



Notice
October 1, 2010

Joel I. Klein
Chancellor

The Proposed Grade Expansion of P.S. 157 Benjamin Franklin (14K157) to a K-8 School

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

P.S. 157 Benjamin Franklin (14K157, or “P.S. 157”) is an existing elementary school, located at 850 Kent Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11205, in Community School District 14. It currently serves students in Kindergarten through fifth grade. This is a proposal to implement a “grade expansion,” meaning that P.S. 157 would begin enrolling sixth-graders for the 2011-2012 school year. P.S. 157 would then grow to serve seventh-graders in the 2012-2013 school year and eighth-graders in the 2013-2014 school year. P.S. 157 would achieve full scale by September 2013, when it would enroll students in Kindergarten through eighth grade. The proposed grade expansion is not expected to affect the existing Pre-Kindergarten program at P.S. 157.

Currently, P.S. 157 students can apply to citywide, borough-wide, and district-wide middle schools through the middle school choice process. Under this grade expansion, P.S. 157 students will retain all of those options, but they will also have the new option to remain at P.S. 157 for middle school. As a result, P.S. 157 students will have more middle school choices than in the past. While P.S. 157 fifth graders would receive priority admission to the school’s middle-school grades, any remaining seats would be open to other rising sixth graders, thereby increasing options for students throughout District 14.

At the same time, several District 14 middle schools are located in buildings that are highly utilized, meaning that they are vulnerable to becoming overcrowded. Those conditions could worsen due to the relocation of Achievement First Endeavor Charter School (84K508, “Achievement First Endeavor”), which had granted priority admission to District 14 students. As a result of that school’s relocation to District 13, priority admission to Achievement First Endeavor will instead be granted to District 13 students. Expanding P.S. 157 students would therefore reduce the risk of overcrowding at other District 14 middle schools.

Until recently, Achievement First Endeavor was “co-located” with P.S. 157, meaning that the two schools shared space in the same building. In January 2010, Achievement First Endeavor moved to a private facility in District 13, opening up space in the building that houses P.S. 157.

The proposal to expand P.S. 157 into a K-8 school initially came from the school community. In July, a team of P.S. 157 faculty and administration members submitted a formal application to expand the school. That application was supported by P.S. 157 parents and the broader

community surrounding the school. This suggests a high level of satisfaction with the school and parent confidence that an expanded P.S. 157 would better suit the needs of their children than existing middle school options within the District. The application was approved by the Department of Education (“DOE”) in September 2010.

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

The Educational Impact Statement can be found on the Department of Education’s Web site: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/11162010PEP>

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D14Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-0208.

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: Gentian Falstrom
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D14Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-0208

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

November 1, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.
P.S. 157 Benjamin Franklin
850 Kent Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11205

There will be no question and answer period. Questions about the proposal can 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.

November 16, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.
Brooklyn Technical High School
29 Fort Greene Place
Brooklyn, NY 11217