



52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

February 3, 2023

Dear Cultural Academy for the Arts and Sciences Families:

I am writing to share that the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) has posted a proposal to open and co-locate a new high school site of the existing District 75 school, P.S. K753 (75K753), to be called P753K@K415, in building K415 beginning in the 2023-2024 school year. K415 is located at 5800 Tilden Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11203, in Community School District 18, referred to as District 18.

What is the NYCDOE proposing?

P.S. K753 is an existing multi-site District 75 school serving students in grades K-12 across six different locations in Brooklyn. If this proposal is approved, P753K@K415 will open in K415 where it will be co-located with three existing district high schools serving grades 9-12: Cultural Academy for the Arts and Sciences, referred to as CAAS; It Takes a Village Academy (18K563), referred to as It Takes a Village; and Kurt Hahn Expeditionary Learning School (18K569), referred to as Kurt Hahn.

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.

District 75 provides citywide educational, vocational, and behavior support programs for students who are on the autism spectrum, have significant cognitive delays, are severely emotionally challenged, are sensory impaired and/or have multiple disabilities. Between the 2017-2018 and 2022-2023 school years, District 75 total enrollment has grown by over 1,800 students citywide. The total number of high school students in Brooklyn attending a District 75 program in special classes (SC) has increased by 7%. Based on current and projected need for District 75 high school seats across the borough, the District 75 Placement Office is seeking to increase its capacity to serve students who reside in Brooklyn and who have the classification of autism, intellectual disability, or multiple disabilities on their Individualized Education Programs (IEP). If approved, this proposal will add approximately 48-96 District 75 SC seats in K415 for District 75 high school students who have a classification of autism, intellectual disability, or multiple disabilities on their IEPs.

The NYCDOE is specifically proposing a new high school site in District 18 to meet this need because District 18 has a deficit of approximately 83 high school District 75 seats when compared to the number of District 18 residents who require District 75 services. There are approximately 177 high school residents in District 18 who require District 75 services and 94 seats available in the district. Additionally, in 2022-2023, the estimated average travel distance to school for high school District 75 students residing in District 18 was among the highest in Brooklyn. As such, the NYCDOE believes that the addition of this site will help accommodate the projected District 75 need in Brooklyn and reduce travel distance for many District 75 students by providing an additional high school placement option in District 18.

If this proposal is approved, P753Q@K415 is projected to serve students in eight SC sections in 12:1:1, 8:1:1, or 6:1:1 classroom settings (ratio of students: teacher: paraprofessional) at scale. Based on current and projected enrollment numbers, K415 has sufficient space to accommodate this co-location.

This proposal must be voted on and approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) prior to implementation.

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

- Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, P753K@K415 will serve approximately 48-96 students across eight SC sections in 12:1:1, 8:1:1, or 6:1:1 classroom settings (ratio of students: teacher: paraprofessional) in K415.
- CAAS will continue to serve students in grades 9-12. The NYCDOE does not anticipate that the opening and co-location of P753K@K415 will impact current student admissions, enrollment, or instructional programming at CAAS.

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/about-us/leadership/panel-for-education-policy/2022-2023-pages/march-22-2023-school-utilization-proposals>.

We encourage you to visit that website as we will update it with important dates and new information as they become available. Copies of the EIS for this proposal are also available in the main offices of CAAS, It Takes a Village, Kurt Hahn, and P.S. K753.

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 Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at 6 p.m. at Prospect Heights Educational Campus, located at 883 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY, 11225. Feedback about this proposal may be shared at the March 22, 2023, PEP meeting.

In advance of the PEP vote, a Joint Public Hearing for this proposal will be held via teleconference on Monday, March 6th, 2023, at 6 p.m. All community members will have the opportunity to share feedback about this proposal at the Joint Public Hearing.

Feedback about this proposal may also be shared at any time by e-mailing D18Proposals@schools.nyc.gov or by calling 212-374-0208.

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

Sincerely,



Michael Prayor
Brooklyn South Districts High School Superintendent