



**Revised Notice**  
March 3, 2010

**Joel I. Klein**  
*Chancellor*

## **Revised Educational Impact Statement**

### **I. Description of the subject and purpose of the proposed item under consideration and identification of all substantial revisions to the item.**

Based on the feedback from the community and the demand for an automotive program to continue to exist in the Bronx, the DOE revised the original proposal to phase out and eventually close Alfred E. Smith Career and Technical Education High School (07X600, "Alfred E. Smith"). The educational impact statement for the original phase-out proposal was posted on the Department of Education's ("DOE") Web site on December 11, 2009 and a joint public hearing on the proposal was held on January 11, 2010.

Rather than phase-out the school completely, beginning in the 2010-2011 school year, Alfred E. Smith, an existing and existing Career and Technical Education ("CTE") high school, will be phased down so that only its automotive technology program remains. Alfred E. Smith is housed in school building X600 (hereinafter referred to as "X600"), located at 333 East 151 Street, Bronx in Community School District 7 ("District 7"). There are no other schools currently located in X600. The 2008-2009 target utilization rate of X600 was 75%, and its target capacity was 1,562.

In the 2010-2011 school year, Alfred E. Smith will begin phasing out the existing construction trade and architectural engineering programs. For the 2010-2011 school year and subsequent school years, students will only be accepted to the automotive technology program. All students currently enrolled in non-automotive CTE programs at Alfred E. Smith will have the opportunity to continue with their CTE pathway and graduate from the school; however, beginning in the 2010-2011 school year, no incoming students will enroll in these programs.

The proposal to phase down Alfred E. Smith to just its automotive technology program is based on the community's feedback and the DOE's determination that Alfred E. Smith students are best served by concentrating on the school's automotive technology program. Alfred E. Smith has received three consecutive Cs on the Progress Report. Under the DOE's accountability framework, schools that receive an overall grade of D or F on the Progress Report are subject to school improvement measures. If no significant progress is made over time, a leadership change (subject to contractual obligations), restructuring, or closure is possible. The same is true for schools receiving a C for three years in a row, like Alfred E. Smith, and for schools that the Chancellor has determined lack the necessary capacity to improve student performance. Decisions about the consequences a school will face are based on the school's Progress Report grades, Quality Review scores, and a variety of other factors. Additional factors contributing to

decisions regarding school restructuring, closure, or phase-out include the demand for the school's services, structural factors such as principal tenure and special population concentration, comparative quality of existing options, and potential replacement options.

The details of the revised proposal for Alfred E. Smith were originally set forth in a revised educational impact statement issued on January 27, 2010. The revised educational impact statement indicated that the space made available by the phase down of Alfred E. Smith would be used to house two schools, Bronx Haven High School (08X381, "Bronx Haven"), an existing transfer school serving students in grades 9-12, and The New York City Charter High School for Architecture, Engineering, and Construction Industries ("AECI"). The proposal to co-locate Bronx Haven and AECI with Alfred E. Smith in X600 was explained in a separate educational impact statement, also issued on January 27, 2010.

In response to public comment received since these proposals were announced, the DOE has decided not to site AECI in X600. The DOE is now proposing to site only Bronx Haven with Alfred E. Smith in X600 for the 2010-2011 school year. Accordingly, the DOE has issued this revised educational impact statement for the Alfred E. Smith proposal and revised the educational impact statement for the AECI/Bronx Haven co-location proposal. After joint public hearings are held on the revised proposals, both proposals will be presented to the Panel for Educational Policy at its March 23, 2010 meeting.

## **II. Summary of all public comments received following the initial public notice.**

Thirty-eight oral comments and 315 written comments regarding this proposal were received between December 3, 2009, and January 25, 2010. The comments came from current students at Alfred E. Smith, alumni from the school, teachers, community members, and companies that employ Alfred E. Smith alumni. All comments opposed the closure of Alfred E. Smith. At the January 11, 2010, joint public hearing on the original proposal, 100 members of the public noted their opposition. Comments made at the January 11, 2010, joint public hearing on the original proposal and the comments submitted to the designated phone number and e-mail address can be summarized as follows: (1) Alfred E. Smith is one of the only remaining CTE high school of its kind in the Bronx; (2) the trades taught at Alfred E. Smith have meant that many students have secured jobs in the automotive, plumbing, construction and carpentry industries; (3) New York City needs graduates from the trades; (4) the school is a vital part of the Bronx community and has helped kids stay off of the streets and learn useful skills; (5) the school is continually improving despite three Cs on its progress report; (6) it has dedicated teachers who care about students' well-being and help them to succeed; (7) the school gives its graduates alternatives to college and provides job opportunities; (8) graduates are sought after by employers throughout the region; (9) the school has a high number of minority students but these students have jobs after they graduate from high school; (10) not all students can afford college and Alfred E. Smith gives these students professional opportunities and well-paid jobs; (11) Alfred E. Smith should not be compared with other high school since its strengths are in CTE training which cannot be measured; (12) the building trades programs provide students with entry into union positions that would otherwise be closed to them; (13) access to adult education classes will be limited as a result of the proposal; and (14) there will be a significant fiscal impact on the DOE due to the loss of assigned personnel positions at Alfred E. Smith.

One oral comment and sixty-one written comments were received between January 26 and February 23; all of these comments also opposed the DOE's revised proposal. Comments made at the February 12, 2010, joint public hearing on the revised proposal and the comments submitted to the designated phone number and e-mail address reiterated concerns raised at the January 11, 2010, joint public hearing and in comments received between December 3, 2009, and January 25, 2010. In addition, commentators also noted that the charter school proposed to co-locate in X600 will not fill community needs.

**III. Information regarding where the full text of the revised item may be obtained.**

The Revised Educational Impact Statement can be found on the Department of Education's Web site:

[http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/Proposals\\_March\\_Vote](http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/Proposals_March_Vote)

Copies of the educational impact statement may also be obtained at Alfred E. Smith.

**IV. Submission of public comment.**

Written comments can be sent to [HS.Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:HS.Proposals@schools.nyc.gov).

Oral comments can be left at 718-935-4414.

**V. 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: Samuel Sloves

Office: Office of Portfolio Planning

Address: 52 Chambers St

Email: [Portfolio@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:Portfolio@schools.nyc.gov)

Phone: 212-374-6677

**VI. Date, time and place of joint public hearing for this proposal.**

March 19, 2010 at 6:00 pm  
333 East 151 Street, The Bronx

There will be no question and answer period. 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.

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

March 23, 2010

6:00pm

The Michael J. Petrides School  
715 Ocean Terrace, Staten Island