

Abstract: Zone 126 Full-Service Neighborhood Community Schools

Zone 126 (a sponsored project of the Fund for the City of NY) Full-Service Neighborhood Community Schools will serve students at PS 171Q-Peter G. Van Alst Elementary School and IS 126Q-Albert Shanker School for the Visual and Performing Arts. This includes approximately 1184 students from Pre-Kindergarten to 8th grade and their families, the majority of whom live in New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Astoria Houses. Approximately half of the families served by this project are New Americans, speaking Spanish, Bengali, Urdu, and Arabic at home. Both target schools are eligible for school-wide Title 1 programs. PS 171Q is a public elementary school with a student population of 484 children, 92% are eligible for free and reduced lunch. Only 18% are performing at grade level in ELA, 21% in math, and it is designated a “Focus School” by New York State. Upon completing elementary school, a large majority of these students transition to IS 126Q for middle school. IS 126Q (700 students) has made enough progress to come off of NYS Focus List status in the last year, and as of 2016-2017, 41% of students were performing at grade level in ELA; 31% in Math. At IS 126Q, 87% are eligible for free and reduced lunch. This grant will support Zone 126 and partners in coordinating existing services, adding new services, and strengthening partnerships in order to build a seamless pipeline of services for children from early childhood through to their transition into high school. Zone 126 is also the Lead Agency for Community School Long Island City High School (where most students from IS 126Q transition to high school), making the proposed FSCS project part of a community-wide effort to provide a comprehensive pipeline of support for children and families. The comprehensive plan in this proposed project includes in school social and emotional learning and enrichment provided to every grade from Pre-K to 8th Grade, enrichment and academic support offered during out of school time, and a team of caring professionals working together to provide targeted support to children as needed. The goals and outcomes are as follows. **Goal 1:** children are prepared for kindergarten (by Year 5, the percentage of children screened as entering Kindergarten prepared will increase by 22%). **Goal 2:** students are achieving academically (by Year 5, chronic absenteeism will decrease by 8%, the percentage of students receiving satisfactory grades in at least one subject will increase by 13%, and the percentage of students testing at grade level on state assessments will increase by 25%). **Goal 3:** Students are safe, healthy, and supported by engaged parents (by Year 5, at sub-index scores on the NYC School Survey will increase by 25%, the number of children and families receiving relevant health-related referrals will increase by 8%, average attendance at parent events will increase by 20%, and the percentage of parents responding favorably on survey items related to satisfaction and engagement will increase by 25%). The project is a continuation of the work of a dedicated group of partners, many of whom have worked together since Zone 126’s inception in 2011. This project will allow Zone 126 to continue build upon our role as serving as a convener, coordinator, and supporting partners to use resources efficiently and with synergy. The partners implementing this project are: Community School District #30 (CSD #30), Camp Wilbur Herrlich, The Child Center of NY (CCNY), City Year New York (CYNY), Community-Word Project (CWP), enACT, Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement House (Riis), Little Flower Yoga (LFY), Long Island City High School (30Q450), New York City Department of Education Office of Community Schools (NYCDOE OCS), The Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP), Queens Borough Public Library (QBPL), Salah M. Hassanein Variety Boys and Girls Club of Queens (VBGCQ), The Thomas & Jeanne Elmezzi Private Foundation, and Urban Upbound.