



Notice
December 19, 2011

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Opening and Co-location of a New Middle School (23K423) with Existing School P.S. 298 Dr. Betty Shabazz in Building K298, 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 site a new middle school, 23K423 (“23K423”), at 85 Watkins Street, Brooklyn, NY 11212, in Community School District 23, in building K298 (“K298”). 23K423 would be a new District 23 middle school that would serve sixth through eighth grades and would admit students through the District 23 Middle School Choice application process with a limited unscreened selection method. If this proposal is approved, in 2012-2013, 23K423 will begin enrolling 85-95 students in sixth grade; it will add one grade per year until it is full scale and serves sixth through eighth grade in 2014-2015.

23K423 would be “co-located” in the K298 building with P.S. 298 Dr. Betty Shabazz (23K298, “P.S. 298”). 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.

In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) published on December 19 2011 the DOE has proposed to gradually truncate the middle school grades of P.S. 298 because of its low performance and inability to turn around quickly to better support student needs in the middle school grades. If the truncation proposal is approved, P.S. 298 will no longer admit sixth grade students after the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year. The DOE is proposing to open a new middle school to back-fill the space that would be vacated by the truncation of P.S. 298’s middle school grades. If the proposal to truncate P.S. 298 and the proposal to open 23K423 are approved, the middle school grades of P.S. 298 will be phased out as 23K423 phases in to building K298. During the 2012-2013 school year P.S. 298 will serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade, and seventh and eighth grade; 23K423 will serve sixth grade. In 2013-14, P.S. 298 will serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade, and eighth grade; 23K423 will serve students in sixth and seventh grade. In 2014-15, P.S. 298 will only serve kindergarten through fifth grade; 23K423 will be at full-scale and serve sixth through eighth grade. P.S. 298 currently serves 3 full-day sections of pre-kindergarten. Pending continued demand and funding availability, the DOE does not expect any impact on the existing pre-kindergarten programs served at P.S. 298.

In 2010-2011, K298 had a target capacity of 821 students, but the building enrolled a total of 572 students, yielding a building utilization rate of 70%. In 2011-2012, the building serves a total of

512 students, yielding a utilization rate of 62%.

In 2014-2015, once P.S. 298 has completed its truncation and 23K423 is at full-scale, there will be approximately 589-679 students served in the building, which would yield a target building utilization rate of approximately 72-83%.

If approved, 23K423 would replace the middle school seats that would be lost as a result of the truncation of P.S. 298 and would provide a new middle school option for families in District 23. This new middle school would admit sixth grade students through the District Middle School Choice Process with a limited unscreened selection method.

Background on the DOE's Decision-Making Process

The DOE has provided more detail on its decision to truncate P.S. 298 in the EIS that was posted in December 2011, 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 P.S. 298 truncation proposal, the DOE has concluded that truncating the middle school grades of P.S. 298 is appropriate due to the school's history of poor performance.

The DOE is proposing to open 23K423 in the K298 building in order to create a new middle school option that is intended to better serve the families of District 23. If the proposal to truncate the middle school grades of P.S. 298 is approved, the space made available by the truncation of P.S. 298 will be used to house 23K423. If the separate truncation proposal is not approved, the DOE will review the plan to site 23K423 in K298 and potentially revise the plan and issue a revised EIS.

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. 298 Dr. Betty Shabazz's main office.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D23Proposals@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: D23Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-0208

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

January 20, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
P.S. 298 Dr. Betty Shabazz
85 Watkins Street
Brooklyn, NY 11212

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