

Educational Impact Statement

Grade Truncation of Frederick Douglass Academy III Secondary School (09X517)

I. Summary of Proposal

In the 2010-2011 school year, Frederick Douglass Academy III Secondary School (09X517, “FDA III”), an existing school serving grades 6-12, will implement a grade reconfiguration plan to change its current grade configuration to 9-12. FDA III is housed in school building X148 (hereinafter referred to as “X148”), located at 3630 Third Avenue, Bronx in Community School District 9 (“District 9”). FDA III is currently co-located with two other schools, KAPPA (09X215, “KAPPA”) and I.S. 219 (09X219, “I.S. 219”). X148 has a capacity of 1,534 and its historical utilization rate is 90%.

Beginning in 2010-2011, FDA III will gradually eliminate its middle school grades. Grade 6 will be eliminated in 2010, grade 7 will be eliminated in 2011, and grade 8 will be eliminated in 2012. District 9 will continue to have sufficient seats to serve its middle school students with the truncation of FDA III. At this time, there are no plans to site another school or program in the space made available in X418 by the grade reconfiguration of FDA III. This proposal will allow resources currently allocated to FDA III’s middle grades seats to be repurposed and for middle school students to be served in existing high quality District 9 middle schools.

The proposal to eliminate FDA III’s middle school grades is based on the school’s performance on the Department of Education (“DOE”) Progress Reports and other factors. Under the DOE’s accountability framework, schools that receive an overall grade of D or F on the Progress Report and a score below Proficient on the Quality Review are subject to school improvement measures. If no significant progress is made over time, a leadership change (subject to contractual obligations), restructuring, or closure is possible. The same is true for schools receiving a C for three years in a row and for schools that the Chancellor has determined lack the necessary capacity to improve student performance. Decisions about the consequences a school will face are based on the school’s Progress Report grades, Quality Review scores, and a variety of other factors. Additional factors contributing to decisions regarding school restructuring, closure, or phase-out include the demand for the school’s services, structural factors such as principal tenure and special population concentration, comparative quality of existing options, and potential replacement options.

FDA III received a D on its 2007-2008 Middle School Progress Report, a C on its 2008-2009 Middle School Progress Report, and was designated as ‘Proficient’ on its most recent Quality Review. While the overall scores on the DOE’s accountability tools do not meet standard criteria for closure, FDA III has shown a lack of capacity to improve student performance in significant and consistent ways. FDA III scored a F on the Student Progress subsection in both the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 Middle School Progress Reports. In 2009, the DOE conducted an assessment of FDA III’s capacity to improve student performance in the middle school grades, and after consultation with internal stakeholders, determined that FDA III had not made sufficient progress for its middle school students. Due to the school’s failure to make sufficient progress, the DOE now proposes this grade reconfiguration.

II. Enrollment, Admissions, and School Performance

A. Enrollment

Current Grades Served: 6-12

Current Enrollment (As of
10/31/2009 ATS Active
Register): 594

Grades Served 2010-2011: 7-12

Projected 2010-2011
Enrollment: 530-600

Grades Served at Scale
(2012-2013): 9-12

Projected Enrollment
at Scale (2012-2013): 350-450

B. Admissions

Current Admissions: 6-8: Middle school choice process
9-12: Citywide high school admissions process

Admissions after Grade
Reconfiguration: 9-12: Citywide high school admissions process

C. School Performance

Progress Report Grades

2007-2008: Middle school: D
High School: A

2008-2009: Middle school: C
High School: B

High School
Graduation Rate
(2008-2009): 79.4%

Middle School
Math Score

(2008-2009): 68.4% of students scored at Level 3 or 4

Middle School

English Language Arts

Score (2008-2009): 52.1% of students scored at Level 3 or 4

To access copies of the Progress Reports for FDA III, please visit
<http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/09/X517/AboutUs/Statistics/default.htm>.

Quality Review Scores

2007-2008: Well developed

2008-2009: Proficient

To access copies of the Quality Review Reports for FDA III, please visit
<http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/09/X517/AboutUs/Statistics/default.htm>.

Accountability Status

Overall Federal

Status (2008-2009): In Need of Improvement – Year 1

Overall State Status

(2008-2009): Requiring Academic Progress - Year 1

Status with

Differentiated

Accountability

(2009-2010): In Need of Improvement – Year 2

Attendance

Average Attendance

(2008-2009): 90.1%

To access copies of the Attendance Reports for FDA III, please visit
<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/data/stats/attendance/default.htm>.

III. Impact of the Proposed Grade Reconfiguration on the Community, Existing Schools, and Students

A. Community Ramifications

Approximately 200 middle school seats will be eliminated as a result of the grade truncation of FDA III. However, District 9 will continue to have sufficient seats to serve middle school students with the truncation of FDA III.

B. Existing Schools

I.S. 219 and KAPPA will not be impacted by the grade reconfiguration of FDA III. They will continue to have sufficient instructional space to serve students in X148 as per the citywide instructional footprint.

To access the citywide instructional footprint, please visit the New York City Department of Education website at http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/ronlyres/8CF30F41-DE25-4C30-92DE-731949919FC3/65901/NYCDOE_Instructional_Footprint_revisedMay2009_noco.pdf.

C. Students

No current FDA III students will be displaced as a result of this grade reconfiguration; current middle school students will have the opportunity to continue at FDA III.

Beginning in 2010-2011, FDA III will no longer take in new grade 6 students. Current grade 5 students in District 9 may apply to their zoned middle school or may choose to apply for a seat in participating District 9 choice middle schools through the middle school choice process (pending satisfactory completion of promotion criteria). To view a full list of the additional middle school options, please visit the District 9 Middle School Directory at http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/ronlyres/47153869-605D-4019-8F1B-B7CEBB0187D0/0/District9MSD_2009.pdf.

IV. Initial Costs and Savings

No initial costs or savings are expected as a result of the grade truncation.

V. Effect on Personnel Needs, Costs of Instruction, Administration, Transportation, and Other Support Services

A. Personnel

Administrative staff and non-pedagogical positions at FDA III may be eliminated over the course of the grade reconfiguration.

Some teaching positions at FDA III may be eliminated over the course of the grade reconfiguration. However, the elimination of these assignments will not necessarily result in an overall loss of teaching positions within the citywide system due to transfers to other existing assignments and the creation of additional pedagogical positions with the phase-in of new schools.

B. Costs of Instruction

Once the grade truncation is fully implemented, FDA III is expected to lose approximately \$715,000 in operating per capita funds from its budget as a result of the decreased enrollment. This estimate is based on current Fair Student Funding (FSF) per capita allocations of grade level weights. Student achievement and need-based allocations were not taken into account in this estimate because incoming

students' achievement levels and needs cannot be predicted. Please note that per capita funds no longer allocated to the school as a result of this proposal do not represent a reduction in total system costs. FSF covers basic instructional needs and is allocated to each school based on the number and need-level of students at the school. All money allocated through FSF can be used at the principal's discretion. All dollar amounts are based on FY10 allocations and are subject to change based on adjustments to the DOE's overall operating budget.

C. Administration

FDA III may lose school supervisor and/or administrator personnel as a result of its grade truncation.

D. Transportation

Transportation will continue to be provided pursuant to Chancellor's Regulation A-801. To access Chancellor's Regulation A-801, please visit the New York City Department of Education website at <http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/21A1B11A-886B-4F74-9546-E875EE82A14C/40303/A801.pdf>.

E. Other Support Services

Other support services will continue to be provided consistent with citywide policy.

VI. Building Information

A. Building Type, Age, and Physical Condition

X148 is an intermediate school building that was built in 1967. The building received an overall rating of 2.61 on the 2008-2009 Building Condition Assessment Survey ("BCAS").

To view the key for BCAS ratings, please visit

<http://schools.nyc.gov/Documents/BCAS/BCAS%20Key.pdf>.

To view the 2008-2009 BCAS Report for X148, please visit

<http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/09/X517/AboutUs/Statistics/facilities.htm>.

B. Fiscal Year 2009 Maintenance Costs

Labor: \$20,474.96

Materials: \$9,279.09

Maintenance and Repair Contracts: \$91,945.94

Service Contracts: \$0.00

Custodial Operations

NYC DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Materials:	\$11,217.03
Custodial Allocation:	\$346,027.91

C. Fiscal Year 2009 Energy Costs

Electric:	\$176,150.00
Gas:	\$2,227.00
Oil:	\$70,082.00

D. Recent and Planned Improvements

Recent improvements include a telephone system installation, mobile science lab cart data upgrade, computer equipment upgrade, and gym partition doors.

E. Special Features

The X148 building has art rooms, an auditorium, a cafeteria, a library, and science lab rooms.