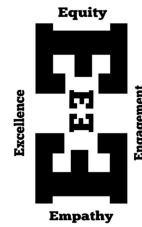


Brendan T. Mims, Community Superintendent

Community School District #16
787 Lafayette Avenue- Brooklyn, NY 11221
(929) 336-6625 - Phone

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Community: Together We Are Bed-Stuy Brilliance!*



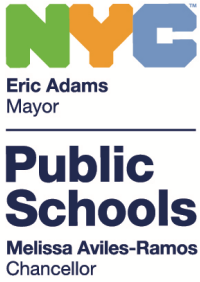
Dear P.S. 25 Families,

As you may be aware, I have been working closely with the P.S. 25 community to reverse declining demand and enrollment since my tenure as superintendent began. Last spring, we began initial conversations to explore a potential proposal to close P.S. 25 at the end of the current 2024-2025 school year. If this potential proposal moves forward and is approved, P.S. 25 will close and no longer admit or serve students as of the 2025-2026 school year. We know this is challenging for the community, but we are exploring this proposal because, if approved, it will allow current P.S. 25 students to attend other District 16 elementary schools that will provide them with a more robust learning experience.

As part of our initial conversations last spring, we shared a version of this letter with answers to common questions from the community. This updated version of that letter highlights recent developments, responds to additional questions we have received, and ensures that new members of the P.S. 25 community are part of this conversation.

- *Why are we exploring a potential closure of P.S. 25?*
 - We are considering the closure of P.S. 25 at the end of the 2024-2025 school year due to persistent challenges with enrollment and demand.
 - P.S. 25's enrollment has declined by approximately 28% over the past five years. In the 2024-2025 school year, the school serves just 53 students, only 7 of which are in kindergarten.
 - Based on Fall 2024 admissions data, the school had 25 available kindergarten seats but there was only sufficient demand to make five offers to the school.
 - Because most funding in a school's budget is allocated on a per-pupil basis, low enrollment often creates budgetary and programmatic challenges. The ongoing challenge of declining enrollment has financially impacted the school's ability to provide a robust learning environment for students. For example, P.S. 25 has been unable to fully staff its cluster teachers, including art and music teachers, and has limited funding for after-school programming.

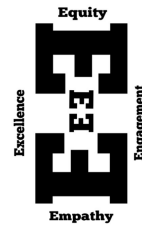
- *What supports have already been provided to P.S. 25?*
 - Demand and enrollment have remained low at P.S. 25 despite repeated and sustained interventions by the District 16 Superintendent's team. These supports have included:
 - Professional learning and side-by-side coaching support for staff on class schedules, student groupings, and instructional techniques, such as modelling;
 - Administering academic screeners to assess student progress and performance;
 - Ongoing classroom visits by an instructional coach and follow-up meetings to debrief;
 - Facilitation of grade team meetings focused on using data protocols and literacy tools;
 - Learning walk where the principal and District 16 team piloted the use of a literacy tool;
 - Support setting up and reorganizing classrooms; and
 - Training on best practices for using MySchools and the school waitlist.



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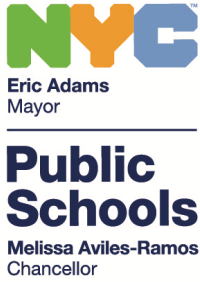


- *If the potential closure moves forward and is approved, how will it impact the P.S. 25 principal and staff?*
 - If this potential closure is approved, all teachers, administrative, and non-pedagogical staff at P.S. 25 will be excessed; however, all excessed staff members will retain jobs at New York City Public Schools, and their salaries will not be impacted.
 - We will support excessed employees in finding new positions in District 16, or at schools in other districts if they prefer. We will strive to ensure that any excessed staff can remain in District 16 should they desire.

- *If this potential proposal moves forward and is approved, how will current P.S. 25 families enroll in other elementary schools?*
 - If this proposal is approved, current P.S. 25 students will gain access to more robustly enrolled schools that serve elementary school grades. Due to their more sustainable sizes, these schools can offer broader academic and enrichment opportunities, interventions, and other supports for students.
 - Current P.S. 25 students will receive individualized support from P.S. 25 staff and the Superintendent's team to find a new school aligned to their needs.

- *If this potential proposal moves forward and is approved, how will the school's current space in the K025 building be used moving forward?*
 - Alongside continued engagement with the P.S. 25 and broader District 16 community about the potential closure proposal, we will also be collaboratively exploring ways to use the space in K025 to better meet district needs moving forward if the closure is approved.
 - As part of this community-driven process, we are surveying the P.S. 25 and larger District 16 community this fall and intend to convene a working group of local partners in the coming months, including parents and school leaders, to develop and assess potential options for the space based on the needs and priorities of District 16.
 - In order to ensure sufficient time for a thoughtful and comprehensive process, we expect that any future plans for the space would likely be proposed for implementation no sooner than the 2026-2027 school year.

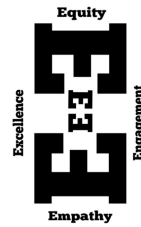
- *Will families currently zoned to P.S. 25 continue to have a zoned elementary school option if the potential proposal moves forward and is approved?*
 - If this potential closure continues to move forward, we will concurrently develop a rezoning plan in partnership with CEC 16 and any potentially impacted school communities.
 - If this proposal to close P.S. 25 moves forward and is approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) and CEC 16 approves a rezoning proposal, students living in the current P.S. 25 would be rezoned to other schools for the 2025-2026 school year.



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- *What happens next?*
 - We will continue to engage with the P.S. 25 school community over the coming months. We look forward to continuing our meetings with families to hear their input and to learn more about their needs.
 - Pending continued community feedback, we anticipate a proposal to close P.S. 25 will be formally issued later this fall, via the posting of an Educational Impact Statement (EIS).
 - The PEP will likely vote on whether to approve this proposal later in the winter.
 - In advance of the PEP's vote, there will be several engagement opportunities for staff and families, including a virtual Joint Public Hearing where the community can share feedback.
 - If the closure is approved:
 - Following the conclusion of the 2024-2025 school year, P.S. 25 will no longer be an elementary school option and will no longer admit students.
 - If the closure is not approved:
 - P.S. 25 will continue to operate as an elementary school in the 2025-2026 school year. However, we will continue to monitor demand and enrollment to determine if additional interventions and/or supports should be explored in the future.

We look forward to continuing conversations over the next few weeks to hear your feedback. If you have additional questions, please reach out to me at bmims2@schools.nyc.gov, or to the Director of Bronx and District 16 Planning in the Office of District Planning, Valeria Rojas, at vrojasinfantas@schools.nyc.gov.

Sincerely,

Brendan Mims
Superintendent, Community School District 16