



Notice
September 20, 2012

The Proposed Grade Truncation of P.S. 174 William Sidney Mount (28Q174) to a K-5 School in 2013-2014

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

P.S. 174 William Sidney Mount (28Q174, “P.S. 174”) is an existing zoned elementary school located in buildings Q174 and Transportable Classroom Unit (“TCU”, also commonly known as a “trailer”) Q935, at 65-10 Dieterle Crescent, Rego Park, NY 11374, in Community School District 28. It currently serves students in kindergarten through sixth grade and offers a pre-kindergarten program. P.S. 174 is currently the only school located in buildings Q174 and TCU Q935.

This is a proposal to implement a “grade truncation,” meaning that the school would no longer offer the option to enroll sixth grade students after the current 2012-2013 school year. Beginning in September 2013, P.S. 174 would only serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade and would continue to offer a pre-kindergarten program (subject to funding and demand). If this proposal is approved, at the close of the 2012-2013 school year, all fifth grade students who meet promotional standards from P.S. 174 would enter middle school as sixth graders. During the 2011-2012 school year, the majority of fifth grade students at P.S. 174 opted to participate in the Middle School Choice Process. All of the remaining students who initially chose to stay at P.S. 174 for the 2012-2013 school year later opted to attend District 28 middle schools for the sixth grade. As a result, in September 2012 there were no remaining sixth graders at P.S. 174.

Students in District 28 apply to middle school using the “Middle School Choice” process. Under Middle School Choice, zoned students still have priority for admission to the zoned school for the zone in which they reside. However, students are also eligible to attend a zoned school outside of the zone in which they reside, to the extent that space is available after students residing within the zone in which the school is located have been admitted. Students are also eligible to attend choice schools.

Currently, fifth grade students attending P.S. 174 who are zoned to J.H.S. 190 Russell Sage (28Q190, “J.H.S. 190”) are given priority to J.H.S. 190. Similarly, students attending P.S. 174 who are zoned to other District 28 middle schools are given priority to their respective zoned middle school. P.S. 174 students may also apply to other middle schools within District 28 through the Middle School Choice process, or they may apply to the borough or Citywide options that are available to District 28 students through the choice process. This will all continue to be true if this proposal is approved.

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) strives to ensure that all students in New York City have access to high-quality schools at every stage of their education. The proposed grade truncation offers benefits to the students currently in fifth grade at P.S. 174.

Middle schools typically enroll students beginning in sixth grade, and P.S. 174 students already have had the option to apply to middle school as fifth graders. For the 2012-2013 school year, there are no remaining sixth graders enrolled at P.S. 174. However, if P.S. 174 continues to offer the option of remaining for sixth grade, the 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 choice middle schools in District 28 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. 174 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. 174 students access to the same range of middle school options as their peers throughout District 28. 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. 174 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 in seventh grade, students at P.S. 174 will have more opportunities to take advantage of the enriching, high-school preparatory experiences offered at middle schools.

Finally, changing P.S. 174’s grade span from K-6 to K-5 would reduce the school’s enrollment by approximately 29 seats, freeing up additional space that P.S. 174 could use to accommodate additional lower-grade students or to meet other instructional and programming needs. P.S. 174 is also overcrowded, and truncating P.S. 174’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/2012-2013/Nov2012Proposals>

Copies of the EIS are also available in P.S. 174’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: Emily Ades
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.

Date: October 25, 2012
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: P.S. 174
65-10 Dieterle Crescent
Rego Park, NY 11374

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 35th Avenue
Astoria, NY 11106