

Fact Sheet: Proposed Phase-out and Replacement of High School of Graphic Communication Arts (02M625)

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 High School of Graphic Community (“Graphics”), the school has struggled to meet basic requirements for student success.

On November 29, 2012, Manhattan High School Superintendent Marisol Bradbury held meetings at the school with the School Leadership Team, staff, and parents to discuss what is working at Graphics, 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 Graphics 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 be replaced by a new school.

Proposing to phase out a school is the most difficult decision we make. We are proposing to phase out Graphics because it is the right action for current and future students in this community. If the proposal to phase out Graphics 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 Graphics 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
54%	56%	D	F	F	Underdeveloped

- Graduation rates have remained below 56% for the last five years. Graphics’s four-year graduation rate (including August graduates) was 54% in 2012—well below the most recent Citywide average of 65.5% (The 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 70% of first-year students at Graphics 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 Graphics in the lowest 22% of schools Citywide.
- Graphics 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. Graphics earned an F grade on its 2011-2012 annual Progress Report, including F grades for Student Progress, Student Performance, School Environment, and College and Career Readiness. Graphics has a history of low performance, including an overall F grade on the 2010-2011 Progress Report and an overall D grade on the 2009-2010 Progress Report.
- The school’s attendance rate remains below most other high schools. The 2011-2012 attendance rate was 77.7% compared to the Citywide high school average of 85.4%, putting Graphics in the bottom 9% of all high schools Citywide in terms of attendance.

Despite our best efforts, the school has struggled

Staff members have worked hard to improve High School of Graphic Communication Arts, 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:

- Assisting school leadership in the development of instructional plans and goals for the school year, in support of the school's Comprehensive Education Plan.
- Supporting school leadership in aligning curriculum to citywide instructional expectations to raise standards for teacher practice and student learning.
- Working with the principal to plan professional development for staff in order to foster school-wide improvement.

Instructional Support:

- Providing professional development for teachers focused on analyzing student performance data to identify learning trends, set goals and differentiate instruction to increase student achievement.
- Coaching the principal and teachers on aligning curriculum to citywide instructional expectations to raise standards for teacher practice and student learning.

Operational Support:

- Advising school staff on budgeting, human resources, staff recruitment and building management.
- Supporting school staff in meeting compliance requirements for students with disabilities in order to ensure that students receive 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:

- Assisting the school in the development of a school safety plan and discipline code, and coaching school staff in best practices for reducing the number of safety incidents and suspensions.
- Supporting the school in monitoring student attendance and developing strategies to increase attendance rates.
- Supporting the school in the development of an advisory program to help students stay on track to graduation.

What would the proposal mean for current students?

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

- **Current, first-time ninth grade students** would have the option of completing high school at Graphics if they continue to earn credits on schedule and pass the required Regents exam. They may also apply to attend a different high school as a 10th grader in September 2013 by participating in the second round of the High School Admissions Process.
- **Current, repeating ninth grade students** would complete high school at Graphics as long as they earn credits on schedule and pass the required Regents exam. 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 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students who are on track to graduate** would complete high school at Graphics 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 10th, 11th, and 12th 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 Graphics or consider applying to a transfer high school.

If the proposal to phase out Graphics is approved, the school would not admit new ninth-grade students after the end of this school year. Graphics 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 Graphics students succeed. If this proposal is approved, Graphics 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 Graphics Community

The DOE has proposed to open and co-locate one new district high school in the same building as Graphics. If that co-location proposal is approved, the new school will begin serving grade 9 in the 2013-2014 school year and add one more grade each year until it serves 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 Graphics community to participate in a joint public hearing co-hosted by the DOE, the District 2 Community Education Council, and Graphics' 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 Graphics 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 proposal, Graphics 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: 212-374-3466

Email: D02Proposals@schools.nyc.gov

Online: <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/manhattan/feedback?id=338>