



Notice
January 14, 2011

Cathleen P. Black
Chancellor

The Proposed Re-siting and Co-location of West Prep Academy with P.S. 145 The Bloomingdale School in Building M145

I. Description of the subject and purpose of the proposed item under consideration.

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to re-site West Prep Academy (03M421, “West Prep”), an existing District 3 middle school choice school that was opened in 2009-2010 in the M044 building at 100 West 77th Street, New York, NY 10024, to building M145, where it would co-locate with The Bloomingdale School (03M145, “P.S. 145”) an existing zoned elementary school located at 150 West 105th Street, New York, NY, 10025 in Community School District 3.

The growth of zoned elementary school demand in the area immediately surrounding the M044 building led to the opening of a new elementary school, P.S. 452 (03M452, “P.S. 452”), in the M044 building in 2010-2011. The M044 building does not have the capacity for P.S. 452 to grow to scale if West Prep remains in the building. When the DOE proposed opening P.S. 452, the proposal noted that West Prep would need to relocate for either the 2011-2012 or 2012-2013 school year. At scale, West Prep will enroll 250-300 students.

P.S. 145 is an existing zoned elementary school located in M145. It currently serves students in kindergarten through fifth grade, and also offers a pre-kindergarten program. M145 has been identified as an “underutilized building” because the building has available space to serve at least 300 more students than the actual student enrollment in the building during the 2009-2010 school year.

M145 has the capacity to serve 793 students in its current usage as an elementary school. In 2009-2010, the most recent year for which audited enrollment data is available – the building only served 473 students, yielding a utilization rate of just 60% of target capacity. Enrollment as of November 1, 2010 was 430 students in grades K-5 and 54 students in pre-kindergarten, for a total of 484 students, yielding a utilization rate of 61%.

P.S. 145 and West Prep are each participants in a federal magnet grant program that seeks voluntary desegregation of schools in District 3. Each school in the magnet grant has proposed to develop new curriculum around a specific theme, with all students in the school participating in the new curriculum. The themes proposed by P.S. 145 and West Prep are similar, and suggest the potential for collaboration between the schools. The theme for P.S. 145 is Technology and Multi-Media Communication and the theme for West Prep is Youth Voice through Youth Media. Through the strengthened curriculum and focused recruiting, each school is expected to reduce the concentration of specific ethnic groups in their schools by 2 percentage points per year.

II. Information regarding where the full text of the proposed item may be obtained.

The Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) can be found on the Department of Education’s Web site: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2010-2011/Mar12011Proposals>
A copy of the EIS is also available in the main offices of both West Prep Academy and P.S. 145.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D03Proposals@schools.nyc.gov or mailed to the address below.

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-3466.

IV. The name, office, address, email and telephone number of the city district representative, knowledgeable on the item under consideration, from whom information may be obtained concerning the item.

Name: Gentian Falstrom
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D03Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-3466

V. Date, time and place of joint public hearings for this proposal.

February 15, 2011
6:00 p.m.
West Prep Academy
100 West 77th Street
New York, NY 10024

February 17, 2011
6:00 p.m.
P.S. 145
150 West 105th Street
New York, NY, 10025

Questions about the proposal should be directed as indicated in section IV above.

Speaker sign-up will begin 30 minutes before the hearing and will close 15 minutes after the start.

VI. Date, time and place of the Panel for Educational Policy meeting at which the Panel will vote on the proposed item.

March 1, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
Brooklyn Technical High School
29 Fort Greene Place
Brooklyn, NY 11217