



Notice
January 14, 2011

Cathleen P. Black
Chancellor

The Proposed Co-Location of a New School, P.S. 521 (18K521), and a New Charter School, Explore Charter School (84KXYZ) with P.S. 114 Ryder Elementary (19K114) in Building K114

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

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to site a new zoned elementary school, P.S. 521 (18K521, “P.S. 521”), and a new charter elementary school, Explore Charter School (84KXYZ, “Explore”) at 1077 Remsen Avenue, Brooklyn, NY, 11236, in Community School District 18, in Building K114 (“K114”). If this proposal is approved, P.S. 521 and Explore would be co-located with an existing elementary school, P.S. 114 Ryder Elementary (18K114, “P.S. 114”). P.S. 114 is an existing zoned elementary school that currently serves Kindergarten through fifth grade, and offers 1 section of full day Pre-Kindergarten program. P.S. 521 would be a new DOE zoned elementary school that would serve Kindergarten through fifth grade when it achieves “full-scale.” Explore Charter School would be a new charter school that would serve Kindergarten through fifth grade when it achieves “full-scale” in the K114 building. A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums, and cafeterias.

In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) published on December 17, 2010, the DOE proposed to gradually phase out and eventually close P.S. 114 because of its poor performance and inability to turn around quickly to better support student needs. On January 12, 2011, the DOE posted a revised EIS that modified the phase-out enrollment plan for P.S. 114. If the revised proposal is approved, P.S. 114 would no longer admit Kindergarten students or serve grades one, two, or three and would also no longer offer a pre-kindergarten program after the conclusion of the 2010-2011 school year.

In 2011-2012, P.S. 521 would open in K114 as a new zoned elementary school that would serve the same zone as P.S. 114 and would complete its phase-in to serve Kindergarten through fifth grades in 2013-2014. Pending continued funding availability, P.S. 521 would offer a Pre-Kindergarten program beginning in 2011-2012. In 2011-2012, Explore would also open in K114 and would complete its phase-in to serve Kindergarten through fifth grades in 2013-2014. In addition, Explore is working with its authorizer State University of New York State (“SUNY”) to revise its charter license in order to further provide a priority preference for District 18 students who are currently residing in a zone where a school is phasing out or proposed to phase out. This year, P.S. 114 is the only school that is scheduled to phase out in the District and therefore if Explore’s proposal to revise its charter is accepted by SUNY, students zoned to P.S. 114 would receive priority preference in the 2011-2012 charter lottery application process. However, in the future all District 18 students who are residing in a zone where a school is phasing out or proposed to phase out may receive priority preference as well.

Current kindergarten, first-grade and second-grade students at P.S. 114 would be guaranteed a seat at the new zoned elementary school, P.S. 521, which would open in K114 in September of 2011. In addition, Explore, the new charter school, would admit incoming kindergarten, first-grade, second-grade and third-grade students through the charter lottery application process this spring.

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

The Educational Impact Statement can be found on the Department of Education's Web site: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2010-2011/Mar12011Proposals>

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main office of P.S. 114 Ryder Elementary School.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D18Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.
Oral comments can be left at 212-374-0208.

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: Benjamin Taylor
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers St
Email: D18Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-0208

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

February 16, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
P.S. 114 Ryder Elementary School,
1077 Remsen Avenue,
Brooklyn, NY, 11236

Questions about the proposal can 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. To request interpretation services in another language, please contact Mr. Taylor at the e-mail address or telephone number above.

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