



Notice  
November 6, 2012

Dennis M. Walcott  
Chancellor

## **Amended Educational Impact Statement: The Proposed Grade Expansion of P.S. 291 (10X291) to a K-5 School Beginning in 2013-2014**

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

P.S. 291 (10X291, “P.S. 291”) is an existing zoned elementary school located in building X015 (“X015”), located at 2195 Andrews Avenue, Bronx, NY 10453, in Community School District 10 (“District 10”). It currently serves students in kindergarten through fourth grades. P.S. 291 is co-located with P.S. 15 Institute for Environmental Learning (10X015, “P.S. 15”), an existing district choice school that serves students in kindergarten through eighth grades, and a District 75 program (75X010, “P010X”) that provides both self-contained and inclusion classes. A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums, and cafeterias.

On September 20, 2012, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) issued an educational impact statement (“EIS”) describing a proposal to implement a “grade expansion,” whereby P.S. 291 would expand to serve students in kindergarten through fifth grades (“K-5”) at full scale. If this proposal is approved, P.S. 291 will begin enrolling fifth-grade students for the 2013-2014 school year.

On November 6, 2012, the DOE issued an amended EIS, which corrects typographical errors, as well as:

- Clarifies that P.S. 291 will give preference to P.S. 291’s fourth grade students entering fifth grade, not I.S. 206 Ann Mersereau’s (10X206, “I.S. 206”) fourth grade students (as I.S. 206 does not offer fourth grade).
- Clarifies that there are a few other schools in the district that serve irregular grade spans such as K-2 and K-6.
- Clarifies that students zoned to P.S. 291 are also zoned to I.S. 206 for fifth grade, but not middle school grades.
- Includes updated building utilization information as per the release of the 2011-2012 Enrollment Capacity Utilization Report (the “Blue Book”).
- Corrects a typographical error regarding the baseline room allocation for P.S. 15 pursuant to the Instructional Footprint.
- Includes updated information regarding the implementation of the enrollment strategy for incoming kindergarten students in the 2012-2013 and subsequent years.
- Includes information about proposed amendments to Chancellor’s Regulation A-101

which were issued subsequent to the posting of the original EIS.

The standard exit point for an elementary school in the Bronx is fifth grade; therefore P.S. 291's grade configuration of kindergarten through fourth grade is not aligned with the majority of other District 10 elementary schools. The majority of students residing in the P.S. 291 elementary zone are zoned to I.S. 206 for fifth grade. I.S. 206 is a middle school that currently serves fifth through eighth grades. P.S. 291 is the only remaining K-4 school and I.S. 206 is the only remaining 5-8 school in District 10. Thus, currently, P.S. 291 and I.S. 206 are among the minority of schools in District 10 that serve irregular grade spans in the K-8 realm, and this proposal seeks to bring these two schools into conformity with the the majority of the schools in the district. As it stands, the majority of fourth-grade students graduating from P.S. 291 enroll in I.S. 206 for fifth grade, and remain there for middle school due to the schools' complementary exit and entrance points. It is sensible that most graduating fourth-graders from P.S. 291 attend I.S. 206 for middle school; otherwise, they would have to complete one additional year of school (fifth grade) at a new elementary school, before switching again for middle school (sixth through eighth grades).

In a separate EIS posted in September of 2012, and amended on November 6, 2012, the DOE proposed to truncate I.S. 206 to become a traditional middle school serving sixth through eighth grades. This proposal can be found on the DOE Web site:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Nov2012Proposals>.

Under that proposal, I.S. 206 will no longer enroll fifth-grade students. By aligning P.S. 291 and I.S. 206 with other schools in the district, the DOE will offer a better range of options to students who graduate from P.S. 291. If both proposals are approved, fourth-grade students enrolled at P.S. 291 will be able to stay at P.S. 291 for fifth grade and will no longer be able to attend I.S. 206 for fifth grade. Other fourth-grade students residing in District 10 may also apply for a seat at P.S. 291 for fifth grade, but their enrollment will depend on seat availability as P.S. 291 would first give preference to its current fourth-grade students and then to other zoned students.

The DOE is confident that P.S. 291 can accommodate fifth grade in the excess space available in the X015 building. P.S. 291 was budgeted to reduce the number of kindergarten sections it serves from approximately five to four for the 2012-2013 school year and will continue to work with the Office of School Enrollment ("OSE") to implement this practice in the coming years. In addition, OSE has implemented a new enrollment strategy whereby District 10 schools will no longer enroll out-of-zone students, further ensuring the feasibility of this expansion in terms of space availability within the X015 building.

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

The amended 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 amended EIS are also available in P.S. 291's, P.S. 15's and P010X'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: Steph 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 hearings for this proposal.**

The joint public hearing for this proposal occurred on:

October 22, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.  
X015 Building  
2195 Andrews Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10453

Questions about the proposal should be directed as indicated in section IV above.

### **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  
The Frank Sinatra School of the Arts  
35-12 35th Avenue  
Astoria, NY 11106