



Planning for New School Building Q429: Survey Takeaways

Office of District Planning

August 8, 2022

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Project Background

New Building Q429

- Building Q429 is a new middle school located at 47-10 Barnett Avenue, in a part of District 30 currently zoned to a District 24 middle school
- Building Q429 is scheduled to open for the 2023-2024 school year
- The building has a capacity of approximately 725 seats



Planning Considerations

- There are currently 1,180 residents in grades 6-8 in the area of District 30 zoned to I.S. 125
- The projected seat capacity for building Q429 is 725
- Therefore, there is likely insufficient space for the entire District 30 area currently zoned to I.S. 125 to be zoned to the new middle school in Q429

Admissions Options for Q429

Admissions Options - Definitions

- A **zoned school** is a school that gives priority to attend based on residence within a defined geographical area, known as a zone.
 - Students residing in the geographic area zoned for a particular school (“**the zone**”) are entitled to a seat at that school.
 - Zones are drawn with the goal that they contain the appropriate number of residents for a school’s size, based on recent public school enrollment trends.
- **Geographic priority** gives students living within a particular geographic area priority access to a school, but does not entitle residents of the area to a seat.

Admissions Options for Q429

- If the NYCDOE were to create a **new zone** for the new middle school at Q429, students living within the new zone would have priority to the new school over students living outside out the zone.
 - The new zone would be smaller than the area outlined in blue on the map to ensure the new middle school can accommodate all students within its zone. Areas within the blue outline, but outside of the new zone, would be rezoned to other District 30 middle schools.
- Under a **geographic priority**, students living in the area outlined in blue would have priority access to Q429, but they would not be guaranteed a seat. They would also remain in the zone for I.S. 125 and would maintain this zoned option.
 - With a geographic priority, information about community preferences could be used to later inform decisions about zone lines as part of any future rezoning in the area.

Survey Creation

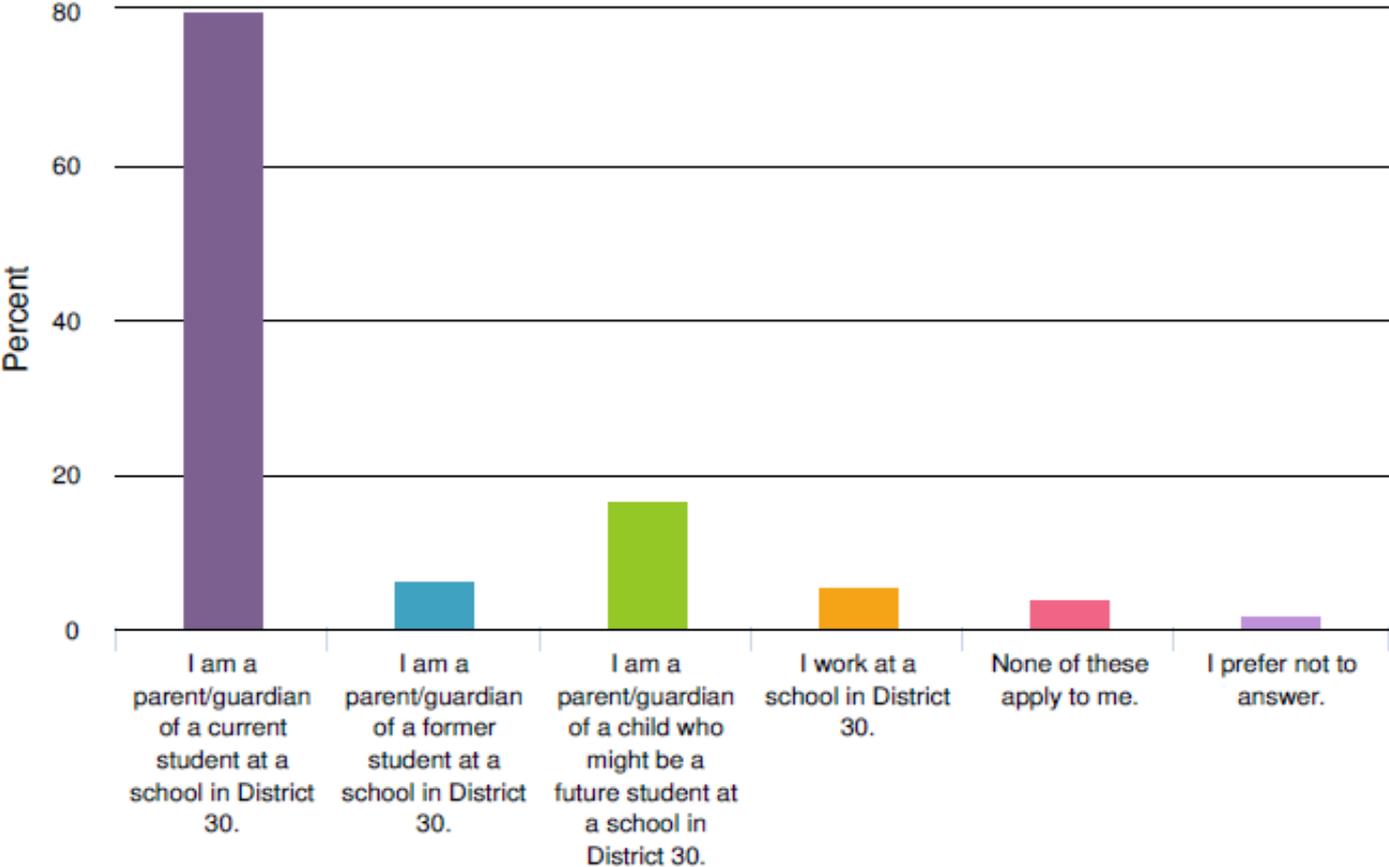
Survey Creation

- The Office of District Planning (ODP), Superintendent Composto, and CEC 30 collaborated on the creation and distribution of this community feedback survey.
- The survey was used to gather stakeholder input on plans for the middle school opening in new building Q429, including the new zone and geographic priority admissions options.
- The survey opened on June 17, 2022 and closed at midnight on August 1, 2022.

Survey Respondents

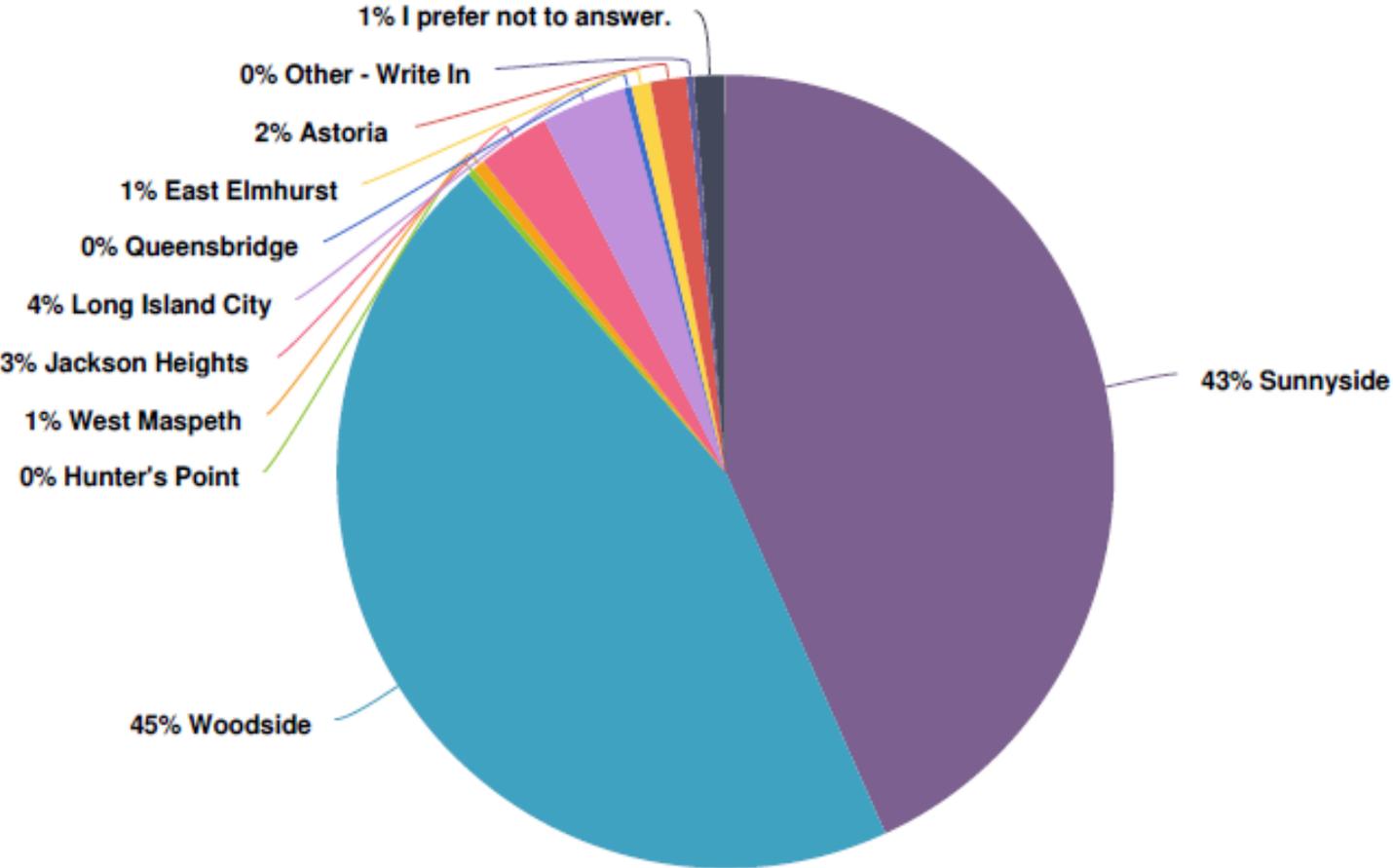
Who Responded to the Survey?

Of the 398 total respondents, about 80% were parents and guardians of current students at District 30 schools.



Who Responded to the Survey?

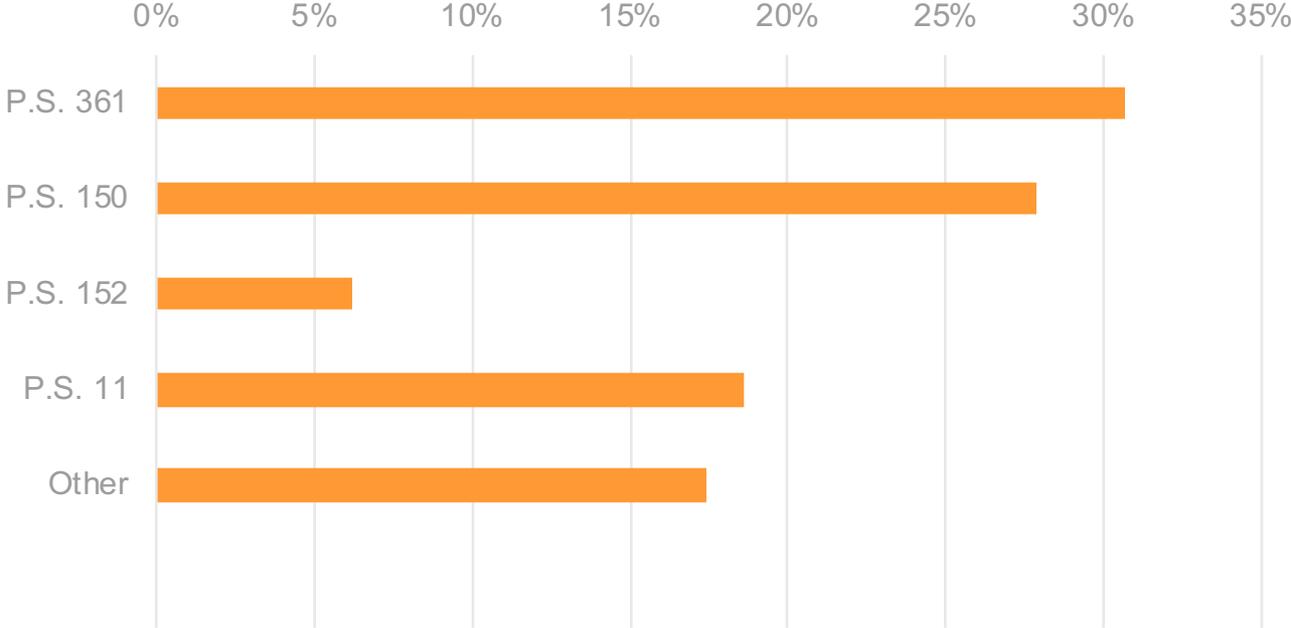
88% of total respondents live in either Sunnyside or Woodside, which is the area of District 30 in which Q429 is opening.



Who Responded to the Survey?

Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of total respondents have a child or children in a District 30 elementary school. Of those, most attend one of the schools in the area of District 30 zoned to I.S. 125 for middle school.

If your child attends elementary school in District 30, which school to they attend?



■ Share of Respondents with Children in D30 Elementary Schools

Survey Responses

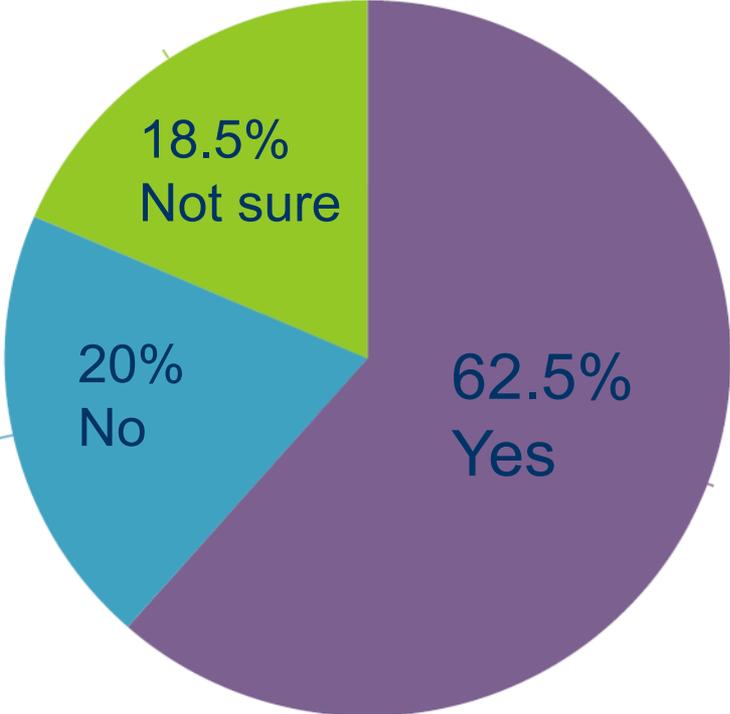
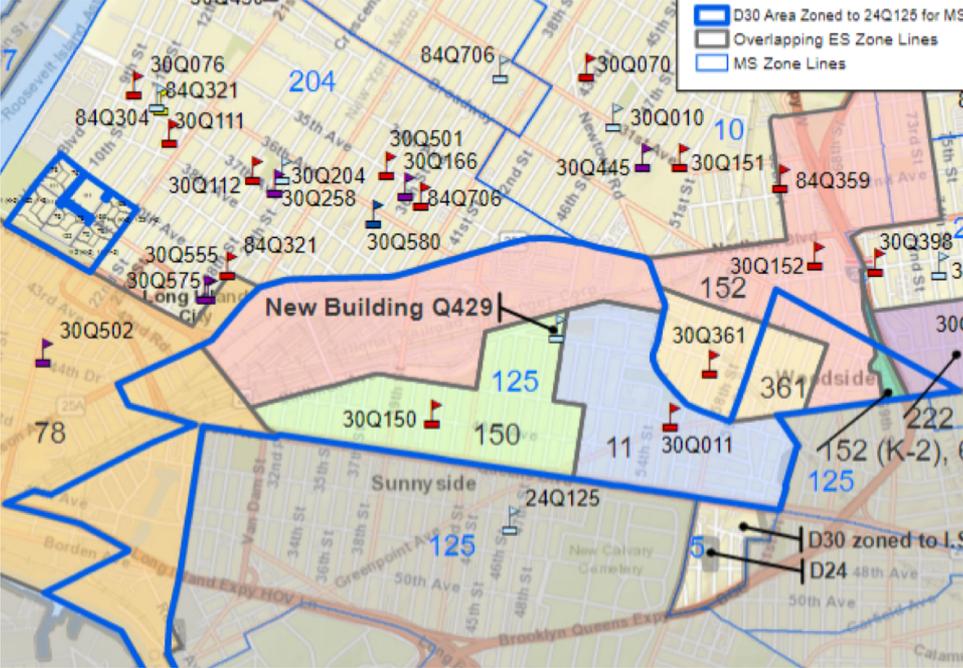
What Did Respondents Say About Enrollment Options?

- As shown below, feedback on the geographic priority and new zone options were comparable.
- Many respondents indicated the same position for both options, indicating both the complexity of the issue and mixed opinions in the community.

	Against	Somewhat Against	Unsure/ Neutral	Somewhat Supportive	Supportive
New Zone	18.2%	9.3%	22.7%	18.7%	31.1%
Geographic Priority	19.5%	11.1%	20.0%	20.8%	28.6%

What Did Respondents Say About Access?

Question 10: Do you think all students in the area of District 30 currently zoned to I.S. 125 (area outlined in blue) should have equal access to new middle school Q429?



What Did Respondents Say About Priorities?

Question 14: What is important to you when considering a school? (Please rank on the below scale)

- Given the options of not important, somewhat important, important, extremely important, and N/A or unsure, most respondents (**64%**) ranked the below priorities as extremely important:
 - **Capacity** - it is important to me that my child(ren) attends a school that is not overcrowded
 - **Performance** - it is important to me that my child(ren) attends a school with high performance
 - **Programs** - it is important to me that my child(ren) attends a school with robust programming
- The next highest rankings of extremely important were for “**proximity**” and “**values**” both at **52%**
- The lowest number of respondents ranked the following categories as extremely important on the same scale: **facilities (37%)**, **demographic diversity (33%)**, and **services (31%)**

Some respondents indicated they wanted access to the new school to be based on proximity to where students live.

“We live a block from the new school and want to be guaranteed a spot there. I do not want my child traveling extensively for Middle School.”

“Families of children who are closer to the new middle school should have priority. IS 125 is further for some families therefore restructuring the zone makes sense.”

“I believe the students that are in district 30 that literally live a block away should have priority period with no exceptions. It makes no sense for our district to be zoned blocks away when a middle school is being built literally steps away.”

“Children who live nearest the school should go there. This was promised as a zoned school for our children.”

Some respondents indicated they wanted the entirety of their elementary school zone (P.S. 150, P.S. 11, and P.S. 361 specifically) to be zoned to the new school.

“I think everybody attending 361 whether or not they live in the blue zone, whether or not this zone gets bigger or smaller, should have priority.”

“I am okay with changing the zone if it includes ps 11 and ps 361 school zones.”

“The new school should be zoned for the original benefactors of the school: students in zone from 150 and 11.”

“Rezoning into a smaller outline seems to defeat the purpose of what the original intention of creating this middle school was for - to provide another middle school for PS361Q, PS11, etc. students.”

“I think the zone or geographic priority should give preference not based on geography exclusively, but which elementary the students attends. It should prefer students at 11/150/361 and not students from other schools.”

Some respondents indicated they wanted access to the new school to prioritize diversity and integration.

“Kids who live in NYCHA Housing should have priority in accessing a new, state-of-the-art school rather than just drawing a zone that excludes them and instead gives a leg up to kids who live in single-family homes in the Gardens. This is a huge equity issue.”

“We should do whatever will result in the most racially and economically integrated school.”

“It is important that the children in District 30 who are come from diverse backgrounds and in many cases, low income households, should be afforded the right to a top notch education.”

“The zone should remain as it is. Creating a new zone to the exclusion of some kids will only create more inequality.”

Some respondents indicated they want to wait for more data to inform a potential re-zoning.

“Rezoning should be put off for a few more years once we have a better idea of what the needs of the school and the community are.”

“I think we should gather more data on how many students from those currently zoned to D24 actually enroll at the new school before zoning out students who might have gone there.”

“I support a geographic priority on a temporary basis to give students near Q429 priority while allowing the DOE time to collect accurate data about the number and % of students who would attend this school.”

Some respondents indicated they want District 30 residents living in the area zoned to I.S. 125 in District 24 to have equal access to the new school.

“Rezoning into a smaller outline seems to defeat the purpose of what the original intention of creating this middle school was for - to provide another middle school for PS361Q, PS11, etc. students.”

“I think everyone in the blue zone should have access even if it isn’t guaranteed.”

“I want all area people who would like to go to the school to have the same chance in a lottery.”

“Zoning this school would mean that some students within the blue line would be excluded from this new school. While it would be great if all students within blue lines would be guaranteed a spot at this new school, that is not possible. This the most equitable was to determine access to this new school is through geographic priority.”

Recommendation

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- In order to ensure all students currently zoned to I.S. 125 have equal access to the new school, and to provide an opportunity to gather more data on retention patterns to inform any future zone creation, ODP recommends the new middle school in building Q429 open with a geographic priority for residents of the area of District 30 zoned to I.S. 125.
 - Under a geographic priority, students living in this area would have priority access to Q429, but they would not be guaranteed a seat.
 - They would also remain in the zone for I.S. 125 and would maintain this zoned option.
 - Based on enrollment trends that after the school opens and continued community engagement, a re-zoning can be considered in future years.

Contact Information

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