

Under-utilized Space Memorandum Addendum – January 3, 2013

As of November 20, 2012 the Department of Education (DOE) had determined that 362 schools buildings are “under-utilized” based upon the 2011-2012 Enrollment-Capacity-Utilization Report (“The Blue Book”).¹ This includes 169 schools buildings that are under-utilized by at least 300 seats and 193 school buildings that are under-utilized by at least 150 seats but no more than 299 seats.

This is an addendum to the Revised Under-utilized Space Memorandum published on November 20, 2012. The November Memorandum can be found here: http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/6D8EA76A-82FA-4740-9ED1-66BCABEE8BFB/134525/UnderutilizedSpaceMemorandum112012_vFINALforprint.pdf

The DOE has identified one additional building, M081, which is anticipated to be under-utilized in the 2013-2014 school year. At present, Building M081 currently houses an Adult Learning Center. The current Bluebook does not generate a precise number of excess seats available in the building, because Adult Learning Centers use space differently than K-12 schools. However, based on its review of the space and the Adult Learning Center’s space needs, the DOE believes that the building has excess space that could be converted into more than 300 seats of K-12 instructional space.

The new under-utilized space list for 2014-2015 will be published in the Fall of 2013.

Borough	District	Bldg ID	Name	Grade Level
M	2	M081	MID MAN ADULT LRNG CTR (81) M	HS

The list of schools identified as under-utilized is subject to change based on the DOE’s ongoing analysis of space in school buildings, and as the Panel for Education Policy approves proposals affecting space utilization.

As is the case for the buildings on the original list, the options for usage of excess space include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The addition of new educational programs (e.g. Pre-Kindergarten, Gifted & Talented, D75, D79, Special Education classes)
- Expansion of other existing schools/programs in the building
- Grade expansion of another existing school in the building
- Enrollment changes, including re-zoning neighboring schools to optimize the distribution of students
- Temporary or permanent co-location of one or more new schools

Final decisions about the use of excess space in a building will be based on a number of factors, including: feedback from community members, the amount of space available, local enrollment needs, the need for new school options, and available funding (where applicable). Alternatively, Portfolio may determine that no change is needed or possible for the upcoming school year. Pursuant to the Education Law, any proposed significant change in school utilization will be subject to public notice and public hearing requirements, and must be approved by the Panel for Educational Policy prior to implementation.

¹ Additionally, building M121 is projected to have 150-300 available seats beginning in the 2014-2015 school year after DREAM Charter School, which is currently located in the building, moves out at the conclusion of the 2013-2014 school year.