



Notice
January 14, 2013

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Expansion of the Co-Location of Success Academy Charter School – Bronx 1 (84X493) with M.S. 203 (07X203), The Urban Assembly Bronx Academy of Letters (07X551), and P168X (75X168) in Building X183, Beginning in 2014-2015

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

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to expand the grades served in building X183 (“X183”) by Success Academy Charter School – Bronx 1 (84X493, “SA – Bronx 1”), from kindergarten through fourth grades to kindergarten through eighth grades. SA – Bronx 1 is an existing public elementary charter school currently serving students in kindergarten through third grades in the X183 building, located at 339 Morris Avenue, Bronx, NY 10451 in Community School District 7 (“District 7”). In 2013-2014, SA – Bronx 1 will serve kindergarten through fourth grades, pursuant to a previously approved proposal.

SA – Bronx 1 is co-located with M.S. 203 (07X203, “M.S. 203”), a middle school serving students in sixth through eighth grade, The Urban Assembly Bronx Academy of Letters (07X551, “Bronx Letters”), an existing secondary school serving students in sixth through twelfth grades, and a District 75 program (75X168, “P168X”) that provides both self-contained and inclusion classes for students in kindergarten through eighth grades in X183.

In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”), published on January 11, 2013, the DOE has proposed to gradually phase out and eventually close M.S. 203 because of its low performance and inability to improve quickly to better support student needs. If the phase-out proposal is approved, M.S. 203 will no longer admit sixth-grade students after the conclusion of the 2012-2013 school year. One grade will then be phased out each subsequent year. During the 2013-2014 school year, M.S. 203 will serve students in seventh and eighth grades and, in 2014-2015, it will serve students in eighth grade. M.S. 203 will close in June 2015.

M.S. 203 offers a humanities-focused program that is academically screened. Bronx Letters’ middle school is a limited unscreened district choice middle school that admits students in sixth grade through the District 7 Middle School Choice Process. Bronx Letters’ high school admits students in ninth grade through the Citywide High School Admissions Process and through a

limited unscreened admissions method. P168X, the District 75 program, serves students in both an inclusion program and self-contained classes. These students are placed based on individual student needs and recommended special education services. SA – Bronx 1 enrolls kindergarten students through a lottery, giving preference to students who reside in District 7, and sets aside a certain percentage of seats for ELL students, as described in more detail in the EIS.

SA – Bronx 1 has been co-located with M.S. 203, Bronx Letters, and P168X in building X183 since September 2012 when it was re-sited and began serving kindergarten through third grades in the building, with approval to expand to serve kindergarten through fourth grades in 2013-2014. If this proposal is approved, and SA -Bronx 1 receives authorizer approval, SA-Bronx 1 will expand to additionally serve fifth through eighth grades, by adding one grade in each subsequent year until the school reaches full scale, serving kindergarten through eighth grades in the 2017-2018 school year.

Success Academy Charter Schools (“SACS”) is a charter management organization (“CMO”) that currently operates 12 public elementary charter schools in New York City. SACS has been authorized by SUNY to operate six new public elementary charter schools starting in 2013-2014. The four SACS elementary schools that received a Progress Report for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years received an overall grade of A. The State University of New York (“SUNY”) Charter Schools Institute has authorized SA – Bronx 1 to serve students in kindergarten through fifth grades. The current charter is up for renewal in 2014-2015 and SACS intends to apply to SUNY before this date for a revision to their charter to expand to serve grades kindergarten through eighth grades in the X183 building. SUNY has the authority to approve or deny this request. Should SUNY deny SA – Bronx 1’s request to expand to serve kindergarten through eighth grades, the DOE would consider alternate options for the space in X183 and, if necessary, propose an alternative option in a new or revised EIS and Building Utilization Plan (“BUP”). The DOE supports SA – Bronx 1’s placement in District 7 and anticipates that it will provide excellent educational opportunities for students. This proposal to expand SA – Bronx 1 to serve students in fifth through eighth grades is intended to increase the number of high-quality elementary and middle school seats in District 7 and to allow the school to continue serving its students beyond the fourth grade.

According to the 2011-2012 Enrollment, Capacity, Utilization Report (the “Blue Book”), X183 has the capacity to serve 1,519 students. Currently, the building serves 1,390 students, yielding a building utilization rate of 92%. If this proposal is approved, SA - Bronx 1 will add a fifth grade in 2014-2015 and one grade in each subsequent year until it reaches full scale in X183 in 2017-2018, when it will serve approximately 730-820 students in kindergarten through eighth grades. If this proposal and the proposal to phase out M.S. 203 are both approved, X183 is projected to serve approximately 1,458-1,654 students from SA – Bronx 1, Bronx Letters, and P168X in 2017-2018, yielding an estimated building utilization rate of 96%-109%.

Building X183 has sufficient space to provide all schools with at least their baseline room allocations, under the Citywide Instructional Footprint, despite the possibility of a utilization rate over 100%. Although a utilization rate in excess of 100% may suggest that a building will be over-utilized or over-crowded in a given year, this rate does not account for the fact that rooms may be programmed for more efficient or different uses than the standard assumptions in the

utilization calculation. In addition, charter school enrollment plans are frequently based on larger class sizes than target capacity, contributing to building utilizations above 100% while not impacting the utilization of the space allocated to the traditional district school. Therefore, the X183 building has the capacity to accommodate M.S. 203 as it phases out, Bronx Letters, P168X, and SA - Bronx 1 over the course of the proposed grade expansion.

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. 203, the Urban Assembly Bronx Academy of Letters, P168X, and SA – Bronx 1.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D07Proposals@schools.nyc.gov

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-5159.

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: Stephanie Crane
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D07Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-5159

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

February 14, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
M.S. 203
339 Morris Avenue
Bronx, NY 10451

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 its 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 6:00 p.m.

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