



**Notice**  
December 12, 2011

**Dennis M. Walcott**  
*Chancellor*

## **The Proposed Opening and Co-location of a New Middle School (17K722) with Existing School Middle School for the Arts (17K587) and Achievement First Charter Crown Heights (84K356) in Building K391 Beginning in 2012-2013**

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

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to open and co-locate a new middle school, I.S. 722 (17K722, “I.S. 722”), in Building K391 (“K391”) located at 790 East New York Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11203, in Community School District 17. I.S. 722 will serve students in sixth through eighth grade and will admit students through the District 17 Middle School Choice Process through a limited unscreened selection method,<sup>1</sup> with priority to students residing in the MS for the Arts residential zone. If this proposal is approved, I.S. 722 will begin enrolling sixth grade students in 2012-2013 and would add one grade per year until it is at full scale and serves students in sixth through eighth grade in 2014-2015.

If this proposal is approved, I.S. 722 will be co-located in the K391 building with the following schools: Middle School for the Arts (17K587, “MS for the Arts”), an existing middle school serving students in grades six through eight, and the kindergarten through eighth grade classes of Achievement First Crown Heights Charter School (84K356, “AF Crown Heights”), an existing charter school managed by the Achievement First Network (“AF”) charter management organization (“CMO”). AF Crown Heights is also currently phasing-in to serve grades nine through twelve in a separate private space. K391 also houses two community-based organizations (“CBOs”), CAMBA and Brooklyn Center. A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share large, common spaces like the auditoriums, gymnasiums and cafeterias.

In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”), published in December 2011, the DOE has proposed to gradually phase-out and eventually close MS for the Arts because of its low performance and inability to turn around quickly to better support student needs. If the phase-out proposal is approved, MS for the Arts would no longer admit sixth grade students after the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year. One grade would then be phased-out in each subsequent year. During the 2012-2013 school year, MS for the Arts would serve students in seventh and eighth grade and, in 2013-2014, it would serve students in eighth grade. MS for the Arts would close after June 2014.

According to the 2010-2011 Enrollment, Capacity, Utilization Report (“Blue Book”), in 2010-2011, K391 had a target capacity of 1,622 students, but the building served only 1,151 students,<sup>2</sup> yielding a

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<sup>1</sup> Limited unscreened programs give priority to students who demonstrate interest in the school by attending a school's Information Session or Open House events or visiting the school's exhibit at any one of the Middle School Fairs.

<sup>2</sup> 2010-2011 audited register.

building utilization rate of 71%.<sup>3</sup> In 2011-2012, the building serves only 1,028 students,<sup>4</sup> yielding a building utilization rate of 63%.<sup>5</sup>

In 2014-2015, once MS for the Arts has completed its phase-out and I.S. 722 is at full scale, it is projected that there will be approximately 969-1,180 students served in K391, thereby yielding a estimated building utilization rate of approximately 60-73%.

If this proposal is approved, I.S. 722 would replace the middle school seats that would be lost as a result of the phase-out and eventual closure of MS for the Arts and would provide a new educational option for families in District 17.

### *Background on the DOE's Decision-Making Process*

The DOE has provided more detail on the decision to phase-out and close MS for the Arts in a separate EIS, which can be found on the DOE's Website at:  
<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Feb2012Proposals>

The DOE strives to ensure that all students in New York City have access to a high quality school at every stage of their education. Continuing to allocate space and resources to schools that are unable to significantly improve student performance is neither efficient nor equitable. As detailed in the MS for the Arts phase-out and closure proposal, the DOE believes that only the most serious intervention—the gradual phase-out and eventual closure of MS for the Arts—will best serve students and the community. Phasing-out and closing MS for the Arts will allow for new school options to develop in K391 that are intended to provide better options for families.

In determining the most optimal way to distribute space to schools, the DOE is proposing to open I.S. 722 in K391 in order to create a new middle school option that is intended to better serve the families of District 17.

There are currently 15 choice district middle schools located in District 17, including Middle School for the Arts. Of those: two received an overall grade of A on the 2010-2011 Progress Report, six received a B, three received a C, two received a D, including MS for the Arts, and two, received an F.

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

The Educational Impact Statement EIS can be found on the Department of Education's Web site:  
<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Feb2012Proposals>

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<sup>3</sup> All references to building utilization rates in this document are based on target capacity data from the 2010-2011 Blue Book. Utilization rates referenced for the 2010-2011 school year only include the number of students estimated to be regularly attending the school, and do not include Long Term Absences ("LTAs"), students who have been absent continuously for 30 days or more as of October 31, 2010.

<sup>4</sup> 2011-2012 unaudited register as of October 31, 2011.

<sup>5</sup> The utilization rate reported here may differ from that published in the 2010-2011 Blue Book because the building enrollment figures referenced throughout this document and used in the calculation of utilization rates are based on the unaudited enrollment as of October 31, 2011. This methodology is consistent with the manner in which the DOE conducts planning and calculates space allocations and funding for all schools. In determining the space allocation for co-located schools, the Office of Space Planning will conduct a detailed site survey and space analysis of the building to assess the amount of space available in the building.

Copies of the EIS are also available in MS for the Arts' and AF Crown Heights' main office.

### **III. Submission of public comment.**

Written comments can be sent to [D17Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D17Proposals@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: Lily Haskins

Office: Division of Portfolio Planning

Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007

Email: [D17Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D17Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)

Phone: (212) 374-0208

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

January 12, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

MS for the Arts—Building K391

790 East New York Avenue

Brooklyn, NY 11203

Questions about the proposal should 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.

### **VI. Date, time and place of the Panel for Educational Policy meeting at which the Panel will vote on the proposed item.**

February 9, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Brooklyn Tech High School

29 Fort Greene Place

Brooklyn, NY 11217