



Notice
October 2, 2015

The Proposed Grade Truncation of Knowledge and Power Preparatory Academy (09X215) from a 5-8 School to a 6-8 School Beginning in the 2016-2017 School Year

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

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to implement a grade truncation of Knowledge and Power Preparatory Academy (09X215, “KAPPA”) so that it will no longer serve fifth grade, beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. KAPPA is an existing district middle school that serves students in fifth through eighth grades in building X148 (“X148”), located at 3630 Third Avenue, Bronx, NY 10456 in Community School District 9 (“District 9”). Building X148 also houses I.S. 219 New Venture School (09X219, “I.S. 219”), which serves students in grades six through eight, and Frederick Douglass Academy III (09X517, “FDA III”), which serves students in grades nine through twelve. In addition, building X148 houses the Community-based Organization (“CBOs”) Children’s Aid Society and Directions for Our Youth.

This proposal was developed in collaboration with the Community Superintendent for District 9 and KAPPA leadership, who believe that the truncation of the fifth grade will benefit the KAPPA and District 9 communities. KAPPA is currently the only district middle school in the Bronx that serves students in grades five through eight. If the proposal is approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”), KAPPA will no longer offer fifth grade after the conclusion of the 2015-2016 school year and will then serve students in sixth through eighth grades. Though it performs well on state English Language Arts (“ELA”) and math assessments compared to schools across District 9 and the city, KAPPA’s enrollment has decreased by approximately 31% since the 2009-2010 school year, with the largest decline in the number of students choosing KAPPA for fifth-grade; this proposal is expected to help address declining enrollment.

This proposal is expected to help address declining enrollment, in part, because it will bring KAPPA into full alignment with the grade spans of other district middle schools across New York City, which typically serve students in grades six through eight. Although KAPPA has historically used a school-based admissions process, beginning with admission for the 2016-2017 school year, KAPPA will now be a part of the centralized middle school admissions process and will admit students from Districts 9 and 10 through a screened admissions method.¹ KAPPA’s grade span alignment and its participation in the centralized middle school admissions process will benefit families by making it easier for students to apply to KAPPA, which is a quality option for middle school in the community.

If this proposal is approved, KAPPA will no longer enroll fifth-grade students after the conclusion of the 2015-2016 school year. In 2016-2017 and beyond, KAPPA will continue serving students in sixth through eighth grades. Current students in grade five who are eligible for promotion will continue to be served at KAPPA as sixth-grade students in the 2016-2017 school year. There may be some current fifth-grade students who do not meet promotional requirements and must repeat the fifth grade, which will no

¹ KAPPA’s change from school-based admissions to the centralized middle school admissions process is not contingent on the approval of this proposal by the PEP.

longer be offered by KAPPA in the 2016-2017 school year. If a KAPPA student does not meet the promotional standards at the conclusion of the 2015-2016 school year and is required to repeat fifth grade in the 2016-2017 school year, the student will be served at his or her zoned elementary school or a choice option should the student choose to apply. The DOE believes there is a sufficient amount of fifth grade seats in District 9 to accommodate any KAPPA students who are required to repeat the fifth grade in the 2016-2017 school year, as well as all future fifth-grade students who would have been served at KAPPA.

Although this proposal will eliminate the fifth-grade at KAPPA in the 2016-2017 school year, the enrollment of KAPPA's incoming sixth grade is projected to increase. Therefore, overall enrollment at KAPPA is projected to increase despite the truncation. If this proposal is approved, the building utilization rate for X148, accounting for all three schools in the building, is projected to be 68%-75% in 2018-2019 when enrollment has stabilized following the KAPPA truncation.

I.S. 219 is one of a cohort of 94 schools that have been designated by the DOE as Renewal Schools. Schools selected to be Renewal Schools were identified as Priority or Focus schools by the State Department of Education ("SED"), demonstrated low academic achievement (in 2012, 2013, and 2014), and scored "Proficient" or below on their most recent quality review (at the time of selection); or in four instances were selected per the Chancellor's discretion. As a result of the School Renewal Program, I.S. 219 is being transformed into a Community School. Community Schools are intended to be neighborhood hubs where students receive high-quality academic instruction, families can access social services, and communities congregate to share resources and address their common challenges.

This proposal will not impact I.S. 219's participation in the School Renewal Program. As a part of the School Renewal Program, I.S. 219 adopted a Community School model beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, with deepened support from CBO partnership, expanded learning time, mental health services, more robust family engagement, additional resources for school leadership and instruction, and increased accountability for improvement. The DOE does not expect this proposal to impact any tailored ancillary services, extended instruction time, or other additional resources that I.S. 219 may receive as a result of the School Renewal Program and the school's designation as a Community School. If this proposal is approved by the PEP, the DOE will continue to work closely with the school community to ensure all students receive the individualized support they need.

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

The Educational Impact Statement ("EIS") can be found on the DOE's website:
<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2015-2016/November2015SchoolProposals>.

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main offices of KAPPA, I.S. 219, and FDA III.

III. Submission of public comment.

Members of the public who wish to provide 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 Panel the evening before the Panel votes.

Written comments can be submitted via email to: D09Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

Oral comments can be left by phone at 212-374-5159.

IV. 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 item.

Name: Bridget Mercier
Office: Division of Operations
Address: 52 Chambers Street, Room 219, New York, NY 10007
Email: D09Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-5159

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

November 9, 2015
Building X148
3630 Third Avenue
Bronx, NY 10456

Questions about the proposal should 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.

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

November 19, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.
M.S. 131
100 Hester Street
New York, NY 10002