



Notice
January 22, 2013

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Opening and Co-location of New District Middle School 28Q287 with Existing Schools J.H.S. 008 Richard S. Grossley (28Q008) and York Early College Academy (28Q284) in Building Q008 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 a new middle school, 28Q287 (“28Q287”), in building Q008 (“Q008”) located at 108-35 167th Street, Queens, NY 11433, in Community School District 28 (“District 28”). If this proposal is approved, 28Q287 will be co-located in Q008 with J.H.S. 008 Richard S. Grossley (28Q008, “J.H.S. 8”), an existing middle school serving students in grades six through eight, and York Early College Academy (28Q284, “YECA”), an existing secondary school serving students in grades six through twelve. A community based organization (“CBO”), Southern Queens Park Association (“SQPA”) Beacon, is also located in Q008. 28Q287 will serve students in sixth through eighth grade. If this proposal is approved, 28Q287 will begin enrolling sixth grade students in 2013-2014 and will add one grade per year until it is at full scale and serves students in sixth through eighth grade in 2015-2016.

In consultation with the school’s leader, cluster, network support, and community, the DOE is planning to reduce the enrollment at J.H.S. 8 over a period of three years beginning in September 2013. J.H.S. 8 will admit fewer sixth grade students after the end of the 2012-2013 school year and will continue to admit this reduced number of sixth grade students in subsequent years. By 2015-2016, enrollment at J.H.S. 8 will decrease by approximately 350-380 students so that it will serve 315-345 students at scale in sixth through eighth grades.

The proposed co-location of 28Q287 in building Q008 is part of the DOE’s central goal to create new school options that will better serve future students and the community at large and to provide another option in the Q008 building. J.H.S. 8 currently admits students through the District 28 Middle School Choice Process through an Unscreened admissions method, with a priority to the Q008 zone.

If this proposal is approved, 28Q287 and J.H.S. 8 will both be unscreened middle schools offering a zoned priority to students living in the Q008 zone. 28Q287 and J.H.S. 8 will admit students through the District 28 Middle School Choice process and offer priority to students residing in the Q008 zone. Students will then be matched to a school in District

28 based on student preference and the school selection criteria through a matching process operated by the Office of Student Enrollment (“OSE”).

According to the 2011-2012 Enrollment Capacity Utilization Report (“Blue Book”), Q008 has the capacity to serve 1,671 students. In 2012-2013, the building is serving 1,273 total students, yielding a target utilization rate of 76%.

In 2015-2016, once J.H.S. 8 has completed its targeted enrollment reduction and 28Q287 is at full scale, it is projected that there will be approximately 1,205-1,335 students served in Q008, thereby yielding an estimated building utilization rate of approximately 72%-80%.

If this proposal to co-locate 28Q287 is approved, the middle school seats that will be lost as a result of the targeted enrollment reduction at J.H.S. 8 will be largely recovered by the new seats created by the opening of 28Q287, and 28Q287 will provide a new educational option for families in District 28.

Background on the DOE Decision-Making Process

The DOE strives to ensure that all students in New York City have access to a high-quality school at every stage of their education. The co-location of 28Q287 in building Q008 is intended to provide an additional option to students and families in District 28 and in Queens.

As mentioned above, the DOE is working closely with the J.H.S 8 community to gradually decrease the school’s enrollment by approximately 350-380 students over a period of three years. This will provide an opportunity for the school to concentrate on a smaller cohort of students and allow for a new option for middle school students in building Q008.

J.H.S. 8 received an overall C grade on its Progress Report in 2011-2012 for the third consecutive year. The school received a “Developing” on its most recent Quality Review in 2010-2011. The school was also designated a Priority school, defined by the New York State Education Department as one of the bottom 5% of schools in the state.

As a result of J.H.S. 8’s poor performance, the DOE initiated a comprehensive review of J.H.S. 8 in the fall of 2012, with the goal of determining what intensive supports and interventions would best benefit its students and the J.H.S. 8 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.

At this time, the DOE believes that reducing the enrollment of J.H.S. 8 beginning in September 2013 and providing a new option for middle school students in the Q008 building will benefit current and future students at J.H.S. 8 and in Queens. The enrollment reduction is intended to provide an opportunity for J.H.S. 8 to improve by narrowing its focus to fewer academic programs and a smaller number of students, and allow for new school options to develop in building Q008.

The DOE will also continue to seek and review community feedback while this proposal is under consideration by the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”).

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 J.H.S. 008 and York Early College Academy main offices.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D28Proposals@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: Allen Miller
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D28Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-7621

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

Tuesday, March 5th at 6:00 p.m.
J.H.S. 008 Richard S. Grossley
108-35 167th Street
Queens, NY 11433

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.

VI. 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