

2017 CEC3 Rezoning Frequently Asked Questions

What is the rush to rezone for 2017? Why is this process so rushed?

District 3 has been engaged in rezoning since the spring of 2015, after two years of excessive wait lists at PS199 and issues of burgeoning wait lists at PS87 and PS9. The DOE did not propose a rezoning last year for several reasons, including the unknown opening date for the new school, among other reasons. When the Riverside School at West End Avenue was officially slated for 2018, the DOE and CEC3 began resumed rezoning in the Spring 2016. The plan began with a rezoning for 2017 and re-siting of PS191 in 2018. However, this summer Mayor DeBlasio announced that the Riverside Center would open a year early which meant that both the rezoning and other changes would take place in 2017.

Will siblings be grandfathered into their current zoned schools?

CEC3 strongly supports the inclusion of siblings in their current zoned schools, so yes, a sibling zone policy will be included in the final zoning document.

What is the maximum size for K-5 students?

Kindergarten capacity is 25 students. In grades 1-5, the maximum is 32 students.

What is the approval process for zone lines?

Defined by Chancellor's regulation A-185, the CEC3 approves zone lines which have been submitted to the community by the Office of District Planning in conjunction with the District Superintendent. The approval (vote) by the CEC by the first week of November. A formal proposal will be submitted to the community in October. After this date, a second round of hearings will be scheduled in order to receive more input from the community ahead of the vote.

Please read the entire regulation for more details here:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/ChancellorsRegulations/VolumeA>

What is the rule according to the DOE in regards to travel to your zoned school and how many schools you are allowed to "pass" on the way to your zoned school?

A zone's configuration is based on the Blue Book capacity of the school, residential information about the number of families living within geographic blocks, and new construction. While it is the goal of the DOE to generate zones that appropriately match families with an elementary school that is close to their home, no official DOE policy exists stipulating an exact distance, nor the occurrence of passing another school on a route from home to the zoned school (see more information at the end regarding the data used to configure zones).

What is the difference between a school and a school building?

The school is the principal, teachers and admin, and students. The building itself also has a name. Sometimes these names are the same but this is not always the case.

Does Scenario C already exist (heard that principals already have seen it)?

Scenario C does not exist yet but will be offered to the District 3 community by the end of September.

Can you please specify how you define the northern part of the district as it is being considered in Scenario C?

The schools included in the northern part of the district are comprised of the schools above PS166, those not included in Scenario A but included in Scenario B.

What is the contingency plan for PS191 if the new building is not ready?

Mayor DeBlasio announced the opening of Riverside Center in 2017 at a press conference over the summer, giving the School Construction Authority a year to complete the school building. It will be complete.

Does the new building at Riverside Center have a playground?

Yes, there are two rooftop playground spaces at the Riverside Center school site.

Can you please clarify what the zone lines mean, what if your building is on the line?

Invisible lines drawn to reflect elementary school catchment borders. They typically run down the middle of a physical street, such that buildings on one side of a street are zoned for one school and those on the other side are zoned for the other school.

Will the PS191 middle school be truncated?

PS191 will move to the new building at Riverside Center intact as a PreK to Eighth grade school. There are no plans to truncate the middle school grades unless the demand for elementary school forces the issue to be discussed again.

Will PS191 keep its magnet school designation?

The grant that provided funds for the Museum Magnet ran out in 2014/2015 school year, however the school has retained the name and continues to offer multiple program options in the arts.

Why are the zone lines drawn this way? What data is used to determine the lines and why is this information not being shared despite repeated requests for it?

Zone lines are drawn to achieve an ideal number of kindergarten students living in a zone, based on the size and capacity of each school. To increase or decrease the number of students within a zone, lines are drawn to include or exclude certain blocks and certain sides of the street, based on the number of students who typically live there and attend DOE schools, taking new residential construction into account. Zone lines usually run down the center of the street, unless otherwise specified. The DOE analyzes current and historical student residential data, enrollment patterns, school demand, residential construction data, and each school’s building capacity in order to derive ideal kindergarten zone sizes.

Certain data points may not be shared, such as student residential data, to protect the privacy of students and families, pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). You can find additional information about a school’s enrollment, demographics, performance, and more on the DOE’s school data page: <http://schools.nyc.gov/Accountability/data/default.htm>. The most recent information on school buildings’ capacity is detailed in the 2014-2015 Enrollment, Capacity, & Utilization Report (also known as the “Blue Book”): <http://www.nycsca.org/Community/Capital-Plan-Reports-Data#Enrollment-Capacity-Utilization-69>. The 2015-2016 Blue Book is expected to be published by the SCA in the coming weeks.

The DOE also relies on extensive qualitative data to inform our planning. In this case, before scenario development began, DOE officials have been engaging with the CEC, the schools, and the community over the past year and half to discuss the process and overall goals, and to get critical feedback about each school’s enrollment, zone, and neighborhood. See below for affected school capacities and 2015 enrollment numbers.

School	2015 Enroll	Capacity
PS 9	658	561
PS 75	520	571
PS 84	521	503
PS 87	875	904
PS 145	391	467
PS 163	599	546
PS 165	831	851
PS 166	615	658
PS 191	490	591
PS 199	889	642
PS 452	286	179