

Educational Impact Statement

Phase-Out and Eventual Closure of Academy of Environmental Science High School (04M635) and Co-location of Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation

I. Summary of Proposal

In the 2010-2011 school year, Academy of Environmental Science High School, (04M635 , “AES”), an existing school serving grades 8-12, will be phased-out of operation. AES is housed in school building M099 (hereinafter referred to as “M099”), located at 410 East 100 Street, Manhattan in Community School District 4 (“District 4”). AES is currently co-located with M.S. 224 Manhattan East School for Arts & Academics (04M224, “M.S. 224”) and Renaissance School of the Arts (04M377, “RSA”) at M099. M099’s 2008-2009 utilization rate was 70%.

AES is in the final implementation stage of a previous grade reconfiguration plan to stop serving middle grades. Grade 8 will be eliminated as of the end of the 2009-2010 school year. In 2010-2011, AES will stop serving grade 9. Grade 10 will be phased-out in 2011-2012, grade 11 in 2012-2013, and the school will close in June 2013.

The proposal to phase-out and eventually close AES is based on the Department of Education’s (“DOE”) assessment of the school’s 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.

AES received a C on its 2007-2008 High School Progress Report, a D on its 2008-2009 High School Progress Report, and was designated as “Underdeveloped with Proficient Features” on both the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 Quality Review Reports. In 2009, the DOE conducted an assessment of AES’s capacity to improve student performance, and after consultation with internal stakeholders, the DOE determined that AES had not made significant progress for its students. Due to the school’s failure to make significant progress, the DOE now proposes the phase-out and eventual closure of AES.

The phase-out and eventual closure of AES will create available space to house a new school. Pending final approval of the charter application by the Board of Regents, Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation (“Renaissance Innovation”), a new public school, will open in M099 in 2010-2011. If authorized, Renaissance Innovation will open in 2010-2011 with grade 9 and

will serve grades 9-12 at scale. This proposal addresses the need to provide higher quality high school options throughout the City.

II. Enrollment, Admissions, and School Performance for Existing Schools in M099

A. AES

1. Enrollment

Current Grades Served: 8-12

Current Enrollment (As of
10/31/2009 ATS
Unaudited Register): 452

Grades Served 2010-2011: 10-12

Projected 2010-2011
Enrollment: 300-350

2. Admissions

Students had applied to AES through the citywide high school admissions process. AES will not be a choice for this year's citywide high school admissions process.

3. School Performance

High School Progress Report Grades

2007-2008: C
2008-2009: D

Graduation Rate (2008-2009): 51.1%

Quality Review Scores

2007-2008: Underdeveloped with proficient features
2008-2009: Underdeveloped with proficient features

To access copies of the Progress Reports and Quality Review Reports for AES, please visit:
<http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/04/M635/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): Improvement (year 2) - Comprehensive

Average Attendance
(2008-2009): 84.8%

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

B. M.S. 224

1. Enrollment

Current Grades Served: 6-8

Current Enrollment (As of
10/31/2009 ATS
Unaudited Register): 259

Grades Served 2010-2011: 6-8

Projected 2010-2011
Enrollment: 240-270

2. Admissions

Students apply to M.S. 224 through the middle school choice process.

3. School Performance

Progress Report Grades

2007-2008: B
2008-2009: B

Quality Review Scores

2007-2008: Well developed
2008-2009: No Quality Review conducted as per Division
of Accountability and Achievement Resources
review cycle criteria

To access copies of the Progress Reports and Quality Review Reports for M.S. 224, please visit
<http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/04/M224/AboutUs/Statistics/default.htm>.

Accountability Status

Overall Federal
Status (2008-2009): Has No Status - No Title I Funding

Overall State Status (2008-2009):	In Good Standing
Status with Differentiated Accountability (2009-2010):	Requiring Academic Progress - Year 1
Average Attendance (2008-2009):	93.6%

To access copies of the Attendance Reports for M.S. 224, please visit
<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/data/stats/attendance/default.htm>.

C. RSA

1. Enrollment

Current Grades Served:	6-7
Current Enrollment (As of 10/31/2009 ATS Unaudited Register):	126
Grades Served 2010-2011:	6-8
Projected 2010-2011 Enrollment:	200-250

2. Admissions

Students apply to RSA through the middle school choice process.

3. School Performance

Progress Report and Quality Review data are not available because RSA opened in 2008-2009.

Accountability Status

Overall Federal Status (2008-2009):	In Good Standing
Overall State Status (2008-2009):	In Good Standing
Status with Differentiated Accountability	

(2009-2010): In Good Standing

Average Attendance
(2008-2009): 91%

To access a copy of the 2008-2009 Attendance Report for RSA, please visit
<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/data/stats/attendance/default.htm>.

III. Proposed or Potential Use of M099

Space made available by the phase-out of AES will be used to house Renaissance Innovation, a new public charter high school that will open in M099 in 2010-2011. If authorized, Renaissance Innovation will serve grade 9 in 2010-2011 with an enrollment of approximately 125-150 students. At scale, the school will serve approximately 400-500 students in grades 9-12. In accordance with state law, admissions to Renaissance Innovation will be by lottery.

IV. Impact on the Community, Existing Schools and Students

A. Community Ramifications

Approximately 450 high school seats will be eliminated by the phase-out of AES. However, the majority of those seats will be recovered with the phase-in of new schools throughout the City and the phase-in of Renaissance Innovation in M099.

B. Existing Schools

During the course of AES's phase-out and Renaissance Innovation's phase-in, all schools will have sufficient instructional space to serve students in M099 as per the citywide instructional footprint. After implementation of the proposal, M.S. 224, RSA and Renaissance Innovation will have sufficient space to operate at full organization capacity. A space for all schools in the building will be developed based on the standard instructional footprint. Decisions regarding the programming of shared spaces in M099 will be made by school leaders.

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

C. Students

Current grade 8 students at AES will participate in the citywide high school admissions process and have the opportunity to apply to the high school of their choice.

All current grades 9-12 students at AES will have the opportunity to graduate from the school, assuming they continue to earn credits on schedule. Current AES students enrolled in grade 9 for the first time will have the opportunity to participate in the 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 AES 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.

V. Initial Costs and Savings

Once the phase-out is fully implemented, funds currently allocated to AES will be repurposed by the DOE.

Charter schools receive a share of state foundation aid appropriated to the DOE based upon the New York State per pupil allocation (PPA) rate.

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

A. Personnel

All administrative staff and non-pedagogical positions at AES will be eliminated over the course of the phase-out.

All teaching positions at AES 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 repurpose all funds currently allocated to AES.

C. Administration

All school supervisor and/or administrator positions at AES will be eliminated as a result of the phase-out and eventual closure.

D. Transportation

Throughout the course of proposal implementation, 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 Web site at <http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/21A1B11A-886B-4F74-9546-E875EE82A14C/40303/A801.pdf>.

VII. Building Information

A. Building Type, Age and Physical Condition

M099 is an intermediate school building that was built in 1924. The building received an overall rating of 2.63 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 M099, please visit

<http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/04/M635/AboutUs/Statistics/default.htm>

Target capacity: 1,196

Target utilization: 75%

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:	\$35,671.18
Materials:	\$35,623.75
Maintenance and Repair Contracts:	\$77,866.23
Service Contracts:	\$0
Custodial Operations	
Materials:	\$8,255.85
Custodial Allocation:	\$313,463.61

C. Fiscal Year 2009 Energy Costs

Electric:	\$113,916.00
Gas:	\$118,099.00
Oil:	\$4,890.00

D. Recent and Planned Improvements

Recent improvements include ceiling paint, plaster, and insulation removal and asbestos replacement.

Items proposed in the 2010-2014 Capital Plan include surveillance camera installation in 2010.

E. Special Features

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