

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Proposed Elementary School Zone Changes in District 31 Beginning in the 2017-2018 School Year

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) and the District 31 Community Education Council (CEC) are proposing to change the current zone lines of P.S. 19, P.S. 20, P.S. 21 and P.S. 22 in order to create a new elementary school zone for new school P.S. 68: The Port Richmond School for Visionary Learning (“P.S. 68”) located in building R066 (“R066”). Below are responses to frequently asked questions that the DOE often receives regarding rezoning, including several scenario specific questions. For reference, a map of the proposed changes can be found at the end of this document.

Why is the DOE proposing to make these zone changes?

- Create a zone for new school, P.S. 68.
- Facilitate the eventual removal of Transportable Classroom Units (TCUs) at P.S. 19.
- Help reduce overcrowding at nearby elementary schools and eliminate the need to cap and overflow students.

When would this zoning change be implemented?

- The proposed zone changes would take effect for the 2017-2018 school year.

What changes might District 31 families expect as a result of this proposed re-zoning?

- Some residents in the eastern portion of the P.S. 22 zone would be zoned to P.S. 68.
- Some residents in the western portion of the P.S. 19 zone would be zoned to P.S. 68.
- Some residents in the western portion of the P.S. 20 zone would be zoned to P.S. 21.
- Some residents in the western and southern portions of the P.S. 21 zone would be zoned to P.S. 22.
- The map on the back of this document shows the proposed zone line changes.

Who does this rezoning proposal impact?

- Incoming Pre-K and kindergarten students or students that are new to NYC schools in 2017-2018.
- All students currently enrolled at P.S. 19, P.S. 20, P.S. 21 P.S. 22 and P.S. 68 may remain in their school.
- Sibling grandfathering will be applicable for Pre-K and kindergarten. If approved by the CEC, incoming students who live where a zone is changing can retain their zoned sibling priority when applying for kindergarten or Pre-K.

What factors does the DOE consider when proposing new zone lines?

- Each proposed zone line change is the result of the careful consideration of multiple factors, including but not limited to; the capacity of each building, the ideal number of kindergarteners living within the zone for each school, demographics, how far students will have to travel to their zoned school, and the proximity of the school to its zone boundaries.

How are decisions to re-draw zone lines made? Do zone lines include only one or both sides of any given street?

- Zone lines are drawn to achieve an ideal number of kindergarten students living in a zone, based on the size and capacity of each school. To increase or decrease the number of students within a zone, lines are drawn to include or exclude certain blocks and certain sides of the street, based on the number of students who typically live there and attend DOE schools. Zone lines usually run down the center of the street, unless otherwise specified. The DOE works with the CEC to determine a scenario that takes into account the specific needs of the impacted communities.

How will this rezoning change student enrollment and space at P.S. 19, P.S. 20, P.S. 21, P.S. 22 and P.S. 68?

- P.S. 19's total enrollment is expected to decrease from approximately 677 students to 540-570 students by 2022-2023. This will decrease the building utilization from approximately 132% to 105%-111%.
- P.S. 20's total enrollment is expected to decrease from approximately 486 students to 410-440 students by 2022-2023. This will decrease the building utilization from approximately 168% to 142%-152%.
- P.S. 21's total enrollment is expected to remain stable, from approximately 398 students to 350-380 students by 2022-2023. This will result in building utilization going from approximately 114% to 101%-109%.
- P.S. 22's total enrollment is expected to remain stable, from approximately 1,053 students to 1,030-1,060 students. This will result in building utilization going from approximately 109% to 107%-110%.
- P.S. 68 will add one grade each year until the school reaches its full grade space in the 2022-2023 school year, when the school is projected to serve approximately 340-370 students. This will result in an approximate building utilization rate of 108%-118%. While the building utilization rate for building R066 is projected at over 100% when P.S. 68 is at scale, the school will continue to receive its baseline instructional footprint, inclusive of specialty rooms and administrative spaces.

What data is used to create each school's proposed zone size, and is it publicly accessible?

- The DOE analyzes historical student residential data, enrollment patterns, school demand, residential construction data, and each school's building capacity in order to derive ideal kindergarten zone sizes.
- Data related to this specific rezoning proposal was provided at the September 21st meeting and is accessible on the DOE website: <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/statenisland/districtplanning.htm>. Certain data points may not be shared, such as student residential data, to protect the privacy of students and families, pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). You can find additional information about a school's enrollment, demographics, performance, and more on the DOE's school data page: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/schools/data/default.htm>. The most recent information on school buildings' capacity is detailed in the 2014-2015 Enrollment, Capacity, & Utilization Report (also known as the "Blue Book"): <http://www.nycsca.org/Community/Capital-Plan-Reports-Data#Enrollment-Capacity-Utilization-69>
- The DOE also relies on extensive qualitative data to inform our planning. In this case, before scenario development began, DOE officials and the Superintendent met with each school leader to discuss the process and overall goals, and to get critical feedback about each school's enrollment, zone, and the neighborhood. Before the creation of this preliminary scenario, DOE officials and the Superintendent met again with each school leader and the CEC in order to collect additional feedback.

Will sibling priority status be maintained (aka "grandfathering") if my address is rezoned?

- Sibling priority status, or sibling "grandfathering," means that incoming kindergarten students who live where the zone is changing will retain their zoned sibling priority when applying for kindergarten, if they have a zoned sibling enrolled in grades 1-5 at the school at the time of admissions (e.g., a kindergarten student who presently lives in one of the impacted elementary school zones and has a sibling who will be enrolled at that school at the start of the following school year, but would be rezoned as a result of this proposal, will retain his or her admissions priority status as a zoned sibling to the school). This rezoning proposal includes sibling grandfathering as a part of the plan.

How will this re-zoning decision be made?

- The DOE proposed zoning changes to the District 31 CEC at a public meeting on September 21st, 2016.
- The CEC collects community feedback.
- The CEC is responsible for approving zoning changes. CEC 31 anticipates voting on this proposal at their November 7th meeting.

Where can I get more information?

- The presentation materials that were shared during the September 21st meeting can be found on the DOE Web site: <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/statenisland/districtplanning.htm>

Whom can I contact with questions or comments about the proposal?

- Community Superintendent, Anthony Lodico: 718-420-5667 or ALodico@schools.nyc.gov
- CEC 31: CEC31@schools.nyc.gov
- Office of District Planning: StatenIslandZoning@schools.nyc.gov

Where can I go for more information on zoning and admissions?

- The Office of Student Enrollment website: <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/Elementary/default.htm>

Proposed Zones (2017-2018):

The light blue area represents the current zone for P.S. 19, the red area represents the current zone for P.S. 20, the purple area represents the current zone for P.S. 21, and the yellow area represents the current zone for P.S. 22. All zone lines run down the center of the street unless otherwise specified. If this proposal is approved, starting in 2017-2018, a family’s zone will determined by the shape outlined in black:

