

52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

October 2, 2024

Dear P.S. 105 Senator Abraham Bernstein Families:

I am writing to share that the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) is proposing to expand the grades served by P.S. 105 Senator Abraham Bernstein (11X105), referred to as P.S. 105, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year. P.S. 105, which currently serves students in grades K-5 as well as in 3-K and pre-Kindergarten (pre-K) programs, will expand to also serve grades 6-8 if this proposal is approved. P.S. 105 is currently located in building X105 located at 725 Brady Avenue, Bronx, NY 10462 in Community School District 11, referred to as District 11.

NYCDOE is also proposing to open and co-locate a new K-8 site of an existing District 75 school, P.S. X596 (75X596), to be called P596X@X105, with P.S. 105 in X105 in the 2025-2026 school year. P.S. X596 is an existing multi-sited District 75 school serving students in grades K-8 and in pre-K across three different locations in the Bronx.

A building addition is being constructed at X105 that will increase P.S. 105's seat capacity and provide space for much needed District 75 elementary and middle school seats in District 11 and the Bronx. The School Construction Authority anticipates construction to be completed before the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year.

What is the NYCDOE proposing?

The NYCDOE is proposing a grade expansion. If this proposal is approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP), P.S. 105 will expand to serve grades K-8, as well as 3-K and pre-K programs. P.S. 105 will add sixth grade in 2025-2026 and will continue to phase in one grade per year until it serves grades K-8 in the 2027-2028 school year.

The NYCDOE believes that this proposal presents an opportunity to create a community-driven K-8 option that will provide P.S. 105 families with a middle school option much closer to home. This proposal would help retain P.S. 105 students in the district through grade 8, and with a larger student enrollment, P.S. 105 can continue to develop uniquely appealing and robust programming for both elementary and middle school students in District 11. This proposal would also provide P.S. 105 students with continuity, ensuring they can remain in the same building alongside their peers and staff through middle school.

The NYCDOE is also proposing to open and co-locate P596X@X105 in X105 in the 2025-2026 school year. If this proposal is approved, P596X@X105 will be co-located with P.S. 105. A co-location means that two or more schools are located in the same building and may share common spaces, such as auditoriums, gymnasiums, libraries, and cafeterias. P596X@X105 will have space to serve students in K-8, pending demand, but will initially serve students in elementary school grades.

Between the 2018-2019 and 2023-2024 school years, District 75's total enrollment in special class (SC) sections has grown by over 2,400 students citywide. The total number of elementary and middle school students in the Bronx attending District 75 programs has increased by approximately 12%. To meet this growing need for District 75 elementary and middle school seats in the Bronx, the NYCDOE is specifically proposing this new site

because District 11 has the second highest elementary school District 75 seat need citywide, and District 11 also has high concentrations of District 75 elementary and middle school students who currently travel longer distances to their school sites. As such, the NYCDOE believes that the addition of this site will help to address the projected District 75 seat need in the Bronx and reduce travel distance for many District 75 students by providing an additional placement option closer to home. The third floor in the X105 addition is specifically designed to serve District 75 students, and on the third floor of the current X105 building, construction will be done to convert existing classrooms to District 75 designed classrooms.

If this proposal is approved by the PEP, what does this mean for my child(ren)?

- Construction of the new capacity at X105 is anticipated to be completed before the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year. The new capacity will be used to allow P.S. 105 to expand from a K-5 to a K-8 school and to open P596X@X105 to meet the growing need for District 75 elementary and middle school seats in the Bronx.
- P.S. 105 will add sixth grade in 2025-2026 and will continue to phase in one grade per year until it serves grades K-8, as well as 3-K and pre-K programs, in the 2027-2028 school year.
- At the middle school level, P.S. 105 will admit students through the middle school admissions process through a zone priority admissions method. The school will be open to residents of New York City and will give priority to current fifth grade students enrolled in the school.
- Additionally, P596X@X105 will open and be co-located with P.S. 105 in X105, meaning these schools will share common spaces, such as auditoriums, gymnasiums, libraries, and cafeterias.
- In the 2025-2026 school year, P596X@X105 will serve approximately 48-96 District 75 elementary school students across eight SC sections in 12:1:1, 8:1:1, or 6:1:1 classroom settings (ratio of students: teacher: paraprofessional) in X105.
- This co-location would not impact current or future enrollment or programming at P.S. 105.

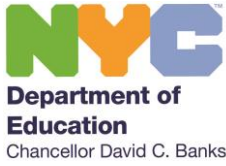
Where can I learn more about this proposal?

This letter serves as notice that the Educational Impact Statement (EIS) for this proposal has been posted on the NYCDOE's website at: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/panel-for-education-policy/2024-2025-pages/january-28-2025-school-utilization-proposals>.

We encourage you to visit that website as we will update it with important dates and new information as it becomes available. Copies of the EIS for this proposal are also available in the main offices of P.S. 105 and P.S. X596.

How can I provide feedback?

This proposal must be voted on and approved by the PEP prior to implementation. We anticipate that the PEP will vote on this proposal on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 6 p.m. at Evander Childs Educational Campus, located at 800 East Gun Hill Road, Bronx, NY 10467.



In advance of the PEP vote, a Joint Public Hearing for this proposal will be held via teleconference on Wednesday, November 13, 2024. All community members will have the opportunity to share feedback about this proposal at the Joint Public Hearing, which will begin at 6 p.m.

Feedback on the proposal can also be directed at any time to the NYCDOE's Office of District Planning by phone at 212-374-5159 or via e-mail at D11Proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

The official Notices of Proposal and Joint Public Hearing are attached.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Cristine Vaughan'.

Cristine Vaughan, District 11 Superintendent