



Amended Notice
October 13, 2011

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Grade Truncation of P.S. 96 (27Q096) to a K-5 School

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

P.S. 96 (“P.S. 96”) is an existing zoned elementary school located in buildings Q096 and TCU Q986, at 130-01 Rockaway Boulevard, Queens, NY 11420, in Community School District 27. It currently serves students in kindergarten through sixth grade and offers a pre-kindergarten program. P.S. 96 is currently the only school located in buildings Q096 and TCU Q986. Q986 is a “transportable classroom unit,” commonly known as a “trailer.” P.S. 96 is currently the only school located in building Q096.

This is a proposal to implement a “grade truncation,” meaning that the school would no longer enroll sixth grade students after the current 2011-2012 school year. If this proposal is approved, at the close of the 2011-2012 school year, all fifth and sixth grade students who meet promotional standards would graduate from P.S. 96, and would enter middle school as sixth and seventh graders, respectively, in the 2012-2013 school year. Beginning in September 2012, P.S. 96 would only serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade and would continue to offer a pre-kindergarten program (subject to funding and demand). This change is supported by the P.S. 96 principal.

On October 3, 2011, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) issued an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) describing a proposal to truncate P.S. 96. The DOE has now published an amended EIS, which corrects the percentage of students receiving integrated co-teaching (“ICT”) or self-contained (“SC”) services.

Middle schools typically enroll students beginning in sixth grade, and P.S. 96 students already have the option to apply to middle school as fifth graders. However, P.S. 96 students who wait until sixth grade to apply to middle school are limited to those schools that still have available seventh grade seats. In particular, there are several un-zoned choice middle schools in District 27 that rarely have open seventh grade seats because seats become available only if sixth grade students leave the school. As a result, students who would remain at P.S. 96 through sixth grade if this proposal is not implemented would have fewer opportunities to enter those choice middle schools than their peers who start middle school a year earlier.

This proposed grade truncation will provide P.S. 96 students access to the same range of middle school options as their peers throughout District 27. In addition, it addresses problems that exist

for middle school students and the middle school as a whole when students start middle school through multiple entry grades (sixth and seventh).

Further, the proposal addresses some disadvantages that students may be experiencing while they remain at P.S. 96 for sixth grade after their grade size has been reduced by the number of students who exercised the option to enter middle school in sixth grade. Also, by entering middle school in sixth grade rather than seventh grade, students at P.S. 96 will have more opportunities to take advantage of the enriching, high-school preparatory experiences offered at middle schools.

Finally, changing P.S. 96's grade span from K-6 to K-5 would reduce the school's enrollment by approximately 44 students, freeing up additional space that P.S. 96 could use to accommodate additional lower-grade students or to meet other needs (e.g., art room, resource center, etc.). P.S. 96 is also overcrowded, and truncating P.S. 96's sixth grade will reduce the building's utilization rate and alleviate overcrowding.

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

The Educational Impact Statement ("EIS") can be found on the Department of Education's Web site: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Nov2011Proposals.htm>

Copies of the EIS are also available in P.S. 96's main office.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D27Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-7621.

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: Drew Patterson
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D27Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-7621

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

November 14, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
P.S. 96
130-01 Rockaway Boulevard

Queens, NY 11420

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.

November 17, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
The Frank Sinatra School of the Arts
35-12 35th Avenue
Queens, NY 11106