



**Notice**  
September 20, 2012

**Dennis M. Walcott**  
*Chancellor*

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

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

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. 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 grades.

Under this proposal, changing I.S. 206’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 students in sixth through eighth grades. 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.

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. 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/2012-2013/Nov2012Proposals>.

Copies of the EIS are also available in I.S. 206’s main office.

## **III. Submission of public comment.**

Written comments can be sent to [D10proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D10proposals@schools.nyc.gov)

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-5159

## **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: Stephanie Crane  
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning  
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007  
Email: [D10proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D10proposals@schools.nyc.gov)  
Phone: 212-374-5159

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

Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.  
Building X206  
2280 Aqueduct Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10468

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 8, 2012 at 6:00 PM  
Frank Sinatra School of the Arts  
35-12 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Astoria, NY 11106