



Notice
December 12, 2011

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Phase-out of Knowledge and Power Preparatory Academy VII Middle School (13K596) 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 Knowledge and Power Preparatory Academy VII Middle School (13K596, “KAPPA VII”), an existing middle school located at 300 Willoughby Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11205, in Community School District 13, in Building K117 (“K117”), because of its low performance and its inability to turn around quickly to better support student needs.

KAPPA VII is currently “co-located” in building K117 with Brooklyn Community High School of Communication, Arts and Media (13K412, “BCAM”), an existing high school that admits ninth grade students through the High School Admissions Process, and Brooklyn High School for Leadership and Community Service (13K616, “Leadership and Community Service”) a transfer high school that admits students through a referral process described in further detail in section III.^{1,2} There is also a District 75 school (75K369, (“P369K@I117K”) that has an inclusion program in building K117, which serves sixth through eighth grade students with a range of disabilities who attend KAPPA VII’s general education classes and receive Special Education Teacher Support Services (“SETSS”).³ P369K@I117K also serves students in grades 6-12 who require a 12:1:1 educational setting.⁴

KAPPA VII currently serves students in sixth through eighth grades and admits students through the District Middle School Choice Process. If this phase-out proposal is approved, KAPPA VII 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. KAPPA VII will close after June

¹ 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.

² Transfer schools are small, academically rigorous high schools designed to reengage students who have dropped out or who have fallen behind and now have fewer credits than they should for their age (these students are called “over-age and under-credited”). These schools provide a personalized learning environment and connections to career and college opportunities. Students graduate with a high school diploma from their transfer high school.

³ 75K369 is located at 9 sites: P369K @ Coy L. Cox School located at 383 State Street, Brooklyn, NY 11217; P369K @ P056K located at 170 Gates Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11238; P369K @ P067K located at 51 St. Edwards Street Brooklyn, NY 11205; P369K @ I103 Satellite Three located at 170 Gates Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11238; P369K @ I117K located at 300 Willoughby Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11205; P369K@H605 Westinghouse HS located at 105 Tech Place, Brooklyn NY 11201; P369K@HB69-Adams St High School located at 283 Adams Street, 11201; P369K @ P261K located at 314 Pacific Street Brooklyn, NY 11201; and P369K @ P005K located at 820 Hancock Street, Brooklyn NY 11233. This proposal will only impact P369K @ I117K. All references to enrollment will refer to P369K @ I117K only.

⁴ 12:1:1 refers to the ratio of students to teachers and para-paraprofessionals.

2014. Current students will continue to be served and supported by KAPPA VII as they progress toward completion of middle school. Current eighth grade students will be supported through the Citywide High School Admissions Process (“High School Admissions Process”) as they select a high school.

In a separate EIS posted in December 2011, the DOE has also proposed to co-locate a new middle school, (13K395, “I.S. 395”), which would serve students in sixth through eighth grade when it reaches full scale in K117 in 2014-2015.⁵ This new middle school would admit sixth grade students through the District Middle School Choice Process with a limited unscreened selection method. If the proposal to phase out KAPPA VII and the proposal to open I.S. 395 are both approved, P369K@I117K’s inclusion program currently associated with KAPPA VII would continue to exist as KAPPA VII phases out and would be associated with the new middle school as it phases in, so that the inclusion program will continue to be provided in the K117 building. The 12:1:1 classes offered by P369K@I117K would also continue to be provided.

If the proposal to co-locate I.S. 395 in K117 is approved, it would provide a new middle school option for District 13 families and replace the seats lost by the proposed phase out of KAPPA VII. I.S. 395 would be co-located in K117 with KAPPA VII, BCAM, P369K@I117K, and Leadership and Community Service as KAPPA VII phases out and I.S. 395 phases in.

The DOE does not anticipate that this proposal will affect the admissions processes, academic programs, extracurricular activities, or partnerships currently offered at BCAM, Leadership and Community Service, and P369K@I117K. Students with disabilities and English Language Learners (“ELLs”) will receive all mandated services

Background on the DOE’s Decision-Making Process

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.⁶ 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 criterion leads to a phase-out decision.

KAPPA VII earned an overall F grade on its 2010-2011 Progress Report. On the 2009-2010 Progress Report, KAPPA VII earned a D grade, and on the 2008-2009 Progress Report, KAPPA VII earned a C grade.

⁵ <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Feb2012Proposals>

⁶ Elementary schools that have average math and English Language Arts (“ELA”) proficiency rates that are higher than the district average, which earned a Well Developed or Outstanding rating on the quality review, which received an A or B on the 2010-2011 Progress Report or which are receiving a Progress Report for the first time are not considered for phase-out.

As a result, the DOE initiated a comprehensive review of KAPPA VII with the goal of determining what intensive supports and interventions would best benefit the KAPPA VII community. During that review, the DOE looked at recent and historical performance, consulted with superintendents and other experienced educators who have worked closely with the school, and gathered community feedback.

After completing that review, the DOE believes that only the most serious intervention—the gradual phase-out and eventual closure of KAPPA VII—will best serve students and the community. Phasing out and closing KAPPA VII will allow for new school options to develop in the K117 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 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 KAPPA VII's main office.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D13Proposals@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: Jeanie Baik

Office: Division of Portfolio Planning

Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007

Email: D13Proposals@schools.nyc.gov

Phone: (212) 374-0208

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

January 24th, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

KAPPA VII - Building K117

300 Willoughby Avenue

Brooklyn NY 11205

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