

Schools & Education

Schools are a fundamental resource in any neighborhood. Many agencies and organizations are education stakeholders. The Gowanus Study seeks to assess the range of needs for schools, particularly the current and future capacity needs of the community.

Who is Here Tonight?



The **Department of Education (DOE)** oversees the daily operations of New York City's public schools, including course offerings, teachers, health and wellness, and safety. NYC DOE is the largest school district in the country, serving about 1.1 million students in over 1,800 schools.



In planning for growth and addressing capacity needs, the **School Construction Authority (SCA)** plays a central role in building and modernizing schools in a responsible, cost-effective manner while achieving the highest standards of excellence in safety, quality, and integrity.

Admissions 101

How Students are Placed in NYC Public Schools

Zoned Schools: Most NYC families have a "zoned school." This means they live in an area where their children have priority to attend a specific, nearby school. In School District 15, which covers most of the Gowanus Study area, most elementary schools are zoned. Most zoned schools can make kindergarten offers to all students living in the zone. Some zoned schools have room to make offers to children living outside of their zone.

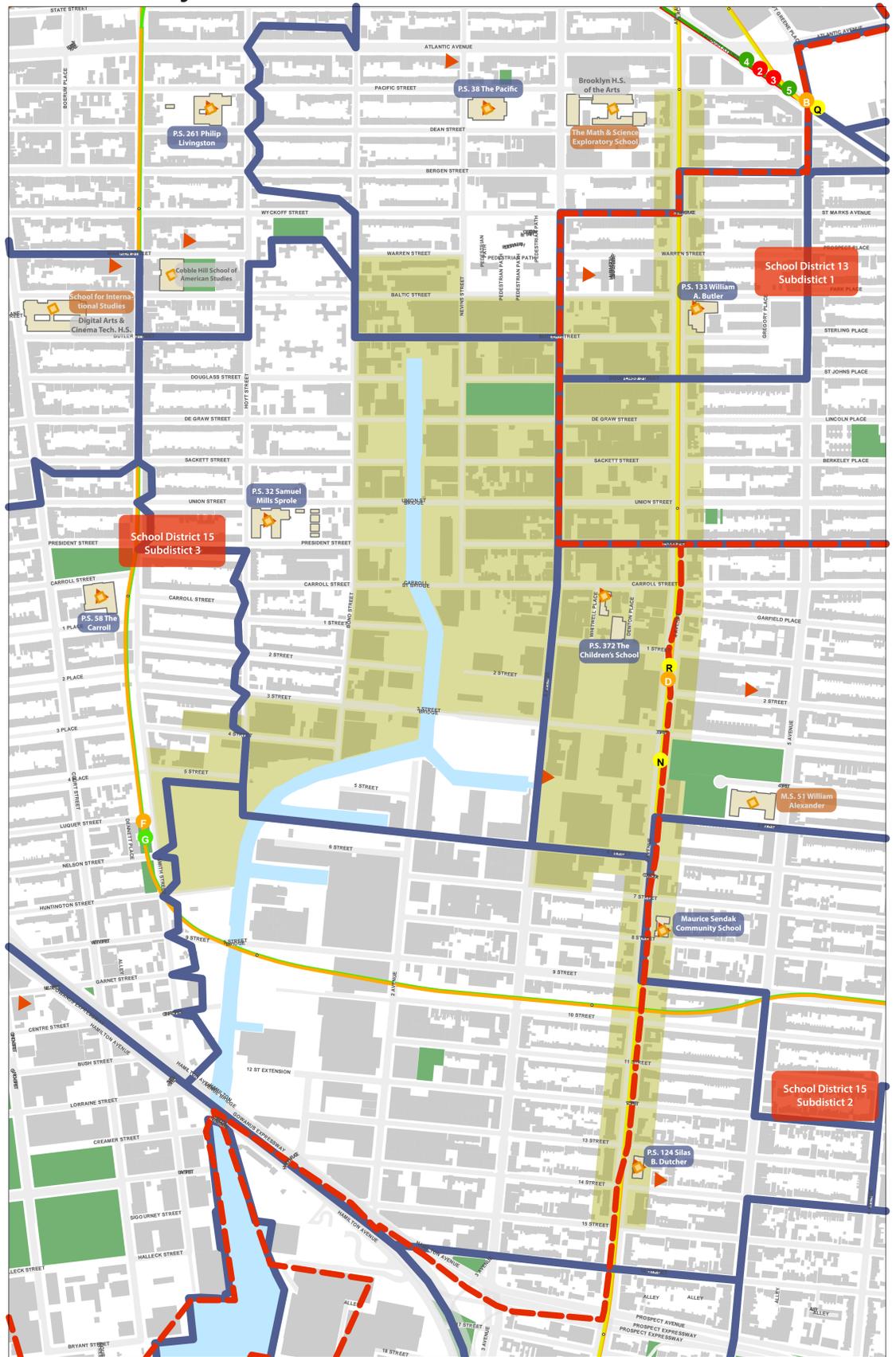
Non-Zoned Schools: These schools do not have a zone. Families throughout the district or borough can attend them. Most non-zoned schools give priority to students who have older siblings attending, who are current pre-K students, or who live in the district. District 15 has two non-zoned schools, P.S. 146 Brooklyn New School and P.S. 372 The Children's School.

Gifted & Talented Admissions: Gifted & Talented (G&T) programs are one way the DOE supports the educational needs of students with unique academic abilities. G&T programs have a separate admissions process and you cannot list them on your Kindergarten Application. District 15 has three G&T programs: P.S. 32 Samuel Mills Sprole, P.S. 38 The Pacific, and P.S. 230 Doris L. Cohen.

Diversity in Admissions: Some elementary schools across the city are participating in a pilot initiative to increase diversity among their schools' applicants. This year, piloting schools will give priority to students who receive Free Reduced Lunch (FRL), English Language Learners (ELLs), students in the child welfare system, and/or families impacted by incarceration. Kindergarten offers will still be made using standard admissions priorities. District 15 schools participating in the pilot initiative are P.S. 146 Brooklyn New School and P.S. 372 The Children's School.

Gowanus Study Area

Elementary School Zones

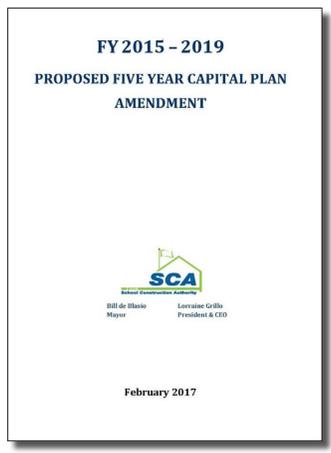


Zoned Schools: Children living in a school's "zone" have priority to attend it. Most elementary schools in District 15 are zoned.

Non-Zoned Schools: Children living throughout the District or borough can attend. Middle schools in District 15 are non-zoned.

School Siting & Development

How are Schools Planned?



As the demand for capital investments always exceeds available funding, capacity needs are prioritized to areas where school enrollment is increasing and schools are overcrowded. The current Five-Year Capital Plan (Fiscal Years 2015-2019) includes funding for more than 44,300 school seats in more than 80 projects across NYC.



The City's plans for creating new public school seats are outlined in SCA's **Five Year Capital Plan** reports. SCA analyzes demographic data to project future **school capacity** and **seat needs** across each School District and at the subdistrict level. The Capital Plan is a living document which SCA updates every year based on projected shifts in such factors as school enrollments and new education initiatives and also incorporates data on **birth rates**, **immigration rates**, **migration rates**, **housing starts**, and **rezonings** from various City agencies. Using a broad range of sources provides a complete view of potential student demand, and annual updates allow SCA to make timely adjustments in response to an increase in student population in one part of the City, or a decline in another.

Capital Plan funding for new school seats in and around the Gowanus Study area includes:

- Subdistrict 15/3 (Carroll Gardens, Gowanus, Red Hook): 1,280 seats funded (436 sited)
- Subdistrict 15/2 (Park Slope): 1,464 seats funded (404 sited)
- Subdistrict 13/1 (Park Slope, Prospect Heights): 640 seats funded (640 sited)

More Information

To view SCA's Capital Plan and other resources, visit **NYCSCA.org**



Site Suggestions

If you would like to suggest a property in your neighborhood that could serve as a future school location, email **sites@nycsca.org**

New School Capacity Projects

When conditions require new construction to meet capacity needs, the SCA can add school seats in multiple ways:

- purchasing property to construct **stand-alone** schools,
- **leasing** and renovating properties,
- constructing **additions** to already-existing schools, or
- working with developers to build schools in **mixed-use** buildings

Recent SCA school capacity work in and around the Gowanus Study area includes:

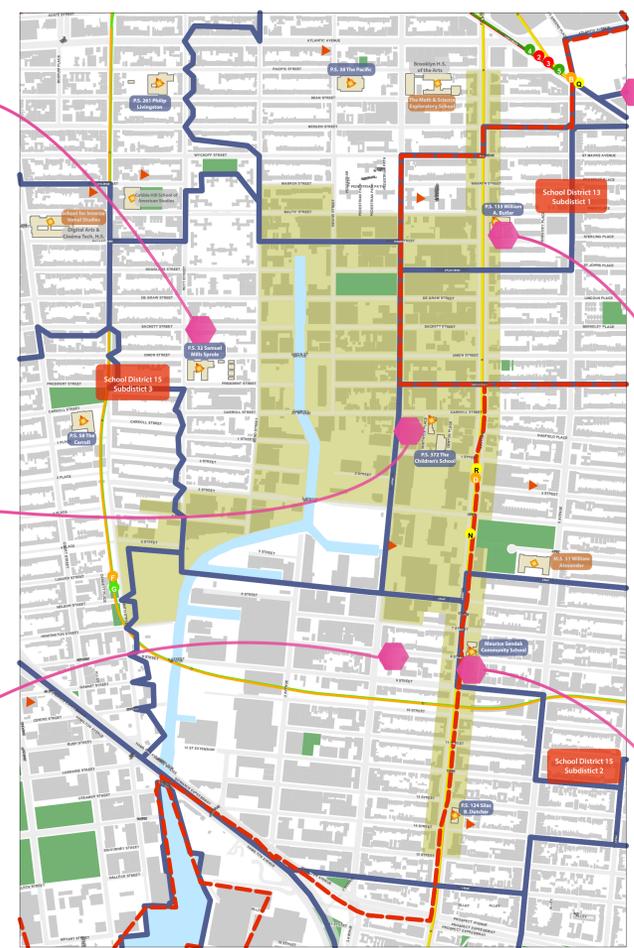


An addition at **P.S. 32** at 317 Hoyt Street is starting construction this fall of an **addition** that will expand the capacity of the school by 436 seats.



A **Pre-K Center** at 305-307 Third Avenue opened in September 2016 with 56 seats.

A planned **Pre-K Center** at 168 8th Street will have 180 seats.



I.S. 653: This 640-seat middle school at 491 Dean Street will be part of a **mixed-use building**.



P.S. 133 at 610 Baltic Street opened in 2013 as a **stand-alone school** with 935 seats.



P.S. 118 at 211 8th Street, a former parochial school **leased** by SCA, opened in September 2013 with 256 seats.

District 15 Diversity Plan

The D15 Diversity Plan process will create a community-based **middle school diversity plan** for School District 15. The planning process reflects DOE’s commitment to learning environments that reflect the diversity of New York City. Through the process, we will engage community members, incorporate community input, and make data related to school diversity more transparent.



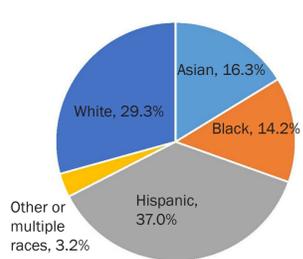
Questions? Ideas?

What would you like to know about the upcoming D15 Diversity Plan process? Please share below.

Current Demographic Data

2016-2017 School Year

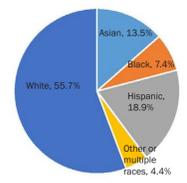
NYC School District 15*: DOE Public School Enrollment



Total Enrollment: 33,083 students
 Students with Disabilities: 18.3%
 English Language Learners: 16.1%
 Poverty: 63.3%

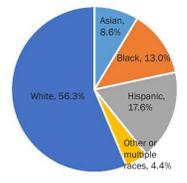
Middle Schools in and around the Gowanus Study Area:

M.S. 51 William Alexander:



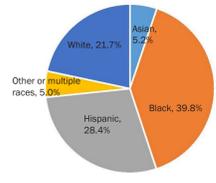
Enrollment: **1,125** students
 Students with Disabilities: **17.7%**
 English Language Learners: **2.1%**
 Poverty: **25.1%**

The Math & Science Exploratory School:



Enrollment: **522** students
 Students with Disabilities: **17.8%**
 English Language Learners: **0.2%**
 Poverty: **15.7%**

School for International Studies:



Enrollment: **563** students
 Students with Disabilities: **22.4%**
 English Language Learners: **13.0%**
 Poverty: **63.8%**

*District 15 includes Sunset Park, Park Slope, Carroll Gardens, Gowanus, and Red Hook

Questions & Interests

What We Have Heard

*Provided through the **Bridging Gowanus** process, **Gowanus Study** events, and Gowanus Study **working group** discussions*

- School seat availability and accommodating neighborhood growth
- Opportunities to connect Gowanus students with community resources, including arts and businesses
- Availability of Pre-K and daycare
- Street safety and students' routes to schools
- School facilities designed sustainably, including energy efficiency and green infrastructure
- School facilities design with adequate open space
- Public access to school open space through Schoolyards-to-Playgrounds, as currently operating at P.S. 261 Philip Livingston

What Else would You Like to Discuss?

Share your questions, interests, and concerns on issues of schools and education in the Gowanus neighborhood

