



52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

October 13, 2023

Dear P.S. 153 Maspeth Families:

I am writing to share that the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) is proposing to truncate the sixth grade of P.S.153 Maspeth (24Q153), referred to as P.S. 153, in the 2024-2025 school year. A grade truncation means that the school will serve fewer grades than it currently offers. If this proposal is approved, P.S. 153 will no longer serve students in sixth grade after the current 2023-2024 school year.

As you know, P.S. 153 is an existing zoned elementary school serving students in grades K-6 and in its 3-K and pre-Kindergarten (pre-K) programs in building Q153 (Q153). Q153 is located at 60-02 60 Lane, Queens, NY 11378 in Community School District 24, referred to as District 24.

What is the NYCDOE proposing?

The NYCDOE is proposing to truncate the sixth grade of P.S. 153 to align the school's grade span with standard NYCDOE entry and exit points. The majority of NYCDOE middle schools admit students in sixth grade; therefore, this proposal will ensure that all P.S. 153 students begin middle school in sixth grade alongside their peers, resulting in a more full and robust middle school experience. This proposal was initiated at the request of P.S. 153's School Leadership Team (SLT).

If this proposal is approved, P.S. 153 will no longer enroll sixth grade students after the current 2023-2024 school year, and beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, P.S. 153 will only serve students in grades K-5 and in its 3-K and pre-K programs. At the close of the 2023-2024 school year, all fifth and sixth grade students who meet promotional standards will graduate from P.S. 153 and enroll in middle school through the middle school admissions process as sixth and seventh graders, respectively.

If this proposal is approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP), what does this mean for my child(ren)?

- P.S. 153 will no longer enroll sixth grade students after the current 2023-2024 school year, and beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, P.S. 153 will only serve students in grades K-5 and in its pre-K and 3K programs in Q153.
- Current fifth and sixth grade students who meet promotional criteria will complete elementary school at P.S. 153 at the end of the 2023-2024 school year and continue on to the middle school to which they are matched through the middle school admissions process.
- If a current fifth grade P.S. 153 student applied to P.S. 153 for sixth grade through the middle school admissions process and this proposal to truncate the sixth grade is approved, P.S. 153 will be removed from the student's application and the matching process will run as if the student did not apply to P.S. 153.

- If a student did not list a preference for middle school or did not match to one of the choices on their middle school application, they will be placed in an available seat in either the district to which they are zoned for middle school or the district in which they attend elementary school.
- If a P.S. 153 sixth grade student does not meet the promotional standards at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year and is required to repeat the grade in the 2024-2025 school year, the NYCDOE will seek to place that student in sixth grade at the same middle school to which they have been matched for seventh grade through the middle school admissions process. If there is no sixth grade space available at that school, the student will receive a placement in accordance with their middle school application.

Where can I learn more about this proposal?

This letter serves as notice that the Educational Impact Statement (EIS) for this proposal has been posted on the NYCDOE's website at: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/leadership/panel-for-education-policy/2023-2024-pages/november-29-2023-school-utilization-proposals>.

We encourage you to visit that website as we will update it with important dates and new information as they become available. Copies of the EIS for this proposal are also available in the main office of P.S. 153.

How can I provide feedback?

In advance of the PEP vote, a Joint Public Hearing for this proposal will be held via teleconference on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 6 p.m. All community members will have the opportunity to share feedback about this proposal at the Joint Public Hearing.

Feedback on this proposal can also be directed at any time to the NYCDOE's Office of District Planning by phone at 212-374-7621 or via e-mail at D24Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

This proposal must be voted on and approved by the PEP prior to implementation. We anticipate that the PEP will vote on this proposal on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, at 6 p.m. Feedback about this proposal may also be shared at the November 29, 2023 PEP meeting. More information about the PEP meeting can be found at: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/leadership/panel-for-education-policy>.

The official Notice of Proposal and Joint Public Hearing for this proposal are attached.

Sincerely,



Teresa Caccavale
District 24 Superintendent