



Notice
December 20, 2010

Joel I. Klein
Chancellor

The Proposed Phase-out of Jamaica High School (28Q470)

I. Description of the subject and purpose of the proposed item under consideration.

Jamaica High School (28Q470, “Jamaica High School”) is an existing high school located at 167-01 Gothic Drive, Jamaica, NY 11432, within the geographical confines of Community School District 28. It currently serves students in grades nine through twelve. The New York City Department of Education (DOE) is proposing to phase out Jamaica High School based on its poor performance and the DOE’s assessment that the school lacks the capacity to turn around quickly to better support student needs.

If this proposal is approved, Jamaica High School would no longer admit new ninth grade students after the conclusion of the 2010-2011 school year. Jamaica’s enrollment would decrease gradually over the next three years. The school would complete phasing out in June 2014. Current students would be supported as they progress towards graduation while remaining enrolled in Jamaica High School, except as noted below. In cases where students do not complete graduation requirements by June 2014, the DOE will help students and families identify alternative programs or schools that meet students’ needs so that they may continue their high school education after Jamaica High School completes phasing out. As described in more detail below, current students in the Jamaica High School Gateway program would have the option to receive an administrative transfer to a stand-alone Gateway school that the DOE is proposing to open in September 2011. The existing Gateway program at Jamaica High School would close effective September 2011.

Jamaica High School is located in building Q470 and is currently co-located with Queens Collegiate: A College Board School (28Q310, “Queens Collegiate”), Hillside Arts and Letters Academy, (28Q325, “Hillside Academy”), and High School for Community Leadership (28Q328, “Community Leadership”). All three schools are new and are in the process of growing to full scale as they each add a new grade of students annually. Currently, both Hillside Academy and Community Leadership each serve ninth grade and will expand to full scale, grades 9 -12 in the 2013-2014 school year. Queens Collegiate currently enrolls students in sixth grade, and grades 9-11; when the school completes its expansion in the 2012-2013 school year, the school will serve students in grades six through twelve.

In 2009-2010, Q470 had a target capacity of 2,116 students, and the building enrolled 1,574 students, with a utilization rate of 77% of target capacity. This current year, there are 1,586 students projected to be enrolled in the building, yielding an estimated utilization rate of 75% of target capacity. This means that the building is underutilized and has extra space to accommodate additional students. If this proposal is approved, the other schools located in Q470 would continue serving their current students and would add one grade per year as they continue expanding to full scale.

In a separate EIS posted on December 20, 2010, the DOE is also proposing that the current

Gateway program at Jamaica High School become a stand-alone high school (28Q350) and open in the Q470 building serving students in grades 9-12 grade during the 2011-2012 school year. If approved, that school would continue serving students in grades 9-12 as Jamaica High School phases out. This school will enroll new ninth grade students through the Educational Option Admissions method as part of the High School Admissions Process. Current students in the Jamaica Gateway program would have the option to transfer into the new school beginning in September 2011.

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

The Educational Impact Statement can be found on the Department of Education's Web site: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2010-2011/Feb32011Proposals>

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main offices of Jamaica High School, Queens Collegiate, Hillside Academy, and Community Leadership.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to HS.Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-7621.

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: Gentian Falstrom
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers St
Email: HS.Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-7621

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

January 20, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
Jamaica High School
167-01 Gothic Drive,
Jamaica, NY 11432

Questions about the proposal can 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. Interpretation services will be provided in Spanish. To request interpretation services in another language, please contact Ms. Falstrom at the e-mail address or telephone number above.

VI. Date, time and place of the Panel for Educational Policy meeting at which the Panel will vote on the proposed item.

February 3, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
Brooklyn Technical High School
29 Fort Greene Place
Brooklyn, NY 11217