Department of Education
Dennis M. Walcott, Chancellor

P.S. 140 Edward K. Ellington (28Q140)
Grades: K-5
166-01 116 Avenue, Queens, NY 11434
January 2013

Fact Sheet: Proposed Phase-out and Replacement of P.S. 140 Edward K Ellington (28Q140)

Overview

We want every community to have high quality school options for families. Every fall, the Department of Education (DOE) reviews the performance of all schools Citywide. Over the past several years, despite the best efforts of the community and the DOE to support P.S. 140 Edward K. Ellington ("P.S. 140"), the school has struggled to meet basic requirements for student success.

On October 24, 2012, District 28 Community Superintendent Beverly Ffolkes-Bryant held meetings at the school with the School Leadership Team, staff, and parents to discuss what is working at P.S. 140, what needs to be improved, and how the community can work together to better serve students.

Based on an extensive review of qualitative and quantitative data and community feedback, the DOE has determined that P.S. 140 does not have the capacity to quickly improve and is proposing that the school be phased out. The DOE is also proposing that the school be replaced by a new school.

Proposing to phase out a school is the most difficult decision we make. We are proposing to phase out P.S. 140 because it is the right action for current and future students in this community. If the proposal to phase out P.S. 140 is approved, the school would phase out gradually over the next several years. The school would close in June 2016 after its phase-out is complete.

We hope you share our view that we can—and must—do better for students. The DOE will continue to work closely with P.S. 140 staff and families to ensure that all students receive the support they need to succeed.

Performance Summary

Proficiency: % of Students on Grade Level		Progress Report Grade			Most Recent Quality Review Rating
English	Mathematics	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2009-2010
31%	37%	C	C	F	"Proficient"

- The overwhelming majority of P.S. 140 students remain below grade level in English Language Arts and Math. Only 31% of students were performing on grade level in English—putting the school in the bottom 16% of elementary schools Citywide. Only 37% of students were performing on grade level in math—putting the school in the bottom 9% of elementary schools Citywide.
- The Progress Report measures the progress and performance of students in a school, as well as the school environment, compared to other schools serving similar student populations. P.S. 140 earned an F grade on its 2011-2012 annual Progress Report, including F grades for Student Progress, Student Performance, and School Environment. P.S. 140 has a history of low performance, including an F grade in 2011-2012, a C grade in 2010-2011, and a C grade in 2009-2010.
- Safety issues have been a concern at the school. On the 2011-2012 New York City School Survey, only 29% of teachers believed that discipline and order were maintained at P.S. 140.
- P.S. 140 is a zoned school, but only 66% of students residing in the P.S. 140 zone chose to attend the school, suggesting that families are seeking better options.

Despite Our Best Efforts, Performance Remains Low

We recognize that P.S. 140 staff members have worked hard to improve the school, but even with support the school has not produced adequate outcomes for students. To help the school's efforts to improve performance, the DOE offered numerous supports to P.S. 140, including:

Leadership Support:

- Coaching the principal and assistant principals on the use of accountability data to identify areas in need of improvement in order to develop action plans to strengthen school-wide performance.
- Provided professional development and continued support to the principal and assistant principals in the use of classroom observations and feedback to enhance teacher effectiveness.
- Supporting school leadership in aligning curriculum to citywide instructional expectations to raise standards for teacher practice and student learning.

Instructional Support:

- Participating in classroom walkthroughs with school leadership teams and providing targeted feedback on ways to raise academic rigor and increase student engagement.
- Providing direct coaching to the school to support the principal, assistant principals and teachers in improving curriculum, pedagogy and assessment.
- Facilitating workshops for school staff focused on differentiating instruction and targeting academic support to English Language Learners and special education students.

Operational Support:

- Supporting the school in exploring grant funding opportunities and capital investments, and acquiring technological upgrades.
- Advising school staff on budgeting, human resources, staff recruitment and building management.
- Training school staff in student data tracking systems to ensure efficient and effective monitoring of student attendance and academic programming.
- Providing support to the school in the management of mandates and compliance requirements for students with disabilities and English Language learners.

Student Support:

- Provided school with guidance and information regarding extra-curricular programs and partnerships to support student engagement and learning.
- Supporting the principal in the development of strategies to reduce suspensions and improve the school's culture and learning environment.

What would the proposal mean for current students?

If this proposal is approved, P.S. 140 will be phased out gradually over the next several years and will no longer admit new pre-kindergarten or kindergarten students after the end of this school year. However, most current students will stay at P.S. 140 as it phases out.

Below are the enrollment plans for current P.S. 140 students, if the school were to phase out.

Pre-Kindergarten – Grade 1

- The new school will only serve pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, first, and second grades next year and will add one grade per year over the next three years.
- Current pre-kindergarten students who are zoned to P.S. 140 should apply to attend kindergarten at the new school next year.

- Current pre-kindergarten students who are not zoned to P.S. 140 may apply to attend kindergarten at the new school as well as at their zoned school next year.
- Current kindergarten and first-grade students will be assigned to the new school for first and second grades next year.

Grades 2 – 4

- P.S. 140 will serve third, fourth, and fifth grades next year and will serve one grade fewer each year over the following two years.
- Current second-, third-, and fourth-grade students will continue on to the next grade level at P.S. 140 in September 2013; these students can remain at P.S. 140 through their fifth-grade graduation.

Grade 5

- Current fifth-grade students will have the opportunity to graduate from P.S. 140 at the end of this school year. These students may have applied to middle school through the District 28 Middle School Choice Process. Whether or not they have submitted an application, these students will receive priority for a seat in their zoned middle school for sixth grade. Students zoned to P.S. 140 are zoned to J.H.S. 8, another school the DOE is proposing to phase out. If that proposal is approved, current P.S. 140 fifth-grade students would receive priority for a seat in the two new schools at the Q008 building.
- P.S. 140 students who are held over in a grade still offered by P.S. 140 will continue to be served by that school. P.S. 140 students who are held over in a grade which is no longer offered by P.S. 140 will be served by the new, replacement elementary school.

Next school year, P.S. 140 will serve students in grades three, four and five. Then, during the following school year, P.S. 140 will serve students in grades four and five. Finally, during the 2015-2016 school year, P.S. 140 will only serve students in grade five. P.S. 140 would close in June 2016 after its phase-out is complete.

Supporting Current Students

The DOE remains focused on helping P.S. 140 students to succeed. If this proposal is approved, P.S. 140 would be provided targeted, customized, and intensive supports aimed at the unique needs of the school and its students. This support would be in the areas budget, staffing, programming, community engagement, guidance and enrollment including, but not limited to:

- Helping the school provide students with options that support their advancement, and fully prepare students for their next transition point,
- Working with school staff to foster a positive culture, and
- Supporting school leadership in efficiently and strategically allocating resources to ensure a consistent and coherent school environment focused on student outcomes

Plans for a New School for the P.S. 140 Community

The DOE has proposed to open and co-locate a new district elementary school in the same building as P.S. 140, which will serve the same zone as P.S. 140. If that co-location proposal is approved, the new school will begin serving grades K-2 in the 2013-2014 school year and add one more grade each year until it serves grades K-5 in the 2016-2017 school year.

More information about this replacement school will be available shortly. We will work with the community to retain partnerships with community-based organizations that are offering valuable services to the school community.

Next Steps and What You Can Expect

In the next two months, the DOE will invite the P.S. 140 community to participate in a joint public hearing co-hosted by the DOE, the District 28 Community Education Council, and P.S. 140's School Leadership Team. As soon as the hearing has been scheduled, we will notify you of the date and also share with you the formal proposal to phase out P.S. 140. During the joint public hearing, community members, including parents and students, will be able to share their thoughts on the phase-out proposal.

The proposals to phase out and replace P.S. 140 will be voted on by the Panel for Educational Policy ("PEP"), which is composed of members appointed by Mayor Bloomberg and the five Borough Presidents, during a public meeting scheduled for **March 11, 2013.** During this meeting, the public will have another opportunity to comment on the proposals. If the PEP approves the proposals, P.S. 140 will not accept new students next school year.

Sharing Your Concerns and Questions

The DOE is seeking your feedback on the proposals. We will record your comments and include them in our Analysis of Public Comments, which is presented to the PEP prior to the vote on the proposals. Please submit your comments to:

Phone: 212-374-7621
Email: D28Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Online: http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/queens/feedback?id=371