



**Department of  
Education**

*Carmen Fariña, Chancellor*

**Notice**

February 2, 2017

## **The Proposed Grade Truncation of P.S. 306 Ethan Allen (19K306) in Building K306 from a K-8 School to a K-5 School Beginning in the 2017-2018 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 truncate the middle school grades served by P.S. 306 Ethan Allen (19K306, “P.S. 306”) beginning in the 2017-2018 school year. P.S. 306 is an existing district school currently serving students in kindergarten through eighth grade and offering a pre-kindergarten (“Pre-K”) program in building K306 (“K306”), located at 970 Vermont Street, Brooklyn, NY 11207 in Community School District 19 (“District 19”). If this proposal is approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”), P.S. 306 will no longer enroll or serve students in sixth through eighth grade after the conclusion of the 2016-2017 school year, at which point it will only serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade and offer a Pre-K program. K306 also houses the Community Based Organization (“CBO”) Partnership with Children, Inc.

The DOE is proposing to truncate the middle school grades of P.S. 306 based on declining enrollment as well as low performance, particularly in the middle school grades. The DOE believes that this truncation will benefit the P.S. 306 and District 19 communities by enabling P.S. 306 to focus exclusively on its elementary school grades and continue building a quality elementary school option.

If this proposal is approved, beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, P.S. 306 will serve only elementary school students in kindergarten through fifth grades and offer a Pre-K program, and will no longer exist as a middle school option. DOE staff will work with current sixth and seventh grade students, as well as eighth grade students who do not meet promotional criteria, to ensure that those students are offered seats in other higher-performing district middle schools. Current eighth grade students who meet promotional criteria may continue on to the high school to which they are matched in the high school admissions process, described in greater detail in Appendix C of the EIS. Current fifth grade students who meet promotional criteria will complete elementary school at P.S. 306 at the end of the 2016-2017 school year. These students will continue on to the middle school to which they are matched through the middle school admissions process, although they will no longer have the opportunity to remain at P.S. 306 for middle school.

P.S. 306 is one of a cohort of 86 schools that have been designated by the DOE as Renewal Schools. Schools selected to be Renewal Schools were assigned a “Priority” or “Focus” accountability status by the New York State Education Department demonstrated low academic achievement (in 2012, 2013, and 2014), and scored “Proficient” or below on their most recent Quality Review. As a Renewal School, P.S. 306 is also a Community School. Community Schools are intended to be neighborhood hubs where students receive high-quality academic instruction, families can access social services, and communities congregate to share resources

and address their common challenges. This proposal will not impact the school's participation in the School Renewal Program or any tailored ancillary services, extended instruction time, or other additional resources elementary students at P.S. 306 may receive as a result of the School Renewal Program and the school's designation as a Community School, although those services would only be provided to students in the remaining grades and may be tailored to better meet the needs of the school once it no longer serves middle school students.

Through the Renewal School program, long-struggling schools are receiving clear guidance on the progress they need to make, as well as intensive resources and supports to make sustainable improvements and to ensure that every student in New York City receives a high-quality education and is on track to graduate ready for college and career. Many Renewal Schools are improving as a result of these supports. However, for schools that aren't showing progress, additional strategies, such as truncation, may be considered.

P.S. 306 currently has a total of just 139 students enrolled in grades six through eight, which represents roughly a 25% decline since the 2013-2014 school year. Such low enrollment at the middle school level creates budgetary and programmatic challenges. Further, the middle school grades of P.S. 306 have consistently performed well below the citywide average in math. In 2015-2016, just 6.4% of middle school students at P.S. 306 scored proficient in math, versus 13.6% in District 19 and 32.4% citywide. This truncation will enable P.S. 306 to focus exclusively on its elementary school grades and continue building a quality elementary school option for the District 19 community.

Concurrently with this truncation proposal, the DOE is also issuing another proposal affecting a District 19 middle school option. In a separate Educational Impact Statement ("EIS"), the DOE is proposing the closure of Essence School (19K311, "Essence"), an existing district middle school also in District 19. If that proposal is approved, Essence will close at the end of the 2016-2017 school year and will no longer exist as a middle school option beginning in the 2017-2018 school year. The proposal to close Essence School and the proposal to truncate the middle school grades served by P.S. 306 are not contingent upon one another and will be voted on separately by the Panel for Educational Policy ("PEP"). If these proposals are approved, it is expected to help reduce the excess of about 2,750 middle school seats in District 19. In the event that both proposals are approved, District 19 schools will have the capacity to serve approximately 7,150 students in grades six through eight and a total excess of about 2,200 middle school seats. Moreover, if the proposals are approved, there will still be sufficient capacity in middle schools throughout District 19 to accommodate current Essence and P.S. 306 middle school students, as well as future students who might have attended Essence or P.S. 306 for middle school if they remained open as middle school options. Please see section III of the EIS for more information on the impact of the proposals on middle school capacity in District 19. Please see Appendix A of this EIS for a list of schools serving middle school grades in District 19.

If the proposed truncation of P.S. 306 is approved, all current sixth and seventh grade students and eighth grade students who do not meet promotional criteria will receive individualized enrollment support from the Superintendent's staff and Borough Family Welcome Center counselors, which will help students and families in thinking through the options presented in order to ensure students choose the right school to continue their education for the 2017-2018 school year. This will involve an application process by which students will be offered options including higher-performing district middle schools. All students will receive alternative options for enrollment in District 19 and their district of residence (if different) before being discharged from P.S. 306. Students who applied to P.S. 306 for sixth grade through the middle school application process, including current P.S. 306 fifth grade students, will have that choice removed from their

applications and be matched to another school ranked on their application where possible. Most students are matched to one of the programs ranked on their application, but it is not guaranteed. If a student does not match to one of the programs ranked on their application, they will receive a placement in a school where they are eligible to attend middle school.

Please see Appendix A of the EIS for a list of schools serving middle school grades in District 19.

According to the 2015-2016 Enrollment Capacity Utilization Report (the “Blue Book”), K306 has the capacity to serve 1,020 students. In the current 2016-2017 school year, K306 serves 492 total students, yielding an estimated utilization rate of 48%. If this proposal is approved, P.S. 306 will no longer serve students in grades six through eight after the 2016-2017 school year. In the 2017-2018 school year, P.S. 306 will serve approximately 301-361 total students in kindergarten through fifth grade as well as Pre-K, yielding an estimated building utilization rate of 30% -35%. More details about building utilization rates are available in Appendix B of the EIS.

## **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 website at:  
<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2016-2017/March222017SchoolProposals>

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main office of P.S. 306.

## **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 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 [D19Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto: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: Max Familian  
Office: Office of District Planning  
Address: 100 Gold Street, Suite 3200, New York, NY 10038  
Email: [D19Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D19Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)  
Phone: 212-374-0208

**V. Date, time and place of the Joint Public Hearing for this proposal.**

March 14, 2017 at 6:00 PM  
Building K306  
970 Vermont Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11207

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

Speaker sign-up will begin 30 minutes before the hearing, at 5:30 PM, 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.**

March 22, 2017 at 6:00 PM  
High School of Fashion Industries  
225 West 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10011