

EDUCATIONAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The Proposed Grade Truncation of P.S. 126 Dr Marjorie H. Dunbar (09X126) to a K-5 School in 2013-2014

I. Summary of Proposal

P.S. 126 Dr Marjorie H. Dunbar (“P.S. 126”) is an existing zoned elementary school located in building X126, at 175 West 166th Street, Bronx, NY 10452, in the Highbridge neighborhood of Community School District 9. It currently serves students in kindergarten through sixth grades and offers a full-day pre-kindergarten program. P.S. 126 is currently the only school located in building X126.

This is a proposal to implement a “grade truncation,” meaning that the school will no longer enroll sixth graders after the current 2012-2013 school year. If this proposal is approved, at the close of the 2012-2013 school year, all fifth- and sixth-grade students who meet promotional standards will graduate from P.S. 126. During the 2012-2013 school year, P.S. 126 fifth- and sixth-grade students will participate in the District 9 and 10 Middle School Choice Process. In September 2013, P.S. 126’s current fifth- and sixth-grade students will enter middle school elsewhere as sixth and seventh graders, respectively. Beginning in September 2013, P.S. 126 will only serve students in kindergarten through fifth grades and will continue to offer a pre-kindergarten program (subject to funding and demand).

Middle schools typically enroll students beginning in sixth grade, and P.S. 126 students already have the option to apply to middle school as fifth graders. However, P.S. 126 students who wait until sixth grade to apply to middle school are limited to those schools that still have available seventh-grade seats. There are several middle schools in Districts 9 and 10 that rarely have seventh-grade seats open because those seats become available only if sixth-grade students leave the school. As a result, students who remain at P.S. 126 through sixth grade have fewer options than their peers who start middle school a year earlier.

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. Having elementary schools that end in different grades (i.e., K-5 versus K-6) creates unequal levels of access to middle school for students based simply on the year they exit elementary school.

This proposed grade truncation will help standardize middle school application and entry grades in District 9, giving all P.S. 126 students access to the same range of middle school options as their peers throughout the District. Additionally, having students start middle school through multiple entry grades (sixth and seventh) creates challenges for students and the school as a whole. P.S. 126 students who start middle school in seventh grade may face transitional challenges related to entering middle school a year later than most of their classmates. They remain in their new middle school for only two years before moving on to high school, leaving them with less time to adjust to a new school environment and new academic expectations before facing another transition and adjustment. Multiple transitions in such close succession can have the effect of depersonalizing the school experience at a time when adolescents tend to need the most personal and supportive environments. Having students enter in multiple years is also challenging for middle school teachers and leadership from an instructional perspective.

Changing P.S. 126’s grade span from K-6 to K-5 will reduce the school’s enrollment by approximately 20-80 students, freeing up additional space that P.S. 126 could use to accommodate additional lower-grade students or to meet other needs (e.g., art room, resource center, etc.).¹

In addition to this proposal, the DOE anticipates opening a new middle school in District 9’s Highbridge neighborhood in September 2013.² This new school will be housed in building X285, new construction being built at 200 West 167th St., approximately 0.3 miles away from P.S. 126. This new middle school will admit students via the District 9 and 10 Middle School Choice Process, giving priority to students from several Highbridge area elementary schools, including P.S. 126, thereby providing a new option for students who would have otherwise attended sixth grade at P.S. 126.

II. Proposed or Potential Use of Building

The building in which P.S. 126 is located, X126, has the capacity to serve 942 students³ and is currently serving 712 students in kindergarten through sixth grades and 34 students in pre-kindergarten in 2012-2013,⁴ which yields an estimated building utilization rate of 79%.⁵

Target Capacity and Utilization	
Total Capacity	942
Enrollment (2012-13)	746
Utilization (2012-13) %	79%

As shown in the following chart, if this proposal is approved and sixth-grade students are no longer served at P.S. 126 in 2013-2014, P.S. 126 will serve approximately 666-726 students in 2013-2014, which yields an estimated building utilization rate of 71-77%.

¹ Enrollment data taken from the 2012-2013 Unaudited Register (as of October 26, 2012).

² The New Middle School (09XTBD) will begin to serve sixth-grade students in 2013-2014 and scale up one grade per year until it serves students in grades 6-8 in the 2015-2016 school year. Building X285 will have an estimated capacity of 391 students.

³ All references to building utilization rates in this document are based on target capacity data from the 2011-2012 Blue Book and enrollment data from the 2012-2013 Unaudited Register (as of October 26, 2012) or charter headcount as of October 1, 2012. This methodology is consistent with the manner in which the DOE conducts planning and calculates space allocations and funding for all schools. In determining the space allocation for co-located schools, the Office of Space Planning conducts a detailed site survey and space analysis of the building to assess the amount of space available in the building.

⁴ According to the 2012-2013 Unaudited Register (as of October 26, 2012).

⁵ The 2011-2012 Under-Utilized Space Memorandum and List was published on the DOE’s website on October 24, 2012. It can be accessed at <http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/6D8EA76A-82FA-4740-9ED1-66BCABEE8BFB/132938/UnderutilizedSpaceMemorandum102412.pdf>

DBN	School Name	2012-2013 Enrollment	2013-2014 Projected Enrollment
09X126	P.S. 126 Dr Marjorie H. Dunbar	746	666 - 726
Total Building Enrollment		746	666 - 726
Utilization		79%	71% - 77%

As described in more detail in the Blue Book, which is available at http://www.nycsca.org/Community/CapitalPlanManagementReportsData/Enrollment/2011-2012_Classic.pdf, a building’s target utilization rate is calculated by dividing the aggregated enrollment of all the school organizations in the building by the aggregated “target capacities” of those organizations. Each school organization’s “target capacity” is calculated based upon the scheduled use of individual rooms as reported by principals during an annual facilities survey, the DOE’s goals for maximum classroom capacities (which are lower than the UFT contractual class sizes and differ depending on grade level), and the efficiency with which classrooms are programmed (i.e., the frequency with which classes are scheduled in a given classroom).

The most recent year for which target capacity has been calculated for buildings is 2011-2012. The DOE’s projected utilization rates for the 2012-2013 school year and beyond are based on the 2011-2012 target capacity, which assumes that the components underlying that target capacity (scheduled use of classrooms, goal maximum classroom capacity, etc.) remain constant. Thus, utilization rates for the 2012-2013 school year and beyond provide only an approximation of a building’s usage because each of the factors underlying target capacity may be adjusted by principals from year to year to better accommodate students’ needs. For example, changing the use of a room from an administrative room to a homeroom at the high school level will increase a building’s overall target capacity because administrative rooms in high schools are not assigned a capacity. Holding enrollment constant, this change would result in a lower utilization rate. Similarly, if a room previously used as a kindergarten classroom is subsequently used as fifth-grade classroom, the building’s target capacity would increase because we expect that a fifth-grade class will have more students than a kindergarten class. This is reflected in the fact that the DOE’s goal for maximum classroom capacity is higher for fifth-grade classrooms than for kindergarten classrooms. In this example, as well, assuming enrollment is constant, the utilization rate would decrease.

At this time, the DOE has no proposed additional uses for the building after the grade truncation takes place. Any future proposals for use of the space that involve a significant change in school utilization would begin with community engagement to discuss the community’s needs and would be addressed in a separate proposal and Educational Impact Statement.

III. Impact of the Proposal on Affected Students, Schools, and Community

A. Students

Impact on Students Currently Attending P.S. 126

In the 2011-2012 school year, many P.S. 126 students opted to remain at the school through sixth grade, while others chose to attend sixth grade at a District 9 or District 10 middle school. Specifically, approximately 30% of last year's fifth-grade students chose to attend sixth grade elsewhere.⁶ This leads to a decrease in enrollment in the sixth grade with limited resources to provide the types of extracurricular activities and enrichment opportunities for sixth-grade students at P.S. 126 that are available to sixth-grade students (and other students) in a full-size middle school.

If this proposal is approved, beginning in the 2013-2014 school year, P.S. 126 will serve students only in kindergarten through fifth grades and continue to offer a full day pre-kindergarten program (subject to funding and demand).

All current P.S. 126 fifth-grade students will apply to middle school and those who meet promotional requirements will graduate from P.S. 126 and start middle school in the 2013-2014 school year as sixth-grade students. That means that they will be applying for sixth grade seats through the District 9 and 10 Middle School Choice Process concurrently with their fifth grade peers from across Districts 9 and 10, rather than applying one year later for any seventh grade seats that may remain available. This gives P.S. 126 students equal access to their top-choice schools. If a P.S. 126 fifth-grade student does not meet the promotional standards at the conclusion of the 2012-2013 school year, then the student will be retained at P.S. 126.

All current P.S. 126 sixth-grade students will apply to middle school (as they have in the past), and those who meet promotional requirements will graduate from P.S. 126 and enroll in seventh grade at the middle school to which they are matched for the 2013-2014 school year. If a P.S. 126 sixth-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 sixth grade at the same middle school to which he or she has been matched for seventh grade through the Middle School Choice process. If such placement is not feasible, then the DOE will find an alternative District 9 or District 10 placement for that student.

This proposal should be particularly beneficial to the current fifth-grade students at P.S. 126. Middle schools typically have extremely varied and rich instructional offerings, especially in the sciences and languages, as well as extra-curricular activities. Middle schools' space and facilities are also better aligned than those of elementary schools to support these programs. By entering middle school in sixth grade rather than seventh grade, students at P.S. 126 will have more opportunities to take advantage of these enriching, high-school preparatory experiences. At the same time, they will avoid transitional challenges related to entering the school a year later than most of their classmates.

District 9 currently shares a Middle School Choice process with District 10, which means that District 9 and District 10 students have equal preference for choice schools and programs in both districts. Fifth-grade students who meet promotional standards and live within either district are eligible to apply to any

⁶ Based on the 2011-2012 Audited Register and the ATS Snapshot as of November 5, 2012.

District 9 or 10 choice middle school. Students rank their preferences from among the District 9 and District 10 choice middle schools and programs, as well as their zoned option. These options include:⁷

- Choice (i.e., unzoned) middle schools or programs with a screened admissions method;⁸
- Choice middle schools or programs with an unscreened⁹ or limited unscreened admissions method;¹⁰
- Zoned middle schools and campus choice middle schools (multiple schools in one campus collectively serving a zone);
- K-8 schools with an unscreened admissions method that have available seats for middle school students;
- 6-12 schools with an unscreened, limited unscreened, or screened admissions method for middle school students; and
- Schools with borough-wide or Citywide eligibility with unscreened, limited unscreened, or screened admissions methods.

Students may also choose to apply to a number of schools that manage their own admissions process. In this way, the DOE is able to offer individual students the widest breadth of options across a large number of schools.

Currently, P.S. 126 students who wait until sixth grade to apply to middle school are reserved a seventh grade seat at their zoned school, but are otherwise restricted to other District 9 or District 10 middle schools (zoned and choice) that still have remaining seventh-grade seats. As discussed in greater detail below, there are typically few such seats available at high demand middle schools, meaning that P.S. 126 sixth-grade students have limited access to the choice process compared with students who apply to middle school during fifth grade. If this proposal is approved, all P.S. 126 students will apply to middle school in fifth grade. This will give P.S. 126 students greater access to their top-choice middle schools.

In addition to choice schools, several middle school options in District 9 and District 10 are zoned schools. After accepting zoned students, it is expected that zoned middle schools will try to fill all remaining sixth-grade spaces available by accepting students who apply through the Middle School Choice Process or through over-the-counter placement.¹¹ Those spots will be filled with out-of-zone students who indicated a preference for that school during the sixth-grade middle school application process. Very few, if any, spaces will be available in later years to out-of-zone students wishing to enter as seventh graders. Such

⁷ For additional information, visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/Middle>

⁸ Screened schools admit students based on specific criteria they designate for admission.

⁹ Unscreened schools admit all students who are eligible to apply to the school.

¹⁰ Limited-unscreened schools admit students on the same basis as unscreened schools with the exception that they give preference to students who have attended a school information session.

¹¹ “Over-the-counter” (“OTC”) placement is a term that refers to the method of enrolling students who need a school assignment because they were not part of any admissions process for entry grades and/or were not enrolled in a NYC school at the time school started. These students fall into one of four categories:

- New to the New York City school system;
- Left the New York City school system and have returned;
- Are seeking transfers (based on the guidelines outlined in Chancellor’s Regulation A-101); or
- Students who did not participate in the elementary or middle school admissions process for some other reason.

When a student eligible for middle school needs an over-the-counter placement, his or her school assignment is determined by his or her interest, home address and which schools have available seats, and where applicable, transfer guidelines. Students are eligible to attend middle school based on the district of elementary school attendance or the district to which the student’s address is zoned for middle school. In un-zoned districts, the student visits a Borough Enrollment Office where he or she meets with a counselor who reviews options that will meet the student’s needs. However, in many districts, students may simply report to their zoned middle school at the start of the year.

seats will only be available if students leave the school.

As a result, families that would like their children to attend one of the District 9 or District 10 choice middle schools or a zoned middle school outside their school zone should participate in the Choice Process offered to every fifth grade student in the District each year. Although P.S. 126 families already have the ability to do this, many currently do not exercise that option.

As discussed above, students who choose to remain at P.S. 126 for sixth grade also have a guaranteed seat at a District 9 middle school to which they are zoned. If this proposal is approved, students zoned to P.S. 126 for elementary school will retain a guaranteed seat at the District 9 middle school to which they are zoned. Most P.S. 126 students are zoned to I.S. 454 Science and Technology Academy: A Mott Hall School for middle school. Based on the 2011-2012 Audited Register, I.S. 454 had a zoned enrollment rate of 35%, meaning that only 35% of students attending the school were zoned to it. This suggests that, should this proposal be approved, I.S. 454 has the ability to serve a larger population of zoned students should fifth graders from P.S. 126 choose to attend.

Additionally, as described above, a new middle school will be opening in September 2013 near P.S. 126 that will offer admissions priority to students from several elementary schools in the Highbridge neighborhood of District 9, including P.S. 126. This will provide another nearby option for students who may have otherwise remained at P.S. 126 for sixth grade.

If this proposal is approved, it is expected that many more P.S. 126 families with students in fifth grade will participate in the Middle School Choice process.

The following chart identifies the range of middle school options available to P.S. 126 students.

DBN	School Name	Address	Grade Span 2012-13	Grade Span at Scale	Admissions Method ¹²
ZONED OPTIONS					
09X004	P.S./M.S. 004 Crotona Park West	1701 FULTON AVENUE	K-8	K-8	Zoned
ZONED with CHOICE OPTIONS					
09X117	I.S. 117 Joseph H. Wade	1865 MORRIS AVENUE	6-8	6-8	Limited Unscreened, Screened, Zoned
09X219	I.S. 219 New Venture School	3630 THIRD AVENUE	6-8	6-8	Unscreened
09X229	I.S. 229 Roland Patterson	275 HARLEM RIVER PARK BRIDGE	6-8	6-8	Screened, Zoned
09X454	Science and Technology Academy: A Mott Hall School	250 EAST 164 STREET	6-8	6-8	Screened, Limited Unscreened

¹² Admission Method data exists for all programs that utilize the MS Choice admission process and are listed for every program at the school. Zoned programs are listed as "zoned" and those schools utilizing school-based applications are listed as "School Based Application."

ZONED CAMPUS CHOICE with CHOICE PROGRAMS					
09X022	J.H.S. 022 Jordan L. Mott	270 EAST 167 STREET	6-8	6-8	Screened, Unscreened
09X145	J.H.S. 145 Arturo Toscanini	1000 TELLER AVENUE	6-8	6-8	Zoned
09X232	I.S. 232	1700 MACOMBS ROAD	6-8	6-8	Unscreened
09X303	I.S. X303 Leadership & Community Service	1700 MACOMBS ROAD	6-8	6-8	Screened, Zoned
09X313	I.S. 313 School of Leadership Development	1600 WEBSTER AVENUE	6-8	6-8	Unscreened
09X323	Bronx Writing Academy	270 EAST 167 STREET	6-8	6-8	Unscreened
09X325	Urban Science Academy	1000 TELLER AVENUE	6-8	6-8	Unscreened
09X328	New Millennium Business Academy Middle School	1000 TELLER AVENUE	6-8	6-8	Limited Unscreened
09X339	I.S. 339	1600 WEBSTER AVENUE	6-8	6-8	Limited Unscreened
DISTRICT 9 & 10 CHOICE OPTIONS					
09X128	Mott Hall III	580 CROTONA PARK SOUTH	6-8	6-8	Screened
09X215	Kappa	3630 THIRD AVENUE	5-8	5-8	School Based Application
09X218	P.S./I.S. 218 Rafael Hernandez Dual Language Magnet School	1220 GERARD AVENUE	K-8	K-8	Screened
09X241	Urban Assembly School for Applied Math and Science, The	1595 BATHGATE AVENUE	6-12	6-12	Limited Unscreened
09X324	Bronx Early College Academy for Teaching & Learning	250 EAST 164 STREET	6-12	6-12	Limited Unscreened
09X327	Comprehensive Model School Project M.S. 327	1501 JEROME AVENUE	6-9	6-12	Unscreened
09X413	Bronx High School for Medical Science	240 EAST 172 STREET	6-12	6-12	Screened
09X505	Bronx School for Law, Government and Justice	244 EAST 163 STREET	6-12	6-12	Screened
10X045	Thomas C. Giordano Middle School 45	2502 LORILLARD PLACE	6-8	6-8	Screened, Zoned
10X118	J.H.S. 118 William W. Niles	577 EAST 179 STREET	6-8	6-8	Zoned, Screened

10X225	Theatre Arts Production Company School	2225 WEBSTER AVENUE	6-12	6-12	Screened
10X228	Jonas Bronck Academy	400 EAST FORDHAM ROAD	6-8	6-8	Screened
10X243	West Bronx Academy for the Future	500 EAST FORDHAM ROAD	6-12	6-12	Limited Unscreened
10X342	International School for Liberal Arts	2780 RESERVOIR AVENUE	6-12	6-12	Screened
10X363	Academy for Personal Leadership and Excellence	120 EAST 184 STREET	6-8	6-8	Limited Unscreened, Unscreened
BOROUGH-WIDE CHOICE					
09X231	Eagle Academy for Young Men	4143 THIRD AVENUE	6-7, 9-12	6-12	Limited Unscreened
09X568	Young Women's Leadership School of the Bronx	1865 MORRIS AVENUE	6	6-8	Screened
10X225	Theatre Arts Production Company School	2225 WEBSTER AVENUE	6-12	6-12	Screened
10X308	Bronx Dance Academy School	3617 BAINBRIDGE AVENUE	6-8	6-8	Screened
CHARTER OPTIONS¹³					
84X177	Mott Hall Charter School	1260 FRANKLIN AVENUE	6	6-8	Lottery
84X258	Tech International Charter School	NOT AVAILABLE	6	6-8	Lottery
84X419	Bronx Academy of Promise Charter School	1166 RIVER AVENUE	K-6	K-6	Lottery
84X422	Icahn Charter School 3	108 WEST 174 STREET	K-6	K-6	Lottery
84X703	Bronx Preparatory Charter School	3872 THIRD AVENUE	5-12	5-12	Lottery
84X705	Family Life Academy Charter School	14 WEST 170 STREET	K-8	K-8	Lottery
84X706	Harriet Tubman Charter School	3565 THIRD AVENUE	K-8	K-8	Lottery
84X717	Icahn Charter School	1525 BROOK AVENUE	K-8	K-8	Lottery

In addition to these options, the new middle school in building X285 will be opening in the Highbridge

¹³ Detailed information about charter schools will be published annually and is available in print and on the DOE website here: <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/charters/Directory.htm>

neighborhood at the start of the 2013-2014 school year.

As in the past, District 9 students may also apply to borough-wide and citywide middle schools.

P.S. 126 currently serves general education students and students requiring special education services, including students enrolled in Integrated Co-Teaching (“ICT”) classes and Self-Contained (“SC”) special education classes, as well as students receiving Special Education Teacher Support Services (“SETSS”). The existing ICT, SC, and SETSS classes for students in grades kindergarten through fifth at P.S. 126 will continue to be provided and students with disabilities will continue to receive mandated services in accordance with their Individualized Education Programs (“IEPs”). Services are tailored to meet the individual needs of the students with disabilities attending P.S. 126 and, as such, may vary from year to year.

Additionally, P.S. 126 serves English Language Learners (“ELLs”), students who are of limited English proficiency. ELL students at P.S. 126 have access to both English as a Second Language (“ESL”) and transitional bilingual classes. All current and future ELL students attending P.S. 126 will continue to receive ELL services in accordance with DOE policy.

In sum, P.S. 126 will continue to meet the needs of its students with disabilities and ELLs in grades K-5. Current fifth and sixth graders with IEPs or requiring ELL services will continue to receive mandated services at their new middle school.

P.S. 126 currently offers two sections of a full day pre-kindergarten program. The DOE does not anticipate that the proposed truncation of P.S. 126 will affect its pre-kindergarten program.

Impact on Academic and Extracurricular Programs at P.S. 126

P.S. 126 will not be required to make any immediate changes to available academic or extracurricular programs currently offered at P.S. 126. That said, the availability of certain offerings at the school may be impacted as the school implements its grade truncation and serves a smaller student population.

With respect to academics, P.S. 126 will continue to offer all necessary classes to support current students as they work to meet promotional requirements. As total enrollment at the school reduces, the school may scale back its special programs and initiatives or enrichment classes. It is difficult to predict how those changes might be implemented as decisions will rest with school administrators and will be made based on student demand as well as staff and budget conditions at the school.

P.S. 126 currently offers the following extracurricular activities:¹⁴

- Keys to Success
- Chorus
- Basketball
- Track (New York Road Runners)
- Yoga
- Boy Scouts
- Volleyball
- Soccer
- Cheerleading and Stepping
- National Elementary Honor Society
- Student Book Club

¹⁴ The extracurricular activities list was provided by members of the P.S. 126 School Leadership Team.

- Drama Club
- Parenting Journeys
- Learning Leaders
- Woodycrest Program
- Adult Workshops

In addition, P.S. 126 has a number of partnerships with community-based organizations, including:¹⁵

- Woodycrest
- Morris Heights Health Center
- Bridge Builders/Community Partnership Initiative
- Highbridge Advisory Council Family Services, Inc.
- Highbridge Voices
- Women’s Housing and Economic Development Corporation (WHEDco)

Again, it is difficult to predict precisely how programmatic changes might be implemented as decisions will rest with school administrators and will be made based on student interests and available resources. That is true for any City students as all schools modify extracurricular offerings annually based on student demand and available resources.

As the grade truncation is implemented, the DOE will work with P.S. 126 staff to enhance existing partnerships or develop new partnerships if specific, new student needs emerge as the school’s grade configuration changes. As appropriate, the DOE will work with P.S. 126 to introduce or expand partnerships with the community organizations that currently support P.S. 126 students and other District 9 elementary school students.

Impact on Future Students at P.S. 126

The proposal to truncate P.S. 126 is not expected to impact the admissions process at P.S. 126. P.S. 126 will continue to serve grades kindergarten through five in building X126 in the coming years to accommodate its zoned students. P.S. 126 will continue to give priority to students who live in its zone, as it has in the past and in accordance with Chancellor’s Regulation A101. The full details of A-101 can be found at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/ChancellorsRegulations/default.htm>.

Zoned schools are obligated to serve all students residing in their zone, space permitting, regardless of when families show up to register. Applicants must be admitted to zoned schools in the following order of priority:¹⁶

- a. Zoned students whose verified siblings are pre-registered or enrolled at the time of application submission and will be enrolled in grades K-5 in the school at the start of the following school year in September;
- b. Zoned students other than those in (a) above applying to the zoned school;

If space allows, and if the Office of Student Enrollment deems appropriate based on district needs, offers may be authorized for the following priority groups, in the below order. Only the Office of Student Enrollment may authorize the placement of non-zoned students out of this priority order; for example, for

¹⁵ The community-based organization partnership list was provided by members of the P.S. 126 School Leadership Team.

¹⁶ Please be advised that the DOE has proposed certain amendments to Chancellor’s Regulation A-101 which may impact the admissions policy for elementary school students. More information concerning these proposed amendments is available at <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Dec2012PEPRegulations.htm>

students who cannot be accommodated at their zoned school, or for special programs such as dual language or inclusion classes for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

- c. Students whose verified siblings are pre-registered or enrolled at the time of application submission and will be enrolled in grades K-5 in the school at the start of the following school year in September who are not zoned to the school but are residents of that district;
- d. Students whose verified siblings are pre-registered or enrolled at the time of application submission and will be enrolled in grades K-5 at the start of the following school year in September who are residents of another district;
- e. Students other than those in (c) above who are residents of that district;
- f. Students without siblings in the school who are residents of another district.

Students with IEPs (with the exception of those recommended for a District 75 or a non-public school placement) will follow the same process as their non-disabled peers. The DOE will support schools by reviewing students' IEPs to focus on addressing the needs of students with disabilities by providing individualized service models that ensure students have access to the general education environment to the greatest extent possible. Any students with IEPs will continue to receive appropriate services at their elementary school.

In accordance with DOE policy, ELL students will also be admitted to elementary schools in the same manner as their peers who are not ELL students. Any students requiring ELL services will continue to receive appropriate services at the school. Information regarding the type(s) of ELL programs historically offered by the middle schools available to impacted students can be found in the Middle School Directory for District 9 (<http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/Middle/Publications>). The student support staff at P.S. 126, in consultation with the Office of Student Enrollment ("OSE") and the Office of English Language Learners, will assist students with identifying services for English Language Learners offered at middle school(s) as they select programs that will meet their specific needs.

B. Schools

The proposed grade truncation will reduce the number of grades being served by P.S. 126 and result in the decrease of approximately 20-80 students in building X126 in the short term. The building is already operating below capacity even with its current K-6 grade span. Given that fewer students will be enrolled in X126 as a result of this proposal, there will continue to be sufficient space to serve students in X126 pursuant to the Citywide Instructional Footprint (the "Footprint") after the grade truncation is completed. Please visit the New York City Department of Education website to access the Instructional Footprint, which guides space allocation and use in City schools: http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/78D715EA-EC50-4AD1-82D1-1CAC544F5D30/0/DOEFOOTPRINTSConsolidatedVersion2011_FINAL.pdf

No other schools are currently co-located in building X126; as a result, there will be no impact on other schools in the building.

C. Community

This proposal will align P.S. 126's grade span with other schools in District 9. Creating a single entry grade for middle school helps middle schools build and foster stronger school communities, and ensures that students have the same access to the full range of middle school options regardless of where they attend elementary school.

The DOE does not anticipate that this proposal will have a significant impact on other schools in District 9. If this proposal is approved, all fifth-grade students at P.S. 126 will be participating in the Middle School Choice process a year earlier than previously was the case. Last year, approximately 70 % of the fifth-grade class (57 students) remained at P.S. 126 for sixth grade.¹⁷ Given the number of middle school options available to these students, it is unlikely that any one school will experience a material increase in middle school applicants.

Moreover, District 9 schools as a whole (including charter schools) currently have the capacity to serve 3,921 sixth-grade students while only 3,017 such students are projected to enroll in 2013-2014.¹⁸ This means that District 9 currently has an excess of over 900 available sixth-grade seats. In addition, the new middle school in building X285 will be opening in the Highbridge neighborhood at the start of the 2013-2014 school year. This middle school building has the capacity to serve an additional 391 sixth- through eighth-grade students. Thus, the capacity available at District 9 middle schools can easily accommodate the additional influx of P.S. 126 graduates during this transitional year and beyond.¹⁹

This proposal is not expected to impact the ability of community members and organizations to obtain school building use permits at X126. Building X126 is not currently fully functionally accessible and this proposal will not impact the building’s accessibility.

IV. Enrollment, Admissions and School Performance Information

P.S. 126

Admissions Data

Current Admissions	Pre-K: Standard Universal Pre-K Admissions K-6: Zoned
Admissions after Grade Reconfiguration in 2012-2013	Pre-K: Standard Universal Pre-K Admissions K-5: Zoned

¹⁷ Based on the 2011-2012 Audited Register and the ATS Snapshot as of November 5, 2012

¹⁸ Projected sixth-grade enrollment is based on fifth-grade enrollment from the 2012-2013 Unaudited Register (as of October 26, 2012). Sixth-grade seat capacity is derived by multiplying the weighted sixth-grade projected enrollment (%) by the 2011-2012 Blue Book organization capacity. Total sixth-grade seat capacity with truncation excludes any K-6 schools because historical trends indicate that fifth graders that attended a truncated K-6 schools would not articulate into another K-6 school for sixth grade.

¹⁹ District 10 also currently has an excess of 505 middle school seats as indicated by the 2012-2013 Unaudited register (as of October 26, 2012).

Enrollment Data

	PK ²⁰	Grade KG	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Total Enrollment
2012-13 (unaudited) ²¹	34	113	129	113	88	97	102	70	746
2013-14 (projections)	36	110-120	110-120	125-135	110-120	85-95	90-100	-	666-726

Demographic Data²²

Percentage of Students Receiving ICT or SC Services	10%
Percentage of Students with Individualized Education Programs	16%
Percentage of English Language Learner Students	20%
Percentage of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch	93%

School Performance Data

P.S. 126 Dr Marjorie H. Dunbar	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
School Performance and Progress			
Overall Progress Report Grade	B	A	C
Quality Review Score		D	
Performance Data			
English Language Arts % Proficient (Levels 3 and 4)	27%	30%	33%
Math % Proficient (Levels 3 and 4)	40%	45%	45%
Other Key Performance Indicators			
Attendance Rate	91.9%	91.4%	92.2%

2011-2012 State Accountability Status²³	In Good Standing
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²⁰ Pre-kindergarten is a program that can be offered both half-day or full-day; the projection figures represent the full day equivalency.

²¹ All figures are from the 2012-2013 Unaudited register (as of October 26, 2012).

²² All figures in the 'Demographic Data' chart are as a percentage of total students from the 2012-2013 Unaudited register (as of October 26, 2012)

²³ Additional details regarding state accountability status indicators can be found at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/accountability/>

V. Initial Impact on Budget and Cost of Instruction

Most funding in schools' budgets is allocated on a per-pupil basis, based on current Fair Student Funding ("FSF") per capita allocation levels, which are subject to annual variation. FSF covers basic instructional expenses and FSF funds may, at the school's discretion, be used to hire staff, purchase supplies and materials, or implement instructional programs.

As a result of the truncation, the total number of students enrolled at P.S. 126 will decline, meaning that the school's budget will decrease, and it will need fewer teachers and fewer supplies to meet the needs of its smaller student population. Funding will be provided in accordance with enrollment levels, allowing the school to meet the instructional needs of its student population. This is how funding is awarded to all schools throughout the City, with budgets naturally increasing or decreasing as enrollment fluctuates from year to year.

Please refer to the FSF guide and FY13 School Allocation Memorandum for additional information on the cost of instruction and how the changes to FSF funding and other school allocations will be impacted as a result of register changes at P.S. 126. The FSF guide is available at:

http://schools.nyc.gov/offices/d_chanc_oper/budget/dbor/allocationmemo/fy12_13/FY13_PDF/FSF_Guide.pdf.

The FY13 School Allocation Memorandum is available at:

http://schools.nyc.gov/offices/d_chanc_oper/budget/dbor/allocationmemo/fy12_13/AM_FY13_CAT.html

Staffing changes are at the discretion of the school within the limits of contractual and mandated obligations.

VI. Effect on Personnel Needs, Administration, Transportation and Other Support Services

A. Personnel Needs

Some current P.S. 126 staff positions may be excessed due to declining enrollment associated with the elimination of the sixth-grade classes at P.S. 126. It is difficult to precisely predict the number of affected positions.

Any excessing that might be necessary would be conducted in accordance with existing labor contracts. For example, the current United Federation of Teachers ("UFT") contract would require excessing to take place in reverse seniority order within each given teaching license area. Most teachers working in grades 1-6 hold a "Common Branch" license, regardless of their students' age.

Barring system-wide layoffs, excessed teachers would be eligible to apply for other City positions, and any teachers who did not find a permanent position would be placed in the Absent Teacher Reserve pool, meaning that they would continue to earn their salary while serving as substitute teachers in other City schools. Should there be a vacancy in the school in a teacher's license area within one year of the teacher being excessed, the teacher would have a right of return to the school consistent with applicable contract provisions and law regarding teachers' seniority.

When addressing the proposal's impact on personnel, it is important to recognize that the sixth-grade students who would otherwise have enrolled in P.S. 126 will now be enrolled in District 9 and 10 middle schools, or K-8 programs, and those schools might need to hire new teachers to serve their larger student population.

B. Administration

This proposal is not expected to impact the administration at P.S. 126.

C. Transportation

There will be no change to existing transportation practices at P.S. 126 due to this proposal. Transportation for students will continue to be provided according to Chancellor’s Regulation A-801:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/21A1B11A-886B-4F74-9546-E875EE82A14C/40303/A801.pdf>.

D. Other Support Services

The provision of certain support services is described above. Other support services will continue to be provided consistent with citywide policy.

VII. Building Information

Building		X126
Type of Building		PS
Year Built		1971
Overall BCAS rating		2.84
2011-2012 Target Building Utilization		78%
2011-2012 Target Building Capacity		942
FY 2012 Maintenance Costs	Labor	\$28,194
	Materials	\$10,453
	Maintenance and repair contracts	\$54,562
	Service contracts	\$0
	Custodial operations costs—Materials	\$6,713
	Custodial operations costs—Custodial Allocation	\$275,275
FY 2012 Energy Costs	Electric	\$120,314
	Gas	\$1,235
	Oil	\$128,309
Projects completed during the current or prior school year		None
Projects proposed in the capital plan		Flood Elimination, Exterior Masonry, Parapets, Roofs
Accessibility of the building		Building is not Functionally Programmatically Accessible
Building attributes		Art Room, Auditorium, Cafeteria, Gymnasium, Library, Nurse’s Office