

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Proposed Elementary School Zone Changes in District 13 Beginning in the 2016-2017 School Year**

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to change the current zone lines of P.S. 8 and P.S. 307 in District 13. Below are responses to frequently asked questions that the DOE has received related to this proposal, and for reference a map of the proposed changes can be found at the end of this document.

#### REZONING OVERVIEW

##### ***Why is the DOE proposing to make these zone changes?***

The DOE is proposing to make zone line changes to:

- 1) Allow students living in District 13 the opportunity to attend their zoned school, should they wish to do so;
- 2) Create more balanced enrollment across neighboring schools so they have more equal resources with which to serve their communities; and to
- 3) Allow each family to better know and anticipate where their child is able to attend kindergarten.

Although this specific proposal focuses on two schools, P.S. 8 and P.S. 307, the DOE will be assessing the enrollment and zone needs throughout the district for potential future adjustments, aligning with these principles.

##### ***When would this zoning change be implemented?***

The proposed zone changes would take effect for the 2016-2017 school year.

##### ***Who does this rezoning proposal impact?***

This rezoning proposal impacts incoming kindergarten and pre-kindergarten students or students that are new to NYC schools in 2016-2017. The younger siblings of currently enrolled students who will continue in their school next year would not be affected – these siblings would continue to receive priority to attend school with their older brother or sister. There is no impact on currently enrolled students at any school; they can remain in their school even if this rezoning is approved by the CEC.

##### ***How will this rezoning decision be made?***

The District 13 Community Education Council (“CEC”) is responsible for voting on and approving any proposed changes to the zones in District 13. The CEC will base its decision on community input and feedback, including feedback received via email, at public meetings, or through any other forum.

##### ***How can the public provide input?***

There are a variety of ways in which community members can provide feedback on this proposal, including attending a public meeting, submitting written comments, or by calling the CEC or Superintendent’s office.

- Community Superintendent, Barbara Freeman: [BFreeman6@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:BFreeman6@schools.nyc.gov) or (718) 636-3284
- CEC 13: <http://cec13.org/hot-topics/rezoning/rezoning-comments/> or (718) 636-3212
- DOE Office of District Planning: [BrooklynZoning@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:BrooklynZoning@schools.nyc.gov)

The schedule of public meetings that have already taken place:

- September 1, 2015 at the District 13 Office
- September 16, 2015 at P.S. 307
- September 21, 2015 at P.S. 8
- September 30, 2015 at P.S. 307

Additional public meetings are currently being scheduled. Once finalized, details can be found on the CEC's website, [cec13.org](http://cec13.org).

The DOE is also holding a series of smaller stakeholder meetings in October. These meetings will be led by DOE Deputy Chancellors and attended by representatives from community groups, the school community, and elected officials.

***When will the CEC vote?***

Based on the feedback received to date, the DOE has agreed to delay the submission of the proposal to provide more opportunities for the community to be informed and discuss this proposal. The DOE is committed to working with the CEC and District 13 community at large to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to fully consider and discuss the proposal. The DOE anticipates that the CEC will now vote on this proposal in late December or early January.

**REZONING SPECIFICS**

***How will this rezoning change student enrollment and building utilization at P.S. 8 and P.S. 307?***

- P.S. 8's total enrollment is expected to remain stable. P.S. 8 currently serves 751 students and is planned to serve between 690-750 students. The building utilization is approximately 143% and will be approximately 132%-143%. Although building utilization may not decrease, it is anticipated that kindergarten waitlists will be reduced.
- P.S. 307's total enrollment is expected to increase from approximately 372 students to 670-770 students. The building utilization rate at Building K307 is projected to increase from 58% to 86%-99%.

***Will sibling priority status be maintained (aka "grandfathering") if my address is rezoned?***

Sibling priority status, or sibling "grandfathering," means that incoming kindergarten students who live where the zone is changing will retain their zoned sibling priority when applying for kindergarten, if they have a zoned sibling enrolled in grades 1-5 at the school at the time of admissions (e.g., a kindergarten student who presently lives in P.S. 8's zone and has a sibling who will be enrolled at P.S. 8 at the start of the following school year, but would be rezoned to P.S. 307 as a result of this proposal, will retain his or her admissions priority status as a zoned sibling to P.S. 8). This rezoning proposal includes sibling grandfathering as a part of the plan.

***How many students were waitlisted at P.S. 8 for the 2015-2016 school year? Of the students waitlisted, where did they enroll?***

50 students were waitlisted at P.S. 8 for the 2015-2016 school year. Several students on the waitlist ultimately received placement at P.S. 8. The remaining students from the waitlist are currently enrolled in P.S. 307, other District 13 elementary schools, charter schools, and other non-DOE schools.

***How many kindergarten sections will there be at P.S. 8 and P.S. 307 as a result of this proposal?***

P.S. 8 will offer five (5) kindergarten sections in 2016-2017. P.S. 307 would grow from the current two (2) sections to four (4) kindergarten sections.

***What does the DOE plan to do to support both schools in the process of implementing this proposal?***

The DOE is committed to ensuring all schools have the resources and support they need to be successful. If this proposal is approved, the DOE plans to develop a Rezoning Integration Task Force composed of key DOE support offices, CEC 13, and community groups to foster collaboration between all impacted communities.

***Will the Magnet program continue to be offered at P.S. 307?***

Yes. If approved, the rezoning will not have any effect on the Magnet school status of P.S. 307. The implementation and funding of the Magnet program will not be changed in any way as a result of this proposal. The Magnet program is a whole-school program, meaning that it benefits all students in the school and the entirety of the school receives Magnet resources.

***Will this rezoning affect Title I Funding at P.S. 307?***

School-wide Title I funding is based on the socio-economic status of the students who attend that school. In order for a school to receive Title I funds, 60% or more of the students at that school must qualify for free lunch. P.S. 307 is currently eligible for Title I funding. Like any school, there is a possibility that P.S. 307 would no longer be eligible for Title I funding if less than 60% of its students are eligible for free lunch. That said, P.S. 307 students would continue to receive per pupil funding, which contributes to the school's overall budget, and students that qualify for free lunch and other services will continue to receive their mandated and entitled services.

***What current programmatic offerings exist at P.S. 307?***

P.S. 307 currently offers the following instructional programs, clubs and organizations to its students: Go Math, Teachers College ELA curriculum, Interdisciplinary STEM projects, Living Environments in every classroom, STEM Research Lab, ASD Horizon Classes, online learning courses, Mandarin as a foreign language, social emotional learning, Music and the Brain labs, violin, visual art, technology lab, nutrition education program, physical education and health, Saturday academy, afterschool programs, parent activities and community partnerships, and an award cheer squad.

***Will this rezoning cause building K307 to become overcrowded?***

The DOE does not anticipate that this proposal would cause K307 to become overcrowded. If the rezoning is implemented, it is anticipated that building K307 would remain below 100% utilized.

***What are the DOE's plans for Satellite West Middle School in building K307?***

As part of a separate process, the DOE is proposing to re-site Satellite West Middle School (13K313) out of building K307 and into new building K611 (aka Dock Street). As part of that proposal, the DOE will work with the District 13 Community Superintendent, CEC 13, and other community stakeholders to implement a redesign and revitalization process for Satellite West to ensure that the continued and new program offerings at the school are consistent with those desired in the broader District 13 community.



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The proposal can be accessed here: [http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/7E9BED87-11CB-496C-933A-F0C34FA9A541/187930/EIS13K313\\_vfinal.pdf](http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/7E9BED87-11CB-496C-933A-F0C34FA9A541/187930/EIS13K313_vfinal.pdf). The DOE anticipates that the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”) will vote on this proposal on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

***Was P.S. 287 considered in this rezoning? Why is it not included in this proposal?***

P.S. 287 was considered for this rezoning given their proximity to P.S. 8 and P.S. 307. However, P.S. 287 was ultimately not included in the proposed rezoning proposal because there is substantial upcoming residential construction in the P.S. 287 zone; thus, increasing the zone size now could create an unsustainable zone size for the school in the near future.

***Why not build new schools in this area instead of pursuing a rezoning?***

The need for constructing new schools is not assessed on an individual school basis, but rather on a larger grouping of nearby school buildings and their utilization. Before acquiring or opening new school sites, the DOE aims to optimize utilization in existing schools where available. Though there is currently not an identified seat need for new capacity in this area, this proposed rezoning does not preclude the potential for additional capacity should the need arise. To that end, the DOE and the School Construction Authority (“SCA”) monitor residential enrollment growth on an ongoing basis to determine where and to what extent new schools and new capacity may be needed.

***What happens if this proposal is not approved?***

If this proposal is not approved:

- a) Some District 13 students may not be able to attend their zoned school. Specifically, P.S. 8 will continue to have a zoned kindergarten waitlist and students who cannot be accommodated at P.S. 8 will be given offers to surrounding elementary schools. Since 2010-2011 P.S. 8’s kindergarten zone size has increased 50%. This past year, P.S. 8 had 50 students on the waitlist. As the zone size continues to increase, the DOE anticipates that even more students will be placed on a waitlist for the 2016-2017 school year and beyond.
- b) P.S. 307 will continue to have a small zoned population from which to draw students. In the 2014-2015 school year, P.S. 307 had just 17 kindergarten students living in its zone and only 26% of the students enrolled were zoned to the school.

**REZONING PROCEDURES AND METHODOLOGY**

***What factors does the DOE consider when proposing new zone lines?***

Each proposed zone line change is the result of the careful consideration of multiple factors, including but not limited to, the capacity of each building, the ideal number of kindergarteners living within the zone for each school, demographics, how far students will have to travel to their zoned school, and the proximity of the school to its zone boundaries.

***How are decisions to re-draw zone lines made? Do zone lines include only one or both sides of any given street?***

Zone lines are drawn to achieve an ideal number of kindergarten students living in a zone, based on the size and capacity of each school. To increase or decrease the number of students within a zone, lines are drawn to include or exclude certain blocks and certain sides of the street, based on the number of students who typically live there and attend DOE schools. Zone lines usually run down the center of the



**Department of  
Education**

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street, unless otherwise specified. The DOE works with the CEC to determine a scenario that takes into account the specific needs of the impacted communities.

***What data is used to create each school's proposed zone size, and is it publicly accessible?***

The DOE analyzes historical student residential data, enrollment patterns, school demand, residential construction data, and each school's building capacity in order to derive ideal kindergarten zone sizes.

Data related to this specific rezoning proposal was provided at the September 30<sup>th</sup> meeting and is accessible on the DOE website:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/brooklyn/districtplanning.htm>. Certain data points may not be shared, such as student residential data, to protect the privacy of students and families, pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). You can find additional information about a school's enrollment, demographics, performance, and more on the DOE's school data page: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/schools/data/default.htm>. The most recent information on school buildings' capacity is detailed in the 2013-2014 Enrollment, Capacity, & Utilization Report (also known as the "Blue Book"):  
<http://www.nycsca.org/Community/CapitalPlanManagementReportsData/Pages/EnrollmentCapacityUtilization.aspx>. The 2014-2015 Blue Book is expected to be published by the SCA in the coming weeks.

The DOE also relies on extensive qualitative data to inform our planning. In this case, before scenario development began, DOE officials visited all potentially involved schools, and met with each school leader to discuss the process and overall goals, and to get critical feedback about each school's enrollment, zone, and neighborhood. School needs were then discussed with the CEC, elected officials, and other community stakeholders in order to collect additional feedback.

***How do you account for population growth in a school's zone?***

The DOE looks carefully at new residential construction planned for the area to ensure that potential new residents in each school's zone are taken into account. The DOE also looks closely at several years of kindergarten zone sizes to assess growth trends.

**MORE RESOURCES AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

***Where can I get more information?***

The presentation materials that were shared during the September 30<sup>th</sup> meeting can be found on the DOE Web site: <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/brooklyn/districtplanning.htm>. Additional public meetings are in the process of being scheduled and once finalized, the dates and locations will be posted on [cec13.org](http://cec13.org).

***Who can I contact with questions or to provide feedback about the proposal?***

- CEC 13: <http://cec13.org/hot-topics/rezoning/rezoning-comments/> or (718) 636-3212
- Community Superintendent, Barbara Freeman: [BFreeman6@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:BFreeman6@schools.nyc.gov) or (718) 636-3284
- Office of District Planning: [BrooklynZoning@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:BrooklynZoning@schools.nyc.gov)

**Where can I go for more information on zoning and admissions?**

- The Office of Student Enrollment website:  
<http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/Elementary/default.htm>
- To find out what your current zoned school is, use the School Search tool:  
<http://schools.nyc.gov/schoolsearch/>

**MAP OF PROPOSED ZONE CHANGES**

The blue area represents the current zone for P.S. 8 and the pink area represents the current zone for P.S. 307. The black outline represents the proposed new zone boundaries. If this proposal is approved, the proposed new zone boundaries as outlined in black would take effect in the 2016-2017 school year. All zone lines run down the center of the street with the exception of the line between Nassau Street and Sands Street.

