

Educational Impact Statement

Proposal for a Significant Change in the Utilization of School Building M501: Grade Truncation of Choir Academy of Harlem (05M469) and Co-location of New School, 05M436, with Existing Schools in M501

I. Summary of Proposal

Beginning in the 2010-2011 school year, Choir Academy of Harlem (05M469, “Choir Academy”), an existing school serving grades 6-12, will implement a grade reconfiguration to change its current grade configuration to 6-8. Choir Academy is housed in school building M501 (hereinafter referred to as “M501”), located at 2005 Madison Avenue, Manhattan in Community School District 5 (“District 5”). Harlem Children's Zone/Promise Academy (84M341, “Promise Academy”) is currently co-located with Choir Academy at M501. There is also an alternate learning center located in the building, ALC – Choir Academy (88M993). The 2008-2009 target utilization rate of M501 was 53%. It has a target capacity of 1,283.

In the 2010-2011 school year, Choir Academy will begin phasing out its high school grades. 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. There will be no high school grades at Choir Academy in the 2013-2014 school year.

The proposal to eliminate Choir Academy’s high school grades is based on the Department of Education’s (“DOE”) 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 and target-setting and, if no progress is made over time, possible leadership change (subject to contractual obligations), restructuring, or closure. 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 closure or phase-out include 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.

Choir Academy received a C on its 2007-2008 high school Progress Report and a D on its 2008-2009 high school Progress Report, and it was designated as “Proficient” on its most recent Quality Review. In 2009, the DOE conducted an assessment of the school’s capacity to improve student performance, and after consultation with internal

stakeholders, determined that Choir Academy had not made sufficient progress for its high school students. The DOE now proposes the phase-out of the high school grades.

The phase-out of Choir Academy’s high school grades will create available space in M501 to house a new high school, 05M436. 05M436 will open in M501 in 2010-2011 and will serve grade 9 students with an enrollment of approximately 100-120 students in its first year. It will add a grade each year until it reaches its full 9-12 grade scale in 2013-2014. Students will apply to 05M436 through the citywide high school admissions process. This proposal addresses the need to provide higher quality high school options throughout the City.

II. Enrollment, Admissions, and School Performance Information for Existing Schools in M501

A. Choir Academy

1. Enrollment

Current Grades Served:	6-12
Current Enrollment (As of 10/31/2009 ATS Active Register):	417
Grades Served 2010-2011:	6-8 and 10-12
Projected 2010-2011 Enrollment:	350-400

2. Admissions

Middle grades students apply to Choir Academy through the middle school choice process.

High school students had applied to Choir Academy through the citywide high school admissions process. Choir Academy will no longer be a choice for the citywide high school admissions process.

3. School Performance

Progress Report Grades

2007-2008:	Middle school: B High school: C
2008-2009:	Middle school: A High school: D

Graduation Rate (2008-2009):	Four-year: 57.5%
Math Score (2008-2009):	Middle school: 63.9% of students scored at Level 3 or 4
English Language Arts Score (2008-2009):	Middle school: 57.4% of students scored at Level 3 or 4
Quality Review Scores	
2007-2008:	Underdeveloped with proficient features
2008-2009:	Proficient
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):	Improvement (year 2) - Comprehensive

To access school performance and accountability information for Choir Academy, please visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/05/M469/AboutUs/Statistics>.

Average Attendance (2008-2009):	85.5%
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To access copies of the Attendance Report for Choir Academy, please visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/data/stats/attendance>.

B. Promise Academy

1. Enrollment

Current Grades Served:	K-5
Current Enrollment (As of 10/31/2009 ATS Active Register):	410
Grades Served 2010-2011:	K-6

Projected 2010-2011
Enrollment: 475-525

Grades Served At Scale: K-6

Projected Enrollment
at Scale: 475-525

2. Admissions

Students apply to and are enrolled in Promise Academy through the school's lottery system.

3. School Performance

Progress Report Grades

2007-2008: Progress Report is not available because 2007-2008 is the first year Promise Academy served grades that are tested.

2008-2009: B

Quality Review Scores

Charter schools do not received Quality Reviews.

Accountability Status

Charter schools are subject to charter school law.

Average Attendance
(2008-2009): 94.7%

III. Proposed or Potential Use of M501

Space made available by the phase-out of Choir Academy will be used to house a new high school, 05M436. 05M436 will open in M501 in 2010-2011 and will serve grade 9 students with an enrollment of approximately 100-120 students. It will add a grade each year until it reaches its full 9-12 grade scale in 2013-2014. At scale, the project enrollment of 05M436 will be 425-475 students. Students will apply to 05M436 through the citywide high school admissions process.

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

A. Community Ramifications

Approximately 200 high school seats will be eliminated by the grade reconfiguration of Choir Academy. However, those seats will be recovered with the phase-in of 05M436 and other new and existing schools throughout the City.

B. Existing Schools

During the course of the phase-out of Choir Academy's high school grades, all existing schools in M501 will have sufficient instructional space to serve students as per the citywide instructional footprint. After implementation of the phase-out of Choir Academy's high school grades and the phase-in of 05M436, the Choir Academy middle grades, Promise Academy, and 05M436 will have sufficient space to operate at full organization capacity. A space plan for all schools in the building will be developed based on the standard instructional footprint. Decisions regarding the programming of shared spaces in M501 will be made by school leaders.

To access the citywide instructional footprint, please visit the DOE's Web site at http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/8CF30F41-DE25-4C30-92DE-731949919FC3/65901/NYCDOE_Instructional_Footprint_revisedMay2009_noco.pdf.

C. Students

All current students in grades 9-12 at Choir Academy will have the opportunity to graduate from the school, assuming they continue to earn credits on schedule. Current Choir Academy 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 Choir Academy 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. Throughout the course of the phase-out of Choir Academy's high school grades, there will continue to be a sufficient number of high school seats in Manhattan and throughout the city to serve students who would have attended Choir Academy for high school.

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 Choir Academy's high school grades.

New district schools are provided with a fixed per-school allocation and a variable per-pupil allocation of funds to cover start-up costs. Based on current one-time allocations for new schools, 05M436 will receive a fixed allocation of \$80,000 and approximately

\$8,640 based on variable per pupil allocations in 2010-2011. In addition, 05M436 will receive approximately \$32,400 based on variable per pupil allocations during the course of its phase-in.

Beginning in 2010-2011, 05M436 will receive approximately \$225,000 annually in fixed Fair Student Funding foundation allocations to fund administrative costs and an additional annual allocation of \$85,000 in Children First supplemental funding.

All dollar amounts are based on FY10 allocations and are subject to change based on adjustments to the DOE's overall operating budget.

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

A. Personnel

Administrative staff and non-pedagogical positions at Choir Academy may be eliminated over the course of the phase-out.

Some teaching positions assigned to Choir Academy 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/replacement schools.

05M436 is expected to hire additional teachers as needed.

B. Costs of Instruction

Once the phase-out is fully implemented, the DOE will cease to allocate or repurpose all funds currently allocated to Choir Academy's high school grades. 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.

Once fully phased in at its new location, 05M436 is expected to receive approximately \$1,871,166 in additional per capita funding as a result of increased enrollment. This estimate is based on current Fair Student Funding (FSF) foundation funding and 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. These funds may, at the school's discretion, be used for teaching positions, curriculum materials, general instructional supplies, administration, or other support services. Please note that per capita funds allocated to the school as a result of this proposal do not represent additional 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

School supervisor and/or administrator positions assigned to Choir Academy may be eliminated as a result of the phase-out.

05M436 is expected to hire school supervisor and/or administrator personnel as needed.

D. Transportation

Throughout the course of the phase-out of Choir Academy's high school grades and the phase-in of 05M436, transportation will continue to be provided pursuant to Chancellor's Regulation A-801. To access the Chancellor's Regulation A-801, please visit the DOE's Web site at <http://schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/ChancellorsRegulations>.

E. Other Support Services

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

VII. Building Information

A. Building Type, Age and Physical Condition

M501 is a high school building that was built in 1965. The building received an overall rating of 2.88 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 M501, please visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/05/M469/AboutUs/Statistics>.

2008-2009 Target capacity:	1,283
2008-2009 Target utilization:	53%

The utilization and capacity information is from the Enrollment, Capacity and Utilization Report which is the standard by which the DOE 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>.

B. Fiscal Year 2009 Maintenance Costs

Labor:	\$61,328.73
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Materials:	\$27,064.01
Maintenance and Repair Contracts:	\$97,586.47
Service Contracts:	\$0.00
Custodial Operations	
Materials:	\$14,138.90
Custodial Allocation:	\$412,029.75
C. <u>Fiscal Year 2009 Energy Costs</u>	
Electric:	\$16,687.00
Gas:	\$1,227.00
Oil:	\$187,937.00

D. Recent and Planned Improvements

Recent improvements to M501 include an auditorium upgrade.

E. Special Features

The building has art rooms, an auditorium, a cafeteria, a gymnasium, a library, computer rooms, and science labs.