Microsoft® Research

# NYC Schools: Student Trajectories and Satisfaction

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### Introduction



The New York City (NYC) Public School System is the largest public school system in the United States with:

- I.I million students
- **1,300** schools
- 32 geographic districts

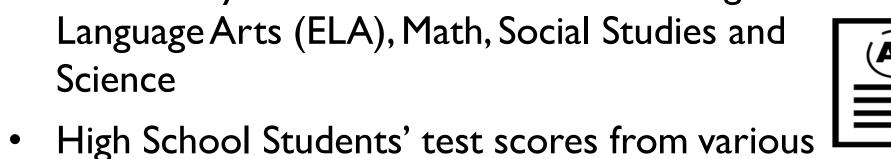
#### Data

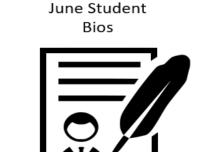
We had access to:

- II years of NYC DOE data from 2005 to 2016
- 4,932,449 students
- 1,800 schools including 425 high schools
- Sample data sets we had:

Each Student's preferences of up to twelve high school programs anywhere in NYC

Elementary students' test scores from English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Social Studies and Science



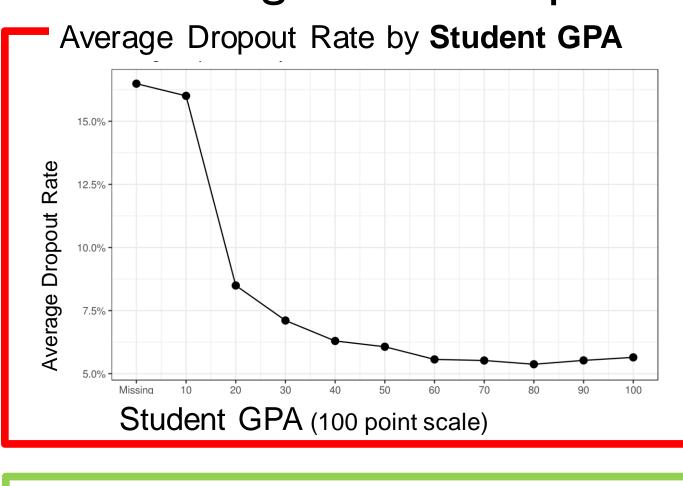


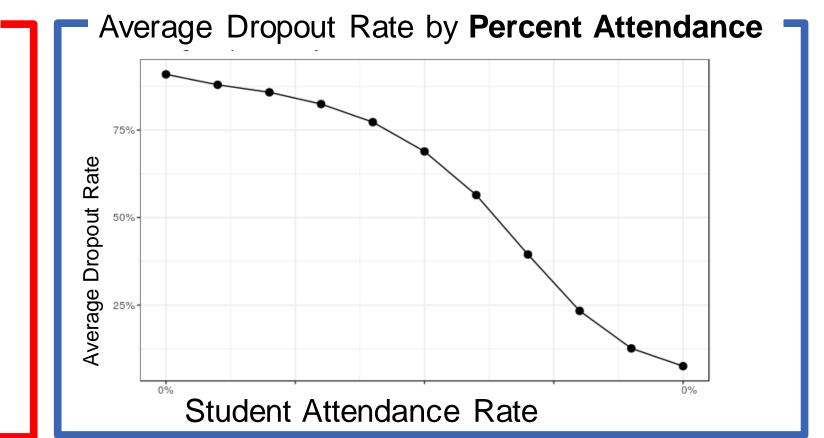
regents examinations

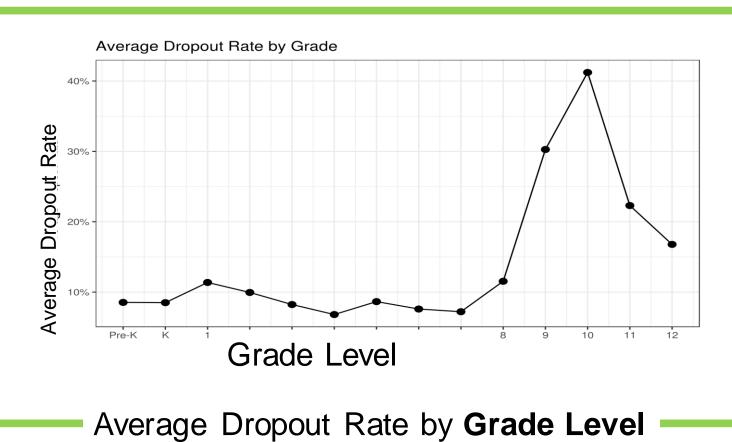
Biographic information for each student including student's grade level, gender, ethnicity, poverty status, birthday etc.

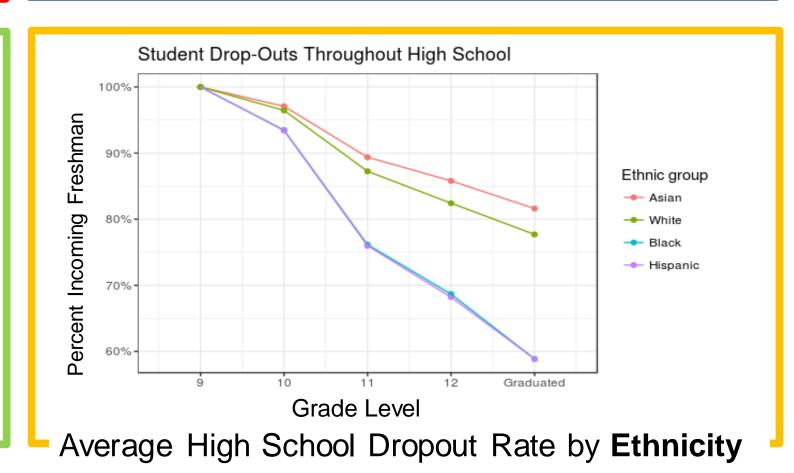
# What Factors Affect a Student's Likelihood of Dropping Out?

Choosing features to predict whether a student will "drop out"









We will predict whether a student will "drop out" using the following features:

- I. Grade level
- 2. Attendance
- 3. Academic Performance (GPA)
- 4. Poverty (receive free lunch)
- 5. Gender

in top k% \ At Risk

- 6. Ethnicity
- 7. School attendance rate
- 8. School graduation rate
- 9. School average Regents scores

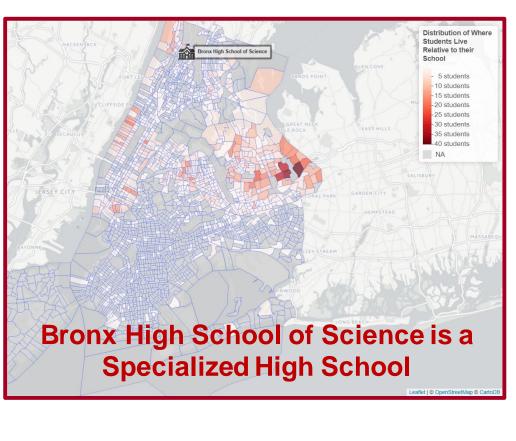
### **Model Results**

top 1% of students predicted to drop-out, nearly all of the students we help would have been predicted as future "dropouts"!

If we intervene with the

# Understanding Student Geographic Distribution

A specialized high school has students who live all over NYC

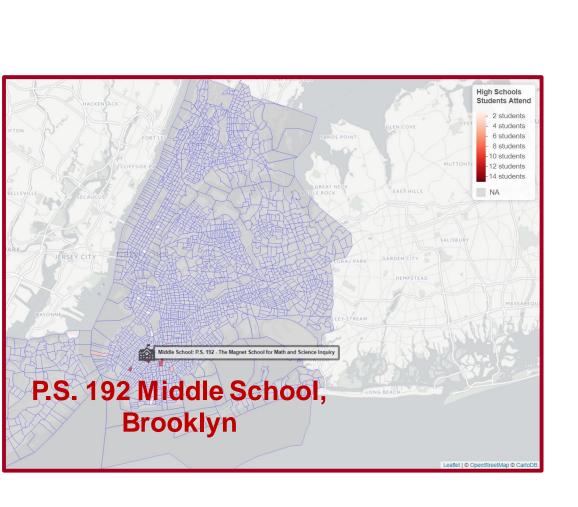


A regular high school draws local students



Top k% of Students Most Likely to Drop Out (According to Model)

A middle school sends students to nearby high schools

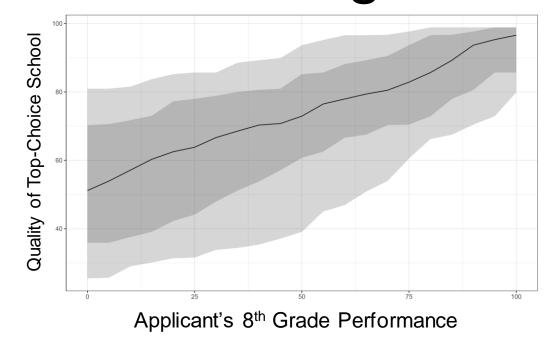


#### How do students choose from over 400 high schools?

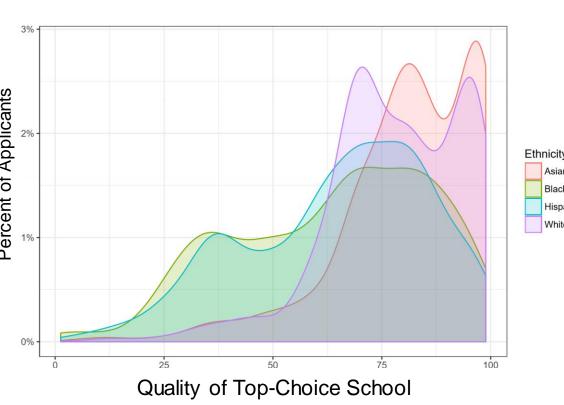
### The Choice System:

- Students can rank up to 12 high school programs anywhere in the five NYC boroughs
- The high school programs rank their applicants.
- A stable matching algorithm pairs applicants to high school programs
- Unmatched students can update their rankings for subsequent rounds

# Understanding Students' Choices



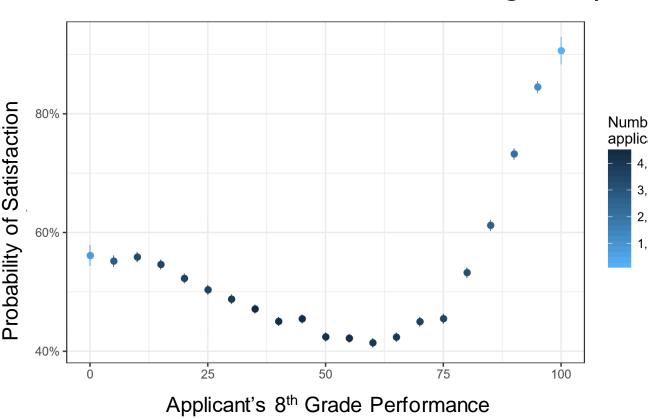
Academically Low-performers apply to low-performing schools, and are accepted and satisfied



Black and Hispanic applicants opt for lowerranked schools

# Can we predict if a student will be satisfied\*?

\*Satisfied means a student gets top choice, or receives specialized offer



Higher performing and lower performing students are more likely to be satisfied than midperformers

#### To increase student satisfaction:

# The High School Similarity Network

If you are applying to Beacon High School, you may also be interested in the following

Baruch College Campus High School 2 Millennium High School Bard High School Early College Bard College Campus High School 5 | Eleanor Roosevelt High School

For the **Bronx High School of** Science, you may also be interested in the following schools

Bronx Academy for Software Engineering Eximius College Preparatory Academy: A College Board School

3 Collegiate Institute for Math and Science Pelham Preparatory Academy



see the

bit.ly/nycschoolchoices

