

Fact Sheet: Proposed Phase-out of J.H.S. 013 Jackie Robinson (04M013)

Overview

We want every community to have high quality school options for families. Every fall, the Department of Education (DOE) reviews the performance of all schools Citywide. Over the past several years, despite the best efforts of the community and the DOE to support J.H.S. 013 Jackie Robinson (“J.H.S. 13”), the school has struggled to meet basic requirements for student success.

On October 22, 2012, District 4 Community Superintendent Luz Cortazzo held meetings at the school with the School Leadership Team, staff, and parents to discuss what is working at J.H.S. 13, what needs to be improved, and how the community can work together to better serve students.

Based on an extensive review of qualitative and quantitative data and community feedback, the DOE has determined that J.H.S. 13 does not have the capacity to quickly improve and is proposing that the school be phased out.

Proposing to phase out a school is the most difficult decision we make. We are proposing to phase out J.H.S. 13 because it is the right action for current and future students in this community. If the proposal to phase out J.H.S. 13 is approved, the school would phase out gradually over the next several years. The school would close in June 2015 after its phase-out is complete.

We hope you share our view that we can—and must—do better for students. The DOE will continue to work closely with J.H.S. 13 staff and families to ensure that all students receive the support they need to succeed.

Performance Summary

Proficiency: % of Students on Grade Level		Progress Report Grade			Most Recent Quality Review Rating
English	Mathematics	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2010-2011
16%	20%	C	C	D	“Developing”

- The overwhelming majority of J.H.S. 13 students remain below grade level in English Language Arts and Math. Only 16% of students were performing on grade level in English—putting the school in the bottom 10% of middle schools Citywide. Only 20% of students were performing on grade level in math—putting the school in the bottom 6% of middle schools Citywide.
- The Progress Report measures the progress and performance of students in a school, as well as the school environment, compared to other schools serving similar student populations. J.H.S. 13 earned a D grade on its 2011-2012 annual Progress Report, including an F grade for Student Progress, a C grade for Student Performance, and a C grade for School Environment. This year’s Progress Report marks a further decline in J.H.S. 13’s performance after the school received C grades in the 2010-2011 and 2009-2010 school years.
- J.H.S. 13 was identified by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) as a Priority school, defined by NYSED as one of the bottom 5% of schools in the state.
- J.H.S. 13 was rated “Developing” on its most recent Quality Review in 2010-2011, indicating deficiencies in the way that the school is organized to support student learning.
- Safety issues have been a concern at the school. On the 2011-2012 New York City School Survey, only 30% of teachers believed that discipline and order were maintained at J.H.S. 13.

Despite our best efforts, the school has struggled

We recognize that J.H.S. 13 staff members have worked hard to improve the school, but even with support the school has not produced adequate outcomes for students. To help the school's efforts to improve performance, the DOE has offered numerous supports to J.H.S. 13 including:

Leadership Support:

- Supporting the principal and assistant principals in the development of instructional plans and goals for the school year, in support of the school's Comprehensive Education Plan.
- Supporting school leadership in aligning curriculum to citywide instructional expectations to ensure high standards for teacher practice and student learning.
- Training the principal and assistant principal in the use of data analysis to monitor student progress and academic achievement, and to inform school-wide instructional planning.

Instructional Support:

- Training teachers to use data tools and data analysis to identify student learning trends, set goals and differentiate instruction to increase student achievement.
- Providing extensive coaching for teachers in the development of rigorous curriculum, assessments and lesson plans in science, English Language Arts and math.
- Facilitating professional development for school staff at a math and literacy institute to build the school's capacity to improve instructional practice.

Operational Support:

- Advising the school on budgeting, building management and staffing issues, and supporting the school in recruiting highly qualified teachers.
- Collaborating with the school attendance team to develop strategies to increase student attendance.

Student Support:

- Providing training for teachers in classroom management strategies aimed at maintain a learning environment conducive to high academic achievement while working with difficult behavior patterns.
- Supporting the school's partnerships with community-based organizations to provide extra-curricular and after-school opportunities for students.

What would the proposal mean for current students?

If this proposal is approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP), J.H.S. 13 would be phased out gradually over the next several years and would not admit new sixth-grade students after the end of this school year. All currently enrolled students would have the opportunity to continue their education at J.H.S. 13 and would be supported through graduation.

- **Current sixth- and seventh-grade students** will continue on to the next grade level at J.H.S. 13 in September 2013; these students can remain at J.H.S. 13 through their eighth-grade graduation.
- The Office of Student Enrollment will work with the families of current sixth-grade students who do not meet promotional standards to determine an appropriate placement in another District 4 middle school.
- **Current eighth-grade students** will have the opportunity to graduate at the end of this school year.
- If, in a future year, students attending J.H.S. 13 are held over in a grade that J.H.S. 13 will no longer serve, then the Office of Student Enrollment will work with those students' families to determine an appropriate placement in another District 4 middle school or in a district in which the students reside.

Next school year, J.H.S. 13 would serve students in grades seven and eight. Then, during the following school year, it would only serve students in grade eight. The school would close in June 2015 after its phase-out is complete.

Supporting Current Students

The DOE remains focused on helping J.H.S. 13 students to succeed. If this proposal is approved, J.H.S. 13 would be provided targeted, customized and intensive supports aimed at the unique needs of the school and its students. This support would be in the areas budget, staffing, programming, community engagement, guidance and enrollment including, but not limited to:

- Helping the school provide students with options that support their advancement, and fully prepare students for their next transition point.
- Working with school staff to foster a positive culture.
- Supporting school leadership in efficiently and strategically allocating resources to ensure a consistent and coherent school environment focused on student outcomes

Next Steps and What You Can Expect

In the next two months, the DOE will invite the J.H.S. 13 community to participate in a joint public hearing co-hosted by the DOE with the District 4 Community Education Council and J.H.S. 13's School Leadership Team. As soon as the hearing has been scheduled, we will notify you of the date and also share with you the formal proposal to phase out J.H.S. 13. During the joint public hearing, community members, including parents and students, will be able to share their thoughts on the phase-out proposal. There will also be separate proposals to extend the co-location of East Harlem Scholars Academy I and to co-locate East Harlem Scholars Academy II in the building. Feedback on this proposal can also be shared at this Joint Public Hearing.

The proposals to phase out J.H.S. 13 and to co-locate East Harlem Scholars I and II will be voted on by the Panel for Educational Policy, which is composed of members appointed by Mayor Bloomberg and the five Borough Presidents, during a public meeting scheduled for **March 11, 2013**. During this meeting, the public will have another opportunity to comment on the proposals. If the PEP approves the phase-out proposal, J.H.S. 13 would not accept new students next school year.

Sharing Your Concerns and Questions

The DOE is seeking your feedback on the proposals. We will record your comments and include them in our Analysis of Public Comments, which is presented to the PEP prior to the vote on the proposals. Please submit your comments at:

Phone: 212-374-3466

Email: D04Proposals@schools.nyc.gov

Online: <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/manhattan/feedback?id=339>