



Notice
December 12, 2011

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Grade Truncation of Academy of Scholarship and Entrepreneurship (11X270) 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 Academy of Scholarship and Entrepreneurship (11X270, “ASE”), located in building X362 at 921 East 228th Street, Bronx, NY 10466, in Community School District 11 (“District 11”), because of the middle school grades’ low performance and inability to turn around quickly to better meet student needs. ASE currently serves students in sixth through twelfth grades and admits students through the District 11 Middle School Choice Process and Citywide High School Admissions Process (“High School Admissions Process”).

If this truncation proposal is approved, ASE will no longer admit sixth grade students after the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year. The middle school grades will then be eliminated, one by one, in each subsequent year until the middle school grades no longer serve any students. After June 2014, ASE will only be a high school, serving students in ninth through twelfth grades. Students currently enrolled in sixth through eighth grades at ASE will continue to be served and supported by ASE as they progress toward completion of middle school. Eighth grade students will be supported through the High School Admissions Process as they select a high school, one choice for which is to continue at ASE.

ASE secondary school is currently “co-located” in building X362, also known as the Bronxwood Campus, with the following schools: New World High School (11X513, “New World”), The Bronxwood Preparatory Academy (11X514, “Bronxwood Prep”), and a District 75 school (75X754, “P754X”).¹

The DOE does not plan to replace ASE’s middle school grades because there are enough existing middle school seats in District 11 to accommodate middle school students.

Background on the DOE’s Decision-Making Process

The DOE undertakes grade truncations for several reasons. In some cases, grade truncations are

¹ P754X serves students in a self-contained setting (12:1:1) at this site and serves students at two other sites: (1) Jeffrey Rapport Bronx Career Development, which is located at 470 Jackson Avenue, Bronx, NY 10455; and (2) X379, which is located at 778 Forest Avenue, Bronx, NY 10456.

initiated to create grade alignment across New York City schools. Schools may also be identified for truncation for performance reasons. A performance-related truncation is considered for the same three reasons that drive a “phase-out” decision: (1) the schools received poor grades on their annual Progress Report; (2) the schools received a poor rating on their annual Quality Review; or (3) the schools 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 on their annual Progress Report, as well as 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 truncation.² 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.³

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 full-school 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.

Both the middle and high school grades at ASE have experienced a steady decline in their Progress Report grades over the past three years. ASE middle school grades earned an overall D grade on the 2010-2011 Progress Report, a C grade on the 2009-2010 Progress Report, and an A grade on the 2008-2009 Progress Report.⁴ ASE’s high school grades experienced a similar decline in its historical Progress Report grades. ASE’s high school grades received a D on the 2010-2011 Progress Report, a C on the 2009-2010 Progress Report, and a B on the 2008-2009 Progress Report.

As a result, the DOE initiated a comprehensive review of ASE with the goal of determining what intensive supports and interventions would best benefit the ASE community. During that review, as is DOE practice, 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.

The comprehensive review has led the DOE to believe that the gradual truncation of the middle school grades of ASE will allow ASE to focus on its high school, which has also struggled.

² Elementary and middle schools that have average math and English Language Arts (“ELA”) proficiency rates that are higher than the district average, which earn a Well Developed or Outstanding rating on the quality review, which received an A or B on the 2010-2011 or which are receiving a Progress Report for the first time are not considered for phase-out.

³ <http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/7EEB3889-6DC1-4867-9EC6-D684ADC31DD8/0/201112QRRubricwheader.pdf>

⁴ 84% of elementary/middle schools Citywide received an A (97% received an A or B) on the 2008-2009 Progress Report. The school’s 2008-2009 Progress Report overall score was in the bottom 60% of middle schools Citywide.

However, based on its comprehensive review of the school, the DOE views this truncation as an intervention to help ASE improve its ability 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 the main offices of ASE, New World, Bronxwood Prep, and P754X.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D11Proposals@schools.nyc.gov

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

IV. The name, office, address, e-mail 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
Phone: 212-374-5159

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

January 19, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
Building X362, 921 East 228th Street
Bronx, NY 10466

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