



Notice
January 18, 2013

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Phase-out of Business, Computer Applications & Entrepreneurship High School (29Q496) 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 Business, Computer Applications & Entrepreneurship High School (29Q496, “BCAE”), an existing high school located in school building Q490 on the Campus Magnet Educational Campus (“Q490” or “Campus Magnet”), beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. Campus Magnet is located at 207-01 116th Avenue, Queens, NY 11411, within the geographical confines of Community School District 29 (“District 29”). BCAE currently serves students in grades nine through twelve. The DOE is proposing to phase out the school based on its poor performance and the DOE’s assessment that it lacks the capacity to improve quickly to better support student needs.

If this phase-out proposal is approved, BCAE will no longer admit new ninth-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 at the conclusion of the 2015-2016 school year, and current students will be supported as they progress towards graduation while remaining enrolled at BCAE. In cases where students do not complete graduation requirements by June 2016, the DOE will help students and families identify alternative programs or schools that meet students’ needs so that they may continue their education after BCAE completes phasing out.

BCAE is co-located with the following three district schools: Mathematics, Science Research and Technology Magnet High School (29Q492, “MAST”), an existing high school serving students in grades nine through twelve; Law, Government and Community Service High School (29Q494, “LGCS”), an existing high school serving students in grades nine through twelve; and Humanities & Arts Magnet High School (29Q498, “Humanities & Arts”), an existing high school serving students in grades nine through twelve. In addition, building Q490 houses a School Based Health Center (“SBHC”) program.

BCAE has a Career and Technical Education (“CTE”) program. The program admits students in ninth grade through the Citywide High School Admissions process.

In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) posted on January 14, 2013, the DOE is proposing to phase out LGCS due to its poor performance and the DOE’s assessment that it lacks the capacity to improve quickly to better support student needs. That proposal can be found here:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013Proposals.htm>.

If that proposal is approved, LGCS would begin phasing out in September 2013 and eventually close at the conclusion of the 2015-2016 school year. In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) also posted on January 14, 2013, the DOE is proposing to co-locate a new school, 29Q243, in building Q490 beginning in the 2013-2014 school year as part of the replacement strategy for LGCS. If that proposal is approved, 29Q243 would enroll students beginning in the 2013-2014 school year and would be at full-scale during the 2016-2017 school year. 29Q243 will offer a rigorous academic program with a CTE component that will prepare students for post-secondary education and work. That proposal can be found here:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013Proposals.htm>.

If this phase-out proposal is approved, BCAE will continue serving currently enrolled students, but will begin phasing out one grade at a time beginning in September 2013, and complete its phase-out after the 2015-2016 school year. If this proposal to phase-out BCAE, the proposal to phase-out LGCS, and the proposal to co-locate 29Q243 are approved, it is likely that after BCAE and LGCS complete their phase-outs and 29Q243 completes its phase-in, there may be underutilized space in building Q490. At this time, the DOE also anticipates opening a new school in September 2014 in Q490 as part of the replacement strategy for BCAE. The DOE would issue a separate EIS for such a proposal.

Background on the DOE’s Decision-Making Process

Schools are identified for possible phase-out for any of the following three reasons: (1) they received poor grades on their annual Progress Report; (2) they received a poor score on their most recent Quality Review; or (3) they have been identified by the New York State Education Department (“SED”) as a Priority School, defined by SED as one of the bottom 5% of schools in the state. In August 2012, SED identified Priority schools across the State, including 122 in New York City. High schools are identified as Priority based on the school’s graduation rate.

Specifically, under the DOE’s accountability framework, all schools that receive a grade of D, F, or a third consecutive C grade or lower on their annual Progress Report and all schools that receive a rating of Underdeveloped on the Quality Review are evaluated for intensive support or intervention, including the possibility of phase-out. Progress Reports are released by the DOE each fall and evaluate schools on a scale of A through F based on Student Progress, Student Performance, School Environment, and, new to the Progress Report in 2011-2012, College and Career Readiness. During Quality Reviews,

experienced educators visit a school over several days, observing classrooms and talking with students, staff, and families. Schools are rated on the following four-point scale: “Underdeveloped” (the lowest possible rating), “Developing,” “Proficient,” and “Well Developed” (the highest possible rating). BCAE received an overall D grade on its Progress Report in 2011-2012, and received a C and a D, respectively, for the two years prior. The school was rated “Developing” on its most recent Quality Review in 2011-2012 indicating deficiencies in the way that the school is organized to support student learning.

As a result, the DOE initiated a comprehensive review of BCAE, with the goal of determining what intensive supports and interventions would best benefit its students and the BCAE community. During that review, the DOE looked at recent historical performance and demand data from the school, consulted with superintendents and other experienced educators who have worked closely with the school, and gathered community feedback.

The DOE initiated and completed a similar comprehensive review of BCAE during the fall of 2009, after BCAE earned a D on its 2008-2009 Progress Report. Upon completion of the review in the fall of 2009, the DOE believed that, at the time, phase-out was an appropriate intervention for the school. Based on evidence that the school was not equipped to significantly improve student performance, in January 2010, the Panel for Educational Policy voted to implement the closure and replacement of BCAE. A lawsuit prevented the DOE from following through with those plans. However, BCAE’s performance during the 2011-2012 school year only confirms the DOE’s earlier assessment that the school lacks the capacity to improve quickly to better support student needs.

The DOE also initiated and completed a similar comprehensive review of BCAE during the fall of 2010, after BCAE earned a D on its 2009-2010 and a C on its 2010-2011 Progress Reports. Upon completion of the review in the fall of 2010, the DOE believed that, at the time, phase-out was not the appropriate intervention for the school.

However, given the school’s declining performance, the DOE now believes that only the most serious intervention—the gradual phase-out and eventual closure of BCAE—will address the school’s declining performance and longstanding struggles and allow for new school options to develop in building Q490 that will better serve future students and the broader community. BCAE’s performance during the 2011-2012 school year only confirms the DOE’s earlier assessment that the school lacks the capacity to improve quickly to better support student needs.

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 are also available in the Business, Computer Applications & Entrepreneurship High School, Humanities & Arts Magnet High School, Law, Government and Community

Service High School, and Mathematics, Science Research and Technology Magnet High School main offices.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D29Proposals@schools.nyc.gov

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-7621.

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: Emily Ades
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007
Email: D29Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-7621

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

February 26, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
207- 01 116th Avenue
Queens, NY 11411

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 6:00 p.m.

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