

Public Comment Analysis

Date: May 21, 2013

Topic: The Proposed Co-Location of Grades Kindergarten through Four of KIPP S.T.A.R. College Preparatory Charter School (84M726) with KIPP Infinity Charter School (84M336) and New Design Middle School (05M514) in Building M195 Beginning in 2014-2015

Date of Panel Vote: May 22, 2013

Summary of Proposal

On April 3, 2013, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) issued a proposal to co-locate grades kindergarten through four of KIPP S.T.A.R. College Preparatory Charter School (84M726, “KIPP S.T.A.R.”) in building M195 (“M195”), located at 625 West 133rd Street, New York, NY 10027 in Community School District 5 (“District 5”), beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. KIPP S.T.A.R. currently serves students in kindergarten and first grades in building M115 (“M115”), located at 586 West 177th Street, New York, NY 10033 in Community School District 6 (“District 6”); students in grades five through eight in building M125 (“M125”), located at 433 West 123rd Street, New York, NY 10027 in District 5; and students in grades nine through twelve in building M195. A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums, libraries, and cafeterias.

If this proposal is approved, beginning in 2014-2015, KIPP S.T.A.R.’s kindergarten will be co-located with KIPP Infinity Charter School (84M336, “KIPP Infinity”), a public charter school currently serving students in grades kindergarten through two and five through twelve, and which will add grades three and four over the next two years, reaching full scale in the 2014-2015 school year; and New Design Middle School (05M514, “New Design”), an existing middle school currently serving students in grades six and seven, and which will reach full scale and serve students in sixth through eighth grades beginning in the 2013-2014 school year.

Currently, the M195 building also houses the eighth grade of I.S. 195 Roberto Clemente (05M195, “I.S. 195”) and grades nine through twelve of KIPP A.M.P. Charter School (84K357, “KIPP A.M.P.”), KIPP Infinity, KIPP Academy Charter School (84X704, “KIPP Academy”) and KIPP S.T.A.R., hereafter referred to collectively as “KIPP High School.” KIPP High School will be moving out of M195 to private space located at 201 East 144th Street, Bronx, New York 10451 in Community School District 7 (“District 7”), prior to the 2013-2014 school year.

The DOE proposed to open and co-locate New Design beginning in September 2011 pursuant to a proposal that was approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”) on June 27, 2011.

Separately, the DOE proposed to phase out and eventually close I.S. 195 due to its poor performance and inability to turn around quickly to better support students' needs. I.S. 195 began phasing out in September 2011 pursuant to a proposal that was approved by the PEP on February 1, 2011. I.S. 195 will close at the conclusion of the 2012-2013 school year. New Design and KIPP Infinity are currently phasing in; New Design will serve students in grades six through eight when it reaches full scale in the 2013-2014 school year and KIPP Infinity will serve students in grades kindergarten through eight in M195 when it reaches full scale in the 2014-2015 school year.

KIPP S.T.A.R. operates with the management support of KIPP NYC ("KIPP NYC"), a Charter Management Organization that currently manages five charter schools within New York City, including those currently co-located in M195. In October 2012, KIPP NYC submitted a charter revision to the New York State Education Department ("SED") that requested to merge KIPP S.T.A.R.'s charter with KIPP NYC Washington Heights Academy's charter. In March 2013, the SED approved the merger and named the consolidated charter KIPP NYC Public Charter Schools. KIPP NYC Public Charter Schools is authorized to operate two charter schools - KIPP NYC Washington Heights Academy (84M068, "KIPP NYC WHA") and KIPP S.T.A.R.

Under the approved merger, KIPP NYC WHA will serve students in grades kindergarten through three in building M115 and students in grades four through eight in building M090 ("M090"), located at 21 Jumel Place, New York, NY 10032, also in District 6. This means that the students currently served by KIPP S.T.A.R. in M115 will now be served by KIPP NYC WHA and will articulate to fourth grade in M090, within the same district. In addition, KIPP S.T.A.R. will serve students in grades kindergarten through four in building M195 (if this proposal is approved), and students in grades five through eight in building M125, both within District 5.

The merged charter, KIPP NYC Public Charter Schools, will enable KIPP S.T.A.R. in District 5 and KIPP NYC WHA in District 6, to create a unified kindergarten through eighth grade program to allow elementary students in District 5 and District 6, respectively, the opportunity to attend a single KIPP school from kindergarten through eighth grades. The eighth-grade students from KIPP NYC WHA and KIPP S.T.A.R. will articulate to KIPP High School, which will be located in private space in the Bronx.

Every charter school managed by KIPP NYC admits students through a charter lottery application process, and gives admission priority to students residing in the district in which the school is located. For schools whose elementary and/or middle school grades are located in a different district than their high school grades, preference is given to students residing in the district in which the elementary and/or middle school grades are located and who qualify for free or reduced-price meals. KIPP High School enrolls students who are articulating from the eighth grade at KIPP Infinity, KIPP Academy, KIPP A.M.P., KIPP S.T.A.R. and, eventually, KIPP NYC WHA, which will serve eighth-grade students beginning in the 2015-2016 school year.

If this proposal is approved, beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, KIPP S.T.A.R. will serve 83-106 students in kindergarten in the M195 building. In the 2015-2016 school year, KIPP S.T.A.R will serve approximately 166-212 students in kindergarten and first grades in M195. In the 2016-2017 school year, KIPP S.T.A.R. will serve approximately 249-318 students in grades kindergarten through two. In the 2017-2018 school year, KIPP S.T.A.R. will serve approximately 332-424 students in grades kindergarten through three in M195. In the 2018-2019 school year, the final year of expansion, KIPP S.T.A.R. will serve 415-530 students in grades kindergarten through four in M195. As mentioned above, I.S. 195 will close at the conclusion of the 2012-2013 school year and KIPP High School, currently comprised of the ninth through twelfth grades of KIPP A.M.P., KIPP Infinity, KIPP Academy and KIPP S.T.A.R., will move out of M195 to private space prior to the 2013-2014 school year.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing

A joint public hearing regarding this proposal was held at building M195 on May 8, 2013. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. Approximately 22 members of the public attended the hearing, and 3 people spoke. Present at the meeting were: Laurie Price from the DOE serving as facilitator; New Design Principal Dan Black; I.S. 195 Principal Rashaunda Shaw; KIPP School Leadership Team Representative (“SLT”) Carrie Mauer; Community Education Council 5 (“CEC 5”) Representative Ayishah Irvin; SED Representative Erin Shovlin; District 5 Family Advocate Denise Gordon; Meera Jain and Henry Bluestone Smith from the DOE.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearing

1. Ayishah Irvin, CEC 5 Secretary, supported the proposal and commented as follows:
 - a. I welcome any school into our community that wants to educate our children.
 - b. I look forward to working with the new school.
2. One commenter stated KIPP serves all children, regardless of race, gender, or educational needs.
3. One commenter stated that his son was chosen from the waitlist and he is grateful for the opportunity to enroll in KIPP.
4. Multiple commenters stated that their children's desire and motivation to learn and work hard has increased since enrolling in KIPP.
5. Multiple commenters stated that KIPP has a caring and warm atmosphere and teachers welcome their children with a hug and smile every day.
6. Multiple commenters asserted that they appreciate KIPP's focus on going to college.
7. One commenter stated that her daughter has moved up two reading levels because KIPP teachers pushed her.
8. One commenter stated that her daughter is happy and safe at KIPP after being bullied at her old school.
9. Multiple commenters expressed that they look forward to KIPP serving more students in Harlem.
10. Multiple commenters stated that KIPP helped their children maintain discipline and focus.

Summary of Issues Raised in Written and/or Oral Comments Submitted to the DOE

No written comments were received at the joint public hearing.

No oral comments were received via voicemail.

No written comments were received via email.

Analysis of Issues Raised Significant Alternatives Proposed and Changes Made to the Proposal

- Comments 1-10 are in support of the proposal and thus do not require a response.

Changes Made to the Proposal

- No changes have been made to this proposal in response to public feedback.