



Notice
January 18, 2013

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Closure of Freedom Academy High School (13K509) at the End of Year 2012-2013

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

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to close Freedom Academy High School (13K509, “Freedom Academy”), an existing school serving students in grades nine through twelve, in building K906 (“K906”), located at 116 Nassau Street Brooklyn, NY 11201, within the geographical confines of Community School District 13 (“District 13”). The DOE is proposing to close the school based on its poor performance, low student enrollment and demand, and the DOE’s assessment that it lacks the capacity to improve quickly to better support student needs. Freedom Academy admits students through the Citywide High School Admissions Process. If this proposal is approved, Freedom Academy will close at the end of the 2012-2013 school year. Current ninth, tenth, and eleventh grade students, and twelfth grade students who do not satisfy graduation requirements will be offered seats at other Citywide high schools. Current twelfth grade students who meet graduation requirements at the end of the school year will graduate in June 2013. Freedom Academy is the only organization in the K906 building.

At this time, there are no plans to open or co-locate any other organizations in K906. K906 is a privately owned space that the DOE currently leases for the express purpose of providing a school facility for Freedom Academy. If this proposal to close Freedom Academy in June 2013 is not approved by the Panel for Educational Policy, the DOE would need to resite Freedom Academy to another building and would arrange to do so prior to September 2013, since the K906 lease is expiring at the close of the 2012-2013 school year. Therefore, there are no other proposed or potential uses of K906.

There is sufficient capacity in high schools throughout the district, borough, and city to accommodate current Freedom Academy students, as well as future students who might have attended Freedom Academy if it remained open. Additionally, many public charter schools across Brooklyn give preference to students in their respective geographic districts in which they are located providing another option for students to enroll in high school through the charter lottery application process. If this proposal is approved, the Office of Student Enrollment will inform parents of current ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade students at Freedom Academy about options to transfer to other high schools in the Spring of 2013. Please see the attached Appendix for more information in regards to seat availability in the district.

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

The Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) 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 is also available in Freedom Academy HS main office.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D13Proposals@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: Lauren Spillane
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D13Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-0208

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

February 25, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
116 Nassau Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

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