



THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS CELEBRATE FIRST DAY OF CLASSES AT NEW PECK SLIP SCHOOL

Elementary school opened to serve growing Seaport and Financial District neighborhoods

Seaport/Financial District, NY – Council Member Margaret Chin today joined Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, State Sen. Daniel Squadron, Manhattan Community Board One chair Catherine McVay Hughes, staff members, teachers, parents, and students to mark the opening of the recently-completed Peck Slip School P.S. 343 in Lower Manhattan.

“With more and more families deciding to raise their families in the Seaport and Financial District, this school is a much needed addition to Lower Manhattan’s educational landscape,” said **Council Member Margaret Chin**. “I want to thank the hardworking staff at the Dept. of Education and School Construction Authority for transforming an underused post office building into a colorful, airy, state-of-the-art learning facility that will serve generations of children for decades to come.”

“The first day of school is always a wonderful day for our city’s students and families – but especially so at the newly-completed Peck Slip School,” said **Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer**. “Adding new seats and new schools in Manhattan is always a challenge, so the addition of the Peck Slip School serving the growing number of families in the Seaport and Financial District is something to celebrate.”

"There's no better way to welcome in the new school year than with a new school in Lower Manhattan!" said **State Senator Daniel Squadron**. "We all know Lower Manhattan has a real school overcrowding crisis, and it's critical we continue to build on our recent new school successes to meet our growing capacity. I'm glad to have worked with my colleagues to make our new Peck Slip school a reality, and pass legislation to improve the way school projections are created."

“Opening Day is a special day at every school, but today was extra special for the students, teachers and families at P.S. 343, and for everyone who cares about the future: the future of our children and the future of Lower Manhattan,” said **CB1 chair Catherine McVay Hughes**. “Our new Peck Slip School is a milestone in our work to balance Lower Manhattan's dramatic growth with the infrastructure we need to raise and retain families, workplaces and open spaces for everyone's benefit.”

Located at One Peck Slip at Pearl Street, the school was formerly the site of the Peck Slip Post Office. Originally composed of two Kindergarten classes, the school had been housed in the Dept. of Education headquarters at the former Tweed Courthouse, and will eventually grow into a K-5 with over 700 students at its new home at Peck Slip.

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