

Fact Sheet: Proposed Phase-out and Replacement of General D. Chappie James Middle School of Science (23K634)

Overview

We want every community to have high quality school options for families. Every fall, the Department of Education (DOE) reviews the performance of all schools Citywide. Over the past several years, despite the best efforts of the community and the DOE to support General D. Chappie James Middle School of Science (“Chappie James Middle School”) the school has struggled to meet basic requirements for student success.

On October 19, 2012, District 23 Community Superintendent Ainslie Cumberbatch held meetings at the school with the School Leadership Team, staff, and parents to discuss what is working at Chappie James Middle School, what needs to be improved, and how the community can work together to better serve students.

Based on an extensive review of qualitative and quantitative data and community feedback, the DOE has determined that Chappie James Middle School does not have the capacity to quickly improve and is proposing that the school be phased out. The DOE is also proposing that the school be replaced by a new school.

Proposing to phase out a school is the most difficult decision we make. We are proposing to phase out Chappie James Middle School because it is the right action for current and future students in this community. If the proposal to phase out Chappie James Middle School is approved, the school would phase out gradually over the next several years. The school would close in June 2015 after its phase-out is complete.

We hope you share our view that we can—and must—do better for students. The DOE will continue to work closely with Chappie James M.S 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			Most Recent Quality Review Rating
English	Mathematics	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2011-2012
16%	19%	D	D	D	“Developing”

- The overwhelming majority of Chappie James Middle School students remain below grade level in English Language Arts and Math. Only 16% of students were performing on grade level in English—putting the school in the bottom 11% of middle schools Citywide. Only 19% of students were performing on grade level in math—putting the school in the bottom 4% of middle schools Citywide.
- 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. Chappie James Middle School earned a D grade on its 2011-2012 annual Progress Report, including a D grade for Student Progress, a D grade for Student Performance and a C grade for School Environment. Chappie James M.S. has a history of low performance, including a D grade for the past three years: 2011-2012, 2010-2011, and 2009-2010.
- Chappie James Middle School was identified by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) as a Priority school, defined by NYSED as one of the bottom 5% of schools in the state.
- Chappie James Middle School was rated “Developing” on its most recent Quality Review in 2011-2012, indicating deficiencies in the way that the school is organized to support student learning.
- Safety issues have been a concern at the school. On the 2011-2012 New York City School Survey, only 44% of teachers believed that discipline and order were maintained at Chappie James Middle School.

Despite our best efforts, the school has struggled

We recognize that Chappie James Middle School staff members have worked hard to improve the school, but even with support the school has not produced adequate outcomes for students. To help the school's efforts to improve performance, the DOE has offered numerous supports to Chappie James Middle School including:

Leadership Support:

- Supporting school leadership in aligning curriculum to citywide instructional expectations to raise standards for teacher practice and student learning.
- Coaching the principal and assistant principals in the use of classroom observations and feedback to enhance teacher effectiveness.
- Assisting the principal and assistant principals in the development of instructional plans and goals for the school year, in support of the school's Comprehensive Education Plan.

Instructional Support:

- Providing coaching to school staff on the infusion of technology into literacy curriculum to enhance teacher practice and increase student engagement in learning.
- Working with teachers to support the development of rigorous math curriculum aligned to citywide instructional expectations.
- Facilitating professional development in the use of integrated-co-teaching models aimed at improving academic outcomes for students with disabilities.

Operational Support:

- Advising school staff on budgeting, human resources, staff recruitment and building management.
- Assisting the school in developing strategies to increase student attendance by facilitating the school's participation in a citywide chronic absenteeism initiative.

Student Support:

- Assisting the school in the development of a school safety plan and discipline code, and coaching school staff in best practices for reducing the number of safety incidents and suspensions.
- Supporting the school community in best practices for dealing with difficult behavior patterns and youth development issues such as gang violence, in order to foster awareness and improve the school's culture and learning environment.

What would the proposal mean for current students?

If this proposal is approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP), Chappie James Middle School would be phased out gradually over the next several years and would not admit new sixth-grade students after the end of this school year. All currently enrolled students would have the opportunity to continue their education at Chappie James Middle School and would be supported through graduation.

- **Current sixth- and seventh-grade students** will continue on to the next grade level at Chappie James Middle School in September 2013; these students can remain at Chappie James Middle School through their eighth-grade graduation.
- **Current sixth-grade students** who do not meet promotional standards will be served by the new middle school, located in the same building as Chappie James Middle School.
- **Current eighth-grade students** will have the opportunity to graduate at the end of this school year.
- If, in a future year, students attending Chappie James Middle School are held over in a grade that Chappie James Middle School will no longer serve, then they will be served in the new school.

Next school year, Chappie James Middle School would serve students in grades seven and eight. Then, during the following school year, it would only serve students in grade eight. The school would close in June 2015 after its phase-out is complete.

Supporting Current Students

The DOE remains focused on helping Chappie James Middle School students to succeed. If this proposal is approved, Chappie James Middle School 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 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.
- Supporting school leadership in efficiently and strategically allocating resources to ensure a consistent and coherent school environment focused on student outcomes

Plans for a New School for the Chappie James M.S Community

The DOE has proposed to open and co-locate a new district middle school in the same building as Chappie James Middle School. If that co-location proposal is approved, the new school will begin serving grade 6 in the 2013-2014 school year and add one more grade each year until it serves grades 6-8 in the 2015-2016 school year. In its first year, the school will give a priority to the same zone as Chappie James Middle School. On November 16, 2012, the District 23 Community Education Council voted to unzone middle schools in District 23 and adopt Middle School Choice district-wide. Thus, beginning in 2014-2015, there will be no zoned middle schools in the district.

More information about this replacement school will be available shortly. We will work with the community to retain partnerships with community-based organizations that are offering valuable services to the school community.

Next Steps and What You Can Expect

In the next two months, the DOE will invite the Chappie James Middle School community to participate in a joint public hearing co-hosted by the DOE with the District 23 Community Education Council Chappie James Middle School'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 Chappie James Middle School. During the joint public hearing, community members, including parents and students, will be able to share their thoughts on the phase-out proposal.

The proposals to phase out and replace Chappie James Middle School 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 **March 11, 2013**. During this meeting, the public will have another opportunity to comment on the proposals. If the PEP approves the proposals, Chappie James Middle School would not accept new students next school year.

Sharing Your Concerns and Questions

The DOE is seeking your feedback on the proposals. We will record your comments and include them in our Analysis of Public Comments, which is presented to the PEP prior to the vote on the proposals. Please submit your comments at:

Phone: 212-374-0208

Email: D23Proposals@schools.nyc.gov

Online: <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/brooklyn/feedback?id=369>