

Public Comment Analysis¹

Date: March 8, 2013

Topic: The Proposed Opening and Co-location of New High School 29Q243 with Business, Computer Applications & Entrepreneurship High School (29Q496), Mathematics, Science Research and Technology Magnet High School (29Q492), Law, Government and Community Service High School (29Q494), and Humanities & Arts Magnet High School (29Q498) in School Building Q490 Beginning in 2013-2014

Date of Panel Vote: March 11, 2013

Summary of Proposal

On January 14, 2013, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) issued an Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) describing a proposal to open and co-locate 29Q243 (“29Q243”), a new district high school, in school building Q490 (“Q490”) on the Campus Magnet Educational Campus (“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”). The proposed new high school 29Q243 will offer a rigorous academic program with a career and technical education (“CTE”) component that will prepare students for post-secondary education and work. If this proposal is approved, 29Q243 will be co-located with the following district schools: Business, Computer Applications & Entrepreneurship High School (29Q496, “BCAE”) an existing high school serving students in grades nine through twelve; 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 and Arts”), an existing high school serving students in grades nine through twelve. In addition, building Q490 houses a School Based Health Center (“SBHC”) program.

On February 6, 2013, the DOE issued an amended EIS that provides updated information regarding the impact on borough-wide seat capacity in Section III.C, including an accurately updated chart detailing the proposed changes to high school seats in Queens, an updated description of the types of previously and concurrently proposed changes to high school seats in Queens, and a clarification of the impact on CTE seat capacity. This amended EIS also provides additional information regarding funding for CTE programs.

In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) posted on January 14, 2013 and amended on February 6, 2013, the DOE proposed to phase out and eventually close LGCS after an extensive review of data and community feedback indicating that the school lacks the capacity to improve quickly to better support student needs despite numerous efforts to improve instruction and school organization. This EIS can be

¹ The DOE will continue to accept comments concerning this proposal up to 24 hours prior to the Panel for Educational Policy’s (“PEP”) vote on March 11, 2013. Those additional comments will be addressed in an amended Public Comment Analysis which will be provided to the PEP before it votes on this proposal.

accessed on the DOE's Web site at <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2012-2013/Mar112013Proposals.htm>. The opening and co-location of 29Q243 is part of the replacement plan for LGCS.

In another EIS that was posted on January 17, 2013, the DOE is proposing to phase out and eventually close BCAE after an extensive review of data and community feedback indicating that the school lacks the capacity to improve quickly to better support student needs despite numerous efforts to improve instruction and school organization. This EIS can be accessed on the DOE's Web site at:

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

If the Panel for Education Policy ("PEP") approves the proposal to phase out LGCS, the school will no longer admit new ninth-grade students after the end of this school year. However, LGCS will continue to serve students currently enrolled in the school. LGCS's enrollment will decrease gradually over the next three years, and the school will complete phasing out in June 2016.

In the event that the phase-out of LGCS is not approved, the DOE would re-examine the availability of space in the building, and may, as appropriate, revise its proposal to co-locate 29Q243 in Q490. Such a revised proposal would be described in a revised EIS.

The proposed opening and co-location of 29Q243 in Q490 is part of the DOE's central goal to create new school options that will better serve future students and the community at large. As mentioned above, 29Q243 would offer a rigorous academic program with a CTE component that would be open to students through the Citywide High School Admissions Process and would have a limited unscreened selection method, giving priority to students residing in Queens.

According to the 2011-2012 Enrollment, Capacity, Utilization Report ("Blue Book"), Q490 had a target capacity of 2,009 students and in 2012-2013, the building is serving only 1,709 students, yielding a building utilization rate of 85%.

If this proposal is approved, the new school would open during the 2013-2014 school year, when it would serve approximately 105-115 students in the ninth grade. 29Q243 would gradually phase in by adding one grade per year. The school is expected to reach full scale in 2016-2017 and would serve approximately 420-460 students in grades nine through twelve.

In 2016-2017, once BCAE and LGCS have completed their phase-outs and 29Q243 is at full scale, it is projected that there will be approximately 1,345-1,465 students served in Q490, thereby yielding an estimated utilization rate of approximately 67%-73%.

The details of this proposal have been released in an EIS which can be accessed here:

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

Copies of the EIS are also available in the Law, Government and Community Service High School, Humanities & Arts Magnet High School, Business, Computer Applications & Entrepreneurship High School, and Mathematics, Science Research and Technology Magnet High School main offices.

Summary of Comments Received

A joint public hearing regarding this proposal was held at building Q490 on February 13, 2013. Members of the School Leadership Team (“SLT”) from every school organization in the Q490 building were invited to participate. At that hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. While representatives from the Citywide Council for Special Education, Citywide Council on High Schools, and Citywide Council for English Language Learners were invited, not all chose to participate in the hearing.

Approximately 115 members of the public attended the hearing and 28 people spoke. Present at the meeting were: Deputy Chancellor Shael Polakow-Suransky; Queens High Schools Superintendent Juan Mendez; Community Education Council (“CEC”) 29 President Alicia Hyndman; Donna Delfyett-White, Principal of Law, Government & Community Service High School; Lynne Callender, Principal of Business, Computer Applications, and Entrepreneurship High School; Jose Cruz, Principal of Mathematics, Science, Research and Technology High School; Rosemarie Omard, Principal of Humanities & the Arts High School; SLT representatives from LGCS, Karen Dagis, Kelly Nurse, Eric Simone, Nicole Johnson, Lakita Middlebrooks, and Barbara Giamundo; Council Member Leroy Comrie; Maylene Thurton representing Assemblywoman Barbara Clark; Nathaniel Hezekiah representing Congressman Gregory Meeks; and Savita Iyengar, Rebecca Rawlins, and Jillian Roland from the Office of Portfolio Management.

The following comments and remarks were made at the joint public hearing:

1. Multiple commenters expressed concern that LGCS prepares students for jobs in the law interest area, whereas the new school with a different focus would not.
 - a. A commenter expressed concern that this would change the whole focus of the campus.
 - b. A commenter expressed concern that the replacement school would have a generic focus.
2. Multiple commenters expressed concern that adding another school to the building would disrupt the campus.

Analysis of Issues Raised, Significant Alternatives Proposed and Changes Made to the Proposal

- Comments 1 and 1(a, b) express concern about adding a new focus area to the building.

The new high school, 29Q243, is proposed to be a CTE school, with a Career Pathway in Health Sciences. This pathway was selected in response to overall demand from students applying to CTE programs, demand from industry partners interested in hiring graduates with CTE endorsed diplomas, as well as labor trends and analysis of workforce needs. The Office of Postsecondary Readiness will support the leadership of 29Q243 to gain state approval for this program. Under the National Academy Foundation, which has a four-year career-based curriculum, 29Q243 may also explore creating a new career cluster theme of medical services. A medical services themed CTE program may help 29Q243 to diversify the Campus Magnet campus.

Admissions to 29Q243 would be open to any New York City student. The school is proposed to have a limited unscreened admissions method, with a priority for students residing in Queens. Limited unscreened schools give admissions priority to students who demonstrate interest in the school by attending an information session, open house event, or visiting the school's exhibit at any one of the High School Fairs.

Although high school applications were due on December 10, if this proposal is approved by the PEP, students who are interested in applying to 29Q243 would have the opportunity to submit a new admission application with revised school rankings in March. This application would replace the previously submitted application and would be included as the student's application for the Round Two of the High School Admissions Process. Other new high schools designated to open throughout the City for the 2013-2014 school year will also be available for these students to consider.

Not including LGCS, there are nine schools with a Law and Government interest area in Queens, included in the chart below. Additionally, August Martin High School, located at 156-10 Baisley Boulevard, offers classes in the Law and Government interest area and is located approximately three miles from LGCS.

DBN	Boro	School Name	Address	2012-2013 Enrollment	2011-2012 Org Capacity	2012-2013 Org Util	2011-2012 Progress Report Grade	% SE	% ELL	Program Name	Admissions Method
25Q460	Queens	Flushing High School	35-01 Union Street	3,032	2,031	149%	D	10%	18%	Thurgood Marshall Law Academy	Ed. Opt.
26Q415	Queens	Benjamin N. Cardozo High School	57-00 223Rd Street	3,793	2,637	144%	B	8%	6%	Mentor Law and Humanities Institute	Ed. Opt.
26Q430	Queens	Francis Lewis High School	58-20 Utopia Parkway	4,149	2,360	176%	A	10%	13%	Jacob K. Javits Law Institute	Ed. Opt.
26Q495	Queens	Bayside High School	32-24 Corporal Kennedy Street	3,308	2,235	148%	A	7%	5%	International & Cultural Relations	Limited Unscreened
27Q400	Queens	August Martin High School	156-10 Baisley Boulevard	1,031	1,769	58%	D	21%	5%	Business and Law Scholars Academy	Ed. Opt.
28Q440	Queens	Forest Hills High School	67-01 110 Street	3,854	2,064	187%	A	9%	8%	Law & Humanities Institute	Ed. Opt.
28Q505	Queens	Hillcrest High School	160-05 Highland Avenue	3,154	2,676	118%	B	7%	14%	Academy of Public Service and Law	Ed. Opt.
28Q690	Queens	High School for Law Enforcement and Public Safety	116-25 Guy R Brewer Boulevard	559	883	63%	B	13%	2%	Law Enforcement and Public Safety	Screened
30Q445	Queens	William Cullen Bryant High School	48-10 31 Avenue	2,798	2,742	102%	C	10%	16%	Forensic Science and Law Institute	Screened

- Comment 2 expresses concern that adding another school to the building would disrupt the campus.

There are currently hundreds of schools in buildings across the City that are co-located. In all

cases, allocation of classroom, resource, and administrative space is guided by the Citywide Instructional Footprint (the “Footprint”) which is applied to all schools in the building to ensure equitable allocation of classroom, resource and administrative space.

While the DOE acknowledges and commends the co-located schools in Q490 for their positive relationship, the DOE does not anticipate that the proposed phase-out and eventual closure of LGCS and BCAE will impact admissions, current or future student enrollment, or instructional programming at Humanities & Arts or MAST. Moreover, all schools will continue to receive support and assistance from their superintendent and their [Children First Network](#), a team that delivers operational and instructional support directly to schools.

Additionally, Q490 has the capacity to serve 2,009 students. In 2012-2013, the building is serving 1,709 total students, yielding a target utilization rate of just 85%. This is one indicator that the building is “underutilized” and has extra space to accommodate additional students. In 2016-2017, once LGCS and BCAE have phased out and 29Q243 has phased in, there would be approximately 1,345-1,465 total students served in the building. The projected utilization for Q490 at that point is approximately 67%-73%. Therefore, the DOE believes there is sufficient space in Q490 to accommodate Humanities & Arts, MAST, 29Q243 during the course of its proposed phase in, and LGCS and BCAE during the course of their proposed phase outs. The DOE anticipates that building Q490 will still have excess space once LGCS and BCAE have completed their phase-outs and 29Q243 has completed its phase-in. At this time, the DOE anticipates opening a new school in September 2014 in Q490 as part of the replacement strategy for BCAE.

The proposed opening and co-location of 29Q243 in Q490 is part of the DOE’s central goal to create new school options that will better serve future students and the community at large.

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes have been made to this proposal.