



Withdrawal Notice
December 1, 2010

Joel I. Klein
Chancellor

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

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

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.

On October 29, 2010, the Department of Education (“DOE”) issued 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 the proposal, beginning in September 2011, P.S. 360 would have served students only in Kindergarten through fifth grade and would have continued to offer a Pre-Kindergarten program.

The 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 would have helped 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.

After receiving community feedback, however, the DOE has determined to withdraw the proposal to truncate P.S. 360.

As a result of this withdrawal, the joint public hearing originally scheduled for December 1, 2010 was cancelled, and the proposal will not be considered by the PEP at its meeting on December 14, 2010. P.S. 360 will continue to enroll sixth graders after the 2010-2011 school year.

The DOE will continue to listen to community feedback as they consider how best to serve the students and families of P.S. 360.

II. Summary of all public comment received to date.

Feedback was received leading up to the formal proposal, both for and against the grade truncation. The DOE has received two written comments. In addition, members of the public expressed opinions about the proposal to the principal of P.S. 360, who relayed those concerns to the Division of Portfolio Planning.

- The principal said parents expressed concern that the grade truncation was part of a plan by the DOE to place a District 75 program in the school.
- The principal said parents expressed concern that the loss of a sixth grade would destabilize the school. They mentioned the potential loss of enrollment and/or funds, staffing issues, and challenges around special education implementation and zoning.
- The principal expressed concern about a decrease in the overall register and the corresponding decrease in the school's budget as a result of this proposal.
- The principal said parents expressed concerns about having fifth graders move on to middle school a year earlier and the lack of middle school options.
- A commenter expressed concern that the proposal would prevent the reduction in class size and result in reduced lunch time hours.
- A commenter expressed support for the proposal in light of overcrowding in the area, but felt such restructuring should be done in other districts as well and showed concern for other districts that are expanding to K-8.

III. 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>.

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.

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