



Revised Notice  
April 12, 2011

## **The Proposed Expansion of the Co-location of Girls Preparatory Charter School (84M330) with Existing Schools P.S. 188 The Island School (01M188) and P94M@M188 (75M094) in Building M188**

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

Girls Preparatory Charter School (84M330, “Girls Prep”) is an existing public charter school that is currently split-sited between Building M188, located at 442 East Houston Street, New York, NY, 10002, in Community School District 1 (“M188”), and private space. Girls Prep currently serves students in Kindergarten through fourth grade in M188, and students in grades five and six in private space. Girls Prep is co-located in M188 with P.S. 188 The Island School (01M188, “P.S. 188”), a District 1 choice school which serves students in Kindergarten through eighth grade and offers a Pre-Kindergarten program, and with P.S. 94, a District 75 school with multiple locations (75M094, “P94M”). 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 February 23, 2011, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) published an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) describing a proposal to expand the co-location of Girls Prep in Building M188. On March 18, 2011, the DOE published an amended EIS, which amended the EIS title to reflect the presence of P94M in M188, corrected formatting and typographical errors, included a description of District 75, clarified explanation of utilization rates, provided a more thorough explanation of the grades served at P94M@M188, explained the impact of the proposal on space allocation at M188, and clarified the Building Utilization Plan attached to the EIS, but did not substantially revise the proposal itself. The DOE has now published a revised proposal, which is described in detail in Section II below. **This revised notice also provides information about a new joint public hearing that will take place on this proposal.**

Girls Prep is authorized by SUNY Charter Schools Institute and was originally approved to enroll three class sections per grade. Due to space constraints at its initial location, Girls Prep has been limiting its enrollment to two sections per grade. As a background to this proposal, on February 24, 2010, the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”) approved a proposal for Girls Prep to expand the grades served to include middle school grades 6-8, and to expand enrollment to three sections per grade in grades five through eight in M188. At full scale, this proposed expansion would have increased enrollment in M188 to 790-950 students and 82-98% building utilization. It would also have required P94M to reduce the number of class sections offered in this location. A lawsuit prevented the implementation of this proposal, and Girls Prep middle school grades five and six were instead relocated to private space for 2010-2011. In a separate EIS the DOE proposed to co-locate Girls Prep middle school grades five through eight in building M060, where it would co-locate with East Side Community High School (01M450). That proposal was approved by the PEP on March 23, 2011.

This is a proposal to allow Girls Prep to expand enrollment in M188 to three sections per grade in grades Kindergarten through four. The additional enrollment would be within the range allowed by its current charter, and would not require a charter revision.

If this proposal were approved, in 2011-2012, Girls Prep would admit three sections of Kindergarten and one additional section of first grade students; these students would then continue to the next grade each year, until there were three sections in all grades in 2014-2015. In future years, Girls Prep would admit three sections of Kindergarten, and would fill in any available seats in other grades due to attrition. Allowing it to expand by one section per grade in Kindergarten through fourth grades would increase access for girls residing in District 1 to a high quality elementary school option. P94M and P.S. 188 would not be required to reduce class sections or change its programs in the M188 building as a result of this proposal.

## **II. Identification of all revisions, including substantial revisions to the item.**

The Building Utilization plan for this proposal, originally published on February 23, 2011, has been revised in the following manner:

- the capacity of the cafeteria has been corrected;
- the DOE has clarified the rationale for the amount of time that each school is allocated in the proposed shared space schedule
- the formatting of the room allocation charts has been altered to make them easier to understand; and
- additional information has been provided regarding the construction in the building.

## **III. Summary of all public comment received to date.**

A joint public hearing regarding this proposal was held at Building M188 on March 31, 2011. At the hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal.

Approximately 26 members of the public attended the hearing and one person spoke. Present at the meeting were: District 1 Community Superintendent Daniella Phillips; P.S. 188 The Island School Principal Mary Pree and School Leadership Team representatives Guillermina Pizarro, Esther Mater, Cynthia Bonano, and Yvonne Walker; P94M@M188 Principal Ronnie Shuster and School Leadership Team representatives Claire Higgins, Jessica Santos, Culotta Moore Warner and Halma Butler; Donna Manganello from the UFT; Stephanie McCaskill, Network leader from P094M; and Community Education Council 1 representatives Daniel Becker and Lisa Donlan.

The following comments and remarks were made at the joint public hearing:

1. CEC 1 representative Daniel Becker inquired how much space P94 has in M188 and how much the school is supposed to have due to the differential class size.
2. CEC 1 representative Lisa Donlan expressed support for the proposal, but expressed some concerns that the schools should be aligned in order to be developmentally optimal and also asserted that once the proposal is approved, the building will be at full capacity and there should not be any more proposals. Furthermore, she asserted that the Building M61 is overcrowded and wanted the community to work together to solve this issue.
3. P.S. 188 School Leadership Team representative Cynthia Bonano expressed her support for the proposal. She stated that the schools that are currently co-located in the building are communicating well and that the proposal is good for the community.

4. P94M@M188 School Leadership Team representative Claire Higgins concurred with Cynthia Bonano and added that the building has adequate space to go through with the expansion. She also stated that she was not aware of any overcrowding problem in the M61 building that is overcrowded, but noted that there would not be enough space in Building M188 to accommodate a fourth school.
5. P94M@M188 Principal Ronnie Shuster added that P94M@M188 is thriving.
6. Girls Prep School Leadership Team representative Jessica Willis expressed her excitement about continuing to work with the schools in the building.

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

The revised EIS and revised BUP can be found on the Department of Education's Web site: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2010-2011/Apr282011Proposals>. Copies of the revised EIS and BUP are also available in the main offices of Girls Prep, P.S. 188 The Island School and all sites of P94M.

**V. Submission of further public comment.**

Written comments can be sent to [D01Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D01Proposals@schools.nyc.gov).

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

**VI. 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: Yoo Jin Cheong  
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning  
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007  
Email: [D01Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D01Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)  
Phone: 212-374-3466

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

A joint public hearing regarding the original proposal was held at P.S. 188 / P94M@M188 / Girls Prep on March 31, 2011. A full transcript of this hearing can be found here: <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/manhattan/GPL>

A new joint public hearing will be held to gather public comment on this proposal:

**April 27, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.**

P.S. 188 The Island School / P94M@M188 / Girls Prep  
442 East Houston Street, New York, NY 10002

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. Interpretation services will be provided in Spanish. To request interpretation services in another language, please contact Ms. Cheong at the e-mail address or telephone number above.

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

April 28, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.  
Prospect Heights Campus  
883 Classon Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11225