

Fact Sheet: Proposed Phase-out and Replacement of P.S. 014 Cornelius Vanderbilt (31R014)

Overview

In a concerted effort to ensure that all students have high-quality educational programs, the Department of Education (DOE) annually reviews the performance of all schools Citywide. Over the past several years, despite the best efforts of the community and the DOE to support P.S. 014 Cornelius Vanderbilt, the school has struggled to meet basic requirements for student success.

On October 6, 2011, District 31 Community Superintendent Erminia Claudio held a School Leadership Team and parent meeting at the school to discuss what is working at P.S. 014 Cornelius Vanderbilt, what needs to be improved, and how the community can work together to serve students better.

Based on an extensive review of qualitative and quantitative data and community feedback, the DOE has determined that P.S. 014 does not have the capacity to improve quickly and is proposing that the school be phased out.

Proposing to phase out a school is the most difficult decision the DOE makes. We are proposing to phase-out P.S. 014 because it is the right action for current and future students in this community. If the proposal to phase out P.S. 014 is approved, the phase-out process would be gradual and happen over the next several years. The school would close in June 2015 after it completes phasing out. A new elementary school will be proposed to open in September 2012 in the building where P.S. 014 is located.

We hope you share our view that we can—and must—do better for students. The DOE will continue to work closely with P.S. 014 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 | | | Quality Review Rating |
|---|------|-----------------------|---------|---------|-----------------------|
| English | Math | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2010-11 |
| 23% | 31% | A | C | D | “Developing” |

- The overwhelming majority of P.S. 014 students remain below grade level in English and Math. Last year, only 23% of students were performing on grade level in English – putting the school in the bottom 4% of elementary schools Citywide in terms of English proficiency. Only 31% of students were performing on grade level in Math – putting the school among the lowest-performing elementary schools Citywide in terms of Math proficiency.
- P.S. 014 is not adequately helping students to make progress. P.S. 014 is in the bottom 9% of elementary schools Citywide in terms of learning growth in English and the bottom 10% of elementary schools Citywide in terms of learning growth in Math. Learning growth measures annual student growth on State ELA and Math tests relative to similar students. If these conditions persist, P.S. 014 students will fall further behind their peers in other 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. P.S. 14 earned a D grade on its 2010-11 annual Progress Report, including an F grade for Student Performance and a D grade for Student Progress.
- The Quality Review uses a four-tiered rubric (well-developed, proficient, developing, and underdeveloped) to measure how well a school is organized to support student achievement. P.S. 014 was rated “Developing” on its most recent Quality Review in 2010-2011, indicating deficiencies in the way that the school is organized to support student learning.

Overview of Past Strategic Improvement Efforts at P.S. 014

Staff members have worked hard to improve P.S. 014 Cornelius Vanderbilt, 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 including:

Leadership Support:

- Provided extensive leadership training and mentoring for the principal and assistant principals to help them set clear goals for the school while developing the school's Comprehensive Education Plan.
- Coached and trained leadership on strengthening instructional quality through standards-based instruction, differentiated learning techniques, and improving school culture and learning environment through targeted development.
- Trained leaders on the implementation of instructional strategies for English Language Learners.

Instructional Support:

- Provided professional development opportunities for teachers on the development of best practices for literacy instruction and for English Language Learners.
- Offered professional development opportunities for teachers on numeracy and the development of best practices within the Math curriculum.
- Worked with teacher teams to improve and strengthen Science instruction and support.
- Coached teachers on the use of effective classroom management strategies, Special Education compliance, and instructional support.

Operational Support:

- Advised school staff on budgeting, human resources, teacher recruitment, and building management.

Student Support:

- Trained the School Based Support Team in comprehensive guidance programs and evidence-based counseling strategies targeted at developing and improving school culture.
- Assisted in developing strategies to reach out and support relationships with various community stakeholders and organizations, including Life Space Intervention and Partnership with Children.
- Developed extensive professional development opportunities for staff in an effort to improve school environment and school safety.

What would the proposal mean for current students?

If this proposal is approved, P.S. 014 would be phased out gradually over the next several years and would no longer admit new pre-kindergarten or kindergarten students after the end of this school year. However, most current students would stay at P.S. 014 as it phases out.

Below are the enrollment plans for current P.S. 014 students, if P.S. 014 phases out.

- Current kindergarten and first grade students would remain at P.S. 014 until the end of the school year and then would be assigned to the new elementary school that would open next September in the P.S. 014 building.

- Current second, third and fourth grade students would remain at P.S. 014 until the end of the school year and then would continue on to the next grade level at P.S. 014 in September 2012; these students could remain at P.S. 014 through graduation.
- Current fifth grade students would have the opportunity to graduate from P.S.014 Cornelius Vanderbilt at the end of this school year and would receive priority for a seat in their zoned middle school for sixth grade. Or, they could apply to a non-zoned school through school-based application processes and the Citywide choice process.

Next school year, P.S. 014 would serve students in grades three, four, and five. Then, during the following school year, P.S. 014 would serve students in grades four and five. Finally, during the 2014-2015 school year, P.S. 014 would only serve students in grade five. The school would close in June 2015 after its phase-out is complete.

Supporting Current Students

The DOE remains focused on helping P.S. 014 students to succeed. If this proposal is approved, P.S. 014 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 of 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 New Schools for the P.S. 014 Community

As we work together to create better options for the P.S. 014 community, we will keep in mind what had worked at P.S. 014 and do our best to incorporate those positive elements into the replacement plans. For example:

- We will work with the community to retain partnerships with community based organizations that are offering valuable services to the school community; and
- We will consider what elements of the school structure are working and do our best to include those features in a replacement school.

Next Steps and What You Can Expect

In January, the DOE will invite the P.S. 014 community to participate in a joint public hearing co-hosted by the DOE, the District 27 Community Education Council, and P.S. 014 Cornelius Vanderbilt'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 P.S. 014 Cornelius Vanderbilt. During the joint public hearing, community members, including parents and students, will be able to share their thoughts on the phase-out proposal.

The proposal to phase out P.S. 014 will be voted on by the Panel for Educational Policy, which is composed of members appointed by Mayor Bloomberg and the five Borough Presidents, during a public meeting scheduled for **February 9, 2012**. During this meeting, the public will have another opportunity to comment on the proposal. If the PEP approves the proposal, P.S. 014 would not accept new students next school year. If the proposal to open a new elementary school in the building where P.S. 014 is located is approved, the new school would open in September 2012.

Sharing Your Concerns and Questions

The DOE is seeking your feedback on the proposal. We will record your comments and include them in our Analysis of Public Comment, which is presented to the PEP prior to the vote on the proposal. Please submit your comments at:

Phone: 212-374-7621

Online: <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/statenisland/proposal?id=77>