

## **Fact Sheet: Proposed Truncation of the Middle School Grades at Brooklyn Collegiate: A College Board School (23K493)**

### **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 Brooklyn Collegiate: A College Board School (“Brooklyn Collegiate”), the school has struggled to meet basic requirements for student success in the middle school grades.

On November 9, 2011, High School Superintendent Aimee Horowitz held a School Leadership Team and a parent meeting at the school to discuss what is working at Brooklyn Collegiate’s middle school grades, 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 Brooklyn Collegiate does not have the capacity to quickly improve on behalf of students in grades 6-8 and is proposing truncation of the school’s middle school grades.

**Proposing to truncate a school is a difficult decision. We are proposing to truncate Brooklyn Collegiate because it is the right action for current and future students in this community.** If the proposal to truncate Brooklyn Collegiate is approved, the middle school grades would phase out gradually over the next several years. The truncation of the middle school grades would be complete in June 2014.

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

### **Performance Summary – Middle School Grades**

<b>Proficiency: % of Students on Grade Level</b>		<b>Progress Report Grade</b>			<b>Quality Review</b>
English	Math	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2010-2011
29%	29%	B	D	F	Proficient

- Brooklyn Collegiate students remain below grade level in English and Math. Last year, only 29% of students were performing on grade level in English and only 29% of students were performing on grade level in Math.
- Brooklyn Collegiate is not adequately helping students to make progress. Brooklyn Collegiate is in the bottom 16% of middle schools Citywide in terms of learning growth in English and the bottom 2% in terms of learning growth in Math. Learning growth measures annual student growth on New York State ELA and Math tests relative to similar students. If these outcomes persist, Brooklyn Collegiate students will fall further behind their peers in other schools.
- 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. Brooklyn Collegiate earned an overall F grade on its 2010-11 annual Progress Report, including F grades for Student Progress and Student Performance.
- Demand for the school is also low. Though all eighth graders have the option to matriculate to ninth grade at the school and remain there for grades 9-12, only 36% of eighth grade students in 2009-2010 who were promoted chose to enroll in the ninth grade for the 2010-2011 school year.

## Overview of Past Strategic Improvement Efforts at Brooklyn Collegiate

Staff members have worked hard to improve Brooklyn Collegiate 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:

- 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.
- Supported leadership and staff in generating meaningful strategies for improving the quality of classroom visitations, instructional feedback and teacher reflections, as a way to raise teacher practice and improve student outcomes.

### Instructional Support:

- Supported and trained teachers in classroom engagement strategies as a way to deepen instructional expectations, student interest, and classroom rigor.
- Supported the school in assessment design, curriculum mapping, and student feedback as tools aimed at meeting the necessary standards and expected student outcomes.
- Offered training for staff on successful ways to periodically assess student progress and use the information to inform and improve teacher practice.
- Trained teachers on instruction in non-fiction writing, as well as other strategies aimed at supporting students in developing comprehensive writing skills that they are able to use across genres.

### Operational Support:

- Advised school staff on budgeting, human resources, teacher recruitment and building management.
- Supported school staff on developing strategies and practices for improving student attendance and creating strategies for targeting attendance concerns.
- Supported school staff on developing innovative summer school and Regents scheduling in order to increase instructional time and improve student achievement.

### 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.
- Facilitated comprehensive supports to review disciplinary and procedural protocols targeted at improving the school learning environment and impacting student outcomes.

## What would the proposal mean for current students?

If this proposal is approved, Brooklyn Collegiate's middle school grades would be phased out gradually over the next several years and the school would not admit new sixth grade students after the end of this school year. All currently enrolled students would have the opportunity to continue their education at Brooklyn Collegiate and would be supported through graduation.

In school year 2012-13, Brooklyn Collegiate would serve students in grades seven through twelve. Then, during the following school year, it would serve students in grade eight through twelve. In June 2014, Brooklyn Collegiate's middle school would complete its phase-out and the school would continue to serve students in grades nine through twelve.

## Supporting Current Students

The DOE remains focused on helping Brooklyn Collegiate students to succeed. If this proposal is approved, Brooklyn

Collegiate 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.

## Next Steps and What You Can Expect

In January, the DOE will invite the Brooklyn Collegiate community to participate in a joint public hearing co-hosted by the DOE, the District 23 Community Education Council, and Brooklyn Collegiate's 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 proposal to truncate Brooklyn Collegiate. 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 truncate Brooklyn Collegiate 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, Brooklyn Collegiate would not accept new sixth grade students next school year.

## 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 Comments, which is presented to the PEP prior to the vote on the proposal. Please submit your comments at:

Phone: 212-374-0208

Online: <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/brooklyn/proposal?id=90>