

EDUCATIONAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

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

I. Summary of Proposal

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 and offers a Pre-Kindergarten program. 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 complete its expansion by September 2013, at which point 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 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 teachers and administrators 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. Proposed or Potential Use of Building

P.S. 157 is located in Building K157, and there is sufficient space in that facility to accommodate the school’s proposed expansion to serve students in Pre-Kindergarten through eighth grade. Until recently, Achievement First Endeavor had been co-located with P.S. 157 in Building K157. In January 2010, Achievement First Endeavor moved from K157 to a private facility, opening up space in the building.

Building K157 has a target capacity to serve 992 students, but only 388 students were enrolled in 2009-2010 at P.S. 157, yielding a target utilization rate of 39 percent.¹ If this proposal is approved, we project that P.S. 157 will enroll 570-590 students when the school completes its expansion. Since Building K157 has the capacity to enroll 992 students, the building has sufficient space to accommodate the expansion of P.S. 157.

Under this proposal, P.S. 157 will expand gradually, adding one grade annually, beginning with sixth grade in the 2011-2012 school year. Grades 7 and 8 will be added to P.S. 157 in 2012-2013 and 2013-2014, respectively. Details are outlined in the table below:

School Year	Grades Served	Projected Enrollment ²
2010-11	K-5 ³	400
2011-12	K-6	435-485
2012-13	K-7	495-545
2013-14	K-8	555-605

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

A. Students

This proposed expansion will increase the number of high-quality middle school options available in District 14. In total, P.S. 157’s grade expansion will result in approximately 170-190 more total middle school seats in District 14. Several District 14 middle schools are housed in buildings that are operating close to or slightly above target capacity levels, meaning that those buildings are overcrowded or vulnerable to becoming overcrowded.

As in the past, current P.S. 157 fifth graders may attend their zoned middle school or participate in the citywide, borough-wide, or district-wide middle school choice process. Beginning this year, fifth-grade students will also have the new option of continuing their education at P.S. 157 through eighth grade.

The middle schools open to P.S. 157 students through the citywide, borough-wide and district-wide middle school choice process are listed in the District 14 Middle School Directory, which is available here: http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/67A47700-4D5A-4E60-B88A-FB2D91E752D6/0/District14MSD_2009.pdf. If this proposal is approved, P.S. 157 students will still be able to rank middle school options in District 14. They will also have the new option of remaining at P.S. 157 for middle school.

¹ The official target capacity and utilization rates for the 2010-11 school year are not yet available. As a result, all references to building utilization rates in this document are based on data from the 2009-10 Enrollment Capacity Utilization Report (the “Blue Book”).

² These enrollment figures, including those for the 2010-11 school year, are projected and unaudited at this time. Audited enrollment figures for the current school year will not be available until February 2011.

³ There is also a Pre-Kindergarten program housed at P.S. 157. As discussed below, this program would be unaffected by the proposed grade expansion. The enrollment numbers in the table above do not include Pre-Kindergarten students.

There are currently seven DOE middle schools in District 14 and two schools that serves grades 6-12. In addition, there are two charter schools located in District 14; one serves grades K-8, the other serves grades 5-10. Those charter schools give priority admission to students residing in District 14. Details are provided in the table below⁴:

School	DBN	Grades Served in 2010-11	Admissions
J.H.S. 50 John D. Wells	14K050	6-8	Priority to District 14 (D14); middle school choice
J.H.S. 126 John Ericsson	14K126	6-8	Priority to D14; middle school choice
Juan Morel Campos Secondary School	14K071	6-12	Priority to D14; middle school choice
Urban Assembly School for the Urban Environment	14K330	6-10	Priority to D14; middle school choice
Conselyea Preparatory School	14K577	6-8	Priority to P.S. 132 students, then to D14
I.S. 318 Eugenio Maria de Hostos	14K318	6-8	Priority to D14; middle school choice
M.S. 582 Ten Eyck Upper School	14K582	6-8	Priority to D14; middle school choice
Lyons Community School	14K586	6-12	Priority to D14; middle school choice
Young Women’s Leadership School of Brooklyn	14K614	6-8	Borough-wide middle school choice; all-girls school
Williamsburg Collegiate Charter School	84K355	5-10	Lottery, priority to D14 residents
Beginning with Children Charter School	84K703	K-8	Lottery, priority to D14 residents

Currently, P.S. 157 admits students entering Kindergarten through fifth grade if they are zoned to the school. P.S. 157 also has a Pre-Kindergarten program, to which students are admitted through the standard, citywide Pre-Kindergarten admissions process.

If this grade expansion proposal is approved, rising fifth graders at P.S. 157 will have priority admission to remain at P.S. 157 for sixth grade. Other fifth graders throughout District 14 will also be able to apply for sixth-grade seats at P.S. 157 if additional seats remain once interested P.S. 157 students have been accommodated.

The DOE does not anticipate that the proposed grade expansion will impact special education students or English Language Learners (ELL). P.S. 157 will continue to meet the needs of its special education students and ELL students in grades K-5. As the school grows to serve older students, sixth through eighth graders with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) or requiring ELL services will continue to be appropriately served by the school. Similarly, the proposed grade expansion is not expected to affect the existing Pre-Kindergarten program at P.S. 157.

B. Schools

No other schools are co-located at with P.S. 157 at K157, so there will be no impact on other schools in the building.

⁴ Note: Schools listed below only include District 14 schools. P.S. 157 students may also apply to certain schools outside District 14 that admit students on a borough-wide or citywide basis. Those schools are identified in the District 14 Middle School Directory, available to families at P.S. 157 and online the url provided above.

According to the 2008-2009 room survey, P.S. 157’s building (K157) has 70 total rooms, including 14 administrative rooms, 44 full-size rooms, and six half-size rooms. Though more students would occupy K157 as a result of this proposal, there would continue to be sufficient space to serve students in K157 pursuant to the Citywide Instructional Footprint (the "Footprint") after the grade expansion is completed. Please visit the New York City Department of Education website to access the Footprint, which guides space allocation and use in the City’s schools: http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/8CF30F41-DE25-4C30-92DE-731949919FC3/87633/NYCDOE_Instructional_Footprint_Final9210TNT.pdf.

C. Community

The DOE supports parent choice and strives to ensure that all families have access to high-quality schools that meet their children’s needs. This proposed grade expansion is intended to increase access to high-quality middle school options for all students in District 14, which is currently limited due to the overall underperformance of District 14 middle schools.

A grade expansion team composed of members of the P.S. 157 faculty and administration, with the support of the school’s parents and community, submitted a formal application to the DOE requesting this grade expansion. Various elected officials and the District 14 Community Education Council submitted letters of support for the application. This suggests a high level of community satisfaction with the existing elementary 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.

Between 2006 and 2009, P.S. 157 made progress in student achievement on the New York State English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics assessments.

DBN	Name	ELA 2006 (% 3+4)	ELA 2007 (% 3+4)	ELA 2008 (% 3+4)	ELA 2009 (% 3+4)	ELA 2010 (% 3+4) ⁵
14K157	P.S. 157 Benjamin Franklin	47.7	48.9	53.5	63.1	35.3

DBN	Name	Math 2006 (% 3+4)	Math 2007 (% 3+4)	Math 2008 (% 3+4)	Math 2009 (% 3+4)	Math 2010 (% 3+4)
14K157	P.S. 157 Benjamin Franklin	60.4	75.0	81.1	91.0	60.4

⁵ In 2010, the New York State Education Department adjusted the “cut scores” on annual mathematics and English Language Arts exams, raising the score required for students to achieve Level 3 (grade-level proficiency) or higher on the exam. As a result, the percent of students performing at grade level fell significantly at schools statewide, including most New York City schools. While the percent of students achieving proficiency declined at P.S. 157, students’ raw scores on the tests remained largely unchanged relative to the prior year. The same pattern holds for schools across New York City and elsewhere in the State.

Furthermore, P.S. 157’s performance has been higher than the District 14 elementary school average in mathematics, and comparable with the District 14 average in ELA. This remained true even after the State raised the score required to achieve proficiency (Level 3 or higher) in 2010.

	ELA 2006 (% 3+4)	ELA 2007 (% 3+4)	ELA 2008 (% 3+4)	ELA 2009 (% 3+4)	ELA 2010 (% 3+4)
District 14 Elementary Schools	46.6	48.0	54.2	65.9	37.7

	Math 2006 (% 3+4)	Math 2007 (% 3+4)	Math 2008 (% 3+4)	Math 2009 (% 3+4)	Math 2010 (% 3+4)
District 14 Elementary Schools	50.4	61.2	71.3	79.5	49.3

Like other districts throughout New York and across the country, student achievement in District 14 tends to dip as students transition to the middle school grades.

	ELA 2006 (% 3+4)	ELA 2007 (% 3+4)	ELA 2008 (% 3+4)	ELA 2009 (% 3+4)	ELA 2010 (% 3+4)
District 14 Middle Schools⁶	37.7	41.5	44.0	61.3	30.3
District 14 Grade 6-12 Schools⁷	24.4	27.7	24.3	51.6	10.3

	Math 2006 (% 3+4)	Math 2007 (% 3+4)	Math 2008 (% 3+4)	Math 2009 (% 3+4)	Math 2010 (% 3+4)
District 14 Middle Schools⁴	37.5	51.3	61.1	72.9	42.1
District 14 Grade 6-12 Schools	18.8	38.8	39.5	61.6	26.2

While the DOE acknowledges that there are notable differences between an elementary school and a middle school, the DOE is confident that P.S. 157 is well-positioned for the proposed grade expansion based on the school’s strong culture and leadership, performance history and solid connections to the community.

The creation of 170-190 additional middle school seats could impact enrollment at existing middle schools by causing enrollment to decrease at those schools, some of which are at or near capacity. The proposed P.S. 157 grade expansion will also help replace the middle school seats lost in District 14 as a result of Achievement First Endeavor’s relocation to District 13. There were projected to be 4,290 sixth- through eighth-grade students throughout District 14 in 2010-2011. This proposal would therefore increase middle school capacity across District 14 by roughly 5 percent.

⁶ These include nine DOE middle schools in District 14, along with data from I.S. 49 which completed its phase-out in 2009-2010.

⁷ These include four DOE secondary schools that serve middle school grades.

Historically, P.S. 157 students transitioned to a number of different middle schools after completing fifth grade. Based on historic patterns, we project that enrollment at other District 14 middle schools' enrollment would be impacted as outlined in the table below:

School	DBN	Projected Grades 6-8 Enrollment in 2010-2011	Projected Number of P.S. 157 Graduates Attending this Year	Projected Grades 6-8 Enrollment in 2010-2011 without P.S. 157 Graduates
J.H.S. 50 John D. Wells	14K050	467	2	465
J.H.S. 126 John Ericsson	14K126	386	2	384
Juan Morel Campos Secondary School	14K071	485	5	480
Urban Assembly School for the Urban Environment	14K330	119	0	119
Conselyea Preparatory School	14K577	438	0	438
I.S. 318 Eugenio Maria de Hostos	14K318	1,681	24	1,657
M.S. 582 Ten Eyck Upper School	14K582	301	0	301
Lyons Community School	14K586	227	0	227
The Young Women's Leadership School of Brooklyn	14K614	186	0	186

It is important to understand that this potential enrollment loss will be offset by the recent relocation of Achievement First Endeavor. In January 2010, Achievement First Endeavor moved to a private facility located in District 13. Prior to that time, Achievement First Endeavor had been co-located with P.S. 157 in Building K157. Achievement First Endeavor served students in grades 5-8, including 210 sixth through eighth graders.

Like all New York City charter school students, students are admitted to Achievement First Endeavor via lottery, with priority given to students residing in the school's geographic district. When Achievement First Endeavor was located in Building K157, that priority was granted to District 14 students. Now that Achievement First Endeavor has relocated to a private facility in District 13, that priority will instead be granted to District 13 students.

In addition, several District 14 middle schools are located in buildings that are operating near to, or slightly above, target utilization rates, meaning that those buildings are overcrowded or in danger of becoming overcrowded (see table below).

DBN	Name	Building	2009-2010 Building Target Utilization	2009-2010 Co-located Schools
14K577	Conselyea Preparatory School	K017	112%	P.S. 17 (14K017)
14K126	J.H.S. 126 John Ericsson	K126	108%	Williamsburg Charter High School (84K473), Believe Northside Charter High School (84K693), Believe Southside Charter High School (84K694),
14K318	I.S. 318 Eugenio Maria de Hostos	K318	96%	none

This proposal will ease the risk of overcrowding in those schools and buildings.

Currently, an adult education program uses some fifth floor classrooms on weekdays during school hours, evenings and the weekend. This proposal is not expected to impact the ability of community members and organizations to obtain evening or weekend school building use permits at K157.

IV. Enrollment, Admissions and School Performance Information

The only directly impacted school in this proposal is P.S. 157. As detailed above, other middle schools in the district (some of which are at or near capacity) may see slight decreases in enrollment as a result of the addition of middle school grades at P.S. 157.

Admissions Data

Current Admissions	Pre-Kindergarten: Standard Universal Pre-K admissions process K-5: Zoned
Admissions after Grade Reconfiguration is Completed	Pre-Kindergarten: Standard Universal Pre-K admissions process K-5: Zoned 6-8: Open to students in District 14 with priority to current 5th graders at P.S. 157

Enrollment Data

Current Grades Served	K-5 ⁸
Projected 2010-2011 Enrollment	400
Grades Served after Grade Reconfiguration in 2011-2012	K-6
Projected 2011-2012 Enrollment	435-485
Grades Served after Grade Reconfiguration in 2012-2013	K-7
Projected 2012-2013 Enrollment	495-545
Grades Served after Grade Reconfiguration is Completed in 2013-2014	K-8
Projected 2013-2014 Enrollment	555-605

⁸ In addition, as discussed above, P.S. 157 also houses a Pre-Kindergarten program that would be unaffected by the proposed grade expansion. Projected Pre-Kindergarten enrollment is not included in the total projected enrollment figures above.

Demographic Data⁹

Percentage Special Education Students (2009-2010)	21.1%
Percentage English Language Learner Students (2009-2010)	33.2%
Percentage of Students with Free/Reduced Meals (2009-2010)	59.3%

School Performance Data

	2008-2009	2009-2010	Website
Progress Report Scores	A	B	http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/14/K157/AboutUs/Statistics
ELA Score (%3+4)	63.1%	35.3%	http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/14/K157/AboutUs/Statistics
Math Score	91.0%	60.4%	http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/14/K157/AboutUs/Statistics
State Accountability Status	In Good Standing	Not Available	http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/14/K157/AboutUs/Statistics
Average Attendance	93.3%	93.8%	http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/data/stats/attendance

V. Initial Costs and Savings

P.S. 157 will receive a one-time award of approximately \$2,800-6,800 during the first year of the grade expansion to help offset the costs of materials, such as new furniture and supplies, needed to support the additional grades. This figure is estimated based on current funding allocations awarded to schools undergoing grade expansions, and is subject to some annual variation. Going forward, annual replacement of furniture and other materials needed at the school will be funded out of the school’s general supply budget, as is the case with all schools citywide.

To fulfill the middle school science laboratory requirements, a middle school science lab that will require an investment of approximately \$1,000,000 must be installed in K157.

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

A. Personnel Needs

P.S. 157 will need to hire additional teachers during each year of the grade expansion as the total number of students enrolled in the school increases over each of the next three years. The precise number of positions needed for the 2011-2012 school year will be determined based once annual enrollment projections are released in the spring of 2011. Similarly, the number of new positions created to serve seventh- and eighth-grade students will be determined based on annual enrollment projections available as the school grows to serve those grades. It is worth noting that teachers working in elementary schools typically hold a 1-6 common branch license. Teachers working with older students in seventh and eighth grade must hold secondary licenses with appropriate subject area specialization. The school will continue to hire appropriately licensed and credentialed teachers to work with its students as it expands to serve middle-grade students.

⁹ Data regarding the percentage of special education students, ELL students, and students who qualified for free or reduced price meals were taken from the audited October 31, 2009 register of students.

Administrative staff and non-pedagogical positions at P.S. 157 may also be added over the course of the grade expansion. Those decisions will be made at the school based on need and budgetary considerations.

B. Cost of Instruction

Once the grade expansion is fully implemented, P.S. 157 is expected to receive approximately \$153,469-372,710 in total additional per pupil funding annually based on projected increases in total enrollment. These estimates are based on current Fair Student Funding (FSF) per capita allocation levels and 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 the total number of students enrolled grows, the overall budget will increase accordingly, allowing the school to meet the instructional needs of its larger student population.

In addition, FSF awards supplemental allocations on a per pupil basis for students who have additional needs and therefore cost more to educate. For example, during the 2010-2011 school year, schools received an additional \$2,030.88 per pupil for each English Language Learner they enrolled. It is difficult to project the total supplemental funding that P.S. 157 will receive with its expanded size because future students' achievement levels and needs cannot be predicted for each of the next three years, but the school will be awarded supplemental funding for higher-need students according to the same formula as all other schools citywide, ensuring that funds are in place to meet those students' needs.

As with all other schools citywide, P.S. 157 may receive additional "categorical" funding based on student characteristics and needs. For example, federal Title I funding is awarded to schools based on the proportion of low-income students they enroll. P.S. 157 is currently a Title I school. Assuming that the school continues to meet Title I criteria, the school's Title I funding award will grow as the school population grows.

While schools do receive supplemental support for special education students through Fair Student Funding, that only represents part of the funding provided to support those students. Schools are budgeted to meet the needs of their special education students as defined by their Individual Education Plans (IEP). As P.S. 157 expands, funding will continue to be provided to meet the needs of all special education students in accordance with their IEPs.

Please note that increased or reduced per capita funds allocated to the school as a result of this proposal do not represent net/incremental system costs. All dollar amounts are based on FY10 allocations and are subject to annual variation based on adjustments to the DOE's overall operating budget.

C. Administration

P.S. 157 may hire additional school supervisory and/or administrative personnel as needed as a result of its grade expansion.

D. Transportation

Transportation will be provided according to Chancellor's Regulation A-801: <http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/21A1B11A-886B-4F74-9546-E875EE82A14C/40303/A801.pdf>. There will be no change to existing transportation practices at P.S. 157 due to this proposal.

E. Other Support Services

Other support services will continue to be provided consistent with citywide policy.

VII. Building Information

Type of Building	Elementary School
Year Built	1909
Overall BCAS rating	2.40 out of 5
2009-2010 Target Building Utilization	39%
2009-2010 Target Building Capacity	992
FY 2009 Maintenance Costs	Labor: \$27,079 Materials: \$31,746 Maintenance and repair contracts: \$59,824 Custodial operations costs—Materials: \$239,883 Custodial operations costs—Custodial Allocation: \$7,133
FY 2009 Energy Costs	Electric: \$93,665 Gas: \$62,621 Oil: \$10,775
Projects completed during the current or prior school year	Masonry replacement
Projects proposed in the capital plan	No projects identified
Accessibility of the building	Not accessible
Building attributes	An art room, two computer rooms, 2 gymnasias on first floor, an auditorium, a cafeteria, and a library