



Notice
December 3, 2010

Joel I. Klein
Chancellor

The Proposed Grade Truncation of the Secondary School for Journalism (15K463) to a 9-12 School

I. Description of the subject and purpose of the proposed item under consideration.

The Secondary School for Journalism (15K463) is an existing 6-12 school located at 237 7th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215, in Community School District 15. It currently serves students in sixth through twelfth grade. The Secondary School for Journalism is co-located in Building K460 with two other 6-12 schools, the Secondary School for Research (K464), the Secondary School for Law (K462), and an Alternative Learning Center (“ALC”). This is a proposal to implement a “grade truncation,” meaning that the Secondary School for Journalism would no longer serve grades six through eight, phasing out one grade each year, beginning with the sixth grade. In the 2011-2012 school year, the Secondary School for Journalism would serve students in grades seven through twelve. In 2012-2013, it would serve students in grades eight through twelve, and in 2013-2014 and future years, it would serve students in grades nine through twelve.

This proposal is not expected to impact current middle school students enrolled at the Secondary School for Journalism, with the possible exception of students who do not meet promotion requirements at the end of the proposed truncation. Under this proposal, at the close of the 2010-2011 school year, all eighth graders who meet promotional standards would transition to the ninth grade from the Secondary School for Journalism, and students in the sixth and seventh grades who meet promotion requirements would remain at the school until the completion of the eighth grade.

Only a small number of students who attend middle school in grades 6-8 at the Secondary School for Journalism historically transition to the high school. Additionally, the Secondary School for Journalism has been unsuccessful in recruiting and retaining middle school students, which has resulted in a 68% decrease in the number of sixth-grade students enrolled at the Secondary School for Journalism over the last five years. As a result, the school has faced a number of instructional and operational challenges, which would likely remain should the school continue on its current trajectory.

Very few of the students that wish to attend middle school in District 15 rank the Secondary School for Journalism on their middle school application. As enrollment continues to dwindle at the Secondary School for Journalism, the school will lose the resources necessary to sustain a high-functioning learning environment. As a result, the learning outcomes for students in the building could be severely compromised.

Continuing to allocate space and resources to a school that does not attract students is neither efficient nor equitable. It is critical to assess each school's capacity to serve the needs of its students when making decisions regarding space and facilities. This truncation proposal, if approved, would ensure that available resources are better aligned to students' needs.

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

The Educational Impact Statement can be found on the Department of Education's Web site: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2010-2011/Jan2011Proposals>

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to HS.Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-0208.

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: Gentian Falstrom
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: HS.Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-0208

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

January 12, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
John Jay Campus, 237 7th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215

Questions about the proposal can be directed as indicated in section IV above. The joint public hearing for this proposal has been combined with the joint public hearing on the proposal to truncate the middle school grades of the Secondary School for Law, which is also located in the John Jay Campus. That proposal is described in a separate EIS.

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.

January 19, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
Brooklyn Technical High School
29 Fort Greene Place
Brooklyn, NY 11217