

Fact Sheet: Proposed Phase-out and Replacement of Performance School (07X385)

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 Performance School, the school has struggled to meet basic requirements for student success.

On October 29, 2012, District 7 Community Superintendent Yolanda Torres held meetings at the school with the School Leadership Team, staff, and parents to discuss what is working at Performance School, 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 Performance School 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 Performance School because it is the right action for current and future students in this community. If the proposal to phase out Performance School 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 Performance School staff and families to ensure that all students receive the support they need to succeed.

Performance Summary

Proficiency: % of Students on Grade Level		Progress Report Grade			Most Recent Quality Review Rating
English	Mathematics	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2009-2010
14%	12%	C	C	D	“Proficient”

- The overwhelming majority of Performance School students remain below grade level in English Language Arts and Math. Only 14% of students were performing on grade level in English—putting the school in the bottom percentile of elementary schools Citywide. Only 12% of students were performing on grade level in math—putting the school in the bottom percentile of elementary schools Citywide. In both ELA and Math proficiency, Performance School ranks at the bottom of District 7 elementary 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. Performance School earned a D grade on its 2011-2012 annual Progress Report, including a C grade for Student Progress, an F grade for Student Performance and a C grade for School Environment. This year marks a further decline in performance after the school received C grades in both 2010-2011 and 2009-2010.
- Performance School 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.
- Safety issues have been a concern at the school. On the 2011-2012 New York City School Survey, only 64% of teachers believed that discipline and order were maintained at Performance School.

Despite Our Best Efforts, Performance Remains Low

We recognize that Performance School 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 offered numerous supports to Performance School including:

Leadership Support:

- Coaching the principal and assistant principals in the use of classroom observations and feedback to enhance teacher effectiveness.
- Assisting the principal and assistant principals 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 ensure standards for teacher practice and student learning are high.
- Training the principal and assistant principal in the use of data analysis to monitor student progress and academic achievement, in order to inform school-wide instructional planning.

Instructional Support:

- Providing coaching to teachers to identify and share best instructional practices and support lesson planning in the subject areas of math and English Language Arts.
- Training school staff in research-based instructional strategies to increase the academic achievement of special education students and English Language Learners.

Operational Support:

- Training school staff in student data tracking systems to ensure efficient and effective monitoring of student attendance and academic programming.
- Advising school staff on budgeting, human resources, staff recruitment and building management.
- Advising the school on grant opportunities and working with the principal to align the budget with the school wide instructional goals. (state of school section)

Student Support:

- Providing coaching to school staff in the implementation of a plan to reduce suspensions and improve school environment and culture.
- Supporting school in monitoring student attendance and developing strategies and activities to encourage higher attendance rates.

What would the proposal mean for current students?

If this proposal is approved, Performance School will be phased out gradually over the next several years and will no longer admit new pre-kindergarten or kindergarten students after the end of this school year. However, most current students will stay at Performance School as it phases out.

Below are the enrollment plans for current Performance School students, if the school were to phase out.

Pre-Kindergarten – Grade 1

- The new school will only serve pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, first, and second grades next year and will add one grade per year over the next three years.
- Current pre-kindergarten students will have priority for admissions at the new school next year.
- Current kindergarten and first-grade students will be assigned to the new school for first and second grades

next year.

Grades 2 – 4

- Performance School will serve third, fourth, and fifth grades next year and will serve one grade fewer each year over the following two years.
- Current second-, third-, and fourth-grade students will continue on to the next grade level at Performance School in September 2013; these students can remain at Performance School through their fifth-grade graduation.

Grade 5

- Current fifth-grade students will have the opportunity to graduate from Performance School at the end of this school year. These students may have applied to middle school through the District 7 Middle School Choice Process.

Performance School students who are held over in a grade still offered by Performance School will continue to be served by that school. Performance School students who are held over in a grade which is no longer offered by Performance School will be served by the new replacement elementary school.

Next school year, Performance School will serve students in grades three, four and five. Then, during the following school year, Performance School will serve students in grades four and five. Finally, during the 2015-2016 school year, Performance School will only serve students in grade five. Performance School would close in June 2016 after its phase-out is complete.

Supporting Current Students

The DOE remains focused on helping Performance School students to succeed. If this proposal is approved, Performance School 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 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 a New School for the Performance School Community

The DOE has proposed to open and co-locate a new district elementary school in the same building as Performance School. If the co-location proposal is approved, the new school will begin serving grades K-2 in the 2013-2014 school year and add one more grade each year until it serves grades K-5 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 Performance School community to participate in a joint public hearing co-hosted by the DOE, the District 7 Community Education Council, and Performance School'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 phase out Performance School. 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 Performance School 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 phase-out proposal, Performance School will 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: D07Proposals@schools.nyc.gov

Online: <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/bronx/feedback?id=347>