Department of Education
Dennis M. Walcott, Chancellor

Samuel Gompers Career and Technical High School (07X655)
Grades 9-12
455 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10455
December 2011

Fact Sheet: Proposed Phase-out and Replacement of Samuel Gompers Career and Technical Education High School (07X655)

Overview

In a concerted effort to ensure that all students have high-quality educational programs, the Department of Education (DOE) annually reviews the performance of all schools Citywide. Over the past several years, despite the best efforts of the community and the DOE to support Samuel Gompers Career and Technical Education High School ("Samuel Gompers"), the school has struggled to meet basic requirements for student success.

On November 1, 2011, Bronx High School Superintendent Geraldine Taylor-Brown met with Samuel Gompers' School Leadership Team and parents to discuss what is working at the school, what needs to be improved, and how the community can work together to better serve students.

Based on an extensive review of qualitative and quantitative data and community feedback, the DOE has determined that Samuel Gompers does not have the capacity to quickly improve and is proposing that the school be phased out.

Proposing to phase out a school is the most difficult decision we make. We are proposing to phase out Samuel Gompers because it is the right action for current and future students in this community. If the proposal to phase out Samuel Gompers is approved, the school would phase out gradually over the next several years. The school would close in June 2015 after its phase-out is complete. A new high school will be proposed to open in September 2012 in the building where Gompers is located.

We hope you share our view that we can—and must—do better for students. The DOE will continue to work closely with Samuel Gompers staff and families to ensure that all students receive the support they need to succeed in school.

Performance Summary

Graduation Rate		Progress Report Grade			Quality Review Rating
2010-2011 (4 year rate)	2010-2011 (6 year rate)	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2010-11
41%	58%	D	C	F	Underdeveloped

- Graduation rates at Samuel Gompers have remained in the 41-51% range for the last four years. Last year, Samuel Gompers' four-year graduation rate (including August graduates) was 41% in 2011—in the bottom 1% of high schools Citywide in terms of graduation rate and was well below the Citywide average of 65.1%. (Citywide average is based on the 2010 New York State reported graduation results for NYCDOE students.)

- If Regents diplomas alone counted toward graduation—as will be the case next school year—the four-year graduation rate at Samuel Gompers would drop to just 29%.

- First year credit accumulation is a key predictor of student success because students who fall behind early on in high school often have trouble getting back on track to graduate. In 2010-2011, only 54% of first-year students at Samuel Gompers earned at least 10 credits. This rate of credit accumulation puts Samuel Gompers in the bottom 4% of high schools Citywide and in the bottom 9% of high schools with similar students. (The Progress Report defines students earning at least 10 credits as students who earn at least 6 of those 10 credits in 3 of the following 4 subject areas: Math, English, Science, and/or Social Studies.)

- The Progress Report measures the progress and performance of students in a school as well as the school environment, compared to other schools serving similar student populations. Samuel Gompers earned an overall F grade on its 2010-2011 annual Progress Report, with F grades on Student Progress and School Environment, and a D grade on Student Performance. Samuel Gompers' Progress Report score was in the bottom 1% of high schools Citywide. Additionally, in 2010-2011 the school was designated by the State as Persistently Low Achieving.

- The school's attendance rate remains below most other high schools. The 2010-2011 attendance rate at Samuel Gompers was 72% compared to the Citywide high school average of 86%. Samuel Gompers is in the bottom 2% of all high schools Citywide in terms of attendance.

- Demand for Gompers has fallen steadily over the past few years. Between 2006-2007 and 2010-2011, student enrollment declined by approximately 700 students, or 46%. Gompers has four programs to which students apply as part of the High School Admissions Process. Samuel Gompers' Educational Option program, Information Technology, received 2.1 applications per seat from students applying to ninth grade in September 2011, and of the three screened programs, Pre-Engineering received 2.0 applications per seat, Desktop Publishing received 2.3 applications per seat, and Computer Aided Design received 1.1 applications per seat. All of these applications per seat are well below the Citywide average of 8.5 applications per seat across all school programs.

Overview of Past Strategic Improvement Efforts at Gompers High School

Staff members have worked hard to improve Gompers High School but even with support the school has not produced adequate outcomes for students. To help the school's efforts to improve performance, the DOE offered numerous supports including:

Leadership Support:

- Provided extensive leadership training and mentoring for the principal and assistant principals to help them set clear goals for the school while developing the school's Comprehensive Education Plan and Language Allocation Plan.

- Coached and trained leadership on implementing plans in support of citywide instructional initiatives.

- Trained and supported leadership in systems and strategies for monitoring credit accumulation in order to increase graduation rates.

Instructional Support:

- Supported and trained teachers in the Writing Matters Curriculum and provided other tools and strategies for improving literacy instruction and raising student outcomes.

- Facilitated training for teachers in assessment design, curriculum mapping, and student feedback as tools aimed to meet standards and improve expected student outcomes.

- Provided on-site support that focused on individualized goals and strategies for helping teachers improve their practice.
- Offered professional development opportunities for staff on best practices and approaches to raising achievement among students with disabilities.

- Offered training for staff as to ways to incorporate data analysis and other tools to understand student progress and thus increase student outcomes.

Operational Support:

- Advised school staff on managing budgeting, human resources, teacher recruitment and building logistics.

- Supported school staff in developing strategies and practices for improving student attendance.

- Provided information to school administration regarding grants and other funding opportunities on a regular basis.

Student Support:

- Trained the School Based Support Team in comprehensive guidance programs and evidence-based counseling strategies targeted at developing and improving the capacity for social and emotional supports at the school level.
- Supported the implementation of curriculum aimed at anti-bullying, tolerance and diversity initiatives to foster a supportive and safe environment for all students.

- Advised in college readiness workshops and implementing school-wide supports aimed at increasing college interest and effective college planning.

What would the proposal mean for current students?

If this proposal is approved, Samuel Gompers would gradually phase out over the next several years. Our top priority is ensuring that current Samuel Gompers students are supported through graduation. Below are enrollment plans for current Samuel Gompers students if the school were to be phased out.

- **Current, first-time ninth grade students** would have the option of completing high school at Samuel Gompers if they continue to earn credits on schedule. They may also apply to attend a different high school as a 10th grader in September 2012 by participating in the second round of the High School Admissions Process.

- **Current, repeating ninth grade students** would complete high school at Samuel Gompers as long as they earn credits on schedule. As the school becomes smaller, these students would receive more individualized attention to support them toward graduation and to help them prepare for post-secondary education and/or career plans. Students would also be encouraged to meet with their guidance counselor to review progress toward graduation.

  Current 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students who are on track to graduate would complete high school at Samuel Gompers if they continue to earn credits on schedule. As the school becomes smaller, these students would receive more individualized attention to support them toward graduation and to help them prepare for post-secondary education and/or career plans. Students would also be encouraged to meet with their guidance counselor to review progress toward graduation.

- **Current 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students who are not on track to graduate** should meet with their guidance counselors to review their progress toward graduation and to discuss their options. Students could complete high school at Samuel Gompers or consider applying to a transfer high school.

If the proposal to phase out Samuel Gompers is approved, the school would not admit new ninth grade students after the end of this school year. Samuel Gompers would continue to serve students currently enrolled in the school. The school would close in June 2015 after its phase-out is complete.

Supporting Current Students

The DOE remains focused on helping Samuel Gompers students succeed. If this proposal is approved, Samuel Gompers would be provided targeted, customized and intensive supports aimed at the unique needs of the school and its students. This support would be in the areas of budget, staffing, programming, community engagement, guidance, and enrollment including, but not limited to:

- Helping the school provide students with options that support their advancement and fully prepare students for their next transition point;
- Working with school staff to foster a positive culture; and
- Supporting school leadership in efficiently and strategically allocating resources to ensure a consistent and coherent school environment focused on student outcomes.

Plans for New Schools for the Samuel Gompers and Bronx Community

As we work together to create better options for the Samuel Gompers community, we will keep in mind what has worked at Samuel Gompers and do our best to incorporate those positive elements into the plans for a replacement school. For example:

- We will work to provide new Career and Technical Education options for students in the South Bronx;
- We will work with the community to retain partnerships with community organizations that are offering valuable services to the school community; and
- We will consider what elements of the school structure are working and do our best to include those features in replacement schools.

Next Steps and What You Can Expect

In January, the DOE will invite the Samuel Gompers community to participate in a joint public hearing co-hosted by the DOE, the District 7 Community Education Council, and Samuel Gompers' School Leadership Team. As soon as the hearing has been scheduled, we will notify you of the date and also share with you the formal phase-out proposal. During the joint public hearing, community members, including parents and students, will be able to share their thoughts on the phase-out proposal.

The proposal to phase out Samuel Gompers will be voted on by the Panel for Educational Policy, which is composed of members appointed by Mayor Bloomberg and the five Borough Presidents, during a public meeting scheduled for **February 9, 2012.** During this meeting, the public will have another opportunity to comment on the proposal. If the PEP approves the proposal, Samuel Gompers would not accept new students next school year. If the proposal to open a new high school in the building where Gompers is located is approved, the new school would open in September 2012.

Sharing Your Concerns and Questions

The DOE is seeking your feedback on the proposal. We will record your comments and include them in our Analysis of Public Comment, which is presented to the PEP prior to the vote on the proposal. Please submit your comments at:

Phone: 212-374-5159
Online: http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/bronx/proposal?id=82