



**Department of
Education**

Carmen Fariña, Chancellor

Notice
February 2, 2017

The Proposed Consolidation of Francis Perkins Academy (14K632) with Automotive High School (14K610) in Building K610 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 Francis Perkins Academy (14K632, “Francis Perkins”) with Automotive High School (14K610, “Automotive”), two existing district high schools both currently serving students in ninth through twelfth grades, beginning in the 2017-2018 school year. 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, Francis Perkins and Automotive will be combined such that students, staff, and resources of Francis Perkins will become part of Automotive, and Francis Perkins will no longer exist as a distinct school option as of the 2017-2018 school year. The DOE is proposing to consolidate Francis Perkins with Automotive because Francis Perkins has struggled with low enrollment, which creates budgetary and programmatic challenges, and because consolidation would support enrollment growth at the consolidated Automotive. Francis Perkins is considered under-enrolled as it has a current total enrollment of only 114 students in ninth through twelfth grade. Furthermore, enrollment has dropped roughly 33% between the 2011-2012 school year and the 2016-2017 school year.

Francis Perkins and Automotive are currently co-located in building K610 (“K610”), located at 50 Bedford Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11222 in Community School District 14 (“District 14”). A co-location means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces such as auditoriums, gymnasiums, and cafeterias. K610 also houses for the Automotive High School Young Adult Borough Center (“YABC”) and Counseling In Schools (“CIS”).

The New York State Education Department (“NYSED”) assigns an accountability status to each district school—Good Standing, Local Assistance Plan, Focus, or Priority. Francis Perkins is identified as a school in Good Standing, and Automotive is identified as a Focus school. If this proposal is approved, the NYSED will determine the accountability status of the newly consolidated school.

Automotive is currently one of a cohort of 86 schools designated by the DOE as Renewal Schools. Schools selected to be Renewal Schools were assigned the state accountability status of “Priority” or “Focus” by NYSED, demonstrated low academic achievement (in the 2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2014-2015 school years), and scored “Proficient” or below on their most recent Quality Review at the time of selection. Four schools, including Automotive, were selected to be Renewal Schools per the Chancellor’s discretion. As a Renewal School, Automotive is also a Community School. Community Schools are intended to be neighborhood hubs where students receive high-quality academic instruction, families can access social services, and communities congregate to share resources and address their common challenges. This proposal will not impact Automotive’s participation in the School Renewal Program or any tailored ancillary services, extended instruction time, or other additional resources that Automotive may receive as a result of the School Renewal Program and the school’s designation as a Community School.

Consolidation decisions are made on a case-by-case basis in partnership with the Superintendent and impacted school communities. They are intended to improve under-enrolled schools and address the budgetary, programmatic, and performance challenges that arise as a result of low enrollment. A consolidation may also be proposed to allow the DOE to leverage a particularly strong school leader. Since most funding in schools' budgets is allocated on a per-pupil basis based on Fair Student Funding ("FSF") per capita allocation levels, schools that struggle with low enrollment may also subsequently struggle with funding issues. For example, they may not be able to afford a full range of services or specialized instruction. Consolidations support healthy school enrollment so that schools have the budgets necessary to operate effectively. Other potential benefits of consolidations include increased access to resources and improvements in school performance.

The DOE is proposing to consolidate Francis Perkins with Automotive based primarily on the benefits students would derive from the combined resources made available by consolidating the two school organizations into one. The low and declining enrollment at Francis Perkins has made it challenging for that school to offer as broad a range of academic and extracurricular programs as is possible in larger schools. If this proposal is approved, students attending the consolidated Automotive will have access to a wider variety of academic and enrichment opportunities, interventions, and other supports that would not be financially feasible for either individual school to offer in the absence of a consolidation. In addition to increased resources, the consolidation will allow the schools to combine the strengths and best practices of each individual school into a single, larger organization.

According to the 2015-2016 Enrollment Capacity Utilization Report (the "Blue Book"), K610 has the target capacity to serve a total of 1,125 students. If this proposal is approved, Automotive will absorb the enrollment of Francis Perkins and will serve a projected 435-475 students in ninth through twelfth grades in the 2017-2018 school year. This will result in a total projected building enrollment of 435-475 students in K610 in 2017-2018, yielding a building utilization rate of 39%-42%.

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

The Educational Impact Statement ("EIS") describing the proposal can be found on the DOE'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 Automotive and Frances Perkins.

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 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: Max Familian
Office: Office of District Planning
Address: 100 Gold Street, Suite 3200, New York, NY 10038
Email: D14Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-0208

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

March 7, 2017 at 6:00 PM
Building K610
50 Bedford Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11222

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 West 24th Street
New York, NY 10011