

52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

September 13, 2024

Dear P.S. 180 Families:

I am writing to share that the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) issued three proposals impacting the District 3 portion of Harlem, intended for implementation beginning in the 2025-2026 school year:

1. A truncation of grades 6-8 of P.S. 180 Hugo Newman (03M180) referred to as P.S. 180, in building M180 in the 2025-2026 school year;
2. A re-siting of one site of an existing elementary District 75 school, P.S. M226 (75M226), referred to as P226M@M076, from building M076 to building M180 and co-location with P.S. 180 in the 2025-2026 school year; and
3. A truncation of grades K-5 of P.S. 76 A. Philip Randolph (03M076), referred to as P.S. 76, a re-siting of Mott Hall II (03M862) from building M165 to M076, a merger of P.S. 76's grades 6-8 with Mott Hall II, and an expansion of Mott Hall II from grades 6-8 to grades 6-12 school beginning in the 2025-2026 school year.

As you know, P.S. 180 is a district school serving students in grades K-8 as well as 3-K and pre-Kindergarten (pre-K) programs in building M180. M180 is located at 370 West 120th Street, New York, NY, 10027, in Community School District 3. M180 also houses the community-based organization (CBO) Road to Success and the school-based health center run by Ryan Health.

P226M@M076 is an existing District 75 school serving students in grades K-5 in building M076, located at 220 West 121 Street, New York, NY 10027 also in District 3, 0.3 miles from M180. P226M@M076 serves students in special classes, and also serves an inclusive education program that is affiliated with P.S. 76 in M076. This means that P226M@M076 students take some classes with general education students at P.S. 76 and receive special education programs and services as recommended on their Individualized Education Programs from P226M@M076. P226M@M076 is co-located in M076 with P.S. 76, which is a district school currently serving students in grades K-8 as well as 3-K and pre-K programs. M076 also houses the CBO Harlem Children's Zone.

The concurrent proposals described above are all contingent upon each other in order to ensure strategic alignment. All three proposals will be voted on separately by the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP).

What is the NYCDOE proposing?

The NYCDOE is proposing a school truncation, re-siting, merger, grade expansion, and co-location:

- A grade truncation means that the school will serve fewer grades than it currently offers.
- A re-siting means that part or all of a school will be moved to a different building than the building in which the school or part of the school was previously located.
- A merger means that two existing schools are combined into one school to operate and serve students more effectively.

- Proposals for mergers seek to improve learning environments by combining the strengths and best practices of both schools and distributing resources to reinforce academic enrichment opportunities, interventions, and other supports.
- A co-location means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces, such as auditoriums, gymnasiums, libraries, and cafeterias.

Why is the NYCDOE proposing changes which impact P.S. 180?

- The NYCDOE is proposing to truncate grades 6-8 of P.S. 180 to allow the school to focus exclusively on grades K-5 and continue to build a quality elementary school option. P.S. 180 currently has the highest enrollment among the elementary school options in the Harlem portion of District 3, serving 238 students.
- Conversely, P.S. 180 has seen a decline in enrollment in its middle school grades. Such low enrollment at the middle school level creates budgetary and programmatic challenges. This truncation will enable P.S. 180 to focus exclusively on serving students in grades K-5 as well as its 3-K and pre-K programming and continue to provide quality elementary school programming.
- There is sufficient space within District 3 to accommodate the current students in grades 6-8 of P.S. 180. If the truncation of P.S. 180's grade 6-8 is approved, District 3 schools will have the capacity to serve approximately 4,600 seats for 6-8 grade students and will have an excess of about 950 seats for grade 6-8 students.

If all these proposals are approved by the PEP, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, what does this mean for my child(ren)?

- P.S. 180 will no longer enroll students in grades 6-8 after the 2024-2025 school year. Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, P.S. 180 will only serve students in grades K-5 as well as its 3-K and pre-K programs.
- P.S. 180 students in grades 6 and 7, as well as students in grade 8 who do not meet promotional criteria by the conclusion of the 2024-2025 school year, will be supported by the District 3 Superintendent's team and the NYCDOE's Office of Student Enrollment to receive placement in another middle school in District 3 or their district of residence for the 2025-2026 school year.
 - This process will involve individualized support and consultations by the District 3 Superintendent's team to ensure students are offered a seat at a school that meets their needs and that can provide students access to more robust middle school programming.
 - Eighth grade students in the 2024-2025 school year who meet promotional criteria will continue on to the high school to which they are matched in the high school admissions process.
 - Current P.S. 180 fifth-grade students applying to middle school will continue to participate in the middle school admissions process as they normally would.
- After the conclusion of the 2024-2025 school year, P.S. 180 will no longer offer middle school programming. P.S. 180 will continue offering all classes to support all current students as they work to meet mandated articulation requirements through the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.
 - This proposal is not expected to impact academic programming for students served in elementary school.

- P226M@M076 will be re-sited to M180 and co-located with P.S. 180, meaning the two schools will share common spaces, such as the cafeteria, gymnasium, library, and auditorium.
- The District 75 elementary inclusion program currently offered at P.S. 76 will be re-sited to M180 and paired with P.S. 180 in the 2025-2026 school year and beyond.

Where can I learn more about these proposals?

This letter serves as notice that the Educational Impact Statements (EISs) for all three of these concurrent proposals have been posted on the NYCDOE's website at: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/panel-for-education-policy/2024-2025-pages/october-30-2024-school-utilization-proposals>. We encourage you to visit that website as we will update it with important dates and new information as it becomes available. Copies of the EISs for these proposals are also available in the main offices of P.S. 76, P226M@M076, P.S. 165, P.S. 180, and Mott Hall II.

How can I provide feedback?

We will continue to engage with all impacted school communities over the coming months about these proposals. There will be upcoming opportunities for engagement in the near future, including an additional community meeting at M180 on Thursday, October 10, 2024 at 10 a.m.

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, October 30, 2024 at 6 p.m. at M.S. 131, located at 100 Hester Street, New York, NY 10002.

In advance of the PEP vote, a virtual Joint Public Hearing for the proposals impacting M180 will be held on Tuesday, October 22, 2024. All community members will have the opportunity to share feedback on the proposals impacting M180 at the Joint Public Hearing, which will begin at 6 p.m.

Feedback on all three of these proposals can also be directed at any time to Caitlin Whittemore in the NYCDOE's Office of District Planning by phone at 212-374-3466 or via e-mail at D03proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

The official Notices of Proposals and Joint Public Hearings are attached.

Sincerely,

Kamar Samuels

Kamar Samuels
Community School District 3 Superintendent