



Notice
May 2, 2013

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Grade Truncation of P.S. 229 Emanuel Kaplan School (24Q229) to a K-5 School 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 implement a “grade truncation” of the sixth grade of P.S. 229 Emanuel Kaplan (24Q229, “P.S. 229”). P.S. 229 is an existing zoned elementary school located in building Q229, at 67-25 51 Road Queens, NY 11377, in Community School District 24. It currently serves students in kindergarten through sixth grade and a pre-kindergarten program. P.S. 229 is the only school located in building Q229.

If this proposal is approved, P.S. 229 would no longer offer the option to enroll sixth grade students after the 2013-2014 school year. Beginning in September 2014, P.S. 229 would only serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade and a pre-kindergarten program, subject to funding and demand. If this proposal is approved, at the close of the 2013-2014 school year, all fifth grade students who meet promotional standards from P.S. 229 would enter middle school as sixth grade students.

Middle schools typically enroll students beginning in sixth grade, and P.S. 229 students already have had the option to apply to middle school as fifth grade students. However, as discussed in Section III below, if P.S. 229 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 24, Queens and city-wide 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. 229 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.

The 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 the middle school application and entry grades in District 24, giving all P.S. 229 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. 229 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. Further, by entering middle school in sixth grade rather than in seventh grade, students at P.S. 229 will have more opportunities to take advantage of the enriching, high-school preparatory experiences offered at middle schools.

Truncating P.S. 229's grade span from K-6 to K-5 would reduce the school's sixth grade enrollment by approximately 175-185 seats, freeing up additional space that P.S. 229 could use to accommodate additional lower-grade students or to meet other instructional and programming needs. P.S. 229 is also overcrowded, and truncating P.S. 229'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/June2013Proposals.htm>

Copies of the EIS are also available in the P.S. 229 main office.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D24Proposals@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: Jillian Roland
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D24Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-7621

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

Monday, June 3rd at 6:00 p.m.
P.S. 229
67-25 51 Road
Queens, NY 11377

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.

Wednesday, June 19th at 6:00 p.m.
The Michael J. Petrides School (715 Ocean Terrace, Staten Island, NY 10301)