



**Department of
Education**

Carmen Fariña, Chancellor

Notice
February 2, 2017

The Proposed Closure of J.H.S. 145 Arturo Toscanini (09X145) in Building X145 at the End of 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 the closure of J.H.S. 145 Arturo Toscanini (09X145, “J.H.S. 145”) at the end of the 2016-2017 school year. J.H.S. 145 is an existing district middle school that currently serves students in grades six through eight in building X145 (“X145”), located at 1000 Teller Avenue, Bronx, NY 10456 in Community School District 9 (“District 9”). J.H.S. 145 is currently co-located in X145 with Urban Science Academy (09X325, “Urban Science Academy”) and New Millennium Business Academy Middle School (09X328, “New Millennium Academy”), both existing middle schools serving students in grades six through eight, as well as Success Academy Charter School – Bronx 3 (84X380, “SA – Bronx 3”). SA – Bronx 3 is an existing charter school that is phasing in to serve students in grades three through five at X145. X145 also houses an Alternate Learning Center (88X985, “ALC - M.S. 145”), which provides an educational setting for students in grades six through eight who are on a Superintendent’s suspension for up to 90 days. In addition, X145 houses the following community-based organizations (“CBOs”): Astor Services for Children and Families, SAGA, Learning through an Expanded Arts Program (“LeAp”), Supportive Children’s Advocacy Network (“SCAN”), and Center for Supportive Schools.

The DOE is proposing to close J.H.S. 145 based on its low performance, declining enrollment, and low demand by students and families. If this proposal is approved, J.H.S. 145 will close at the end of the 2016-2017 school year and will no longer exist as a middle school option beginning in the 2017-2018 school year. DOE staff will work individually with current sixth- and seventh-grade students, as well as eighth-grade students who do not meet promotional criteria, to ensure those students are offered seats in other middle schools in District 9 or, if different, their district of residence. Current eighth-grade students who do meet promotional criteria will complete middle school at J.H.S. 145 at the end of the 2016-2017 school year, and can apply to high school through the high school admissions process.

There is sufficient capacity in middle schools throughout District 9 to accommodate current J.H.S. 145 students. If the proposed closure of J.H.S. 145 is approved, all current sixth- and seventh-grade students, and eighth-grade students who do not meet promotional criteria, will receive individualized enrollment support from the superintendent’s staff and Family Welcome Center (“FWC”) counselors, who will help students and families in thinking through the options presented in order to ensure that students choose the right school to continue their education for the 2017-2018 school year. This will involve an application process through which students will be offered options including higher-performing district middle schools. Eighth-grade students who do not meet promotional requirements will also receive individualized support and be offered a seat at a higher-performing school. All non-graduating students will receive alternative options for enrollment in District 9 and their district of residence (if different) before being discharged from the closing school.

J.H.S. 145 belongs to a cohort of 86 schools that have been designated by the DOE as Renewal Schools. Schools selected to be Renewal Schools were assigned the state accountability status of “Priority” or “Focus” by New York State Education Department (“SED”), demonstrated low academic achievement (for the three school years prior to selection), and scored “Proficient” or below on their most recent Quality Review. In four instances, which did not include J.H.S. 145, schools were selected to be Renewal Schools per the Chancellor’s discretion.

Renewal Schools have been transformed into Community Schools. Community Schools are intended to be neighborhood hubs where students receive high-quality academic instruction, families can access social services, and communities can congregate to share resources and address their common challenges. Urban Science Academy and New Millennium Academy are also Renewal Schools that have been transformed into Community Schools. If this proposal is approved, it is not expected to impact the designations of Urban Science Academy and New Millennium Academy as Community Schools, and J.H.S. 145 will remain a Community School for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year.

If this proposal is approved, J.H.S. 145 will close at end of the 2016-2017 school year and will no longer exist as a school option. As noted above, X145 is currently serving a total of 973 students and is therefore currently considered “under-utilized.” If the closure of J.H.S. 145 is approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”), in 2017-2018, building X145 is projected to serve 290-320 students at Urban Science Academy, 285-315 students at New Millennium Academy, 225-255 students at SA – Bronx 3, and 20-80 students at ALC – M.S. 145 for a total building enrollment of 820-970, yielding a projected utilization rate of 64%-76%. X145 may then be further underutilized, meaning it will have more capacity to accommodate additional students.

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

The Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) and the Building Utilization Plan (“BUP”) can be found on the DOE’s website at:

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

Copies of the EIS and BUP are also available in the main offices of J.H.S. 145, Urban Science Academy, New Millennium Academy, ALC M.S. 145, and SA – Bronx 3.

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 PEP the evening before the PEP votes.

Written comments can be sent to D09Proposals@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: Jyoti Folch

Office: Office of District Planning
Address: 100 Gold Street, Suite 3200, New York, NY 10038
Email: D09Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-5159

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

March 6, 2017 at 6:00 PM at
Building X145
1000 Teller Avenue
Bronx, NY 10456

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