Exploring the Achievement Gap in Berkeley Public Schools

Eric Van Dusen, Rubina Aujla, Lawrence Duong, Keilyn Yuzuki

- Examination of publicly available State Testing Data for Berkeley Unified School District
- California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) - Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA)
- Annual 2015-2019 school testing data for grades 3,4,5,6,7,8,11, in Math and English Language Arts (ELA)

- Exploring trends in Achievement Gaps between Socio-Economic Groups ~ Percent Meeting Standard vs. Percent not Meeting Standards
- Comparing across 10 elementary schools and across 3 middle schools
- Looking at pseudo-cohorts, grades 3/4/5
- Mapping schools for dashboard

- *Input to School Site Councils / Parent Advisory Council - Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)*
- *Find successes or highlight advances*
- *Platform for information for multiple stakeholders - different school districts*

Achievement Gap Over Time

The gap is measured as the % of Non-Economically Disadvantaged students meeting standards minus % of Economically Disadvantaged students meeting standards.
Looking across 5 years of available data we would like to see reductions in gap over time.

- *Elementary Schools - Jefferson for ELA and John Muir for Math have shown improvement over the past 5 years*

- *Willard Middle has shown the most improvement of the 3 middle schools in both ELA and Math*
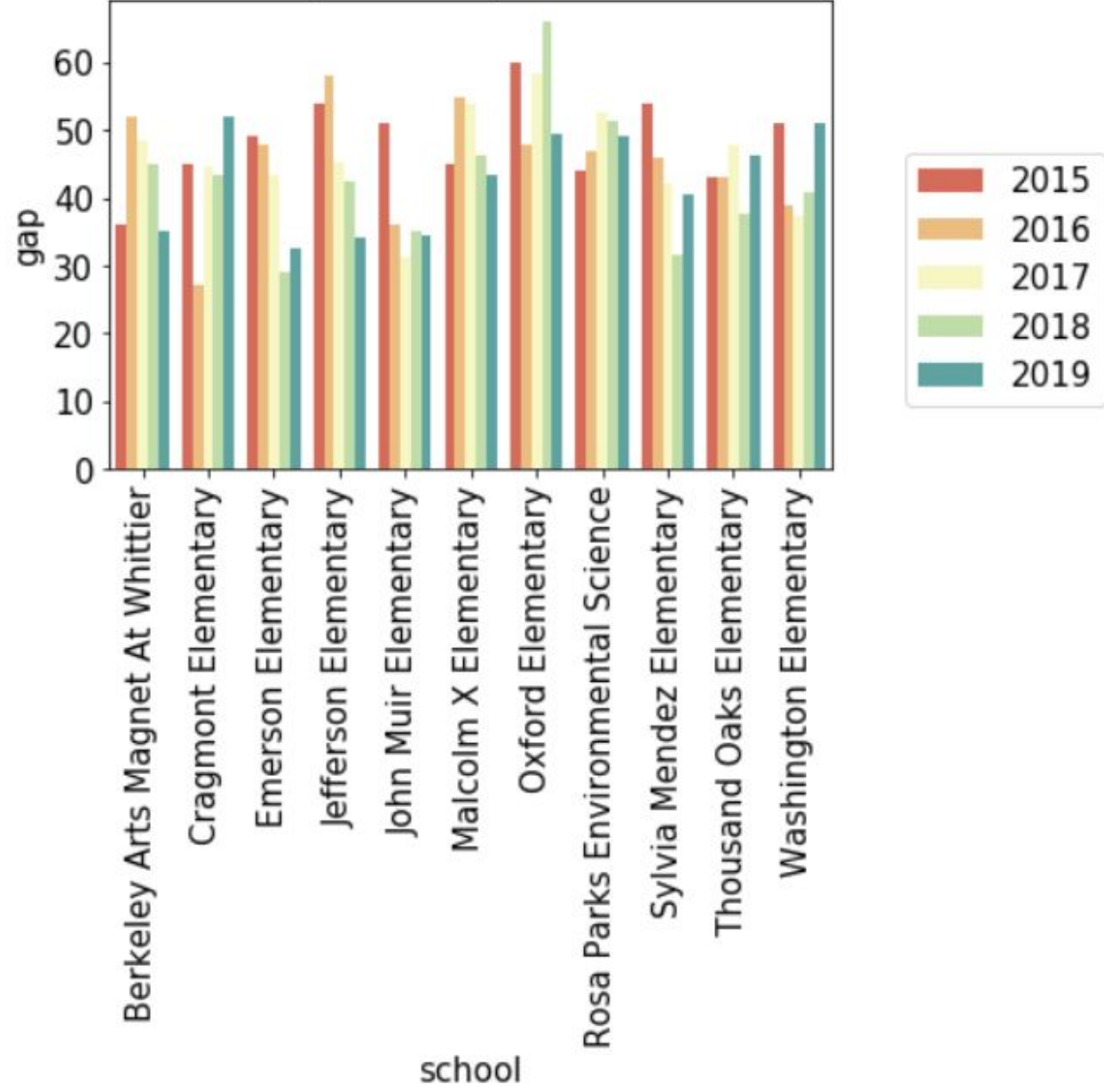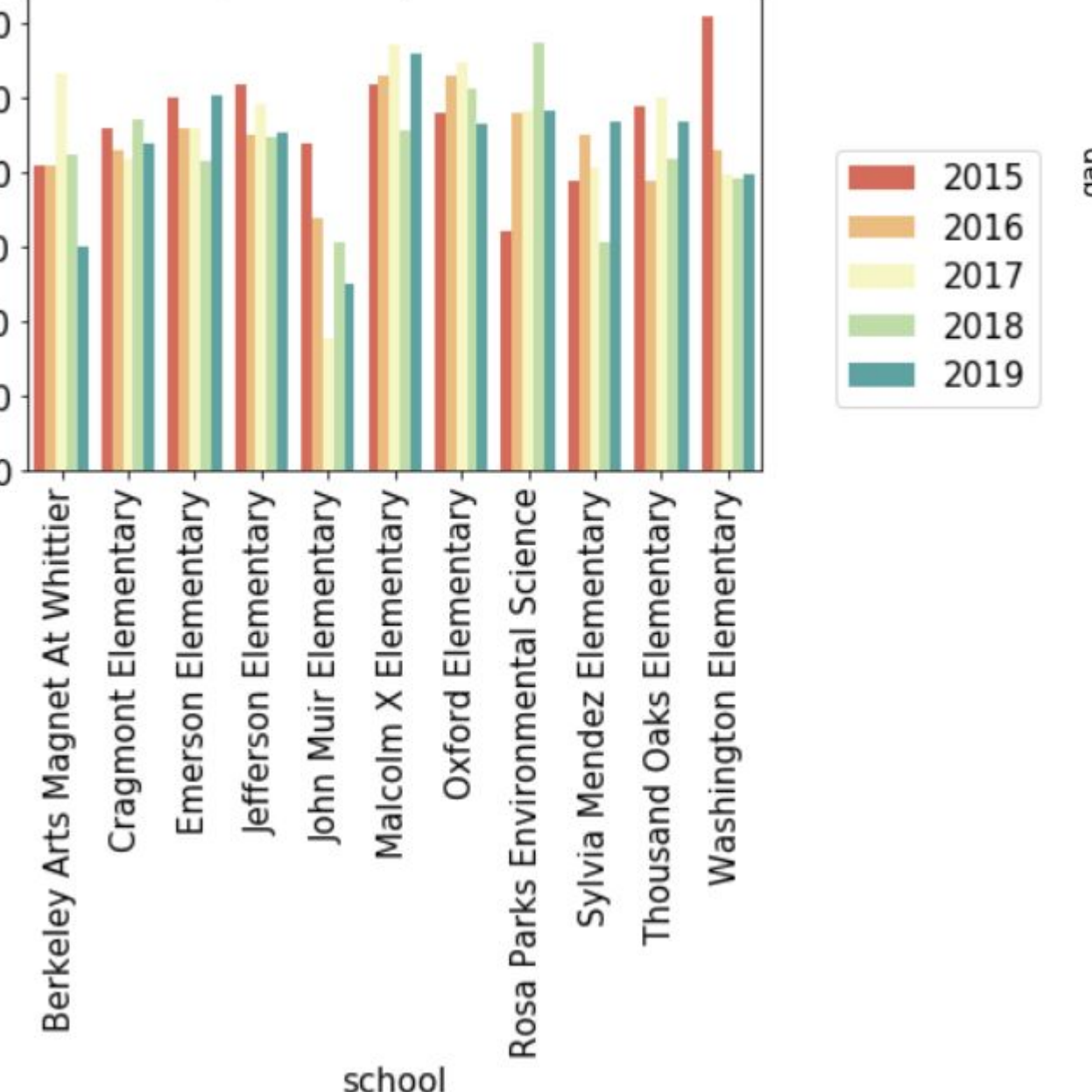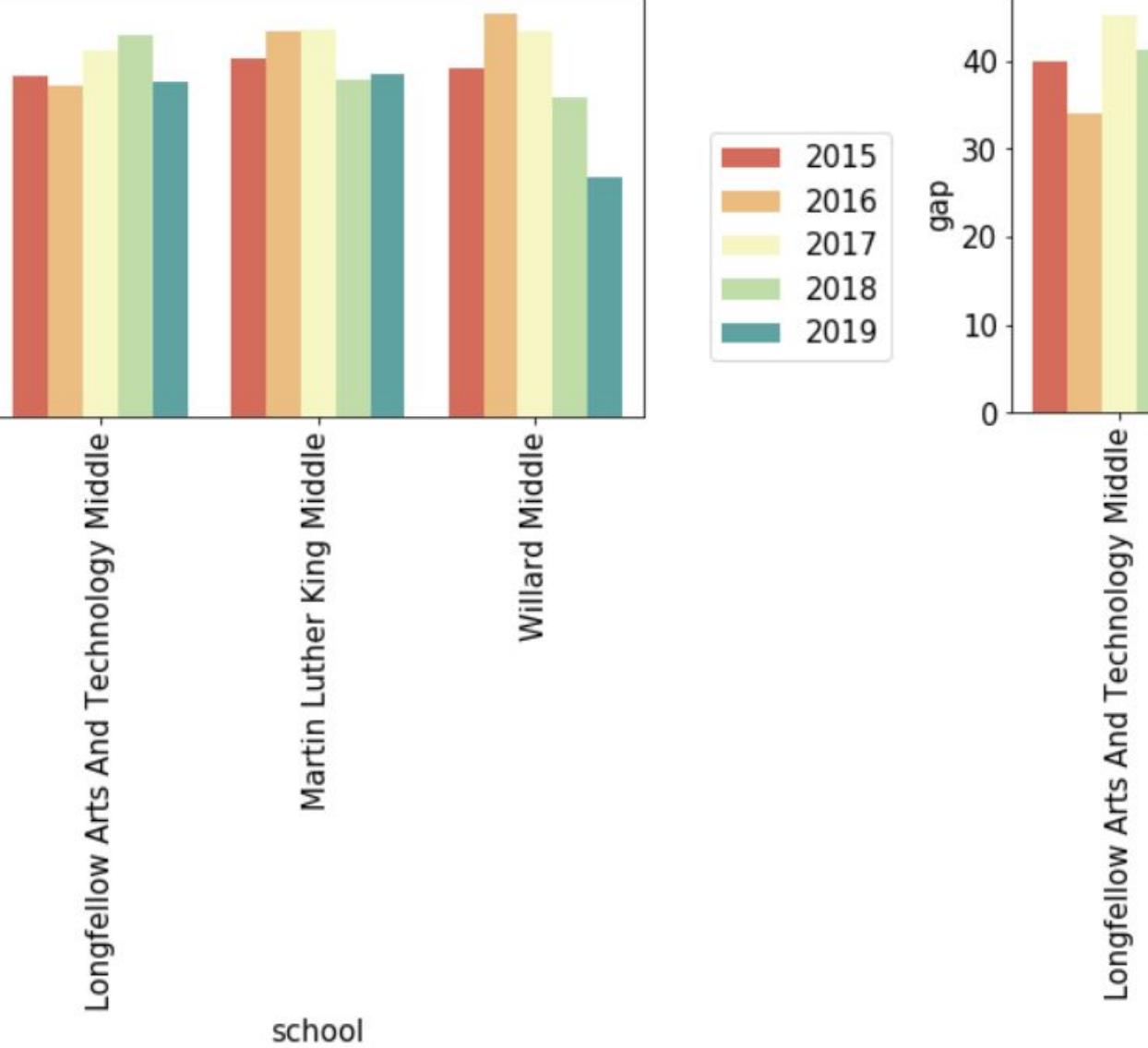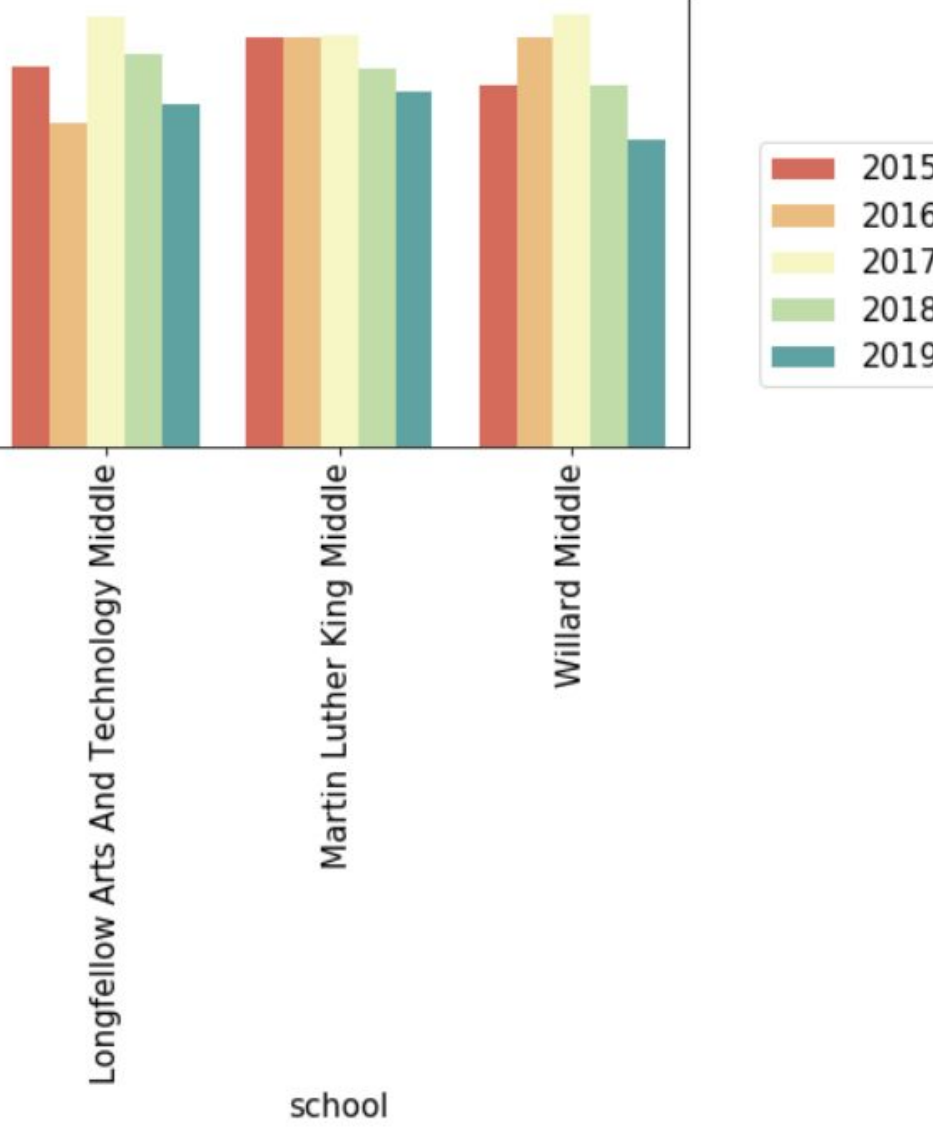

Cohorts

- Tracking a class of students
- Measuring difference in % of students meeting standard from Grade 3 to Grade 5
- Separated by test subject (ELA, Math)
- Difference found for each subgroup (economically-disadvantaged or not)

Cohort 1: 2015-17
Cohort 2: 2016-18
Cohort 3: 2017-19

Bars to the right - scores improve, bars to the left - scores get worse

- *% of students meeting ELA standard tends to increase across subgroups and schools*
- *% of students meeting Math standard tends to decrease across subgroups and schools*
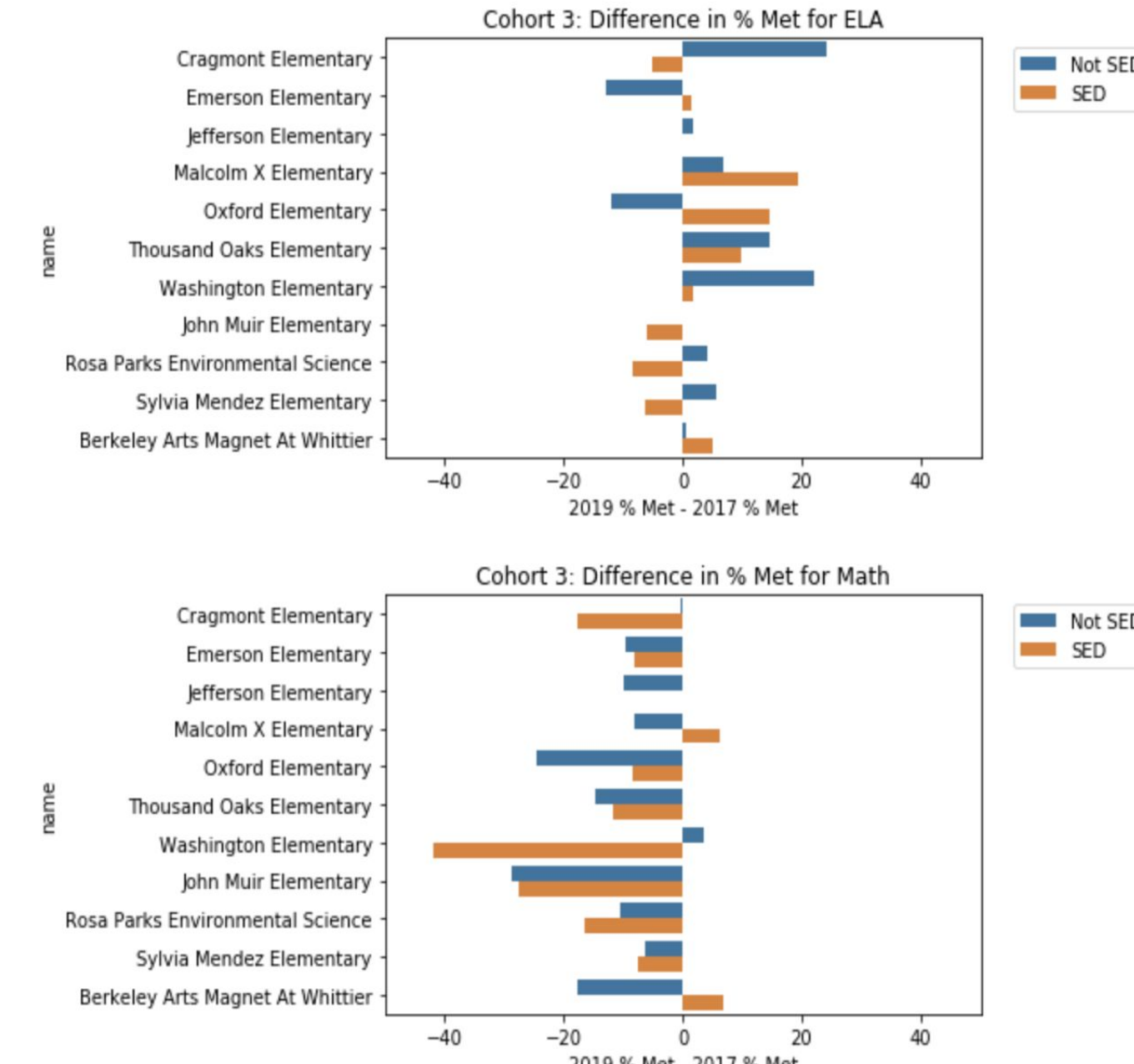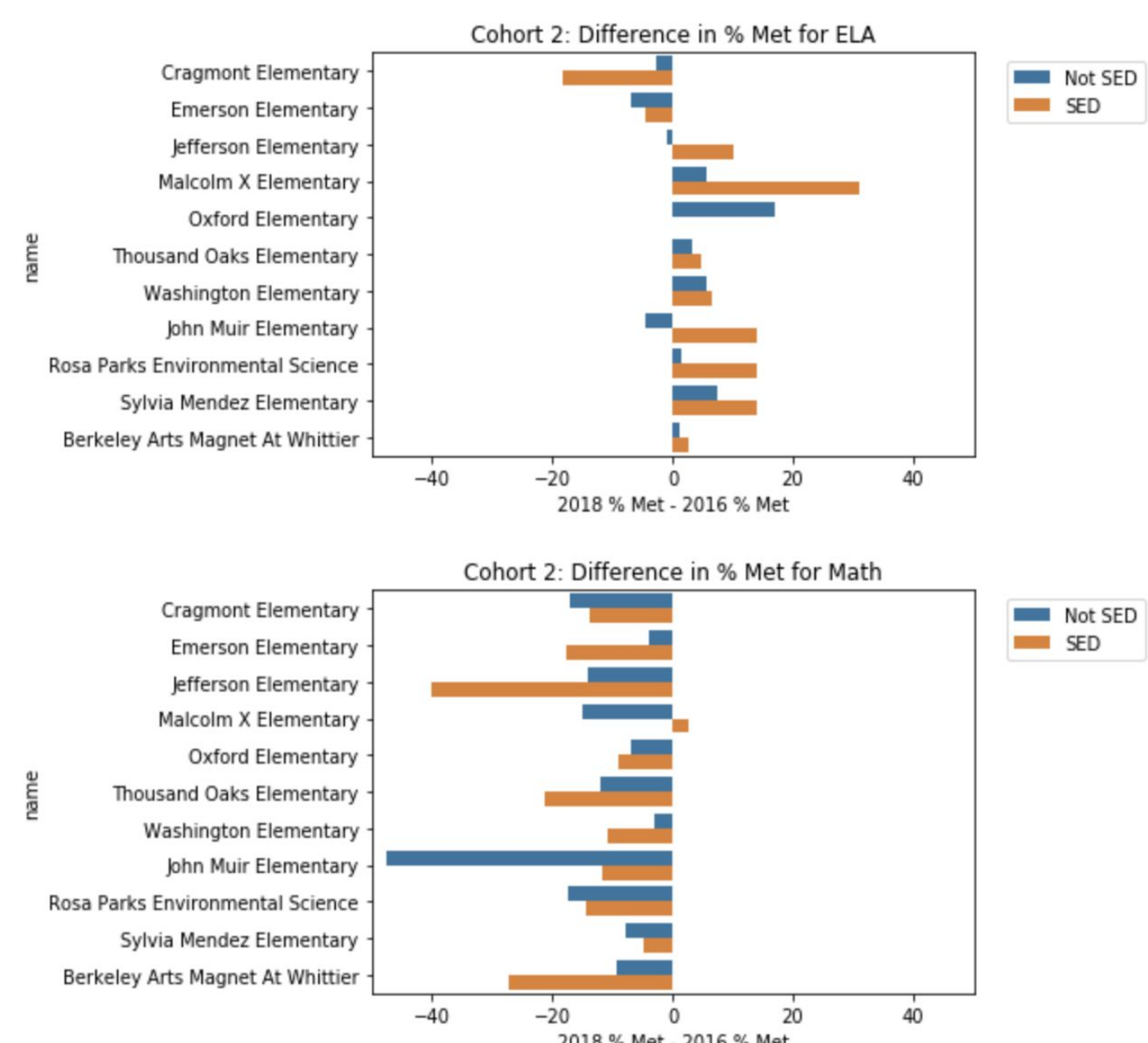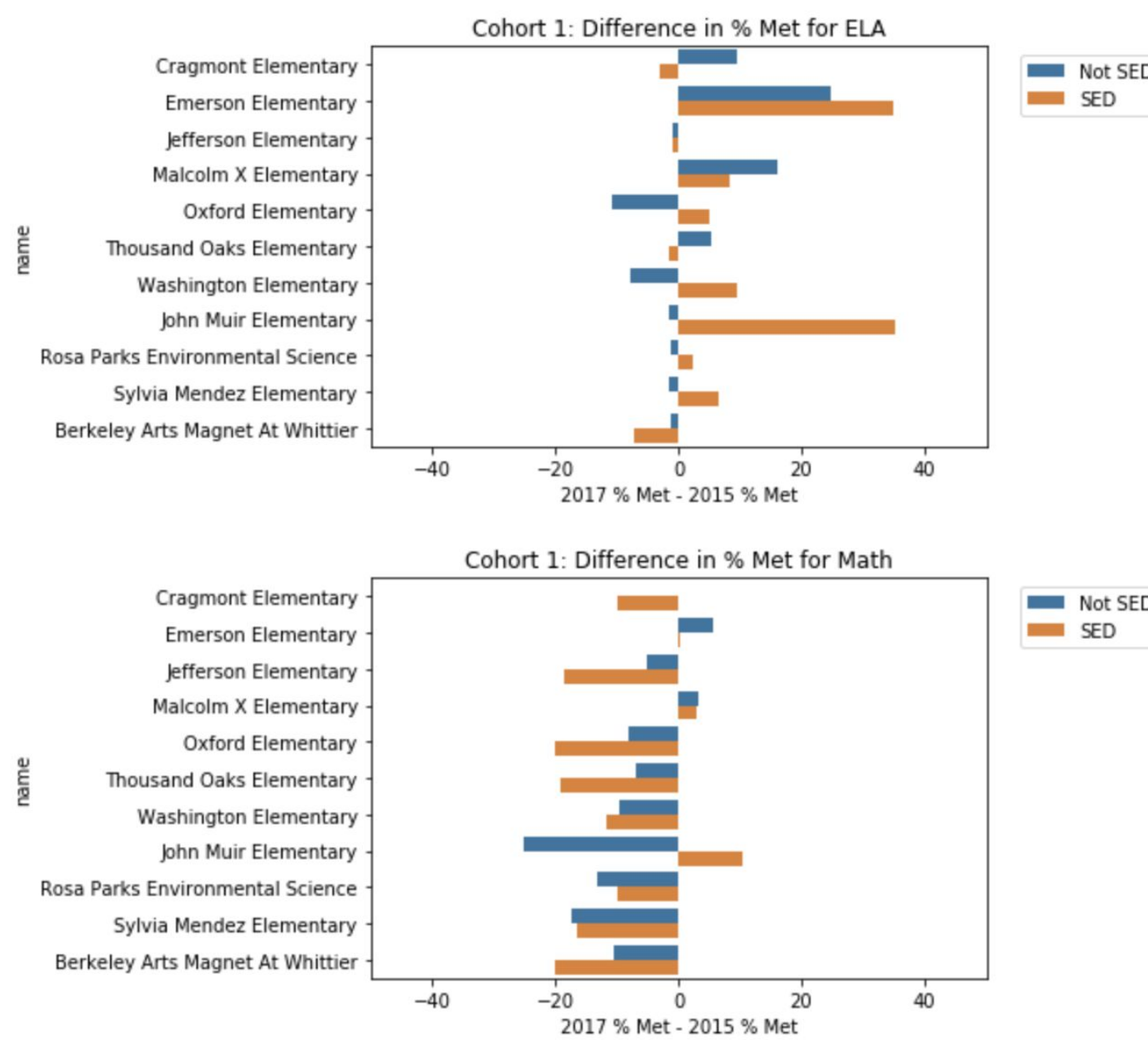
Geographic Interpretation of Achievement Gap

Metric used was:
- Green if 50% of the population of students meet standards
- Red if 50% of the population of students do not meet standards

Focused on three sample schools:
1. Martin Luther King MS
2. Cragmont Elementary
3. Rosa Parks Elementary

Each marker/indicator stands for 1 of 2 available tests (ELA or Math) for each of the grade. Also includes a marker/indicator that encaptures the entire school's results.

Potential feature for a Dashboard that allows stakeholders to explore results at different schools

- *Visually compare the above results, which are Non-Socioeconomically disadvantaged students with the below results, which are Socioeconomically disadvantaged students*
- *Disparity between test results is quite dramatic in each and every school*
- *These disparities are consistent despite schools being in different areas of Berkeley*
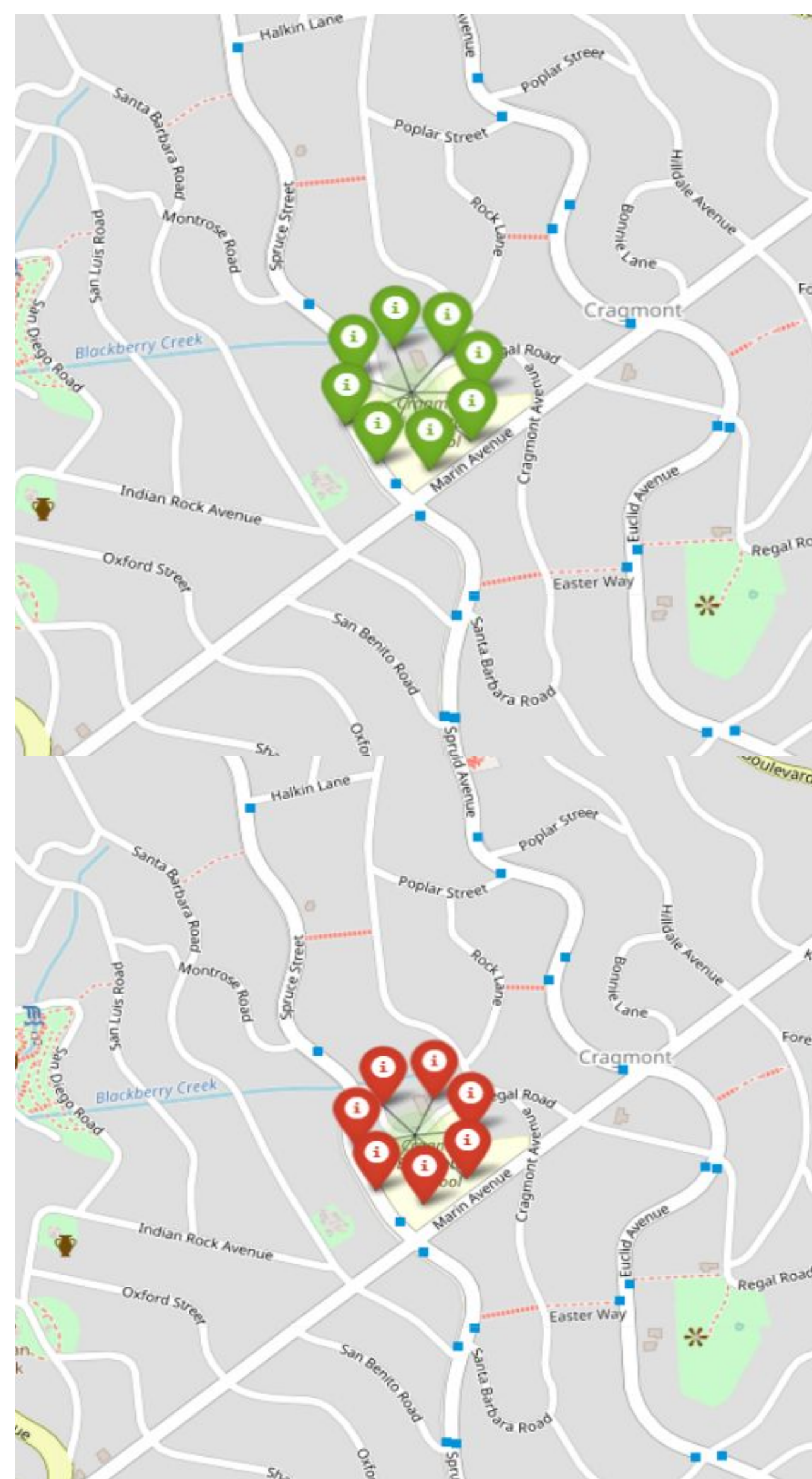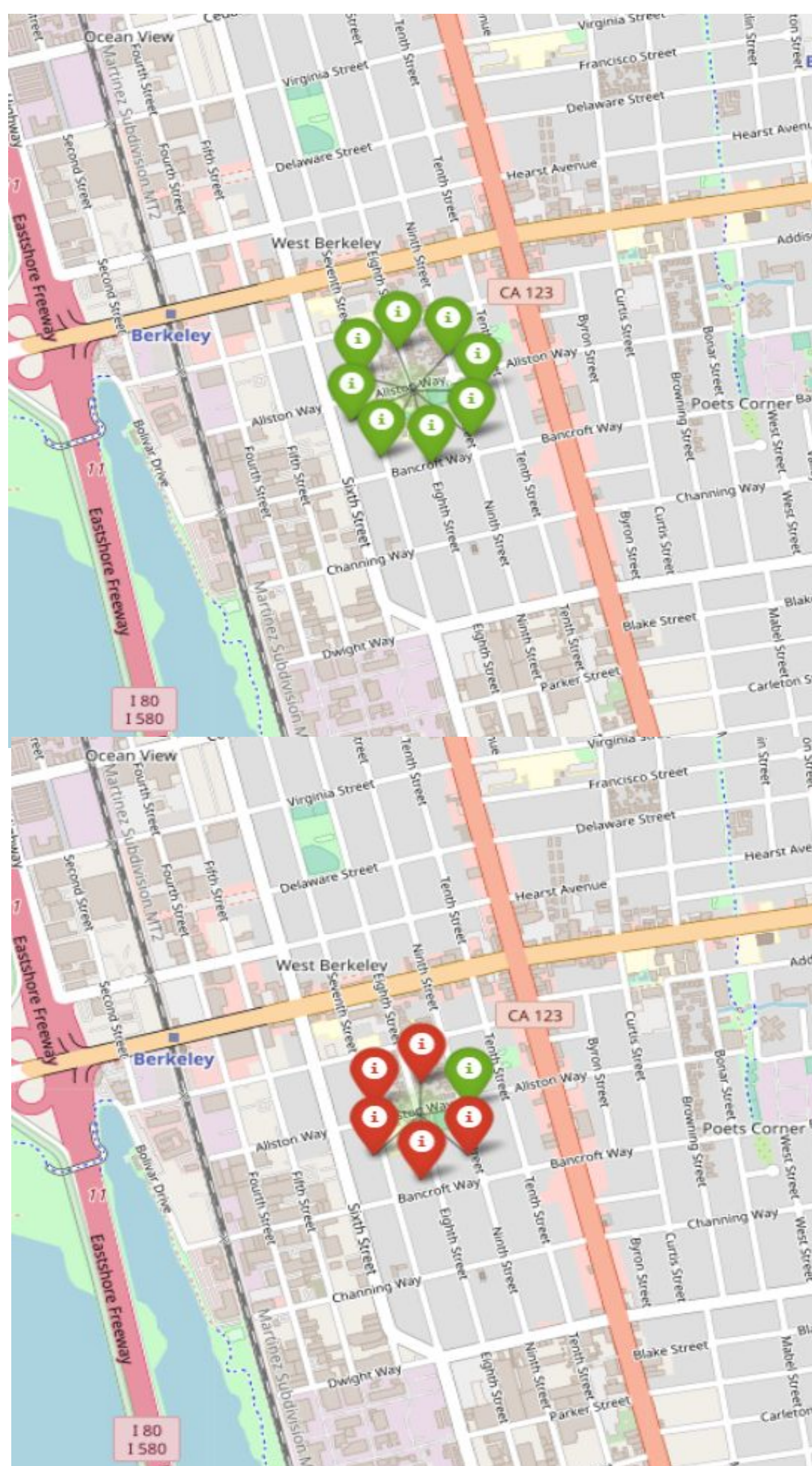
Future Work:

- Collaboration with Thomas Reinhardt, David Stevens, Berkeley Research Evaluation and Assessment Group (BREA)
  - True cohort following students
  - Other indicators - graduation rates, college readiness, other internal testing data
- Comparison with El Cerrito, Albany, Richmond, Oakland and other nearby school districts
- Interactive Dashboard for users to frame questions