



**Notice**  
December 22, 2011

**Dennis M. Walcott**  
*Chancellor*

## **The Proposed Phase-Out of Gateway School of Environmental Research and Technology (08X295) 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 Gateway School of Environmental Research and Technology (08X295, “Gateway”), an existing high school in building X450, the Adlai E. Stevenson Educational Campus (“X450” or “Stevenson Campus”), located at 1980 Lafayette Avenue, Bronx, NY 10473, within the geographical confines of Community School District 8 (“District 8”). It currently serves students in grades nine through twelve. The DOE is proposing to phase out Gateway based on its poor performance and the DOE’s assessment that the school lacks the capacity to turn around quickly to better support student needs. In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) also posted on December 22, 2011, the DOE is proposing to co-locate a new high school in building X450. That proposal can be found here: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Feb2012Proposals>.

If this proposal is approved, Gateway will no longer admit new ninth-grade students after the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year. The school will continue to phase out one grade level at a time, and current students will be supported as they progress towards graduation while remaining enrolled at Gateway. In cases where students do not complete graduation requirements by June 2015, the DOE will help students and families identify alternative programs or schools that meet students’ needs so that they may continue their education after Gateway completes phasing out.

Gateway is co-located with Bronx Guild (08X452), an existing high school serving students in grades nine through twelve; Millennium Art Academy (08X312, “Millennium”), an existing high school serving students in grades nine through twelve; Pablo Neruda Academy for Architecture and World Studies (08X305, “Pablo Neruda”), an existing high school serving students in grades nine through twelve; Bronx Community High School (08X377, “Bronx Community”), an existing transfer high school serving students in grades nine through twelve; Antonia Pantoja Preparatory Academy (08X376, “Antonia Pantoja”), an existing secondary school serving students in grades six through ten that is still phasing in; Bronx Bridges High School (08X432, “Bronx Bridges”), an existing high school serving students in grades nine and ten that is still phasing in; and the School for Community Research and Learning (08X540, “SCRL”), an existing high school currently in its second year of phasing out pursuant to a proposal previously approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”). In addition, X450 houses a pre-kindergarten program operated by P.S. 138 Samuel Randall (08X138, “P.S. 138”), and a Young

Adult Borough Center, Stevenson YABC (08X507, “YABC”). A community based organization (“CBO”), Good Shepherd Services (“Good Shepherd”), is also located in building X450, where it partners with a number of schools on the Stevenson Campus, as well as with the Stevenson YABC program.

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. Antonia Pantoja will serve students in grades six through twelve when it reaches full scale in the 2013-2014 school year. Bronx Bridges will also reach full scale in the 2013-2014 school year when it will serve students in grades nine through twelve. SCRL began phasing out in September 2011 and will no longer enroll students following the 2013-2014 school year.

There is also an Alternative Learning Center (08X996, “ALC”) located in the Transportable Classroom Units adjacent to the Stevenson Campus. The ALC does not use any of the space in building X450, nor does any school in X450 use space in the Temporary Classroom Units where the ALC is located. Thus, the ALC is not co-located with Gateway, would not be impacted by this proposal, and is not discussed further throughout this EIS.

Gateway, Bronx Guild, Millenium, Pablo Neruda, Antonia Pantoja, and Bronx Bridges admit students into ninth grade through the Citywide High School Admissions Process. Each of these schools admits students through a limited unscreened process except for Bronx Bridges, which is a screened school. Bronx Community is a transfer school. Transfer schools are small, academically rigorous high schools designed to re-engage over-age, under-credited students. Additional information about the High School.

If this proposal is approved, Gateway will begin phasing out one grade at a time, beginning in September 2012, and will complete its phase-out after the 2014-15 school year. In another EIS, the DOE is proposing to open a new high school, 08X561, in building X450 in September 2012. The proposal can be found at:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Feb2012Proposals>. If both proposals are approved, 08X561 will grow to full scale as Gateway phases out. The new school would open with ninth grade, adding one grade annually until it reaches full scale in the 2015-2016 school year, with a grade span of nine through twelve. If this proposal is approved, SCRL will continue to phase out as planned, while Antonia Pantoja and Bronx Bridges will continue to phase in as planned.

### *Background on the DOE 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 score on their most recent 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 grade of D, F, or a third consecutive C grade or lower on their annual Progress Report and all schools that receive a rating of Underdeveloped on the Quality Review are evaluated for intensive support or intervention, including the possibility of phase-out. Progress Reports are released by the DOE each fall, and evaluate schools on a scale of

A through F based on Student Progress, Student Performance, and School Environment. During Quality Reviews, experienced educators visit a school over several days, observing classrooms and talking with students, staff, and families. Schools are rated on the following four-point scale: “Underdeveloped” (the lowest possible rating), “Developing,” “Proficient,” and “Well Developed” (the highest possible rating).

In addition, all schools identified by the SED as PLA, regardless of the school’s Progress Report grade and Quality Review scores, are considered for more intensive support or intervention including the possibility of phase-out. In December 2010, SED identified 67 PLA schools across the State, including 43 in New York City. High schools are identified as PLA based on the school’s graduation rate and/or their state test performance.

Gateway received an overall D grade on its Progress Report in 2010-2011, with a C grade on the Student Performance sub-section, a D grade on the Student Progress sub-section, and an F grade on the School Environment sub-section.

As a result, the DOE initiated a comprehensive review of Gateway, with the goal of determining what intensive supports and interventions would best benefit its students and the Gateway community. During that review, the DOE looked at recent historical performance and demand data from the school, 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 Gateway—will address the school’s performance struggles and allow for new school options to develop in Building X450 that will better serve 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 Gateway Career and Technical Education High School’s main office.

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

Written comments can be sent to [08Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:08Proposals@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: Amanda Cahn  
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning  
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007  
Email: [D08Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D08Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)  
Phone: 212-374-5159

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

January 27, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Gateway School of Environmental Research and Technology

1980 Lafayette Avenue

Bronx, NY 10473

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