



Notice
December 18, 2012

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Grade Expansion of Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School (06M348) to a K-12 School Beginning in 2014-2015

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

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to expand the grades served by Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School (06M348, “WHEELS”) from sixth through twelfth grades to kindergarten through twelfth grades. WHEELS is an existing secondary school serving students in sixth through twelfth grades in building M143 (“M143”) located at 511 West 182nd Street, New York, NY 10033, in Community School District 6 (“District 6”). WHEELS is currently co-located in building M143 with I.S. 143 Eleanor Roosevelt Intermediate School (06M143, “I.S. 143”), an existing unscreened middle school serving students in sixth through eighth grades. 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.

WHEELS currently serves 636 students in sixth through twelfth grades. The school is part of the Expeditionary Learning (“EL”) network of schools, a partnership of NYC Outward Bound and the DOE. The EL schools aim to inspire and engage students and teachers by providing professional development, curriculum planning resources, and new school structures to boost student engagement, character, and achievement. NYC Outward Bound schools are college-preparatory schools that are rooted in the principles and practices of Outward Bound, which include active, real-world learning, a rigorous academic curriculum, membership in an advisory program, and team building adventures outside the classroom.

If this proposal is approved, beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, WHEELS will serve kindergarten students, in addition to its sixth through twelfth grade students, and will add one grade per year until it reaches full scale in 2019-2020 and serves students in kindergarten through twelfth grades in M143.

WHEELS currently admits sixth grade students through the District 6 Middle School Choice Process using an unscreened admissions method and gives priority to fifth grade students enrolled in P.S. 115, P.S. 132, P.S. 189, and to residents residing in the zone. Eighth grade students enrolled in WHEELS can stay at WHEELS for ninth grade and continue their education or choose to apply to other high schools through the Citywide High School Admissions Process. Other eighth grade students throughout New York City may also apply to enroll in WHEELS for ninth grade through the Citywide High School Admissions Process. Depending on seat

availability, WHEELS admits high school students through a limited unscreened admissions process, which means that WHEELS gives priority to students who demonstrate interest by attending one or several of the following events: Information Sessions, School Tour, Open House or Middle School Fair, then to other students and residents of District 6.

If this proposal is approved, WHEELS will be a choice elementary school, which means it will be open for admission to all students in District 6, without giving priority to students who live in any particular zone. WHEELS will admit kindergarten through fifth grade students through a school-based application consistent with Chancellor's Regulation A-101. For additional information about admissions policies, please refer to Section III. A of the Educational Impact Statement.

I.S. 143 currently serves 498 students in sixth through eighth grades. I.S. 143 currently admits sixth grade students through the District 6 Middle School Choice Process using an unscreened admissions method and gives priority to fifth grade students enrolled in P.S. 115, P.S. 132, P.S. 189, and to residents residing in the zone. This proposal is not expected to impact the admissions process at I.S. 143.

According to the 2011-2012 Enrollment Capacity Utilization Report (the "Blue Book"), M143 has the capacity to serve 1,602 students. In 2012-2013, WHEELS serves 636 students and I.S. 143 serves 498 students, for a total enrollment of 1,134 students in M143, yielding a building utilization rate of 71%. This means that the building is "underutilized" and has space to accommodate additional students. In 2019-2020, WHEELS is projected to serve 880 – 1,005 students and I.S. 143 is projected to serve 405 – 435 students in M143, yielding a building utilization rate of 80% - 90%. If this proposal is approved, there will be sufficient space in M143 to accommodate the proposed elementary school grades of WHEELS and the existing grades of I.S. 143.

Building M143 also has a mini-building, M859, which is currently occupied by grades six through eight of Community Health Academy of the Heights (06M346, "CHAH"). CHAH shares common spaces, such as auditoriums, gymnasiums, and cafeterias with WHEELS and I.S. 143 in building M143. In June 2009, the DOE announced that CHAH will vacate M859 by the 2013-2014 school year. M143 also houses a community-based organization, Alianza Dominicana, and a school-based health clinic and dental room. The DOE does not anticipate that this proposal will impact these programs or partnerships.

The proposal for the grade expansion of WHEELS initially came from the school community. This grade expansion would allow WHEELS to serve elementary, middle and high school grades at full scale, and create the first district school in District 6 to serve kindergarten through twelfth grades. This suggests a high level of satisfaction within the school and its parent body and an expectation that an expanded WHEELS will suit the needs of the families in District 6.

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/Mar112013Proposals.htm>

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main offices of I.S. 143 and WHEELS.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D06Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-3466.

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: Meera Jain
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D06Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-3466

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

Tuesday, January 22, 2013
6:00 p.m.
Building M143
511 West 182nd Street
New York, NY 10033

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. Should inclement weather or other unforeseen event or emergency prevent the Tuesday, January 22, 2013 hearing from taking place, the joint public hearing would take place (as feasible) on the alternate schedule noted directly below.

Alternate Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013
Alternate Time: 6:00 PM
Alternate Where: Building M143
511 West 182nd Street
New York, NY 10033

Please reserve both the original scheduled and alternate dates, times, and locations in your calendars. Should the hearing scheduled for Tuesday, January, 22, 2013 or the alternate date of Tuesday, January 29, 2013 require rescheduling to accommodate the needs of the impacted School Leadership Teams and Community and/or Citywide Education Councils, the DOE will post notice here: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013Proposals.htm>.

VII. Date, time and place of the Panel for Educational Policy meeting at which the Panel will vote on the proposed item.

March 11, 2013 at 6:00pm
Brooklyn Technical High School
29 Fort Greene Pl
Brooklyn, NY 11217