



**Department of
Education**

Carmen Fariña, Chancellor

Notice
February 1, 2017

The Proposed Consolidation of the Young Scholars Academy of the Bronx (11X289) with the North Bronx School of Empowerment (11X287) in Building X113 Beginning in the 2017-2018 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 the Young Scholars Academy of the Bronx (11X289, “Young Scholars”) with the North Bronx School of Empowerment (11X287, “Empowerment”) beginning in the 2017-2018 school year. Young Scholars and Empowerment are existing middle schools that currently serve students in sixth through eighth grades in building X113 (“X113”), located at 3710 Barnes Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467 in Community School District (“District 11”). 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, Young Scholars and Empowerment will be combined such that students, staff, and resources of Young Scholars will become part of Empowerment, and Young Scholars will no longer exist as a distinct school option as of the 2017-2018 school year.

The DOE is proposing to consolidate Young Scholars and Empowerment to support enrollment at both schools and to promote an efficient use of resources. Empowerment has consistently struggled with low enrollment, which has created budgetary and programmatic challenges. From the 2011-2012 school year until the start of the 2016-2017 school year, Empowerment’s enrollment remained at or below 250 students, and in the current school year, Empowerment only serves 263 students. Young Scholars has similarly struggled with enrollment with overall enrollment declining by 9% since the 2011-2012 school year.

Young Scholars and Empowerment are co-located in X113 with Leaders of Tomorrow (11X370), an existing District 11 middle school that serves students in grades six through eight. If this proposal is approved, Leaders of Tomorrow will continue to serve students in grades six through eight in X113. X113 also houses the following community-based organizations (“CBOs”): Phipps Neighborhoods (“Phipps”), Astor Services for Children and Families (“Astor”), and Sports and Arts in Schools Foundation (“Sports and Arts”). If this proposal is approved, Phipps and Astor will continue to provide services and maintain space in X113.

As noted above, X113 has the target capacity to serve 1,591 students. X113 currently serves 975 students across Young Scholars, Empowerment, and Leaders of Tomorrow, yielding a building

utilization rate of 61%. If this proposal is approved, in the 2017-2018 school year, Empowerment will absorb the enrollment of Young Scholars and will serve a projected 570-600 students in sixth through eighth grades, and Leaders of Tomorrow will serve a projected 370-400 students in sixth through eighth grades. This will result in a total projected building enrollment of 940-1,000 students, yielding a projected building utilization rate of 59%-63%. Any future significant changes to school utilization in X113 would be proposed in a future EIS, if one is required pursuant to Chancellor's Regulation A-190, and be subject to separate approval by the PEP in accordance with Chancellor's Regulation A-190.

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 website at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2016-2017/March222017SchoolProposals>.

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main offices of Young Scholars, Empowerment, and Leaders of Tomorrow.

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 Panel for Educational Policy ("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 PEP the evening before the PEP votes.

Written comments can be sent to D11Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-5159.

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: Max Applebaum
Office: Office of District Planning
Address: 100 Gold Street, Suite 3200, New York, NY 10038
Email: D11Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-5159

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

March 8, 2017 at 6:00 PM at
Building X113
3710 Barnes Avenue
Bronx, NY 10467

Questions about the proposal should be directed as indicated in Section IV above.

Speaker sign-up will begin 30 minutes before the hearing, at 5:30 PM, and will close 15 minutes after the start of the hearing.

VI. Date, time and place of the PEP meeting at which the PEP will vote on the proposed item.

March 22, 2017 at 6:00 PM
High School of Fashion Industries
225 W 24th Street
Manhattan, NY 10011