

Educational Impact Statement

Proposal for a Significant Change in the Utilization of School Building K625: Phase-Out and Eventual Closure of Paul Robeson High School (17K625)

I. Summary of Proposal

Beginning in the 2010-2011 school year, Paul Robeson High School (17K625, “Robeson High School”), an existing school serving grades 9-12, will be phased-out of operation. Robeson High School is housed in school building K625 (hereinafter referred to as “K625”), located at 150 Albany Avenue, Brooklyn in Community School District 17 (“District 17”). There are no other schools currently located in K625. The 2008-2009 target utilization rate of K625 was 102%. It has a capacity of 1,155.

In the 2010-2011, Robeson High School will begin phasing out one grade per year. Grade 9 will be eliminated in 2010-2011, grade 10 will be eliminated in 2011-2012, and grade 11 will be eliminated in 2012-2013. Robeson High School will close in June 2013.

The proposal to phaseout and eventually close Robeson High School is based on the school's overall scores on the Department of Education’s (“DOE”) accountability tools and the DOE's determination that the school lacks the capacity to improve student performance. 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.

Robeson High School received a C on its 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009 Progress Reports and was designated as “Proficient” on its most recent Quality Review. In 2009, the DOE conducted an assessment of Robeson High School’s capacity to improve student performance. After consultation with internal stakeholders, the DOE determined that Robeson High School had not made significant progress for its students. Due to the school’s failure to make significant progress, the DOE now proposes this phase-out and eventual closure. At this time there is no plan for the use of space made available by the phase-out and closure of Robeson High School.

II. Enrollment, Admissions, and School Performance of Existing Schools in K625

A. Robeson High School

1. Enrollment

Current Grades Served:	9-12
Current Enrollment (As of 10/31/2009 ATS Active Register):	1,020
Grades Served 2010-2011:	10-12
Projected 2010-2011 Enrollment:	650-800

2. Admissions

Students had applied to Robeson High School through the citywide high school admissions process. Robeson High School will no longer be a choice for the citywide high school admissions process.

3. School Performance

Progress Report Grades

2006-2007:	C
2007-2008:	C
2008-2009:	C

Graduation Rate (2008-2009): Four year: 40.1%

Quality Review Scores

2007-2008:	Well developed
2008-2009:	Proficient

Accountability Status

Overall Federal Status (2008-2009): Planning for Restructuring

Overall State Status (2008-2009): Requiring Academic Progress - Year 4

Status with

Differentiated
Accountability
(2009-2010):

Restructuring (Year 1) -
Comprehensive

To access school performance and accountability information for Robeson High School, please visit

<http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/17/K625/AboutUs/Statistics/default.htm>.

Average Attendance
(2008-2009):

69.7%

To access copies of the Attendance Report for Robeson High School, please visit
<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/data/stats/attendance/default.htm>.

III. Proposed or Potential Use of K625

At this time there is no plan for the use of space made available by the phase-out of Robeson High School. Any future proposal to move an existing school into this space or to site multiple schools in the building will be addressed in a separate educational impact statement.

IV. Impact of the Proposed Phase-Out on the Community, Existing Schools and Students

A. Community Ramifications

Approximately 1,020 high school seats will be eliminated by the phase-out of Robeson High School. However, the majority of those seats will be recovered with the phase-in of new schools throughout the City and available seats in existing high schools.

B. Existing Schools

During the course of Robeson High School's phase-out, it will have sufficient instructional space to serve students 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

All current students in grades 9-12 at Robeson High School will have the opportunity to graduate from the school, assuming they continue to earn credits on schedule. Current Robeson High School students enrolled in grade 9 for the first time will have the opportunity to participate in the citywide high schools admissions process so that they can begin in a different school for grade 10 in September 2010 (pending satisfactory completion of promotion criteria and grade 10 seat availability). Current Robeson High School grade 10 students and students who are repeating grade 9 are encouraged to meet

with their guidance counselors to explore their options for the 2010-2011 school year. There are sufficient high school seats in Brooklyn and Citywide to accommodate students that would have attended Robeson.

V. Initial Costs and Savings

Once the phase-out is fully implemented, the DOE will cease to allocate or repurpose all funds currently allocated to Robeson High School.

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

A. Personnel

All administrative staff and non-pedagogical positions at Robeson High School will be eliminated over the course of the phase-out and eventual closure.

All teaching positions at Robeson High School will be eliminated over the course of the phase-out. 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 phase-out is fully implemented, the DOE will cease to allocate or repurpose all funds currently allocated to Robeson High School.

C. Administration

All school supervisor and/or administrator positions assigned to Robeson High School will be eliminated as a result of the phase-out.

D. Transportation

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

VII. Building Information

A. Building Type, Age and Physical Condition

K625 is a high school building that was built in 1904. The building received an overall rating of 2.38 out of 5 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 K625, please visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/17/K625/AboutUs/Statistics/default.htm>.

Target capacity: 1,155

Target utilization: 102%

The utilization and capacity information is from the Enrollment, Capacity and Utilization Report which is the standard by which the Department of Education measures the maximum capacity of the building compared to the enrollment. To access the Enrollment, Capacity and Utilization Report, please visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/SCA/Reports/CapPlan/default.htm>

B. Fiscal Year 2009 Maintenance Costs

Labor: \$14,278.77

Materials: \$5,991.62

Maintenance and Repair Contracts: \$34,177.92

Service Contracts: \$21,248.69

Custodial Operations

Materials: \$12,142.82

Custodial Allocation: \$340,471.65

C. Fiscal Year 2009 Energy Costs

Electric: \$243,264.00

Gas: \$91,464.00

Oil: \$5,202.00

D. Recent and Planned Improvements

Recent improvements include data and voice capability upgrades, computer technology upgrades, and an upgrade to the gym.

E. Special Features

The building has an art room, a cafeteria, computer rooms, a multiple purpose room, and science labs.

Building K625 is fully programmatic accessible.