



Notice
October 25, 2012

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Co-location of Explore Excel Charter School's 5th-8th grades (84K379) with Existing School I.S. 68 Isaac Bildersee (18K068) in Building K068 Beginning in 2013-2014

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

Explore Excel Charter School (84K379, "Explore Excel") is an existing public charter school that currently serves students in kindergarten through fourth grade in Building K114 ("K114"), located at 1077 Remsen Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11236, in Community School District 18 ("District 18"). The Panel for Educational Policy previously approved a proposal that would have allowed Explore Excel to serve kindergarten through fifth grade at "full scale" in K114. The New York City Department of Education ("DOE") is now proposing to site Explore Excel's fifth grade in Building K068 ("K068"), located at 956 East 82 Street, Brooklyn, NY, 11236 in District 18. If this proposal is approved, Explore Excel's fifth grade would be sited in K068 beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. Explore Excel would add one grade each year until it reaches full scale in 2016-2017 and serves fifth through eighth grade in K068. Explore Excel would be co-located in K068 with I.S. 68 – Isaac Bildersee (18K068, "I.S. 68"), an existing zoned middle school that serves students in sixth through eighth grade. I.S. 68 also has an academy structure, which includes: Academy of Entrepreneurship and Law, Academy of Urban Planning and Environmental Design, and Academy of Global, American and Community Connections, which accepts students outside of the zone who reside in District 18. K068 also houses two community-based organizations, Beacon and Church Avenue Merchants Block Association (CAMBA), which provide after-school youth development activities for the I.S. 68 community. 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.

Explore Excel is an existing public charter school that is authorized by its charter authorizer, the State University of New York Charter Schools Institute ("SUNY CSI"), to serve grades K-7. Explore Excel has informed the DOE that it intends to seek approval from SUNY CSI to expand to serve additional students in eighth grade. SUNY CSI must approve this request before Explore Excel can expand to serve additional students in 8th grade. In the event that SUNY CSI does not approve Explore Excel's request to expand, or if Explore Excel fails to make a timely request, Explore Excel may only serve kindergarten through seventh grade students under its current charter. The Explore Schools Inc ("Explore Schools") is a growing Charter Management Organization ("CMO") that seeks to provide students with the academic skills and critical-thinking abilities necessary to graduate from high school and succeed in college. Explore Schools provides students in under-served communities with access to another option for public

education and provides support to schools in the network. Explore Schools currently manages four charter schools in Brooklyn, including Explore Excel.

If this proposal is approved, Explore Excel's fifth grade would be sited at K068 instead of K114. Explore Excel would serve 54-69 students in fifth grade, and would add one grade each year until it serves fifth through eighth grades at full scale in 2016-2017. At that time, Explore Excel would serve approximately 216-276 students. The school would continue to admit kindergarten students via its charter lottery application process.

Current and future elementary students at Explore Excel will continue to attend school at K114. Explore Excel's middle school grades (5-8) will be located at K068 and those spots will mostly be filled by existing elementary school students at Explore Excel who articulate for middle school. Explore Excel's lottery process will remain the same and will only admit students in kindergarten through the lottery process. Elementary school students at Explore Excel will be given the opportunity to articulate to Explore Excel's middle school grades. While no lottery process will be conducted for Explore Excel's middle school grades since returning students will attend the school, students will be admitted through a rolling waitlist process to backfill seats available through attrition.

K068 has been identified as an under-utilized building. K068 has the capacity to serve 1481 students, but in 2012-2013 I.S. 68 is only projected to serve 898 students in sixth through eighth grade. This yields a building utilization rate of approximately 61%, which demonstrates that the building is "under-utilized" and has space to accommodate additional students. If this proposal is approved, in 2016-2017 once Explore Excel is at full scale, K068 would serve 1,101-1,191 students from Explore Excel and I.S. 68 collectively, which yields a projected utilization rate of 74%-80%. Thus, K068 has sufficient space to accommodate the proposed co-location.

The DOE supports the grade expansion of Explore Excel charter school in District 18 in order to continue providing additional educational opportunities for students and families.

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/2012-2013/Dec2012Proposals.htm>.

Copies of the EIS and BUP are also available in I.S 68's main office.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D18Proposals@schools.nyc.gov

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-0208

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: Stephen Demers
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D18Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-0208

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

December 7, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Building K068
956 East 82 Street
Brooklyn, NY 11236

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.

December 12, 2012 at 6:00 PM

The High School of Fashion Industries
225 West 24th Street
New York, NY 10011