

Fact Sheet: Proposed Phase-out and Replacement of P.S. 215 Lucretia Mott (27Q215)

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 P.S. 215 Lucretia Mott (“P.S. 215”), the school has struggled to meet basic requirements for student success.

On October 11, 2011 and October 12, 2011, District 27 Community Superintendent Michele Lloyd-Bey held meetings with the PTA and School Leadership Team at the school to discuss what is working at P.S. 215, 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 P.S. 215 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 P.S. 215 because it is the right action for current and future students in this community. If the proposal to phase out P.S. 215 Lucretia Mott is approved, the school would phase out gradually over the next several years. P.S. 215 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 P.S. 215 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 P.S. 215 staff and families to ensure that all students receive the support they need to succeed.

Performance Summary

Proficiency: % of Students on Grade Level		Progress Report Grade			Quality Review Rating
English	Math	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2010-2011
22%	34%	C	D	F	“Developing”

- The overwhelming majority of P.S. 215 students remain below grade level in English and Math. Last year, only 22% of students were performing on grade level in English – putting the school in the bottom 3% of elementary schools Citywide in terms of English proficiency. Only 34% of students were performing on grade level in Math – putting the school in the bottom 6% of elementary schools citywide in terms of Math proficiency.
- P.S. 215 is not adequately helping students to make progress. P.S. 215 is in the bottom 9% of elementary schools citywide in terms of learning growth in English and the bottom 19% 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, P.S. 215 students will fall further 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. P.S. 215 earned an overall F grade on its 2010-11 annual Progress Report, including an F grade for School 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. P.S. 215 was rated “Developing” on its most recent Quality Review 2010-2011, indicating deficiencies in the way that the school is organized to support student learning.

Overview of Past Strategic Improvement Efforts at P.S. 215

Staff members have worked hard to improve P.S. 215 Lucretia Mott, 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 and Language Allocation Plan.
- Coached and trained leadership on implementing plans in support of Citywide instructional initiatives and teacher effectiveness.
- Trained and supported leadership in data systems and supporting structures to promote and help leaders use data to support instructional practices.

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.
- Worked with teacher teams to deepen practice around instruction and support for students with disabilities and English Language Learners.
- Coached teachers on the implementation of a literacy program focused on accelerating reading comprehension, vocabulary, writing proficiency, and performance.

Operational Support:

- Advised school staff on budgeting, human resources, teacher recruitment, and building management.
- Trained school staff on the use of data systems and Special Education compliance.
- Supported school staff with applications to a variety of 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.

What would the proposal mean for current students?

If this proposal is approved, P.S. 215 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. However, most current students would stay at P.S. 215 as it phases out.

Below are the enrollment plans for current P.S. 215 Lucretia Mott students if the school were to phase out.

- Current kindergarten and first-grade students would remain at P.S. 215 until the end of this school year and then would be assigned to the new elementary school that would open next September in the building where the P.S. 215 is located.
- Current second, third, and fourth-grade students would remain at P.S. 215 until the end of the school year and then would continue on to the next grade level at P.S. 215 in September 2012; these students would be able to remain at P.S. 215 through graduation.
- Current fifth grade students would have the opportunity to graduate from P.S.215 Lucretia Mott at the end of this school year and would receive priority for a seat at their zoned middle school for sixth grade. These students may also apply to a non-zoned school through the school-based application processes and the Citywide Middle School Choice process.

Next school year, P.S. 215 would serve students in grades three, four and five. Then, during the following school year, P.S. 215 would serve students in grades four and five. Finally, during the 2014-2015 school year, P.S. 215 would only serve students in grade five. P.S. 215 would close in June 2015 after its phase-out is complete.

Supporting Current Students

The DOE remains focused on helping P.S. 215 students to succeed. If this proposal is approved, P.S. 215 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 P.S. 215 Community

As we work together to create better options for the P.S. 215 community, we will keep in mind what has worked at P.S. 215 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 P.S. 215 community to participate in a joint public hearing co-hosted by the DOE, the District 27 Community Education Council, and P.S. 215'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 P.S. 215 Lucretia Mott. 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 P.S. 215 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, P.S. 215 would not accept new students next school year. If the proposal to open a new elementary school in the building where P.S. 215 is located is approved, the new school would open in September.

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 comment at:

Phone: 212-374-7621

Online: <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/queens/proposal?id=76>