

## Fact Sheet: Proposed Phase-out of Satellite Three (13K103)

### 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 Satellite Three, the school has struggled to meet basic requirements for student success.

On October 13, 2011, District 13 Community Superintendent James Machen held a School Leadership Team and parent meeting at the school to discuss what is working at Satellite Three, 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 Satellite Three 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 we make. We are proposing to phase out Satellite Three because it is the right action for current and future students in this community.** If the proposal to phase out Satellite Three is approved, the school would phase out gradually over the next several years. The school would close in June 2014 after its phase-out is complete.

We hope you share our view that we can—and must—do better for students. The DOE will continue to work closely with Satellite Three 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
English	Math	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2009-2010
19%	34%	B	C	D	“Proficient”

- The majority of Satellite Three students remain below grade level in English and Math. Last year, only 19% of students were performing on grade level in English – putting the school near the bottom quarter of middle schools Citywide in terms of English proficiency. Only 34% of students were performing on grade level in math – putting the school in the bottom third of middle schools Citywide in terms of Math proficiency.
- Satellite Three is not adequately helping students to make progress. Satellite Three is in the bottom 10% of middle schools Citywide in terms of learning growth in English and the bottom quarter of middle 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 outcomes persist, Satellite Three students will fall farther 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. Satellite Three earned an overall D grade on its 2010-11 Progress Report, including D grades for Student Progress, Student Performance, and School Environment.
- The school’s attendance rate is one of the lowest among middle schools Citywide. The 2010-11 attendance rate was 90% compared to the Citywide middle school average of 92.6%, putting Satellite Three in the bottom quarter of New York City middle schools.
- Safety issues have been a concern at the school. On the 2011 New York City School Survey, only 38% of teacher respondents agreed that discipline and order were maintained at Satellite Three.

## Overview of Past Strategic Improvement Efforts at Satellite Three

Staff members have worked hard to improve Satellite Three, 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 and Language Allocation Plan.
- Coached and trained leadership on implementing plans in support of citywide instructional initiatives and teacher effectiveness.
- Trained and supported leadership in developing and improving diagnostic, mid-year, and end-of-year assessments as a way to measure student achievement and improve teacher practice.

### Instructional Support:

- Supported and trained teachers in creating curriculum maps, strategies aimed at addressing various students' entry points into content, and other instructional tools to raise teacher practice and improve student achievement.
- Facilitated training for teachers in assessment design and the creation of rigorous tasks and rubrics aligned to Citywide instructional initiatives.
- Provided professional development opportunities for teachers on literacy instruction and the development of best practices within the English Language Arts curriculum, including lesson models, questioning strategies, and lesson planning.
- Offered professional development opportunities for teachers on numeracy and the development of best practices within the math curriculum.
- Worked with teacher teams to deepen practice around English Language Learner student instruction and support.
- Coached teachers on the use of periodic assessments as an instructional tool, as a way to combine classroom-friendly assessments, instructional resources, and reporting.

### 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 the capacity for social and emotional supports at the school level.
- Developed meaningful and comprehensive relationships with community organizations in order to offer sports and language classes to students.

## What would the proposal mean for current students?

If this proposal is approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP), Satellite Three would be phased out gradually over the next several years and would not admit new sixth-grade students after the end of this school year. All currently enrolled students would have the opportunity to continue their education at Satellite Three and would be supported through graduation.

In school year 2012-13, Satellite Three would serve students in grades seven and eight. Then, during the following school year, it would only serve students in grade eight. The school would close in June 2014 after its phase out is complete.

## Supporting Current Students

The DOE remains focused on helping Satellite Three students to succeed. If this proposal is approved, Satellite Three 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 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 District 13 Community

As we work together to create better options for the District 13 students, we will keep in mind what has worked at Satellite Three and do our best to incorporate those positive elements into the plans for new schools. For example:

- We will work with the community to retain partnerships with community 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 the new schools.

## Next Steps and What You Can Expect

In January, the DOE will invite the Satellite Three community to participate in a joint public hearing co-hosted by the DOE, the District 13 Community Education Council, and Satellite Three'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 Satellite Three. 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 Satellite Three 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, Satellite Three would not accept new students next school year.

## 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: 212-374-0208

Online: <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/brooklyn/proposal?id=68>