



Notice
December 10, 2010

Joel I. Klein
Chancellor

The Proposed Grade Truncation of P.S. 40 Samuel Huntington (28Q040) to a K-5 School at the Conclusion of the 2010-2011 School Year

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

P.S. 40 Samuel Huntington (28Q040, “P.S. 40”) is an existing elementary school located at 109-20 Union Hall Street, Jamaica, NY, 11433, in Community School District 28. It currently serves students in kindergarten through sixth grade and offers a pre-kindergarten program. This is a proposal to implement a “grade truncation,” meaning that P.S. 40 would no longer enroll sixth graders after the current 2010-2011 school year.

Under this proposal, at the close of the 2010-2011 school year, all fifth and sixth graders who meet promotional standards would graduate from P.S. 40. In September 2011, these students would enter middle school as sixth and seventh graders, respectively. Beginning in 2011-2012, P.S. 40 would serve students only in kindergarten through fifth grade and continue to offer a pre-kindergarten program. From that time forward, P.S. 40 students would participate in the Middle School Choice Process during fifth grade and move on to middle school for sixth grade.

Middle schools typically enroll students beginning in sixth grade, and P.S. 40 students have the option to apply to start middle school as sixth graders. With the adoption of district-wide Middle School Choice, P.S. 40 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 unzoned, choice middle schools in District 28, and those schools rarely have open seventh-grade seats, which become available only if sixth graders leave the school. As a result, students who remain at P.S. 40 through sixth grade will have fewer options than their peers who start middle school a year earlier.

Additionally, P.S. 40 students who start middle school in seventh grade may face transitional challenges related to entering middle school a year later than most of their classmates, and they remain in their new middle school for only two years before again transitioning to high school. This proposed grade truncation will help standardize middle school application and entry grades in District 28, giving all P.S. 40 students access to the same range of middle school options as their peers throughout the District.

Furthermore, after conducting a comprehensive review of P.S. 40 with the goal of determining what intensive supports and interventions would best benefit its students and the community, the Department of Education determined that truncating P.S. 40’s sixth grade will allow the school to focus on elementary level instructional needs, thereby enabling P.S. 40 to better serve students.

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/2010-2011/Feb12011Proposals>.

A copy of the EIS is also available in P.S. 40’s main office.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D28Proposals@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: Gentian Falstrom
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D28Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-7621

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

January 19, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
P.S. 40 Samuel Huntington School
109-20 Union Hall Street,
Jamaica, NY 11433

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.

February 1, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
Brooklyn Technical High School
29 Fort Greene Place
Brooklyn, NY 11217