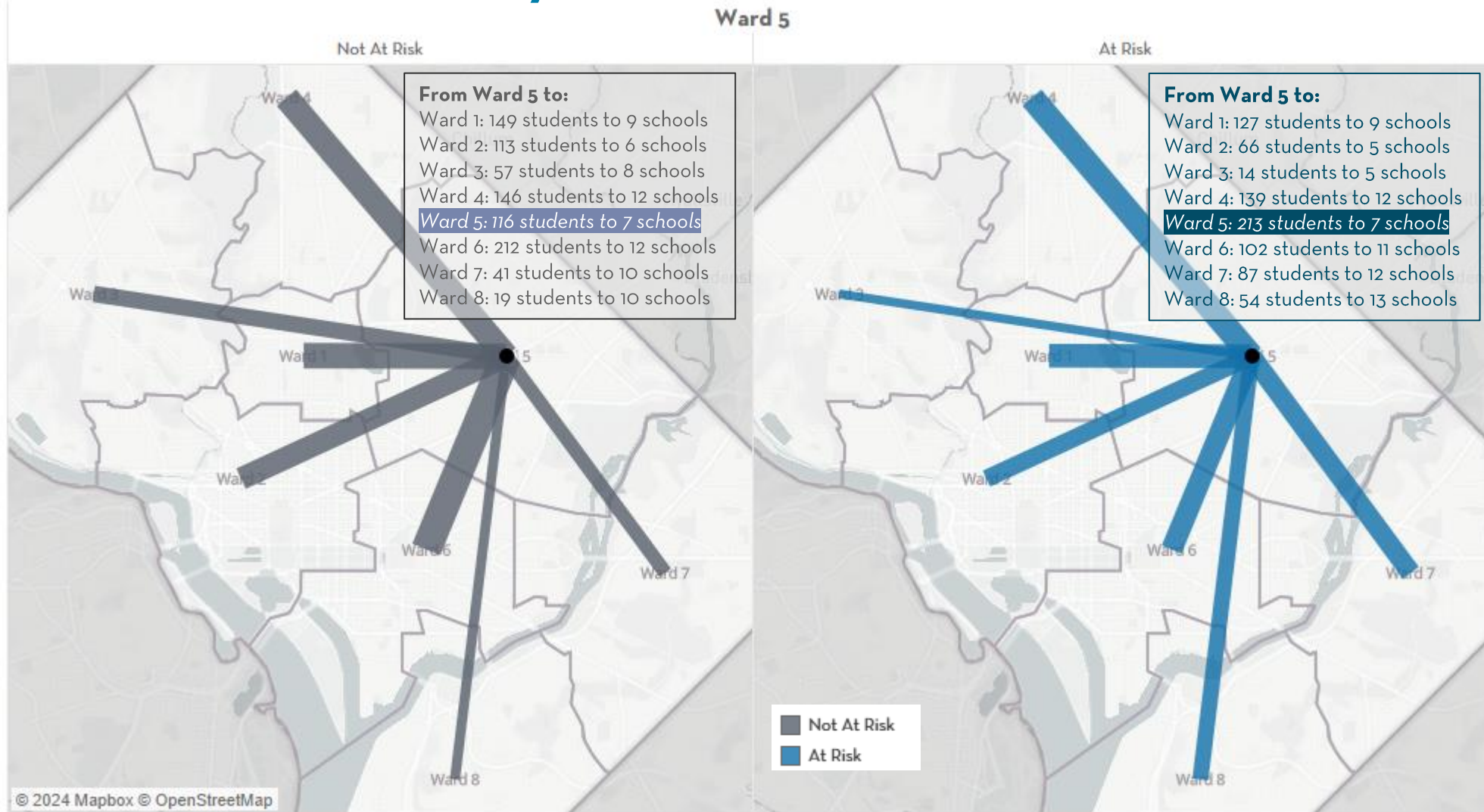
Commute Patterns: Ward 3 students attending a DCPS school out of boundary, SY22-23, PK to 5



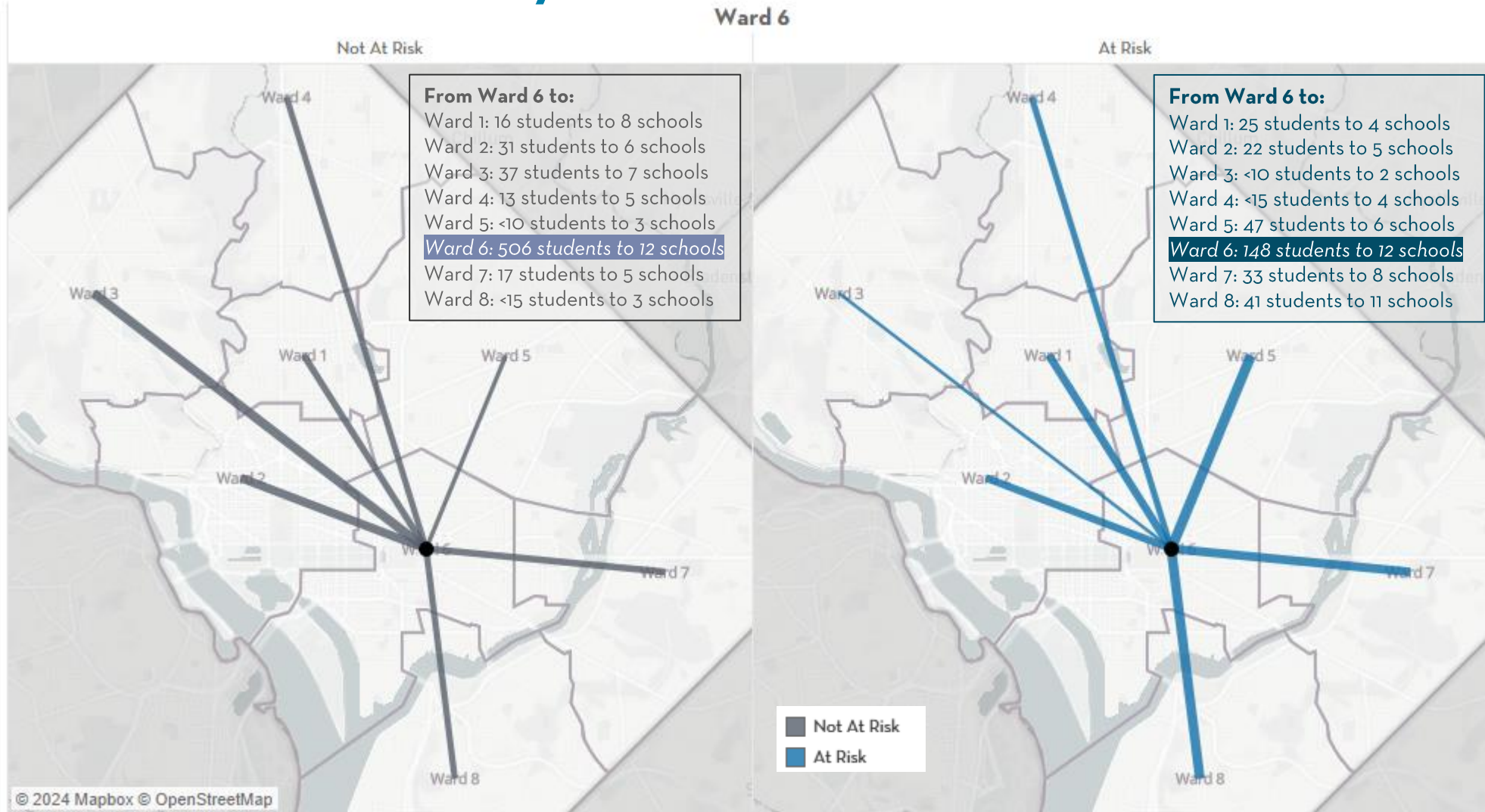
Commute Patterns: Ward 4 students attending a DCPS school out of boundary, SY22-23, PK to 5



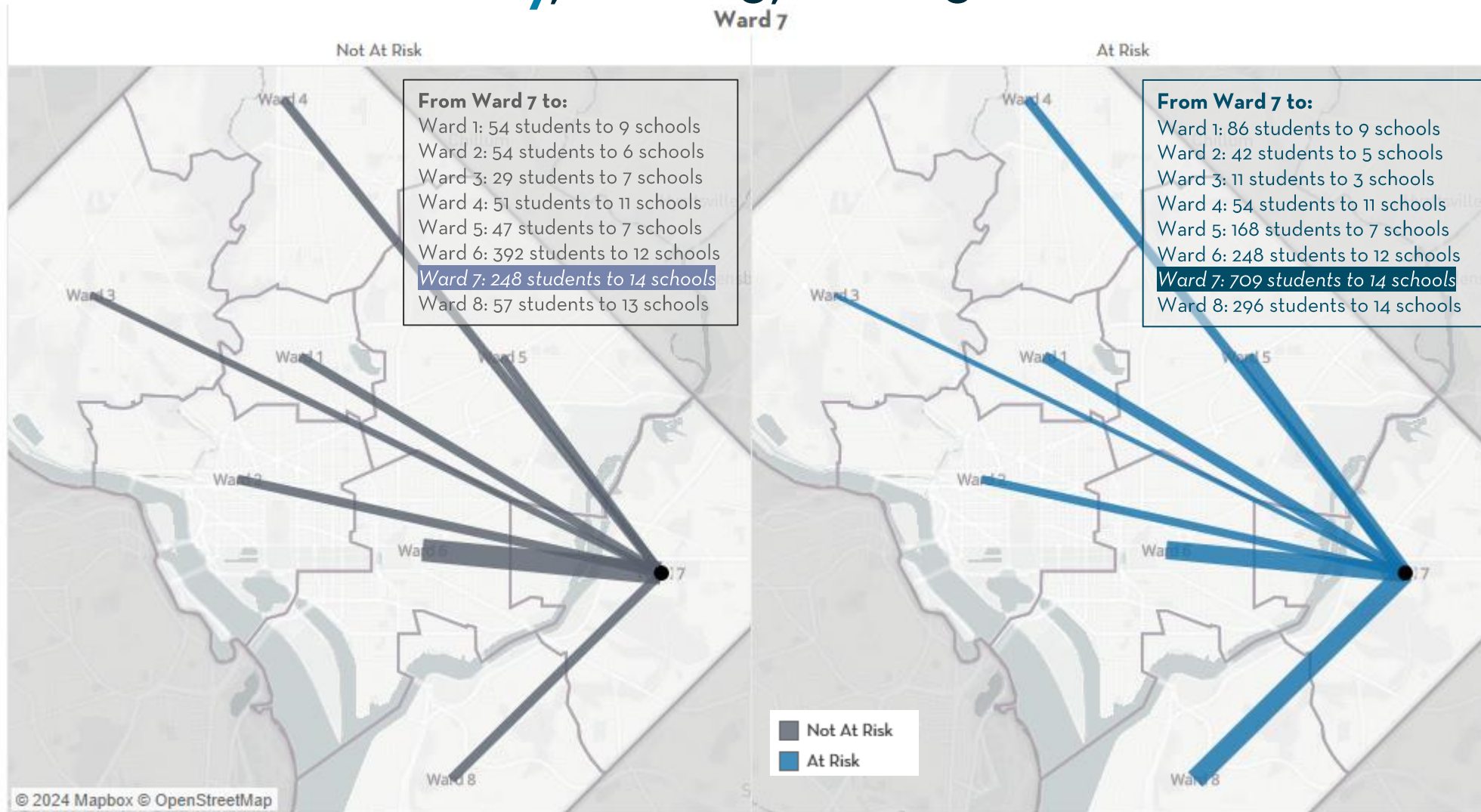
Commute Patterns: Ward 5 students attending a DCPS school out of boundary, SY22-23, PK to 5



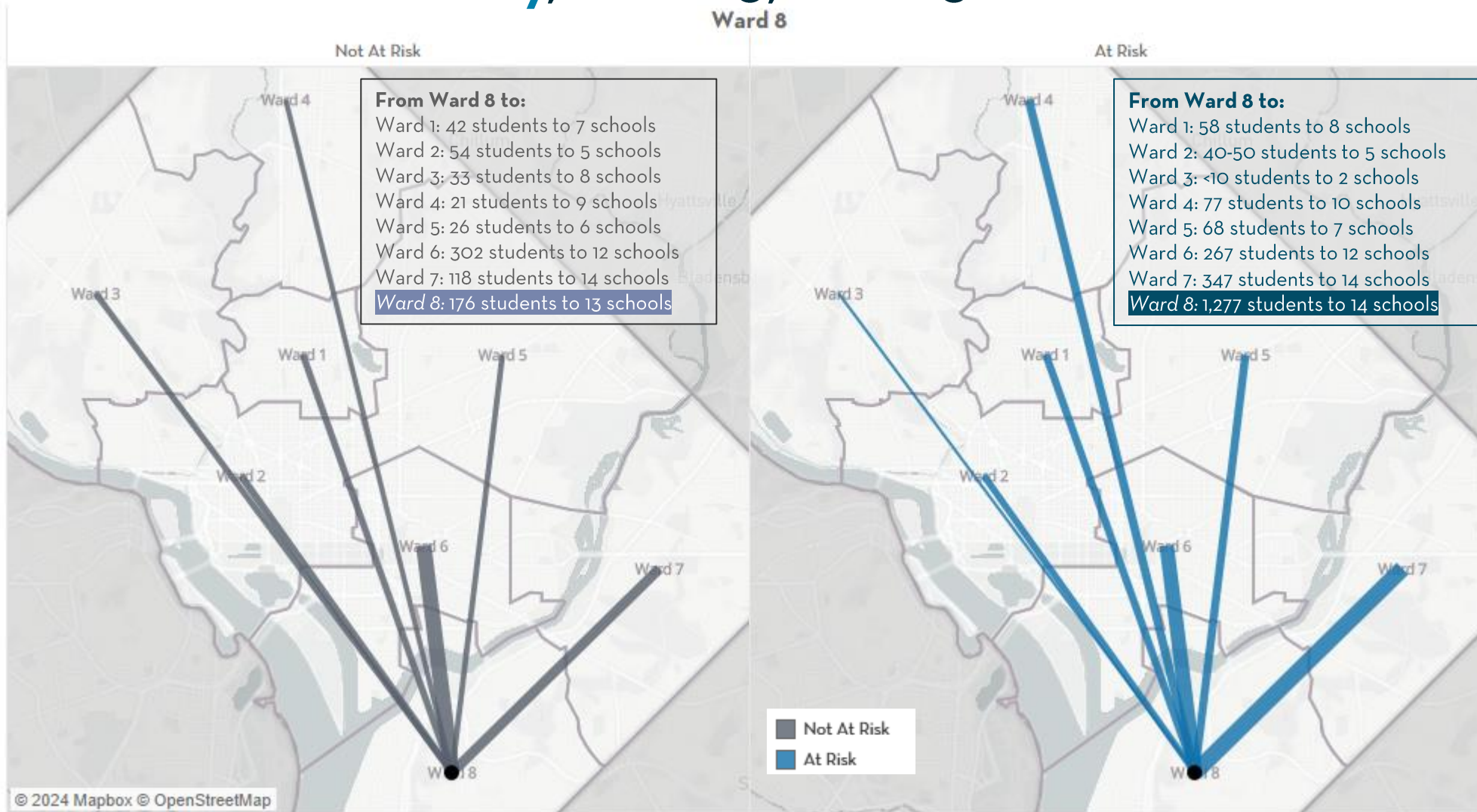
Commute Patterns: Ward 6 students attending a DCPS school out of boundary, SY22-23, PK to 5



Commute Patterns: Ward 7 students attending a DCPS school out of boundary, SY22-23, PK to 5



Commute Patterns: Ward 8 students attending a DCPS school out of boundary, SY22-23, PK to 5



Lottery information

Lottery applications by at-risk students

- 33,525 applicants submitted a common application in the SY22-23 lottery.
- Of those, 47% were at-risk and 50% were not at-risk.
- At-risk applicants were more likely to apply after the deadline.
 - For SY21-22, 44% of at-risk applicants submitted their application before the deadline compared to 67% of not at-risk applicants.

Holding open seats via at risk set asides can be a big deal in terms of timing.

Source: <https://www.dcpolicycenter.org/publications/first-year-of-equitable-access-dc/>

Schools offering Equitable Access lottery preference/set aside - summary table

School Type	SY22-23		SY23-24		SY24-25		<30%
	DS	Pref	DS	Pref	DS Pref		
DCPS Neighborhood	73 (5)	-	83 (6)	-	10 sch	11 sch	3
DCPS Citywide	62 (4)	-	89 (6)	-	6 sch	-	3
Public charter	159 (10)	6 sch	304 (16)	6 sch	20 sch	5 sch	14

The number of designated seats offered over time has been increasing.

Currently 16 schools offer equitable access set-aside seats that have <30% at risk enrollment and an additional 4 schools offer the preference.

Funding

At-Risk UPSFF weight works

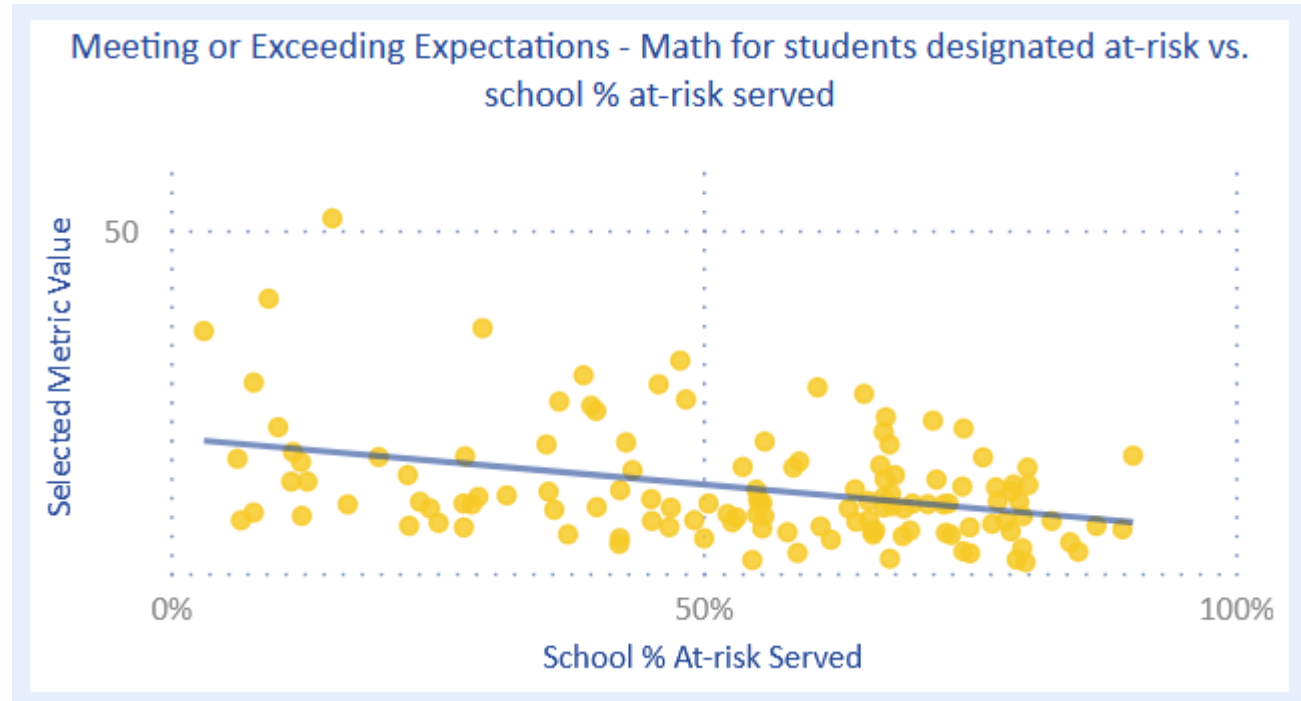
- At risk funding started in FY15.
- For school year 23-24 schools with students meeting the criteria receive 24% more or an additional \$3,131 in per-student funding.
- There are additional local funding weights for schools with concentrated shares of at-risk students.
 - 40%+ receive 7% more (\$913)
 - 70%+ receive additional 7% more (\$913)

Federal Title I funding works

- A DCPS school is eligible to become a Title I schoolwide program if the poverty rate is 35% or more.
- Students count towards the 35% if they are homeless, in foster care, or their family receives SNAP or TANF (not one year overage at HS).

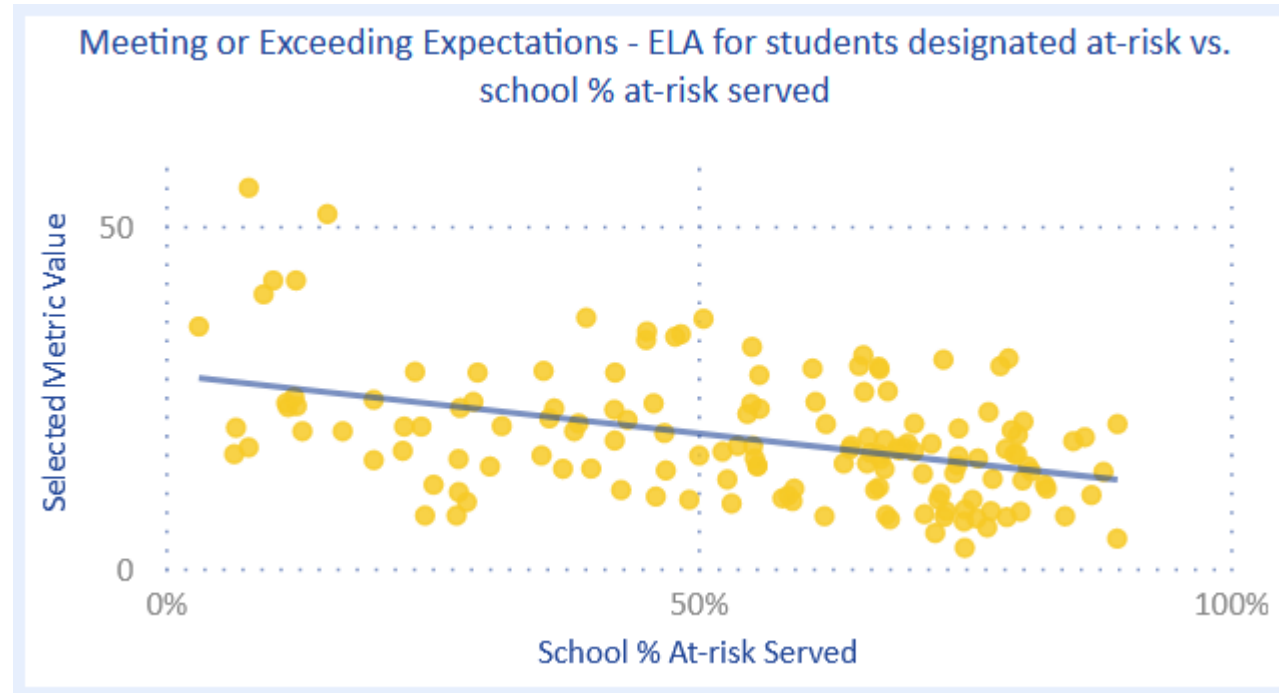
How well are at risk students served?

Math meeting or exceeding expectations for at-risk students by share of school (SY22-23)



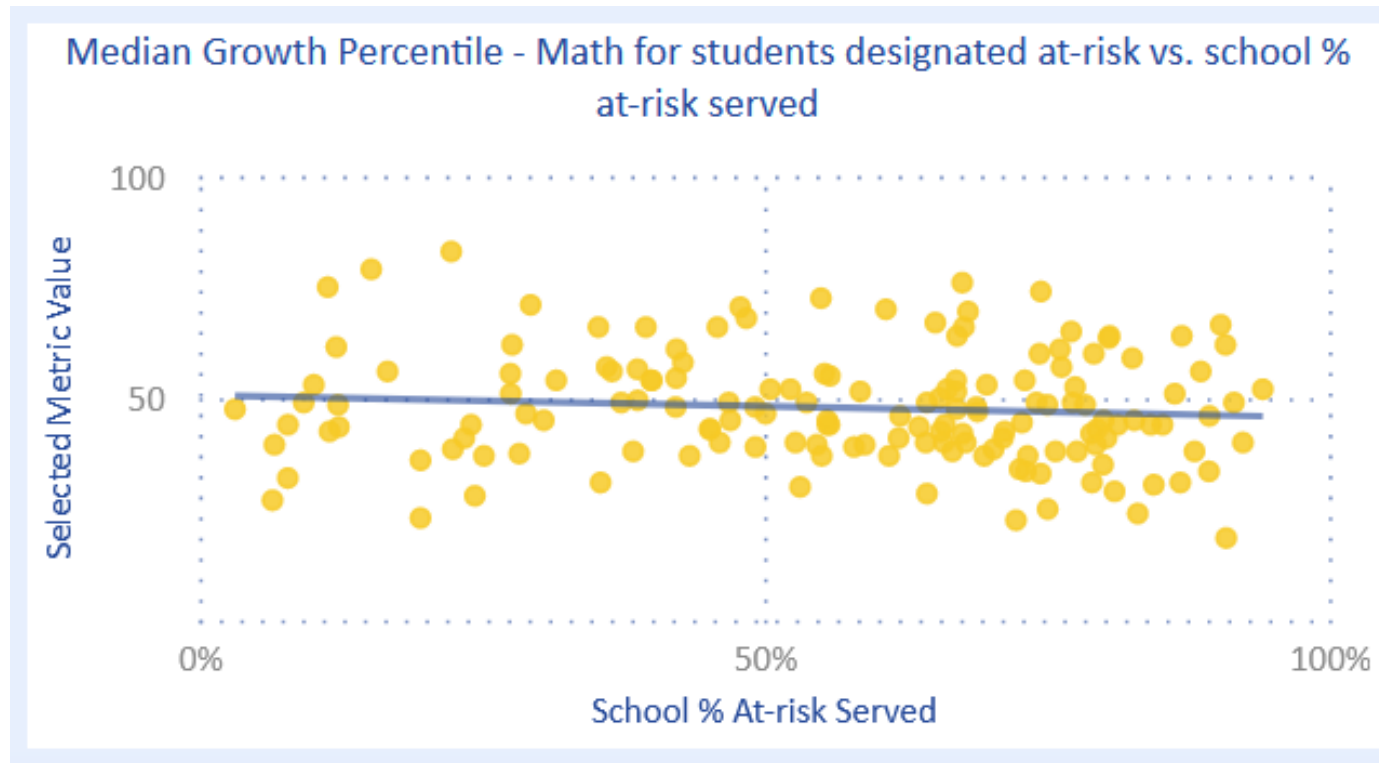
Source: <https://www.empowerk12.org/data-dashboard-source/dc-metrics-dash>

ELA meeting or exceeding expectations for at-risk students by share of school (SY22-23)



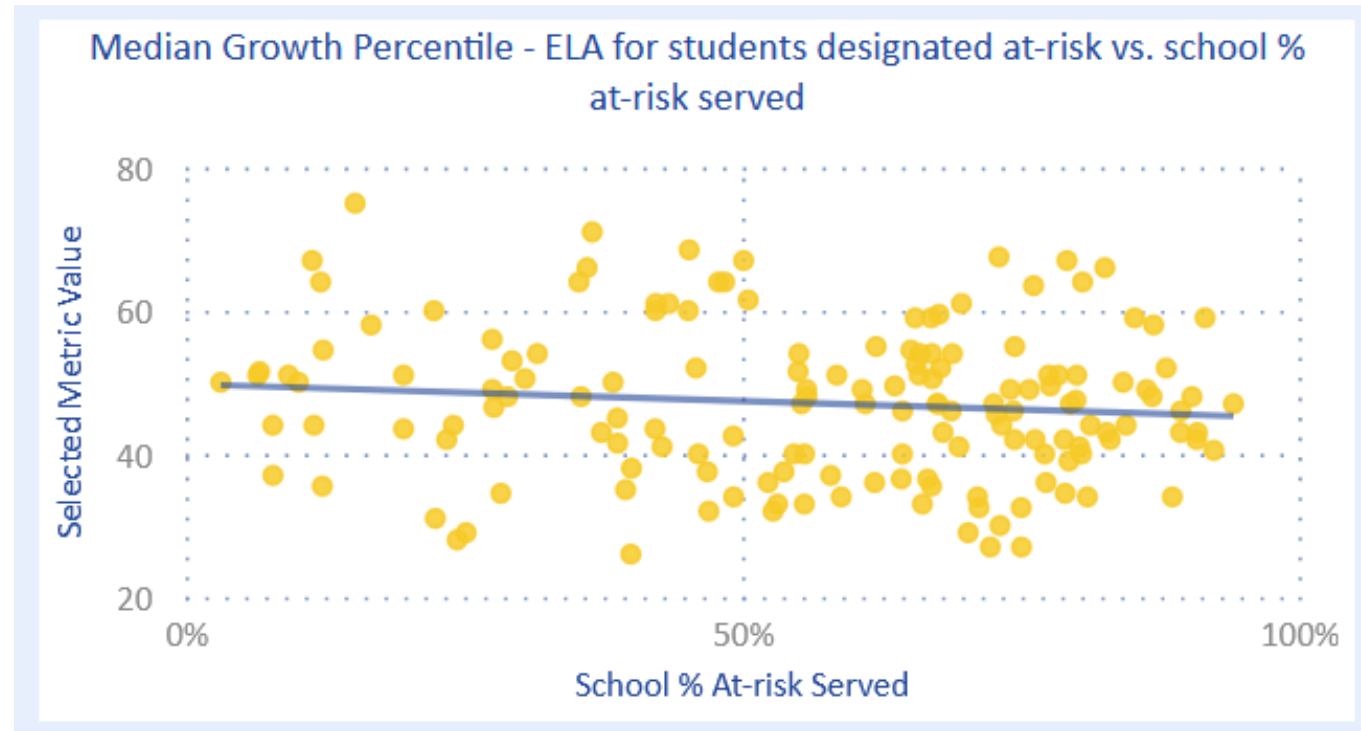
Source: <https://www.empowerk12.org/data-dashboard-source/dc-metrics-dash>

Math median growth percentile (MGP) for at-risk students by share of school (SY22-23)



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ELA median growth percentile (MGP) for at-risk students by share of school (SY22-23)



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