

Fact Sheet: Proposed Phase Out and Replacement of Legacy School for Integrated Studies (02M429)

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 Legacy School for Integrated Studies (“Legacy”), the school has struggled to meet basic requirements for student success.

On November 16, 2011, Manhattan High School Superintendent Tamika Matheson met with Legacy’s 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 Legacy 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 Legacy because it is the right action for current and future students in this community. If the proposal to phase out Legacy 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 Legacy 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 Legacy 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 |
| 43% | 64% | D | C | F | Developing |

- Graduation rates at Legacy have been consistently low for the last ten years. Last year, Legacy’s four-year graduation rate (including August graduates) was just 43%—well below the citywide average of 65.1% and in the bottom 4% of high schools Citywide. (Citywide average is based on the 2010 New York State reported graduation results for NYCDOE students.)
- 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 43% of first-year students at Legacy earned at least 10 credits. This rate of credit accumulation puts Legacy in the bottom 2% of high schools Citywide and in the bottom of schools with similar types of 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. Legacy earned an overall F grade on its 2010-11 annual Progress Report, with an F grade on Student Progress and D grades on Student Performance and School Environment. Legacy has a history of poor performance. Over the past five years the school has earned 2 F grades, 1 D grade, and 2 C grades on the Progress Report.
- Only 28% of students in the Class of 2010 (students who entered high school four years earlier) enrolled in a two- or four-year college by December 31, 2010.

- The school's attendance rate remains below most other high schools. The 2010-2011 attendance rate was 72% compared to the Citywide high school average of 86%, putting Legacy in the bottom 1% of all high schools Citywide in terms of attendance.
- Demand for Legacy has steadily declined over the past several years. Between September 2010 and September 2011, 9th grade demand declined from 2.7 applications per seat to 1.4 applications per seat. Demand for Legacy is well below the Citywide average of 8.5 applications per seat.

Overview of Past Strategic Improvement Efforts at Legacy High School

Staff members have worked hard to improve Legacy 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:

- 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.
- Offered Coaching and training for leadership on implementing plans in support of citywide instructional initiatives.
- Trained and supported leadership in systems and strategies for supervising staff, providing instructional feedback and deepening teacher practice through leadership support.

Instructional Support:

- Supported and trained teachers in developing performance based assessments aimed at raising student interest, deepening student learning, and evaluating student comprehension.
- Facilitated training for teachers in developing curriculum maps and other tools to improve comprehensive planning and organization aimed at raising student outcomes.
- Trained staff on various requirements, instructional strategies and best practices for improving academic readiness for college.

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.
- Supported school staff on developing and submitting an application for a 21st Century grant.

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 Peer Mediation as an enrichment program offering students access to conflict resolution and other social and emotional supports.
- Supported Hudson River Sailing and other enrichment opportunities to strengthen student interest in academics and deepen student's connection to the school community.

What would the proposal mean for current students?

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

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

If the proposal to phase out Legacy is approved, the school would not admit new ninth grade students after the end of this school year. Legacy 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 Legacy students succeed. If this proposal is approved, Legacy 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 Legacy and Manhattan Community

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

- 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 a replacement school.

Next Steps and What You Can Expect

In January, the DOE will invite the Legacy community to participate in a joint public hearing co-hosted by the DOE, the District 2 Community Education Council, and Legacy'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 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 Legacy 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, Legacy would not accept new students next school year. If the proposal to open a new high school in the building where Legacy 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: 212-374-3466

Online: <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/manhattan/proposal?id=78>