

## **EDUCATIONAL IMPACT STATEMENT:**

### **The Proposed Grade Truncation of P.S. 126 Dr. Marjorie H. Dunbar (09X126) to a K-5 School**

#### **I. Summary of Proposal**

P.S. 126 Dr. Marjorie H. Dunbar (09X126, “P.S. 126”) is an existing elementary school, located at 175 West 166<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx, NY 10452, in Community School District 9. It currently serves students in Kindergarten through sixth grade and offers a Pre-Kindergarten program. This is a proposal to implement a “grade truncation,” meaning that the school would no longer enroll sixth graders after the current 2010-2011 school year. Beginning in September 2011, P.S. 126 would serve students only in Kindergarten through fifth grade and continue to offer a Pre-Kindergarten program.

Under this proposal, at the close of the 2010-2011 school year, all fifth and sixth graders who meet promotional standards will graduate from P.S. 126. In September 2011, these students will enter middle schools as sixth and seventh graders, respectively. Beginning in 2011-2012, P.S. 126 will serve students only in Kindergarten through fifth grade. From that time forward, P.S. 126 students will move on to middle school for sixth grade.

The Department of Education (DOE) strives to ensure that all students in New York City have access to high-quality schools at every stage of their education. Having elementary schools that terminate in different grades (i.e., K-5 versus K-6) creates unequal levels of access for students based simply on the year they exit elementary school. Middle schools typically enroll students beginning in sixth grade, and P.S. 126 students have the option to apply to start middle school as sixth graders. Currently, however, most P.S. 126 students transition to middle school for seventh grade.

P.S. 126 is the last elementary school in District 9 to serve grades K-6. The proposed grade truncation will help standardize middle school application and entry grades in District 9, giving all P.S. 126 students access to the same range of middle school options as their peers throughout District 9.

When P.S. 126 sixth graders apply to middle school, their choices are limited to their zoned middle school or those unzoned, choice middle schools that still have available seventh-grade seats. These choice schools rarely have seventh-grade seats, which become available only when sixth graders leave the school. As a result, students who remain at P.S. 126 through sixth grade currently have fewer options than their peers who apply to start middle school a year earlier.

Additionally, when students enter middle school at multiple entry grades (sixth and seventh), this creates challenges for both the students and the middle school as a whole. P.S. 126 students who start middle school in seventh grade may face transitional challenges related to entering middle school a year later than most of their classmates and they remain in their new middle school for only two years before again transitioning to high school. Similarly, having students enter in multiple years creates an instructional challenge for middle school teachers and leadership who are responsible for preparing all students for high school. Those students who enter the middle school at seventh grade will not have the benefit of a sustained educational experience in the middle years; this has the effect of depersonalizing the school experience when adolescents tend to need the most personal and supportive environments.

## II. Proposed or Potential Use of Building

The building where P.S. 126 is located, X126, has the capacity to serve 922 students and a current target utilization rate of 84 percent, meaning that the building is not overcrowded at this time.<sup>1</sup> There are no proposed additional uses for the building after the grade truncation takes place.

If a grade truncation is approved, total enrollment would be reduced by approximately 90 students. The DOE intends to use the space formerly occupied by the sixth-grade students to serve the school's Kindergarten through fifth-grade students.

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

### A. Students

If this proposal is approved, all fifth and sixth graders who meet promotional standards will graduate from P.S. 126 at the close of the 2010-2011 school year. In September 2011, those students will enter middle school as sixth and seventh graders, respectively. Beginning in 2011-2012, P.S. 126 students will serve students only in Kindergarten through fifth grade and will continue to offer a Pre-Kindergarten program. From that time forward, all P.S. 126 graduates will have the same access to their top-choice middle schools as their peers in District 9.

Current P.S. 126 fifth and sixth graders will participate in the Middle School Choice process<sup>2</sup> and will enroll in middle school as sixth and seventh graders, respectively. Going forward, if this proposal is approved, P.S. 126 students will transition to middle school after completing fifth grade. Every fifth grade student is issued a personalized middle school application and should apply to the middle schools they would most like to attend.

If a current P.S. 126 sixth grader does not meet promotional standards and is required to repeat the grade, the DOE will seek to place that student in the sixth grade of the same middle school to which he or she has been matched for the Middle School Choice process. If such placement is not feasible, then the DOE will find an alternative District 9 placement for the student.

P.S. 126 fifth and sixth grade students will have several middle school options. They may choose to attend their zoned middle school or to participate in the Middle School Choice process by ranking middle school options in Districts 9 and 10.

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<sup>1</sup> The official target capacity and utilization rates for the 2010-11 school year are not yet available. All references to building utilization rates in this document are based on target capacity data from the 2009-10 Enrollment Capacity Utilization Report (the "Blue Book").

<sup>2</sup> Visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/Middle> for more information about middle school enrollment, including timelines and district directories.

The middle schools open to P.S. 126 students through the Middle School Choice Process for the 2011-2012 school year include:

District	School Name	School DBN Code	2011-2012 School Level	Grades Served (2011-12)
9	J.H.S. 22 Jordan L. Mott	09X022	MS	6-8
9	M.S. 117 Joseph H. Wade Academies	09X117	MS	6-8
9	Mott Hall III	09X128	MS	6-8
9	P.S./I.S. 218 Rafael Hernandez Dual Language Magnet School	09X218	ES/MS	6-8*
9	M.S. 219	09X219	MS	6-8
9	I.S. 229 Dr. Roland N. Patterson School	09X229	MS	6-8
9	Eagle Academy for Young Men	09X231	MS/HS	6, 9-12
9	M.S. 232 The Academy School	09X232	MS	6-8
9	The Urban Assembly School for Applied Math and Science	09X241	MS/HS	6-12
9	I.S. 303 The Leadership & Community Service Academy	09X303	MS	6-8
9	I.S. 313 School of Leadership Development	09X313	MS	6-8
9	Bronx Writing Academy	09X323	MS	6-8
9	Bronx Early College Academy	09X324	MS/HS	6-12
9	Urban Science Academy	09X325	MS	6-8
9	M.S. 327 Comprehensive Model School Project	09X327	MS	6-8
9	New Millennium Business Academy Middle School	09X328	MS	6-8
9	M.S. 339 School of Communication Technology	09X339	MS	6-8
9	Bronx School for Medical Science	09X413	MS/HS	6-12
9	Science and Technology Academy: A Mott Hall School	09X454	MS	6-8
9	The Bronx School for Law, Government and Justice	09X505	MS/HS	6-12
9	Frederick Douglass Academy III Secondary School	09X517	MS/HS	6-12
10	M.S. 45 Thomas C. Giordano Middle School	10X045	MS	6-8
10	J.H.S. 118 William W. Nilis	10X118	MS	6-8
10	Theater Arts Production Company School	10X225	MS/HS	6-12
10	Jonas Bronck Academy	10X228	MS	6-8
10	West Bronx Academy for the Future	10X243	MS/HS	6-12
10	The New School for Leadership and Journalism	10X244	MS	6-8
10	M.S. 308 Bronx Dance Academy	10X308	MS	6-8
10	International School for Liberal Arts	10X342	MS/HS	6-12
10	Academy for Personal Leadership and Excellence	10X363	MS	6-7**
10	M.S. 390	10X390	MS	5-8
10	The Creston Academy for Responsibility and Excellence (C.A.R.E.)	10X447	MS	6-7**
10	East Fordham Academy for the Arts	10X459	MS	6-7**

\*Indicates middle school grades only, though the school also offers elementary school grades.

\*\* The school is currently in the process of phasing up to become a 6-8 school.

More information about these options is available in the District 9 Middle School Directory: <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/Middle/Publications/Bronx/>.

One of the middle schools open to P.S. 126 students, Science and Technology Academy: A Mott Hall School (09X454, “STA”), gives priority in its application process to students residing in its middle school zone, and the majority of P.S. 126 students live in that zone. STA is located in school building X166, located at 250 East 164th Street. Other schools currently co-located in X166 include: J.H.S. 166 Roberto Clemente (09X166, “J.H.S. 166”), Bronx Early College Academy of Teaching & Learning (09X324, “BECA”), and Grant Avenue Elementary School (09X449, “GAES”). Building X166 has a capacity of 1,663 students and a current utilization rate of 65 percent, meaning that it will continue to have enough space to accommodate P.S. 126 graduates if the truncation is implemented.

P.S. 126 will continue to meet the needs of its students with disabilities and English Language Learners (ELLs) in grades K-5. Current fifth and sixth graders with IEPs or requiring ELL services will continue to receive appropriate services at their new middle school.

Students with IEPs will participate in the middle school admissions processes in the same manner as their non-disabled peers. Middle schools will be supported by the DOE in reviewing students’ IEPs to focus on addressing the needs of students with disabilities by providing individualized service models that ensure students have access to the general education curriculum to the greatest extent possible. It is expected that the middle school in which a student enrolls will develop a program to meet the students’ needs. This process will apply to students with IEPs currently in fifth and sixth grades at P.S. 126 in the same manner as it applies to all other students.

In accordance with DOE policy, English Language Learners participate in the middle school admissions processes in the same manner as their peers who are not English Language Learners. P.S. 126 offers self-contained English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to current fifth and sixth graders. P.S. 126 also offers a Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) class to current sixth graders. For a list of ELL services offered at middle schools in Districts 9 and 10 through the Middle School Choice Process that will be available to P.S. 126 fifth graders who will be entering middle schools in the sixth grade in the 2011-2012 school year, please consult the District 9 Middle School Directory: <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/Middle/Publications/Bronx/>.

## **B. Schools**

The proposed grade truncation will reduce the number of grades being served by P.S. 126 and result in the decrease of approximately 90 students in Building X126 in the short term. The building is already operating below capacity even with its current K-6 grade span. Given that fewer students will be enrolled in X126 as a result of this proposal, there will continue to be sufficient space to serve students in X126 pursuant to the Citywide Instructional Footprint (the “Footprint”) after the grade truncation is completed. Please visit the New York City Department of Education website to access the Instructional 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](http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/8CF30F41-DE25-4C30-92DE-731949919FC3/87633/NYCDOE_Instructional_Footprint_Final9210TNT.pdf).

In December 2009, the District 9 Community Education Council (“CEC 9”) approved a rezoning proposal that expanded the size of the P.S. 126 zone. Over time, this larger zone will result in an increase in the number of students enrolled in each grade at P.S. 126, and the building will be more fully utilized as a result. Given that this rezoning is expected to increase the number of students in each grade at P.S. 126 over time, the proposed grade truncation is also needed in order to ensure that the building usage remains within capacity.

No other schools are co-located at X126, so there will be no impact on other schools in the building.

### C. Community

Last year, approximately 18 percent of the fifth-grade class left P.S. 126 after fifth grade. As a result of this proposal, approximately 125 P.S. 126 fifth graders will be participating in the Middle School Choice process a year earlier than previously was the case. There are more than enough seats to accommodate those students at middle schools open to P.S. 126 graduates. District 9 and 10 middle schools have capacity available to accommodate the additional influx of P.S. 126 graduates during this transitional year.

Middle schools in Districts 9 and 10 can accommodate all 125 P.S. 126 fifth graders in 2011-2012. In total, there are currently 5,420 sixth grade Middle School Choice seats in Districts 9 and 10, but only 3,620 students are projected to be enrolled in Districts 9 and 10 Middle School Choice schools. Even with the addition of 125 fifth graders who traditionally would not have moved on to middle school for sixth grade, only 3,745 sixth grade students are projected to be enrolled in Districts 9 and 10 middle schools of choice, leaving 1,675 seats of available capacity.

This proposed grade truncation is intended to create grade alignment and increase access to middle school options for all students in District 9. As such, the proposal is connected to other approved changes already being implemented in the community.

P.S. 11 is a neighboring elementary school that previously served students in Kindergarten through fourth grade. The rezoning approved by CEC 9 in December 2009 reduced the number of incoming students at P.S. 11 to allow the school to expand with the addition of a fifth-grade class in September 2010.<sup>3</sup> After the proposed grade truncation is implemented at P.S. 126, both elementary schools will serve students in Kindergarten through fifth grade. Students residing in both zones will participate in the Middle School Choice process at the same time, and will therefore have equal access to middle school options.

P.S. 126 has one Community Based Organization (CBO) in the building: the Woodycrest Center for Human Development. This program is a social services resource for youth and families and primarily serves elementary school students. If the truncation occurs, this program will no longer be offered to sixth grade students at P.S. 126, but will continue to be offered to students in grades K-5.

P.S. 126 currently also participates in C.H.A.M.P.S., an athletic extracurricular program serving middle school students in grades 6-8. If the truncation occurs, P.S. 126 would no longer offer the C.H.A.M.P.S. program at P.S. 126 to sixth-grade students. However, C.H.A.M.P.S. is offered to middle school students in grades 6-8 at many schools throughout the city. The individual website for each middle school may indicate whether the school participates in C.H.A.M.P.S. under the "Athletics and Fitness" link.

P.S. 126 also offers the following extracurricular programs: school choir, Bronx Arts ensemble, and track. These programs are not expected to be impacted by the truncation.

P.S. 126 currently operates two sections of a full-day Pre-Kindergarten program. Barring unforeseen circumstances, we expect Pre-Kindergarten to continue being offered at P.S. 126.

This proposal is not expected to impact the ability of community members and organizations to obtain school building use permits at X126.

## IV. Enrollment, Admissions and School Performance Information

The only impacted school in this proposal is P.S. 126.

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<sup>3</sup> P.S. 11's grade expansion was approved by the Panel for Educational Policy on January 26, 2010.

**Admissions Data**

<b>Current Admissions</b>	Pre-K: Standard Universal Pre-K Admissions K-6: Zoned
<b>Admissions after Grade Reconfiguration in 2011-2012</b>	Pre-K: Standard Universal Pre-K Admissions K-5: Zoned

**Enrollment Data**

<b>Current Grades Served</b>	K-6
<b>Projected 2010-2011 Enrollment</b>	688 <sup>4</sup>
<b>Grades Served after Grade Reconfiguration in 2011-2012</b>	K-5
<b>Projected 2011-2012 Enrollment</b>	570-620 <sup>5</sup>

**Demographic Data**

<b>Percentage Students With Disabilities<sup>6</sup></b>	10%
<b>Percentage English Language Learner Students</b>	28%
<b>Percentage of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch</b>	97%

**School Performance Data**

	2008-2009	2009-2010	Website
<b>Progress Report Scores</b>	A	B	<a href="http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/09/X126/AboutUs/Statistics/default.htm">http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/09/X126/AboutUs/Statistics/default.htm</a>
<b>ELA Score</b>	57.3%	26.8%	<a href="http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/09/X126/AboutUs/Statistics/default.htm">http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/09/X126/AboutUs/Statistics/default.htm</a>
<b>Math Score</b>	75.8%	39.5%	<a href="http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/09/X126/AboutUs/Statistics/default.htm">http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/09/X126/AboutUs/Statistics/default.htm</a>
<b>State Accountability Status</b>	In good standing	Not available	<a href="http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/09/X126/AboutUs/Statistics/default.htm">http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/09/X126/AboutUs/Statistics/default.htm</a>
<b>Average Attendance</b>	90.07%	91.65%	<a href="http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/data/stats/attendance/default.htm">http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/data/stats/attendance/default.htm</a>

**V. Initial Costs and Savings**

No initial costs or savings are expected due to the P.S. 126 grade truncation.

<sup>4</sup> P.S. 126 also houses a Pre-Kindergarten program that would be unaffected by the proposed grade truncation. Projected Pre-Kindergarten enrollment is not included in the total projected enrollment figures above.

<sup>5</sup> P.S. 126 also houses a Pre-Kindergarten program that would be unaffected by the proposed grade truncation. Projected Pre-Kindergarten enrollment is not included in the total projected enrollment figures above.

<sup>6</sup> Students with disabilities as percentage of total students. This figure does not include SETSS or students receiving speech or language services.

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

### A. Personnel Needs

Some current P.S. 126 staff positions may be excessed due to declining enrollment associated with the elimination of the sixth-grade classes at P.S. 126. It is difficult to precisely predict the number of affected positions.

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, regardless of their students’ age.

Barring system-wide layoffs, excessed teachers would be eligible to apply for other City positions, 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.

When addressing the proposal’s impact on personnel, it is important to recognize that the sixth-grade students who would otherwise have enrolled in P.S. 126 will now be enrolled in other District 9 and 10 middle schools, and those schools might need to hire new teachers to serve their larger sixth-grade student population.

### B. Cost of Instruction

Most funding in school budgets is allocated on a per-pupil basis. For each student no longer on the P.S. 126 roster after the truncation is completed, the school is expected to receive approximately \$4,384.81 less annual base funding. These estimates are based on current Fair Student Funding (FSF) per capita allocation levels and are subject to annual variation. 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 a result of the truncation, the total number of students enrolled at P.S. 126 is expected to decline, meaning that the school will need fewer teachers and fewer supplies to meet the needs of its smaller student population. If for some reason the overall school enrollment grows again, 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.

In addition, FSF awards supplemental allocations on a per-pupil basis to students who have additional needs and therefore cost more to educate. For example, during the 2010-2011 school year, schools received an additional \$2,031 per pupil for each English Language Learner they enrolled. It is difficult to project the impact of this proposal on the total supplemental funding that P.S. 126 will receive because future students’ achievement levels and needs cannot be predicted for each of the next three years, but the school will be awarded supplemental funding for higher-need students according to the same formula as all other schools citywide, ensuring that funds are in place to meet those students’ needs.

As with all other schools citywide, P.S. 126 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. P.S. 126 is currently a Title I school. Assuming that the

school continues to meet Title I criteria, the school’s Title I funding award will adjust as the size of the school population changes.

While schools do receive supplemental support for students with disabilities through FSF, that only represents part of the funding provided to support those students. Schools are budgeted to meet the needs of their students with disabilities as defined by their Individual Education Plans (IEPs). After the truncation is completed, funding will continue to be provided to meet the needs of all students with disabilities in accordance with their IEPs.

Please note that increased or reduced per capita funds allocated to the school as a result of this proposal do not represent net/incremental system costs. All dollar amounts are based on FY10 allocations and are subject to annual variation based on adjustments to the DOE's overall operating budget.

**C. Administration**

No change in school supervisory or administrator positions is expected as a result of the grade truncation at P.S. 126.

**D. Transportation**

Transportation will be provided according to Chancellor’s regulation A-801: <http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/ronlyres/21A1B11A-886B-4F74-9546-E875EE82A14C/40303/A801.pdf>. There will be no change to existing transportation practices at P.S. 126 due to this proposal.

**E. Other Support Services**

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

**VII. Building Information**

<b>Type of Building</b>	Elementary School
<b>Year Built</b>	1971
<b>Overall BCAS rating</b>	2.65
<b>Target Utilization</b>	84%
<b>Target Capacity</b>	922
<b>FY 2010 Maintenance Costs</b>	<b>Labor:</b> \$5,998 <b>Materials:</b> \$548 <b>Maintenance and repair contracts:</b> \$14,567 <b>Service contracts:</b> N/A <b>Custodial operations costs—Materials:</b> \$6,713 <b>Custodial operations costs—Custodial Allocation:</b> \$281,746
<b>FY 2010 Energy Costs</b>	<b>Electric:</b> \$106,222 <b>Gas:</b> \$1,151 <b>Oil:</b> \$85,407
<b>Projects completed during the current or prior school year</b>	Masonry/Roofs/Flood Elimination/Parapets
<b>Projects proposed in the capital plan</b>	Upgrade to the building's drain and storm systems; roof replacements; parapet replacements; exterior masonry replacements
<b>Accessibility of the building</b>	Not fully accessible
<b>Building attributes</b>	Art room, Auditorium, Cafeteria, Library, Gymnasium