



**Department of  
Education**

*Carmen Fariña, Chancellor*

**Notice**

January 7, 2016

## **The Proposed Consolidation of Young Scholars' Academy for Discovery and Exploration (16K636) with Brighter Choice Community School (16K627) in Building K304 Beginning in the 2016-2017 School Year**

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

The New York City Department of Education ("DOE") is proposing to consolidate Young Scholars' Academy for Discovery and Exploration (16K636, "Young Scholars' Academy") with Brighter Choice Community School (16K627, "Brighter Choice") in the 2016-2017 school year. The DOE is proposing to consolidate Young Scholars' Academy and Brighter Choice because both schools have struggled with low enrollment, which creates budgetary and programmatic challenges, and because consolidation would support enrollment at the consolidated Brighter Choice. Both schools are existing district elementary schools currently serving students in kindergarten through fifth grades and offering full-day pre-kindergarten ("Pre-K") programs in building K304 ("K304"), located at 280 Hart Street, Brooklyn, NY 11206. Brighter Choice and Young Scholars' Academy are currently co-located in K304 with P.S. K140 (75K140, "P.S. K140"), one site of an existing multi-sited District 75 program, serving students in kindergarten through second grade. A "consolidation" means that two or more existing school organizations are combined into one school to operate and serve students more effectively. Proposals for consolidation seek to improve learning environments by combining the strengths and best practices of both schools and distributing resources to reinforce academic enrichment opportunities, interventions, and other supports. If this proposal is approved, Brighter Choice and Young Scholars' Academy will be combined such that students, staff, and resources of Young Scholars' Academy will become part of Brighter Choice and Young Scholars' Academy will no longer exist as a distinct school option as of the 2016-2017 school year.

Building K304 has the capacity to serve a total of 615 students. If this proposal is approved, in 2016-2017, Brighter Choice is expected to absorb the enrollment of Young Scholars' Academy and will serve a projected 339-399 students in kindergarten through fifth grade, and pre-kindergarten, and P.S. K140 will serve a projected 50-64 students. Together, the consolidated Brighter Choice and P.S. K140 will have a combined enrollment of 389-463 students, yielding a projected building utilization rate of 63%-75%. This proposal is not expected to significantly change the total building enrollment.

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

The EIS can be found on the DOE's Web site:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2015-2016/February242016SchoolProposals>.

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main office of Brighter Choice, Young Scholars' Academy, and P.S. K140.

**III. Submission of public comment.**

Members of the public who wish to provide comments are encouraged to attend the Joint Public Hearing for this proposal and share their feedback in person. Members of the public that do not provide comments at the hearing may also provide oral or written comments as described below. All comments must be submitted at least 24 hours in advance of the PEP meeting at which this proposal is subject to a vote in order to be mentioned in the Public Comment Analysis to be published and provided to the Panel the evening before the Panel votes.

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: Greg Whitten  
Office: Office of District Planning  
Address: 52 Chambers Street, Room 219, New York, NY 10007  
Email: [D16Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D16Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)  
Phone: 212-374-0208

**V. Date, time and place of the Joint Public Hearing for this proposal.**

February 11, 2016 at 6:00 PM  
Building K304  
280 Hart Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11206

**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 24, 2016 at 6:00 PM  
High School of Fashion Industries  
225 West 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10011