



Notice  
September 24, 2012

Dennis M. Walcott  
Chancellor

## **The Proposed Opening and Co-location of Achievement First Aspire Charter School (84KTBD) with Existing School P.S. 202 Ernest S. Jenkyns (19K202) in Buildings K202 and K958 Beginning in 2013-2014**

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

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to open and co-locate a new public charter school, Achievement First Aspire Charter School (84KTBD, “AF Aspire”) in buildings K202 (“K202”) and K958 (“K958”), located at 982 Hegeman Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11208, in Community School District 19 beginning in 2013-2014. AF Aspire will serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade, and intends to expand to serve students in kindergarten through eighth grades.

If this proposal is approved, AF Aspire will be “co-located” in K202 and K958 with P.S. 202 Ernest S. Jenkyns (19K202, “P.S. 202”), an existing DOE school that currently serves students in kindergarten through eighth grade (“K-8”) and offers a full-day pre-kindergarten program. In addition to the main K202 building, P.S. 202’s students are also served in transportable class units (K958, “TCUs”) that are located adjacent to K202. P.S. 202 serves zoned kindergarten through fifth grade students, while sixth through eighth grade students are admitted through the District 19 Middle School Choice process.

In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) published in September 2012, which is available at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Nov2012Proposals>, the DOE has proposed to gradually truncate the middle school grades of P.S. 202. This EIS resulted from a school initiated truncation request. If the truncation proposal is approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”), P.S. 202 will no longer enroll sixth grade students after the conclusion of the 2012-2013 school year. One middle school grade will then be truncated in each subsequent year. In the 2013-2014 school year, P.S. 202 will serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade and seventh through eighth grade. In the 2014-2015 school year, P.S. 202 will serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade and eighth grade. After June 2015, P.S. 202 will no longer serve middle school students.

For the purposes of this EIS describing the proposal to open and co-locate AF Aspire, it is assumed that the proposal to truncate P.S. 202 will be approved by the PEP. However, if the proposal to truncate is not approved, the DOE still believes there is space for the co-location of

AF Aspire with P.S. 202 in buildings K202 and K958. Furthermore, if the proposal to truncate is not approved, this EIS and the accompanying Building Utilization Plan (“BUP”) will be revised as necessary.

In Summer 2010, AF Aspire’s charter was authorized by the State University of New York Charter Schools Institute (“SUNY CSI”) to serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade. AF Aspire will be managed by Achievement First Schools (“Achievement First”), a Charter Management Organization (“CMO”). AF Aspire will open with kindergarten and first grade classes in 2013-2014, and will add one grade each year until it serves students in kindergarten through fifth grade in 2017-2018. The school will admit students via the charter lottery application process, with preference given to District 19 residents.

AF Aspire has informed the DOE that it intends to apply to SUNY CSI to expand its grade span to serve students in kindergarten through eighth grade, reaching full scale in 2020-2021. Only SUNY CSI has the authority to approve or deny that request. Should SUNY CSI deny AF Aspire’s request to expand, or if AF Aspire fails to make this request, AF Aspire will only serve its approved grade span of kindergarten through fifth grade.

According to the 2010-2011 Enrollment Capacity Utilization Report (the “Blue Book”), K202 and K958 have the capacity to serve a total of 1,432 students. In 2012-2013, P.S. 202 is projected to serve 866 students. This yields a projected utilization rate of approximately 60%. This means that the building is “underutilized” and has space to accommodate additional students. If this proposal and the proposal to truncate are both approved, in 2020-2021, once AF Aspire’s kindergarten through eighth grades have fully phased in and the school has reached full scale, AF Aspire is projected to serve 653-799 kindergarten through eighth grade students, and P.S. 202 is projected to serve 570-630 kindergarten through fifth grade students and 54 pre-kindergarten students, for a total of 1,277-1,483 students, yielding a projected building utilization rate of approximately 89%-104%. The DOE does not anticipate that the proposed co-location will affect the pre-kindergarten program at P.S. 202.

### *Background on the DOE’s Decision-Making Process*

The DOE strives to ensure that all students in New York City have access to a diverse range of high-quality schools at every stage of their education. In determining the optimal way to distribute space to schools, the DOE is proposing to co-locate AF Aspire with P.S. 202 in K202 and K958.

Achievement First currently manages a total of six schools in New York City. Of the schools eligible for Progress Reports in 2010-2011, four schools, AF Crown Heights, AF East New York, AF Endeavor, and Bushwick, received A’s on the overall Progress Report and one school, Brownsville, received a B. AF Apollo is not yet eligible to receive a Progress Report.

The DOE believes in Achievement First’s record of success and supports AF Aspire’s placement in District 19 in order to provide excellent educational opportunities for students and families.

## **II. Information regarding where the full text of the proposed item may be obtained.**

The EIS and BUP can be found on the Department of Education's Web site:  
<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Nov2012Proposals>.

Copies of the EIS and BUP are also available in P.S. 202's main office.

## **III. Submission of public comment.**

Written comments can be sent to [D19Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D19Proposals@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: Gabrielle Wyatt  
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning  
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007  
Email: [D19Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D19Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)  
Phone: 212-374-0208

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

October 25, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.  
P.S. 202 Ernest S. Jenkyns  
982 Hegeman Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11208

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.**

November 8, 2012 at 6:00 PM  
Frank Sinatra School of the Arts  
35-12 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Astoria, NY 11106