

March 6, 2026

Dear Manhattan School for Children Community,

I am writing to share that New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) is proposing to gradually change the grades served by P.S. 333 Manhattan School for Children (MSC) from K-8 to K-5, referred to as a grade truncation, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. This means that, if this proposal is approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP), MSC will no longer enroll sixth-grade students after the current school year and will serve only grades K-5 and 7-8 in the 2026-2027 school year. The following year, the school will no longer serve seventh-grade students and will serve only grades K-5 and 8 in the 2027-2028 school year. Beginning in the 2028-2029 school year, MSC will serve only grades K-5. A change in the grades served by MSC will allow the school to focus on sustaining and growing a strong elementary school program, while middle school students enroll in larger middle schools that can provide the full range of opportunities our students deserve.

We remain guided by our commitment to ensuring that students attend well-resourced, well-enrolled schools that can sustain strong academic programming and vibrant learning communities. We also recognize and appreciate the dedication of MSC educators and families who have worked hard to support students and build the school's unique culture.

We value your feedback and recognize the concerns that have been raised about this proposal. As we continue engagement, we are sharing the attached Frequently Asked Questions to respond to themes and questions we have been hearing from the community.

NYCPS has published the Educational Impact Statement explaining this proposal in greater detail, which is available at <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/leadership/panel-for-education-policy/2025-2026-pages/april-29-2026-school-utilization-proposals> and in the main offices of MSC, Community Action School (CAS), and Lafayette Academy. A Joint Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, April 16 at 6pm, at which community members can share feedback. Community members may also share feedback about this proposal by calling 212-374-3466 or emailing D03proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

Please note that the PEP has not yet made a decision on this proposal, and there will be continued opportunities for dialogue and feedback ahead of the PEP vote. We anticipate the PEP will vote on this proposal on Wednesday, April 29, 2026 at 6pm at M.S. 131, located at 100 Hester Street, New York, NY 10002, after the PEP considers this proposal and the feedback they hear from the community.

We look forward to continuing the meaningful dialogue about this proposal and how it would impact your students, your school, and the District 3 community. Additional opportunities to discuss this proposal, ask questions, and provide feedback will be scheduled in the coming weeks.

The official Notice of Joint Public Hearing is attached.

Sincerely,



Dr. Reginald Higgins, I.A. Community School District 3 Superintendent

Frequently Asked Questions

Proposed Gradual Grade Truncation of Manhattan School for Children

Q: Why is NYCPS proposing to change the grades of MSC from K-8 to K-5?

A: This proposal is grounded in our responsibility to strengthen elementary programming at MSC while expanding access to high-quality middle school options across District 3. We believe that every student in District 3 and across the city deserves a high-quality and academically rigorous education — one where they are supported to learn and grow. Since the 2024-2025 school year, the District 3 Superintendent's team has been convening working group meetings across the district to discuss how we can ensure all of our students have access to these kinds of schools and experiences. The working groups explored ways to support enrollment and school performance and address space challenges at several schools. The working group members include principals, Parent Teacher Association presidents, school and district United Federation of Teachers representatives, and Community Education Council 3 representatives. This proposal was developed through these working group conversations as a solution to address the school's enrollment challenges in its middle school grades by focusing on a smaller grade span and working to build a quality elementary school option. A gradual truncation, in which the school stops enrolling students in the entry grade and closes its middle school gradually, also allows current students to remain enrolled at their school as they complete their middle school education.

When a school has persistently low enrollment, as has been the case across the middle school grades at MSC, it makes it very difficult for the school to provide the resources our students need and deserve. We want to ensure that every student is in a school that is able to meet their needs.

MSC's enrollment in grades 6-8 has declined by 17% over the last five years, and the school has served fewer than 160 students in grades 6-8 during that time. This has created budgetary challenges that have limited the opportunities the school has been able to provide its middle school students. For example, low enrollment in MSC's middle school grades has meant that students receive two fewer English Language Arts and math classes per week compared to citywide averages.

Additionally, while the K-8 school model can provide an opportunity for students to benefit from a stable community for a longer period of time, that hasn't been the reality at MSC where most families don't choose to attend the school for both elementary and middle school. Typically, very few of the school's fifth-grade students choose to remain at MSC for middle school, and many of the school's sixth-grade students are enrolling there for the first time, losing the benefits that can come with continuity.

We recognize the flexibility and commitment of MSC staff and families who have worked to sustain programming and support students during this period of enrollment decline. A gradual truncation will enable MSC to focus exclusively on serving students in grades K-5 and to continue providing quality elementary school programming.

Q: What will happen to students who do not meet promotional criteria in a grade that will no longer be served by MSC as it gradually truncates middle school grades?

A: If this proposal is approved, all current MSC middle school students will continue to be supported as they continue their education at MSC through eighth grade. If a student does not meet promotional requirements in a grade that will no longer be served by MSC the following year, the District 3 Family

Support Coordinator, in collaboration with MSC school staff, will help identify another middle school option for the duration of their middle school experience. For example, if a current sixth-grade student does not meet the criteria to continue to seventh grade next year, that student will be supported in identifying the right school at which they can remain in sixth grade next school year and receive the necessary supports and opportunities to advance at their new school. Additionally, any student in this circumstance who wishes to remain enrolled in the Joan of Arc campus will have the ability to transfer to Lafayette Academy or CAS if they desire.

Q: How will fifth-grade families who receive an offer to MSC for sixth grade be supported with new placements?

A: If this proposal is approved by the PEP on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, students who received a middle school offer to MSC will be contacted by the Office of Student Enrollment (OSE) via email on April 30, 2026. These families will receive personalized support from OSE and the District 3 Superintendent's team to assist with securing seats in other middle schools. Any student who wishes to attend middle school on the Joan of Arc campus will have the ability to enroll in Lafayette Academy or CAS if they desire.

Q: How will families with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) be supported?

A: All current middle school students with IEPs enrolled at MSC will receive all IEP recommended programs and services as they complete their middle school education.

If this proposal is approved, NYCPS will partner closely with the school community to ensure the specific needs of students with IEPs and their families are met so that they are supported through this change. Specifically, any fifth-grade student continuing to middle school who requires a barrier-free school will have the opportunity to remain in the building at Lafayette Academy or CAS.

Q: Are there other changes being considered on the M118 campus?

At this time, no other changes are being considered for the 2026-2027 school year. NYCPS remains committed to ensuring that all three schools on the Joan of Arc campus are supported in providing students with robust educational experiences and meeting their individual needs.

Q: What happens next?

A: NYCPS will continue to engage with the MSC community over the coming weeks about the proposal to gradually truncate MSC's grades 6-8.

- NYCPS posted an Educational Impact Statement on Friday, March 6, 2026, available at <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/leadership/panel-for-education-policy/2025-2026-pages/april-29-2026-school-utilization-proposals> and in the main offices of MSC, CAS, and Lafayette Academy.
- There will continue to be engagement opportunities for staff, students, and families, including a virtual Joint Public Hearing on Thursday, April 16 at 6pm where the community can share feedback.
- The PEP is expected to vote on this proposal at its Wednesday, April 29, 2026 meeting, which will be held at M.S. 131 (100 Hester Street, New York, NY 10002).
- If this proposal is approved:
 - Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, MSC will continue to serve students in grades K-5, will no longer serve sixth grade, and will continue to serve grades 7-8. After the

conclusion of the 2027-2028 school year, MSC will cease to serve students in grades 6-8 and will only serve students in grades K-5.

Notice of Language Access for Families

Translations of this document will be available on the Panel for Educational Policy webpage:

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/panel-for-education-policy/panel-meetings>

If you do not see a translation available in your preferred language, you can request additional translations via email:

ODPTranslations@schools.nyc.gov

Lajmërim për Familjet për Akses Shërbimesh Gjuhësore

[Albanian]

Përkthime të këtij dokumenti do të jenë të disponueshme në faqen e internetit të Panelit për Politika të Edukimit (Panel for Educational Policy):

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/panel-for-education-policy/panel-meetings>

Nëse nuk gjeni përkthim në gjuhën tuaj të parapëlqyer, mund të kërkonit një përkthim me e-mail:

ODPTranslations@schools.nyc.gov

إشعار بخدمات المساعدة اللغوية للعائلات [Arabic]

ستكون ترجمات هذه الوثيقة متاحة على الصفحة الإلكترونية الخاصة بهيئة السياسة التعليمية:

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/panel-for-education-policy/panel-meetings>

إذا لم تجد ترجمة متوفرة بلغتك المفضلة، فيمكنك طلب ترجمات إضافية عبر البريد الإلكتروني:

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পরিবারদের জন্য ভাষাগত সহায়তা বিষয়ক বিজ্ঞপ্তি

[Bangla]

এই নথির অনুবাদ প্যানেল ফর এডুকেশনাল পলিসি-এর ওয়েবপেজে পাওয়া যাবে:

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/panel-for-education-policy/panel-meetings>

যদি আপনার পছন্দের ভাষায় কোনও অনুবাদ দেখতে না পান, তবে আপনি এই ইমেইল ঠিকানা ব্যবহার করে বাড়তি অনুবাদ অনুরোধ করতে পারেন:

ODPTranslations@schools.nyc.gov

语言使用服务家长通知信

[Chinese-Simplified]

本文件的翻译版本将在教育政策专门小组网页提供:

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/panel-for-education-policy/panel-meetings>

如果您找不到自己首选语言的翻译版本, 您可以写电邮要求额外的翻译版本:

ODPTranslations@schools.nyc.gov

語言使用服務家長通知信

[Chinese-Traditional]

本文件的翻譯版本將在教育政策專門小組網頁提供:

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/panel-for-education-policy/panel-meetings>

如果您找不到自己首選語言的翻譯版本, 您可以寫電郵要求額外的翻譯版本:

ODPTranslations@schools.nyc.gov

Informations concernant l'accès linguistique pour les familles

[French]

Des versions traduites de ce document seront disponibles sur la page Web de la Commission sur la politique éducative :

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/panel-for-education-policy/panel-meetings>

Si vous ne trouvez pas de traduction disponible dans la langue de votre choix, il vous est possible de faire une demande de traductions supplémentaires par e-mail : ODPTranslations@schools.nyc.gov

Avi pou sèvis aksè nan lang pou fanmi

[Haitian Creole]

Tradiksyon dokiman sa a ap disponib sou pajwèb Komite pou règleman edikasyon an:

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/panel-for-education-policy/panel-meetings>

Si ou pa wè yon tradiksyon disponib nan lang ou prefere a, ou ka mande tradiksyon nan lòt lang atravè imèl:

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가정 대상 언어 지원 공지

[Korean]

이 문서의 번역이 교육 정책 패널 웹페이지에 제공될 것입니다:

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/panel-for-education-policy/panel-meetings>

귀하가 선호하시는 언어로 제공된 번역을 찾지 못하셨다면, 추가적인 번역을 다음 이메일로 연락하여 요청하실 수 있습니다: ODPTranslations@schools.nyc.gov

Уведомление о языковой поддержке для семей

[Russian]

Переводы этого документа опубликованы на сайте Экспертной комиссии по вопросам образования (Panel for Educational Policy, PEP):

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/panel-for-education-policy/panel-meetings>

Если вы не видите документ на предпочитаемом для вас языке, вы можете запросить переводы по имейлу

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Notificación de servicios de acceso lingüístico para las familias

[Spanish]

En la página web del Panel para la Política Educativa podrá acceder a traducciones de este documento:

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/panel-for-education-policy/panel-meetings>

Si no encuentra la traducción en su idioma de preferencia, puede solicitar traducciones adicionales escribiendo a:

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Повідомлення про послуги мовного супроводу для сімей

[Ukrainian]

Переклади цього документа будуть доступні на веб-сторінці Комітету з питань освітньої політики:

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/panel-for-education-policy/panel-meetings>

Якщо ви не бачите переклад на бажану мову, ви можете надіслати запит на додаткові переклади електронною поштою:

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[Urdu] خاندانوں کے لیے لسانی رسائی کا نوٹس

اس دستاویز کے ترجمے پینل برائے تعلیم کے ویب صفحے پر دستیاب ہونگے:

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/panel-for-education-policy/panel-meetings>

اگر آپ کو اپنی ترجیحی زبان میں ترجمہ دستیاب نہ نظر آئے تو آپ اضافی ترجموں کے لیے بذریعہ ای میل درخواست کر سکتے ہیں:

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Oilalar uchun til imkoniyatlari to'g'risidagi xabarnoma

[Uzbek]

Ushbu hujjatning tarjimalari Ta'lim siyosati paneli veb-sahifasida mavjud bo'ladi:

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/panel-for-education-policy/panel-meetings>

Agar siz o'zingiz yoqtirgan tilda tarjimani ko'rmasangiz, qo'shimcha tarjimalarni elektron pochta orqali so'rashingiz mumkin:

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