

Zoning: How it Works and Why it Matters



*Office of Student Enrollment
and Office of District Planning
March 2023*

Welcome & Introductions

- Office of Student Enrollment
- Office of District Planning

Agenda

I. Introductions

II. What is a school zone?

- What are zones and how does zoning work?
- Chancellor's Regulation A-101

III. What is a rezoning?

IV. Why does rezoning matter?

- What can rezonings accomplish?
- Chancellor's Regulation A-185
- Process and Timeline
- Key Terms
- Standard Policies
- Key Considerations

Understand Your Choices

There are nearly 800 elementary schools and over 1,000 additional 3-K and pre-K options throughout NYC.

Zoned District School

- A school that has specific home addresses assigned to it.
- Most often, these addresses are in the area around the school.

Non-Zoned District School

- A school that does not have home addresses assigned to it.

Pre-K Center

- Programs run by NYCDOE staff.
- All centers offer pre-K, and some have a 3-K program as well.

NYC Early Education Centers & Family Child Care Networks

- Center and home based programs partnered with the NYCDOE for 3-K and pre-K.
- Some offer income and need based programs for eligible families

Narrow Down Your Choices

Find out what district you live in—there are 32 school districts in NYC.

Find out what your zoned school is.

- Most schools have an area called their zone.
- All addresses in this zone are assigned to the school.
- If you live in this zone, the school is your “zoned school.”

Your zoned school is the school where your child is most likely to attend Kindergarten.

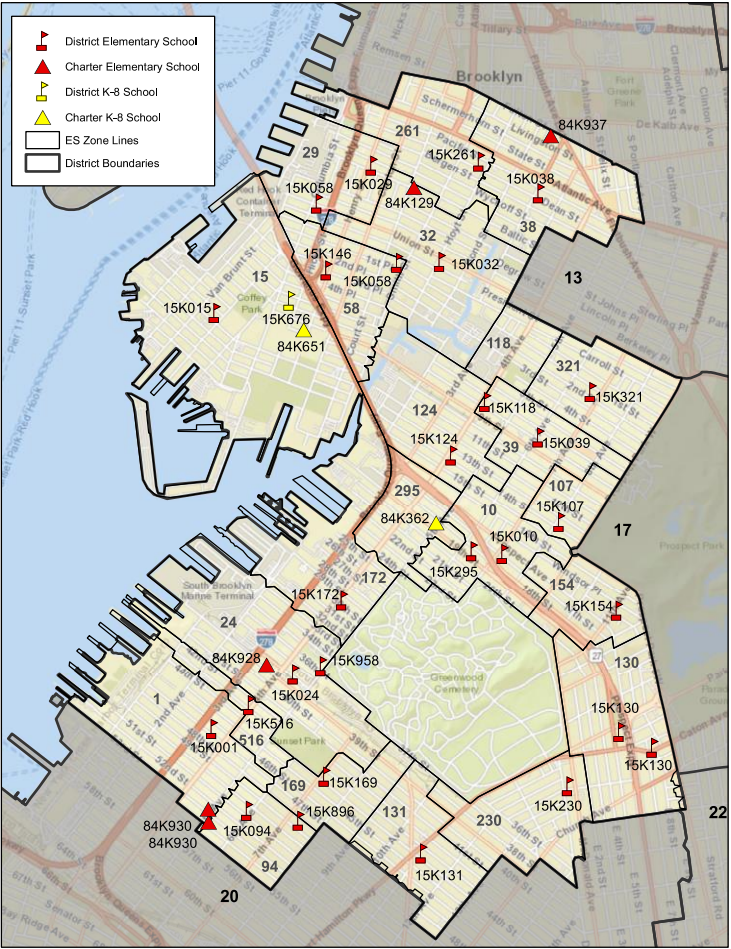
Chancellor's Regulation A-101

- Zoned School refers to a school that gives first priority to children residing in a specific geographic area defined as the “zone.”
- A zoned school serves children residing in that school’s zone before serving any children residing outside of that zone, except for admittance into pre-K, in which applicants who are currently attending that school’s 3-K program receive first priority to attend that school ahead of other zoned applicants.
- New zoned children are entitled to register and enroll in their zoned school subject to available seats.

Chancellor's Regulation A-101

- Zoned schools are obligated to serve all children residing in their zone, space permitting, regardless of when families show up to register. Applicants must be admitted to zoned schools in the following order of priority:
 - a) Zoned applicants with a verified sibling;
 - b) Zoned applicants without a verified sibling;
 - c) In-district applicants with a verified sibling;
 - d) Out-of-district applicants with a verified sibling;
 - e) In-district applicants currently attending that school's pre-K program;
 - f) Out-of-district applicants currently attending that school's pre-K program;
 - g) In-district applicants;
 - h) Out-of-district applicants.

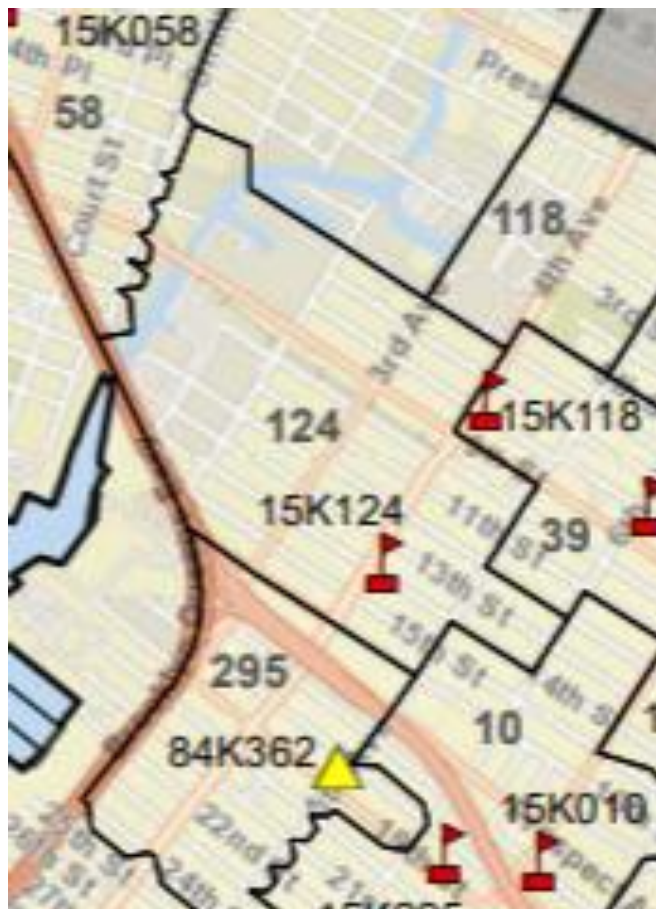
District 15 Elementary School Zone Map



NYC District 15 Elementary Schools
 Department of Education Office of District Planning, 2022-2023
 Charter Director David C. Barnes **FOR INTERNAL PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY**

N
 1 inch = 2,500 feet

Example of Zone: P.S. 124



What is a Rezoning?

- A zoned school is a school that gives priority to attend based on residence within a defined geographical area, known as a zone
- Rezoning is a collaborative process where the geographic areas of zones are changed and/or new zones are created, as governed by Chancellor's Regulation A-185
- The Office of District Planning (ODP) works in partnership with the Superintendent, Community Education Council (CEC), school communities, and other stakeholders to develop rezoning plans
- The Superintendent ultimately submits a rezoning proposal to the CEC who votes on the plan

What Can a Rezoning Accomplish?

Rezoning is an important lever for expanding educational access, improving learning conditions and increasing integration.

- Improve educational access
 - > Create a zone for a new school option
 - > Increase access to schools
 - > Increase diversity in or across zones
 - > Allow families to make informed decisions regarding their children's educational experience
- Improve learning conditions
 - > Alleviate overcrowding
 - > Reduce waitlists
 - > Reduce overutilization
 - > Equalize utilization across buildings
 - > Remove Transportable Classroom Units (TCUs)

Most Recent Rezoning in District 15

- New school buildings led to **four approved rezonings** in District 15 over the last 10 years:
 - 2013: New building (K763) for P.S. 118 The Maurice Sendak Community School
 - 2014: New building (K333) for P.S. 516 Sunset Park Avenues Elementary School
 - 2015: New building annex (K437) for P.S. 130 The Parkside
 - 2022: New building addition at P.S. 32 Samuel Mills Sprole

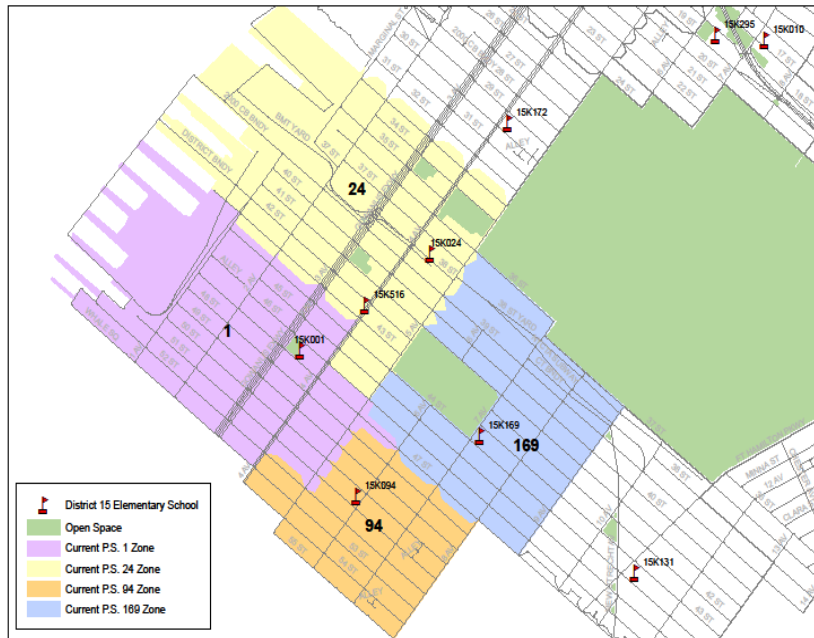
Example: Sunset Park Rezoning (2014-2015)

- On November 25, 2013, CEC 15 voted to change the zones for P.S. 169 Sunset Park (15K169), P.S. 94 The Henry Longfellow (15K094), P.S. 24 (15K024), and P.S. 1 (15K001)
- Why?
 - To create a zone for Sunset Park Avenues Elementary School (15K516)
 - To reduce the need to waitlist, cap, and overflow students zoned to Sunset Park area schools

Sunset Park Zone Maps: Before & After Rezoning

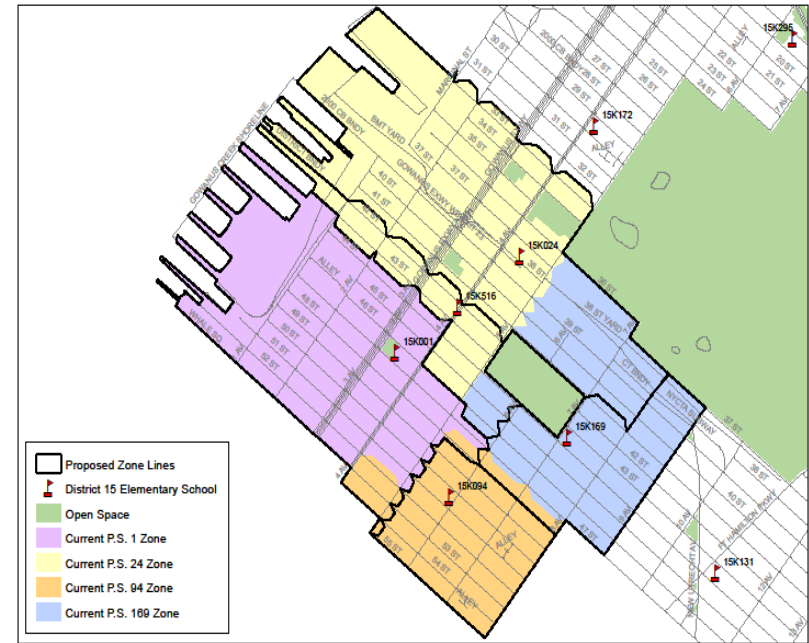
Pre-Rezoning:
2013-2014 School Year Zones

Post-Rezoning:
2014-2015 School Year Zones



NYC Department of Education
Division of Portfolio Planning
Current District 15 Sunset Park Elementary School Zones

1 inch = 1,243 feet



NYC Department of Education
Division of Portfolio Planning, October 2013
Proposed District 15 Sunset Park Rezoning for 2014-2015 Implementation
Proposal presentation will be available online at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/brooklyn/portfolio.htm>

1 inch = 1,261 feet

Impact of Sunset Park Rezoning

- As mentioned, one of the goals of the Sunset Park rezoning was to reduce the need to waitlist, cap, and overflow students zoned to Sunset Park area schools.
- Each of the four over-utilized elementary schools saw an enrollment decrease in the five years that followed this rezoning.
- Sunset Park Avenues Elementary School (15K516) is now fully phased-in, enrolling 349 students in grades pre-K through fifth grade (approximately a 100% utilization rate).

Rezoning Process

Chancellor's Regulation A-185 governs the process for changing zone lines for elementary and middle schools.



- The need to rezone can be raised by the DOE, the CEC, schools, or the broader community.

- Conversations with the CEC, school principals and communities, elected officials, and other stakeholders.
- Community conversations continue throughout the rezoning process.
- Feedback informs new zone lines.

- DOE analyzes enrollment trends, demographics, school capacity, student residential and housing stock data.

- A proposal for zone line changes is presented publicly to the CEC by the Office of District Planning and the Superintendent.
- There are opportunities for public feedback and Q&A.

- CEC votes within 45 days after a proposal is submitted.

Standard Policies for Rezoning

When: Rezoning are approved in the Spring or Fall, in advance of the admissions window for enrolling in school the following school year.

Who: Proposed changes primarily impact incoming 3-K, pre-kindergarten, and kindergarten. All currently enrolled students in grades K-8 may remain in their school until graduation.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS