



Notice  
October 21, 2011

Dennis M. Walcott  
Chancellor

## **The Proposed Grade Expansion of M.S. 223 The Laboratory School of Finance and Technology (07X223) to a 6-12 School in 2013-2014**

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

The Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to expand M.S. 223 The Laboratory School of Finance and Technology (07X223, “M.S. 223”), an existing choice middle school, to serve students in sixth through twelfth grade by the 2016-2017 school year. M.S. 223 is located in building X149 (“X149”) at 360 East 145<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx, New York 10454, in Community School District 7 (“District 7”). M.S. 223 currently enrolls students in sixth through eighth grade. M.S. 223 is “co-located” with South Bronx Preparatory: A College Board School (07X221, “South Bronx Prep”), an existing secondary school serving students in sixth through twelfth grade. A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces such as auditoriums, gymnasiums, libraries, and cafeterias.

The proposal to expand M.S. 223 was initiated by the school community. In July 2011, with support from parents and the broader school community, a team composed of teachers and administrators submitted a grade reconfiguration application to the Division of Portfolio Planning. In September 2011, DOE officials visited M.S. 223 and conducted interviews with the applicant team, concluding that the school is well positioned to successfully begin a grade expansion.

The DOE believes that the grade expansion of M.S. 223 will increase access to much-needed high-quality high school seats in the Bronx and especially in District 7. Such an expansion will build upon the growing success of M.S. 223 which has demonstrated a strong record of student performance in District 7. If this proposal is approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”), M.S. 223 will begin serving students in ninth grade in the 2013-2014 school year. M.S. 223 will expand gradually, adding one grade level each year over a four-year period, until reaching its full grade span of grades six through twelve in the 2016-2017 school year.

In anticipation of the proposed grade expansion, if this proposal is approved, M.S. 223 will begin to reduce its incoming middle school enrollment in the 2012-2013 school. Secondary schools (offering grades six through twelve) typically serve three sections of students per grade. M.S. 223 currently has five or more sections in each of its three existing grades. Therefore, the incoming sixth grade enrollment at M.S. 223 will decrease from five to three sections beginning in the 2012-2013 school year. This will ensure that M.S. 223 can more closely approximate the traditional secondary school

enrollment model before it begins to add high school grades. It will also ensure that there is adequate space in building X149 for both South Bronx Prep and M.S. 223 during and after the expansion period.

If this proposal is approved, students will apply for enrollment in the high school grades of M.S. 223 through the Citywide High School Admissions Process. Current eighth grade students at M.S. 223 will not have the option to remain at M.S. 223 through the twelfth grade, as the expansion would not begin until the 2013-2014 school year. Eighth grade students in 2012-2013 and beyond will have the option to remain at the school through the twelfth grade. Beginning in the 2013-2014 school year, M.S. 223 eighth graders will be guaranteed a ninth grade seat at the school if they rank it on their High School Admissions application.

This proposal is not anticipated to impact South Bronx Prep's total student enrollment, admissions policies, partnerships, and instructional programming.

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

The EIS can be found on the DOE website at <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Dec2011Proposals.htm>.

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main offices of M.S. 223 and South Bronx Prep in X149.

**III. Submission of public comment.**

Written comments can be sent to [D07Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D07Proposals@schools.nyc.gov).

Oral comments can be left at (212) 374-5159.

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

Name: Rosa Fernández  
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning  
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007  
E-mail: [D07Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D07Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)  
Phone: (212) 374-5159

**V. Date, time, and place of Joint Public Hearing for this proposal.**

December 1, 2011  
6:00 p.m.  
360 East 145<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bronx, New York 10454

Questions about the proposal should be directed as indicated above in section IV. 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.**

December 14, 2011

6:00 p.m.

The High School of Fashion Industries

225 West 24<sup>th</sup> Street

New York, NY 10011