



Notice
March 5, 2012

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Grade Expansion of Harlem Success Academy Charter School 5 (84M482) in Building M123 and the Permanent Co-location of its Kindergarten through Third Grades with P.S. 123 Mahalia Jackson (05M123) in the Building M123 beginning in 2012-2013

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

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to (1) expand the grades served by Harlem Success Academy Charter School 5 (84M482, “HSA 5”) in M123 from kindergarten through second grades to kindergarten through third grades and (2) indefinitely extend the co-location of those grades of HSA 5 in the M123 building. HSA 5 is an existing charter elementary school serving kindergarten through second grades in the M123 building, located at 301 West 140th Street, New York, NY 10030, in Community School District 5. HSA 5 is co-located with P.S. 123 Mahalia Jackson (05M123, “P.S. 123”), a zoned school serving students in kindergarten through eighth grades and offers a pre-kindergarten program. A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums, and cafeterias.

HSA 5 currently admits students through a charter lottery application. P.S. 123’s elementary grades are zoned, and its middle grades admit sixth graders through the District 5 Middle School Choice Process using a limited unscreened process. (Admissions procedures are discussed in more detail in Section III of the Educational Impact Statement.)

The kindergarten and first grades of HSA 5 have been co-located with P.S. 123 since September 2010. On April 28, 2011, the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”) approved an amended proposal to extend the co-location of HSA 5 in M123 for the 2011-2012 school year, and expand HSA 5 to serve kindergarten through second grades, as well as a self-contained special education class.

If this proposal is approved, HSA 5 would begin serving third grade in M123 in 2012-2013, and would continue serving kindergarten through third grades, including one self-contained special education class, in the M123 building indefinitely.

According to the 2010-2011 Enrollment, Capacity, Utilization Report (the “Blue Book”), M123 has the capacity to serve 952 students. Currently, the building serves 925 students, yielding a building utilization rate of 97%. If this proposal is approved, HSA 5 will add a third grade in 2012-2013. In 2012-2013, HSA 5 will enroll approximately 68-88 additional students. Including those additional HSA 5 students, M123 is projected to serve approximately 952-1,062 students in total at HSA 5 and P.S. 123 in 2012-2013, yielding an estimated building utilization rate of 100-112%. As discussed in Section III.B and in the attached revised Building Utilization Plan (“BUP”), the building has sufficient space to provide both schools with at least their baseline room allocations despite the projected utilization rate of over 100%. Therefore, the M123 building has the capacity to accommodate all existing schools at their current scales.

Success Academy Charter Schools (“Success Academies”) is a charter management organization (“CMO”) that operates nine public charter schools in New York City. The State University of New York (“SUNY”) Charter Schools Institute has authorized HSA 5 to serve kindergarten through fifth grades.

After evaluating the space available in M123, the DOE has concluded that the building can accommodate only the school's kindergarten through third-grade students. Therefore, the DOE is proposing to expand the co-location of HSA 5 in M123 to include third grade and continue at that grade span in M123 indefinitely. The DOE will consider all long-term options to accommodate the future anticipated growth of HSA 5 to include grades four through eight, and will propose those options in a separate EIS. If this proposal to co-locate the expanded grades served by HSA 5 in M123 to kindergarten through third grades is approved, students in HSA 5's kindergarten through third grades would be served in M123 indefinitely.

Success Academies schools have a strong track record of academic achievement: each of the four Success Academies elementary schools that received a Progress Report in 2010-2011, including HSA 2 which is also located in District 5, earned an overall score of A and earned A grades in each of the three subsections of the 2010-2011 New York City Department of Education Progress Report—Student Performance, Student Progress, and School Environment. Three of these schools currently serve kindergarten through fourth grades and one serves kindergarten through sixth grades.

In 2010-2011, 75.6% of third grade students at HSA 2 achieved proficiency on the New York State English Language Arts exam and 87.2% achieved proficiency on the mathematics exam. By contrast, the District 5 average third grade English Language Arts proficiency rate in 2010-2011 was 28.6%, and the District 5 average third grade math proficiency rate in 2010-2011 was 34.9%.

This proposed co-location assumes that P.S. 123 will serve its self-contained special education students in fewer sections than it currently programs. Currently, P.S. 123's self-contained classes are underenrolled, and the school can therefore serve the same number of students consistent with their Individualized Education Programs more efficiently in fewer self-contained sections. This would not assume a decline in P.S. 123's enrollment.

The DOE believes that Success Academies' record of success supports the growth of this school. This proposal to expand and extend the co-location of HSA 5 in M123 would allow the school to continue providing high-quality educational opportunities for students and families. Success Academies strives to provide rigorous and well-rounded instruction in communities throughout New York City.

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

The Educational Impact Statement ("EIS") and Building Utilization Plan ("BUP") can be found on the Department of Education's Web site:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/April2012Proposals>.

Copies of the EIS and BUP are also available in main offices of P.S. 123 and HSA 5.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D05proposals@schools.nyc.gov

Oral comments can be left at (212) 374-3466.

IV. 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: Yael Kalban
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D05proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-3466

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

April 17, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
Buidling M123
301 West 140th Street
New York, NY 10030

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 Panel for Educational Policy meeting at which the Panel will vote on the proposed item.

April 26, 2012 at 6:00 P.M.
Prospect Heights Campus
883 Classon Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11225