



52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

March 9, 2021

Dear HERO High Families:

I am writing to share that the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) is proposing to re-site and merge School for Tourism and Hospitality, referred to as HSTH, with HERO High in building X655 beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. As you know, HERO High is located in building X655 at 455 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10455, in Community School District 7, where it is co-located with Mott Haven Community High School, referred to as Mott Haven, a transfer high school serving students in grades 9-12; New Visions Charter High School for the Humanities II, referred to as HUM II, a charter high school serving grades 9-12; and a site of ReStart Academy, referred to as ReStart, which serves students in grades 6-8. Building X655 also houses the Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) Single Shepherd, East Side House Settlement, and Hostos Community College.

HSTH is a district school serving students in grades 9-12 in building X650, located at 900 Tinton Avenue, Bronx, NY 10456, approximately 0.9 miles from X655, in Community School District 8. HSTH is co-located in X650 with New Visions Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science II, referred to as AMS II, a charter high school serving grades 9-12 and operated by the same network as HUM II. X650 also currently houses a Living for the Young Family through Education program, referred to as LYFE, a School-Based Health Clinic, and the CBO BuildOn.

A co-location means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building and may share common spaces such as auditoriums, gymnasiums, libraries, and cafeterias.

What is the NYCDOE proposing?

The NYCDOE is proposing to re-site HSTH and merge it with HERO High in X655. A re-siting means that part or all of a school will be located in a different building than the building the school is currently located. A merger means that two or more existing schools are combined into one school to operate and serve students more effectively.

The goal of a school merger is to improve learning environments by combining the strengths and best practices of both schools. If this proposal is approved, beginning in September 2021, HSTH and HERO High will be combined together into one school, and the students, staff, and resources of HSTH will become a part of the merged HERO High in X655. A merger will allow for robust educational programming, increased supports, and a stronger learning environment for all students attending the merged HERO High.

Concurrent with this proposal, if it is approved, HUM II will relocate out of X655 over a two-year period. HUM II will relocate to X650, where it will be sited alongside AMS II and will utilize the space that will be available after HSTH re-sites and merges with HERO High if this proposal is approved. Grades 9-10 of HUM II will relocate in 2021-2022, and grades 11-12 will follow in 2022-2023. As such, if this proposal is approved, in the 2021-2022 school year, HUM II will serve only students in grades 11 and 12 in X655. Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, HUM II will no longer serve students in X655.

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

- Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, current HERO High students, with the exception of those graduating high school, will be served by the merged HERO High alongside their new classmates from the former HSTH in building X655.
- The merged HERO High will continue to serve students in grades 9-12, provide Career and Technical Education (CTE) programming and offer its Early College program. As a result of this merger, HERO High's enrollment is expected to increase, and in the 2021-2022 school year, the merged HERO High is expected to serve between 670-710 students.
- Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, the merged HERO High is expected to be able to enhance the programs that it offers. This may include adding intensive supports within and after the school day, work-based learning and new internship opportunities.
- Grades 9-10 of HUM II will relocate to X650 in 2021-2022, and grades 11-12 will follow in 2022-2023. Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, HUM II will no longer serve students in X655.

Where can I learn more about this proposal?

This letter serves as notice that the Educational Impact Statement (EIS) and Building Utilization Plan (BUP) have been posted on the NYCDOE's website at: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/leadership/panel-for-education-policy/2020-2021-pages/april-28-2021-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.

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, April 28, 2021 at 6 p.m. via teleconference at <https://learndoe.org/pep/apr28/>. Feedback about this proposal may be shared at the April 28, 2021 PEP meeting.

In advance of the PEP vote, a Joint Public Hearing for this proposal will be held via teleconference on Monday, April 19, 2021 at 6 p.m. All community members will have the opportunity to share feedback about this proposal at the Joint Public Hearing.

Feedback on this proposal can also be directed at any time to Valeria Rojas Infantas in the NYCDOE's Office of District Planning by phone at 212-374-5159 or via e-mail at D07proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

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

Sincerely,



Fred Walsh
CUNY Urban Assembly Superintendent