



**Department of  
Education**

*Carmen Fariña, Chancellor*

**Notice**  
October 30, 2015

## **The Proposed Consolidation of P.S. 137 John L. Bernstein (01M137) with P.S. 134 Henrietta Szold (01M134) in Building M134 Beginning in the 2016-2017 School Year**

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

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to consolidate P.S. 137 John L. Bernstein (01M137, “P.S. 137”), an existing elementary school that currently serves students in kindergarten through fifth grades and a pre-kindergarten program, with P.S. 134 Henrietta Szold (01M134, “P.S. 134”), an existing elementary school serving students in kindergarten through fifth grade and a pre-kindergarten program, in building M134 (“M134”), located at 293 East Broadway, New York, NY 10002, beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. The DOE is proposing to consolidate P.S. 137 with P.S. 134 because both schools have struggled with low enrollment, which creates budgetary and programmatic challenges. A “consolidation” means that two or more existing school organizations are combined into one school to operate and serve students more effectively. If this proposal is approved, P.S. 137 and P.S. 134 will be combined such that students, staff, and resources of P.S. 137 will become part of P.S. 134, and P.S. 137 will no longer exist as a distinct school option as of the 2016-2017 school year.

P.S. 137 and P.S. 134 are currently co-located in building M134. A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums, and cafeterias. Building M134 also houses two community-based organizations (“CBOs”), Henry Street Settlement and University Settlement. If this proposal is approved, Henry Street Settlement and University Settlement will continue to provide services and maintain their space in M134.

The New York State Education Department (“SED”) assigns an accountability status to each district school—Good Standing, Local Assistance Plan, Focus, or Priority. P.S. 134 is identified as a school in Good Standing, and P.S. 137 is identified as a Local Assistance Plan school. If this proposal is approved, the newly consolidated school would not inherit the state accountability status of P.S. 137. Rather, the state accountability status of P.S. 134 would remain.

The DOE is proposing to consolidate P.S. 137 with P.S. 134 based primarily on the benefits

students would derive from the additional resources made available by consolidating the two school organizations into one. If this proposal is approved, students attending the consolidated P.S. 134 will have access to a wider variety of academic and enrichment opportunities, interventions, and other supports that would not be financially feasible for either individual school to offer in the absence of a consolidation.

Building M134 has the capacity to serve a total of 652 students. If this proposal is approved, P.S. 134 will absorb the enrollment of P.S. 137 and will serve a projected 374-434 students in kindergarten through fifth grades and three sections of pre-kindergarten in the 2016-2017 school year. This will result in a total projected building enrollment of 374-434 students in M134, yielding a building utilization rate of 57%-67%. This proposal is not expected to significantly change the total building enrollment.

## **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 at:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2015-2016/December2015SchoolProposals>

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main offices of P.S. 134 and P.S. 137.

## **III. Submission of public comment.**

Members of the public who wish to provide comments are encouraged to attend the Joint Public Hearing for this proposal and share their feedback in person. Members of the public that do not provide comments at the hearing may also provide oral or written comments as described below. All comments must be submitted at least 24 hours in advance of the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”) meeting at which this proposal is subject to a vote in order to be mentioned in the Public Comment Analysis to be published and provided to the PEP the evening before the PEP votes.

Written comments can be sent to [D01Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D01Proposals@schools.nyc.gov).

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-3466.

## **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: Eric Herman  
Office: Office of District Planning  
Address: 52 Chambers Street, Room 219, New York, NY 10038  
Email: [D01Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D01Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)  
Phone: 212-374-3466

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

December 7, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.  
Building M134  
293 East Broadway  
New York, NY 10002

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 of the hearing.

**VI. Date, time and place of the PEP meeting at which the PEP will vote on the proposed item.**

December 16, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.  
High School of Fashion Industries  
225 West 24<sup>th</sup> Street.  
New York, NY 10011