



**Notice**  
January 14, 2013

**Dennis M. Walcott**  
*Chancellor*

## **The Proposed Phase-Out of M.S. 203 (07X203) 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 phase out M.S. 203 (07X203, “M.S. 203”), an existing middle school housed in building X183 (“X183”) located at 399 Morris Avenue, Bronx, NY 10451, in Community School District 7 (“District 7”). It currently serves students in grades six through eight. The DOE is proposing to phase out M.S. 203 based on its poor performance and the DOE’s assessment that the school lacks the capacity to improve quickly to better support student needs.

If this proposal is approved, M.S. 203 will no longer admit new sixth-grade students after the conclusion of the 2012-2013 school year. The school will continue to phase out one grade level at a time, until it closes following the 2014-2015 school year. Current students will be served and supported as they progress towards the completion of middle school while remaining enrolled at M.S. 203. Current and future M.S. 203 eighth-grade students will be supported through the Citywide High School Admissions Process as they apply to high school. In cases where students do not meet promotional requirements by June 2015, the DOE will help students and families identify alternative programs or schools that meet students’ needs so that they may continue their education after M.S. 203 completes phasing out.

M.S. 203 is co-located with The Urban Assembly Bronx Academy of Letters (07X551, “Bronx Letters”), an existing secondary school serving students in sixth through twelfth grade, Success Academy Charter School-Bronx 1 (84X493, “SA - Bronx 1”), an existing charter school that currently serves kindergarten to third grades but is growing to serve kindergarten through fourth grades in building X183, and a District 75 program (75X168, “P168X”) that provides both self-contained and inclusion classes.

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 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.

In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) also posted on January 11, 2013, the DOE is proposing to expand the co-location of SA – Bronx 1 in building X183, such that SA - Bronx 1 would grow from serving grades kindergarten through four to serve grades kindergarten through eight. SA - Bronx 1 will add one grade each year, first completing its expansion to serve grades kindergarten through four in the 2013-2014 year (an expansion that has already been approved), and then adding grades five through eight by continuing to add one grade each subsequent year until 2017-2018, at which point it will have reached full scale and will serve students in kindergarten through eighth grades. If this proposal is approved, after the phase-out of M.S. 203, which will be completed at the end of 2014-2015, there will continue to be excess District 7 district middle school seat capacity. The DOE anticipates that the expansion of SA - Bronx 1 will increase the number of high-quality middle school seats in District 7.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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.  
Building X183  
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