

## Fact Sheet: Proposed Phase-out and Replacement of Jane Addams High School for Academic Careers (08X650)

### 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 Jane Addams High School for Academic Careers (“Jane Addams”), the school has struggled to meet basic requirements for student success.

On November 7, 2011, Senior Supervising Superintendent Donald Conyers met with Jane Addams’ School Leadership Team and parents to discuss what is working at the school, what needs to be improved, and how the community can work together to better serve students.

Based on an extensive review of qualitative and quantitative data and community feedback, the DOE has determined that Jane Addams does not have the capacity to quickly improve 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 Jane Addams because it is the right action for current and future students in this community.** If the proposal to phase out Jane Addams 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 high school will be proposed to open in September 2012 in the building where Jane Addams 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 Jane Addams staff and families to ensure that all students receive the support they need to succeed in school.

### Performance Summary

Graduation Rate		Progress Report Grade			Quality Review Rating
2010-2011 (4 year rate)	2010-2011 (6 year rate)	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2010-11
45%	61%	C	C	F	Underdeveloped

- Graduation rates at Jane Addams have remained below 53% for the last four years. Last year, Jane Addams’ four-year graduation rate (including August graduates) was 45% in 2011—well below the Citywide average of 65.1% and in the bottom 4% of high schools Citywide for graduation rate. (Citywide average is based on the 2010 New York State reported graduation results for NYCDOE students.)
- If Regents diplomas alone counted toward graduation—as will be the case next school year—the four-year graduation rate at Jane Addams would drop to just 38%, putting Jane Addams High School for Academic Careers in the bottom 13% of high schools Citywide.
- First year credit accumulation is a key predictor of student success because students who fall behind early on in high school often have trouble getting back on track to graduate. In 2010-2011, only 57% of first-year students at Jane Addams earned at least 10 credits. This rate of credit accumulation puts Jane Addams in the bottom 6% of high schools Citywide. (The Progress Report defines students earning at least 10 credits as students who earn at least 6 of those 10 credits in 3 of the following 4 subject areas: Math, English, Science, and/or Social Studies.)
- 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. Jane Addams earned an overall F grade on its 2010-11 annual Progress Report, with F grades on Student Progress, Student Performance, and School Environment. This Progress Report score puts Jane Addams in the bottom 4% of high schools Citywide. Additionally, in 2010-2011 the school was designated by the State as Persistently Low Achieving.

- The school's attendance rate remains below most other high schools. The 2010-2011 attendance rate was 78% compared to the Citywide high school average of 86%, putting Jane Addams, in the bottom 9% of all high schools Citywide in terms of attendance.
- Safety issues have been a concern at the school. On the 2011 New York City School Survey, only two-thirds of student respondents reported feeling safe in the hallways, bathrooms, and locker rooms at Jane Addams. In addition, only 13% of teacher respondents agreed that discipline and order were maintained at Jane Addams.

## Overview of Past Strategic Improvement Efforts at Jane Addams High School for Academic Careers

Staff members have worked hard to improve Jane Addams High School for Academic Careers 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:

- Extensive leadership training and mentoring for the principal, assistant principals and department leaders to help them review school data and set clear goals for the school while developing the school's Comprehensive Education Plan and Language Allocation Plan.
- Coached and trained leadership on implementing plans in support of citywide instructional initiatives.
- Supported leadership and staff in deepening the instructional vision around lesson planning, grading policies, observation, and family engagement.
- Trained and supported leadership in systems and strategies for increasing graduation and monitoring credit accumulation.

### Instructional Support:

- Supported and trained teachers in instructional improvement strategies for addressing the various needs and learning styles of students with disabilities.
- Supported the School Improvement Team in facilitating training for teachers in assessment design, curriculum mapping, and student feedback as tools aimed at meeting necessary standards and expected student outcomes.
- Provided professional development opportunities for teachers on shared grading policies, differentiated instruction and questioning tactics aimed at increasing student interest and raising student performance.
- Offered training for staff on successful ways to improve student outcomes through data analysis and various tools to understand student progress.

### Operational Support:

- Advised school staff on budgeting, human resources, teacher recruitment and building management.
- Supported school staff on developing strategies and practices for improving student scheduling and creating programs for students that targets their needs.
- Provided extensive training on crisis management and strategies for creating a safe and positive learning environment.

### 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.
- Supported schools developing strategies to monitor and improve attendance.

## What would the proposal mean for current students?

If this proposal is approved, Jane Addams would gradually phase out over the next several years. Our top priority is ensuring that current Jane Addams students are supported through graduation. Below are enrollment plans for current Jane Addams students if the school were to be phased out.

- **Current, first-time ninth grade students** would have the option of completing high school at Jane Addams if they continue to earn credits on schedule. They may also apply to attend a different high school as a 10<sup>th</sup> grader in September 2012 by participating in the second round of the High School Admissions Process.
- **Current, repeating ninth grade students** would complete high school at Jane Addams as long as they earn credits on schedule. As the school becomes smaller, these students would receive more individualized attention to support them toward graduation and to help them prepare for post-secondary education and/or career plans. Students would also be encouraged to meet with their guidance counselor to review progress toward graduation.
- **Current 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who are on track to graduate** would complete high school at Jane Addams if they continue to earn credits on schedule. As the school becomes smaller, these students would receive more individualized attention to support them toward graduation and to help them prepare for post-secondary education and/or career plans. Students would also be encouraged to meet with their guidance counselor to review progress toward graduation.
- **Current 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who are not on track to graduate** should meet with their guidance counselors to review their progress toward graduation and to discuss their options. Students could complete high school at Jane Addams or consider applying to a transfer high school.

If the proposal to phase out Jane Addams is approved, the school would not admit new ninth grade students after the end of this school year. Jane Addams would continue to serve students currently enrolled in the school. The school would close in June 2015 after its phase-out is complete.

## Supporting Current Students

The DOE remains focused on helping Jane Addams students succeed. If this proposal is approved, Jane Addams 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 Jane Addams and the South Bronx Community

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

- We will work to provide new Career and Technical Education options for students in the South Bronx;
- We will work with the community to retain partnerships with community based 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 Jane Addams community to participate in a joint public hearing co-hosted by the DOE, the District 8 Community Education Council, and Jane Addams' 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 phase-out proposal. 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 Jane Addams 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, Jane Addams would not accept new students next school year. If the proposal to open a new high school in the building where Jane Addams 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: 212-374-5159

Online: <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/bronx/proposal?id=84>