

## Introduction

In July 2018, Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) and Sage Policy Groups, Inc. (Sage) invited stakeholders to attend Public Information Sessions and participate in an online survey to gather feedback on potential options and strategies for addressing growing enrollment at high schools in Baltimore County as part of a systemwide high school capacity study. This document supplies information gleaned through the online survey.

## Background

The online survey was first made available to families, students, residents, teachers, administrators and other stakeholders at the public information sessions held at Catonsville High School, G.W. Carver Center for Arts and Technology and Dundalk High School in July 2018. At these sessions, attendees had the opportunity to provide feedback on seven potential options for addressing the system's current and prospective high school seat needs. They were also provided with computers on which to respond to the online survey. Stakeholders in other contexts had opportunities to respond to the survey through July 29, 2018, including online at their residence, place of work, or elsewhere

## Results

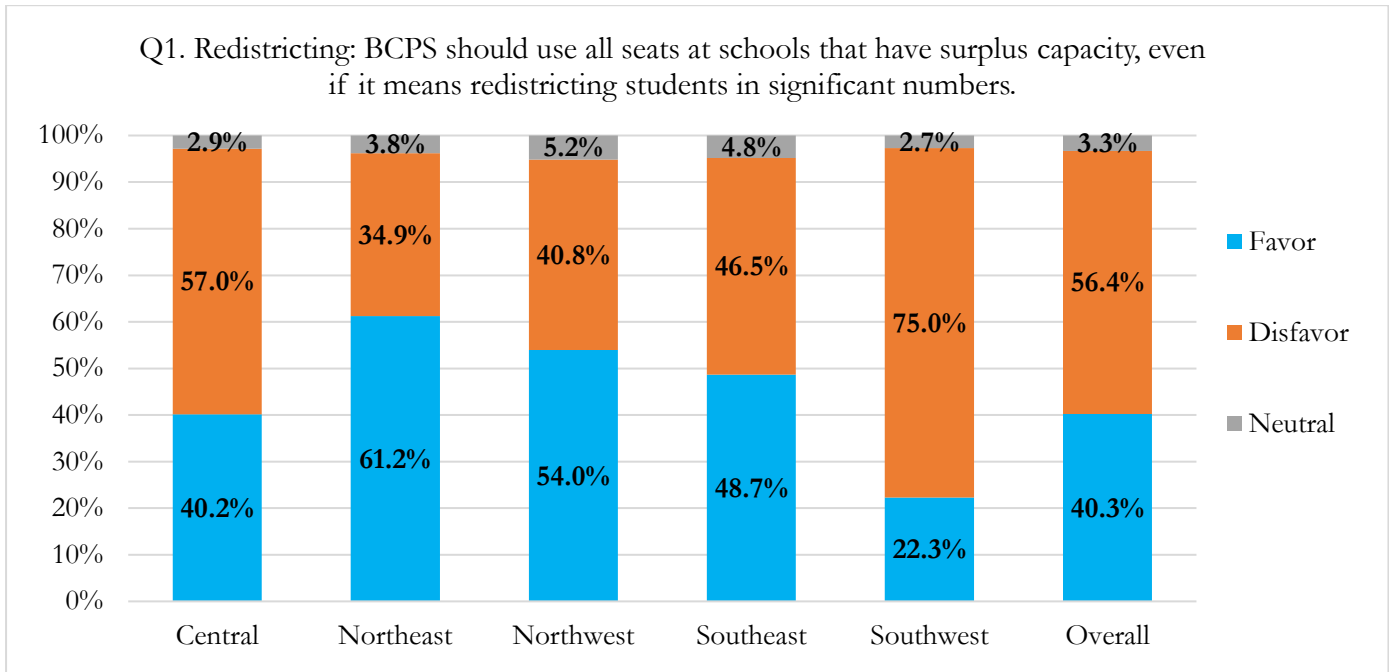
The exhibit below provides summary detail regarding the volume of survey responses. In total, approximately 3,350 people responded to the survey. The exhibit also supplies a breakdown of response totals by BCPS Planning Regions. Among respondents, a plurality (26.8%) identified themselves as parents or relatives of a BCPS student, followed closely neighborhood residents (25.4%).

Region	Responses	% of Total
Central	1,068	31.9%
Northeast	721	21.5%
Northwest	231	6.9%
Southeast	197	5.9%
Southwest	1,123	33.5%
Other	12	0.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,352</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Relationship w/ BCPS	Responses	% of Total
Current student	267	4.8%
Parent/relative	1,495	26.8%
Relative prospective	1,037	18.6%
Alumni	416	7.4%
Live neighborhood	1,420	25.4%
Volunteer	180	3.2%
Interested	486	8.7%
Other	285	5.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,586</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Question 1: Should BCPS use all seats at schools that have surplus capacity, even if it means redistricting students in significant numbers?**

The majority of survey respondents (56.4%) were not in favor of utilizing all available seats to deal with capacity issues if it would result in redistricting students in substantial numbers. This was especially true in the Central (57.0%) and Southwest (75.0%) regions. By contrast, stakeholders from the Northeast (61.2%) and Northwest (54.0%) regions demonstrated greater support for widespread redistricting. Stakeholders from the Southeast region were most evenly divided, with 46.5% in favor of using all seats, with 48.7% opposed.

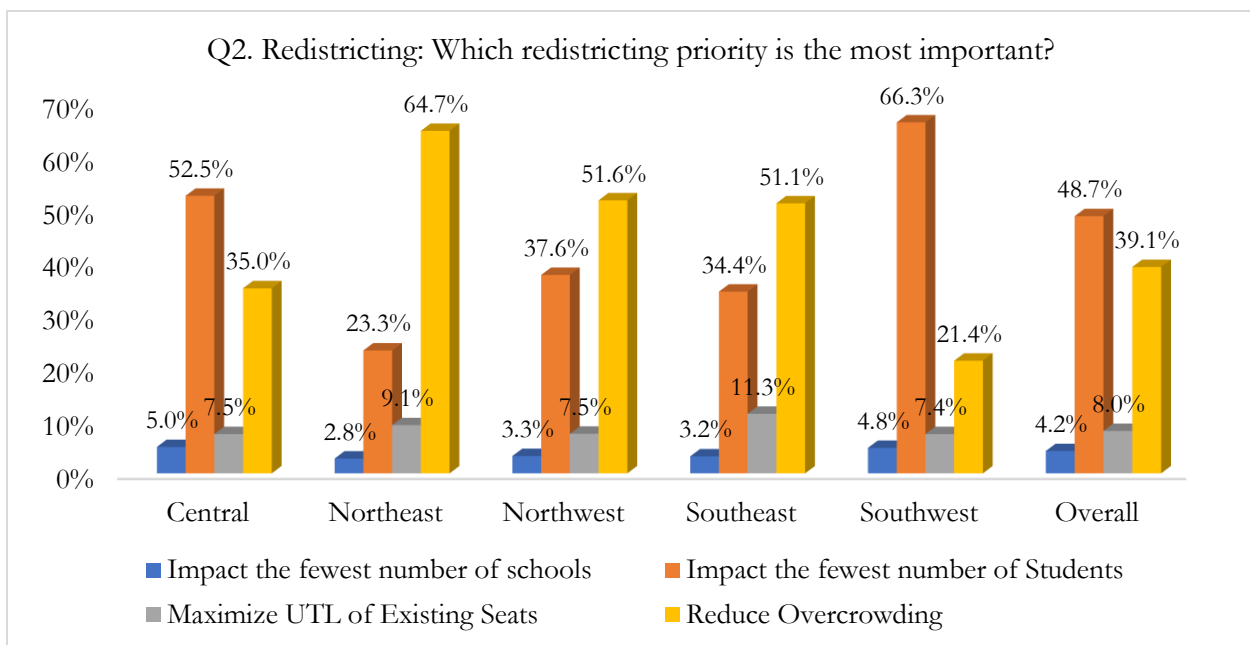


Favor = “Strongly Agree” + “Somewhat Agree”  
 Disfavor = “Strongly Disagree” + “Somewhat Disagree”  
 Neutral = “No Opinion”

## Q2: Which redistricting priority is the most important?

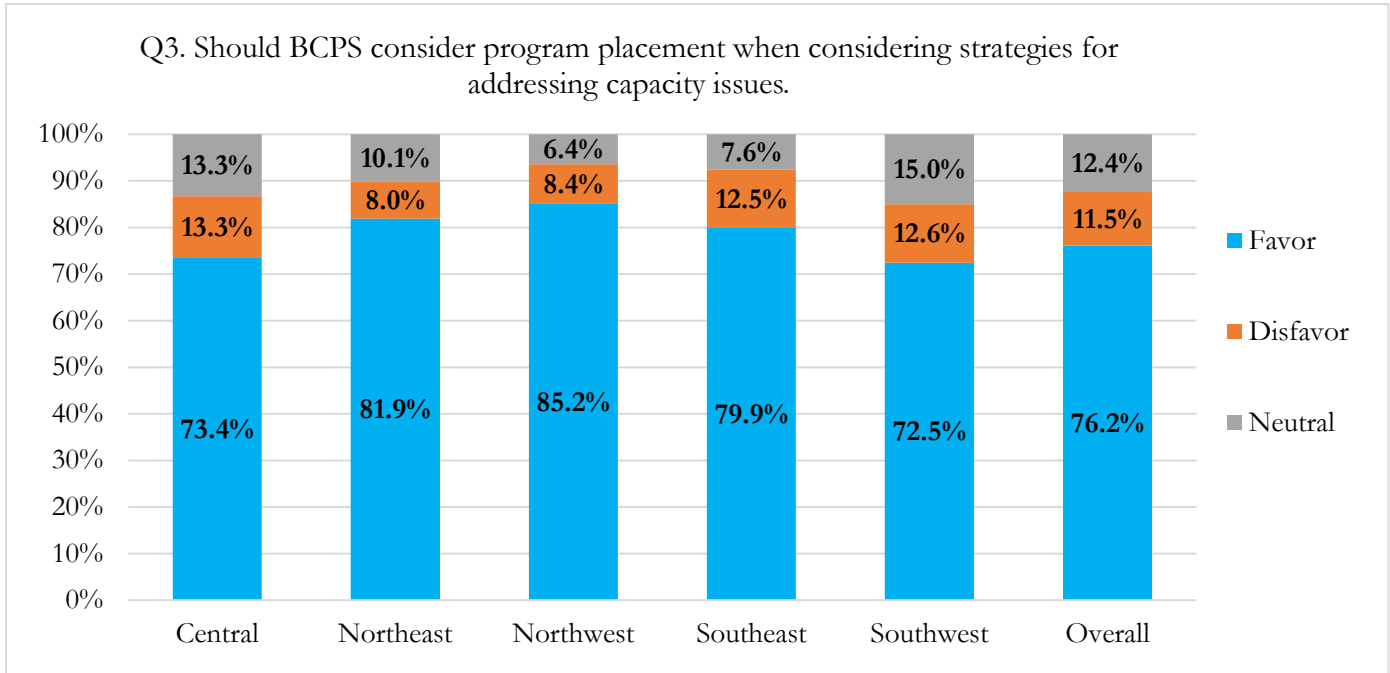
In the event of redistricting, stakeholders across all regions indicated that impacting the fewest number of students while simultaneously addressing overcrowding are key priorities. In all, nearly 49 percent of respondents indicated that the goal should be to impact the fewest number of students through redistricting, while about 39 percent indicated that reducing overcrowding should be the system's top priority.

Results differed markedly by region, with those in the Northeast, Southeast, and Northwest indicating that their top priority is to reduce overcrowding. In the Northeast, nearly two in three respondents stated that relieving overcrowding was their top priority in the context of redistricting. Impacting the fewest number of students was the top priority in the Central and Southwest Regions.



### Q3: Should BCPS Consider Program Placement when Considering Strategies to Address Capacity Issues?

The vast majority of respondents (76.2%) supported considering program placement in creating strategies to address capacity issues, whether magnet or other programs. In each region, more than 70 percent of respondents are in favor of this approach to managing BCPS capacity issues



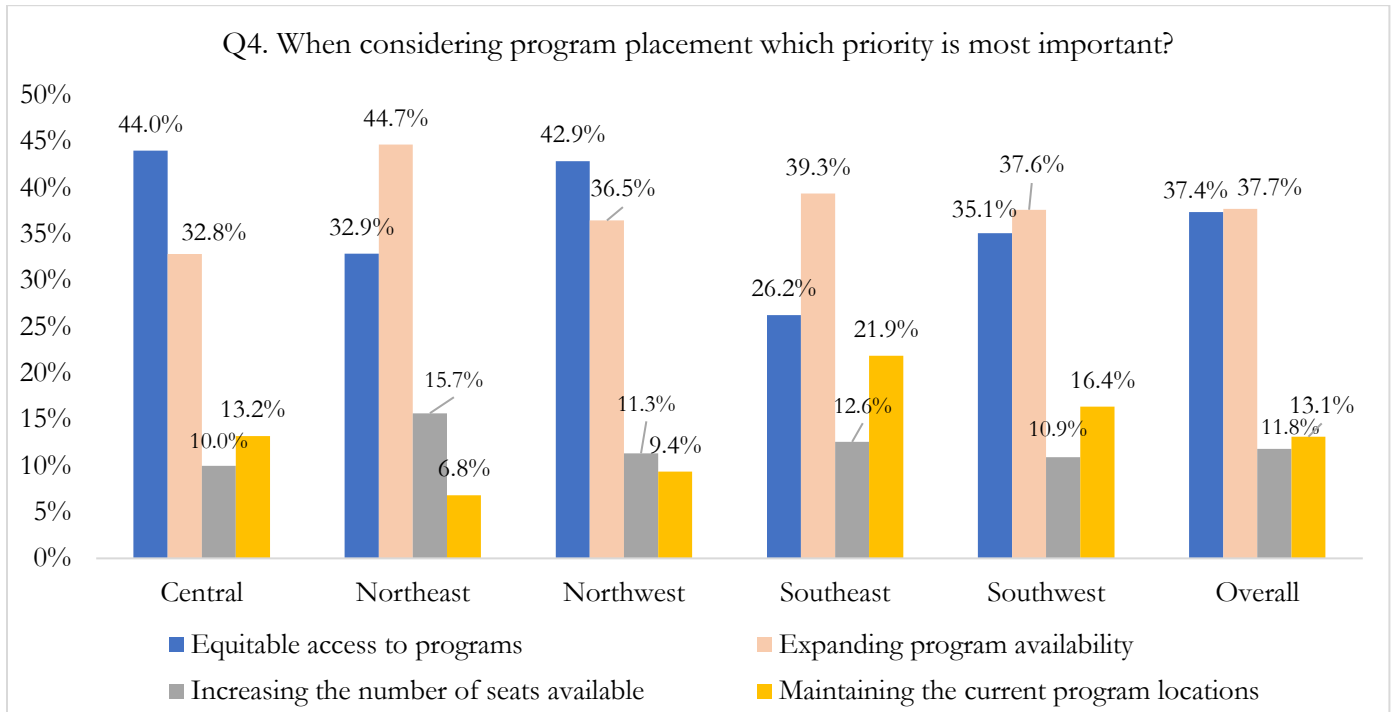
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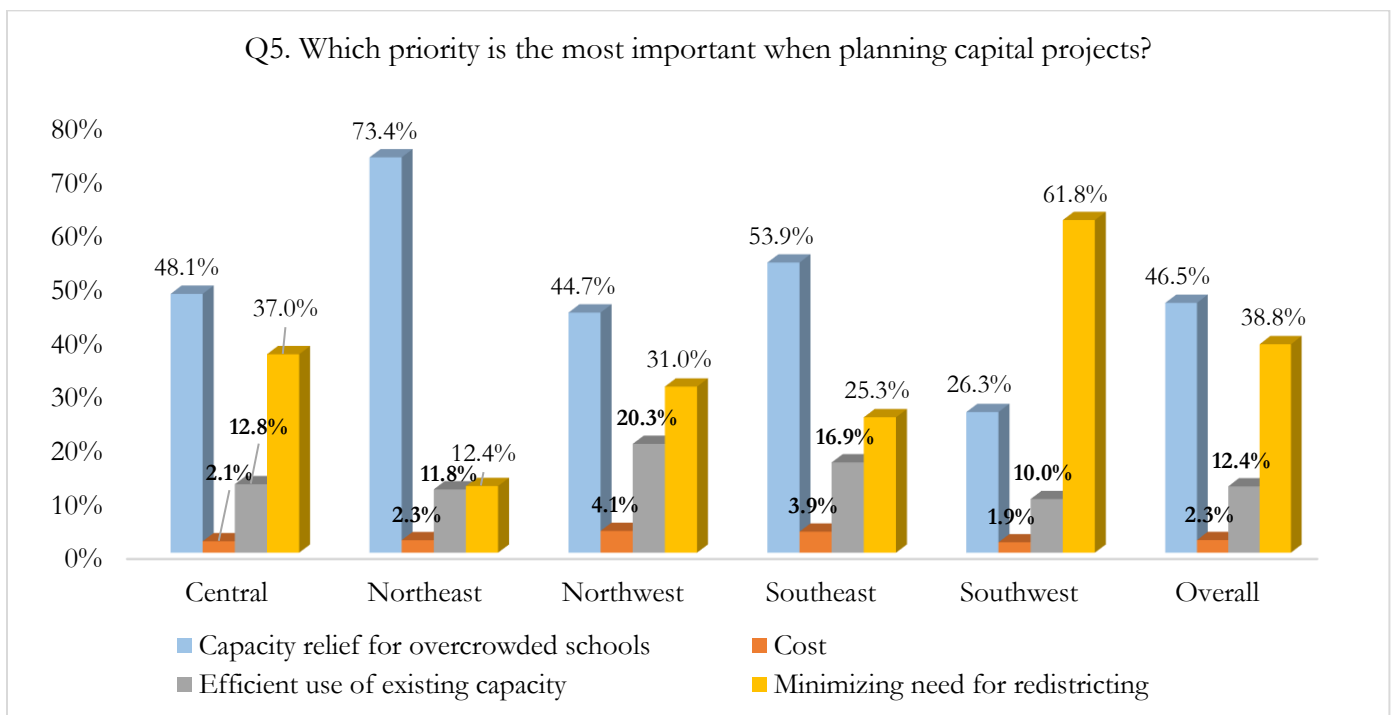
**Q4: When considering program placement, which priority is most important?**

When considering program placement, the top priorities for respondents are expanding program availability (37.7% marked as their top priority) and equitable access to programs (37.4% marked as the top priority). Respondents in the Central and Northwest regions prioritize equitable access to programs over expanding program availability. Respondents in the Northeast, Southeast, and Southwest prioritize expanding program availability over equitable access. Compared to other regions, maintaining current program locations appears to be particularly important to respondents in the Southeast (21.9% marked as top priority in Southeast compared to 13.1% overall).



**Q5: Which priority is the most important when planning capital projects?**

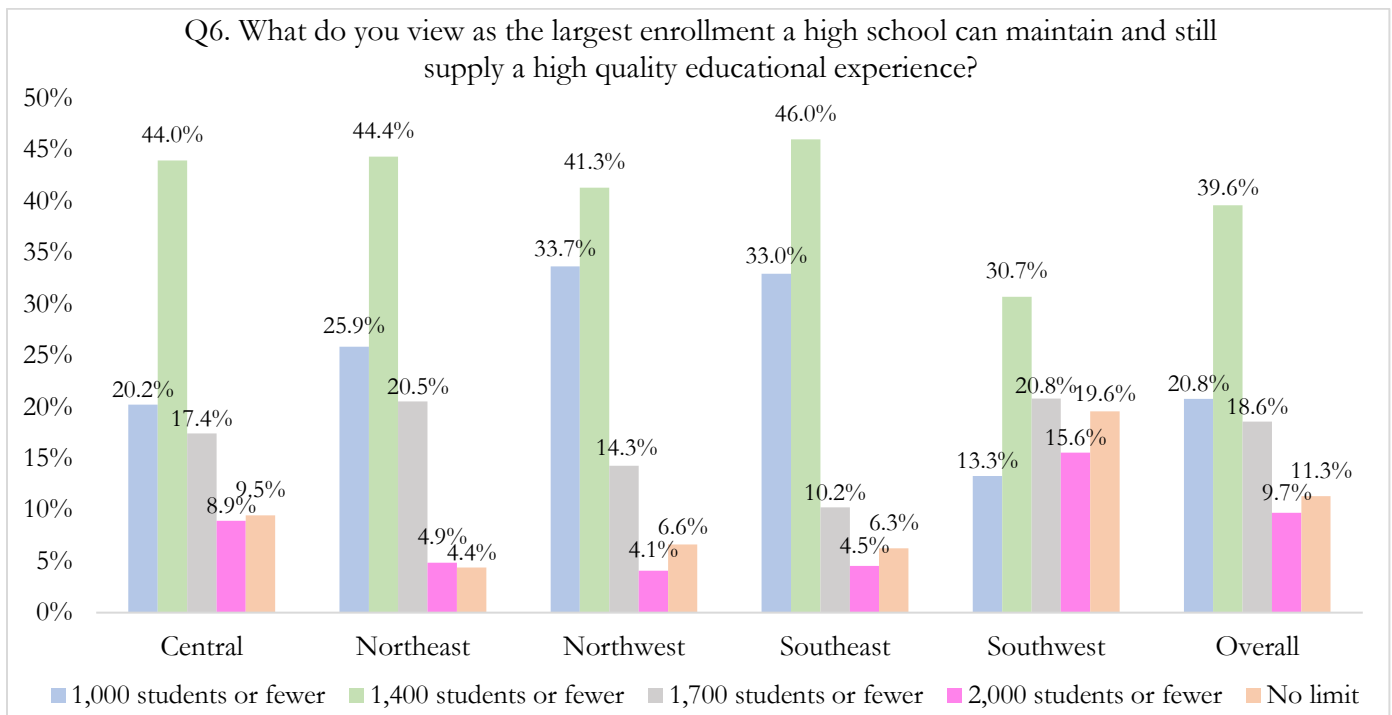
Overall, capacity relief (46.5%) and minimizing the need for redistricting (38.8%) appear to be the top priorities for respondents in the identification and planning of capital projects. Importantly, relatively few respondents prioritize cost of construction (2.3% marked as top priority). For all regions except for the Southwest, capacity relief was by far the top priority cited by respondents. The Northeast is associated with the largest share of respondents prioritizing capacity relief for overcrowded schools (73.4% marked as top priority). The Southwest produced the largest share of respondents prioritizing minimizing the need for redistricting (61.8% marked as top priority). Compared to other regions, the Northwest had a greater share of respondents prioritizing the efficient use of existing capacity (20.3% marked as top priority in capital project planning, compared to 12.4% overall).



**Q6: What do you view as the largest enrollment a high school can maintain and still supply a high quality educational experience?**

Nearly 40 percent of respondents believe that a high school can maintain maximum enrollment of 1,400 students and still supply a high-quality educational experience. About 21 percent of respondents think that the maximum capacity is 1,000 students. Another 19 percent think that a high school can accommodate up to 1,700 students without compromising students' educational experience.

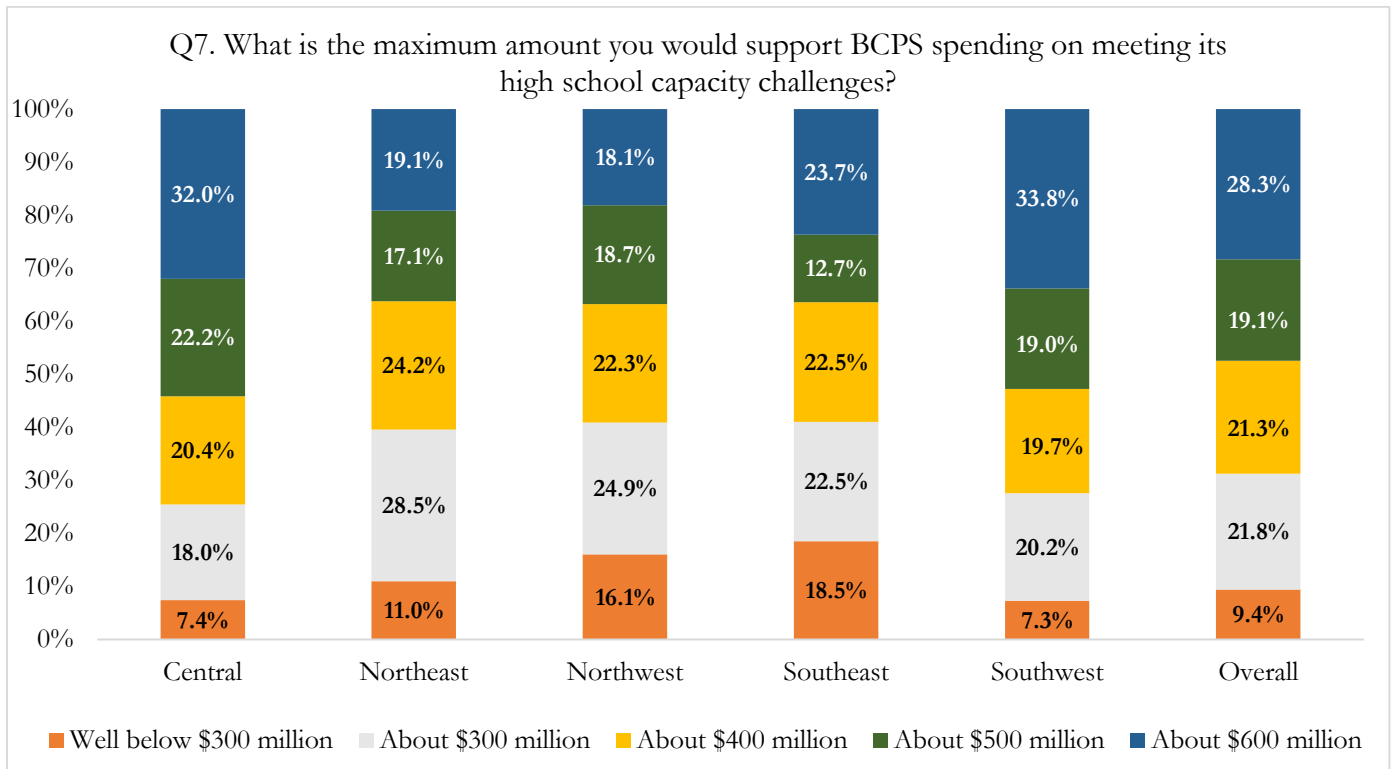
Relative to other regions, the Southwest generated a larger share of respondents indicating that there is no limit on the level of enrollment a high school can handle (19.6% compared to 11.3% overall). By contrast, the Northwest and Southeast regions tended to be associated with a heavy preference for schools with no more than 1,000 students (33.7% and 33.0%, respectively compared to 20.8% overall).



**Q7: What is the maximum amount you would support BCPS spending on meeting its high school capacity challenges?**

Overall, 28.3 percent of respondents support BCPS spending a maximum of approximately \$600 million on high school capacity challenges. For 19.1% of respondents, about \$500 million is the maximum they would support in capital spending. Aggregated, that means that 47.5 percent of respondents support spending a maximum of \$500 or \$600 million. Approximately 21 percent of respondents support spending a maximum in the range of \$400 million while another 22 percent support spending in the neighborhood of \$300 million. This means that 43.1 percent of respondents support spending a maximum of \$300 or \$400 million. Only about 9 percent support BCPS spending well below \$300 million.

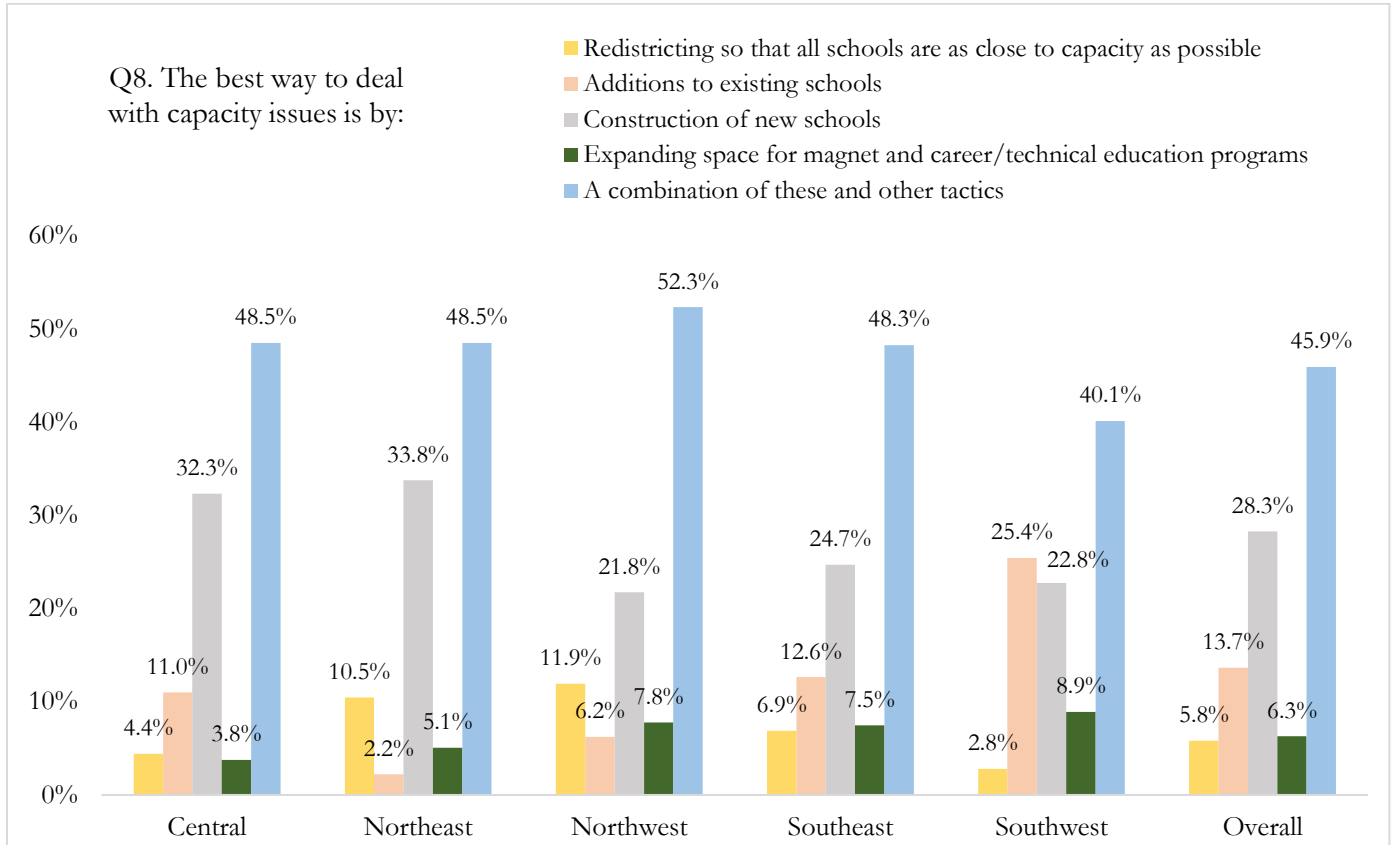
Respondents in the Northwest and Southeast regions appear to be more concerned about limiting spending. Relative to other regions, the Northwest and Southeast regions produced larger shares of respondents wanting BCPS to spend well below \$300 million (16.1% and 18.5% compared to 9.4% overall). Respondents in the Central and Southwest regions appear to want BCPS to spend more on dealing with the capacity problem. Compared to other regions, the Central and Southwest regions generated larger shares of respondents wanting to spend \$500 or \$600 million (54.1% and 52.8% compared to 47.5% overall).





### Q8. The best way to deal with capacity issues is by . . .

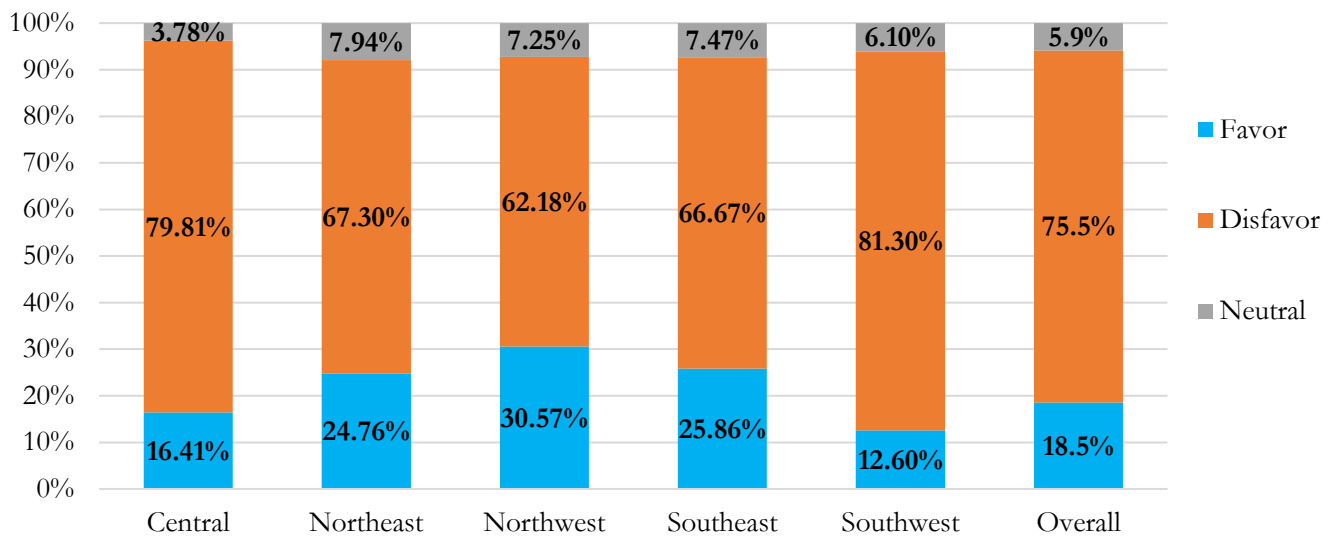
Overall, a large fraction of respondents believe that a combination of tactics will be required to productively deal with capacity issues (46%). Construction of new schools was the tactic chosen next most frequently (28%) followed by additions to existing schools (14%), expanding space for magnet and career/technical education programs (a bit more than 6%), and finally redistricting (a bit less than 6%). Respondents in the Southwest region are especially averse to redistricting (fewer than 3 percent of Southwest respondents chose this as the best tactic)



**Q9: Should BCPS select the least expensive option for dealing with high school capacity issues?**

The vast majority of respondents were against BCPS choosing the least expensive option for dealing with high school capacity challenges (an astonishing 76% disfavor). Respondents in the Northwest region are associated with the highest level of support for pursuing the least expensive option (31% of respondents in favor). Respondents in the Southwest region generated the lowest level of support for pursuing the least expensive option (13%).

Q9. BCPS should select the least expensive option for dealing with high school capacity.



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Conclusion

Many BCPS stakeholders are willing to have the system and other funders invest substantial capital resources in addressing current and prospective high school overcrowding issues. Many of these same stakeholders are highly averse to redistricting, and conclude that new investment will be necessary to avoid widespread redistricting. That said, if programs can be moved in ways that support efficient capacity utilization, many stakeholders are willing to allow various programs, including magnet programs, to move.