



Community District Education Council 26

New York City Department of Education

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Resolution Urging the Department of Education to Identify a Suitable Site for HBCU Early College Prep

WHEREAS, Mayor Eric Adams pledged during his 2021 mayoral campaign to expand accelerated learning opportunities and improve equity in underserved communitiesⁱ, as well as to build new selective high schoolsⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, in September 2022, Chancellor David C. Banks announced plans to improve equity in underserved communities: “there are academically brilliant children in every neighborhood, however many students have to travel for long hours to reach academically accelerated learning high schools. To fill the gap that exists in some underserved communities of color, three new accelerated learning academies will be opened – informed by community needs. The schools will be located in the South Bronx, Ocean Hill-Brownsville, and Southeast Queens, with a geographic priority for students from those areas.”ⁱⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, the school's founding principal, Dr. Asya Johnson, proposed the idea of opening HBCU Early College Prep as part of former Chancellor David Banks’ “Master Principal Initiative” in 2023^{iv} and led the development of the program to enroll around 100 students in its first year, with plans to expand to between 460 and 500 students^v; and

WHEREAS, the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the first HBCU Early College Prep High School in New York City was held with Chancellor Melissa Aviles-Ramos and Mayor Eric Adams on September 4, 2025^{vi}, with 100 inaugural students sharing space on the third floor of I.S. 238—Susan B. Anthony Academy 88-15 182 Street, in Jamaica, Queens^{vii}; and

WHEREAS, Queens Community Boards (CB) 12 and 13 are situated in Southeast Queens, with the corresponding borders of Hillside Ave/Grand Central Parkway to the north, the Nassau County line to the east, the Van Wyck Expressway to the west, and JFK Airport to the south, encompassing diverse neighborhoods such as Jamaica, Hollis, St. Albans, South Ozone Park, Springfield Gardens^{viii}, Bellerose, Cambria Heights, Floral Park, Glen Oaks, Laurelton, New Hyde Park, Queens Village, Rosedale^{ix}, some of which cannot be classified as underserved communities of color; and

WHEREAS, the admissions policy for HBCU Early College Prep provides for: “a priority to students and residents of District 29 for up to 40% of seats, students and residents of Districts 27 and 28 for 40% of seats, and students and residents of other parts of Queens for up to 10% of seats,”^x but does not fully align with the program’s stated intent to open an academically accelerated learning high school for the underserved communities in Southeast Queens’; and

WHEREAS, the admissions data for the inaugural year: “There were about 180 applicants from District 29 and about 40 received offers last year. There were about 120 applicants from Districts 27 and 28 and about 40 received offers last year. There were about 25 applicants from other Queens districts and about 10 received offers last year. There were about 100 additional applicants and about 10 received offers last year.”^{xi} confirms the greatest demand is from District 29; and

WHEREAS, NYC Public Schools (NYCPS) Districts 27, 28, and 29 include neighborhoods that fall outside of Southeast Queens and/or are not classified as underserved communities of color or largely consist of mixed demographic segments, such as: Forest Hills, Rego Park, Kew Gardens, Briarwood, Richmond Hill, Ozone Park, South Ozone Park, Howard Beach, Jamaica, Hollis, Queens Village, Glen Oaks; and

WHEREAS, demographic analysis using the NYCPS “Demographic Snapshot” report of the middle schools in Districts 27, 28, 29 reveals that aside from Far Rockaway, the heart of Southeast Queens comprises the historically underserved communities of color, with unequal access to screened or accelerated high school programs (refer to data in Appendix 1):

- District 28: South Jamaica, Rochdale
- District 29: Cambria Heights, Laurelton, Rosedale, Springfield Gardens, St. Albans; and

WHEREAS, the Administration’s policy goals have been diluted by situating the current location of HBCU Early College Prep in the northern section of Jamaica, because it does not significantly improve travel times for the target communities in Districts 28 and 29, with students residing in Rosedale facing commutes over one hour, and to conversely provide easy commuting access of the early college model to communities for which it was not designed or suitable; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Crystal Bonds, District 29 Superintendent and Dr. Josephine Van-Ess, Queens South High Schools Superintendent issued a joint letter to IS 238 families stating, “in the 2029-2030 school year when HBCU Early College Prep is fully phased in, Q238 is projected to have a total building enrollment of approximately 1,231-1,311 students across HBCU Early College Prep grades 9-12, I.S. 238, and P009Q@Q238 yielding a building utilization rate of 74-79%. Therefore, Q238 has the capacity to accommodate additional students”^{xii}, meaning a phased relocation is feasible; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Community Education Council (CEC) 26 urges the Department of Education Office of District Planning to:

1. Develop a concrete plan to relocate HBCU Early College Prep, shortly after the 2029-2030 school year, to a 500-seat high school location in one of the following Southeast Queens neighborhoods: Cambria Heights, Laurelton, Rosedale, Springfield Gardens, St. Albans, thereby ensuring that HBCU Early College Prep fulfills its original policy intent to serve Southeast Queens’ underserved student population; and
2. Increase District 27 high school seats for academically accelerated learning, especially in Far Rockaway; and
3. Analyze the data regarding the 24% of applicants to HBCU Early College Prep who do not reside in Queens and consider opening more schools elsewhere based on the HBCU Early College Prep model (See Appendix 2); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, CEC 26 urges the Department of Education Office of Student Enrollment to adjust the HBCU Early College Prep admissions priorities to better reflect demonstrated demand from District 29 students, while maintaining equitable access for Districts 27 and 28, for example – 55% in District 29, 35% in District 28, 10% in the rest of Queens (See Appendix 2); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, CEC 26 demands the School Construction Authority to amend its 5-year capital plan by adding a line item for a 500-seat high school in District 29 and to begin identifying potential school construction sites for a location in one of the targeted neighborhoods listed above (See example properties in Appendix 3); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CEC 26 affirms its support for the cultural and aspirational significance of the HBCU Early College Prep mission and urges the DOE to uphold the school’s intended purpose by ensuring its permanent site reflects the geographic and demographic communities it was designed to serve.

During the CEC 26 meeting held on November 12, 2025, the resolution was reviewed and unanimously approved by all members in attendance.

ⁱ <https://www.gothamgazette.com/city/11099-adams-2021-education-quality-for-all#:~:text=,programmatic%20funding%20into%20struggling%20districts>

ⁱⁱ <https://nypost.com/2021/04/25/mayoral-candidates-a-very-mixed-bag-on-fixing-nycs-public-schools/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/news/announcements/contentdetails/2022/09/29/chancellor-banks-announces-admissions-process-built-on-community-feedback>

^{iv} <https://amsterdamnews.com/news/2025/09/25/queens-school-preping-nyc-kids-for-hbcus/>

^v <https://www.knowyourrightscamp.org/post/dr-asya-johnson-to-spearhead-development-of-nyc-s-first-hbcu-prep-high-school-in-collaboration-with>

^{vi} <https://www.nyc.gov/mayors-office/news/2025/09/mayor-adams--chancellor-aviles-ramos-cut-ribbon-at-city-s-first->

^{vii} <https://amsterdamnews.com/news/2025/09/25/queens-school-preping-nyc-kids-for-hbcus/>

^{viii} <https://www.is238.com/apps/news/article/1974412#:~:text=On%20September%2030%2C%202024%2C%20the,://learndoe.org/districtplanning>

^{ix} <https://www.nyc.gov/site/queenscb12/index.page>

^x <https://www.nyc.gov/site/queenscb13/about/district-profile.page>

^{xi} <https://myschools.nyc/en/schools/high-school/29Q427>

^{xii} *ibid*

^{xiii} <https://4.files.edl.io/4119/10/01/24/180946-5e19ab26-6c7f-4558-9e1c-388c70a1ff3a.pdf>

Appendix 1 - Demographic Snapshot (School Year 2024-25)

DBN	School Name	Neighborhood	% Asian & Pacific Islander	% Black & Hispanic	% Native American	% White
27Q042	P.S./M.S 042 R. Vernam	Far Rockaway	1.4%	93.5%	1.4%	1.7%
27Q043	P.S. 043	Far Rockaway	1.7%	95.0%	0.7%	1.9%
27Q047	P.S. 047 Chris Galas	Far Rockaway	6.2%	23.4%	0.4%	66.4%
27Q053	M.S. 053 Brian Piccolo	Far Rockaway	2.1%	91.3%	1.2%	3.7%
27Q105	P.S. 105 The Bay School	Far Rockaway	3.3%	94.0%	1.3%	0.8%
27Q114	P.S./M.S. 114 Belle Harbor	Far Rockaway	2.2%	20.7%	0.2%	74.3%
27Q124	P.S. 124 Osmond A Church	South Ozone Park	42.6%	38.1%	12.9%	4.2%
27Q137	M.S. 137 America's School of Heroes	Ozone Park	36.8%	51.3%	8.0%	3.2%
27Q146	P.S. 146 Howard Beach	Howard Beach	14.8%	47.6%	0.9%	34.8%
27Q183	P.S. 183 Dr. Richard R. Green	Far Rockaway	5.4%	87.3%	2.2%	4.2%
27Q202	J.H.S. 202 Robert H. Goddard	Ozone Park	37.2%	52.6%	4.6%	4.2%
27Q207	P.S. 207 Rockwood Park	Howard Beach	12.9%	29.4%	0.3%	53.5%
27Q210	J.H.S. 210 Elizabeth Blackwell	Richmond Hill	25.0%	69.1%	2.4%	2.5%
27Q226	J.H.S. 226 Virgil I. Grissom	South Ozone Park	24.8%	54.3%	17.6%	1.7%
27Q232	P.S. 232 Lindenwood	Howard Beach	11.8%	61.7%	1.2%	22.4%
27Q282	Knowledge and Power Prep Academy VI	Far Rockaway	1.8%	95.7%	0.7%	1.4%
27Q297	Hawtree Creek Middle School	South Ozone Park	23.8%	47.7%	25.1%	1.8%
27Q318	Waterside School For Leadership	Far Rockaway	2.0%	90.0%	1.3%	4.7%
27Q319	Village Academy	Far Rockaway	1.9%	95.2%	0.6%	1.0%
27Q333	Goldie Maple Academy	Far Rockaway	1.9%	93.8%	1.0%	1.6%
28Q008	J.H.S. 008 Richard S. Grossley	South Jamaica	25.4%	62.4%	10.0%	1.1%
28Q072	Catherine & Count Basie Middle School 72	Rochdale	7.0%	86.4%	4.5%	0.9%
28Q157	J.H.S. 157 Stephen A. Halsey	Forest Hills	31.9%	29.0%	0.4%	33.2%
28Q190	J.H.S. 190 Russell Sage	Rego Park	31.9%	40.7%	0.9%	22.2%
28Q217	J.H.S. 217 Robert A. Van Wyck	Briarwood	26.0%	65.2%	3.4%	4.2%
28Q287	The Emerson School	South Jamaica	13.9%	76.2%	7.5%	2.1%
28Q332	Redwood Middle School	Rochdale	9.4%	81.2%	5.1%	1.4%
28Q358	M.S. 358	Jamaica	30.4%	65.2%	2.3%	1.7%
29Q059	I.S. 059 Springfield Gardens	St. Albans	3.7%	90.7%	3.7%	0.7%
29Q109	Jean Nuzzi Intermediate School	Queens Village	35.0%	52.0%	8.9%	2.6%
29Q116	P.S./I.S. 116 William C. Hughley	Jamaica	17.5%	77.5%	3.8%	0.7%
29Q138	P.S./M.S. 138 Sunrise	Rosedale	5.3%	84.2%	3.7%	3.9%
29Q147	P.S./M.S. 147 Ronald McNair	Cambria Heights	3.0%	91.8%	2.8%	1.2%
29Q192	I.S. 192 The Linden	St. Albans	15.2%	79.8%	3.1%	0.3%
29Q208	P.S./I.S. 208 (located in District 26)	Glen Oaks	13.1%	71.9%	10.4%	1.5%
29Q238	I.S. 238 - Susan B. Anthony Academy	Jamaica	33.4%	58.8%	5.7%	1.2%
29Q268	P.S./I.S. 268	Jamaica	24.8%	63.6%	8.9%	1.7%
29Q270	The Gordon Parks School	Laurelton	5.2%	90.5%	1.6%	0.5%
29Q289	Queens United Middle School	Laurelton	0.8%	95.0%	2.5%	1.3%
29Q295	P.S./I.S. 295	Queens Village	33.9%	57.1%	5.5%	2.3%
29Q355	Collaborative Arts Middle School	Springfield Gdns	3.9%	92.6%	2.5%	0.4%
29Q356	Community Voices Middle School	Springfield Gdns	2.1%	93.1%	1.7%	2.1%

Appendix 2 – HBCU Early College Prep Admissions Data (School Year 2025-26)

Area	# of Applicants	% All Areas	% within Queens
District 29	180	42%	55%
District 27 & 28	120	28%	37%
All other Queens	25	6%	8%
Outside Queens	100	24%	-
TOTAL	425		

Appendix 3 – Sample List of Properties for Sale

- Block-front assemblage precedent — 221-06 to 221-26 Merrick Blvd (Laurelton)**
 - Size:** ~1.24 acres (~54,000 sq ft) across three adjacent lots (C2-3/R5D/R3A).
 - Status:** Historic listing (2017) and later trade; shows scale is doable here. Broker notes indicate a closed sale but this is the right *type* and *location* for a 500-seat HS if a similar blockfront can be re-assembled. [LoopNet+1](#)
- CREXi “Prime Jamaica Development Site – up to 90k buildable” (multi-lot)**
 - Notes:** Multi-lot R7A/C2-4 assemblage in Jamaica; verify exact position **south of Jamaica Ave** before pursuing. If south, it may meet land or community-facility FAR needs; if north, it’s still a strong fallback. [Crexi](#)
- City-driven sites (RFP/Disposition) – Guy R. Brewer & Union Hall cluster (Jamaica Plan)**
 - Why it matters:** Multiple **city-controlled development sites south of Jamaica Ave** are flagged for disposition (UDAAP/UDAA). If you can respond to a future RFP with a **community-facility/school** program, this may be the **cleanest path** to secure land of sufficient size. (Examples: **Block 10150** lots along **Guy R. Brewer Blvd.**) [New York City Government](#)
- 196-04–196-26 Woodhull Ave, Hollis (D29) — ~1.16 acres** (~50,360 sq ft)****
Active LoopNet listing (Avison Young) for a **contiguous multi-lot** church/parking assemblage marketed for redevelopment. The listing page specifies **Total Lot Size 1.16 AC** with ±640 ft wraparound frontage along Woodhull & Jamaica Ave. Clear scale for a ~500-seat HS and on-site play. [LoopNet](#)
- 220-12 147th Ave, Springfield Gardens (D29) — ~0.73 acres** (~31,999 sq ft)****
Active land listing; **Lot Size 0.73 AC** (approx. **32,000 sq ft**). Meets the SCA minimum on a single parcel. Appears R3-2/R3-1 zoning; marketed as delivered vacant. [Crexi+3LoopNet+3Showcase+3](#)
- 251-02 Rockaway Blvd, Rosedale (D29) — ~0.49 AC (~21,344 sq ft)**
Shows up in the LoopNet “nearby listings”; under the 25k threshold alone but could work with a small add-on. Verify school-district line near Brookville/Rockaway Blvd. [LoopNet](#)
- 179-24 Linden Blvd, Jamaica, 0.685 acres (29,821sq ft)** PropertyShark