



Notice

October 12, 2017

The Proposed Grade Truncation of Life Sciences Secondary School (02M655) from a 6-12 School to a 9-12 School Beginning in the 2018-2019 School Year

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

A. Summary of proposal:

The New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) is proposing to truncate the grades served by Life Sciences Secondary School (02M655) referred to as Life Sciences, from a secondary school to a high school, beginning in the 2018-2019 school year. Life Sciences currently serves students in grades 6-12 in building M645, located at 320 East 96th Street, New York, NY 10128 in Community School District 2. In addition to students within District 2, Life Sciences is also open to students of Community School District 4 for its middle school grades and all of New York City for its high school grades.

The NYCDOE is proposing to truncate the middle school grades of Life Sciences based on declining demand and enrollment as well as low performance, specifically in the middle school grades. The NYCDOE believes that this truncation will benefit the Life Sciences community by allowing the school to focus exclusively on its high school grades and continue to build a quality high school option. The NYCDOE also believes that this truncation will benefit the District 2 and District 4 communities by reducing the total amount of excess middle seats in both of these districts.

If this proposal is approved, beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, Life Sciences will serve only students in grades 9-12 and will no longer exist as a middle school option. NYCDOE staff will work with current sixth and seventh grade students, as well as eighth grade students who do not meet promotional criteria, to ensure that those students are offered seats in other higher-performing and better-equipped district middle schools. Eighth grade students who meet promotional criteria may continue on to the high school to which they are matched in the high school admissions process, described in greater detail in Appendix C of the Educational Impact Statement (EIS).

Information on the high school admissions process can also be found on the NYCDOE's website at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/High/default.htm>.

For further information about the middle school admissions process, see Appendix C of the EIS or visit the NYCDOE's website at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/Middle/default.htm>.

B. Rationale for Truncation:

Life Sciences' middle school grades have consistently performed well below the districtwide average. In 2016-2017, Life Sciences' middle school had proficiency rates of 11% and 10%, respectively, in English Language Arts (ELA) and math, compared to averages of 69% and 70%, respectively, in District 2. In addition to low performance at the middle school level, Life Sciences has also seen an overall decline demand and enrollment in its middle school grades. For the 2017-2018 school year, there are only 62 total students served in sixth through eighth grades, which represents a 47 percent decline since the 2011-2012 school year.

Life Sciences' middle school enrollment greatly differs from enrollment in Life Sciences high school grades, which consistently has a healthy enrollment of over 500 students. Such low enrollment at the middle school level creates budgetary and programmatic challenges. This truncation will enable Life Sciences to focus exclusively on its high school grades and continue to build a quality high school option.

In addition, this proposal is also expected to help reduce the number of excess middle school seats in District 2 and in District 4 by supporting the enrollment at other middle schools across the districts that will enroll future students who may have otherwise attended middle school at Life Sciences.

If the proposed truncation of Life Sciences is approved, all current sixth and seventh grade students will receive individualized enrollment support from the District 2 Superintendent's staff and Family Welcome Center (FWC) counselors, who will help students and families in thinking through the options presented in order to ensure students choose the right school to continue their education for the 2018-2019 school year. This will involve an application process by which students will be offered options at higher-performing and better-equipped district middle schools. Eighth grade students who do not meet promotional requirements will also receive individualized support and be offered a seat at a higher-performing and better-equipped school. All students will receive alternative options for enrollment in District 2 and their district of residence, if different, before being discharged from Life Sciences.

Please see Appendix A of the EIS for a list of schools serving middle school grades in District 2 and District 4, which also currently receives priority to Life Sciences' middle school grades.

C. Impact on M645:

M645 has the capacity to serve a total of 715 students according to the 2015-2016 Enrollment, Capacity and Utilization Report, also known as the Blue Book. The Blue Book is available online at: https://dnnhh5cc1.blob.core.windows.net/portals/0/Capital_Plan/Utilization_Reports/Blue%20Book%202015-2016.pdf?sr=b&si=DNNFileManagerPolicy&sig=AExrFIUz%2BQDwk%2FlptyHq0ZkW2Ur9J69SJuy4MgQ%2BAp4%3D.

In the current 2017-2018 school year, M645 serves 606 total students, which yields a building utilization rate of 85%.

More details about space are available in Section III.B and Appendices B and D of the EIS.

If this proposal is approved, in the 2018-2019 school year, M645 is projected to have a total building enrollment of 525-565 students. As such, in 2018-2019, M645 will have a projected building utilization rate of 73-79%.

If this proposal is approved, any future significant changes to the building utilization of M645 will be proposed in a separate EIS and be subject to separate approval by the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) in accordance with Chancellor's Regulation A-190.

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

The EIS is available in the main office Life Sciences as well as on the NYCDOE's website at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2017-2018/November282017SchoolProposals>.

III. Submission of public comment.

Members of the public who wish to provide comments are encouraged to attend the Joint Public Hearing for this proposal and share their feedback in person. All comments must be submitted at least 24 hours in advance of the PEP meeting at which this proposal is subject to a vote in order to be mentioned in the Public Comment Analysis to be published and provided to the PEP the evening before the PEP votes.

Members of the public that do not provide comments at the hearing may also provide oral or written comments as follows:

- Written comments can be sent to D02Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.
- Oral comments can be left at 212-374-3466.

IV. The NYCDOE representative who can provide further information on this proposal.

Name: Eric Herman
Office: Office of District Planning
Address: 100 Gold Street, Suite 3200, New York, NY 10038
Email: D02Proposals@schools.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-374-3466

V. Date, time and location of the Joint Public Hearing for this proposal.

Date: November 15, 2017
Time: 6 p.m.
Location: Building M645
320 East 96 Street New York, NY 10128

Speaker sign-up will begin 30 minutes the hearing, at 5:30 PM, and will close 15 minutes after the start of the hearing.

Attendees with concerns about access to the hearing location should call 212-374-3466 or email accessibility@schools.nyc.gov. Requests for accommodations will be fielded up to 72 hours before the hearing.

VI. Date, time and location of the PEP meeting at which this proposal will be voted on.

Date: November 28, 2017

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: Long Island City High School
14-30 Broadway Queens, NY 11106

Attendees with disabilities or with concerns about access to the PEP meeting location should call 212-374-3466 or email accessibility@schools.nyc.gov. Requests for accommodations will be fielded up to 72 hours before the hearing.