



**Amended Notice**  
November 15, 2010

**Joel I. Klein**  
*Chancellor*

## **The Proposed Grade Truncation of P.S. 197 The Ocean School (27Q197) to a K-5 School**

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

P.S. 197 The Ocean School (27Q197, “P.S. 197”) is an existing elementary school located at 825 Hicksville Road, Far Rockaway, NY 11691, in Community School District 27. It currently serves students in Kindergarten through sixth grade and offers a Pre-Kindergarten program. On October 15, 2010, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) published an educational impact statement (“EIS”) describing a proposal to implement a “grade truncation,” meaning that the school would no longer enroll sixth graders after the current 2010-2011 school year.

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. 197. In September 2011, these students will enter middle schools as sixth and seventh graders, respectively. Beginning in 2011-2012, P.S. 197 will serve students only in Kindergarten through fifth grade and continue to offer a Pre-Kindergarten program. From that time forward, P.S. 197 students will move on to middle school for sixth grade.

On November 15, 2010, the DOE published an amended EIS, which includes additional background information, but which does not revise or modify the proposal itself. The amended EIS contains additional information regarding P.S. 197’s provision of English Language Learner programming.

The DOE strives to ensure that all students in New York City have access to a high-quality school 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.

This proposed grade truncation will help standardize middle school application and entry grades in District 27, giving all P.S. 197 students access to the same range of middle school options as their peers throughout District 27, and in particular their peers on the Rockaway Peninsula.

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

The amended 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 amended EIS is also available at P.S. 197's main office.

**III. Submission of public comment.**

Written comments can be sent to [D27Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D27Proposals@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: [D27Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D27Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)  
Phone: 212-374-7621

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

November 22, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.  
P.S. 197 The Ocean School  
825 Hicksville Road  
Far Rockaway, NY 11691

Questions about the proposal can 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