



Notice
October 29, 2010

Joel I. Klein
Chancellor

The Proposed Grade Truncations of P.S. 161 Arthur Ashe School (28Q161) and a D75 School, P004Q@Q161, to K-5 Schools at the Conclusion of the 2011-2012 School Year

I. Description of the subject and purpose of the proposed item under consideration.

P.S. 161 Arthur Ashe School (28Q161, “P.S. 161”) is an existing elementary school located at 101-33 124th Street, South Richmond Hill, NY 11419, in Community School District 28. It currently serves students in Kindergarten through sixth grade and offers a Pre-Kindergarten program. P.S. 161 is co-located in Q161 with a District 75 (“D75”) inclusion program, P004Q (“P004Q@Q161”), which serves students in grades Kindergarten through sixth with a range of disabilities. “Co-located” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums, and cafeterias. P004Q@Q161 students are enrolled in P.S. 161’s general education classes, and, depending on their individual needs, receive Special Education Teacher Support Services (“SETSS”) separately.

This is a proposal to implement a “grade truncation,” meaning that P.S. 161 and P004Q@Q161 would no longer enroll sixth graders. This proposal would be implemented at the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year. This means that there would be no change to the schools next year.

During the 2011-2012 school year, all fifth and sixth grade P.S. 161 students would participate in the Middle School Choice process, and all fifth and sixth grade P004Q@Q161 students will participate in the D75 Middle School Choice process. At the close of the 2011-2012 school year, all fifth and sixth graders who meet promotional standards would graduate from P.S. 161 and P004Q@Q161. Beginning in 2012-2013, P.S. 161 and P004Q@Q161 would serve students only in Kindergarten through fifth grade and P.S. 161 would continue to offer a Pre-Kindergarten program. From that time forward, P.S. 161 and P004Q@Q161 students would move on to middle school for sixth grade.

Middle schools typically enroll students beginning in sixth grade, and P.S. 161 and P004Q@Q161 students have the option to apply to start middle school as sixth graders. P.S. 161 and P004Q@Q161 students who wait until sixth grade to apply to middle school are limited to those schools that still have available seventh-grade seats. In particular, there are several unzoned, choice middle schools in District 28, and those schools rarely have open seventh-grade seats, which become available only if sixth graders leave the school. As a result, students who remain at P.S. 161 or P004Q@Q161 through sixth grade will have fewer options than their peers who start middle school a year earlier.

This proposed grade truncation will help standardize middle school application and entry grades in District 28, giving all P.S. 161 and P004Q@Q161 students access to the same range of middle school options as their peers throughout the District.

II. Information regarding where the full text of the proposed item may be obtained.

The Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) can be found on the Department of Education’s Web site: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2010-2011/Dec2010PEP.htm>

A copy of the EIS is also available in the main offices of P.S. 161 and P004Q.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D28Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-7621.

IV. The name, office, address, email and telephone number of the city district representative, knowledgeable on the item under consideration, from whom information may be obtained concerning the item.

Name: Gentian Falstrom
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D28Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-7621

V. Date, time and place of joint public hearings for this proposal.

November 30, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.
P.S. 161
101-33 124th Street
South Richmond Hill, NY 11419

Questions about the proposal should be directed as indicated in section IV above.

Speaker sign-up will begin 30 minutes before the hearing and will close 15 minutes after the start.

VI. Date, time and place of the Panel for Educational Policy meeting at which the Panel will vote on the proposed item.

December 14, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.
Brooklyn Technical High School
29 Fort Greene Place
Brooklyn, NY 11217