



**Notice**  
December 22, 2011

**Dennis M. Walcott**  
*Chancellor*

**The Proposed Opening and Co-location of a New Middle School (16KTBD) with Existing Schools Frederick Douglass Academy IV Secondary School (16K393) and P.S. 026 Jesse Owens (16K026) in Building K026 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 middle school, I.S. 681 (16K681”, “I.S. 681”), at 1010 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11221 in Community School District 16 in building K026 (“K026”). I.S. 681 would be a new choice middle school that would serve students in sixth through eighth grades and admit students through the Middle School Choice Process using a limited unscreened selection method. If this proposal is approved, in 2012-2013, I.S. 681 will begin enrolling 85-95 students in sixth grade; it would add one grade per year until it is full scale and serves sixth through eighth grades in 2014-2015.

I.S. 681 would be co-located in the K026 building with the following schools: Frederick Douglass Academy IV Secondary School (16K393, “Frederick Douglass Academy IV”) and P.S. 026 Jesse Owens (16K026, “P.S. 026”).

Frederick Douglass Academy IV is an existing choice secondary school that currently serves sixth through twelfth grades and admits students through the District 16 Middle School Choice process and through the High School Admissions process. P.S. 026 is an existing zoned elementary school serving students in grades kindergarten through five. P.S. 026 also offers a pre-kindergarten program.

In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) published on December 22, 2011 the DOE has proposed to gradually truncate the middle school grades of Frederick Douglass Academy IV because of its low performance and inability to turn around quickly to better support student needs. If the truncation proposal is approved, Frederick Douglass Academy IV will no longer admit sixth grade students after the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year. One middle school grade would then be truncated in each subsequent year. During the 2012-2013 school year, Frederick Douglass Academy IV will serve students in seventh through twelfth grade. In 2013-2014, Frederick Douglass Academy IV will serve students in eighth through twelfth grade. Frederick Douglass Academy IV will no longer serve middle school students after June 2014.

In 2010-2011, K026 had a target capacity of 1,189 students, but the building enrolled a total of 799 students, yielding a target building utilization rate of 67%. In the current 2011-2012 school year, the building serves a total of 752 students, yielding a target utilization rate of 63%.

In 2014-2015, once Frederick Douglass Academy IV has completed its truncation and I.S. 681 is at full-scale, there will be approximately 783-913 students served in the building, which would yield a target building utilization rate of approximately 66%-77%. The DOE anticipates that I.S. 681 would replace the

middle school seats that would be lost as a result of the truncation of Frederick Douglass Academy IV and would provide a new educational option for families in District 16. If the proposal to truncate Frederick Douglass Academy IV is not approved, the DOE would reevaluate space availability at the K026 building and issue a revised EIS regarding the opening of I.S. 681, if necessary.

### *Background on the DOE's Decision-Making Process*

The DOE has provided more detail on its decision to truncate Frederick Douglass Academy IV in the EIS that was posted on December 22, 2011, which can be found on the DOE's website at:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Feb2012Proposals.htm>

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 proposal to truncate Frederick Douglass Academy IV, the DOE has concluded that truncating the middle grades of Frederick Douglass Academy IV is appropriate due to the school's history of poor performance.

After considering the most optimal way to distribute space to schools, the DOE is proposing to open I.S. 681 in the K026 building in order to create a new middle school option that is intended to better serve the families of District 16. If the proposal to truncate the middle school grades of Frederick Douglass Academy IV is approved, the space made available by the truncation of Frederick Douglass Academy IV's middle school grades will be used to house I.S. 681.

## **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 Frederick Douglass Academy IV Secondary School's and P.S. 026 Jesse Owens's main office.

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

Written comments can be sent to [D16Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D16Proposals@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: Toby Shepherd  
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning  
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007  
Email: [D16Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D16Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)  
Phone: 212-374-0208

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

January 30, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.  
Frederick Douglass Academy IV Secondary School  
1010 Lafayette Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11221

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