



Notice
October 8, 2014

The Proposed Grade Expansion of P.S. 305 Learners and Leaders (24Q305) from a K-3 to a K-5 School, and the Partial Re-siting of P.S. 305 Learners and Leaders to Building Q320, Beginning in 2015-2016

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

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to expand P.S. 305 Learners and Leaders (24Q305, “Learners and Leaders”), and partially re-site a portion of Learners and Leaders, beginning in the 2015-2016 school year. Learners and Leaders is an existing zoned Early Childhood Center (“ECC”) currently located in building Q245 (“Q245”) at 378 Seneca Avenue, Queens, New York 11385, in Community School District 24 (“District 24”). Learners and Leaders currently enrolls students in kindergarten through third grade and shares a zone with P.S. 81 Jean Paul Richter (24Q081, “P.S. 81”), a zoned elementary school.

The School Construction Authority (“SCA”) is constructing building Q320 (“Q320”) located approximately 150 feet from Q245 at 360 Seneca Avenue, Queens, New York 11385. Q320 has been designed to serve students in elementary school grades and is expected to be ready for occupancy by the 2015-2016 school year. A “re-siting” means that students will attend classes in a different building than the one in which they attended classes the previous year. If this proposal is approved, a portion of Learners and Leaders will be re-sited to Q320 and Learners and Leaders will grow to utilize both Q245 and Q320 beginning in 2015-2016.

This is a proposal to implement a “grade expansion” and a partial re-siting whereby a portion of Learners and Leaders will be re-sited from Q245 to Q320 prior to the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year. At Q245 and Q320, Learners and Leaders will gradually grow to serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade beginning in the 2015-2016 school year. If this proposal is approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”), Learners and Leaders will enroll its first fourth grade cohort in September 2015 during the school’s first year at Q320.

The proposal to expand Learners and Leaders was initiated by the school community. In Fall 2013, Learners and Leaders’ school leadership team submitted an application for a grade expansion. The application included the principal’s rationale for expansion, which cited evidence of Learners and Leaders’ academic success, and a letter of support from Learners and Leaders’ network leader. That application was further supported by parents, the broader school community, the Community Educational Council of District 24, and multiple elected officials. This suggests a high level of satisfaction within the school, its parent body and the broader community, and the expectation that an expanded Learners and Leaders will meet the needs of children. Based on the school’s record of academic success, additional capacity created by the

new Q320 building and vast community support, the DOE approved Learners and Leaders' grade expansion request, pending approval of this proposal by the PEP.

The DOE strives to increase quality options for students. As part of the provisional approval process, the DOE evaluates each school's instructional capacity to serve the expanded school level by working in close collaboration with the superintendent to develop clear benchmarks focused in multiple areas; including curriculum, instructional leadership, and staff and family engagement to demonstrate the school's capacity to expand.

If the expansion is not implemented, the DOE may propose an alternate use of space in Q320 that involves a significant change in school utilization, which would be the subject of a future Educational Impact Statement ("EIS") in accordance with Chancellor's Regulation A-190. For the purposes of this proposal, it is assumed that Learners and Leaders will be able to expand its grade levels from K-3 to K-5. This proposed partial re-siting will provide Learners and Leaders with facilities that are fully functionally accessible.

On October 22, 2013, the District 24 Community Education Council approved a plan to rezone the elementary school zone Learners and Leaders shares with P.S. 81. If this proposal to expand and re-site a portion of Learners and Leaders is approved, Learners and Leaders will enroll larger cohorts of incoming kindergarten students beginning in September 2015. This proposal and rezoning will create additional elementary school capacity for students in District 24.

If this proposal is approved, Learners and Leaders will begin serving students in fourth grade in the 2015-2016 school year and will serve students across Q245 and Q320. Learners and Leaders will expand gradually, adding one grade level each year over a two year period. The school will reach its full grade span in the 2016-2017 school year with 631– 691 students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Since Learners and Leaders will begin enrolling larger cohorts of incoming kindergarten students in the 2015-2016 school year, Learners and Leaders will reach stable enrollment in 2020-2021 with 756 – 816 students in grades K-5.

Buildings Q245 and Q320 have a combined target capacity of 782 students. If this proposal is approved, in the 2020-2021 school year, when Learners and Leaders reaches full scale and stable enrollment across the two buildings, Learners and Leaders will enroll 756 – 816 students, yielding a combined projected building utilization rate of approximately 97% – 104%.

Thus, the DOE believes that there is sufficient space to accommodate grades kindergarten through five of Learners and Leaders in buildings Q245 and Q320, if this proposal is approved.

Building Q245 also houses a community-based organization, YMCA Ridgewood, which provides services to the Learners and Leaders community. This proposal is not expected to impact the continued siting of this program in Q245.

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/2014-2015/November2014SchoolProposals>.

Copies of the EIS are also available in Learners and Leaders’ main office.

III. Submission of public comment.

Written comments can be submitted via email to: D24Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

Oral comments can be left by phone at 212-374-7621.

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: Annabelle Eliashiv
Office: Office of District Planning
Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
Email: D24Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-7621

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

November 10, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
Building Q245
378 Seneca Avenue
Queens, NY 11385

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.

November 25, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
The High School of Fashion Industries
225 West 24th Street
New York, NY 10011