



November 29, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mayor Bill de Blasio
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Mayor de Blasio,

Last week, the Department of Education announced that it would provide space for only some of the Success Academy scholars who will need middle school seats next year. Today, on behalf of all our families, Success Academy rejects this proposal and asks the Department of Education to provide an alternative solution that provides public school space for all six middle schools¹.

The DOE's offer of temporary space for two middle schools is not "adequate, comparable, and reasonable," as state law requires it to be. Instead, it leaves hundreds of students without school seats for next year.

In the letter announcing this offer, the city noted that the proposed buildings, in Brooklyn and the Bronx, have more than 1,000 seats between them. According to the city's calculations, this means that "every rising Success Academy 5th grade student who would like to continue at an SA middle school next year can do so."² Unfortunately, the math and logic behind this assertion are deeply flawed.

First, the city's proposal fails to take into account the fact that Success Academy's middle school enrollment is rapidly growing because 5th graders become 6th graders and 6th graders become 7th graders, and so forth. Over the next four years, this figure will grow to more than 8,000 middle school students, and every one of these kids must have a seat in a cohesive 5-8 middle school.

¹ Success Academy has requested four new middle school buildings and additional space in two existing middle schools, SA Harlem West and SA Myrtle Middle School

² <https://www.politico.com/states/f/?id=0000015f-db9b-dc43-a37f-dfdb3380000>

S U C C E S S
A C A D E M Y
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S C H O O L S

Second, the city's proposal burdens hundreds of Success Academy parents with the impossible task of an hours-long school-day commute. This is one of the reasons why we requested space for six middle schools, rather than just two -- our families in Rosedale, West Harlem, Cobble Hill and Williamsburg can't be expected to send their kids to school in East Flatbush and the Central Bronx.

The [New York Daily News](#) and [New York Post](#) Editorial boards have both recognized the inadequacy of this proposal, characterizing it as an offer of "too few classrooms in all the wrong places"³ that will create a "mess"⁴ recurring every year until Success Academy is granted sufficient and permanent facilities.

Success Academy has previously provided the Department of Education with a list of buildings better suited for our needs, and this list can be found again in Appendix A. Each of these buildings has enough empty seats to accommodate a middle school at full enrollment, and is located in a neighborhood that our parents could reasonably commute to.

We ask that the Department of Education return to the table to find a workable solution for Success Academy. Our families deserve the same consideration that district school families receive. Please help us resolve this space crisis.

Sincerely,

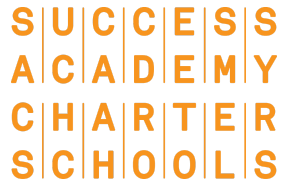


Eva Moskowitz
Founder and CEO, Success Academy Charter Schools

CC: Chancellor Carmen Fariña
First Deputy Mayor Anthony Shorris
Deputy Chancellor Elizabeth Rose
Senior Education Policy Advisor Karin Goldmark

³ <http://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/don-mess-success-article-1.3651975>

⁴ <https://nypost.com/2017/11/21/sacrificing-schoolchildren-for-a-political-vendetta/>



Appendix A: Ten Chronically Underutilized School Sites that Success Academy Provided to the DOE as Possible Sites for Middle Schools⁵

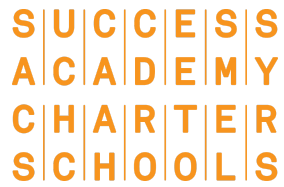
Alternative sites to non-viable building offered by DOE for Bergen Beach/Bensonhurst Families

- **K400, 2630 Benson Avenue, Brooklyn**
 - 700+ empty seats
 - Less than .4 mi from D; less than .7 mi from N; less than .9 from F trains
- **K620, 25 Brighton 4th Road, Brooklyn**
 - 1,000+ empty seats
 - Enrollment declined by 27% since 2013
 - Less than .5 mi from Q train; less than .8 mi from F train

Sites for Cobble Hill/Central Brooklyn Families

- **K655, 345 Dean Street, Brooklyn (CSD 15)**
 - 460+ empty seats
 - 0.1 mi from D, N, R; 0.3 mi from 2, 3, 4, 5; 0.5 mi from G train
- **K113, 300 Adelphi Street, Brooklyn (CSD 13)**
 - 650 empty seats
 - 0.2 mi from G; 0.3 mi from C; 0.6 mi from 2, 3, 4, 5, B, Q; 0.6 mi from D, N, R; 0.9 mi from A
- **K580, 105 Tech Place, Brooklyn (CSD 13)**
 - 400+ empty seats
 - 0.2 mi from A, C, F; 0.2 mi from R; 0.3 mi from 2, 3; 0.4 mi from B, Q, 4, 5; 0.5 mi from G; 0.9 mi from D, N
- **K440, 833 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn (CSD 17)**
 - 600+ empty seats
 - Enrollment declined by 263 students since 2013
 - 0.3 mi from 2, 3, 4, 5 trains
- **K320, 46 McKeever Place, Brooklyn (CSD 17)**
 - 560 empty seats
 - 0.3 mi from B, Q, R, S; 0.5 from 2, 4, 5

⁵ This list does not include the additional space that Success Academy has requested in the buildings where SA Harlem West Middle School and SA Myrtle Middle School are currently located.



Sites for Rosedale Families:

- **Q072, 133-25 Guy R. Brewer Blvd., Queens (CSD28)**
 - 749 empty seats
 - Enrollment declined by 135 students since 2013

- **Q059, 132-55 Ridgedale Street Queens (CSD 29)**
 - 400+ empty seats

- **Q490, 207-01 116th Avenue, Queens (CSD 29)**
 - 550+ empty seats
 - Enrollment declined by 56 since 2013