

Public Comment Analysis

Date: December 19, 2012

Topic: The Proposed Grade Truncation of Brooklyn College Academy (22K555)
from 7-12 to 9-12 Beginning in 2013-2014

Date of Panel Vote: December 20, 2012

Summary of Proposal

Brooklyn College Academy (22K555) is an existing district school that currently serves students in grades seven through twelve. The school is split-sited¹ between school building K917 (“K917”), located at 350 Coney Island Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11218, in Community School District 15, and building K555 (“K555”), located at 2900 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11210, in Community School District 22. Students in grades seven through ten are served at K917 and students in grades eleven and twelve are served at K555. Brooklyn College Academy is a Citywide choice option,² and admits seventh and eighth grade students through a school-based application and ninth through twelfth grade students through the Citywide High School Admissions Process by a screened admissions method. The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to implement a “grade truncation” whereby Brooklyn College Academy will no longer serve seventh and eighth grade students and will only serve ninth through twelfth grade students. Additionally, beginning in 2013-2014, Brooklyn College Academy will increase its ninth grade enrollment in order to replace the middle school seats lost as a result of this proposed truncation. Therefore, Brooklyn College Academy’s total enrollment will ultimately remain at its current level.

Brooklyn College Academy’s seventh through tenth grades, which are served at K917, are co-located³ with one site of a multi-sited District 75 (“D75”) program, P077 (75K077, “P077K@917K”), which serves ninth and tenth grade students. The Brooklyn College Academy eleventh and twelfth grades, which are served at K555, are co-located with another site of P077 (75K077, “P077K@555K”),⁴ which serves eleventh and twelfth grade students. At both sites, the

¹ A “split-site” means that a single organization serves some grade levels in one building and other grade levels in another building.

² In New York City, high school and some middle school admissions are based on a Citywide choice process, with students ranking school programs in order of preference.

³ 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.

⁴ 75K077 is located at six separate sites, including the K917 and K555 buildings. The other sites are: P077K@P902K, located at 62 Park Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217; P077K@178K, located at 2163 Dean Street, Brooklyn, NY 11233; P077K@Park Place Community, located at 62 Park Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217; and P077K@P164K, located at 4211 14th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY

D75 program serves students who are on the autism spectrum, have significant cognitive delays, or are severely emotionally challenged, sensory impaired, and/or multiply disabled in an inclusion setting. In an inclusion program, a student with special needs receives services in a general education classroom along with general education students. Students in the D75 inclusion program at Brooklyn College Academy are enrolled in general education classes based on their Individualized Education Program (“IEP”) recommendations and also receive Special Education Teacher Support Services (“SETSS”). In the 2011-2012 school year, P077K@917K served two inclusion sections of ninth and tenth grade students and P077K@555K served one inclusion section of eleventh and twelfth grade students. This proposal to truncate Brooklyn College Academy is not expected to impact the admissions, enrollment, or academic offerings of P077K@917K or P077K@555K.

K555, which houses Brooklyn College Academy’s eleventh and twelfth grades, is located on the campus of Brooklyn College of the City of New York (“Brooklyn College”). The building is leased by the DOE for Brooklyn College Academy under the conditions of a Memorandum of Understanding with Brooklyn College. Brooklyn College Academy shares space and facilities with Brooklyn College and its eleventh and twelfth grade students are eligible to enroll in college-level courses at Brooklyn College.

If this proposal is approved, Brooklyn College Academy will gradually stop serving middle school students in seventh and eighth grades. After the 2012-2013 school year, Brooklyn College Academy will no longer enroll seventh grade students, and after the 2013-2014 school year, Brooklyn College Academy will no longer enroll eighth grade students. The school will serve students in grades nine through twelve.

In each of those two years, there may be students who do not meet promotional standards and are required to repeat a grade that the school will no longer serve. The Office of Student Enrollment will work with those families to determine an appropriate placement in the students’ districts of residence. As per Chancellor’s Regulation A-101, these students will have a priority to their zoned school or could be placed in another school in their district of residence. In the unlikely event that there are enough hold-over students in a discontinued grade to maintain a class section, it is anticipated that the school will offer that grade to those hold-over students for an additional year.

As is the current case, eighth grade students who attend Brooklyn College Academy in the next two school years who meet promotional standards will apply to high school through the High School Admissions Process, with a priority for enrollment in Brooklyn College Academy’s high school grades.

At this time, there are no plans to co-locate any other organizations in K917 or K555. Because enrollment is expected to remain steady throughout the course of the truncation, the DOE does

11219. This proposal will only impact P077K@917K and P077K@555K. All references to enrollment will refer to P077K@917K and 977K@555K only.

not expect there to be significant excess space as a result of the truncation. Any future proposals for significant changes in building utilization would follow the process outlined in Chancellor's regulation A-190.

Summary of Comments Received at the Joint Public Hearings

The DOE held a joint public hearing regarding this proposal on October 25, 2012 at K917. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. There were no members of the public in attendance and no public comments were received. Present at the meeting were the Chancellor's Designee, Brooklyn and Staten Island High School Superintendent Aimee Horowitz; District 22 Community Education Council ("CEC") member Lynette Pascall; Brooklyn College Academy School Leadership Team ("SLT") representative and Assistant Principal David Genovese; Brooklyn College Academy Principal Nicholas Mazzarella; and DOE Representative Lauren Lefty. The principal and representatives of the SLT of 75K077 and the District 75 Council were invited to the joint public hearing, but they did not attend.

Summary of Issues Raised in Written and/or Oral Comments Submitted to the DOE

No written or oral comments were received regarding this proposal.

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes were made to this proposal as a result of feedback received.