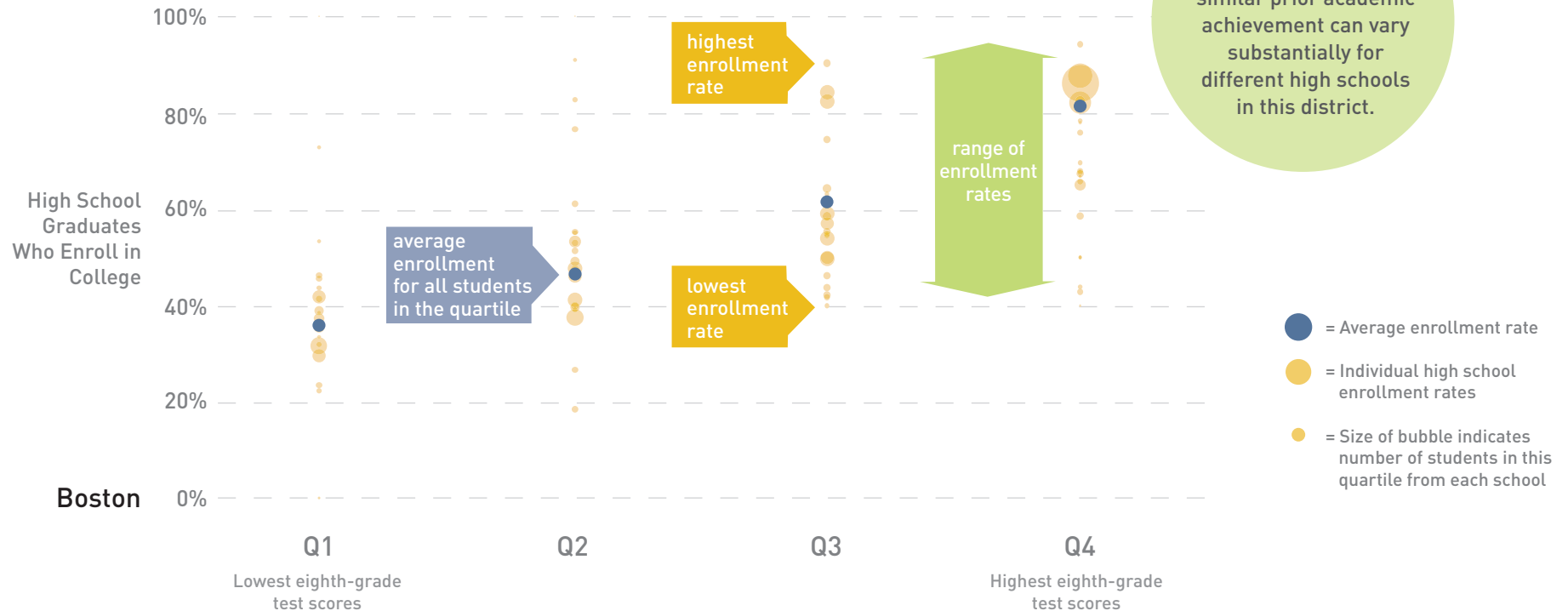


Do College Enrollment Rates Differ Across High Schools?

Yes, they can differ considerably.

The Strategic Performance Indicator on “The High School Effect on College Going” shows that college-going rates for students with similar prior academic achievement vary dramatically across high schools within a school district. These results suggest that a high school can have a considerable impact on the college enrollment patterns of its students.



WHAT ARE STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE INDICATORS?

Strategic Performance Indicators (SPIs) are measures that reveal policy and management levers that have the potential to improve student outcomes. SPIs are derived from the Strategic Data Project (SDP) Diagnostics, rigorous descriptive analyses that SDP performs on a common set of issues using existing data from partnering education agencies. SDP's goal is that education agencies will adopt these SPIs, creating benchmarking information to understand their success in working toward key outcomes over time. Results are included for Albuquerque Public Schools (NM), Boston Public Schools (MA), Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (NC), Fort Worth Independent School District (TX), Fulton County Schools (GA), Gwinnett County Public Schools (GA), and The School District of Philadelphia (PA).

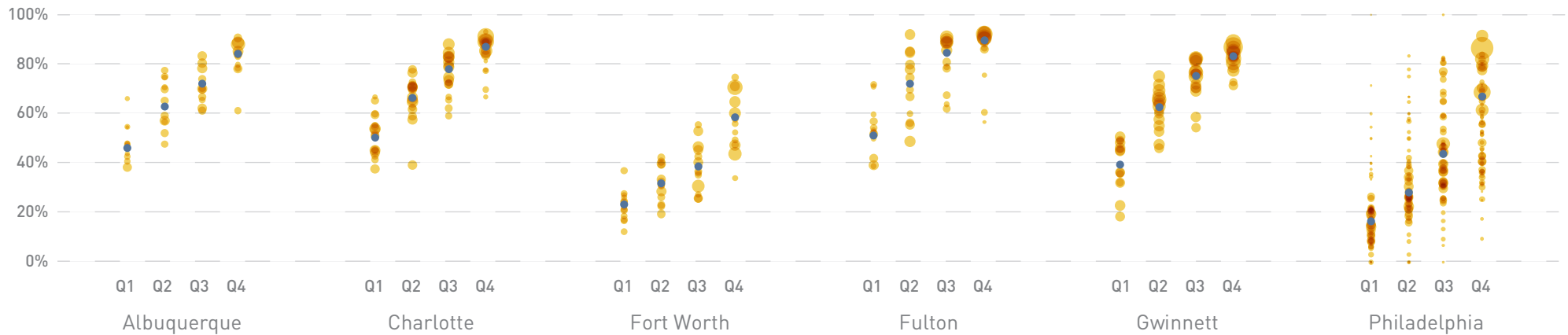
Housed at the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University, SDP's mission is to transform the use of data in education to improve student achievement. All SPI infographics and memos are available at www.gse.harvard.edu/sdp

THE HIGH SCHOOL EFFECT ON COLLEGE GOING

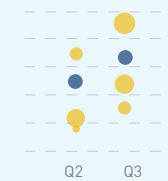
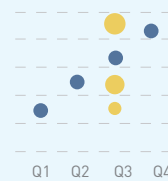
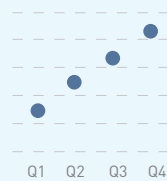
What are the results in other partner districts?

The graphs below show variation in college enrollment rates for students with similar prior academic achievement by high school in six other districts. In each district, there is a wide range in the rates of college enrollment, by high school, within each quartile of prior student achievement.

- = Average enrollment rate
- = Individual high school enrollment rates
- = Size of bubble indicates number of students in this quartile from each school



How do we examine the variation in college enrollment across high schools?



1 First, we take high school graduates and divide them into quartiles based on their achievement before high school.

2 We calculate the average college enrollment for graduates in each prior-achievement quartile.

3 We then calculate college enrollment for each individual high school in each prior-achievement quartile.

4 Once we do this for multiple high schools, we see that students who score in the same quartile but go to different high schools enroll in college at very different rates.

The bubble size indicates the relative number of students in each quartile for that school.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

These results show that prior achievement does not perfectly predict college enrollment and suggest that policies and practices at the school level can meaningfully influence their students' likelihood of enrolling in and succeeding in college.