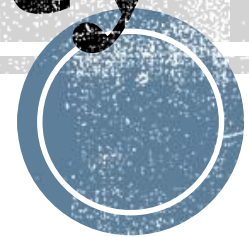


Panel Discussion and Speak-Out on School Accessibility

Sponsored by Parents for Inclusive Education and
The ARISE Coalition

June 15, 2018





Parents for Inclusive Education

PIE is a parent-led group of educational reformers that works to ensure that all students with disabilities in the NYC public schools have access to meaningful inclusive educational and community opportunities. PIE advocates in various forums to increase inclusive opportunities for students. We also provide members with education, information, and support to families struggling with the challenges of including their children with disabilities in school communities. PIE sponsors City-wide events throughout the school year to promote our agenda of inclusion.



The ARISE Coalition

A coalition of parents, educators and other supporters of students with special needs seeking to improve day-to-day experiences and long-term outcomes and options for all students.

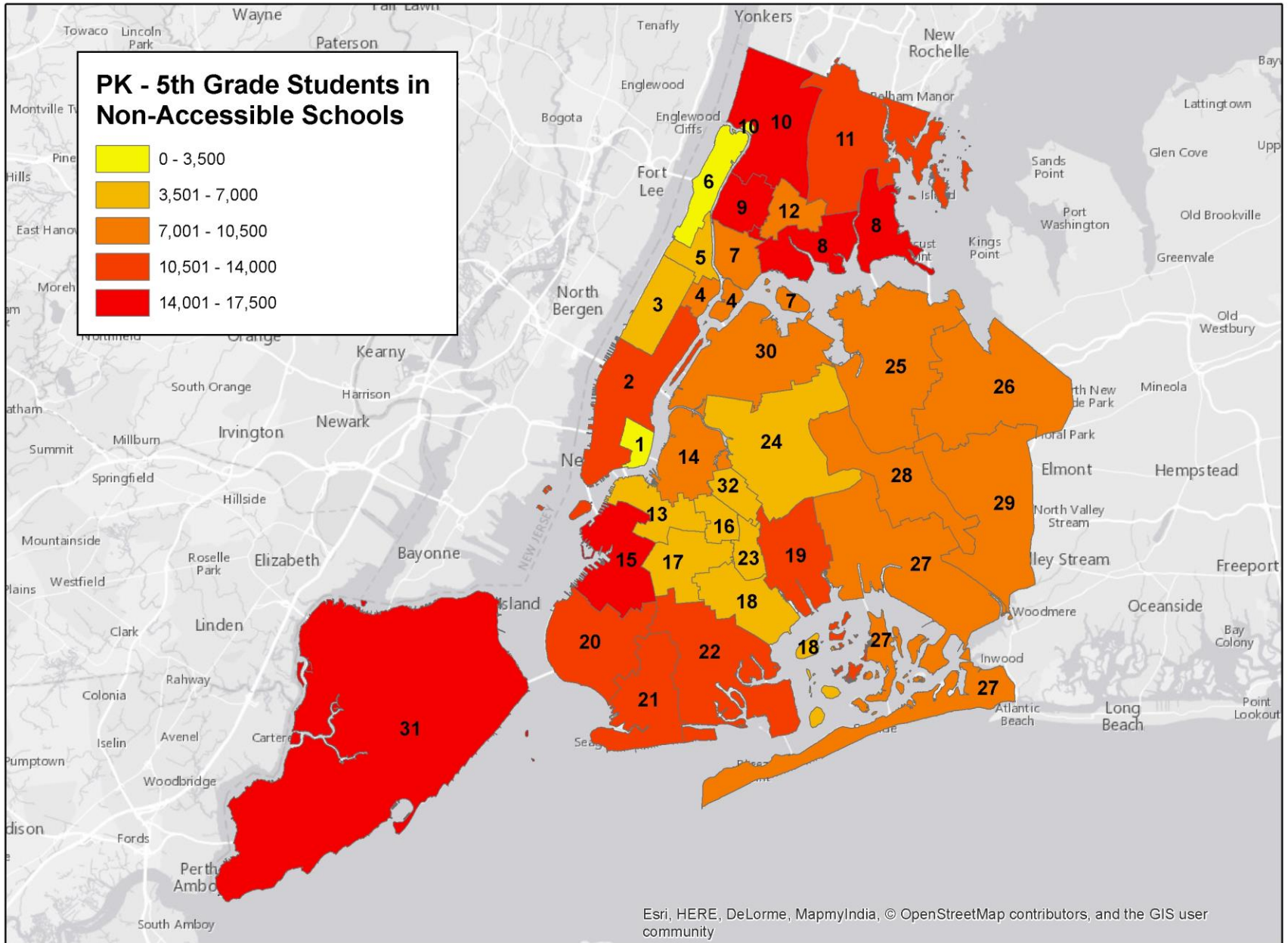
www.arisecoalition.org

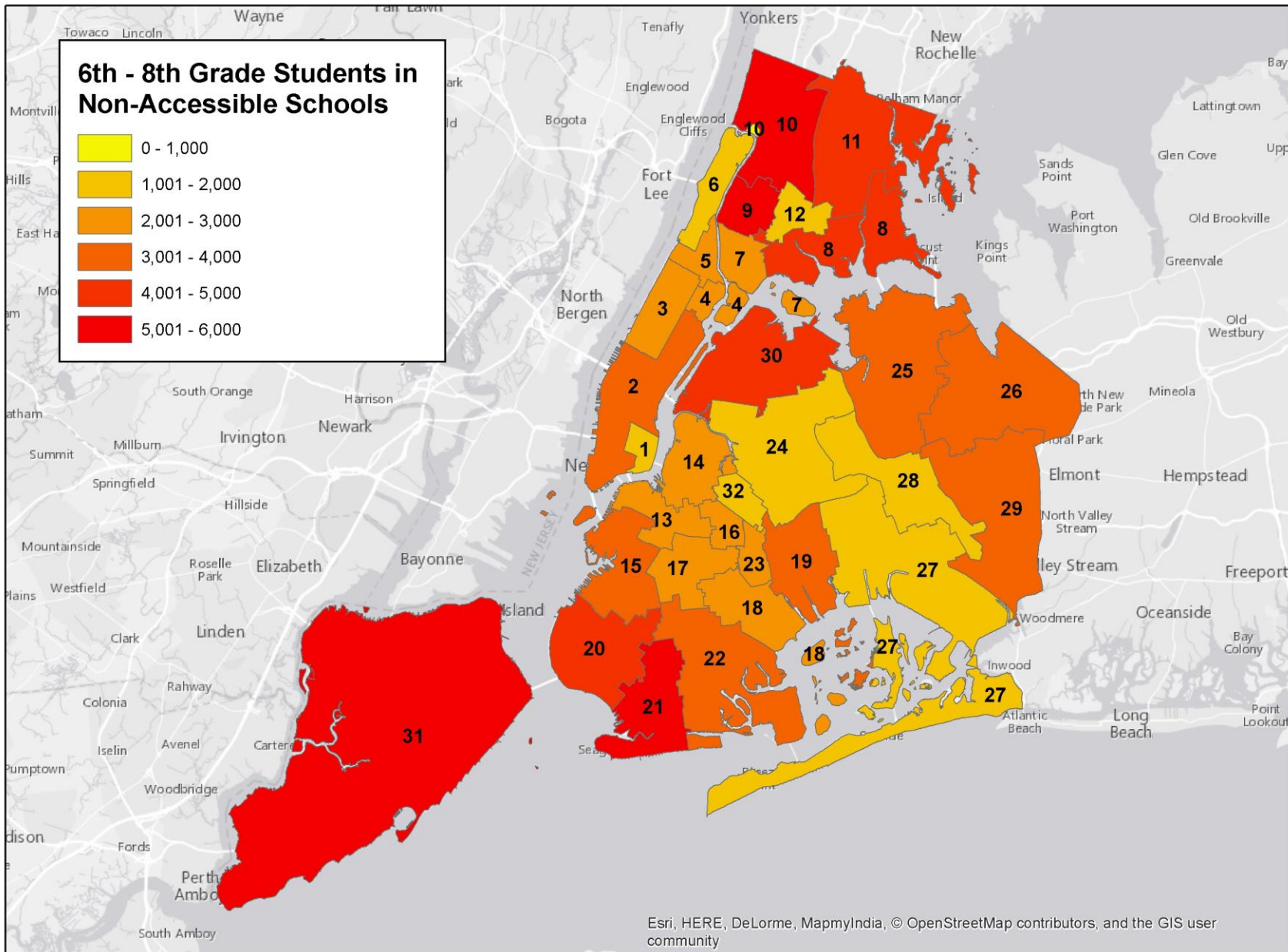


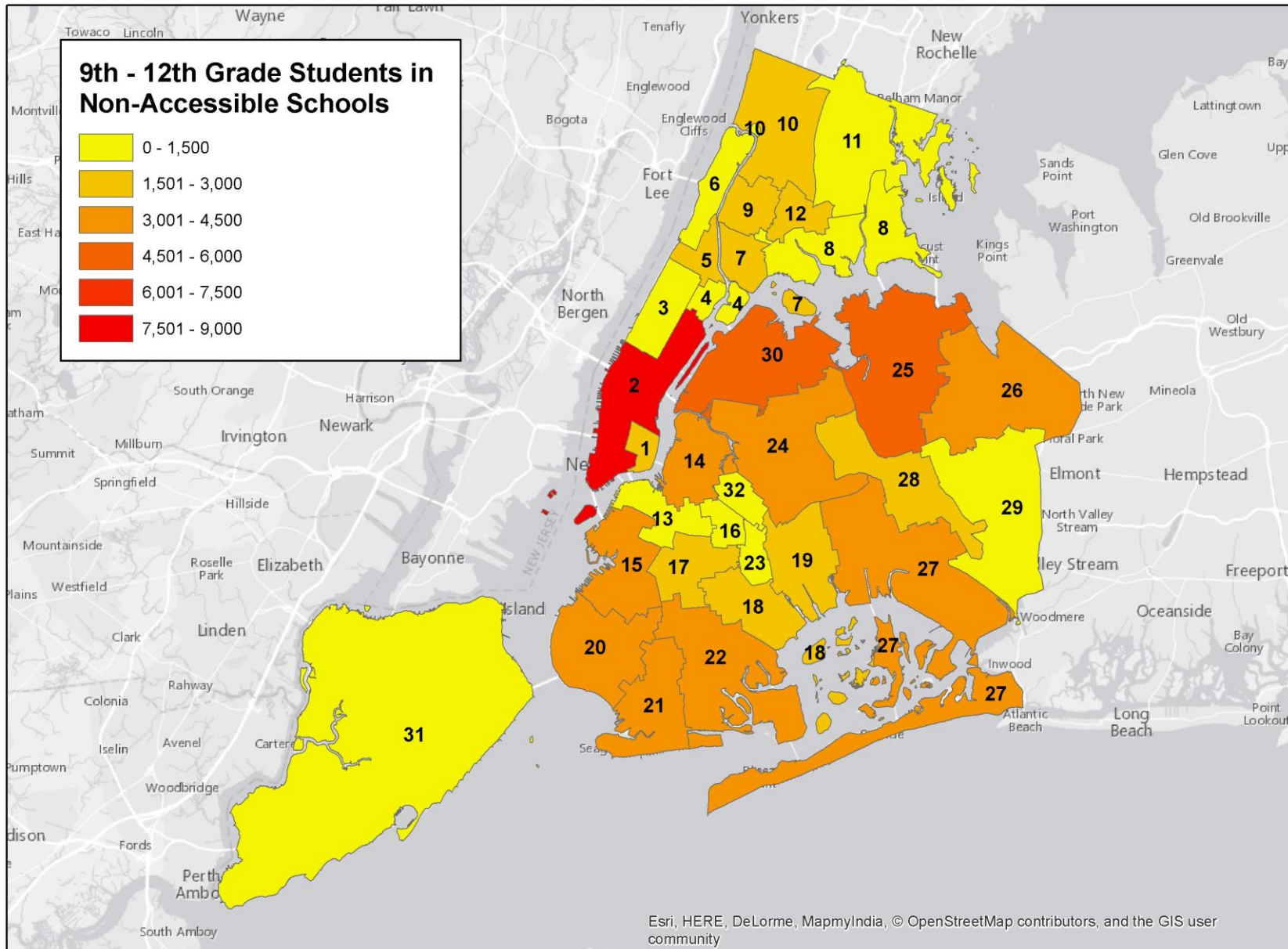
ACCESSIBILITY BY THE NUMBERS

The following maps were created using information from the DOE's Accessible Schools Lists available on their website at <http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/OSP/Accessibility.htm>. For purposes of these maps, we have assumed that all schools missing from those lists are schools that are not accessible.









Know Your Rights



Students, parents and school staff who need accessible school sites have a right to access schools that can meet their mobility, vision and hearing needs.



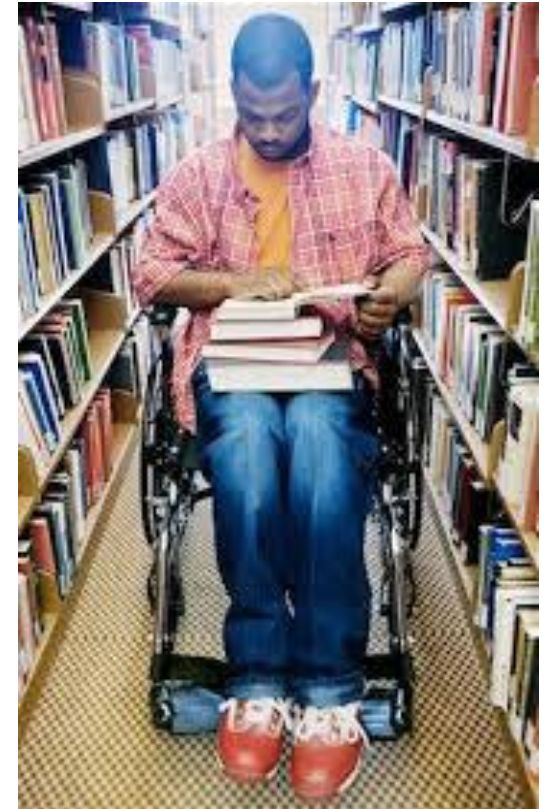
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The ADA is an anti-discrimination statute. It protects the rights of all people with disabilities to receive services, and participate in programs, and activities at public sites, including school buildings.



Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

504 is another anti-discrimination act. It requires that people with disabilities must be included at any program or activity that gets funding from the Federal government.



The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

The IDEA addresses the rights of students who have disabilities that affect their ability to learn and requires school districts to create and implement an Individualized Education Program (“IEP”) that will allow students to make progress and be challenged in the least restrictive environment.



Finding Accessible Schools

- In NYC, some public schools are fully accessible - meaning that students can use all parts of the building.
- Others are “partially” or “functionally accessible” - meaning that key parts of the building are accessible and meet federal legal standards, but not all parts.
- To figure out if a particular school is fully, partially or not at all accessible, take a look at the Department of Education’s (DOE’s) website at <http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/OSP/Accessibility.htm>.



Finding Accessible Schools

The best way to find out if a school really meets your needs or your student's needs is to visit that school.



Requesting Help From the DOE

If you need help accessing a school or part of a school, you can:

- Find your Family Welcome Center online or by calling 311 and request a new placement as a reasonable accommodation or medical transfer, or
- Request a reasonable accommodation in making a portion of the school building accessible by reaching out to accessibility@schools.nyc.gov.

