

## **Fact Sheet: Proposed Phase-out and Replacement of General D. Chappie James Elementary School of Science (23K631)**

### **Overview**

In a concerted effort to ensure that all students have high-quality educational programs, the Department of Education (DOE) annually reviews the performance of all schools Citywide. Over the past several years, despite the best efforts of the community and the DOE to support General D. Chappie James Elementary School of Science (“Chappie Elementary”), the school has struggled to meet basic requirements for student success.

On October 14, 2011, District 23 Community Superintendent Ainslie Cumberbatch held a School Leadership Team and parent meeting at the school to discuss what is working at Chappie Elementary, what needs to be improved, and how the community can work together to serve students better.

Based on an extensive review of qualitative and quantitative data and community feedback, the DOE has determined that Chappie Elementary does not have the capacity to improve quickly and is proposing that the school be phased out.

**Proposing to phase out a school is the most difficult decision we make. We are proposing to phase out Chappie Elementary because it is the right action for current and future students in this community.** If the proposal to phase out Chappie Elementary is approved, the school would phase out gradually over the next several years. The school would close in June 2015 after its phase-out is complete. A new elementary school will be proposed to open in September 2012 in the building where Chappie Elementary is located.

We hope you share our view that we can—and must—do better for students. The DOE will continue to work closely with Chappie Elementary staff and families to ensure that all students receive the support they need to succeed.

### **Performance Summary**

<b>Proficiency: % of Students on Grade Level</b>		<b>Progress Report Grade</b>			<b>Quality Review Rating</b>
English	Math	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2010-2011
26%	35%	N/A	D	F	“Developing”

- The overwhelming majority of Chappie Elementary students remain below grade level in English and Math. Last year, only 26% of students were performing on grade level in English – putting the school in the bottom 7% of elementary schools Citywide in terms of English proficiency. Only 35% of students were performing on grade level in Math – putting the school in the bottom 8% of elementary schools Citywide in terms of Math proficiency.
- Chappie Elementary is not adequately helping students to make progress. Chappie Elementary is in the bottom 11% of elementary schools Citywide in terms of learning growth in English and the bottom 14% of elementary schools Citywide in terms of learning growth in Math. Learning growth measures annual student growth on State ELA and Math tests relative to similar students. If these conditions persist, Chappie Elementary students will fall farther behind their peers in other schools.
- The Progress Report measures the progress and performance of students in a school as well as the school environment, compared to other schools serving similar student populations. On the 2010-2011 Progress Report, Chappie Elementary earned an overall F grade, including an F grade for Student Progress and D grades for Student Performance and School Environment.
- The Quality Review uses a four-tiered rubric (well-developed, proficient, developing, and underdeveloped) to measure how well a school is organized to support student achievement. Chappie Elementary was rated “Developing” on its most recent Quality Review in 2010-2011, indicating deficiencies in the way that the school is organized to support student learning.

## Overview of Past Strategic Improvement Efforts at Chappie Elementary

Staff members have worked hard to improve General D. Chappie James Elementary School, but even with support the school has not produced adequate outcomes for students. To help the school's efforts to improve performance, the DOE offered numerous supports including:

### Leadership Support:

- Provided extensive leadership training and mentoring for the principal and assistant principals to help them set clear goals for the school while developing the school's Comprehensive Education Plan.
- Coached and trained leadership on implementing plans in support of Citywide instructional initiatives and teacher effectiveness.
- Provided extensive support in assisting leaders to create a professional development plan to support teachers in curriculum development, instruction, and strategies to support struggling students to raise teacher practice and improve student achievement.

### Instructional Support:

- Supported and trained teachers in creating curriculum maps, strategies aimed at addressing various students' entry points into content, and other instructional tools to raise teacher practice and improve student achievement.
- Facilitated training for teachers in assessment design and the creation of rigorous tasks and rubrics aligned to Citywide instructional initiatives.
- Provided professional development opportunities for teachers on literacy instruction and the development of best practices within the English Language Arts curriculum, including lesson models, questioning strategies, and lesson planning.
- Worked with teacher teams to deepen practice and share best practices on utilizing data and technology in order to raise student achievement.

### Operational Support:

- Advised school staff on budgeting, human resources, teacher recruitment, and building management.
- Supported school with the implementation of a library grant from Capital One Bank and with applications for other grant opportunities.

### Student Support:

- Trained the School Based Support Team in comprehensive guidance programs and evidence-based counseling strategies targeted at developing and improving the capacity for social and emotional supports at the school level.
- Provided support for developing online learning systems to support students in improving skills in mathematics.
- Assisted in developing strategies to reach out and support relationships with various community stakeholders and organizations, including Partners with Children, Long Island Lightening Basketball Program, and PENCIL.

## What would the proposal mean for current students?

If this proposal is approved, Chappie Elementary would be phased out gradually over the next several years and would no longer admit new pre-kindergarten or kindergarten students after the end of this school year.

Below are the enrollment plans for current Chappie Elementary students, if the school were to phase out.

- Current kindergarten and first-grade students would remain at Chappie Elementary until the end of the 2011-12 school year and would be assigned to the new elementary school that would open in September 2012 in the building where Chappie Elementary is located.
- Current second, third, and fourth-grade students would remain at Chappie Elementary until the end of the school year and then would continue on to the next grade level at Chappie Elementary in September 2012; these students would be able to remain at Chappie Elementary through graduation.
- Current fifth-grade students would have the opportunity to graduate from Chappie Elementary at the end of this school year and would participate in the Middle School Choice process. These students would enroll in sixth grade at a choice middle school or their zoned middle school.

Next school year, Chappie Elementary would serve students in grades three, four, and five. Then, during the following school year, Chappie Elementary would serve students in grades four and five. Finally, during the 2014-2015 school year, Chappie Elementary would only serve students in grade five. Chappie Elementary would close in June 2015 after its phase out is complete.

## Supporting Current Students

The DOE remains focused on helping Chappie Elementary students to succeed. If this proposal is approved, Chappie Elementary would be provided targeted, customized, and intensive supports aimed at the unique needs of the school and its students. This support would be in the areas of budget, staffing, programming, community engagement, guidance, and enrollment including, but not limited to:

- Helping the school provide students with options that support their advancement, and fully prepare students for their next transition point;
- Working with school staff to foster a positive culture; and
- Supporting school leadership in efficiently and strategically allocating resources to ensure a consistent and coherent school environment focused on student outcomes.

## Plans for New Schools for the Chappie Elementary Community

As we work together to create better options for Chappie Elementary, we will keep in mind what has worked at Chappie Elementary and do our best to incorporate those positive elements into plans for a replacement school. For example:

- We will work with the community to retain partnerships with community organizations that are offering valuable services to the school; and
- We will consider what elements of the school structure are working and do our best to include those features in a replacement school.

## Next Steps and What You Can Expect

In January, the DOE will invite the Chappie Elementary community to participate in a joint public hearing co-hosted by the DOE, the District 23 Community Education Council, and Chappie Elementary's School Leadership Team. As soon as the hearing has been scheduled, we will notify you of the date and also share with you the formal proposal to phase out Chappie Elementary. During the joint public hearing, community members, including parents and students, will be able to share their thoughts on the phase-out proposal.

The proposal to phase out Chappie Elementary will be voted on by the Panel for Educational Policy, which is composed of members appointed by Mayor Bloomberg and the five Borough Presidents, during a public meeting scheduled for **February 9, 2012**. During this meeting, the public will have another opportunity to comment on the proposal. If the PEP approves the proposal, Chappie Elementary would not accept new students next school year. If the proposal to open a new elementary school in the building where Chappie Elementary is located is approved, the new school would open in September 2012.

## Sharing Your Concerns and Questions

The DOE is seeking your feedback on the proposal. We will record your comments and include them in our Analysis of Public Comment, which is presented to the PEP prior to the vote on the proposal. Please submit your comments at:

Phone: 212-374-0208

Online: <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/brooklyn/proposal?id=75>