



Notice
January 14, 2013

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Grade Expansion of the Co-Location of Harlem Village Academy Leadership Charter School (84M335) to Include Grades 3 and 4 in Building M045 Beginning in 2015-2016

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

The Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to expand the grades served in building M045 (“M045”) by Harlem Village Academy Leadership Charter School (84M335, “HVA Leadership”). HVA Leadership is an existing public charter school currently serving students in kindergarten and fifth through twelfth grades in two separate locations and has been approved to phase in first and second grades by 2014-2015. This proposal would expand the grades served by HVA Leadership in M045 to include third and fourth grades, expanding the grades served by HVA Leadership at M045 from kindergarten through second and fifth through eighth to kindergarten through eighth grade by the 2016-2017 school year.

In 2012-2013, HVA Leadership’s kindergarten and fifth through eighth grade students are served in building M045 at 2351 1st Avenue New York, NY 10035 in Community School District 4 (“District 4”). Students in the ninth through twelfth grade are served in private space located at 413 East 120th Street New York, NY 10035. If this proposal is approved, at full scale HVA Leadership would serve students in kindergarten through eighth grade in M045. HVA Leadership would continue to serve its high school students in its private space. This proposal is not expected to impact HVA Leadership’s high school programs at that location.

HVA Leadership kindergarten and middle school grades are co-located in M045 with an existing district middle school, M.S. 45/S.T.A.R.S. Prep Academy (04M045, “M.S. 45”) serving students in grades six through eight, and a district high school, Coalition School for Social Change (04M409, “Coalition”) serving students in grades nine through twelve. 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.

In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) published on January 14, 2013, the DOE is proposing to close M.S. 45 because of its low performance and its inability to turn around quickly to better support student needs. If that proposal is approved, M.S. 45 will close at the end of the 2012-2013 school year. Current sixth and seventh grade students, and current eighth grade students who do not meet promotional standards at the end of the school year, will be offered seats at other District 4

middle schools or at middle schools in their resident districts. Current eighth grade students who meet promotional standards at the end of the school year will be supported through the Citywide High School Admissions Process to select a high school.

For the purposes of this EIS describing the proposal to expand the co-location of HVA Leadership, it is assumed that the proposal to close M.S. 45 will be approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”). If this proposal is approved and the proposal to close M.S. 45 is not approved, this EIS and the accompanying Building Utilization Plan (“BUP”) will be revised as necessary.

HVA Leadership is managed by Harlem Village Academies, a charter management organization (“CMO”) that operates Harlem Village Academy Charter School (84M709), located at 244 West 144th Street, Manhattan, NY 10030, in addition to HVA Leadership. HVA Leadership was approved by its charter authorizer, the State University of New York Charter Schools Institute (“SUNY CSI”) to open in 2005. HVA Leadership is currently authorized to serve kindergarten through second and fifth through twelfth grade. HVA Leadership has informed the DOE that it intends to apply to SUNY CSI to expand its grade span to serve students in kindergarten through twelfth grade, reaching full scale in 2016-2017. Only SUNY CSI has the authority to approve or deny that request. Should SUNY CSI deny HVA Leadership’s request to expand, or if HVA Leadership fails to make this request, HVA Leadership will only serve its currently approved grade spans of K-2 and 5-12.

On April 26, 2012, the PEP approved a proposal, originally published on February 29, 2012 and amended on March 26, 2012, for HVA Leadership to begin enrolling kindergarten students for the 2012-2013 school year, and to expand to serve students in kindergarten through second grade along with its fifth through eighth grade program in M045. The approved proposal stated that the DOE would consider available options for siting HVA Leadership’s third and fourth grades for 2015-2016 and beyond and would propose any re-sitings or co-locations in a future EIS, subject to approval by the PEP. After completing the evaluation, the DOE has determined that M045 is the most appropriate space to expand HVA Leadership’s third and fourth grades and is thus issuing this proposal.

M045 has been identified as an under-utilized building. According to the 2011-2012 Enrollment, Capacity, Utilization Report (“Blue Book”), M045 has a target capacity of 1,204 students. During the current 2012-2013 school year the building serves only 941 students, yielding a building utilization rate of 78%, demonstrating that the building is “under-utilized” and has space to accommodate additional students.

M.S. 45 currently has a screened admissions method (admissions procedures are discussed in more detail in Section III below) and admits sixth-graders through the District 4 Middle School Choice Process. The school is open to students and residents of District 4. Coalition has an Educational Option (“Ed. Opt.”) program with a humanities and interdisciplinary focus and admits students through the High School Admissions Process. The school gives first priority to Manhattan and Bronx students or residents, and gives secondary priority to New York City residents. HVA Leadership currently admits kindergarten students and fifth grade students via the charter school lottery application process, with preference to District 4 residents and students

who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.

If this proposal is approved, in 2016-2017, once M.S. 45 has closed and HVA Leadership is at full scale, it is projected that there will be approximately 1,055 - 1,235 students served in M045, yielding an estimated building utilization rate of approximately 88% - 103%. As discussed in section III.B and in the attached BUP, the building has sufficient space to provide Coalition and HVA Leadership with space in excess of their baseline room allocations. Therefore, M045 has the capacity to accommodate Coalition along with the proposed expansion of HVA Leadership to serve grades three and four in addition to its currently authorized grade span. For the 2012-2013 school year, M045 also houses one Community Based Organization (“CBO”), El Faro Beacon, and the office space of Community Education Council 4 (“CEC 4”). This proposal is not expected to impact the siting of either the CBO or CEC 4.

The DOE does not anticipate that this proposal will affect student enrollment, the admissions process or instructional programming at Coalition.

The DOE strives to ensure that all students in New York City have access to a high quality school at every stage of their education. In determining the optimal way to distribute space to schools and to maintain quality educational options, the DOE is proposing to expand the elementary grades of HVA Leadership, which would allow HVA Leadership to serve students at every stage of their primary-grade education in District 4.

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/Mar112013Proposals.htm>

Copies of the EIS and BUP are also available in the main offices of M.S. 45, Coalition School for Social Change, and Harlem Village Academy Leadership Charter School.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D04Proposals@schools.nyc.gov

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-3466.

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: Jennifer Peng
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D04Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-3466.

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

February 20 at 6:00 p.m.
M.S. 45
2351 1st Ave
Manhattan, NY 10035

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.

VII. Date, time and place of the Panel for Educational Policy meeting at which the Panel will vote on the proposed item.

March 11, 2013 at 6:00pm

Brooklyn Technical High School
29 Fort Greene Pl
Brooklyn, NY 11217