



Notice
December 19, 2011

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Truncation of Middle School Grades at Brooklyn Collegiate: A College Board School (23K493) 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 truncate the middle school grades of Brooklyn Collegiate: A College Board School (23K493, “Brooklyn Collegiate”), a secondary school in building K055 (“K055”), located at 2021 Bergen Street, Brooklyn NY 11233, in Community School District 23, because of the middle school grades’ low performance and inability to turn around quickly to better meet student needs. Brooklyn Collegiate currently serves students in sixth through twelfth grade and is a Brooklyn borough-wide choice school with a school-based application for entry into the middle school. Brooklyn Collegiate’s high school admits ninth grade students through the Citywide High School Admissions Process. If this truncation proposal is approved, Brooklyn Collegiate would no longer admit sixth grade students after the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year. The middle school grades will then be phased out in each subsequent year until Brooklyn Collegiate only serves ninth through twelfth grade in 2014-2015. Current middle school students at Brooklyn Collegiate will continue to be served and supported by Brooklyn Collegiate as they progress toward completion of middle school. Any middle school students remaining who have not met promotional requirements by the end of the 2013-2014 school year would be provided with an alternate placement in a District 23 middle school, or a middle school in the district where the student resides. Current eighth grade students will be supported through the Citywide High School Admissions Process as they select a high school, and may apply to remain at Brooklyn Collegiate for high school.

Brooklyn Collegiate is currently “co-located” in K055 with Achievement First Brownsville Charter School (84K626, “Achievement First Brownsville”), a charter school currently serving students in kindergarten through fourth grade and phasing in to serve students in kindergarten through eighth grade in K055. Achievement First Brownsville will reach full scale in K055 in 2015-2016, as planned when the school was sited in May 2008.

At this time, there are no plans to co-locate any other organizations in K055. The DOE will continue to assess seat capacity and the needs in District 23 and across the borough to determine the most optimal use of the space that will be vacated by the proposed truncation of Brooklyn Collegiate. Proposals for significant changes in building utilization will follow the process outlined in Chancellor’s Regulation A-190.

Background on the DOE's Decision-Making Process

Schools are identified for possible grade reconfiguration 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 or grade reconfiguration. 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 or truncation 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.

Brooklyn Collegiate’s middle school has experienced a steady decline in performance. It earned an overall F grade on its 2010-2011 Progress Report. On the 2009-2010 Progress Report, Brooklyn Collegiate’s middle school earned an overall D grade, and on the 2008-2009 Progress Report, it earned an overall B grade.

As a result, the DOE initiated a comprehensive review of Brooklyn Collegiate with the goal of determining what intensive supports and interventions would best benefit the Brooklyn Collegiate community. The comprehensive review has led the DOE to believe that the truncation and gradual phase-out of the middle school grades of Brooklyn Collegiate will allow Brooklyn Collegiate to focus on its high school grades and ensure that the school is better able to serve current and future students and the broader community.

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 Brooklyn Collegiate: A College Board School’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: Carrie Marlin
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 26, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
Brooklyn Collegiate: A College Board School
2021 Bergen Street
Brooklyn, NY 11233

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