



Notice
January 12, 2012

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

The Proposed Co-location of New School P.S. 705 (17K705) and Explore Exceed Charter School (84KTBD) with P.S. 22 (17K022) in Building K022 Beginning in 2012-2013

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

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to open and site a new zoned elementary school, P.S. 705 (17K705, “P.S. 705”) and to co-locate a new public charter school, Explore Exceed Charter School (84KTBD, “Explore Exceed”) in school building K022 (“K022”), located at 443 St. Marks Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11238, in Community School District 17. P.S. 705 would be a DOE zoned elementary school serving kindergarten through fifth grade and would offer a full-day pre-kindergarten program. Explore Exceed would be a public charter school that would serve kindergarten through fifth grade. Currently, K022 houses P.S. 22 (17K022, “P.S. 22”), a zoned elementary school that serves kindergarten through fifth grade and offers a full-day pre-kindergarten program. In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) that was published on December 19, 2011, the DOE has proposed that P.S. 22 gradually phase out and eventually close because of its low performance. That EIS was subsequently amended in January 2012 to provide updated information regarding the supports that the DOE offered to P.S. 22 in an effort to help it improve and correct typographical errors. The Amended EIS is available at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Feb2012Proposals>. If both proposals are approved, P.S. 705 and Explore Exceed would be co-located with P.S. 22 in K022 for three school years.

If the proposal to phase out P.S. 22 is approved, P.S. 22 would no longer admit kindergarten students, offer first, second, or third grades, or offer a pre-kindergarten program after the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year. Multiple grades would be phased out at P.S. 22 in 2012-2013, the first year of phase-out, and one grade would be phased out in each of the following three years. Therefore, during the 2012-2013 school year, P.S. 22 would only serve students in fourth and fifth grades. In 2013-2014, P.S. 22 would only serve students in fifth grade. The school would close after June 2014.

P.S. 705 would open in K022 as a zoned district elementary school serving the same zone as P.S. 22. In the 2012-2013 school year, P.S. 705 would serve the kindergarten through third grade students who would otherwise have attended P.S. 22 if it were not being phased out. P.S. 705 would then expand one grade each year until it reaches full scale in 2014-2015 and serves students in kindergarten through fifth grade. P.S. 705 would also offer a full-day pre-kindergarten program, subject to continued demand and funding.

Explore Exceed would open in K022 as a public charter school. In the 2012-2013 school year, Explore Exceed would serve kindergarten through third grade students. Explore Exceed would then expand one grade each year until it reaches full scale in 2014-2015 and serves students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

For the 2012-2013 school year, Explore Exceed would accept applications via the charter lottery application process, as mandated by the New York State charter law, for kindergarten through third grade seats. After 2012-2013, Explore Exceed would only accept applications via the kindergarten lottery. However, the school may admit students in other grades from the school's waitlist if seats become available.

Explore Exceed would institute an admissions policy, which is described in greater detail in Section III.A., in order to serve students at-risk of academic failure, in particular those students at-risk of academic failure in District 17.

According to the 2010-2011 Enrollment, Capacity, Utilization Report ("Blue Book"), K022 has a target capacity to serve 998 students. However, in 2010-2011 the building served only 478 kindergarten through fifth grade students and 20 pre-kindergarten students, yielding a building utilization rate of 50%. In 2011-2012, K022 serves 412 kindergarten through fifth grade students and 36 pre-kindergarten students, yielding a building utilization rate of 45%. This means that the building is "underutilized" and has extra space to accommodate additional students.

Background on the DOE's Decision-Making Process

The DOE has provided more detail on its decision to phase out and close P.S. 22 in an EIS that is available on the DOE's Web site at:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Feb2012Proposals>.

The DOE strives to ensure that all students in New York City have access to a high-quality school at every stage of their education. Continuing to allocate space and resources to schools that are unable to significantly improve student performance is neither efficient nor equitable. As detailed in the EIS outlining P.S. 22's phase-out and closure, the DOE has concluded that phasing out P.S. 22 is appropriate due to this school's history of poor performance and its inability to turn around quickly to better support student needs.

P.S. 22 earned an F grade on its 2010-2011 Progress Report. On the 2009-2010 Progress Report, P.S. 22 earned a D grade, and on the 2008-2009 Progress Report it earned an A grade.

As a result, the DOE initiated a comprehensive review of P.S. 22 with the goal of determining what intensive supports and interventions would best benefit the P.S. 22 community. During that review, the DOE looked at recent and historical performance, consulted with superintendents and other experienced educators who have worked closely with the school, and gathered community feedback.

After completing that review, the DOE believes that only the most serious intervention, the gradual phase-out and eventual closure of P.S. 22, would best serve the school's students and community. Phasing out and closing P.S. 22 would allow for new school options to develop in

K022 that would provide better options for families.

If the proposal to phase-out and close P.S. 22 is approved, the space made available by the phase-out of P.S. 22 would be used to house P.S. 705 and Explore Exceed. The replacement process would be gradual; P.S. 705 would be opened in K022 and would begin enrolling zoned kindergarten through third grade students in September 2012. P.S. 705 would gradually grow as P.S. 22's enrollment decreases and would serve the same zone as P.S. 22. If the separate phase-out proposal is not approved, the DOE would review the plan to site P.S. 705 in K022 and potentially revise the plan and issue a revised EIS.

With respect to Explore Exceed, the DOE is proposing its co-location in K022 to provide an additional elementary school option that would serve the families of District 17. The Explore Charter Schools Network ("Explore Schools") is a charter management organization that seeks to provide students with the academic skills and critical-thinking abilities necessary to graduate from high school and succeed in college. It was approved by its authorizer, the State University of New York Charter School Institute ("SUNY") to open a new public charter elementary school in District 17. Explore Schools seeks to provide students in under-served communities with academic skills and critical-thinking abilities they need to succeed in a college preparatory high school. Explore Schools is a network of three public schools in Brooklyn that currently serve over 1,000 kindergarten through eighth grade students: Explore Charter School (84K704, 15 Snyder Avenue in District 17), Empower Charter School (84K742, 801 Park Place in District 17), and Excel Charter School (84K379, 1077 Remsen Avenue in District 18). In the 2010-2011 school year, Explore Schools' students outscored their community school district peers in both ELA and math on the New York State assessments.

The DOE believes Explore Schools' record of success supports the permanent placement of an Explore charter school in District 17 in order to provide additional educational opportunities for students and families.

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

The Educational Impact Statement ("EIS") can be found on the Department of Education's Web site: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2011-2012/Mar12012Proposals.htm>

Copies of the EIS are also available in P.S. 22's main office.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be sent to D17Proposals@schools.nyc.gov

Oral comments can be left at 212-374-0208.

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: Kim Wong
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D17Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-0208

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

February 15, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
P.S. 22
443 St. Marks Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11238

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.

VI. Date, time and place of the Panel for Educational Policy meeting at which the Panel will vote on the proposed item.

March 1, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
Brooklyn Technical High School
29 Fort Greene Place
Brooklyn, NY 11217