

## BACKGROUND

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#### Context

- The School District of Philadelphia (SDP) is conducting a Comprehensive School Planning Review (CSPR): review all neighborhood schools and make recommendations
- Similar process in 2011, 2013: 30+ schools closed or recommended for closure, most in Black/Latinx communities
- Purely quantitative; the goal of this study is to fill the gap left by the District
- One section of West Philadelphia was up this year, low parent engagement and recommendation to close 1 school (Overbrook)
- The rest of West Philadelphia is up next year

#### Literature

### What do parents consider when choosing schools?

	<b>Space &amp; place:</b> proximity, logistics, safety		<b>Resources:</b> facilities, special needs/programs
	<b>Safety &amp; violence:</b> symbols, neighborhood		<b>Culture:</b> academics, familiarity

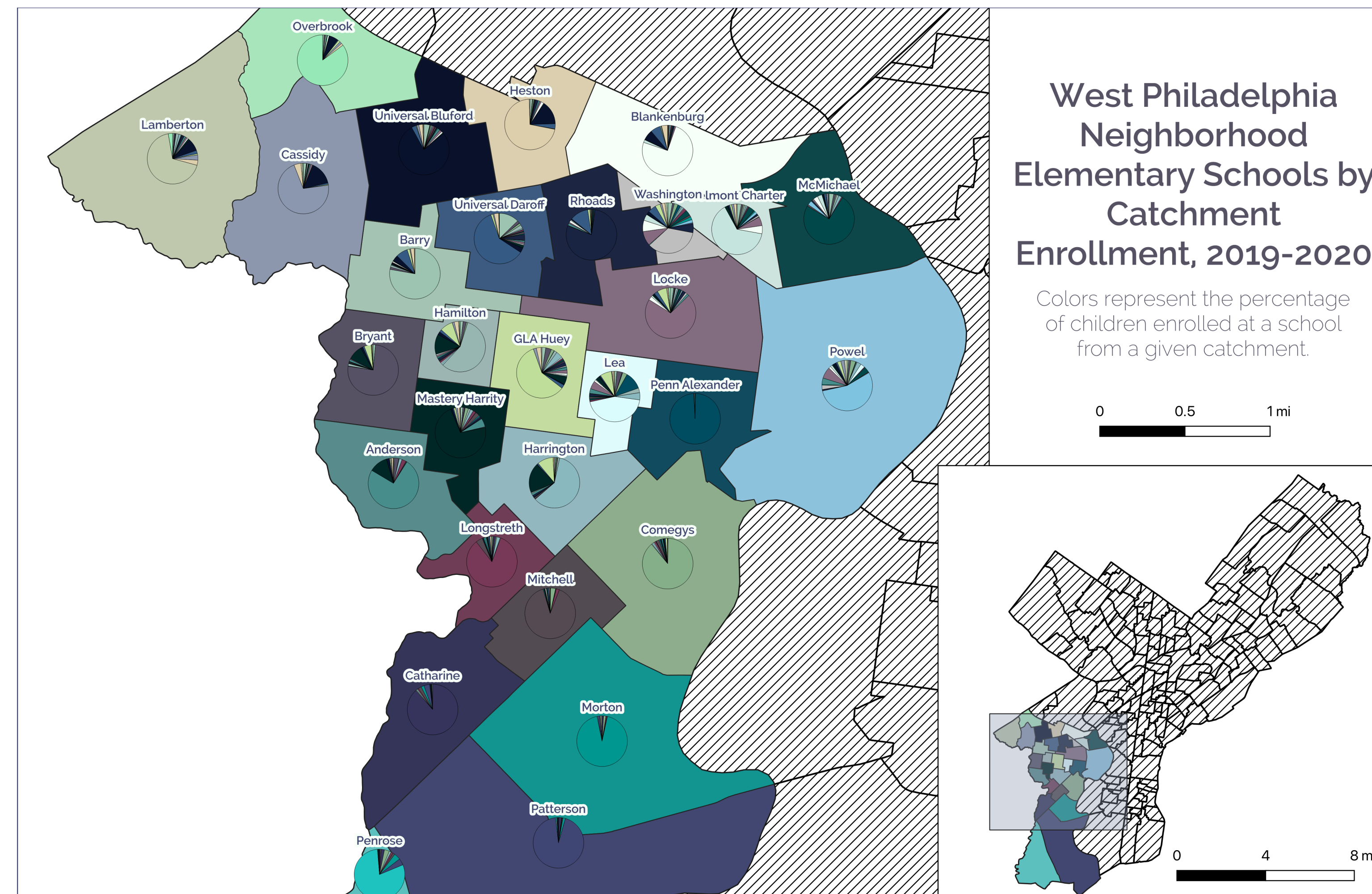
### Constraints on choice:

- Lack of options
- Selective schools
- Capital constraints

### What does it mean to leave?

- Academic outcome and equity; inconclusive
- Social capital, social networks in and outside of the neighborhood?
- Identity formation?
- Parental engagement?

RQ 1: What criteria do parents use when choosing schools?  
RQ 2: What are the individual-level effects of attending school outside of one's neighborhood?



## METHODS

- Prior to the pandemic: online survey, in-person interviews, town hall meetings for consciousness raising and participant recruitment
- Currently:
  - Online survey available to all parents in West Philadelphia, regardless of whether their children attend school in West Philadelphia
  - Semi-structured interviews with West Philadelphia parents and teachers over phone/BlueJeans
  - Passive recruitment only
  - Potentially: online town hall meetings about parenting and education in the time of COVID-19

## FINDINGS & MOVING FORWARD

### Early Findings

	Parents prioritize diversity and school culture when choosing schools.		Students with trauma and/or disabilities do not get effective support.		Facilities issues are salient to parents and teachers.
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### COVID-19

We are currently experiencing the single largest disruption to education in modern history. This has massive implications for how parents think about the role of schools and their own role in their children's education and will inevitably impact our results. To acknowledge the impact of coronavirus while still gathering data on "normal" schools, we are updating our interview protocol and survey to discuss parents' experiences before and after coronavirus.

### Next Steps

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| 1. Rewrite interview guide, incorporate impacts of COVID-19 | 2. Pilot new interview guide                      |
| 3. Make adjustments to interview guide and rewrite survey   | 4. Film and edit video example of education story |
| 5. Post example video and survey link on social media       | 6. Continue conducting interviews                 |

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