

EDUCATIONAL IMPACT STATEMENT: The Proposed Grade Expansion of P.S. 326 (22K326) to a K-2 School in 2012-2013

I. Summary of Proposal

P.S. 326 (22K326, “P.S. 326”) is an existing zoned elementary school located in building K852 at 1800 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11234, in Community School District 22. P.S. 326 is an early childhood center, and it currently serves students in kindergarten through first grade, and it also offers a pre-kindergarten program. Early childhood centers are small elementary schools that focus on early childhood education, typically kindergarten through second grade. This is a proposal to implement a “grade expansion,” whereby P.S. 326 would expand to serve students in kindergarten through second grade (“K-2”) at full scale. If this proposal is approved, P.S. 326 would begin enrolling second grade students for the 2012-2013 school year. The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) does not anticipate that the proposed expansion of P.S. 326 would affect its pre-kindergarten program.

Currently, elementary students in District 22 can attend their zoned elementary schools or apply to citywide or district-wide Gifted and Talented programs through the Gifted and Talented application process. Under this proposal, elementary school students in District 22 would retain all of those options.

P.S. 326 currently shares a zone with P.S. 119 Amersfort (22K119, “P.S. 119”), an existing zoned elementary school that serves students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Historically, the majority of first grade students enrolled in P.S. 326 enrolled in P.S. 119 for second grade. If this proposal is approved, first grade students enrolled in P.S. 326 would be able to stay at P.S. 326 for second grade, or they may choose to enroll at P.S. 119 for second grade because it is in the same zone. Other first grade students in District 22 could also enroll in P.S. 326 for second grade, but they would be enrolled depending on seat availability at P.S. 326 because priority would be given to P.S. 326’s first grade students.

The proposal to expand P.S. 326 initially came from the school community. In May 2011, a grade expansion team composed of P.S. 326 teachers and administrators submitted a formal application to expand the grades served by the school. This grade expansion would allow P.S. 326 to serve second grade, which most DOE early childhood centers serve.

II. Proposed or Potential Use of Building

There is sufficient space in building K852 to accommodate the school’s proposed expansion to serve students in kindergarten through second grade. According to the 2009-2010 Enrollment Capacity Utilization Report (the “Blue Book”), building K852 has a target capacity to serve 176 students.

As described in more detail in the Blue Book, which is available at http://source.nycsca.org/pdf/capitalplan/2009-10/BB_2009_2010.pdf, a building’s target utilization rate is calculated by dividing the aggregated enrollment of all the school organizations in the building by the aggregated “target capacities” of those organizations. Each school organization’s “target capacity” is calculated based upon the scheduled use of individual rooms as reported by principals during an annual facilities survey, the DOE’s standards for maximum classroom capacities (which are lower than the UFT contractual class sizes and differ depending on grade level), and the efficiency with which classrooms are programmed (i.e., the frequency with which classes are scheduled in a given classroom).

Although a utilization rate in excess of 100% may suggest that a building will be over-utilized or over-crowded in a given year, this rate does not account for the fact that rooms may be programmed for more efficient or different uses than the standard assumptions in the utilization calculation.

The most recent year for which target capacity has been calculated for buildings is 2009-2010. The DOE's projected utilization rates for the 2010-2011 school year, the 2011-2012 school year and beyond are based on the 2009-2010 target capacity, which assumes that the components underlying that target capacity (scheduled use of classrooms, maximum classroom capacity, etc.) remain constant. Thus, projected utilization rates for the 2010-2011 school year, the 2011-2012 school year and beyond provide only an approximation of a building's usage because each of the factors underlying target capacity may be adjusted by principals from year to year to better accommodate students' needs. For example, changing the use of a room from an administrative room to a homeroom at the high school level will increase a building's overall target capacity because for high schools administrative rooms are not assigned a capacity. Holding enrollment constant, this change would result in a lower utilization rate. Similarly, if a room previously used as a kindergarten classroom is subsequently used as fifth grade classroom, the building's target capacity would increase because we expect that a fifth grade class will have more students than a kindergarten class. This is reflected in the fact that the DOE's standard for maximum classroom capacity is higher for fifth grade classrooms than for kindergarten classrooms. In this example, as well, assuming enrollment is constant, the utilization rate would decrease.

In 2009-2010, P.S. 326 served 212 kindergarten and first grade students and 37 pre-kindergarten students for a total of 249 students,¹ yielding a target building utilization rate of 141% for building K852.² In 2010-2011, P.S. 326 served 187 kindergarten and first grade students and 17 pre-kindergarten students for a total of 204 students,³ yielding an estimated target utilization rate of 116%.⁴ In 2011-2012, P.S. 326 is projected to serve 151 kindergarten and first grade students⁵ and 10 pre-kindergarten students for a total of 161 students, yielding an estimated target utilization rate of 85%. In 2012-2013, when the grade expansion would be completed, if this proposal is approved, P.S. 326 is projected to serve 185-230 kindergarten through second grade students and approximately 5-15 pre-kindergarten students for a total of 190-245 students, yielding an estimated target utilization rate of 129%.⁶

The DOE's pre-kindergarten programs are maintained based on available funding and student enrollment, and the DOE anticipates that pre-kindergarten will continue to be offered at P.S. 326 in 2012-2013, subject to continuing funding and demand.

¹ Based on the 2009-2010 audited register.

² The utilization rate reported here may differ from that published in the 2009-2010 Enrollment Capacity Utilization Report (the "Blue Book") because the Blue Book enrollment includes Long Term Absences ("LTAs"), students who have been absent continuously for 30 days or more as of October 31, 2010. The building capacity figures quoted here are consistent with the Blue Book. However, the building enrollment figures referenced throughout this EIS and used in the calculation of utilization rates only include the projected number of students who are actually projected to attend the school and do not include LTAs. This methodology is consistent with the manner in which the DOE conducts planning and calculates space allocations and funding for all schools. In determining the space allocation for co-located schools, the Office of Space Planning will conduct a detailed site survey and space analysis of the building to assess the amount of space available in the building.

³ Based on the 2010-2011 audited register.

⁴ The official target capacity and utilization rates for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years and beyond are not yet available. All references to building utilization rates in this document are based on target capacity data from the 2009-2010 Blue Book. As discussed, utilization rates referenced herein only include the projected number of students who may actually attend the school and do not include LTAs.

⁵ Projected enrollment for this grade expansion is based on the anticipated number of incoming kindergarten students and historical discharge rates in current kindergarten and first grade enrollment at P.S. 326.

⁶ Estimate based on projected enrollment at P.S. 326 with the current kindergarten class size (2010-2011 audited register) used to project the size of future incoming kindergarten classes.

Although the estimated utilization of K852 for the 2010-2011 school year is greater than 100% and may suggest that the building will be over-utilized or over-crowded in a given year, it is important to note that the DOE anticipates that K852's capacity will increase in 2011-2012 because two construction projects are scheduled to be completed before the start of the 2011-2012 school year. The construction projects will create one additional instructional room that will be available for use in 2011-2012 and will reconfigure the sizes of two adjoining rooms, thereby increasing building K852's target capacity by approximately 14 seats.

One construction project is subdividing Room 201, which is located on the second floor and is approximately 860 square feet large, into two classrooms. In 2010-2011, Room 201 was used to serve one of P.S. 326's kindergarten sections. After the construction project is complete, Room 201 will have been subdivided into two rooms, Room 200 and Room 201. One of these will serve one kindergarten section and the other will serve pre-kindergarten in 2011-2012.

Previously, P.S. 326's pre-kindergarten section was served in either Room B10 or Room B20, which are both located in the basement.⁷ Since the pre-kindergarten class will be served in the additional room on the second floor once construction is completed, the room previously occupied will now be available for use for other purposes.

The second construction project is to reconfigure Rooms 300 and 301, which were previously approximately 350 and 550 square feet, respectively, into two rooms of approximately 450 square feet.

Moreover, P.S. 326's enrollment has been in decline. As stated above, in 2009-2010, P.S. 326 served 212 kindergarten and first grade students, and in 2010-2011 it served 187 kindergarten and first grade students. In 2011-2012, P.S. 326 is projected to serve only 151 kindergarten and first grade students, and 100-130 kindergarten and first grade students in 2012-2013. This represents a decline of two classes in each grade, which is due in part to the lower projected need for kindergarten Collaborative Team Teaching classes in District 22. Thus, if this proposal is approved, four classrooms that were previously required to serve kindergarten and first grade students will now be available in 2012-2013 to serve the incoming second grade students.

If this proposal is approved, though more total students would occupy K852, there would continue to be sufficient space to serve students in K852 pursuant to the DOE's Instructional Footprint ("Footprint") after the grade expansion is completed. In 2011-2012, P.S. 326 is expected to enroll four kindergarten classes and four first grade classes, as well as one section of pre-kindergarten. In 2012-2013, these enrollment projections remain constant (subject to demand and funding, in the case of pre-kindergarten), and several second grade classes will also be enrolled.

Please visit the DOE's website to access the Footprint, which guides space allocation and use in City schools: http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/8CF30F41-DE25-4C30-92DE-731949919FC3/87633/NYCDOE_Instructional_Footprint_Final9210TNT.pdf.

⁷ Although Room B10 and Room B20 are located in the basement, each room has windows.

III. Impact of the Proposal on Affected Students, Schools, and Community

A. Students

P.S. 326’s grade expansion would create approximately 85-100 additional second grade seats in District 22 and would allow P.S. 326 students to continue their early childhood education at the school. The DOE does not anticipate that the proposed expansion of P.S. 326 would affect its pre-kindergarten program.

The table below demonstrates the enrollment in building K852 in 2010-2011 and the projected enrollment over the next two years:

Year	Pre-Kindergarten	Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade	Total Enrollment
2010-2011 ⁸	17	69	118	-	204
2011-2012 ⁹	10	58	93	-	161
2012-2013	5-15	50-65	50-65	85-100	190-245

P.S. 326 will continue to serve early childhood education students in its zone. A student’s zoned school is determined by his or her home address. Families seeking to enroll their children into P.S. 326 for kindergarten can visit the following website to learn more about eligibility and the DOE’s sibling priority policy: <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/Elementary>.

P.S. 326 will also continue to serve over-the-counter students. “Over-the-counter” (“OTC”) placement is a term that refers to the method of enrolling students who need a school assignment because they were not part of any admissions process for entry grades and/or were not enrolled in a New York City school at the time school started. These students fall into one of four categories:

- New to the New York City school system;
- Left the New York City school system and have returned;
- Are seeking transfers (based on the guidelines outlined in Chancellor’s Regulation A-101); or
- Students who did not participate in the elementary or middle school admissions process for some other reason.

The DOE does not anticipate that the proposed grade expansion would impact students with disabilities or English Language Learner (“ELL”) students. P.S. 326 would continue to meet the needs of its students with disabilities, in accordance with their Individualized Educational Programs (“IEPs”), and ELL students in all grades.

P.S. 326 currently offers the following academic programs: an English as a Second Language program, a Saturday program aimed at helping ELL students and their families learn English, and an ethics and character development program. This proposal is not expected to impact the ability of P.S. 326 to continue to offer these programs. If this expansion proposal is approved, these programs would also be offered to P.S. 326’s second grade students.

P.S. 326 is partnered with the Rockaway Artist Alliance to create a mural on the building’s exterior wall.

Because the majority of P.S. 326’s first grade students have historically enrolled in P.S. 119 for second grade, P.S. 326’s proposed expansion may decrease the number of students who enroll at P.S. 119 for second grade in the future. The potential impact on P.S. 119 is described in further detail in Section III.C.

⁸ Based on the 2010-2011 audited register.

⁹ Based on the 2011-2012 Budget Register Projections.

B. Schools

No other schools are co-located with P.S. 326 at K852, so there will be no impact on other schools in the building.

C. Community

The creation of 85-100 second grade elementary school seats at P.S. 326 will likely decrease enrollment at other existing elementary schools, particularly P.S. 119 which is in the same zone as P.S. 326. The table below lists the schools where P.S. 326 first grade students enrolled for second grade in 2010-2011.

School	DBN	Projected Total Enrollment in 2011-2012 ¹⁰	Projected Total Second Grade Enrollment in 2011-2012	Number of P.S. 326 Students Who Matriculated into Second Grade ¹¹
P.S. 109	22K109	584	43	1
P.S. 251 Paedergat	22K251	644	94	1
P.S. 119 Amersfort	22K119	477	94	67
P.S. 193 Gil Hodges	22K193	907	156	3
P.S. 207 Elizabeth G. Leary	22K207	1277	153	3
P.S. 222 Katherine R. Snyder	22k222	841	122	1
P.S. 312 Bergen Beach	22K312	942	145	1
P.S. K315	22K315	812	145	1

The majority of P.S. 326’s first grade students matriculated to P.S. 119 for second grade. In 2011-2012, P.S. 119 is projected to serve 94 second grade students, 67 of whom matriculated from P.S. 326. Thus, if this proposed expansion is approved and assuming that P.S. 326 students choose to remain at the school for second grade, P.S. 119’s second grade enrollment may be reduced by up to approximately 67 students starting in 2012-2013, when P.S. 326 offers second grade.

P.S. 326 students may choose to remain at the school for second grade, or they may choose to enroll at P.S. 119 for second grade because it is in the same zone. New second grade students in the zone may choose to enroll at P.S. 326, but they would be enrolled depending on seat availability at P.S. 326 because priority will be given to P.S. 326’s first grade students. If there are no available second grade seats at P.S. 326, they could enroll at P.S. 119 for second grade. New second grade students outside of the zone may choose to enroll at P.S. 326 or P.S. 119, but they would be subject to the enrollment policies as outlined in Chancellor’s Regulation A-101.

Based on historical patterns, enrollment at the other District 22 elementary schools would not be significantly impacted by the proposed expansion at P.S. 326. Moreover, by expanding P.S. 326 to serve second grade, P.S. 326 would be aligned with most DOE early childhood centers, which serve kindergarten through second grade.

There are currently no Community Based Organizations (“CBOs”) in building K852.

This proposal is not expected to impact the ability of community members and organizations to obtain school building use permits at K852.

¹⁰ Based on the 2011-2012 Budget Register Projections, which includes pre-kindergarten projections.

¹¹ Based on the 2010-2011 audited register.

IV. Enrollment, Admissions and School Performance Information

The only directly impacted school in this proposal is P.S. 326.

Admissions Data

Current Admissions	Pre-kindergarten: Standard Universal Pre-K Admissions Process K-1: Zoned
Admissions after Grade Reconfiguration is Completed	Pre-kindergarten: Standard Universal Pre-K Admissions Process K-2: Zoned

Enrollment Data

Current Grades Served	Pre-K and K-1
2010-2011 Enrollment	Pre-K: 17 K-1: 187
Grades Served in 2011-2012	Pre-K and K-1
Projected 2011-2012 Enrollment	Pre-K: 10 K-1: 151
Grades Served after Grade Reconfiguration in 2012-2013	Pre-K and K-2
Projected 2012-2013 Enrollment	Pre-K: 5-15 K-2: 185-230

Demographic Data

Percentage of Students Receiving CTT or SC Services¹²	11%
Percentage of Students with Individual Education Plans¹³	15%
Percentage of English Language Learner Students¹⁴	22%
Percentage of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch¹⁵	82%

¹² Students Receiving CTT and SC services as percentage of total students from the 2010-2011 audited register.

¹³ Students with IEPs as percentage of total students from the 2010-2011 audited register.

¹⁴ ELL students as percentage of total students from the 2010-2011 audited register.

¹⁵ Percentage of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch from School Allocation Memorandum No. 9, FY11, June 30, 2010.

School Performance Data

	2009-2010	2010-2011	Website
Progress Report Scores	N/A ¹⁶	N/A	http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/22/K326/AboutUs/Statistics
ELA Score (% Level 3 and 4)	N/A	N/A	http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/22/K326/AboutUs/Statistics
Math Score (% Level 3 and 4)	N/A	N/A	http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/22/K326/AboutUs/Statistics
Accountability Status	In Good Standing	N/A	http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/22/K326/AboutUs/Statistics
Average Attendance	93%	92%	http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/data/stats/attendance

V. Initial Costs and Savings

The expansion of a school creates the need for additional one-time funding to cover any additional textbooks and supplies that may be required. The per capita allocation to offset these costs has historically been \$80. Since P.S. 326's grade expansion is expected to create approximately 85-100 second grade seats, the DOE estimates that P.S. 326 would receive a one-time award of approximately \$6,800-\$8,000.

If grade appropriate furniture is not available onsite, the school may receive additional furniture packages. In FY 2010, the cost of a furniture package for each elementary class section was approximately \$5,293. Should this proposal create a need for additional administrative space or function, the cost of voice and data lines will be fully covered by the DOE. This allocation is subject to approval by the Office of Space Planning.

VI. Effect on Personnel Needs, Costs of Instruction, Administration, Transportation and Other Support Services

A. Personnel Needs

P.S. 326 may need to hire additional teachers during its grade expansion as the total number of students enrolled in the school increases in 2012-2013. The precise number of positions needed for the 2012-2013 school year would be determined once annual enrollment projections are released in the spring of 2012. Similarly, the number of new positions created to serve students in second grade would be determined based on annual enrollment projections available as the school grows to serve that grade. It is worth noting that teachers working in elementary schools typically hold a 1-6 "Common Branch" license.

Administrative staff and non-pedagogical positions at P.S. 326 may also be added over the course of the grade reconfiguration. Those decisions would be made at the school based on need and budgetary considerations.

Some current P.S. 119 staff positions may be excessed due to declining enrollment associated with the reduction of the second grade classes at P.S. 119. It is difficult to precisely predict the number of affected positions.

¹⁶ P.S. 326 served kindergarten and first grade in 2009-2010. Because students do not participate in New York State ELA and math assessments until third grade, neither P.S. 326's performance data nor Progress Report grades are available.

Any excessing that might be necessary would be conducted in accordance with existing labor contracts. For example, the current United Federation of Teachers (UFT) contract would require excessing to take place in reverse seniority order within each given teaching license area. Most teachers working in grades 1-6 hold a “Common Branches” license.

Barring system-wide layoffs, excessed teachers would be eligible to apply for other City positions, including any newly created positions at P.S. 326, and any teacher who did not find a permanent position would be placed in the Absent Teacher Reserve pool, meaning that they would continue to earn their salary while serving as substitute teachers in other City schools. Should there be a vacancy in the school in a teacher’s license area within one year of the teacher being excessed, the teacher would have a right of return to the school consistent with applicable contract provisions and law regarding teachers’ seniority.

B. Cost of Instruction

Most funding in school budgets is allocated on a per-pupil basis. The basic operating budget for P.S. 326 is determined by the same Fair Student Funding (FSF) per capita entitlement used at all other New York City District public schools. Each student receives a per-pupil allocation based on the grade level of the student. FSF allocations are subject to variation, but for 2011-2012, the base per-pupil entitlement for elementary schools is \$4,085.30.

In addition, FSF awards supplemental entitlements on a per-pupil basis for students who have additional needs and therefore cost more to educate. For example, during the 2011-2012 school year, elementary schools are entitled to receive an additional \$1,633.71 per pupil for each ELL student they enrolled. At the elementary level, supplemental funds are awarded for each student who is an ELL, who requires special education services, or who is eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. For middle and high schools, supplemental funds are awarded to each student who is an ELL, who requires special education services, or who is performing below grade level upon enrollment. In the case of students who fall into more than one of these categories, schools are awarded supplemental funding to meet all of those needs.

As a result of P.S. 326’s proposed expansion, the total number of students enrolled at P.S. 119 is expected to decline, meaning that the school may need fewer teachers and fewer supplies to meet the needs of its smaller student population. If the overall school enrollment grows again in the future, the overall budget will increase accordingly. In any case, funding will be provided in accordance with enrollment levels, allowing the school to meet the instructional needs of its student population. This is how funding is awarded to all schools throughout the City, with budgets naturally increasing or decreasing as enrollment fluctuates from year to year.

FSF covers basic instructional expenses and FSF funds may, at the school’s discretion, be used to hire staff, purchase supplies and materials, or implement instructional programs. As the total number of students enrolled grows, the overall budget will increase accordingly, allowing the school to meet the instructional needs of its larger student population. Similarly, if the total number of students enrolled falls, the budget shrinks accordingly, as the school will need fewer supplies and potentially a smaller staff.

As with all other schools Citywide, P.S. 326 may receive additional “categorical” funding based on student characteristics and needs. For example, federal Title I funding is awarded to schools based on the proportion of low-income students they enroll. This school is currently eligible for Title I funding. Assuming that the school continues to meet Title I criteria, the size of its Title I funding awards will grow or shrink as the school population grows or shrinks.

While schools do receive supplemental support for special education students through FSF, that only represents part of the funding provided to support those students. Schools are budgeted to meet the needs of their special education students as defined by their IEPs. P.S. 326 will continue to receive funds to meet the needs of all special education students in accordance with their IEPs.

Please note that increased or reduced per capita funds allocated to the school as a result of changes in enrollment that may occur do not represent net/incremental system costs. All dollar amounts are based on FY11 entitlements and are subject to variation based on adjustments to the DOE's overall operating budget.

C. Administration

P.S. 326 may hire school supervisory and/or administrative personnel as needed as a result of its grade expansion.

No change in school supervisory or administrator positions is expected as a result of the anticipated reduced enrollment at P.S. 119.

D. Transportation

There will be no change to existing transportation practices at P.S. 326 due to this proposal.

Transportation will continue to be provided according to Chancellor’s Regulation A-801: <http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/21A1B11A-886B-4F74-9546-E875EE82A14C/40303/A801.pdf>.

E. Other Support Services

Other support services will continue to be provided consistent with citywide policy.

VII. Building Information

Building	K854
Type of Building	Elementary School
Year Built	1958
Overall BCAS rating	2.78 out of 5
2009-2010 Target Building Utilization	141%
2009-2010 Target Building Capacity	176
FY 2010 Maintenance Costs	Labor: \$2,232 Materials: \$1,043 Maintenance and repair contracts: \$7,076 Lease costs: \$451,093 Custodial operations costs—Materials: \$2,168 Custodial operations costs—Custodial Allocation: \$86,020
FY 2009 Energy Costs	Electric: \$41,529 Gas: \$1,370 Oil: \$2,629
Projects completed during the current or prior school year	Room conversion (subdividing one classroom into two classrooms and reconfiguring the sizes of two adjoining classrooms)
Projects proposed in the capital plan	Classroom connectivity & new retrofit telephone/intercom systems
Accessibility of the building	Not accessible
Building attributes	Art rooms, Cafeteria, and Library.