



Notice
December 12, 2011

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Grade Truncation of I.S. 171 Abraham Lincoln (19K171) to a 6-8 School in 2012-2013

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

I.S. 171 Abraham Lincoln (“I.S. 171”) is an existing zoned middle school located in building K171 (“K171”), at 528 Ridgewood Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11208, in Community School District 19. It currently serves students in fifth through eighth grade. I.S. 171 is the only school organization located in K171.

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to implement a “grade truncation,” meaning that the school would no longer enroll fifth grade students, after the 2011-2012 school year. If this proposal is approved, at the close of the 2011-2012 school year, all fifth grade students at I.S. 171 who meet promotional standards would be promoted to sixth grade. Those students would have the choice to continue at I.S. 171 or they could participate in District 19 Middle School choice. If an I.S. 171 fifth grade student does not meet the promotional standards at the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year and is required to repeat the grade in the 2012-2013 school year, the DOE will seek to place that student in a fifth grade class at a nearby elementary school. If such a placement is not feasible, then the DOE will find an alternative District 19 placement for that student. Beginning in September 2012, I.S. 171 would only serve students in sixth through eighth grade. This is a school-initiated truncation request.

Prior to May 2011, students in District 19 could attend their zoned middle school, or they could apply to middle schools that managed their own admissions processes on a school-by-school basis. These schools are called “choice schools” and they admit students living in a defined catchment area, which can be district, borough, or citywide depending on the nature of the school, and do not offer priority to students living in a particular zone. On May 17, 2011, the District 19 Community Education Council voted to adopt “Middle School Choice” for admissions beginning in the 2012-2013 school year. Middle School Choice allows students to use a single application to rank and apply to middle schools throughout the District, including zoned middle schools outside the zone in which they reside. Zoned students still have priority for admission to zoned schools, but other District 19 students will also be eligible to attend those schools by the choice process.

Middle schools typically enroll students beginning in sixth grade, but I.S. 171 begins serving students in fifth grade. Once the District 19 Middle School Choice becomes effective, I.S. 171 as

it is currently configured will not be aligned with the other middle schools in the district that serve sixth through eighth grade students. Currently, P.S. 007 Abraham Lincoln (19K007, “P.S. 7”) and I.S. 171 are the only two schools in District 19 which serve irregular grade spans in the K-8 realm. In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) published in December 2011, the DOE is proposing to expand P.S. 7 from a kindergarten through fourth grade school to a kindergarten through fifth grade school. Because the standard exit point for an elementary school is fifth grade, when Middle School Choice takes effect for admissions as of 2012-2013, the majority of students in District 19 will be applying to I.S. 171 for sixth grade. If I.S. 171’s fifth grade is not truncated and if the proposal to expand P.S. 7 is approved, the enrollment in any future I.S. 171 fifth grade class would be adversely affected as all elementary students in District 19 will be attending an elementary school that serves kindergarten through fifth grade and would therefore likely not enroll in I.S. 171 for fifth grade.

This proposed grade truncation will help standardize middle school application and entry grades in District 19. Additionally, having students start middle school through multiple entry grades (fifth grade students who may enroll from a kindergarten through fourth grade school and sixth grade students who may enroll from a kindergarten through fifth grade school) creates challenges for students and the school as a whole. Having students enter in multiple years is also challenging for teachers and leadership from an instructional perspective.

Changing I.S. 171’s grade span from fifth grade to eighth grade to sixth grade to eighth grade would reduce the school’s enrollment by approximately 110-125 students, freeing up additional space that I.S. 171 could use to accommodate existing sixth through eighth grade students or to meet other needs (e.g., art room, resource center, etc.).

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

The EIS can be found on the Department of Education’s Web site:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Feb2012Proposals>.

Copies of the EIS are also available in I.S. 171’s main office.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D19Proposals@schools.nyc.gov

Oral comments can be left at (212) 374-0208.

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: Lily Haskins

Office: Division of Portfolio Planning

Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007

Email: D19Proposals@schools.nyc.gov

Phone: (212) 374-0208

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

January 11, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
I.S. 171 Abraham Lincoln
528 Ridgewood Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11208

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.

February 9, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
Brooklyn Technical High School
29 Fort Greene Place
Brooklyn, NY 11217