

## Fact Sheet: Proposed Phase-out and Replacement for Grace Dodge Career and Technical Education High School (10X660)

### Overview

In a concerted effort to ensure that all students have high-quality educational programs, the Department of Education (DOE) annually reviews the performance of all schools Citywide. Over the past several years, despite the best efforts of the community and the DOE to support Grace Dodge Career and Technical High School (“Grace Dodge”), the school has struggled to meet basic requirements for student success.

On November 10, 2011, Senior Director of Post Secondary Pathways, Melissa Silberman, met with Grace Dodge’s school leadership team and parents to discuss what is working at the school, 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 Grace Dodge 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 Grace Dodge because it is the right action for current and future students in this community.** If the proposal to phase out Grace Dodge 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. A new high school will be proposed to open in September 2012 in the building where Grace Dodge is located.

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

### Performance Summary

Graduation Rate		Progress Report Grade			Quality Review Rating
2010-2011 (4 year rate)	2010-2011 (6 year rate)	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2010-11
35%	55%	D	D	F	Developing

- Graduation rates at Grace Dodge have been consistently low for the last ten years. Last year, Grace Dodge’s four-year graduation rate (including August graduates) was 35%—well below the Citywide average of 65.1% and among the lowest Citywide. (Citywide average is based on the 2010 New York State reported graduation results for NYCDOE students.)
- If Regents diplomas alone counted toward graduation—as will be the case next school year—the four-year graduation rate at Grace Dodge would drop to just 25%, putting Grace Dodge in the bottom 3% of high schools Citywide and significantly below the Citywide average of 60%.
- First year credit accumulation is a key predictor of student success because students who fall behind early on in high school often have trouble getting back on track to graduate. In 2010-2011, only 57% of first-year students at Grace Dodge earned at least 10 credits. This rate of credit accumulation puts Grace Dodge in the bottom 6% of high schools Citywide. (The Progress Report defines students earning at least 10 credits as students who earn at least 6 of those 10 credits in 3 of the following 4 subject areas: Math, English, Science, and/or Social Studies.)
- 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. Grace Dodge earned an overall F grade on its 2010-11 annual Progress Report, with an F grade on Student Performance, a D grade on Student Progress, and a C grade on School Environment. Additionally, in 2010-2011 the school was designated by the State as Persistently Low Achieving and is implementing the Federal SIG model, Transformation.

- The school's attendance rate remains below most other high schools. The 2010-2011 attendance rate was 77% compared to the Citywide high school average of 86%, putting Grace Dodge in the bottom 7% of all high schools Citywide in terms of attendance.

## Overview of Past Strategic Improvement Efforts at Grace Dodge Career and Technical Education High School

Staff members have worked hard to improve Grace Dodge Career and Technical Education High 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 offered numerous supports including:

### Leadership Support:

- Extensive leadership training and mentoring for the principal and assistant principals to help them set clear goals for the school while developing the school's Comprehensive Education Plan and Language Allocation Plan.
- Coached and trained leadership on implementing plans in support of citywide instructional initiative.
- Supported leadership and staff in generating meaningful strategies for improving the quality of classroom visitations, instructional feedback and teacher reflections, as a way to raise teacher practice and improve student outcomes.

### Instructional Support:

- Supported and trained teachers in instructional improvement strategies related to science resources and the development of a rigorous and comprehensive science program.
- Supported teachers in assessment design, curriculum mapping, and student feedback as tools aimed at meeting the necessary standards and expected student outcomes.
- Provided professional development opportunities for teachers on shared grading policies, differentiated instruction and questioning tactics aimed at increasing student interest and raising student performance.
- Offered training for staff on successful ways to increase student outcomes through data analysis and various tools to understand student progress.

### Operational Support:

- Advised school staff on budgeting, human resources, teacher recruitment and building management.
- Supported school staff on developing strategies and practices for improving student attendance and creating strategies for targeting attendance concerns.

### Student Support:

- Trained the School Based Support Team in comprehensive guidance programs and evidence based counseling strategies targeted at developing and improving the capacity for social and emotional supports at the school level.
- Developed comprehensive mentoring programs in order to strengthen academic and social supports for targeted students.
- Developed health education programming and resources aimed at strengthening healthy decision making.
- Supported the Network in developing and maintaining relationships with community based organizations, including Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, Good Shepherd and Health Advance Institute.

## What would the proposal mean for current students?

If this proposal is approved Grace Dodge would gradually phase out over the next several years. Our top priority is ensuring that current Grace Dodge students are supported through graduation. Below are enrollment plans for current Grace Dodge students if the school were to be phased out.

- **Current, first-time ninth grade students** would have the option of completing high school at Grace Dodge if they continue to earn credits on schedule. They may also apply to attend a different high school as a tenth grader for September 2012 by participating in the second round of the High School Admissions Process.
- **Current, repeating ninth grade students** would complete high school at Grace Dodge as long as they earn credits on schedule. As the school becomes smaller, these students would receive more individualized attention to support them toward graduation and to help them prepare for post-secondary education and/or career plans. Students would also be encouraged to meet with their guidance counselor to review progress toward graduation.
- **Current 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who are on track to graduate** would complete high school at Grace Dodge if they continue to earn credits on schedule. As the school becomes smaller, these students would receive more individualized attention to support them toward graduation and to help them prepare for post-secondary education and/or career plans. Students would also be encouraged to meet with their guidance counselor to review progress toward graduation.
- **Current 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who are not on track to graduate** should meet with their guidance counselors to review their progress toward graduation and to discuss their options. Students could complete high school at Grace Dodge or consider applying to a transfer high school.

If the proposal to phase out Grace Dodge is approved, the school would not admit new ninth grade students after the end of this school year. Grace Dodge would continue to serve students currently enrolled in the school. The school would close in June 2015 after its phase-out is complete.

## Supporting Current Students

The DOE remains focused on helping Grace Dodge students succeed. If this proposal is approved, Grace Dodge 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 of 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; and
- Supporting school leadership in efficiently and strategically allocating resources to ensure a consistent and coherent school environment focused on student outcomes.

## Plans for New Schools for the Grace Dodge and the Bronx Community

As we work together to create better options for the Grace Dodge community and the Bronx community, we will keep in mind what has worked at Grace Dodge and do our best to incorporate those positive elements into the plans for a replacement school. For example:

- We will work to provide new Career and Technical Education options for students in the Bronx;
- We will work with the community to retain partnerships with community organizations that are offering valuable services to the school community; and
- We will consider what elements of the school structure are working and do our best to include those features in a replacement school.

## Next Steps and What You Can Expect

In January, the DOE will invite the Grace Dodge community to participate in a joint public hearing co-hosted by the DOE, the District 10 Community Education Council and Grace Dodge'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 phase-out proposal. During the joint public hearing, community members, including parents and students, will be able to share their thoughts on the phase-out proposal.

The proposal to phase out Grace Dodge 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 **February 9, 2012**. During this meeting, the public will have another opportunity to comment on the proposal. If the PEP approves the proposal, Grace Dodge would not accept new students next school year. If the proposal to open a new high school in the building where Grace Dodge is located is approved, the new school would open in September 2012.

## Sharing Your Concerns and Questions

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

Phone: 212-374-5159

Online: <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/bronx/proposal?id=85>