Department of Education
Carmen Fariña, Chancellor

Notice
January 8, 2016

The Proposed Closure of M.S. 596 Peace Academy (13K596) at the End of the 2015-2016 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 the closure of M.S. 596 Peace Academy (13K596, "Peace Academy"), an existing district middle school serving students in sixth through eighth grades in building K117 ("K117"), located at 300 Willoughby Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11205 in Community School District 13 ("District 13"). Peace Academy is currently co-located in K117 with Brooklyn Community High School of Communication, Arts and Media (13K412, "BCAM"), a high school serving students in ninth through twelfth grades; a transfer high school, Brooklyn High School for Leadership and Community Service (13K616, "LACS"); and P369K@I596K (75K369, "P369K@I596K"), one site of 75K369, an existing multi-sited District 75 program serving students in sixth through eighth grades.

The DOE is proposing to close Peace Academy based on its persistently low enrollment, low performance, and lack of demand by students and families. If this proposal is approved, Peace Academy will close at the end of the 2015-2016 school year and will no longer exist as a middle school option beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. DOE staff will work individually with current sixth- and seventh-grade students, as well as eighth-grade students who are not on track to graduate, to ensure that those students are offered seats in other district middle schools. Current eighth-grade students who are on track to graduate and meet promotional criteria will complete middle school at Peace Academy at the end of the 2015-2016 school year, and can apply to high school through the high school admissions process.

There is sufficient capacity in middle schools throughout District 13 to accommodate current Peace Academy students, as well as future students who might have attended Peace Academy if it remained open as a middle school option. If the proposed closure of Peace Academy is approved, all current sixth- and seventh-grade students and eighth-grade students who do not meet graduation requirements will receive individualized enrollment support from the superintendent's staff and Family Welcome Center counselors, focusing on each student's interests to find a seat that is aligned to his or her needs. All students will receive alternative options for enrollment in District 13 and their zoned middle school district (if different) before being discharged from Peace Academy. Please see Appendix A of this Educational Impact Statement ("EIS") for a list of schools serving middle school grades in District 13.

If this proposal is approved, Peace Academy will close at the end of the 2015-2016 school year and will no longer exist as a middle school option. As noted above, K117 is currently serving a total of 699 students and is therefore operating below the target capacity. If the closure of Peace

Academy is approved, building K117 is projected to serve 610-708 students in BCAM, LACS, and P369K@I596K, yielding a projected utilization rate of 58%-67%. K117 will then be considered "under-utilized" and will have excess space available. If this proposal is approved, the DOE may issue a separate proposal for the use of that space in the future.

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

The Educational Impact Statement ("EIS") and Building Utilization Plan ("BUP") can be found on the Department of Education's Web site:
http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2015-2016/February242016SchoolProposals

Copies of the EIS and BUP are also available in the main offices of Peace Academy, Brooklyn Community High School of Communication, Arts and Media, Brooklyn High School for Leadership and Community Service, and P.S. 369.

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 D14Proposals@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:	Jamie Dollinger
Office:	Division of Operations
Address:	52 Chambers Street RM 219, New York, NY 10038
Email:	D14Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone:	212-374-0208

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

February 9, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.
Building K117
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 24, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.
High School of Fashion Industries
225 West 24th Street
New York, NY 10011