



**Department of
Education**

Carmen Fariña, Chancellor

Revised Notice
May 20, 2016

Revised Notice: The Proposed Opening and Temporary Co-Location of the Elementary School Grades of Uncommon Kings Collegiate Charter School (84K608) with Existing School I.S. 285 Meyer Levin (18K285) in Building K285 Beginning in the 2016-2017 School Year

I. Description of the subject, purpose, and substance of the revised proposal, including substantial revisions to the proposal.

On March 4, 2016, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) issued an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) and Building Utilization Plan (“BUP”) describing a proposal to open and co-locate the elementary school grades of Uncommon Kings Collegiate Charter School (84K608, “Uncommon Kings Collegiate”) in building K285 (“K285”) beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. K285, which is located at 5909 Beverley Road, Brooklyn, New York 11203, in Community School District 18 (“District 18”), currently houses I.S. 285 Meyer Levin (18K285, “I.S. 285”), an existing district middle school that serves students in sixth through eighth grades, as well as the community-based organization (“CBO”) Sports and Arts.

Based on public input from the impacted communities, the DOE is now issuing a revised EIS and BUP, amending the proposal to open and co-locate Uncommon Kings Collegiate in K285 with I.S. 285. In the EIS and BUP posted on March 4th (“March 4th proposal”), the DOE proposed that Uncommon Kings Collegiate open in K285 in the 2016-2017 school year, serving approximately 55-65 students in kindergarten and adding one grade level each year until it reached full scale in the 2020-2021 school year, at which time it would serve approximately 275-325 students in kindergarten through fourth grade. In response to community feedback, the DOE is revising the proposal to instead open and temporarily co-locate Uncommon Kings Collegiate’s kindergarten and first grade in K285 for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years while the DOE evaluates and identifies an alternate location for Uncommon Kings Collegiate’s elementary school grades. This revised EIS and attached revised BUP reflect the change from the opening and permanent co-location of kindergarten through fourth grade of Uncommon Kings Collegiate in K285 to the temporary siting of kindergarten and first grade of Uncommon Kings Collegiate in K285 for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years.

If this revised proposal is approved, Uncommon Kings Collegiate will open and serve approximately 55-65 kindergarten students in K285 in the 2016-2017 school year and will serve approximately 110-130 kindergarten and first grade students in K285 in the 2017-2018 school year. Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, kindergarten and first grade of Uncommon Kings Collegiate will no longer be co-located with I.S. 285 in K285. Rather, students attending

Uncommon Kings Collegiate for elementary school will continue to be served by Uncommon Kings Collegiate, albeit at an alternative location that is yet to be determined. Should an alternate location be identified earlier, the DOE will work to re-site Uncommon Kings Collegiate out of K285 before the conclusion of the 2017-2018 school year.

Uncommon Charter (“Uncommon”) is the charter management organization (“CMO”) for Uncommon Kings Collegiate. Uncommon Kings Collegiate has been authorized by The State University of New York Charter Schools Institute (“SUNY”) to serve students in kindergarten through twelfth grades. Uncommon Kings Collegiate currently serves students in fifth through eighth grades in building K252 (“K252”), located at 1084 Lenox Road, Brooklyn, NY 11212, also in District 18. If this revised proposal is approved, Uncommon Kings Collegiate’s kindergarten students will be served in K285 in the 2016-2017 school year and Uncommon Kings Collegiate’s kindergarten and first grade students will be served in K285 in the 2017-2018 school year.

K285 has the capacity to serve a total of 1,038 students. If this revised proposal for the opening and temporary co-location of Uncommon Kings Collegiate in K285 with I.S. 285 is approved, in the 2016-2017 school year, Uncommon Kings Collegiate will serve a projected 55-65 students in kindergarten and I.S. 285 will serve a projected 585-615 students in sixth through eighth grades in K285. K285 will have a total projected building enrollment of 640-680 students, yielding a projected building utilization rate of 62%-66%.

If this revised proposal is approved, in 2017-2018, the final year of Uncommon Kings Collegiate’s temporary co-location in K285, Uncommon Kings Collegiate will serve a projected 110-130 students in kindergarten and first grade and I.S. 285 will serve a projected 560-590 students in sixth through eighth grade, yielding approximately 670-720 total students served in the building. In the final year of this revised proposal, the projected building utilization rate will be 65%-69%, indicating that there is sufficient space for all current and proposed school organizations.

The revised BUP that accompanies this revised proposal also reflects that there is sufficient space in K285 to accommodate I.S. 285 and Uncommon Kings Collegiate. Thus, the DOE believes that K285 has sufficient space to serve all students that attend I.S. 285 and Uncommon Kings Collegiate for the proposed two-year temporary siting beginning in the 2016-2017 school year.

More details about space are available in Section III.B and Appendix A of this revised EIS as well as in the revised BUP that is attached to this revised proposal.

II. Information regarding where the full text of the revised EIS and revised BUP may be obtained.

The revised EIS and revised BUP can be found on the DOE’s Web site:
<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2015-2016/June222016PanelMeeting.htm>

Copies of the revised EIS and revised BUP are also available in the main office of I.S. 285.

III. A summary of all public comments received on the proposal following the initial public notice.

Following the initial public notice of the proposal, the DOE held a Joint Public Hearing at K285 on April 11, 2016, which was open to the public and at which attendees had the opportunity to provide comments on the proposal. Approximately 500 members of the public were in attendance at this hearing. The DOE received (98) comments during the hearing. The comments received at the Joint Public Hearing are as follows:

One commenter was opposed to siting Uncommon Kings Collegiate's elementary school grades in K285 and inquired about available space for the elementary school grades in K252, the building that currently houses Uncommon Kings Collegiate's middle school students.

Multiple commenters were opposed to this proposal due to the loss of space on the third floor of K285, which is currently being utilized by I.S. 285 for performing arts programming.

Multiple commenters disagreed with the DOE's assessment that K285 is underutilized and has space to accommodate additional students.

Multiple commenters expressed that while they believe the co-location of Uncommon Kings Collegiate with I.S. 285 can be successful due to other successful co-locations in the district, they do not want this proposal to jeopardize the future of I.S. 285.

Multiple commenters were opposed to this proposal because they feel it will destroy the historic performing arts program that I.S. 285 offers.

Multiple commenters asked the DOE to identify an alternative building for the siting of Uncommon Kings Collegiate.

Multiple commenters asked the DOE to identify private space for the siting of Uncommon Kings Collegiate.

Multiple commenters expressed concern that charter schools do not effectively serve the needs of students requiring special education services.

Multiple commenters expressed concern that Uncommon Kings Collegiate will serve students from outside District 18.

Multiple commenters urged the Panel for Educational Policy ("PEP") to vote against this proposal.

Multiple commenters expressed concern that this proposal would destroy programming that makes I.S. 285 unique within the district and borough.

Multiple commenters expressed that they attribute their academic success to I.S. 285, and this co-location would prevent a similar experience for future students.

Multiple commenters were opposed to this proposal because it would result in Uncommon Kings Collegiate taking over performing arts spaces that cannot be replicated in K285.

Multiple commenters were concerned that the siting of Uncommon Kings Collegiate in K285 would eventually result in a phase out of I.S. 285 because Uncommon Kings Collegiate would take all of the space in K285.

Multiple commenters were concerned that the EIS projected a decline in I.S. 285's enrollment over the next five years.

One commenter stated that although other co-locations across the city could be successful, the co-location of Uncommon Kings Collegiate and I.S. 285 in K285 would destroy I.S. 285.

Multiple commenters stated that under the direction of I.S. 285's new principal, I.S. 285's enrollment would increase, and the school would need all available space to serve its students.

Multiple commenters were opposed to the DOE's use of the Citywide Instructional Footprint as a measure for space available within a specific building or as a way to determine how much instructional space a specific school or program requires to operate.

One commenter stated that New York City School's Chancellor, Carmen Farina, is supportive of performing arts programming in schools, and this proposal would destroy an existing performing arts program.

Multiple commenters stated that every single room in K285 is being utilized.

Multiple commenters expressed concerns over the proposed shared space schedule.

Multiple commenters were opposed to I.S. 285 sharing common spaces such as the gym, auditorium and cafeteria with another school.

Multiple commenters stated that charter schools effectively serve the needs of students in the district.

Multiple commenters stated that Uncommon provides an excellent environment for students.

Multiple commenters supported the proposal because they would like to see another Uncommon elementary school option within the district.

Multiple commenters supported the proposal because of the excellent teachers at Uncommon Kings Collegiate's middle school.

Multiple commenters urged the PEP to approve this proposal.

Multiple commenters stated that Uncommon is a great partner to district schools, and Uncommon would like to work together with I.S. 285.

Multiple commenters were opposed to the proposal because they believe that the co-location of elementary school students with middle school students creates an unsafe environment for elementary school students.

Multiple commenters expressed that the safety of students in K285 would be jeopardized as a result of this co-location.

The DOE received two (2) comments via the dedicated phone line. They are as follows:

One commenter was in support of the proposal to open and co-locate Uncommon Kings Collegiate in K285 with I.S. 285. This commenter felt that Uncommon provides a high quality education to students, and the environment feels like a family.

One commenter was against this proposal because it will destroy the performing arts program at I.S. 285.

The DOE also received one (1) comment through the dedicated e-mail address. The comment received in the e-mail inbox is as follows:

One commenter felt that the Joint Public Hearing at K285 was biased. This commenter was disappointed that the I.S. 285 community took all of the first speaking slots and felt that the I.S. 285 community was hostile towards the Uncommon community.

IV. Submission of public comment.

Members of the public who wish to provide additional 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 D18Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-0208.

V. The name, office, address, e-mail address, and telephone number of the city district representative, knowledgeable on the item under consideration from whom information may be obtained concerning the revised proposal.

Name: Jamie Dollinger
Office: Office of District Planning
Address: 100 Gold Street, Suite 3200, New York, NY 10038
Email: D18Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-0208

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

June 13, 2016 at 6:00 PM
Building K285
5909 Beverly Road
Brooklyn, NY 11203

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.

VII. Date, time and place of the PEP meeting at which the PEP will vote on the revised proposal.

June 22, 2016 at 6:00 PM

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