



Notice
December 12, 2011

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Phase-out of P.S. 14 Cornelius Vanderbilt (31R014) 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 phase out and close P.S. 14 Cornelius Vanderbilt (31R014, “P.S. 14 ”), an existing elementary school located at 100 Tompkins Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10304, in Community School District 31, in building R014 (“R014”). P.S. 14 currently serves students in kindergarten through fifth grade and offers a pre-kindergarten program. The DOE is proposing to phase out and eventually close P.S. 14 based on its low performance and its inability to turn around quickly to better support student needs.

If this phase-out proposal is approved, P.S. 14 would no longer admit kindergarten students and would no longer offer grades one and two or its pre-kindergarten program after the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year. Beginning in the 2012-2013 school year, after P.S. 14’s kindergarten, first grade, and second grade are phased out, P.S. 14 would serve one less grade in each subsequent year until it completes its phase-out and closes in June 2015. Current students in grades two, three, and four would continue to be served by P.S. 14 and would be supported as they progress toward completion of elementary school at P.S. 14. Current students in fifth grade will be supported as they transition to middle school. Students in kindergarten through second grade would be served in a new zoned elementary school, 31R078, to be opened in building R014 and proposed in a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”). A pre-kindergarten program would also be offered by 31R078 in building R014 (pending continued availability of funding).

In a separate EIS posted on December 12, 2011 the DOE has proposed to “co-locate” a new zoned elementary school, 31R078, which would serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade when it reaches full scale in building R014 in 2015-2016. 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. If the proposal to co-locate 31R078 in R014 is approved, it would provide a new zoned elementary school for District 31 families and replace the seats lost by the proposed phase-out of P.S. 14. 31R078 would be co-located in R014 with P.S. 14 as it phases out. P.S. 14 is currently the only school located in R014.

Schools are identified for possible phase-out for the following three reasons: (1) they received poor grades on their annual Progress Report; (2) they received a poor rating on their annual Quality Review; or (3) they have been identified by the New York State Education Department (“SED”) as Persistently Low Achieving (“PLA”). Specifically, under the DOE’s accountability framework, all schools that receive a D or F, or a third consecutive grade of C or lower on their annual Progress Report and all schools that received a rating of Underdeveloped on their most recent Quality Review are evaluated for intensive support or intervention, including the

possibility of phase-out. Progress Reports are released by the DOE each fall and evaluate schools based on Student Progress, Student Performance, and School Environment, which includes attendance and survey feedback from parents, teachers, and sixth- to twelfth grade students, where applicable. During Quality Reviews, experienced educators visit a school over several days, observe classrooms and talk with students, staff and families. Schools are rated on a four-point scale, with “Underdeveloped” as the lowest possible rating and “Well Developed” as the highest.

A school’s Progress Report and its Quality Review may initially suggest a school should be considered for intervention, but no single criteria leads to a phase-out decision. To identify the appropriate action that will best serve the student community, the DOE reviews school data, consults with superintendents and other experienced educators who have worked closely with the school, and gathers community feedback.

P.S. 14 earned an overall D grade on its 2010-2011 Progress Report. On the 2009-2010 Progress Report, P.S. 14 earned a C grade, and on the 2008-2009 Progress Report it earned an A grade.

As a result, the DOE initiated a comprehensive review of P.S. 14 with the goal of determining what intensive supports and interventions would best benefit the P.S. 14 community.

After completing that review, the DOE believes that only the most serious intervention—the gradual phase-out and eventual closure of P.S. 14—will best serve the school’s students and community. Phasing out and closing P.S. 14 will allow for new school options to develop in the R014 building that are intended to provide better options for families.

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>.

Copies of the EIS are also available in P.S. 14’s main office.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D31Proposals@schools.nyc.gov

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-7621

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: Emily Ades
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D31Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-7621

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

January 25, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
P.S. 14
100 Tompkins Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10304

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 Technical High School
29 Fort Greene Place
Brooklyn, NY 11217