

## Fact Sheet: Proposed Phase-out and Replacement of Lehman High School (08X405)

### 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 Lehman High School (“Lehman”), the school has struggled to meet basic requirements for student success.

On December 3, 2012, Senior Superintendent Elaine Gorman held meetings at the school with the School Leadership Team, staff, and parents to discuss what is working at Lehman, 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 Lehman does not have the capacity to quickly improve and is proposing that the school be phased out. The DOE is also proposing that the school would be replaced by three new schools.

**Proposing to phase out a school is the most difficult decision we make. We are proposing to phase out Lehman because it is the right action for current and future students in this community. If the proposal to phase out Lehman is approved,** the school would phase out gradually over the next several years. The school would close in June 2016 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 Lehman staff and families to ensure that all students receive the support they need to succeed.

### Performance Summary

Graduation Rates		Progress Report Grades			Quality Review Rating
2011-2012 (4 year rate)	2011-2012 (6 year rate)	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2010-2011
50%	64%	F	F	D	Developing

- Graduation rates have remained below 52% for the past several years. Lehman’s four-year graduation rate (including August graduates) was 50% in 2012—well below the most recent Citywide average of 65.5% (Citywide average is based on the 2011 New York State reported graduation results for NYCDOE students.)
- First year credit accumulation is a key predictor of student success because students who fall behind early in high school often have trouble getting back on track to graduate. In 2011-2012, only 47% of first-year students at Lehman earned at least 10 credits with at least 6 of those credits earned across 3 of the 4 core subject areas. This rate of credit accumulation puts Lehman in the lowest 2% of schools Citywide.
- Lehman 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.
- 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. Lehman earned a D grade on its 2011-2012 annual Progress Report, including F grades for Student Progress for Student Performance, and School Environment. The school did earn a B grade for College and Career Readiness. Lehman has a history of low performance, including overall F grades on both the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 Progress Reports.
- On the 2012 New York City School Survey, only 71% of student respondents reported feeling safe in the hallways, bathrooms, and locker rooms at Lehman, putting the school in the bottom 11% of all high schools Citywide. In addition, only 79% of parents reported that their child was safe at school, putting the school in the bottom 7% of all high schools Citywide.

## Despite our best efforts, the school has struggled

We recognize that Lehman 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 Lehman including:

### Leadership Support:

- Supporting school leadership in aligning curriculum to citywide instructional expectations to raise standards for teacher practice and student learning.
- Working with the principal to assess areas in need of improvement in the school and supporting the implementation of a strategic action plan to address these concerns.
- Assisting school leadership in the development of instructional plans and goals for the school year, in support of the school's Comprehensive Education Plan.
- Coaching the principal in the use of classroom observations and feedback to enhance teacher effectiveness.

### Instructional Support:

- Providing professional development opportunities for teachers in the use of student performance data to identify student needs, differentiate instruction, and target additional support to struggling students.
- Providing extensive coaching for teachers to support the development of rigorous curriculum in English language arts, math, science and social studies that aligns with citywide instructional expectations.

### Operational Support:

- Advising school staff on budgeting, human resources, staff recruitment and building management.
- Training school staff in the use of student data tracking systems to ensure efficient and effective monitoring of student attendance and academic programming.
- Supporting school staff in meeting compliance requirements for students with disabilities and English Language Learners in order to ensure that students are receiving mandated services.
- Advising the school on grant implementation and working with the principal to align the budget with the school-wide instructional goals.

### Student Support:

- Supporting the school in monitoring student attendance and developing strategies and initiatives to increase attendance rates.
- Providing professional development for school staff on topics in youth development, including conflict resolution, student mediation, gang awareness and violence prevention, in order to build school-level capacity to provide social and emotional support to students.

## What would the proposal mean for current students?

If this proposal is approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP), Lehman would gradually phase out over the next several years. Our top priority is ensuring that current Lehman students are supported through graduation. Below are enrollment plans for current Lehman students if the school were to be phased out.

- **Current, first-time ninth grade students** would have the option of completing high school at Lehman if they continue to earn credits on schedule and pass the required Regents exams. They may also apply to attend a different high school by participating in the second round of the High School Admissions Process. Students interested in applying to another school for September 2013, please meet with a guidance counselor.

To learn about schools that have tenth-grade seats available through the High Schools Admissions Process, review the Directory of the New York City Public High Schools 2012-2013. If you need a copy of the directory, ask your guidance counselor, visit an enrollment office, or access the online version at [www.nyc.gov/schools/ChoicesEnrollment/High/Directory](http://www.nyc.gov/schools/ChoicesEnrollment/High/Directory).

- **Current, repeating ninth grade students** would complete high school at Lehman as long as they earn credits on schedule and pass the required Regents exams. 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 are 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 Lehman if they continue to earn credits on schedule and pass the required Regents exams. 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 should make a plan to accumulate credits and pass Regents exams. Students could complete high school at Lehman or consider applying to a transfer high school. For information about these options, speak with your guidance counselor or visit [www.goingforme.org](http://www.goingforme.org).

If the proposal to phase out Lehman is approved, the school would not admit new ninth-grade students after the end of this school year. Lehman would continue to serve students currently enrolled in the school. The school would close in June 2016 after its phase-out is complete.

## Supporting Current Students

The DOE remains focused on helping Lehman students succeed. If this proposal is approved, Lehman 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 Lehman Community

The DOE has proposed to open and co-locate three new district high schools in the same building as Lehman. If that co-location proposal is approved, the new schools will begin serving grade 9 in the 2013-2014 school year and add one more grade each year until they serve grades 9-12 in the 2016-2017 school year.

More information about this replacement school will be available shortly. We will work with the community to retain partnerships with community-based organizations that are offering valuable services to the school community.

## Next Steps and What You Can Expect

In the next two months, the DOE will invite the Lehman community to participate in a joint public hearing co-hosted by the DOE, the District 8 Community Education Council, and Lehman'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 proposals to phase out and replace Lehman will be voted on by the Panel for Educational Policy ("PEP"), 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 proposals, Lehman 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 to:

Phone: 212-374-5159

Email: [D08Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D08Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)

Online: <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/bronx/feedback?id=349>