



Revised Notice  
January 9, 2012

Dennis M. Walcott  
Chancellor

## **The Revised Proposed Phase-out of Knowledge and Power Preparatory Academy VII Middle School (13K596) Beginning in 2012-2013**

### **I. Description of the subject and purpose of the proposed item under consideration.**

On December 12, 2011 the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) published an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) that proposed to phase-out and close Knowledge and Power Preparatory Academy VII Middle School (13K596, “KAPPA VII”), an existing middle school located at 300 Willoughby Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11205, in Community School District 13, in Building K117 (“K117”), because of its low performance and its inability to turn around quickly to better support student needs. This revised EIS 1) corrects typographical errors, including the grade span served by the District 75 school and the percentage of Special Education and English Language Learner (“ELL”) students in the Middle School Choice table, which can be found in Section IIIA, 2) provides additional information regarding middle school seat capacity in District 13, 3) removes references to a separate proposal that the DOE has decided to withdraw from consideration by the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”), and 4) provides additional information regarding the impact this proposal will have on the students in the District 75 school.

KAPPA VII is currently “co-located” in building K117 with Brooklyn Community High School of Communication, Arts and Media (13K412, “BCAM”), an existing high school that admits ninth grade students through the High School Admissions Process, and Brooklyn High School for Leadership and Community Service (13K616, “Leadership and Community Service”) a transfer high school that admits students through a referral process described in further detail in section III. There is also a District 75 school (75K369, “P369K@I117K”) that has an inclusion program in building K117, which serves sixth through eighth grade students with a range of disabilities who attend KAPPA VII’s general education classes and receive Special Education Teacher Support Services (“SETSS”). P369K@I117K also serves students in grades six through eight who require a self-contained 12:1:1 educational setting.

KAPPA VII currently serves students in sixth through eighth grades and admits students through the District Middle School Choice Process. If this phase-out proposal is approved, KAPPA VII would no longer admit sixth grade students after the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year. One grade would then be phased out in each subsequent year. KAPPA VII would close after June 2014. Current students will continue to be served and supported by KAPPA VII as they progress toward completion of middle school. Current eighth grade students will be supported

through the Citywide High School Admissions Process (“High School Admissions Process”) as they select a high school.

In a separate EIS posted in December 2011, the DOE proposed to co-locate a new middle school, (13K395, “I.S. 395”), which would serve students in sixth through eighth grade when it reaches full scale in K117 in 2014-2015. After further consideration and a re-examination of the proposal to open and co-locate I.S. 395 in K117, the DOE has decided to withdraw the proposal from consideration by the PEP.

The DOE does not anticipate that this proposal will affect the admissions processes, academic programs, extracurricular activities, or partnerships currently offered at BCAM, Leadership and Community Service. Students with disabilities and ELL students will receive all mandated services

If this proposal is approved, P369K@I117 will not admit new students into the middle school inclusion program at KAPPA VII beginning in 2012-2013. The instructional needs of current P369K@I117K students will continue to be met. P369K@ I117K would phase out gradually along with KAPPA VII. Current students at P369K@I117K may also choose to attend other middle schools with inclusion programs.

There are no current plans to co-locate any additional organizations in K117 at this time. The DOE will continue to assess seat capacity and needs in District 13 and across the borough to determine the most optimal use of space that would be vacated by the proposed phase-out of KAPPA VII. Any proposed changes in building utilization will follow procedures outlined in Chancellor’s Regulation A-190.

### *Background on the DOE’s 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 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. 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 decision.

KAPPA VII earned an overall F grade on its 2010-2011 Progress Report. On the 2009-2010 Progress Report, KAPPA VII earned a D grade, and on the 2008-2009 Progress Report, KAPPA

VII earned a C grade.

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

After completing that review, the DOE believes that only the most serious intervention—the gradual phase-out and eventual closure of KAPPA VII—will best serve students and the community. Phasing out and closing KAPPA VII will allow for new school options to develop in the K117 building that are intended to provide better options for families.

## **II. Information regarding where the full text of the proposed item may be obtained.**

This Revised 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 Revised EIS are also available in KAPPA VII's main office.

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

Written comments can be sent to [D13Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D13Proposals@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: Lily Haskins  
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning  
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007  
Email: [D13Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D13Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)  
Phone: (212) 374-0208

## **V. Date, time and place of joint public hearings for the proposed phase-out of KAPPA VII.**

January 24, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.  
KAPPA VII  
300 Willoughby Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11205

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 Tech High School  
29 Fort Greene Place  
Brooklyn, NY 11217

As previously stated, the DOE has decided to withdraw the proposed opening and co-location of I.S. 395 in K117. This proposal will no longer be voted on by the PEP.