

EDUCATIONAL IMPACT STATEMENT: The Proposed Grade Truncation of I.S. 206 Ann Mersereau (10X206) to a 6-8 School in 2013-2014

I. Summary of Proposal

I.S. 206 Ann Mersereau (10X206, “I.S. 206”) is an existing zoned middle school located in building X206 (“X206”), at 2280 Aqueduct Avenue, in Community School District 10 (“District 10”). It currently serves students in fifth through eighth grades. I.S. 206 is the only school organization located in X206.

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to implement a “grade truncation,” at I.S. 206 whereby the school will no longer enroll fifth-grade students after the 2012-2013 school year if this proposal is approved. At the close of the 2012-2013 school year, all fifth-grade students at I.S. 206 who meet promotional standards will be promoted to sixth grade. Those students will have the choice to continue at I.S. 206 or they can participate in the District 10 Middle School Choice process.¹ If an I.S. 206 fifth-grade student does not meet the promotional standards at the conclusion of the 2012-2013 school year and is required to repeat the grade in the 2013-2014 school year, the DOE will seek to place that student in a fifth-grade class at a nearby elementary school. If such a placement is not feasible, the DOE will find an alternative District 10 placement for that student. If this proposal is approved, beginning in September 2013, I.S. 206 will only serve students in sixth through eighth grade..

Under this proposal, changing I.S. 206’s s grade span from fifth to eighth grades to sixth to eighth grades will not significantly decrease the school’s enrollment because the school’s administration has elected to add a choice program to offer to grades six through eight. This program will be added to the school’s programming at the start of the 2013-2014 year and will phase into the school each subsequent year, allowing the school to have enrollment at the completion of the 2015-2016 school year which is comparable to its current enrollment. The development of this choice program and impact on I.S. 206’s enrollment is discussed further in Section III of this proposal.

Middle schools typically enroll students beginning in sixth grade, but I.S. 206 begins serving students in fifth grade. Thus, I.S. 206, as it is currently configured, is not aligned with the other middle schools in the district, which serve sixth through eighth grade students. Currently, I.S. 206, and an elementary school, P.S. 291 (10X291, “P.S. 291”), are the only two DOE schools in District 10 that serve irregular grade spans in the K-8 realm. In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) which can be found at the DOE Web site at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Nov2012Proposals>, the DOE is proposing to expand P.S. 291 from a kindergarten through fourth grade school to a kindergarten through fifth grade school. These proposals are complementary, as P.S. 291 mainly feeds into I.S. 206. As it stands, students who graduate from P.S. 291 at the end of fourth grade typically enroll in I.S. 206 for fifth grade and the duration of middle school; otherwise those students would have to attend a new elementary school for fifth grade and then a new middle school for sixth through eighth grades. By aligning P.S. 291 and I.S. 206 with all other schools in District 10, the DOE will maximize the choices available to all District 10 students.

The proposal to expand P.S. 291 to serve fifth grade will create more fifth-grade seats in District 10, as P.S. 291 will serve more fifth-graders than are currently served by I.S. 206.

¹ District 10 shares a middle school choice process with District 9, which means that District 9 and District 10 students have equal preference for choice schools and programs in both districts.

As a policy matter, this proposed grade truncation will help standardize middle school application and entry grades in District 10. Additionally, having students start middle school through multiple entry grades creates challenges for students and the school as a whole.

II. Proposed or Potential Use of Building

The current grade span and projected grade spans under this proposal for I.S. 206, the only school organization in building X206, are indicated in the chart below.

DBN	School Name	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
10X206	I.S. 206 Ann Mersereau	5-8	6-8	6-8	6-8

The building in which I.S. 206 is located, X206, has the capacity to serve 323 students.² In the 2012-2013 school year, I.S. 206 currently serves 385 students³ in fifth through eighth grades, yielding an estimated building utilization rate of 119%.⁴ Although a utilization rate in excess of 100% may suggest that a building will be over-utilized or over-crowded in a given year, this rate does not account for the fact that rooms may be programmed for more efficient or different uses than the standard assumptions in the utilization calculation. If this proposal is approved, though I.S. 206 will no longer serve fifth-grade students, the DOE anticipates the school will maintain enrollment levels consistent with current enrollment because the leadership of I.S. 206 has decided to develop a new choice program for sixth through eighth grades, into which additional students will be admitted as the program phases in beginning in 2013-2014. If this proposal is approved, when fifth-grade students are no longer served and the new choice program is fully phased in at I.S. 206 in 2015-2016, I.S. 206 will serve approximately 345-375 students, yielding an estimated building utilization rate of 107-116%.⁵ The current and projected enrollment and building utilization for I.S. 206 if this proposal is approved are indicated in the chart below.

DBN	School Name	2012-2013 Projected Enrollment	2013-2014 Projected Enrollment	2014-2015 Projected Enrollment	2015-2016 Projected Enrollment
10X206	I.S. 206 Ann Mersereau	385	315 - 345	325 - 355	345 - 375
Total Building Enrollment		385	315 - 345	325 - 355	345 - 375

² Based on the 2010-2011 Enrollment Capacity Utilization Report (the “Blue Book”).

³ According to the 2012-2013 Budget Register Projections.

⁴ All references to building utilization rates in this document are based on target capacity data from the 2010-2011 Blue Book and enrollment data from the 2012-2013 budgeted enrollment projections. This methodology is consistent with the manner in which the DOE conducts planning and calculates space allocations and funding for all schools. In determining the space allocation for co-located schools, the Office of Space Planning conducts a detailed site survey and space analysis of the building to assess the amount of space available in the building.

⁵ All projections referenced for 2013-2014 and beyond reflect the forward promotion of cohorts by grade using the 2012-2013 Budget Register Projections as the base year.

Utilization⁶	119%	98% - 107%	101% - 110%	107% - 116%
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As described in more detail in the Blue Book, which is available at: <http://www.nycsca.org/Community/CapitalPlanManagementReportsData/Enrollment/2010-2011-BlueBook.pdf>, a building’s target utilization rate is calculated by dividing the aggregated enrollment of all the school organizations in the building by the aggregated “target capacities” of those organizations. Each school organization’s “target capacity” is calculated based upon the scheduled use of individual rooms as reported by principals during an annual facilities survey, the DOE’s standards for maximum classroom capacities (which are lower than the United Federation of Teachers (“UFT”) contractual class sizes and differ depending on grade level), and the efficiency with which classrooms are programmed (i.e., the frequency with which classes are scheduled in a given classroom).

The most recent school year for which target capacity has been calculated for buildings is 2010-2011. The DOE’s projected utilization rates for the 2011-2012 school year and beyond are based on the 2010-2011 target capacity, which assumes that the components underlying that target capacity (scheduled use of classrooms, maximum classroom capacity, etc.) remain constant. Thus, projected utilization rates for the 2011-2012 school year and beyond provide only an approximation of a building’s usage because each of the factors underlying target capacity may be adjusted by principals from year to year to better accommodate students’ needs. For example, changing the use of a room from an administrative room to a homeroom at the high school level will increase a building’s overall target capacity because administrative rooms are not assigned a capacity for high schools. Holding enrollment constant, this change would result in a lower utilization rate. Similarly, if a room previously used as a kindergarten classroom is subsequently used as a fifth-grade classroom, the building’s target capacity would increase because we expect that a fifth-grade class will have more students than a kindergarten class. This is reflected in the fact that the DOE’s standard for maximum classroom capacity is higher for fifth-grade classrooms than for kindergarten classrooms. In this example, as well, assuming enrollment is constant, the utilization rate would decrease.

At this time, the DOE has no proposed additional uses for building X206 after the grade truncation takes place. As stated earlier, if this proposal is approved, the DOE anticipates that the school’s enrollment in future years will be consistent with the current enrollment, as the additional space made available by truncating the school’s fifth grade will be used to provide classrooms for the sixth to eighth grade students who enroll in the choice program currently being developed by the school leadership. Any future proposals for use of the space in X206 that involve a significant change in school utilization would begin with community engagement to discuss the community’s needs and would be addressed in a separate EIS.

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

A. Students

Impact on Current and Future Students at I.S. 206

I.S. 206 currently serves general education students and students requiring special education services, including students enrolled in Integrated Co-Teaching (“ICT”) classes and Self-Contained (“SC”) special education classes, as well as students receiving Special Education Teacher Support Services (“SETSS”).

⁶ The utilization rate cited here is based on 2012-2013 Budget Register Projections.

The existing ICT, SC, and SETSS classes at I.S. 206 will continue to be provided and students with disabilities will continue to receive mandated services in accordance with their Individualized Education Programs (“IEPs”). Services are tailored to meet the individual needs of the students with disabilities attending I.S. 206 and, as such, may vary from year to year.

Additionally, I.S. 206 serves English Language Learners (“ELLs”), students who are of limited English proficiency. ELL students at I.S. 206 receive English as a Second Language (“ESL”) and bi-lingual classes. All current and future ELL students attending I.S. 206 will receive ESL services in accordance with DOE policy.

The DOE does not anticipate that this proposal will impact the partnerships of I.S. 206. Similarly, I.S. 206 will continue to offer extra-curricular programs based on student interests, available resources, and staff support for those programs. The proposed re-siting and co-location will not impact those opportunities. Students will continue to have the opportunity to participate in a variety of extracurricular programs, though the specific programs offered at a given school are always subject to change. That is true for any City student as all schools modify extracurricular offerings annually based on student demand and available resources.

If this proposal is approved, I.S. 206 will gradually stop serving fifth-grade students after the 2012-2013 school year. There may be fifth-grade students who do not meet promotional standards and will be required to repeat fifth grade, which the school will no longer serve. The Office of Student Enrollment (“OSE”) will work with those families to determine an appropriate District 10 placement for these students, which may include the students’ zoned schools.

As is presently the case, fifth-grade students in the next year who meet promotional standards will have priority to the sixth-grade seats at I.S. 206 and will also be able to participate in the middle school choice process if they elect to do so.

I.S. 206 currently has a partnership with Good Shepherd Services.⁷

I.S. 206 offers the following sports programming:⁸

- Boys Sports: Basketball
- Girls Sports: Basketball
- Co-ed Sports: Boxing (non-contact), Volleyball
- Co-ed Fitness Club

Enrollment Impact for Future Middle School Students in District 10

I.S. 206 will continue to serve sixth through eighth grade middle school students in its zone. A student’s zoned school is determined by his or her home address. If this grade truncation proposal is approved, fifth-grade students at I.S. 206 will have priority admission to remain at I.S. 206 for sixth grade. If additional seats remain available once interested I.S. 206 students have been accommodated, other fifth-grade students throughout Districts 9 and 10 will also be able to apply for sixth grade seats at I.S. 206 through the joint Middle School Choice process for District 9 and 10.

I.S. 206 will also continue to accept students over-the-counter (“OTC”). OTC placement is a term that refers to the method of enrolling students who need a school assignment because they were not part of any admissions process for entry grades and/or were not enrolled in a New York City school at the time school started. These students fall into one of four categories:

⁷ School-reported data

⁸ School-reported data

- Students who are new to the New York City school system;
- Students who left the New York City school system and have returned;
- Students who are seeking transfers (based on the guidelines outlined in Chancellor's Regulation A-101); or
- Students who did not participate in the elementary or middle school admissions process for some other reason.

If this proposal is approved, I.S. 206 will continue to give priority to students who live in its zone, as it has in the past and in accordance with Chancellor's Regulation A-101. The full details of A-101 can be found at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/ChancellorsRegulations/default.htm>.

Future middle school students in District 10 with IEPs (with the exception of those recommended for a District 75 or a non-public school placement) will continue to participate in the middle school admissions processes in the same manner as their non-disabled peers. Middle schools will be supported by the DOE in reviewing the students' IEPs to focus on addressing the needs of students with disabilities by providing individualized special education services models that ensure students have access to the general education curriculum to the greatest extent possible. It is expected that the middle school to which a student is matched will provide a program to meet the student's needs.

In accordance with DOE policy, ELL students participate in the middle school admissions processes in the same manner as their peers who are not ELL students. Information regarding the type(s) of ELL programs historically offered by the middle schools to ELL students can be found in the Middle School Directory for District 10 (<http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/Middle/Publications/Bronx/default.htm>).

B. Schools

I.S. 206 is the only school located in building X206 and is therefore the only organization in the building impacted by this proposal.

This proposal is not expected to impact P.S. 291 even though, historically, the majority of fourth-grade students graduating from P.S. 291 enrolled in I.S. 206 for fifth grade, because the DOE has also proposed to implement a grade expansion at P.S. 291, whereby P.S. 291 would expand to serve students in K-5.

The DOE anticipates that by truncating the fifth-grade class, and adding a choice program to the middle school grades, the school will maintain an enrollment level consistent with current enrollment and therefore will not need to change its current space allocation. If the proposal is approved, there will continue to be sufficient space to serve I.S. 206 students pursuant to the Citywide Instructional Footprint (the "Footprint"). Please visit the New York City Department of Education website to access the Footprint, which guides space allocation and use in City schools: <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/default.htm>.

All current fifth-grade students at I.S. 206 will receive priority for a seat at I.S. 206 for sixth grade, should they meet promotional requirements. All current fifth-grade students will also have the opportunity to participate in the joint Middle School Choice process for Districts 9 and 10. Fifth-grade students who do not participate in the Middle School Choice process for the 2013-2014 school year will be offered a seat in a middle school in District 9 or District 10, or a middle school in the district in which the student resides. This may or may not be the student's zoned middle school.

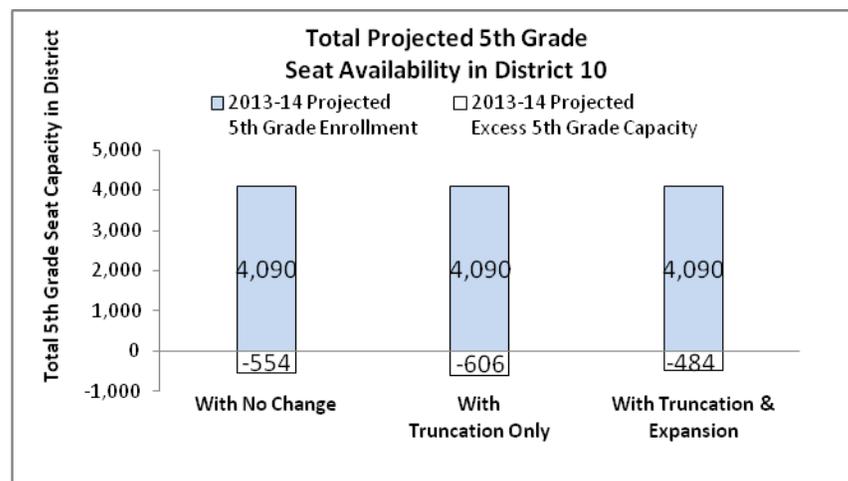
C. Community

This proposal serves the needs of the I.S. 206 community. Truncating the fifth-grade class at I.S. 206 will align the school's grade span with all other middle schools in District 10 because I.S. 206 is the only DOE

middle school in District 10 with an irregular grade span, with the exception of schools currently phasing in grades. As discussed above, the DOE is currently proposing grade reconfigurations of P.S. 291 and I.S. 206 to address the two remaining instances of grade misalignment in District 10.

If this proposal is approved, and the proposal to expand P.S. 291 to a K-5 school is approved, District 10 will have sufficient elementary school capacity to accommodate the fifth-grade students who would have otherwise enrolled at I.S. 206 for fifth grade.

In addition to the proposed expansion of P.S. 291 to serve fifth-grade students, there are currently 38 DOE managed schools serving fifth-grade students in District 10 and 1 charter school. In 2012-2013, the DOE projects that District 10 will have a deficit of 554 fifth-grade seats.⁹ As indicated in the chart below, should the proposed expansion of P.S. 291 and truncation of I.S. 206 be approved, approximately 70 additional fifth-grade seats will be created, reducing the fifth-grade seat deficit to 484 seats in District 10.^{10,11}



This proposal is not expected to impact the ability of community members and organizations to obtain school building use permits at X206.

IV. Enrollment, Admissions and School Performance Information

The impacted school in this proposal is I.S. 206, the only school located in building X206.

I.S. 206

⁹ Based on fourth-grade enrollment projections from the 2012-2013 Budget Register Projections.

¹⁰ The fifth-grade seat capacity is derived by multiplying the weighted fifth-grade projected enrollment (%) by the 2010-2011 Blue Book organizational capacity.

¹¹ Based on fourth-grade enrollment projections from the 2012-2013 Budget Register Projections.

Admissions Data

Current Admissions	5-8: Zoned
Admissions after Grade Reconfiguration in 2012-2013	6-8: Zoned with a choice program

Enrollment Data

	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Total Enrollment
2012-13 (projections)	62	98	108	117	385
2013-14 (projections)	-	115-125	95-105	105-115	315-345
2014-15 (projections)	-	115-125	115-125	95-105	325-355
2015-16 (projections)	-	115-125	115-125	115-125	345-375
2016-17 (projections)	-	115-125	115-125	115-125	345-375

Demographic Data¹²

Percentage of Students Receiving ICT or SC Services	9%
Percentage of Students with Individualized Education Plans	19%
Percentage of English Language Learner Students	32%
Percentage of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch	87%

School Performance Data

I.S. 206 Ann Mersereau	2008-2009	2009-2010¹³	2010-2011
School Performance and Progress			
Overall Progress Report Grade	A	B	C
Quality Review Score			
Performance Data			
English Language Arts % Proficient (Levels 3 and 4)	50%	21%	20%
Math % Proficient (Levels 3 and 4)	83%	42%	43%
Other Key Performance Indicators			

¹² Based on the 2012-2013 Register Budget Projections.

Attendance Rate	91.9%	91.2%	90.8%
2010-2011 State Accountability Status¹⁴	Corrective Action (year 1) Comprehensive		

V. Initial Impact on Budget and Cost of Instruction

Please refer to the Fair Student Funding (“FSF”) guide and FY13 School Allocation Memorandum for additional information on the cost of instruction and how the changes to FSF funding and other school allocations will be impacted as a result of register changes at I.S. 206. The FSF guide is available at: http://schools.nyc.gov/offices/d_chanc_oper/budget/dbor/allocationmemo/fy12_13/FY13_PDF/FSF_Guide.pdf.

The FY13 School Allocation Memorandum is available at: http://schools.nyc.gov/offices/d_chanc_oper/budget/dbor/allocationmemo/fy12_13/AM_FY13_CAT.html
Staffing changes are at the discretion of the school within the limits of contractual and mandated obligations.

If grade appropriate furniture is not available onsite, the school may receive additional furniture packages. Should this proposal create a need for additional administrative space or function, the cost of voice and data lines will be fully covered by the DOE. This allocation is subject to approval by the Office of Space Planning.

VI. Effect on Personnel Needs, Administration, Transportation and Other Support Services

A. Personnel Needs

This proposal is not expected to impact personnel at I.S. 206 because enrollment through the new choice program is expected to offset the truncation of the fifth grade. School leaders have indicated that because current fifth-grade teachers who maintain a common branch license are able to teach sixth grade under that license, they can remain on staff to teach sixth-graders in the new choice program at I.S. 206.

B. Administration

This proposal is not expected to impact the administration at I.S. 206.

C. Transportation

There will be no change to existing transportation practices at I.S. 206 due to this proposal. Transportation for students will continue to be provided according to Chancellor’s Regulation A-801: <http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/21A1B11A-886B-4F74-9546-E875EE82A14C/40303/A801.pdf>.

D. Other Support Services

¹⁴ <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/accountability/>

The provision of certain support services is described above. Other support services would be provided consistent with Citywide policy.

VII. Building Information

Building		X206
Type of Building		Junior High- Intermediate- Middle
Year Built		1980
Overall BCAS rating		2.41
2010-2011 Target Building Utilization		122
2010-2011 Target Building Capacity		323
FY 2012 Maintenance Costs	Labor	\$27,365
	Materials	\$5,581
	Maintenance and repair contracts	\$86,171
	Service contracts	\$4,052
	Custodial operations costs—Materials	\$3,015
	Custodial operations costs—Custodial Allocation	\$177,620
FY 2012 Energy Costs	Electric	\$109,579
	Gas	\$375
	Oil	\$35,886
Projects completed during the current or prior school year		None
Projects proposed in the capital plan		Heating Plant Upgrade, Chilled Water System Air Cooled Condenser
Accessibility of the building		1st floor only. Functionally Programmatically Accessible
Building attributes		Cafeteria, Gymnasium, Library, Nurse's Office, Science Lab