



**Notice**  
December 19, 2011

**Dennis M. Walcott**  
*Chancellor*

**The Proposed Opening and Co-location of a New Middle School (11X556) with Existing Schools Aspire Preparatory Middle School (11X322), Bronx Green Middle School (11X326), and Pelham Academy of Academics and Community Engagement (11X468) in Building X135 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 zoned middle school, I.S. 556 (11X556, “I.S. 556”), in Building X135 (X135, “X135” or “Whalen Campus”) located at 2441 Wallace Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467, in Community School District 11 (“District 11”). I.S. 556 would be a new District 11 middle school that would serve sixth through eighth grades and would admit students through the District 11 Middle School Choice application process through a campus choice model (“campus choice”) described in more detail below. If this proposal is approved, in 2012-2013, I.S. 556 will begin enrolling 115-125 students in sixth grade; it will add one grade per year until it has reached full-scale and serves sixth through eighth grades in 2014-2015.

I.S. 556 would be co-located in the X135 building with the following schools: Aspire Preparatory Middle School (11X322, “Aspire”), Bronx Green Middle School (11X326, “Bronx Green”), and Pelham Academy of Academics and Community Engagement (11X468, “Pelham Academy”).

Aspire, Bronx Green, and Pelham Academy are existing zoned middle schools that currently serve sixth through eighth grades. The schools all admit students through the District 11 Middle School Choice process and offer priority to students residing in the Whalen Campus zone through campus choice, in which all students zoned to the Whalen campus have priority for a seat on the campus and rank each school in the order of preference. Students are then matched to one of the schools through a zoned campus choice matching process operated by the Office of Student Enrollment (“OSE”).

In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) also published on December 19, 2011 the DOE has proposed to gradually phase out and eventually close Aspire because of its low performance and inability to turn around quickly to better support student needs. If the phase-out proposal is approved, Aspire will 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 Aspire would serve students in seventh and eighth grades. In 2013-2014, Aspire would serve students in eighth grade only. Aspire would close in June 2014. This

proposal can be found at <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Feb2012Proposals>.

In 2010-2011, the Whalen Campus had a target capacity of 1,118 students, and the building enrolled a total of 1,136 students, yielding a target building utilization rate of 102%. In 2011-2012, the building served a total of 1,078 students, yielding a target utilization rate of 96%.

If this proposal and the proposal to phase out Aspire are approved, in 2014-2015, once Aspire has completed its phase-out and I.S. 556 has reached full scale, there will be approximately 955-1,045 students served in the building, which would yield a target building utilization rate of approximately 85%-93%. The DOE anticipates that I.S. 556 will replace the middle school seats that would be lost as a result of the phase-out and closure of Aspire and will provide a new educational option for families in District 11.

## **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 the main offices of Aspire Preparatory Middle School, Bronx Green Middle School, and Pelham Academy of Academic and Community Engagement.

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

Written comments can be sent to [D11Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D11Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-5159.

## **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: Stephanie Crane  
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning  
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007  
Email: [D11Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D11Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)  
Phone: 212-374-5159

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

January 23, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.  
Aspire Preparatory Middle School  
2441 Wallace Avenue.  
Bronx, NY 10467

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<sup>th</sup> 2012 at 6:00 p.m.  
Brooklyn Technical High School  
29 Fort Greene Place  
Brooklyn, NY 11217