



Notice
August 28, 2013

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Grade Expansion of The Lexington Academy (04M072) from K-5 to K-8 Beginning in the 2014-2015 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 expand The Lexington Academy (04M072, “P.S. 72”) to serve students in kindergarten through eighth grade. P.S. 72 is an existing, zoned district elementary school serving students in kindergarten through fifth grade in building M072 (“M072”) located at 131 East 104th Street, New York, NY 10029, in Community School District 4 (“District 4”). P.S. 72 also offers a pre-kindergarten program, with three sections of full-day pre-kindergarten.

P.S. 72 will serve approximately 538 students in kindergarten through fifth grade and pre-kindergarten in the 2013-2014 school year. If this proposal is approved, students enrolled in P.S. 72 will have first priority to remain at the school through eighth grade. Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, P.S. 72 will add one grade each year until 2016-2017, when it will reach full scale and serve students in kindergarten through eighth grade and pre-kindergarten. The DOE does not anticipate that the proposed grade expansion of P.S. 72 will affect the pre-kindergarten program at the school.

The DOE strives to increase quality options for students. As part of the provisional approval process, the DOE evaluates each school’s instructional capacity to serve the expanded school level by reviewing school expansion applications, conducting site visits, and facilitating panel interviews. Schools interested in expanding must have received at least a “C” on their most recent Progress Report to be eligible to apply to the grade reconfiguration process. Schools provisionally approved for expansion must receive at least a “C” in the Progress Report released prior to their expansion in order to remain eligible. In the event that the school does not receive a C or better on the Progress Report prior to its expansion, this proposed expansion will not be implemented.

The proposal to expand P.S. 72 initially came from the school community. In May 2013, a grade expansion team composed of P.S. 72 teachers, staff and administrators submitted a formal application to expand the grades served by the school. That application was supported by parents and the broader school community. This suggests a high level of satisfaction within the school and its parent body and strongly implies that an expanded P.S. 72 will suit the needs of children in District 4. This grade expansion will allow P.S. 72 to serve students in elementary and middle school grades, as well as pre-kindergarten. P.S. 72 currently offers an elementary dual-language program in Spanish. This proposed expansion will allow P.S. 72 to continue providing its students with dual language services through middle school.

The M072 building has the capacity to serve 644 students and will serve approximately 538 students in kindergarten through fifth grade and pre-kindergarten, yielding a utilization rate of 84% in the 2013-2014 school year. This means that the building is “underutilized.” If this proposal is approved, the building would serve approximately 769 – 859 students and have a utilization rate of 119% - 133% in 2016-2017 when P.S. 72 reaches full scale.

However, this standard utilization rate is likely overstated because the current capacity of the building does not assume any rooms for use by middle school students, who rotate among classrooms during the school day, thus increasing the efficiency of the space. Furthermore, the school leadership of P.S. 72 intends to change the

programming of M072's spaces in order to create middle school instructional spaces, likely increasing the target capacity of the building in future years.

The expansion proposal will result in more students being served within M072 and thus more efficient use of building space within District 4, while simultaneously providing parents and students with an additional middle school choice.

If this proposal is approved, fifth grade students will be able to apply to attend middle school at P.S. 72 through the District 4 Middle School Choice Process for the 2014-2015 school year. Students enrolled at P.S. 72 will have admissions priority if they wish to remain for sixth grade. Other eligible fifth grade students in District 4 will have the opportunity to apply to attend middle school at P.S. 72.

II. Information regarding where the full text of the proposed item may be obtained.

The Educational Impact Statement ("EIS") describing this proposal can be found on the Department of Education's Web site:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2013-2014/Oct15SchoolProposals>.

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main offices of P.S. 72.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D04Proposals@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: Jennifer Peng
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D04Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-3466

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

October 1, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
Building M072
131 East 104th Street
New York, NY 10029

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.

VI. Date, time and place of the Panel for Educational Policy meeting at which the Panel will vote on the proposed item.

October 15, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
Prospect Heights Campus
883 Classon Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11225.