



Amended Notice  
June 13, 2011

Dennis M. Walcott  
Chancellor

## **The Revised Proposed Co-Location of a New Public Charter School, Teaching Firms of America Charter School (84K406), with Existing School P.S. 308 Clara Cardwell (16K308) in Building K308**

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

On January 8, 2011, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) issued an Education Impact Statement (“EIS”) proposing to site Teaching Firms of America Charter School (84K406, “Teaching Firms”), a new public charter school that will serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade, in Building K308 (“K308”), located at 616 Quincy Street, Brooklyn, NY 11221, in Community School District 16. Teaching Firms will be co-located in K308 with an existing DOE school that serves kindergarten through eighth grade, P.S. 308 Clara Cardwell (16K308, “P.S. 308”). P.S. 308 also offers one section of full-day pre-kindergarten. 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.

The proposal to co-locate Teaching Firms with P.S. 308 in K308 was approved by the Panel for Education (“PEP”) on March 1, 2011.

On May 23, 2011, the DOE published a revised EIS, revised Building Utilization Plan (“BUP”), and revised notice. The revisions made to the EIS and BUP are described in Section II below.

**This amended notice is to advise you that the location where the Panel for Educational Policy meeting will be held and where the vote for this proposal will take place has changed as indicated in Section VIII below.**

Teaching Firms has been approved by its charter authorizer, the DOE, and the New York State Board of Regents, to open a new public charter school in Community School District 16 in Brooklyn. The DOE approved Teaching Firms’s proposal to open a new charter school that will serve students in kindergarten and first grade when it first opens in 2011-2012 and will subsequently add one grade per year until it serves up to 342 students in kindergarten through fifth grade at full scale. Teaching Firms will provide a preference to District 16 students in its charter school lottery application process.

In 2011-2012, the first year of the proposed co-location, Teaching Firms will enroll approximately 57 students in kindergarten and 57 students in first grade. In 2012-2013, Teaching Firms will expand to serve approximately 57 students in second grade, with a combined K-5 enrollment of 171. Teaching Firms will then add one grade of approximately 57 students each

year until 2015-2016, the final year of phase-in, when it will achieve “full scale” and serve approximately 342 students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

K308 has been identified as an under-utilized building, meaning it currently has at least 300 seats available. In 2009-2010, the building served 719 students in kindergarten through eighth grade and in one full-day pre-kindergarten section, yielding a target building utilization of 59%.

Although the building has the capacity to serve 1,213 students, in 2010-2011, K308 only served 633 students in kindergarten through eighth grade and 13 students in one full day pre-kindergarten section for a total of 646 students, which yields an estimated utilization rate of 53%. In 2015-16, when Teaching Firms completes its expansion and achieves full scale, K308 will serve approximately 880-925 students combined, which yields an estimated utilization rate of 76%.

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

This revised EIS clarifies the shared spaces in K308, adjusts the projected enrollment in 2011-2012 at P.S. 308 and Teaching Firms, adjusts the projected target building utilization for K308 in 2011-2012, and adds additional information in the EIS related to the baseline footprint.

The BUP for this proposal has also been revised in the following manner:

- the proposed shared space schedule has been adjusted;
- the correct website for the DOE’s Instructional Footnote has been included in the revised BUP;
- the capacity for the cafeteria has been adjusted to reflect the total capacity of the modified cafeteria;
- 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 hearing on February 8, 2011, regarding the co-location proposal:

1. The founder and Principal of Teaching Firms provided some background information on the school and expressed his support for the proposal. He also noted that Teaching Firms would be a great partner in the building and in the community.
2. New York City Council Member Albert Vann expressed his opposition for the proposal, but generally supported Teaching Firms. He noted that the community was passionately against this proposal, but he pointed out that each co-location proposal should each be judged on its own merit. He stated that he opposed the proposal to co-locate Teaching Firms in K308 because it would place increased demands on shared space in the building, such as the cafeteria, that may negatively affect P.S. 308 students’ experiences in the building. Specifically, Council Member Vann also commented that there was a lack of space in the building’s first floor to accommodate both P.S. 308’s and Teaching Firms’s early childhood classes. He also stated that the DOE’s engagement process moved too quickly.
3. A representative of the United Federation of Teachers (“UFT”) also expressed his opposition for this proposal. He stated that P.S. 308 is being set up to fail by the DOE in order to make room for Teaching Firms in the building. He also stated that the co-location would create unsafe conditions in the building, particularly on the first floor

where early childhood classes would be co-located.

4. Another representative from UFT expressed his opposition for this proposal and commented that according to a space analysis conducted by the UFT, there was not sufficient space in the building to co-locate Teaching Firms in the building. She also stated that the building does not currently have sufficient space to serve all students.
5. A CEC 16 representative stated that Teaching Firms should consider other buildings, including buildings owned by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development for a site to hold Teaching Firms. She also stated that the building's shared spaces do not have the capacity to serve P.S. 308 and Teaching Firms students collectively.
6. One commenter commented that P.S. 308 currently lacks the space to offer academic enrichment and extracurricular activities.
7. One commenter commented that this proposal could negatively impact P.S. 308's ability to offer other programs, such as academic intervention support services.
8. Several commenters commented that shared spaces like the cafeteria, the gym, the library, and the auditorium do not have the capacity to serve both P.S. 308 and Teaching Firms students. They also stated that one of the full size classrooms that is currently being utilized as a physical education space lacks proper ventilation.
9. Several commenters voiced opposition to all charter schools and claimed that this was a rushed process that did not adequately include community feedback.
10. Several commenters expressed opposition for this proposal and spoke of the positive experiences their children have had at P.S. 308.
11. Several commenters stated that there is not sufficient space in P.S.308's classrooms to serve students, which has led to overcrowding.

No comments were received through the DOE's dedicated written and oral comment mechanisms.

#### **IV. 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 office of P.S. 308.

#### **V. Submission of public comment.**

Written comments can be sent to [D16Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D16Proposals@schools.nyc.gov).

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-0208.

#### **VI. 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: [D16Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D16Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)  
Phone: 212-374-0208

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

June 14, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.  
P.S. 308 Clara Cardwell  
616 Quincy Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11221

Questions about the proposal can be directed as indicated in section VI above.

Speaker sign-up will begin 30 minutes before the hearing and will close 15 minutes after the start. To request interpretation services, please contact Mr. Taylor at the e-mail address or telephone number above.

**VIII. 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.  
Prospect Heights Campus  
883 Classon Ave  
Brooklyn, NY 11225