



Revised Notice  
May 23, 2011

Dennis M. Walcott  
Chancellor

**The Revised Proposed Co-location of a New School, P.S. 401 (23K401)  
and the Re-siting and Co-location of Leadership Preparatory  
Ocean Hill Charter School (84K775) with P.S. 332 (23K332) in  
Building K332**

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

On December 20, 2010, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) issued an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) describing a proposal to co-locate a new DOE zoned elementary school, P.S. 401 (23K401, “P.S. 401”) and to re-site and co-locate Leadership Preparatory Ocean Hill Charter School (84K775, “Ocean Hill”) in school building K332 (“K332”) located at 51 Christopher Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11212, in Community School District 23 (“District 23”). Ocean Hill, an existing charter school that is currently housed in school building K271 located at 1137 Herkimer Street, Brooklyn, NY 11233, in District 23, currently serves approximately 142 students in kindergarten through first grade. If this revised co-location proposal is approved, P.S. 401 and Ocean Hill would be co-located with P.S. 332 Charles H. Houston (23K332, “P.S. 332”), an existing K-8 school, and an Alternative Learning Center (K992, “ALC”) in building K332. A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces like libraries, auditoriums, gymnasiums, and cafeterias.

This proposal was amended on January 26, 2011 to correct typographical errors, adjust projected enrollment ranges, clarify footnotes related to building utilization rates and capacity, include additional information related to the DOE’s Citywide Instructional Footprint, include data related to the 2010-2011 unaudited register, and delete redundant language. The Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”) approved this proposal at its February 3, 2011, meeting.

**The DOE has now published a revised EIS and revised Building Utilization Plan (“BUP”). The revisions made to the EIS and BUP are described in Section II below.**

In a separate EIS also published on December 20, 2010, and amended on January 26, 2011, the DOE proposed to gradually phase out and eventually close P.S. 332 because of its low performance. That proposal was approved by the PEP at its February 3, 2011 meeting.

P.S. 332 is an existing zoned school that currently serves kindergarten through eighth grade and offers one full section of a full-day universal pre-kindergarten program. P.S. 332 currently enrolls approximately 392 students in kindergarten through first grade and offers one full section of pre-kindergarten for a total of 410 students. According to the proposal that has been approved by the PEP, P.S. 332 will no longer admit kindergarten students or offer first, second, or sixth grades after the conclusion of the 2010-2011 school year. It will also not offer a pre-kindergarten program after the conclusion of the 2010-2011 school year. The school would complete its phase-out in June 2014. Current kindergarten and first grade students at P.S. 332 would be served by the new elementary school, P.S. 401, for first and second grade. Current students in second, third, and fourth grades would continue to be served by P.S. 332 as they progress toward completion of elementary school. When these students reach fifth grade, they will participate in the District 23 Middle School Choice process consistent with current practice or plan to enroll in Mott Hall Bridges Middle School (23K671, “Mott Hall Bridges”), an existing middle school currently in the process of phasing in and located less than one mile from P.S. 332 in school building K671 located at 210 Chester Street, Brooklyn, NY 11212

in District 23. Fifth grade students enrolled in P.S. 332 are guaranteed a sixth grade seat at Mott Hall Bridges Middle School. Current students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades will continue to be served by P.S. 332 as they progress toward completion of middle school at P.S. 332. When these students reach eighth grade, these students would participate in the Citywide High School Admissions Process consistent with current practice.

P.S. 401 will open in K332 as a zoned elementary school in the 2011-2012 school year and will serve approximately 155-185 kindergarten through second grade students. In the 2014-2015 school year, when P.S. 401 completes its phase-in, it would serve approximately 290-350 students in kindergarten through fifth grade and would serve the same elementary zone area as P.S. 332. Pending continued funding availability, the new elementary school would also offer a pre-kindergarten program beginning in 2011-2012.

Ocean Hill was not intended to remain in its temporary location permanently because the current location does not have adequate space to allow for Ocean Hill to grow to scale. Ocean Hill is currently co-located in K271 with Mott Hall IV (23K522), Eagle Academy for Young Men II (23K644), and Ocean Hill Collegiate Charter School (84K777). Ocean Hill's re-siting to K332 would allow the other schools in K271 to grow to full scale and would allow for Ocean Hill to expand.

Beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, Ocean Hill's current kindergarten and first grades would be re-sited to K332 and Ocean Hill would expand to serve approximately 232 students in kindergarten through second grade. In 2017-2018, the final year of the phase-in, Ocean Hill would serve approximately 604 students in kindergarten through eighth grades.

In 2009-2010, K332 had a target capacity to serve 964 students, and the building served 479 students in grades K-8 and 20 students in pre-kindergarten, for a total of 499 students, yielding a target building utilization rate of 52%. In 2010-2011, the building only served 392 students in kindergarten through eighth grade, plus a pre-kindergarten section of 18 students, for a total of 410 students, yielding a target utilization rate of 43% of target capacity. By 2012-2013, the ALC at K332 will be re-sited to an alternate location within District 23 or where there is a district need for an additional ALC. In 2017-2018, once Ocean Hill and P.S. 401 have completed their respective phase-ins and P.S. 332 has completed its phase-out, there would be approximately 892-952 students served in K332 by Ocean Hill and P.S. 401 combined. The projected utilization rate for K332 at that point would be approximately 99% of target capacity.

P.S. 401 would replace the elementary seats – kindergarten through fifth grade – that would be lost due to P.S. 332's phase-out and eventual closure. The middle school seats – sixth through eighth grade – that would be lost due to P.S. 332's phase-out and closure would be absorbed by existing capacity at District 23 middle schools. Moreover, all students zoned to P.S. 332 would be guaranteed a middle school seat at Mott Hall Bridges, which is currently phasing in.

## **II. Identification of all revisions, including substantial revisions to the item.**

This revised EIS includes additional information related to the use of shared spaces and the proposed Shared Space Plan as described in the attached revised Building Utilization Plan ("BUP"). The BUP has been revised in the following manner:

- the room allocations for all school organizations have been adjusted in order to more accurately reflect the total full-size, half-size, and quarter-size rooms in the K332 building;
- the proposed shared space schedule has been adjusted; and
- the DOE has clarified the rationale for the amount of time that each co-located school is allocated in the shared spaces under this proposal.

## **III. Summary of all public comment received to date.**

The following comments and remarks were made at the joint public hearings on January 25, 2011 and January 31, 2011, regarding the co-location proposal:

1. Multiple commenters questioned why prospective leaders were introduced to the community and students were recruited for the new school if this proposal was not a done deal, and whether the new teachers would do a better job than the current teachers at P.S. 332.
2. A commenter expressed dismay that Mott Hall Bridges was one mile away from P.S. 332 and expressed dismay that it was too far away.
3. Multiple commenters discussed the inequities between charter schools and DOE district schools.
4. A commenter stated that charter schools get to choose their students instead of enrolling any students with disabilities or English Language Learner students, or students with behavior issues.
5. A commenter stated that charter schools get rid of their poor performing students and keep the funding anyway. Therefore, charter schools don't have the same type of commitment that public schools have.
6. Multiple commenters expressed support for the proposal based on positive experiences with Ocean Hill, saying that the school offers an excellent educational program that leads to significant growth among its students.
7. Multiple commenters expressed support for the proposal based on the fact that it will provide more high-quality seats in District 23.

The DOE received the following comments at the Joint Public Hearing which did not directly relate to the proposal.

8. One commenter advertised a rally on Saturday at 1368 Fulton street in front of Tweed courthouse.
9. Multiple commenters reminded the audience about the PEP meeting on February 3, and that there is a rally from 4:30-5:30pm.
10. The CEC representative commented that he believes it is a poor choice to close P.S. 332 because the current principal has not been given the opportunity to prove herself and her leadership to turn P.S. 332 around. He stated that the City was aware of the failure of P.S. 332 years ago and should have removed that principal, rather than making an unfair decision about the current principal. He encouraged parents to make a difference and to voice their opinion. He does not believe that shutting down a school is the right solution, and encouraged parents to send a message to the Chancellor that this is unacceptable. He encouraged parents to save the school because children's futures are at stake, to stop staying at home and watch television. Because these comments address the proposal to phase out P.S. 332 and not the proposal to re-site the charter school and a new DOE elementary school in the building, these comments will not be addressed in this analysis. However, for a lengthy discussion responding to the CEC's comments please refer to the analysis of public comments received on the proposal to phase out P.S. 332.
11. The SLT representative read from a resolution opposing the proposal to phase out P.S. 332. This resolution does not concern the proposal to site two schools in the building and will therefore not be discussed in this analysis. However, for a lengthy discussion in response to this resolution please refer to the analysis of public comments received on the proposal to phase out P.S. 332.

Comments were received through the DOE's dedicated written and oral comment mechanisms.

12. One commenter noted that changing the name of the school and keeping the same student population would not address the issues cited by the DOE.
13. One commenter inquired why schools in affluent areas are not subjected to charter schools and school closings.

14. One commenter supported the proposal to re-site and co-locate Leadership Prep Ocean Hill charter school.
15. One commenter stated that the DOE is replacing P.S. 332 with a charter school, and claimed that the charter schools are lower performing, and that a Leadership Prep school already exists in District 13 and serves a lower percentage of special education students and students who live in poverty, and that the Leadership Prep schools show declining enrollment.

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

The revised Educational Impact Statement and revised BUP can be found on the Department of Education's Web site:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2010-2011/June2011Proposals>

Copies of the revised EIS and revised BUP are also available in the main offices of P.S. 332 and Ocean Hill.

**III. Submission of public comment.**

Written comments can be sent to [D23Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D23Proposals@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: [D23Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D23Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)  
Phone: 212-374-0208

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

June 22, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.  
Leadership Prep Ocean Hill Charter School  
1137 Herkimer Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11233

June 8, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.  
P.S. 332 Charles H. Houston  
51 Christopher Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11212

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. Interpretation services will be provided in Spanish. To request additional interpretation services, 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.**

June 27, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.  
High School of Fashion Industries  
225 West 24th Street  
New York, NY 10011