

EDUCATIONAL IMPACT STATEMENT: **The Proposed Grade Truncation of** **P.S. 104 The Bays Water School (27Q104) to a K-5 School**

I. Summary of Proposal

P.S. 104 The Bays Water (27Q104, “P.S. 104”) is an existing elementary school located at 26-01 Mott Avenue, Far Rockaway, NY 11691, in Community School District 27. 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 2010-2011 school year.

Under this proposal, at the close of the 2010-2011 school year, all fifth and sixth graders who meet promotional standards will graduate from P.S. 104. In September 2011, these students will enter middle schools as sixth and seventh graders, respectively. Beginning in 2011-2012, P.S. 104 will serve students only Kindergarten through fifth grade and offer a Pre-Kindergarten program. From that time forward, P.S. 104 students will move on to middle school for sixth grade.

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 27, giving P.S. 104 students access to the same range of middle school options as their peers throughout District 27, and in particular their peers on the Rockaway Peninsula.

Currently, P.S. 104 students who wait until seventh grade to enter middle school are limited to their zoned middle school or those unzoned, choice middle schools that still have available seventh-grade seats. These choice schools rarely have open seventh-grade seats, which become available only in the rare cases when sixth graders leave the school. As a result, students who remain at P.S. 104 through sixth grade currently have fewer options than their peers who start middle school a year earlier.

Additionally, P.S. 104 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.

At the same time, this proposal will create additional space to be used for K-5 students at P.S. 104 or to meet other needs of the school or community.

- P.S. 104 has a 94 percent target utilization rate¹, meaning that the school is not overcrowded, but is currently operating almost at capacity.

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

- Phasing out the sixth grade will free up approximately 25² seats in the building. If this proposal is approved, that additional space could be used by K-5 students or to meet other needs of the school or community.

Finally, many students at P.S. 104 already apply to middle schools during fifth grade and enroll at other middle schools for sixth grade. Specifically, approximately 40% of last year's fifth graders chose to exit P.S. 104 after fifth grade. This creates a small class at the sixth-grade level with limited resources to provide the extracurricular and enrichment opportunities available in a full-size middle school.

II. Proposed or Potential Use of Building

The building where P.S. 104 is located, Q104, has the capacity to serve 690 students and a current target utilization rate of 94 percent. There are currently no specific plans for how to utilize the potential space at building Q104 which will be available after the grade truncation. If this proposal is approved, the additional space could be used by K-5 students or to meet other needs of the school or community (e.g., art room, resource center, new or expanded programs for P.S. 104 students, etc.).

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

A. Students

If this proposal is approved, all fifth and sixth graders who meet promotional standards will graduate from P.S. 104 at the close of the 2010-2011 school year. In September 2010, those students will enter middle school as sixth and seventh graders, respectively. Beginning in 2011-2012, P.S. 104 will serve students only in Kindergarten through fifth grade and will also offer a Pre-Kindergarten program. From that time forward, all P.S. 104 students will move on to middle school for the sixth grade. P.S. 104 graduates will have the same access to their top-choice middle schools as their peers in District 27, including those on the Rockaway Peninsula.

If a current P.S. 104 sixth grader does not meet promotional standards and is required to repeat the grade, the DOE will seek to place that student in the sixth grade of the same middle school to which he or she has been matched for seventh grade through the Middle School Choice process. If such placement is not feasible, then the DOE will find an alternative Peninsula placement, or at a minimum a District 27 placement for that student.

It is important to understand that the unzoned, choice middle schools in District 27 generally only accept students as entering sixth graders. It is only in rare cases, when a space opens up due to a student leaving the school, that these schools admit new students into grade seven or higher. Additionally, although some of the choice middle schools in District 27 are K-8 schools that accept new incoming students into the middle school grades, these schools have very few available seventh-grade seats. As a result, families that would like their children to attend one of the District 27 choice middle schools or grades six through eight at a K-8 school should ensure that their children make the transition to middle school between fifth and sixth grade.

² This is an estimation based on the projected number of rising sixth graders who would attend sixth grade in a zoned or choice middle school in 2011-2012 instead of at P.S. 104. It is a conservative estimate because it takes into account historical trends, including the number of students who left the school between fifth and sixth grade in recent years.

The middle schools open to P.S. 104 students for 2011-2012 include:

School Name	Address	2010-2011 School Level	2010-2011 Grade Span
P.S. 104 ZONED PREFERENCE Option			
I.S. 53 Brian Piccolo (27Q053)	10-45 Nameoke Street	MS	6-8
Eastern Peninsula CHOICE PREFERENCE Options			
Knowledge and Power Preparatory Academy (KAPPA) VI (27Q282)	8-21 Bay 25 th Street	MS	6-8
Village Academy (27Q319)	10-45 Nameoke Street	MS	6-8
Academy of Medical Technology: A College Board School (27Q309)	8-21 Bay 25 th Street	MS/HS	6-10*
P.S. 42 R. Vernam (27Q042)	488 Beach 66 th Street	ES/MS	K-8
P.S. 43 (27Q043)	160 Beach 29 th Street	ES/MS	PK-8
P.S. 105 The Bay School (27Q105)	420 Beach 51 th Street	ES/MS	PK-8
Goldie Maple Academy (27Q333)	3-65 Beach 56 th Street	ES/MS	PK-8
Additional Peninsula CHOICE PREFERENCE Options			
Channel View School for Research (27Q262)	100-00 Beach Channel Drive	MS/HS	6-12
Scholars' Academy (27Q323)	320 Beach 104 th Street	MS/HS	6-12
P.S. 47 Chris Galas (27Q047)	9 Power Road	ES/MS	PK-8
P.S./M.S. 114 Belle Harbor (27Q114)	134-01 Cronston Avenue	ES/MS	K-8
P.S. 183 Dr. Richard R. Green (27Q183)	2-45 Beach 79 th Street	ES/MS	PK-8
Waterside School for Leadership (27Q318)	190 Beach 110 th Street	MS	6-7**

*Academy of Medical Technology is currently phasing up to become a 6-12 school.

**Waterside School for Leadership is currently phasing up to become a 6-8 school.

P.S. 104 will continue to meet the needs of all of its special education students and English Language learners (ELLs).

P.S. 104 currently operates two sections of Pre-Kindergarten. Barring unforeseen circumstances, we expect Pre-Kindergarten to continue being offered at P.S. 104.

P.S. 104 currently participates in the C.H.A.M.P.S. Middle School Sport and Fitness League. Because this is a middle school athletics program, only members of the P.S. 104 sixth-grade class are involved with C.H.A.M.P.S. If this proposal is enacted, P.S. 104 will cease participation in C.H.A.M.P.S. as it will no longer enroll any eligible students. However, P.S. 104 graduates will be able to participate in C.H.A.M.P.S. as sixth graders in their new middle schools. All middle schools on the Rockaway Peninsula participate in C.H.A.M.P.S.

There are two after-school programs sponsored by community-based organizations (CBOs) currently hosted at P.S. 104: the Rockaway Artists' Alliance KidSmart program, which encourages P.S. 104 alumni to come back to the program to serve as teen mentors on a volunteer basis (at the middle-school level) or as paid staffers (high-school level), and Safe Space, which offers a wide array of services focusing on mental health, community health, at-risk youth, violence prevention and school-based education enrichment.

Barring unforeseen circumstances, these programs will continue to be offered at P.S. 104. P.S. 104 graduates will still be eligible to participate in after-school programs as sixth graders when they are enrolled in middle schools elsewhere on the Peninsula. For example, the same Safe Space program offered at P.S. 104 is also offered at KAPPA VI, a District 27 middle school. While other middle schools on the peninsula do not have that particular after-school program, all do offer similar programs in partnership with other CBOs. Consequently, P.S. 104 graduates will have access to after-school programs similar to the ones offered at P.S. 104 as sixth-graders at any of the schools on the Peninsula.

B. Schools

No other schools are co-located in Building Q104, which houses P.S. 104. Consequently, there will be no impact on other schools in the building.

The proposed grade truncation will reduce the number of students enrolled in building Q104 by approximately 25 students. After this proposal is implemented, there will be sufficient space to serve P.S. 104 students in Building Q104 pursuant to the Citywide Instructional Footprint (the “Footprint”). Please visit the New York City Department of Education website to access the Instructional Footprint, which guides space allocation and use in City schools: http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/8CF30F41-DE25-4C30-92DE-731949919FC3/87633/NYCDOE_Instructional_Footprint_Final9210TNT.pdf

C. Community

As a result of this proposal, approximately 90 P.S. 104 fifth graders will be entering middle school a year earlier than previously was the case. There are more than enough seats to accommodate those students at middle schools open to P.S. 104 graduates.

In total, there are currently 4,552 middle school seats on the Rockaway Peninsula, but only 3,635 students are enrolled in peninsula middle schools, grades six through eight in K-8 schools, or grades six through eight in 6-12 schools. Even with the addition of 90 fifth graders who traditionally would not have moved on to middle school for sixth grade, only 3,725 students will be enrolled in District 27 middle schools, leaving over 800 seats of available capacity.³

This proposal addresses many needs of the P.S. 104 community:

- Phasing out the sixth-grade class at P.S. 104 creates 90 additional K-5 seats.
- There are currently 4,552 middle school seats on the Peninsula, but only 3,635 students are enrolled in Peninsula middle schools. Even with the addition of 90 fifth graders who traditionally would not have moved on to middle school for sixth grade, only 3,725 students will be enrolled in Peninsula middle schools, leaving over 800 seats of available capacity.
- Establishing P.S. 104 as a K-5 school will align the school’s grade span with other District 27 schools.
- When schools’ exit and entry grades are standardized across elementary schools within a single district, access to middle school enrollment is equal for all students. If this proposal is approved, P.S. 104 students would apply to middle school during fifth grade and start middle school as sixth graders, meaning that they would be applying when all seats in the District’s middle schools were open, giving P.S. 104 students equal access to their top-choice schools.
- The proposal will establish better academic and social transition points for students between grade levels. P.S. 104 students who currently start middle school in seventh grade may face transitional challenges related to entering the 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.

³ Total middle school seats on the peninsula reflects the number of seats designated for middle school students in middle school buildings or middle school grades of K-8 and 6-12 schools.

- By entering middle school one year earlier, sixth graders will have more opportunities to take advantage of enriching high-school preparatory experiences. Middle schools typically have extremely varied and rich instructional offerings, especially in the sciences and languages, as well as extra-curricular activities. The schools' space and facilities are also better aligned to support these varied options.
- This proposal is not expected to impact the ability of community members and organizations to obtain school building use permits at Q104.

IV. Enrollment, Admissions and School Performance Information

The only impacted school in this proposal is P.S. 104.

Admissions Data

Current Admissions	Pre-K: Standard Universal Pre-K Admissions K-6: Zoned
Admissions after Grade Reconfiguration in 2011-2012	Pre-K: Standard Universal Pre-K K-5: Zoned

Enrollment Data

Current Grades Served	K-6
Projected 2010-2011 Enrollment	649
Grades Served after Grade Reconfiguration in 2011-2012	K-5
Projected 2011-2012 Enrollment:	600-650

Demographic Data

Percentage Special Education Students⁴	12%
Percentage English Language Learner Students	5%
Percentage of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch	83%

⁴ Special Education students as percentage of total students. Special Education count does not include SETSS or students receiving speech or language services.

School Performance Data

	2008-2009	2009-2010	Website
Progress Report Scores	A	C	http://schools.nyc.gov/OA/SchoolReports/2009-10/Progress_Report_2010_EMS_Q104.pdf
ELA Score (% Level 3 or 4)	59.8%	30.4%	http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/27/Q104/AboutUs/Statistics
Math Score (% Level 3 or 4)	83.3%	51.0%	http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/27/Q104/AboutUs/Statistics
Accountability Status	In Good Standing	Not Available	http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/27/Q104/AboutUs/Statistics
Average Attendance	92.7%	90.7%	http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/data/stats/attendance/default.htm

V. Initial Costs and Savings

No initial costs or savings are expected due to the P.S. 104 grade truncation.

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

A. Personnel Needs

Some current P.S. 104 staff positions may be excessed due to declining enrollment associated with the elimination of the sixth-grade classes at P.S. 104. It is difficult to precisely predict the number of affected positions.

Any excessing that might be necessary would be conducted in accordance with existing labor contracts. For example, the current United Federation of Teachers (UFT) contract would require excessing to take place in reverse seniority order within each given teaching license area. Most teachers working in grades 1-6 hold the same “common branch” license, regardless of their students’ age. Barring system-wide layoffs, excessed teachers would be eligible to apply for other City positions, and any teacher who did not find a permanent position would be placed in the Absent Teacher Reserve pool, meaning that they would continue to earn their salary while serving as substitute teachers in other schools in the district. Should there be a vacancy in the school in a teacher’s license area within one of year of the teacher being excessed, the teacher would have a right of return to the school consistent with applicable contract provisions and law regarding teachers’ seniority.

When addressing the proposal’s impact on personnel, it is important to recognize that the sixth-grade students who would otherwise have enrolled in P.S. 104 will now be enrolled in other District 27 middle schools, and those schools might need to hire new teachers to serve their larger sixth-grade student population.

B. Cost of Instruction

Most funding in school budgets is allocated on a per-pupil basis. For each student no longer on the P.S. 104 roster after the truncation is completed, the school is expected to receive approximately \$4,384.81 less annual base funding. 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 a result of the truncation, the total number of students enrolled at P.S. 104 will decline, meaning that the school will need fewer teachers and fewer supplies to meet the needs of its smaller student population. If, for some reason the overall school enrollment grows again, the overall budget will increase accordingly. In any case, funding will be provided in accordance with enrollment levels, allowing the school to meet the instructional needs of its student population. This is how funding is awarded to all schools throughout the City, with budgets naturally increasing or decreasing as enrollment fluctuates from year to year.

In addition, FSF awards supplemental allocations on a per-pupil basis to students who have additional needs and therefore cost more to educate. For example, during the 2010-2011 school year, schools received an additional \$2,031 per pupil for each English Language learner they enrolled. It is difficult to project the impact of this proposal on the total supplemental funding that P.S. 104 will receive 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. 104 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. 104 is currently a Title I school. Assuming that the school continues to meet Title I criteria, the school's Title I funding award will adjust as the size of the school population changes.

While schools do receive supplemental support for special education students through FSF, 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 (IEPs). After the truncation is completed, 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

No change in school supervisory or administrator positions is expected as a result of the grade truncation at P.S. 104.

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. 104 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	1938
Overall BCAS rating	2.74
Target Utilization	94%
Target Capacity	690
FY 2009 Maintenance Costs	Labor: \$15,718 Materials: \$6,224 Maintenance and repair contracts: \$56,698 Custodial operations costs—Materials: \$4,825 Custodial operations costs—Custodial Allocation: \$234,891
FY 2009 Energy Costs	Electric: \$0 Gas: \$1,088 Oil: \$68,990
Projects completed during the current or prior school year	New desktop computers were bought and installed
Projects proposed in the capital plan	No projects identified
Accessibility of the building	Not accessible
Building attributes	Cafeteria, Gymnasium, Library, Multi-purpose room