

## **EDUCATIONAL IMPACT STATEMENT: The Proposed Re-Siting and Grade Expansion of P.S. 78 (30Q078) to a K-8 School To Be Implemented No Later than the 2014-2015 School Year**

### **I. Summary of Proposal**

P.S. 78 (30Q078 or “P.S. 78”) is an existing elementary school located at 48-09 Center Boulevard, Long Island City, NY 11109, in school building Q868, in Community School District 30. It currently serves students in kindergarten through fifth grade and offers a pre-kindergarten program.

This is a proposal to implement a “grade expansion” so that P.S. 78 would serve grades K-8 and continue to offer a pre-kindergarten program. This means that P.S. 78 would begin enrolling sixth graders in the first year of expansion, upon relocation to a larger building, and then grow to serve an additional grade in each subsequent year. When P.S./I.S. 78 completes its grade expansion, it will enroll students in Kindergarten through eighth grade. The projected enrollment for the first year of expansion is 234-284 students. At full scale, the projected enrollment is 354-404 students.

The Department of Education (“DOE”) is also proposing to “re-site” P.S./I.S. 78, which means the school would be located in a different building. The School Construction Authority (“SCA”) is currently pursuing a site located at 46-08 5th Street, Long Island City, NY 11101 (“Q312”), which is also located in District 30. The DOE is proposing to re-site P.S. 78 into this new building upon its completion in either August 2013 or 2014.

The DOE is proposing to re-site P.S. 78 because the school’s current facility does not have room for the additional three grades. Thus, the school’s grade expansion is contingent on the school first moving to a large enough building, at which point the school would have sufficient space to accommodate the additional grades and would begin phasing in its middle school grades.

The idea to expand P.S. 78 into a K-8 school came from the school community. In the spring of 2009, the principal of P.S. 78 submitted a letter of intent to apply for a grade expansion, and in the summer of 2009 a team of P.S. 78 teachers and administrators submitted an application to expand the school. That application was supported by P.S. 78 parents and the broader community surrounding the school, including elected officials representing the community. A grade expansion panel then interviewed the P.S. 78 applicant team and concluded that the school was positioned to successfully begin a middle school expansion.

Such an expansion would build upon the growing success of the P.S. 78 school community in recent years. The school’s proficiency levels (Level 3 and 4s) in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics have been above both citywide and District 30 averages for the past three years. P.S. 78 has also achieved an A or a B grade on each of its last four report cards. These positive steps indicate a record of success that can continue with a grade expansion.

## II. Proposed or Potential Use of Building

P.S. 78 is currently located in Q868, which has a target capacity of 320 students and a target utilization rate of 77 percent.<sup>1,2</sup> This building lacks an auditorium and gymnasium and does not have sufficient space to accommodate the school's proposed expansion to a K-8 school.

Under this proposal, P.S. 78 would move to Q312 upon that building's completion, tentatively scheduled for either August of 2013 or 2014. In the event that the building is not ready for occupancy by the 2014-2015 school year, the DOE will issue a revised Educational Impact Statement ("EIS") setting forth the new time frame for implementation of the re-siting.

The new building, Q312, has 23 regular classrooms and 4 cluster rooms for specialty instruction in art, music, and science, in addition to a gymnasium, auditorium, library and cafeteria. It will have a target capacity of 578 students, allowing sufficient space for a grade expansion of P.S. 78 to include sixth, seventh and eighth grades. The projected enrollment for the school at full scale is 354-404.

According to New York State law, 10% of capacity in all new school buildings is reserved for District 75 ("D75") students. Thus, Q312 will also have space designated for a D75 school. There are 5 classrooms and 7 other support or administrative spaces for the program, adding up to a capacity of 60 D75 seats. The exact program moving into this space will be determined closer to the target opening date of Building Q312.

Of the capacity allocated to P.S./I.S. 78, the projected utilization rate is 66%. This figure is unofficial and does not factor in the D75 school. An official building utilization rate will not be available until after the school building opens.

## III. Impact of the Proposal on Affected Students, Schools, and Community

### A. Students

Students attending the elementary school grades will be benefited by having the option to continue at P.S./I.S. 78 for grades six through eight. The expansion at P.S. 78 provides the opportunity for its elementary students to have a seamless transition into middle school. The re-siting into a new building provides students a facility that includes a gymnasium, an auditorium, a music suite (including a music instrument storeroom), a science resource room, and a science lab/demo room. This will be a benefit to all P.S. 78 students, whether or not they remain at the school for grades six through eight.

Additionally, adding middle school grades increases the choices available to middle school students and their families. P.S. 78 elementary students will continue to choose between attending their zoned middle school or applying to other middle schools to which they are eligible through the District 30 Middle School Choice process. Now, however, they will also have the choice of attending the new middle school grades at P.S./I.S. 78, to which P.S. 78 elementary students have a guaranteed seat. Students who do not choose to continue at P.S./I.S. 78 after fifth grade would not be adversely impacted by the school's expansion.

---

<sup>1</sup> The official target capacity and utilization rates for the 2010-2011 school year are not yet available. All references to building utilization rates in this document are based on data from the 2009-2010 Enrollment Capacity Utilization Report (the "Blue Book").

<sup>2</sup> The 2009-2010 Blue Book lists P.S. 78 as being housed in two buildings, Q868 and Q768. This is incorrect (Q768 refers to a hallway within the Q868 building) and is currently being corrected for future Blue Book information. All information listed in this year's Blue Book for Building Q868 is representative of the entire school's capacity and utilization rate.

After all P.S. 78 elementary students who want to continue in I.S. 78 have been guaranteed a seat, any remaining available seats will be offered to District 30 students through a random admissions process. In this way, adding middle school grades to P.S. 78 also increases middle school choice for District 30 students who do not attend P.S. 78.

For more information on middle school admissions please visit this website:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/Middle>.

The DOE projects that the new P.S./I.S. 78 would enroll approximately 2 sections of students per grade in grades K-8.

Expansion Year	Grades Served	Projected Enrollment
1	K-6	234-284
2	K-7	294-344
3	K-8	354-404

The school’s percentage of students proficient (Level 3 and 4s) in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics have been above both citywide and District 30 averages for the past three years. P.S. 78 has also achieved an A or a B grade on each of its last four report cards. These positive steps indicate a record of success that can continue with a grade expansion. P.S. 78’s grade expansion would create approximately 60 additional high-quality middle school seats in District 30.

The DOE does not anticipate that the proposed grade expansion would impact students with disabilities or English Language Learners (ELLs). P.S./I.S. 78 would continue to meet the needs of its students with disabilities and ELL students in current and newly added grades.

P.S. 78 has several additional programs at the school, and the DOE does not anticipate that any of these programs would be adversely impacted by this proposal. The school partners with the following organizations: New York State Parks and Recreation, New York City Department of Environmental Protection, New York Botanical Garden, South Street Seaport Museum, Queens Family Literacy at the Queens Library, Virtual Y (YMCA), Tada! Youth Theatre Arts Residency, Little Kids Rock, Music and the Brain, Renzulli Learning Systems and Teachers College Reading and Writing Project. P.S. 78 anticipates continuing all of these partnerships when the school moves and expands.

Approximately three quarters of students currently enrolled at P.S. 78 reside in the school’s elementary zone. In addition, 93% of enrolled students reside in District 30, 4% in neighboring District 24, and 99% of students reside in Queens.

The school’s new location would be a distance of about 0.2 miles, or approximately 4 city blocks, from the current location. The new location is located near the Vernon-Jackson Ave, Hunters Point and 45th Rd-Courthouse Sq stations (7 train), the 21st St-Van Alst and Court Sq-Long Island City stations (G train) and the 23rd St-Ely Ave Station (E and M trains). It is also accessible via buses running along Vernon Boulevard or Jackson Avenue. Once the school has phased up to include seventh- and eighth-grade students, these students would receive MTA half or full fare student passes based on their distance from the new location.

Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the school will continue to offer two sections of a full-day Pre-Kindergarten program.

## B. Schools

No other schools are co-located with P.S. 78 at Q868, so there would be no impact on other schools in the building.

P.S./I.S. 78 will have a target capacity of 66% and is projected to enroll 354-404 P.S./I.S. 78 students and 60 D75 students once both schools reach full capacity.

P.S./I.S. 78 will develop a safety and security plan for Q213 prior to the first day of school in September 2012.

According to the Program of Requirements (“POR”), 27 full-size rooms, 4 half-size rooms and 14 administrative spaces in the new Q312 building can be allocated to P.S./I.S. 78. The POR is a document that includes, but is not limited to: the number of rooms the new building will have, what types of instruction or other needs they are structurally designed to serve, and the size and capacity of each room and the building as a whole.

If this proposal is approved, there will be more than sufficient space to serve students pursuant to the Citywide Instructional Footprint (the “Footprint”), as the baseline Footprint allocation for a two section per grade K-8 school includes 18 full-size rooms, 2 half-size rooms, and the equivalent of 3-5 classrooms for administrative and student support services.

The POR also details that the D75 school will be allocated 2 administrative rooms, 5 full-size classrooms, and 5 administrative and support rooms. If this proposal is approved, there will be sufficient space to serve students pursuant to the Footprint after the grade expansion is completed for P.S./I.S. 78 and the siting of the D75 school. The size and type of D75 school to be sited in Building Q312 will be appropriate based on the space allocated by the POR.

The building also has an auditorium, gymnasium, cafeteria, library and a street-level play area containing approximately 3,000 square feet, which will also adjoin the Queens West Sportsfield.

Please visit the New York City Department of Education website to access the Instructional Footprint, which guides space allocation and use in City schools: [http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/8CF30F41-DE25-4C30-92DE-731949919FC3/87633/NYCDOE\\_Instructional\\_Footprint\\_Final9210TNT.pdf](http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/8CF30F41-DE25-4C30-92DE-731949919FC3/87633/NYCDOE_Instructional_Footprint_Final9210TNT.pdf).

P.S. 78’s current building, Q868, will be available for use in either September 2013 or 2014, depending on the completion of Q312 and the re-siting of P.S. 78. Once the Q312 completion date is confirmed, the DOE will begin engaging with the community to determine the best way to use the vacated facility to meet the community’s needs.

## C. Community

The DOE supports parent choice and strives to ensure that all families have access to high-quality schools that meet their children’s needs. This proposed grade expansion is intended to increase access to high-quality middle school options for the P.S. 78 students, as well as other students in District 30.

- The demand for elementary and middle school seats is increasing in Long Island City, the immediate neighborhood surrounding P.S. 78.
  - Elementary school level enrollment has increased by 2% over the last three school years, 2007-2010.
  - Middle school level enrollment has increased by 12% over the last school three years, 2007-2010.

- P.S. 78 elementary students currently articulate into a variety of middle schools in the district and borough. No middle school currently receives more than five rising sixth graders a year from P.S. 78, so middle schools in the area should not see significant reductions to their incoming sixth grade enrollment as P.S. 78 students remain at the school for sixth, seventh, and eighth grades.
- If there are available sixth-grade seats in P.S./I.S. 78 once all P.S. 78 elementary students who want to continue at the school have been guaranteed a seat, other students from District 30 may apply and be randomly selected to I.S. 78 through the District 30 Middle School Choice process. Because the process is random, no one middle school in District 30 would be adversely impacted by a loss of more than a few students.
- There is only one other new construction project in the Long Island City area in the Hunters Point neighborhood. This building is projected to have 1,071 seats of capacity, but the use of the building has not yet been determined – it may be used to meet middle school capacity needs, high school capacity needs, or some combination of the two.
- Many District 30 students attend middle school in District 24, due to a historical shortage of seats in the area. By expanding to serve grades six through eight, the new P.S./I.S. 78 can help meet District 30’s needs, thereby reducing pressure on neighboring District 24.

This proposal is not expected to impact the ability of community members and organizations to obtain evening or weekend school building use permits at either building Q868 or the new building, Q312.

## IV. Enrollment, Admissions and School Performance Information

### Admissions Data

<b>Current Admissions</b>	Pre-K: Universal Pre-Kindergarten Admissions Process K-5: Zoned
<b>Admissions after Grade Reconfiguration is Completed</b>	Pre-K: Universal Pre-Kindergarten Admissions Process K-5: Zoned 6-8: K-5 students have the right to continue, District 30 students by unscreened application

### Enrollment Data

School Year	Grades Served	Projected Enrollment
Current School Year	K-5	212
Expansion Year 1	K-6	234-284
Expansion Year 2	K-7	294-344
Expansion Year 3	K-8	354-404

**Demographic Data<sup>3</sup>**

Percentage Students With Disabilities (2009-2010) <sup>4</sup>	7%
Percentage English Language Learner Students (2009-2010)	11%
Percentage of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch (2009-2010)	70%

**School Performance Data**

	2008-2009	2009-2010	Website
Progress Report Scores	A	B	<a href="http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/30/Q078/AboutUs/Statistics">http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/30/Q078/AboutUs/Statistics</a>
ELA Score (% Level 3 and 4)	81%	58%	<a href="http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/30/Q078/AboutUs/Statistics">http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/30/Q078/AboutUs/Statistics</a>
Math Score (% Level 3 and 4)	95%	68%	<a href="http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/30/Q078/AboutUs/Statistics">http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/30/Q078/AboutUs/Statistics</a>
State Accountability Status	In Good Standing	In Good Standing	<a href="http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/30/Q078/AboutUs/Statistics">http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/30/Q078/AboutUs/Statistics</a>
Average Attendance	94%	95%	<a href="http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/data/stats/attendance">http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/data/stats/attendance</a>

**V. Initial Costs and Savings**

P.S. 78 will receive approximately a one-time award of approximately \$4,320.00 during the first year of the grade expansion to help offset the costs of materials, such as new furniture and supplies, needed to support the additional grades. This figure is estimated based on current funding allocations awarded to schools undergoing grade expansions and is subject to some annual variation. Going forward, annual replacement of furniture and other materials needed at the school will be funded out of the school’s general supply budget, as is the case with all schools citywide.

The estimate to relocate P.S. 78 to the Q312 building is \$15,873.50. This cost will include moving all existing furniture and materials from the current site.

**VI. Effect on Personnel Needs, Costs of Instructions, Administration, Transportation and Other Support Services**

**A. Personnel Needs**

Over the course of the expansion, P.S./ I.S. 78 will need to hire additional teachers during each year of the grade expansion. The precise number of positions needed for each expansion school year will be determined based on annual enrollment projections available as the school grows to serve grades six, seven, and eight. It is worth noting that teachers working in elementary schools typically hold a 1-6 common branches license. Teachers working with older students in seventh and eighth grade must hold secondary licenses with appropriate subject-area specialization. The school will continue to hire appropriately licensed and credentialed teachers to work with its students as it expands to serve middle school students.

<sup>3</sup> Data regarding the percentage of students with disabilities, ELL students, and students who qualified for free or reduced-price meals were taken from the audited October 31, 2009 register of students.

<sup>4</sup> Students with disabilities as percentage of total students. This count does not include SETSS or students receiving speech or language services.

Administrative staff and non-pedagogical positions at P.S. 78 may also be added over the course of the grade reconfiguration. Those decisions will be made at the school level based on need and budgetary considerations.

## **B. Costs of Instruction**

Once the grade expansion is fully implemented, P.S./I.S. 78 is expected to receive approximately \$236,779.74 in total funding annually based on projected increases in total enrollment. These estimates are based on current Fair Student Funding (FSF) per capita allocation levels and are subject to annual variation. FSF covers basic instructional expenses and FSF funds may, at the school's discretion, be used to hire staff, purchase supplies and materials, or implement instructional programs. As the total number of students enrolled grows, the overall budget will increase accordingly, allowing the school to meet the instructional needs of its larger student population.

In addition, FSF awards supplemental allocations on a per pupil basis for students who have additional needs and therefore cost more to educate. For example, during the 2010-2011 school year, middle schools received an additional \$2,031 per pupil for each English Language Learner they enrolled. It is difficult to project the total supplemental funding that P.S./I.S. 78 will receive with its expanded size because future students' achievement levels and needs cannot be predicted for 2013-2014 school year, but the school will be awarded supplemental funding for higher-need students according to the same formula as all other schools citywide, ensuring that funds are in place to meet those students' needs.

As with all other schools citywide, P.S./I.S. 78 may receive additional "categorical" funding based on student characteristics and needs. For example, federal Title I funding is awarded to schools based on the proportion of low-income students they enroll. P.S. 78 is currently a Title I school. Assuming that the school continues to meet Title I criteria, the school's Title I funding award would grow as the school population grows.

While schools do receive supplemental support for students with disabilities through Fair Student Funding, that only represents part of the funding provided to support those students. Schools are budgeted to meet the needs of their students with disabilities as defined by their Individualized Education Plans (IEP). As P.S./I.S. 78 expands, funding will continue to be provided to meet the needs of all students with disabilities in accordance with their IEPs.

Please note that increased or reduced per capita funds allocated to the school as a result of this proposal do not represent net/incremental system costs. All dollar amounts are based on FY10 allocations and are subject to annual variation based on adjustments to the DOE's overall operating budget.

## **C. Administration**

P.S./I.S. 78 may hire school supervisory and/or administrative personnel as needed as a result of its grade expansion.

## **D. Transportation**

Transportation will be provided according to Chancellor's regulation A-801: <http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/21A1B11A-886B-4F74-9546-E875EE82A14C/40303/A801.pdf>. There will be no change to existing transportation practices at P.S. 78 due to this proposal.

## **E. Other Support Services**

Other support services will continue to be provided consistent with citywide policy.

## VII. Building Information

<b>Building</b>	P.S. 78 (Q868)
<b>Type of Building</b>	ECC
<b>Year Built</b>	1997
<b>Overall BCAS rating</b>	1.86
<b>2009-2010 Target Building Utilization</b>	77%
<b>2009-2010 Target Building Capacity</b>	320
<b>FY 2010 Maintenance Costs</b>	<b>Labor:</b> \$5,163.25 <b>Materials:</b> \$492.96 <b>Maintenance and repair contracts:</b> \$81,770.80 <b>Custodial operations costs—Materials:</b> \$93,415.43 <b>Custodial operations costs—Custodial Allocation:</b> \$532,040.48
<b>FY 2009 Energy Costs</b>	<b>Electric:</b> N/A <b>Gas:</b> N/A <b>Oil:</b> N/A
<b>Projects completed during the current or prior school year</b>	
<b>Projects proposed in the capital plan</b>	Classroom connectivity. New retrofit telephone and intercom systems
<b>Accessibility of the building</b>	Fully Programmatic Accessible
<b>Building attributes</b>	Cafeteria, library, and multi-purpose room