



Notice
January 18, 2013

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

**The Proposed Co-location of the High School Grades of
Democracy Preparatory Harlem Charter School
(84M481), with Choir Academy of Harlem (05M469),
Harlem Children’s Zone Promise Academy II
(84M341), and New District School 05M157 (05M157)
in Building M501, 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 co-locate the high school grades of Democracy Preparatory Harlem Charter School (84M481), referred to throughout this document as Democracy Prep Harlem High School, in building M501 beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. Building M501 is located at 2005 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10035, within the geographical confines of Community School District 5 (“District 5”). Democracy Preparatory Harlem Charter School (“Democracy Prep Harlem”) is an existing charter school serving grades six through eight in non-DOE private space located at 207 133rd Street, Manhattan, NY 10030 within District 5. Democracy Prep Harlem was approved by its charter authorizer, the DOE, to serve students in grades sixth through eight. Democracy Prep Harlem has applied to the DOE to expand its grade span to serve students in grades six through twelve, reaching full scale in 2016-2017. Should Democracy Prep Harlem’s request to expand not be approved, this proposal will be revised accordingly. The proposed addition of the high school grades of Democracy Preparatory Harlem Charter School will offer a rigorous academic program that will prepare students for post-secondary education and work. If this proposal is approved, Democracy Prep Harlem High School will be co-located with Choir Academy of Harlem (05M469, “Choir”), an existing secondary school serving students in grades six through twelve, Harlem Children’s Zone Promise Academy II (84M341, “Promise Academy II”), an existing public charter school serving students in grades kindergarten through eight, and new district high school 05M157 (05M157, “05M157”) if approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”). Promise Academy II’s seventh and eighth grades are temporarily co-located for one year in M501. The temporary expansion of the co-location of Promise Academy II’s seventh and eighth grades in M501 was proposed and approved by the PEP on March 23, 2011. Beginning in the 2013-2014 school year, Promise Academy II will only serve students in kindergarten through sixth grades in M501, as the seventh and eighth grades of Promise Academy II will move to private, non-DOE space. Building M501 also houses an Alternative Learning Center (88M993, “ALC”).

In another Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) posted on January 18, 2013, the DOE has proposed to co-locate a new district high school, 05M157, in M501. That proposal can be found here: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013PEP.htm>.

In a separate EIS also posted on January 18, 2013, the DOE has proposed to phase out and eventually close Choir after an extensive review of data and community feedback indicating that the school is unable to turn around despite numerous efforts to improve instruction and school organization. That EIS can be accessed on the DOE’s Web site at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013PEP.htm>.

If the PEP approves the proposal to phase out Choir, Choir will concurrently phase out its middle and high school grades such that in 2013-2014, the first year of phase out, Choir will no longer serve students in sixth and ninth grades; in 2014-2015 Choir will no longer serve students in seventh and tenth grades; in 2015-2016 Choir will no longer serve students in eighth and eleventh grades; and after the conclusion of the 2015-2016 school year, Choir will close. However, current middle school students will be supported as they progress towards middle school graduation, and current high school students will be supported as they progress towards high school graduation.

In the event that the phase-out of Choir is not approved, the DOE will re-examine the availability of space in the building and may, as appropriate, revise its proposal to co-locate Democracy Prep Harlem High School and 05M157 in M501. Such a revised proposal would be described in revised EISs and a revised BUP.

The proposed opening and co-location of the Democracy Prep Harlem High School in M501 is part of the DOE’s central goal to create new school options that will better serve current and future students and the community at large.

If this proposal is approved, Democracy Prep Harlem High School will open in M501 during the 2013-2014 school year, when it will serve approximately 90-115 students in ninth grade. Democracy Prep Harlem High School will gradually phase in one grade per year. The high school is expected to reach full scale in 2016-2017 and will serve approximately 360-460 students in grades nine through twelve.

If the proposals to phase out Choir, to co-locate Democracy Prep Harlem High School, and to open 05M157 are approved, in 2016-2017, once Choir has completed its phase-out and Democracy Prep Harlem High School and 05M157 have reached full scale, it is projected that there will be approximately 1,215-1,515 students served in M501, thereby yielding a utilization rate of approximately 92%-115%.

If this proposal is approved, Democracy Prep Harlem High School will provide a new educational option for families in District 5. As described in the EIS regarding the proposed co-location of 05M157 in M501, 05M157 will replace the high school seats that will be lost as a result of the phase-out and eventual closure of Choir and provide another educational option for families in District 5.

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 Choir Academy of Harlem and Harlem Children’s Zone Promise Academy II Charter School.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D05Proposals@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: Meera Jain
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D05Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-3466

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

February 21, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
2005 Madison Avenue
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