

EDUCATIONAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The Proposed Grade Truncation of P.S. 360 (10X360) to a K-5 School

I. Summary of Proposal

P.S. 360 (10X360, “P.S. 360”) is an existing elementary school, located at 2880 Kingsbridge Terrace, Bronx, NY 10463, in Community School District 10. 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. 360 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. 360. In September 2011, these students will enter middle schools as sixth and seventh graders, respectively. Beginning in 2011-2012, P.S. 360 will serve students only in Kindergarten through fifth grade. From that time forward, P.S. 360 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. 360 students have the option to apply to start middle school as sixth graders. Currently, however, most P.S. 360 students transition to middle school for seventh grade.

P.S. 360 is one of three remaining elementary schools in District 10 to serve grades K-6. The proposed grade truncation will help standardize middle school application and entry grades in District 10, giving all P.S. 360 students access to the same range of middle school options as their peers throughout District 10.

Currently, when P.S. 360 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 have very few seventh-grade seats, which become available only when sixth graders leave the school. As a result, students who remain at P.S. 360 through sixth grade currently have less access to middle school 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. 360 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. 360 is located, X360, has the capacity to serve 525 students and a current target utilization rate of 92 percent, meaning that the building is not overcrowded at this time.¹ There are no proposed additional uses for the building after the grade truncation takes place. Expanding available K-5 seat capacity creates opportunities to provide elementary students with increased access to Pre-Kindergarten programs, special education services, District 75 programs, and/or specialized classrooms.

If a grade truncation is approved, total enrollment would be reduced by approximately 65 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. 360 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. 360 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. 360 graduates will have the same access to their top-choice middle schools as their peers in District 10.

Current P.S. 360 fifth and sixth graders will participate in the Middle School Choice process² and will enroll in middle school as sixth and seventh graders, respectively. Going forward, if this proposal is approved, P.S. 360 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. 360 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 10 placement for the student.

P.S. 360 fifth- and sixth-grade students will have several middle school options. Through the Middle School Choice process, they may rank middle school options in Districts 9 and 10, and will automatically be granted a space at their zoned middle school if they rank that school on the application.

¹ The official target capacity and utilization rates for the 2010-2011 school year are not yet available. All references to building utilization rates in this document are based on target capacity data from the 2009-2010 Enrollment Capacity Utilization Report (the "Blue Book").

² 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. 360 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)
10	M.S. 45 Thomas C. Giordano Middle School	10X045	MS	6-8
10	J.H.S. 118 William W. Niles	10X118	MS	6-8
10	M.S./H.S. 141 Riverdale/Kingsbridge Academy	10X141	MS/HS	6-12
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	6-8
10	M.S./H.S. 368 IN-Tech Academy	10X368	MS/HS	6-12
10	M.S. 390	10X390	MS	5-8
10	The Creston Academy for Responsibility and Excellence (C.A.R.E.)	10X447	MS	6-8
10	East Fordham Academy for the Arts	10X459	MS	6-8
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

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

More information about these options is available in the District 10 Middle School Directory: <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/Middle/Publications/Bronx/>.

One of the middle schools open to P.S. 360 students, The New School for Leadership and Journalism (10X244), gives priority in its application process to students residing in its middle school zone, and the majority of P.S. 360 students live in that zone. The New School for Leadership and Journalism is located in school building X143, located at 120 West 231st Street. The projected capacity for sixth grade at The New School for Leadership and Journalism is 221 students. The 2010-2011 projected enrollment for sixth grade at The New School for Leadership and Journalism is 142 students. There are therefore 79 sixth-grade seats currently available at The New School for Leadership and Journalism. The Marie Curie School for Medicine, Nursing, and Health Professions (10X237), which only serves high school students in grades 9-12, is also co-located in the X143 building. Building X143 has a capacity of 1,190 students and a current utilization rate of 97 percent, meaning that it will have some space to accommodate some P.S. 360 graduates if the truncation is implemented.

P.S. 360 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 the middle school to which they are matched. P.S. 360 currently offers English as a Second Language (ESL) self-contained classes in the following grades: K, 1, 2, and 4-5 (bridge class). ESL pull-out programs are offered in grades 3 and 6.

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 to which a student is matched 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. 360 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. Information regarding the type(s) of ELL programs historically offered by the middle schools available to impacted students can be found in the Middle School Directory for District 10: <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/Middle/Publications/Bronx/>. Students who are English Language Learners are placed according to the same placement criteria as their English-speaking peers. The student support staff at P.S. 360, in consultation with the Office of Student Enrollment (OSE) and the Office of English Language Learners, will assist students with identifying services for English Language Learners offered at middle school(s) as they select programs that will meet their specific needs.

B. Schools

The proposed grade truncation will reduce the number of grades being served by P.S. 360 and result in the decrease of approximately 65 students in Building X360 in the short term. The building is already operating slightly below capacity even with its current K-6 grade span. Given that fewer students will be enrolled in X360 as a result of this proposal, there will continue to be sufficient space to serve students in X360 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.

No other schools are co-located at X360, so there will be no impact on other schools in the building.

C. Community

Last year, approximately 17 percent of the fifth-grade class left P.S. 360 after fifth grade. As a result of this proposal, approximately 69 P.S. 360 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. 360 graduates.

If this proposal is implemented, middle schools in Districts 9 and 10 can accommodate all 69 of P.S. 360 graduating fifth graders. In total, there are currently 5,288 sixth-grade Middle School Choice seats in Districts 9 and 10, but only 4,342 sixth grade students are projected to be enrolled in Districts 9 and 10 Middle School Choice schools. Even with the addition of 69 fifth graders who traditionally would not have moved on to middle school for sixth grade, only 4,411 sixth-grade students are projected to be enrolled in Districts 9 and 10 middle schools of choice, leaving 887 seats of available capacity.

This proposed grade truncation is intended to create grade alignment and increase access to middle school options for students in District 10.

There are currently no Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in the X360 building.

P.S. 360 offers softball, drama club, arts and crafts, and track as extracurricular programs. These programs are not expected to be impacted by the truncation. Many middle schools available to P.S. 360 graduates offer similar extracurricular programs. With the truncation at P.S. 360, arts programs such as music or dance may also be offered at the school.

P.S. 360 currently operates one section of a full-day Pre-Kindergarten program. Barring unforeseen circumstances, we expect Pre-Kindergarten to continue being offered at P.S. 360.

This proposal is not expected to impact the ability of community members and organizations to obtain school building use permits at X360.

IV. Enrollment, Admissions and School Performance Information

The only impacted school in this proposal is P.S. 360.

Admissions Data

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

Enrollment Data

Current Grades Served	K-6
Projected 2010-2011 Enrollment	472 ³
Grades Served after Grade Reconfiguration in 2011-2012	K-5
Projected 2011-2012 Enrollment	380-430 ⁴

Demographic Data

Percentage Students With Disabilities⁵	10%
Percentage English Language Learner Students	14%
Percentage of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch	91%

School Performance Data

	2008-2009	2009-2010	Website
Progress Report Scores	A	B	http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/10/X360/AboutUs/Statistics/default.htm
ELA Score (% Level 3 and 4)	58.5%	30.7%	http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/10/X360/AboutUs/Statistics/default.htm
Math Score (% Level 3 and 4)	76.9%	44%	http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/10/X360/AboutUs/Statistics/default.htm
State Accountability Status	In good standing	In good standing	http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/10/X360/AboutUs/Statistics/default.htm
Average Attendance	94.4%	92.6%	http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/data/stats/attendance/default.htm

V. Initial Costs and Savings

No initial costs or savings are expected due to the P.S. 360 grade truncation.

³ P.S. 360 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.

⁴ P.S. 360 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.

⁵ 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. 360 staff positions may be excessed due to declining enrollment associated with the elimination of the sixth-grade classes at P.S. 360. 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. 360 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. 360 roster after the truncation is completed, the school is expected to receive approximately \$4,059.71 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. 360 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. 360 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. 360 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. 360 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. 360.

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. 360 due to this proposal.

E. Other Support Services

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

VII. Building Information

Type of Building	Elementary School
Year Built	1999
Overall BCAS rating	1.95
Target Utilization	92%
Target Capacity	525
FY 2010 Maintenance Costs	Labor: \$20,508 Materials: \$7,853.28 Maintenance and repair contracts: \$64,905.40 Service contracts: \$8,694.48 Custodial operations costs—Materials: \$13,281.15 Custodial operations costs—Custodial Allocation: \$408,879.80
FY 2010 Energy Costs	Electric: \$124,664.64 Gas: \$42,918.67 Oil: \$0
Projects completed during the current or prior school year	IP Surveillance cameras, FY 10 RESO A desktop computers
Projects proposed in the capital plan	No projects identified
Accessibility of the building	Functionally fully programmatic accessible
Building attributes	Art room, Cafeteria, Computer Room, Library, Gymnasium