

Fact Sheet: Proposed Truncation of Academy of Scholarship and Entrepreneurship's Middle School Grades (11X270)

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 Academy of Scholarship and Entrepreneurship the school has struggled to meet basic requirements for student success in grades 6-8.

On November 3, 2011, High School Superintendent Geraldine Taylor-Brown held a School Leadership Team and parent meeting at the school to discuss what is working at Academy of Scholarship and Entrepreneurship, 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 Academy of Scholarship and Entrepreneurship does not have the capacity to quickly improve on behalf of students in grades 6-8 and is proposing truncation of the school's middle school grades.

Proposing to truncate a school is a difficult decision. We are proposing to truncate Academy of Scholarship and Entrepreneurship because it is the right action for current and future students in this community. If the proposal to truncate Academy of Scholarship and Entrepreneurship is approved, the middle school grades would phase out gradually over the next several years. The truncation of the middle school grades would be complete in June 2014 at which point the school would only serve students in grades nine through twelve.

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

Performance Summary – Middle School Grades

Proficiency: % of Students on Grade Level		Progress Report Grade			Quality Review Rating
English	Math	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2010 - 11
27%	28%	A	C	D	Developing

- The majority of Academy for Scholarship and Entrepreneurship students remain below grade level in English and Math. Last year, only 27% of students were performing on grade level in English and only 28% of students were performing on grade level in Math.
- Academy for Scholarship and Entrepreneurship is not adequately helping students to make progress. Academy for Scholarship and Entrepreneurship is in the bottom 36% of all middle schools in District 11 in terms of learning growth in English and is the lowest performing middle school in District 11 in terms of learning growth in Math. Learning growth measures annual student growth on State ELA and Math tests relative to similar students. If these conditions persist, Academy for Scholarship and Entrepreneurship students will fall further behind their peers in other schools.
- 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. Academy for Scholarship and Entrepreneurship earned an overall D grade on its 2010-11 annual Progress Report, including D grades for Student Progress and Student Performance, and a C grade for School Environment. Based on Academy for Scholarship and Entrepreneurship's most recent Progress Report, the school is in the bottom 5% of middle schools Citywide.

- The Quality Review uses a four-tiered rubric (well-developed, proficient, developing, underdeveloped) to measure how well a school is organized to support student achievement. Academy for Scholarship and Entrepreneurship was rated “Developing” on its most recent Quality Review in 2010-2011, indicating deficiencies in the way the school is organized to support student learning.

Overview of Past Strategic Improvement Efforts at Academy for Scholarship and Entrepreneurship

Staff members have worked hard to improve Academy for Scholarship and Entrepreneurship 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:

- Provided 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 initiatives.
- Trained and supported leadership in systems and strategies for monitoring credit accumulation and recovery in order to increase graduation rates.

Instructional Support:

- Facilitated training for teachers in assessment design, curriculum mapping, and student feedback as tools to meet standards and improve student outcomes.
- Provided professional development opportunities for teachers on best practices for strengthening science curricula, teacher made resources and planning.
- Offered professional development opportunities for staff as to how they could incorporate various measures and protocols to evaluate and support student work.
- Offered training for staff to increase, improve, and strengthen instructional supports for English Language Learners.

Operational Support:

- Advised school staff on managing budgeting, human resources, teacher recruitment and building logistics.
- Supported school staff in developing strategies and practices to improve student attendance.

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.
- Supported and trained staff in the Healthy Choices Curriculum, aimed at fostering positive decision-making skills and social and emotional growth for students.
- Facilitated college readiness workshops through College Summit, a program to assist students in the phases of the college admissions process and to educate students about the steps they can take in order to be college ready.
- Supported school in developing and maintaining relationships with various organizations including The Children’s Aid Society.

What would the proposal mean for current students?

If this proposal is approved, Academy of Scholarship and Entrepreneurship's middle school grades would be phased out gradually over the next several years and the school 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 Academy of Scholarship and Entrepreneurship, and would be supported through graduation.

In 2012-2013 school year, Academy of Scholarship and Entrepreneurship would serve students in grades seven through twelve. Then, during the following school year, it would serve students in grade eight through twelve. Academy of Scholarship and Entrepreneurship would no longer offer middle school grades in June 2014 after its middle school phase-out is complete, but the school would continue to serve students in grades nine through twelve.

Supporting Current Students

The DOE remains focused on helping Academy of Scholarship and Entrepreneurship students to succeed. If this proposal is approved, Academy of Scholarship and Entrepreneurship 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.

Next Steps and What You Can Expect

In January, the DOE will invite the Academy of Scholarship and Entrepreneurship community to participate in a joint public hearing co-hosted by the DOE, the District 11 Community Education Council, and Academy of Scholarship and Entrepreneurship'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 truncate Academy of Scholarship and Entrepreneurship. During the joint public hearing, community members, including parents and students, will be able to share their thoughts on the truncation proposal.

The proposal to truncate Academy of Scholarship and Entrepreneurship will be voted on by the PEP, 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, Academy of Scholarship and Entrepreneurship would not accept new sixth grade students next school year.

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 Comments, 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=86>