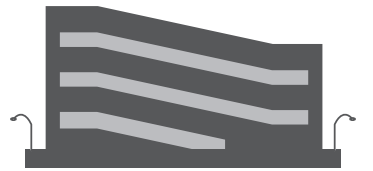
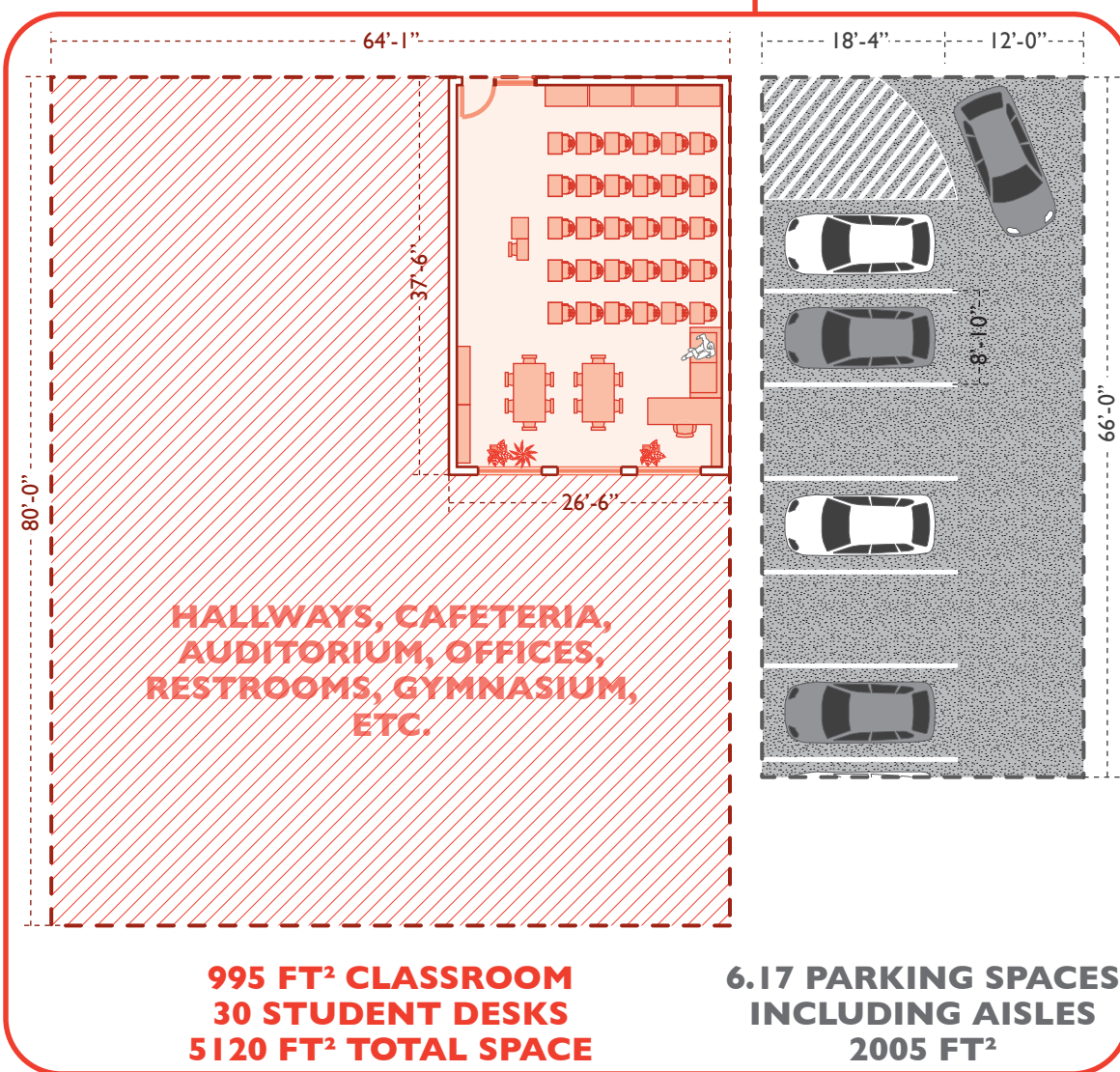
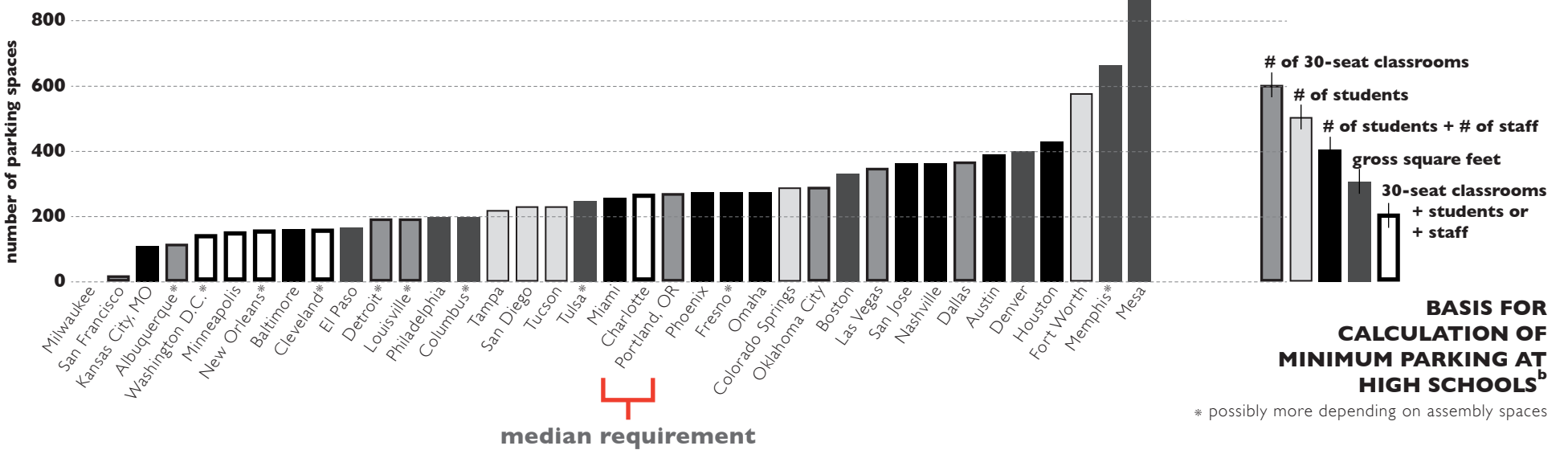
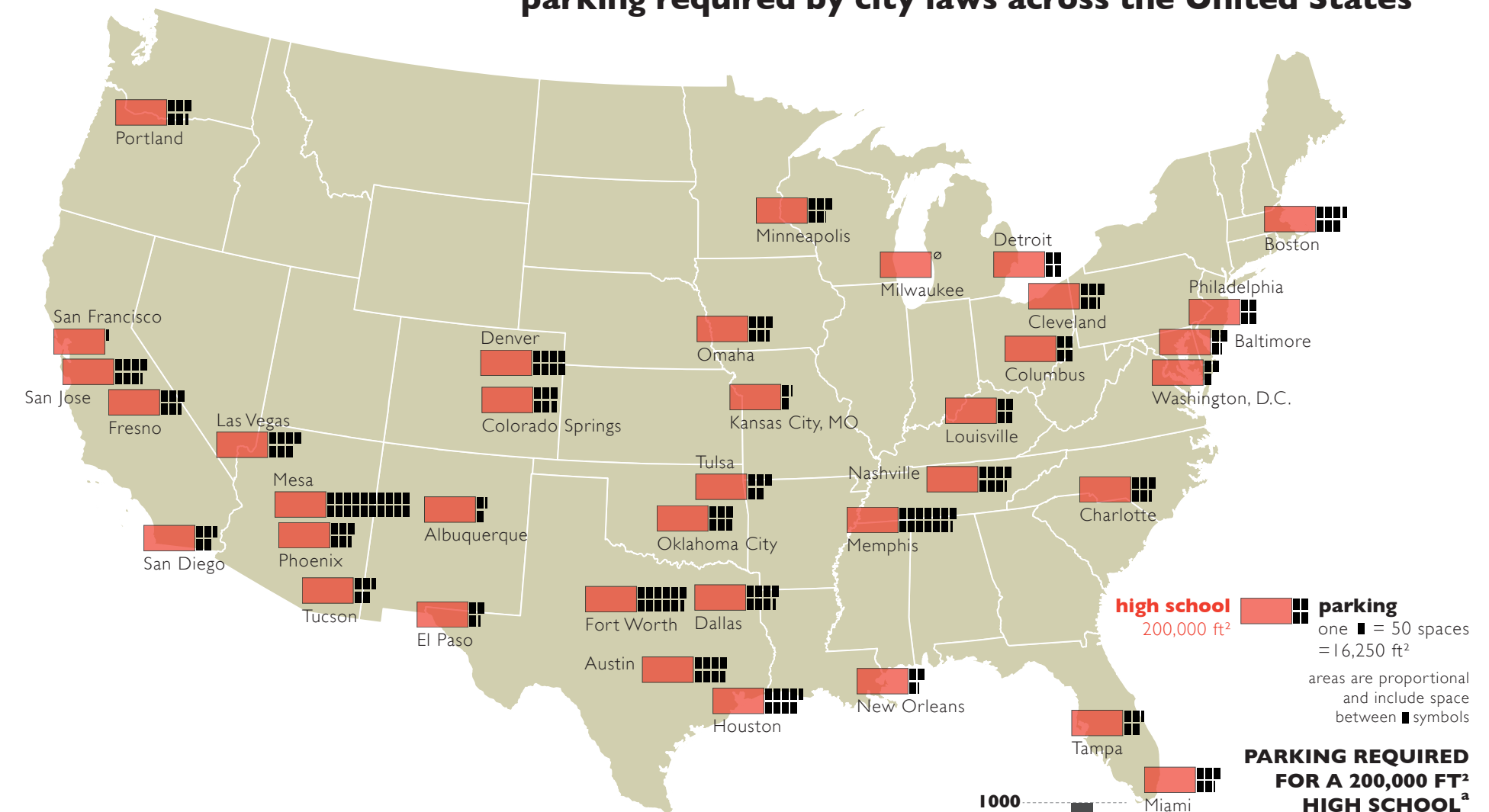


STUDY SPACE VS PARKING SPACE



parking required by city laws across the United States



Most cities across the United States require a minimum amount of parking with every new high school. These requirements span an enormous range and often become quite burdensome, consuming significant resources that could be used to support higher quality, less crowded educational facilities. In most cases the amount of space devoted to parking exceeds the amount of classroom space provided. When schools provide free or underpriced parking to students, they create a benefit for wealthier students that is unavailable to ones that are less well off or more frugal. This subsidy comes at a cost to schools' core mission. Furthermore, schools surrounded by oceans of parking are uninviting to students arriving by foot or bike, sending the message that driving is preferred. Parking minimums deny school districts the ability to set their own priorities and decide if parking is the best use of their budgets.

The graphs above represent the minimum amount of parking required for an average high school as defined in footnote b. The standard requirement before any possible reductions was used to generate the graphs. In cities where different zones have different standards, the highest requirement has been used.

Only a generation ago, walking or biking to school was commonplace. Now it seems that many cities have set the expectation that students will drive to school in single occupant vehicles. Wouldn't it be better to allow educators, in consultation with their respective communities, to set expectations for schools?

- a - a list of the pertinent sections of each city's municipal code (with links) can be found at: graphingparking.com/sources/
- b - calculations based on a 200000 SF high school with 1162 students @ 172.1 sf per student. 39 thirty seat classrooms 132 staff (94 teachers + 38 other) (no on-site stadium)
- total floor area and floor area per pupil are the national medians listed in: Table 5: Abramson, Paul, comp. 2013 Annual School Construction Report. student/teacher and student/staff ratios taken from: Table 4: Keaton, P. (2012). Public Elementary and Secondary School Student Enrollment and Staff Counts From the Common Core of Data: School Year 2010-11 U.S. Department of Education.