



Notice
February 20, 2013

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

Amended Educational Impact Statement: The Proposed Phase-out of Choir Academy of Harlem (05M469) 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 Choir Academy of Harlem (05M469, “Choir”), an existing secondary school located in building M501 (“M501”) beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. Building M501 is located at 2005 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10035 in Community School District 5 (“District 5”). Choir currently serves students in grades six through twelve and admits middle and high school students through a screened and audition process. The school provides performing arts, visual arts, and design programming. 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. In two separate EISs posted on January 18, 2013, the DOE proposed to (1) co-locate a new district high school (“05M157”) and (2) co-locate the high school grades of Democracy Prep Harlem Charter School (84M481, “Democracy Prep Harlem”) in M501 beginning in September 2013. Those proposals can be found here: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013PEP.htm>.

The DOE is now amending this EIS to reflect the proposed change in the grades to be served by Democracy Prep Harlem in M501 from grades nine through twelve to grades kindergarten through four.

On February 20, 2013, the DOE issued a revised EIS and Building Utilization Plan (“BUP”) proposing to co-locate grades kindergarten through four of Democracy Prep Harlem in building M501 beginning in 2013-2014, instead of the high school grades of Democracy Prep Harlem as originally proposed. Democracy Prep Harlem Charter School is an existing public charter school that is authorized by its charter authorizer, the DOE, to serve students in grades six through eight. Democracy Prep Harlem is currently serving students in grades six through eight in private, non-DOE space in District 5. Democracy Prep Harlem has applied to the DOE to expand its grade span from six through eight to kindergarten through twelve, reaching full scale in 2018-2019. In addition, Democracy Prep Harlem intends to serve students in grade five in private space, once the school begins serving fifth-grade students in 2018-2019. Should Democracy Prep Harlem’s request to expand not be approved, this proposal will be revised accordingly.

This amended EIS changes the grades to be served in M501 by Democracy Prep Harlem from nine through twelve to kindergarten through four. This means that Democracy Prep Harlem's high school grades will not be served in M501. However, the DOE is identifying an alternate site for the high school grades of Democracy Prep Harlem in Manhattan beginning in 2013-2014. Thus, this revision does not impact future borough-wide high school seat capacity.

The revised EIS for the proposed opening and co-location of 05M157 and the revised EIS and BUP for the proposed co-location of grades kindergarten through four of Democracy Prep Harlem in M501 beginning in 2013-2014 can be found at:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar202013Proposals.htm>.

If this phase-out proposal is approved, 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. Current middle school students will be served and supported as they progress towards completion of middle school; current high school students will be served and supported as they progress towards high school graduation. In cases where students do not meet promotional requirements from middle school or complete high school graduation requirements by the applicable school closing date, the DOE will help students and families identify alternative schools that meet students' needs so that they may continue their education after Choir completes phasing out.

Choir is co-located with Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy II (84M341, "Promise Academy II"), an existing public charter school serving students in grades kindergarten through eight. In addition, building M501 houses an Alternative Learning Center (88M993, "ALC"). ALCs provide an educational setting for students who are suspended from their regular schools to receive academic, social, and emotional supports to prepare themselves for a return to the school from which they were suspended.

Promise Academy II's seventh and eighth grades are temporarily co-located for one year with Choir and the ALC 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 Panel for Educational Policy ("PEP") on March 23, 2011. Beginning in the 2013-2014 school year, Promise Academy II will only serve students in kindergarten through sixth grade in M501, as the seventh and eighth grades of Promise Academy II will move to private, non-DOE space.

If this phase-out proposal is approved, Choir will continue serving currently enrolled students, but will begin phasing out in September 2013, and will complete its phase-out after the 2015-2016 school year. In two separate EISs posted on January 18, 2013 and revised on February 20, 2013, the DOE is proposing to co-locate a new district high school, 05M157, and grades kindergarten through four of Democracy Prep Harlem beginning in September 2013. Those revised proposals can be found here:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar202013Proposals.htm>.

If those proposals are approved, 05M157 will open with ninth grade, adding one grade per year and reaching full scale in the 2016-2017 school year with a grade span of nine through twelve in building M501. If approved, Democracy Prep Harlem will expand to serve students in grades kindergarten through four in M501, adding one grade per year and reaching full-scale in the M501 building in the 2017-2018 school year. Democracy Prep Harlem is an existing public charter school that currently serves students in grades six through eight in private, non-DOE space at 207 West 133rd Street, New York, NY 10030 in District 5. Students in grades six through eight will continue to be served in that private, non-DOE space as mentioned above. 05M157 and Democracy Prep Harlem will grow to their intended grade spans as Choir phases out.

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

Amended EIS describing the proposed phase-out of Choir Academy of Harlem can be found on the Department of Education's Web site:

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

Revised EIS describing the proposed co-location of a new district high school in M501 can be found on the Department of Education's Web site:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar202013Proposals.htm>.

Revised EIS and BUP describing the proposed co-location of grades kindergarten through four of Democracy Prep Harlem Charter School in M501 can be found on the Department of Education's Web site: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar202013Proposals.htm>.

Copies of the updated EISs 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.

Regarding the proposed phase-out of Choir Academy of Harlem

February 21, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
2005 Madison Avenue
Manhattan, NY 10035

Regarding the proposed co-location of 05M157 and grades kindergarten through four of
Democracy Prep Harlem Charter School

March 18, 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.**

Regarding the proposed phase-out of Choir Academy of Harlem

March 11, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
Brooklyn Technical High School
29 Fort Greene Pl
Brooklyn, NY 11217

Regarding the proposed co-location of 05M157 and grades kindergarten through four of
Democracy Prep Harlem Charter School

March 20, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
Brooklyn Technical High School
29 Fort Greene Pl
Brooklyn, NY 11217