

## Fact Sheet: Proposed Phase-out and Replacement of P.S. 174 Dumont (19K174)

### 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. 174 Dumont (“P.S. 174”), the school has struggled to meet basic requirements for student success.

On October 11, 2012, Andrea Harris, Executive Director, Office of Superintendents held meetings at the school with the School Leadership Team, staff, and parents to discuss what is working at P.S. 174, 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. 174 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 elementary school and a new middle school.

**Proposing to phase out a school is the most difficult decision we make. We are proposing to phase out P.S. 174 for because it is the right action for current and future students in this community. If the proposal to phase out P.S. 174 is approved,** the school would phase out gradually over the next several years. The phase-out of P.S. 174’s middle school grades would be complete in June 2015, and the phase-out of P.S. 174’s elementary grades would be complete in June 2016

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. 174 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
22%	25%	C	C	D	“Well Developed”

- The overwhelming majority of P.S. 174 students remain below grade level in English Language Arts and Math. Only 22% of students were performing on grade level in English—putting the school in the bottom 6% of K-8 schools Citywide. Only 25% of students were performing on grade level in math—putting the school in the bottom 3% of K-8 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. 174 earned a D grade on its 2011-2012 annual Progress Report. Although P.S. 174 earned a B grade for School Environment, it received an F grade for Student Progress and a D grade for Student Performance. P.S. 174 has a history of low performance, including a D grade on the Progress Report in 2011-2012, a C grade in 2010-2011, and a C grade in 2009-2010.
- P.S. 174 was identified by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) as a Focus School, defined by NYSED as among the lowest-performing schools in the state based on its results with certain high-needs student groups.
- Safety issues have been a concern at the school. On the 2011-2012 New York City School Survey, only 59% of teachers believed that discipline and order were maintained at P.S. 174.
- Demand for P.S. 174 is low. P.S. 174 is a zoned school for the elementary grades, but only 48% of elementary students residing in the P.S. 174 zone chose to attend the school, suggesting that families are seeking better options.

## Despite our best efforts, the school has struggled

Staff members have worked hard to improve P.S. 174 Dumont, 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, including:

### Leadership Support:

- Supporting school leadership in aligning curriculum to citywide instructional expectations to raise standards for teacher practice and student learning.
- Coaching the principal and assistant principals in the use of classroom observations and feedback to enhance teacher effectiveness.
- Coaching the principal and assistant principals on utilizing accountability data to identify areas in need of improvement and developing goals to strengthen school-wide performance.

### Instructional Support:

- Training teachers to use data tools and data analysis to identify student learning trends, set goals and differentiate instruction to increase student achievement.
- Providing professional development for teachers to enhance the use of rubrics and curriculum maps to outline clear expectations for student work.

### Operational Support:

- Advising school staff on budgeting, human resources, staff recruitment and building management.
- Assisting the school in the planning and operation of its summer school program.

### Student Support:

- Facilitating workshops for school staff focused on difficult behavior patterns and youth development issues such as gang violence, in order to foster awareness and improve the school's culture and learning environment.
- Coaching the school in evidence-based guidance and counseling strategies to build the school's capacity to offer social and emotional support to students.
- Working with the school to plan strategies to reduce suspensions and re-integrate suspended students back into the school community.

## What would the proposal mean for current students?

If this proposal is approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP), P.S. 174 would be phased out gradually over the next several years and would not admit new pre-kindergarten, kindergarten or sixth-grade students after the end of this school year. All currently enrolled students would have the opportunity to continue their education at P.S. 174 would be supported through graduation.

### Pre-Kindergarten – Grade 1

- The new elementary 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. 174 should apply to attend kindergarten at the new school next year.
- Current pre-kindergarten students who are not zoned to P.S. 174 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

- For elementary students, P.S. 174 will serve third, fourth, and fifth grades next year and will serve one grade fewer each year over the next two years.

- Current second-, third-, and fourth-grade students will continue on to the next grade level at P.S. 174 in September 2013; these students can remain at P.S. 174 through their fifth-grade graduation.

### **Grade 5**

- Current fifth-grade students will have the opportunity to graduate from P.S. 174 at the end of this school year. These students may have applied to middle school through the District 19 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. Most students at P.S. 174 are zoned to I.S. 292 for sixth grade.
- The new middle school will serve sixth grade next year and will add one grade per year over the next two years. As an additional option, current P.S. 174 fifth-grade students may apply to the new school during the new schools round of the District 19 Middle School Choice Process this spring. In its first year only, the new middle school will give priority to students currently attending P.S. 174 for fifth grade.

### **Grades 6 – 7**

- For middle school students, P.S. 174 will also serve seventh and eighth grades next year and will serve one grade fewer each year over the next two years.
- Current sixth- and seventh-grade students will move on to the next grade at P.S. 174 in September 2013; these students can remain at P.S. 174 through their eighth-grade graduation.

### **Grade 8**

- Current eighth-grade students will have the opportunity to graduate from P.S. 174 at the end of this school year. These students should have applied to high school through the High School Admissions Process.

P.S. 174 students who are held over in a grade still offered by P.S. 174 will continue to be served by that school. P.S. 174 students who are held over in a grade which is no longer offered by P.S. 174 will be served by either the new elementary or middle school.

Next school year, P.S. 174 would serve students in grades three through five and grades seven and eight. In the 2014-2015 school year, P.S. 174 would serve students in grades four and five and grade eight. In June 2015, the phase-out of P.S. 174's middle school grades would be complete. In the 2015-2016 school year, P.S. 174 would serve students in grade five. In June 2016, the phase-out of P.S. 174's elementary grades would be complete.

## **Supporting Current Students**

The DOE remains focused on helping P.S. 174 students to succeed. If this proposal is approved, P.S. 174 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.
- Supporting school leadership in efficiently and strategically allocating resources to ensure a consistent and coherent school environment focused on student outcomes

## **Plans for New Schools for the P.S. 174 Community**

The DOE has proposed to open and co-locate a new district elementary school and a new district middle school in the same building as P.S. 174. The new elementary school will serve the same zone as P.S. 174. If that co-location is approved, the new elementary 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.

The new middle school will begin serving grade 6 in the 2013-2014 school year and will add one grade per year until it serves grades 6-8 in the 2015-2016 school year. In its first year only, the new middle school will give priority to students currently attending P.S. 174 for fifth grade.

More information about these replacement schools 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. 174 community to participate in a joint public hearing co-hosted by the DOE with the District 19 Community Education Council and P.S. 174'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. 174. During the joint public hearing, community members, including parents and students, will be able to share their thoughts on the phase-out proposal.

The proposal to phase out P.S. 174 will be voted on by the Panel for Educational Policy, 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 proposal. If the PEP approves the proposal, P.S. 174 would not accept new students next school year.

## Sharing Your Concerns and Questions

The DOE is seeking your feedback on the proposal. 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 proposal. Please submit your comments at:

Phone: 212-374-0208

Email: [D19Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D19Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)

Online: <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/brooklyn/feedback?id=365>