



**Notice**  
January 8, 2016

**Department of  
Education**

*Carmen Fariña, Chancellor*

## **The Proposed Closure of The School for the Urban Environment (14K330) in Building K033 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 The School for the Urban Environment (14K330, “Urban Environment”), an existing district middle school serving students in sixth through eighth grades in building K033 (“K033”), located at 70 Tompkins Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11206 in Community School District 14 (“District 14”), at the end of the 2015-2016 school year. Urban Environment is currently co-located in K033 with Foundations Academy (14K322), a high school serving students in ninth through twelfth grades; Success Academy Charter School – Bed-Stuy 1 (84K367, “SA – Bed Stuy 1”), an elementary school serving students in kindergarten through fifth grade; and P368K@I033K (75K368, “P368K@I033K”), one site of an existing multi-sited District 75 program serving students in sixth through twelfth grades.

The DOE is proposing to close Urban Environment based on its persistently low enrollment, low performance, and lack of demand by students and families. If this proposal is approved, Urban Environment 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 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 Urban Environment 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 14 to accommodate current Urban Environment students, as well as future students who might have attended Urban Environment if it remained open as a middle school option. If the proposed closure of Urban Environment 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 14 and their district of residence (if different) before being discharged from the closing school. Please see Appendix A of this Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) for a list of schools serving middle school grades in District 14.

The DOE is concurrently proposing to close Foundations Academy in K033 at the end of the 2015-2016 school year. These proposals will be voted on separately by the Panel for Educational

Policy (“PEP”). The proposal to close Urban Environment is not contingent on the proposal to close Foundations Academy in K033.

If this proposal is approved, Urban Environment will close at end of the 2015-2016 school year and will no longer exist as a middle school option. As noted above, K033 is currently serving a total of 714 students and is therefore operating below the target capacity. If the closure of Urban Environment is approved, and the concurrent proposal to close Foundations Academy is not approved, building K033 is projected to serve 625-750 students in SA – Bed-Stuy 1, Foundations Academy and P368K@I033K, yielding a projected utilization rate of 62%-75%. If the concurrent proposal to close Foundations Academy is also approved by the PEP, K033 is projected to serve 570-655 students in SA – Bed-Stuy 1 and P368K@I033K, yielding a projected utilization rate of 57%-65%. K033 will then be considered “under-utilized” and will have significant excess space available. If these proposals are approved, the DOE anticipates issuing another proposal for the use of that space.

## **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 Foundations Academy, The School for the Urban Environment, Success Academy Bed Stuy, and P.S. 368.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:D14Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)  
Phone: 212-374-0208

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

February 9 at 6:00 p.m.  
Building K033  
70 Tompkins Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11206

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 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10011