



**Notice**  
October 1, 2010

**Joel I. Klein**  
*Chancellor*

## **The Proposed Grade Truncation of P.S. 144 Col Jeromus Remsen (28Q144) to a K-5 School**

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

P.S. 144 Col Jeromus Remsen (28Q144, “P.S. 144”) is an existing elementary school located at 93-02 69<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Forest Hills, NY 11375, in Community School District 28. It currently serves students in Kindergarten through sixth grade, and offers a Pre-Kindergarten program. This is a proposal to implement a “grade truncation,” meaning that the school would no longer enroll sixth graders after the current 2010-11 school year.

At the close of the 2010-2011 school year, all fifth and sixth graders who meet promotional standards would graduate from P.S. 144. In September 2011, these students would enter middle school as sixth and seventh graders, respectively. Beginning in 2011-2012, P.S. 144 would serve students only in Kindergarten through fifth grade and offer a Pre-Kindergarten program. From that time forward, P.S. 144 students would participate in the middle school choice process during fifth grade and move on to middle school for sixth grade.

Middle schools typically enroll students beginning in sixth grade, and P.S. 144 students have the option to apply to start middle school as sixth graders. With the adoption of district-wide middle school choice, P.S. 144 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 unzoned, choice middle schools in District 28, and those schools rarely have open seventh-grade seats, which become available only if sixth graders leave the school. As a result, students who remain at P.S. 144 through sixth grade will have fewer options than their peers who start middle school a year earlier.

Additionally, P.S. 144 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, and they remain in their new middle school for only two years before again transitioning to high school.

The DOE strives to ensure that all students in New York City have access to a high-quality school at every stage of their education. Having elementary schools that terminate in different grades (i.e., K-5 versus K-6) creates unequal levels of access 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 28, giving all P.S. 144 students access to the same range of middle school options as their peers throughout the District.

**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 [D28Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D28Proposals@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: Debra Wexler  
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning  
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007  
Email: [D28Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D28Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)  
Phone: 212-374-7621

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

November 8, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.  
P.S. 144  
93-02 69<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Forest Hills, NY 11375

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