



Notice
February 5, 2013

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

Amended Educational Impact Statement: The Proposed Phase-out of the High School of Graphic Communication Arts (02M625) Beginning in 2013-2014

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

On January 18, 2013, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) issued an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) proposing to phase out the High School of Graphic Communication Arts (02M625, “Graphics”), an existing high school located in school building M625 (“M625”), beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. M625 is located at 439 West 49th Street, New York, NY 10019 within the geographical confines of Community School District 2 (“District 2”). Graphics 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. Two separate Educational Impact Statements (“EISs”) also posted on January 18, 2013, describe additional proposals for building M625. In one, the DOE is proposing to co-locate a new district high school (02M135, “New School”) in M625. In the other, the DOE is proposing to co-locate Success Academy Charter School Manhattan Middle School (“SA – Manhattan MS”) in M625. Those proposals can be found here: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013Proposals.htm>.

If this phase-out proposal is approved, Graphics 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. Current students at Graphics will be supported as they progress towards graduation while remaining enrolled at the school. 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 Graphics completes phasing out.

This EIS and the related EIS for the proposal to co-locate new district high school 02M135 in M625 in 2013-2014 have now been amended to update the eligibility status of 02M135 and the High School of Graphic Communication Arts for School Improvement Grant funding. The amended information is provided in a Notice of Amendment for Section V. of the EISs available at <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013Proposals.htm> and does not substantially revise either proposal.

In the current 2012-2013 school year, Graphics is co-located with two district high schools: Business of Sports School (02M393, “BOSS”), an existing high school that serves students in grades nine through twelve; and Urban Assembly Gateway School for Technology (02M507, “Gateway”), an existing high school that currently serves students in grades nine and ten. Gateway is in the process of phasing in, gradually growing to full scale as it adds a new grade of students each year. Gateway will serve students in grades nine through twelve when it reaches full scale in 2014-2015.

On December 20, 2012 the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”) approved the co-location of SA – Manhattan 2 in M625, which will open in 2013 with kindergarten and first grade. Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, SA – Manhattan 2 will serve students in kindergarten through fourth grade.

Graphics, BOSS and Gateway are Career and Technical Education (“CTE”) schools. Each of these schools admits students in ninth grade through the Citywide High School Admissions process. Additional information about CTE programming and the High School Admissions Process can be found in Section III.A of this proposal.

M625 also houses two community-based organizations (“CBOs”), SPARK Drug Prevention and the Association of Progressive Dominicans, as well as an Alternative Learning Center (“ALC”), which provides an educational setting for students in grades nine through twelve who are on a Superintendent’s suspension for up to 90 days. This proposal is not expected to impact the continued siting of the CBOs. In the 2013-2014 school year, the ALC will re-locate to building M859 (“M859”), located at 512 West 182nd St, New York, NY 10033 within the geographical confines of Community School District 6.

If this phase-out proposal is approved, Graphics will continue serving students currently enrolled in the school but will begin phasing out one grade at a time beginning in September 2013. The school will complete its phase-out at the conclusion of the 2015-2016 school year. In another EIS that has also been amended on February 5, 2013, the DOE is proposing to open a new high school, 02M135, in building M625 in September 2013. The proposal can be found at:

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

02M135 will grow to full-scale as Graphics phases out. The new school will open with ninth grade, adding one grade annually and reaching full-scale in the 2016-2017 school year with a grade span of nine through twelve. Additionally, the DOE is proposing to co-locate SA - Manhattan MS in M625 beginning in the 2015-2016 school year and serving its full grade span beginning in the 2018-2019 school year. Meanwhile, Gateway and SA – Manhattan 2 will continue to phase in as planned and BOSS will continue to serve students in grades nine through twelve. That proposal can be found at:

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

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 their graduation rates. 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).

Graphics received an overall F grade on its Progress Report in 2011-2012, after having received an F in 2010-2011 and a D in 2009-2010. The school also received F grades on each of four subcategories on its 2011-2012 Progress Report. Graphics was rated “Underdeveloped” on its most recent Quality Review in 2010-2011. The school was also designated a Priority school by SED for the 2012-2013 school year.

As a result, the DOE initiated a comprehensive review of Graphics, with the goal of determining what intensive supports and interventions would best benefit its students and the Graphics 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. As noted above, Graphics has struggled, and the school’s performance during the 2011-2012 school year further demonstrates that the school lacks capacity to improve quickly to better support student needs.

The DOE initiated and completed a similar comprehensive review of Graphics during the fall of 2010, after the school earned an overall D grade on its 2009-2010 Progress Report and had been named by SED as a Persistently Low Achieving (“PLA”) school for the first time in January 2010. 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. The DOE decided to reduce the number of CTE pathways that Graphics would offer beginning in September 2012, thereby reducing overall enrollment at the school. The enrollment reduction was intended to provide an opportunity for Graphics to improve by narrowing its focus to fewer academic programs and a smaller number of students.

In light of the fact that performance at Graphics has continued to decline, the DOE no longer believes that the enrollment reduction will be an adequate intervention to assist the school in improving quickly to support student learning. Given the school’s declining performance, the DOE now believes that only the most serious intervention – the gradual phase-out and eventual closure of Graphics – will address the school’s declining performance and longstanding struggles and allow for new school options to develop in building M625 that will better serve future students and the broader community.

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

The Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”), Building Utilization Plan (“BUP”), and amendment language 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 High School of Graphic Communication Arts, Business of Sports School, and Urban Assembly Gateway School For Technology main offices.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D02Proposals@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: Jennifer Peng
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D02Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-3466

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

February 26, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
439 West 49th Street
Manhattan, NY 10019

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